

InstantCheck:  
Checking the determinism of parallel  
programs using  
on-the-fly incremental hashing

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**Adrian Nistor**, Darko Marinov, Josep Torrellas

MICRO '10



# Problem: Nondeterminism

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- The problem with one input, many outputs
  - **Uncertain** what your own code does
- The problem: Nondeterminism
  - Due to parallel execution
  - Presume input is fixed (like in serial execution)



# External determinism

Capturing state w/ Incremental Hashing

Hardware system

Software system

Other uses of hardware primitive

Evaluation

Conclusions



# Our proposal: External Determinism

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  - Same input MEM state → same output MEM state



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- Determinism that we are currently getting
  - Fix order of inter-thread communications
  - **Internal Determinism** – some of the current proposals
- External determinism includes Internal determinism
  - If fix order of communication **Internal**
    - You implicitly get same output memory state **External**
  - But can get same output memory state **External**
    - Without enforcing inter-thread communication order **Internal**



# Example

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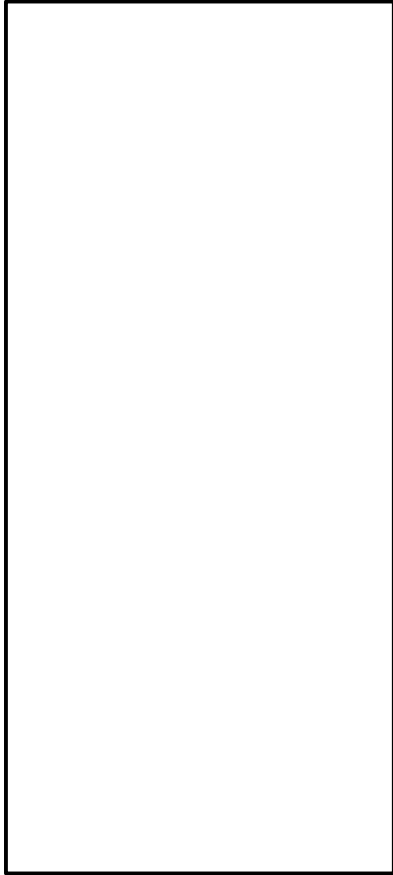




# Example

---

**CODE**



# Example

---

## CODE

Global	G
--------	---

# Example

---

## CODE

Global	G
Local	L



# Example

---

## CODE

Global	G
Local	L

$$G = G + L$$



# Example

---

## CODE

Global	G
Local	L

LOCK

$G = G + L$

UN\_LOCK



# Example

---

**CODE**

**EXEC—1**

Global	G
Local	L

**LOCK**

**G = G + L**

**UN\_\_LOCK**



# Example

---

**CODE**

**EXEC—1**

**EXEC—2**

Global      G  
Local      L

**LOCK**

**G = G + L**

**UN\_\_LOCK**



# Example

---

**CODE**

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Global   G
Local   L

LOCK

G = G + L

UN_LOCK
```

**EXEC—1**

G == 2

**EXEC—2**

G == 2





# Example

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**CODE**

Global    G  
Local    L

**LOCK**

**G = G + L**

**UN\_\_LOCK**

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L\_0 == 7

**EXEC—2**

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**Execution order does not matter**

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**EXTERNAL DET**

**Execution order does not matter = NO internal det**



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  - Disallow some synchronization (e.g., locks)
  - Deterministic languages



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- But has costs
- Hardware cost
  - Special HW that commits transactions in order
- Programmability cost
  - Disallow some synchronization (e.g., locks)
  - Deterministic languages
- Performance cost
  - Software runtime fixes order – slows down execution



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- Check external determinism



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  - **On-the-fly incremental hashing**



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  - Insert some very fast checks for external determinism



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- **Fast checking of memory–state identity**
  - **On-the-fly incremental hashing**
- Do the checking during code testing
- Parallel code testing already runs the code many times
  - Piggyback on these many runs
  - Insert some very fast checks for external determinism
- Check that memory states are identical
  - Program end, barriers, other points in the program



External determinism

## **Capture state w/ Incremental Hashing**

Hardware system

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Other uses of hardware primitive

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- Each time memory is updated (via Store)
- Update the hash
  - To reflect the update to memory
- At any time the hash already summarizes state
  - No need to compute it from scratch
  - No need to traverse the entire memory state
- At any time, **Instantly ready** for identity checking



# Example

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# Example

---

EXEC—1



# Example

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EXEC—1

G == 2



# Example

---

**EXEC—1**

**G == 2**

thread 0



# Example

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**EXEC—1**

**G == 2**

thread 0

thread 1

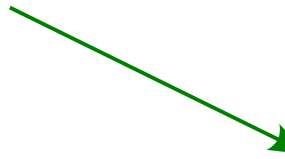


# Example

---

EXEC—1

Thread Hash



G == 2

thread 0

thread 1

TH\_0 =

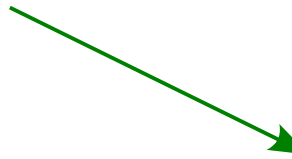


# Example

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EXEC—1

Thread Hash



G == 2

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thread 1

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# Example

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EXEC—1

Thread Hash

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thread 0

thread 1

TH\_0 = 0

TH\_1 = 0

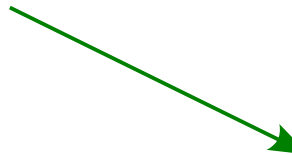


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$G == 2$

thread 0

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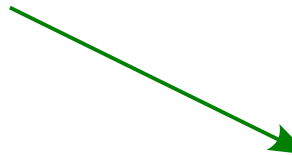


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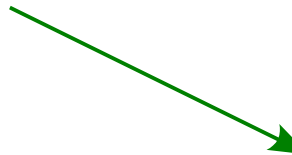


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# Example

## EXEC-1

Thread Hash

$$G = 2$$

thread 0

thread 1

$$TH_0 = 0$$

$$TH_1 = 0$$

MINUS old

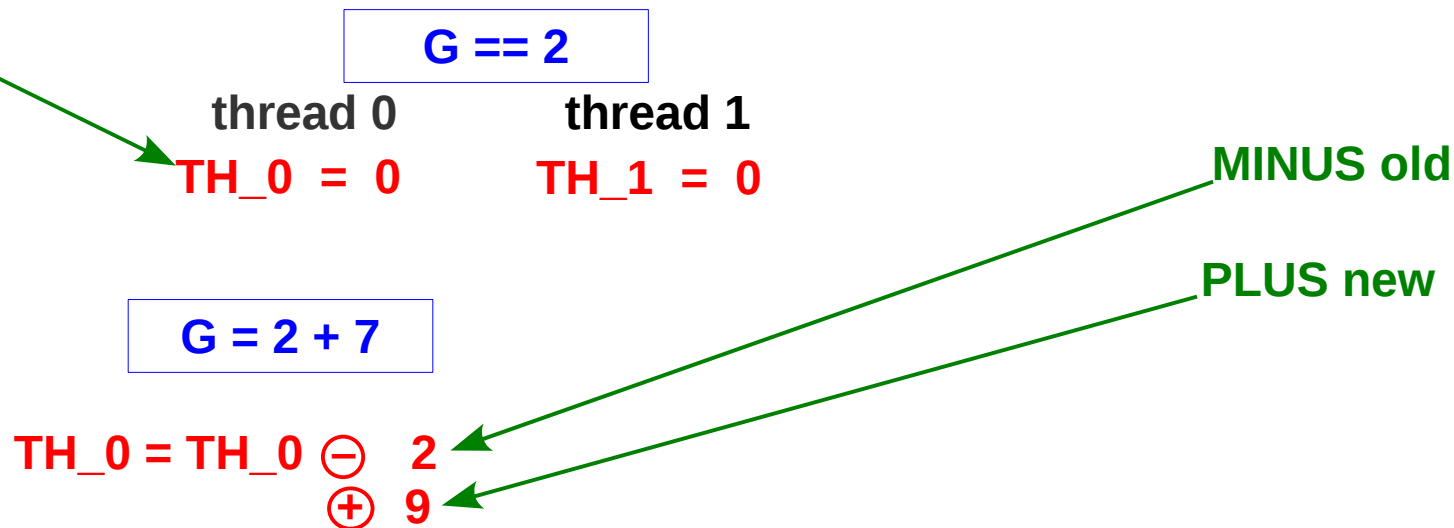
$$G = 2 + 7$$

$$TH_0 = TH_0 \ominus 2$$

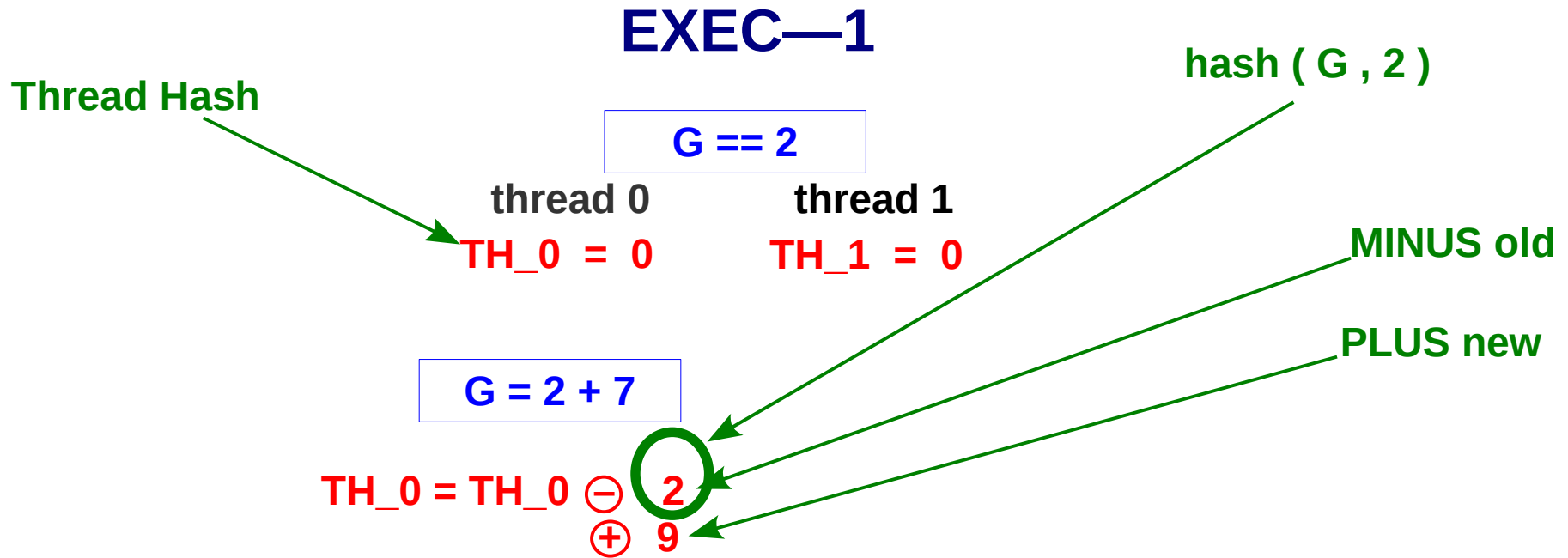
# Example

## EXEC—1

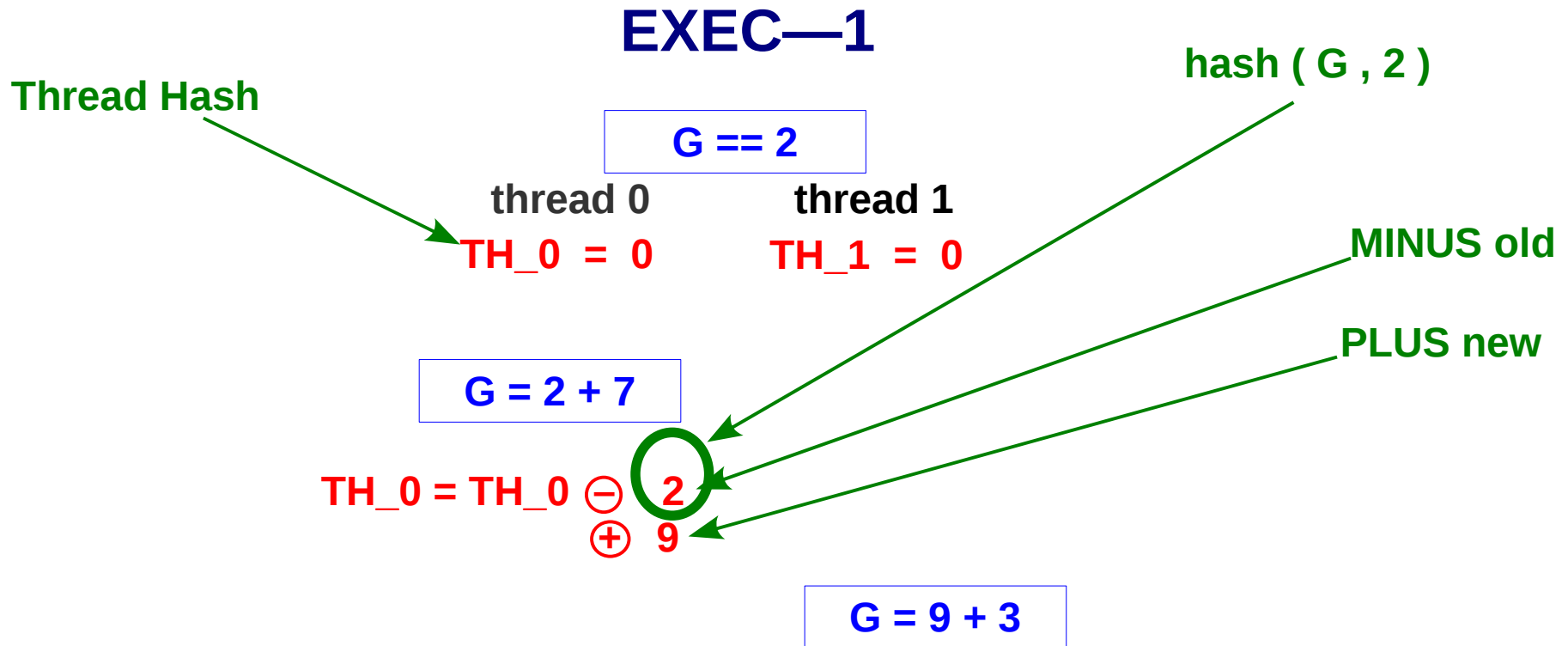
Thread Hash



# Example

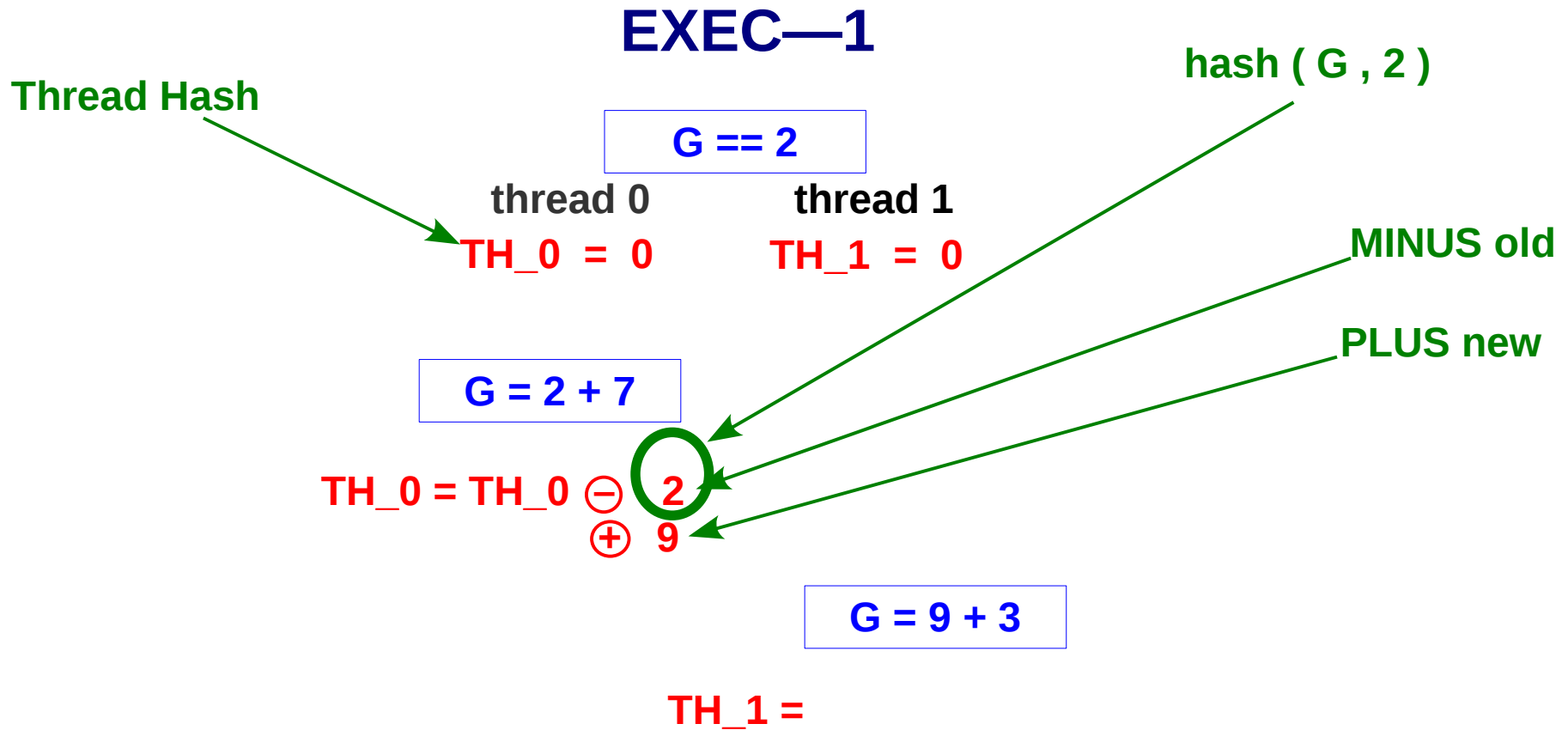


# Example

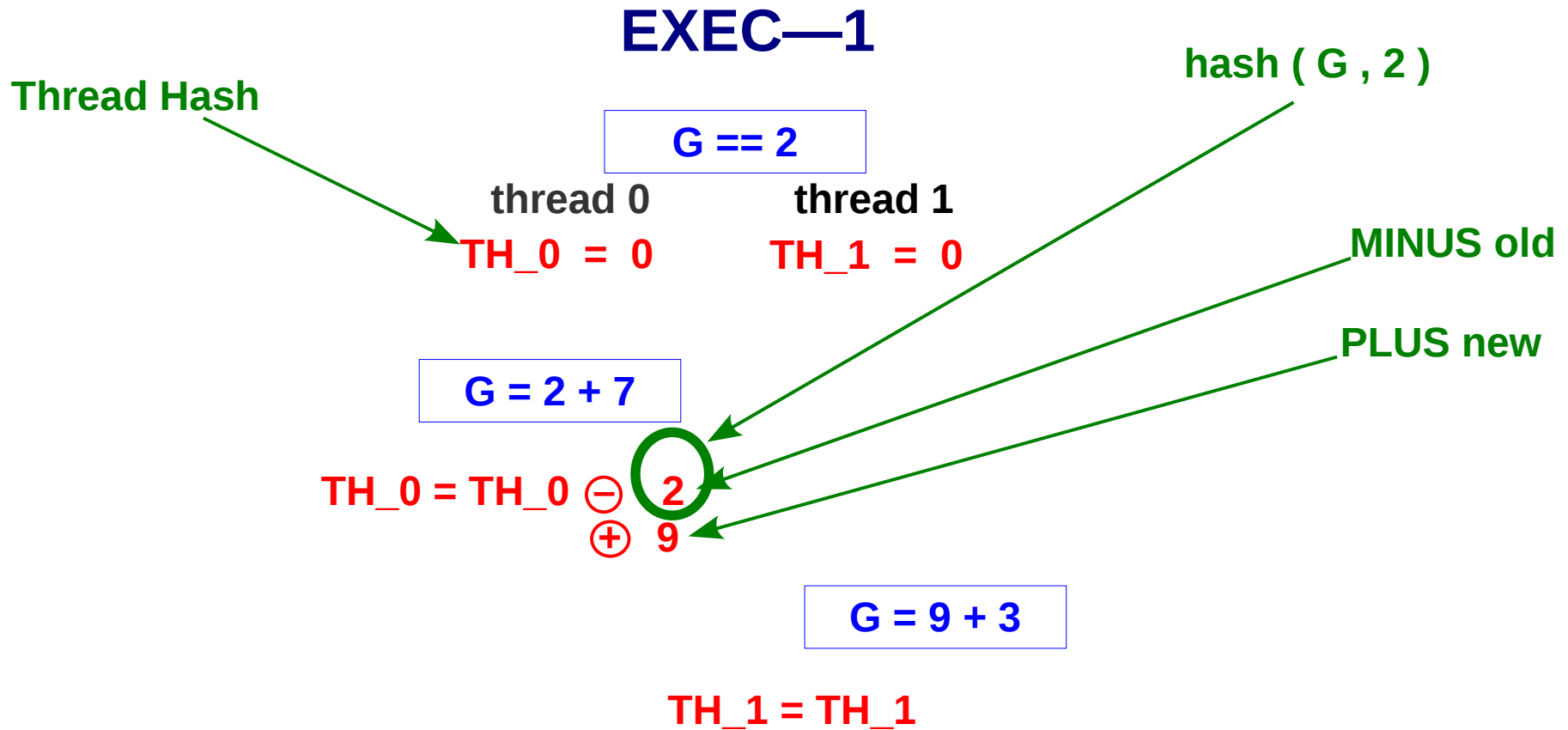




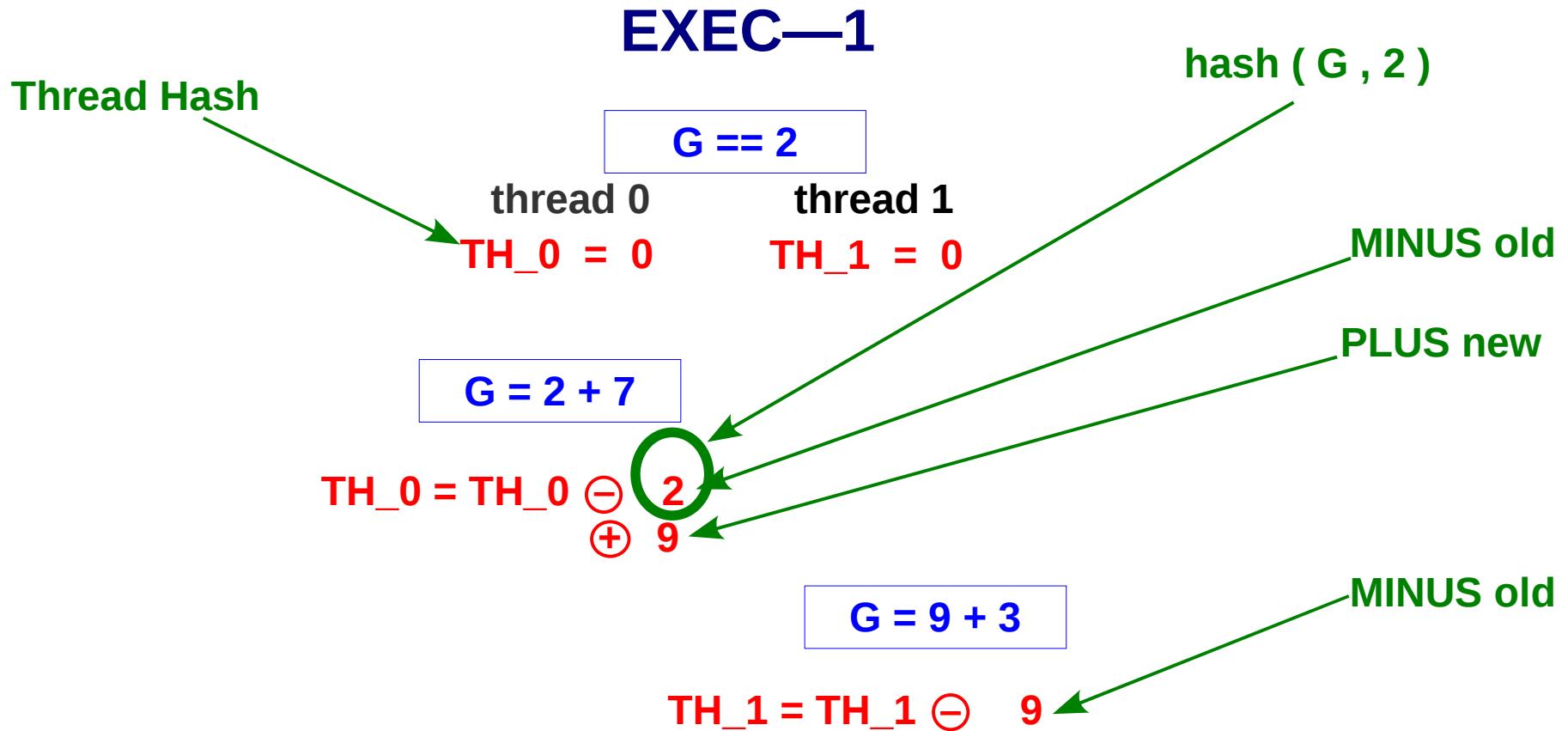
# Example



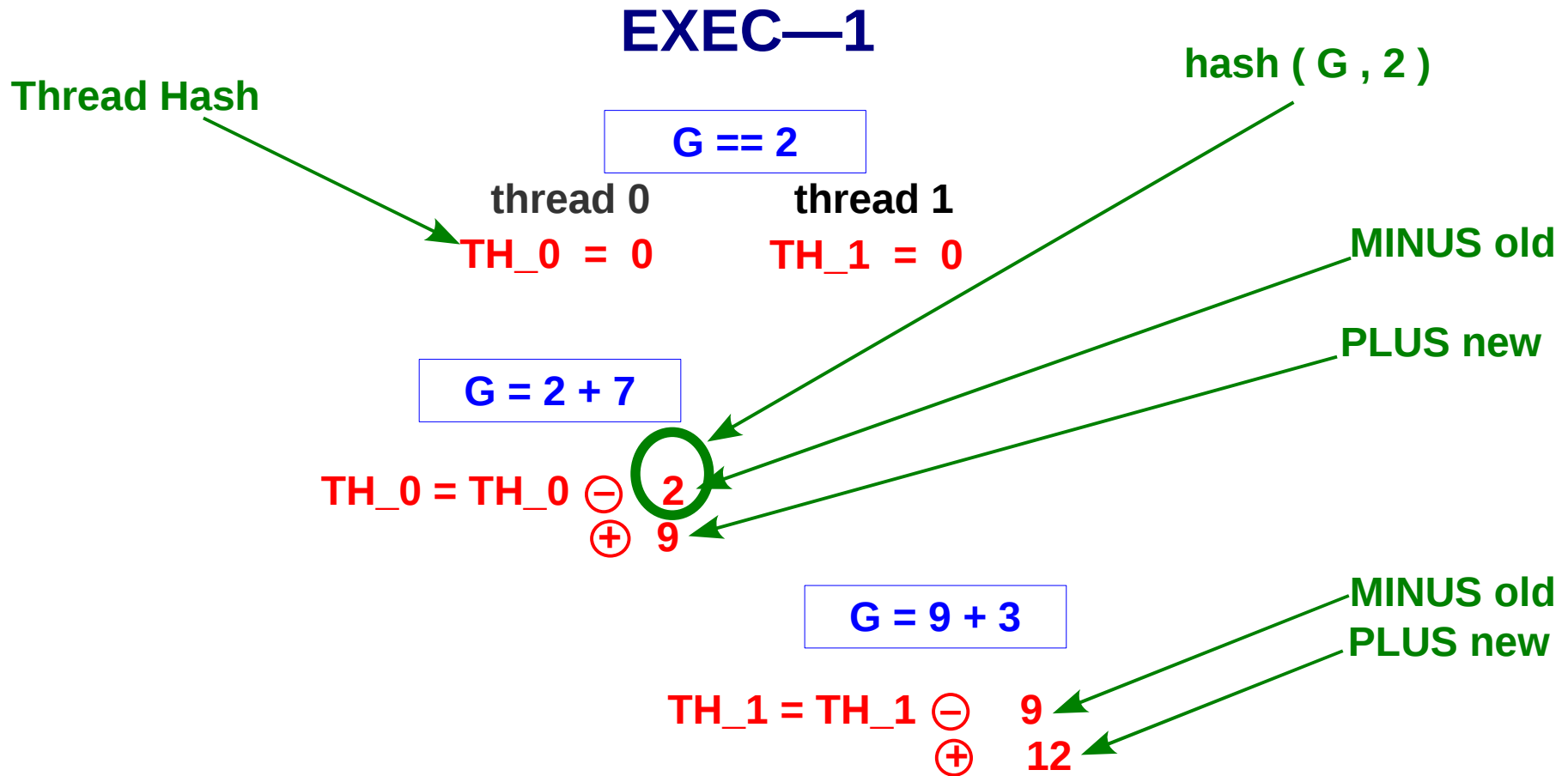
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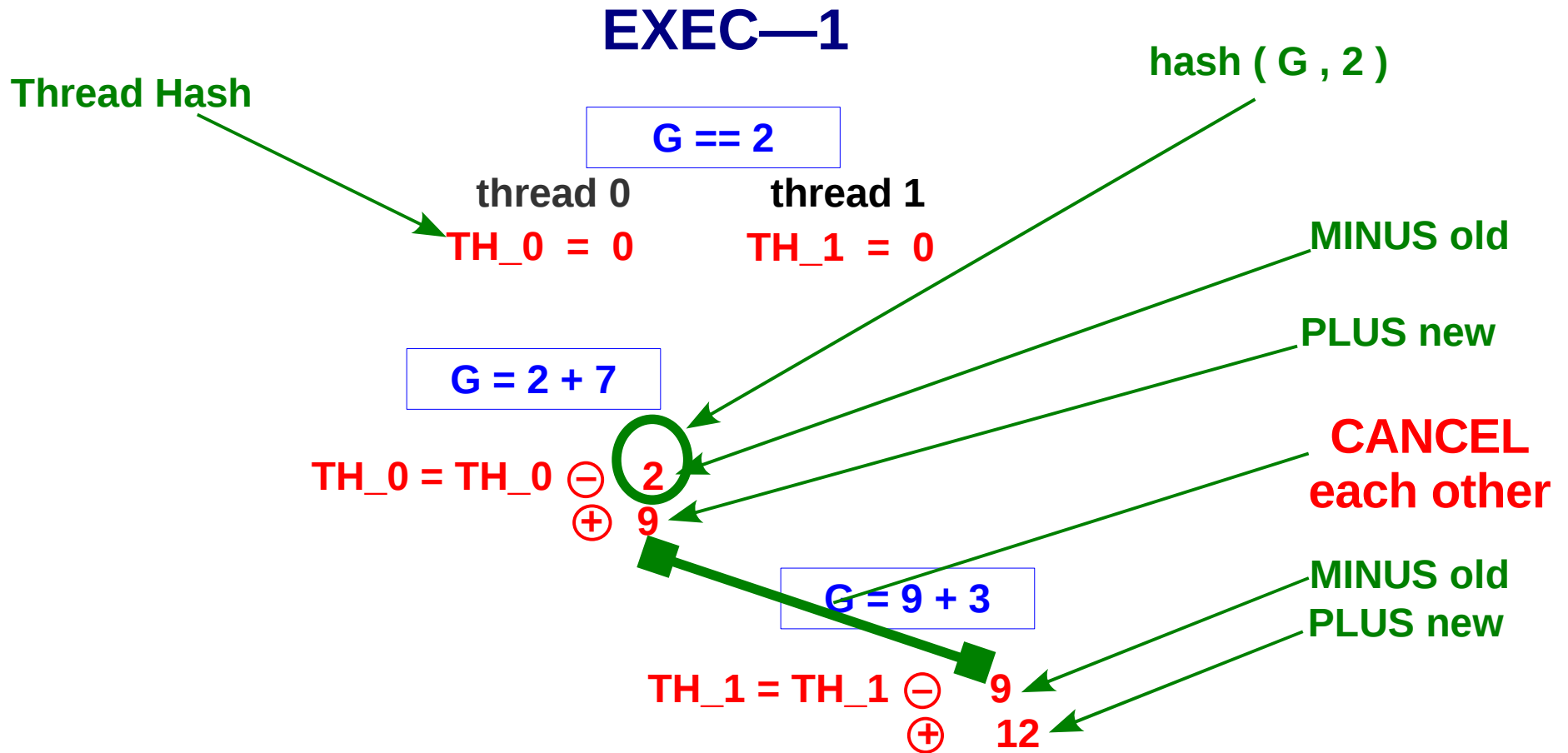
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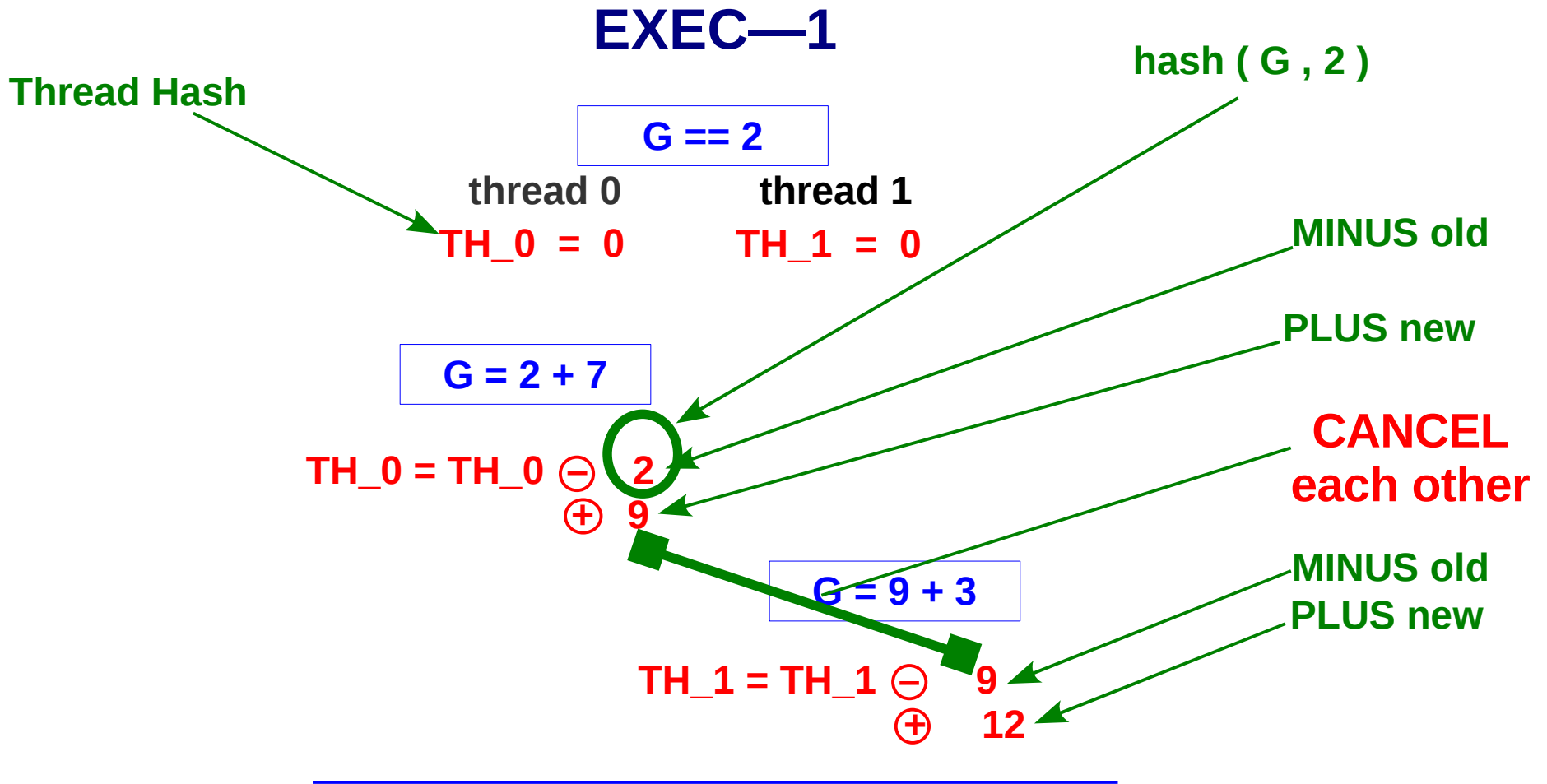
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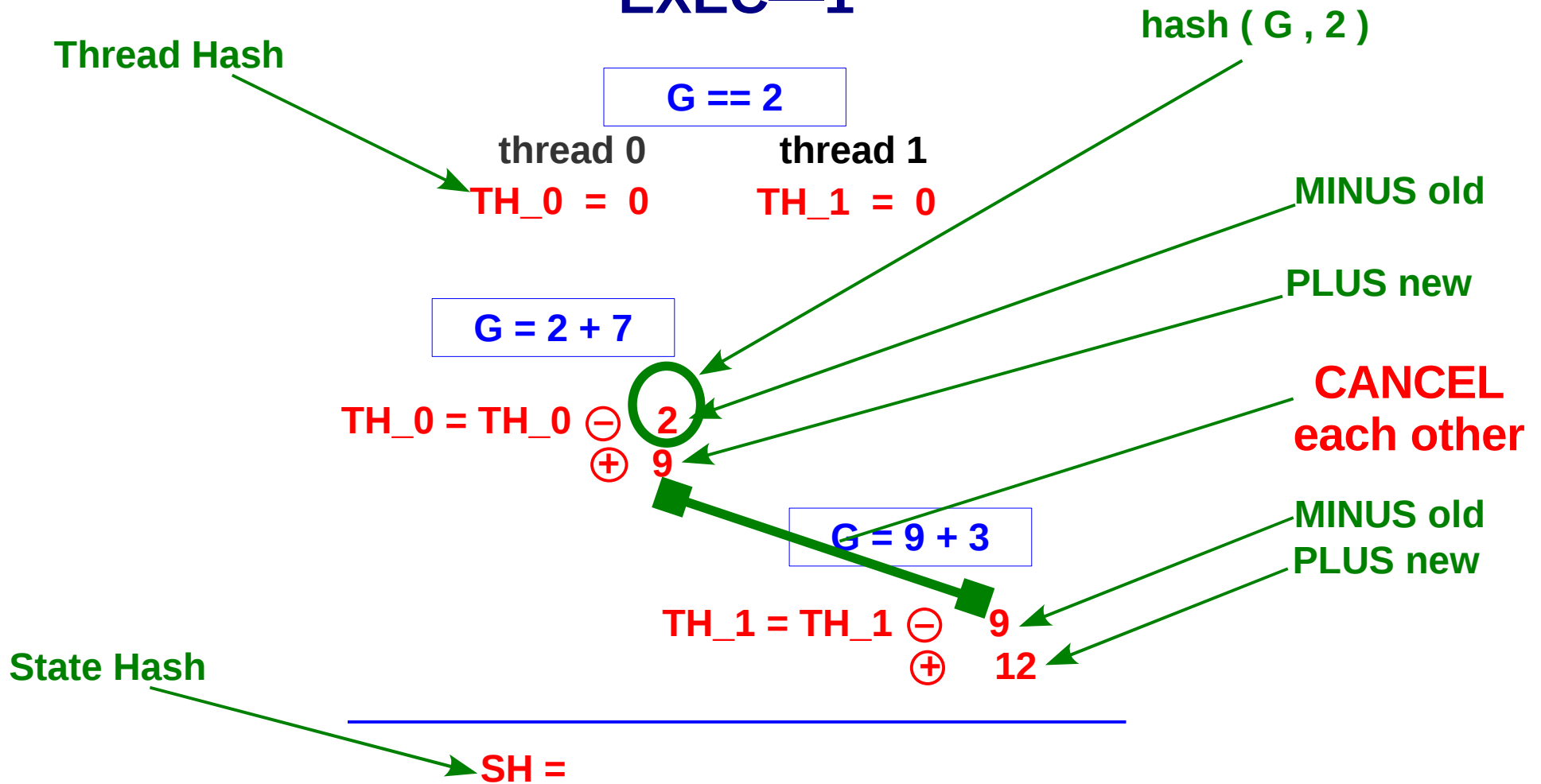


# Example



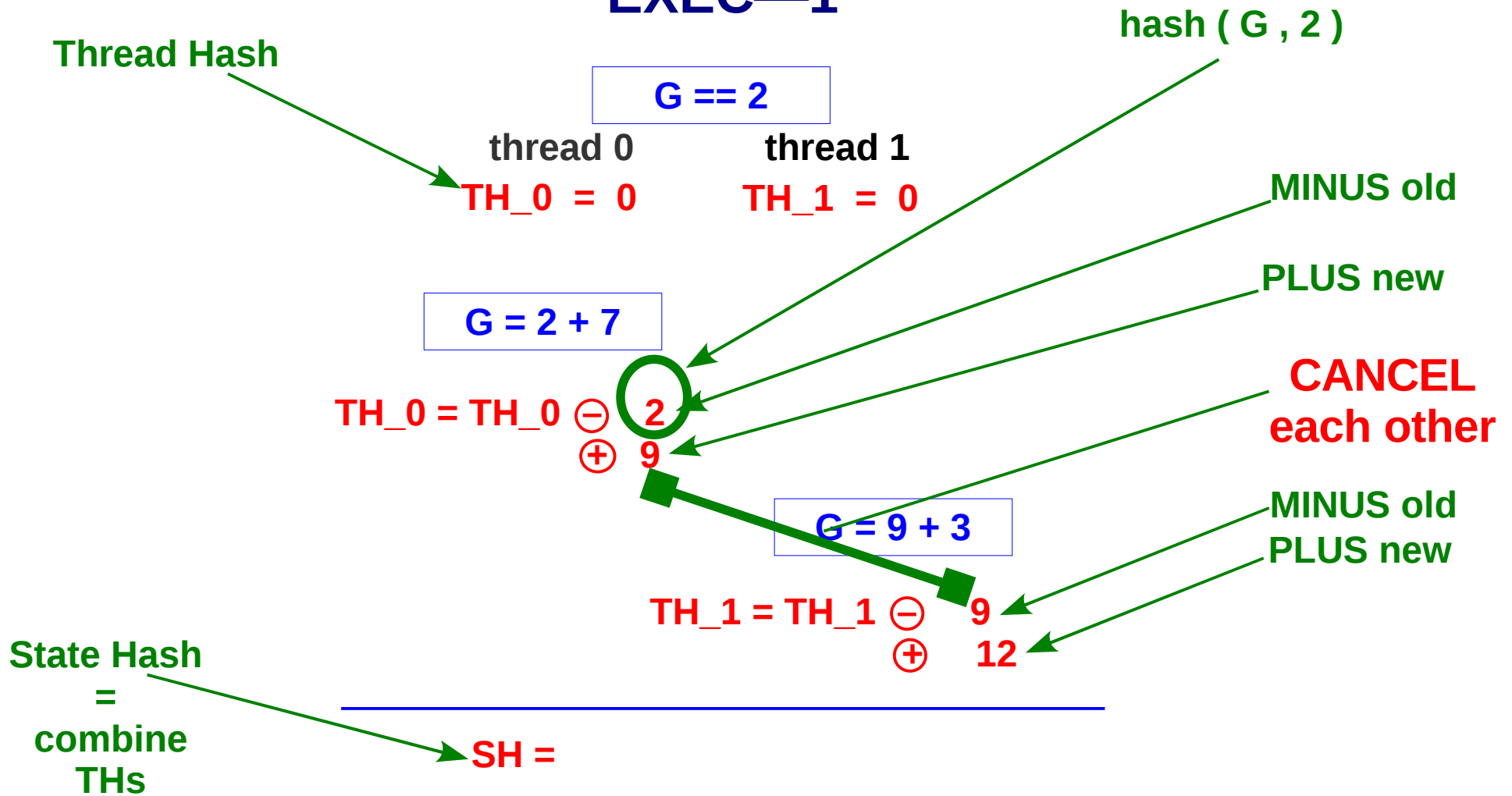
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## EXEC-1



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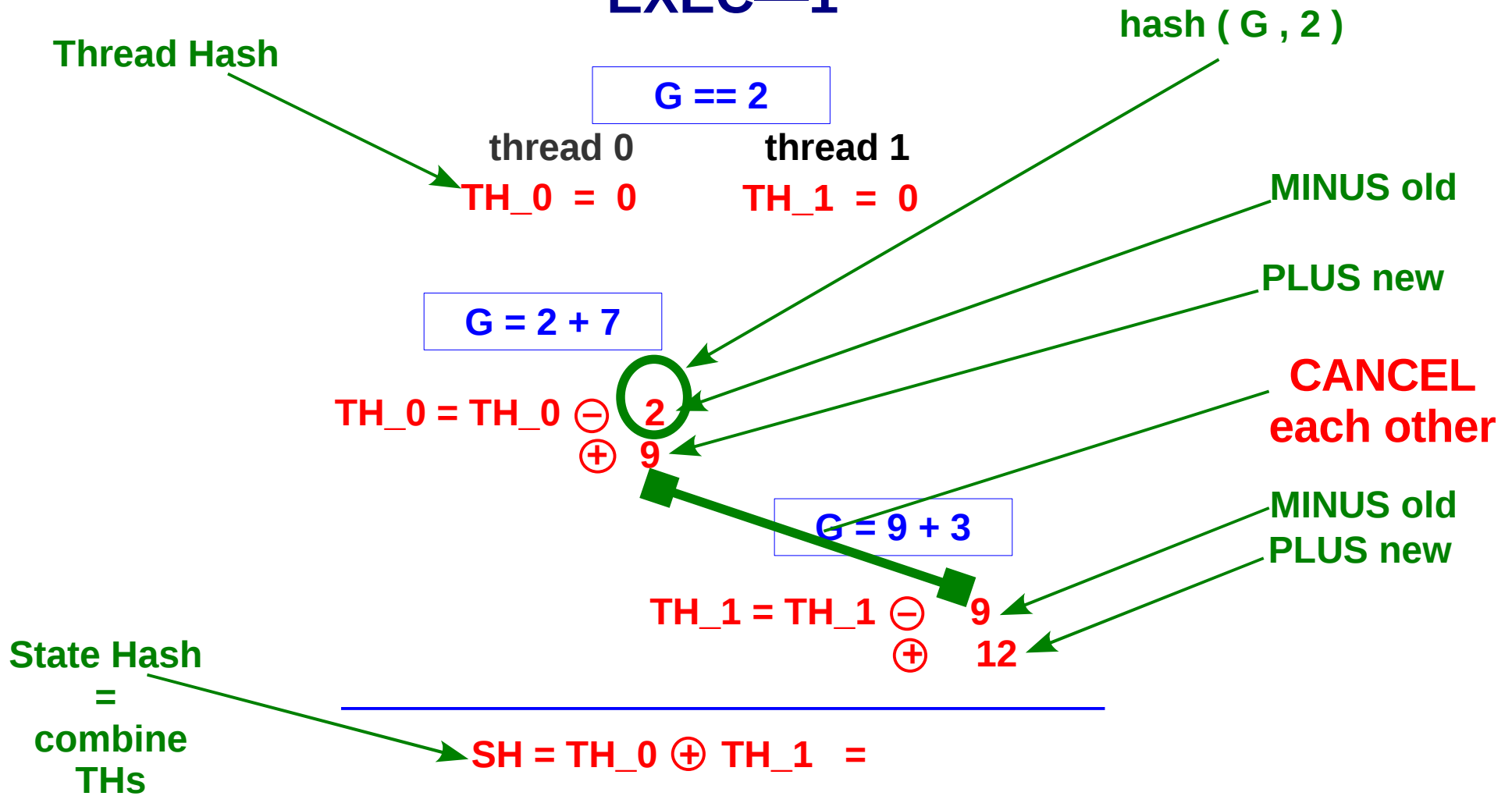
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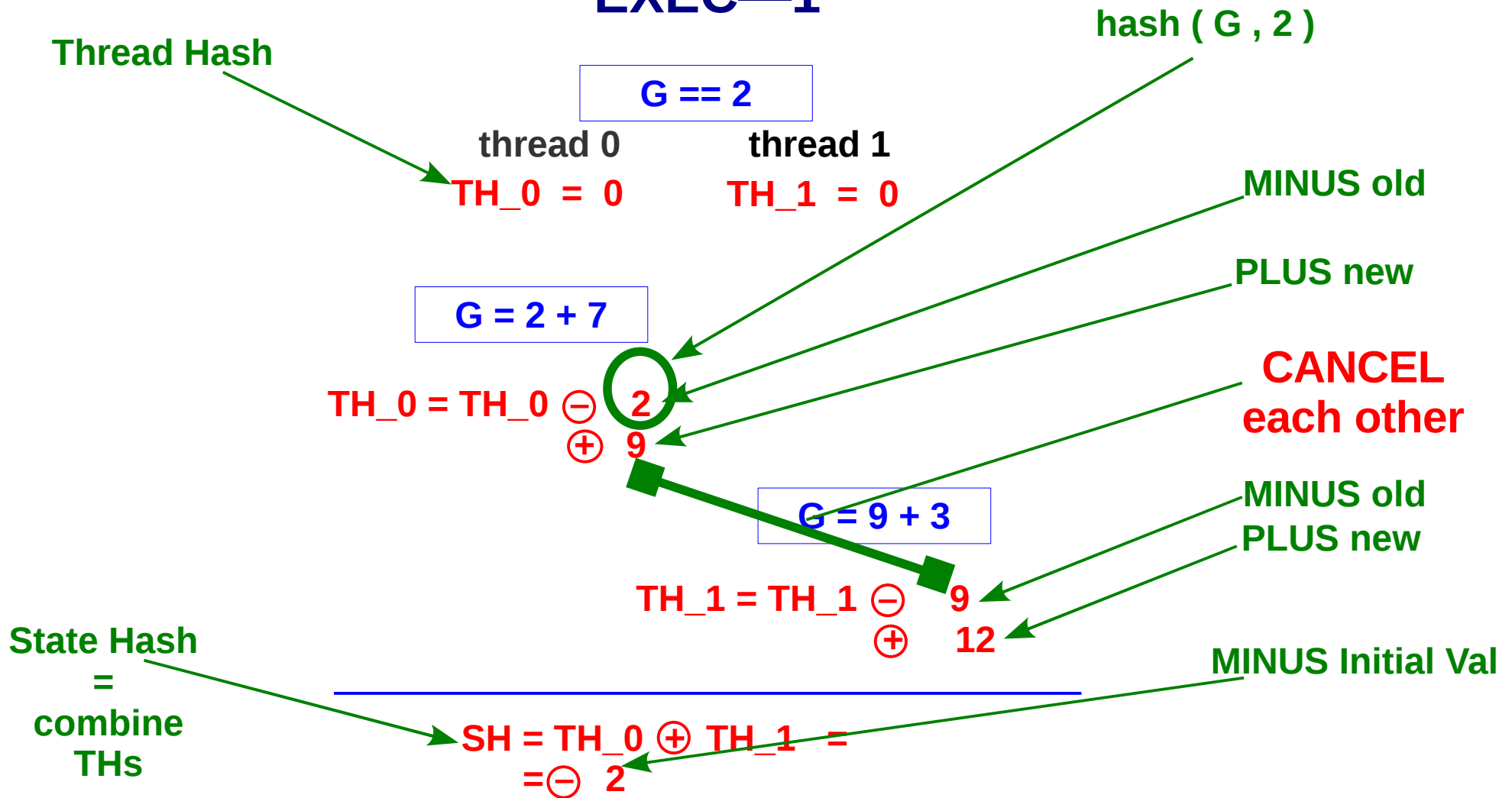
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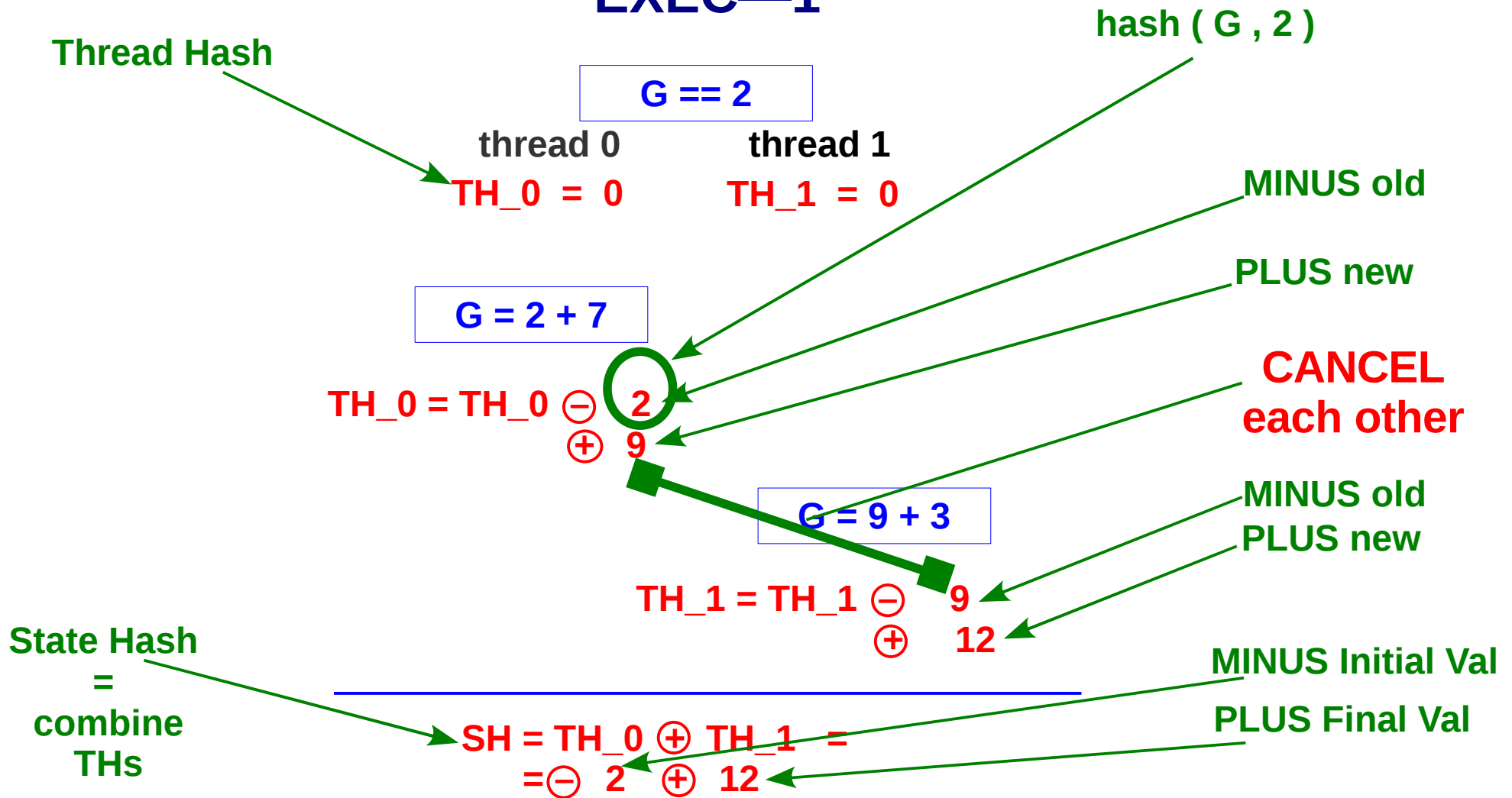
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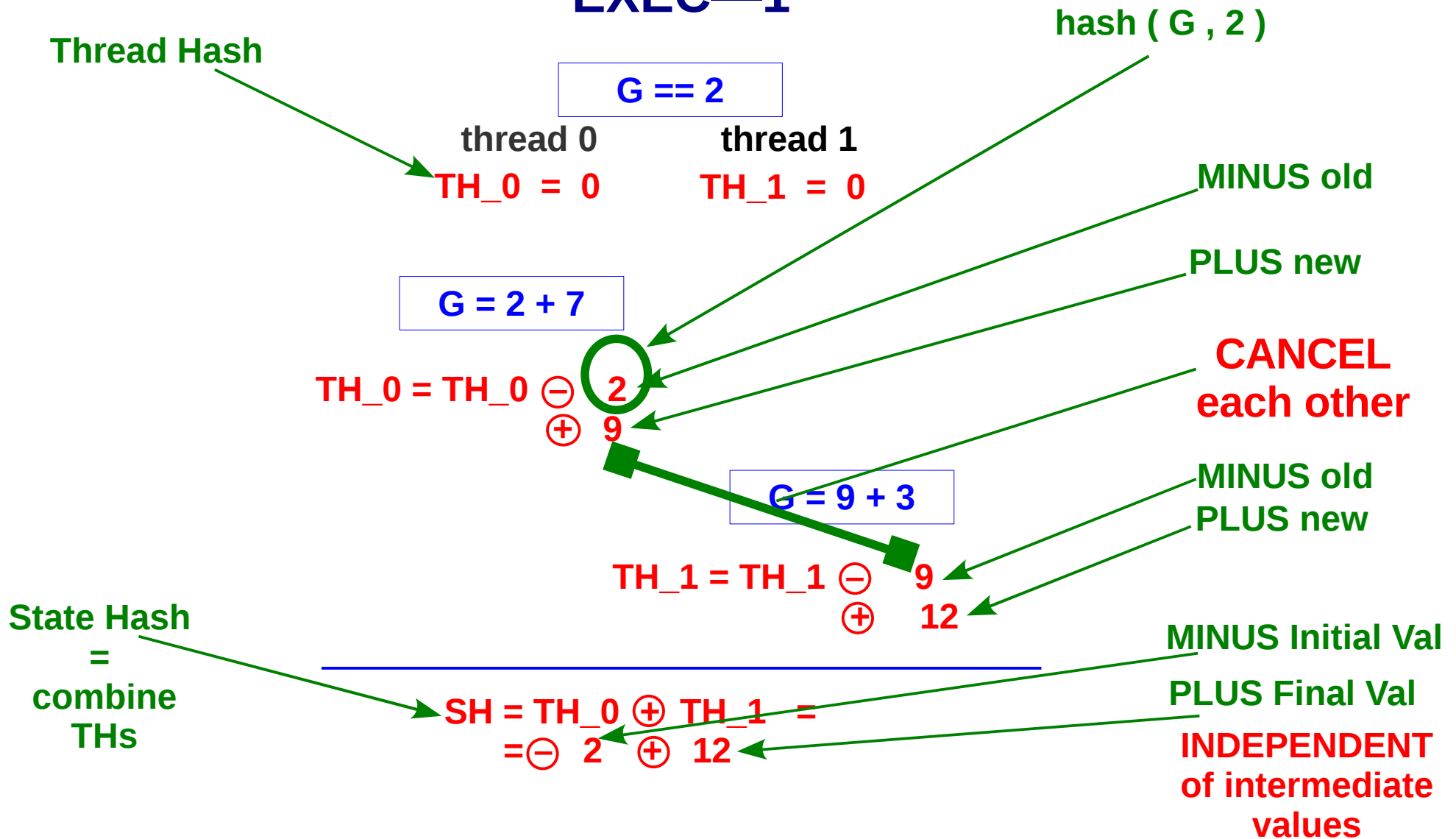
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# Overview

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- Independent of the intermediate steps
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# Advantages of Incremental Hashing

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  - Flexible implementation choices for HW module



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  - Flexible implementation choices for HW module
- Can delete some variables:  
 $\oplus$  initial\_value  $\ominus$  final\_value



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# Hardware system

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# Basic design

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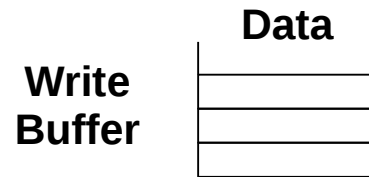
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Write  
Buffer



# Basic design

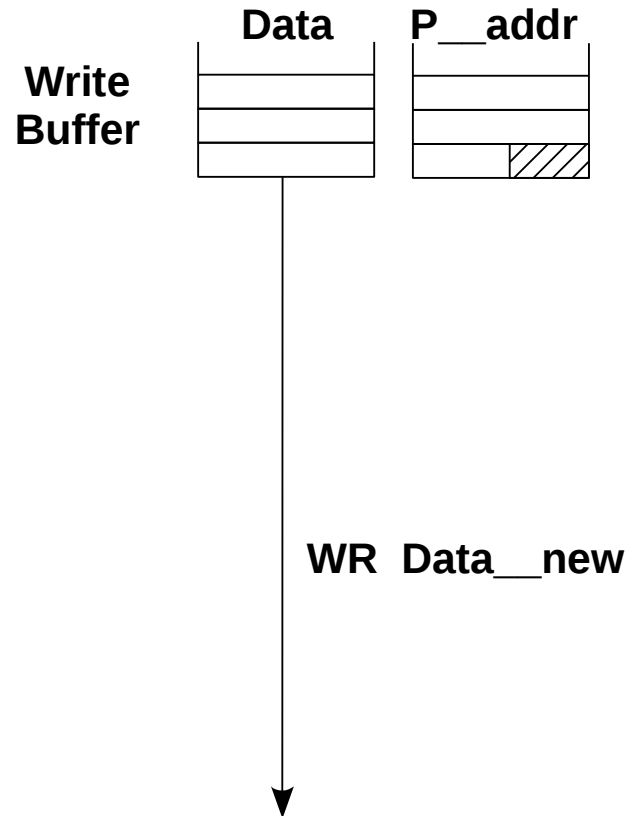
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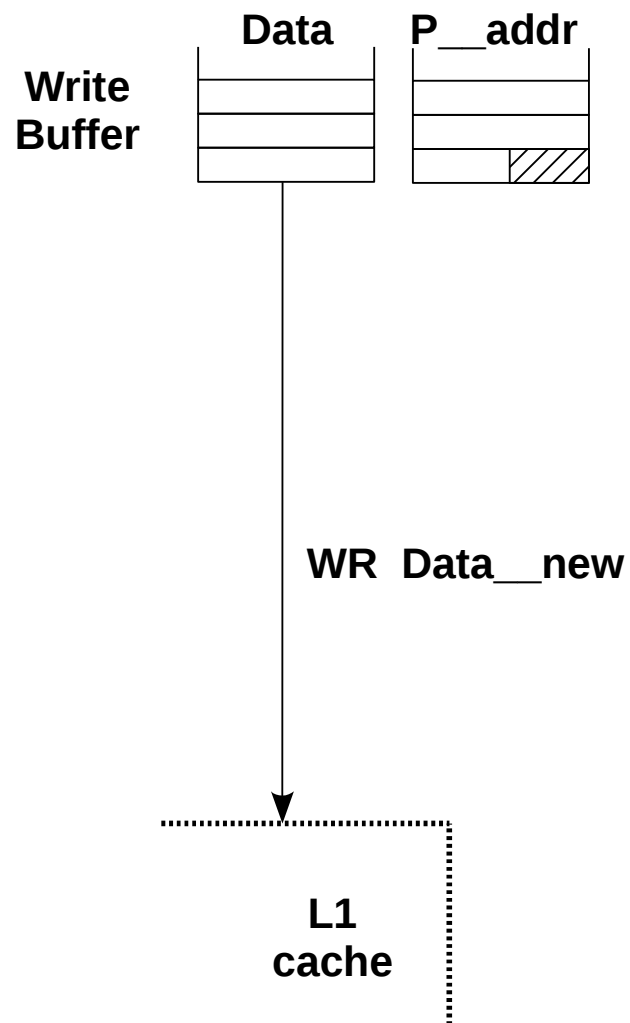
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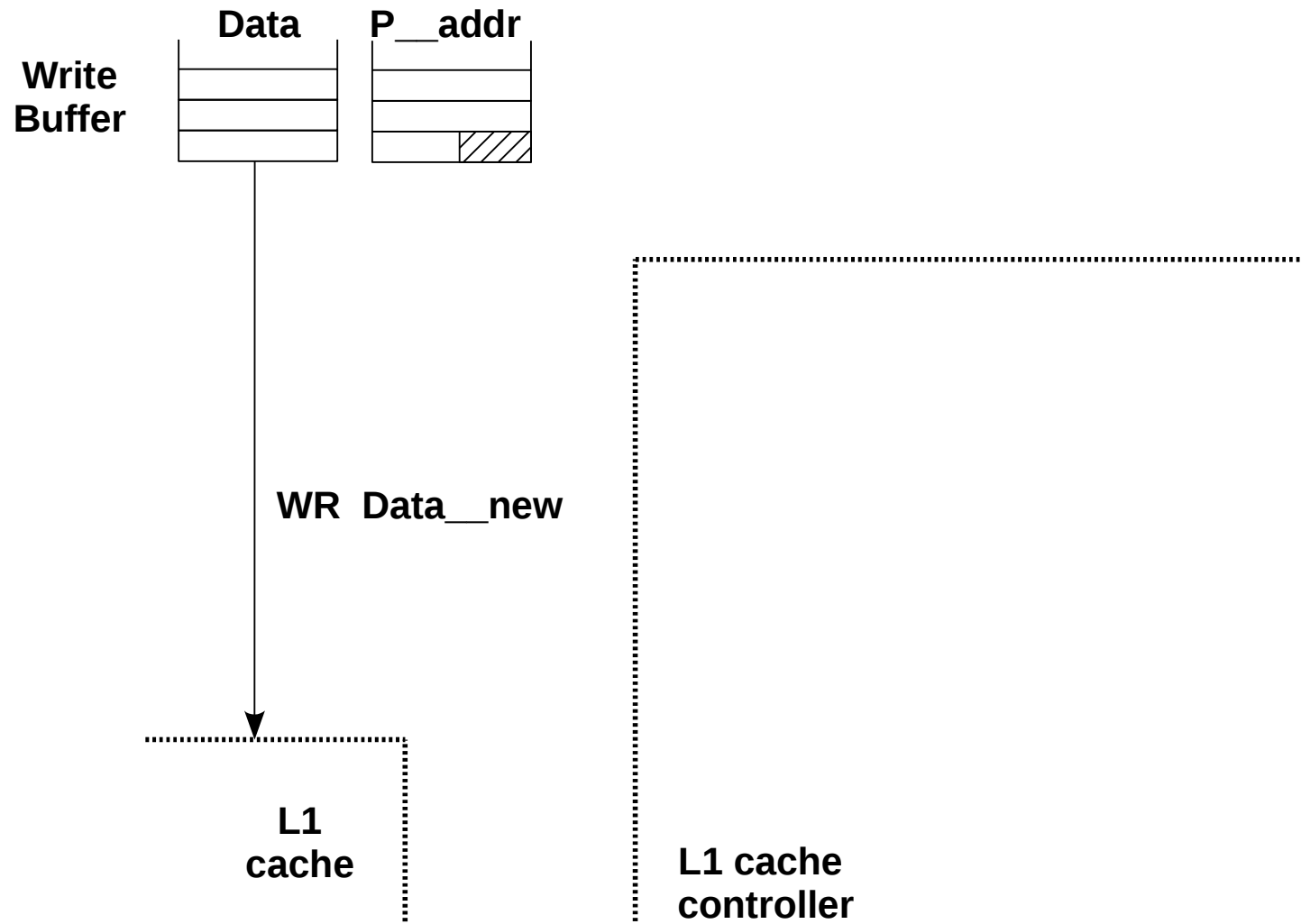


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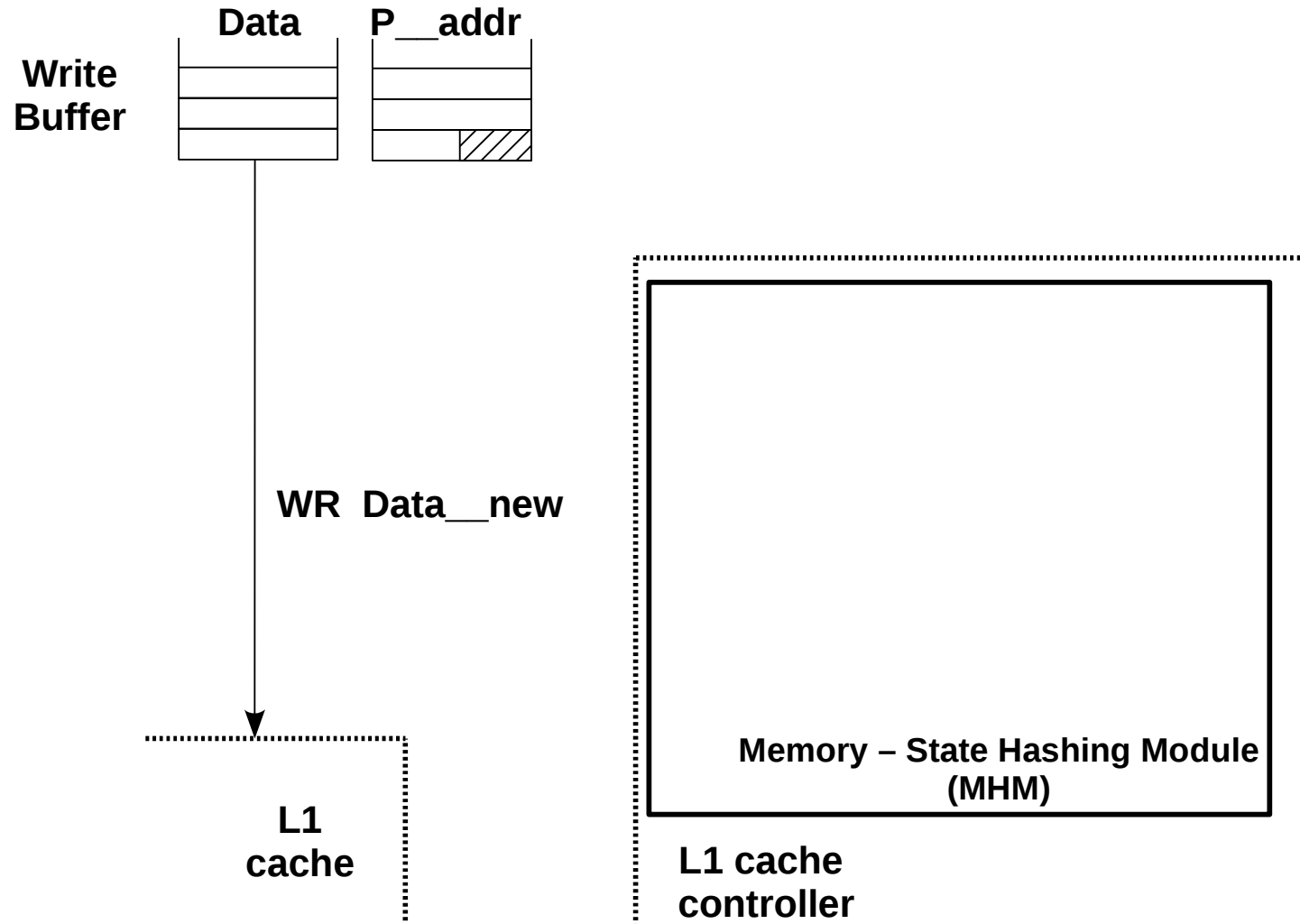
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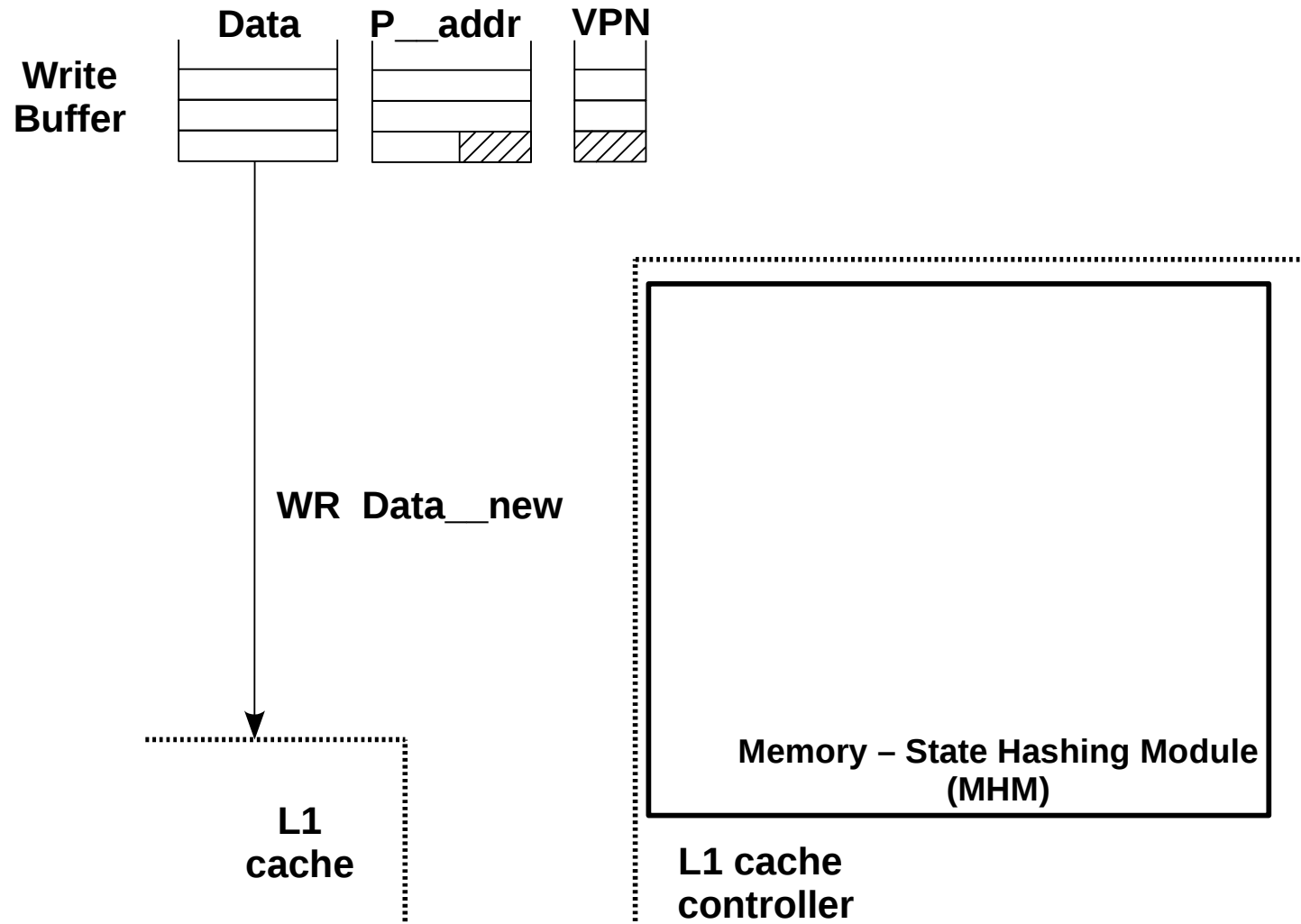


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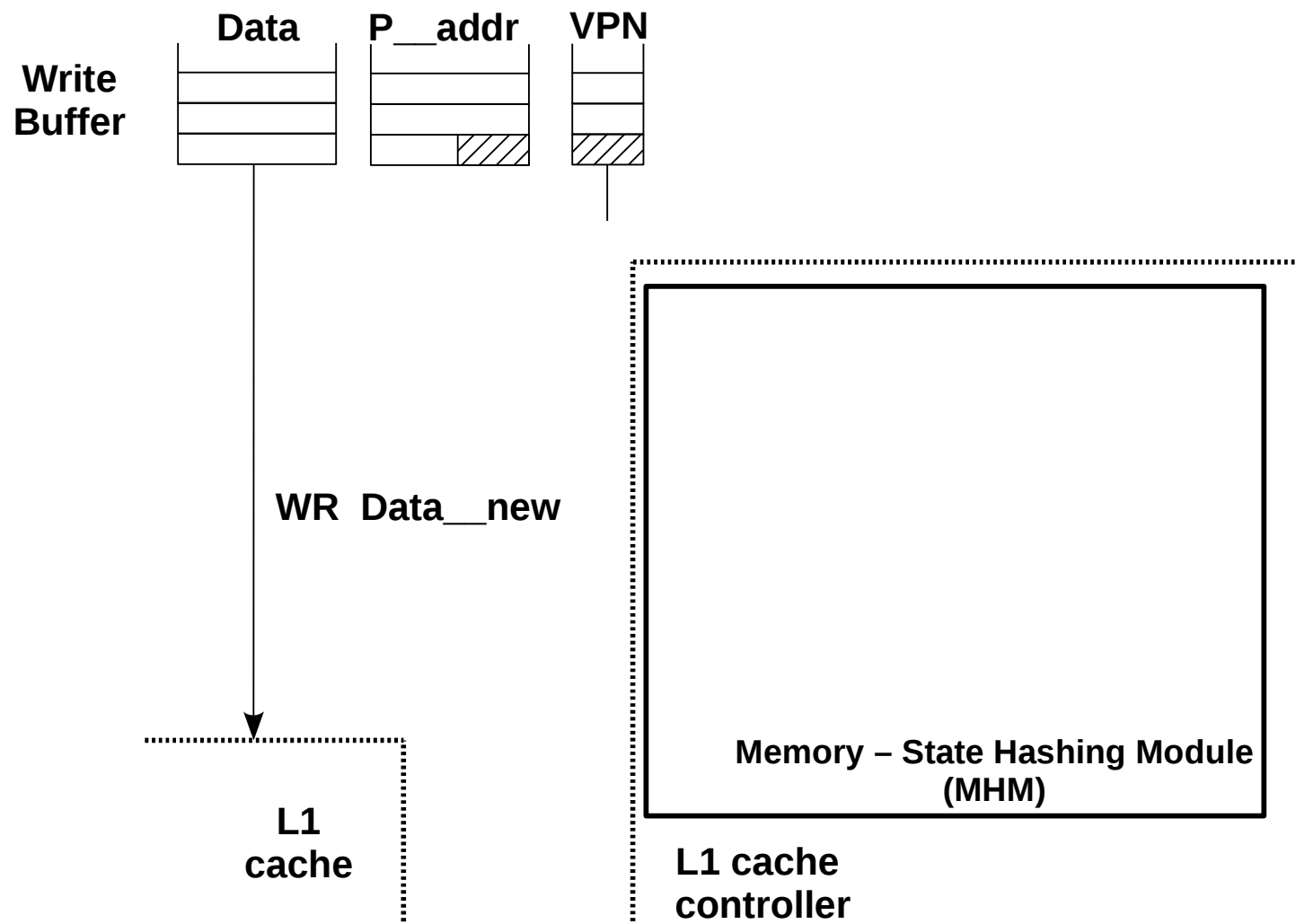




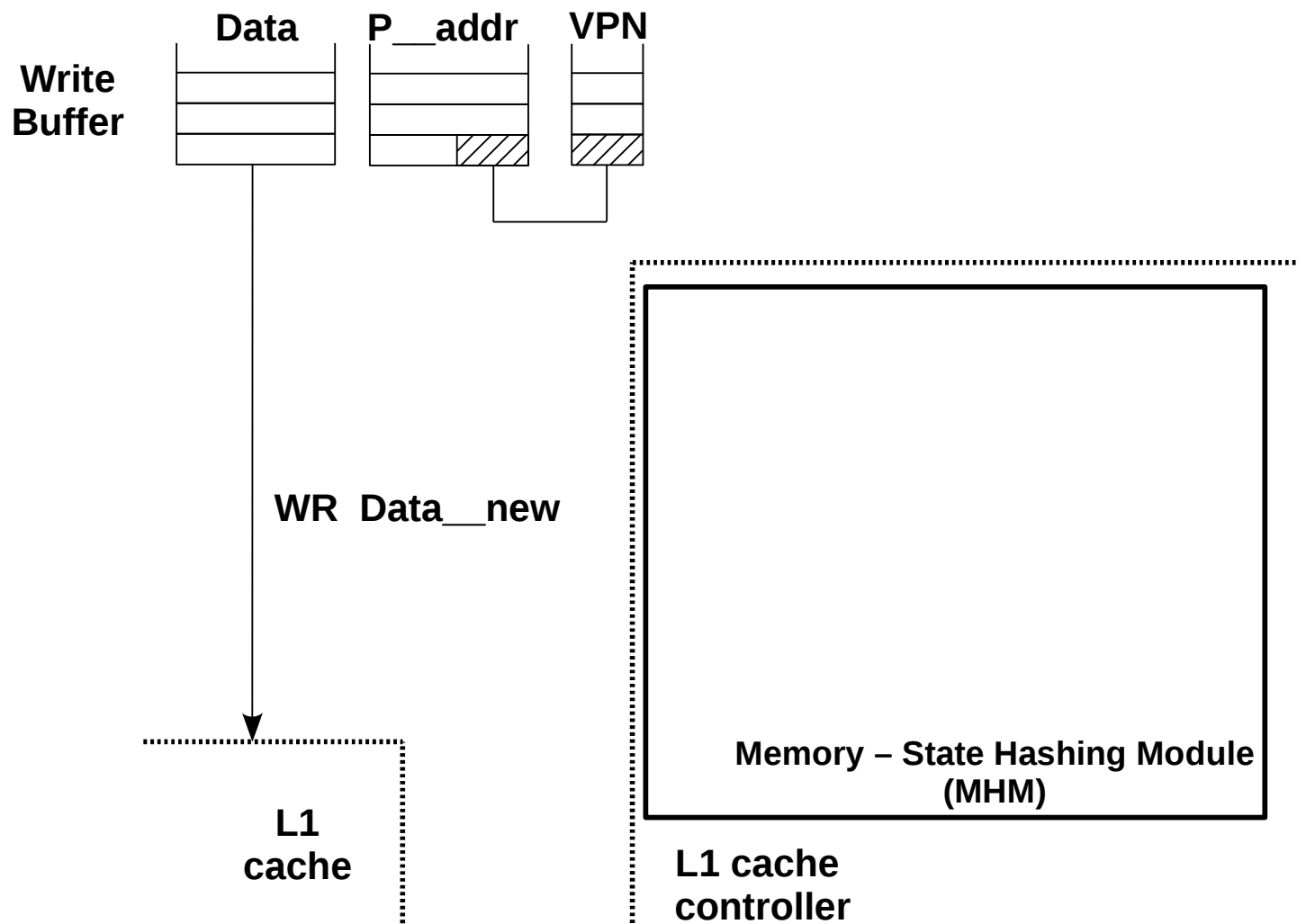
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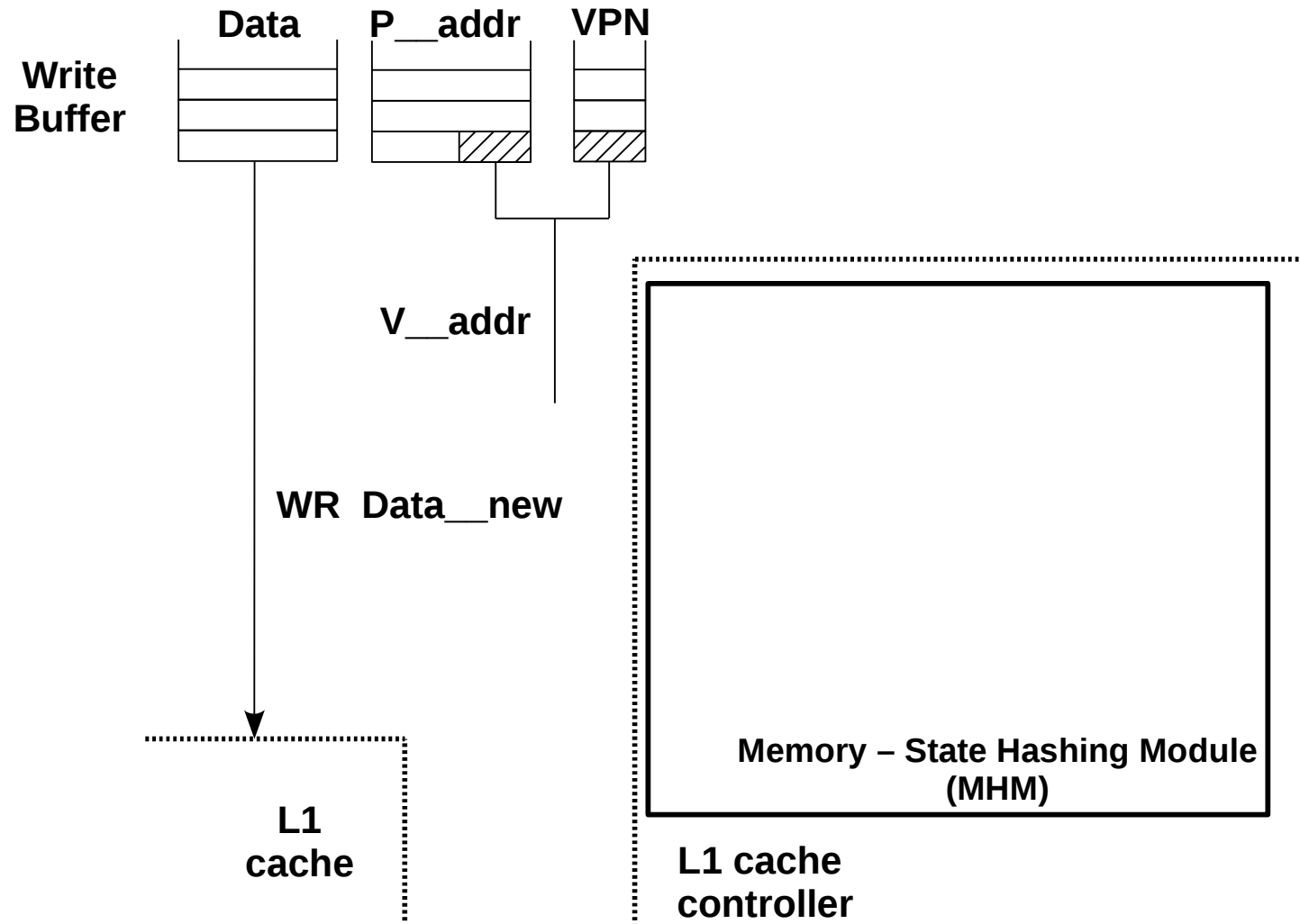
# Basic design



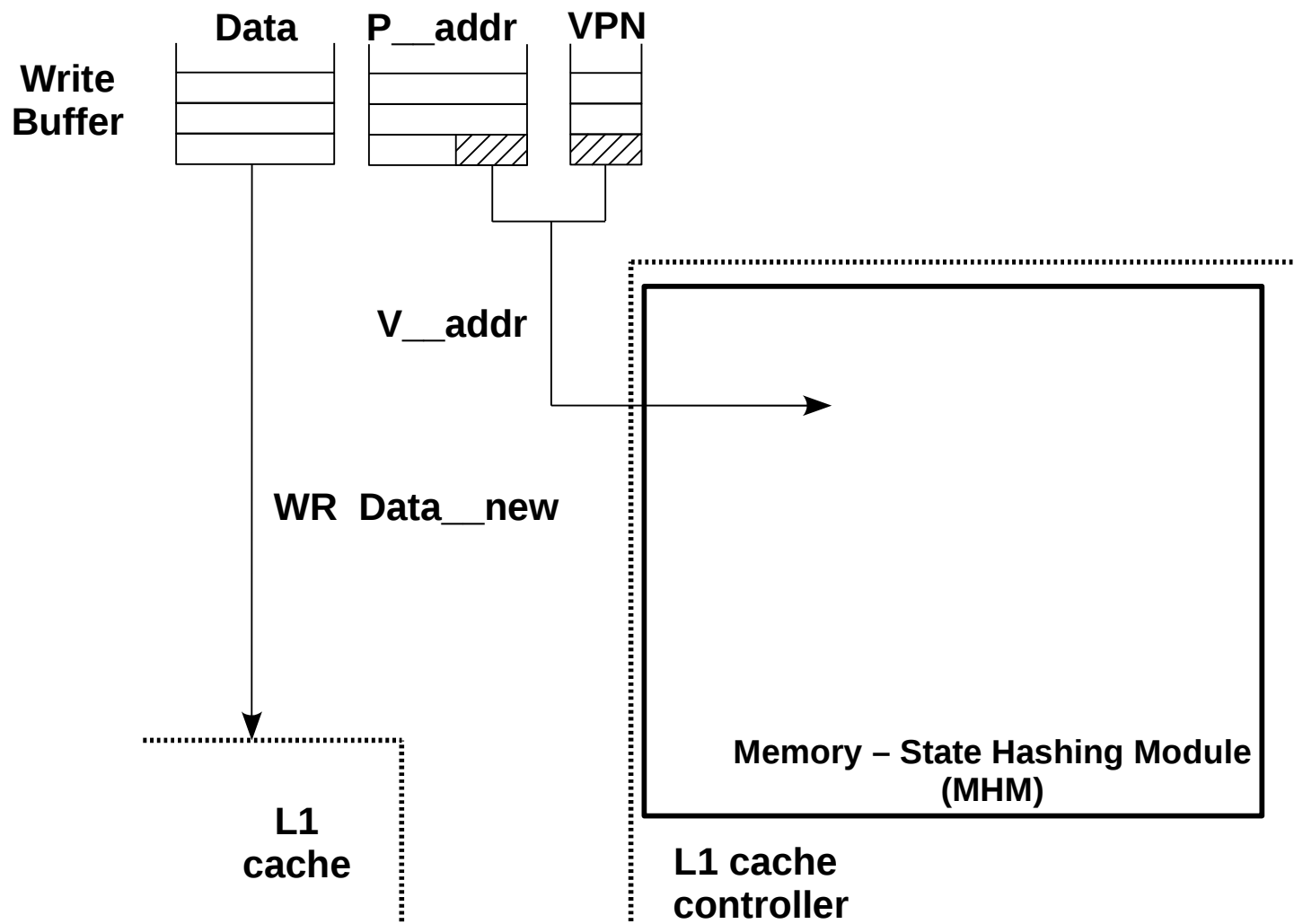
# Basic design



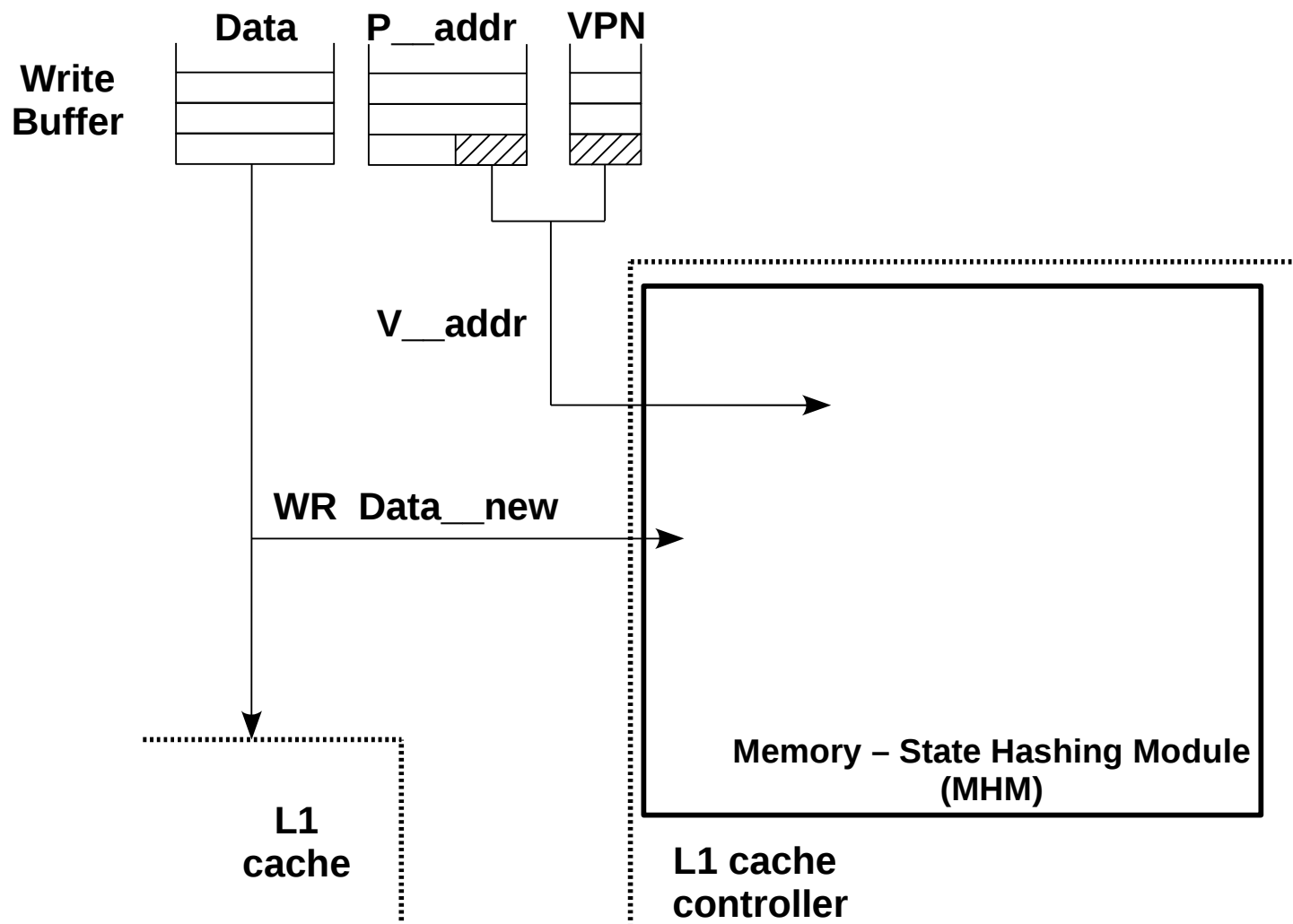
# Basic design



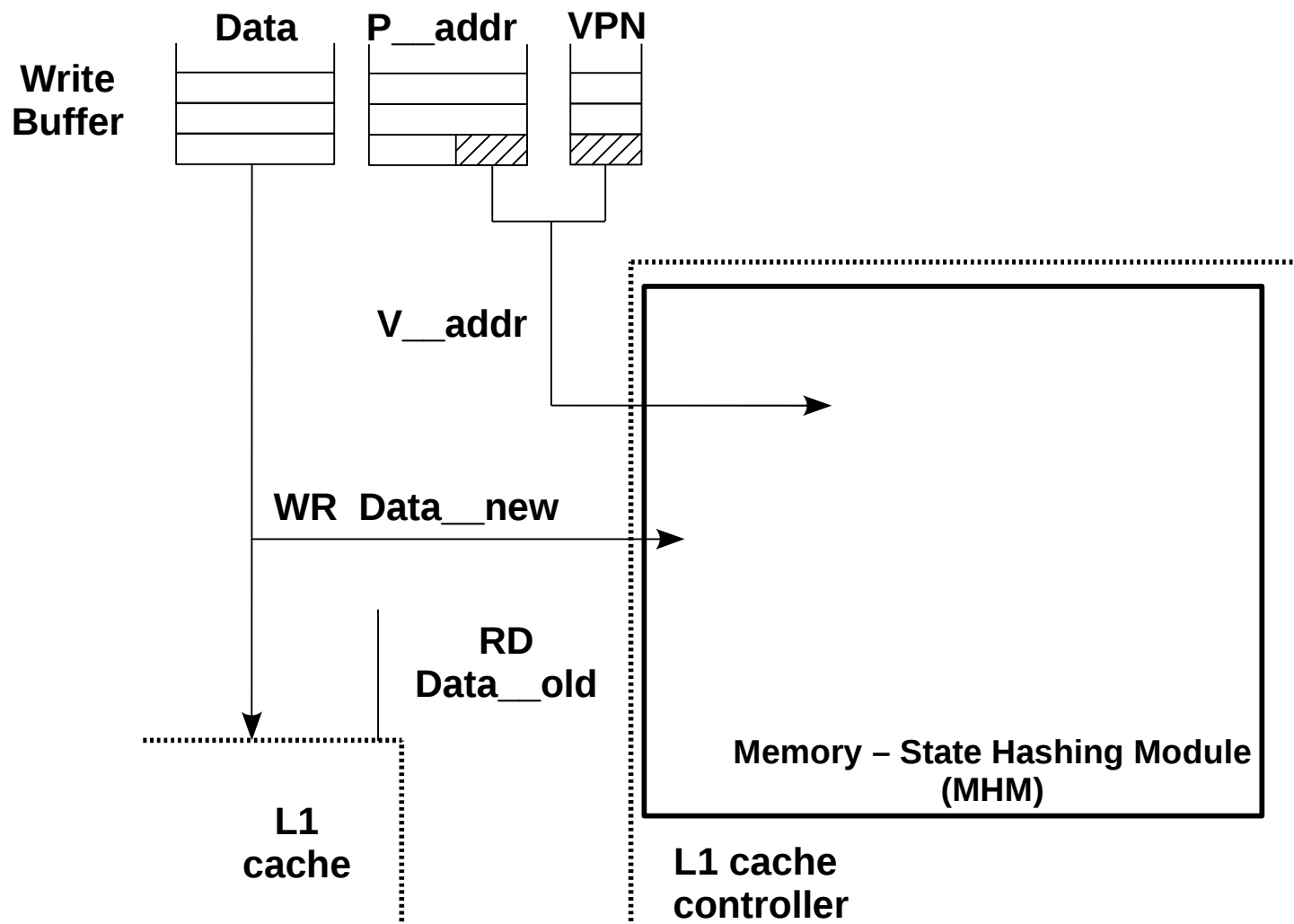
# Basic design



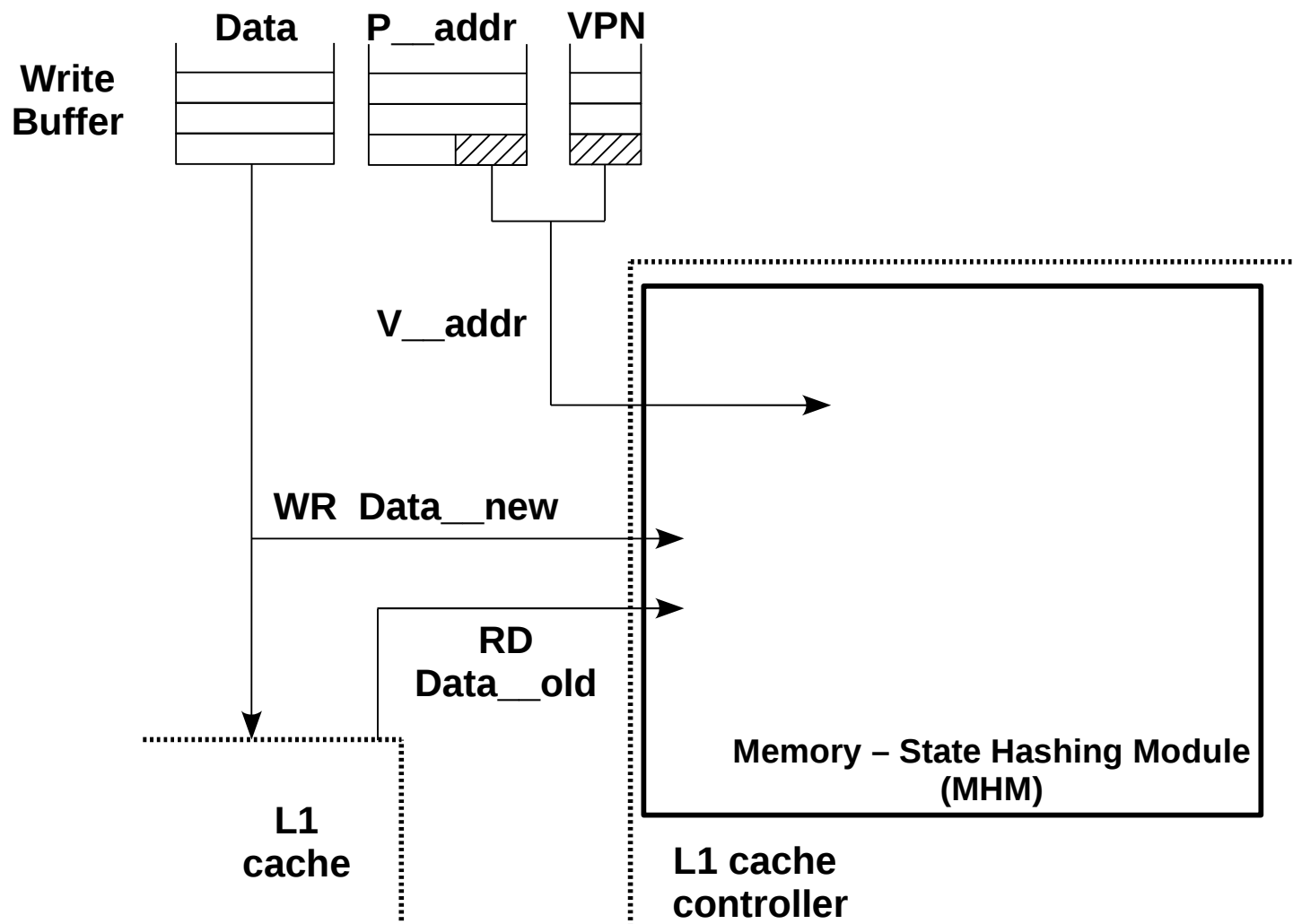
# Basic design



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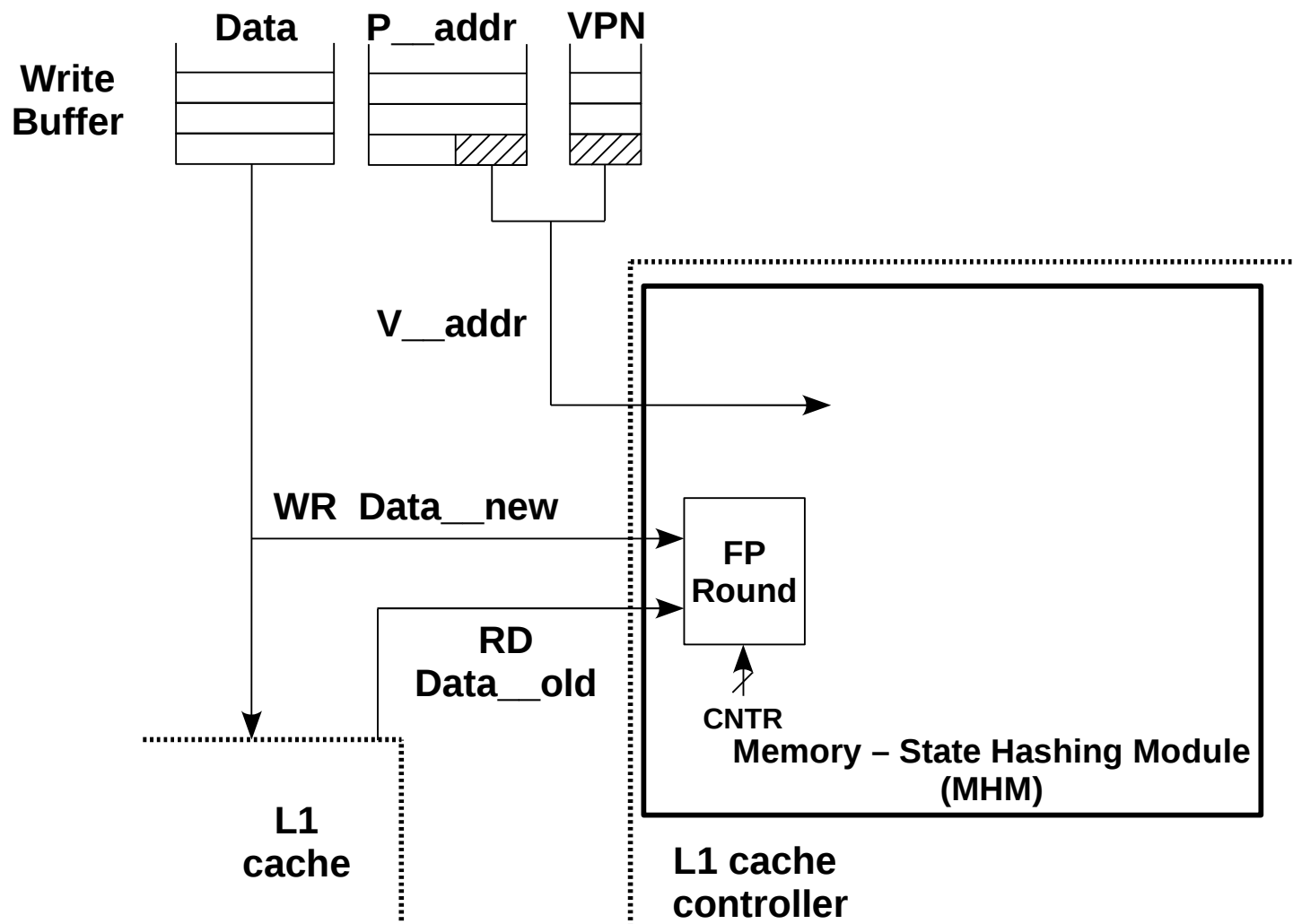


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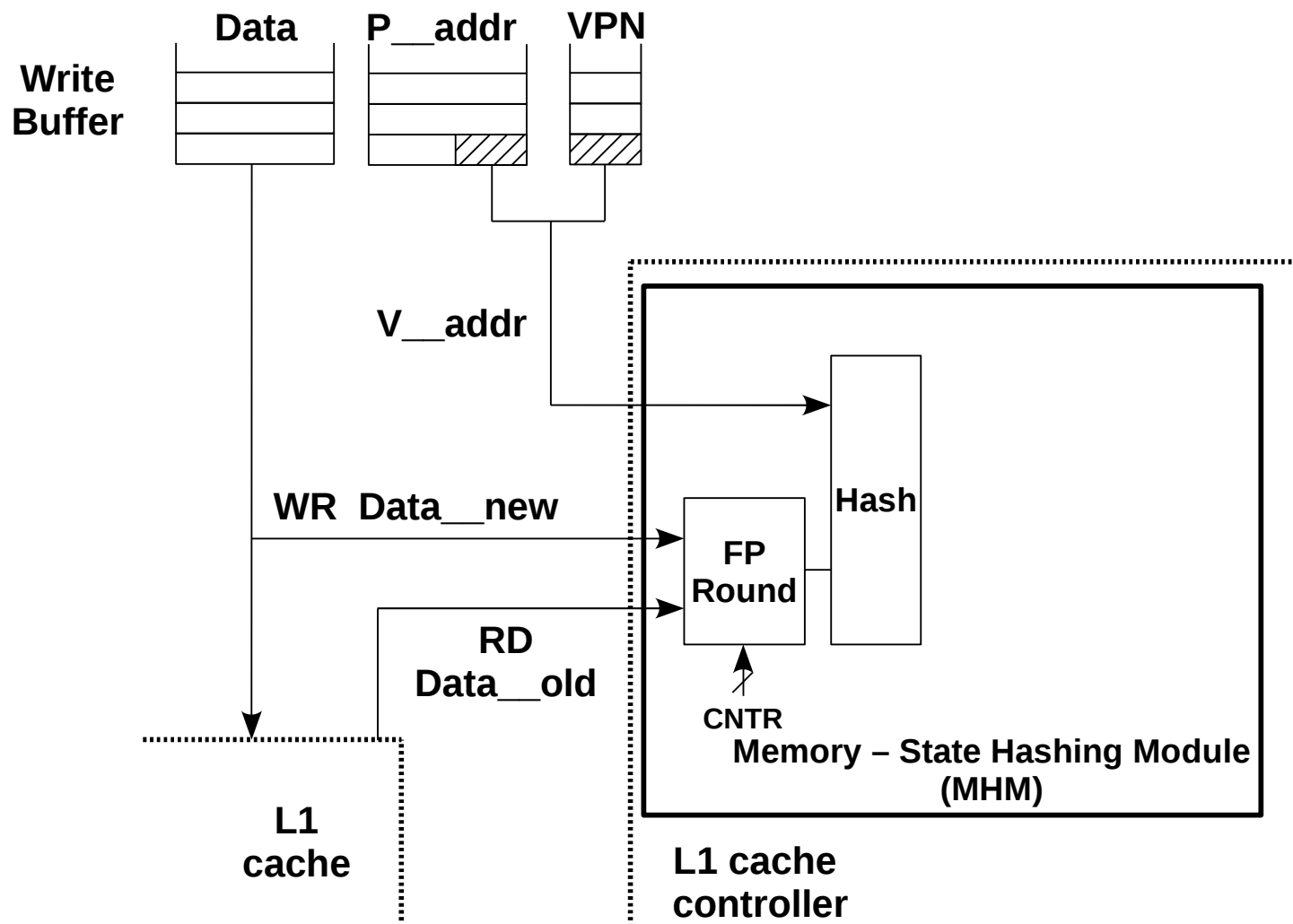




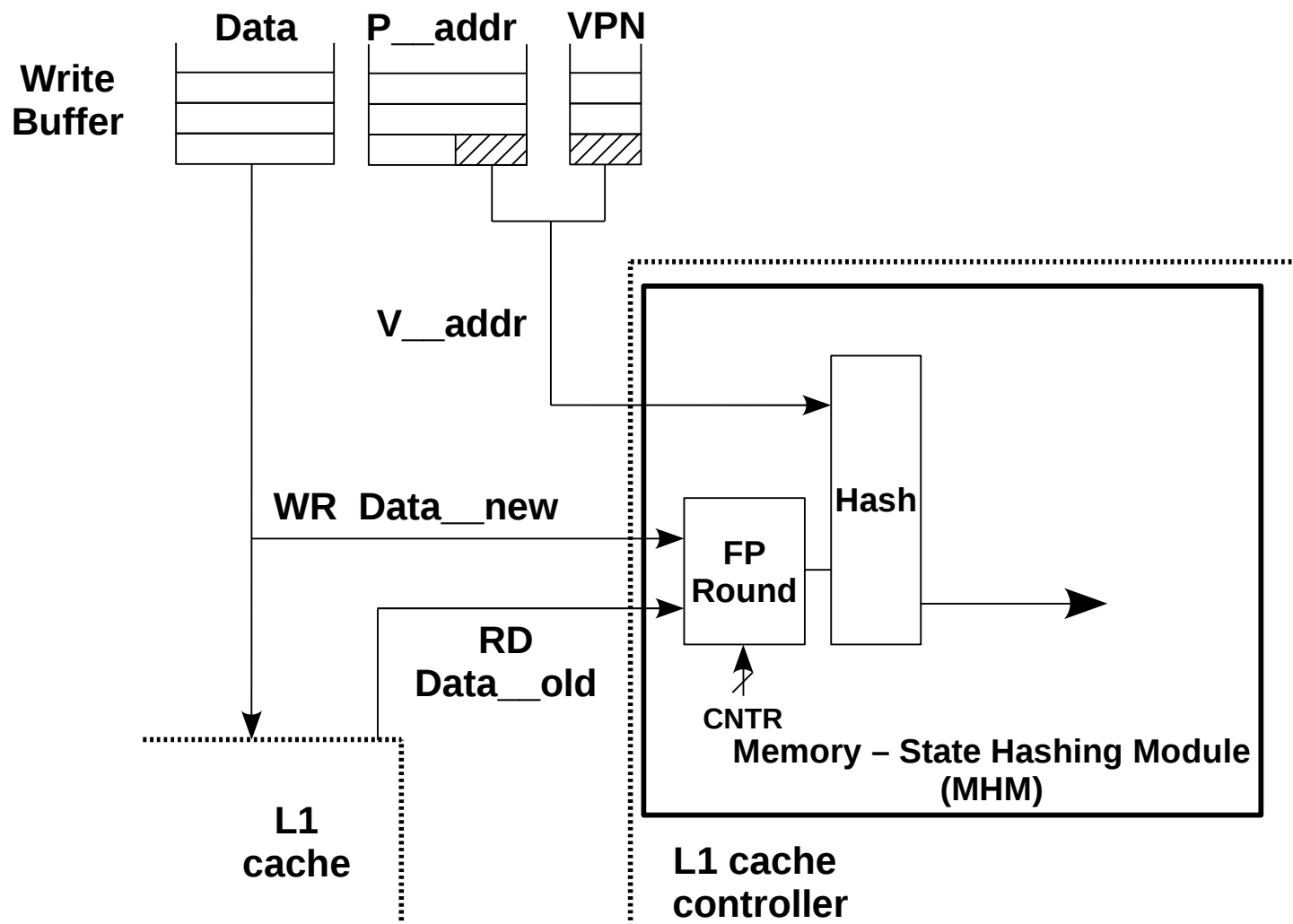
# Basic design



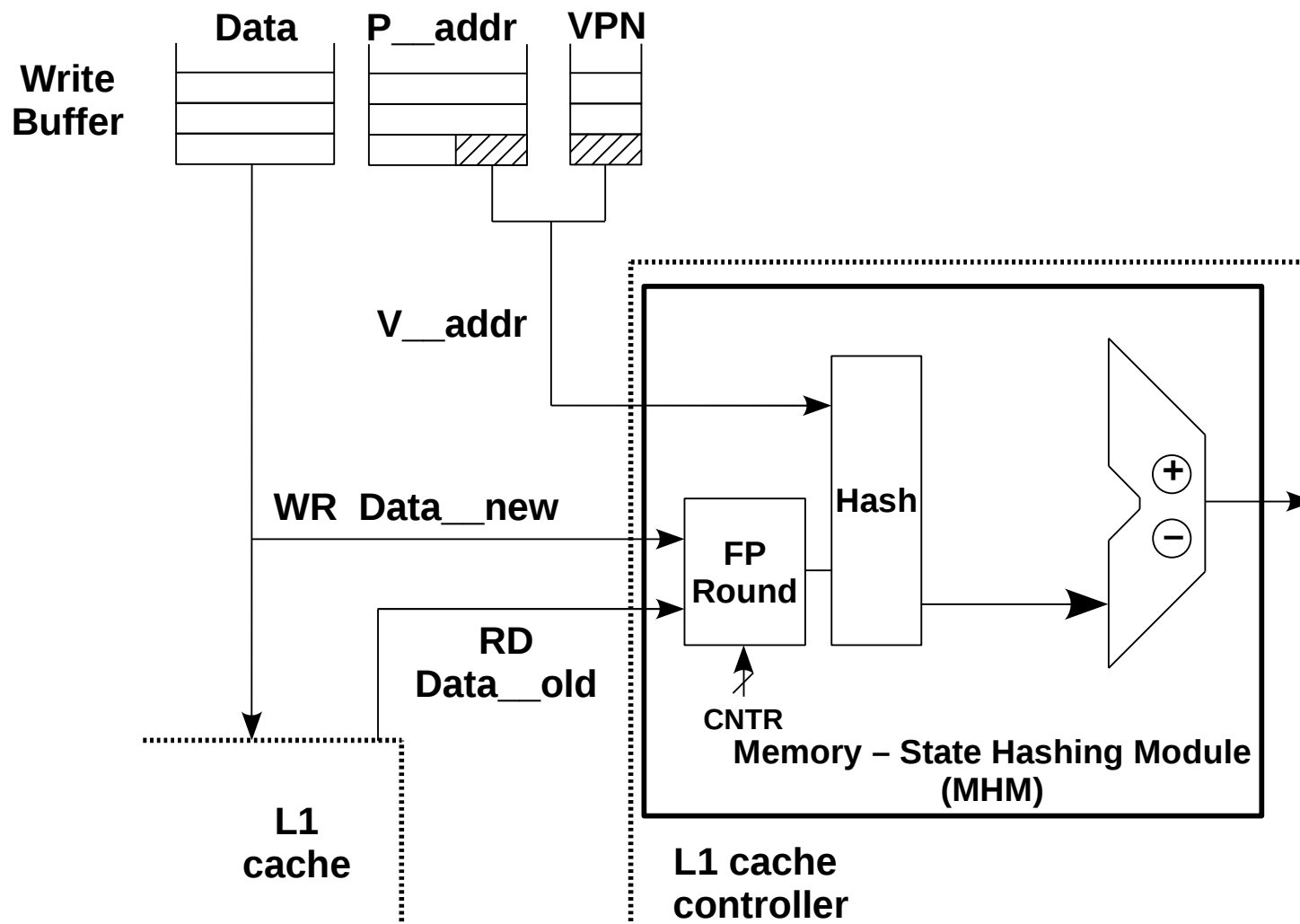
# Basic design



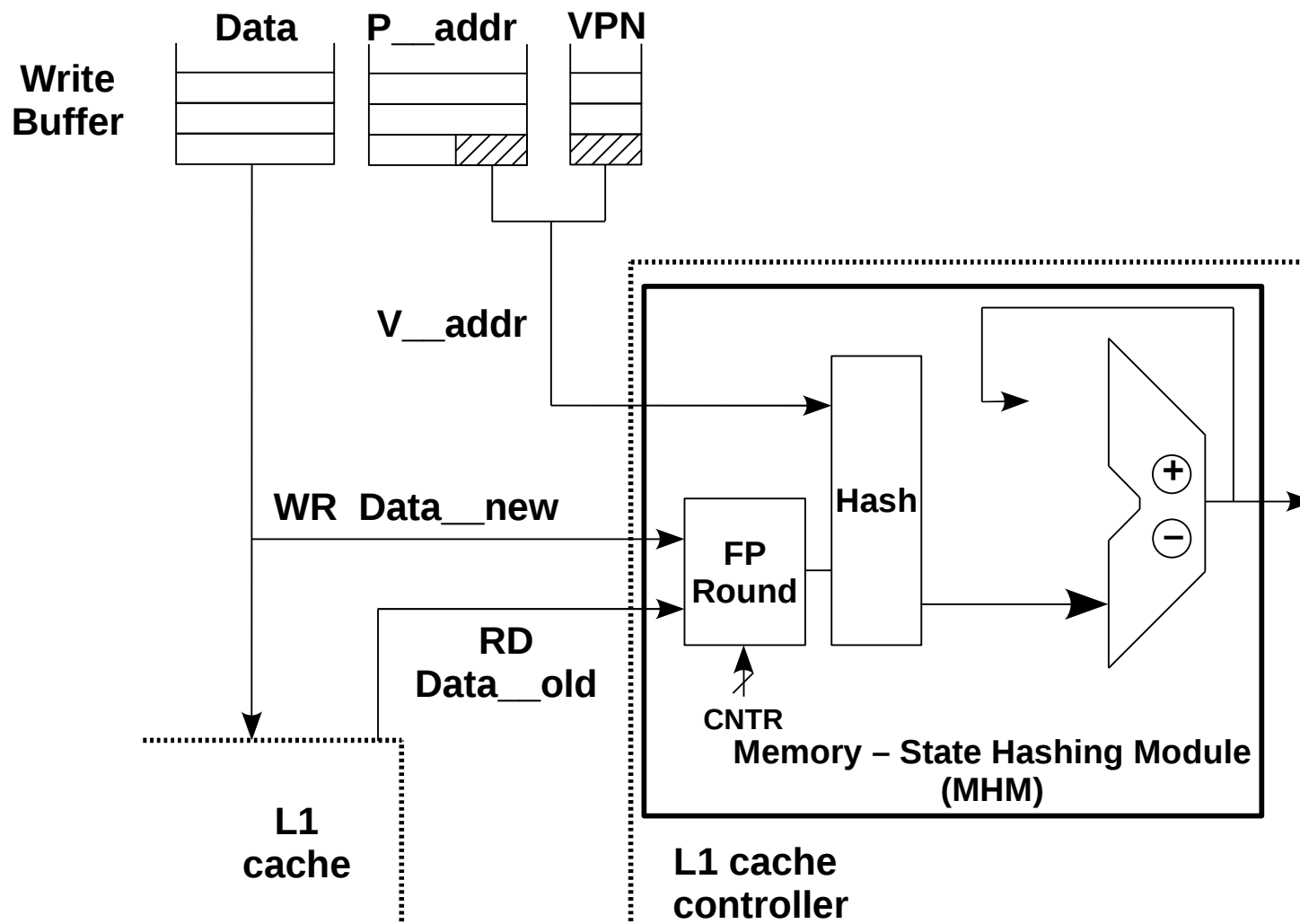
# Basic design



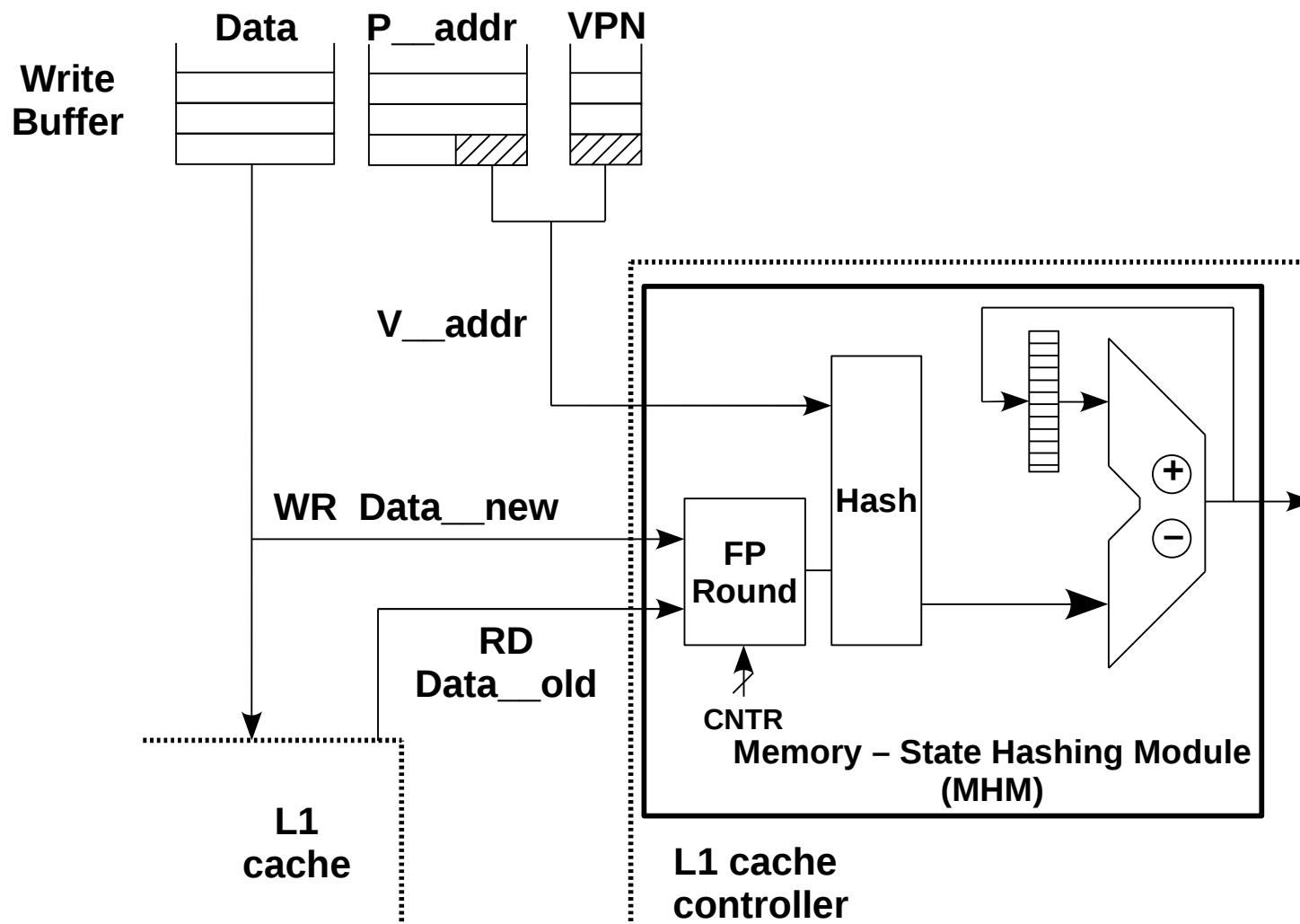
# Basic design



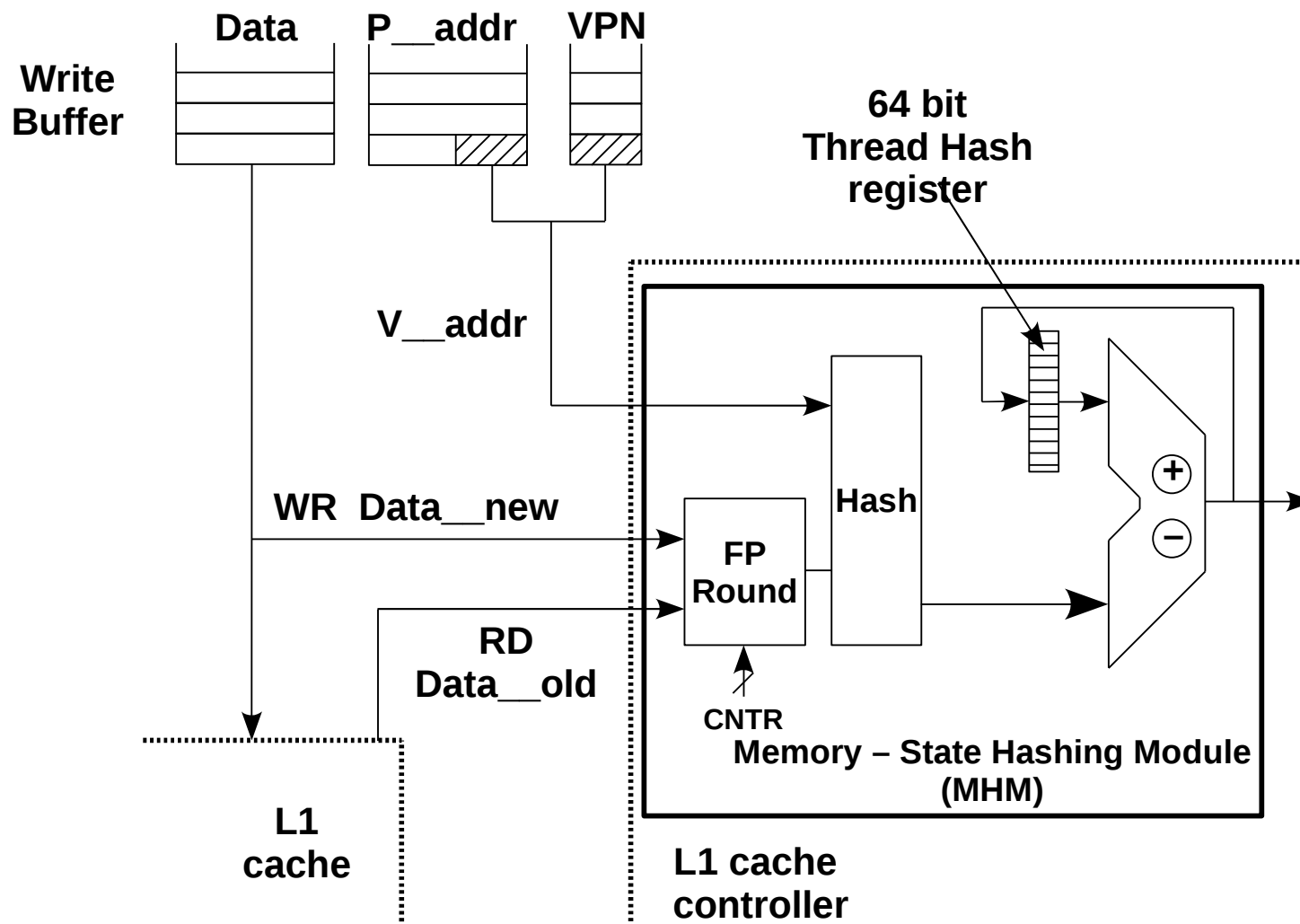
# Basic design



# Basic design



# Basic design



# Flexible Implementation Choices

---





# Flexible Implementation Choices

---

**Commutative  
Associative**



# Flexible Implementation Choices

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# Flexible Implementation Choices

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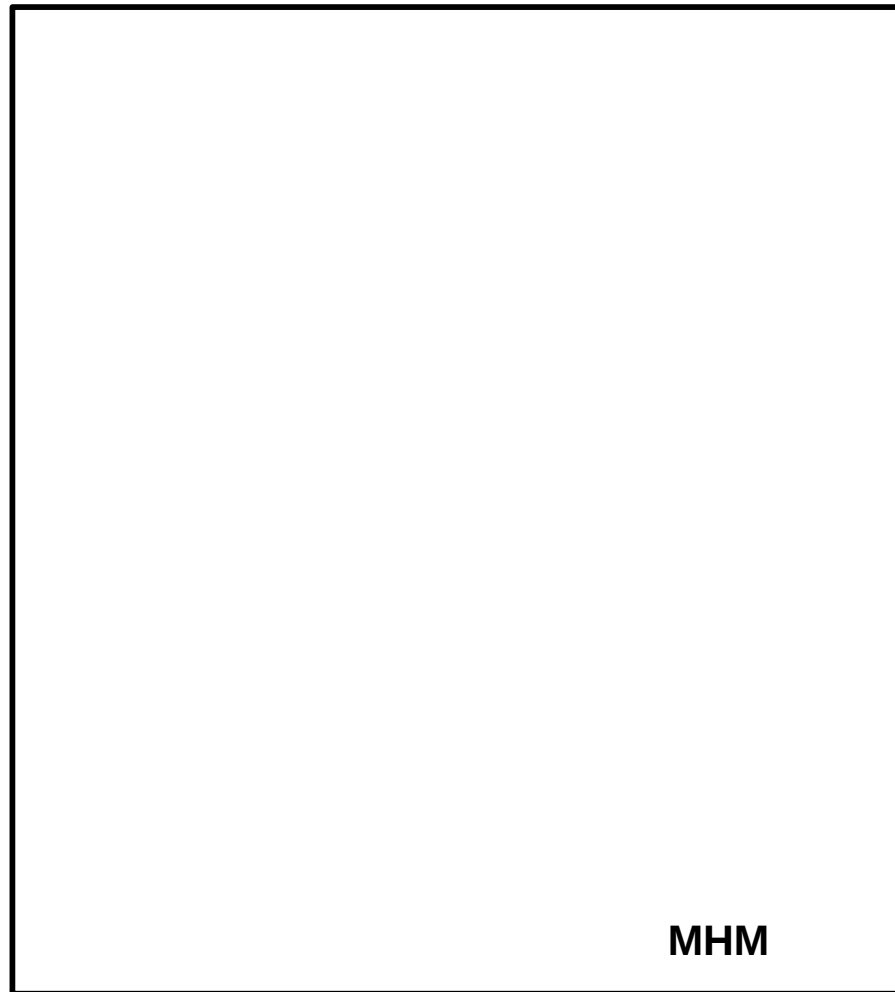


**Out of Order  
In parallel**



# Flexible Implementation Choices

---



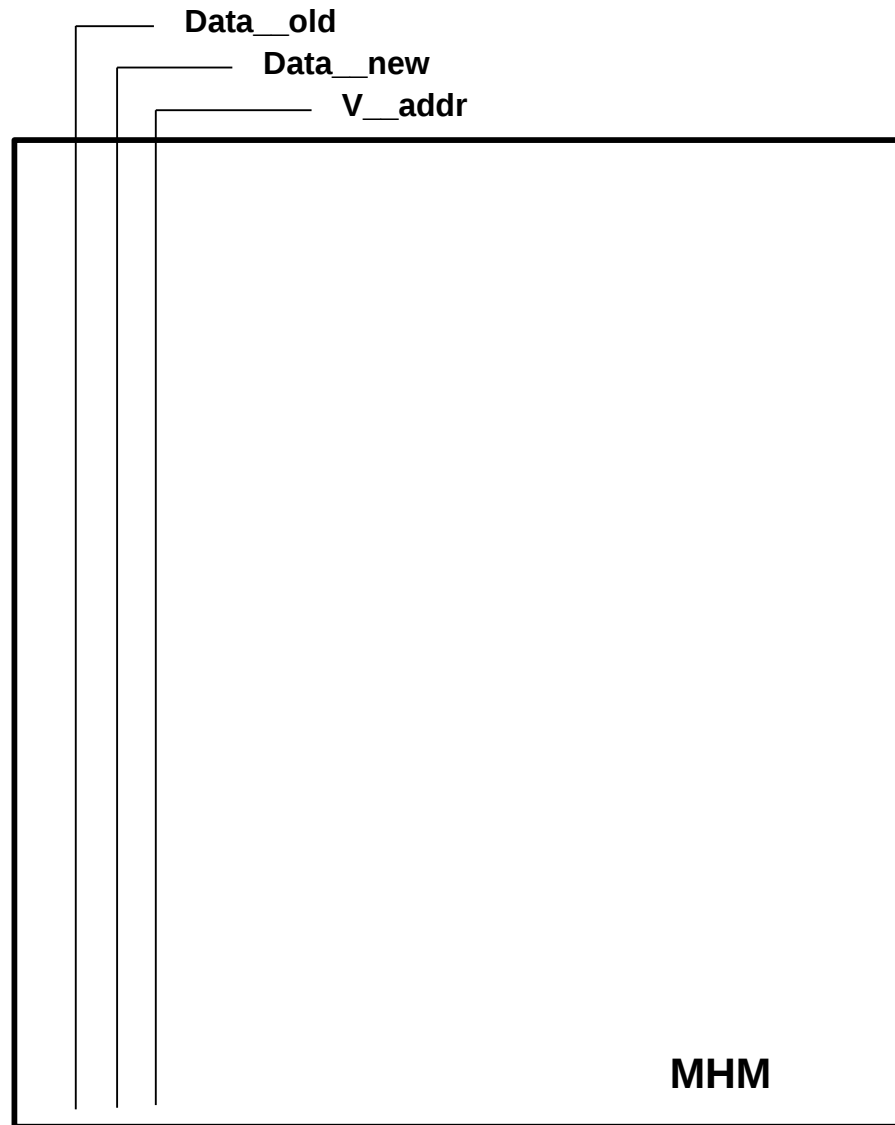
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# Flexible Implementation Choices

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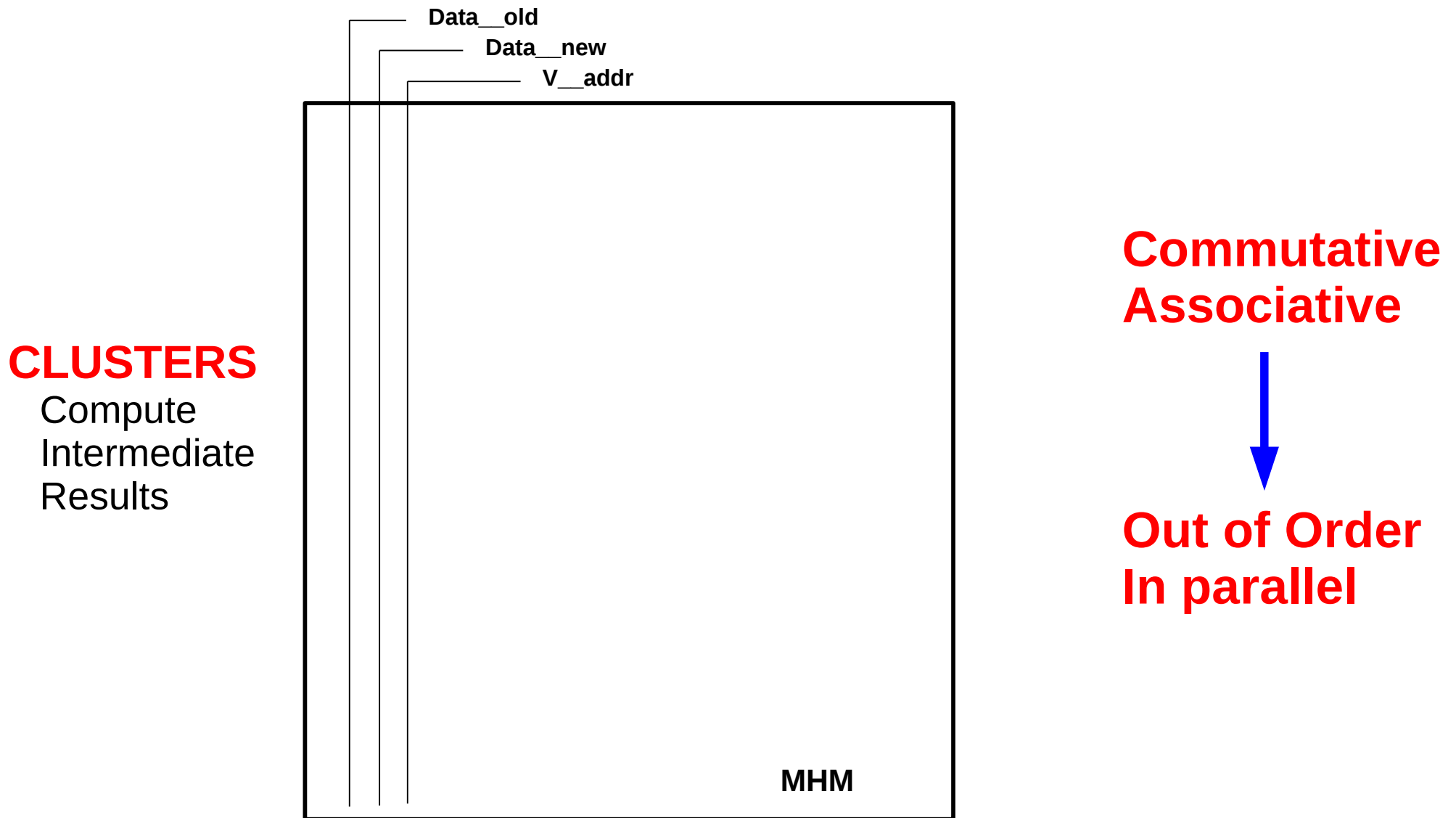
**Commutative  
Associative**



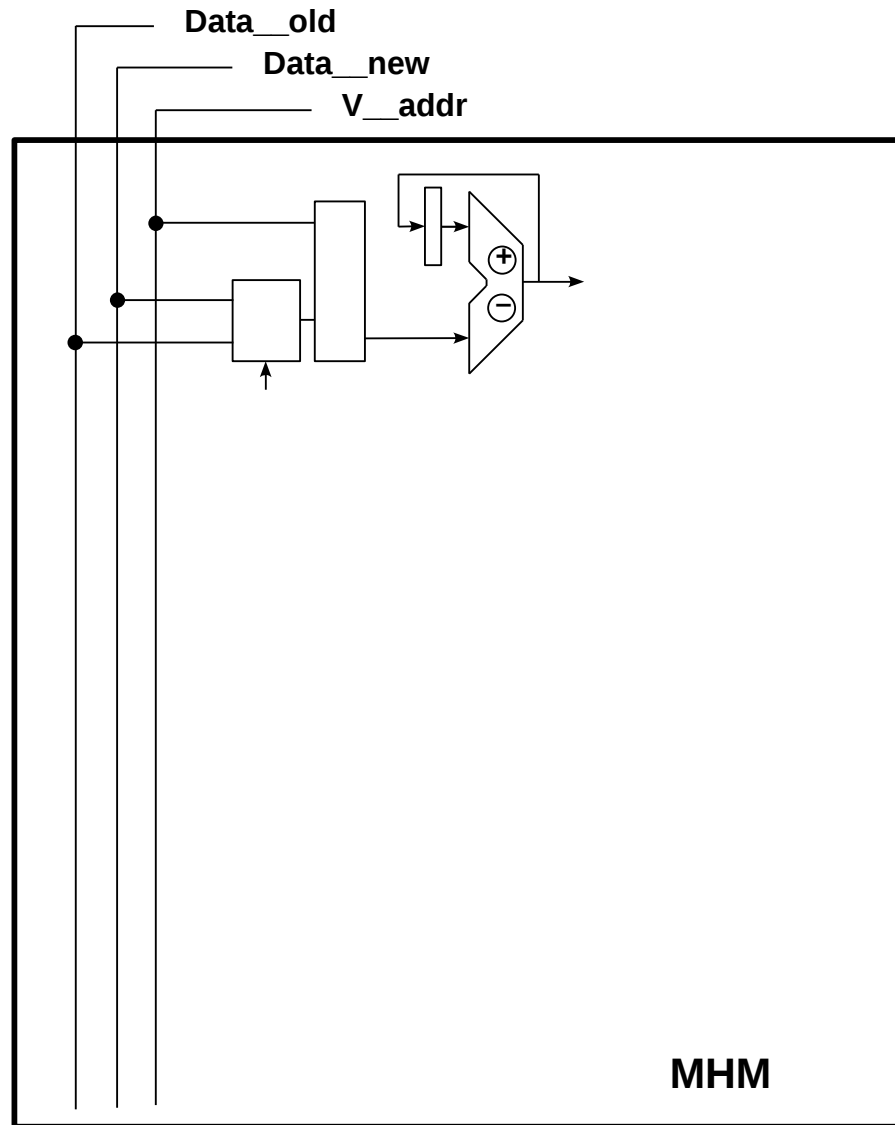
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In parallel**

# Flexible Implementation Choices

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# Flexible Implementation Choices



## CLUSTERS

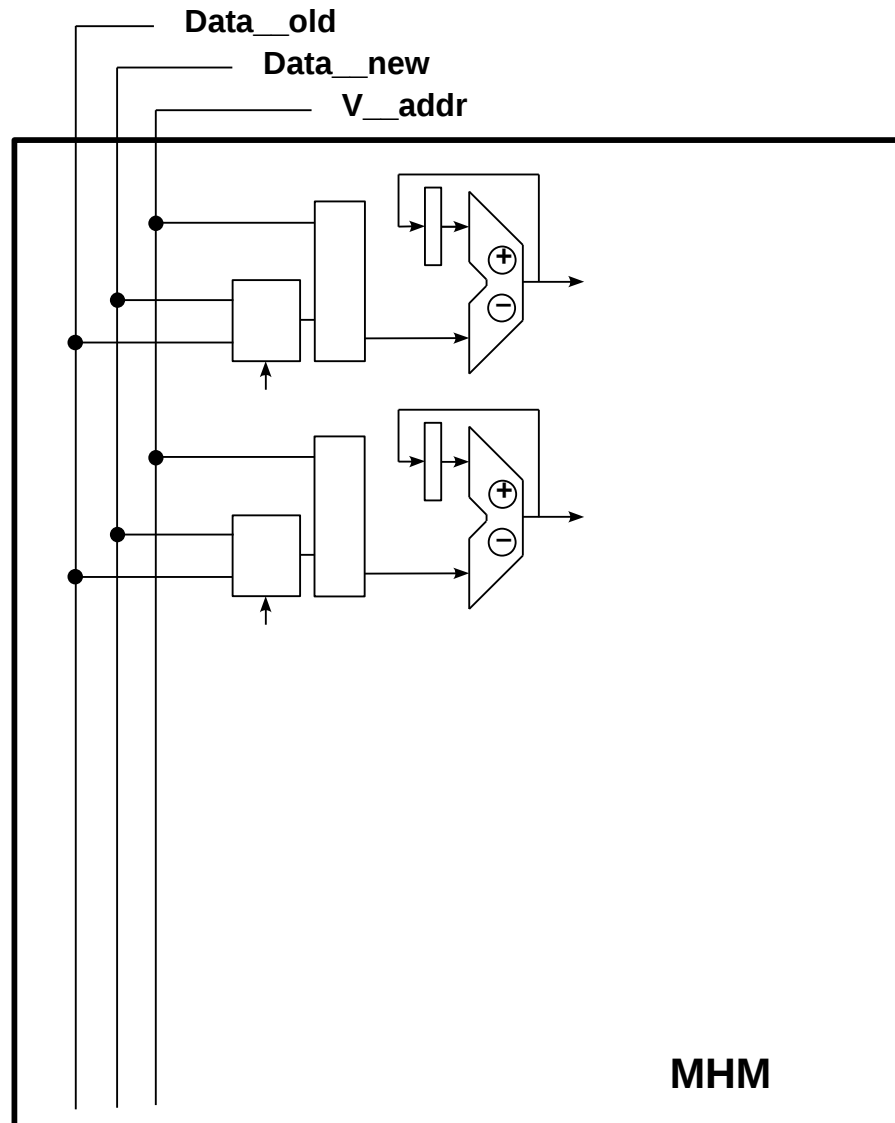
Compute  
Intermediate  
Results

**Commutative  
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In parallel**

# Flexible Implementation Choices



## CLUSTERS

Compute  
Intermediate  
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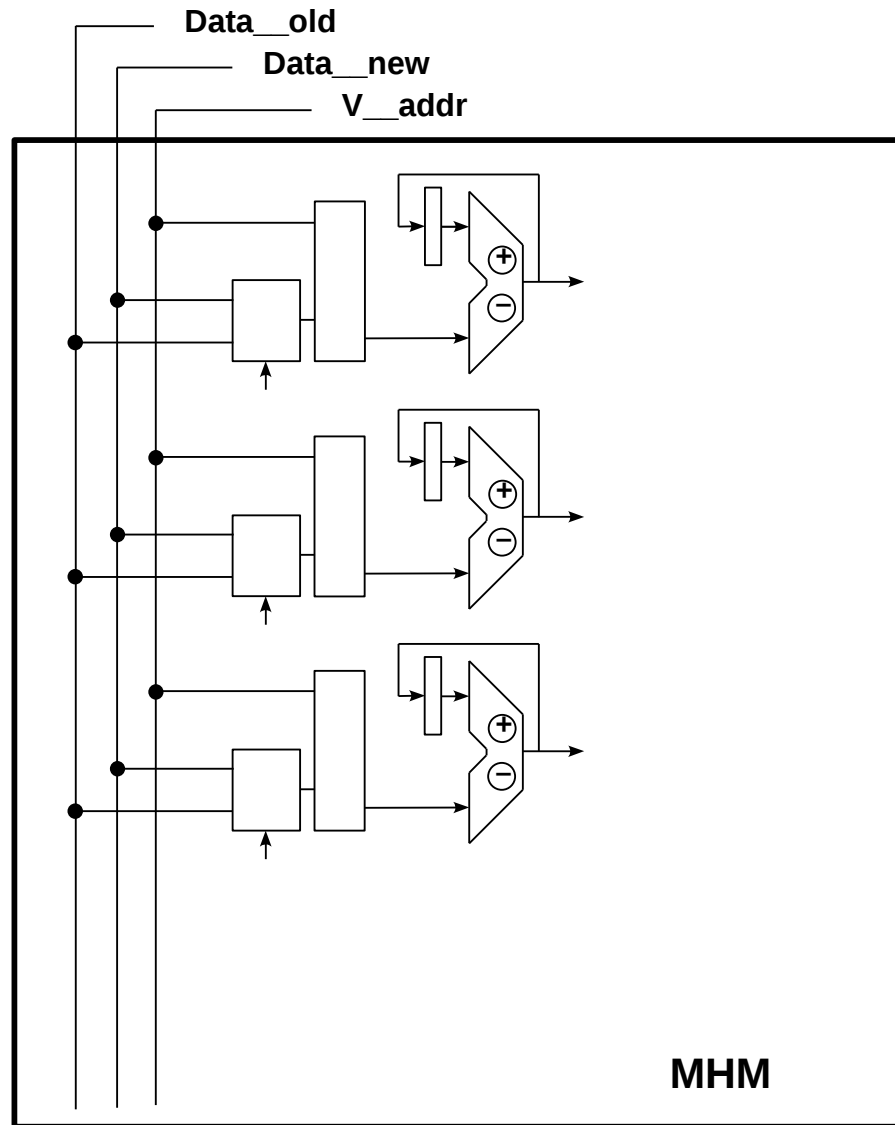
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# Flexible Implementation Choices

## CLUSTERS

Compute  
Intermediate  
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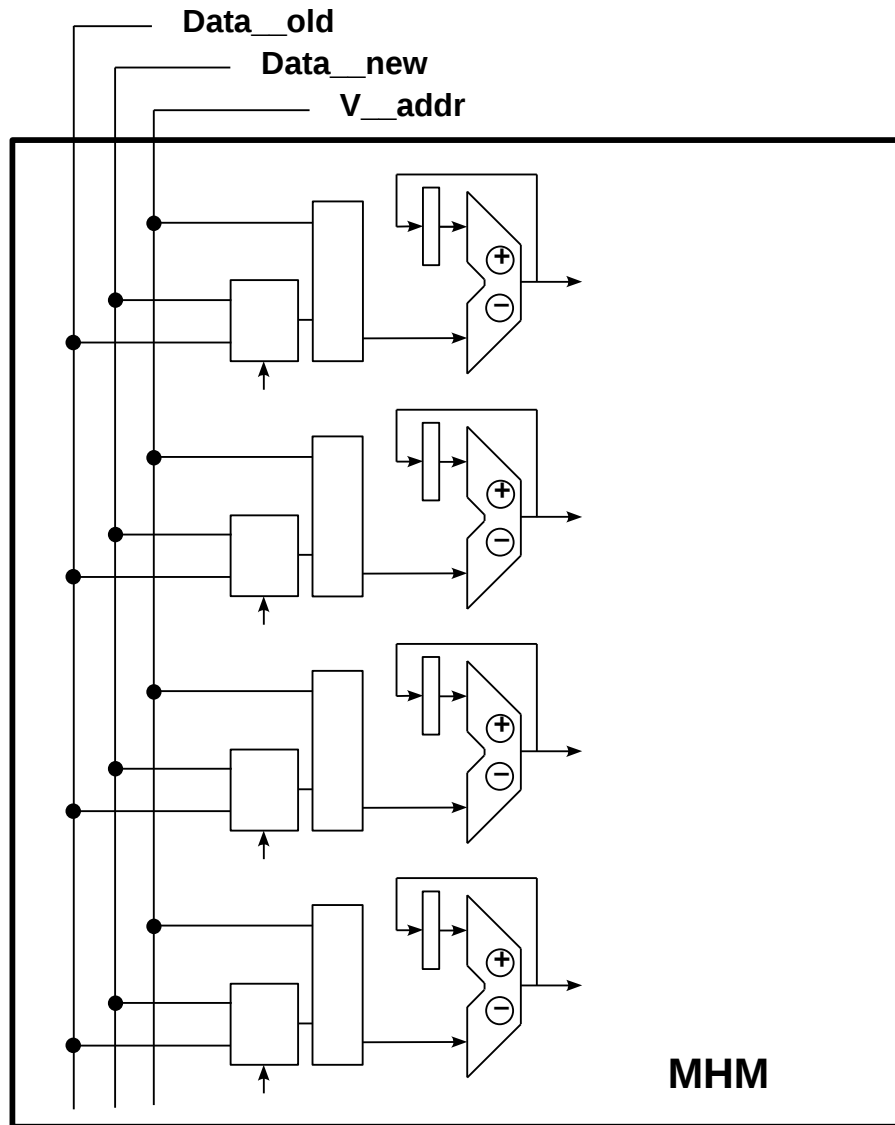


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# Flexible Implementation Choices



## CLUSTERS

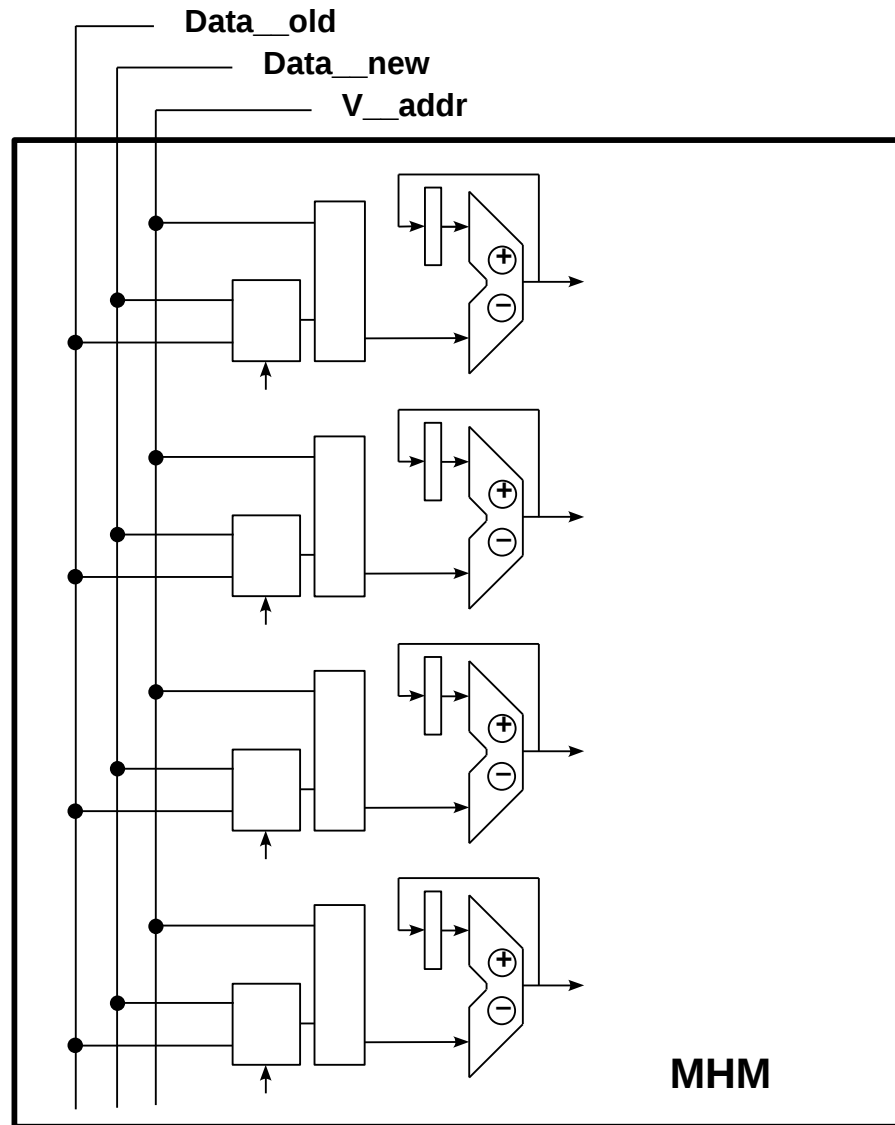
Compute  
Intermediate  
Results

Commutative  
Associative



Out of Order  
In parallel

# Flexible Implementation Choices



## CLUSTERS

Compute  
Intermediate  
Results

## merge / sum

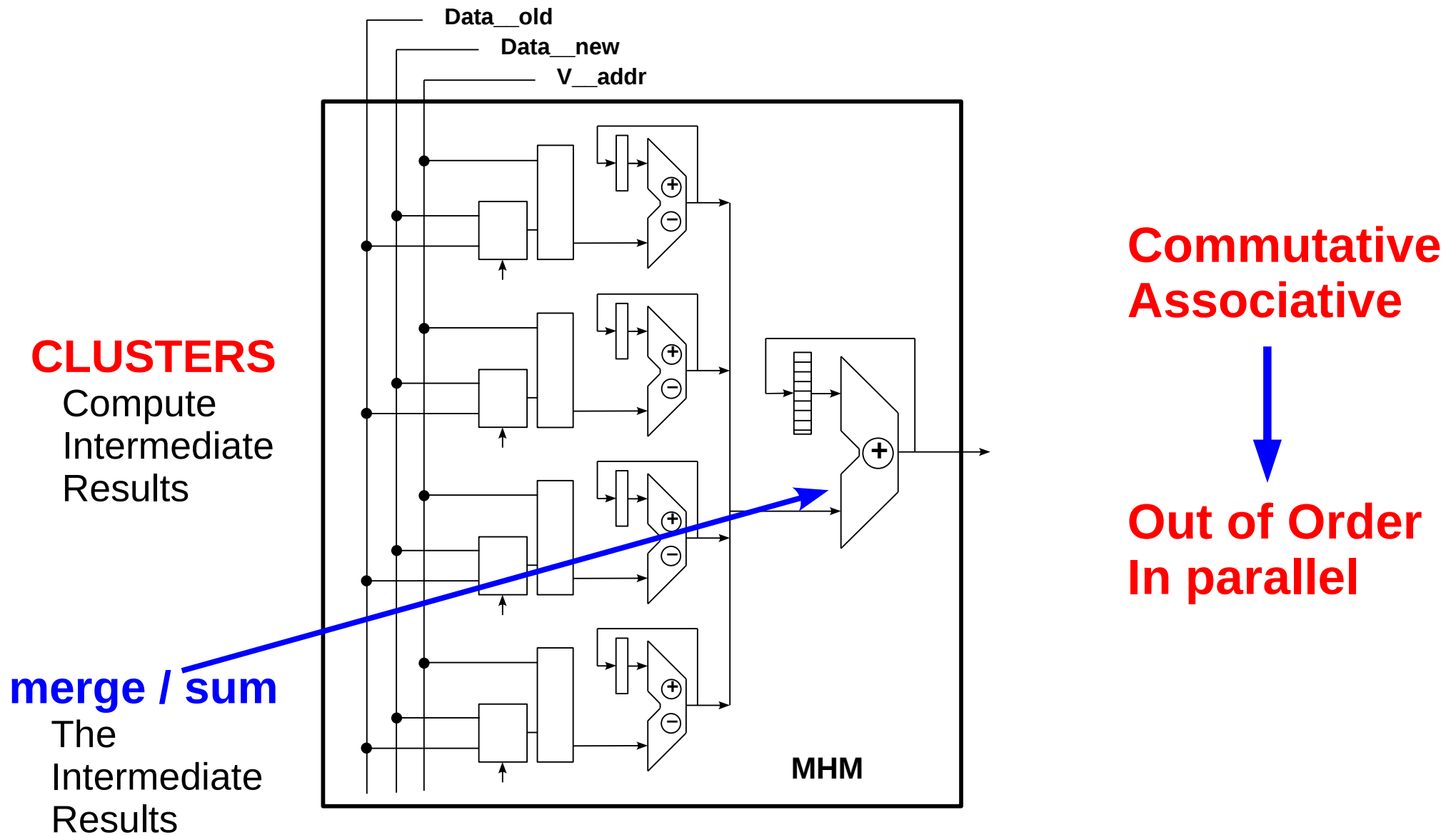
The  
Intermediate  
Results

Commutative  
Associative

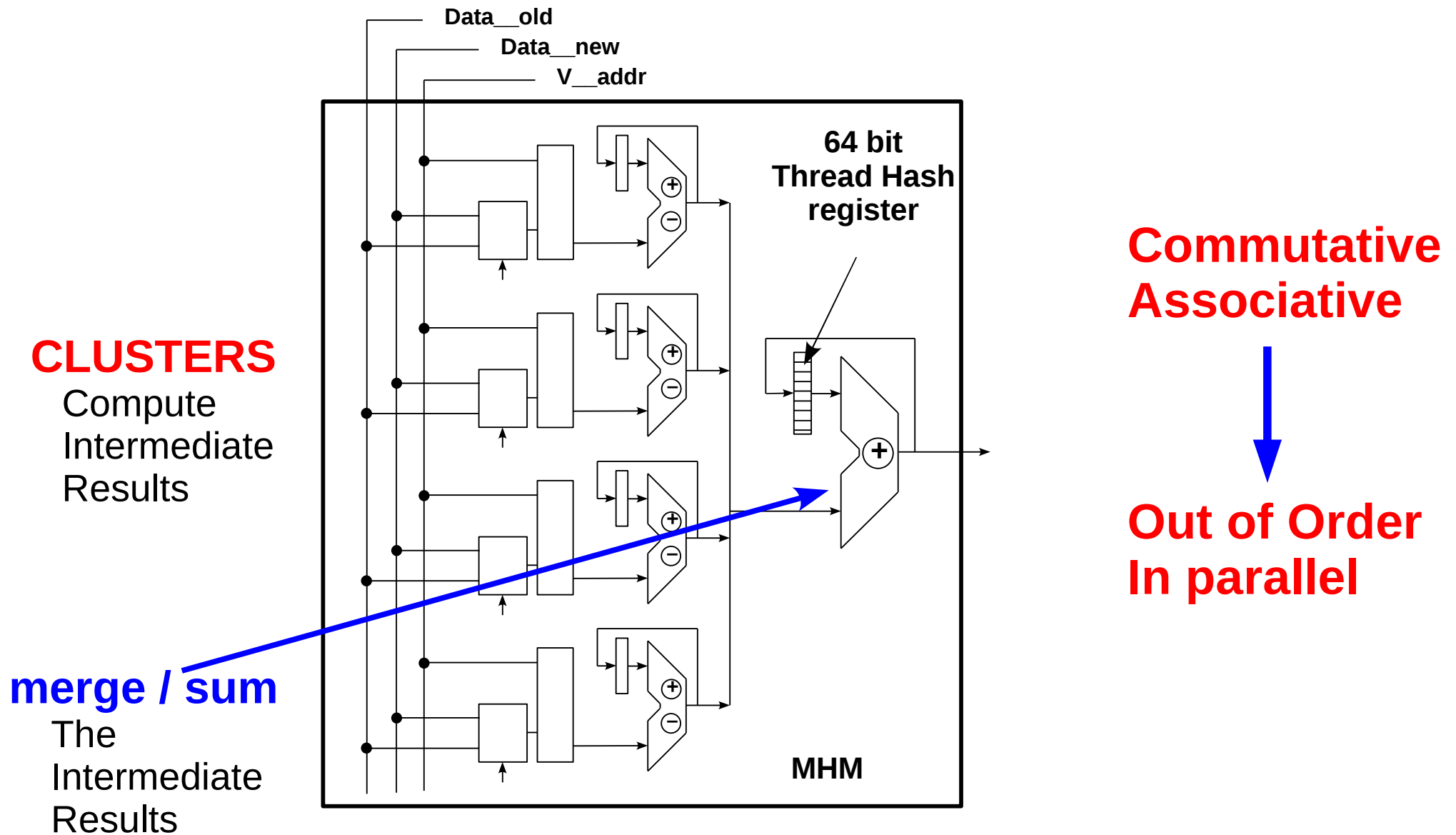


Out of Order  
In parallel

# Flexible Implementation Choices



# Flexible Implementation Choices



# Lightweight Hardware

---



# Lightweight Hardware

---

✓ Migrate



# Lightweight Hardware

---

- ✓ Migrate
- ✓ Virtualize





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  - ✓ Scalable
- } 1 reg = Save & Restore
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External determinism

Capturing state w/ Incremental Hashing

Hardware system

**Software system**

Other uses of hardware primitive

Evaluation

Conclusions



# Hashing in Software

---



# Hashing in Software

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- Can hash in SW
  - No special HW
  - Slower, but still reasonable



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  - Atomically get : Data\_Old, Data\_New



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- Traversal base hashing – SW-InstantCheck-Tr
  - Need type information: float, double, other



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- Incremental hashing – SW-InstantCheck-Inc
  - Atomically get : Data\_Old, Data\_New
- Traversal base hashing – SW-InstantCheck-Tr
  - Need type information: float, double, other
- I/O
  - Hash (e.g., CRC) the output stream



# Sources of nondeterminism (1)

---



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- We want to be aware and understand them



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  - But this is very positive:
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    - If they create nondeterminism
  - Concurrency bugs create nondeterminism
  - In our experiments, we found **real bug in PARSEC**



# Sources of nondeterminism (2)

---



# Sources of nondeterminism (2)

---

- Floating point precision limitation



# Sources of nondeterminism (2)

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- Previous example, if we used FP:

$$(G\_0 + L\_0) + L\_1 \neq G\_0 + (L\_0 + L\_1)$$



# Sources of nondeterminism (2)

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- Floating point precision limitation

- Previous example, if we used FP:

$$(G\_0 + L\_0) + L\_1 \neq G\_0 + (L\_0 + L\_1)$$

- Maybe the user wants to ignore this (or not)
  - Different users may have different preferences
  - We offer several options



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- Floating point precision limitation
  - Previous example, if we used FP:
$$(G\_0 + L\_0) + L\_1 \neq G\_0 + (L\_0 + L\_1)$$
  - Maybe the user wants to ignore this (or not)
    - Different users may have different preferences
    - We offer several options
  - Default option: round to nearest 0.001
    - In our experiments (many FP) this was effective





# Sources of nondeterminism (3)

---



# Sources of nondeterminism (3)

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- Small auxiliary data structures



# Sources of nondeterminism (3)

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  - e.g., 1 integer out of 10 MB of state
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    - Truly nondeterministic
      - Different size, different values, different order
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    - The nondeterministic memory is deallocated
    - But the dangling pointers remain part of the state
  - Solution: delete from hash (with the +/- technique)



# Sources of nondeterminism (4)

---



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- Truly nondeterministic algorithms
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    - From parallel execution point of view
    - **Local** random number generator (no shared state)
    - Number sequence: independent of other threads



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  - In fact, turns out this implementation is deterministic
    - From parallel execution point of view
    - **Local** random number generator (no shared state)
    - Number sequence: independent of other threads
  - Input nondeterminism = like in serial program



External determinism

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Hardware system

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**Other uses of hardware primitive**

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# Instantly Compare Memory States (1)

---



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- How can we use this ?



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    - Keep bug detection always – on



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  - Detect that a bug did occur = very fast
    - Keep bug detection always – on
  - If bug occurred (hopefully rare case) => go pin–point



# Instantly Compare Memory States (2)

---



# Instantly Compare Memory States (2)

---

- Systematic testing



# Instantly Compare Memory States (2)

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  - CHES, Microsoft Research
    - Found bugs that stress testing missed for **months**





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  - Currently, very conservative
    - This results in unnecessary exploring some states
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    - previous example: same state, different sync – order



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  - State comparison is very frequent operation
  - Currently, very conservative
    - This results in unnecessary exploring some states
    - state == synchronization – order
    - previous example: same state, different sync – order
  - May miss states (coverage):
    - Sync – order the same,
    - but if races => not same state



# Instantly Compare Memory States (3)

---



# **Instantly** Compare Memory States (3)

---

- Filtering out benign data races



# Instantly Compare Memory States (3)

---

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  - You know about a race, and ask:
    - “is this race benign?”



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  - You know about a race, and ask:
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  - If you flip that race
  - But after some time you reach the same state
  - This means the race is benign



# Instantly Compare Memory States (4)

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# Instantly Compare Memory States (4)

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- Deterministic replay



# Instantly Compare Memory States (4)

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- Deterministic replay
  - Classical approach:
    - save a very precise execution log
    - Replay using that log



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  - Classical approach:
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    - Replay using that log
  - Several recent proposals
    - Save partial log (e.g., just SYNCs)
    - At replay, search total log that generated the state



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- Deterministic replay
  - Classical approach:
    - save a very precise execution log
    - Replay using that log
  - Several recent proposals
    - Save partial log (e.g., just SYNCs)
    - At replay, search total log that generated the state
  - Can have hashes as part of the partial log
    - Guide the search at replay time
    - Detect replay failure



External determinism

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Hardware system

Software system

Other uses of hardware primitive

**Evaluation**

Conclusions



# Setup

---





# Setup

---

- Simulate the HW hashing module with PIN



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- 17 applications:
  - Sphinx3, PBZip2, PARSEC, SPLASH-2



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- Compare memory state at:
  - Program end, Barriers, Loop iteration (for 2 apps)



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- Simulate the HW hashing module with PIN
- 17 applications:
  - Sphinx3, PBZip2, PARSEC, SPLASH-2
- Run each application 30 times
- 8 Threads
- Compare memory state at:
  - Program end, Barriers, Loop iteration (for 2 apps)
- Randomizing thread scheduler
  - Like tools from Microsoft Research: PCT, CHES
  - But simple scheduling policy: random



# Determinism Characteristics

---



# Determinism Characteristics

---

## Application

blackscholes  
fft  
lu  
radix  
streamcluster  
swaptions  
volrend  
fluidanimate  
ocean  
waterNS  
waterSP  
cholesky  
pbzip2  
sphinx3  
barnes  
canneal  
radiosity





# Determinism Characteristics

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<u>Det Type</u>	<u>Application</u>
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Bit	lu
By	radix
Bit	streamcluster
	swaptions
	volrend
	fluidanimate
FP	ocean
prec	waterNS
	waterSP
Ignore	cholesky
Small	pbzip2
Structs	sphinx3
	barnes
	canneal
	radiosity



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	Bit	lu
	By	radix
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	FP	ocean
	prec	waterNS
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Free list	Ignore	cholesky
	Small	pbzip2
	Structs	sphinx3
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Free list	Ignore	cholesky
Dangling ptr	Small	pbzip2
	Structs	sphinx3
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Free list	Ignore	cholesky
Dangling ptr	Small	pbzip2
4% mem	Structs	sphinx3
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	Bit	lu
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# Determinism Characteristics

	Det Type	Application	First Ndet Run (b-b-b)
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		fft	
		lu	
		radix	
		streamcluster	
		swaptions	
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	FP prec	fluidanimate	
		ocean	
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Free list Dangling ptr 4% mem	Ignore	cholesky	
	Small	pbzip2	
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Det Type	Application	First Ndet Run (b-b-b)
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	lu	—
	radix	—
	streamcluster	—
	swaptions	—
	volrend	—
FP prec	fluidanimate	
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Free list Dangling ptr 4% mem	Ignore	cholesky
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	Bit	lu	—
	By	radix	—
	Bit	streamcluster	—
		swaptions	—
		volrend	—
		fluidanimate	2
	FP	ocean	3
	prec	waterNS	3
		waterSP	2
Free list	Ignore	cholesky	3
Dangling ptr	Small	pbzip2	2
4% mem	Structs	sphinx3	2
		barnes	2
	NDet	canneal	2
		radiosity	2



# Determinism Characteristics

	Det Type	Application	First Ndet Run (b-b-b)	# Dyn check points
		blackscholes	—	
		fft	—	
	Bit	lu	—	
	By	radix	—	
	Bit	streamcluster	—	
		swaptions	—	
		volrend	—	
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Det Type	Application	First Ndet	# Dyn check points	
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Bit By Bit	blackscholes	—	101	0
	fft	—	13	0
	lu	—	68	0
	radix	—	12	0
	streamcluster	—	12928	<b>74</b>
	swaptions	—	2501	0
	volrend	—	6	0
FP prec	fluidanimate	2	41	0
	ocean	3	871	0
	waterNS	3	21	0
	waterSP	2	21	0
Free list Dangling ptr 4% mem	Ignore	3	4	0
	Small	2	1	0
	Structs	2	4265	0
NDet	barnes	2		
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**PARSEC  
BUG**



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	canneal	2	0	64
	radiosity	2	0	19

**PARSEC  
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14 out of 17 apps are externally deterministic





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14 out of 17 apps are externally deterministic

Even though they were not written for determinism (but high performance)



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14 out of 17 apps are externally deterministic

Even though they were not written for determinism (but high performance)

Variety of thread communication, global variables, benign races, floating point



# Distribution of Nondeterminism

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# Distribution of Nondeterminism

---

- Previous slide: find NonDet in 2 – 3 runs



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---

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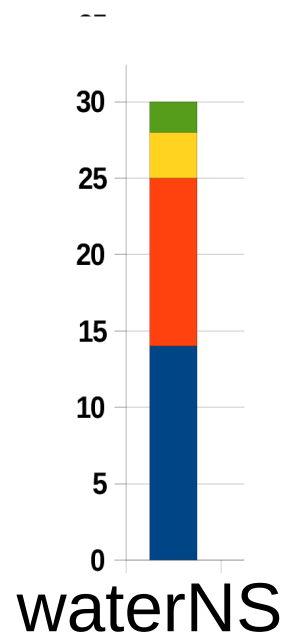
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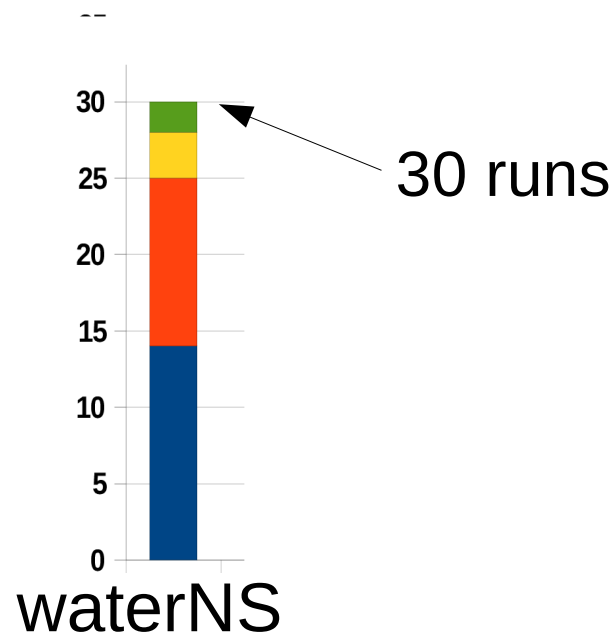




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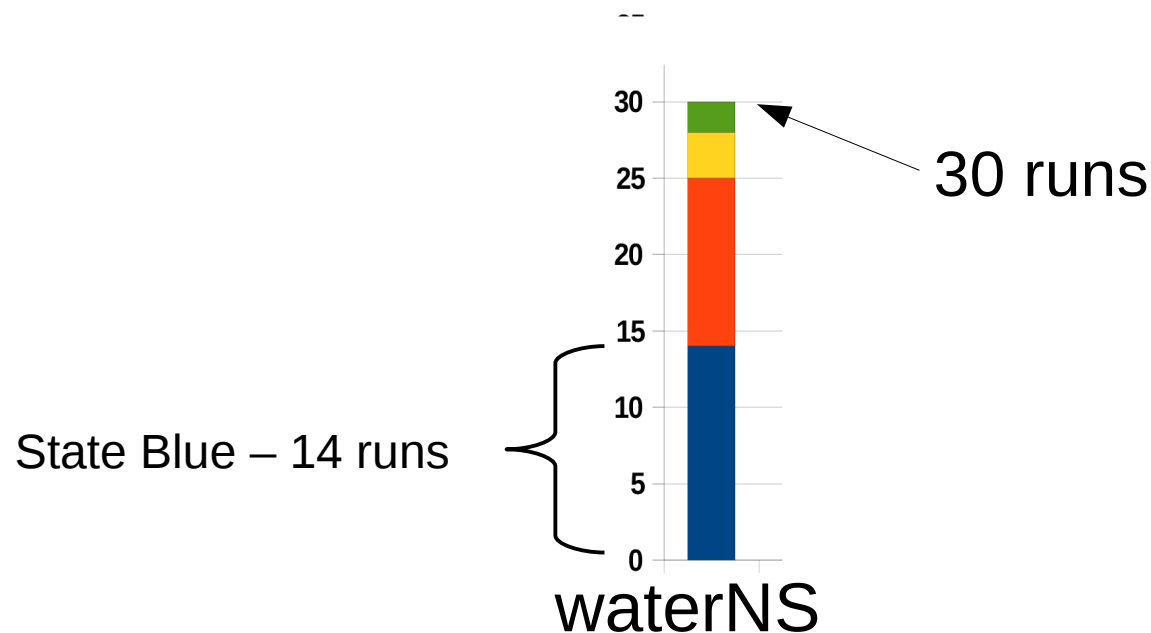
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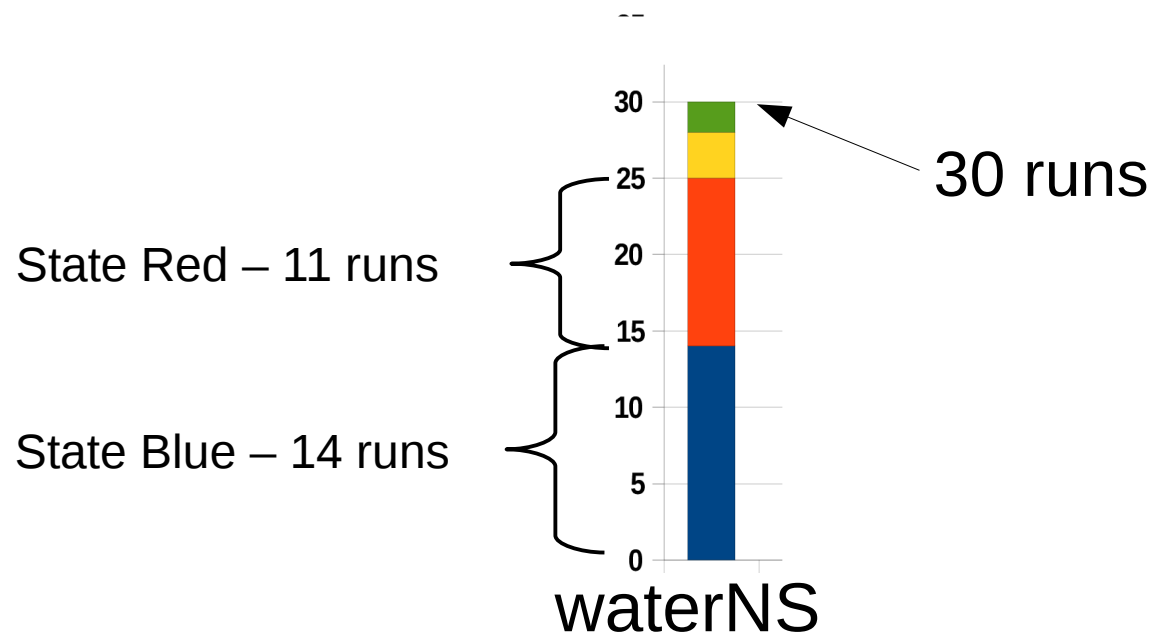
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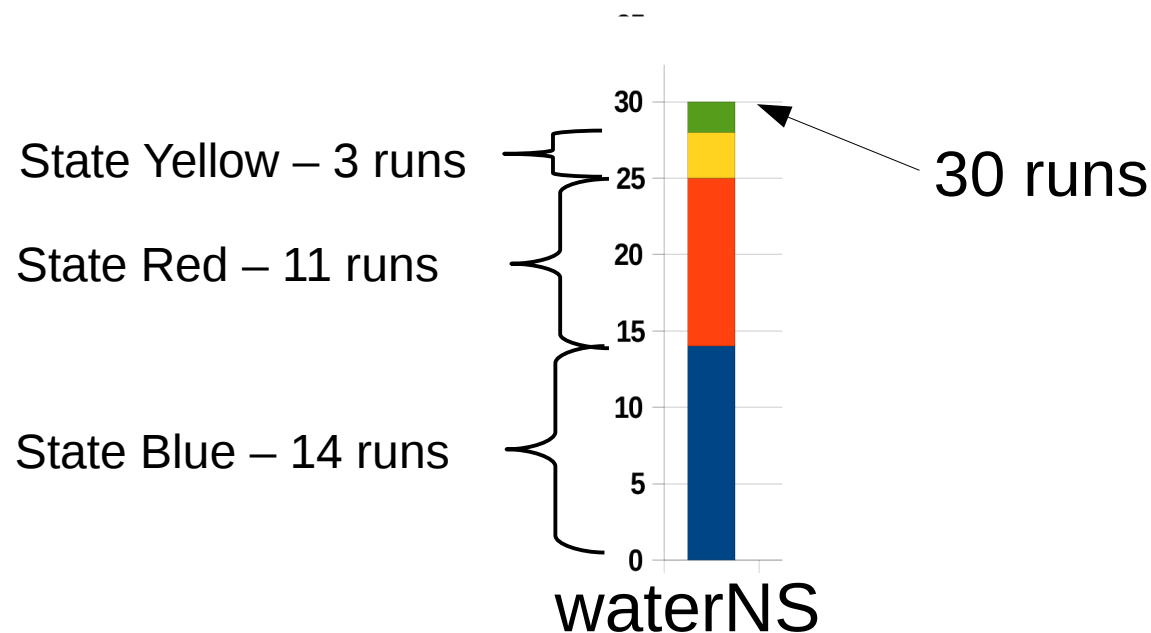
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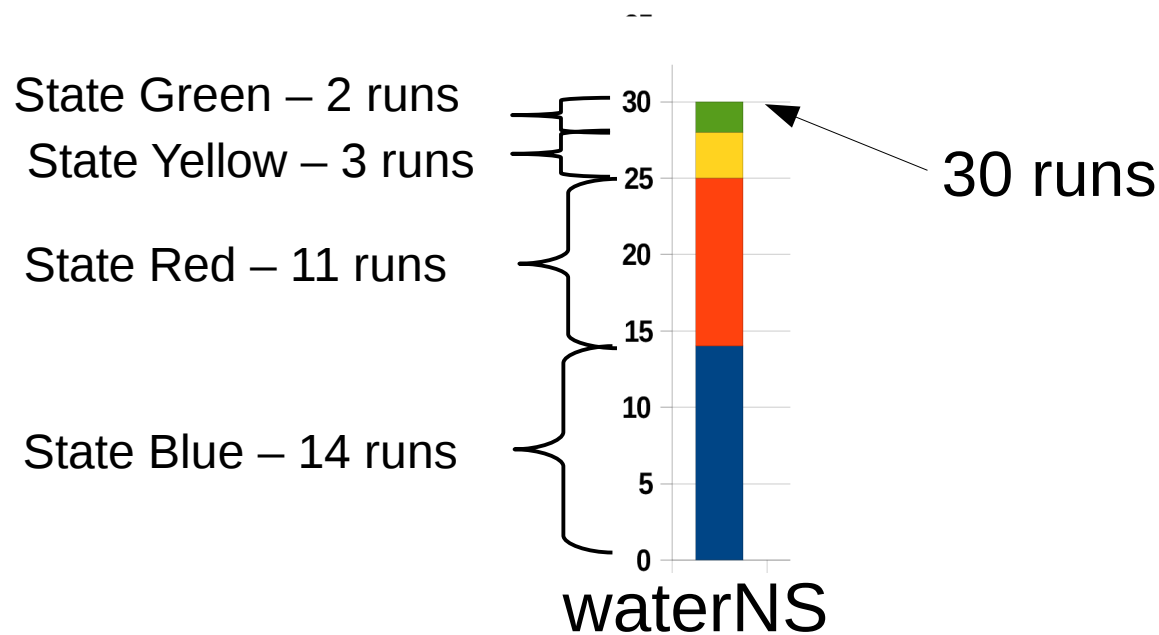
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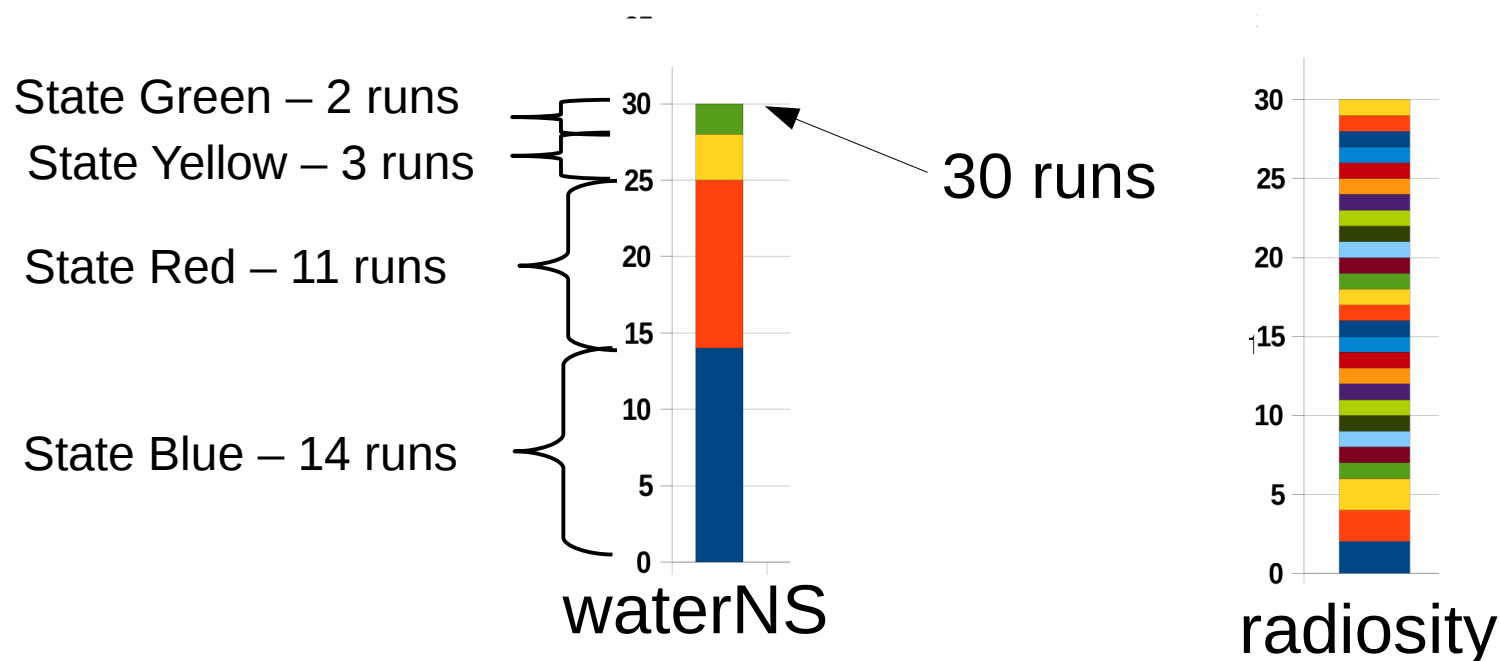
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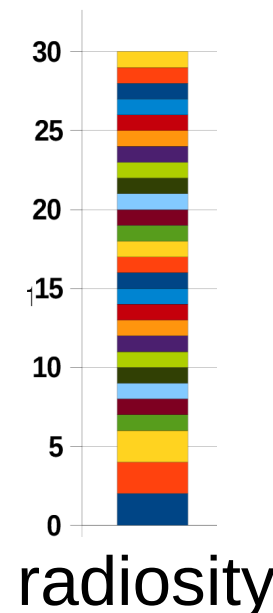
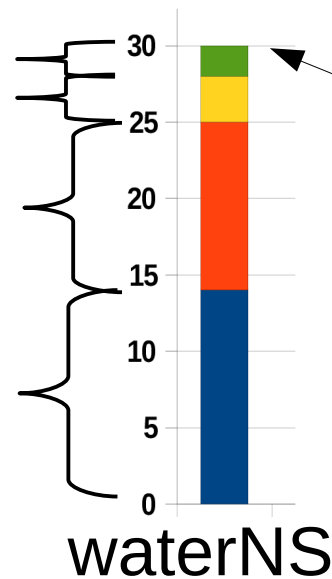
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- **Scattered => high chances of finding Nondeterminism**

State Green – 2 runs  
State Yellow – 3 runs  
State Red – 11 runs  
State Blue – 14 runs



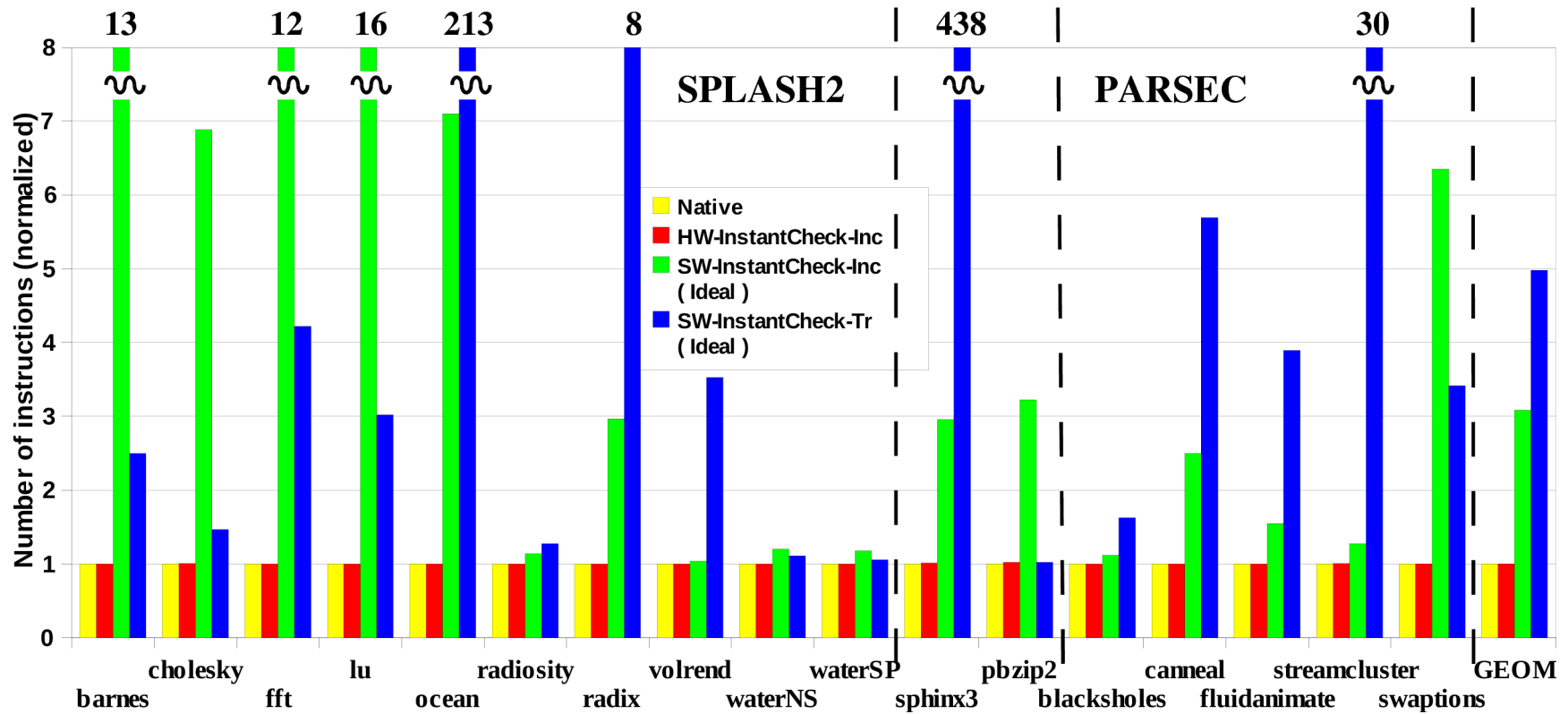
# Overhead

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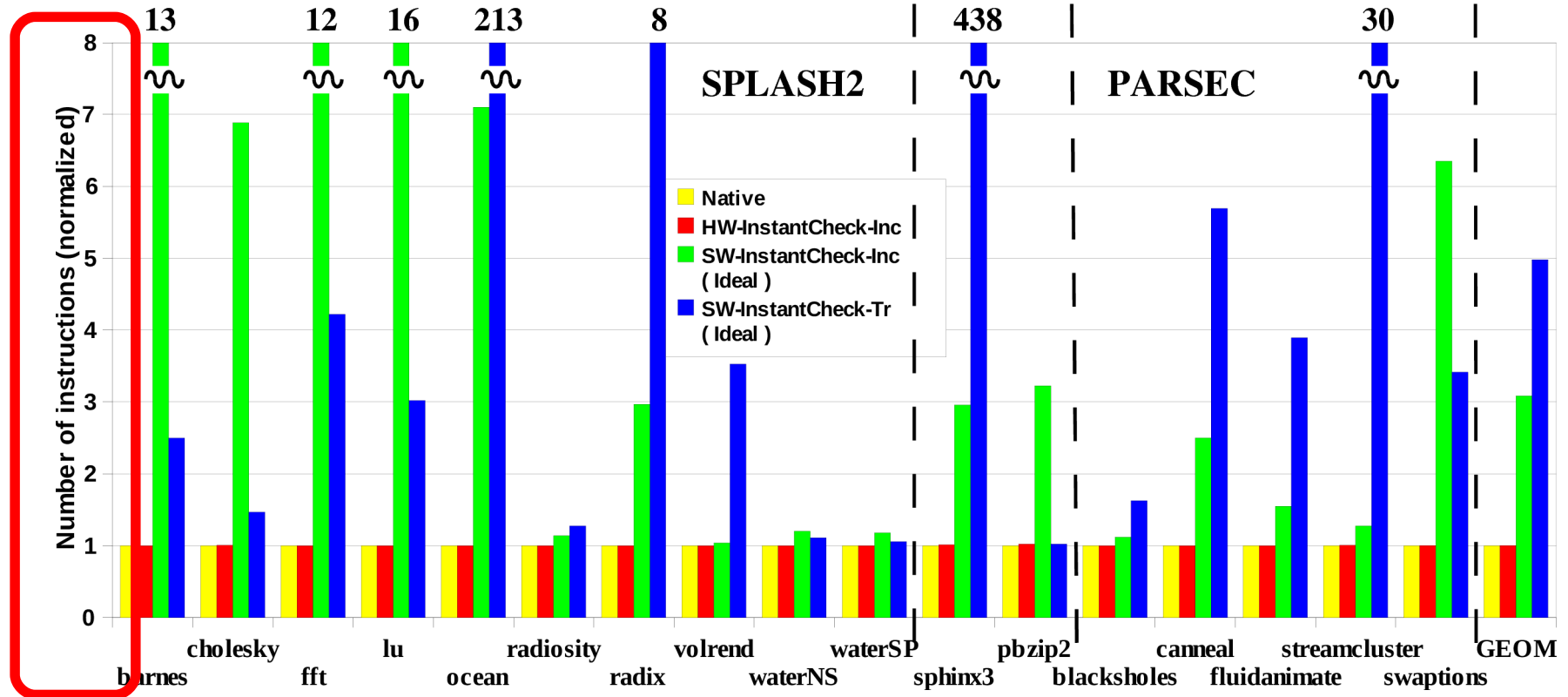




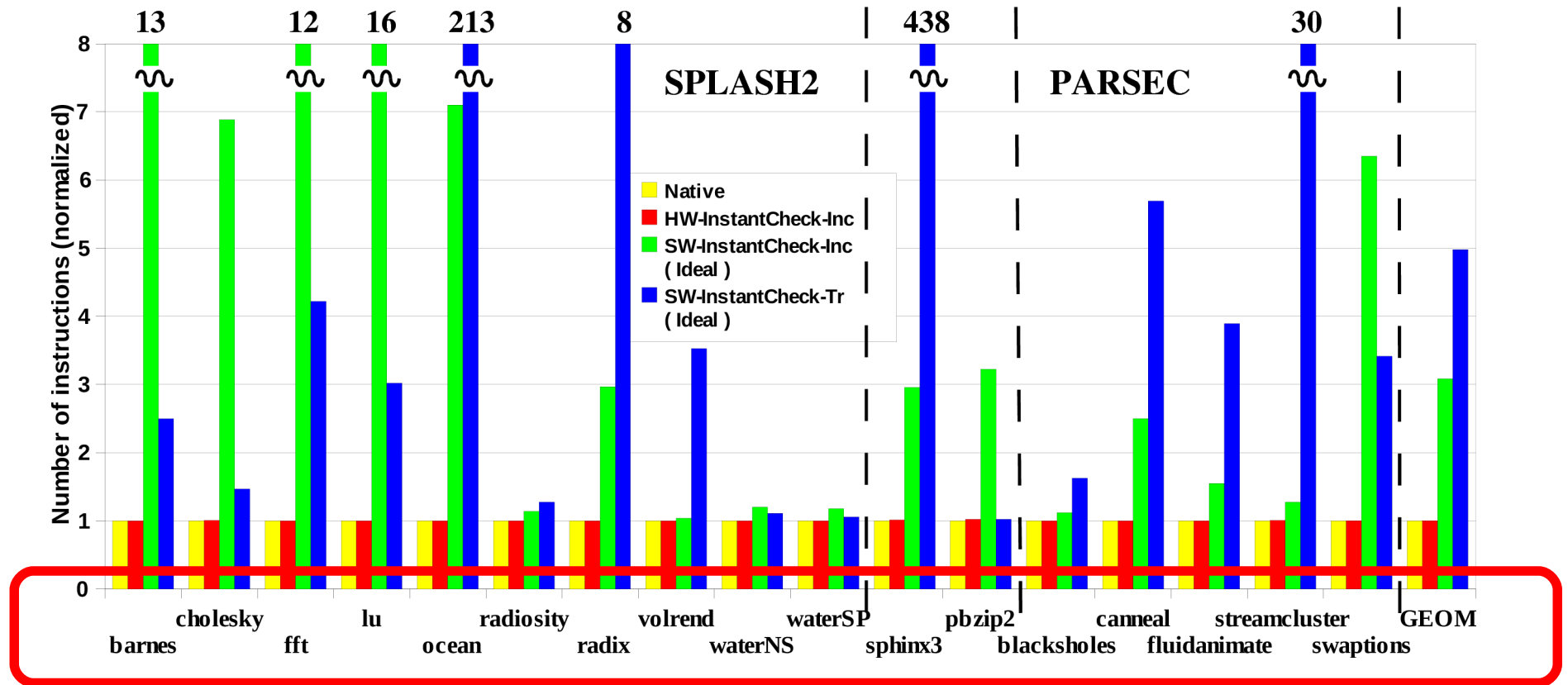
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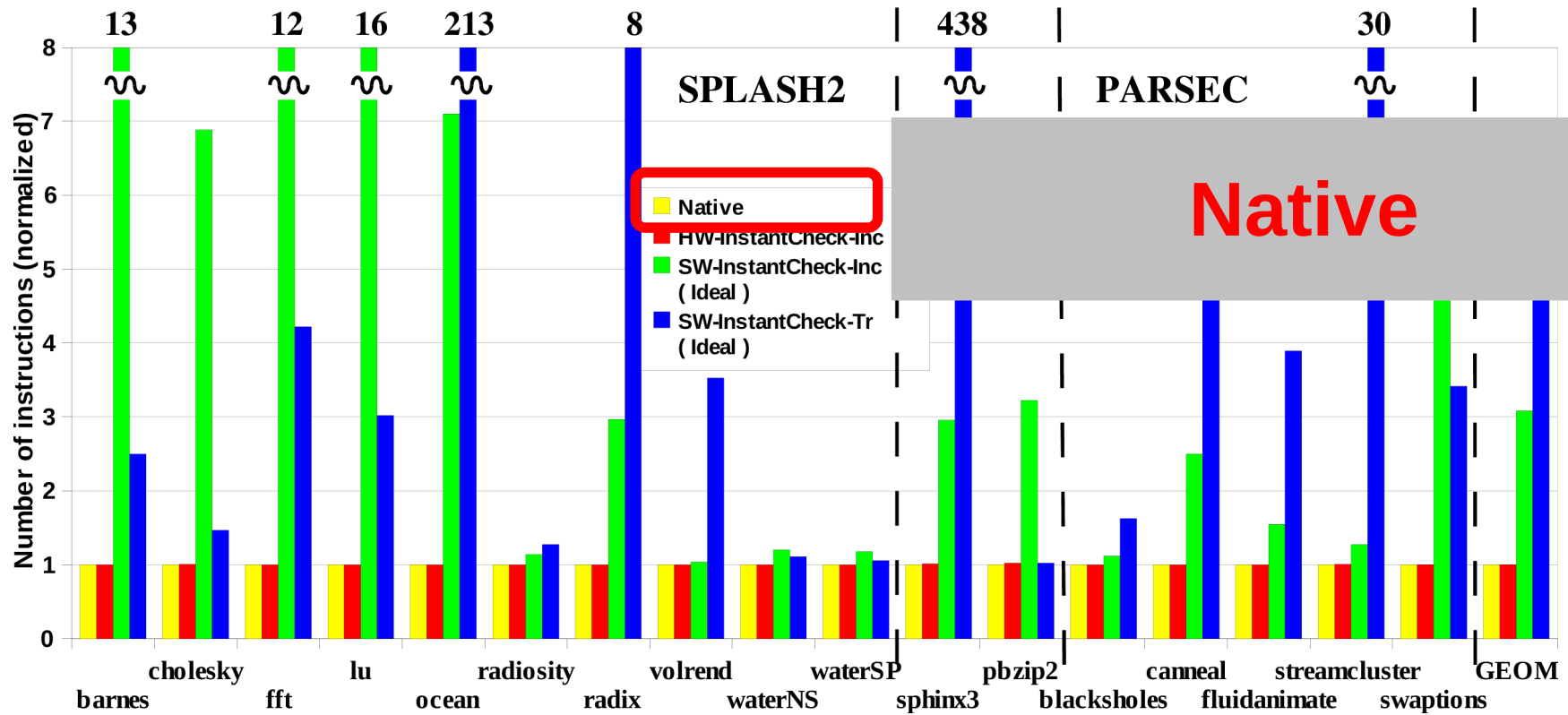
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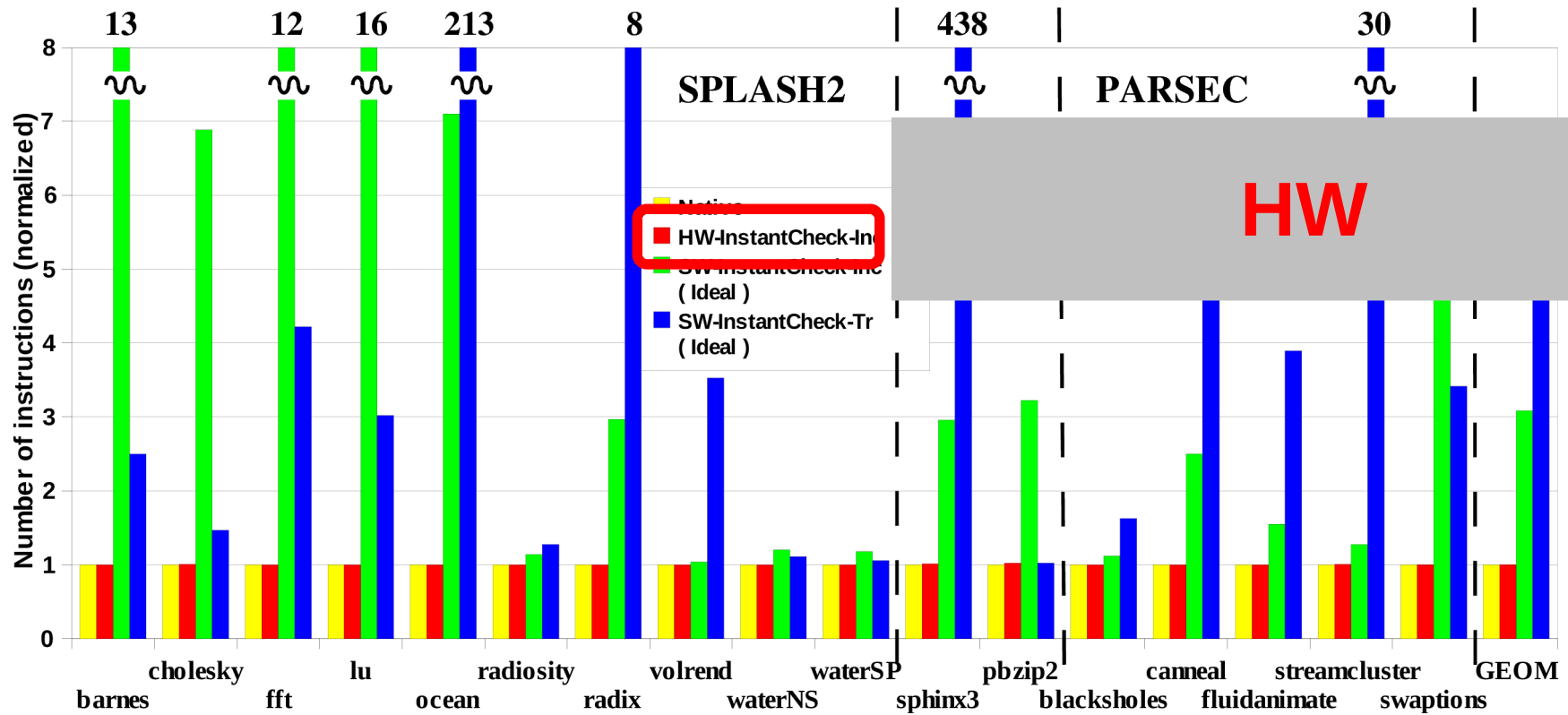
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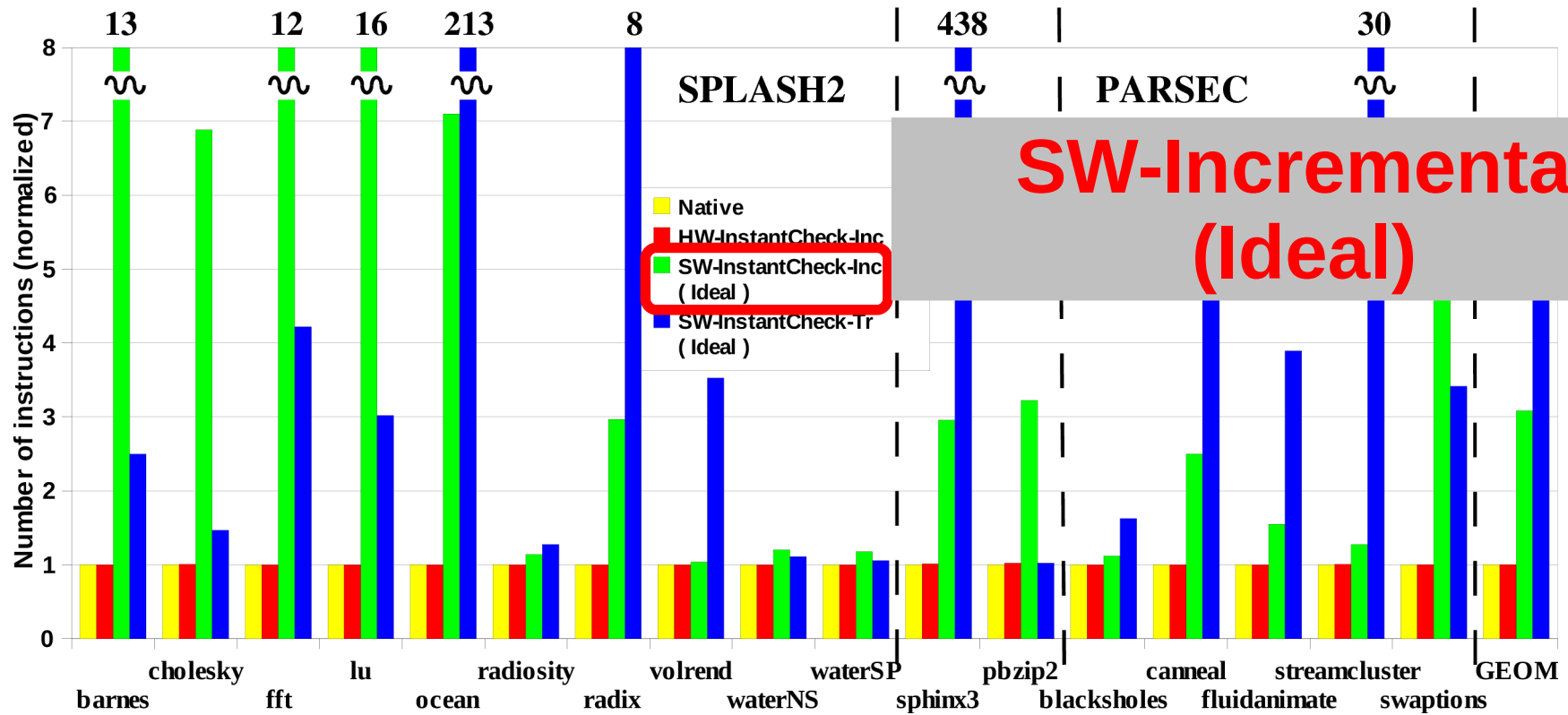
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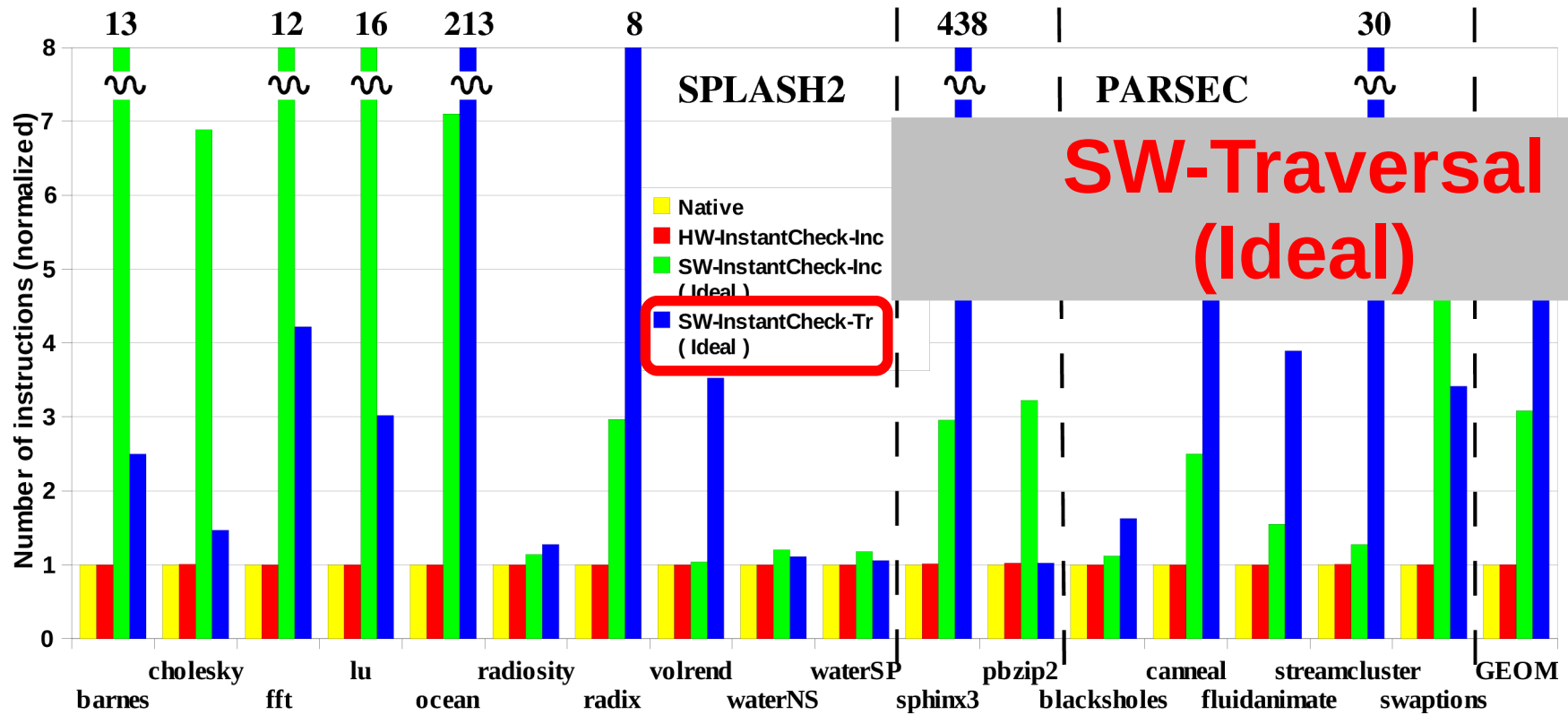
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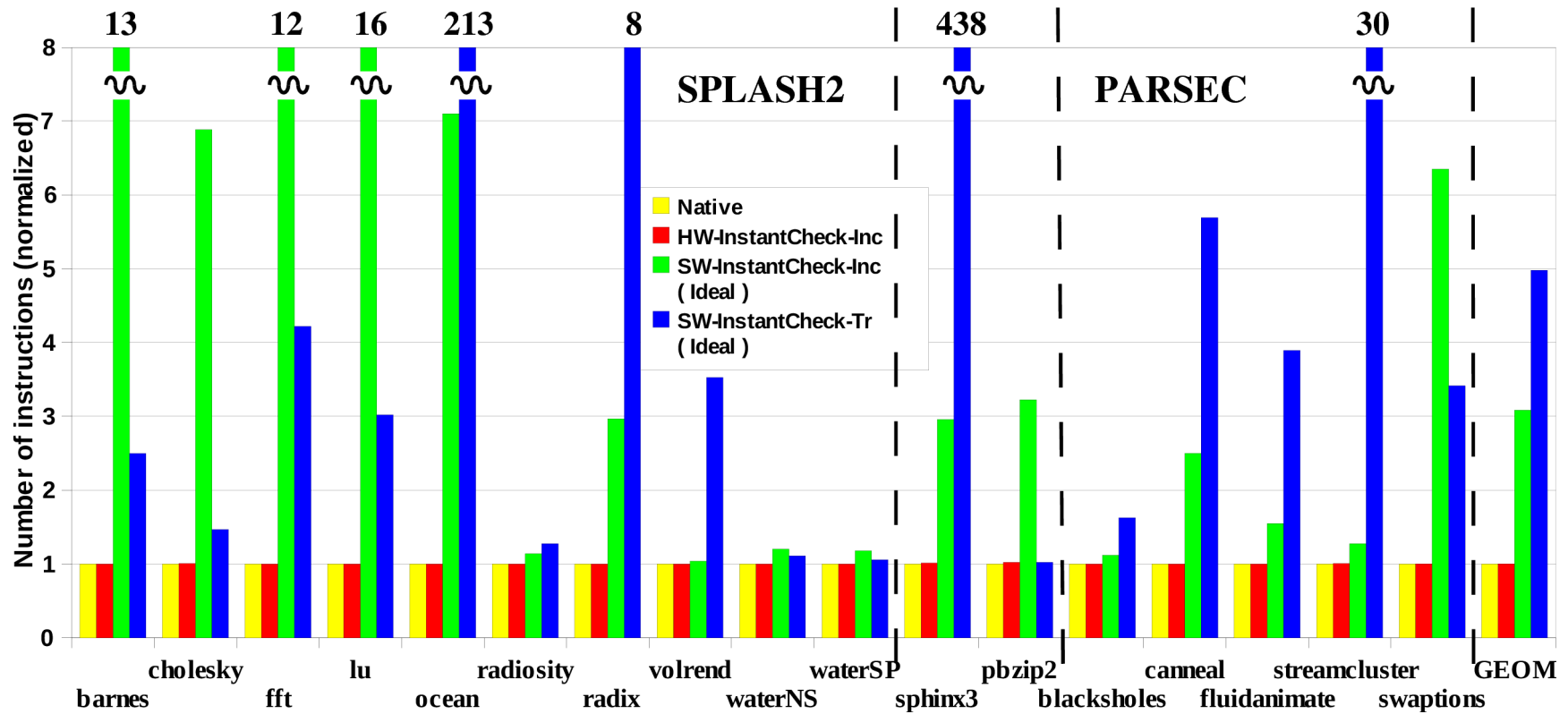
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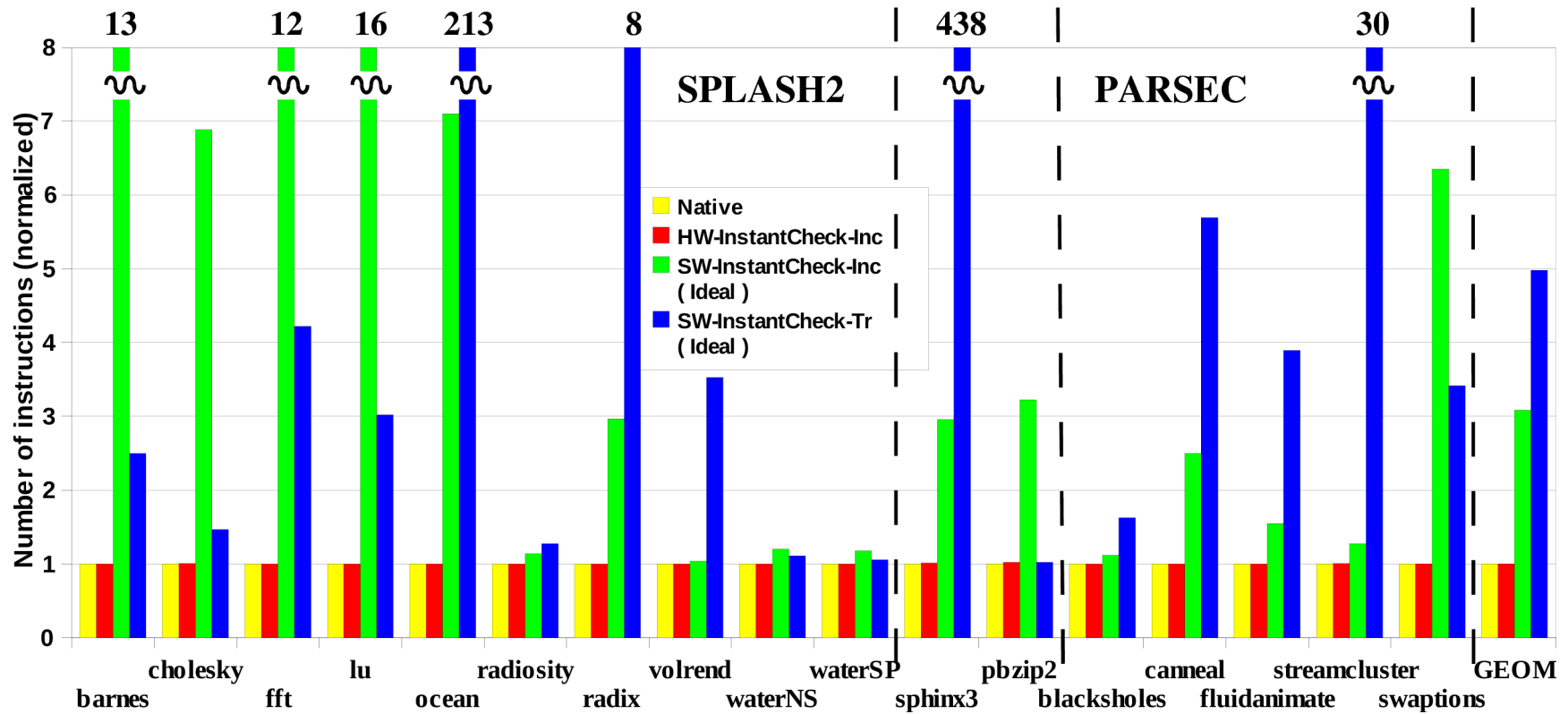


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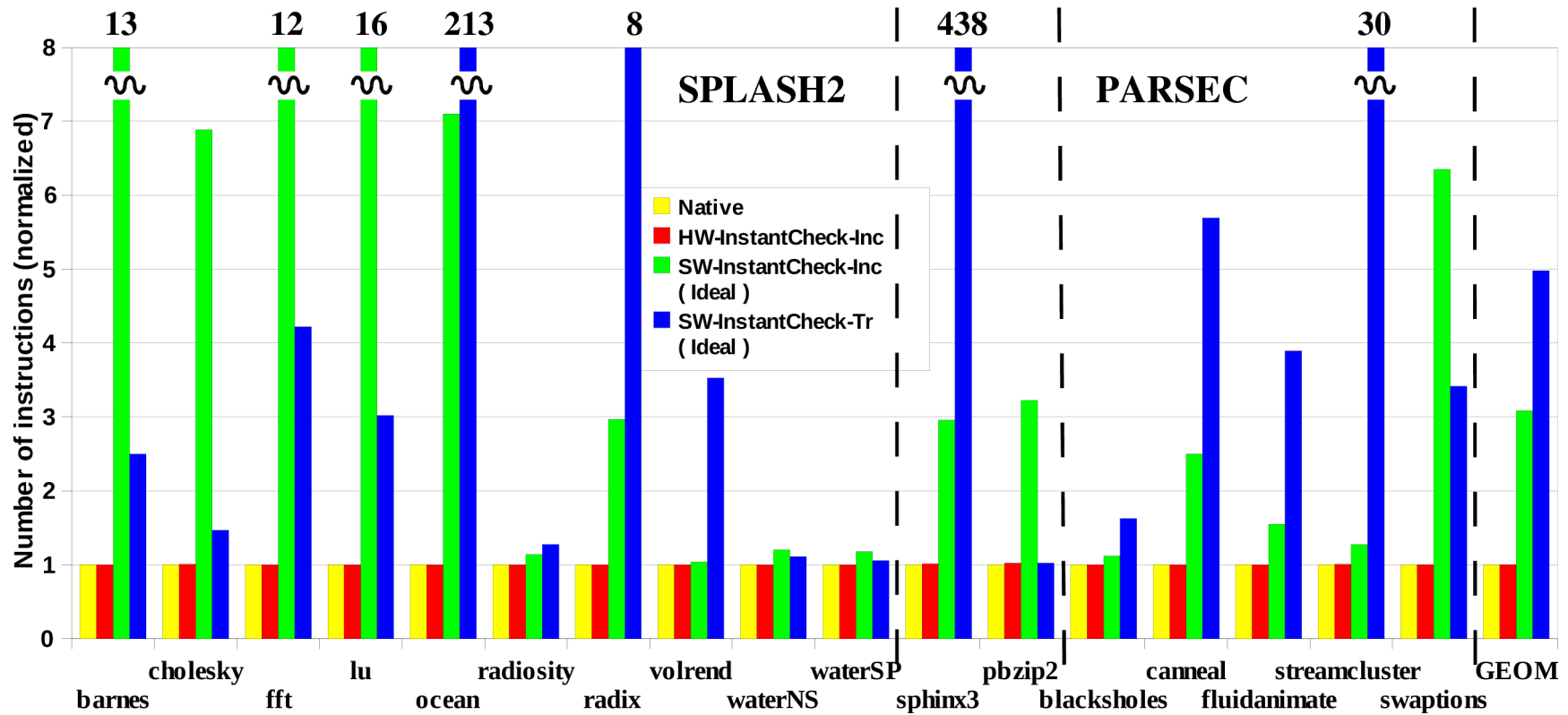
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- HW: 0.3 % -> always-on



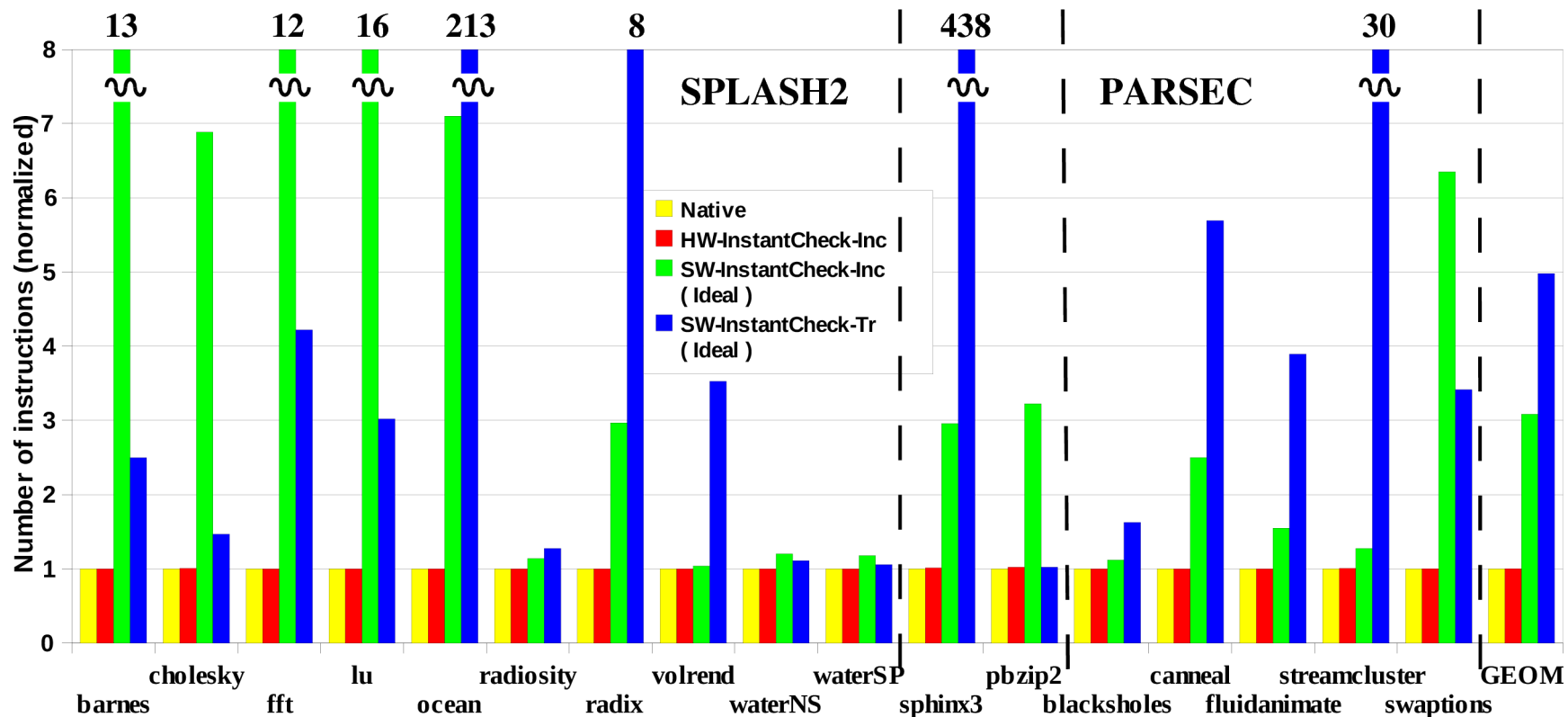
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- HW: 0.3 % -> always-on
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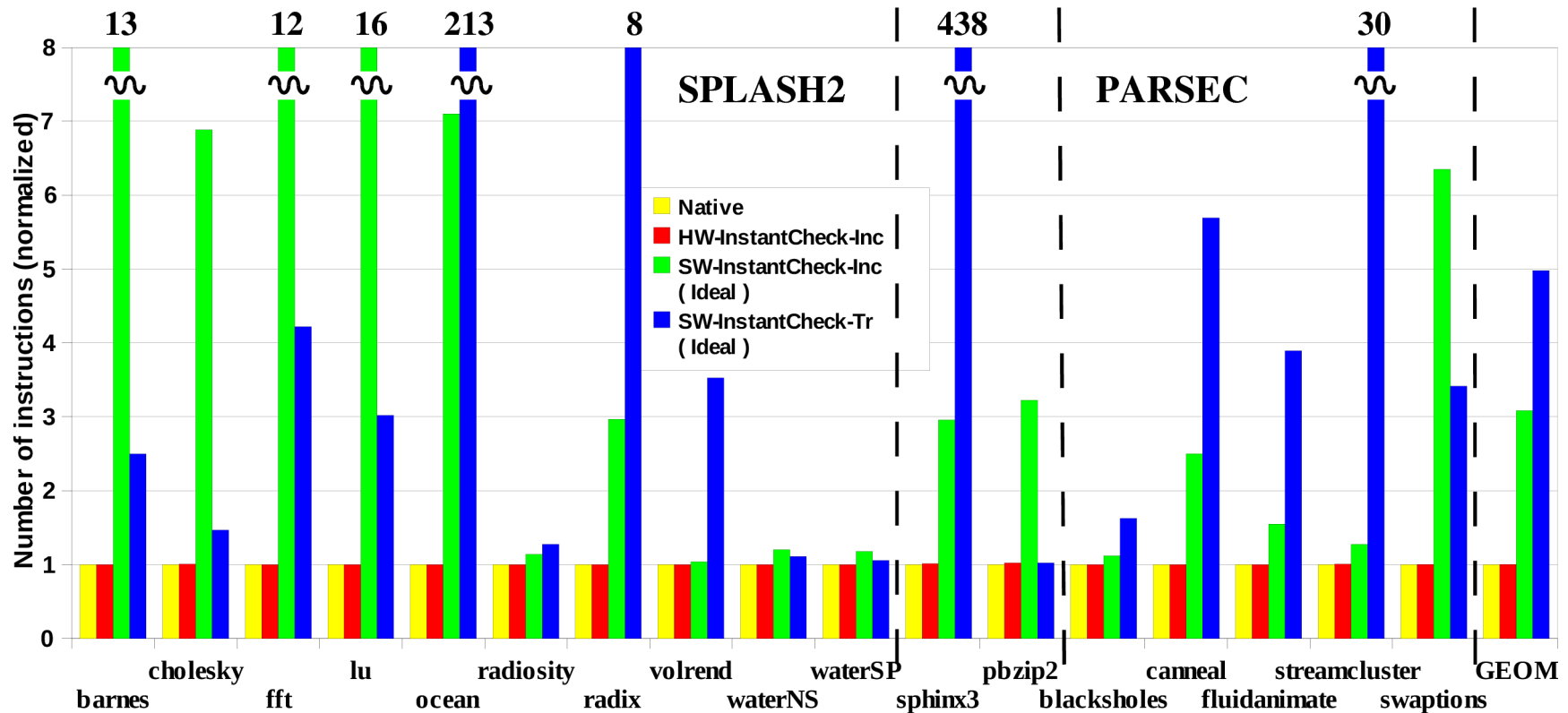
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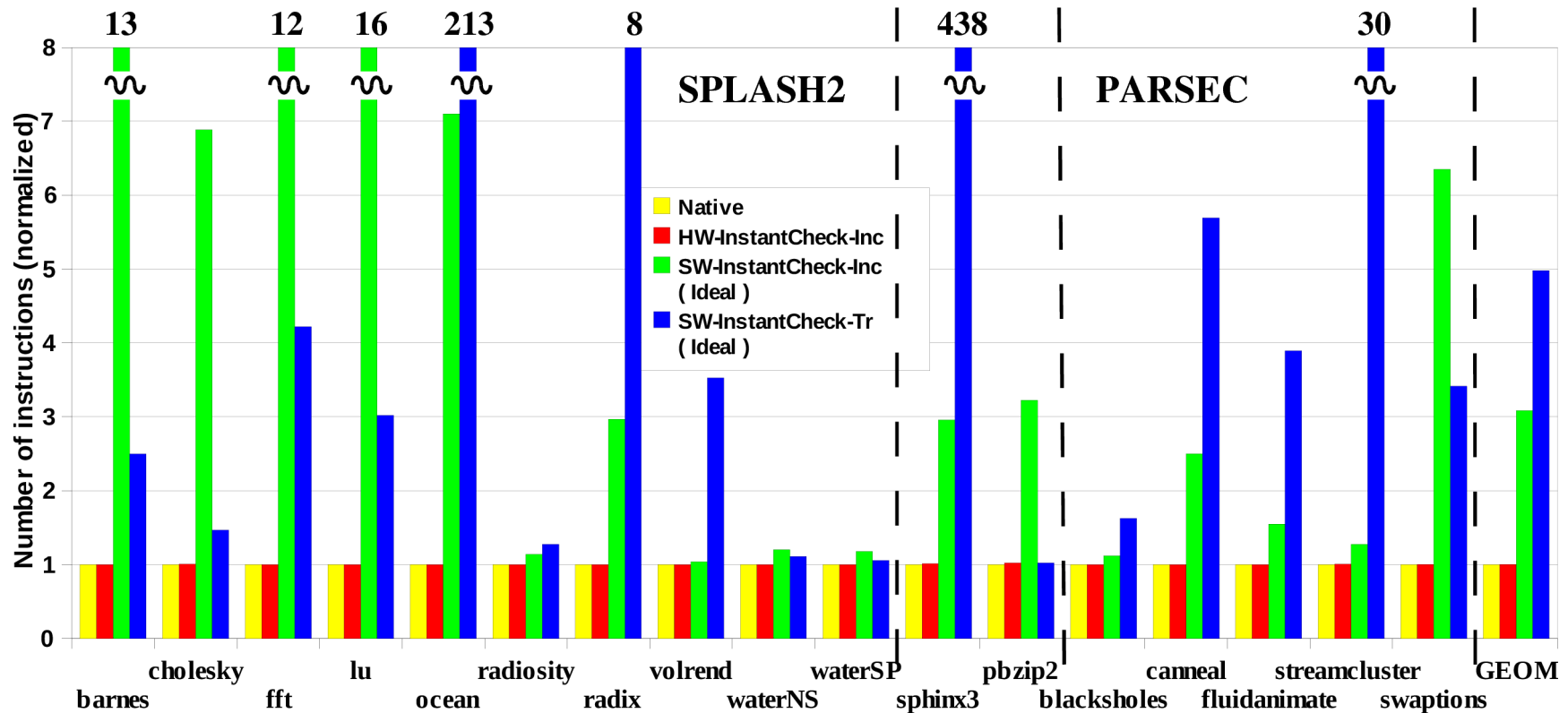
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  - Very reasonable if you don't have the HW support
  - For some apps, one of SW-Incremental or SW-Traversal is clearly better
  - Should choose the appropriate one



External determinism

Capturing state w/ Incremental Hashing

Hardware system

Software system

Other uses of hardware primitive

Evaluation

# Conclusions



# Hardware Hashing

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# Hardware Hashing

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- Powerful, versatile and lightweight primitive





# Hardware Hashing

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- This paper — **execution state**



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# Hardware Hashing

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  - Checking determinism, detecting software bugs
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  - Java serial programs
  - Several testing and debugging tasks
- Other operations, other information, other applications ?



# InstantCheck

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---

- Check external determinism with low overhead



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- Lightweight hardware
  - **Instantly** compare memory state



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  - High – performance hardware implementation
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- Present four other applications of HW primitive





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  - Not written for determinism (but high performance)
- Helped us find a real bug in PARSEC



InstantCheck:  
Checking the determinism of parallel  
programs using  
on-the-fly incremental hashing

---

**Adrian Nistor**, Darko Marinov, Josep Torrellas

MICRO '10

