Compacting the Uncompactable!

MESH

Compacting Memory Management
For C/C++ Applications

Emery Berger
UMass Amherst / MSR

with Bobby Powers, David Tench, & Andrew McGregor
University of Massachusetts Amherst
http://libmesh.org

[PLDI 2019]

PIANO • VOCAL • GUITAR

The Impossible Dream
(The Quest)

Lyrics by JOE DARION
Music by MITCH LEIGH

PIANO · VOCAL · GUITAR

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Reconquer
all of Spain!

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MALLOC OF LA MANCHA

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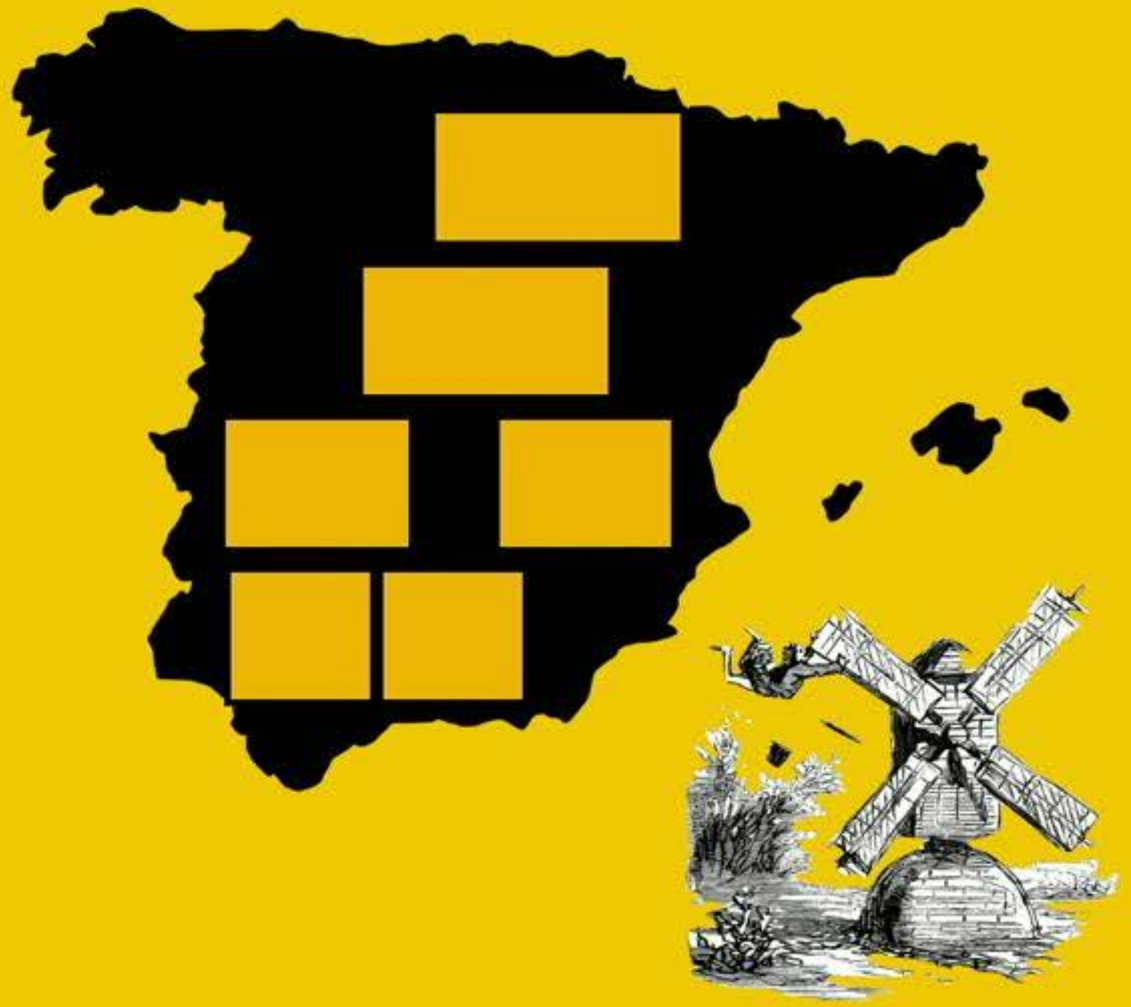

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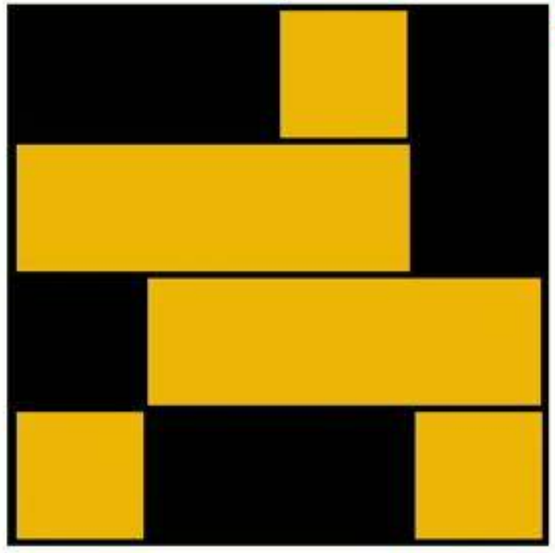
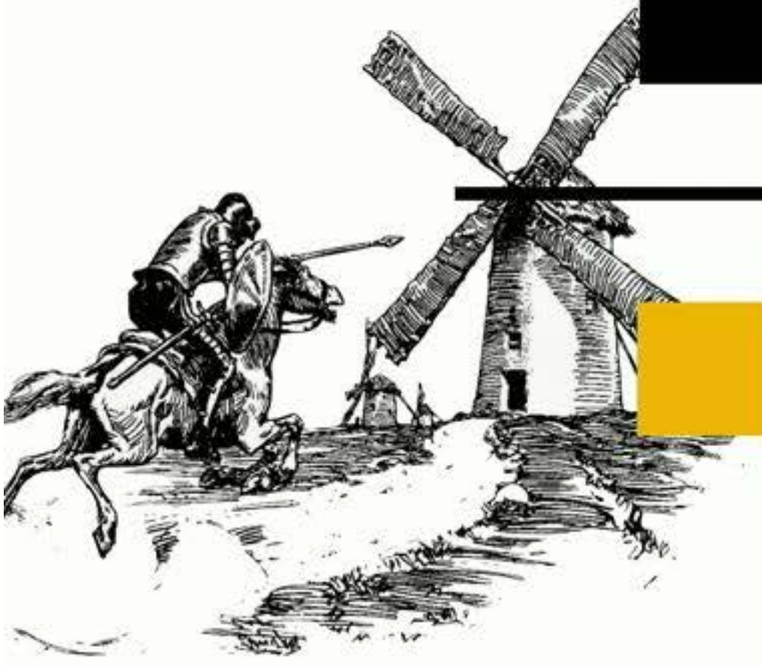
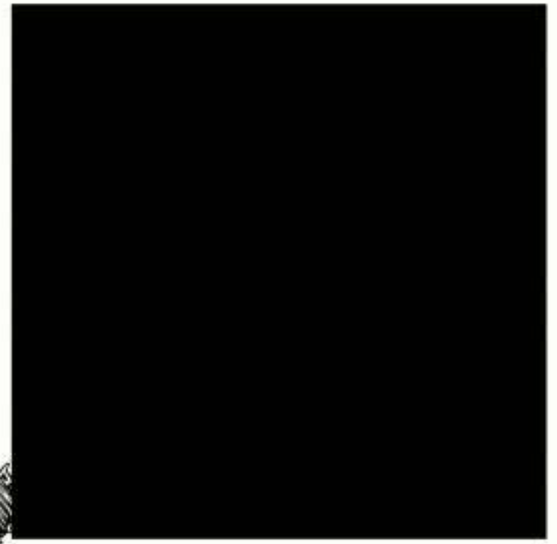


OS Page (“Spain”)

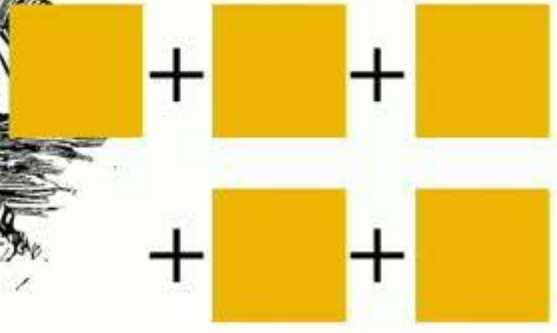
Live objects (malloc’d)

¡Fragmentación!



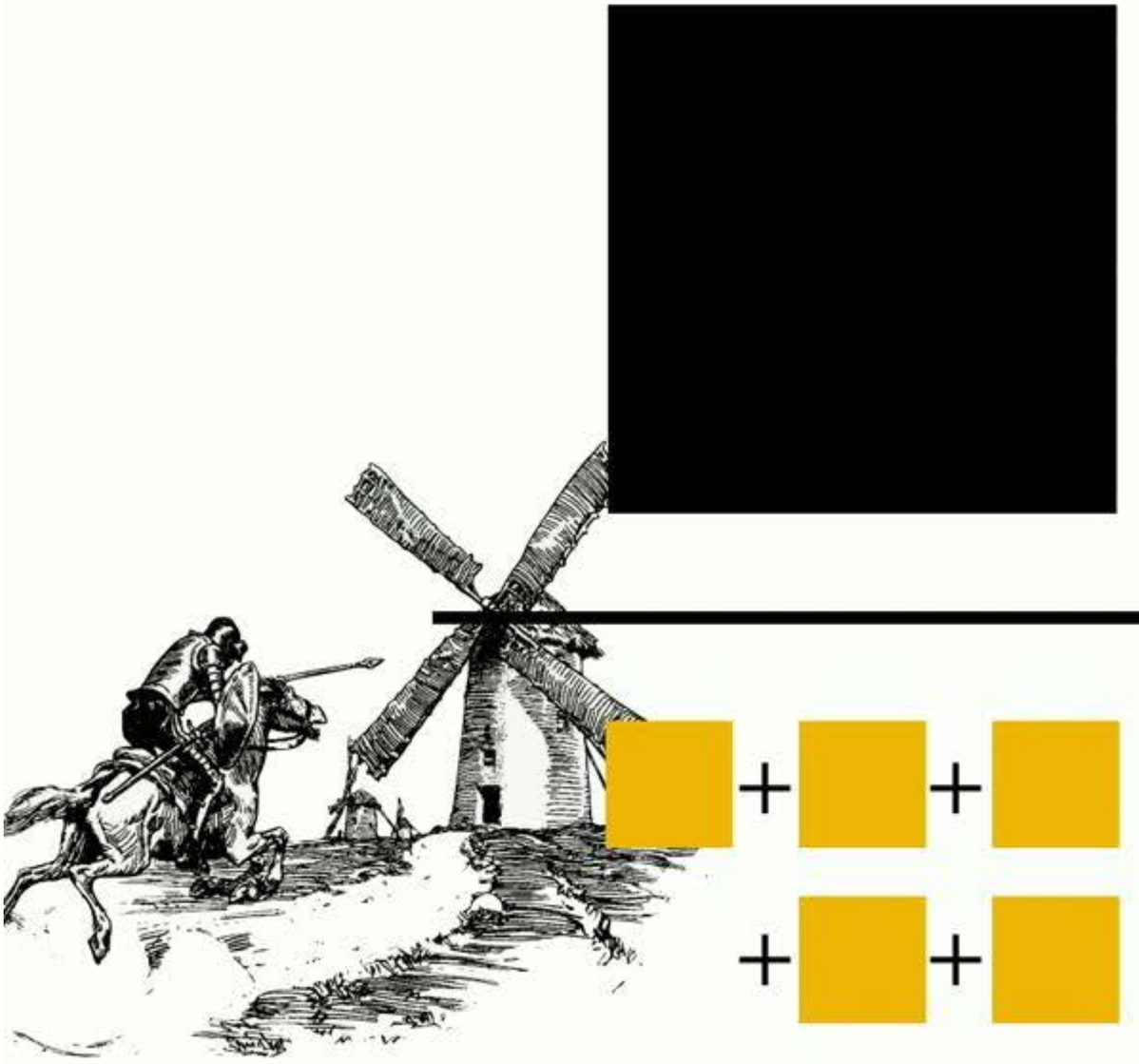


OS Pages



Live objects

¡Fragmentación!

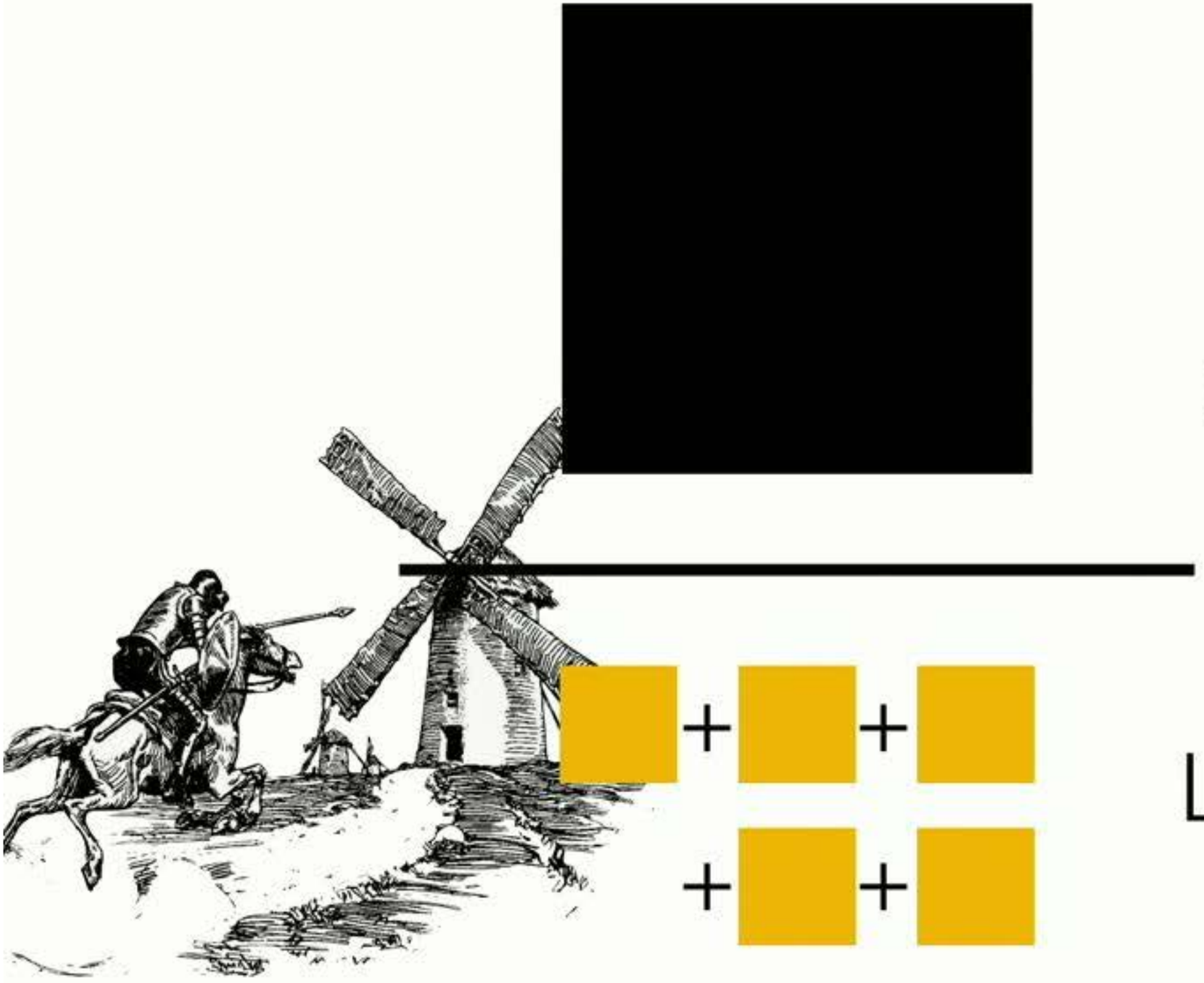


OS Pages

$\gg 1$

Live objects

¡Fragmentación!



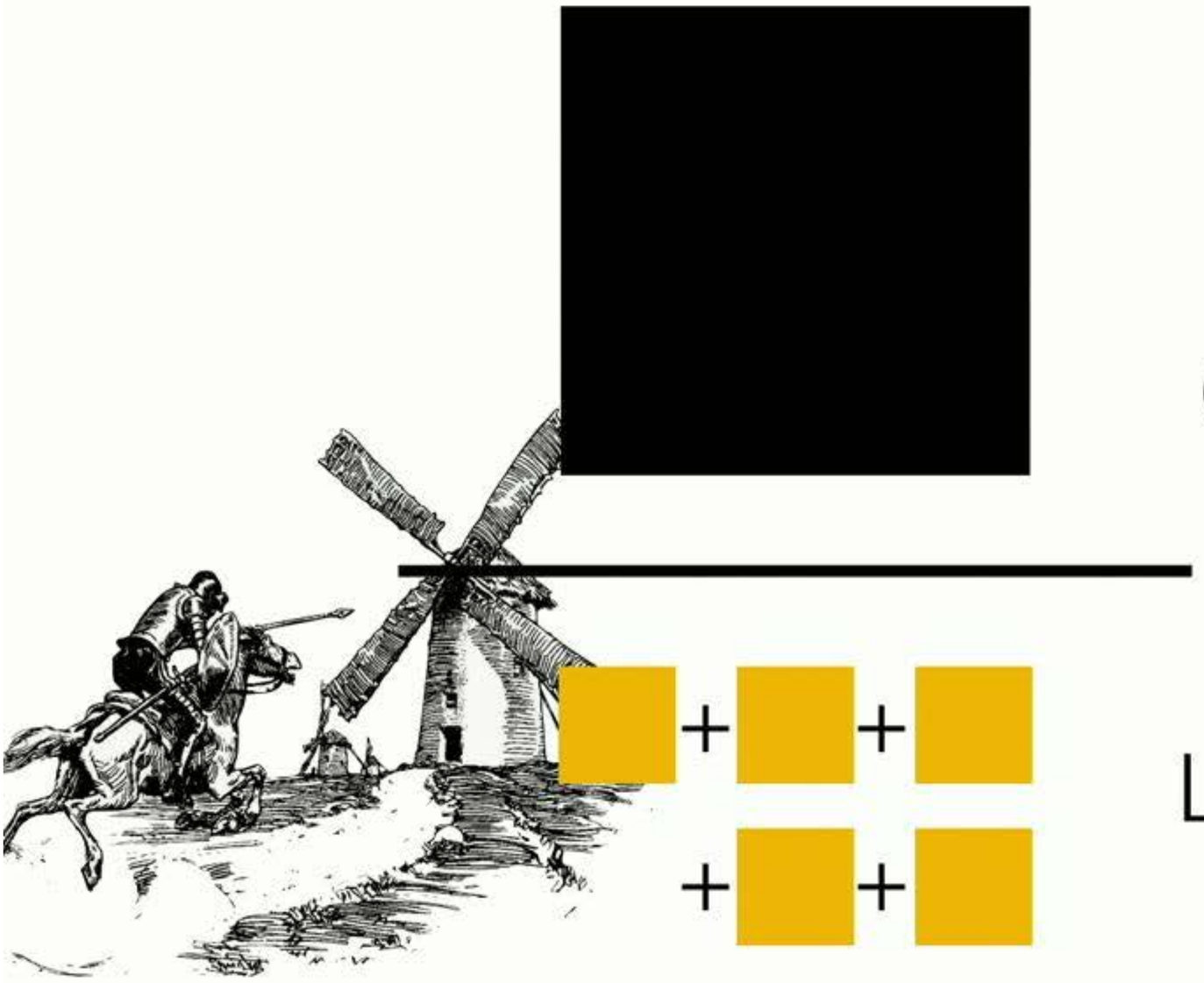
OS Pages

O(log) 13x!

[Robson ’77]

Live objects

¿Compacción?



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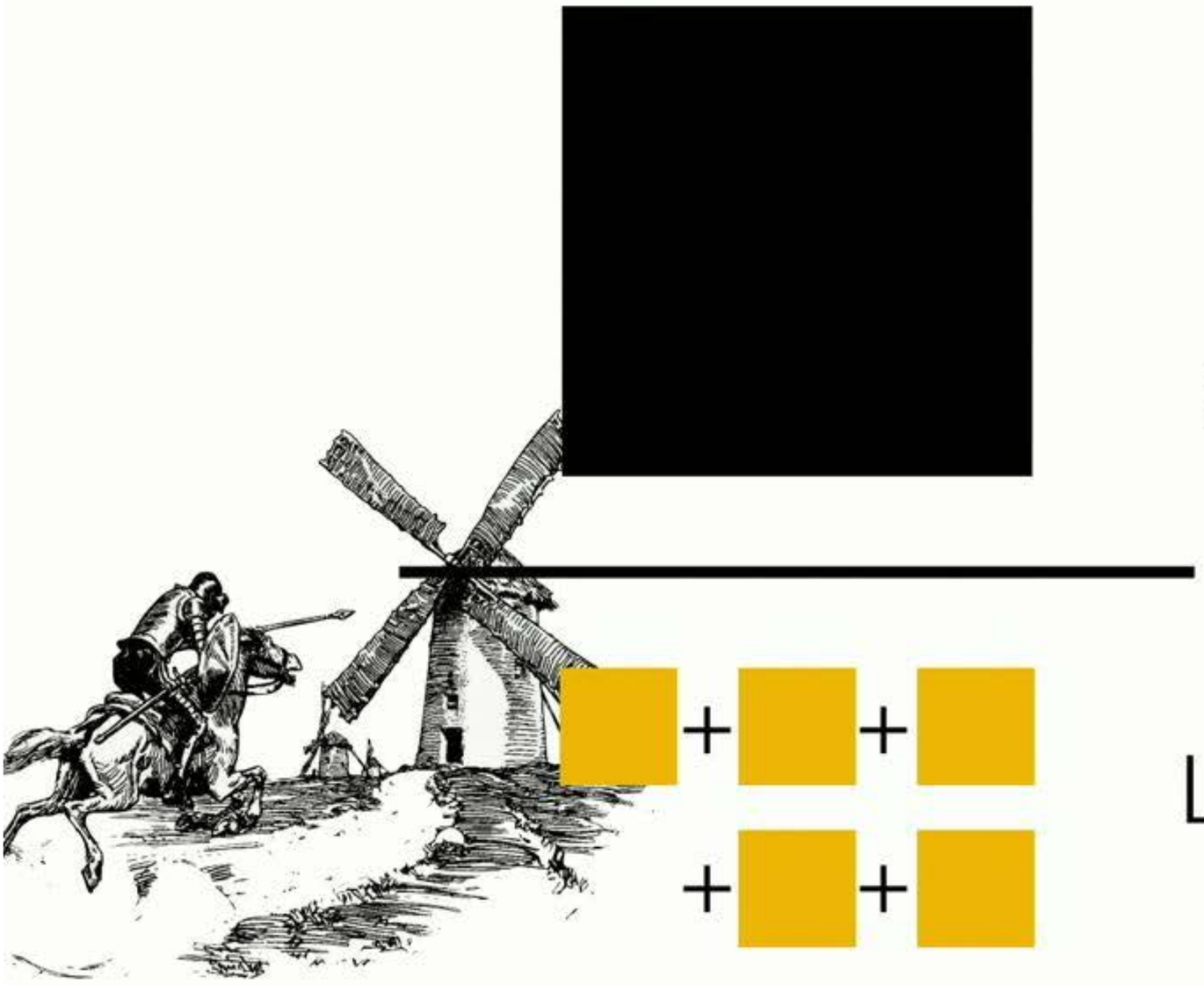

OS Pages

O(1)

Live objects


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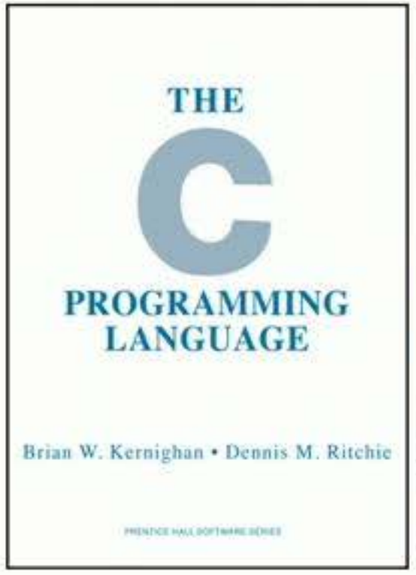
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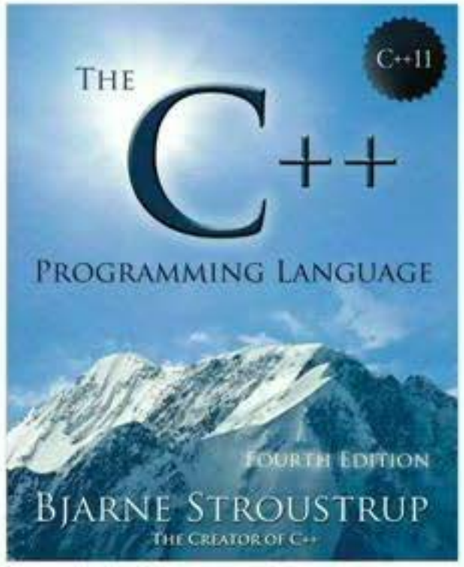
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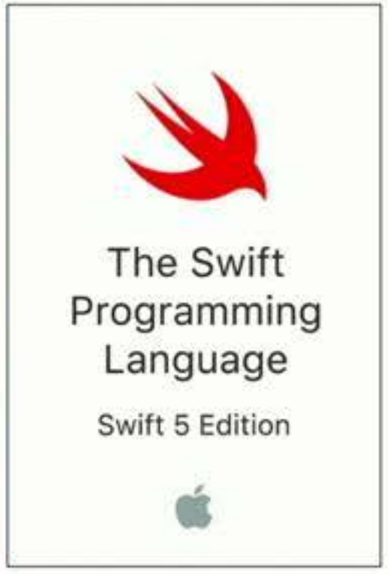
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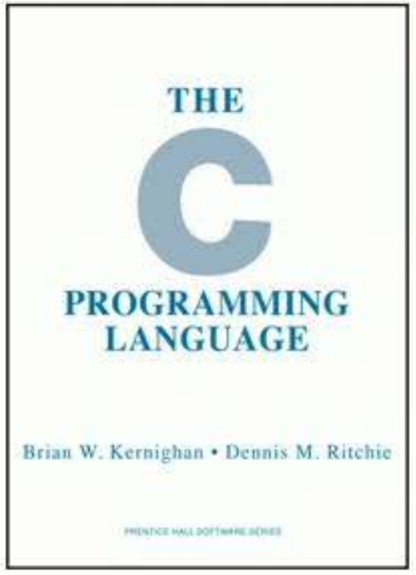

[Lattner, 2016]

Why not a tracing GC?

- Native interoperability with unmanaged code
- Deterministic destruction provides:
  - No "finalizer problems" like resurrection, threading, etc.
  - Deterministic performance: can test/debug performance stutters
- Performance:
  - GC use ~3-4x more memory than ARC to achieve good performance
  - Memory usage is very important for mobile and cloud apps
  - Incremental/concurrent GCs slow the mutator like ARC does

Quantifying the Performance of Garbage Collection vs. Explicit Memory Management
Matthew Hertz, Emery D. Berger. OOPSLA'05

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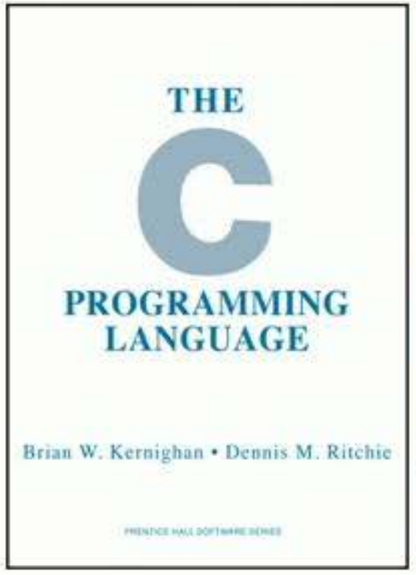
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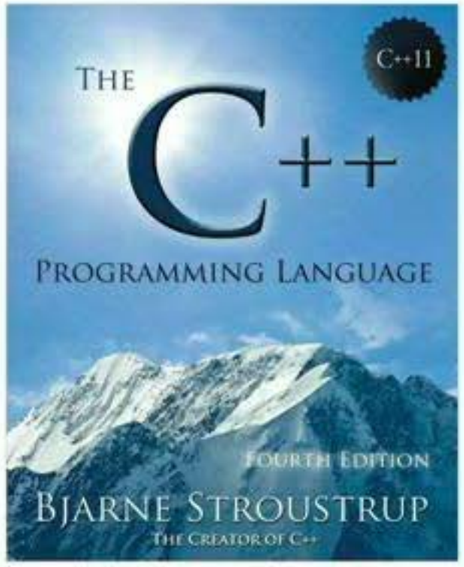
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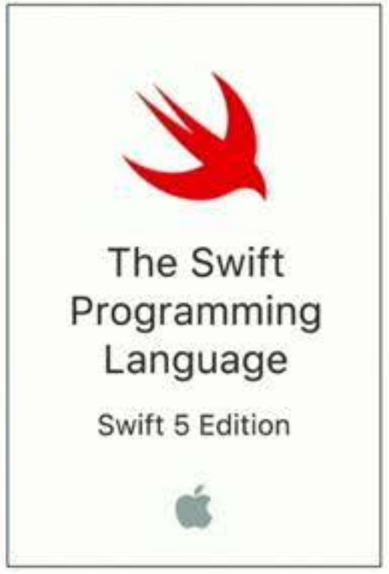
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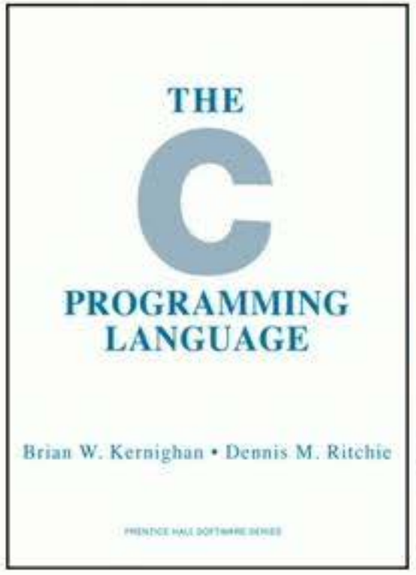
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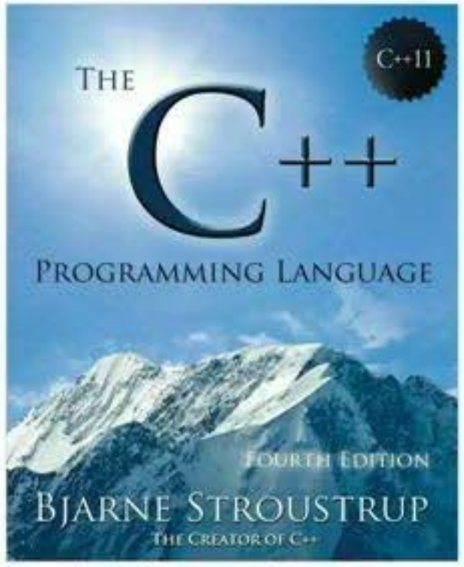
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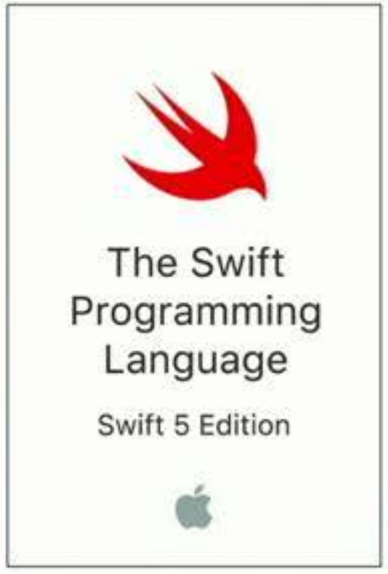
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redis


MySQL™


Office


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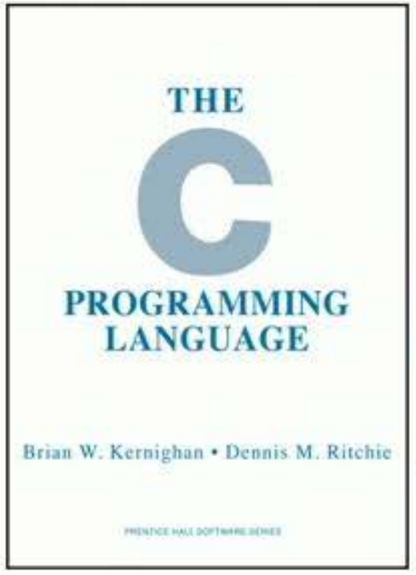

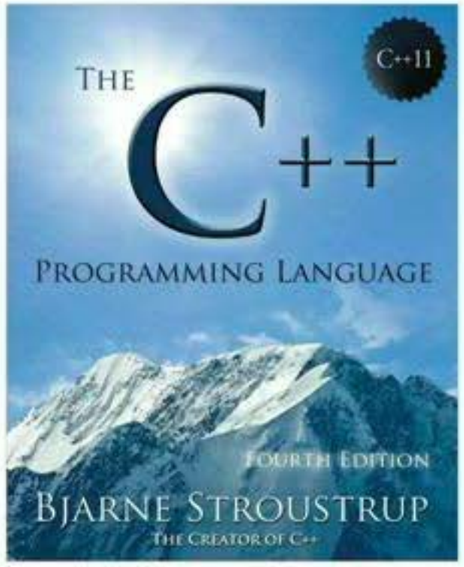

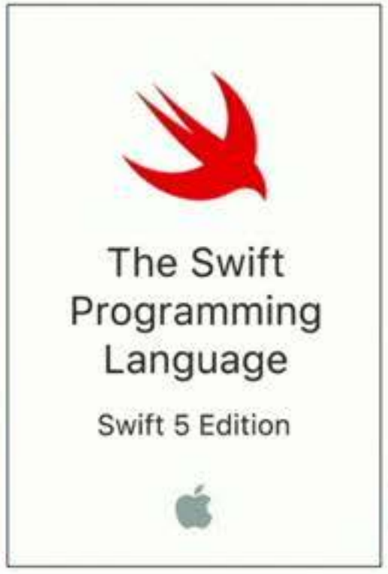

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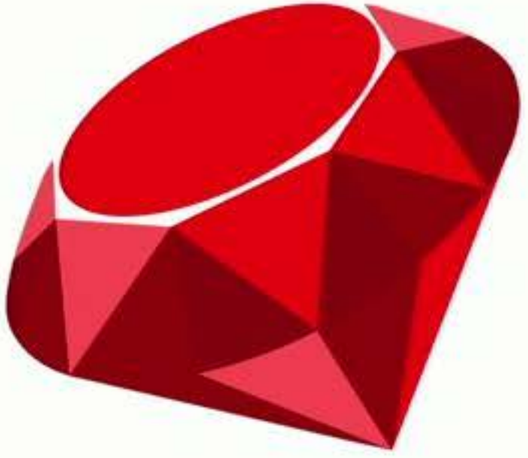

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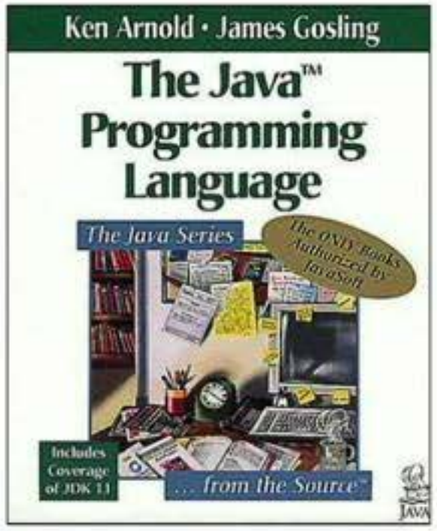
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Includes Coverage of JDK 1.1
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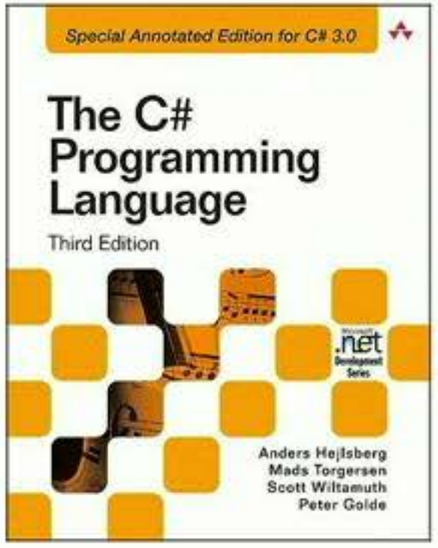
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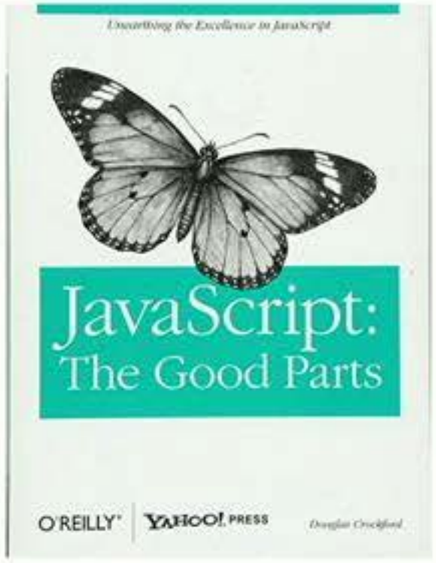
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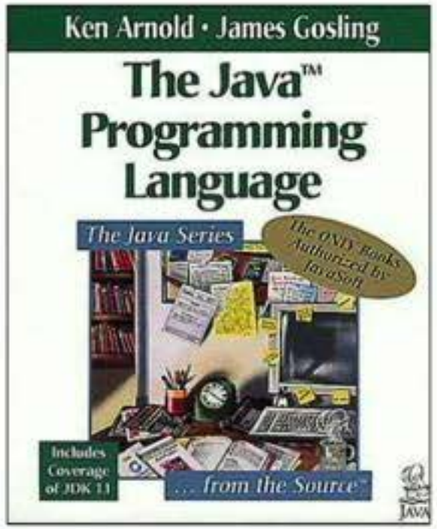
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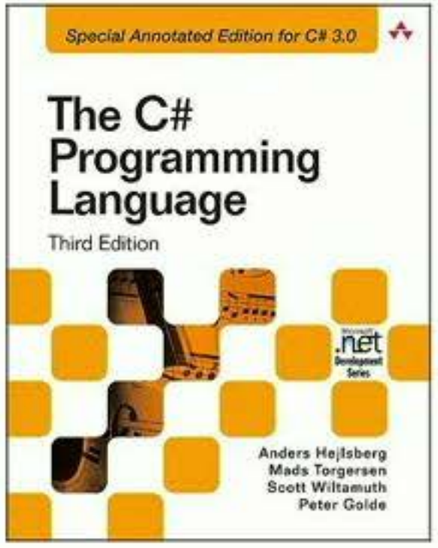
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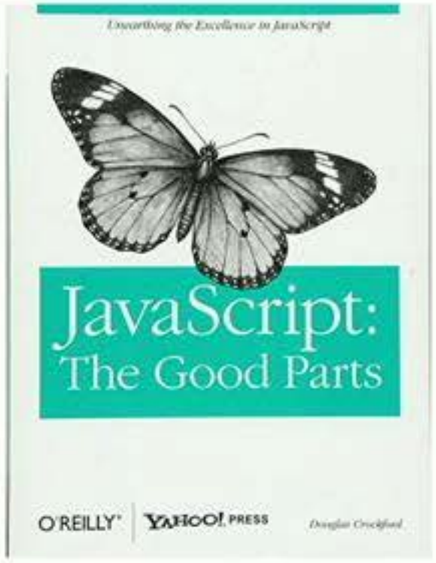
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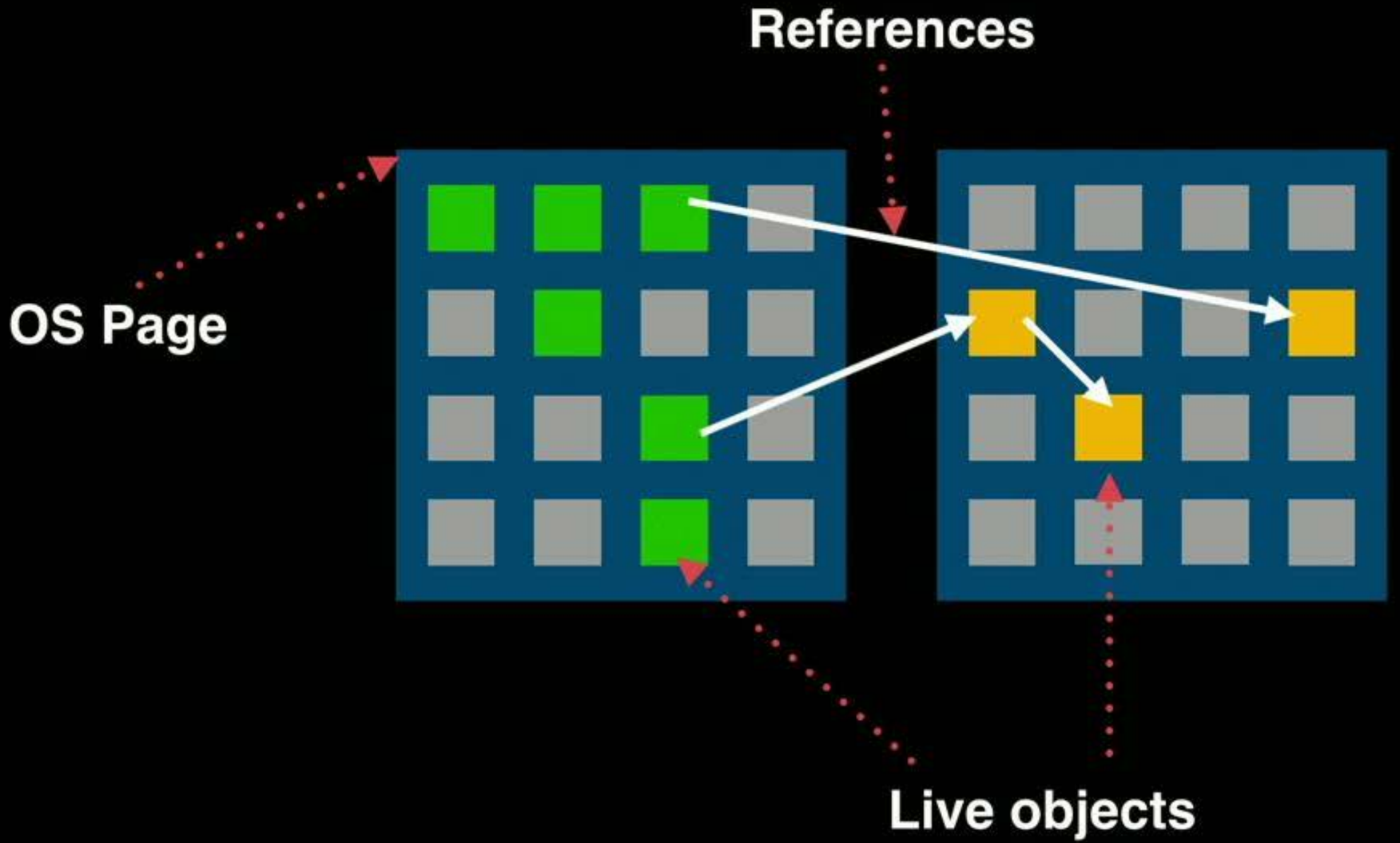
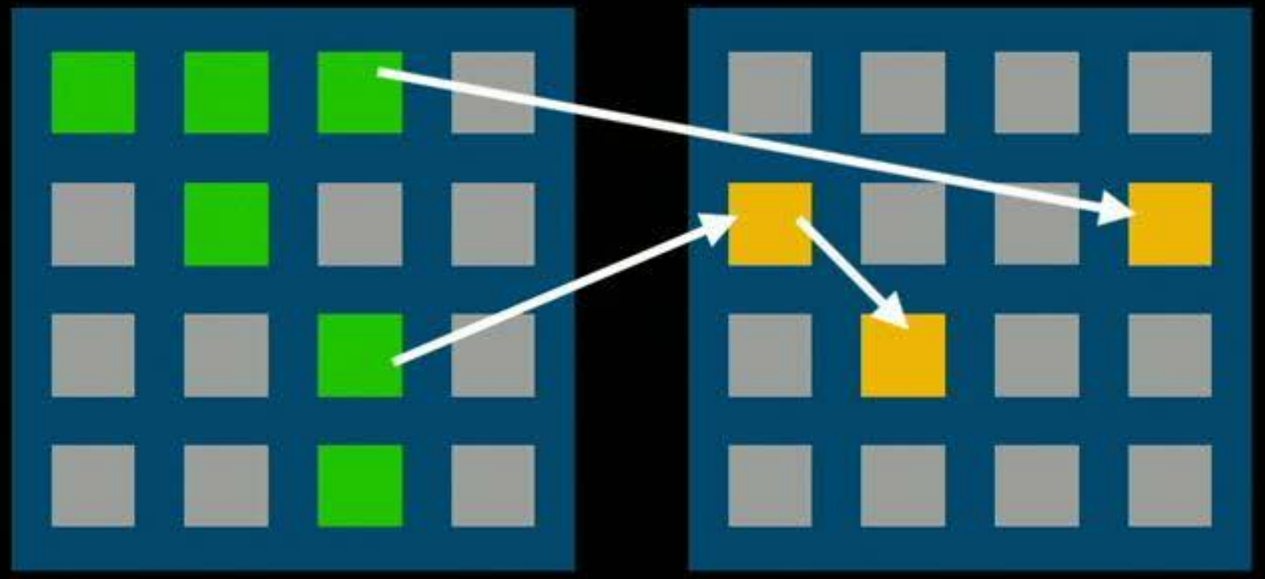
¡Compacción!

Compaction In Action





```
$ cc -o yolo main.cc
$ strip yolo
```

```
$ cc -o yolo main.cc
$ strip yolo
$ ./yolo
```

No way to precisely distinguish pointers from integers

0xDEADC000

0xBEEFC000

```
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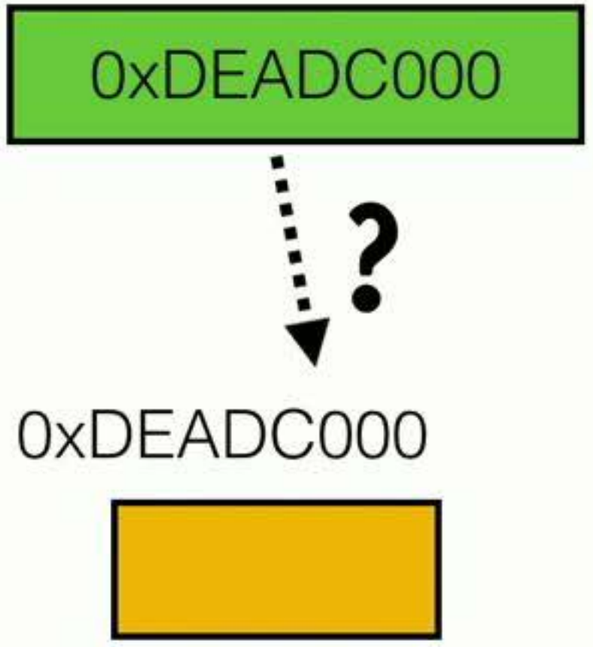
$ ./yolo
```



No way to precisely distinguish pointers from integers

```
union tiny
{
 int * ptr;
 uintptr_t flag;
};
tiny x;

// initialize
x.ptr = new int;

// set flag true
x.flag |= 1;
```

MESH

Compaction without Relocation for C/C++

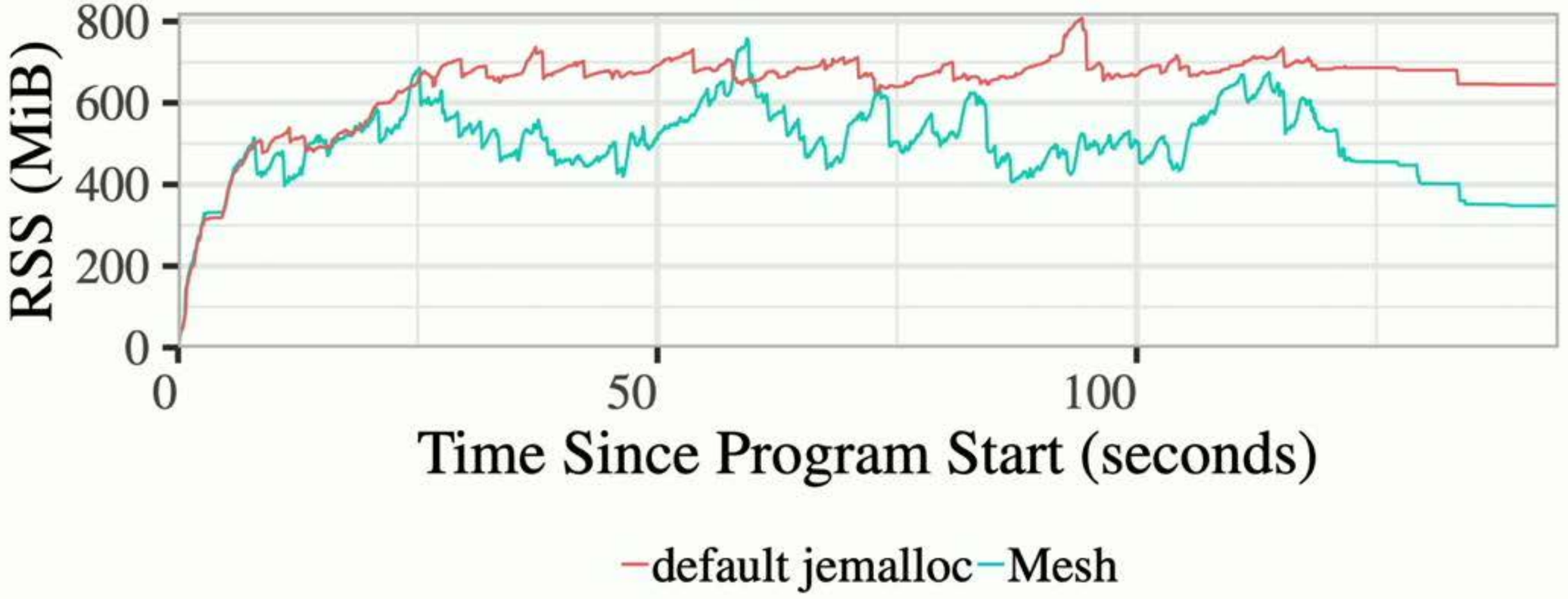
No code changes

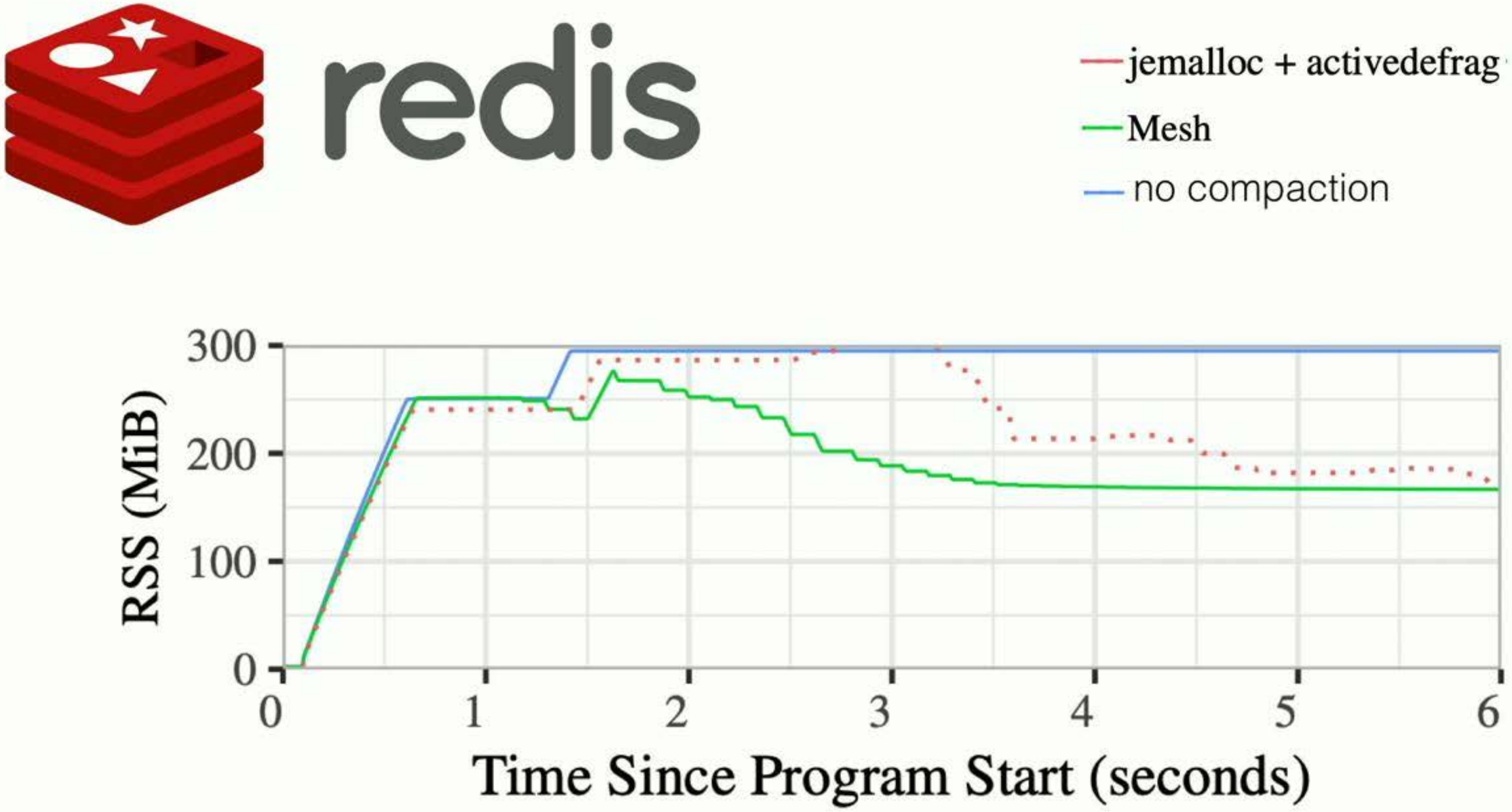
No recompilation

`LD_PRELOAD` and go

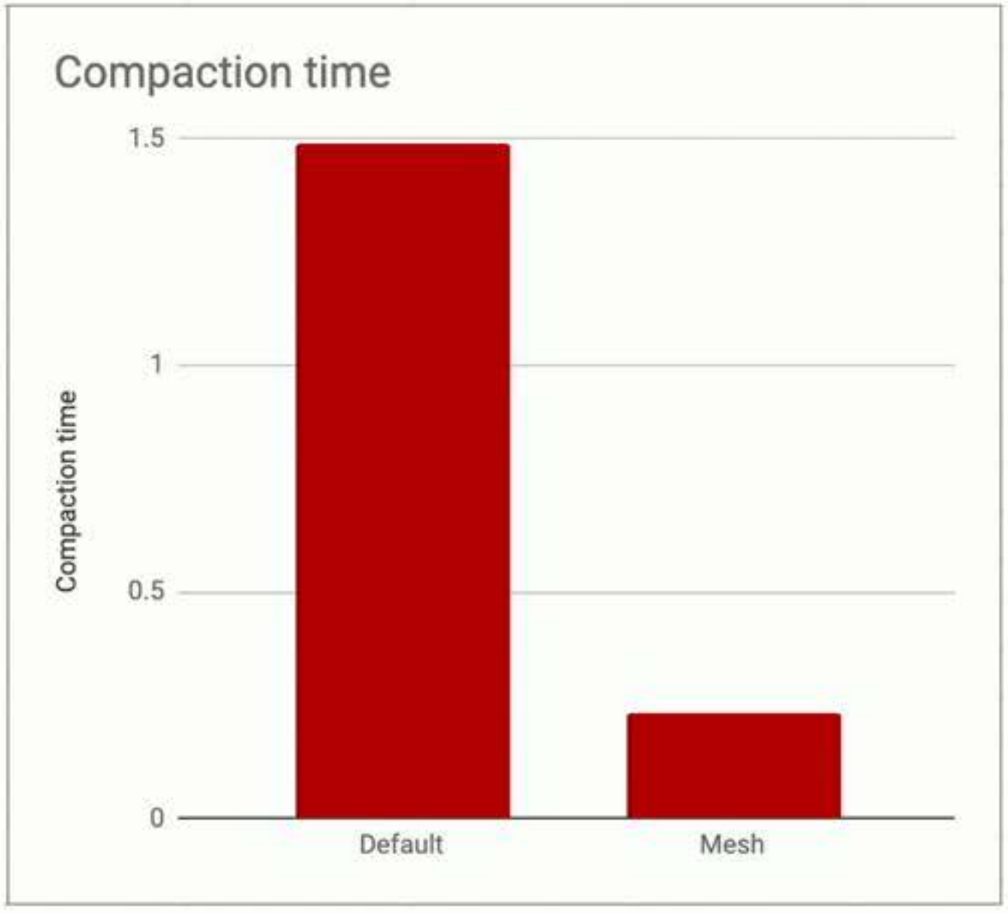
17% heap size reduction

< 1% performance overhead



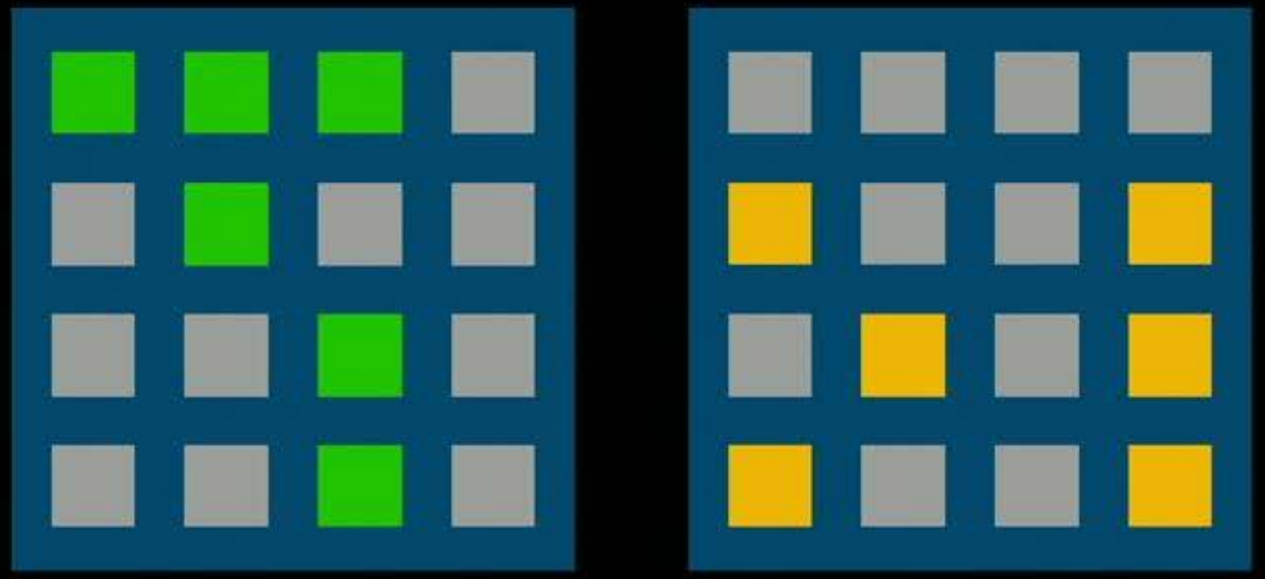

redis
jemalloc + activedefrag
Mesh
no compaction
RSS (MiB)
300
200
100
0
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
Time Since Program Start (seconds)

redis



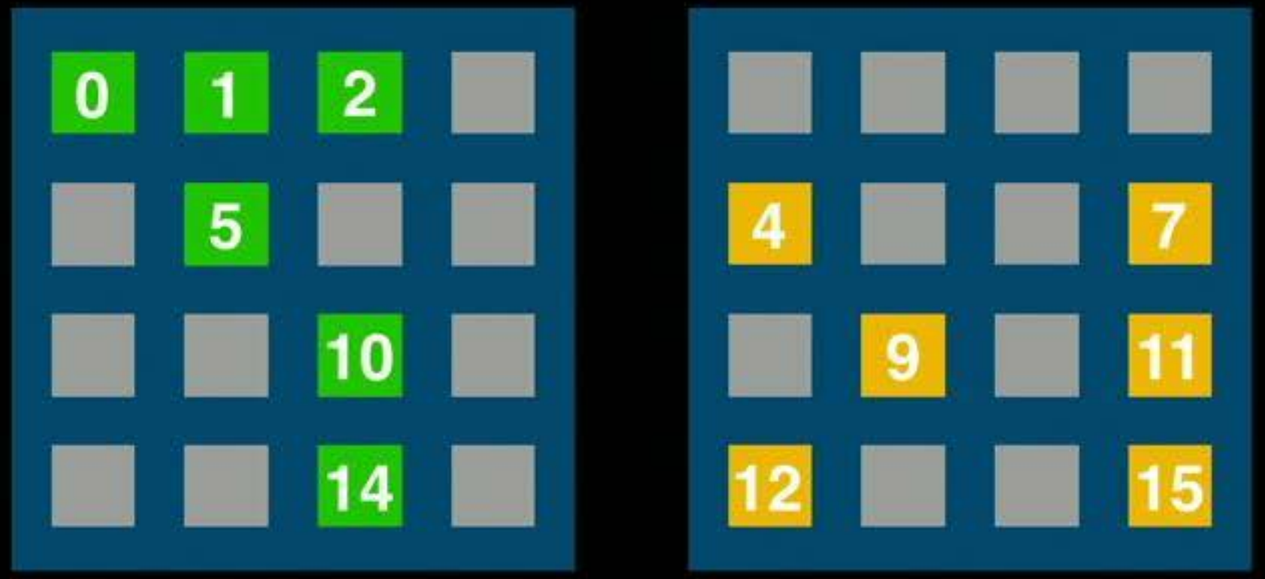
5x reduction in time spent compacting

Meshing: *compaction without (virtual!) relocation*



Pages are **Meshable** when they:

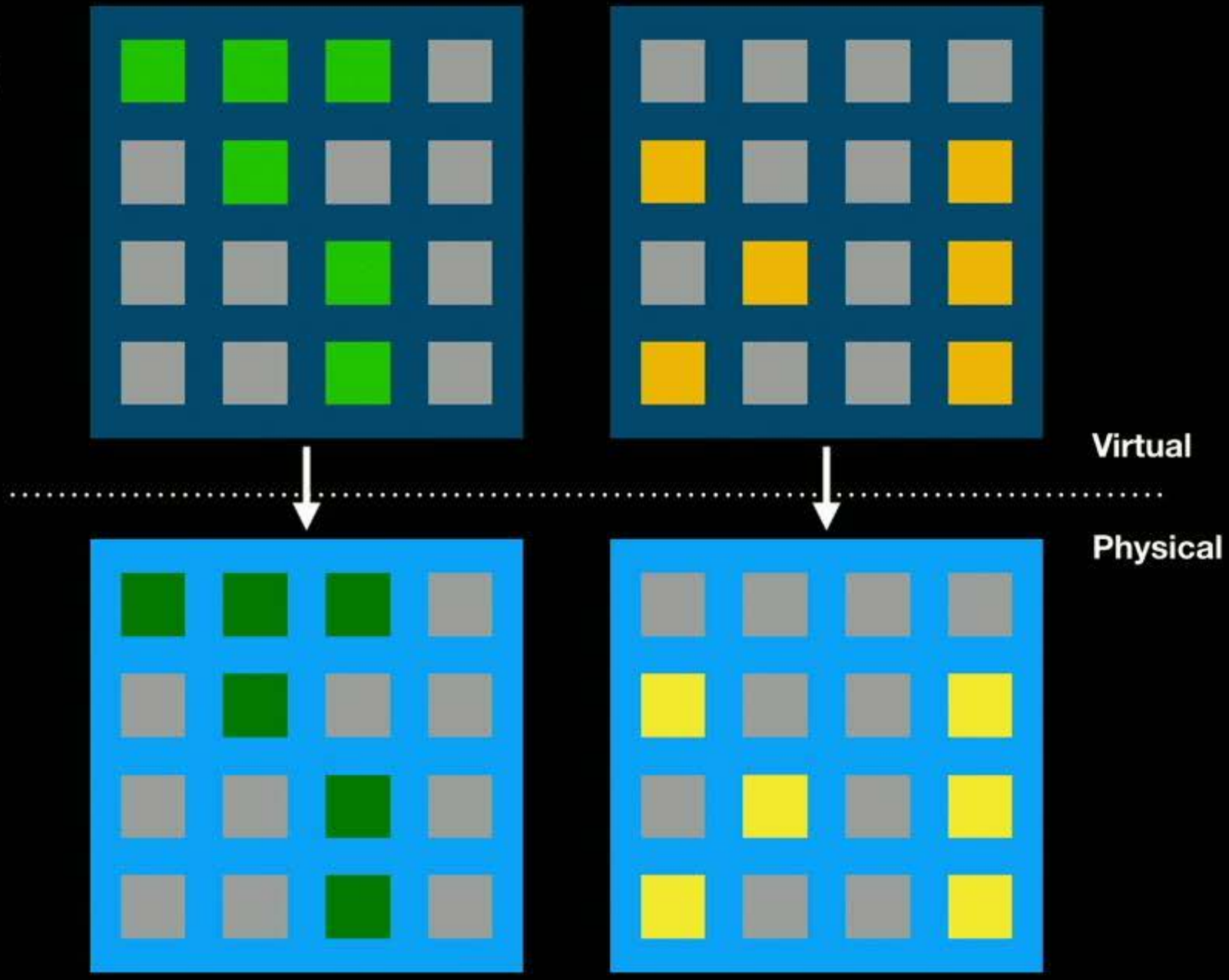
- Hold objects of the same size class



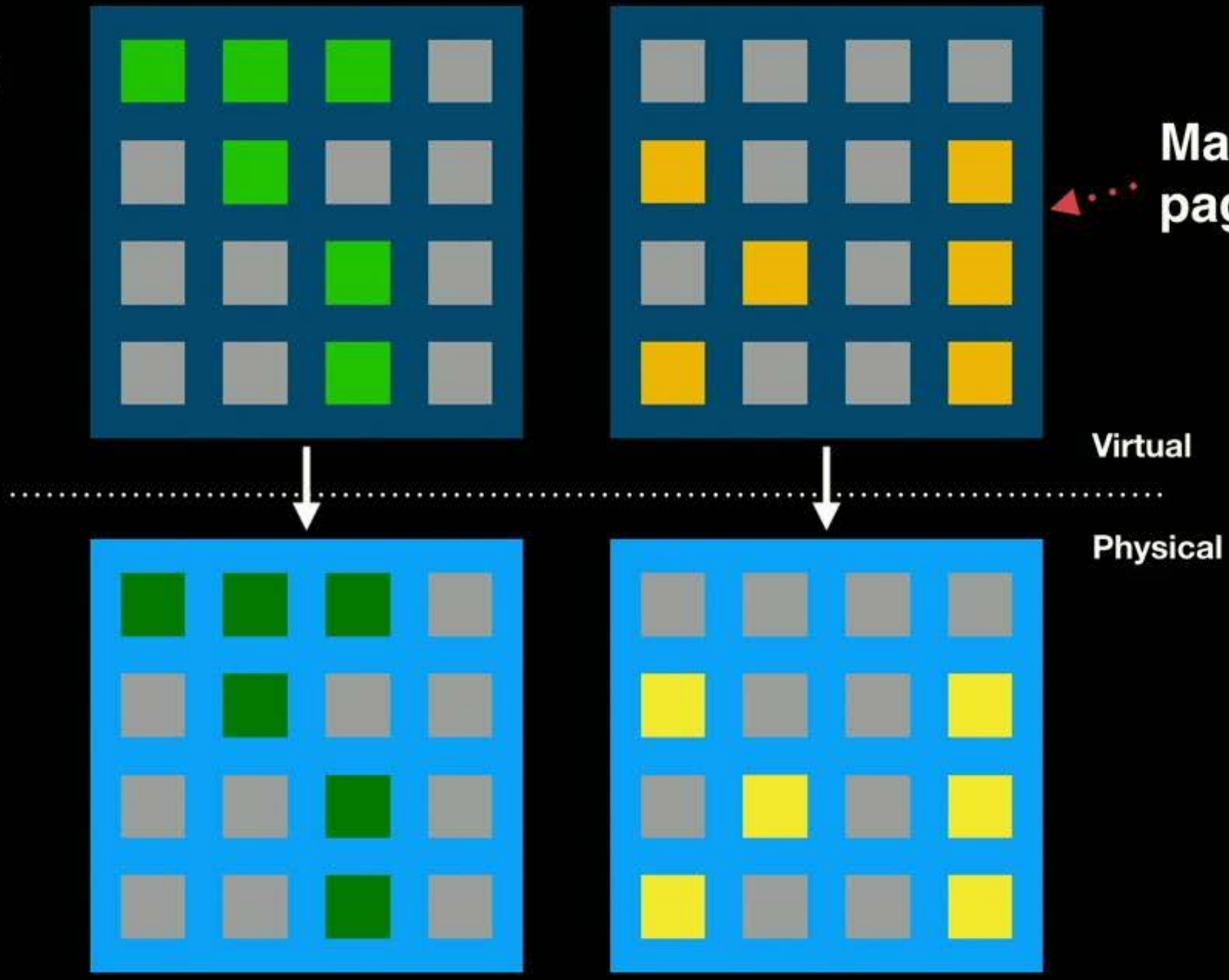
Pages are **Meshable** when they:

- Hold objects of the same size class
- Have non-overlapping object offsets

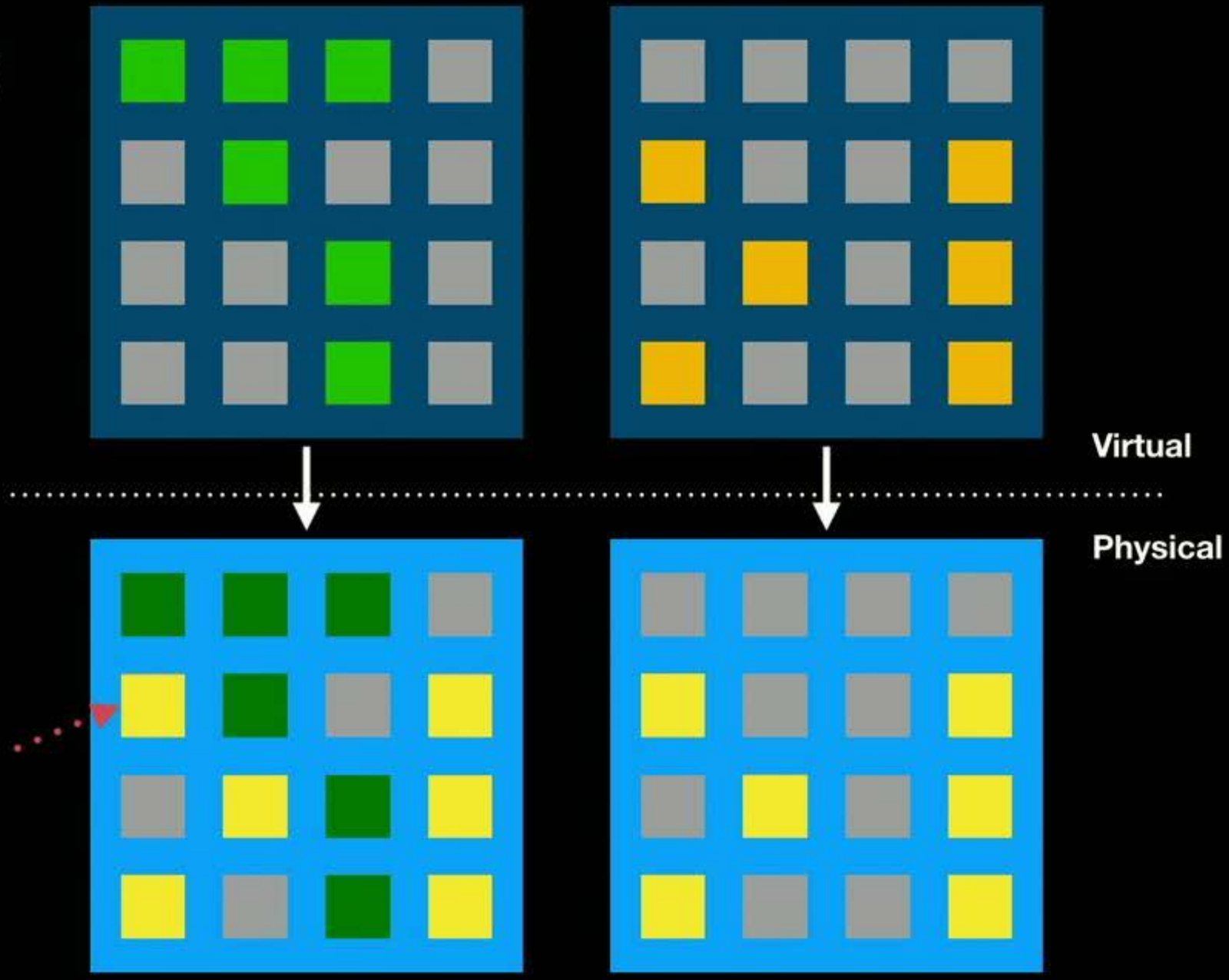
Meshing



Meshing



Meshing



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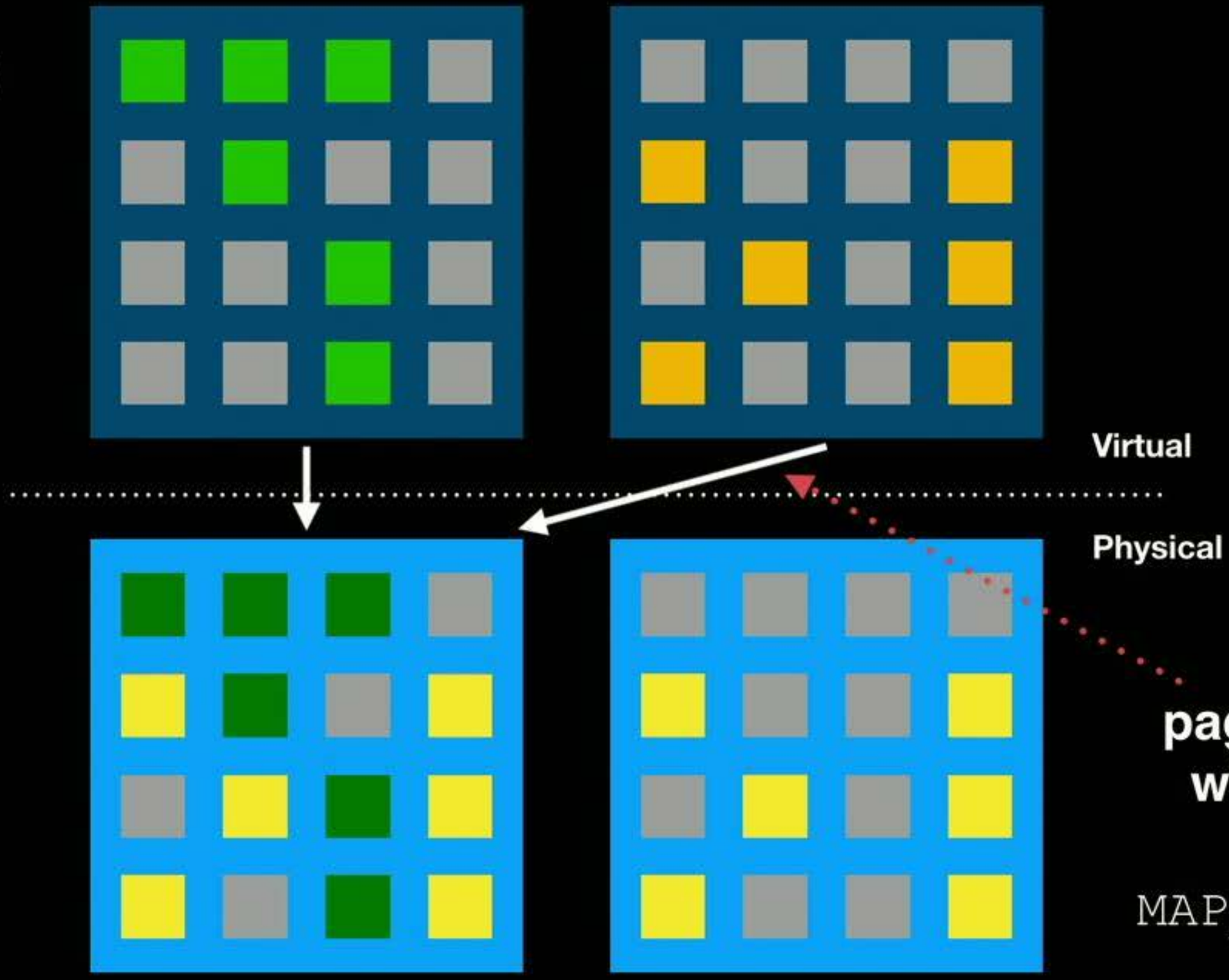
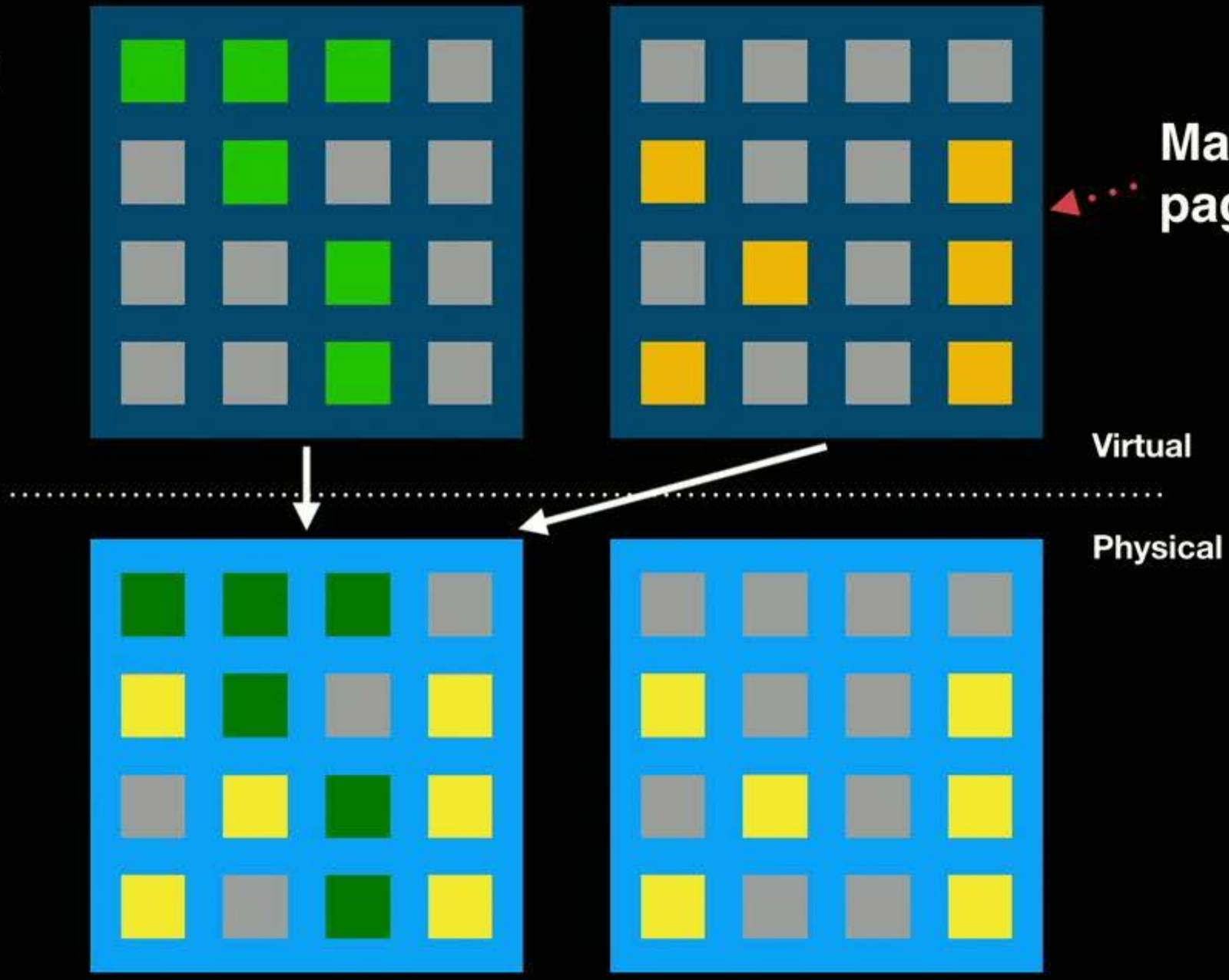

Virtual
Physical
Update page tables with mmap, memfd, MAP_SHARED

Meshing



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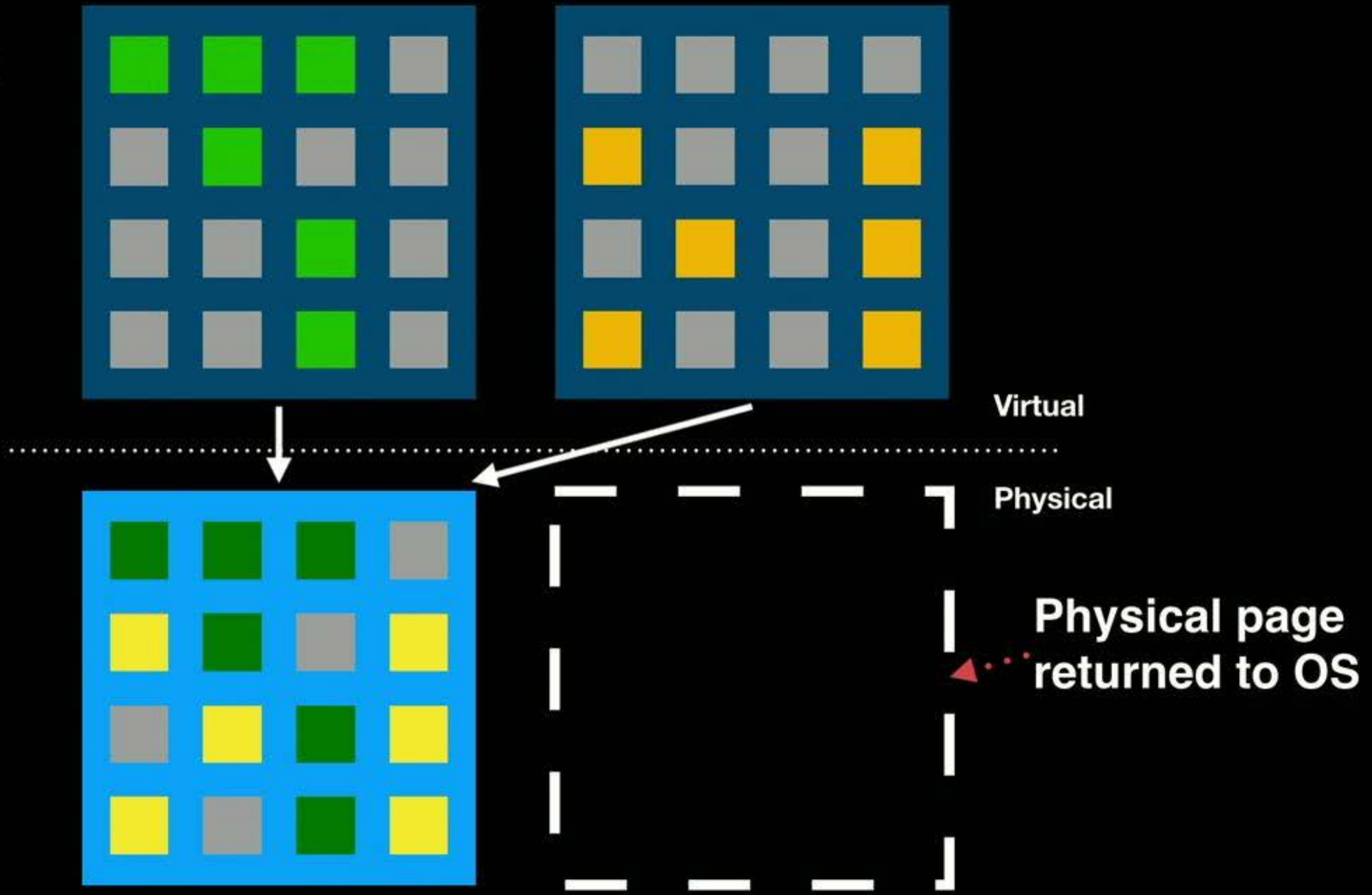

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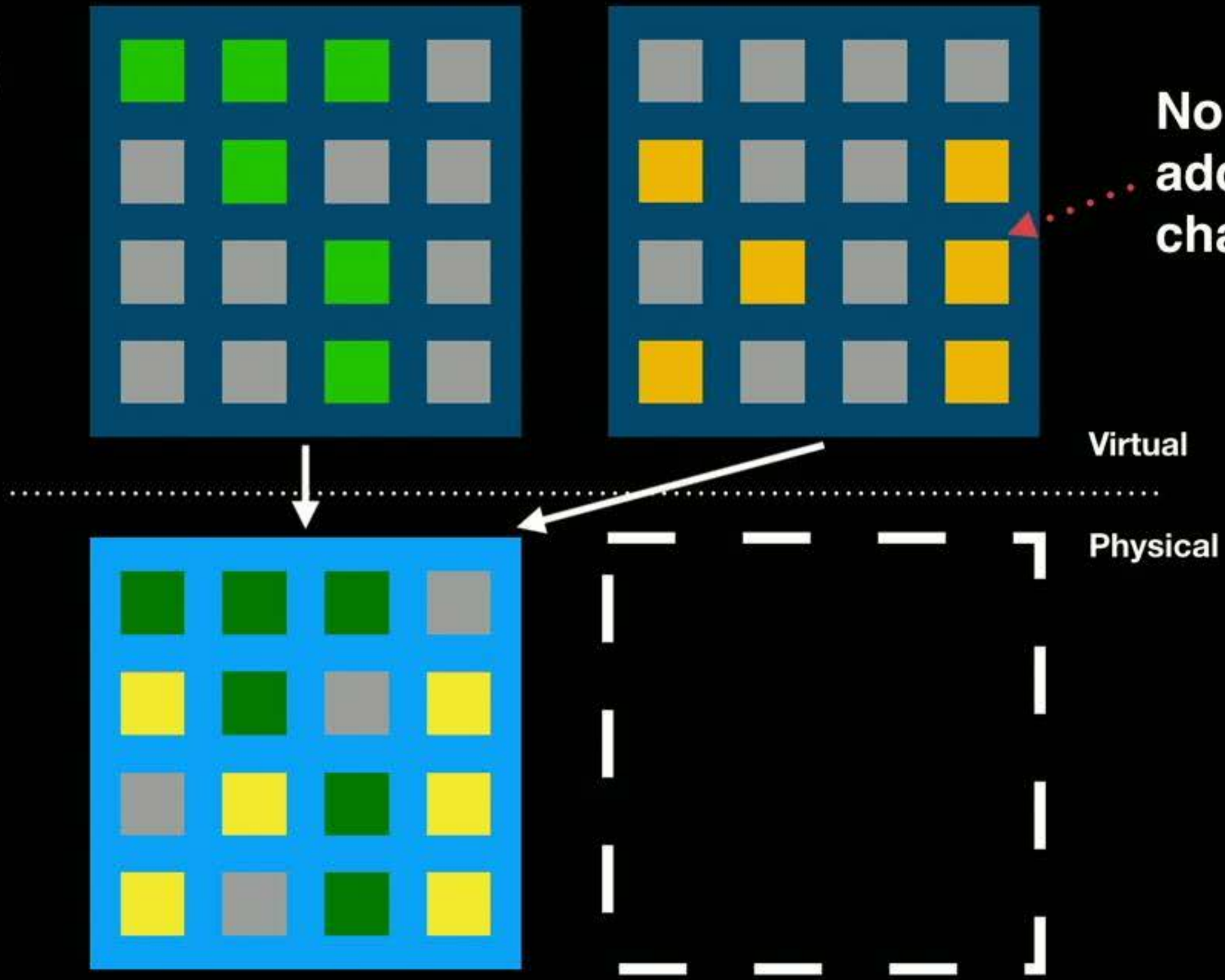
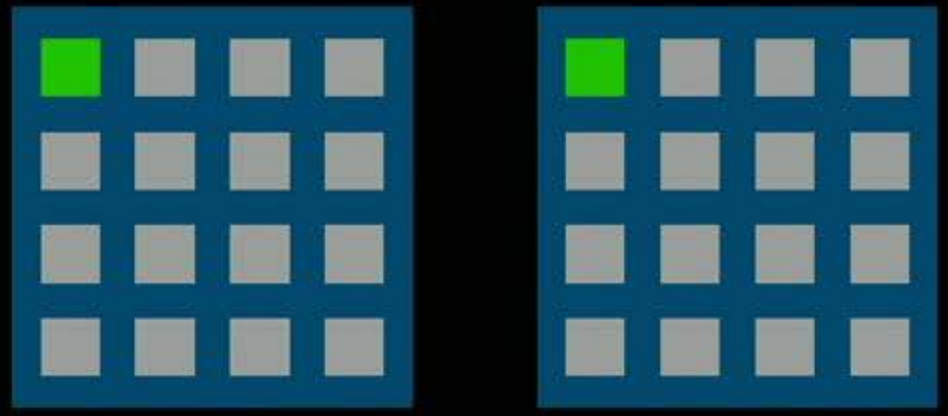
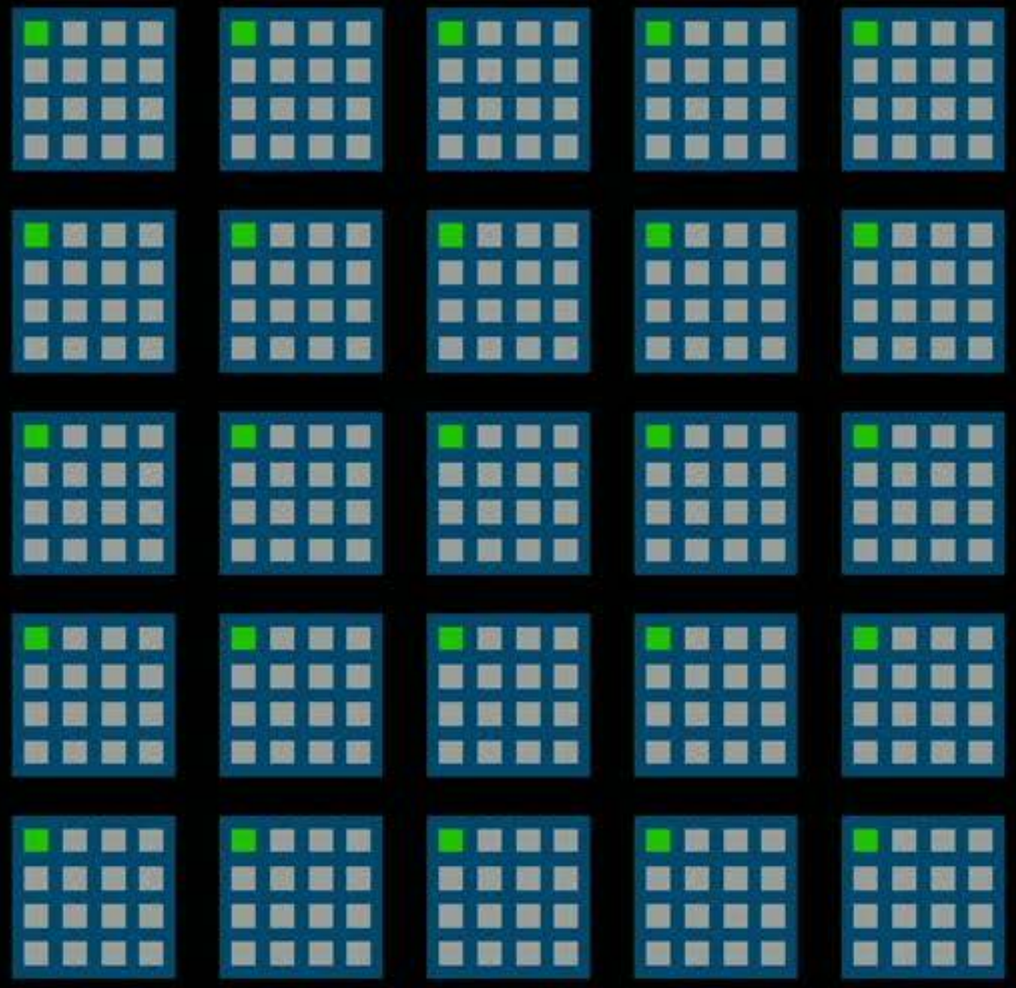


Worst Case:

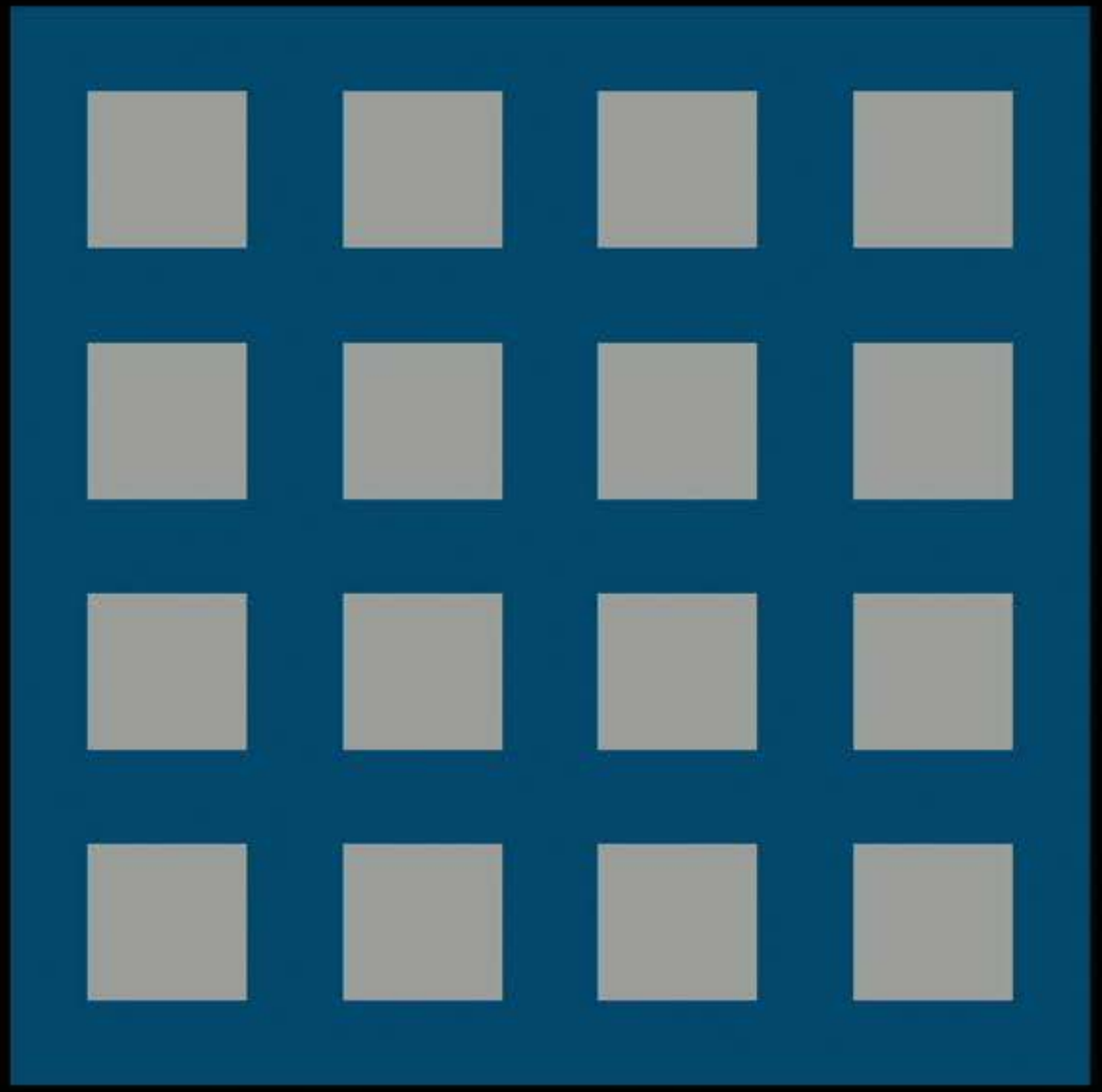
low occupancy,
non-meshable
pages

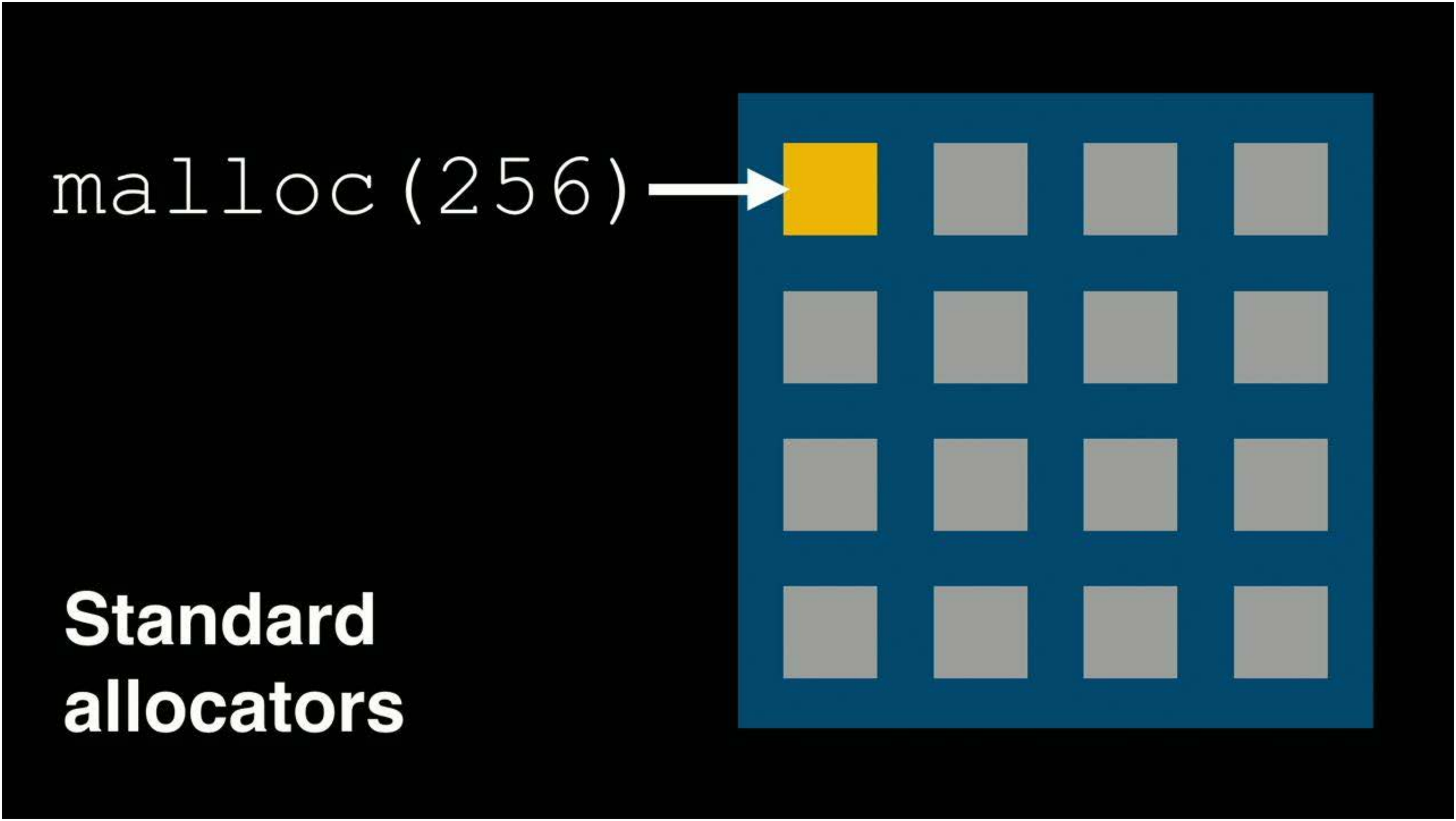


Worst Case:
many
low occupancy,
non-meshable
pages



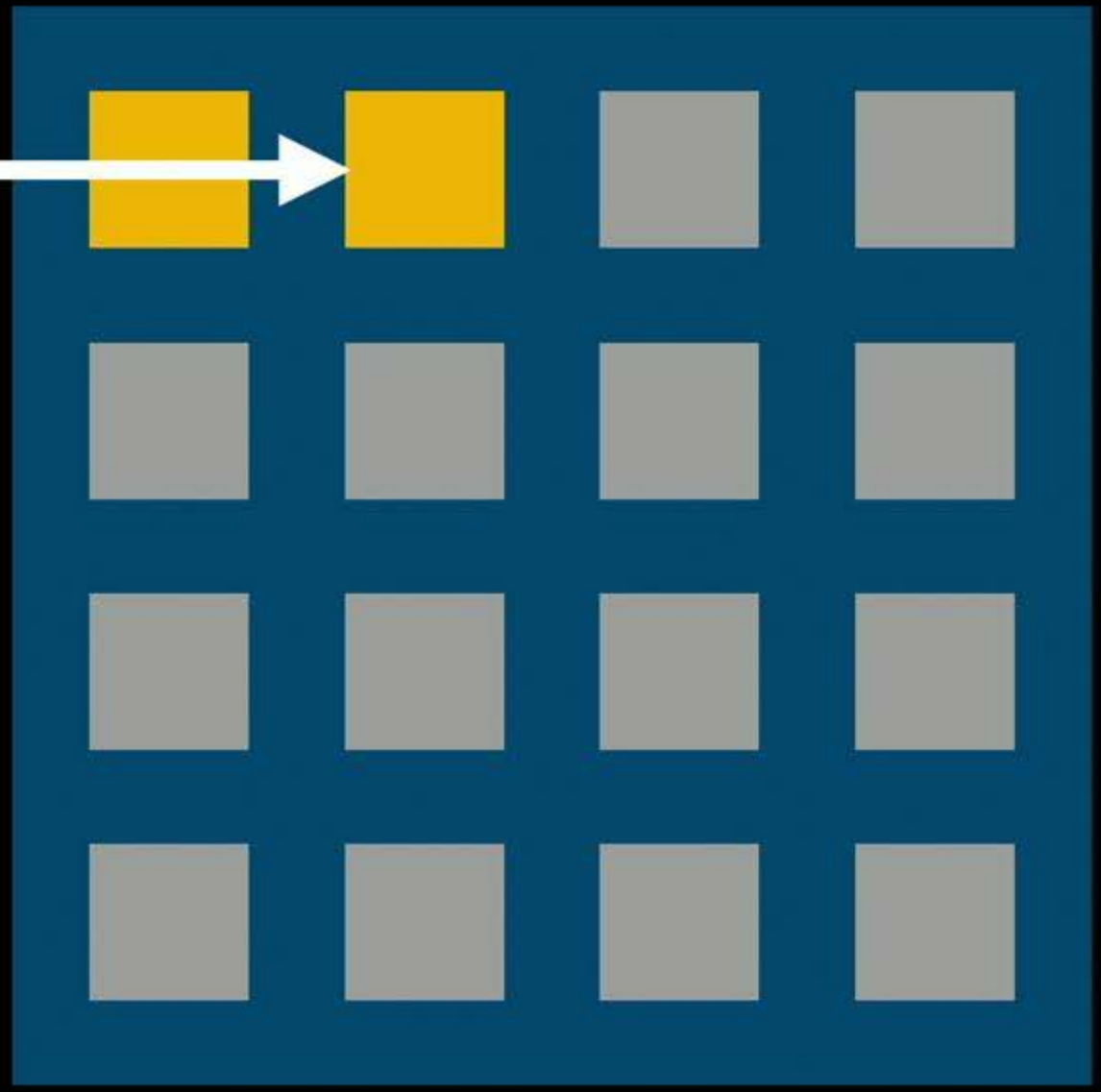
Standard allocators





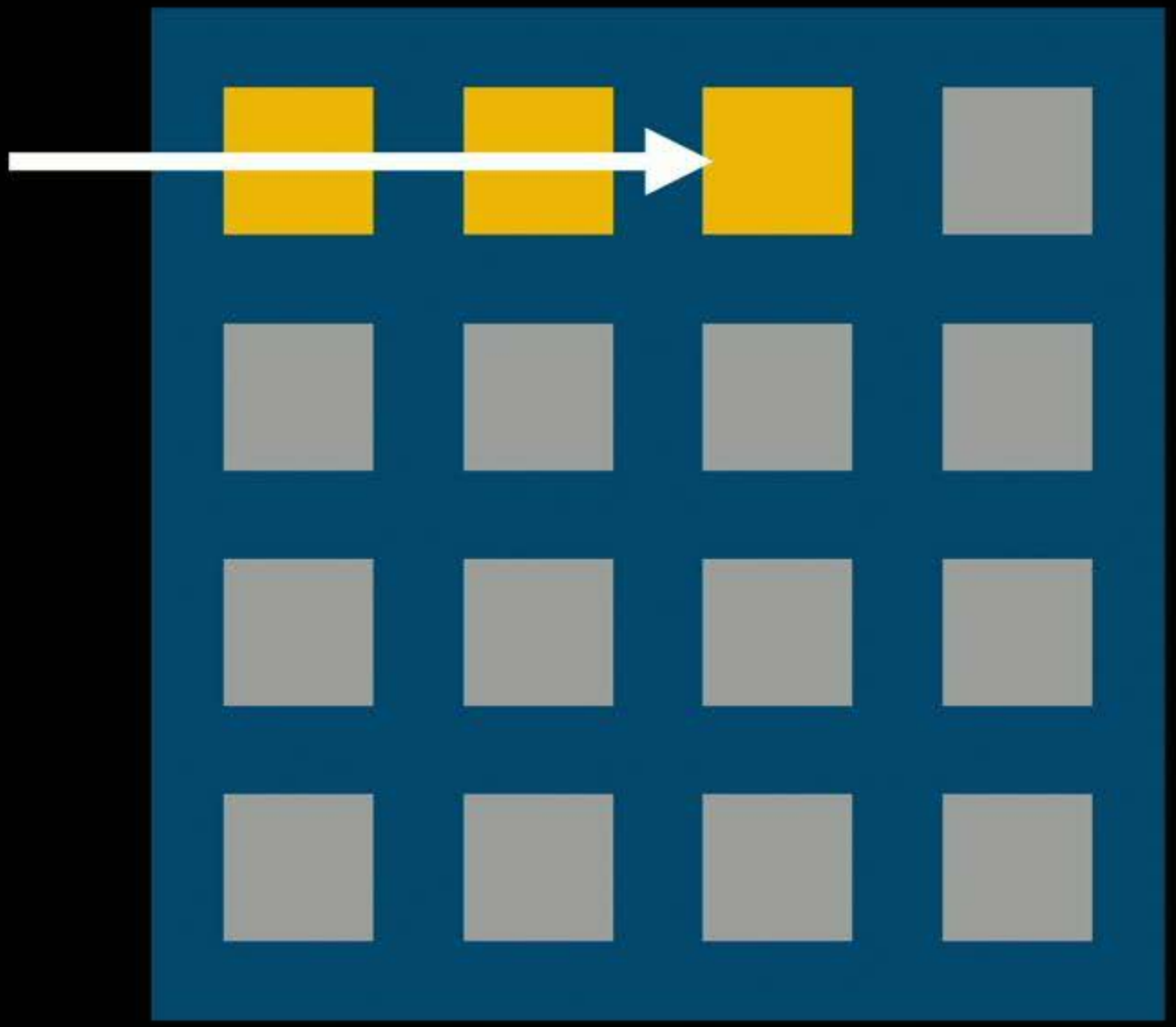
Standard allocators

`malloc(256)`



Standard allocators

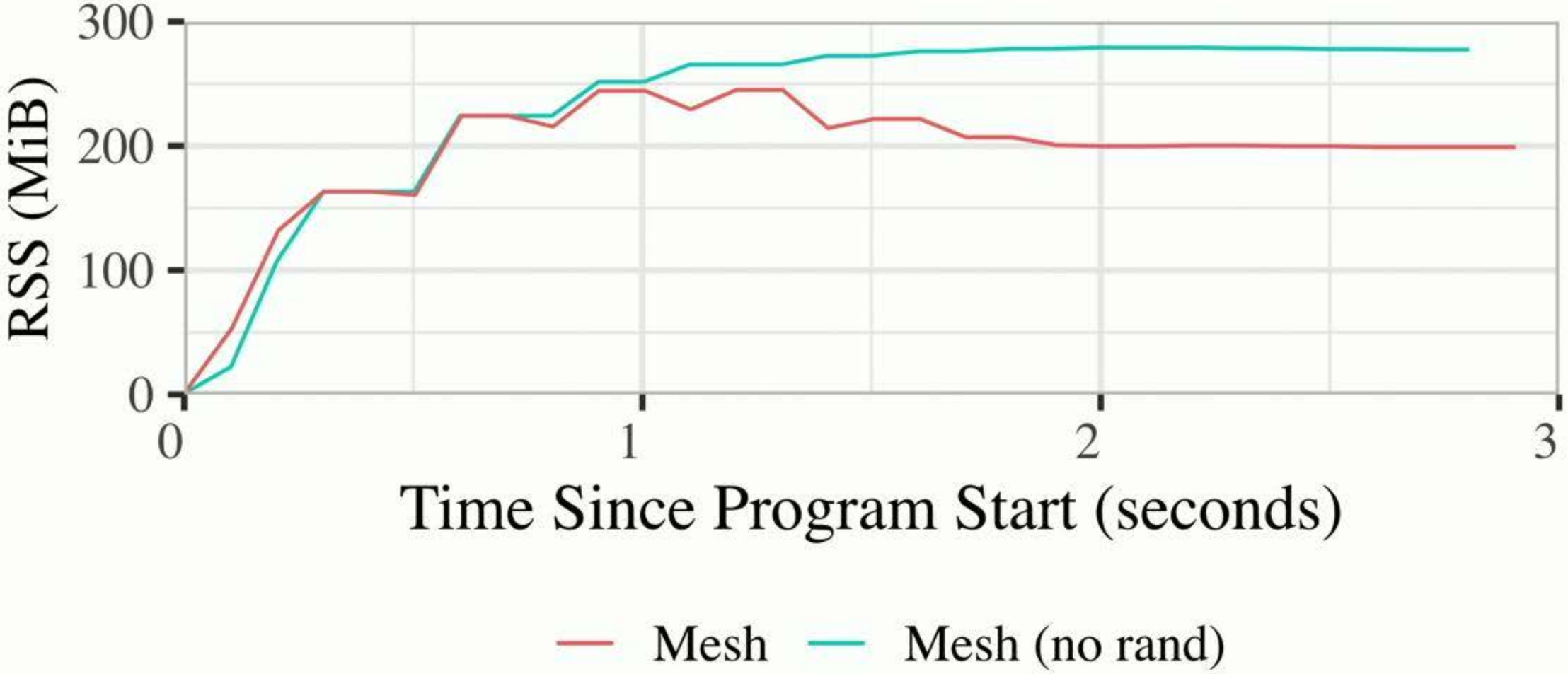
`malloc(256)`



Standard allocators

Mesh uses **randomization** to ensure live objects are uniformly distributed

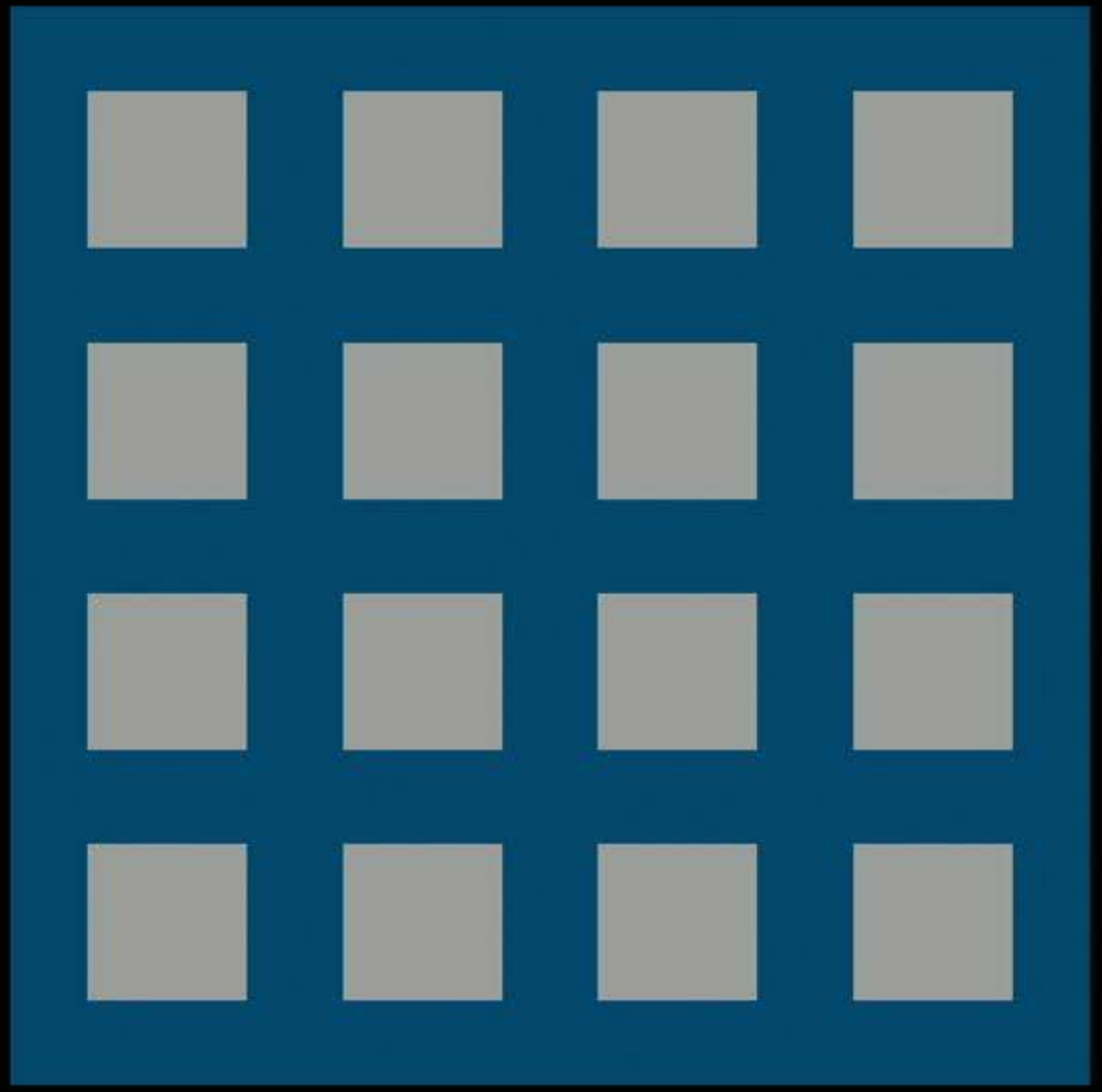
Regular allocation patterns are real



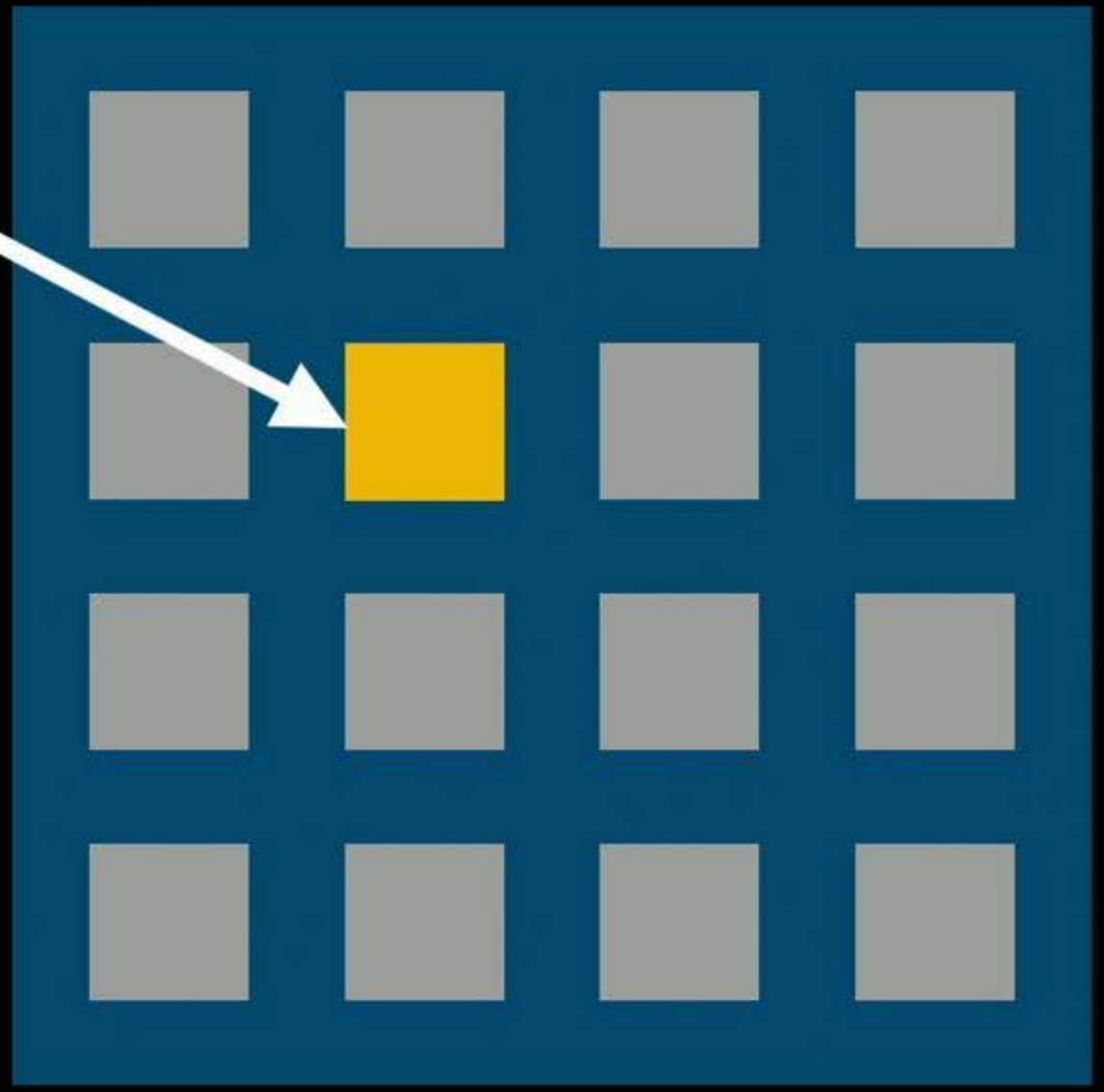
How to **randomize** allocation?

Random probing:

```
while true:
  if rand_off().is_free:
    return rand_off
```



```
malloc(256)
```



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```
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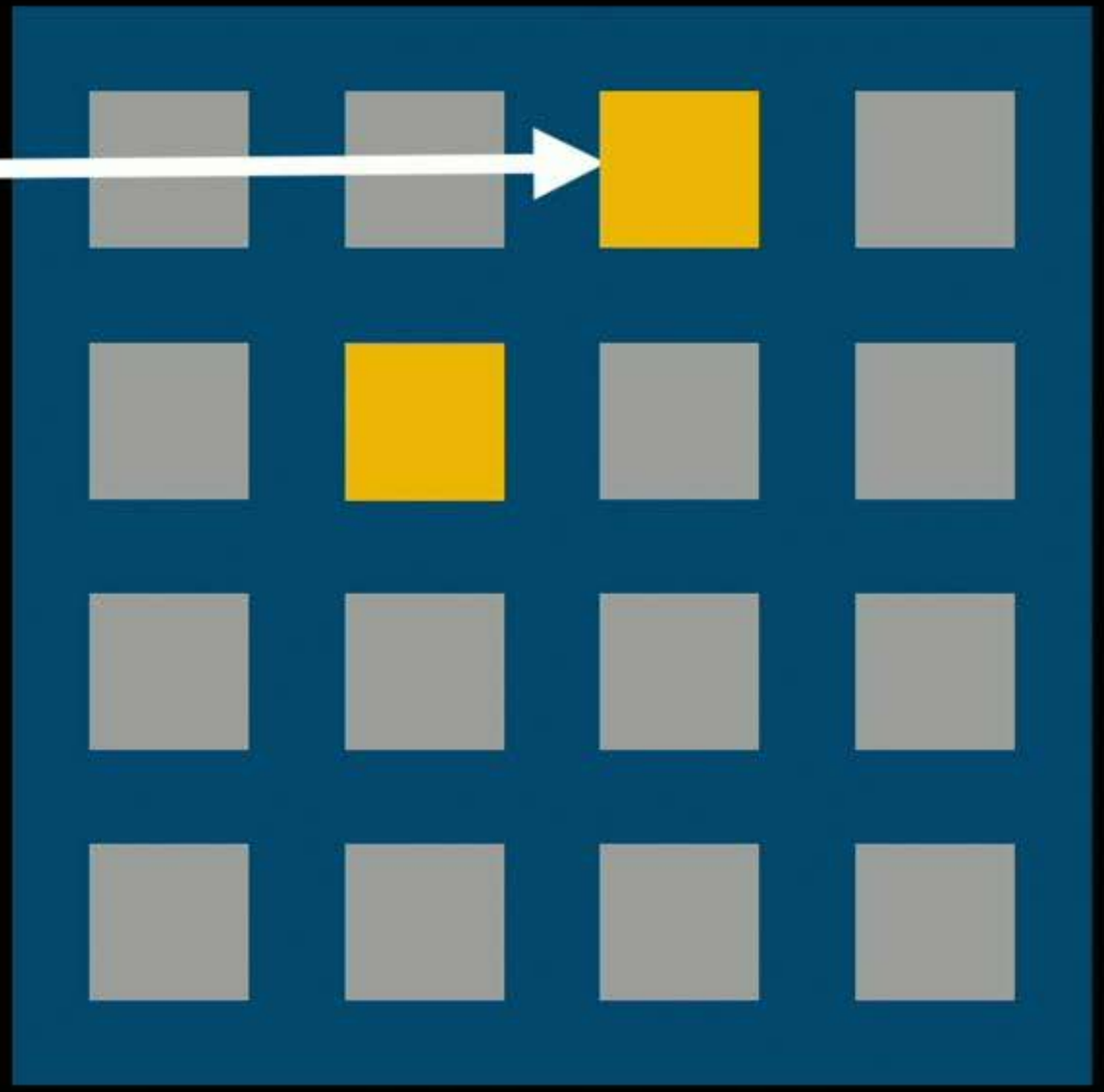
`malloc(256)`



Random probing:

```
while true:
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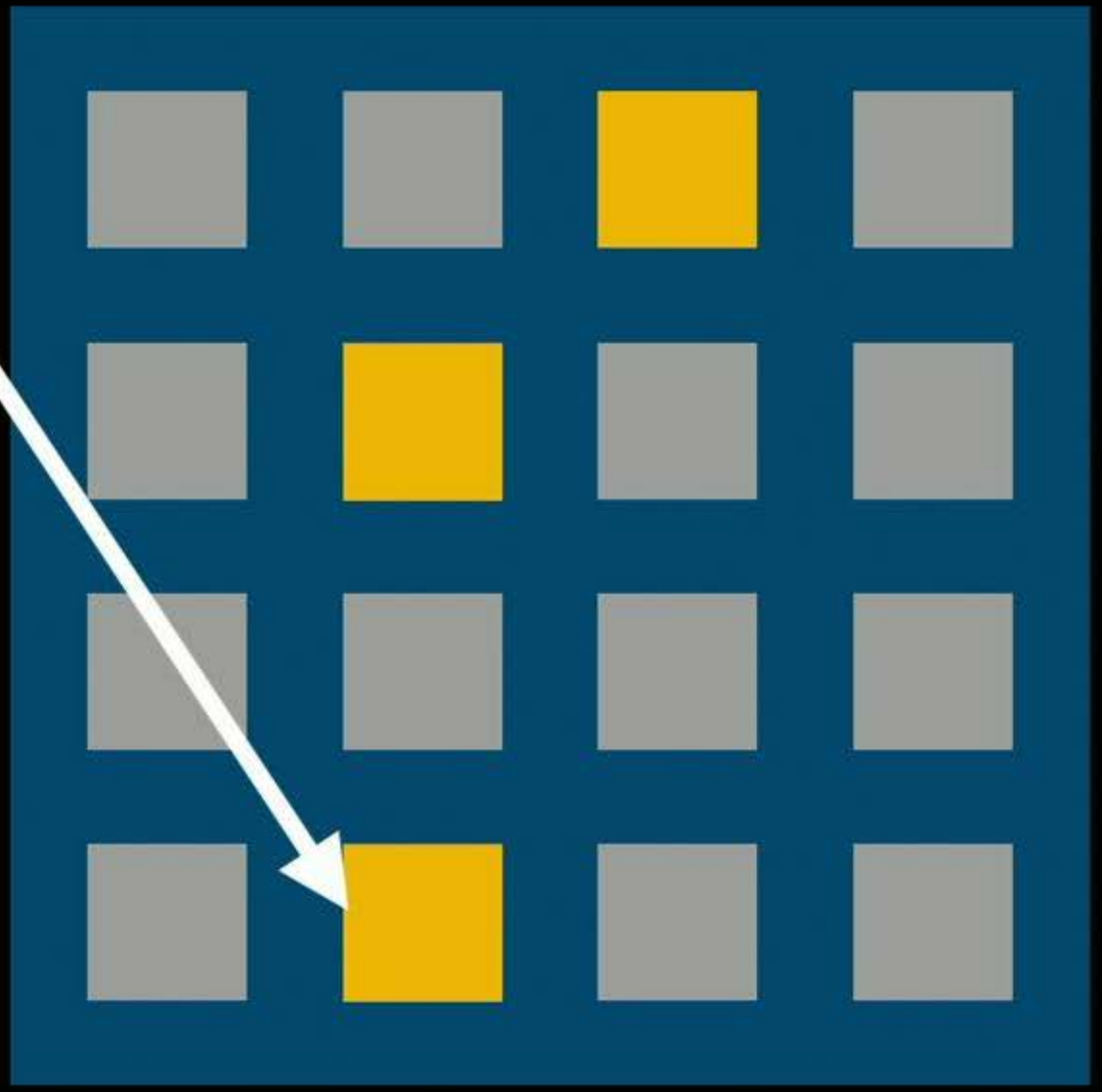
```

```
malloc(256)
```



Random probing:

```
while true:
  if rand_off().is_free:
    return rand_off
```

(DieHard [Berger & Zorn 2006])

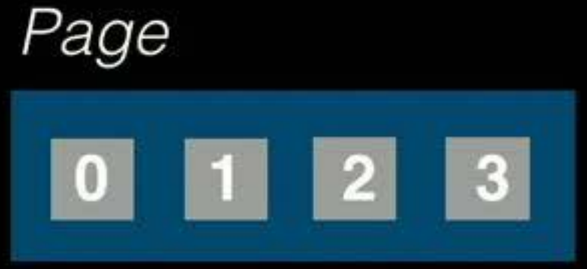
Random probing fast in expectation *iff page occupancy is low*

but this is at odds with minimizing heap size!

Shuffle Vector:
Fast randomized allocation + full page utilization

Shuffle Vector: Fast randomized allocation

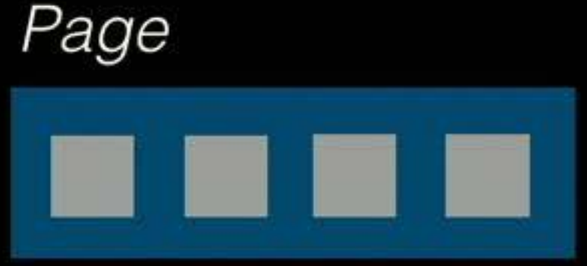
```
load
```

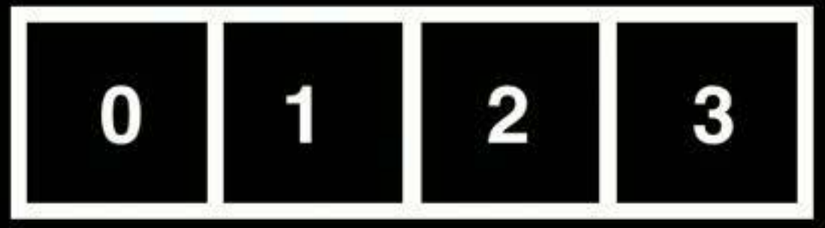


Thread-local shuffle vector

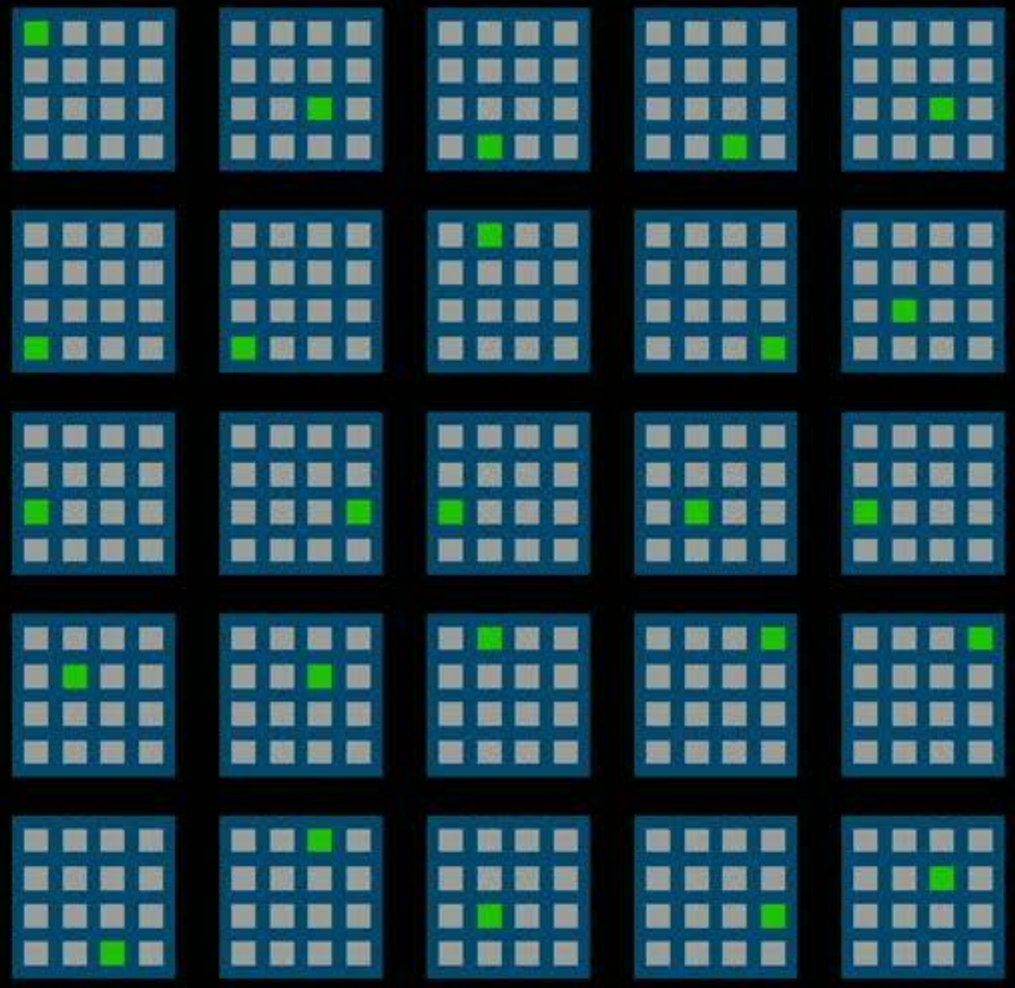
Shuffle Vector: Fast randomized allocation

```
load
```





Thread-local shuffle vector



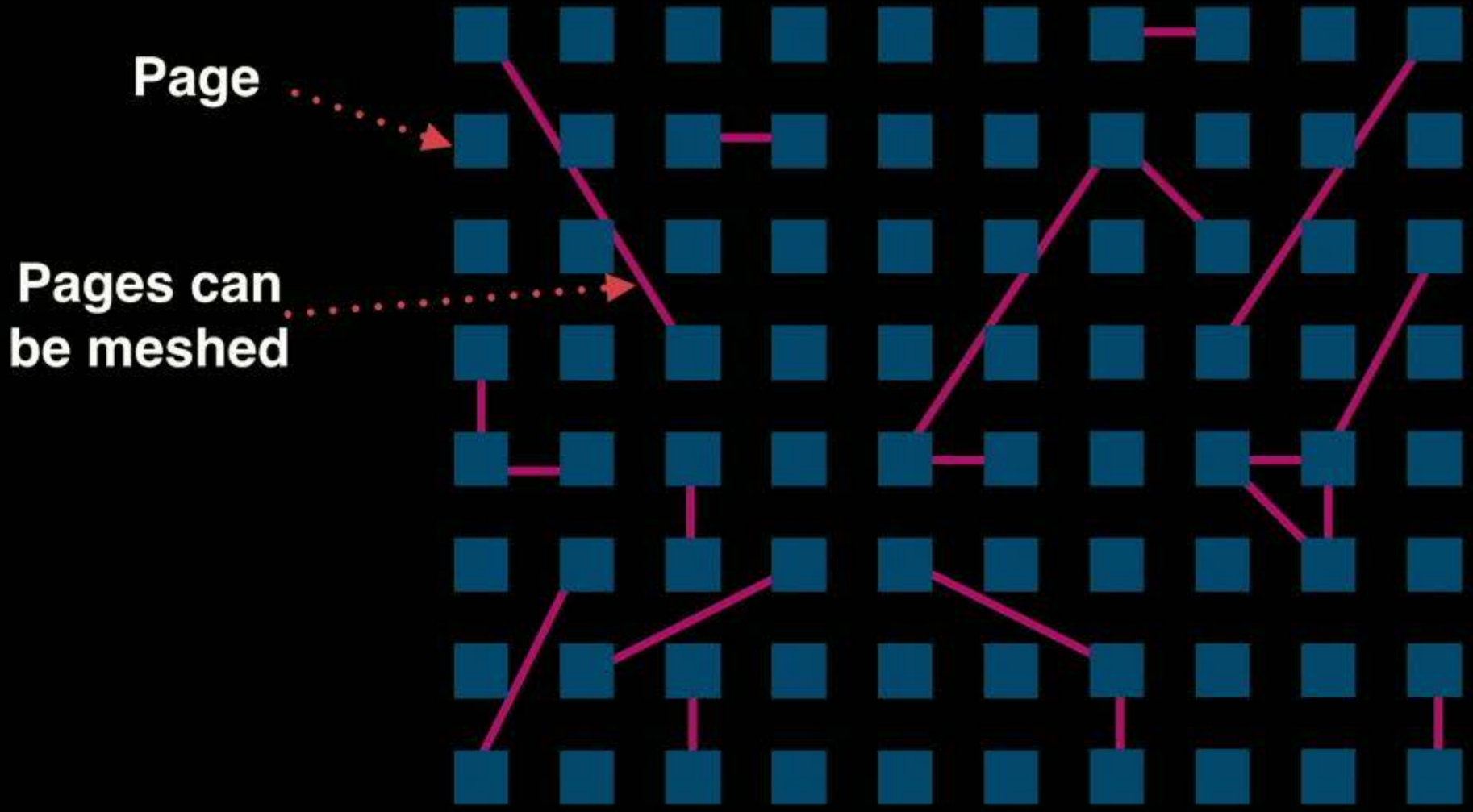
All
Pages
Meshable

Finding pages to Mesh

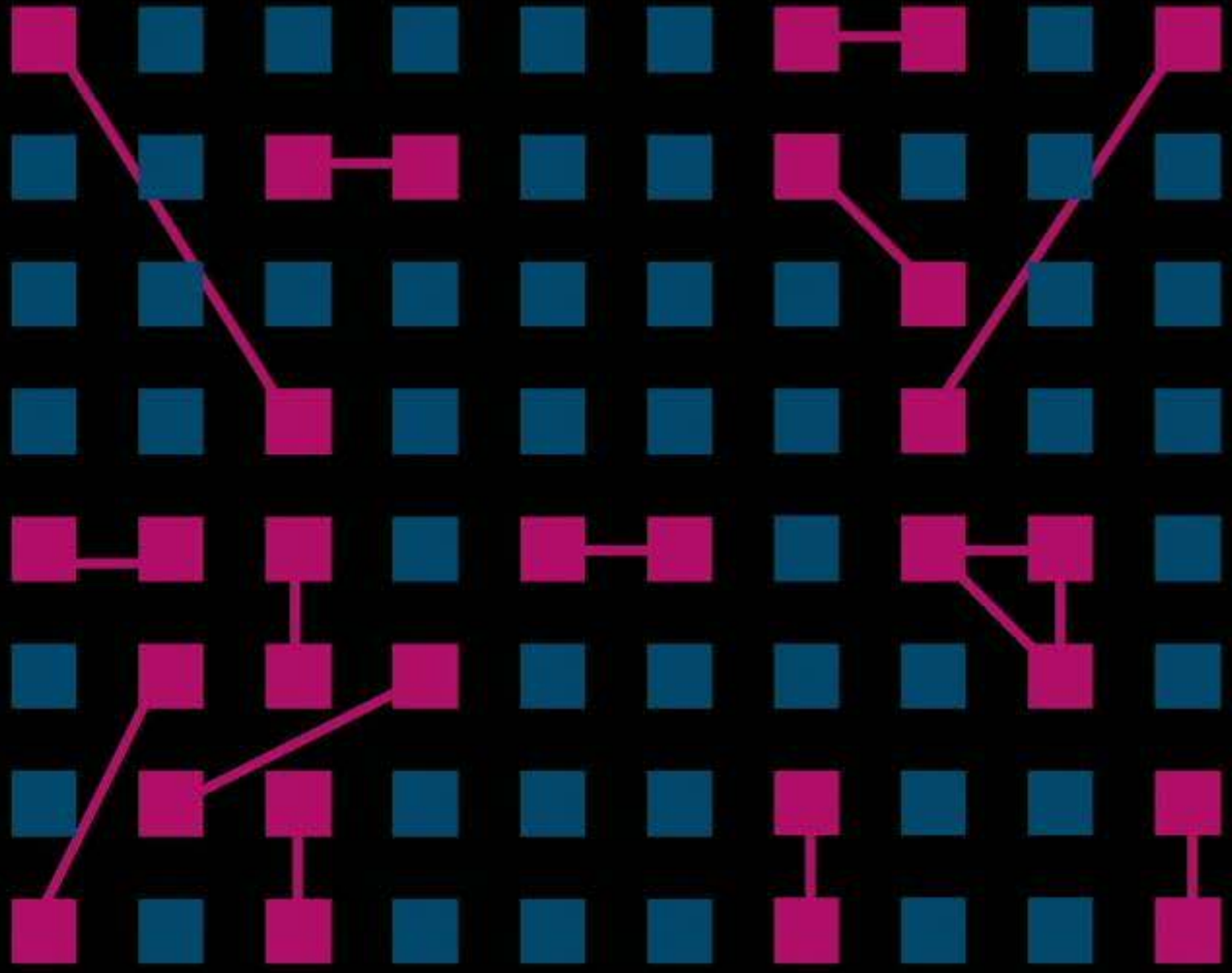
Problem: Find meshing that releases maximum number of pages

Run in the `free()` slowpath
At most once every 100 ms
Treat each size class independently

Problem: Find meshing that releases the maximum number of pages



MinCliqueCover

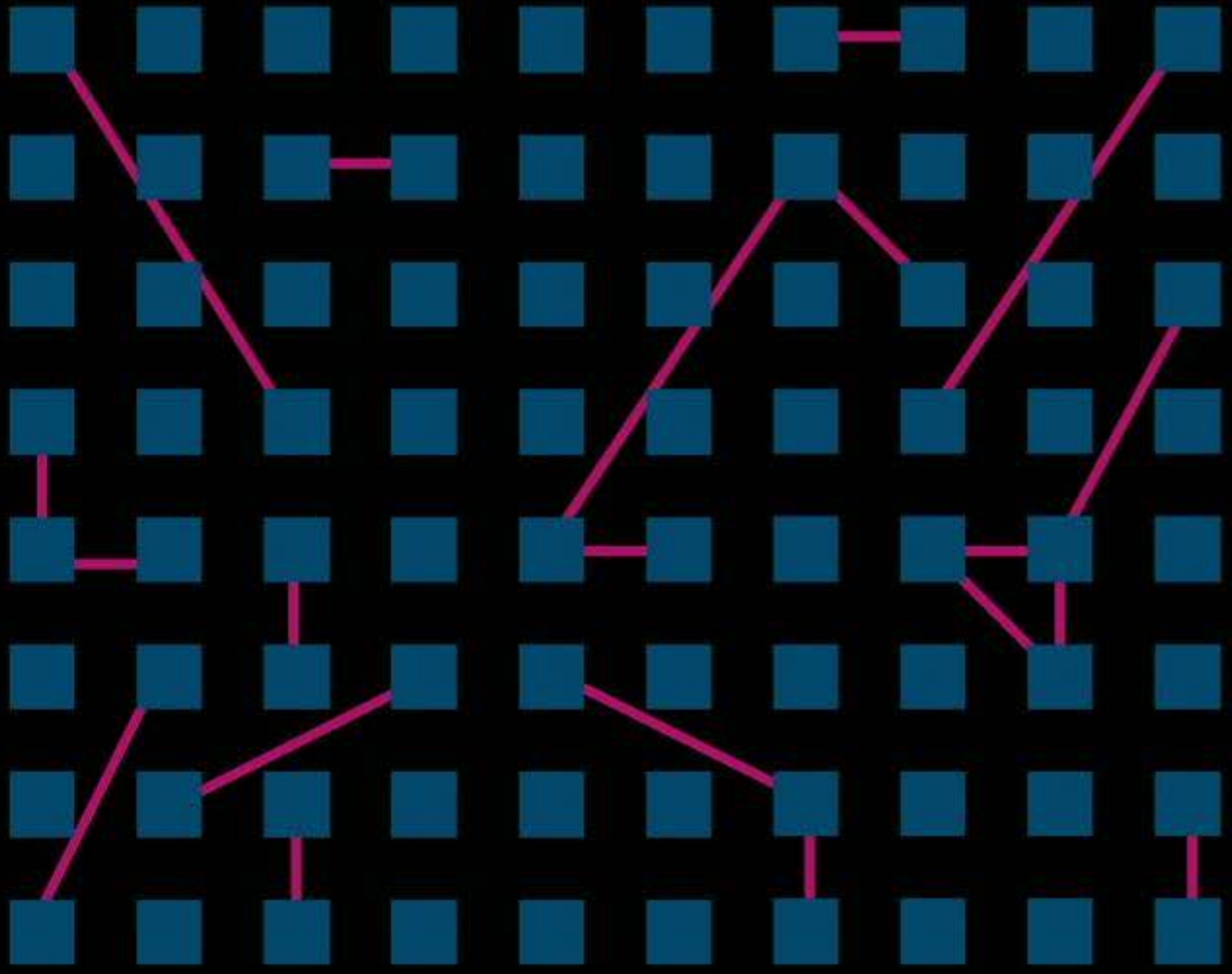


MinCliqueCover

(NP-Complete)

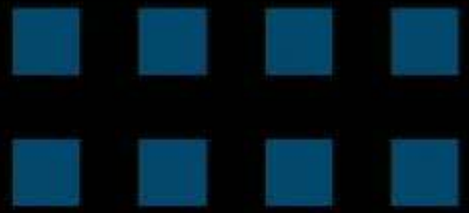
BUT! Randomness ensures we can get away with solving simpler graph problem (Matching)

Wrinkle: building this graph would require RAM + time

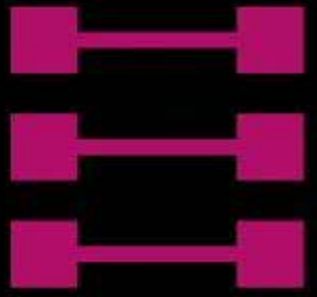


SplitMesher: approximates **Matching** without materializing meshing graph

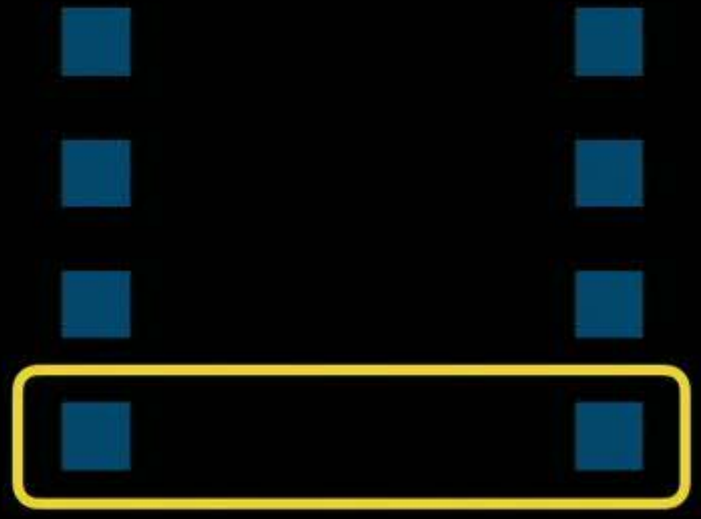
Set of partially full pages



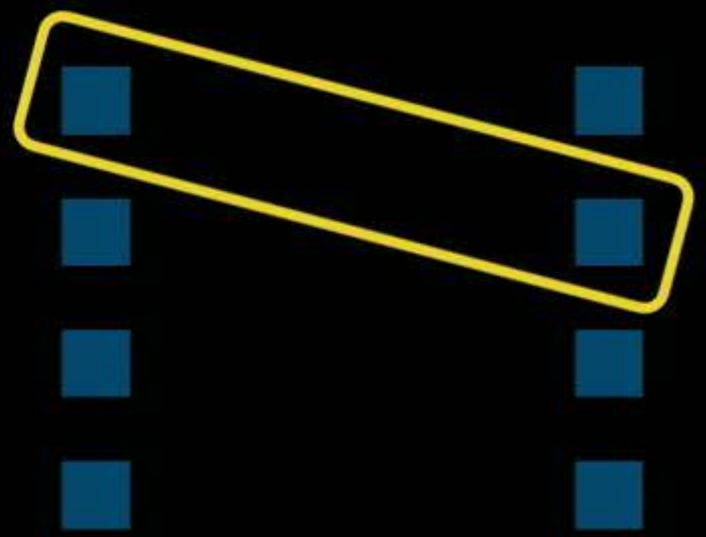
Pairs of meshable pages

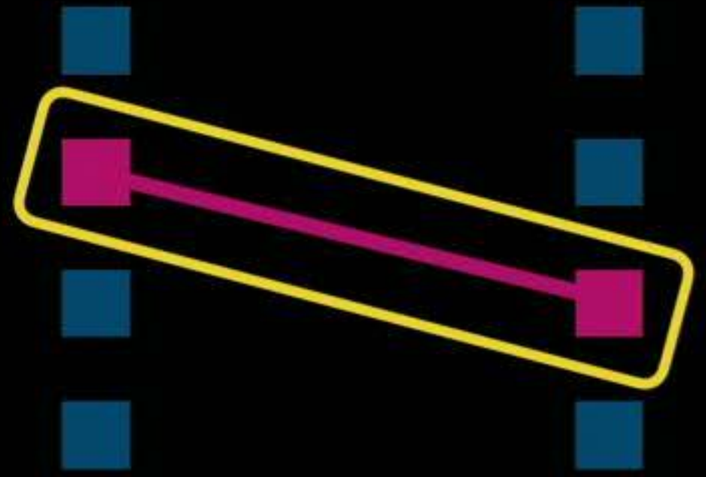


Iterate, comparing a[i] to b[i]

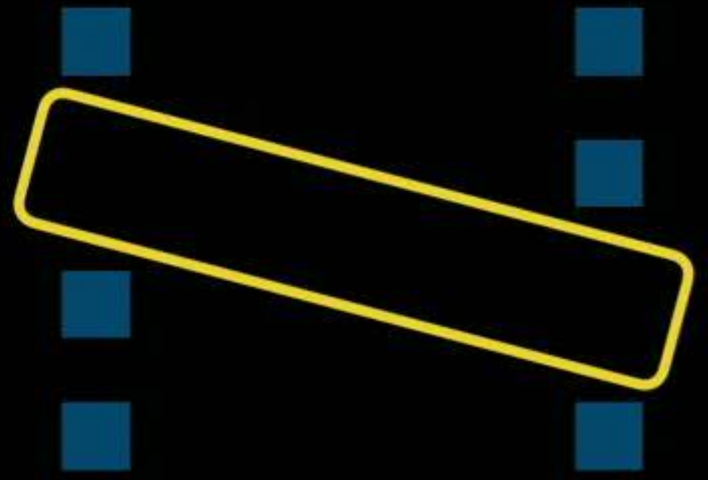


loop, comparing a[i] to b[(i+1)%len]

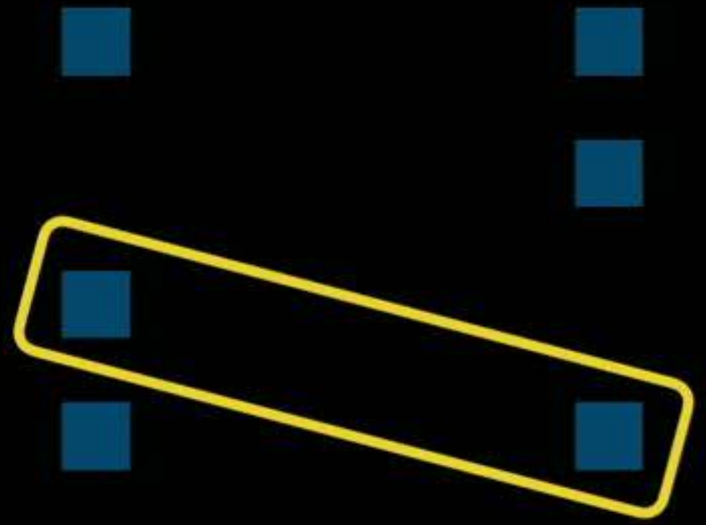




Remove found match



Continue



SplitMesher: approximates **Matching** without materializing meshing graph

$O(n/q)$ time

(*q* is the global probability of spans meshing)

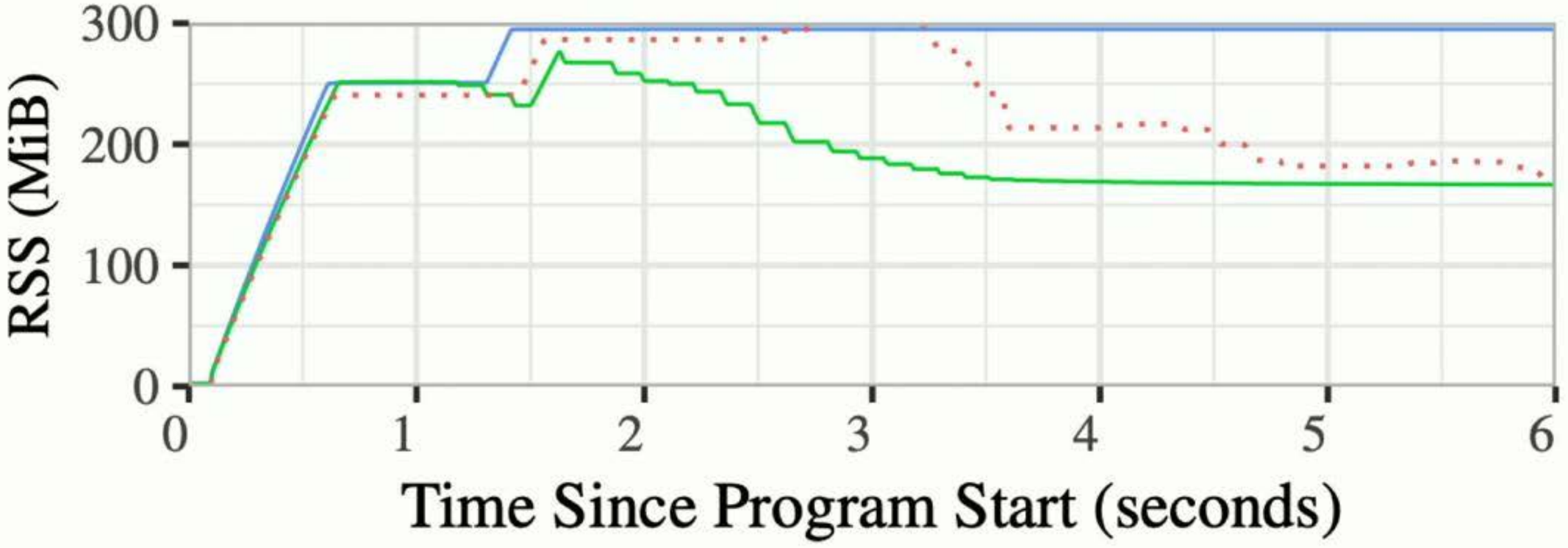
SplitMesher: approximates **Matching**
without materializing meshing graph

$O(n/q)$ time

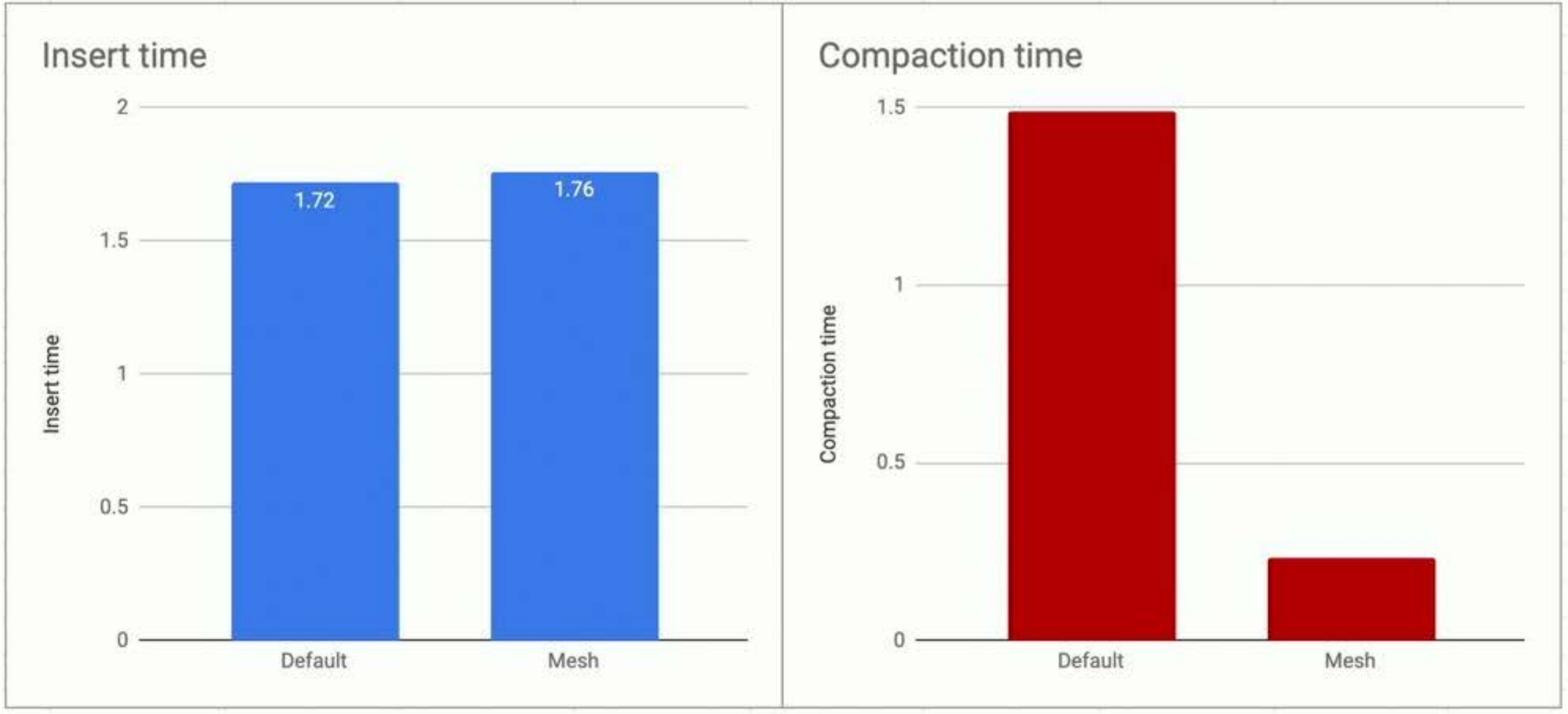
(q is the global probability of spans meshing)

1/2* approximation w.h.p.

redis

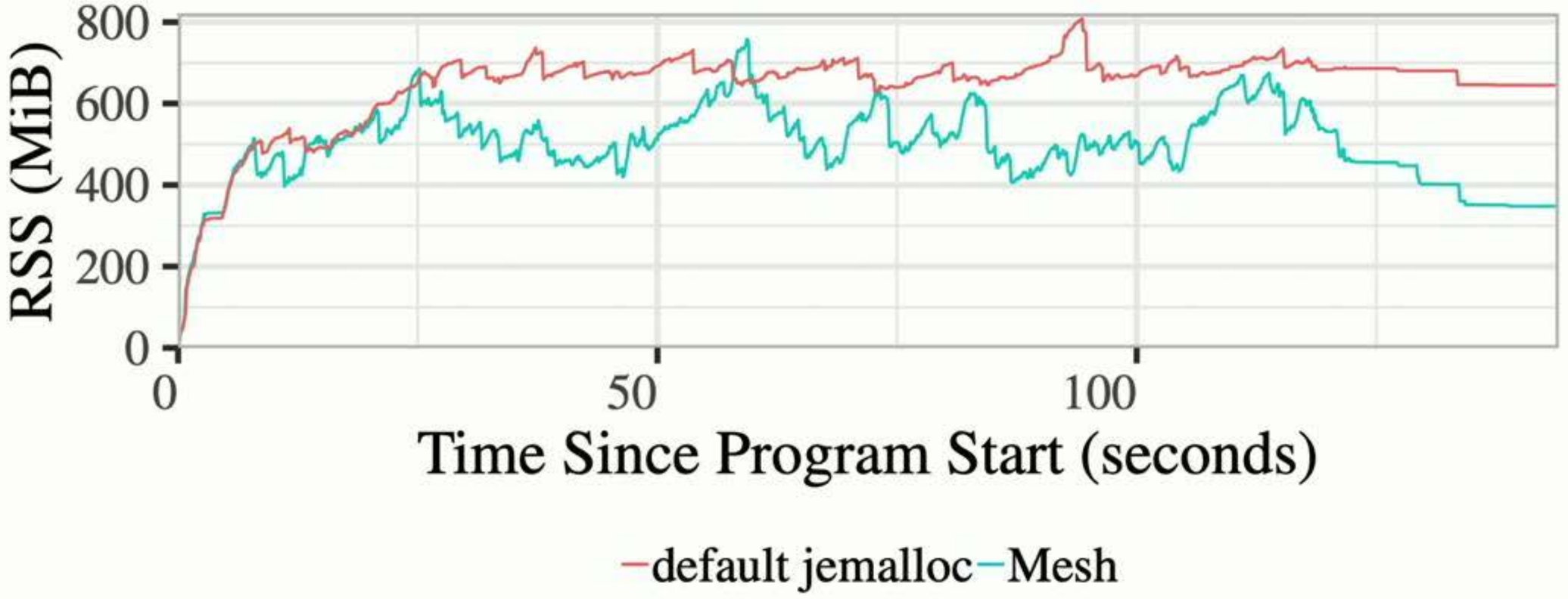

jemalloc + activedefrag
Mesh
no compaction
RSS (MiB)
300
200
100
0
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
Time Since Program Start (seconds)

redis + MESH

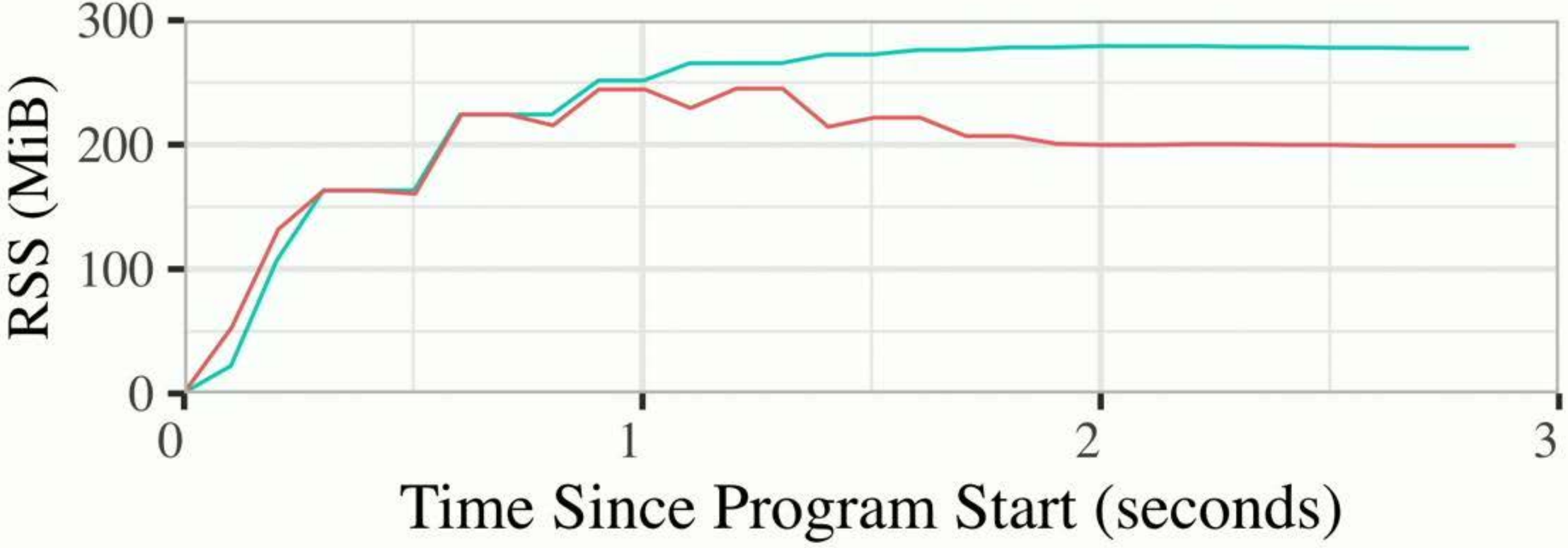

Insert time
2
1.5
1
0.5
0
Insert time
1.72
1.76
Default
Mesh
Compaction time
1.5
1
0.5
0
Compaction time
Default
Mesh

17% heap size reduction

< 1% performance overhead



Ruby Compaction for Free



http:// **LIBMESH** .org

¡Compacción sin Relocación!

(compaction without relocation)