CS252
Graduate Computer Architecture
Lecture 4

Cache Design

January 31, 2002

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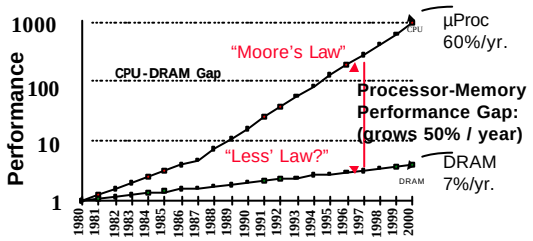
Who Cares About the Memory Hierarchy?



- 1980: no cache in µproc; 1995 2-level cache on chip (1989 first Intel µproc with a cache on chip)

Generations of Microprocessors

- Time of a full cache miss in instructions executed:

1st Alpha:	340 ns/5.0 ns = 68 clks x 2 or	136
2nd Alpha:	266 ns/3.3 ns = 80 clks x 4 or	320
3rd Alpha:	180 ns/1.7 ns =108 clks x 6 or	648

- 1/2X latency x 3X clock rate x 3X Instr/clock þ -5X

Processor - Memory Performance Gap "Tax"

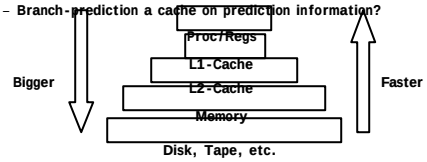
Processor	% Area *(-cost)*	%Transistors *(-power)*
• Alpha 21164	37%	77%
• StrongArm SA110	61%	94%
• Pentium Pro	64%	88%

  - 2 dies per package: Proc/I$/D$ + L2$

- Caches have no "inherent value", only try to close performance gap

What is a cache?

- Small, fast storage used to improve average access time to slow memory.
- Exploits spacial and temporal locality
- In computer architecture, almost everything is a cache!
  - Registers "a cache" on variables – software managed
  - First-level cache a cache on second-level cache
  - Second-level cache a cache on memory
  - Memory a cache on disk (virtual memory)
  - TLB a cache on page table
  - Branch-prediction a cache on prediction information?



Traditional Four Questions for Memory Hierarchy Designers

- Q1: Where can a block be placed in the upper level? *(Block placement)*
  - Fully Associative, Set Associative, Direct Mapped
- Q2: How is a block found if it is in the upper level? *(Block identification)*
  - Tag/Block
- Q3: Which block should be replaced on a miss? *(Block replacement)*
  - Random, LRU
- Q4: What happens on a write? *(Write strategy)*
  - Write Back or Write Through (with Write Buffer)

What are all the aspects of cache organization that impact performance?

Review: Cache performance

- Miss-oriented Approach to Memory Access:

$$CPUtime = IC \times \left(CPI_{Execution} + \frac{MemAccess}{Inst} \times MissRate \times MissPenalty\right) \times CycleTime$$

$$CPUtime = IC \times \left(CPI_{Execution} + \frac{MemMisses}{Inst} \times MissPenalty\right) \times CycleTime$$

  - $CPI_{Execution}$ includes ALU and Memory instructions

- Separating out Memory component entirely
  - AMAT = Average Memory Access Time
  - CPI_{ALUOps} does not include memory instructions

$$CPUtime = IC \times \left(\frac{AluOps}{Inst} \times CPI_{AluOps} + \frac{MemAccess}{Inst} \times AMAT\right) \times CycleTime$$

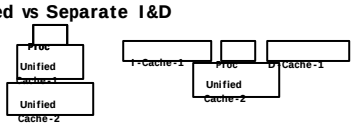
$$AMAT = HitTime + MissRate \times MissPenalty$$
$$= (HitTime_{Inst} + MissRate_{Inst} \times MissPenalty_{Inst}) +$$
$$(HitTime_{Data} + MissRate_{Data} \times MissPenalty_{Data})$$

Impact on Performance

- Suppose a processor executes at
  - Clock Rate = 200 MHz (5 ns per cycle), Ideal (no misses) CPI = 1.1
  - 50% arith/logic, 30% ld/st, 20% control
- Suppose that 10% of memory operations get 50 cycle miss penalty
- Suppose that 1% of instructions get same miss penalty
- CPI = ideal CPI + average stalls per instruction
  1.1(cycles/ins) +
  [0.30 (DataMops/ins)
  x 0.10 (miss/DataMop) x 50 (cycle/miss)] +
  [1 (InstMop/ins)
  x 0.01 (miss/InstMop) x 50 (cycle/miss)]
  = (1.1 + 1.5 + .5) cycle/ins = 3.1
- 58% of the time the proc is stalled waiting for memory!
- AMAT=(1/1.3)x[1+0.01x50]+(0.3/1.3)x[1+0.1x50]=2.54

Unified vs Split Caches

- Unified vs Separate I&D



- Example:
  - 16KB I&D: Inst miss rate=0.64%, Data miss rate=6.47%
  - 32KB unified: Aggregate miss rate=1.99%
- Which is better (ignore L2 cache)?
  - Assume 33% data ops ⇒ 75% accesses from instructions (1.0/1.33)
  - hit time=1, miss time=50
  - Note that *data* hit has 1 stall for unified cache (only one port)

$AMAT_{Harvard}$=75%x(1+0.64%x50)+25%x(1+6.47%x50) = 2.05
$AMAT_{Unified}$=75%x(1+1.99%x50)+25%x(1+1+1.99%x50)= 2.24

How to Improve Cache Performance?

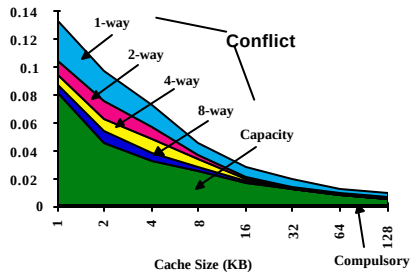
$$AMAT = HitTime + MissRate \times MissPenalty$$

1. Reduce the miss rate,
2. Reduce the miss penalty, or
3. Reduce the time to hit in the cache.

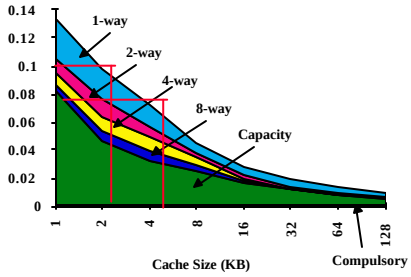
Where to misses come from?

- Classifying Misses: 3 Cs
  - *Compulsory*—The first access to a block is not in the cache, so the block must be brought into the cache. Also called *cold start misses* or *first reference misses*.
    (Misses in even an Infinite Cache)
  - *Capacity*—If the cache cannot contain all the blocks needed during execution of a program, capacity misses will occur due to blocks being discarded and later retrieved.
    (Misses in Fully Associative Size X Cache)
  - *Conflict*—If block-placement strategy is set associative or direct mapped, conflict misses (in addition to compulsory & capacity misses) will occur because a block can be discarded and later retrieved if too many blocks map to its set. Also called *collision misses* or *interference misses*.
    (Misses in N-way Associative, Size X Cache)
- 4th "C":
  - *Coherence* - Misses caused by cache coherence.

3Cs Absolute Miss Rate (SPEC92)

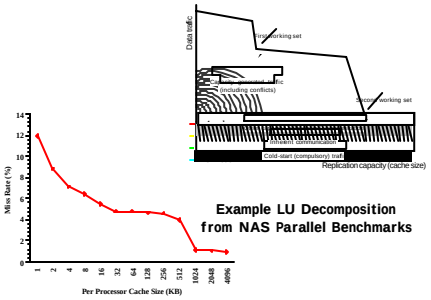


Cache Size



- Old rule of thumb: 2x size => 25% cut in miss rate
- What does it reduce?

Huge Caches => Working Sets



Example LU Decomposition from NAS Parallel Benchmarks

Cache Organization?

- Assume total cache size not changed:
- What happens if:

1) Change Block Size:

2) Change Associativity:

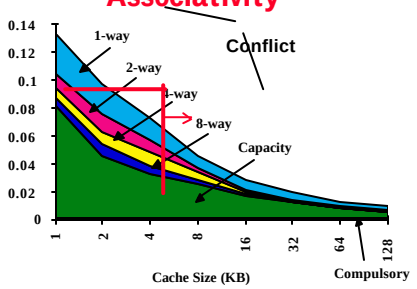
3) Change Compiler:

Which of 3Cs is obviously affected?

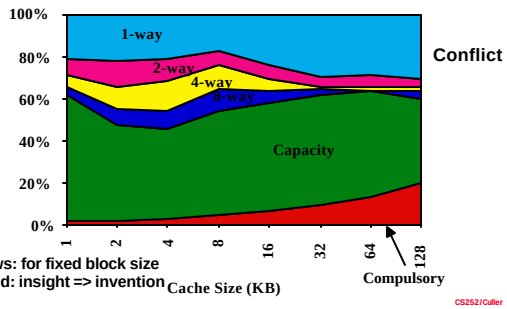
Larger Block Size (fixed size&assoc)

What else drives up block size?

Associativity



3Cs Relative Miss Rate



Flaws: for fixed block size
Good: insight => invention

Associativity vs Cycle Time

- Beware: Execution time is only final measure!
- Why is cycle time tied to hit time?
- Will Clock Cycle time increase?
  - Hill [1988] suggested hit time for 2-way vs. 1-way external cache +10%, internal + 2%
  - suggested big and dumb caches

Effective cycle time of assoc

pzrbski ISCA

Example: Avg. Memory Access Time vs. Miss Rate

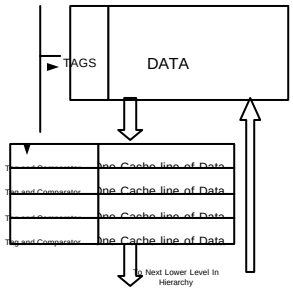
- Example: assume CCT = 1.10 for 2-way, 1.12 for 4-way, 1.14 for 8-way vs. CCT direct mapped

Cache Size (KB)	Associativity 1-way	2-way	4-way	8-way
1	2.33	2.15	2.07	2.01
2	1.98	1.86	1.76	1.68
4	1.72	1.67	1.61	1.53
8	1.46	1.48	1.47	1.43
16	1.29	1.32	1.32	1.32
32	1.20	1.24	1.25	1.27
64	1.14	1.20	1.21	1.23
128	1.10	1.17	1.18	1.20

(Red means A.M.A.T. not improved by more associativity)

Fast Hit Time + Low Conflict => Victim Cache

- How to combine fast hit time of direct mapped yet still avoid conflict misses?
- Add buffer to place data discarded from cache
- Jouppi [1990]: 4-entry victim cache removed 20% to 95% of conflicts for a 4 KB direct mapped data cache
- Used in Alpha, HP machines



Reducing Misses via "Pseudo-Associativity"

- How to combine fast hit time of Direct Mapped and have the lower conflict misses of 2-way SA cache?
- Divide cache: on a miss, check other half of cache to see if there, if so have a pseudo-hit (slow hit)

- Drawback: CPU pipeline is hard if hit takes 1 or 2 cycles
  - Better for caches not tied directly to processor (L2)
  - Used in MIPS R1000 L2 cache, similar in UltraSPARC

Reducing Misses by Hardware Prefetching of Instructions & Data

- E.g., Instruction Prefetching
  - Alpha 21064 fetches 2 blocks on a miss
  - Extra block placed in "stream buffer"
  - On miss check stream buffer
- Works with data blocks too:
  - Jouppi [1990] 1 data stream buffer got 25% misses from 4KB cache; 4 streams got 43%
  - Palacharla & Kessler [1994] for scientific programs for 8 streams got 50% to 70% of misses from 2 64KB, 4-way set associative caches
- Prefetching relies on having extra memory bandwidth that can be used without penalty

Reducing Misses by Software Prefetching Data

- Data Prefetch
  - Load data into register (HP PA-RISC loads)
  - Cache Prefetch: load into cache (MIPS IV, PowerPC, SPARC v. 9)
  - Special prefetching instructions cannot cause faults; a form of speculative execution
- Prefetching comes in two flavors:
  - Binding prefetch: Requests load directly into register.
    - » Must be correct address and register!
  - Non-Binding prefetch: Load into cache.
    - » Can be incorrect. Faults?
- Issuing Prefetch Instructions takes time
  - Is cost of prefetch issues < savings in reduced misses?
  - Higher superscalar reduces difficulty of issue bandwidth

Reducing Misses by Compiler Optimizations

- McFarling [1989] reduced caches misses by 75% on 8KB direct mapped cache, 4 byte blocks in software
- Instructions
  - Reorder procedures in memory so as to reduce conflict misses
  - Profiling to look at conflicts(using tools they developed)
- Data
  - *Merging Arrays*: improve spatial locality by single array of compound elements vs. 2 arrays
  - *Loop Interchange*: change nesting of loops to access data in order stored in memory
  - *Loop Fusion*: Combine 2 independent loops that have same looping and some variables overlap
  - *Blocking*: Improve temporal locality by accessing "blocks" of data repeatedly vs. going down whole columns or rows

Merging Arrays Example

```
/* Before: 2 sequential arrays */
int val[SIZE];
int key[SIZE];

/* After: 1 array of stuctures */
struct merge {
  int val;
  int key;
};
struct merge merged_array[SIZE];
```

Reducing conflicts between val & key; improve spatial locality

Loop Interchange Example

```
/* Before */
for (k = 0; k < 100; k = k+1)
  for (j = 0; j < 100; j = j+1)
      for (i = 0; i < 5000; i = i+1)
          x[i][j] = 2 * x[i][j];
/* After */
for (k = 0; k < 100; k = k+1)
  for (i = 0; i < 5000; i = i+1)
      for (j = 0; j < 100; j = j+1)
          x[i][j] = 2 * x[i][j];
```

Sequential accesses instead of striding through memory every 100 words; improved spatial locality

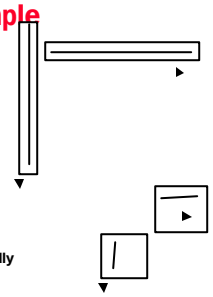
Loop Fusion Example

```
/* Before */
for (i = 0; i < N; i = i+1)
  for (j = 0; j < N; j = j+1)
      a[i][j] = 1/b[i][j] * c[i][j];
for (i = 0; i < N; i = i+1)
  for (j = 0; j < N; j = j+1)
      d[i][j] = a[i][j] + c[i][j];
/* After */
for (i = 0; i < N; i = i+1)
  for (j = 0; j < N; j = j+1)
  {   a[i][j] = 1/b[i][j] * c[i][j];
      d[i][j] = a[i][j] + c[i][j];}
```

2 misses per access to a & c vs. one miss per access; improve spatial locality

Blocking Example

```
/* Before */
for (i = 0; i < N; i = i+1)
  for (j = 0; j < N; j = j+1)
    {r = 0;
     for (k = 0; k < N; k = k+1){
       r = r + y[i][k]*z[k][j];};
     x[i][j] = r;
    };
```



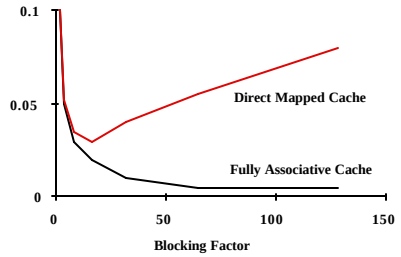
- Two Inner Loops:
  - Read all NxN elements of z[]
  - Read N elements of 1 row of y[] repeatedly
  - Write N elements of 1 row of x[]
- Capacity Misses a function of N & Cache Size:
  - $2N^3 + N^2$ => (assuming no conflict; otherwise …)
- Idea: compute on BxB submatrix that fits

Blocking Example

```
/* After */
for (jj = 0; jj < N; jj = jj+B)
for (kk = 0; kk < N; kk = kk+B)
for (i = 0; i < N; i = i+1)
   for (j = jj; j < min(jj+B-1,N); j = j+1)
     {r = 0;
      for (k = kk; k < min(kk+B-1,N); k = k+1) {
        r = r + y[i][k]*z[k][j];};
      x[i][j] = x[i][j] + r;
     };
```

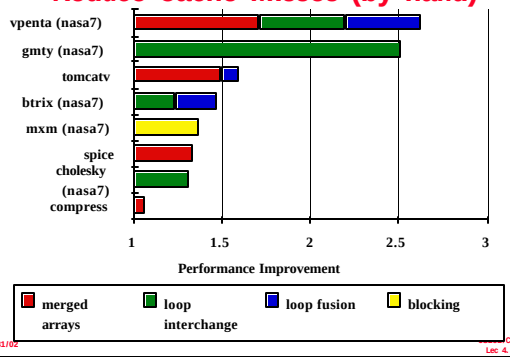
- B called *Blocking Factor*
- Capacity Misses from $2N^3 + N^2$ to $N^3/B+2N^2$
- Conflict Misses Too?

Reducing Conflict Misses by Blocking



- Conflict misses in caches not FA vs. Blocking size
  - Lam et al [1991] a blocking factor of 24 had a fifth the misses vs. 48 despite both fit in cache

Summary of Compiler Optimizations to Reduce Cache Misses (by hand)



Summary: Miss Rate Reduction

$$CPUtime = IC \times \left(CPI_{Execution} + \frac{Memory\ accesses}{Instruction} \times Miss\ rate \times Miss\ penalty \right) \times Clock\ cycle\ time$$

- 3 Cs: Compulsory, Capacity, Conflict
  0. Larger cache
  1. Reduce Misses via Larger Block Size
  2. Reduce Misses via Higher Associativity
  3. Reducing Misses via Victim Cache
  4. Reducing Misses via Pseudo-Associativity
  5. Reducing Misses by HW Prefetching Instr, Data
  6. Reducing Misses by SW Prefetching Data
  7. Reducing Misses by Compiler Optimizations
- Prefetching comes in two flavors:
  - Binding prefetch: Requests load directly into register.
    - » Must be correct address and register!
  - Non-Binding prefetch: Load into cache.
    - » Can be incorrect. Frees HW/SW to guess!

Review: Improving Cache Performance

1. Reduce the miss rate,
2. *Reduce the miss penalty,* or
3. Reduce the time to hit in the cache.

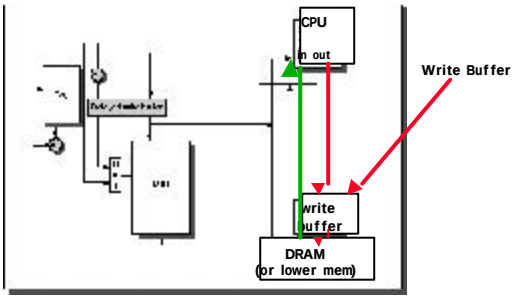
Write Policy: Write-Through vs Write-Back

- Write-through: all writes update cache and underlying memory/cache
  - Can always discard cached data - most up-to-date data is in memory
  - Cache control bit: only a *valid* bit
- Write-back: all writes simply update cache
  - Can't just discard cached data - may have to write it back to memory
  - Cache control bits: both *valid* and *dirty* bits
- Other Advantages:
  - Write-through:
    - » memory (or other processors) always have latest data
    - » Simpler management of cache
  - Write-back:
    - » much lower bandwidth, since data often overwritten multiple times
    - » Better tolerance to long-latency memory?

Write Policy 2: Write Allocate vs Non-Allocate (What happens on write-miss)

- Write allocate: allocate new cache line in cache
  - Usually means that you have to do a "read miss" to fill in rest of the cache-line!
  - Alternative: per/word valid bits
- Write non-allocate (or "write-around"):
  - Simply send write data through to underlying memory/cache - don't allocate new cache line!

1. Reducing Miss Penalty: Read Priority over Write on Miss



1. Reducing Miss Penalty: Read Priority over Write on Miss

- Write-through w/ write buffers => RAW conflicts with main memory reads on cache misses
  - If simply wait for write buffer to empty, might increase read miss penalty (old MIPS 1000 by 50%)
  - Check write buffer contents before read; if no conflicts, let the memory access continue
- Write-back want buffer to hold displaced blocks
  - Read miss replacing dirty block
  - Normal: Write dirty block to memory, and then do the read
  - Instead copy the dirty block to a write buffer, then do the read, and then do the write
  - CPU stall less since restarts as soon as do read

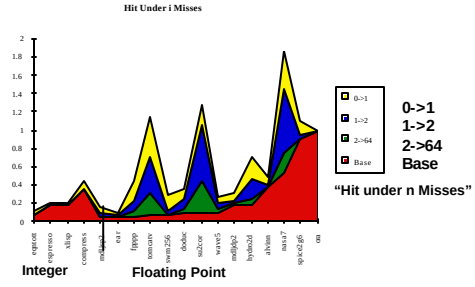
2. Reduce Miss Penalty: Early Restart and Critical Word First

- Don't wait for full block to be loaded before restarting CPU
  - *Early restart*—As soon as the requested word of the block ar rives, send it to the CPU and let the CPU continue executio
  - *Critical Word First*—Request the missed word first from memory and send it to the CPU as soon as it arrives; let the CPU continue execution while filling the rest of the words in the block. Also called *wrapped fetch* and *requested word first*
- Generally useful only in large blocks,
- Spatial locality => tend to want next sequential word, so not clear if benefit by early restart

3. Reduce Miss Penalty: Non-blocking Caches to reduce stalls on misses

- *Non-blocking cache* or *lockup-free cache* allow data cache to continue to supply cache hits during a miss
  - requires F/E bits on registers or out-of-order execution
  - requires multi-bank memories
- "*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
  - Requires muliple memory banks (otherwise cannot support)
  - Penium Pro allows 4 outstanding memory misses

Value of Hit Under Miss for SPEC



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

4: Add a second-level cache

- **L2 Equations**

  $AMAT = Hit\ Time_{L1} + Miss\ Rate_{L1} \times Miss\ Penalty_{L1}$

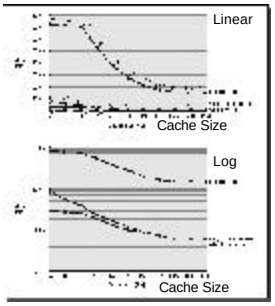
  $Miss\ Penalty_{L1} = Hit\ Time_{L2} + Miss\ Rate_{L2} \times Miss\ Penalty_{L2}$

  $AMAT = Hit\ Time_{L1} +$
  $Miss\ Rate_{L1} \times (Hit\ Time_{L2} + Miss\ Rate_{L2} + Miss\ Penalty_{L2})$

- **Definitions:**
  - *Local miss rate*— misses in this cache divided by the total number of memory accesses *to this cache* (Miss $rate_{L2}$)
  - *Global miss rate*—misses in this cache divided by the total number of memory accesses *generated by the CPU*
  - Global Miss Rate is what matters

Comparing Local and Global Miss Rates

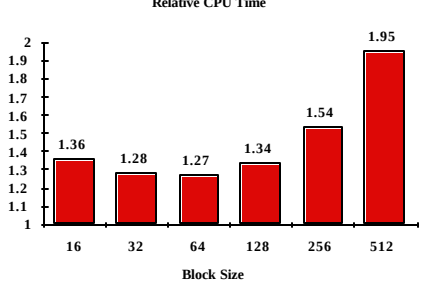
- 32 KByte 1st level cache; Increasing 2nd level cache
- Global miss rate close to single level cache rate provided L2 >> L1
- Don't use local miss rate
- L2 not tied to CPU clock cycle!
- Cost & A.M.A.T.
- Generally Fast Hit Times and fewer misses
- Since hits are few, target miss reduction



Reducing Misses: Which apply to L2 Cache?

- **Reducing Miss Rate**
  1. Reduce Misses via Larger Block Size
  2. Reduce Conflict Misses via Higher Associativity
  3. Reducing Conflict Misses via Victim Cache
  4. Reducing Conflict Misses via Pseudo-Associativity
  5. Reducing Misses by HW Prefetching Instr, Data
  6. Reducing Misses by SW Prefetching Data
  7. Reducing Capacity/Conf. Misses by Compiler Optimizations

L2 cache block size & A.M.A.T.



- 32KB L1, 8 byte path to memory

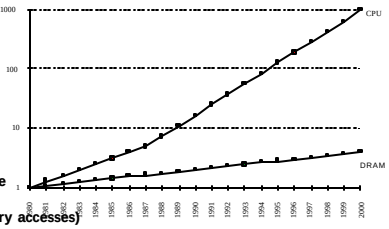
Reducing Miss Penalty Summary

$$CPUtime = IC \times \left(CPI_{Execution} + \frac{Memory\ accesses}{Instruction} \times \text{Miss rate} \times Miss\ penalty \right) \times Clock\ cycle\ time$$

- **Four techniques**
  - Read priority over write on miss
  - Early Restart and Critical Word First on miss
  - Non-blocking Caches (Hit under Miss, Miss under Miss)
  - Second Level Cache
- **Can be applied recursively to Multilevel Caches**
  - Danger is that time to DRAM will grow with multiple levels in between
  - First attempts at L2 caches can make things worse, since increased worst case is worse

What is the Impact of What You've Learned About Caches?

- 1960-1985: Speed = *f*(no. operations)
- 1990
  - Pipelined Execution & Fast Clock Rate
  - Out-of-Order execution
  - Superscalar Instruction Issue
- 1998: Speed = *f*(non-cached memory accesses)
- Superscalar, Out-of-Order machines hide L1 data cache miss (~5 clocks) but not L2 cache miss (~50 clocks)?



Cache Optimization Summary

	Technique	MR	MP	HT	Complexity
miss rate	Larger Block Size	+	–		0
	Higher Associativity	+		–	1
	Victim Caches	+			2
	Pseudo-Associative Caches	+			2
	HW Prefetching of Instr/Data	+			2
	Compiler Controlled Prefetching	+			3
	Compiler Reduce Misses	+			0
miss penalty	Priority to Read Misses		+		1
	Early Restart & Critical Word 1st		+		2
	Non-Blocking Caches		+		3
	Second Level Caches		+		2