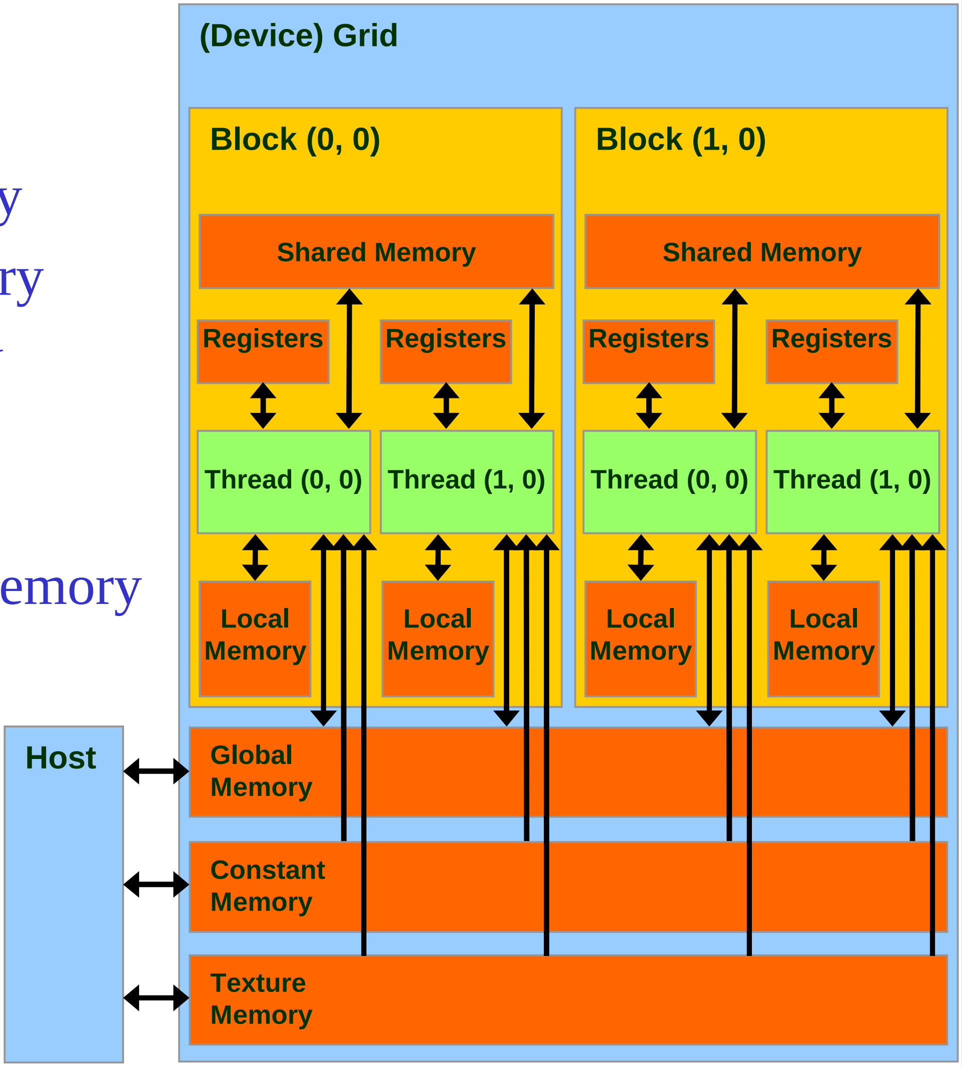
ECE 498AL

Lectures 9:
Memory Hardware in G80

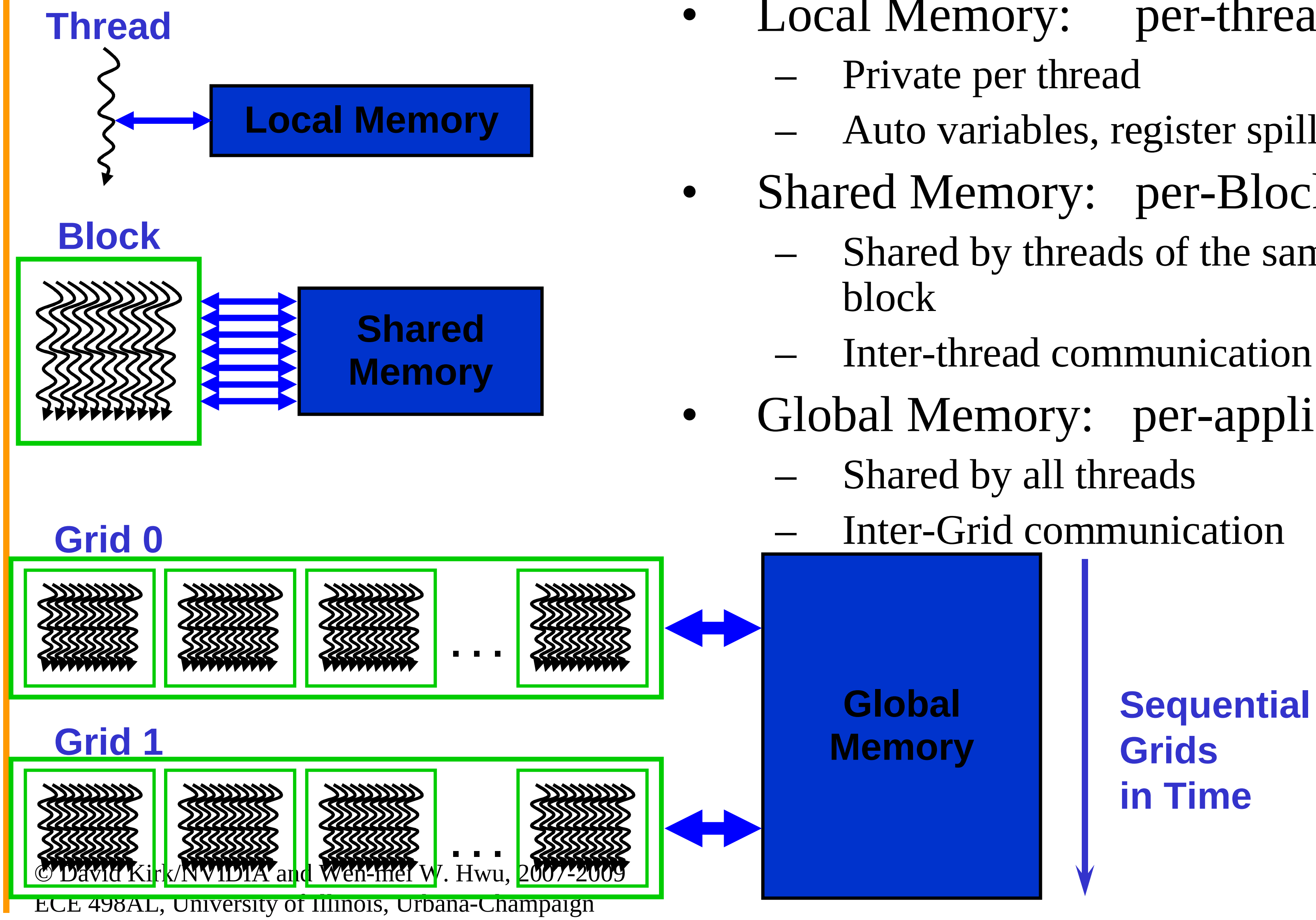
CUDA Device Memory Space: Review

- Each thread can:
  - R/W per-thread registers
  - R/W per-thread local memory
  - R/W per-block shared memory
  - R/W per-grid global memory
  - Read only per-grid constant memory
  - Read only per-grid texture memory
- The host can R/W global, constant, and texture memories

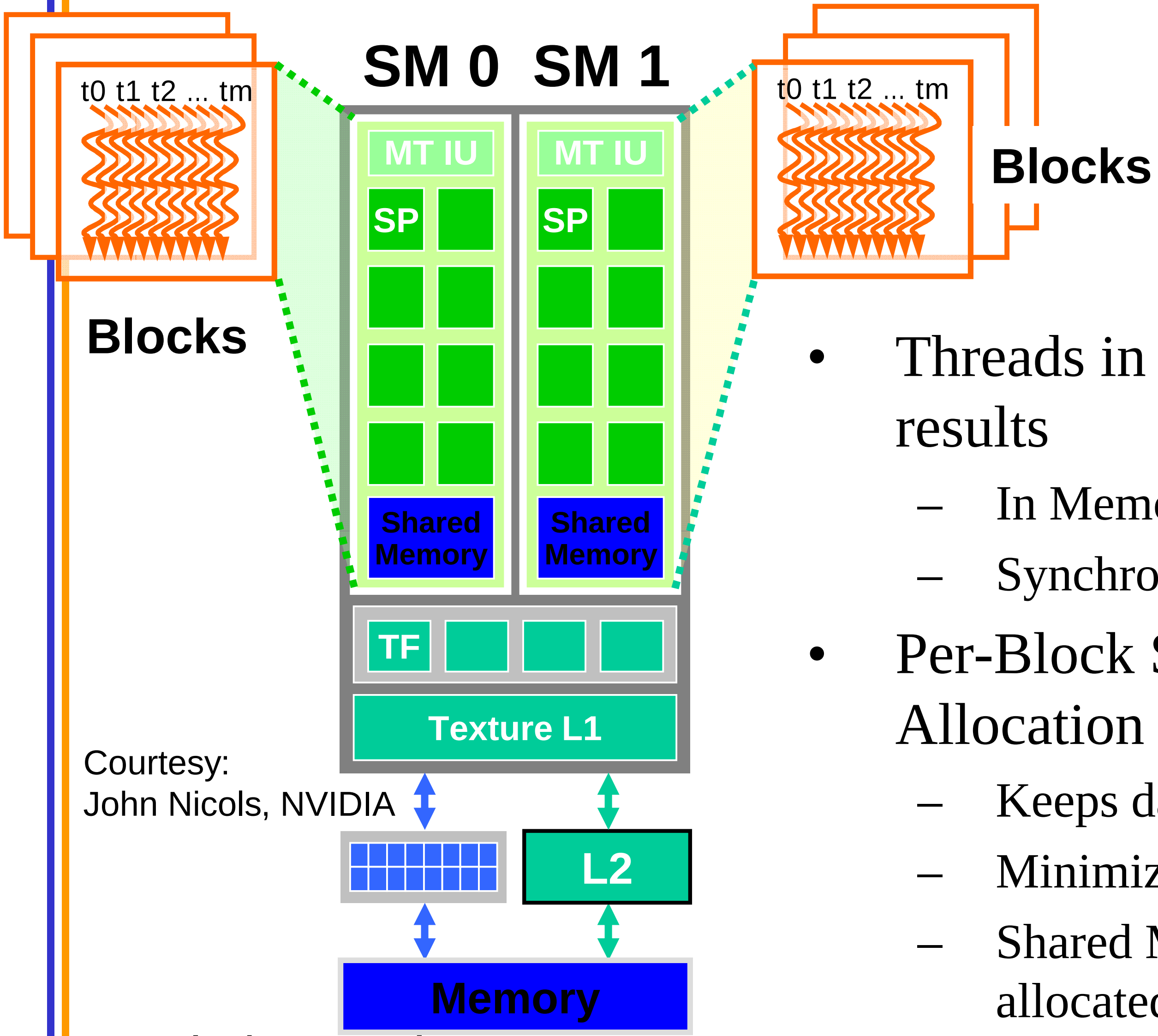


Parallel Memory Sharing

- Local Memory: per-thread
  - Private per thread
  - Auto variables, register spill
- Shared Memory: per-Block
  - Shared by threads of the same block
  - Inter-thread communication
- Global Memory: per-application
  - Shared by all threads
  - Inter-Grid communication



SM Memory Architecture

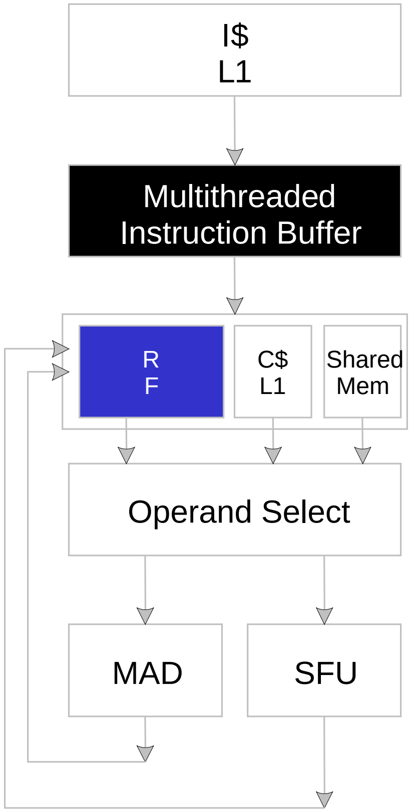


Courtesy:
John Nicols, NVIDIA

- Threads in a block share data & results
  - In Memory and Shared Memory
  - Synchronize at barrier instruction
- Per-Block Shared Memory Allocation
  - Keeps data close to processor
  - Minimize trips to global Memory
  - Shared Memory is dynamically allocated to blocks, one of the limiting resources

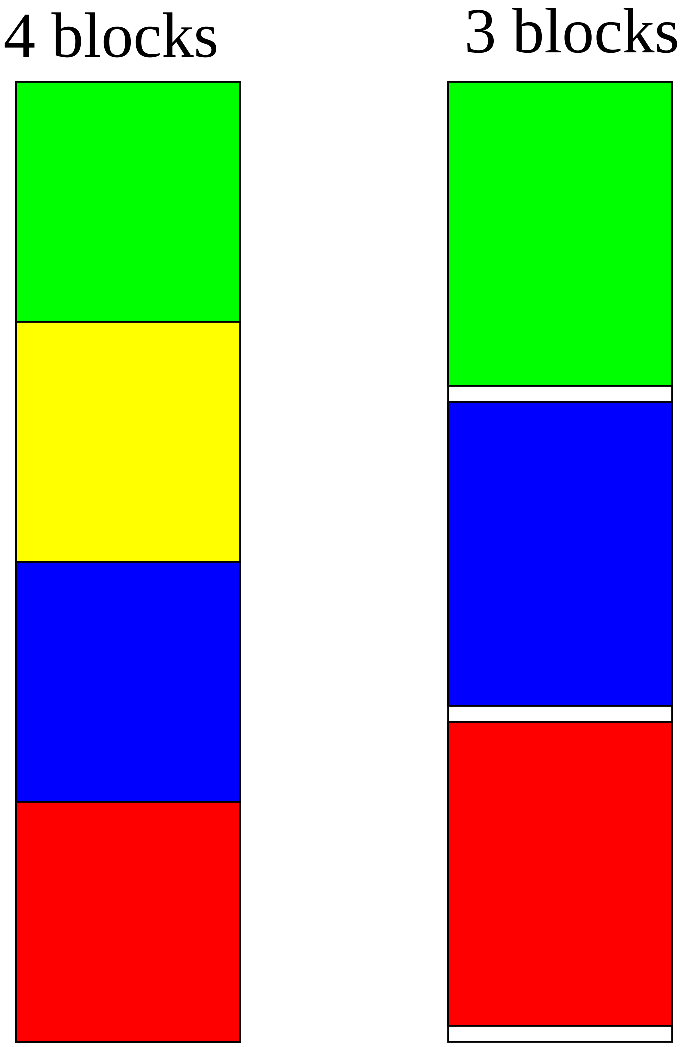
SM Register File

- Register File (RF)
  - 32 KB (8K entries) for each SM in G80
- TEX pipe can also read/write RF
  - 2 SMs share 1 TEX
- Load/Store pipe can also read/write RF



Programmer View of Register File

- There are 8192 registers in each SM in G80
  - This is an implementation decision, not part of CUDA
  - Registers are dynamically partitioned across all blocks assigned to the SM
  - Once assigned to a block, the register is NOT accessible by threads in other blocks
  - Each thread in the same block only access registers assigned to itself



Matrix Multiplication Example

- If each Block has 16X16 threads and each thread uses 10 registers, how many thread can run on each SM?
  - Each block requires 10*256 = 2560 registers
  - 8192 = **3** * 2560 + change
  - So, three blocks can run on an SM as far as registers are concerned
- How about if each thread increases the use of registers by 1?
  - Each Block now requires 11*256 = 2816 registers
  - 8192 < 2816 *3
  - Only two Blocks can run on an SM, **1/3 reduction of parallelism**!!!

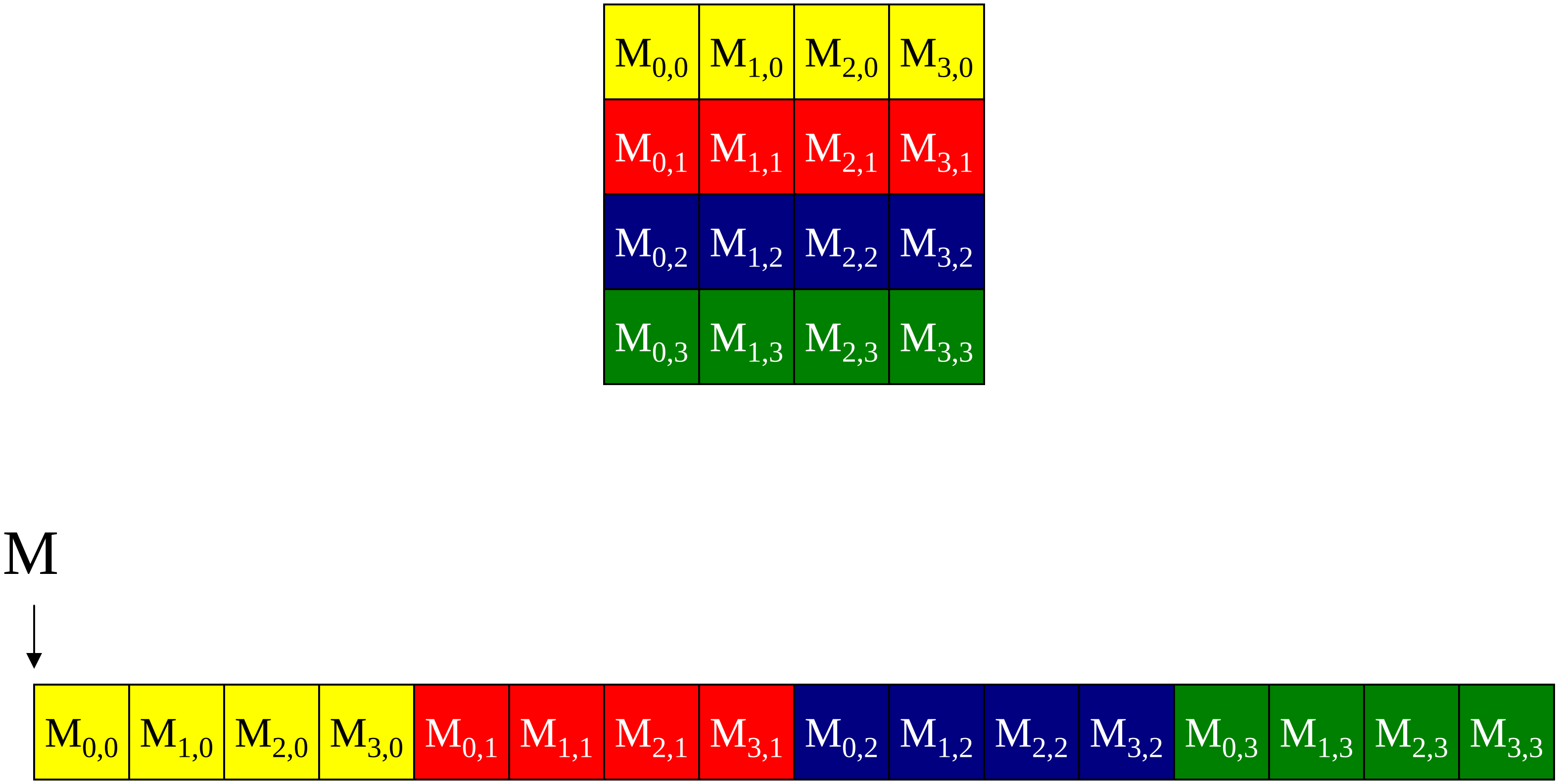
More on Dynamic Partitioning

- Dynamic partitioning gives more flexibility to compilers/programmers
  - One can run a smaller number of threads that require many registers each or a large number of threads that require few registers each
    - This allows for finer grain threading than traditional CPU threading models.
  - The compiler can tradeoff between instruction-level parallelism and thread level parallelism

ILP vs. TLP Example

- Assume that a kernel has 256-thread Blocks, 4 independent instructions for each global memory load in the thread program, and each thread uses 10 registers, global laods have 200 cycles
  - 3 Blocks can run on each SM
- If a compiler can use one more register to change the dependence pattern so that 8 independent instructions exist for each global memory load
  - Only two can run on each SM
  - However, one only needs 200/(8*4) = 7 Warps to tolerate the memory latency
  - Two blocks have 16 Warps. The performance can be actually higher!

Memory Layout of a Matrix in C

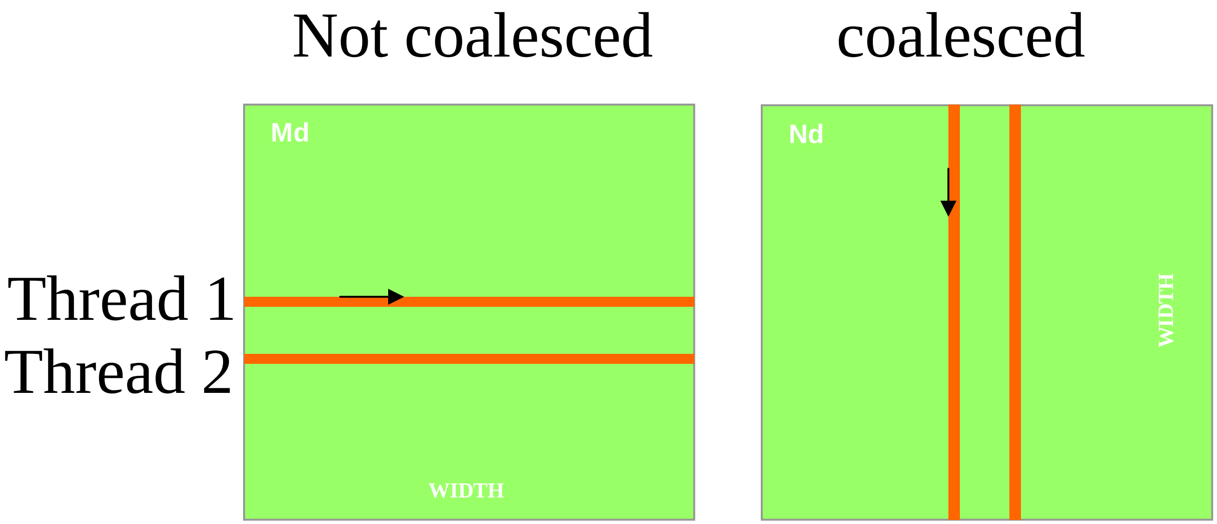


$M_{0,0}$	$M_{1,0}$	$M_{2,0}$	$M_{3,0}$
$M_{0,1}$	$M_{1,1}$	$M_{2,1}$	$M_{3,1}$
$M_{0,2}$	$M_{1,2}$	$M_{2,2}$	$M_{3,2}$
$M_{0,3}$	$M_{1,3}$	$M_{2,3}$	$M_{3,3}$

$M_{0,0}$	$M_{1,0}$	$M_{2,0}$	$M_{3,0}$	$M_{0,1}$	$M_{1,1}$	$M_{2,1}$	$M_{3,1}$	$M_{0,2}$	$M_{1,2}$	$M_{2,2}$	$M_{3,2}$	$M_{0,3}$	$M_{1,3}$	$M_{2,3}$	$M_{3,3}$

Memory Coalescing

- When accessing global memory, peak performance utilization occurs when all threads in a half warp access continuous memory locations.



Not coalesced

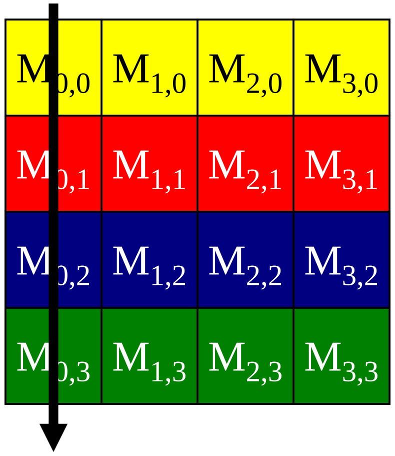
coalesced

Thread 1

Thread 2

Memory Layout of a Matrix in C

Access direction in Kernel code



$M_{0,0}$	$M_{1,0}$	$M_{2,0}$	$M_{3,0}$
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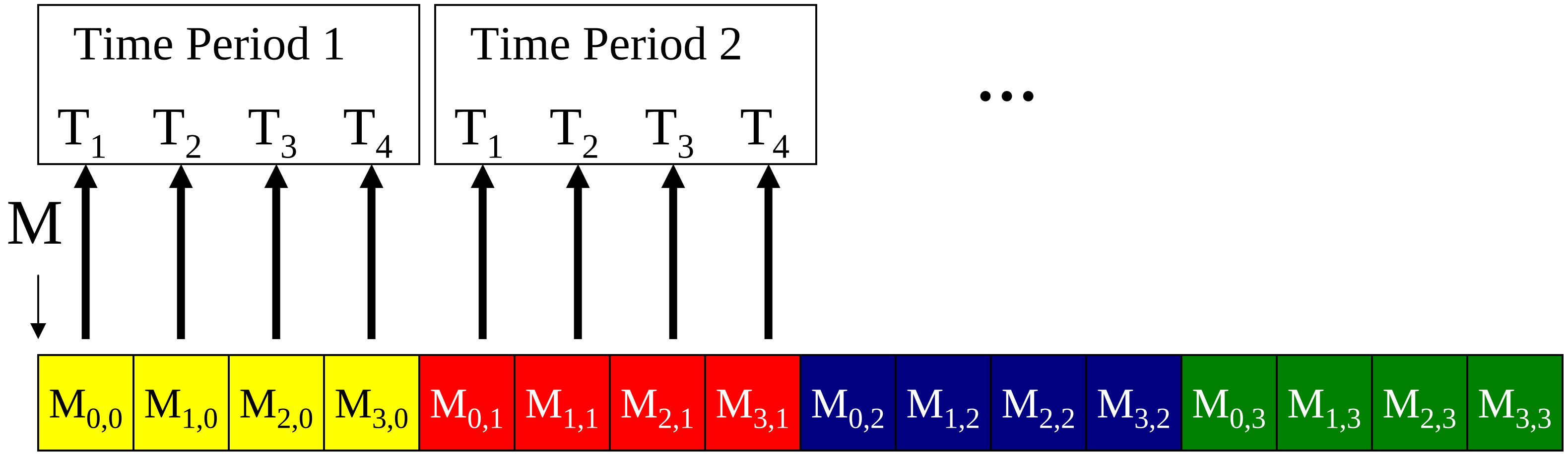
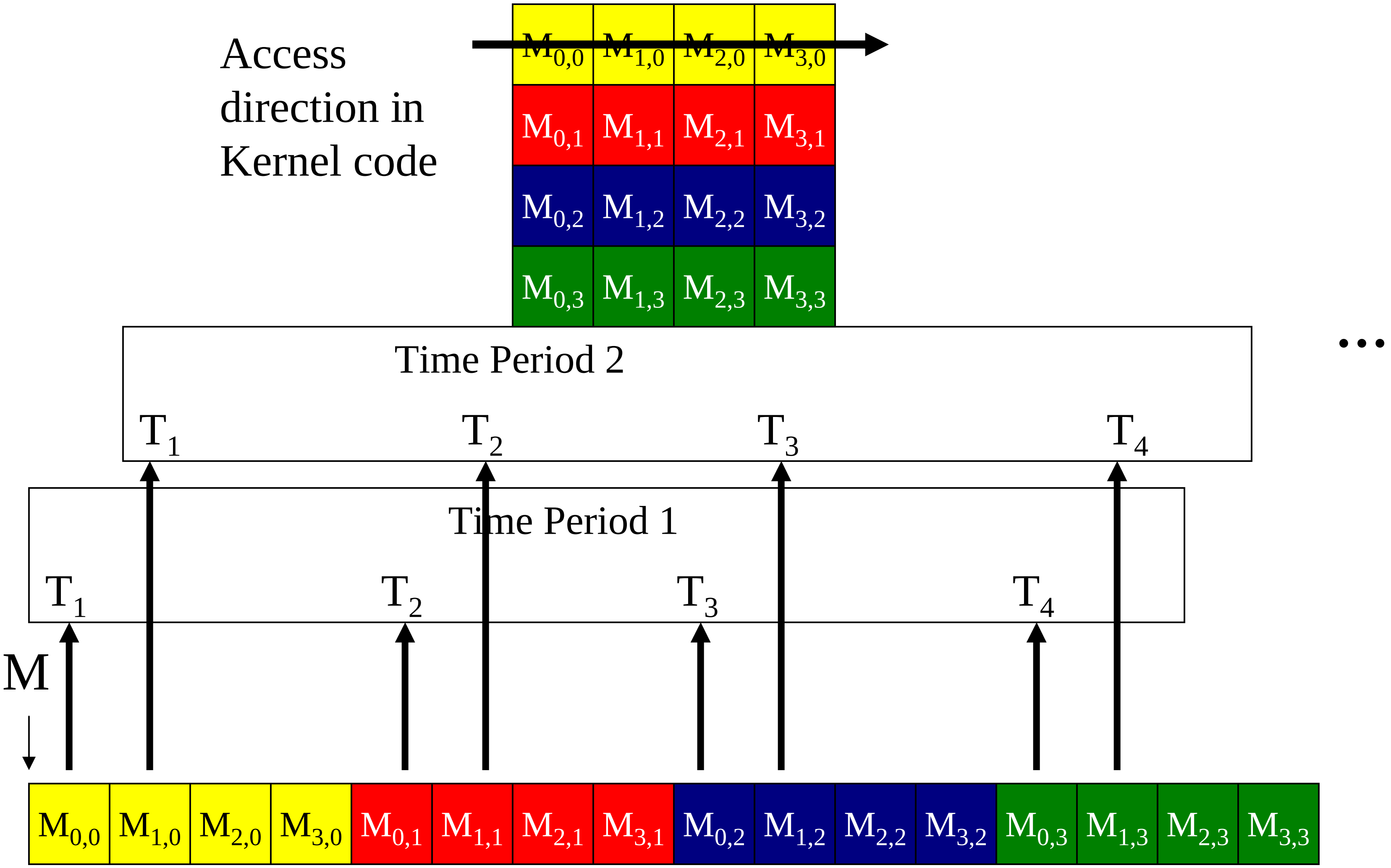


$M_{0,0}$	$M_{1,0}$	$M_{2,0}$	$M_{3,0}$	$M_{0,1}$	$M_{1,1}$	$M_{2,1}$	$M_{3,1}$	$M_{0,2}$	$M_{1,2}$	$M_{2,2}$	$M_{3,2}$	$M_{0,3}$	$M_{1,3}$	$M_{2,3}$	$M_{3,3}$

Memory Layout of a Matrix in C



Access direction in Kernel code

$M_{0,0}$	$M_{1,0}$	$M_{2,0}$	$M_{3,0}$
$M_{0,1}$	$M_{1,1}$	$M_{2,1}$	$M_{3,1}$
$M_{0,2}$	$M_{1,2}$	$M_{2,2}$	$M_{3,2}$
$M_{0,3}$	$M_{1,3}$	$M_{2,3}$	$M_{3,3}$

Time Period 2

T_1 T_2 T_3 T_4

Time Period 1

T_1 T_2 T_3 T_4

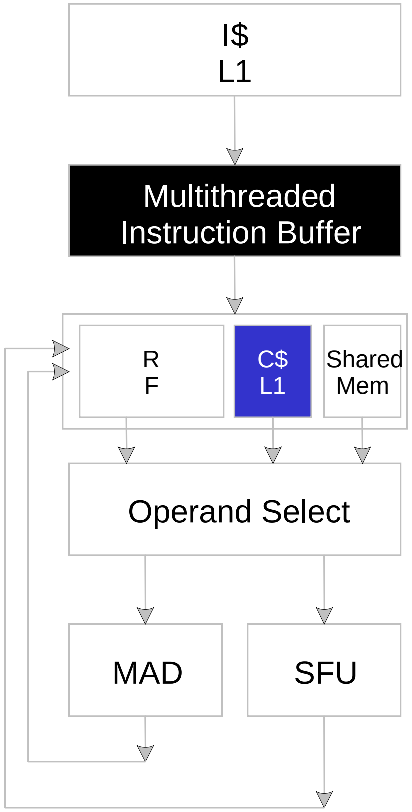
M

$M_{0,0}$	$M_{1,0}$	$M_{2,0}$	$M_{3,0}$	$M_{0,1}$	$M_{1,1}$	$M_{2,1}$	$M_{3,1}$	$M_{0,2}$	$M_{1,2}$	$M_{2,2}$	$M_{3,2}$	$M_{0,3}$	$M_{1,3}$	$M_{2,3}$	$M_{3,3}$

…

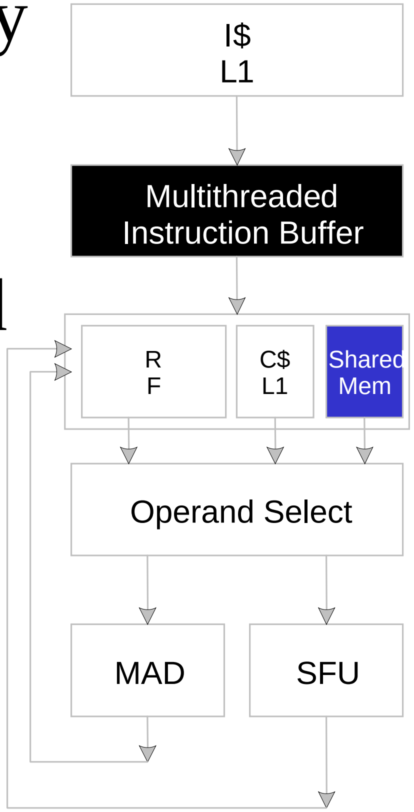
Constants

- Immediate address constants
- Indexed address constants
- Constants stored in DRAM, and cached on chip
  - L1 per SM
- A constant value can be broadcast to all threads in a Warp
  - Extremely efficient way of accessing a value that is common for all threads in a block!



Shared Memory

- Each SM has 16 KB of Shared Memory
  - 16 banks of 32bit words
- CUDA uses Shared Memory as shared storage visible to all threads in a thread block
  - read and write access
- Not used explicitly for pixel shader programs
  - we dislike pixels talking to each other ☺

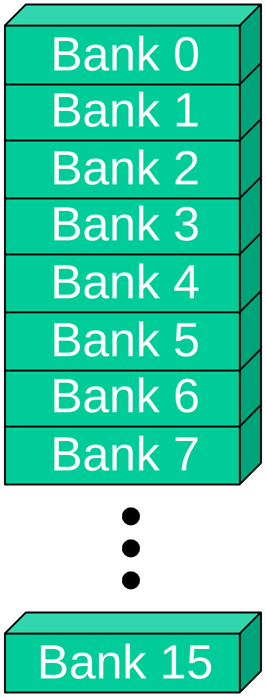


Parallel Memory Architecture

- In a parallel machine, many threads access memory
  - Therefore, memory is divided into banks
  - Essential to achieve high bandwidth

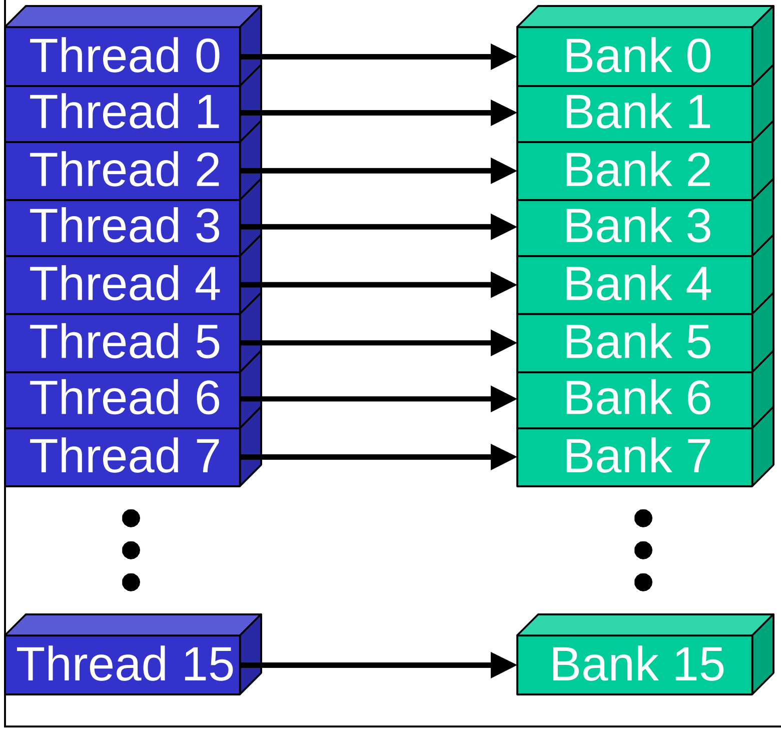
- Each bank can service one address per cycle
  - A memory can service as many simultaneous accesses as it has banks

- Multiple simultaneous accesses to a bank result in a bank conflict
  - Conflicting accesses are serialized

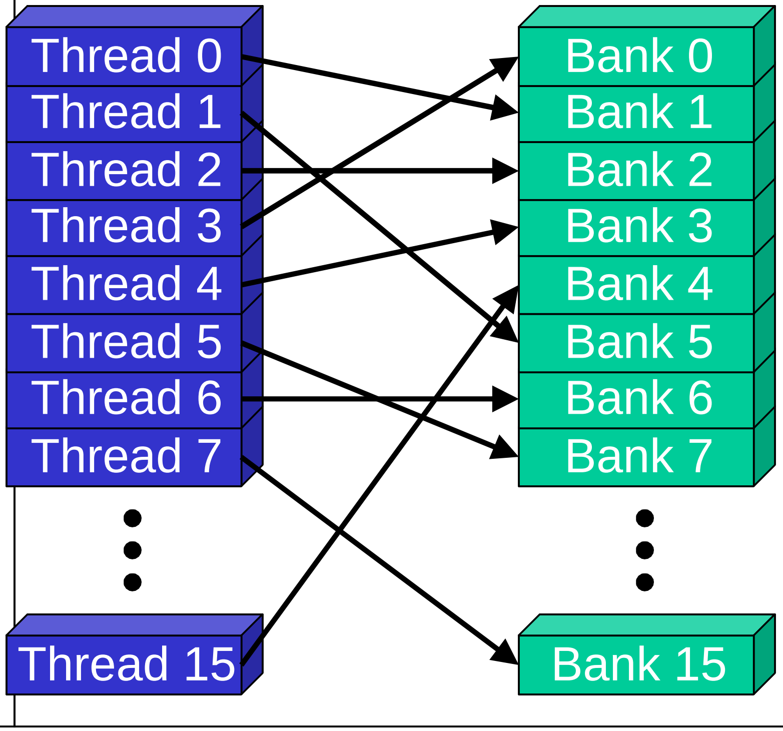


Bank Addressing Examples

- No Bank Conflicts
  - Linear addressing stride == 1

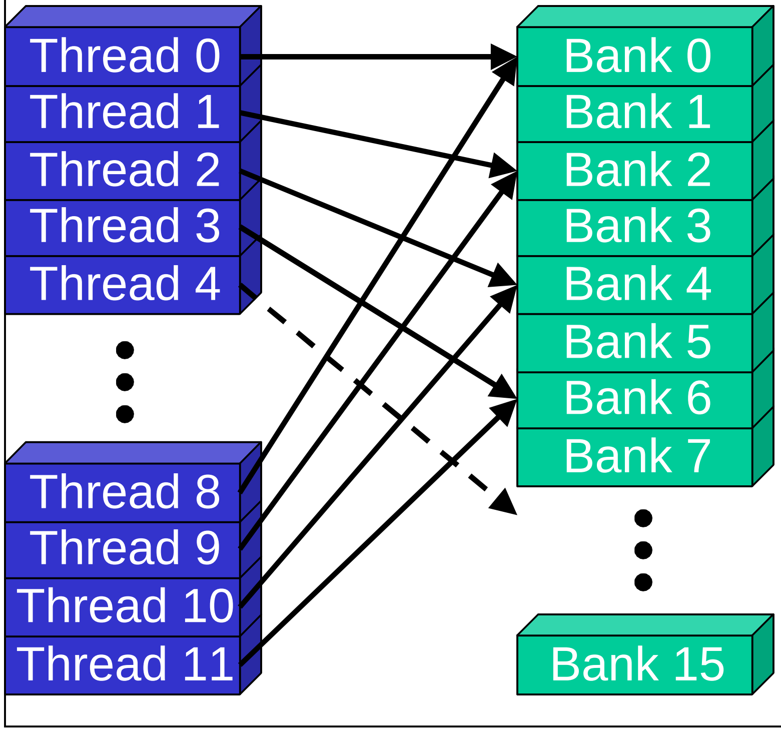


- No Bank Conflicts
  - Random 1:1 Permutation

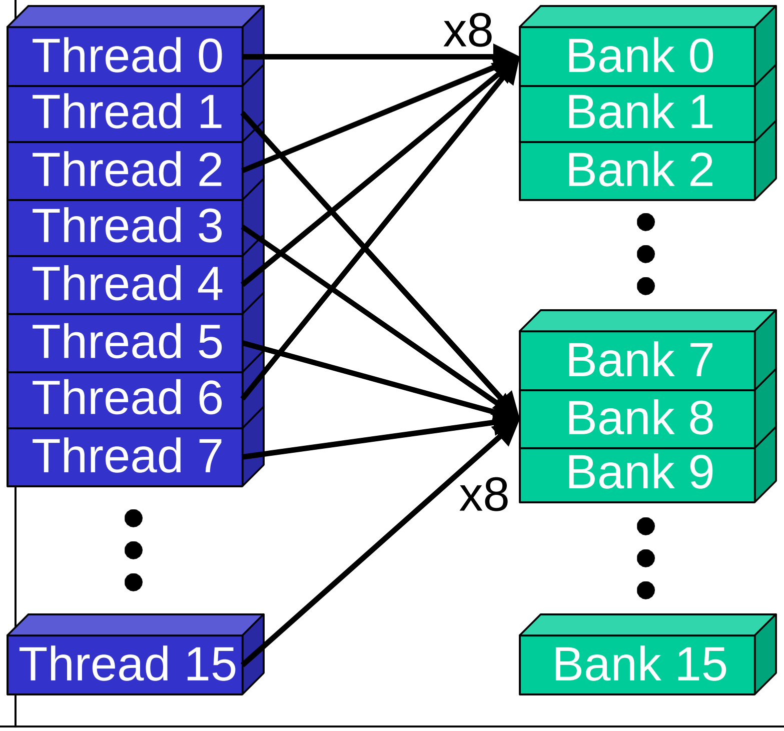


Bank Addressing Examples

- 2-way Bank Conflicts
  - Linear addressing stride == 2



- 8-way Bank Conflicts
  - Linear addressing stride == 8



How addresses map to banks on G80

- Each bank has a bandwidth of 32 bits per clock cycle
- Successive 32-bit words are assigned to successive banks
- G80 has 16 banks
  - So bank = address % 16
  - Same as the size of a half-warp
    - No bank conflicts between different half-warps, only within a single half-warp

Shared memory bank conflicts

- Shared memory is as fast as registers if there are no bank conflicts

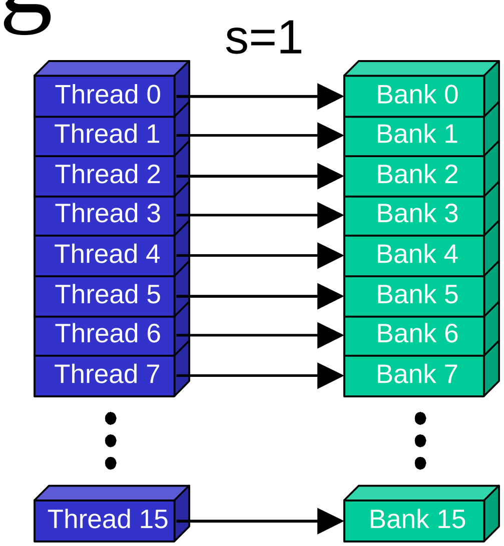
- The fast case:
  - If all threads of a half-warp access different banks, there is no bank conflict
  - If all threads of a half-warp access the identical address, there is no bank conflict (broadcast)
- The slow case:
  - Bank Conflict: multiple threads in the same half-warp access the same bank
  - Must serialize the accesses
  - Cost = max # of simultaneous accesses to a single bank

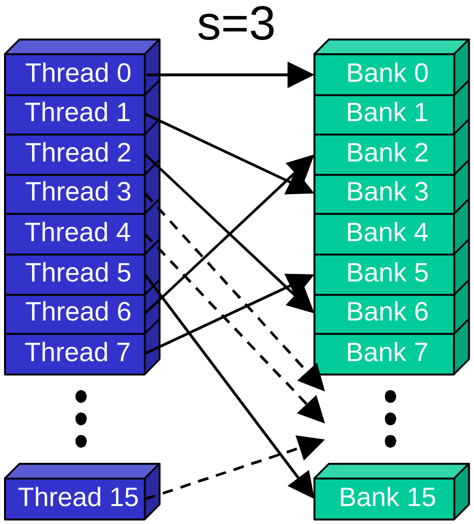
Linear Addressing

- Given:

```
__shared__ float shared[256];
float foo =
  shared[baseIndex + s *
   threadIdx.x];
```

- This is only bank-conflict-free if s shares no common factors with the number of banks
  - 16 on G80, so `s` must be odd


s=1
Thread 0
Thread 1
Thread 2
Thread 3
Thread 4
Thread 5
Thread 6
Thread 7
Thread 15
Bank 0
Bank 1
Bank 2
Bank 3
Bank 4
Bank 5
Bank 6
Bank 7
Bank 15


s=3
Thread 0
Thread 1
Thread 2
Thread 3
Thread 4
Thread 5
Thread 6
Thread 7
Thread 15
Bank 0
Bank 1
Bank 2
Bank 3
Bank 4
Bank 5
Bank 6
Bank 7
Bank 15