
EFFICIENT LIGHTWEIGHT COMPRESSION ALONGSIDE FAST SCANS

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Kenneth A. Ross

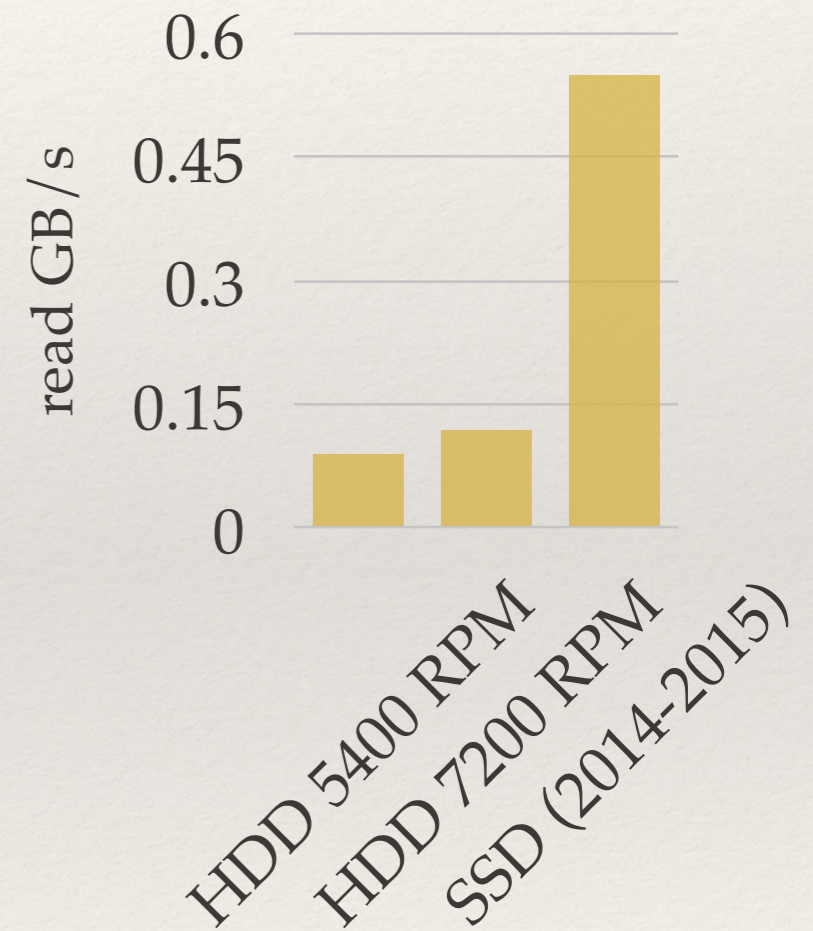
 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DaMoN 2015, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia



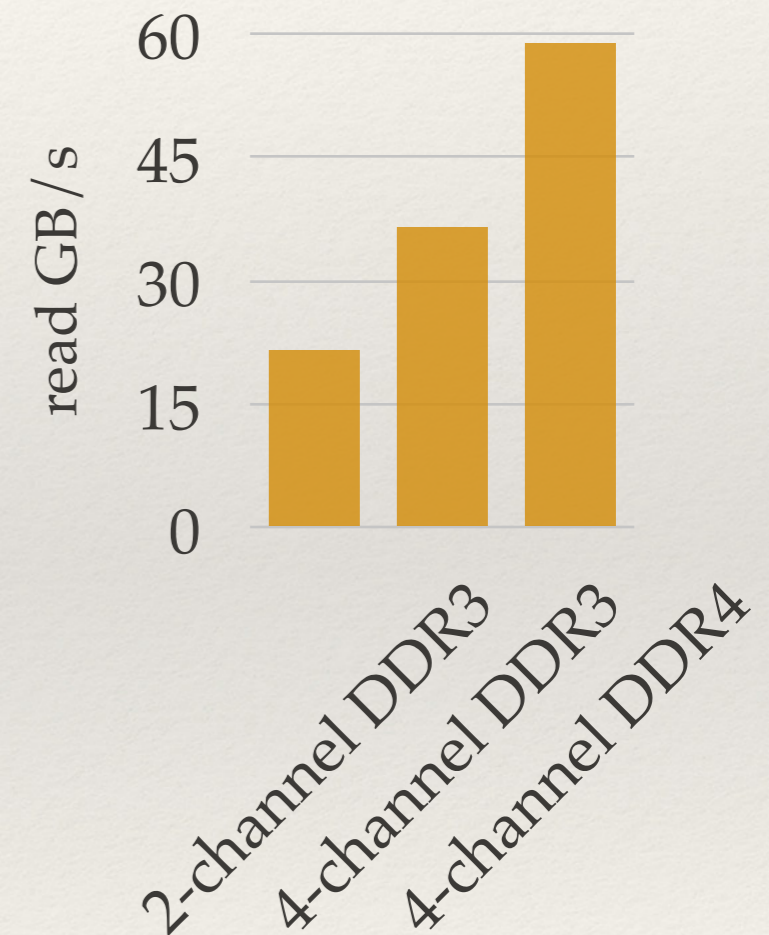
Databases & Compression

- ❖ Process data on *disk*
 - ❖ Nearly *unlimited* capacity
 - ❖ Affects query *optimization*
 - ❖ Minimize # of blocks fetched
 - ❖ Minimize # of random block accesses
 - ❖ Compress to improve disk speed
 - ❖ Focused on *compression rate* since disks are “slow”



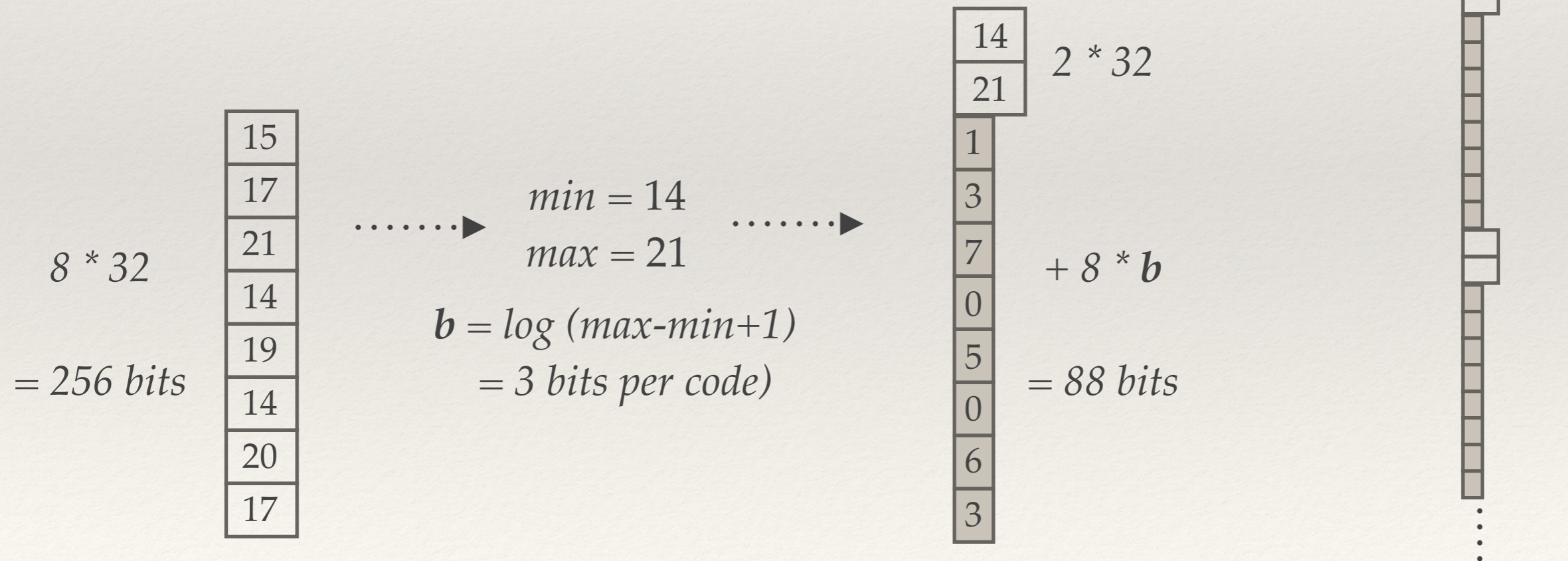
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 - ❖ Compress to improve disk speed
 - ❖ Focused on *compression rate* since disks are “slow”
- ❖ Process data on *RAM*
 - ❖ Always *limited* capacity
 - ❖ Affects query *optimization* & query *execution*
 - ❖ Minimize # of accesses (e.g. column stores & late materialization)
 - ❖ Minimize # of *random* (out of CPU cache) accesses (e.g. partitioned join)
 - ❖ Compress to improve RAM speed & *avoid* disk
 - ❖ Focused on (*de-*) *compression efficiency* as RAM is “fast”



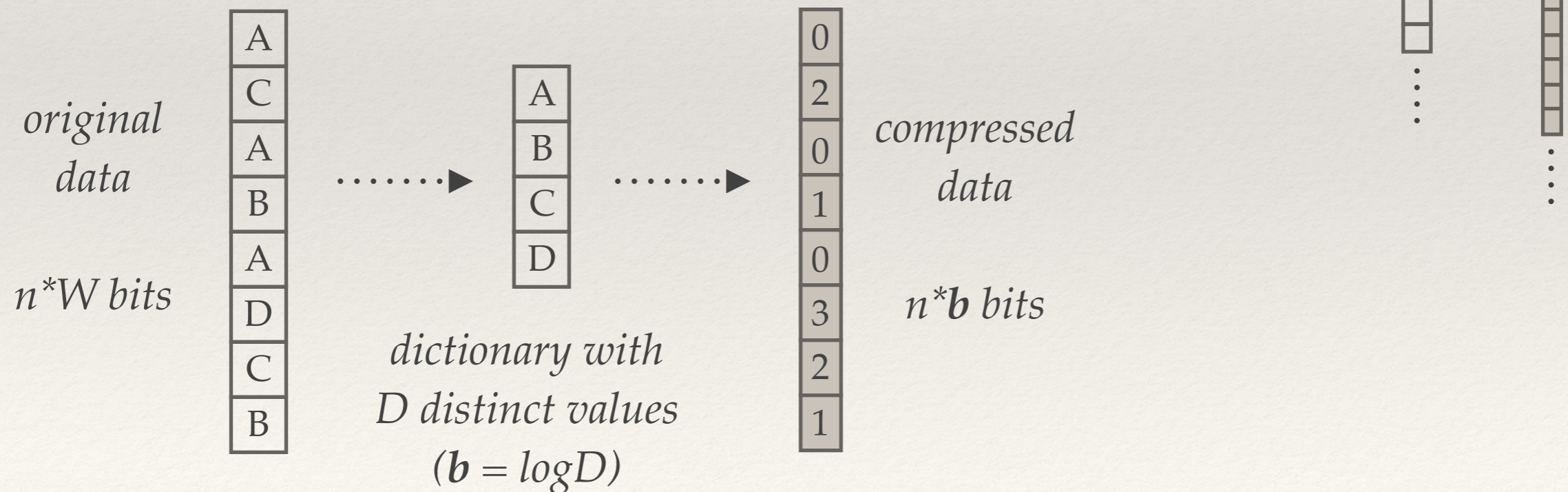
Lightweight Compression

- ❖ Compression schemes
 - ❖ Entropy compression
 - ❖ Group *nearby* similar values
 - ❖ e.g. run-length-encoding, frame-of-reference



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 - ❖ Assign a *symbol* to each distinct value
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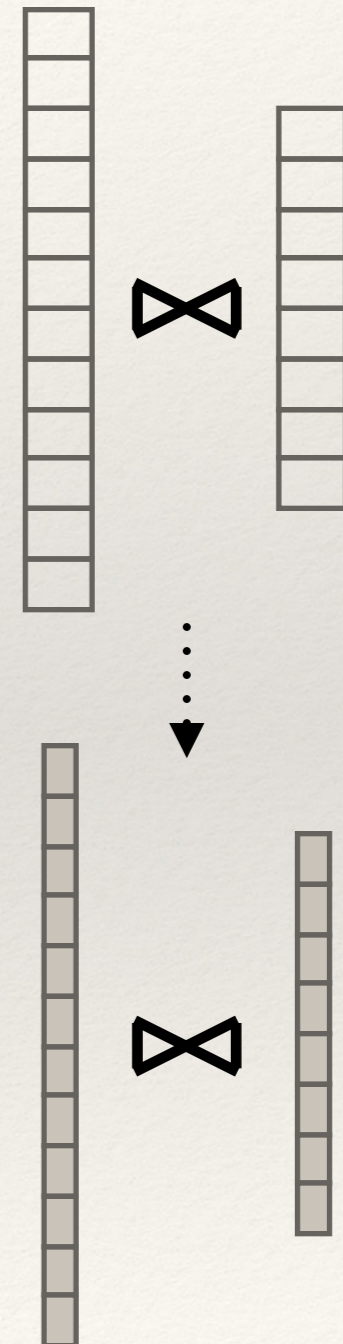
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 - ❖ Decompress *during* execution
 - ❖ In CPU cache (non-integrated) or in registers (integrated)

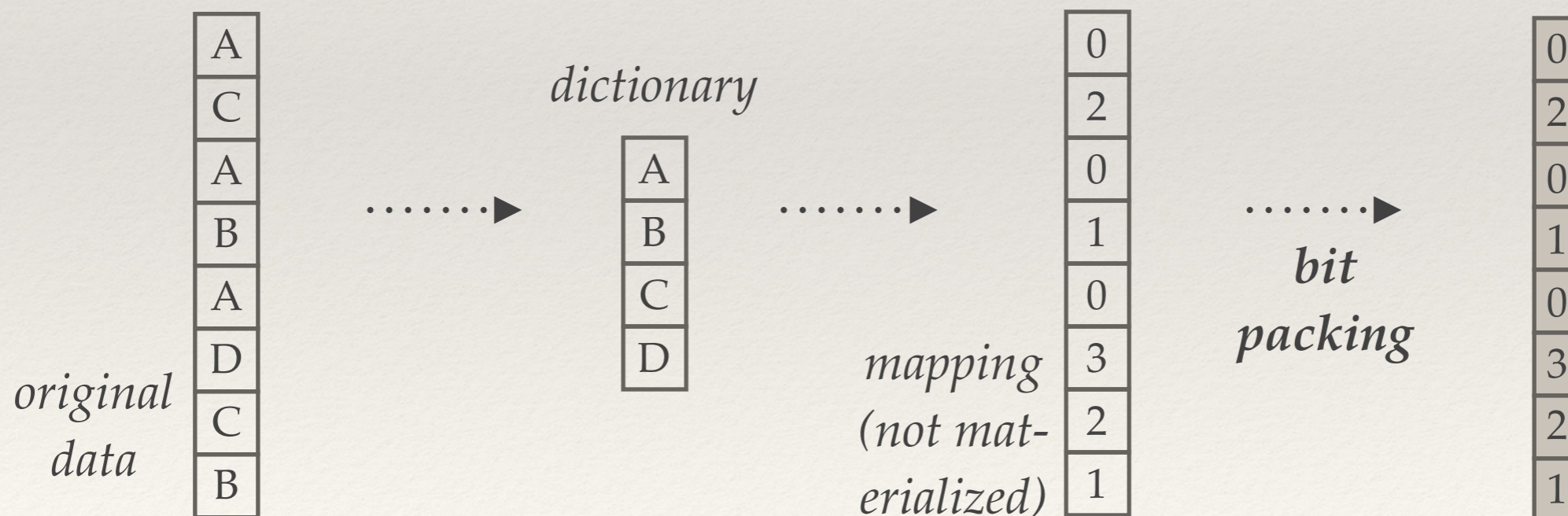
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 - ❖ Decompress *during* execution
 - ❖ In CPU cache (non-integrated) or in registers (integrated)
 - ❖ Process *compressed* data without decompressing



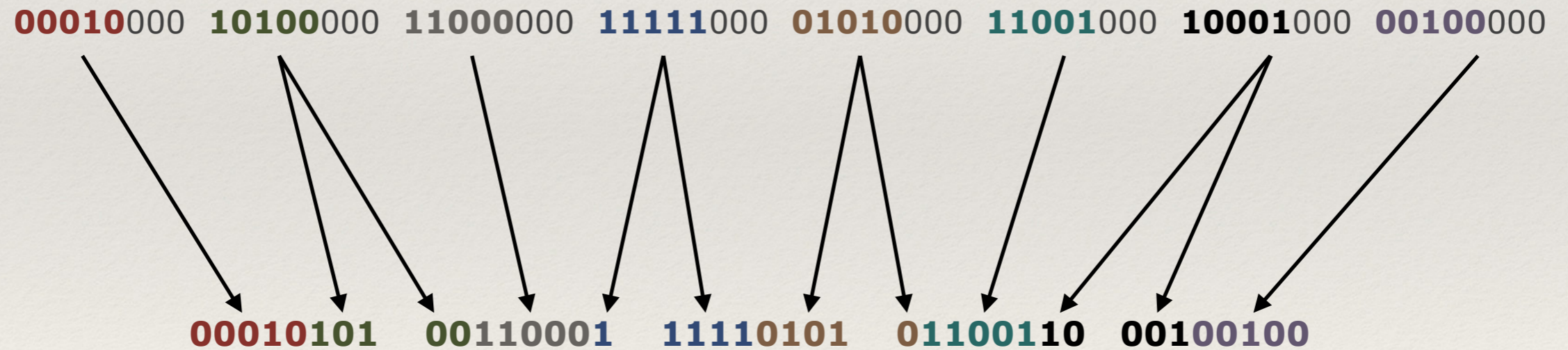
Bit Packing

- ❖ Definition
 - ❖ Input code width is hardware-supported
 - ❖ 8-bit, 16-bit, 32-bit, 64-bit
 - ❖ Output code width b must be (almost) constant
 - ❖ Either constant across the *entire* input
 - ❖ Or constant for the next *group* of items (e.g. frame-of-reference)



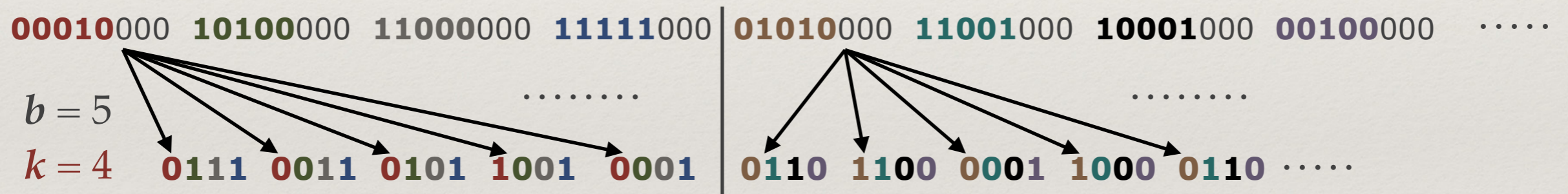
Bit Packing

- ❖ Layouts
 - ❖ *Horizontal* bit packing
 - ❖ Bits per code are *contiguous*



Bit Packing

- ❖ Layouts
 - ❖ *Horizontal* bit packing
 - ❖ Bits per code are *contiguous*
 - ❖ *Vertical* bit packing
 - ❖ Bits of codes are *interleaved*



Bit Packing

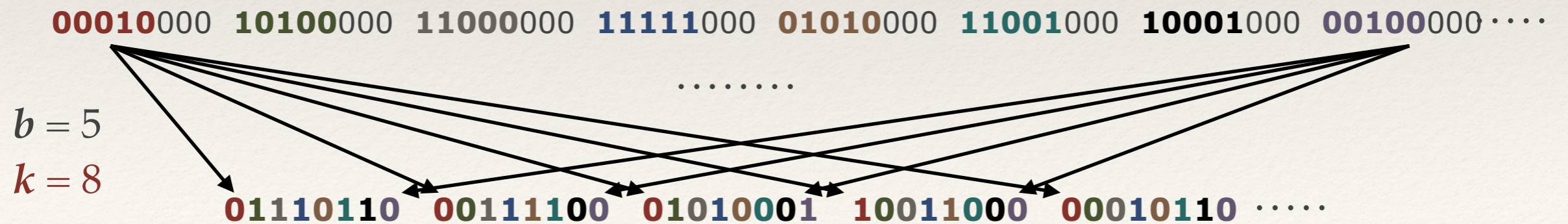
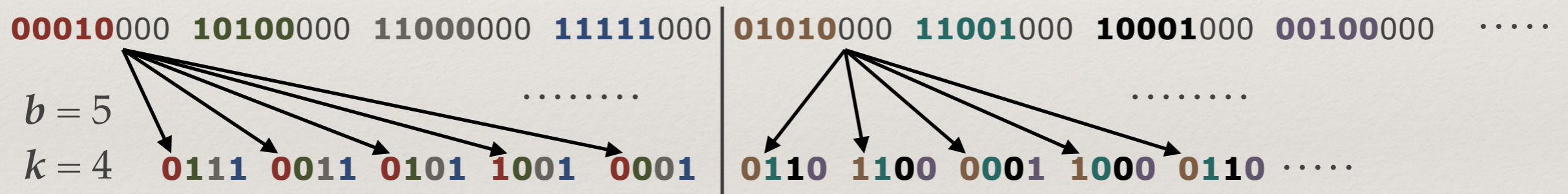
- ❖ Layouts

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- ❖ Operations
 - ❖ Packing
 - ❖ Unpacking
 - ❖ Scanning

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- ❖ Horizontal layouts
 - ❖ Fully packed
 - ❖ Fast unpacking & scanning
 - ❖ Word aligned
 - ❖ Faster scanning

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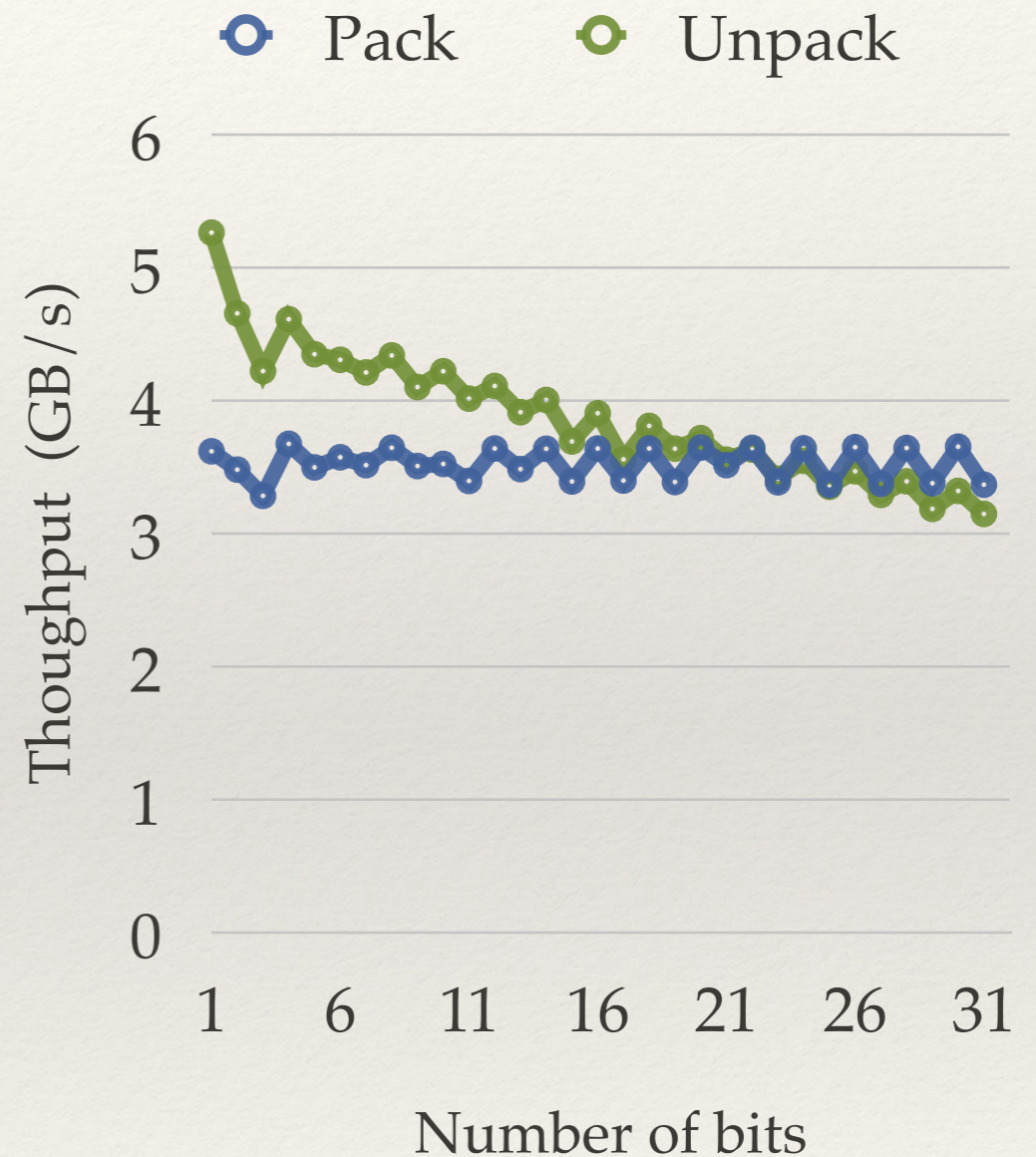
- ❖ Operations
 - ❖ Packing
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- ❖ Horizontal layouts
 - ❖ Fully packed
 - ❖ Fast unpacking & scanning
 - ❖ Word aligned
 - ❖ Faster scanning
- ❖ Vertical layout
 - ❖ Known traits
 - ❖ Fastest scanning
 - ❖ **New traits**
 - ❖ **Fast packing & unpacking**

Horizontal Layout

- ❖ *Fully* packed
 - ❖ No space wasted
 - ❖ Codes can *span* across 2 packed words

Horizontal Layout

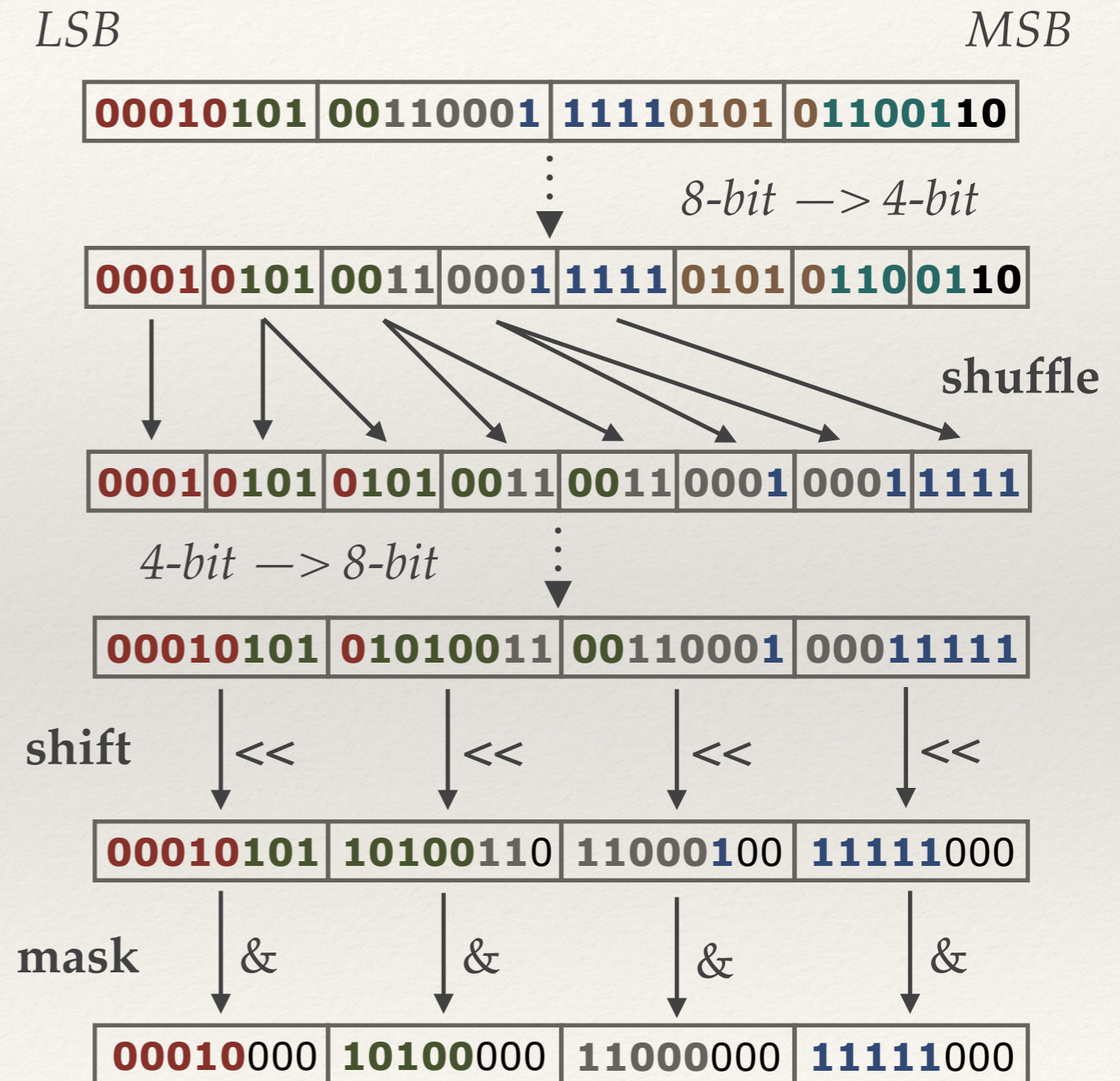
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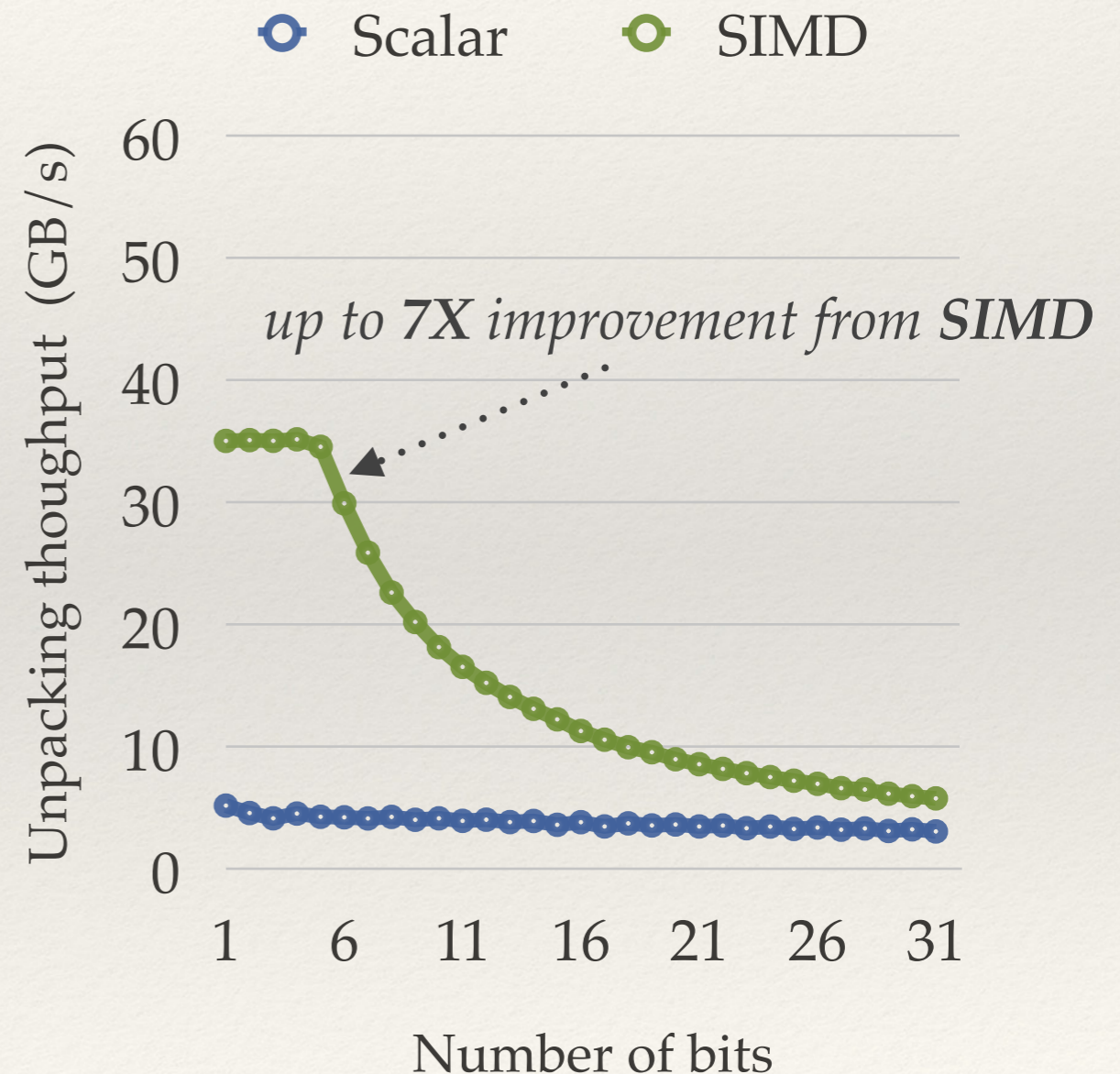
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Based on paper by
T. Willhalm et al.
@ VLDB 2009
(& improved using
latest SIMD ISA)



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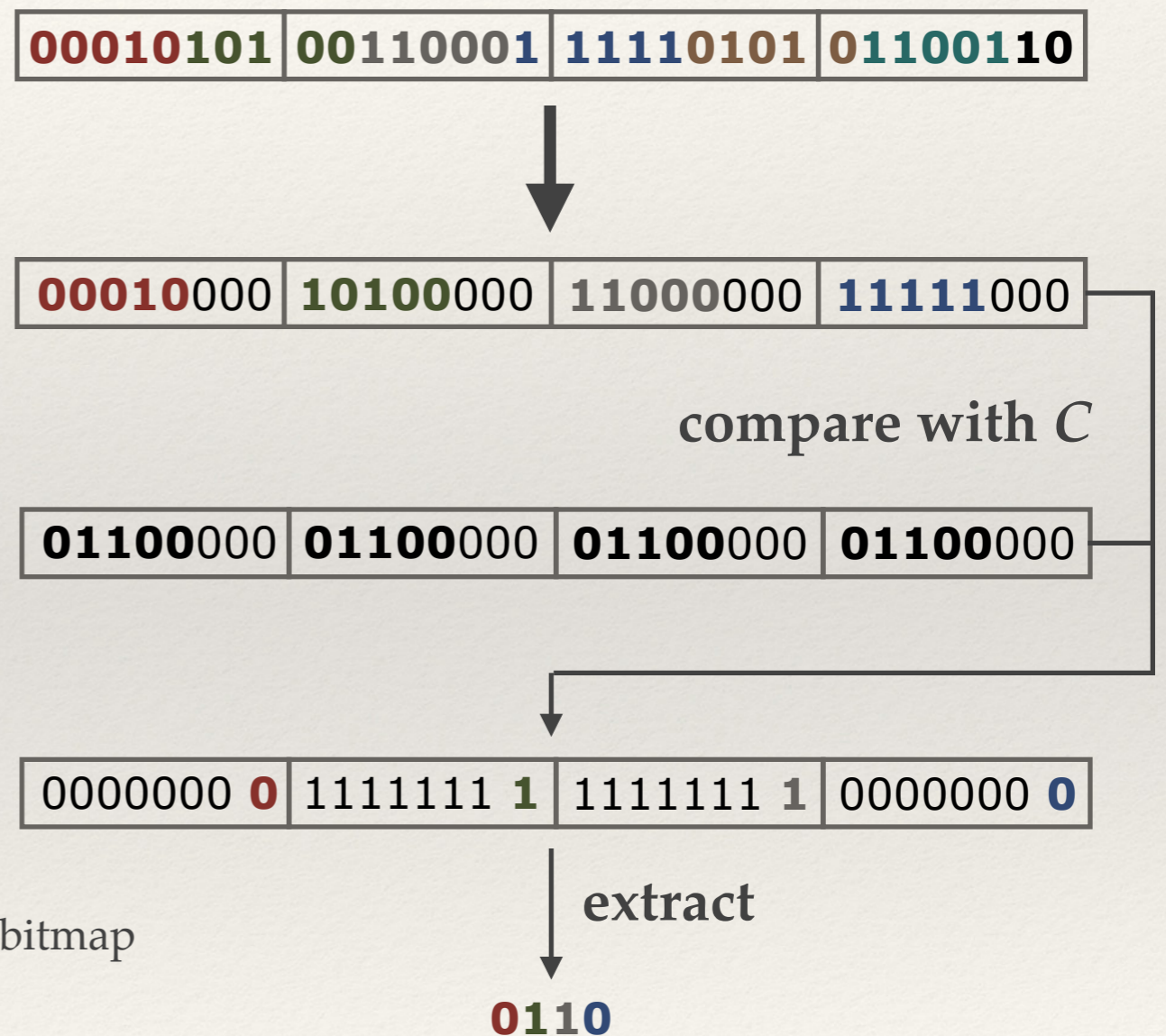
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 - ❖ *Evaluate* selective predicates and append to bitmap
 - ❖ Must unpack first thus bounded by $O(n)$

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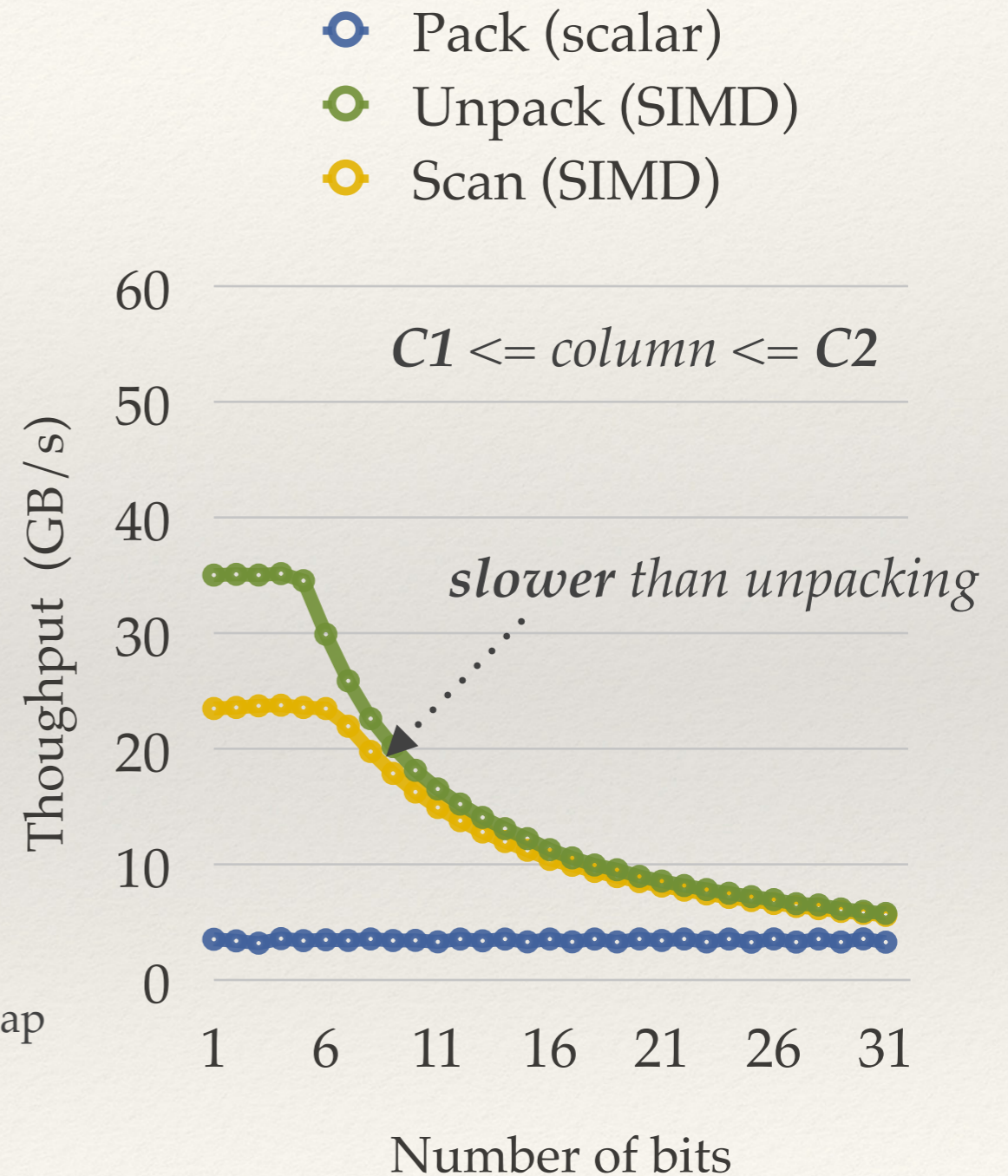
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select ... where column < C ...



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- ❖ Word *aligned*
 - ❖ Waste space to get alignment
 - ❖ Pack $b' = w / (b+1)$ codes per processor word
 - ❖ Extra bit per word used for *scanning*

fully packed

01 10 11 00

⋮



010 100 00 110 000 00

word aligned

unused high order bits per word



⋮

010 100 00

⋮



⋮



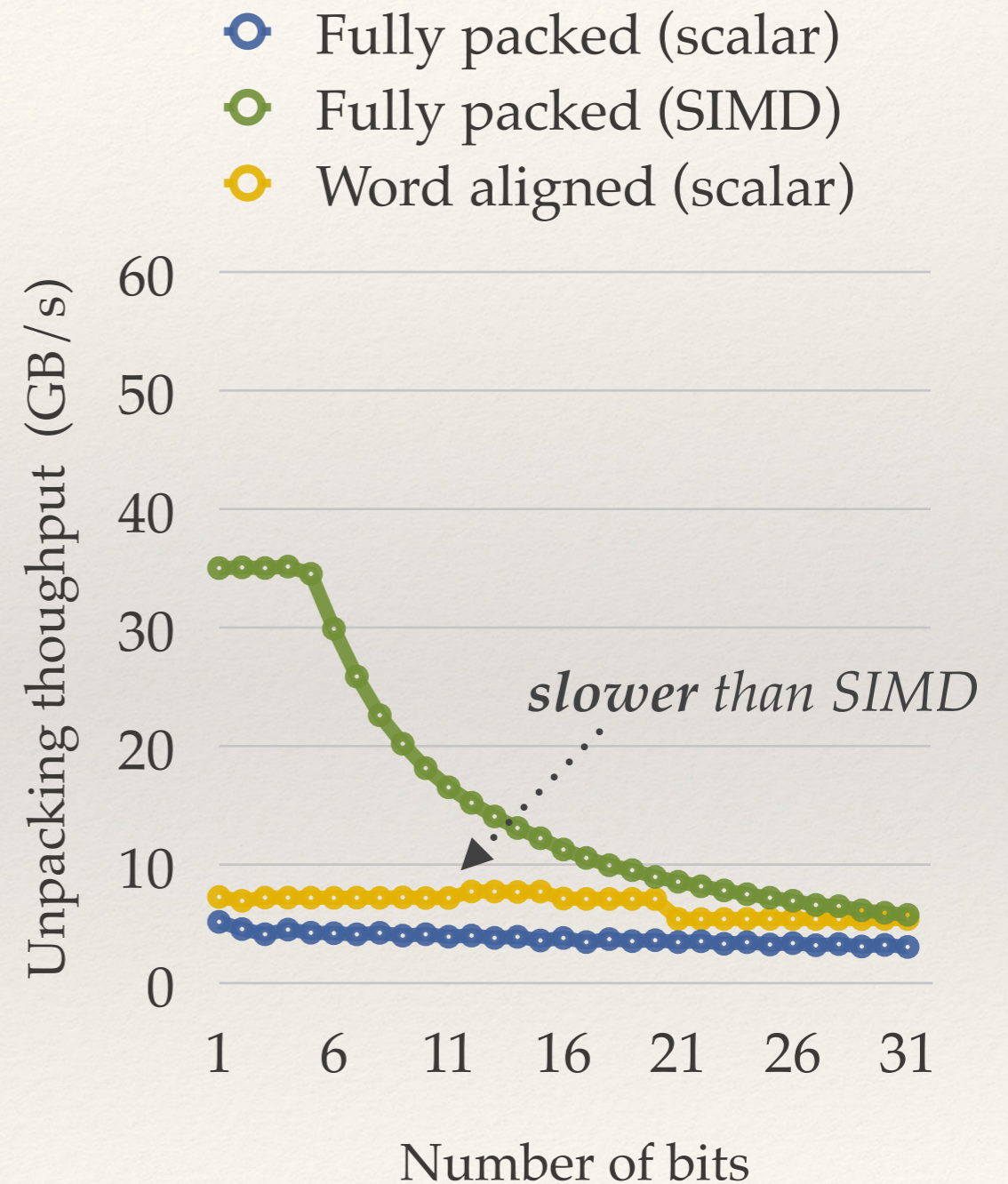
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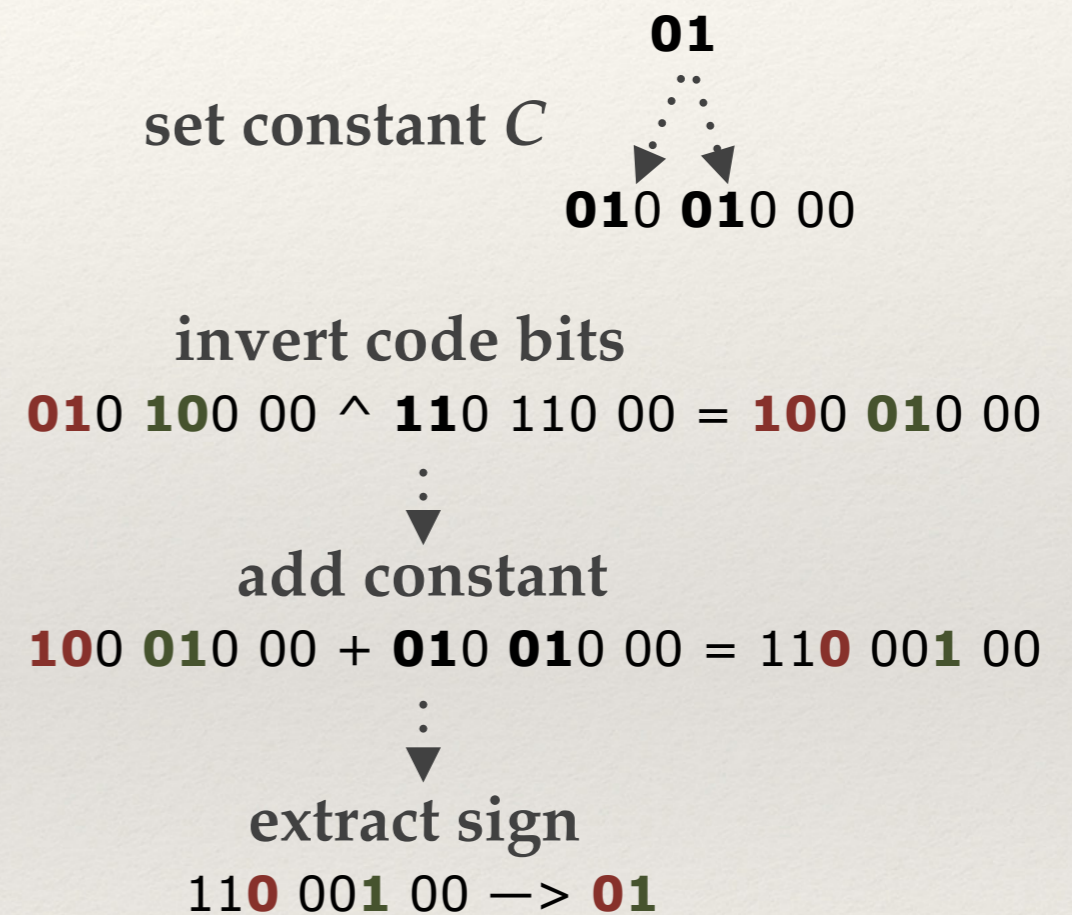
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 - ❖ Evaluate predicates *without* unpacking
 - ❖ Works with *simple* order predicates: $<,=,>$
 - ❖ Boolean result in *overflow* bit of b -bit arithmetic
 - ❖ Executing $< O(n)$ operations

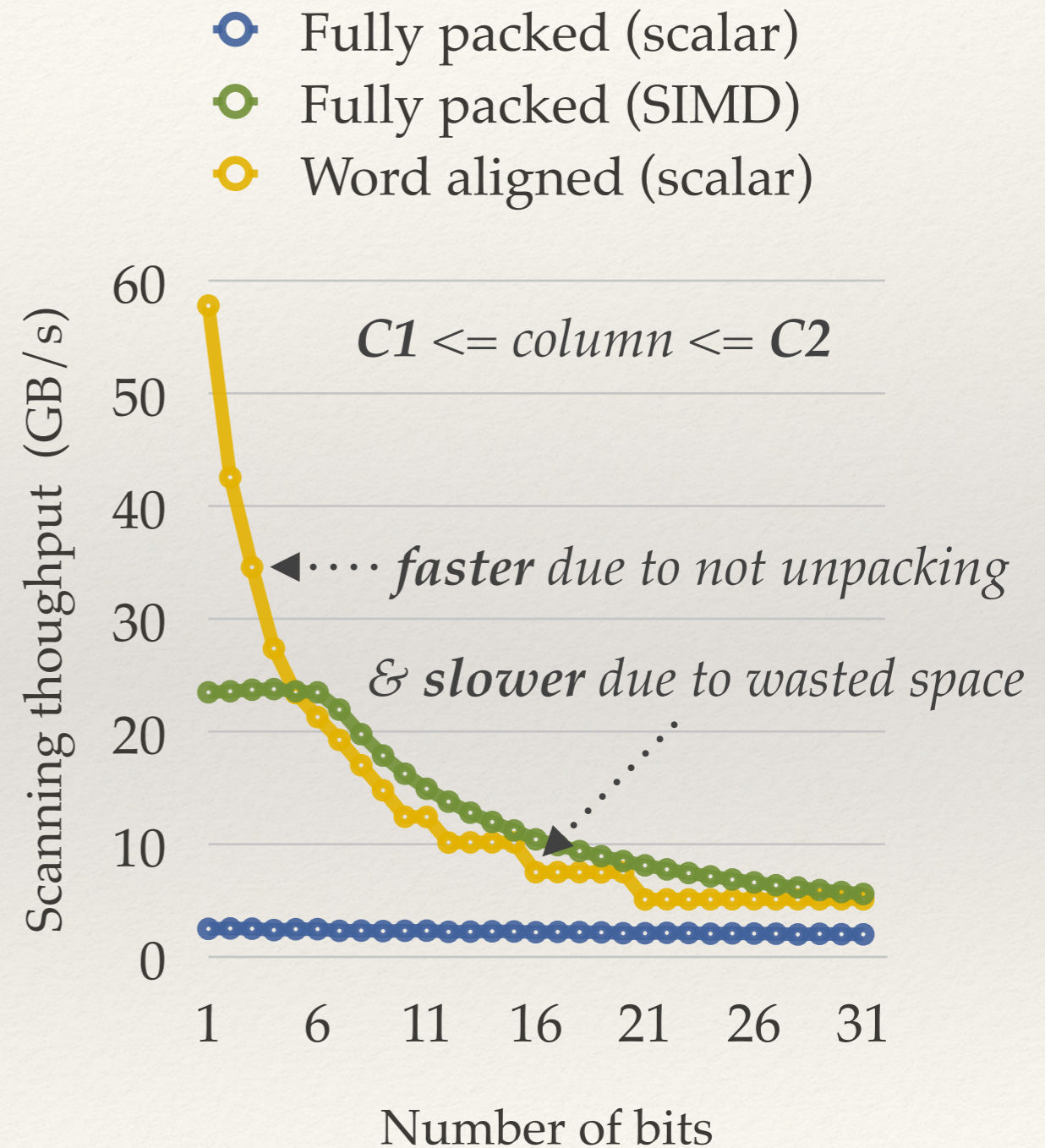
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Based on paper by
Leslie Lamport
@ CACM 1975

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 - ❖ k divides the processor word

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- ❖ *Fully packed & word aligned*

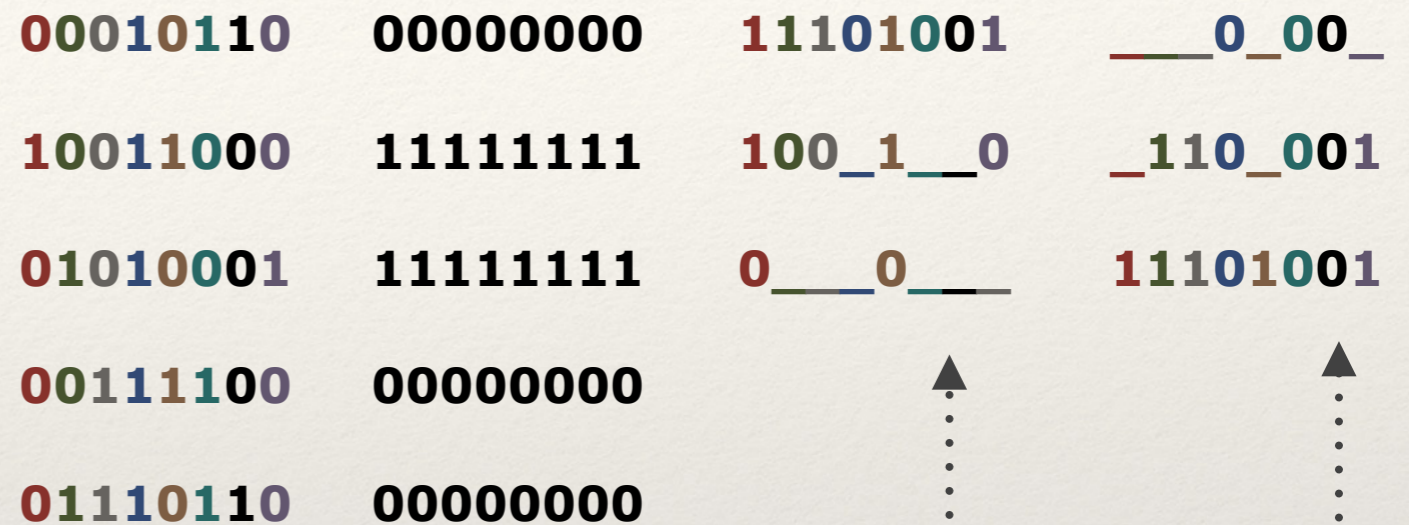
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- ❖ Can *skip* words early



"=" $X \&= \sim(\text{column} \wedge C) \dots\dots$

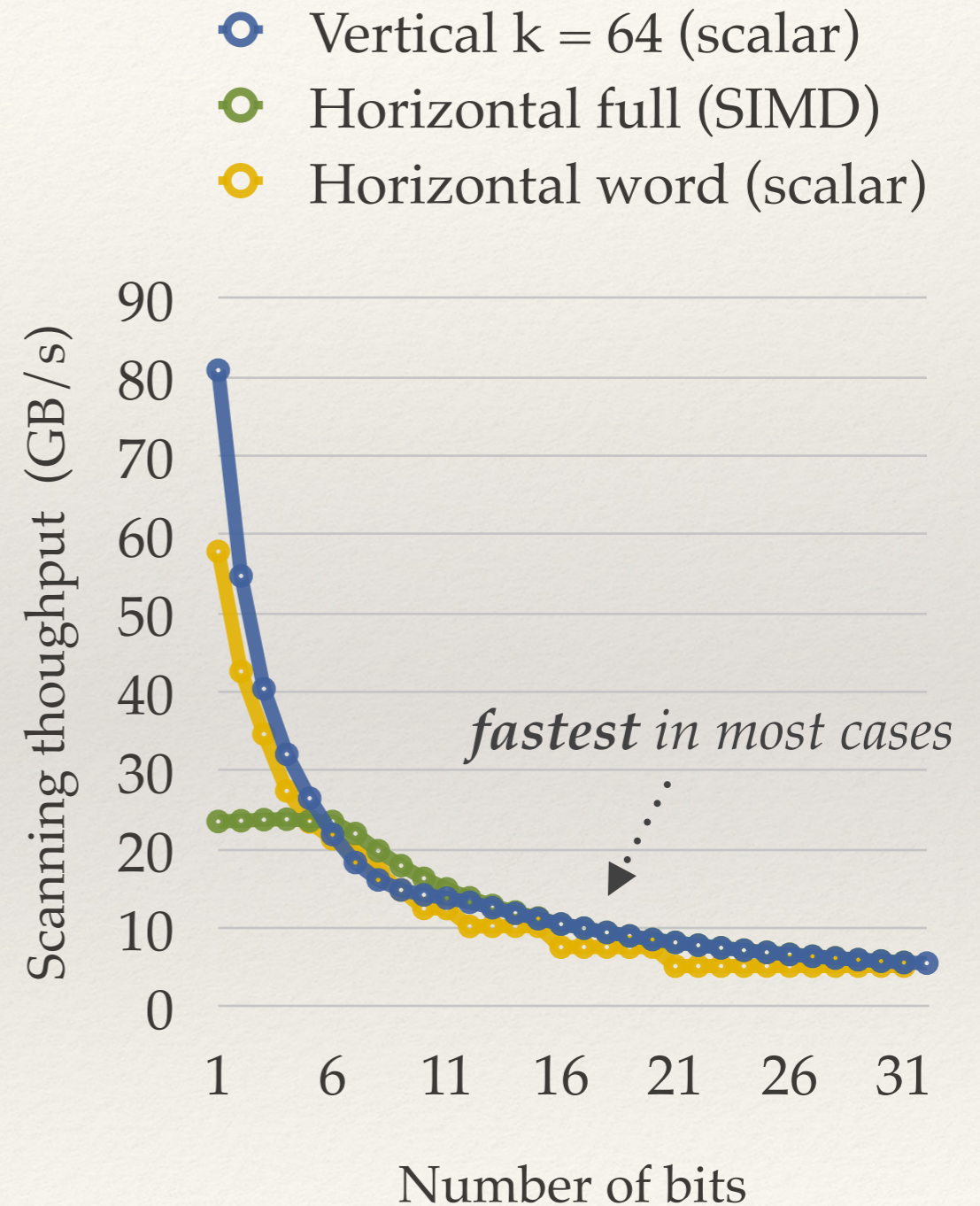
"<" $Y |= C \& (\sim X) \dots\dots\dots$

stop if $X = 0$

Based on paper by
Y. Li et al.
@ SIGMOD 2013

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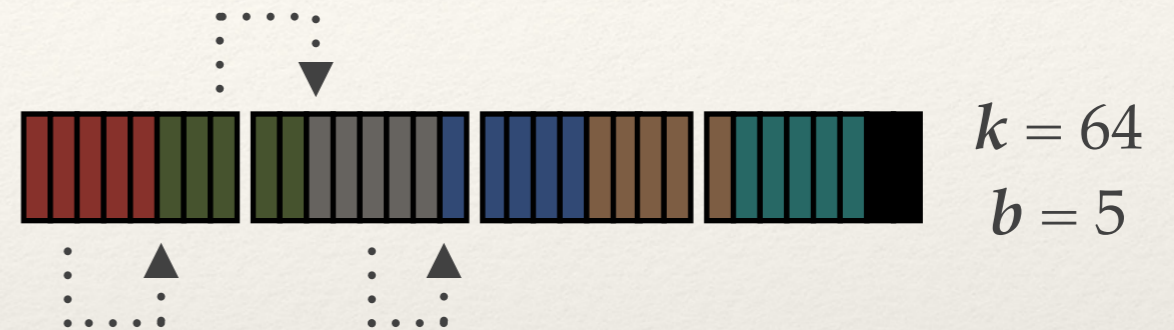
- ❖ k divides the processor word

- ❖ **Scanning**

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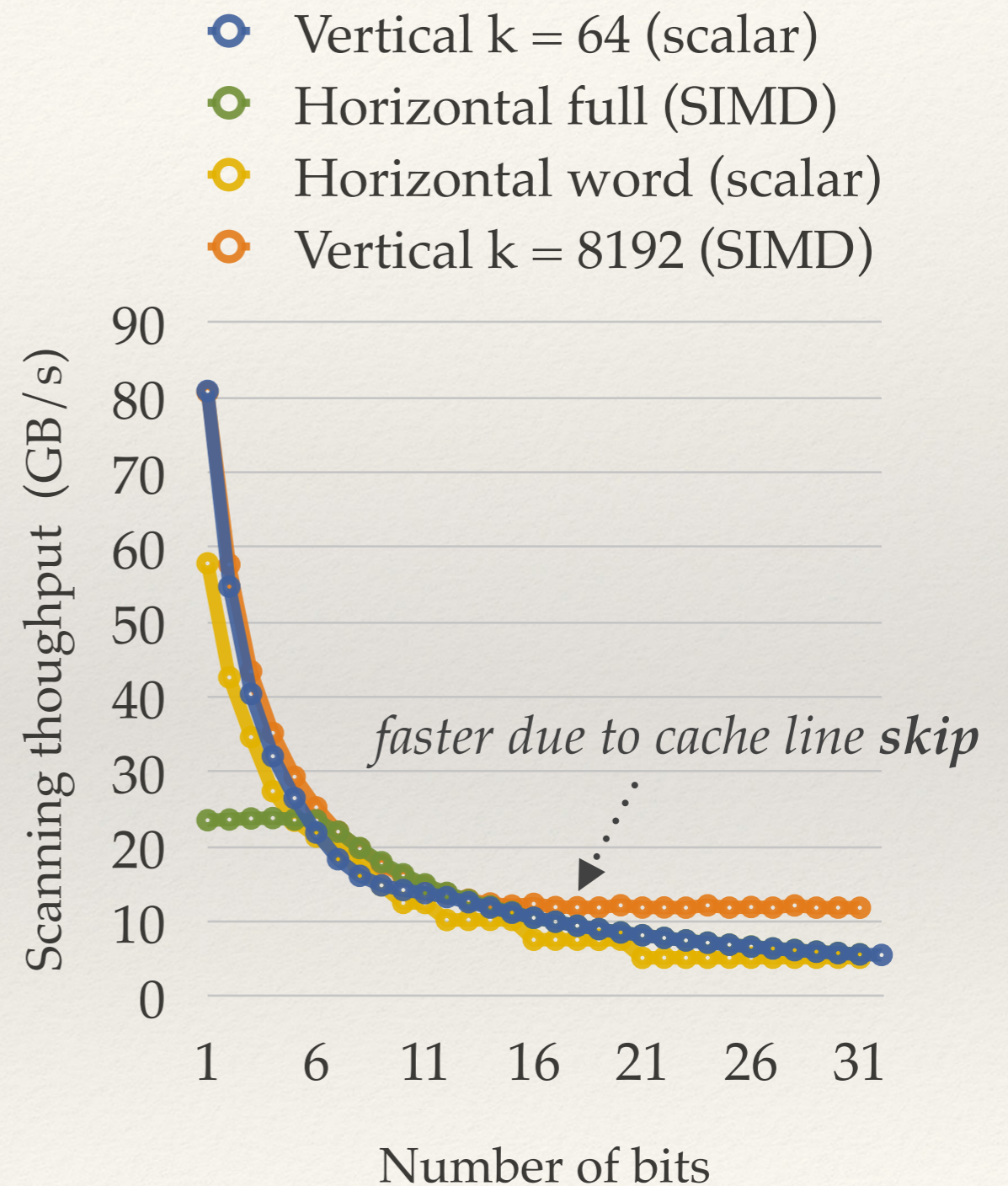
- ❖ Can *skip* words early

- ❖ Increase k to minimize false (pre)fetches



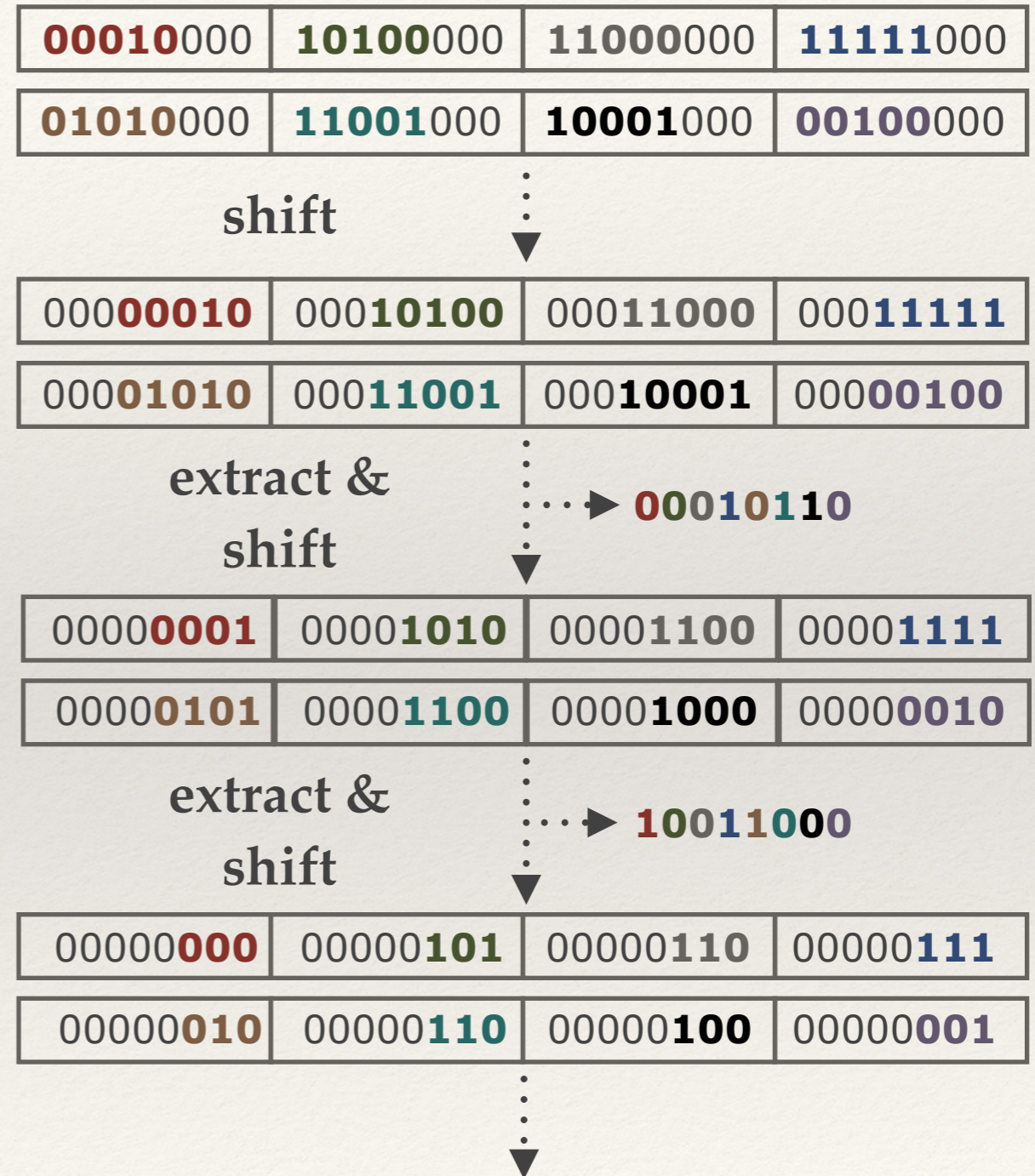
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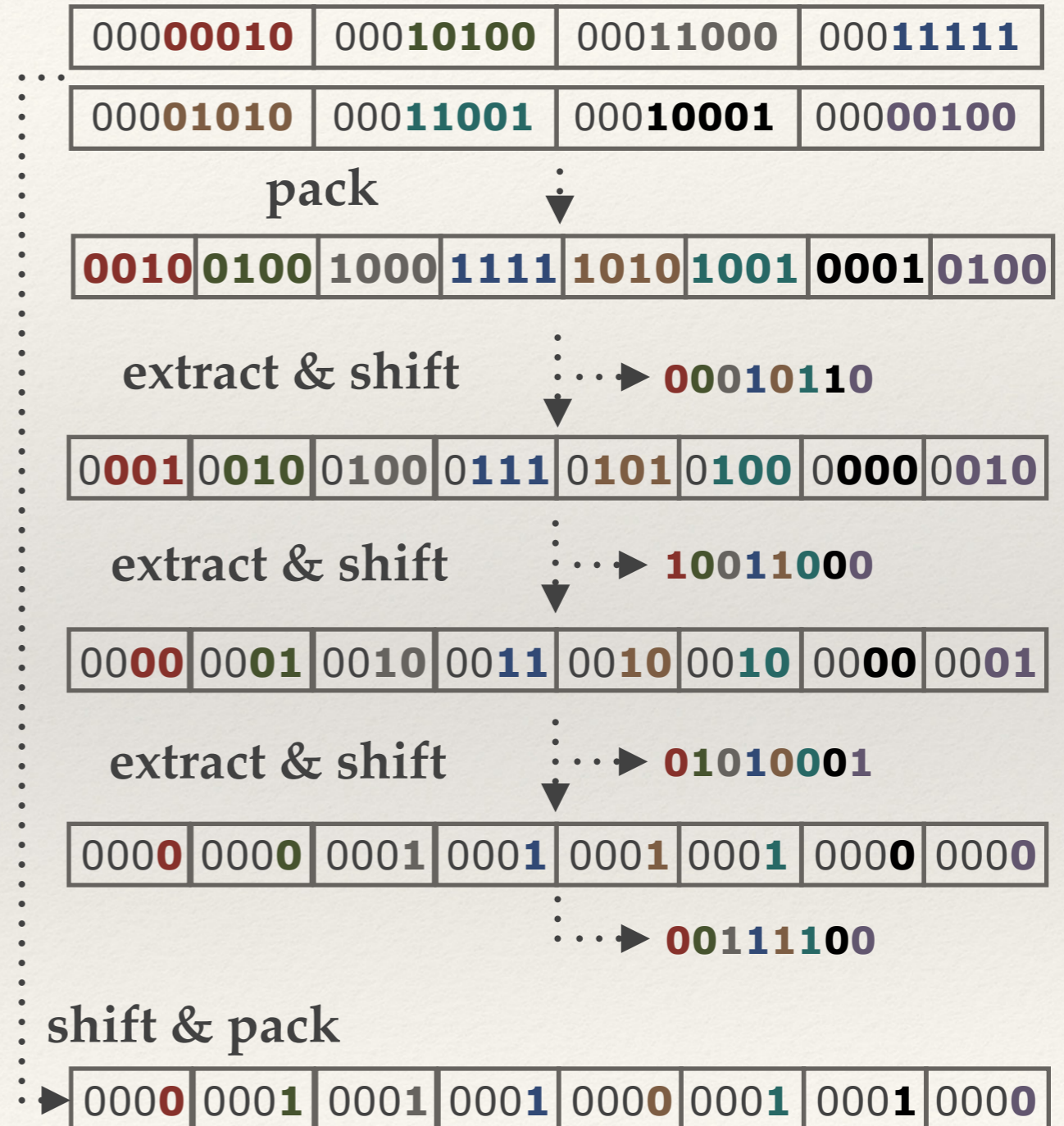
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- ❖ **Packing**
 - ❖ Transfer nb bits across registers
 - ❖ Can be written in **SIMD** !



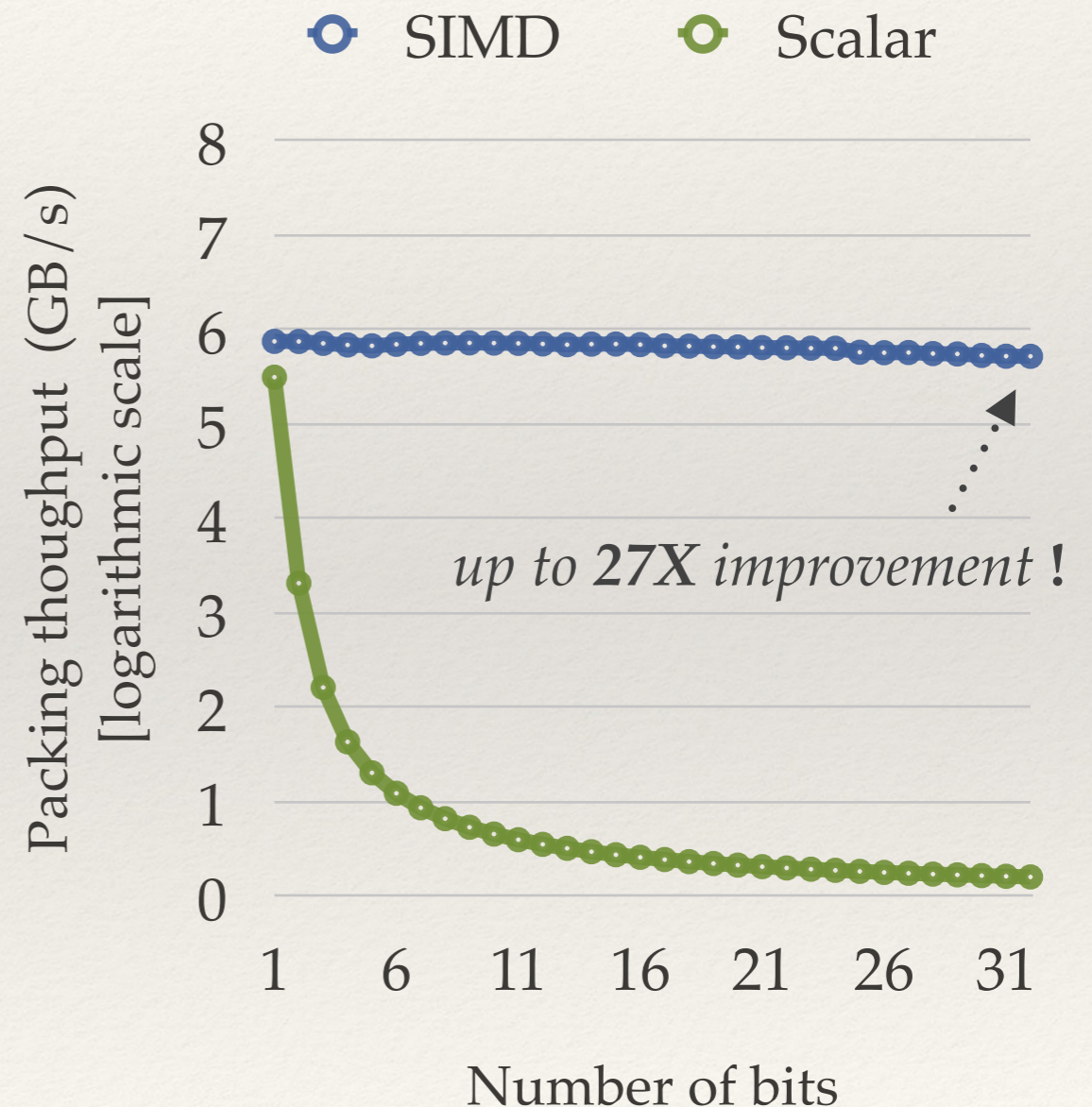
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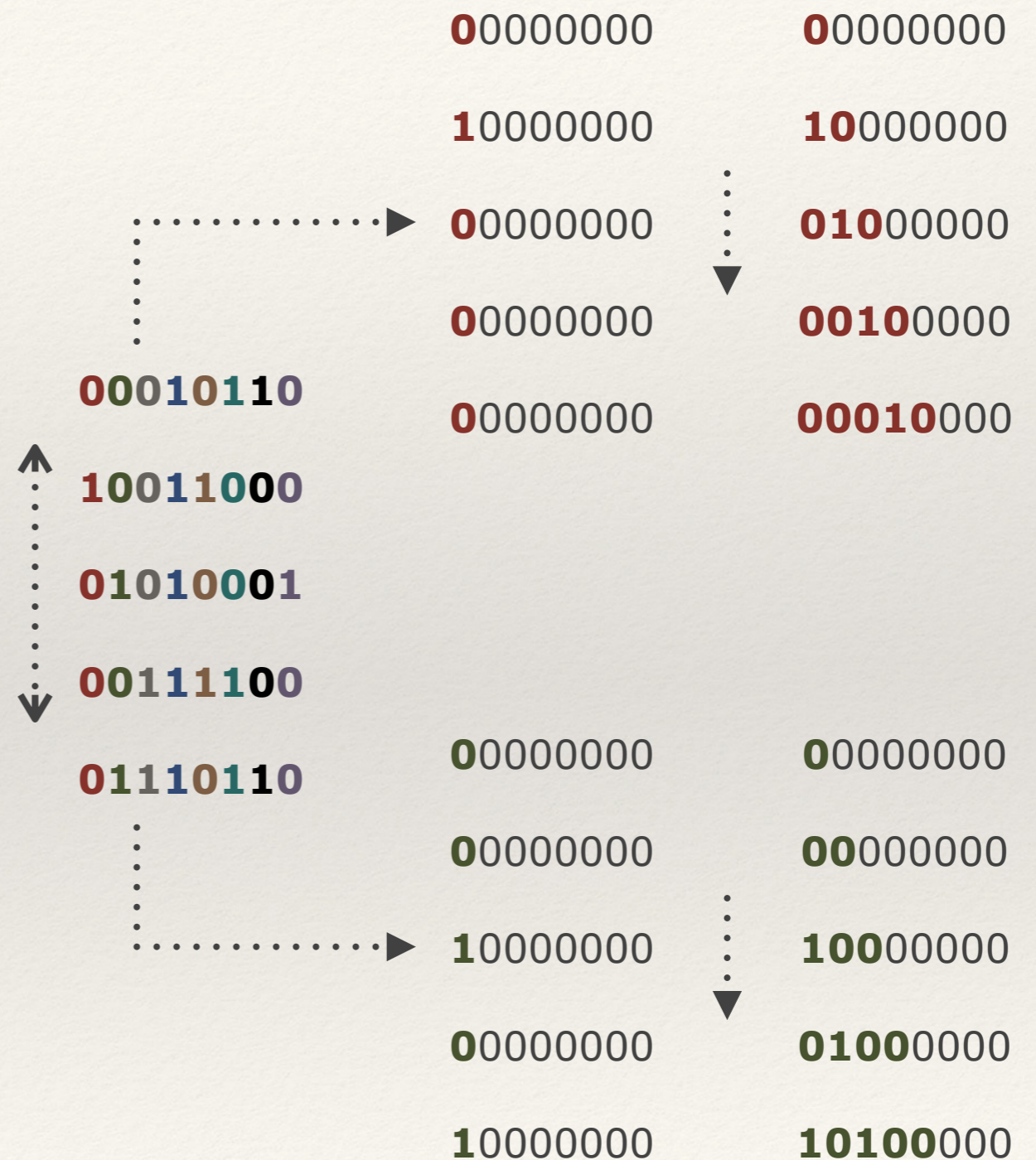
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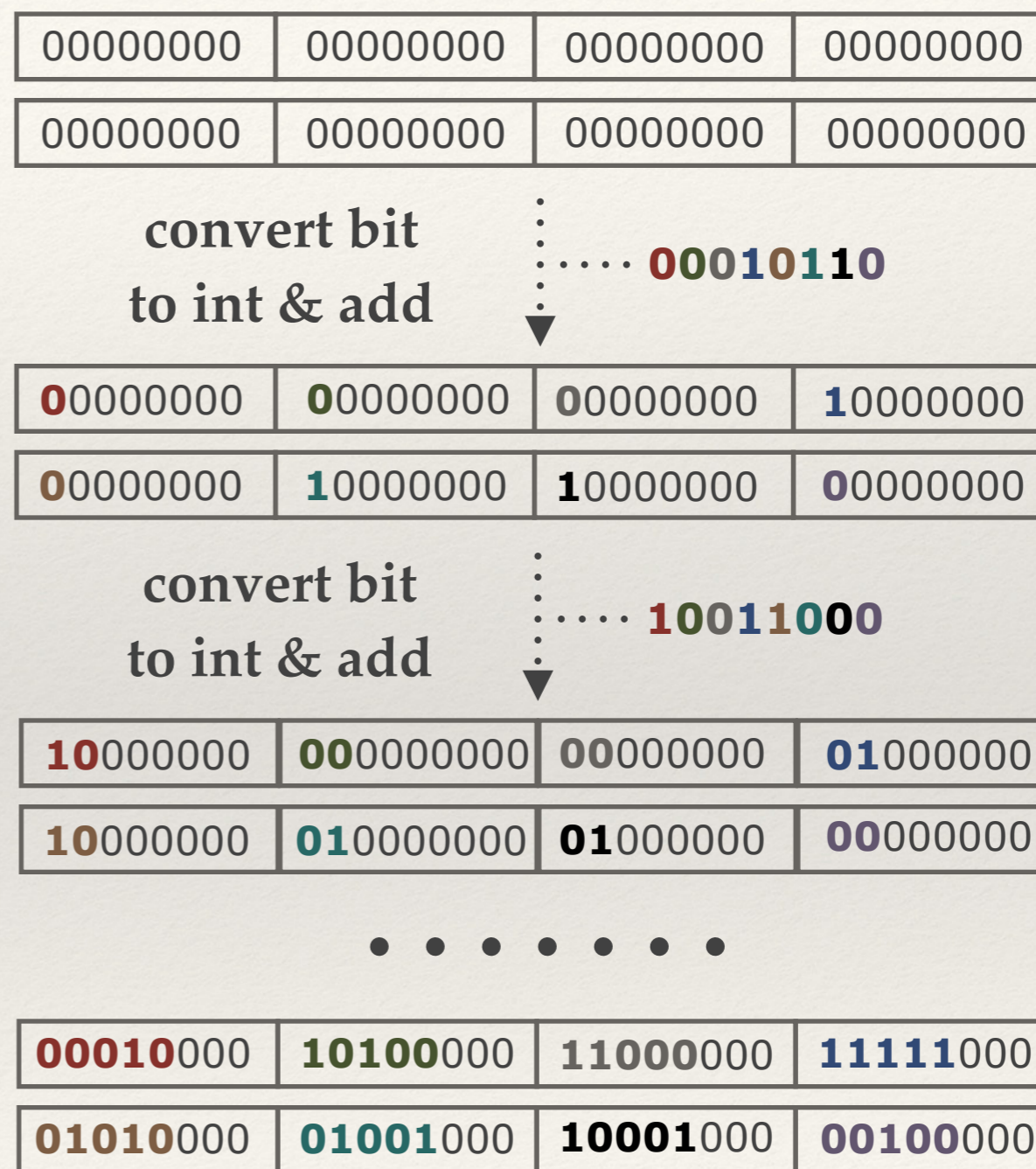
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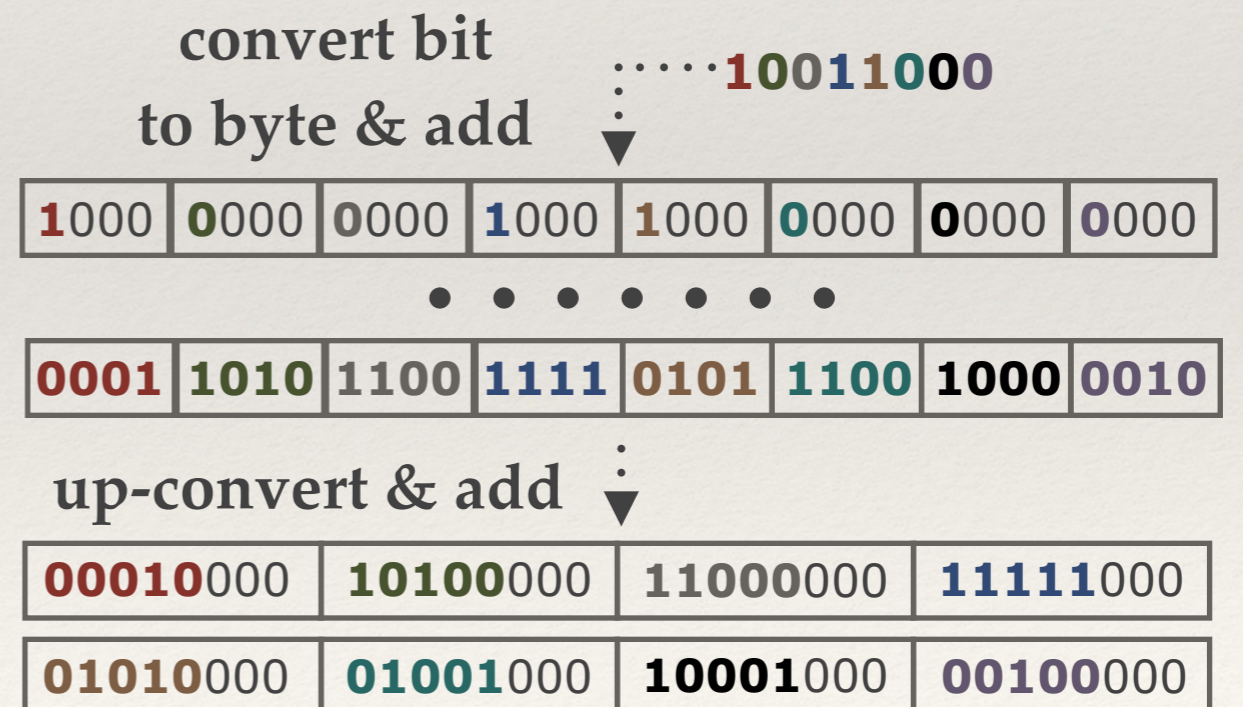
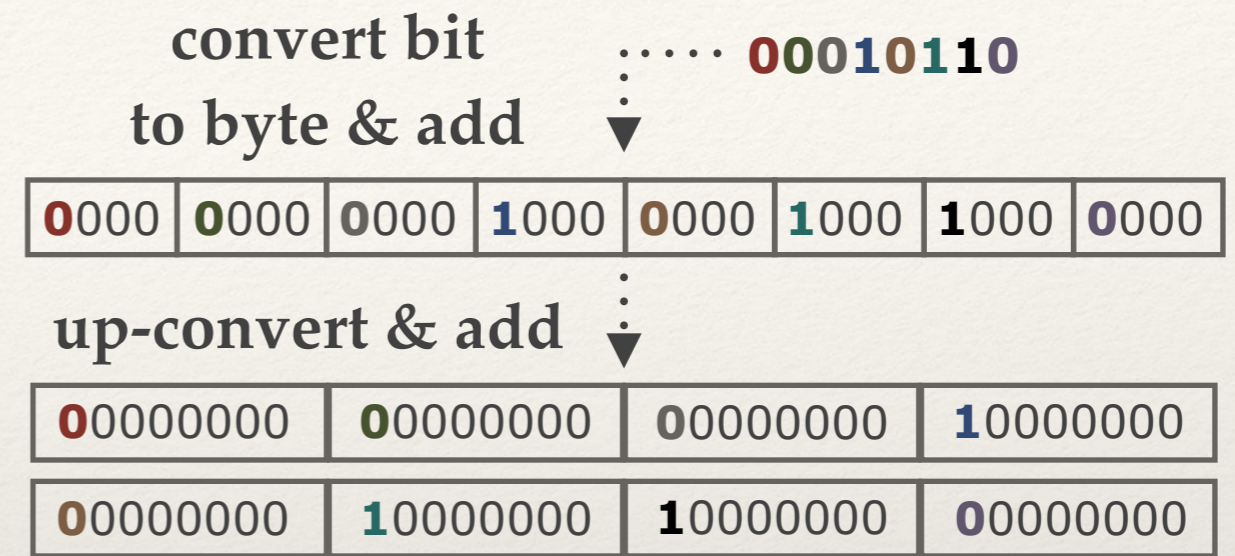
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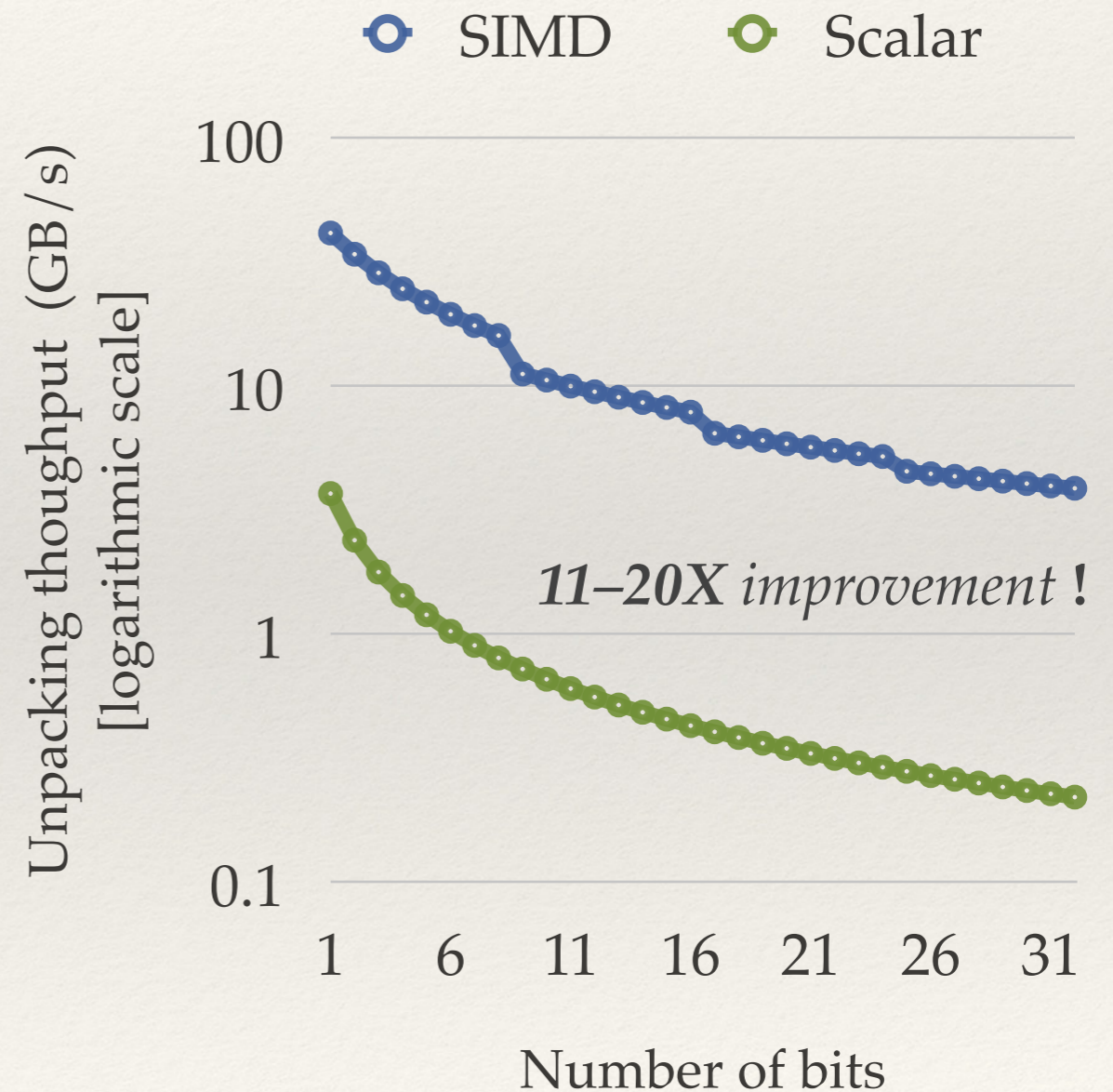
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 - ❖ Can be written in *SIMD* !
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Vertical Layout

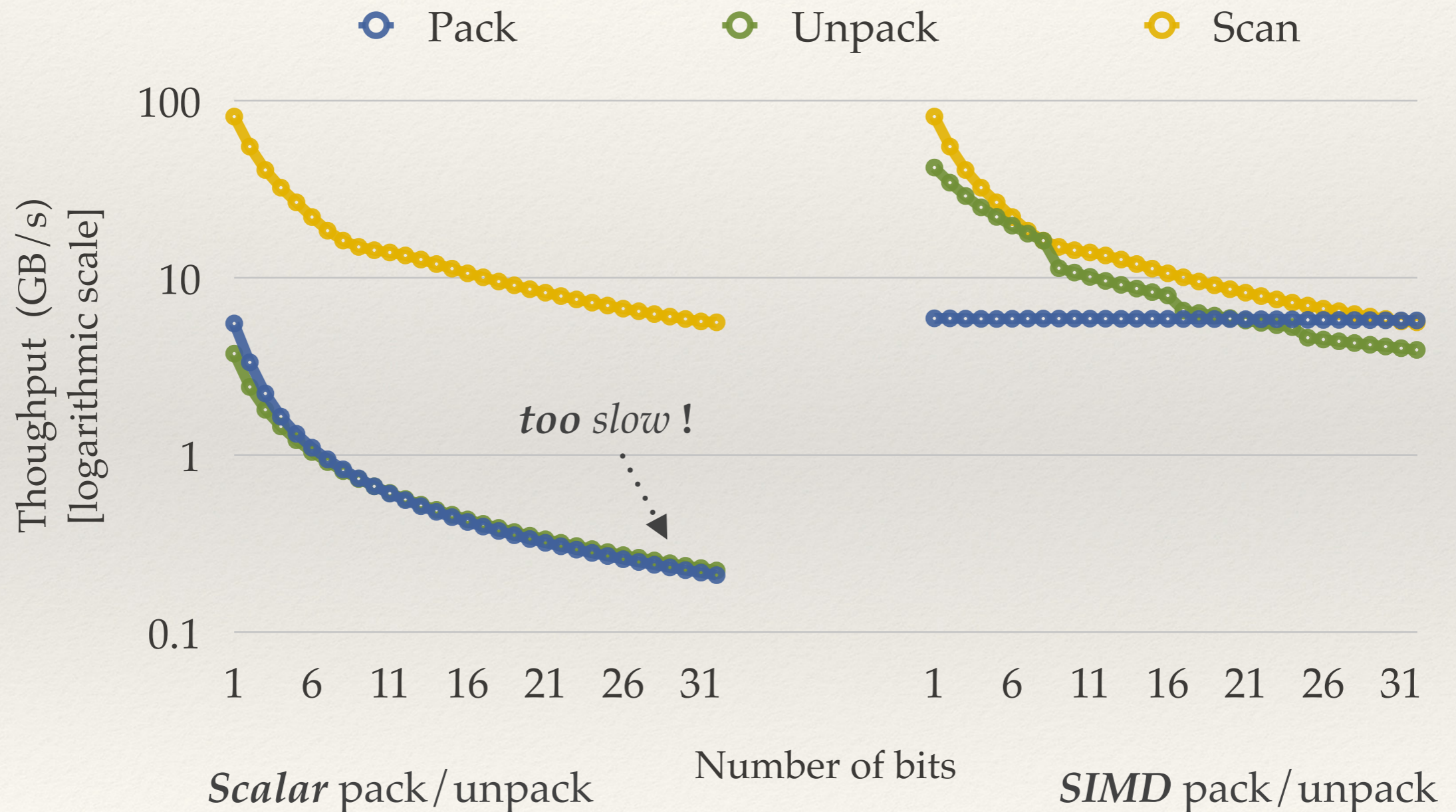
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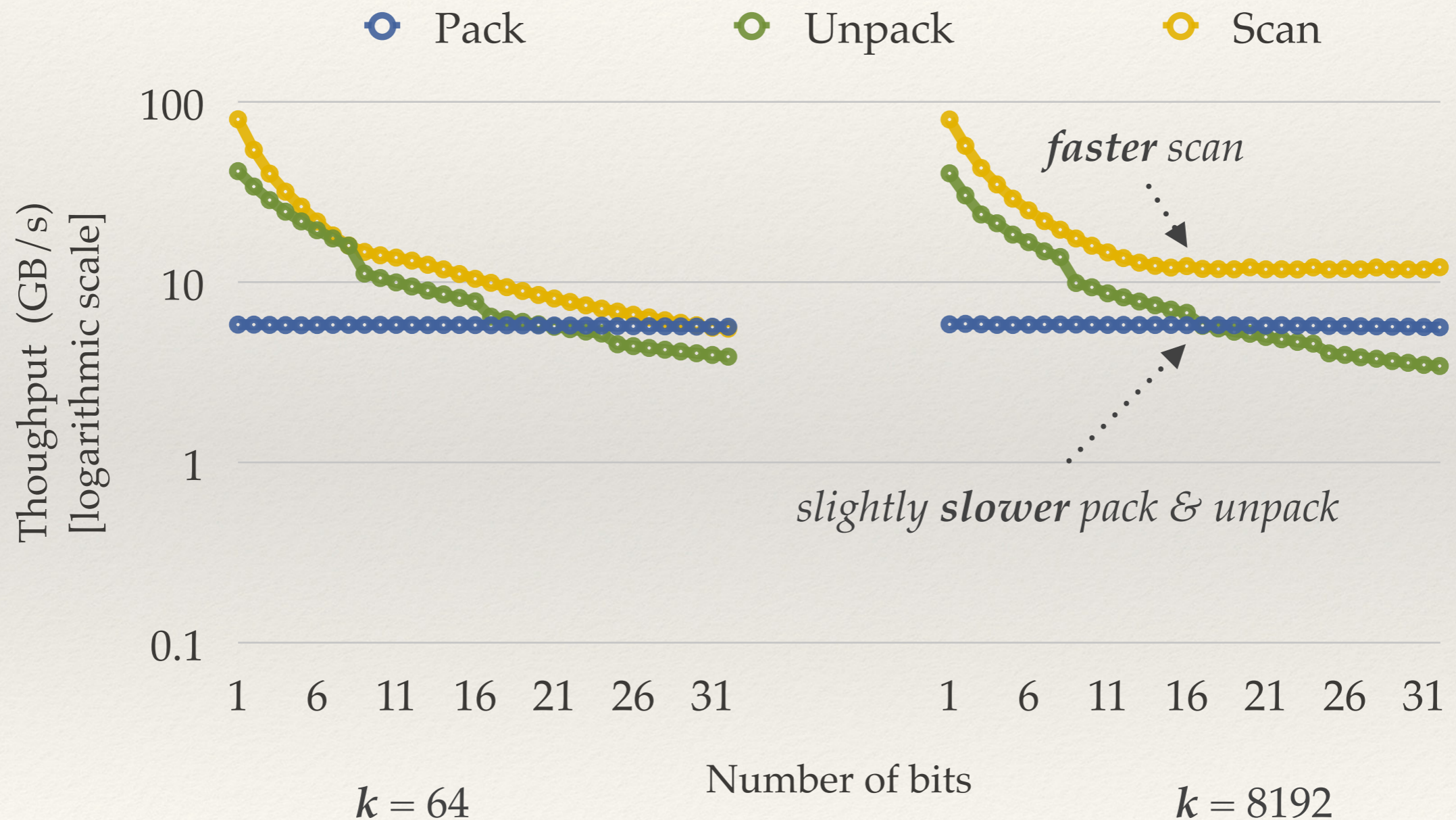
❖ Scalar to *SIMD* for packing & unpacking ($k = 64$)

❖ Scalar scan



Vertical Layout

- ❖ Increasing k to the L1 cache size ($k = 8192$)
 - ❖ SIMD scanning



Vertical Layout

❖ If not memory *bound*

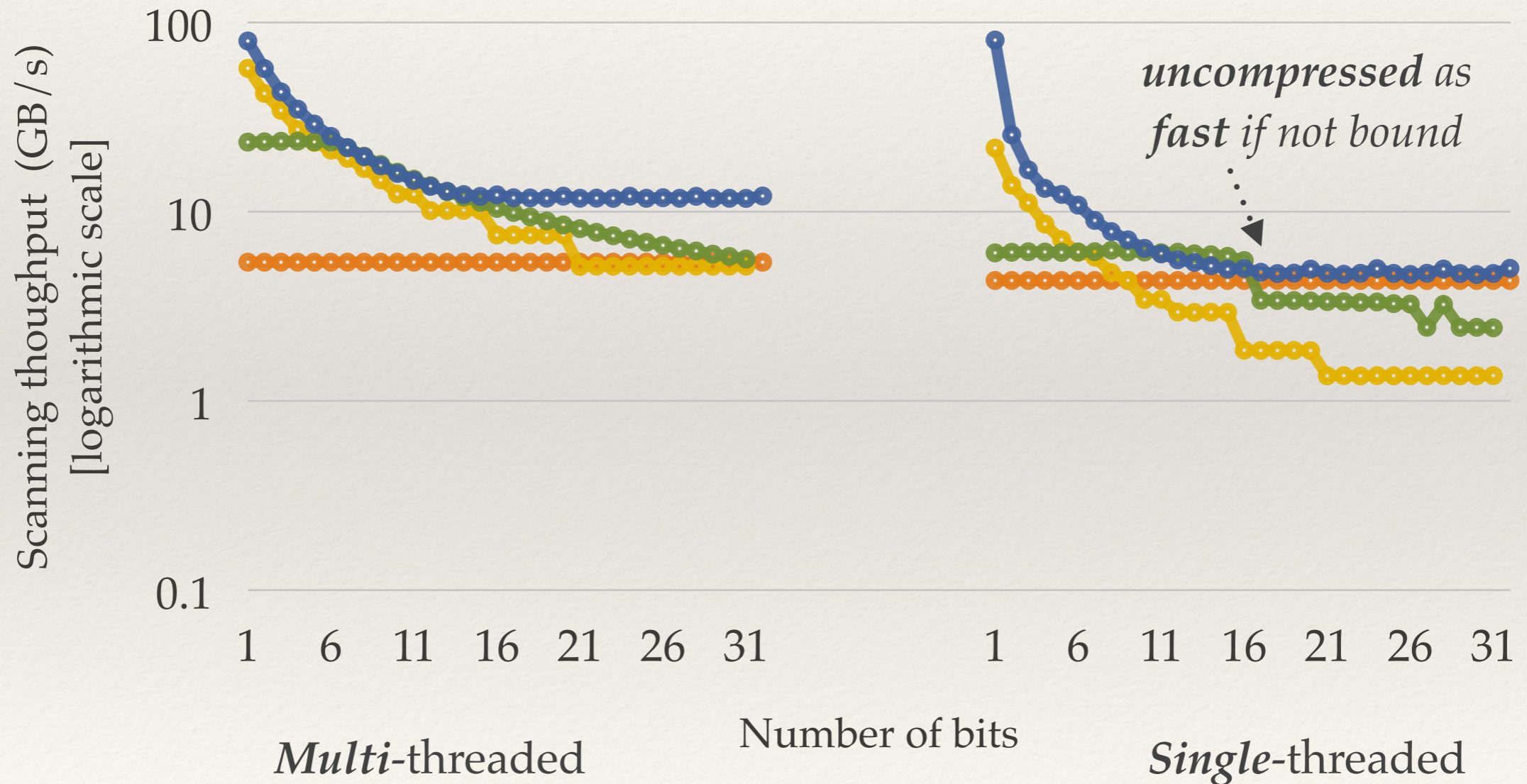
❖ Using 1 thread

● Vertical (k = 8192)

● Horizontal full

● Horizontal word

● Uncompressed



Conclusions

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 - ❖ Word aligned
 - ❖ Fast *scalar* scans but not optimal due to wasted space

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 - ❖ No wasted space but somewhat *slow*
 - ❖ Can optimize unpacking & scanning with *SIMD*
 - ❖ Word aligned
 - ❖ Fast *scalar* scans but not optimal due to wasted space
- ❖ Vertical layout
 - ❖ Known techniques
 - ❖ Fast scalar scans *without* wasting space
 - ❖ Very slow *scalar* packing & unpacking

Conclusions

- ❖ Horizontal layouts
 - ❖ Fully packed
 - ❖ No wasted space but somewhat *slow*
 - ❖ Can optimize unpacking & scanning with *SIMD*
 - ❖ Word aligned
 - ❖ Fast *scalar* scans but not optimal due to wasted space
- ❖ Vertical layout
 - ❖ Known techniques
 - ❖ Fast scalar scans *without* wasting space
 - ❖ Very slow *scalar* packing & unpacking
 - ❖ New techniques
 - ❖ Fast packing & unpacking using *SIMD*
 - ❖ Maximize bit transfers by using the *smallest* SIMD lanes
 - ❖ Increase *k* to skip cache lines effectively

Questions ?

