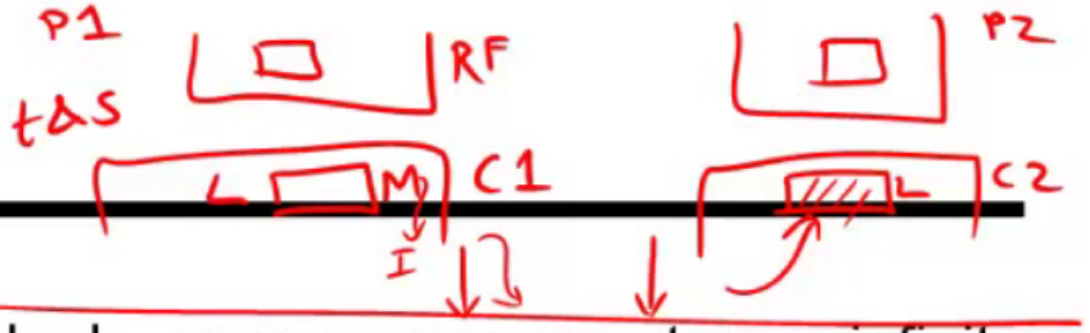
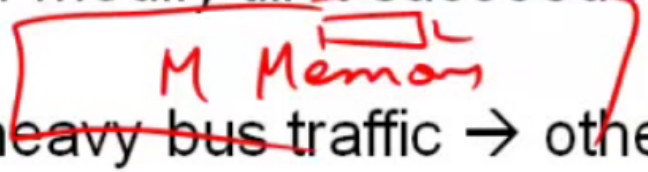
Caching Locks



- Spin lock: to acquire a lock, a process may enter an infinite loop that keeps attempting a read-modify till it succeeds



- If the lock is in memory, there is heavy bus traffic → other processes make little forward progress

- Locks can be cached:
  - cache coherence ensures that a lock update is seen by other processors
  - the process that acquires the lock in exclusive state gets to update the lock first
  - spin on a local copy – the external bus sees little traffic