sync-false-share

modifying cache blocks in parallel

typical memory access — less than cache block

- e.g. one 4-byte array element in 64-byte cache block

what if two processors modify different parts same cache block?

- 4-byte writes to 64-byte cache block

typically how caches work — write instructions happen one at a time:

- processor ‘locks’ 64-byte cache block, fetching latest version
- processor updates 4 bytes of 64-byte cache block
- later, processor might give up cache block

modifying things in parallel (code)

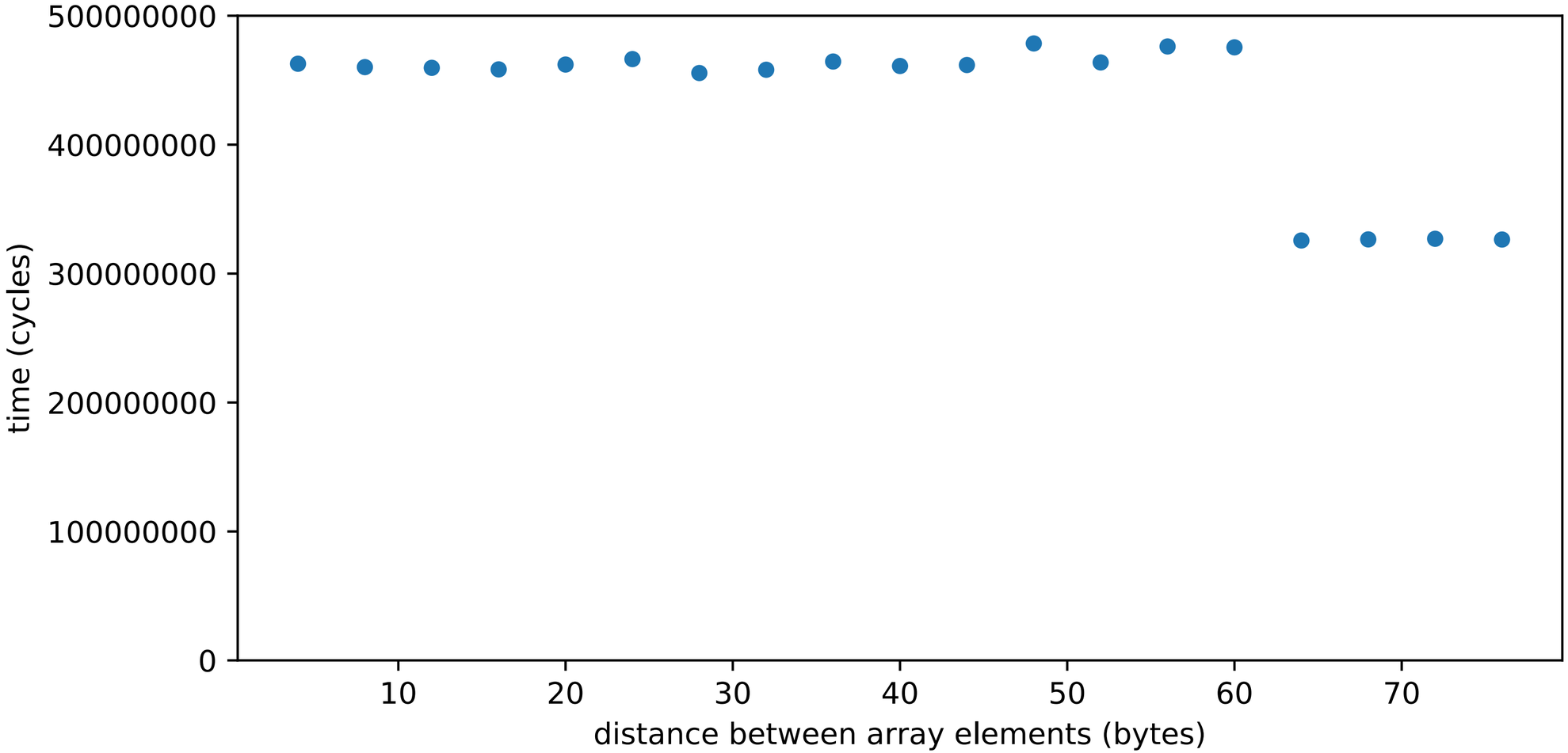
```
void *sum_up(void *raw_dest) {
    int *dest = (int *) raw_dest;
    for (int i = 0; i < 64 * 1024 * 1024; ++i) {
        *dest += data[i];
    }
}

__attribute__((aligned(4096)))
int dests[1024];  /* aligned = address is mult. of 4096 */

void sum_twice(int distance) {
    pthread_t threads[2];
    pthread_create(&threads[0], NULL, sum_up, &dests[0]);
    pthread_create(&threads[1], NULL, sum_up, &dests[distance]);
    pthread_join(threads[0], NULL);
    pthread_join(threads[1], NULL);
}
```

performance v. array element gap

(assuming `sum_up` compiled to not omit memory accesses)



false sharing

synchronizing to access two independent things

two parts of same cache block

solution: separate them

exercise (1)

```
int values[1024]; int results[2];
void *sum_front(void *ignored_argument) {
    results[0] = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < 512; ++i)
        results[0] += values[i];
    return NULL;
}
void *sum_back(void *ignored_argument) {
    results[1] = 0;
    for (int i = 512; i < 1024; ++i)
        results[1] += values[i];
    return NULL;
}
int sum_all() {
    pthread_t sum_front_thread, sum_back_thread;
    pthread_create(&sum_front_thread, NULL, sum_front, NULL);
    pthread_create(&sum_back_thread, NULL, sum_back, NULL);
    pthread_join(sum_front_thread, NULL);
    pthread_join(sum_back_thread, NULL);
    return results[0] + results[1];
}
```

Where is false sharing likely to occur? How to fix?

exercise (2)

```
struct ThreadInfo { int *values; int start; int end; int result };
void *sum_thread(void *argument) {
    ThreadInfo *my_info = (ThreadInfo *) argument;
    int sum = 0;
    for (int i = my_info->start; i < my_info->end; ++i) {
        my_info->result += my_info->values[i];
    }
    return NULL;

}

int sum_all(int *values) {
    ThreadInfo info[2]; pthread_t thread[2];
    for (int i = 0; i < 2; ++i) {
        info[i].values = values; info[i].start = i*512; info[i].end = (i+1)*512;
        pthread_create(&threads[i], NULL, sum_thread, (void *) &info[i]);
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < 2; ++i)
        pthread_join(threads[i], NULL);
    return info[0].result + info[1].result;
}
```

Where is false sharing likely to occur now?

Backup slides