

Timing analysis and timing predictability

Caches in WCET Analysis

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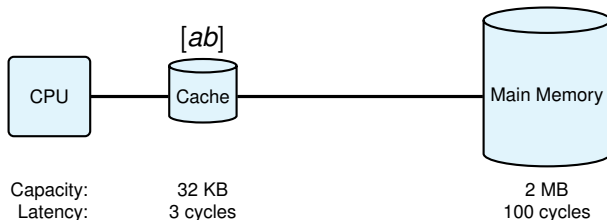
January 18, 2011



- 1 Caches
- 2 Cache Analysis for Least-Recently-Used
- 3 Beyond Least-Recently-Used
 - Predictability Metrics
 - Relative Competitiveness
 - Sensitivity – Caches and Measurement-Based Timing Analysis
- 4 Summary

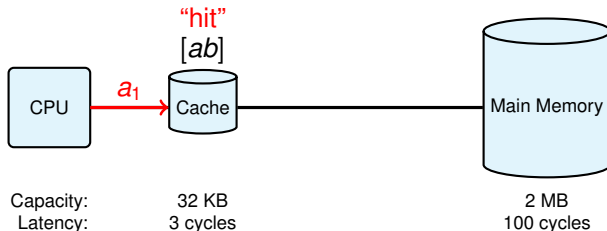
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- Small but very fast memories that buffer part of the main memory
- Bridge the gap between speed of CPU and main memory



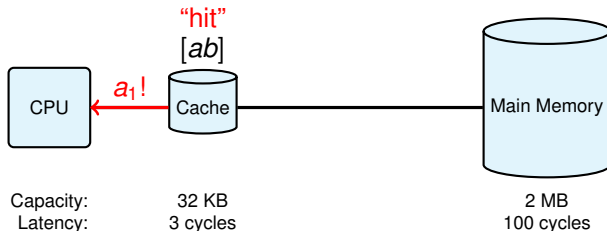
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 - ▶ spatial: e.g. in sequential instructions, accessing arrays
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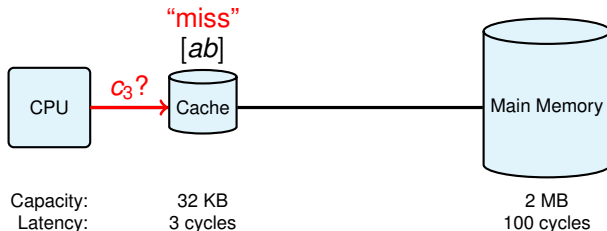
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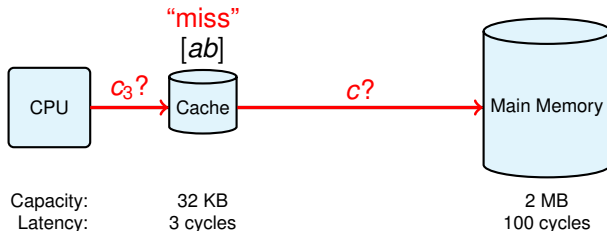
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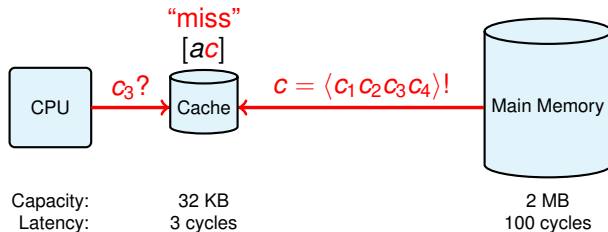
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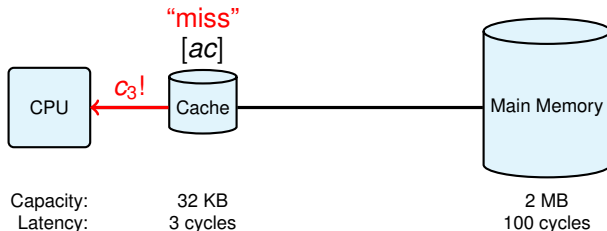
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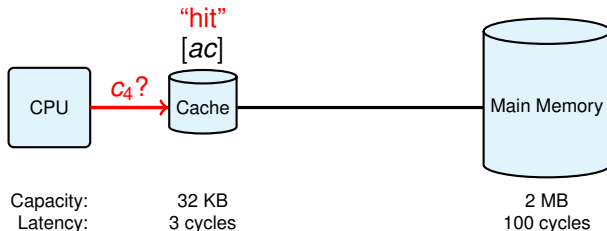
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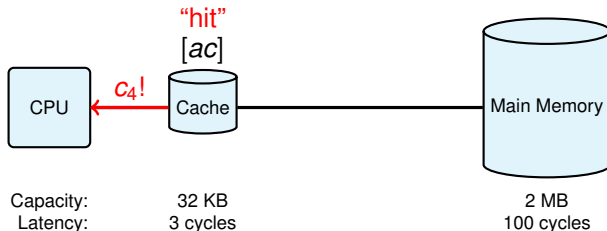
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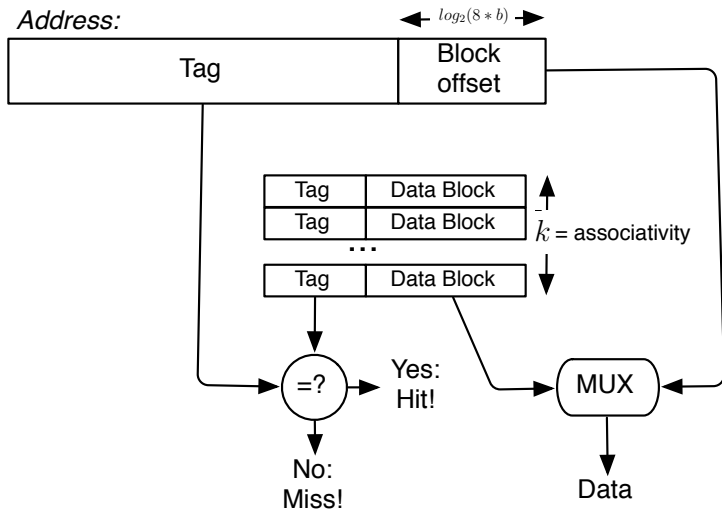
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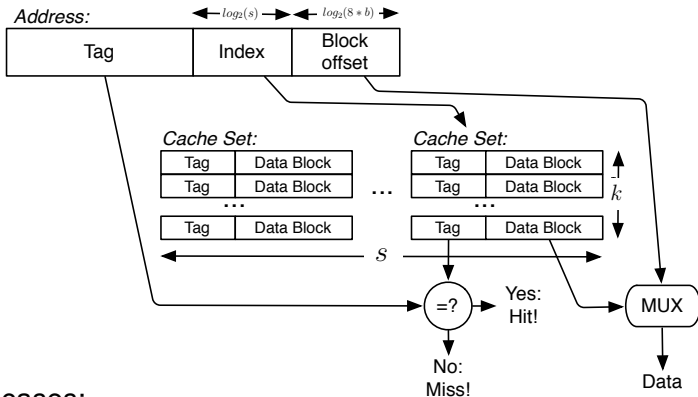
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Fully-Associative Caches





Special cases:

- direct-mapped cache: only one line per cache set
- fully-associative cache: only one cache set

- Least-Recently-Used (LRU) used in
INTEL PENTIUM I and MIPS 24K/34K
- First-In First-Out (FIFO or Round-Robin) used in
MOTOROLA POWERPC 56X, INTEL XSCALE, ARM9, ARM11
- Pseudo-LRU (PLRU) used in
INTEL PENTIUM II-IV and POWERPC 75X
- Most-Recently-Used (MRU) as described in literature

Each cache set is treated independently:

→ Set-associative caches are compositions of fully-associative caches.

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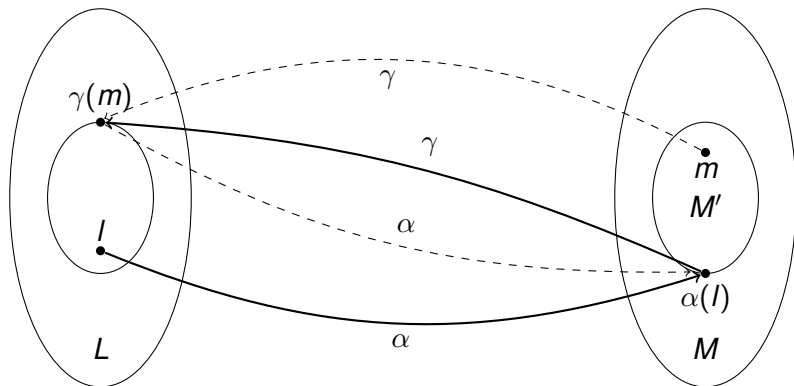
4 Summary

Two types of cache analyses:

- 1 Local guarantees: classification of individual accesses
 - ▶ May-Analysis \longrightarrow Overapproximates cache contents
 - ▶ Must-Analysis \longrightarrow Underapproximates cache contents
 - 2 Global guarantees: bounds on cache hits/misses
-
- Cache analyses almost exclusively for LRU
 - In practice: FIFO, PLRU, ...

- Abstract interpretation is always based on the semantics of the analyzed language.
- A semantics of a programming language that talks about time needs to incorporate the execution platform!
- Static timing analysis is thus based on such a semantics.

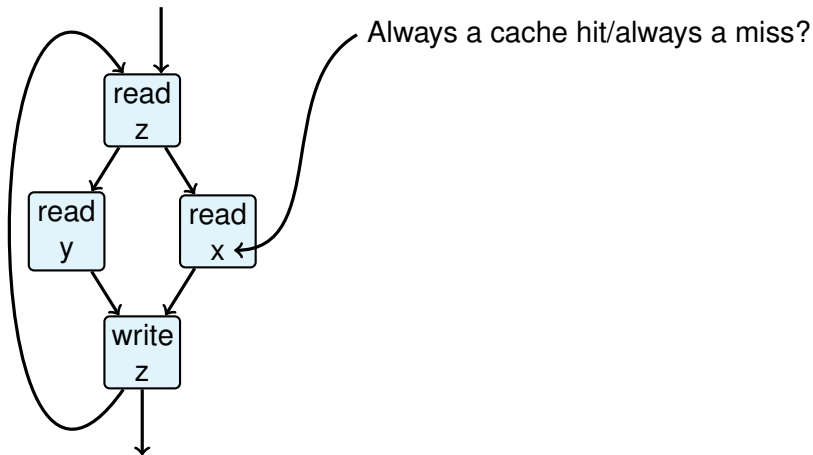
- Abstraction function α
 - Concretization function γ
- $\Rightarrow \forall m' \in M' : \gamma(m') = \gamma(m)$



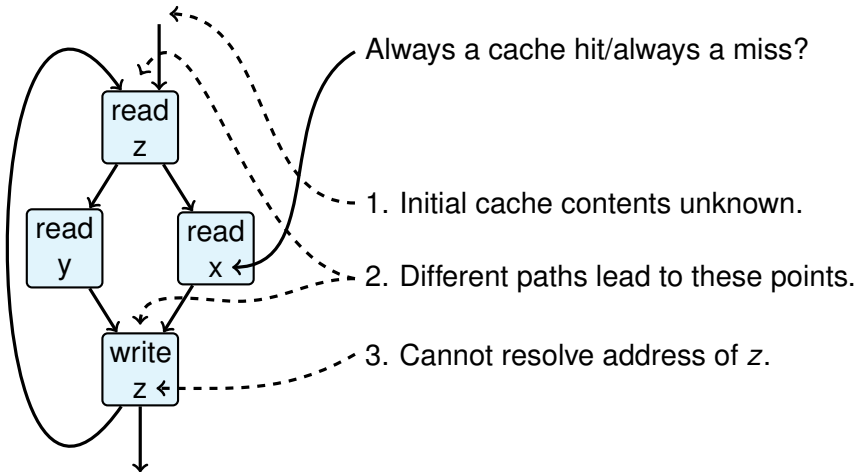
Determines:

- 1** invariants about the values of variables (in registers, on the stack)
 - ▶ to compute loop bounds
 - ▶ to eliminate infeasible paths
 - ▶ to determine effective memory addresses
- 2** invariants on architectural execution state
 - ▶ Cache contents \Rightarrow predict hits and misses
 - ▶ Pipeline states \Rightarrow predict or exclude pipeline stalls

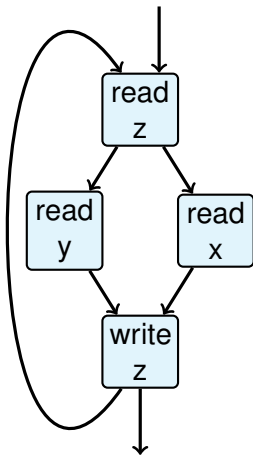
Challenges for Cache Analysis



Challenges for Cache Analysis



Deriving Invariants about Cache States using Abstract Interpretation

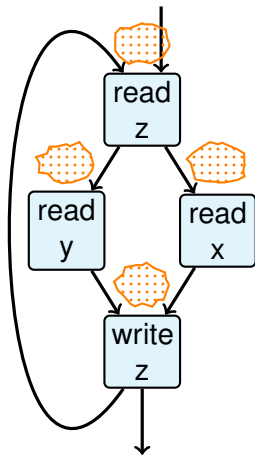


Collecting Semantics =
set of states at each program point that
any execution may encounter there

Two approximations:

Collecting Semantics	uncomputable
\subseteq Cache Semantics	computable
$\subseteq \gamma(\text{Abstract Cache Sem.})$	efficiently computable

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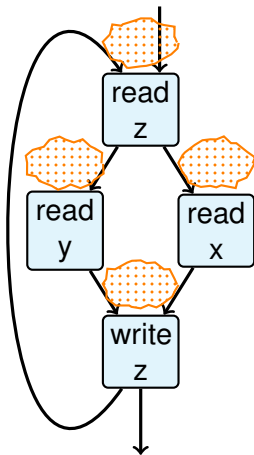
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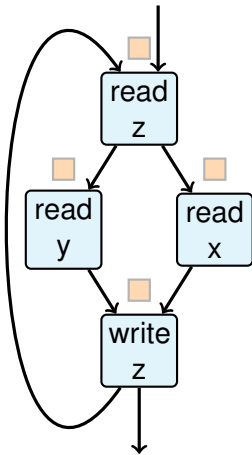
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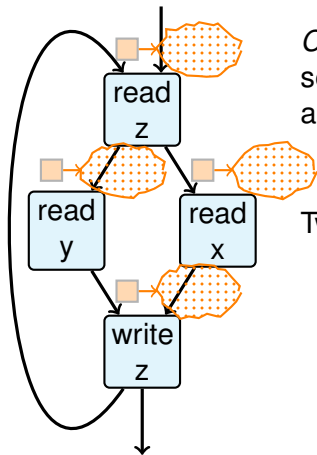


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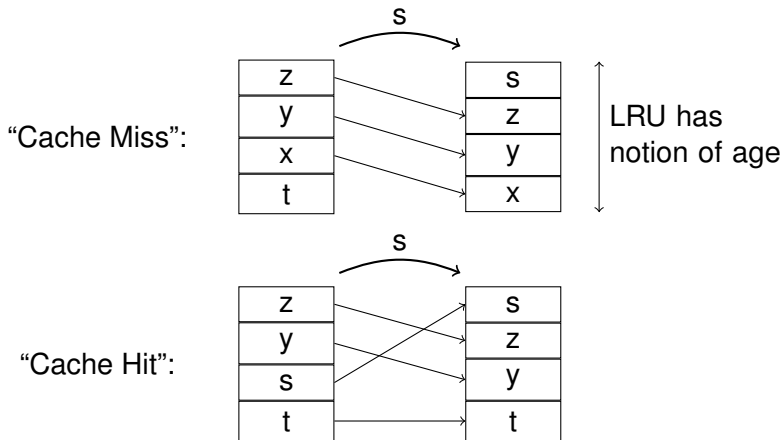


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Least-Recently-Used (LRU): Concrete Behavior



LRU: Must-Analysis: Abstract Domain

- Used to predict *cache hits*.
- Maintains *upper bounds on ages* of memory blocks.
- Upper bound \leq associativity \longrightarrow memory block definitely cached.

Example

Abstract state:

{x}	age 0
{}	
{s,t}	age 3
{}	

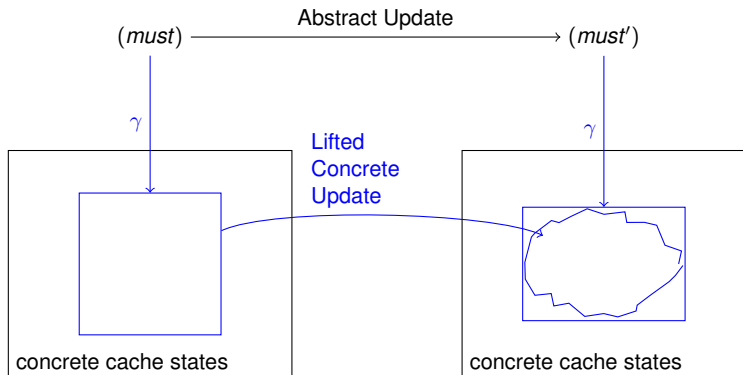
... and its interpretation:

Describes the set of all concrete cache states in which x , s , and t occur,

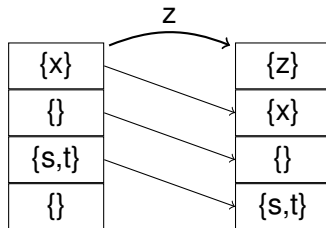
- x with an age of 0,
- s and t with an age not older than 2.

$$\gamma(\left[\{x\}, \{\}, \{s, t\}, \{\} \right]) = \{ [x, s, t, a], [x, t, s, a], [x, s, t, b], \dots \}$$

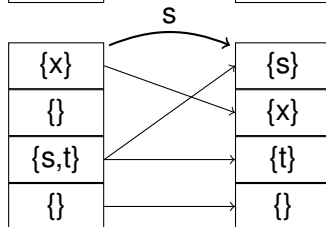
Sound Update – Local Consistency



“Potential Cache Miss”:



“Definite Cache Hit”:



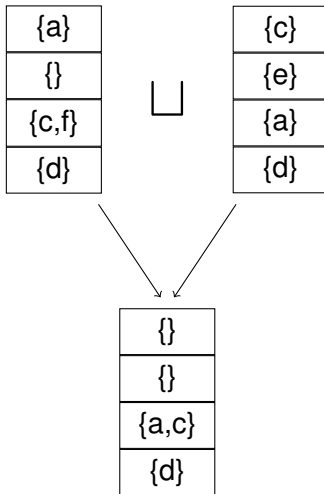
Why does t not age in the second case?

Must-Analysis for LRU: Join

Need to combine information where control-flow merges.

Join should be conservative:

- $\gamma(A) \subseteq \gamma(A \sqcup B)$
- $\gamma(B) \subseteq \gamma(A \sqcup B)$



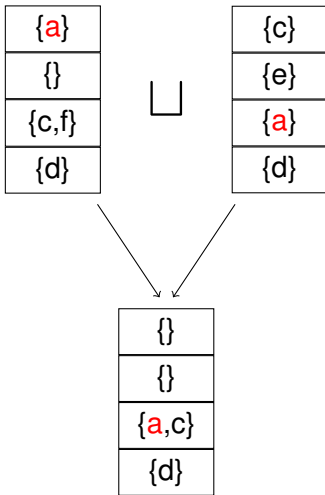
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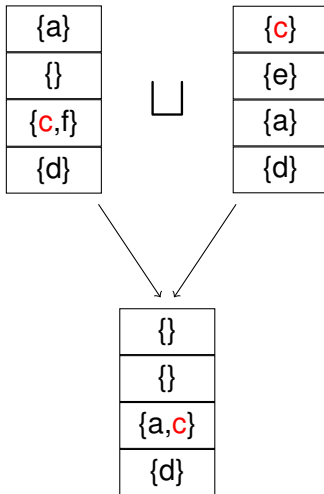
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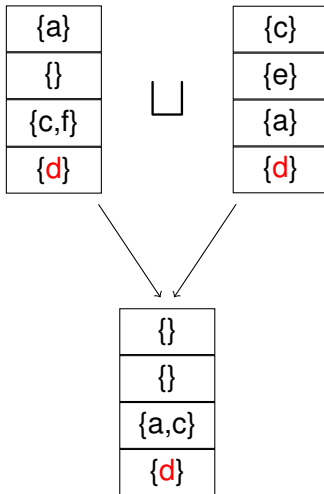
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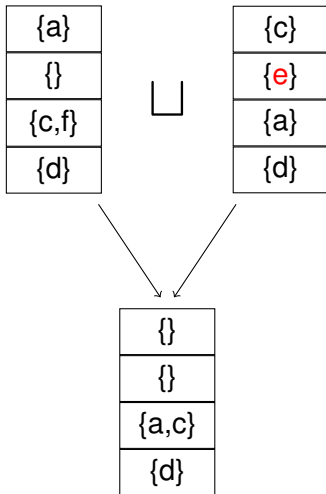
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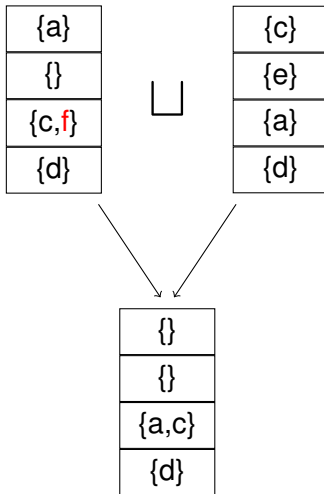
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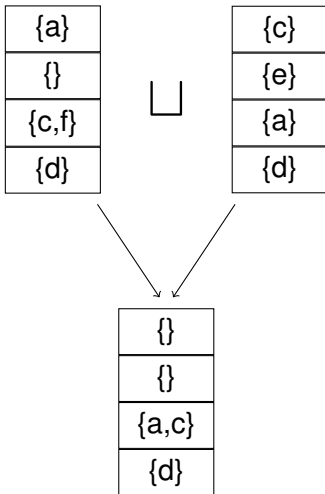
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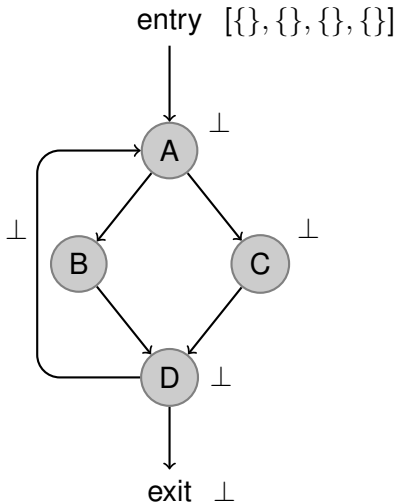
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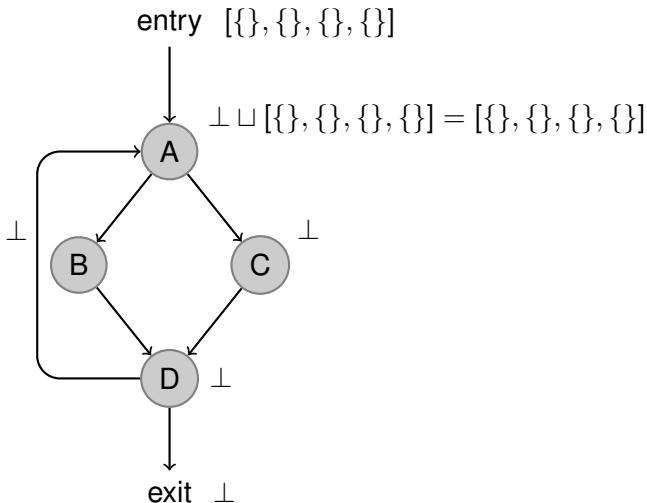
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How many memory blocks can be in the must-cache?

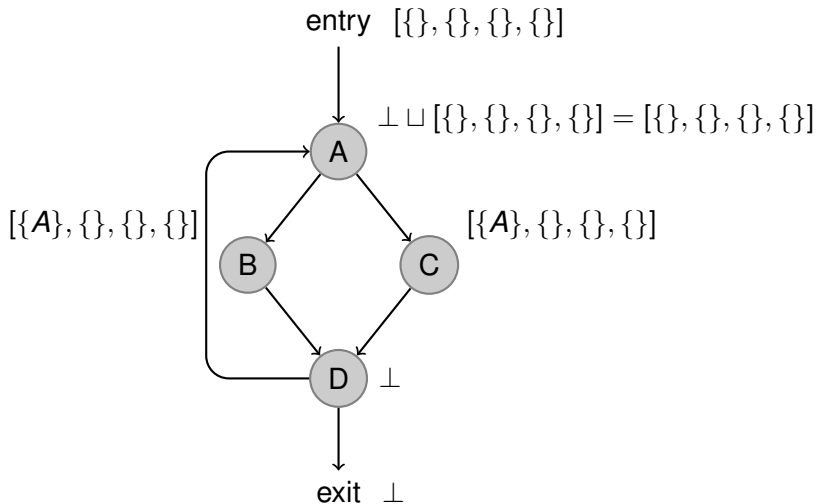
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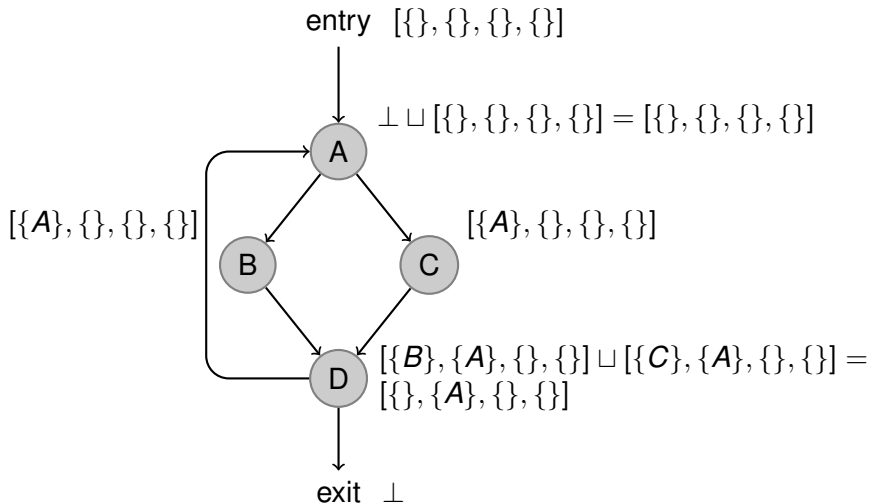
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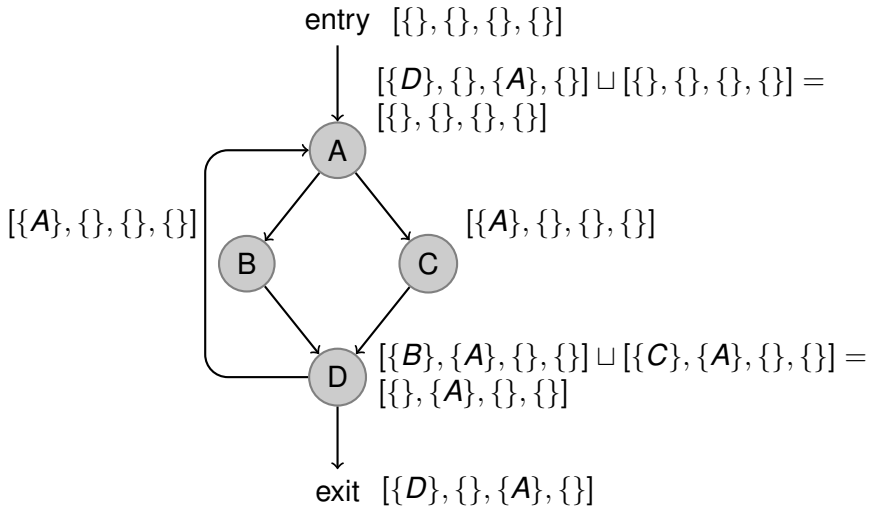
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Example: Must-Analysis



No cache hits can be predicted :-)

■ Problem:

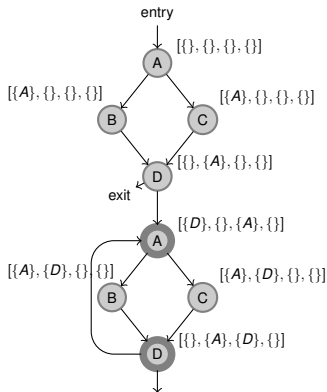
- ▶ The first iteration of a loop will always result in cache misses.
- ▶ Similarly for the first execution of a function.

■ Solution:

- ▶ Virtually Unroll Loops: Distinguish the first iteration from others
- ▶ Distinguish function calls by calling context.

Virtually unrolling the loop once:

- Accesses to *A* and *D* are provably hits after the first iteration
- Accesses to *B* and *C* can still not be classified. Within each execution of the loop, they may only miss once.
→ Persistence Analysis



LRU: May-Analysis: Abstract Domain

- Used to predict *cache misses*.
- Maintains *lower bounds on ages* of memory blocks.
- Lower bound \geq associativity
 —→ memory block definitely *not* cached.

Example

... and its interpretation:

Abstract state:

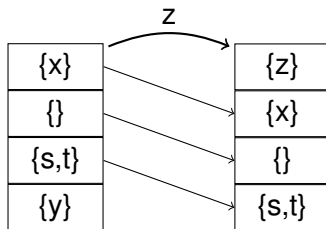
{x,y}	age 0
{ }	
{s,t}	
{u}	age 3

Describes the set of all concrete cache states in which no memory blocks except x , y , s , t , and u occur,

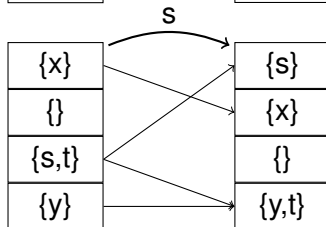
- x and y with an age of at least 0,
- s and t with an age of at least 2,
- u with an age of at least 3.

$$\gamma(\left[\{x, y\}, \{\}, \{s, t\}, \{u\}\right]) = \left\{[x, y, s, t], [y, x, s, t], [x, y, s, u], \dots\right\}$$

“Definite Cache Miss”:



“Potential Cache Hit”:



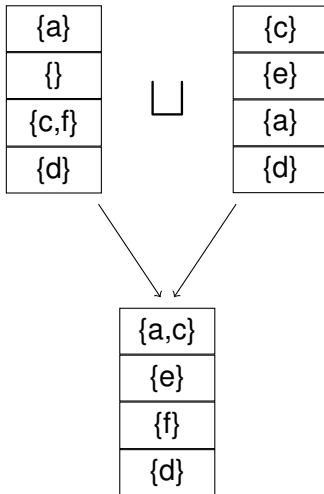
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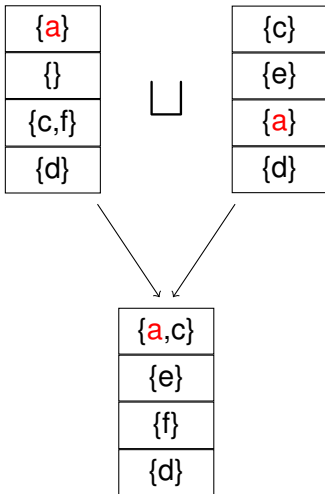
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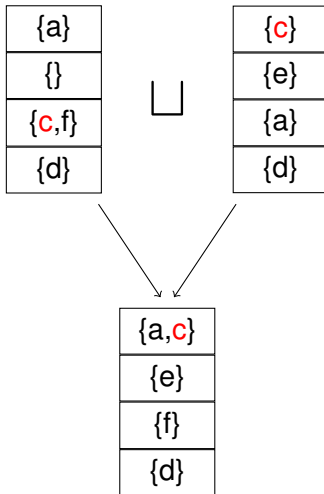
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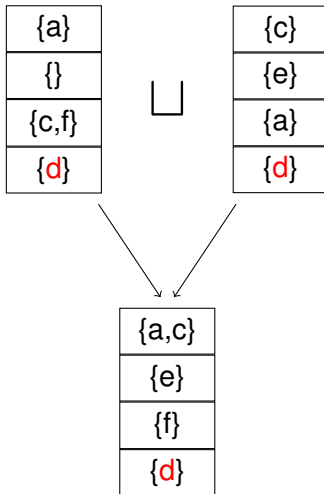
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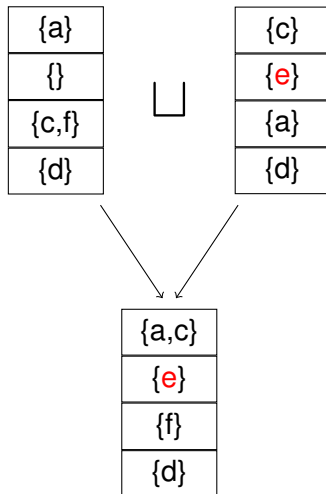
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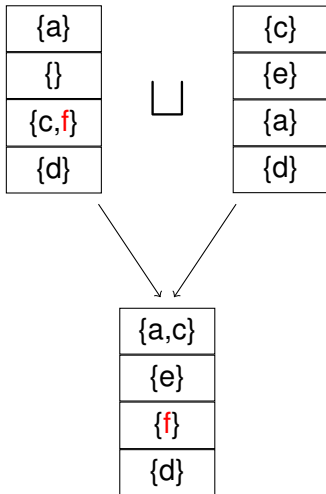
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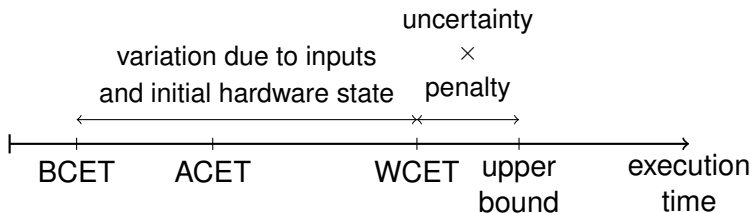
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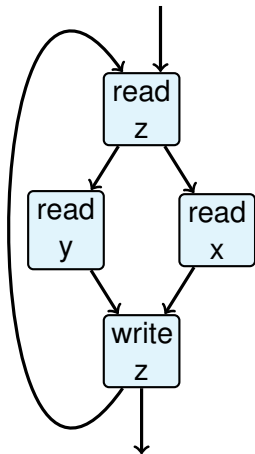
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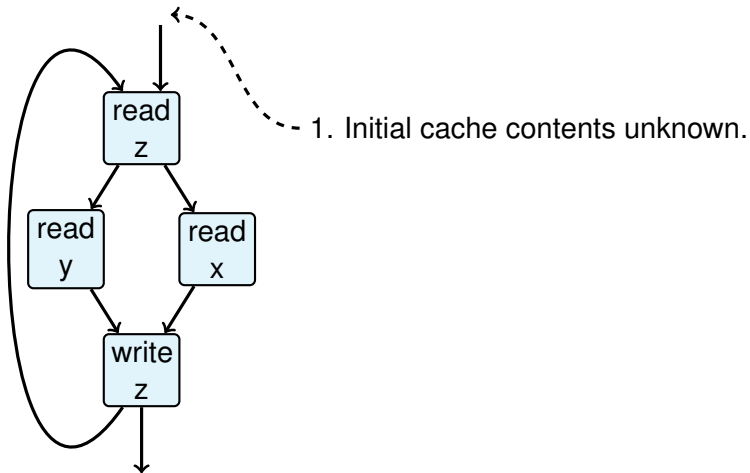
- Amount of uncertainty determines precision of WCET analysis
- Uncertainty in cache analysis depends on replacement policy



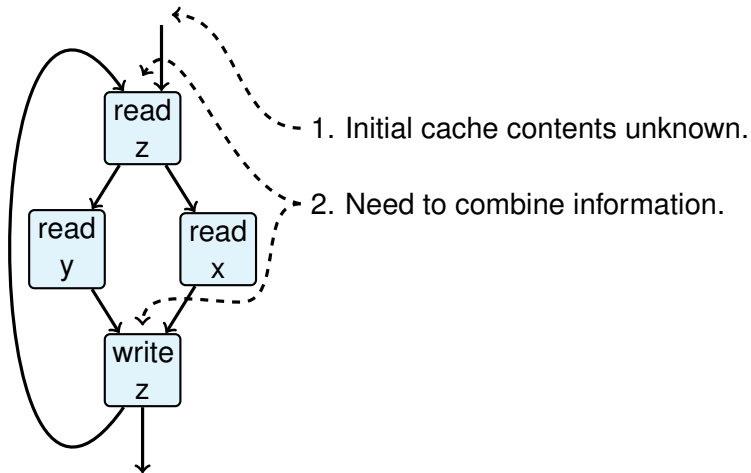
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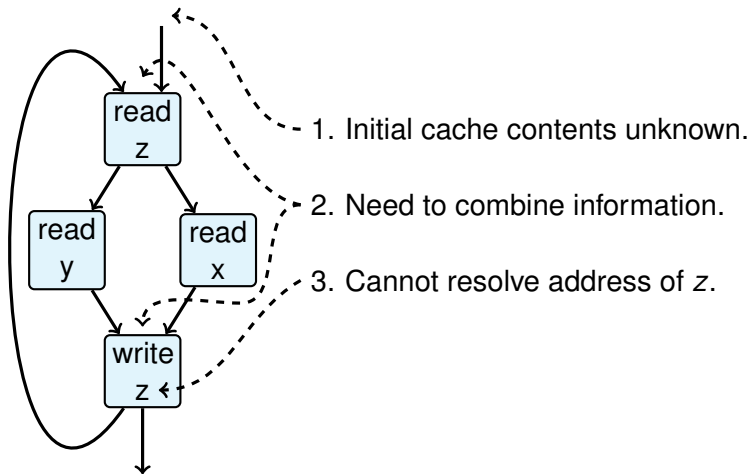
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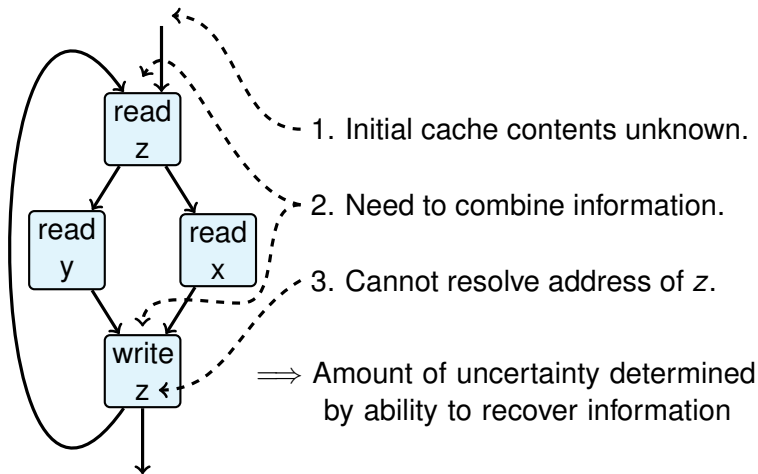
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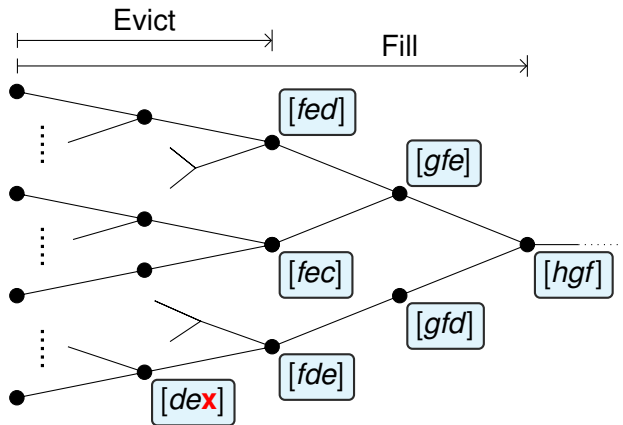
Uncertainty in Cache Analysis



Uncertainty in Cache Analysis



Predictability Metrics



Sequence: $\langle a, \dots, e, f, g, h \rangle$

■ Evict

- ▶ Number of accesses to obtain *any may*-information.
- ▶ I.e. when can an analysis predict any cache misses?

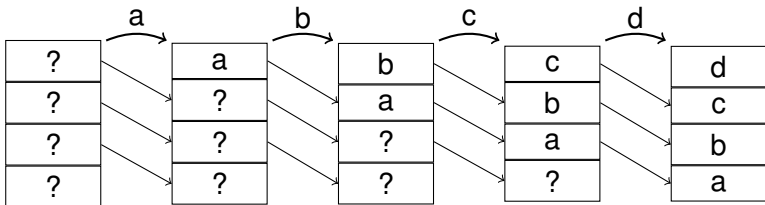
■ Fill

- ▶ Number of accesses to complete *may*- and *must*-information.
- ▶ I.e. when can an analysis predict each access?

→ Evict and Fill bound the precision of *any* static cache analysis.
Can thus serve as a benchmark for analyses.

Evaluation of Least-Recently-Used

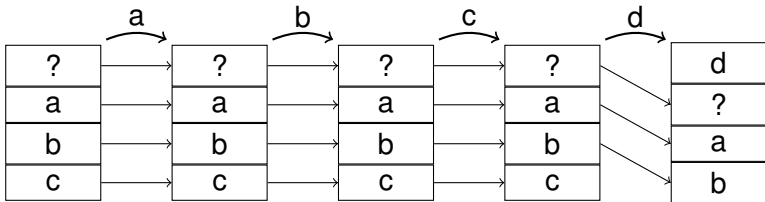
- LRU “forgets” about past quickly:
 - ▶ cares about most-recent access to each block only
 - ▶ order of previous accesses irrelevant



- In the example: $\text{Evict} = \text{Fill} = 4$
- In general: $\text{Evict}(k) = \text{Fill}(k) = k$, where k is the associativity of the cache

Evaluation of First-In First-Out (sketch)

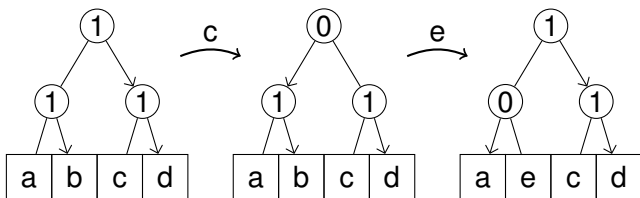
- Like LRU in the miss-case
- But: “Ignores” hits



- In the worst-case $k - 1$ hits and k misses: $(k = \text{associativity})$
 $\longrightarrow \text{Evict}(k) = 2k - 1$
- Another k accesses to obtain complete knowledge:
 $\longrightarrow \text{Fill}(k) = 3k - 1$

Evaluation of Pseudo-LRU (sketch)

- Tree-bits point to block to be replaced



- Accesses “rejuvenate” neighborhood
 - Active blocks keep their (inactive) neighborhood in the cache
- Analysis yields:
 - Evict(k) = $\frac{k}{2} \log_2 k + 1$
 - Fill(k) = $\frac{k}{2} \log_2 k + k - 1$

Policy	Evict(k)	Fill(k)	Evict(8)	Fill(8)
LRU	k	k	8	8
FIFO	$2k - 1$	$3k - 1$	15	23
MRU	$2k - 2$	$\infty/3k - 4$	14	$\infty/20$
PLRU	$\frac{k}{2} \log_2 k + 1$	$\frac{k}{2} \log_2 k + k - 1$	13	19

- LRU is optimal w.r.t. metrics.
- Other policies are much less predictable.

→ Use LRU if predictability is a concern.

- How to obtain *may*- and *must*-information within the given limits for other policies?

1 Caches

2 Cache Analysis for Least-Recently-Used

3 Beyond Least-Recently-Used

- Predictability Metrics
- **Relative Competitiveness**
- Sensitivity – Caches and Measurement-Based Timing Analysis

4 Summary

- **Competitiveness** (Sleator and Tarjan, 1985):
worst-case performance of an online policy *relative to the optimal offline policy*
 - ▶ used to evaluate online policies

- **Relative competitiveness** (Reineke and Grund, 2008):
worst-case performance of an online policy *relative to another online policy*
 - ▶ used to derive local and global cache analyses

Notation

$m_{\mathbf{P}}(p, s)$ = *number of misses that policy \mathbf{P} incurs on access sequence $s \in M^*$ starting in state $p \in C^{\mathbf{P}}$*

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Definition (Relative miss competitiveness)

Policy \mathbf{P} is (k, c) -miss-competitive relative to policy \mathbf{Q} if

$$m_{\mathbf{P}}(p, s) \leq k \cdot m_{\mathbf{Q}}(q, s) + c$$

for all access sequences $s \in M^*$ and cache-set states $p \in C^{\mathbf{P}}, q \in C^{\mathbf{Q}}$ that are compatible $p \sim q$.

Definition – Relative Miss-Competitiveness

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Definition (Competitive miss ratio of \mathbf{P} relative to \mathbf{Q})

The smallest k , s.t. \mathbf{P} is (k, c) -miss-competitive rel. to \mathbf{Q} for some c .

Example – Relative Miss-Competitiveness

P is $(3, 4)$ -miss-competitive relative to **Q**.

If **Q** incurs x misses, then **P** incurs at most $3 \cdot x + 4$ misses.

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P is $(\frac{2}{3}, 3)$ -hit-competitive relative to **Q**.

If **Q** has x hits, then **P** has at least $\frac{2}{3} \cdot x - 3$ hits.

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Analogue to ∞ -miss-competitiveness.

Let \mathbf{P} be (1, 0)-competitive relative to \mathbf{Q} :

$$m_{\mathbf{P}}(p, s) \leq 1 \cdot m_{\mathbf{Q}}(q, s) + 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow m_{\mathbf{P}}(p, s) \leq m_{\mathbf{Q}}(q, s)$$

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- 2 if \mathbf{P} “misses”, so does \mathbf{Q} .

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- 1 If **Q** “hits”, so does **P**, and
- 2 if **P** “misses”, so does **Q**.

As a consequence,

- 1 a *must*-analysis for **Q** is also a *must*-analysis for **P**, and
- 2 a *may*-analysis for **P** is also a *may*-analysis for **Q**.

Global Guarantees: (k, c) -Competitiveness

- Given:** Global guarantees for policy **Q**.
- Wanted:** Global guarantees for policy **P**.

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$$m_P \leq k \cdot m_Q + c$$

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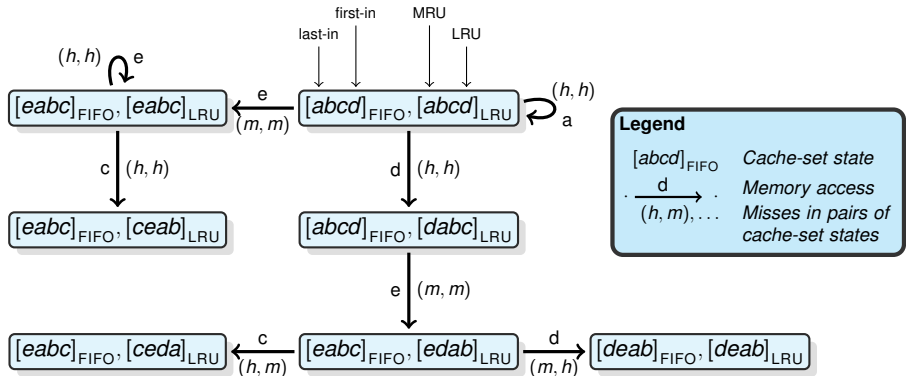
$$m_Q(T)$$

- 3 Calculate global guarantee on the number of misses for **P** using the global guarantee for **Q** and the competitiveness results of **P** relative to **Q**.

$$m_P \leq k \cdot m_Q + c \quad m_Q(T) \quad = \quad m_P(T)$$

Relative Competitiveness: Automatic Computation

P and **Q** (here: FIFO and LRU) induce transition system:

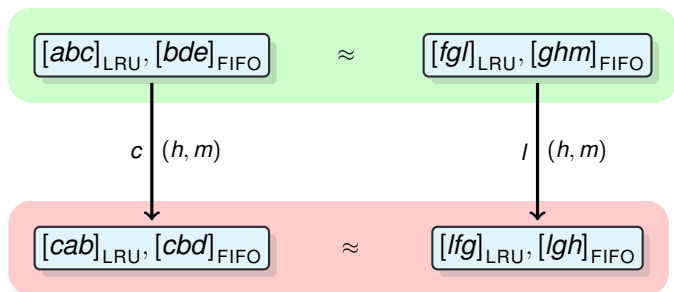


Competitive miss ratio = maximum ratio of misses in policy **P** to misses in policy **Q** in transition system

Transition System is ∞ Large

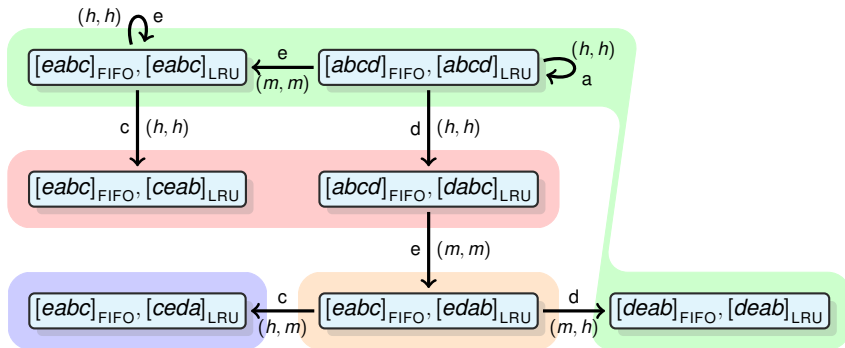
Problem: The induced transition system is ∞ large.

Observation: Only the *relative positions* of elements matter:

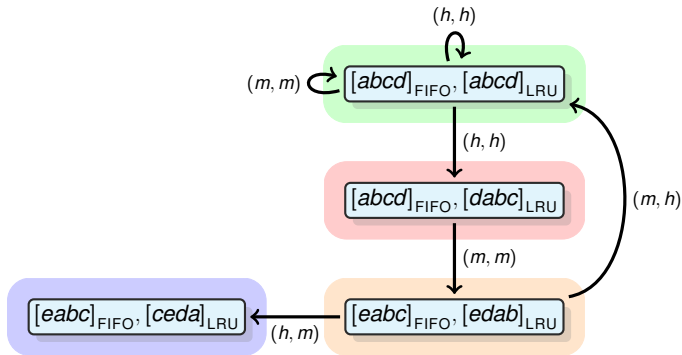


Solution: Construct *finite* quotient transition system.

\approx -Equivalent States in Running Example



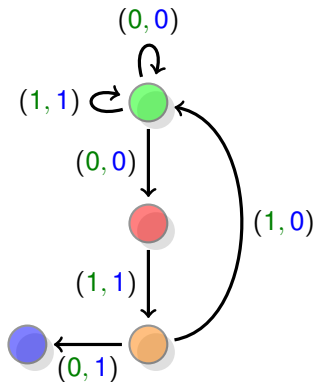
Merging \approx -equivalent states yields a finite quotient transition system:



Competitive Ratio = Maximum Cycle Ratio

Competitive miss ratio =

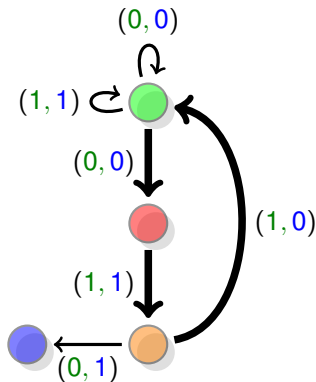
maximum ratio of misses in policy **P** to misses in policy **Q**



Competitive Ratio = Maximum Cycle Ratio

Competitive miss ratio =

maximum ratio of misses in policy **P** to misses in policy **Q**



$$\text{Maximum cycle ratio} = \frac{0+1+1}{0+1+0} = 2$$

- Implemented in Java, called Relacs
- Interface for replacement policies
- Fully automatic
- Provides example sequences for competitive ratio and constant
- Analysis usually practically feasible up to associativity 8
 - ▶ limited by memory consumption
 - ▶ depends on similarity of replacement policies

Online version:

<http://rw4.cs.uni-sb.de/~reineke/relacs>

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\longrightarrow LRU-*may*-analysis can be used for FIFO and MRU

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FIFO-*may*-analysis used in the analysis of the branch target buffer of the MOTOROLA POWERPC 56X.

1 Caches

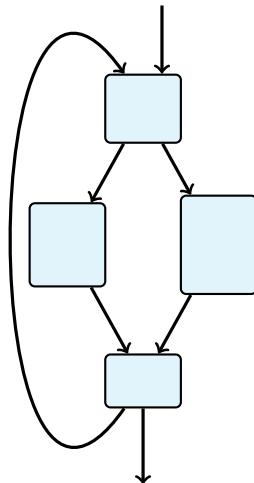
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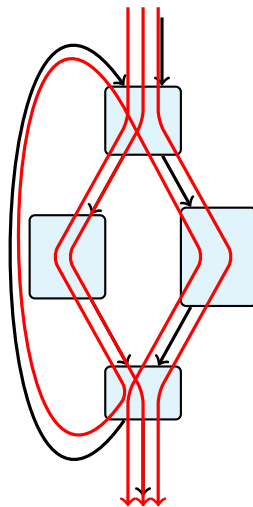
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4 Summary

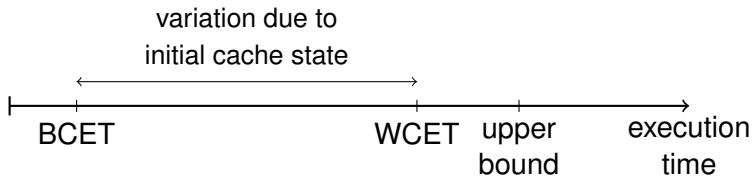
- Run program on a number of inputs and initial states.
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Influence of Initial Cache State



Definition (Miss sensitivity)

Policy \mathbf{P} is (k, c) -miss-sensitive if

$$m_{\mathbf{P}}(q, s) \leq k \cdot m_{\mathbf{P}}(q', s) + c$$

for all access sequences $s \in M^*$ and cache-set states $q, q' \in C^{\mathbf{P}}$.

Policy	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
LRU	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8
FIFO	2,2	3,3	4,4	5,5	6,6	7,7	8,8
PLRU	1,2	—	∞	—	—	—	∞
MRU	1,2	3,4	5,6	7,8	MEM	MEM	MEM

- LRU is optimal. Performance varies in the least possible way.
- For FIFO, PLRU, and MRU the number of misses may vary strongly.
- Case study based on simple model of execution time by Hennessy and Patterson (2003):
WCET may be 3 times higher than a measured execution time for 4-way FIFO.

- 1 Caches
- 2 Cache Analysis for Least-Recently-Used
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Cousot, P. and Cousot, R. (1977).

Abstract interpretation: a unified lattice model for static analysis of programs by construction or approximation of fixpoints.

In *POPL '77: Proceedings of the 4th ACM SIGACT-SIGPLAN symposium on Principles of programming languages*, pages 238–252, New York, NY, USA. ACM Press.



Ferdinand, C. and Wilhelm, R. (1999).

Efficient and precise cache behavior prediction for real-time systems.

Real-Time Systems, 17(2-3):131–181.



Reineke, J. and Grund, D. (2008a).

Relative competitive analysis of cache replacement policies.

In *LCTES '08: Proceedings of the 2008 ACM SIGPLAN-SIGBED conference on Languages, compilers, and tools for embedded systems*, pages 51–60, New York, NY, USA. ACM.



Reineke, J. and Grund, D. (2008b).

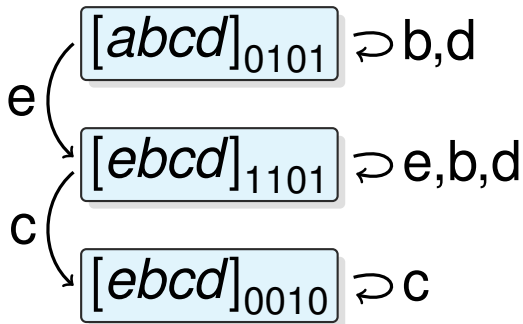
Sensitivity of cache replacement policies.



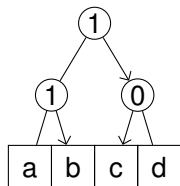
Reineke, J., Grund, D., Berg, C., and Wilhelm, R. (2007).
Timing predictability of cache replacement policies.
Real-Time Systems, 37(2):99–122.

Most-Recently-Used – MRU

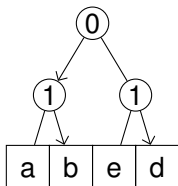
MRU-bits record whether line was recently used



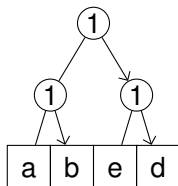
→ Never converges



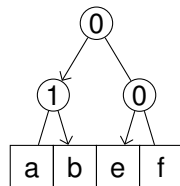
Initial cache-
set state
 $[a, b, c, d]_{110}$.



After a miss
on e . State:
 $[a, b, e, d]_{011}$.



After a hit
on a . State:
 $[a, b, e, d]_{111}$.



After a miss
on f . State:
 $[a, b, e, f]_{010}$.

Hit on a “rejuvenates” neighborhood; “saves” b from eviction.

$$May^{\mathbf{P}}(s) := \bigcup_{p \in C^{\mathbf{P}}} CC_{\mathbf{P}}(update_{\mathbf{P}}(p, s))$$

$$Must^{\mathbf{P}}(s) := \bigcap_{p \in C^{\mathbf{P}}} CC_{\mathbf{P}}(update_{\mathbf{P}}(p, s))$$

$$may^{\mathbf{P}}(n) := \left| May^{\mathbf{P}}(s) \right|, \text{ where } s \in S^{\neq} \subsetneq M^*, |s| = n$$

$$must^{\mathbf{P}}(n) := \left| Must^{\mathbf{P}}(s) \right|, \text{ where } s \in S^{\neq} \subsetneq M^*, |s| = n$$

S^{\neq} : set of finite access sequences with pairwise different accesses

$$\text{Evict}^{\mathbf{P}} := \min \left\{ n \mid \text{may}^{\mathbf{P}}(n) \leq n \right\},$$
$$\text{Fill}^{\mathbf{P}} := \min \left\{ n \mid \text{must}^{\mathbf{P}}(n) = k \right\},$$

where k is \mathbf{P} 's associativity.

Let $P(k)$ be $(1, 0)$ -miss-competitive relative to policy $Q(I)$, then

- (i) $Evict^P(k) \geq Evict^Q(I)$,
- (ii) $mls^P(k) \geq mls^Q(I)$.

Let l be the smallest associativity, such that $\text{LRU}(l)$ is $(1, 0)$ -miss-competitive relative to $P(k)$. Then

$$\text{Alt-Evict}^P(k) = l.$$

Let l be the greatest associativity, such that $P(k)$ is $(1, 0)$ -miss-competitive relative to $\text{LRU}(l)$. Then

$$\text{Alt-mls}^P(k) = l.$$

Size of Transition System

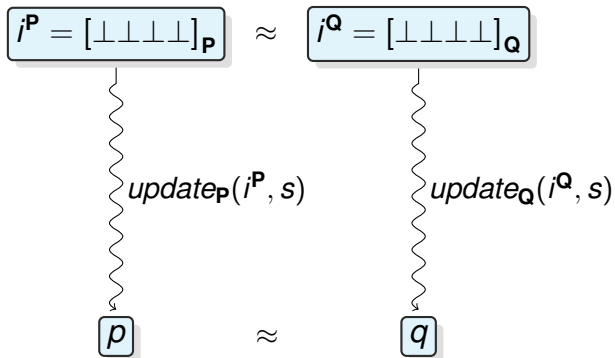
$$\underbrace{2^{l+l'}}_{\text{status bits of } \mathbf{P} \text{ and } \mathbf{Q}} \cdot \underbrace{\sum_{i=0}^k \binom{k}{i}}_{\text{non-empty lines in } \mathbf{P}} \cdot \underbrace{\sum_{i'=0}^{k'} \binom{k'}{i'}}_{\text{non-empty lines in } \mathbf{Q}} \cdot \underbrace{\sum_{j=0}^{\min\{i,i'\}} \binom{i}{j} \binom{i'}{j} j!}_{\text{number of overlappings in non-empty lines}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{j=0}^{\min\{k,k'\}} \binom{k}{j} \binom{k'}{j} j! &\leq k! \cdot k'! \sum_{j=0}^{\min\{k,k'\}} \frac{1}{(k-j)! j! (k'-j)!} \\
 &\leq k! \cdot k'! \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j!} = e \cdot k! \cdot k'!
 \end{aligned}$$

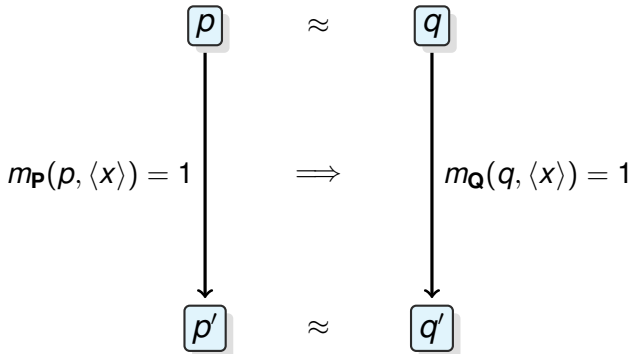
This can be bounded by

$$2^{l+l'+k+k'} \leq |(C_k^l \times C_{k'}^{l'}) / \approx| \leq 2^{l+l'+k+k'} \cdot \underbrace{e \cdot k! \cdot k'!}_{\text{bound on number of overlappings}}$$

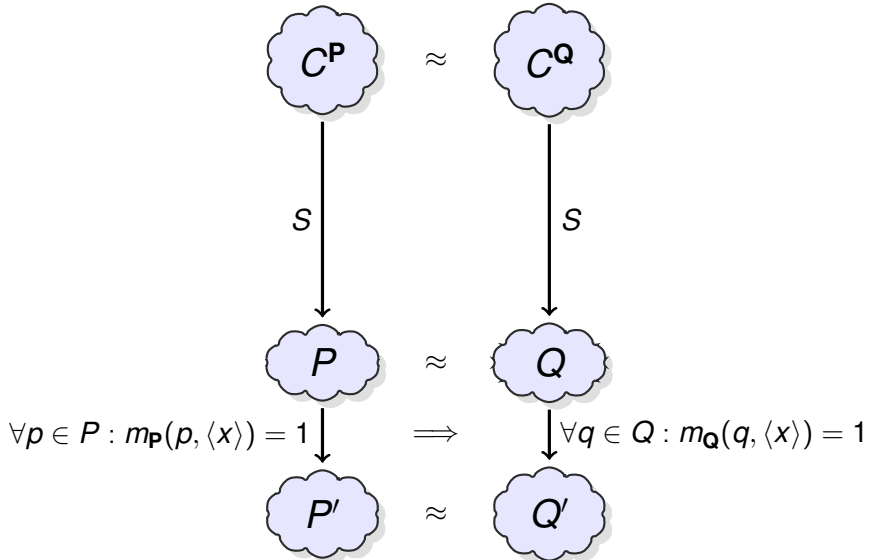
Compatible States



Let \mathbf{P} be (1, 0)-competitive relative to \mathbf{Q} , then



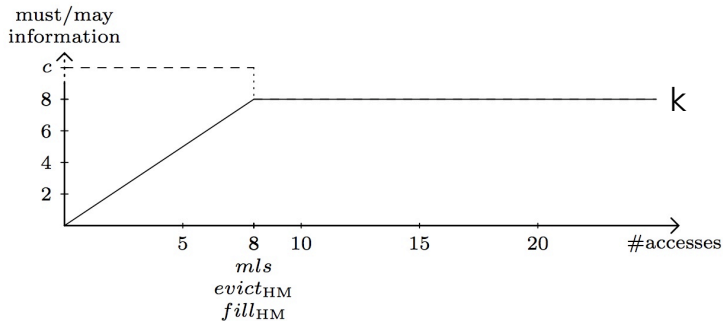
(1, 0)-Competitiveness and May/Must-Analyses



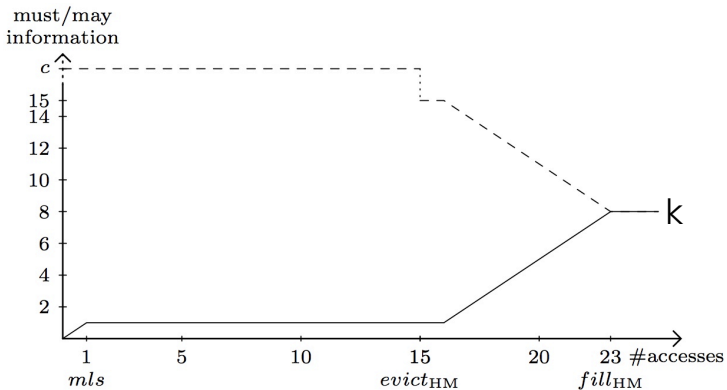
- Simple model of execution time from Hennessy & Patterson (2003)
- CPI_{hit} = Cycles per instruction assuming cache hits only
- $\frac{\text{Memory accesses}}{\text{Instruction}}$ including instruction and data fetches

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{T_{wc}}{T_{meas}} &= \frac{CPI_{hit} + \frac{\text{Memory accesses}}{\text{Instruction}} \times \text{Miss rate}_{wc} \times \text{Miss penalty}}{CPI_{hit} + \frac{\text{Memory accesses}}{\text{Instruction}} \times \text{Miss rate}_{meas} \times \text{Miss penalty}} \\ &= \frac{1.5 + 1.2 \times 0.20 \times 50}{1.5 + 1.2 \times 0.05 \times 50} = \frac{13.5}{4.5} = 3\end{aligned}$$

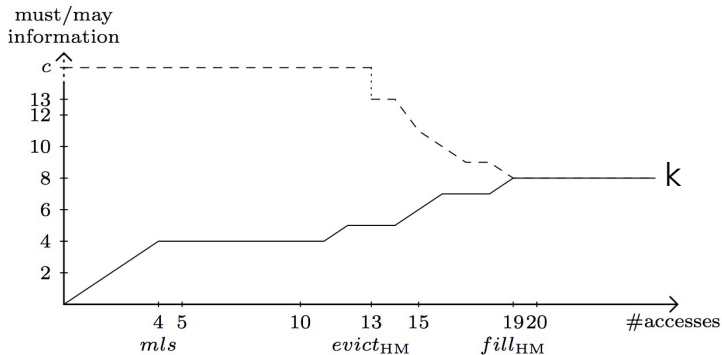
Evolution of May- and Must-Information for LRU



Evolution of May- and Must-Information for FIFO



Evolution of May- and Must-Information for PLRU



Evolution of May- and Must-Information for MRU

