

# Transparent Data Transformation

or

*How to stop worrying about data layouts?*

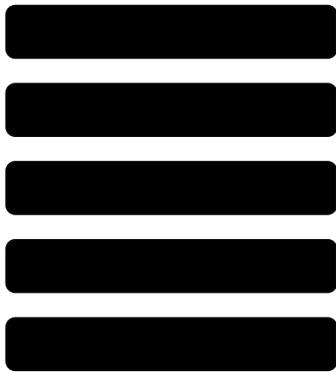
Manos Athanassoulis

[mathan@bu.edu](mailto:mathan@bu.edu)

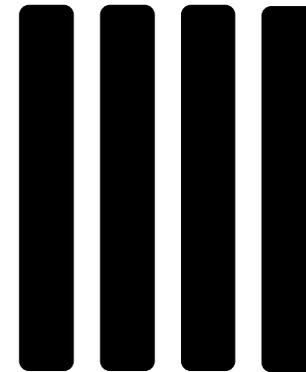
Talk at HPTS 2022

# Break the *Fractured Mirrors!*

OLTP



OLAP



No need to have two systems!  
No need to convert data!

What if we could have  
**the benefits of both**  
*without storing or maintaining  
two copies of data?*

# Bridge the *Archipelago* of Hybrid Layouts

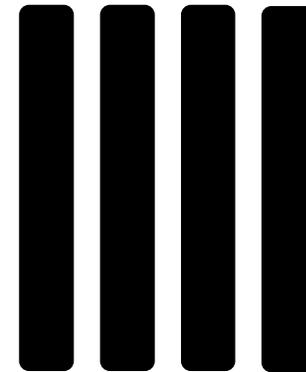
Hybrid



Hybrid



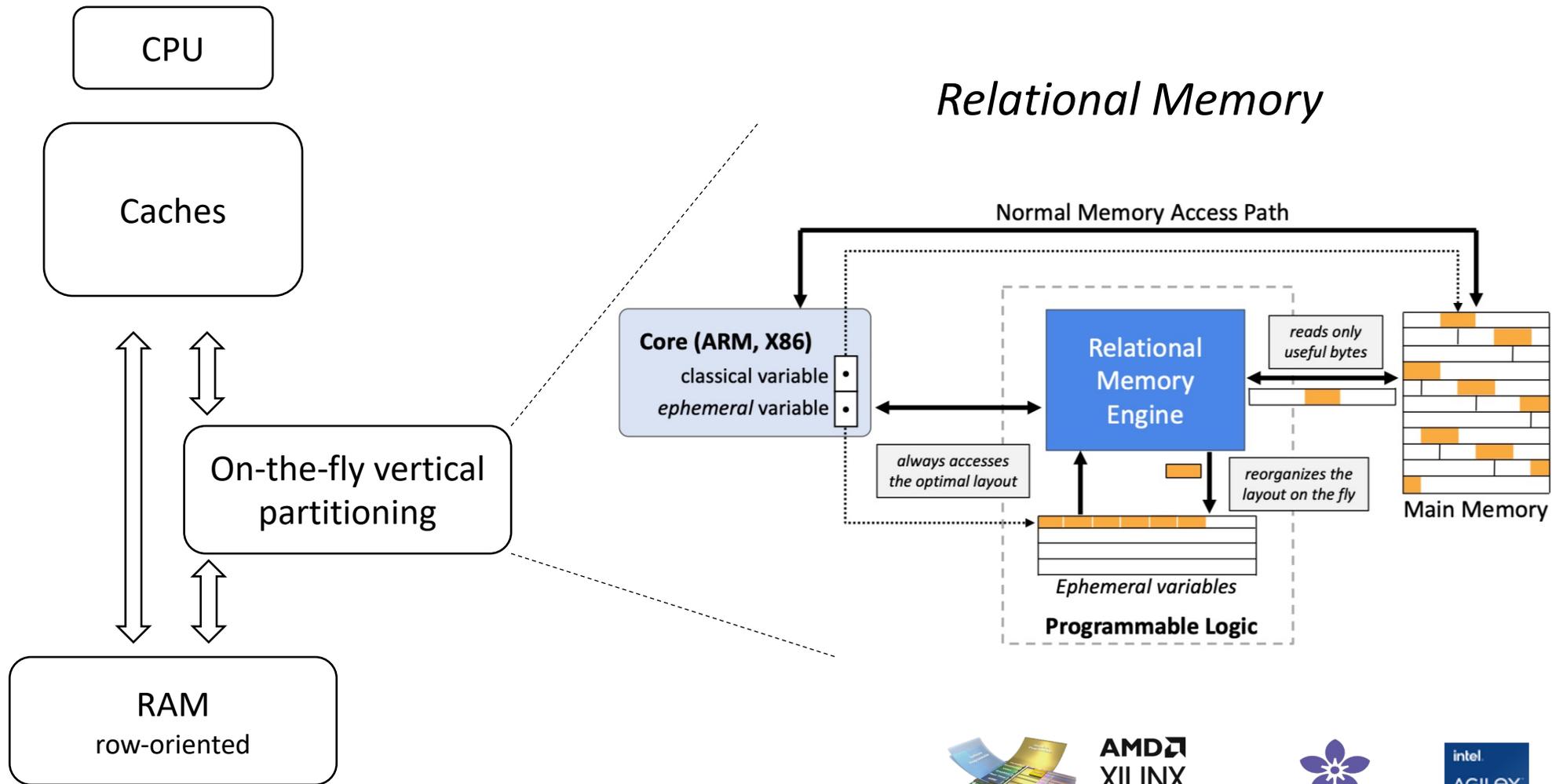
OLAP



What if we could have **the benefits of any data layout?**

**For free?**

# Our vision: Relational Memory



# Example

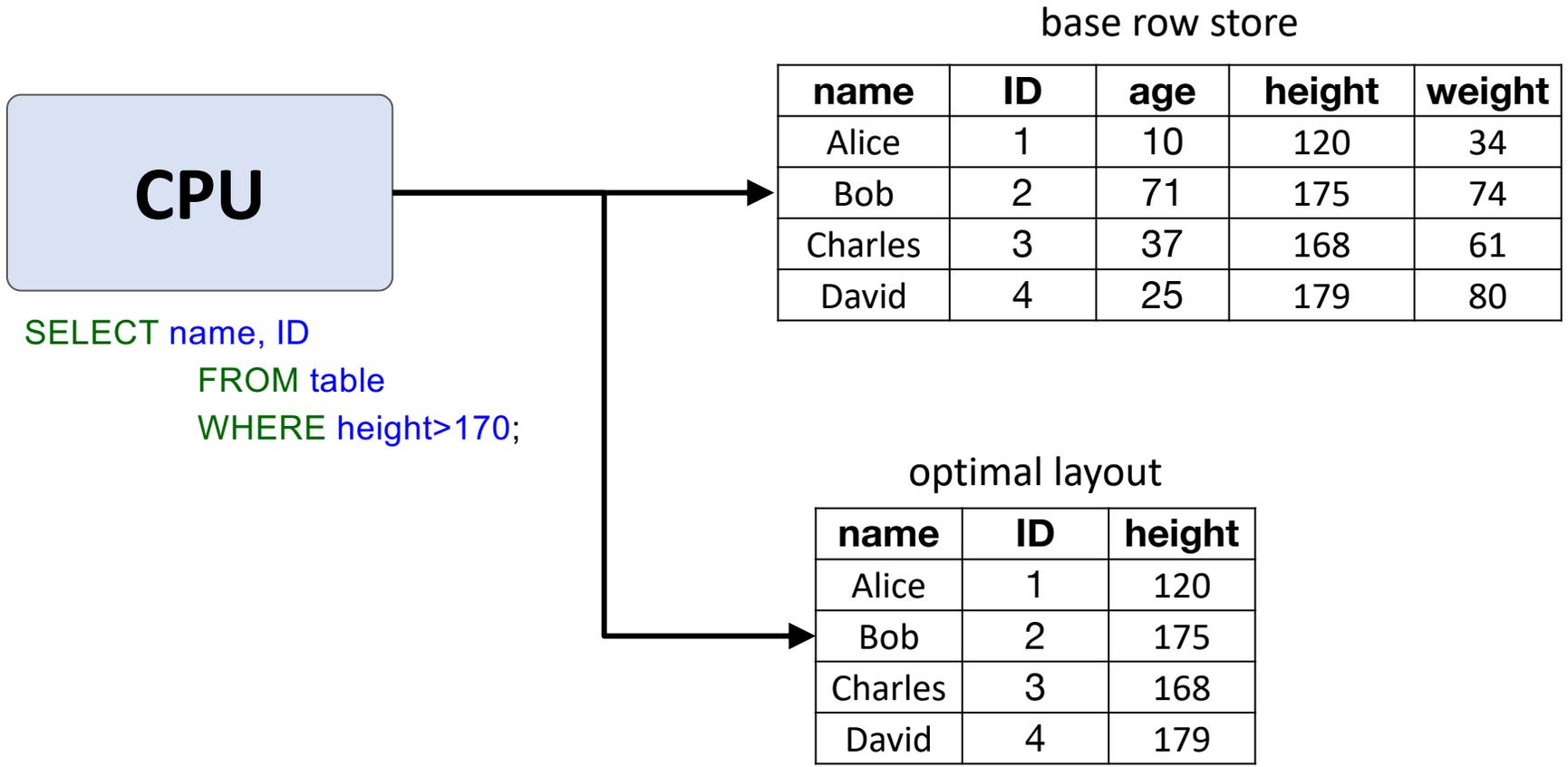
| name    | ID | age | height | weight |
|---------|----|-----|--------|--------|
| Alice   | 1  | 10  | 120    | 34     |
| Bob     | 2  | 71  | 175    | 74     |
| Charles | 3  | 37  | 168    | 61     |
| David   | 4  | 25  | 179    | 80     |
| Eve     | 5  | 43  | 168    | 58     |
| Frank   | 6  | 22  | 181    | 79     |
| Greg    | 7  | 52  | 175    | 67     |
| Henry   | 8  | 17  | 169    | 76     |
| Iris    | 9  | 34  | 158    | 49     |
| Jane    | 10 | 29  | 165    | 59     |
| Kenneth | 11 | 31  | 184    | 94     |
| Luke    | 12 | 13  | 125    | 38     |

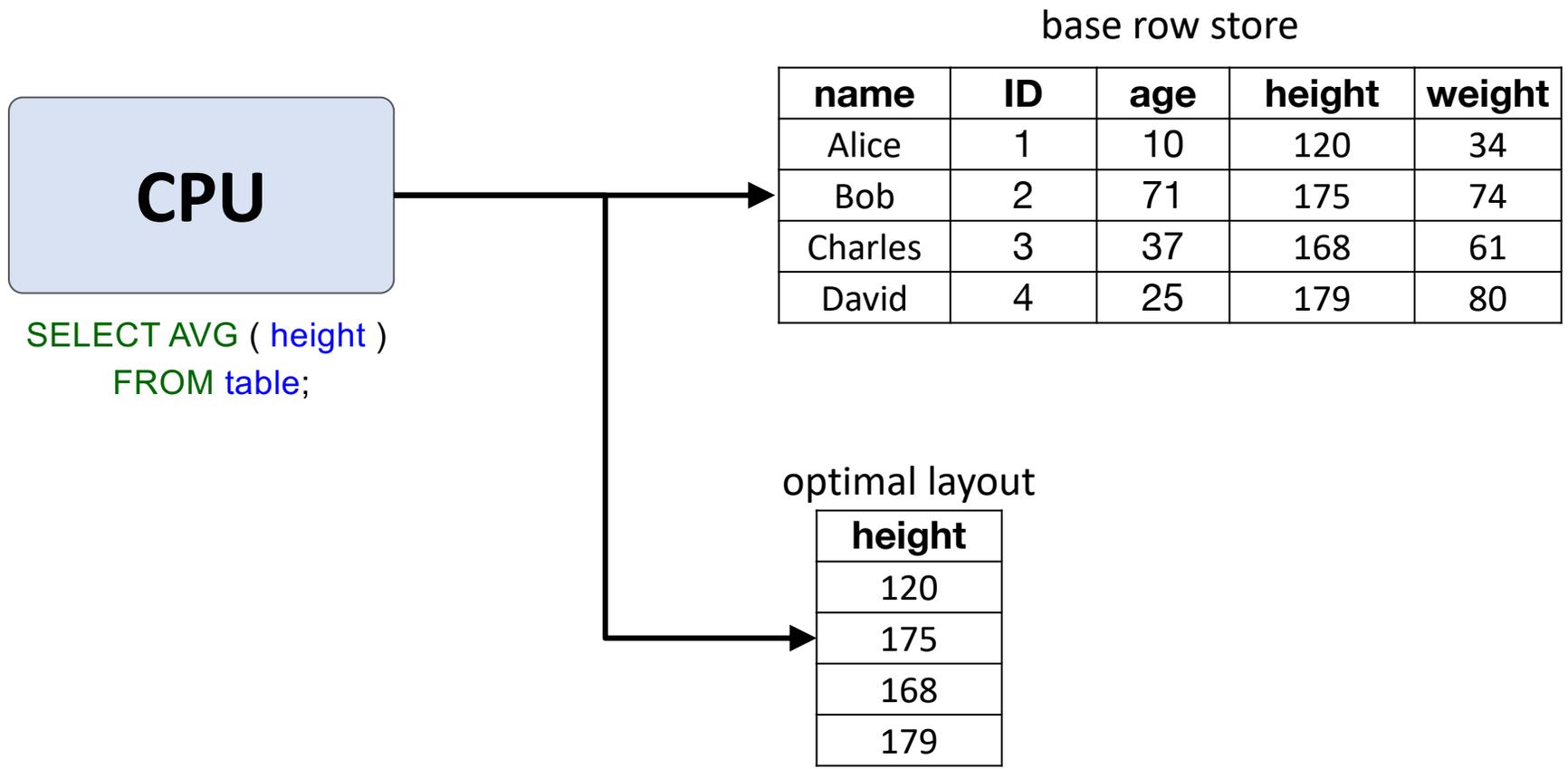
```
SELECT name, ID  
FROM table  
WHERE height>170;
```

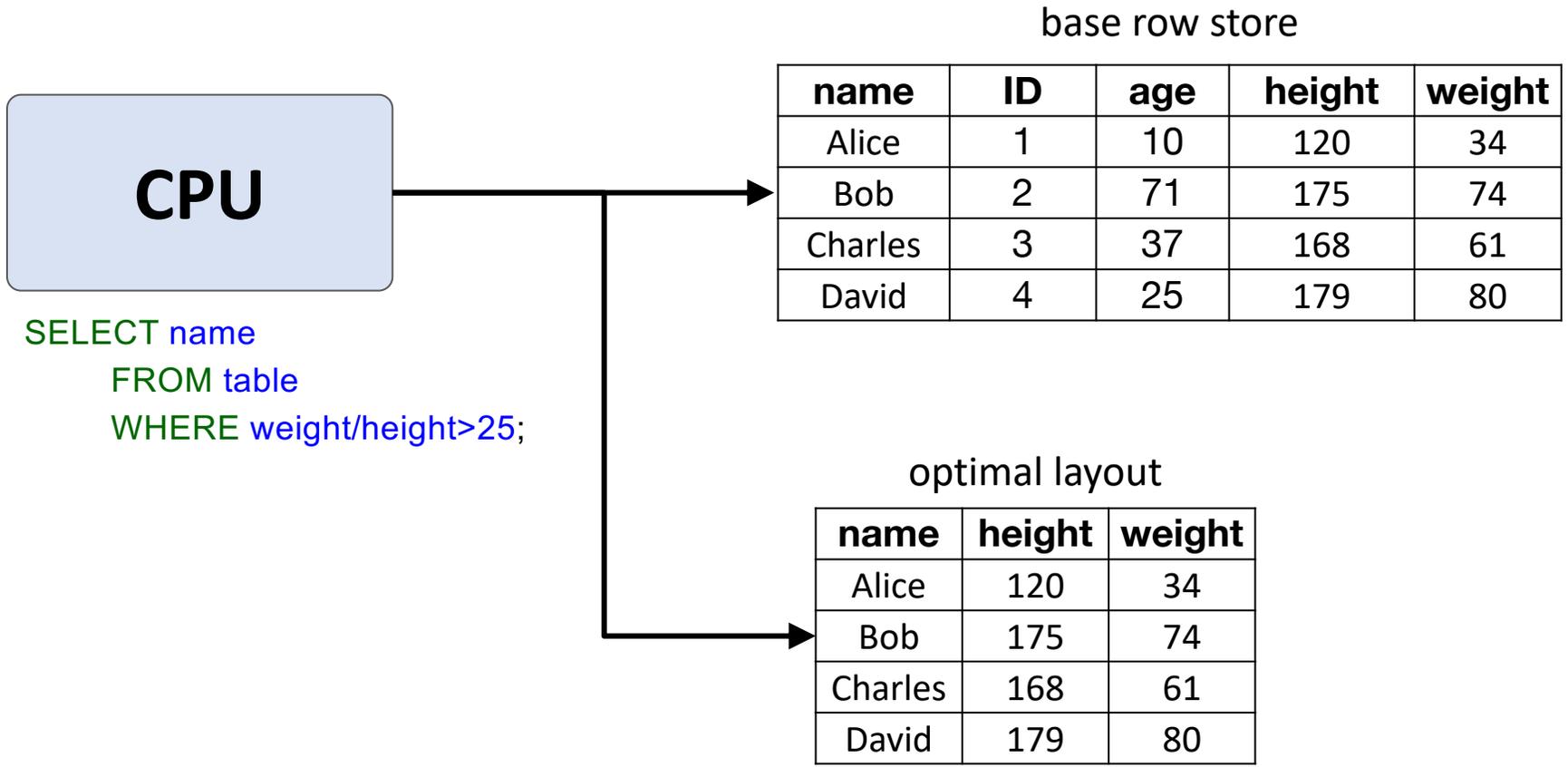
# Example

| name    | ID | age | height | weight |
|---------|----|-----|--------|--------|
| Alice   | 1  | 10  | 120    | 34     |
| Bob     | 2  | 71  | 175    | 74     |
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| Kenneth | 11 | 31  | 184    | 94     |
| Luke    | 12 | 13  | 125    | 38     |

```
SELECT name, ID  
FROM table  
WHERE height>170;
```



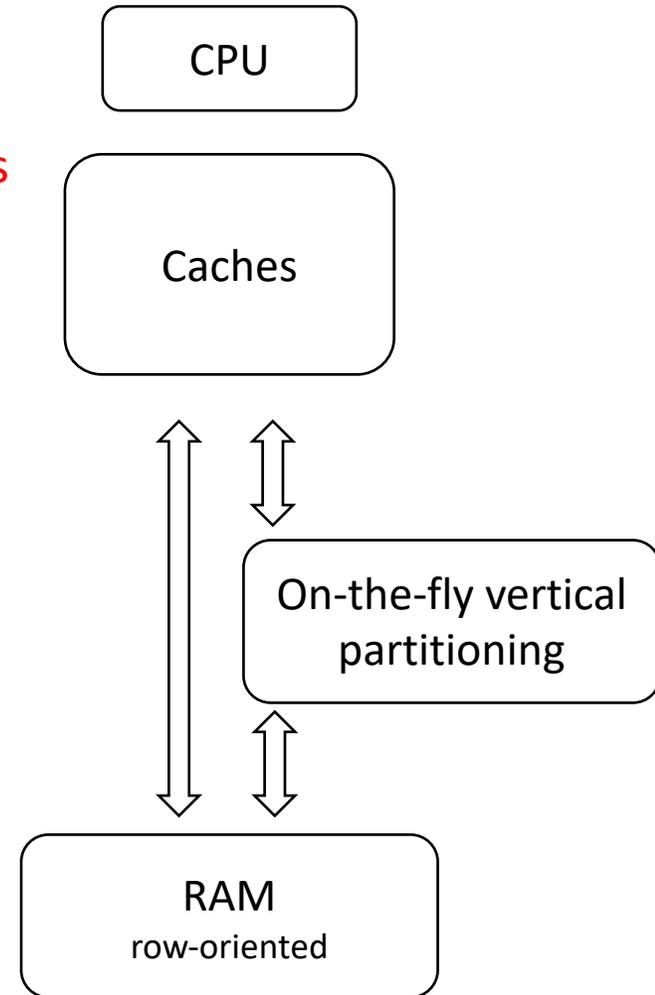


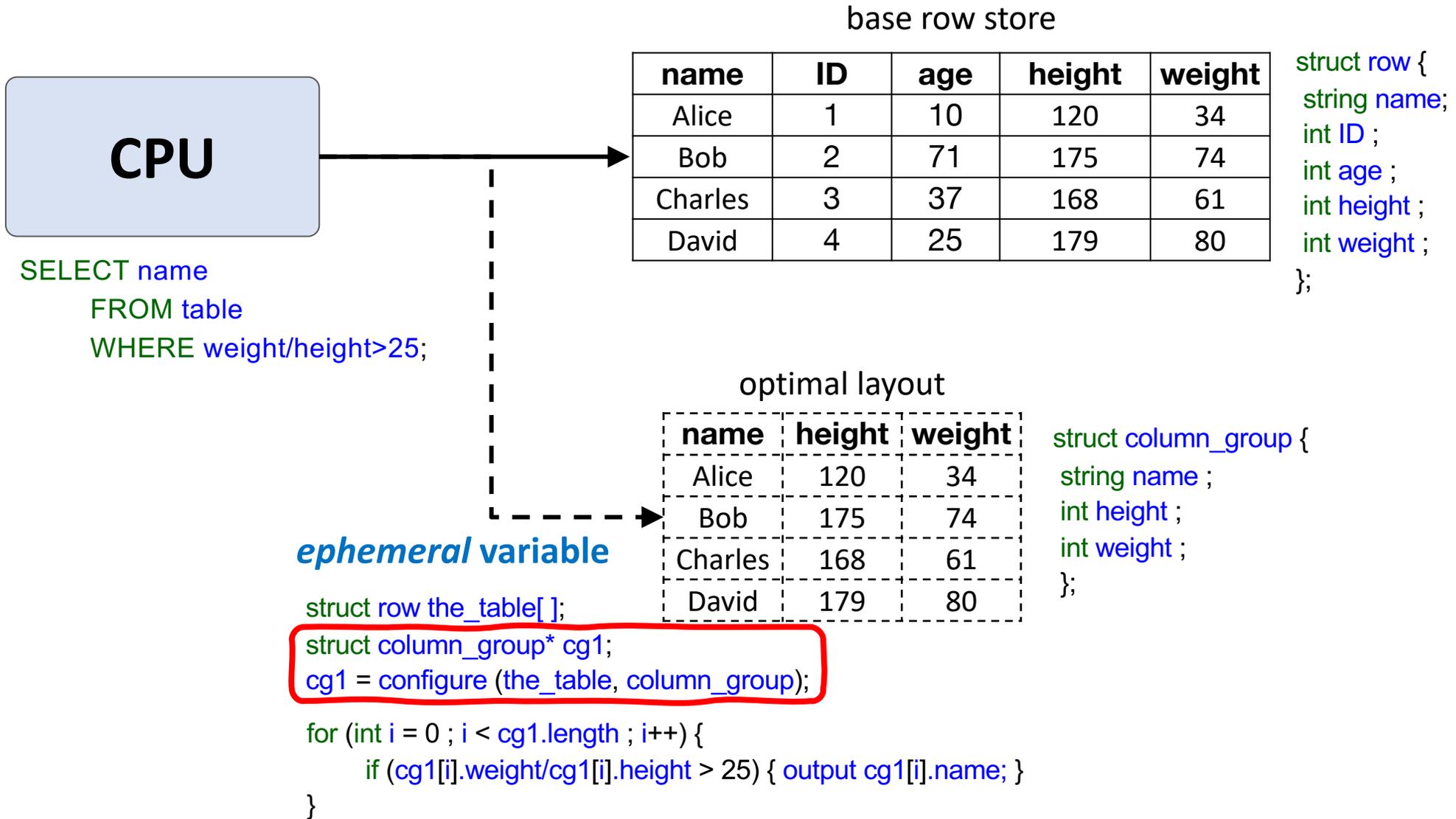


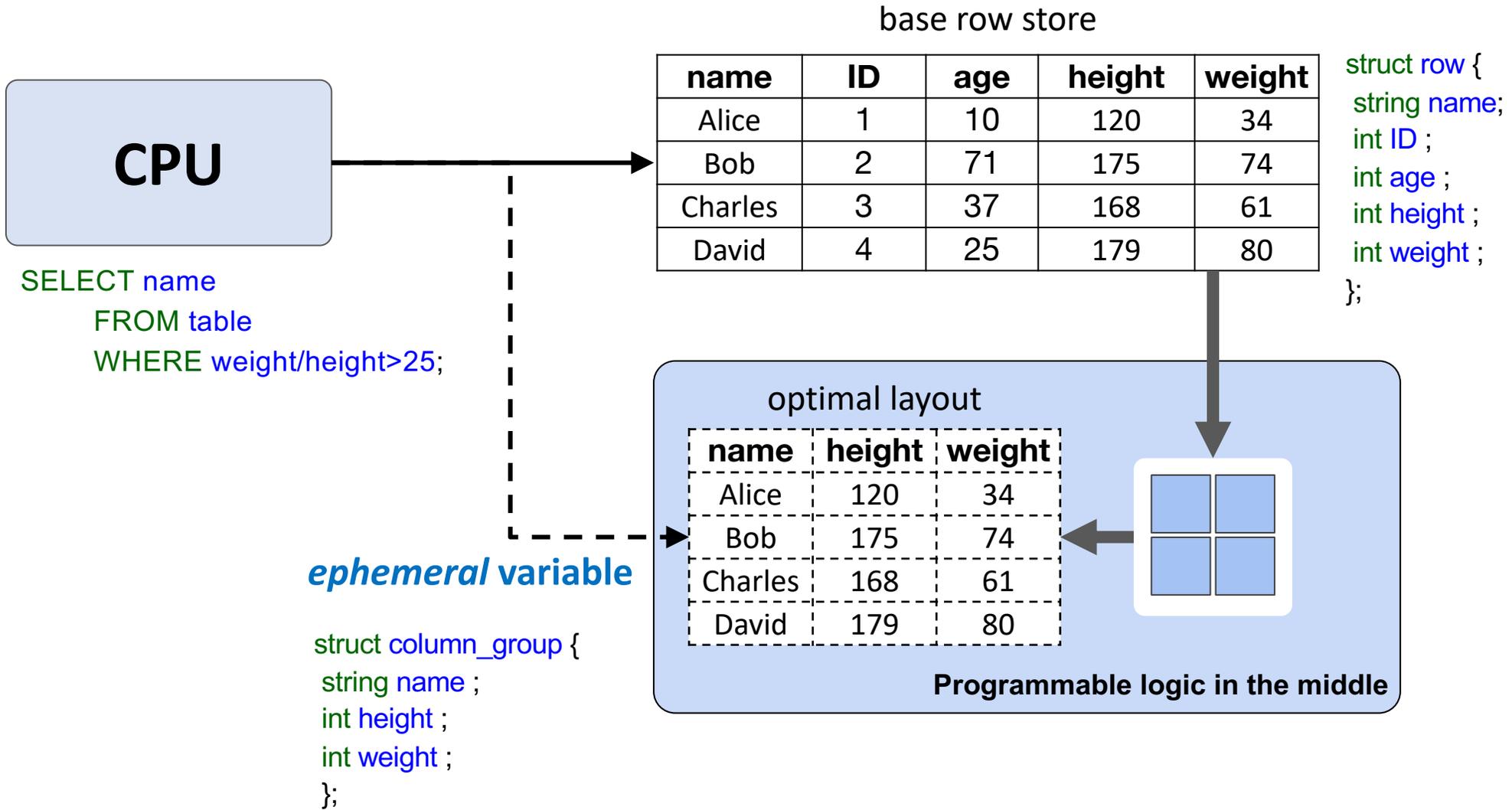
how to use a Relational Memory Engine (RME) to access the desired columns?

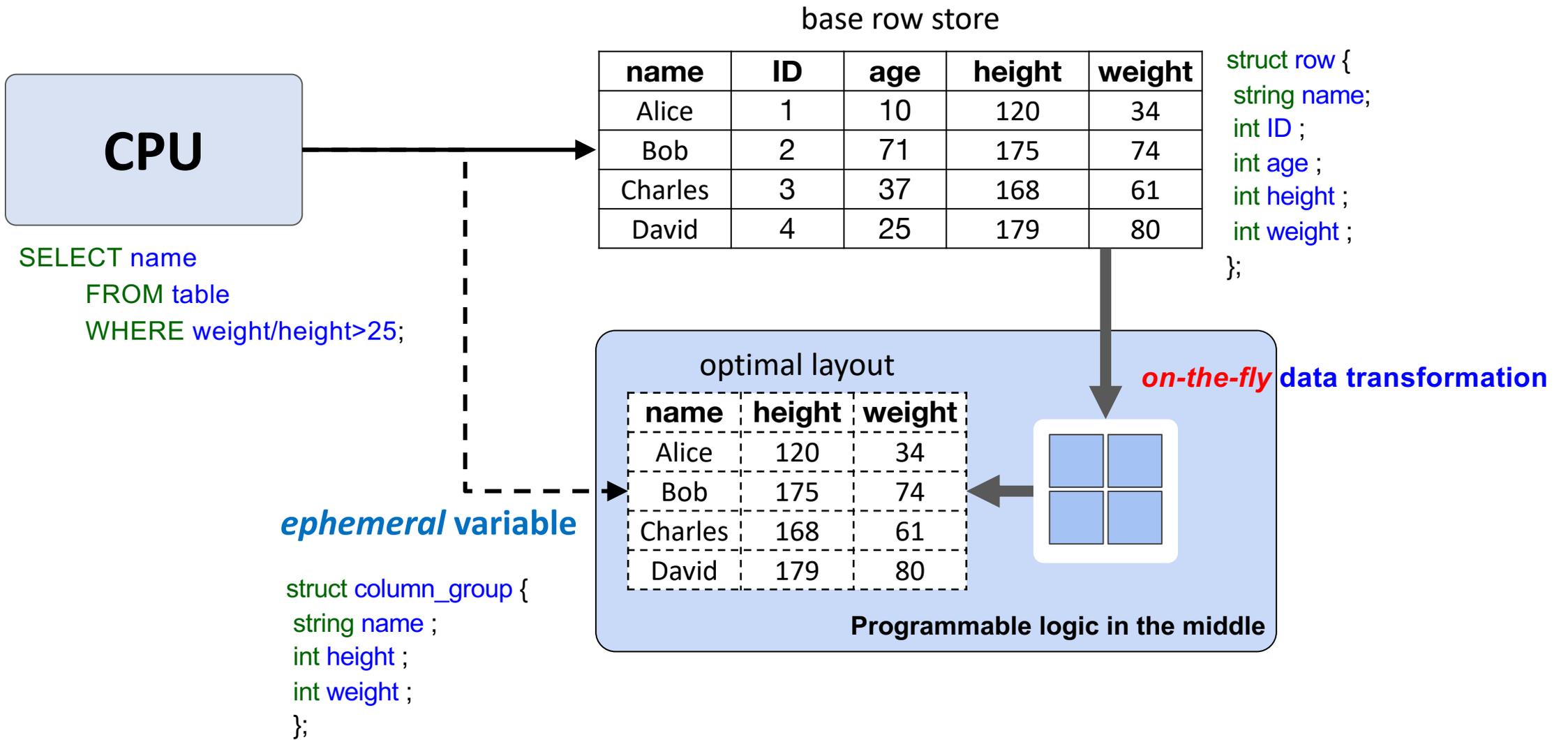
variable `table[ ]`; ← leads to normal memory accesses  
ephemeral variable `col_group[ ]`; ← "fake" address that is intercepted by RME, but CPU thinks it exists

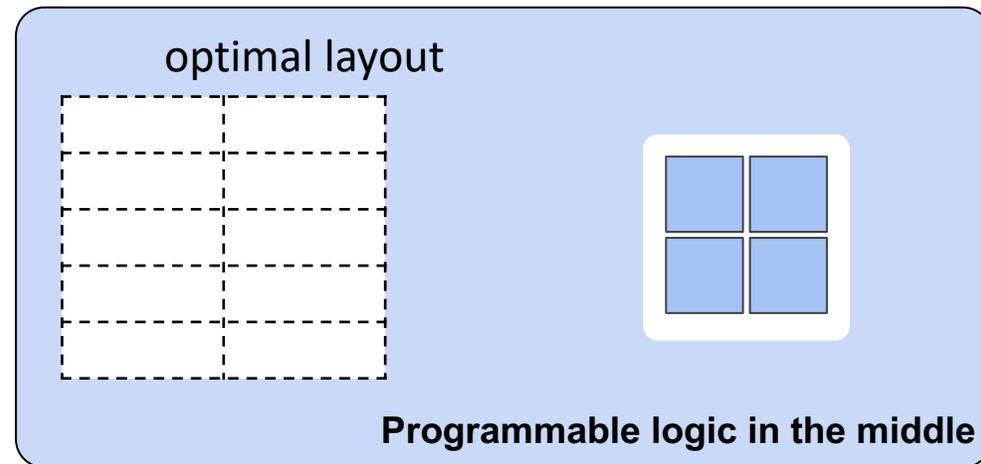
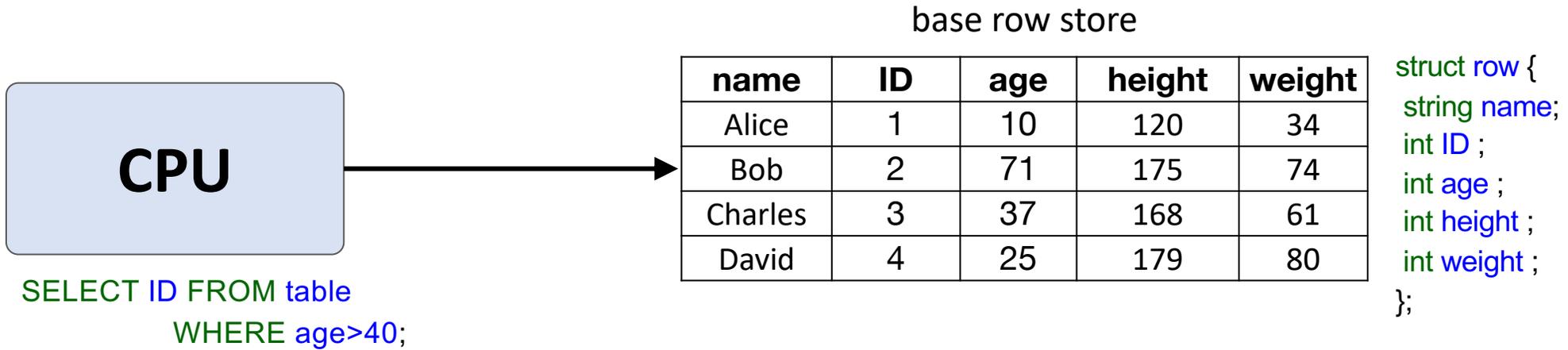
# *ephemeral variables*

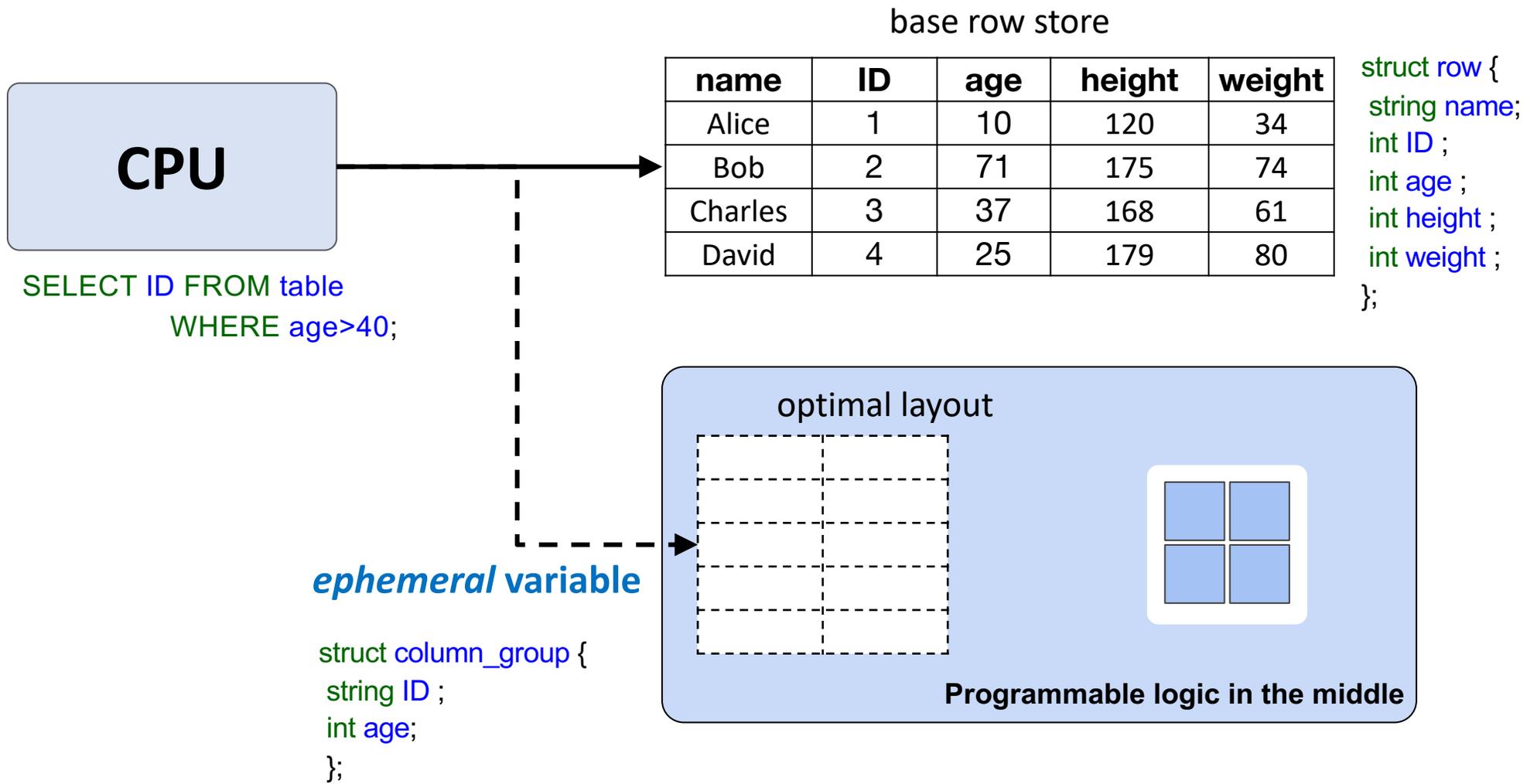


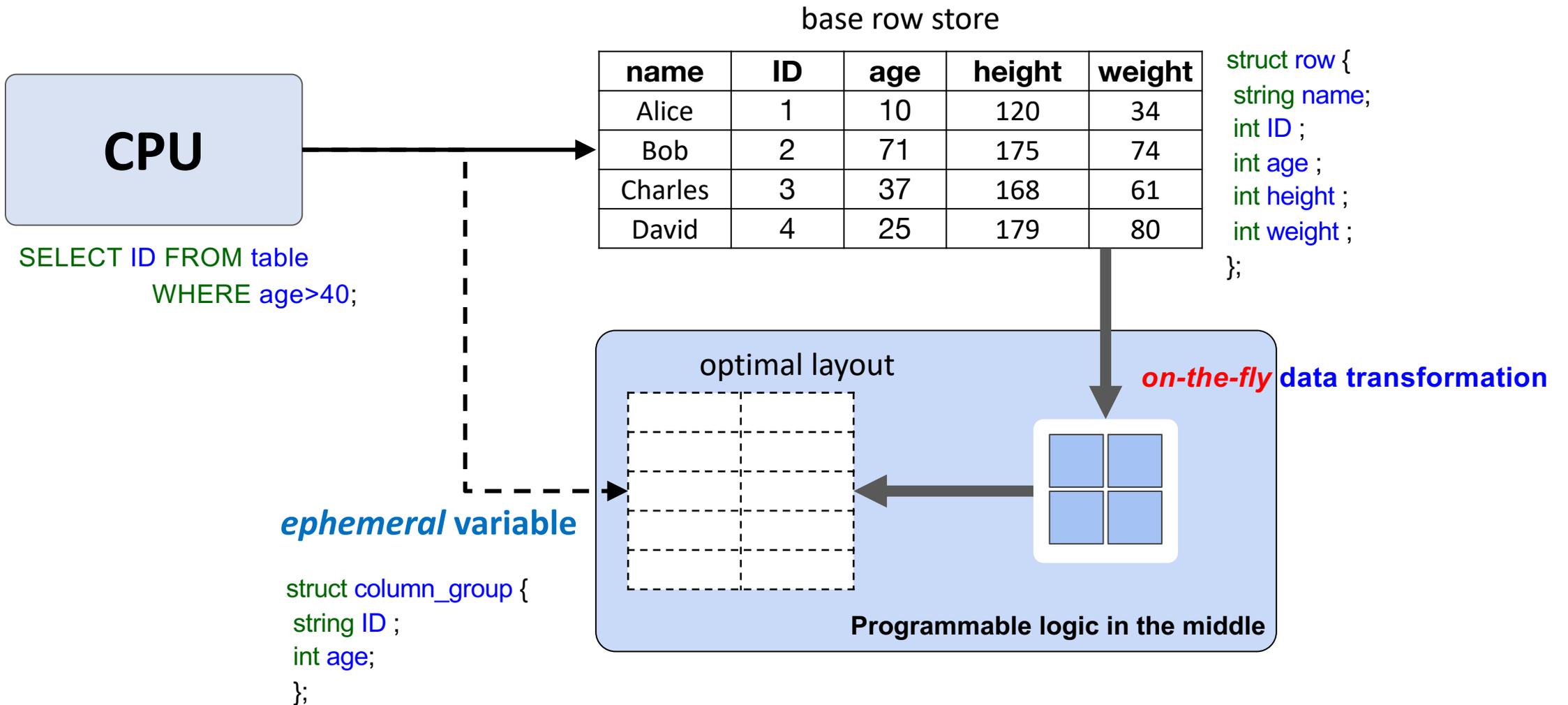


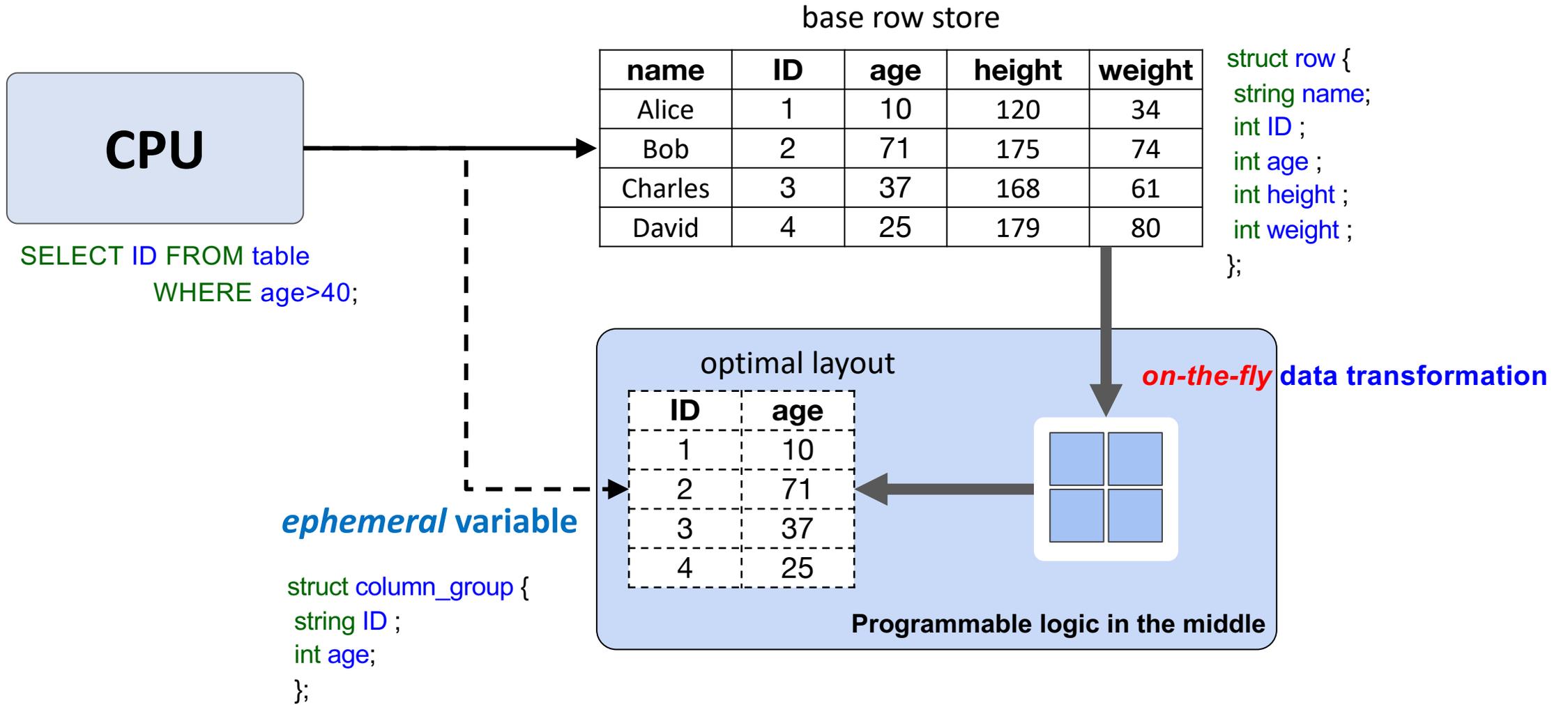












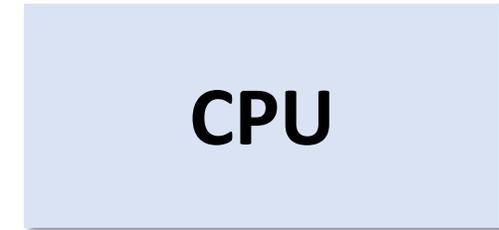


# Programmable Logic In the Middle

*The Potential of Programmable Logic in the Middle: Cache Bleaching, RTAS 2020*

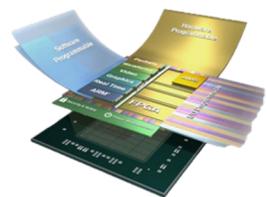
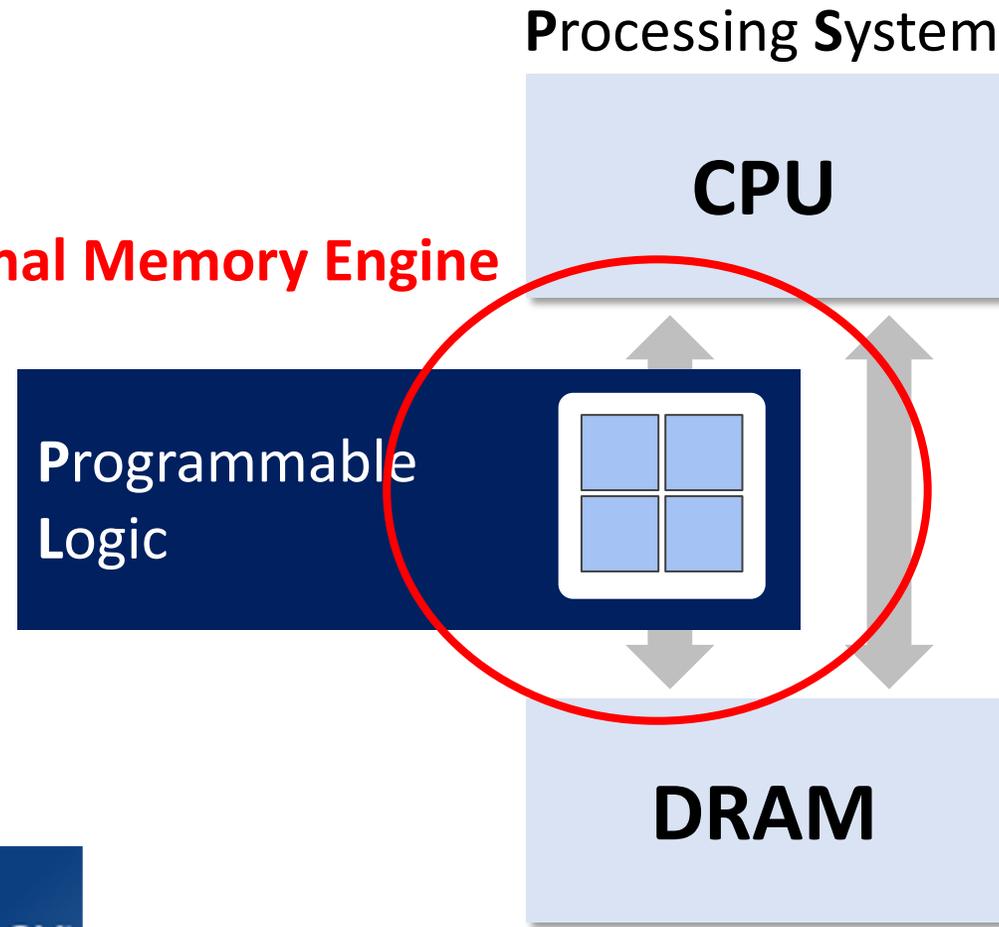
# Processing System

Processing System



# PS-PL Platforms

Relational Memory Engine



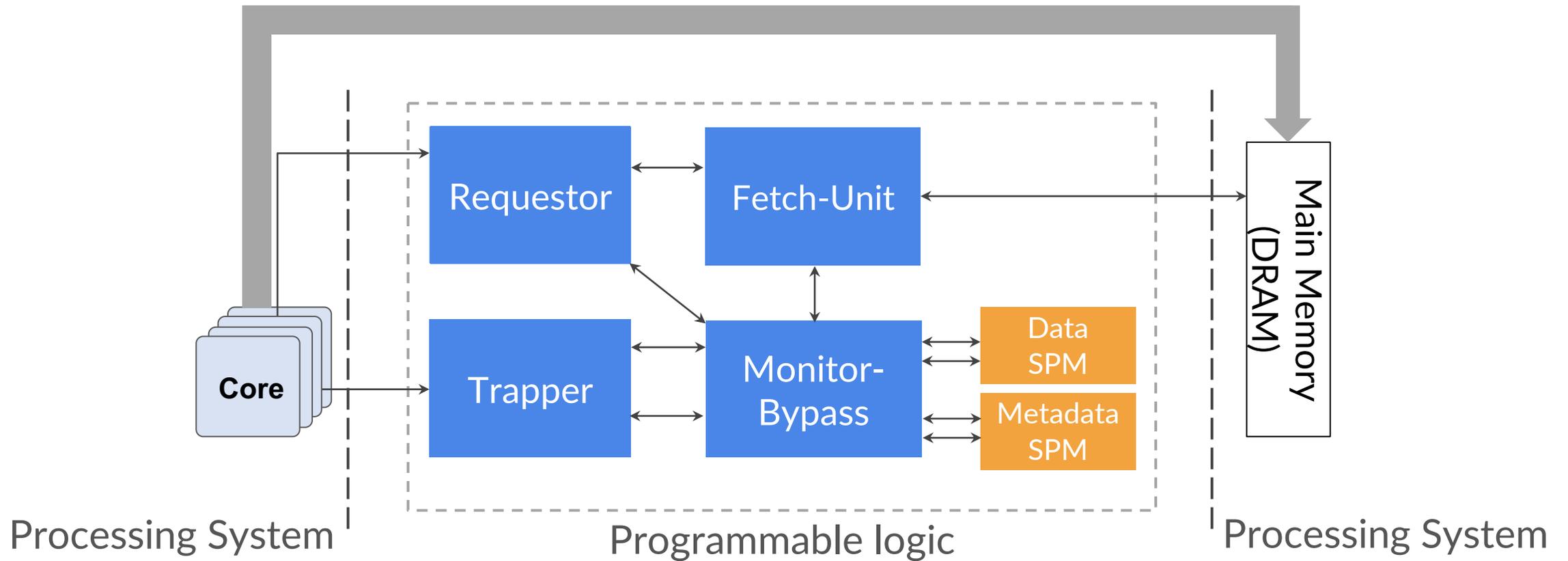
AMD  
XILINX

UltraScale+ ENZIAN

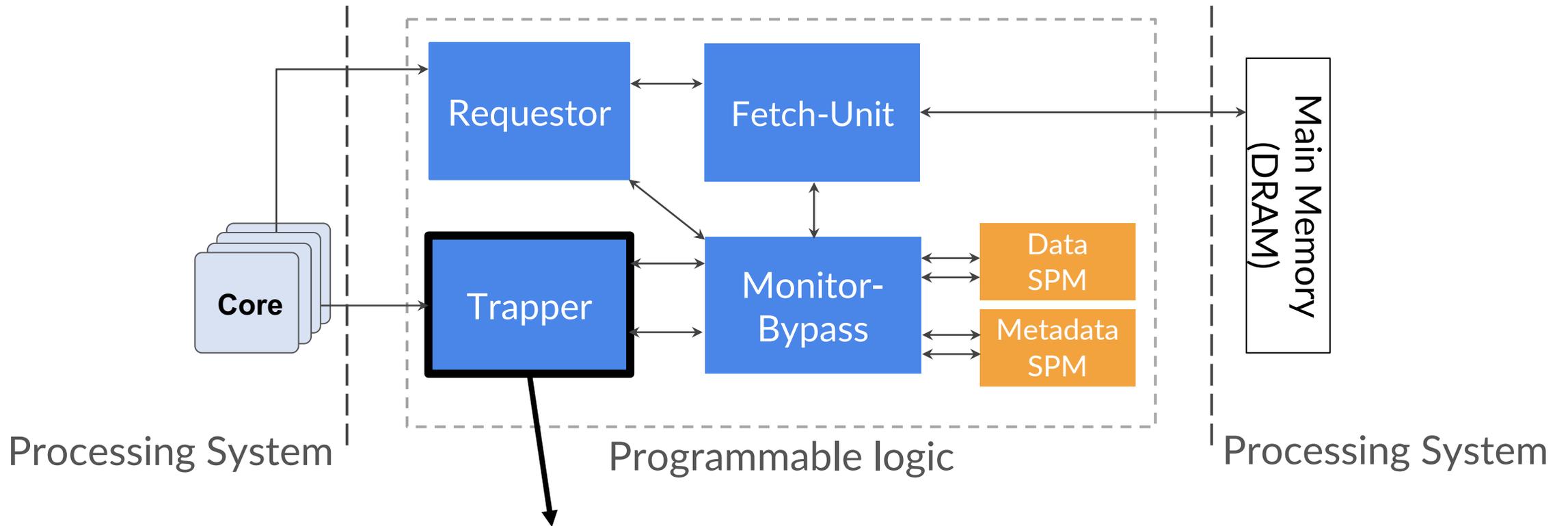


intel  
AGILEX

# Relational Memory Engine

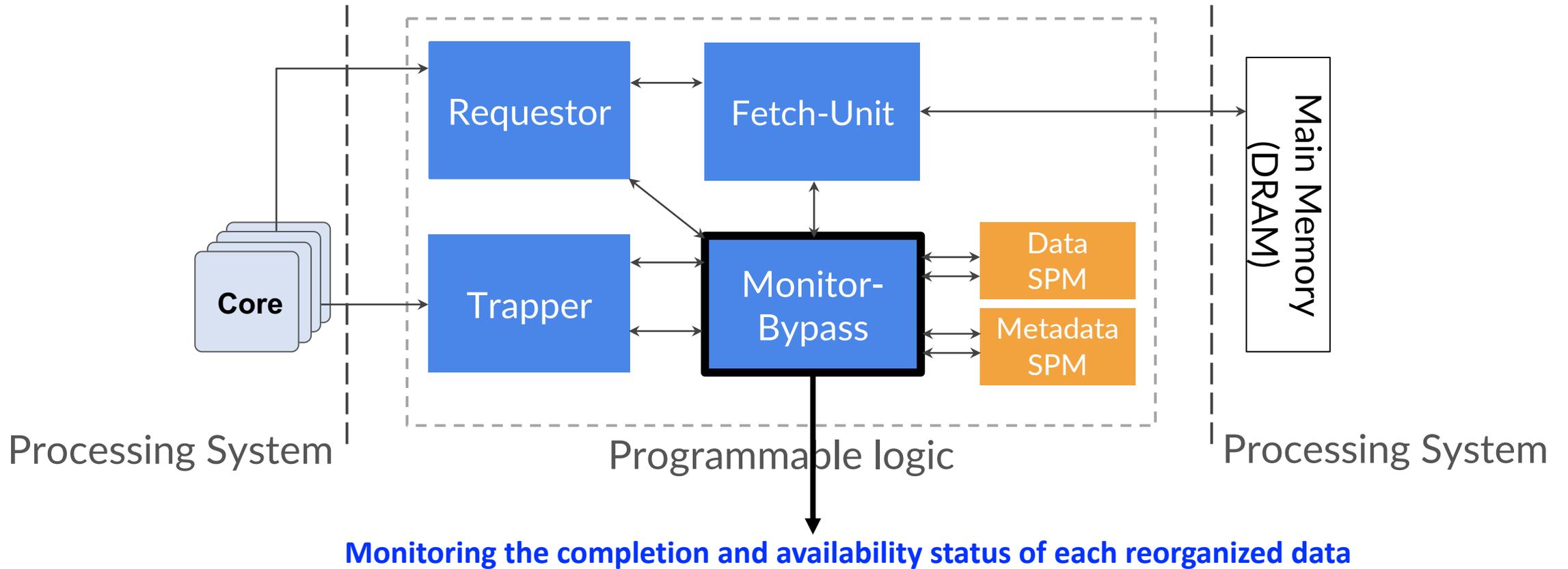


# Relational Memory Engine

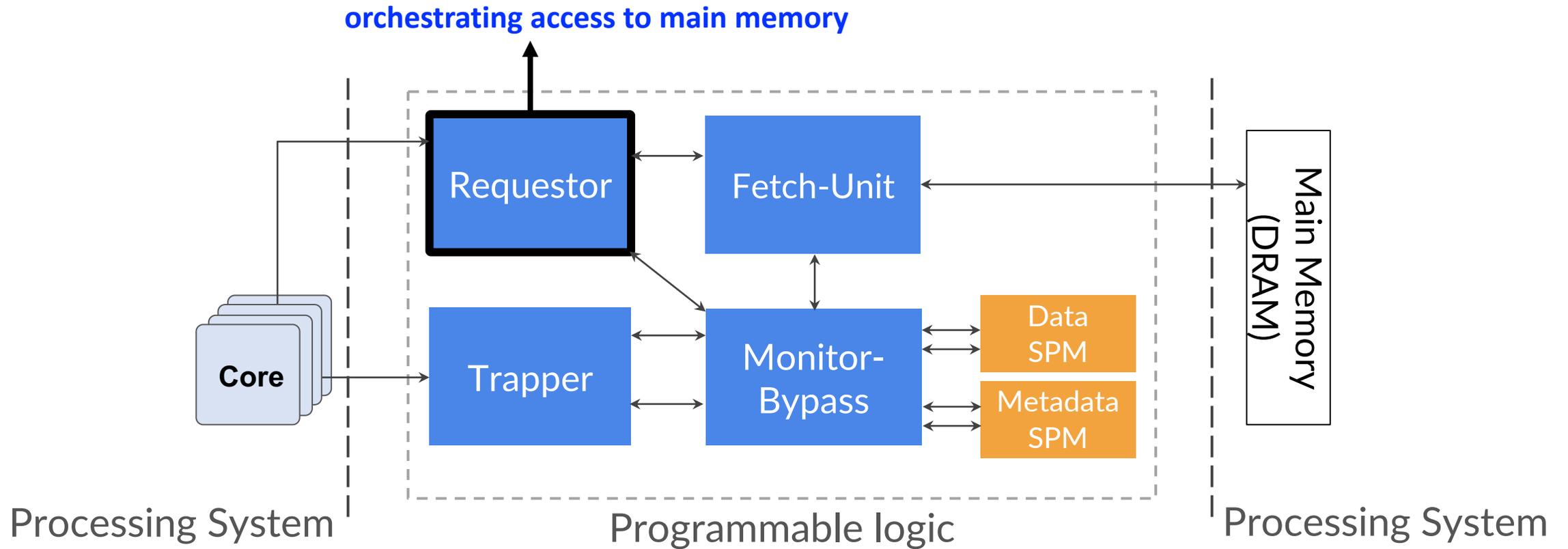


The interface between RME and the CPUs

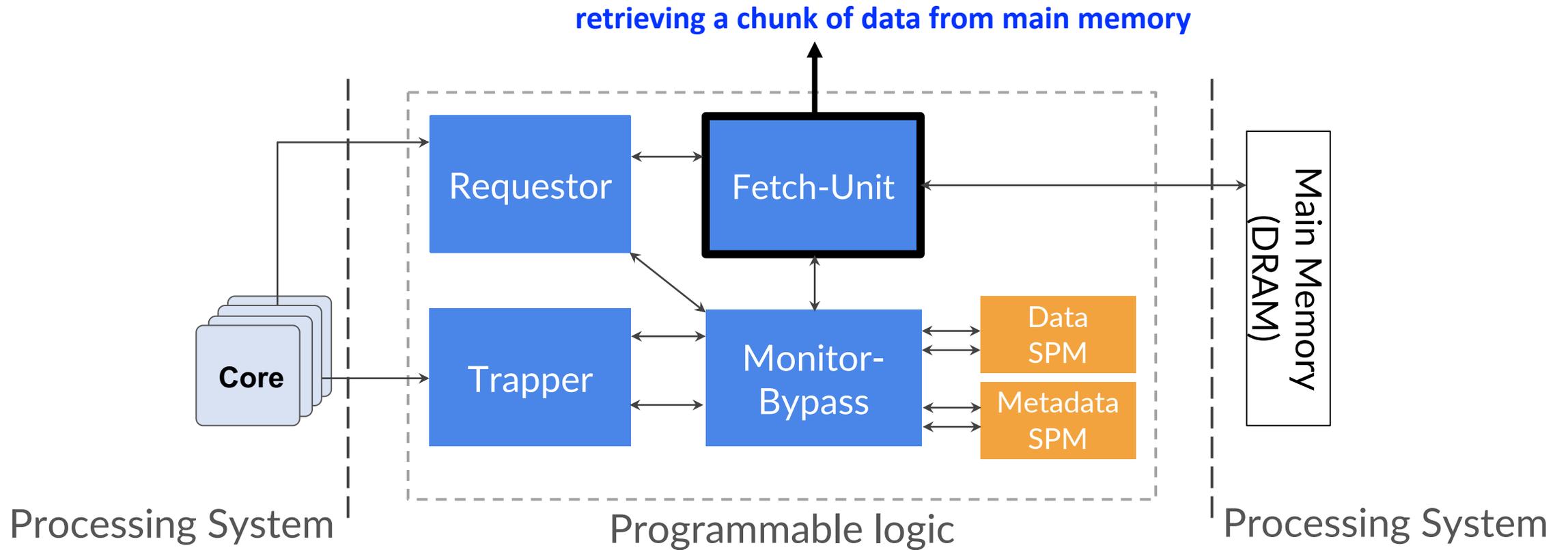
# Relational Memory Engine



# Relational Memory Engine

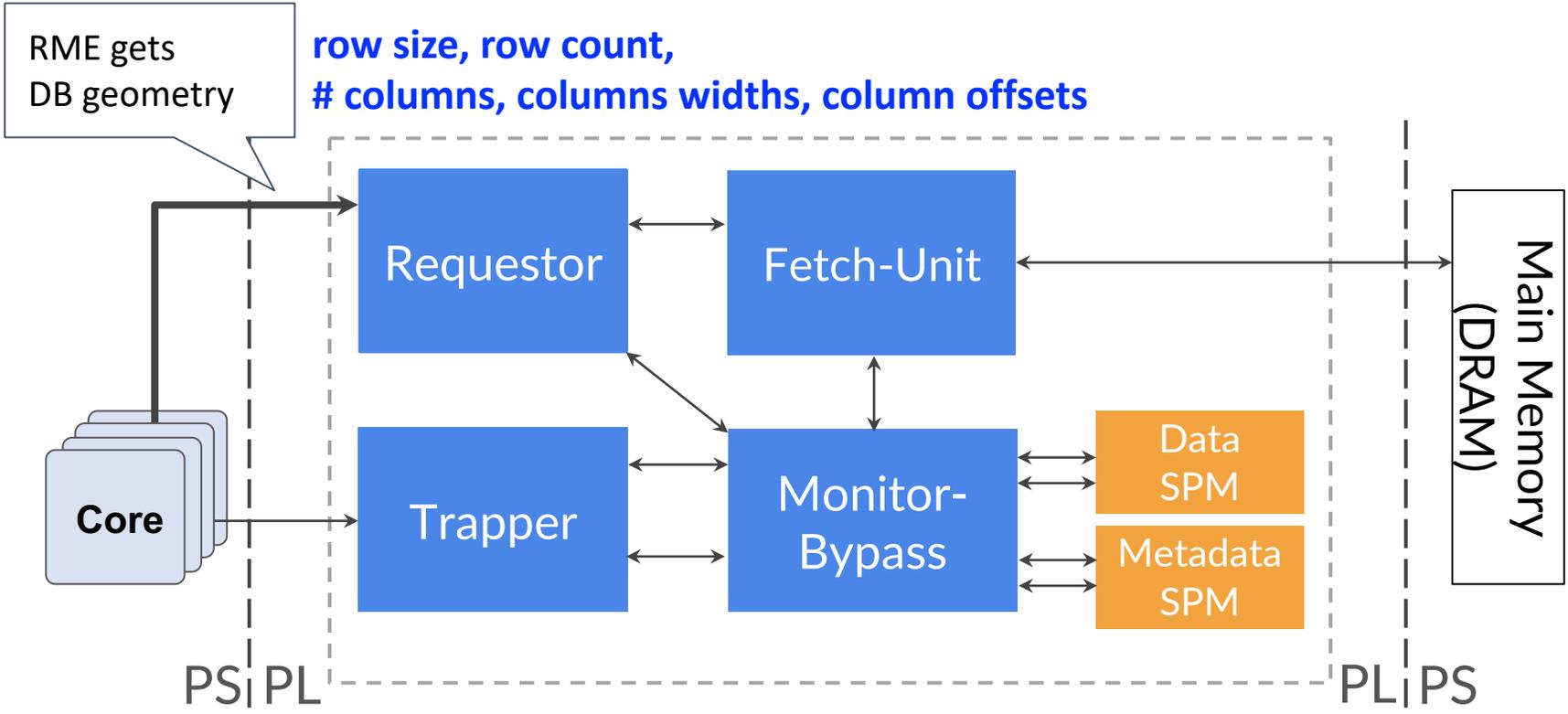


# Relational Memory Engine

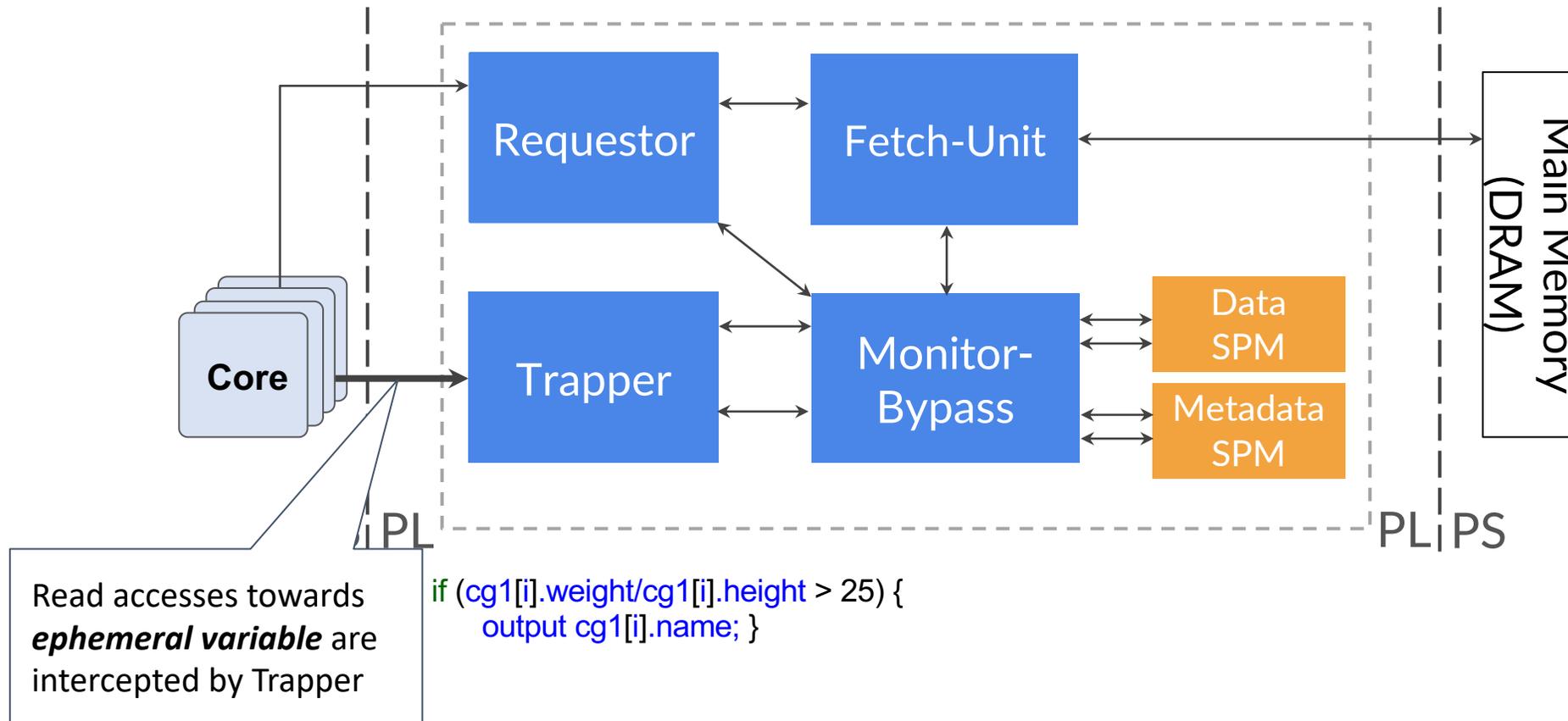


# Relational Memory Engine

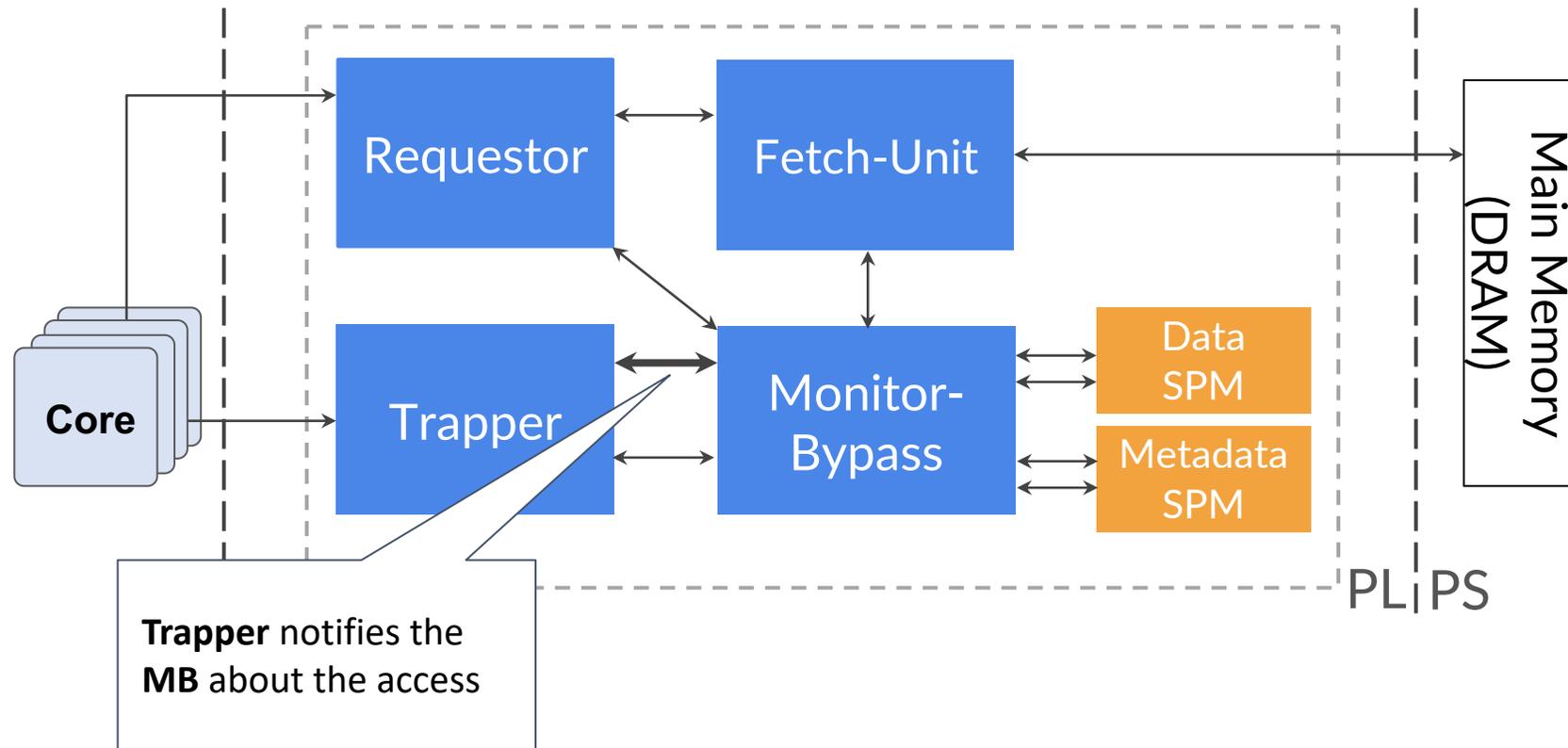
```
cg1 = configure (the_table, column_group);
```



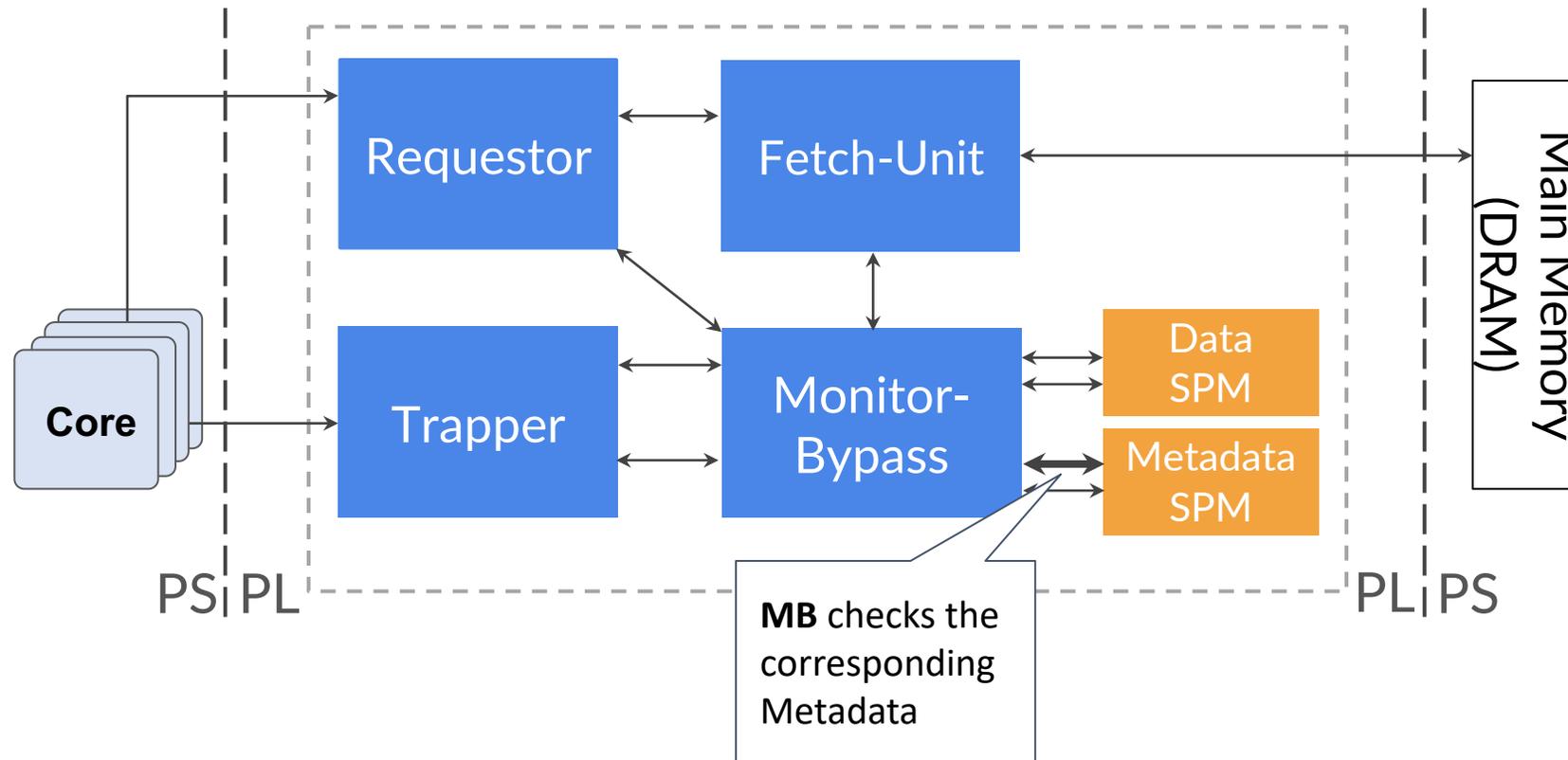
# Relational Memory Engine



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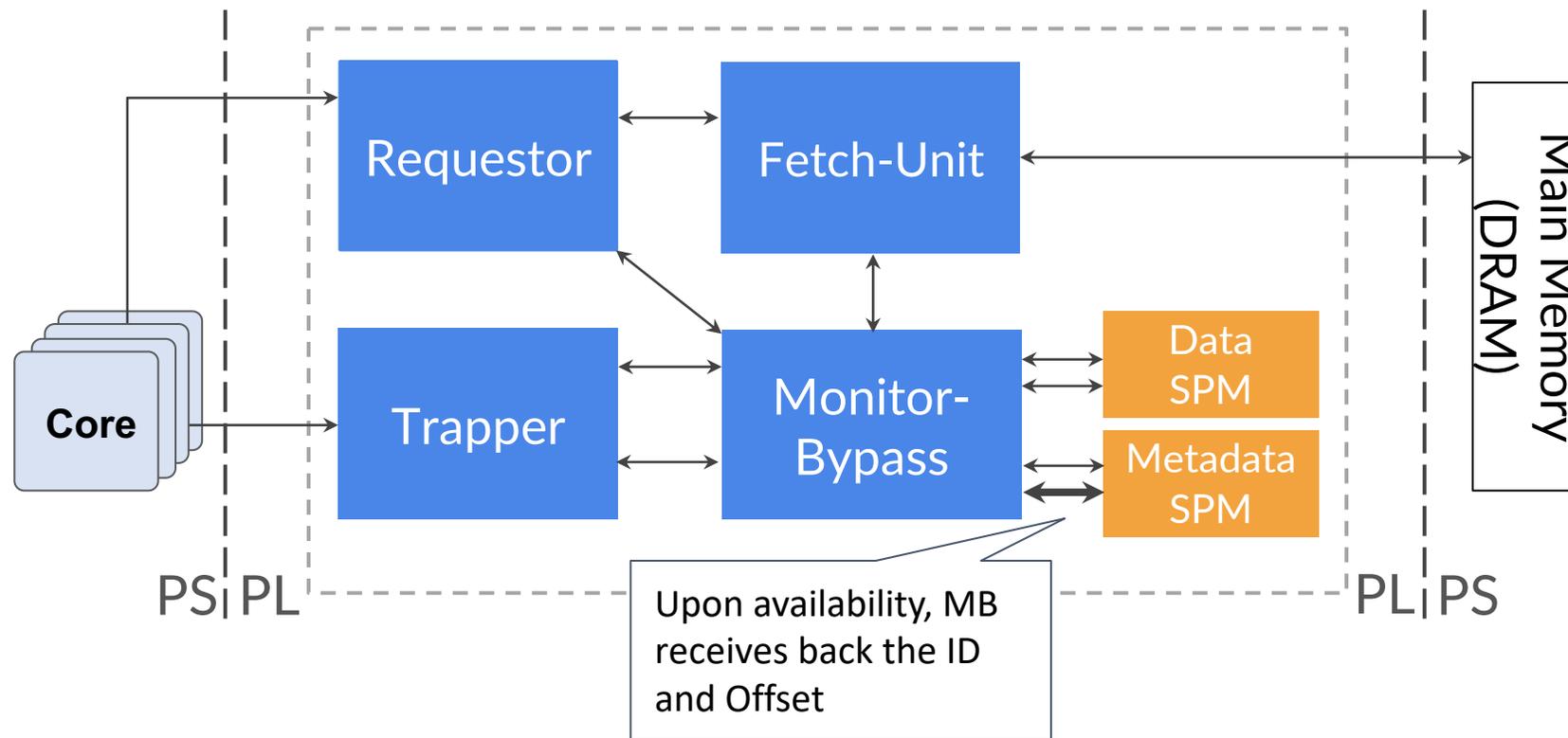


# Relational Memory Engine



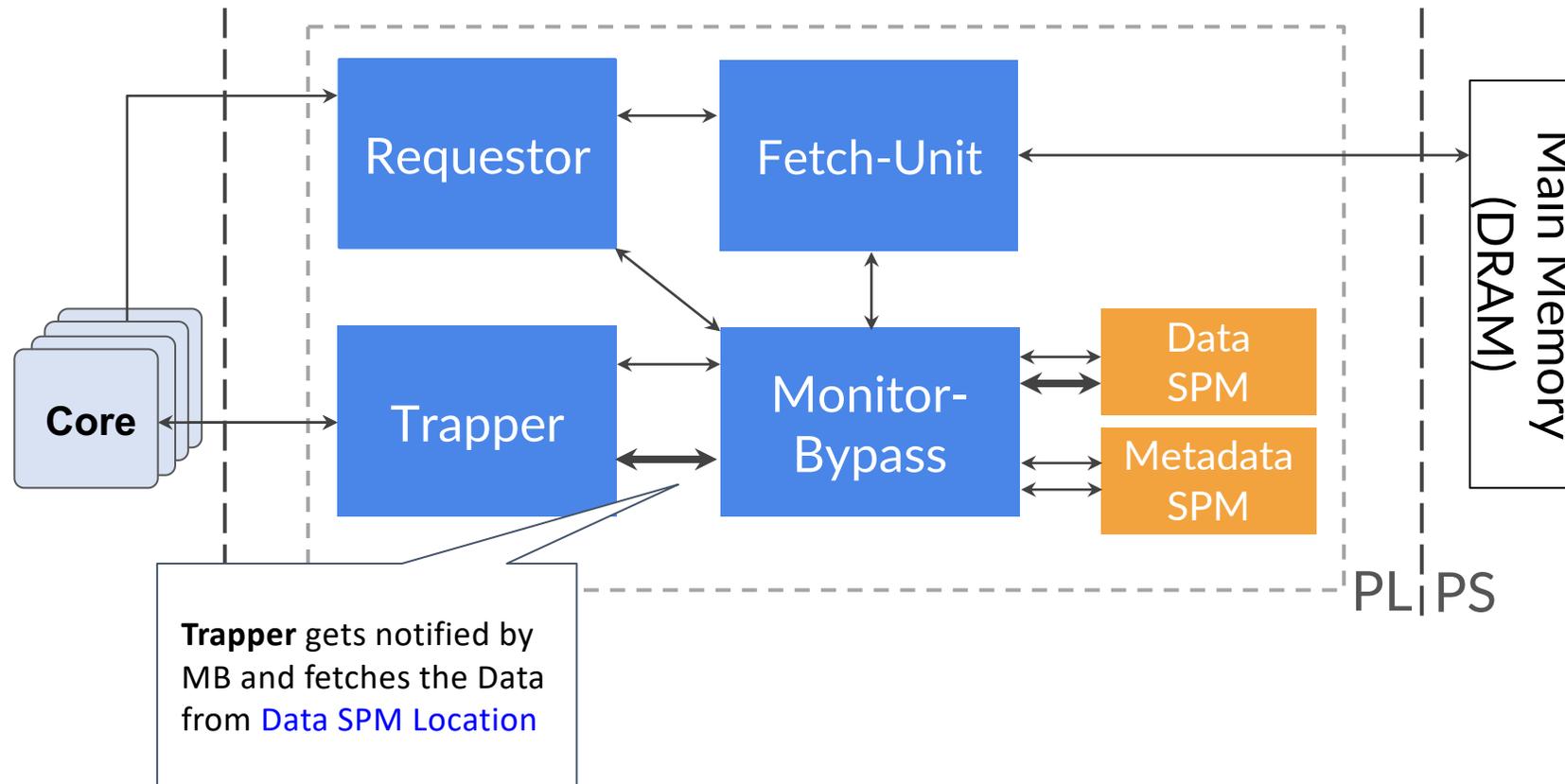
# Relational Memory Engine

When the data is already in Data SPM



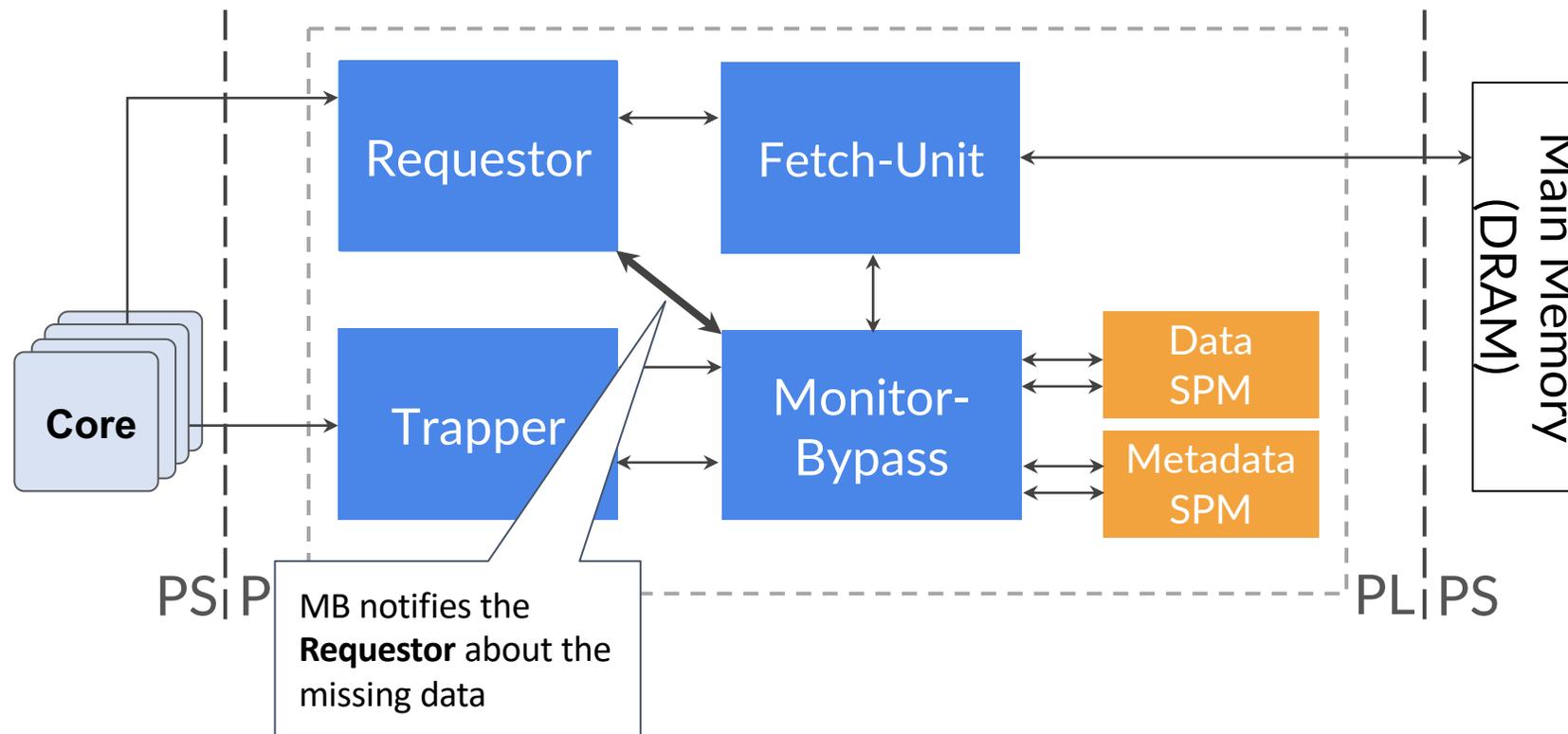
# Relational Memory Engine

When the data is already in Data SPM

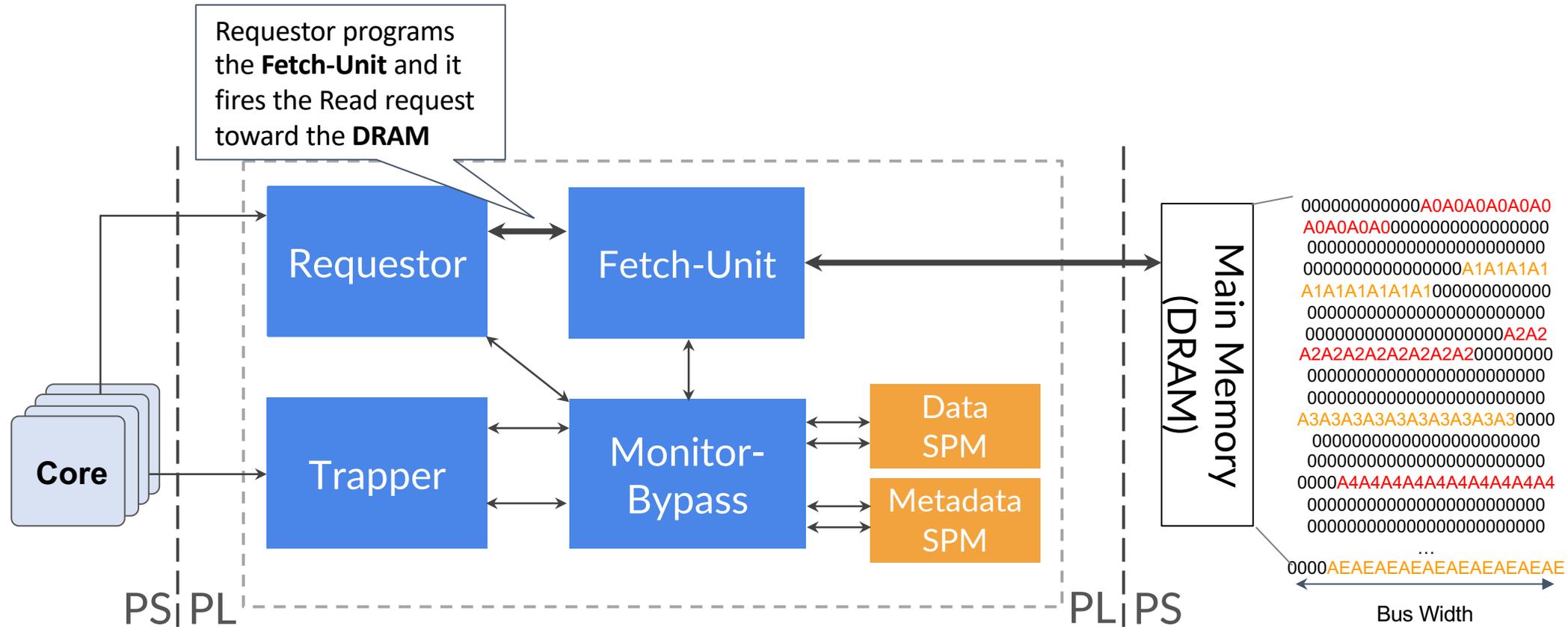


# Relational Memory Engine

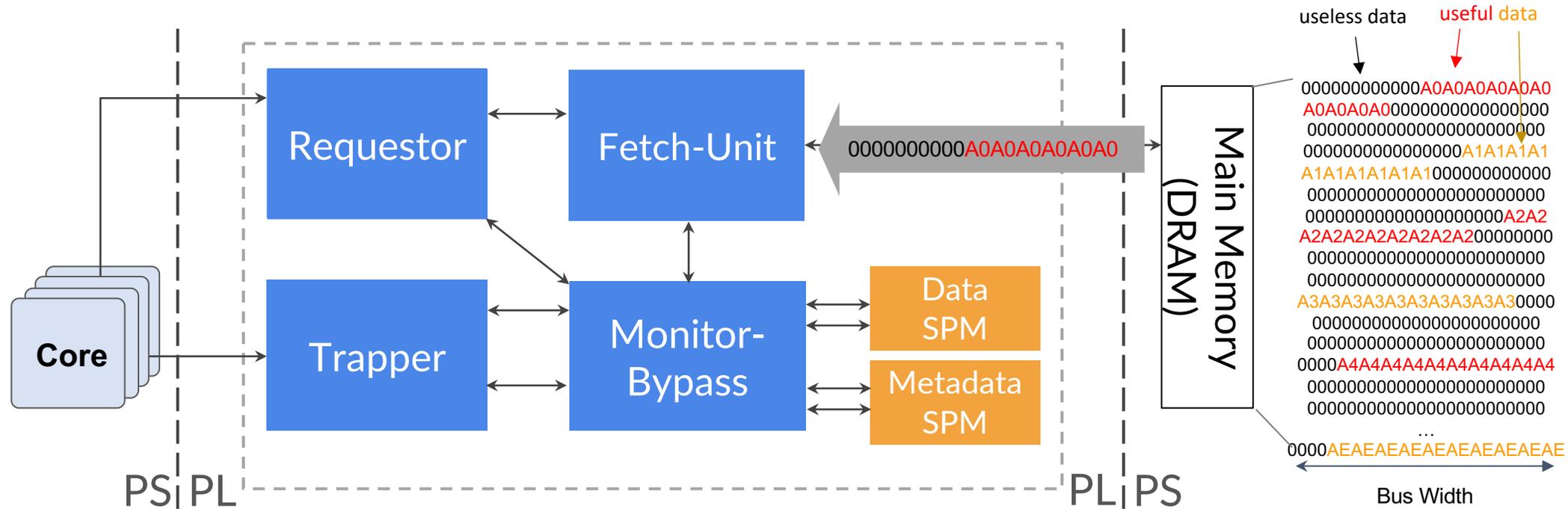
When the data is not in Data SPM



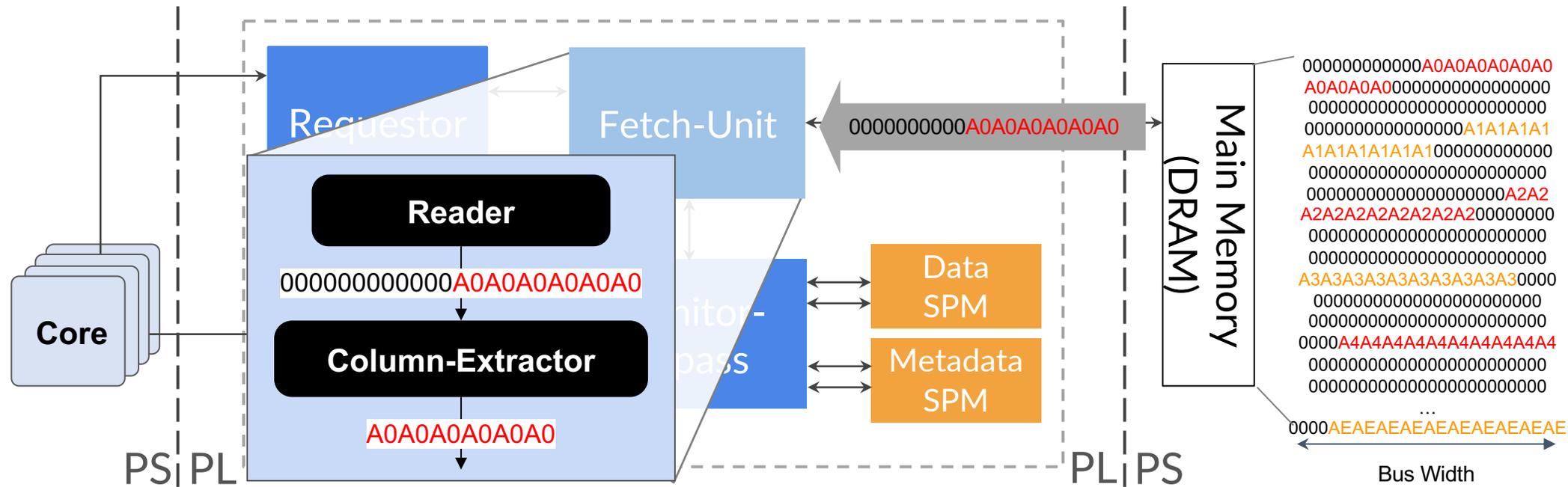
# Relational Memory Engine



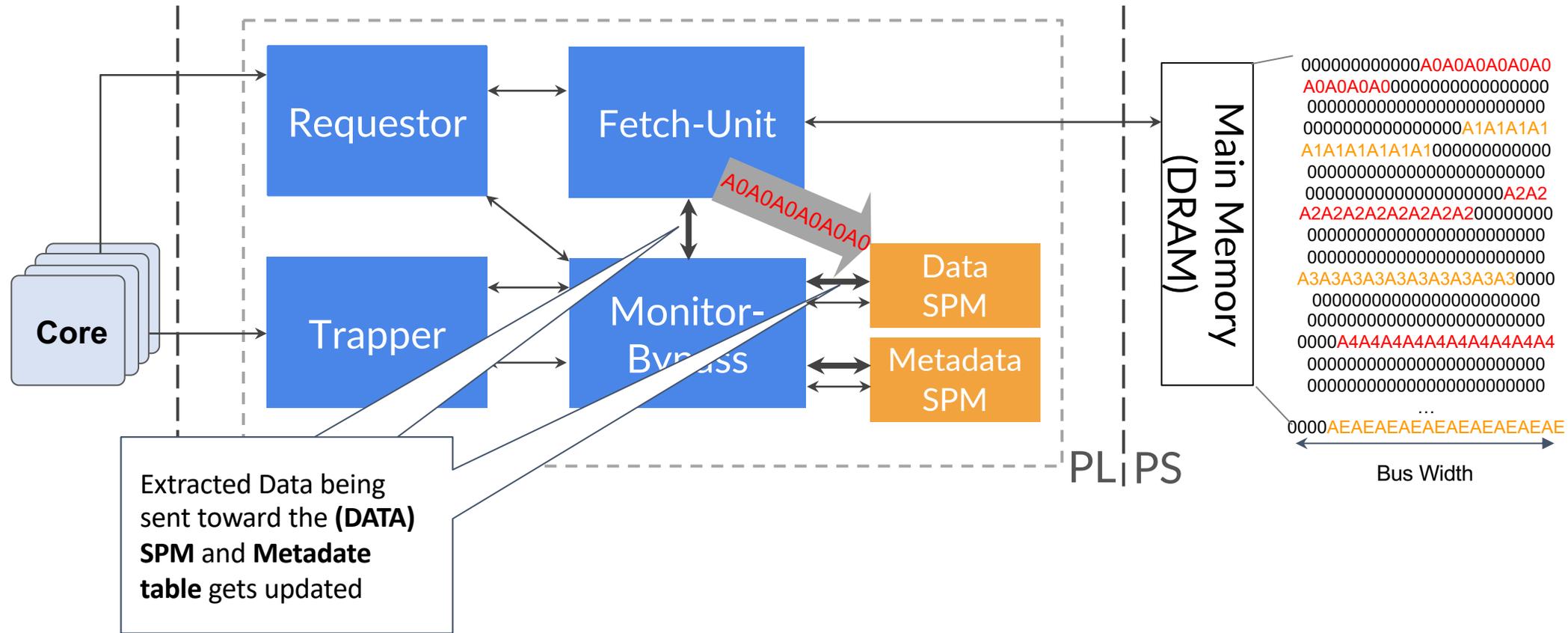
# Relational Memory Engine



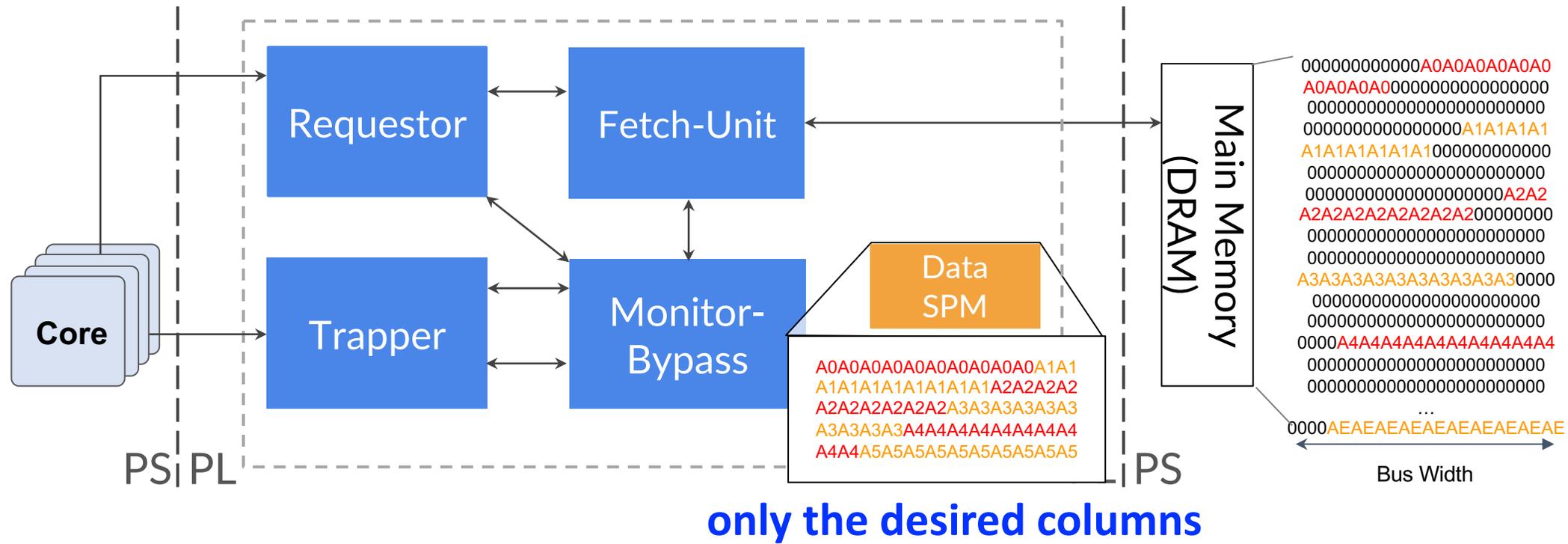
# Relational Memory Engine



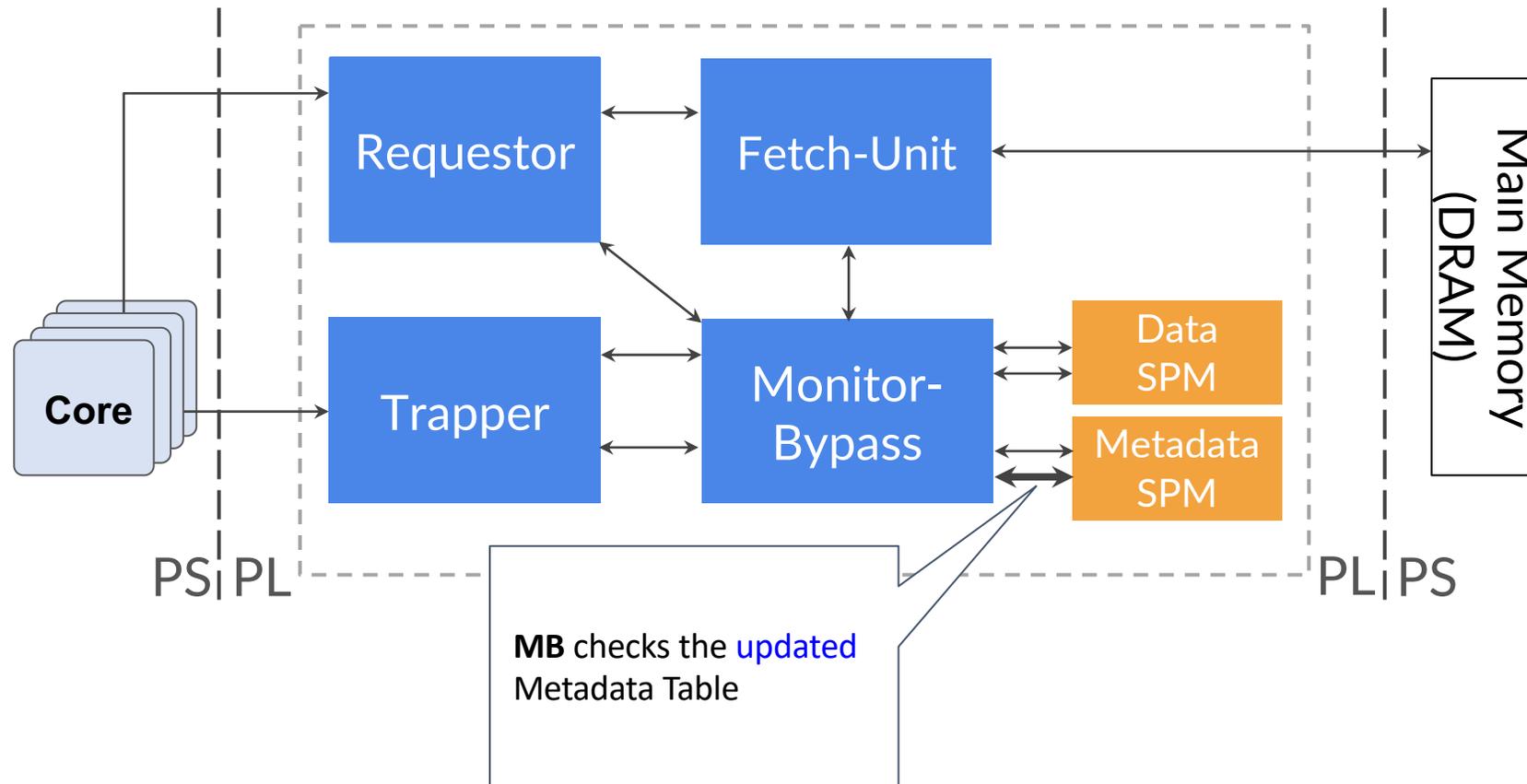
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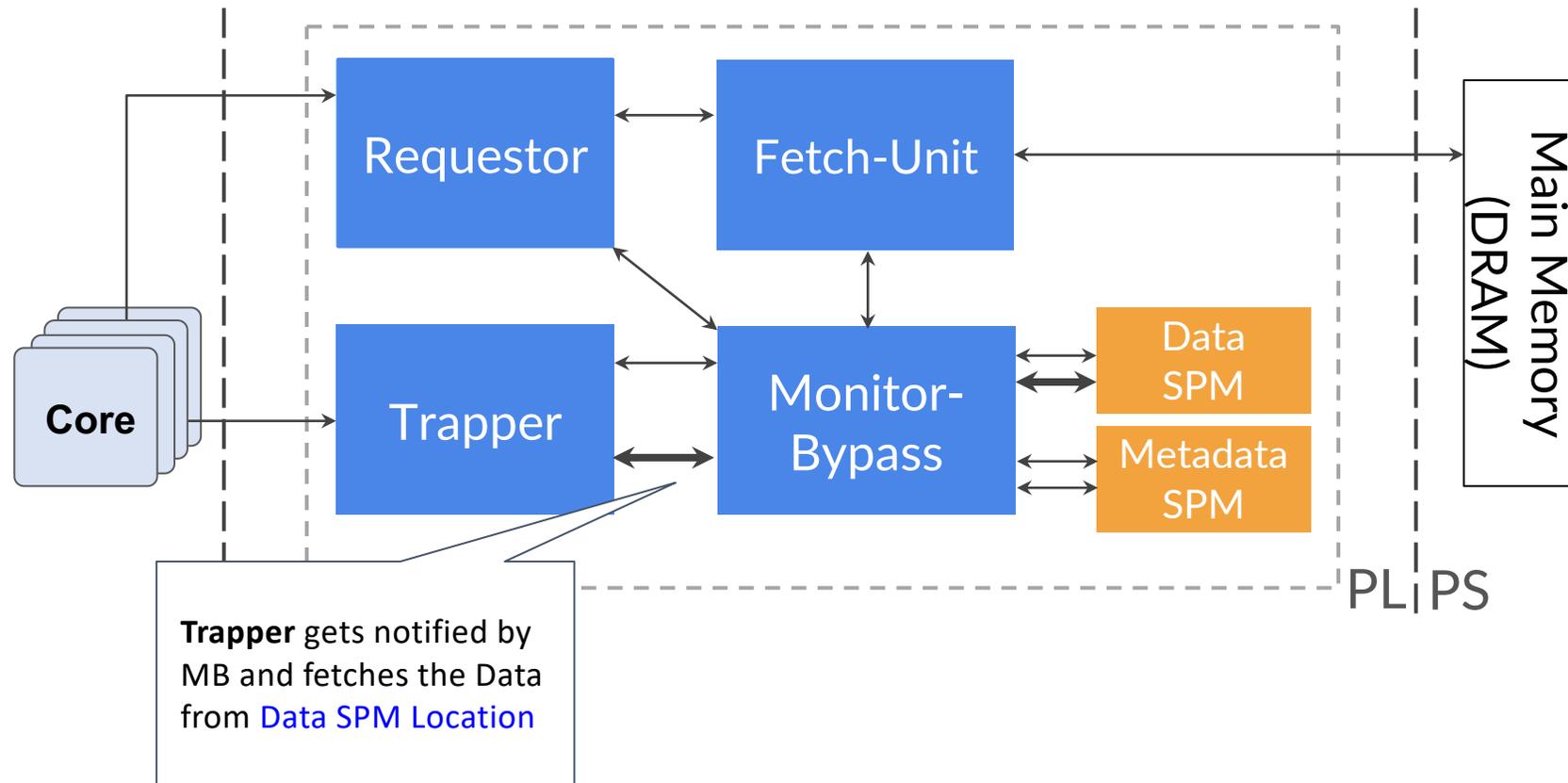
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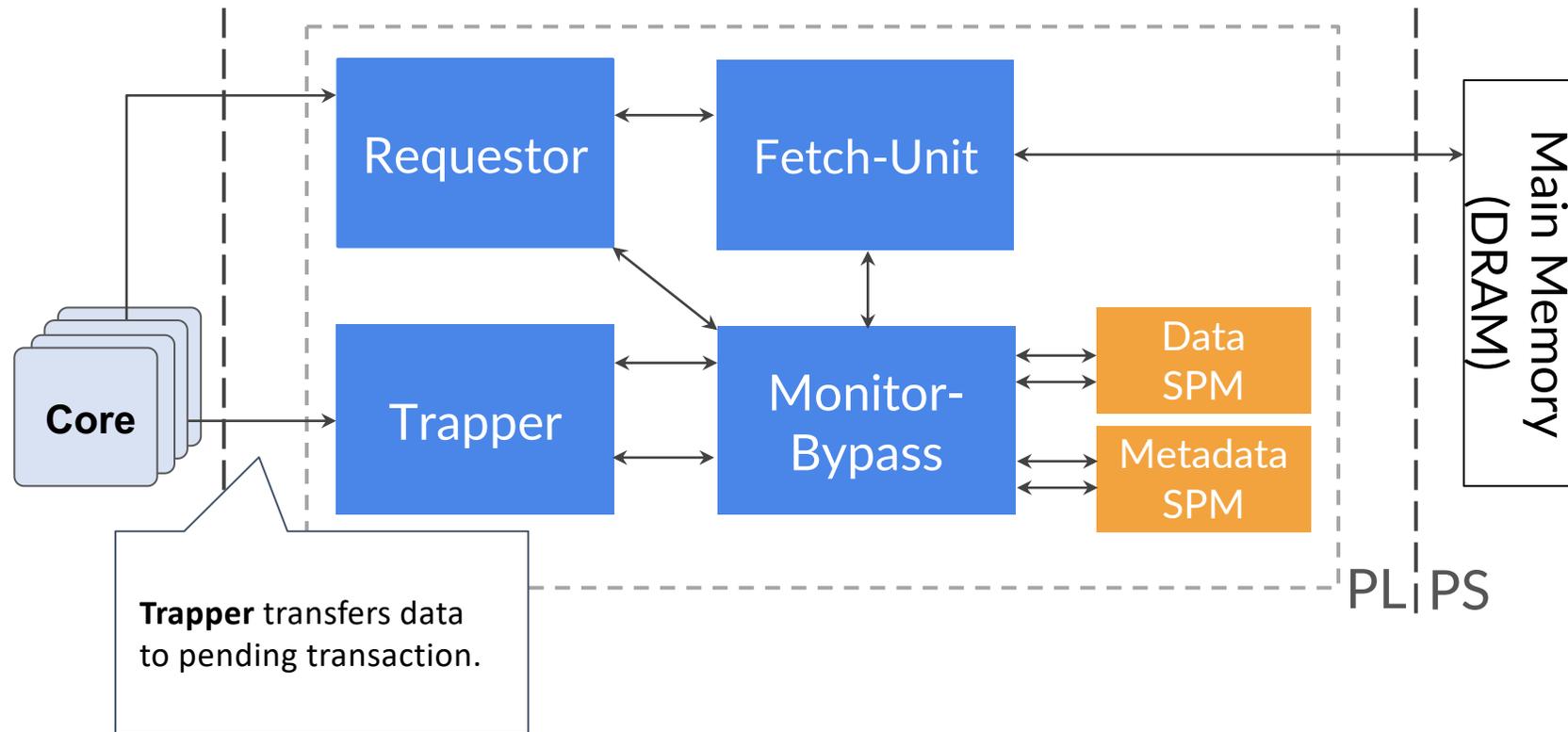
# Relational Memory Engine



# Relational Memory Engine

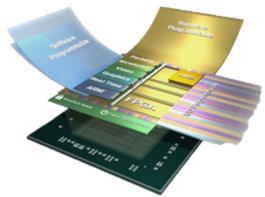


# Relational Memory Engine



*How big is the overhead of fetching the data vs. having them in Data SPM?*

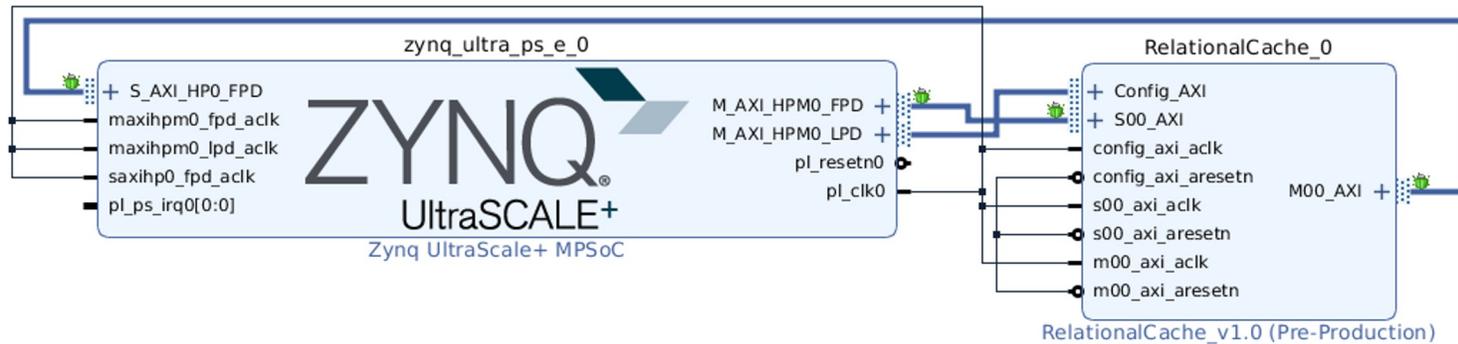
# Evaluation



**AMD XILINX**

UltraScale+  
ZCU102 platform

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



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

# Relational Memory Benchmark

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

Q2: SELECT A1 FROM S WHERE A3 > k;

Q3: SELECT A1 , A2 , ... , Ak FROM S WHERE C1, C2, ... ,Ci;

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

Q5: SELECT S.A1 , R.A3 FROM S JOIN R ON S.A2 = R.A2;

→ projection

→ selection

→ both projection & selection

→ complex queries  
group by & join

## Approaches tested

ROW : Direct row-wise access

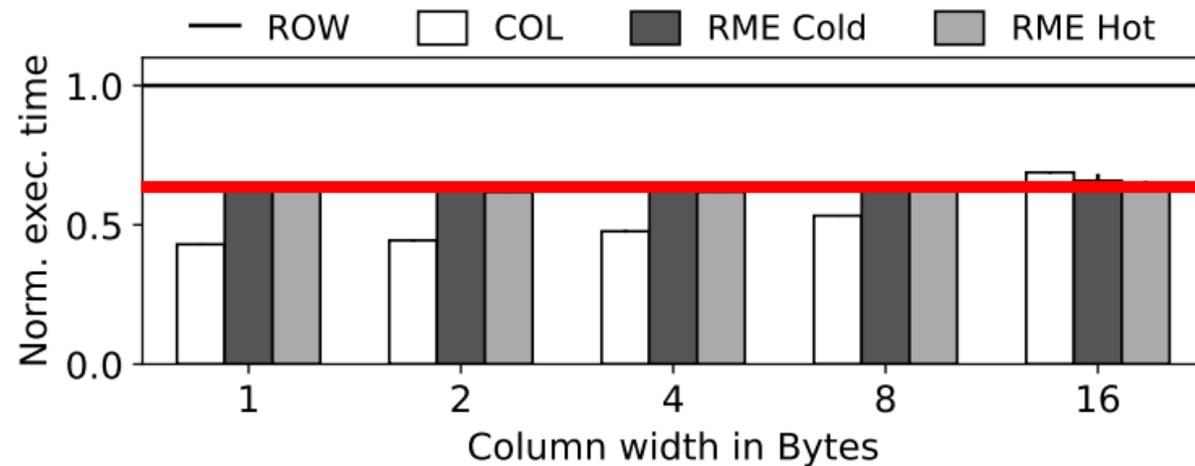
COL : Direct columnar access

RME : using Relational Memory Engine

# RME Cold vs. Hot

*How big is the overhead of fetching the data vs. having them in Data SPM?*

Q0: `SELECT avg(A1) FROM S;`

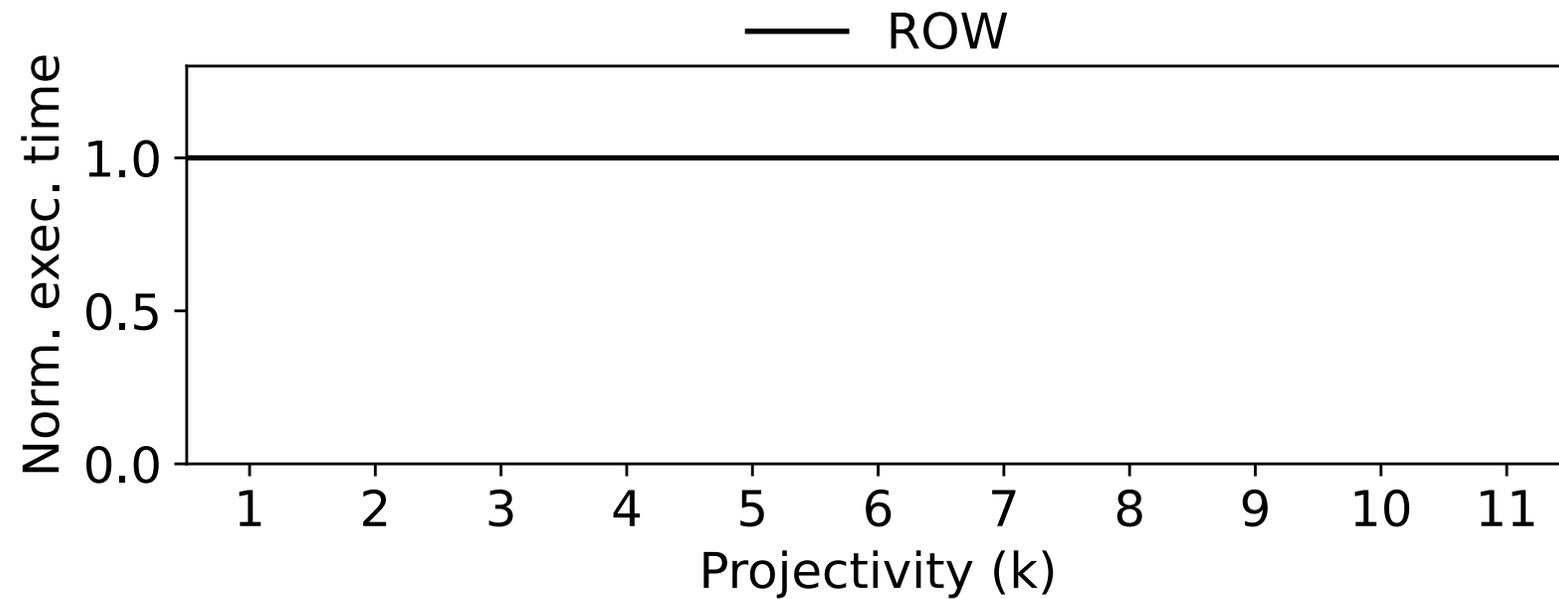


*RME is comparable with directly accessing a single column!*

*RME Cold has virtually the same performance as RME Hot!*

# Queries varying Projectivity

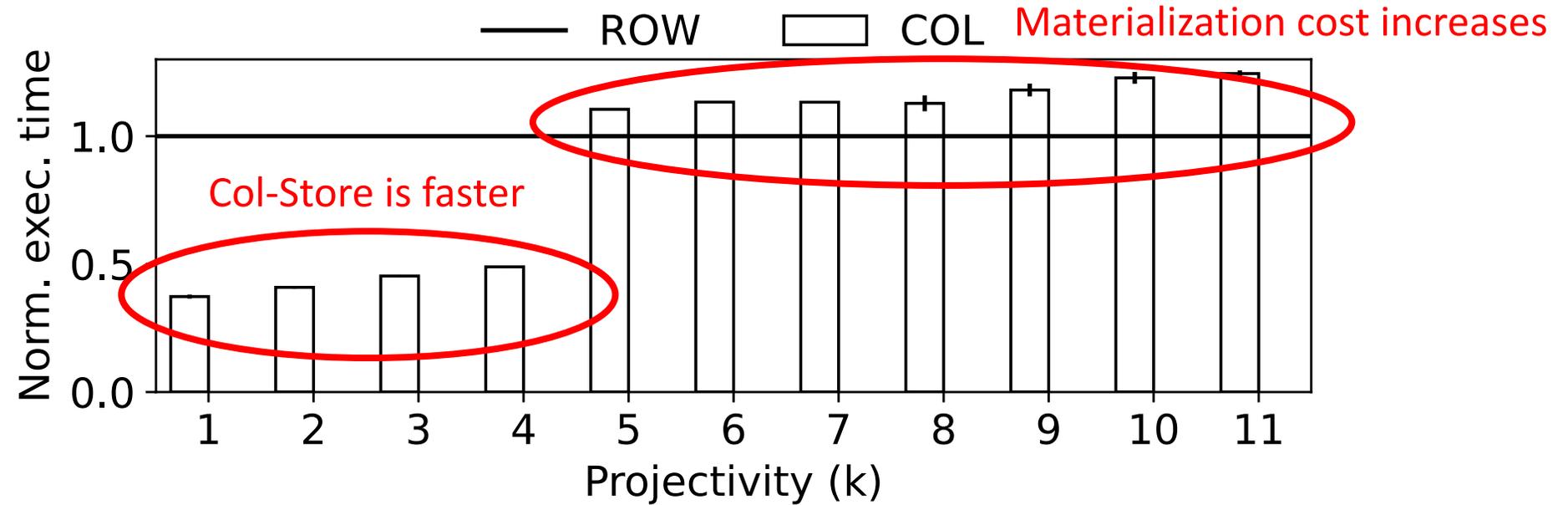
Q1: `SELECT A1 , A2 , ... , Ak FROM S;`



Row size: 64 Bytes, Column size: 4 Bytes

# Queries varying Projectivity

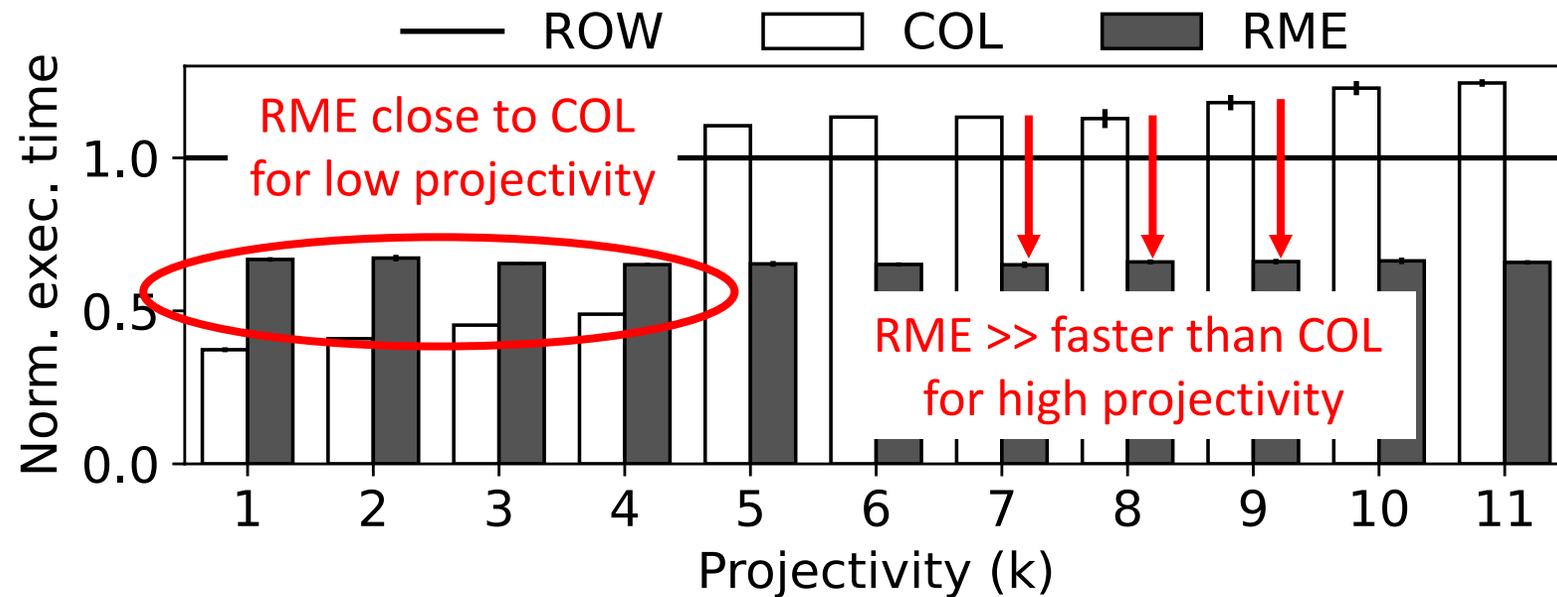
Q1: `SELECT A1 , A2 , ... , Ak FROM S;`



Row size: 64 Bytes, Column size: 4 Bytes

# Queries varying Projectivity

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



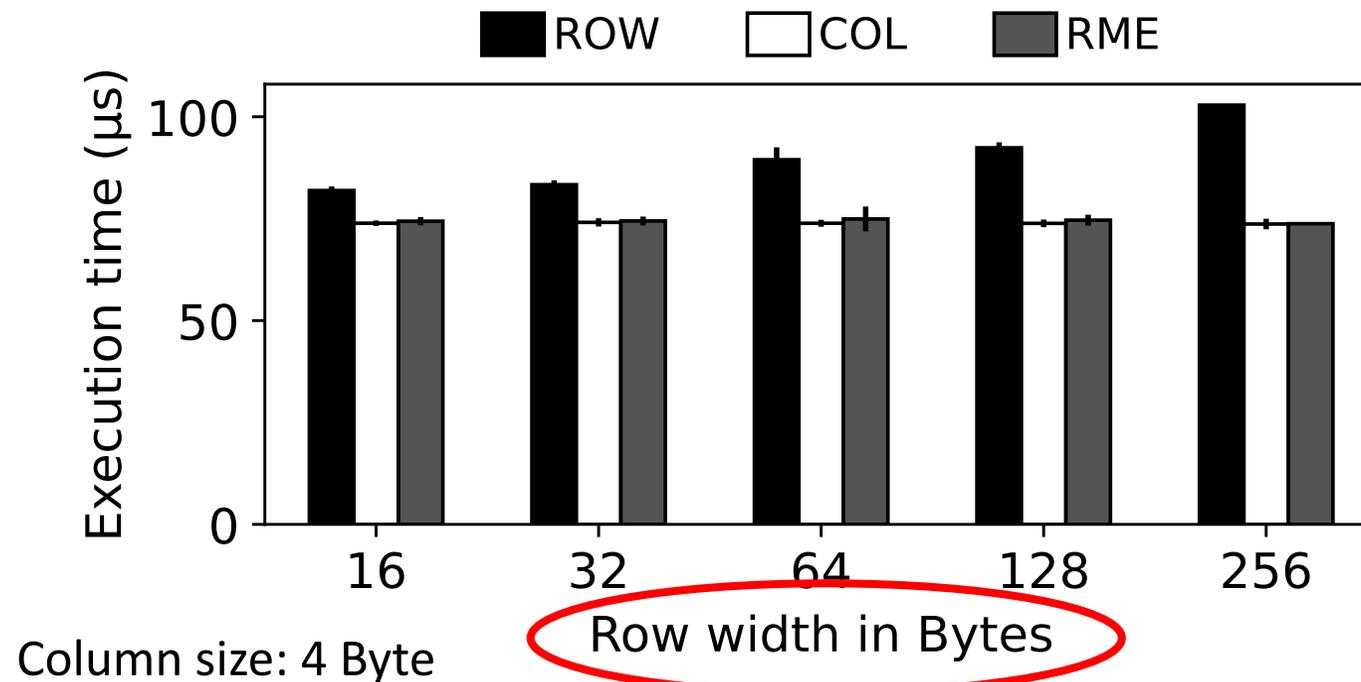
**RME provides stable performance as we vary projectivity**

Row size: 64 Bytes, Column size: 4 Bytes

# RME is not affected by row width

Q2: `SELECT A1 FROM S WHERE A3 > k;`

Selectivity: 90%

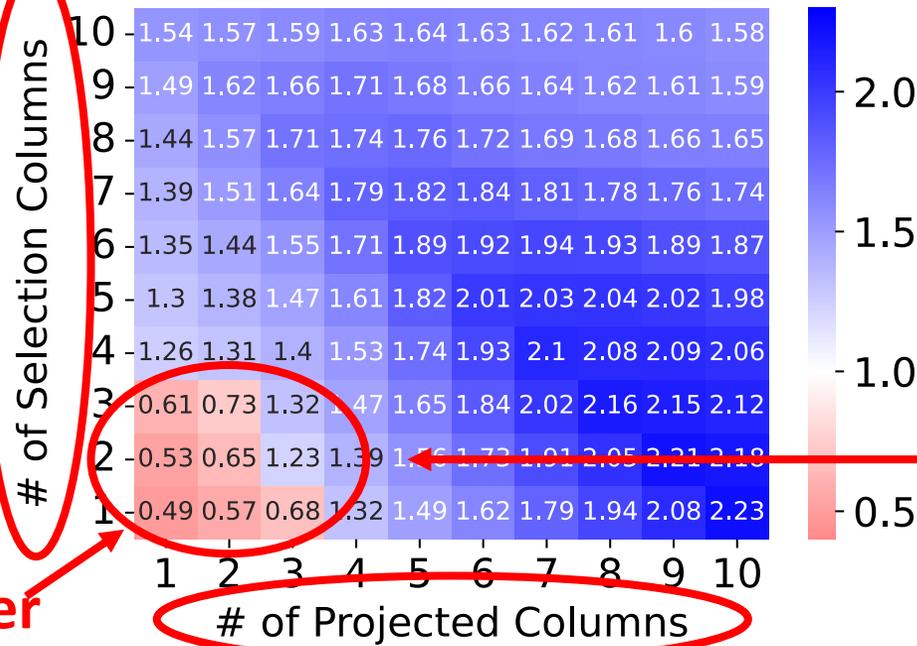


**Irrespectively of the row width, RME always accesses only 2 columns (like COL)**

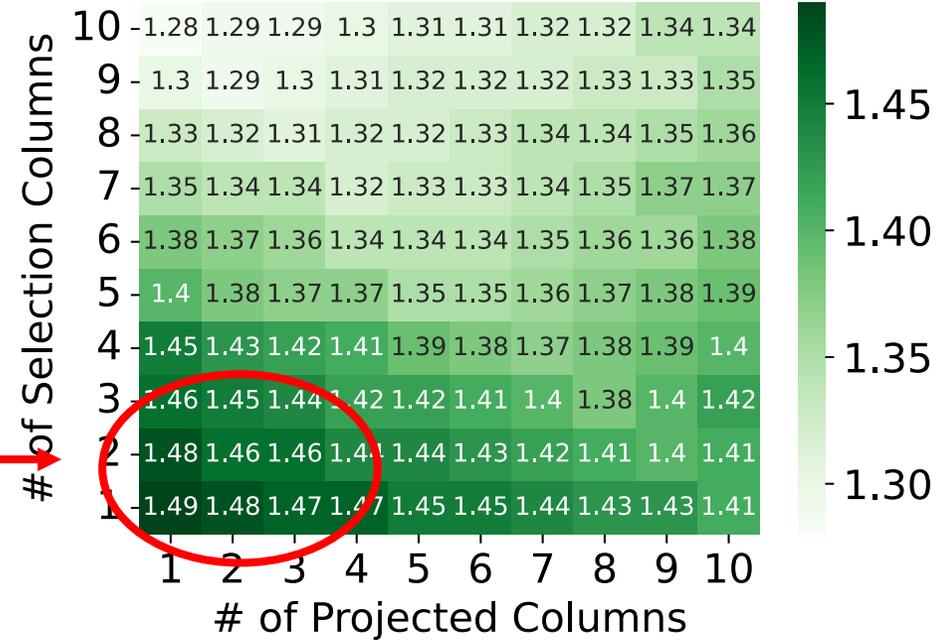
# RME for Multiple Selection and Projection Attributes

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

RME vs COL



RME vs ROW



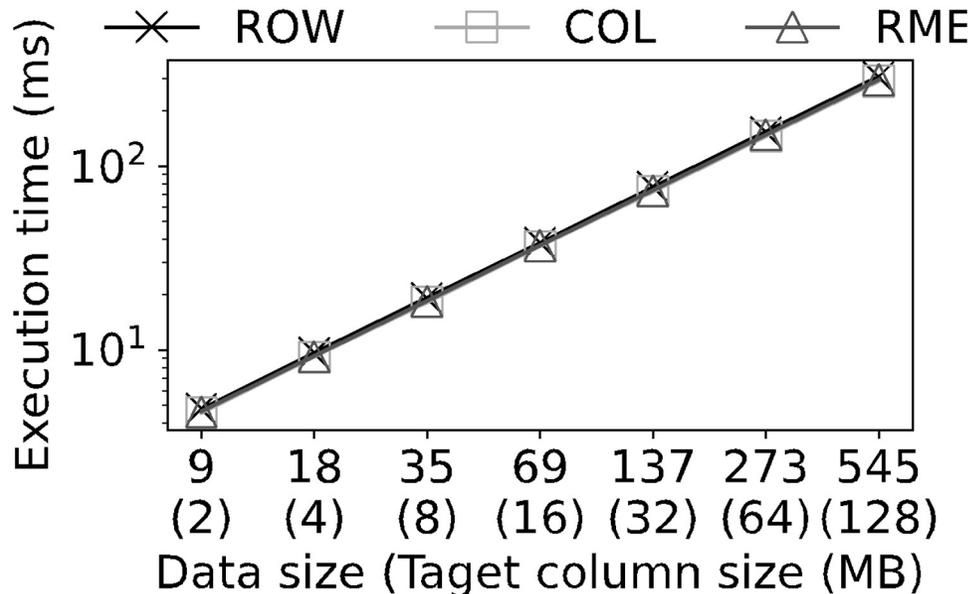
**RME can be up to 2.23x faster than columnar access**

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

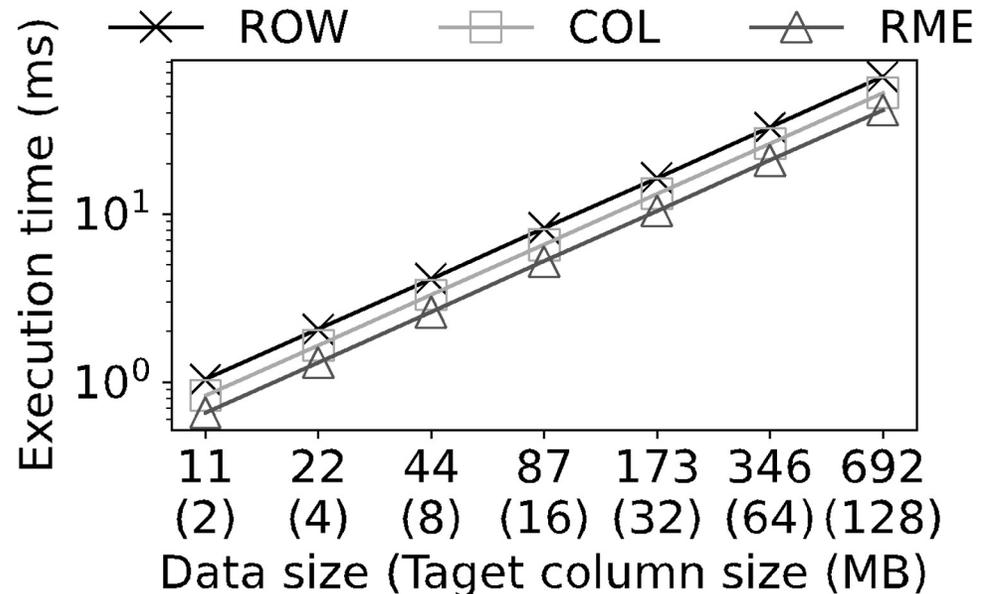
# RME Scales with Data Size

**TPC-H Q1** sel: 95%, proj: 24%, **CPU-bound** (sort/group by)

**TPC-H Q6** sel: 15%, proj: 18%, **IO-bound**



**The CPU overhead of the query dominates the data movement cost**



**RME benefits regardless of the data size by offering optimal layout**

# Updates

*Can we perform updates through ephemeral variables?*

No, ephemeral variables are read-only, but ...

*How to cater for HTAP workloads?*

... RME can manage timestamps, allowing MVCC

Updates go to base row-oriented data (invalidated old/add new version of row)

In flight-queries will always read correct data (MVCC)

# Updates - Example

| <b>name</b> | <b>ID</b> | <b>age</b> | <b>height</b> | <b>weight</b> |
|-------------|-----------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Alice       | 1         | 10         | 120           | 34            |
| Bob         | 2         | 71         | 175           | 74            |
| Charles     | 3         | 37         | 168           | 61            |
| David       | 4         | 25         | 179           | 80            |
| Eve         | 5         | 43         | 168           | 58            |
| Frank       | 6         | 22         | 181           | 79            |
| Greg        | 7         | 52         | 175           | 67            |
| Henry       | 8         | 17         | 169           | 76            |
| Iris        | 9         | 34         | 158           | 49            |
| Jane        | 10        | 29         | 165           | 59            |
| Kenneth     | 11        | 31         | 184           | 94            |
| Luke        | 12        | 13         | 125           | 38            |

# Updates - Example

Data inserted at time  $t_1$  and now valid

| name    | ID | age | height | weight | TS <sub>from</sub> | TS <sub>to</sub> |
|---------|----|-----|--------|--------|--------------------|------------------|
| Alice   | 1  | 10  | 120    | 34     | $t_1$              | $\infty$         |
| Bob     | 2  | 71  | 175    | 74     | $t_1$              | $\infty$         |
| Charles | 3  | 37  | 168    | 61     | $t_1$              | $\infty$         |
| David   | 4  | 25  | 179    | 80     | $t_1$              | $\infty$         |
| Eve     | 5  | 43  | 168    | 58     | $t_1$              | $\infty$         |
| Frank   | 6  | 22  | 181    | 79     | $t_1$              | $\infty$         |
| Greg    | 7  | 52  | 175    | 67     | $t_1$              | $\infty$         |
| Henry   | 8  | 17  | 169    | 76     | $t_2$              | $\infty$         |
| Iris    | 9  | 34  | 158    | 49     | $t_2$              | $\infty$         |
| Jane    | 10 | 29  | 165    | 59     | $t_2$              | $\infty$         |
| Kenneth | 11 | 31  | 184    | 94     | $t_2$              | $\infty$         |
| Luke    | 12 | 13  | 125    | 38     | $t_2$              | $\infty$         |

At  $t_3$ :

DELETE FROM table WHERE ID = 11;

Data inserted at time  $t_2$  and now valid

# Updates - Example

| name           | ID        | age       | height     | weight    | TS <sub>from</sub>   | TS <sub>to</sub>     |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Alice          | 1         | 10        | 120        | 34        | t <sub>1</sub>       | ∞                    |
| Bob            | 2         | 71        | 175        | 74        | t <sub>1</sub>       | ∞                    |
| Charles        | 3         | 37        | 168        | 61        | t <sub>1</sub>       | ∞                    |
| David          | 4         | 25        | 179        | 80        | t <sub>1</sub>       | ∞                    |
| Eve            | 5         | 43        | 168        | 58        | t <sub>1</sub>       | ∞                    |
| Frank          | 6         | 22        | 181        | 79        | t <sub>1</sub>       | ∞                    |
| Greg           | 7         | 52        | 175        | 67        | t <sub>1</sub>       | ∞                    |
| Henry          | 8         | 17        | 169        | 76        | t <sub>2</sub>       | ∞                    |
| Iris           | 9         | 34        | 158        | 49        | t <sub>2</sub>       | ∞                    |
| Jane           | 10        | 29        | 165        | 59        | t <sub>2</sub>       | ∞                    |
| <b>Kenneth</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>184</b> | <b>94</b> | <b>t<sub>2</sub></b> | <b>t<sub>3</sub></b> |
| Luke           | 12        | 13        | 125        | 38        | t <sub>2</sub>       | ∞                    |

At t<sub>5</sub>:

UPDATE weight=82 FROM table WHERE ID = 8;

At t<sub>3</sub>:

DELETE FROM table WHERE ID = 11;

# Updates - Example

| name    | ID | age | height | weight | TS <sub>from</sub> | TS <sub>to</sub> |
|---------|----|-----|--------|--------|--------------------|------------------|
| Alice   | 1  | 10  | 120    | 34     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| Bob     | 2  | 71  | 175    | 74     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| Charles | 3  | 37  | 168    | 61     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| David   | 4  | 25  | 179    | 80     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| Eve     | 5  | 43  | 168    | 58     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| Frank   | 6  | 22  | 181    | 79     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| Greg    | 7  | 52  | 175    | 67     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| Henry   | 8  | 17  | 169    | 76     | t <sub>2</sub>     | t <sub>5</sub>   |
| Iris    | 9  | 34  | 158    | 49     | t <sub>2</sub>     | ∞                |
| Jane    | 10 | 29  | 165    | 59     | t <sub>2</sub>     | ∞                |
| Kenneth | 11 | 31  | 184    | 94     | t <sub>2</sub>     | t <sub>3</sub>   |
| Luke    | 12 | 13  | 125    | 38     | t <sub>2</sub>     | ∞                |
| Henry   | 8  | 17  | 169    | 82     | t <sub>5</sub>     | ∞                |

At t<sub>5</sub>:

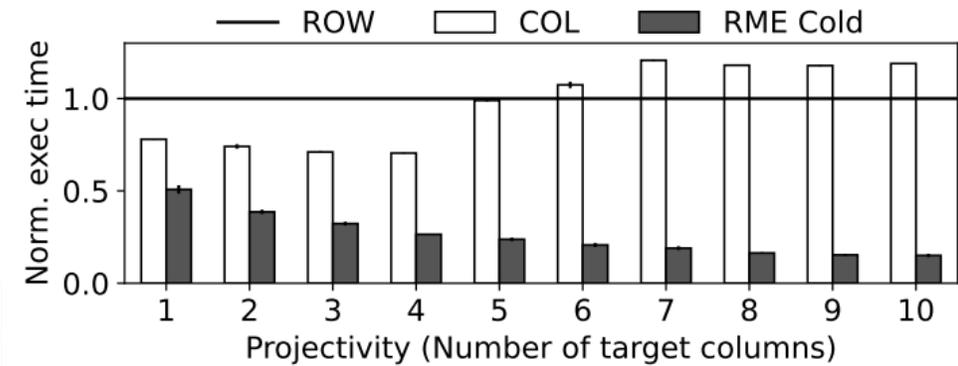
UPDATE weight=82 FROM table WHERE ID = 8;

At t<sub>3</sub>:

DELETE FROM table WHERE ID = 11;

# Updates - Example

| name    | ID | age | height | weight | TS <sub>from</sub> | TS <sub>to</sub> |
|---------|----|-----|--------|--------|--------------------|------------------|
| Alice   | 1  | 10  | 120    | 34     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| Bob     | 2  | 71  | 175    | 74     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| Charles | 3  | 37  | 168    | 61     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| David   | 4  | 25  | 179    | 80     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| Eve     | 5  | 43  | 168    | 58     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| Frank   | 6  | 22  | 181    | 79     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| Greg    | 7  | 52  | 175    | 67     | t <sub>1</sub>     | ∞                |
| Henry   | 8  | 17  | 169    | 76     | t <sub>2</sub>     | t <sub>5</sub>   |
| Iris    | 9  | 34  | 158    | 49     | t <sub>2</sub>     | ∞                |
| Jane    | 10 | 29  | 165    | 59     | t <sub>2</sub>     | ∞                |
| Kenneth | 11 | 31  | 184    | 94     | t <sub>2</sub>     | t <sub>3</sub>   |
| Luke    | 12 | 13  | 125    | 38     | t <sub>2</sub>     | ∞                |
| Henry   | 8  | 17  | 169    | 82     | t <sub>5</sub>     | ∞                |



With MVCC enabled, RME is always faster than ROW and COL!

`SELECT avg(weight) FROM table;`

At t<sub>3</sub>:

`cg1 = configure (table, column_group, t3);`

At t<sub>5</sub>:

`cg1 = configure (table, column_group, t5);`

RME will discard through hardware invalid rows

# Implications of Relational Memory



**Breaking your (fractured) mirrors ...**

**is not bad luck anymore!**

# Implications of Relational Memory

**Break your (fractured) mirrors!!** No need to maintain multiple systems

**Layout-less storage:** Queries can access any layout for free!

**Physical Design** is simplified

**Query Optimization** to find the optimal plan without (layout) constraints

**Query Evaluation** to use the best layout for each query

# Next Steps & Open Questions

Integrate with a **full-blown RDBMS**

Implement **RME within a memory controller** (*ongoing project with RedHat*)

Implement *Transparent Data Transformation* in **Smart SSD**

Transparent Data Transformation for other applications: e.g., *slice Tensors*

# Relational Memory - Summary

*Relational Memory: Native In-Memory Accesses on Rows and Columns, EDBT 2023*

a novel **SW/HW co-design** paradigm  
 every query **always access the optimal data layout**  
**ephemeral variables**: a simple and lightweight abstraction  
 room for *a lot of* innovation



***Thank you!***

[disc.bu.edu/relational-memory](http://disc.bu.edu/relational-memory)

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