Memory-Centric Computing in the Big Data Era

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8 August 2019

FMS Special Session Invited Talk

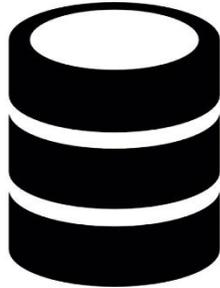**SAFARI**　　　**ETH** *zürich*　　　**Carnegie Mellon**

The Problem

Computing
is Bottlenecked by Data

Data is Key for AI, ML, Genomics, …

- **Important workloads are all data intensive**

- **They require rapid and efficient processing of large amounts of data**

- **Data is increasing**
  - We can generate more than we can process
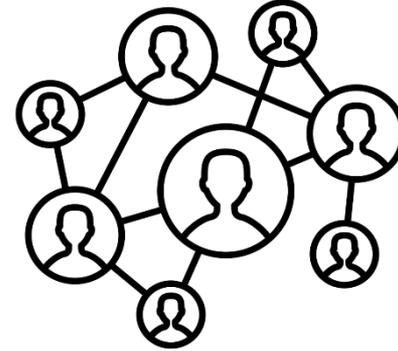
Data is Key for Future Workloads

In-memory Databases

[Mao+, EuroSys'12;
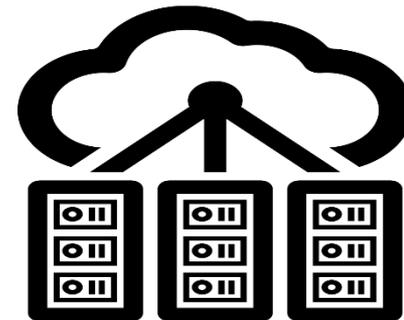 Clapp+ (**Intel**), IISWC'15]

Graph/Tree Processing

[Xu+, IISWC'12; Umuroglu+,
FPL'15]

In-Memory Data Analytics
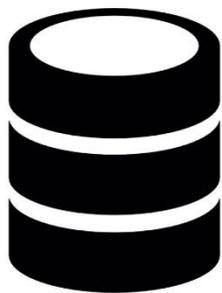
[Clapp+ (**Intel**), IISWC'15;
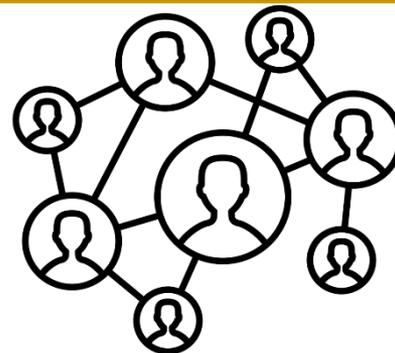   Awan+, BDCloud'15]

Datacenter Workloads

[Kanev+ (**Google**), ISCA'15]

Data Overwhelms Modern Machines

In-memory Databases

Graph/Tree Processing

Data → performance & energy bottleneck

In-Memory Data Analytics
[Clapp+ (**Intel**), IISWC'15;
Awan+, BDCloud'15]
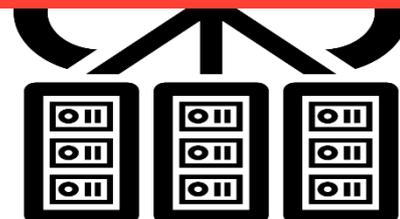
Datacenter Workloads
[Kanev+ (**Google**), ISCA'15]

Data is Key for Future Workloads

Chrome
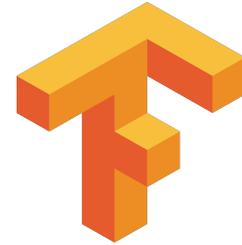
Google's web browser

TensorFlow Mobile

Google's machine learning framework

Video Playback

Google's video codec

Video Capture

Google's video codec

Data Overwhelms Modern Machines
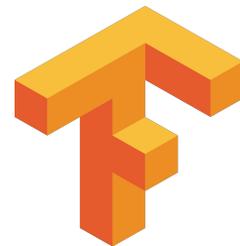
Chrome

TensorFlow Mobile

Data → performance & energy bottleneck

Video Playback

Google's **video codec**

Video Capture

Google's **video codec**

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Data is Key for Future Workloads

Cost per Raw Megabase of DNA Sequence
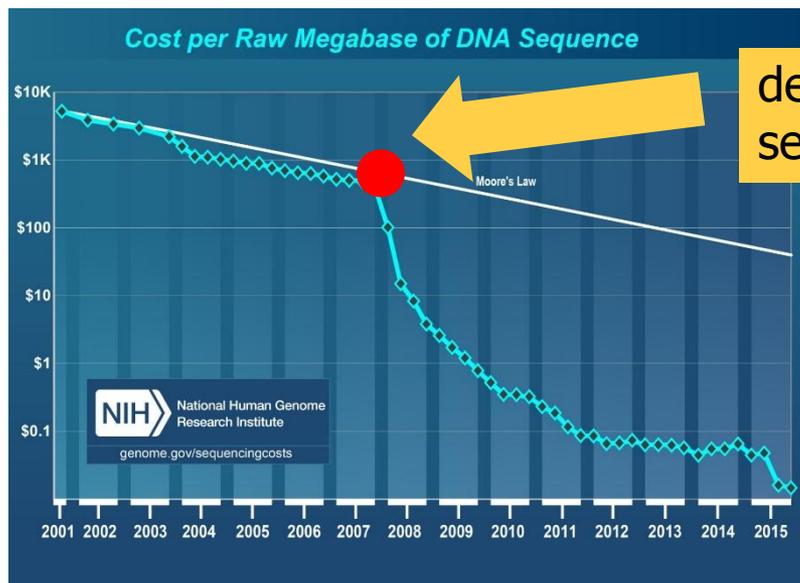
development of high-throughput sequencing (HTS) technologies

Number of Genomes Sequenced

229,000 — 2014
422,000 — 2015
952,000 — 2016
1,620,000 — 2017

Source: Illumina

Genome Analysis

1 **Sequencing**

2 **Read Mapping**

Data → performance & energy bottleneck

3 **Variant Calling**

4 **Scientific Discovery**
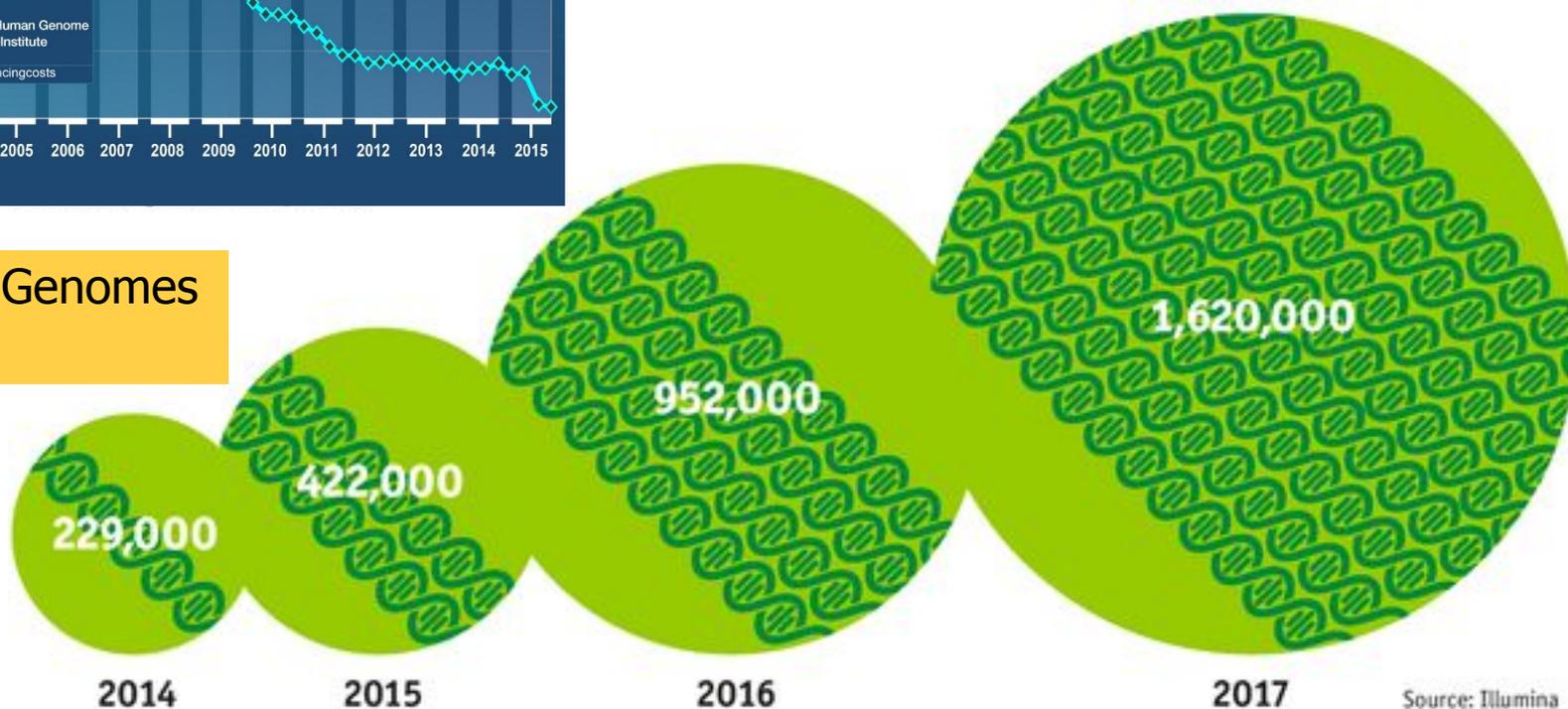
New Genome Sequencing Technologies

Nanopore sequencing technology and tools for genome assembly: computational analysis of the current state, bottlenecks and future directions

Damla Senol Cali ✉, Jeremie S Kim, Saugata Ghose, Can Alkan, Onur Mutlu

Briefings in Bioinformatics, bby017, https://doi.org/10.1093/bib/bby017

Published: 02 April 2018   **Article history** ▾

Oxford Nanopore MinION

Data → performance & energy bottleneck

Data Overwhelms Modern Machines …

- Storage/memory capability

- Communication capability

- Computation capability

- Greatly impacts robustness, energy, performance, cost

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A Computing System

- Three key components
- Computation
- Communication
- Storage/memory

Burks, Goldstein, von Neumann, "Preliminary discussion of the logical design of an electronic computing instrument," 1946.

Computing System

| Computing Unit | ↔ | Communication Unit | ↔ | Memory/Storage Unit |

| Memory System | Storage System |

SAFAR
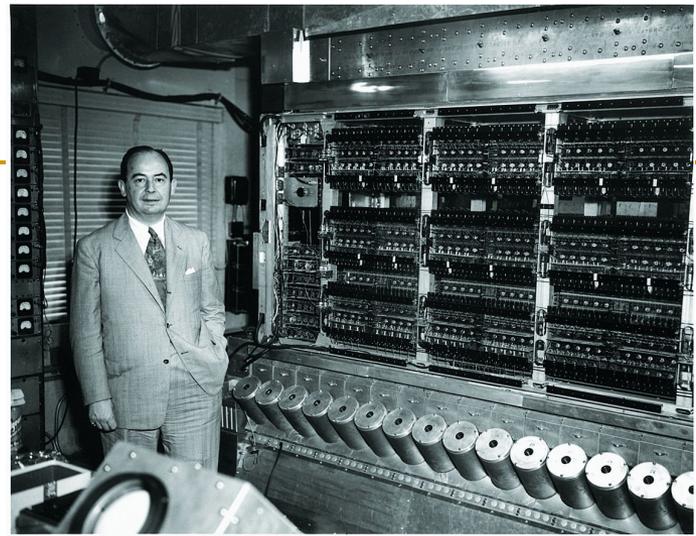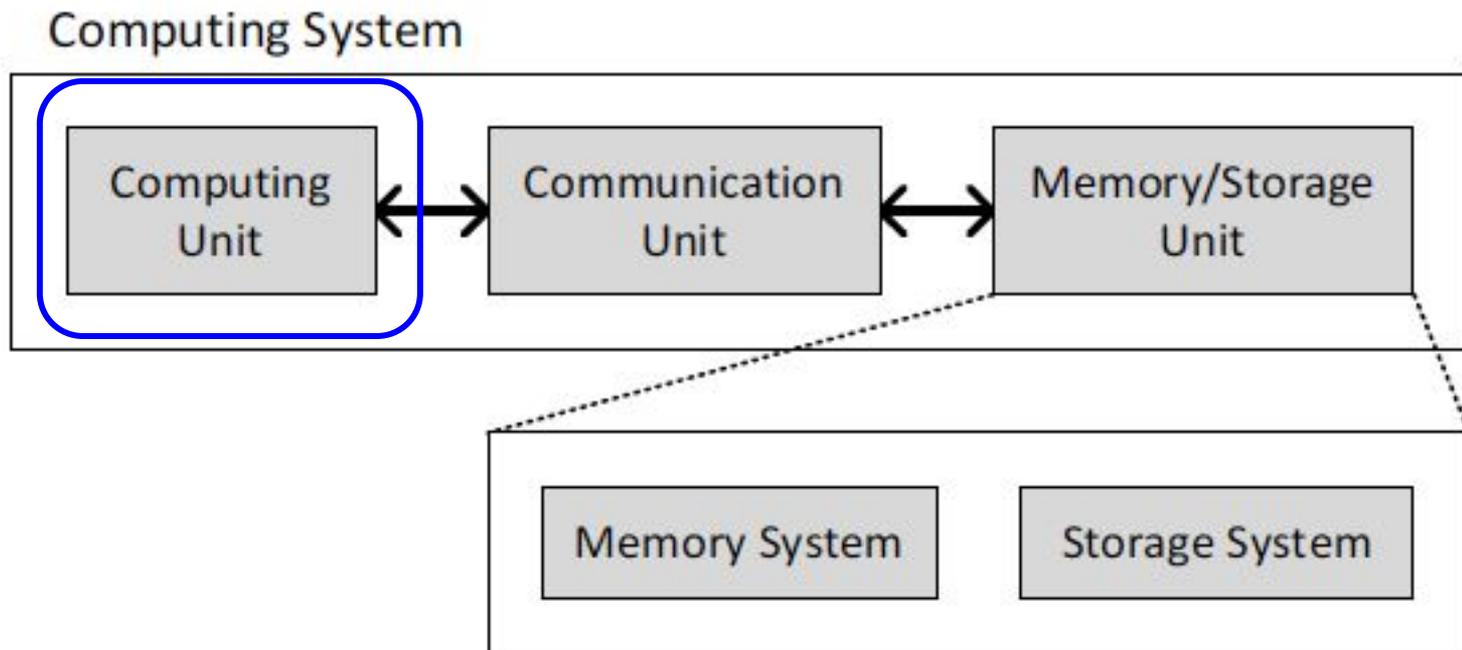
Perils of Processor-Centric Design
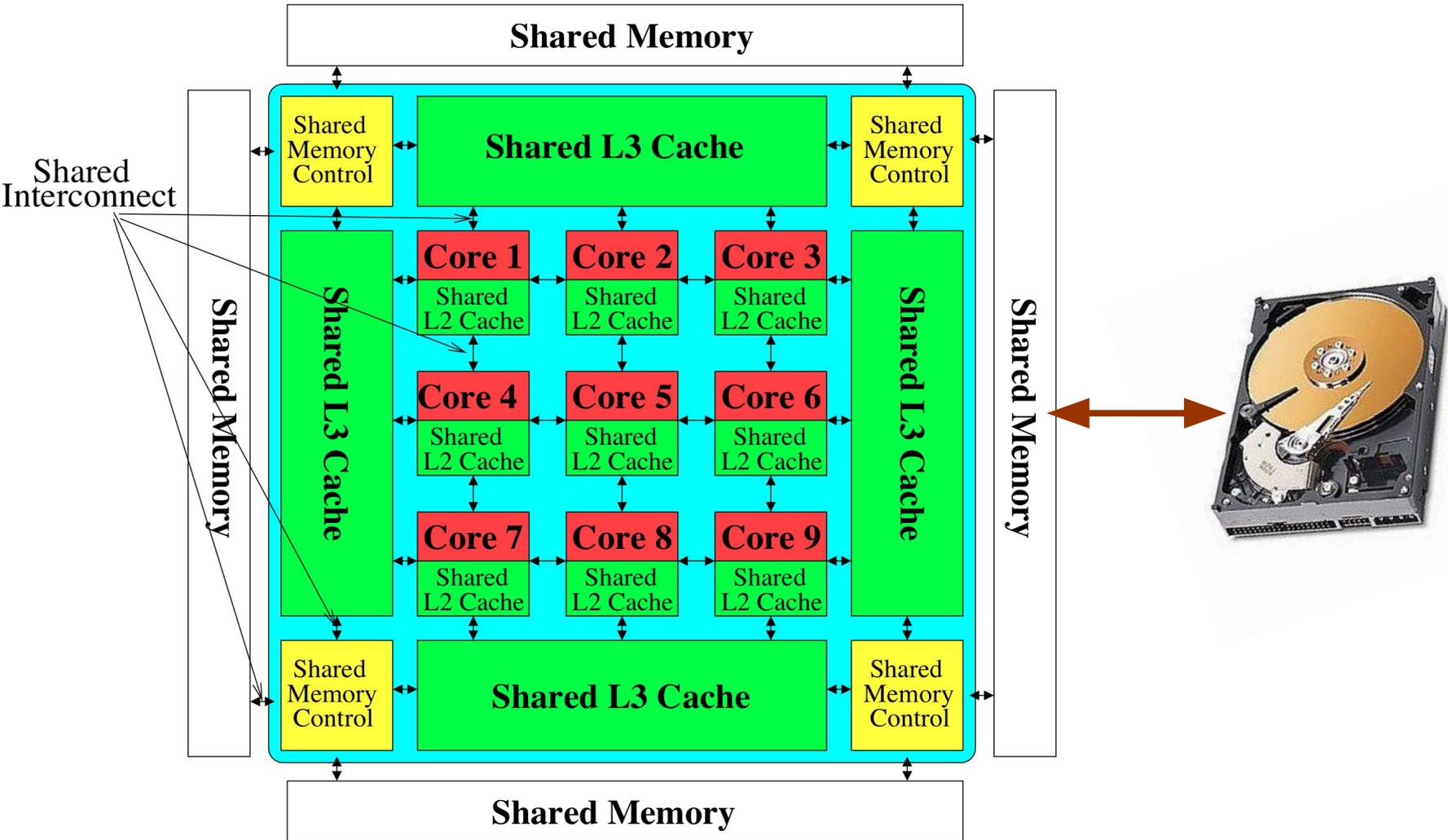
Most of the system is dedicated to storing and moving data

Data Overwhelms Modern Machines
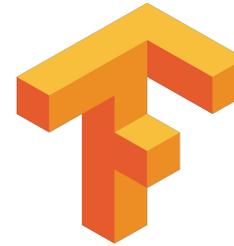
Chrome

TensorFlow Mobile

Data → performance & energy bottleneck

Video Playback

Google's **video codec**

Video Capture

Google's **video codec**

Data Movement Overwhelms Modern Machines

62.7% of the total system energy is spent on data movement

Google Workloads for Consumer Devices: Mitigating Data Movement Bottlenecks

Amirali Boroumand[1]   Saugata Ghose[1]   Youngsok Kim[2]

Rachata Ausavarungnirun[1]   Eric Shiu[3]   Rahul Thakur[3]   Daehyun Kim[4,3]

Aki Kuusela[3]   Allan Knies[3]   Parthasarathy Ranganathan[3]   Onur Mutlu[5,1]

Prediction

Future Innovations Will Be Even More Bottlenecked by Data

Axiom

An Intelligent Architecture Handles Data Well

How to Handle Data Well

- Ensure data does not overwhelm the components
  - via intelligent algorithms
  - via intelligent architectures
  - via whole system designs: algorithm-architecture-devices

- Take advantage of vast amounts of data and metadata
  - to improve architectural & system-level decisions

- Understand and exploit properties of (different) data
  - to improve algorithms & architectures in various metrics

Corollaries: Architectures Today …

- Architectures are terrible at dealing with data
  - Designed to mainly store and move data vs. to compute
  - They are processor-centric as opposed to **data-centric**

- Architectures are terrible at taking advantage of vast amounts of data (and metadata) available to them
  - Designed to make simple decisions, ignoring lots of data
  - They make human-driven decisions vs. **data-driven** decisions

- Architectures are terrible at knowing and exploiting different properties of application data
  - Designed to treat all data as the same
  - They make component-aware decisions vs. **data-aware**

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Data-Centric (Memory-Centric) Architectures

Data-Centric Architectures: Properties

- **Process data where it resides** (where it makes sense)
  - Processing in and near memory structures

- **Low-latency and low-energy data access**
  - Low latency memory
  - Low energy memory

- **Low-cost data storage and processing**
  - High capacity memory at low cost: hybrid memory, compression

- **Intelligent data management**
  - Intelligent controllers handling robustness, security, cost

Processing Data
Where It Makes Sense

Why In-Memory Computation Today?

- **Push from Technology**
  - DRAM Scaling at jeopardy
    - ☐ Controllers close to DRAM
    - ☐ Industry open to new memory architectures

Why In-Memory Computation Today?

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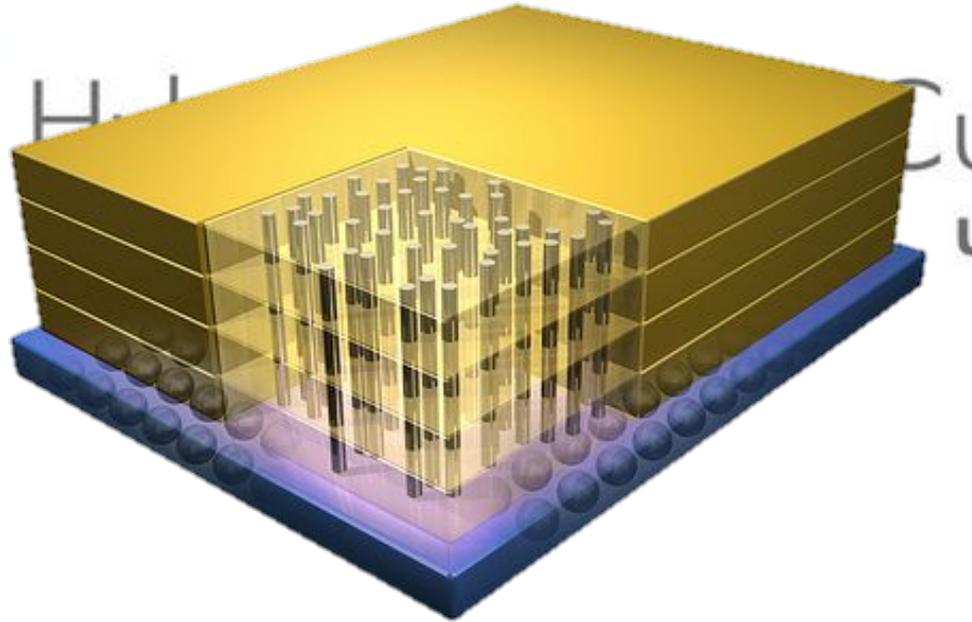
Memory Scaling Issues Were Real

- Onur Mutlu,
  "Memory Scaling: A Systems Architecture Perspective"
  Proceedings of the 5th International Memory Workshop (**IMW**), Monterey, CA, May 2013. Slides (pptx) (pdf)
  EETimes Reprint

Memory Scaling: A Systems Architecture Perspective

Onur Mutlu
Carnegie Mellon University
onur@cmu.edu
http://users.ece.cmu.edu/~omutlu/

https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/pub/memory-scaling_memcon13.pdf

One can
predictably induce errors
in most DRAM memory chips

Modern DRAM is Prone to Disturbance Errors

Row of Cells	Wordline
Victim Row	
Hammered *Opened* *Closed* *Row*	V_{HIGH} V_{LOW}
Victim Row	
Row	
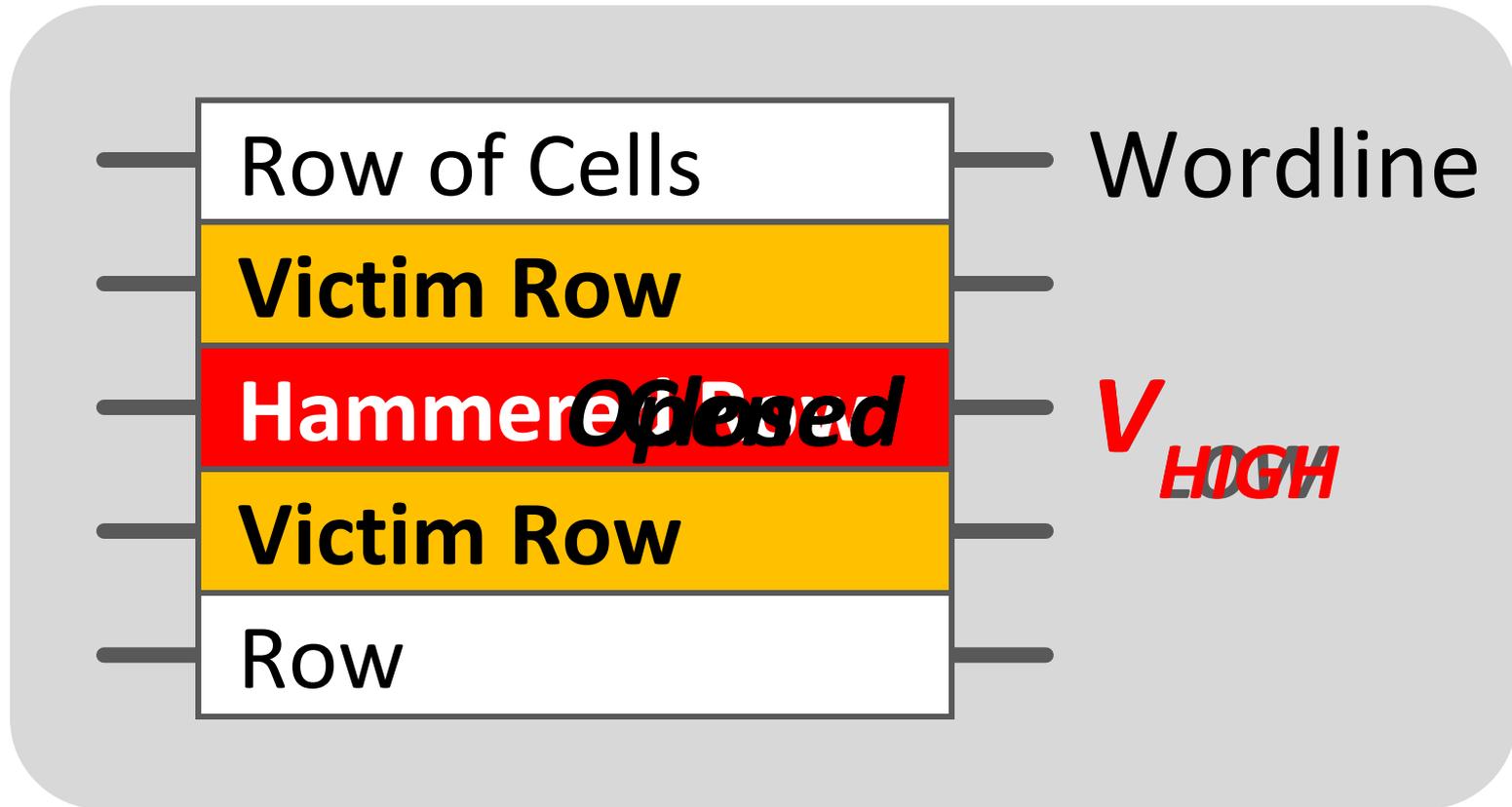
Repeatedly reading a row enough times (before memory gets refreshed) induces **disturbance errors** in **adjacent rows** in **most real DRAM chips you can buy today**

Flipping Bits in Memory Without Accessing Them: An Experimental Study of DRAM Disturbance Errors, (Kim et al., ISCA 2014)

Most DRAM Modules Are Vulnerable

A company
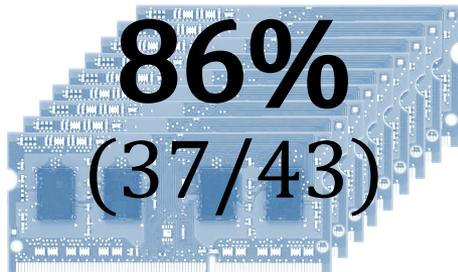
B company

C company

86%
(37/43)

83%
(45/54)

88%
(28/32)

Up to

Up to

Up to

1.0×10^7

2.7×10^6

3.3×10^5

errors

errors

errors

Flipping Bits in Memory Without Accessing Them: An Experimental Study of DRAM Disturbance Errors, (Kim et al., ISCA 2014)

28
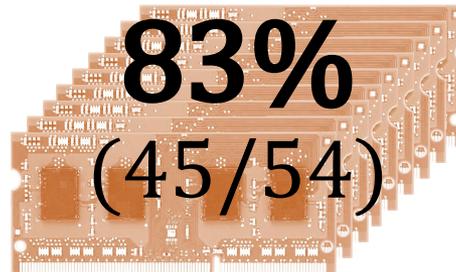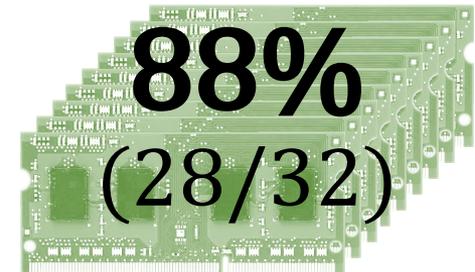
The Story of RowHammer

- One can predictably induce bit flips in commodity DRAM chips
  - >80% of the tested DRAM chips are vulnerable

- First example of how a simple hardware failure mechanism can create a widespread system security vulnerability

WIRED

Forget Software—Now Hackers Are Exploiting Physics

| BUSINESS | CULTURE | DESIGN | GEAR | SCIENCE |

ANDY GREENBERG SECURITY 08.31.16 7:00 AM

SHARE

SHARE
18276

TWEET

FORGET SOFTWARE—NOW HACKERS ARE EXPLOITING PHYSICS

Many Security Implications (I)

"We can gain unrestricted access to systems of website visitors."

Not there yet, but ...

www.iaik.tugraz.at

ROWHAMMERJS

ROOT privileges for web apps!

29 Daniel Gruss (@lavados), Clémentine Maurice (@BloodyTangerine),
December 28, 2015 — 32c3, Hamburg, Germany

Rowhammer.js: A Remote Software-Induced Fault Attack in JavaScript (DIMVA'16)

Many Security Implications (II)

"Can gain control of a smart phone deterministically"

Source: https://fossbytes.com/drammer-rowhammer-attack-android-root-devices/

Memory Scaling Issues **Are** Real

- Yoongu Kim, Ross Daly, Jeremie Kim, Chris Fallin, Ji Hye Lee, Donghyuk Lee, Chris Wilkerson, Konrad Lai, and Onur Mutlu,
"Flipping Bits in Memory Without Accessing Them: An Experimental Study of DRAM Disturbance Errors"
Proceedings of the 41st International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA), Minneapolis, MN, June 2014.
[Slides (pptx) (pdf)] [Lightning Session Slides (pptx) (pdf)] [Source Code and Data]

Flipping Bits in Memory Without Accessing Them: An Experimental Study of DRAM Disturbance Errors

Yoongu Kim[1]   Ross Daly*   Jeremie Kim[1]   Chris Fallin*   Ji Hye Lee[1]
Donghyuk Lee[1]   Chris Wilkerson[2]   Konrad Lai   Onur Mutlu[1]

[1]Carnegie Mellon University   [2]Intel Labs

More on RowHammer

- Onur Mutlu and Jeremie Kim,
  "RowHammer: A Retrospective"
  IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems (**TCAD**) *Special Issue on Top Picks in Hardware and Embedded Security*, 2019.
  [Preliminary arXiv version]

RowHammer: A Retrospective

Onur Mutlu[§‡]   Jeremie S. Kim[‡§]
[§]ETH Zürich   [‡]Carnegie Mellon University

The Push from Circuits and Devices

The Push from Circuits and Devices

Main Memory Needs
Intelligent Controllers

Why In-Memory Computation Today?

Push from Technology
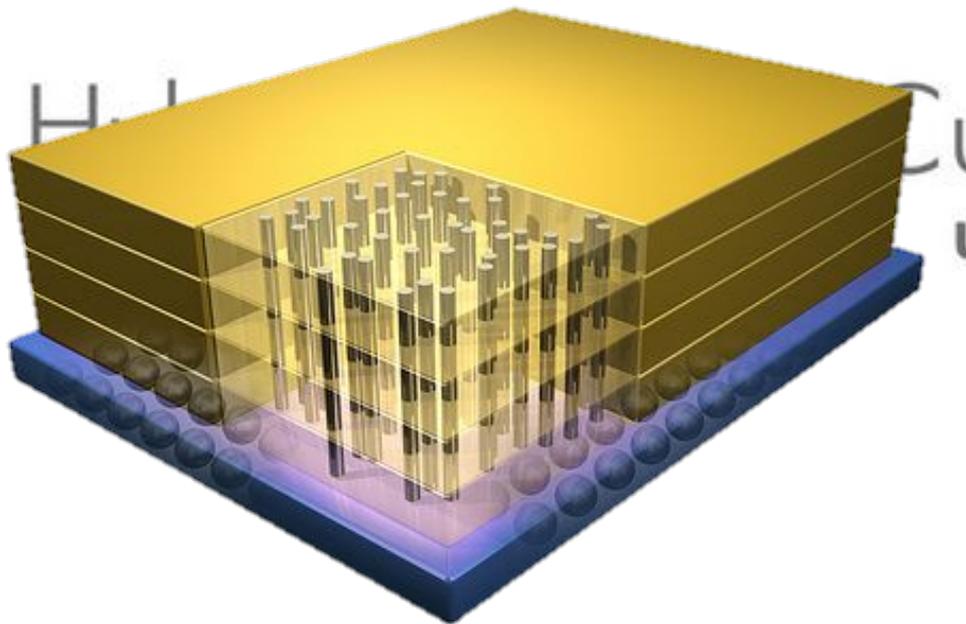
- **Pull from Systems and Applications**
  - Data access is a major system and application bottleneck
  - Systems are energy limited
  - Data movement much more energy-hungry than computation

Do We Want This?

Source: V. Milutinovic

Or This?

Source: V. Milutinovic

High Performance, Energy Efficient, Sustainable

The Problem

Data access is the major performance and energy bottleneck

Our current

design principles

cause great energy waste

(and great performance loss)

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The Problem

Processing of data
is performed
far away from the data

A Computing System
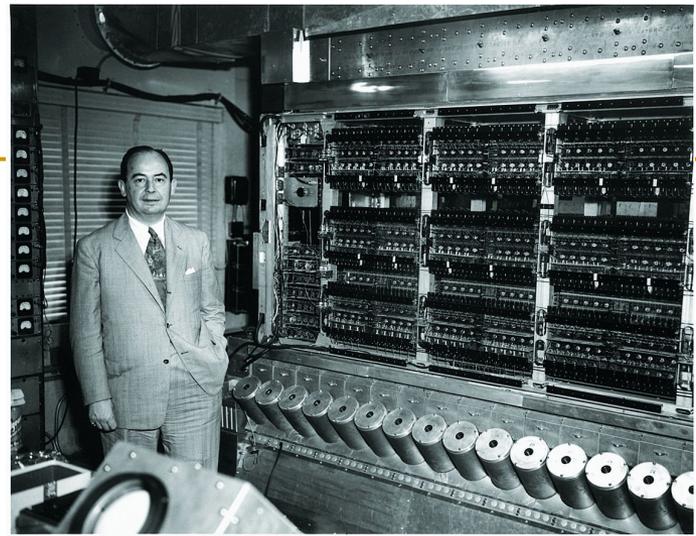
- Three key components
- Computation
- Communication
- Storage/memory

Burks, Goldstein, von Neumann, "Preliminary discussion of the logical design of an electronic computing instrument," 1946.

Computing System

Computing Unit ↔ Communication Unit ↔ Memory/Storage Unit

Memory System   Storage System

Image source: https://lbsitbytes2010.wordpress.com/2013/03/29/john-von-neumann-roll-no-15/

A Computing System

- Three key components
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Computing System

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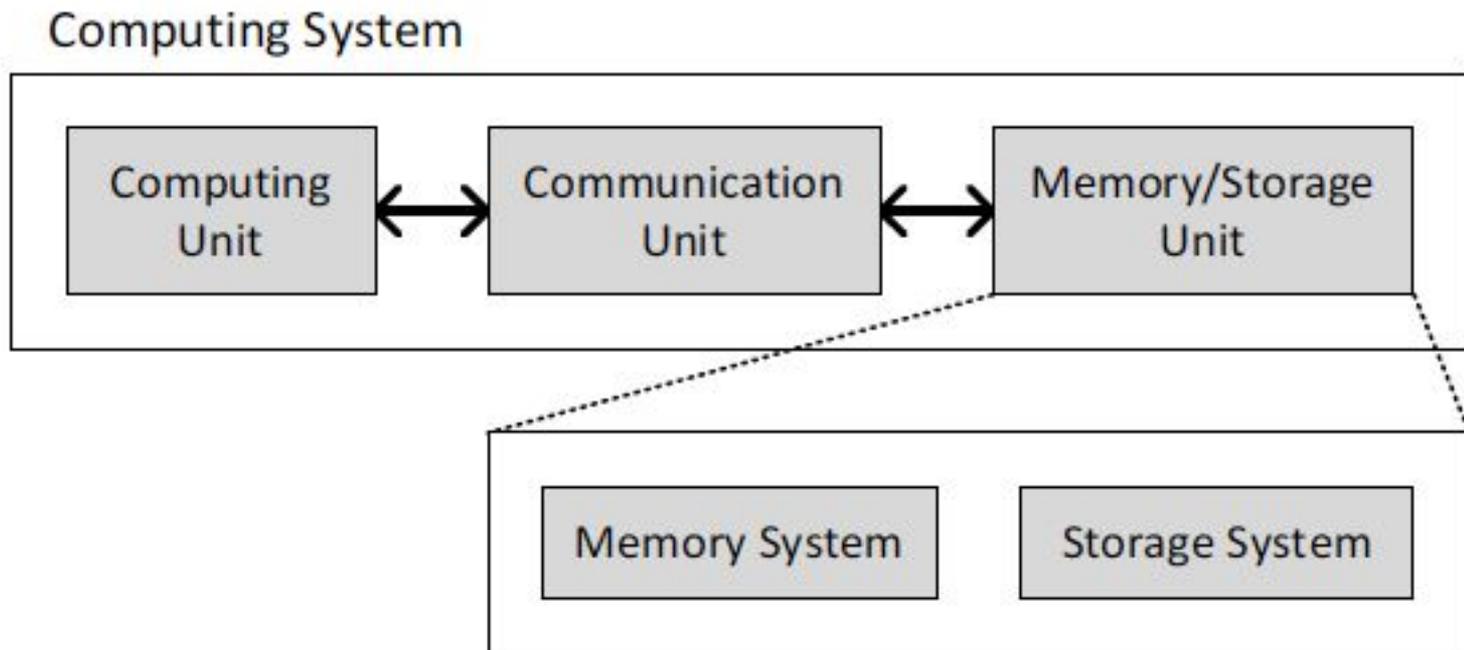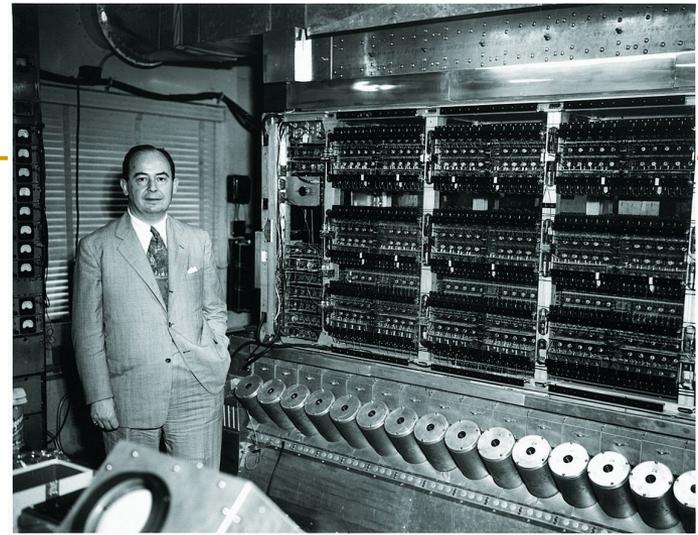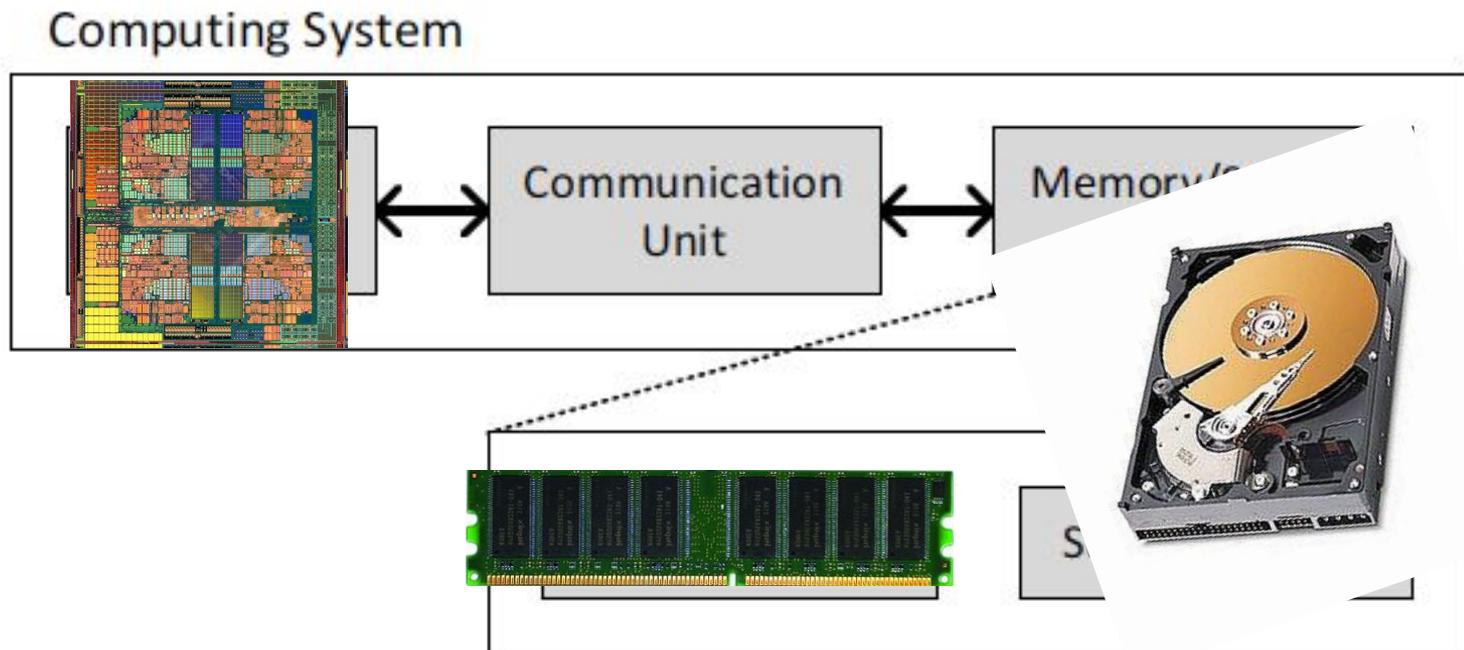
Today's Computing Systems

- Are overwhelmingly processor centric
- All data processed in the processor □ at great system cost
- Processor is heavily optimized and is considered the master
- Data storage units are dumb and are largely unoptimized (except for some that are on the processor die)
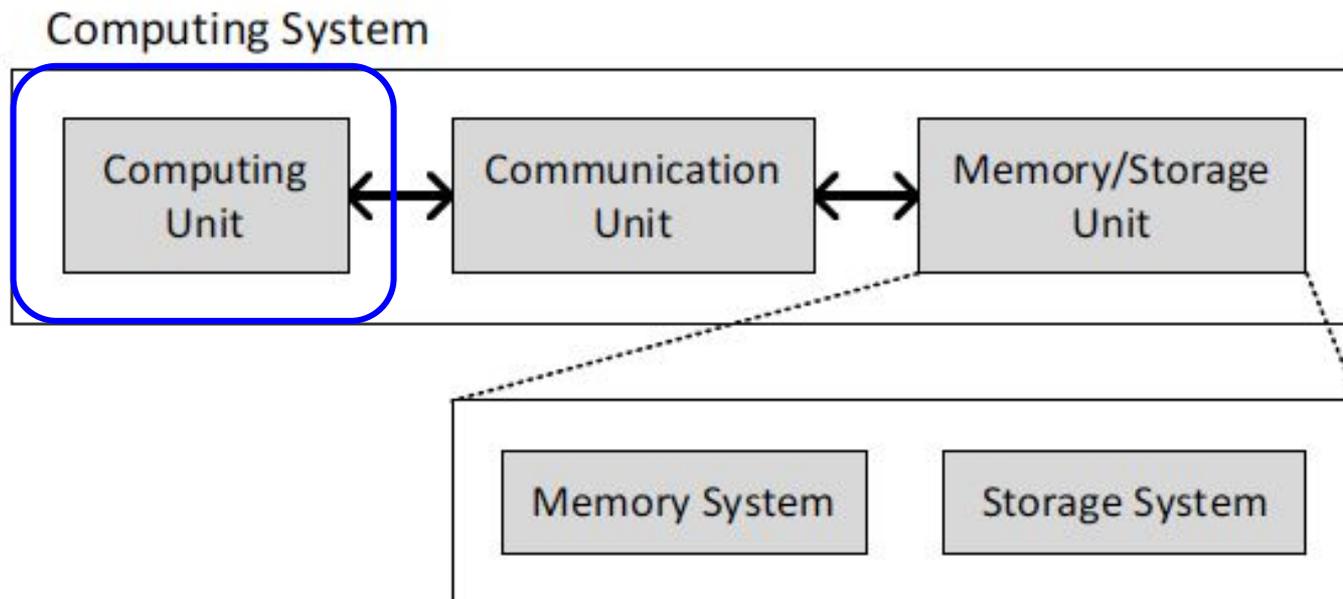
Computing System

Computing Unit	↔	Communication Unit	↔	Memory/Storage Unit

Memory System	Storage System

Yet …

- "**It's the Memory, Stupid!**" (Richard Sites, MPR, 1996)

Data from Runahead Execution [HPCA 2003]

Mutlu+, "Runahead Execution: An Alternative to Very Large Instruction Windows for Out-of-Order Processors," HPCA 2003.
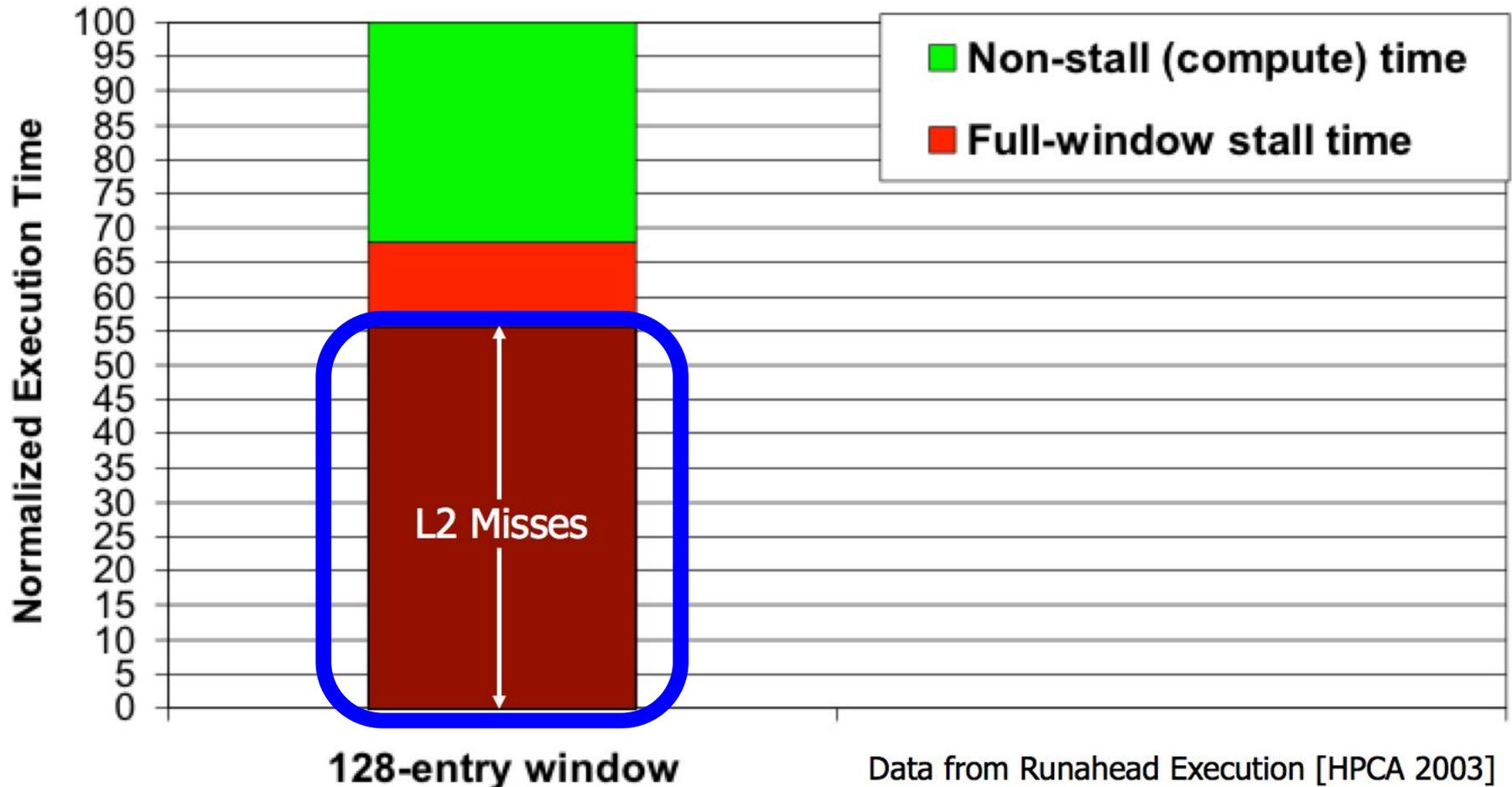
The Performance Perspective

- Onur Mutlu, Jared Stark, Chris Wilkerson, and Yale N. Patt,
"Runahead Execution: An Alternative to Very Large Instruction Windows for Out-of-order Processors"
Proceedings of the 9th International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (*HPCA*), pages 129-140, Anaheim, CA, February 2003. Slides (pdf)

Runahead Execution: An Alternative to Very Large Instruction Windows for Out-of-order Processors

Onur Mutlu §   Jared Stark †   Chris Wilkerson ‡   Yale N. Patt §

§ECE Department
The University of Texas at Austin
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†Microprocessor Research
Intel Labs
jared.w.stark@intel.com

‡Desktop Platforms Group
Intel Corporation
chris.wilkerson@intel.com

The Performance Perspective (Today)

- All of Google's Data Center Workloads (2015):

Kanev+, "Profiling a Warehouse-Scale Computer," ISCA 2015.
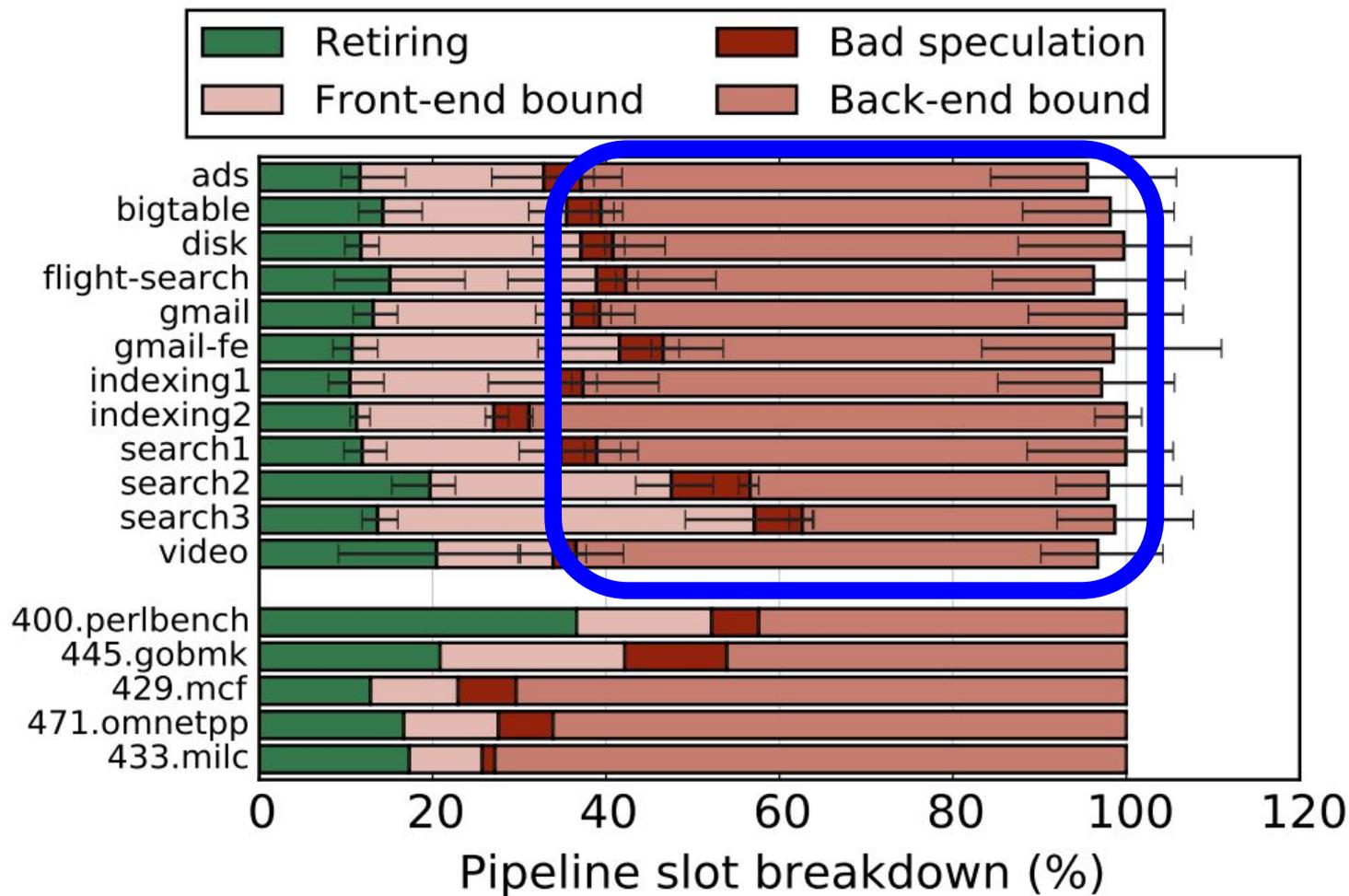
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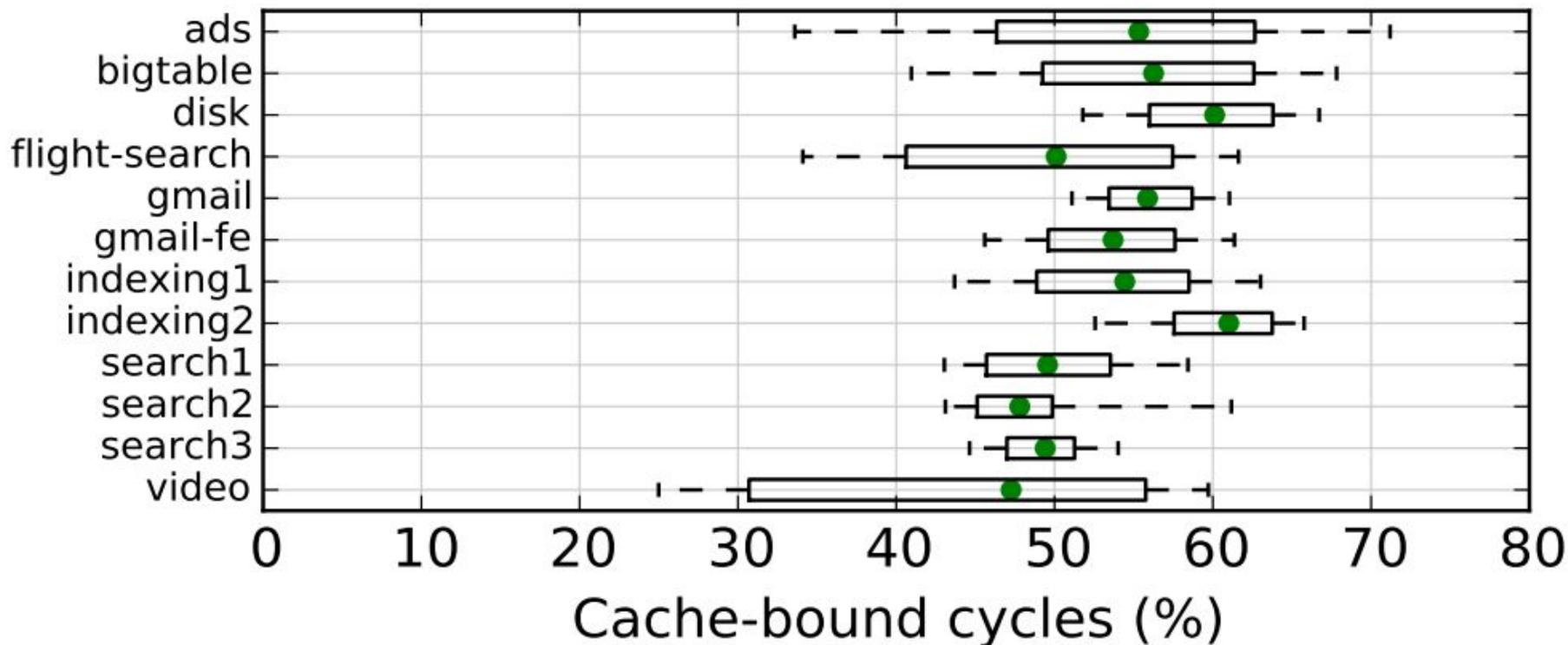
Figure 11: Half of cycles are spent stalled on caches.

Kanev+, "Profiling a Warehouse-Scale Computer," ISCA 2015.

Perils of Processor-Centric Design

- **Grossly-imbalanced systems**
    - Processing done only in **one place**
    - Everything else just stores and moves data: **data moves a lot**
    - ☐ Energy inefficient
    - ☐ Low performance
    - ☐ Complex

- **Overly complex and bloated processor (and accelerators)**
    - To tolerate data access from memory
    - Complex hierarchies and mechanisms
    - ☐ Energy inefficient
    - ☐ Low performance
    - ☐ Complex

Perils of Processor-Centric Design
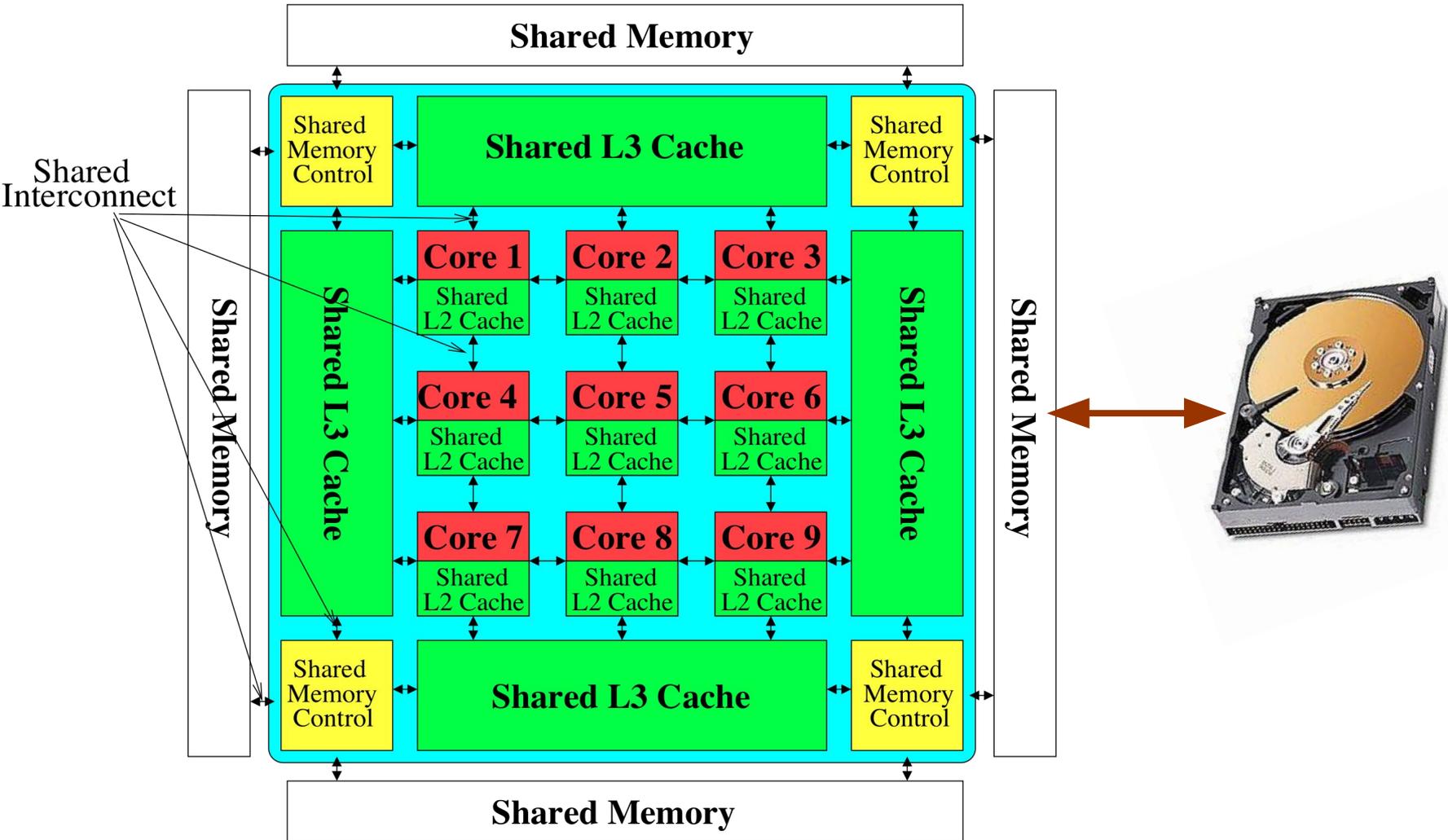
Most of the system is dedicated to storing and moving data

The Energy Perspective

Communication Dominates Arithmetic

Dally, HiPEAC 2015

- 64-bit DP 20pJ
- 20mm
- 26 pJ
- 256 pJ
- 16 nJ — DRAM Rd/Wr
- 256-bit buses
- 256-bit access 8 kB SRAM
- 50 pJ
- 500 pJ — Efficient off-chip link
- 1 nJ
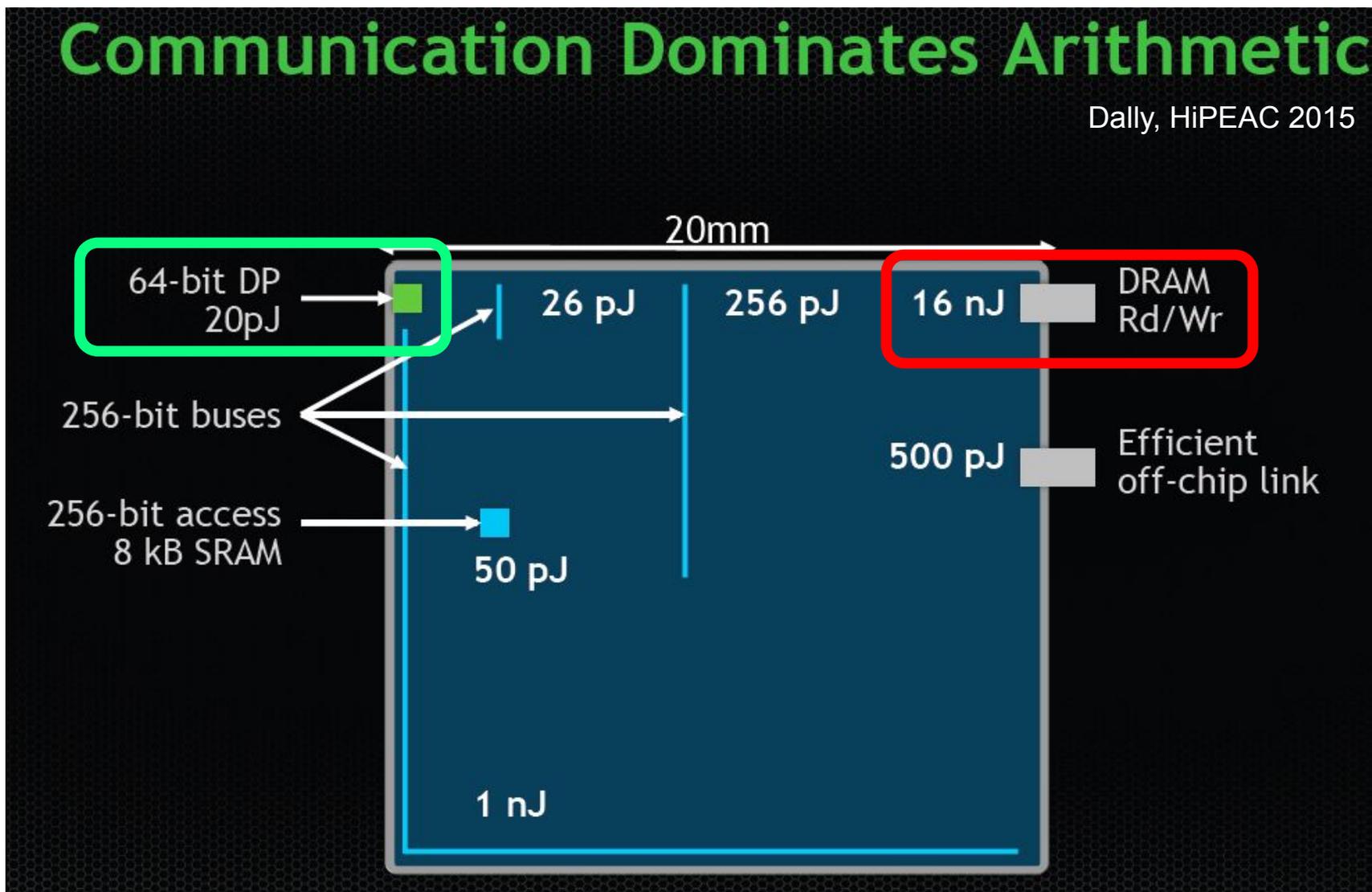
Data Movement vs. Computation Energy

Communication Dominates Arithmetic
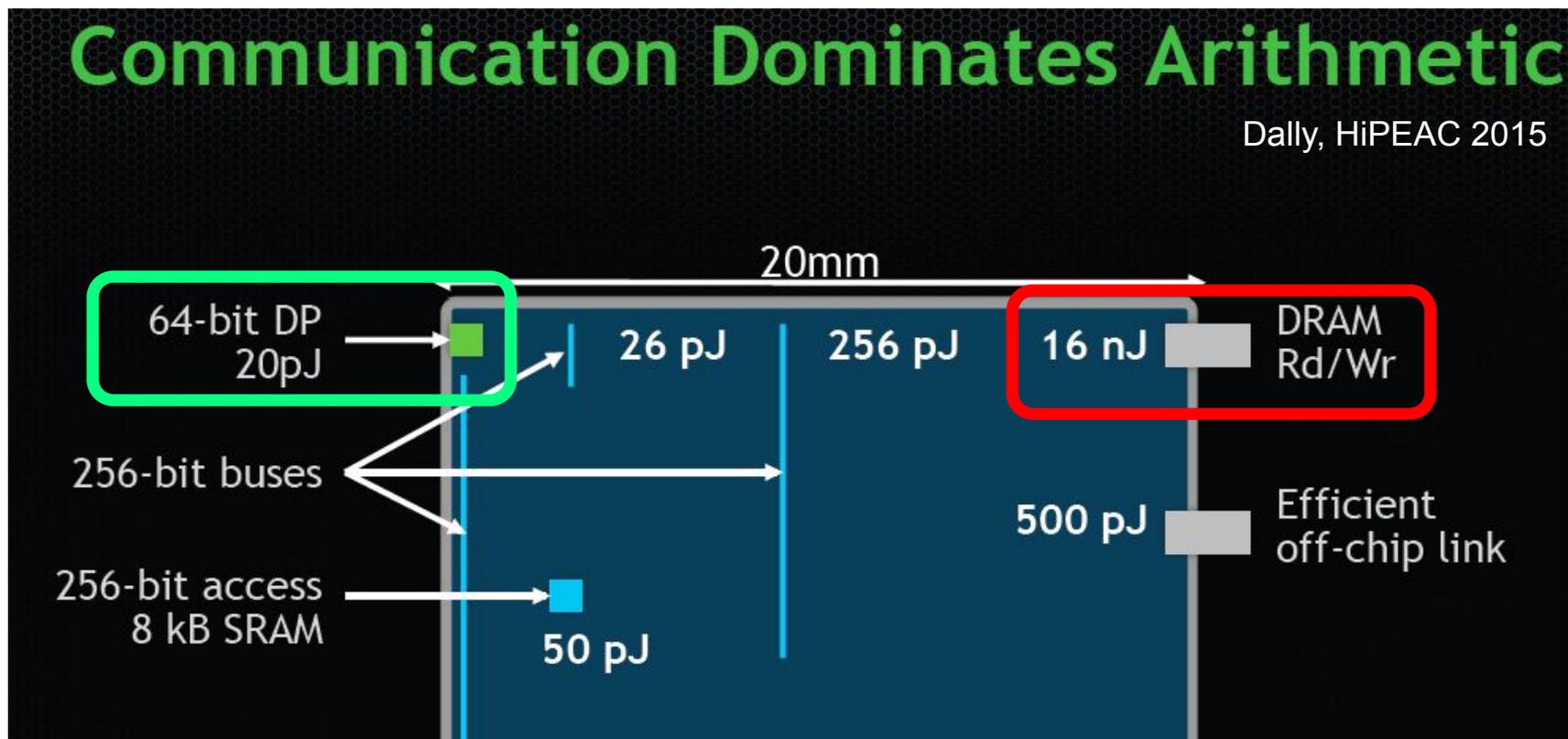
Dally, HiPEAC 2015

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- 50 pJ

A memory access consumes ~100-1000X the energy of a complex addition

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Data Movement vs. Computation Energy

- **Data movement** is a major system energy bottleneck
  - Comprises 41% of mobile system energy during web browsing [2]
  - Costs ~115 times as much energy as an ADD operation [1, 2]
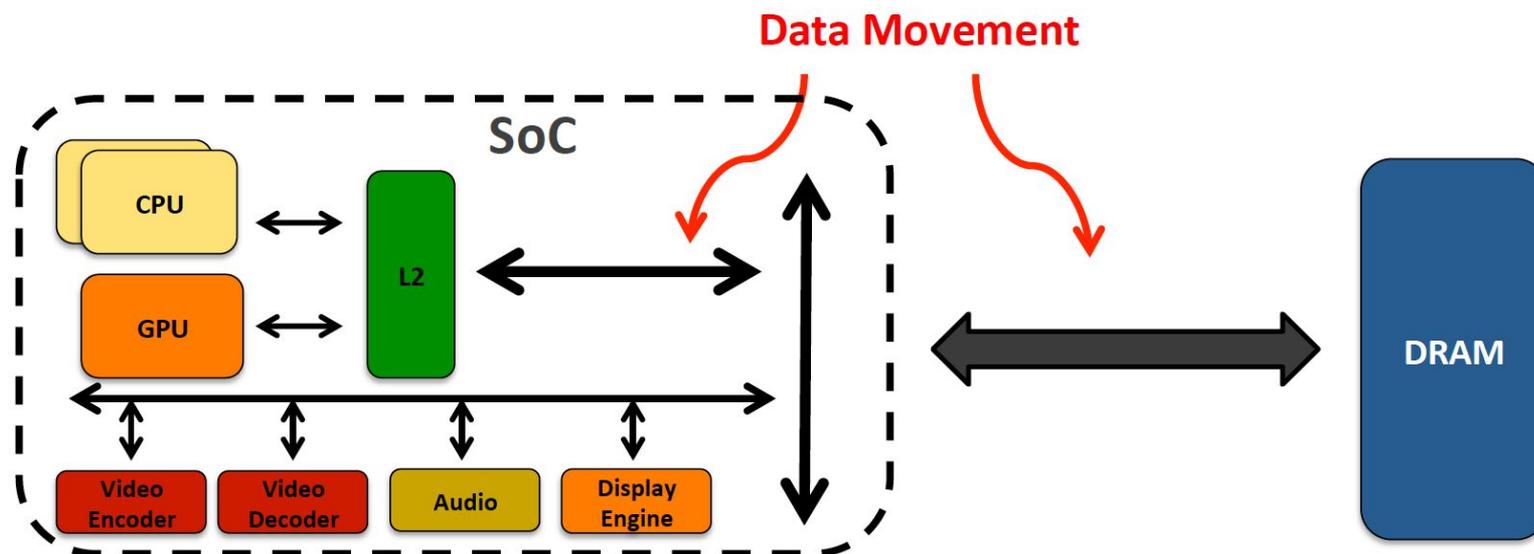
[1]: Reducing data Movement Energy via Online Data Clustering and Encoding (MICRO'16)

[2]: Quantifying the energy cost of data movement for emerging smart phone workloads on mobile platforms (IISWC'14)

Energy Waste in Mobile Devices

- Amirali Boroumand, Saugata Ghose, Youngsok Kim, Rachata Ausavarungnirun, Eric Shiu, Rahul Thakur, Daehyun Kim, Aki Kuusela, Allan Knies, Parthasarathy Ranganathan, and Onur Mutlu, **"Google Workloads for Consumer Devices: Mitigating Data Movement Bottlenecks"** *Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems* (*ASPLOS*), Williamsburg, VA, USA, March 2018.

**62.7% of the total system energy
is spent on data movement**

Google Workloads for Consumer Devices: Mitigating Data Movement Bottlenecks

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We Do Not Want to Move Data!

Communication Dominates Arithmetic

Dally, HiPEAC 2015

20mm

64-bit DP 20pJ

256-bit buses

256-bit access 8 kB SRAM

26 pJ   256 pJ   16 nJ   DRAM Rd/Wr

500 pJ   Efficient off-chip link

50 pJ

A memory access consumes ~100-1000X the energy of a complex addition

54
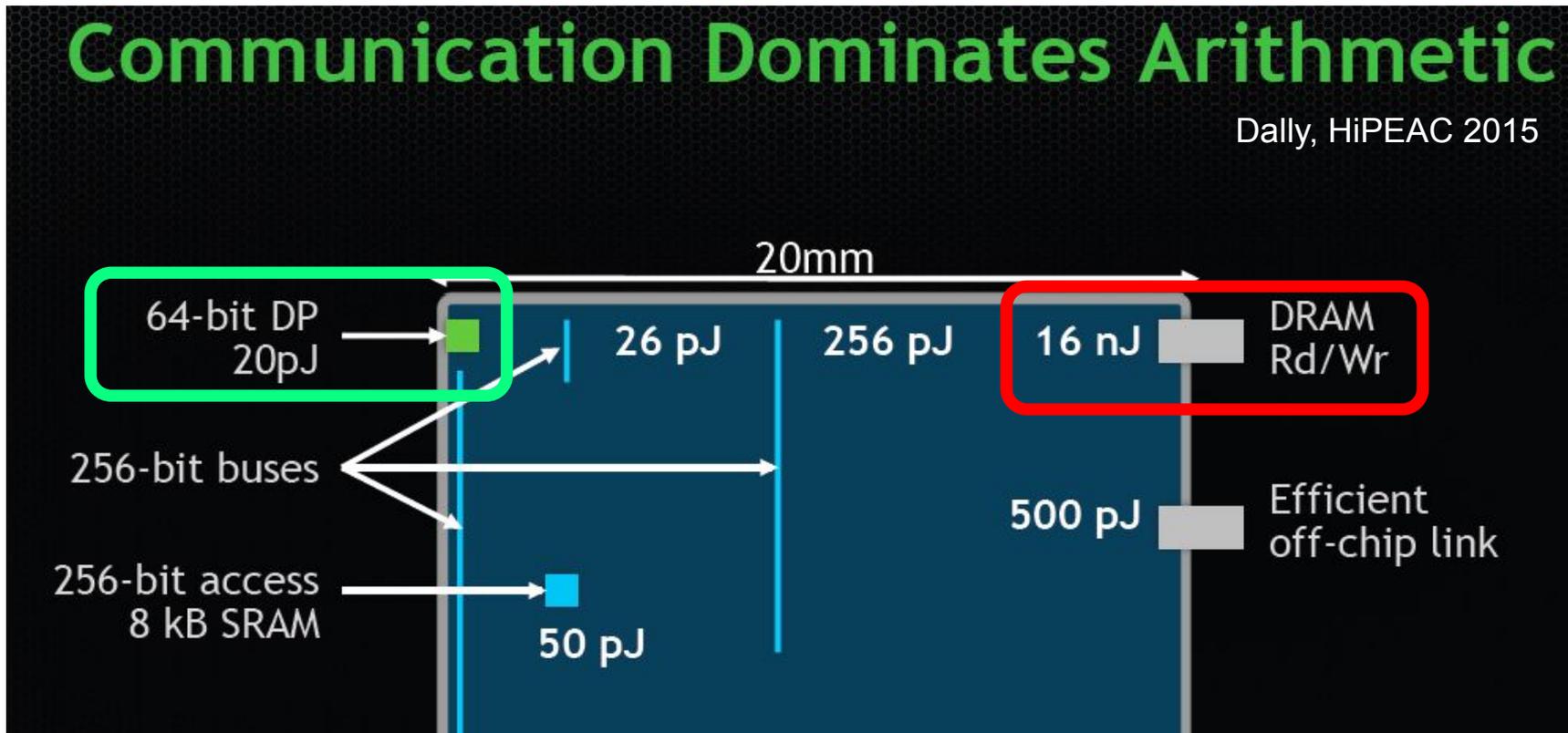
We Need A Paradigm Shift To …

- Enable computation with minimal data movement

- Compute where it makes sense (where data resides)

- Make computing architectures more data-centric

Goal: Processing Inside Memory
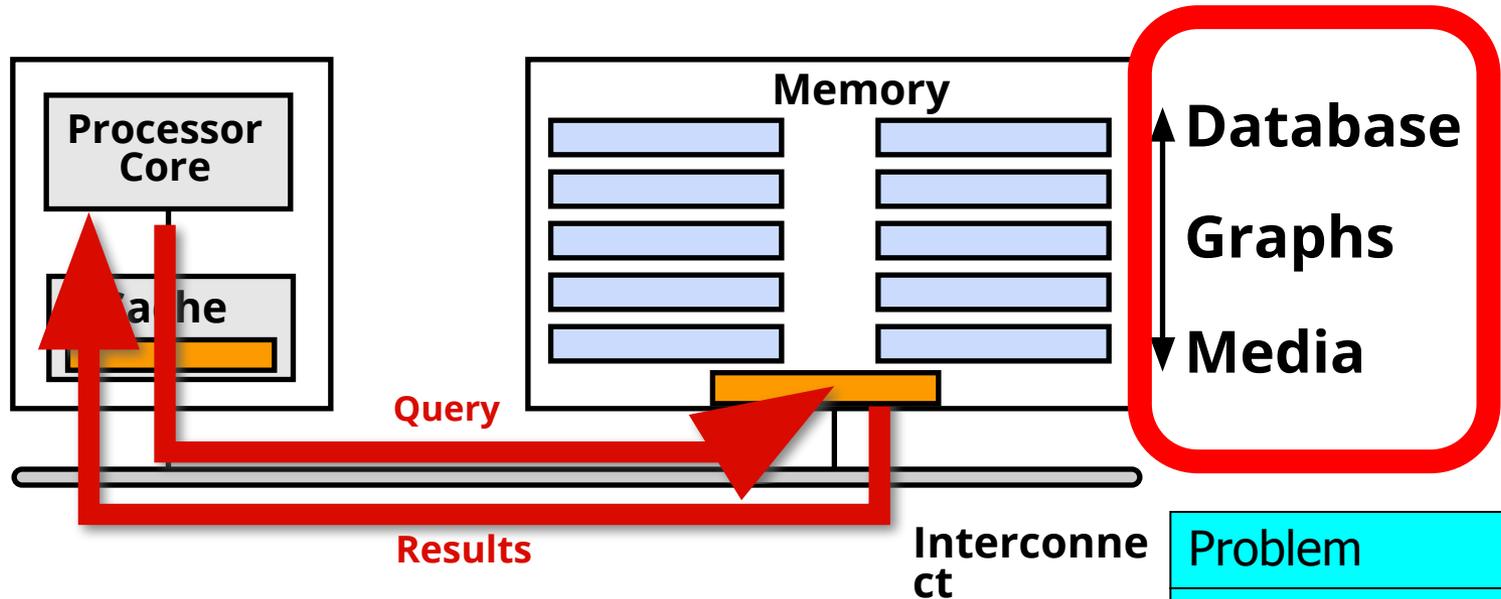
- Many questions ... How do we design the:
  - compute-capable memory & controllers?
  - processor chip and in-memory units?
  - software and hardware interfaces?
  - system software and languages?
  - algorithms?

We Need to Think Differently from the Past Approaches

Processing in Memory: Two Approaches

1. Minimally changing memory chips
2. Exploiting 3D-stacked memory

Approach 1: Minimally Changing Memory

- DRAM has great capability to perform bulk data movement and computation internally with small changes
  - ❑ Can exploit internal connectivity to move data
  - ❑ Can exploit analog computation capability
  - ❑ ...

- Examples: RowClone, In-DRAM AND/OR, Gather/Scatter DRAM
  - ❑ RowClone: Fast and Efficient In-DRAM Copy and Initialization of Bulk Data (Seshadri et al., MICRO 2013)
  - ❑ Fast Bulk Bitwise AND and OR in DRAM (Seshadri et al., IEEE CAL 2015)
  - ❑ Gather-Scatter DRAM: In-DRAM Address Translation to Improve the Spatial Locality of Non-unit Strided Accesses (Seshadri et al., MICRO 2015)
  - ❑ "Ambit: In-Memory Accelerator for Bulk Bitwise Operations Using Commodity DRAM Technology" (Seshadri et al., MICRO 2017)

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Starting Simple: Data Copy and Initialization

memmove & *memcpy:* 5% cycles in Google's datacenter [Kanev+ ISCA'l

Forking
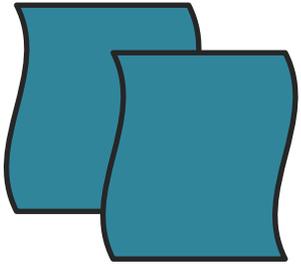
VM Cloning Deduplication
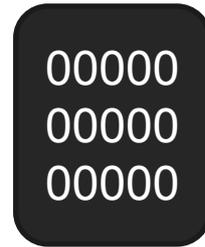
Zero initialization (e.g., security)

Page Migration

Checkpointing

• • •
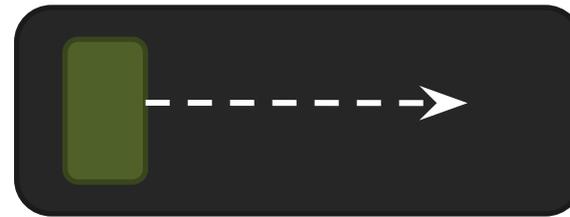
Many more

Today's Systems: Bulk Data Copy

1) High latency

3) Cache pollution

Memory

CPU   **L1**   **L2**   **L3**   **MC**

2) High bandwidth utilization

4) Unwanted data movement
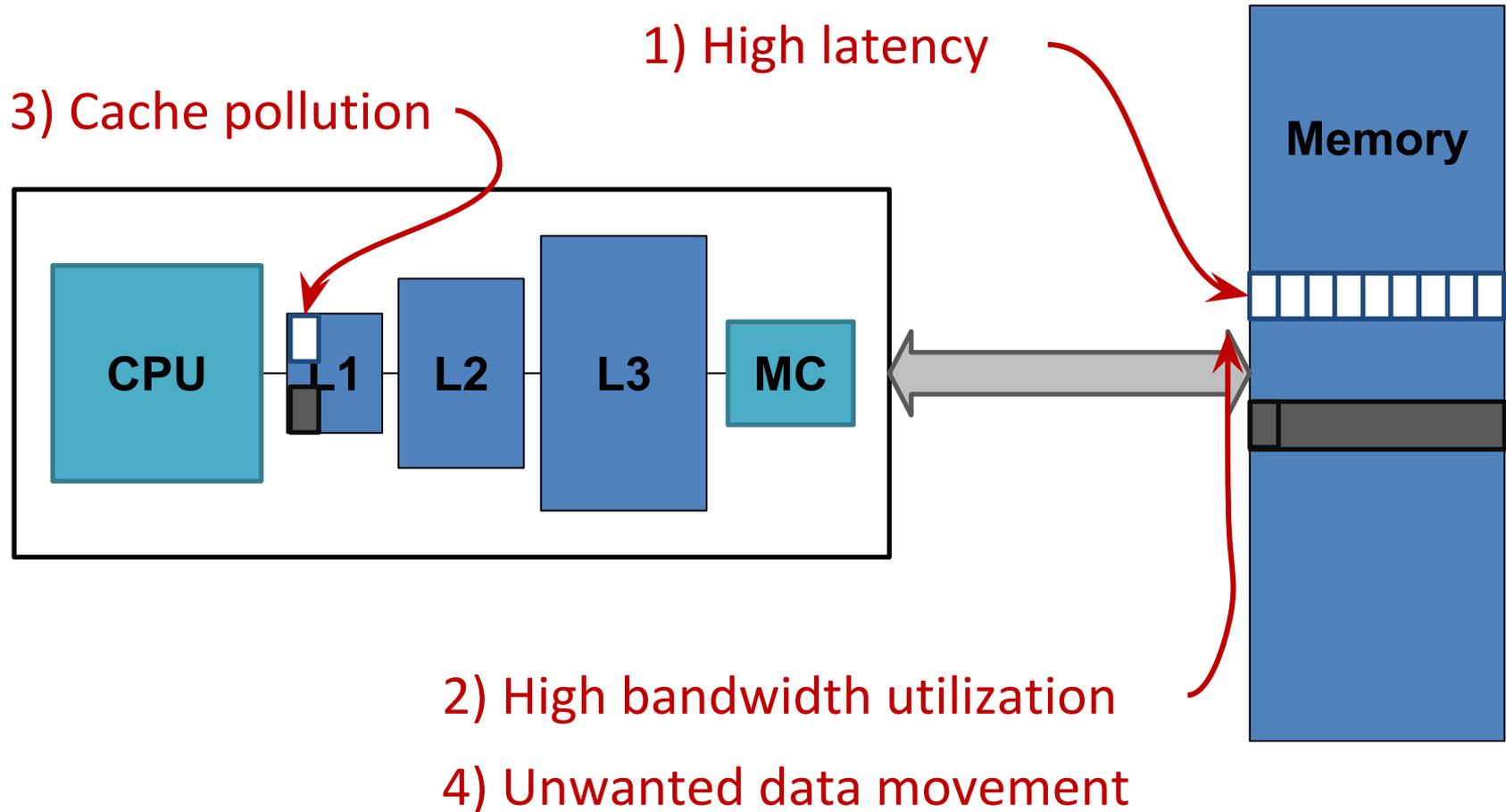
1046ns, 3.6uJ   (for 4KB page copy via DMA)

Future Systems: In-Memory Copy

3) No cache pollution

1) Low latency

Memory

CPU **L1** **L2** **L3** **MC**
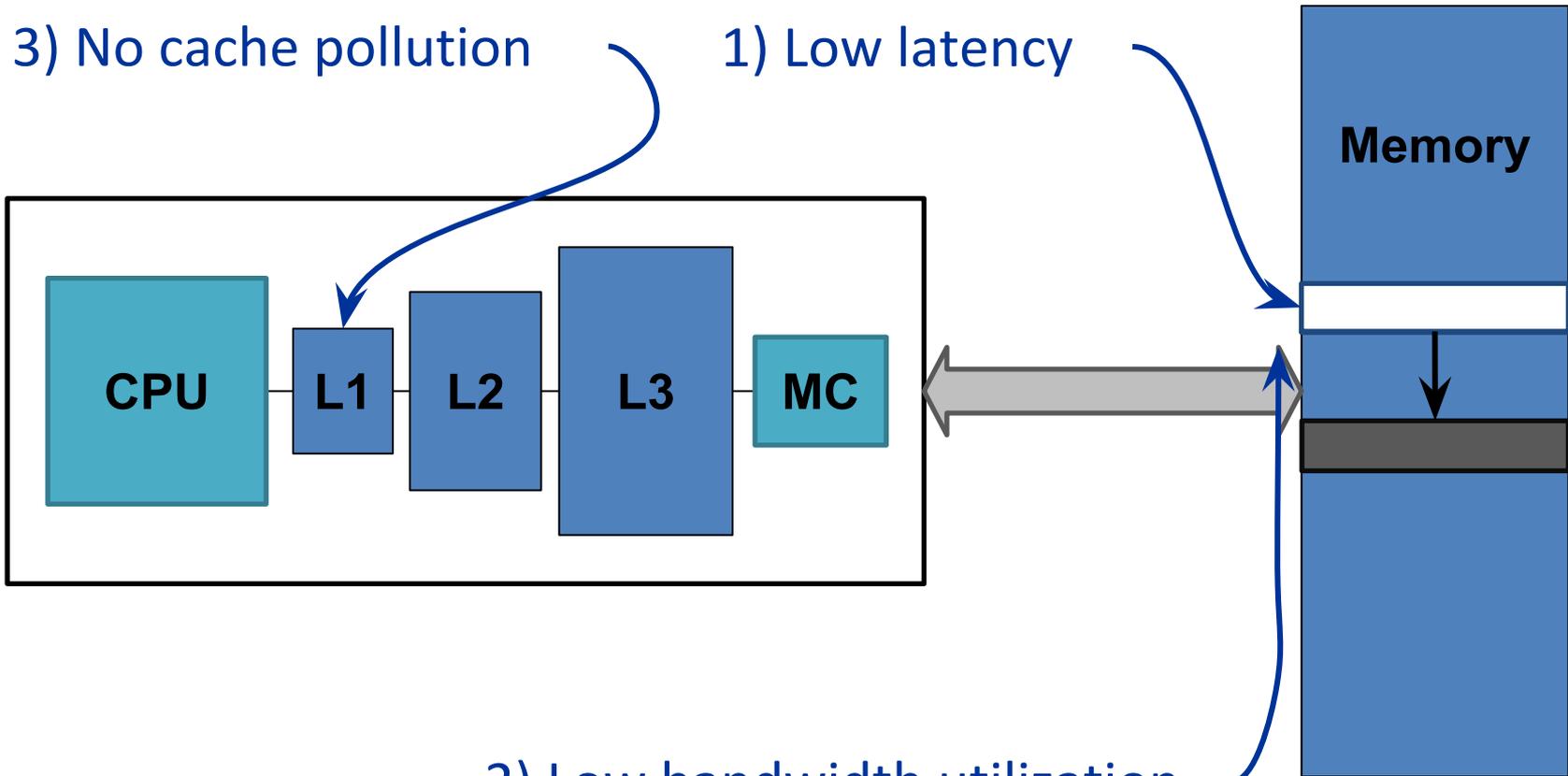
2) Low bandwidth utilization

4) No unwanted data movement

1046ns, 3.6uJ   □   90ns, 0.04uJ

RowClone: In-DRAM Row Copy

Idea: Two consecutive ACTivates

4 Kbytes

Negligible HW cost

Step 1: Activate row A

Step 2: Activate row B

DRAM subarray

Transfer row

Transfer row

Row Buffer (4 Kbytes)

8 bits

Data Bus
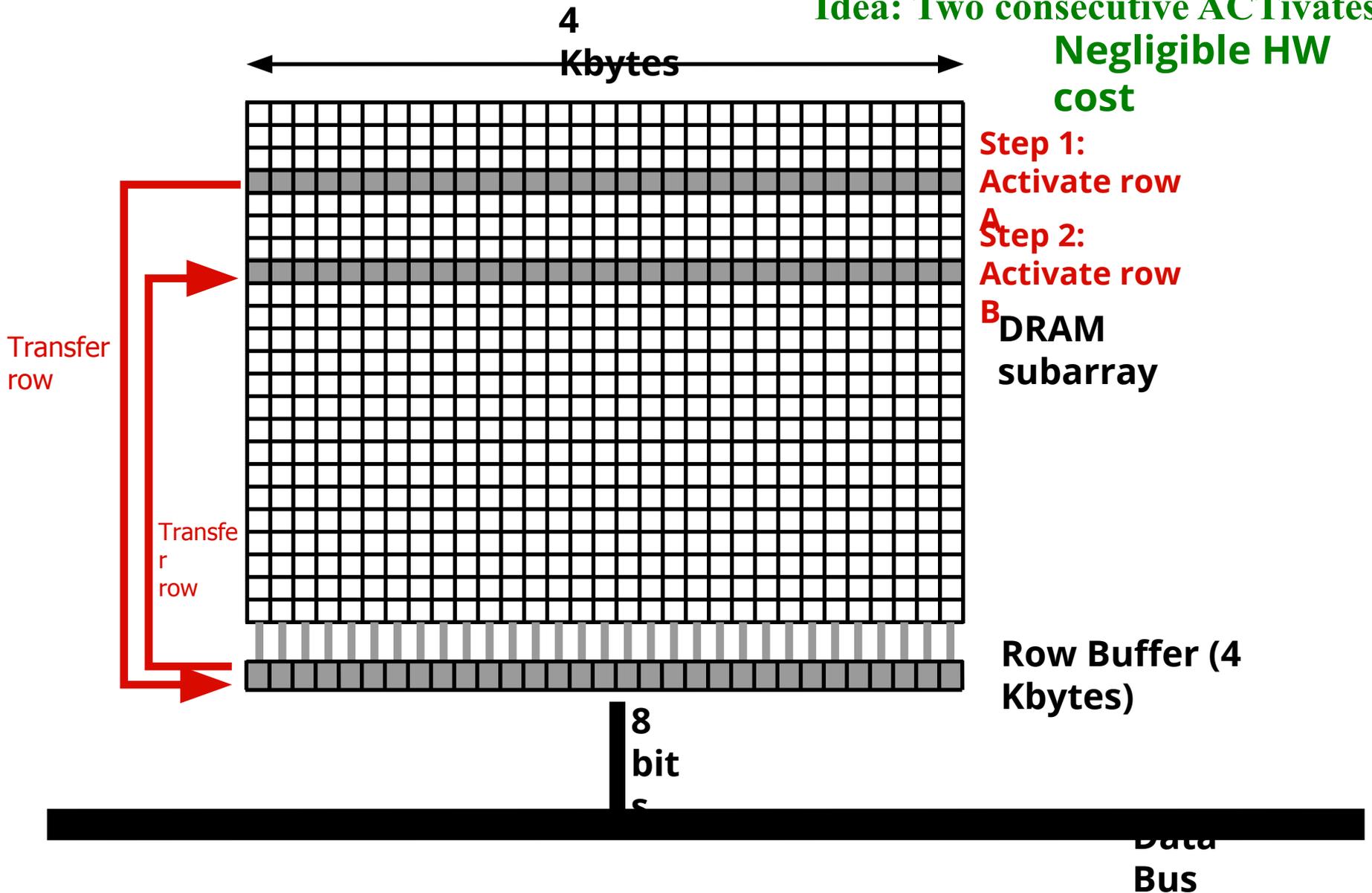
RowClone: Latency and Energy Savings
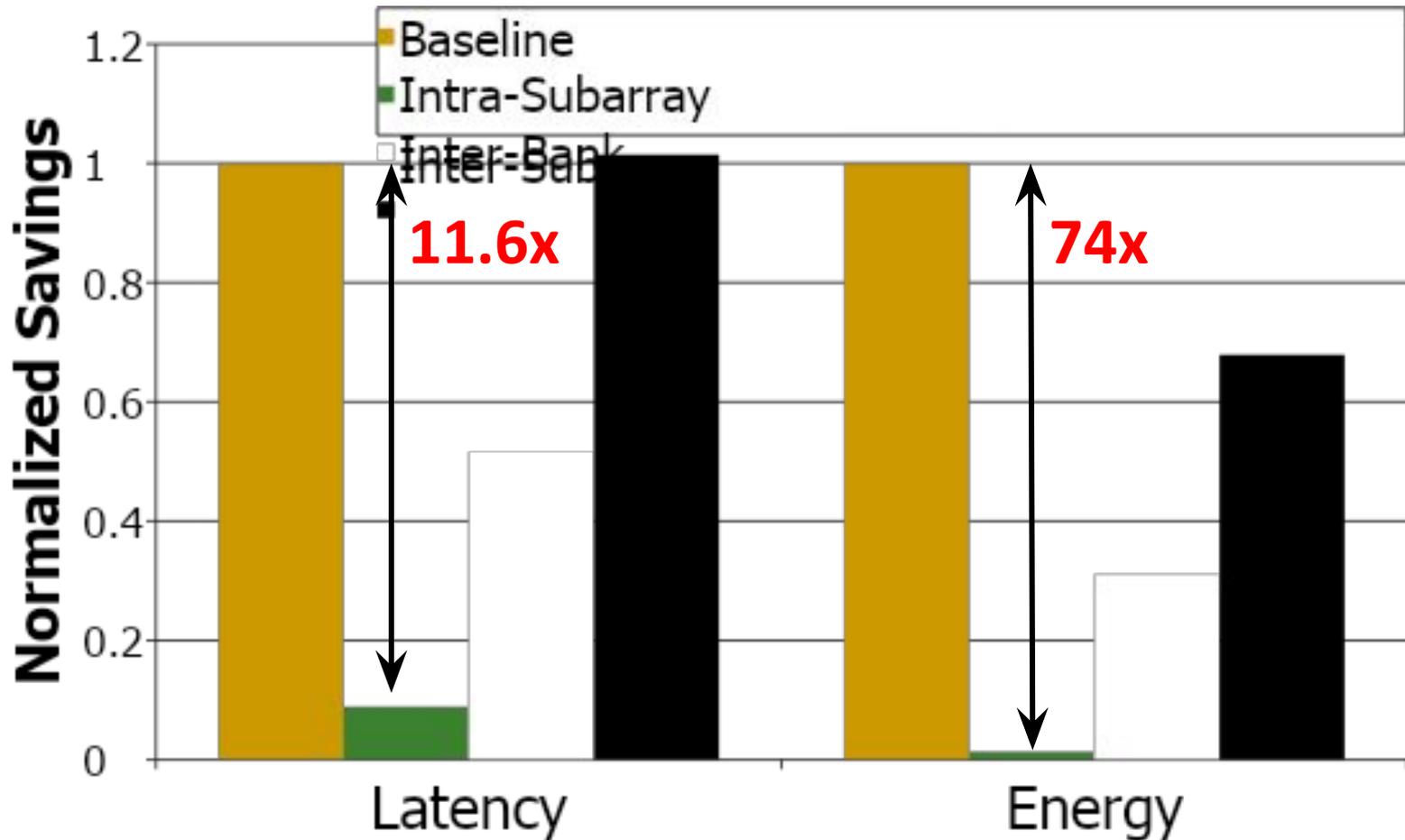
Seshadri et al., "RowClone: Fast and Efficient In-DRAM Copy and Initialization of Bulk Data," MICRO 2013.

More on RowClone

- Vivek Seshadri, Yoongu Kim, Chris Fallin, Donghyuk Lee, Rachata Ausavarungnirun, Gennady Pekhimenko, Yixin Luo, Onur Mutlu, Michael A. Kozuch, Phillip B. Gibbons, and Todd C. Mowry,
"RowClone: Fast and Energy-Efficient In-DRAM Bulk Data Copy and Initialization"
Proceedings of the 46th International Symposium on Microarchitecture (MICRO), Davis, CA, December 2013. [Slides (pptx) (pdf)] [Lightning Session Slides (pptx) (pdf)] [Poster (pptx) (pdf)]

RowClone: Fast and Energy-Efficient In-DRAM Bulk Data Copy and Initialization

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Carnegie Mellon University   †Intel Pittsburgh

Memory as an Accelerator
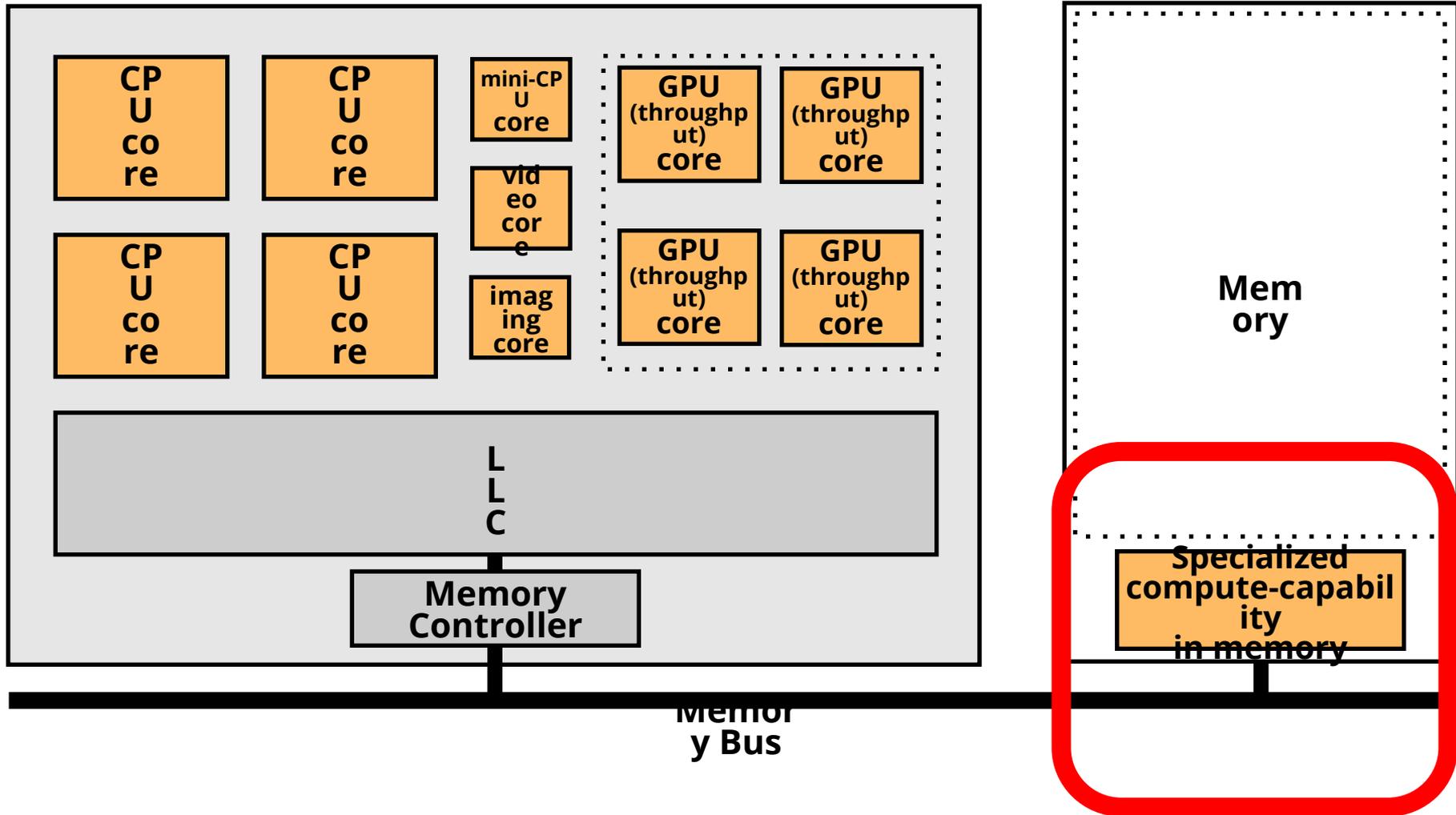
Memory similar to a "conventional" accelerator

In-Memory Bulk Bitwise Operations

- We can support in-DRAM COPY, ZERO, AND, OR, NOT, MAJ
- At low cost
- Using analog computation capability of DRAM
    - Idea: activating multiple rows performs computation
- 30-60X performance and energy improvement
    - Seshadri+, "Ambit: In-Memory Accelerator for Bulk Bitwise Operations Using Commodity DRAM Technology," MICRO 2017.

- New memory technologies enable even more opportunities
    - Memristors, resistive RAM, phase change mem, STT-MRAM, …
    - Can operate on data with minimal movement

In-DRAM AND/OR: Triple Row Activation

$\frac{1}{2}V_{DD} + \delta$

A

B

C

dis

$\frac{1}{2}V_{DD}$
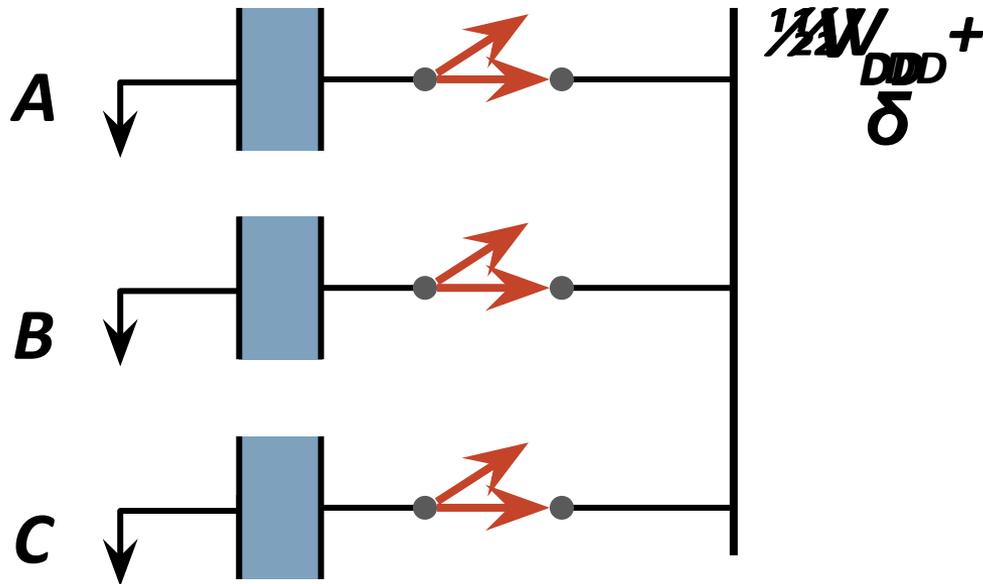
Final State
AB + BC + AC

*C(A + B) +
~C(AB)*
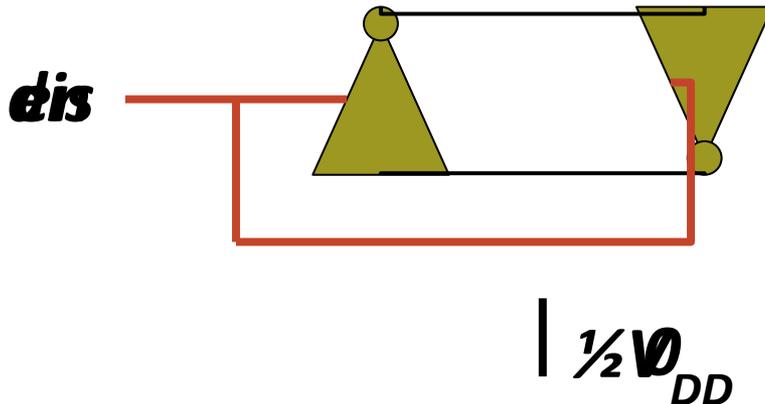
In-DRAM NOT: Dual Contact Cell
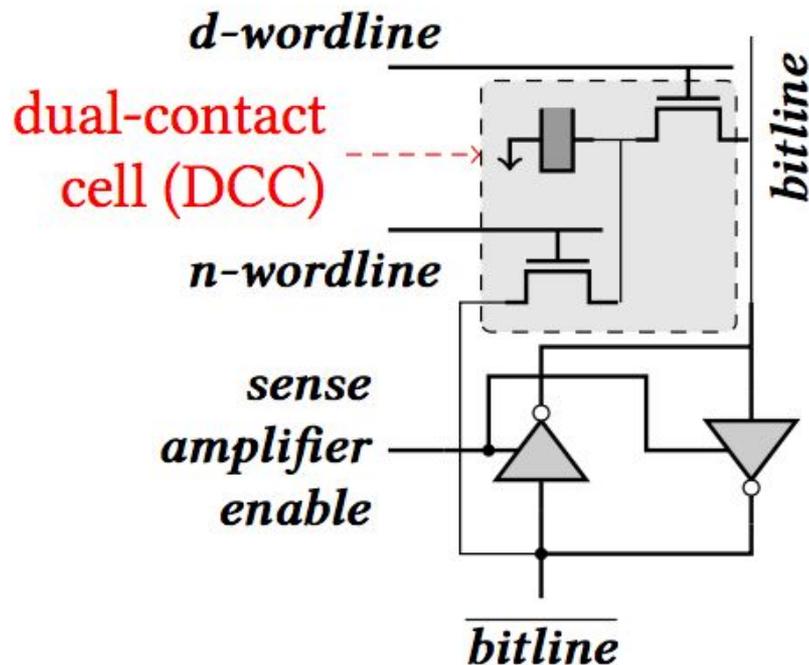
Figure 5: A dual-contact cell connected to both ends of a sense amplifier

Idea:
Feed the negated value in the sense amplifier into a special row

Seshadri+, "Ambit: In-Memory Accelerator for Bulk Bitwise Operations using Commodity DRAM Technology," MICRO 2017.

Ambit vs. DDR3: Performance and Energy

Seshadri+, "Ambit: In-Memory Accelerator for Bulk Bitwise Operations using Commodity DRAM Technology," MICRO 2017.
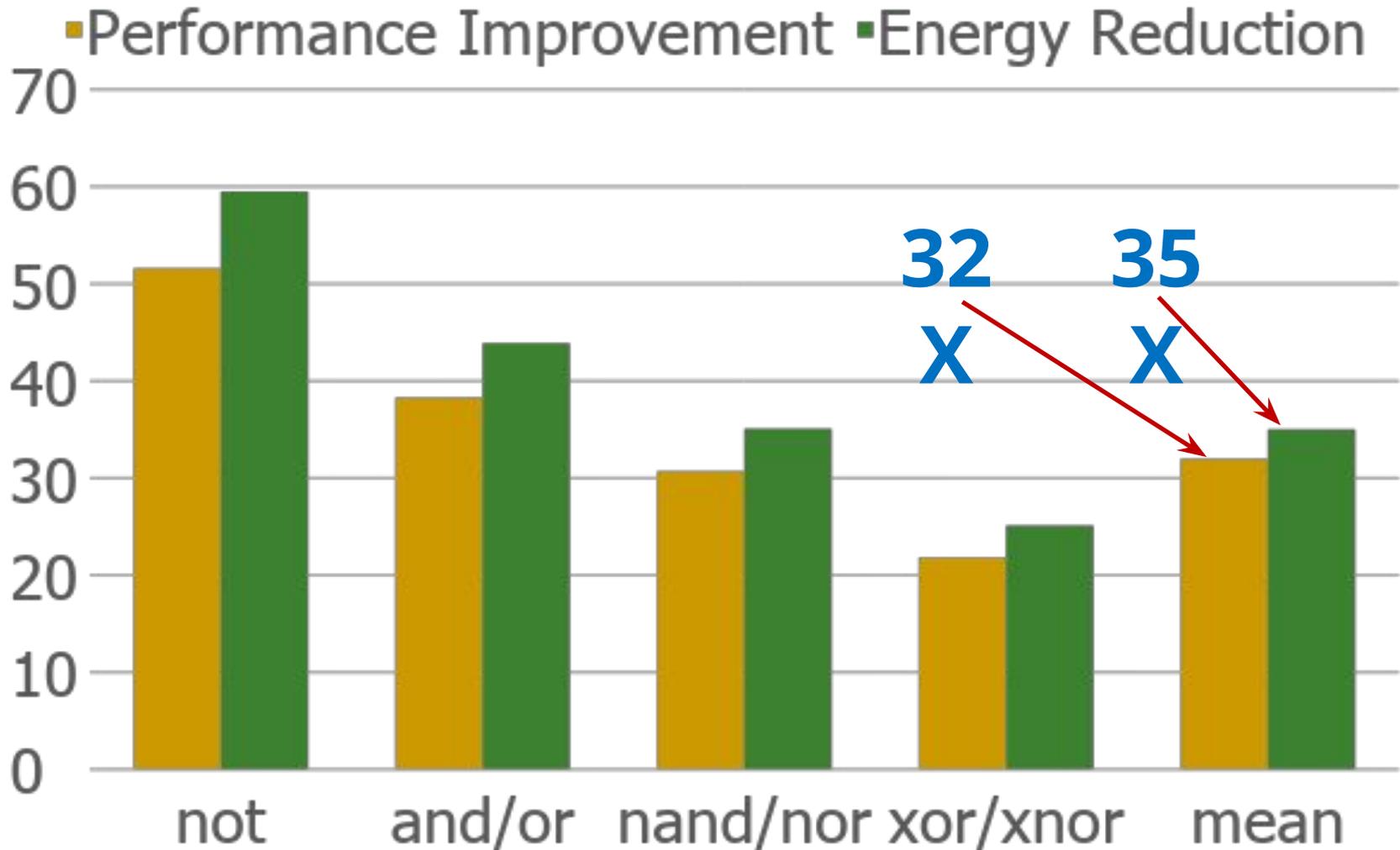
Bulk Bitwise Operations in Workloads

Bitmap indices
(database indexing)

BitWeaving
(database queries)

BitFunnel
(web search)

Bulk Bitwise Operations

Set operations

DNA sequence mapping

Encryption algorithms

...
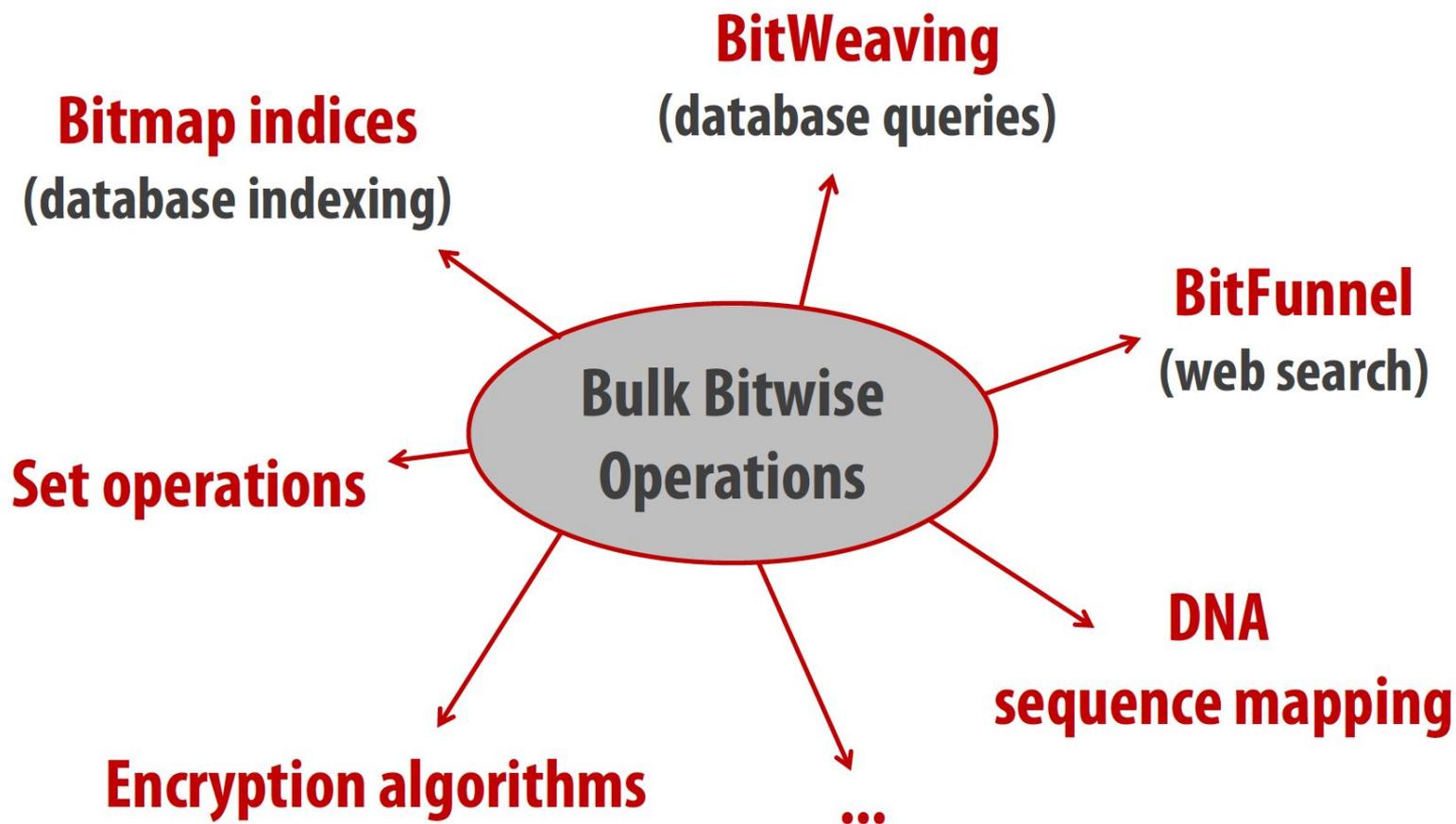
Performance: Bitmap Index on Ambit
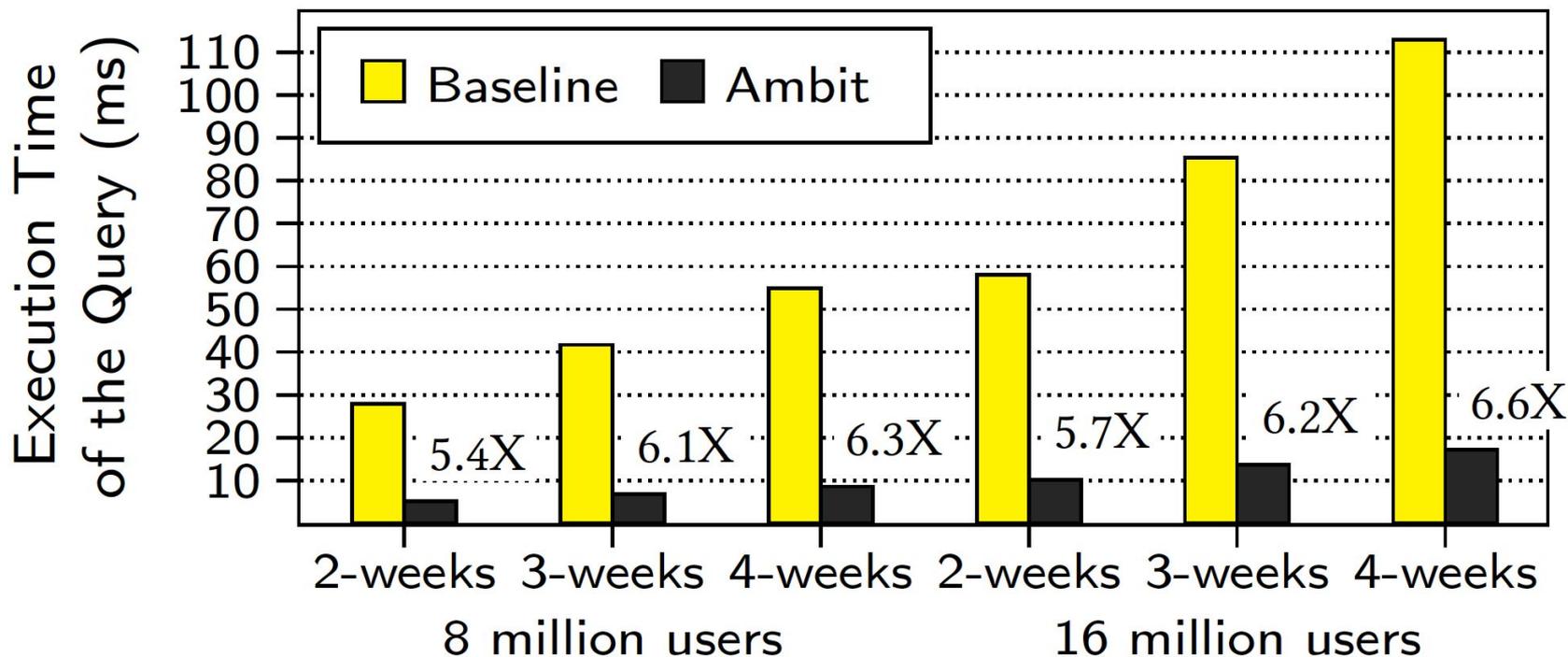
Figure 10: Bitmap index performance. The value above each bar indicates the reduction in execution time due to Ambit.

> **>5.4-6.6X Performance Improvement**

Seshadri+, "Ambit: In-Memory Accelerator for Bulk Bitwise Operations using Commodity DRAM Technology," MICRO 2017.

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Performance: BitWeaving on Ambit
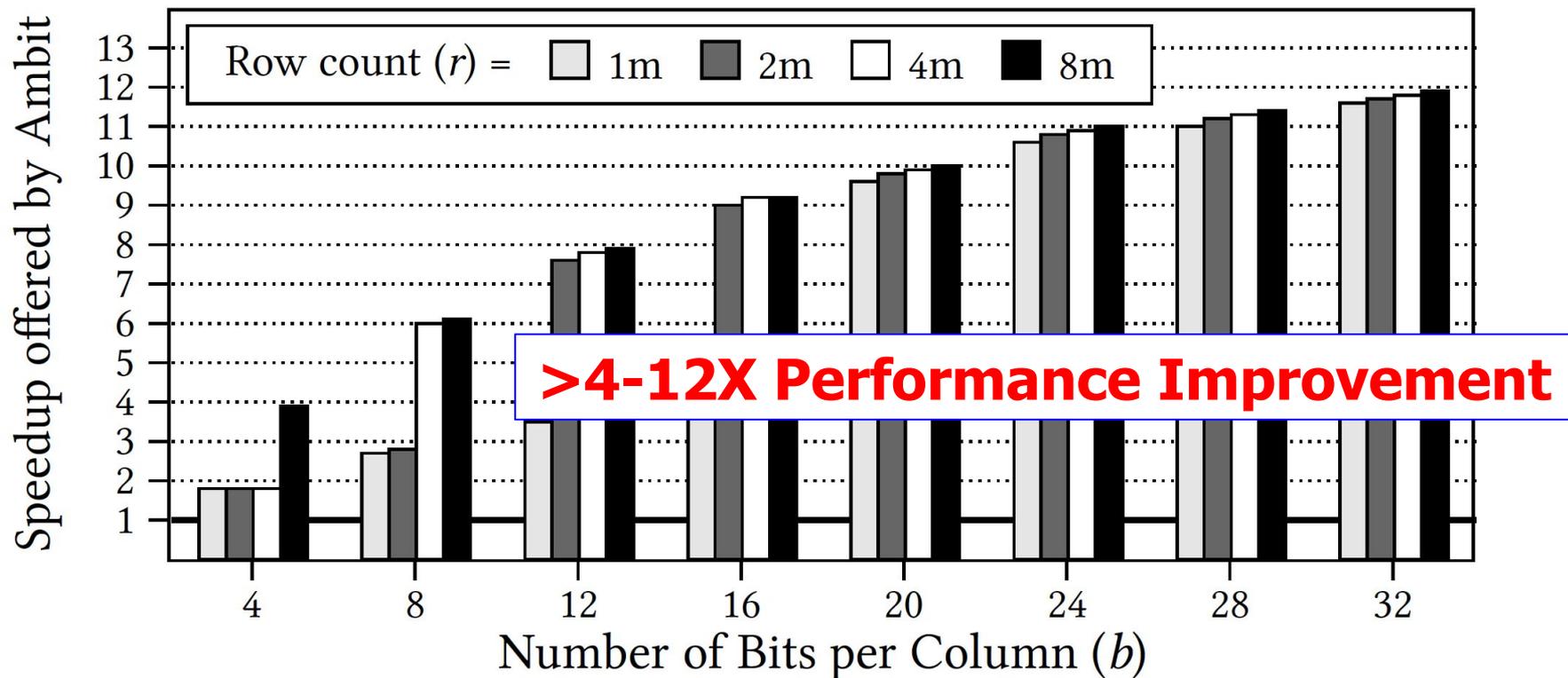
Figure 11: Speedup offered by Ambit over baseline CPU with SIMD for BitWeaving

Seshadri+, "Ambit: In-Memory Accelerator for Bulk Bitwise Operations using Commodity DRAM Technology," MICRO 2017.

More on Ambit

- Vivek Seshadri et al., "**Ambit: In-Memory Accelerator for Bulk Bitwise Operations Using Commodity DRAM Technology**," MICRO 2017.

Ambit: In-Memory Accelerator for Bulk Bitwise Operations
Using Commodity DRAM Technology

Vivek Seshadri[1,5]   Donghyuk Lee[2,5]   Thomas Mullins[3,5]   Hasan Hassan[4]   Amirali Boroumand[5]
Jeremie Kim[4,5]   Michael A. Kozuch[3]   Onur Mutlu[4,5]   Phillip B. Gibbons[5]   Todd C. Mowry[5]

[1]Microsoft Research India   [2]NVIDIA Research   [3]Intel   [4]ETH Zürich   [5]Carnegie Mellon University

Sounds Good, No?

Review from ISCA 2016

Paper summary

The paper proposes to extend DRAM to include bulk, bit-wise logical
operations directly between rows within the DRAM.

Strengths

- Very clever/novel idea.

- Great potential speedup and efficiency gains.

Weaknesses

- Probably won't ever be built. Not practical to assume DRAM
manufacturers with change DRAM in this way.

Another Review

Another Review from ISCA 2016

Strengths

The proposed mechanisms effectively exploit the operation of the DRAM to perform efficient bitwise operations across entire rows of the DRAM.

Weaknesses

This requires a modification to the DRAM that will only help this type of bitwise operation. It seems unlikely that something like that will be adopted.

Yet Another Review

Yet Another Review from ISCA 2016

Weaknesses

The core novelty of Buddy RAM is almost all circuits-related (by exploiting sense amps). I do not find architectural innovation even though the circuits technique benefits architecturally by mitigating memory bandwidth and relieving cache resources within a subarray. The only related part is the new ISA support for bitwise operations at DRAM side and its induced issue on cache coherence.

We Have a Mindset Issue…

- There are many other similar examples from reviews…
  - For many other papers…

- And, we are not even talking about JEDEC yet…

- How do we fix the mindset problem?

- By doing more research, education, implementation in alternative processing paradigms

We need to work on enabling the better future…

We Need to Think Differently from the Past Approaches

Processing in Memory: Two Approaches

1. Minimally changing memory chips
2. Exploiting 3D-stacked memory

Opportunity: 3D-Stacked Logic+Memory
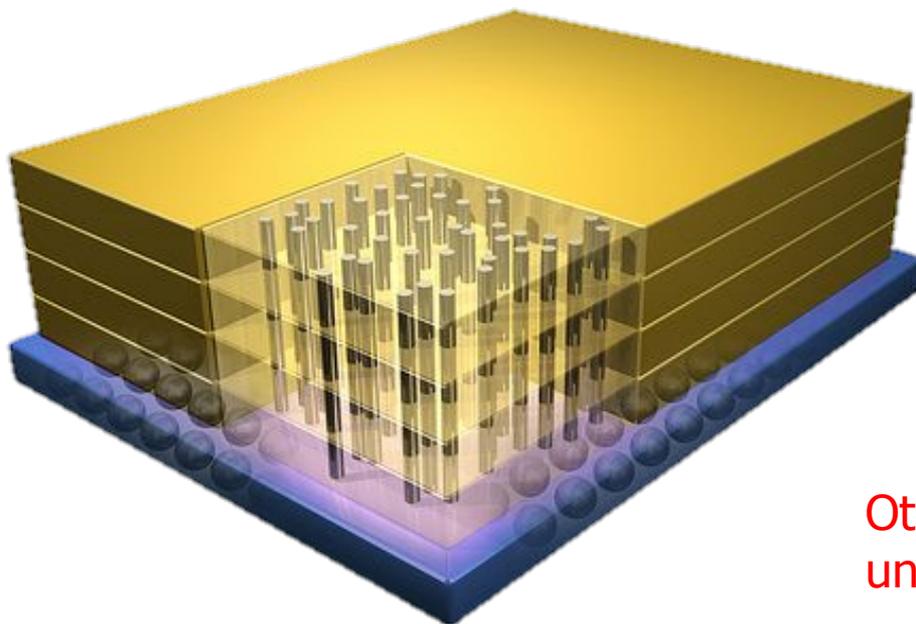
Memory

Logic

Other "True 3D" technologies under development

DRAM Landscape (circa 2015)

Segment	DRAM Standards & Architectures
Commodity	DDR3 (2007) [14]; DDR4 (2012) [18]
Low-Power	LPDDR3 (2012) [17]; LPDDR4 (2014) [20]
Graphics	GDDR5 (2009) [15]
Performance	eDRAM [28], [32]; RLDRAM3 (2011) [29]
3D-Stacked	WIO (2011) [16]; WIO2 (2014) [21]; MCDRAM (2015) [13]; HBM (2013) [19]; HMC1.0 (2013) [10]; HMC1.1 (2014) [11]
Academic	SBA/SSA (2010) [38]; Staged Reads (2012) [8]; RAIDR (2012) [27]; SALP (2012) [24]; TL-DRAM (2013) [26]; RowClone (2013) [37]; Half-DRAM (2014) [39]; Row-Buffer Decoupling (2014) [33]; SARP (2014) [6]; AL-DRAM (2015) [25]

Table 1. Landscape of DRAM-based memory

Kim+, "Ramulator: A Flexible and Extensible DRAM Simulator", IEEE CAL 2015.

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Two Key Questions in 3D-Stacked PIM

- What are the performance and energy benefits of using 3D-stacked memory as a coarse-grained accelerator?
  - By changing the entire system
  - By performing simple function offloading

- What is the minimal processing-in-memory support we can provide?
  - With minimal changes to system and programming

Graph Processing

- Large graphs are everywhere (circa 2015)

| 36 Million Wikipedia Pages | 1.4 Billion Facebook Users | 300 Million Twitter Users | 30 Billion Instagram Photos |

- Scalable large-scale graph processing is challenging

32 Cores — 1

128 Cores — +42%

0   0.5   1   1.5   2   2.5   3   3.5   4

Speedup
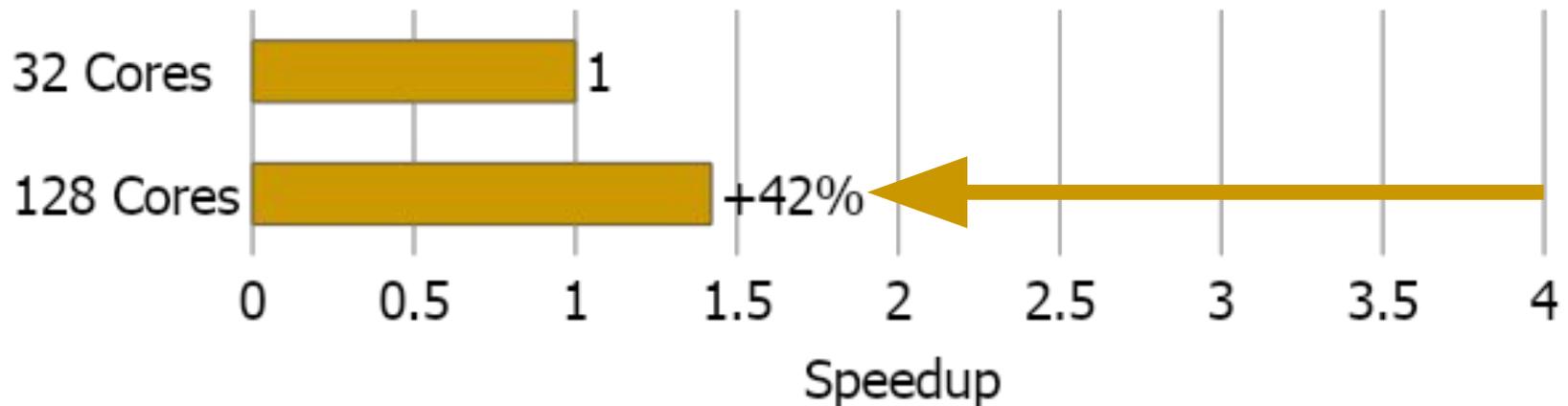
Key Bottlenecks in Graph Processing

```
for (v: graph.vertices) {
    for (w: v.successors) {
        w.next_rank += weight * v.rank;
    }
}
```

1. Frequent random memory accesses

w.rank
w.next_rank
w.edges
…

v

&w

weight * v.rank

w
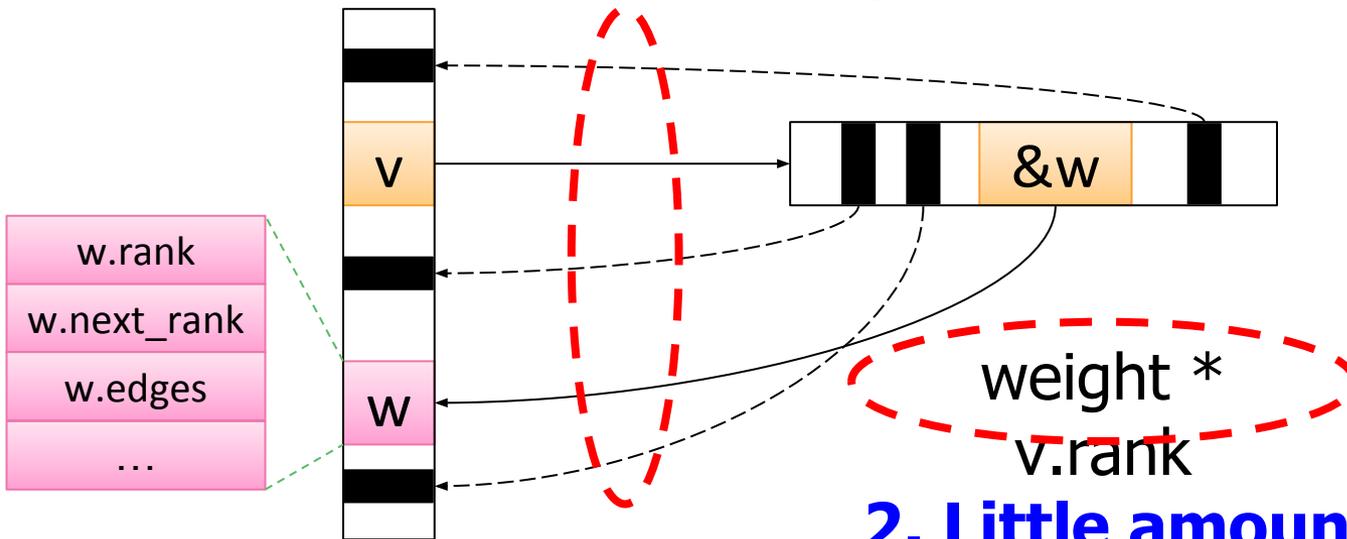
2. Little amount of computation

Tesseract System for Graph Processing

Interconnected set of 3D-stacked memory+logic chips with simple cores

Host Processor

Memory-Mapped
Accelerator Interface
(Noncacheable, Physically
Addressed)

Memory

Logic

In-Order Core

DRAM Controller

LP   PF Buffer

MTP

Message Queue   NI

Crossbar Network

Ahn+, "A Scalable Processing-in-Memory Accelerator for Parallel Graph Processing" ISCA 2015.
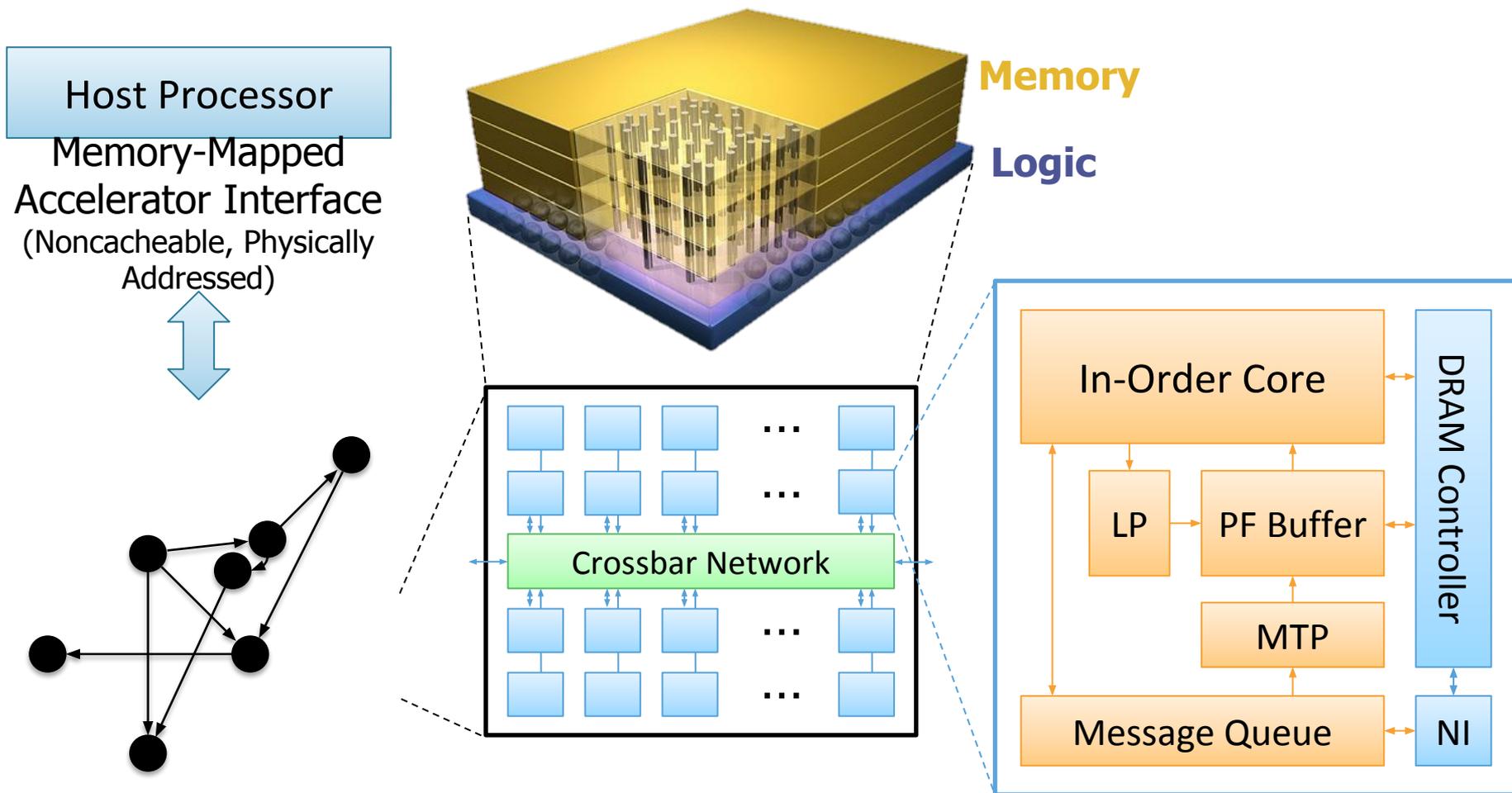
Communications via
Remote Function Calls

Message Queue

Prefetching

LP   PF Buffer

MTP
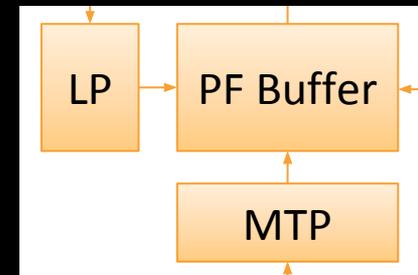
Evaluated Systems

DDR3-OoO   HMC-OoO   HMC-MC   **Tesseract**
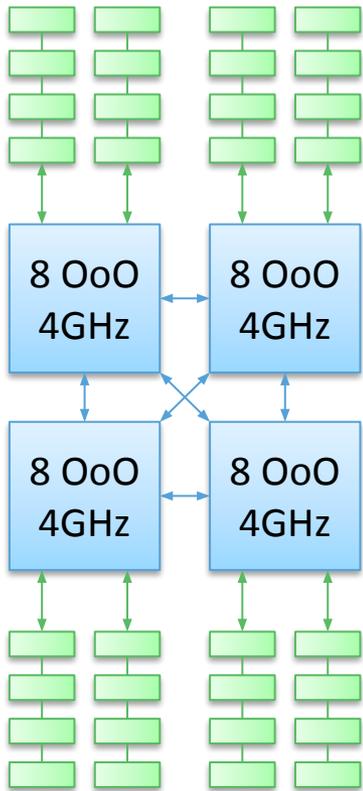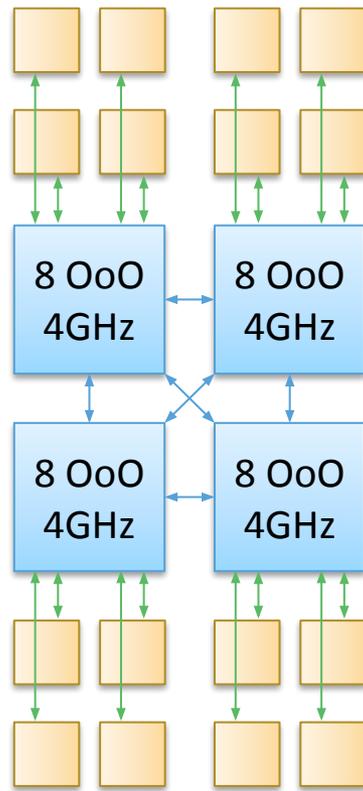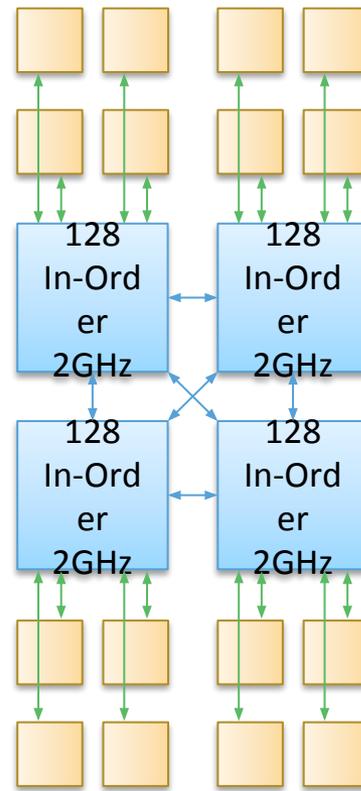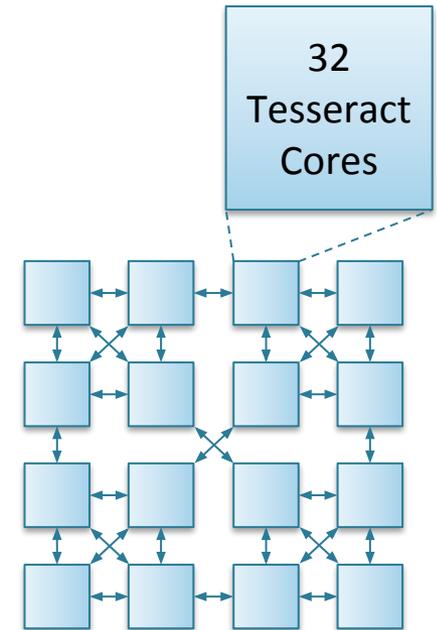
102.4GB/s   640GB/s   640GB/s   **8TB/s**

Tesseract Graph Processing Performance

>13X Performance Improvement

On five graph processing algorithms

Speedup values:
- DDR3-OoO: 1
- HMC-OoO: +56%
- HMC-MC: +25%
- Tesseract: 9.0x
- Tesseract-LP: 11.6x
- Tesseract-LP-MTP: 13.8x
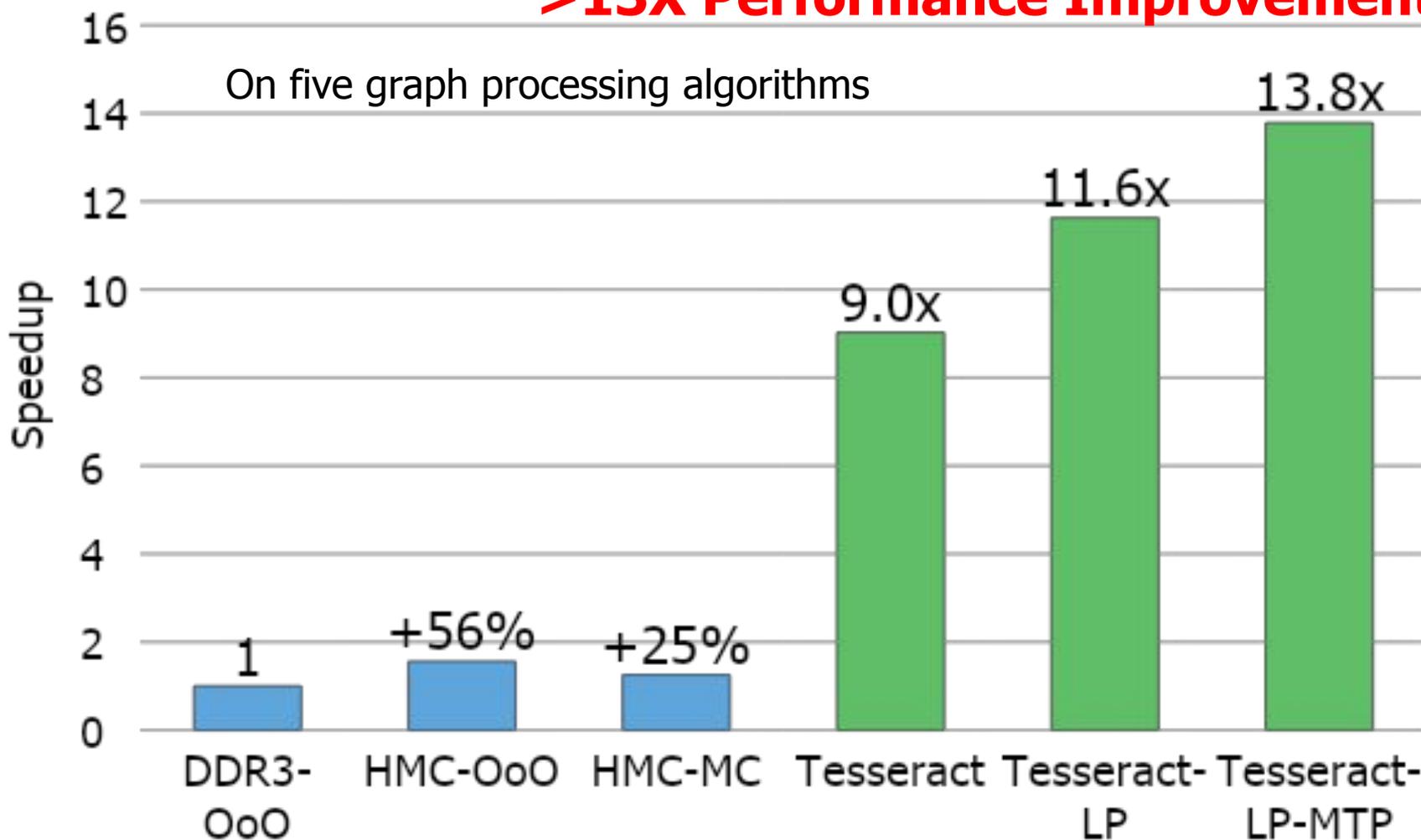
Memory Bandwidth Consumption

Y-axis: Memory Bandwidth (TB/s), scale from 0 to 3.5

- DDR3-OoO: 80GB/s
- HMC-OoO: 190GB/s
- HMC-MC: 243GB/s
- Tesseract: 1.3TB/s
- Tesseract-LP: 2.2TB/s
- Tesseract-LP-MTP: 2.9TB/s
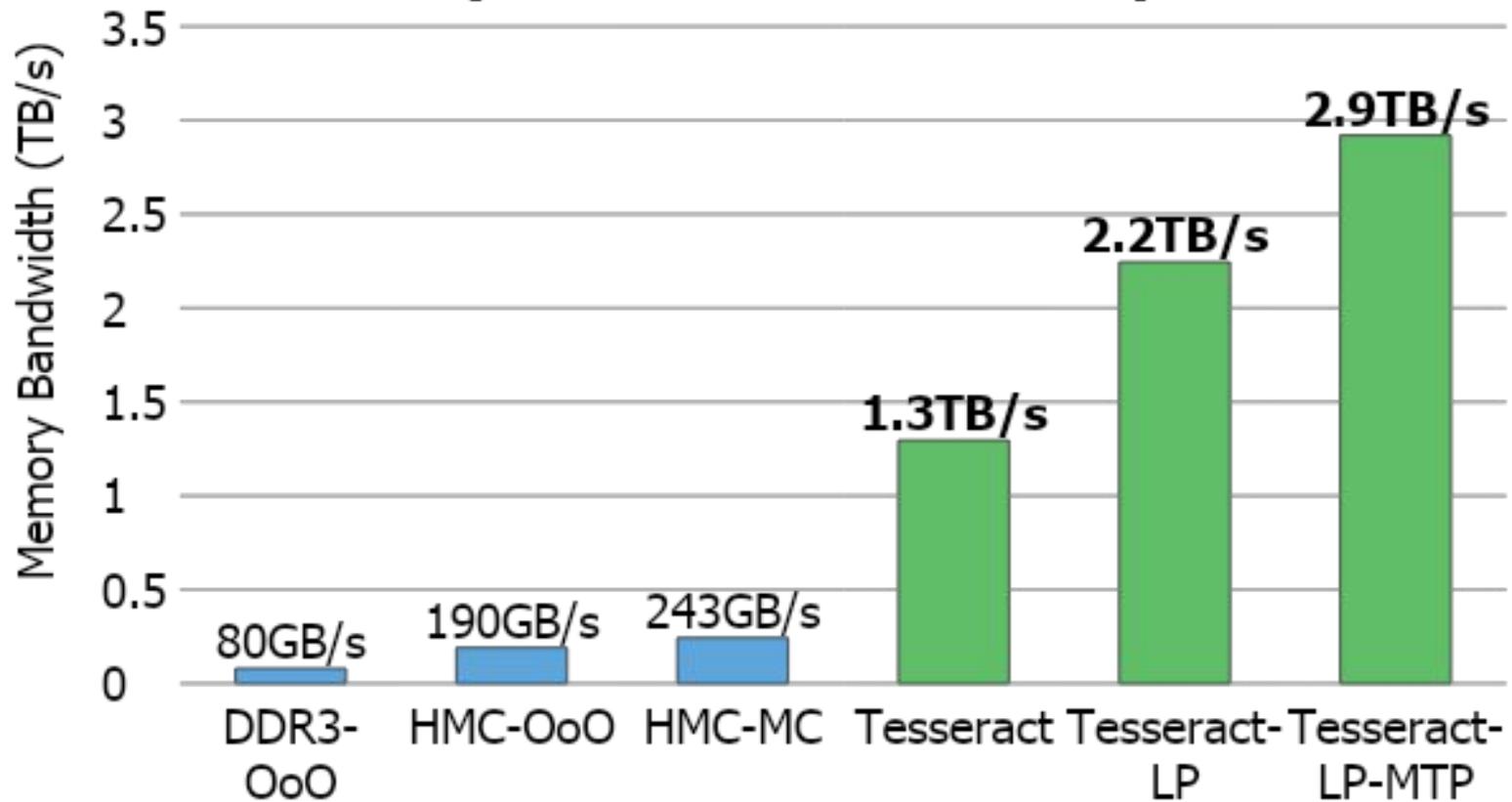
Tesseract Graph Processing System Energy

> 8X Energy Reduction

Legend: ■ Memory Layers ■ Logic Layers □ Cores

X-axis categories: HMC-OoO, Tesseract with Prefetching
Y-axis: 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1, 1.2
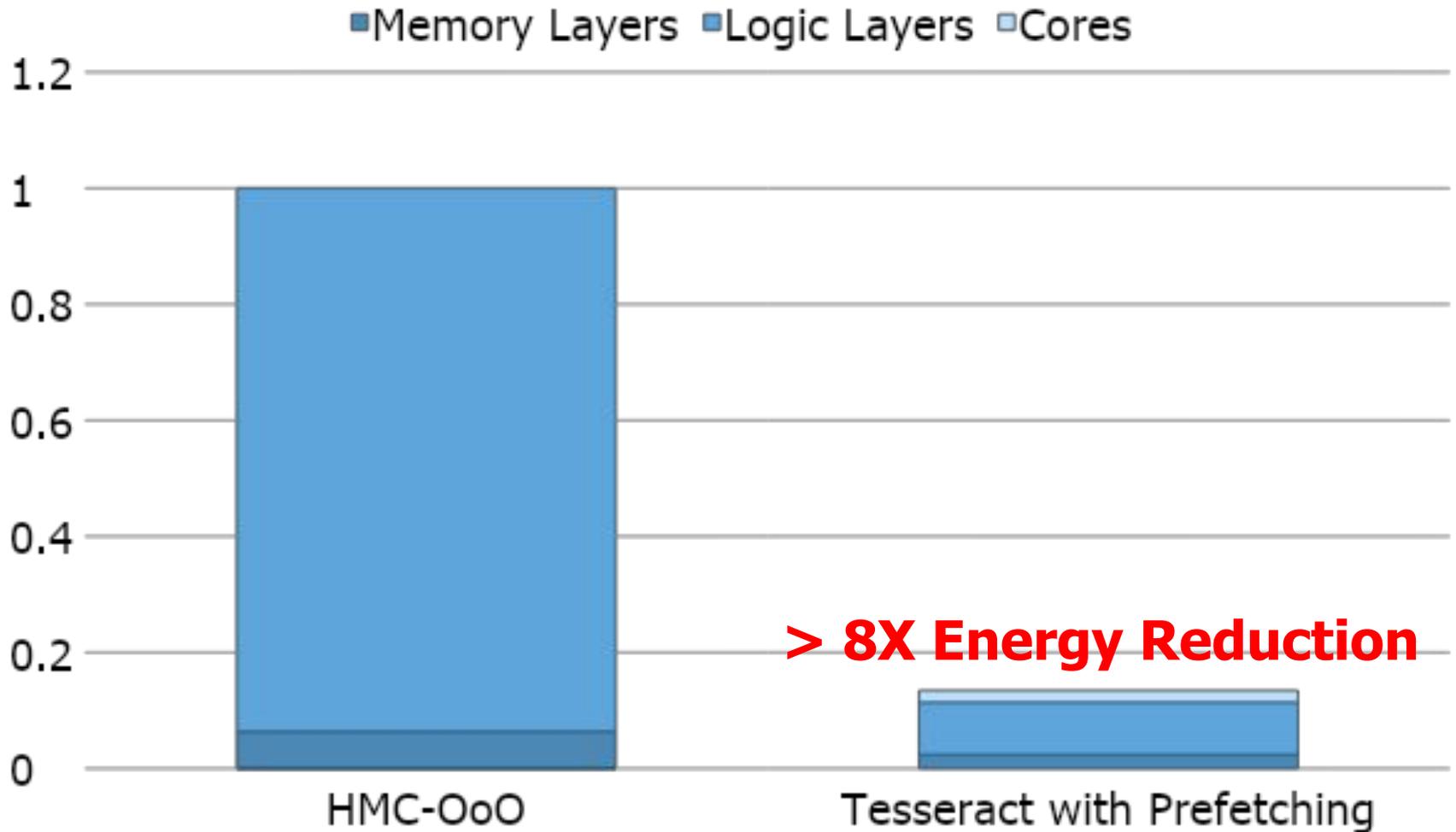
More on Tesseract

- Junwhan Ahn, Sungpack Hong, Sungjoo Yoo, Onur Mutlu, and Kiyoung Choi,
  "A Scalable Processing-in-Memory Accelerator for Parallel Graph Processing"
  Proceedings of the 42nd International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA), Portland, OR, June 2015.
  [Slides (pdf)] [Lightning Session Slides (pdf)]

A Scalable Processing-in-Memory Accelerator for Parallel Graph Processing

Junwhan Ahn   Sungpack Hong§   Sungjoo Yoo   Onur Mutlu†   Kiyoung Choi
junwhan@snu.ac.kr, sungpack.hong@oracle.com, sungjoo.yoo@gmail.com, onur@cmu.edu, kchoi@snu.ac.kr
Seoul National University   §Oracle Labs   †Carnegie Mellon University

Two Key Questions in 3D-Stacked PIM

- What are the performance and energy benefits of using 3D-stacked memory as a coarse-grained accelerator?
  - ❑ By changing the entire system
  - ❑ By performing simple function offloading

- What is the minimal processing-in-memory support we can provide?
  - ❑ With minimal changes to system and programming

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Another Example: PIM on Mobile Devices

- Amirali Boroumand, Saugata Ghose, Youngsok Kim, Rachata Ausavarungnirun, Eric Shiu, Rahul Thakur, Daehyun Kim, Aki Kuusela, Allan Knies, Parthasarathy Ranganathan, and Onur Mutlu,
"Google Workloads for Consumer Devices: Mitigating Data Movement Bottlenecks"
Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems (**ASPLOS**), Williamsburg, VA, USA, March 2018.

Google Workloads for Consumer Devices: Mitigating Data Movement Bottlenecks

Amirali Boroumand[1]   Saugata Ghose[1]   Youngsok Kim[2]
Rachata Ausavarungnirun[1]   Eric Shiu[3]   Rahul Thakur[3]   Daehyun Kim[4,3]
Aki Kuusela[3]   Allan Knies[3]   Parthasarathy Ranganathan[3]   Onur Mutlu[5,1]

Consumer Devices

Consumer devices are everywhere!

**Energy consumption is
a first-class concern in consumer devices**

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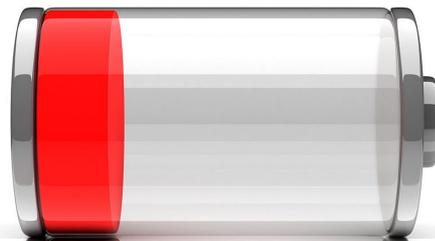
Four Important Workloads

Chrome

Google's web browser

TensorFlow Mobile

Google's machine learning framework

Video Playback

Google's video codec

Video Capture

Google's video codec

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Energy Cost of Data Movement

1st key observation: 62.7% of the total system energy is spent on data movement
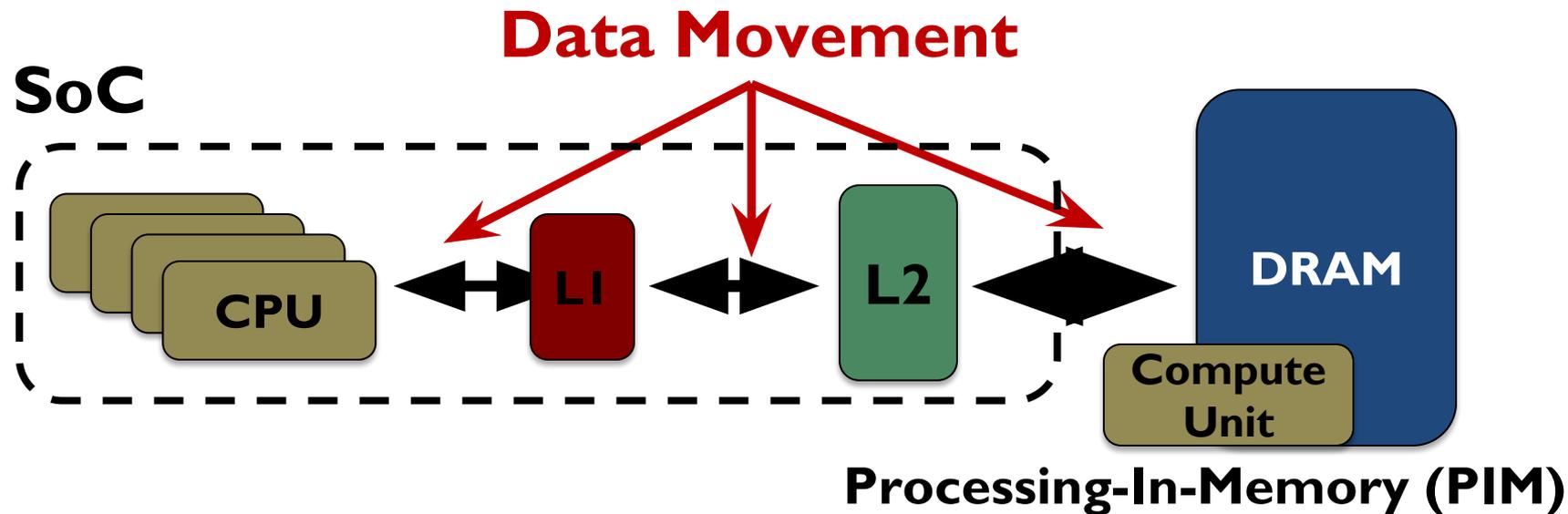
Potential solution: move computation close to data

Challenge: limited area and energy budget

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Using PIM to Reduce Data Movement

2ⁿᵈ key observation: a significant fraction of the data movement often comes from simple functions

We can design lightweight logic to implement these *simple functions* in **memory**

Small embedded low-power core

Small fixed-function accelerators

PIM
Core

PIM
PIM
PIM
Accelerator
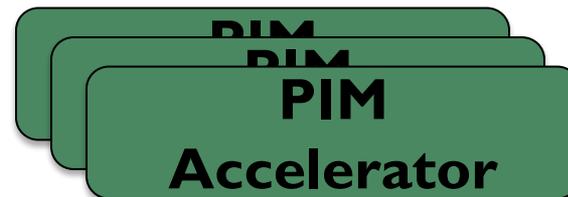
Offloading to PIM logic reduces energy and improves performance, on average, by 55.4% and 54.2%

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Workload Analysis

Chrome

Google's web browser
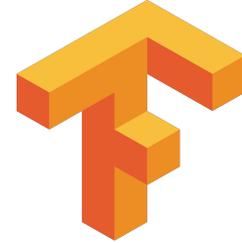
TensorFlow Mobile

Google's machine learning framework

Video Playback

Google's **video codec**

Video Capture

Google's **video codec**

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TensorFlow Mobile

Inference → **Prediction**
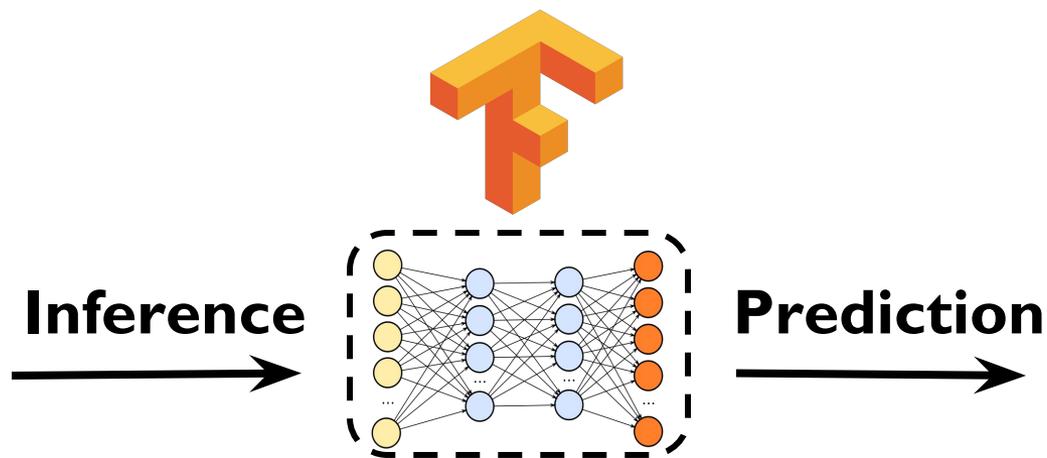
57.3% of the inference energy is spent on
data movement

▼

54.4% of the **data movement** energy comes from
packing/unpacking and **quantization**

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Packing

Matrix → **Packing** → Packed Matrix

Reorders elements of matrices to minimize **cache misses** during **matrix multiplication**

▼   ▼

Up to 40% of the inference energy and 31% of inference execution time

Packing's data movement accounts for up to 35.3% of the inference energy

A simple data reorganization process that requires simple arithmetic

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Quantization

floating point → **Quantization** → integer

Converts <u>32-bit floating point</u> to <u>8-bit integers</u> to improve inference <u>execution time</u> and <u>energy consumption</u>

Up to 16.8% of the inference energy and 16.1% of inference execution time

Majority of quantization energy comes from data movement

A simple data conversion operation that requires shift, addition, and multiplication operations

Normalized Energy
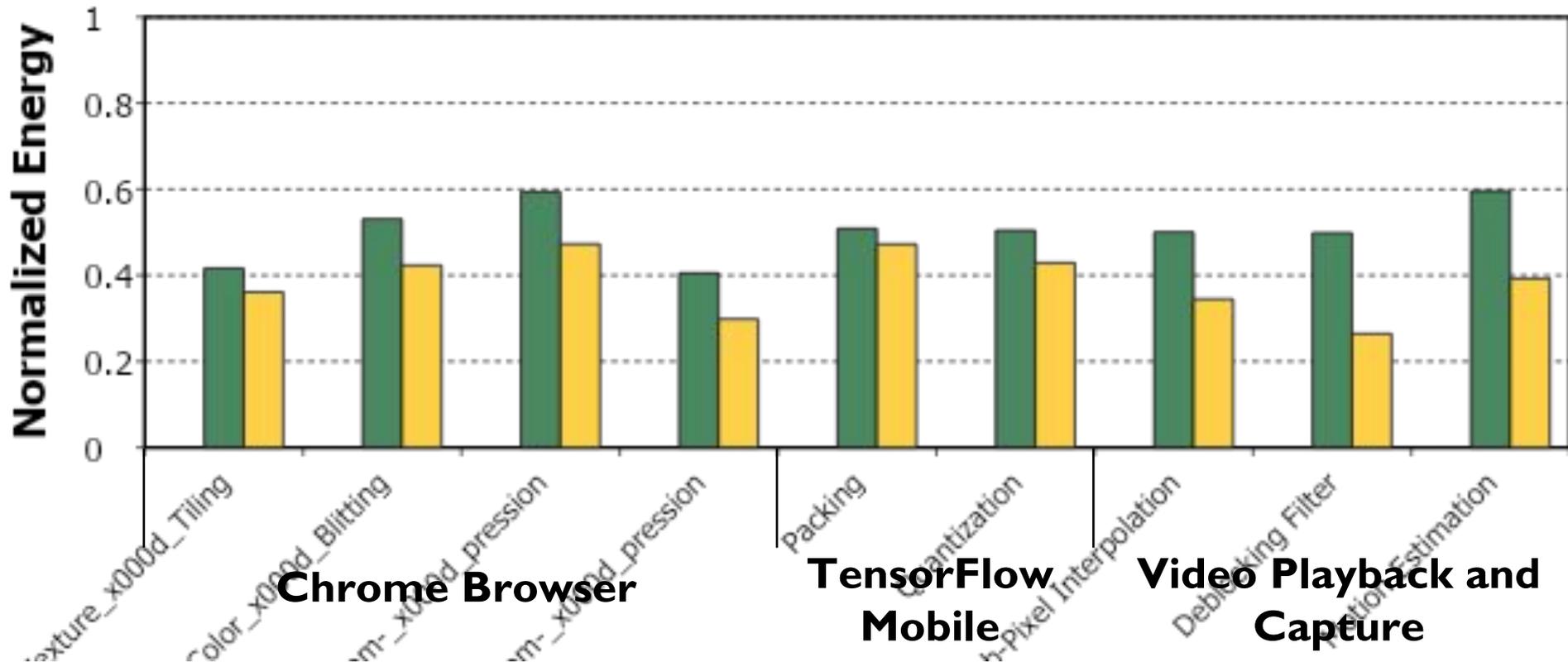
PIM core and PIM accelerator reduce
energy consumption on average by 49.1% and 55.4%

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Normalized Runtime
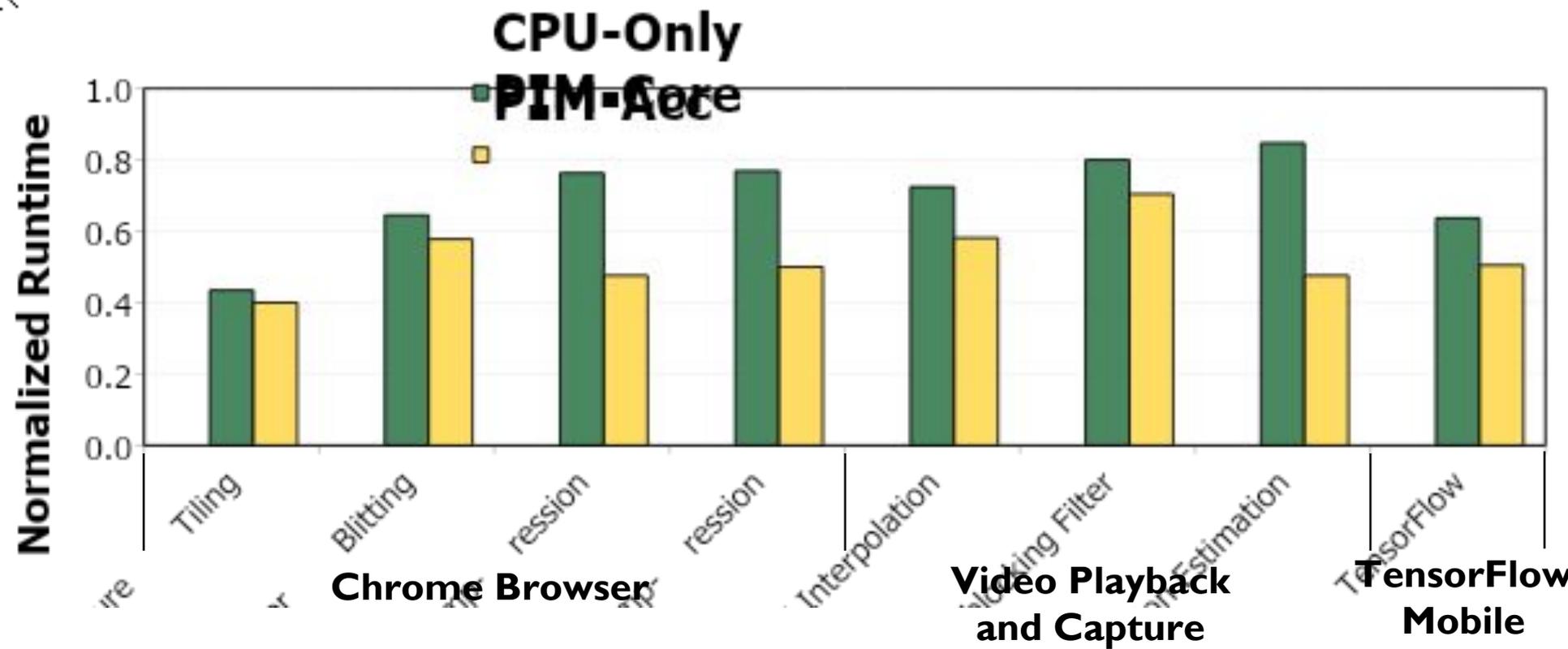
Offloading these kernels to PIM core and PIM accelerator improves performance on average by 44.6% and 54.2%

More on PIM for Mobile Devices

- Amirali Boroumand, Saugata Ghose, Youngsok Kim, Rachata Ausavarungnirun, Eric Shiu, Rahul Thakur, Daehyun Kim, Aki Kuusela, Allan Knies, Parthasarathy Ranganathan, and Onur Mutlu,
**"Google Workloads for Consumer Devices: Mitigating Data Movement Bottlenecks"**
Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems (*ASPLOS*), Williamsburg, VA, USA, March 2018.

**62.7% of the total system energy
is spent on data movement**

Google Workloads for Consumer Devices: Mitigating Data Movement Bottlenecks

Amirali Boroumand[1]   Saugata Ghose[1]   Youngsok Kim[2]

Rachata Ausavarungnirun[1]   Eric Shiu[3]   Rahul Thakur[3]   Daehyun Kim[4,3]

Aki Kuusela[3]   Allan Knies[3]   Parthasarathy Ranganathan[3]   Onur Mutlu[5,1]

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Truly Distributed GPU Processing with PIM?

Accelerating GPU Execution with PIM (I)

- Kevin Hsieh, Eiman Ebrahimi, Gwangsun Kim, Niladrish Chatterjee, Mike O'Connor, Nandita Vijaykumar, Onur Mutlu, and Stephen W. Keckler,
"Transparent Offloading and Mapping (TOM): Enabling Programmer-Transparent Near-Data Processing in GPU Systems"
Proceedings of the 43rd International Symposium on Computer Architecture (**ISCA**), Seoul, South Korea, June 2016.
[Slides (pptx) (pdf)]
[Lightning Session Slides (pptx) (pdf)]

Transparent Offloading and Mapping (TOM):
Enabling Programmer-Transparent Near-Data Processing in GPU Systems

Kevin Hsieh[‡]   Eiman Ebrahimi[†]   Gwangsun Kim[*]   Niladrish Chatterjee[†]   Mike O'Connor[†]
Nandita Vijaykumar[‡]   Onur Mutlu[§‡]   Stephen W. Keckler[†]
[‡]**Carnegie Mellon University**   [†]**NVIDIA**   [*]**KAIST**   [§]**ETH Zürich**

Accelerating GPU Execution with PIM (II)

- Ashutosh Pattnaik, Xulong Tang, Adwait Jog, Onur Kayiran, Asit K. Mishra, Mahmut T. Kandemir, <u>Onur Mutlu</u>, and Chita R. Das, **"Scheduling Techniques for GPU Architectures with Processing-In-Memory Capabilities"** *Proceedings of the 25th International Conference on Parallel Architectures and Compilation Techniques (PACT)*, Haifa, Israel, September 2016.

Two Key Questions in 3D-Stacked PIM

- What are the performance and energy benefits of using 3D-stacked memory as a coarse-grained accelerator?
  - By changing the entire system
  - By performing simple function offloading

- What is the minimal processing-in-memory support we can provide?
  - With minimal changes to system and programming

PEI: PIM-Enabled Instructions (Ideas)

- **Goal:** Develop mechanisms to get the most out of near-data processing with minimal cost, minimal changes to the system, no changes to the programming model

- **Key Idea 1:** Expose each PIM operation as a cache-coherent, virtually-addressed host processor instruction (called PEI) that operates on only a single cache block
  - e.g., __pim_add(&w.next_rank, value) ☐ pim.add r1, (r2)
  - No changes sequential execution/programming model
  - No changes to virtual memory
  - Minimal changes to cache coherence
  - No need for data mapping: Each PEI restricted to a single memory module

- **Key Idea 2:** Dynamically decide where to execute a PEI (i.e., the host processor or PIM accelerator) based on simple locality characteristics and simple hardware predictors
  - Execute each operation at the location that provides the best performance

Simple PIM Operations as ISA Extensions (II)

```
for (v: graph.vertices) {
    value = weight * v.rank;
    for (w: v.successors) {
        w.next_rank += value;
    }
}
```

Host Processor

Main Memory

w.next_rank → w.next_rank

64 bytes **in**
64 bytes **out**
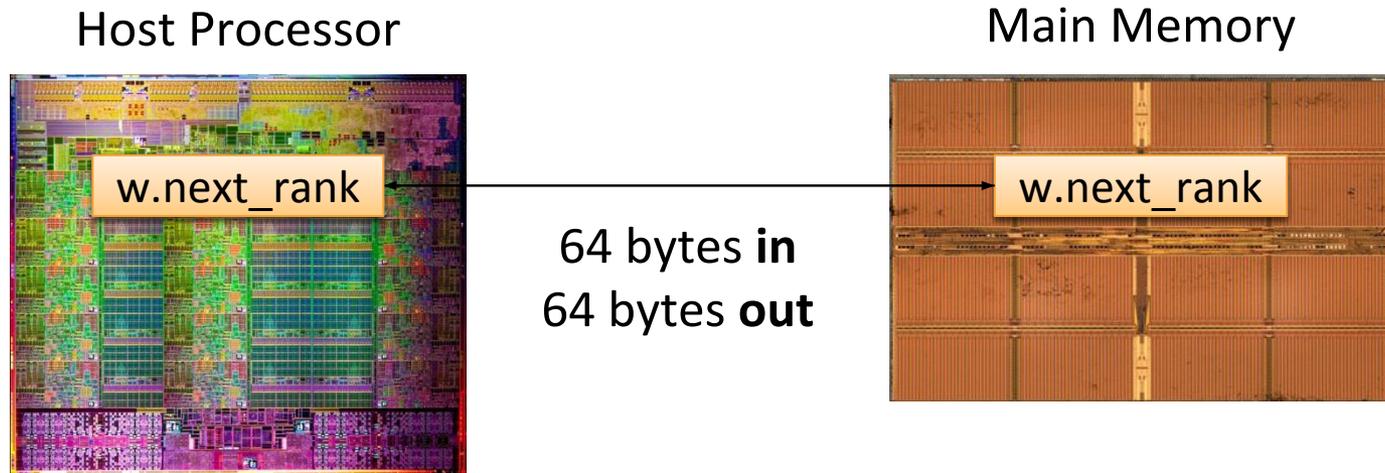
Conventional Architecture

Simple PIM Operations as ISA Extensions (III)

```
for (v: graph.vertices) {
    value = weight * v.rank;
    for (w: v.successors) {
        __pim_add(&w.next_rank, value);
    }
}
```

pim.add r1, (r2)

Host Processor
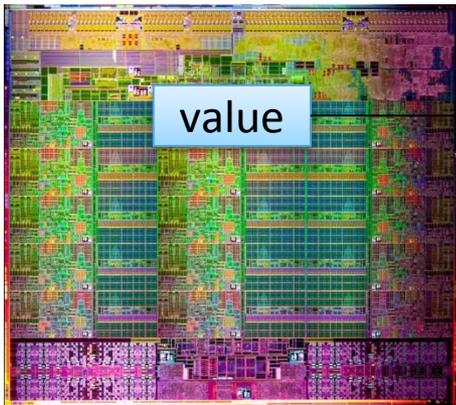
Main Memory

value

w.next_rank

8 bytes **in**
0 bytes **out**

In-Memory Addition

PEI: PIM-Enabled Instructions (Example)

```
for (v: graph.vertices) {
    value = weight * v.rank;
    for (w: v.successors) {
        __pim_add(&w.next_rank, value);
    }
}
pfence();
```

pim.add r1, (r2)

pfence

Table 1: Summary of Supported PIM Operations

Operation	R	W	Input	Output	Applications
8-byte integer increment	O	O	0 bytes	0 bytes	AT
8-byte integer min	O	O	8 bytes	0 bytes	BFS, SP, WCC
Floating-point add	O	O	8 bytes	0 bytes	PR
Hash table probing	O	X	8 bytes	9 bytes	HJ
Histogram bin index	O	X	1 byte	16 bytes	HG, RP
Euclidean distance	O	X	64 bytes	4 bytes	SC
Dot product	O	X	32 bytes	8 bytes	SVM

- Executed either in memory or in the processor: dynamic decision
  - Low-cost locality monitoring for a single instruction
- Cache-coherent, virtually-addressed, single cache block only
- Atomic between different PEIs
- *Not* atomic with normal instructions (use *pfence* for ordering)

Example (Abstract) PEI uArchitecture
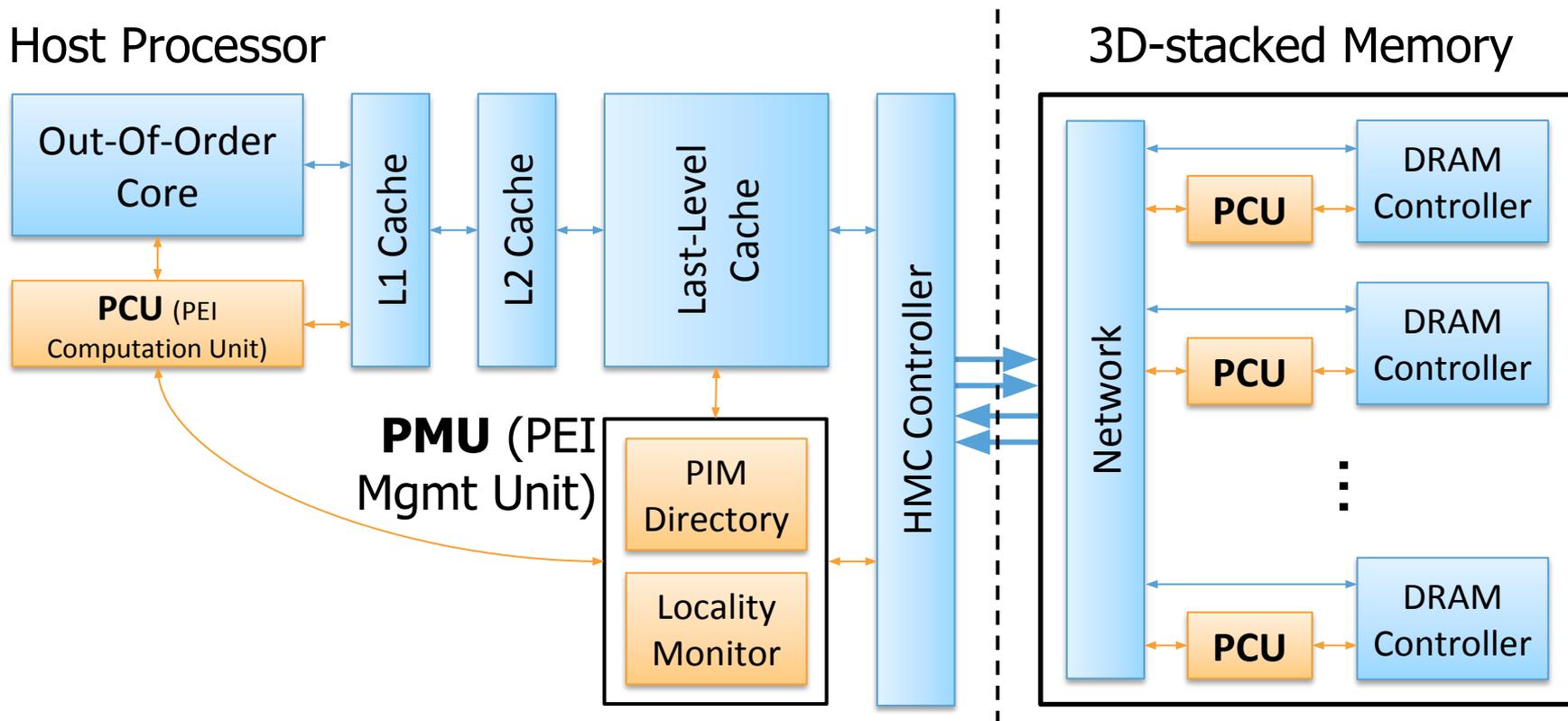
Example PEI uArchitecture

PEI: Initial Evaluation Results

- Initial evaluations with 10 emerging data-intensive workloads
  - Large-scale graph processing
  - In-memory data analytics
  - Machine learning and data mining
  - Three input sets (small, medium, large) for each workload to analyze the impact of data locality

Table 2: Baseline Simulation Configuration

Component	Configuration
Core	16 out-of-order cores, 4 GHz, 4-issue
L1 I/D-Cache	Private, 32 KB, 4/8-way, 64 B blocks, 16 MSHRs
L2 Cache	Private, 256 KB, 8-way, 64 B blocks, 16 MSHRs
L3 Cache	Shared, 16 MB, 16-way, 64 B blocks, 64 MSHRs
On-Chip Network	Crossbar, 2 GHz, 144-bit links
Main Memory	32 GB, 8 HMCs, daisy-chain (80 GB/s full-duplex)
HMC	4 GB, 16 vaults, 256 DRAM banks [20]
– DRAM	FR-FCFS, tCL = tRCD = tRP = 13.75 ns [27]
– Vertical Links	64 TSVs per vault with 2 Gb/s signaling rate [23]

- Pin-based cycle-level x86-64 simulation

- **Performance Improvement and Energy Reduction:**
  - 47% average speedup with large input data sets
  - 32% speedup with small input data sets
  - 25% avg. energy reduction in a single node with large input data sets

PEI Performance Delta: Large Data Sets

(Large Inputs, Baseline:
Host-Only)

47% Performance Improvement

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PEI Energy Consumption

Host-Only

PIM-Only

Locality-Aware

■ Cache
■ HMC Link

Simpler PIM: PIM-Enabled Instructions

- Junwhan Ahn, Sungjoo Yoo, Onur Mutlu, and Kiyoung Choi,
  "PIM-Enabled Instructions: A Low-Overhead, Locality-Aware Processing-in-Memory Architecture"
  Proceedings of the 42nd International Symposium on Computer Architecture (**ISCA**), Portland, OR, June 2015.
  [Slides (pdf)] [Lightning Session Slides (pdf)]

PIM-Enabled Instructions: A Low-Overhead, Locality-Aware Processing-in-Memory Architecture

Junwhan Ahn   Sungjoo Yoo   Onur Mutlu[†]   Kiyoung Choi

junwhan@snu.ac.kr, sungjoo.yoo@gmail.com, onur@cmu.edu, kchoi@snu.ac.kr

Seoul National University   [†]Carnegie Mellon University

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How to Enable Adoption of Processing in Memory

Barriers to Adoption of PIM

1. Functionality of and applications & software for PIM

2. Ease of programming (interfaces and compiler/HW support)

3. System support: coherence & virtual memory

4. Runtime and compilation systems for adaptive scheduling, data mapping, access/sharing control

5. Infrastructures to assess benefits and feasibility

All can be solved with change of mindset

We Need to Revisit the Entire Stack

Problem
Algorithm
Program/Languag
System Software
SW/HW Interface
Micro-architecture
Logic
Devices
Electrons
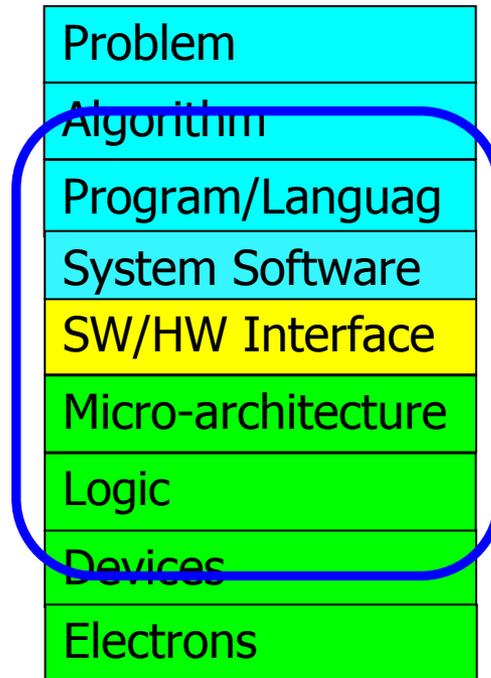
We can get there step by step

PIM Review and Open Problems

Processing Data Where It Makes Sense: Enabling In-Memory Computation

Onur Mutlu[a,b], Saugata Ghose[b], Juan Gómez-Luna[a], Rachata Ausavarungnirun[b,c]

[a]ETH Zürich
[b]Carnegie Mellon University
[c]King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok

Onur Mutlu, Saugata Ghose, Juan Gomez-Luna, and Rachata Ausavarungnirun,
"Processing Data Where It Makes Sense: Enabling In-Memory Computation"
Invited paper in Microprocessors and Microsystems (MICPRO), June 2019.
[arXiv version]

PIM Review and Open Problems (II)

A Workload and Programming Ease Driven Perspective of Processing-in-Memory

Saugata Ghose[†]   Amirali Boroumand[†]   Jeremie S. Kim[†§]   Juan Gómez-Luna[§]   Onur Mutlu[§†]

[†]*Carnegie Mellon University*   [§]*ETH Zürich*

Saugata Ghose, Amirali Boroumand, Jeremie S. Kim, Juan Gomez-Luna, and Onur Mutlu,
"Processing-in-Memory: A Workload-Driven Perspective"
Invited Article in IBM Journal of Research & Development, Special Issue on Hardware for Artificial Intelligence, to appear in November 2019.
[Preliminary arXiv version]

Computing Architectures with Minimal Data Movement

Corollaries: Architectures Today …

- Architectures are terrible at dealing with data
  - Designed to mainly store and move data vs. to compute
  - They are processor-centric as opposed to **data-centric**

- Architectures are terrible at taking advantage of vast amounts of data (and metadata) available to them
  - Designed to make simple decisions, ignoring lots of data
  - They make human-driven decisions vs. **data-driven** decisions

- Architectures are terrible at knowing and exploiting different properties of application data
  - Designed to treat all data as the same
  - They make component-aware decisions vs. **data-aware**

Exploiting Data to Design Intelligent Architectures

System Architecture Design Today

- Human-driven
  - Humans design the policies (how to do things)

- Many (too) simple, short-sighted policies all over the system

- No automatic data-driven policy learning

- (Almost) no learning: cannot take lessons from past actions

Can we design fundamentally intelligent architectures?

An Intelligent Architecture

- Data-driven
  - Machine learns the "best" policies (how to do things)

- Sophisticated, workload-driven, changing, far-sighted policies

- Automatic data-driven policy learning

- All controllers are intelligent data-driven agents

How do we start?

Self-Optimizing Memory Controllers

Self-Optimizing DRAM Controllers
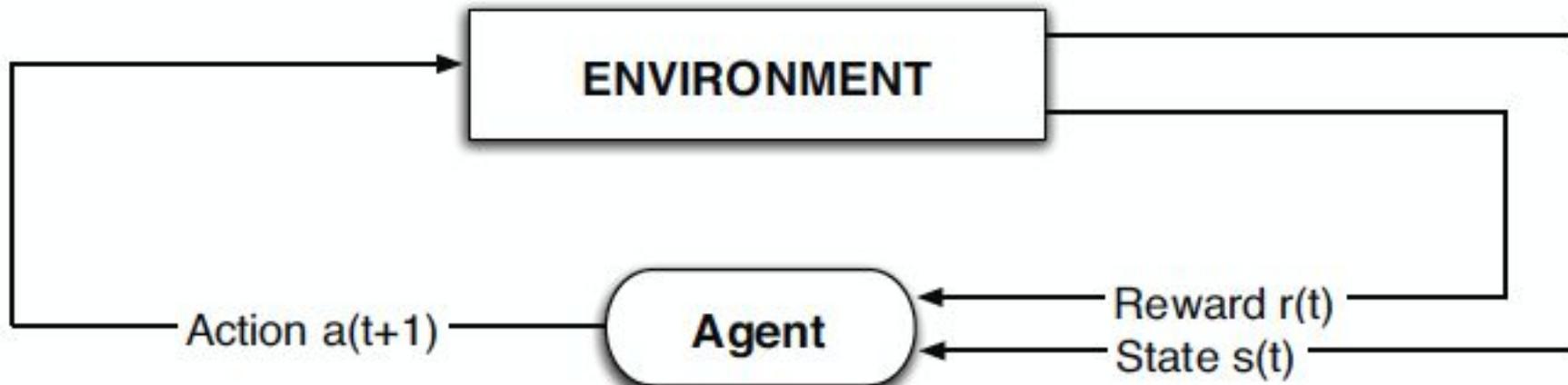
Goal: Learn to choose actions to maximize $r_0 + \gamma r_1 + \gamma^2 r_2 + \ldots$ ($0 \le \gamma < 1$)

Memory controller is a reinforcement learning agent

Figure 2: (a) Intelligent agent based on reinforcement learning principles;

Performance Results
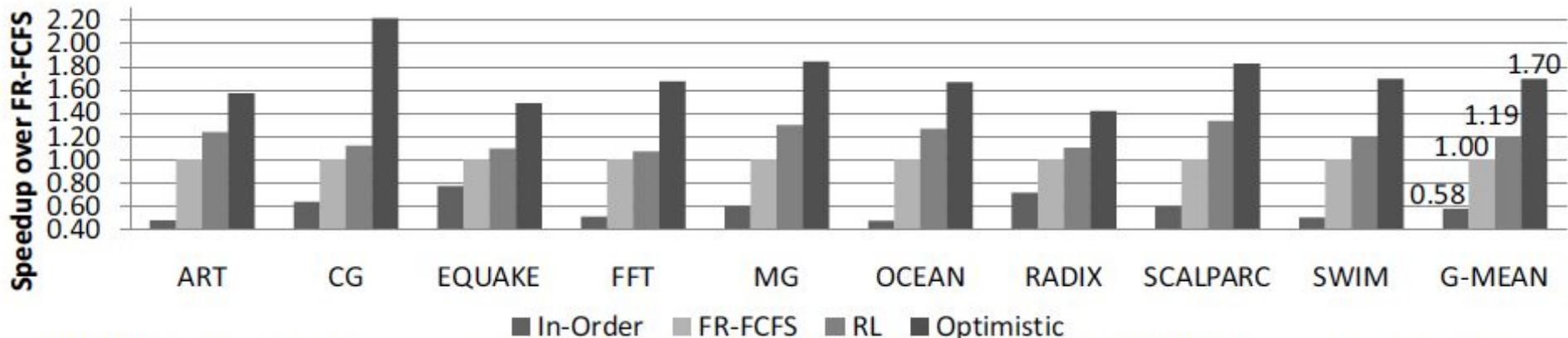
Figure 7: Performance comparison of in-order, FR-FCFS, RL-based, and optimistic memory controllers

Large, robust performance improvements over many human-designed policies
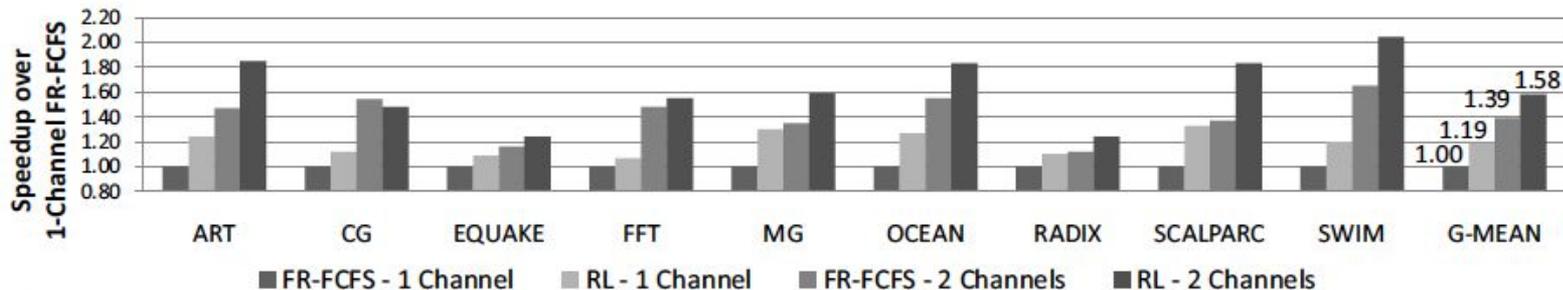
Figure 15: Performance comparison of FR-FCFS and RL-based memory controllers on systems with 6.4GB/s and 12.8GB/s peak DRAM bandwidth

More on Self-Optimizing DRAM Controllers

- Engin Ipek, Onur Mutlu, José F. Martínez, and Rich Caruana,
  "Self Optimizing Memory Controllers: A Reinforcement Learning Approach"
  Proceedings of the 35th International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA), pages 39-50, Beijing, China, June 2008.

Self-Optimizing Memory Controllers: A Reinforcement Learning Approach

Engin İpek[1,2]   Onur Mutlu[2]   José F. Martínez[1]   Rich Caruana[1]

[1]Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850 USA
[2] Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA 98052 USA

Self-Optimizing (Data-Driven) Computing Architectures

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Corollaries: Architectures Today …

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- Architectures are terrible at knowing and exploiting different properties of application data
  - Designed to treat all data as the same
  - They make component-aware decisions vs. **data-aware**

Data-Aware Architectures

- A data-aware architecture understands what it can do with and to each piece of data

- It makes use of different properties of data to improve performance, efficiency and other metrics
  - Compressibility
  - Approximability
  - Locality
  - Sparsity
  - Criticality for Computation X
  - Access Semantics
  - ...

One Problem: Limited Interfaces

Higher-level information is not visible to HW

Data Structures

Code Optimizations

Access Patterns

Software

Integer Float

Data Type Char

Hardware

100011111... **Instructions**
101010011... **Memory Addresses**
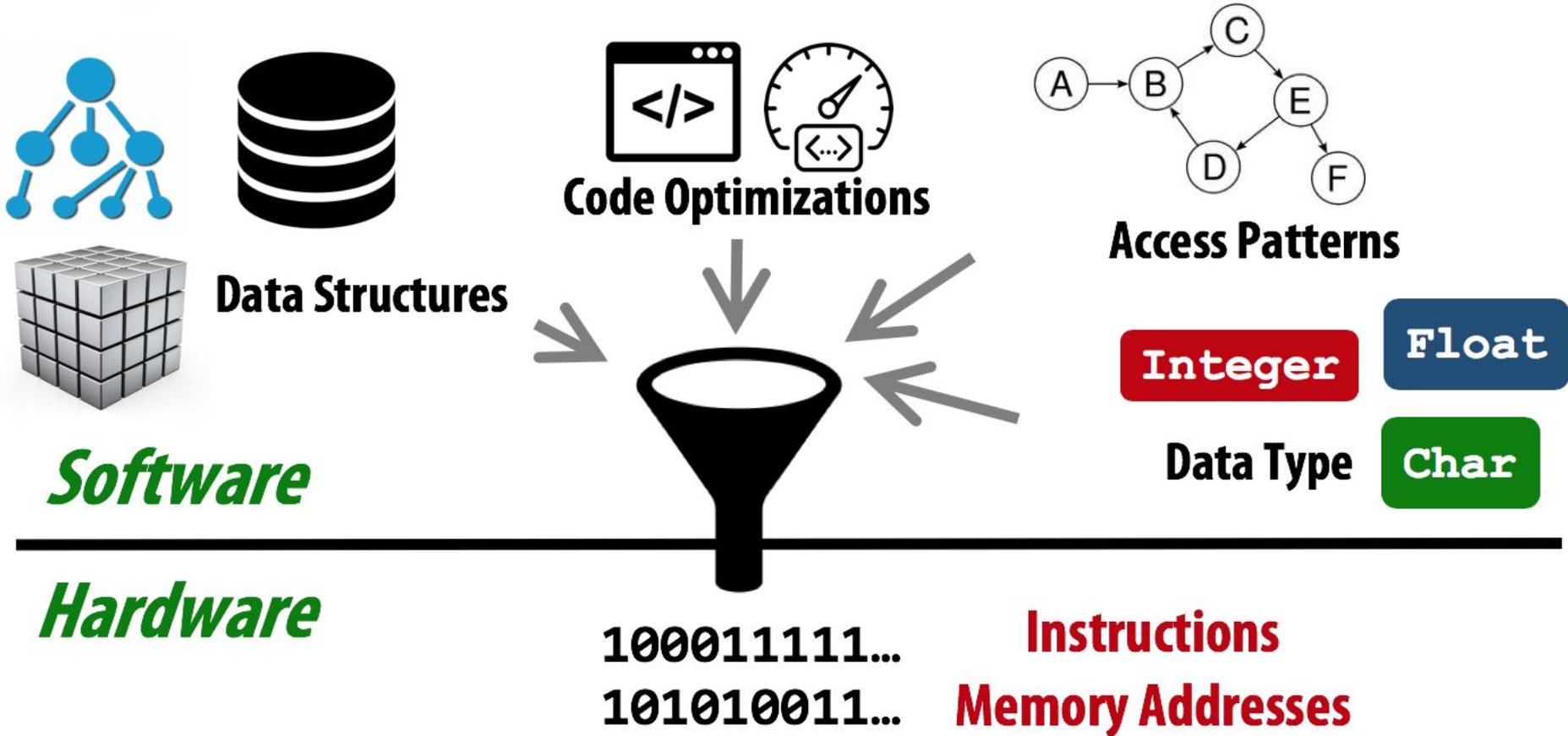
A Solution: More Expressive Interfaces
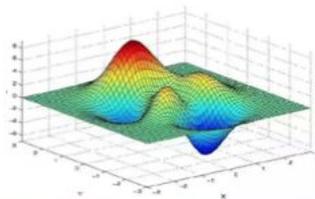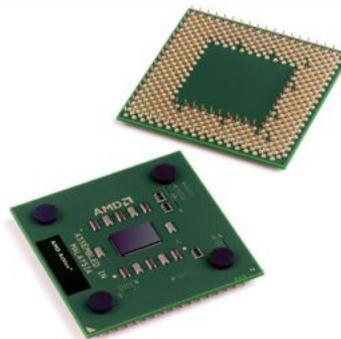
Expressive (Memory) Interfaces

- Nandita Vijaykumar, Abhilasha Jain, Diptesh Majumdar, Kevin Hsieh, Gennady Pekhimenko, Eiman Ebrahimi, Nastaran Hajinazar, Phillip B. Gibbons and Onur Mutlu,
"A Case for Richer Cross-layer Abstractions: Bridging the Semantic Gap with Expressive Memory"
Proceedings of the 45th International Symposium on Computer Architecture (**ISCA**), Los Angeles, CA, USA, June 2018.
[Slides (pptx) (pdf)] [Lightning Talk Slides (pptx) (pdf)]
[Lightning Talk Video]

Nandita Vijaykumar[†§]   Abhilasha Jain[†]   Diptesh Majumdar[†]   Kevin Hsieh[†]   Gennady Pekhimenko[‡]
Eiman Ebrahimi[✕]   Nastaran Hajinazar[+]   Phillip B. Gibbons[†]   Onur Mutlu[§†]

[†]Carnegie Mellon University   [‡]University of Toronto   [✕]NVIDIA
[+]Simon Fraser University   [§]ETH Zürich

Expressive (Memory) Interfaces for GPUs

- Nandita Vijaykumar, Eiman Ebrahimi, Kevin Hsieh, Phillip B. Gibbons and Onur Mutlu,
  "The Locality Descriptor: A Holistic Cross-Layer Abstraction to Express Data Locality in GPUs"
  Proceedings of the 45th International Symposium on Computer Architecture (**ISCA**), Los Angeles, CA, USA, June 2018.
  [Slides (pptx) (pdf)] [Lightning Talk Slides (pptx) (pdf)]
  [Lightning Talk Video]

The Locality Descriptor:
A Holistic Cross-Layer Abstraction to Express Data Locality in GPUs

Nandita Vijaykumar[†§]   Eiman Ebrahimi[‡]   Kevin Hsieh[†]
Phillip B. Gibbons[†]   Onur Mutlu[§†]

[†]**Carnegie Mellon University**   [‡]**NVIDIA**   [§]**ETH Zürich**

An Example: Hybrid Memory Management

SoC

DRAM Ctrl

PCM Ctrl

DRAM

Fast, **durable**
Small, leaky, volatile, high-cost

Phase Change Memory (or Tech. X)

Large, non-volatile, low-cost
Slow, **wears out,** high active energy
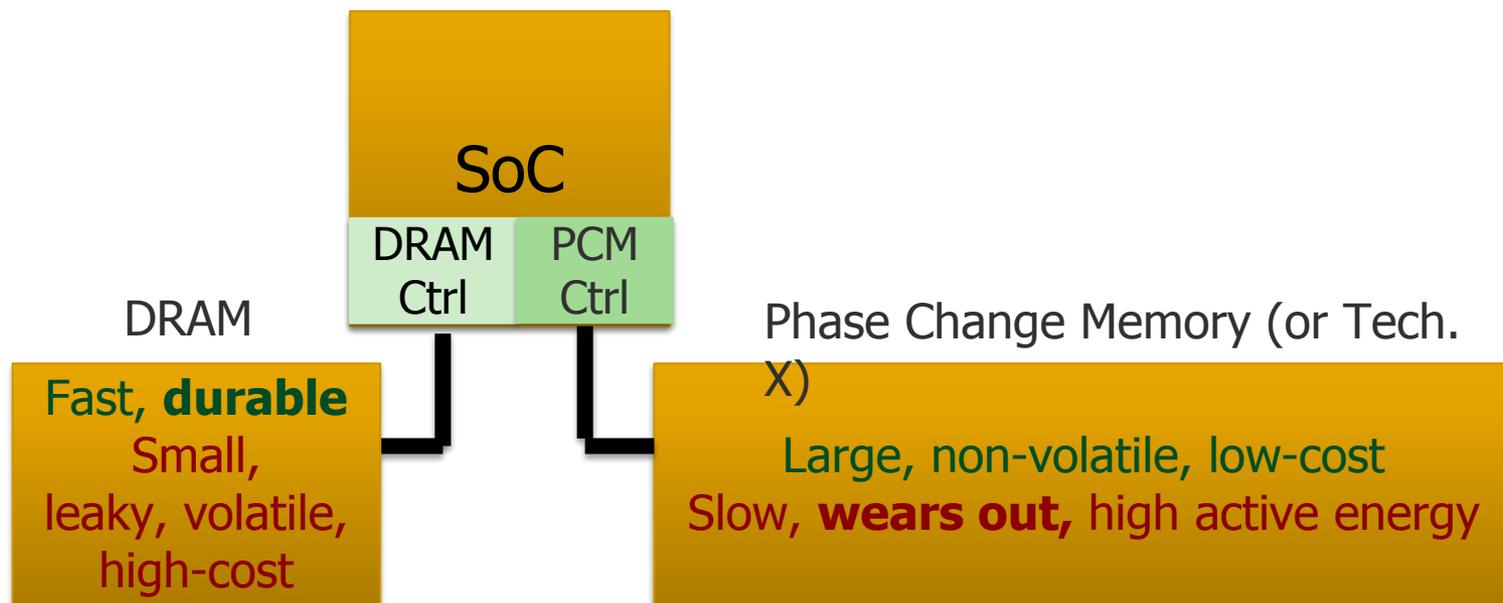
Hardware/software manage data allocation and movement
to achieve the best of multiple technologies

Meza+, "Enabling Efficient and Scalable Hybrid Memories," IEEE Comp. Arch. Letters, 2012.
Yoon+, "Row Buffer Locality Aware Caching Policies for Hybrid Memories," ICCD 2012 Best Paper Award.

An Example: Heterogeneous-Reliability Memory

- Yixin Luo, Sriram Govindan, Bikash Sharma, Mark Santaniello, Justin Meza, Aman Kansal, Jie Liu, Badriddine Khessib, Kushagra Vaid, and Onur Mutlu,
"Characterizing Application Memory Error Vulnerability to Optimize Data Center Cost via Heterogeneous-Reliability Memory"
Proceedings of the 44th Annual IEEE/IFIP International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks (**DSN**), Atlanta, GA, June 2014. [Summary] [Slides (pptx) (pdf)] [Coverage on ZDNet]

Characterizing Application Memory Error Vulnerability to Optimize Datacenter Cost via Heterogeneous-Reliability Memory

Yixin Luo   Sriram Govindan[*]   Bikash Sharma[*]   Mark Santaniello[*]   Justin Meza
Aman Kansal[*]   Jie Liu[*]   Badriddine Khessib[*]   Kushagra Vaid[*]   Onur Mutlu
Carnegie Mellon University, yixinluo@cs.cmu.edu, {meza, onur}@cmu.edu
[*]Microsoft Corporation, {srgovin, bsharma, marksan, kansal, jie.liu, bkhessib, kvaid}@microsoft.com

Exploiting Memory Error Tolerance with Hybrid Memory Systems

Vulnerable data

Tolerant data

Reliable memory

Low-cost memory

On Microsoft's Web Search workload

Reduces server hardware cost by 4.7 %

Achieves single server availability target of 99.90 %

Heterogeneous-**R**eliability **M**emory [DSN 2014]

Data-Aware (Expressive) Computing Architectures

Epilogue

A Quote from A Famous Architect

- "architecture […] based upon principle, and not upon precedent"
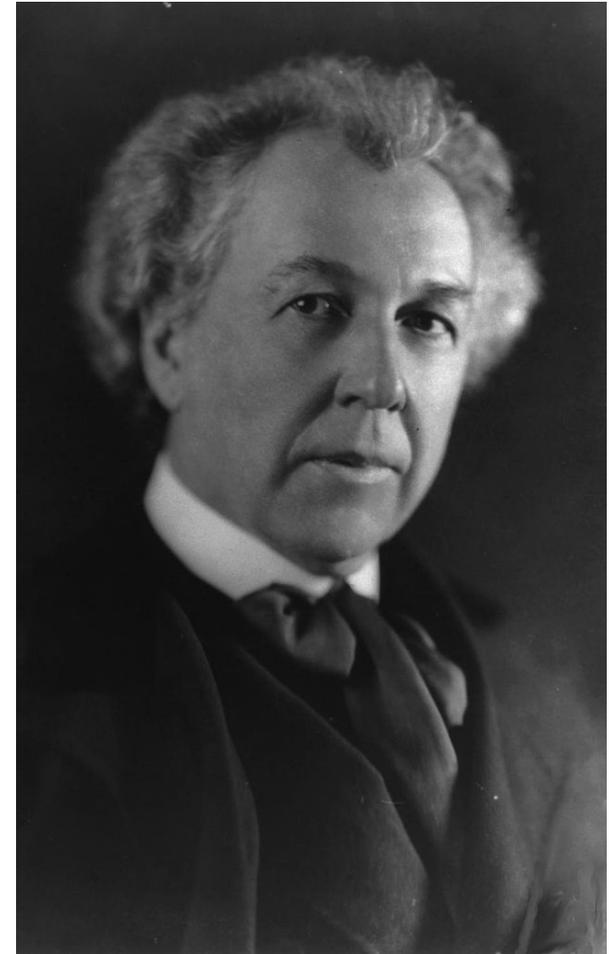
Precedent-Based Design?

- "architecture […] based upon principle, and not upon precedent"

Principled Design

- "architecture […] based upon principle, and not upon precedent"

www.GreatBuildings.com

The Overarching Principle

Organic architecture

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Organic architecture is a philosophy of architecture which promotes harmony between human habitation and the natural world through design approaches so sympathetic and well integrated with its site, that buildings, furnishings, and surroundings become part of a unified, interrelated composition.

A well-known example of organic architecture is Fallingwater, the residence Frank Lloyd Wright designed for the Kaufmann family in rural Pennsylvania. Wright had many choices to locate a home on this large site, but chose to place the home directly over the waterfall and creek creating a close, yet noisy dialog with the rushing water and the steep site. The horizontal striations of stone masonry with daring cantilevers of colored beige concrete blend with native rock outcroppings and the wooded environment.

Another Example: Precedent-Based Design

Principled Design
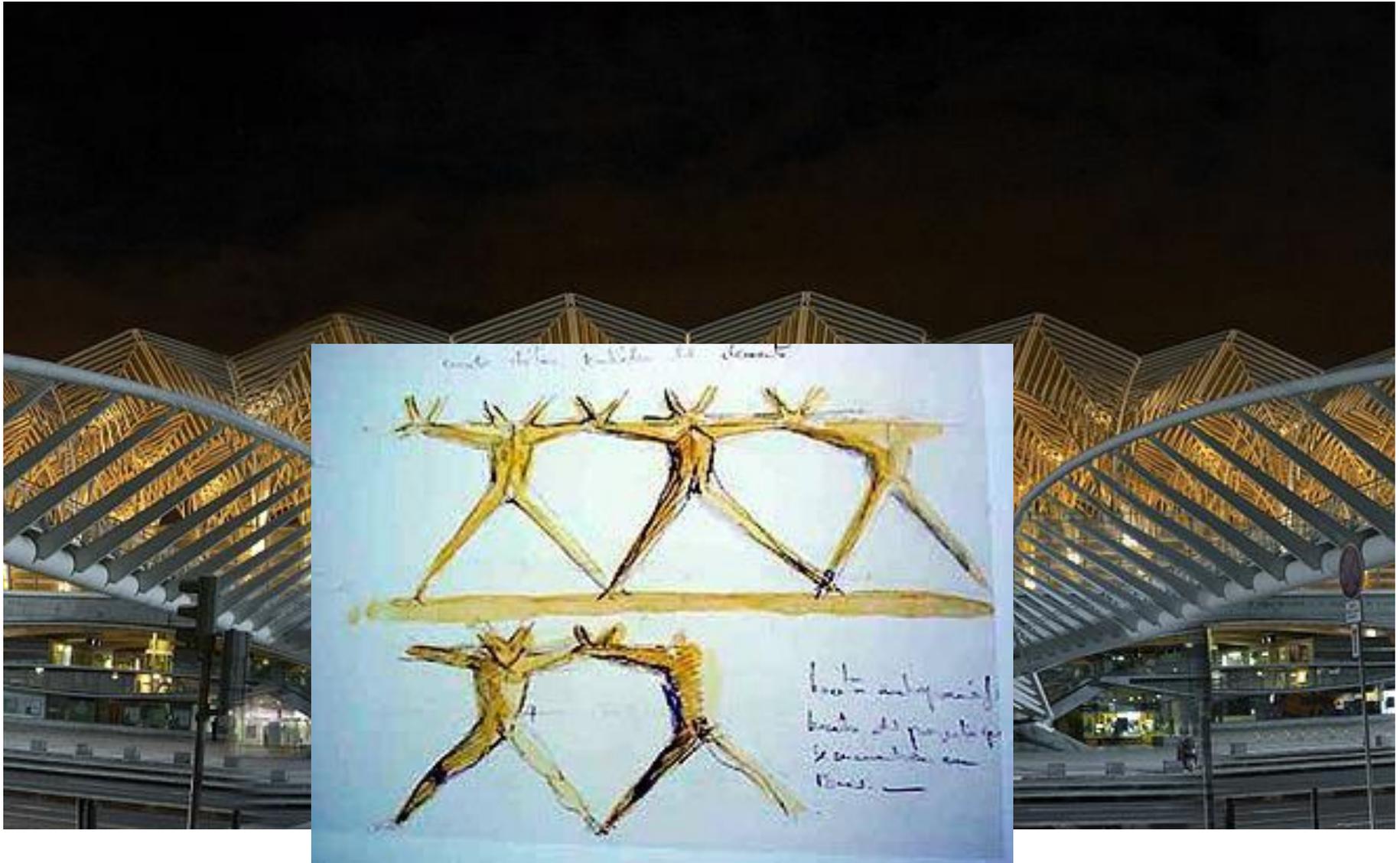
Another Principled Design

Another Principled Design

Principle Applied to Another Structure

The Overarching Principle

Zoomorphic architecture

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Zoomorphic architecture is the practice of using animal forms as the inspirational basis and blueprint for architectural design. "While animal forms have always played a role adding some of the deepest layers of meaning in architecture, it is now becoming evident that a new strand of biomorphism is emerging where the meaning derives not from any specific representation but from a more general allusion to biological processes."[1]

Some well-known examples of Zoomorphic architecture can be found in the TWA Flight Center building in New York City, by Eero Saarinen, or the Milwaukee Art Museum by Santiago Calatrava, both inspired by the form of a bird's wings.[3]

Overarching Principle for Computing?

Concluding Remarks

- It is time to design principled system architectures to solve the data handling (i.e., memory/storage) problem

- Design complete systems to be truly balanced, high-performance, and energy-efficient □ intelligent architectures
  - **Data-centric, data-driven, data-aware**

- **Enable computation capability inside & nearby memory**

- This can
  - Lead to **orders-of-magnitude** improvements
  - **Enable new applications & computing platforms**
  - **Enable better understanding of nature**
  - **...**

Architectures for Intelligent Machines

Data-centric

Data-driven

Data-aware

Source: http://spectrum.ieee.org/image/MjYzMzAyMg.jpeg

We Need to Think Across the Entire Stack

Problem
Algorithm
Program/Languag
System Software
SW/HW Interface
Micro-architecture
Logic
Devices
Electrons
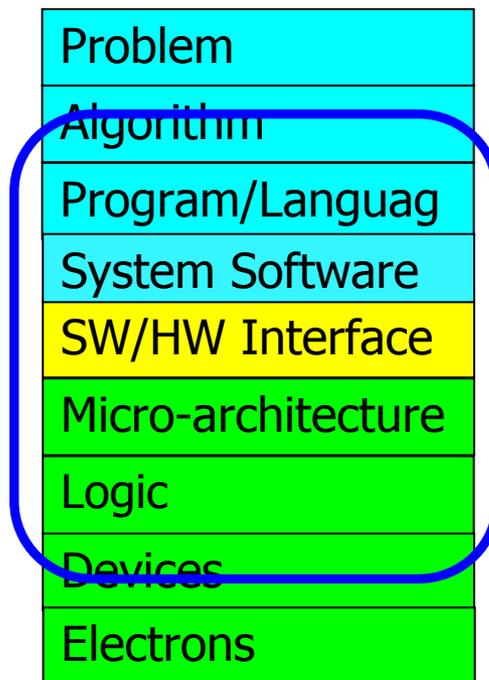
We can get there step by step

We Need to Exploit Good Principles

- Data-centric system design

- All components intelligent

- Better cross-layer communication, better interfaces

- Better-than-worst-case design

- Heterogeneity

- Flexibility, adaptability

Open minds

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If In Doubt, See Other Doubtful Technologies

- A very "doubtful" emerging technology
  - for at least two decades

INVITED
PAPER

Proceedings of the IEEE, Sept. 2017

Error Characterization, Mitigation, and Recovery in Flash-Memory-Based Solid-State Drives

This paper reviews the most recent advances in solid-state drive (SSD) error characterization, mitigation, and data recovery techniques to improve both SSD's reliability and lifetime.

By Yu Cai, Saugata Ghose, Erich F. Haratsch, Yixin Luo, and Onur Mutlu

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https://arxiv.org/pdf/1706.08642

PIM Review and Open Problems

Processing Data Where It Makes Sense: Enabling In-Memory Computation

Onur Mutlu[a,b], Saugata Ghose[b], Juan Gómez-Luna[a], Rachata Ausavarungnirun[b,c]

[a] ETH Zürich
[b] Carnegie Mellon University
[c] King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok

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"Processing Data Where It Makes Sense: Enabling In-Memory Computation"
Invited paper in Microprocessors and Microsystems (MICPRO), June 2019.
[arXiv version]

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A Workload and Programming Ease Driven Perspective of Processing-in-Memory

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"Processing-in-Memory: A Workload-Driven Perspective"
Invited Article in IBM Journal of Research & Development, Special Issue on Hardware for Artificial Intelligence, to appear in November 2019.
[Preliminary arXiv version]

Memory-Centric Computing in the Big Data Era

Onur Mutlu

omutlu@gmail.com

https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu

8 August 2019

FMS Special Session Invited Talk

SAFARI **ETH**zürich **Carnegie Mellon**

Backup Slides

Fundamental Principles

Recap: Corollaries: Architectures Today

- Architectures are terrible at dealing with data
  - Designed to mainly store and move data vs. to compute
  - They are processor-centric as opposed to data-centric

- Architectures are terrible at taking advantage of vast amounts of data (and metadata) available to them
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- Architectures are terrible at knowing and exploiting different properties of application data
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Some Solution Principles

- Data-centric system design

- All components intelligent

- Better cross-layer communication, better interfaces

- Better-than-worst-case design

- Heterogeneity

- Flexibility, adaptability

Open minds

More Detailed Solution Principles (So Far)

- **Data-centric system design & intelligence spread around**
  - ❏ Do not center everything around traditional computation units

- **Better cooperation across layers of the system**
  - ❏ Careful co-design of components and layers: system/arch/device
  - ❏ Better, richer, more expressive and flexible interfaces

- **Better-than-worst-case design**
  - ❏ Do not optimize for the worst case
  - ❏ Worst case should not determine the common case

- **Heterogeneity in design (specialization, asymmetry)**
  - ❏ Enables a more efficient design (No one size fits all)

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Readings, Videos, Reference Materials

Accelerated Memory Course (~6.5 hours)

- **ACACES 2018**
  - Memory Systems and Memory-Centric Computing Systems
  - Taught by Onur Mutlu July 9-13, 2018
  - ~6.5 hours of lectures

- **Website for the Course including Videos, Slides, Papers**
  - https://safari.ethz.ch/memory_systems/ACACES2018/
  - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi-HXxomt hrpDpMJm05P6J9x

- **All Papers are at:**
  - https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/projects.htm
  - Final lecture notes and readings (for all topics)

Longer Memory Course (~18 hours)

- **Tu Wien 2019**
  - Memory Systems and Memory-Centric Computing Systems
  - Taught by Onur Mutlu June 12-19, 2019
  - ~18 hours of lectures

- **Website for the Course including Videos, Slides, Papers**
  - https://safari.ethz.ch/memory_systems/TUWien2019
  - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi_gntM55VoMlKlw7YrXOhbl

- **All Papers are at:**
  - https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/projects.htm
  - Final lecture notes and readings (for all topics)

Some Overview Talks

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgiZlSOcGFM&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi8D_5MGV6EnXEJHnV2YFBJl

- ## Future Computing Architectures
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgiZlSOcGFM&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi8D_5MGV6EnXEJHnV2YFBJl&index=1

- ## Enabling In-Memory Computation
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHqsNbxgdzM&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi8D_5MGV6EnXEJHnV2YFBJl&index=7

- ## Accelerating Genome Analysis
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPnSmfwu2-A&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi8D_5MGV6EnXEJHnV2YFBJl&index=9

- ## Rethinking Memory System Design
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7xZLNMIY1E&list=PL5Q2soXY2Zi8D_5MGV6EnXEJHnV2YFBJl&index=3

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Reference Overview Paper I

Processing Data Where It Makes Sense:
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[b]Carnegie Mellon University
[c]King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok

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"Processing Data Where It Makes Sense: Enabling In-Memory Computation"
Invited paper in Microprocessors and Microsystems (MICPRO), June 2019.
[arXiv version]

Reference Overview Paper II

Enabling the Adoption of Processing-in-Memory: Challenges, Mechanisms, Future Research Directions

SAUGATA GHOSE, KEVIN HSIEH, AMIRALI BOROUMAND, RACHATA AUSAVARUNGNIRUN

Carnegie Mellon University

ONUR MUTLU

ETH Zürich and Carnegie Mellon University

Saugata Ghose, Kevin Hsieh, Amirali Boroumand, Rachata Ausavarungnirun, Onur Mutlu,
"Enabling the Adoption of Processing-in-Memory: Challenges, Mechanisms, Future Research Directions"
Invited Book Chapter, to appear in 2018.
[Preliminary arxiv.org version]

Reference Overview Paper III

- Onur Mutlu and Lavanya Subramanian,
"Research Problems and Opportunities in Memory Systems"
Invited Article in Supercomputing Frontiers and Innovations (SUPERFRI), 2014/2015.

Research Problems and Opportunities in Memory Systems

Onur Mutlu[1], Lavanya Subramanian[1]

Reference Overview Paper IV

- Onur Mutlu,
  "The RowHammer Problem and Other Issues We May Face as Memory Becomes Denser"
  Invited Paper in Proceedings of the Design, Automation, and Test in Europe Conference (**DATE**), Lausanne, Switzerland, March 2017.
  [Slides (pptx) (pdf)]

The RowHammer Problem
and Other Issues We May Face as Memory Becomes Denser

Onur Mutlu
ETH Zürich
onur.mutlu@inf.ethz.ch
https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu

https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/pub/rowhammer-and-other-memory-issues_date17.pdf

Reference Overview Paper V

- Onur Mutlu,
"Memory Scaling: A Systems Architecture Perspective"
Technical talk at MemCon 2013 (**MEMCON**), Santa Clara, CA, August 2013. [Slides (pptx) (pdf)]
[Video] [Coverage on StorageSearch]

Memory Scaling: A Systems Architecture Perspective

Onur Mutlu
Carnegie Mellon University
onur@cmu.edu
http://users.ece.cmu.edu/~omutlu/

Reference Overview Paper VI

INVITED PAPER

Proceedings of the IEEE, Sept. 2017

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By Yu Cai, Saugata Ghose, Erich F. Haratsch, Yixin Luo, and Onur Mutlu

Reference Overview Paper VII

- Onur Mutlu and Jeremie Kim,
  "RowHammer: A Retrospective"
  IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems (**TCAD**) *Special Issue on Top Picks in Hardware and Embedded Security*, 2019.
  [Preliminary arXiv version]

RowHammer: A Retrospective

Onur Mutlu[§‡]   Jeremie S. Kim[‡§]
[§]ETH Zürich   [‡]Carnegie Mellon University

Reference Overview Paper VIII

A Workload and Programming Ease Driven Perspective of Processing-in-Memory

Saugata Ghose[†]   Amirali Boroumand[†]   Jeremie S. Kim[†§]   Juan Gómez-Luna[§]   Onur Mutlu[§†]

[†]*Carnegie Mellon University*   [§]*ETH Zürich*

Saugata Ghose, Amirali Boroumand, Jeremie S. Kim, Juan Gomez-Luna, and Onur Mutlu,
"Processing-in-Memory: A Workload-Driven Perspective"
Invited Article in IBM Journal of Research & Development, Special Issue on Hardware for Artificial Intelligence, to appear in November 2019.
[Preliminary arXiv version]

Related Videos and Course Materials (I)

- **Undergraduate Computer Architecture Course Lecture Videos (2015, 2014, 2013)**

- **Undergraduate Computer Architecture Course Materials (2015, 2014, 2013)**

- **Graduate Computer Architecture Course Lecture Videos (2018, 2017, 2015, 2013)**

- **Graduate Computer Architecture Course Materials (2018, 2017, 2015, 2013)**

- **Parallel Computer Architecture Course Materials (Lecture Videos)**

Related Videos and Course Materials (II)

- **Freshman Digital Circuits and Computer Architecture Course Lecture Videos** (**2018**, **2017**)

- **Freshman Digital Circuits and Computer Architecture Course Materials** (**2018**)

- **Memory Systems Short Course Materials** (**Lecture Video on Main Memory and DRAM Basics**)

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Some Open Source Tools (I)

- Rowhammer – Program to Induce RowHammer Errors
  - https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/rowhammer
- Ramulator – Fast and Extensible DRAM Simulator
  - https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/ramulator
- MemSim – Simple Memory Simulator
  - https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/memsim
- NOCulator – Flexible Network-on-Chip Simulator
  - https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/NOCulator
- SoftMC – FPGA-Based DRAM Testing Infrastructure
  - https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SoftMC

- Other open-source software from my group
  - **https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/**
  - **http://www.ece.cmu.edu/~safari/tools.html**

Some Open Source Tools (II)

- MQSim – A Fast Modern SSD Simulator
  - https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/MQSim
- Mosaic – GPU Simulator Supporting Concurrent Applications
  - https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/Mosaic
- IMPICA – Processing in 3D-Stacked Memory Simulator
  - https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/IMPICA
- SMLA – Detailed 3D-Stacked Memory Simulator
  - https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SMLA
- HWASim – Simulator for Heterogeneous CPU-HWA Systems
  - https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/HWASim

- Other open-source software from my group
  - **https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/**
  - **http://www.ece.cmu.edu/~safari/tools.html**

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More Open Source Tools (III)

- **A lot more open-source software from my group**
  - **https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/**
  - **http://www.ece.cmu.edu/~safari/tools.html**

Referenced Papers

- All are available at

  https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/projects.htm

  http://scholar.google.com/citations?user=7XyGUGkAAAAJ&hl=en

  https://people.inf.ethz.ch/omutlu/acaces2018.html

Some PIM Adoption Issues & Solution Directions

Simpler PIM: PIM-Enabled Instructions

- Junwhan Ahn, Sungjoo Yoo, Onur Mutlu, and Kiyoung Choi,
  "PIM-Enabled Instructions: A Low-Overhead, Locality-Aware Processing-in-Memory Architecture"
  Proceedings of the 42nd International Symposium on Computer Architecture (**ISCA**), Portland, OR, June 2015.
  [Slides (pdf)] [Lightning Session Slides (pdf)]

PIM-Enabled Instructions: A Low-Overhead, Locality-Aware Processing-in-Memory Architecture

Junwhan Ahn   Sungjoo Yoo   Onur Mutlu[†]   Kiyoung Choi
junwhan@snu.ac.kr, sungjoo.yoo@gmail.com, onur@cmu.edu, kchoi@snu.ac.kr
Seoul National University   [†]Carnegie Mellon University

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Key Challenge 1: Code Mapping

- **Challenge 1:** Which operations should be executed in memory vs. in CPU?
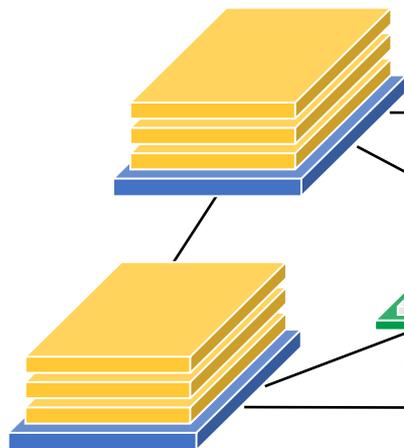

```
__global__
void applyScaleFactorsKernel( uint8_T * const out,
    uint8_T const * const in, const double *factor,
    size_t const numRows, size_t const numCols )
{
    // Work out which pixel we are working on.
    const int rowIdx = blockIdx.x * blockDim.x + threadIdx.x;
    const int colIdx = blockIdx.y;
    const int sliceIdx = threadIdx.z;

    // Check this thread isn't off the image
    if( rowIdx >= numRows ) return;

    // Compute the index of my element
    size_t linearIdx = rowIdx + colIdx*numRows +
        sliceIdx*numRows*numCols;
```

3D-stacked memory (memory stack)

SM (Streaming Multiprocessor)

Logic layer

Main GPU

Logic layer SM

Crossbar switch

Vault Ctrl   ....   **Vault Ctrl**
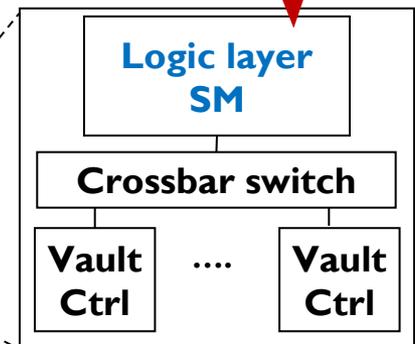
Key Challenge 2: Data Mapping

- **Challenge 2:** How should data be mapped to different 3D memory stacks?

3D-stacked memory (memory stack)

SM (Streaming Multiprocessor)

Logic layer

Main GPU

Logic layer SM

Crossbar switch

Vault Ctrl .... **Vault Ctrl**
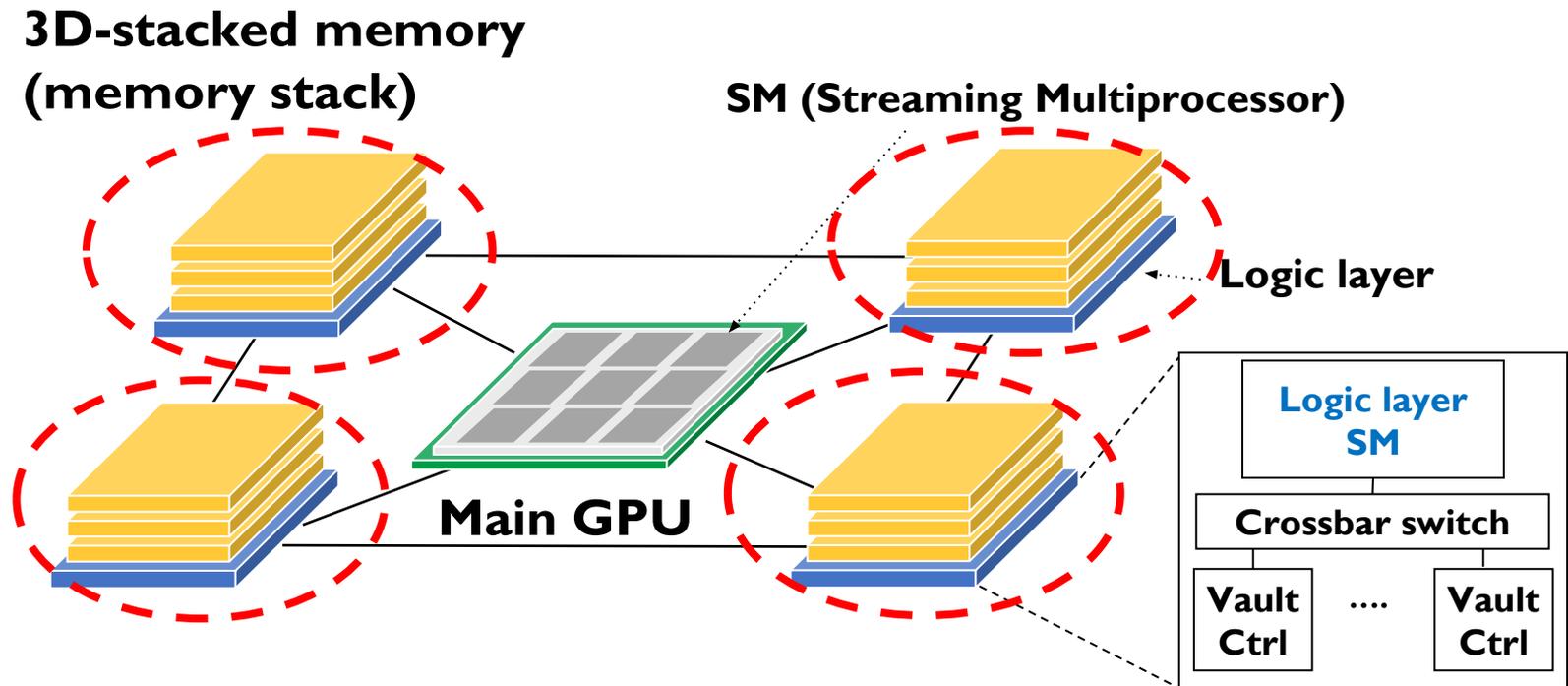
How to Do the Code and Data Mapping?

- Kevin Hsieh, Eiman Ebrahimi, Gwangsun Kim, Niladrish Chatterjee, Mike O'Connor, Nandita Vijaykumar, Onur Mutlu, and Stephen W. Keckler,
"Transparent Offloading and Mapping (TOM): Enabling Programmer-Transparent Near-Data Processing in GPU Systems"
Proceedings of the 43rd International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA), Seoul, South Korea, June 2016.
[Slides (pptx) (pdf)]
[Lightning Session Slides (pptx) (pdf)]

Transparent Offloading and Mapping (TOM):
Enabling Programmer-Transparent Near-Data Processing in GPU Systems

Kevin Hsieh[‡]   Eiman Ebrahimi[†]   Gwangsun Kim[*]   Niladrish Chatterjee[†]   Mike O'Connor[†]
Nandita Vijaykumar[‡]   Onur Mutlu[§‡]   Stephen W. Keckler[†]
[‡]**Carnegie Mellon University**   [†]**NVIDIA**   [*]**KAIST**   [§]**ETH Zürich**

How to Schedule Code?

- Ashutosh Pattnaik, Xulong Tang, Adwait Jog, Onur Kayiran, Asit K. Mishra, Mahmut T. Kandemir, Onur Mutlu, and Chita R. Das,
"Scheduling Techniques for GPU Architectures with Processing-In-Memory Capabilities"
Proceedings of the 25th International Conference on Parallel Architectures and Compilation Techniques (**PACT**), Haifa, Israel, September 2016.

Scheduling Techniques for GPU Architectures with Processing-In-Memory Capabilities

Ashutosh Pattnaik[1]   Xulong Tang[1]   Adwait Jog[2]   Onur Kayiran[3]
Asit K. Mishra[4]   Mahmut T. Kandemir[1]   Onur Mutlu[5,6]   Chita R. Das[1]

[1]Pennsylvania State University   [2]College of William and Mary
[3]Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.   [4]Intel Labs   [5]ETH Zürich   [6]Carnegie Mellon University

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Challenge: Coherence for Hybrid CPU-PIM Apps
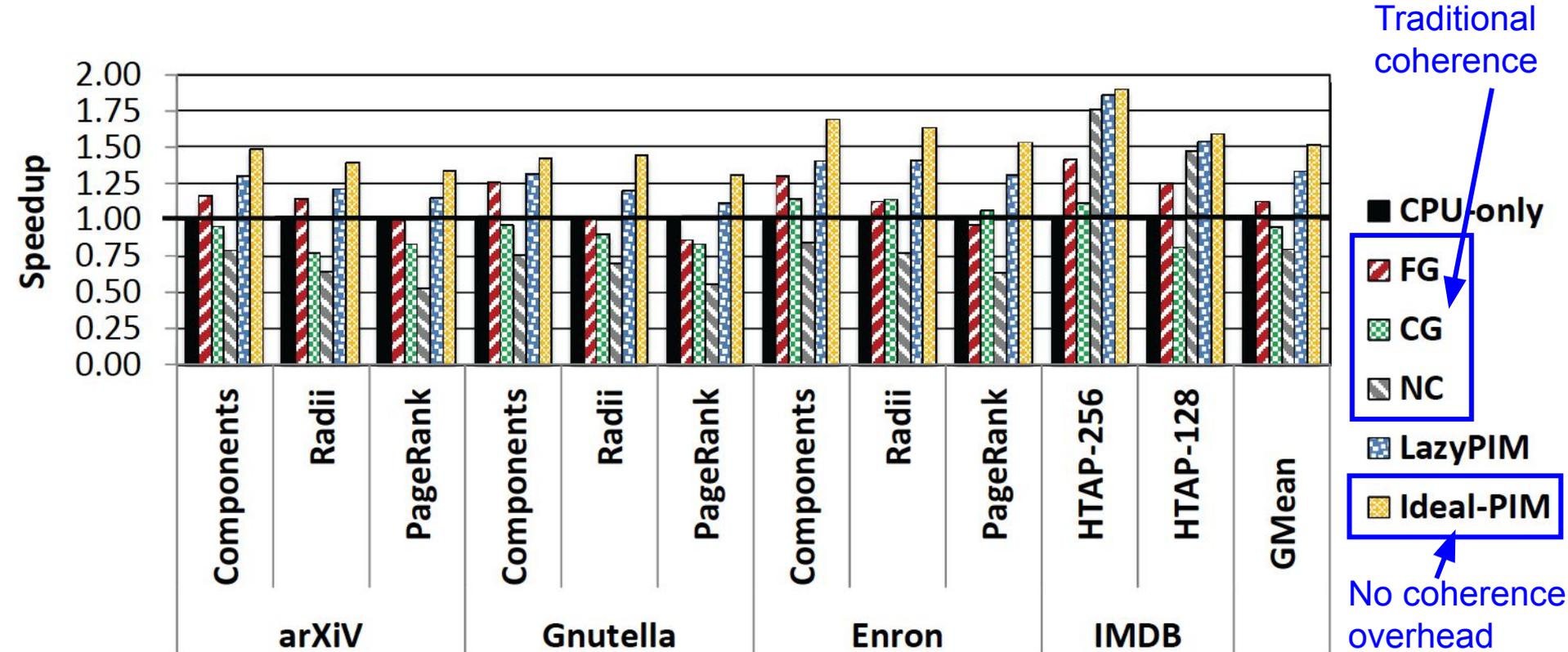
How to Maintain Coherence? (I)

- Amirali Boroumand, Saugata Ghose, Minesh Patel, Hasan Hassan, Brandon Lucia, Kevin Hsieh, Krishna T. Malladi, Hongzhong Zheng, and Onur Mutlu,
  "LazyPIM: An Efficient Cache Coherence Mechanism for Processing-in-Memory"
  IEEE Computer Architecture Letters (**CAL**), June 2016.

LazyPIM: An Efficient Cache Coherence Mechanism for Processing-in-Memory

Amirali Boroumand[†], Saugata Ghose[†], Minesh Patel[†], Hasan Hassan[†§], Brandon Lucia[†],
Kevin Hsieh[†], Krishna T. Malladi[*], Hongzhong Zheng[*], and Onur Mutlu[‡†]

[†]*Carnegie Mellon University* [*]*Samsung Semiconductor, Inc.* [§]*TOBB ETÜ* [‡]*ETH Zürich*

How to Maintain Coherence? (II)

- Amirali Boroumand, Saugata Ghose, Minesh Patel, Hasan Hassan, Brandon Lucia, Kevin Hsieh, Krishna T. Malladi, Hongzhong Zheng, and Onur Mutlu,
  "CoNDA: Efficient Cache Coherence Support for Near-Data Accelerators"
  Proceedings of the 46th International Symposium on Computer Architecture (**ISCA**), Phoenix, AZ, USA, June 2019.

CoNDA: Efficient Cache Coherence Support for Near-Data Accelerators

Amirali Boroumand[†]   Saugata Ghose[†]   Minesh Patel[★]   Hasan Hassan[★]

Brandon Lucia[†]   Rachata Ausavarungnirun[†‡]   Kevin Hsieh[†]

Nastaran Hajinazar[◇†]   Krishna T. Malladi[§]   Hongzhong Zheng[§]   Onur Mutlu[★†]

[†]Carnegie Mellon University   [★]ETH Zürich   [‡]KMUTNB
[◇]Simon Fraser University   [§]Samsung Semiconductor, Inc.

How to Support Virtual Memory?

- Kevin Hsieh, Samira Khan, Nandita Vijaykumar, Kevin K. Chang, Amirali Boroumand, Saugata Ghose, and Onur Mutlu,
  "Accelerating Pointer Chasing in 3D-Stacked Memory: Challenges, Mechanisms, Evaluation"
  Proceedings of the 34th IEEE International Conference on Computer Design (**ICCD**), Phoenix, AZ, USA, October 2016.

Accelerating Pointer Chasing in 3D-Stacked Memory: Challenges, Mechanisms, Evaluation

Kevin Hsieh[†]   Samira Khan[‡]   Nandita Vijaykumar[†]
Kevin K. Chang[†]   Amirali Boroumand[†]   Saugata Ghose[†]   Onur Mutlu[§†]
[†]*Carnegie Mellon University*   [‡]*University of Virginia*   [§]*ETH Zürich*

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How to Design Data Structures for PIM?

- Zhiyu Liu, Irina Calciu, Maurice Herlihy, and Onur Mutlu,
"Concurrent Data Structures for Near-Memory Computing"
Proceedings of the 29th ACM Symposium on Parallelism in Algorithms and Architectures (*SPAA*), Washington, DC, USA, July 2017.
[Slides (pptx) (pdf)]

Concurrent Data Structures for Near-Memory Computing

Zhiyu Liu
Computer Science Department
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ETH Zürich
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Simulation Infrastructures for PIM

- **Ramulator** extended for PIM
  - Flexible and extensible DRAM simulator
  - Can model many different memory standards and proposals
  - Kim+, "**Ramulator: A Flexible and Extensible DRAM Simulator**", IEEE CAL 2015.
  - https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/ramulator

Ramulator: A Fast and Extensible DRAM Simulator

Yoongu Kim[1]   Weikun Yang[1,2]   Onur Mutlu[1]
[1]Carnegie Mellon University   [2]Peking University

An FPGA-based Test-bed for PIM?

- Hasan Hassan et al., **SoftMC: A Flexible and Practical Open-Source Infrastructure for Enabling Experimental DRAM Studies** HPCA 2017.

- **Flexible**
- **Easy to Use (C++ API)**
- **Open-source**

  github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SoftMC
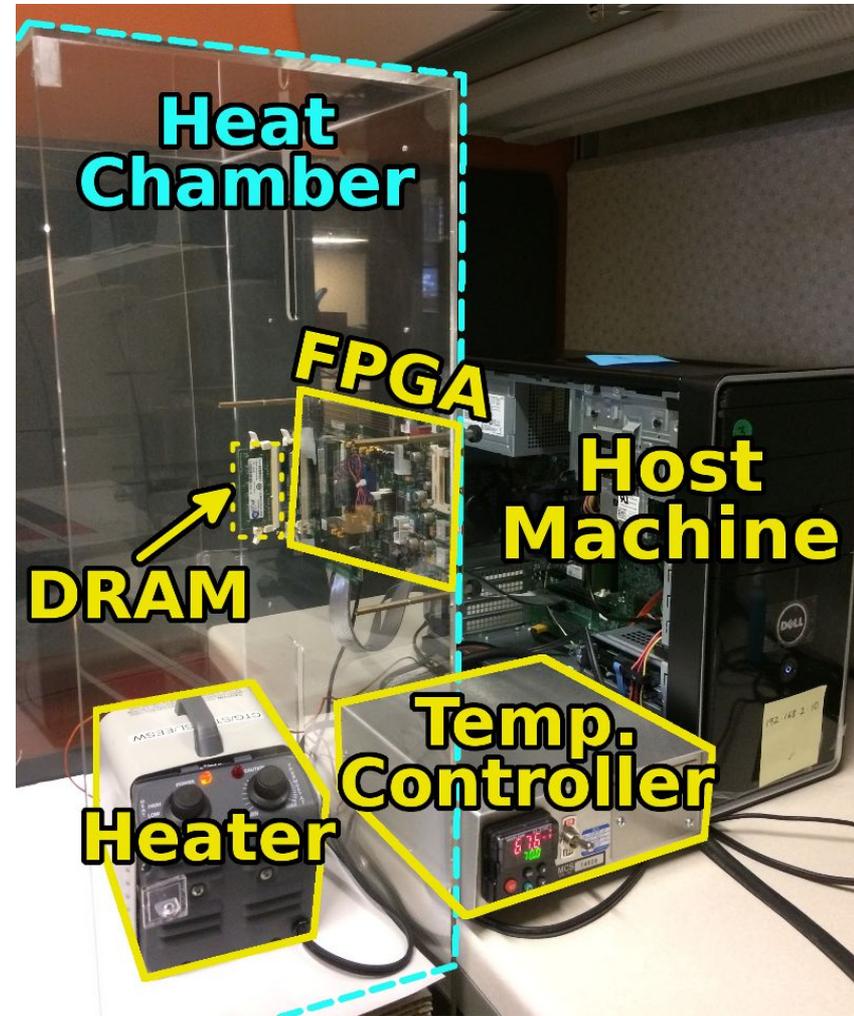
Simulation Infrastructures for PIM (in SSDs)

- Arash Tavakkol, Juan Gomez-Luna, Mohammad Sadrosadati, Saugata Ghose, and Onur Mutlu,
  "MQSim: A Framework for Enabling Realistic Studies of Modern Multi-Queue SSD Devices"
  Proceedings of the 16th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies (**FAST**), Oakland, CA, USA, February 2018.
  [Slides (pptx) (pdf)]
  [Source Code]

MQSim: A Framework for Enabling Realistic Studies of Modern Multi-Queue SSD Devices

Arash Tavakkol[†], Juan Gómez-Luna[†], Mohammad Sadrosadati[†], Saugata Ghose[‡], Onur Mutlu[†‡]

[†]*ETH Zürich*   [‡]*Carnegie Mellon University*

New Applications and Use Cases for PIM

- Jeremie S. Kim, Damla Senol Cali, Hongyi Xin, Donghyuk Lee, Saugata Ghose, Mohammed Alser, Hasan Hassan, Oguz Ergin, Can Alkan, and Onur Mutlu,
  "GRIM-Filter: Fast Seed Location Filtering in DNA Read Mapping Using Processing-in-Memory Technologies"
  BMC Genomics, 2018.
  Proceedings of the 16th Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference (**APBC**), Yokohama, Japan, January 2018.
  arxiv.org Version (pdf)

GRIM-Filter: Fast seed location filtering in DNA read mapping using processing-in-memory technologies

Jeremie S. Kim[1,6*], Damla Senol Cali[1], Hongyi Xin[2], Donghyuk Lee[3], Saugata Ghose[1], Mohammed Alser[4], Hasan Hassan[6], Oguz Ergin[5], Can Alkan[4*] and Onur Mutlu[6,1*]

Low-Latency & Low-Energy Data Access

Data-Centric Architectures: Properties

- **Process data where it resides** (where it makes sense)
  - ❑ Processing in and near memory structures

- **Low-latency & low-energy data access**
  - ❑ Low latency memory
  - ❑ Low energy memory

- **Low-cost data storage & processing**
  - ❑ High capacity memory at low cost: hybrid memory, compression

- **Intelligent data management**
  - ❑ Intelligent controllers handling robustness, security, cost, scaling

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Main Memory Latency Lags Behind
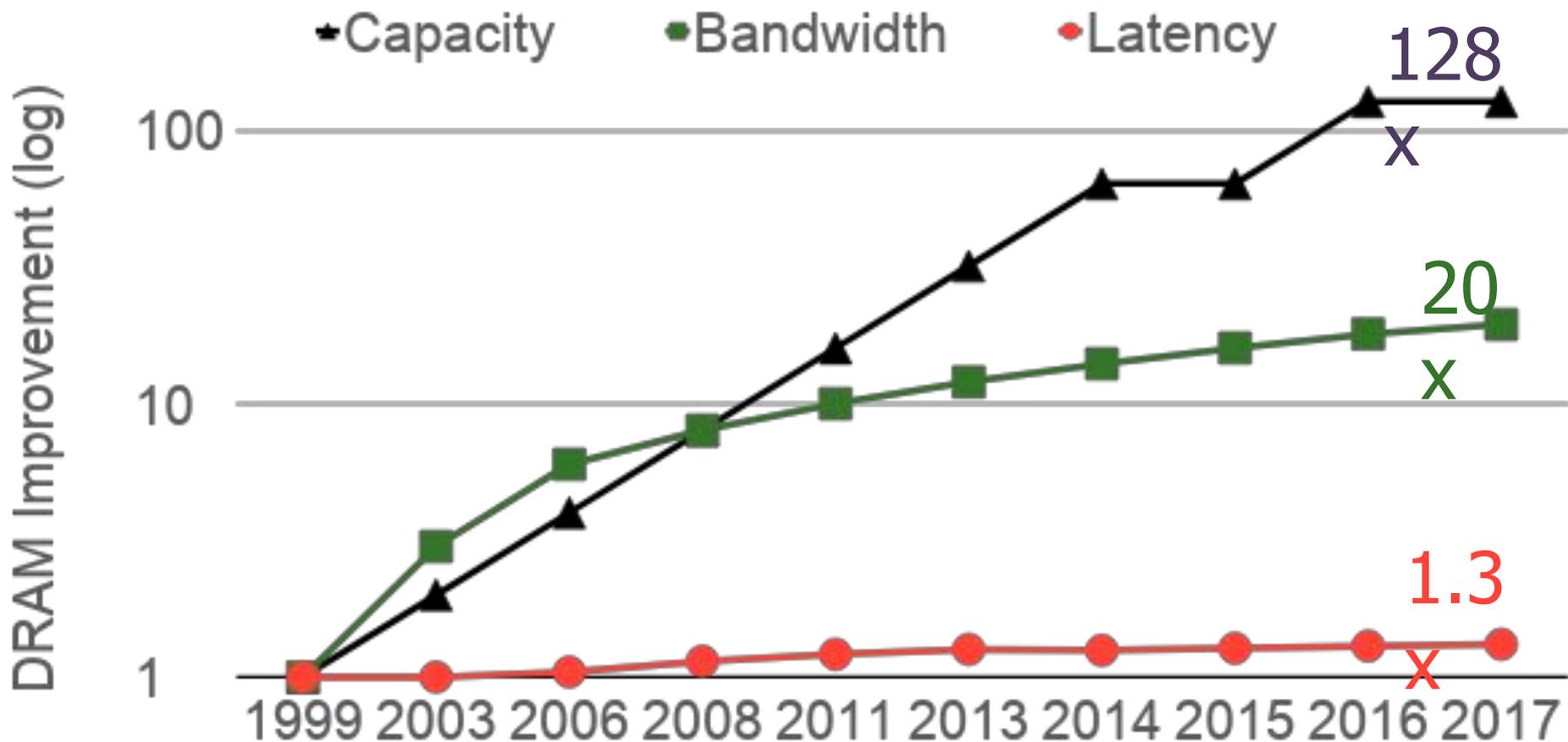
Memory latency remains almost constant

A Closer Look …
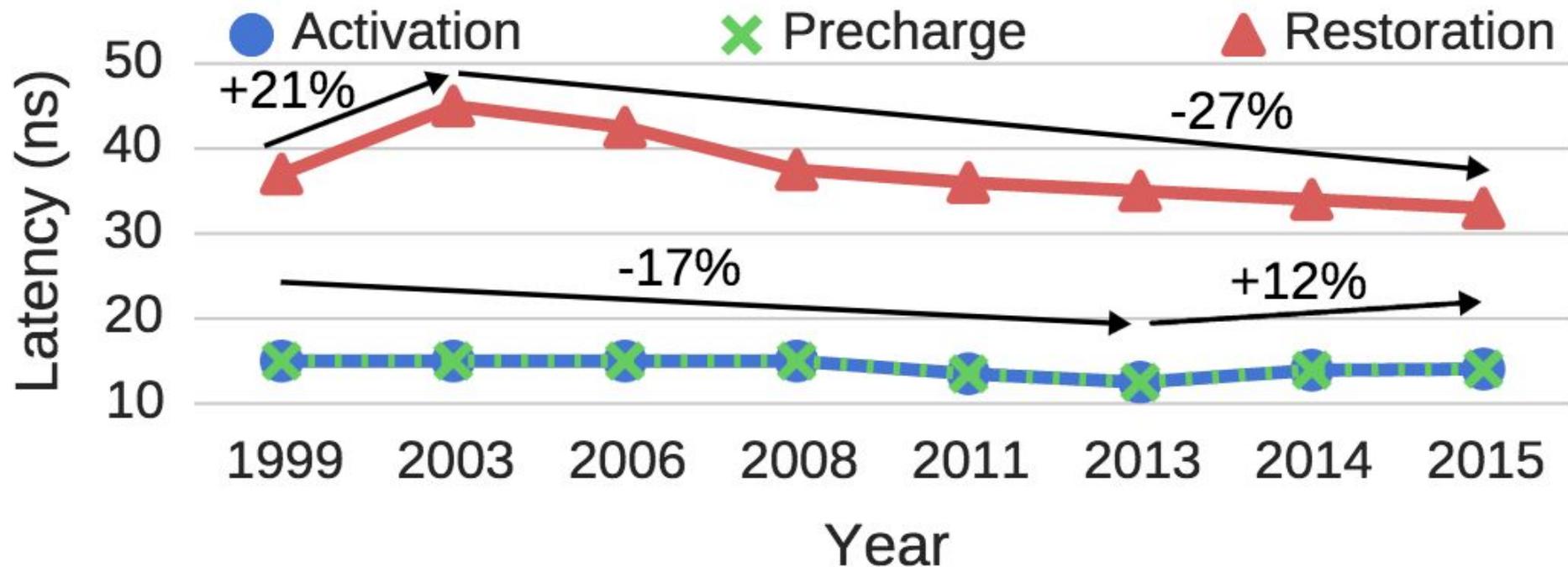
Figure 1: DRAM latency trends over time [20, 21, 23, 51].

Chang+, "**Understanding Latency Variation in Modern DRAM Chips: Experimental Characterization, Analysis, and Optimization"**," SIGMETRICS 2016.

DRAM Latency Is Critical for Performance
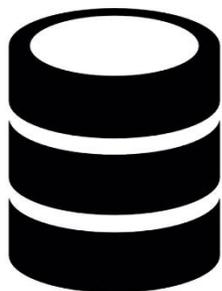
In-memory Databases

[Mao+, EuroSys'12;
 Clapp+ (**Intel**), IISWC'15]

Graph/Tree Processing

[Xu+, IISWC'12; Umuroglu+,
FPL'15]

In-Memory Data Analytics

[Clapp+ (**Intel**), IISWC'15;
       Awan+, BDCloud'15]
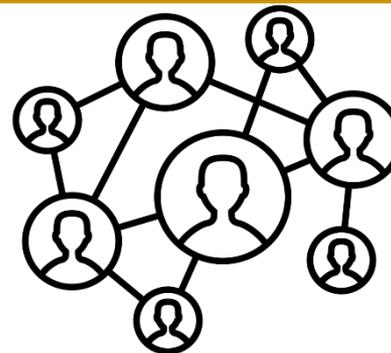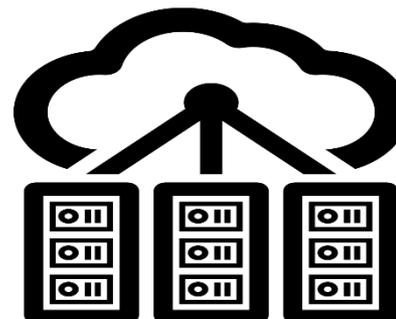
Datacenter Workloads

[Kanev+ (**Google**), ISCA'15]

DRAM Latency Is Critical for Performance
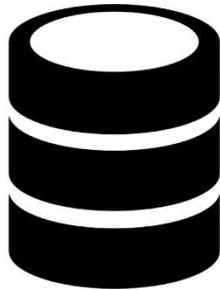
In-memory Databases
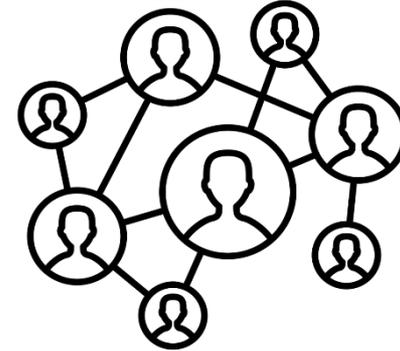
Graph/Tree Processing

Long memory latency → performance bottleneck

In-Memory Data Analytics
[Clapp+ (**Intel**), IISWC'15;
Awan+, BDCloud'15]

Datacenter Workloads
[Kanev+ (**Google**), ISCA'15]

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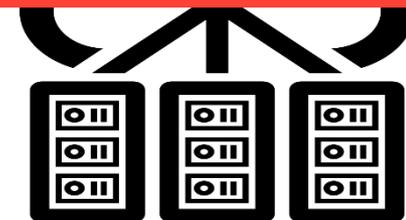
New DRAM Types **Increase** Latency!

- Saugata Ghose, Tianshi Li, Nastaran Hajinazar, Damla Senol Cali, and Onur Mutlu,
  "Demystifying Workload–DRAM Interactions: An Experimental Study"
  Proceedings of the [ACM International Conference on Measurement and Modeling of Computer Systems](#) (**SIGMETRICS**), Phoenix, AZ, USA, June 2019.
  [[Preliminary arXiv Version](#)]
  [[Abstract](#)]
  [[Slides (pptx)](#) [(pdf)](#)]

Demystifying Complex Workload–DRAM Interactions: An Experimental Study

Saugata Ghose[†]   Tianshi Li[†]   Nastaran Hajinazar[‡†]

Damla Senol Cali[†]   Onur Mutlu[§†]

[†]Carnegie Mellon University   [‡]Simon Fraser University   [§]ETH Zürich

The Memory Latency Problem

- High memory latency is a significant limiter of system performance and energy-efficiency

- It is becoming increasingly so with higher memory contention in multi-core and heterogeneous architectures
  - Exacerbating the bandwidth need
  - Exacerbating the QoS problem

- It increases processor design complexity due to the mechanisms incorporated to tolerate memory latency

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Retrospective: Conventional Latency Tolerance Techniques

- Caching [initially by Wilkes, 1965]
  - Widely used, simple, effective, but inefficient, passive
  - Not all applications/phases exhibit temporal or spatial locality

- Prefetching [initially in IBM 360/91, 1967]
  - Works well f̶̶̶̶̶̶̶̶̶̶̶

None of These Fundamentally Reduce Memory Latency

  - ...reading hardware is an
  - ...

- Out-of-order execution [initially by Tomasulo, 1967]
  - Tolerates cache misses that cannot be prefetched
  - Requires extensive hardware resources for tolerating long latencies

Two Major Sources of Latency Inefficiency

- **Modern DRAM is not designed for low latency**
  - Main focus is cost-per-bit (capacity)

- **Modern DRAM latency is determined by worst case conditions and worst case devices**
  - Much of memory latency is unnecessary

Our Goal: Reduce Memory Latency at the Source of the Problem

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Why is Memory Latency High?

- DRAM latency: Delay as specified in DRAM standards
  - Doesn't reflect true DRAM device latency
- Imperfect manufacturing process → latency variation
- **High standard latency** chosen to increase yield

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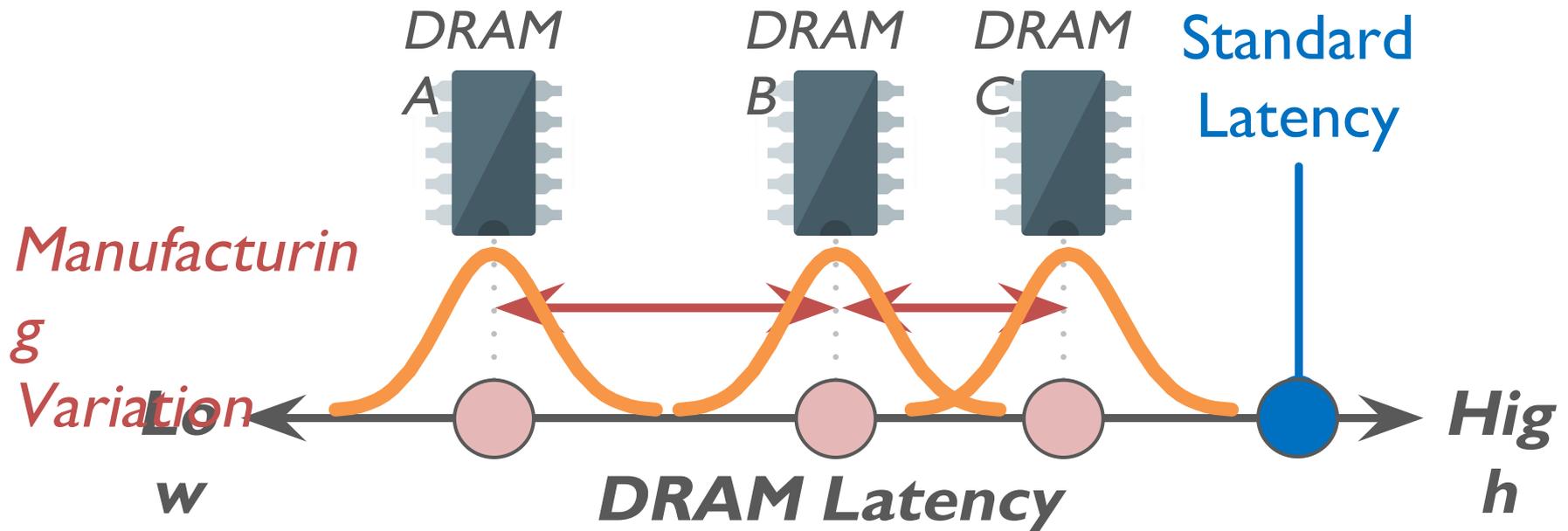
Adaptive-Latency DRAM

- *Key idea*
  - **Optimize DRAM timing parameters online**

- *Two components*
  - DRAM manufacturer provides multiple sets of reliable DRAM timing parameters at different temperatures for each DIMM
  - System monitors DRAM temperature & uses appropriate DRAM timing parameters

Lee+, "Adaptive-Latency DRAM: Optimizing DRAM Timing for the Common-Case," HPCA 2015.

Infrastructures to Understand Such Issues

Kim+, "Flipping Bits in Memory Without Accessing Them: An Experimental Study of DRAM Disturbance Errors," ISCA 2014.
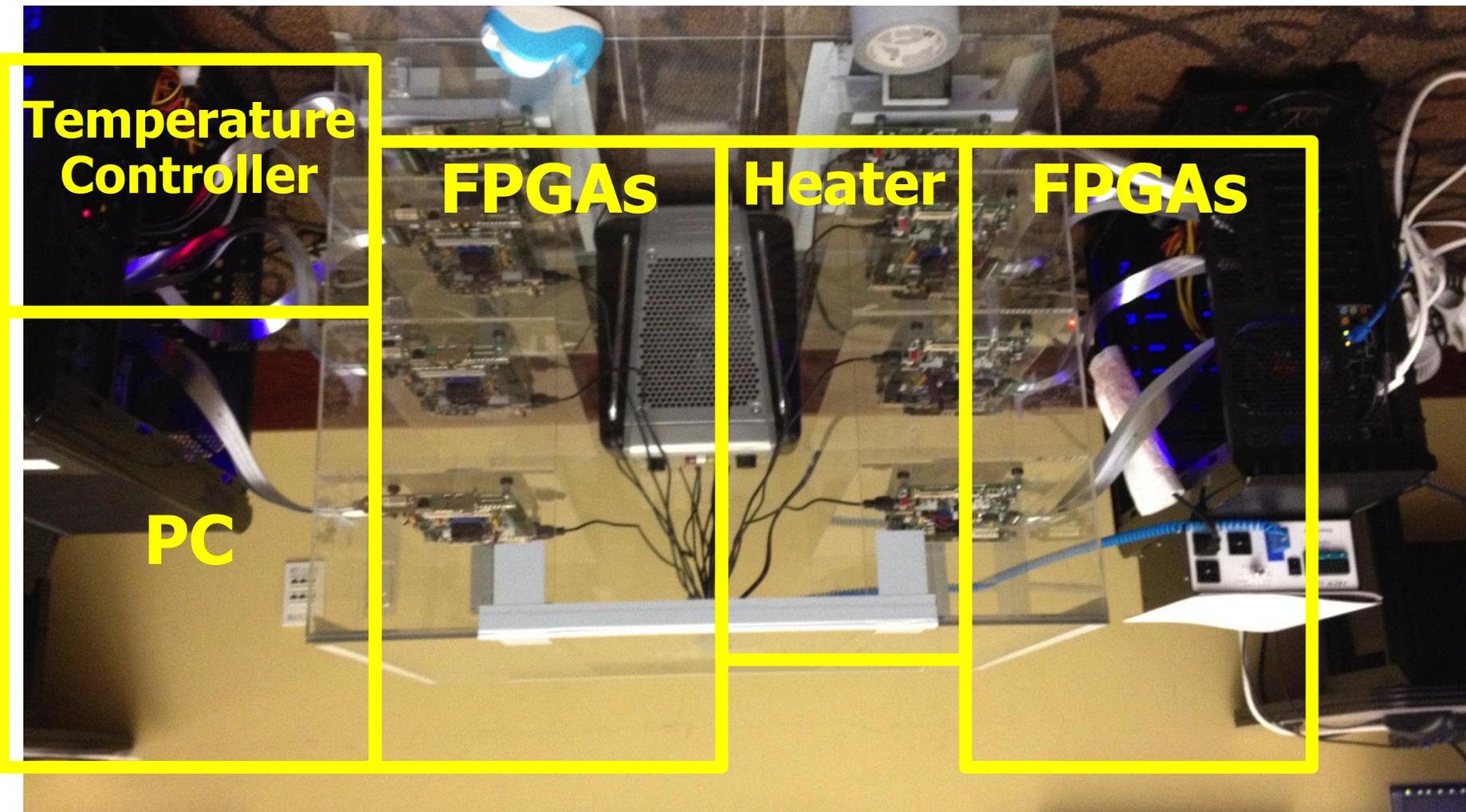
SoftMC: Open Source DRAM Infrastructure

- Hasan Hassan et al., "**SoftMC: A Flexible and Practical Open-Source Infrastructure for Enabling Experimental DRAM Studies**," HPCA 2017.

- **Flexible**
- **Easy to Use (C++ API)**
- **Open-source**

  github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SoftMC

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SoftMC

- https://github.com/CMU-SAFARI/SoftMC
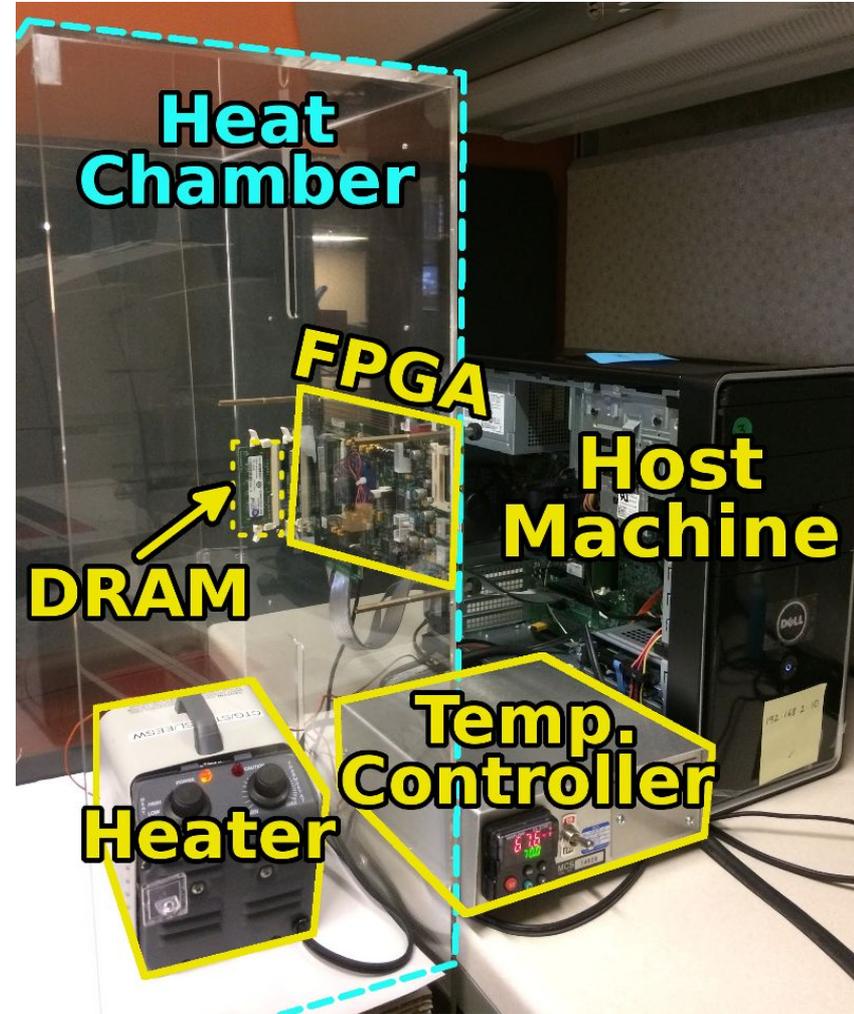
SoftMC: A Flexible and Practical Open-Source Infrastructure for Enabling Experimental DRAM Studies

Hasan Hassan[1,2,3]   Nandita Vijaykumar[3]   Samira Khan[4,3]   Saugata Ghose[3]   Kevin Chang[3]
Gennady Pekhimenko[5,3]   Donghyuk Lee[6,3]   Oguz Ergin[2]   Onur Mutlu[1,3]

[1]ETH Zürich   [2]TOBB University of Economics & Technology   [3]Carnegie Mellon University
[4]University of Virginia   [5]Microsoft Research   [6]NVIDIA Research

Latency Reduction Summary of 115 DIMMs

- *Latency reduction for read & write (55°C)*
  - *Read Latency:* **32.7%**
  - *Write Latency:* **55.1%**

- *Latency reduction for each timing parameter (55°C)*
  - *Sensing:* **17.3%**
  - *Restore:* **37.3%** *(read),* **54.8%** *(write)*
  - *Precharge:* **35.2%**

Lee+, "Adaptive-Latency DRAM: Optimizing DRAM Timing for the Common-Case," HPCA 2015.

AL-DRAM: Real-System Performance
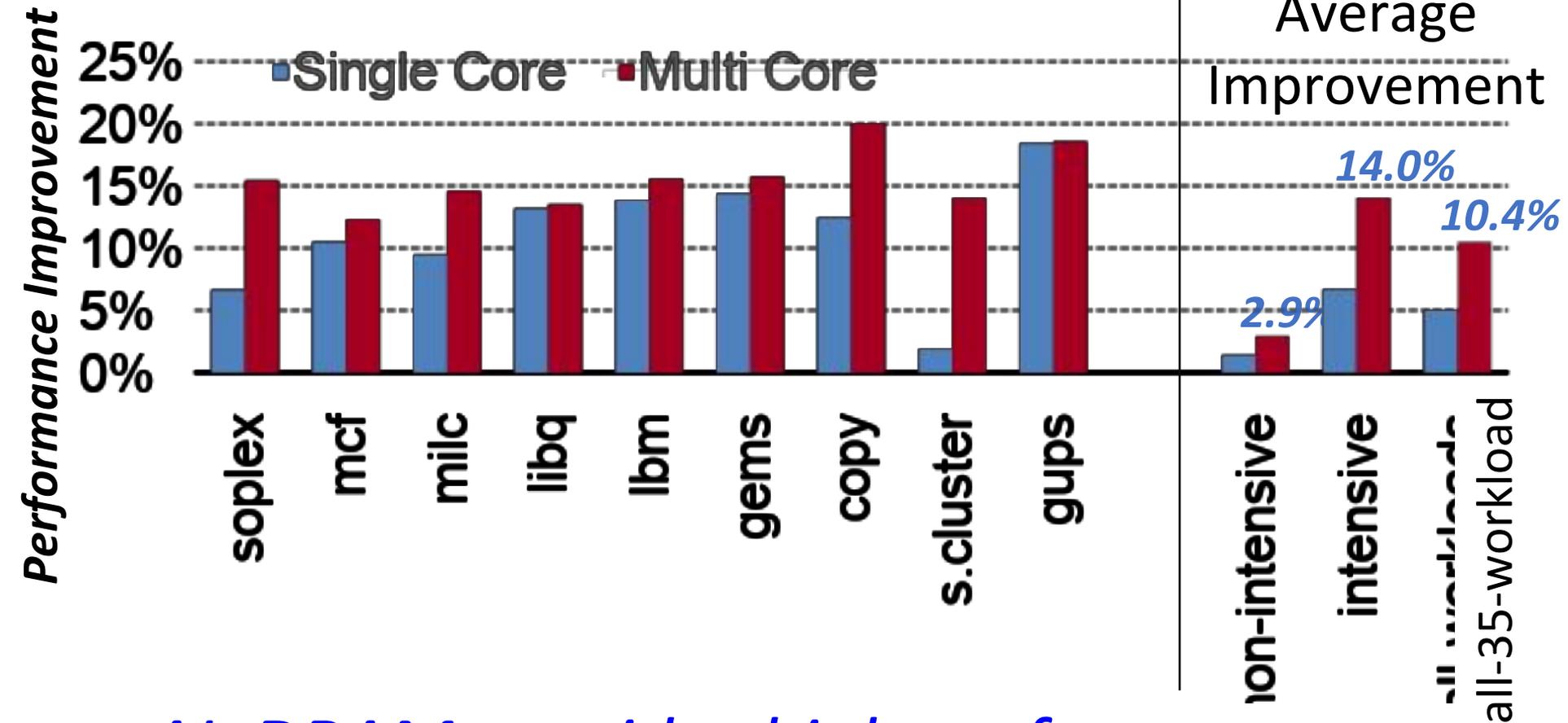
AL-DRAM provides high performance on memory-intensive workloads

Reducing Latency Also Reduces Energy

- AL-DRAM reduces DRAM power consumption

- Major reason: reduction in row activation time

More on Adaptive-Latency DRAM

- Donghyuk Lee, Yoongu Kim, Gennady Pekhimenko, Samira Khan, Vivek Seshadri, Kevin Chang, and Onur Mutlu,
"Adaptive-Latency DRAM: Optimizing DRAM Timing for the Common-Case"
Proceedings of the 21st International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (**HPCA**), Bay Area, CA, February 2015.
[Slides (pptx) (pdf)] [Full data sets]

Adaptive-Latency DRAM: Optimizing DRAM Timing for the Common-Case

Donghyuk Lee   Yoongu Kim   Gennady Pekhimenko

Samira Khan   Vivek Seshadri   Kevin Chang   Onur Mutlu

Carnegie Mellon University

Tackling the Fixed Latency Mindset

- Reliable operation latency is actually very heterogeneous
  - Across temperatures, chips, parts of a chip, voltage levels, …

- Idea: Dynamically find out and use the lowest latency one can reliably access a memory location with
  - Adaptive-Latency DRAM [HPCA 2015]
  - Flexible-Latency DRAM [SIGMETRICS 2016]
  - Design-Induced Variation-Aware DRAM [SIGMETRICS 2017]
  - Voltron [SIGMETRICS 2017]
  - DRAM Latency PUF [HPCA 2018]
  - DRAM Latency True Random Number Generator [HPCA 2019]
  - …

- We would like to find sources of latency heterogeneity and exploit them to minimize latency (or create other benefits)

Analysis of Latency Variation in DRAM Chips

- Kevin Chang, Abhijith Kashyap, Hasan Hassan, Samira Khan, Kevin Hsieh, Donghyuk Lee, Saugata Ghose, Gennady Pekhimenko, Tianshi Li, and Onur Mutlu,
"Understanding Latency Variation in Modern DRAM Chips: Experimental Characterization, Analysis, and Optimization"
Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Measurement and Modeling of Computer Systems (**SIGMETRICS**), Antibes Juan-Les-Pins, France, June 2016.
[Slides (pptx) (pdf)]
[Source Code]

Understanding Latency Variation in Modern DRAM Chips: Experimental Characterization, Analysis, and Optimization

Kevin K. Chang[1]   Abhijith Kashyap[1]   Hasan Hassan[1,2]

Saugata Ghose[1]   Kevin Hsieh[1]   Donghyuk Lee[1]   Tianshi Li[1,3]

Gennady Pekhimenko[1]   Samira Khan[4]   Onur Mutlu[5,1]

[1]Carnegie Mellon University   [2]TOBB ETÜ   [3]Peking University   [4]University of Virginia   [5]ETH Zürich

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Design-Induced Latency Variation in DRAM

- Donghyuk Lee, Samira Khan, Lavanya Subramanian, Saugata Ghose, Rachata Ausavarungnirun, Gennady Pekhimenko, Vivek Seshadri, and Onur Mutlu,
  "Design-Induced Latency Variation in Modern DRAM Chips: Characterization, Analysis, and Latency Reduction Mechanisms"
  Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Measurement and Modeling of Computer Systems (**SIGMETRICS**), Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA, June 2017.

Design-Induced Latency Variation in Modern DRAM Chips: Characterization, Analysis, and Latency Reduction Mechanisms

Donghyuk Lee, NVIDIA and Carnegie Mellon University
Samira Khan, University of Virginia
Lavanya Subramanian, Saugata Ghose, Rachata Ausavarungnirun, Carnegie Mellon University
Gennady Pekhimenko, Vivek Seshadri, Microsoft Research
Onur Mutlu, ETH Zürich and Carnegie Mellon University

Solar-DRAM: Exploiting Spatial Variation

- Jeremie S. Kim, Minesh Patel, Hasan Hassan, and Onur Mutlu,
  "Solar-DRAM: Reducing DRAM Access Latency by Exploiting the Variation in Local Bitlines"
  Proceedings of the 36th IEEE International Conference on Computer Design (**ICCD**), Orlando, FL, USA, October 2018.

Solar-DRAM: Reducing DRAM Access Latency by Exploiting the Variation in Local Bitlines

Jeremie S. Kim[‡§]   Minesh Patel[§]   Hasan Hassan[§]   Onur Mutlu[§‡]

[‡]Carnegie Mellon University   [§]ETH Zürich

DRAM Latency PUFs

- Jeremie S. Kim, Minesh Patel, Hasan Hassan, and Onur Mutlu,
  "The DRAM Latency PUF: Quickly Evaluating Physical Unclonable Functions by Exploiting the Latency-Reliability Tradeoff in Modern DRAM Devices"
  Proceedings of the 24th International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (**HPCA**), Vienna, Austria, February 2018.
  [Lightning Talk Video]
  [Slides (pptx) (pdf)] [Lightning Session Slides (pptx) (pdf)]

The DRAM Latency PUF:
Quickly Evaluating Physical Unclonable Functions
by Exploiting the Latency-Reliability Tradeoff in Modern Commodity DRAM Devices

Jeremie S. Kim[†§]   Minesh Patel[§]   Hasan Hassan[§]   Onur Mutlu[§†]
[†]Carnegie Mellon University   [§]ETH Zürich

DRAM Latency True Random Number Generator

- Jeremie S. Kim, Minesh Patel, Hasan Hassan, Lois Orosa, and Onur Mutlu,
"D-RaNGe: Using Commodity DRAM Devices to Generate True Random Numbers with Low Latency and High Throughput"
Proceedings of the 25th International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (**HPCA**)*, Washington, DC, USA, February 2019.

D-RaNGe: Using Commodity DRAM Devices to Generate True Random Numbers with Low Latency and High Throughput

Jeremie S. Kim[‡§]   Minesh Patel[§]   Hasan Hassan[§]   Lois Orosa[§]   Onur Mutlu[§‡]
[‡]Carnegie Mellon University   [§]ETH Zürich

ChargeCache: Exploiting Access Patterns

- Hasan Hassan, Gennady Pekhimenko, Nandita Vijaykumar, Vivek Seshadri, Donghyuk Lee, Oguz Ergin, and Onur Mutlu,
  "ChargeCache: Reducing DRAM Latency by Exploiting Row Access Locality"
  Proceedings of the 22nd International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (**HPCA**), Barcelona, Spain, March 2016.
  [Slides (pptx) (pdf)]
  [Source Code]

ChargeCache: Reducing DRAM Latency by Exploiting Row Access Locality

Hasan Hassan[†*], Gennady Pekhimenko[†], Nandita Vijaykumar[†]
Vivek Seshadri[†], Donghyuk Lee[†], Oguz Ergin[*], Onur Mutlu[†]

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Exploiting Subarray Level Parallelism

- Yoongu Kim, Vivek Seshadri, Donghyuk Lee, Jamie Liu, and Onur Mutlu,
  "A Case for Exploiting Subarray-Level Parallelism (SALP) in DRAM"
  Proceedings of the 39th International Symposium on Computer Architecture (**ISCA**), Portland, OR, June 2012. Slides (pptx)

A Case for Exploiting Subarray-Level Parallelism (SALP) in DRAM

Yoongu Kim   Vivek Seshadri   Donghyuk Lee   Jamie Liu   Onur Mutlu

Carnegie Mellon University

Tiered-Latency DRAM

- Donghyuk Lee, Yoongu Kim, Vivek Seshadri, Jamie Liu, Lavanya Subramanian, and Onur Mutlu,
"Tiered-Latency DRAM: A Low Latency and Low Cost DRAM Architecture"
Proceedings of the 19th International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (HPCA), Shenzhen, China, February 2013. Slides (pptx)

Tiered-Latency DRAM: A Low Latency and Low Cost DRAM Architecture

Donghyuk Lee   Yoongu Kim   Vivek Seshadri   Jamie Liu   Lavanya Subramanian   Onur Mutlu

Carnegie Mellon University

LISA: Low-cost Inter-linked Subarrays

- Kevin K. Chang, Prashant J. Nair, Saugata Ghose, Donghyuk Lee, Moinuddin K. Qureshi, and Onur Mutlu,
"Low-Cost Inter-Linked Subarrays (LISA): Enabling Fast Inter-Subarray Data Movement in DRAM"
Proceedings of the 22nd International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (HPCA), Barcelona, Spain, March 2016.
[Slides (pptx) (pdf)]
[Source Code]

Low-Cost Inter-Linked Subarrays (LISA): Enabling Fast Inter-Subarray Data Movement in DRAM

Kevin K. Chang[†], Prashant J. Nair[⋆], Donghyuk Lee[†], Saugata Ghose[†], Moinuddin K. Qureshi[⋆], and Onur Mutlu[†]

[†]*Carnegie Mellon University*   [⋆]*Georgia Institute of Technology*

The CROW Substrate for DRAM

- Hasan Hassan, Minesh Patel, Jeremie S. Kim, A. Giray Yaglikci, Nandita Vijaykumar, Nika Mansourighiasi, Saugata Ghose, and Onur Mutlu,
"CROW: A Low-Cost Substrate for Improving DRAM Performance, Energy Efficiency, and Reliability"
Proceedings of the 46th International Symposium on Computer Architecture (*ISCA*), Phoenix, AZ, USA, June 2019.

CROW: A Low-Cost Substrate for Improving DRAM Performance, Energy Efficiency, and Reliability

Hasan Hassan[†]   Minesh Patel[†]   Jeremie S. Kim[†§]   A. Giray Yaglikci[†]

Nandita Vijaykumar[†§]   Nika Mansouri Ghiasi[†]   Saugata Ghose[§]   Onur Mutlu[†§]

[†]*ETH Zürich*   [§]*Carnegie Mellon University*

Reducing Refresh Latency

- Anup Das, Hasan Hassan, and Onur Mutlu,
  "VRL-DRAM: Improving DRAM Performance via Variable Refresh Latency"
  Proceedings of the 55th Design Automation Conference (DAC), San Francisco, CA, USA, June 2018.

VRL-DRAM: Improving DRAM Performance via Variable Refresh Latency

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Parallelizing Refreshes and Accesses

- Kevin Chang, Donghyuk Lee, Zeshan Chishti, Alaa Alameldeen, Chris Wilkerson, Yoongu Kim, and Onur Mutlu,
  "Improving DRAM Performance by Parallelizing Refreshes with Accesses"
  Proceedings of the 20th International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (**HPCA**), Orlando, FL, February 2014. [Summary] [Slides (pptx) (pdf)]

Reducing Performance Impact of DRAM Refresh by Parallelizing Refreshes with Accesses

Kevin Kai-Wei Chang   Donghyuk Lee   Zeshan Chishti†

Alaa R. Alameldeen†   Chris Wilkerson†   Yoongu Kim   Onur Mutlu

Carnegie Mellon University   †Intel Labs

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Eliminating Refreshes

- Jamie Liu, Ben Jaiyen, Richard Veras, and Onur Mutlu,
  "RAIDR: Retention-Aware Intelligent DRAM Refresh"
  *Proceedings of the 39th International Symposium on
  Computer Architecture* (*ISCA*), Portland, OR, June 2012.
  Slides (pdf)

RAIDR: Retention-Aware Intelligent DRAM Refresh

Jamie Liu   Ben Jaiyen   Richard Veras   Onur Mutlu
Carnegie Mellon University

Analysis of Latency-Voltage in DRAM Chips

- Kevin Chang, A. Giray Yaglikci, Saugata Ghose, Aditya Agrawal, Niladrish Chatterjee, Abhijith Kashyap, Donghyuk Lee, Mike O'Connor, Hasan Hassan, and Onur Mutlu,
"Understanding Reduced-Voltage Operation in Modern DRAM Devices: Experimental Characterization, Analysis, and Mechanisms"
Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Measurement and Modeling of Computer Systems (**SIGMETRICS**), Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA, June 2017.

Understanding Reduced-Voltage Operation in Modern DRAM Chips: Characterization, Analysis, and Mechanisms

Kevin K. Chang[†]   Abdullah Giray Yağlıkçı[†]   Saugata Ghose[†]   Aditya Agrawal[¶]   Niladrish Chatterjee[¶]

Abhijith Kashyap[†]   Donghyuk Lee[¶]   Mike O'Connor[¶,‡]   Hasan Hassan[§]   Onur Mutlu[§,†]

[†]Carnegie Mellon University   [¶]NVIDIA   [‡]The University of Texas at Austin   [§]ETH Zürich

VAMPIRE DRAM Power Model

- Saugata Ghose, A. Giray Yaglikci, Raghav Gupta, Donghyuk Lee, Kais Kudrolli, William X. Liu, Hasan Hassan, Kevin K. Chang, Niladrish Chatterjee, Aditya Agrawal, Mike O'Connor, and Onur Mutlu,
  "What Your DRAM Power Models Are Not Telling You: Lessons from a Detailed Experimental Study"
  Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Measurement and Modeling of Computer Systems (**SIGMETRICS**), Irvine, CA, USA, June 2018.
  [Abstract]

What Your DRAM Power Models Are Not Telling You: Lessons from a Detailed Experimental Study

Saugata Ghose[†]   Abdullah Giray Yağlıkçı[‡†]   Raghav Gupta[†]   Donghyuk Lee[§]
Kais Kudrolli[†]   William X. Liu[†]   Hasan Hassan[‡]   Kevin K. Chang[†]
Niladrish Chatterjee[§]   Aditya Agrawal[§]   Mike O'Connor[§¶]   Onur Mutlu[‡†]

[†]Carnegie Mellon University   [‡]ETH Zürich   [§]NVIDIA   [¶]University of Texas at Austin

Takeaway I

We Can Reduce Memory Latency with Change of Mindset

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Takeaway II

Main Memory Needs Intelligent Controllers to Reduce Latency

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Exploiting Data to Design Intelligent Architectures

System Architecture Design Today

- Human-driven
  - Humans design the policies (how to do things)

- Many (too) simple, short-sighted policies all over the system

- No automatic data-driven policy learning

- (Almost) no learning: cannot take lessons from past actions

## Can we design fundamentally intelligent architectures?

An Intelligent Architecture

- Data-driven
  - Machine learns the "best" policies (how to do things)

- Sophisticated, workload-driven, changing, far-sighted policies

- Automatic data-driven policy learning

- All controllers are intelligent data-driven agents

How do we start?

Self-Optimizing Memory Controllers

Memory Controller

Resolves memory contention by scheduling requests

Core Core
Core Core

Memory Controller
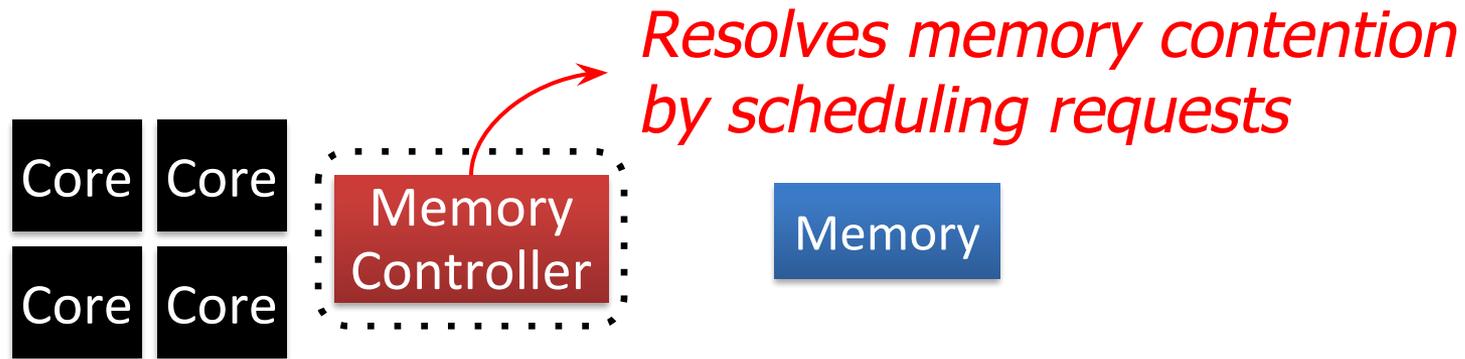
Memory

How to schedule requests to maximize system performance?

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Why are Memory Controllers Difficult to Design?

- Need to obey DRAM timing constraints for correctness
  - There are many (50+) timing constraints in DRAM
  - tWTR: Minimum number of cycles to wait before issuing a read command after a write command is issued
  - tRC: Minimum number of cycles between the issuing of two consecutive activate commands to the same bank
  - …

- Need to keep track of many resources to prevent conflicts
  - Channels, banks, ranks, data bus, address bus, row buffers, …

- Need to handle DRAM refresh

- Need to manage power consumption

- Need to optimize performance & QoS (in the presence of constraints)
  - Reordering is not simple
  - Fairness and QoS needs complicates the scheduling problem

- …

Many Memory Timing Constraints

Latency	Symbol	DRAM cycles	Latency	Symbol	DRAM cycles
Precharge	^tRP	11	Activate to read/write	^tRCD	11
Read column address strobe	CL	11	Write column address strobe	CWL	8
Additive	AL	0	Activate to activate	^tRC	39
Activate to precharge	^tRAS	28	Read to precharge	^tRTP	6
Burst length	^tBL	4	Column address strobe to column address strobe	^tCCD	4
Activate to activate (different bank)	^tRRD	6	Four activate windows	^tFAW	24
Write to read	^tWTR	6	Write recovery	^tWR	12

Table 4. DDR3 1600 DRAM timing specifications

- From Lee et al., "DRAM-Aware Last-Level Cache Writeback: Reducing Write-Caused Interference in Memory Systems," HPS Technical Report, April 2010.

Many Memory Timing Constraints

- Kim et al., "A Case for Exploiting Subarray-Level Parallelism (SALP) in DRAM," ISCA 2012.

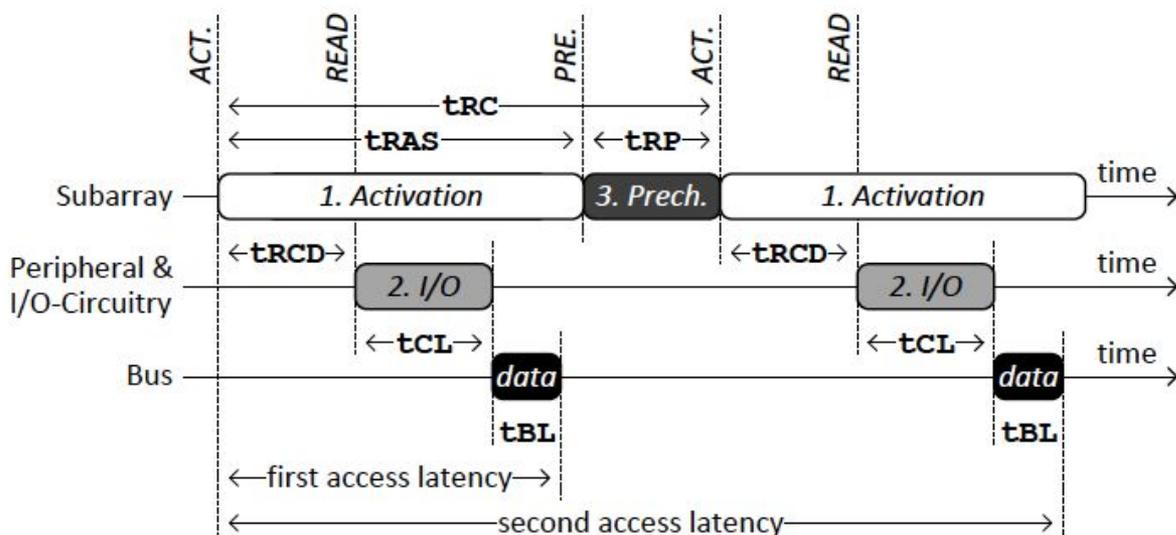- Lee et al., "Tiered-Latency DRAM: A Low Latency and Low Cost DRAM Architecture," HPCA 2013.

Figure 5. Three Phases of DRAM Access

Table 2. Timing Constraints (DDR3-1066) [43]

Phase	Commands	Name	Value
1	ACT → READ ACT → WRITE	tRCD	15ns
	ACT → PRE	tRAS	37.5ns
2	READ → data WRITE → data	tCL tCWL	15ns 11.25ns
	data burst	tBL	7.5ns
3	PRE → ACT	tRP	15ns
1 & 3	ACT → ACT	tRC (tRAS+tRP)	52.5ns

Memory Controller Design Is Becoming More Difficult
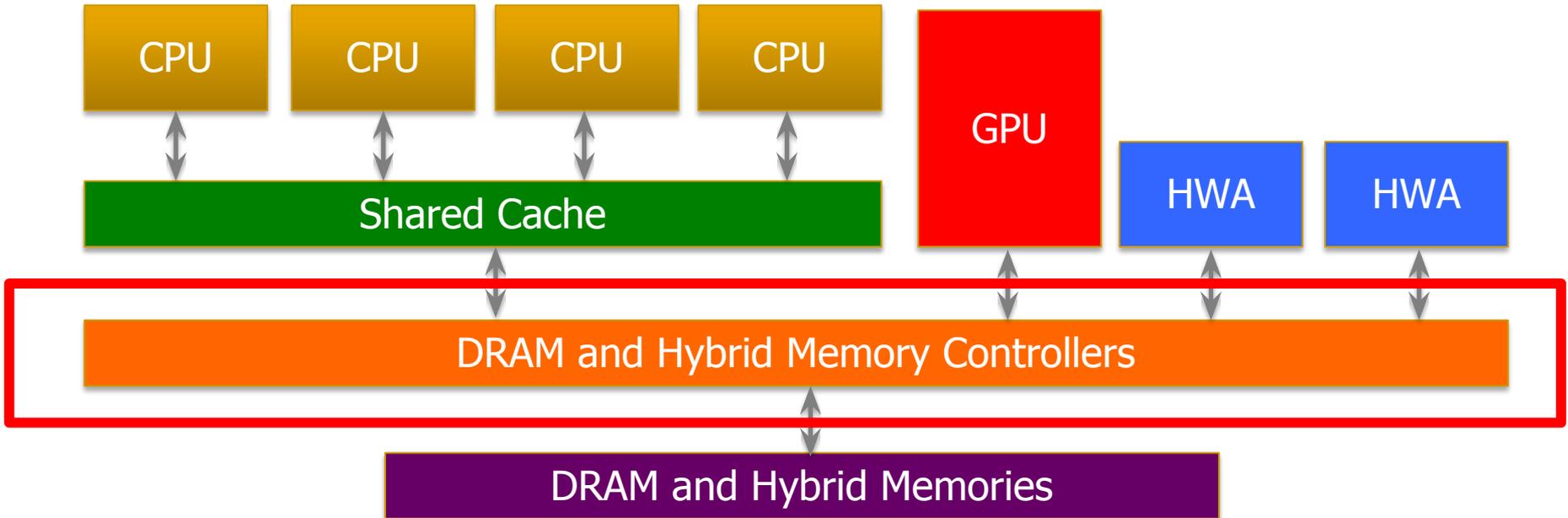
- Heterogeneous agents: CPUs, GPUs, and HWAs
- Main memory interference between CPUs, GPUs, HWAs
- Many timing constraints for various memory types
- Many goals at the same time: performance, fairness, QoS, energy efficiency, …

Reality and Dream

- Reality: It difficult to design a policy that maximizes performance, QoS, energy-efficiency, …
    - Too many things to think about
    - Continuously changing workload and system behavior

- Dream: Wouldn't it be nice if the DRAM controller automatically found a good scheduling policy on its own?

Self-Optimizing DRAM Controllers

- Problem: DRAM controllers are difficult to design
  - It is difficult for human designers to design a policy that can adapt itself very well to different workloads and different system conditions

- Idea: A memory controller that adapts its scheduling policy to workload behavior and system conditions using machine learning.

- Observation: Reinforcement learning maps nicely to memory control.

- Design: Memory controller is a reinforcement learning agent
  - It dynamically and continuously learns and employs the best scheduling policy to maximize long-term performance.

Ipek+, "Self Optimizing Memory Controllers: A Reinforcement Learning Approach," ISCA 2008.
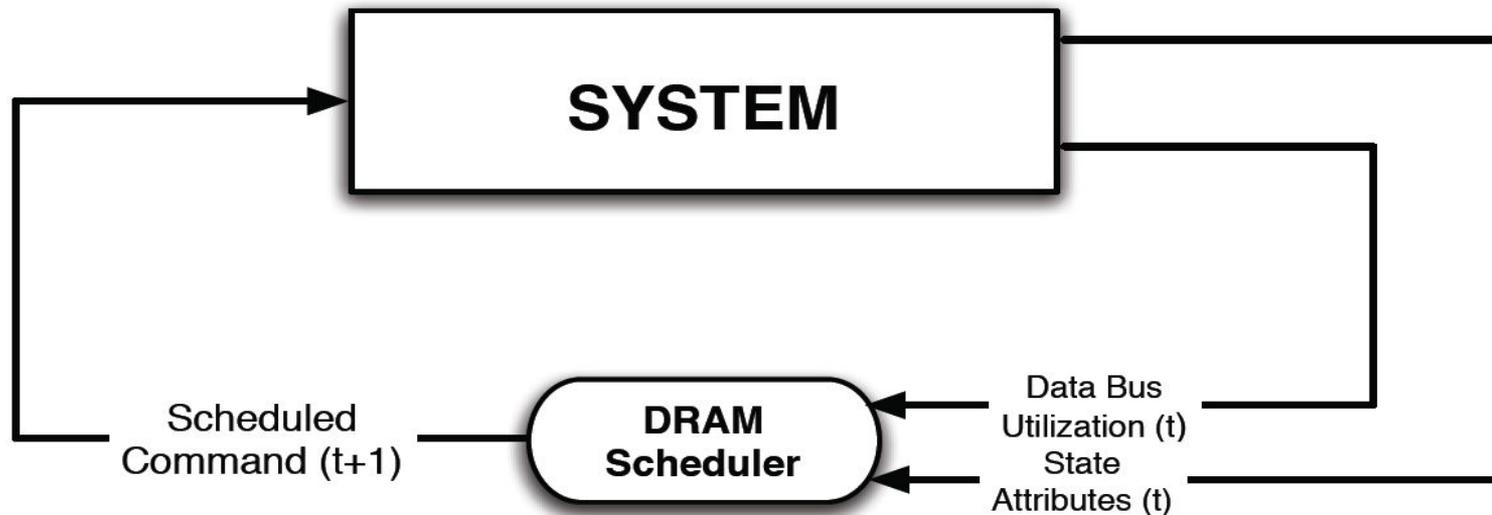
Self-Optimizing DRAM Controllers
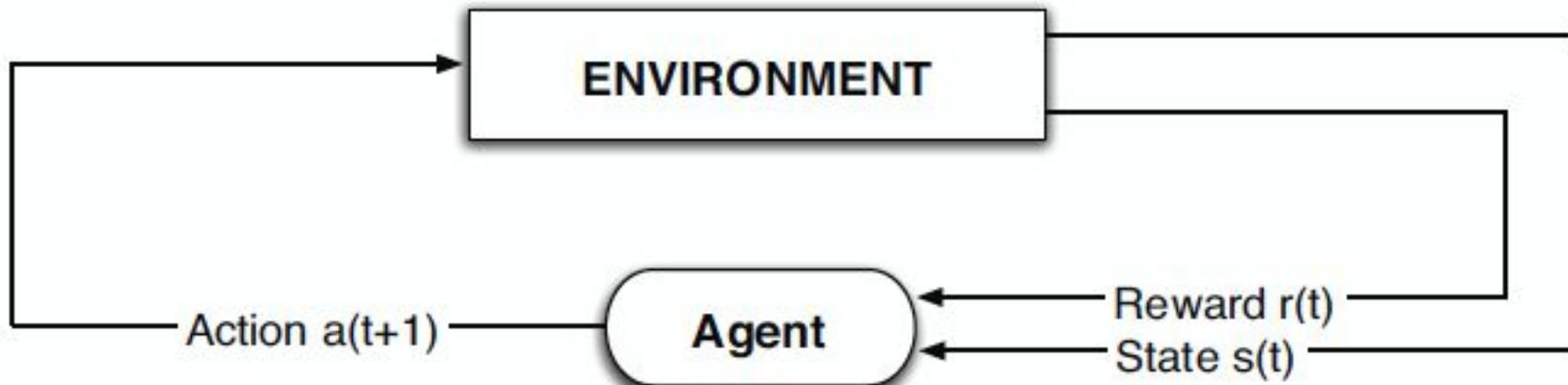
Goal: Learn to choose actions to maximize $r_0 + \gamma r_1 + \gamma^2 r_2 + \dots$ ($0 \leq \gamma < 1$)

Figure 2: (a) Intelligent agent based on reinforcement learning principles;

Self-Optimizing DRAM Controllers

- Dynamically adapt the memory scheduling policy via interaction with the system at runtime
  - Associate system states and actions (commands) with long term reward values: each action at a given state leads to a learned reward
  - Schedule command with highest estimated long-term reward value in each state
  - Continuously update reward values for <state, action> pairs based on feedback from system

Self-Optimizing DRAM Controllers

- Engin Ipek, Onur Mutlu, José F. Martínez, and Rich Caruana,
  "Self Optimizing Memory Controllers: A Reinforcement Learning Approach"
  Proceedings of the 35th International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA), pages 39-50, Beijing, China, June 2008.
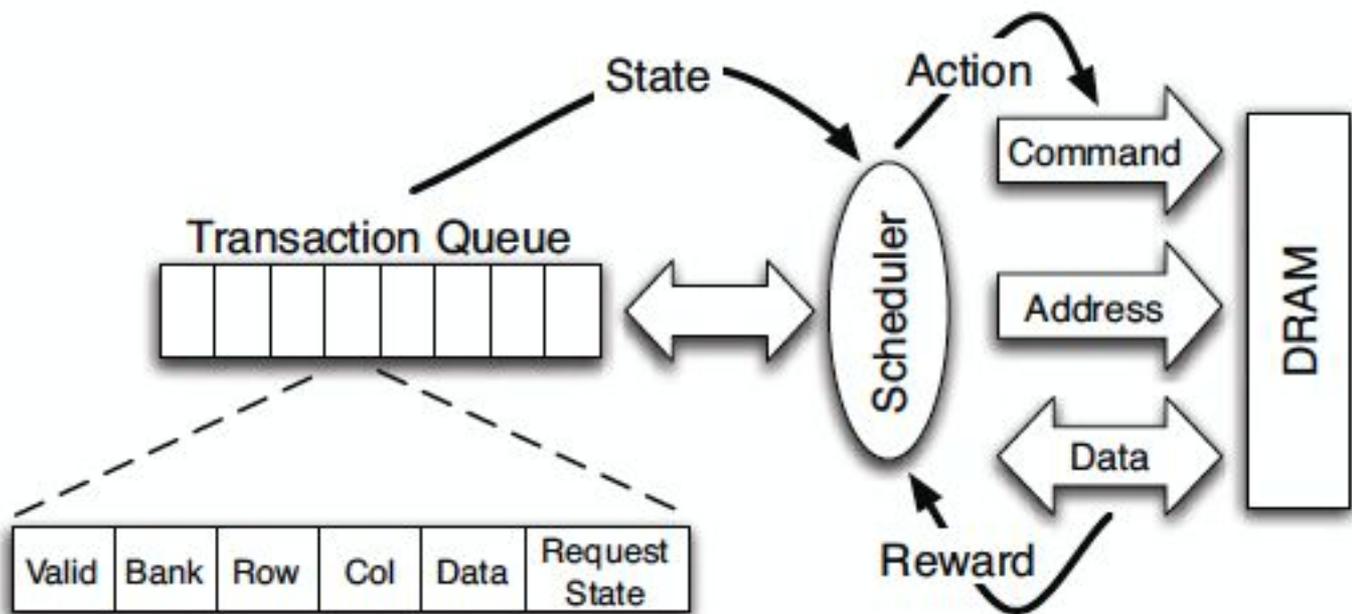

Figure 4: High-level overview of an RL-based scheduler.

States, Actions, Rewards

- **Reward function**

  - +1 for scheduling Read and Write commands

  - 0 at all other times

  Goal is to maximize long-term data bus utilization

- **State attributes**

  - Number of reads, writes, and load misses in transaction queue

  - Number of pending writes and ROB heads waiting for referenced row

  - Request's relative ROB order

- **Actions**

  - Activate

  - Write

  - Read - load miss

  - Read - store miss

  - Precharge - pending

  - Precharge - preemptive

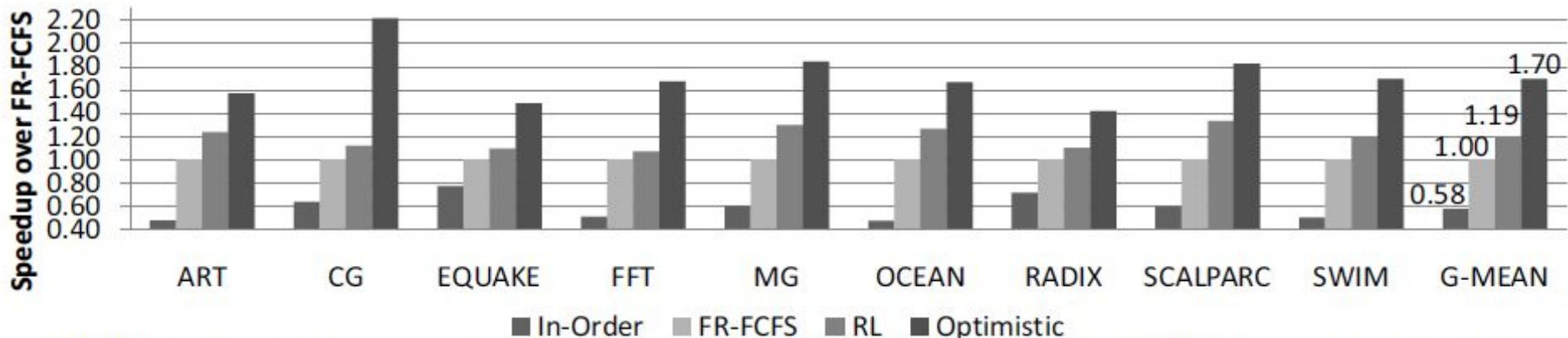 - NOP

Performance Results

Figure 7: Performance comparison of in-order, FR-FCFS, RL-based, and optimistic memory controllers

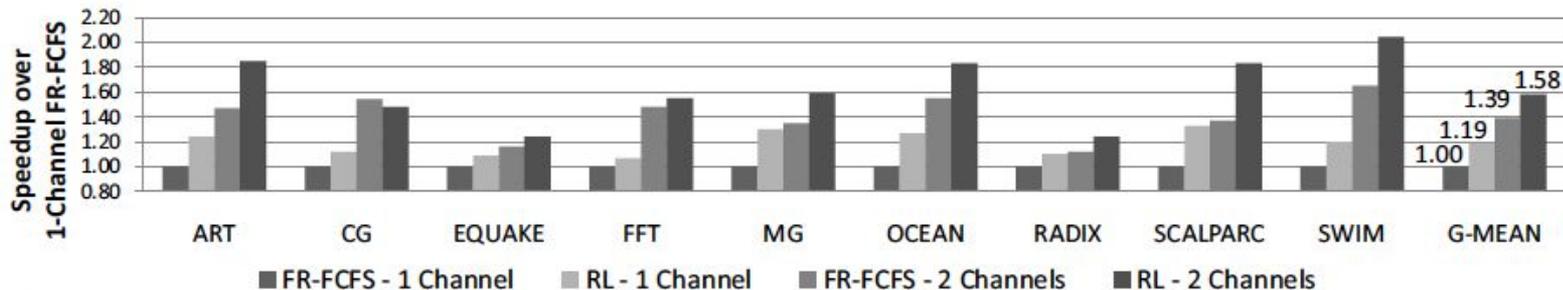## Large, robust performance improvements over many human-designed policies

Figure 15: Performance comparison of FR-FCFS and RL-based memory controllers on systems with 6.4GB/s and 12.8GB/s peak DRAM bandwidth

Self Optimizing DRAM Controllers

+ Continuous learning in the presence of changing environment

+ Reduced designer burden in finding a good scheduling policy.
Designer specifies:

    1) What system variables might be useful

    2) What target to optimize, but not how to optimize it

-- How to specify different objectives? (e.g., fairness, QoS, …)

-- Hardware complexity?

-- Design **mindset** and flow

More on Self-Optimizing DRAM Controllers

- Engin Ipek, Onur Mutlu, José F. Martínez, and Rich Caruana,
  "Self Optimizing Memory Controllers: A Reinforcement Learning Approach"
  Proceedings of the 35th International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA), pages 39-50, Beijing, China, June 2008.

Self-Optimizing Memory Controllers: A Reinforcement Learning Approach

Engin İpek[1,2]   Onur Mutlu[2]   José F. Martínez[1]   Rich Caruana[1]

[1]Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850 USA
[2] Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA 98052 USA

An Intelligent Architecture

- Data-driven
  - Machine learns the "best" policies (how to do things)

- Sophisticated, workload-driven, changing, far-sighted policies

- Automatic data-driven policy learning
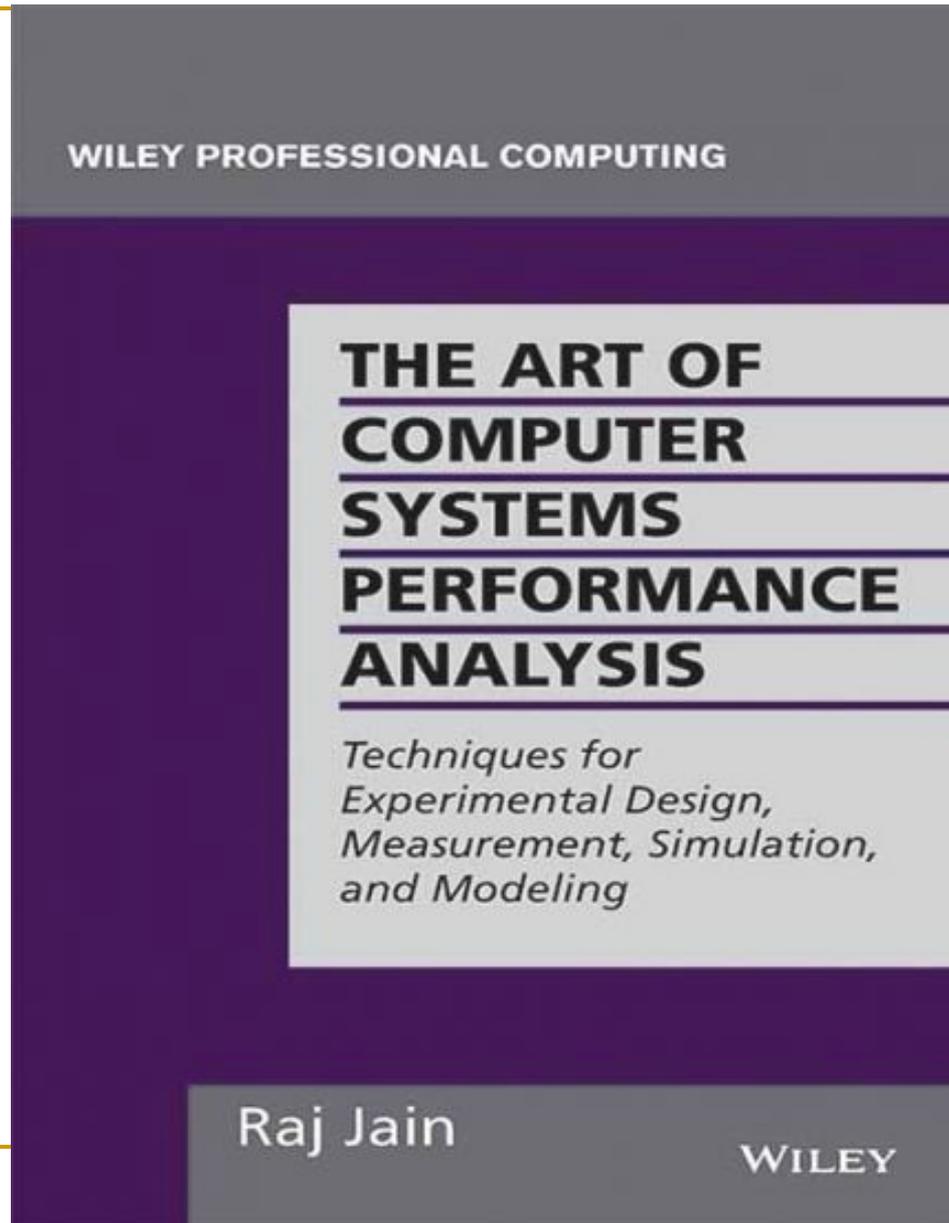
- All controllers are intelligent data-driven agents

We need to rethink design (of all controllers)

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Self-Optimizing (Data-Driven) Computing Architectures

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Fixing the Mindset Issues

Aside: A Recommended Book

Raj Jain, "The Art of Computer Systems Performance Analysis," Wiley, 1991.

10.8 DECISION MAKER'S GAMES

Even if the performance analysis is correctly done and presented, it may not be enough to persuade your audience—the decision makers—to follow your recommendations. The list shown in Box 10.2 is a compilation of reasons for rejection heard at various performance analysis presentations. You can use the list by presenting it immediately and pointing out that the reason for rejection is not new and that the analysis deserves more consideration. Also, the list is helpful in getting the competing proposals rejected!

There is no clear end of an analysis. Any analysis can be rejected simply on the grounds that the problem needs more analysis. This is the first reason listed in Box 10.2. The second most common reason for rejection of an analysis and for endless debate is the workload. Since workloads are always based on the past measurements, their applicability to the current or future environment can always be questioned. Actually workload is one of the four areas of discussion that lead a performance presentation into an endless debate. These "rat holes" and their relative sizes in terms of time consumed are shown in Figure 10.26. Presenting this cartoon at the beginning of a presentation helps to avoid these areas.
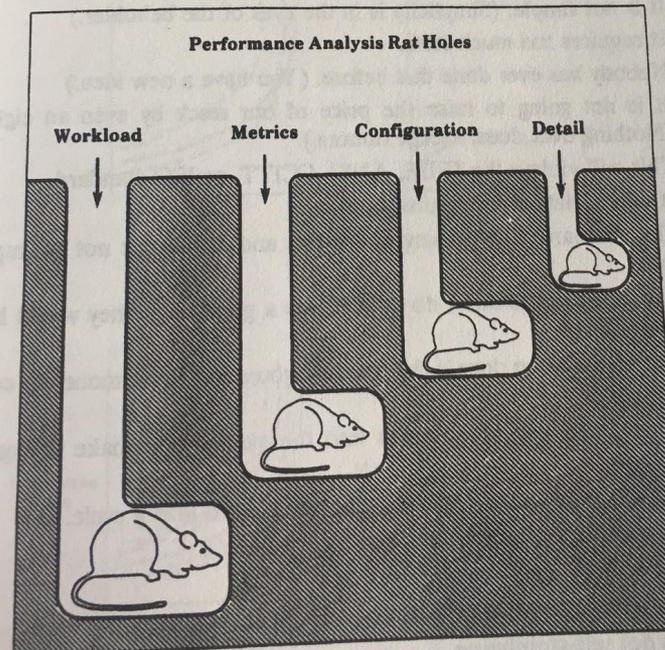

FIGURE 10.26 Four issues in performance presentations that commonly lead to endless discussion.

Raj Jain, "The Art of Computer Systems Performance Analysis," Wiley, 1991.

Box 10.2 Reasons for Not Accepting the Results of an Analysis

1. This needs more analysis.
2. You need a better understanding of the workload.
3. It improves performance only for long I/O's, packets, jobs, and files, and most of the I/O's, packets, jobs, and files are short.
4. It improves performance only for short I/O's, packets, jobs, and files, but who cares for the performance of short I/O's, packets, jobs, and files; its the long ones that impact the system.
5. It needs too much memory/CPU/bandwidth and memory/CPU/bandwidth isn't free.
6. It only saves us memory/CPU/bandwidth and memory/CPU/bandwidth is cheap.
7. There is no point in making the networks (similarly, CPUs/disks/...) faster; our CPUs/disks (any component other than the one being discussed) aren't fast enough to use them.
8. It improves the performance by a factor of x, but it doesn't really matter at the user level because everything else is so slow.
9. It is going to increase the complexity and cost.
10. Let us keep it simple stupid (and your idea is not stupid).
11. It is not simple. (Simplicity is in the eyes of the beholder.)
12. It requires too much state.
13. Nobody has ever done that before. (You have a new idea.)
14. It is not going to raise the price of our stock by even an eighth. (Nothing ever does, except rumors.)
15. This will violate the IEEE, ANSI, CCITT, or ISO standard.
16. It may violate some future standard.
17. The standard says nothing about this and so it must not be important.
18. Our competitors don't do it. If it was a good idea, they would have done it.
19. Our competition does it this way and you don't make money by copying others.
20. It will introduce randomness into the system and make debugging difficult.
21. It is too deterministic; it may lead the system into a cycle.
22. It's not interoperable.
23. This impacts hardware.
24. That's beyond today's technology.
25. It is not self stabilizing.
26. Why change—it's working OK.

Raj Jain, "The Art of Computer Systems Performance Analysis," Wiley, 1991.

Suggestion to Community

We Need to Fix the Reviewer Accountability Problem

Takeaway

Main Memory Needs Intelligent Controllers

Takeaway

Our Community Needs

Accountable Reviewers