
A Case for Unlimited Watchpoints

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University

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Tong University

Goal of This Work

**MAKE
SOFTWARE
FAST**

Goal of This Work

MAKE
dynamic
SOFTWARE
analysis
FAST

Goal of This Work

MAKE
dynamic
SOFTWARE
analysis
FAST**er**

Dynamic Software Analysis

Bounds Checking

Data Race Detection

Taint Analysis

Deterministic Execution

Transactional
Memory

Speculative
Parallelization

Dynamic Software Analysis

Bounds Checking

10-80x

Data Race Detection

2-300x

Taint Analysis

2-30x

Deterministic Execution

2-10x

Transactional
Memory

2-50x

Speculative
Parallelization

2-4x

Real Goal of This Work

Generic Hardware to
Accelerate Many Dynamic
Software Analyses

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Generic Hardware to
Accelerate Many Dynamic
Software Analyses

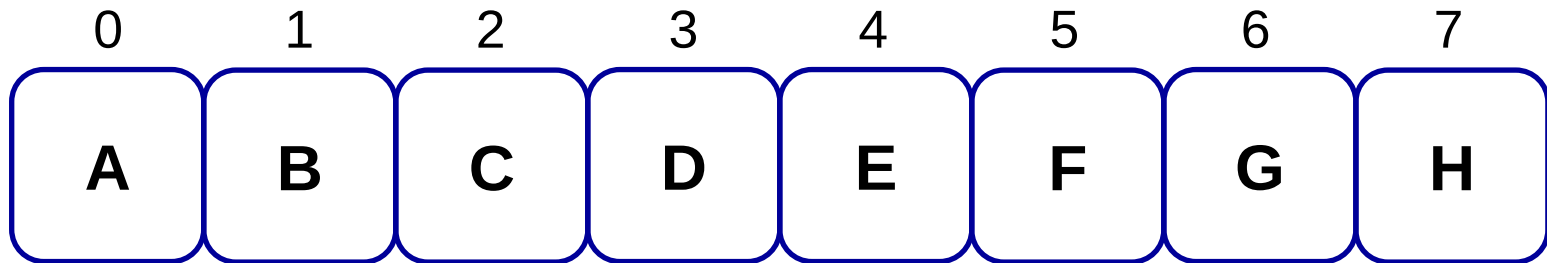
WATCHPOINTS

Hardware-Assisted Watchpoints

- HW Interrupt when touching watched data

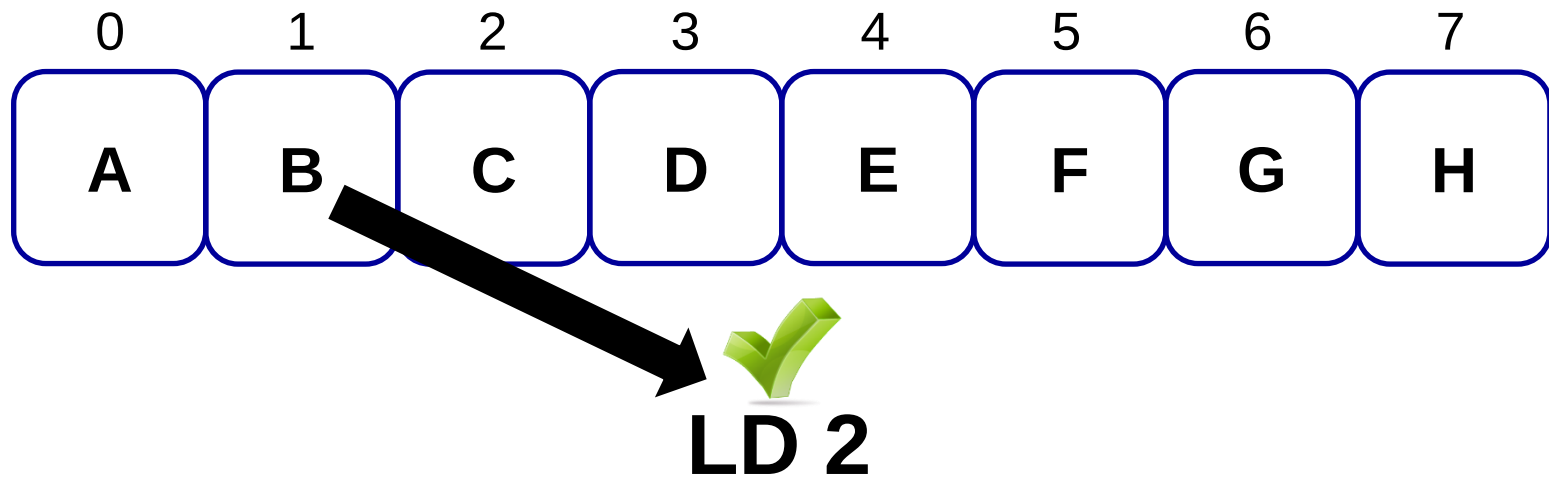
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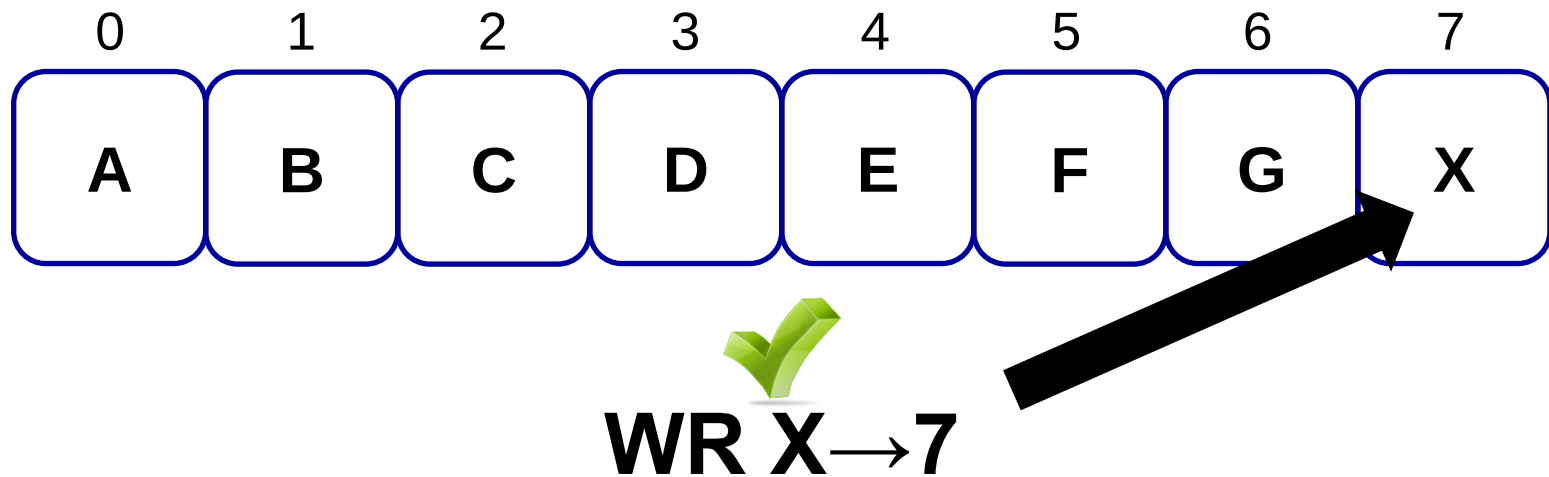
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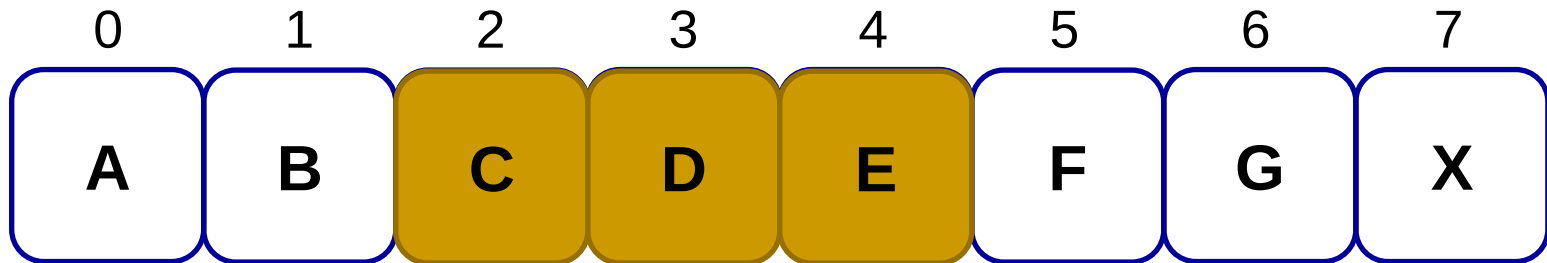
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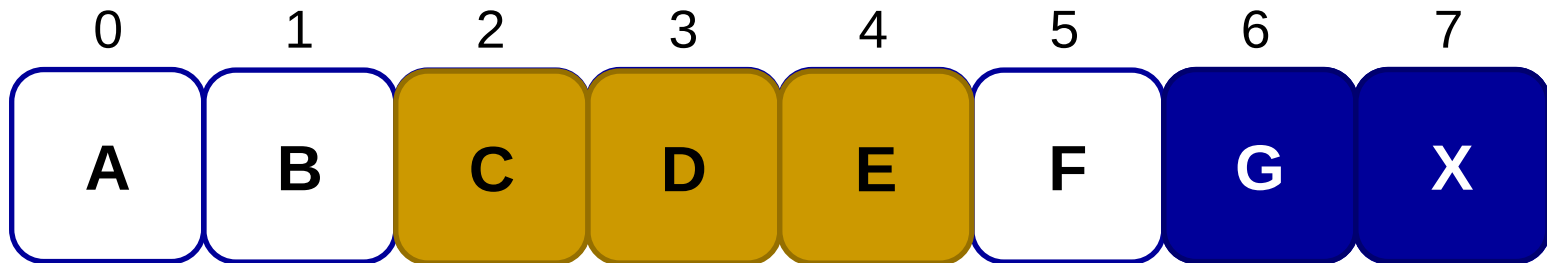
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R-Watch 2-4

Hardware-Assisted Watchpoints

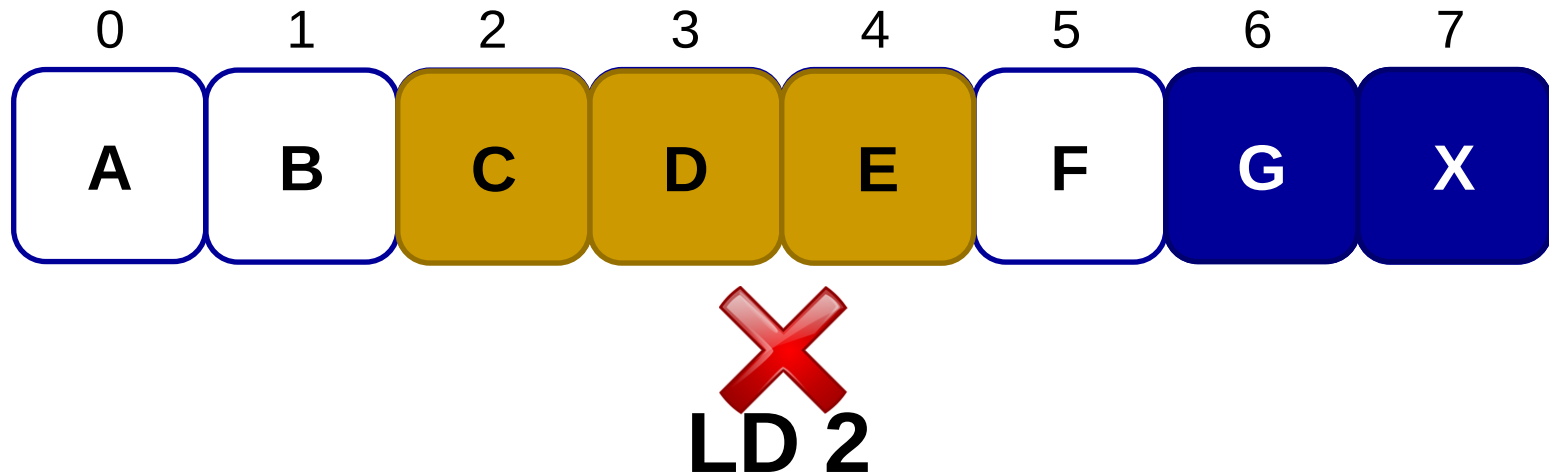
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W-Watch 6-7

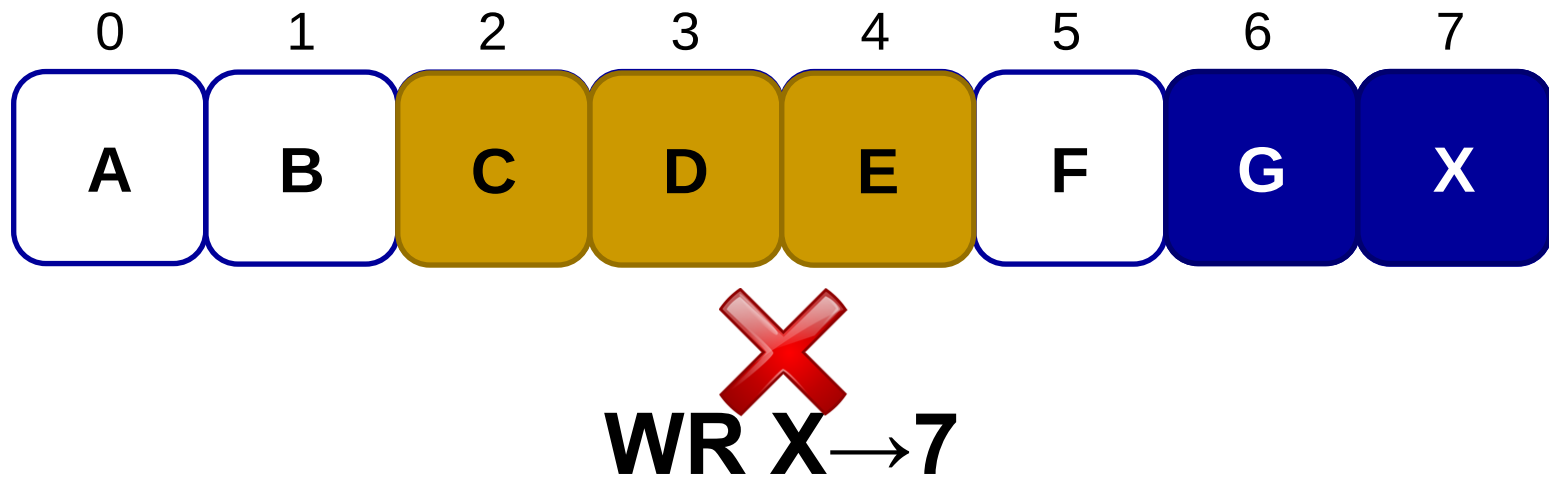
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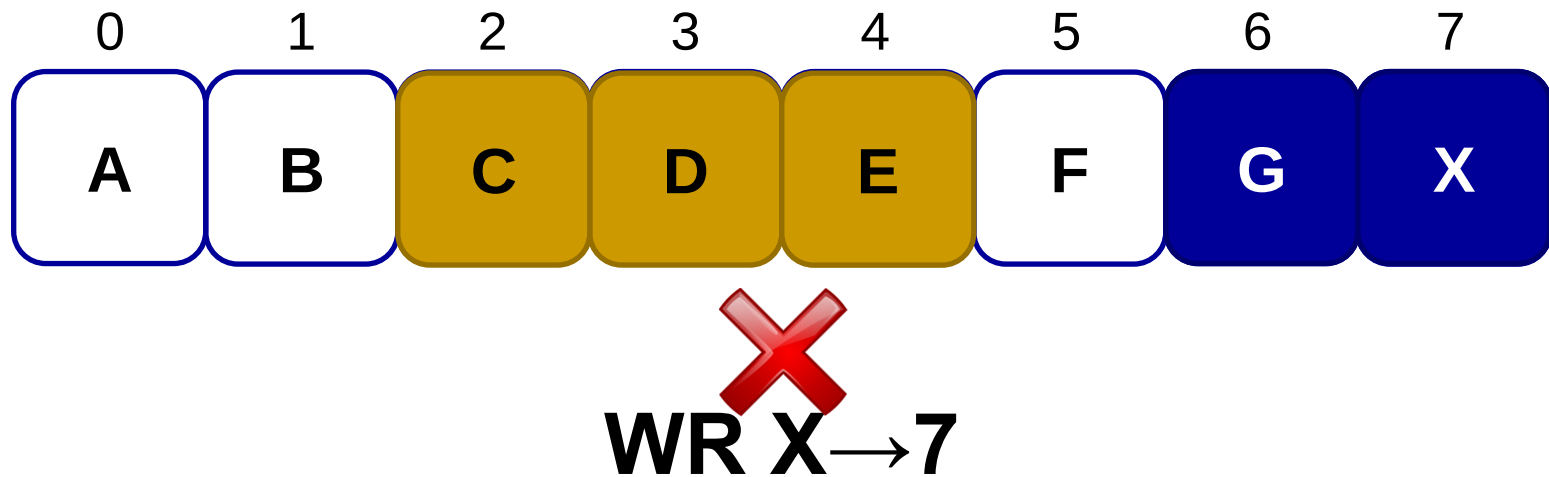
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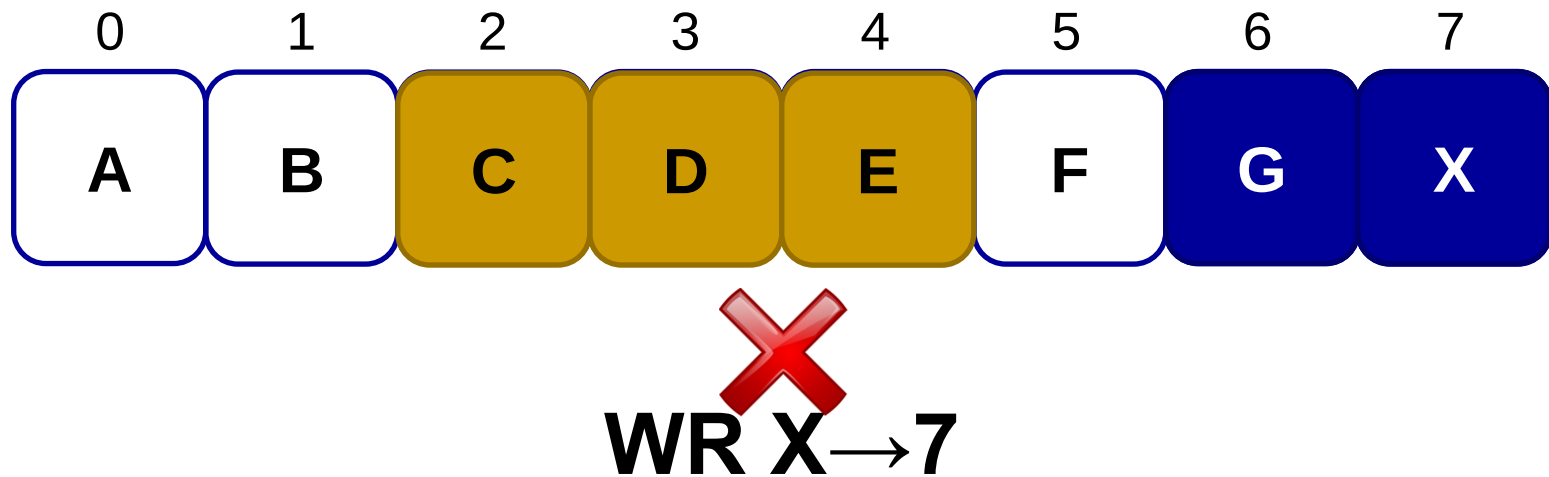
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- SW knows it's touching important data

Hardware-Assisted Watchpoints

- HW Interrupt when touching watched data



- SW knows it's touching important data
 - AT NO OVERHEAD

Dynamic Software Analysis

Bounds Checking

Data Race Detection

Taint Analysis

Deterministic Execution

Transactional
Memory

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Watchpoint-Based Taint Analysis

- Taint analysis works on shadow values

x = tainted()



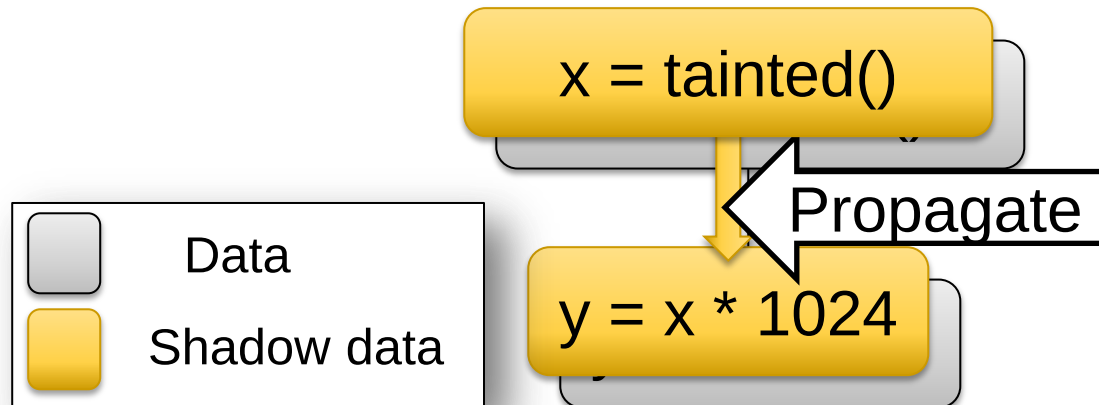
Data



Shadow data

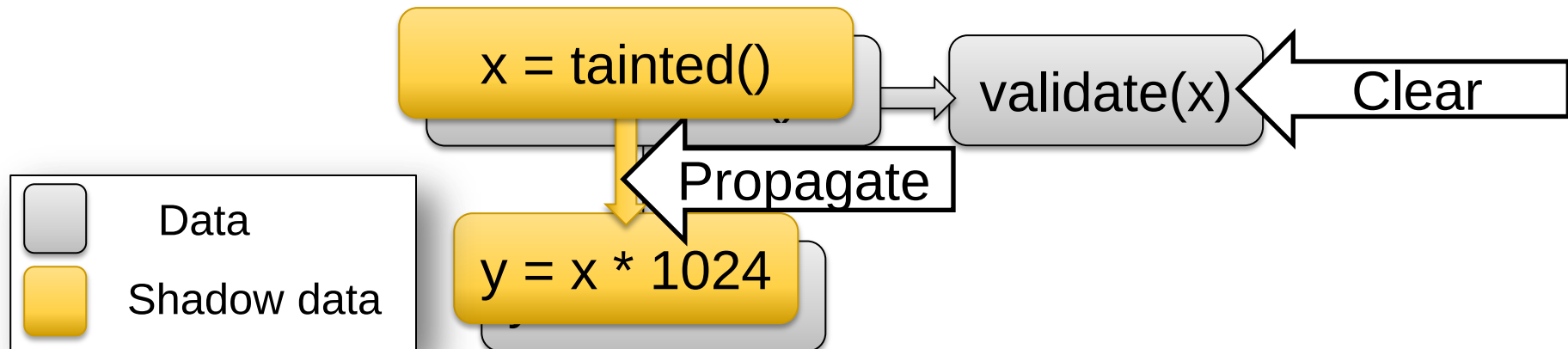
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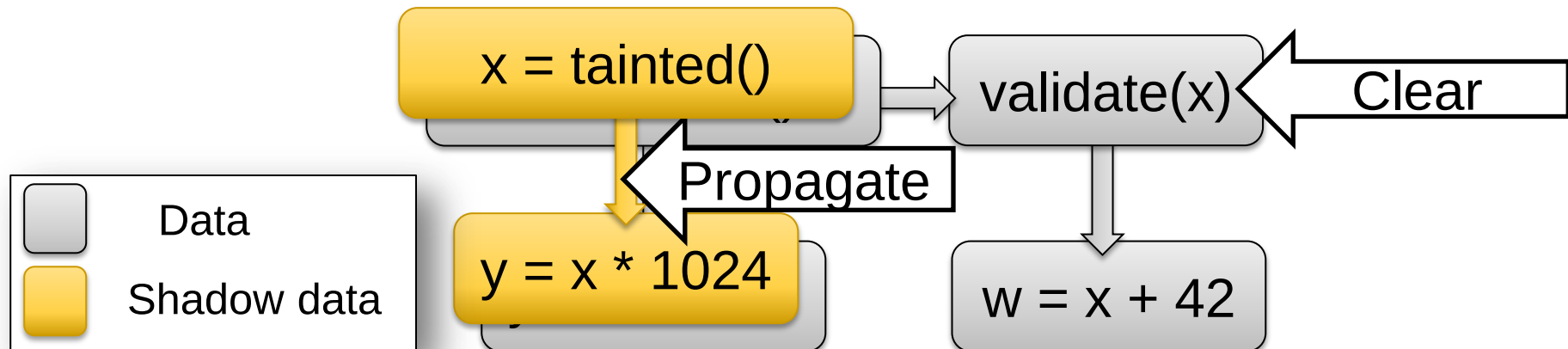
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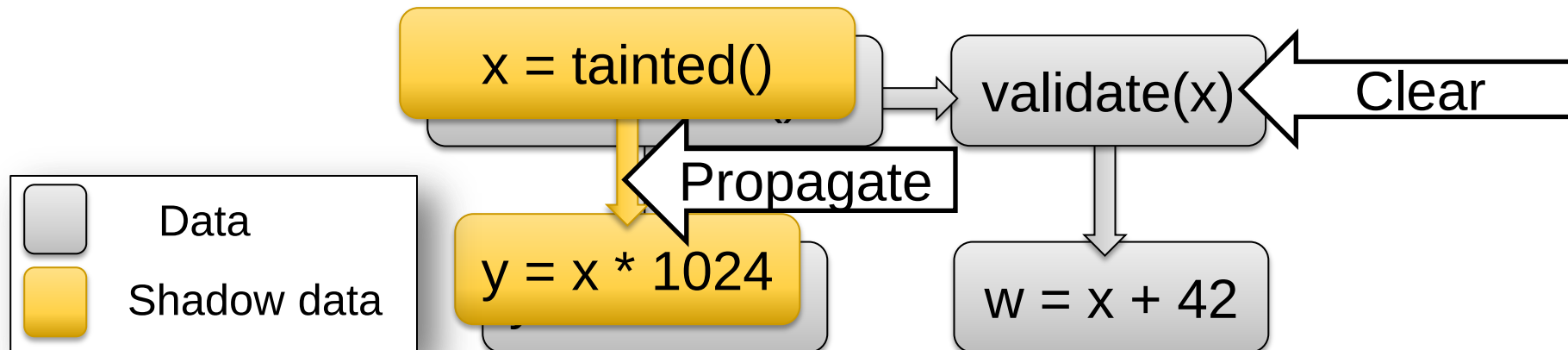
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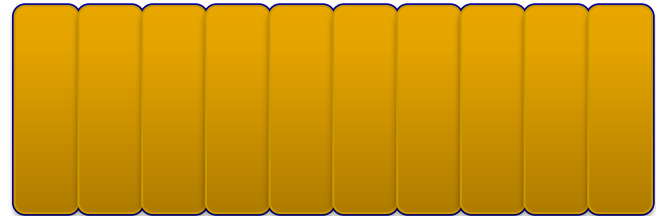
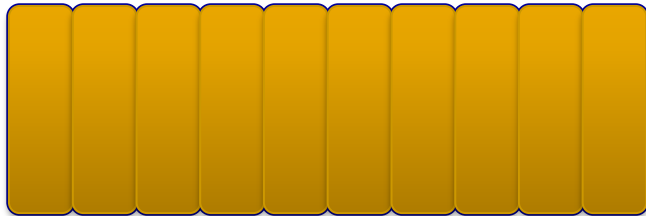
- Set R/W watchpoints on tainted values
- No tainted data? → **Run at full speed**

Watchpoint-Based Data Race Detection

- Find inter-thread data sharing, check locks
 - No sharing, no possible data race
 - Turn off detector until HW finds sharing!

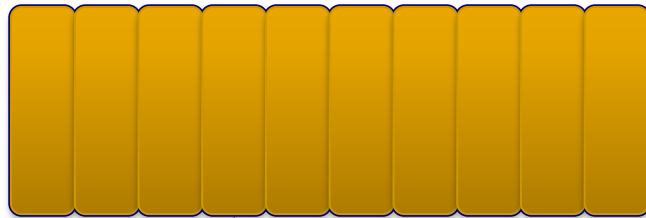
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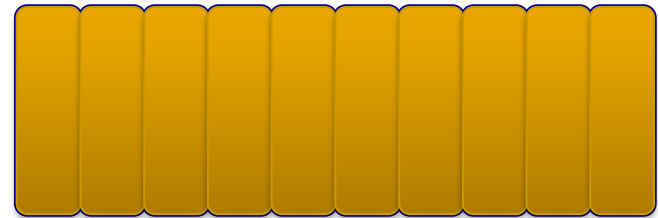


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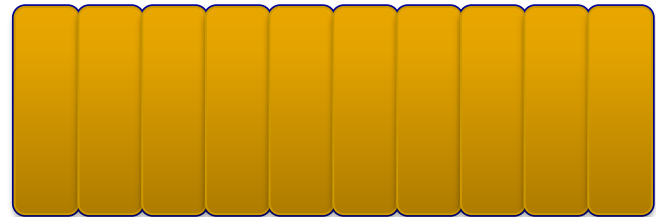
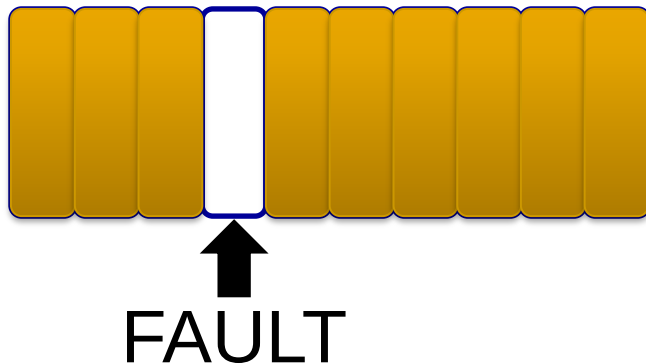


FAULT



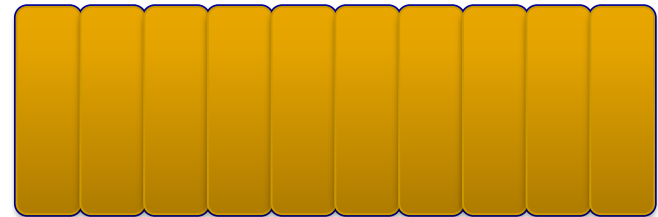
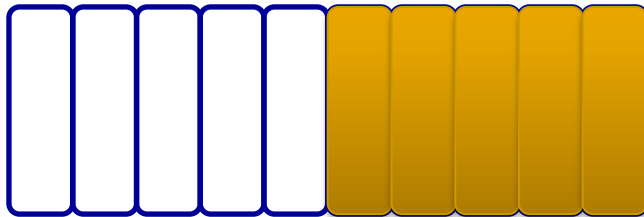
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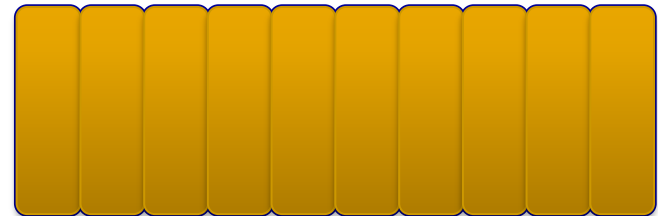
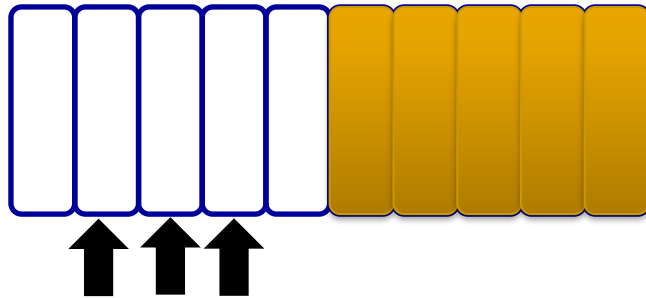
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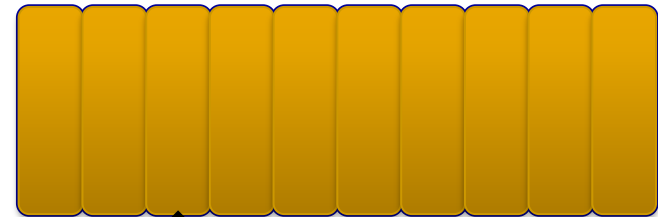
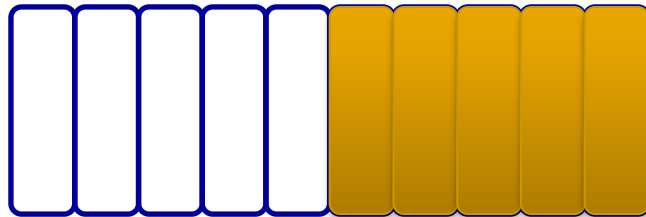
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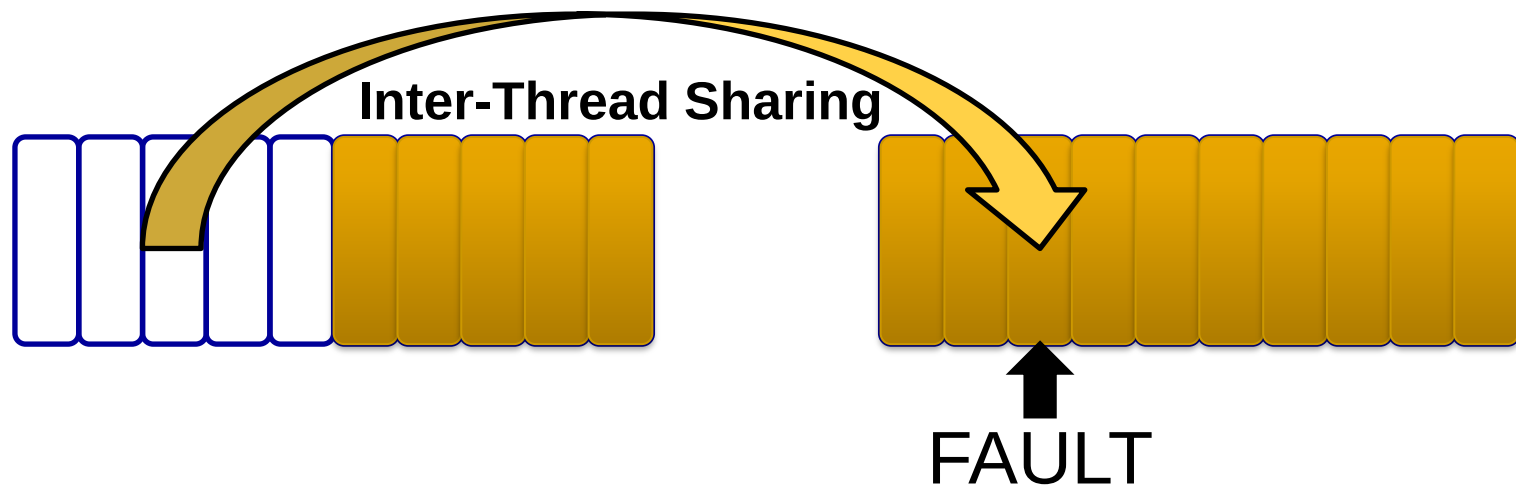
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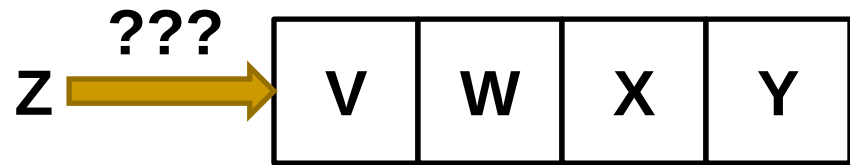
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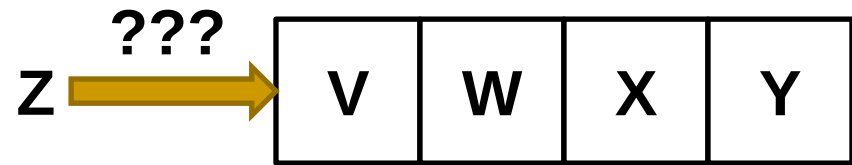
Needed Watchpoint Capabilities

- Large Number

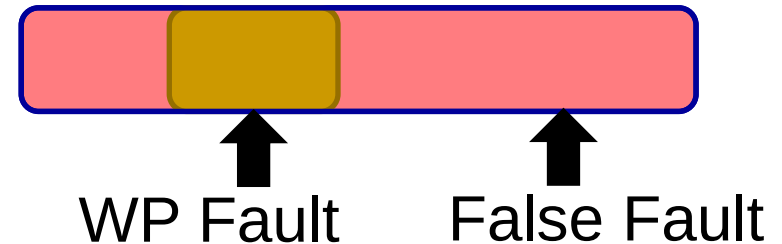


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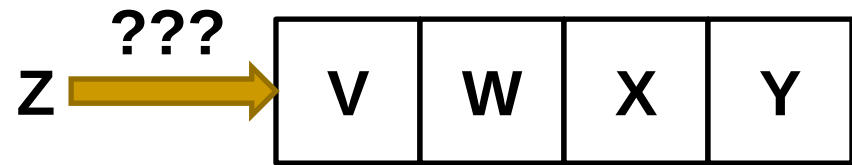


- Fine-grained

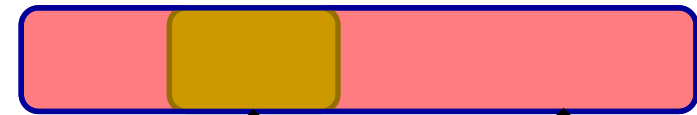


Needed Watchpoint Capabilities

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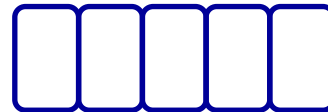
- Fine-grained



WP Fault

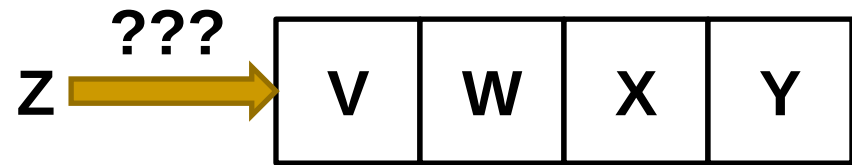
False Fault

- Per Thread

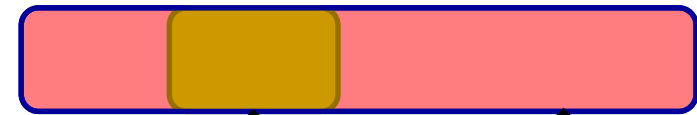


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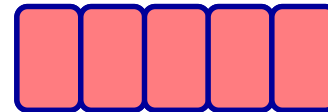
- Fine-grained



WP Fault

False Fault

- Per Thread

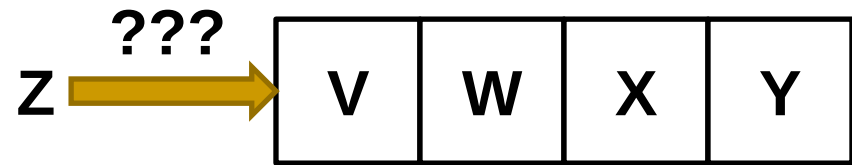


False Faults

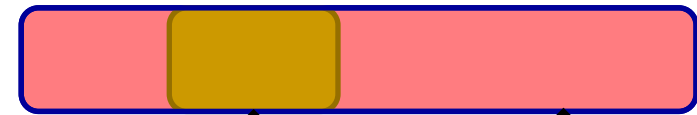


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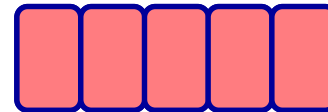
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WP Fault

False Fault

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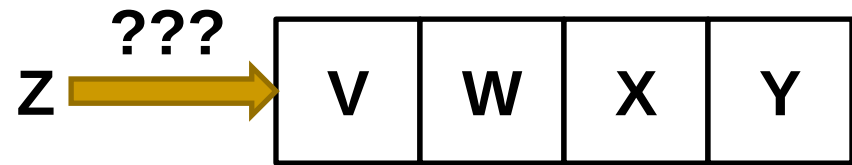
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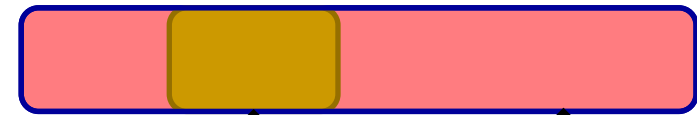


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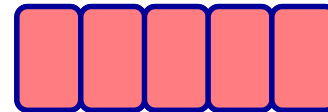
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WP Fault

False Fault

- Per Thread



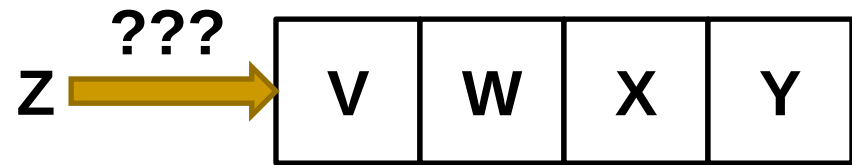
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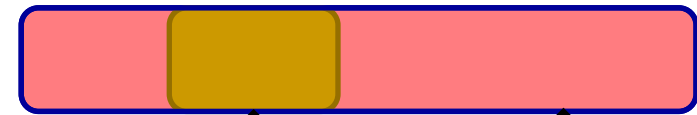


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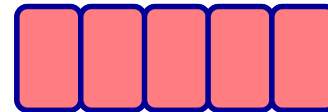
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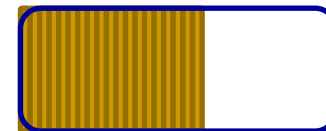
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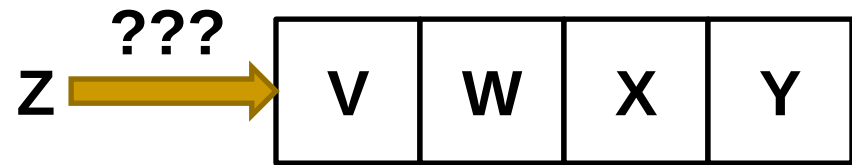


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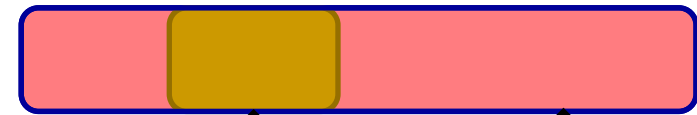


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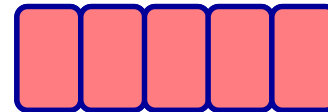
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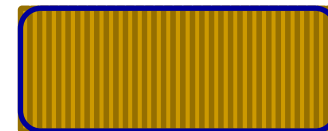
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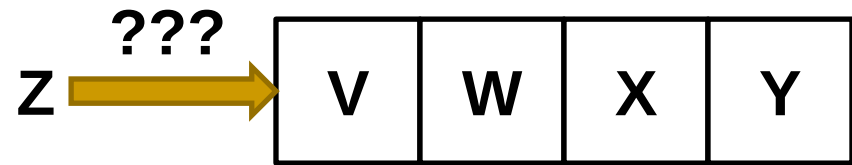
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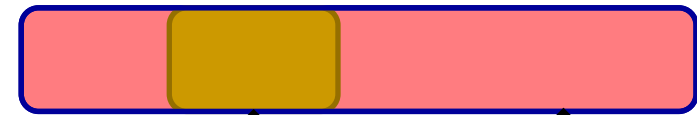


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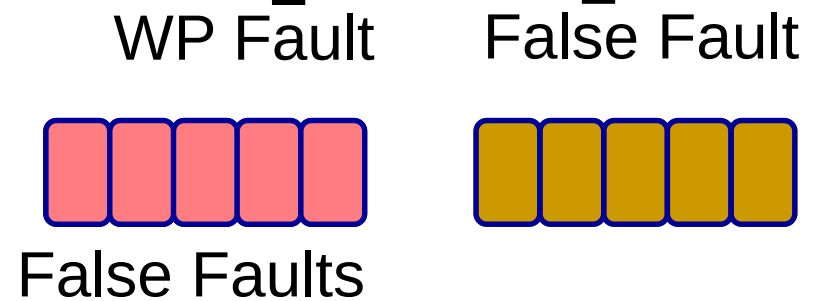
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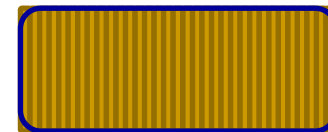
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- Per Thread



- Ranges



- Others in Paper

Existing Watchpoint Solutions

- Watchpoint Registers
 - Limited number (4-16), small reach (4-8 bytes)

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 - Limited number (4-16), small reach (4-8 bytes)
- Virtual Memory
 - Coarse-grained, per-process, *only* aligned ranges
- ECC Mangling
 - Per physical address, all cores, no ranges

Meeting These Requirements

- Unlimited Number of Watchpoints
 - Store in memory, cache on chip
- Fine-Grained
 - Watch full virtual addresses
- Per-Thread
 - Watchpoints cached per core/thread
 - TID Registers
- Ranges
 - **Range Cache**

Range Cache

Start Address

0x0

End Address

0xffff_ffff

Watchpoint? Valid

Not Watched	1
	0
	0

Range Cache

Start Address

0x0

End Address

0xffff_ffff

Watchpoint? Valid

Not Watched	1
	0
	0

Set Addresses
0x5 – 0x2000
R-Watched

Range Cache

Start Address

0x0
0x5
0x2001

End Address

0x4
0x2000
0xffff_ffff

Watchpoint? Valid

Not Watched	1
R Watched	1
Not Watched	1

Set Addresses
0x5 – 0x2000
R-Watched

Range Cache

Start Address

0x0
0x5
0x2001

End Address

0x4
0x2000
0xffff_ffff

Watchpoint? Valid

Not Watched	1
R Watched	1
Not Watched	1

**Load Address
0x400**

Range Cache

Start Address

0x0
0x5
0x2001

≤ 0x400?

End Address

0x4
0x2000
0xffff_ffff

≥ 0x400?

Watchpoint? Valid

Not Watched	1
R Watched	1
Not Watched	1

Load Address
0x400

Range Cache

Start Address

0x0
0x5
0x2001



End Address

0x4
0x2000
0xffff_ffff



Watchpoint? Valid

Not Watched	1
R Watched	1
Not Watched	1

$\leq 0x400?$

$\geq 0x400?$

Load Address
0x400

Range Cache

Start Address

0x0
0x5
0x2001



End Address

0x4
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0xffff_ffff



Watchpoint? Valid

Not Watched	1
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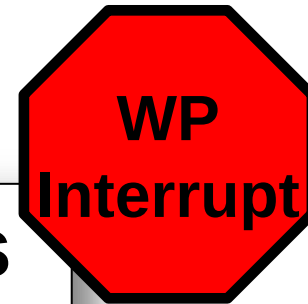
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Load Address
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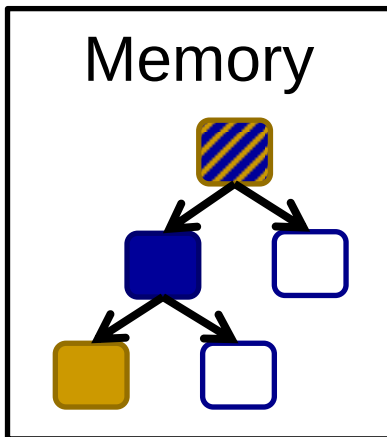
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- Store Ranges in Main Memory



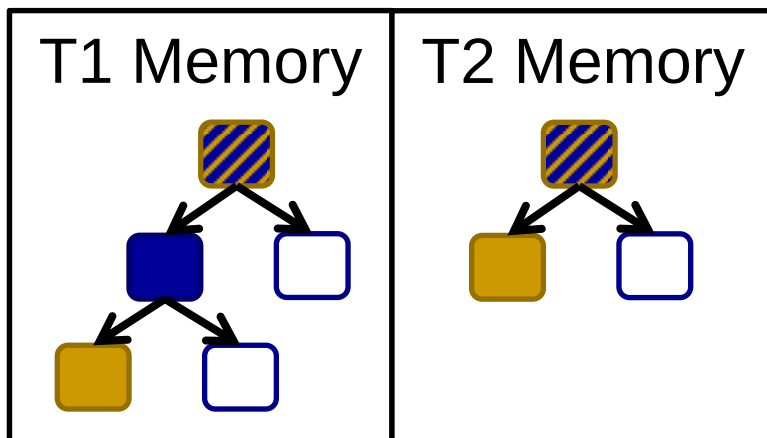
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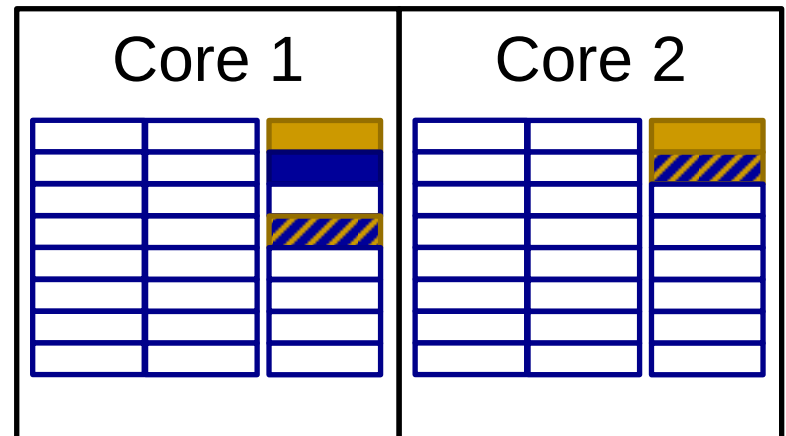
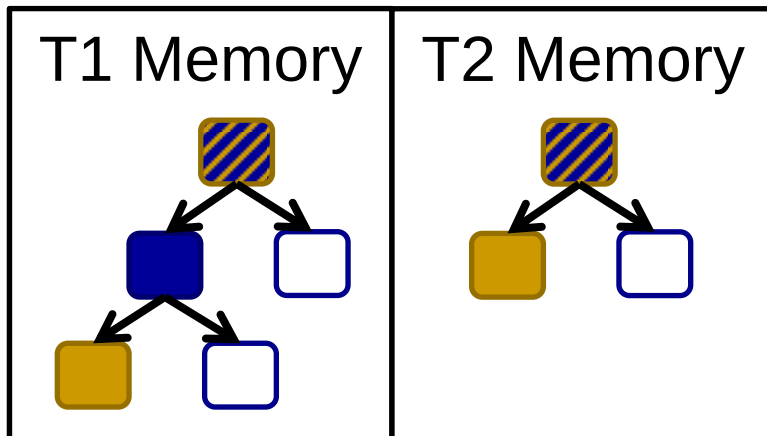
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- Store Ranges in Main Memory
- Per-Thread Ranges, Per-Core Range Cache



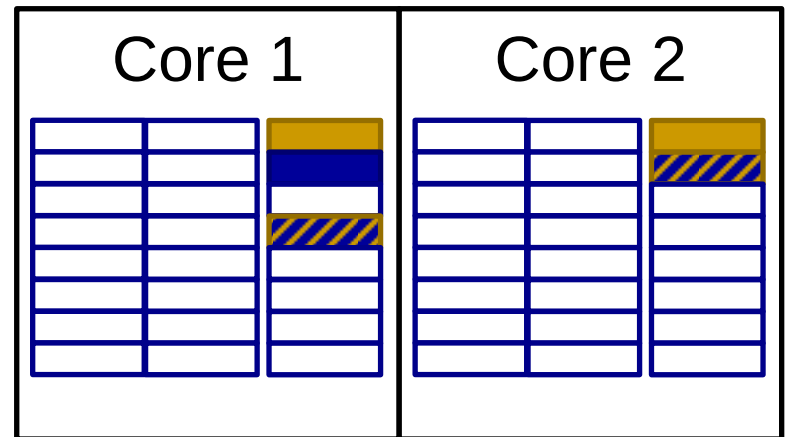
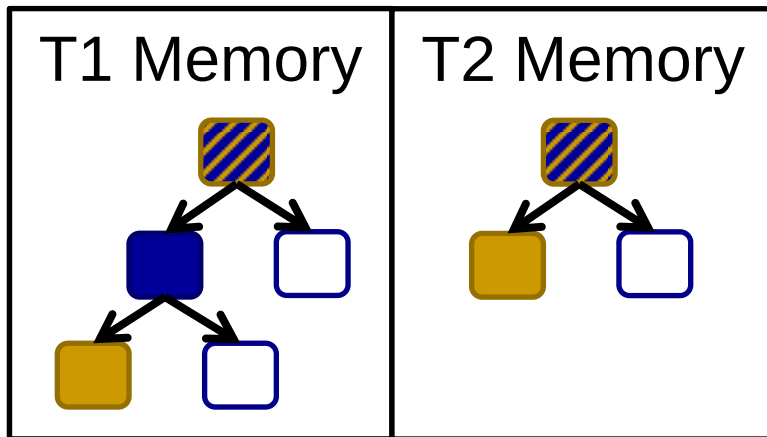
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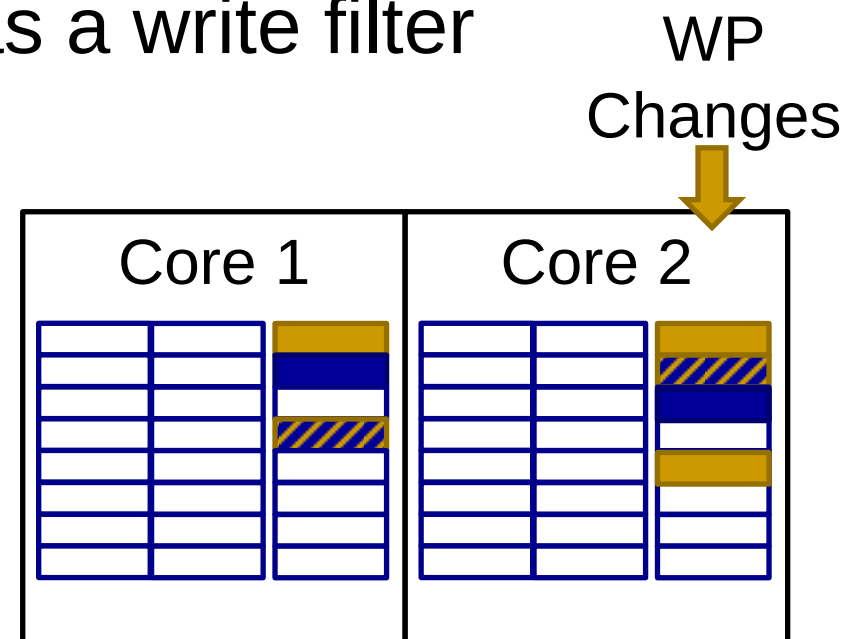
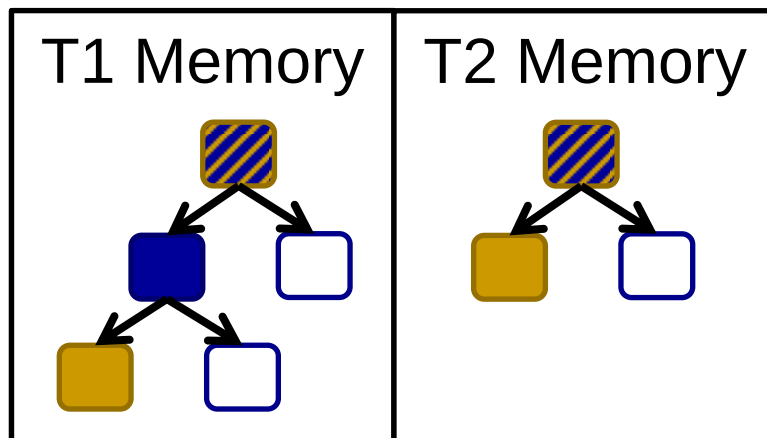
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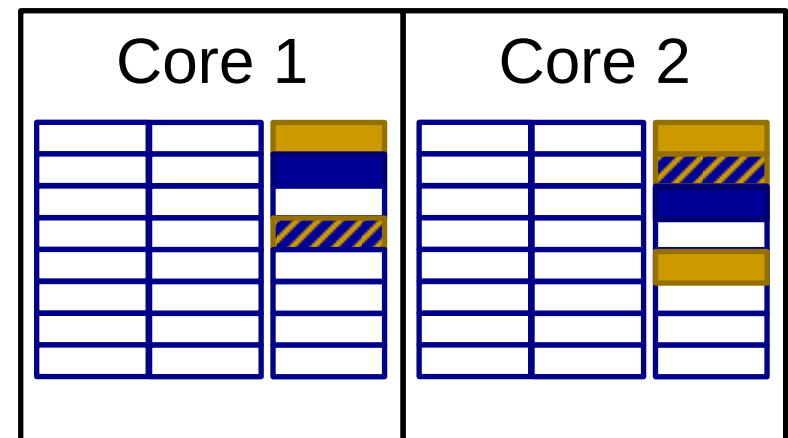
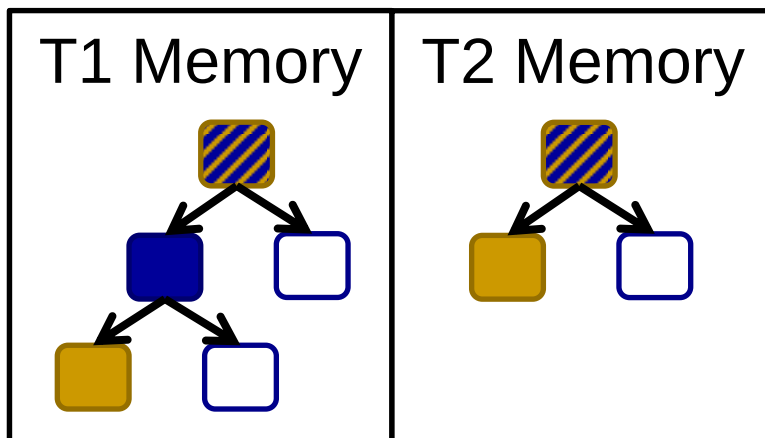
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Watchpoint System Design I

- Store Ranges in Main Memory
- Per-Thread Ranges, Per-Core Range Cache
- Software Handler on RC miss or overflow
- Write-back RC works as a write filter
- Precise, user-level watchpoint faults

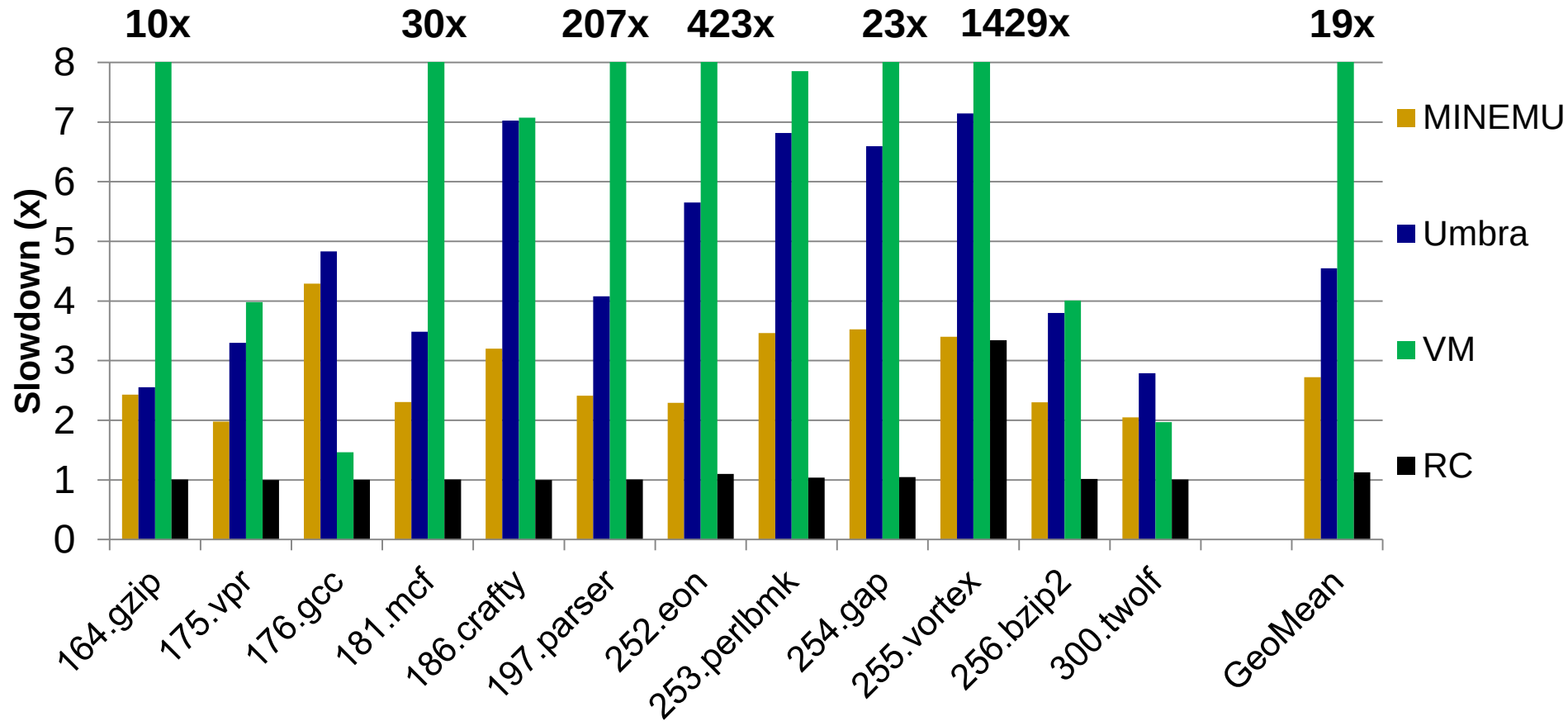


Experimental Evaluation Setup

- Pin-based Simulation
 - Every memory access through HW simulator
 - Count pipeline-exposed events
 - Record all other events
- Trace-based timing simulator
- Taint analysis on SPEC INT2000
- Race Detection on Phoenix and PARSEC
- Comparing only shadow value checks

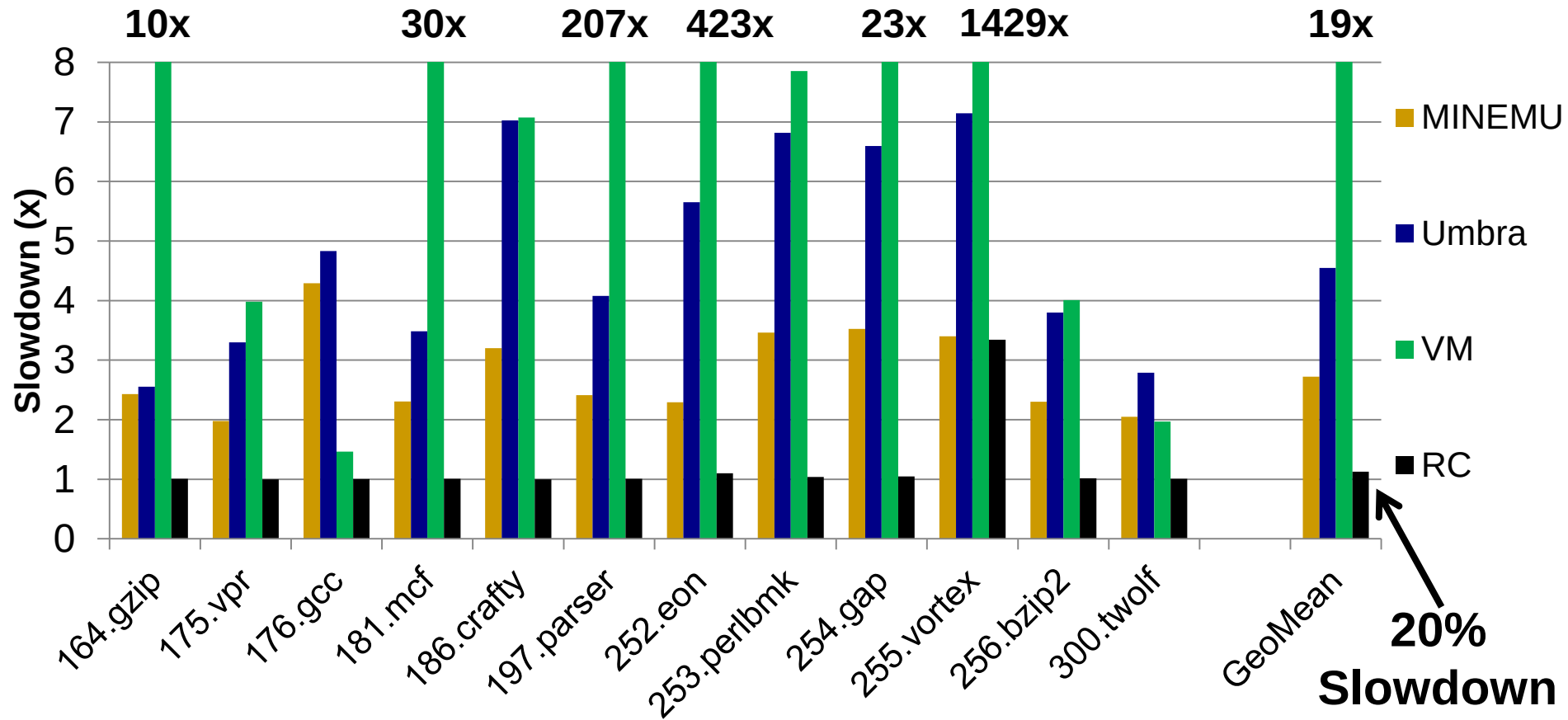
Watchpoint-Based Taint Analysis

■ 128 entry Range Cache



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■ 128 entry Range Cache



The Need for Many Small Ranges

- Some watchpoints better suited for ranges



- 32b Addresses: 2 ranges x 64b each = **16B**

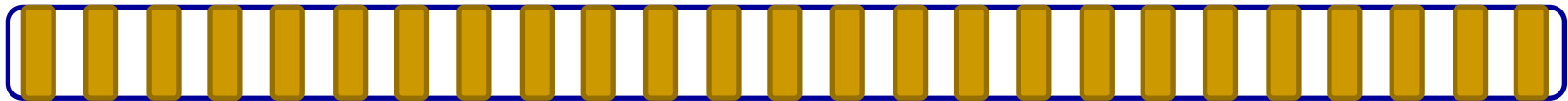
The Need for Many Small Ranges

- Some watchpoints better suited for ranges



- 32b Addresses: 2 ranges x 64b each = **16B**

- Some need large # of small watchpoints



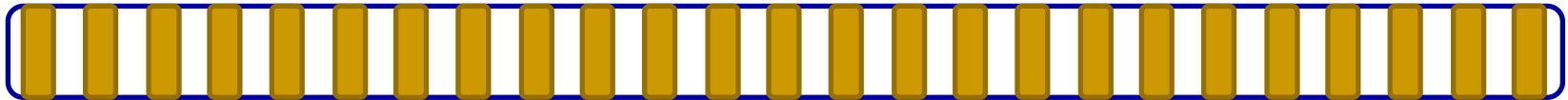
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- 51 ranges x 64b each = **408B**
 - Better stored as bitmap? 51 bits!

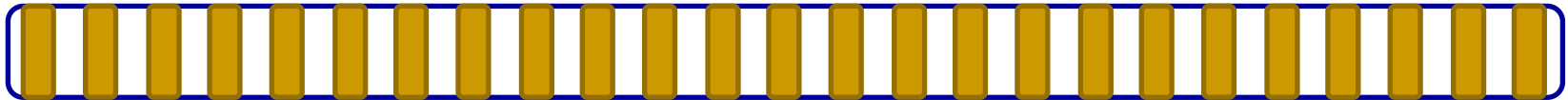
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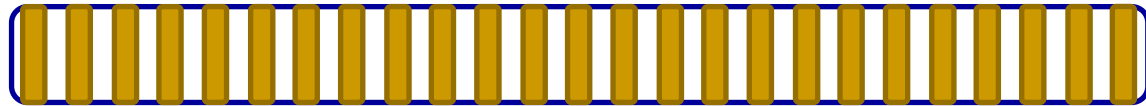


- 51 ranges x 64b each = **408B**
 - Better stored as bitmap? 51 bits!

- Taint analysis has good ranges
- Byte-accurate race detection does not..

Watchpoint System Design II

- Make some RC entries point to bitmaps



Start Addr

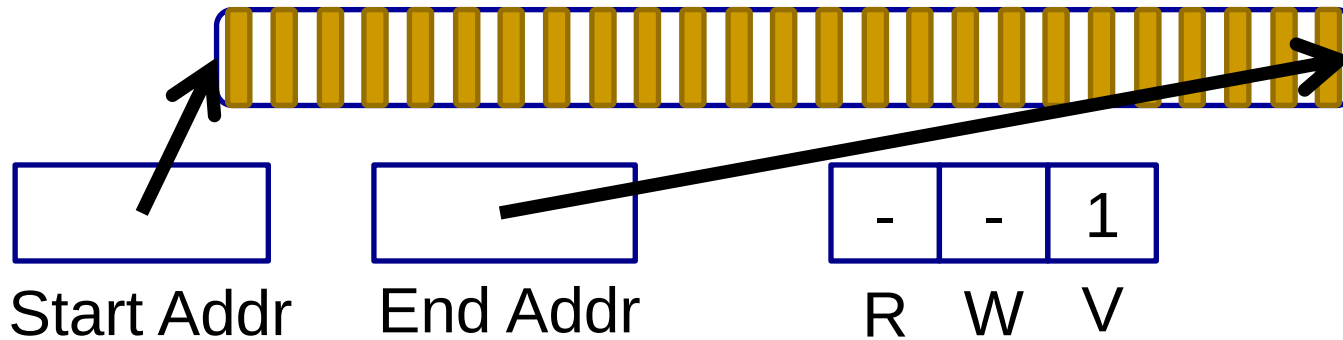
End Addr

-	-	1
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R W V

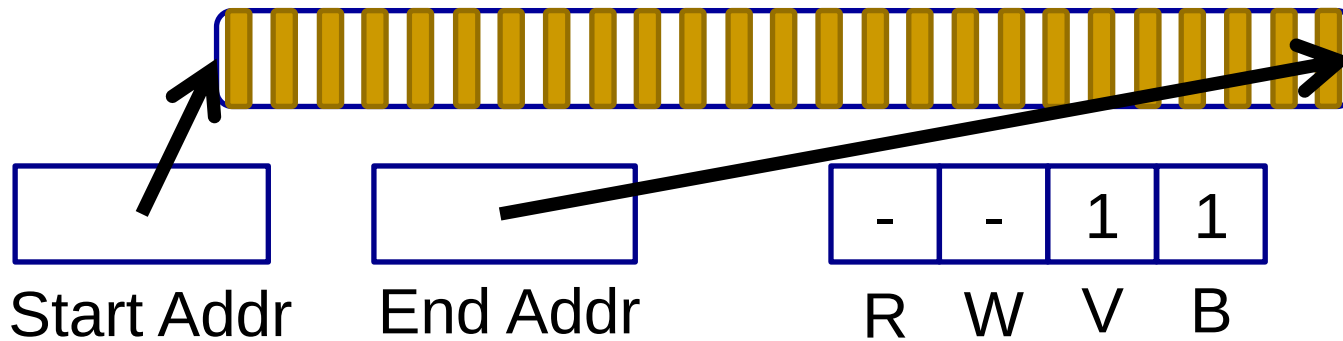
Watchpoint System Design II

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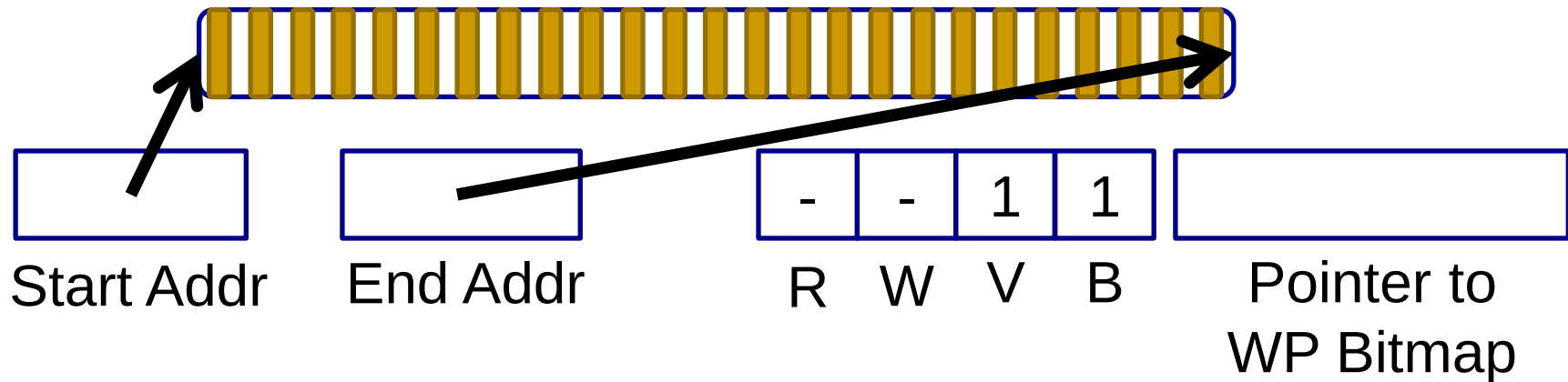
Watchpoint System Design II

- Make some RC entries point to bitmaps



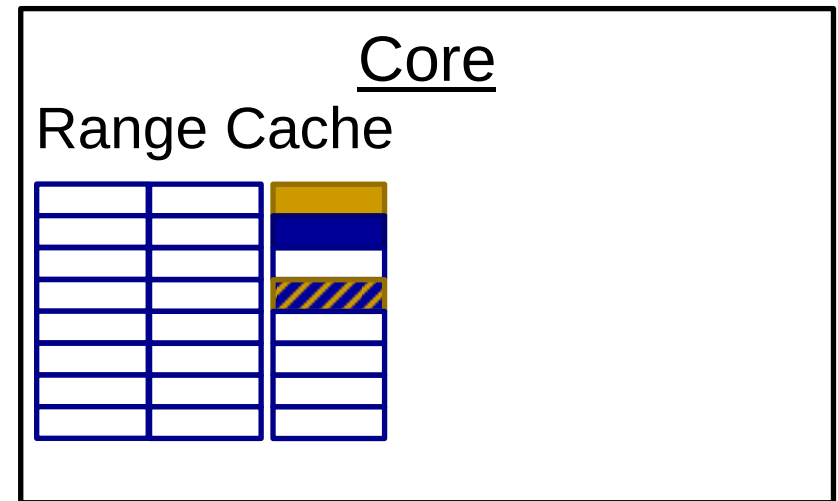
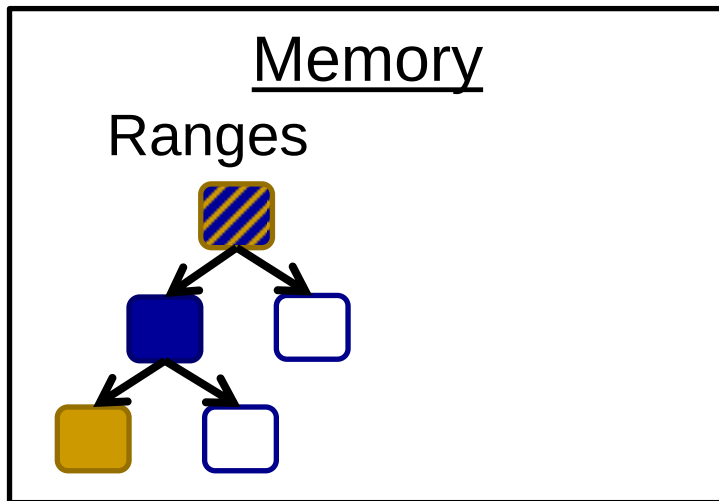
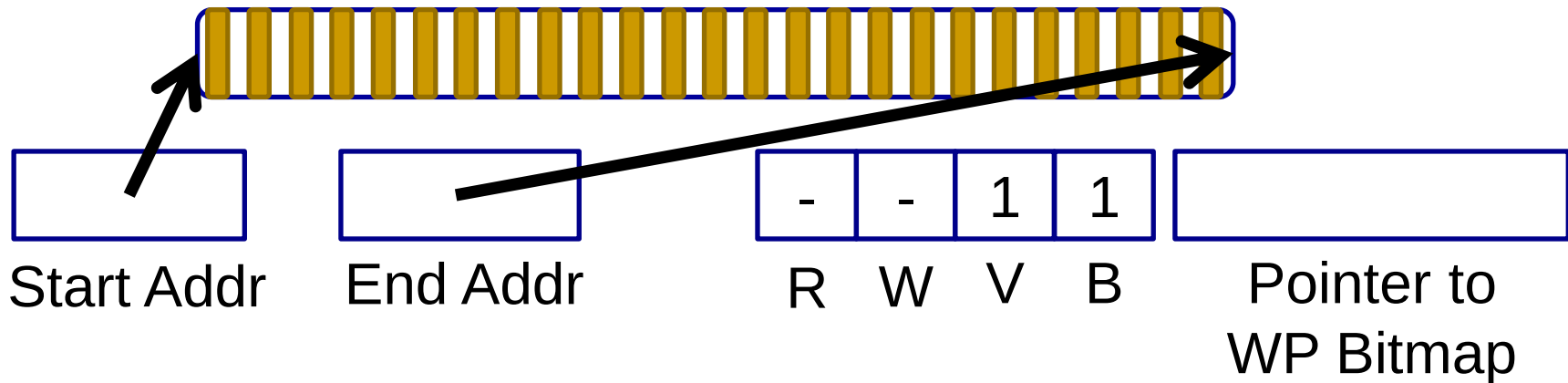
Watchpoint System Design II

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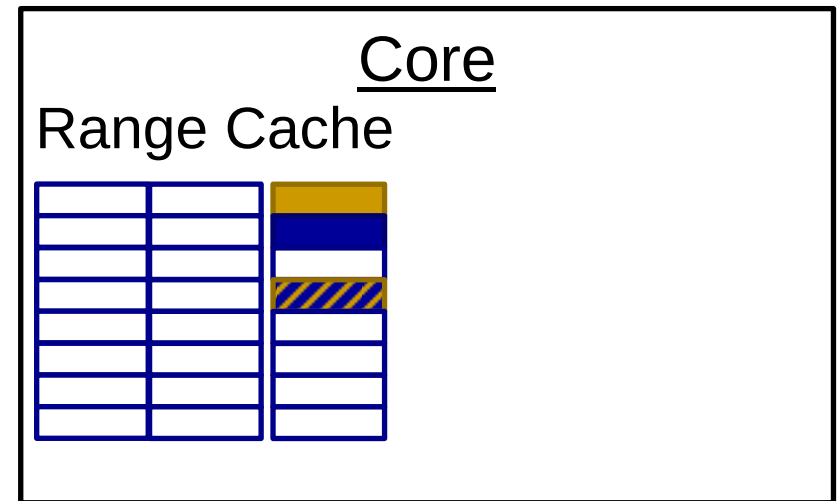
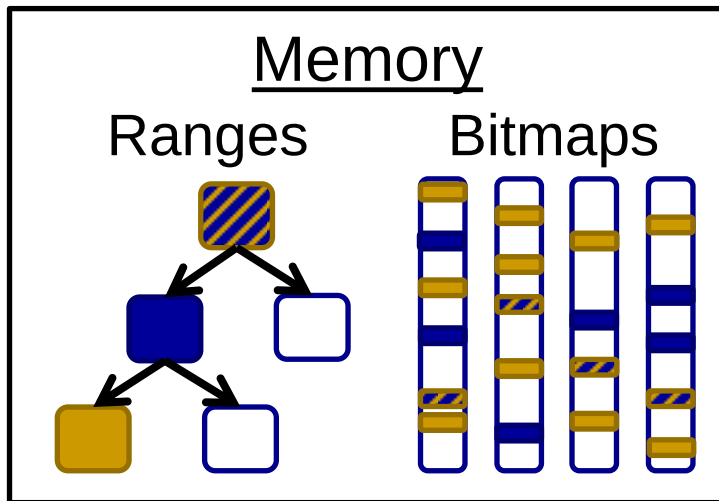
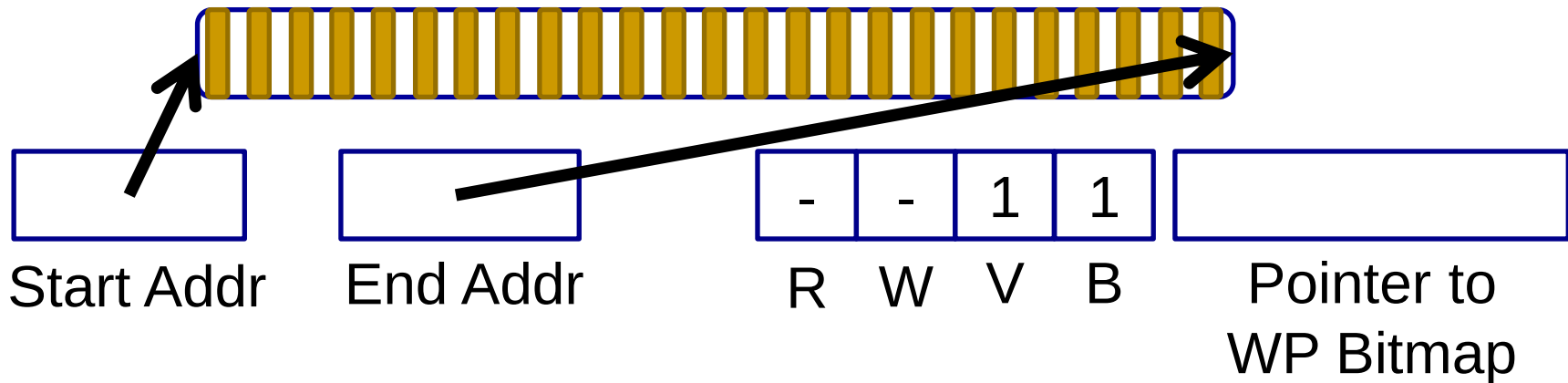
Watchpoint System Design II

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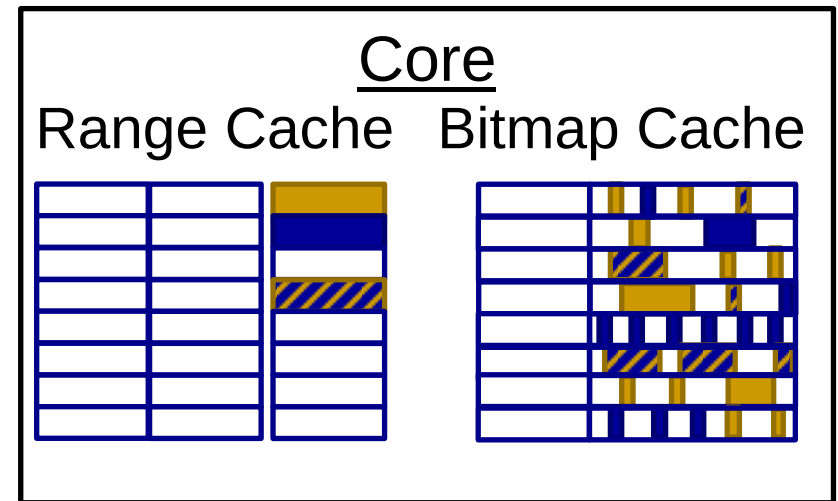
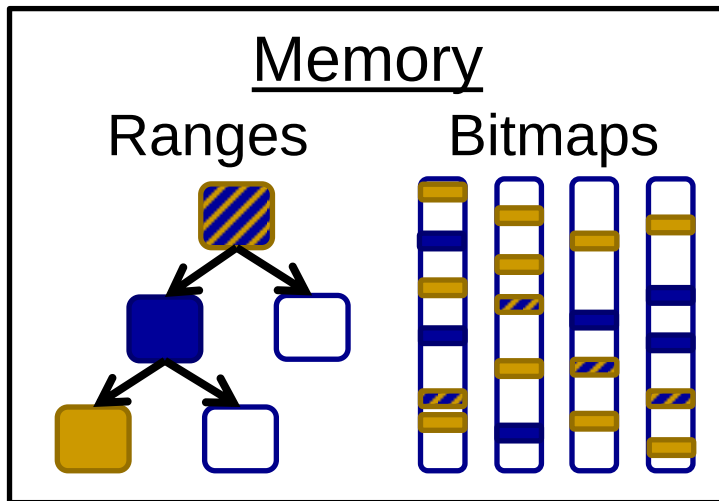
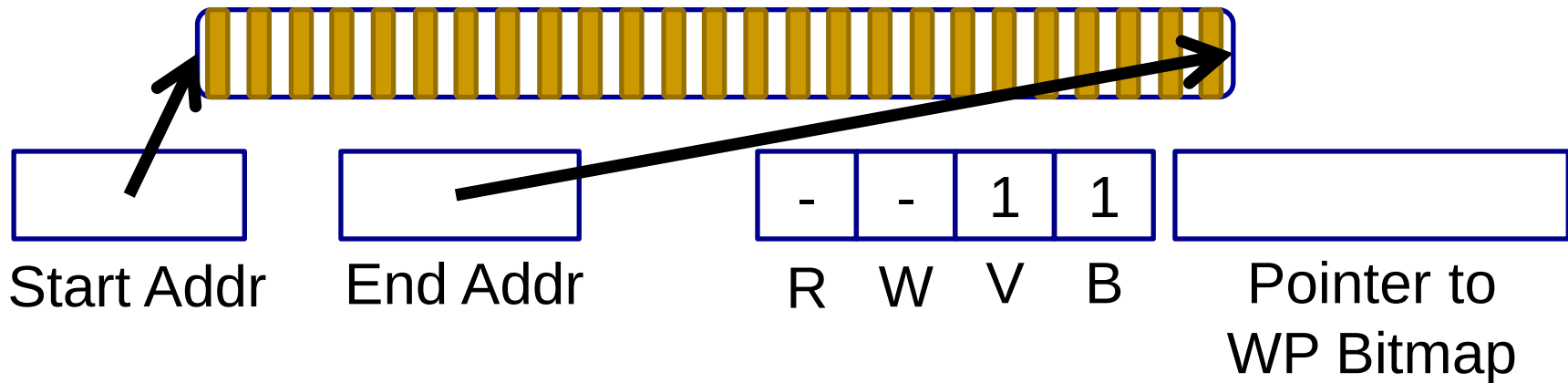
Watchpoint System Design II

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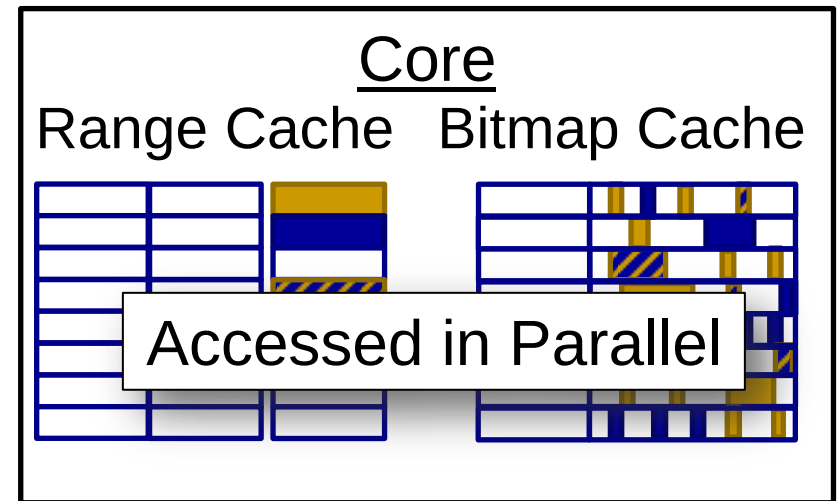
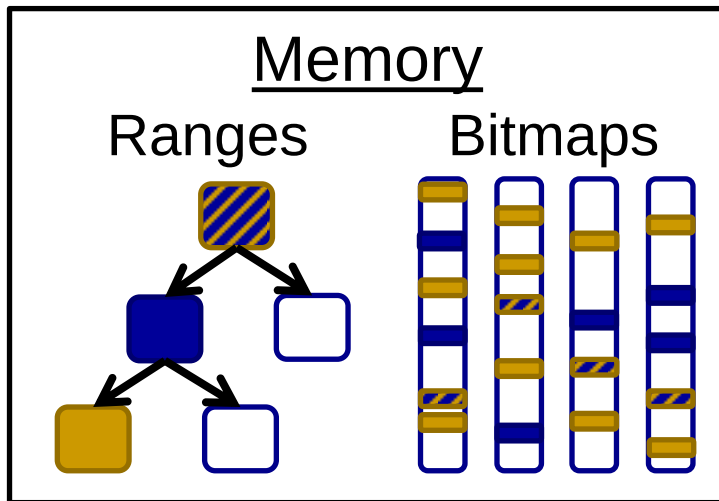
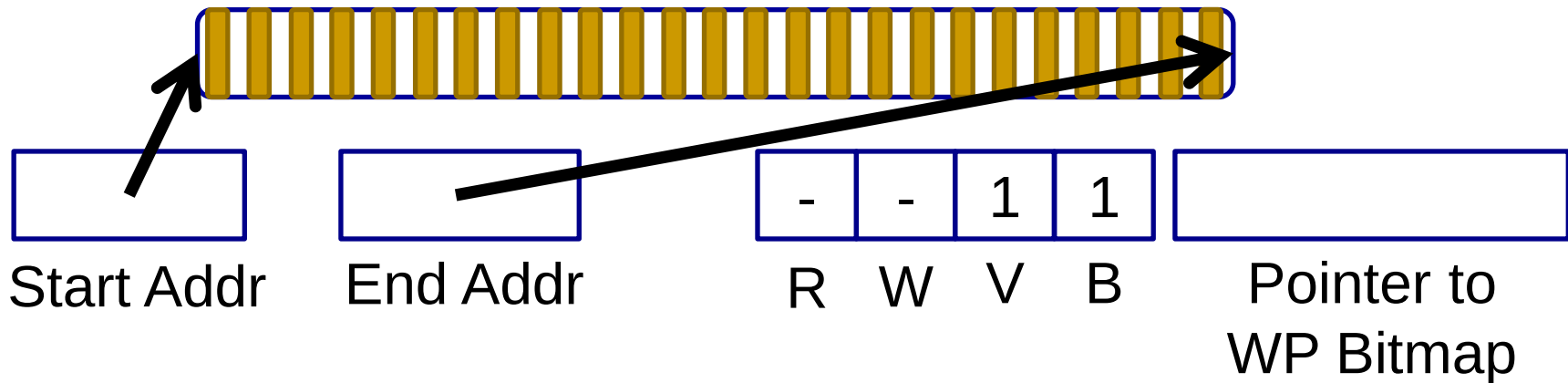
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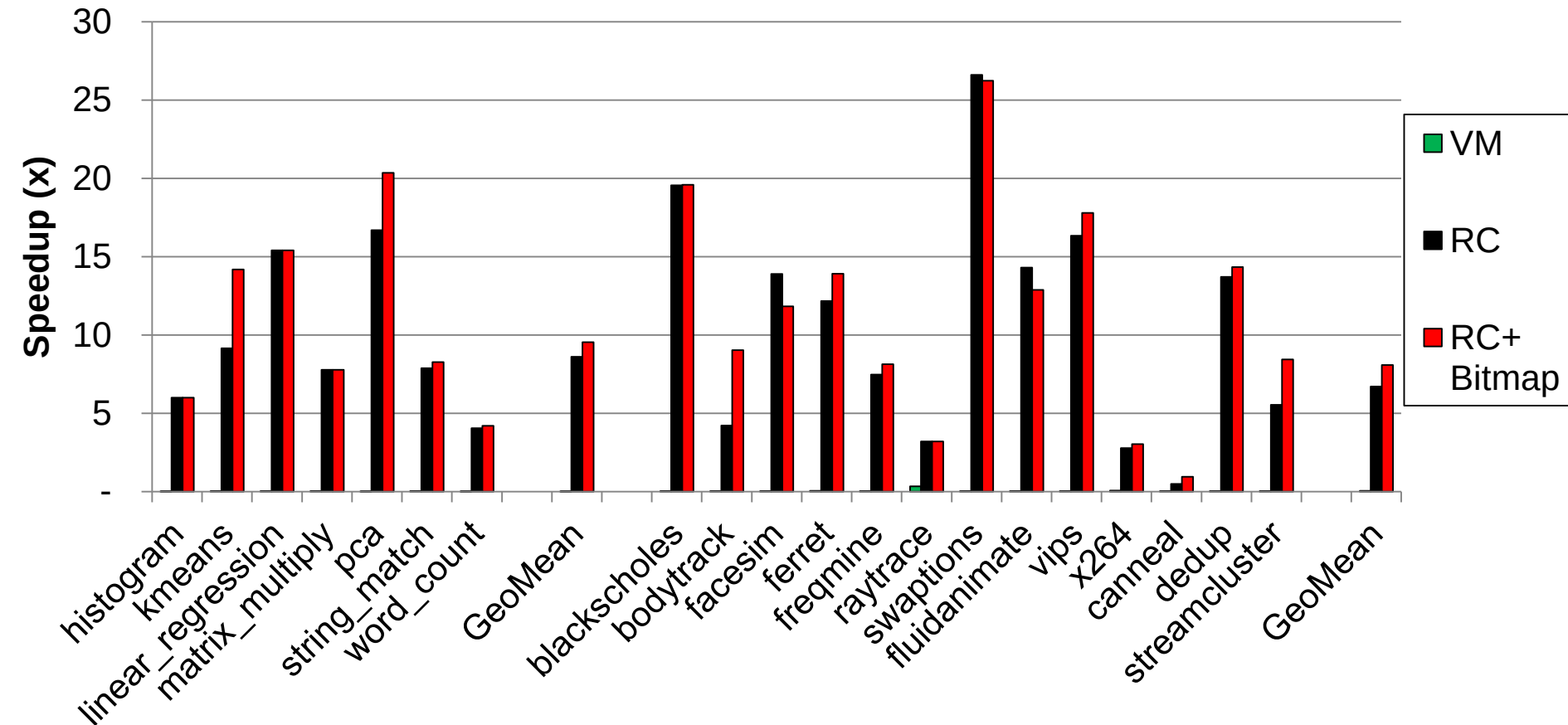
Watchpoint System Design II

- Make some RC entries point to bitmaps



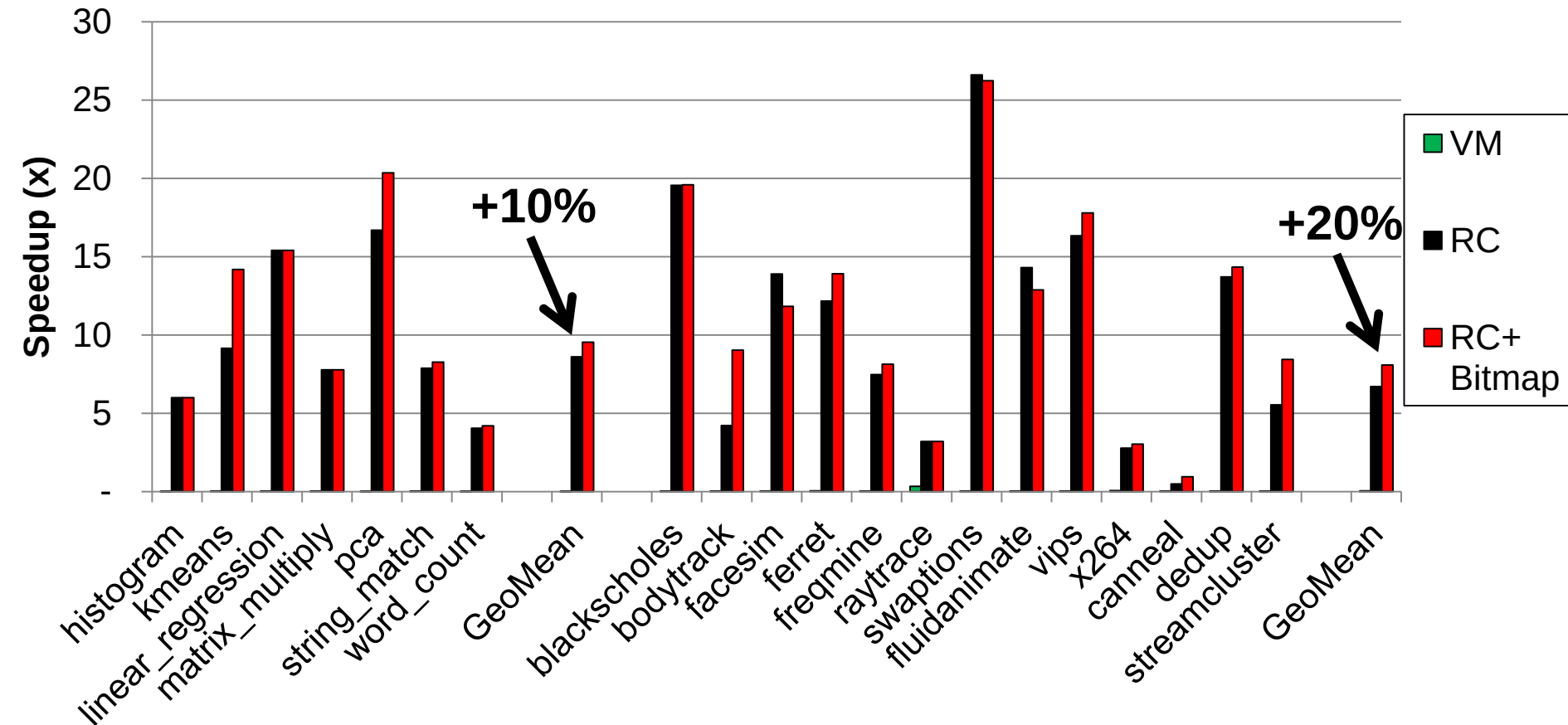
Watchpoint-Based Data Race Detection

- RC now 64 entries, added 2KB bitmap cache



Watchpoint-Based Data Race Detection

- RC now 64 entries, added 2KB bitmap cache



Conclusions & Future Directions

- **Watchpoints** a useful generic mechanism
- Numerous SW systems can utilize a well-designed WP system
- In the future:
 - Clear microarchitectural analysis
 - **More** software systems, different algorithms

Thank You

BACKUP SLIDES

Existing Watchpoint Solutions

- Watchpoint Registers
 - + Fine-grained, *can* be per-thread
 - Limited number (4-16), small reach (4-8 bytes)
- Virtual Memory
 - + Virtually unlimited number
 - Coarse-grained, per-process, *only* aligned ranges
- ECC Mangling
 - + Unlimited, finer-grained
 - Per physical address, no ranges

Width Test

