香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

CSCI2510 Computer Organization

Lecture 07: Cache in Action

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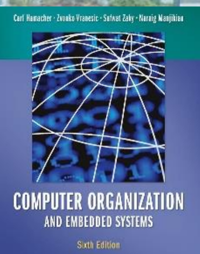
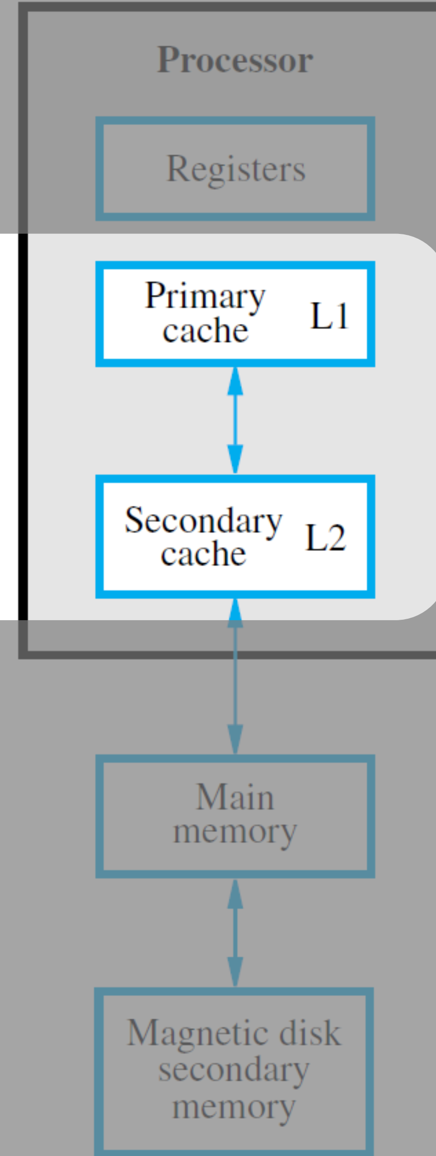


Reading: Chap. 8.6

Recall: Memory Hierarchy

Processor

- Register: SRAM
- L1, L2 cache: SRAM
- Main memory: SDRAM
- Secondary storage: Hard disks or NVM

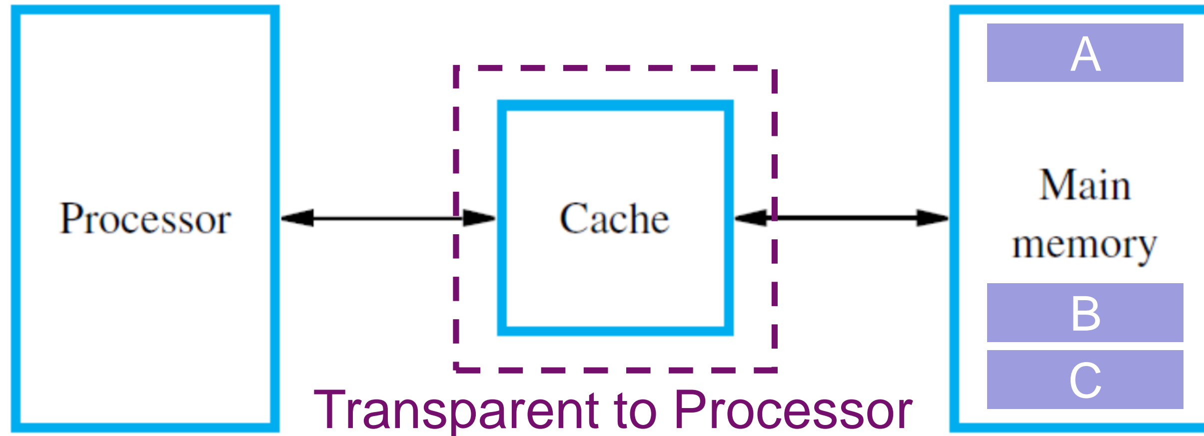


Outline

- Cache Basics
- Mapping Functions
  - Direct Mapping
  - Associative Mapping
  - Set Associative Mapping
- Replacement Algorithms
  - Least Recently Used (LRU) Replacement
  - Random Replacement
- Working Examples

Cache: Fast but Small

- The cache is a small but very fast memory.
  - Interposed between the processor and main memory.



- Its purpose is to make the main memory appear to the processor to be much faster than it actually is.
  - The processor does not need to know explicitly about the existence of the cache, but just feels faster!
- How to? Exploit the locality of reference to "properly" load some data from the main memory into the cache.

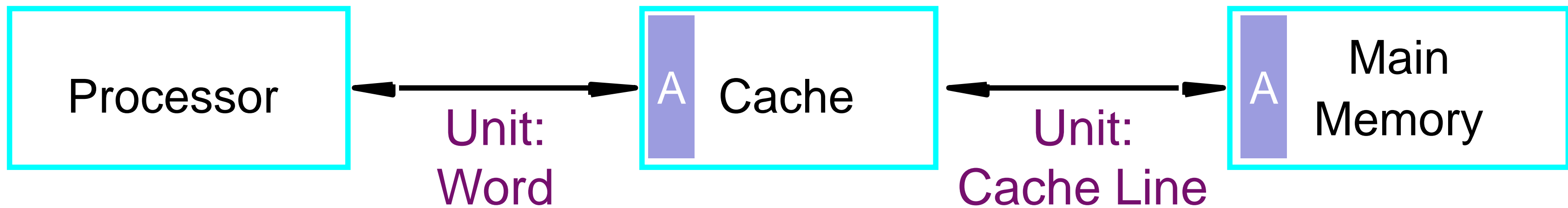
Locality of Reference

- **Temporal Locality** (locality in ***time***)
  - If an item is referenced, it will tend to be referenced again soon (e.g. recent calls).
  - **Strategy**: When information item (instruction or data) is first needed, opportunistically bring it into cache (we hope it will be used soon).

- **Spatial Locality** (locality in ***space***)
  - If an item is referenced, neighboring items whose addresses are close-by will tend to be referenced soon.
  - **Strategy**: Rather than a single word, fetch more data of adjacent addresses (unit: cache block) from main memory into cache.

Cache Usage

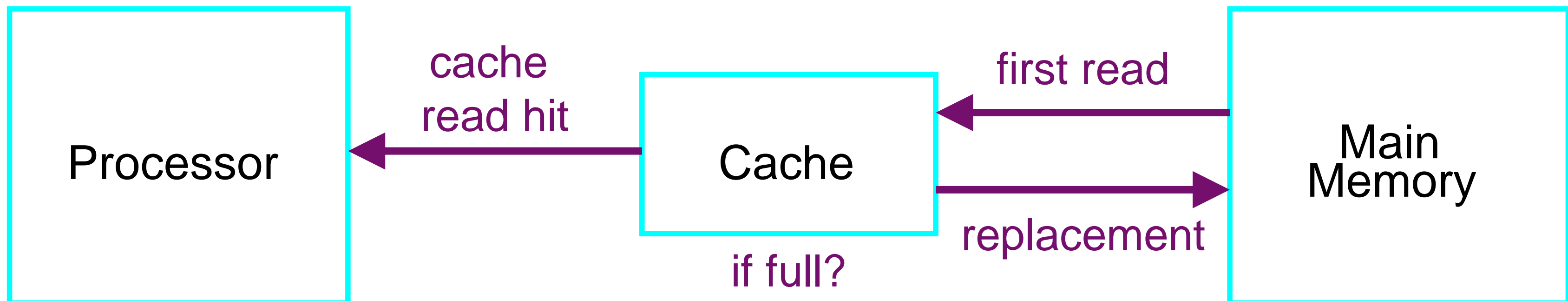
- **Cache Read (or Write) Hit/Miss**: The read (or write) operation **can**/**cannot** be performed on the cache.



- **Cache Block / Line**: The unit composed of multiple successive memory words (size: cache block > word).
  - The contents of a cache block (of memory words) will be loaded into or unloaded from the cache at a time.
- **Mapping Functions**: Decide how cache is organized and how addresses are mapped to the main memory.
- **Replacement Algorithms**: Decide which item to be unloaded from cache when cache is full.

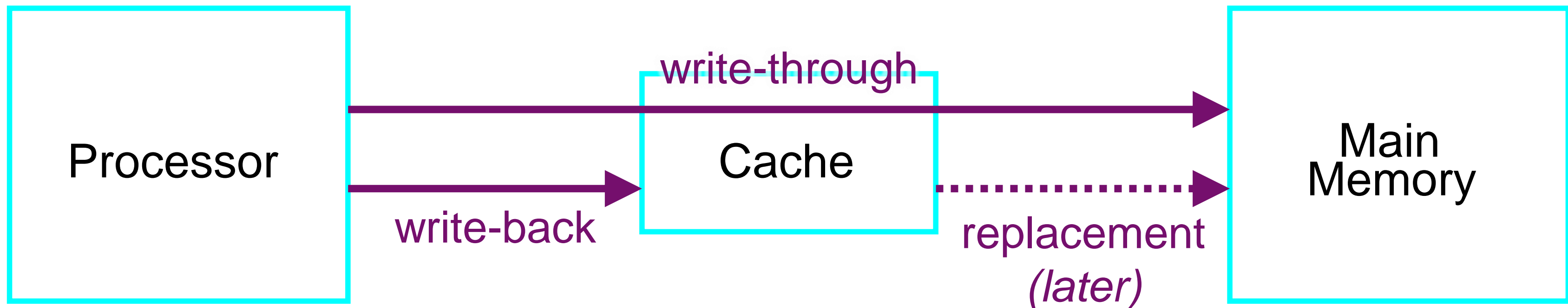
Read Operation in Cache

- **Read Operation**:
  - Contents of a cache block are loaded from the memory into the cache for the first read.
  - Subsequent accesses that can be (hopefully) performed on the cache, called a cache read hit.
  - The number of cache entries is relatively small, we need to keep the most likely to-be-used data in cache.
  - When an un-cached block is required (i.e., cache read miss), the replacement algorithm removes an old block and to create space for the new one if cache is full



Write Operation in Cache

- **Write Operation**:
  - **Scheme 1**: The contents of cache and main memory are updated at the same time (write-through).
  - **Scheme 2**: Update cache only but mark the item as dirty. The corresponding contents in main memory will be updated later when cache block is unloaded (write-back).
    - **Dirty**: The data item needs to be written back to the main memory.



- Which scheme is simpler?
- Which one has better performance?

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Mapping Functions (1/3)

- **Cache-Memory Mapping Function**: A way to record which block of the main memory is now in cache.
- What if the case size == the main memory size?

- Trivial! **One-to-one mapping** is enough!

Question: Do we still need the main memory?

Mapping Functions (2/3)

- **Reality**: The cache size is much smaller (<<<) than the main memory size.
- **Many-to-one mapping** is needed!
  - Many blocks in memory compete for one block in cache.
  - A block in cache can only represent one block in memory.

CPU
(FASTEST)

Cache
(FAST)

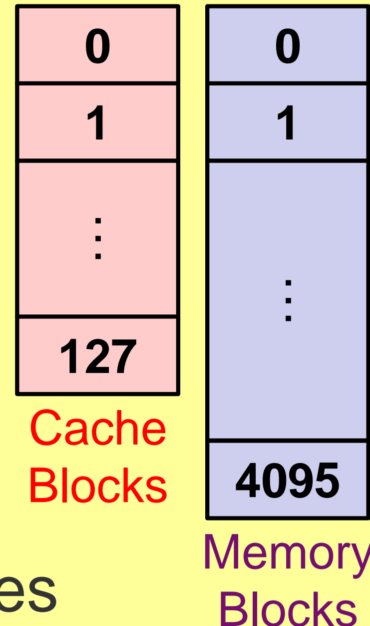
Block 0
Block 1

Memory
(SLOW)

Block 0
Block 1
Block 2
Block 3
Block 4
Block 5
Block 6
Block 7

Mapping Functions (3/3)

- **Design Considerations**:
  - **Efficient**: Determine whether a block is in cache quickly.
  - **Effective**: Make full use of cache to increase cache hit ratio.
    - **Cache Hit/Miss Ratio**: the probability of cache hits/misses.
- In the following discussion, we assume:
  - **Synonym**: Cache Line = Cache Block = Block
  - 1 Word = 1 Byte
  - 1 Block = 16 Words = 16 Bytes
  - **Cache Size**: 2K Bytes → 128 **Cache Blocks**
    - **Cache Block (CB)**: The block in the cache.
  - **Memory Size**: 16-bit Address → 2^{16} = 64K Bytes → 4096 **Memory Blocks**
    - **Memory Block (MB)**: The block in the main memory.



Modulo (%, mod) Operator

- The **modulo (%)** operator is used to divide two numbers and get the remainder.
- Example:

```
                      0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1   <—— Quotient
                    _________________
Divisor ——> 1 0 1 1 | 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 1   <—— Dividend
                        1 0 1 1     | |
                      _________     | |
                      0 0 1 1 1 0   | |
                          1 0 1 1   v v
                      ___________
                          0 0 1 1 1 1
                              1 0 1 1
                          ___________
                                1 0 0   <—— Remainder
```

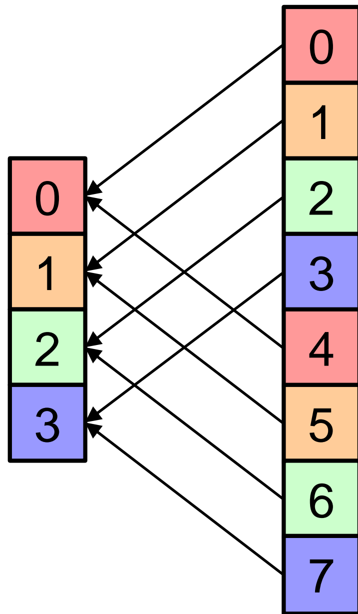
Class Exercise 7.1

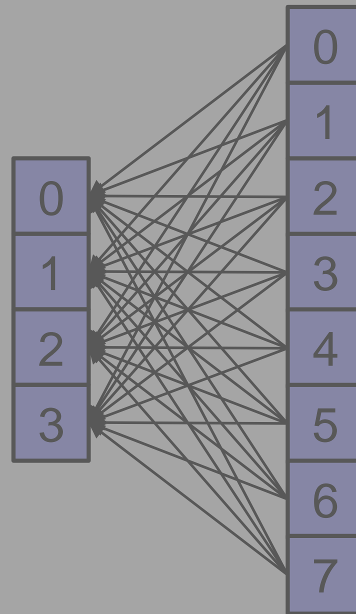
Student ID: ____________ Date:
Name: ________________ ________

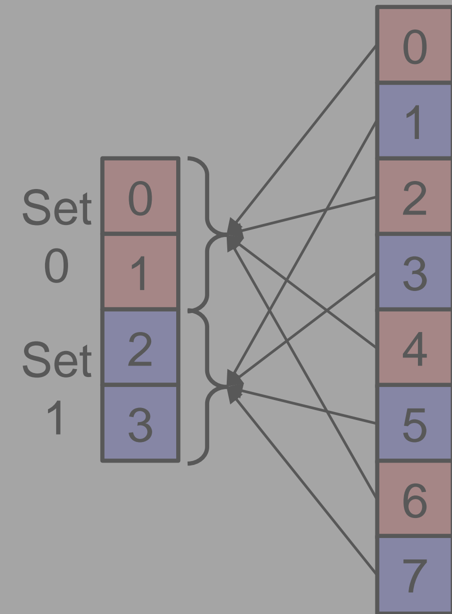
- Considering the previous example, what if the divisor equals to $(10)_2$, $(100)_2$, …, $(10000000)_2$?

Direct Mapping (1/4)

Direct	Associative	Set Associative
•A Memory Block is **directly mapped** (%) to a Cache Block.	•A Memory Block can be **mapped to any** Cache Block. (First come first serve!)	• A Memory Block is **directly mapped** (%) to a Cache **Set**. (In a set? Associative!)







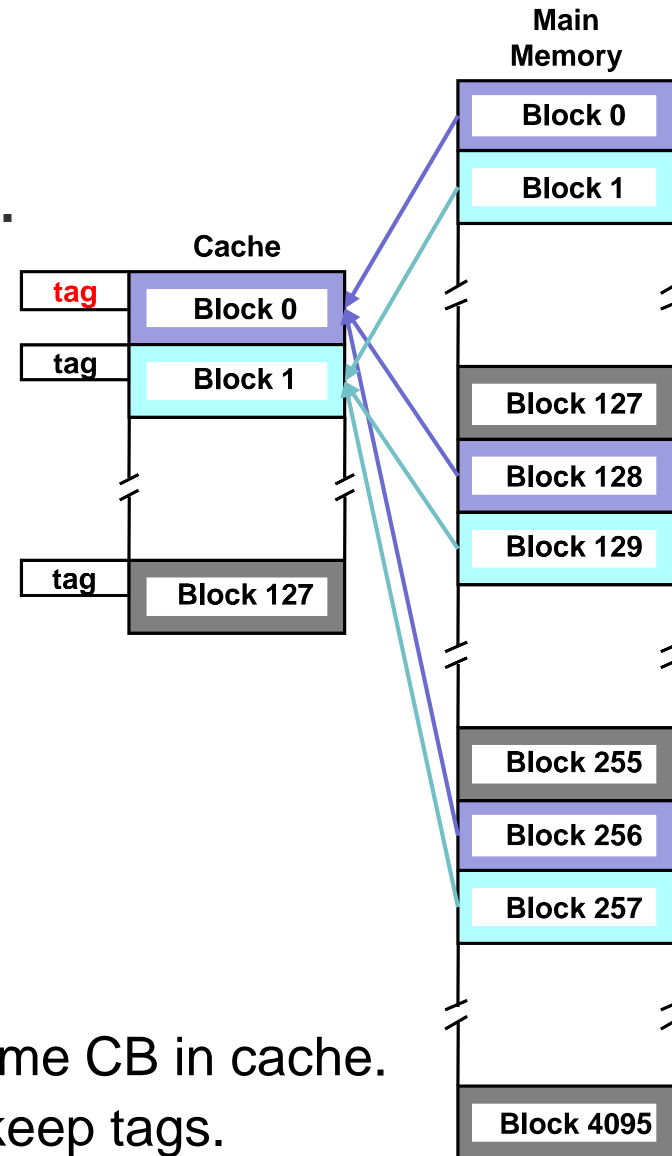
Direct Mapping (2/4)

- **Direct Mapped Cache**: Each Memory Block will be directly mapped to a Cache Block.
- **Direct Mapping Function**:

  MB #j → CB #(j mod 128)

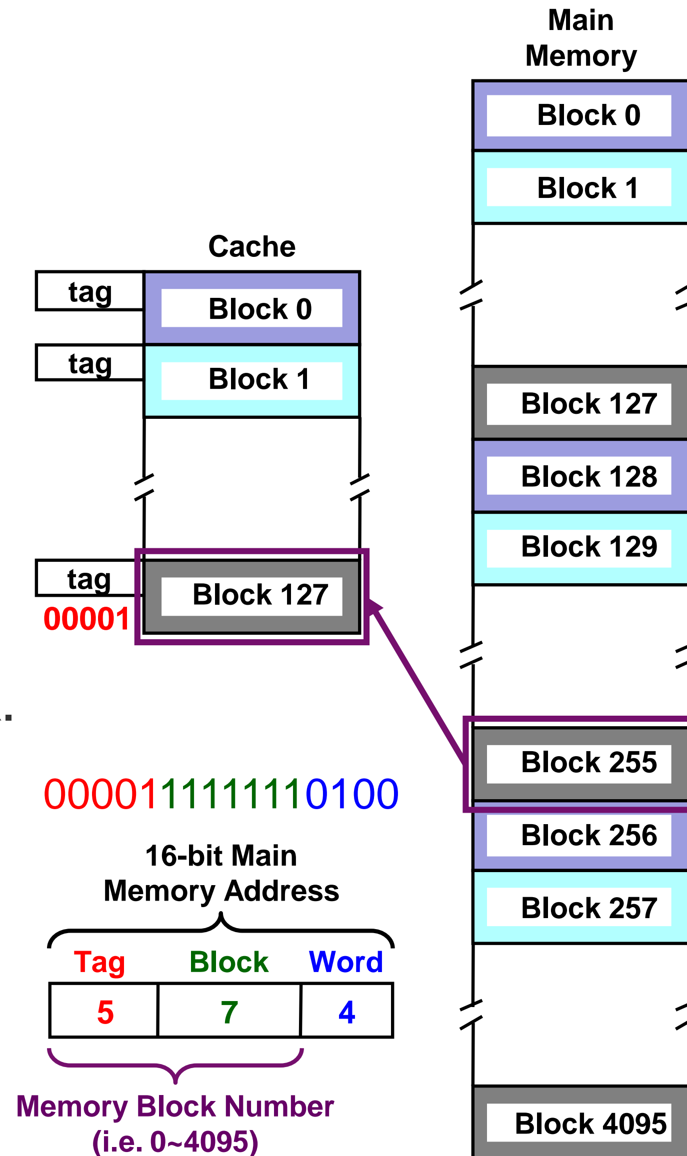
  – 128? There're 128 Cache Blocks.
  – 32 MBs are mapped to 1 CB.
    - MBs **0, 128, 256, …, 3968** → CB **0**.
    - MBs **1, 129, 257, …, 3969** → CB **1**.
    - …
    - MBs **127, 255, 383, …, 4095** → CB **127**.

  – A **tag** is need for each CB.
    - Since many MBs will be mapped to a same CB in cache.
    - We need occupy some cache space to keep tags.



Direct Mapping (3/4)

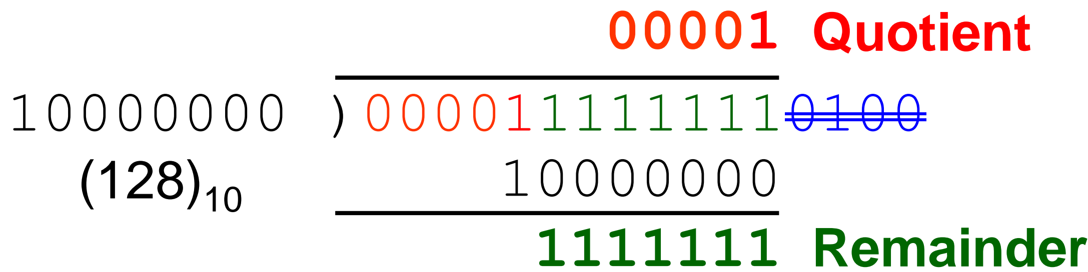
- **Trick**: Interpret the 16-bit main memory address as three fields:
  - **Tag**: Keep track of which MB is placed in the corresponding CB.
    - 5 bits: 16 – (7 + 4) = 5 bits.
  - **Block**: Determine the CB in cache.
    - 7 bits: There're 128 = 2^7 cache blocks.
  - **Word**: Select one word in a block.
    - 4 bits: There're 16 = 2^4 words in a block.
- Ex: CPU is looking for $(0FF4)_{16}$
  - MAR = $(0000111111110100)_2$
  - MB = $(000011111111)_2 = (255)_{10}$
  - CB = $(1111111)_2 = (127)_{10}$
  - Tag = $(00001)_2$



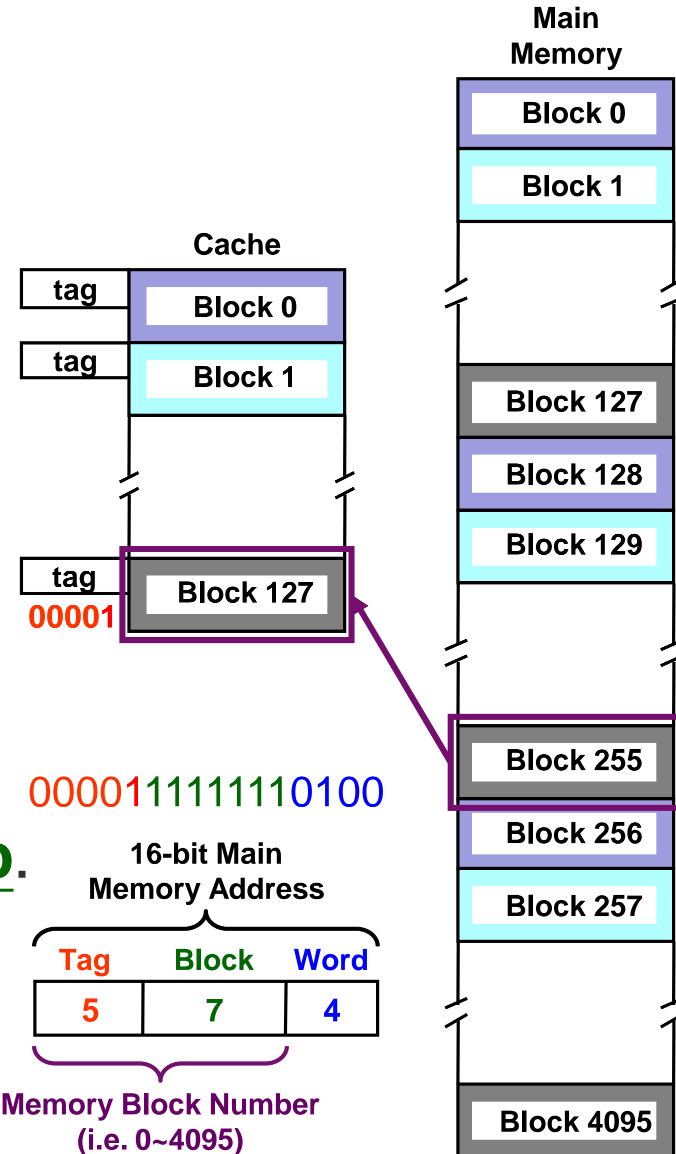
Direct Mapping (4/4)

- Why the first 5 bits for **tag**? And why the middle 7 bits for **block**?

MB #j → CB #(j mod 128)

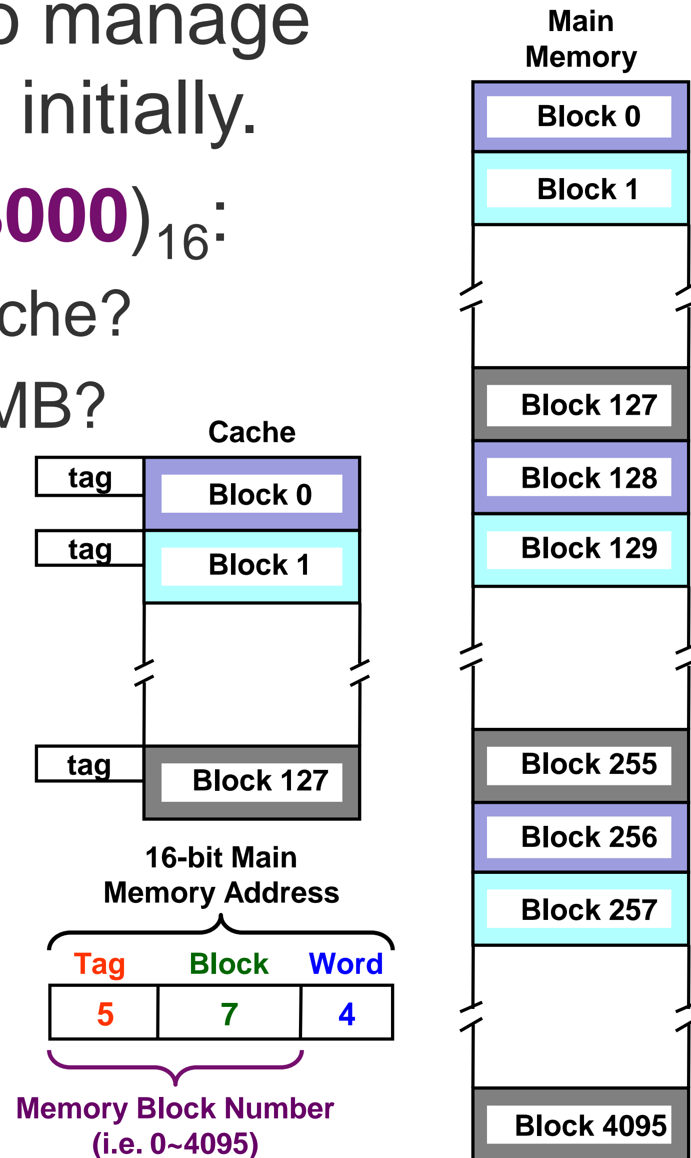


- Given a 16-bit address (**t**, **b**, **w**):
  ① See if MB (**t**, **b**) is already in CB **b** by comparing **t** with the **tag** of CB **b**.
  ② If not, replace CB **b** with MB (**t**, **b**) and update **tag** of CB **b** using **t**.
  ③ Finally access the word **w** in CB **b**.



Class Exercise 7.2

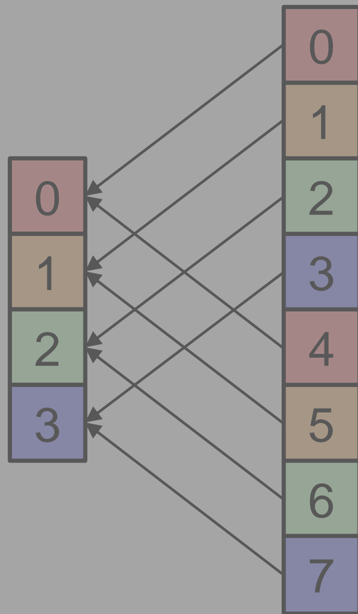
- Assume direct mapping is used to manage the cache, and all CBs are empty initially.
- Considering CPU is looking for $(\mathbf{8000})_{16}$:
  - Which MB will be loaded into the cache?
  - Which CB will be used to store the MB?
  - What is the new tag for the CB?



Associative Mapping (1/3)

Direct

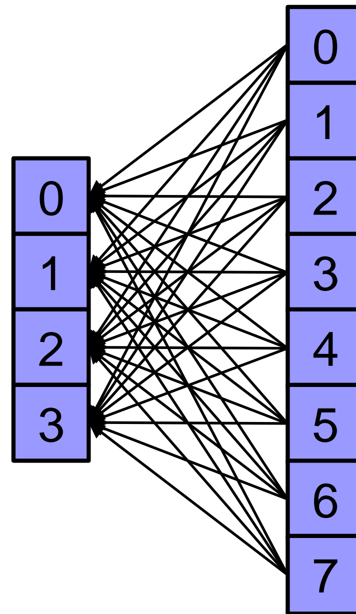
- A Memory Block is **directly mapped** (%) to a Cache Block.



Associative

- A Memory Block can be **mapped to any** Cache Block.

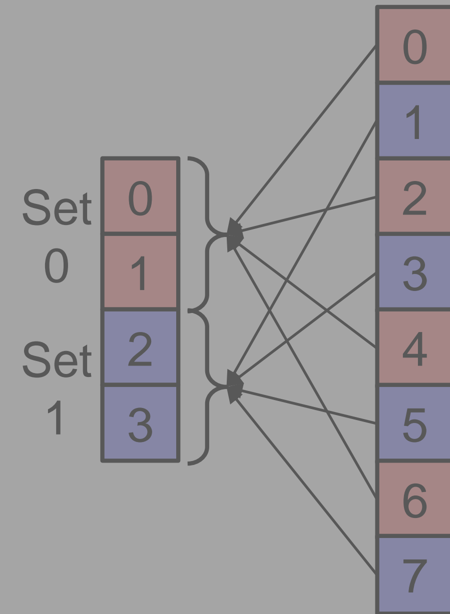
(First come first serve!)



Set Associative

- A Memory Block is **directly mapped** (%) to a Cache **Set**.

(In a set? Associative!)

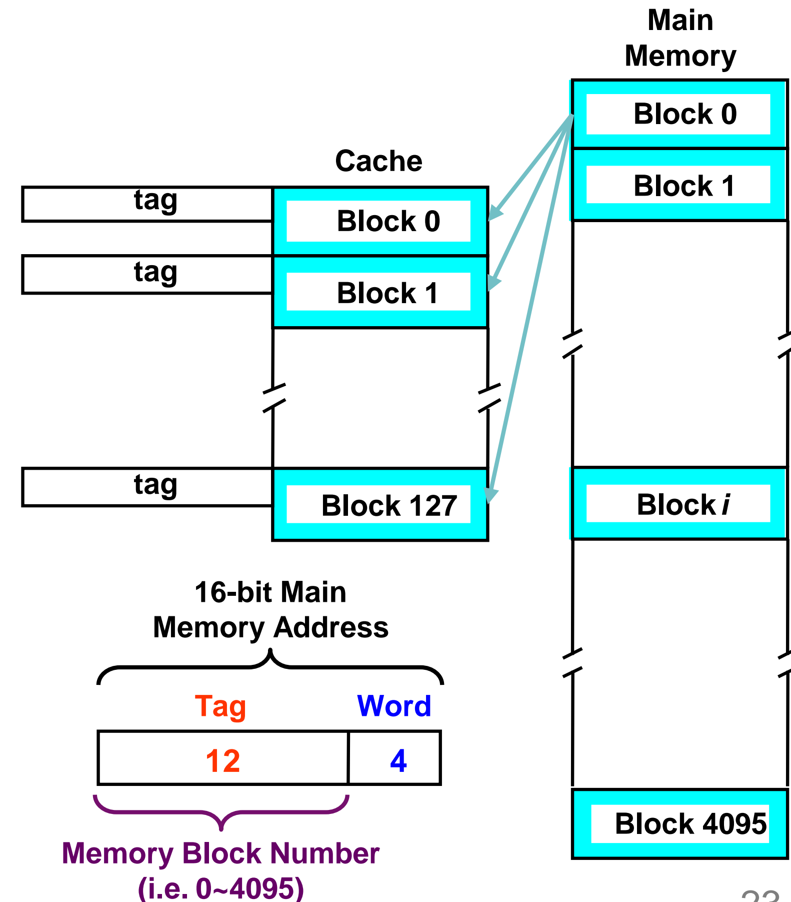


Associative Mapping (2/3)

- **Direct Mapping**: A MB is restricted to a particular CB determined by mod operation.
- **Associative Mapping:**

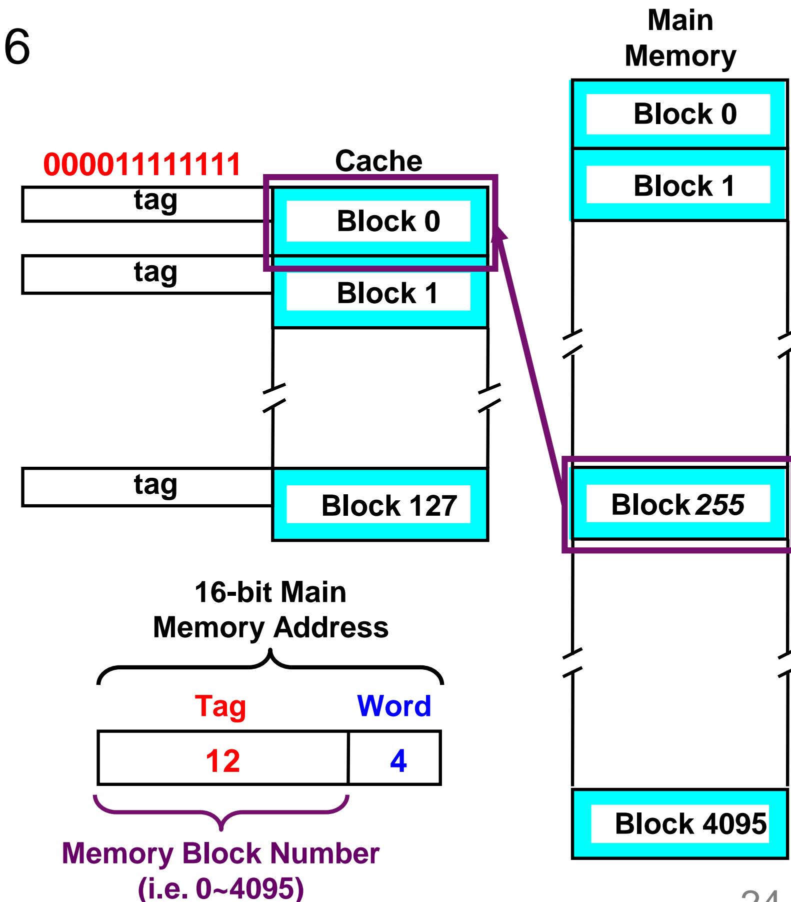
  Allow a MB to be mapped to any CB in the cache.

- **Trick**: Interpret the 16-bit main memory address as two fields:
  - **Tag**: The first **12** bits (i.e. the MB number) are all used to represent a MB.
  - **Word**: The last **4** bits for selecting a word in a block.



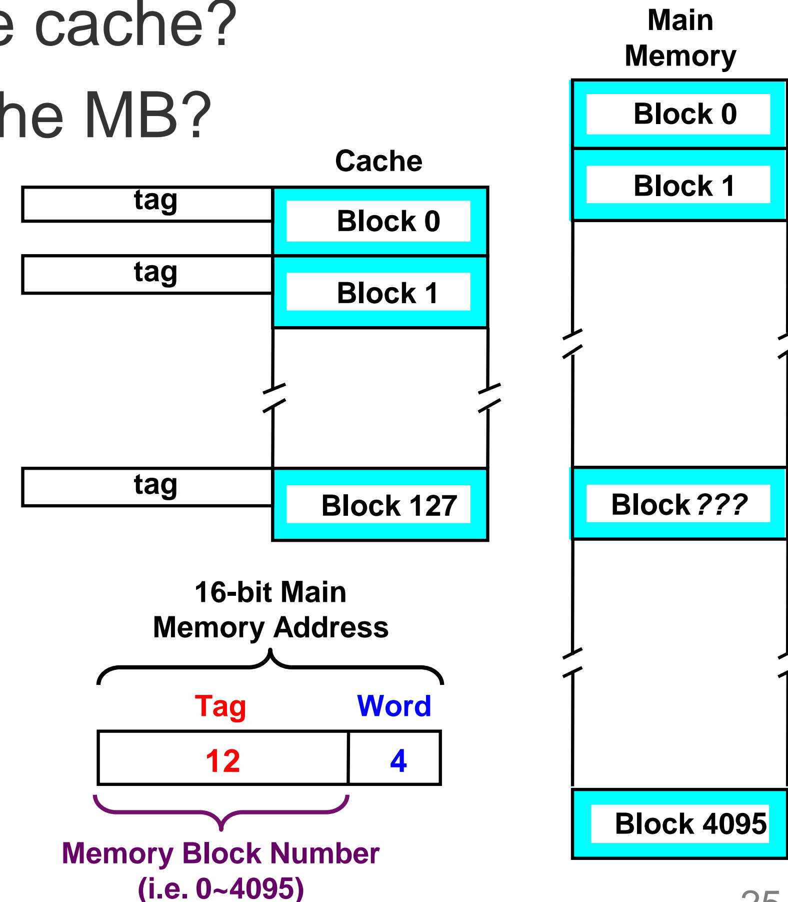
Associative Mapping (3/3)

- How to determine the CB?
  - There's no pre-determined CB for any MB.
  - All CBs are used in the first-come-first-serve (FCFS) basis.
- Ex: CPU is looking for $(0FF4)_{16}$
  - Assume all CBs are empty.
  - MAR = $(0000111111110100)_2$
  - MB = $(000011111111)_2 = (255)_{10}$
  - Tag = $(000011111111)_2$
- Given a 16-bit address (**t**, **w**):
  - **ALL tags** of **128 CBs** must be **compared** with t to see whether MB **t** is currently in the cache.
    - It can be done in parallel by HW.



Class Exercise 7.3

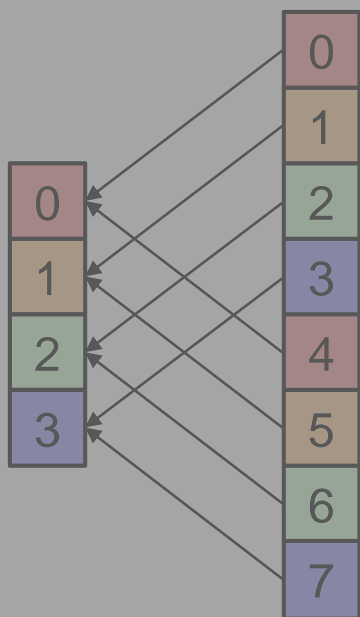
- Assume associative mapping is used to manage the cache, and all CBs are empty initially.
- Considering CPU is looking for $(\textbf{8000})_{16}$:
  - Which MB will be loaded into the cache?
  - Which CB will be used to store the MB?
  - What is the new tag for the CB?



Set Associative Mapping (1/3)

Direct

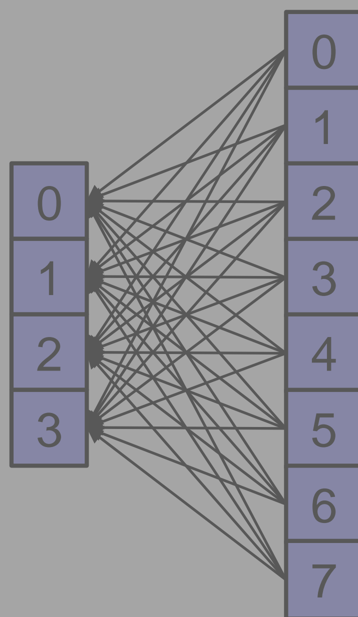
- A Memory Block is **directly mapped** (%) to a Cache Block.



Associative

- A Memory Block can be **mapped to any** Cache Block.

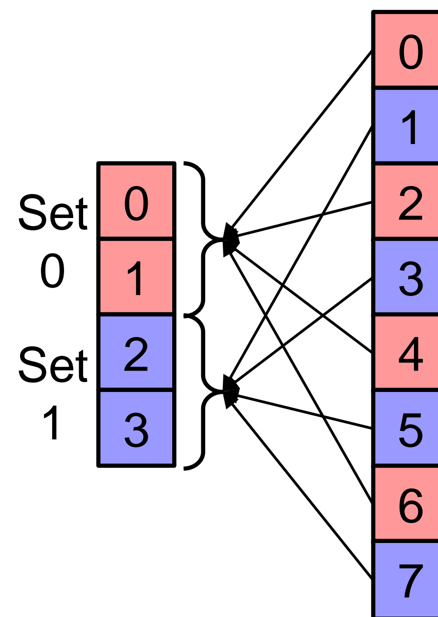
(First come first serve!)



Set Associative

- A Memory Block is **directly mapped** (%) to a Cache **Set**.

(In a set? Associative!)



Set Associative Mapping (2/3)

- **Set Associative Mapping**: A combination of direct mapping and associative mapping
  - **Direct**: First map a MB to a cache set (instead of a CB)
  - **Associative**: Then map to any CB in the cache set
- ***K*-way Set Associative**: A cache set is of ***k*** CBs.
  - Ex: 2-way set associative
    - $128 \div 2 = 64\ (sets)$
    - For MB #`j`, (`j mod 64`) derives the **Set** number.
      - E.g. MBs 0, 64, 128, …, 4032 → Cache Set #0.

Cache

Set 0: tag Block 0, tag Block 1
Set 1: tag Block 2, tag Block 3
Set 63: tag Block 126, tag Block 127

Main Memory

Block 0
Block 1
1st: Block 63
Block 64
Block 65
2nd: Block 127
Block 128
Block 129
64th: Block 4095

Set Associative Mapping (3/3)

- Consider 2-way set associative.
- **Trick**: Interpret the 16-bit address as three fields:
  - Tag: The first 6 bits (quotient).
  - Set: The middle 6 bits (remainder).
    - 6 bits: There're 2^6 cache sets.
  - Word: The last 4 bits.

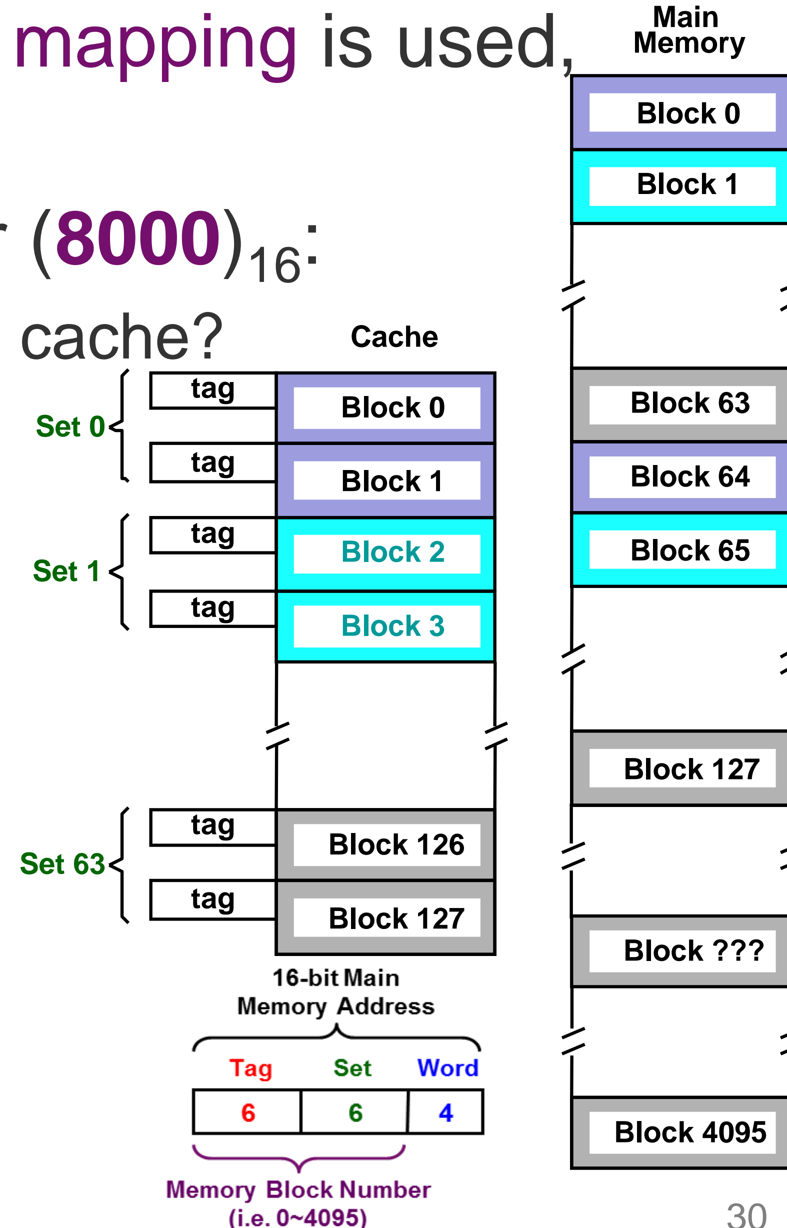
Ex: CPU is looking for $(0FF4)_{16}$

- Assume all CBs are empty.
- MAR = $(0000111111110100)_2$
- MB = $(000011111111)_2 = (255)_{10}$
- Cache Set = $(111111)_2 = (63)_{10}$
- Tag = $(000011)_2$

Note: **ALL tags** of CBs in a cache set must be compared (done in parallel by HW).

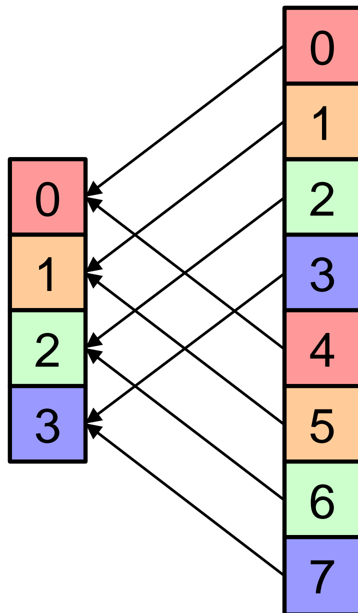
Class Exercise 7.4

- Assume 2-way set associative mapping is used, and all CBs are empty initially.
- Considering CPU is looking for $(\mathbf{8000})_{16}$:
  - Which MB will be loaded into the cache?
  - Which CB will store the MB?
  - What is the new tag for the CB?

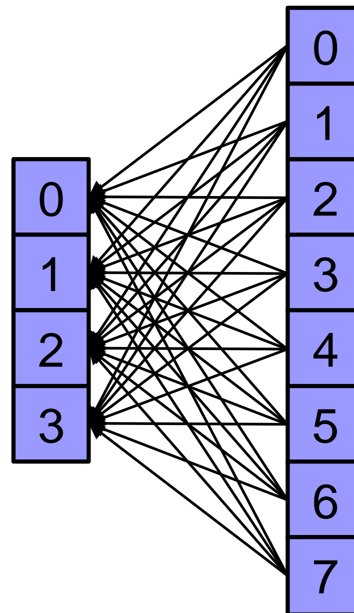


Summary of Mapping Functions (1/2)

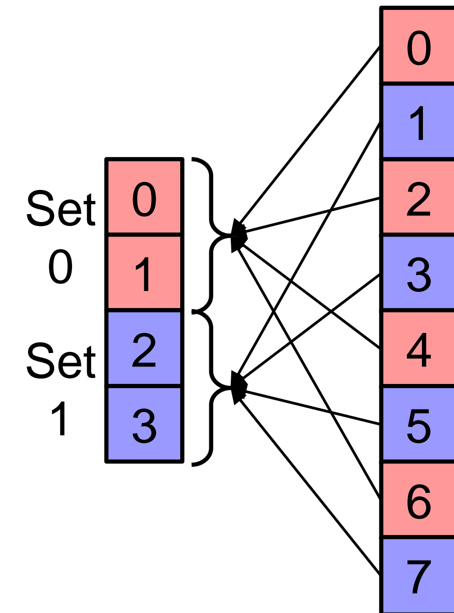
Direct	Associative	Set Associative
A Memory Block is **directly mapped** (%) to a Cache Block.	A Memory Block can be **mapped to any** Cache Block. (First come first serve!)	A Memory Block is **directly mapped** (%) to a **Cache Set**. In a **Set**? **Associative**!



Cache Blocks
Memory Blocks



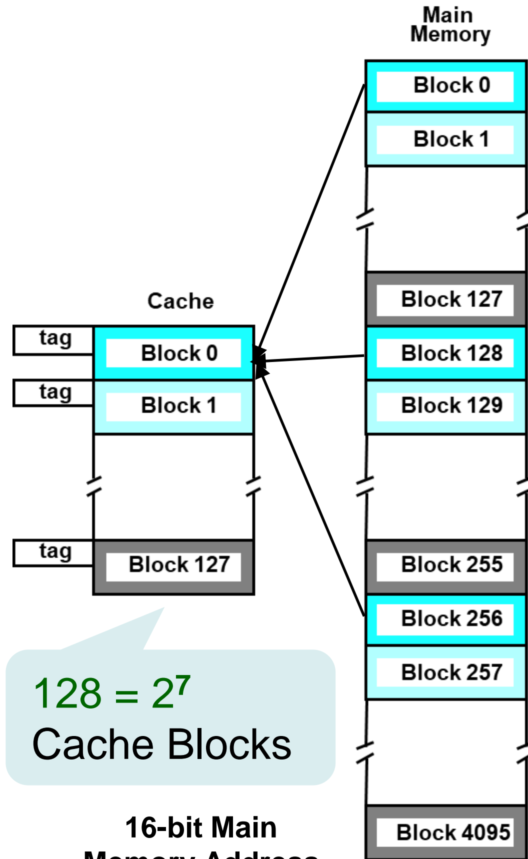
Cache Blocks
Memory Blocks



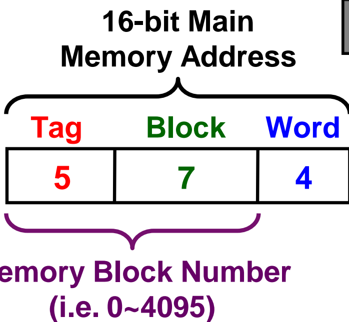
Cache Blocks
Memory Blocks

Summary of Mapping Functions (2/2)

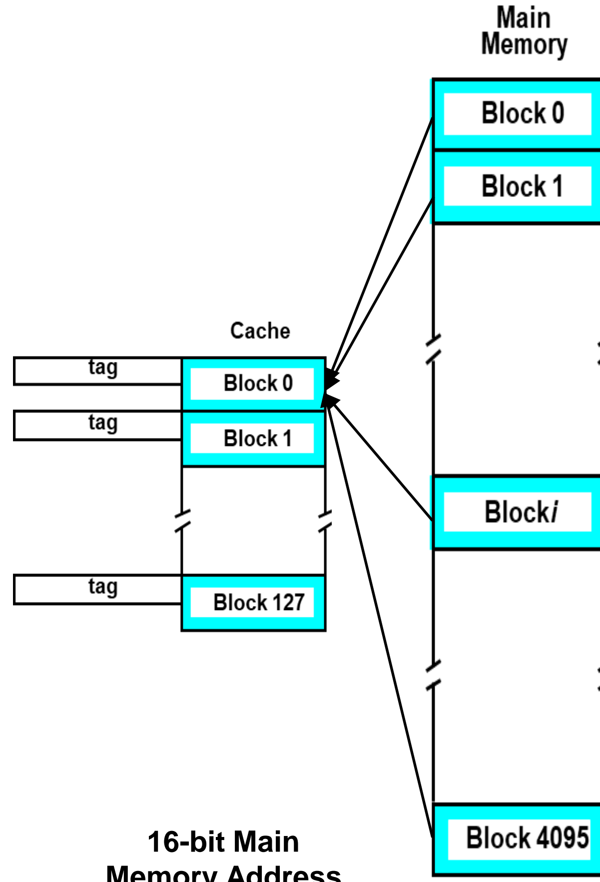
Direct

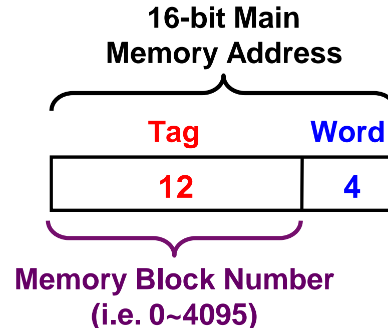


$128 = 2^7$ Cache Blocks



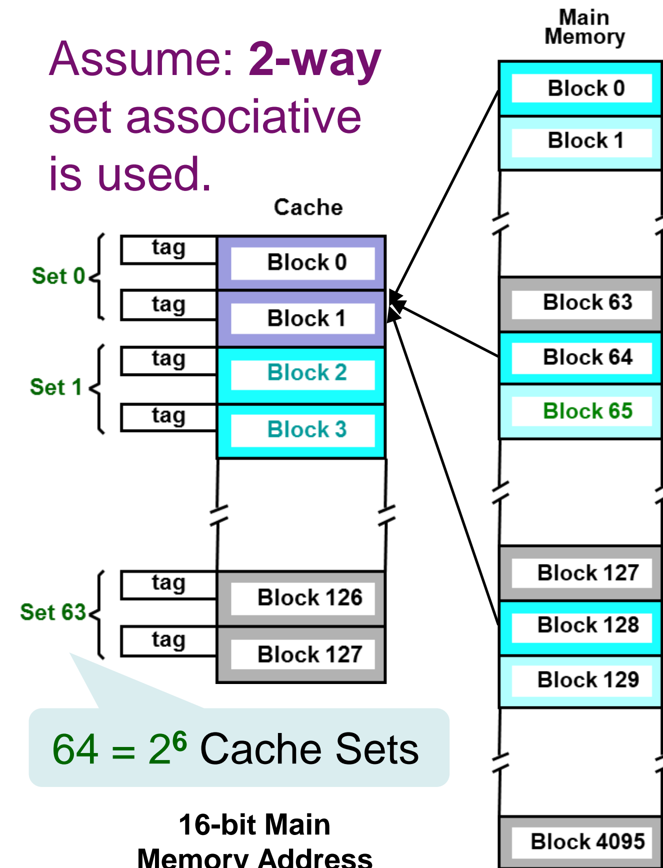
Associative



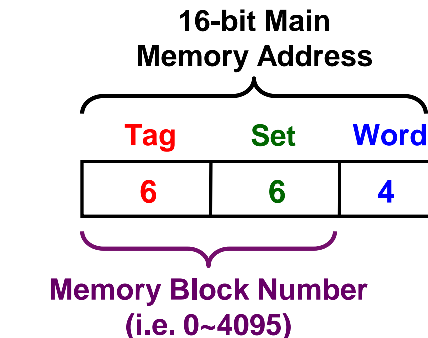


Set Associative

Assume: **2-way** set associative is used.



$64 = 2^6$ Cache Sets



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Replacement Algorithms

- **Replace**: Write Back (to old MB) & Overwrite (with new MB)
- **Direct Mapped Cache**:
  - The CB is pre-determined directly by the memory address.
  - The replacement strategy is trivial: Just replace the pre-determined CB with the new MB.
- **Associative and Set Associative Mapped Cache**:
  - Not trivial: Need to determine which block to replace.
    - **Optimal Replacement**: Always keep CBs, which will be used sooner, in the cache, if we can look into the future (not practical!!!).
    - **Least recently used (LRU)**: Replace the block that has gone the longest time without being accessed by looking back to the past.
      - Rationale: Based on temporal locality, CBs that have been referenced recently will be most likely to be referenced again soon.
    - **Random Replacement**: Replace a block randomly.
      - Easier to implement than LRU, and quite effective in practice.

Optimal Replacement Algorithm

- **Optimal Algorithm**: Replace the CB that will not be used for the longest period of time (in the **future**).
- Given an associative mapped cache, which is composed of 3 Cache Blocks (CBs 0~2).

CPU Access	7	0	1	2	0	3	0	4	2	3	0	3	2	1	2	0	1	7	0	1
CB 0	**7**	7	7	**2**		2		2			2			2				**7**		
CB 1		**0**	0	0		0		**4**			**0**			0				0		
CB 2			**1**	1		**3**		3			3			**1**				1		

time

– The optimal algorithm causes **9** times of cache misses.

LRU Replacement Algorithm

- **LRU Algorithm**: Replace the CB that has not been used for the longest period of time (in the **past**).
- Given an associative mapped cache, which is composed of 3 Cache Blocks (CBs 0~2).

CPU Access	7	0	1	2	0	3	0	4	2	3	0	3	2	1	2	0	1	7	0	1
CB 0	**7**	7	7	**2**		2		**4**	4	4	**0**			**1**		1		1		
CB 1		**0**	0	0		0		0	0	**3**	3			3		**0**		0		
CB 2			**1**	1		**3**		3	**2**	2	2			2		2		**7**		

time

- The LRU algorithm causes **12** times of cache misses.

Class Exercise 7.5

- **First-In-First-Out Algorithm**: Replace the CB that has arrived for the longest period of time (in the **past**).
- Given an associative mapped cache, which is composed of 3 Cache Blocks (CBs 0~2).
- Please fill in the cache and state cache misses.

CPU Access →	7	0	1	2	0	3	0	4	2	3	0	3	2	1	2	0	1	7	0	1
CB 0																				
CB 1																				
CB 2																				

time →

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  - Least Recently Used (LRU) Replacement
  - Random Replacement
- Working Examples

Summary

- Cache Basics
- Mapping Functions
  - Direct Mapping
  - Associative Mapping
  - Set Associative Mapping
- Replacement Algorithms
  - Least Recently Used (LRU) Replacement
  - Random Replacement
- Working Examples