

# **Processor Architecture III: PIPE: Pipelined Implementation**

Introduction to Computer Systems  
11<sup>th</sup> Lecture, Nov 2, 2020

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# Overview

- **General Principles of Pipelining**
  - Goal
  - Difficulties
- **Creating a Pipelined Y86-64 Processor**
  - Rearranging SEQ
  - Inserting pipeline registers
  - Problems with data and control hazards

# Real-World Pipelines: Car Washes

**Sequential**



**Parallel**



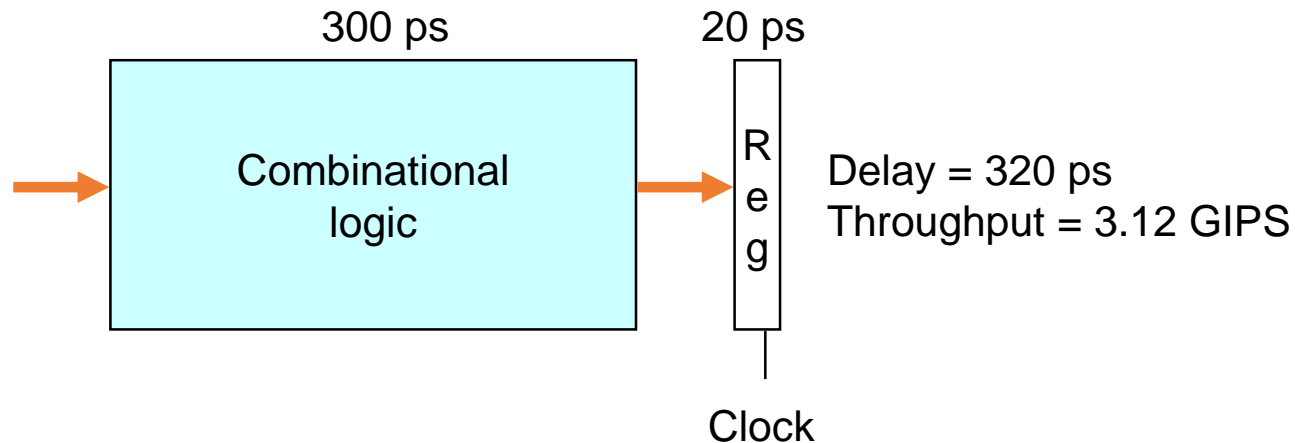
**Pipelined**



## ■ Idea

- Divide process into independent stages
- Move objects through stages in sequence
- At any given times, multiple objects being processed

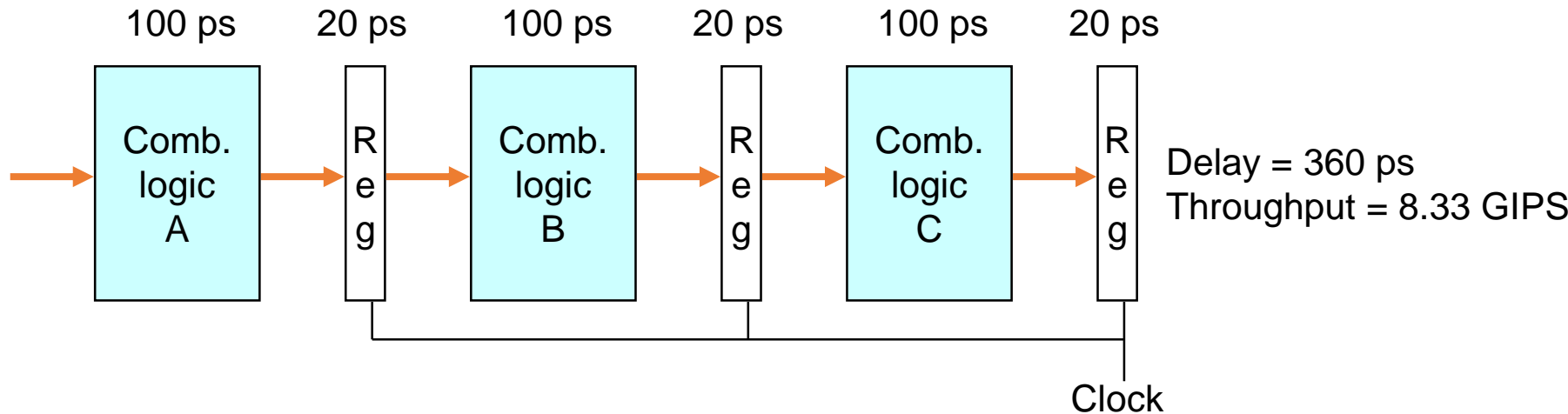
# Computational Example



## ■ System

- Computation requires total of 300 picoseconds
- Additional 20 picoseconds to save result in register
- Must have clock cycle of at least 320 ps

# 3-Way Pipelined Version



## ■ System

- Divide combinational logic into 3 blocks of 100 ps each
- Can begin new operation as soon as previous one passes through stage A.
  - Begin new operation every 120 ps
- Overall latency increases
  - 360 ps from start to finish

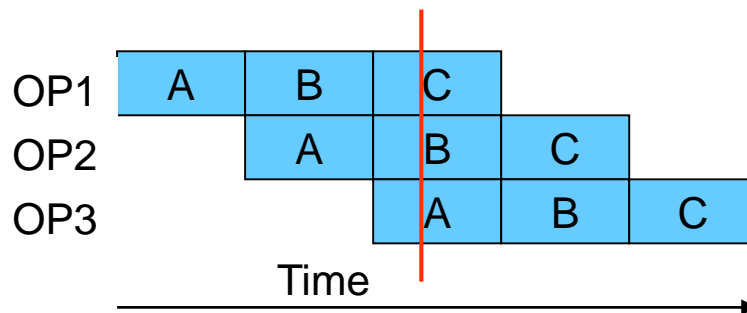
# Pipeline Diagrams

## ■ Unpipelined



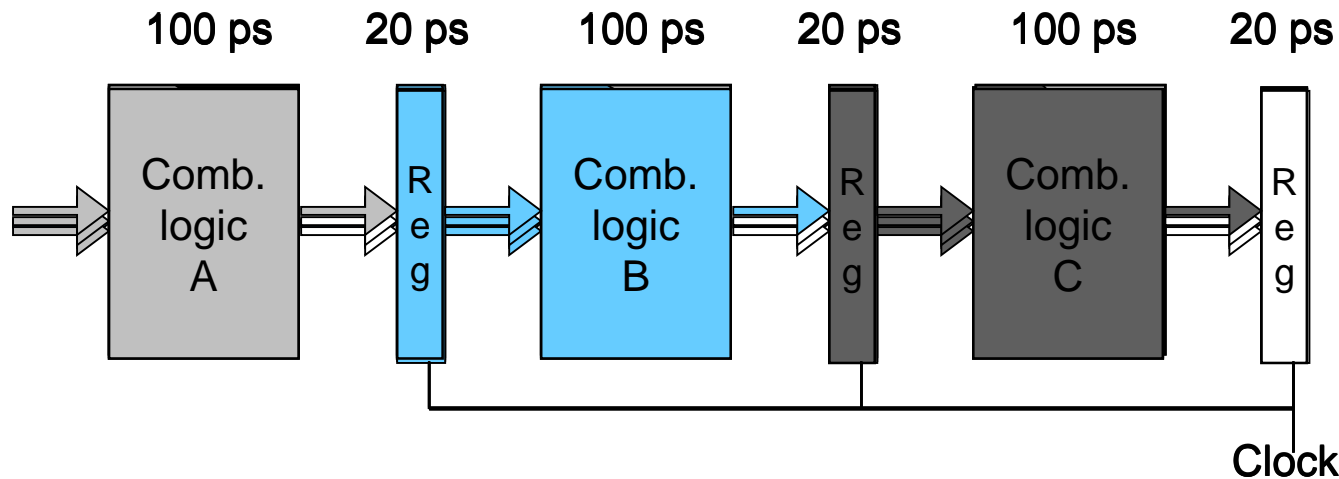
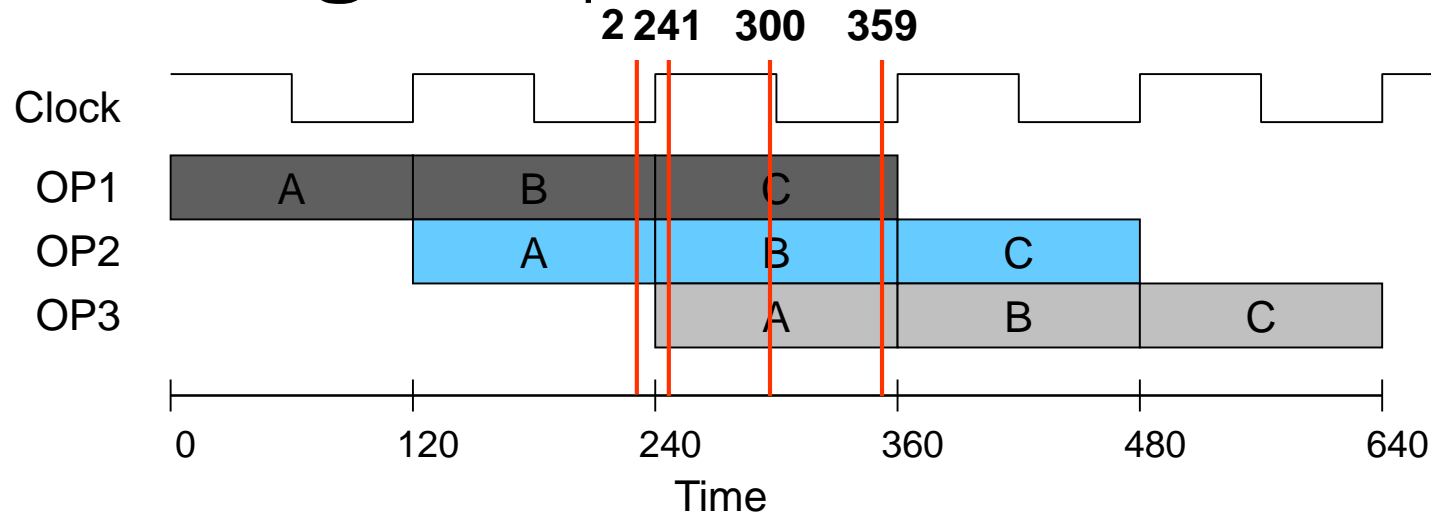
- Cannot start new operation until previous one completes

## ■ 3-Way Pipelined

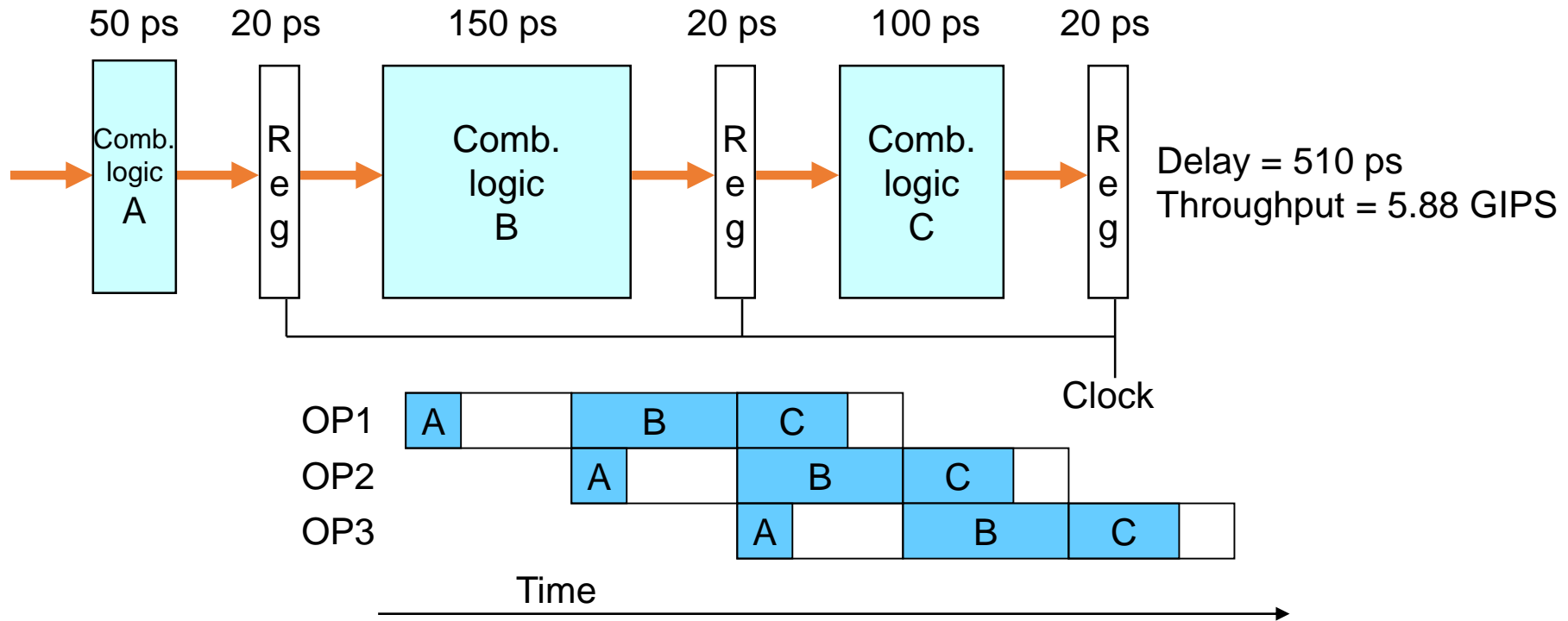


- Up to 3 operations in process simultaneously

# Operating a Pipeline



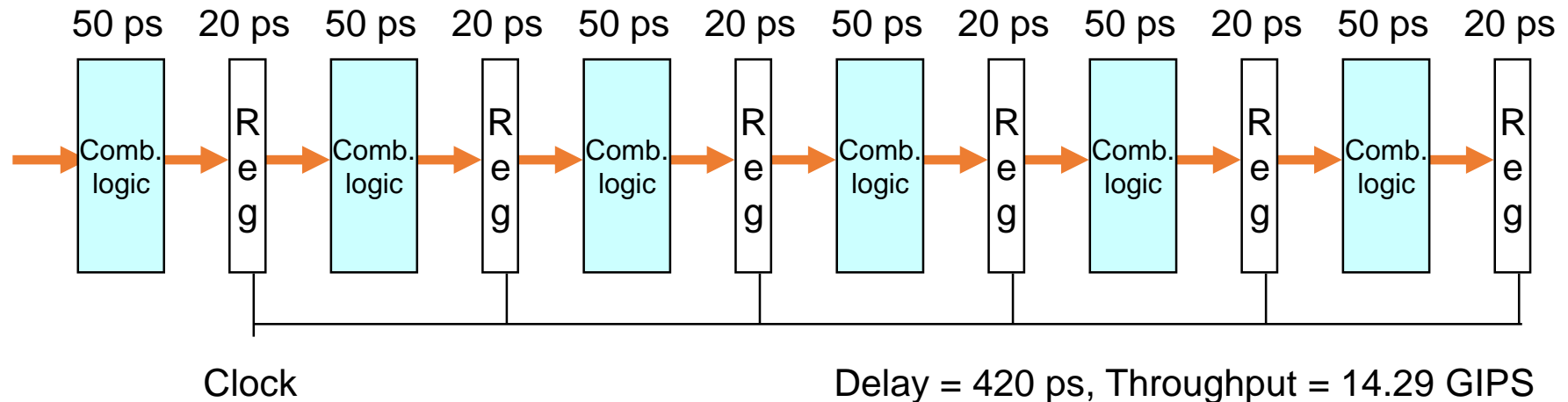
# Limitations: Nonuniform Delays



- Throughput limited by slowest stage
- Other stages sit idle for much of the time
- Challenging to partition system into balanced stages

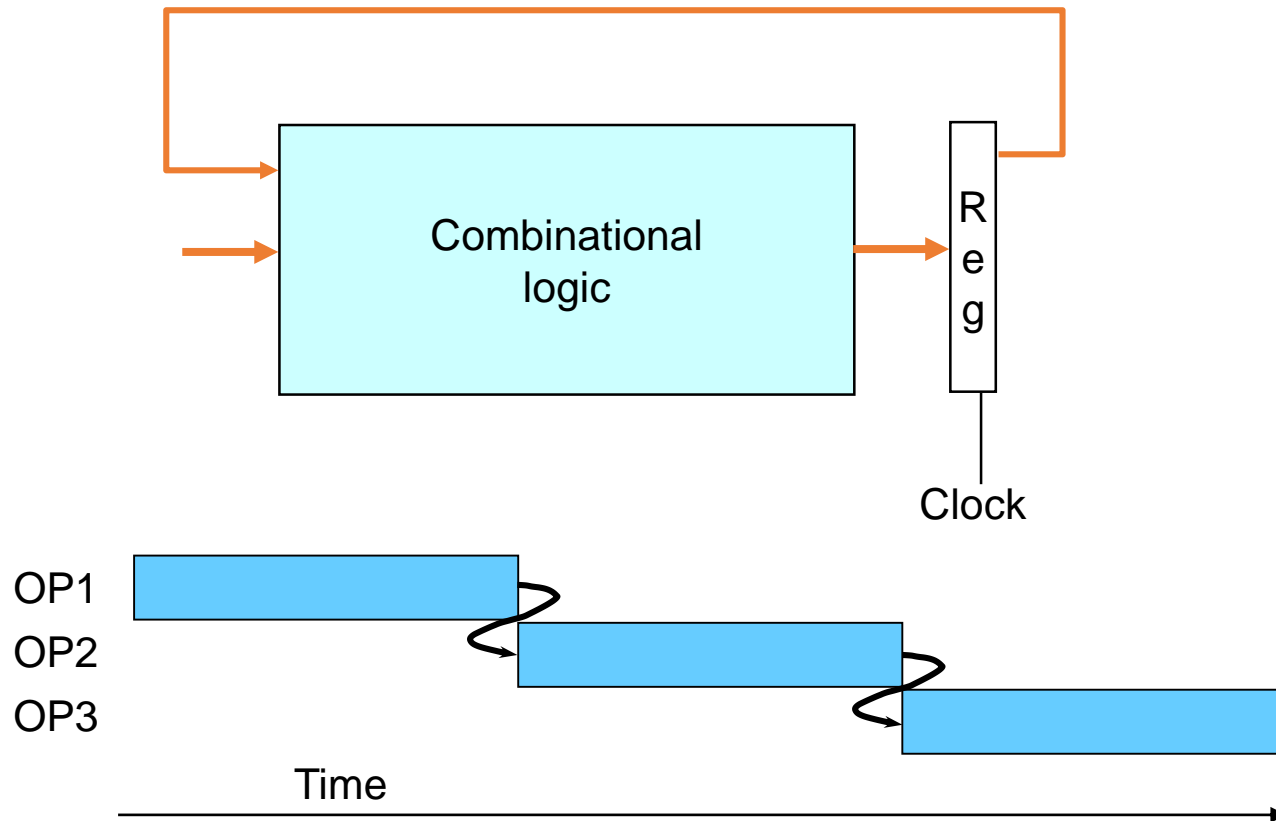


# Limitations: Register Overhead



- As try to deepen pipeline, overhead of loading registers becomes more significant
- Percentage of clock cycle spent loading register:
  - 1-stage pipeline: 6.25%
  - 3-stage pipeline: 16.67%
  - 6-stage pipeline: 28.57%
- High speeds of modern processor designs obtained through very deep pipelining

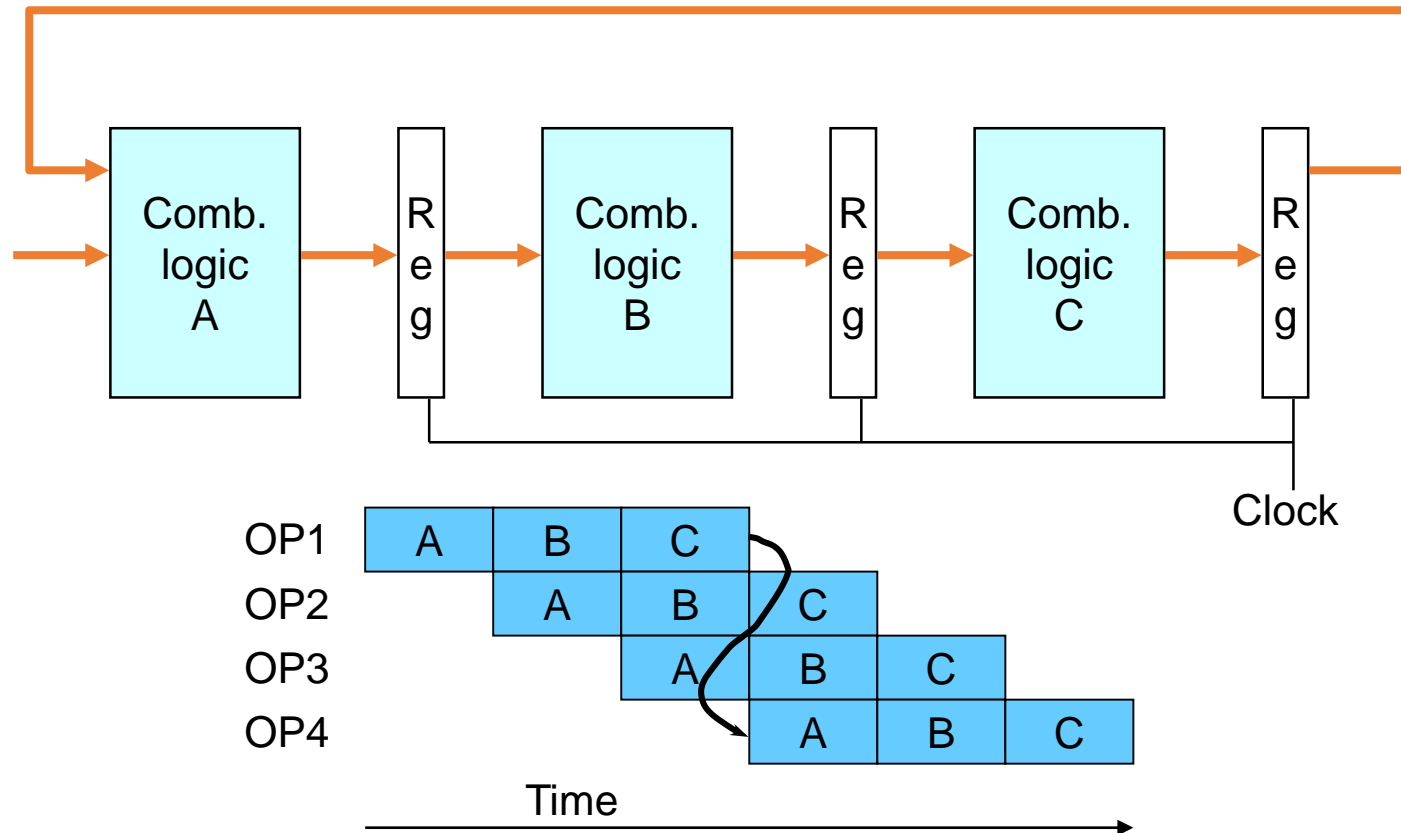
# Data Dependencies



## ■ System

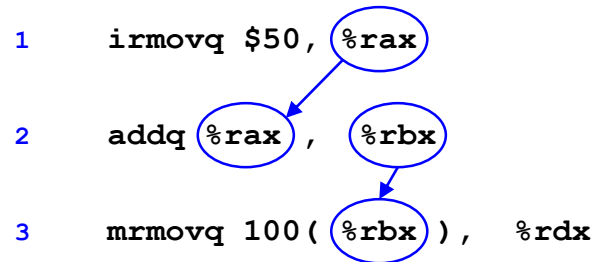
- Each operation depends on result from preceding one

# Data Hazards



- Result does not feed back around in time for next operation
- Pipelining has changed behavior of system

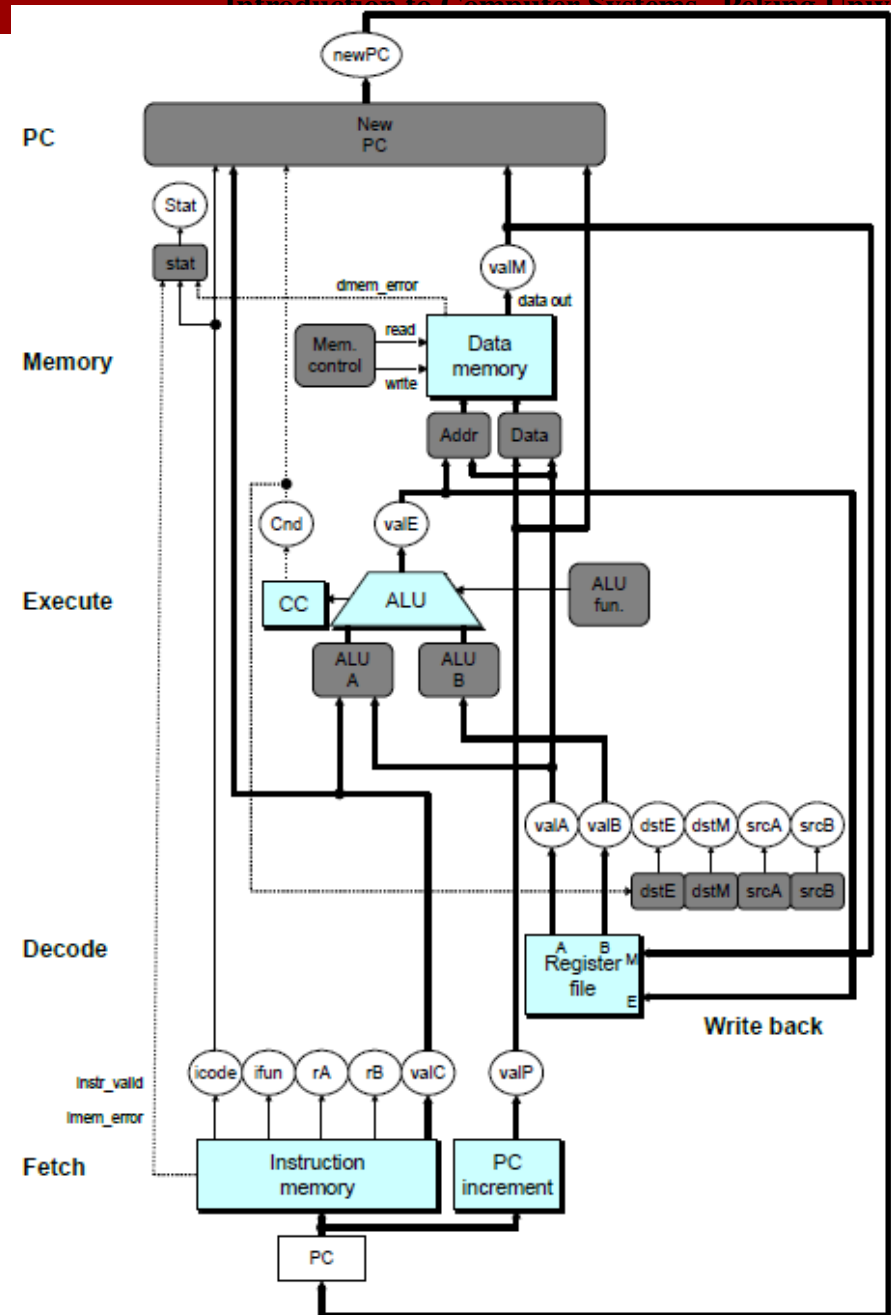
# Data Dependencies in Processors



- Result from one instruction used as operand for another
  - Read-after-write (RAW) dependency
- Very common in actual programs
- Must make sure our pipeline handles these properly
  - Get correct results
  - Minimize performance impact

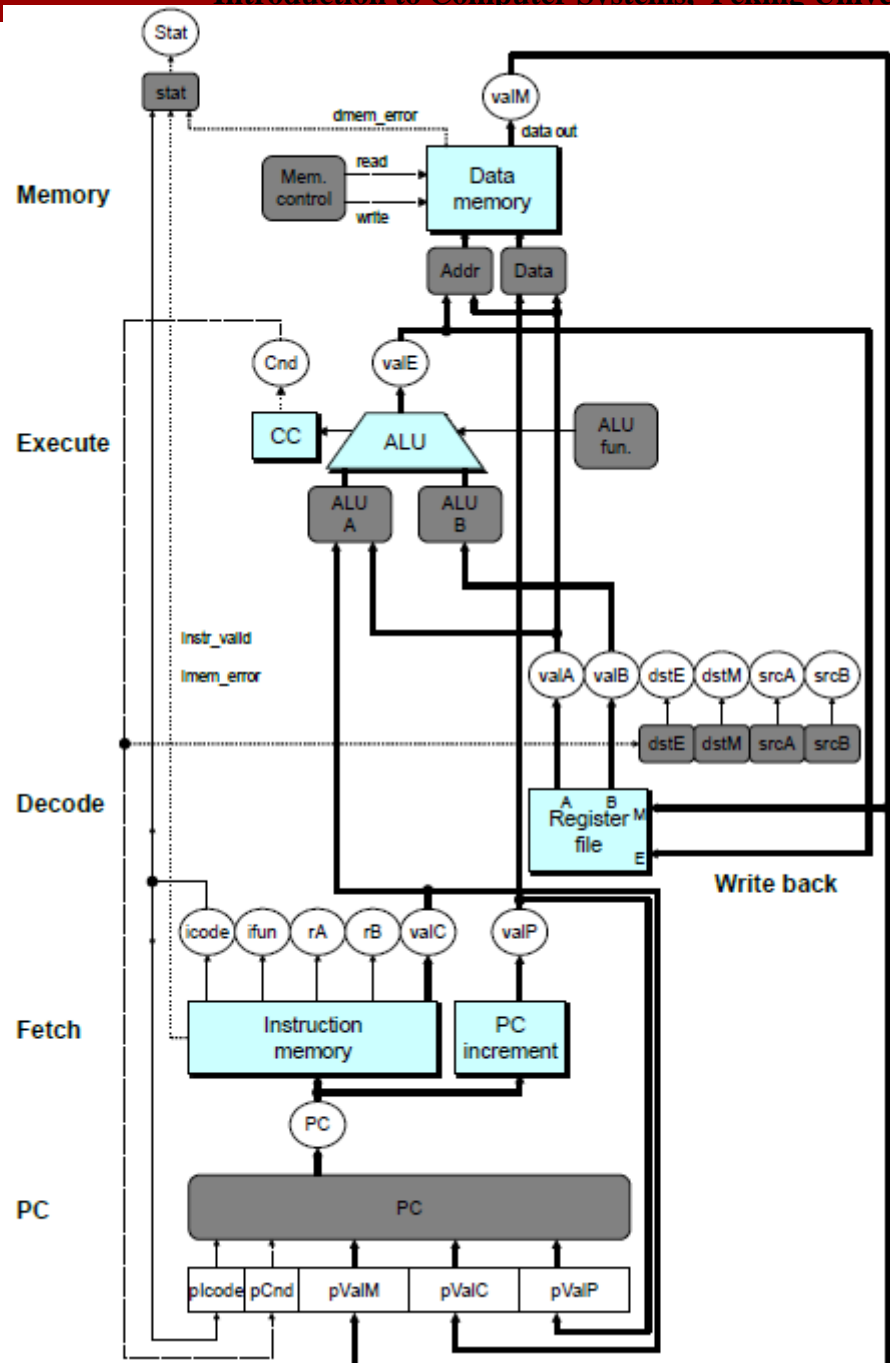
# SEQ Hardware

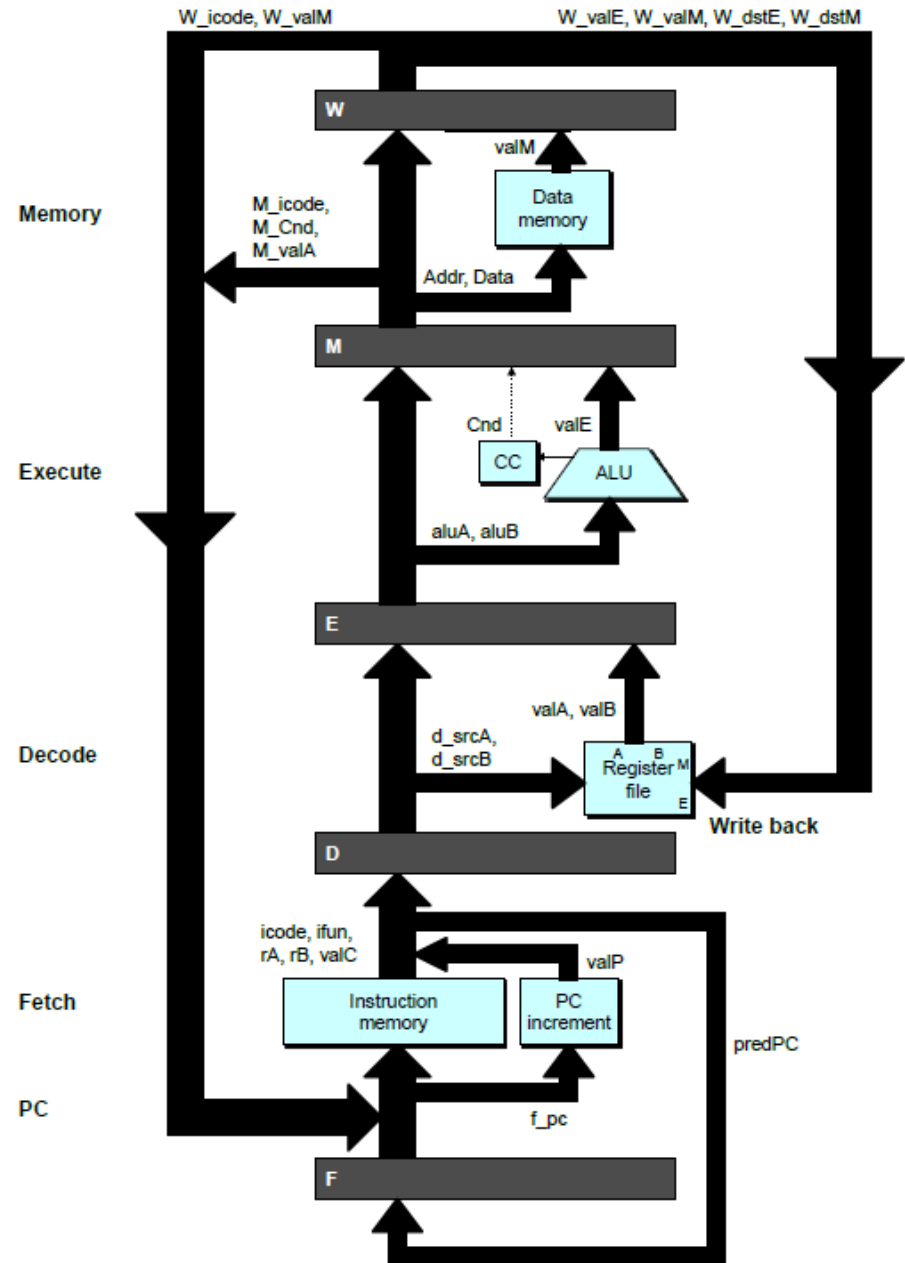
- Stages occur in sequence
- One operation in process at a time



# SEQ+ Hardware

- Still sequential implementation
- Reorder PC stage to put at beginning
- PC Stage
  - Task is to select PC for current instruction
  - Based on results computed by previous instruction
- Processor State
  - PC is no longer stored in register
  - But, can determine PC based on other stored information





# Pipeline Stages

## Fetch

- Select current PC
- Read instruction
- Compute incremented PC

## Decode

- Read program registers

## Execute

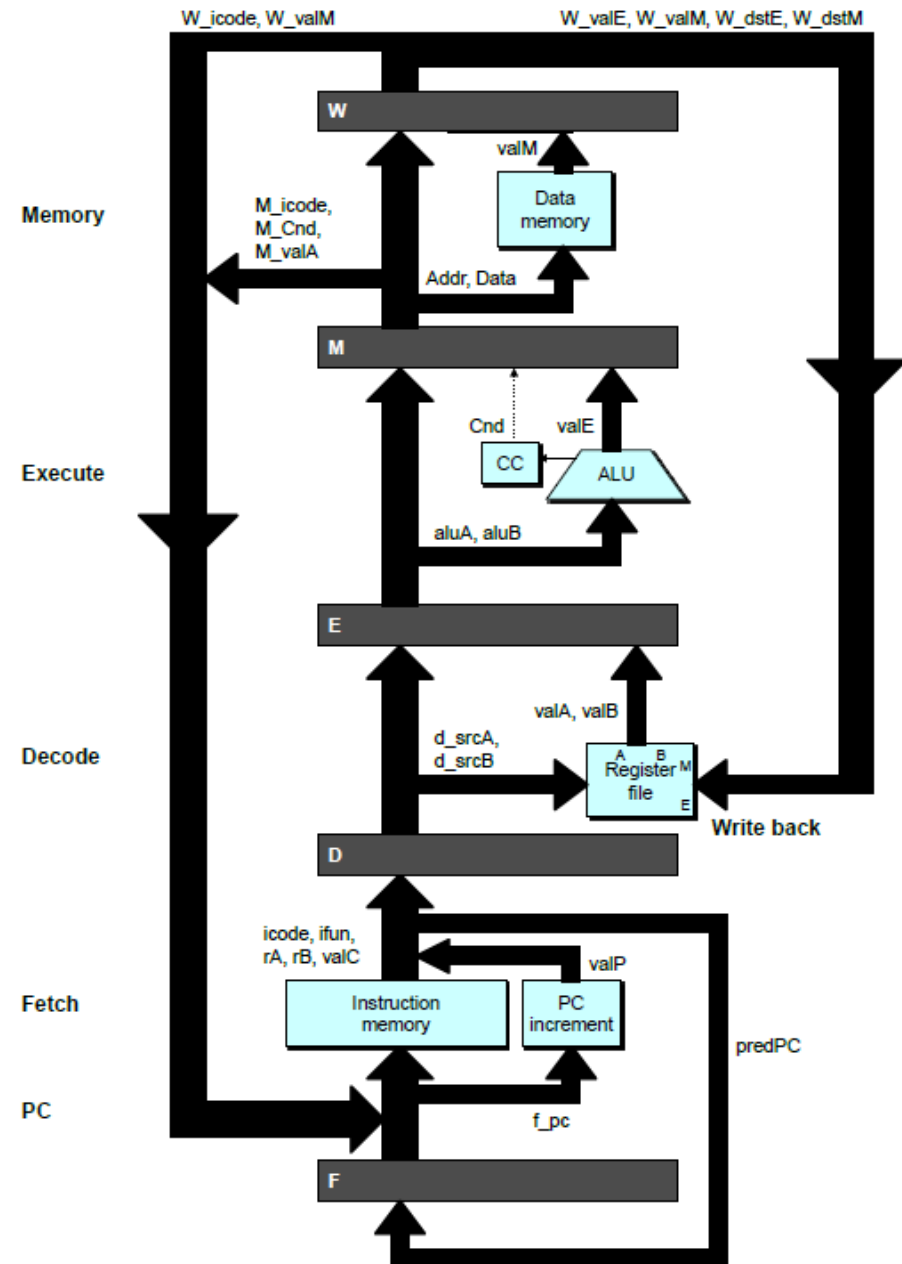
- Operate ALU

## Memory

- Read or write data memory

## Write Back

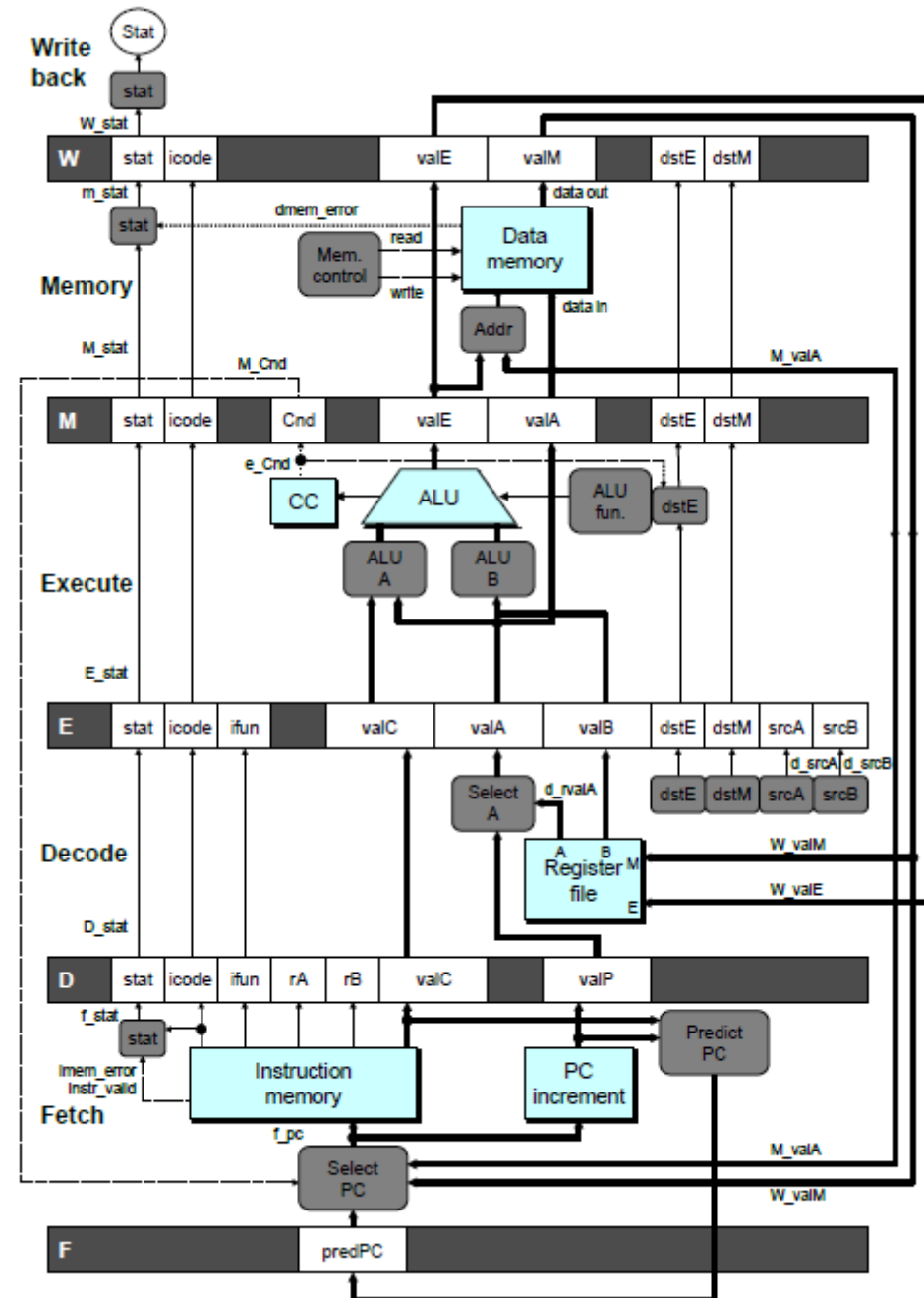
- Update register file





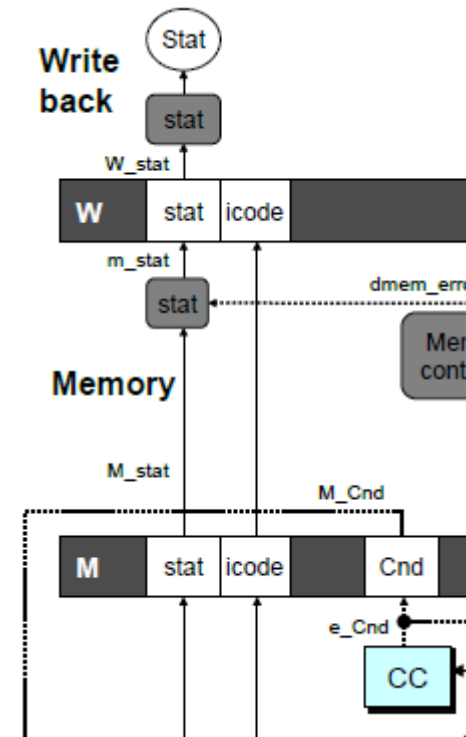
# PIPE- Hardware

- Pipeline registers hold intermediate values from instruction execution
- Forward (Upward) Paths
  - Values passed from one stage to next
  - Cannot jump past stages
    - e.g., valC passes through decode



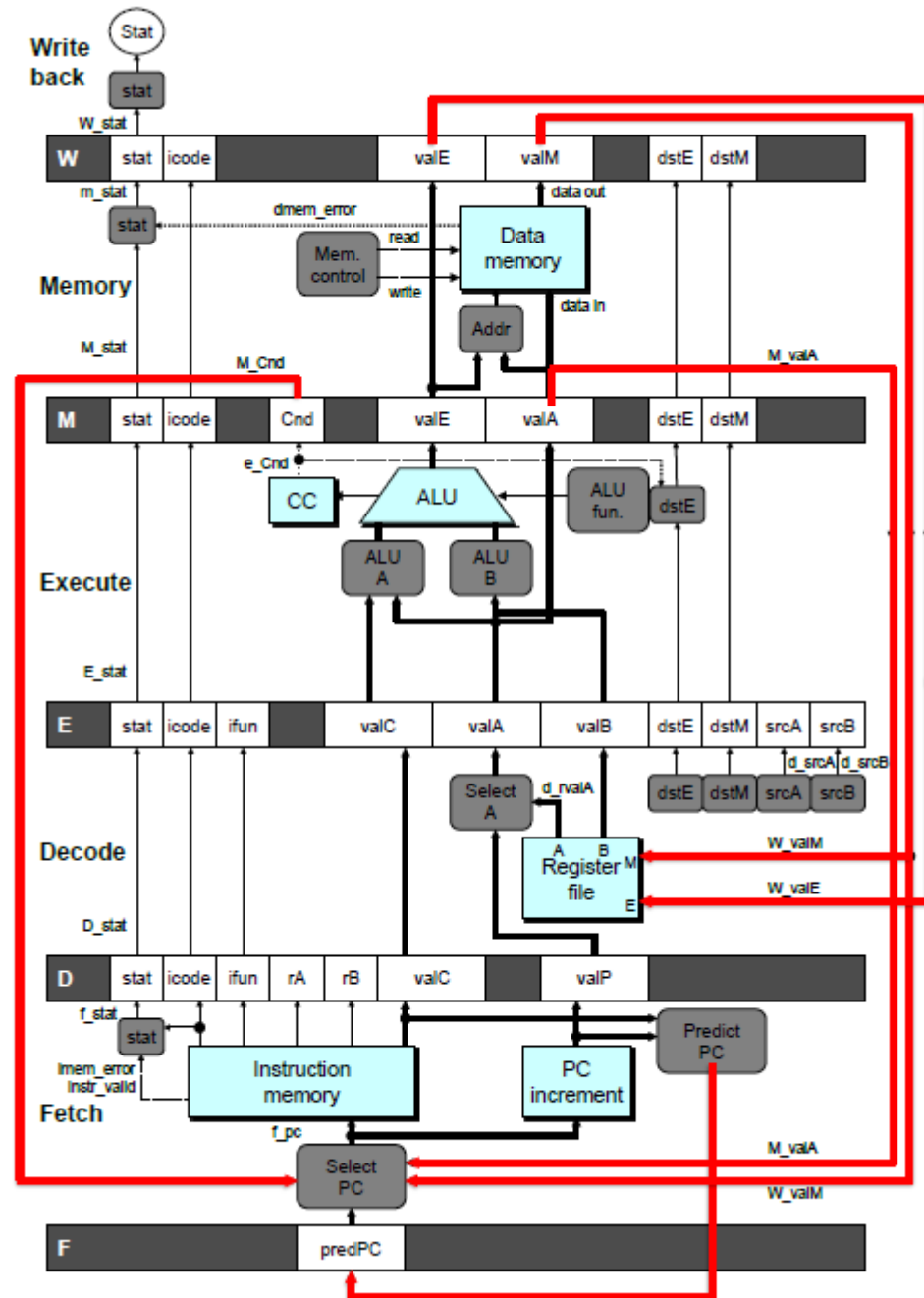
- Value of Field held in stage S pipeline register

■ Value of Field computed in stage S

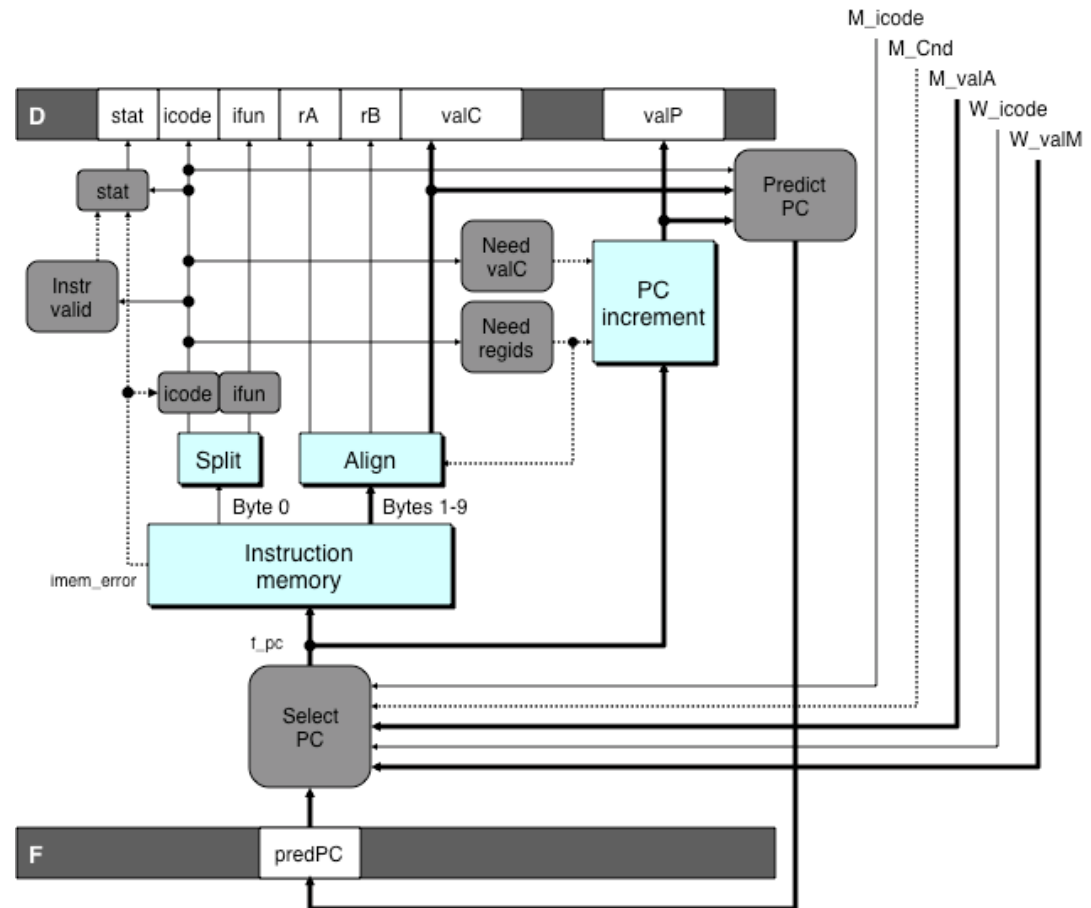


# Feedback Paths

- **Predicted PC**
  - Guess value of next PC
- **Branch information**
  - Jump taken/not-taken
  - Fall-through or target address
- **Return point**
  - Read from memory
- **Register updates**
  - To register file write ports



# Predicting the PC



- Start fetch of new instruction after current one has completed fetch stage
  - Not enough time to reliably determine next instruction
- Guess which instruction will follow
  - Recover if prediction was incorrect

# Our Prediction Strategy

## ■ Instructions that Don't Transfer Control

- Predict next PC to be valP
- Always reliable

## ■ Call and Unconditional Jumps

- Predict next PC to be valC (destination)
- Always reliable

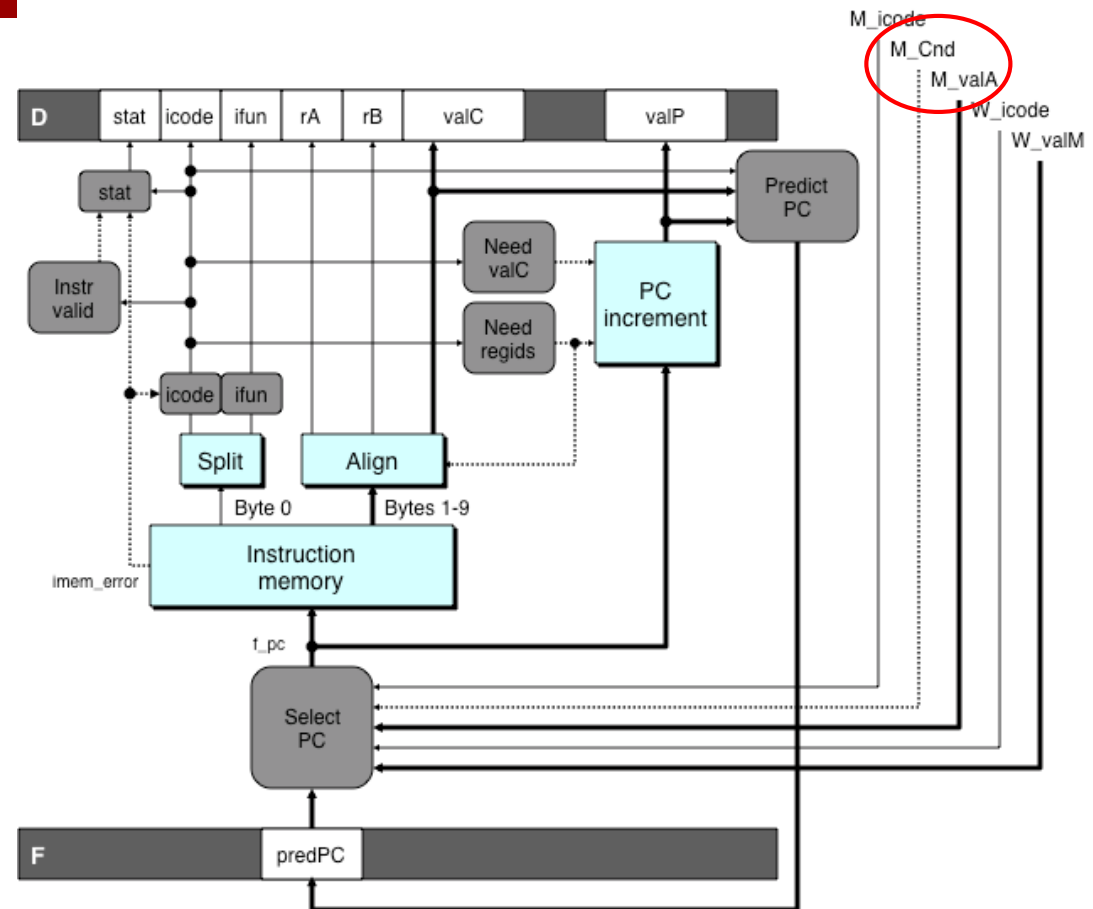
## ■ Conditional Jumps

- Predict next PC to be valC (destination)
- Only correct if branch is taken
  - Typically right 60% of time

## ■ Return Instruction

- Don't try to predict

# Recovering from PC Misprediction



## ■ Mispredicted Jump

- Will see branch condition flag once instruction reaches memory stage
- Can get fall-through PC from valA (value M\_valA)

## ■ Return Instruction

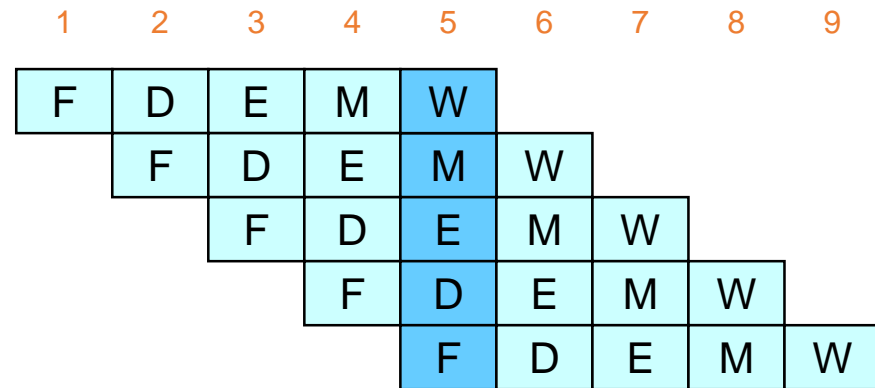
- Will get return PC when `ret` reaches write-back stage (W\_valM)

# Pipeline Demonstration

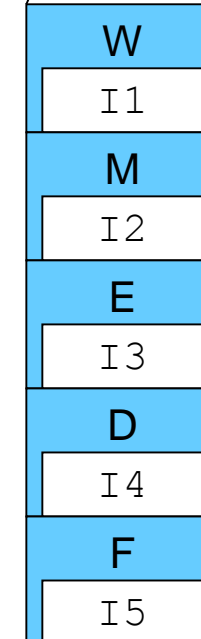
```

irmovq    $1,%rax    #I1
irmovq    $2,%rcx    #I2
irmovq    $3,%rdx    #I3
irmovq    $4,%rbx    #I4
halt                      #I5

```



Cycle 5



■ File: demo-basic.ys

# Data Dependencies: No Nop

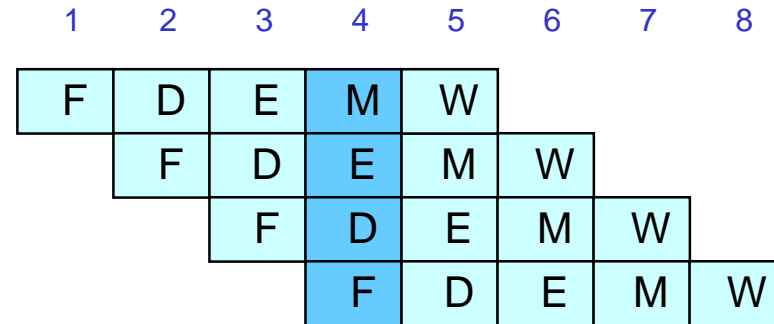
```
# demo-h0.ys
```

```
0x000: irmovq $10,%rdx
```

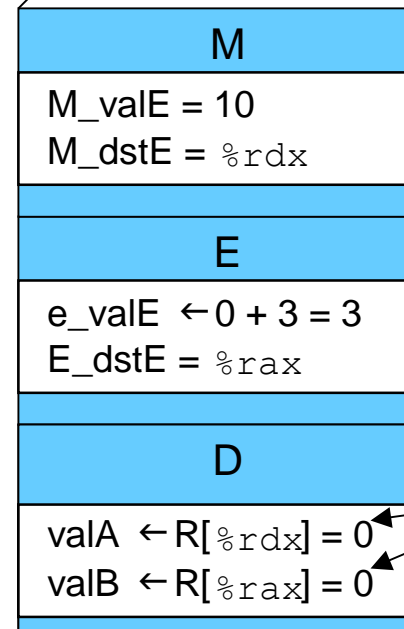
```
0x00a: irmovq $3,%rax
```

```
0x014: addq %rdx,%rax
```

```
0x016: halt
```



Cycle 4



Error



# Data Dependencies: 1 Nop

# demo-h1.y

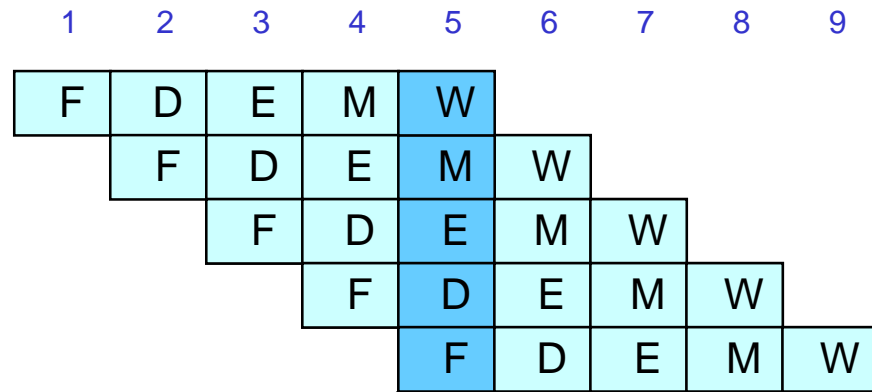
0x000: irmovq \$10,%rdx

0x00a: irmovq \$3,%rax

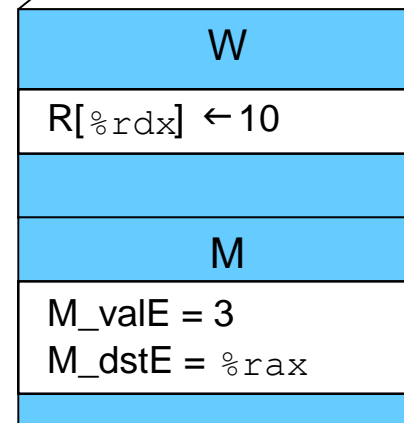
0x014: nop

0x015: addq %rdx,%rax

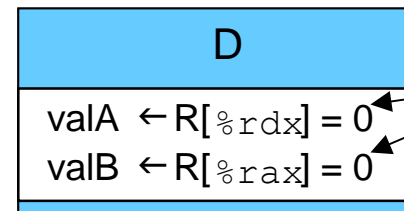
0x017: halt



Cycle 5



⋮



Error

# Data Dependencies: 2 Nop's

# demo-h2.y

0x000: irmovq \$10,%rdx

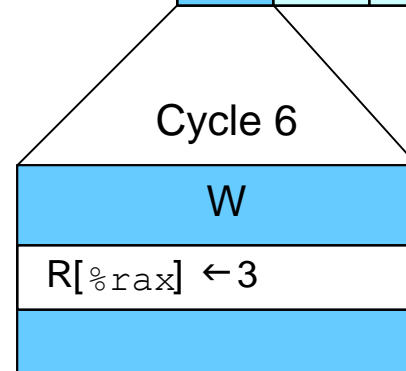
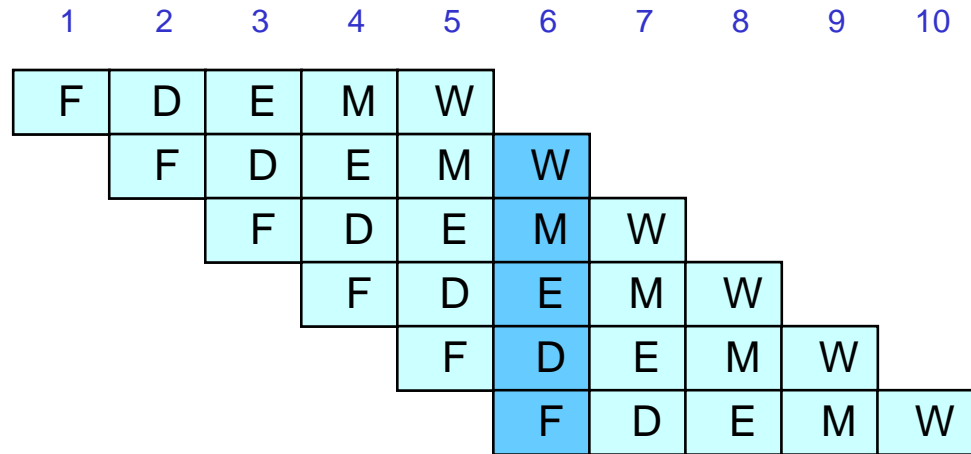
0x00a: irmovq \$3,%rax

0x014: nop

0x015: nop

0x016: addq %rdx,%rax

0x018: halt



Error

# Data Dependencies: 3 Nop's

# demo-h3.js

0x000: irmovq \$10,%rdx

0x00a: irmovq \$3,%rax

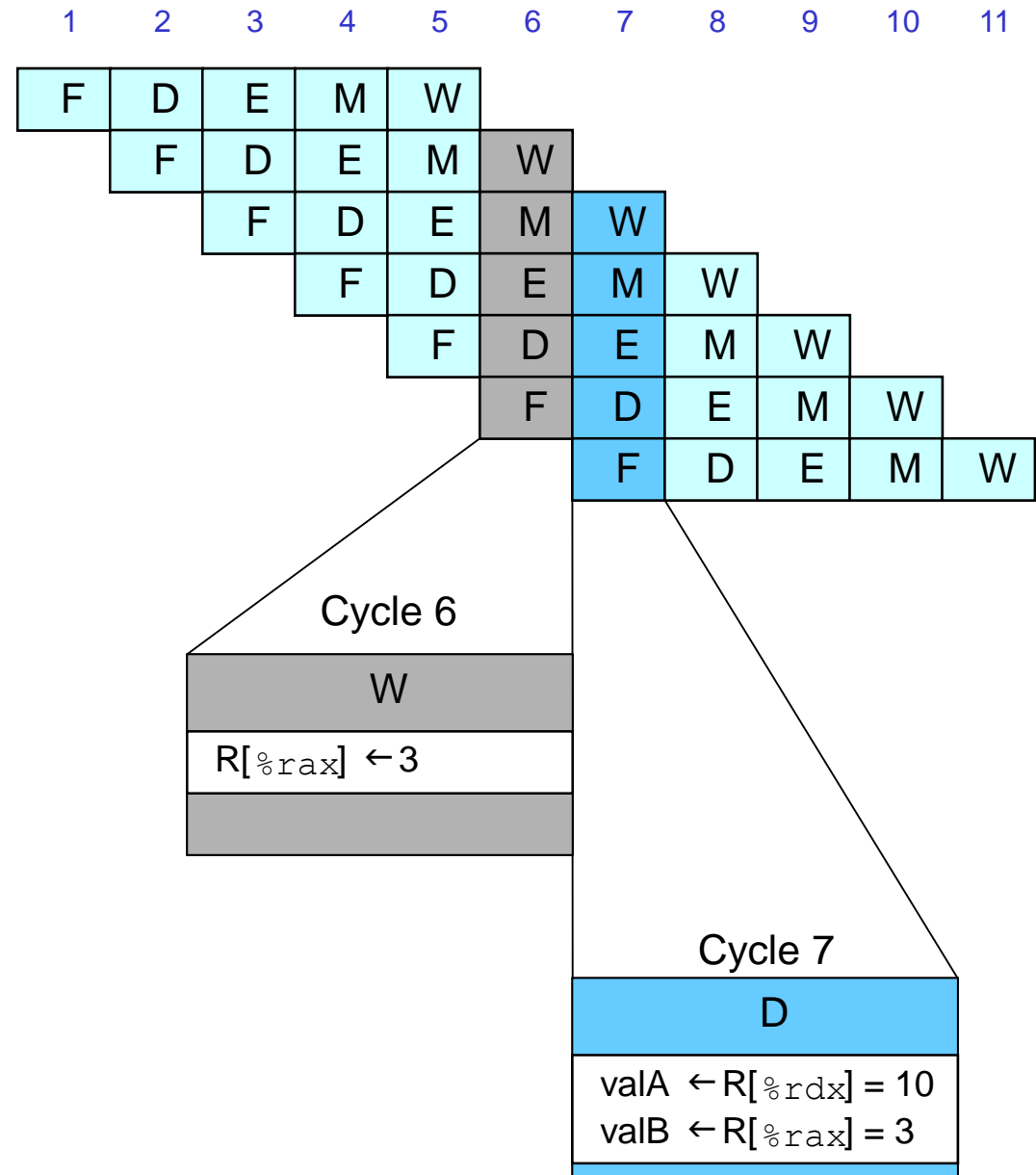
0x014: nop

0x015: nop

0x016: nop

0x017: addq %rdx,%rax

0x019: halt



# Stalling for Data Dependencies

```
# demo-h2.ys
```

```
0x000: irmovq $10,%rdx
```

```
0x00a: irmovq $3,%rax
```

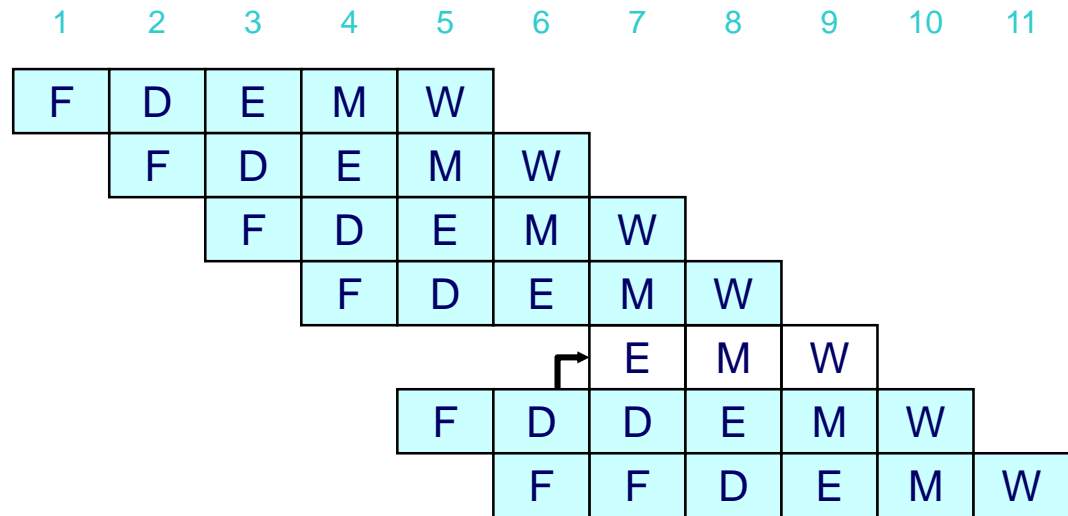
```
0x014: nop
```

```
0x015: nop
```

***bubble***

```
0x016: addq %rdx,%rax
```

```
0x018: halt
```



- If instruction follows too closely after one that writes register, slow it down
- Hold instruction in decode
- Dynamically inject nop into execute stage

# Stall Condition

## ■ Source Registers

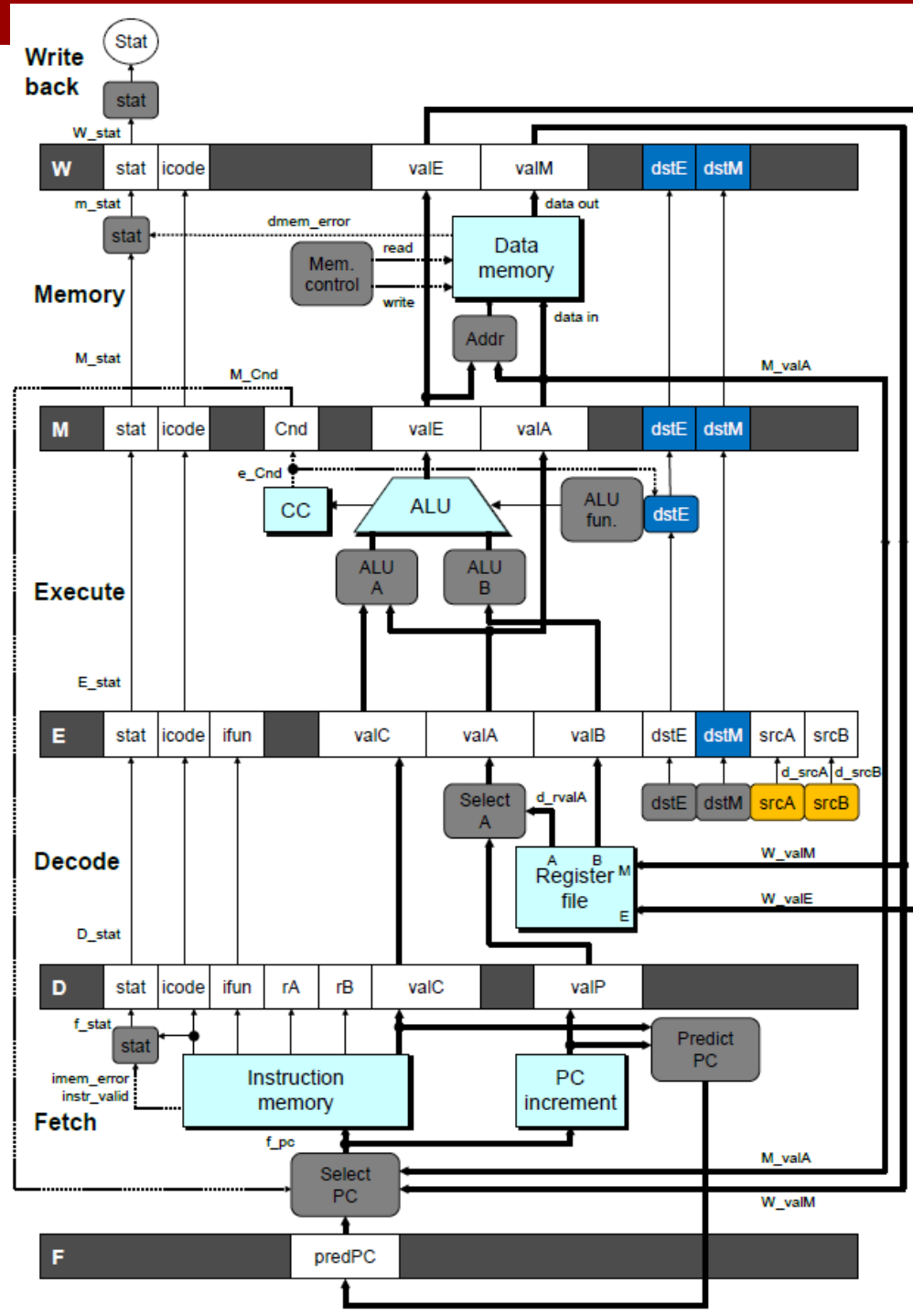
- srcA and srcB of current instruction in decode stage

## ■ Destination Registers

- dstE and dstM fields
- Instructions in execute, memory, and write-back stages

## ■ Special Case

- Don't stall for register ID 15 (0xF)
  - Indicates absence of register operand
  - Or failed cond. move



# Detecting Stall Condition

```
# demo-h2.y
```

```
0x000: irmovq $10,%rdx
```

```
0x00a: irmovq $3,%rax
```

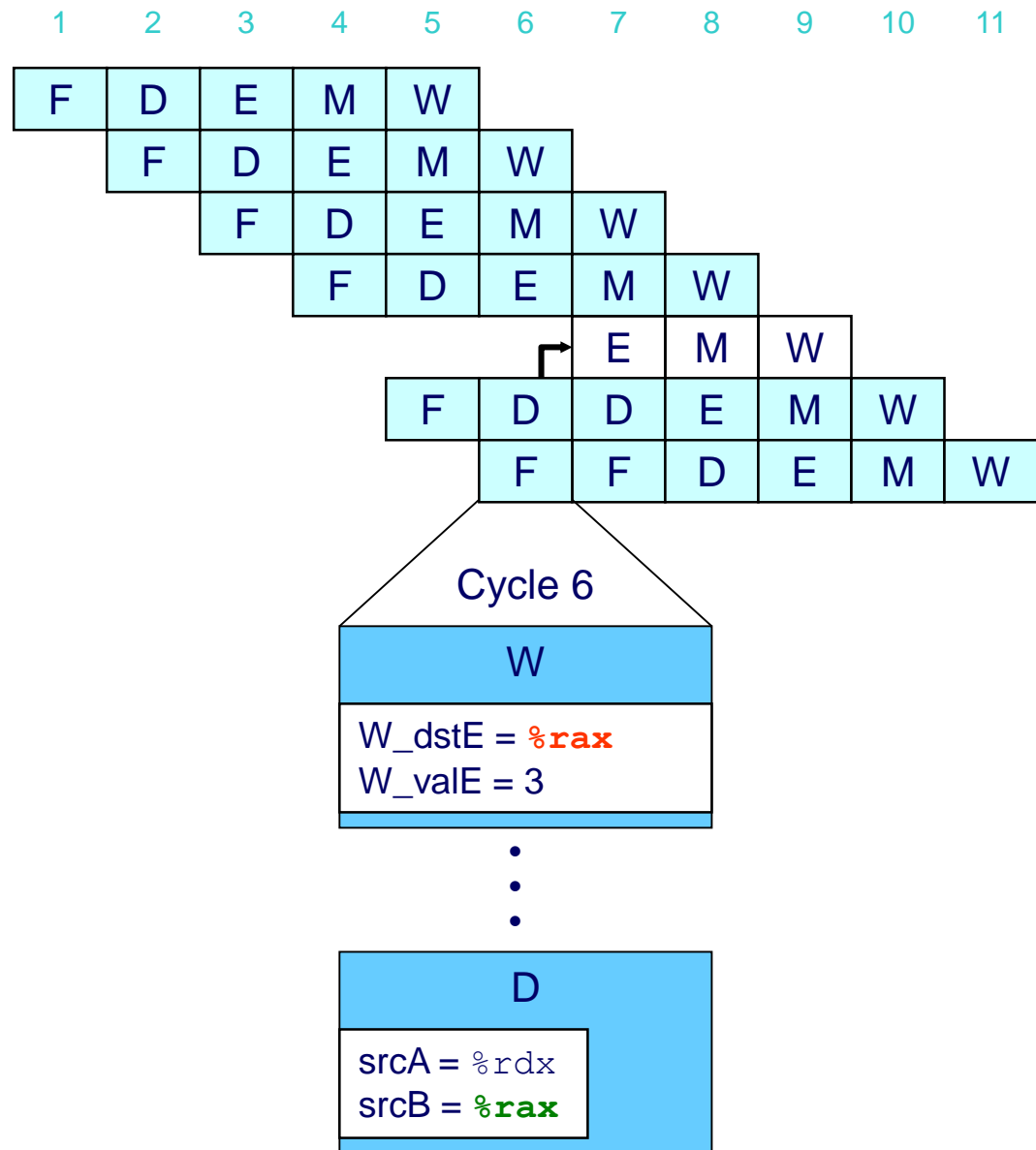
```
0x014: nop
```

```
0x015: nop
```

***bubble***

```
0x016: addq %rdx,%rax
```

```
0x018: halt
```



# Stalling X3

```
# demo-h0.ys
```

```
0x000: irmovq $10,%rdx
```

```
0x00a: irmovq $3,%rax
```

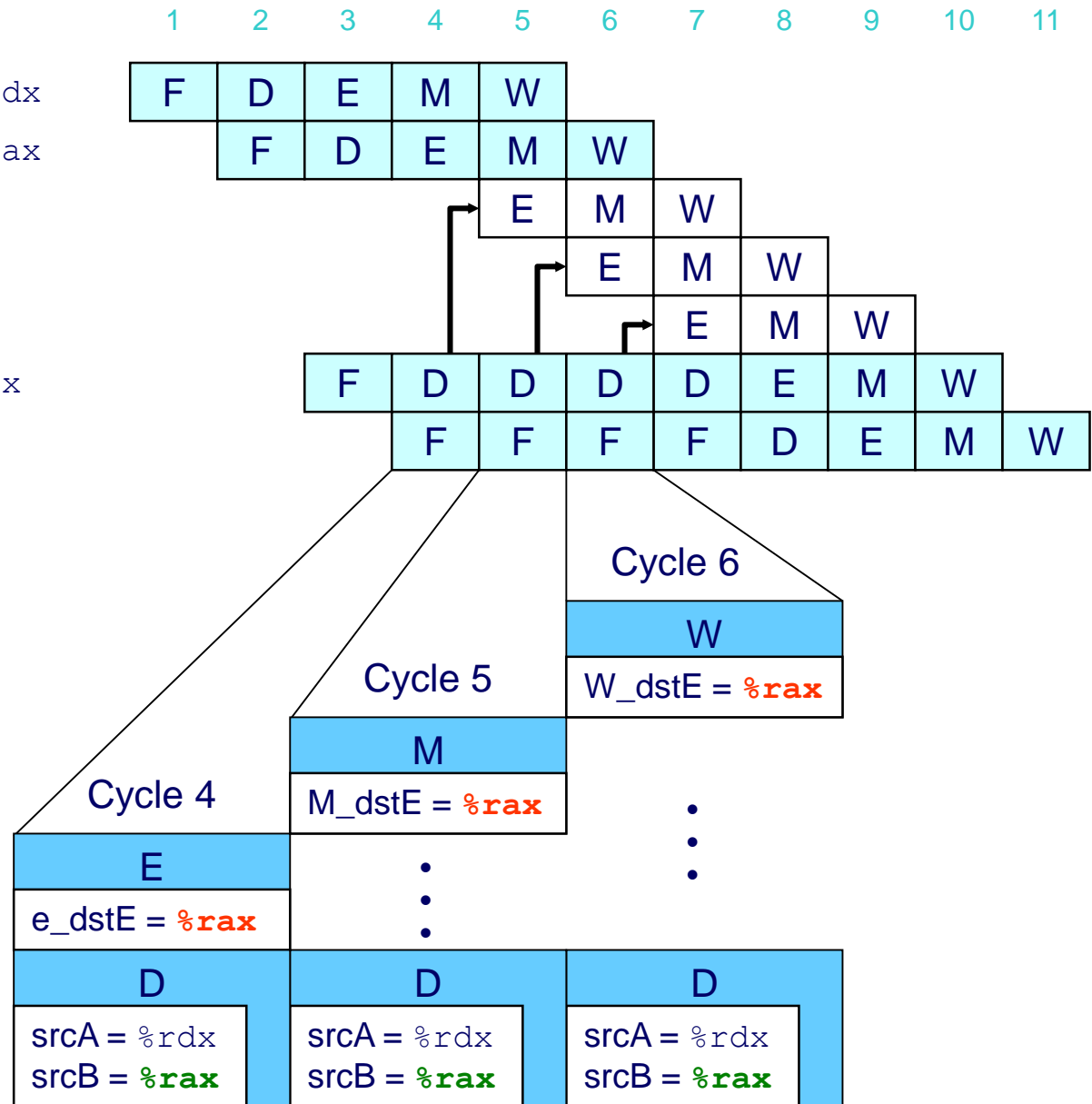
```
    bubble
```

```
    bubble
```

```
    bubble
```

```
0x014: addq %rdx,%rax
```

```
0x016: halt
```



# What Happens When Stalling?

```
# demo-h0.ys
```

```
0x000: irmovq $10,%rdx
```

```
0x00a: irmovq $3,%rax
```

```
0x014: addq %rdx,%rax
```

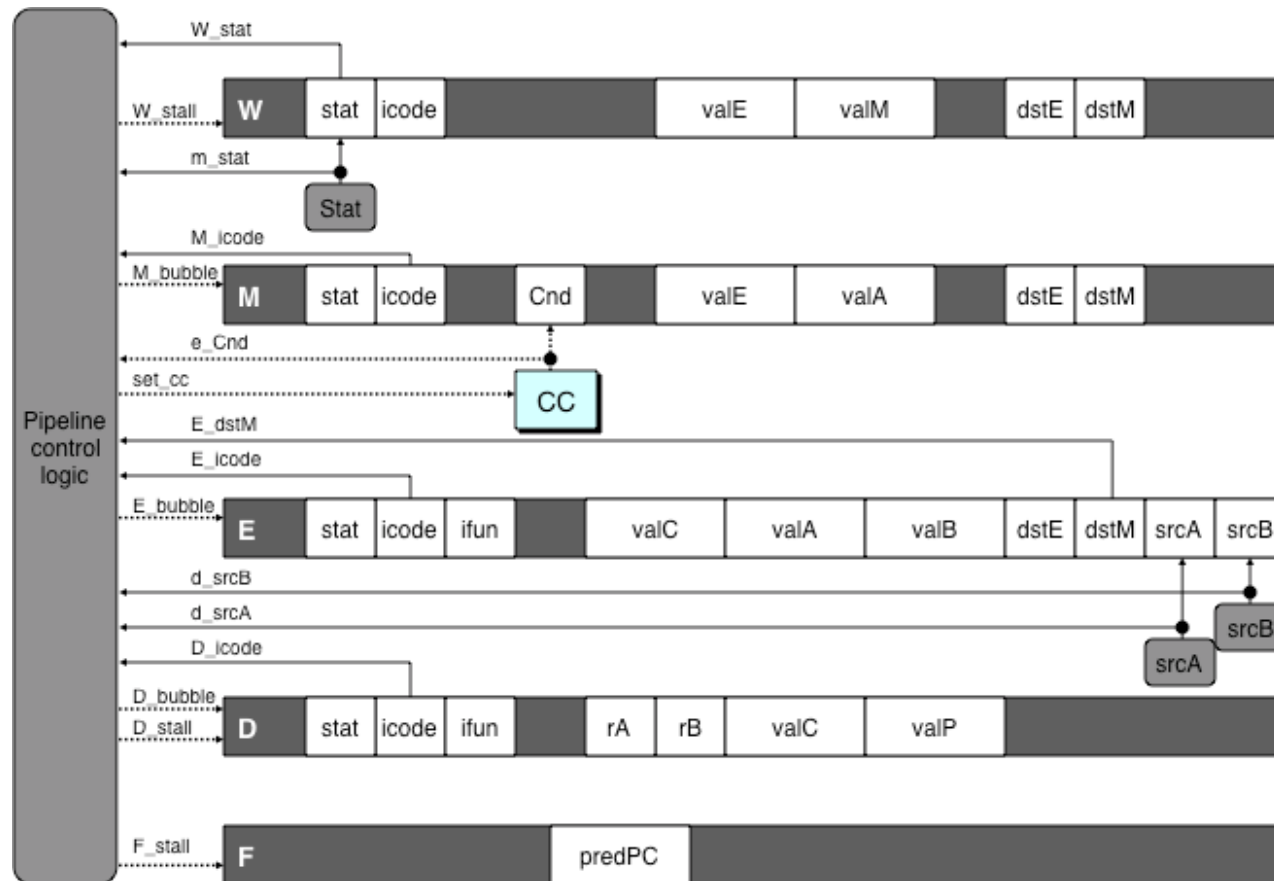
```
0x016: halt
```

Cycle 8	
Write Back	<i>bubble</i>
Memory	<i>bubble</i>
Execute	0x014: addq %rdx,%rax
Decode	0x016: halt
Fetch	

- Stalling instruction held back in decode stage
- Following instruction stays in fetch stage
- Bubbles injected into execute stage
  - Like dynamically generated nop's
  - Move through later stages



# Implementing Stalling

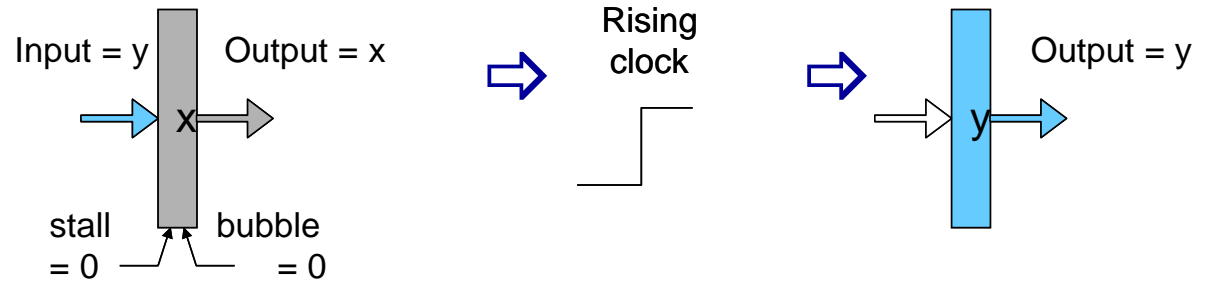


## ■ Pipeline Control

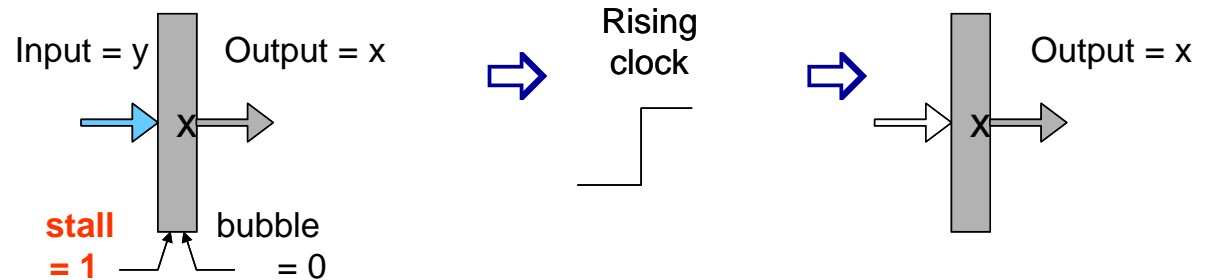
- Combinational logic detects stall condition
- Sets mode signals for how pipeline registers should update

# Pipeline Register Modes

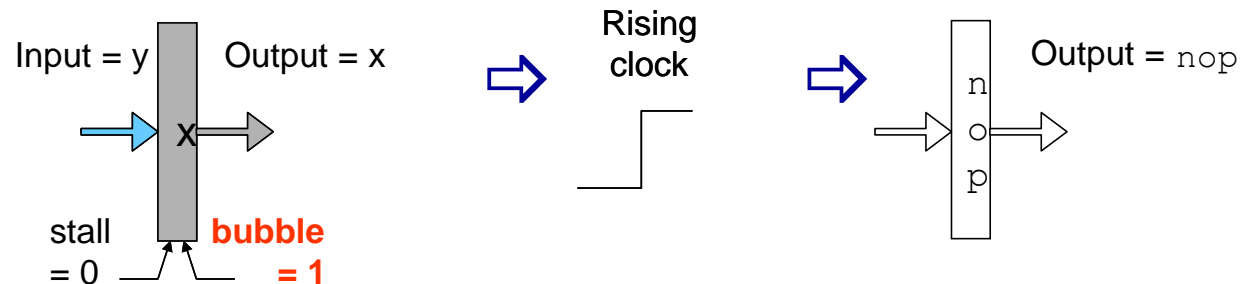
## Normal



## Stall



## Bubble



# Data Forwarding

## ■ Naïve Pipeline

- Register isn't written until completion of write-back stage
- Source operands read from register file in decode stage
  - Needs to be in register file at start of stage

## ■ Observation

- Value generated in execute or memory stage

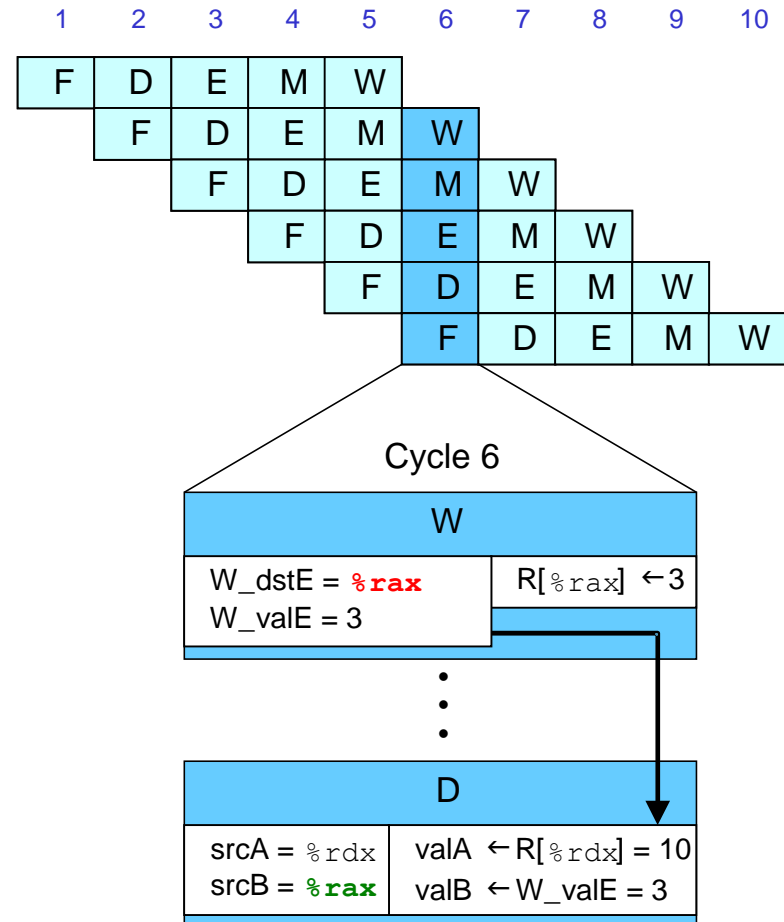
## ■ Trick

- Pass value directly from generating instruction to decode stage
- Needs to be available at end of decode stage

# Data Forwarding Example

```
# demo-h2.js
0x000: irmovq $10,%rdx
0x00a: irmovq $3,%rax
0x014: nop
0x015: nop
0x016: addq %rdx,%rax
0x018: halt
```

- `irmovq` in write-back stage
- Destination value in W pipeline register
- Forward as `valB` for decode stage



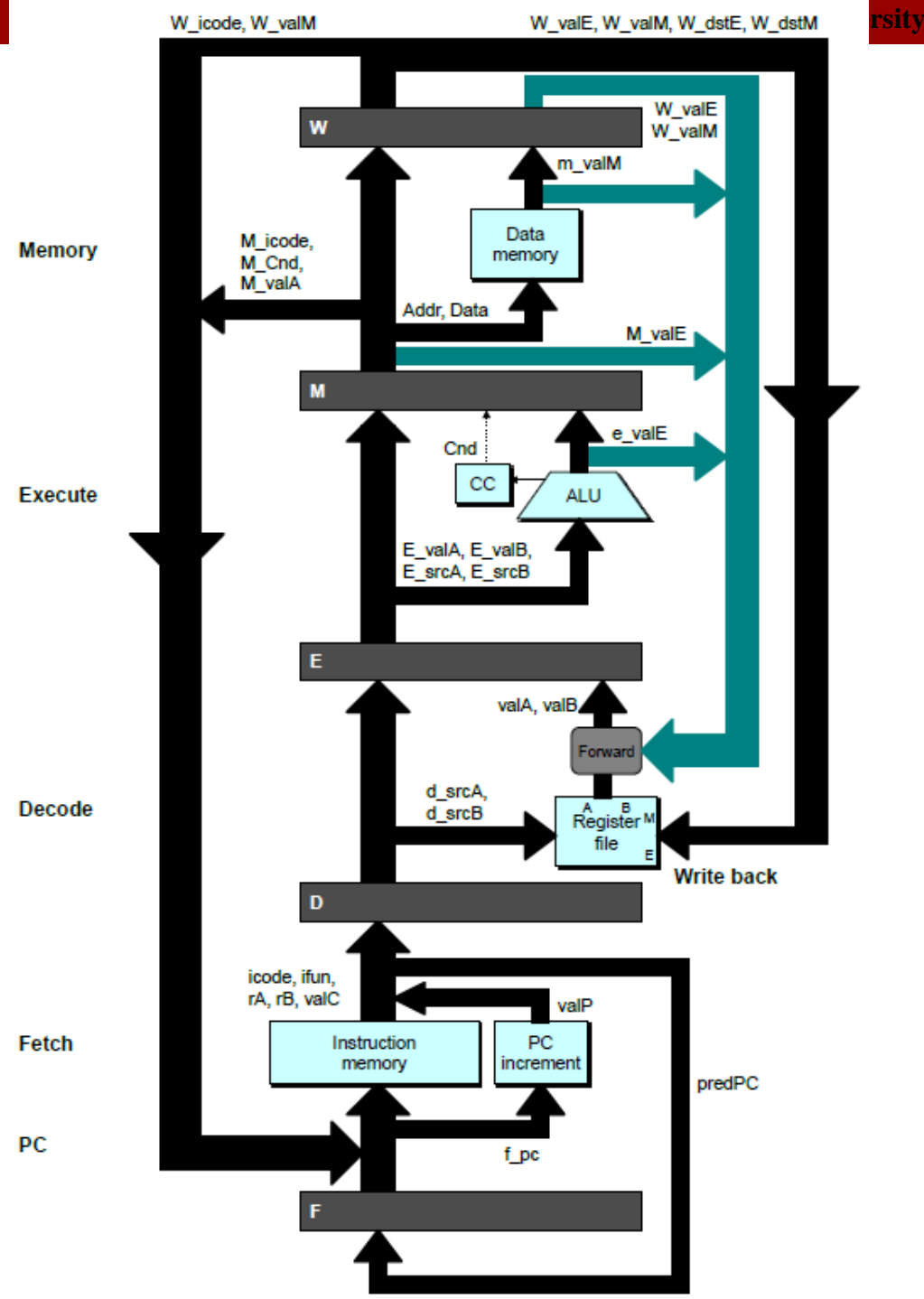
# Bypass Paths

## ■ Decode Stage

- Forwarding logic selects valA and valB
- Normally from register file
- Forwarding: get valA or valB from later pipeline stage

## ■ Forwarding Sources

- Execute: valE
- Memory: valE, valM
- Write back: valE, valM



# Data Forwarding Example #2

```
# demo-h0.ys
```

```
0x000: irmovq $10,%rdx
```

```
0x00a: irmovq $3,%rax
```

```
0x014: addq %rdx,%rax
```

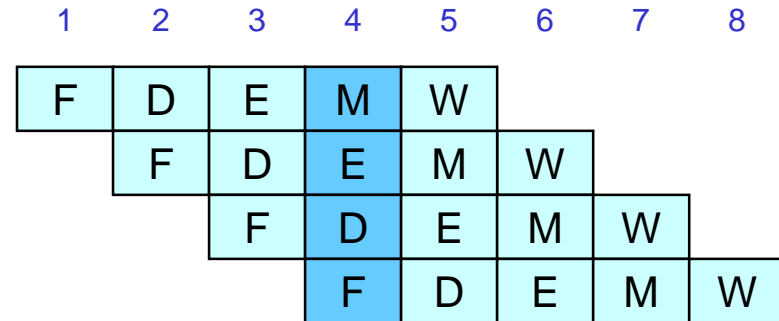
```
0x016: halt
```

## ■ Register `%rdx`

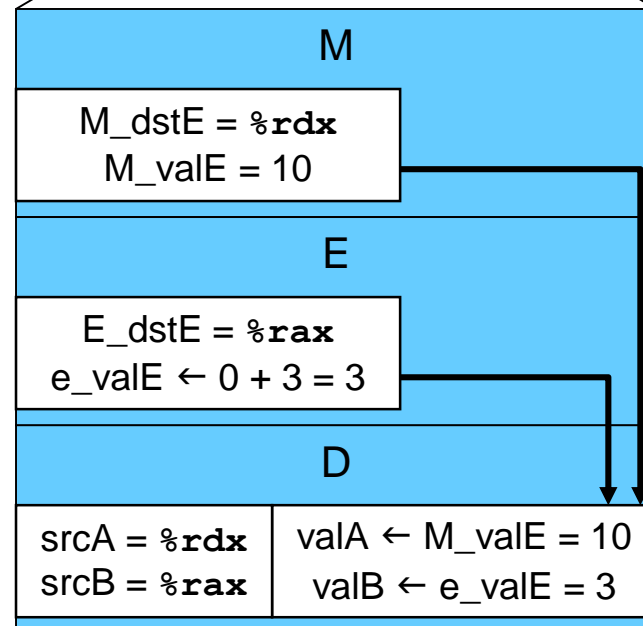
- Generated by ALU during previous cycle
- Forward from memory as `valA`

## ■ Register `%rax`

- Value just generated by ALU
- Forward from execute as `valB`



Cycle 4



# Forwarding Priority

```
# demo-priority.py
```

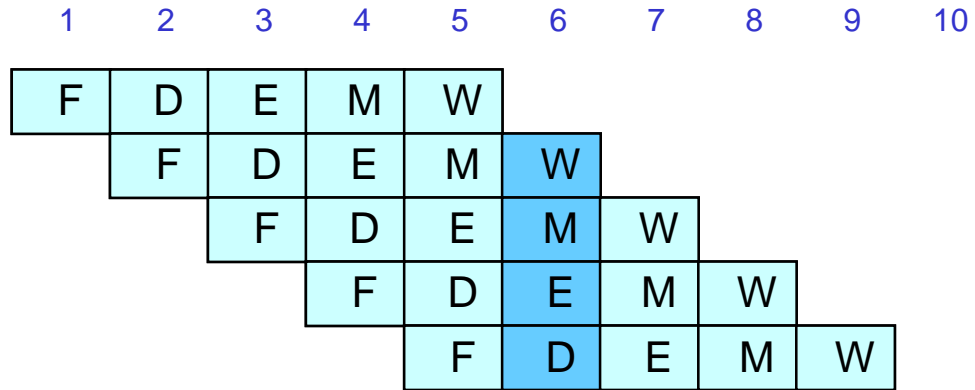
```
0x000: irmovq $1, %rax
```

```
0x00a: irmovq $2, %rax
```

```
0x014: irmovq $3, %rax
```

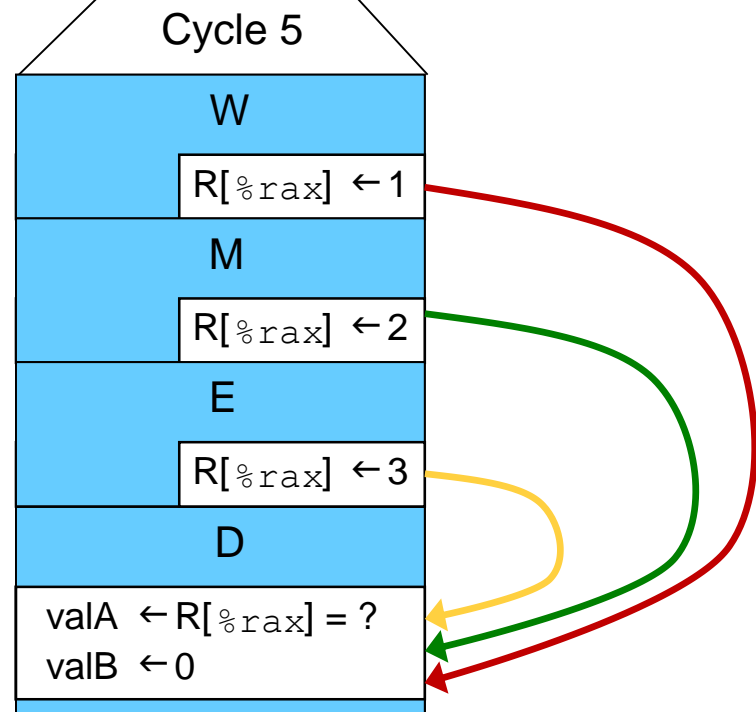
```
0x01e: rrmovq %rax, %rdx
```

```
0x020: halt
```

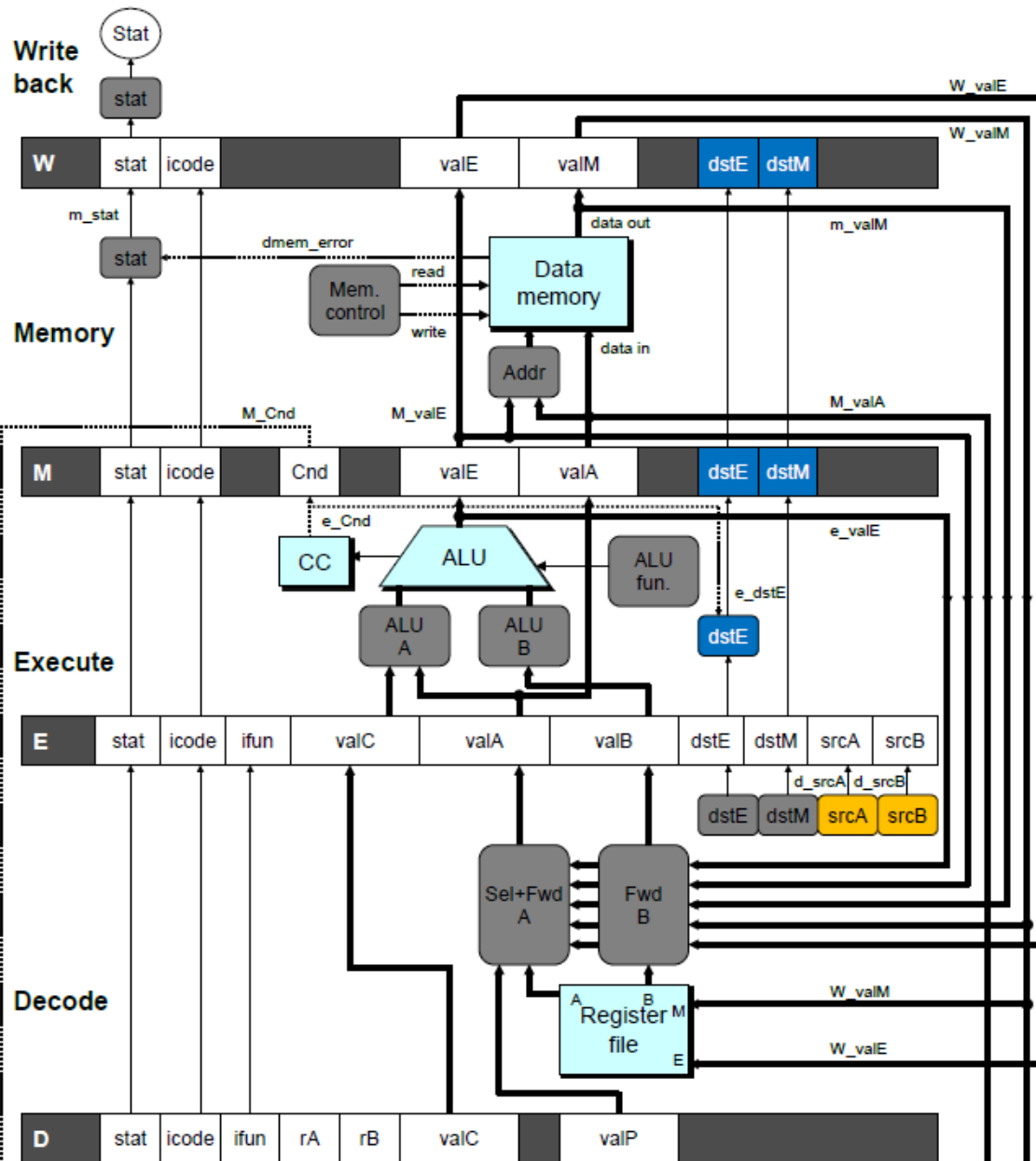


## Multiple Forwarding Choices

- Which one should have priority
- Match serial semantics
- Use matching value from earliest pipeline stage



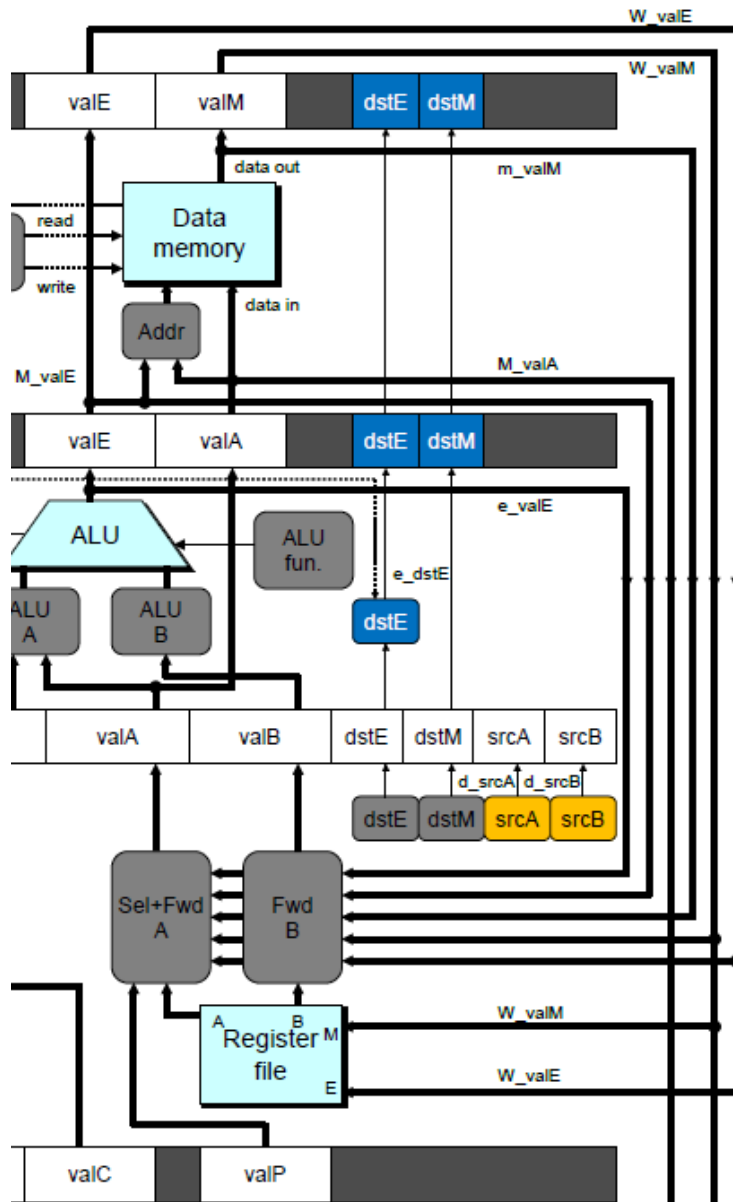
# Implementing Forwarding



- Add additional feedback paths from E, M, and W pipeline registers into decode stage
- Create logic blocks to select from multiple sources for `valA` and `valB` in decode stage



# Implementing Forwarding



```
## What should be the A value?
int d_valA = [
    # Use incremented PC
    D_icode in { ICALL, IJXX } : D_valP;
    # Forward valE from execute
    d_srcA == e_dstE : e_valE;
    # Forward valM from memory
    d_srcA == M_dstM : m_valM;
    # Forward valE from memory
    d_srcA == M_dstE : M_valE;
    # Forward valM from write back
    d_srcA == W_dstM : W_valM;
    # Forward valE from write back
    d_srcA == W_dstE : W_valE;
    # Use value read from register file
    1 : d_rvalA;
];
```

# Limitation of Forwarding

# demo-luh.js

0x000: irmovq \$128,%rdx

0x00a: irmovq \$3,%rcx

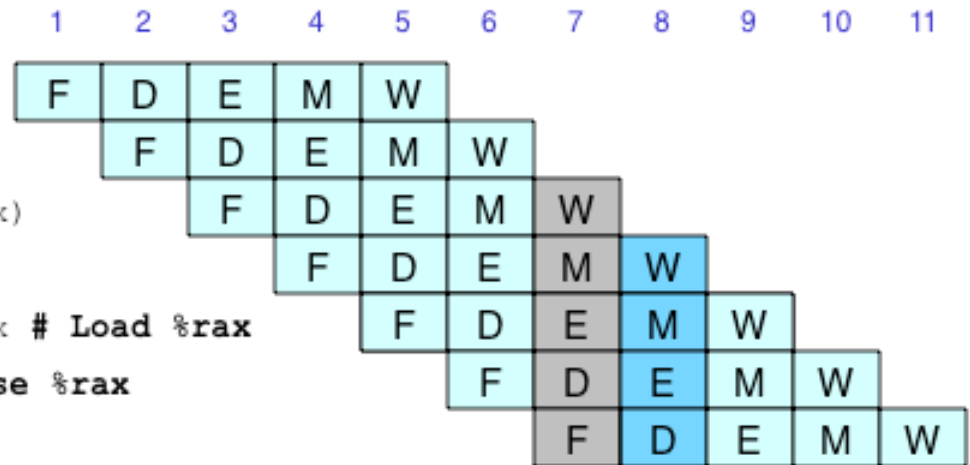
0x014: rmmovq %rcx, 0(%rdx)

0x01e: irmovq \$10,%rbx

0x028: mrmovq 0(%rdx),%rax # Load %rax

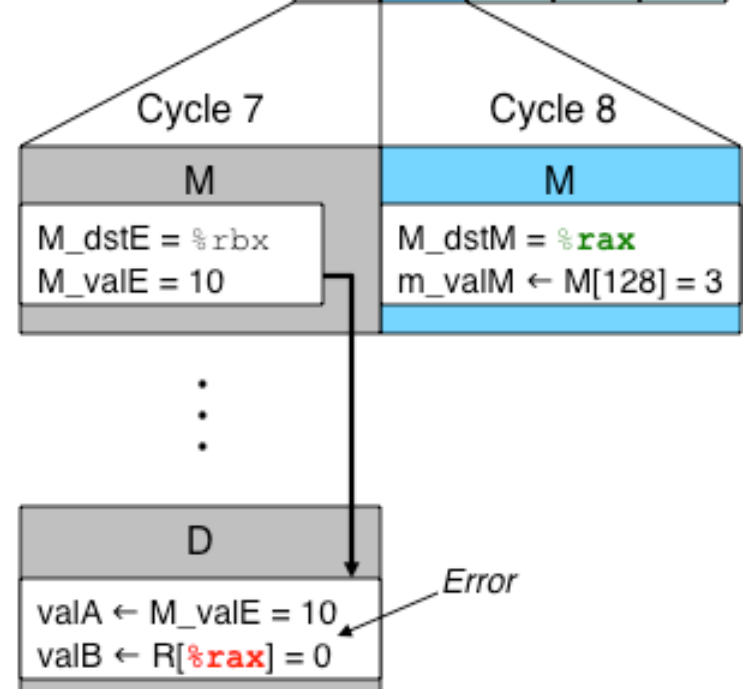
0x032: addq %rbx,%rax # Use %rax

0x034: halt



## ■ Load-use dependency

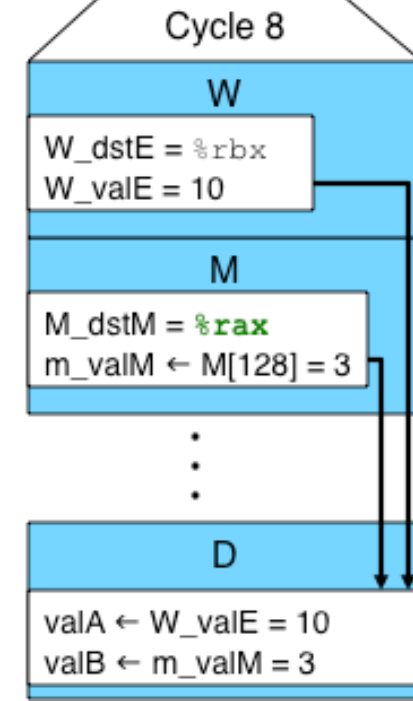
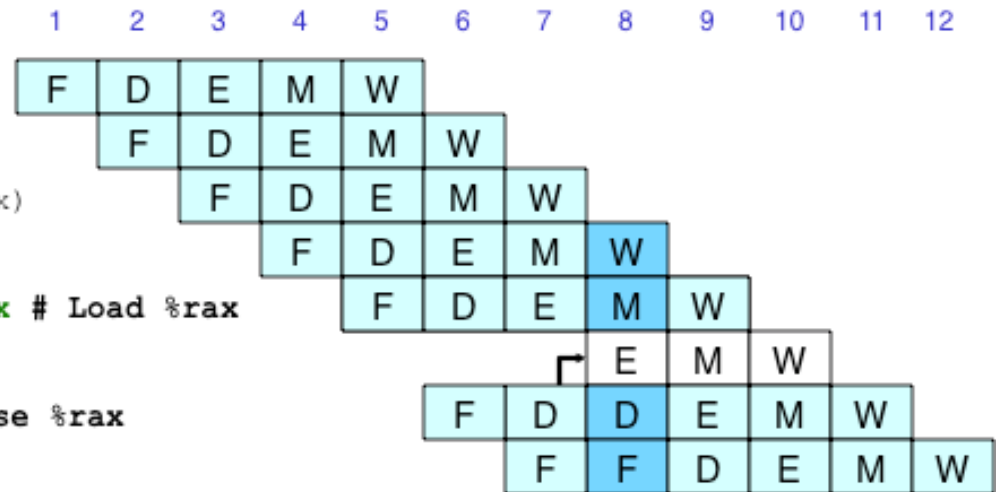
- Value needed by end of decode stage in cycle 7
- Value read from memory in memory stage of cycle 8



```

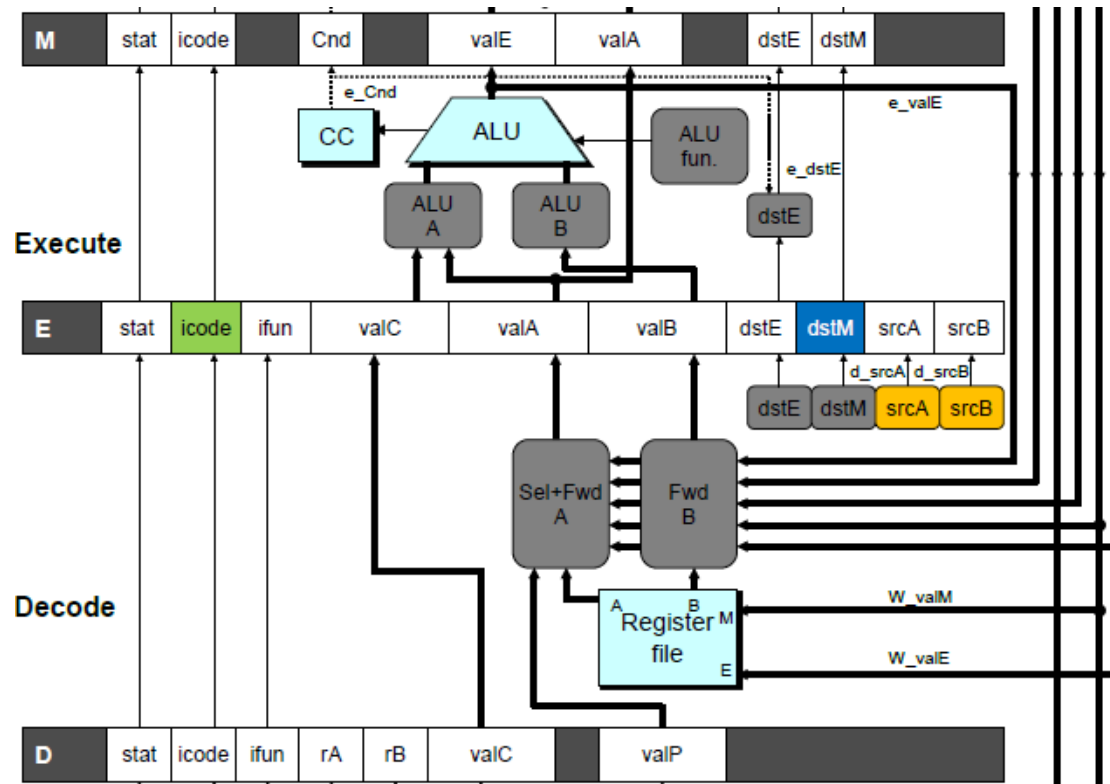
0x000: irmovq $128,%rdx
0x00a: irmovq $3,%rcx
0x014: rmmovq %rcx, 0(%rdx)
0x01e: irmovq $10,%rbx
0x028: mrmovq 0(%rdx),%rax # Load %rax
      bubble
0x032: addq %rbx,%rax # Use %rax
0x034: halt

```



- Stall using instruction for one cycle
- Can then pick up loaded value by forwarding from memory stage

# Detecting Load/Use Hazard



Condition	Trigger
Load/Use Hazard	<code>E_icode</code> in <code>{ IMRMOVQ, IPOPOPQ }</code> && <code>E_dstM</code> in <code>{ d_srcA, d_srcB }</code>

# Control for Load/Use Hazard

# demo-luh.js

0x000: irmovq \$128,%rdx

0x00a: irmovq \$3,%rcx

0x014: rmmovq %rcx, 0(%rdx)

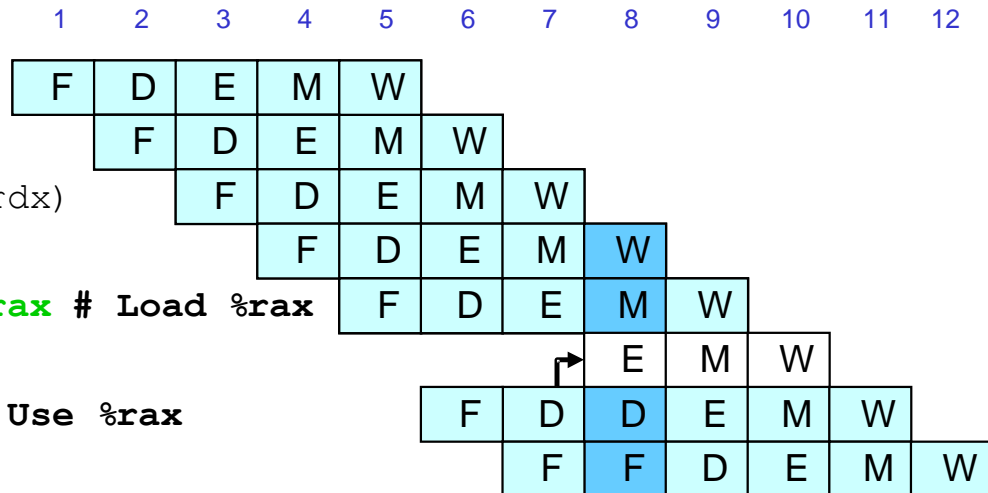
0x01e: irmovq \$10,%ebx

0x028: mrmovq 0(%rdx),%rax # Load %rax

*bubble*

0x032: addq %ebx,%rax # Use %rax

0x034: halt



- Stall instructions in fetch and decode stages
- Inject bubble into execute stage

Condition	F	D	E	M	W
Load/Use Hazard	stall	stall	bubble	normal	normal

# Branch Misprediction Example

# Branch Misprediction Example

demo-j.ys

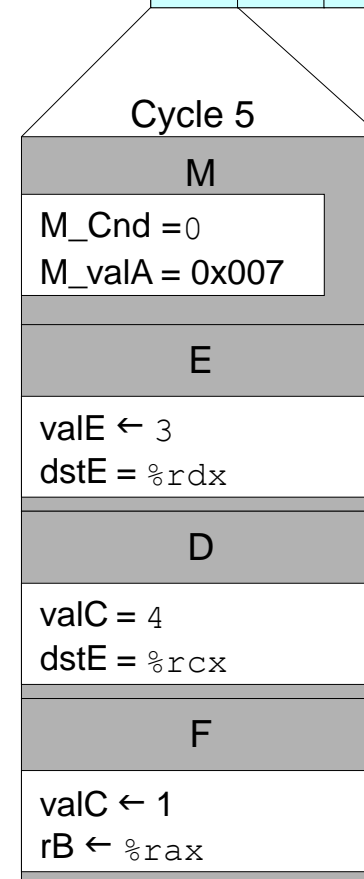
```
0x000:    xorq %rax,%rax
0x002:    jne  t                # Not taken
0x00b:    irmovq $1, %rax       # Fall through
0x015:    nop
0x016:    nop
0x017:    nop
0x018:    halt
0x019:  t:  irmovq $3, %rdx     # Target
0x023:    irmovq $4, %rcx     # Should not execute
0x02d:    irmovq $5, %rdx     # Should not execute
```

- Should only execute first 8 instructions

# Branch Misprediction Trace

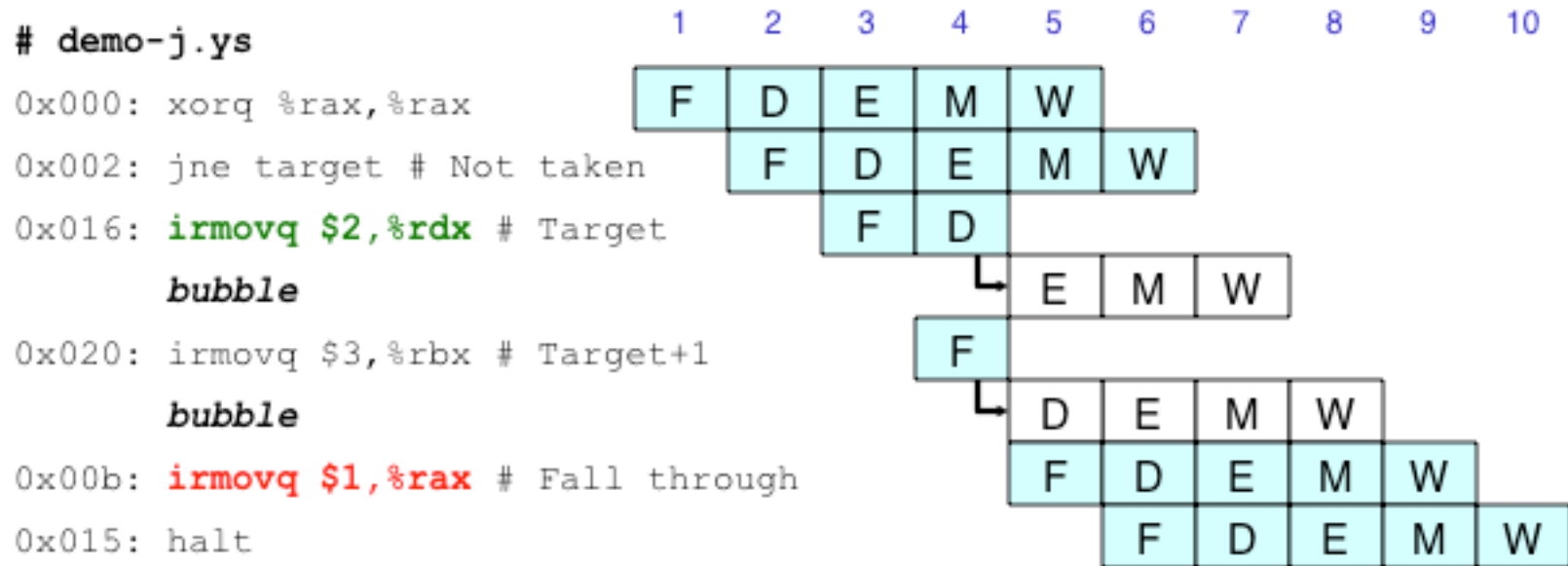
# demo-j	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0x000:    xorq %rax,%rax	F	D	E	M	W				
0x002:    jne t # Not taken		F	D	E	M	W			
0x019: t: irmovq \$3, %rdx # Target			F	D	E	M	W		
0x023:    irmovq \$4, %rcx # Target+1				F	D	E	M	W	
0x00b:    irmovq \$1, %rax # Fall Through					F	D	E	M	W

- Incorrectly execute two instructions at branch target





# Handling Misprediction



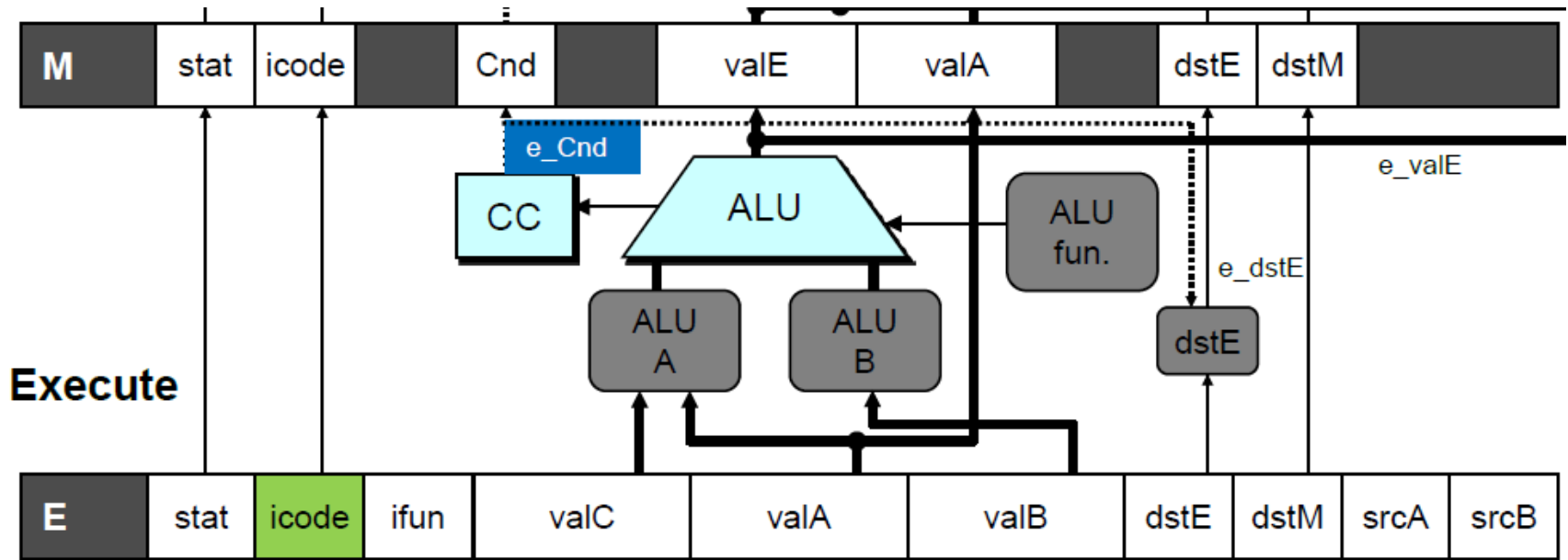
## Predict branch as taken

- Fetch 2 instructions at target

## Cancel when mispredicted

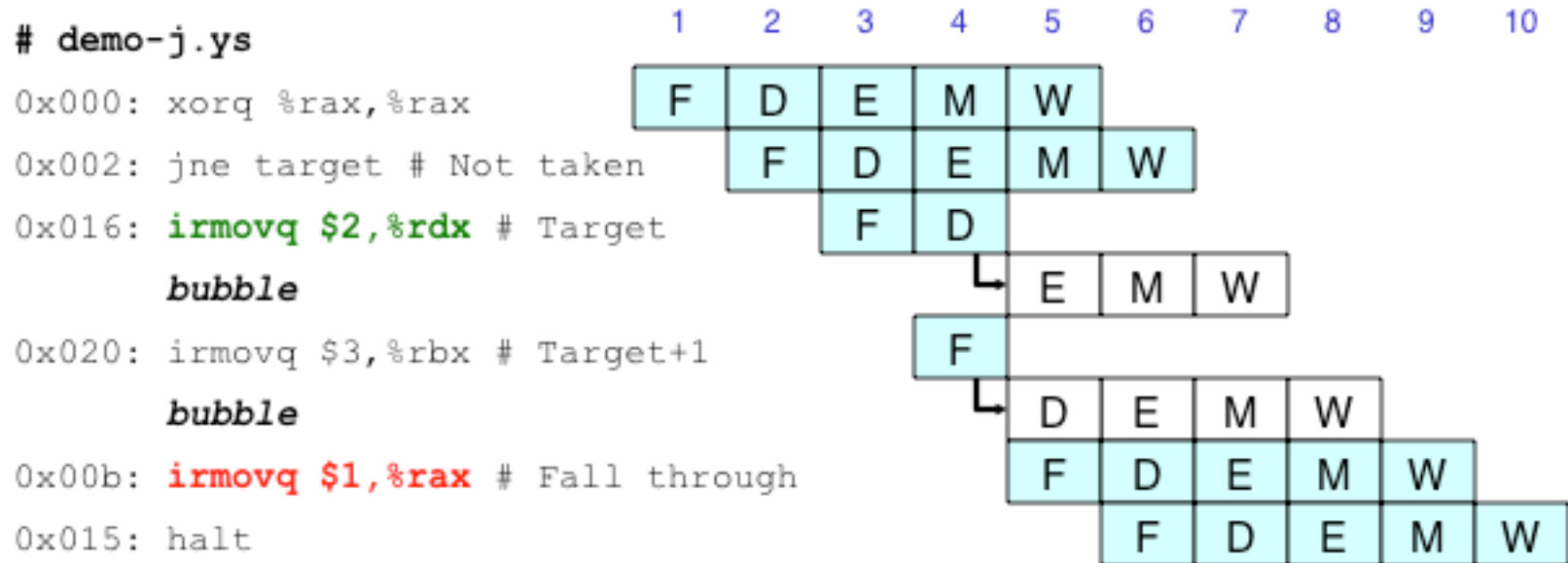
- Detect branch not-taken in execute stage
- On following cycle, replace instructions in execute and decode by bubbles
- No side effects have occurred yet

# Detecting Mispredicted Branch



Condition	Trigger
Mispredicted Branch	$E\_icode == IJXX \ \& \ !e\_Cnd$

# Control for Misprediction



Condition	F	D	E	M	W
Mispredicted Branch	normal	bubble	bubble	normal	normal

# Return Example

# Return Example

demo-retb.ys

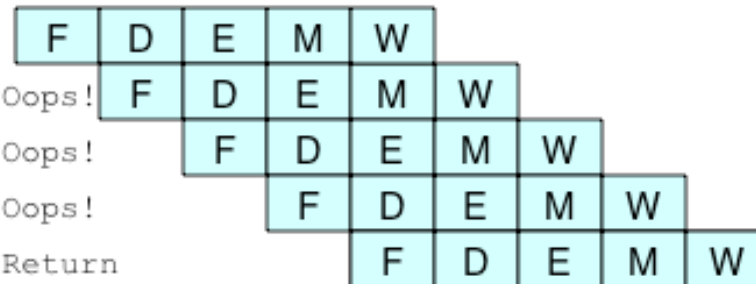
```
0x000:    irmovq Stack,%rsp    # Intialize stack pointer
0x00a:    call p                # Procedure call
0x013:    irmovq $5,%rsi      # Return point
0x01d:    halt
0x020:    .pos 0x20
0x020: p:  irmovq $-1,%rdi    # procedure
0x02a:    ret
0x02b:    irmovq $1,%rax        # Should not be executed
0x035:    irmovq $2,%rcx        # Should not be executed
0x03f:    irmovq $3,%rdx        # Should not be executed
0x049:    irmovq $4,%rbx        # Should not be executed
0x100:    .pos 0x100
0x100: Stack:                # Stack: Stack pointer
```

- Previously executed three additional instructions

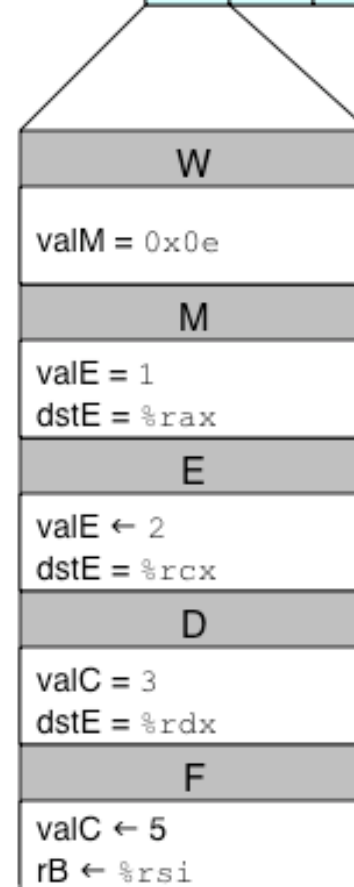
# Incorrect Return Example

# demo-ret

```
0x033:    ret
0x034:    irmovq $1,%rax # Oops!
0x03e:    irmovq $2,%rcx # Oops!
0x048:    irmovq $3,%rdx # Oops!
0x052:    irmovq $5,%rsi # Return
```



- Incorrectly execute 3 instructions following `ret`



# Correct Return Example

```
# demo-retb
```

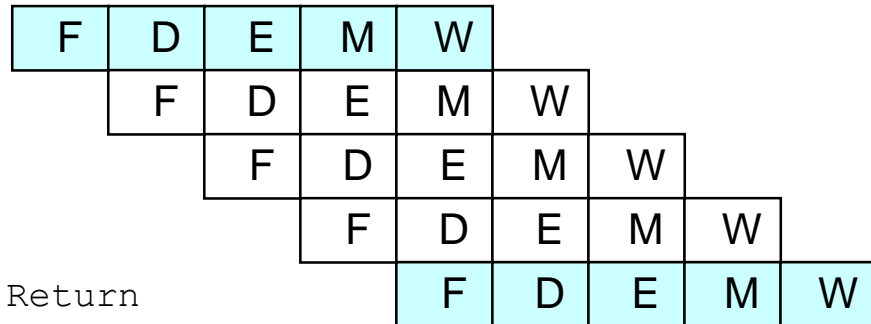
```
0x026:    ret
```

```
    bubble
```

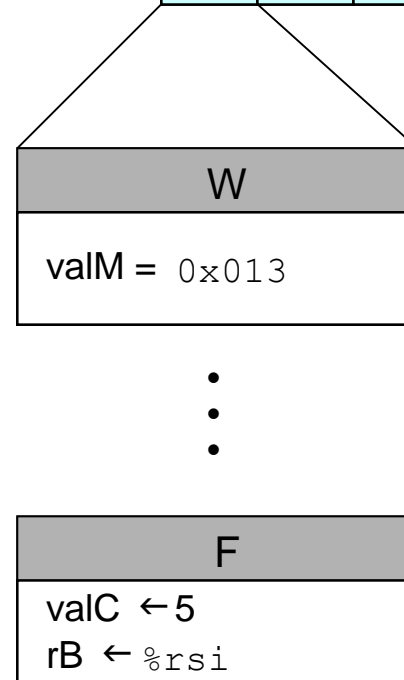
```
    bubble
```

```
    bubble
```

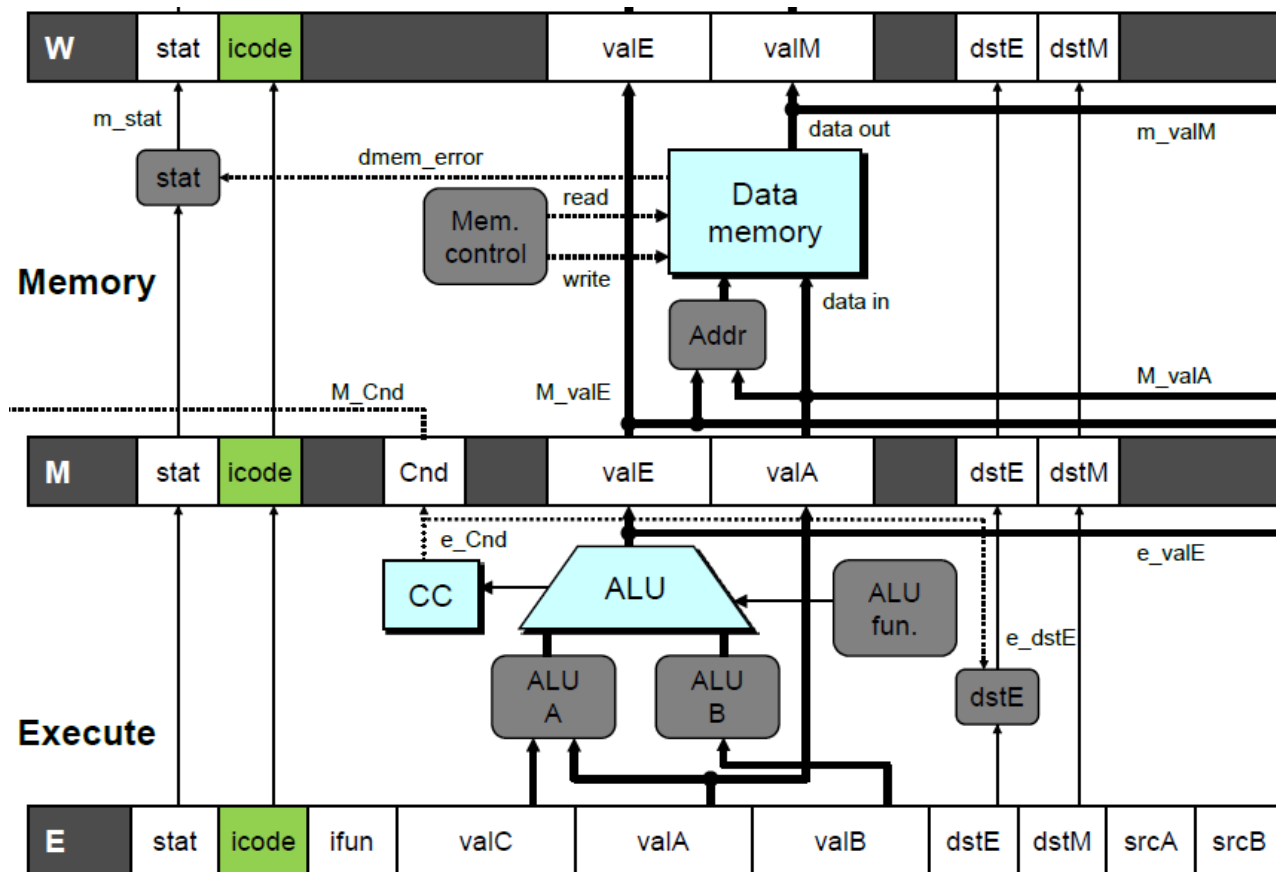
```
0x013:    irmovq $5,%rsi # Return
```



- As `ret` passes through pipeline, stall at fetch stage
  - While in decode, execute, and memory stage
- Inject bubble into decode stage
- Release stall when reach write-back stage



# Detecting Return



Condition	Trigger
Processing ret	IRET in { D_icode, E_icode, M_icode }



# Control for Return

```
# demo-retb
```

```
0x026:    ret
```

***bubble***

***bubble***

***bubble***

```
0x014:    irmovq $5,%rsi # Return
```

F	D	E	M	W					
	F	D	E	M	W				
		F	D	E	M	W			
			F	D	E	M	W		
Return				F	D	E	M	W	

Condition	F	D	E	M	W
Processing ret	stall	bubble	normal	normal	normal

# Special Control Cases

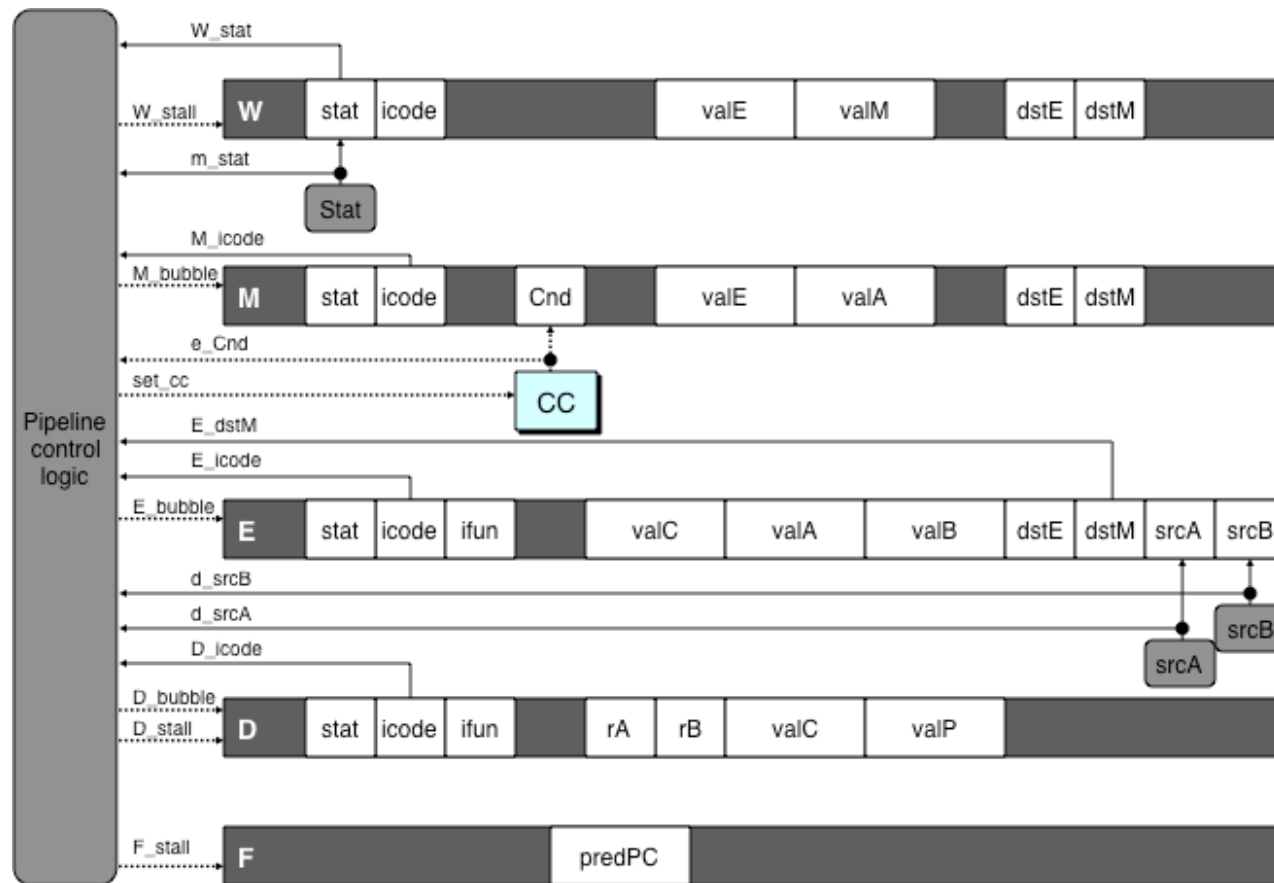
## ■ Detection

Condition	Trigger
Processing <code>ret</code>	IRET in { D_icode, E_icode, M_icode }
Load/Use Hazard	E_icode in { IMRMOVQ, IPOPOPQ } && E_dstM in { d_srcA, d_srcB }
Mispredicted Branch	E_icode = IJXX & !e_Cnd

## ■ Action (on next cycle)

Condition	F	D	E	M	W
Processing <code>ret</code>	stall	bubble	normal	normal	normal
Load/Use Hazard	stall	stall	bubble	normal	normal
Mispredicted Branch	normal	bubble	bubble	normal	normal

# Implementing Pipeline Control



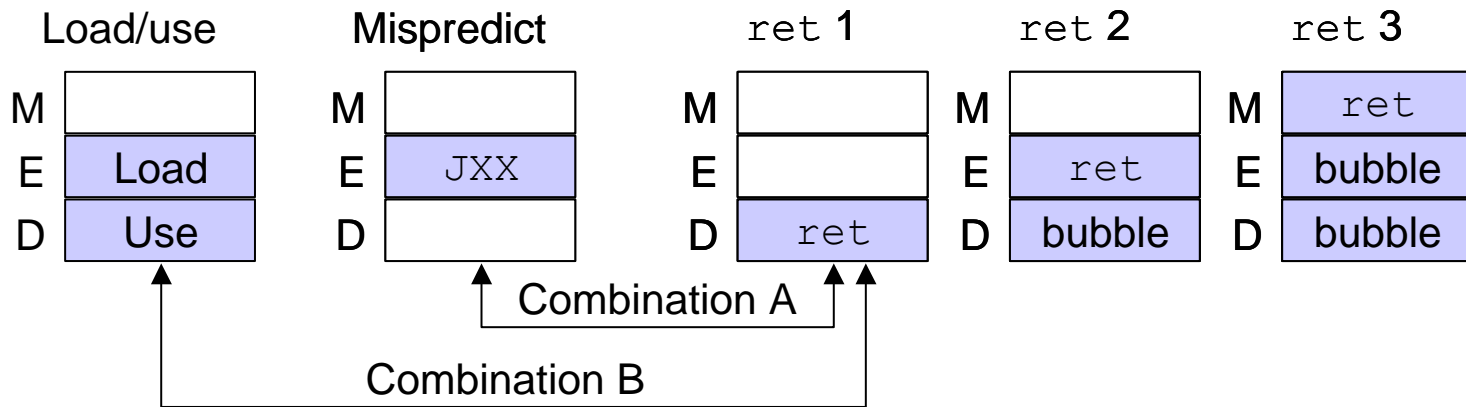
- Combinational logic generates pipeline control signals
- Action occurs at start of following cycle

# Initial Version of Pipeline Control

```
bool F_stall =  
    # Conditions for a load/use hazard  
    E_icode in { IMRMOVQ, IPOPOPQ } && E_dstM in { d_srcA, d_srcB } ||  
    # Stalling at fetch while ret passes through pipeline  
    IRET in { D_icode, E_icode, M_icode };  
  
bool D_stall =  
    # Conditions for a load/use hazard  
    E_icode in { IMRMOVQ, IPOPOPQ } && E_dstM in { d_srcA, d_srcB };  
  
bool D_bubble =  
    # Mispredicted branch  
    (E_icode == IJXX && !e_Cnd) ||  
    # Stalling at fetch while ret passes through pipeline  
    IRET in { D_icode, E_icode, M_icode };  
  
bool E_bubble =  
    # Mispredicted branch  
    (E_icode == IJXX && !e_Cnd) ||  
    # Load/use hazard  
    E_icode in { IMRMOVQ, IPOPOPQ } && E_dstM in { d_srcA, d_srcB };
```

# Control Combinations

# Control Combinations



- Special cases that can arise on same clock cycle

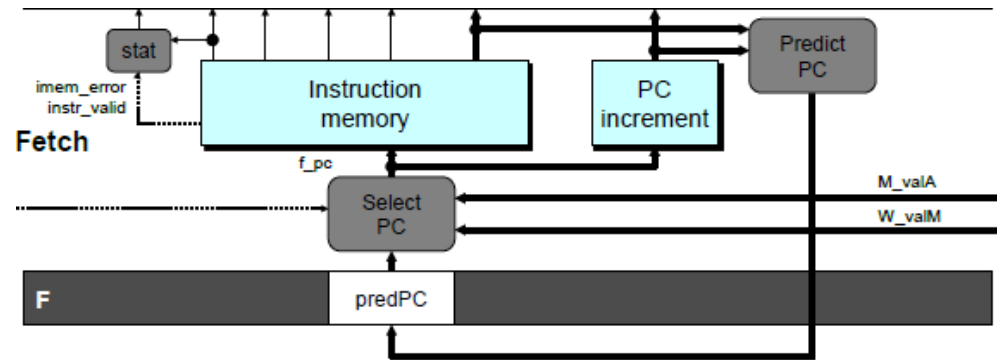
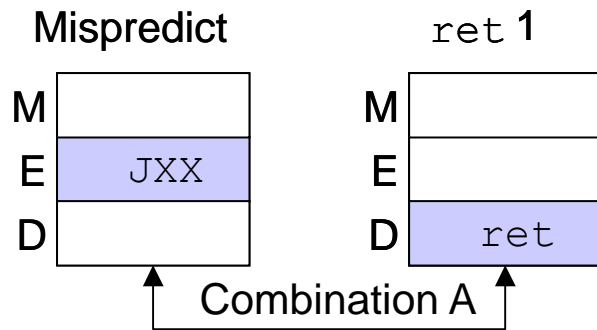
## ■ Combination A

- Not-taken branch
- `ret` instruction at branch target

## ■ Combination B

- Instruction that reads from memory to `%rsp`
- Followed by `ret` instruction

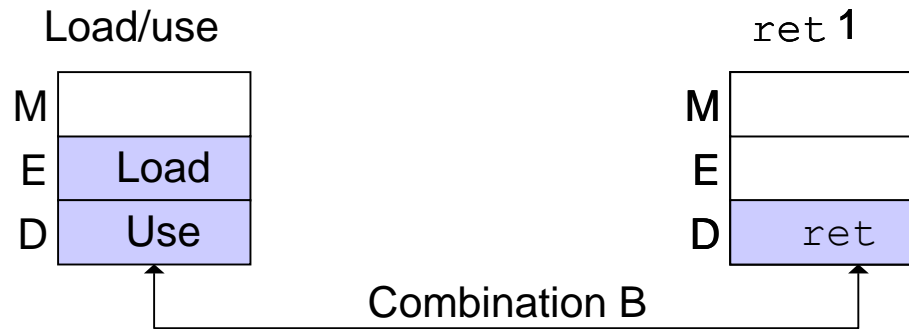
# Control Combination A



Condition	F	D	E	M	W
Processing ret	stall	bubble	normal	normal	normal
Mispredicted Branch	normal	bubble	bubble	normal	normal
Combination	stall	bubble	bubble	normal	normal

- Should handle as mispredicted branch
- Stalls F pipeline register
- But PC selection logic will be using M\_valM anyhow

# Control Combination B



Condition	F	D	E	M	W
Processing ret	stall	bubble	normal	normal	normal
Load/Use Hazard	stall	stall	bubble	normal	normal
<i>Combination</i>	<i>stall</i>	<i>bubble + stall</i>	<i>bubble</i>	<i>normal</i>	<i>normal</i>

- Would attempt to bubble *and* stall pipeline register D
- Signaled by processor as pipeline error



# Handling Control Combination B



Condition	F	D	E	M	W
Processing ret	stall	bubble	normal	normal	normal
Load/Use Hazard	stall	stall	bubble	normal	normal
<i>Combination</i>	<i>stall</i>	<i>stall</i>	<i>bubble</i>	<i>normal</i>	<i>normal</i>

- Load/use hazard should get priority
- `ret` instruction should be held in decode stage for additional cycle

# Corrected Pipeline Control Logic

```

bool D_bubble =
    # Mispredicted branch
    (E_icode == IJXX && !e_Cnd) ||
    # Stalling at fetch while ret passes through pipeline
    IRET in { D_icode, E_icode, M_icode }
    # but not condition for a load/use hazard
    && !(E_icode in { IMRMOVQ, IPOPOP }
        && E_dstM in { d_srcA, d_srcB });
  
```

Condition	F	D	E	M	W
Processing ret	stall	bubble	normal	normal	normal
Load/Use Hazard	stall	stall	bubble	normal	normal
<i>Combination</i>	<i>stall</i>	<i>stall</i>	<i>bubble</i>	<i>normal</i>	<i>normal</i>

- Load/use hazard should get priority
- `ret` instruction should be held in decode stage for additional cycle

# Pipeline Part 1: Summary

## ■ Concept

- Break instruction execution into 5 stages
- Run instructions through in pipelined mode

## ■ Limitations

- Can't handle dependencies between instructions when instructions follow too closely
- Data dependencies
  - One instruction writes register, later one reads it
- Control dependency
  - Instruction sets PC in way that pipeline did not predict correctly
  - Mispredicted branch and return

## ■ Fixing the Pipeline

- We'll do that next time

# Pipeline Part 2: Summary

## ■ Data Hazards

- Most handled by forwarding
  - No performance penalty
- Load/use hazard requires one cycle stall

## ■ Control Hazards

- Cancel instructions when detect mispredicted branch
  - Two clock cycles wasted
- Stall fetch stage while `ret` passes through pipeline
  - Three clock cycles wasted

## ■ Control Combinations

- Must analyze carefully
- First version had subtle bug
  - Only arises with unusual instruction combination