

# **CPU design effects that can degrade performance of your programs**

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- Research assistant @ IT4Innovations (HPC center)
- HPC, distributed systems, program optimization

# How do we get maximum performance?

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

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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

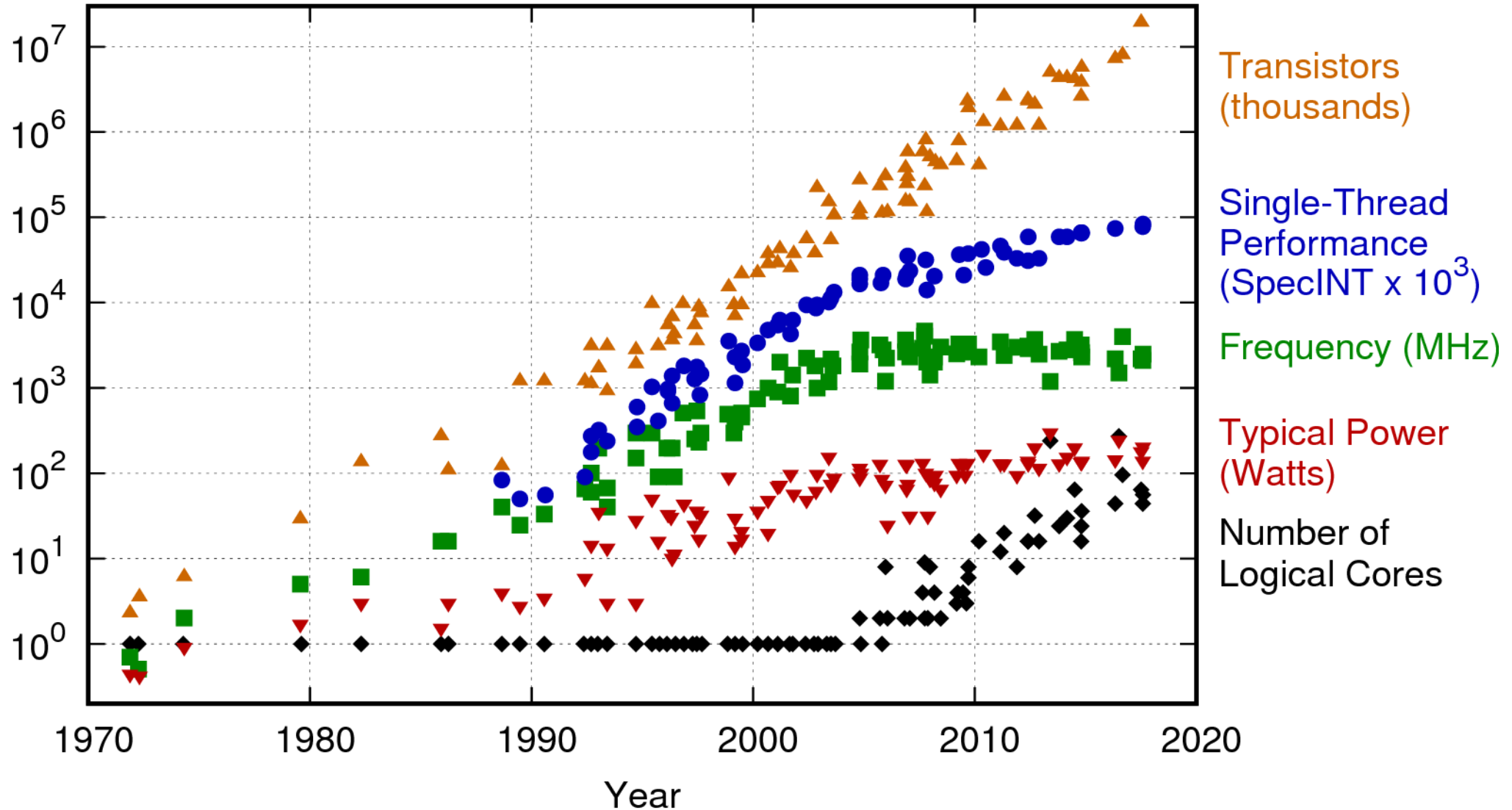
- Performance effects caused by a specific CPU/memory implementation
- Demonstrate some CPU/memory trade-off or assumption

# 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

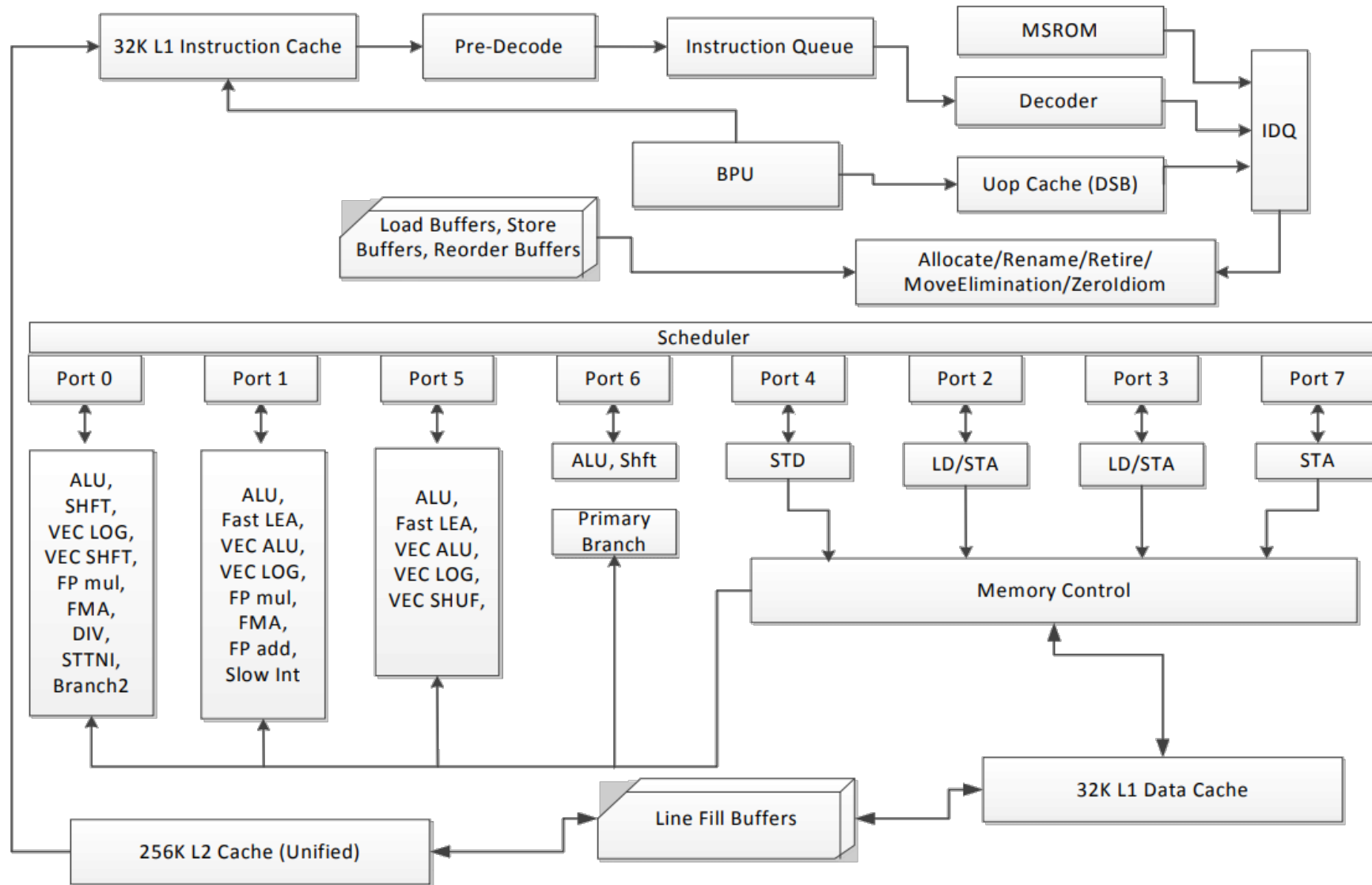
# Hardware is getting more and more complex

42 Years of Microprocessor Trend Data



Source: karlrupp.net

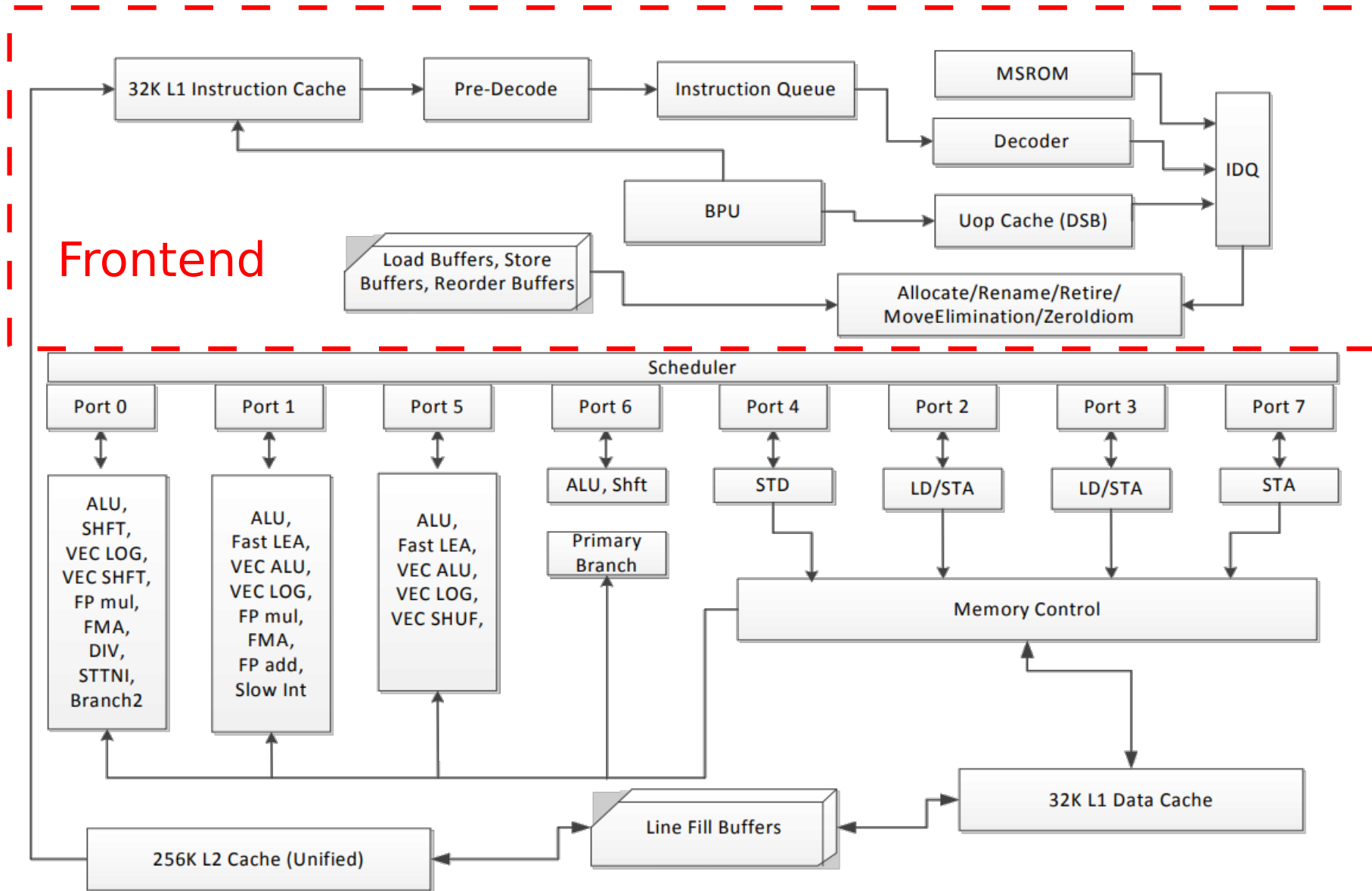
# Microarchitecture (Haswell)



Source: Intel Architectures Optimization Reference Manual

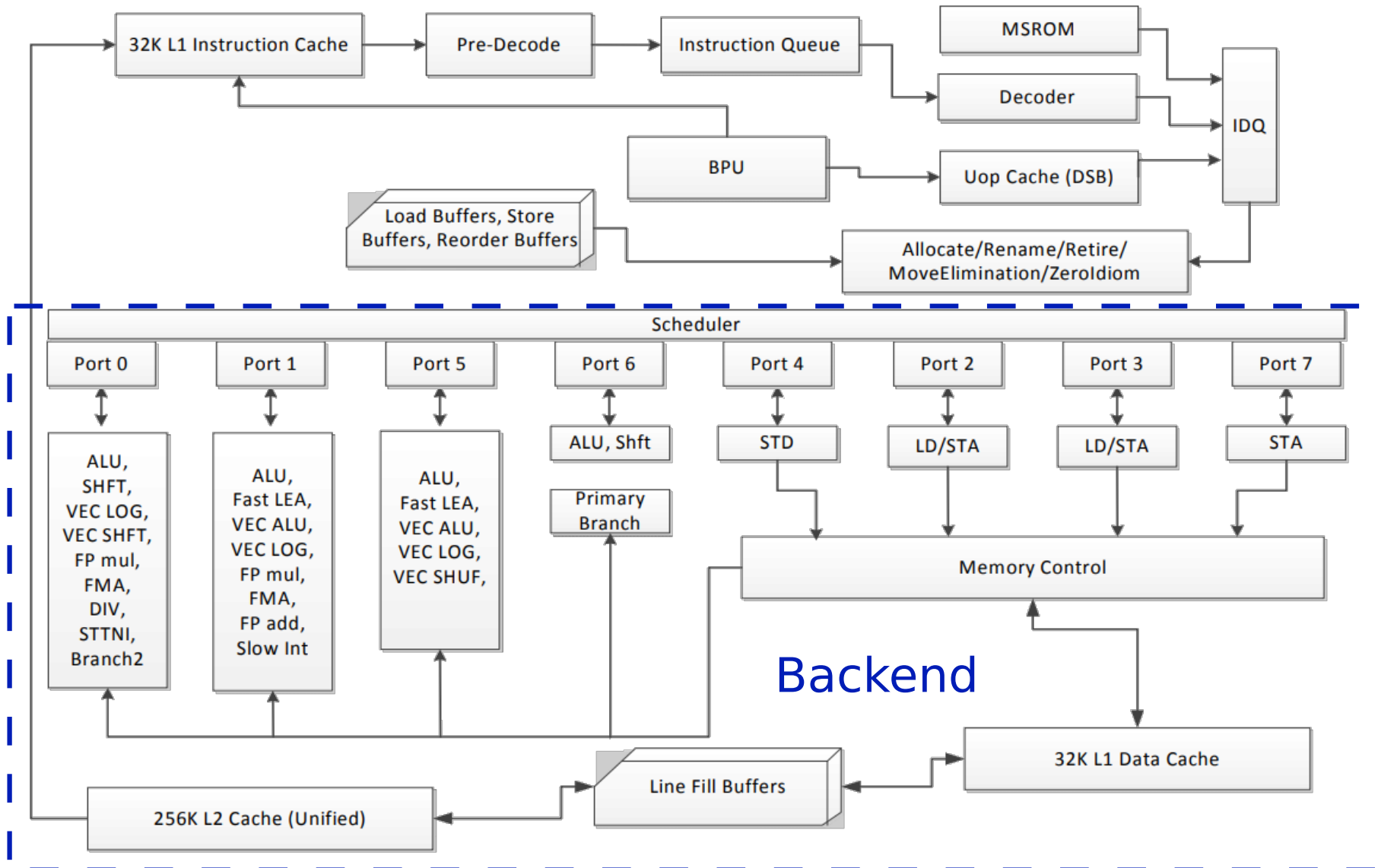


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# How bad is it?

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- Show example C++ programs
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- Show how to measure and fix it

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# Plan of attack

- Show example C++ programs
  - short, (hopefully) comprehensible
  - compiled with `-O3`
- Demonstrate weird performance behaviour
- 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?



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.

22447



10294

```
#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);

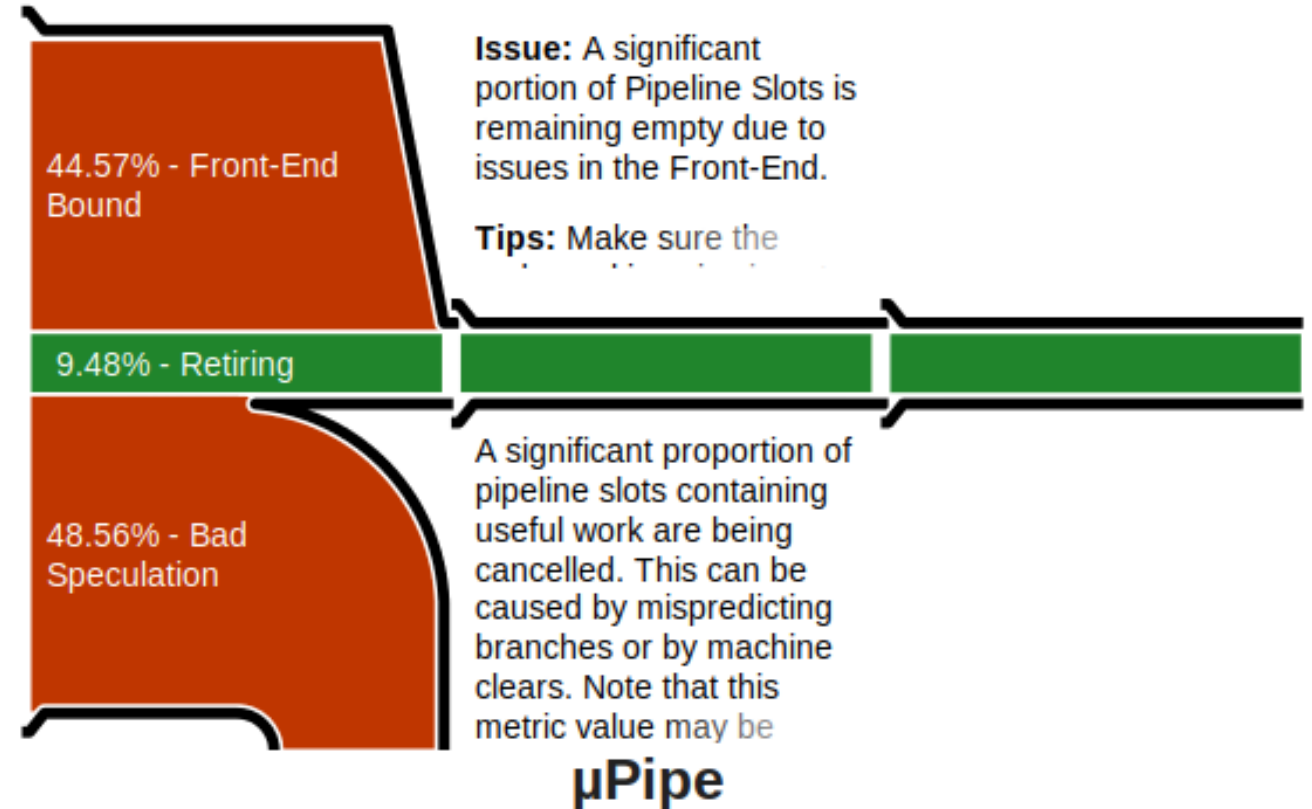
    // Test
    clock_t start = clock();
    long long sum = 0;

    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** <sup>?</sup>: 2.222s

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



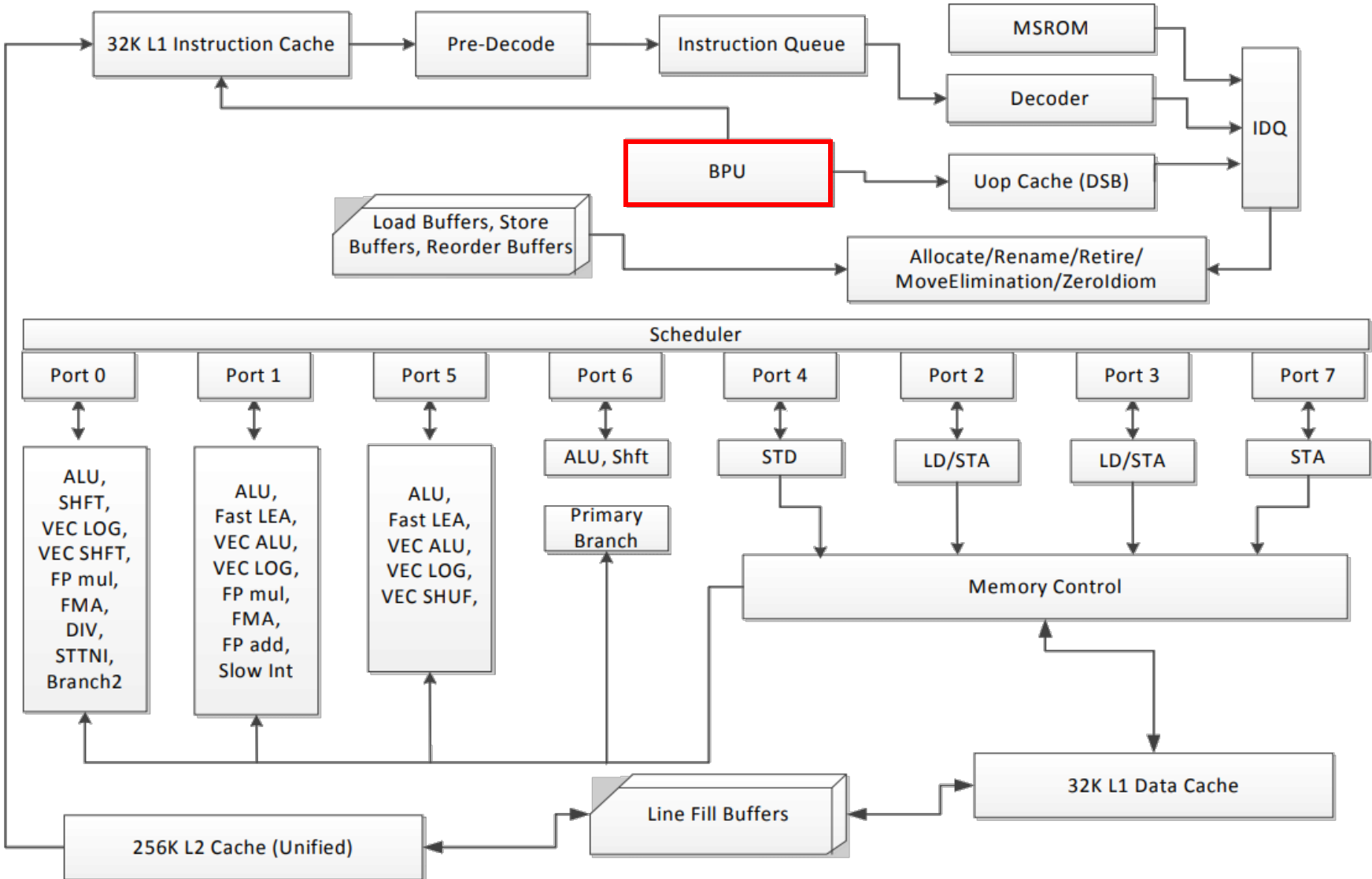
This diagram represents inefficiencies in CPU usage. Treat it as a pipe with an output flow equal to the "pipe efficiency" ratio:  $(\text{Actual Instructions Retired}) / (\text{Maximum Possible Instruction Retired})$ . If there are pipeline stalls decreasing the pipe efficiency, the pipe shape gets 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
```



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# 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) {  
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```

<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
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6 < 6?

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2 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



# Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

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1 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



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Prediction: Taken



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7 < 6?

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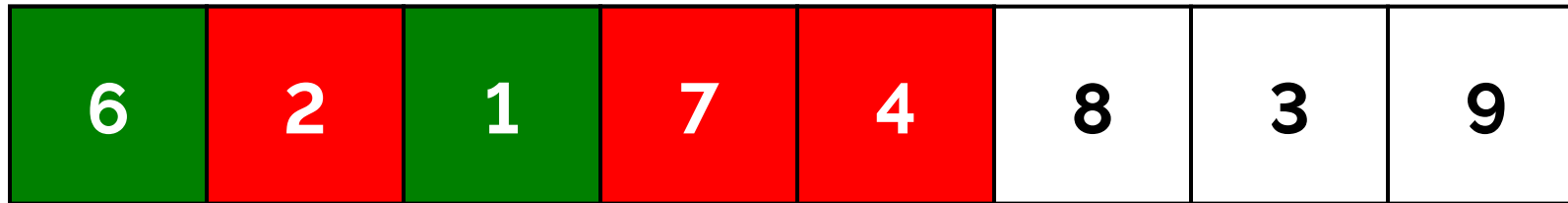
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# Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

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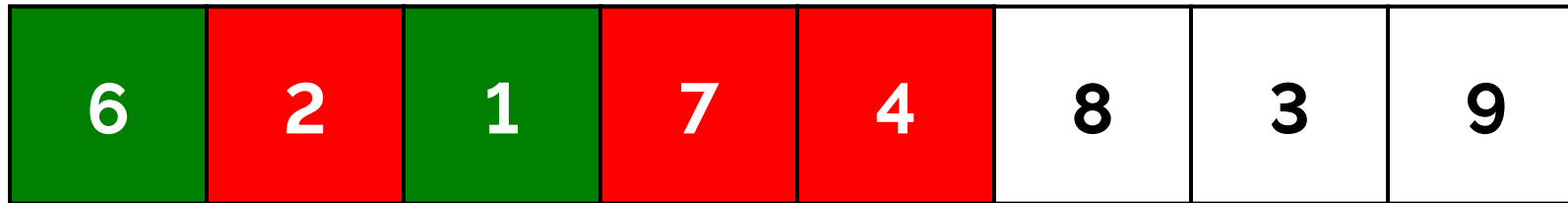
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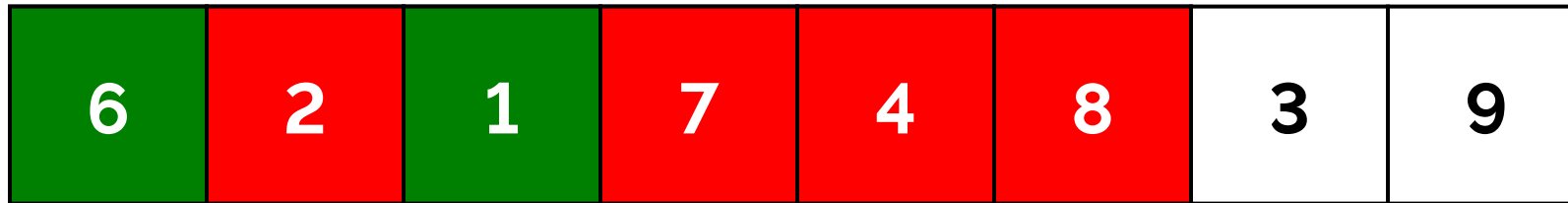
8 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



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    ...  
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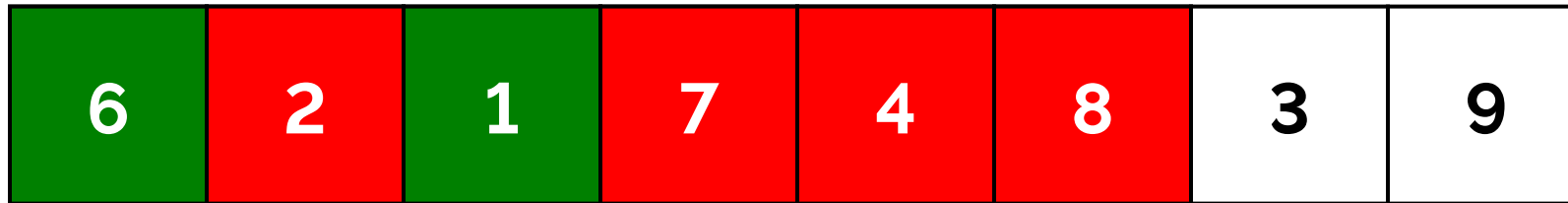
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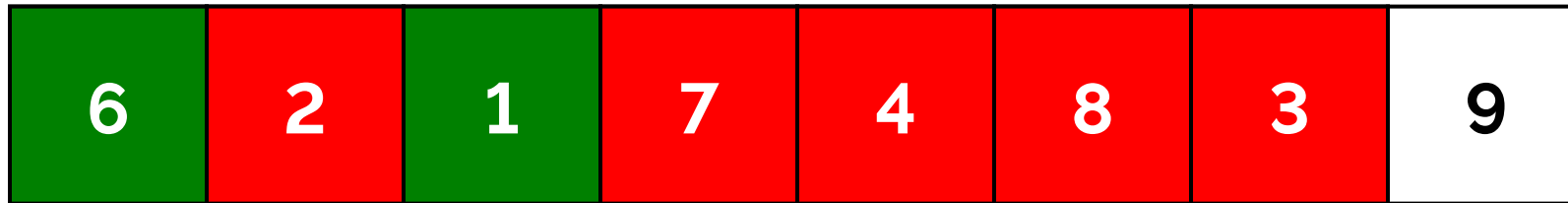
3 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



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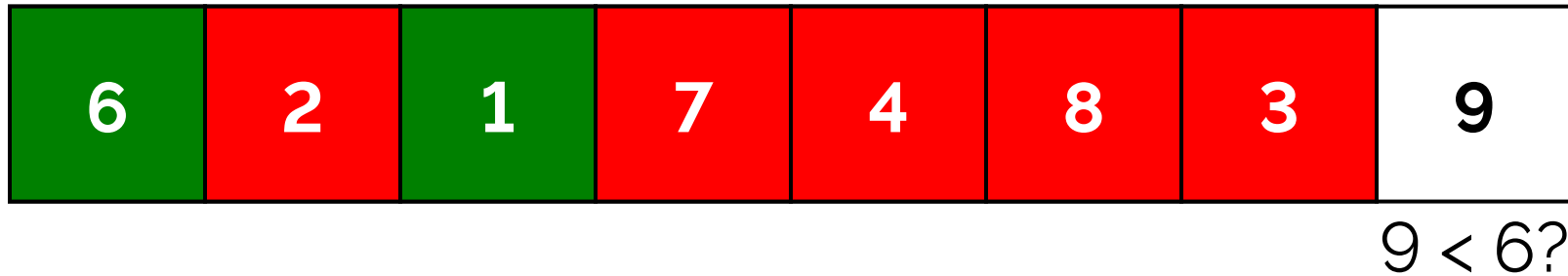
3 < 6?

Prediction: Taken



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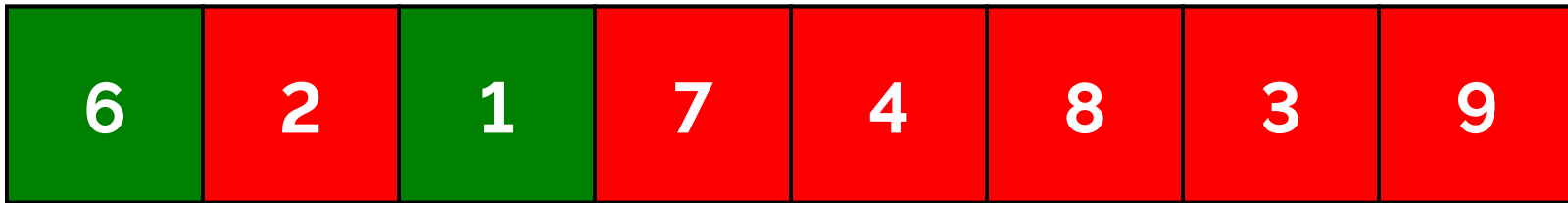
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Prediction: Taken

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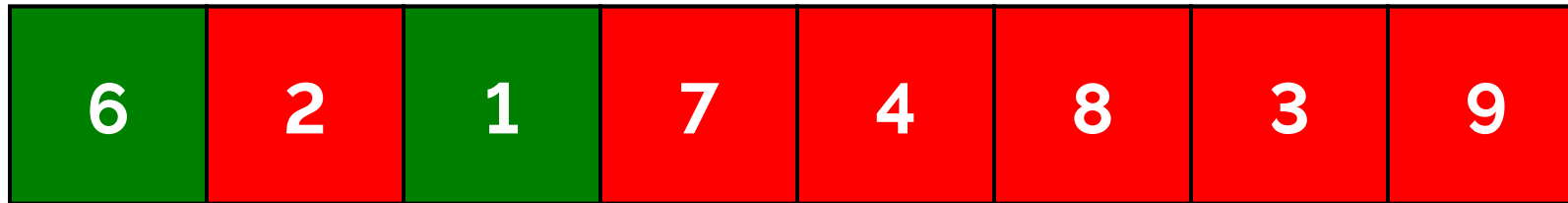
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# Simple branch predictor - unsorted array

```
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Prediction: Not taken

2 hits, 6 misses (25% hit rate)





# Simple branch predictor - sorted array

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

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
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Prediction: Not taken



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Prediction: Taken



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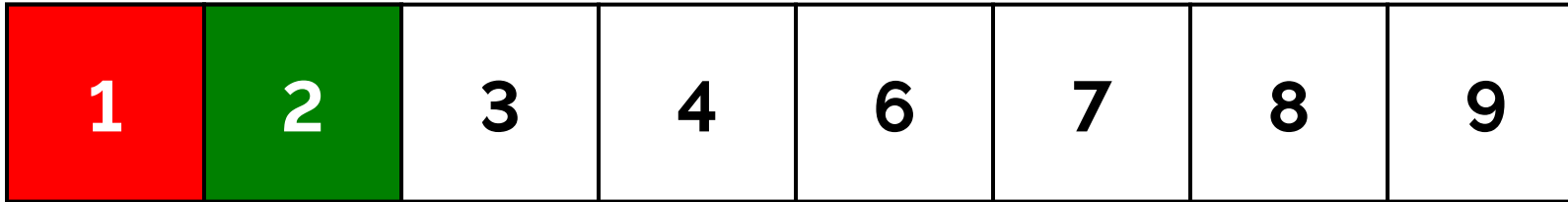
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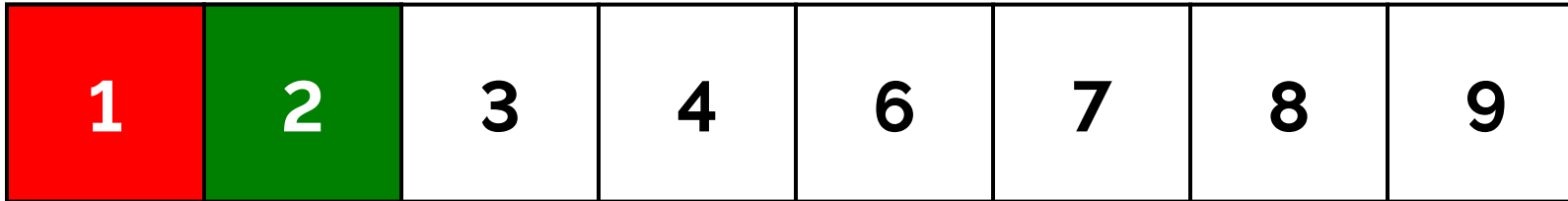
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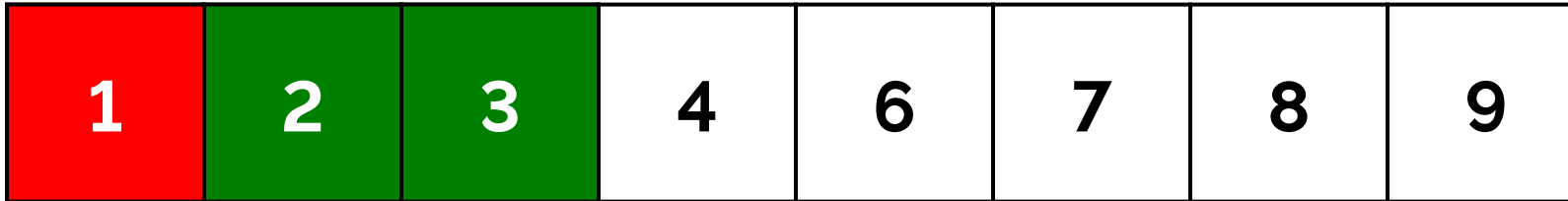
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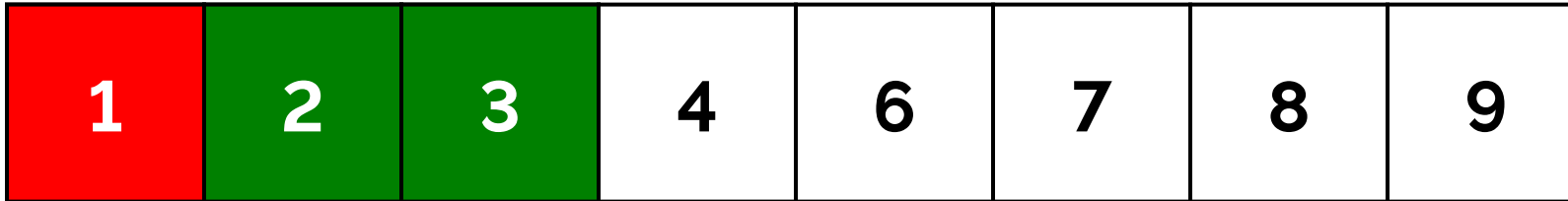
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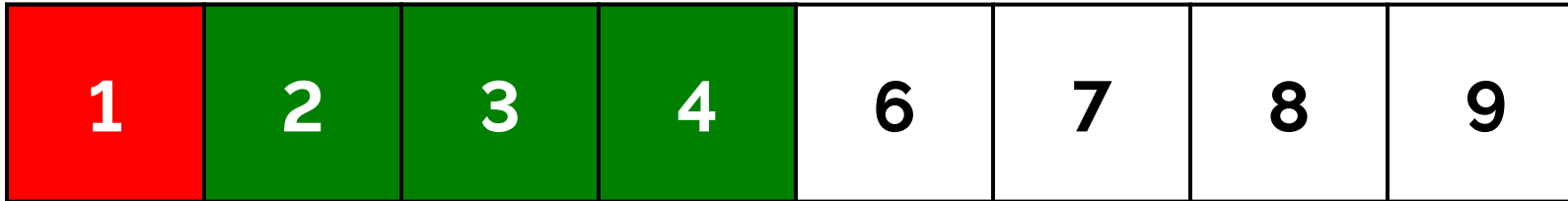
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# Simple branch predictor - sorted array

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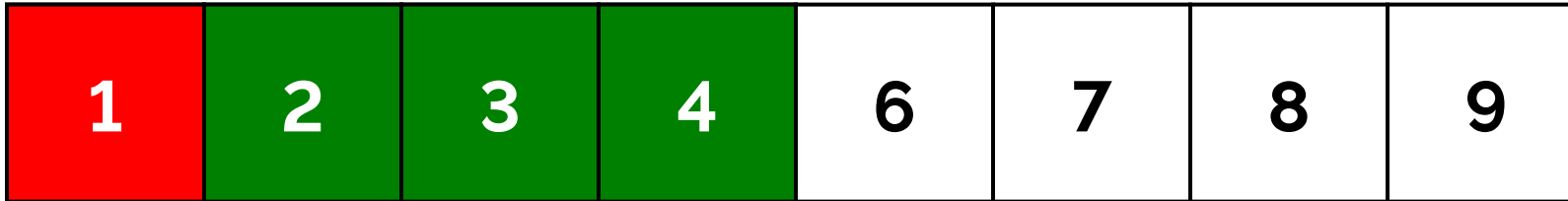
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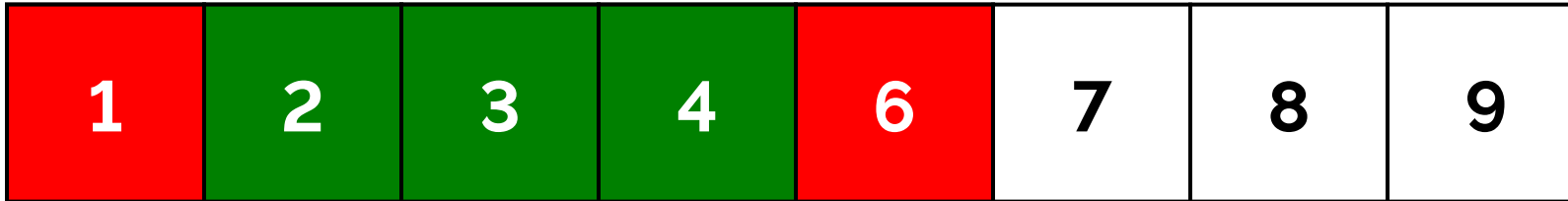
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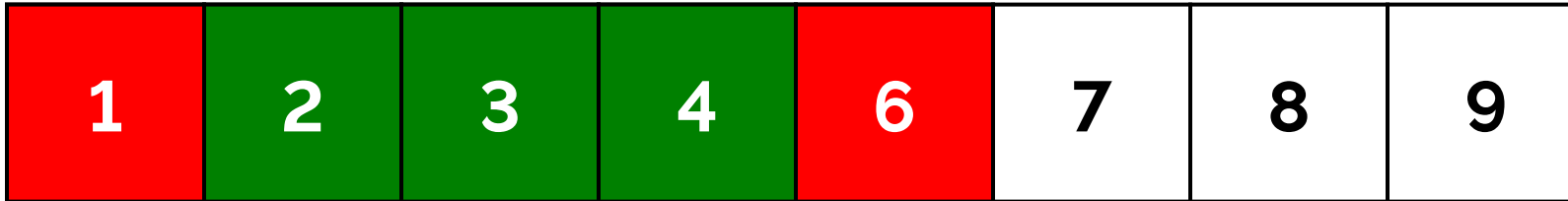
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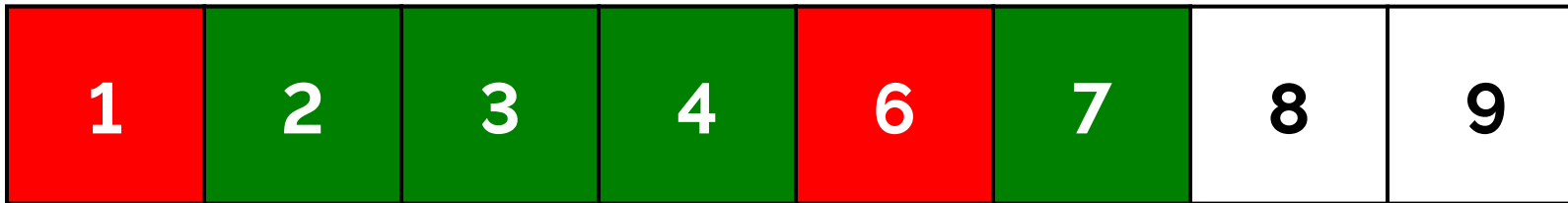
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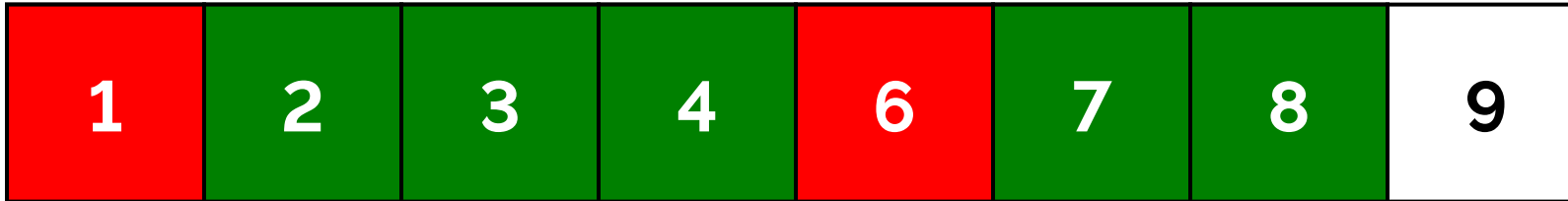
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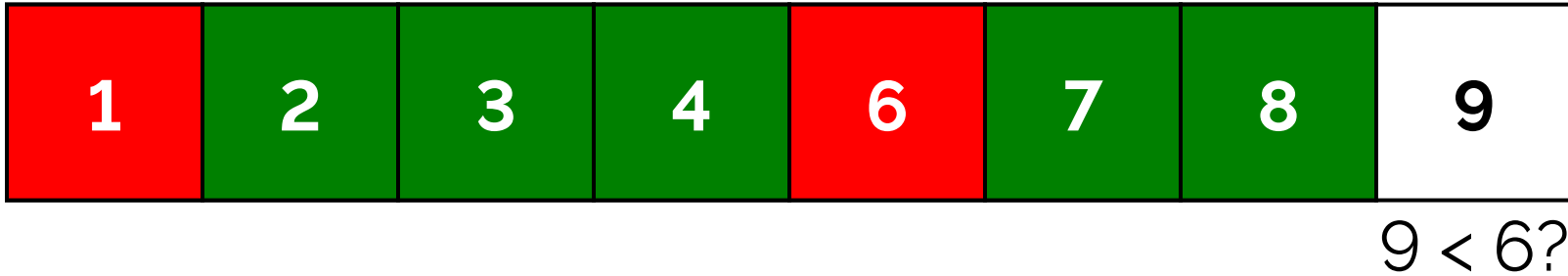
8 < 6?

Prediction: Not taken



# Simple branch predictor - sorted array

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



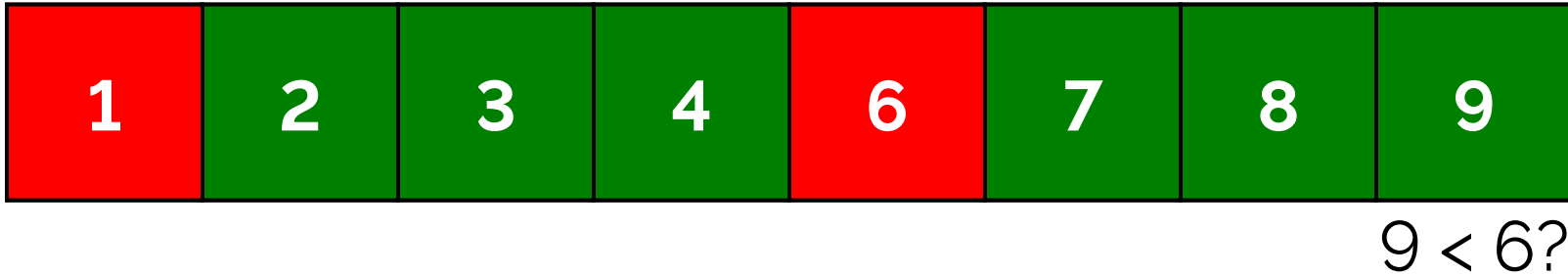
Prediction: Not taken





# Simple branch predictor - sorted array

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

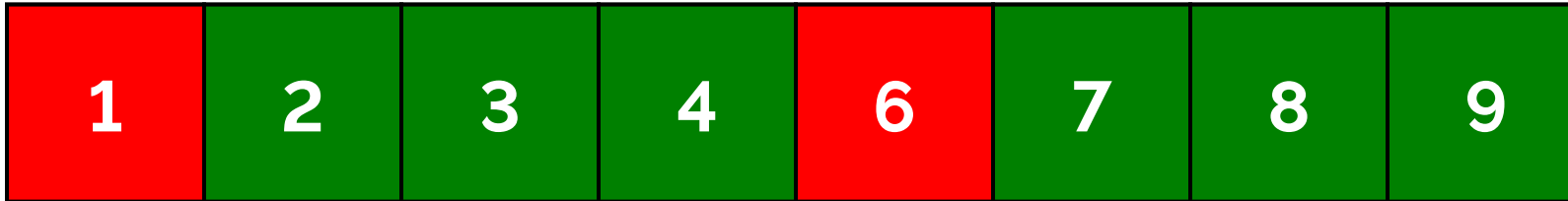


Prediction: Not taken



# 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
```

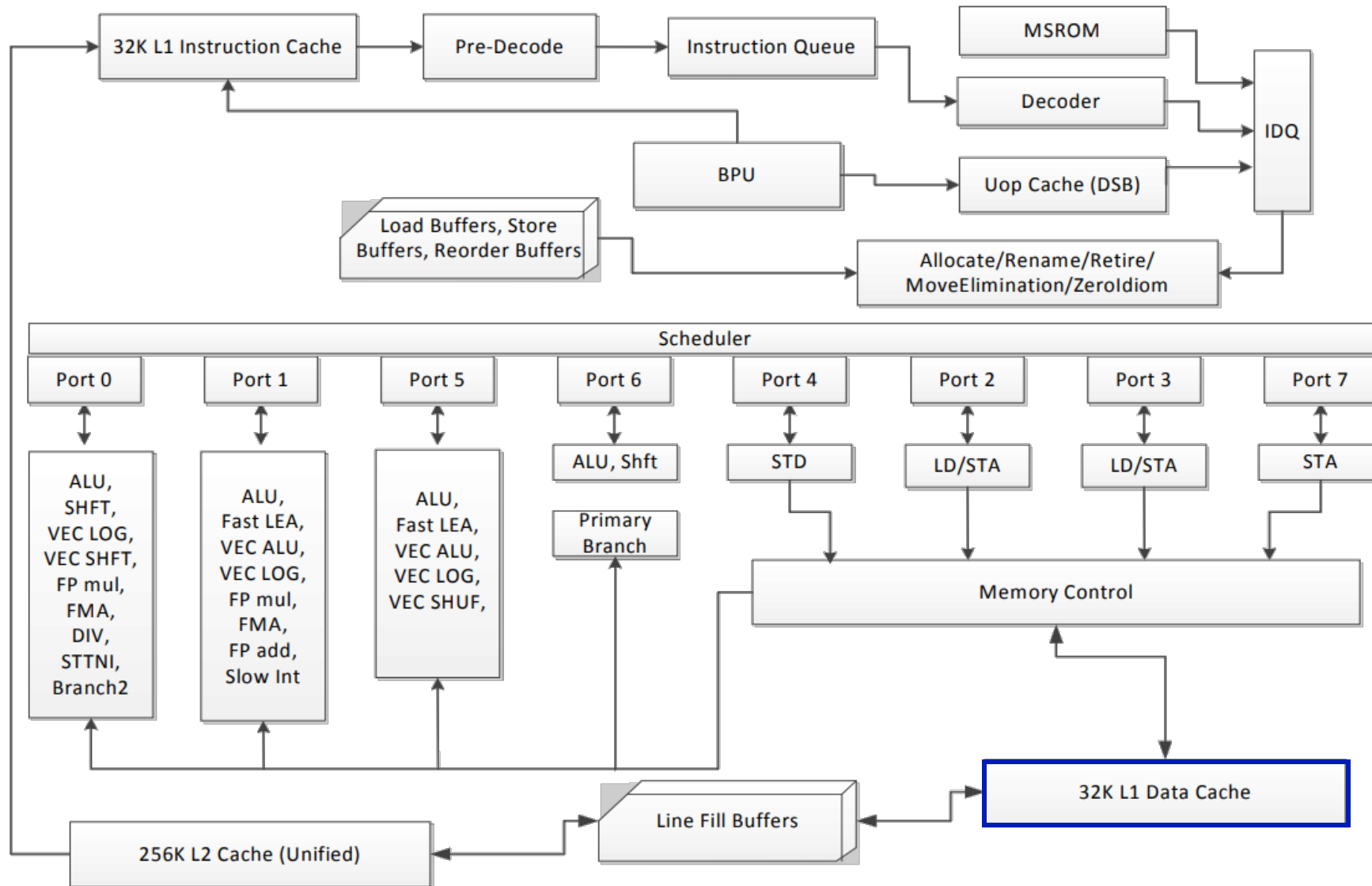


# Result (backup)

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)

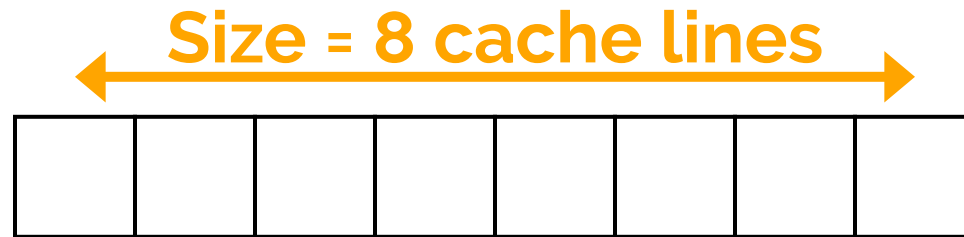


# How are (L1) caches implemented

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

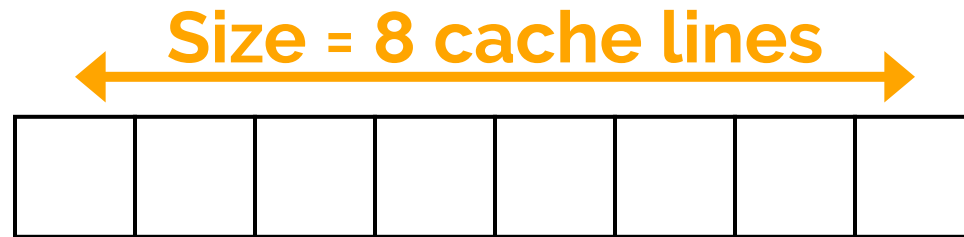


# N-way set associative cache





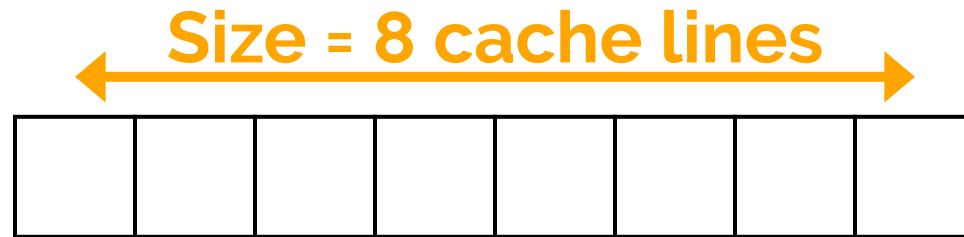
# N-way set associative cache



Associativity (N) - # of cache lines per bucket



# N-way set associative cache

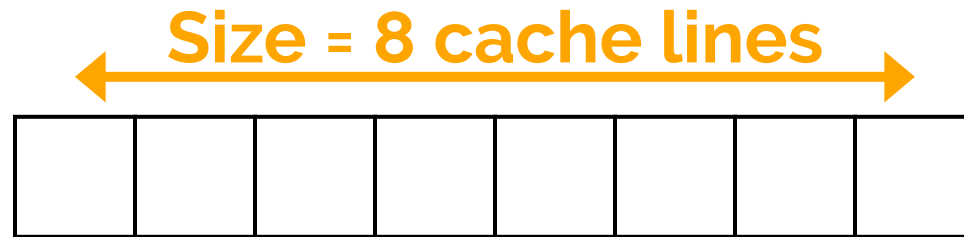


Associativity (N) - # of cache lines per bucket

# of buckets = Size / N



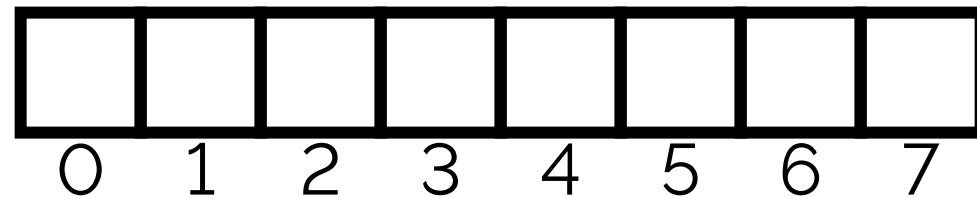
# N-way set associative cache



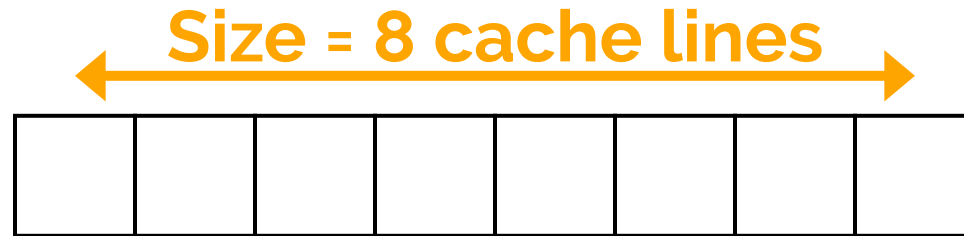
Associativity (N) - # of cache lines per bucket

# of buckets = Size / N

N = 1 (direct mapped)



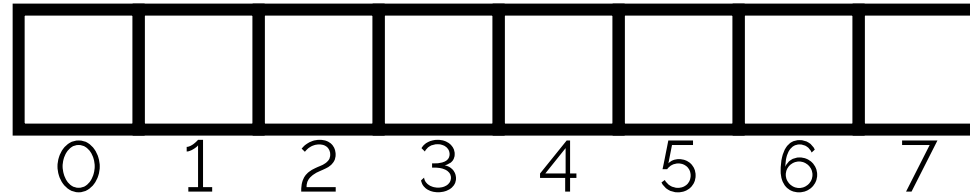
# N-way set associative cache



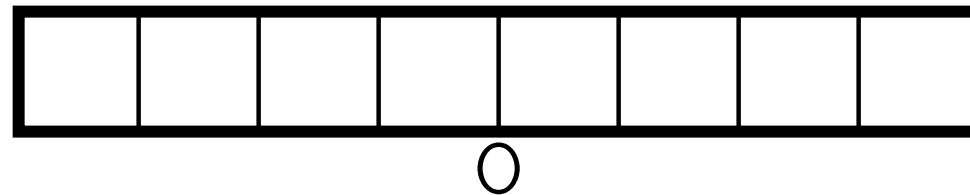
Associativity (N) - # of cache lines per bucket

# of buckets = Size / N

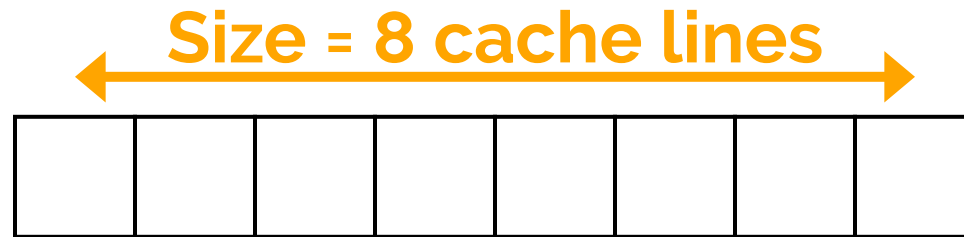
N = 1 (direct mapped)



N = 8 (fully associative)



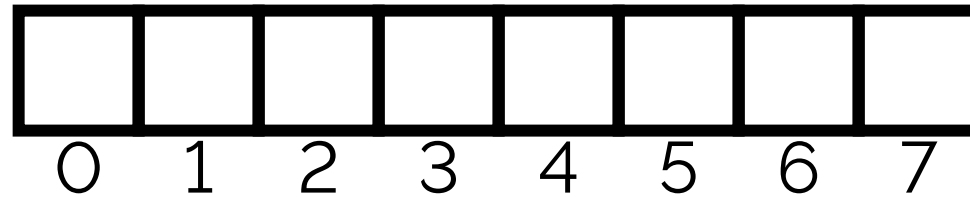
# N-way set associative cache



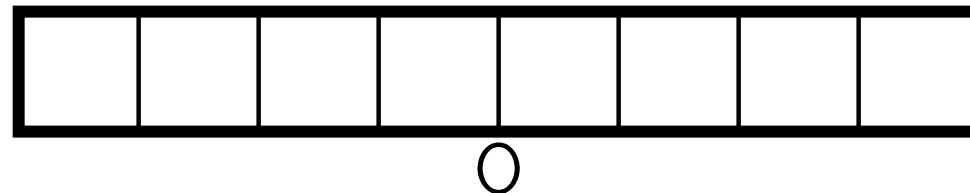
Associativity (N) - # of cache lines per bucket

# of buckets = Size / N

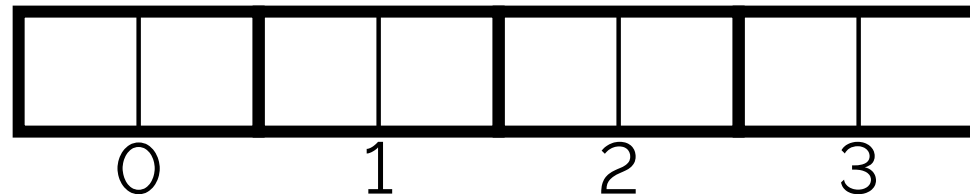
N = 1 (direct mapped)



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?



- **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?



- **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



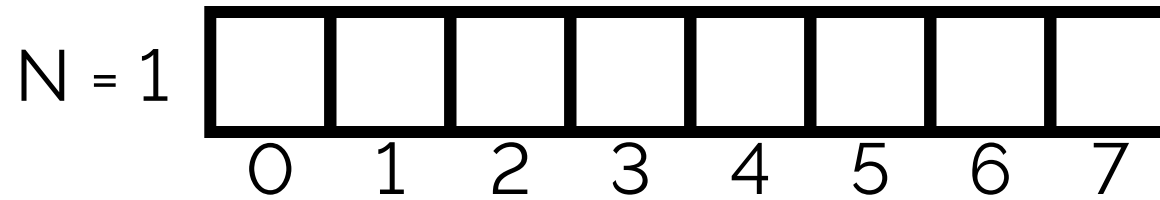
# N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



# N-way set associative cache

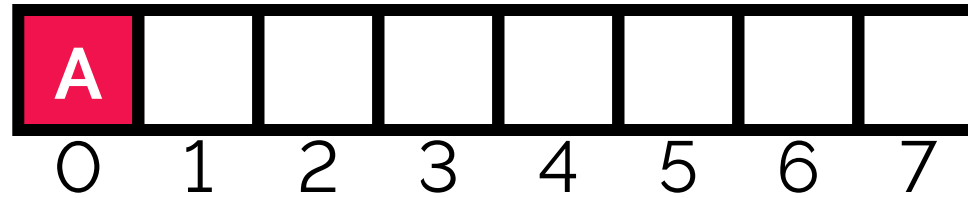
Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0

$N = 1$



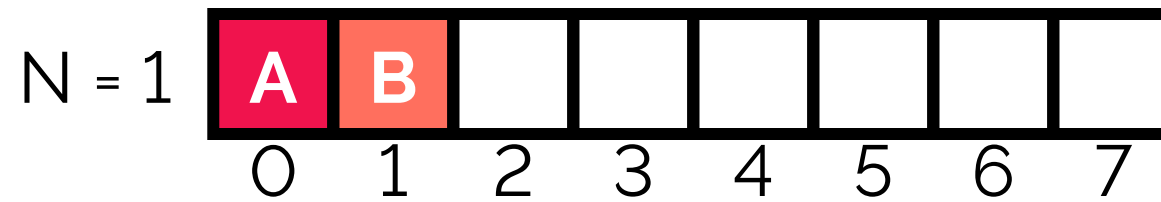
# N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



# N-way set associative cache

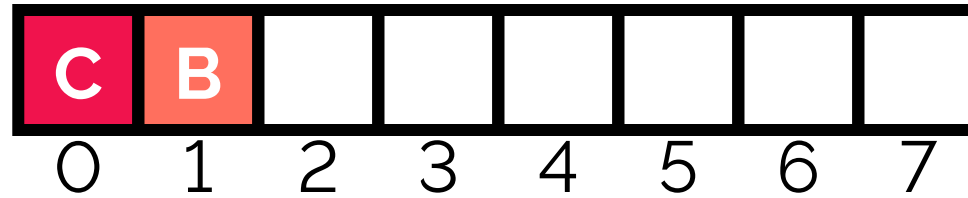
Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0

$N = 1$



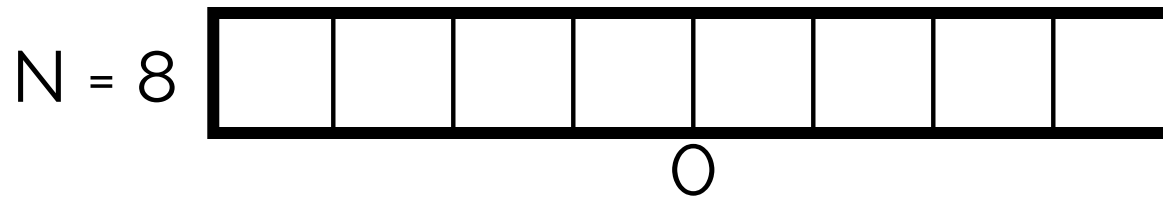
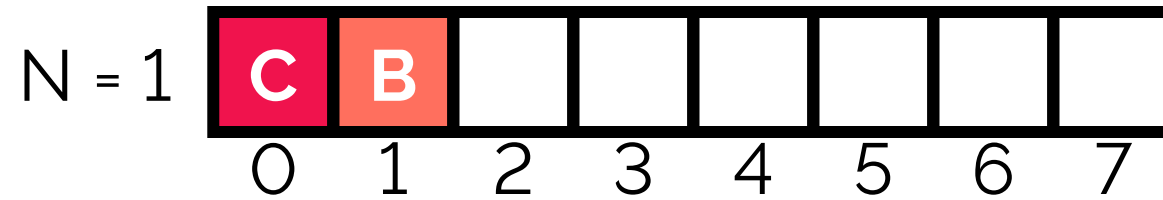
# N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



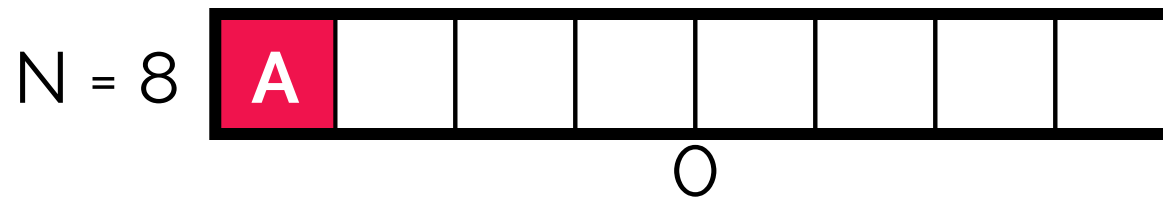
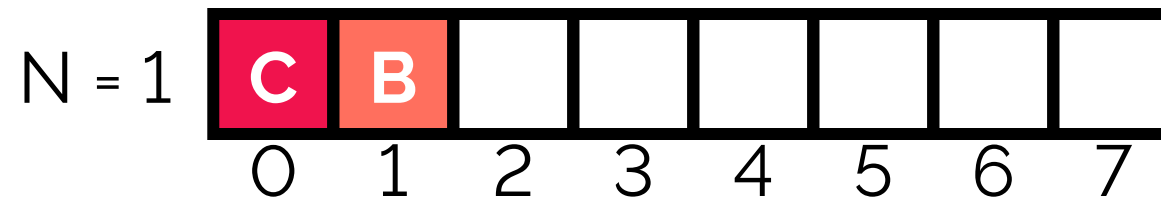
# N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0





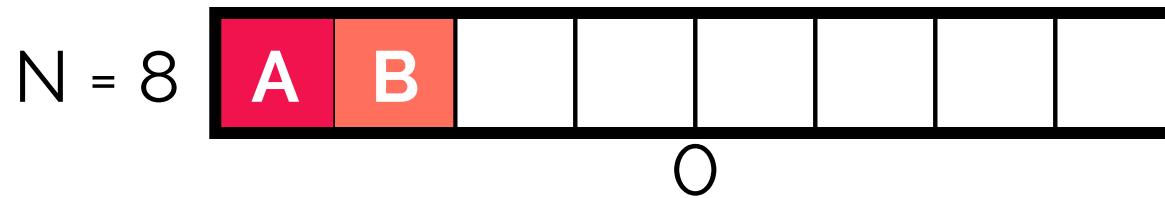
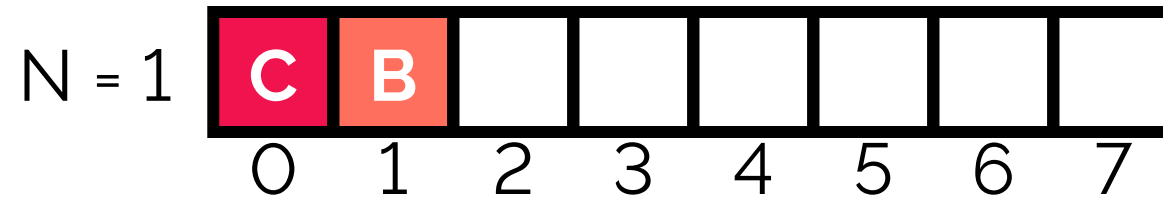
# N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



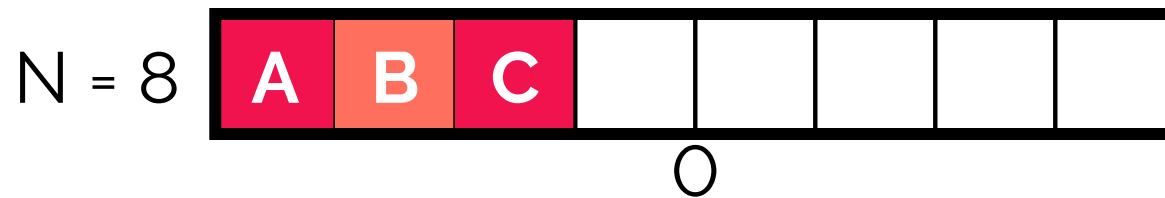
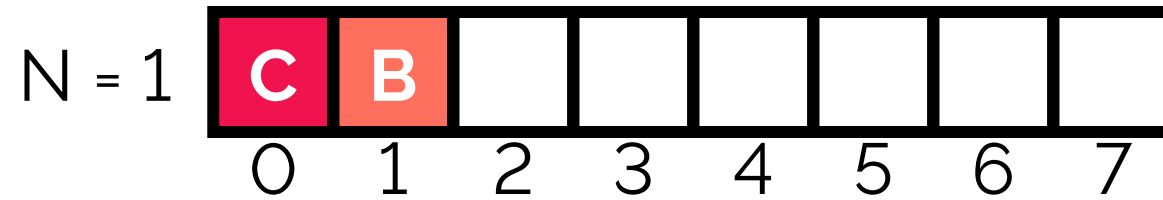
# N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



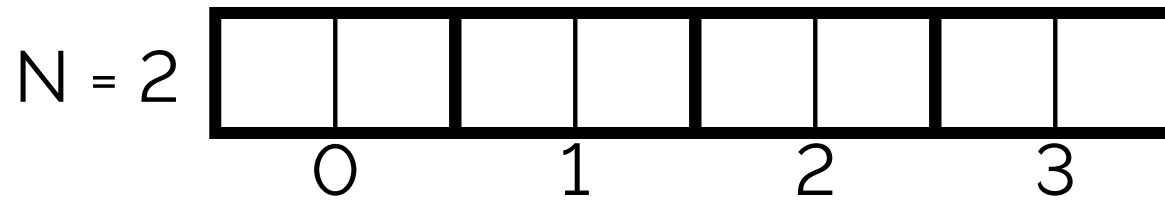
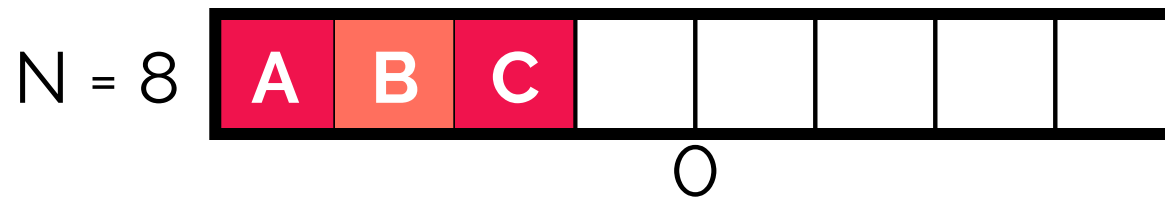
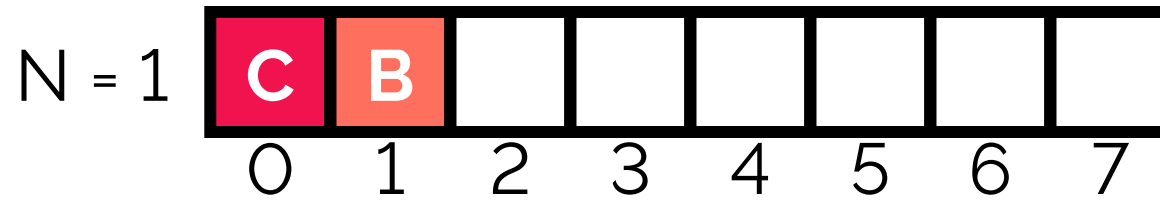
# N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



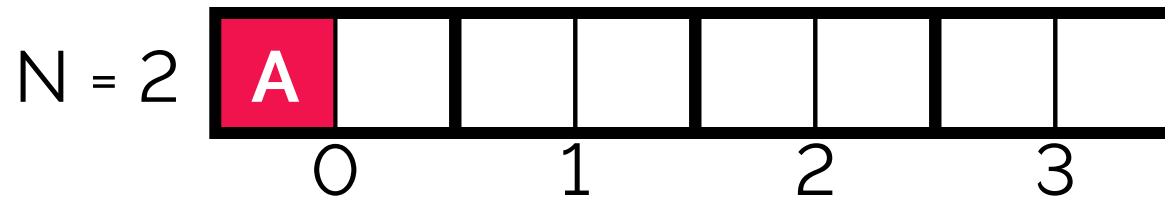
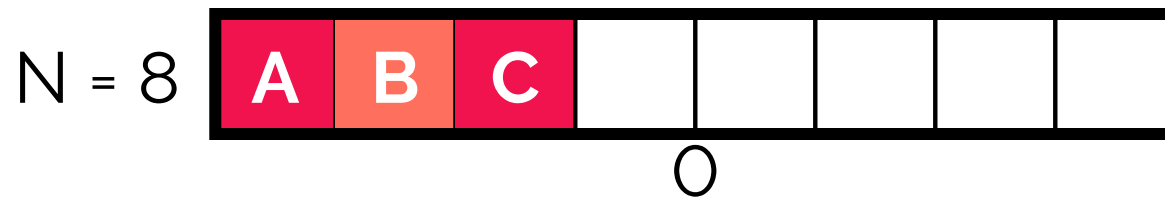
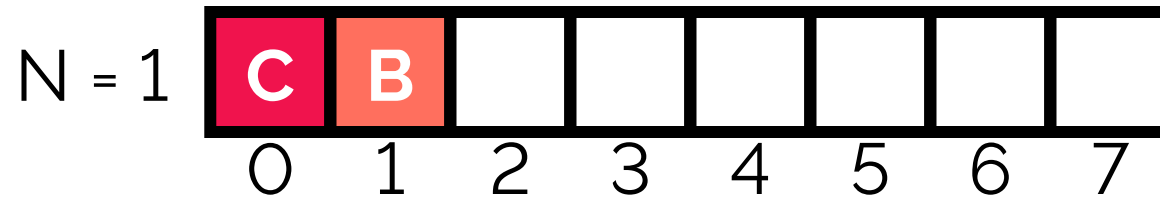
# N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



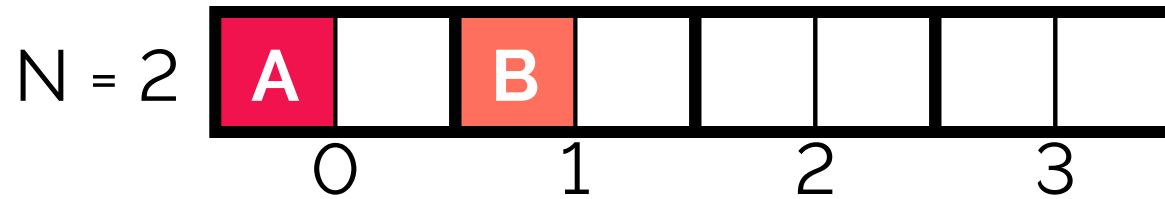
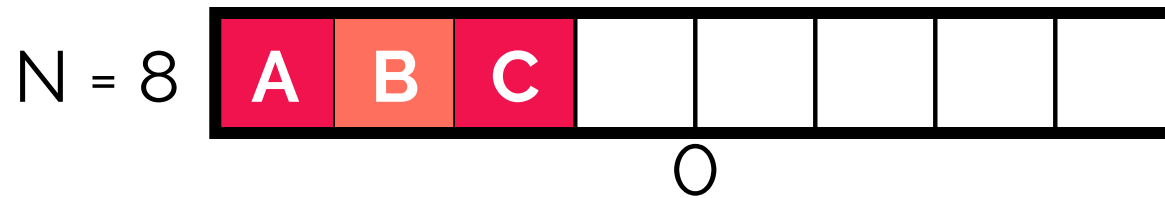
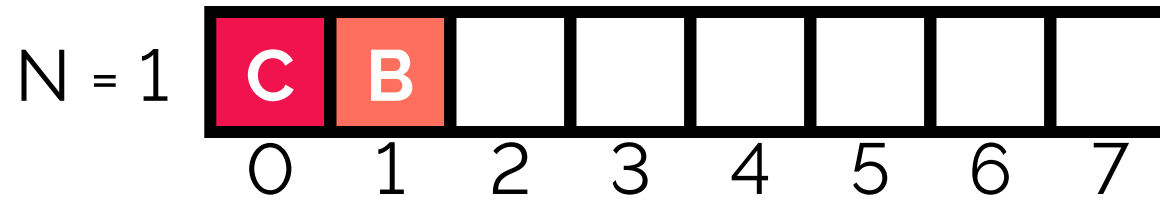
# N-way set associative cache

Cache lines:



Index bits:

0 1 0



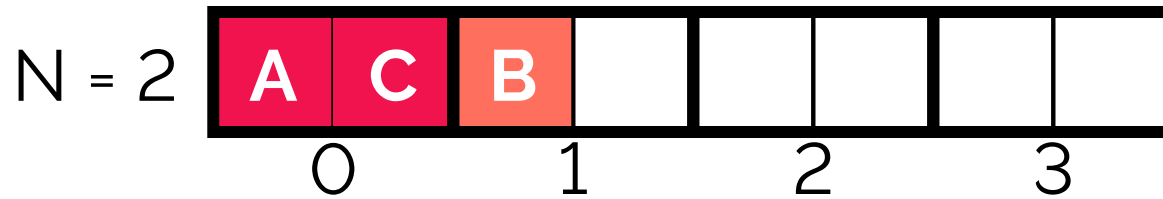
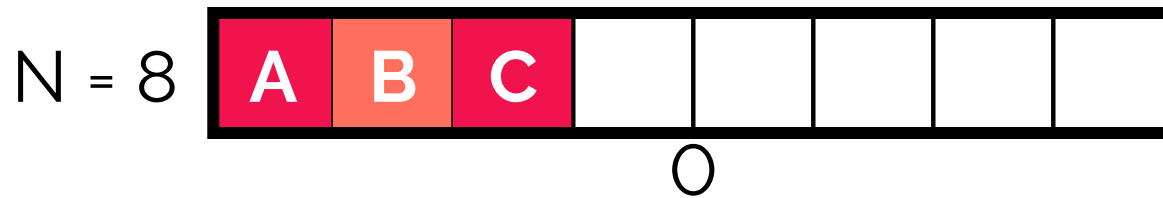
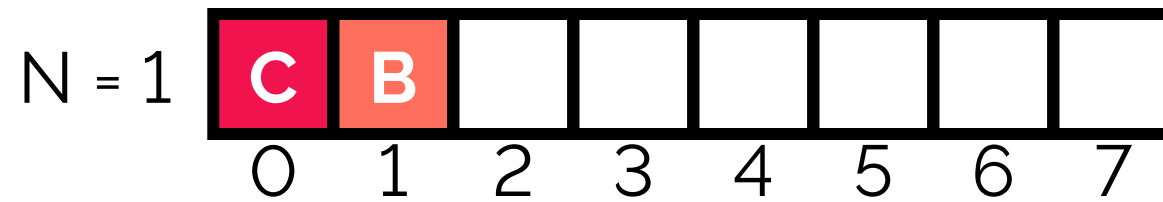
# N-way set associative cache

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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$ 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)





# 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



# Intel L1 cache

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

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



# 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



# Intel L1 cache

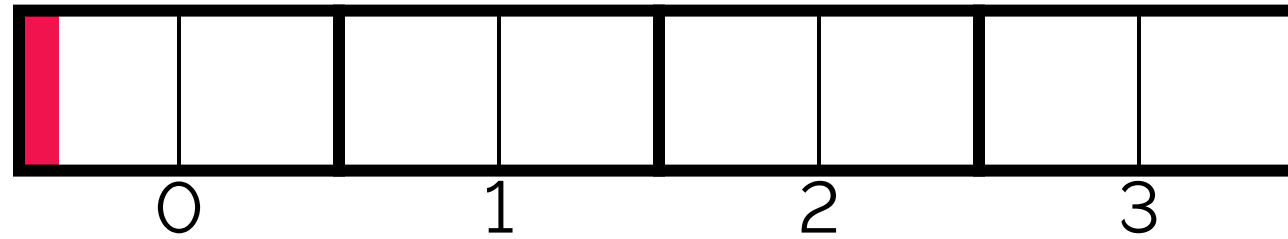
```
$ getconf -a | grep LEVEL1_DCACHE
LEVEL1_DCACHE_SIZE          32768
LEVEL1_DCACHE_ASSOC         8
LEVEL1_DCACHE_LINESIZE     64
```

- **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)



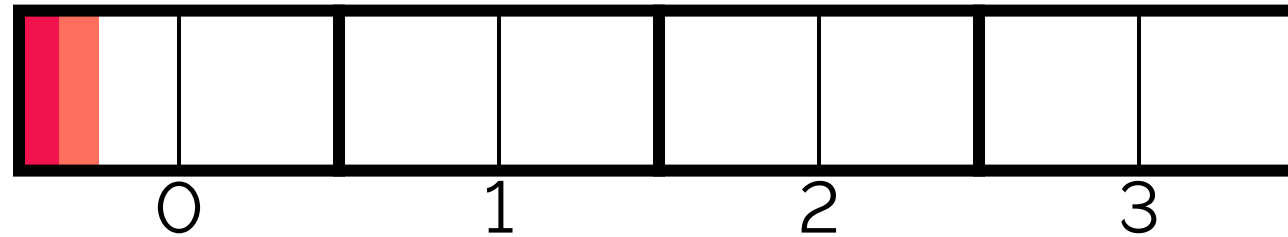
# Offset = 4B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..100000	000000	000000



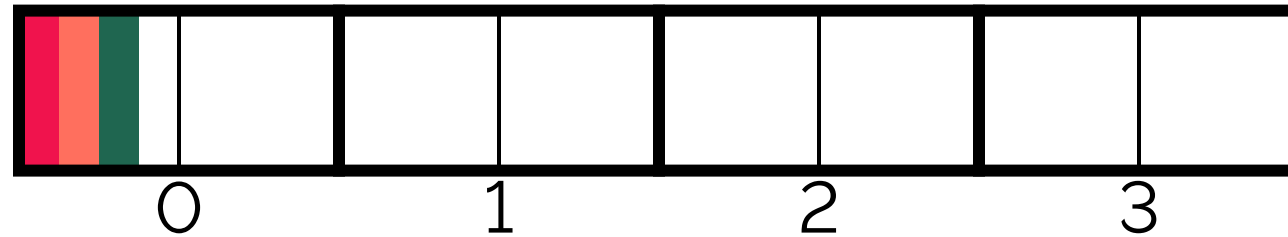
# Offset = 4B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..100000	000000	000000
B	..100000	000000	000100



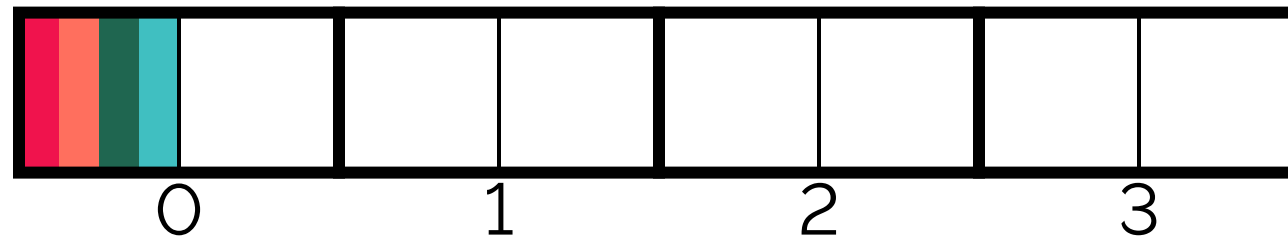
# Offset = 4B

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



# Offset = 4B

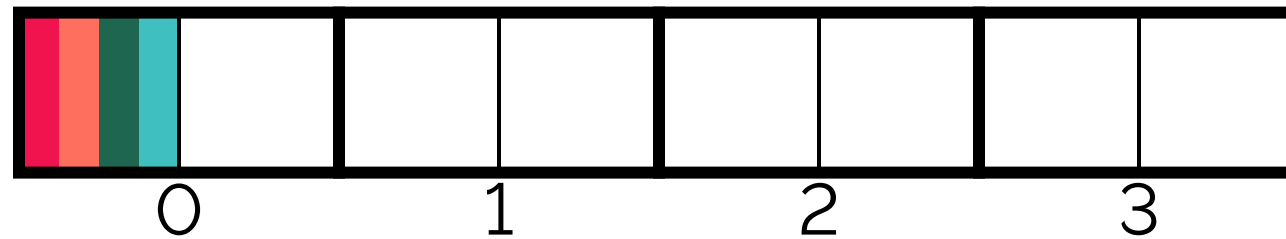
Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000
B	..1000000	0000000	000100
C	..1000000	0000000	001000
D	..1000000	0000000	001100





# Offset = 4B

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

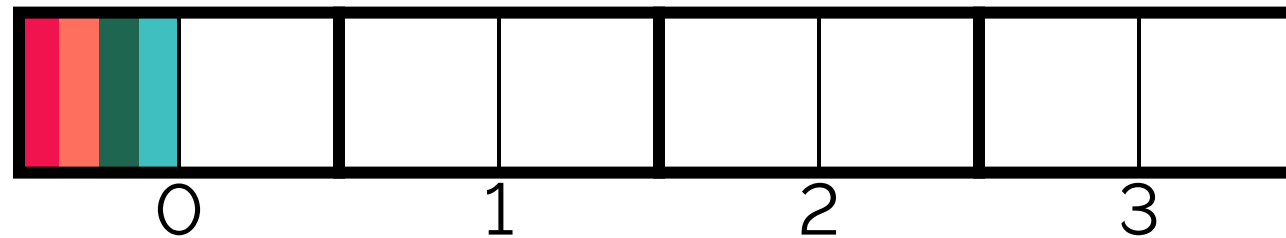


- Same bucket, same cache line for each number



# Offset = 4B

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

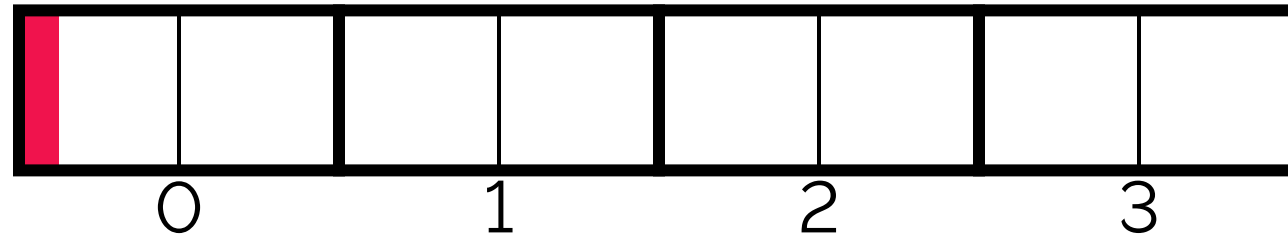


- Same bucket, same cache line for each number
- Most efficient, no space is wasted



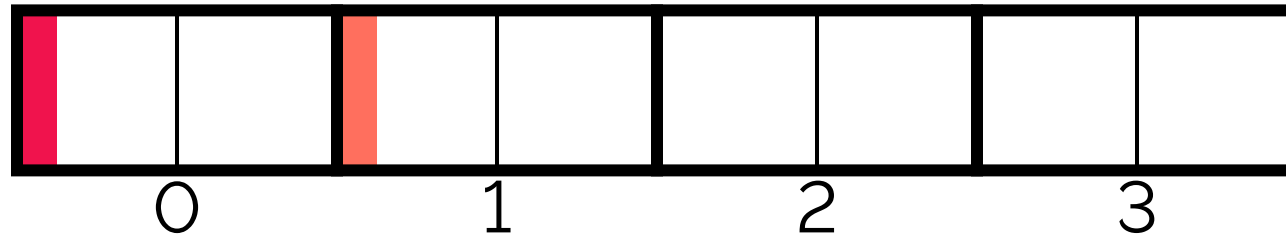
# Offset = 64B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..100000	000000	000000



# Offset = 64B

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



# 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

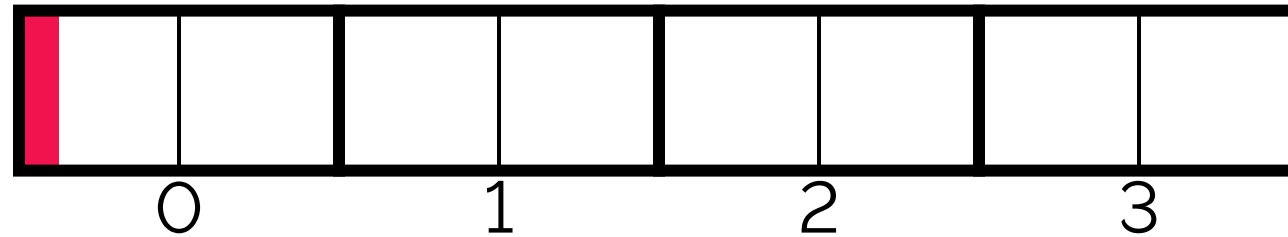


- Different bucket for each number
- Wastes 60B in each cache line
- Equally distributed among buckets



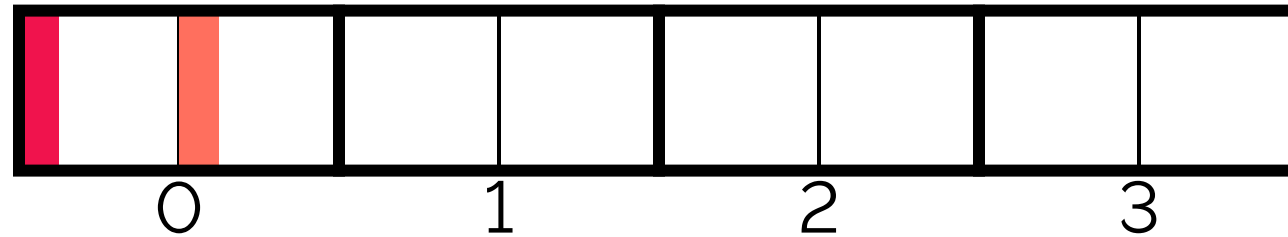
# Offset = 4096B

Number	Tag	Index	Offset
A	..1000000	0000000	0000000



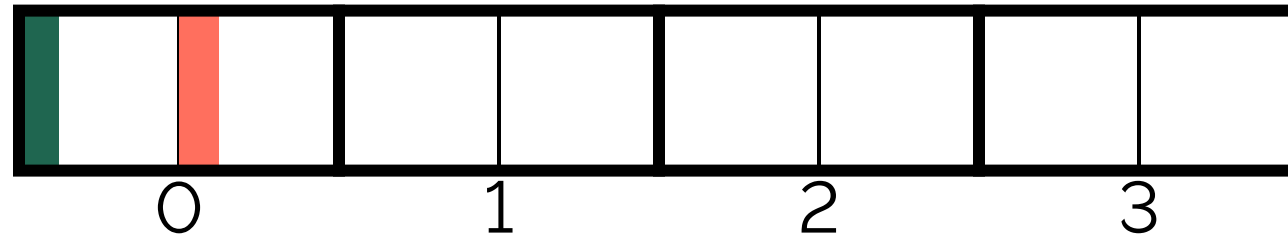
# Offset = 4096B

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



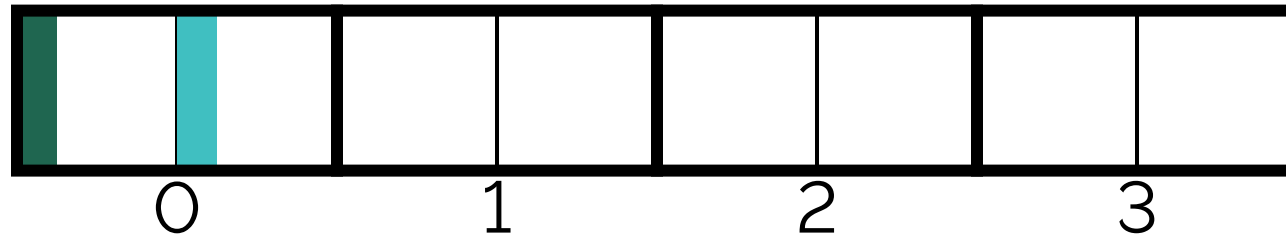
# Offset = 4096B

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



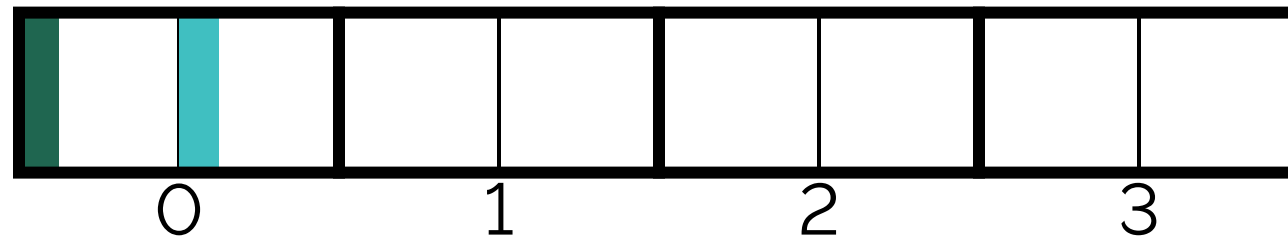
# Offset = 4096B

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

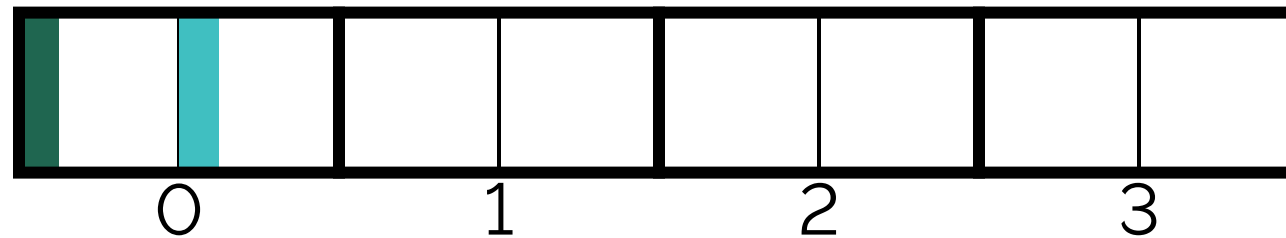


- Same bucket, but different cache lines for each number!



# 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;  
    }  
}
```

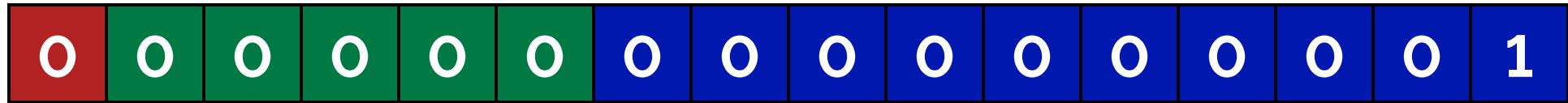


## Result (backup)

```
> 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
```



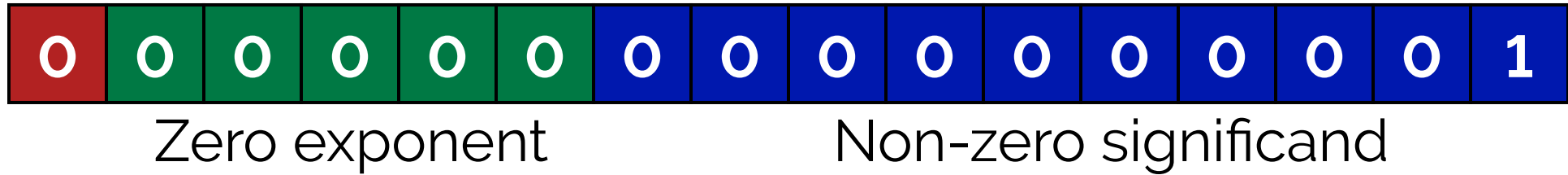
# Denormal floating point numbers



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



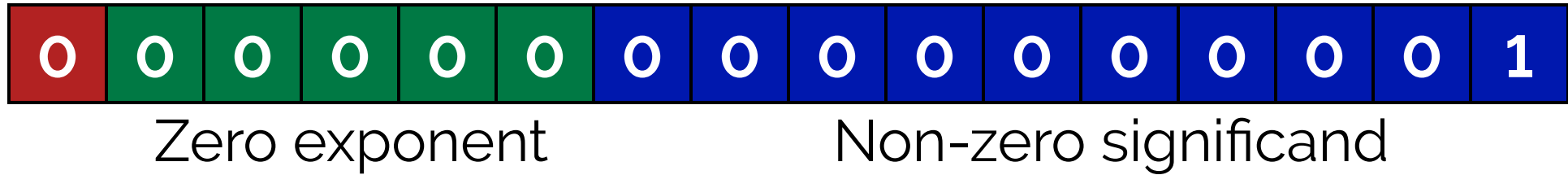
# Denormal floating point numbers



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



# Denormal floating point numbers

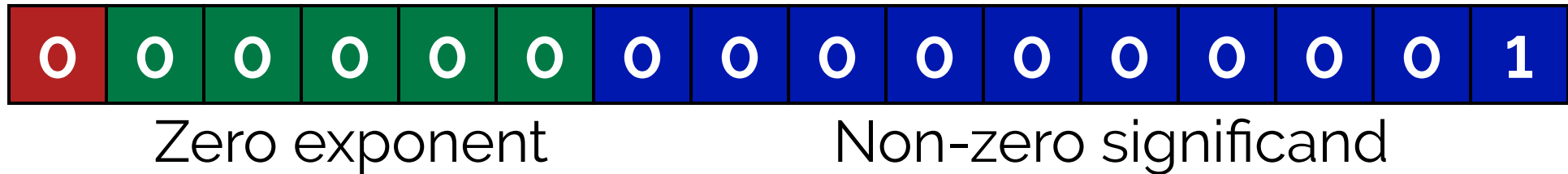


$$(-1)^0 * 2^{00000-01110} * 0.00000000001$$

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



# Denormal floating point numbers



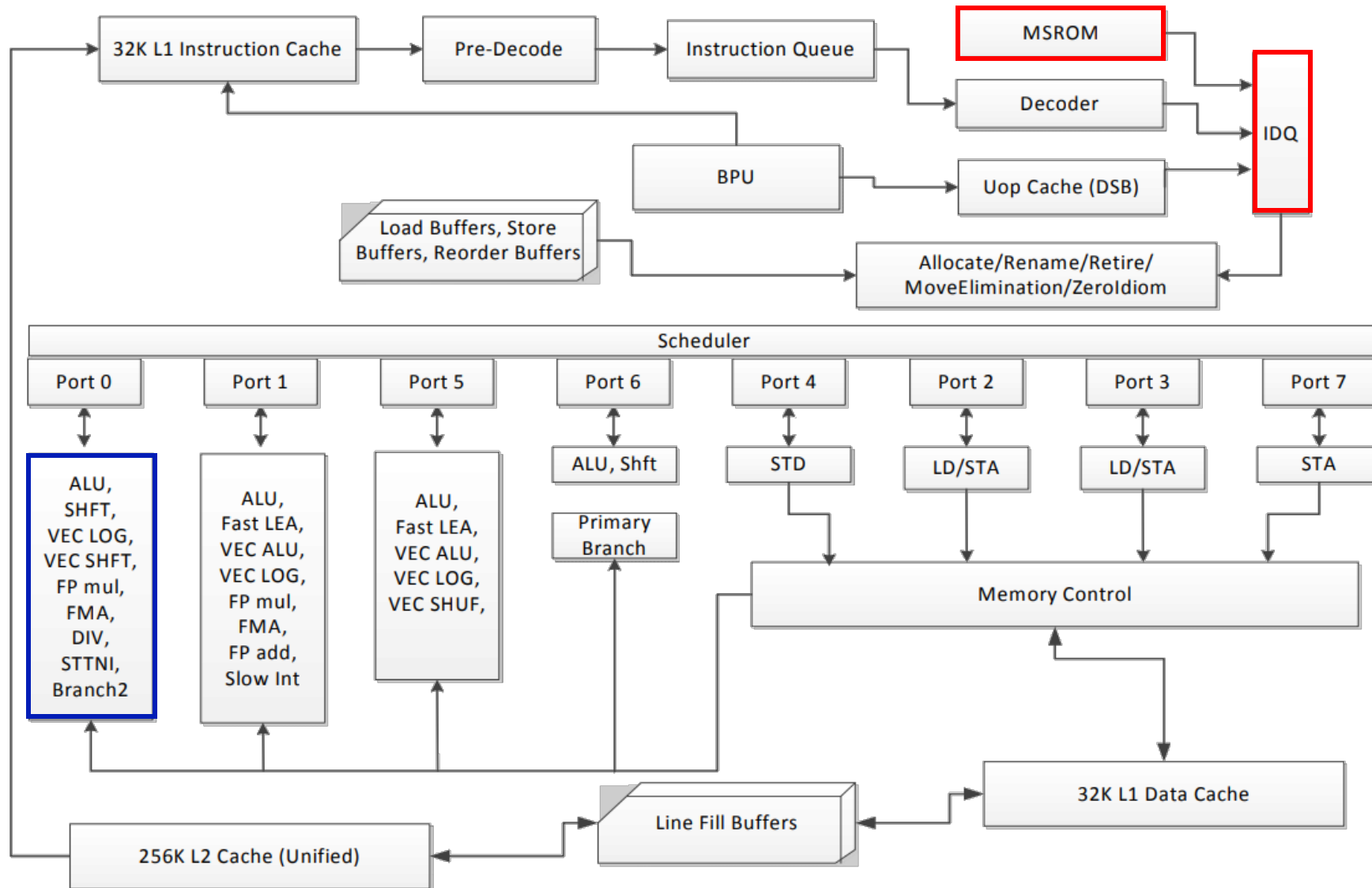
$$(-1)^0 * 2^{000000-01110} * 0.00000000001$$

- 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



# How to fix it?

- The nuclear option: `-ffast-math`
  - Sacrifice correctness to gain more FP performance
- Set CPU flags:
  - Flush-to-zero - treat denormal outputs as 0
  - Denormals-to-zero - treat denormal inputs as 0



# How to fix it?

- The nuclear option: `-ffast-math`
  - Sacrifice correctness to gain more FP performance
- Set CPU flags:
  - Flush-to-zero - treat denormal outputs as 0
  - 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/kobzo1/hardware-effects](https://github.com/kobzo1/hardware-effects)

Jakub Beránek

Slides built with [github.com/spirali/elsie](https://github.com/spirali/elsie)



# Code (backup)

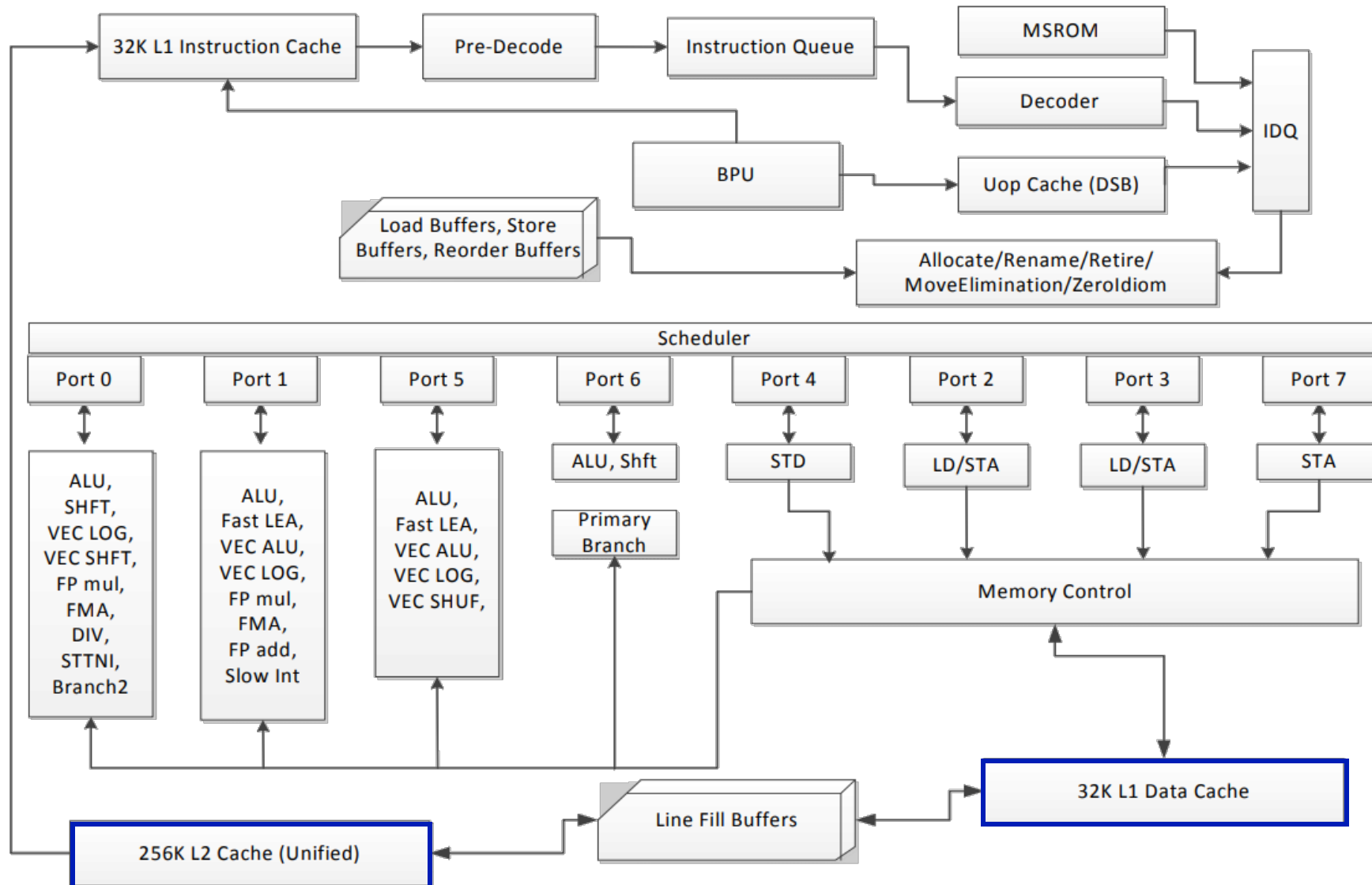
```
// tid - [0, NO_OF_THREADS)  
void thread_fn(int tid, double* data)  
{  
    size_t repetitions = 1024 * 1024 * 1024UL;  
    for (size_t i = 0; i < repetitions; i++)  
    {  
        data[tid] *= i;  
    }  
}
```



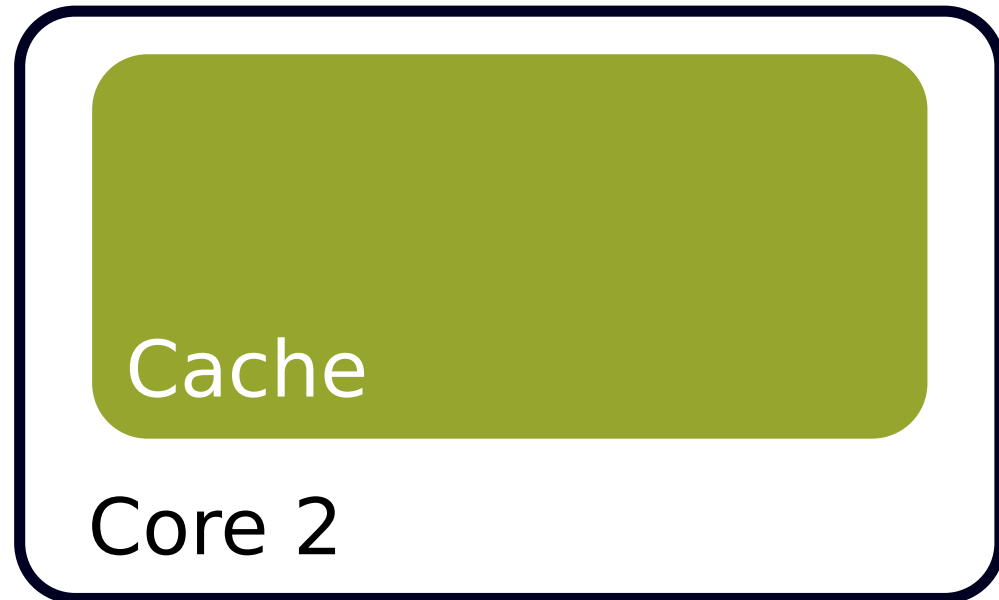
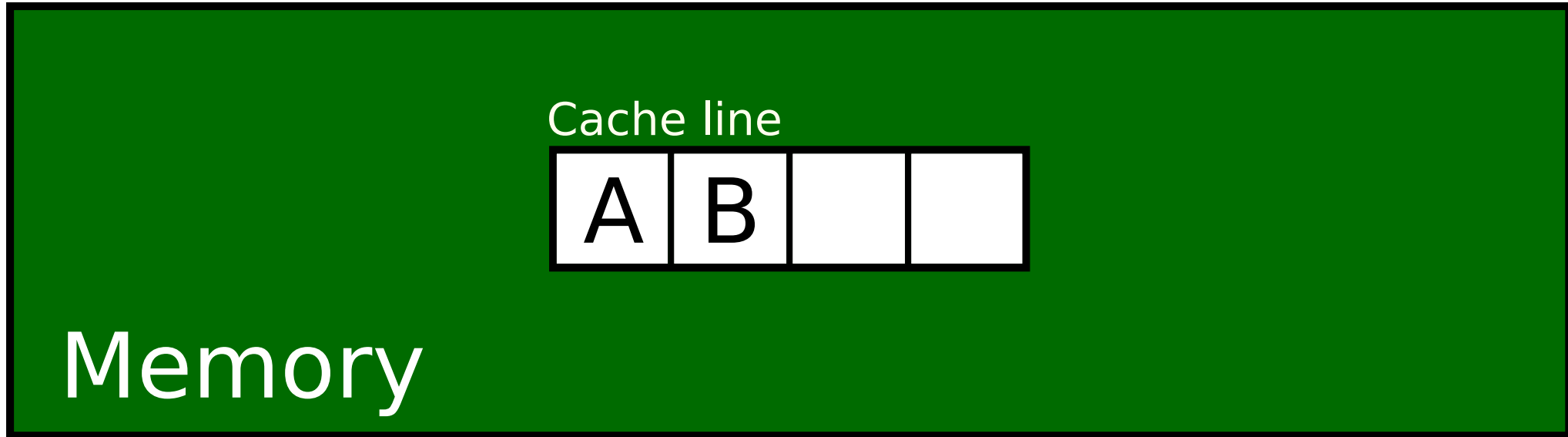
# Result (backup)

```
> 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
```

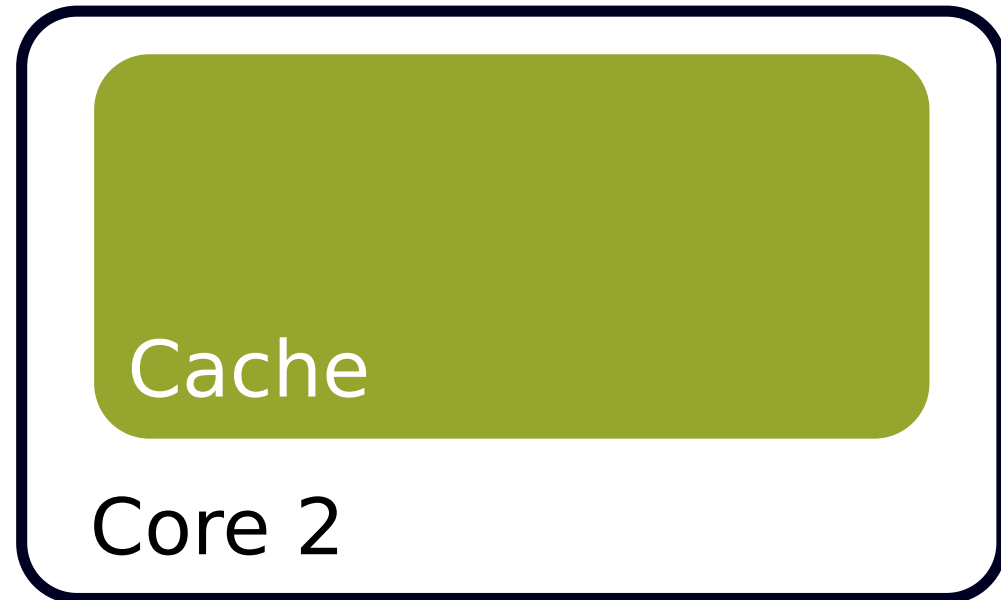
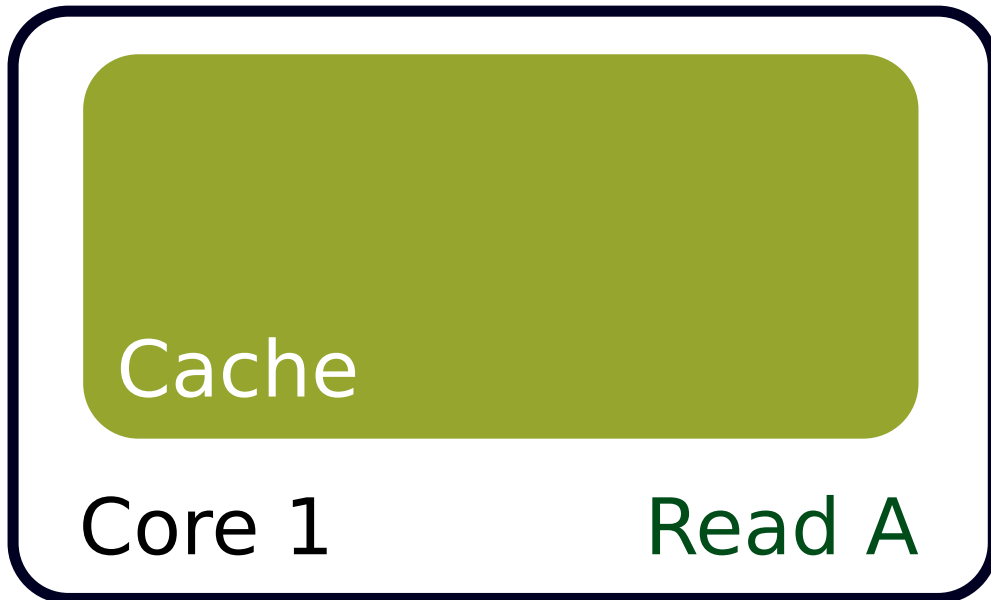
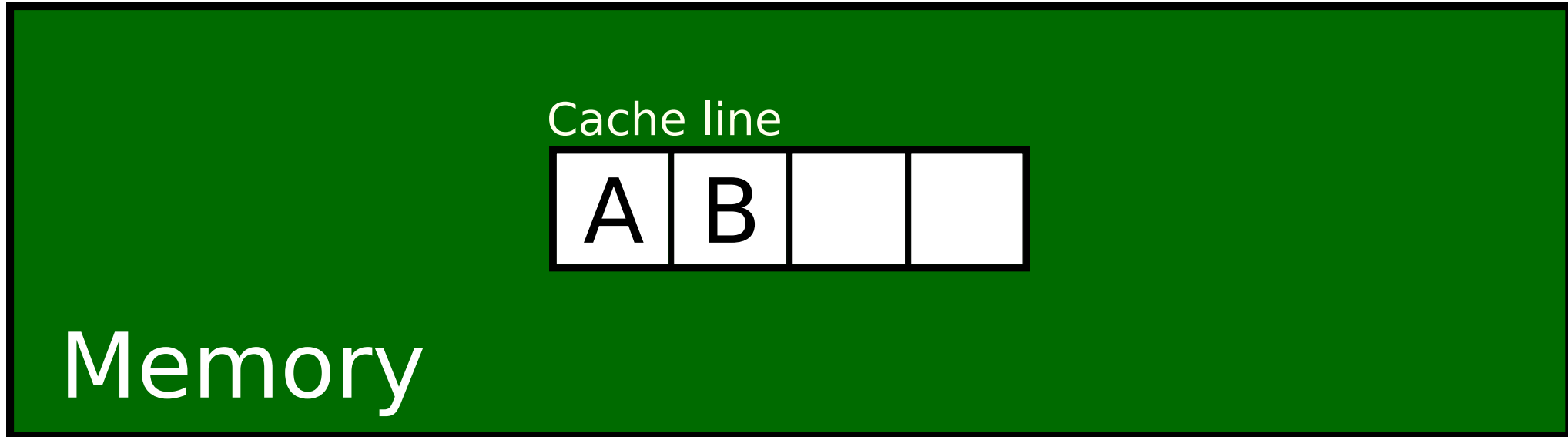
# Cache system



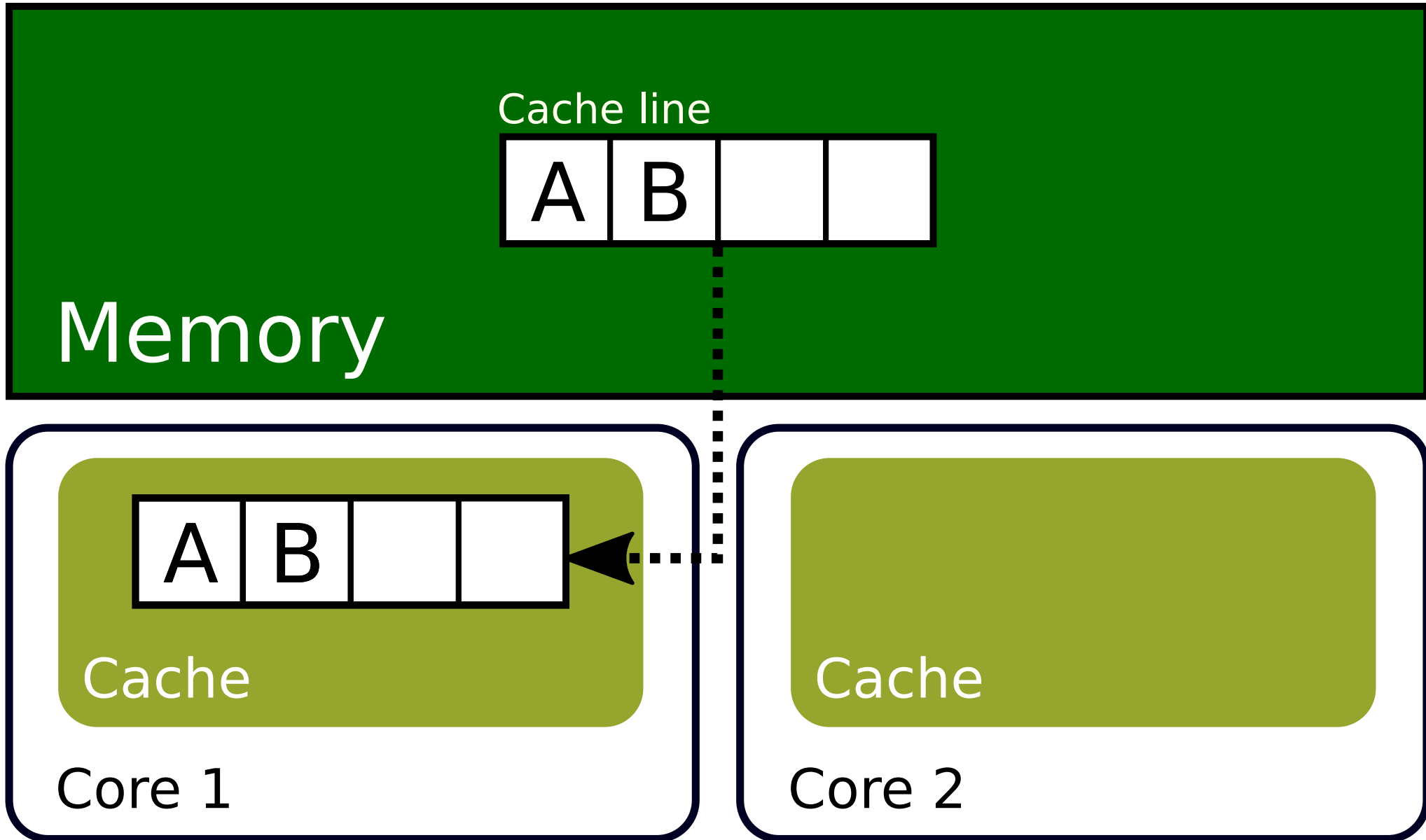
# Cache coherency



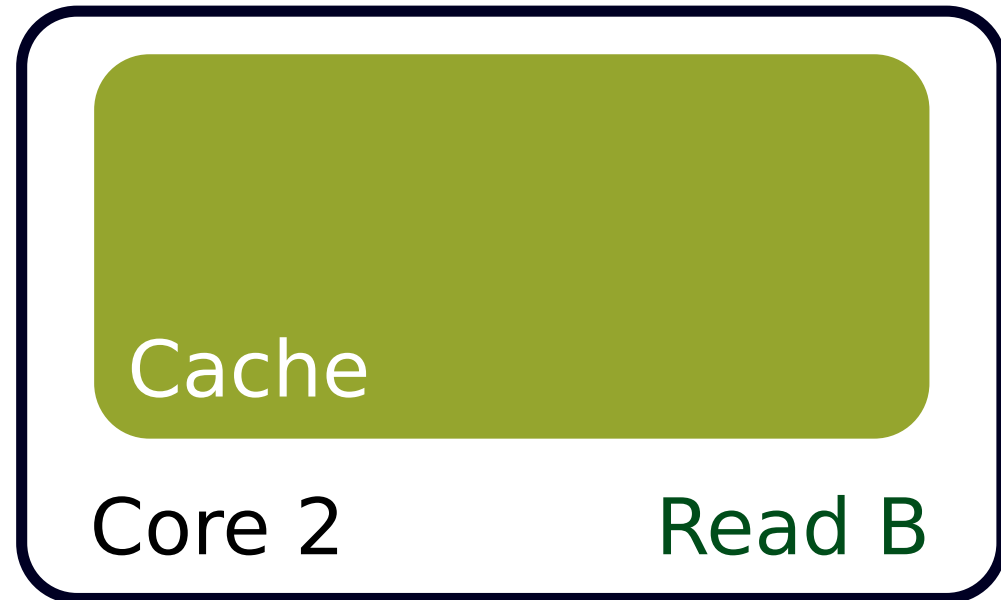
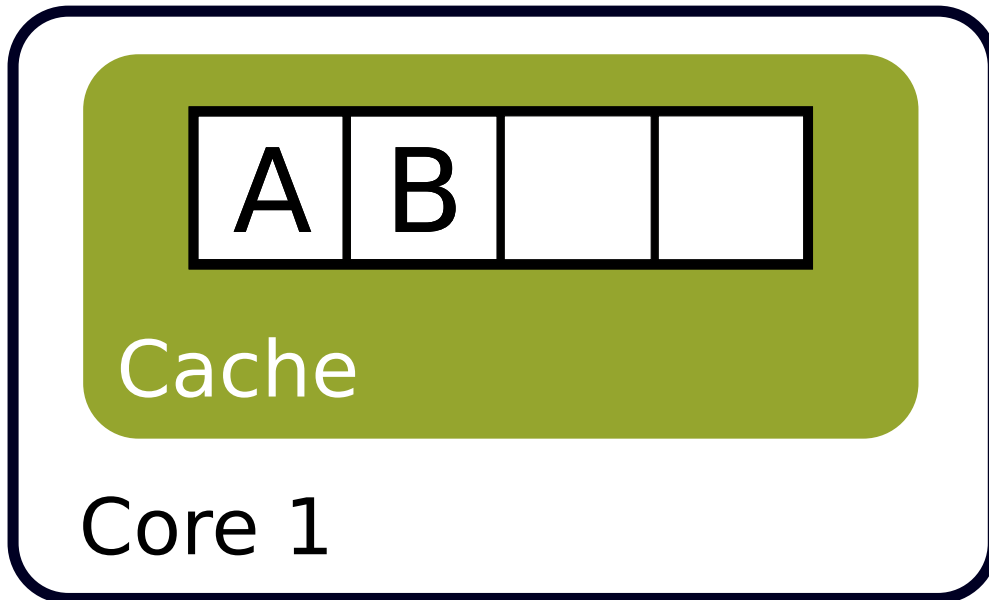
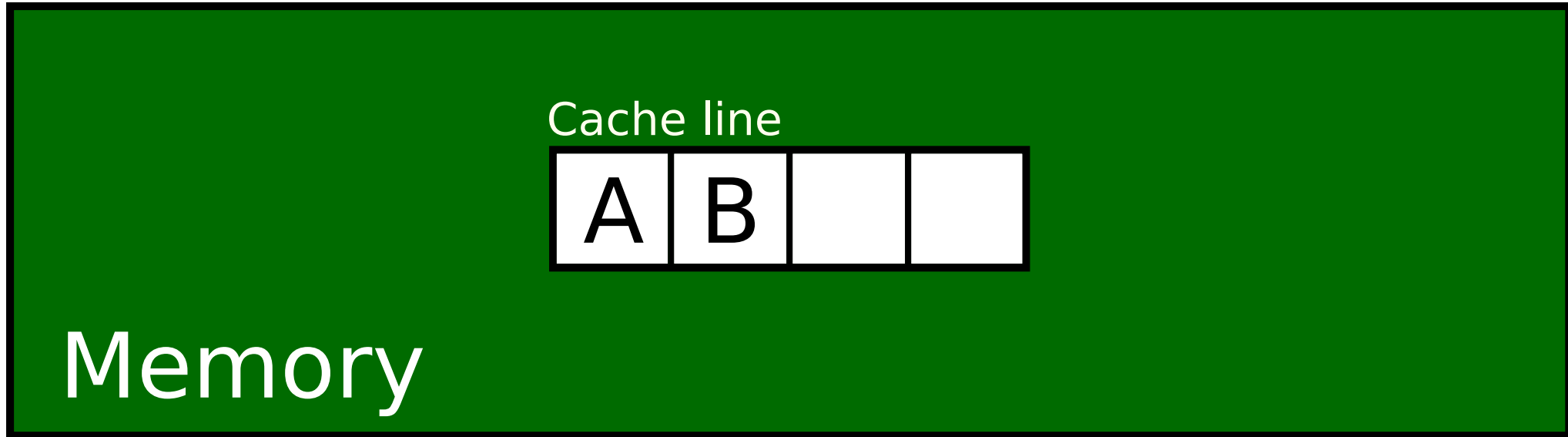
# Cache coherency



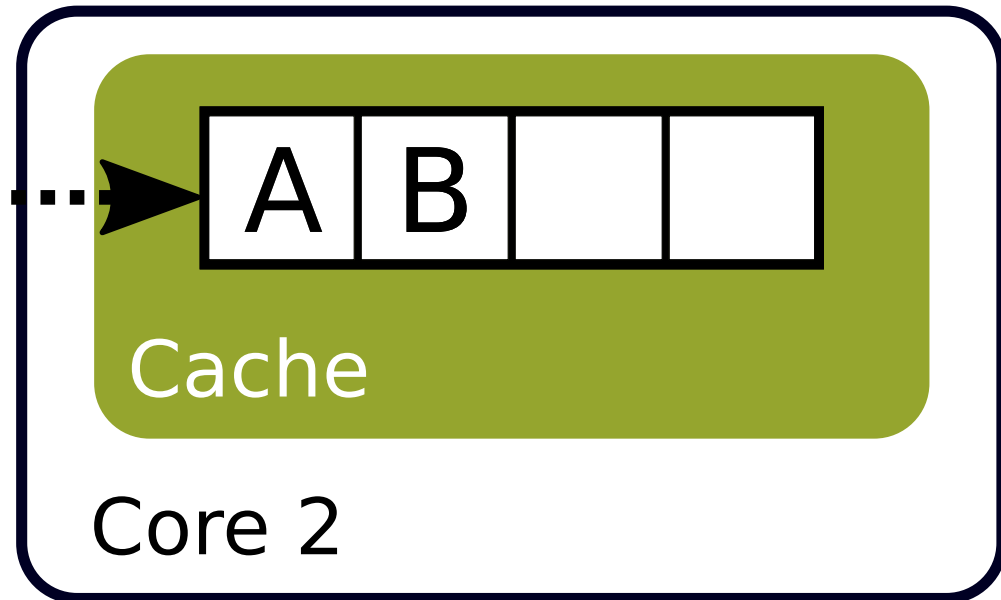
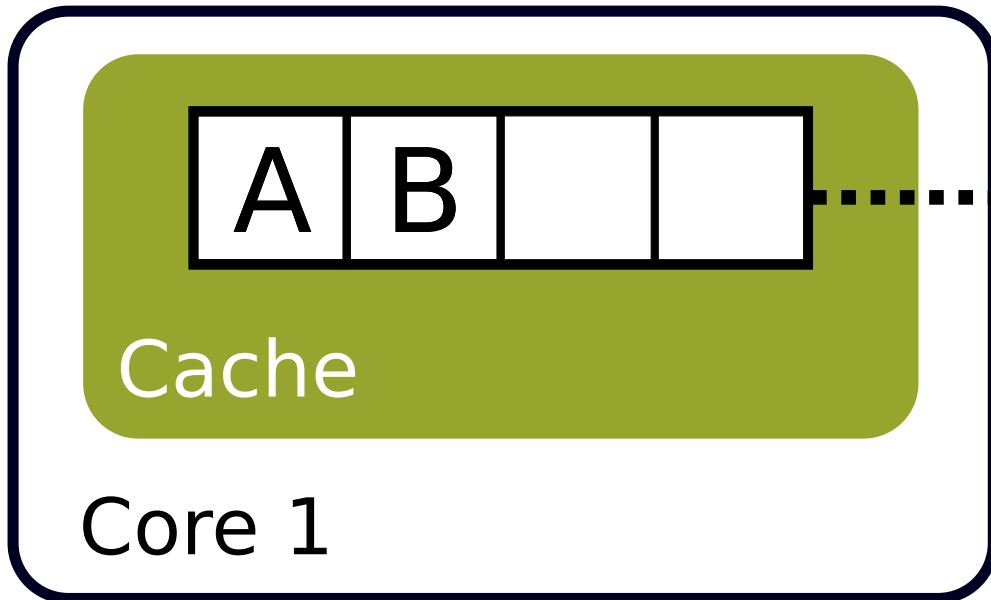
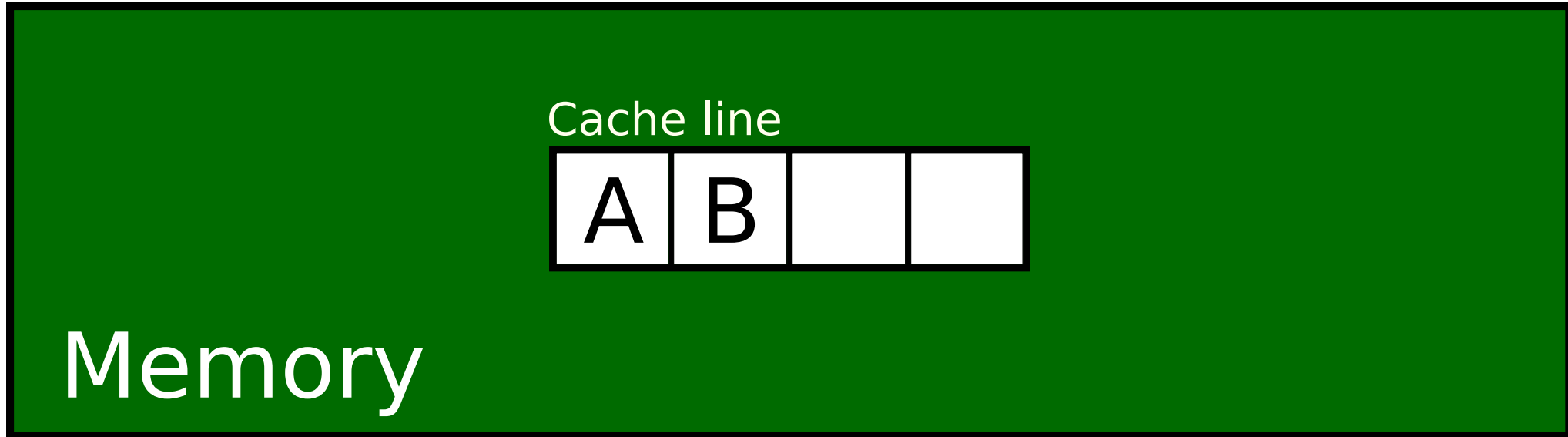
# Cache coherency



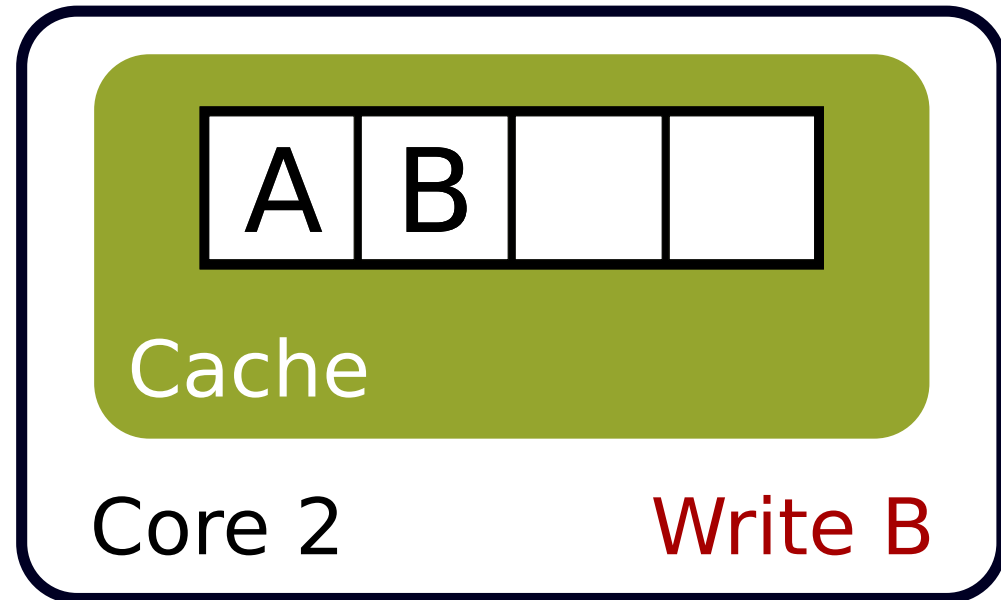
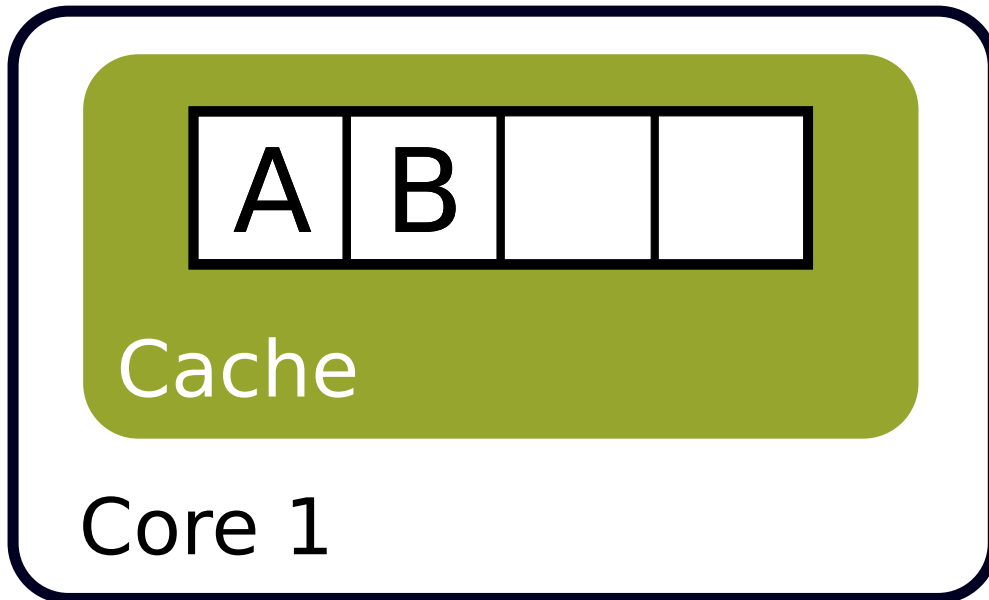
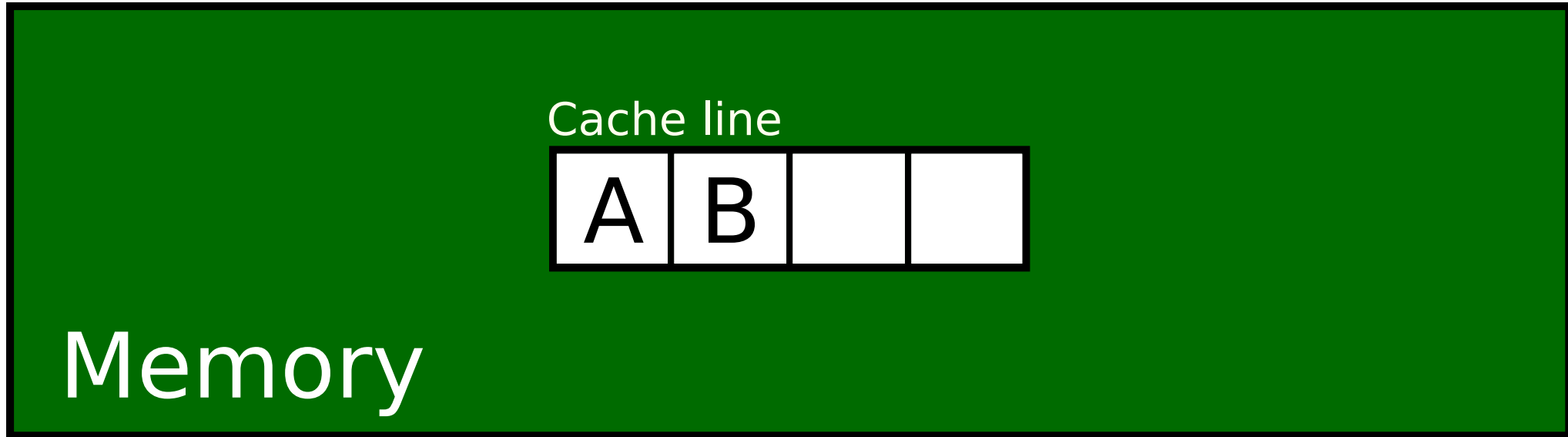
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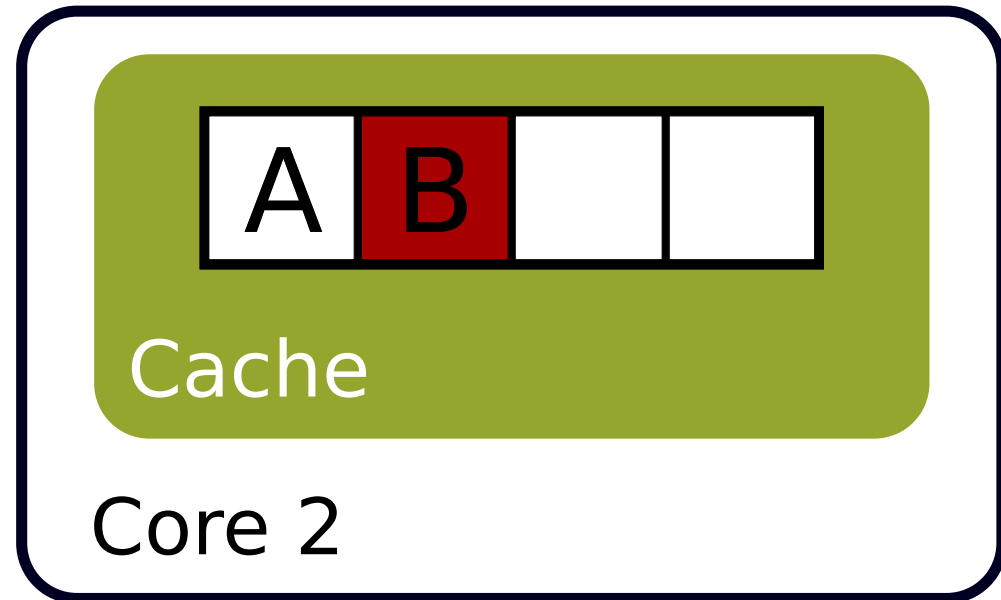
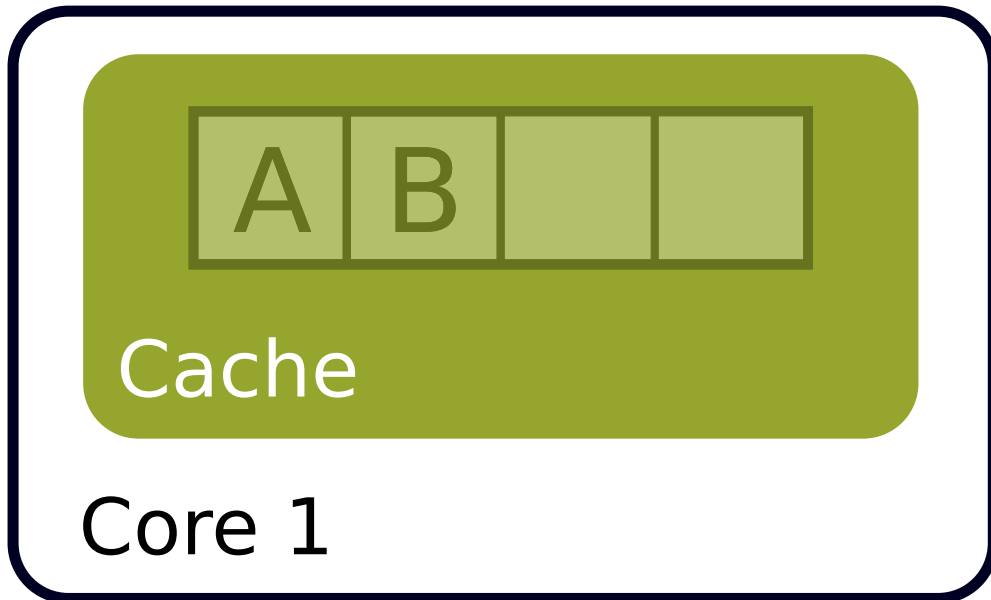
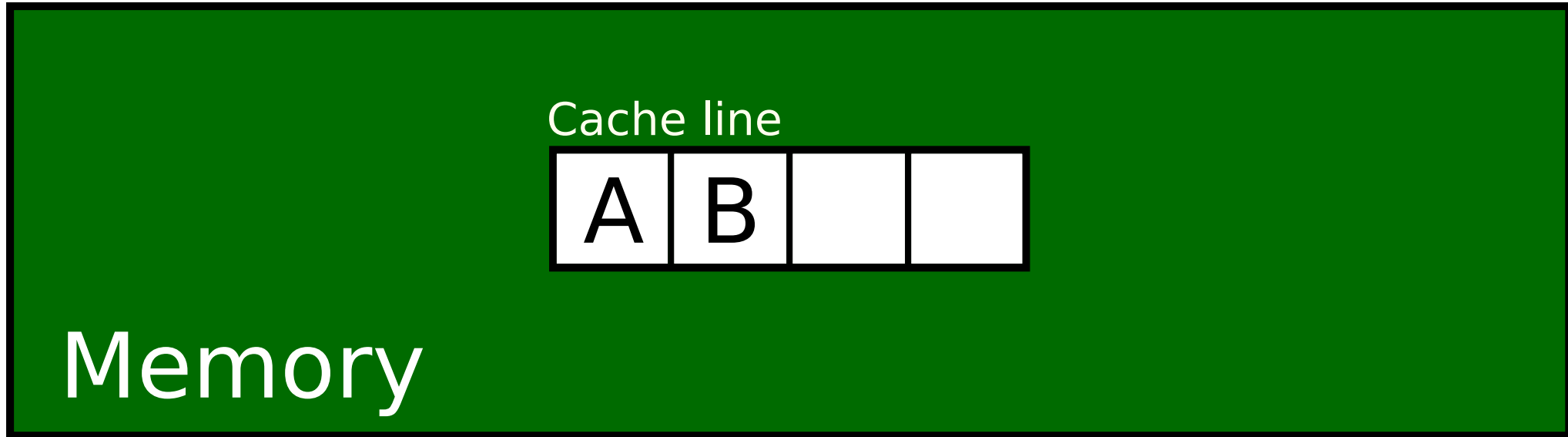


# Cache coherency

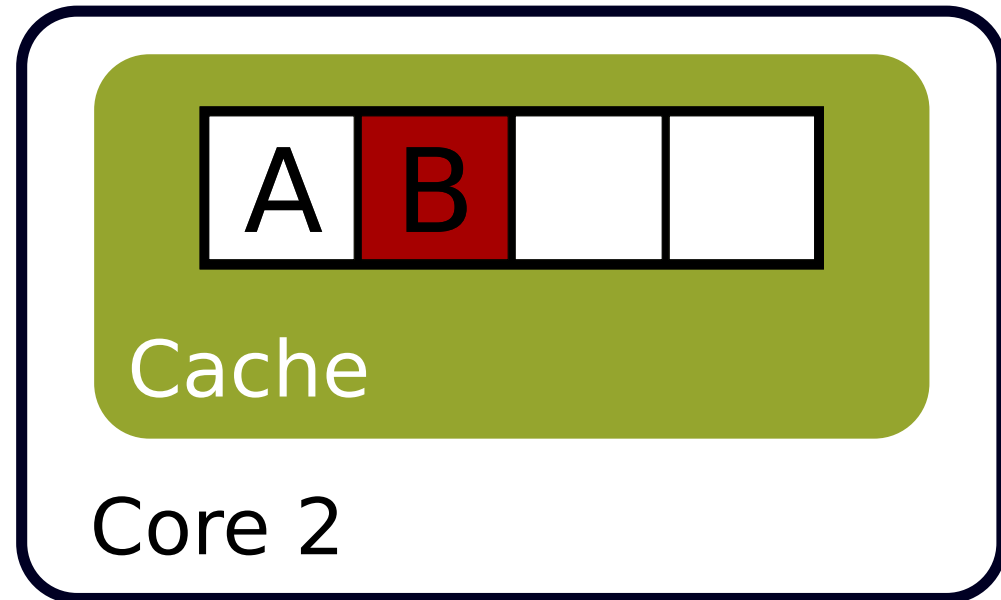
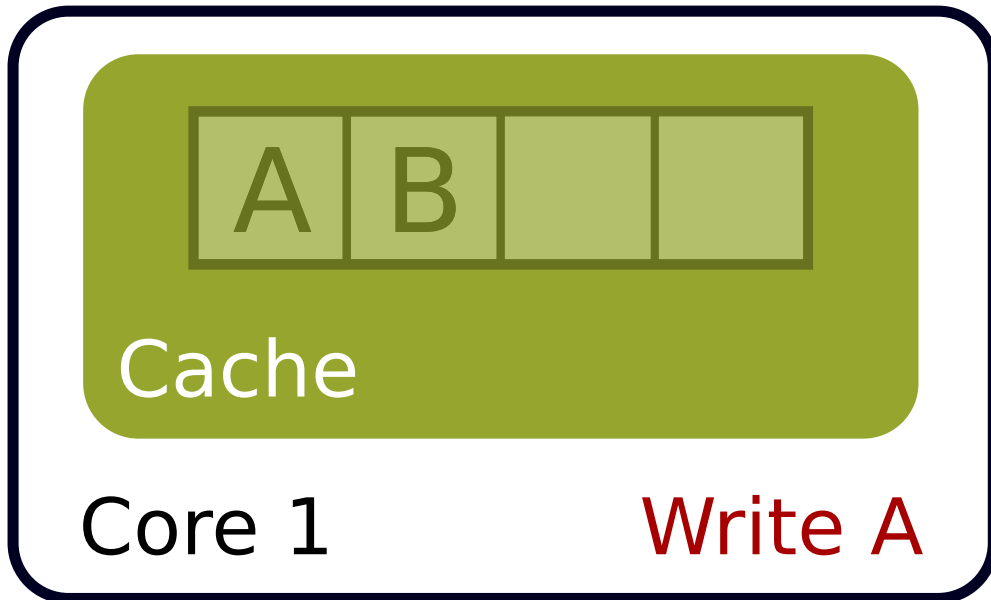
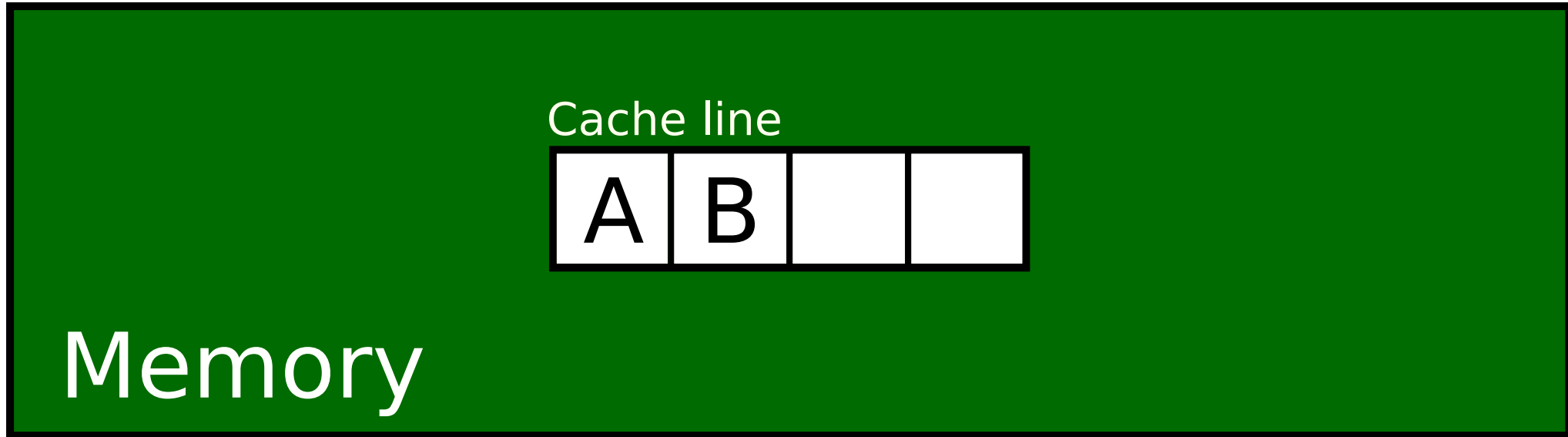




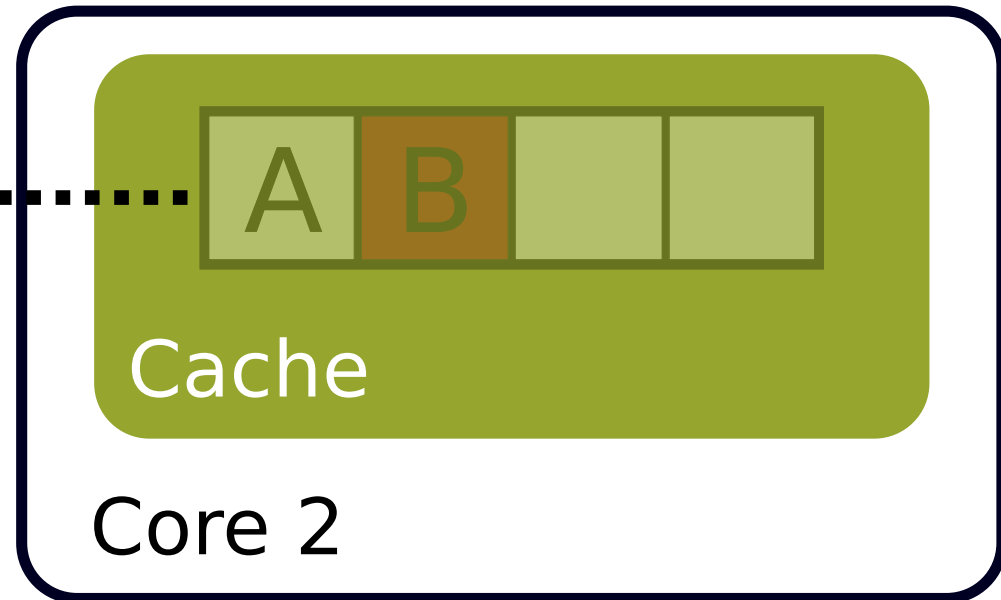
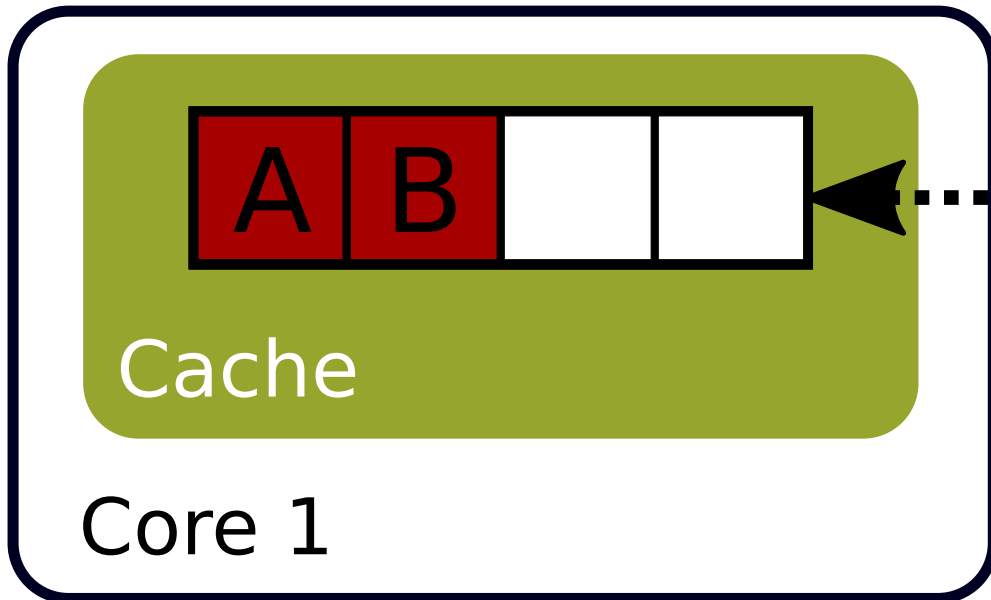
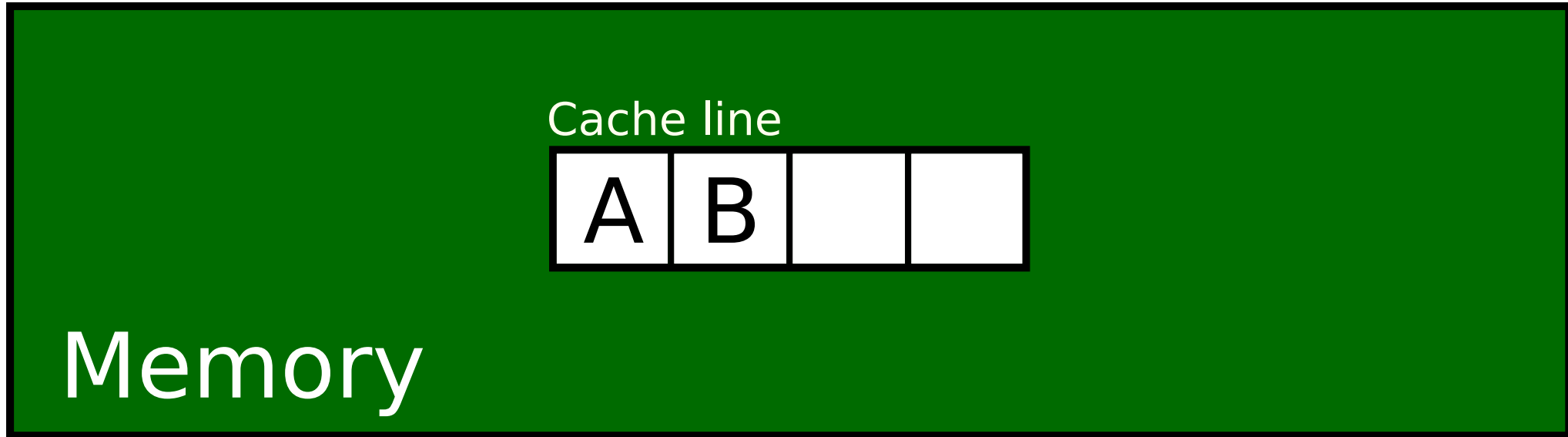
# Cache coherency



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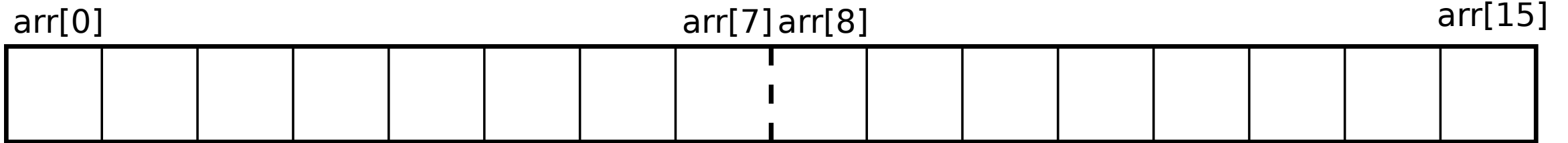


# Cache coherency



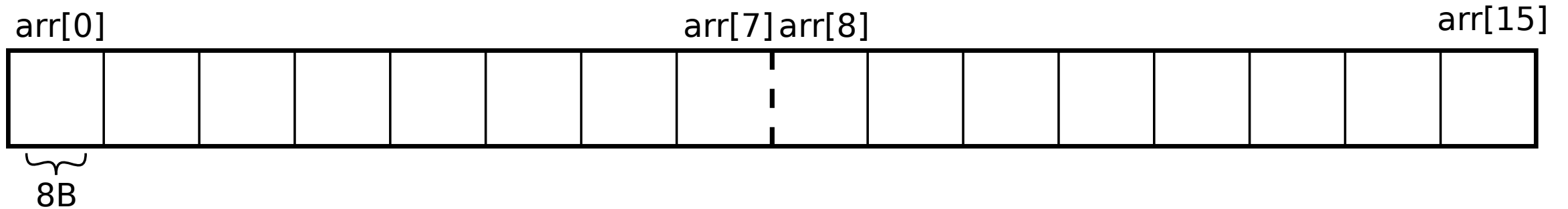
# False sharing

```
double arr[16];
```



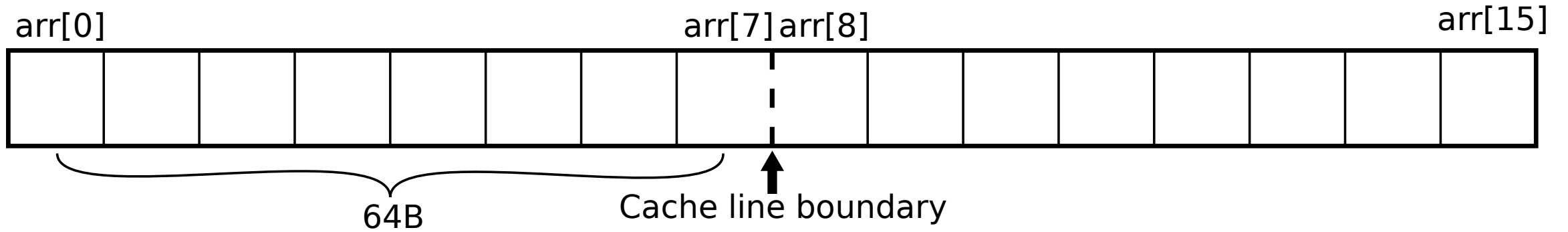
# False sharing

```
double arr[16];
```



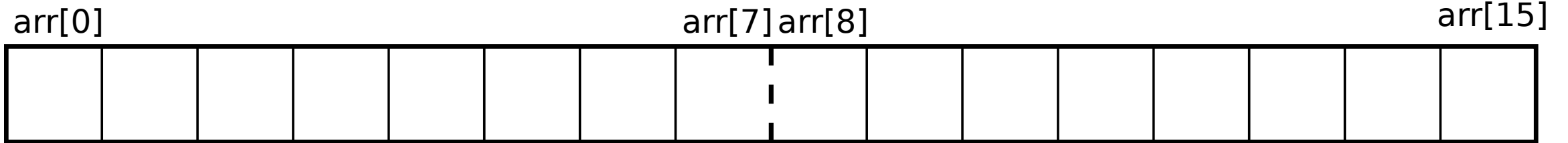
# False sharing

```
double arr[16];
```



# False sharing

```
double arr[16];
```

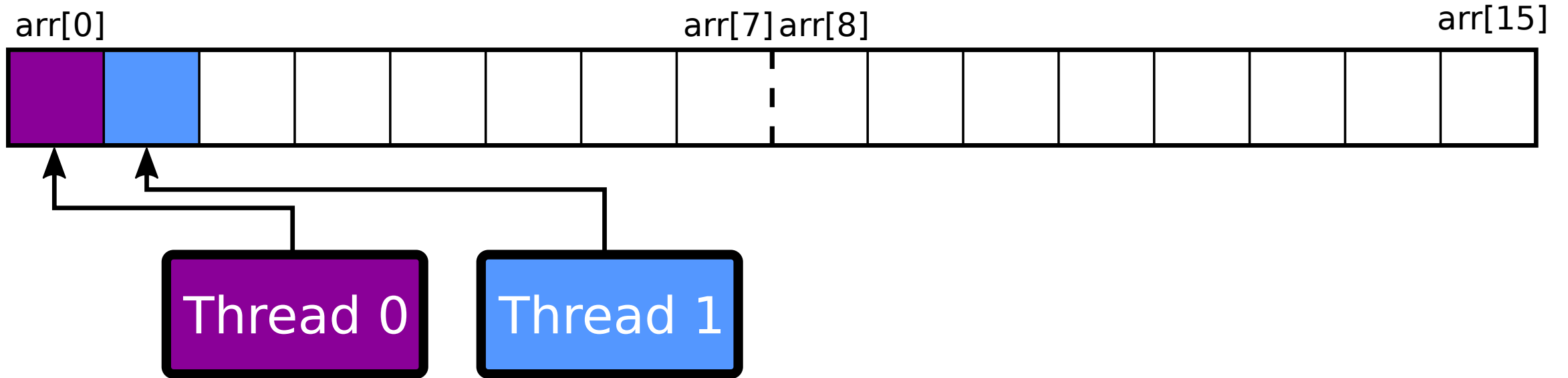


Thread 0

Thread 1

# False sharing

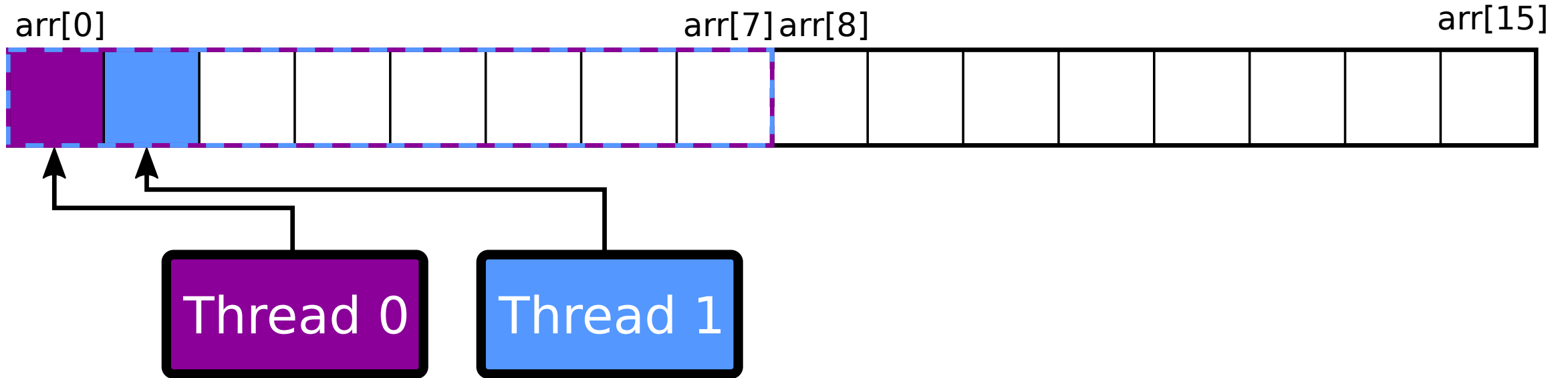
```
double arr[16];
```





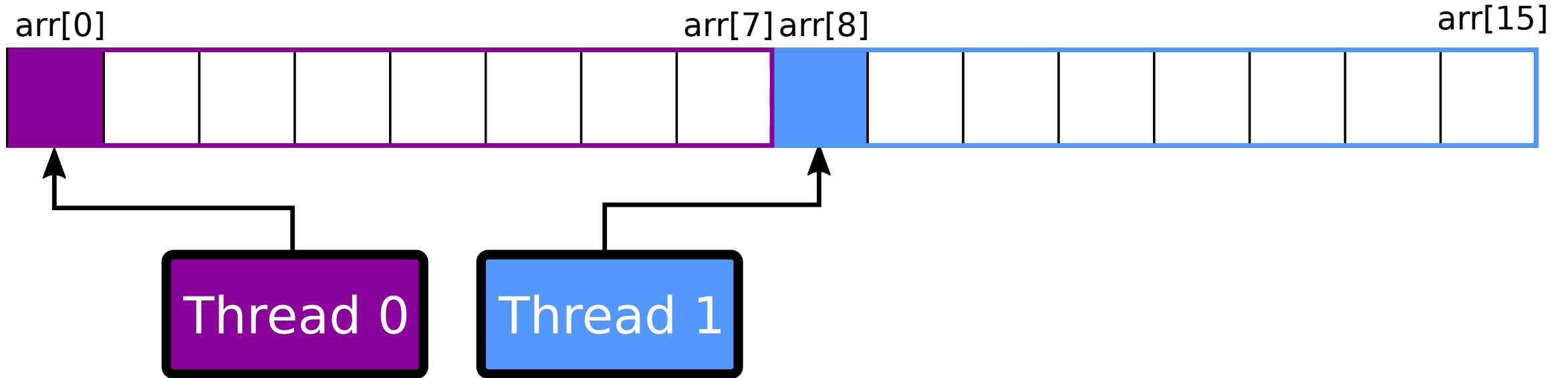
# False sharing

```
double arr[16];
```



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```
double arr[16];
```



# How to measure?

`l2_rqsts.all_rfo`

How many times some core invalidated data in other cores?

# How to measure?

`l2_rqsts.all_rfo`

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
```