

# Relational Memory:

Native In-Memory Accesses on Rows and Columns

Ju Hyoung Mun



**Red Hat**

# Relational Databases are everywhere

Column

A	B	C	D	E
a <sub>1</sub>	b <sub>1</sub>	c <sub>1</sub>	d <sub>1</sub>	e <sub>1</sub>
a <sub>2</sub>	b <sub>2</sub>	c <sub>2</sub>	d <sub>2</sub>	e <sub>2</sub>
a <sub>3</sub>	b <sub>3</sub>	c <sub>3</sub>	d <sub>3</sub>	e <sub>3</sub>

Relation

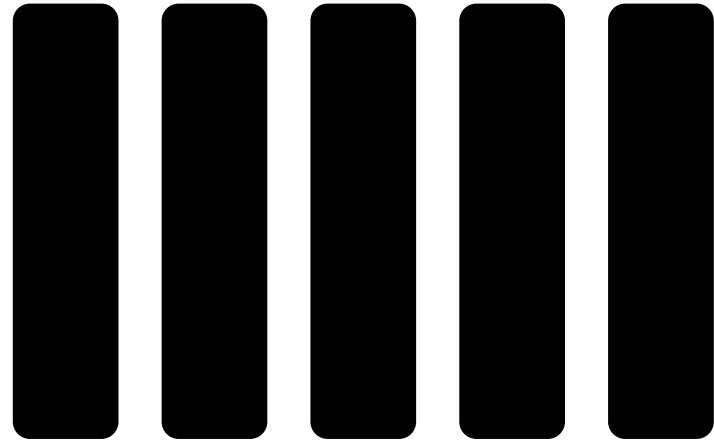


# Data Layouts

row-stores



column-stores



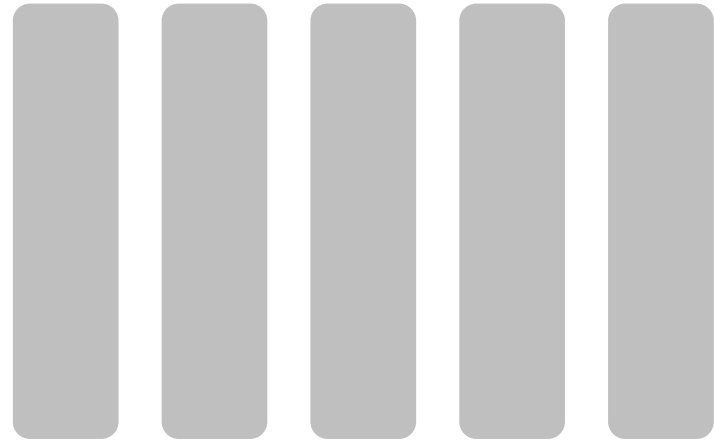
# Data Layouts

row-stores



**Transactional**

column-stores

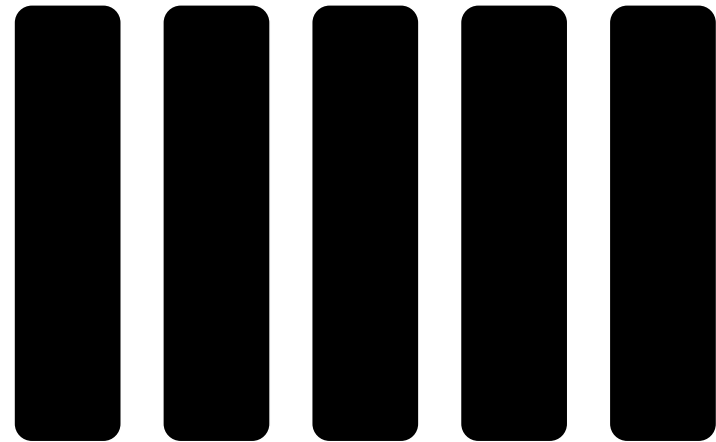


# Data Layouts

row-stores

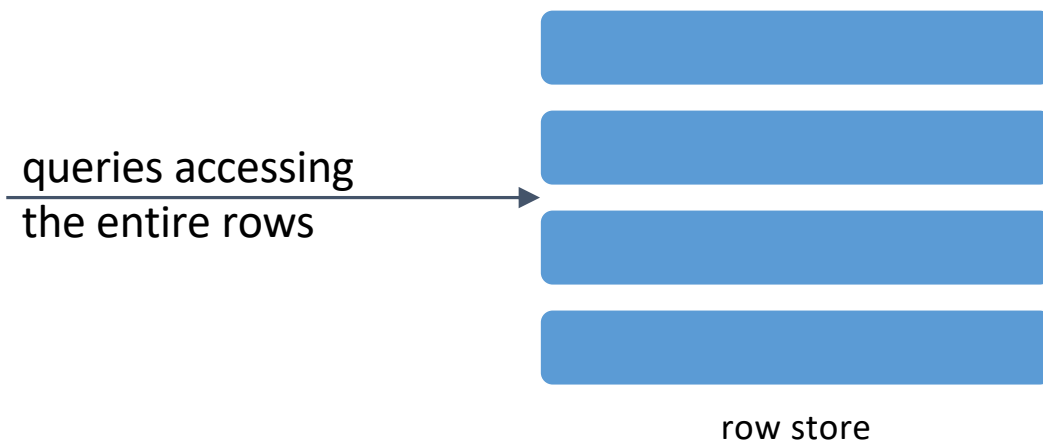


column-stores



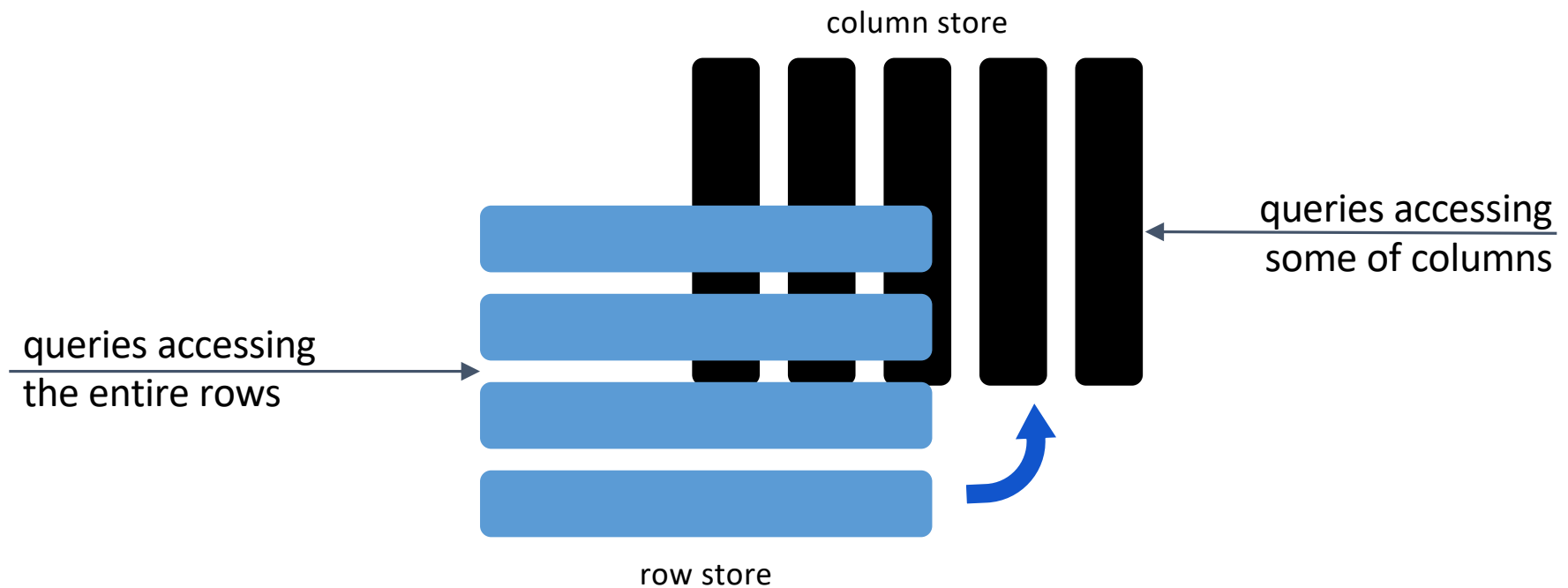
**Analytical**

# Adaptive layout

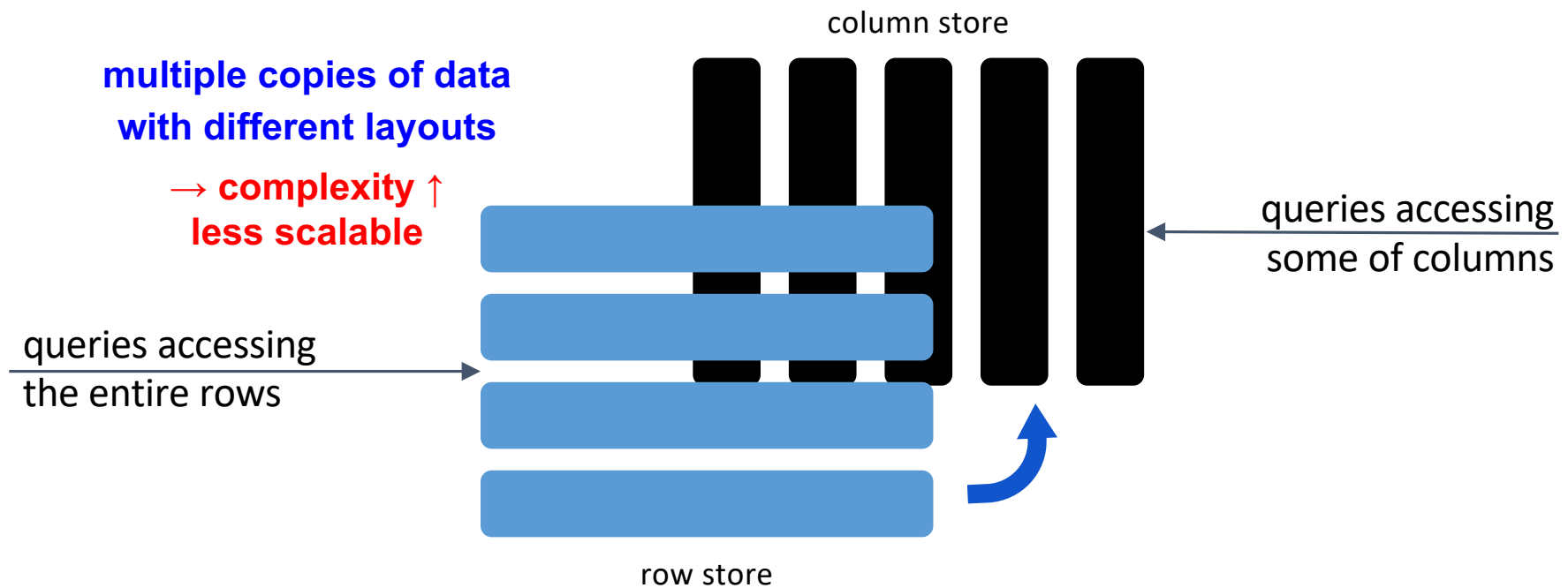


E.g., H2O (ACM SIGMOD, 2014), HyPer (IEEE ICDE, 2011), Peloton (ACM SIGMOD, 2016), OctopusDB (CIDR, 2011)

## What are the disadvantages of the adaptive layout?



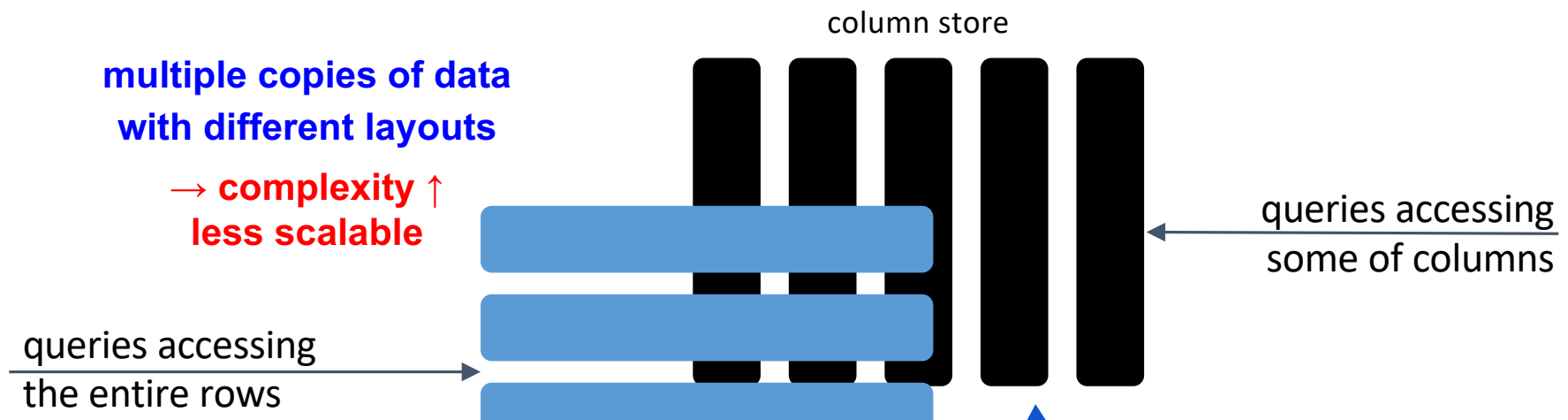
# Adaptive layout



E.g., H2O (ACM SIGMOD, 2014), HyPer (IEEE ICDE, 2011), Peloton (ACM SIGMOD, 2016), OctopusDB (CIDR, 2011)

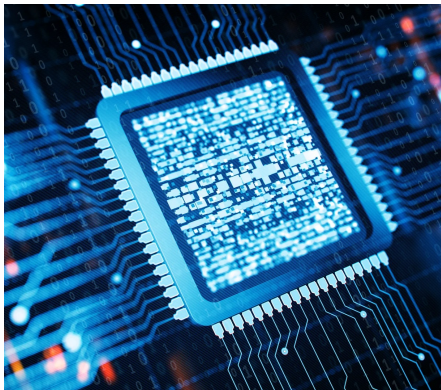


# Adaptive layout



**What if there is a shift over columns?**

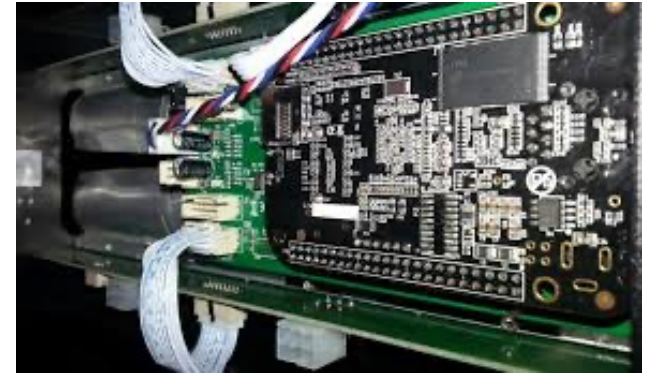
How can we access  
**only the desired columns**  
*without storing or maintaining*  
**multiple** copies of data?




a novel hardware design  
for data transformation  
**Relational Memory**

# What is Hardware?





 **Application-Specific Integrated Circuits  
(ASICs)**

# Advantages of Hardware Accelerators

## Advantages

- [Speedup](#)
- Reduced [power consumption](#)
- Lower latency
- Increased [parallelism](#) and [bandwidth](#)
- [Better utilization](#) of area and [functional components](#) available on an [integrated circuit](#)

# Advantages of Hardware Accelerators

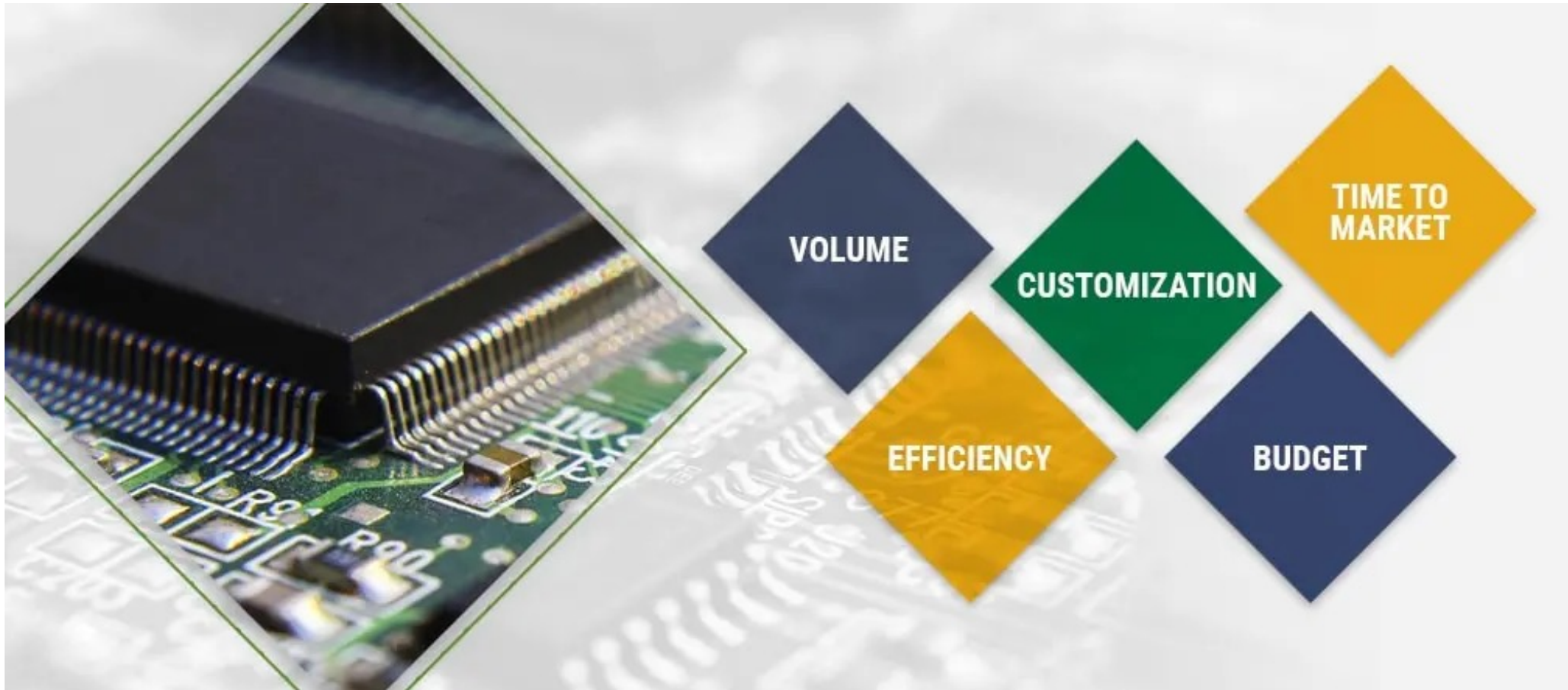
## Advantages

- [Speedup](#)
- Reduced [power consumption](#)
- Lower latency
- Increased [parallelism](#) and [bandwidth](#)
- [Better utilization](#) of area and [functional components](#) available on an [integrated circuit](#)

## Disadvantages

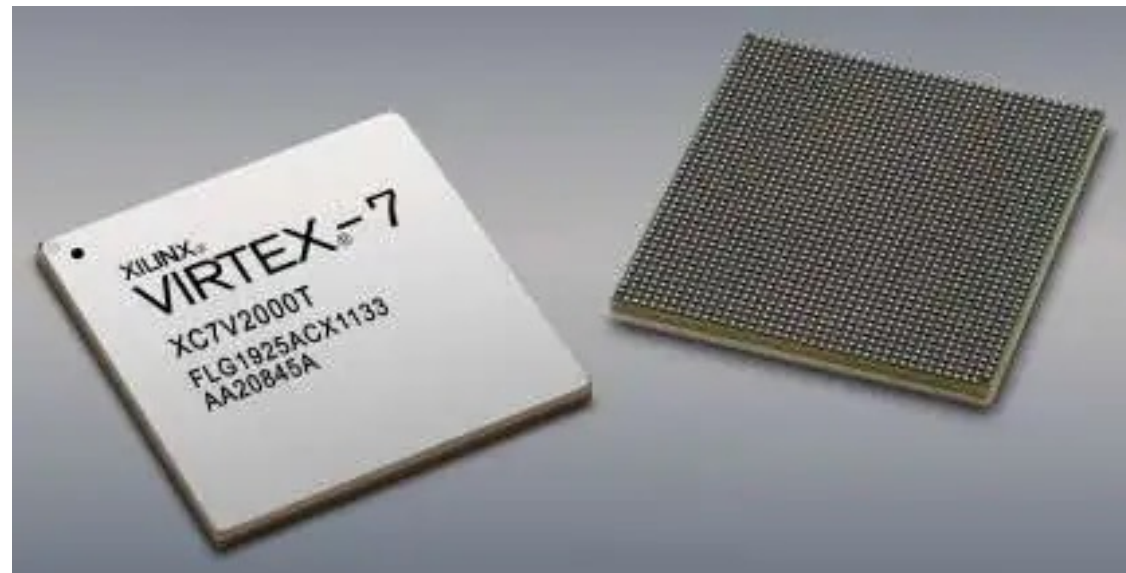
- Lower [flexibility](#)
- Higher costs of [functional verification](#) and times to market

# ASICs



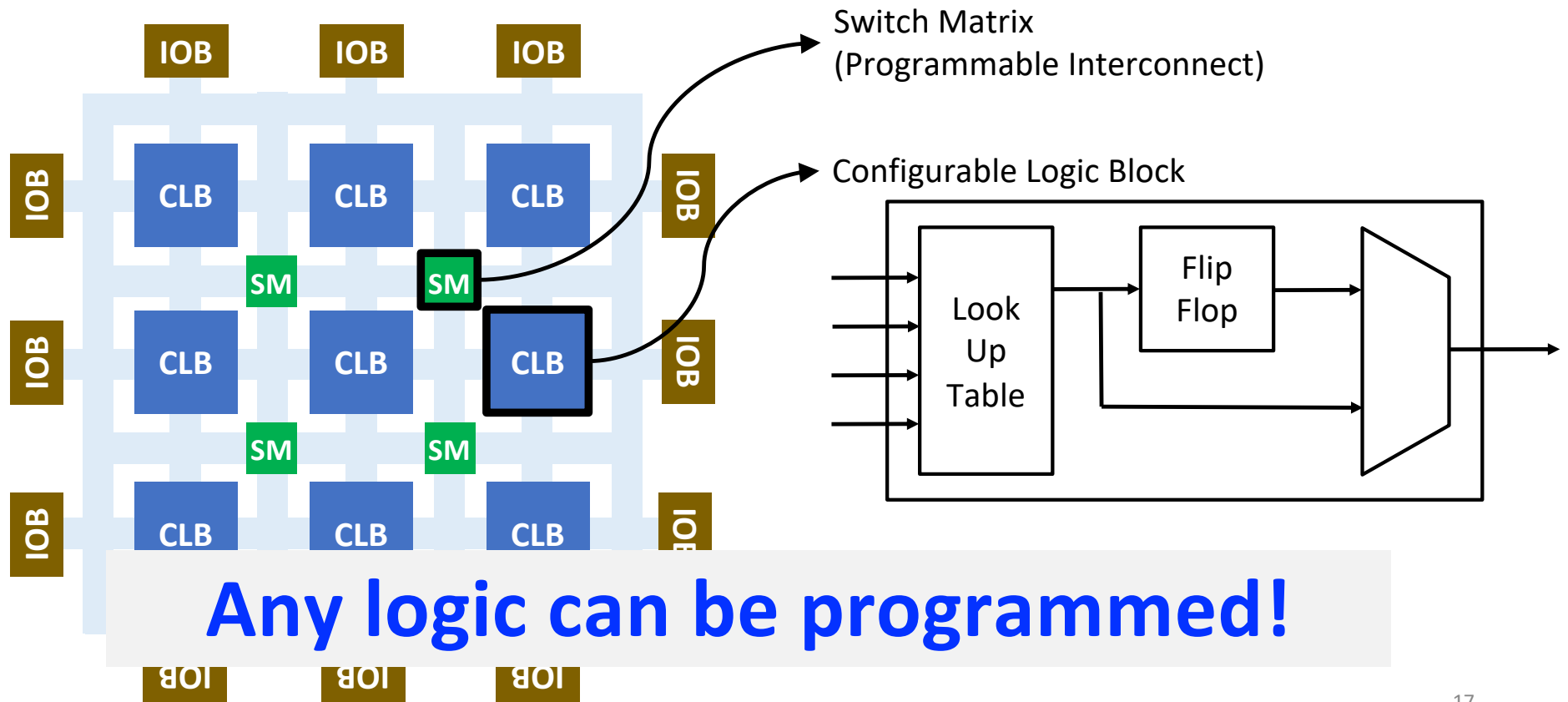
# Programmable Logic

Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs)

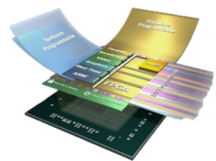
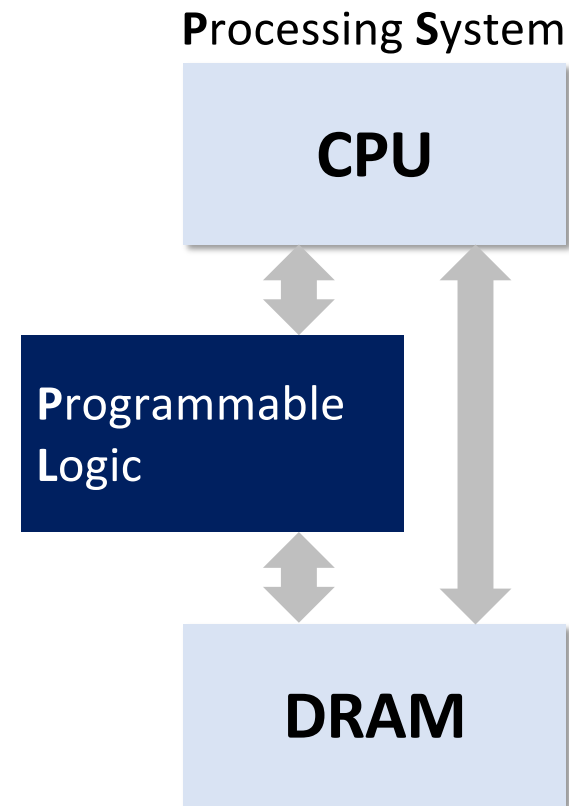




# Architecture of Programmable Logic



# PS-PL Platforms

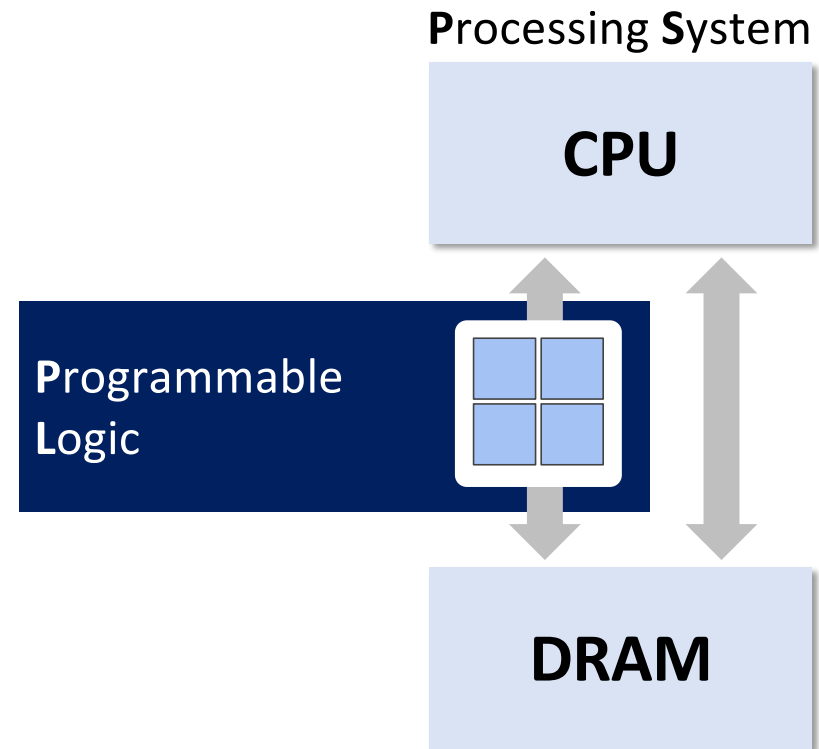


AMD  
XILINX

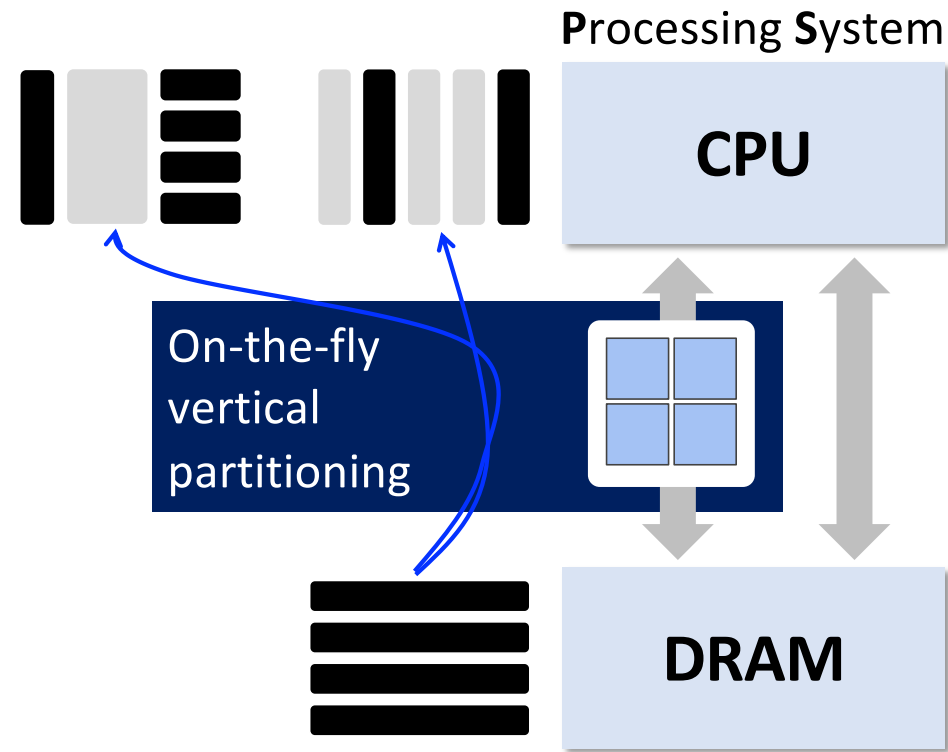
UltraScale+ ENZIAN



# Relational Memory Engine



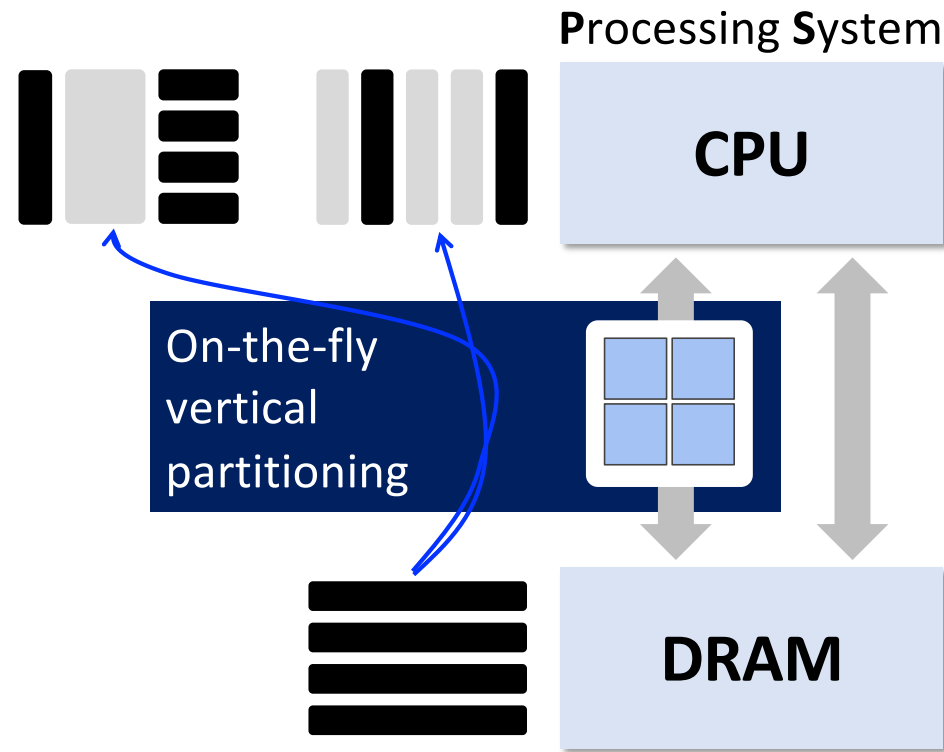
# Relational Memory Engine



*Q1: how to build?*

*Q2: how to use?*

# Relational Memory Engine



# *ephemeral variable*

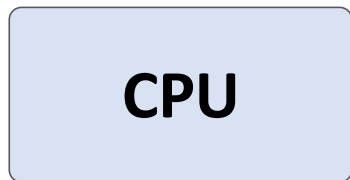
a simple, lightweight programming abstraction  
to use Relational Memory

leads to normal memory accesses

```
struct row table[ ];
```

```
[[ephemeral]] struct col_group cg[ ];
```

*fake* address that CPU thinks it exists  
intercepted by RME



```
SELECT NAME
FROM table
WHERE weight/height>25;
```

base row store

name	ID	age	height	weight
Alice	1	10	120	34
Bob	2	71	175	74
Charles	3	37	168	61
David	4	25	179	80

```
struct row {
  string name;
  int ID ;
  int age ;
  int height ;
  int weight ;
};
```

optimal layout

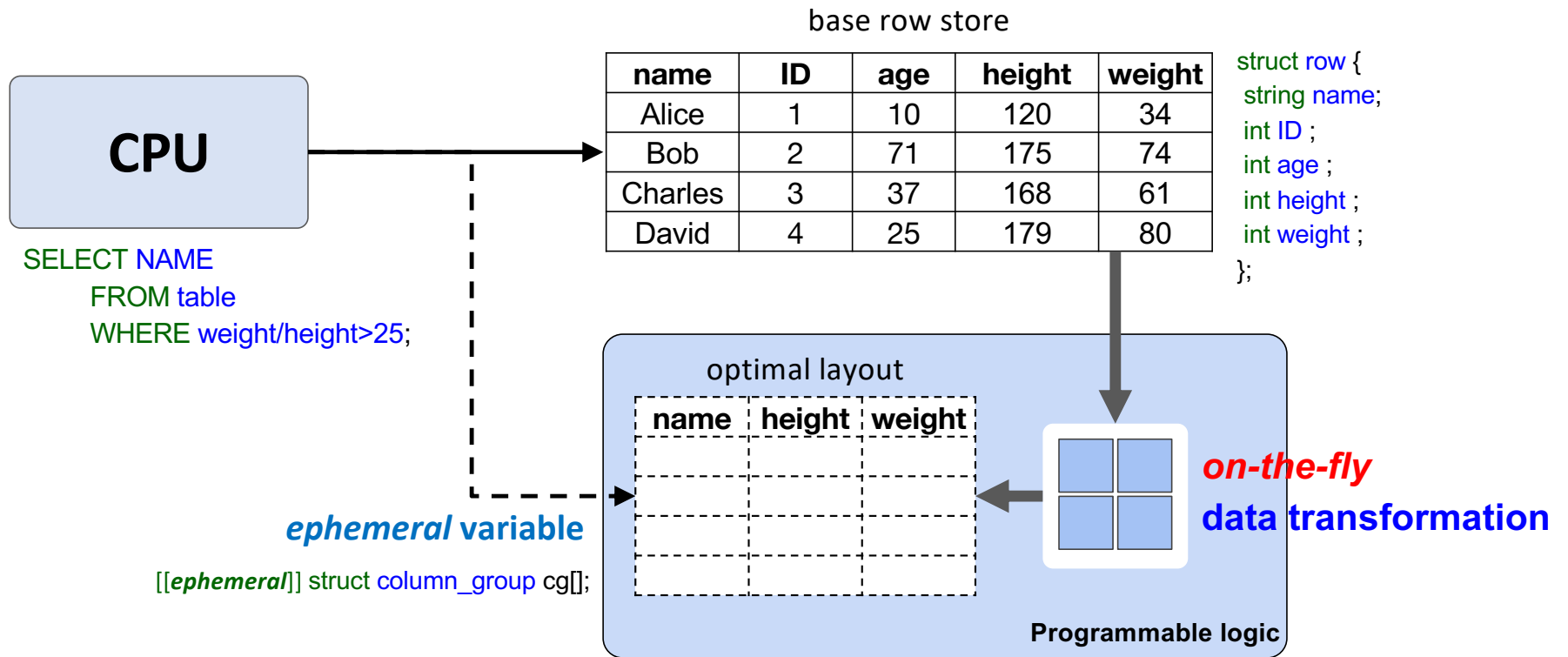
name	height	weight
Alice	120	34
Bob	175	74
Charles	168	61
David	179	80

```
struct column_group {
  string NAME ;
  int height ;
  int weight ;
};
```

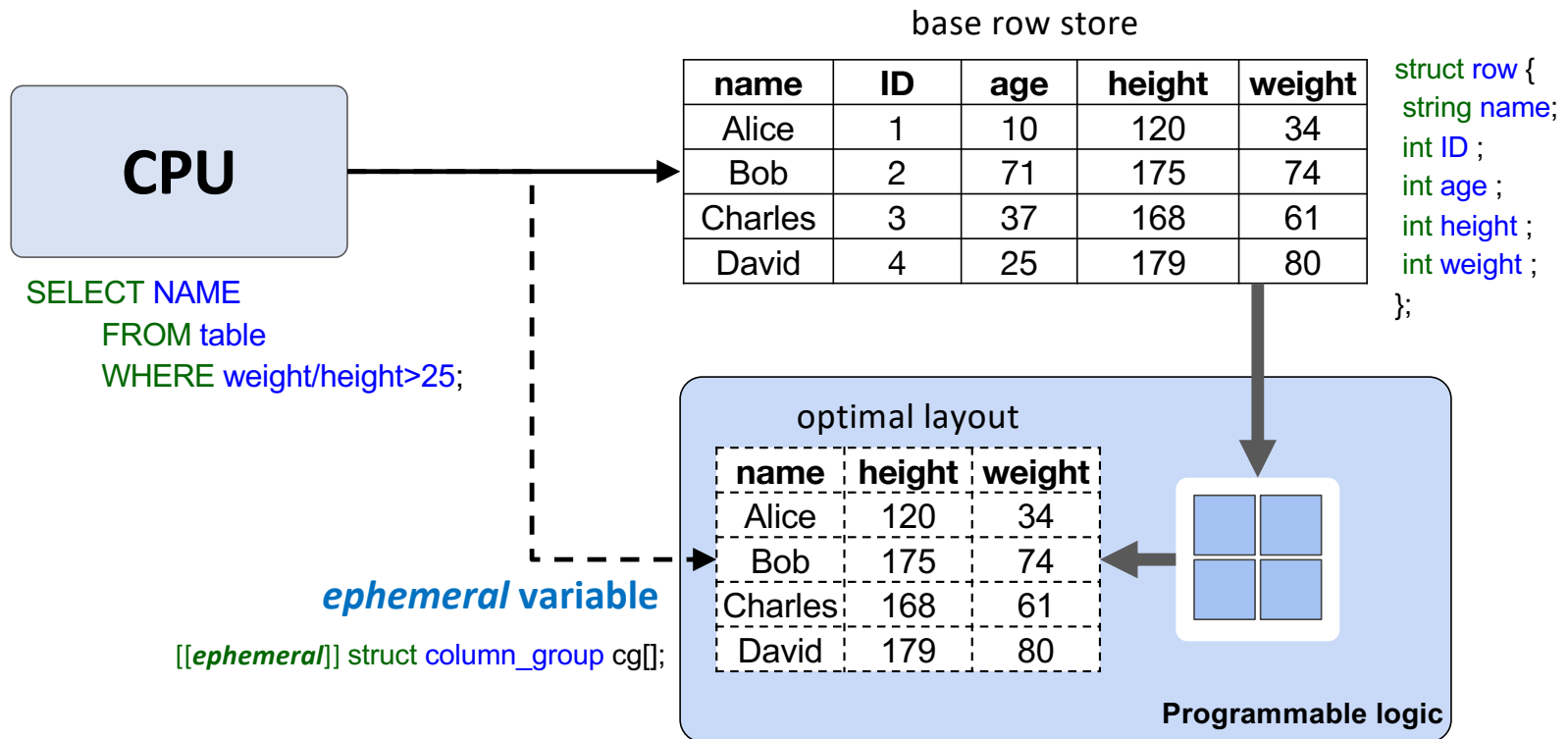
*Not instantiated in main memory*

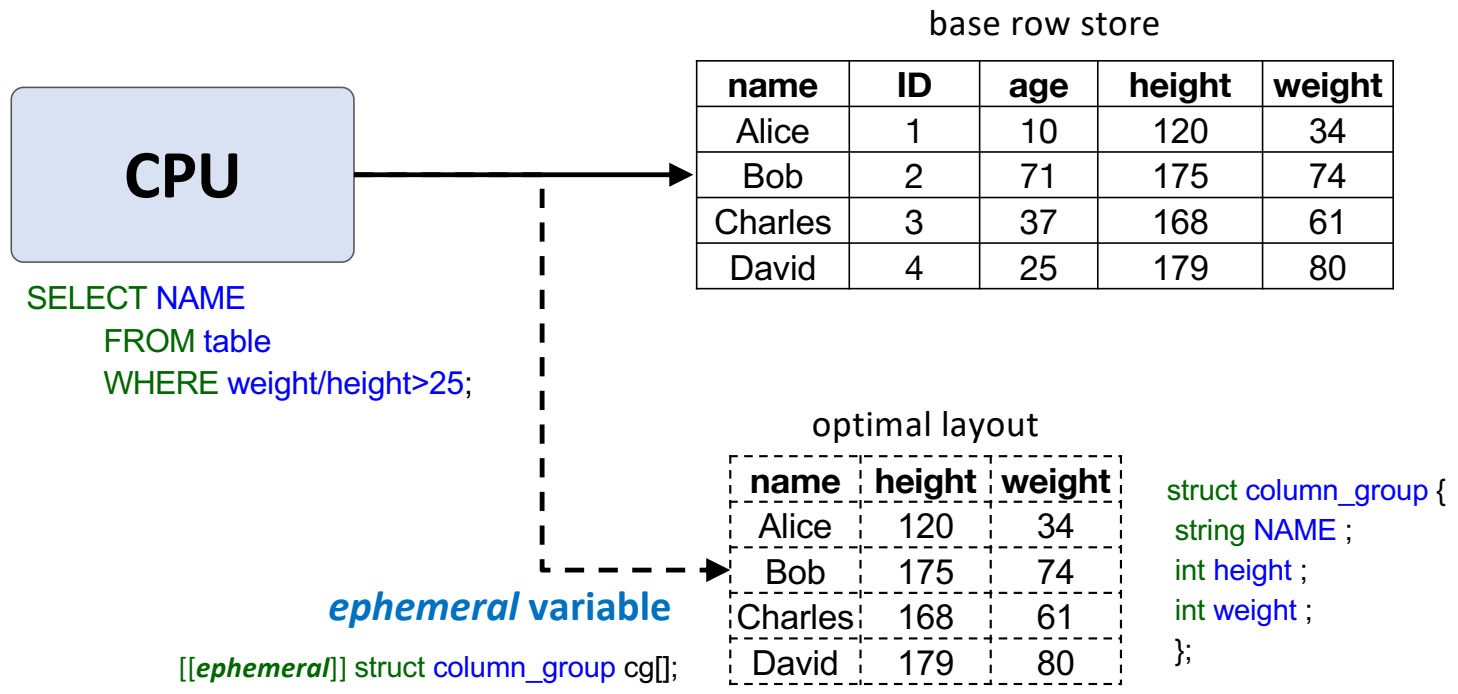
*ephemeral variable*

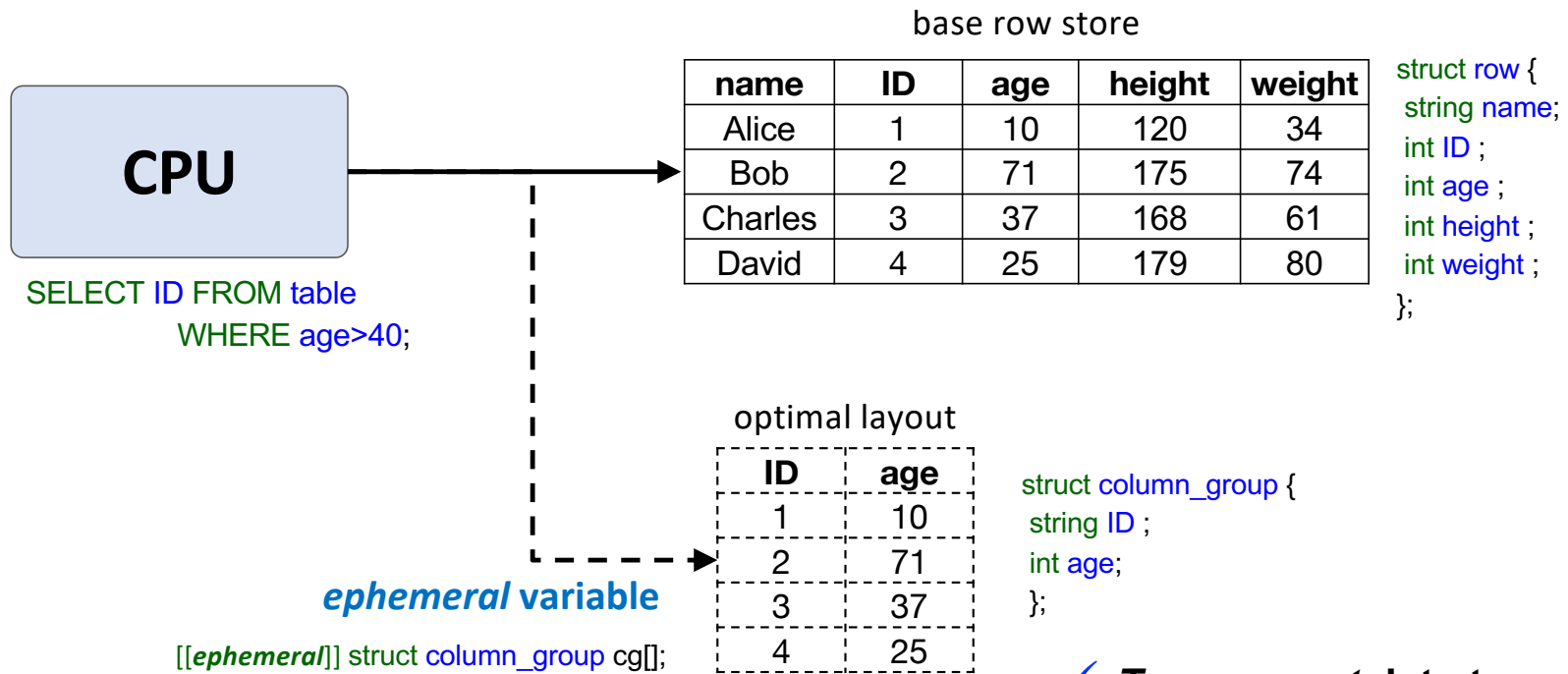
```
[[ephemeral]] struct column_group cg[];
```









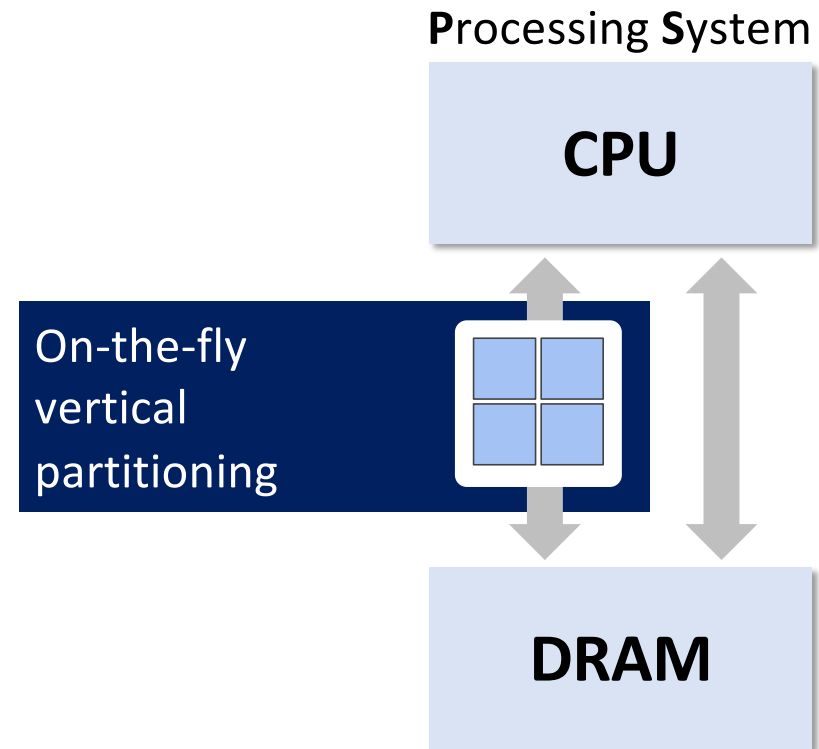


- ✓ **Transparent data transformation**
- ✓ **Optimal layout**

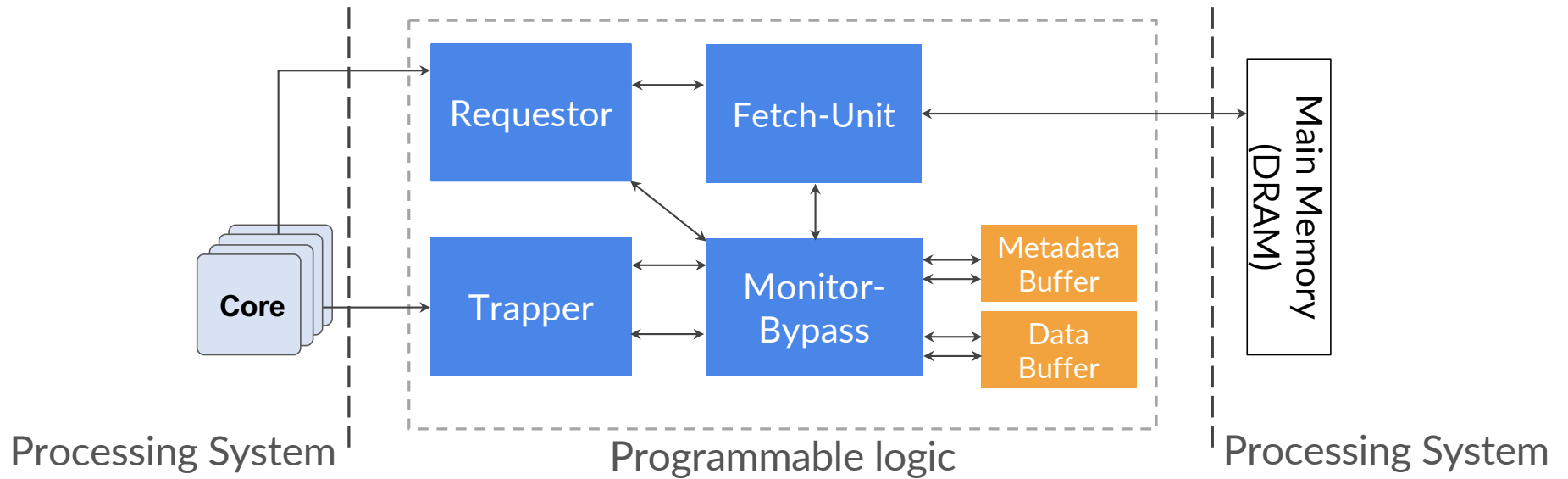
*Q1: how to build?*

*Q2: how to use?*

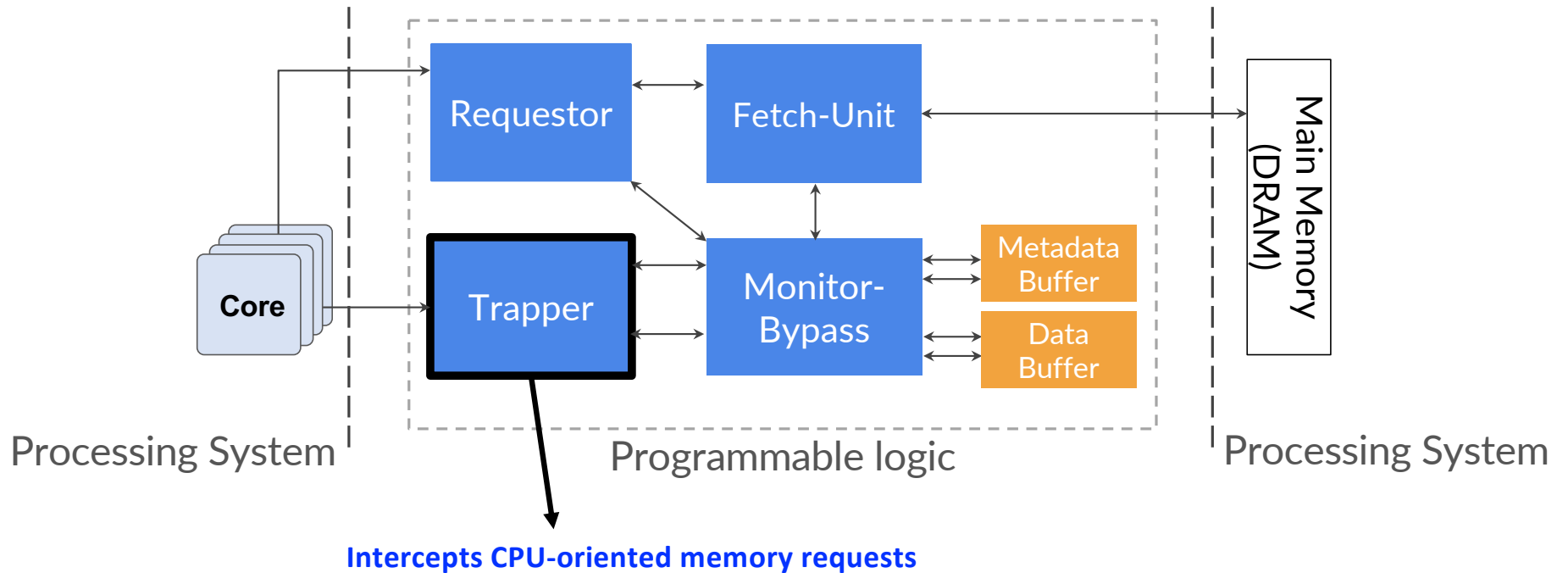
# Relational Memory Engine



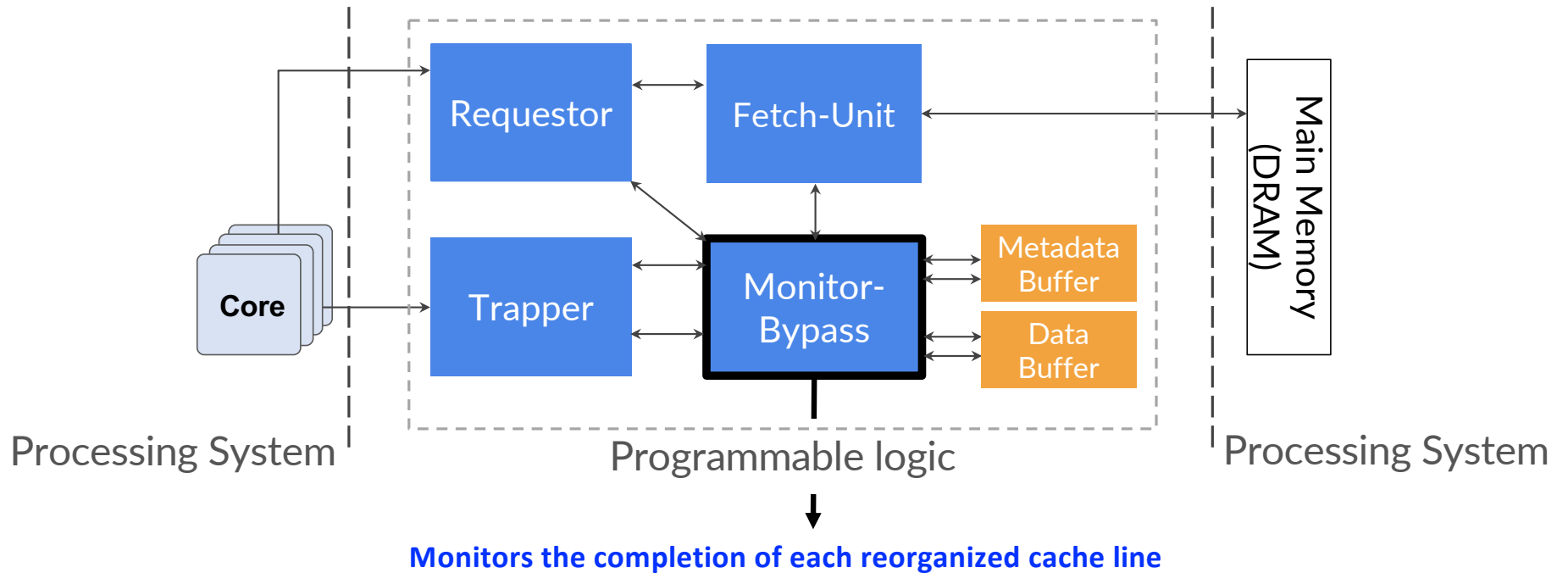
# Relational Memory Engine



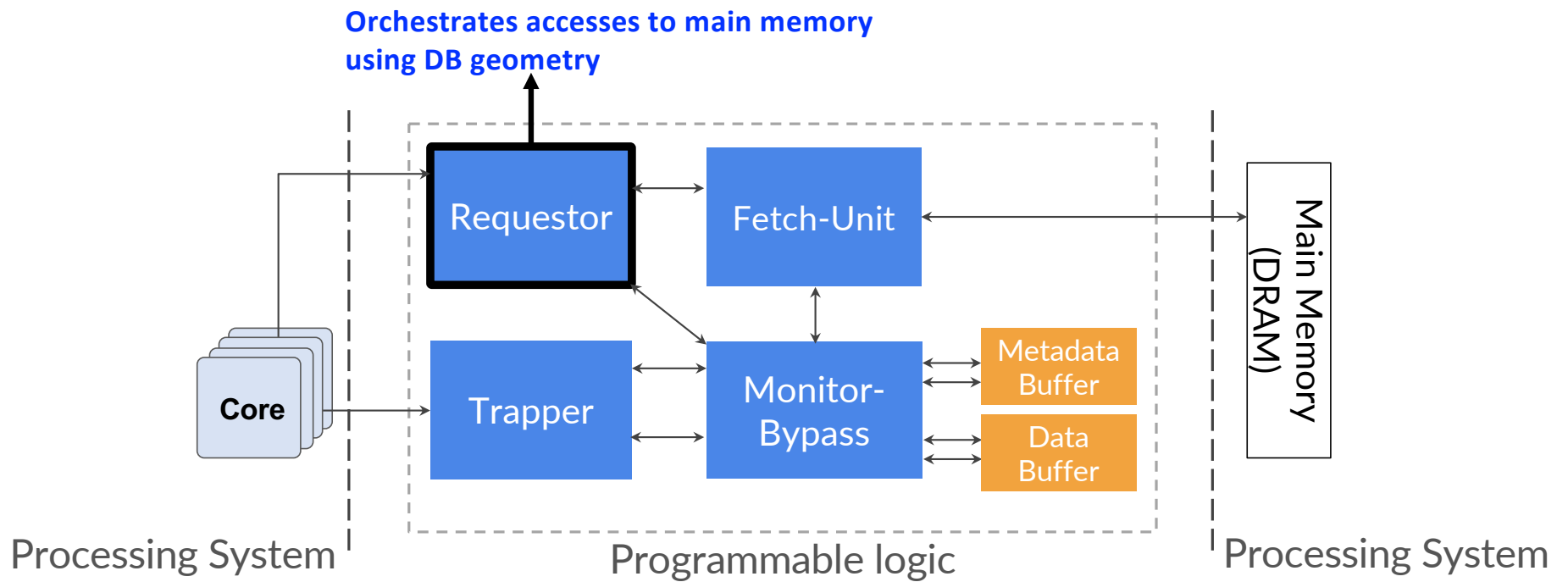
# Relational Memory Engine



# Relational Memory Engine

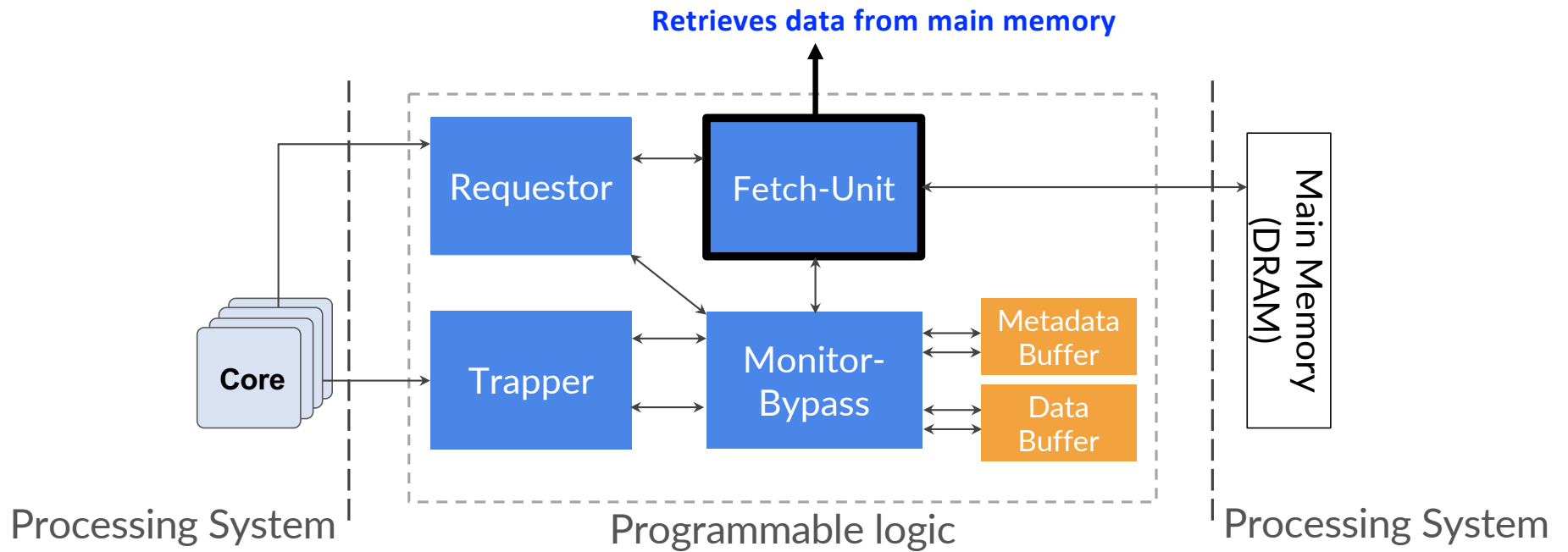


# Relational Memory Engine



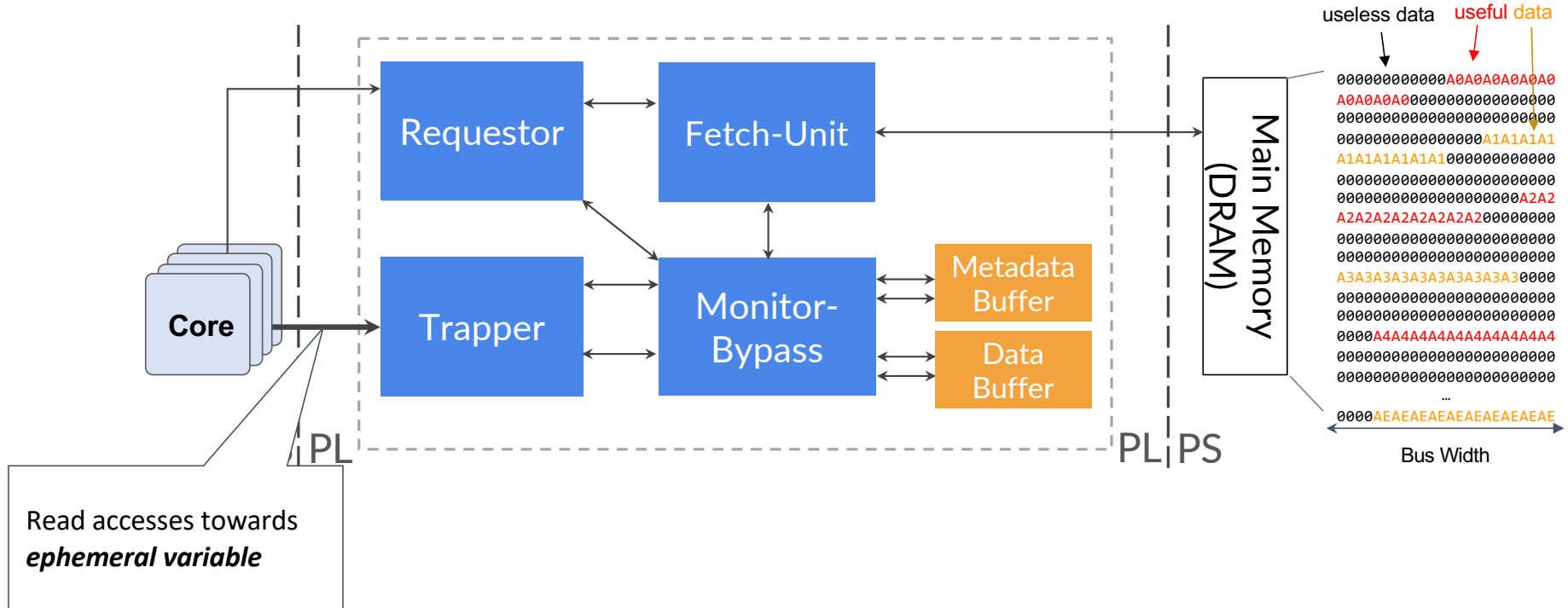


# Relational Memory Engine

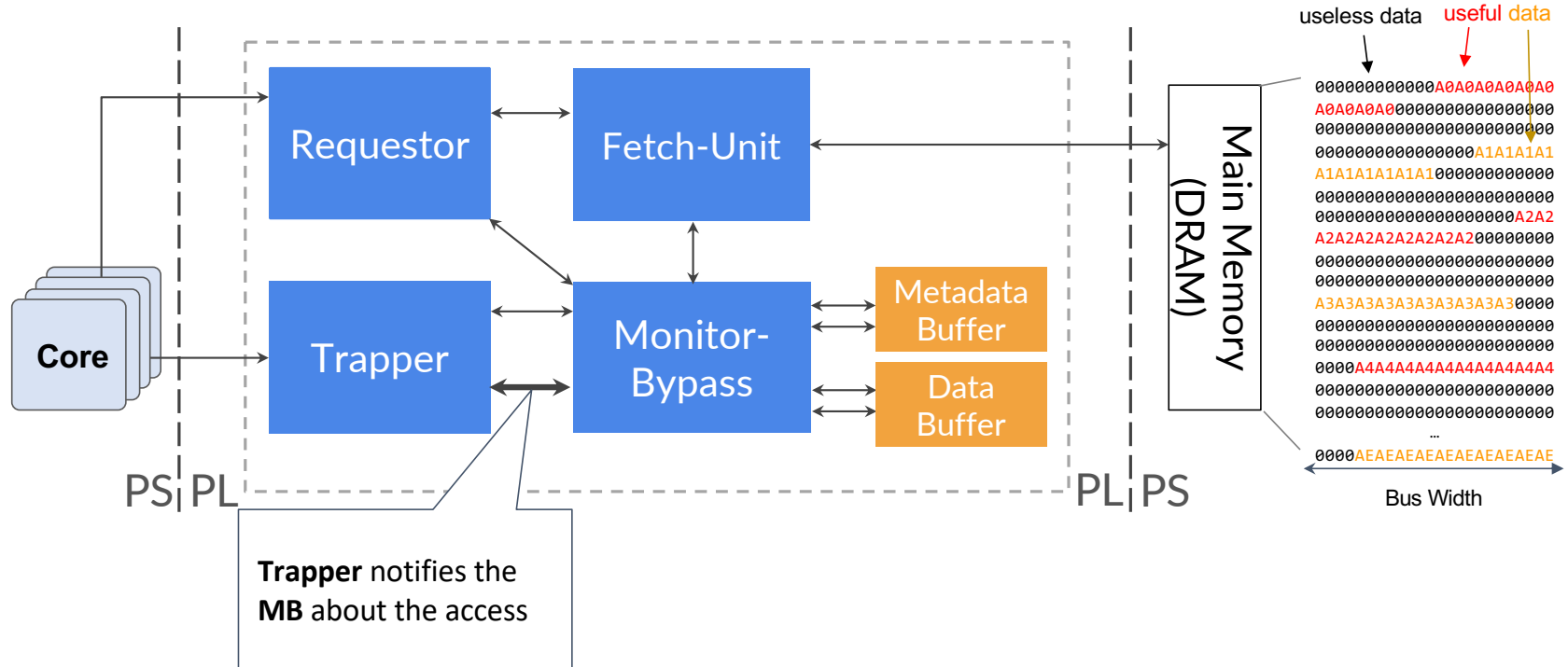




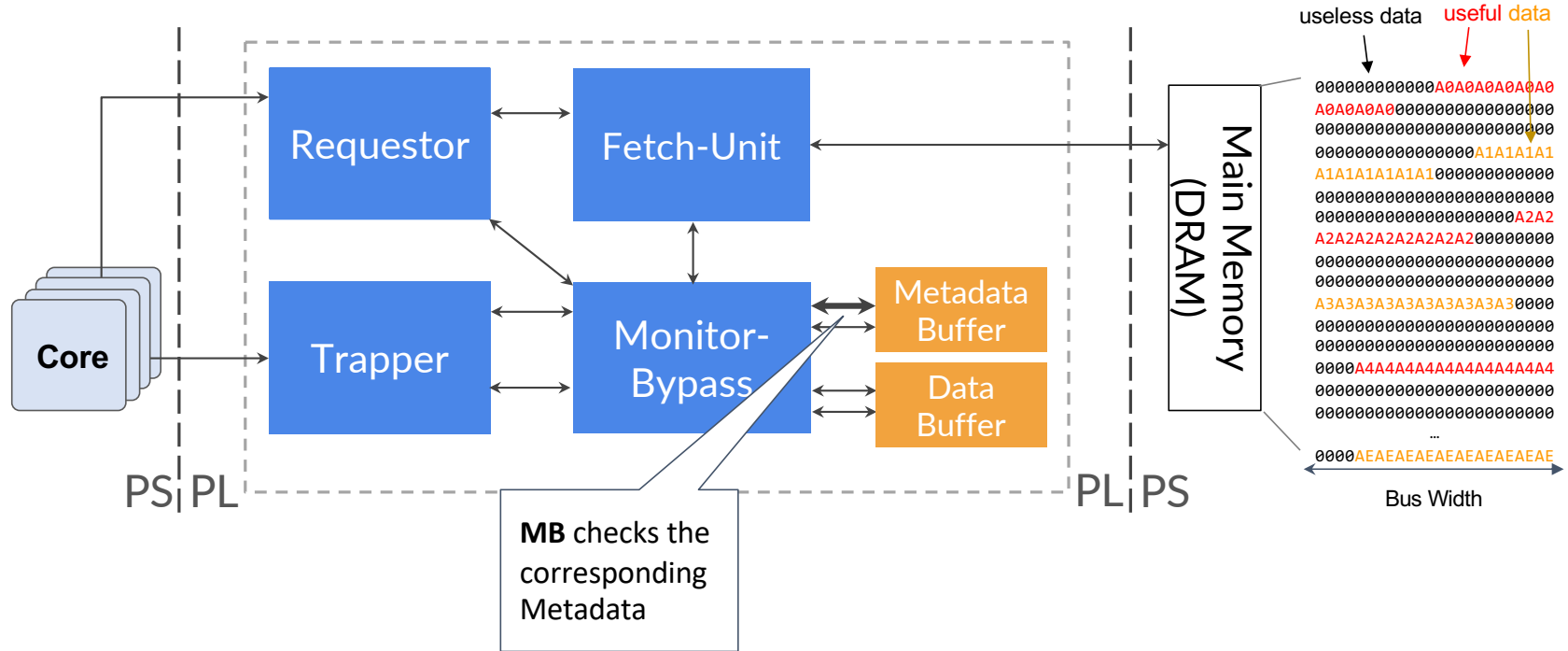
# Relational Memory Engine



# Relational Memory Engine



# Relational Memory Engine

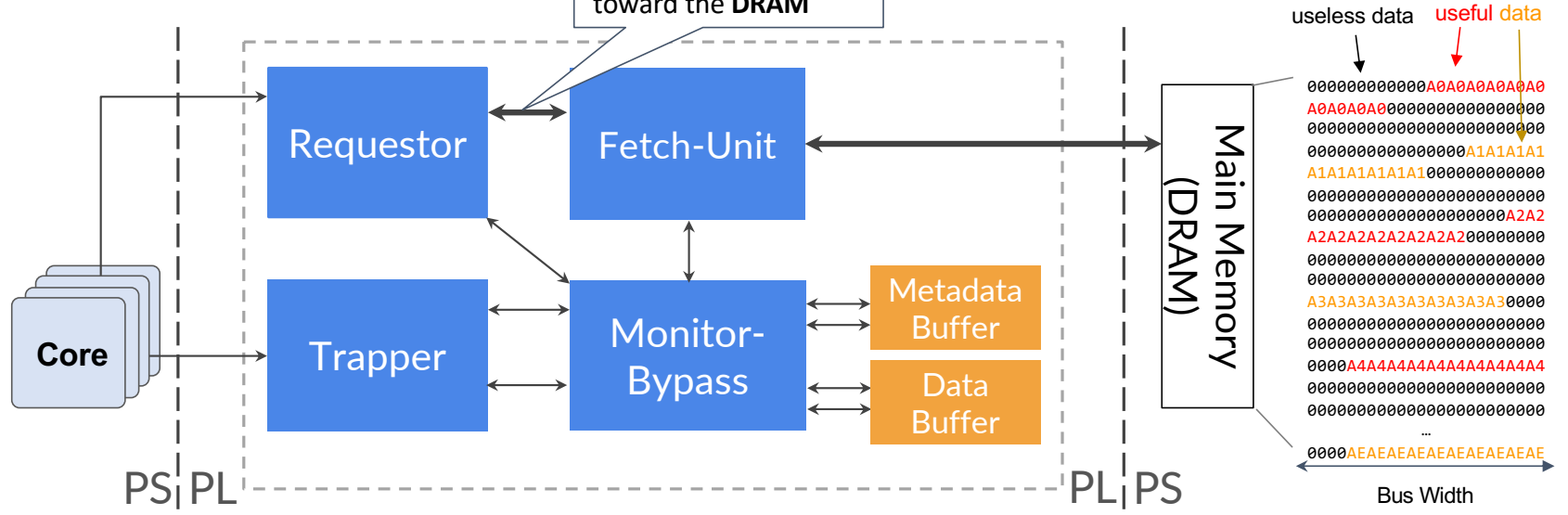




# Relational Memory Engine

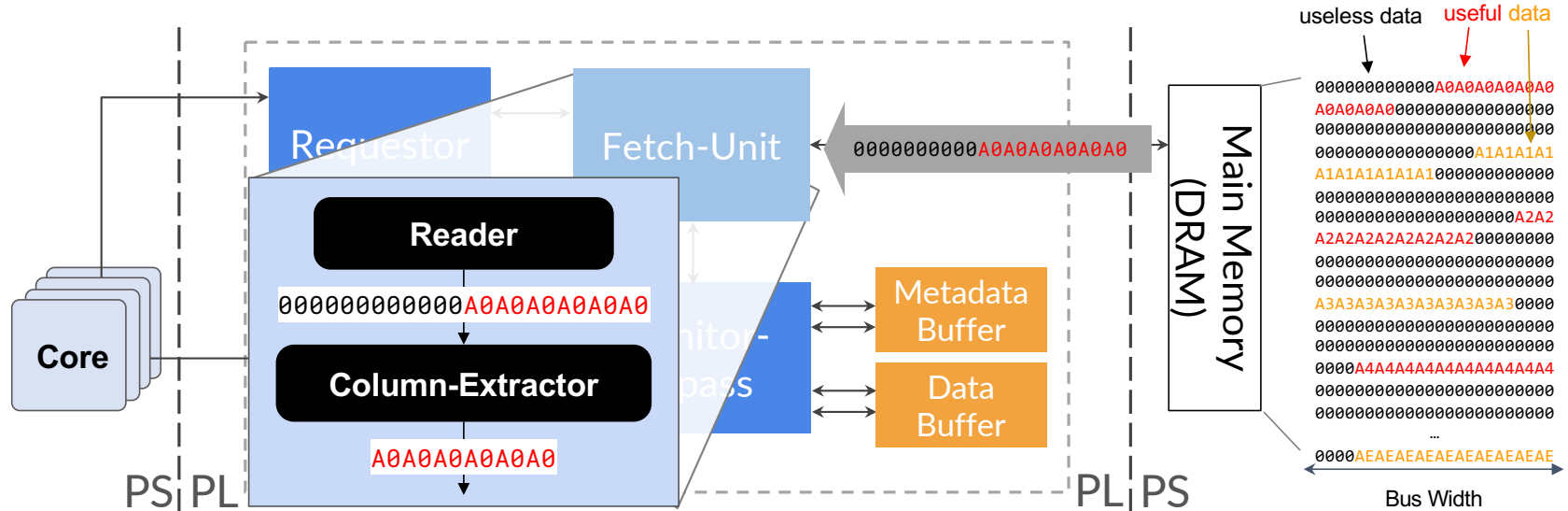
When the data is not in Data Buffer

Requestor programs the **Fetch-Unit** and it fires the read request toward the **DRAM**



# Relational Memory Engine

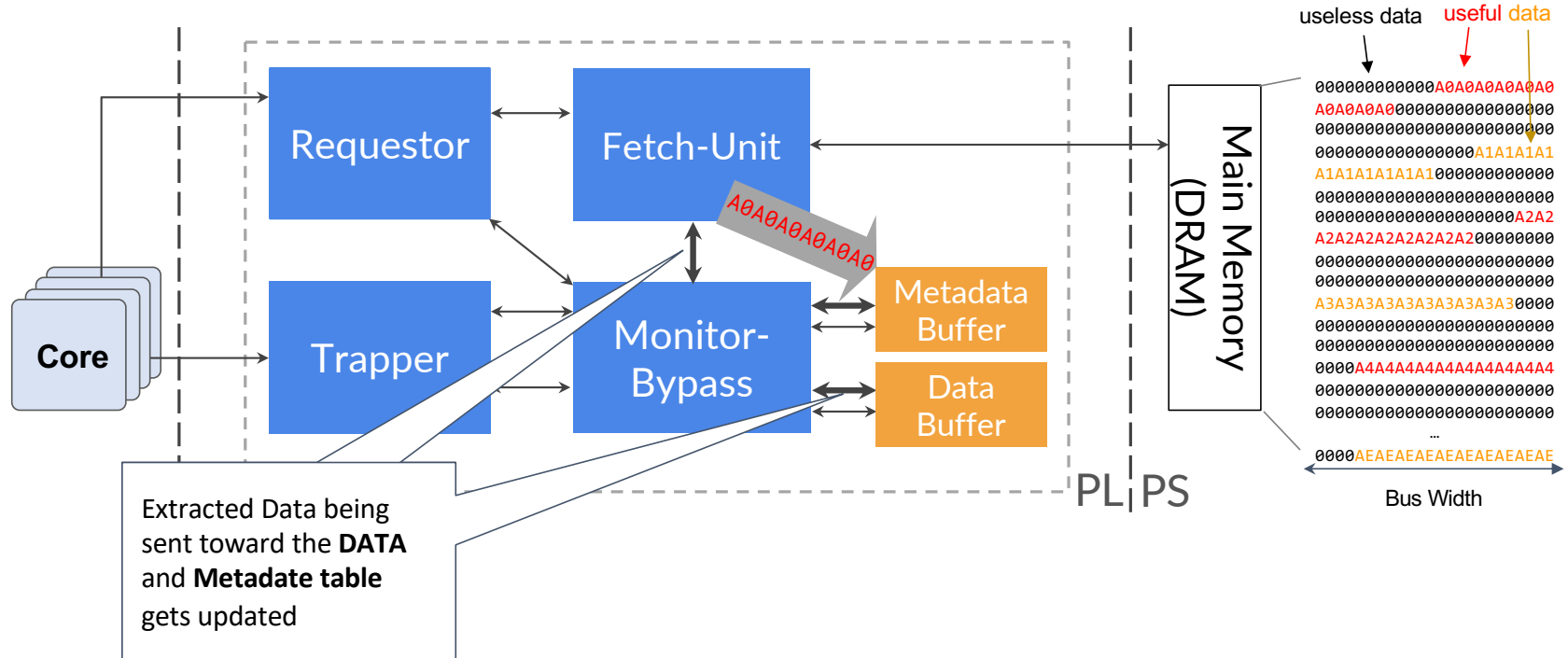
When the data is not in Data Buufer





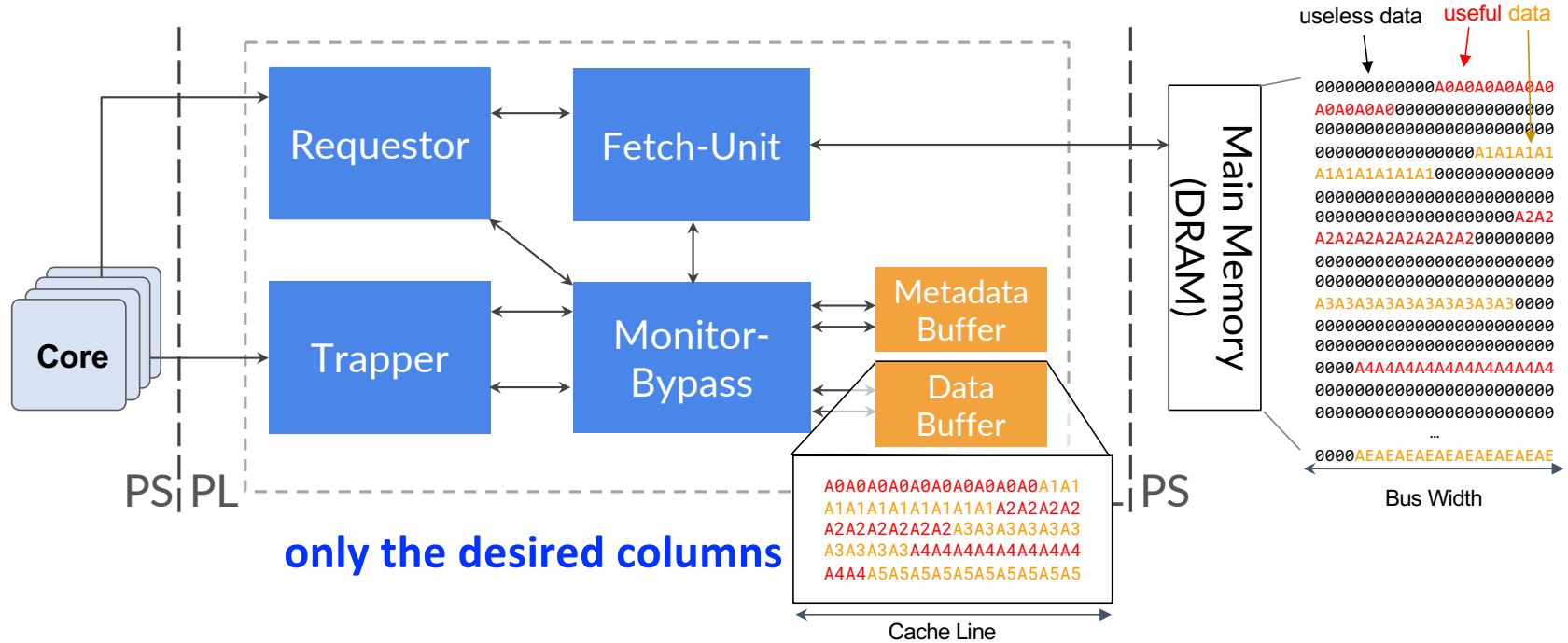
# Relational Memory Engine

When the data is not in Data Buffer



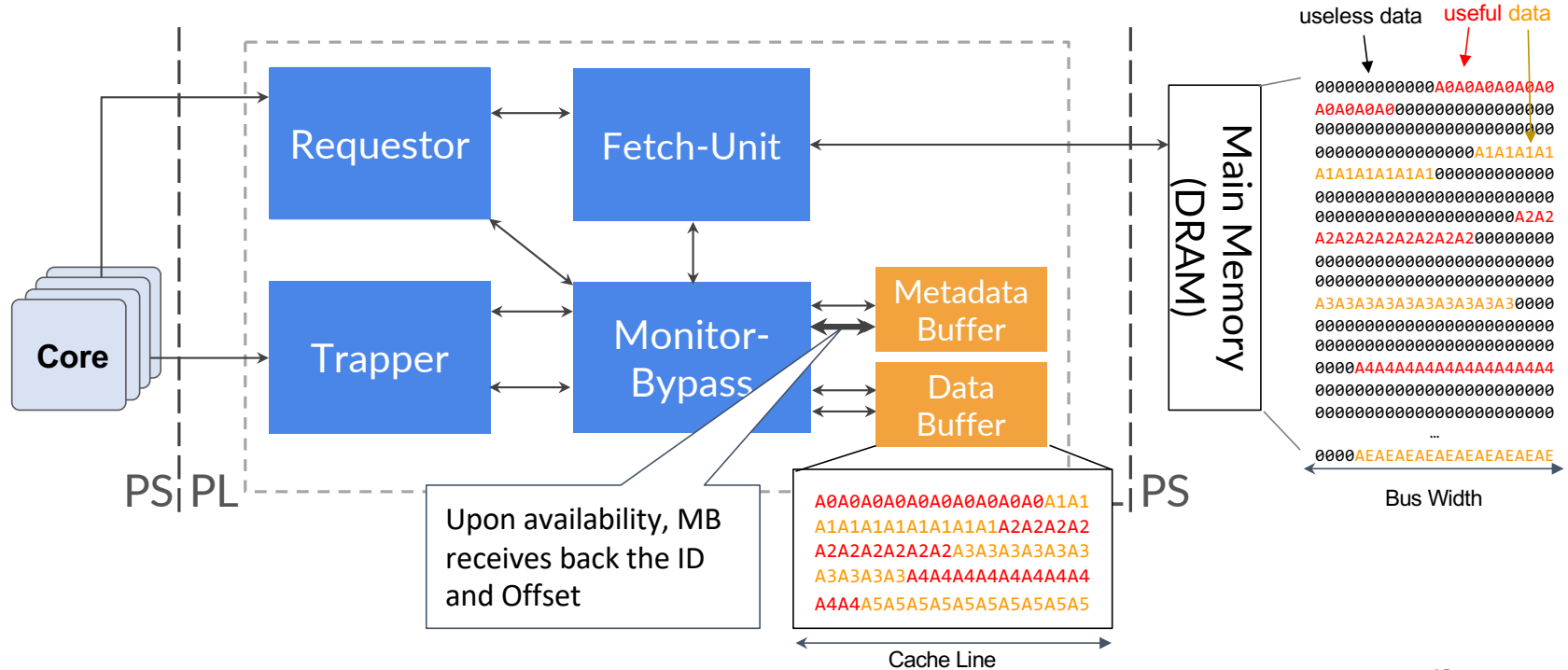
# Relational Memory Engine

When the data is not in Data Buffer



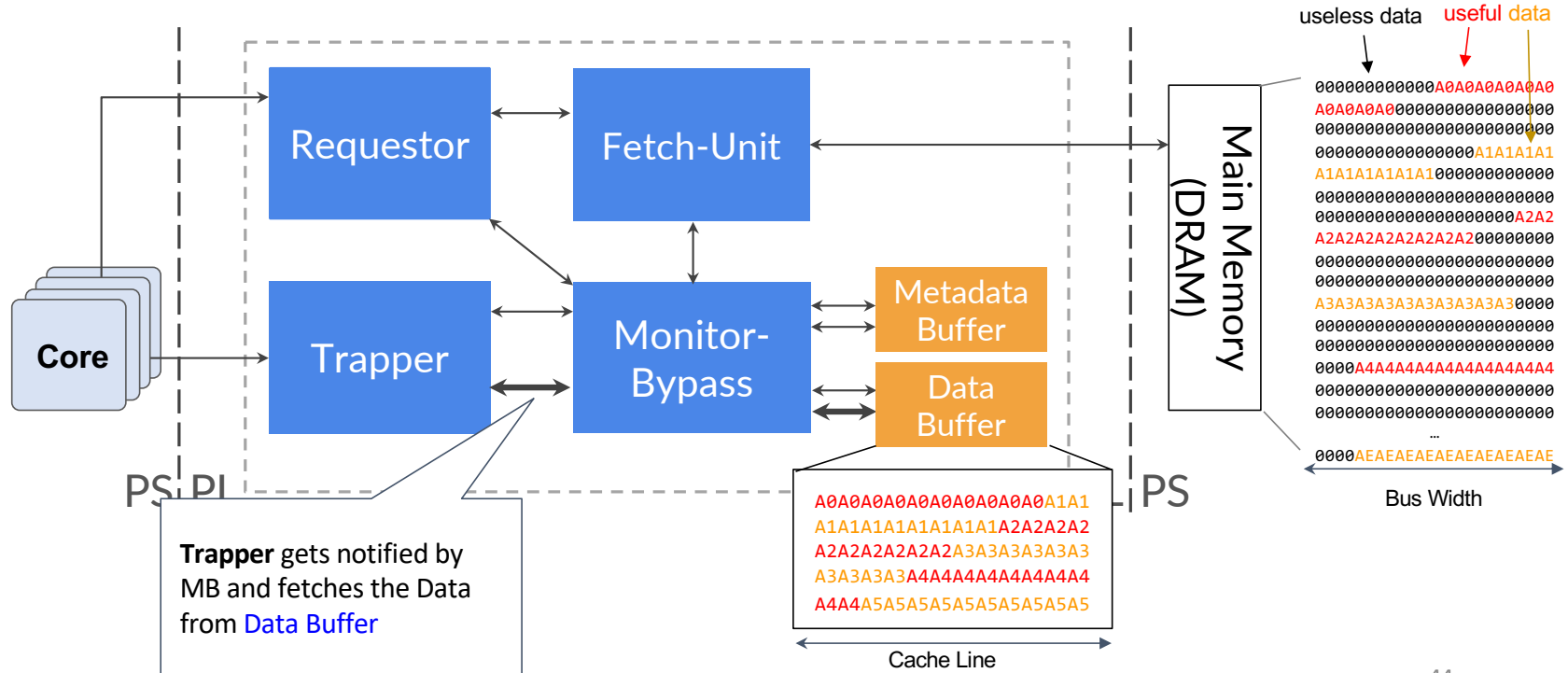
# Relational Memory Engine

When the data is already in Data Buffer

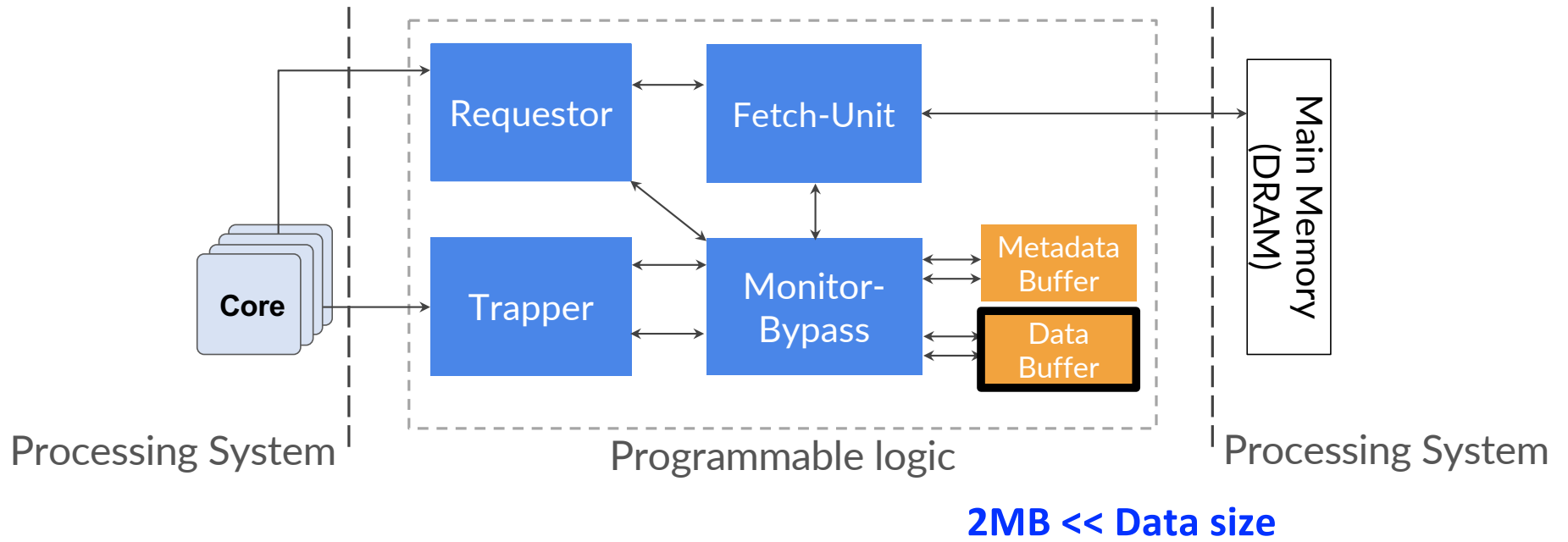


# Relational Memory Engine

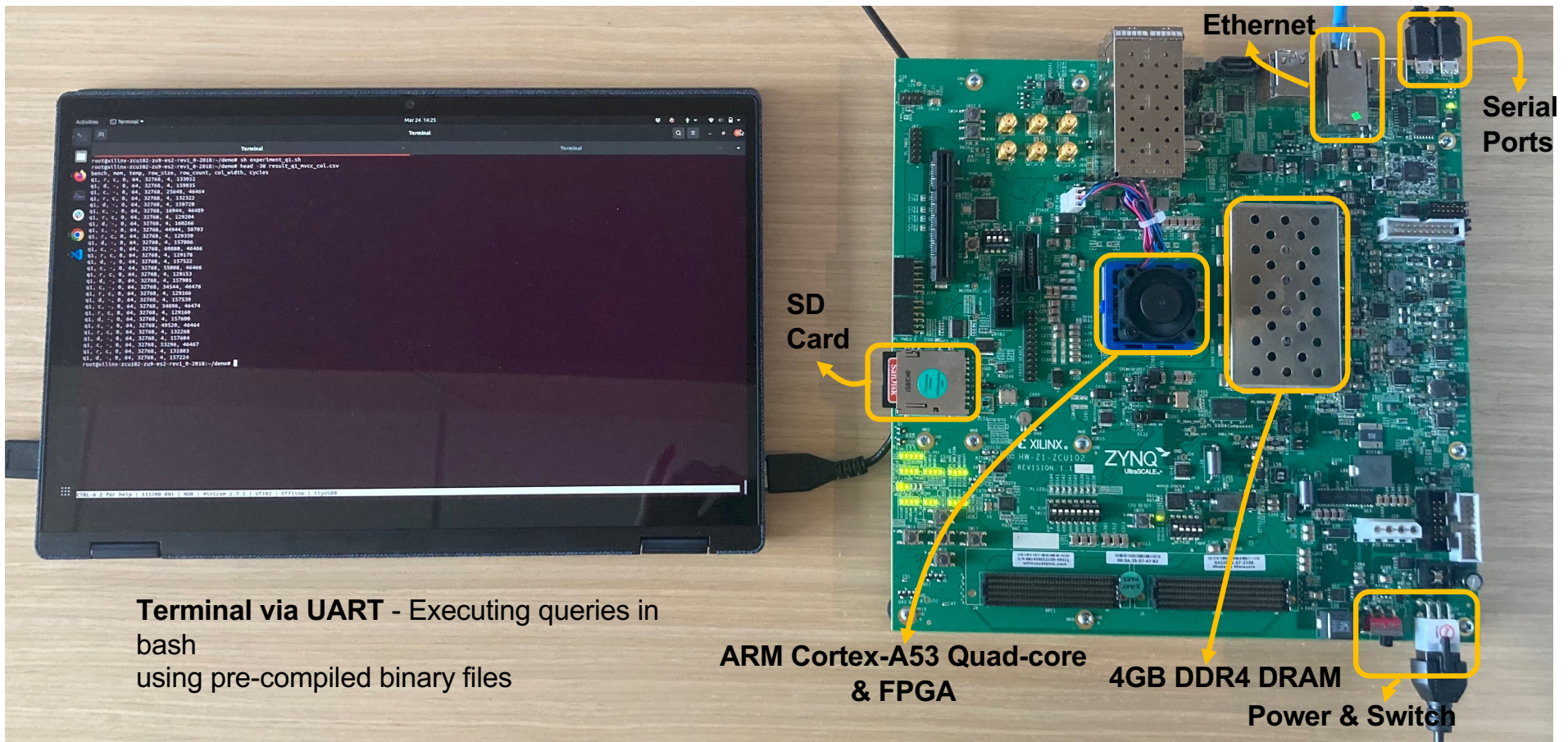
When the data is already in Data Buffer



# Relational Memory Engine



# Target Platform



**Terminal via UART** - Executing queries in bash using pre-compiled binary files

**ARM Cortex-A53 Quad-core & FPGA**

**4GB DDR4 DRAM**

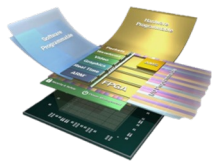
**Power & Switch**

**Ethernet**

**Serial Ports**

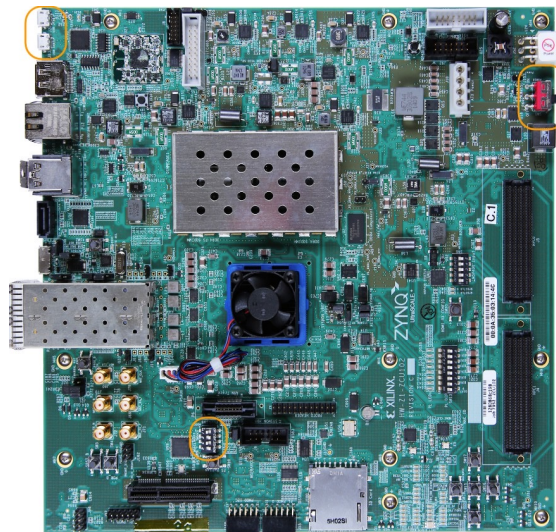
**SD Card**

# Target Platform



**AMD XILINX**  
UltraScale+  
ZCU102 platform

- CPUs : 4x ARM Cortex-A53
- L1/L2 Cache : 32+32KB I+D / 1 MB
- PS Frequency : 1.5 GHz
- PL Frequency : 100MHz



Resources	Utilization (%)
LUT	2.78
FF	0.68
DSP	0.08
BRAM	60.69

**area utilization  
less than 3%**

# Relational Memory Benchmark

Q1: `SELECT A1 , A2 , ... , Ak FROM S;`  $\Rightarrow$  projection

Q2: `SELECT A1 , A2 , ... , Ak FROM S WHERE C1, C2, ... ,Ci;`  $\Rightarrow$  both projection & selection

Q3: `SELECT AVG (A1) FROM S WHERE A3 < k GROUP BY A2;`  $\Rightarrow$  group by

Q4: `SELECT S.A1 , R.A3 FROM S JOIN R ON S.A2 = R.A2;`  $\Rightarrow$  join over two tables

## Approach tested

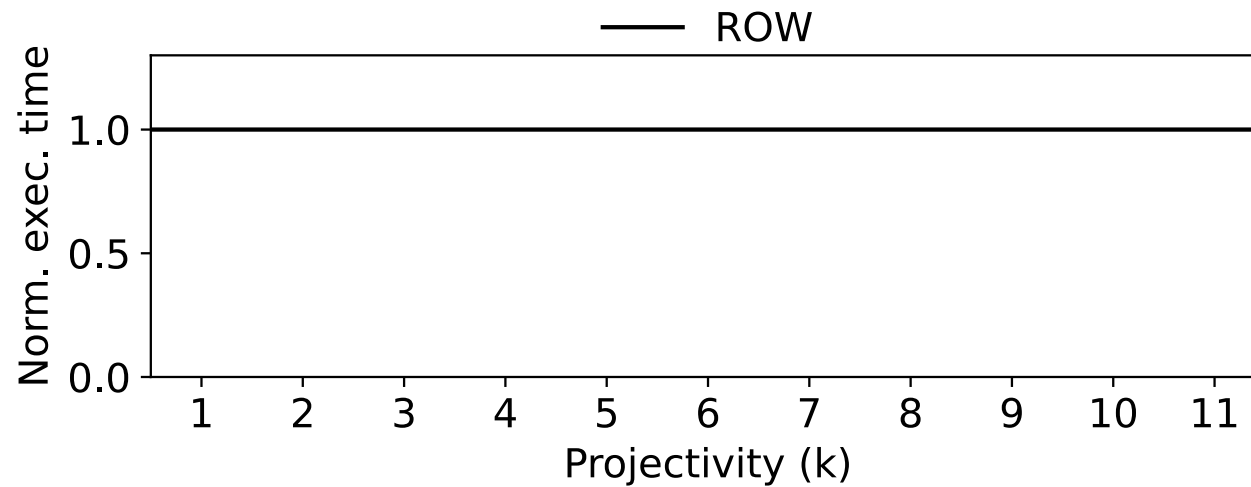
ROW : Direct row-wise access  
COL : Direct columnar access } **Processing System**

RME : using Relational Memory Engine  $\rightarrow$  **Slow FPGA (100MHz)**



# Queries Varying Projectivity

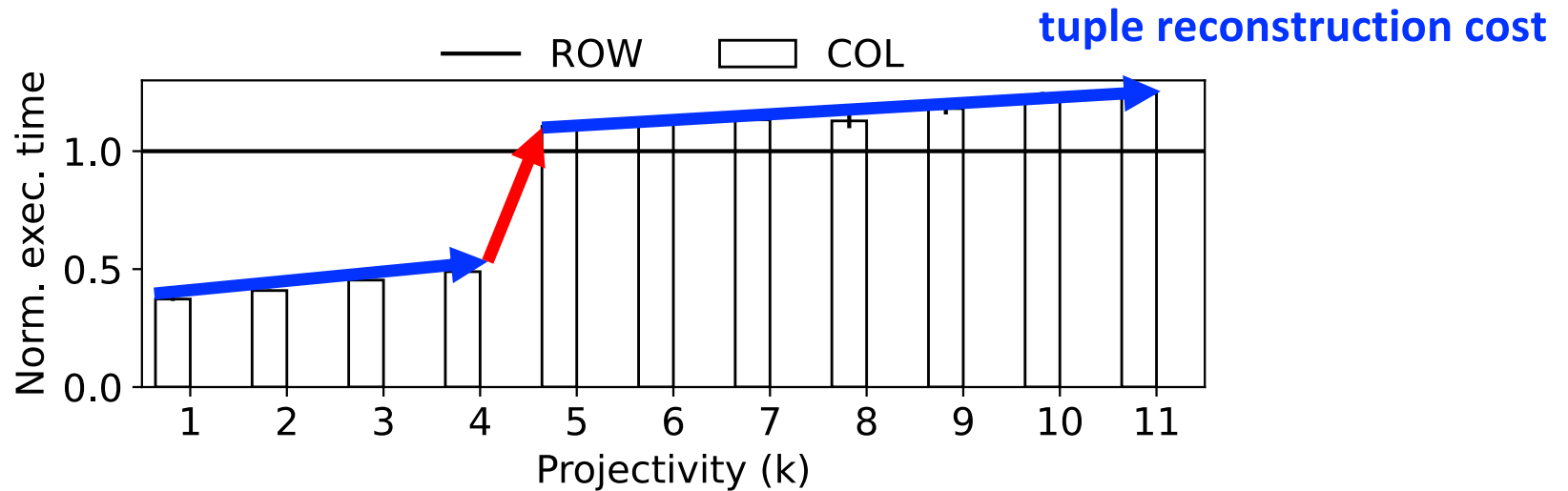
Q1: SELECT A1 , A2 , ... , Ak FROM S;



Row size: 64 Bytes, Column size: 4 Bytes

# Queries Varying Projectivity

Q1: `SELECT A1 , A2 , ... , Ak FROM S;`

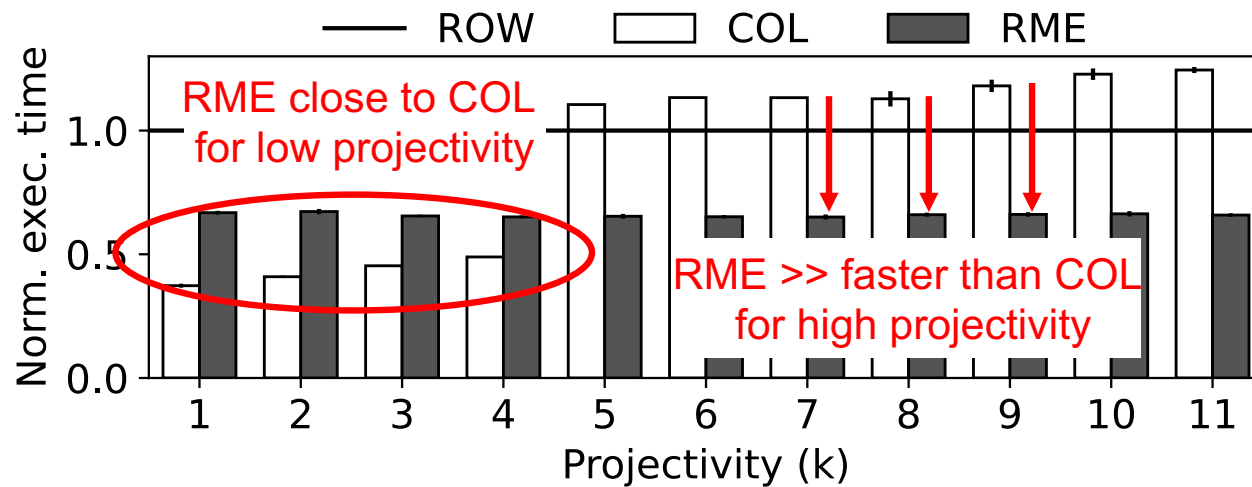


**prefetcher supports up to four parallel streams**

Row size: 64 Bytes, Column size: 4 Bytes

# Queries Varying Projectivity

Q1: SELECT A1 , A2 , ... , Ak FROM S;

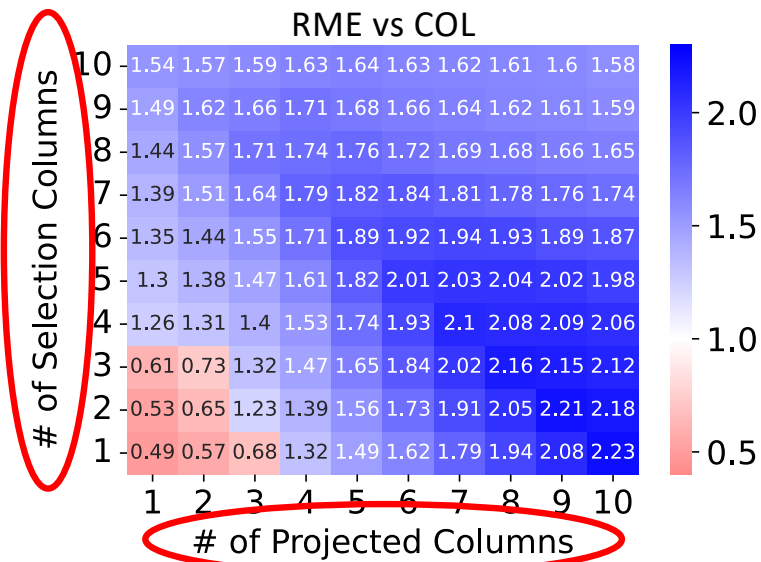


**RME provides stable performance irrespectively of projectivity**

Row size: 64 Bytes, Column size: 4 Bytes

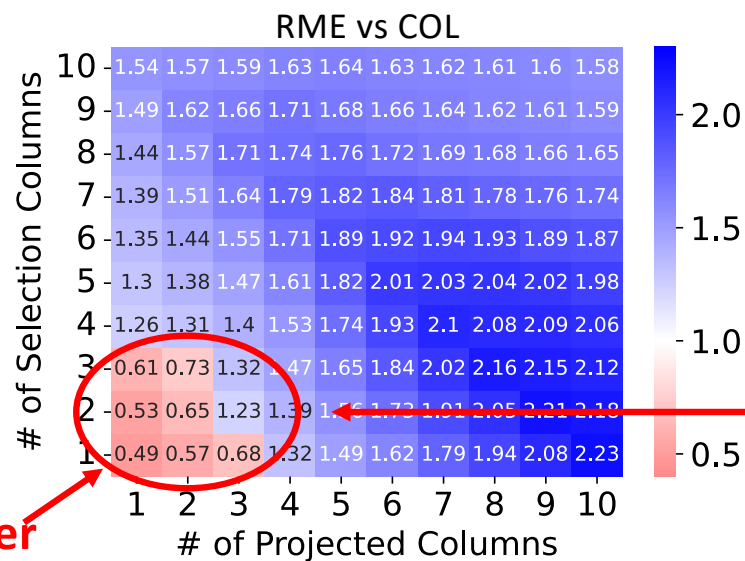
# RME for Multiple Selection and Projection Attributes

Q3: `SELECT A1 , A2 , ... , Ak FROM S WHERE C1, C2, ... ,Ci;` Row size: 64 Bytes, Column size: 4 Bytes



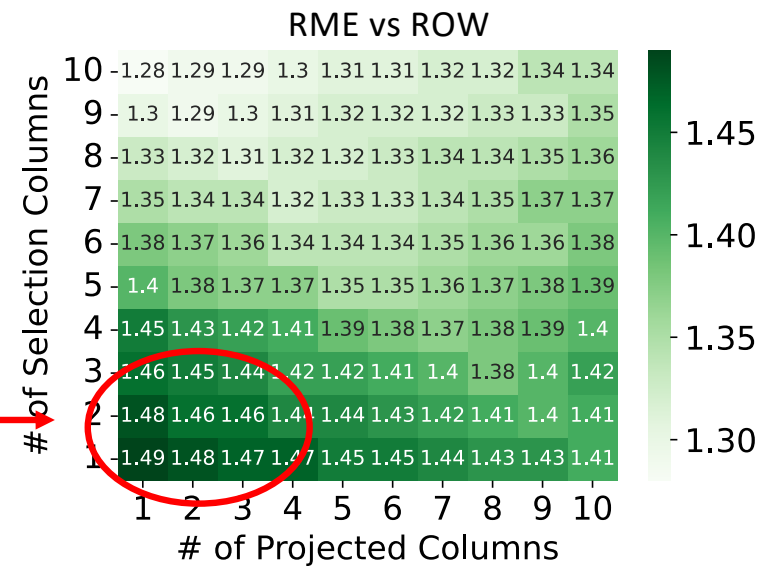
# RME for Multiple Selection and Projection Attributes

Q3: `SELECT A1 , A2 , ... , Ak FROM S WHERE C1, C2, ... ,Ci;` Row size: 64 Bytes, Column size: 4 Bytes



COL faster

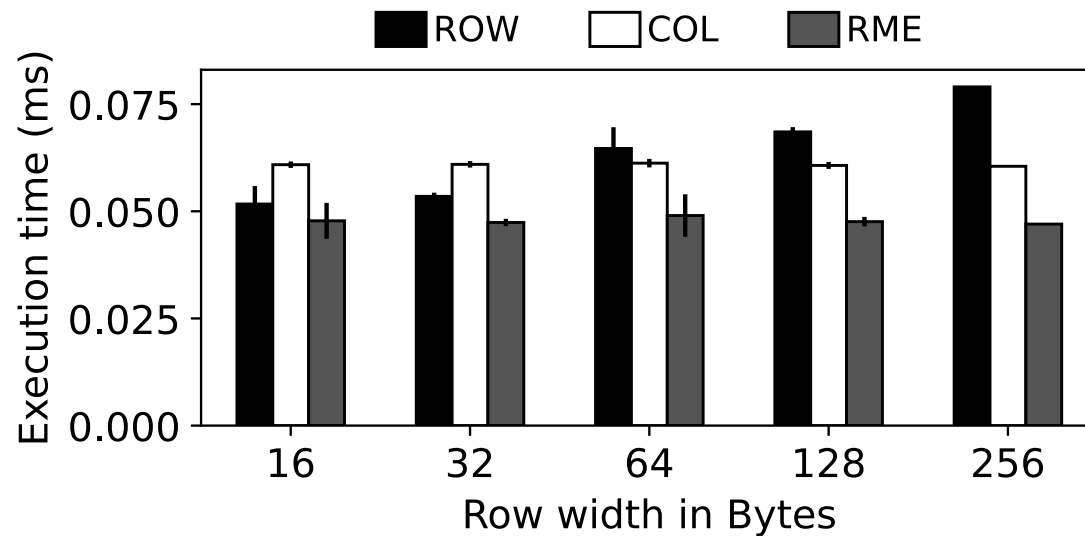
RME can be up to 2.23x faster than columnar access



RME always outperforms row access by being 1.3 – 1.5x faster

# Group by

Q4: `SELECT AVG (A1) FROM S WHERE A3 < k GROUP BY A2;` Selectivity: 10%

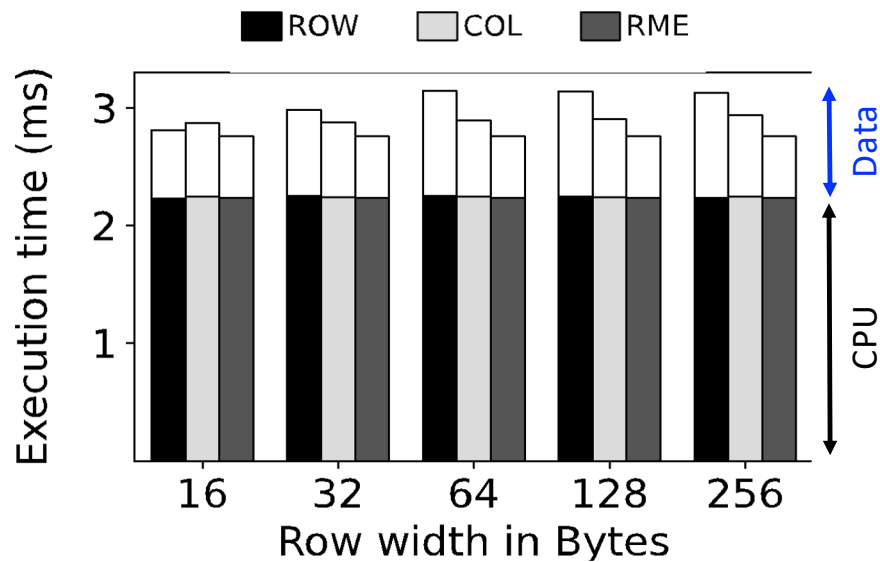


**RME outperforms both ROW and COL**

Column size: 4 Bytes

# Join Over Two Tables

Q4: `SELECT S.A1 , R.A3 FROM S JOIN R ON S.A2 = R.A2;`



Column size: 4 Bytes

**RME reduces data movement up to 41%**

# RME Scales with Data Size

## TPC-H Q1

```
SELECT l_returnflag, l_linestatus,  
       SUM(l_quantity), SUM(l_extendedprice),  
       SUM(l_extendedprice*(1-l_discount)),  
       SUM(l_extendedprice*(1-l_discount)*(1+l_tax)),  
       AVG(l_quantity), AVG(l_extendedprice),  
       AVG(l_discount),  
       COUNT(*)  
FROM lineitem  
WHERE  
  l_shipdate <= '1998-12-01' - '[DELTA]' day (3)  
GROUP BY l_returnflag, l_linestatus  
ORDER BY l_returnflag, l_linestatus;
```

Selectivity: 95%, projectivity: 24%

## TPC-H Q6

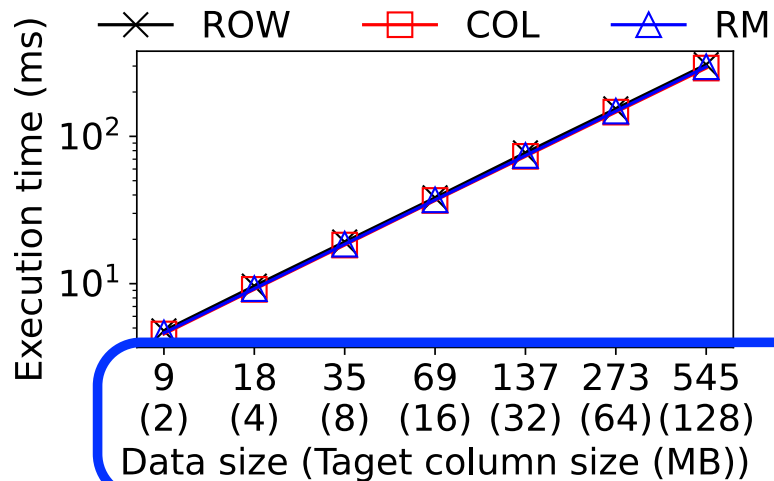
```
SELECT  
  SUM(l_extendedprice*l_discount)  
FROM lineitem  
WHERE  
  l_shipdate >= '[DATE]' and  
  l_shipdate < '[DATE]' + 1 year and  
  l_discount > [DISCOUNT] - 0.01 and  
  l_discount < [DISCOUNT] + 0.01 and  
  l_quantity < [QUANTITY];
```

Selectivity: 15%, projectivity: 18%

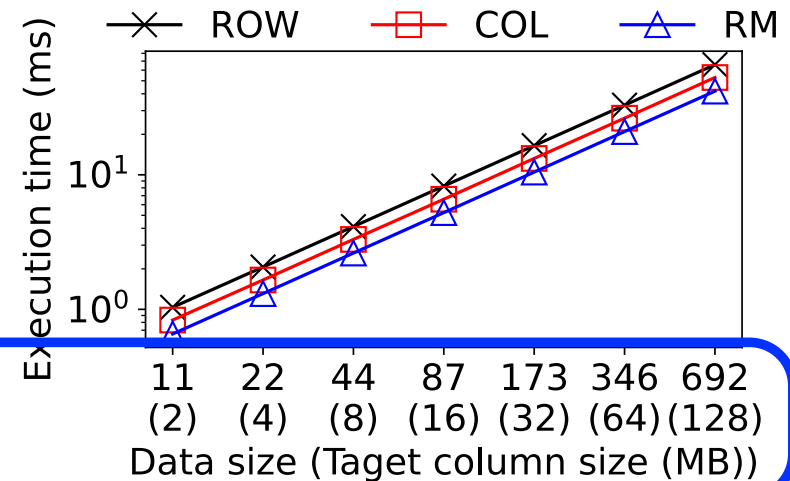


# RME Scales with Data Size

**TPC-H Q1** CPU-bound (sort, group by)

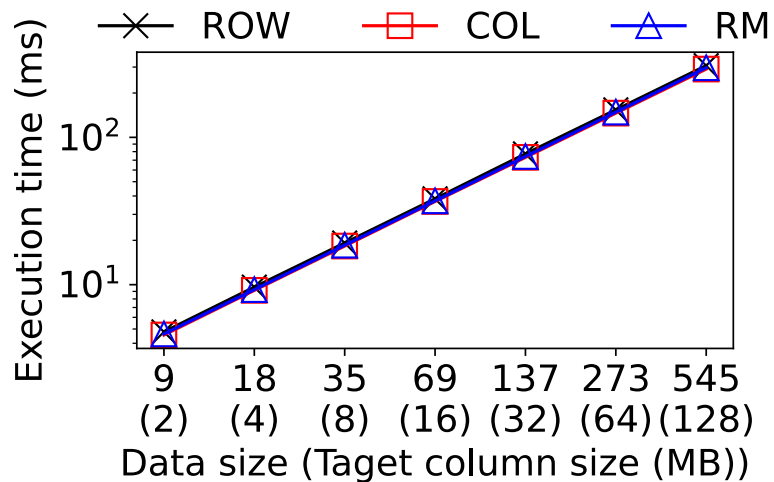


**TPC-H Q6** IO-bound



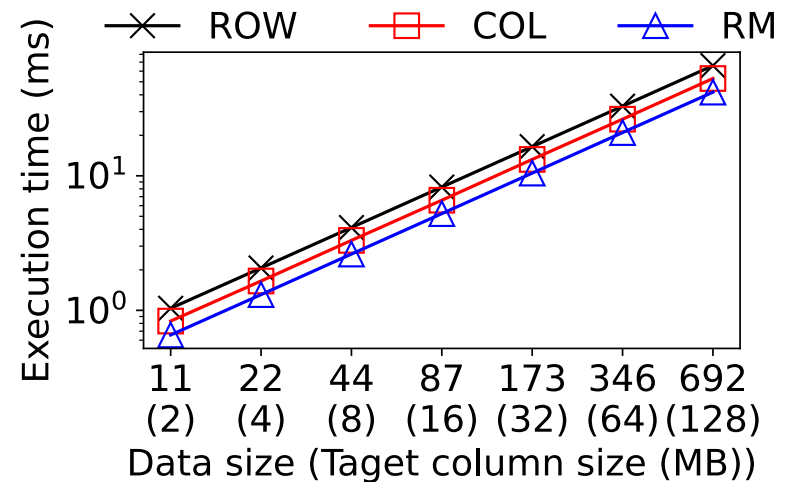
# RME Scales with Data Size

**TPC-H Q1** CPU-bound (sort, group by)



**CPU overhead dominates  
data movement cost**

**TPC-H Q6** IO-bound

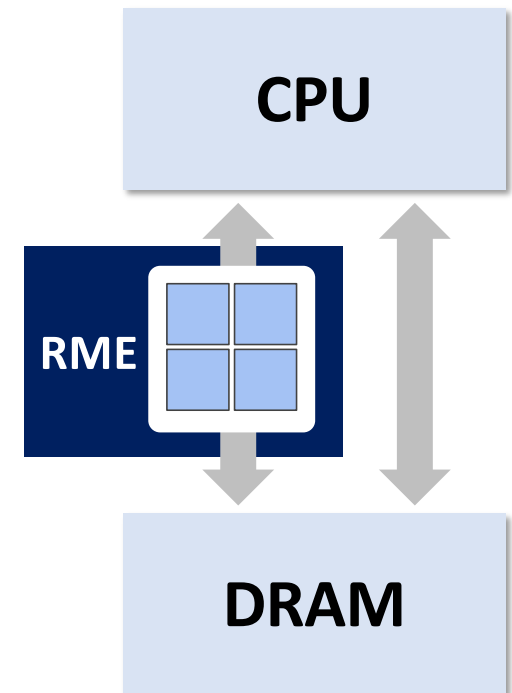


**RME benefits regardless of data size**

# Summary

- **Relational Memory**
  - a novel SW/HW co-design paradigm
  - every query always has access to the optimal data layout
- ***ephemeral variables***
  - a simple and lightweight abstraction to use RM
- Relational Memory enables opportunities for innovation across the data system architecture.

Relational Fabric, ICDE '23



# Future Work



## Data Transformation for ML workloads

Matrix and tensor slicing



## Integrating with Real DBMS

Exploring query optimization



## DRAM Controller Augmentation

Utilizing bank interleaving and  
parallelism

# Thank you

Ju Hyoung Mun ( [jmun@bu.edu](mailto:jmun@bu.edu) )

