EECS2021 Computer Organization

Chapter 5

Introduction to Memory and Parallel Processors

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Introduction to Memory

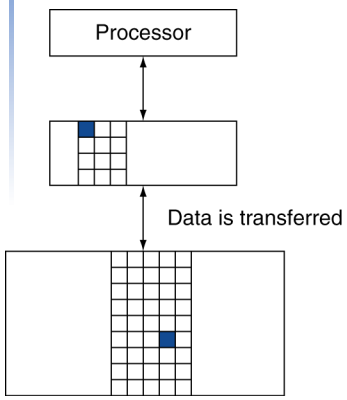
Principle of Locality

- Programs access a small proportion of their address space at any time
- Temporal locality
  - Items accessed recently are likely to be accessed again soon
  - e.g., instructions in a loop, induction variables
- Spatial locality
  - Items near those accessed recently are likely to be accessed soon
  - E.g., sequential instruction access, array data

Taking Advantage of Locality

- Memory hierarchy
- Store everything on disk
- Copy recently accessed (and nearby) items from disk to smaller DRAM memory
  - Main memory
- Copy more recently accessed (and nearby) items from DRAM to smaller SRAM memory
  - Cache memory attached to CPU

Memory Hierarchy Levels



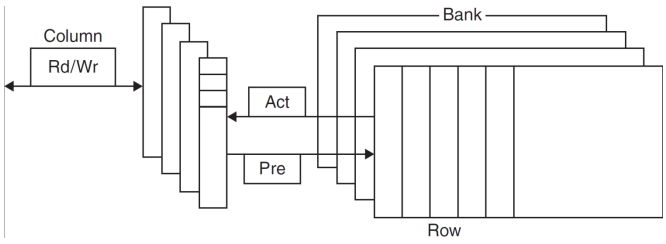
- Block (aka line): unit of copying
  - May be multiple words
- If accessed data is present in upper level
  - Hit: access satisfied by upper level
    - Hit ratio: hits/accesses
- If accessed data is absent
  - Miss: block copied from lower level
    - Time taken: miss penalty
    - Miss ratio: misses/accesses = 1 – hit ratio
  - Then accessed data supplied from upper level

Memory Technology

- Static RAM (SRAM)
  - 0.5ns – 2.5ns, $2000 – $5000 per GB
- Dynamic RAM (DRAM)
  - 50ns – 70ns, $20 – $75 per GB
- Magnetic disk
  - 5ms – 20ms, $0.20 – $2 per GB
- Ideal memory
  - Access time of SRAM
  - Capacity and cost/GB of disk

DRAM Technology

- Data stored as a charge in a capacitor
  - Single transistor used to access the charge
  - Must periodically be refreshed
    - Read contents and write back
    - Performed on a DRAM “row”



Advanced DRAM Organization

- Bits in a DRAM are organized as a rectangular array
  - DRAM accesses an entire row
  - Burst mode: supply successive words from a row with reduced latency
- Double data rate (DDR) DRAM
  - Transfer on rising and falling clock edges
- Quad data rate (QDR) DRAM
  - Separate DDR inputs and outputs

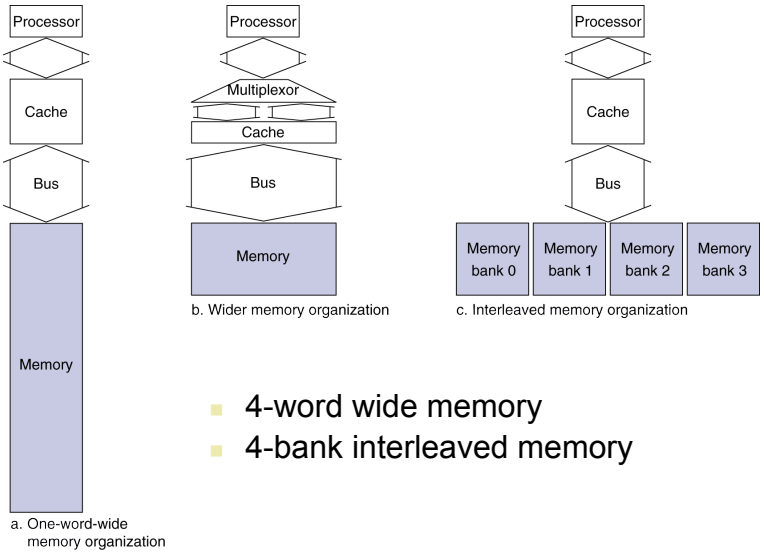
DRAM Generations

Year	Capacity	$/GB	Total access time to a new row/column	Average column access time to existing row
1980	64Kbit	$1500000	250 ns	150 ns
1983	256Kbit	$500000	185 ns	100 ns
1985	1Mbit	$200000	135 ns	40 ns
1989	4Mbit	$50000	110 ns	40 ns
1992	16Mbit	$15000	90 ns	30 ns
1996	64Mbit	$10000	60 ns	12 ns
1998	128Mbit	$4000	60 ns	10 ns
2000	256Mbit	$1000	55 ns	7 ns
2004	512Mbit	$250	50 ns	5 ns
2007	1Gbit	$50	45 ns	1.25 ns
2010	2 Gbit	$30	40 ns	1 ns
2012	4 Gbit	$1	35 ns	0.8 ns

DRAM Performance Factors

- Row buffer
  - Allows several words to be read and refreshed in parallel
- Synchronous DRAM
  - Allows for consecutive accesses in bursts without needing to send each address
  - Improves bandwidth
- DRAM banking
  - Allows simultaneous access to multiple DRAMs
  - Improves bandwidth

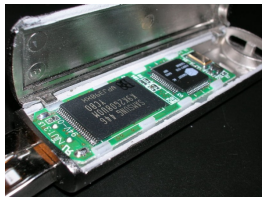
Increasing Memory Bandwidth



- 4-word wide memory
- 4-bank interleaved memory

Flash Storage

- Nonvolatile semiconductor storage
  - 100× – 1000× faster than disk
  - Smaller, lower power, more robust
  - But more $/GB (between disk and DRAM)

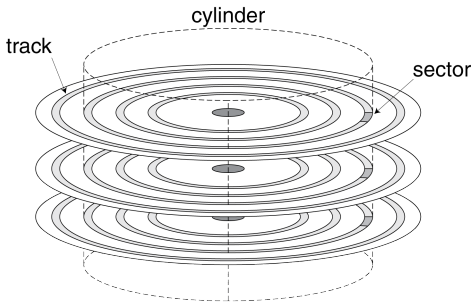


Flash Types

- NOR flash: bit cell like a NOR gate
  - Random read/write access
  - Used for instruction memory in embedded systems
- NAND flash: bit cell like a NAND gate
  - Denser (bits/area), but block-at-a-time access
  - Cheaper per GB
  - Used for USB keys, media storage, …
- Flash bits wears out after 1000's of accesses
  - Not suitable for direct RAM or disk replacement
  - Wear leveling: remap data to less used blocks

Disk Storage

- Nonvolatile, rotating magnetic storage



How does a hard disk work?

Disk Sectors and Access

- Each sector records
  - Sector ID
  - Data (512 bytes, 4096 bytes proposed)
  - Error correcting code (ECC)
    - Used to hide defects and recording errors
  - Synchronization fields and gaps
- Access to a sector involves
  - Queuing delay if other accesses are pending
  - Seek: move the heads
  - Rotational latency
  - Data transfer
  - Controller overhead

Disk Access Example

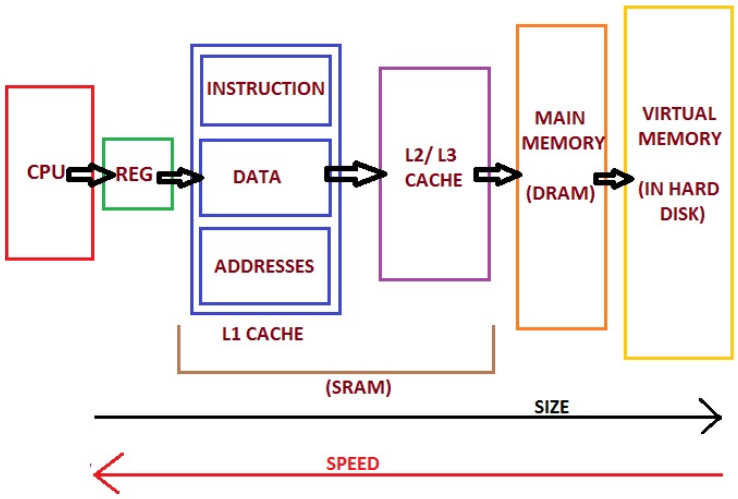
- Given
  - 512B sector, 15,000rpm, 4ms average seek time, 100MB/s transfer rate, 0.2ms controller overhead, idle disk
- Average read time
  - 4ms seek time
    + ½ / (15,000/60) = 2ms rotational latency
    + 512 / 100MB/s = 0.005ms transfer time
    + 0.2ms controller delay
    = 6.2ms
- If actual average seek time is 1ms
  - Average read time = 3.2ms

Disk Performance Issues

- Manufacturers quote average seek time
  - Based on all possible seeks
  - Locality and OS scheduling lead to smaller actual average seek times
- Smart disk controller allocate physical sectors on disk
  - Present logical sector interface to host
  - SCSI, ATA, SATA
- Disk drives include caches
  - Prefetch sectors in anticipation of access
  - Avoid seek and rotational delay

Cache Memory

- Cache memory: the level of the memory hierarchy closest to the CPU



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Introduction to Parallel Processors

Introduction

- Goal: connecting multiple computers to get higher performance
  - Multiprocessors
  - Scalability, availability, power efficiency
- Task-level (process-level) parallelism
  - High throughput for independent jobs
- Parallel processing program
  - Single program run on multiple processors
- Multicore microprocessors
  - Chips with multiple processors (cores)

Hardware and Software

- Hardware
  - Serial: e.g., Pentium 4
  - Parallel: e.g., quad-core Xeon e5345
- Software
  - Sequential: e.g., matrix multiplication
  - Concurrent: e.g., operating system
- Sequential/concurrent software can run on serial/parallel hardware
  - Challenge: making effective use of parallel hardware

Parallel Programming

- Parallel software is the problem
- Need to get significant performance improvement
  - Otherwise, just use a faster uniprocessor, since it's easier!
- Difficulties
  - Partitioning
  - Coordination
  - Communications overhead

Instruction and Data Streams

- Categorization of parallel hardware

		Data Streams	
		Single	Multiple
Instruction Streams	Single	**SISD**: Intel Pentium 4	**SIMD**: SSE instructions of x86
	Multiple	**MISD**: No examples today	**MIMD**: Intel Xeon e5345

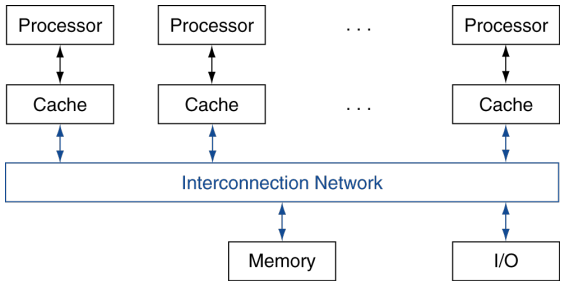
- Conventional uniprocessor – SISD
- Conventional multiprocessor – MIMD

Instruction and Data Streams

- SIMD computer operates on vectors of data
- SPMD (Single Program Multiple Data) is normally used for MIMD computer
  - A parallel program on a MIMD computer
  - Conditional code for different processors

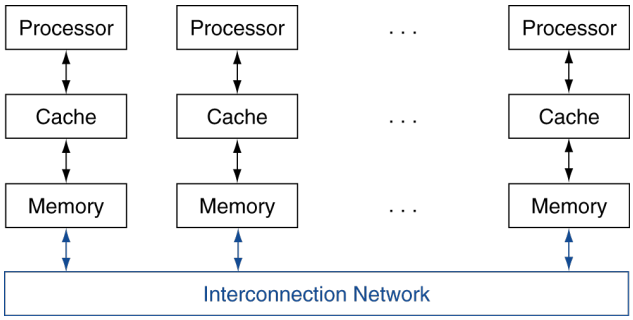
Shared Memory

- SMP: shared memory multiprocessor
  - Hardware provides single physical address space for all processors
  - Synchronize shared variables using locks
  - Memory access time
    - UMA (uniform) vs. NUMA (nonuniform)



Message Passing

- Each processor has private physical address space
- Hardware sends/receives messages between processors



Loosely Coupled Clusters

- Network of independent computers
  - Each has private memory and OS
  - Connected using I/O system
    - E.g., Ethernet/switch, Internet
- Suitable for applications with independent tasks
  - Web servers, databases, simulations, …
- High availability, scalable, affordable
- Problems
  - Administration cost (prefer virtual machines)
  - Low interconnect bandwidth
    - c.f. processor/memory bandwidth on an SMP

Grid Computing

- Separate computers interconnected by long-haul networks
  - E.g., Internet connections
  - Work units farmed out, results sent back
- Can make use of idle time on PCs
  - E.g., SETI@home, World Community Grid