CS 152 Computer Architecture and Engineering

Lecture 8 - Memory Hierarchy-III

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Last time in Lecture 7

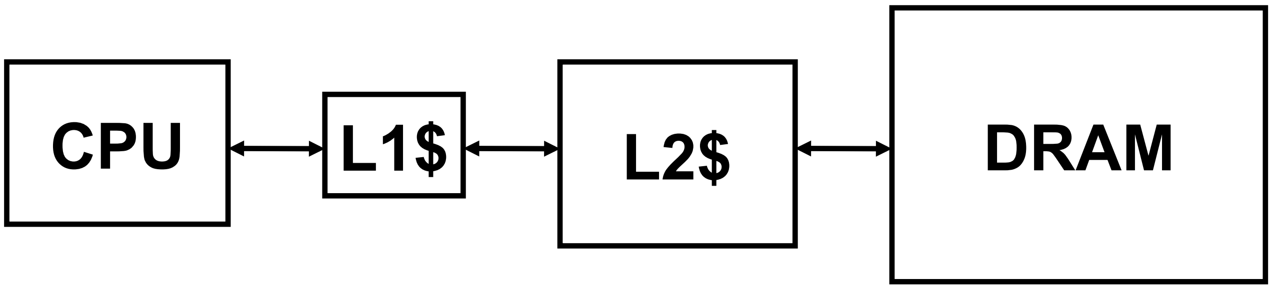
- 3 C's of cache misses:
  - compulsory, capacity, conflict
- Average memory access time =

  hit time + miss rate * miss penalty
- To improve performance, reduce:
  - hit time
  - miss rate
  - and/or miss penalty
- Primary cache parameters:
  - Total cache capacity
  - Cache line size
  - Associativity

Multilevel Caches

Problem: A memory cannot be large and fast

Solution: Increasing sizes of cache at each level



Local miss rate = misses in cache / accesses to cache

Global miss rate = misses in cache / CPU memory accesses

Misses per instruction = misses in cache / number of instructions

Presence of L2 influences L1 design

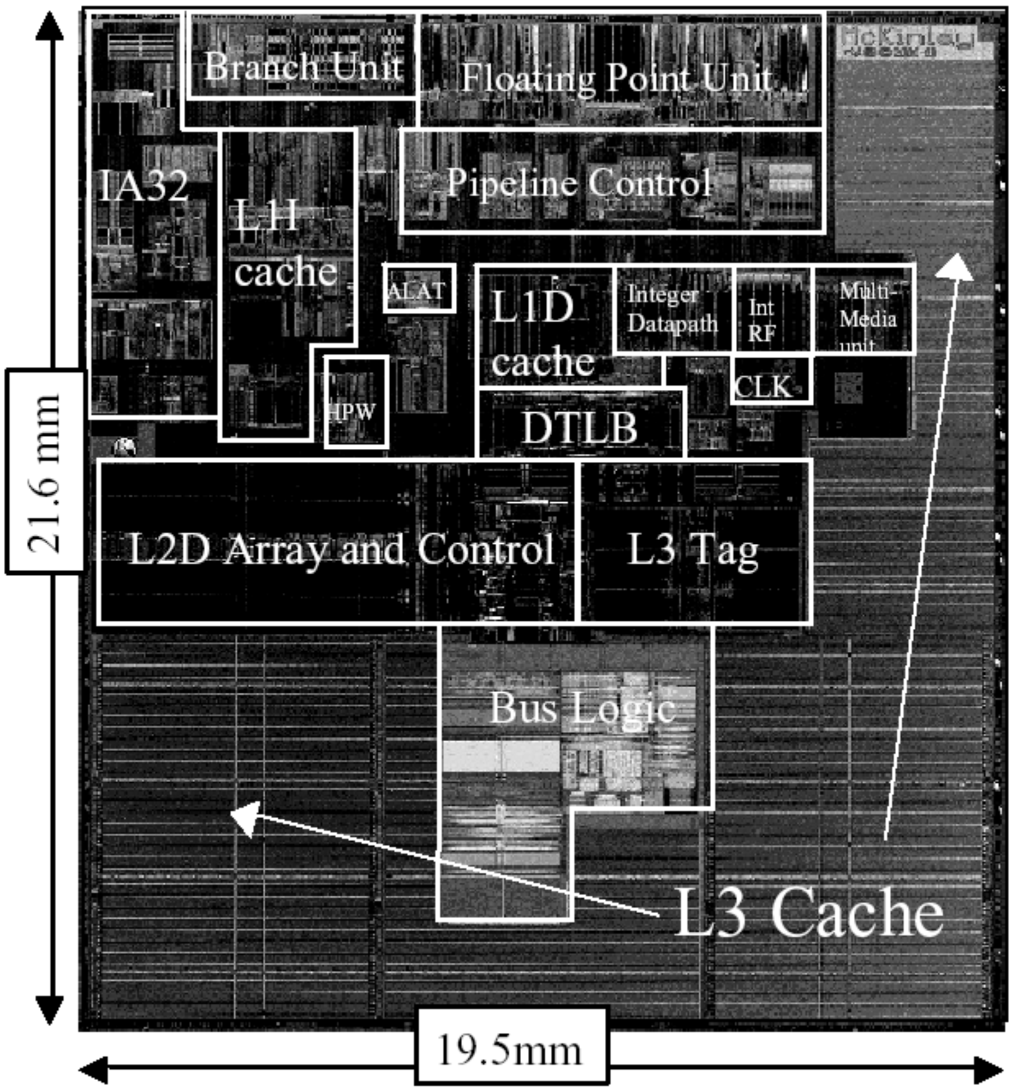
- Use smaller L1 if there is also L2
  - Trade increased L1 miss rate for reduced L1 hit time and reduced L1 miss penalty
  - Reduces average access energy
- Use simpler write-through L1 with on-chip L2
  - Write-back L2 cache absorbs write traffic, doesn't go off-chip
  - At most one L1 miss request per L1 access (no dirty victim write back) simplifies pipeline control
  - Simplifies coherence issues
  - Simplifies error recovery in L1 (can use just parity bits in L1 and reload from L2 when parity error detected on L1 read)

Inclusion Policy

- Inclusive multilevel cache:
  - Inner cache holds copies of data in outer cache
  - External coherence snoop access need only check outer cache
- *Exclusive* multilevel caches:
  - Inner cache may hold data not in outer cache
  - Swap lines between inner/outer caches on miss
  - Used in AMD Athlon with 64KB primary and 256KB secondary cache

Why choose one type or the other?

Itanium-2 On-Chip Caches
(Intel/HP, 2002)



Level 1: 16KB, 4-way s.a., 64B line, quad-port (2 load+2 store), single cycle latency

Level 2: 256KB, 4-way s.a, 128B line, quad-port (4 load or 4 store), five cycle latency

Level 3: 3MB, 12-way s.a., 128B line, single 32B port, twelve cycle latency

Power 7 On-Chip Caches [IBM 2009]

32KB L1 I$/core

32KB L1 D$/core

3-cycle latency

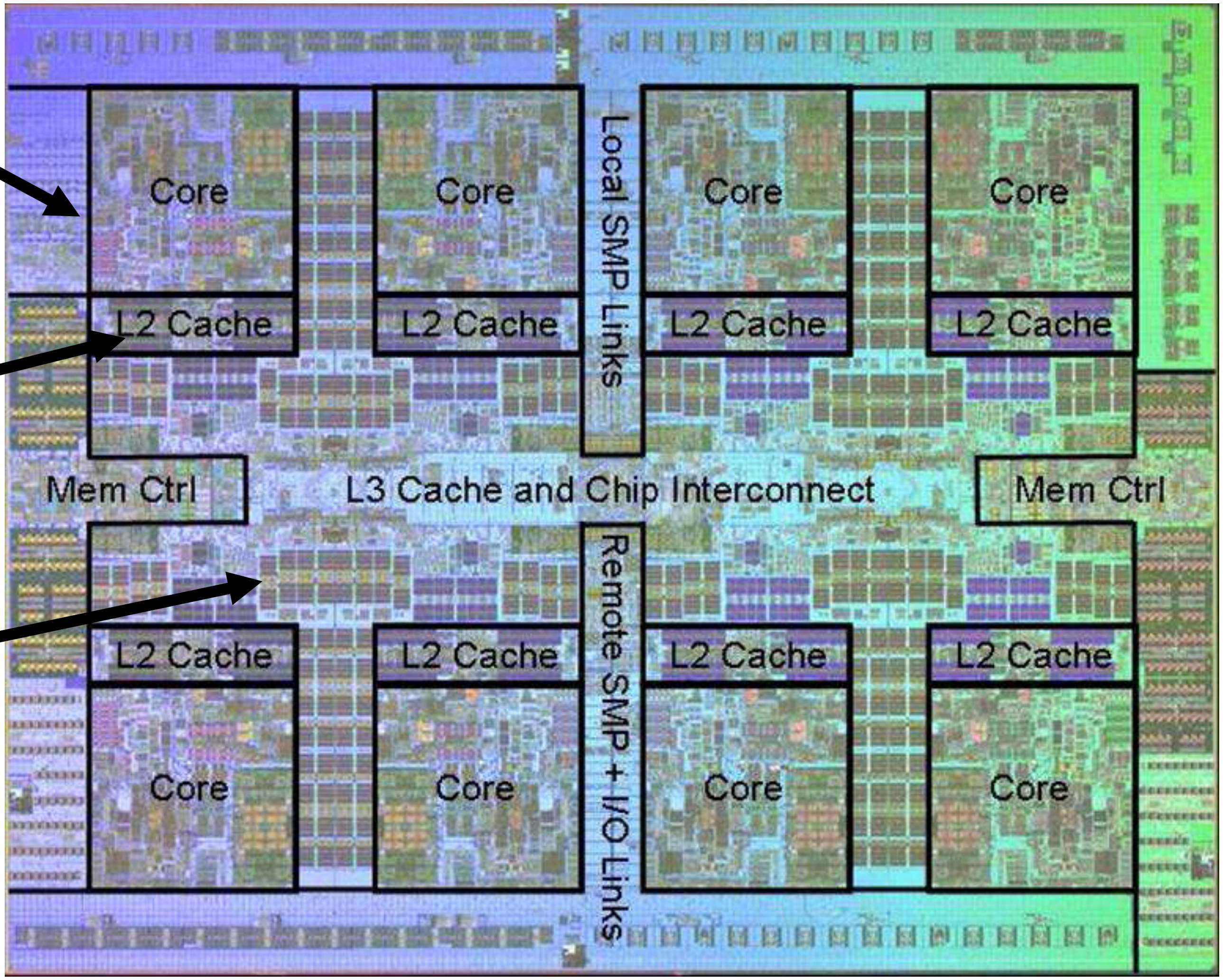
256KB Unified L2$/core

8-cycle latency

32MB Unified Shared L3$

Embedded DRAM

25-cycle latency to local slice

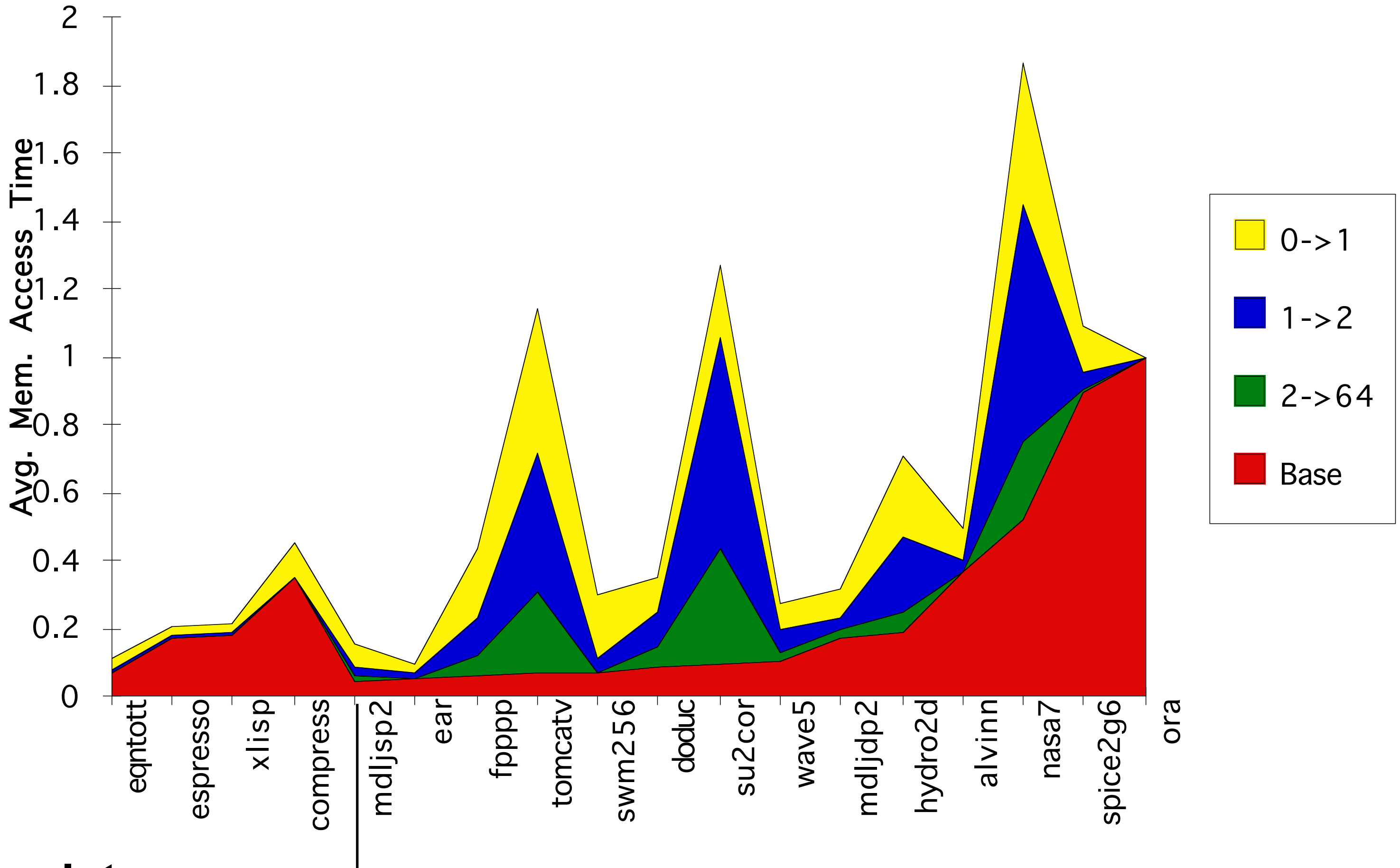


Increasing Cache Bandwidth with Non-Blocking Caches

- *Non-blocking cache* or *lockup-free cache* allow data cache to continue to supply cache hits during a miss
  - requires Full/Empty bits on registers or out-of-order execution
- "*hit under miss*" reduces the effective miss penalty by working during miss vs. ignoring CPU requests
- "*hit under multiple miss*" or "*miss under miss*" may further lower the effective miss penalty by overlapping multiple misses
  - Significantly increases the complexity of the cache controller as there can be multiple outstanding memory accesses, and can get miss to line with outstanding miss (secondary miss)
  - Requires pipelined or banked memory system (otherwise cannot support multiple misses)
  - Pentium Pro allows 4 outstanding memory misses
  - (Cray X1E vector supercomputer allows 2,048 outstanding memory misses)

Value of Hit Under Miss for SPEC (old data)

"Hit under n Misses"



0->1
1->2
2->64
Base

- Floating-point programs on average: AMAT= 0.68 -> 0.52 -> 0.34 -> 0.26
- Integer programs on average: AMAT= 0.24 -> 0.20 -> 0.19 -> 0.19
- 8 KB Data Cache, Direct Mapped, 32B block, 16 cycle miss, SPEC 92

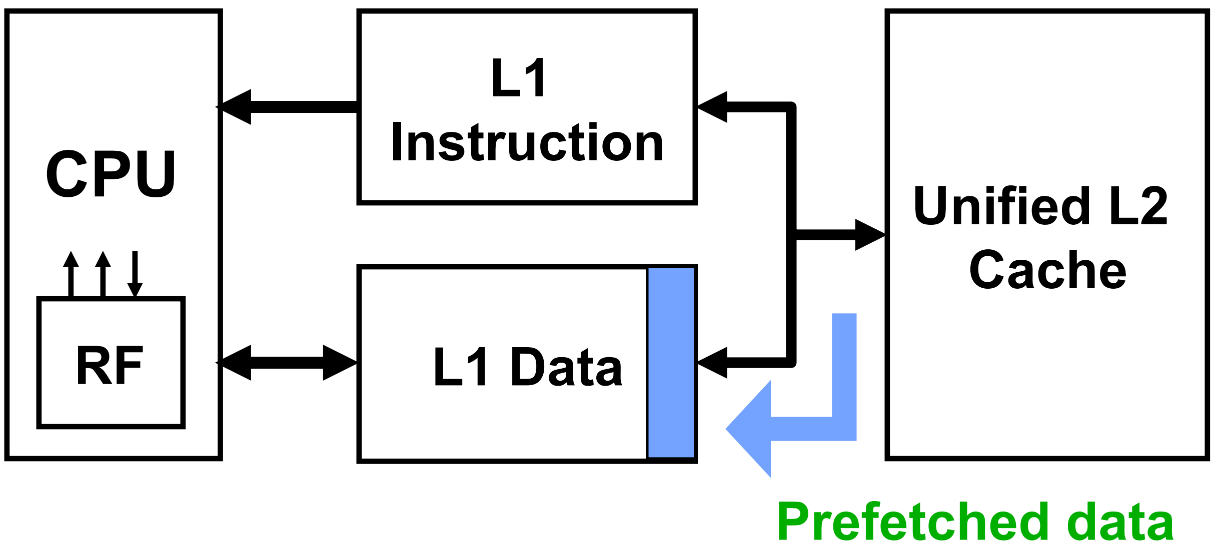
CS152 Administrivia

Prefetching

- Speculate on future instruction and data accesses and fetch them into cache(s)
  - Instruction accesses easier to predict than data accesses
- Varieties of prefetching
  - Hardware prefetching
  - Software prefetching
  - Mixed schemes
- *What types of misses does prefetching affect?*

Issues in Prefetching

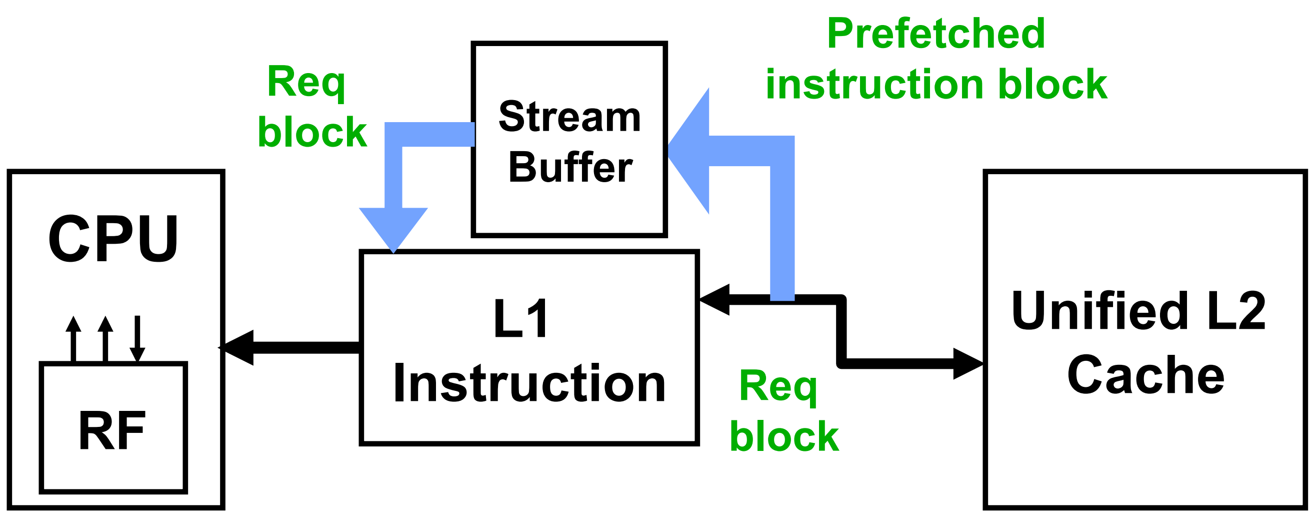
- Usefulness – should produce hits
- Timeliness – not late and not too early
- Cache and bandwidth pollution



Hardware Instruction Prefetching

Instruction prefetch in Alpha AXP 21064

- Fetch two blocks on a miss; the requested block (i) and the next consecutive block (i+1)
- Requested block placed in cache, and next block in instruction stream buffer
- If miss in cache but hit in stream buffer, move stream buffer block into cache and prefetch next block (i+2)



Hardware Data Prefetching

- Prefetch-on-miss:
  - Prefetch b + 1 upon miss on b
- One Block Lookahead (OBL) scheme
  - Initiate prefetch for block b + 1 when block b is accessed
  - *Why is this different from doubling block size?*
  - Can extend to N-block lookahead
- Strided prefetch
  - If observe sequence of accesses to block b, b+N, b+2N, then prefetch b+3N etc.

Example: IBM Power 5 [2003] supports eight independent streams of strided prefetch per processor, prefetching 12 lines ahead of current access

Software Prefetching

```
for(i=0; i < N; i++) {
    prefetch( &a[i + 1] );
    prefetch( &b[i + 1] );
    SUM = SUM + a[i] * b[i];
  }
```

What property do we require of the cache for prefetching to work ?

Software Prefetching Issues

- Timing is the biggest issue, not predictability
  - If you prefetch very close to when the data is required, you might be too late
  - Prefetch too early, cause pollution
  - Estimate how long it will take for the data to come into L1, so we can set P appropriately
  - *Why is this hard to do?*

```
for(i=0; i < N; i++) {
     prefetch( &a[i + P] );
     prefetch( &b[i + P] );
     SUM = SUM + a[i] * b[i];
 }
```

Must consider cost of prefetch instructions

Compiler Optimizations

- Restructuring code affects the data block access sequence
  - Group data accesses together to improve spatial locality
  - Re-order data accesses to improve temporal locality
- Prevent data from entering the cache
  - Useful for variables that will only be accessed once before being replaced
  - Needs mechanism for software to tell hardware not to cache data (“no-allocate” instruction hints or page table bits)
- Kill data that will never be used again
  - Streaming data exploits spatial locality but not temporal locality
  - Replace into dead cache locations

Loop Interchange

```
for(j=0; j < N; j++) {
    for(i=0; i < M; i++) {
        x[i][j] = 2 * x[i][j];
    }
}
```

⇩

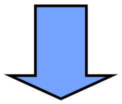
```
for(i=0; i < M; i++) {
    for(j=0; j < N; j++) {
        x[i][j] = 2 * x[i][j];
    }
}
```

What type of locality does this improve?

Loop Fusion

```
for(i=0; i < N; i++)
      a[i] = b[i] * c[i];

for(i=0; i < N; i++)
      d[i] = a[i] * c[i];
```

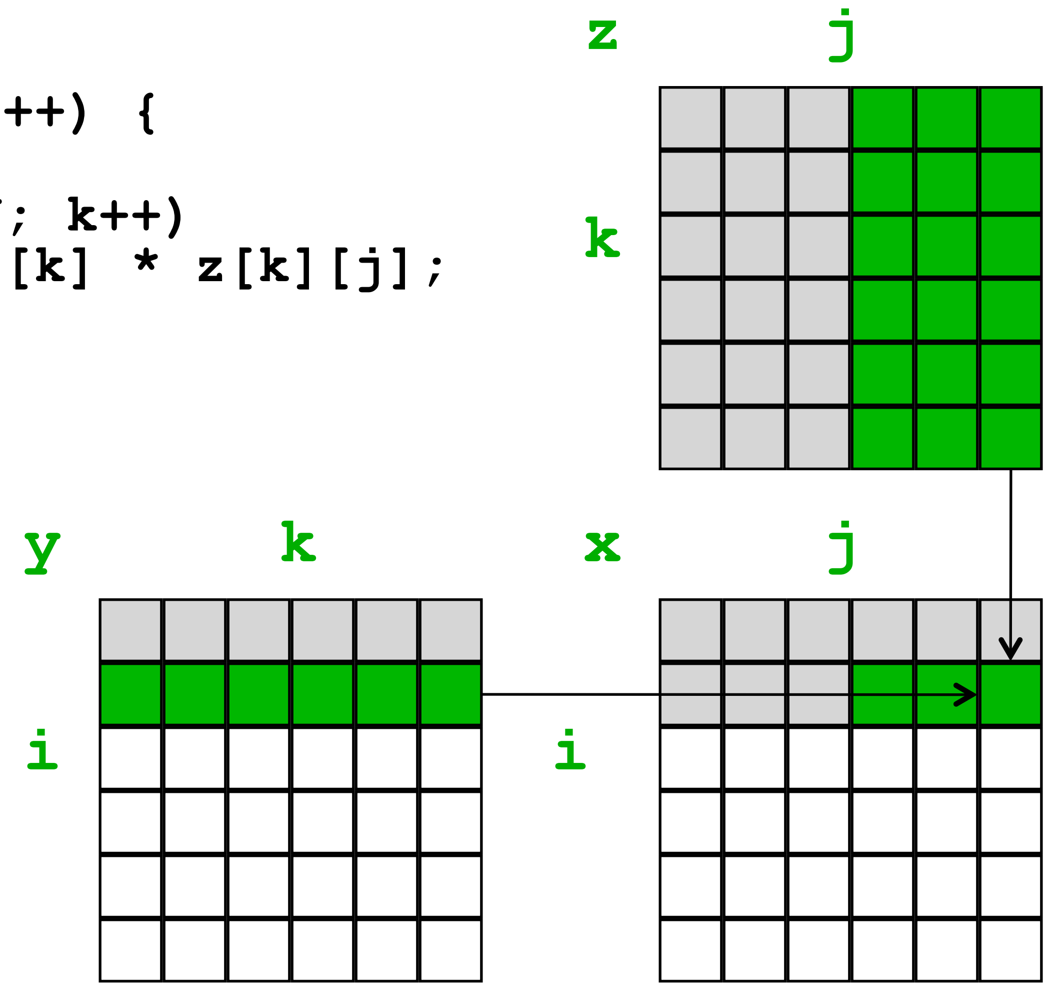


```
for(i=0; i < N; i++)
{
        a[i] = b[i] * c[i];
        d[i] = a[i] * c[i];
}
```

What type of locality does this improve?

Matrix Multiply, Naïve Code

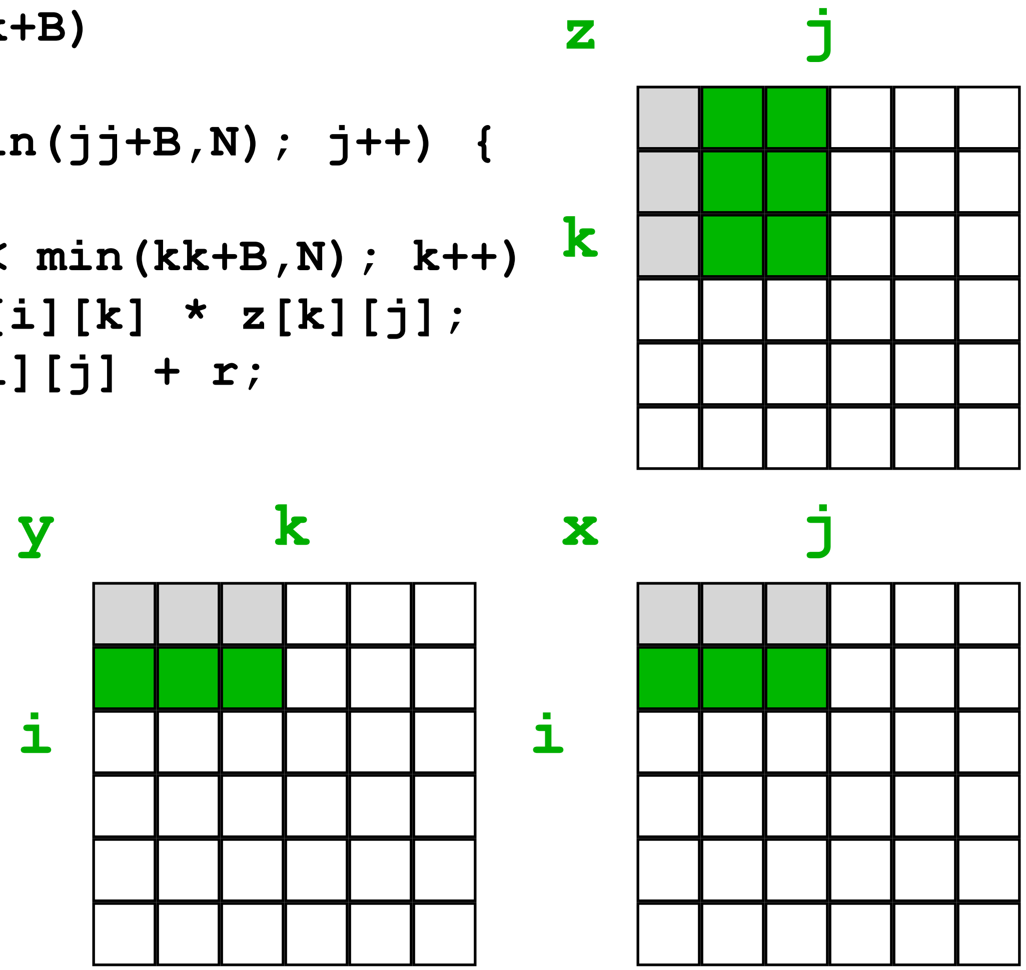
```
for(i=0; i < N; i++)
        for(j=0; j < N; j++) {
            r = 0;
            for(k=0; k < N; k++)
               r = r + y[i][k] * z[k][j];
            x[i][j] = r;
        }
```



Not touched *Old access* *New access*

Matrix Multiply with Cache Tiling

```
for(jj=0; jj < N; jj=jj+B)
    for(kk=0; kk < N; kk=kk+B)
        for(i=0; i < N; i++)
            for(j=jj; j < min(jj+B,N); j++) {
                r = 0;
                for(k=kk; k < min(kk+B,N); k++)
                    r = r + y[i][k] * z[k][j];
                x[i][j] = x[i][j] + r;
            }
```



What type of locality does this improve?

Acknowledgements

- These slides contain material developed and copyright by:
  - Arvind (MIT)
  - Krste Asanovic (MIT/UCB)
  - Joel Emer (Intel/MIT)
  - James Hoe (CMU)
  - John Kubiatowicz (UCB)
  - David Patterson (UCB)

- MIT material derived from course 6.823
- UCB material derived from course CS252