

# Instruction Set Architecture

*Mengjia Yan*

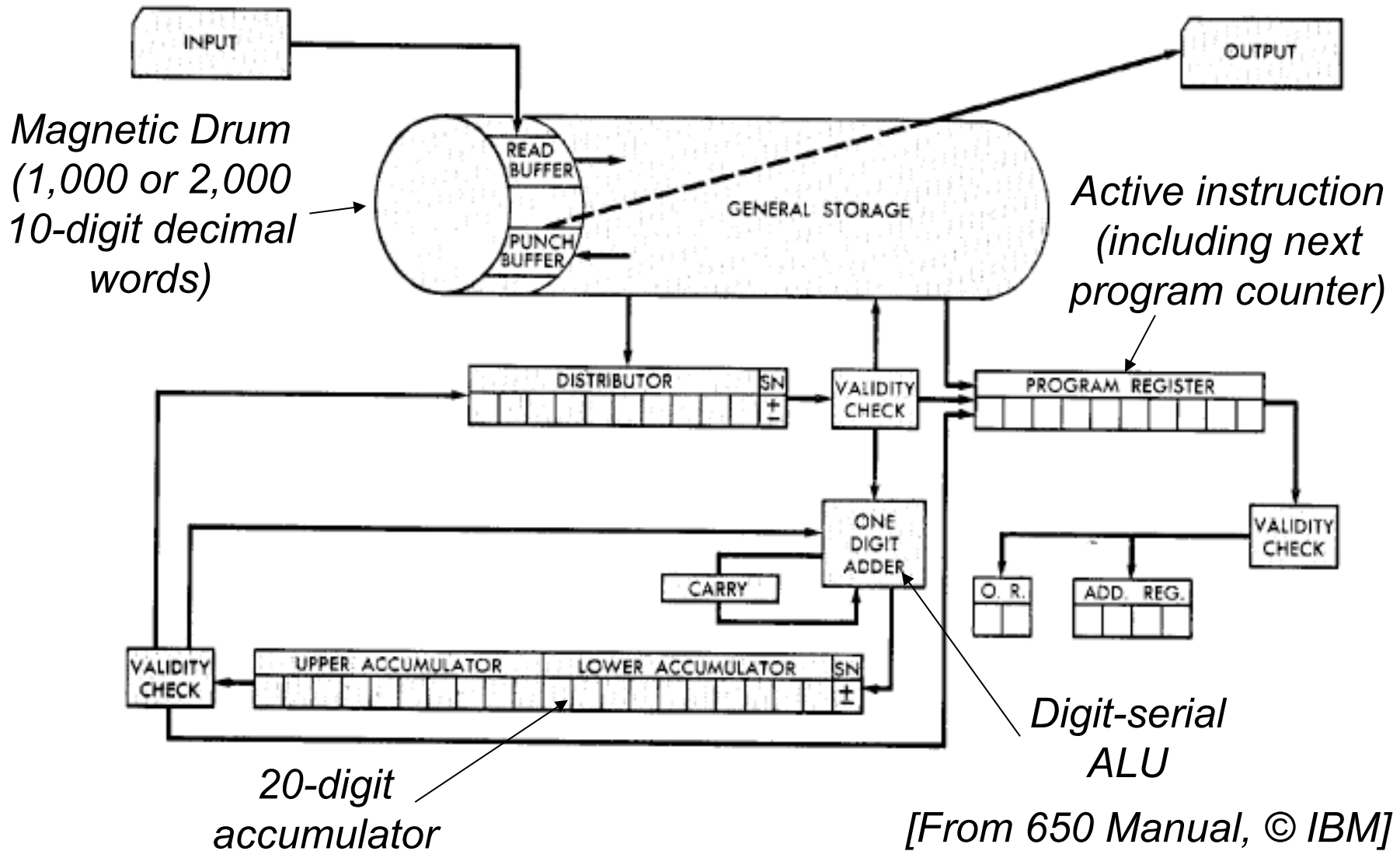
Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence Lab  
M.I.T.

# Quiz Date

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- Quiz 1: Oct 14 (in tutorial)
- Quiz 2: Nov 16 (in class)
- Quiz 3: Dec 14 (in class)
  
- Lab release and due dates are on syllabus

# The IBM 650 (1953-4)



# Programmer's view of a machine: IBM 650

---

A drum machine with 44 instructions

Instruction:     60 1234 1009

“Load the contents of location 1234 into the *distributor*;  
put it also into the *upper accumulator*; set *lower accumulator* to zero; and then go to location 1009 for the next instruction.”

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- Programmer's view of the machine was inseparable from the actual hardware implementation
- Good programmers optimized the placement of instructions on the drum to reduce latency!

# Compatibility Problem at IBM

---

By early 60's, *IBM had 4 incompatible lines of computers!*

|      |   |      |
|------|---|------|
| 701  | → | 7094 |
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Each system had its own

- Instruction set
- I/O system and Secondary Storage:  
magnetic tapes, drums and disks
- Assemblers, compilers, libraries,...
- Market niche  
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⇒ *IBM 360*

# IBM 360: Design Premises

*Amdahl, Blaauw, and Brooks, 1964*

---

The design must lend itself to *growth and successor machines*

- General method for connecting I/O devices
- Total performance - answers per month rather than bits per microsecond  $\Rightarrow$  *programming aids*
- Machine must be capable of *supervising itself* without manual intervention
- Built-in *hardware fault checking* and locating aids to reduce down time
- Simple to assemble systems with redundant I/O devices, memories, etc. for *fault tolerance*
- Some problems required floating point words larger than 36 bits

# Processor State and Data Types

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*Programmer's machine model* is a **contract** between the hardware and software

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*ISA must satisfy the needs of the software:  
- assembler, compiler, OS, VM*

# IBM 360: *A General-Purpose Register (GPR) Machine*

---

- Processor State
  - 16 General-Purpose 32-bit Registers
  - 4 Floating Point 64-bit Registers
  - A Program Status Word (PSW)
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- A 32-bit machine with 24-bit addresses
  - *No instruction contains a 24-bit address!*
- Precise interrupts

# IBM 360: Initial Implementations (1964)

|                        | <i>Model 30</i> | <i>. . .</i> | <i>Model 70</i>    |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| <i>Memory Capacity</i> | 8K - 64 KB      |              | 256K - 512 KB      |
| <i>Memory Cycle</i>    | 2.0μs           | ...          | 1.0μs              |
| <i>Datapath</i>        | 8-bit           |              | 64-bit             |
| <i>Circuit Delay</i>   | 30 nsec/level   |              | 5 nsec/level       |
| <i>Registers</i>       | in Main Store   |              | in Transistor      |
| <i>Control Store</i>   | Read only 1μsec |              | Dedicated circuits |

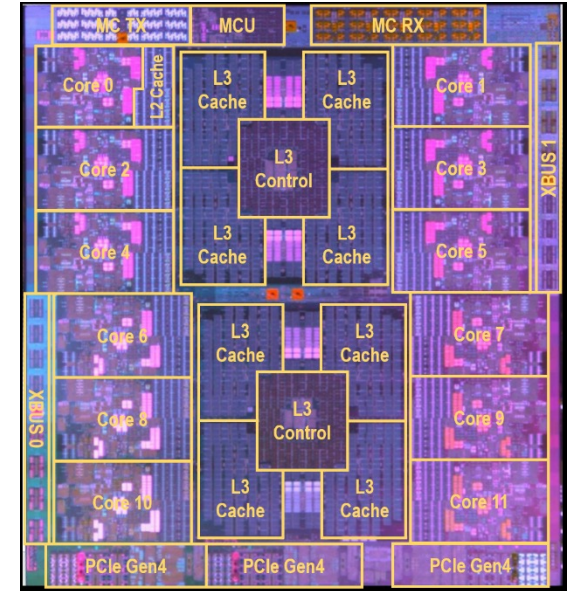
- Six implementations (Models, 30, 40, 50, 60, 62, 70)
- 50x performance difference across models
- ***ISA completely hid the underlying technological differences between various models***

With minor modifications, IBM 360 ISA is still in use



# IBM 360: Fifty-five years later... z15 Microprocessor

- 9.2 billion transistors, 12-core design
- Up to 190 cores (2 spare) per system
- 5.2 GHz, 14nm CMOS technology
- 64-bit virtual addressing
  - Original 360 was 24-bit; 370 was a 31-bit extension
- Superscalar, out-of-order
  - 12-wide issue
  - Up to 180 instructions in flight
- 16K-entry Branch Target Buffer
  - Very large buffer to support commercial workloads
- Four Levels of caches
  - 128KB L1 I-cache, 128KB L1 D-cache
  - 4MB L2 cache per core
  - 256MB shared on-chip L3 cache
  - 960MB shared off-chip L4 cache
- Up to 40TB of main memory per system



September 2019  
Image credit: IBM

# Summary: Instruction Set Architecture (ISA) versus Implementation

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- ISA is the hardware/software interface
  - Defines set of programmer visible state
  - Defines data types
  - Defines instruction semantics (operations, sequencing)
  - Defines instruction format (bit encoding)
  - Examples: *MIPS, RISC-V, Alpha, x86, IBM 360, VAX, ARM, JVM*

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  - Examples: *MIPS, RISC-V, Alpha, x86, IBM 360, VAX, ARM, JVM*
- Many possible implementations of one ISA
  - 360 implementations: model 30 (c. 1964), z15 (c. 2019)
  - x86 implementations: *8086 (c. 1978), 80186, 286, 386, 486, Pentium, Pentium Pro, Pentium-4, Core i7, AMD Athlon, AMD Opteron, Transmeta Crusoe, SoftPC*
  - MIPS implementations: *R2000, R4000, R10000, ...*
  - JVM: *HotSpot, PicoJava, ARM Jazelle, ...*

# Processor Performance

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$$\frac{\text{Time}}{\text{Program}} = \frac{\text{Instructions}}{\text{Program}} * \frac{\text{Cycles}}{\text{Instruction}} * \frac{\text{Time}}{\text{Cycle}}$$

- Instructions per program depends on source code, compiler technology and ISA
- Cycles per instructions (CPI) depends upon the ISA and the microarchitecture
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| Microarchitecture        | CPI | cycle time |
|--------------------------|-----|------------|
| Microcoded               | > 1 | short      |
| Single-cycle unpipelined | 1   | long       |
| Pipelined                | 1   | short      |

# Memory and Caches

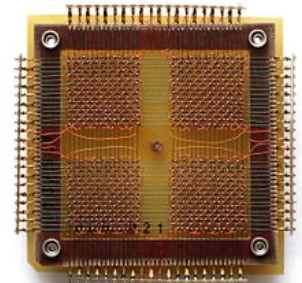
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# Memory Technology

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- Early machines used a variety of memory technologies
  - Manchester Mark I used CRT Memory Storage
  - EDVAC used a mercury delay line

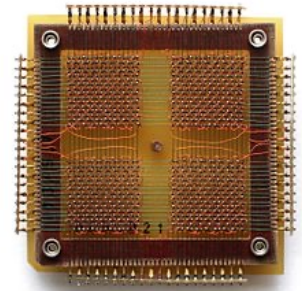


Wikipedia

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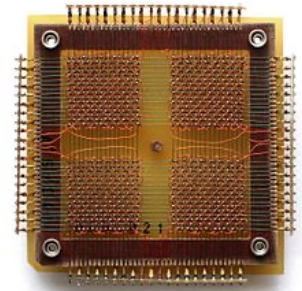
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  - 1Kbit of storage on single chip
  - charge on a capacitor used to hold value
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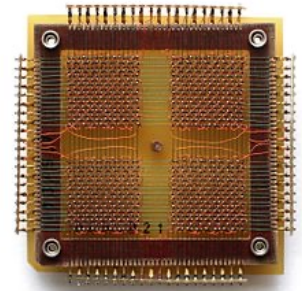


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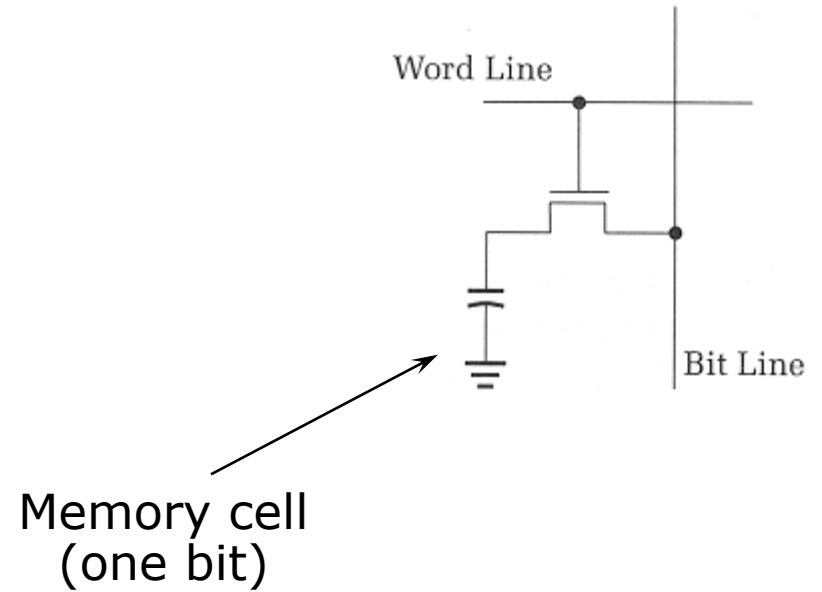
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- Flash memory
  - Slower, but denser than DRAM. Also non-volatile, but with wearout issues
- Phase change memory (PCM, 3D XPoint)
  - Slightly slower, but much denser than DRAM and non-volatile



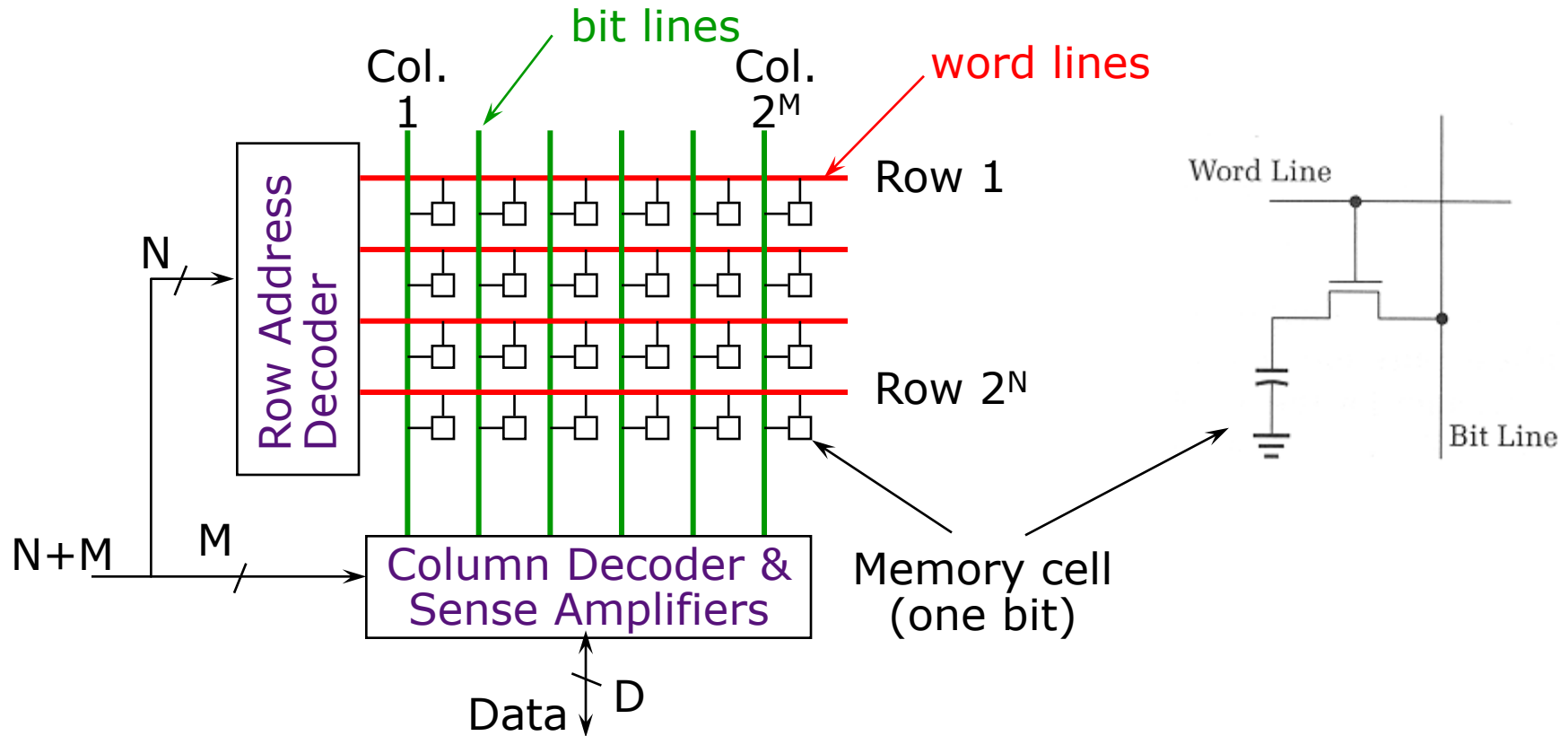
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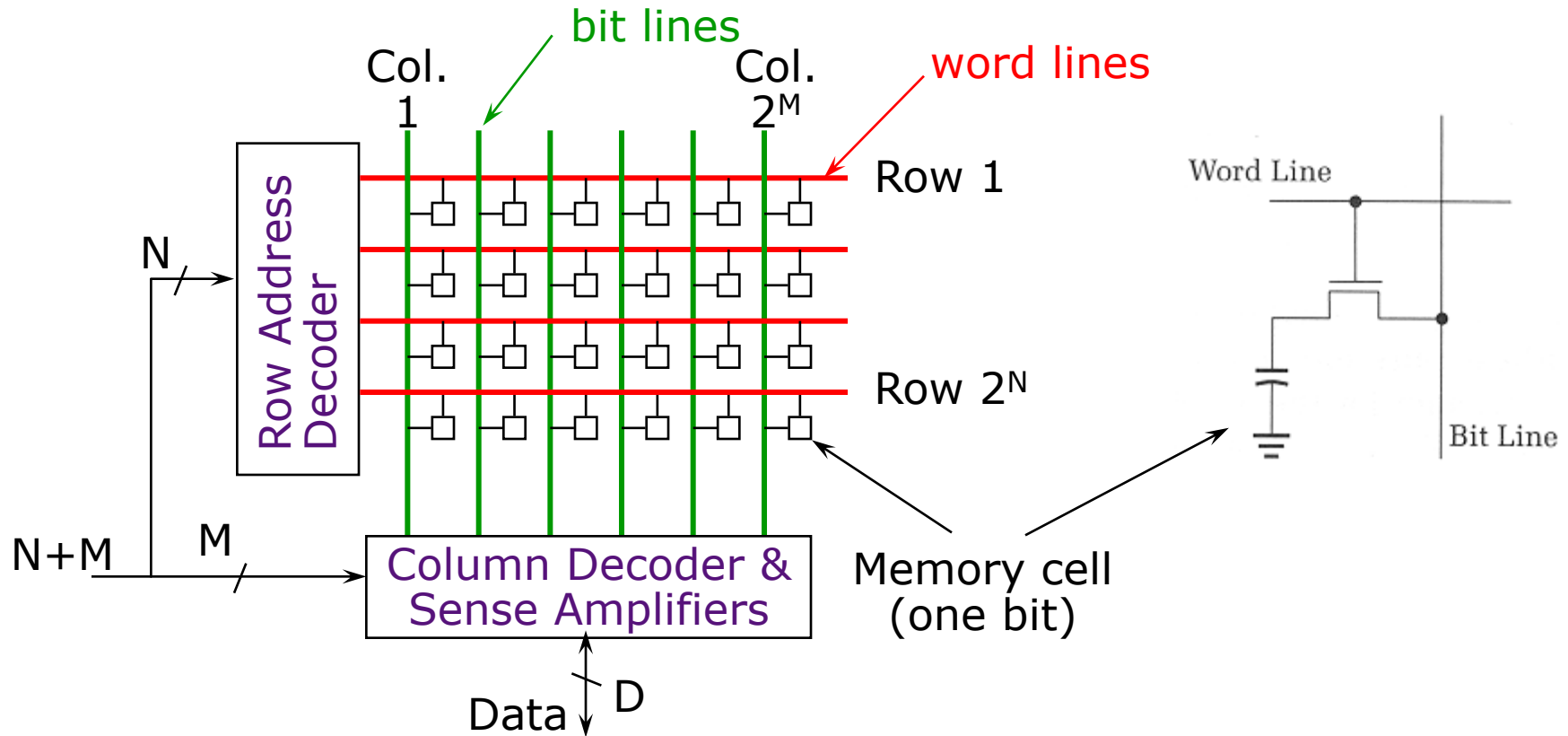


# DRAM Architecture



- Bits stored in 2-dimensional arrays on chip

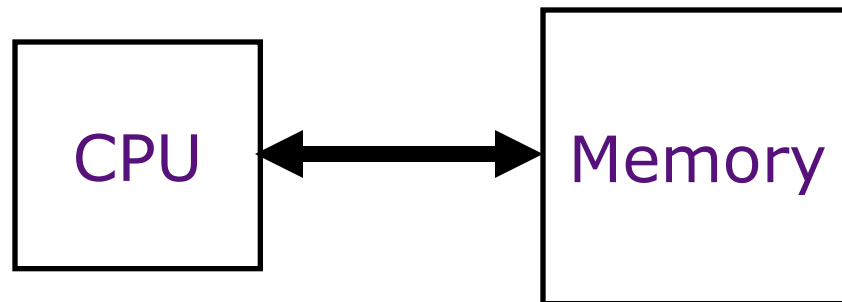
# DRAM Architecture



- Bits stored in 2-dimensional arrays on chip
- Modern chips have around 8 logical banks on each chip
  - Each logical bank physically implemented as many smaller arrays

# CPU-Memory Metrics

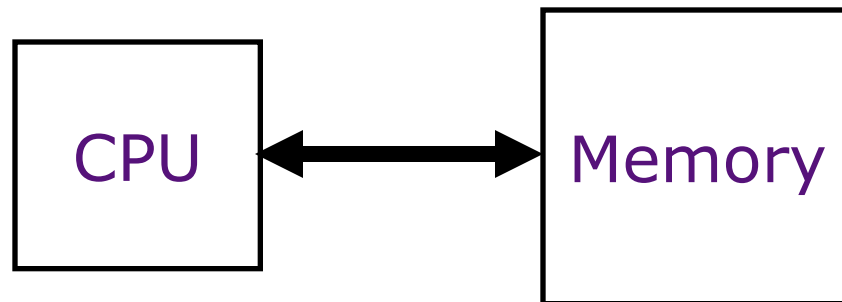
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- Bandwidth (number of accesses per unit time)  
if fraction  $m$  of instructions access memory,  
     $\Rightarrow 1+m$  memory references / instruction  
     $\Rightarrow \text{CPI} = 1$  requires  $1+m$  memory refs / cycle

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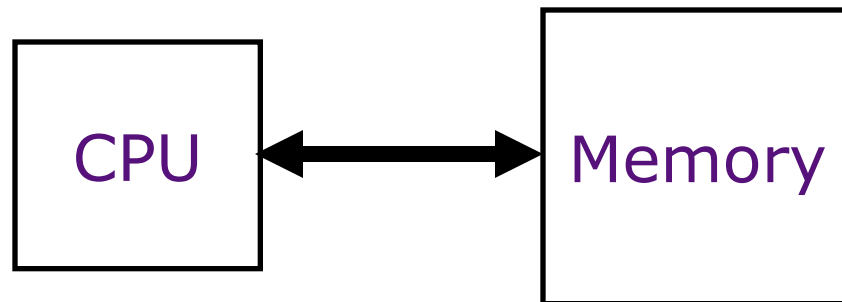
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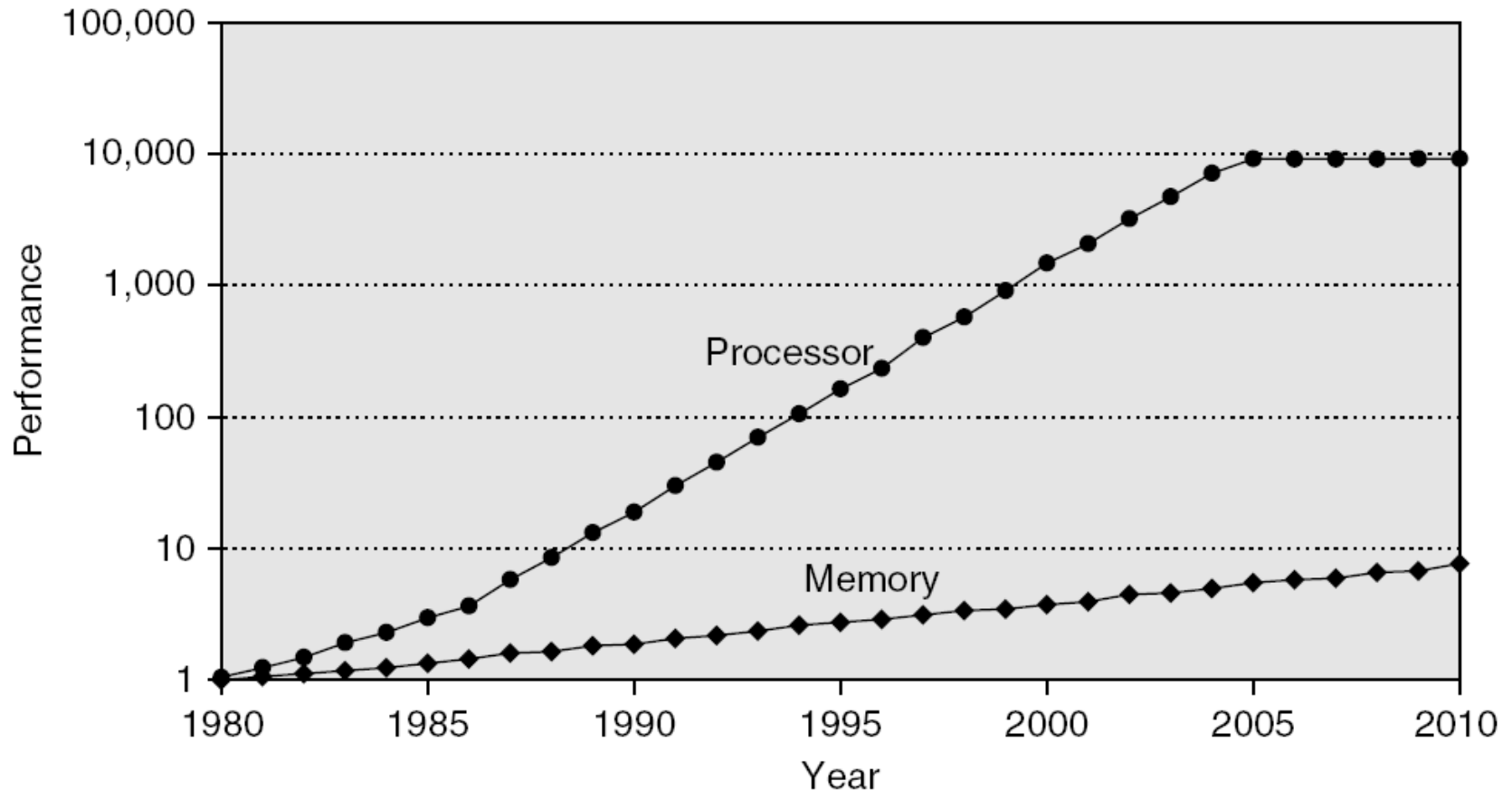


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- Energy (nJ per access)

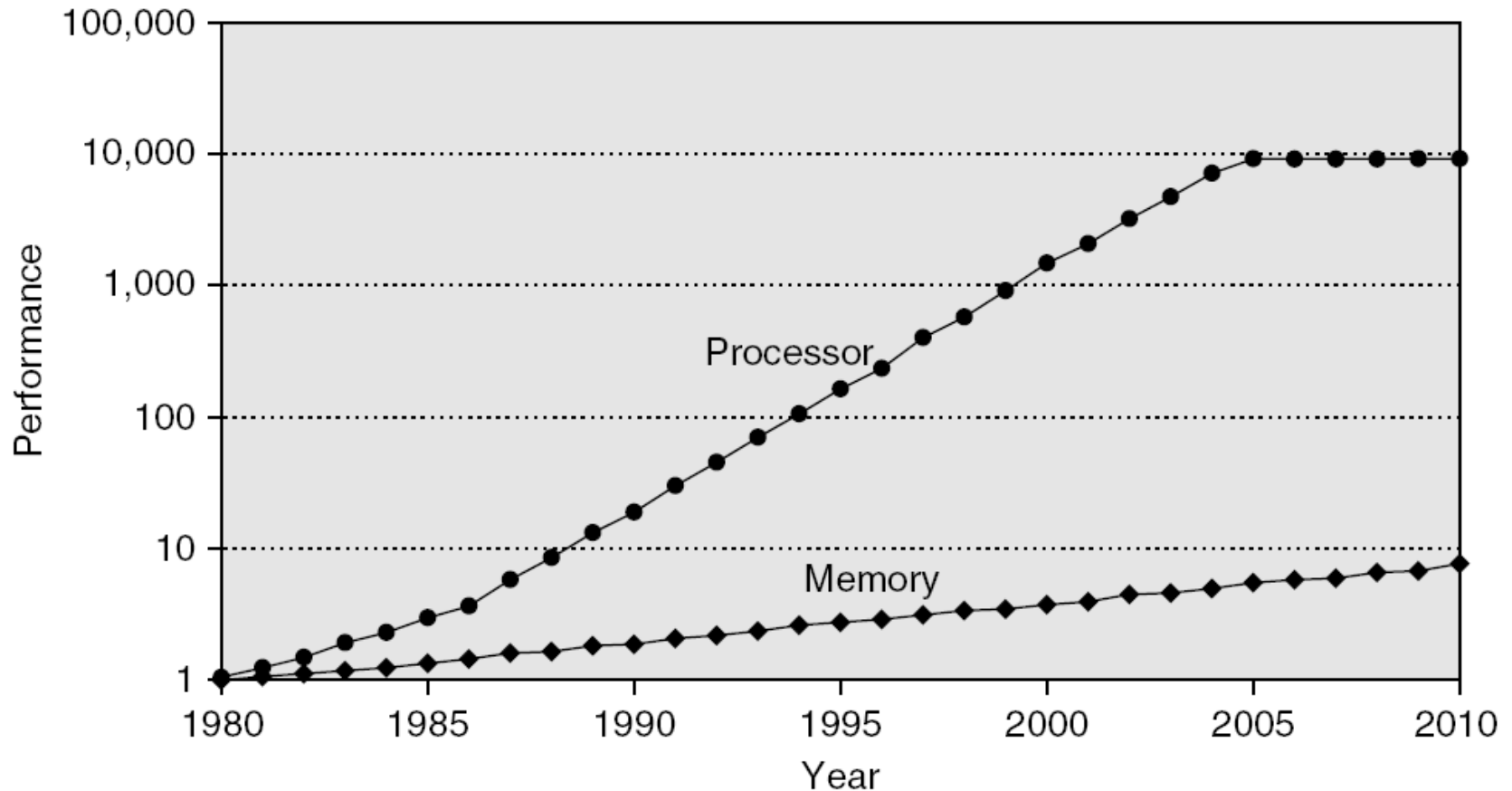


# Processor-DRAM Gap (latency)

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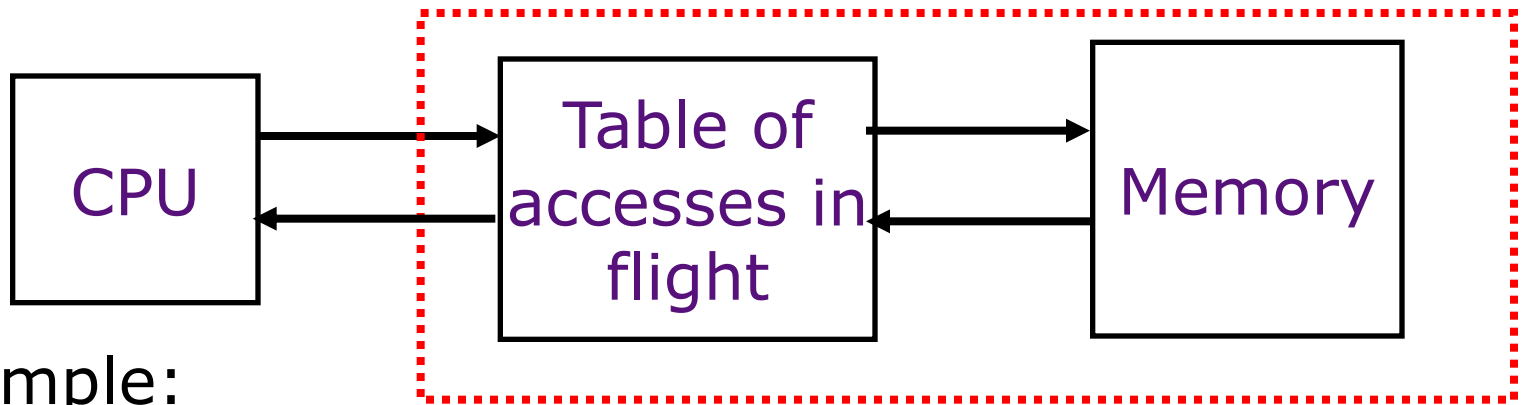


Four-issue 2GHz superscalar accessing 100ns DRAM could execute 800 instructions during time for one memory access!

# Little's Law

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$$\text{Throughput } (T) = \text{Number in Flight } (N) / \text{Latency } (L)$$



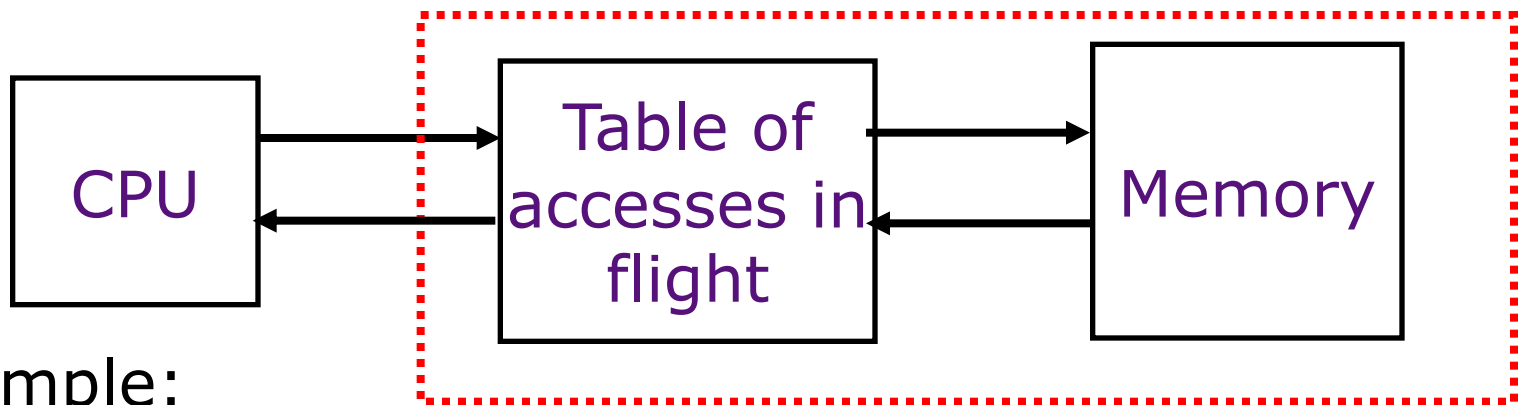
Example:

- Assume infinite-bandwidth memory
- 100 cycles / memory reference
- $1 + 0.2$  memory references / instruction

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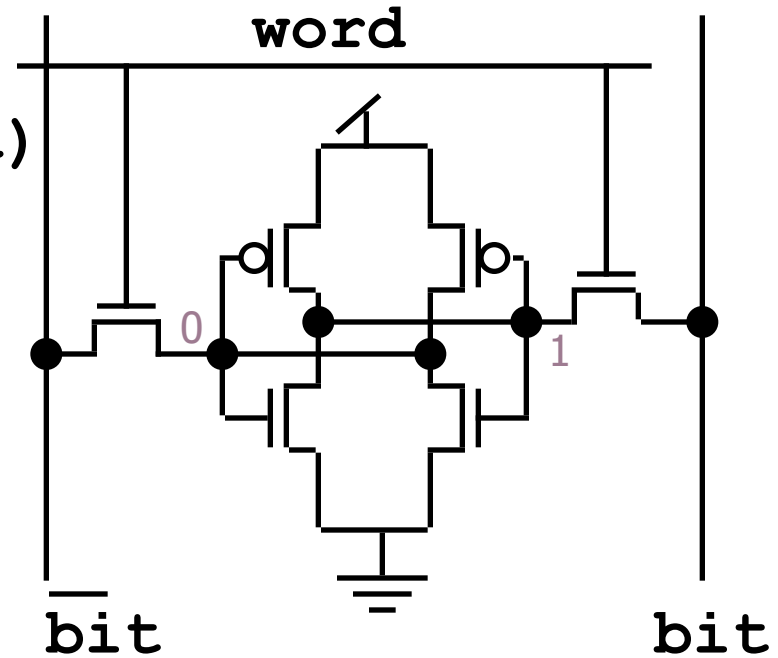
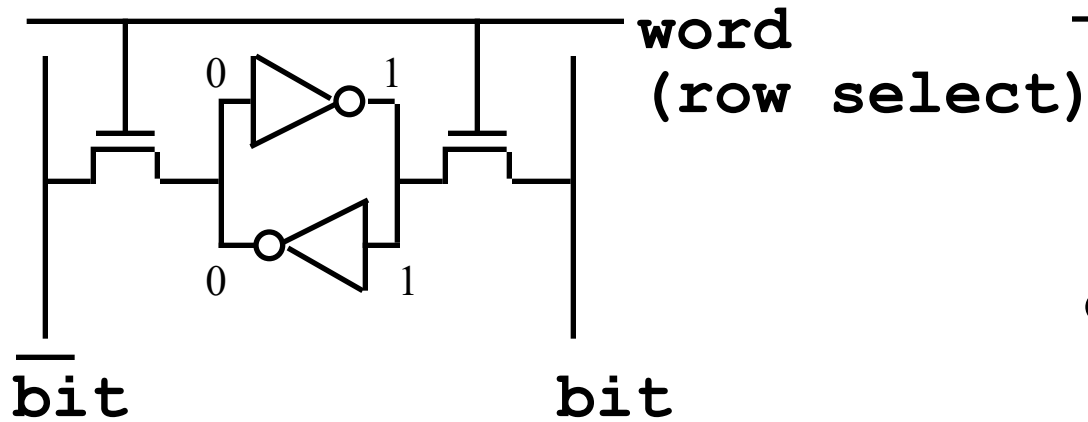
- Assume infinite-bandwidth memory*
- 100 cycles / memory reference*
- 1 + 0.2 memory references / instruction*

$$\Rightarrow \text{Table size} = 1.2 * 100 = 120 \text{ entries}$$

120 independent memory operations in flight!

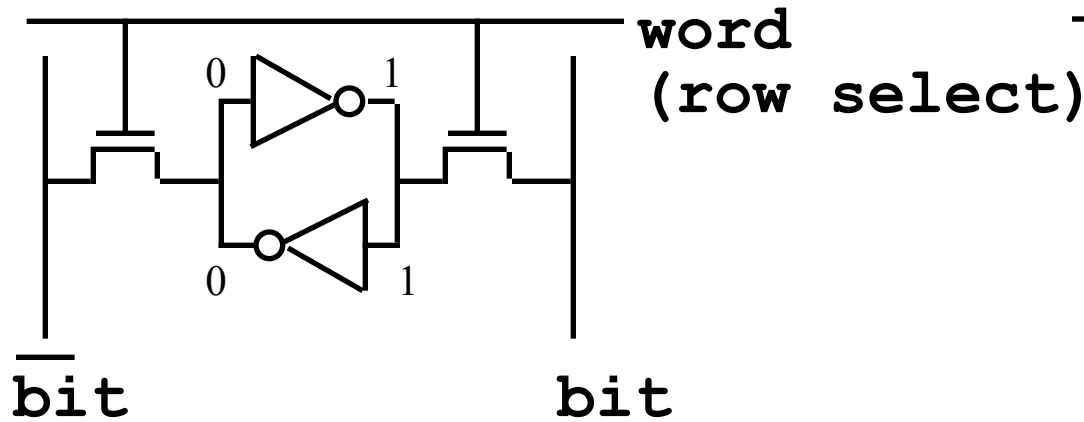
# Basic Static RAM Cell

## 6-Transistor SRAM Cell

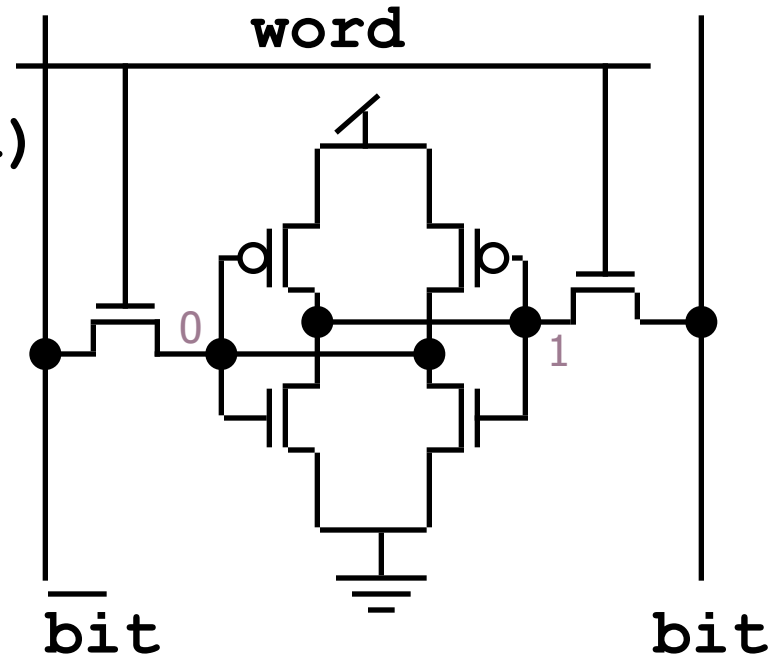


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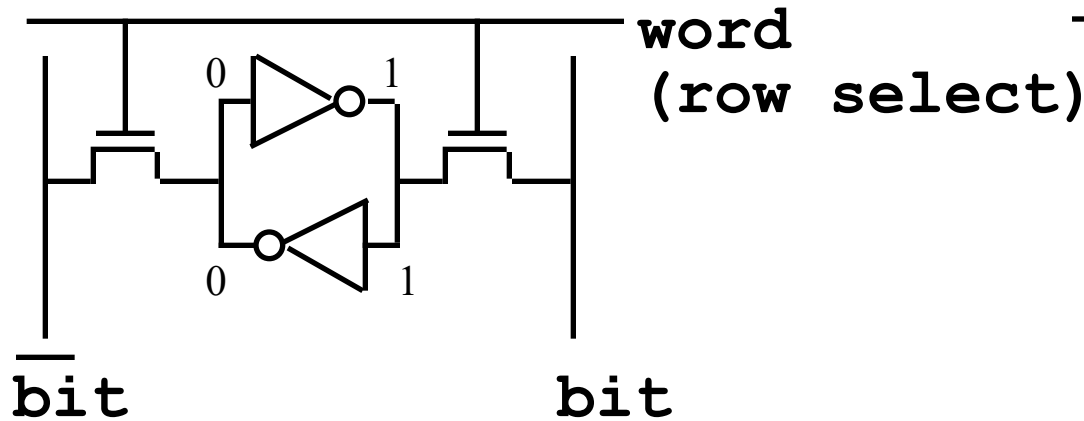


- Write:
  1. Drive bit lines ( $\text{bit}=1$ ,  $\overline{\text{bit}}=0$ )
  2. Select word line

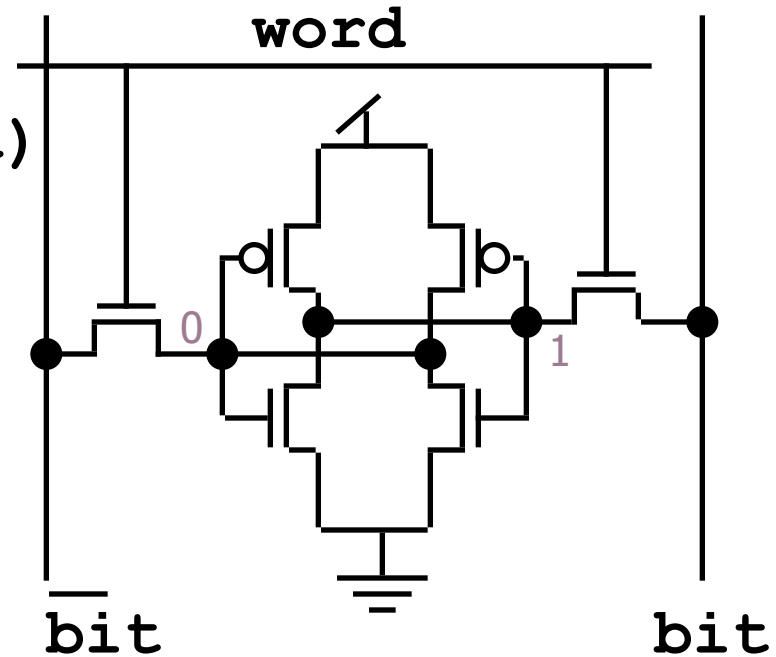


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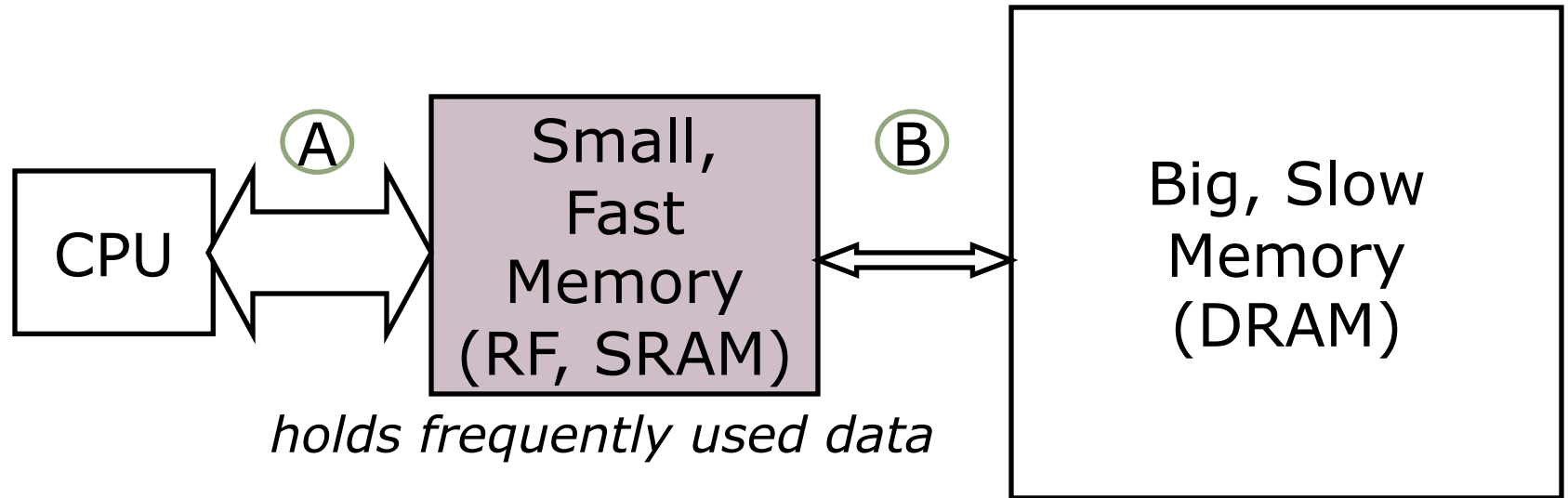


- Write:
  1. Drive bit lines ( $\text{bit}=1$ ,  $\overline{\text{bit}}=0$ )
  2. Select word line
- Read:
  1. Precharge bit and  $\overline{\text{bit}}$  to Vdd
  2. Select word line
  3. Cell pulls one bit line low
  4. Column sense amp detects difference between bit &  $\overline{\text{bit}}$



# Memory Hierarchy

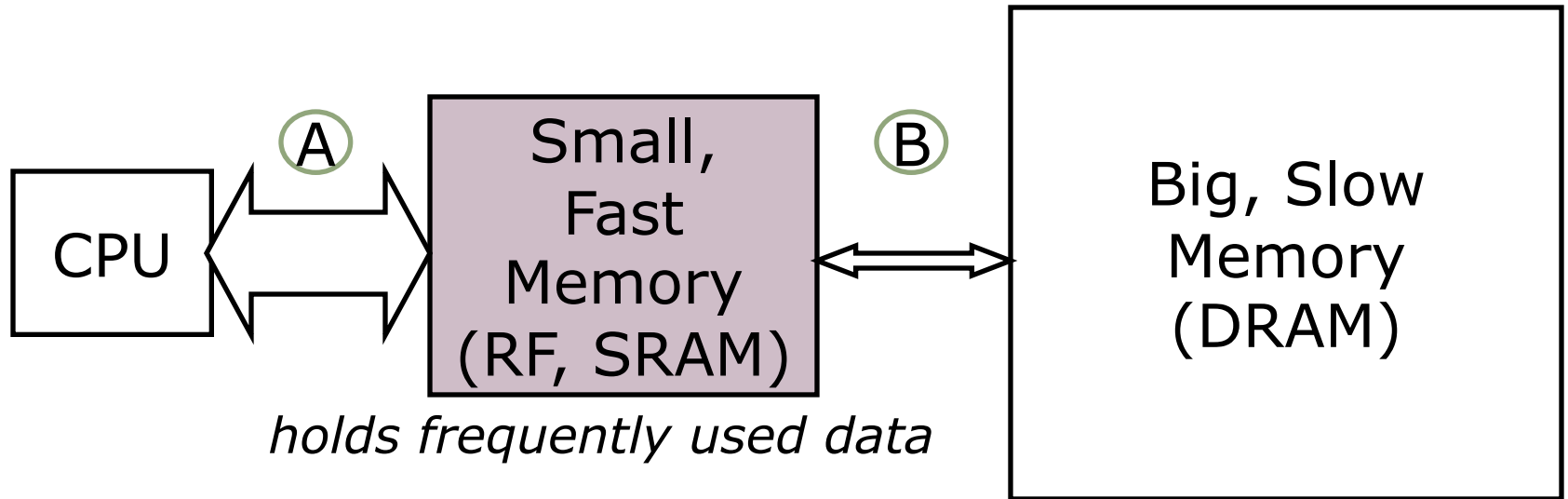
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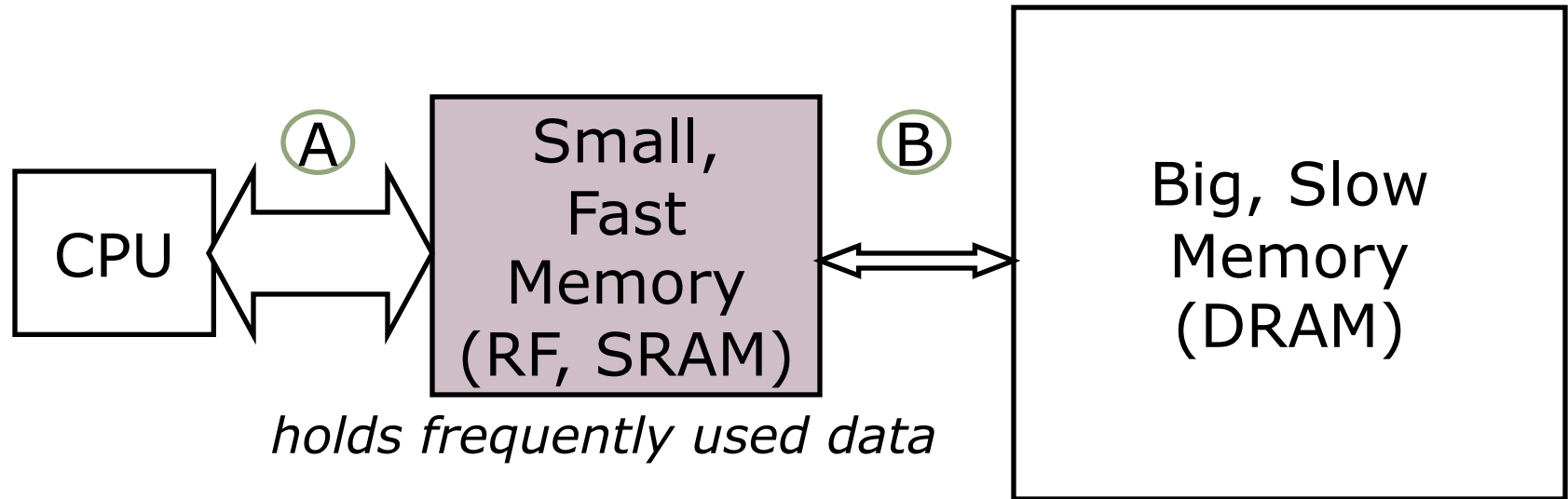
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- *size:* Register  $\ll$  SRAM  $\ll$  DRAM *why?*
- *latency:* Register  $\ll$  SRAM  $\ll$  DRAM *why?*
- *bandwidth:* on-chip  $\gg$  off-chip *why?*

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On a data access:

data  $\in$  fast memory  $\Rightarrow$  low latency access  
data  $\notin$  fast memory  $\Rightarrow$  long latency access (*DRAM*)

# Multilevel Memory

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Strategy: Reduce average latency using small, fast memories called caches.

Caches are a mechanism to reduce memory latency based on the **empirical** observation that the patterns of memory references made by a processor are often highly predictable:

# Multilevel Memory

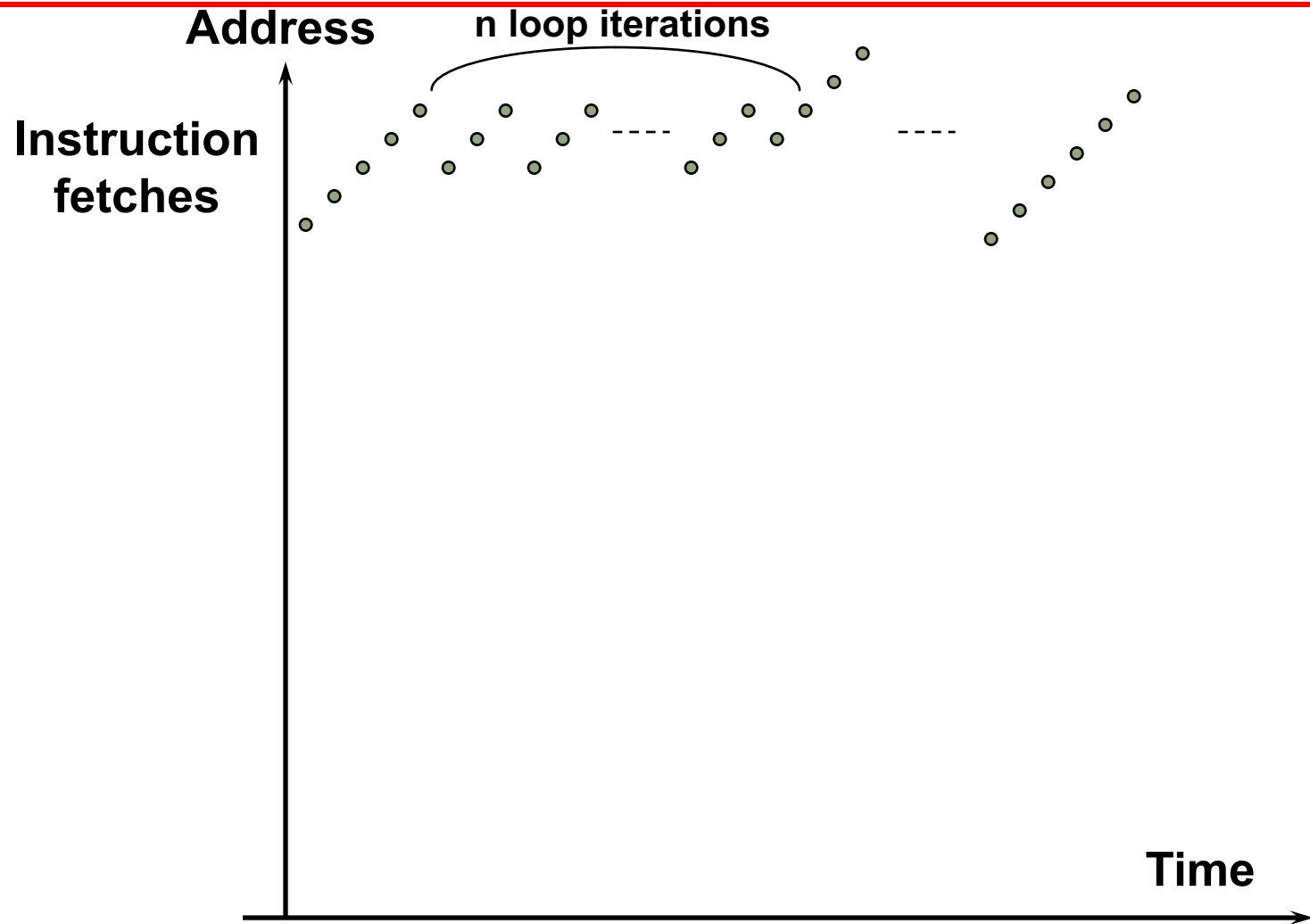
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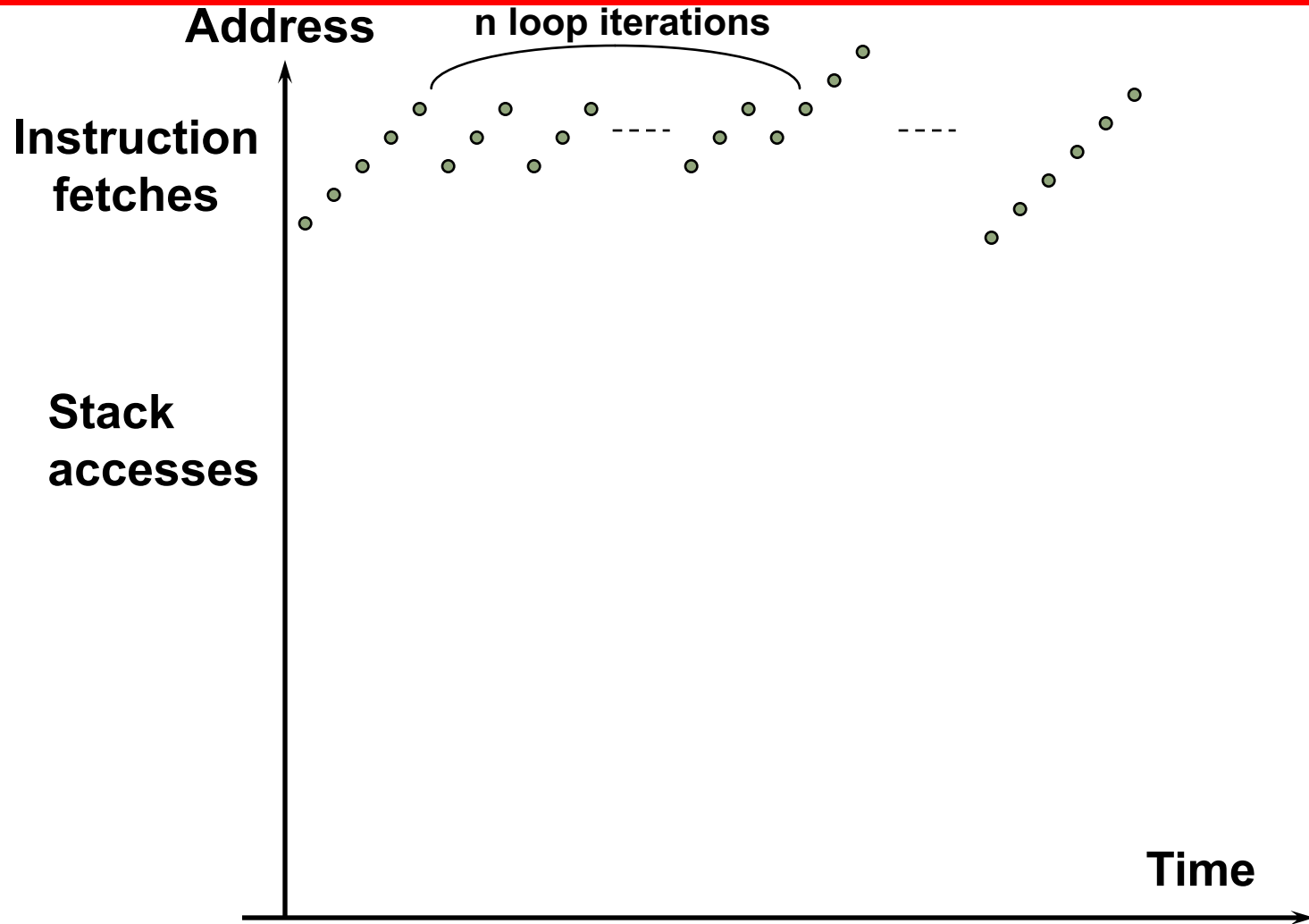
Caches are a mechanism to reduce memory latency based on the **empirical** observation that the patterns of memory references made by a processor are often highly predictable:

|   | <u>PC</u> |
|---|-----------|
| ...                                       | 96        |
| <i>Loop:</i> <i>add</i> <i>r2, r1, r1</i> | 100       |
| <i>subi</i> <i>r3, r3, #1</i>             | 104       |
| <i>bnez</i> <i>r3, loop</i>               | 108       |
| ...                                       | 112       |

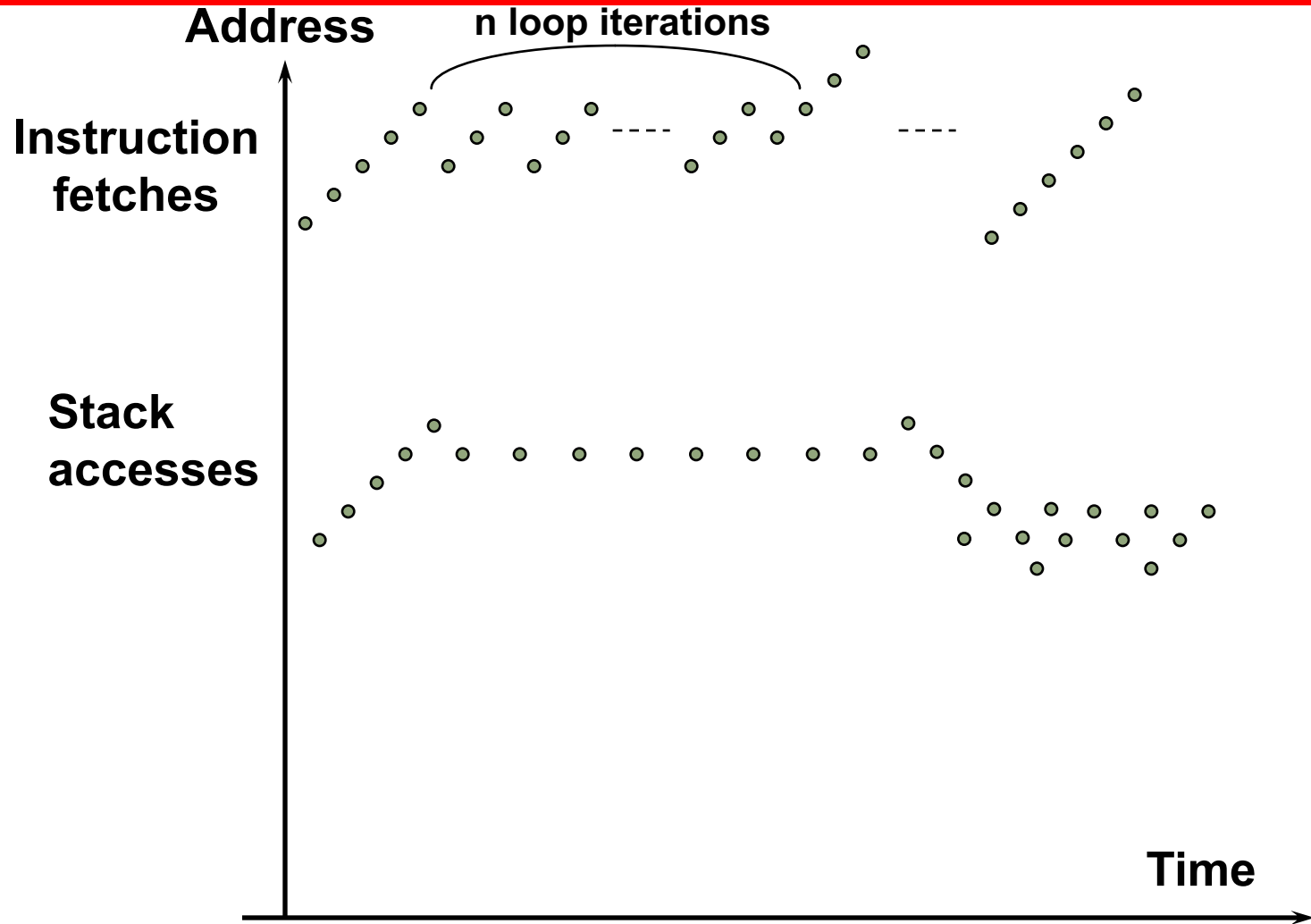
# Typical Memory Reference Patterns



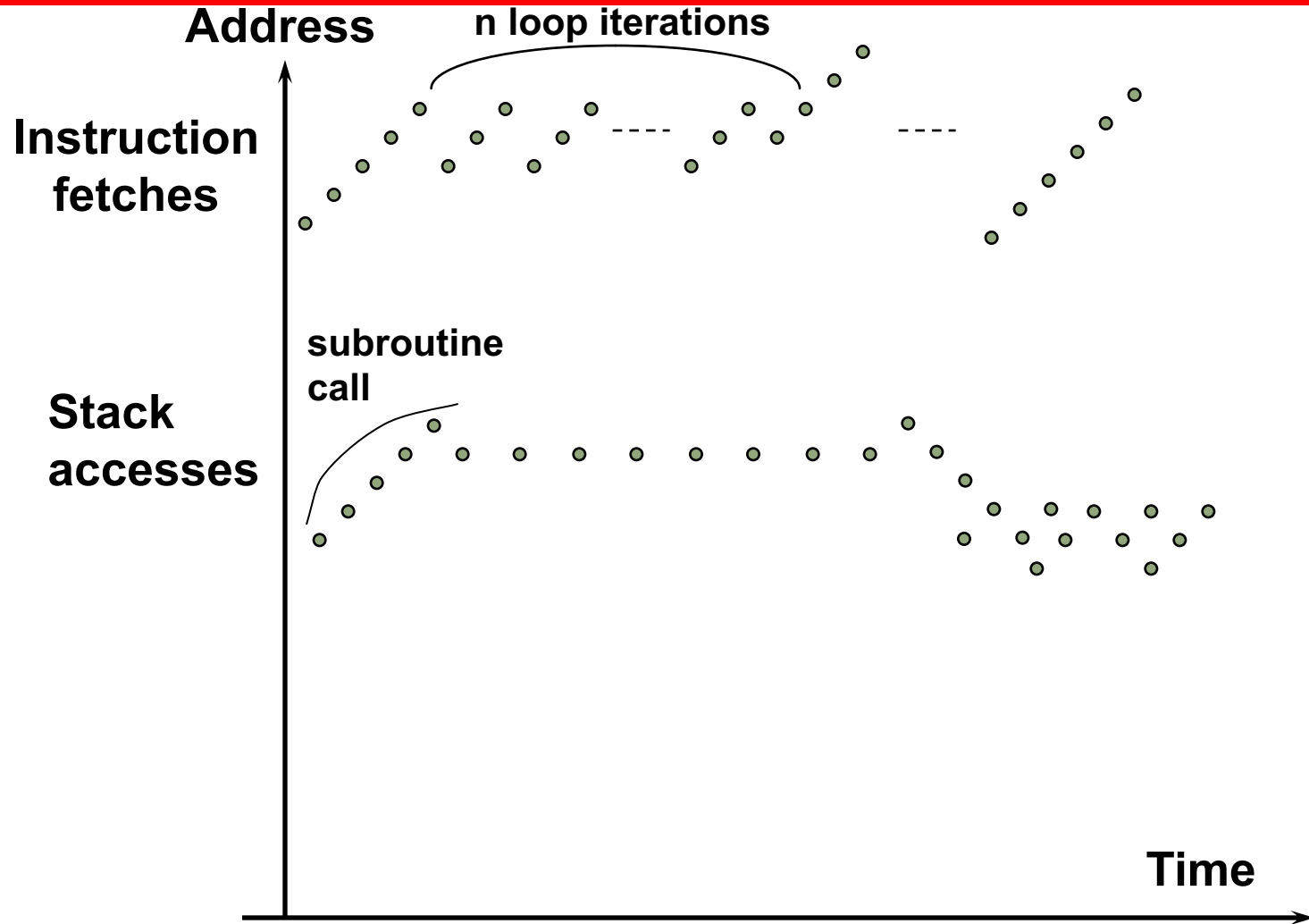
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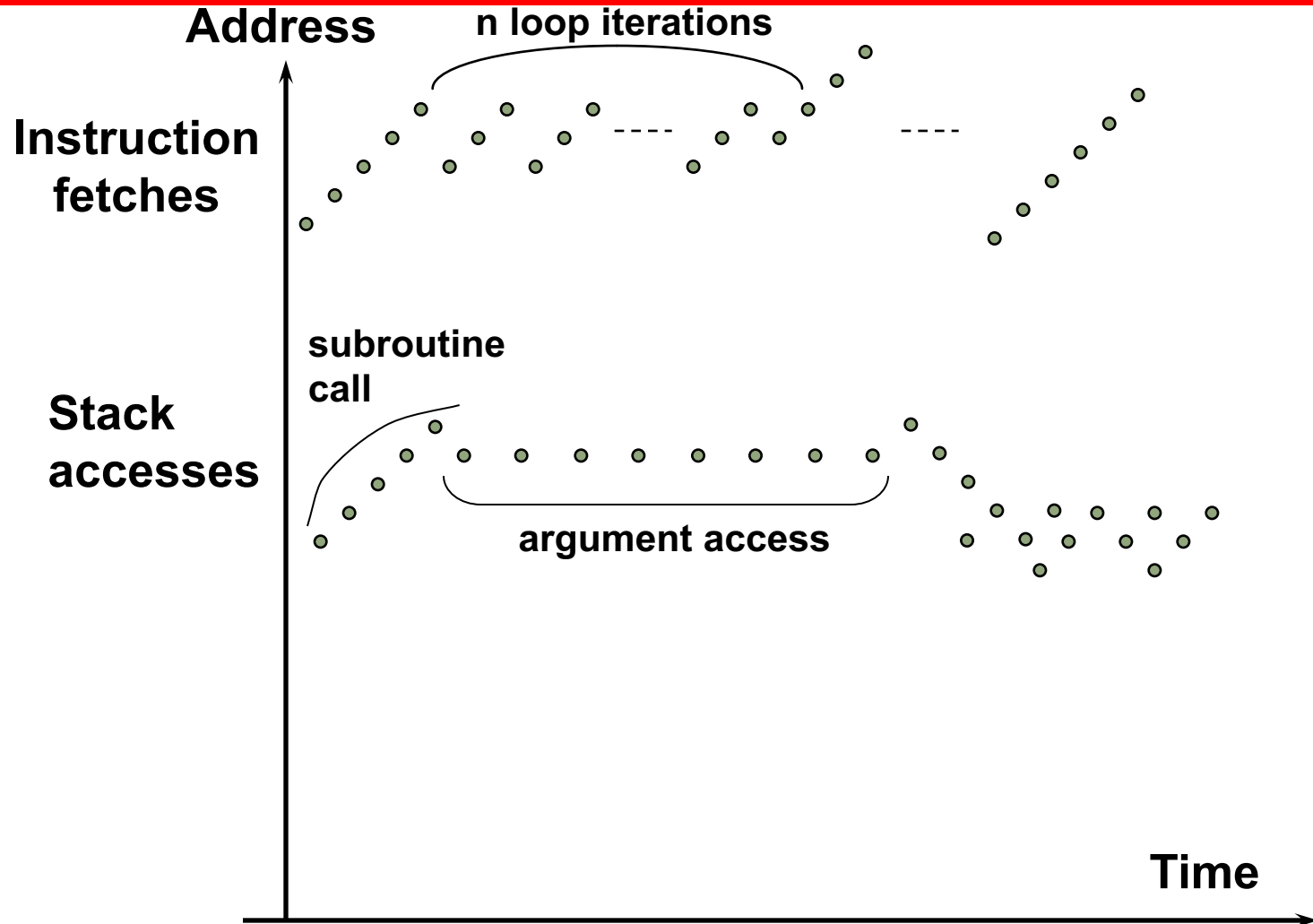


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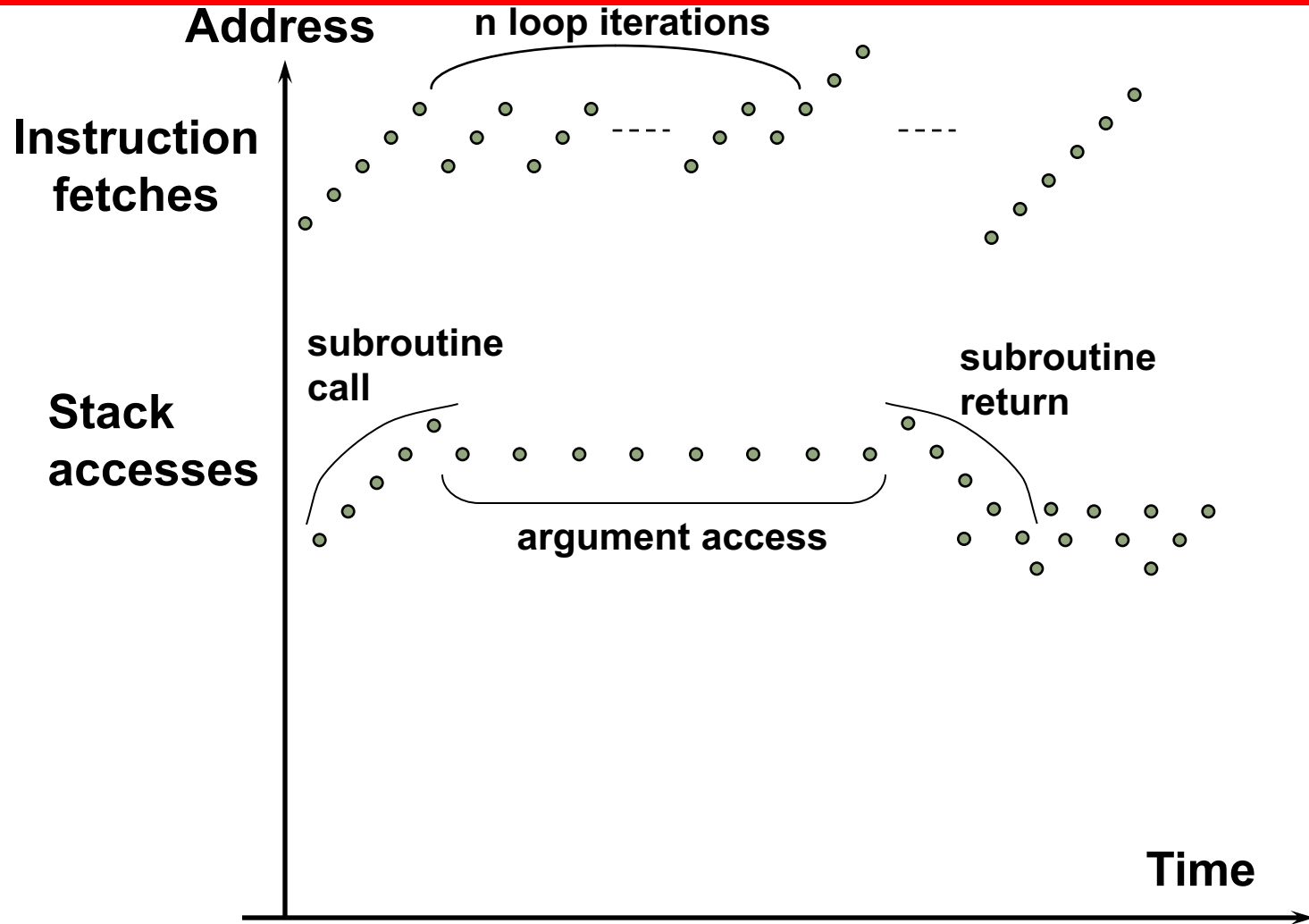




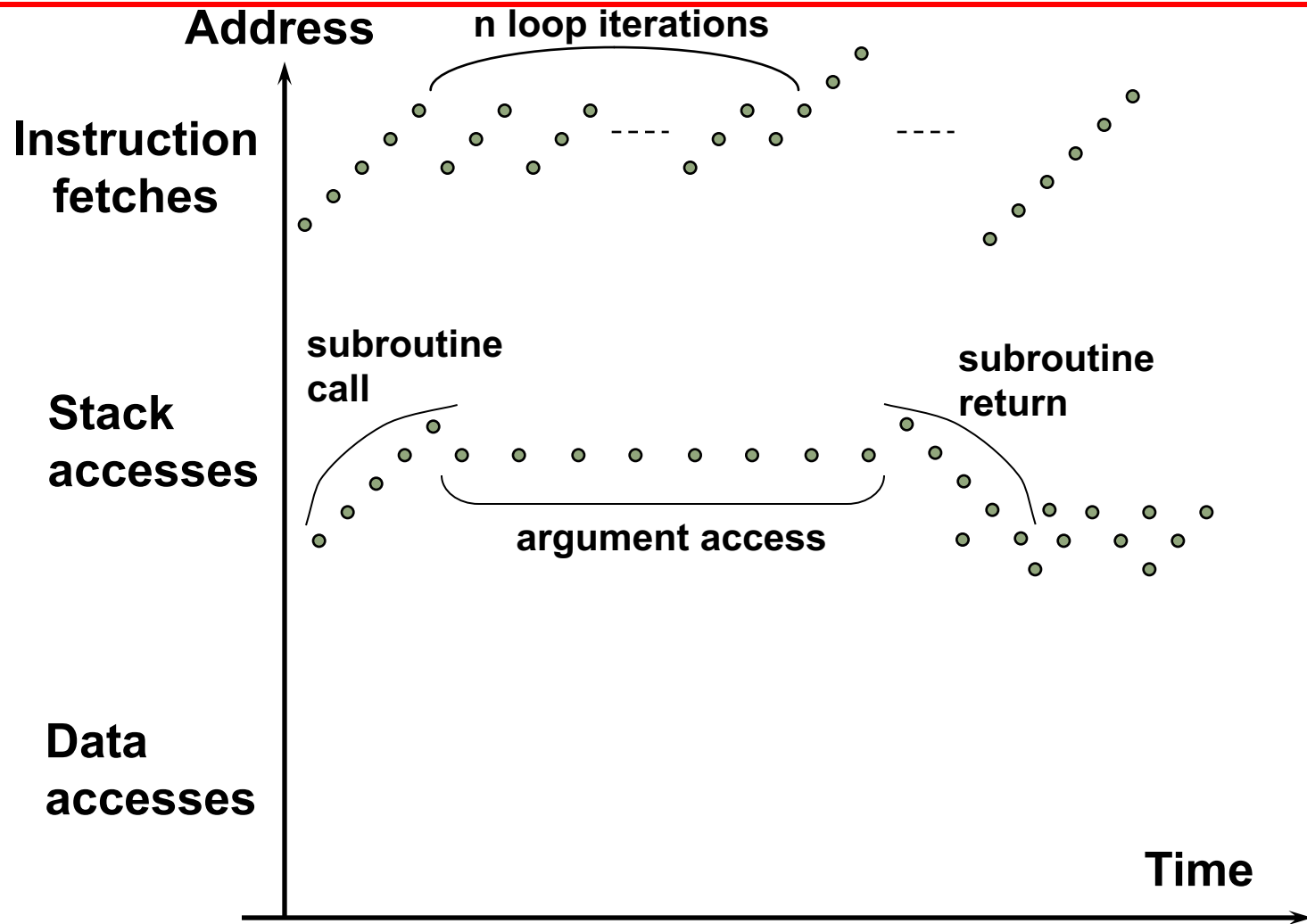
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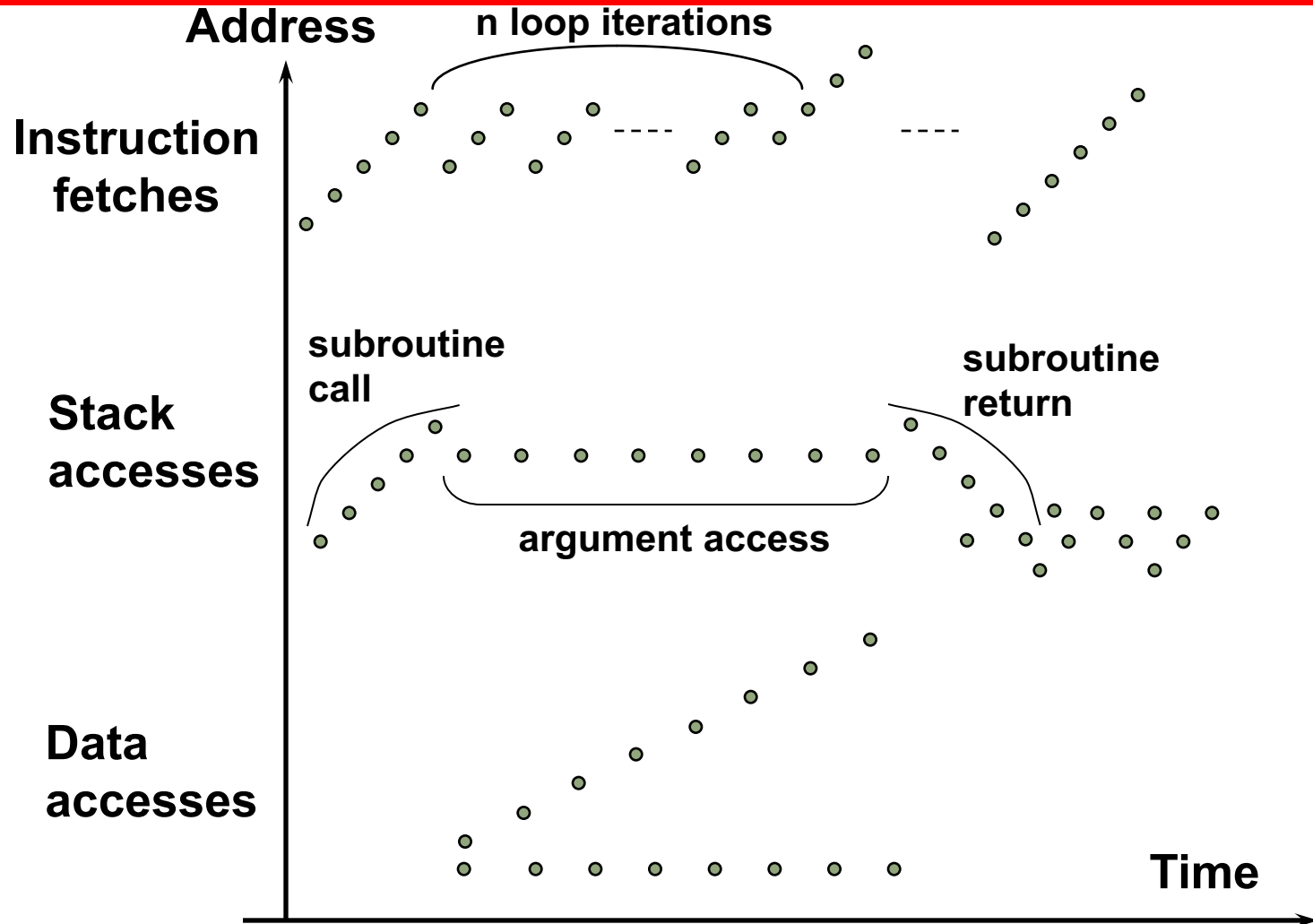
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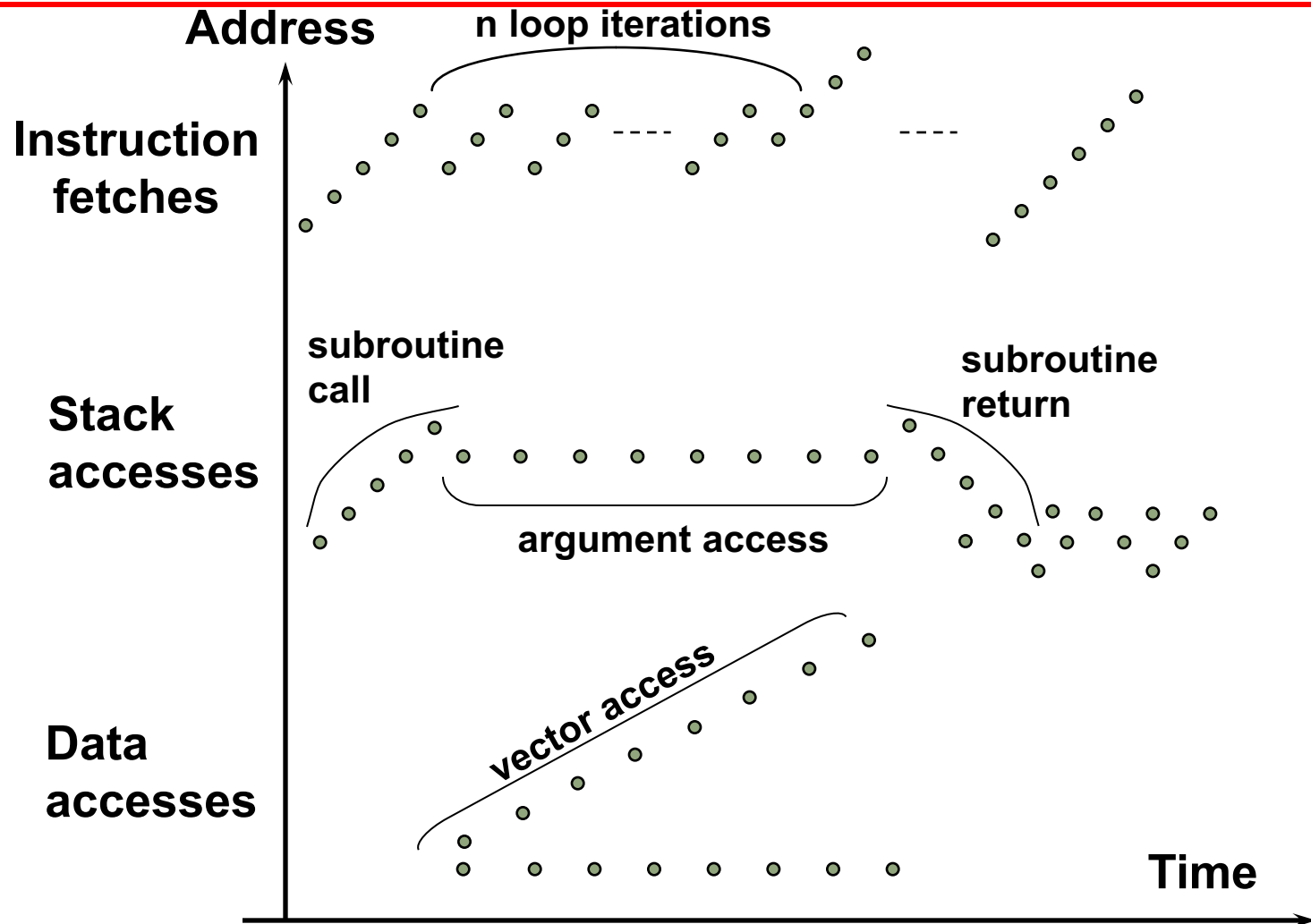
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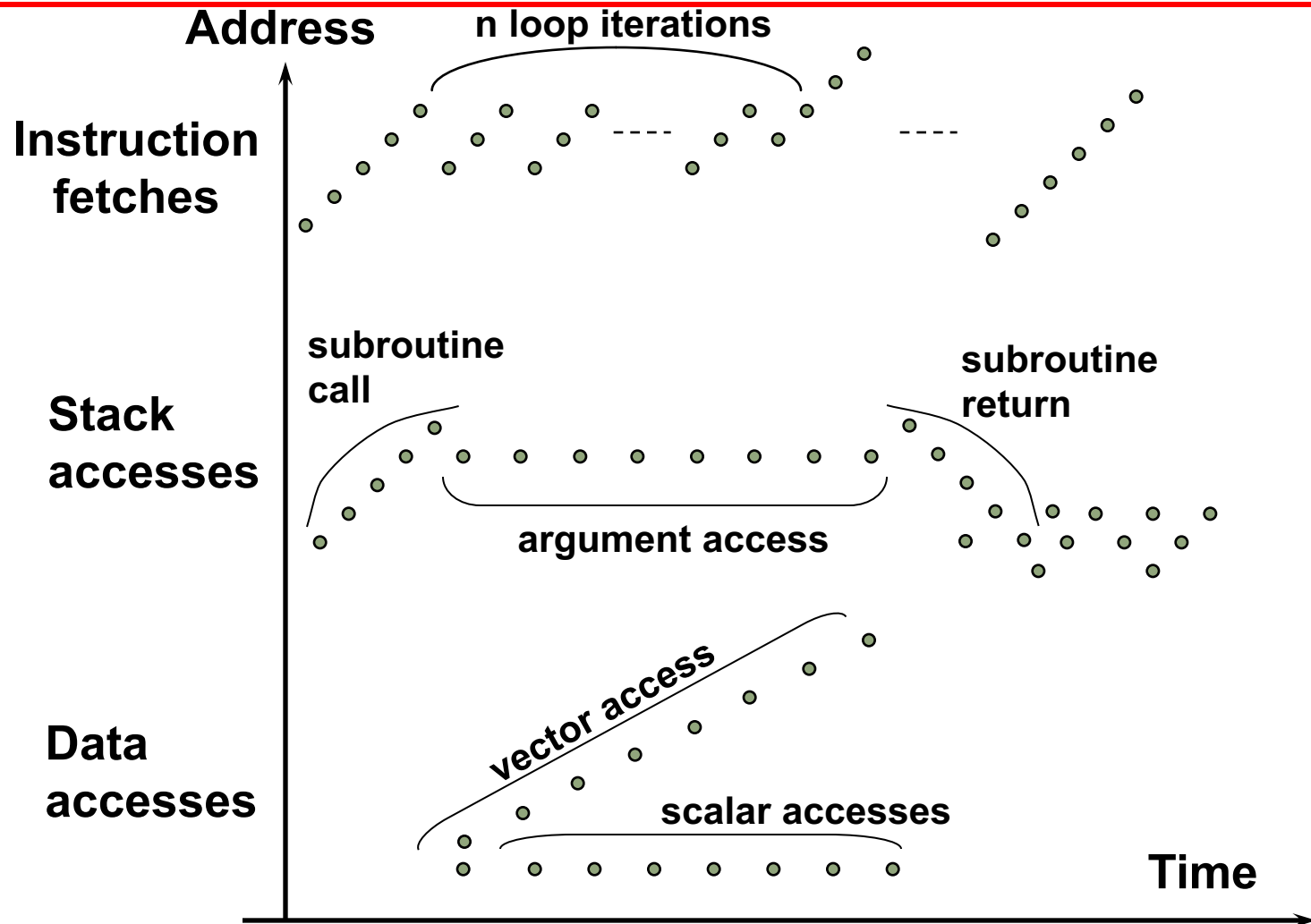
# Typical Memory Reference Patterns



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# Common Predictable Patterns

---

Two predictable properties of memory references:

- *Temporal Locality*: If a location is referenced, it is likely to be referenced again in the near future
- *Spatial Locality*: If a location is referenced, it is likely that locations near it will be referenced in the near future

# Data Orchestration Techniques

---

Two approaches to controlling data movement in the memory hierarchy:

- *Explicit*: Manually at the direction of the programmer using instructions
- *Implicit*: Automatically by the hardware in response to a request by an instruction, but transparent to the programmer.

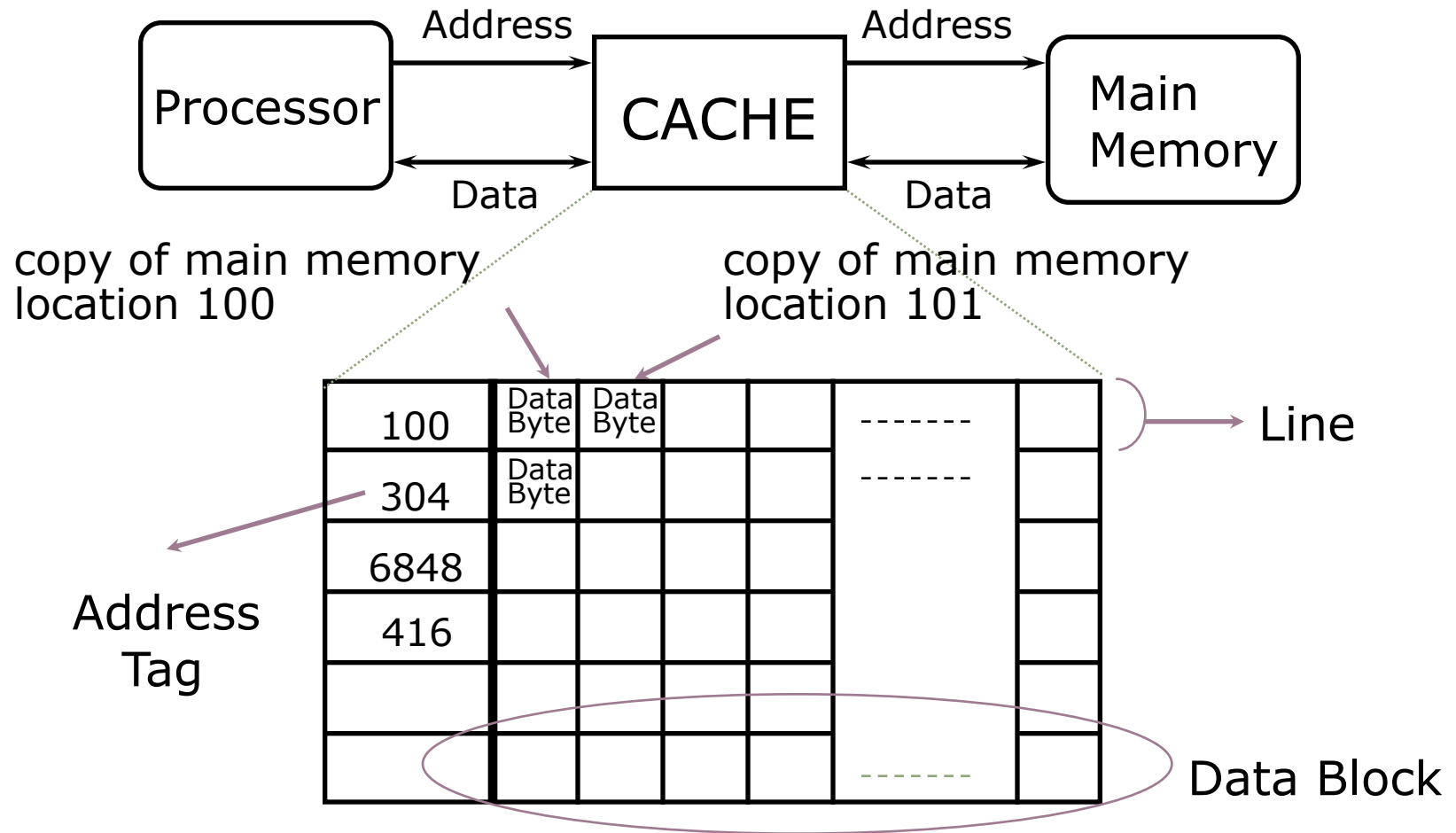


# Management of Memory Hierarchy

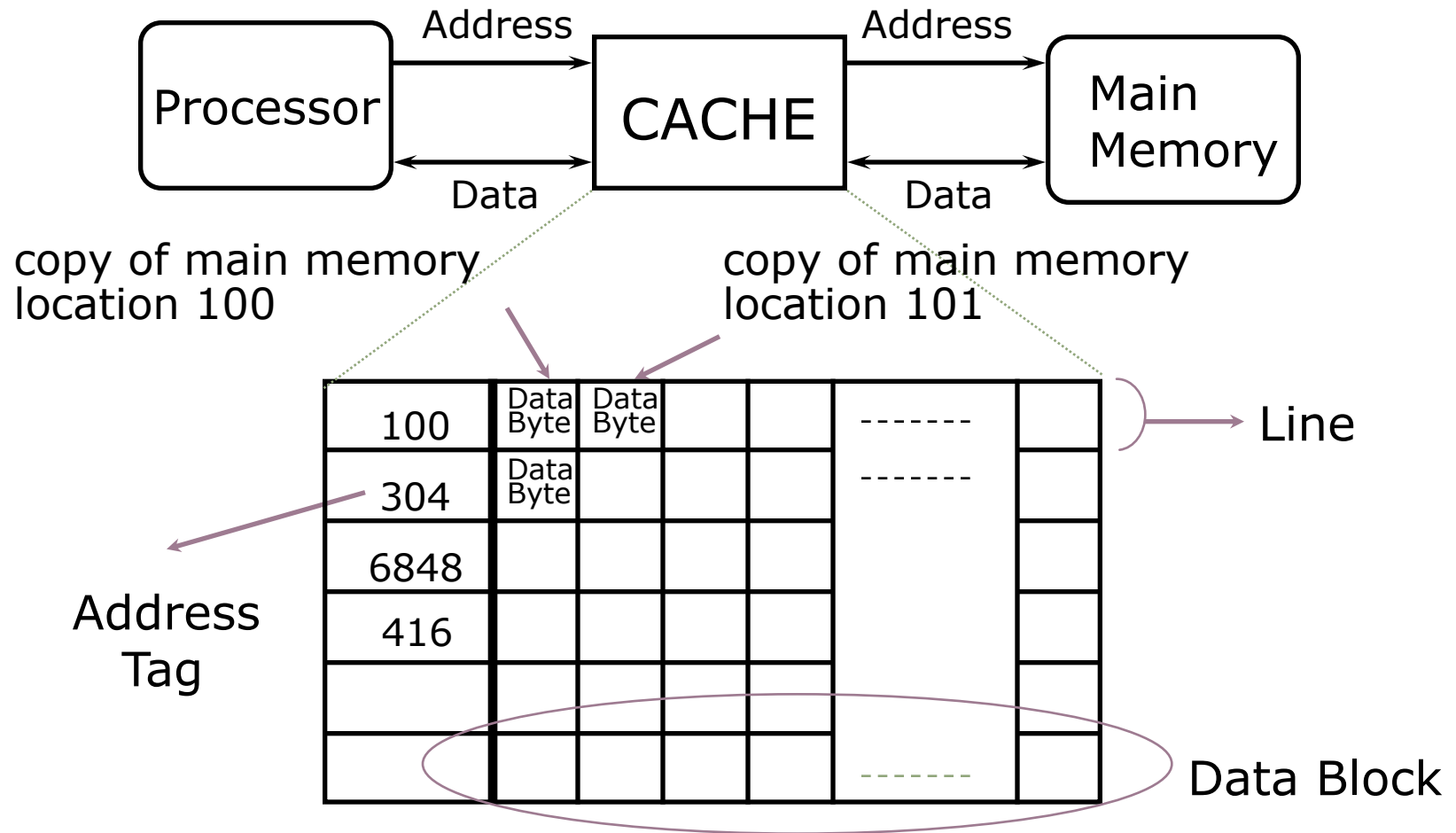
---

- Small/fast storage, e.g., registers
  - Address usually specified directly in instruction
  - Generally implemented using **explicit** data orchestration
    - e.g., directly as a register file
    - but hardware might do things behind software's back, e.g., stack management, register renaming
- Large/slower storage, e.g., memory
  - Address usually computed from values in register
  - Generally implemented using **implicit** data orchestration
    - e.g., as a cache hierarchy where hardware decides what is kept in fast memory
    - but software may provide "hints", e.g., don't cache or prefetch

# Inside a Cache

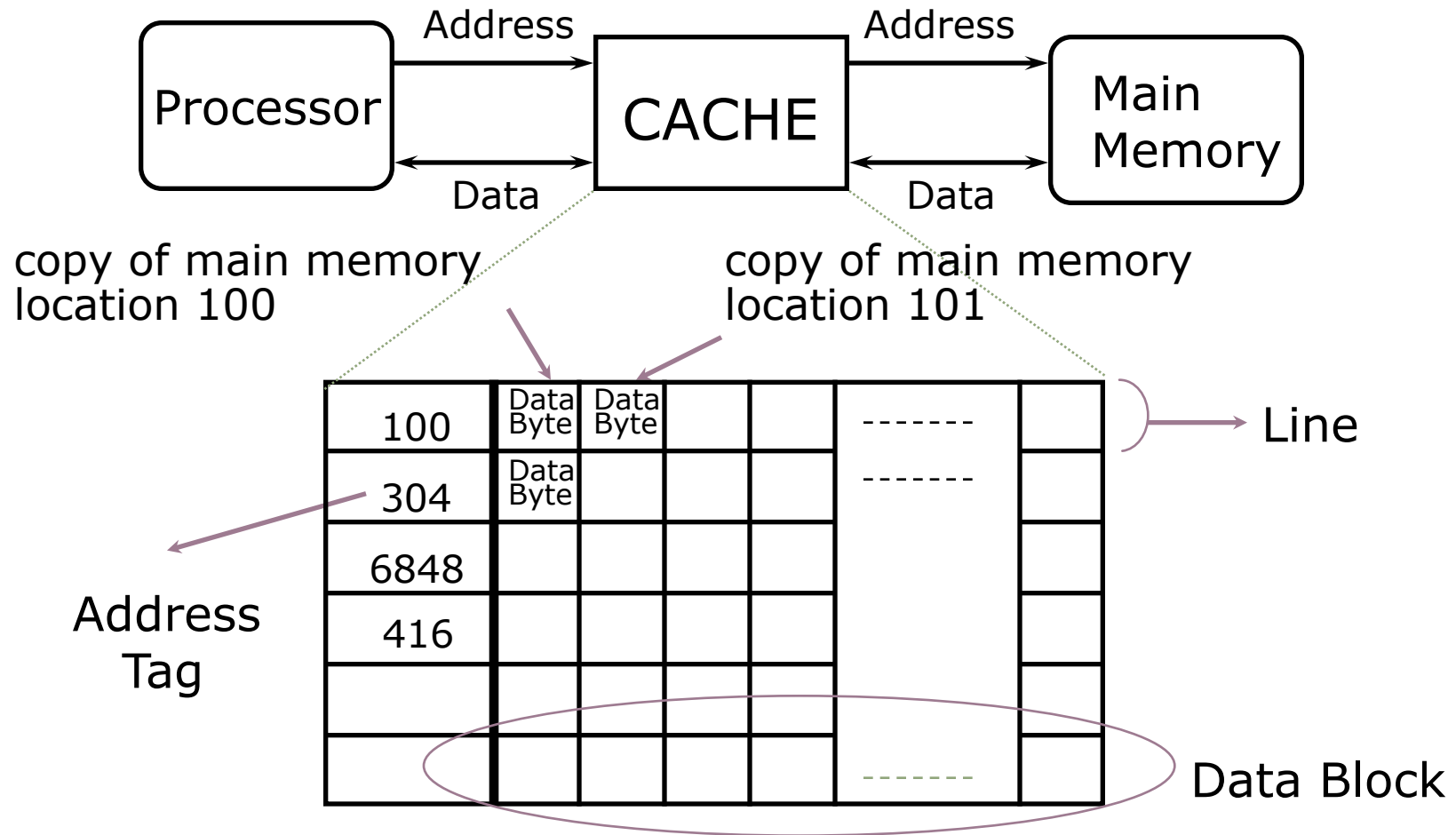


# Inside a Cache



Q: How many bits needed in tag? \_\_\_\_\_

# Inside a Cache



*Q: How many bits needed in tag?* Enough to uniquely identify block

# Cache Algorithm (Read)

---

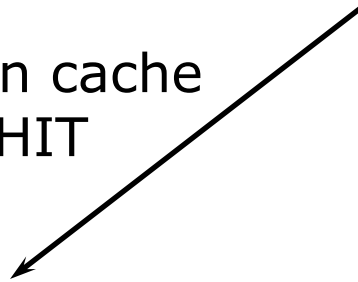
Look at Processor Address, search cache tags to find match.  
Then either

# Cache Algorithm (Read)

---

Look at Processor Address, search cache tags to find match.  
Then either

Found in cache  
a.k.a. HIT



Return copy  
of data from  
cache

# Cache Algorithm (Read)

---

Look at Processor Address, search cache tags to find match.  
Then either

Found in cache  
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Not in cache  
a.k.a. MISS

Return copy  
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Read block of data from  
Main Memory

Wait ...

Return data to processor  
and update cache

# Cache Algorithm (Read)

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Look at Processor Address, search cache tags to find match.  
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Main Memory

Wait ...

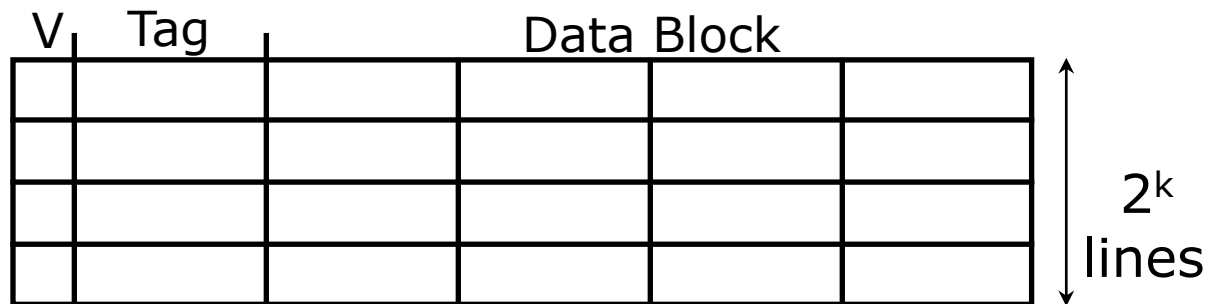
Return data to processor  
and update cache

Which line do we replace?



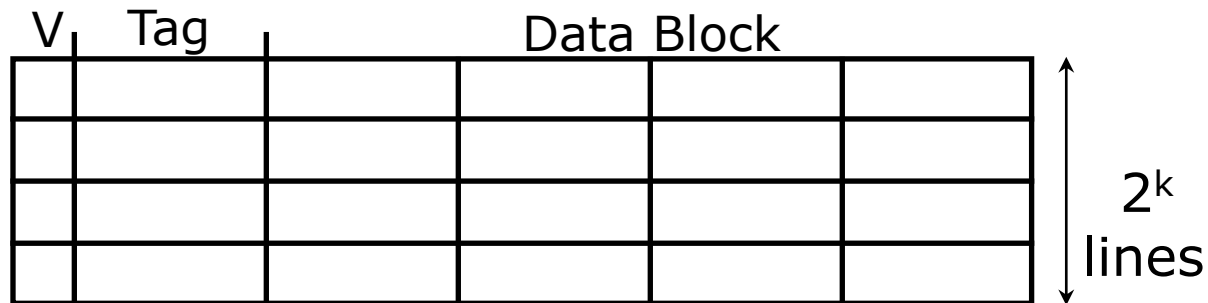
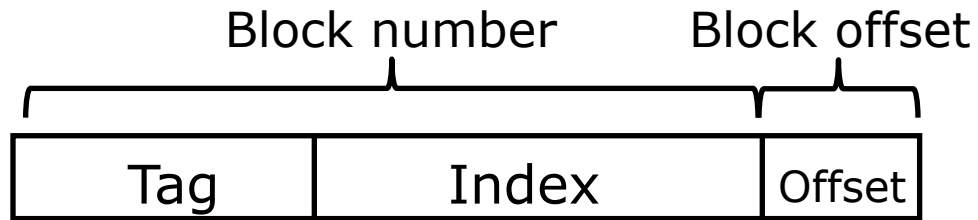
# Direct-Mapped Cache

---

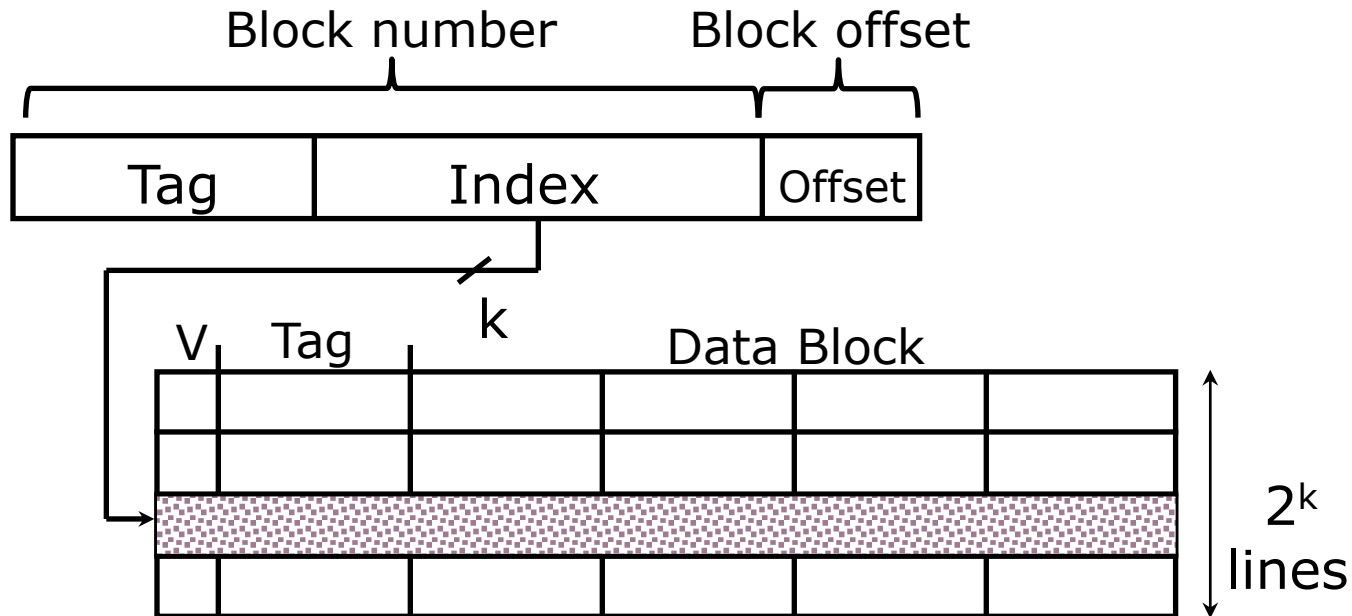


# Direct-Mapped Cache

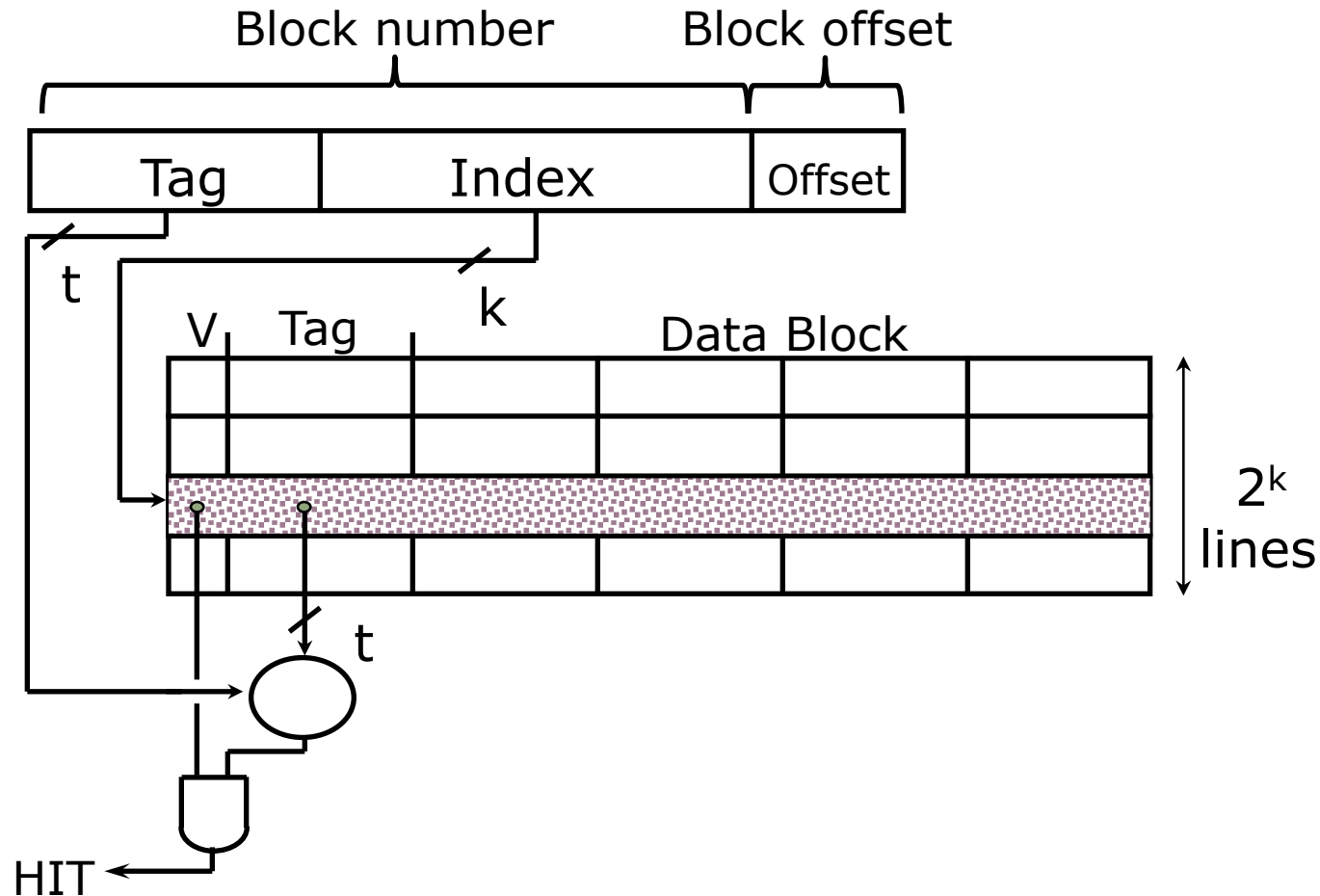
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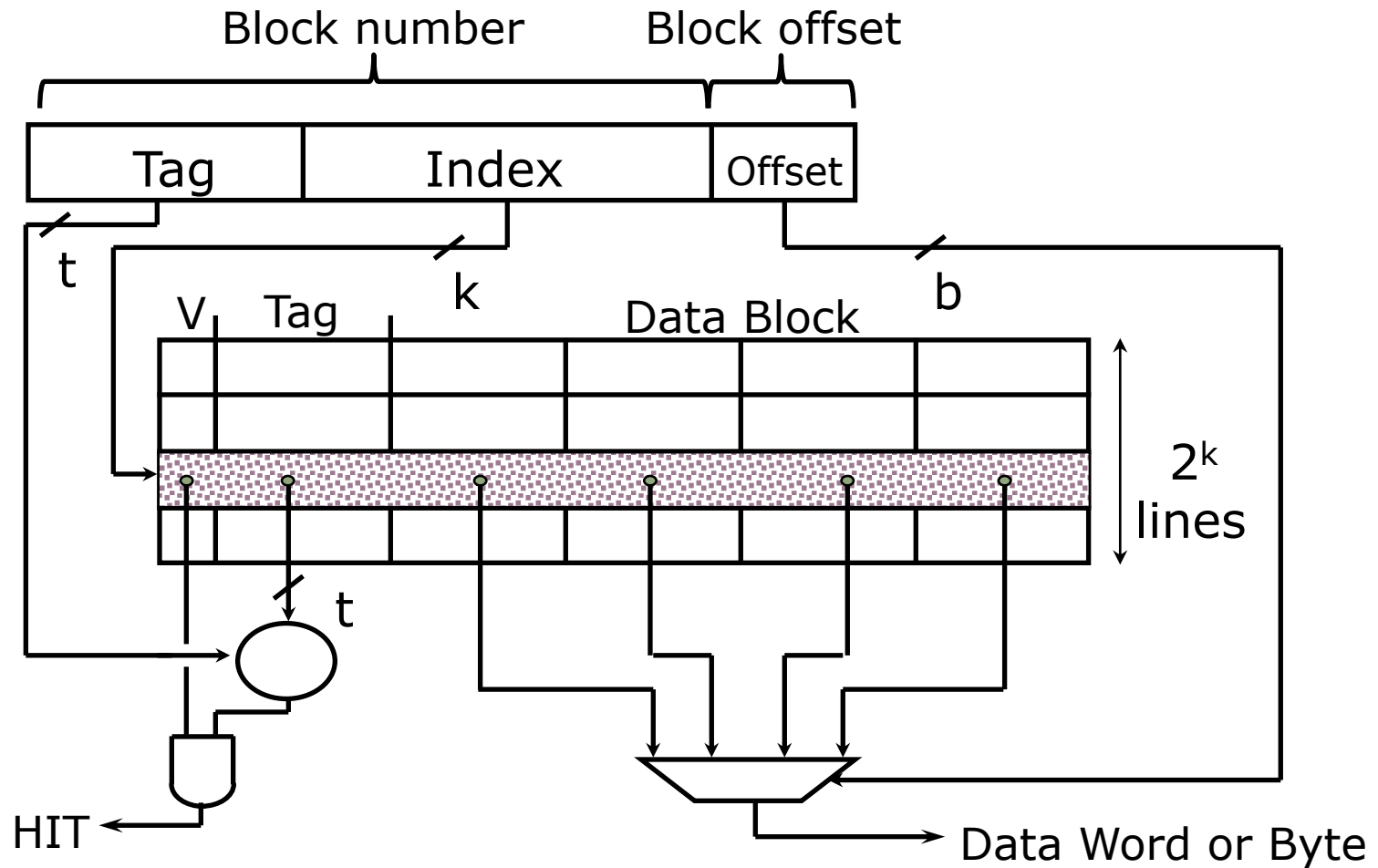
# Direct-Mapped Cache



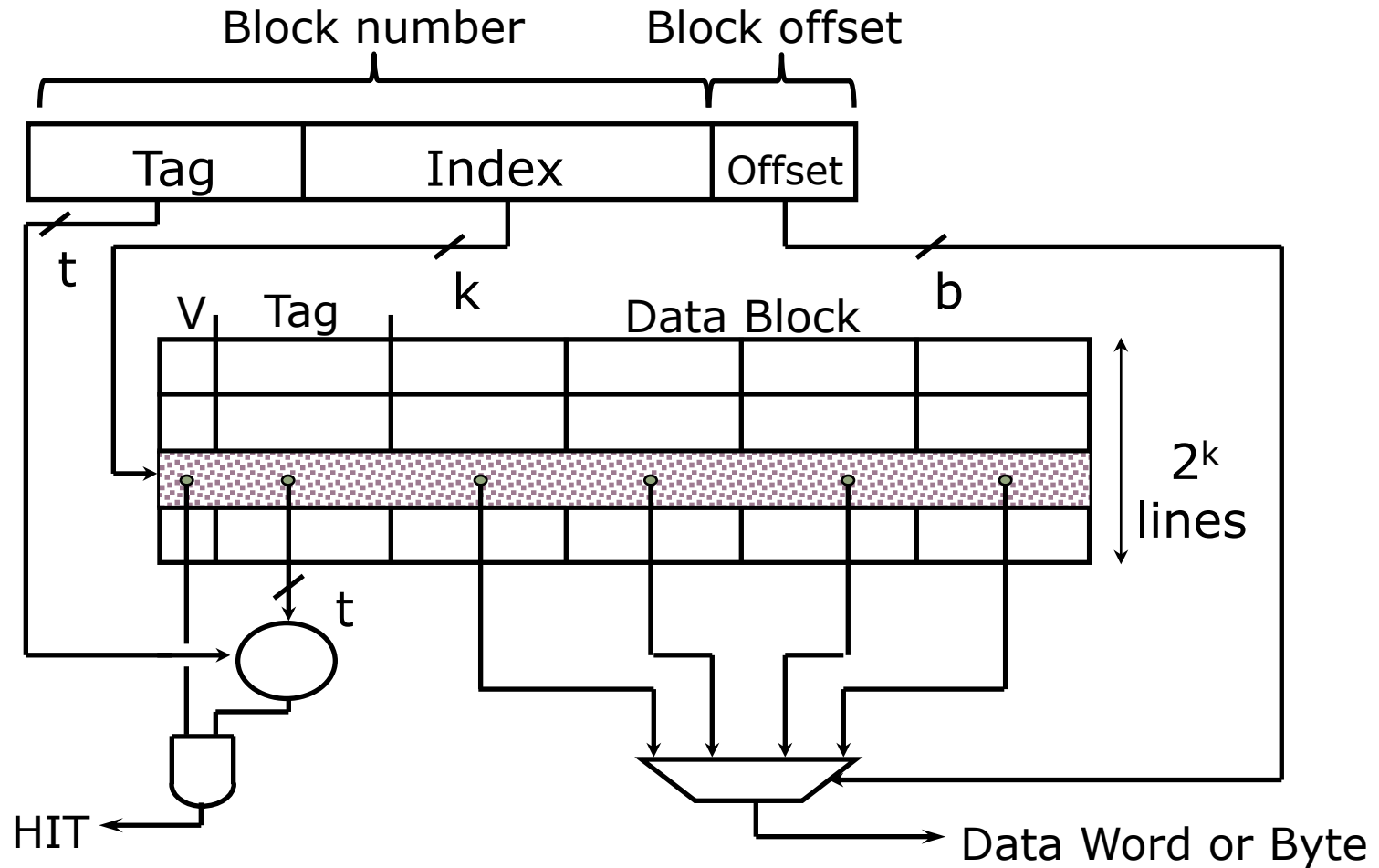
# Direct-Mapped Cache



# Direct-Mapped Cache

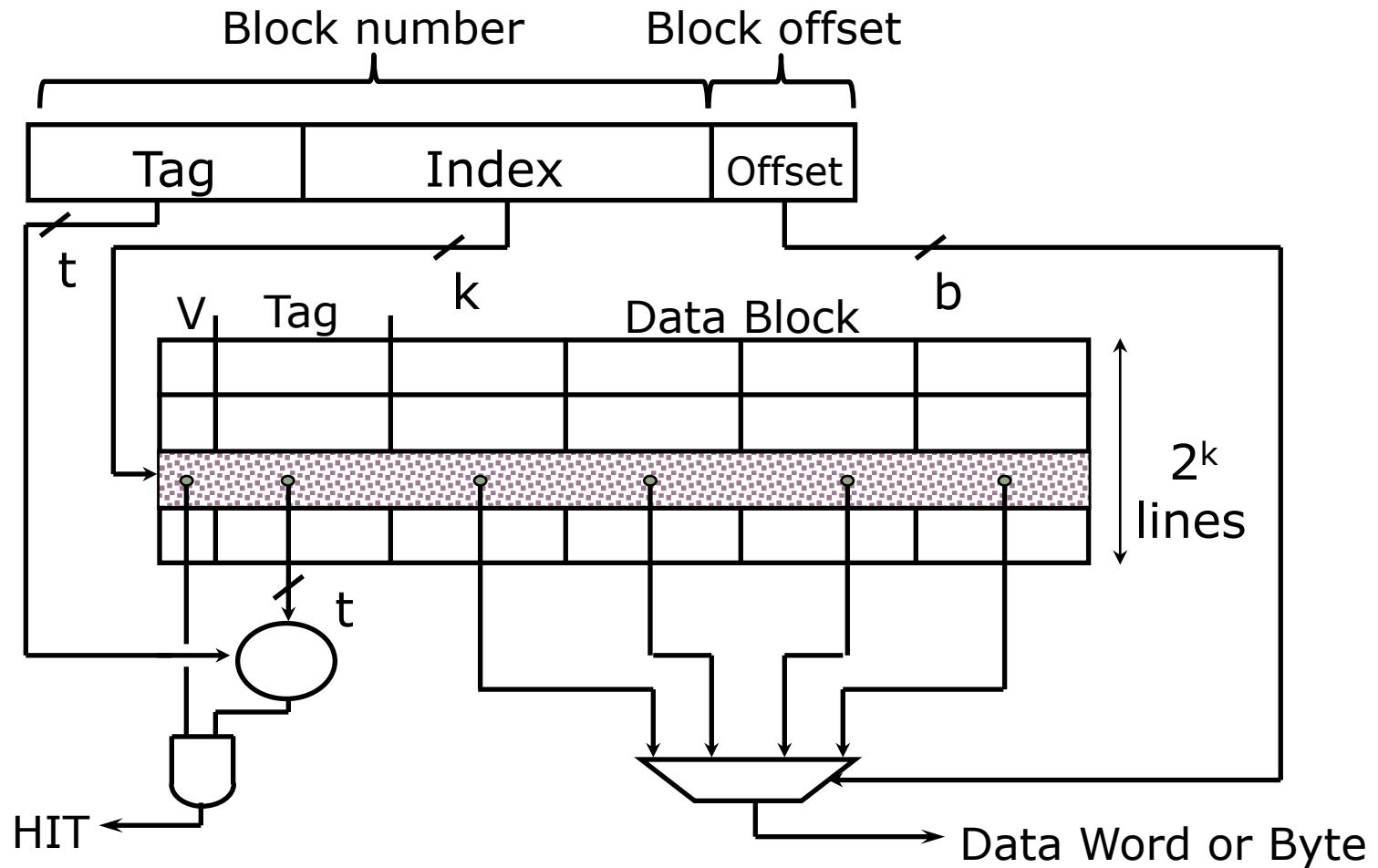


# Direct-Mapped Cache



*Q: What is a bad reference pattern?*

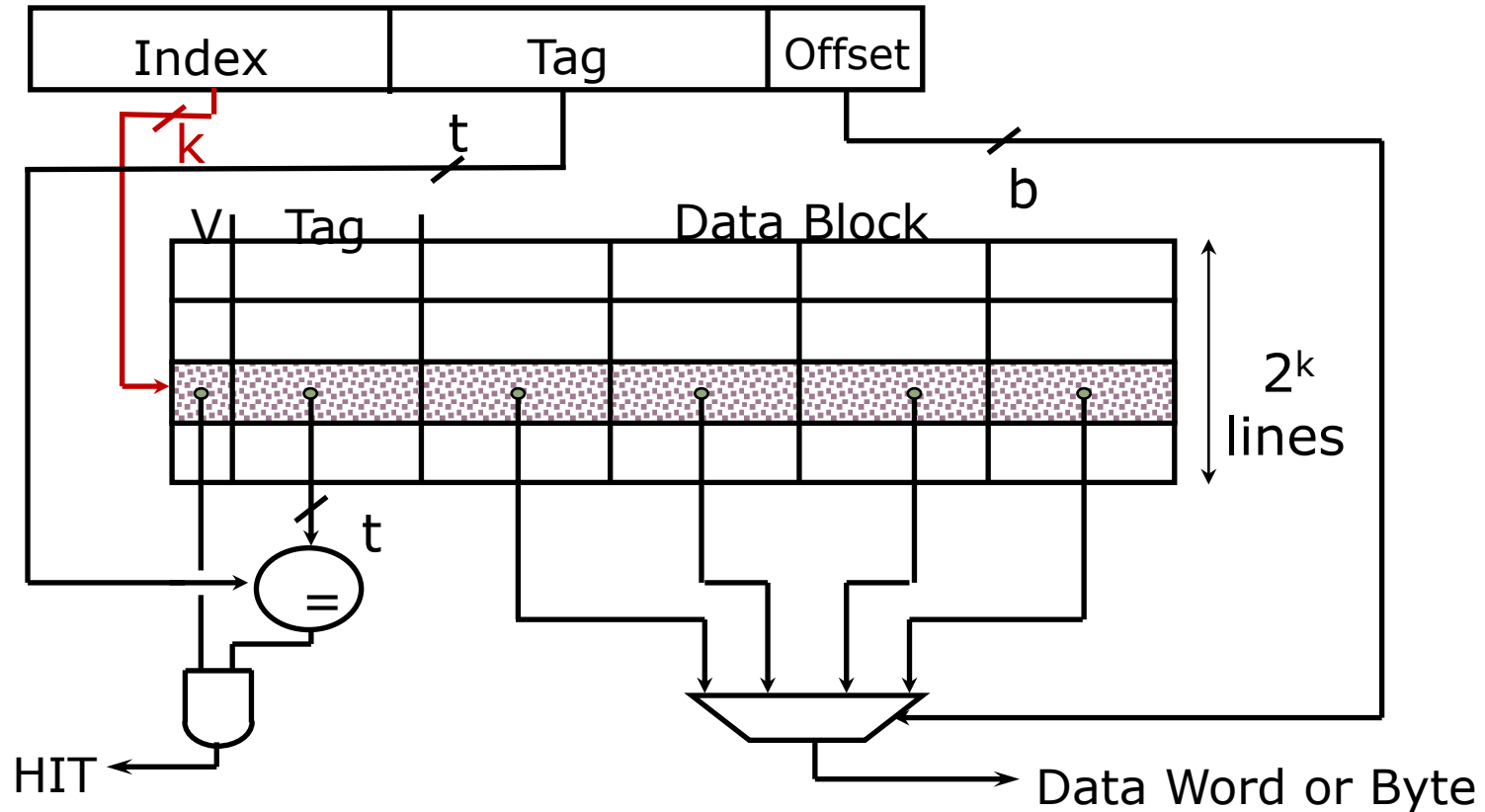
# Direct-Mapped Cache



*Q: What is a bad reference pattern?* Strided at size of cache

# Direct Map Address Selection

*higher-order vs. lower-order address bits*

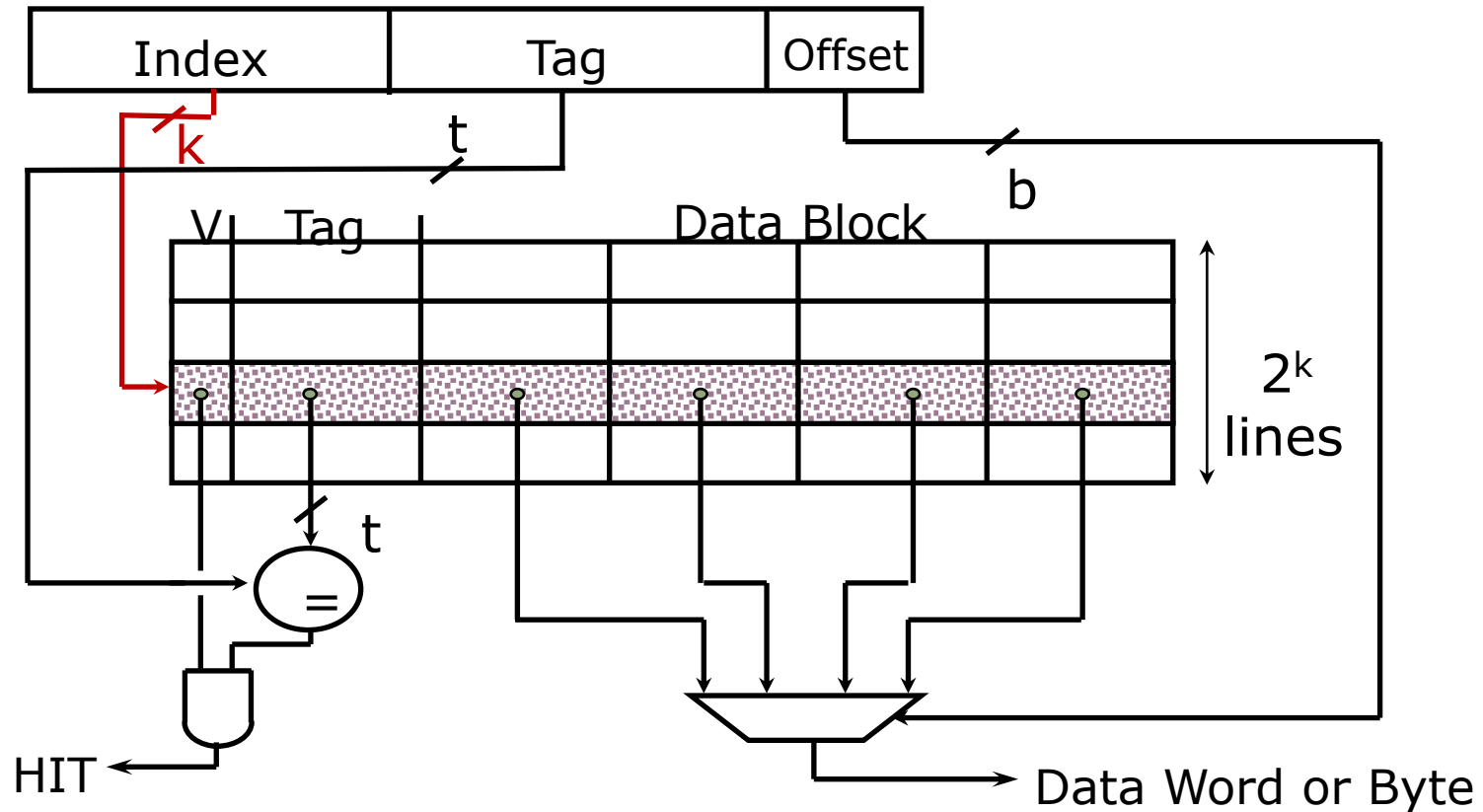


*Q: Why might this be undesirable?* \_\_\_\_\_



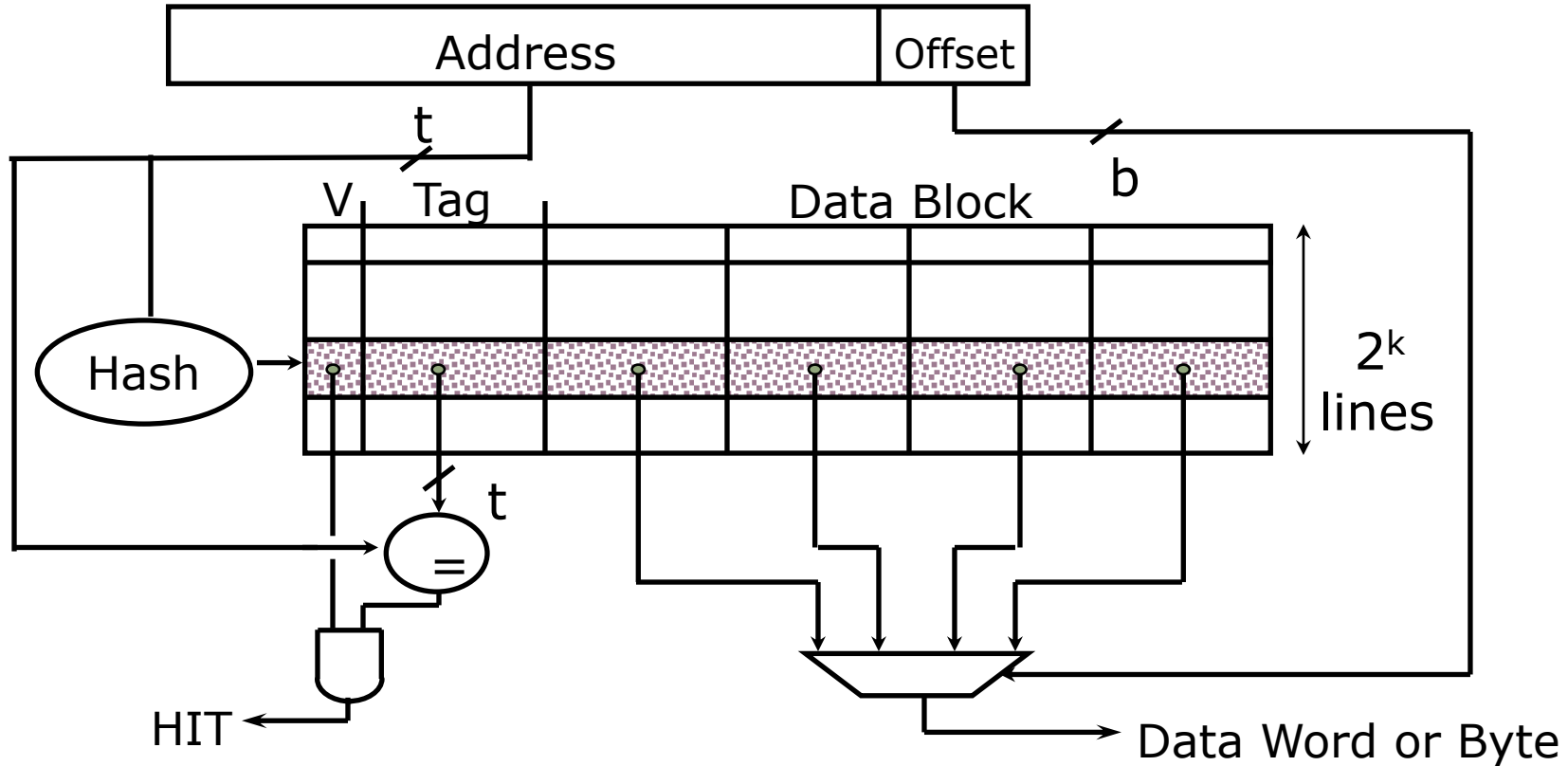
# Direct Map Address Selection

*higher-order vs. lower-order address bits*



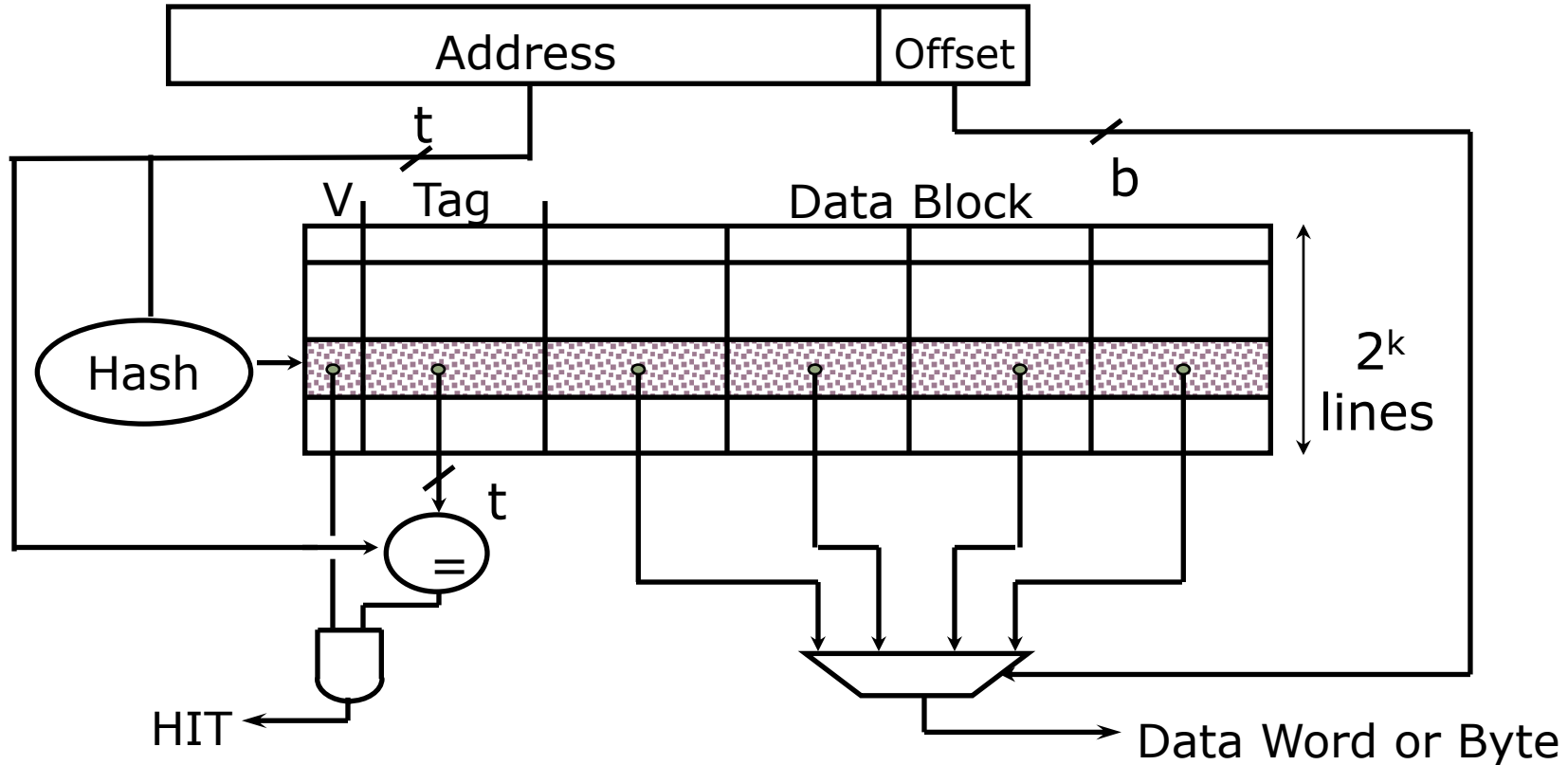
*Q: Why might this be undesirable?* Spatially local blocks conflict

# Hashed Address Mapping



*Q: What are the tradeoffs of hashing?*

# Hashed Address Mapping



*Q: What are the tradeoffs of hashing?*

Good: Regular strides don't conflict

Bad: Hash adds latency

Tag is larger

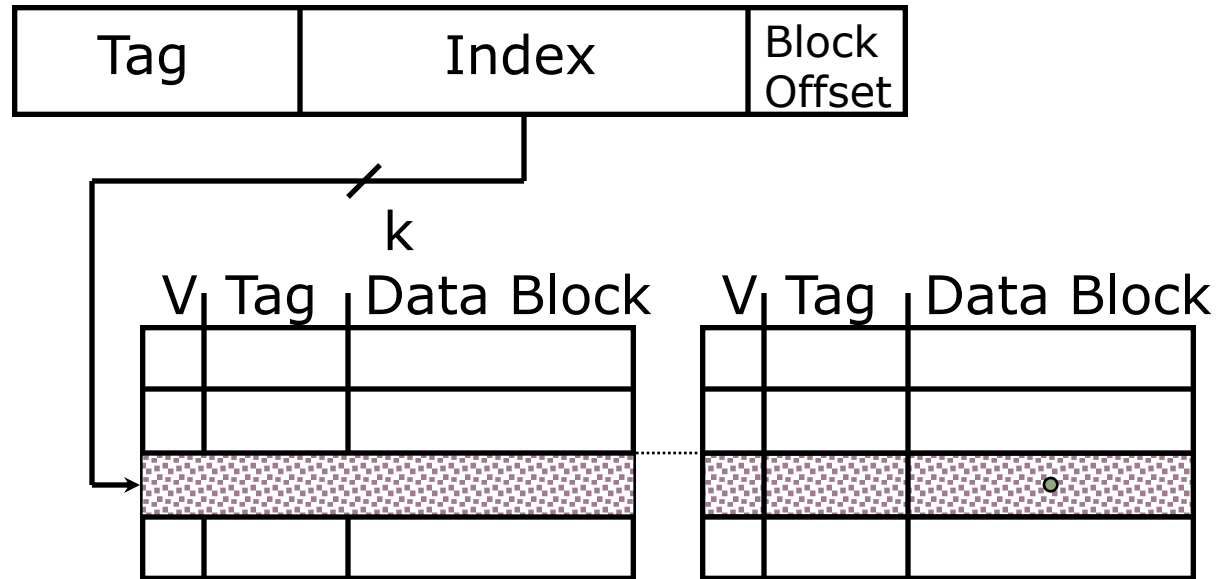
# 2-Way Set-Associative Cache

---

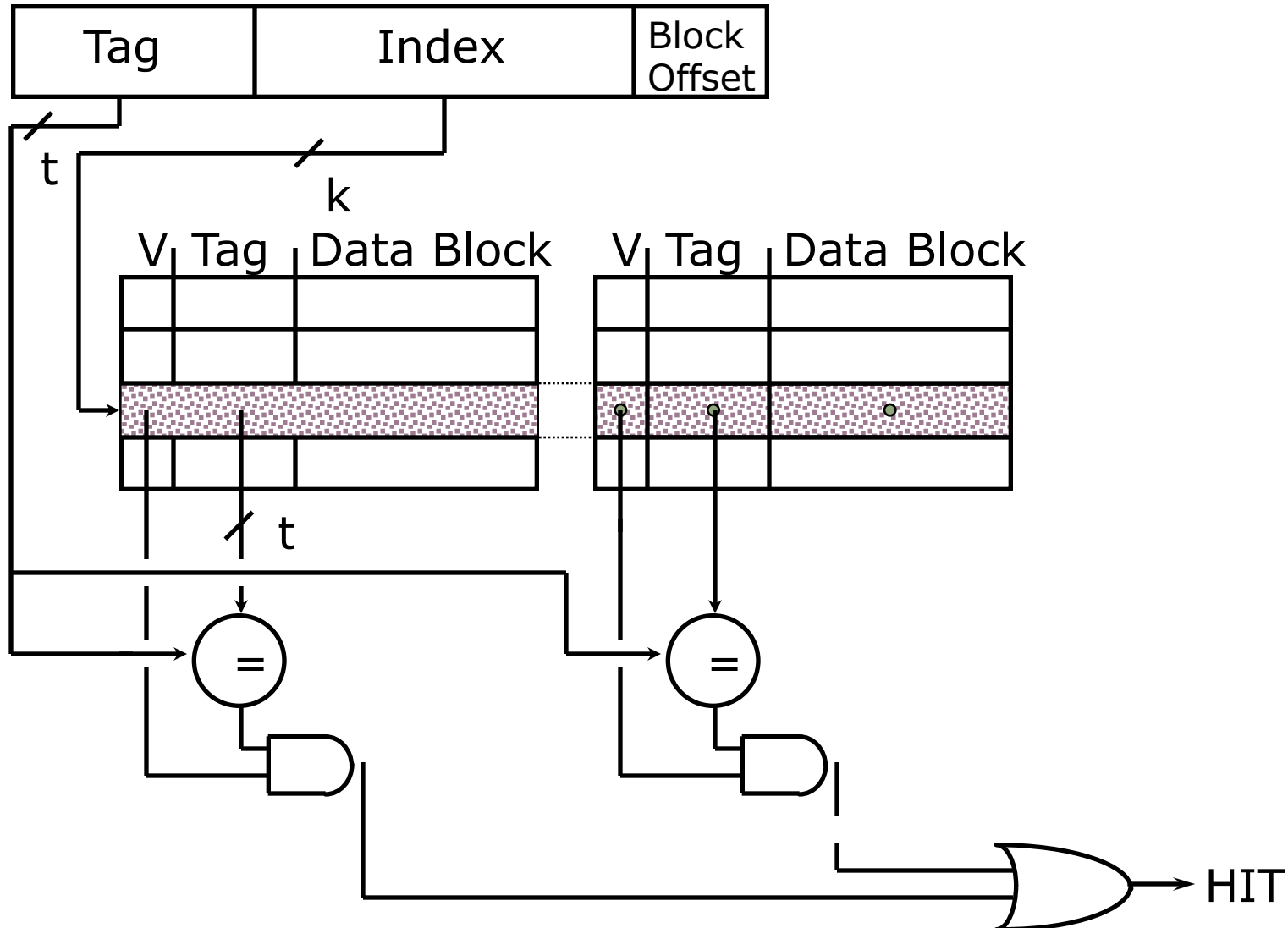
| Tag | Index | Block<br>Offset |
|-----|-------|-----------------|
|-----|-------|-----------------|

| V <sub>i</sub> Tag Data Block |   |   | V <sub>i</sub> Tag Data Block |  |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|--|---|
|                               |   |   |                               |  |   |
|                               |   |   |                               |  |   |
| •                             | • | • |                               |  | • |
|                               |   |   |                               |  |   |

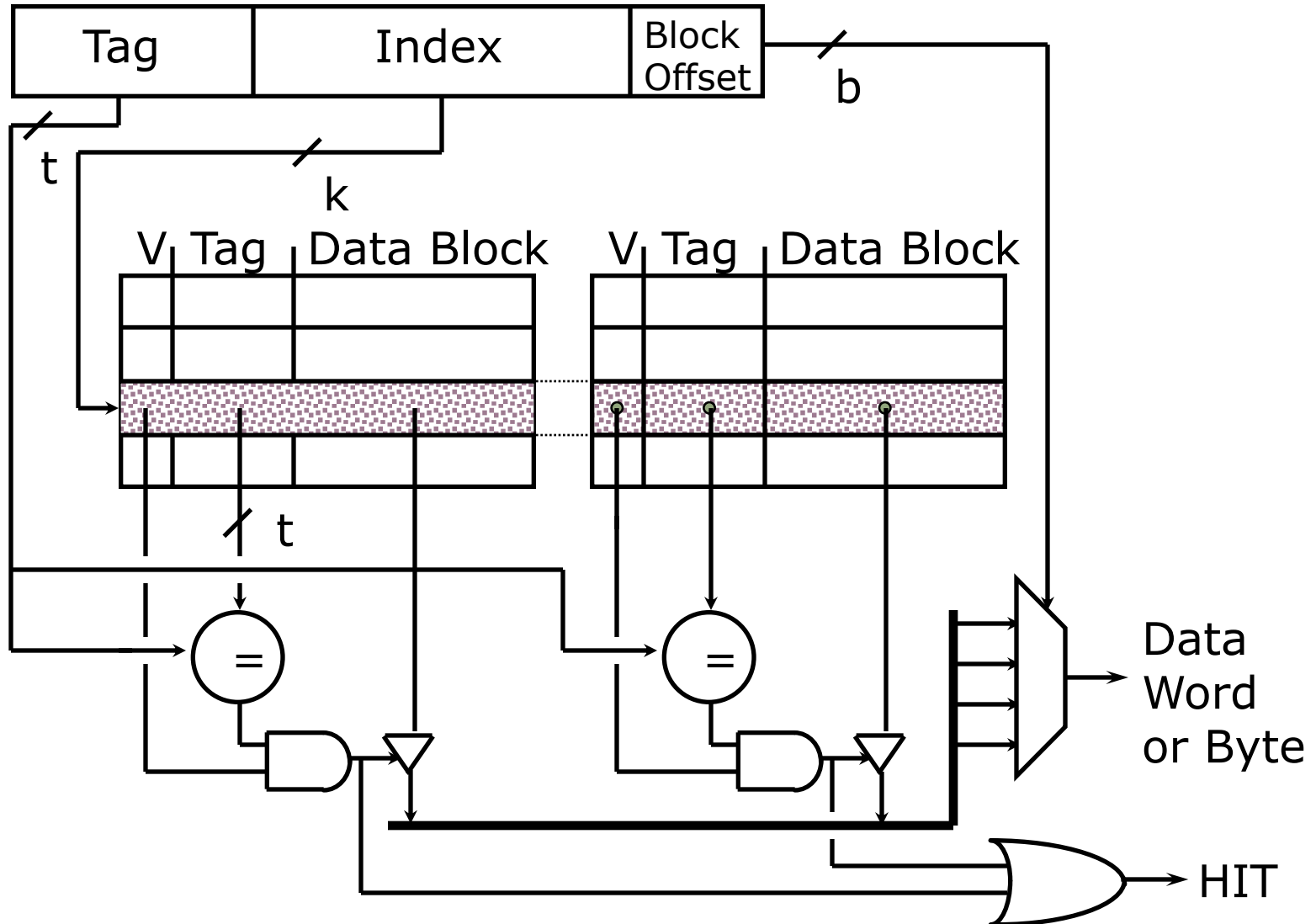
# 2-Way Set-Associative Cache



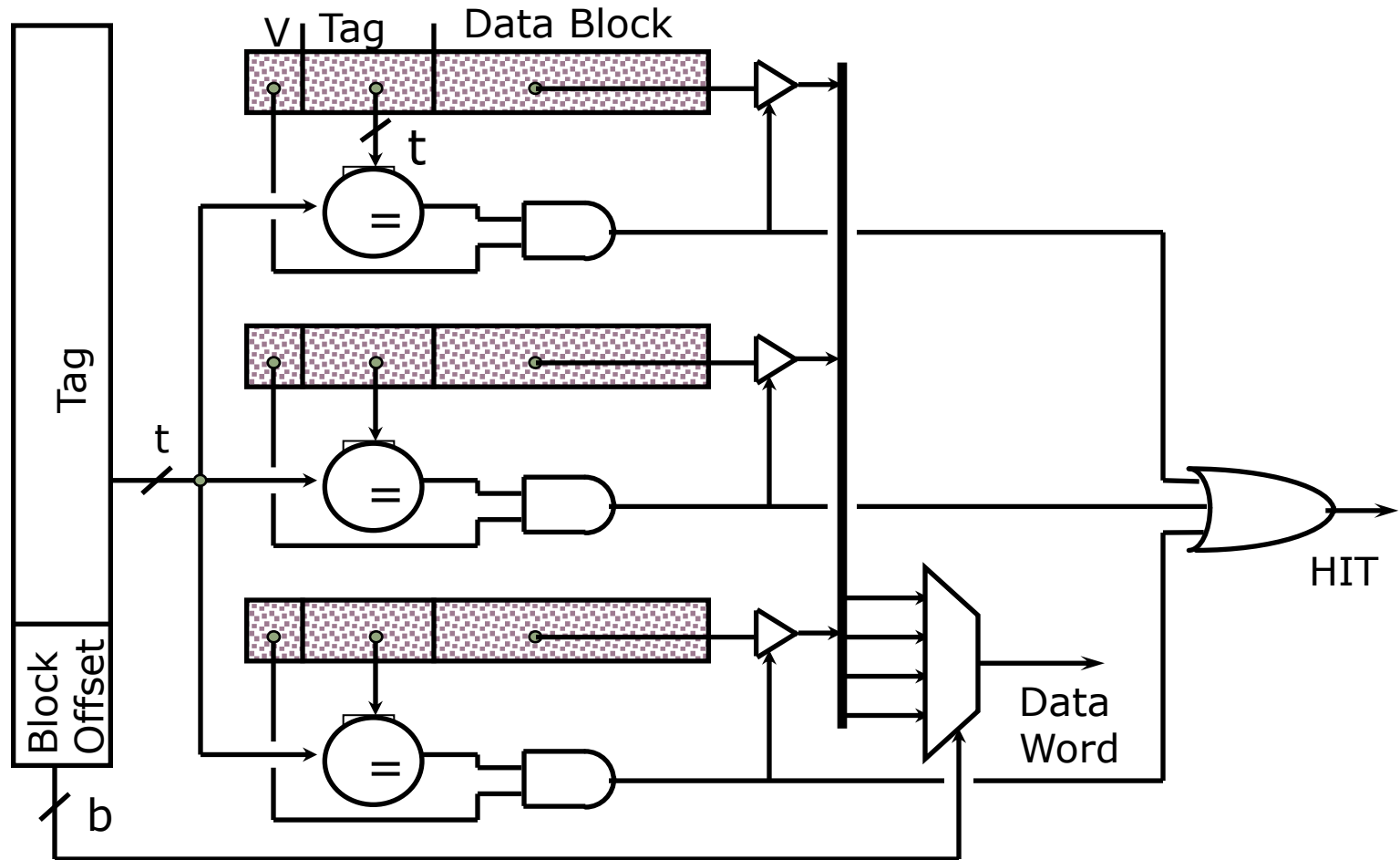
# 2-Way Set-Associative Cache



# 2-Way Set-Associative Cache



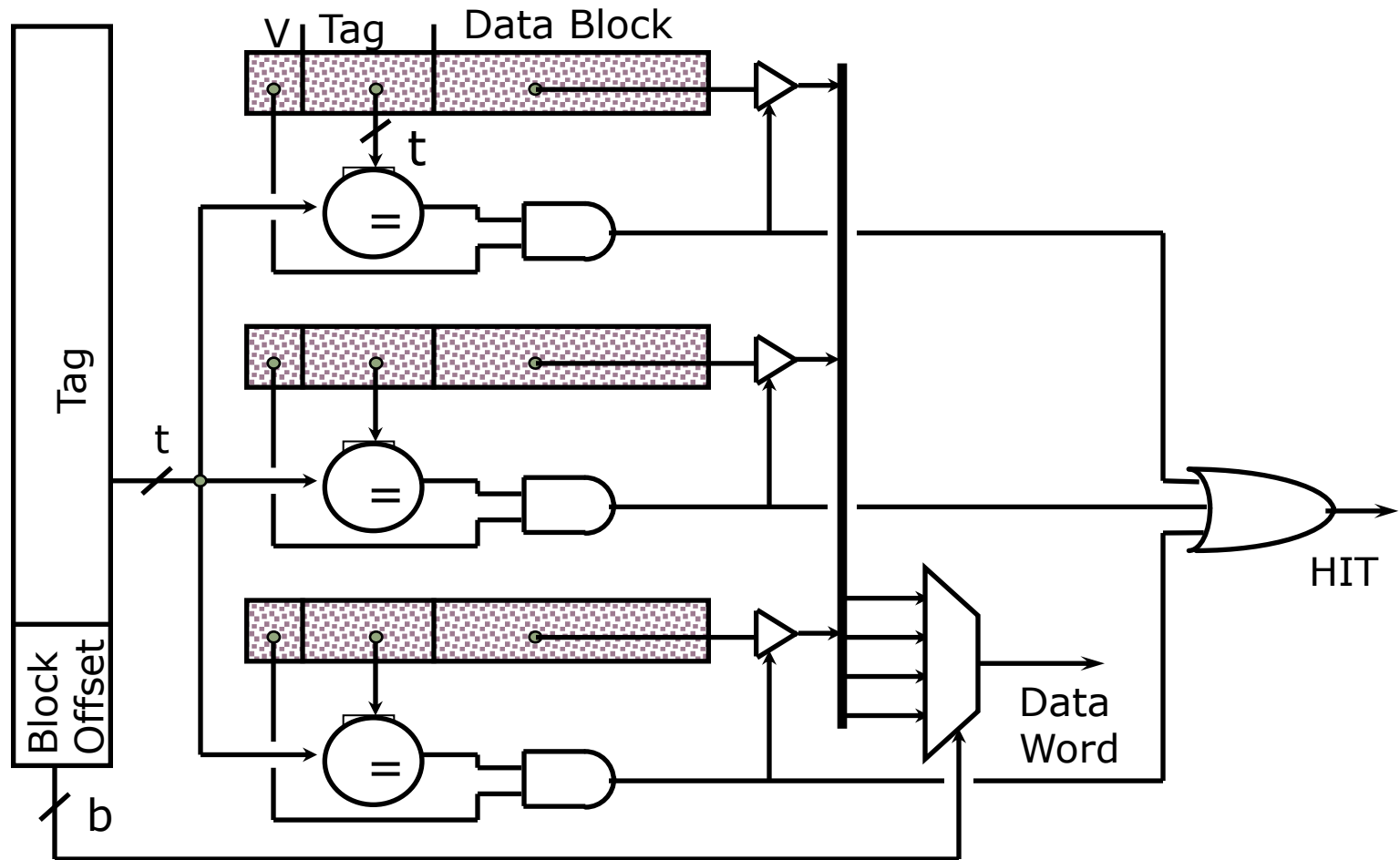
# Fully Associative Cache



*Q: Where are the index bits?* \_\_\_\_\_

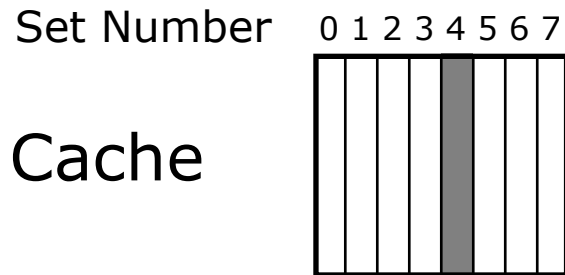
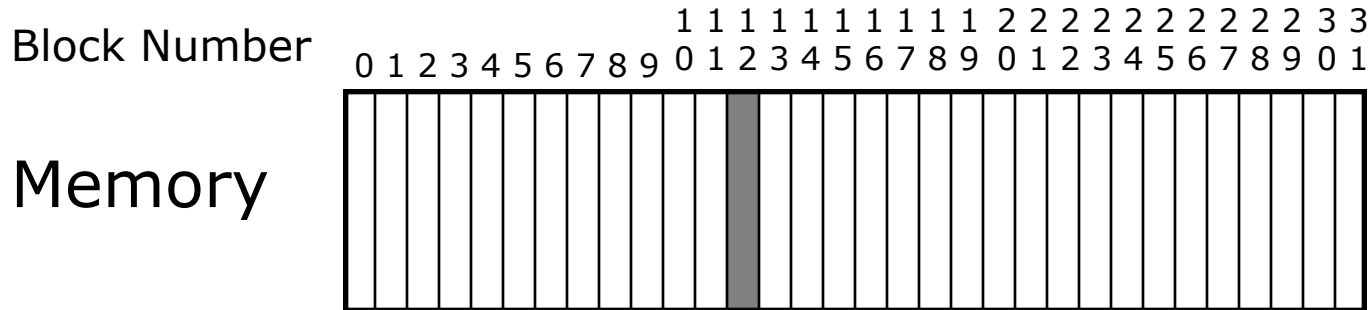


# Fully Associative Cache



Q: Where are the index bits? Not needed

# Placement Policy

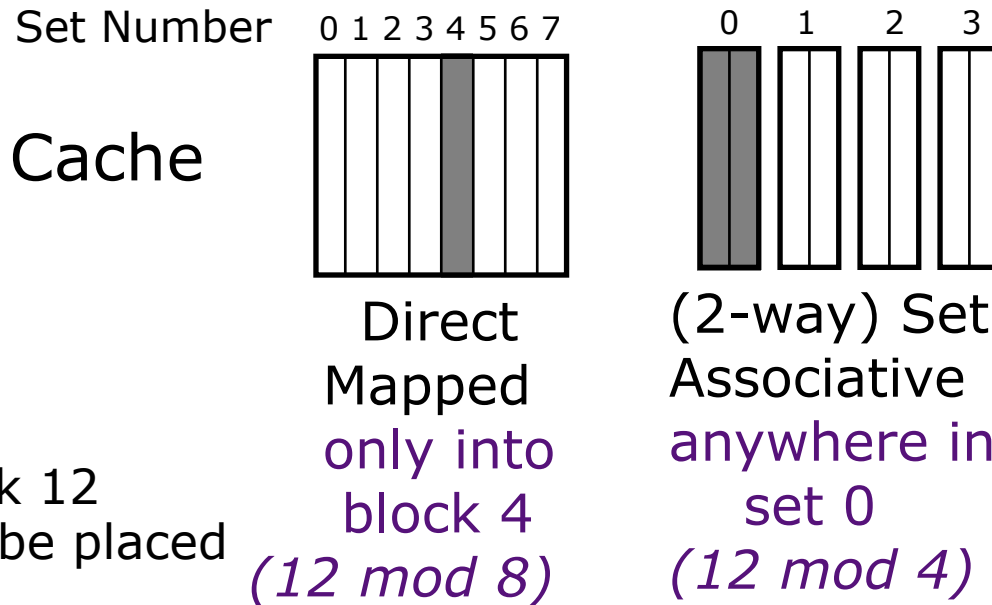
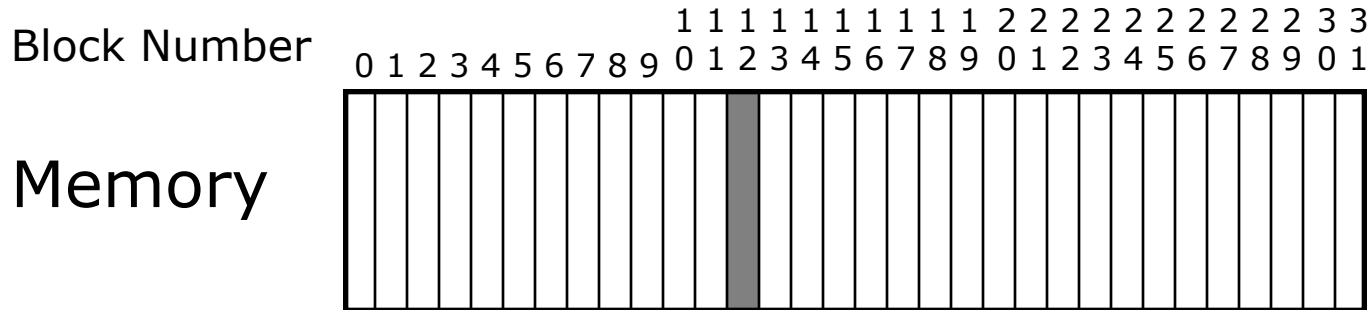


Direct  
Mapped  
only into  
block 4

block 12  
can be placed

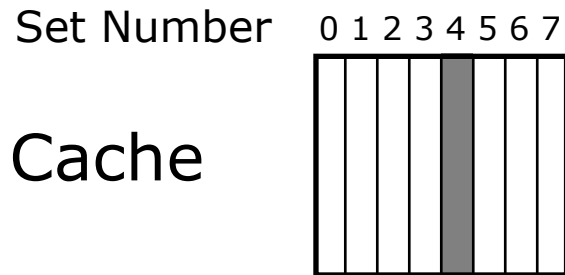
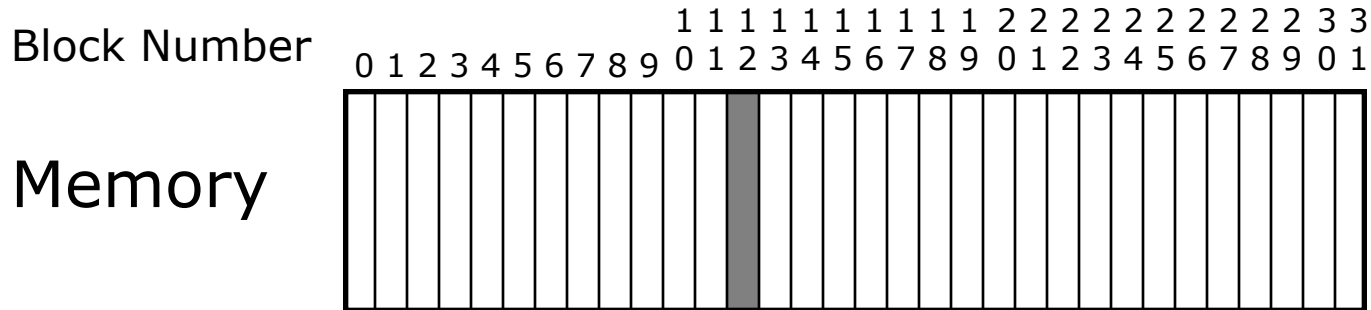
*(12 mod 8)*

# Placement Policy

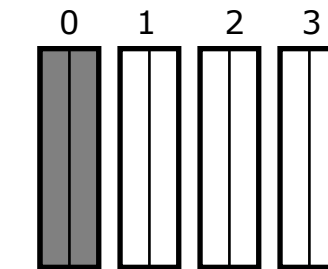


block 12  
can be placed

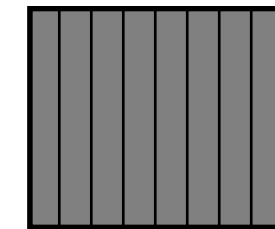
# Placement Policy



Direct  
Mapped  
only into  
block 4  
 $(12 \bmod 8)$



(2-way) Set  
Associative  
anywhere in  
set 0  
 $(12 \bmod 4)$



Fully  
Associative  
anywhere

block 12  
can be placed

# Improving Cache Performance

---

Average memory access time (AMAT) =  
Hit time + Miss rate x Miss penalty

# Improving Cache Performance

---

Average memory access time (AMAT) =  
Hit time + Miss rate x Miss penalty

To improve performance:

- reduce the hit time
- reduce the miss rate (e.g., larger, better policy)
- reduce the miss penalty (e.g., L2 cache)

*What is the simplest design strategy?*

# Improving Cache Performance

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Average memory access time (AMAT) =  
Hit time + Miss rate x Miss penalty

To improve performance:

- reduce the hit time
- reduce the miss rate (e.g., larger, better policy)
- reduce the miss penalty (e.g., L2 cache)

*What is the simplest design strategy?*

*Biggest cache that doesn't increase hit time past 1-2 cycles  
(approx. 16-64KB in modern technology)*

*[design issues more complex with out-of-order superscalar processors]*

# Causes for Cache Misses

---

- *Compulsory:*

First reference to a block *a.k.a.* cold start misses  
- misses that would occur even with infinite cache

- *Capacity:*

cache is too small to hold all data the program needs  
- misses that would occur even under perfect placement & replacement policy

- *Conflict:*

misses from collisions due to block-placement strategy  
- misses that would not occur with full associativity



# Effect of Cache Parameters on Performance


---

|                   | Larger capacity cache | Higher associativity cache | Larger block size cache * |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Compulsory misses |                       |                            |                           |
| Capacity misses   |                       |                            |                           |
| Conflict misses   |                       |                            |                           |
| Hit latency       |                       |                            |                           |
| Miss latency      |                       |                            |                           |

\* Assume substantial spatial locality

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|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Compulsory misses | =                     |                            |                           |
| Capacity misses   | ↓                     |                            |                           |
| Conflict misses   | ↓                     |                            |                           |
| Hit latency       | ↑                     |                            |                           |
| Miss latency      |                       |                            |                           |

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# Effect of Cache Parameters on Performance

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| Capacity misses   | ↓                     | =                          | ↓                         |
| Conflict misses   | ↓                     | ↓                          |                           |
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| Miss latency      | =                     | =                          |                           |

\* Assume substantial spatial locality

# Effect of Cache Parameters on Performance

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|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Compulsory misses | =                     | =                          | ↓                         |
| Capacity misses   | ↓                     | =                          | ↓                         |
| Conflict misses   | ↓                     | ↓                          | ?                         |
| Hit latency       | ↑                     | ↑                          |                           |
| Miss latency      | =                     | =                          |                           |

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# Effect of Cache Parameters on Performance

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| Compulsory misses | =                     | =                          | ↓                         |
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| Conflict misses   | ↓                     | ↓                          | ?                         |
| Hit latency       | ↑                     | ↑                          | =                         |
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# Effect of Cache Parameters on Performance

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| Compulsory misses | =                     | =                          | ↓                         |
| Capacity misses   | ↓                     | =                          | ↓                         |
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| Hit latency       | ↑                     | ↑                          | =                         |
| Miss latency      | =                     | =                          | ↑ ↓                       |

\* Assume substantial spatial locality



# Block-level Optimizations

---

- Tags are too large, i.e., too much overhead
  - Simple solution: Larger blocks, but miss penalty could be large.

# Block-level Optimizations

---

- Tags are too large, i.e., too much overhead
  - Simple solution: Larger blocks, but miss penalty could be large.
- Sub-block placement (aka sector cache)
  - A valid bit added to units smaller than the full block, called sub-blocks
  - Only read a sub-block on a miss
  - *If a tag matches, is the sub-block in the cache?*

|            |
|------------|
| <b>100</b> |
| <b>300</b> |
| <b>204</b> |

|          |  |          |  |          |  |          |  |
|----------|--|----------|--|----------|--|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> |  | <b>1</b> |  | <b>1</b> |  | <b>1</b> |  |
| <b>1</b> |  | <b>1</b> |  | <b>0</b> |  | <b>0</b> |  |
| <b>0</b> |  | <b>1</b> |  | <b>0</b> |  | <b>1</b> |  |

*Thank you!*

*Next lecture:  
Virtual memory*