

Building the Infinite Brain

COMP 590/790

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What are some goals in designing the memory subsystem?

Capacity, program abstraction, protection, and sharing

What is virtual memory?

Abstraction to deliver the goals

What is a bottleneck in virtual memory systems?

Address translation

How can addressing bottlenecks be tackled?

Through fast paths: TLBs

How to choose the right memory hierarchy design?

Tailor it to the access patterns and layout: general purpose to domain specific

Understand the relevant “systems” problems and identify solutions



For Today

- Quick review
- **Multicore and multithreaded processors**



Achieving Efficiency

Pipelining

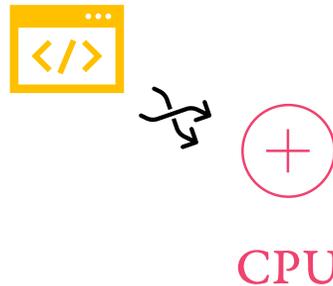
Concurrency among consecutive instructions

Superscalars

More concurrency among consecutive instructions

Out of order execution

Extending concurrency through tracking dataflow



Instruction level parallelism



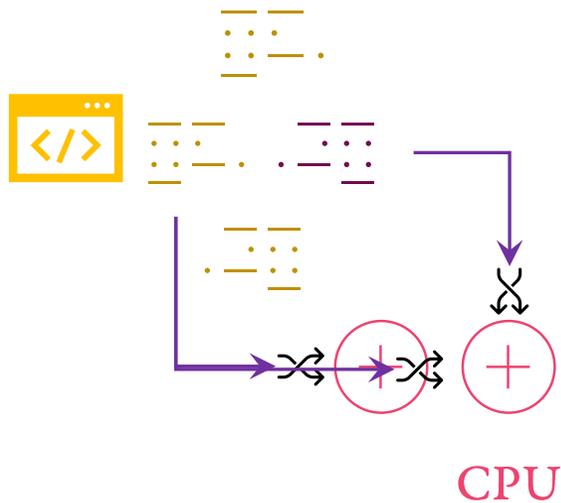
Going Beyond a Single Dataflow

Thread level parallelism

Existed before Tomasulo! | <https://people.computing.clemson.edu/~mark/>

Implicit

Parallelism from a sequential program

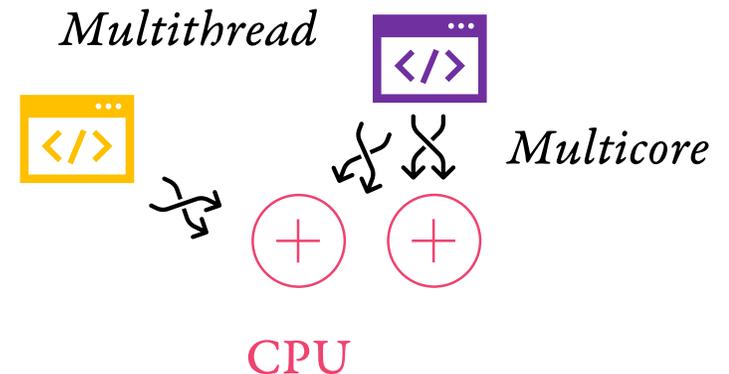


Explicit

Parallelism from multiple programs

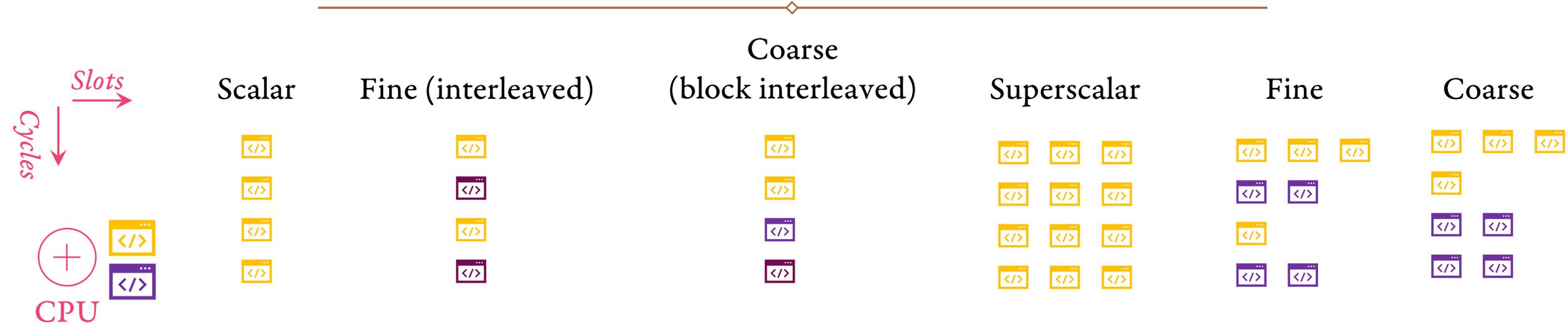
What is a program?

Independent instruction stream
Program counter, address space

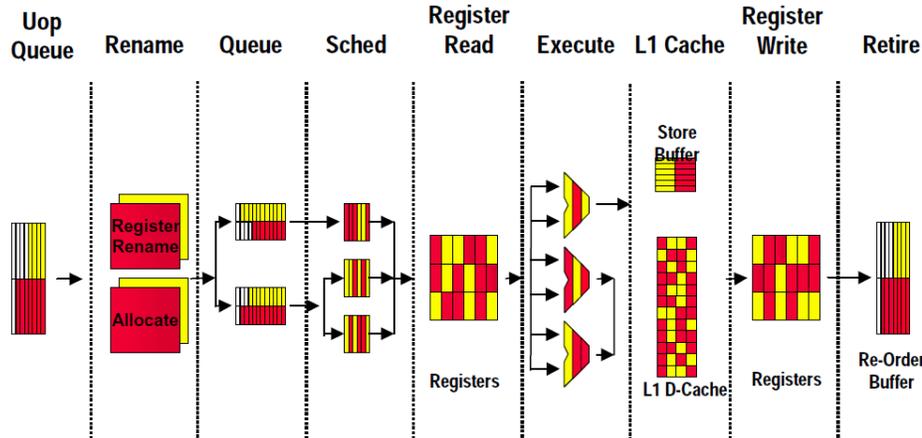
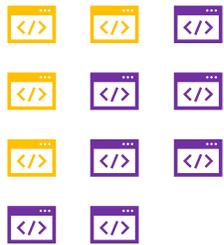


“Concurrency”

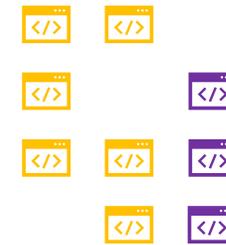
Multithreading



Simultaneous



Very Large Instruction Word (VLIW) Static



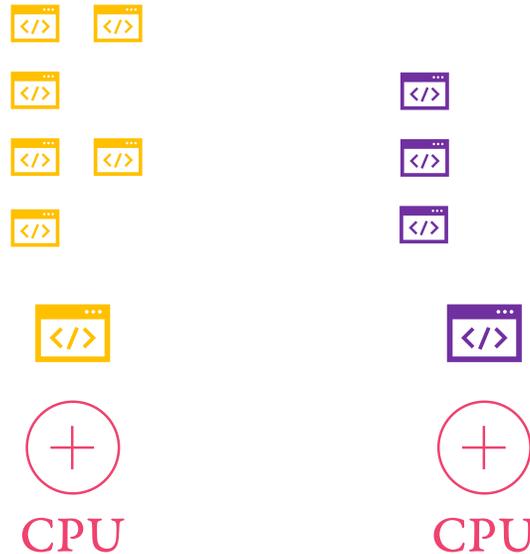
“Hyper-Threading Technology Architecture and Microarchitecture”, Intel Technology Journal Q1, 2002



Chip Multiprocessors (Multicore)

Strategy to scale hardware

Each core/processor/CPU can be simple, or complex, like multithreaded



Utilizing multicores

Software (semi) invisible

Thread-level speculation

Software visible

Parallel programming



Multicore Organization

Compute

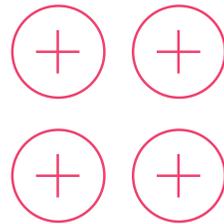
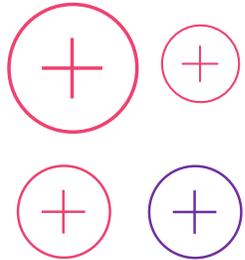
Memory

Asymmetric

Symmetric

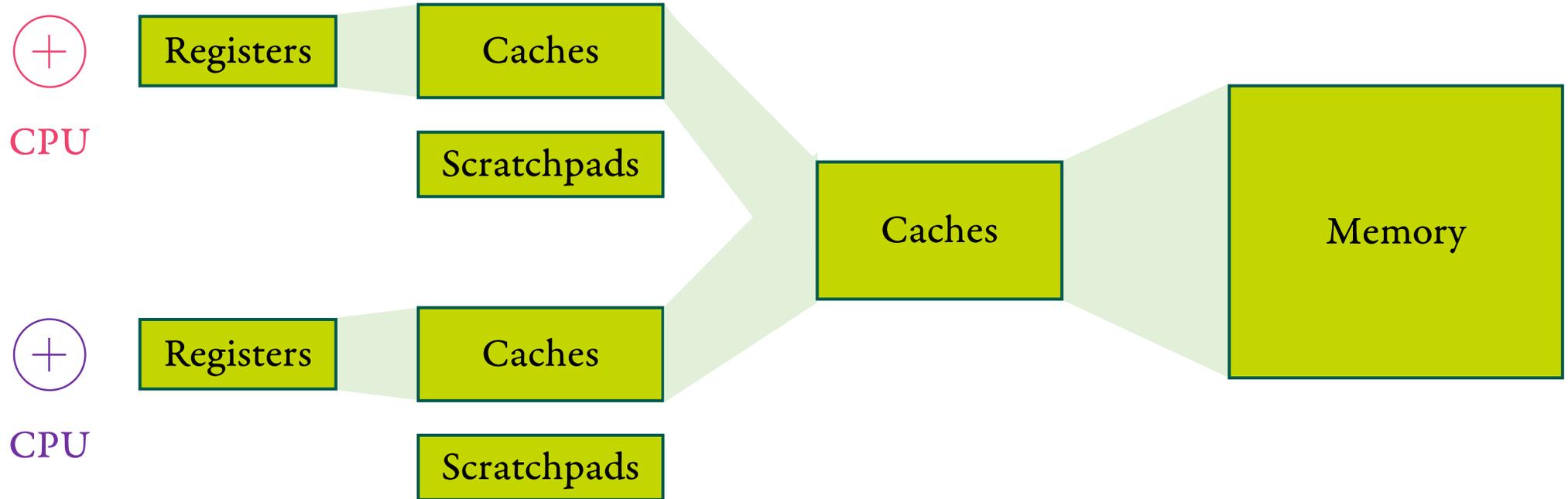
Centralized

Distributed



Uniform or Non-uniform
memory access

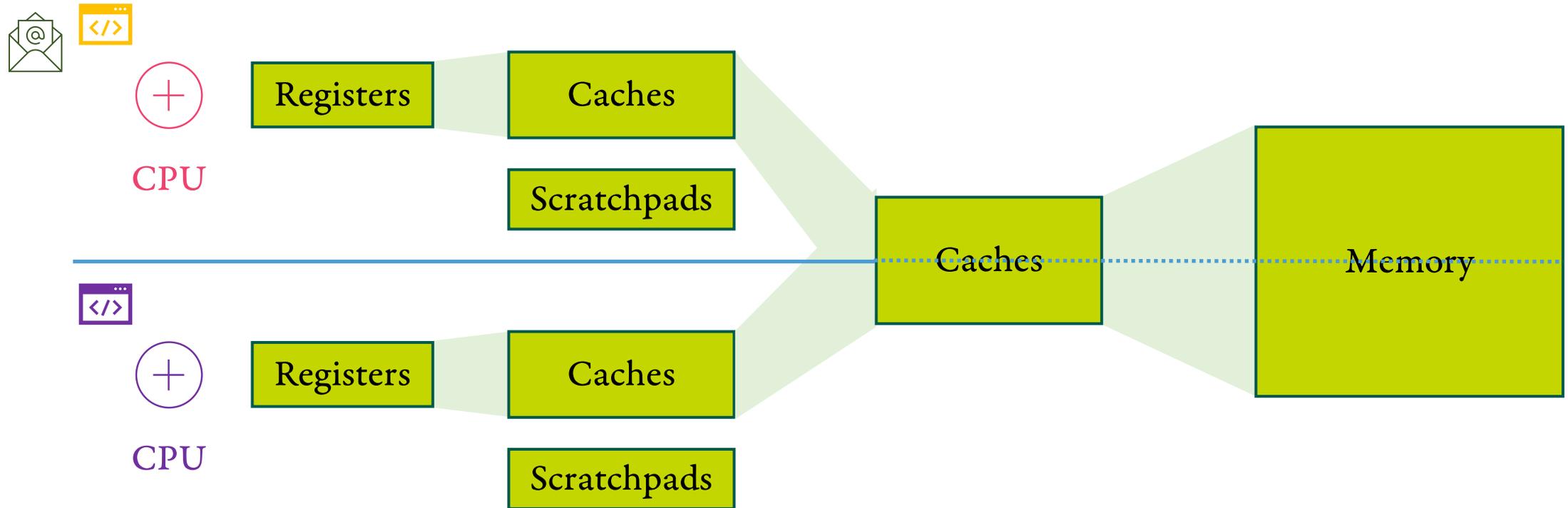
Multicore Organization



Utilizing Multicore Parallelism

Send and receive messages
(inter process communication)

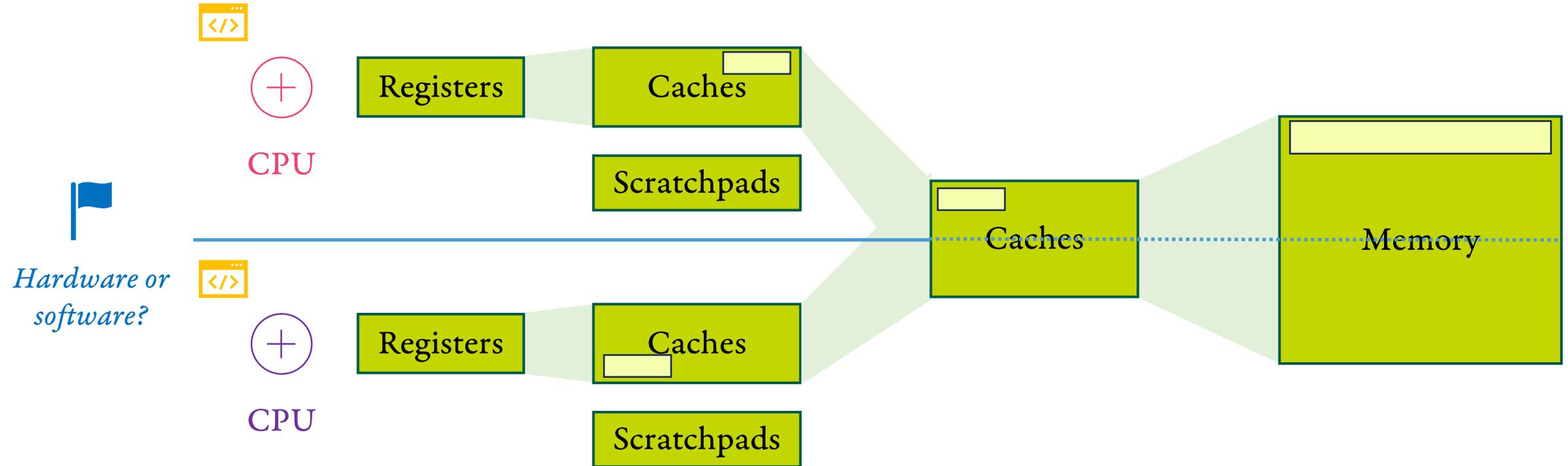
No address space sharing



Utilizing Multicore Parallelism

Synchronization
(locks, mutexes, semaphores)

Shared memory (address space)



How to coordinate memory accesses?

Other parallel architectures, and scaling beyond a multicore chip?

Takeaways

What are the ways to improve throughput beyond single instruction stream?

Multithreading, chip multiprocessing, and combinations

What is the difference between multithreading and chip multiprocessing?

Multithreading: multiple instructions on the same core/processor/CPU

Chip multiprocessing: using multiple cores on the same chip

What are the aspects of multicore organization?

Compute (symmetric or asymmetric) and memory (centralized or distributed)

How are hardware and software parallelism related?

Abstractions are different—software (threads, processes), hardware (threads, contexts)

Hardware: implicit (single instruction stream) or explicit (multiple instruction streams)

Software: sequential (via automatic parallelism) or parallel (shared memory or message passing)



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- Images of implanted users: Top: Case Western Reserve University (<https://thedaily.case.edu/man-quadruplegia-employs-injury-bridging-technologies-move-just-thinking/>), Bottom: Jan Scheuermann (University of Pittsburgh/UPMC; <https://www.upmc.com/media/news/bci-press-release-chocolate>)
- Images of wearable BCIs: Cognixion, NextMind
- Types of BCIs: “Brain–computer interfaces for communication and rehabilitation,
- Illustrative BCI: Neuralink
- Electrodes: “Electrochemical and electrophysiological considerations for clinical high channel count neural interfaces”, Vatsyayan et al.
- Form factors: Neuropace, Medtronic, Bloomberg, “Fully Implanted Brain–Computer Interface in a Locked-In Patient with ALS” by Vansteensel et al., Blackrock Neurotech
- Jose Delgado’s video: Online, various sources (CNN, Youtube)
- Video of Kennedy and Ramsey: Online, various sources (Youtube, Neural signals)
- Code snippet inspiration: ECE 252 slides at Duke (Dan Sorin et al.)
- Apple processor pipeline: <https://dougallj.github.io/applecpu/firestorm.html>

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