Cache Memories

15-213/14-513/15-513: Introduction to Computer Systems 10th Lecture, September 29, 2022

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Today

Cache memory organization and operation

Performance impact of caches

- The memory mountain
- Rearranging loops to improve spatial locality
- Using blocking to improve temporal locality

Recall: Locality

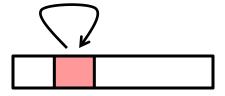
Principle of Locality: Programs tend to use data and instructions with addresses near or equal to those they have used recently

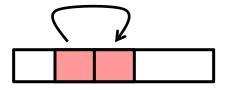
Temporal locality:

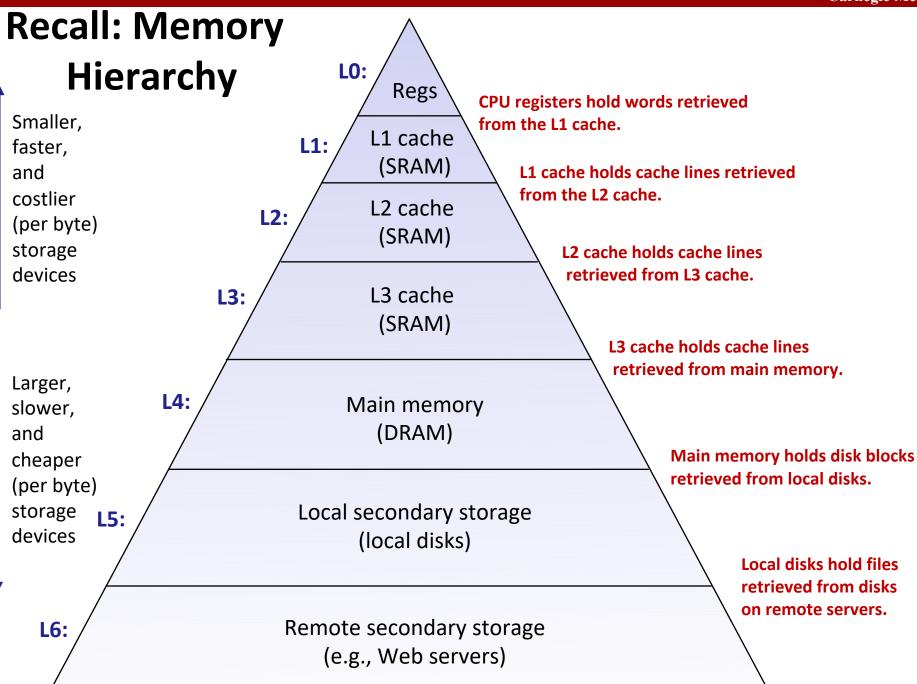
 Recently referenced items are likely to be referenced again in the near future

Spatial locality:

 Items with nearby addresses tend to be referenced close together in time

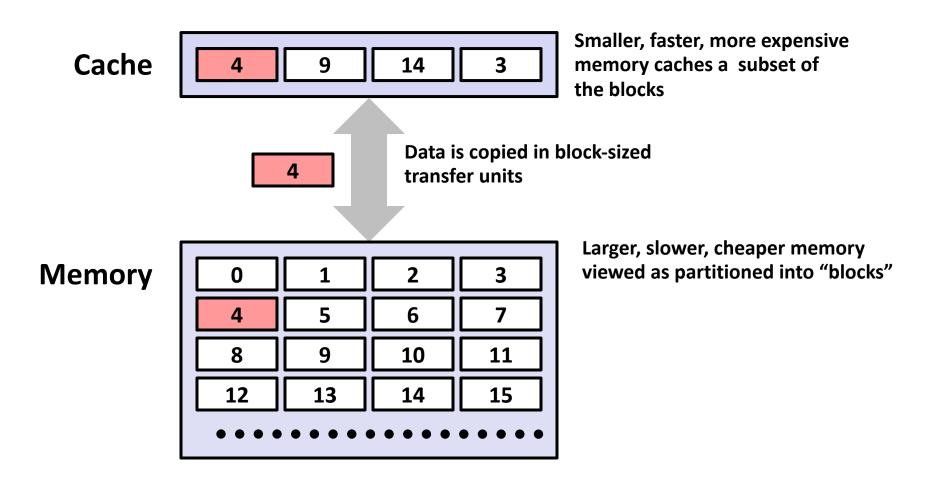




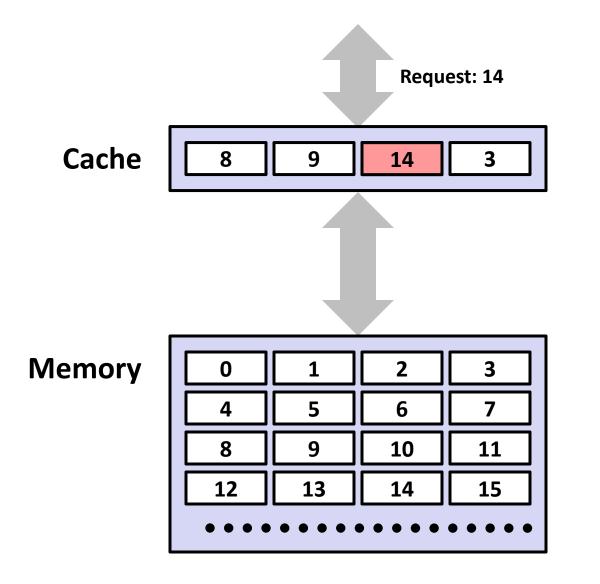


Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

Recall: General Cache Concepts



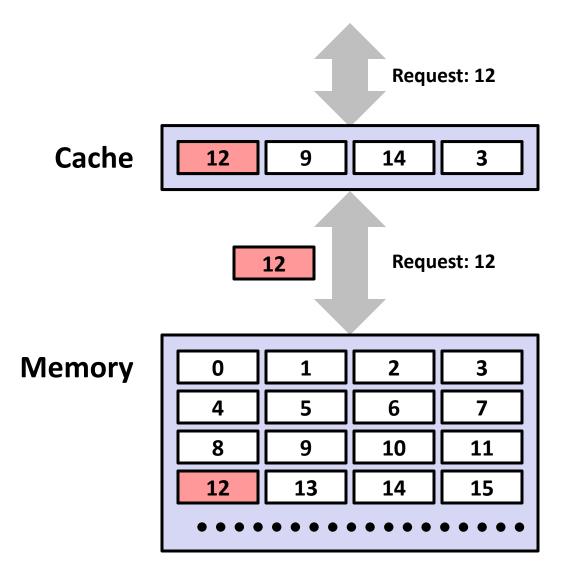
General Cache Concepts: Hit



Data in block b is needed

Block b is in cache: Hit!

General Cache Concepts: Miss



Data in block b is needed

Block b is not in cache: Miss!

Block b is fetched from memory

Block b is stored in cache

- Placement policy: determines where b goes
- Replacement policy: determines which block gets evicted (victim)

Recall: General Caching Concepts: 3 Types of Cache Misses

Cold (compulsory) miss

 Cold misses occur because the cache starts empty and this is the first reference to the block.

Capacity miss

 Occurs when the set of active cache blocks (working set) is larger than the cache.

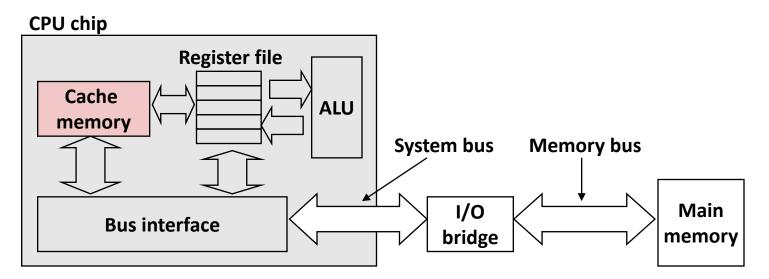
Conflict miss

- Most caches limit blocks at level k+1 to a small subset (sometimes a singleton) of the block positions at level k.
 - E.g. Block i at level k+1 must be placed in block (i mod 4) at level k.
- Conflict misses occur when the level k cache is large enough, but multiple data objects all map to the same level k block.
 - E.g. Referencing blocks 0, 8, 0, 8, 0, 8, ... would miss every time.

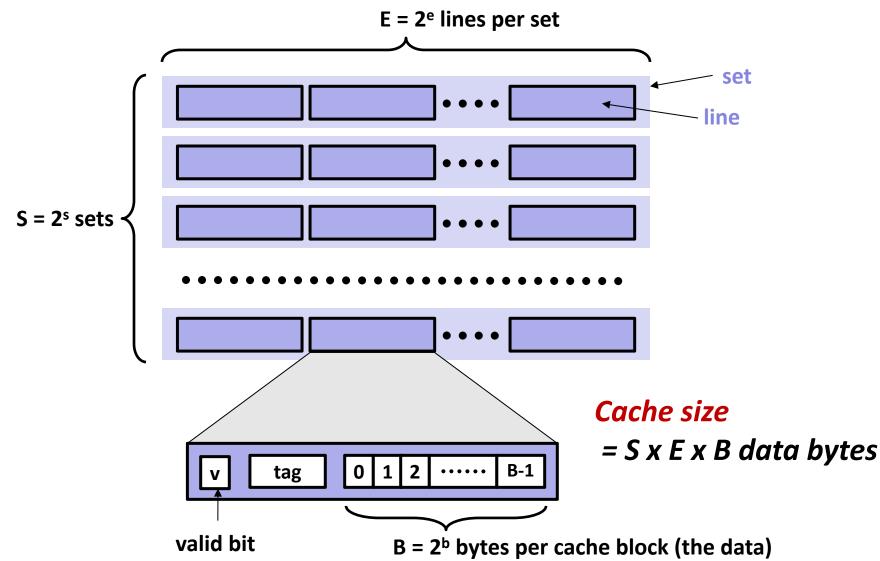
Cache Memories

Cache memories are small, fast SRAM-based memories managed automatically in hardware

- Hold frequently accessed blocks of main memory
- CPU looks first for data in cache
- Typical system structure:



General Cache Organization (S, E, B)

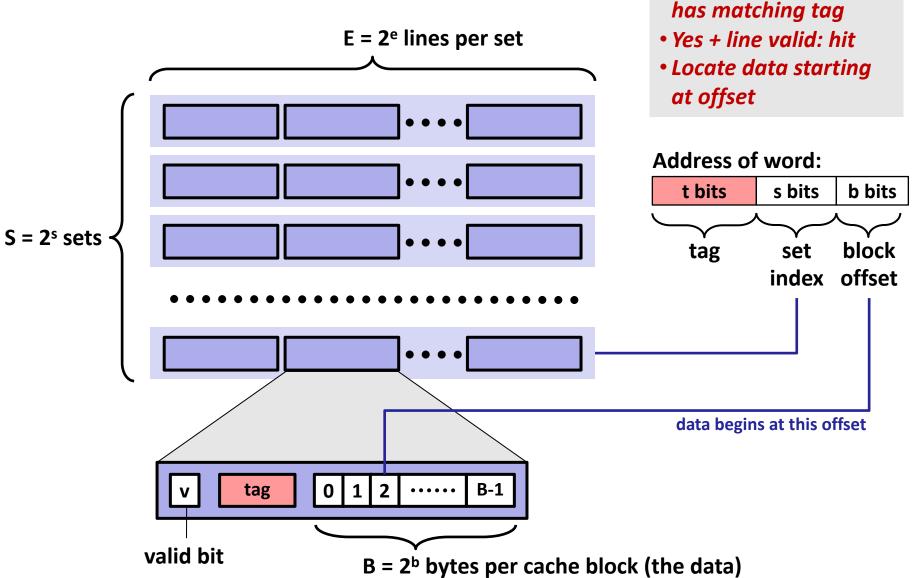


Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

• Locate set

• Check if any line in set

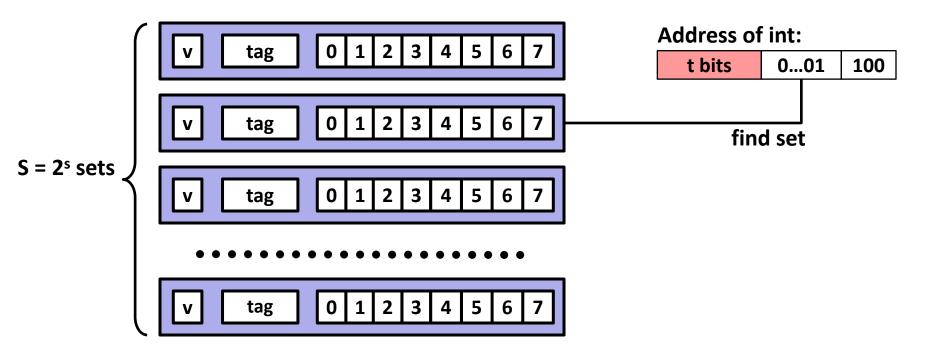
Cache Read



Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

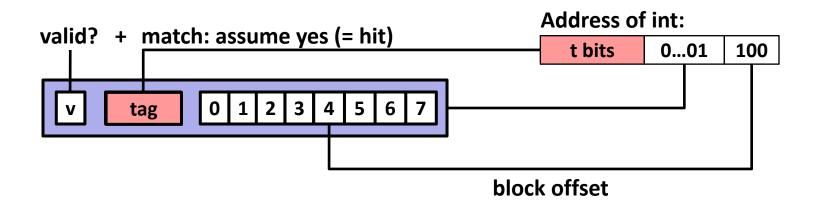
Example: Direct Mapped Cache (E = 1)

Direct mapped: One line per set Assume: cache block size B=8 bytes



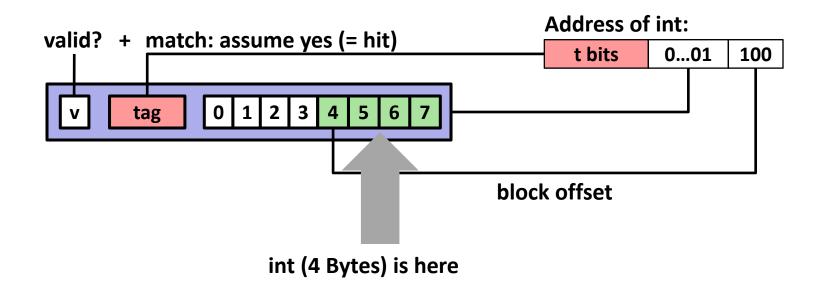
Example: Direct Mapped Cache (E = 1)

Direct mapped: One line per set Assume: cache block size B=8 bytes



Example: Direct Mapped Cache (E = 1)

Direct mapped: One line per set Assume: cache block size B=8 bytes



If tag doesn't match (= miss): old line is evicted and replaced

Direct-Mapped Cache Simulation

t=1	s=2	b=1
X	XX	X

4-bit addresses (address space size M=16 bytes) S=4 sets, E=1 Blocks/set, B=2 bytes/block

Address trace (reads, one byte per read):

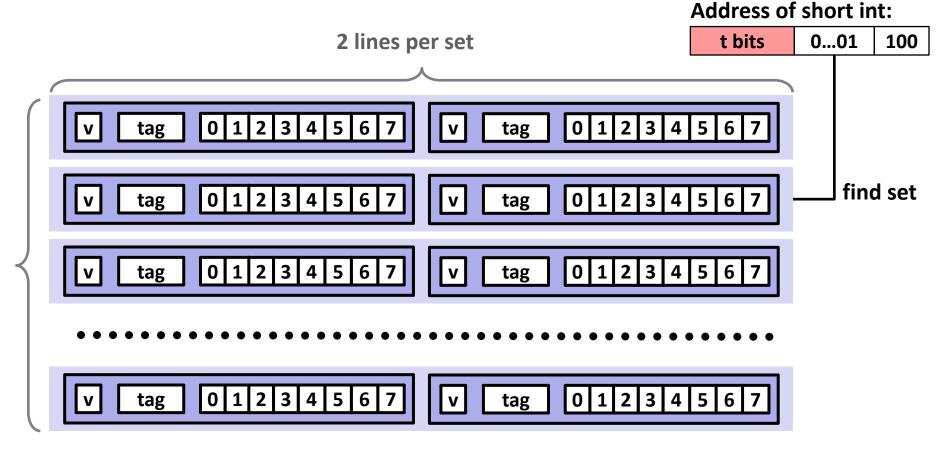
0	[<mark>000</mark> 0 ₂],	miss
1	[<mark>000</mark> 1 ₂],	hit
7	[0 <u>11</u> 1 ₂],	miss
8	[<mark>1<u>00</u>0₂],</mark>	miss
0	[<mark>000</mark> 0 ₂]	miss

	V	Tag	Block
Set 0	1	0	M[0-1]
Set 1	0		
Set 2	0		
Set 3	1	0	M[6-7]

E-way Set Associative Cache (Here: E = 2)

E = 2: Two lines per set

Assume: cache block size B=8 bytes



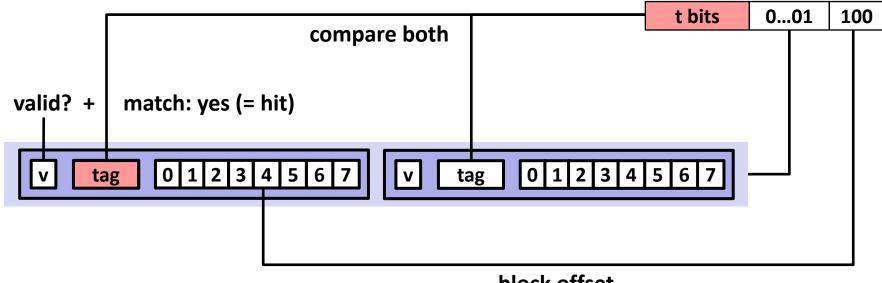
S sets

E-way Set Associative Cache (Here: E = 2)

E = 2: Two lines per set

Assume: cache block size B=8 bytes

Address of short int:



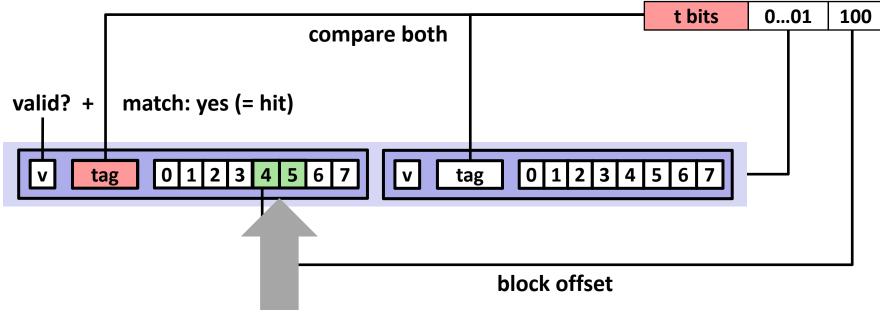
block offset

E-way Set Associative Cache (Here: E = 2)

E = 2: Two lines per set

Assume: cache block size B=8 bytes

Address of short int:

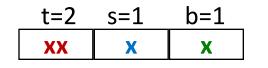


short int (2 Bytes) is here

No match or not valid (= miss):

- One line in set is selected for eviction and replacement
- Replacement policies: random, least recently used (LRU), ...

2-Way Set Associative Cache Simulation



4-bit addresses (M=16 bytes) S=2 sets, E=2 blocks/set, B=2 bytes/block

Address trace (reads, one byte per read):

0	[<mark>000</mark> 0 ₂],	miss
1	[<mark>000</mark> 1 ₂],	hit
7	[<mark>011</mark> 1 ₂],	miss
8	[<mark>100</mark> 0 ₂],	miss
0	[<mark>000</mark> 0 ₂]	hit

	V	Tag	Block
Set 0	1	00	M[0-1]
	1	10	M[8-9]
	1	01	M[6-7]

Set 1

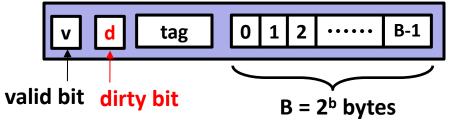
0

What about writes?

- Multiple copies of data exist:
 - L1, L2, L3, Main Memory, Disk
- What to do on a write-hit?
 - Write-through (write immediately to memory)
 - Write-back (defer write to memory until replacement of line)
 - Each cache line needs a dirty bit (set if data has been written to)

What to do on a write-miss?

- Write-allocate (load into cache, update line in cache)
 - Good if more writes to the location will follow
- No-write-allocate (writes straight to memory, does not load into cache)
- Typical
 - Write-through + No-write-allocate
 - Write-back + Write-allocate



Practical Write-back Write-allocate

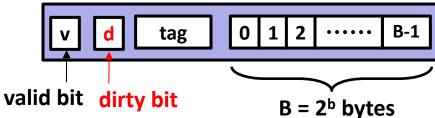
- A write to address X is issued
- If it is a hit
 - Update the contents of block
 - Set dirty bit to 1 (bit is sticky and only cleared on eviction)

If it is a miss

- Fetch block from memory (per a read miss)
- The perform the write operations (per a write hit)

If a line is evicted and dirty bit is set to 1

- The entire block of 2^b bytes are written back to memory
- Dirty bit is cleared (set to 0)
- Line is replaced by new contents



Why Index Using Middle Bits?

Direct mapped: One line per set Assume: cache block size 8 bytes

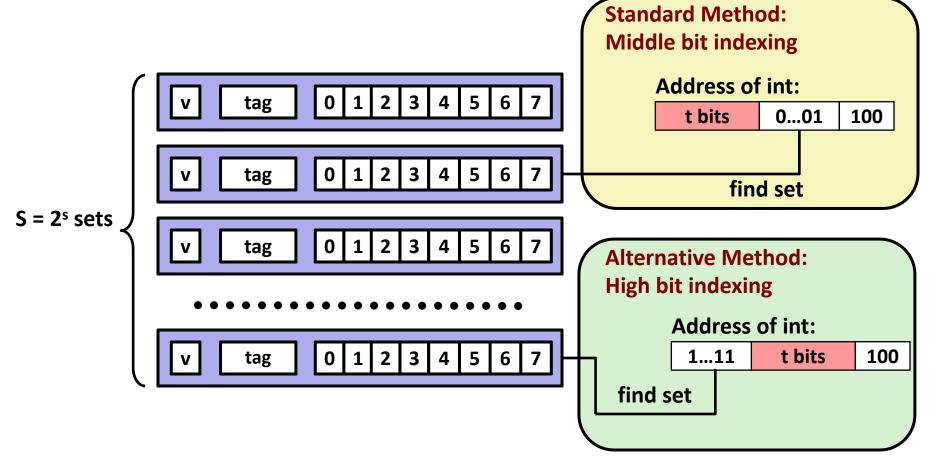
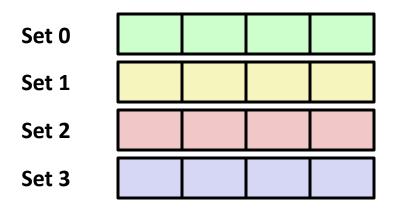
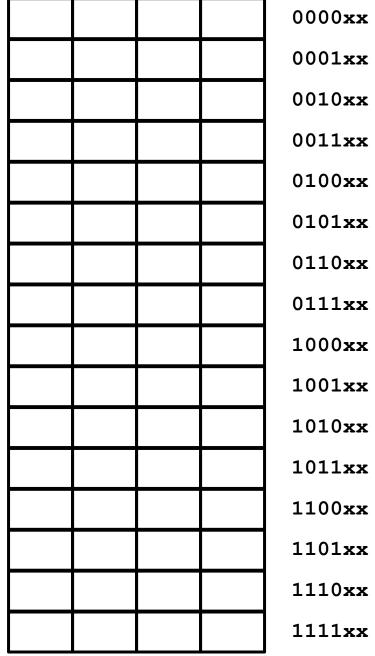


Illustration of Indexing Approaches

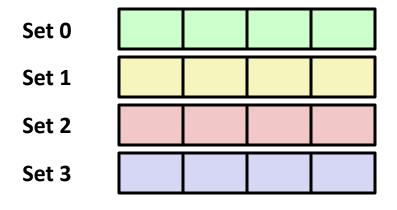
- 64-byte memory
 - 6-bit addresses
- 16 byte, direct-mapped cache
- Block size = 4. (Thus, 4 sets; why?)
- 2 bits tag, 2 bits index, 2 bits offset

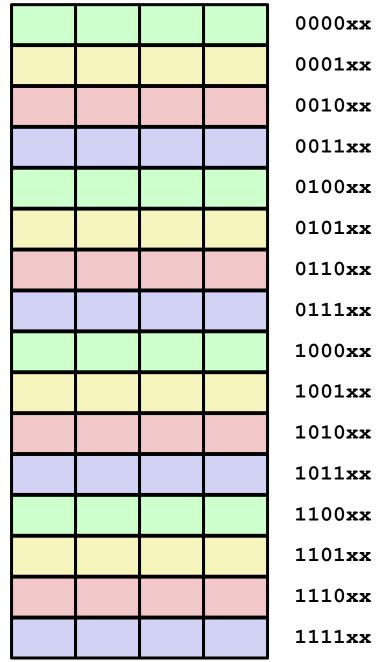




Middle Bit Indexing

- Addresses of form TTSSBB
 - **TT** Tag bits
 - SS Set index bits
 - BB Offset bits
- Makes good use of spatial locality

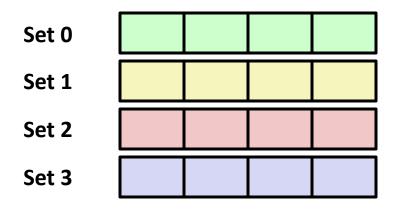


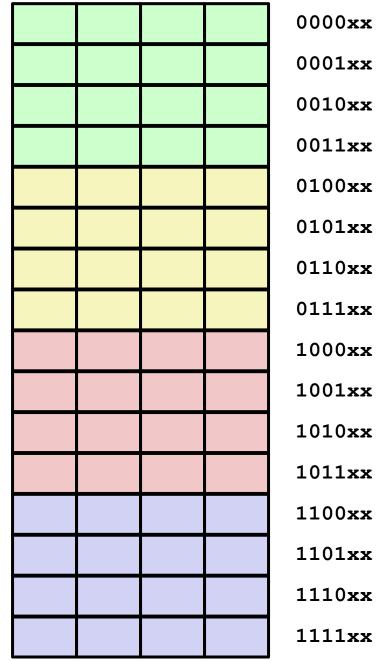


High Bit Indexing

Addresses of form SSTTBB

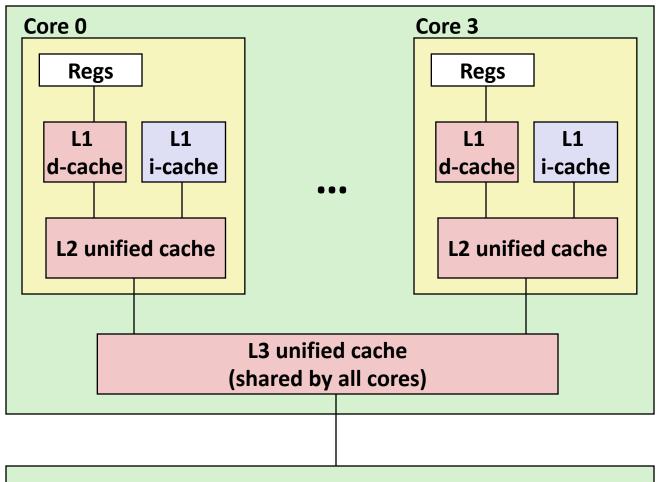
- SS Set index bits
- **TT** Tag bits
- BB Offset bits
- Program with high spatial locality would generate lots of conflicts





Intel Core i7 Cache Hierarchy

Processor package



Main memory

L1 i-cache and d-cache: 32 KB, 8-way, Access: 4 cycles

L2 unified cache: 256 KB, 8-way, Access: 10 cycles

L3 unified cache: 8 MB, 16-way, Access: 40-75 cycles

Block size: 64 bytes for all caches.

Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

Cache Performance Metrics

Miss Rate

- Fraction of memory references not found in cache (misses / accesses)
 = 1 hit rate
- Typical numbers (in percentages):
 - 3-10% for L1
 - can be quite small (e.g., < 1%) for L2, depending on size, etc.

Hit Time

- Time to deliver a line in the cache to the processor
 - includes time to determine whether the line is in the cache
- Typical numbers:
 - 4 clock cycle for L1
 - 10 clock cycles for L2

Miss Penalty

- Additional time required because of a miss
 - typically 50-200 cycles for main memory (Trend: increasing!)

Let's think about those numbers

Huge difference between a hit and a miss

Could be 100x, if just L1 and main memory

Would you believe 99% hits is twice as good as 97%?

- Consider this simplified example: cache hit time of 1 cycle miss penalty of 100 cycles
- Average access time:

97% hits: 1 cycle + 0.03 x 100 cycles = 4 cycles

99% hits: 1 cycle + 0.01 x 100 cycles = 2 cycles

This is why "miss rate" is used instead of "hit rate"

Writing Cache Friendly Code

- Make the common case go fast
 - Focus on the inner loops of the core functions
- Minimize the misses in the inner loops
 - Repeated references to variables are good (temporal locality)
 - Stride-1 reference patterns are good (spatial locality)

Key idea: Our qualitative notion of locality is quantified through our understanding of cache memories

Quiz

https://canvas.cmu.edu/courses/30386/quizzes

Today

Cache organization and operation

Performance impact of caches

- The memory mountain
- Rearranging loops to improve spatial locality
- Using blocking to improve temporal locality

The Memory Mountain

- Read throughput (read bandwidth)
 - Number of bytes read from memory per second (MB/s)
- Memory mountain: Measured read throughput as a function of spatial and temporal locality.
 - Compact way to characterize memory system performance.

Memory Mountain Test Function

```
long data[MAXELEMS]; /* Global array to traverse */
/* test - Iterate over first "elems" elements of
          array "data" with stride of "stride",
 *
          using 4x4 loop unrolling.
 *
 */
int test(int elems, int stride) {
    long i, sx2=stride*2, sx3=stride*3, sx4=stride*4;
    long acc0 = 0, acc1 = 0, acc2 = 0, acc3 = 0;
    long length = elems, limit = length - sx4;
    /* Combine 4 elements at a time */
    for (i = 0; i < limit; i += sx4) {</pre>
        acc0 = acc0 + data[i];
        acc1 = acc1 + data[i+stride];
        acc2 = acc2 + data[i+sx2];
        acc3 = acc3 + data[i+sx3];
    }
    /* Finish any remaining elements */
    for (; i < length; i++) {</pre>
        acc0 = acc0 + data[i];
    return ((acc0 + acc1) + (acc2 + acc3));
                               mountain/mountain.c
```

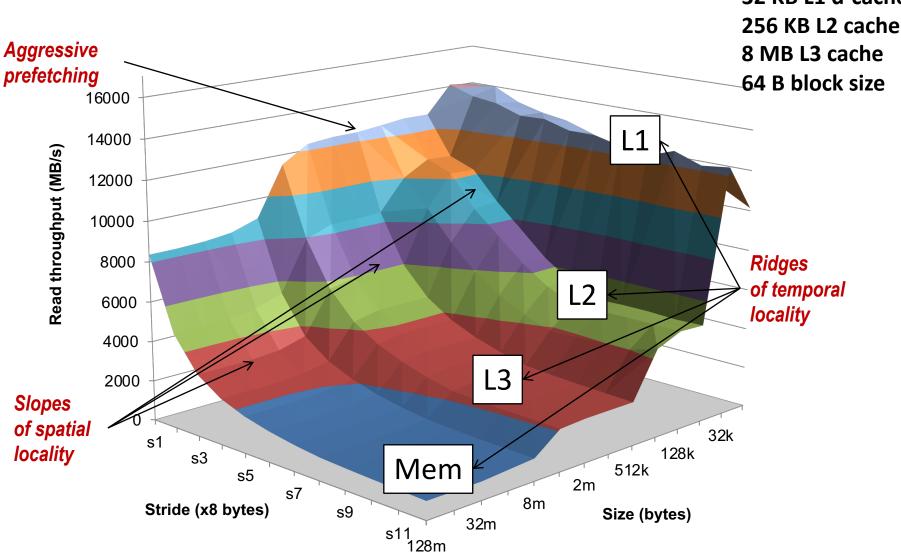
Call test() with many combinations of elems and stride.

For each elems and stride:

1. Call test() once to warm up the caches.

2. Call test() again and measure the read throughput(MB/s)



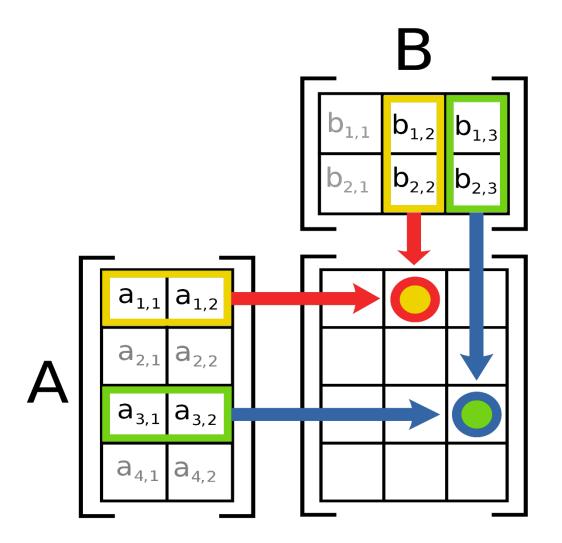


The Memory Mountain

Today

- Cache organization and operation
- Performance impact of caches
 - The memory mountain
 - Rearranging loops to improve spatial locality
 - Using blocking to improve temporal locality

Remember matrix multiplication



```
Out[i, j] =
dot product(A[i, ..], B[..,j])
= sum (
a[i, 0] * b[0, j],
a[l, 1] * b[1, j]
```

Matrix Multiplication Example

Description:

- Multiply N x N matrices
- Matrix elements are doubles (8 bytes)
- O(N³) total operations
- N reads per source element
- N values summed per destination
 - but may be able to hold in register

/* ijk */ Variable sum held in register for (i=0; i<n; i++) { for (j=0; j<n; j++) { sum = 0.0; { for (k=0; k<n; k++) sum += a[i][k] * b[k][j]; c[i][j] = sum; } } matmult/mm.c

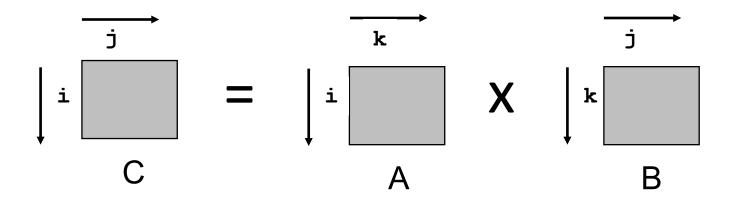
Miss Rate Analysis for Matrix Multiply

Assume:

- Block size = 32B (big enough for four doubles)
- Matrix dimension (N) is very large
 - Approximate 1/N as 0.0
- Cache is not even big enough to hold multiple rows

Analysis Method:

Look at access pattern of inner loop



Layout of C Arrays in Memory (review)

C arrays allocated in row-major order

- each row in contiguous memory locations
- a[i][j] = a[i*N + j] where N is the number of columns

Stepping through columns in one row:

for (i = 0; i < N; i++)</pre>

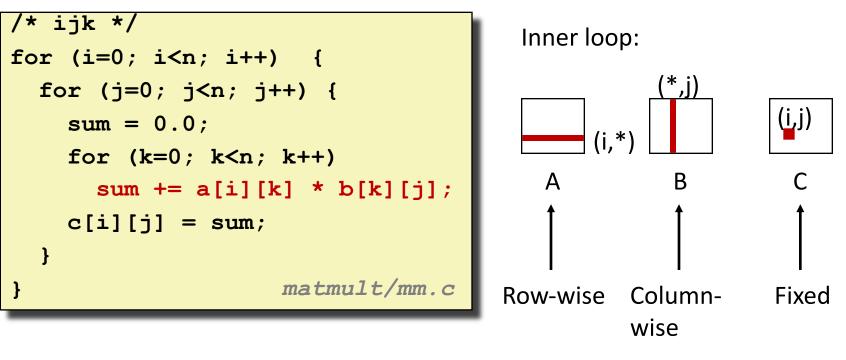
sum += a[0][i];

- accesses successive elements
- if block size (B) > sizeof(a_{ij}) bytes, exploit spatial locality
 - miss rate = sizeof(a_{ij}) / B
- Stepping through rows in one column:

sum += a[i][0];

- accesses distant elements
- no spatial locality!
 - miss rate = 1 (i.e. 100%)

Matrix Multiplication (ijk)



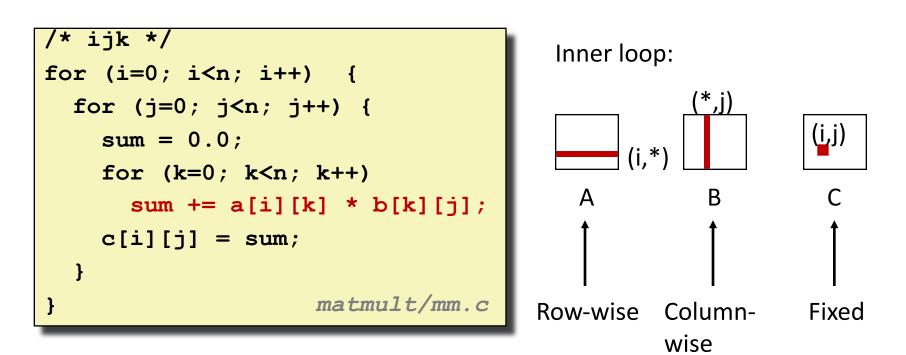
Miss rate for inner loop iterations:

<u>B</u>

Block size = 32B (four doubles)

Α

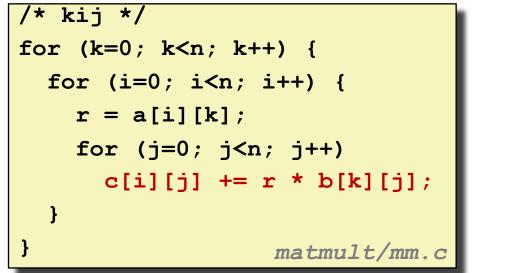
Matrix Multiplication (ijk)

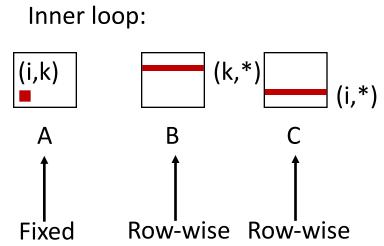


Miss rate for inner loop iterations:

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>
0.25	1.0	0.0

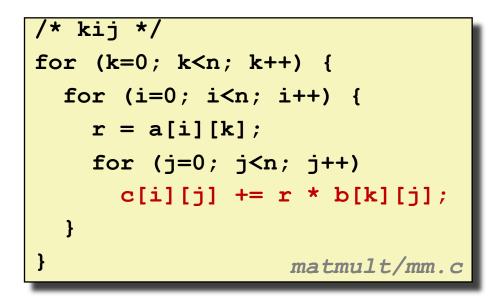
Matrix Multiplication (kij)

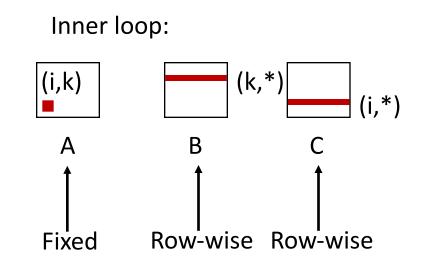




$\frac{\text{Miss rate for inner loop iterations:}}{\underline{A}} \qquad \underline{B} \qquad \underline{C}$

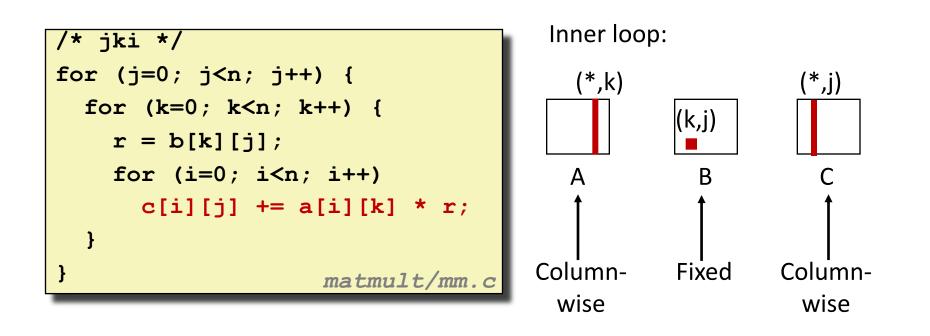
Matrix Multiplication (kij)





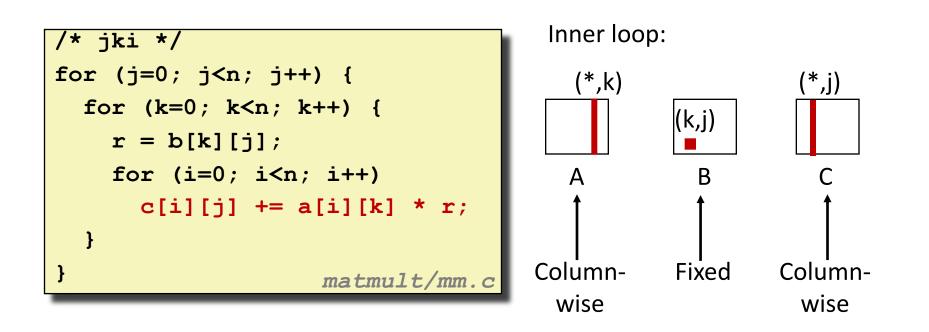
Miss rate for inner loop iterations:ABC0.00.250.25

Matrix Multiplication (jki)



Miss rate for inner loop iterations:ABC

Matrix Multiplication (jki)



$\begin{array}{c|c} \underline{\text{Miss rate for inner loop iterations:}} \\ \underline{\underline{A}} & \underline{\underline{B}} & \underline{\underline{C}} \\ 1.0 & 0.0 & 1.0 \end{array}$

Summary of Matrix Multiplication

```
for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
  for (j=0; j<n; j++) {
    sum = 0.0;
    for (k=0; k<n; k++)
        sum += a[i][k] * b[k][j];
    c[i][j] = sum;
  }
}</pre>
```

```
for (k=0; k<n; k++) {
  for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
    r = a[i][k];
    for (j=0; j<n; j++)
      c[i][j] += r * b[k][j];
}</pre>
```

```
for (j=0; j<n; j++) {
  for (k=0; k<n; k++) {
    r = b[k][j];
    for (i=0; i<n; i++)
        c[i][j] += a[i][k] * r;
}</pre>
```

ijk(&jik):

- 2 loads, 0 stores
- avg misses/iter = 1.25

```
kij(&ikj):
```

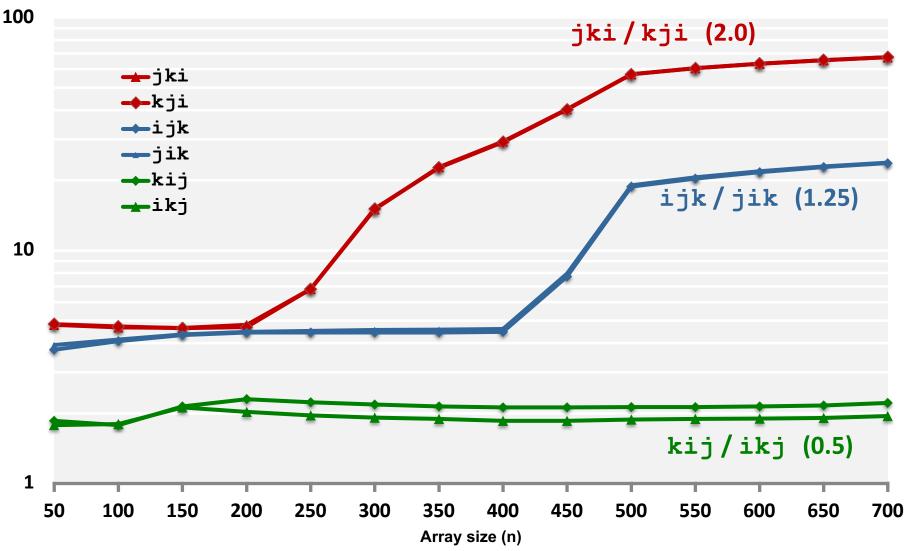
- 2 loads, 1 store
- avg misses/iter = 0.5

jki (& kji):

- 2 loads, 1 store
- avg misses/iter = 2.0

Core i7 Matrix Multiply Performance

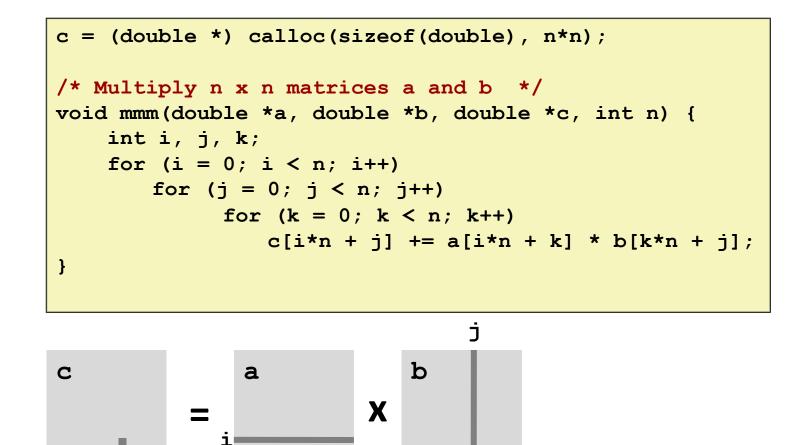
Cycles per inner loop iteration



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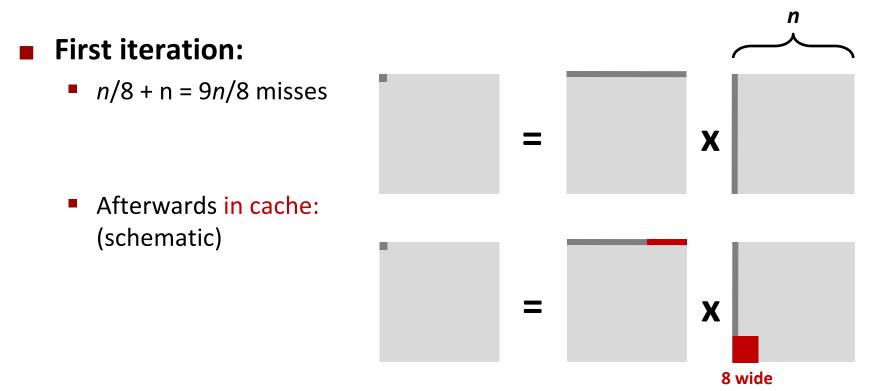
Example: Matrix Multiplication



Cache Miss Analysis

Assume:

- Matrix elements are doubles
- Cache block = 8 doubles
- Cache size C << n (much smaller than n)</p>



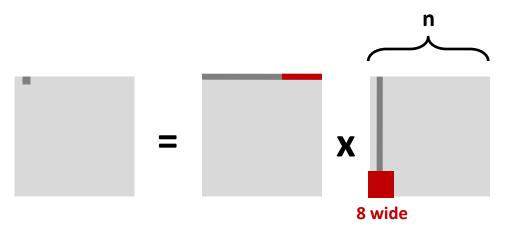
Cache Miss Analysis

Assume:

- Matrix elements are doubles
- Cache block = 8 doubles
- Cache size C << n (much smaller than n)</p>

Second iteration:

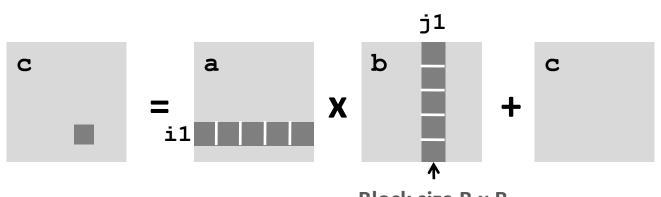
Again:
 n/8 + n = 9n/8 misses



Total misses:

• $9n/8 n^2 = (9/8) n^3$

Blocked Matrix Multiplication

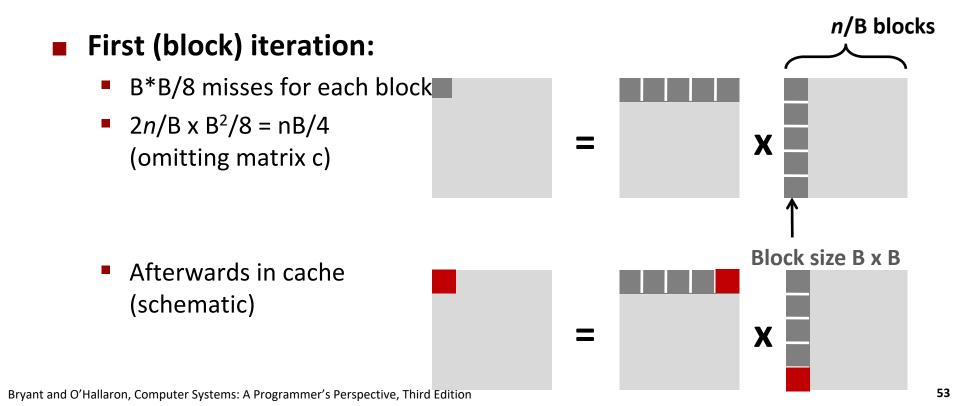


Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective Block size B x B

Cache Miss Analysis

Assume:

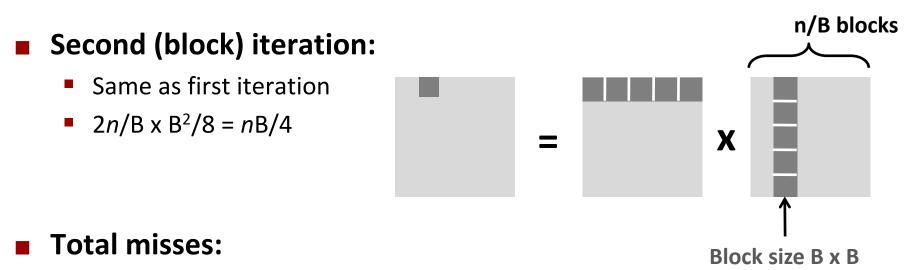
- Cache block = 8 doubles
- Cache size C << n (much smaller than n)
- Three blocks fit into cache: 3B² < C</p>



Cache Miss Analysis

Assume:

- Cache block = 8 doubles
- Cache size C << n (much smaller than n)</p>
- Three blocks fit into cache: 3B² < C



• $nB/4 * (n/B)^2 = n^3/(4B)$

Blocking Summary

- No blocking: (9/8) n³ misses
- Blocking: (1/(4B)) n³ misses

Use largest block size B, such that B satisfies 3B² < C</p>

Fit three blocks in cache! Two input, one output.

Reason for dramatic difference:

- Matrix multiplication has inherent temporal locality:
 - Input data: 3n², computation 2n³
 - Every array elements used O(n) times!
- But program has to be written properly

Cache Summary

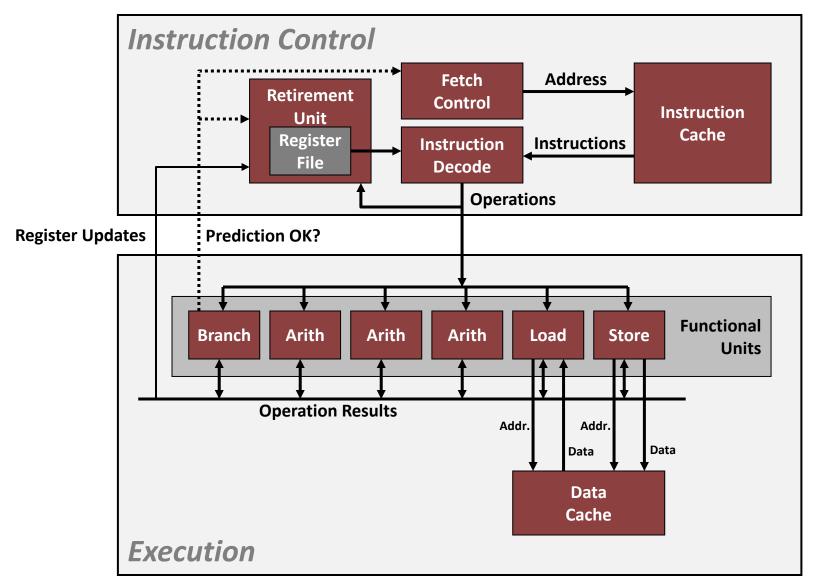
Cache memories can have significant performance impact

You can write your programs to exploit this!

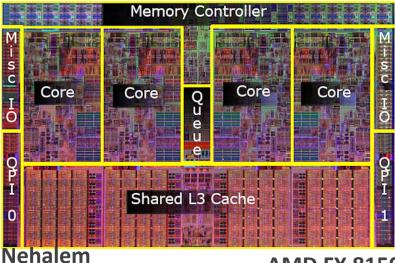
- Focus on the inner loops, where bulk of computations and memory accesses occur.
- Try to maximize spatial locality by reading data objects sequentially with stride 1.
- Try to maximize temporal locality by using a data object as often as possible once it's read from memory.

Supplemental slides

Recall: Modern CPU Design



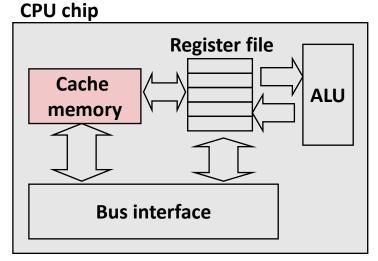
What it Really Looks Like



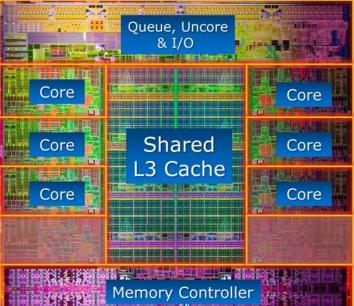
AMD FX 8150



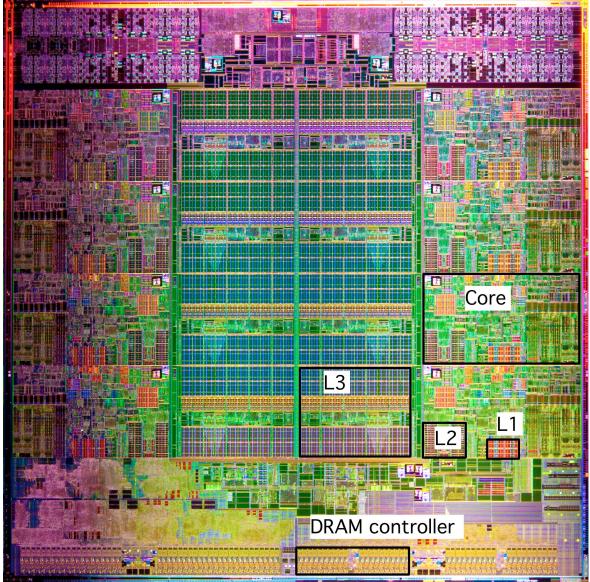




Core i7-3960X



What it Really Looks Like (Cont.)



Intel Sandy Bridge Processor Die

L1: 32KB Instruction + 32KB Data L2: 256KB L3: 3–20MB

Why Index Using Middle Bits?

Direct mapped: One line per set Assume: cache block size 8 bytes

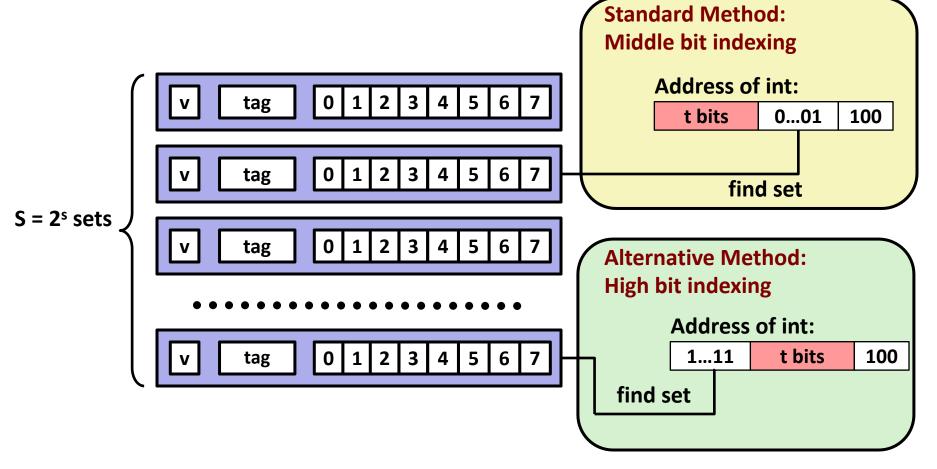
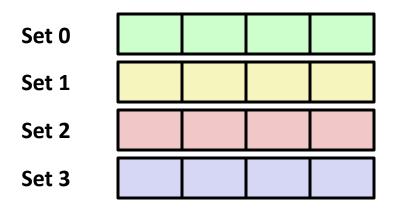
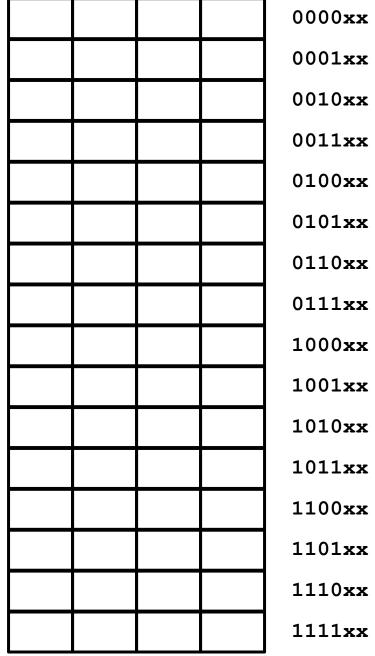


Illustration of Indexing Approaches

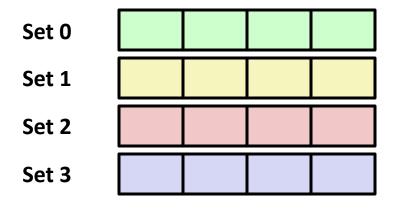
- 64-byte memory
 - 6-bit addresses
- 16 byte, direct-mapped cache
- Block size = 4. (Thus, 4 sets; why?)
- 2 bits tag, 2 bits index, 2 bits offset

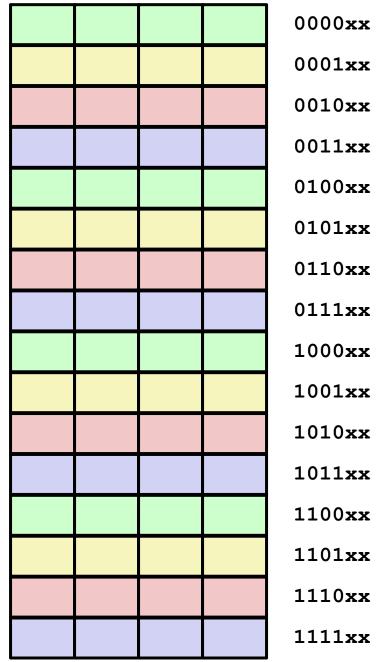




Middle Bit Indexing

- Addresses of form TTSSBB
 - **TT** Tag bits
 - SS Set index bits
 - BB Offset bits
- Makes good use of spatial locality

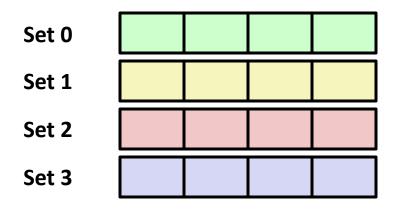


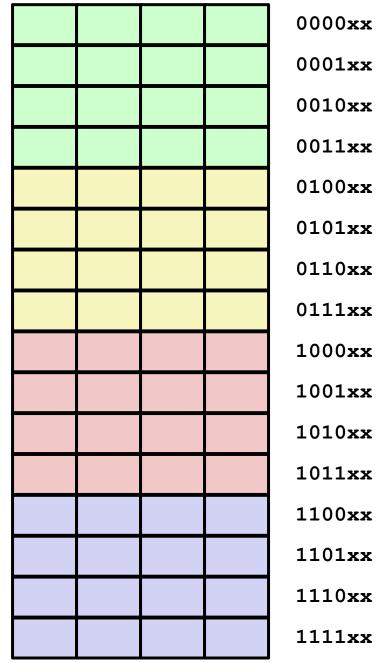


High Bit Indexing

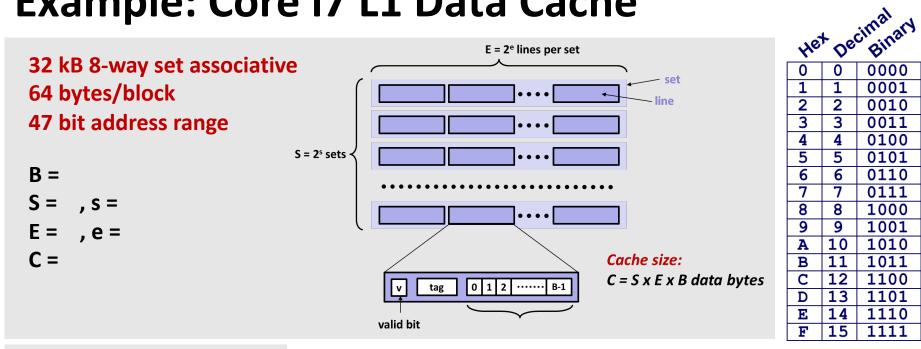
Addresses of form SSTTBB

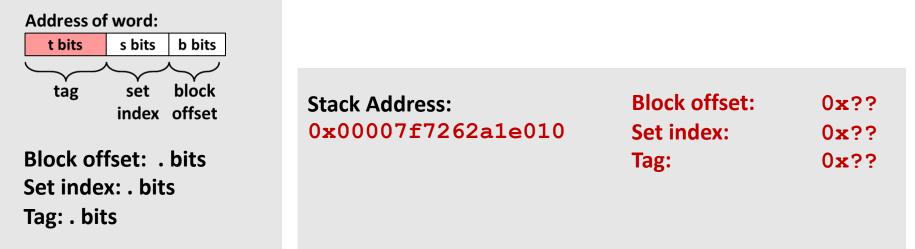
- SS Set index bits
- **TT** Tag bits
- BB Offset bits
- Program with high spatial locality would generate lots of conflicts





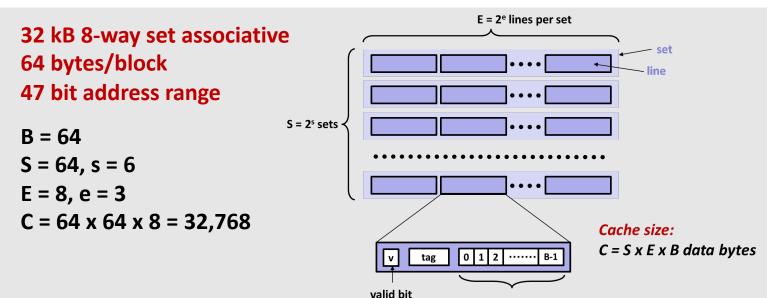
Example: Core i7 L1 Data Cache



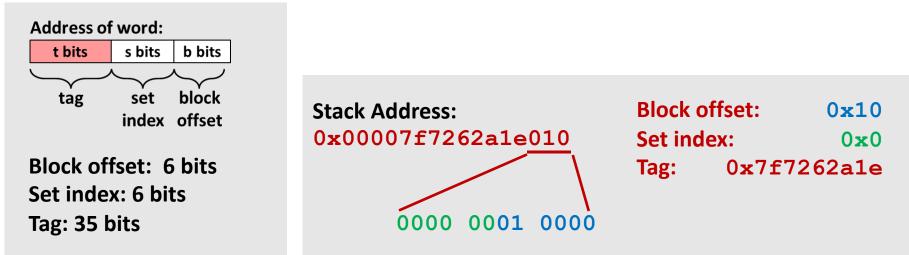


 $\mathbf{\lambda}$

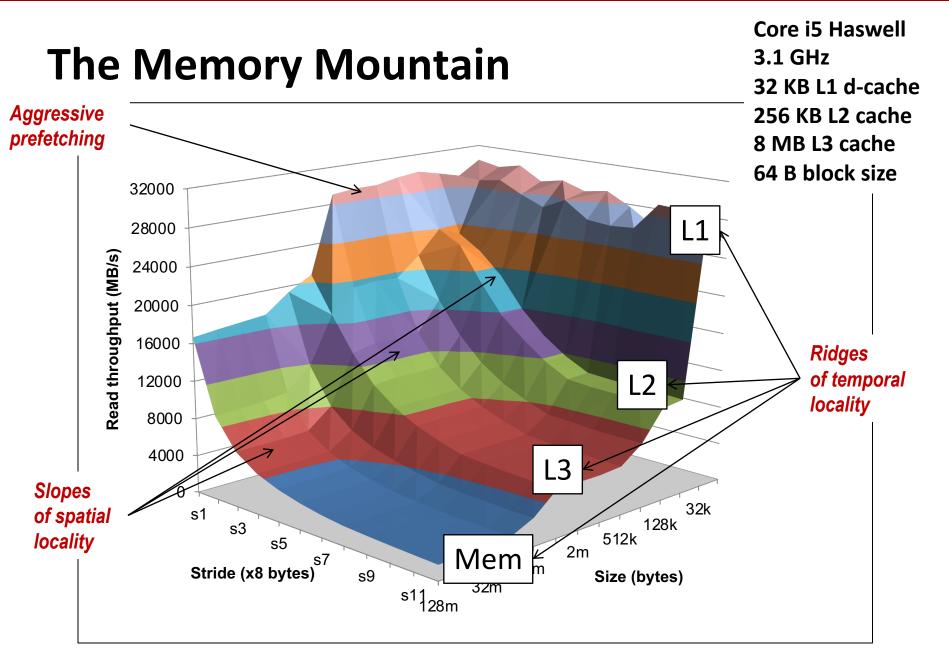
Example: Core i7 L1 Data Cache



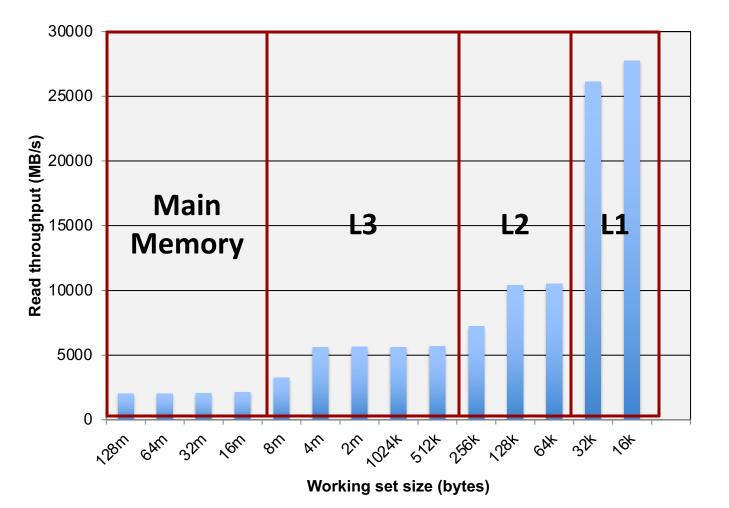
		imant	
Hex Decimanary			
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		0000	
1	1	0001	
2	2	0010	
3	3	0011	
4	0 1 2 3 4 5	0100	
5	5	0101	
6	6	0110	
7	6 7 8	0111	
8	8	1000	
	9	1001	
Α	10	1010	
В	11	1011	
B C D	12	1100	
D	13	1101	
Е	14	1110	
F	15	1111	







Cache Capacity Effects from Memory Mountain



Core i7 Haswell 3.1 GHz 32 KB L1 d-cache 256 KB L2 cache 8 MB L3 cache 64 B block size

Slice through memory mountain with stride=8

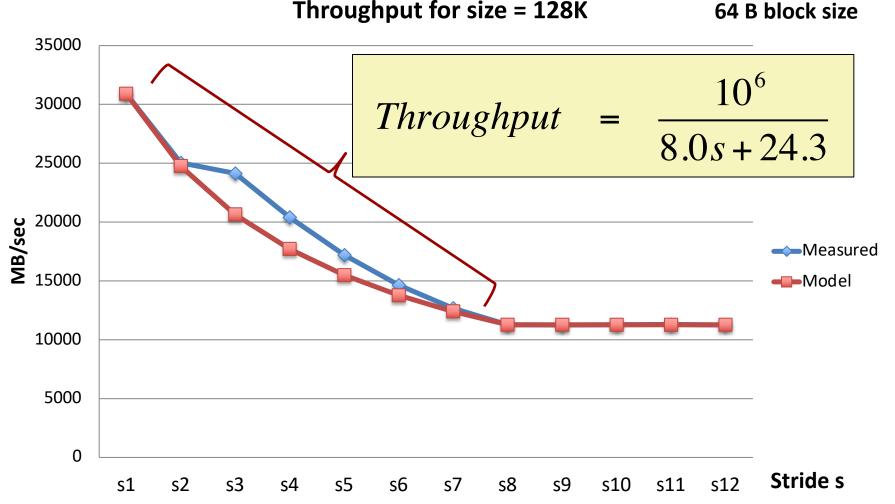
Core i7 Haswell 2.26 GHz 32 KB L1 d-cache 256 KB L2 cache 8 MB L3 cache 64 B block size

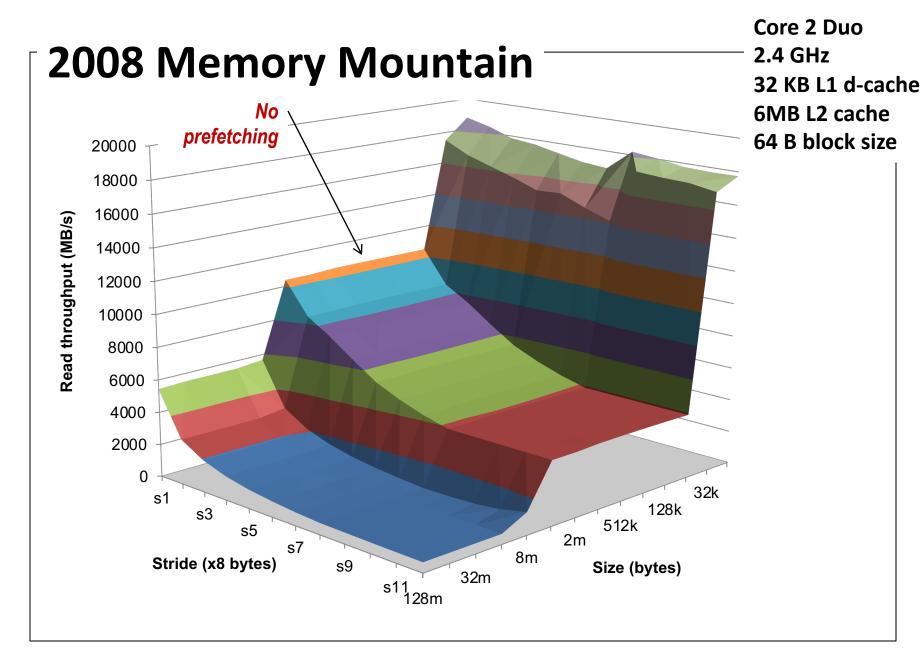


Throughput for size = 128K

Modeling Block Size Effects from Memory Mountain

Core i7 Haswell 2.26 GHz 32 KB L1 d-cache 256 KB L2 cache 8 MB L3 cache 64 B block size





Matrix Multiplication (jik)

```
/* jik */
for (j=0; j<n; j++) {
  for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
    sum = 0.0;
    for (k=0; k<n; k++)
        sum += a[i][k] * b[k][j];
        c[i][j] = sum
    }
}    matmult/mm.c</pre>
```

Inner loop: $(i,*) \qquad (i,*) \qquad (i,j) \qquad$

Block size = 32B (four doubles)

0.25

Misses per inner loop iteration:

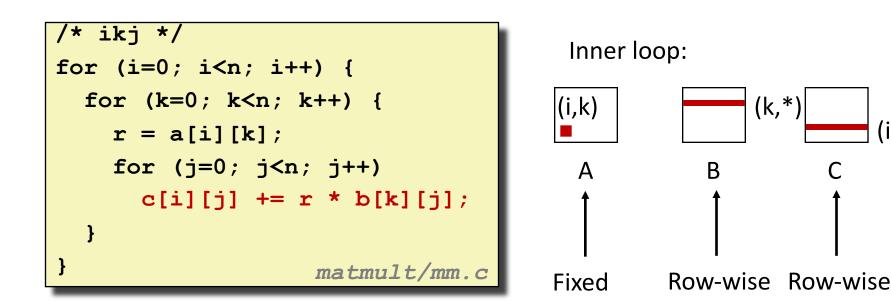
<u>B</u>

1.0

0.0

(i,*)

Matrix Multiplication (ikj)



Misses per inner loop iteration:ABC0.00.250.25

Matrix Multiplication (kji)

