

# hardware.io

Hardware Security Conference and Training

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## Shaking trust in hardware: Attacks on hardware from software

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Bart Preneel

Herbert Bos

Cristiano Giuffrida



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# We are ..

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- ❖ VUsec systems security academic research group
- ❖ Defensive & offensive security projects using systems techniques
- ❖ VU University in Amsterdam
- ❖ @vu5ec on Twitter

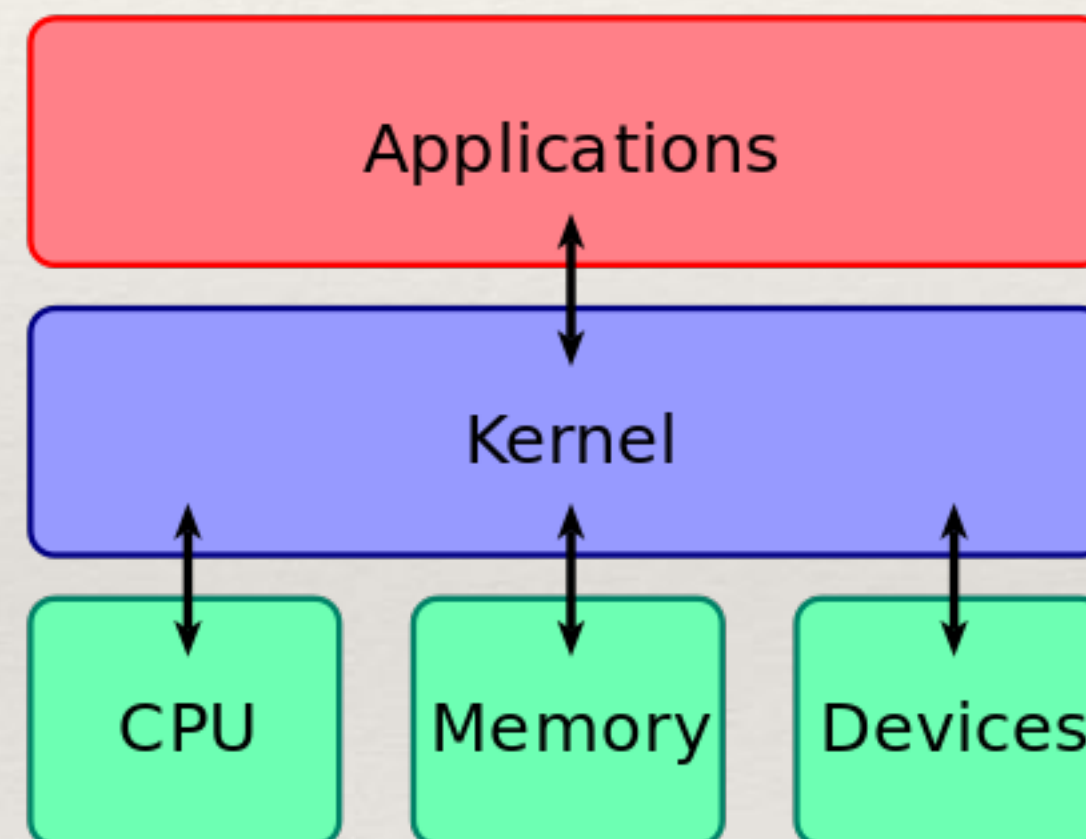


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# Software depends on hardware

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- ❖ Classic hierarchy



- ❖ And hardware is solid right?
- ❖ CPU and memory can't leak or corrupt data?

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# Software depends on hardware

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# Overview: two ways hardware can let you down

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- ❖ **Breaking ASLR: an MMU side channel (AnC)**
- ❖ Compute virtual addresses of data & code
- ❖ With microarchitectural MMU side channel, not software
- ❖ Even from a JavaScript sandbox, 22 u-archs
- ❖ **This leaks secrets**

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# Overview: two ways hardware can let you down

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- ❖ **Rogue Memory Write with Rowhammer (Flip Feng Shui)**
- ❖ Change a bit in a memory page of a victim
- ❖ Demonstrated with cross-VM memory write attack
- ❖ Cross-VM Break GPG (apt) and SSH RSA security
- ❖ **This changes victim's data**

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# Overview: two ways hardware can let you down

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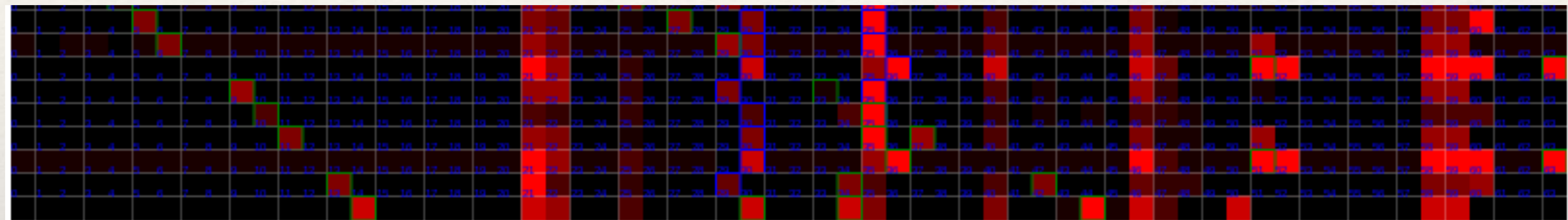
- ❖ **Driven from Software**
- ❖ **We exploit Hardware Flaws**
- ❖ **No software bugs**

# ANC: MMU SIDE CHANNEL



# Teaser - AnC

- ❖ Visualization - JavaScript - and no software bug

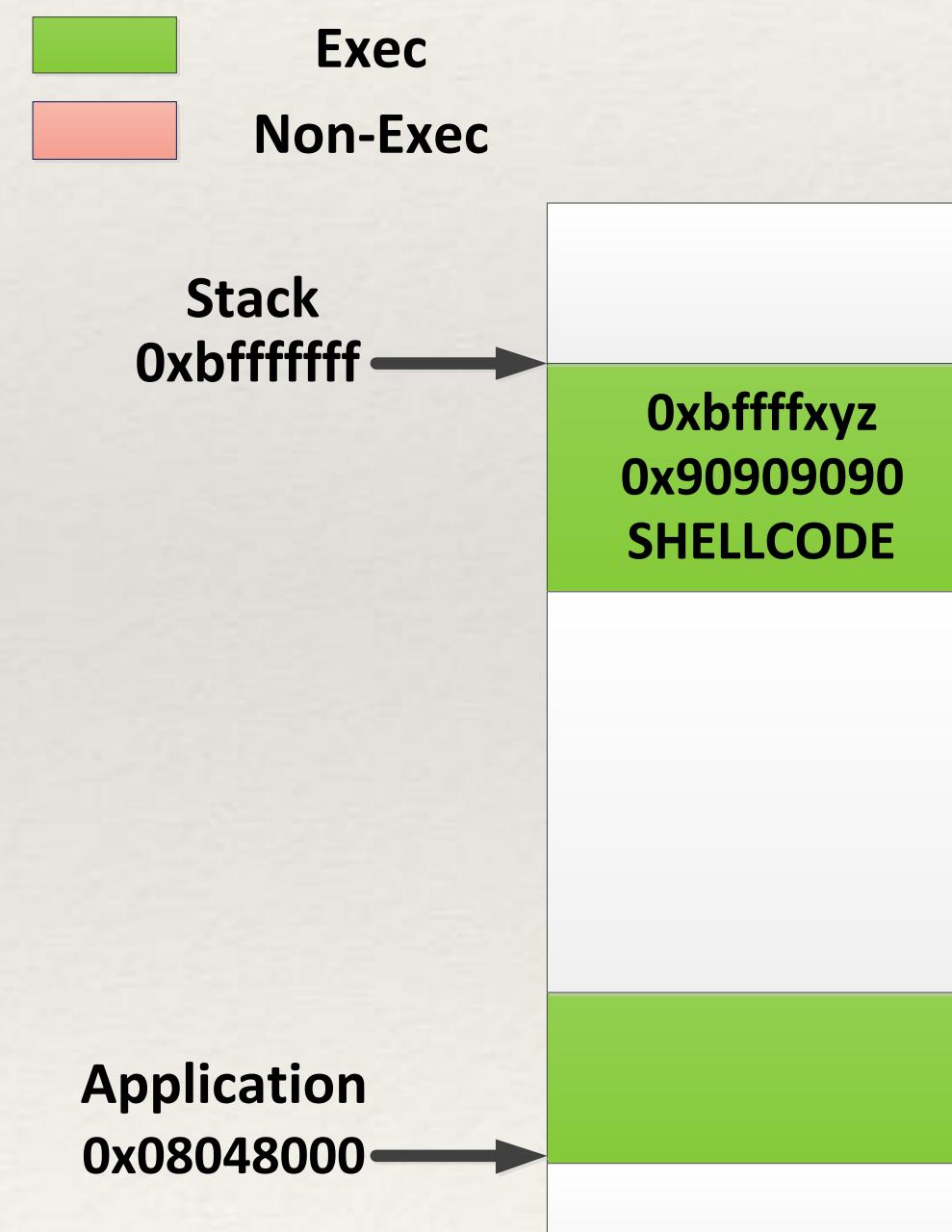


```
24.457 got level 4 - start slot 148, address 0x94000
24.993 got level 3 - start slot 295, address 0x24e94000
24.993 estimated remaining entropy 6 slot solutions: -1,-1,295,148
68.737 got level 4 - start slot 0, address 0x0
69.502 got level 3 - start slot 359, address 0x2ce00000
70.259 got level 2 - start slot 411, address 0x66ece00000
88.041 got level 1 - start slot 238, address 0x7766ece00000
88.041 estimated remaining entropy 0 slot solutions: 238 411 359 0
data: 0x7766ece00000, code slots: -1,-1,295,148, code: 0x7966e4e94000
```

- ❖ There will be a demo video

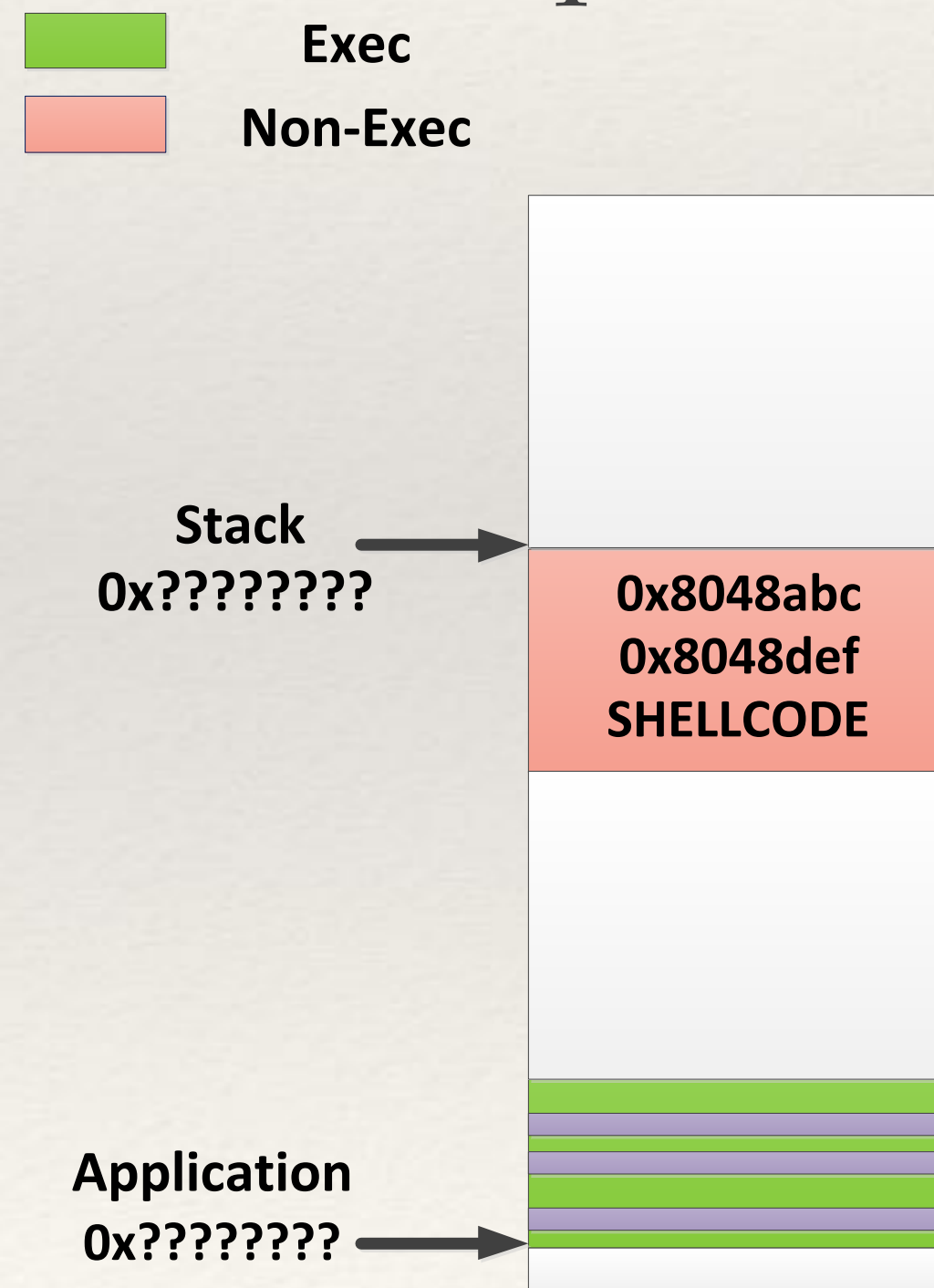
# ASLR

- ❖ Main justification
- ❖ Response to exploitation in the 90s



# ASLR

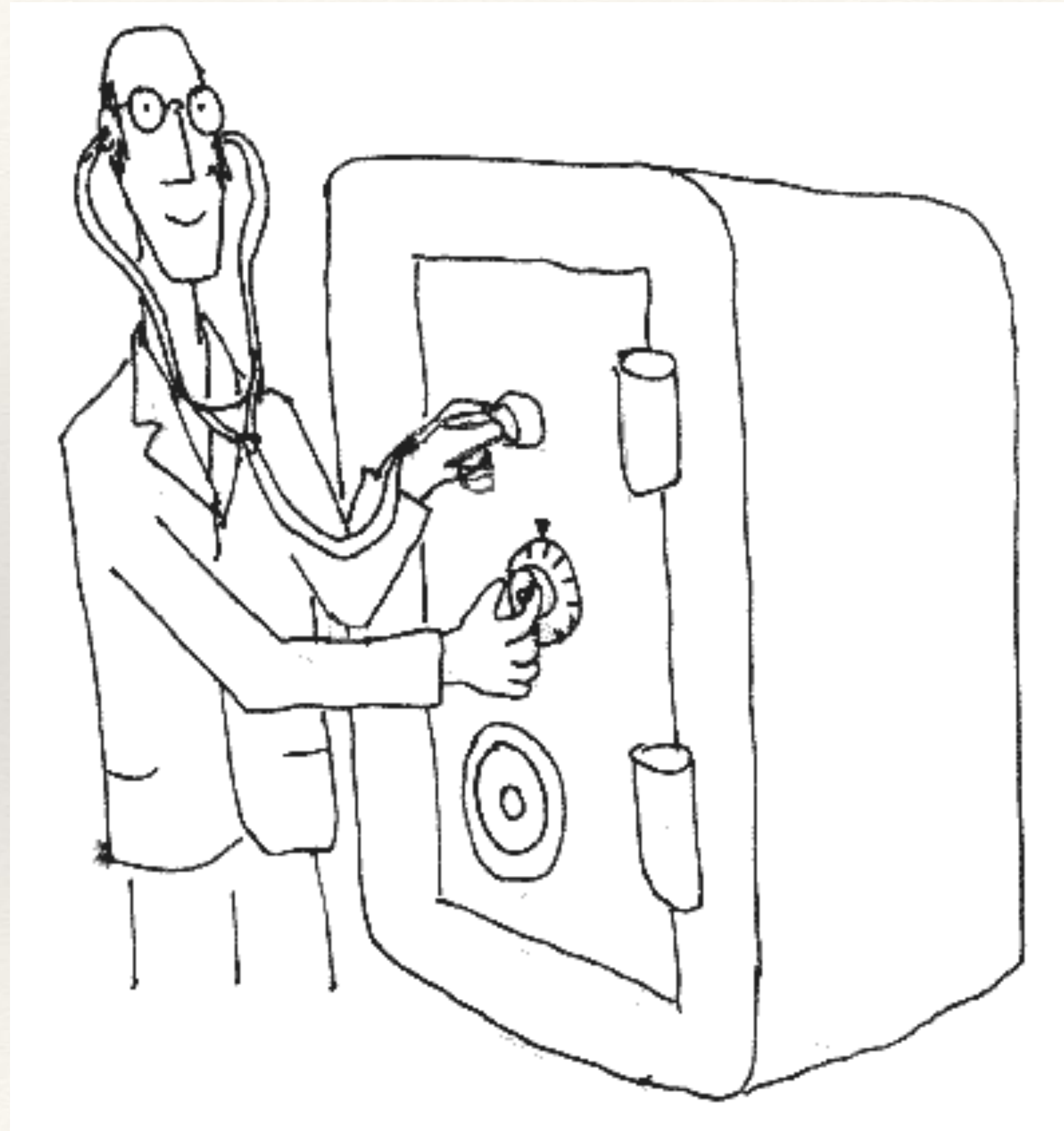
- ❖ Let's randomize both areas: ASLR
- ❖ Also DEP. So exploitation requires ASLR leak and ROP



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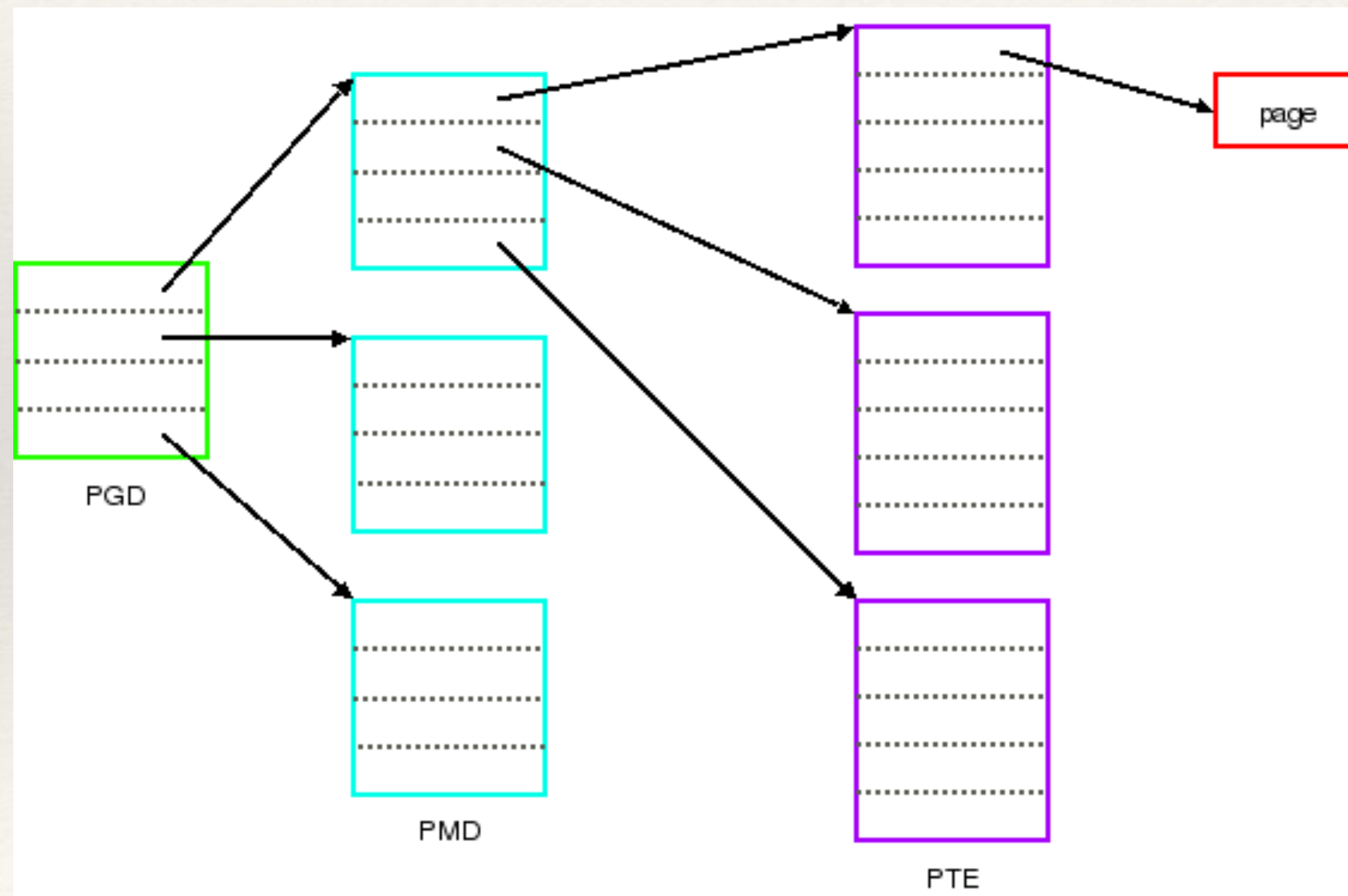
# Side Channels

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# Pageable Walks From DRAM

- ❖ Page tables point to the next step in a tree



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# Pageable Walks From DRAM

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0x644b321f4000

110010001001011001100100001111101000000000000000

CR3: Level 4 Physical Addr

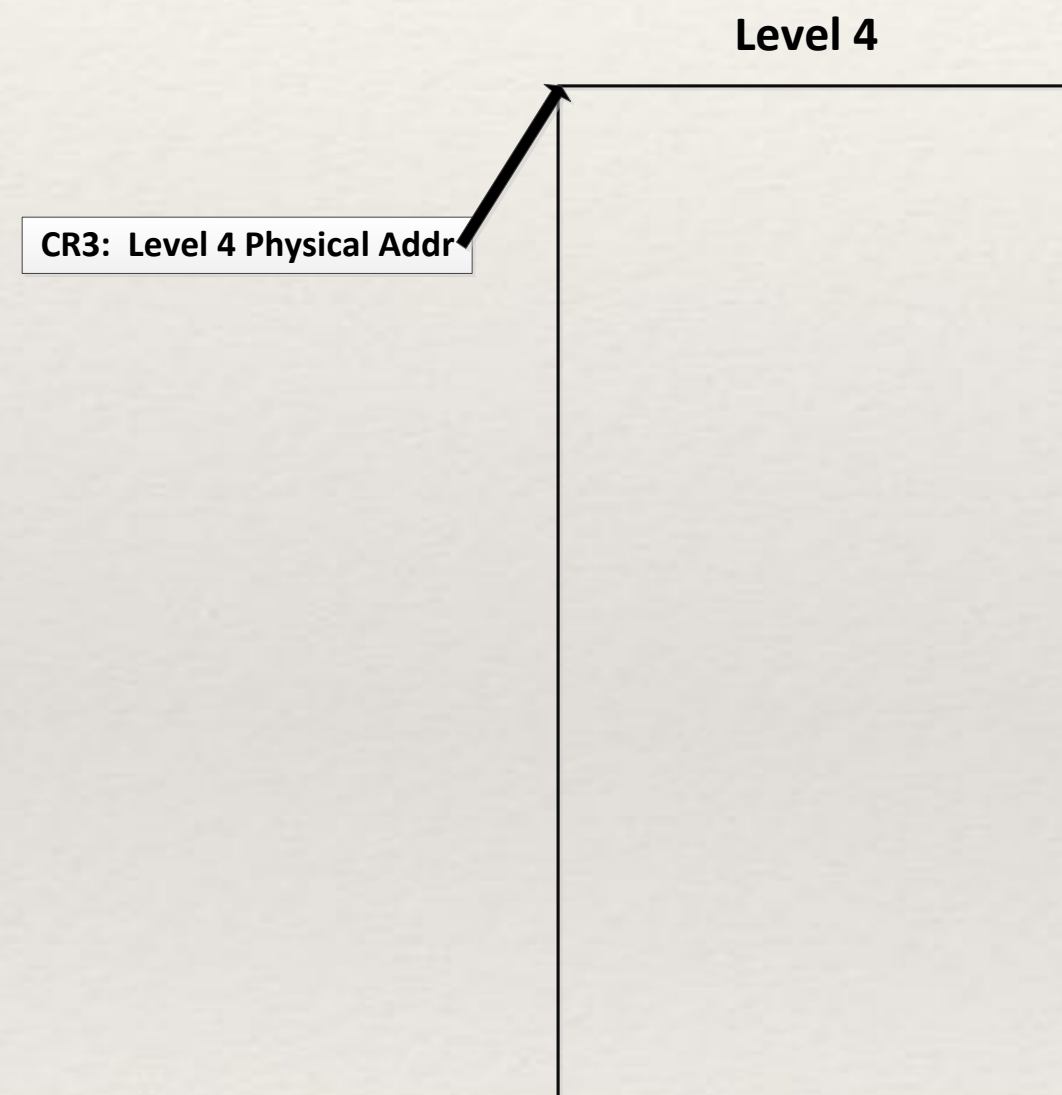
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# Pageable Walks From DRAM

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0x644b321f4000

110010001001011001100100001111101000000000000000



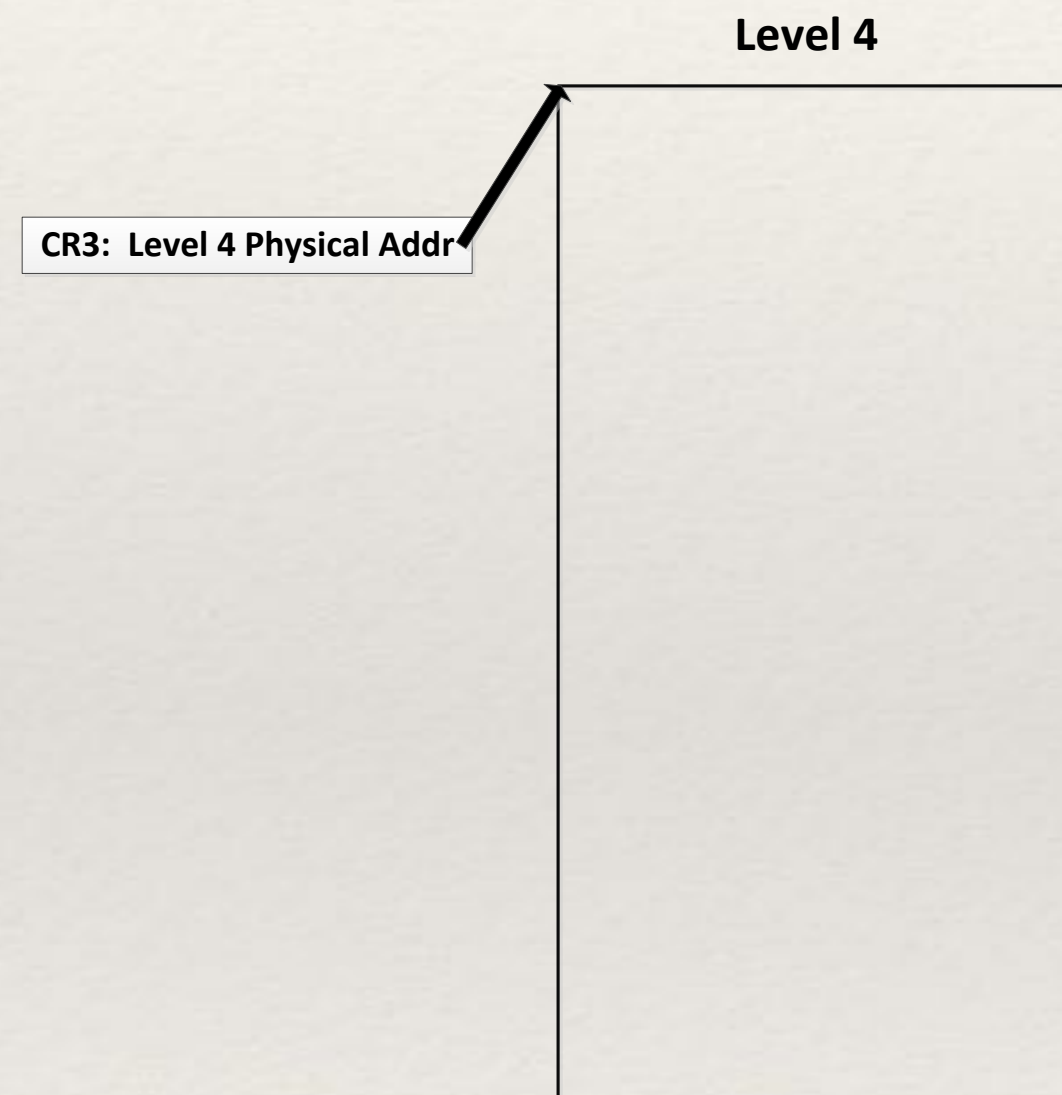
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# Pageable Walks From DRAM

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0x644b321f4000

110010001001011001100100001111101000000000000000

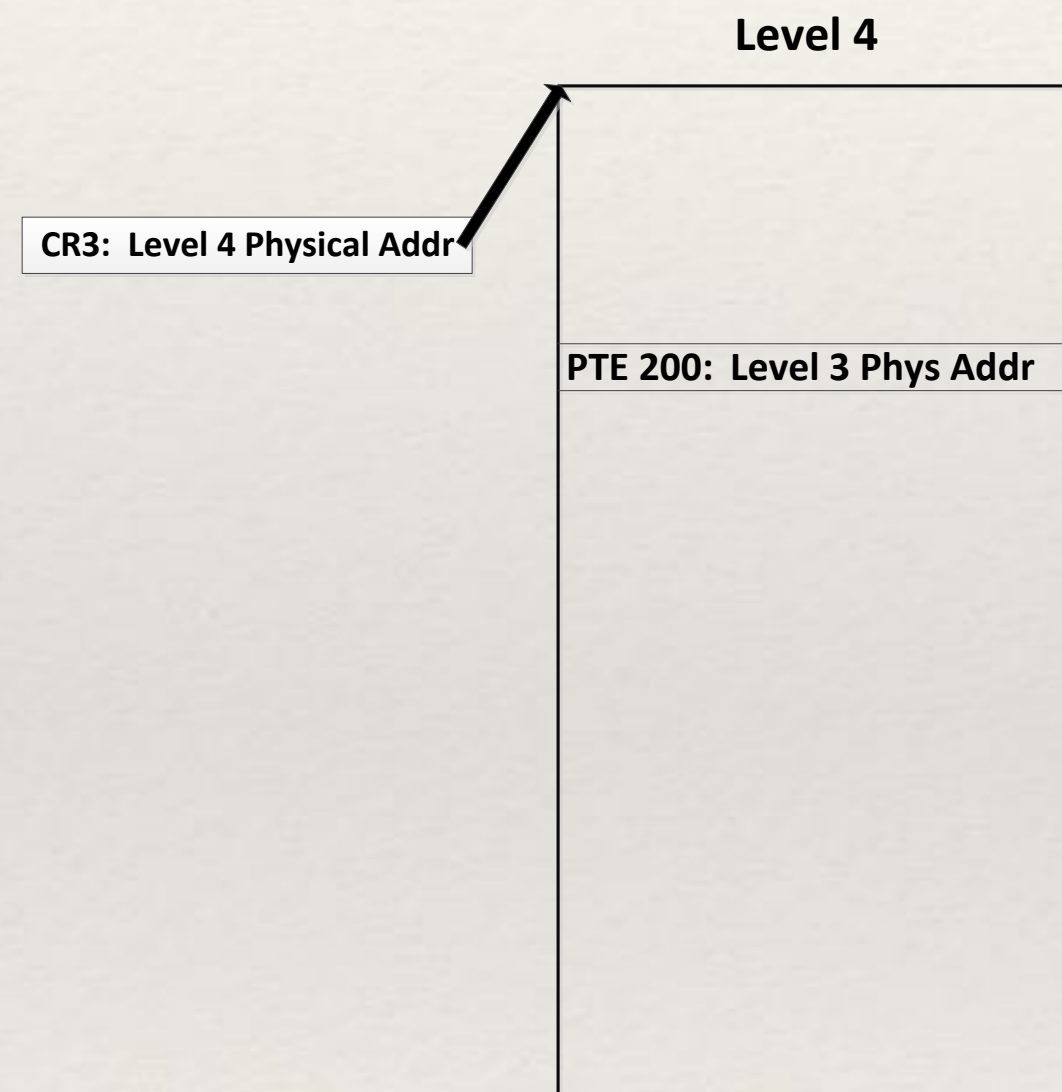




# Pageable Walks From DRAM

0x644b321f4000

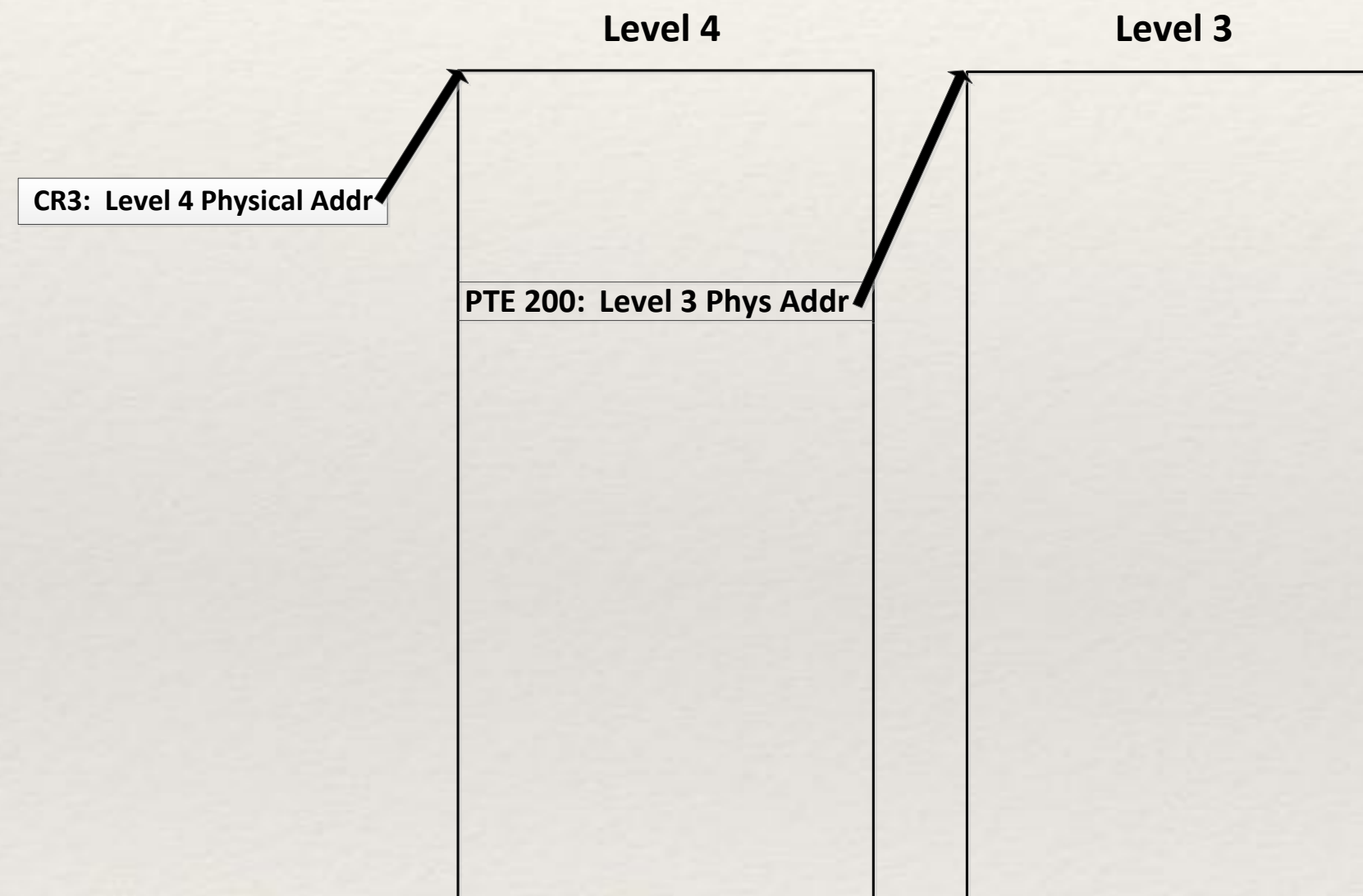
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0x644b321f4000

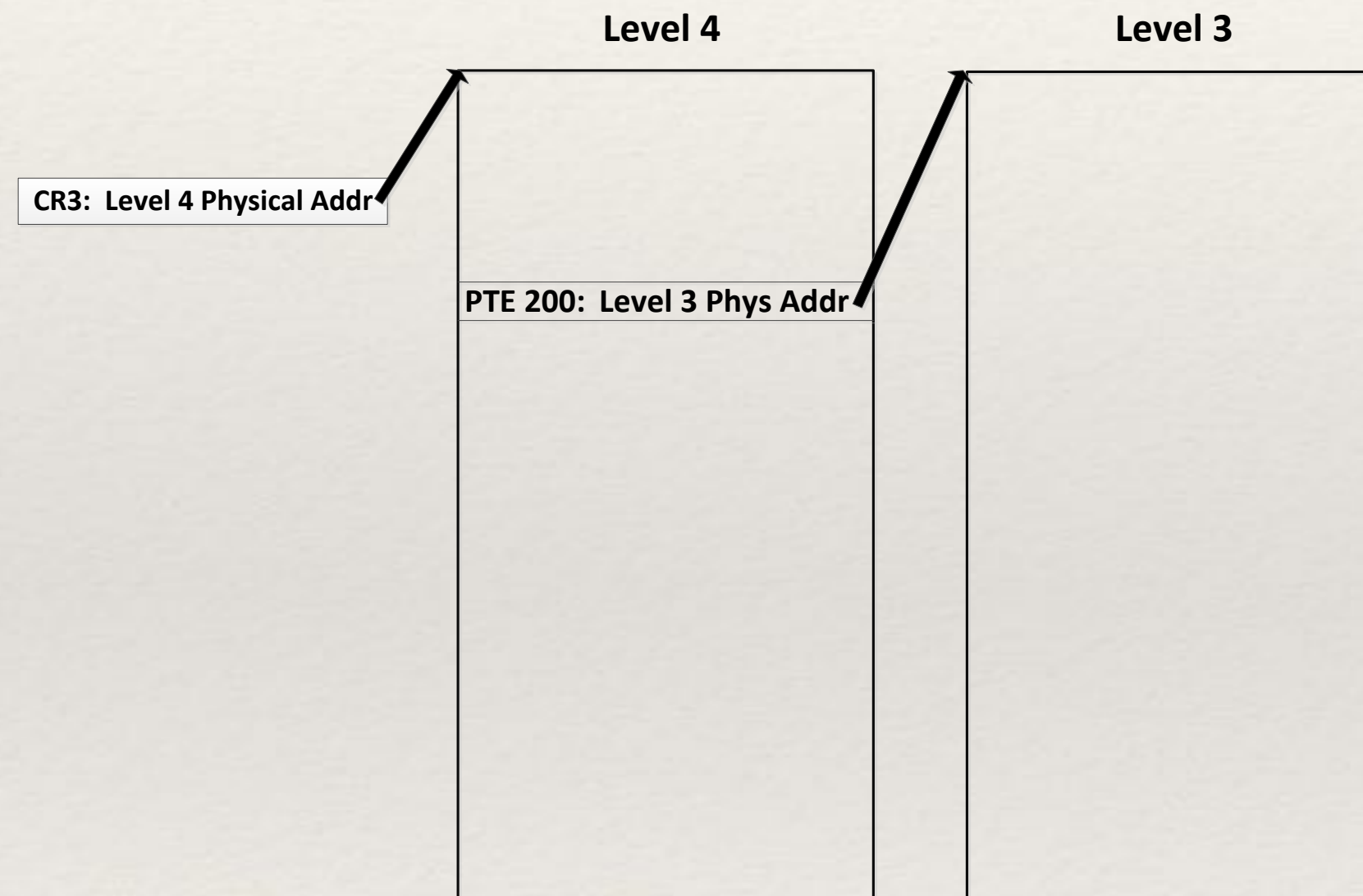
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0x644b321f4000

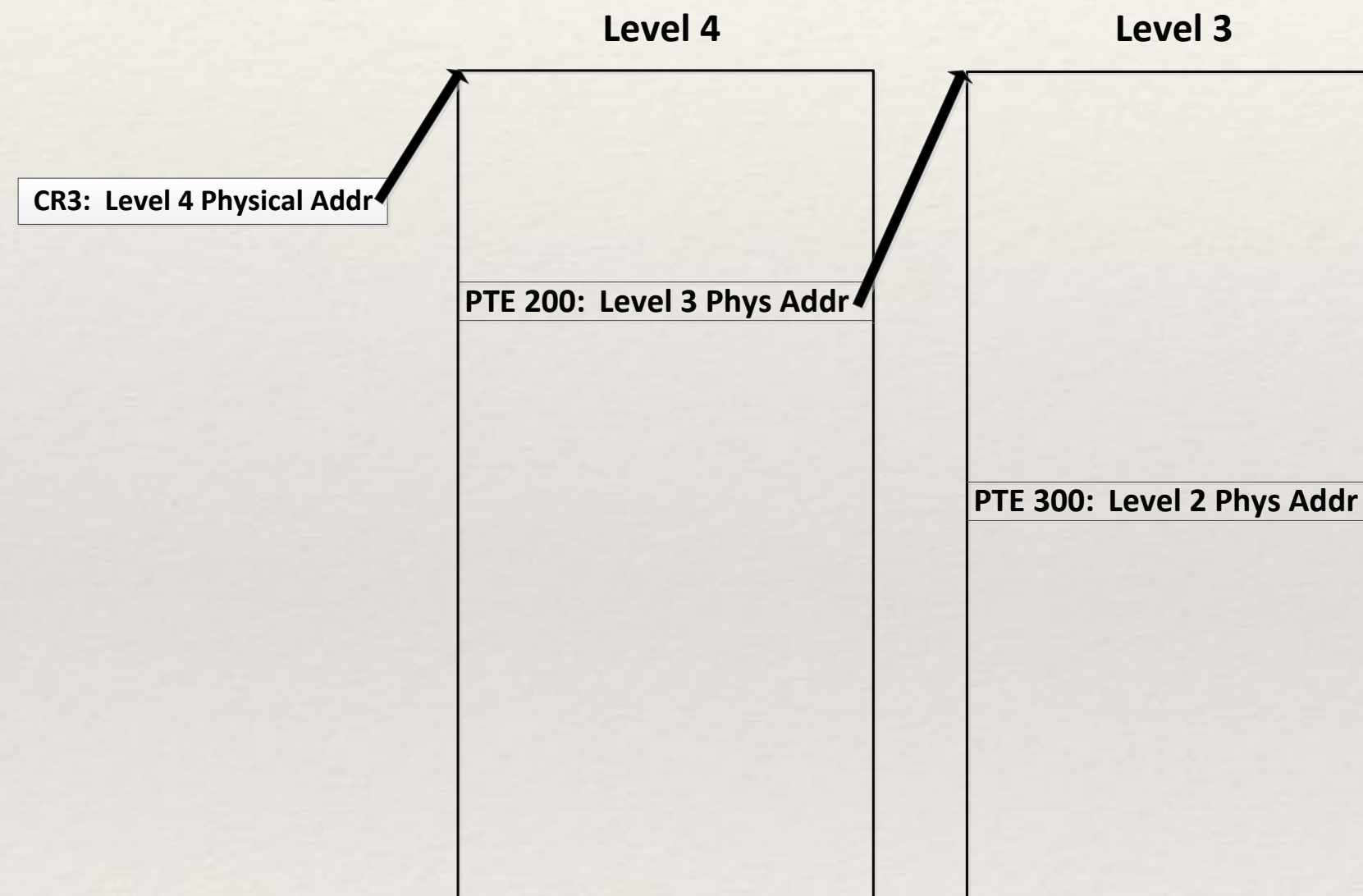
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# Pageable Walks From DRAM

0x644b321f4000

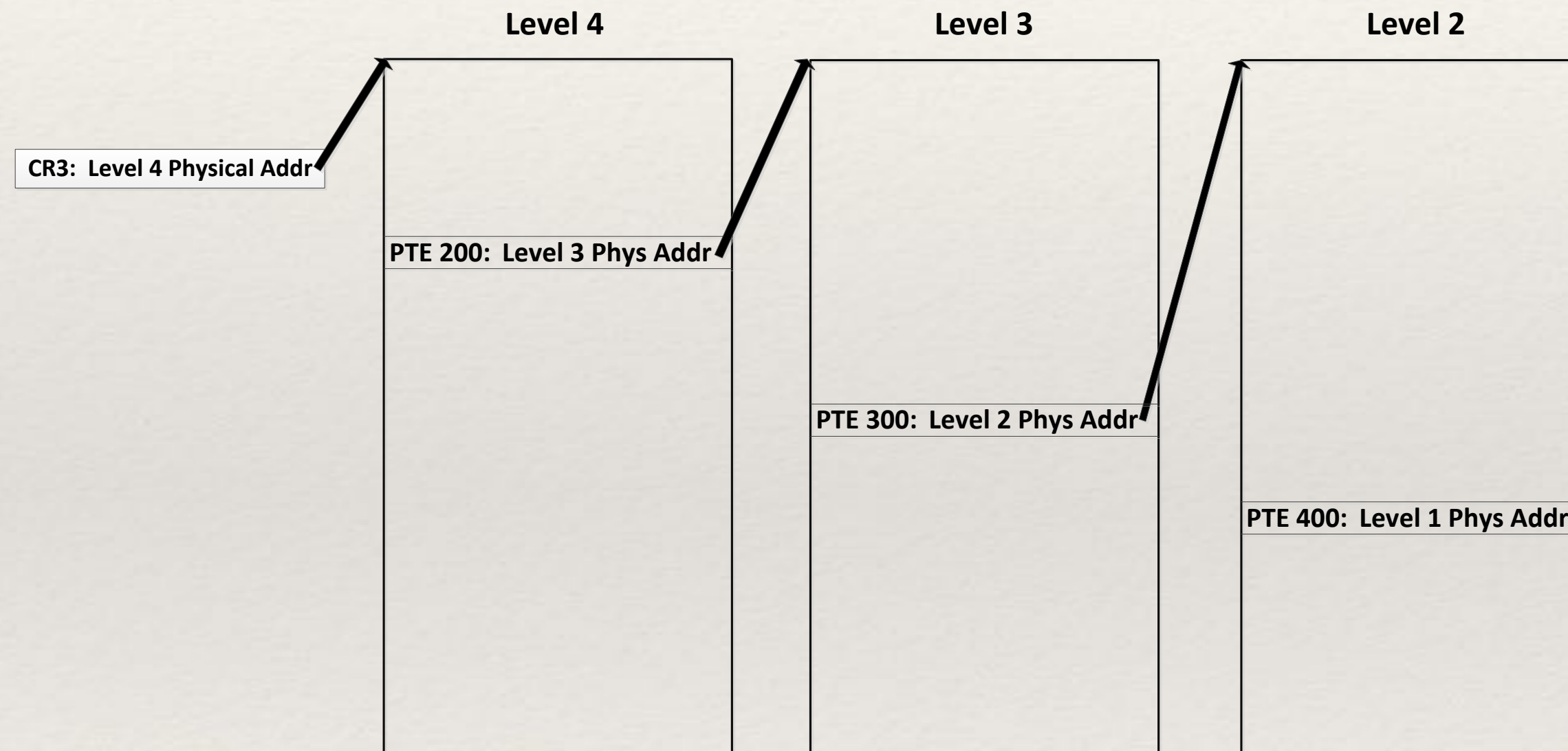
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# Pageable Walks From DRAM

0x644b321f4000

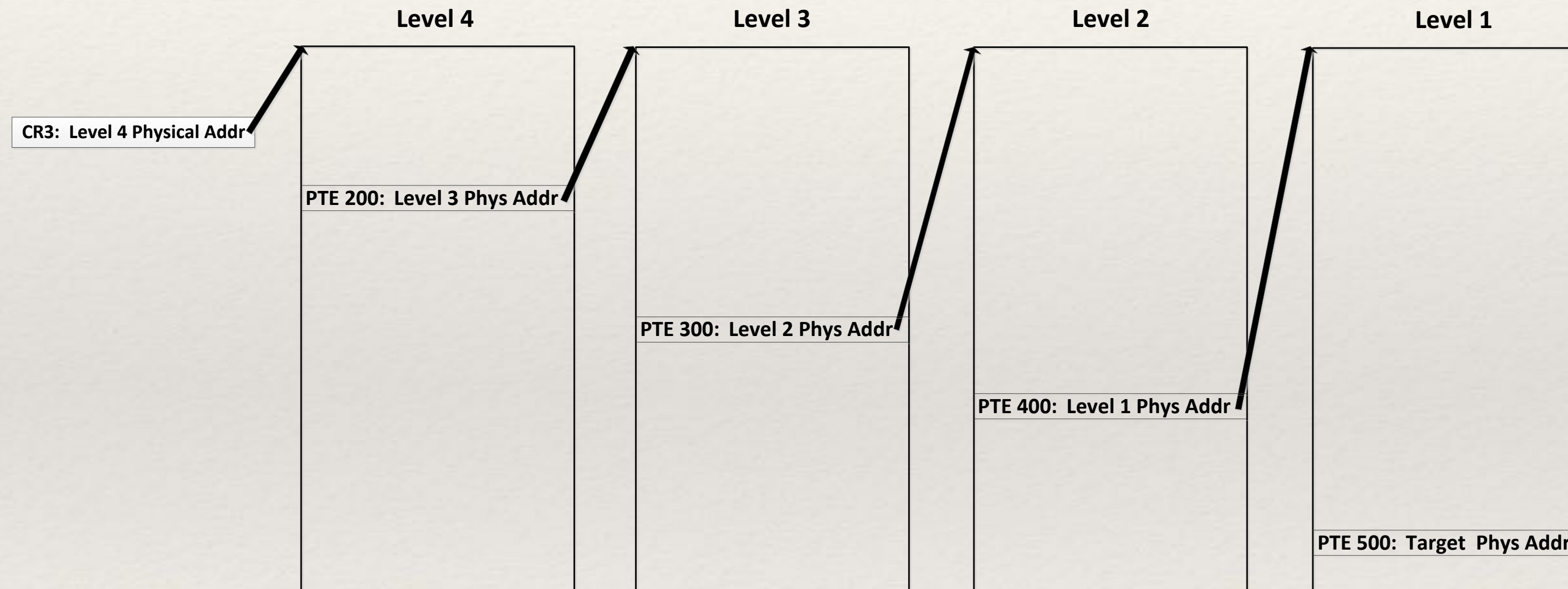
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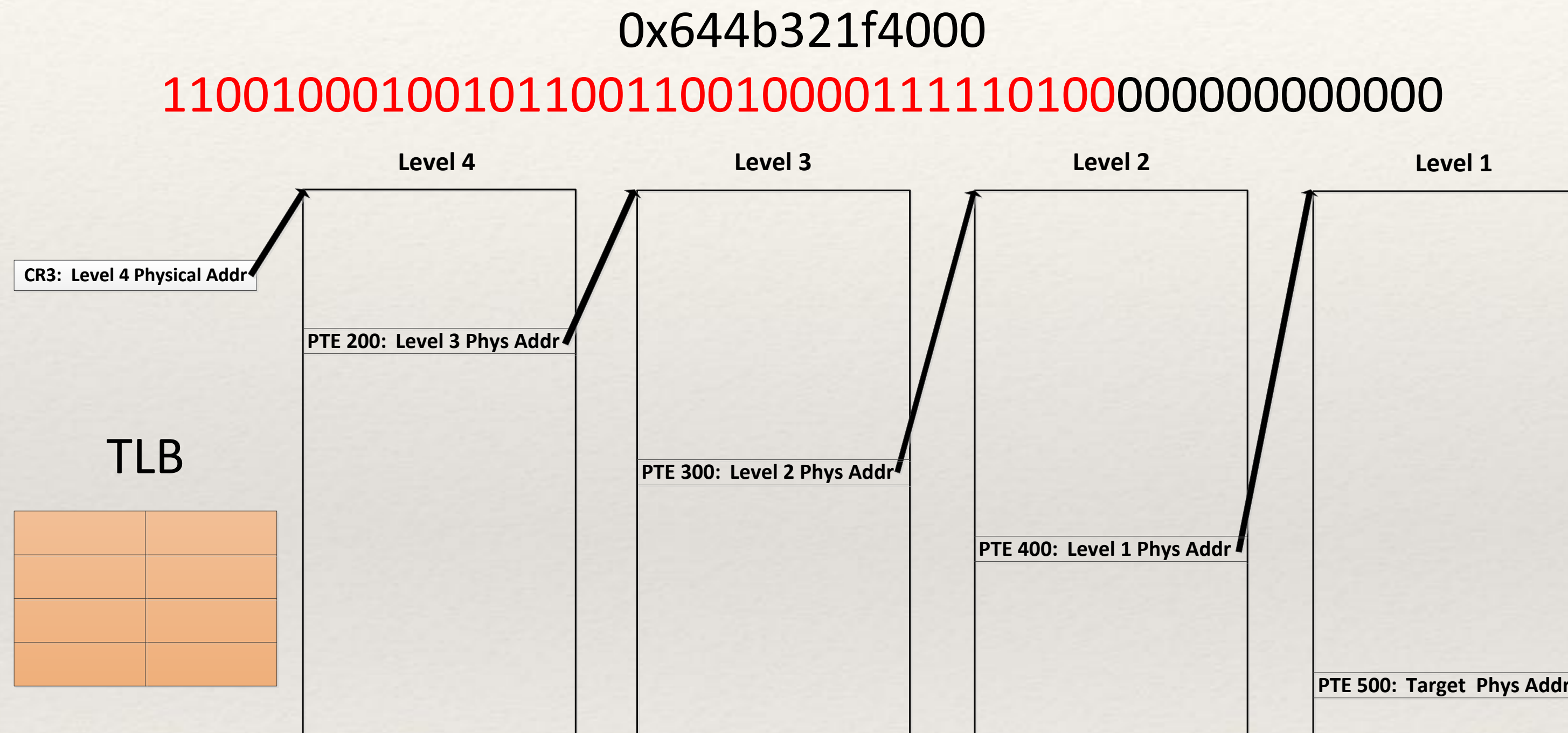
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0x644b321f4000

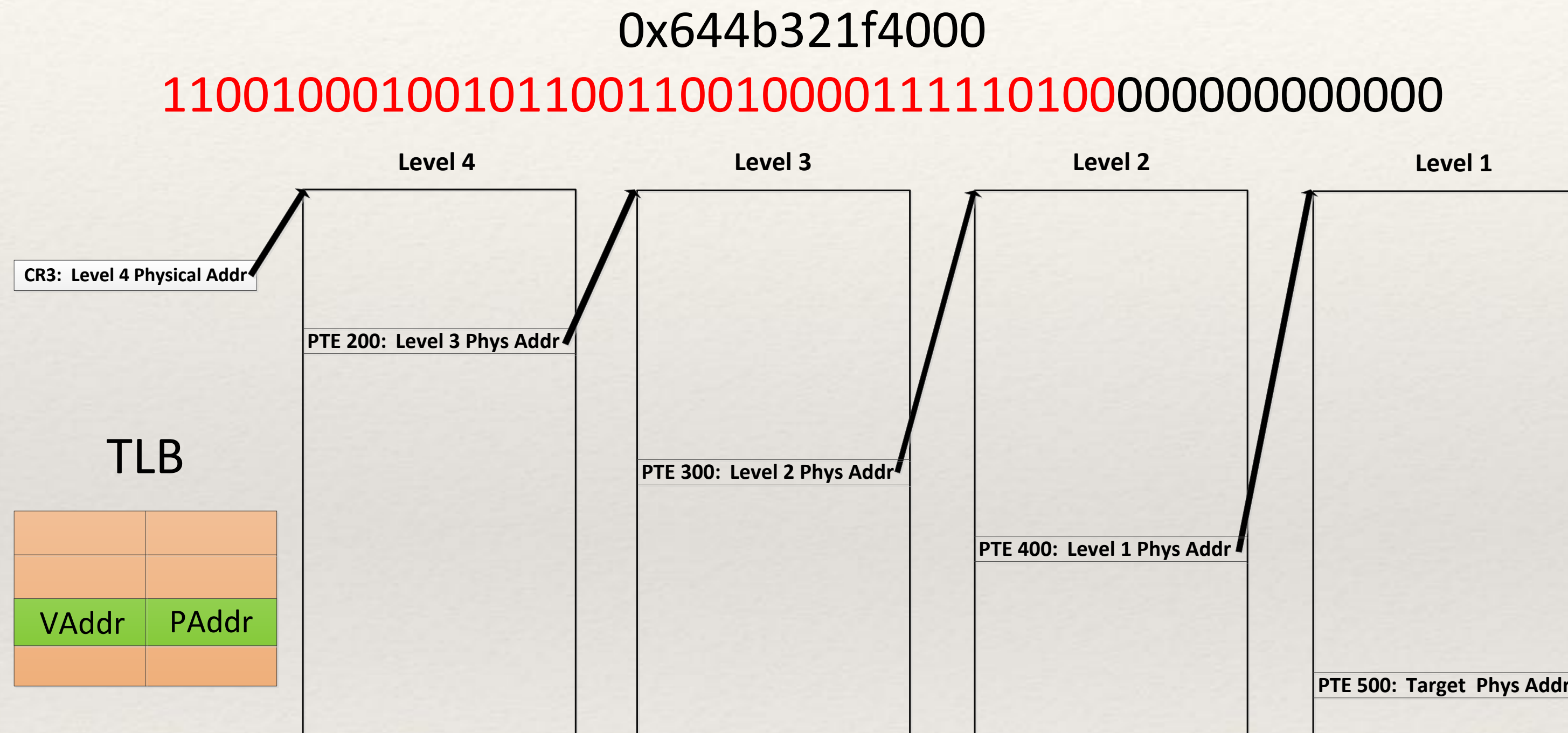
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# Pageable Walks From DRAM

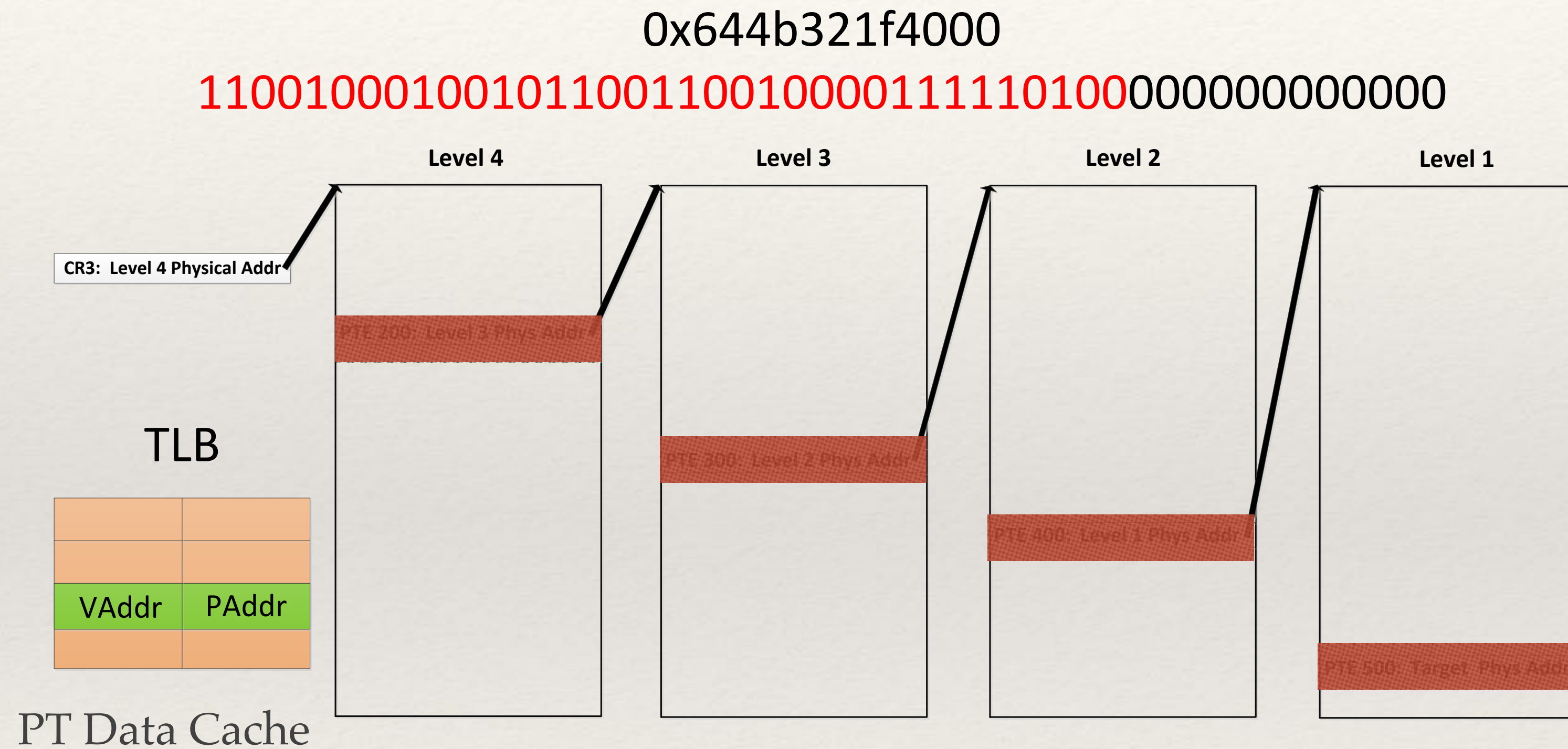


# Pageable Walks From DRAM





# Pageable Walks From DRAM

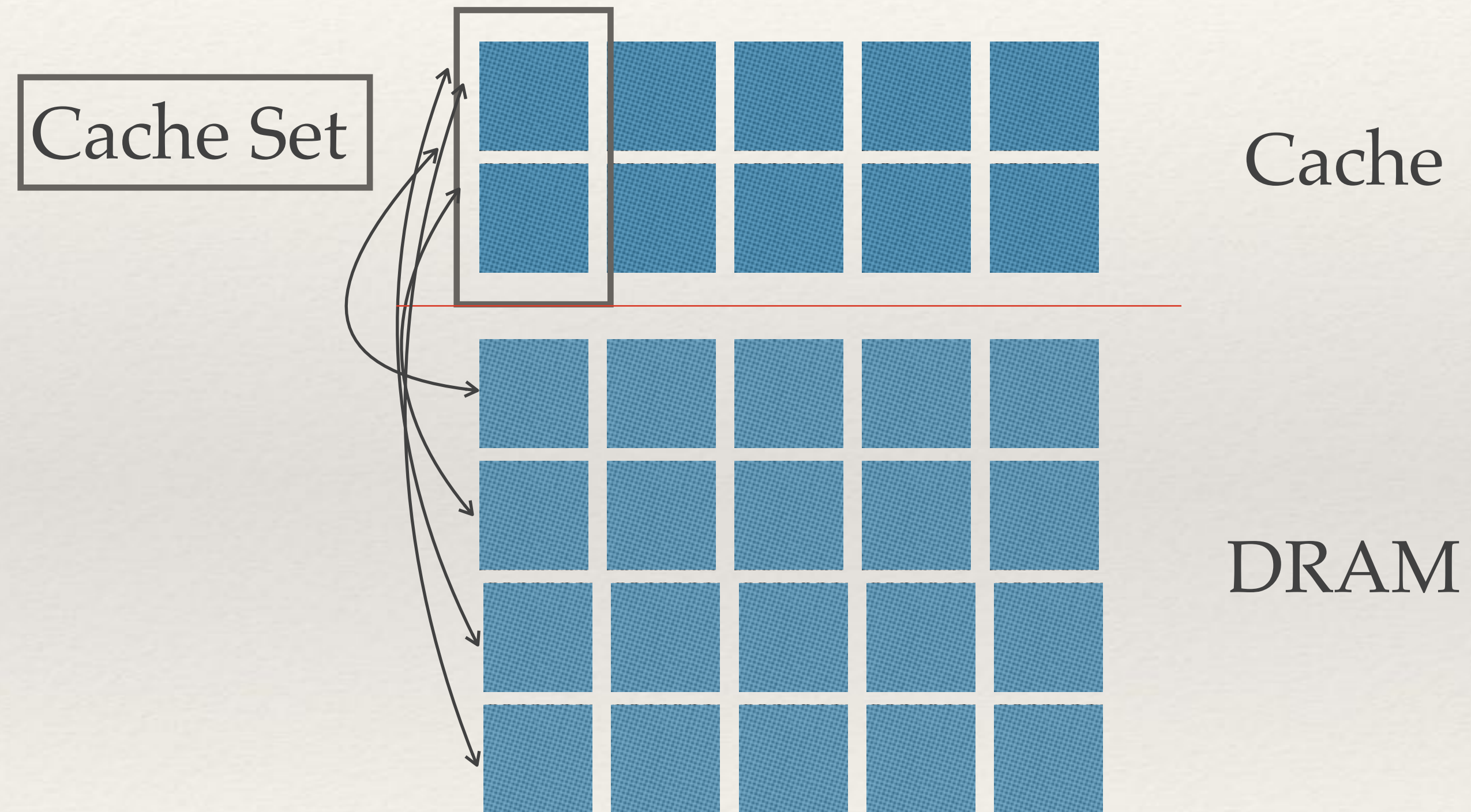


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# CPU Caches

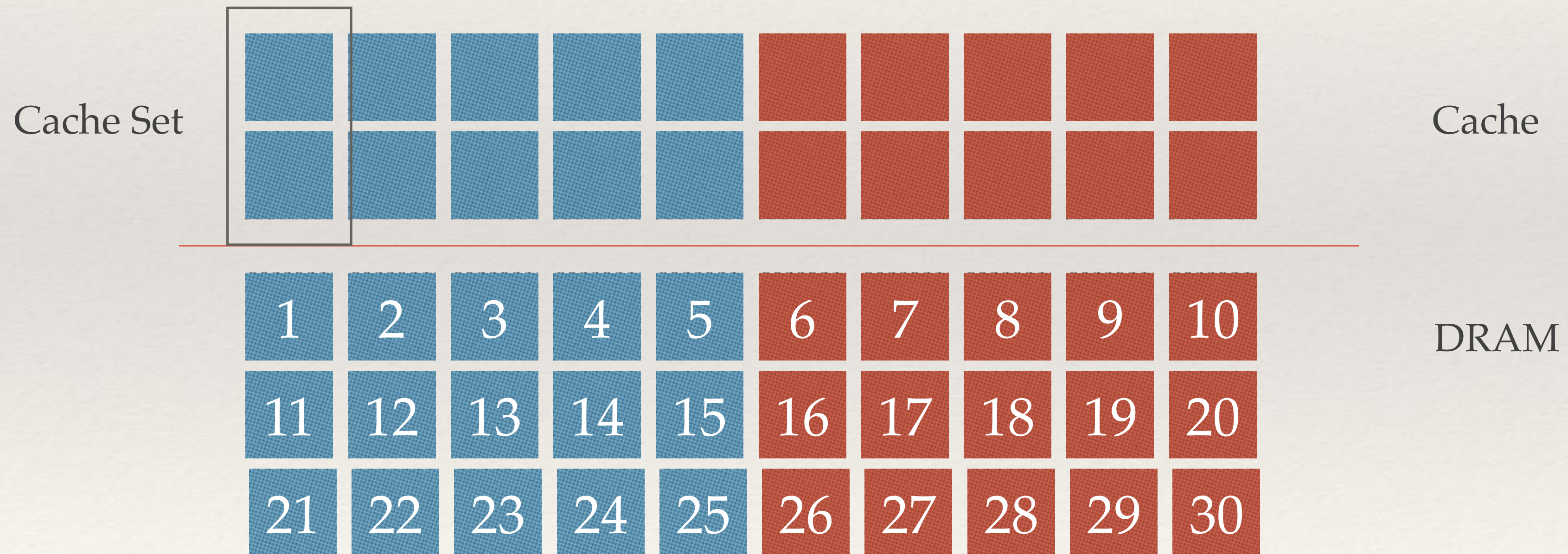
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- ❖ Memory cache lines can only go into one small cache set



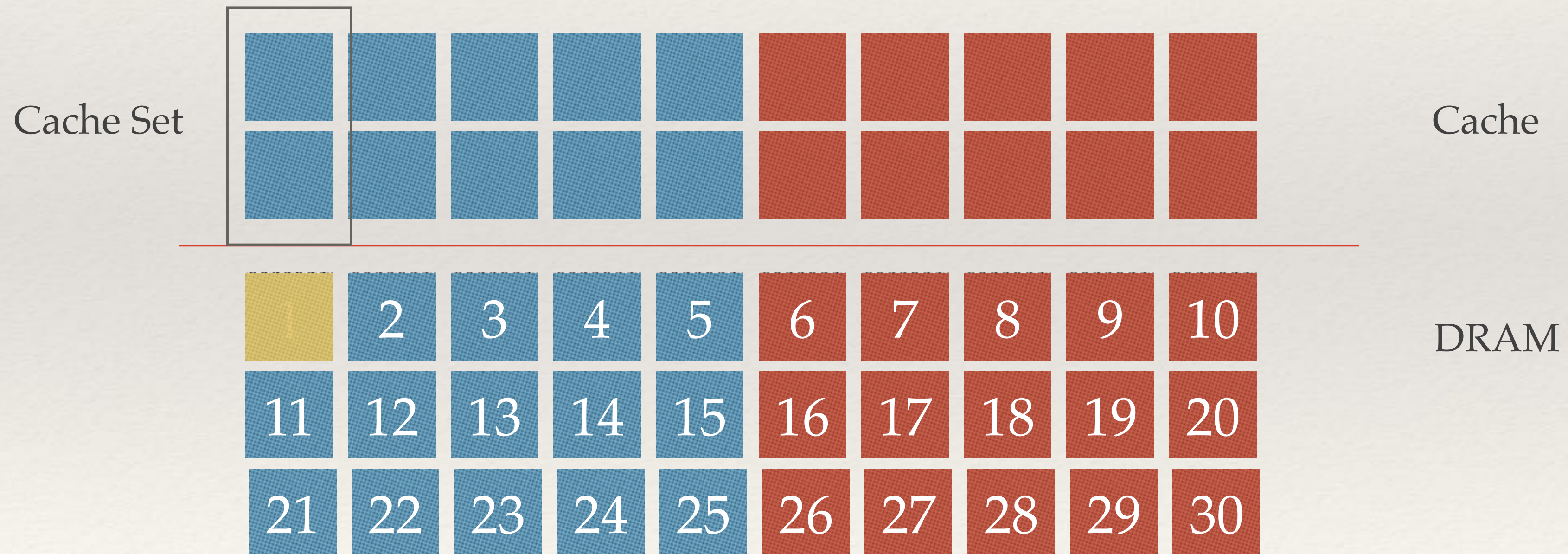
# Tiny Cache Example

- ❖ 2-way cache, 5 sets per page, showing 2 colors



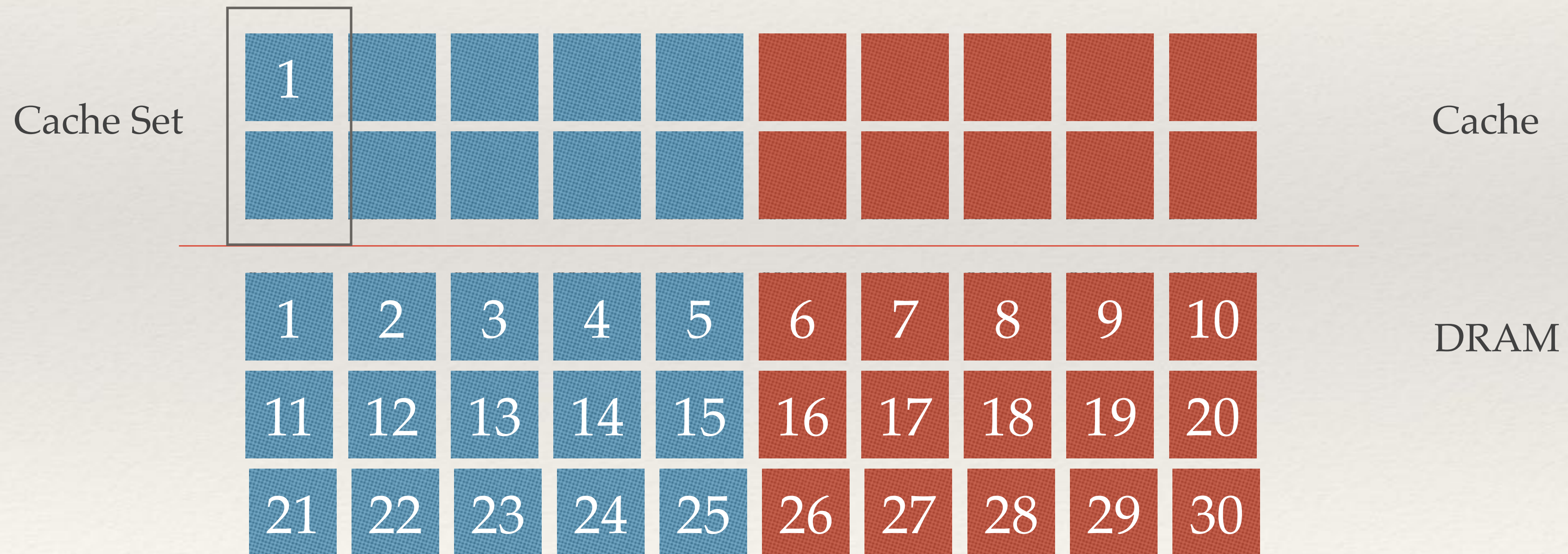
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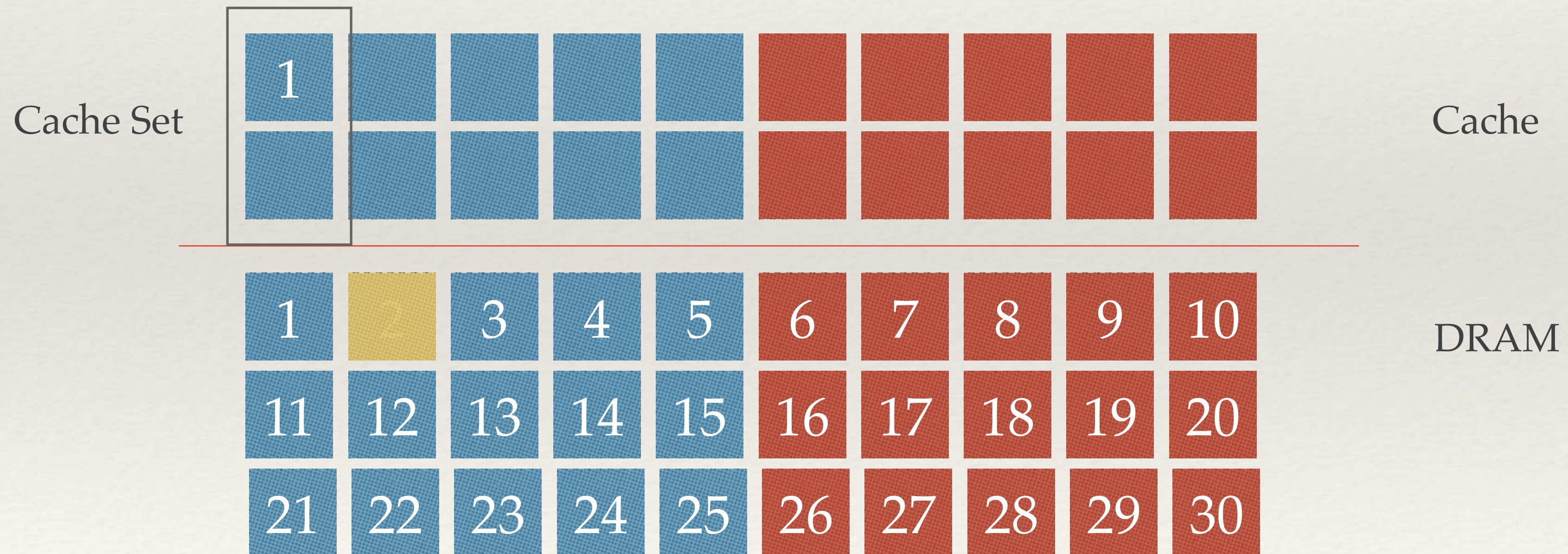
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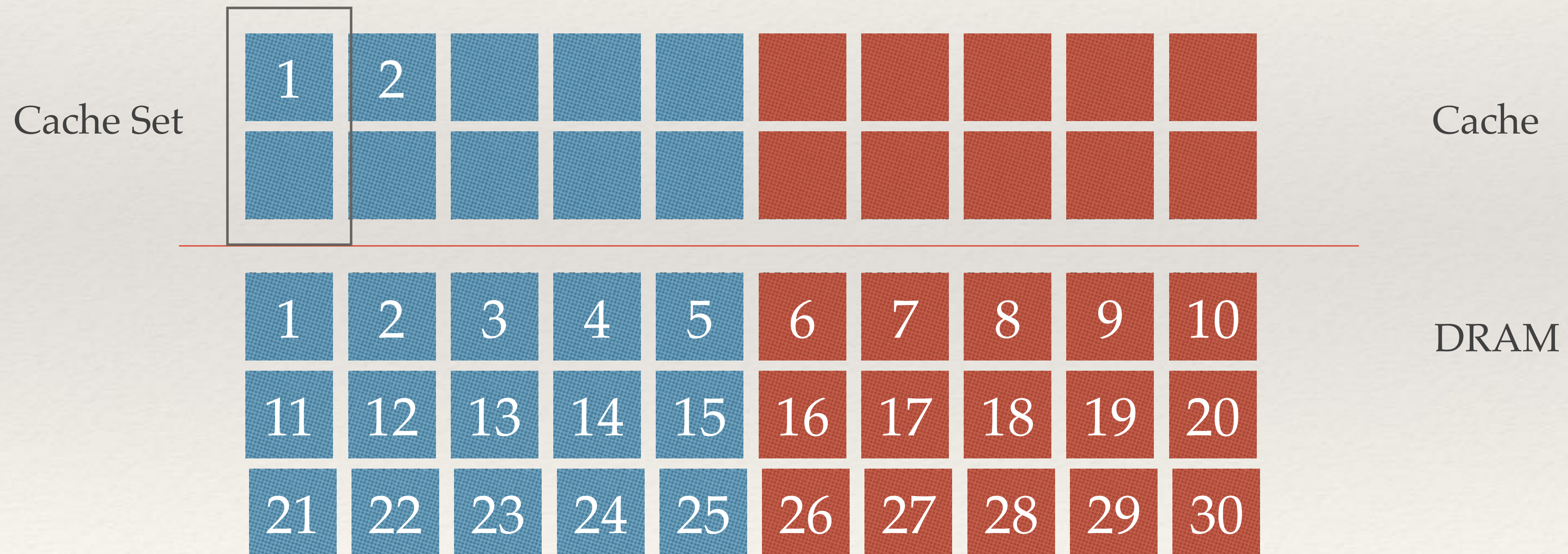
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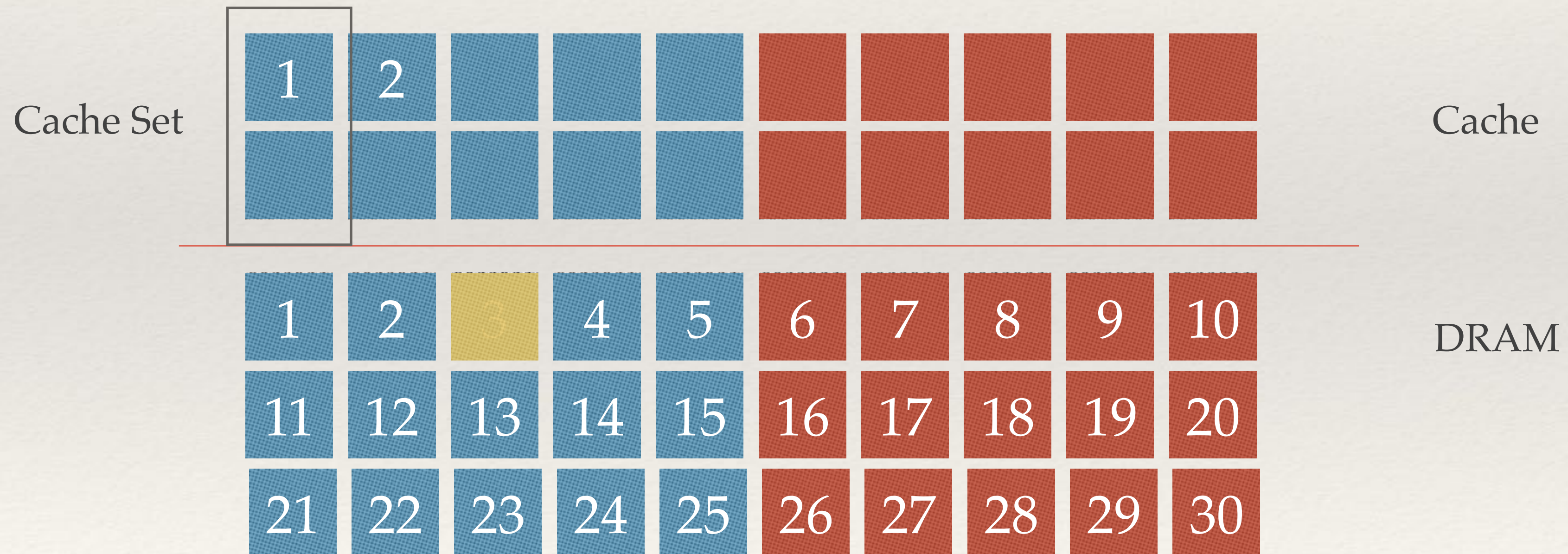
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# Tiny Cache Example

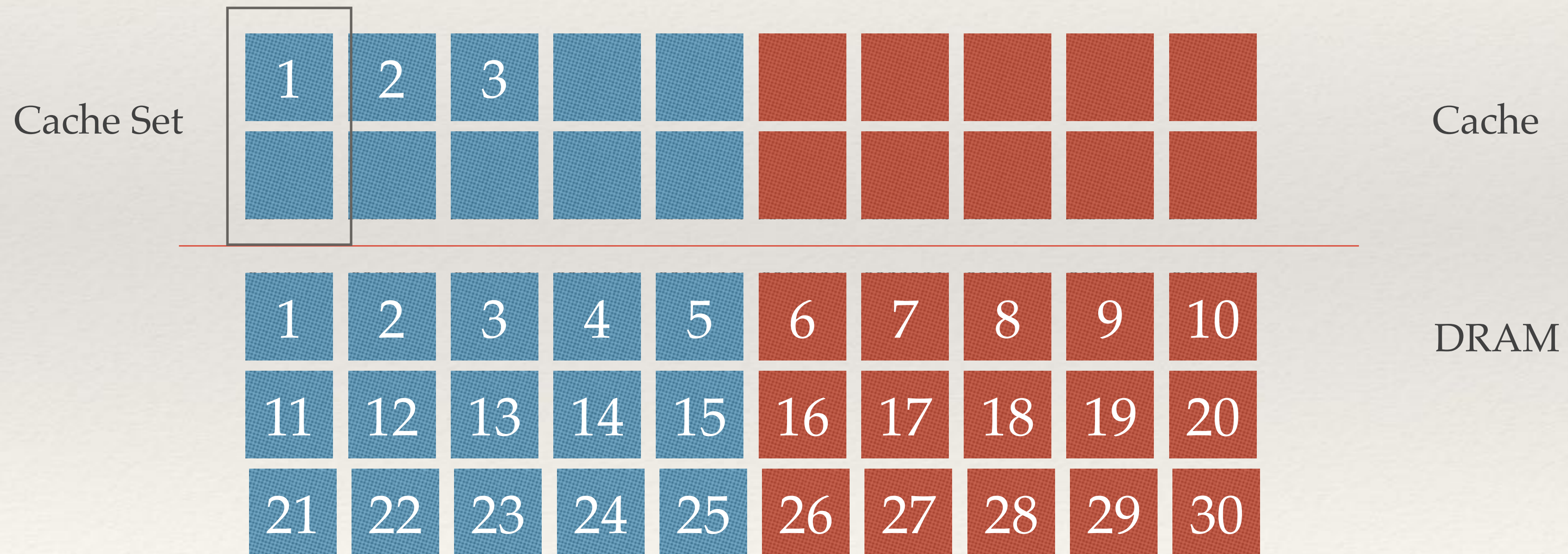
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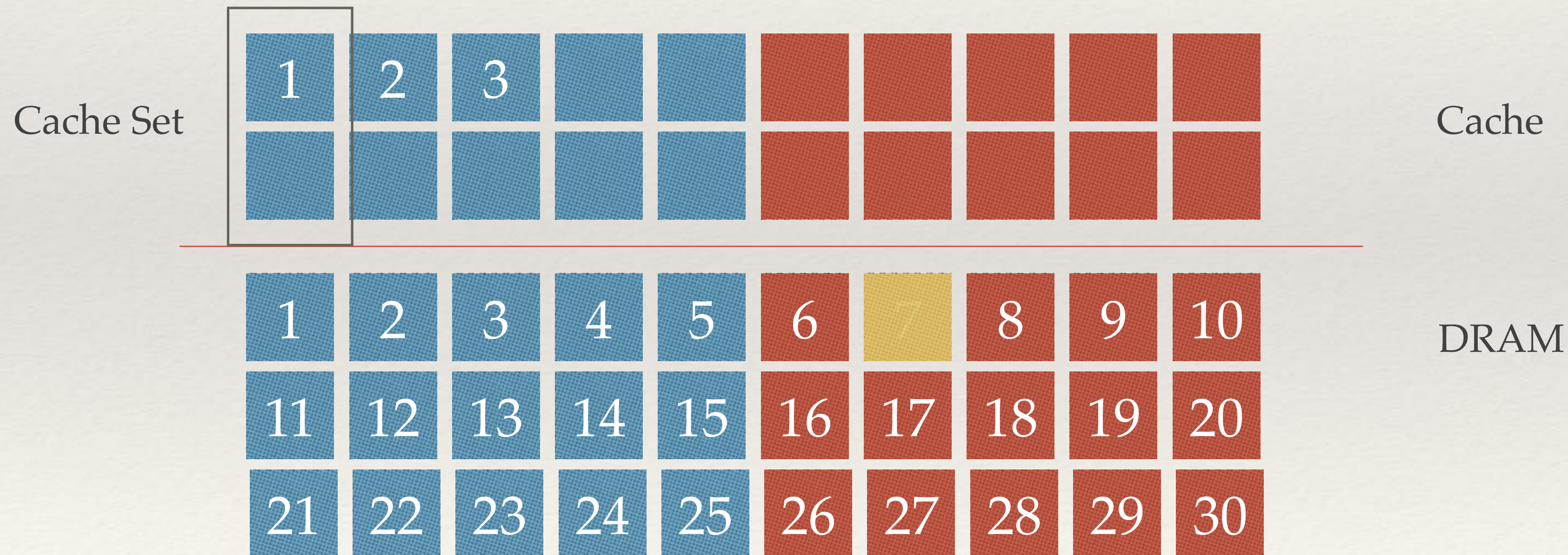
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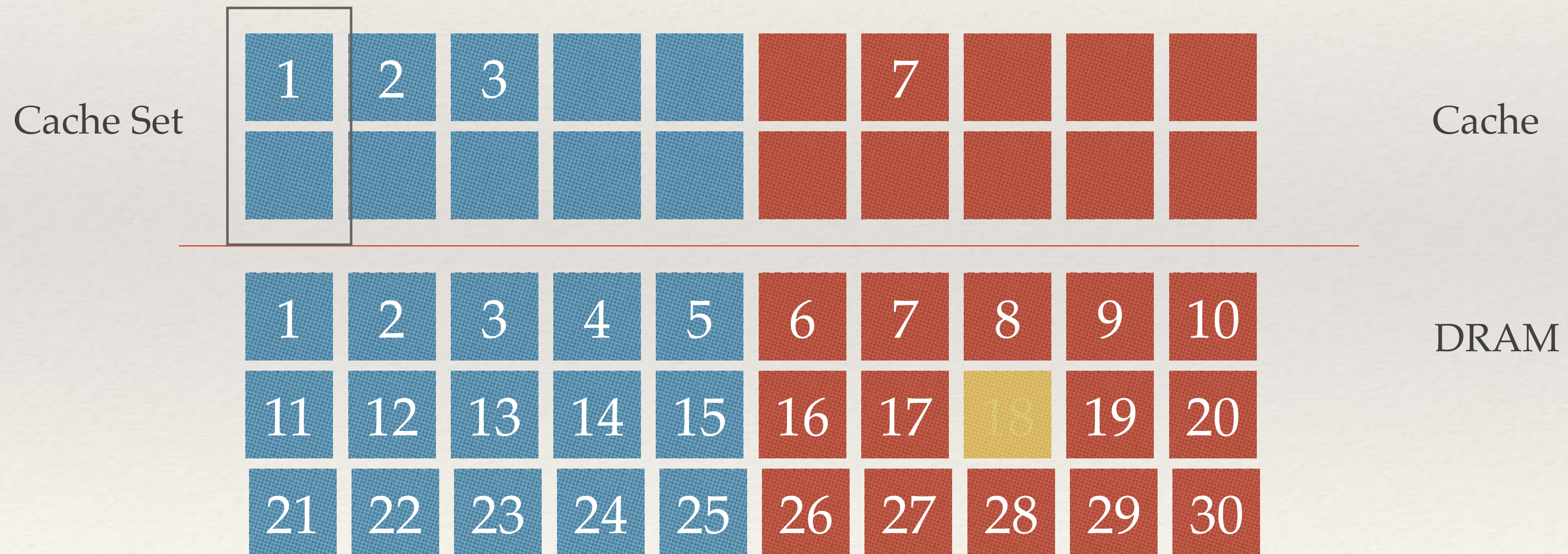
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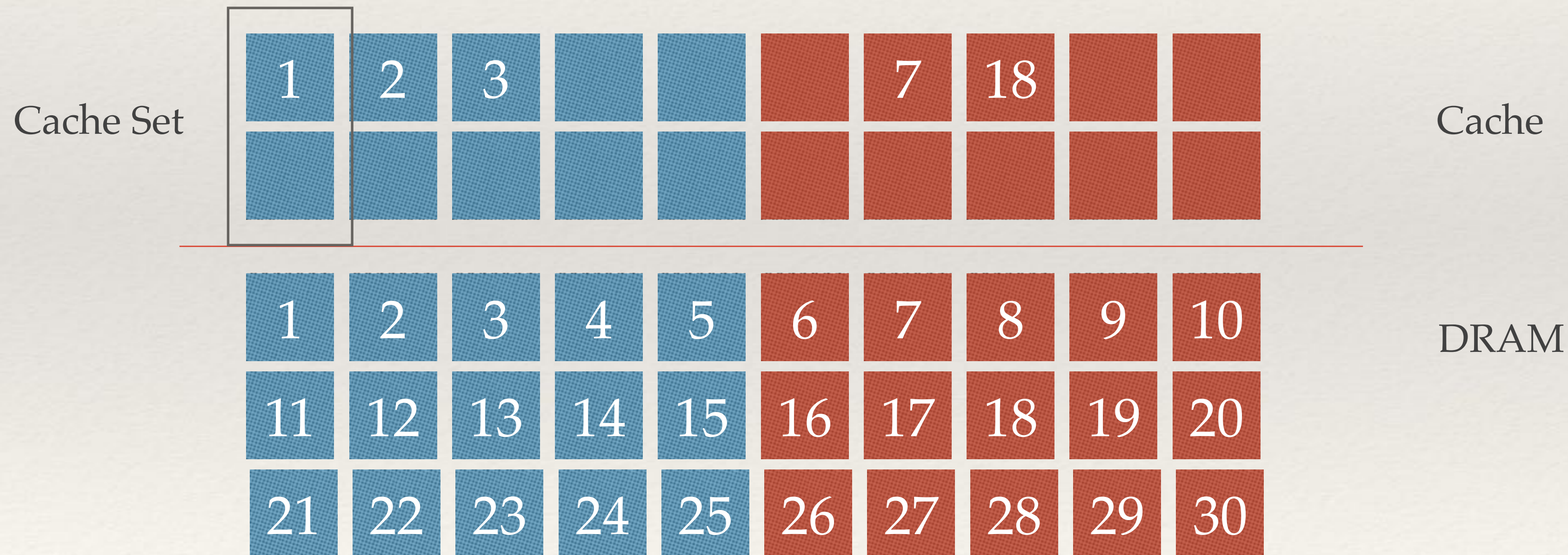
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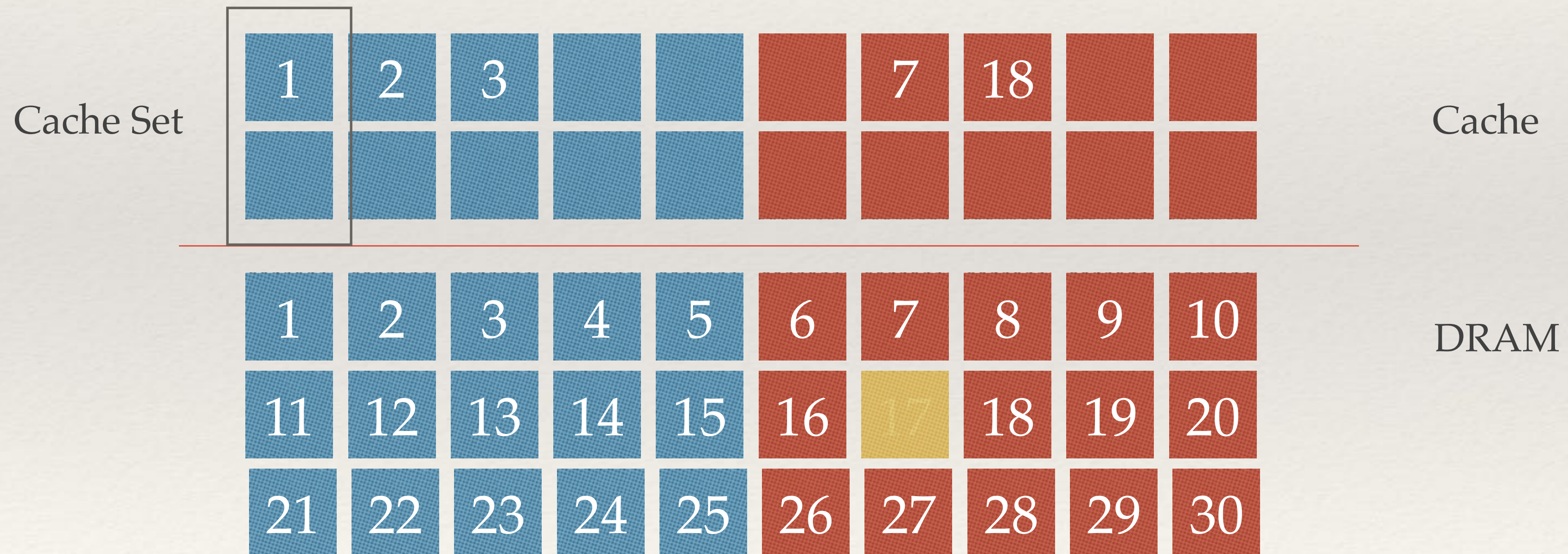
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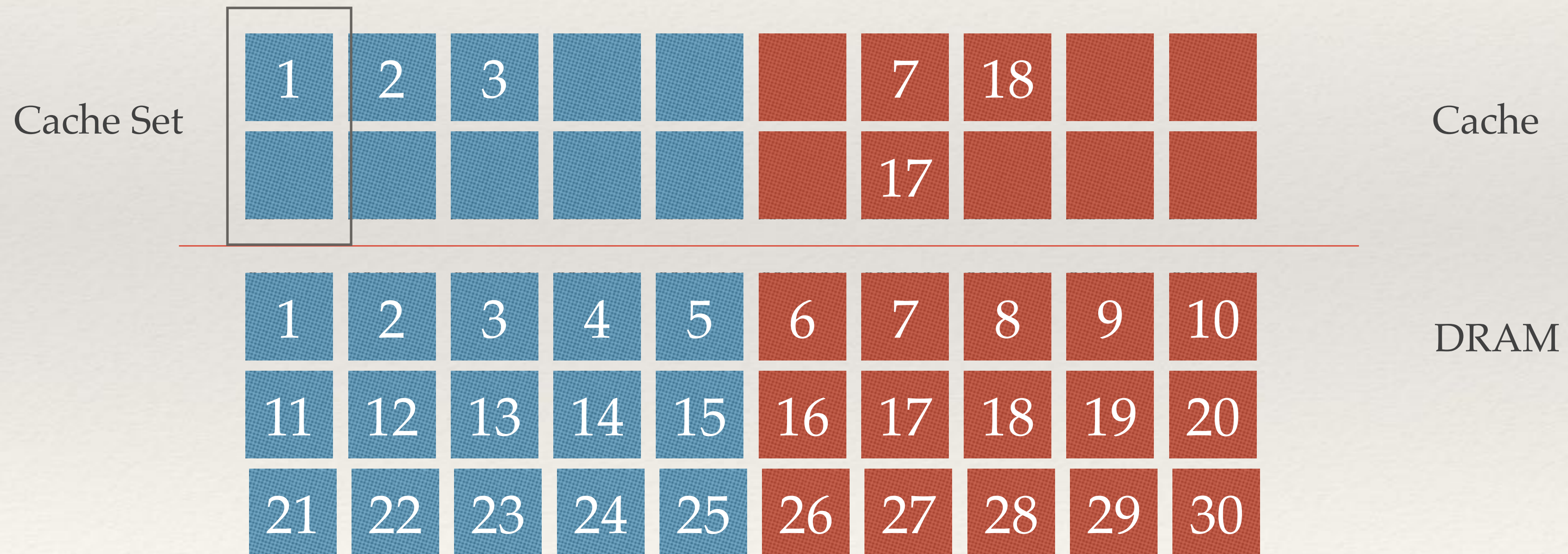
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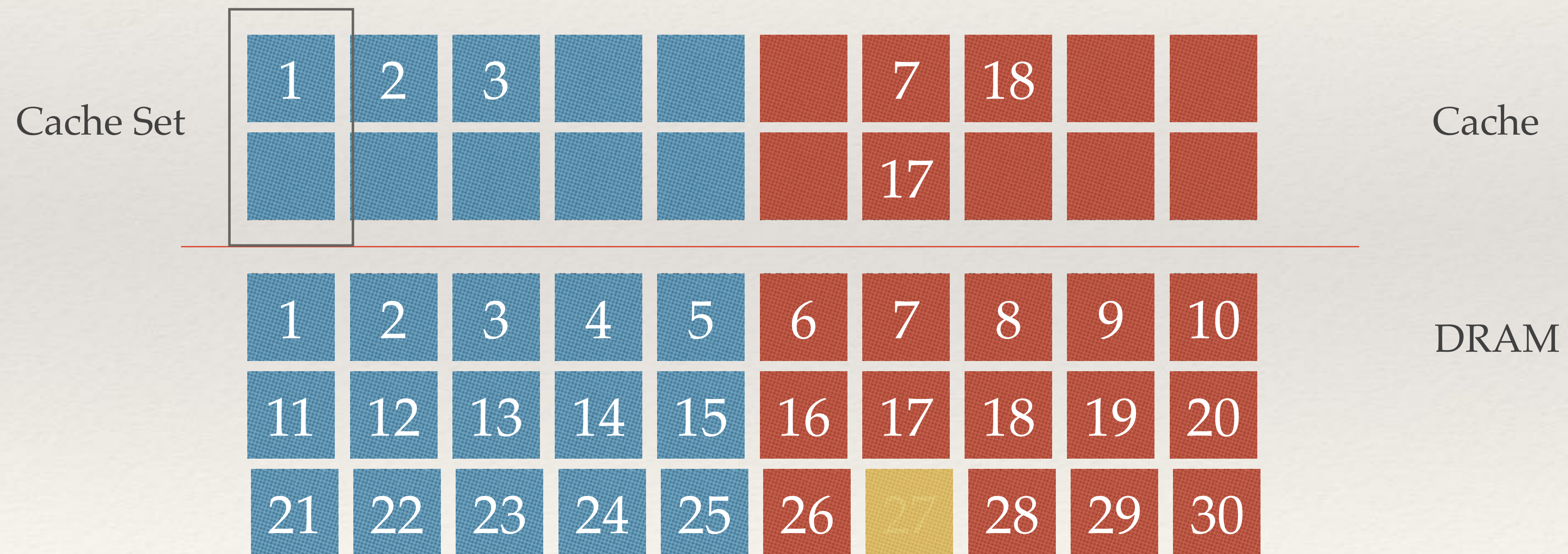
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# Tiny Cache Example

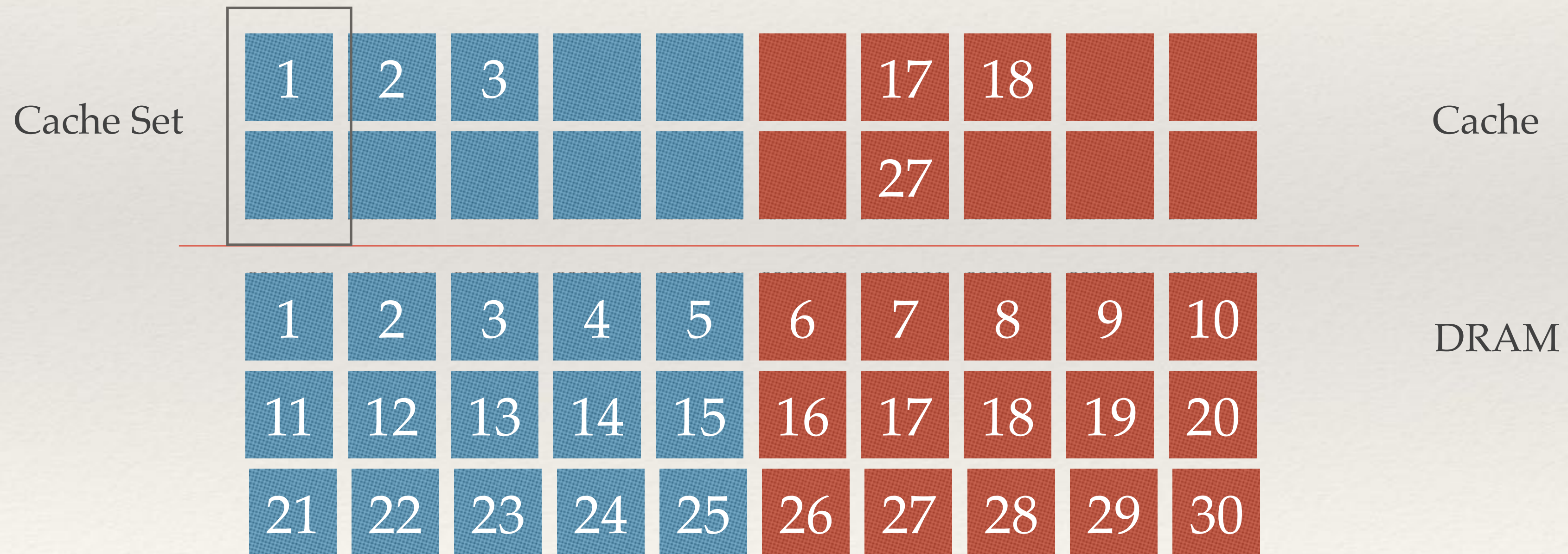
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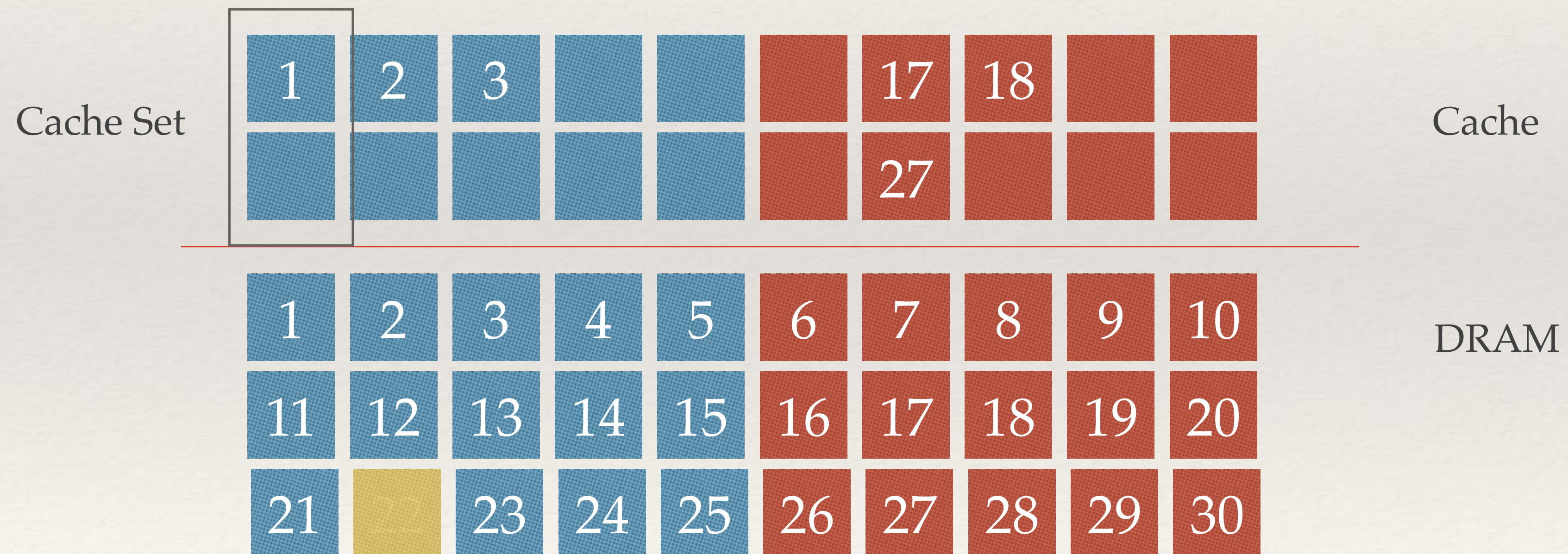
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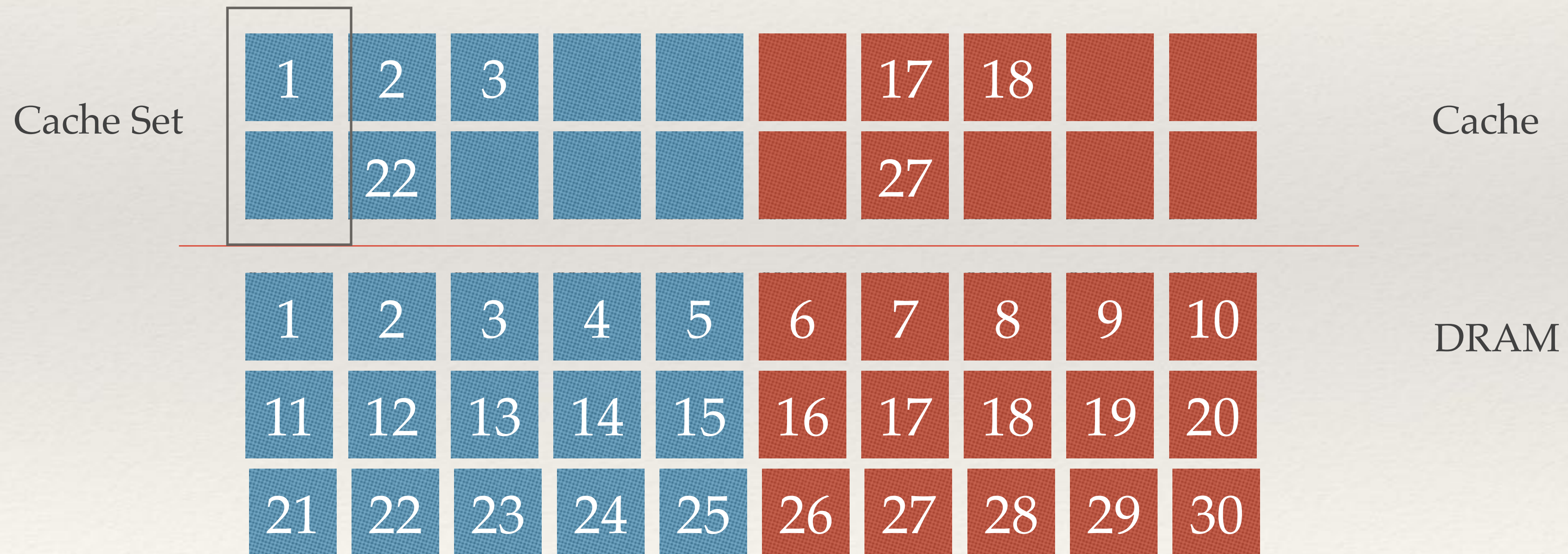
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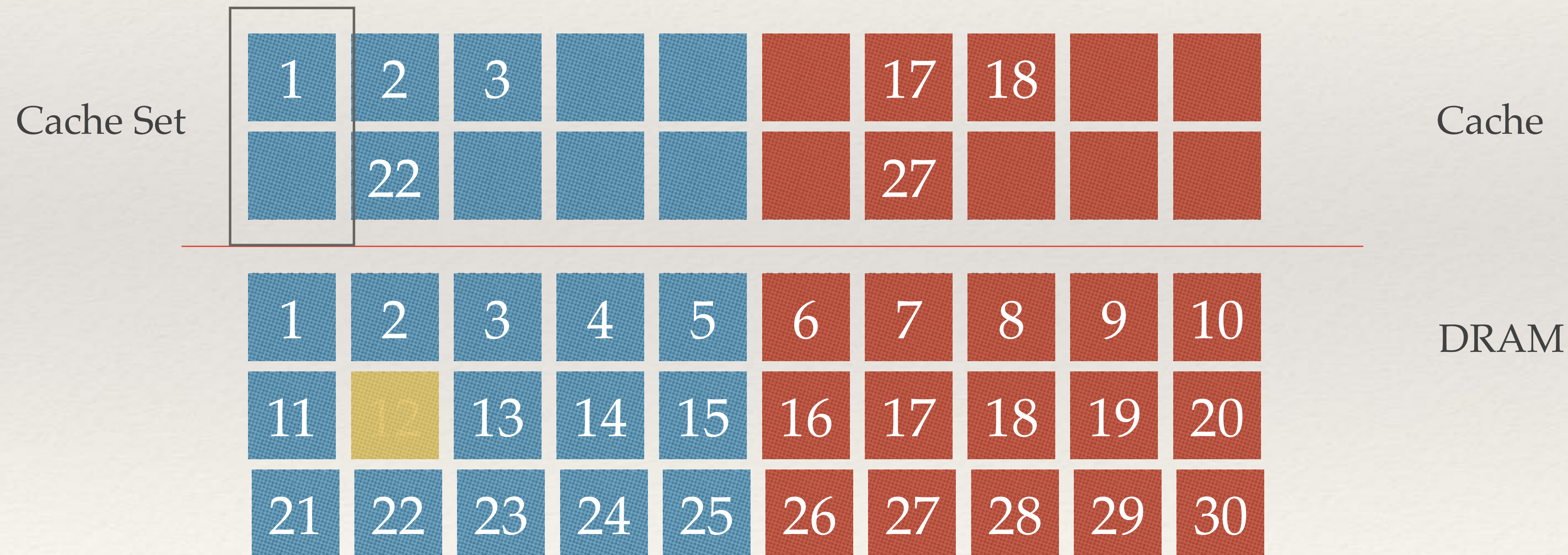
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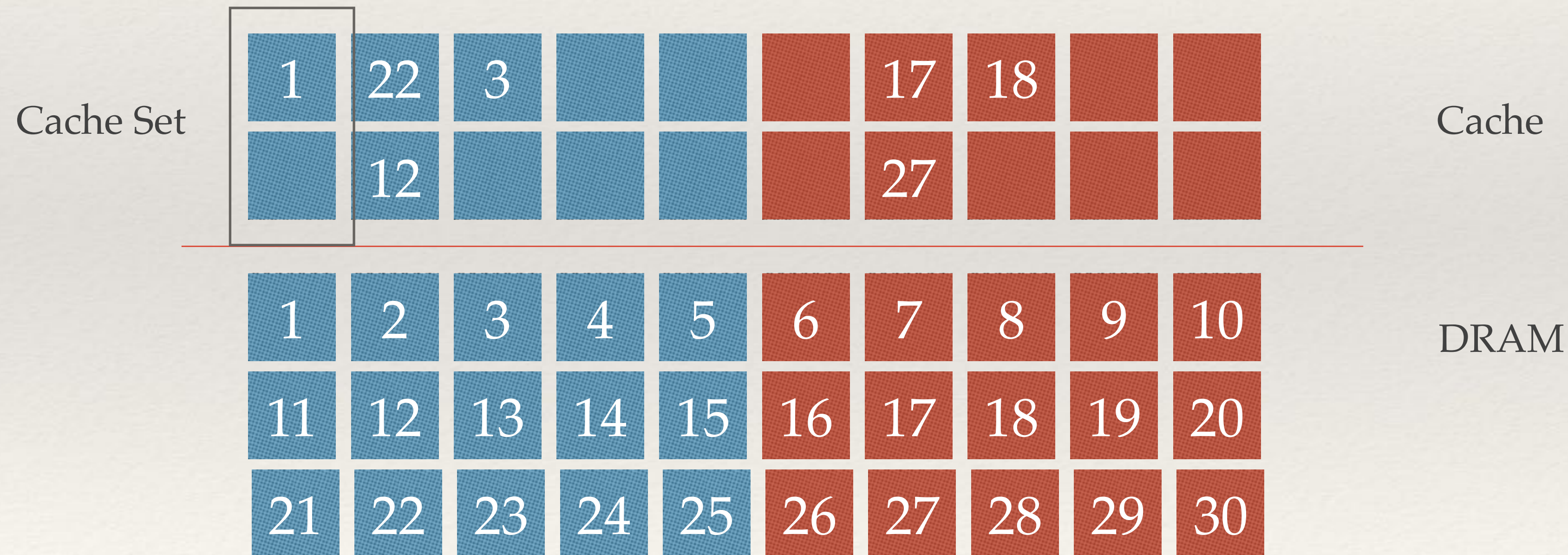
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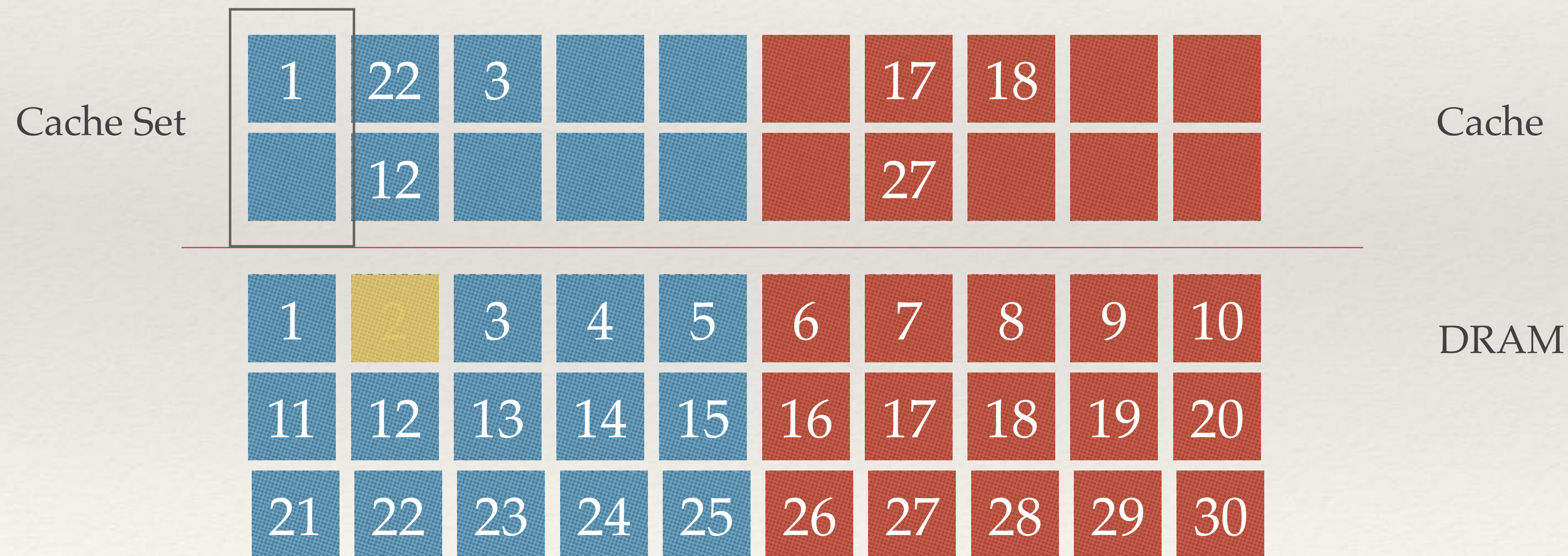
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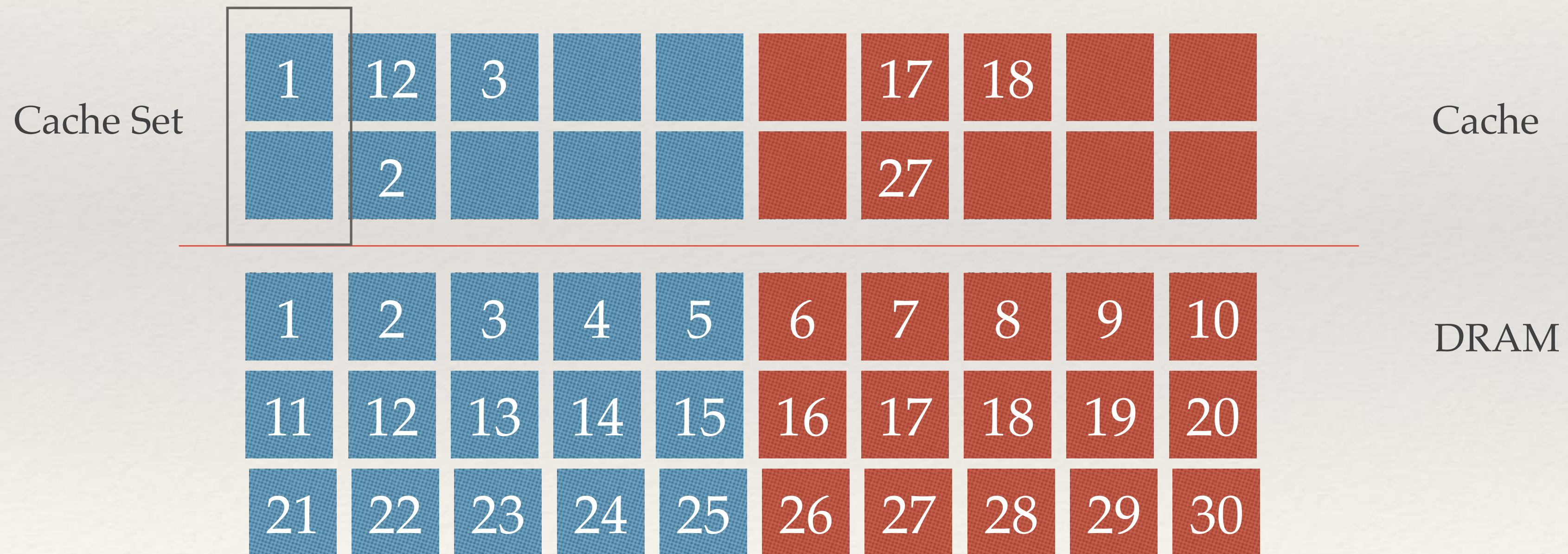
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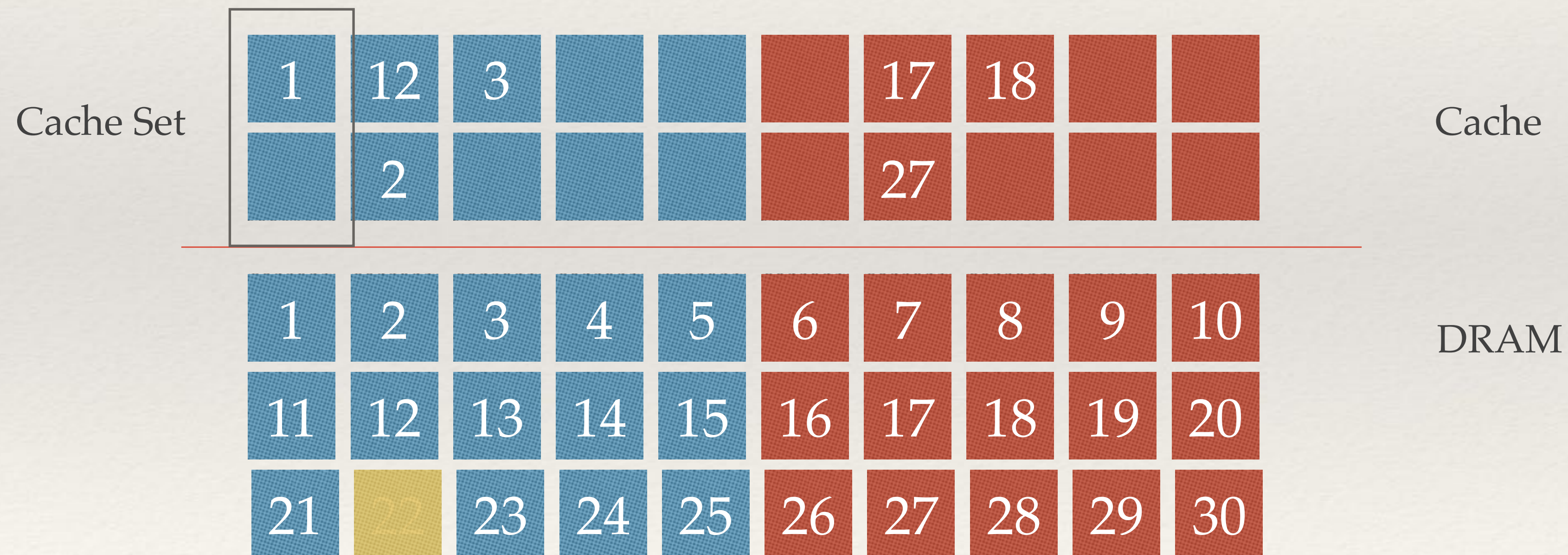
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# Tiny Cache Example

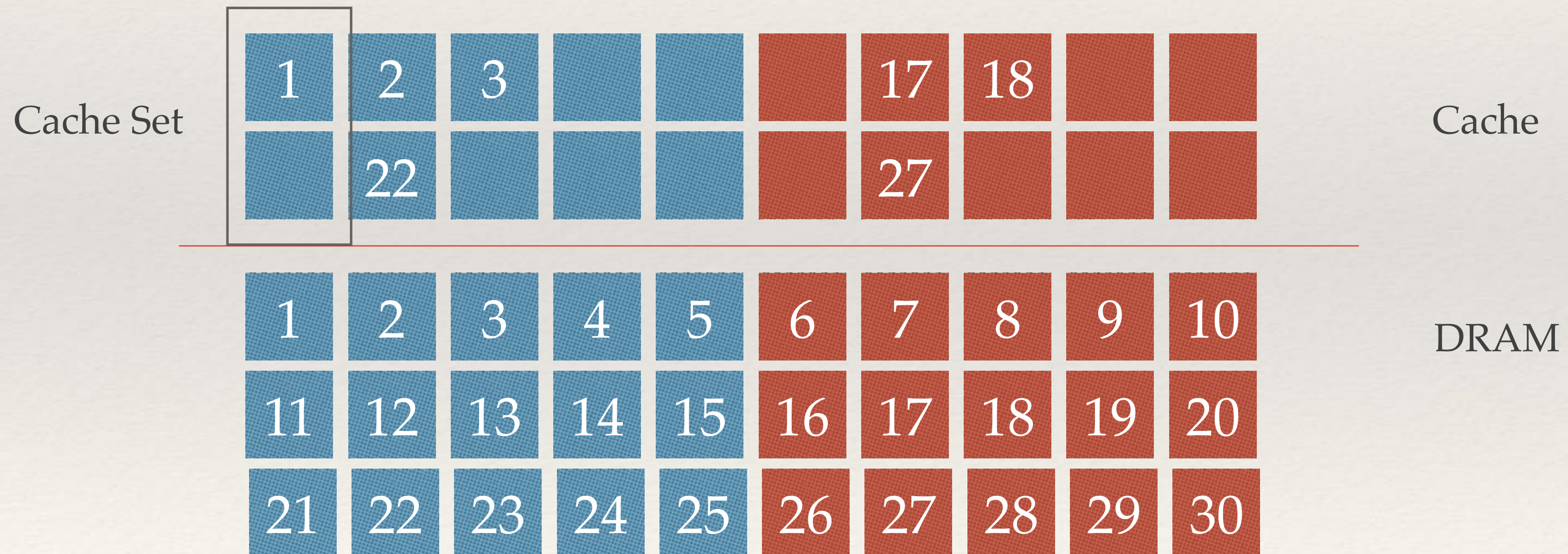
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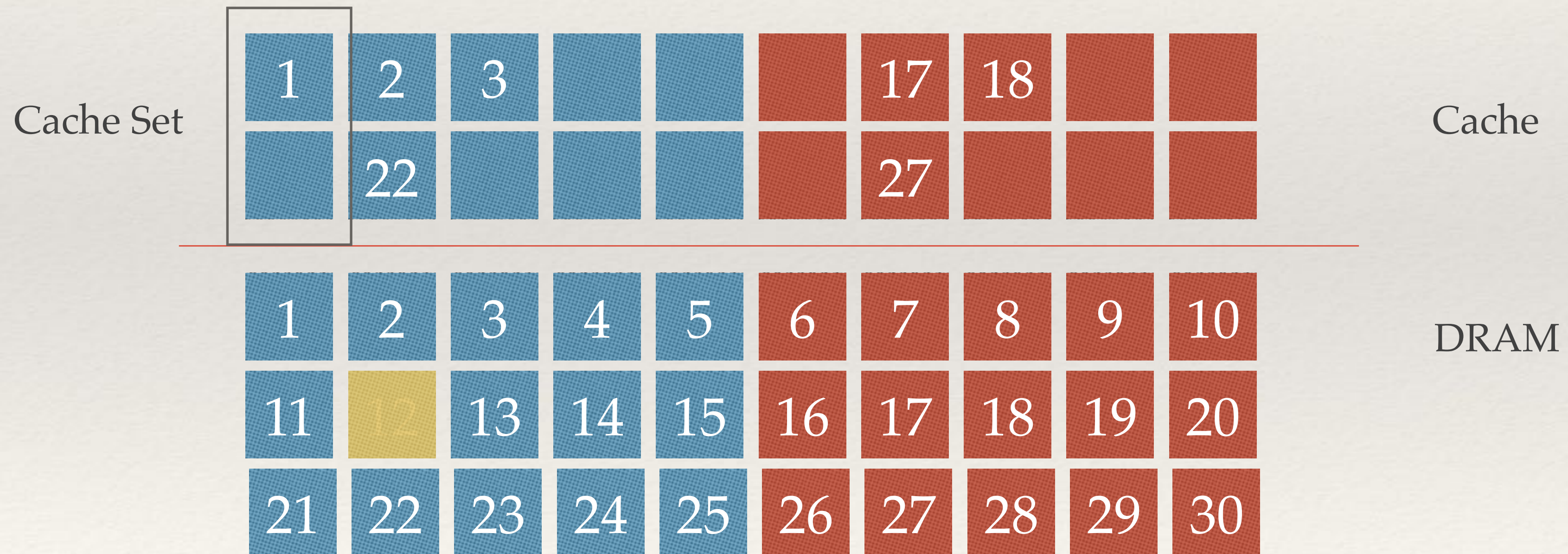
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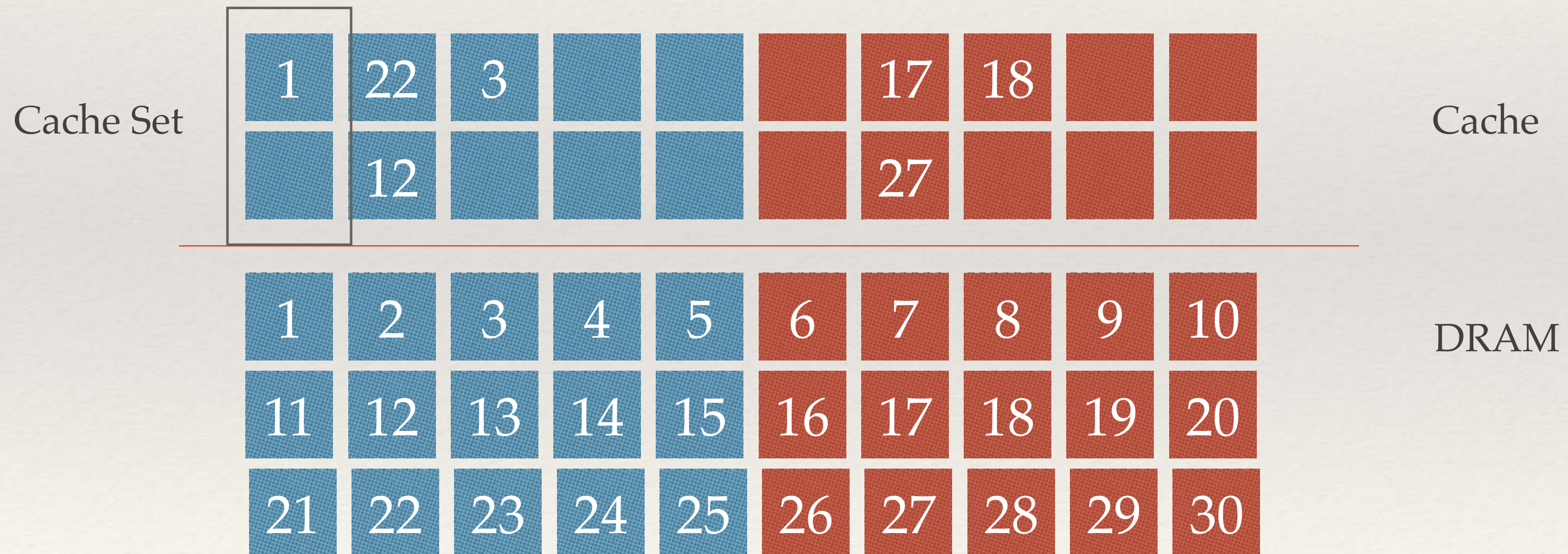
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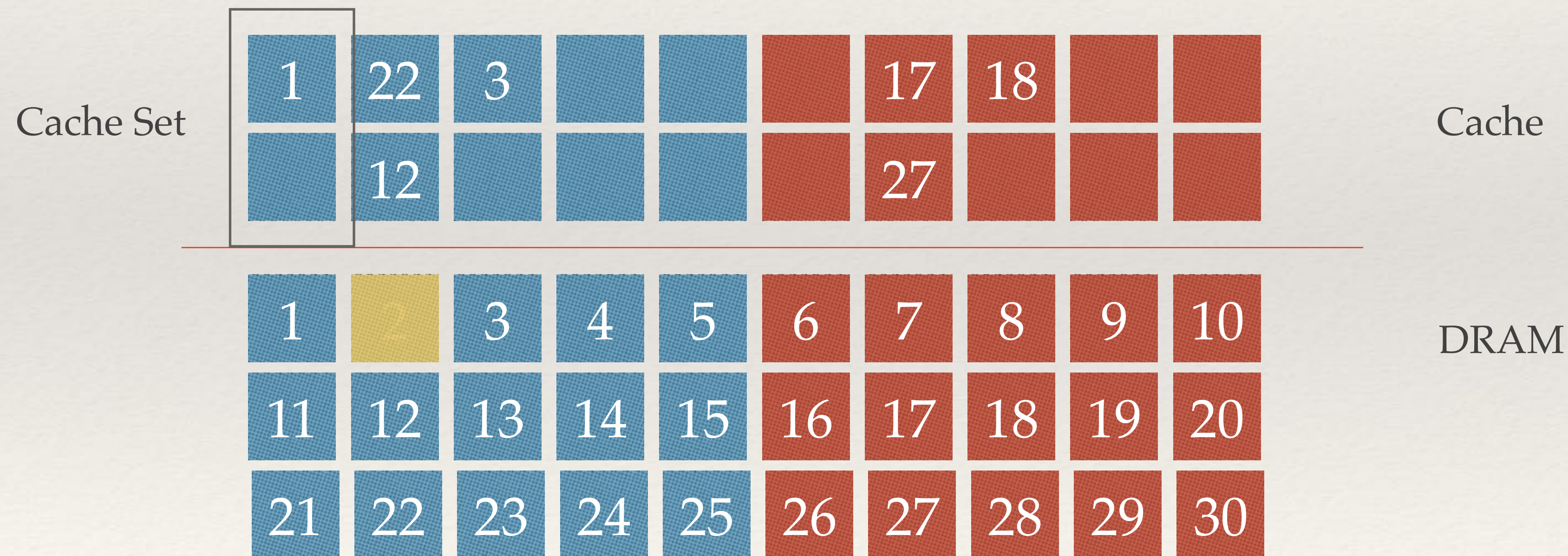
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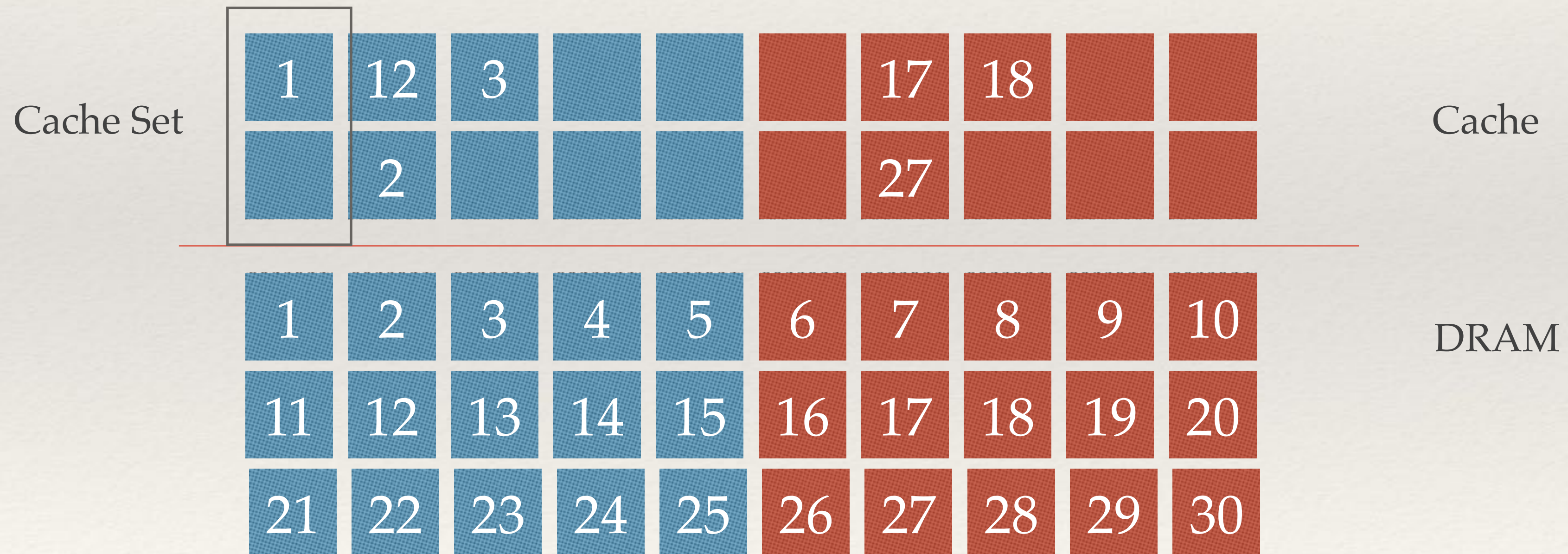
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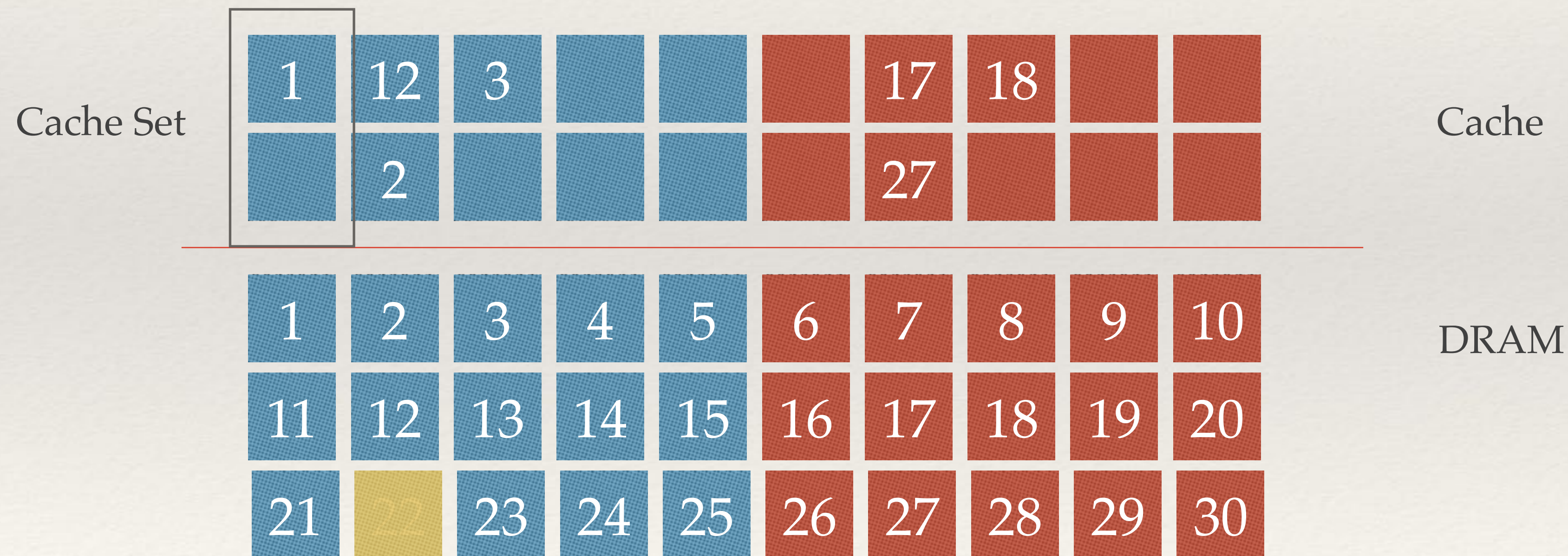
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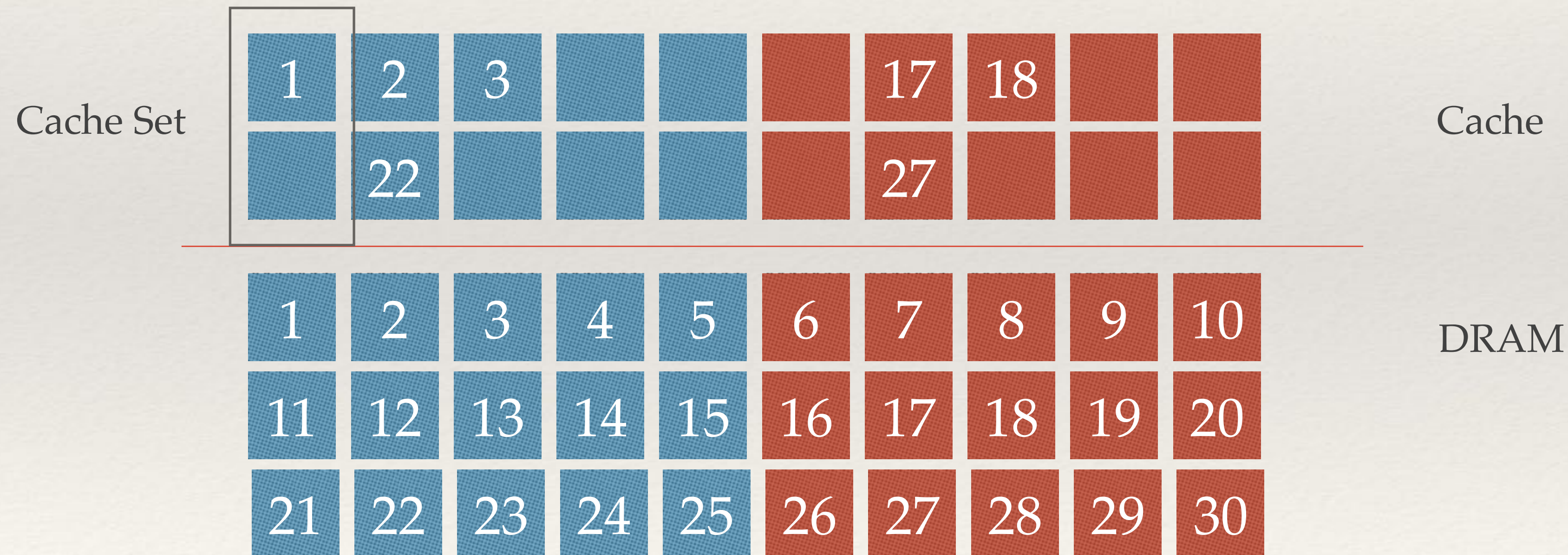
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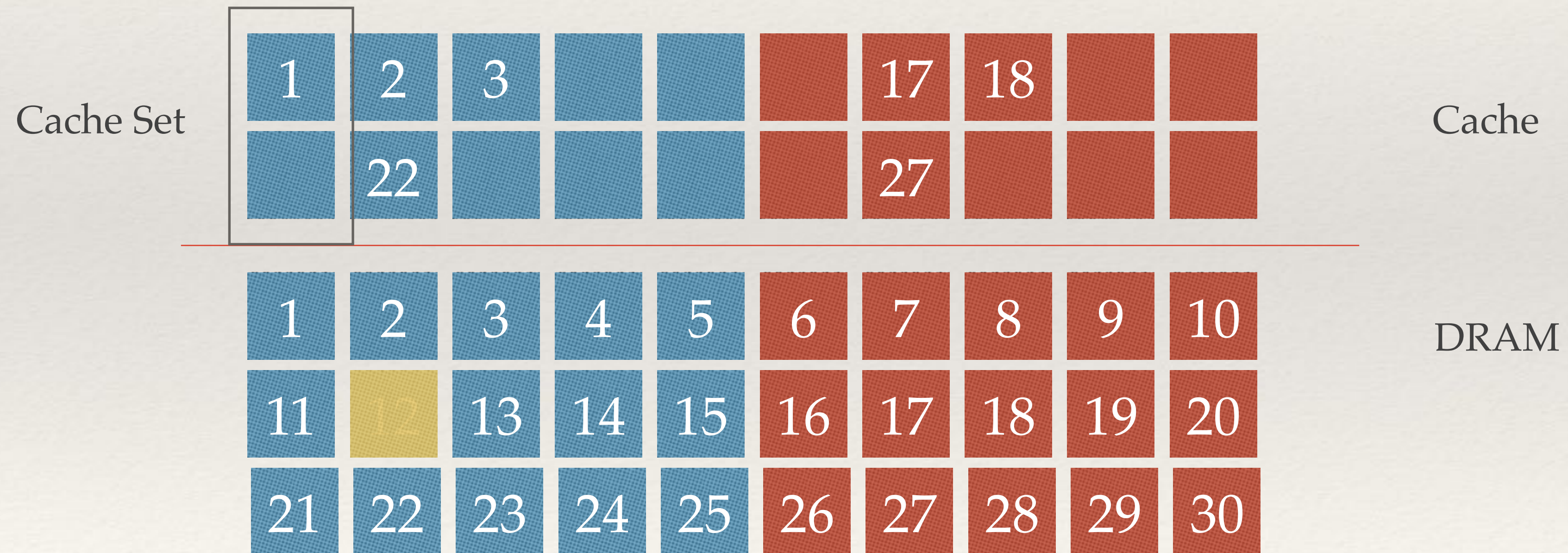
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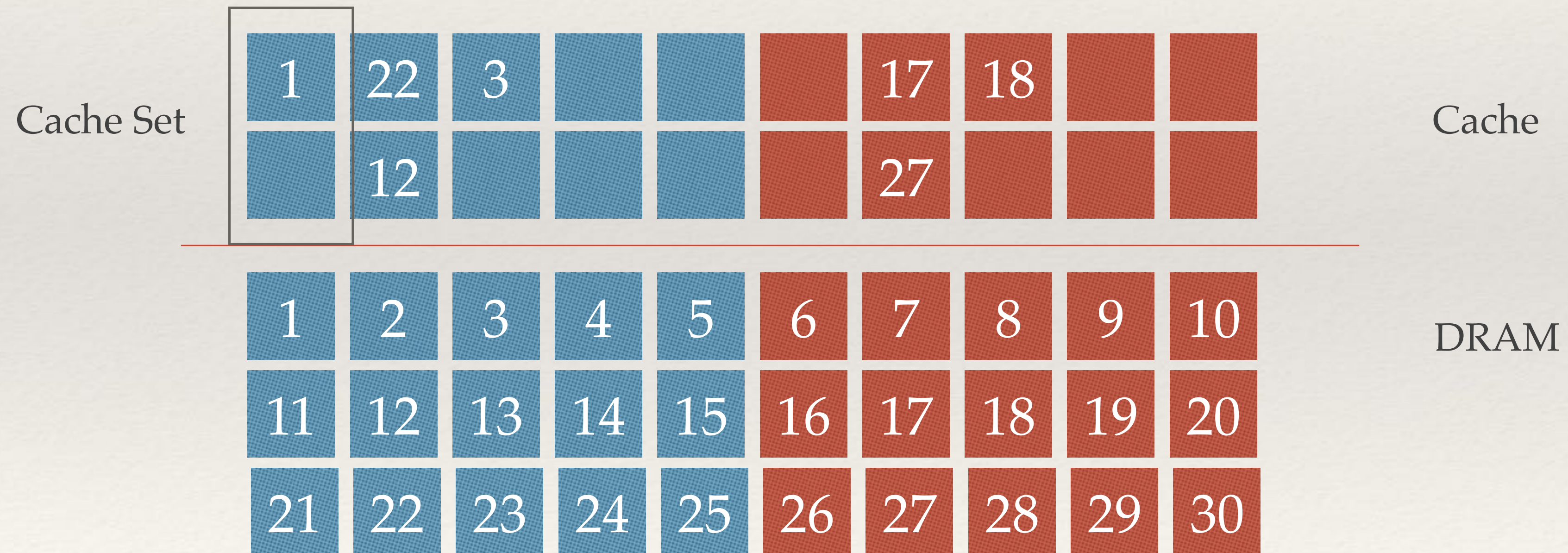
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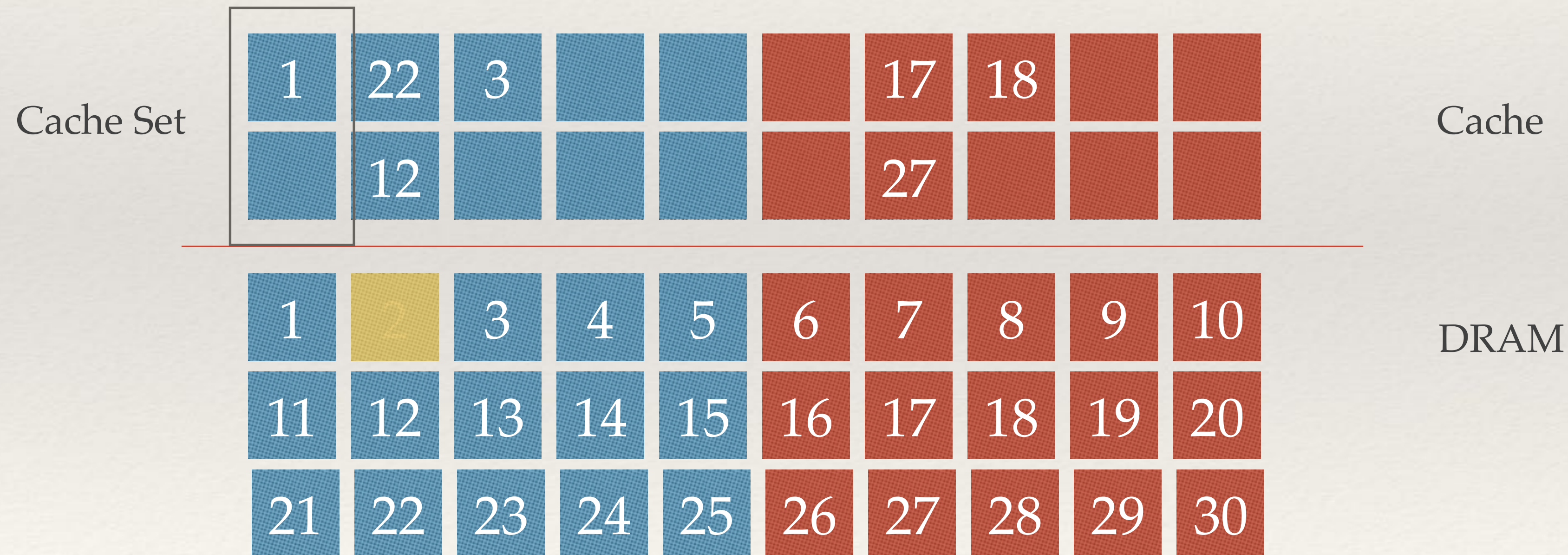
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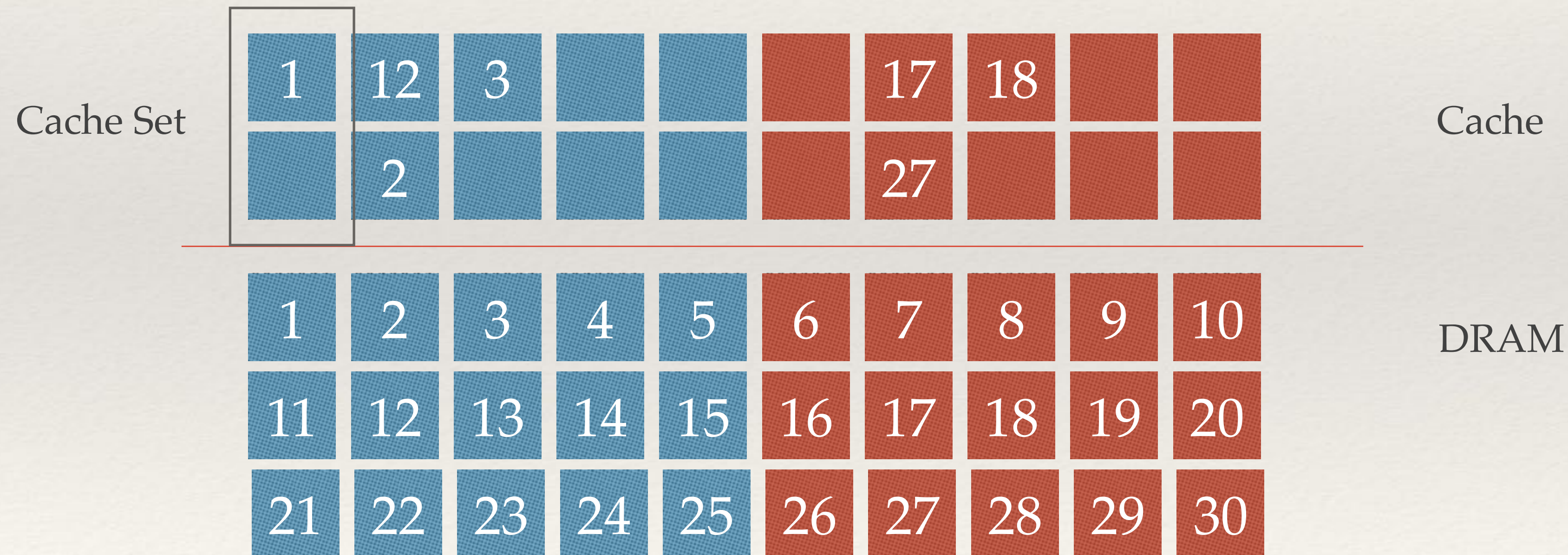
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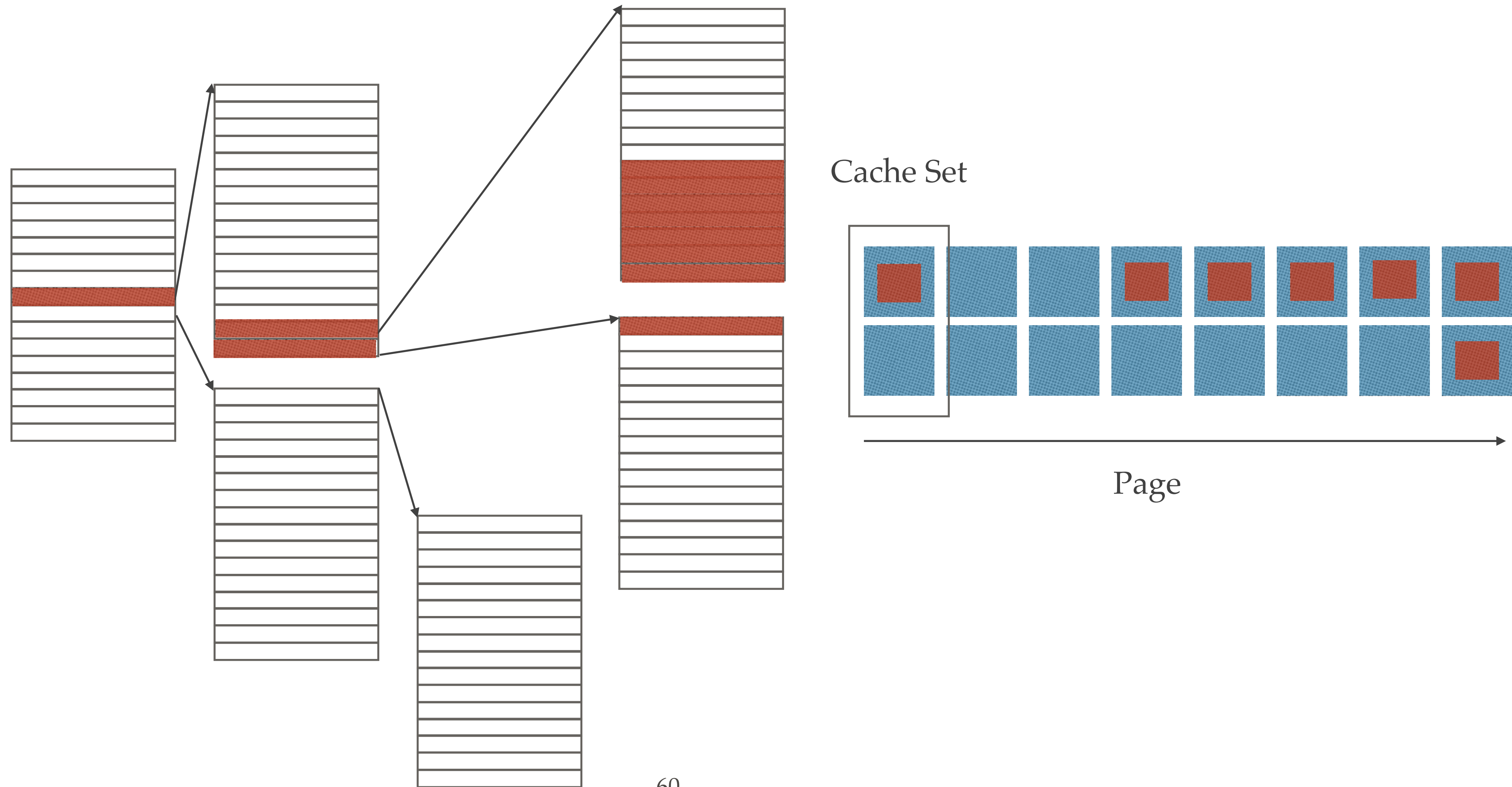


# Tiny Cache Example

- ❖ 2-way cache, 5 sets per page, showing 2 colors
- ❖ Eviction sets follow page offsets



# Big picture: cached page tables



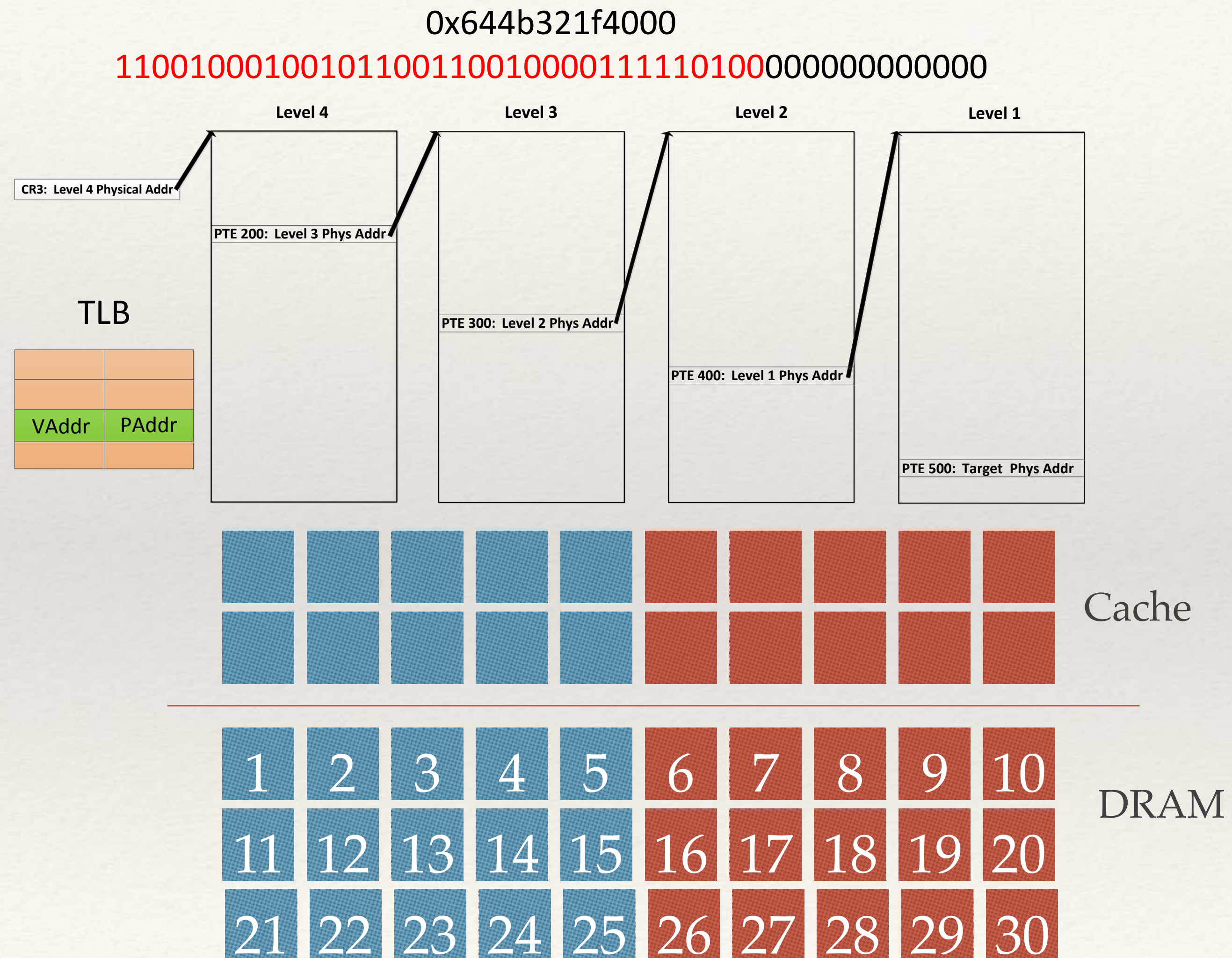
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# EVICT+TIME

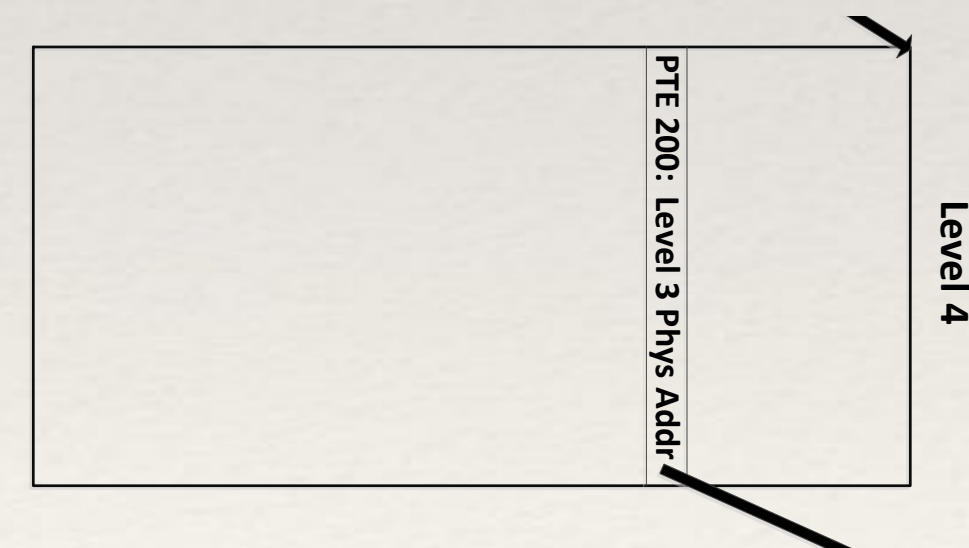
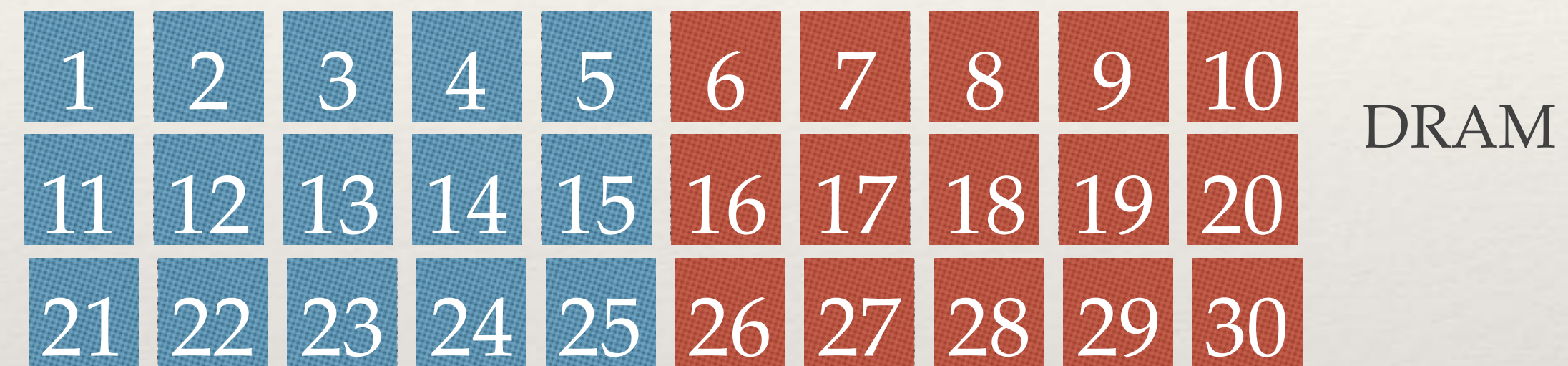
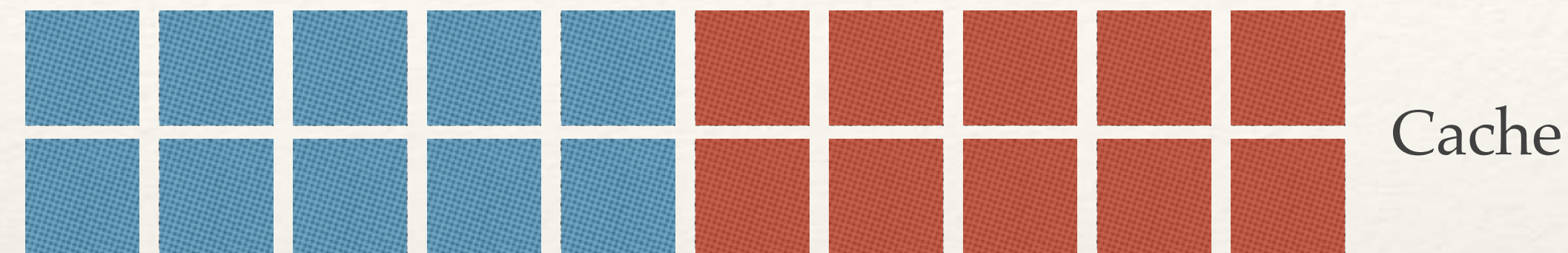
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- ❖ Flush TLB, forcing pagetable walk
- ❖ 2x to measure cached lookup time
- ❖ Flush TLB
- ❖ Evict first cacheline
- ❖ Measure possibly-uncached lookup time
- ❖ Find cacheline dependencies

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

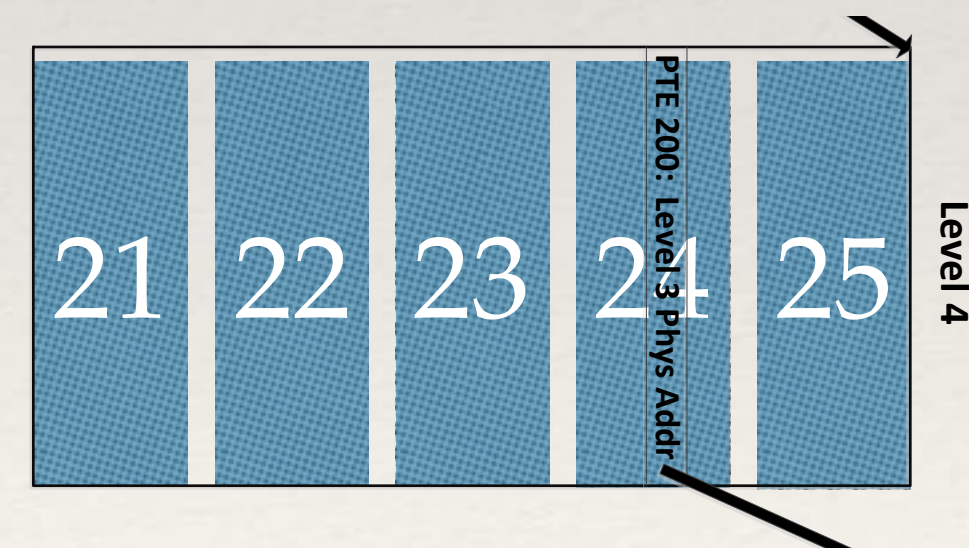
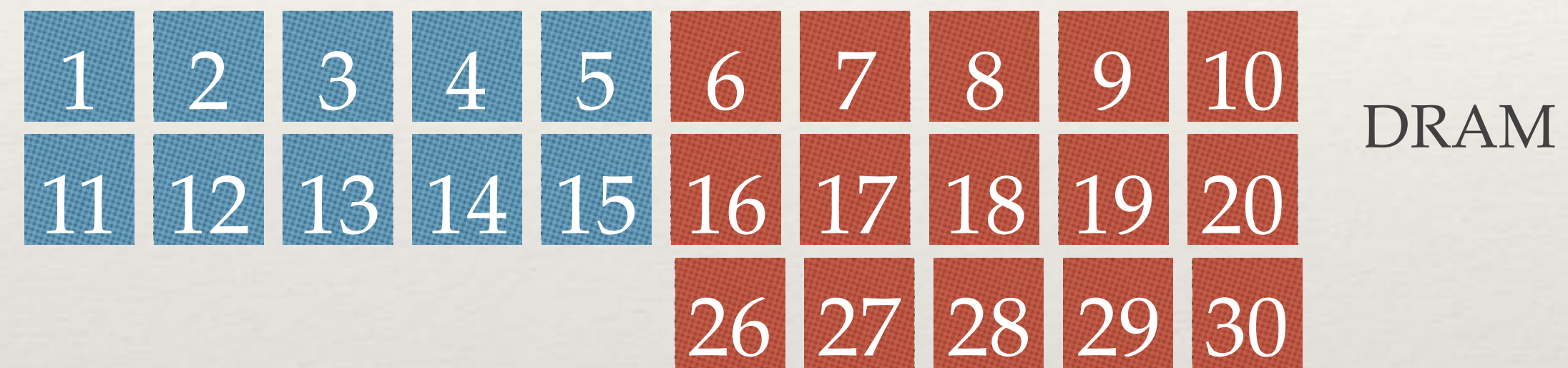
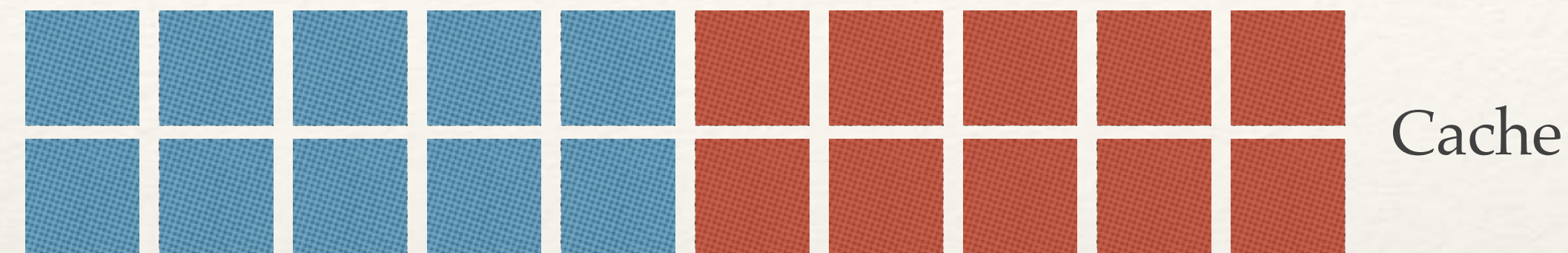


# EVICT+TIME in Cache



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

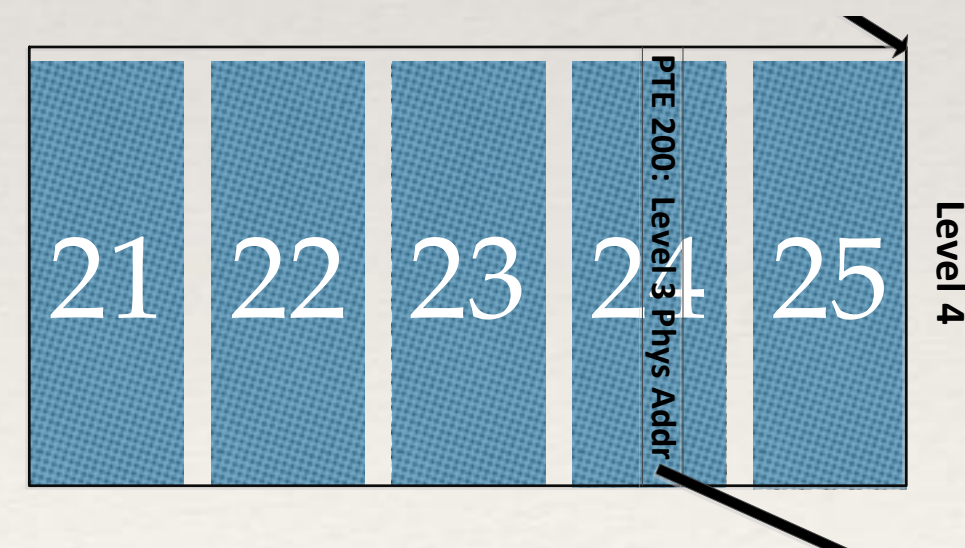
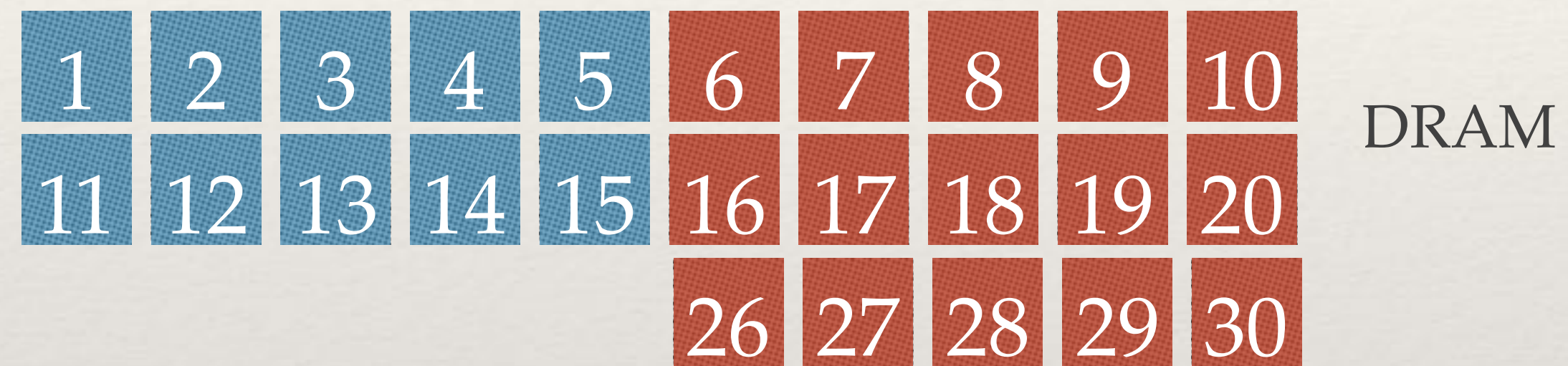
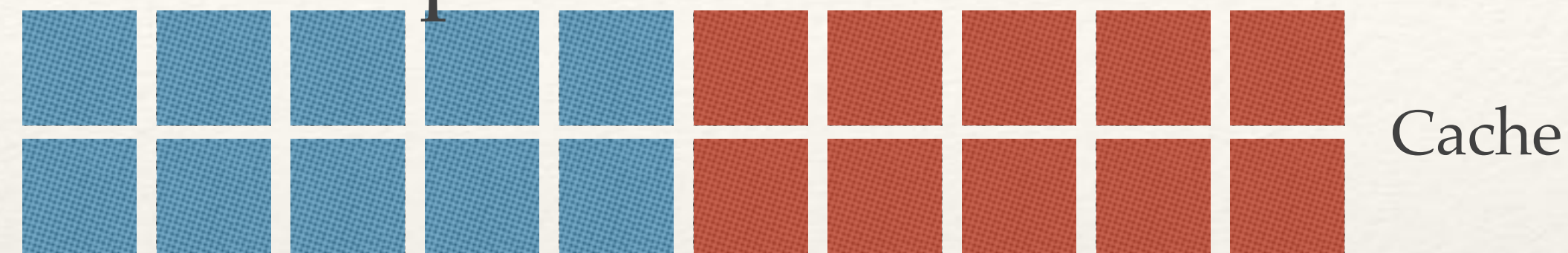


Pagetable in DRAM



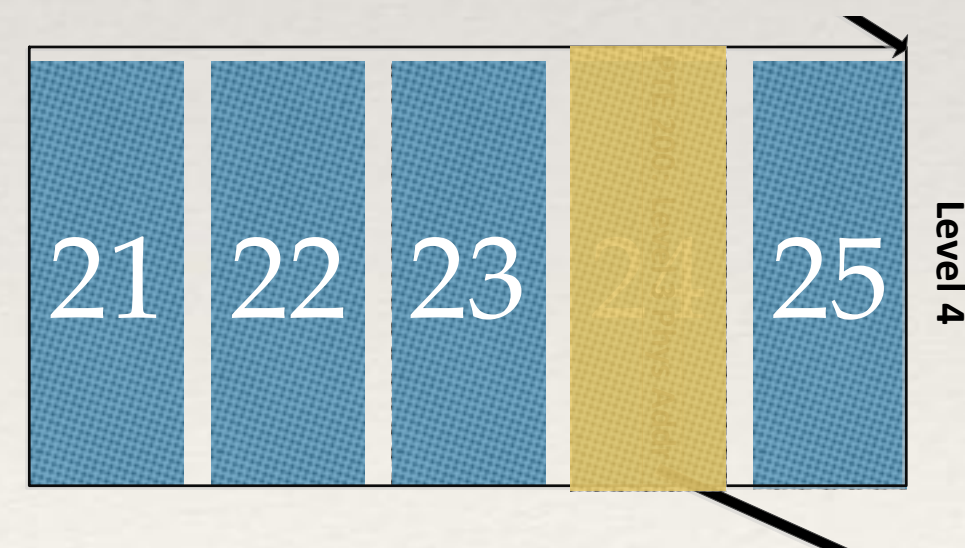
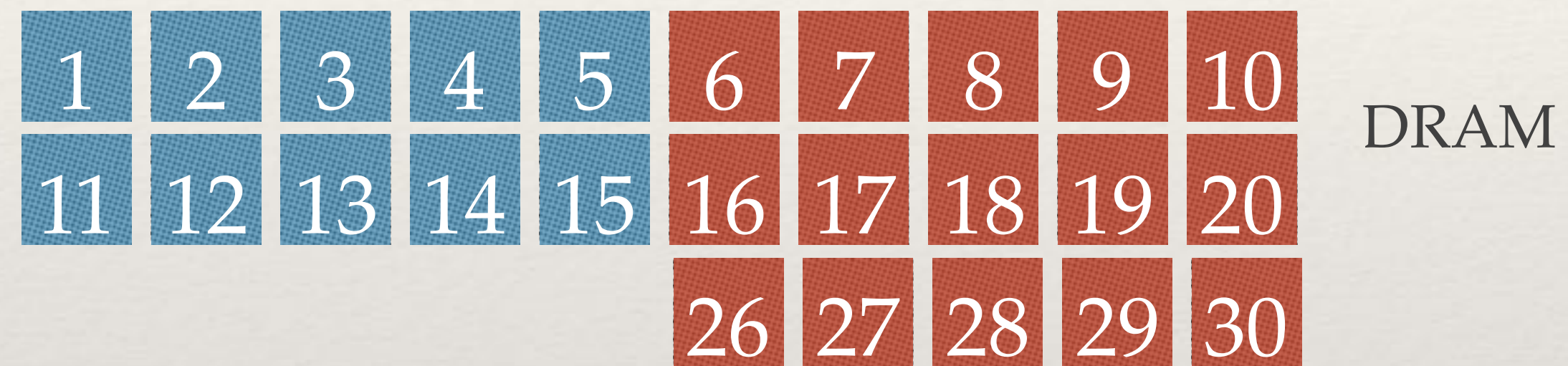
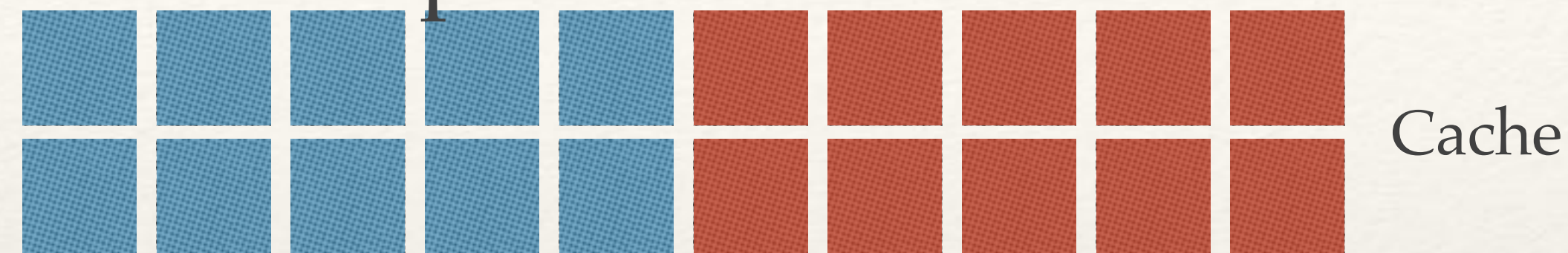
# EVICT+TIME in Cache

❖ Do address lookup



# EVICT+TIME in Cache

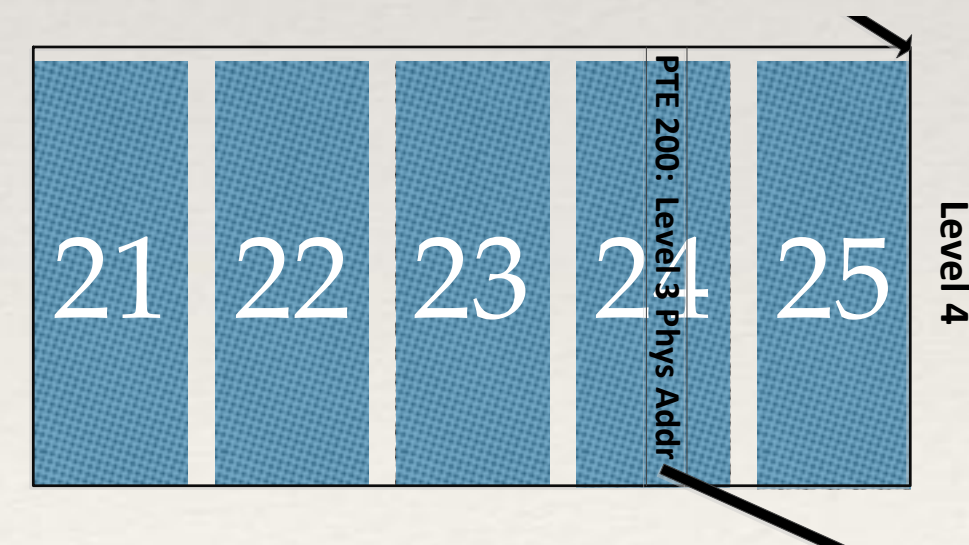
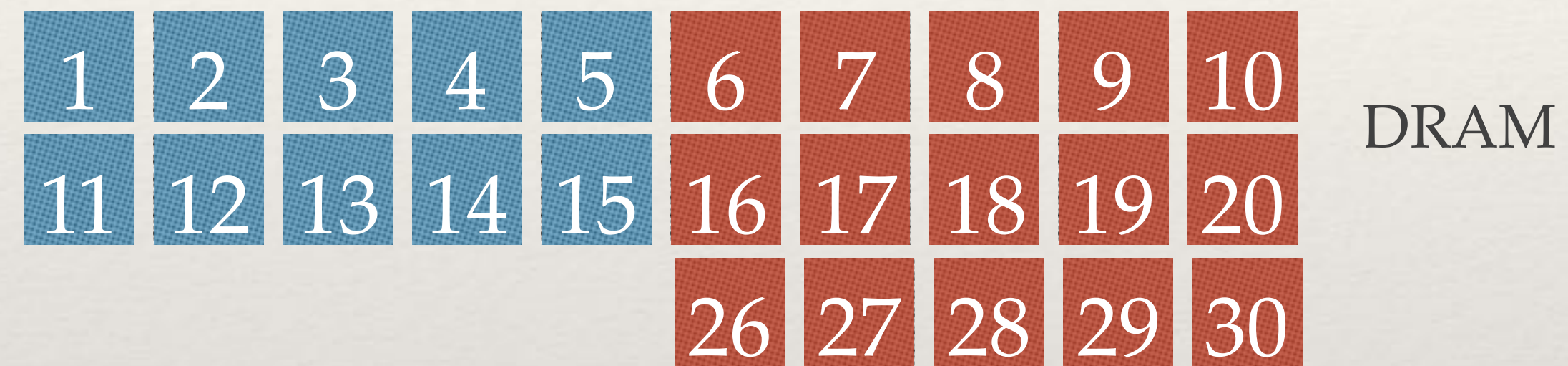
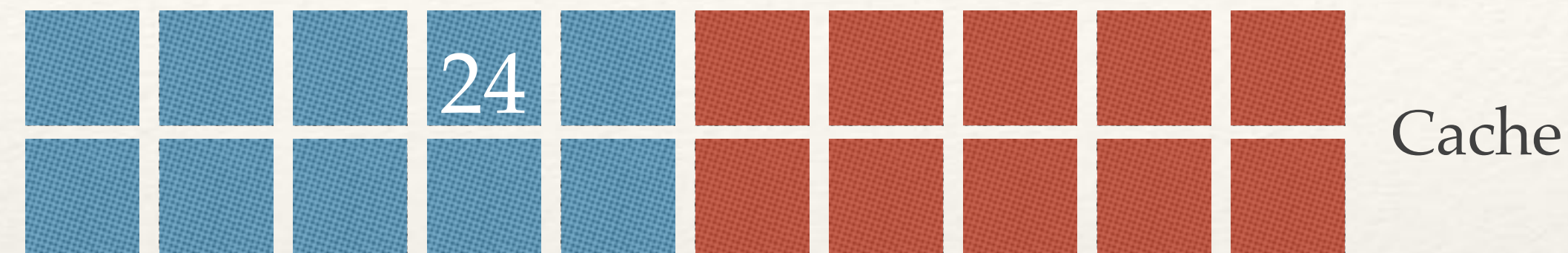
❖ Do address lookup



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

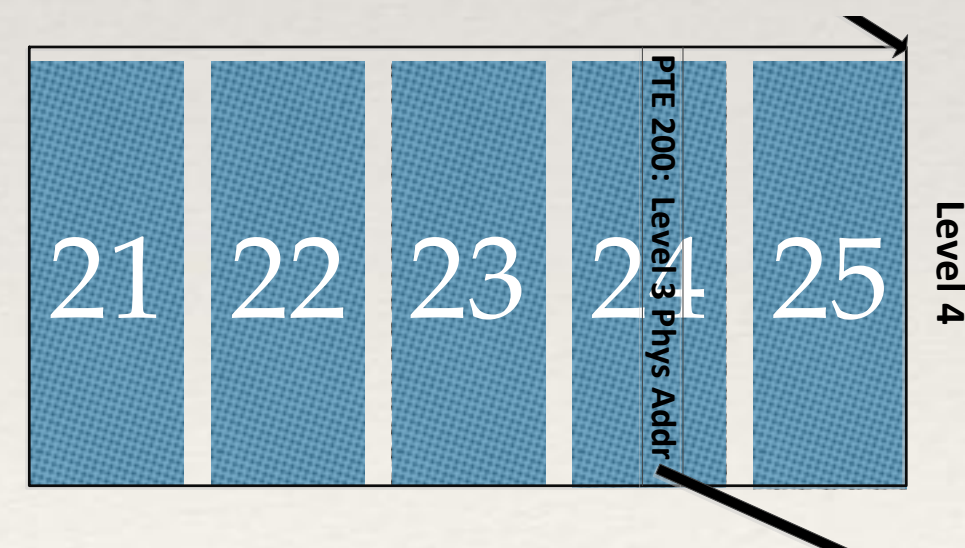
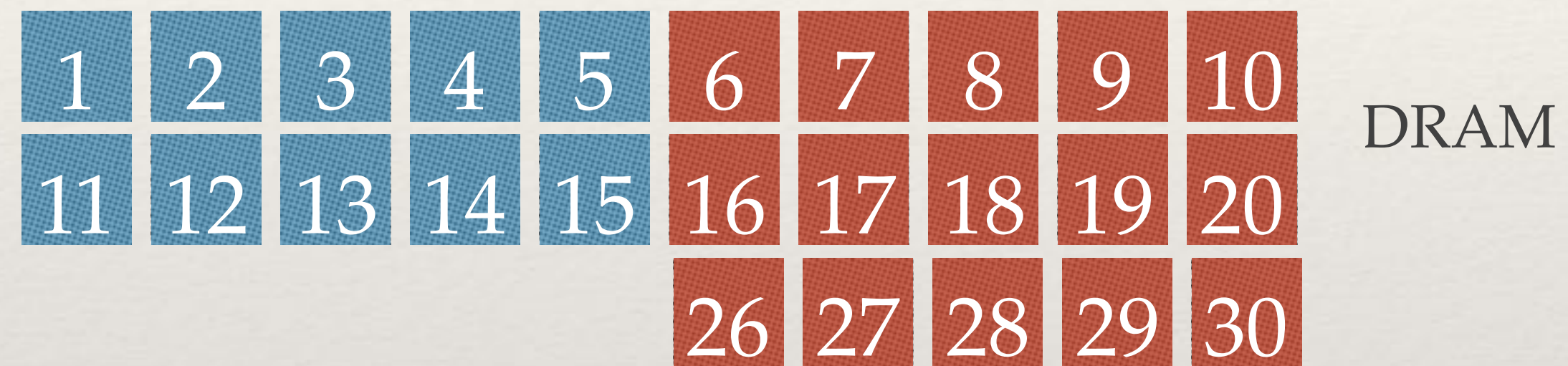
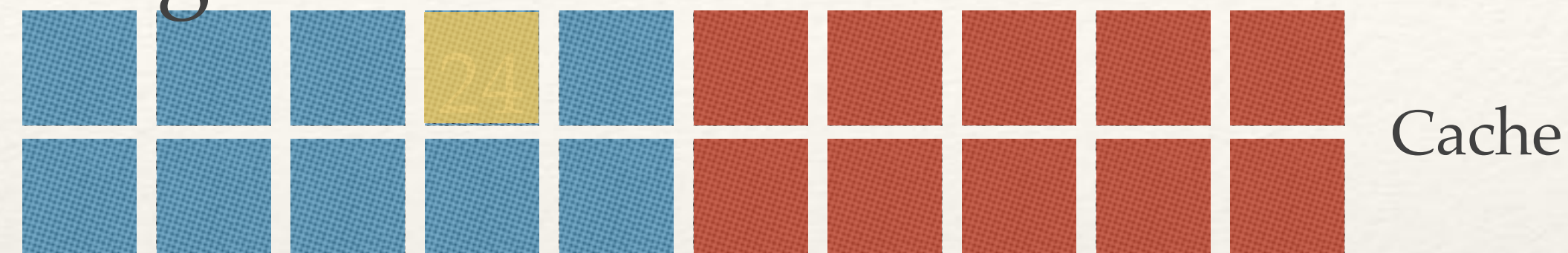
❖ It was uncached - slow



Page table in DRAM

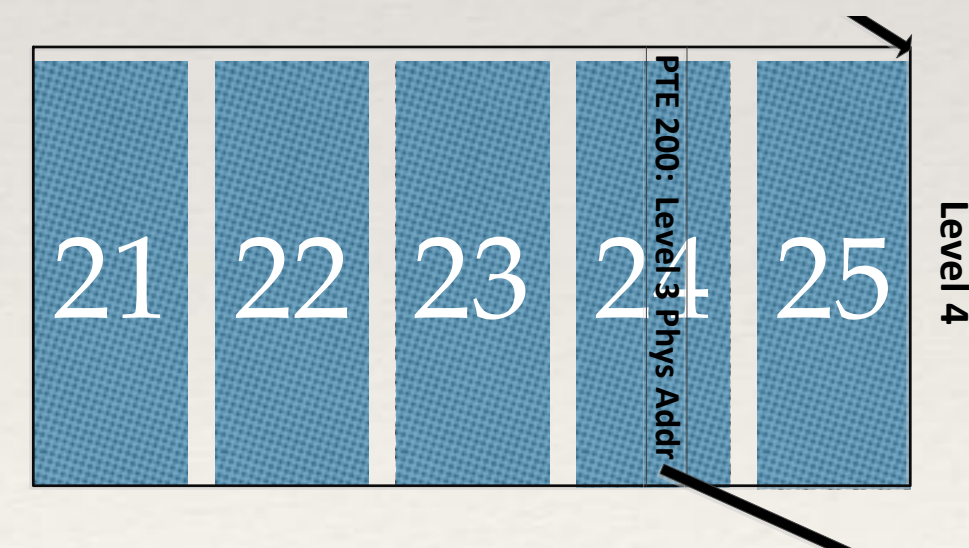
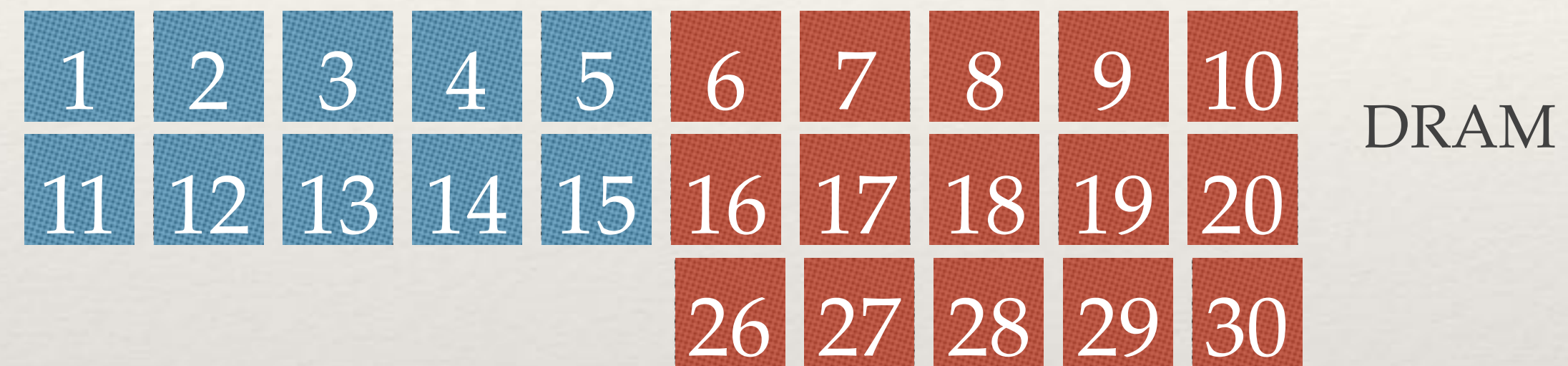
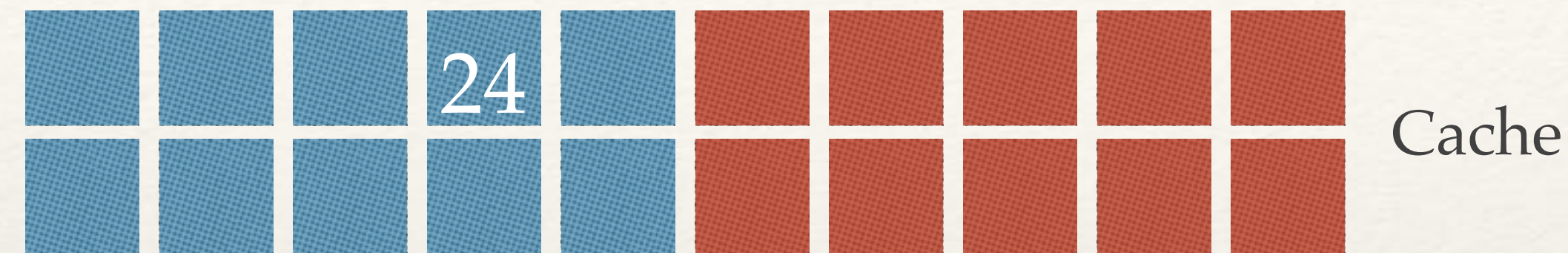
# EVICT+TIME in Cache

❖ Let's do it again



# EVICT+TIME in Cache

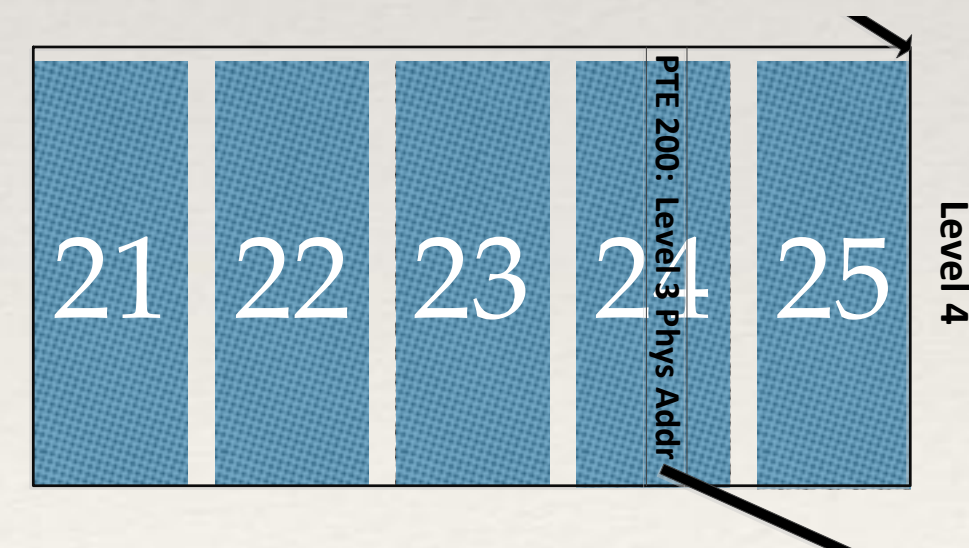
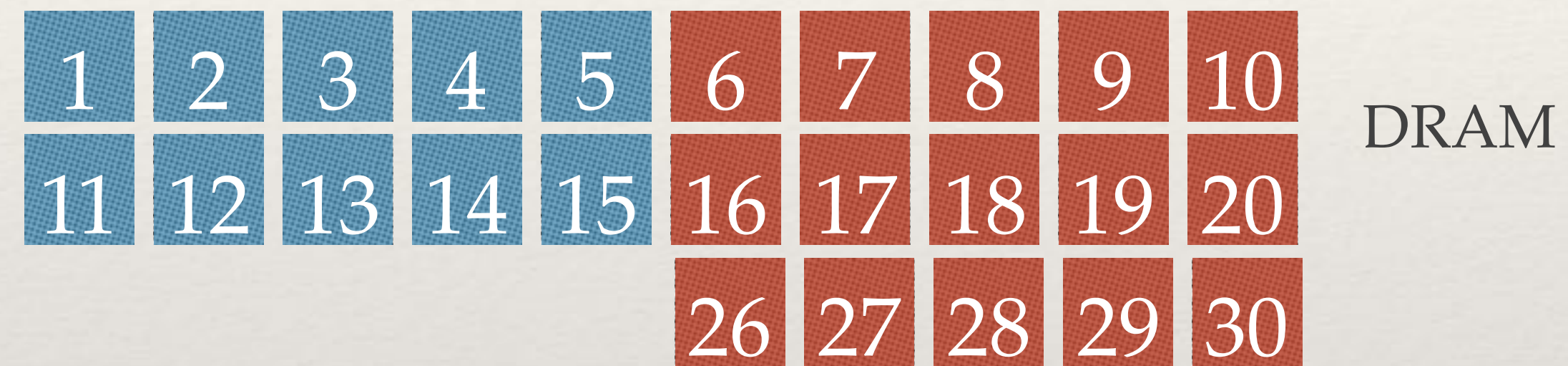
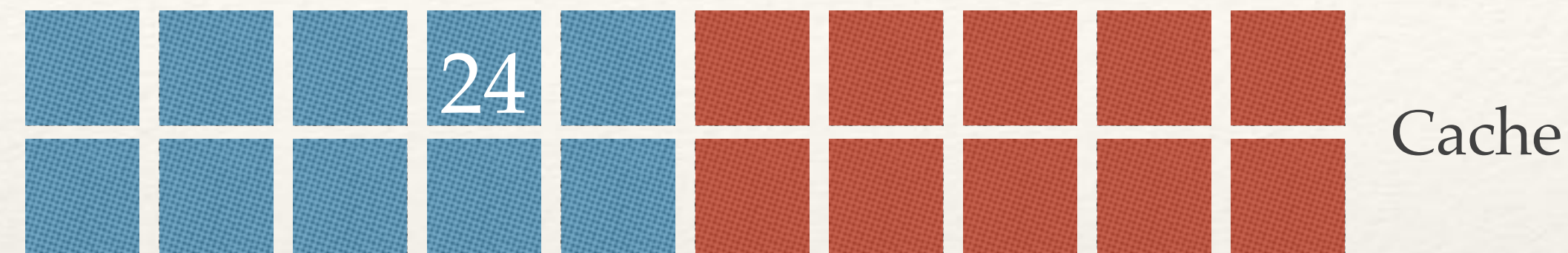
❖ It was cached - fast



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

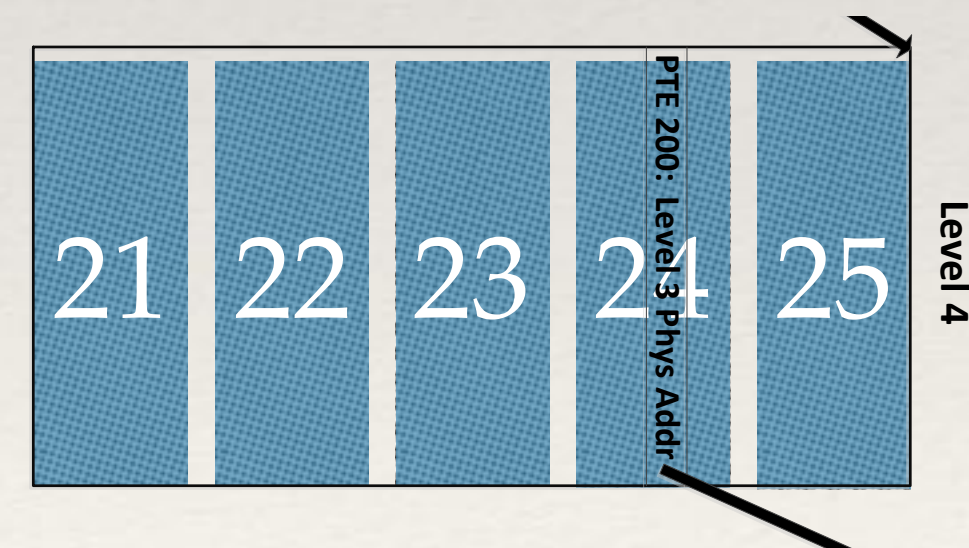
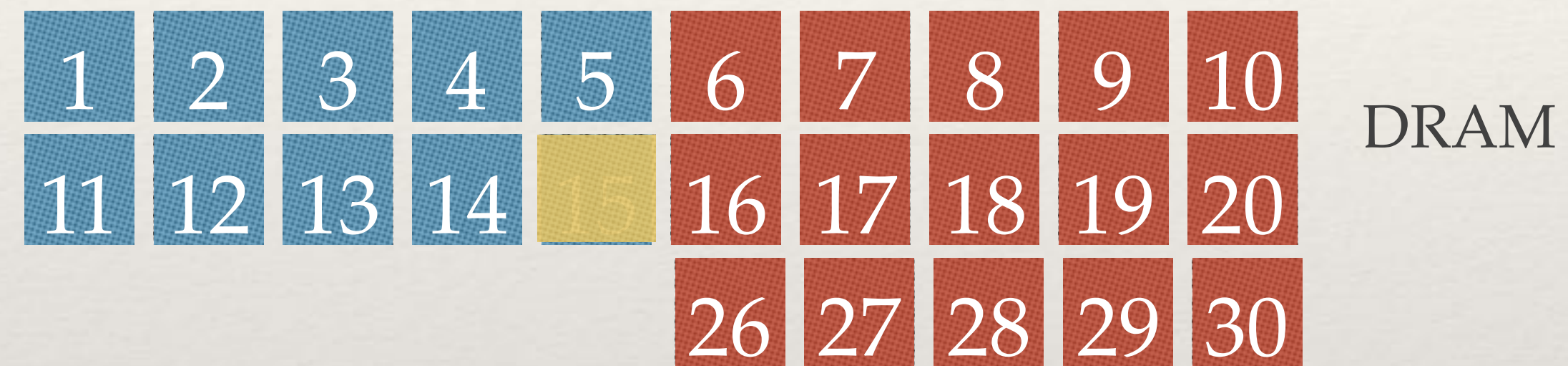
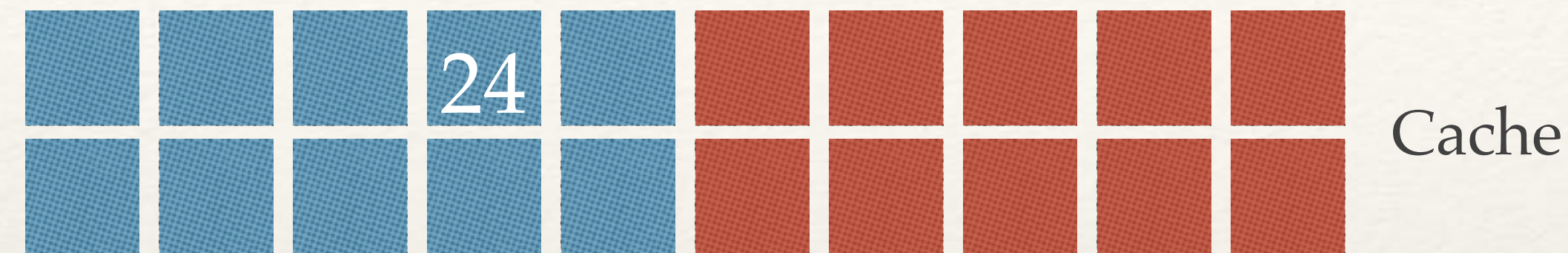
❖ Let's evict



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

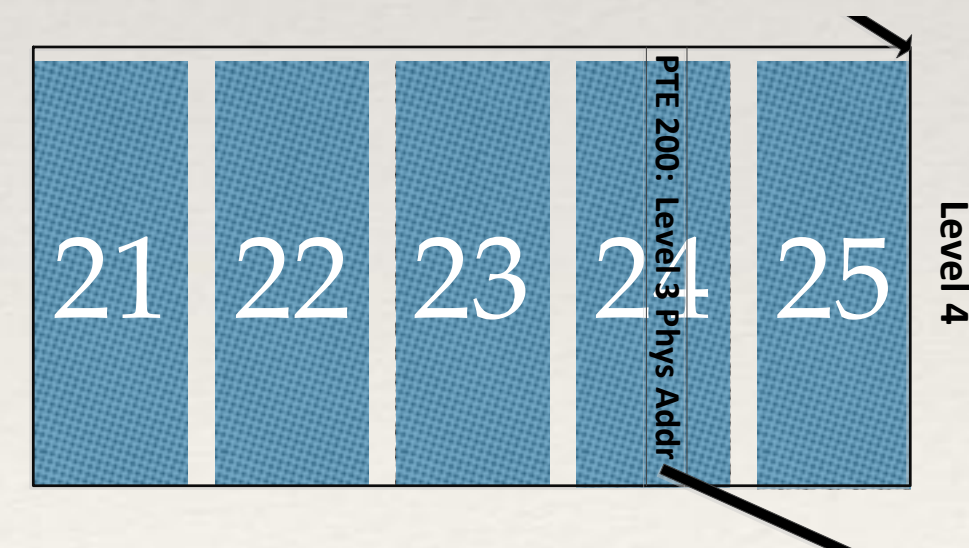
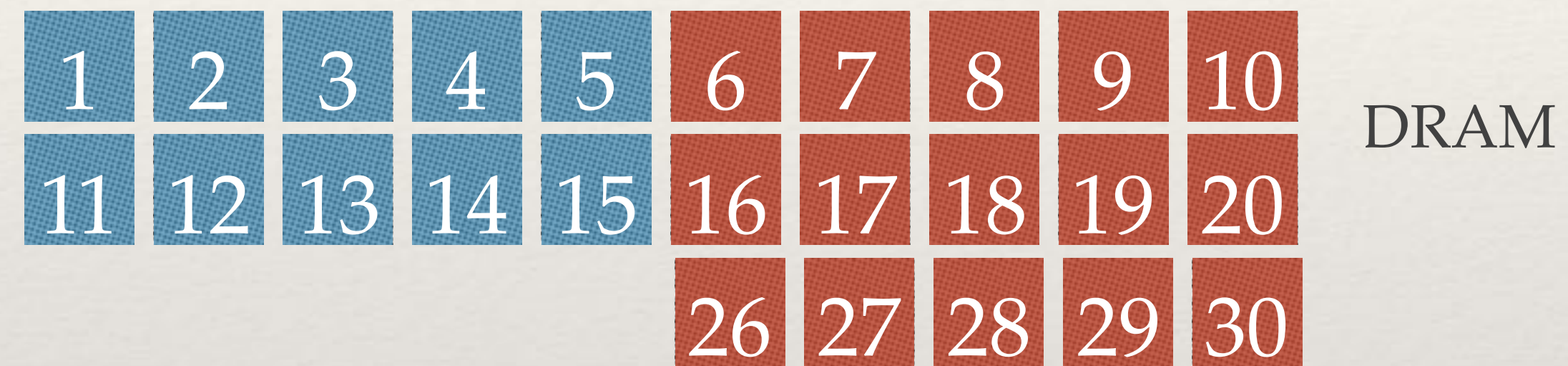
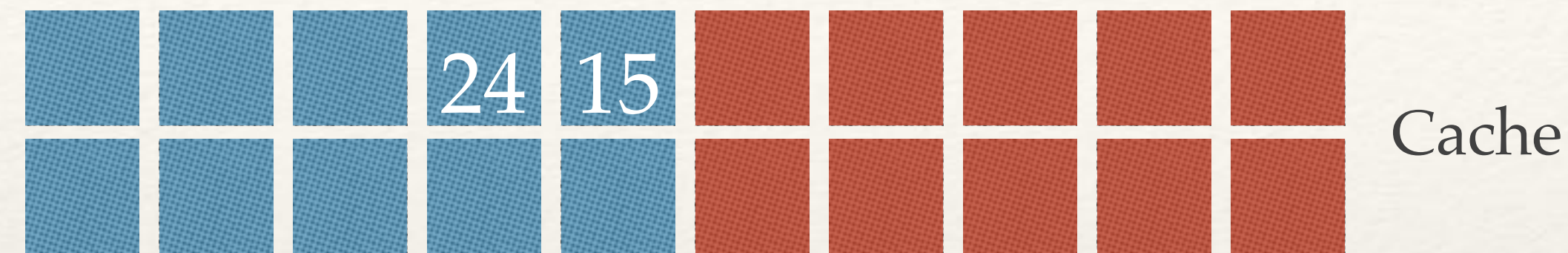
❖ Let's evict



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

❖ Let's evict

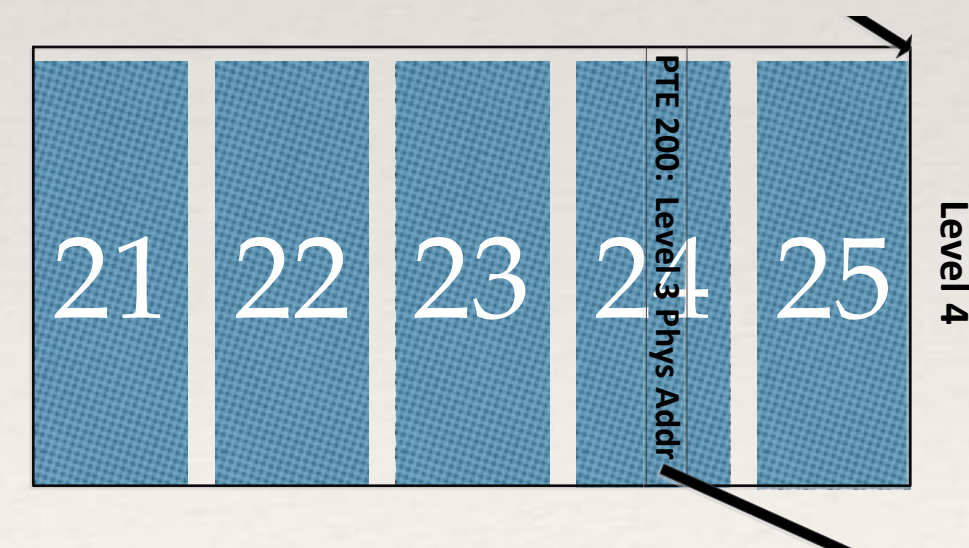
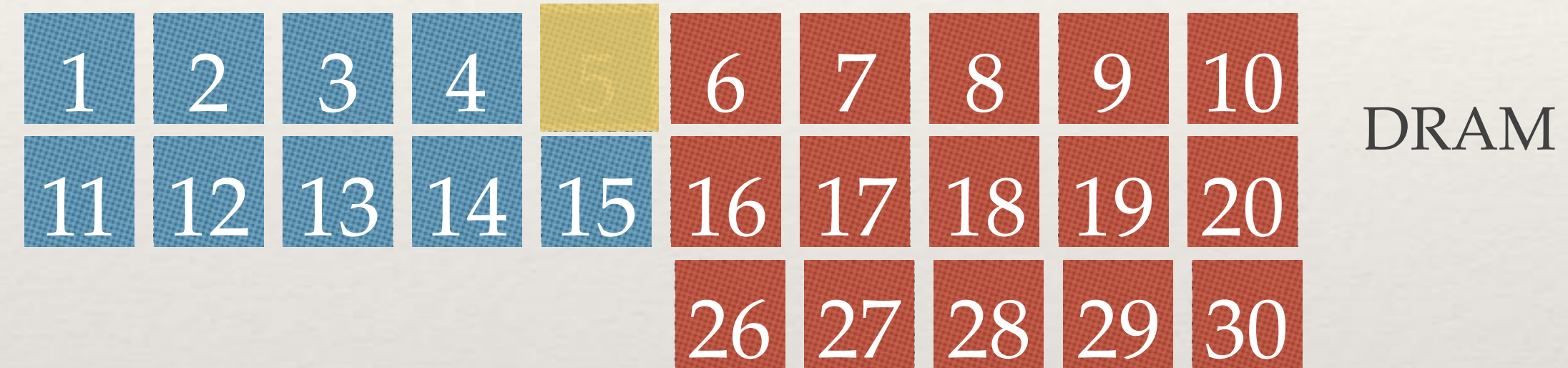
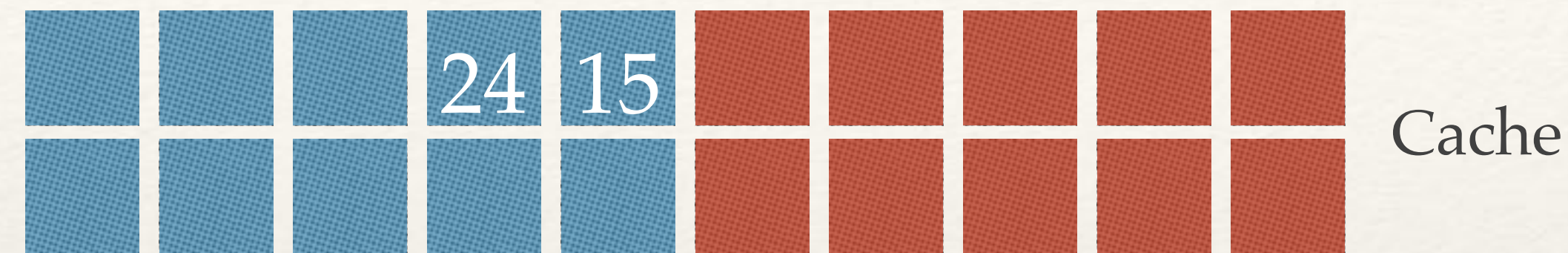


Pagetable in DRAM



# EVICT+TIME in Cache

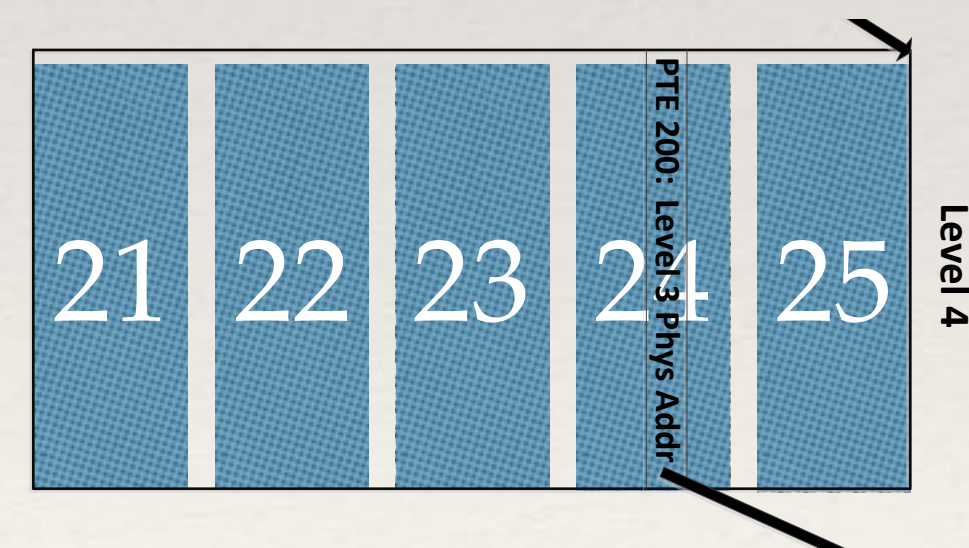
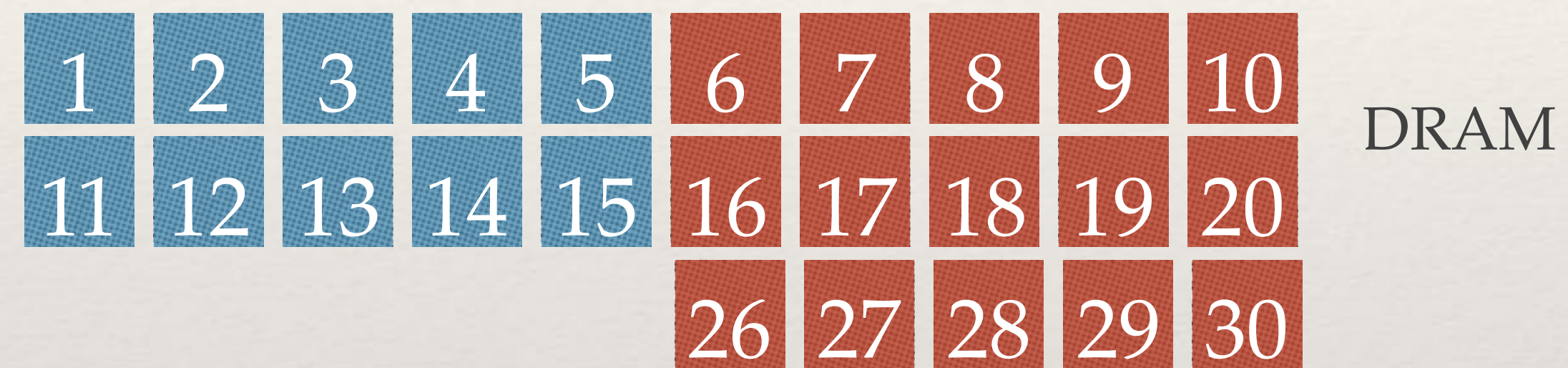
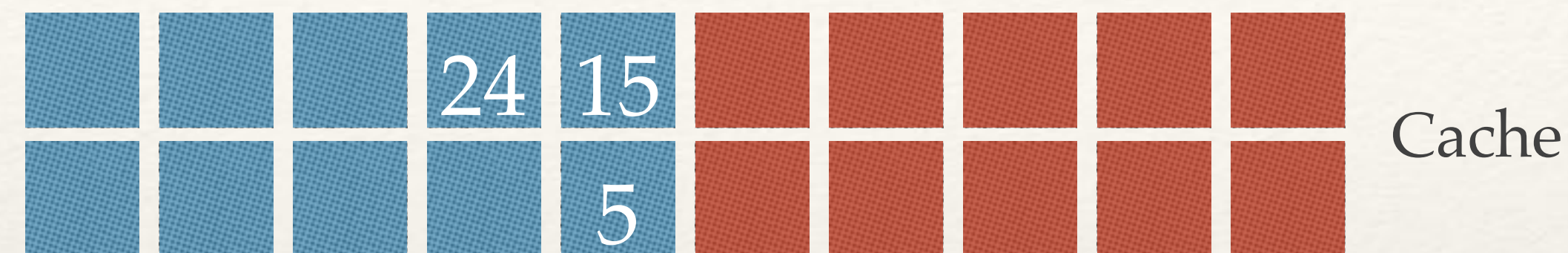
❖ Let's evict



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

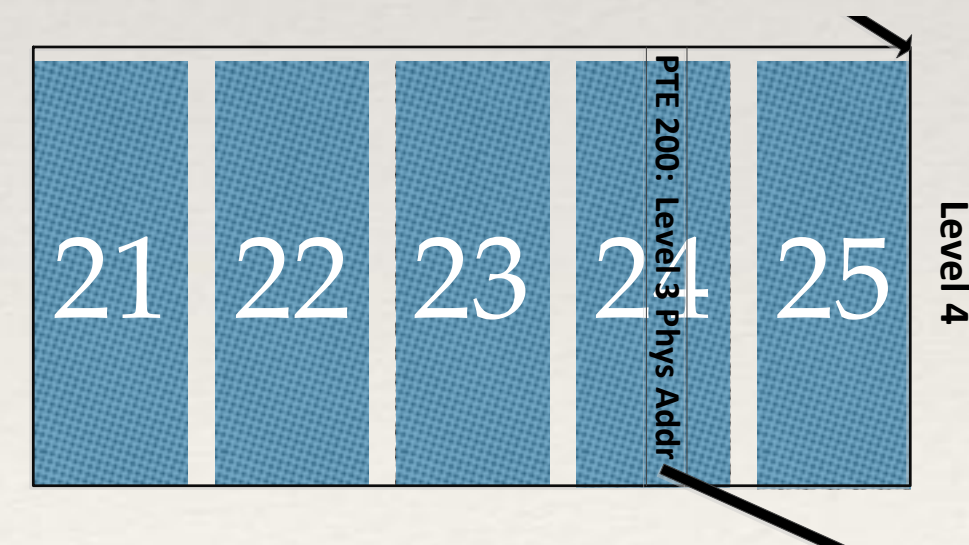
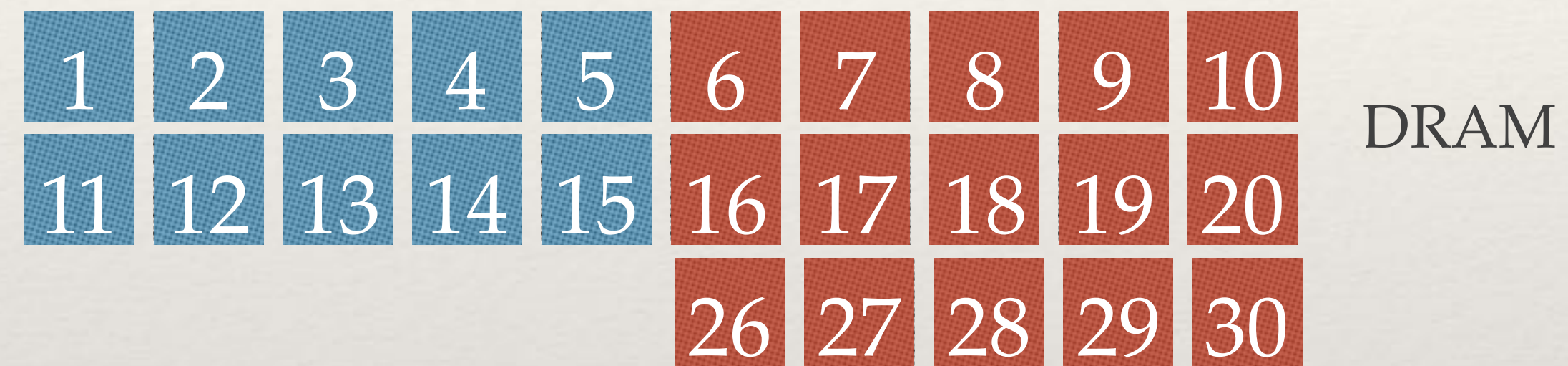
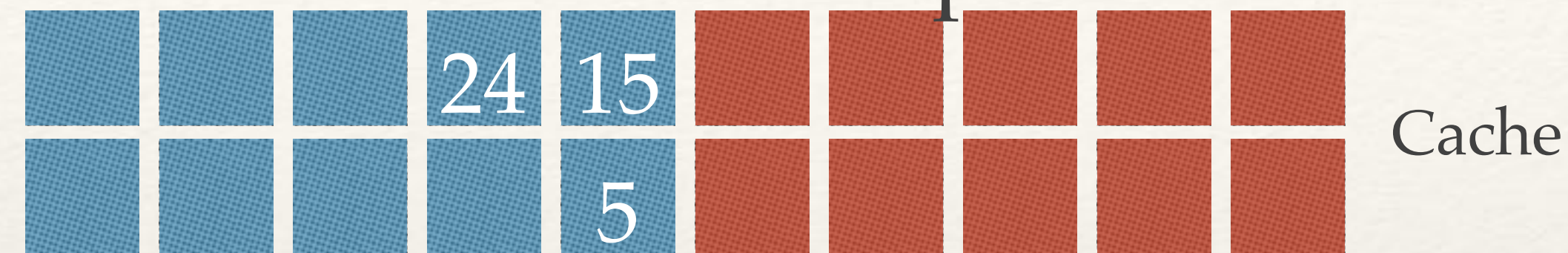
❖ Let's evict



Pagetable in DRAM

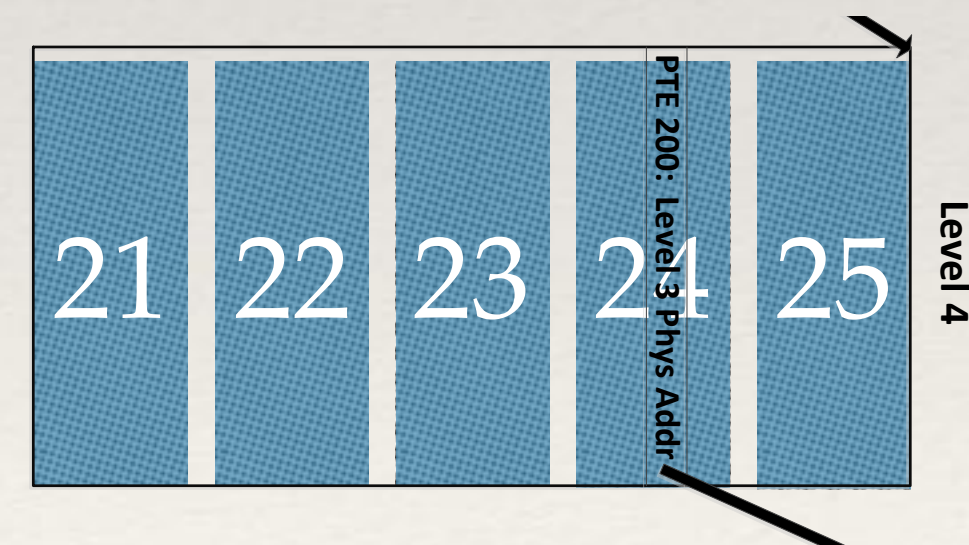
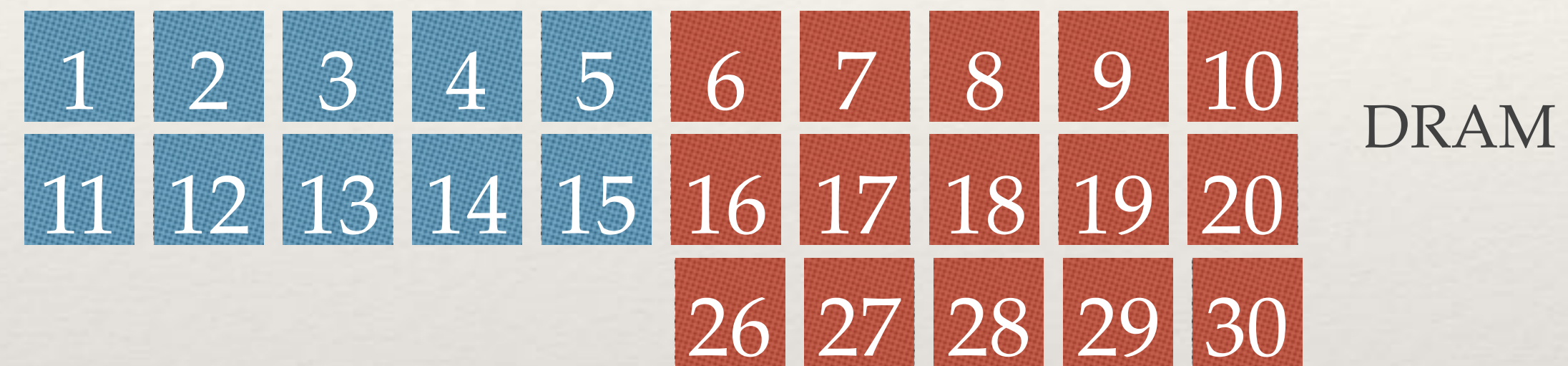
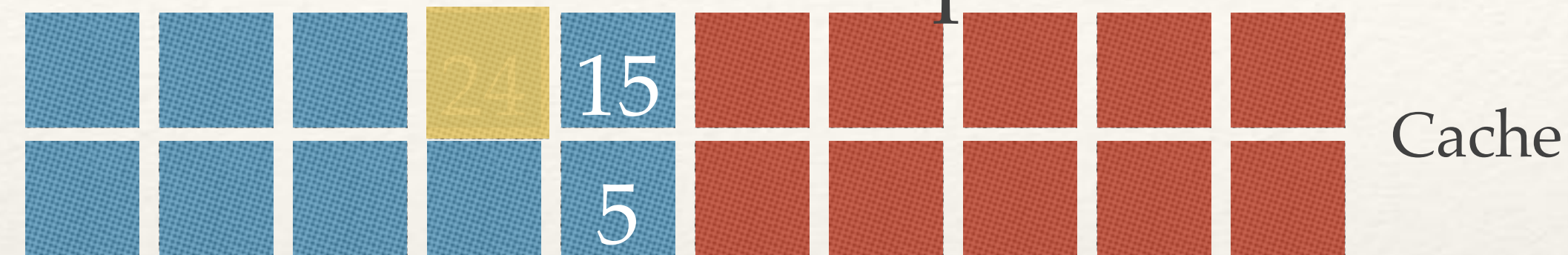
# EVICT+TIME in Cache

❖ Eviction done - let's do lookup



# EVICT+TIME in Cache

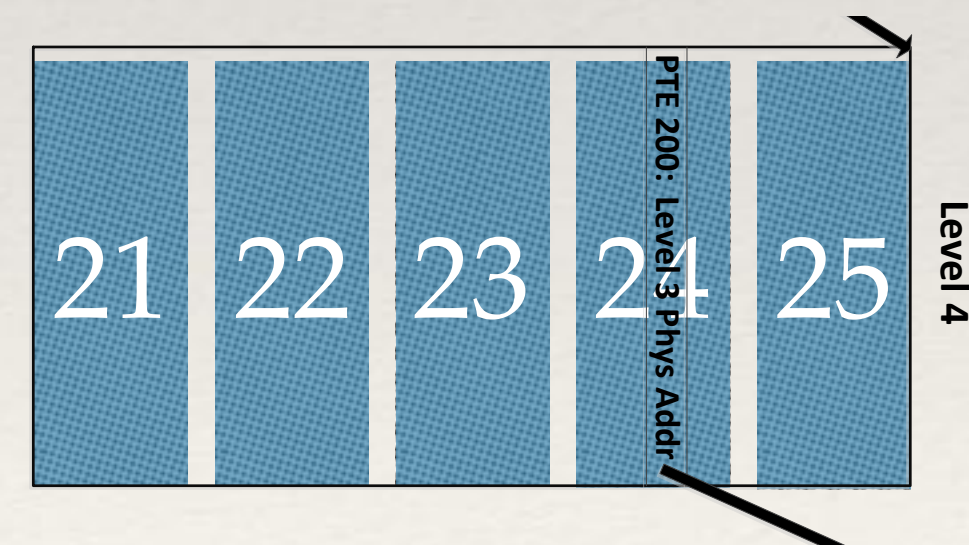
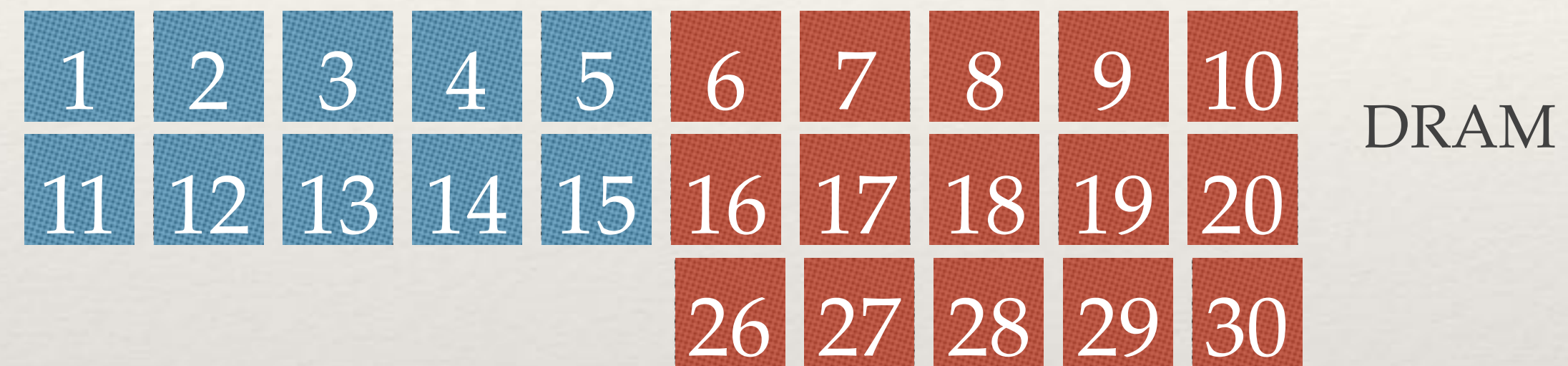
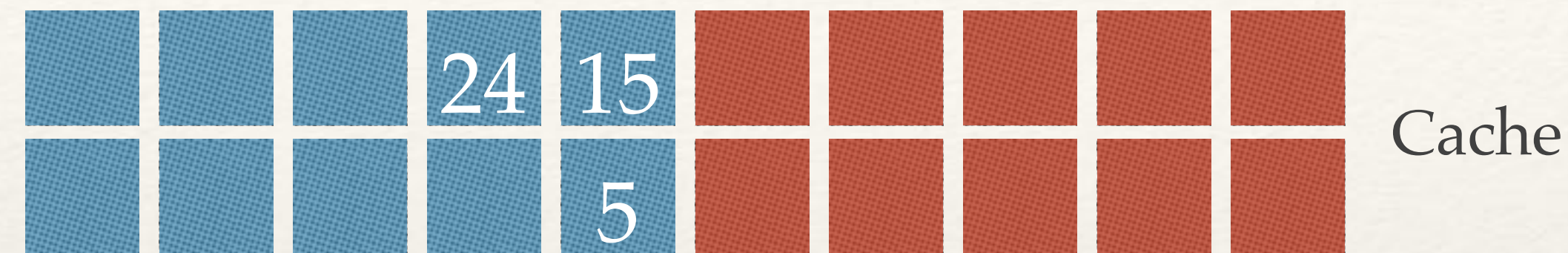
❖ Eviction done - let's do lookup



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

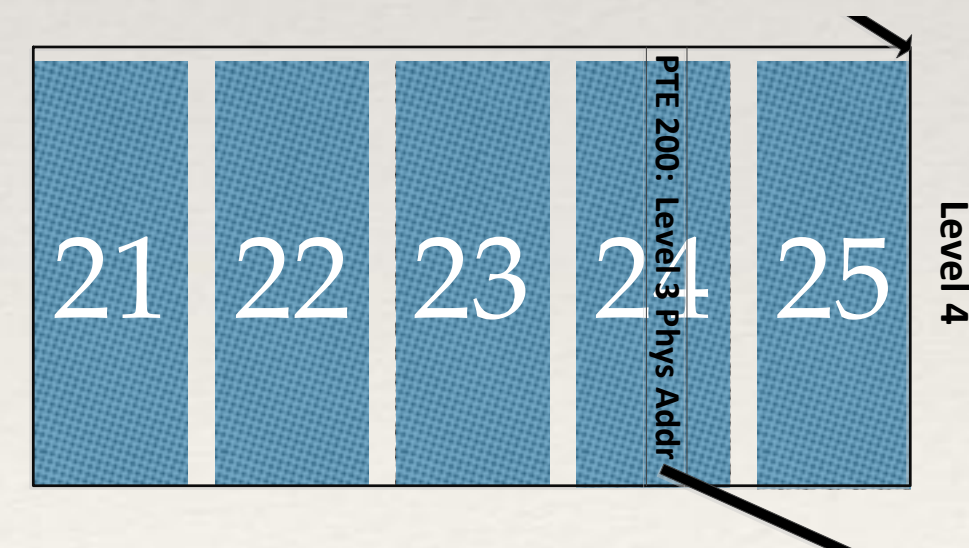
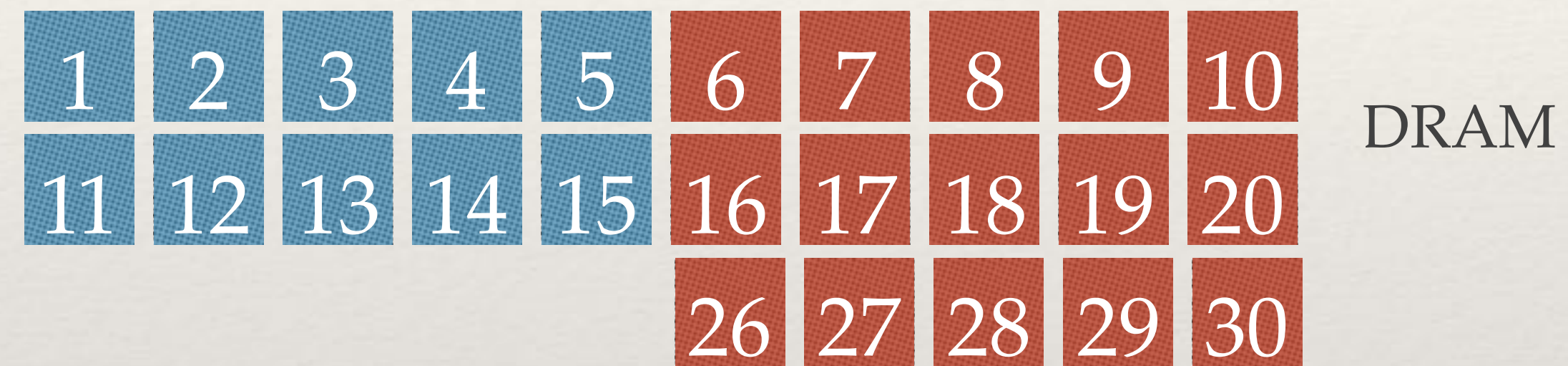
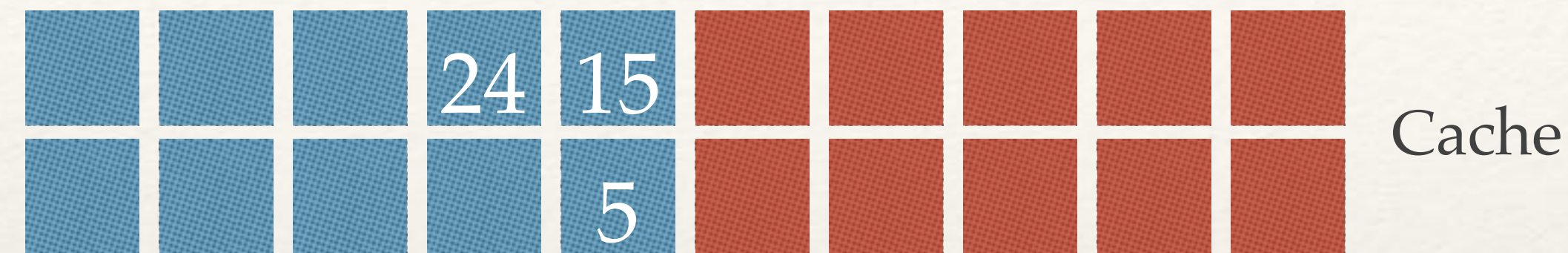
❖ Still cached



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

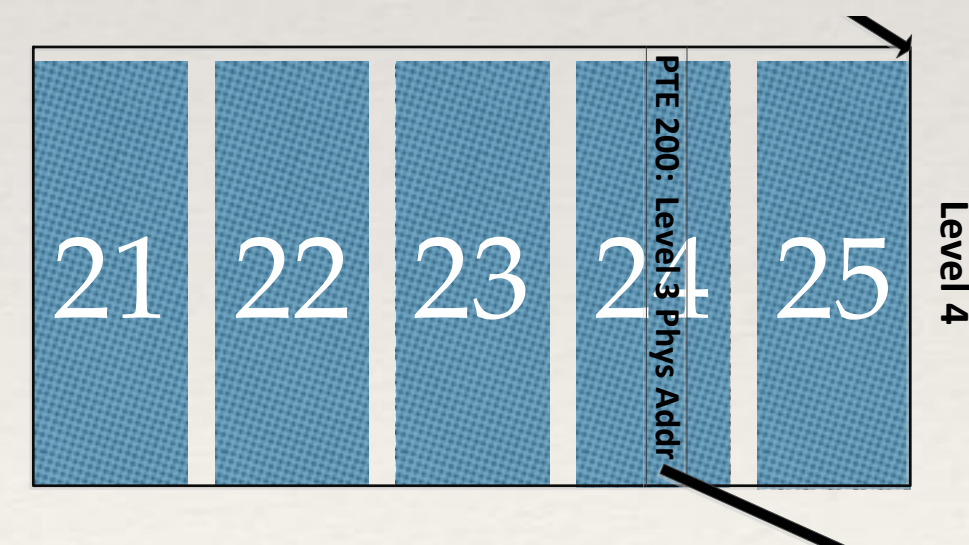
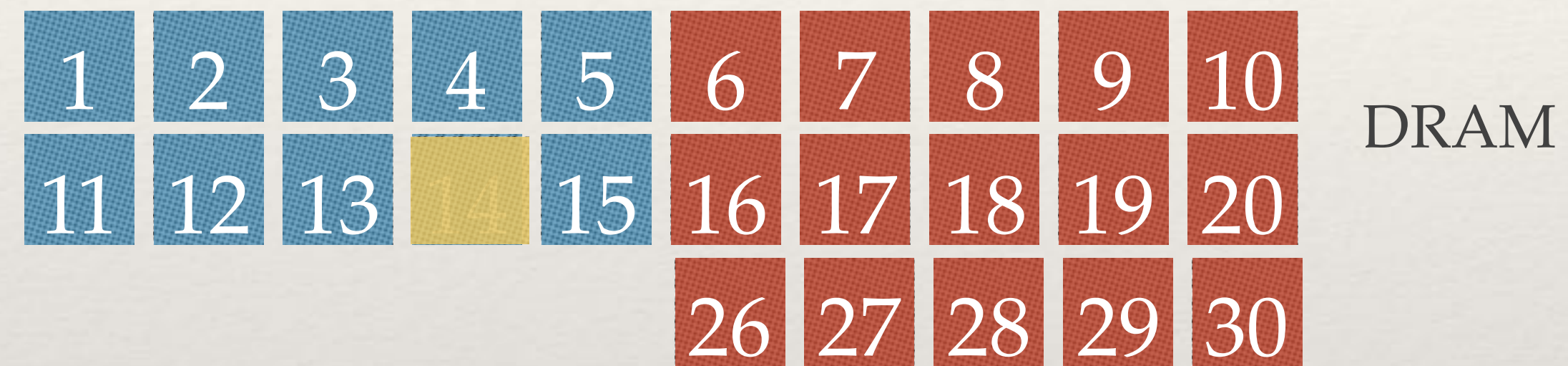
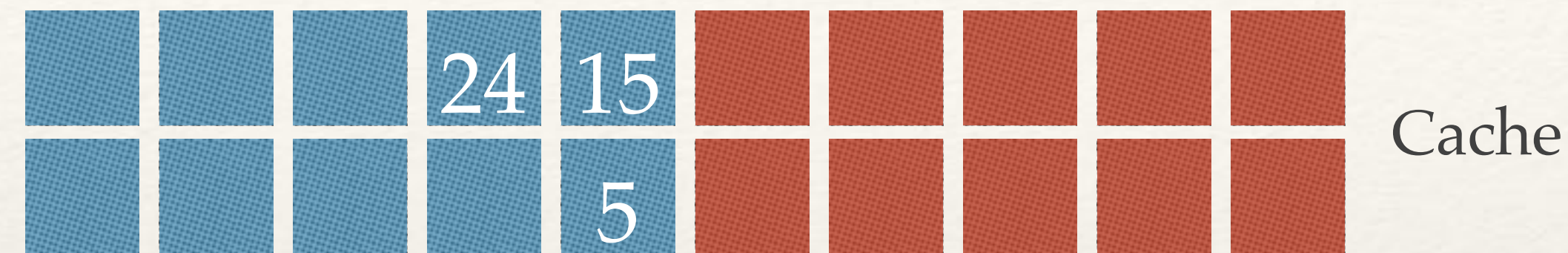
❖ Let's evict



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

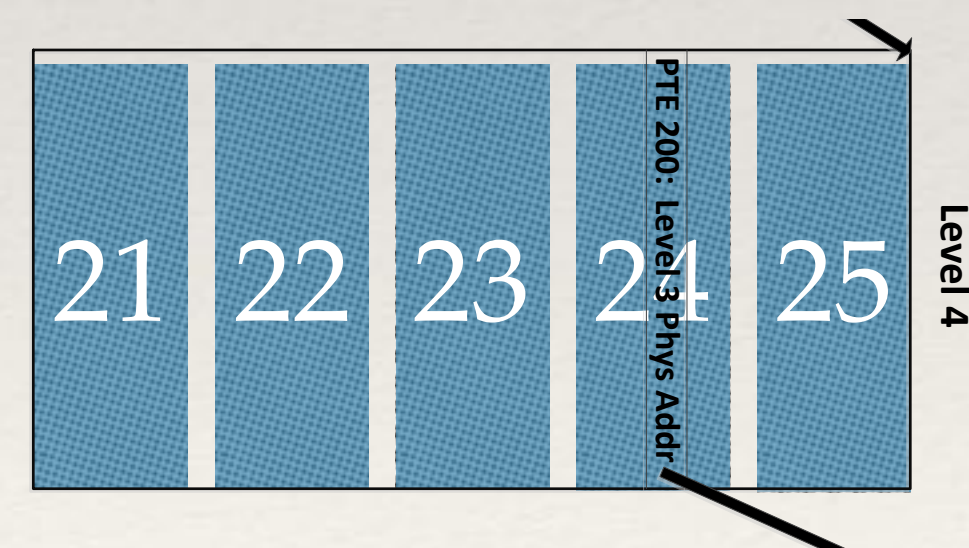
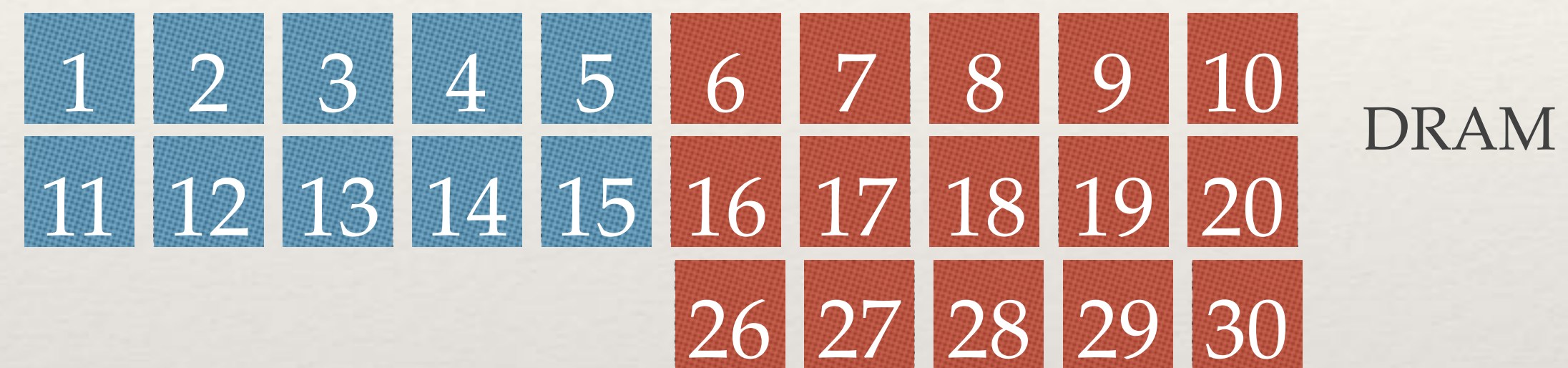
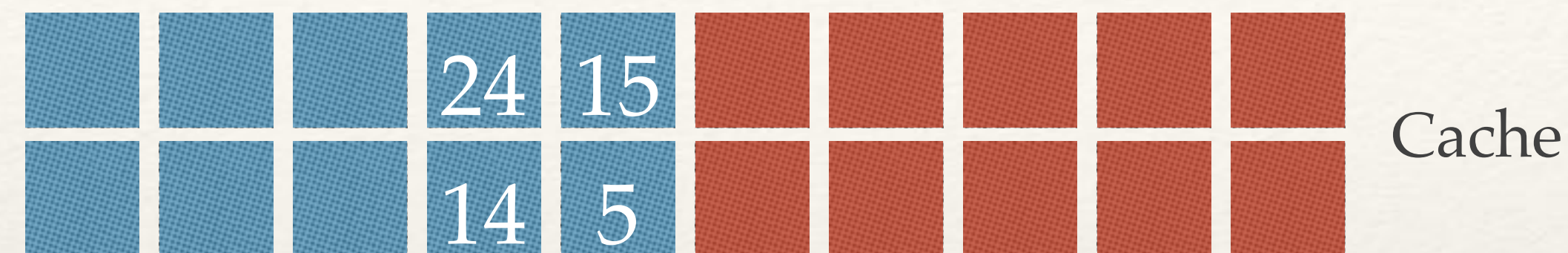
❖ Let's evict



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

❖ Let's evict

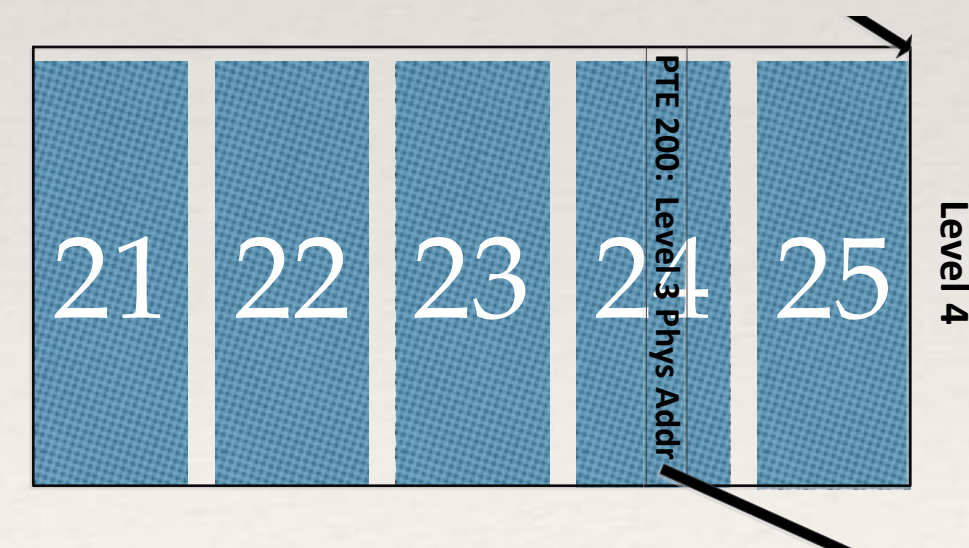
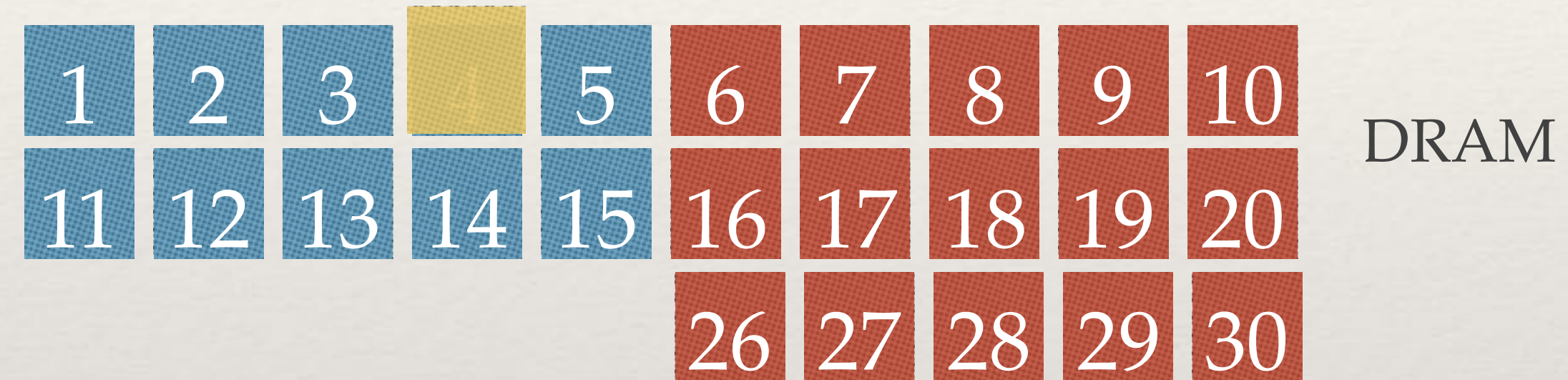
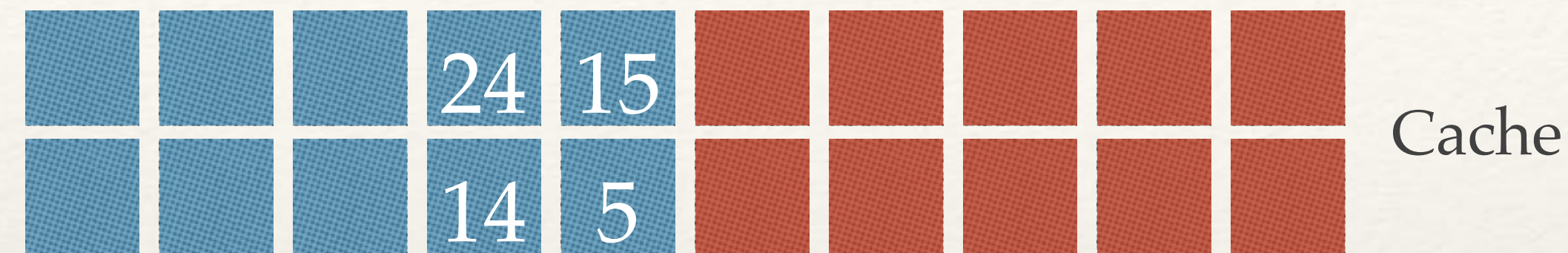


Pagetable in DRAM



# EVICT+TIME in Cache

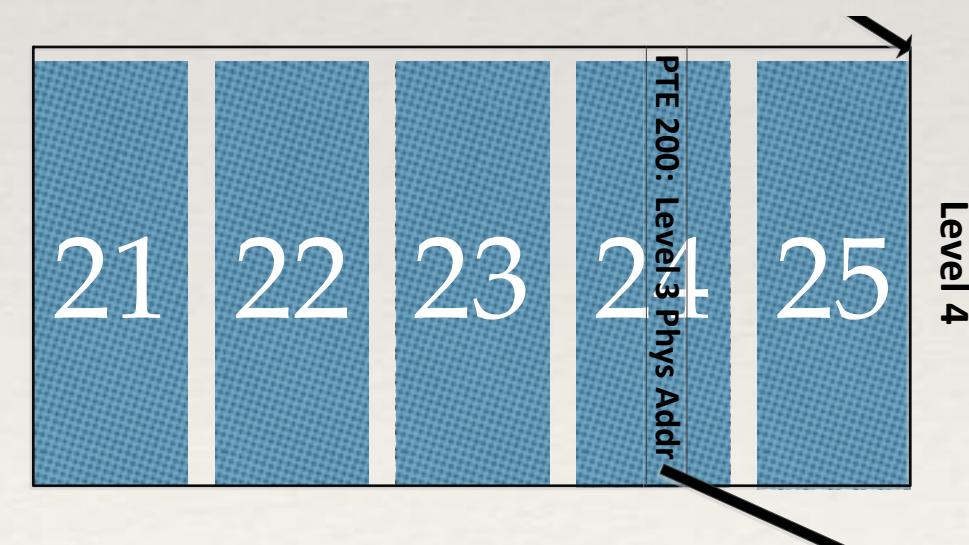
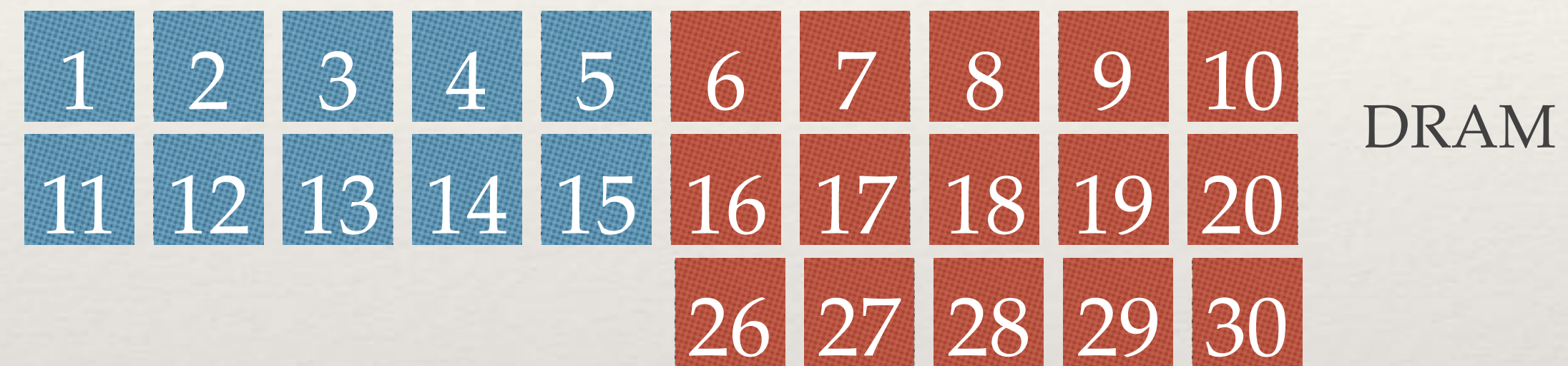
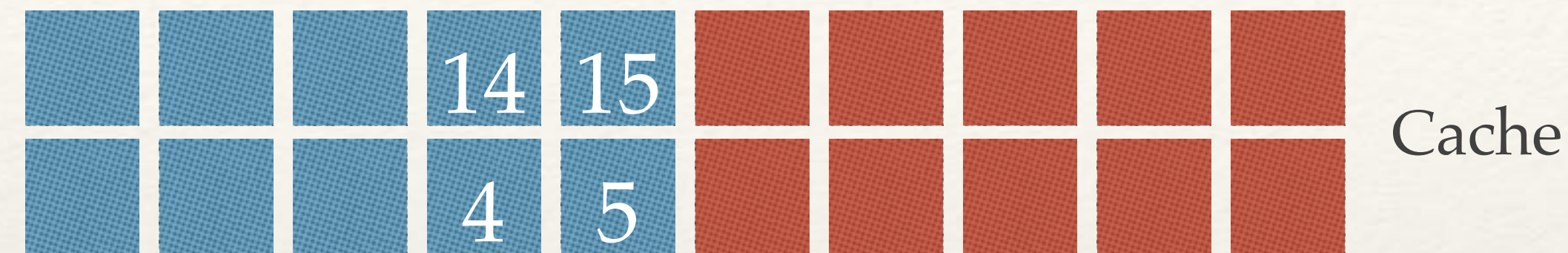
❖ Let's evict



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

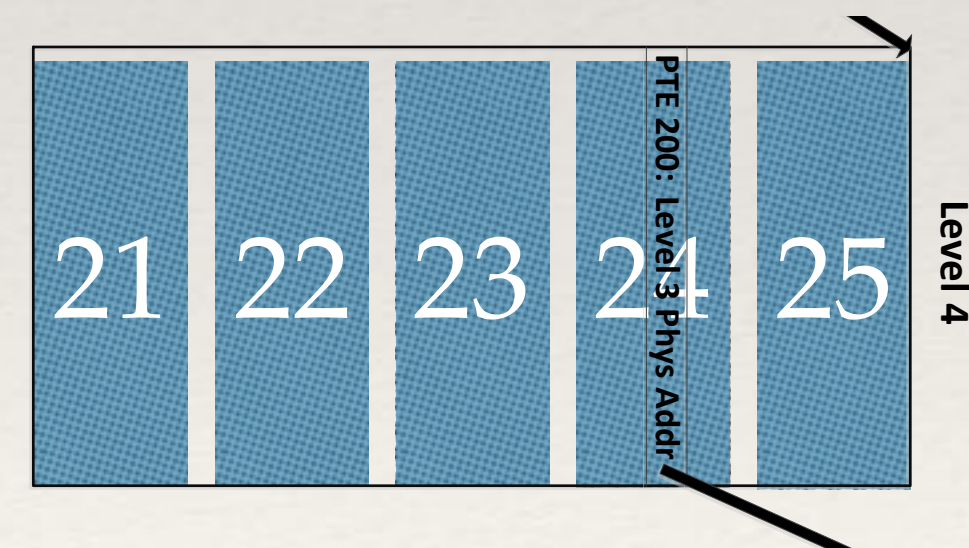
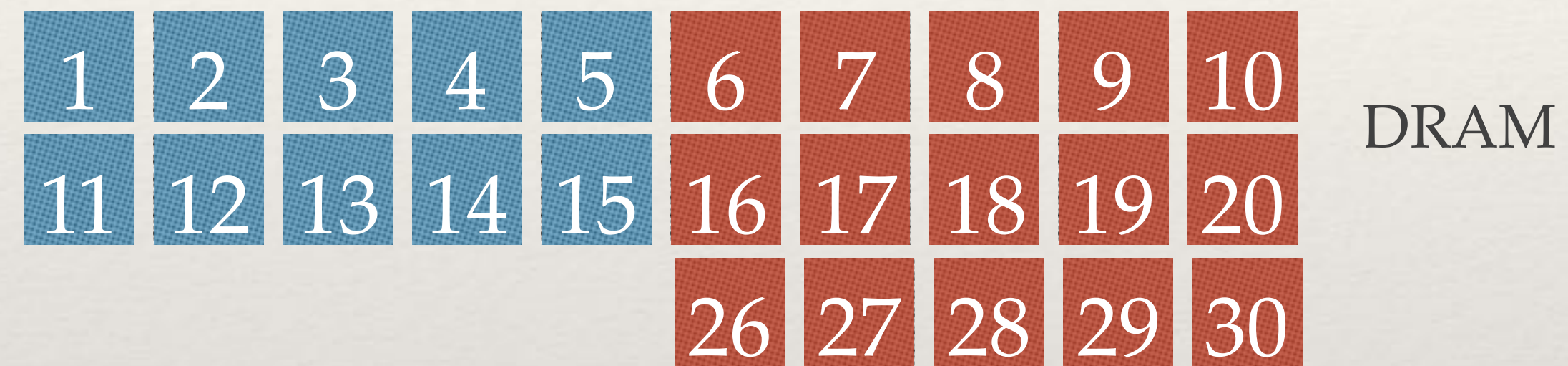
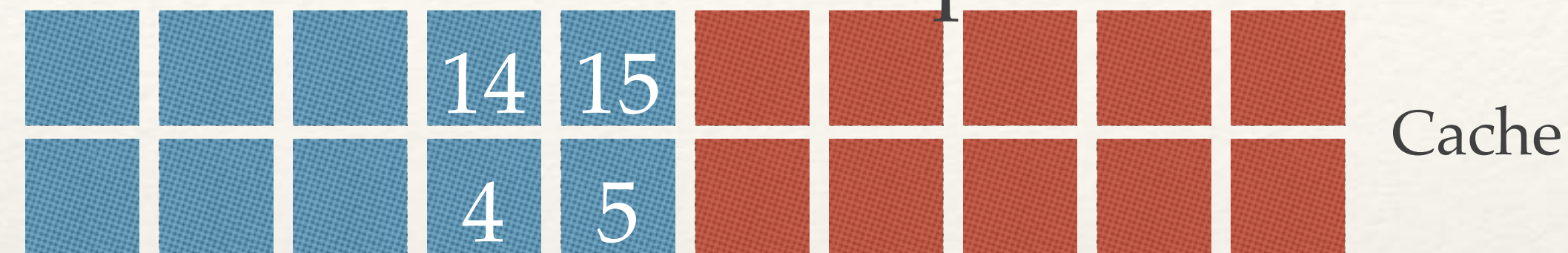
❖ Let's evict



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

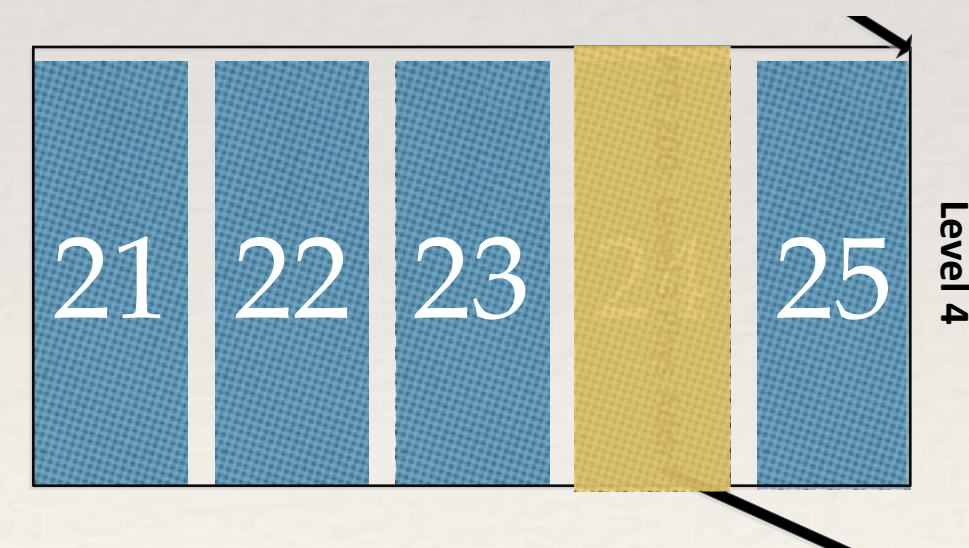
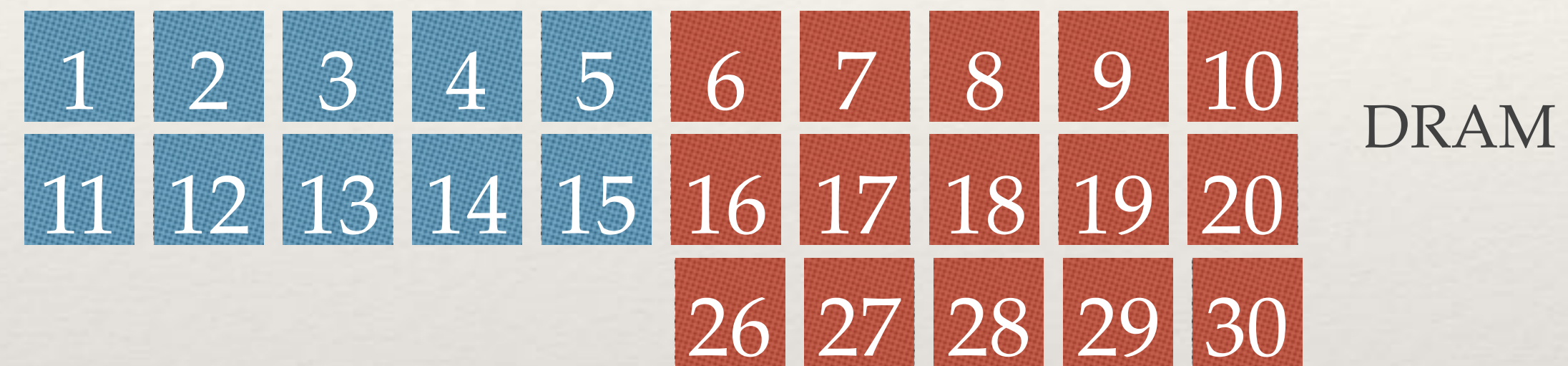
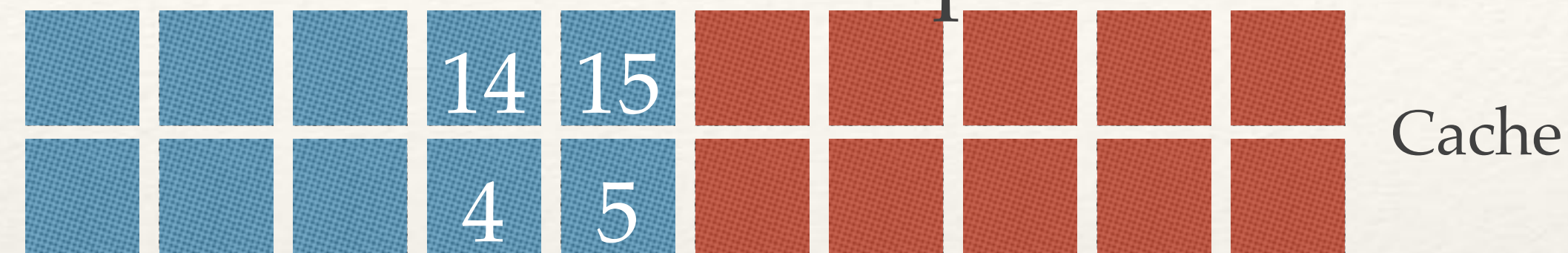
❖ Eviction done - let's do lookup



Pagetable in DRAM

# EVICT+TIME in Cache

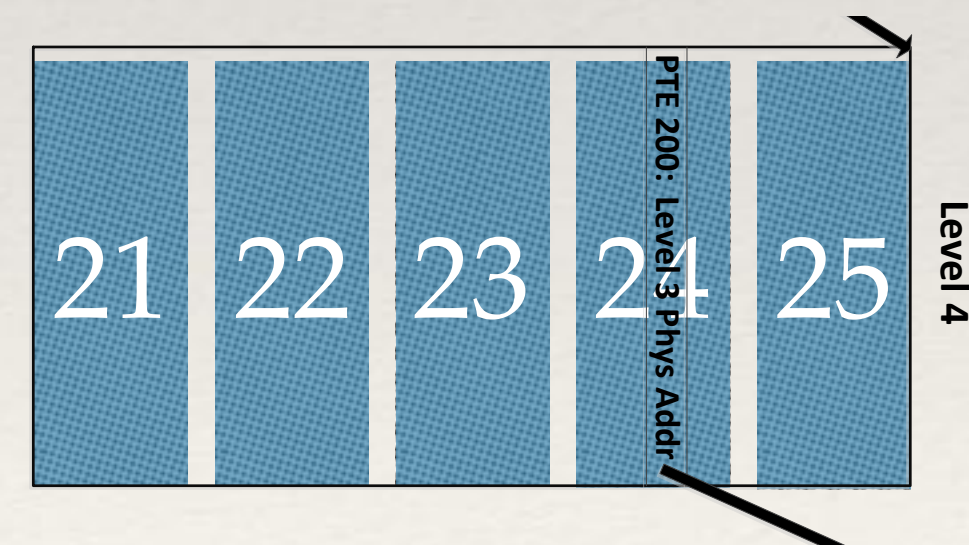
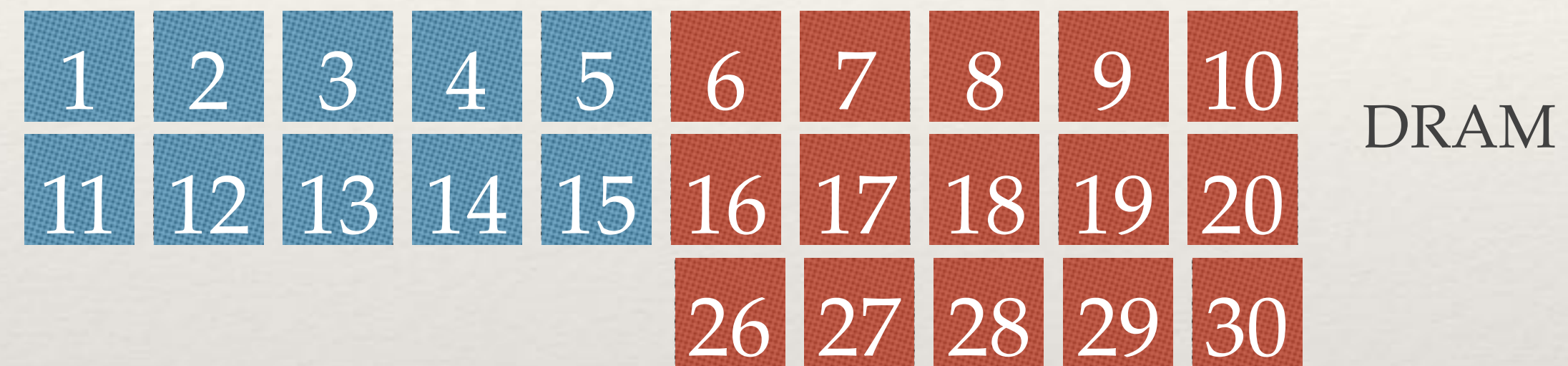
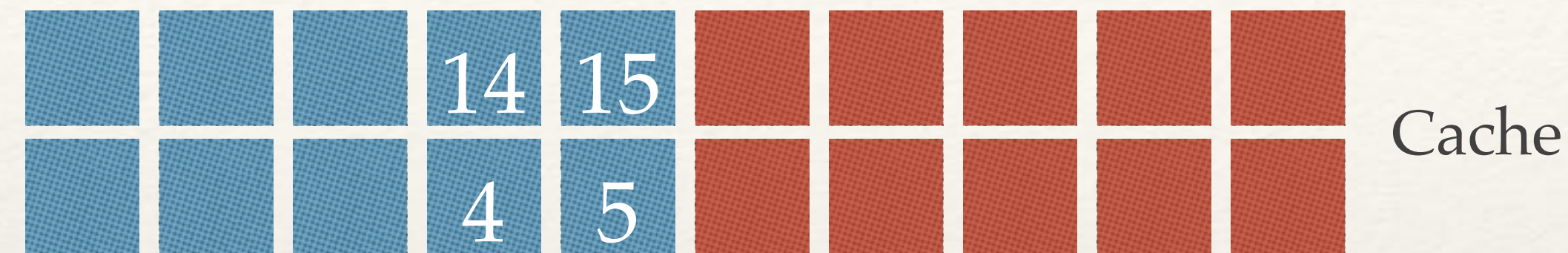
❖ Eviction done - let's do lookup



Page table in DRAM



# EVICT+TIME in Cache

❖ Uncached now



Pagetable in DRAM

# JavaScript Complications

- ❖ **Asynchronous** 
- ❖ **Tracing** 
- ❖ **Irregular**

```
24.457 got level 4 - start slot 148, address 0x94000
24.993 got level 3 - start slot 295, address 0x24e94000
24.993 estimated remaining entropy 6 slot solutions: -1,-1,295,148
```
- ❖ **Local**

```
68.737 got level 4 - start slot 0, address 0x0
69.502 got level 3 - start slot 359, address 0x2ce00000
70.259 got level 2 - start slot 411, address 0x66ece00000
88.041 got level 1 - start slot 238, address 0x7766ece00000
88.041 estimated remaining entropy 0 slot solutions: 238 411 359 0
```
- ❖ **Contiguous virtual address space**

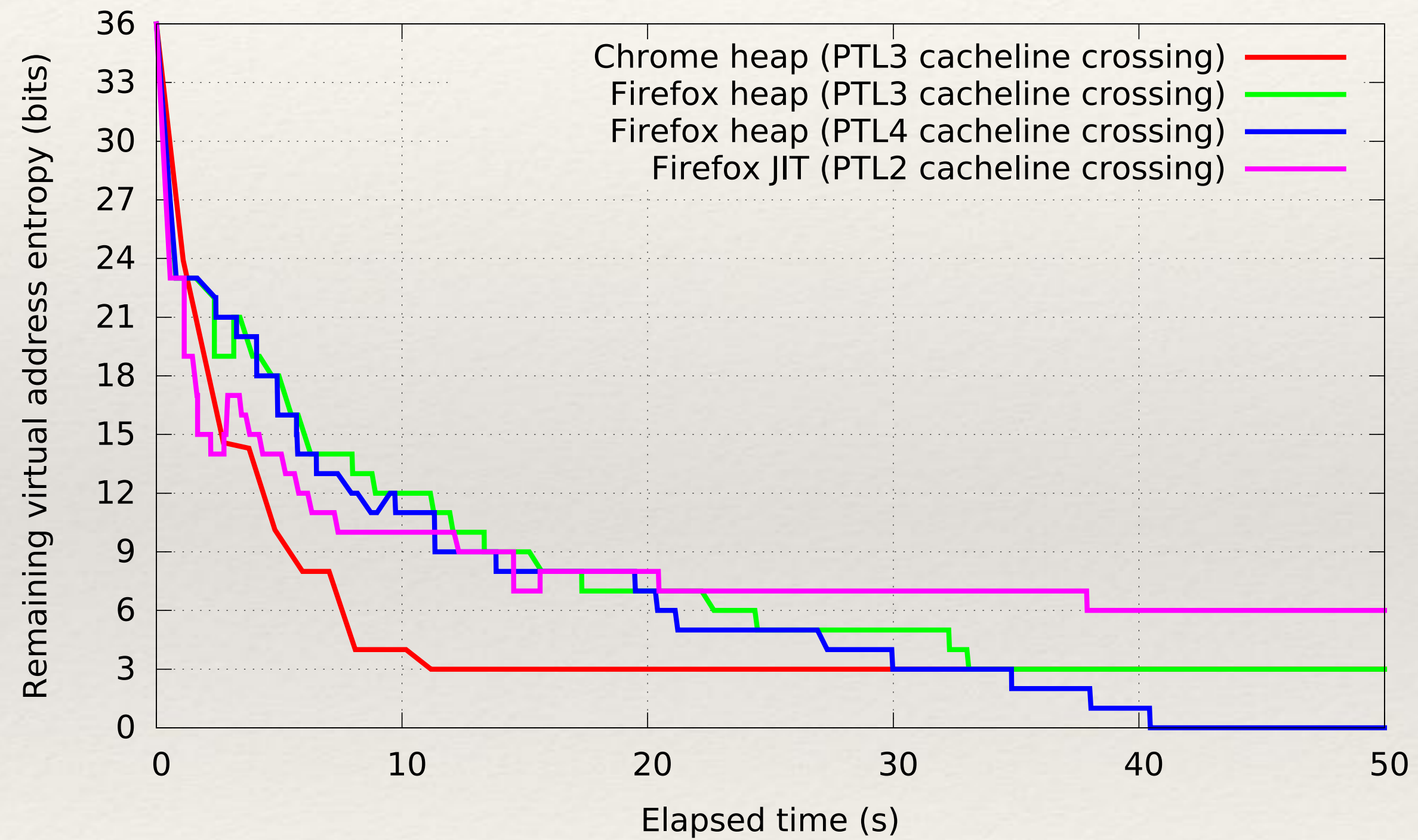
```
data: 0x7766ece00000, code slots: -1,-1,295,148, code: 0x7966e4e94000
```

of JIT

the iTLB

Prototypes in Firefox and Chrome

# Results: speed



# Results: tested microarchitectures

CPU Model	Microarchitecture	Year	
Intel Xeon E3-1240 v5	Skylake	2015	
Intel Core i7-6700K	Skylake	2015	
Intel Celeron N2840	Silvermont	2014	
Intel Xeon E5-2658 v2	Ivy Bridge EP	2013	
Intel Atom C2750	Silvermont	2013	
Intel Core i7-4500U	Haswell	2013	
Intel Core i7-3632QM	Ivy Bridge	2012	
Intel Core i7-2620QM	Sandy Bridge	2011	
Intel Core i5 M480	Westmere	2010	
Intel Core i7 920	Nehalem	2008	
AMD FX-8350 8-Core	Piledriver	2012	
AMD FX-8320 8-Core	Piledriver	2012	
AMD FX-8120 8-Core	Bulldozer	2011	
AMD Athlon II 640 X4	K10	2010	
AMD E-350	Bobcat	2010	
AMD Phenom 9550 4-Core	K10	2008	
Allwinner A64	ARM Cortex A53	2016	
Samsung Exynos 5800	ARM Cortex A15	2014	
Samsung Exynos 5800	ARM Cortex A7	2014	
Nvidia Tegra K1 CD580M-A1	ARM Cortex A15	2014	
Nvidia Tegra K1 CD570M-A1	ARM Cortex A15; LPAE	2014	



# FLIP FENG SHUI

---

# Flip Feng Shui

---

- Malicious VM in the cloud compromising neighbors
- Rowhammer + Memory Deduplication
- You can flip a bit in another VM

**What would YOU flip?**

---

# Rowhammer

## A DRAM hardware glitch

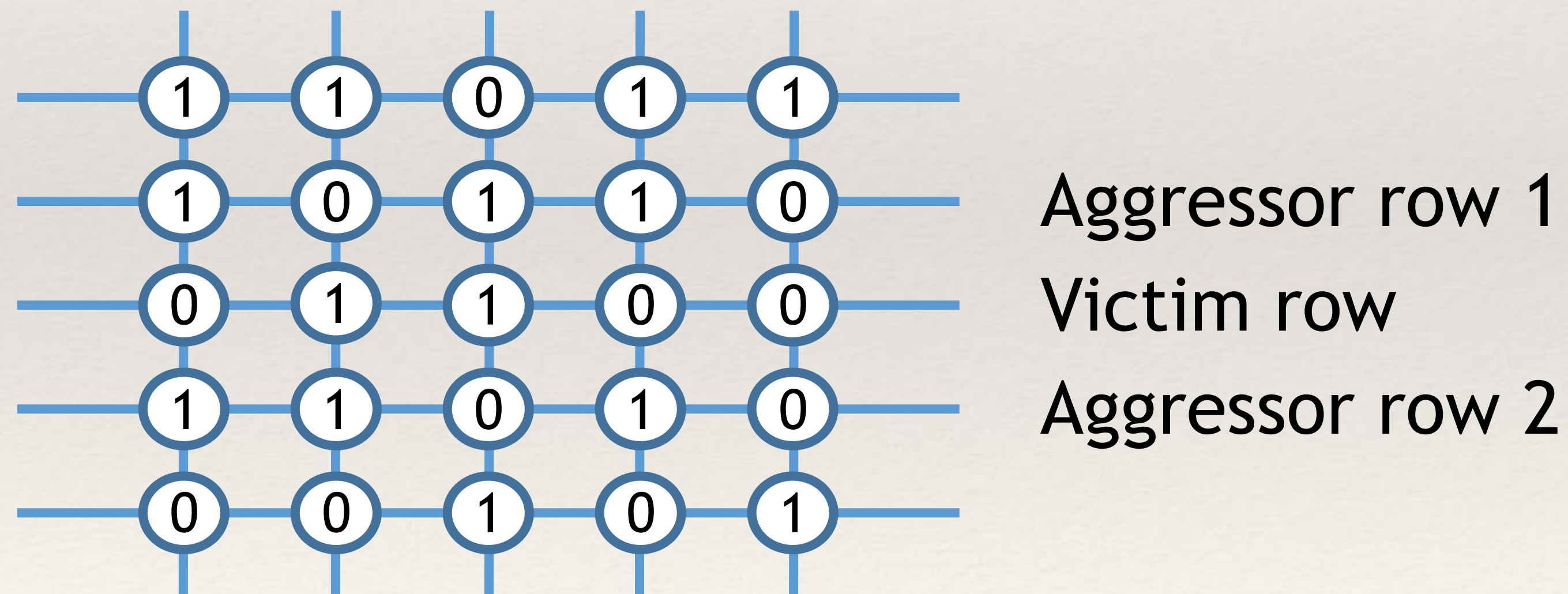
---

- ❖ Your DRAM is not as reliable as you think...
- ❖ If you read quickly charge leakages will result in bits to flip
- ❖ Does not happen due to multiple levels of caches
- ❖ 80+% of DDR3 DIMMs affected, reports also on DDR4

# Rowhammer

## A DRAM hardware glitch

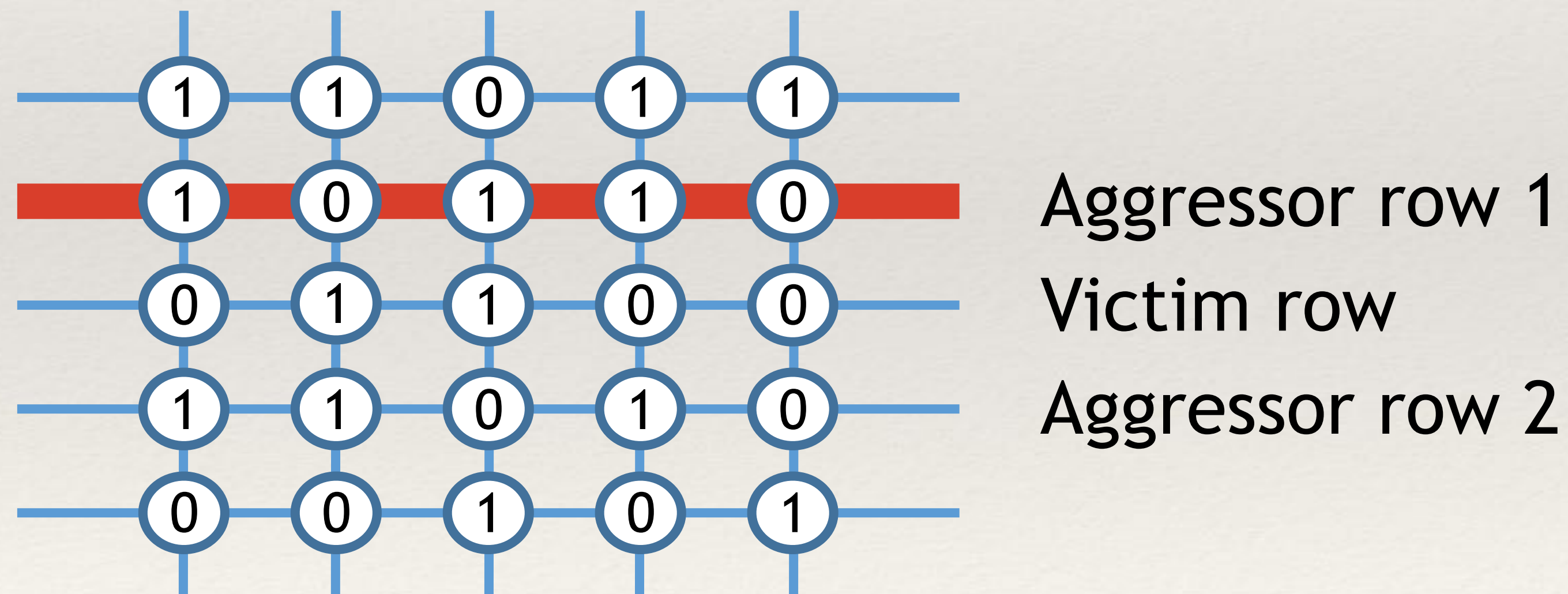
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# Rowhammer

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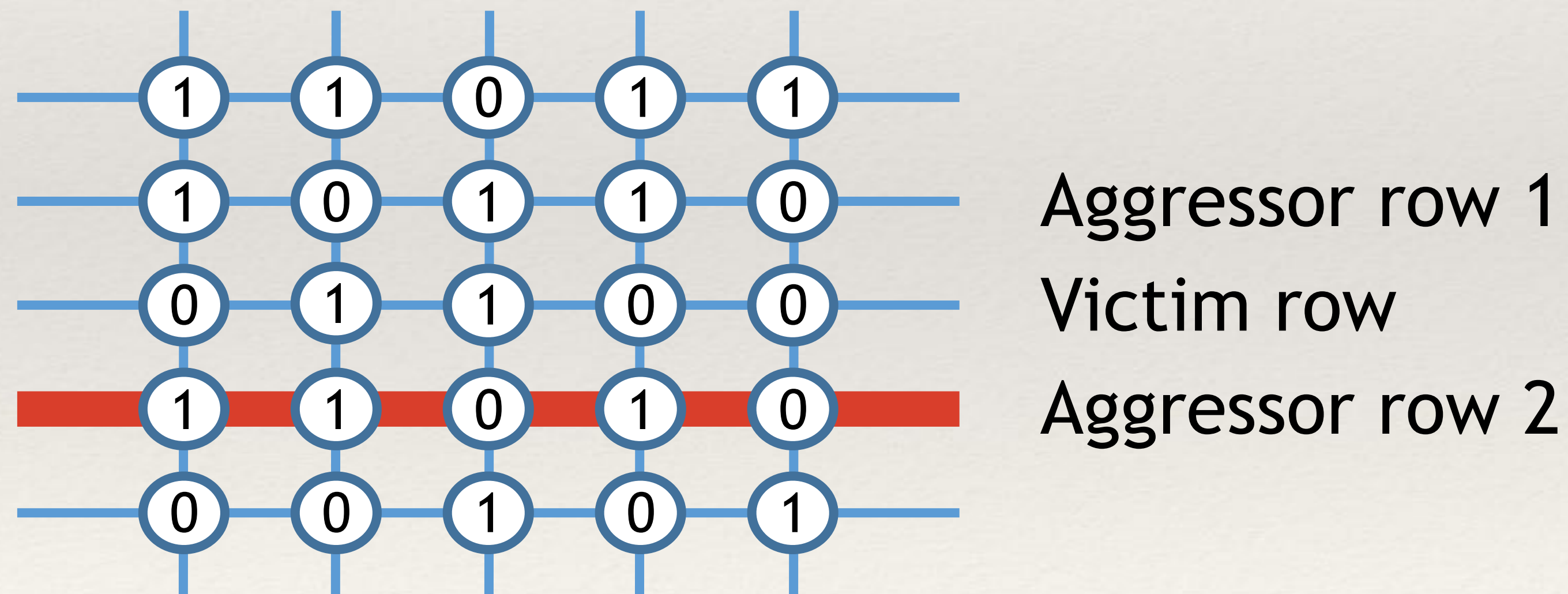
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# Rowhammer

## A DRAM hardware glitch

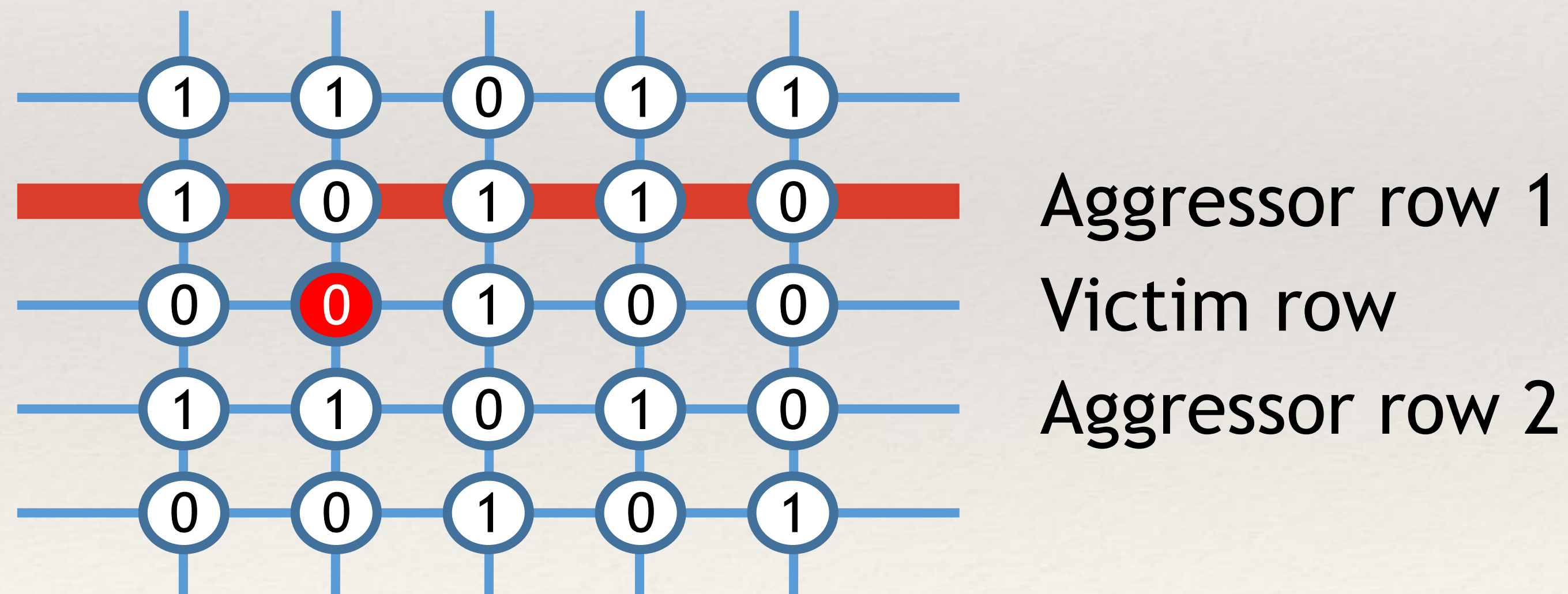
- ❖ Your DRAM is not as reliable as you think...
- ❖ If you read quickly charge leakages will result in bits to flip
- ❖ Does not happen due to multiple levels of caches
- ❖ 80+% of DDR3 DIMMs affected, reports also on DDR4



# Rowhammer

## A DRAM hardware glitch

- ❖ Your DRAM is not as reliable as you think...
- ❖ If you read quickly charge leakages will result in bits to flip
- ❖ Does not happen due to multiple levels of caches
- ❖ 80+% of DDR3 DIMMs affected, reports also on DDR4



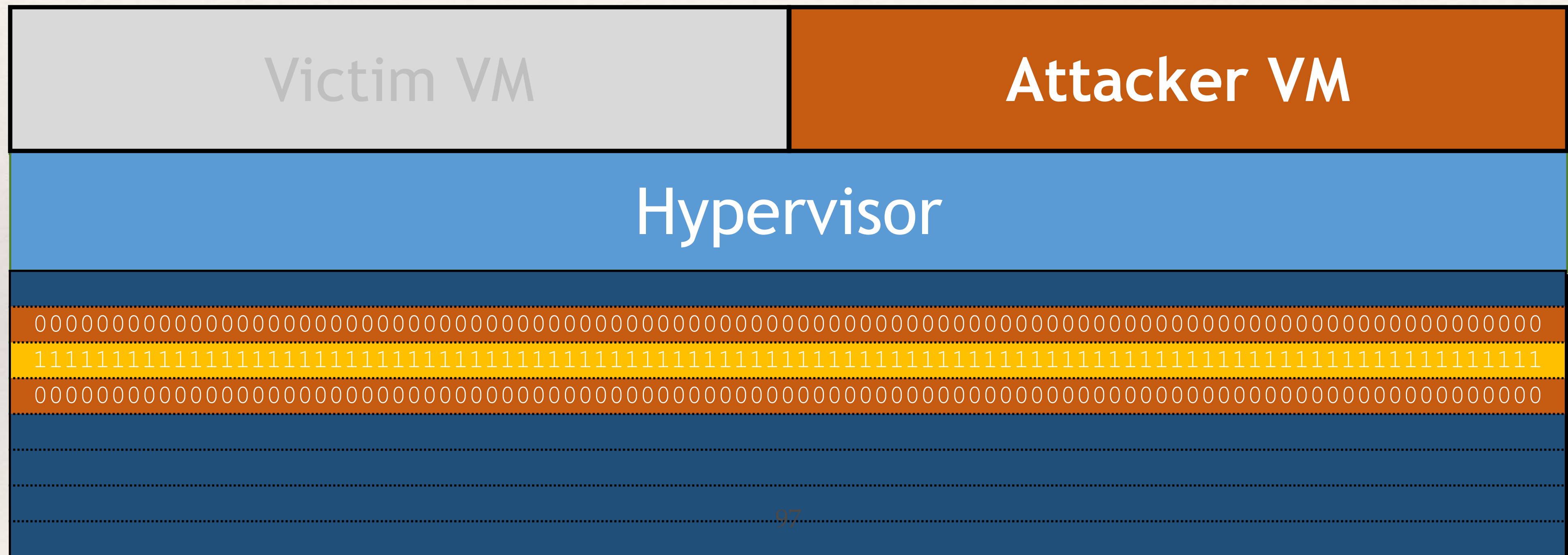




---

# Rowhammering in the Cloud

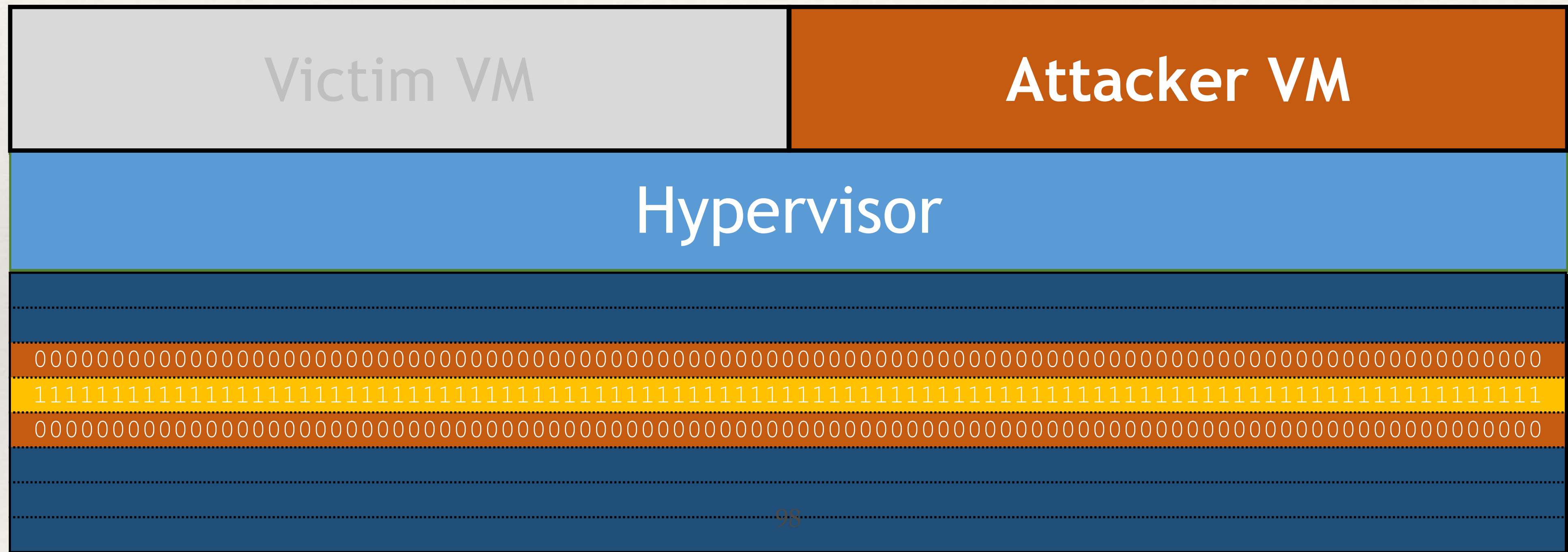
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---

# Rowhammering in the Cloud

---

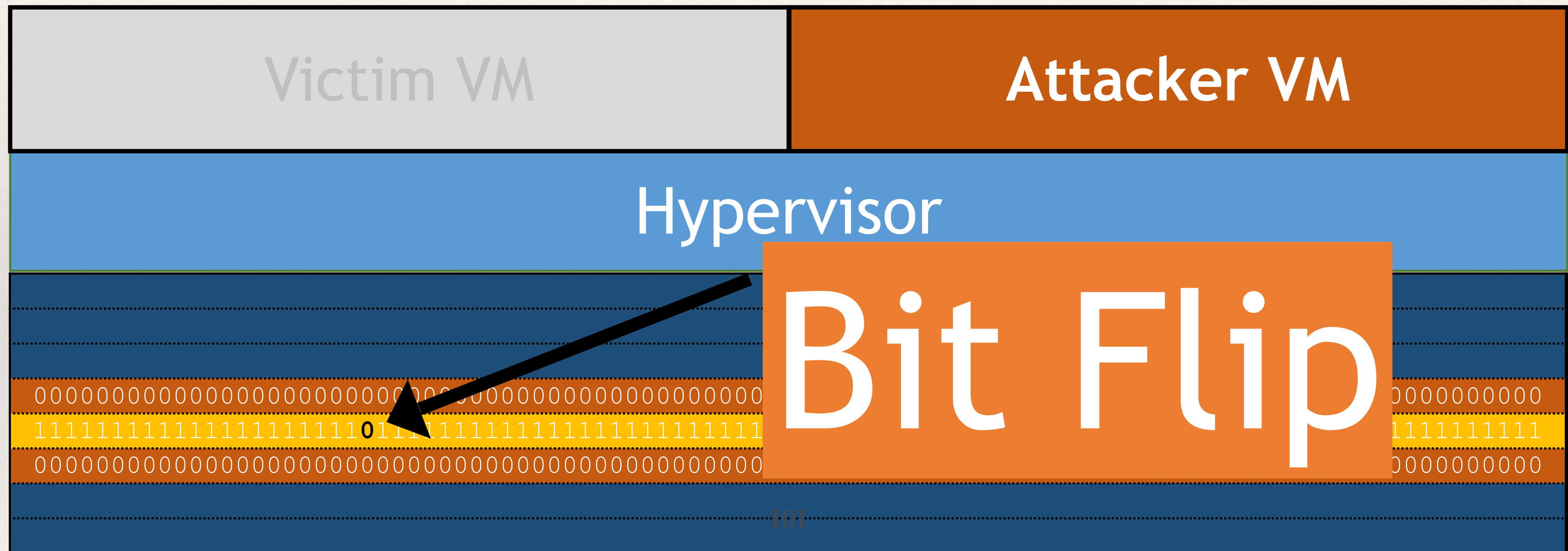






# Rowhammering in the Cloud

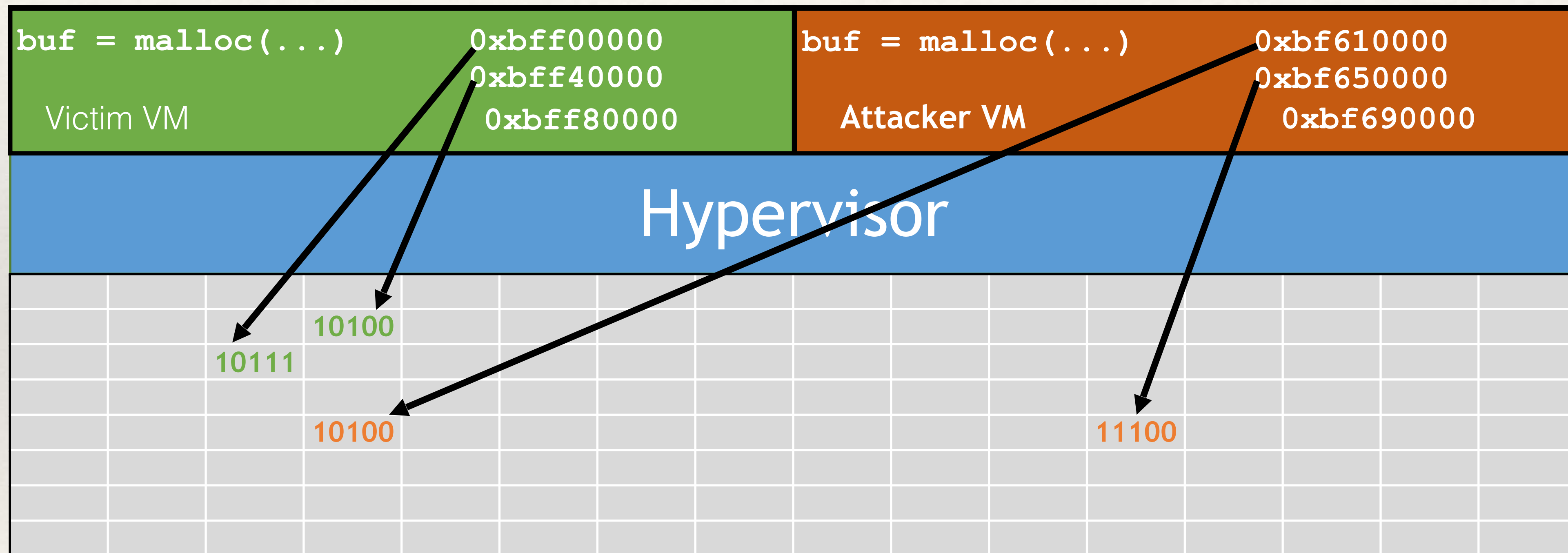
How do we force the Victim VM to store sensitive data here?





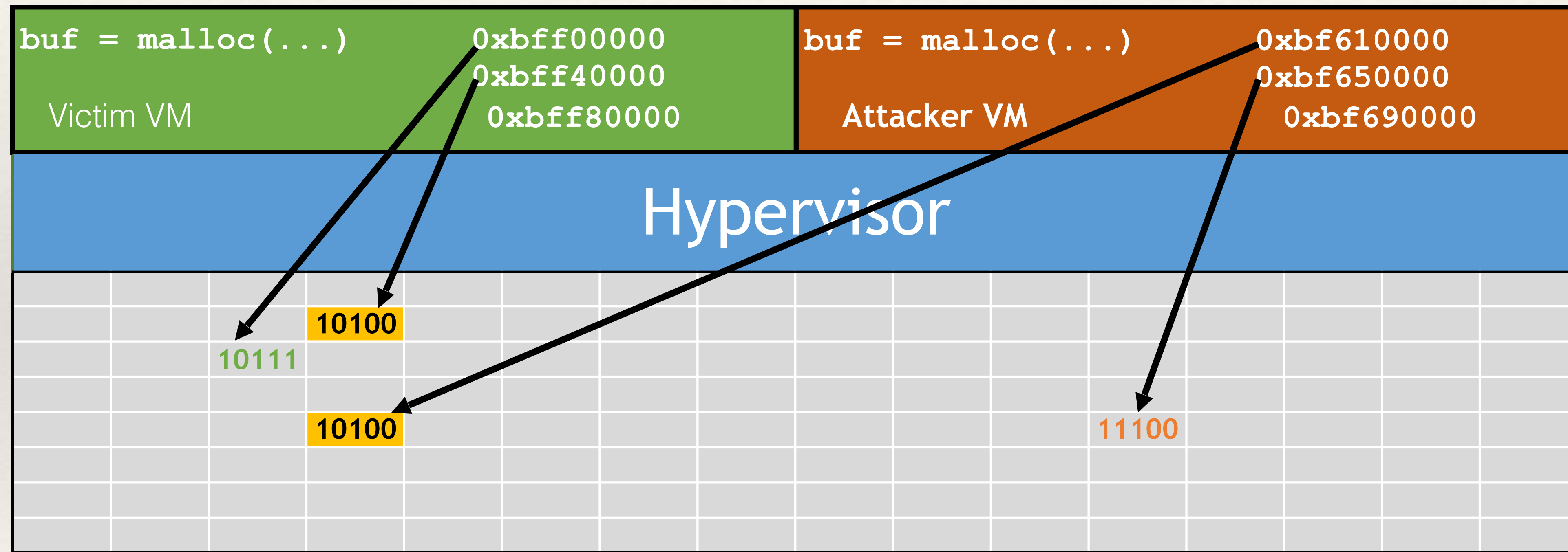
# Memory Deduplication

Operating System / Hypervisor searches for *duplicate* pages



# Memory Deduplication

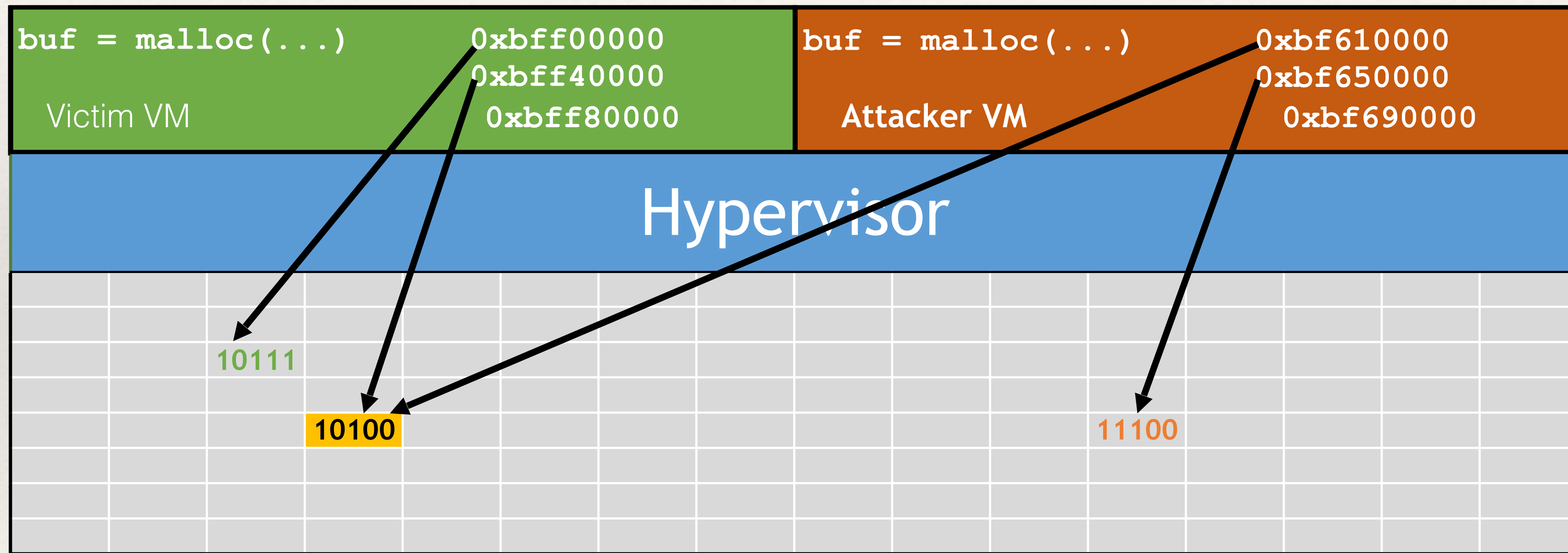
Operating System / Hypervisor searches for *duplicate* pages





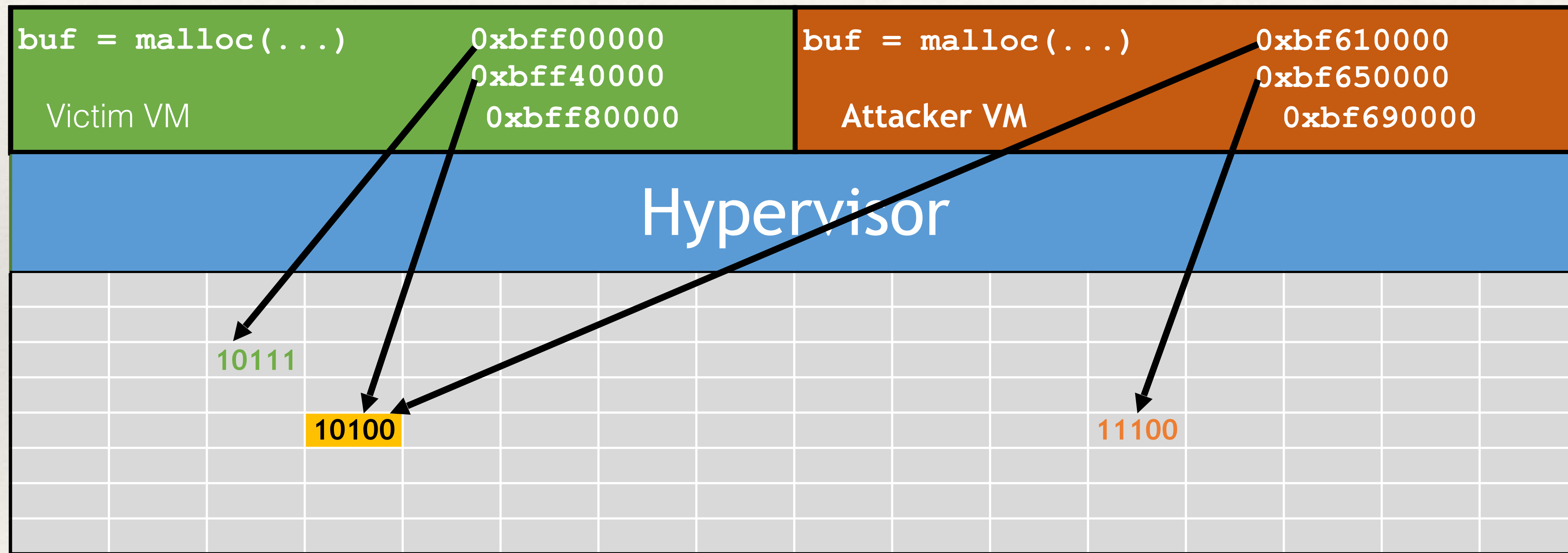
# Memory Deduplication

Operating System / Hypervisor searches for *duplicate* pages



# Memory Deduplication

Operating System / Hypervisor searches for *duplicate* pages



**Move victim's page into a location with a bit flip!**

---

# Flip Feng Shui

---

**What would you flip?**

---

# Juicy Targets

---

Cryptographic public keys

Domain names

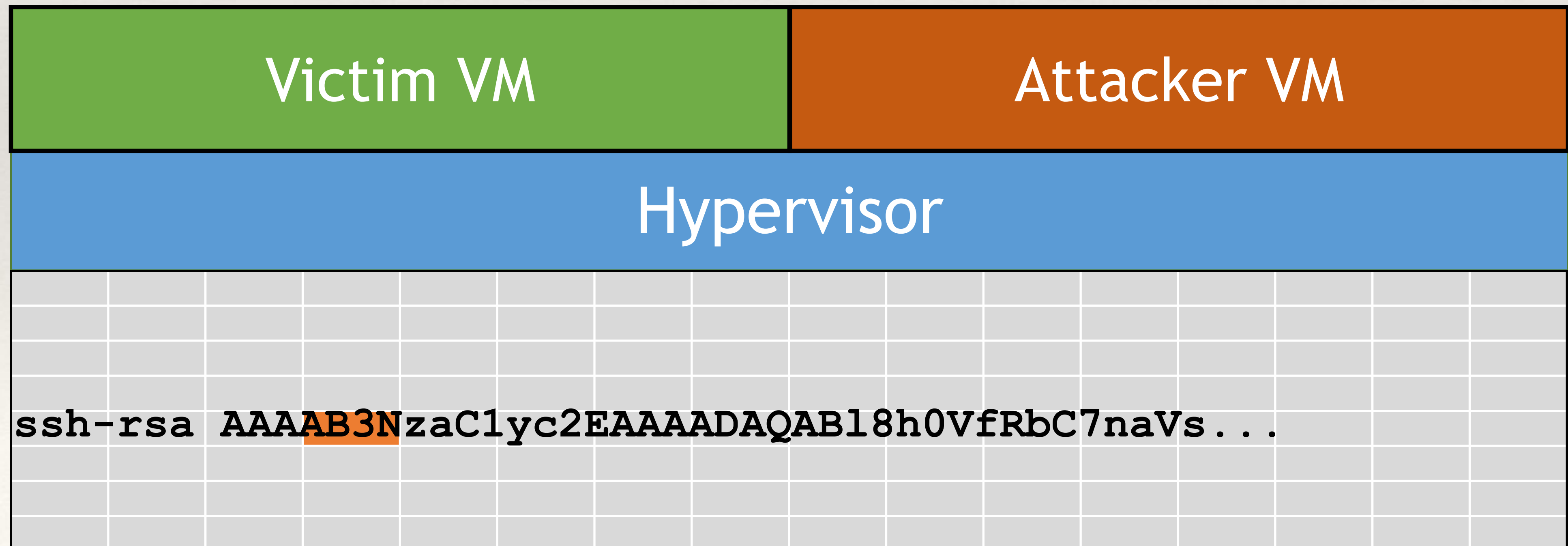
---

# Reproduce the bit flip

## Cryptographic keys

---

Public RSA key from `.ssh/authorized_keys`



---

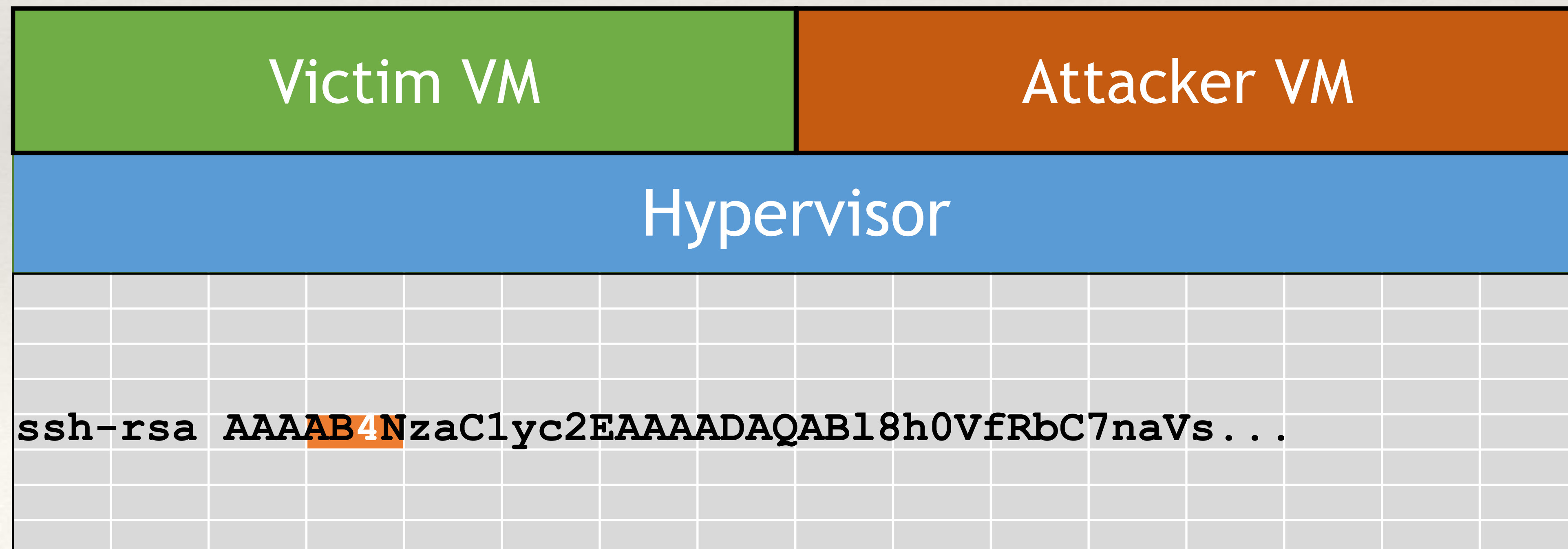
# Reproduce the bit flip

## Cryptographic keys

---

Public RSA key from `.ssh/authorized_keys`

- Flipping a bit changes the public/private key pair

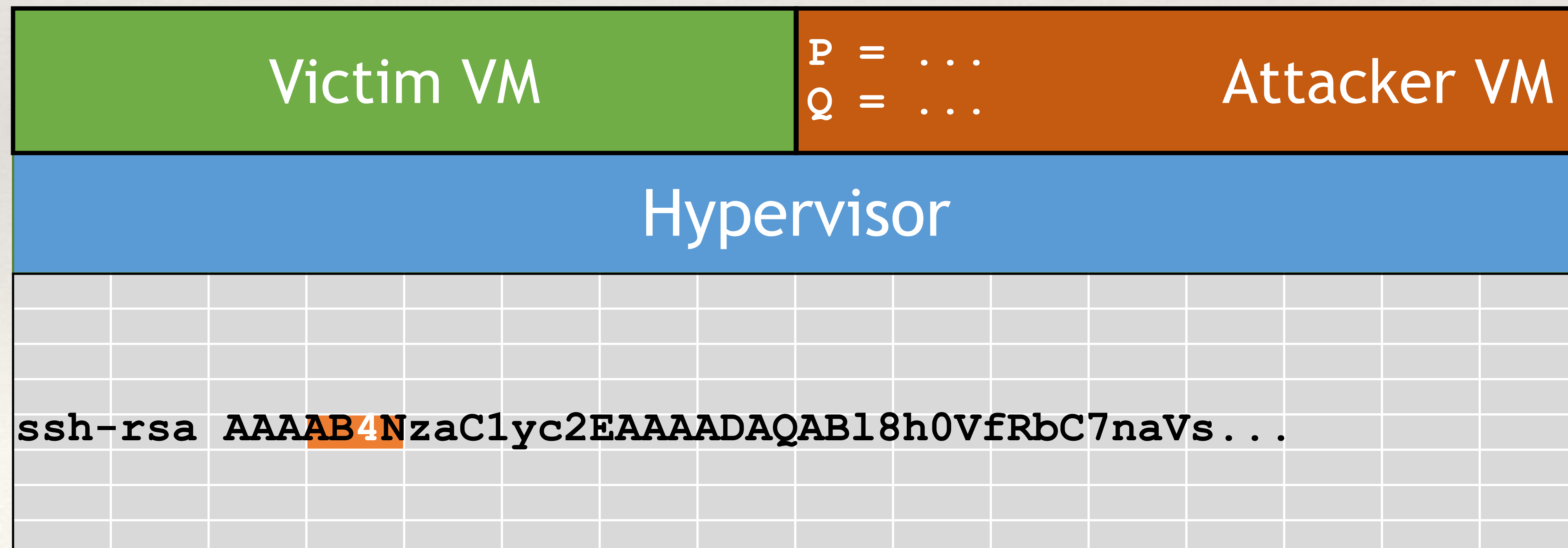


# Reproduce the bit flip

## Cryptographic keys

Public RSA key from `.ssh/authorized_keys`

- Flipping a bit changes the public/private key pair
- New public key is *easy* to factorize

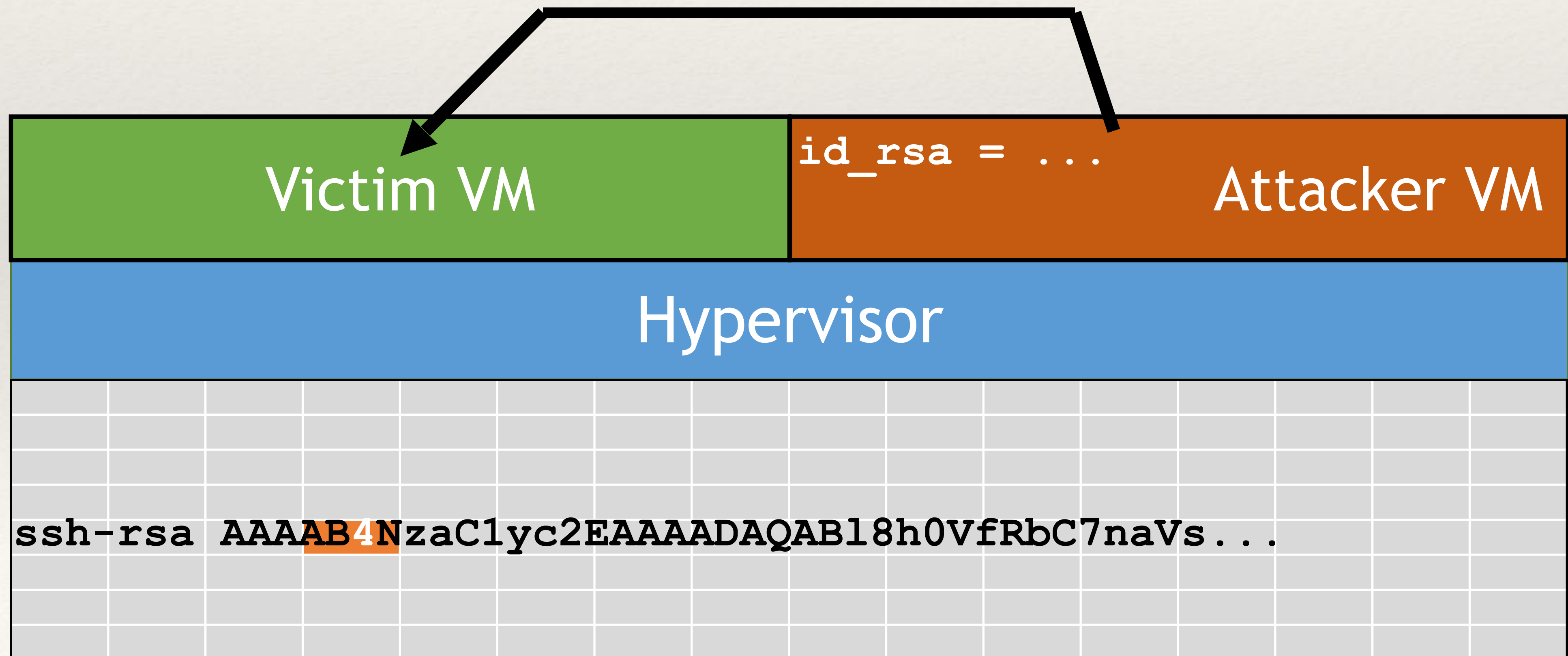


# Reproduce the bit flip

Cryptographic keys

Public RSA key from `.ssh/authorized_keys`

- Flipping a bit changes the public/private key pair
- New public key is *easy* to factorize
- Attacker computes the new private key and gets SSH access





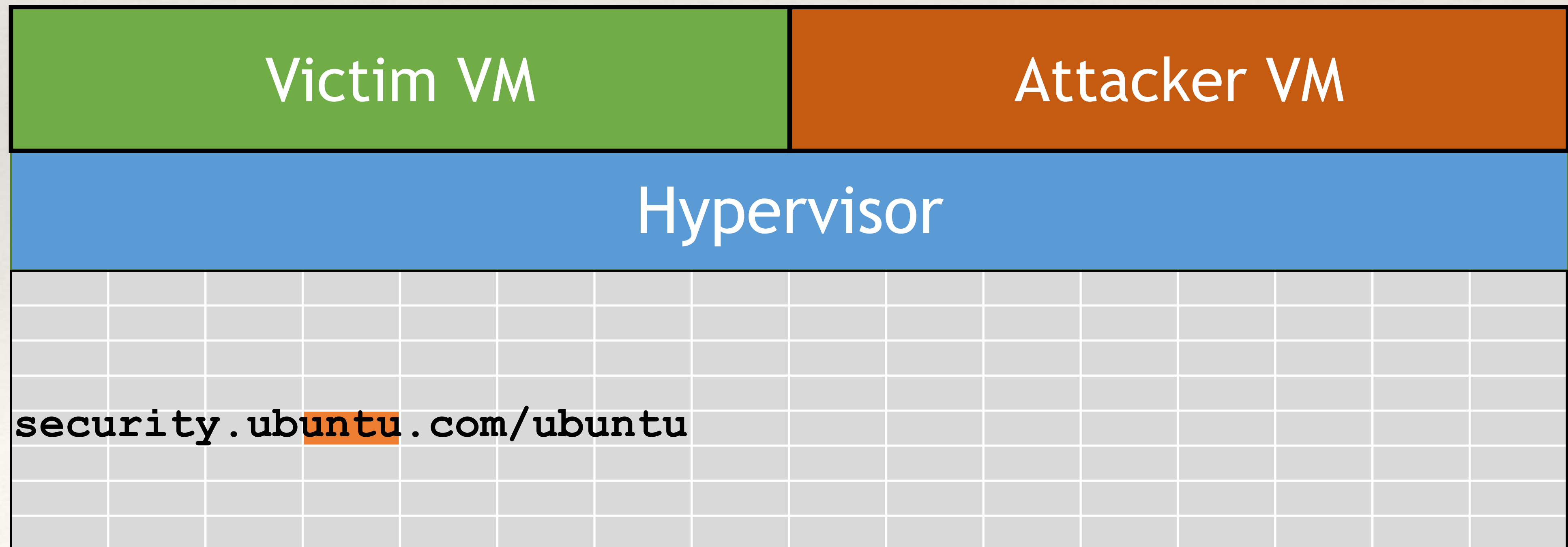
---

# Reproduce the bit flip

Cryptographic keys + domain names

---

Domain name used for `apt-get upgrade`

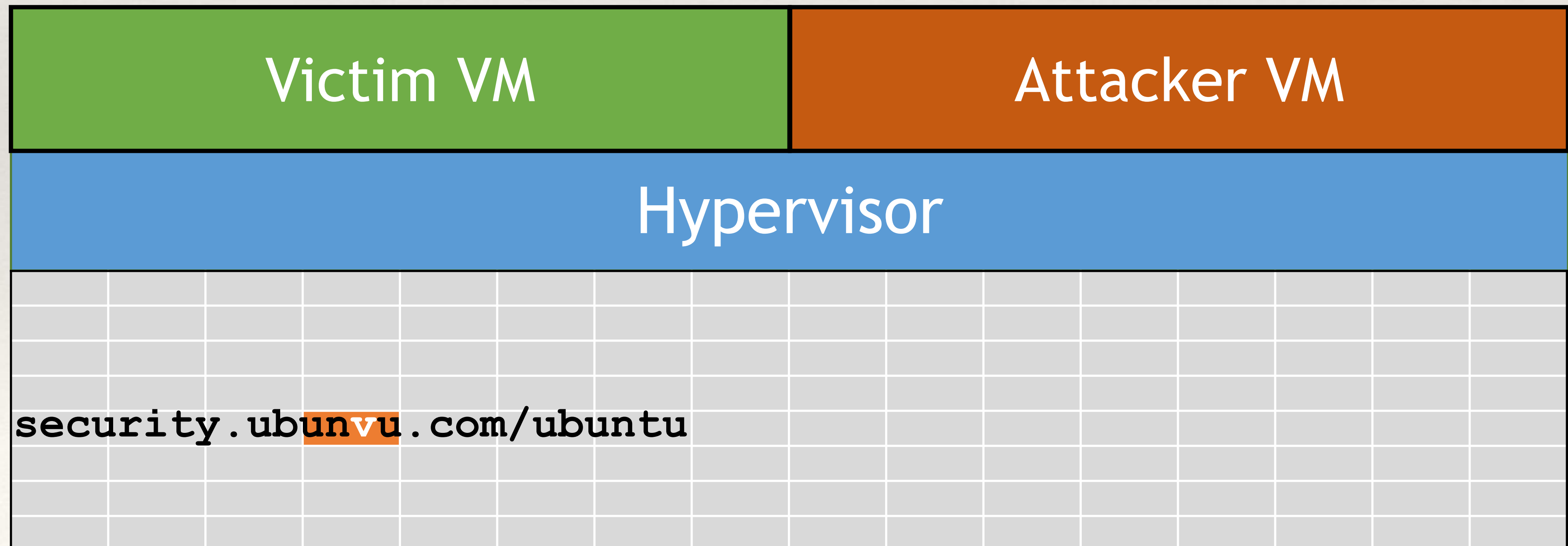


# Reproduce the bit flip

Cryptographic keys + domain names

Domain name used for `apt-get upgrade`

- Flipping a bit changes the domain name used to pull updates
- Attacker hosts malicious `ls` command at `ubunvu.com`

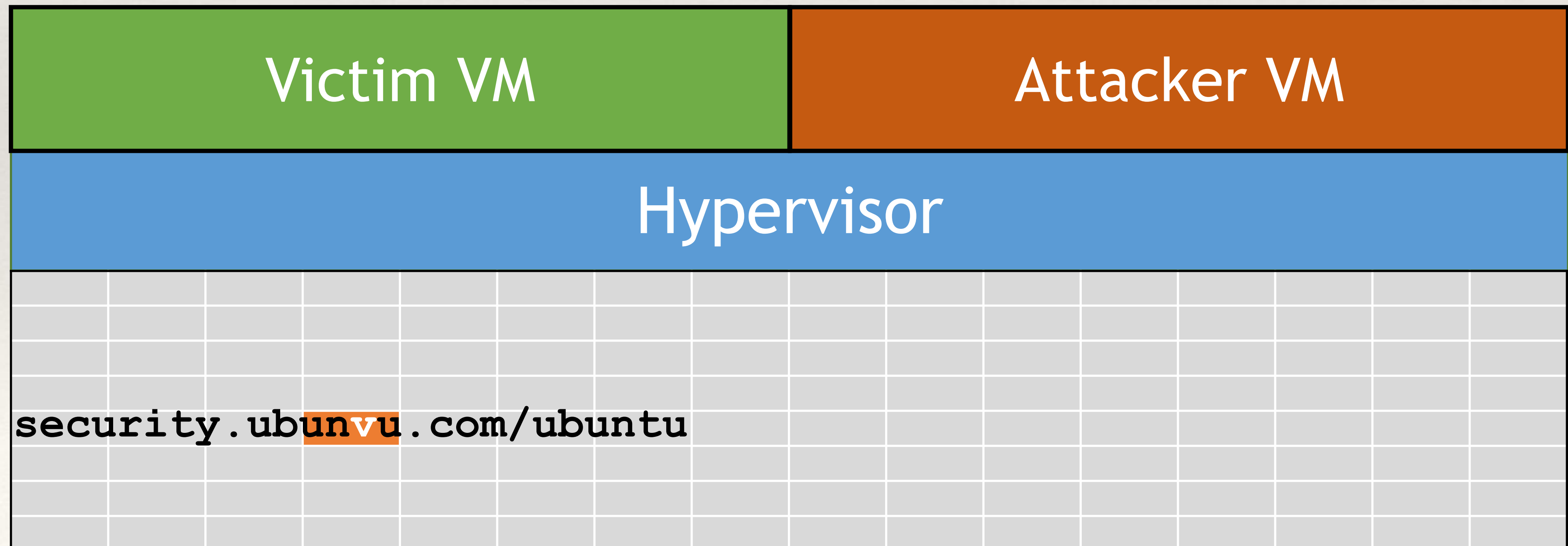


# Reproduce the bit flip

Cryptographic keys + domain names

## Domain name used for `apt-get upgrade`

- Flipping a bit changes the domain name used to pull updates
- Attacker hosts malicious `ls` command at `ubunvu.com`
- Packages are signed: also flip a bit in the GPG keychain

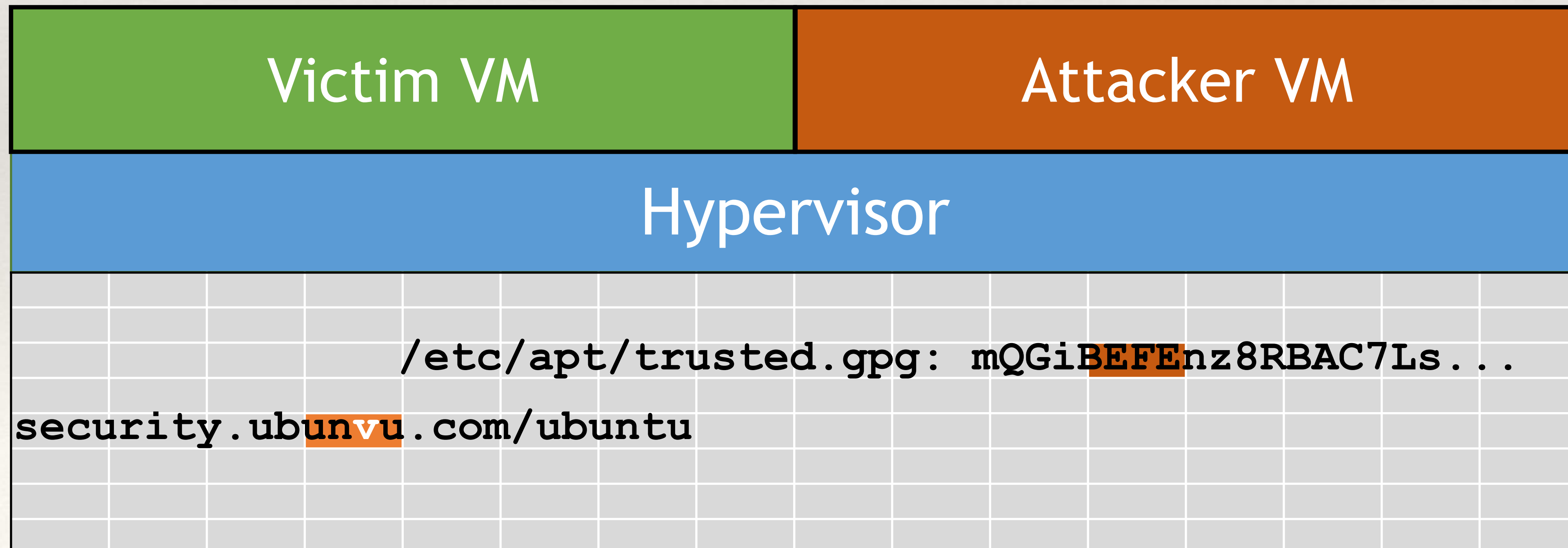


# Reproduce the bit flip

Cryptographic keys + domain names

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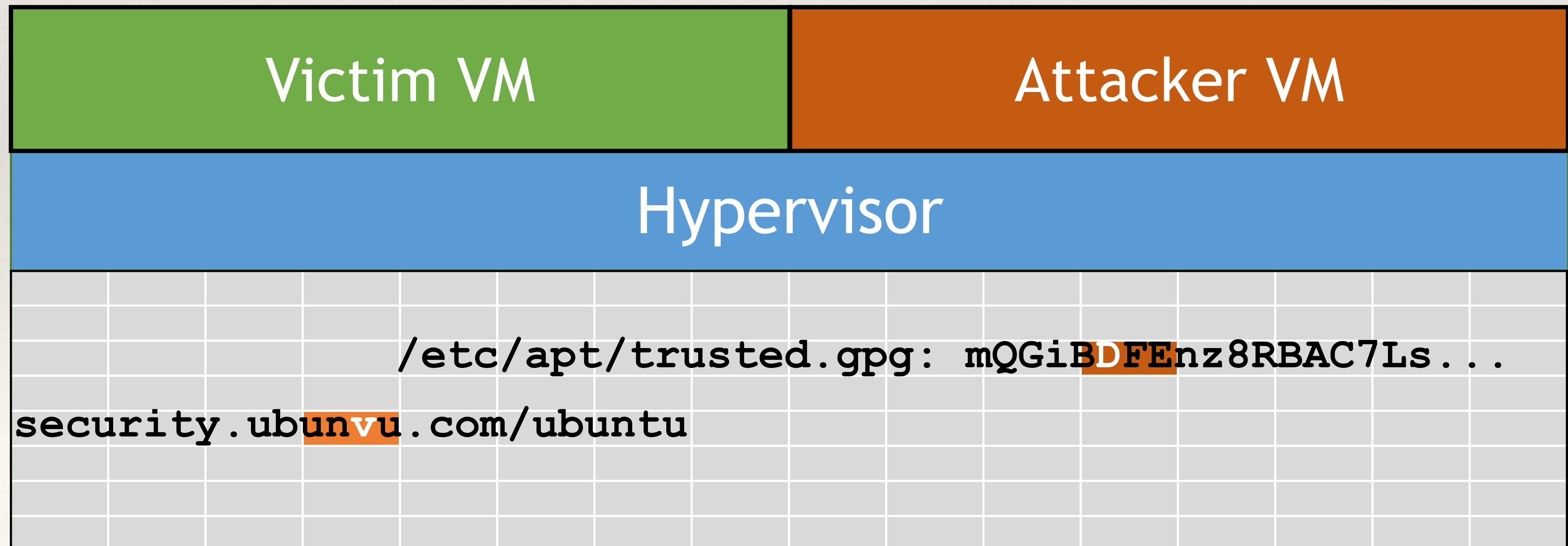


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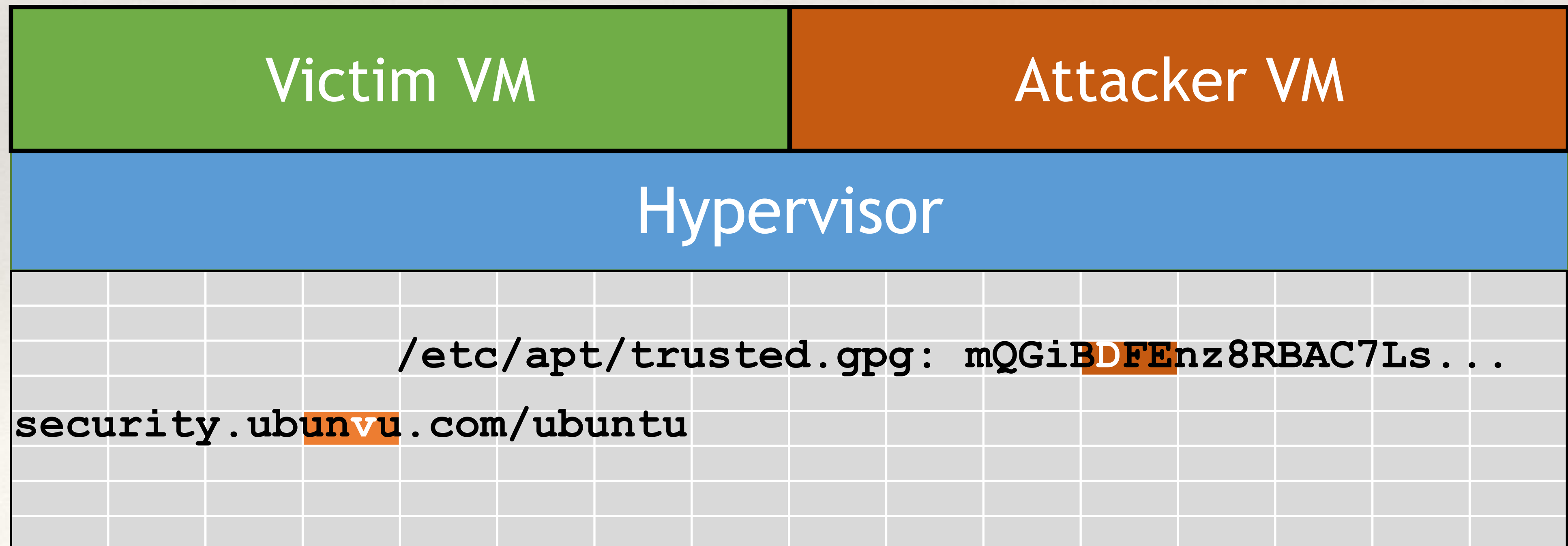


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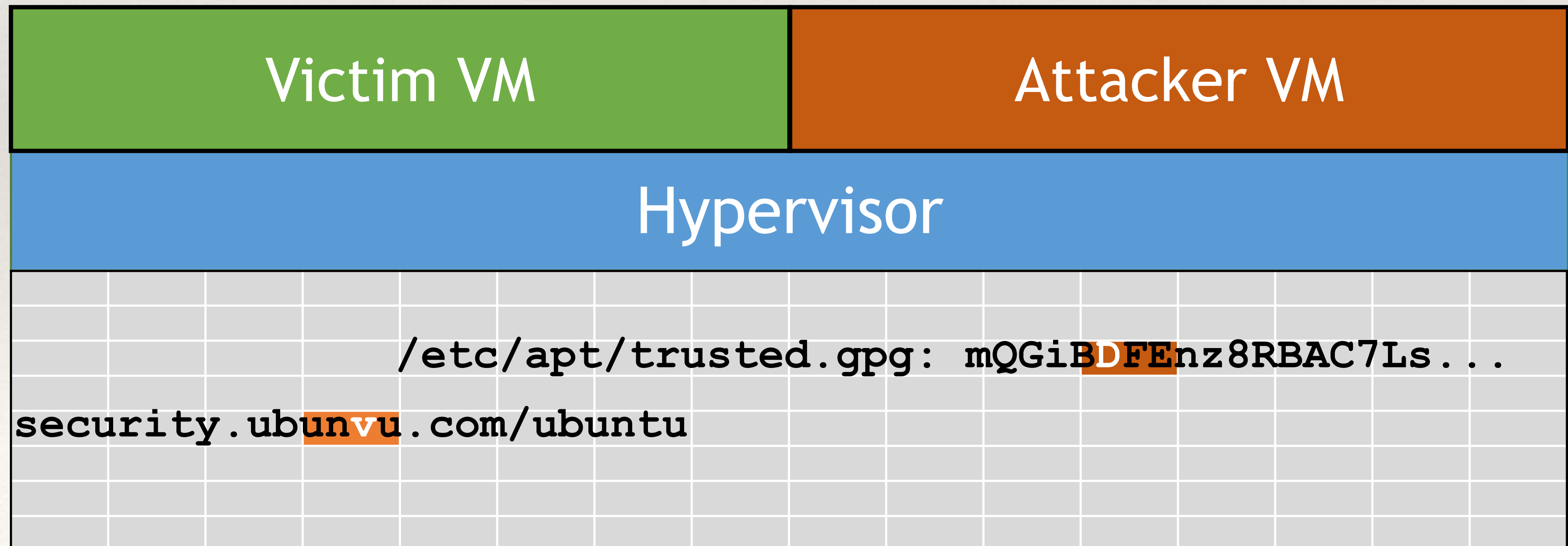


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- Attacker computes the new GPG key and signs his backdoored `ls`
- Wait for victim to `apt-get upgrade`



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# Exploitable Domains

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- *ubunvu.com*
- *ubuftu.com*
- *ubunte.com*
- *ubuntt.com*
- *ubuntw.com*
- *ubun4u.com*
- *ubunuu.com*
- *dabian.org*
- *ddbian.org*
- *debiaf.org*
- *debicn.org*
- *debial.org*
- *debiqn.org*
- *debien.org*

*And more...*



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# Demo Time

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# This Year's Blackhat Pwnie Awards

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- ❖ Flip Feng Shui Nominated For Best Cryptographic Attack Pwnie

nominations for the pwnie awards

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## Nominees for the Pwnie Awards 2017

### Pwnie for Best Cryptographic Attack (new for 2016!)

Awarded to the researchers who discovered the most impactful cryptographic attack against real-world systems, protocols, or algorithms. This isn't some academic conference where we care about theoretical minutiae in obscure algorithms, this category requires actual pwnage.

- [Flip Feng Shui: Hammering a Needle in the Software Stack](#)

Credit: Kaveh Razavi, Ben Gras, Erik Bosman, Bart Preneel, Cristiano Giuffrida, Herbert Bos

We introduce Flip Feng Shui (FFS), a new exploitation vector which allows an attacker to induce bit flips over arbitrary physical memory in a fully controlled way. FFS relies on hardware bugs to induce bit flips over memory and on the ability to surgically control the physical memory layout to corrupt attacker-

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# This Year's Blackhat Pwnie Awards

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- ❖ AnC Won Most Innovative Research Pwnie

winners

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**Pwnie for Most Innovative Research**

## Additional recognition

### WebKit hardening

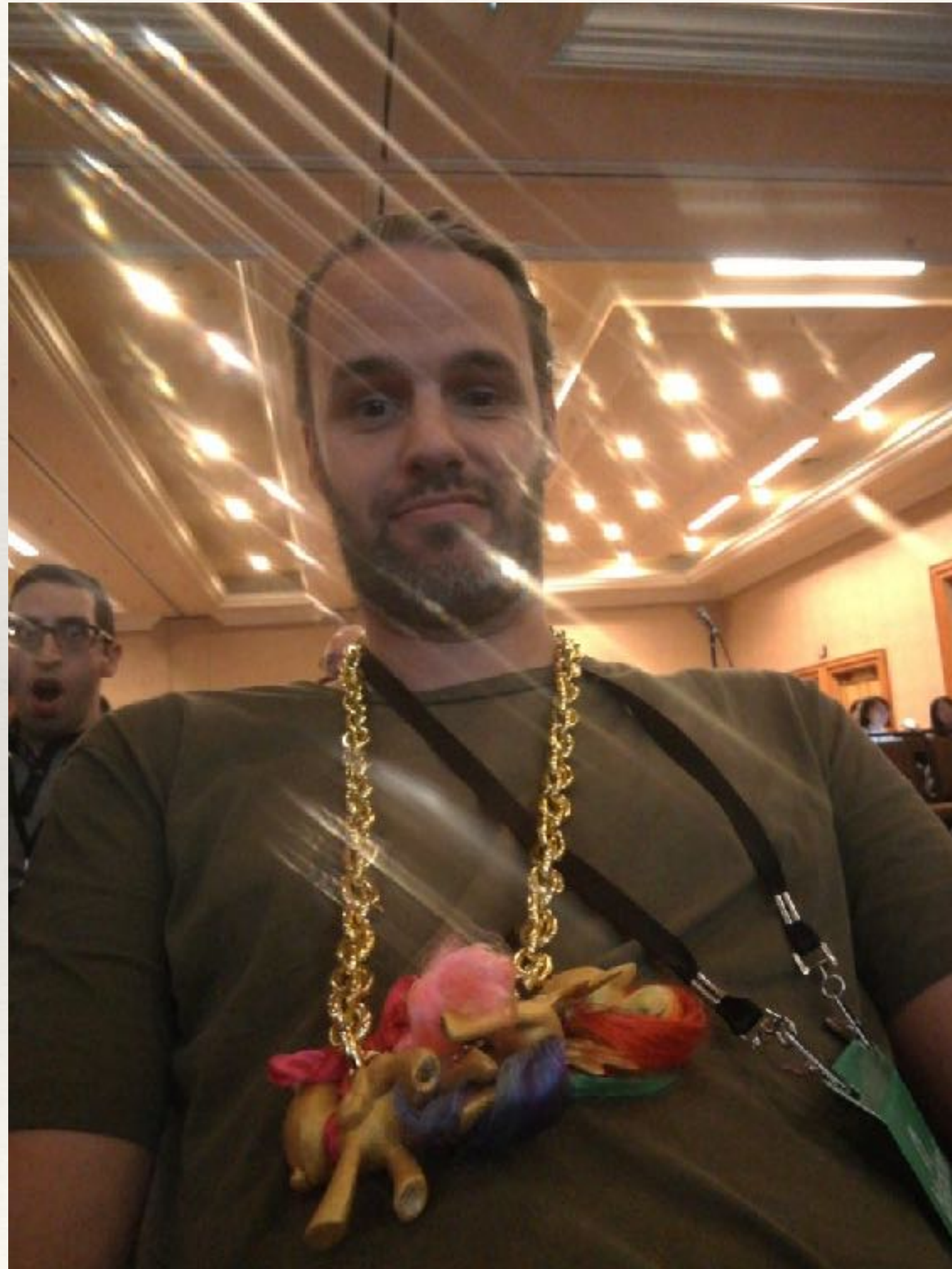
We would like to acknowledge Ben Gras, Kaveh Razavi, Erik Bosman, Herbert Bos, and Cristiano Giuffrida of the vusec group at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam for their assistance.

job and needs to be repeated for different browsers/plugins/versions/etc. Then these guys come along with a universal ASLR bypass based on timing of the caching of memory access. Of course this works using Javascript in most browsers by default and isn't really something you can fix very easy. Seems too easy, I think I'll keep looking for infoleaks like a real hacker.

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# This Year's Blackhat Pwnie Awards

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- ❖ Victor went to Vegas to collect them for us

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# Conclusion

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- ❖ MMU cache side channel breaking ASLR in sandboxed environments
- ❖ Targeting Rowhammer to compromise SSH and GPG
- ❖ Hardware is not a flawless abstraction! it can break and leak.
- ❖ AnC: [www.vusec.net/projects/anc/](http://www.vusec.net/projects/anc/)
- ❖ FFS: [www.vusec.net/projects/flip-feng-shui/](http://www.vusec.net/projects/flip-feng-shui/)
- ❖ @vu5ec, @gober, @bjg

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# Thank you

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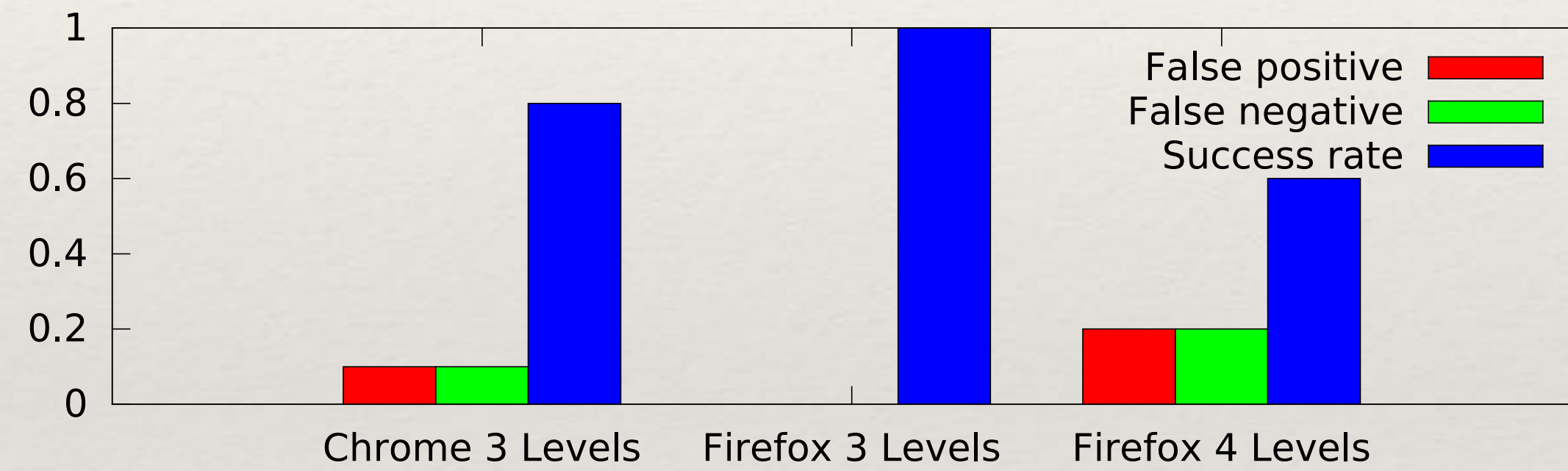
❖ Thank you for your attention



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# Results: reliability

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# Results: noise

- ❖ Repeat measurements vs confidence margin

