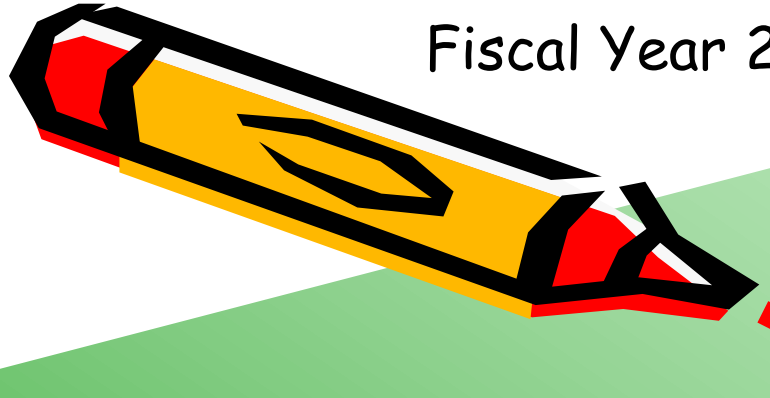


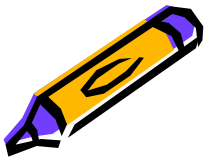
Fiscal Year 2025

Ver. 2026-01-22a

Course number: CSC.T440
School of Computing,
Graduate major in Computer Science

Computer Organization and Architecture

6. Thread Level Parallelism: Coherence and Synchronization

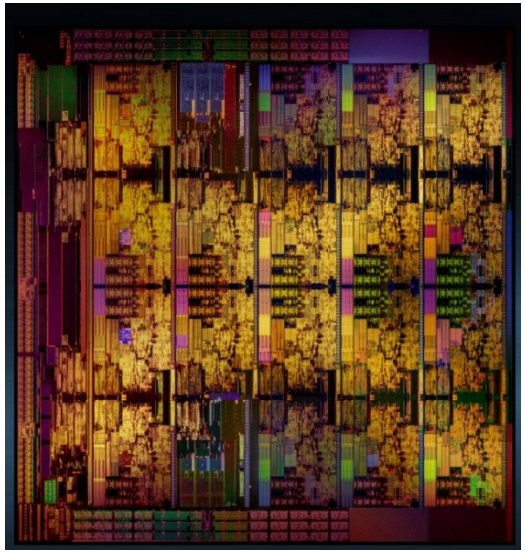


www.arch.cs.titech.ac.jp/lecture/coa/
Room No. M-112(H117), Lecture (Face-to-face)
Thr 13:30-15:10

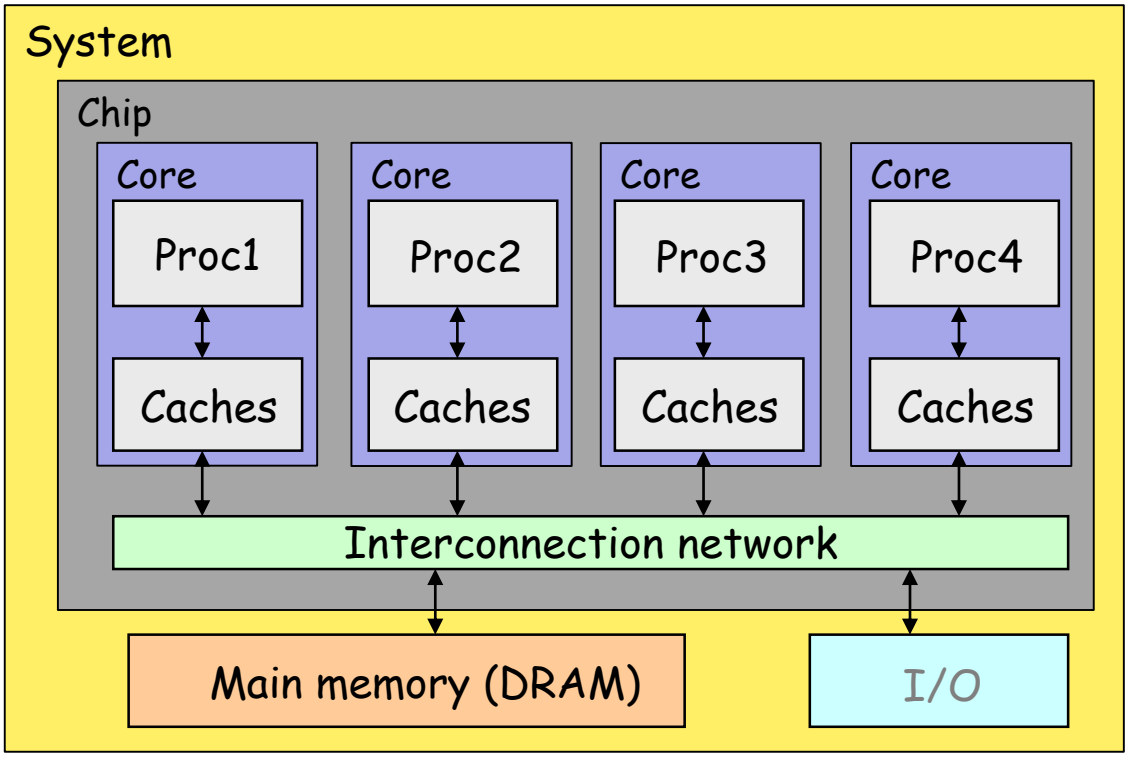
Kenji Kise, Department of Computer Science
kise[at]comp.isct.ac.jp

Shared memory many-core architecture

- A single-chip integrates many cores (conventional processors) and an interconnection network.
- The shared memory and shared address space (SAS) are used as a means for communication between these cores.

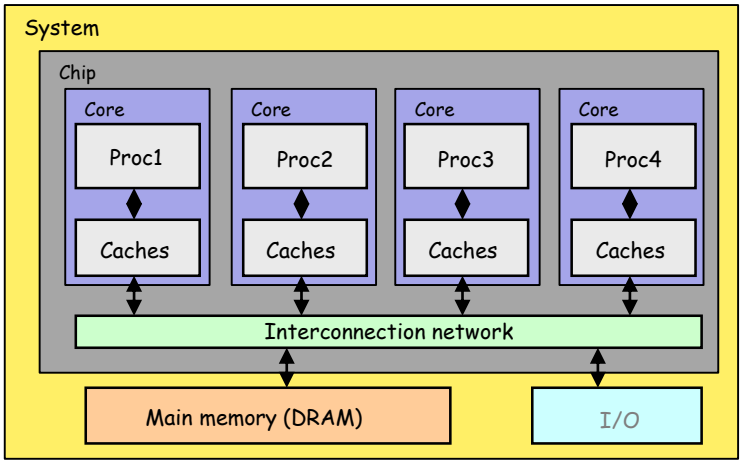


Intel Skylake-X, Core i9-7980XE, 2017



Key components of many-core processors

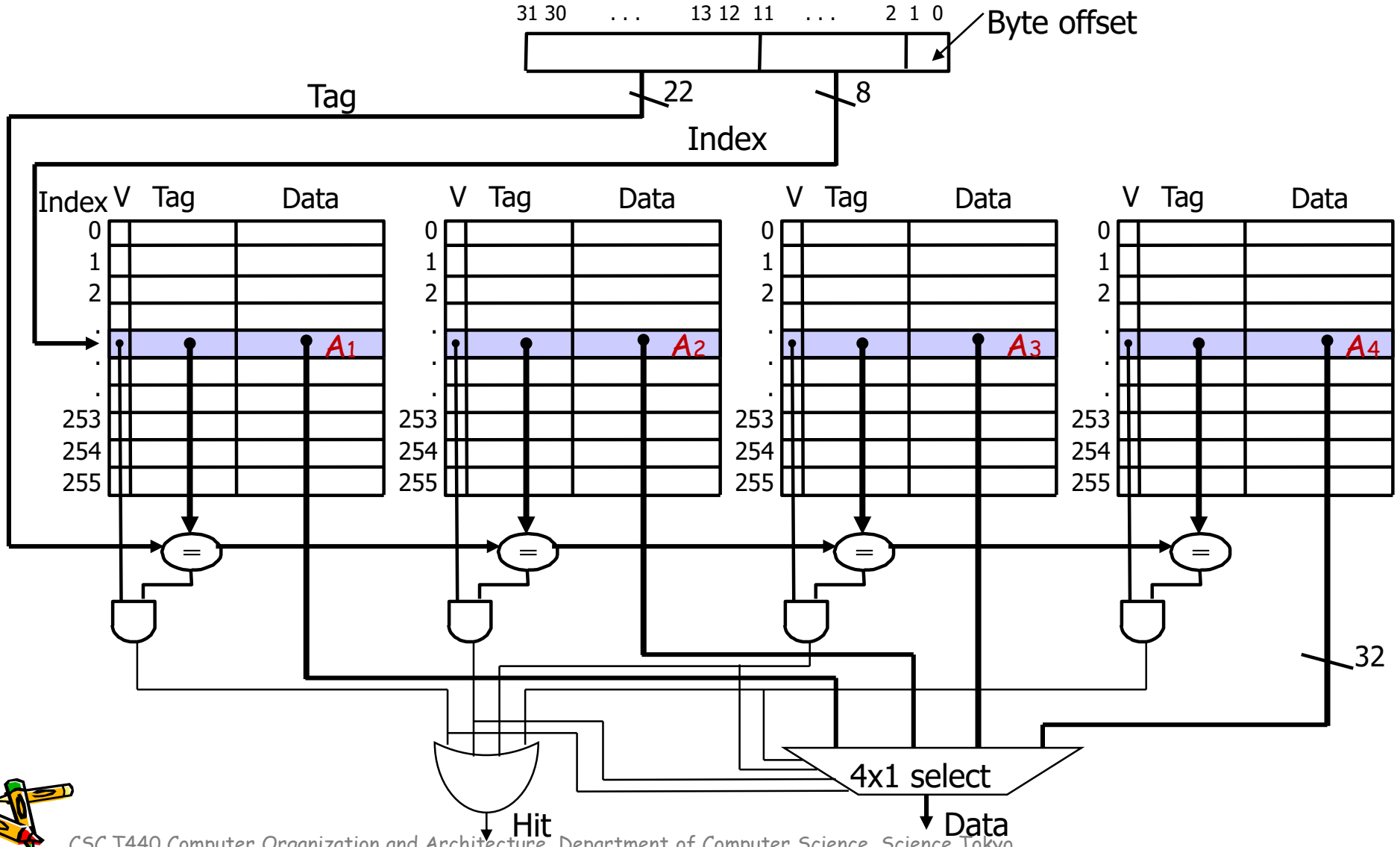
- Interconnection network
  - connecting many modules on a chip achieving high throughput and low latency
- Main memory and caches
  - Caches are used to reduce latency and to lower network traffic
  - A parallel program has private data and shared data
  - New issues are cache coherence and memory consistency
- Core
  - High-performance superscalar processor providing a hardware mechanism to support thread synchronization (lock, unlock, barrier)



Shared memory many-core architecture

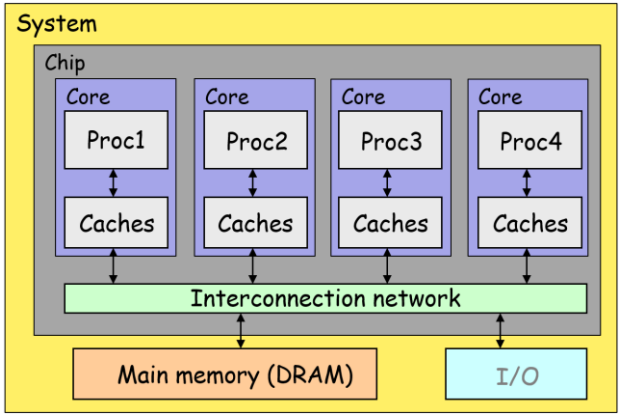
Four-Way Set Associative Cache

- One word/block, 2^8 = **256 sets** where each with four ways (each with one block)



Cache writing policy

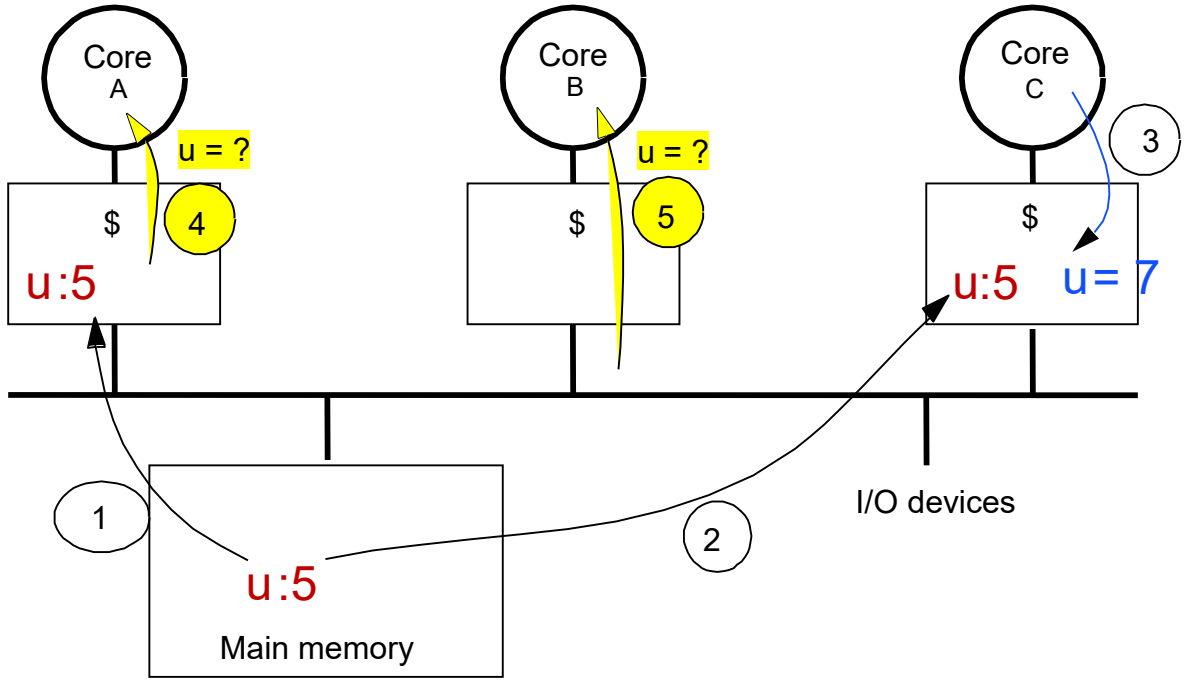
- Write-through
  - writing is done synchronously both to the cache and to the main memory. All stores update the main memory and memory bandwidth becomes a performance bottleneck.
- Write-back
  - initially, writing is done only to the cache. The write to the main memory is postponed until the modified content is about to be replaced by another cache block.
  - reduces the required network and memory bandwidth.
  - preferable for manycore.
- We assume the use of write-back



Shared memory many-core architecture

Cache coherence problem (1/2)

- Example behavior of five events for shared data u
- After event 3, cores see different values for shared data u
- With write-back caches, value written back to memory depends on which cache line (block) flushes or writes back
  - main memory may see stale (out-of-date) value for a long time
- Unacceptable for parallel programming, and its frequent!



Cache coherence problem (2/2)

- Cores may see different values through their caches
  - assuming a write-back cache
  - after the value 7 of u has been written by core A, core A's cache contains the new value, but core C's cache and the main memory do not

Time	Event	Cache contents for core A	Cache contents for core C	Main memory contents for U
0				5
1	Core A reads u	5		5
2	Core C reads u	5	5	5
3	Core A stores 7 into u	**7**	**5**	**5**

Cache coherence and enforcing coherence

- Cache coherence
  - All reads by any core must return the most recently written value
  - Writes to the same location by any two cores are seen in the same order by all cores

- Cache coherence protocols
  - (1) Snooping (write invalidate / write update)
    - Each cache tracks sharing status of each cache line
  - (2) Directory based
    - Sharing status of each cache line kept in one location

Snooping coherence protocols using bus network

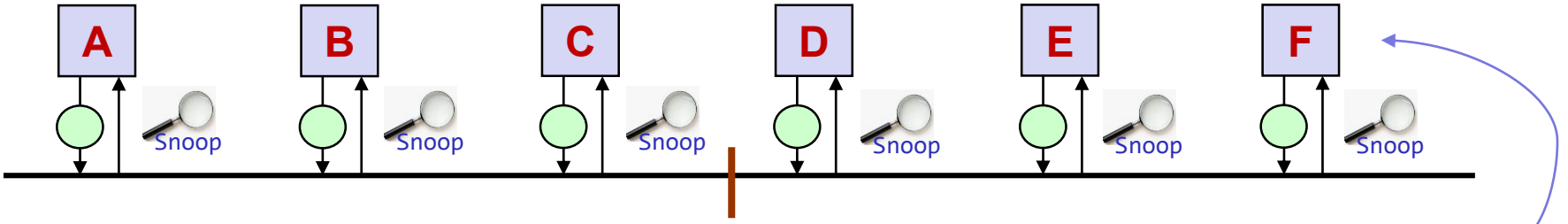
- Write invalidate
  - On write, invalidate all other copies by an invalidate broadcast
  - Use bus itself to serialize
    - Write cannot complete until bus access is obtained

Processor activity	Bus activity	Contents of core A's cache	Contents of core B's cache	Contents of main memory location u
				5
Core A reads u	Cache miss for u	5		5
Core B reads u	Cache miss for u	5	5	5
Core A writes a 7 to u	Invalidation for u	7		5
Core B reads u	Cache miss for u	7	7	7
				5

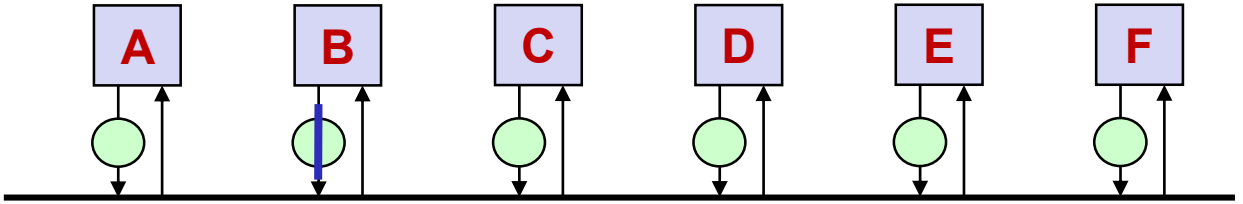
- Write update
  - On write, update all copies

Bus Network

- N cores (□), N switch (○), 1 link (the bus)
- Only 1 simultaneous transfer at a time
  - NB (best case) = link (bus) bandwidth x 1
  - BB (worst case) = link (bus) bandwidth x 1
- All processors can snoop the bus

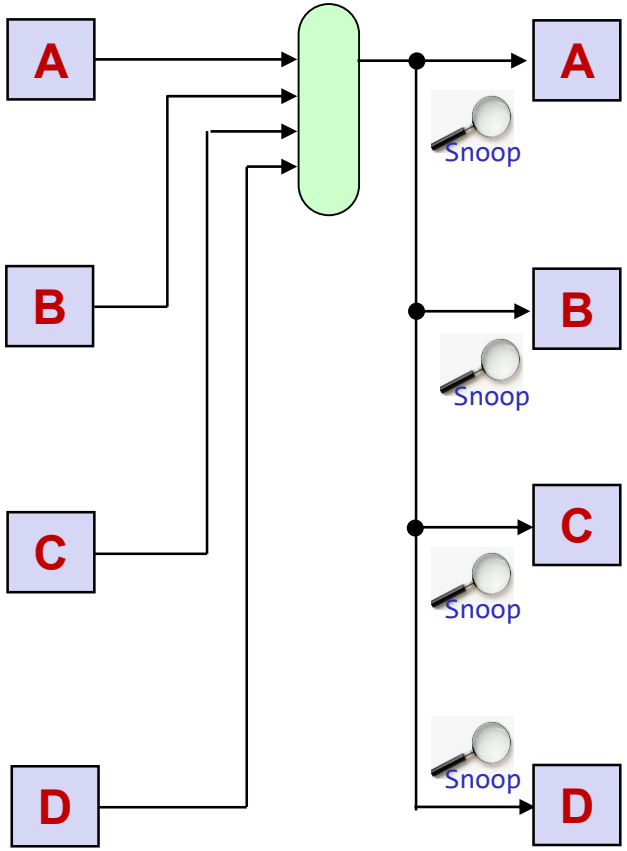


The case where core B sends a packet to someone



Bus Network with multiplexer (mux)

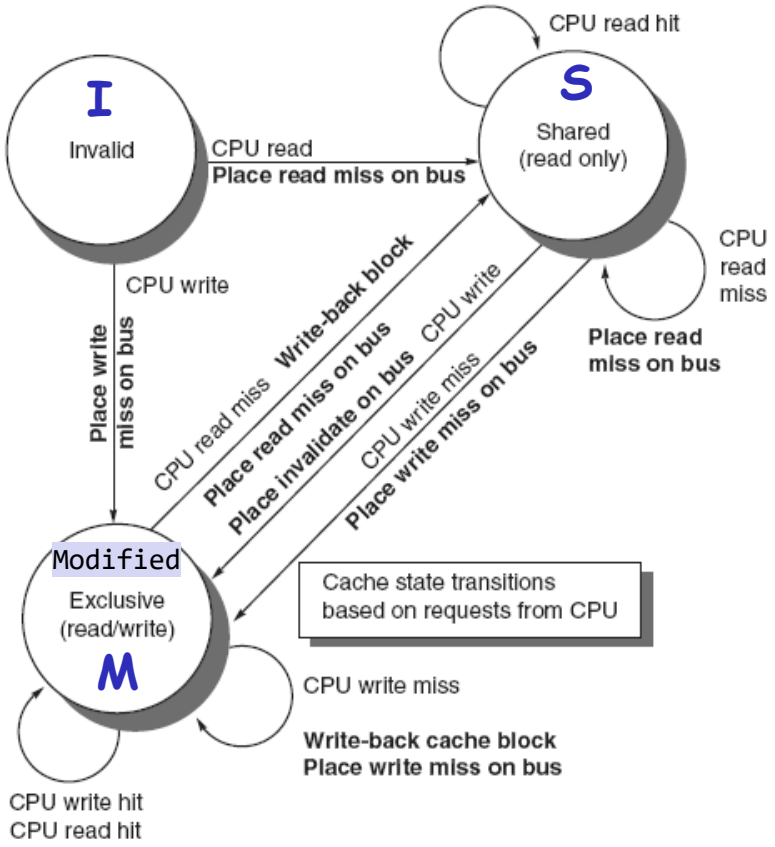
- One N-input multiplexer for N cores
- Arbitration, node ID, centralized control

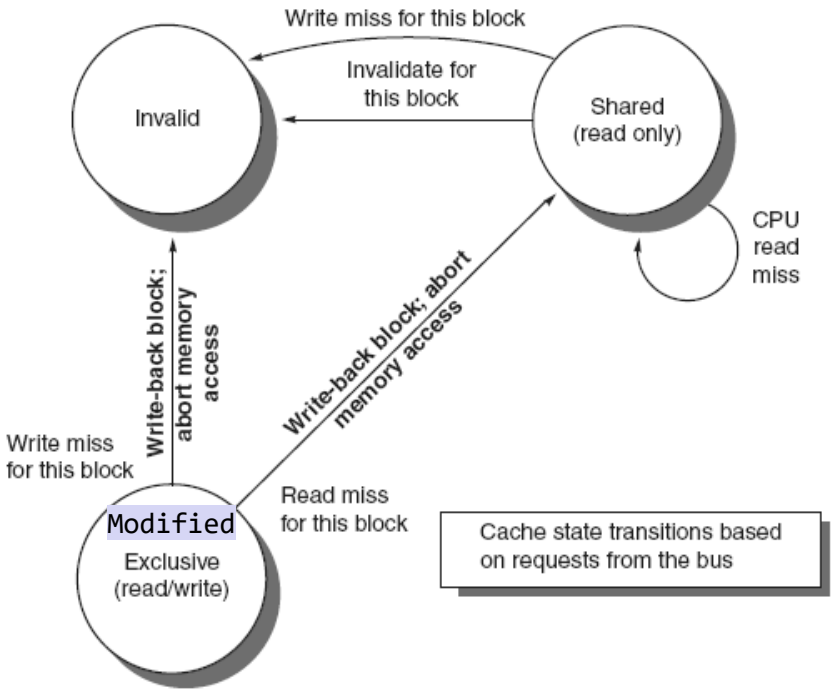


The bus network organization of 4 cores using a 4-input mux.

Snooping coherence protocols using bus network

- A write invalidate, cache coherence protocol for a private write-back cache showing the states and state transitions for each block in the cache





MSI (Modified, Shared, Invalid) protocol

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- The coherence mechanism of a private cache (using word processor for core).

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Coh1	Write hit	Processor	Shared	Coherence	Place invalidate on bus. These operations are often called upgrade or *ownership* misses, since they do not fetch the data but only change the state.
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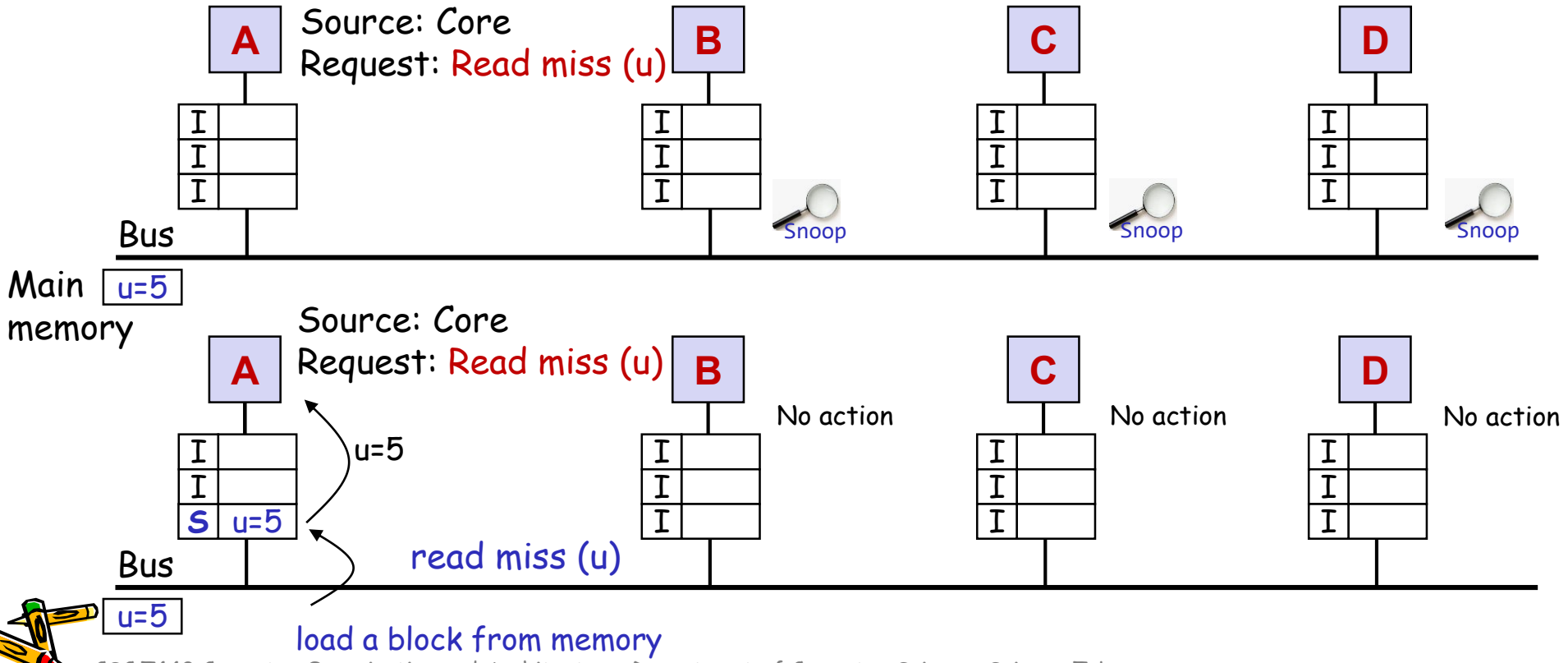
Coh4	Write miss	Bus	Shared	Coherence	Attempt to write shared block; invalidate the cache block.
Coh5	Write miss	Bus	Modified	Coherence	Attempt to write block that is exclusive elsewhere; write-back the cache block and make its state invalid in the local cache.

Cache miss and the addressed block is invalid

- Core A
  - Source: Core
  - State: Invalid
  - Request: Read miss (u)
  - Function: Place read miss on bus

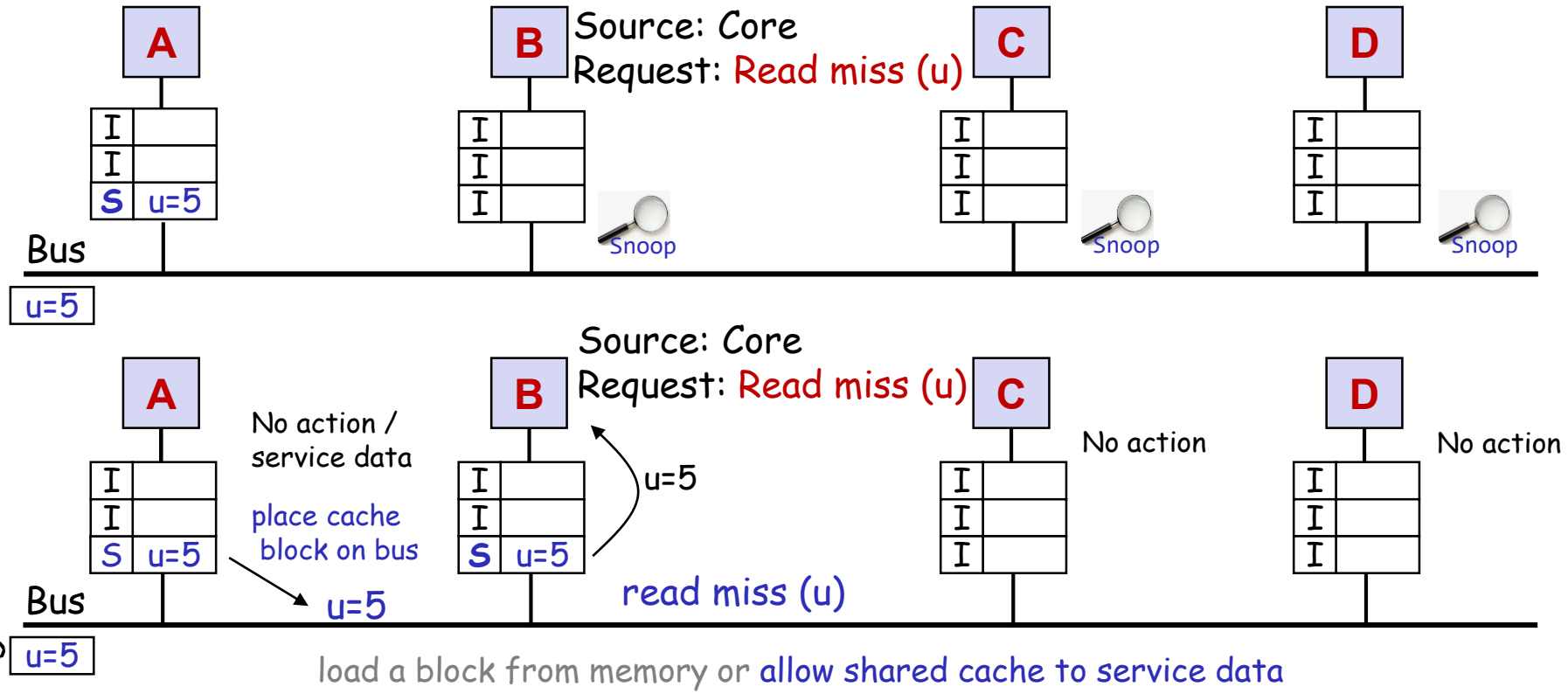
Event: Core A reads u



Cache miss and the addressed block is invalid

- Core B
  - Source: Core
  - State: Invalid
  - Request: Read miss (u)
  - Function: Place read miss on bus

Event: Core B reads u

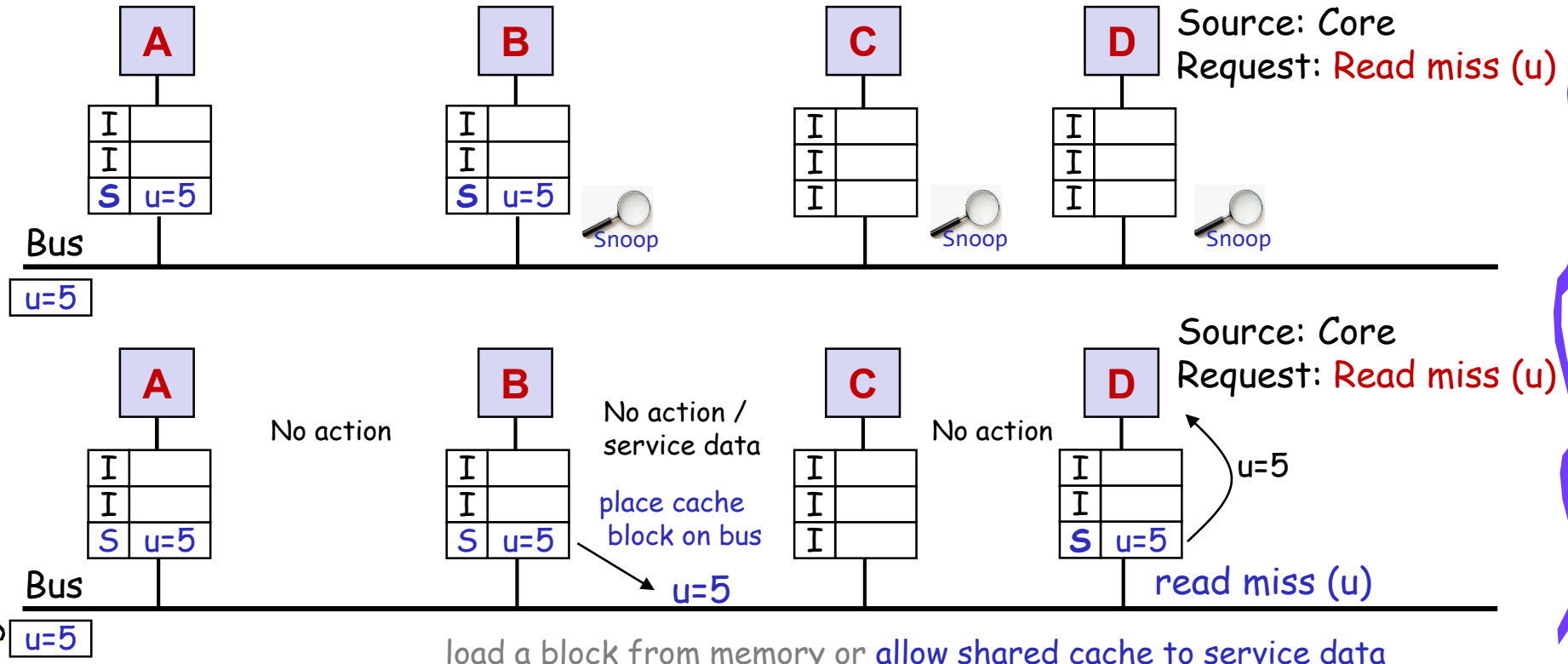


load a block from memory or allow shared cache to service data

Cache miss and the addressed block is invalid

- Core D
  - Source: Core
  - State: Invalid
  - Request: Read miss (u)
  - Function: Place read miss on bus

Event: Core D reads u



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- The coherence mechanism of a private cache (using word processor for core).

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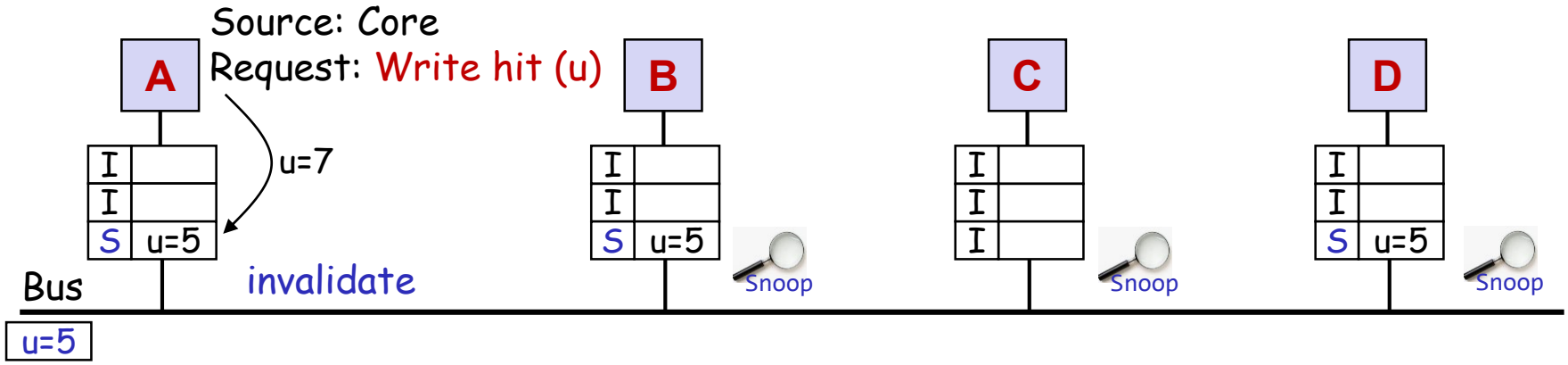
Coh5	Write miss	Bus	Modified	Coherence	Attempt to write block that is exclusive elsewhere; write-back the cache block and make its state invalid in the local cache.

Exercise 1

- Coh1 (Core A)
  - Source: Core
  - State: Shared
  - Request: Write hit (u)
  - Function: Place invalidate on bus
- Coh3 (Core B, D)
  - Source: Bus
  - State: Shared
  - Request: Invalidate
  - Function: attempt to write shared block; invalidate the block

Event:
Core A writes u

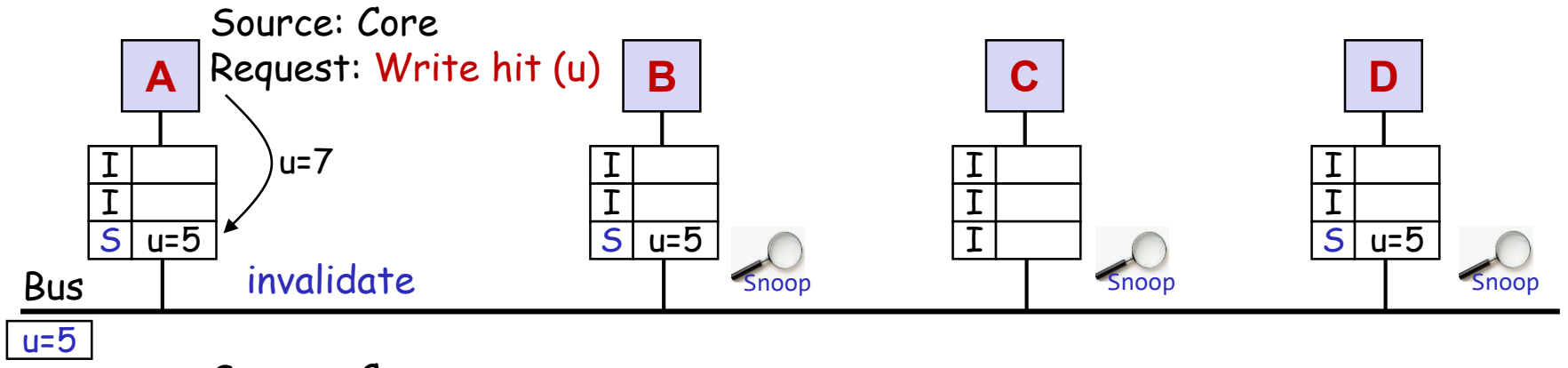


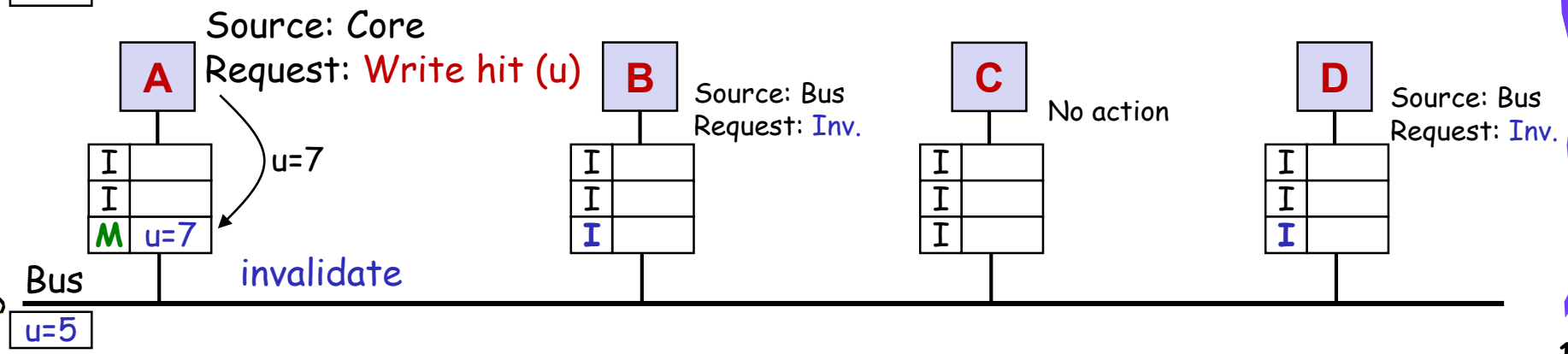
Draw the behavior of this request

Coherence 1 (Coh1) and Coherence3 (Coh3)

- Coh1 (Core A)
  - Source: Core
  - State: Shared
  - Request: Write hit (u)
  - Function: Place invalidate on bus
- Coh3 (Core B, D)
  - Source: Bus
  - State: Shared
  - Request: Invalidate
  - Function: attempt to write shared block; invalidate the block

Event:
Core A writes u





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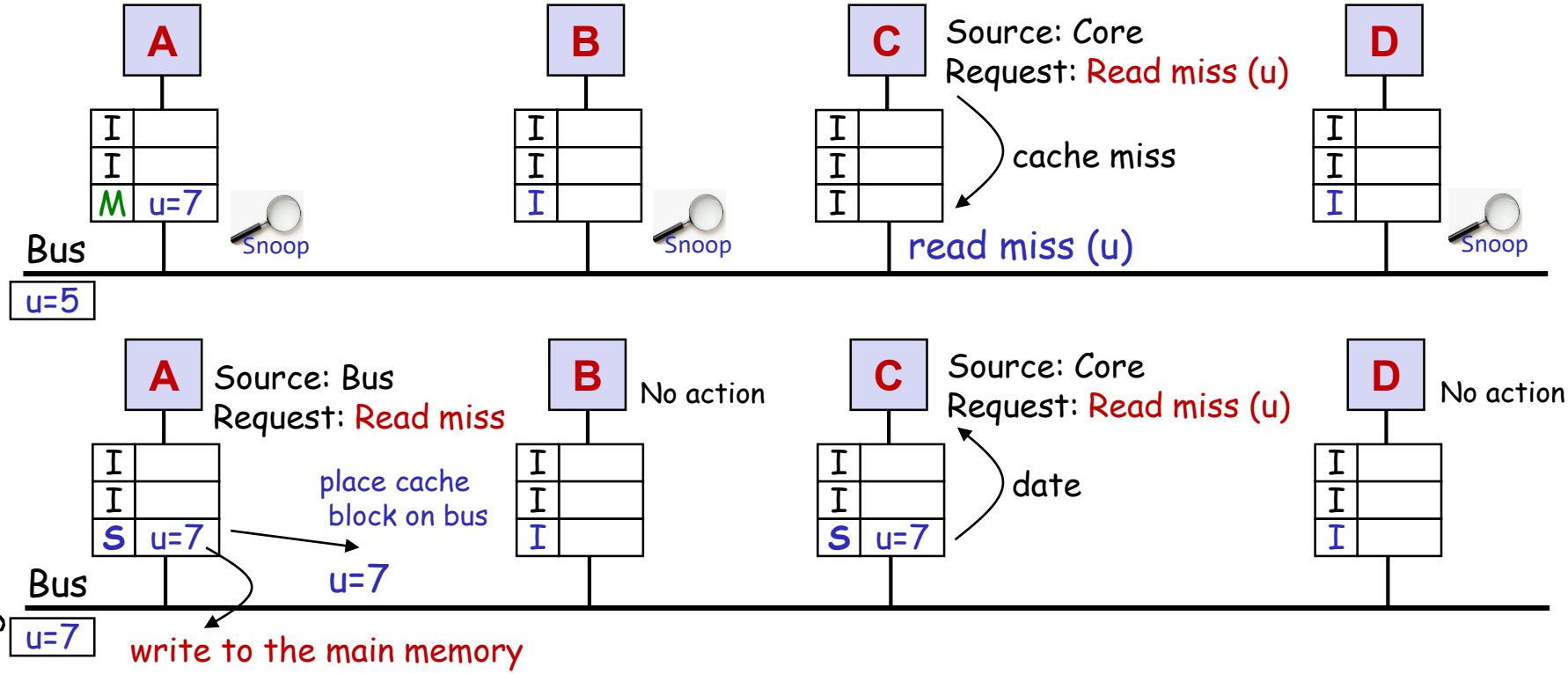
Coh5	Write miss	Bus	Modified	Coherence	Attempt to write block that is exclusive elsewhere; write-back the cache block and make its state invalid in the local cache.

Coherence 2 (Coh2)

- Core C
  - Source: Core
  - State: Invalid
  - Request: Read miss (u)
  - Function: Place read miss on bus
- Coh2 (Core A)
  - Source: Bus
  - State: Modified
  - Request: Read miss (u)
  - Function: attempt to share data; place cache block on bus and change state to shared

Event:
Core C reads u



Snooping coherence protocols using bus network

- The coherence mechanism of a private cache

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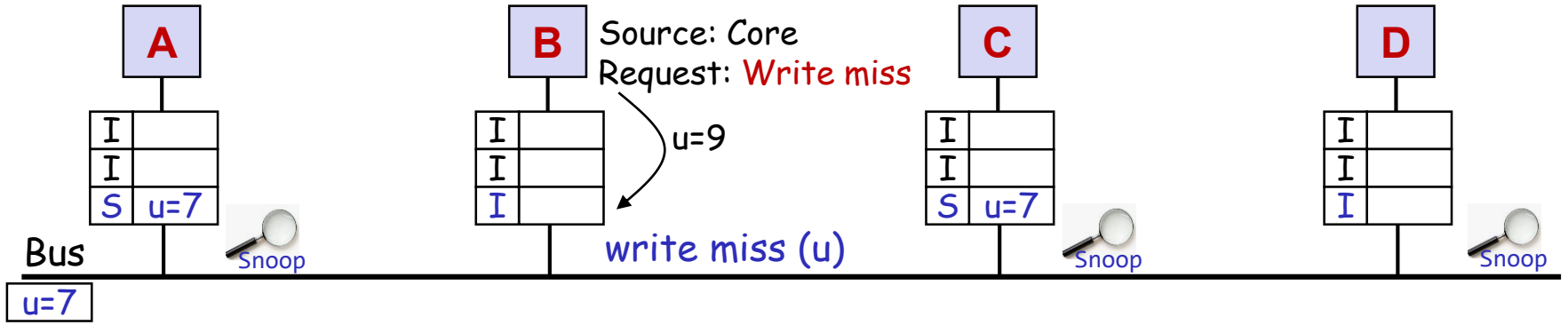
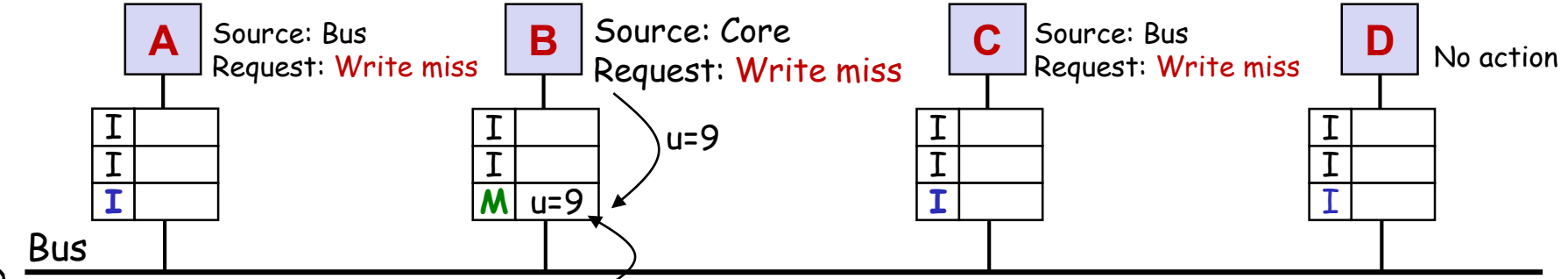
Coherence 4 (Coh4)

- Core B
  - Source: Core
  - State: Invalid
  - Request: Write miss (u)
  - Function: Place write miss on bus
- Coh4 (Core A, C)
  - Source: Bus
  - State: Shared
  - Request: Write miss (u)
  - Function: attempt to write shared block; invalidate the cache block

Event:
Core B writes u





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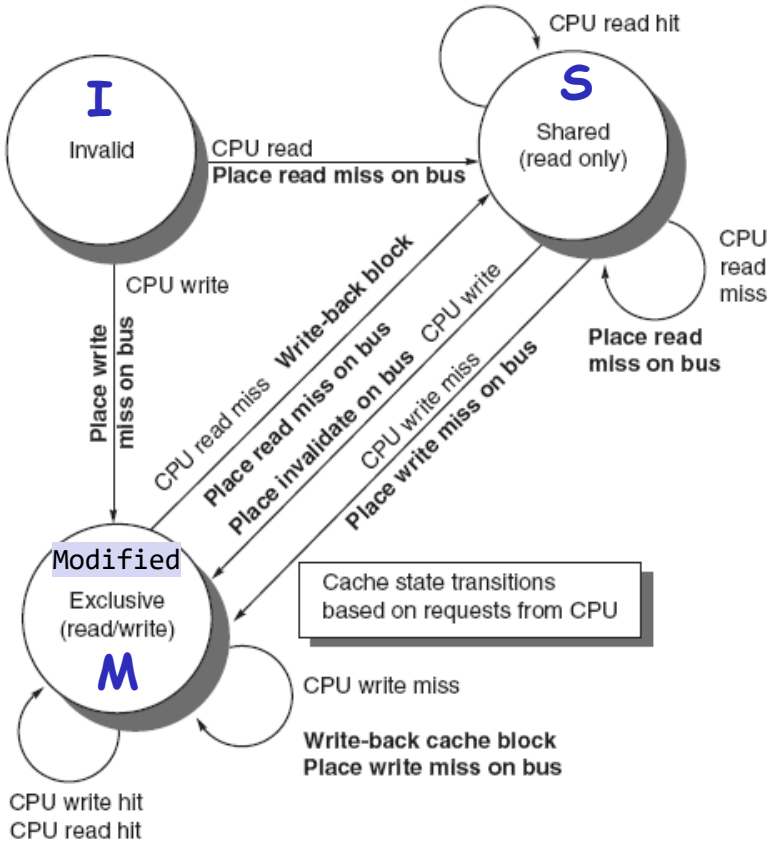
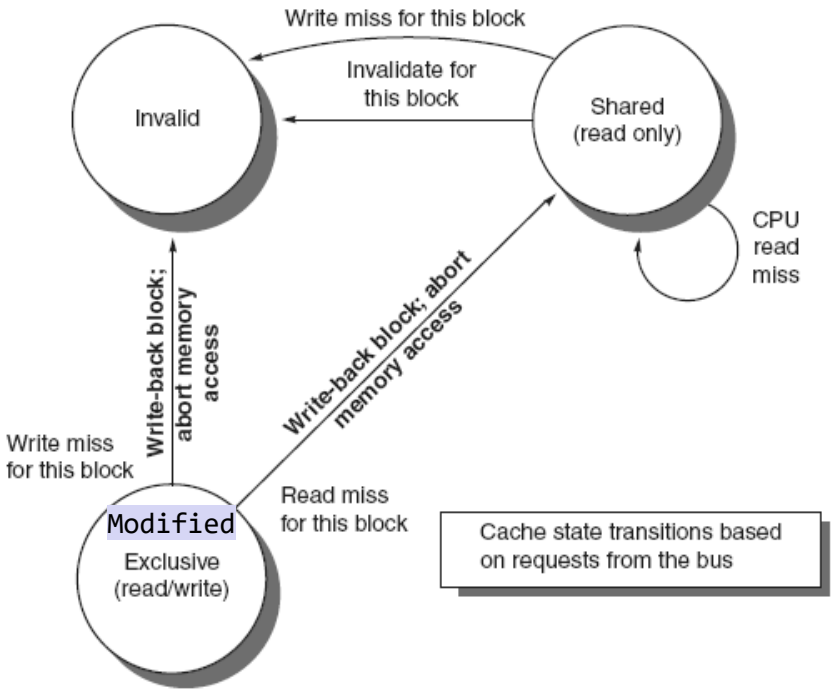




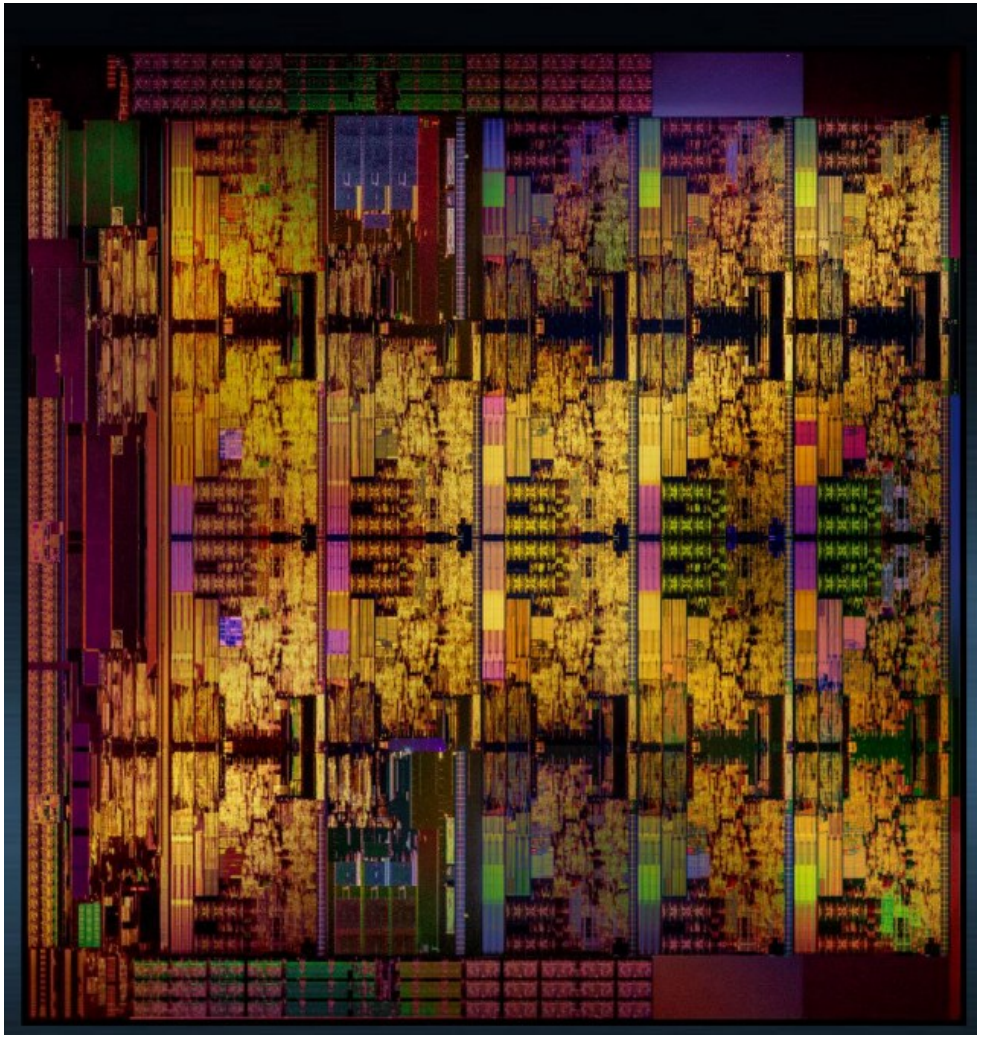
MSI (Modified, Shared, Invalid) protocol

Snooping coherence protocols using bus network

- The basic coherence protocol
  - MSI (Modified, Shared, Invalid) protocol
- Extensions
  - MESI (Modified, Exclusive, Shared, Invalid) protocol
  - MOESI (MESI + Owned) protocol

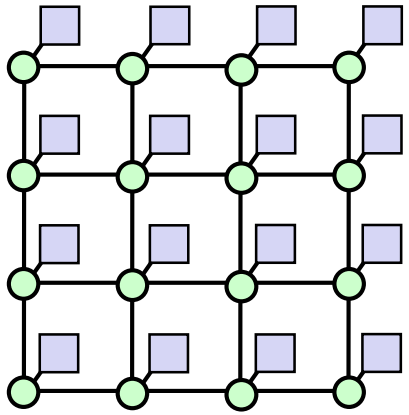
Intel Skylake-X, Core i9-7980XE (2017)

- 18 core
- 2D mesh topology



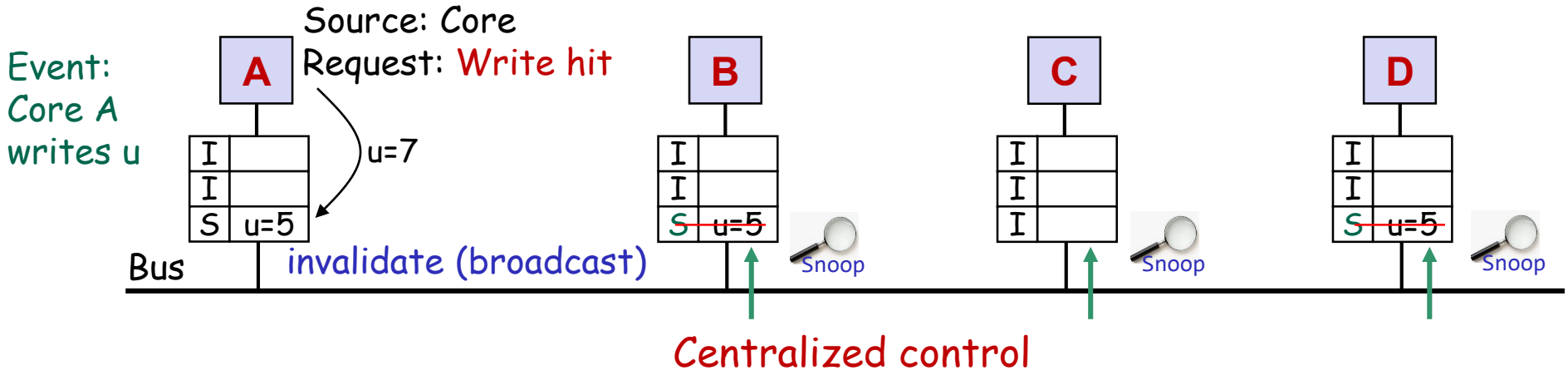
Directory protocols

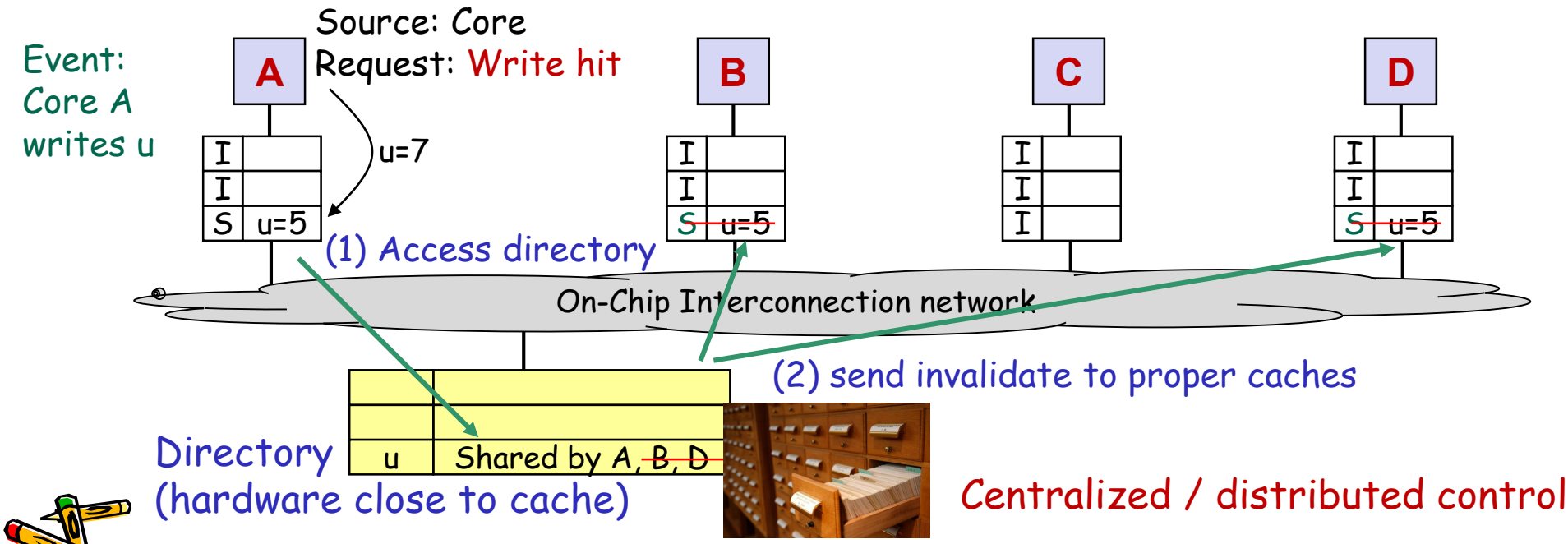
- Snooping coherence protocols are based on the use of bus network.
  What are the protocols for mesh topology NoC?
- Directory protocols
  - Sharing status of each cache line kept in one location
  - A central directory keeps track of where the copies of each cache block reside.
    Caches consult this directory to ensure coherence.



Mesh network

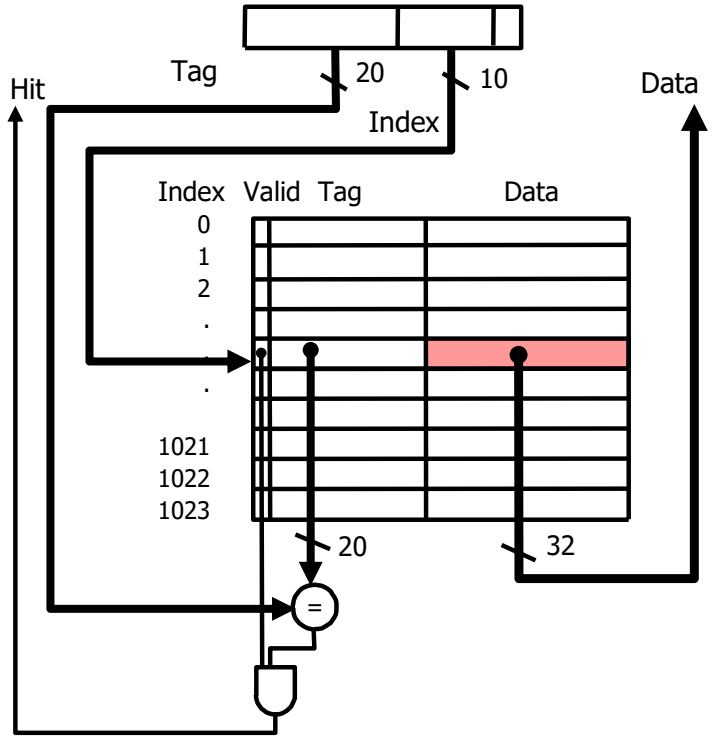
Snooping coherence protocol and one with directory



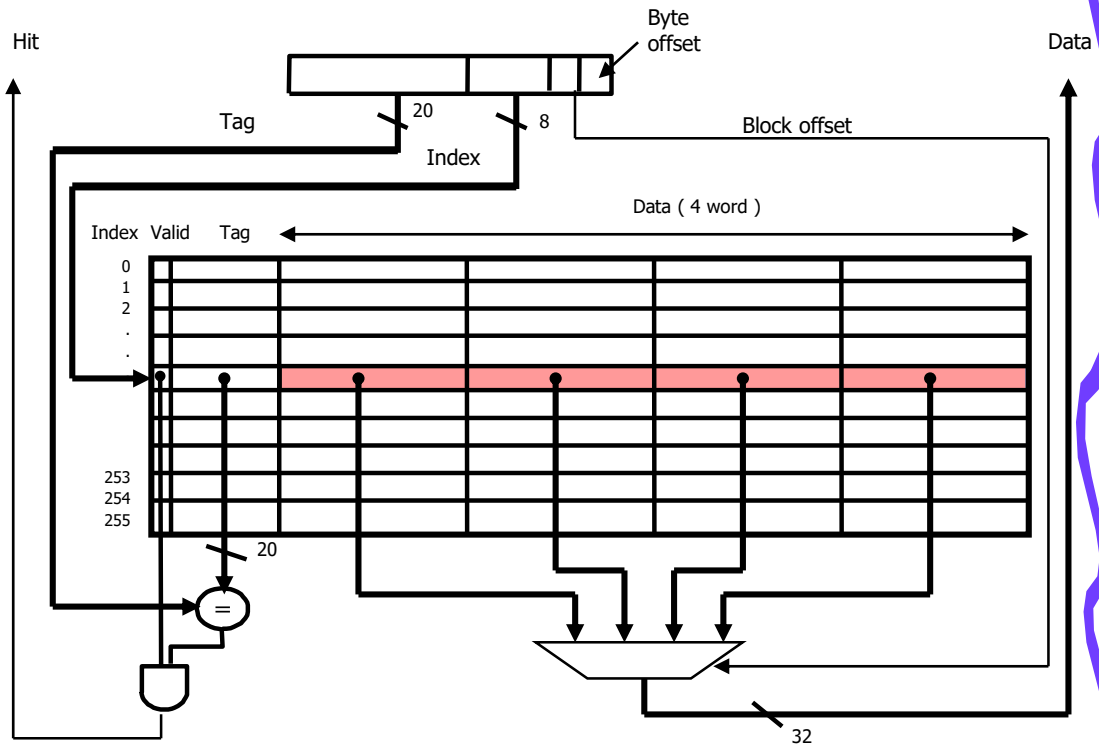


Two caches of different block sizes

- Temporal Locality (Locality in Time):
  - Keep most recently accessed data items closer to the processor
- Spatial Locality (Locality in Space)
  - Move blocks consisting of contiguous words to the upper levels



cache line of one word



cache line of four words (multiword block)

Taking Advantage of Spatial Locality

- Let cache block hold more than one word (two words/block)
  - 0 1 2 3 4 3 4 15

0 miss

00	Mem(1)	Mem(0)

1 hit

00	Mem(1)	Mem(0)

2 miss

00	Mem(1)	Mem(0)
00	Mem(3)	Mem(2)

3 hit

00	Mem(1)	Mem(0)
00	Mem(3)	Mem(2)

4 miss

~~00~~ 01	~~Mem(1)~~ 5	~~Mem(0)~~ 4
00	Mem(3)	Mem(2)

3 hit

01	Mem(5)	Mem(4)
00	Mem(3)	Mem(2)

4 hit

01	Mem(5)	Mem(4)
00	Mem(3)	Mem(2)

15 miss

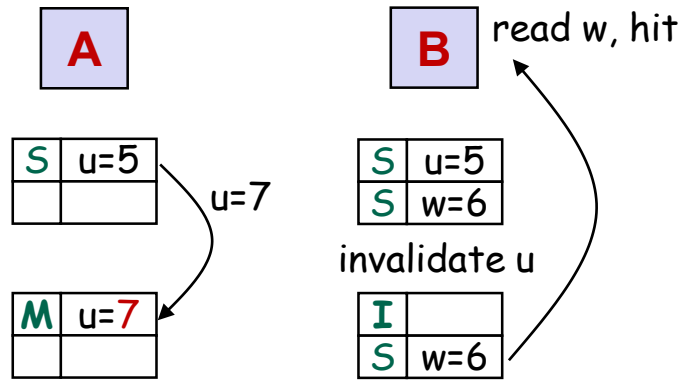
~~01~~ 11	~~Mem(5)~~ 15	~~Mem(4)~~ 14
~~00~~	~~Mem(3)~~	~~Mem(2)~~

- 8 requests, 4 misses

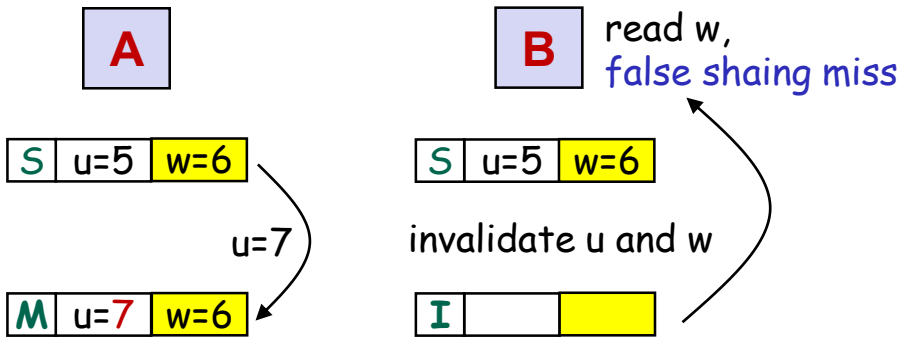
Coherence influences the cache miss rate

- Coherence misses
  - True sharing misses
  - False sharing misses
    - When shared data u and unshared data w are allocated in the same block, they are both treated as shared data.

Senario: **A** reads u -> **B** reads u -> **B** reads w -> **A** writes u -> **B** reads w



cache line of one word



cache line of two words (multiword block)
u and w are in the same cache block