

Technology Tutorial

In the Matter of Certain Memory Modules and
Components Thereof and Products Containing Same

Inv. No. 337-TA-1023

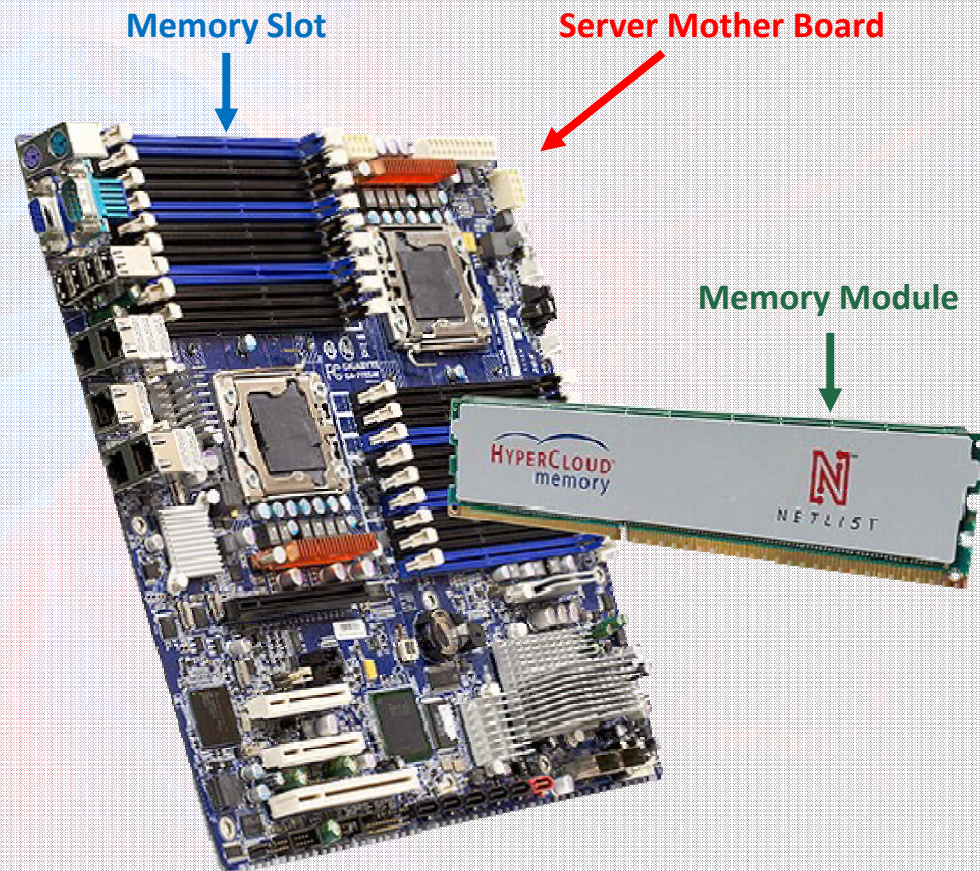
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Technology Overview: Memory Module

- The Netlist Patents relate to memory modules in a server

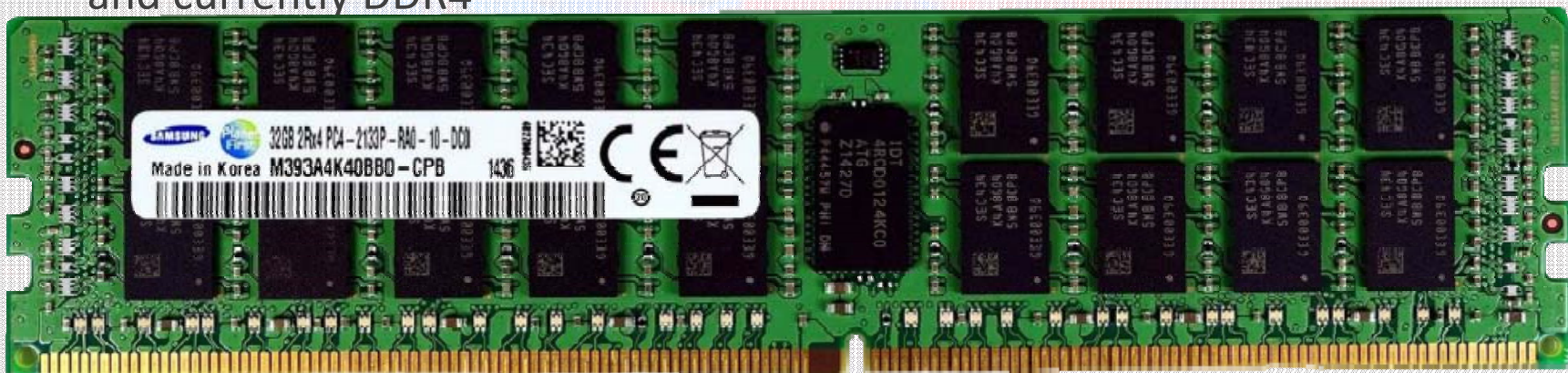
- A memory module is inserted in a memory slot in a server's mother board
- Memory modules are called Dual In-Line Memory Modules (DIMMs) because there are in-line connections on each side of the module





Technology Overview: What is Memory?

- Memory is used to store information for fast access by the processor
- Memory commonly used today is SDRAM or synchronous dynamic random access memory
 - SDRAM emerged in the 1990s and has been standardized by the JEDEC (Joint Electron Devices Engineering Council)
 - SDRAM has evolved in several generations, including DDR, DDR2, DDR3 and currently DDR4



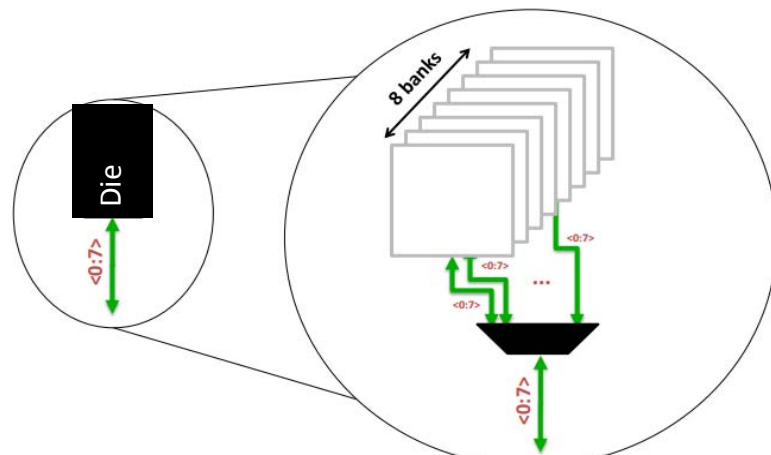
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Technology Overview: SDRAM Fundamentals

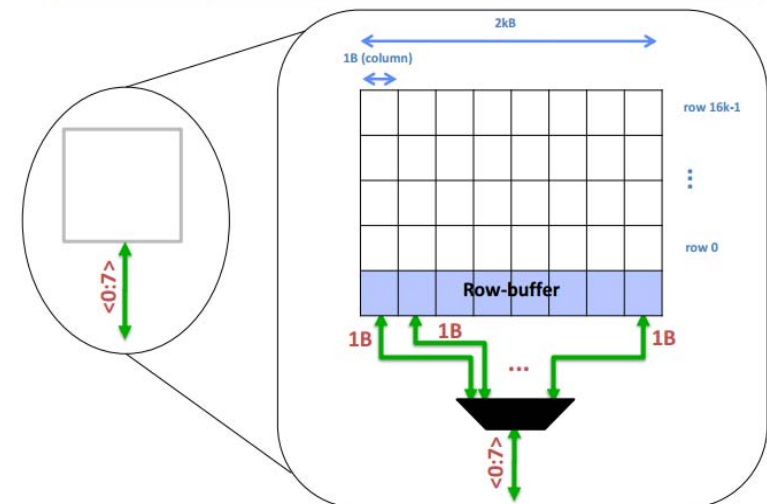
SDRAM contains several sections called banks

Breaking down a Chip



Each bank consists of rows and columns of memory

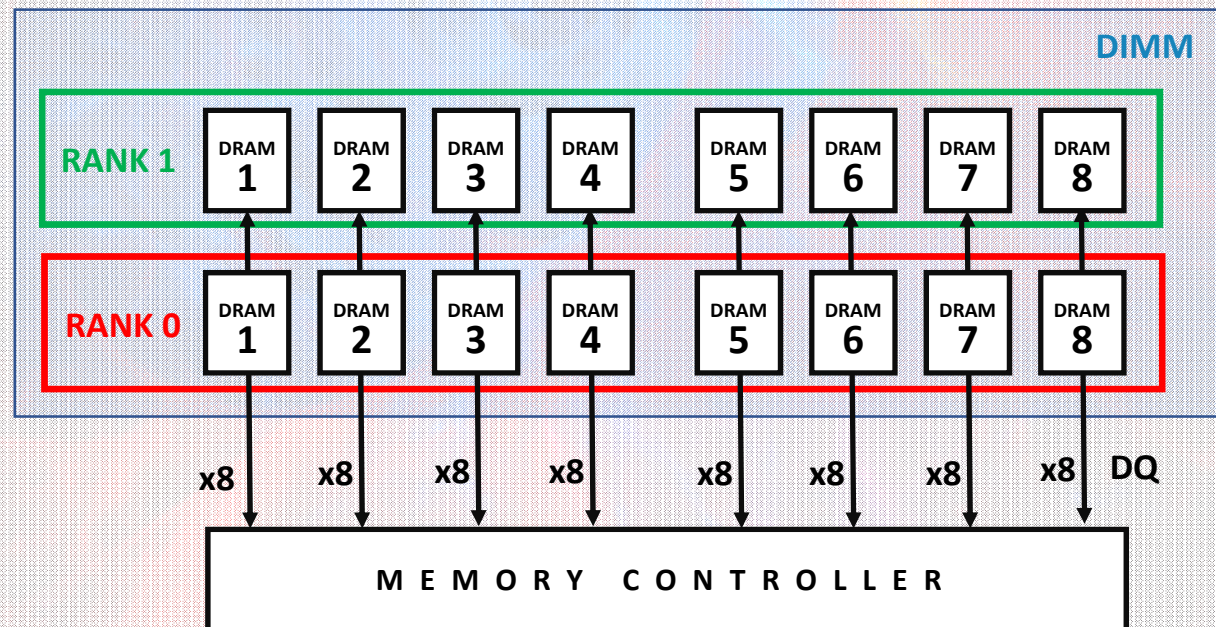
Breaking down a Bank





Technology Overview: Memory Ranks

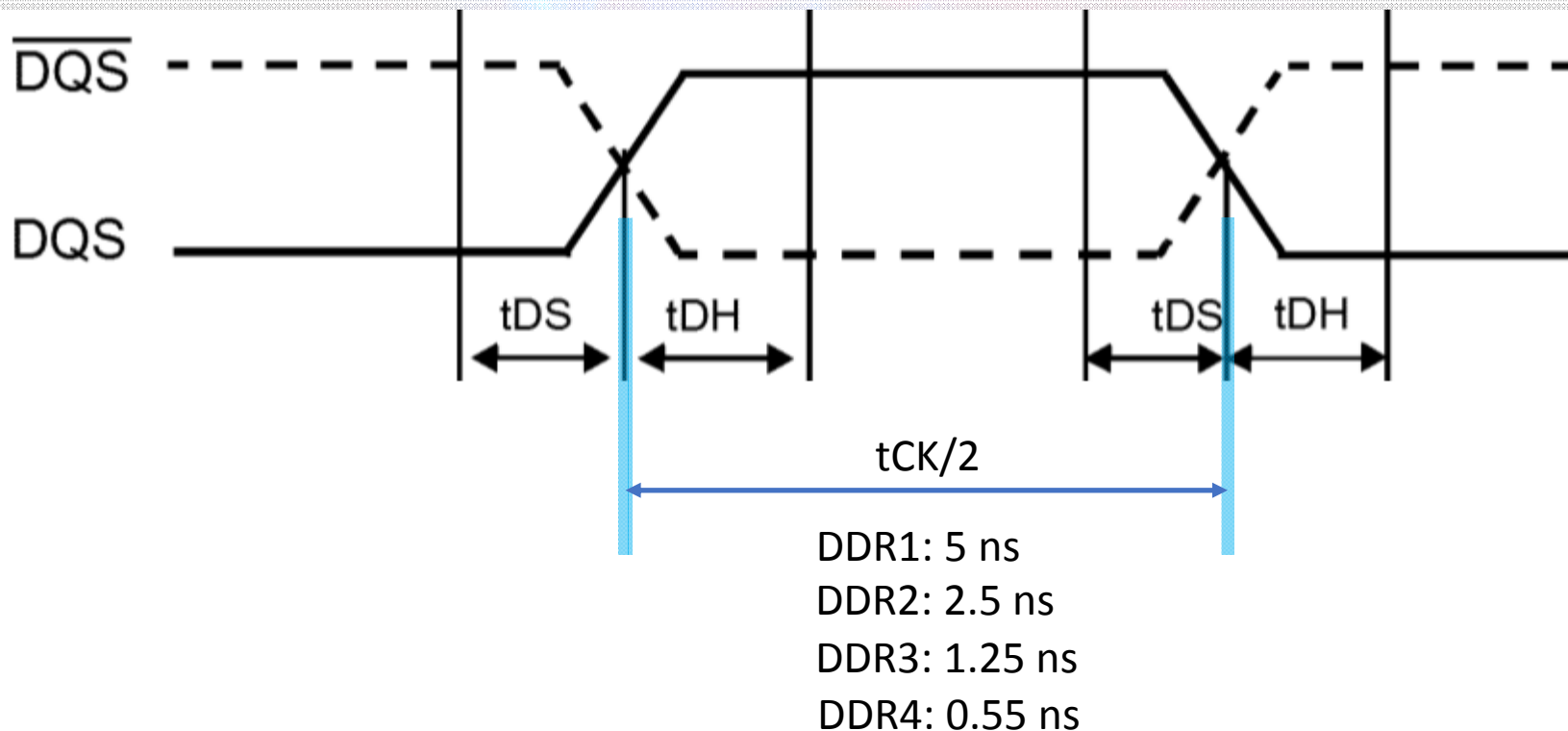
- A rank is a set of DRAMs that are written to or read from together
- For example, a memory controller reads or writes 64 DQ (data) bits at a time
 - Each DRAM reads/writes 8 DQ bits (x8, or by eight)
 - Need 8 DRAMs in a rank to provide the 64 bits at once





Technology Overview: Data Strobe Signal

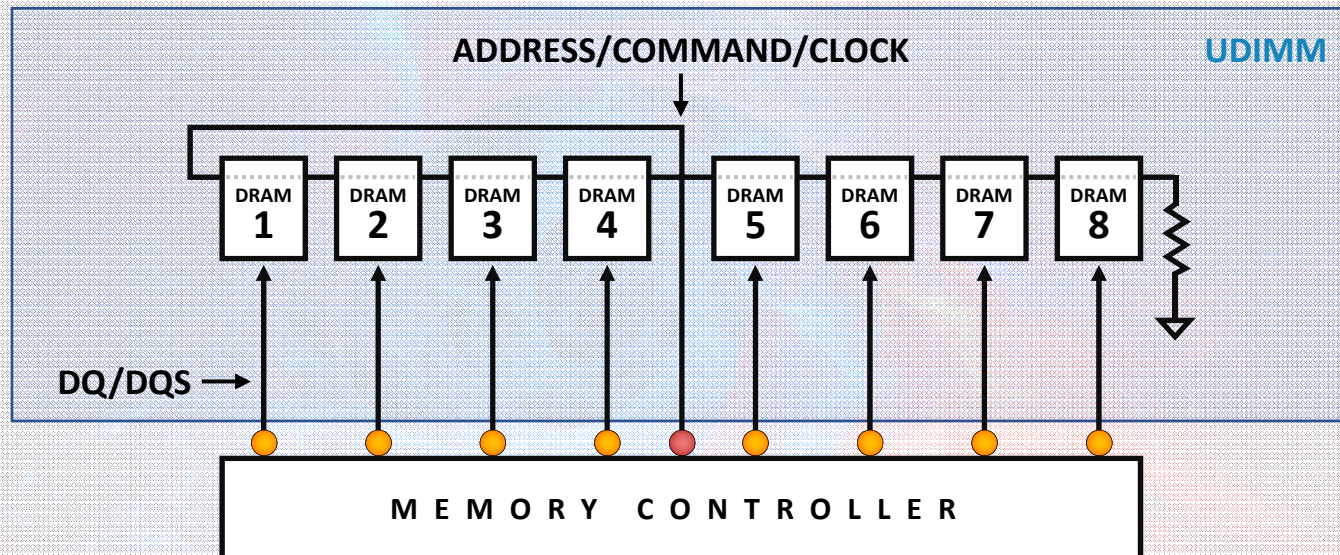
- Data Strobe (DQS) clocks the data (DQ) into and out of the DRAM

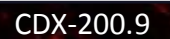


- One nanosecond (1 ns) is one billionth of a second
- A signal travels roughly 6 inches in 1 ns in a memory module not accounting for load



Evolution of DIMMs: JEDEC Un-Buffered DIMM (UDIMM)







Evolution of DIMMs: Fully-Buffered DIMM (FBDIMM)

