# 2013 ICS Architecture Lab Optimizing the Performance of a Pipelined Processor Assigned: September 26, Due: October 17

Diao Zhang (zdiao88@sjtu.edu.cn) is responsible for this lab.

#### 1 Introduction

In this lab, you will learn about the design and implementation of a pipelined Y86 processor, optimizing both it and a benchmark program to maximize performance. You are allowed to make any semantics preserving transformations to the benchmark program, or to make enhancements to the pipelined processor, or both. When you have completed the lab, you will have a keen appreciation for the interactions between code and hardware that affect the performance of your programs.

The lab is organized into three parts, each with its own handin. In Part A you will write some simple Y86 programs and become familiar with the Y86 tools. In Part B, you will extend the SEQ simulator with two new instructions. These two parts will prepare you for Part C, the heart of the lab, where you will optimize the Y86 benchmark program and the processor design.

# 2 Logistics

You will work on this lab alone.

Any clarifications and revisions to the assignment will be posted on the QA site.

## 3 Handout Instructions

You can get the Architecture Lab from svn of ICS Course Server (svn://ipads.se.sjtu.edu.cn/ics-se13). The sim directory include all files you need for this lab and you could build the Y86 tools by following command:

```
unix> cd sim
unix> make clean; make
```

## 4 Part A

You will be working in directory sim/misc in this part.

Your task is to write and simulate the following three Y86 programs. The required behavior of these programs is defined by the example C functions in examples.c. Be sure to put your name and ID in a comment at the beginning of each program. You can test your programs by first assemblying them with the program YAS and then running them with the instruction set simulator YIS.

For example:

```
unix> ./yas sum.ys
unix> ./yis sum.yo
```

In all of your Y86 functions, you should follow the IA32 conventions for the structure of the stack frame and for register usage instructions, including saving and restoring any callee-save registers that you use.

## sum.ys: Iteratively sum linked list elements

Write a Y86 program <code>sum.ys</code> that iteratively sums the elements of a linked list. Your program should consist of some code that sets up the stack structure, invokes a function, and then halts. In this case, the function should be Y86 code for a function (<code>sum\_list</code>) that is functionally equivalent to the C <code>sum\_list</code> function in Figure 1. Test your program using the following three-element list:

```
# Sample linked list
.align 4
ele1:
       .long 0x00a
       .long ele2
ele2:
       .long 0x0b0
       .long ele3
ele3:
       .long 0xc00
       .long 0
Test your program and the result may be:
Stopped in 31 steps at PC = 0x15. Status 'HLT', CC Z=1 S=0 O=0
Changes to registers:
%eax: 0x0000000 0x00000cba
       0x00000000 0x00000c00
%ecx:
%esp:
      0x00000000 0x00000fc
      0x00000000 0x00000100
%ebp:
Changes to memory:
0x00f4: 0x0000000
                        0x00000100
0x00f8:
          0x00000000
                        0x0000015
```

```
1 /* linked list element */
 2 typedef struct ELE {
      int val;
      struct ELE *next;
5 } *list_ptr;
7 /* sum_list - Sum the elements of a linked list */
8 int sum_list(list_ptr ls)
      int val = 0;
10
      while (ls) {
11
         val += ls->val;
13
          ls = ls - > next;
      }
14
      return val;
15
16 }
17
18 /* rsum_list - Recursive version of sum_list */
19 int rsum_list(list_ptr ls)
21
      if (!ls)
22
          return 0;
23
      else {
          int val = ls->val;
          int rest = rsum_list(ls->next);
25
          return val + rest;
26
      }
27
28 }
29
30 /* copy_block - Copy src to dest and return xor checksum of src */
31 int copy_block(int *src, int *dest, int len)
32 {
33
      int result = 0;
      while (len > 0) {
34
          int val = *src++;
35
36
          *dest++ = val;
37
          result ^= val;
          len--;
38
39
      return result;
40
41 }
```

Figure 1: C versions of the Y86 solution functions. See sim/misc/examples.c

0x00fc: 0x0000000 0x00000018

## rsum.ys: Recursively sum linked list elements

Write a Y86 program rsum.ys that recursively sums the elements of a linked list. This code should be similar to the code in sum.ys, except that it should use a function rsum\_list that recursively sums a list of numbers, as shown with the C function rsum\_list in Figure 1. Test your program using the same three-element list you used for testing list.ys.

```
Test your program and the result may be:
Stopped in 65 steps at PC = 0x15. Status 'HLT', CC Z=0 S=0 O=0
Changes to registers:
%eax:
      0x00000000
                    0x00000cba
%edx:
        0x0000000 0x0000018
      0x0000000 0x000000fc
%esp:
%ebp: 0x0000000 0x00000100
Changes to memory:
0x00c0: 0x0000000
                      0x00000c00
0x00c4:
         0x00000000
                      0x000000d4
0x00c8: 0x0000000
                      0x00000056
0x00d0: 0x0000000
                      0x000000b0
0x00d4: 0x0000000
                      0x000000e4
0x00d8:
        0x00000000
                      0x00000056
0x00dc:
        0x00000000
                      0x00000028
        0x00000000
                      0x0000000a
0x00e0:
         0x00000000
0x00e4:
                      0x000000f4
0x00e8:
         0x00000000
                      0x00000056
0x00ec: 0x0000000
                      0x00000020
0x00f4: 0x0000000
                      0x00000100
0x00f8: 0x0000000
                      0x00000015
0x00fc:
         0x00000000
                      0x0000018
```

#### copy.ys: Copy a source block to a destination block

Write a program (copy.ys) that copies a block of words from one part of memory to another (non-overlapping area) area of memory, computing the checksum (Xor) of all the words copied.

Your program should consist of code that sets up a stack frame, invokes a function <code>copy\_block</code>, and then halts. The function should be functionally equivalent to the C function <code>copy\_block</code> shown in Figure Figure 1. Test your program using the following three-element source and destination blocks:

```
.long 0x0b0
       .long 0xc00
# Destination block
dest:
       .long 0x111
       .long 0x222
       .long 0x333
Test your program and the result may be:
Stopped in 52 steps at PC = 0x25. Status 'HLT', CC Z=1 S=0 O=0
Changes to registers:
%eax:
        0x00000000
                      0x00000cba
%ecx:
        0x00000000
                     0x00000040
        0x0000000 0x0000034
%ebx:
%esp: 0x0000000 0x000000f4
%ebp:
        0x0000000 0x00000100
%esi:
       0x00000000 0x00000cba
      0x0000000 0x0000004
%edi:
Changes to memory:
0x0034: 0x00000111
                       0x0000000a
0x0038:
         0x00000222
                       0x000000b0
0x003c:
        0x00000333
                       0x00000c00
0x00ec:
         0x00000000
                       0x00000100
0x00f0:
         0x00000000
                       0x00000025
0x00f4:
          0x00000000
                        0x00000028
0x00f8:
          0x00000000
                        0x00000034
0x00fc:
          0x00000000
                       0x0000003
```

## 5 Part B

You will be working in directory sim/seq in this part.

Your task in Part B is to extend the SEQ processor to support two new instructions: iaddl (described in Homework problems 4.48 and 4.50) and leave (described in Homework problems 4.47 and 4.49). To add these instructions, you will modify the file seq-full.hcl, which implements the version of SEQ described in the CS:APP2e textbook. In addition, it contains declarations of some constants that you will need for your solution.

Your HCL file must begin with a header comment containing the following information:

- Your name and ID.
- A description of the computations required for the iaddl instruction. Use the descriptions of irmovl and OPl in Figure 4.18 in the CS:APP2e text as a guide.
- A description of the computations required for the leave instruction. Use the description of popl in Figure 4.20 in the CS:APP2e text as a guide.

## **Building and Testing Your Solution**

Once you have finished modifying the seq-full.hcl file, then you will need to build a new instance of the SEQ simulator (ssim) based on this HCL file, and then test it:

• Building a new simulator. You can use make to build a new SEQ simulator:

```
unix> make VERSION=full

The result of the command may be:
Building the seq-full.hcl version of SEQ
../misc/hcl2c -n seq-full.hcl <seq-full.hcl >seq-full.c
gcc -Wall -O2 -I../misc -o ssim seq-full.c ssim.c ../misc/isa.c -lm
```

Also some warnings are insignificant.

This builds a version of ssim that uses the control logic you specified in seq-full.hcl.

• Testing your solution on a simple Y86 program. For your initial testing, we recommend running simple programs such as asumi.yo (testing iaddl) and asuml.yo (testing leave) in TTY mode, comparing the results against the ISA simulation:

```
unix> ./ssim -t ../y86-code/asumi.yo
unix> ./ssim -t ../y86-code/asuml.yo
The result may be:
Y86 Processor: seq-full.hcl
112 bytes of code read
IF: Fetched irmovl at 0x0. ra=---, rb=%esp, valC = 0x100
IF: Fetched irmovl at 0x6. ra=---, rb=%ebp, valC = 0x100
IF: Fetched ret at 0x72. ra=---, rb=---, valC = 0x0
IF: Fetched halt at 0x39. ra=---, rb=---, valC = 0x0
38 instructions executed
Status = HLT
Condition Codes: Z=1 S=0 O=0
Changed Register State:
%eax: 0x0000000 0x0000abcd
%ecx: 0x0000000 0x00000024
%esp: 0x0000000 0x000000f8
      0x00000000 0x00000100
%ebp:
     0x0000000 0x0000a000
Changed Memory State:
0x00f0: 0x0000000 0x00000100
0x00f4:
        0x0000000 0x0000039
0x00f8: 0x0000000 0x00000014
0x00fc:
        0x00000000 0x0000004
ISA Check Succeeds
```

Retesting your solution using the benchmark programs. Once your simulator is able to correctly
execute small programs, then you can automatically test it on the Y86 benchmark programs in
../y86-code:

```
unix> (cd ../y86-code; make testssim)
```

This will run ssim on the benchmark programs and check for correctness by comparing the resulting processor state with the state from a high-level ISA simulation. Note that none of these programs test the added instructions. You are simply making sure that your solution did not inject errors for the original instructions. See file ../y86-code/README file for more details.

```
The result may be:
../seq/ssim -t asum.yo > asum.seq
../seq/ssim -t asumr.yo > asumr.seq
.....
../seq/ssim -t prog7.yo > prog7.seq
../seq/ssim -t prog8.yo > prog8.seq
../seq/ssim -t ret-hazard.yo > ret-hazard.seq
grep "ISA Check" *.seq
asum.seq:ISA Check Succeeds
.....
prog7.seq:ISA Check Succeeds
prog8.seq:ISA Check Succeeds
pushquestion.seq:ISA Check Succeeds
pushtest.seq:ISA Check Succeeds
ret-hazard.seq:ISA Check Succeeds
```

• *Performing regression tests*. Once you can execute the benchmark programs correctly, then you should run the extensive set of regression tests in ../ptest. To test everything except iaddl and leave:

```
unix> (cd ../ptest; make SIM=../seq/ssim)

The test result:
   ./optest.pl -s ../seq/ssim

Simulating with ../seq/ssim
   All 49 ISA Checks Succeed
   ./jtest.pl -s ../seq/ssim

Simulating with ../seq/ssim
   All 64 ISA Checks Succeed
   ./ctest.pl -s ../seq/ssim

Simulating with ../seq/ssim
   All 22 ISA Checks Succeed
   ./htest.pl -s ../seq/ssim

Simulating with ../seq/ssim

Simulating with ../seq/ssim

Simulating with ../seq/ssim
```

To test your implementation of iaddl:

```
(cd ../ptest; make SIM=../seq/ssim TFLAGS=-i)
The test result:
./optest.pl -s ../seq/ssim -i
Simulating with ../seq/ssim
 All 58 ISA Checks Succeed
./jtest.pl -s ../seq/ssim -i
Simulating with ../seq/ssim
  All 96 ISA Checks Succeed
./ctest.pl -s ../seq/ssim -i
Simulating with ../seq/ssim
 All 22 ISA Checks Succeed
./htest.pl -s ../seq/ssim -i
Simulating with ../seq/ssim
  All 756 ISA Checks Succeed
To test your implementation of leave:
      (cd ../ptest; make SIM=../seq/ssim TFLAGS=-1)
The test result:
./optest.pl -s ../seq/ssim -l
Simulating with ../seq/ssim
 All 50 ISA Checks Succeed
./jtest.pl -s ../seq/ssim -l
Simulating with ../seq/ssim
  All 64 ISA Checks Succeed
./ctest.pl -s ../seq/ssim -l
Simulating with ../seq/ssim
  All 22 ISA Checks Succeed
./htest.pl -s ../seq/ssim -l
Simulating with ../seq/ssim
  All 702 ISA Checks Succeed
To test both iaddl and leave:
       (cd ../ptest; make SIM=../seq/ssim TFLAGS=-il)
The test result:
./optest.pl -s ../seq/ssim -il
Simulating with ../seq/ssim
 All 59 ISA Checks Succeed
./jtest.pl -s ../seq/ssim -il
Simulating with ../seq/ssim
 All 96 ISA Checks Succeed
./ctest.pl -s ../seq/ssim -il
Simulating with ../seq/ssim
  All 22 ISA Checks Succeed
./htest.pl -s ../seq/ssim -il
Simulating with ../seq/ssim
  All 870 ISA Checks Succeed
```

```
2 * ncopy - copy src to dst, returning number of positive ints
   * contained in src array.
   */
5 int ncopy(int *src, int *dst, int len)
7
      int count = 0;
8
      int val;
9
      while (len > 0) {
10
          val = *src++;
11
          *dst++ = val;
12
13
          if (val > 0)
              count++;
          len--;
15
     }
16
      return count;
17
18 }
```

Figure 2: C version of the ncopy function. See sim/pipe/ncopy.c.

For more information on the SEQ simulator refer to the handout *CS:APP2e Guide to Y86 Processor Simulators* (simguide.pdf).

## 6 Part C

You will be working in directory sim/pipe in this part.

The ncopy function in Figure 2 copies a len-element integer array src to a non-overlapping dst, returning a count of the number of positive integers contained in src. Figure 3 shows the baseline Y86 version of ncopy. The file pipe-full.hcl contains a copy of the HCL code for PIPE, along with a declaration of the constant value IIADDL.

Your task in Part C is to modify ncopy.ys and pipe-full.hcl with the goal of making ncopy.ys run as fast as possible. The README file can help you.

You will be handing in two files: pipe-full.hcl and ncopy.ys. Each file should begin with a header comment with the following information:

- Your name and ID.
- A high-level description of your code. In each case, describe how and why you modified your code.

## **Coding Rules**

You are free to make any modifications you wish, with the following constraints:

```
2 # ncopy.ys - Copy a src block of len ints to dst.
3 # Return the number of positive ints (>0) contained in src.
5 # Include your name and ID here.
7 # Describe how and why you modified the baseline code.
10 # Do not modify this portion
11 # Function prologue.
12 ncopy: pushl %ebp
                         # Save old frame pointer
13 rrmovl %esp,%ebp
                        # Set up new frame pointer
14
      pushl %esi
                         # Save callee-save regs
      pushl %ebx
15
      pushl %edi
16
       mrmovl 8(%ebp),%ebx
                         # src
17
      mrmovl 16(%ebp),%edx
18
                         # len
19
       mrmovl 12(%ebp),%ecx
                         # dst
20
22 # You can modify this portion
2.3
       # Loop header
       xorl %eax,%eax
                         # count = 0;
2.4
                        # len <= 0?
       andl %edx,%edx
25
                         # if so, goto Done:
26
       jle Done
27
28 Loop: mrmovl (%ebx), %esi # read val from src...
     mrmovi (%ecx)
                         # ...and store it to dst
29
      andl %esi, %esi
                         # val <= 0?
       jle Npos
                         # if so, goto Npos:
31
       irmovl $1, %edi
32
       addl %edi, %eax
                         # count++
34 Npos: irmovl $1, %edi
subl %edi, %edx
                         # len--
      irmovl $4, %edi
36
      addl %edi, %ebx
                         # src++
       addl %edi, %ecx
                         # dst++
       andl %edx, %edx
                         # len > 0?
39
       jg Loop
                          # if so, goto Loop:
40
42 # Do not modify the following section of code
43 # Function epilogue.
44 Done:
45
      popl %edi
                          # Restore callee-save registers
46
       popl %ebx
       popl %esi
47
       rrmovl %ebp, %esp
48
      popl %ebp
       ret
52 # Keep the following label at the end of your function
53 End:
                           10
```

Figure 3: Baseline Y86 version of the ncopy function. See sim/pipe/ncopy.ys.

- Your ncopy.ys function must work for arbitrary array sizes. You might be tempted to hardwire your solution for 64-element arrays by simply coding 64 copy instructions, but this would be a bad idea because we will be grading your solution based on its performance on arbitrary arrays.
- Your ncopy.ys function must run correctly with YIS. By correctly, we mean that it must correctly copy the src block *and* return (in %eax) the correct number of positive integers.
- Your pipe-full.hcl implementation must pass the regression tests in ../y86-code and ../ptest (without the -il flags that test iaddl and leave).

Other than that, you are free to implement the iaddl instruction if you think that will help. You may make any semantics preserving transformations to the ncopy.ys function, such as reordering instructions, replacing groups of instructions with single instructions, deleting some instructions, and adding other instructions. You may find it useful to read about loop unrolling in Section 5.8 of CS:APP2e.

#### **Building and Running Your Solution**

In order to test your solution, you will need to build a driver program that calls your ncopy function. We have provided you with the gen-driver.pl program that generates a driver program for arbitrary sized input arrays. For example, typing

```
unix> make drivers
```

will construct the following two useful driver programs:

- sdriver.yo: A *small driver program* that tests an ncopy function on small arrays with 4 elements. If your solution is correct, then this program will halt with a value of 2 in register %eax after copying the src array.
- ldriver.yo: A *large driver program* that tests an ncopy function on larger arrays with 63 elements. If your solution is correct, then this program will halt with a value of 31 (0x1f) in register %eax after copying the src array.

Each time you modify your ncopy. ys program, you can rebuild the driver programs by typing

```
unix> make drivers
```

Each time you modify your pipe-full.hcl file, you can rebuild the simulator by typing

```
unix> make psim VERSION=full
```

If you want to rebuild the simulator and the driver programs, type

```
unix> make VERSION=full
```

To test your solution on a small 4-element array, type

```
unix> ./psim sdriver.yo
The result may be:
Cycle 93. CC=Z=1 S=0 O=0, Stat=AOK
F: predPC = 0x30
D: instr = pushl, rA = %esi, rB = ----, valC = 0x0, valP = 0x30, Stat = AOK
E: instr = rrmovl, valC = 0x0, valA = 0xf8, valB = 0x0
  srcA = %esp, srcB = ----, dstE = %ebp, dstM = ----, Stat = AOK
M: instr = nop, Cnd = 0, valE = 0x0, valA = 0x0
  dstE = ----, dstM = ----, Stat = BUB
94 instructions executed
Status = HLT
Condition Codes: Z=1 S=0 O=0
Changed Register State:
      0x0000000 0x0000002
%ecx:
       0x00000000 0x00000c4
%esp: 0x00000000 0x000000fc
        0x0000000
                    0x00000108
%ebp:
Changed Memory State:
0x00b4: 0x00cdefab 0x0000001
0x00b8: 0x00cdefab 0x0000002
0x00bc: 0x00cdefab 0xfffffffd
0x00c0: 0x00cdefab 0xfffffffc
0x00f4: 0x0000000 0x00000108
0x00f8: 0x0000000 0x00000029
0x00fc: 0x0000000
                       0x00000090
0x0100:
          0x00000000
                       0x000000b4
0 \times 0104:
          0x00000000
                       0x00000004
```

To test your solution on a larger 63-element array, type

```
unix> ./psim ldriver.yo
```

Once your simulator correctly runs your version of ncopy.ys on these two block lengths, you will want to perform the following additional tests:

• Testing your driver files on the ISA simulator. Make sure that your ncopy.ys function works properly with YIS:

```
unix> make drivers
unix> ../misc/yis sdriver.yo
```

• Testing your code on a range of block lengths with the ISA simulator. The Perl script correctness.pl generates driver files with block lengths from 0 up to some limit (default 65), plus some larger sizes. It simulates them (by default with YIS), and checks the results. It generates a report showing the status for each block length:

```
unix> ./correctness.pl
```

This script generates test programs where the result count varies randomly from one run to another, and so it provides a more stringent test than the standard drivers.

If you get incorrect results for some length K, you can generate a driver file for that length that includes checking code, and where the result varies randomly:

```
unix> ./gen-driver.pl -f ncopy.ys -n K -rc > driver.ys unix> make driver.yo unix> ../misc/yis driver.yo
```

The program will end with register %eax having the following value:

0xaaaa : All tests pass.0xbbbb : Incorrect count

**Oxccc**: Function ncopy is more than 1000 bytes long.

**0xdddd**: Some of the source data was not copied to its destination.

Oxeeee: Some word just before or just after the destination region was corrupted.

• Testing your pipeline simulator on the benchmark programs. Once your simulator is able to correctly execute sdriver.ys and ldriver.ys, you should test it against the Y86 benchmark programs in ../y86-code:

```
unix> (cd ../y86-code; make testpsim)
```

This will run psim on the benchmark programs and compare results with YIS.

• Testing your pipeline simulator with extensive regression tests. Once you can execute the benchmark programs correctly, then you should check it with the regression tests in ../ptest. For example, if your solution implements the iaddl instruction, then

```
unix> (cd ../ptest; make SIM=../pipe/psim TFLAGS=-i)
```

#### 7 Evaluation

The lab is worth 160 points: 30 points for Part A, 50 points for Part B, and 80 points for Part C.

#### Part A

Part A is worth 30 points, 10 points for each Y86 solution program. Each solution program will be evaluated for correctness, including proper handling of the stack and registers, as well as functional equivalence with the example C functions in examples.c.

The programs sum.ys and rsum.ys will be considered correct if the graders do not spot any errors in them, and their respective sum\_list and rsum\_list functions return the sum 0xcba in register %eax.

The program copy.ys will be considered correct if the copy\_block function returns the sum 0xcba in register %eax, copies the three words 0x00a, 0x0b, and 0xc to the 12 contiguous memory locations beginning at address dest, and does not corrupt other memory locations.

#### Part B

This part of the lab is worth 50 points:

- 5 points for your description of the computations required for the iaddl instruction.
- 5 points for your description of the computations required for the leave instruction.
- 10 points for passing the benchmark regression tests in y86-code, to verify that your simulator still correctly executes the benchmark suite.
- 15 points for passing the regression tests in ptest for iaddl.
- 15 points for passing the regression tests in ptest for leave.

#### Part C

This part of the Lab is worth 80 points: You will not receive any credit if either your code for ncopy.ys or your modified simulator fails any of the tests described earlier.

- 10 points each for your descriptions in the headers of ncopy.ys and pipe-full.hcl and the quality of these implementations.
- 60 points for performance. To receive credit here, your solution must be correct, as defined earlier. That is, ncopy runs correctly with YIS, and pipe-full.hcl passes all tests in y86-code and ptest.

We will express the performance of your function in units of cycles per element (CPE). That is, if the simulated code requires C cycles to copy a block of N elements, then the CPE is C/N. The PIPE simulator displays the total number of cycles required to complete the program. The baseline version of the ncopy function running on the standard PIPE simulator with a large 63-element array requires 914 cycles to copy 63 elements, for a CPE of 914/63 = 14.51.

Since some cycles are used to set up the call to ncopy and to set up the loop within ncopy, you will find that you will get different values of the CPE for different block lengths (generally the CPE will drop as N increases). We will therefore evaluate the performance of your function by computing the average of the CPEs for blocks ranging from 1 to 64 elements. You can use the Perl script benchmark.pl in the pipe directory to run simulations of your ncopy.ys code over a range of block lengths and compute the average CPE. Simply run the command

```
unix> ./benchmark.pl
```

to see what happens. For example, the baseline version of the ncopy function has CPE values ranging between 46.0 and 14.51, with an average of 16.44. Note that this Perl script does not check for the correctness of the answer. Use the script correctness.pl for this.

You should be able to achieve an average CPE of less than 8.43. The standard of score:

```
Performance and score:

Less than 7.80 == 60

7.80~8.63 == 50

8.63~11.59 == 40

11.59~ == 0
```

## **8 Handin Instructions**

- You will be handing in three sets of files:
- Part A: sum.ys, rsum.ys, and copy.ys.
- Part B: seq-full.hcl.
- Part C: ncopy.ys and pipe-full.hcl.
- Make sure you have included your name and ID in a comment at the top of each of your handin files.
- All these files should be saved in the root directory of lab7 and submitted through svn.

## 9 Hints

• The psim and ssim simulators terminate with a segmentation fault if you ask them to execute a file that is not a valid Y86 object file.