Modern Processor Design (I): in the pipeline

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Outline

- Pipelined Processor
- Pipeline Hazards
  - Structural Hazards
  - Control Hazards
  - Data Hazards

Which swap is faster?

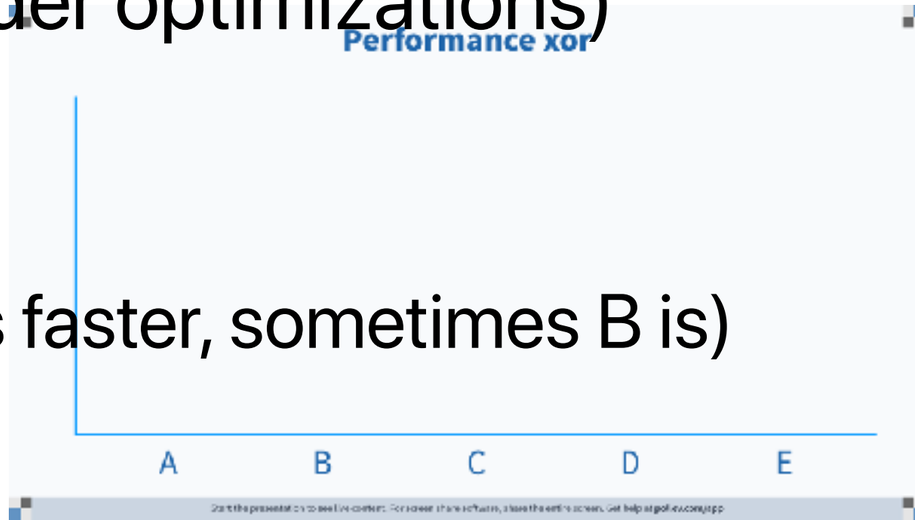
A

```
void regswap(int* a, int* b) {
    int temp = *a;
    *a = *b;
    *b = temp;
}
```

B

```
void xorswap(int* a, int* b) {
    *a ^= *b;
    *b ^= *a;
    *a ^= *b;
}
```

- Both version A and B swaps content pointed by a and b correctly. Which version of code would have better performance? (you may or may not consider optimizations)
  A. Version A
  B. Version B
  C. They are about the same (sometimes A is faster, sometimes B is)



Recap: Why adding a sort makes it faster

- Why the sorting the array speed up the code despite the increased instruction count?

```
if(option)
    std::sort(data, data + arraySize);

for (unsigned i = 0; i < 100000; ++i) {
    int threshold = std::rand();
    for (unsigned i = 0; i < arraySize; ++i) {
        if (data[i] >= threshold)
            sum ++;
    }
}
```

Basic Processor Design

von Neumman Architecture

509cbd23

00c2e800

Processor

Instructions	Data
0f00bb27	00c2e800
509cbd23	00000008
00005d24	00c2f000
0000bd24	00000008
2ca422a0	00c2f800
130020e4	00000008
00003d24	00c30000
2ca4e2b3	00000008

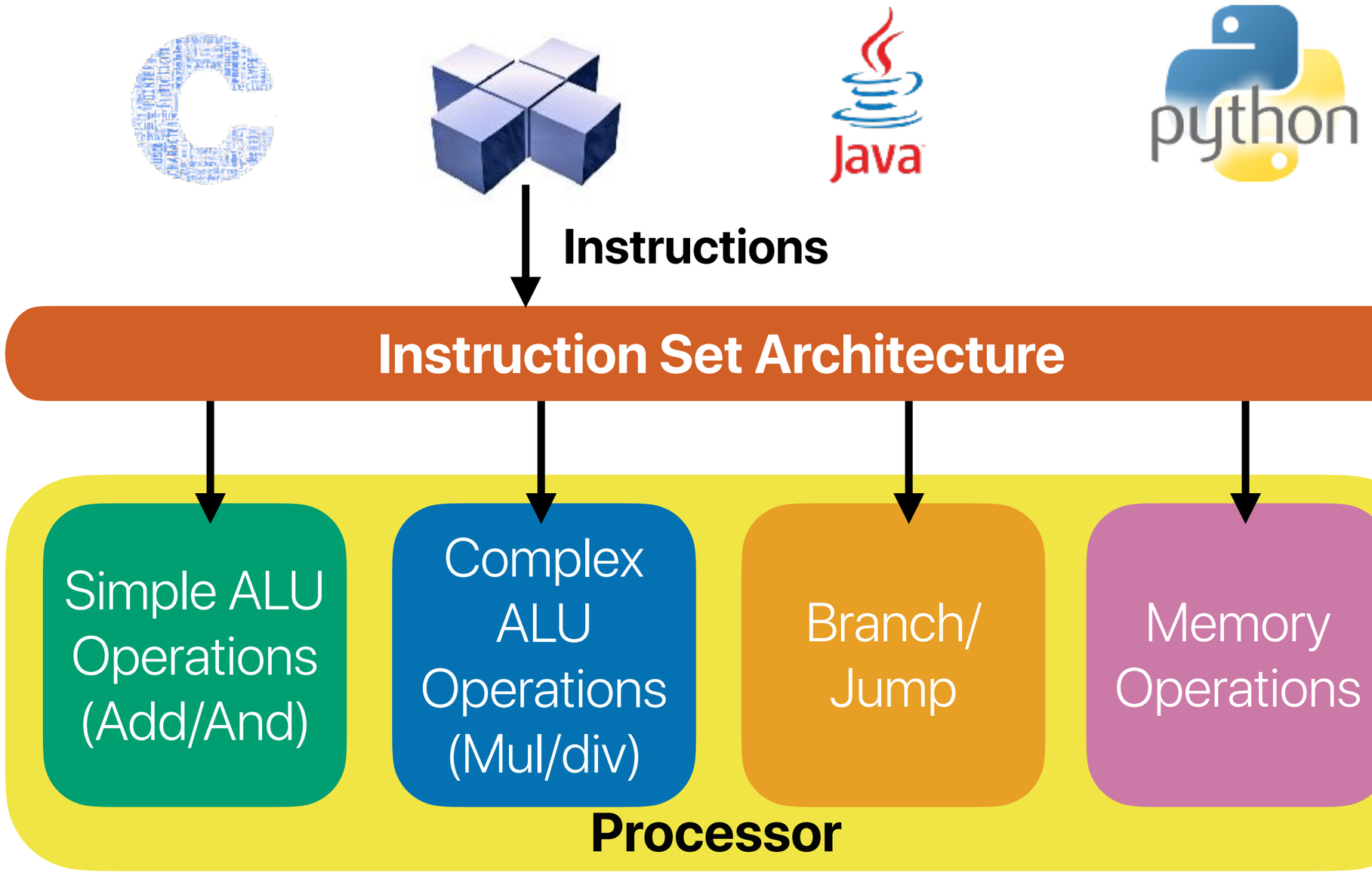
Memory

Program

Instructions	Data
0f00bb27	00c2e800
509cbd23	00000008
00005d24	00c2f000
0000bd24	00000008
2ca422a0	00c2f800
130020e4	00000008
00003d24	00c30000
2ca4e2b3	00000008

Storage

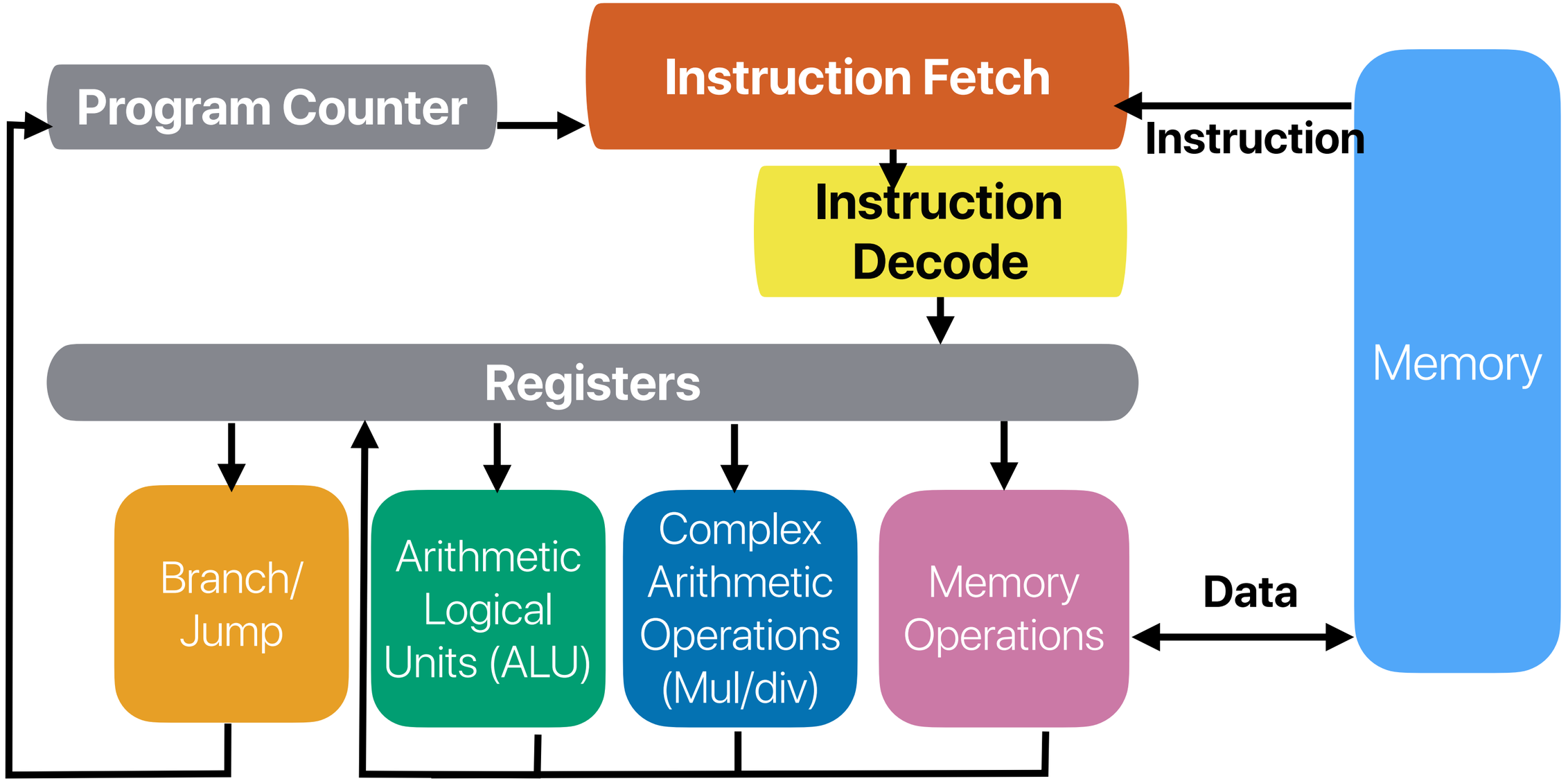
Recap: Microprocessor — a collection of functional units



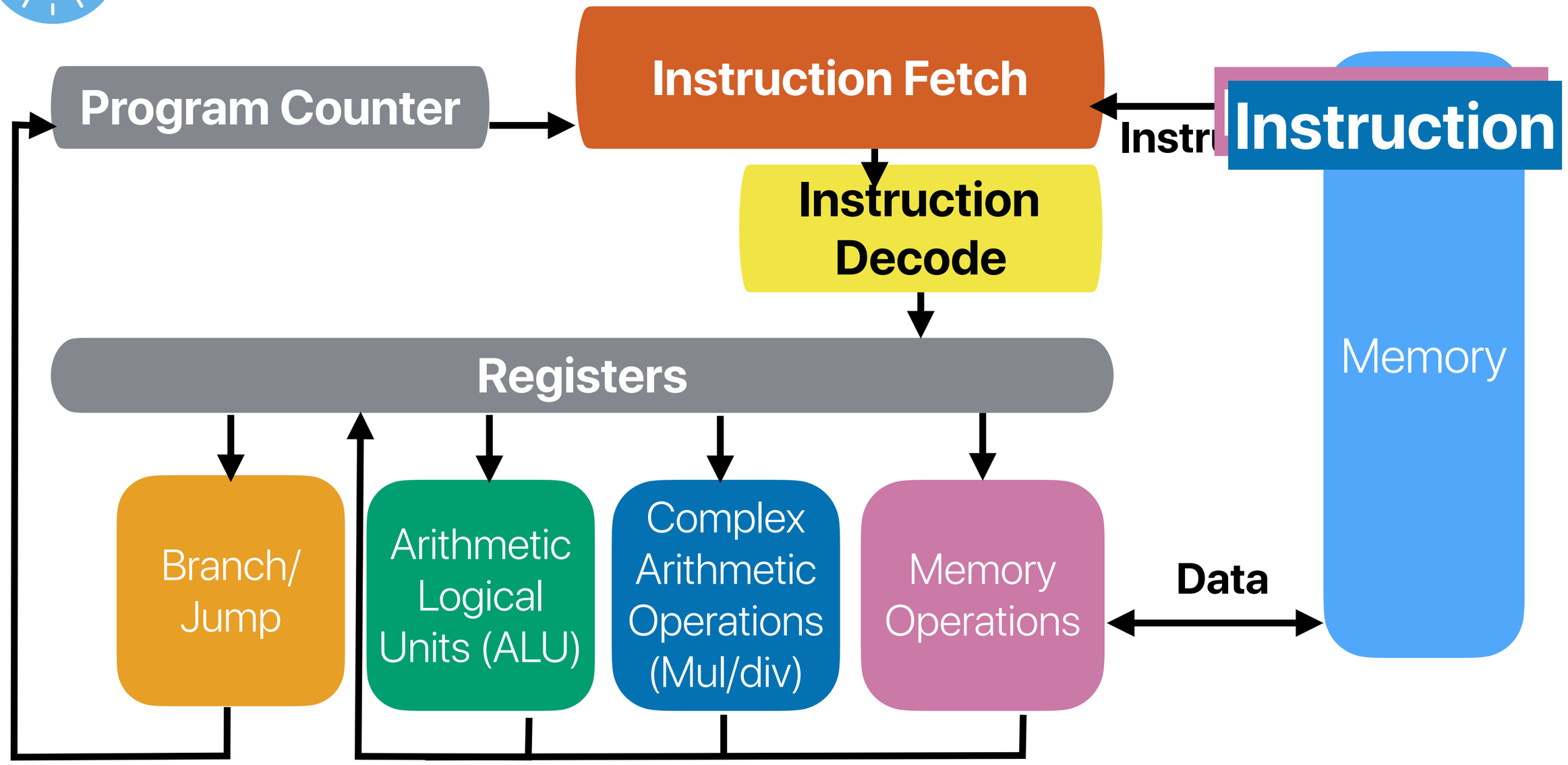
The “life” of an instruction

- Instruction Fetch (**IF**) — fetch the instruction from memory
- Instruction Decode (**ID**)
  - Decode the instruction for the desired operation and operands
  - Reading source register values
- Execution (**EX**)
  - ALU instructions: Perform ALU operations
  - Conditional Branch: Determine the branch outcome (taken/not taken)
  - Memory instructions: Determine the effective address for data memory access
- Data Memory Access (**MEM**) — Read/write memory
- Write Back (**WB**) — Present ALU result/read value in the target register
- Update PC
  - If the branch is taken — set to the branch target address
  - Otherwise — advance to the next instruction — current PC + 4

"Basic" idea of the processor

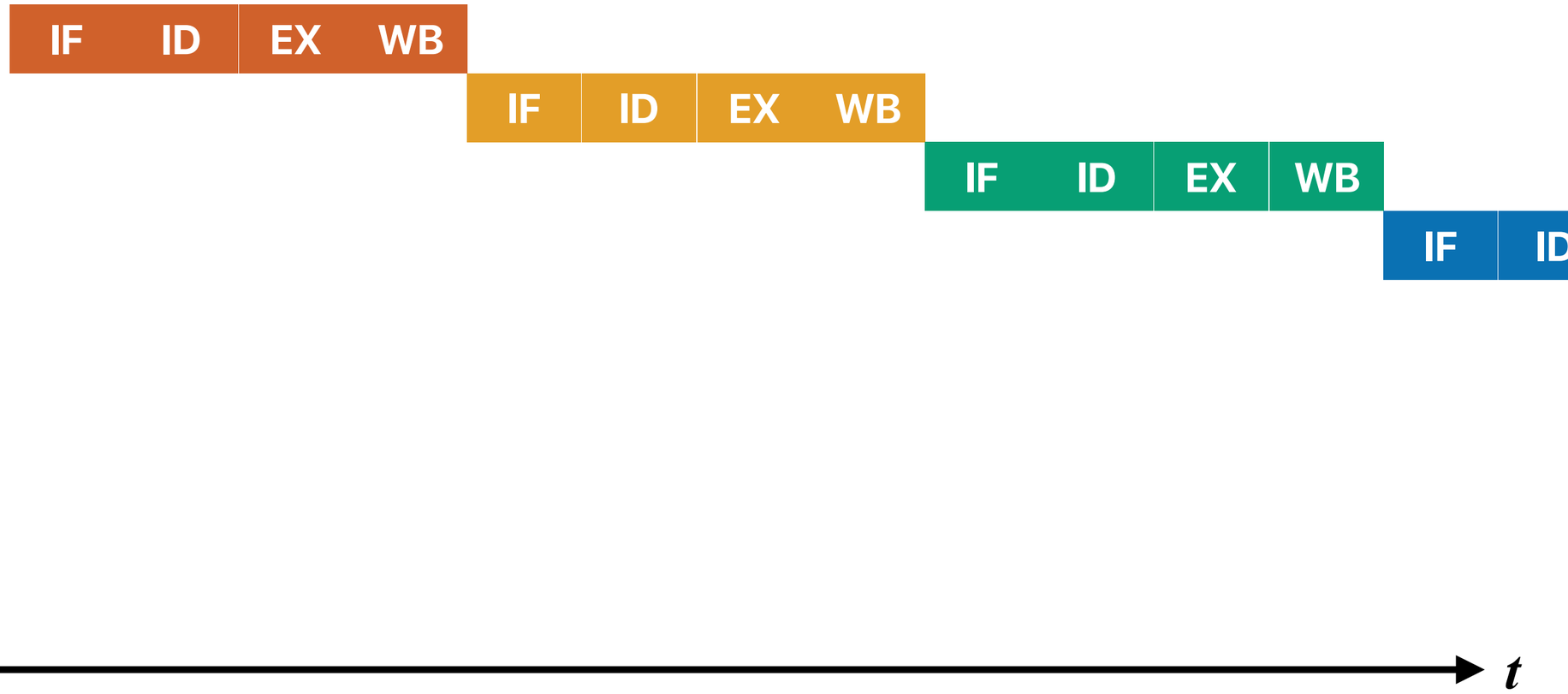


Within a cycle…



Simple implementation w/o branch

```
addl   %eax, %eax
addl   %rdi, %ecx
addq   $4, %r11
testl %esi, %esi
movl   $10, %edx
```



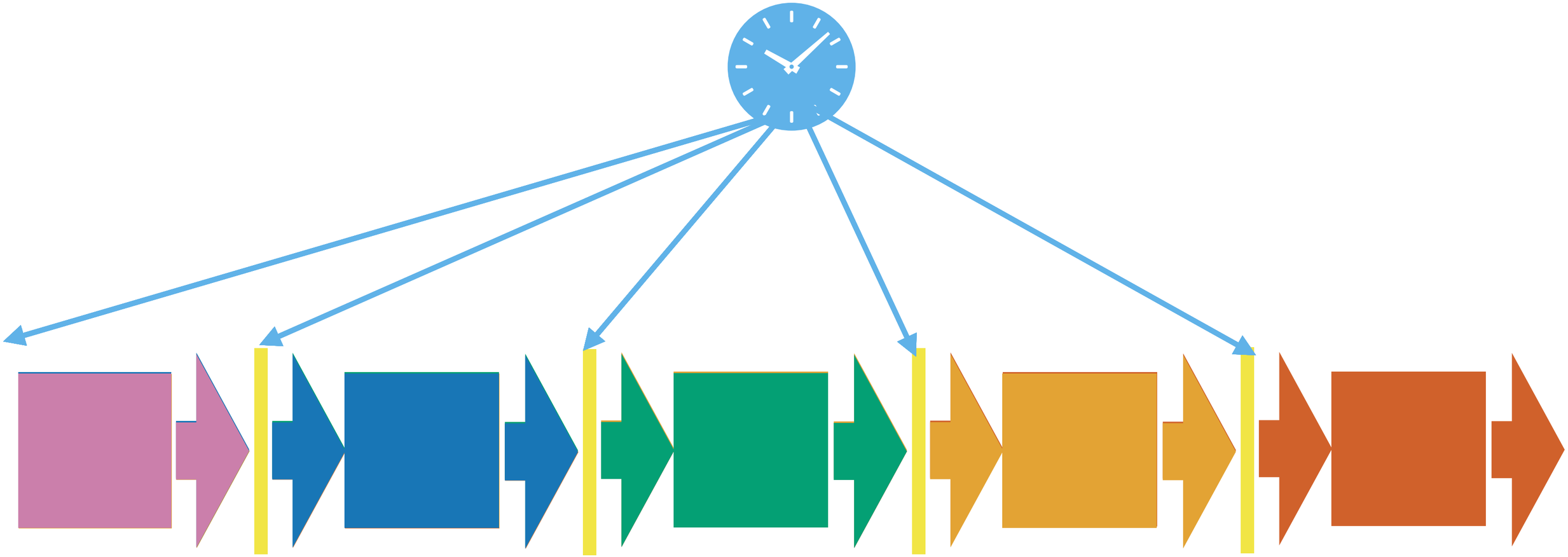
Pipelining


×83
×05
×05
×04
004861790
163
41

Pipelining

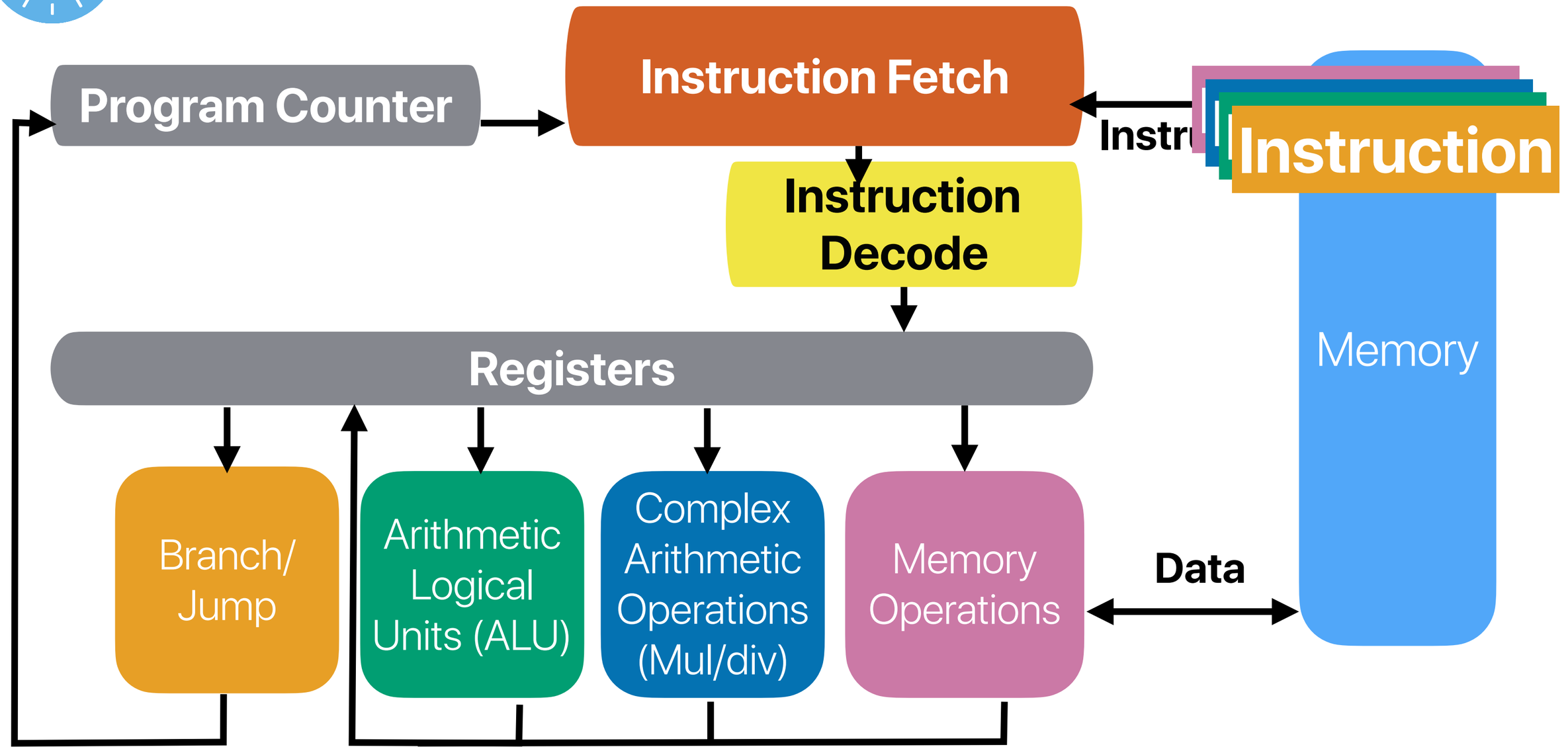
- Different parts of the processor works on different instructions simultaneously
- A processor is now working on multiple instructions from the same program (though on different stages) simultaneously.
  - ILP: **Instruction-level parallelism**
- A **clock** signal controls and synchronize the beginning and the end of each part of the work
- A **pipeline register** between different parts of the processor to keep intermediate results necessary for the upcoming work

Pipelining



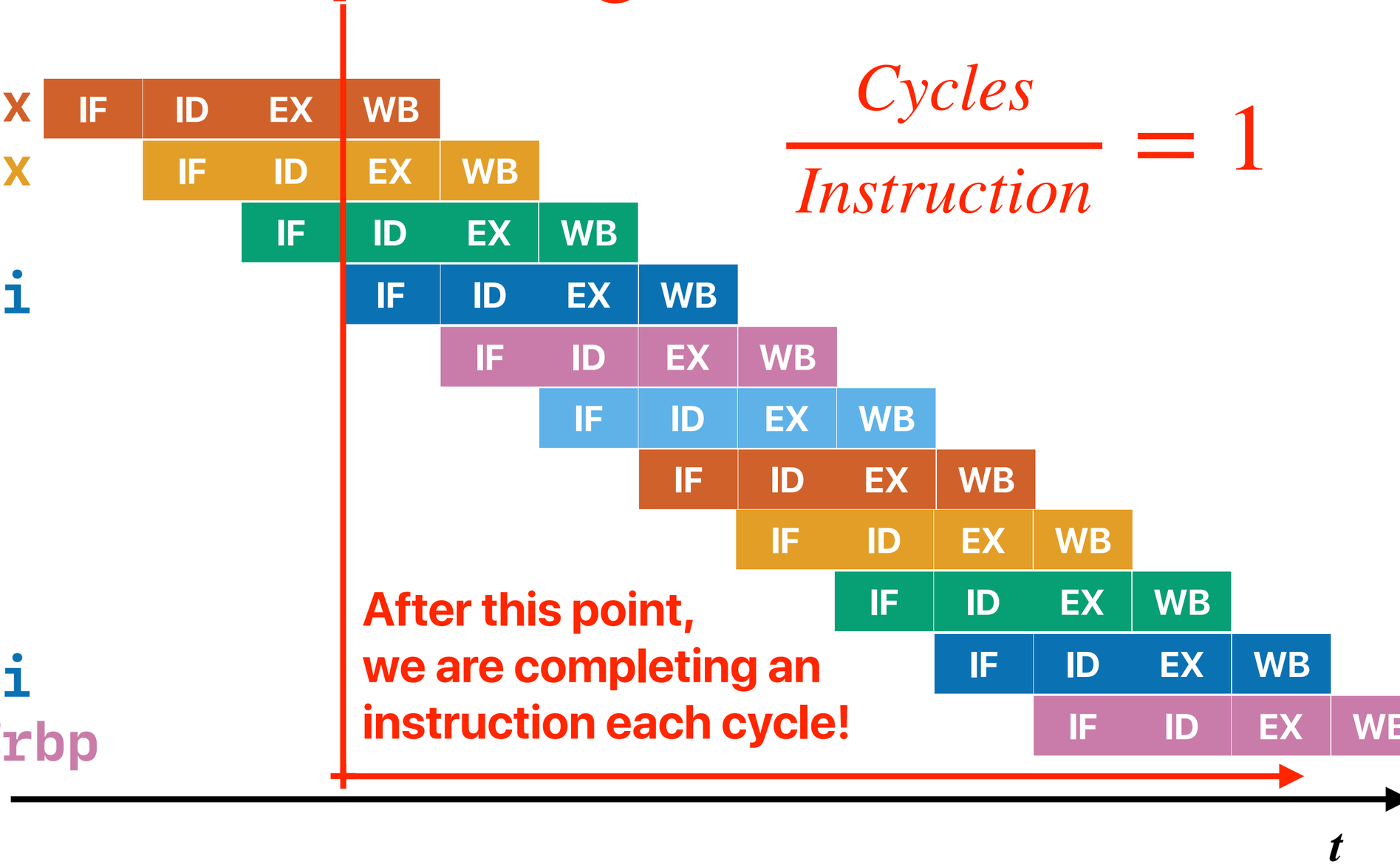
Pipelining

"Pipeline" the processor!



Pipelining

```
addl   %eax, %eax
addl   %rdi, %ecx
addq   $4, %r11
testl %esi, %esi
movl   $10, %edx
pushq %r12
pushq %rbp
pushq %rbx
subq   $8, %rsp
addl   %rsi, %rdi
movslq  %eax, %rbp
```



$$\frac{Cycles}{Instruction} = 1$$

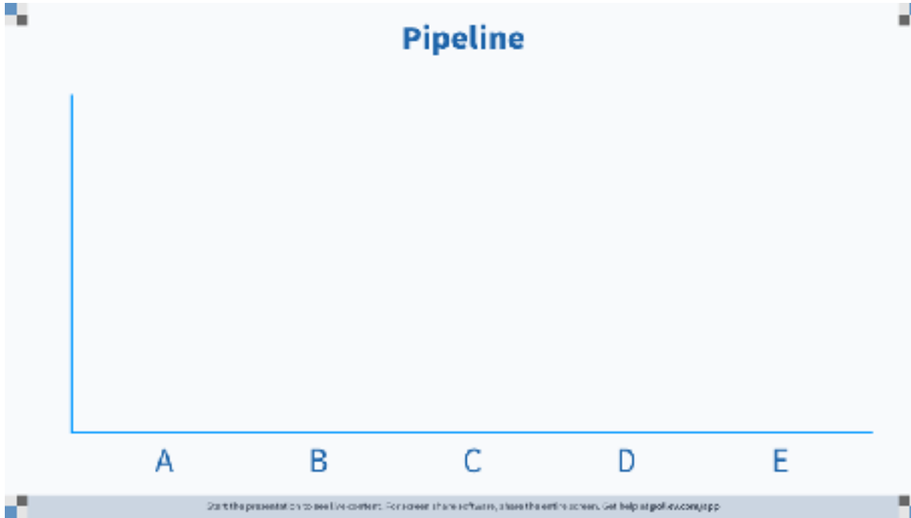
How well can we pipeline?

- With a pipelined design, the processor is supposed to deliver the outcome of an instruction each cycle. For the following code snippet, how many pairs of instructions are preventing the pipeline from generating results in back-to-back cycles?

```
①       xorl    %eax, %eax
② L3:   movl    (%rdi), %ecx
③       addl    %ecx, %eax
④       addq    $4, %rdi
⑤       cmpq    %rdx, %rdi
⑥       jne     .L3
⑦       ret
```

A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4
E. 5

```
for(i = 0; i < count; i++) {
    s += a[i];
}
return s;
```



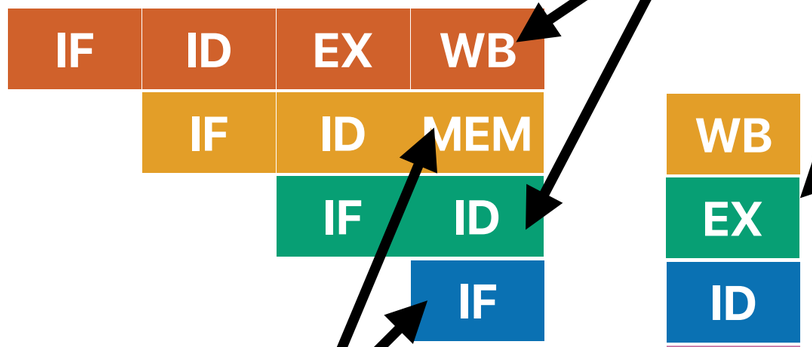
Pipeline hazards

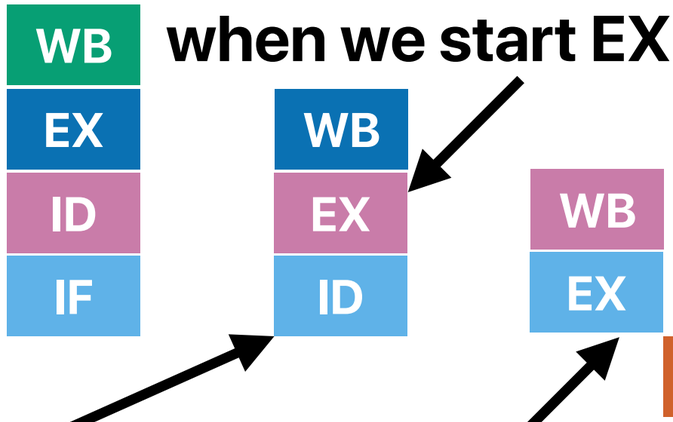
Three types of pipeline hazards

- Structural hazards — resource conflicts cannot support simultaneous execution of instructions in the pipeline
- Control hazards — the PC can be changed by an instruction in the pipeline
- Data hazards — an instruction depending on a the result that's not yet generated or propagated when the instruction needs that

Pipelining

```
① xorl %eax, %eax
② movl (%rdi), %ecx
③ addl %ecx, %eax
④ addq $4, %rdi
⑤ cmpq %rdx, %rdi
⑥ jne  .L3
⑦ ret
```





Both (1) and (3) are attempting to access %eax

data is not in %ecx when we start EX

data is not in %rdi when we start EX

We have only one memory unit, but two access requests!

We cannot know if we should fetch (7) or (2) before the EX is done

(6) may not have the outcome from (5)

- How many of the "hazards" are data hazards?

A. 0
B. 1
C. 2
D. 3
E. 4

https://www.pollev.com/hungweitseng close in 1:30

Why is A is faster?

A

```
void regswap(int* a, int* b) {
    int temp = *a;
    *a = *b;
    *b = temp;
}
```

B

```
void xorswap(int* a, int* b) {
    *a ^= *b;
    *b ^= *a;
    *a ^= *b;
}
```

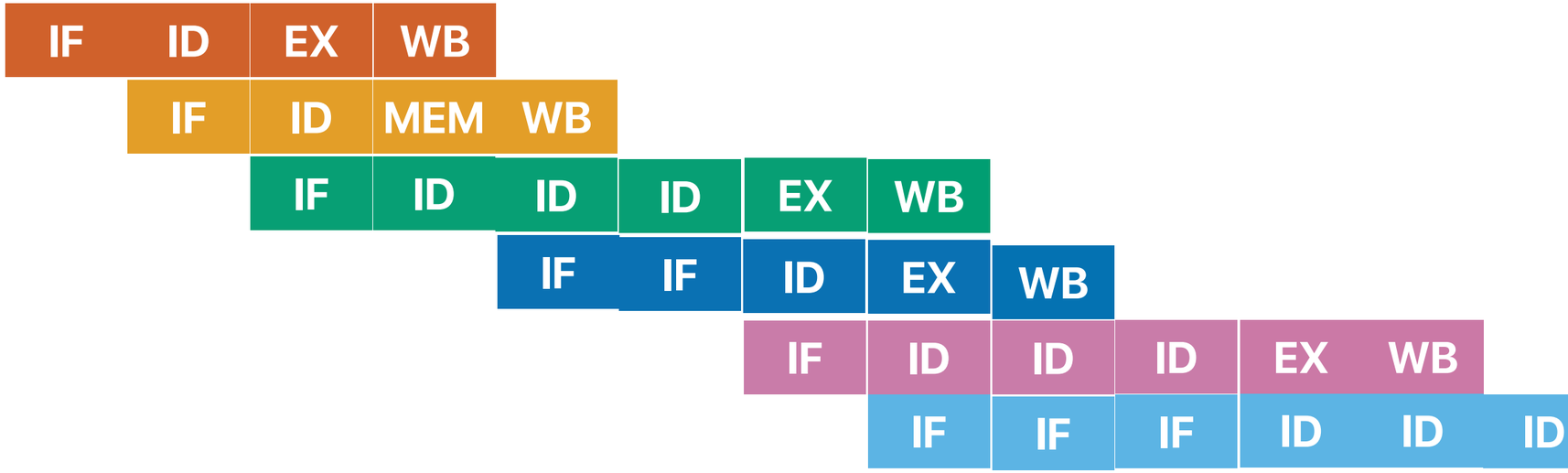
- What's the main cause of the performance different in A and B on modern processors?
  A. Control hazards
  B. Data hazards
  C. Structural hazards

Stall — the universal solution to pipeline hazards

Stall whenever we have a hazard

- Stall: the hardware allows the earlier instruction to proceed, all later instructions stay at the same stage

```
① xorl %eax, %eax
② movl (%rdi), %ecx
③ addl %ecx, %eax
④ addq $4, %rdi
⑤ cmpq %rdx, %rdi
⑥ jne  .L3
⑦ ret
```



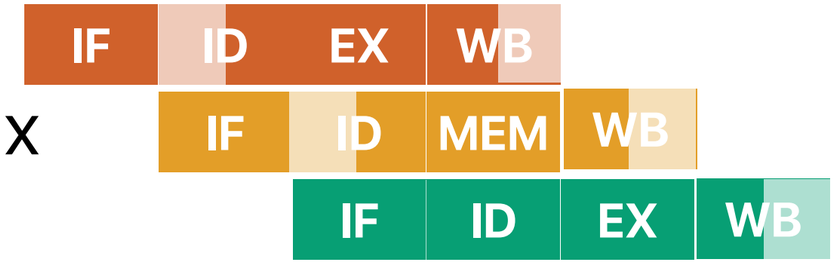
Slow! — 5 additional cycles

Structural Hazards

Dealing with the conflicts between ID/WB

- The same register cannot be read/written at the same cycle
- Better solution: write early, read late
  - Writes occur at the clock edge and complete long enough before the end of the clock cycle.
  - This leaves enough time for outputs to settle for reads
  - The revised register file is the default one from now!

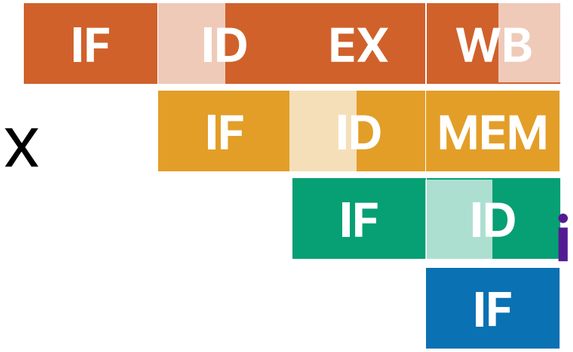
```
① xorl %eax, %eax
② movl (%rdi), %ecx
③ addl %ecx, %eax
```

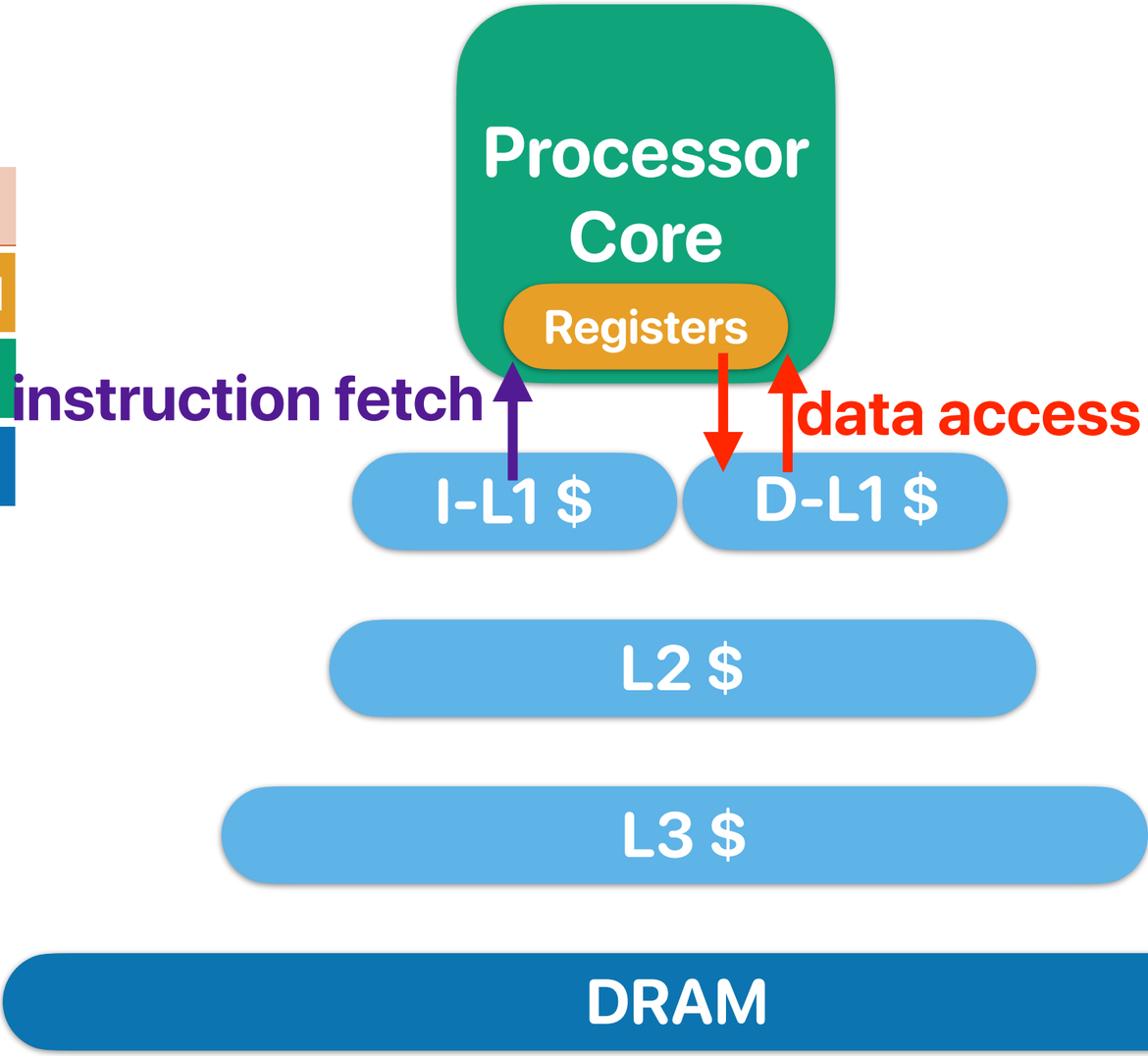


How to with the conflicts between MEM and IF?

- The memory unit can only accept/perform one request each cycle

```
① xorl %eax, %eax
② movl (%rdi), %ecx
③ addl %ecx, %eax
④ addq $4, %rdi
```

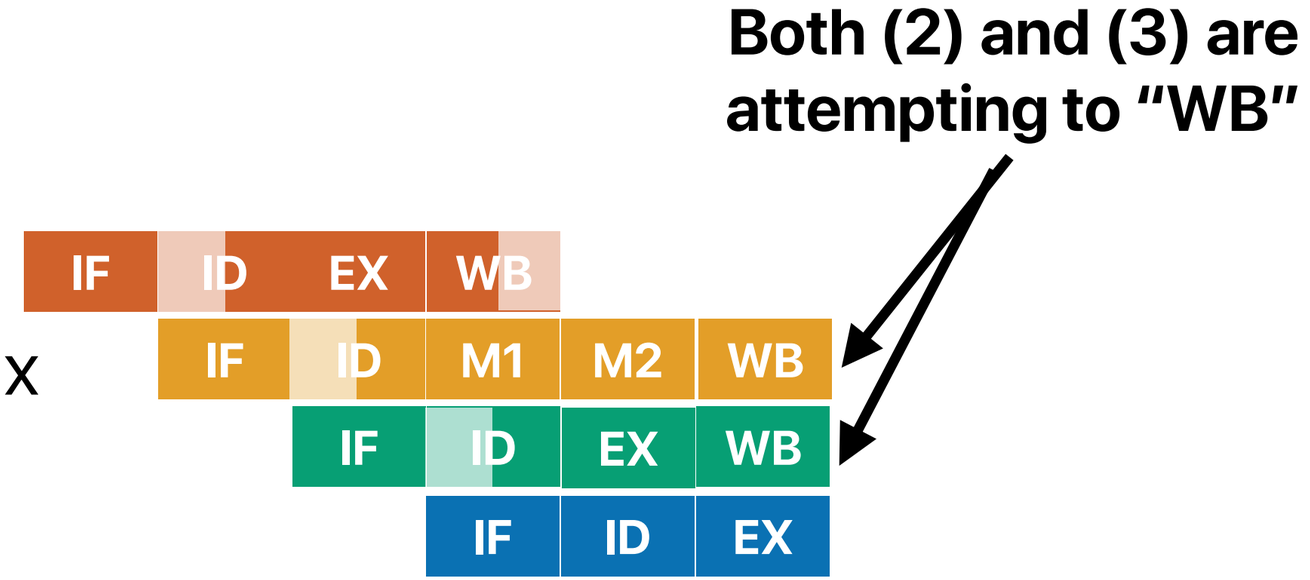




"Split L1" cache!

What if the memory instruction needs more time?

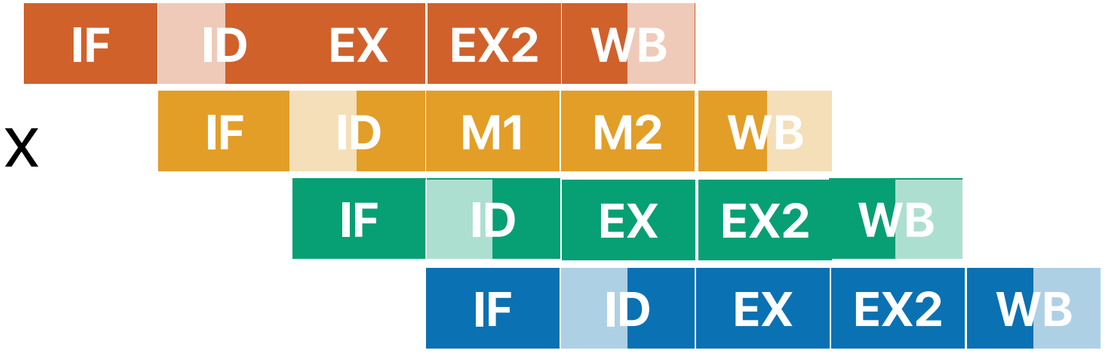
① `xorl %eax, %eax`
② `movl (%rdi), %ecx`
③ `addl %ecx, %eax`
④ `addq $4, %rdi`



What if the memory instruction needs more time?

- Every instruction needs to go through exactly the same number of stages

① `xorl %eax, %eax`
② `movl (%rdi), %ecx`
③ `addl %ecx, %eax`
④ `addq $4, %rdi`



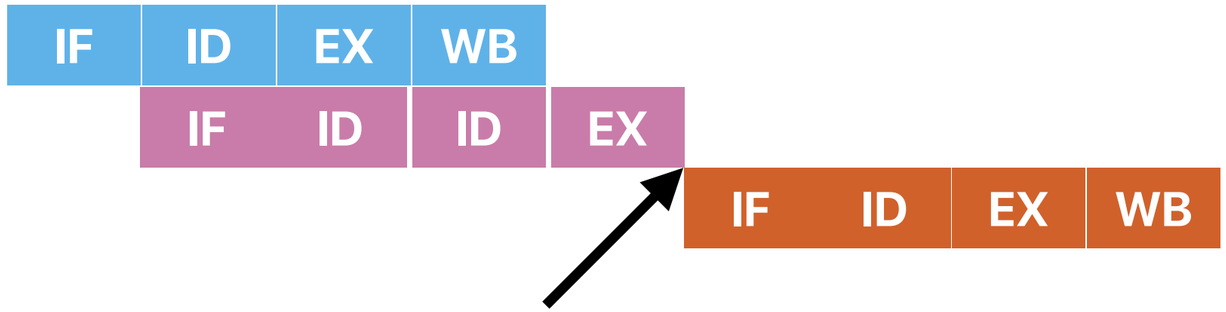
Structural Hazards

- Stall can address the issue — but slow
- Improve the pipeline unit design to allow parallel execution
  - Write-first, read later register files
  - Split L1-Cache
  - Force all instructions go through exactly the same number of stages

Control Hazards

Control Hazard

```
① cmpq %rdx, %rdi
② jne  .L3
③ ret
```



We cannot know if we should fetch (7) or (2) before the EX is done

How does the code look like?

```
for (j = 0; j < reps; ++j) {
    for (unsigned i = 0; i < size; ++i) {
        if (data[i] >= threshold)
            sum ++;
    }
}
```

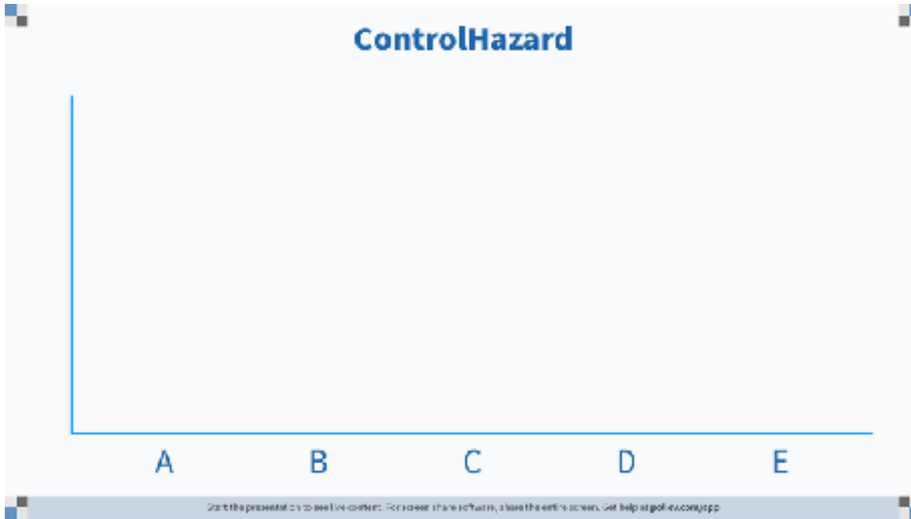
We skip the following code block if data[i]< threshold

We use “backward” branches (taking if going back) to implement loops

```
      loop0:
      .LFB0:
         .cfi_startproc
         endbr64
         pushq %rbp
         .cfi_def_cfa_offset 16
         .cfi_offset 6, -16
         movq  %rsp, %rbp
         .cfi_def_cfa_register 6
         movq  %rdi, -24(%rbp)
         movl  %esi, -28(%rbp)
         movl  %edx, -32(%rbp)
         movl  %ecx, -36(%rbp)
         movl  $0, -8(%rbp)
         movl  $0, -12(%rbp)
         jmp   .L2
.L6:
         movl  $0, -4(%rbp)
         jmp   .L3
.L5:
         movl  -4(%rbp), %eax
         leaq  0(,%rax,4), %rdx
         movq  -24(%rbp), %rax
         addq  %rdx, %rax
         movl  (%rax), %eax
         cmpl  %eax, -32(%rbp)
         jg .L4
         addl  $1, -8(%rbp)
.L4:
         addl  $1, -4(%rbp)
.L3:
         movl  -28(%rbp), %eax
         cmpl  %eax, -4(%rbp)
         jb .L5
         addl  $1, -12(%rbp)
.L2:
         movl  -12(%rbp), %eax
         cmpl  -36(%rbp), %eax
         jl .L6
         movl  -8(%rbp), %eax
         popq  %rbp
         .cfi_def_cfa 7, 8
         ret
```

The impact of control hazards

- Assuming that we have an application with 20% of branch instructions and the instruction stream incurs no data hazards. When there is a branch, we disable the instruction fetch and insert no-ops until we can determine the PC. Without any data hazards, we have to stall for 2 cycles to determine the next PC. What's the average CPI when executing the program?
  A. 1
  B. 1.2
  C. 1.4
  D. 1.6
  E. 1.8



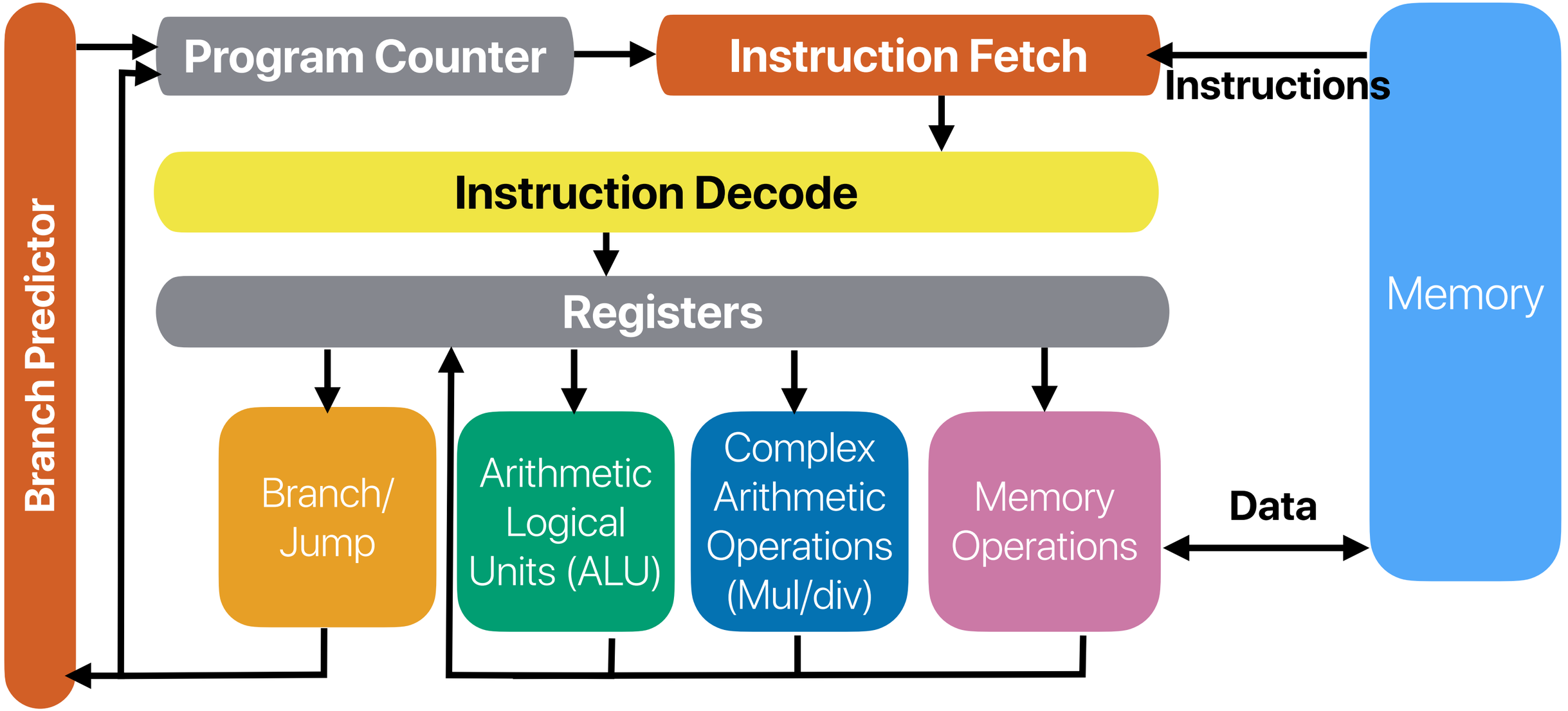
Why can't we proceed without stalls/no-ops?

- How many of the following statements are true regarding why we have to stall for each branch in the current pipeline processor
  - ① The target address when branch is taken is not available for instruction fetch stage of the next cycle
  - ② The target address when branch is not-taken is not available for instruction fetch stage of the next cycle
  - ③ The branch outcome cannot be decided until the comparison result of ALU is not out
  - ④ The next instruction needs the branch instruction to write back its result

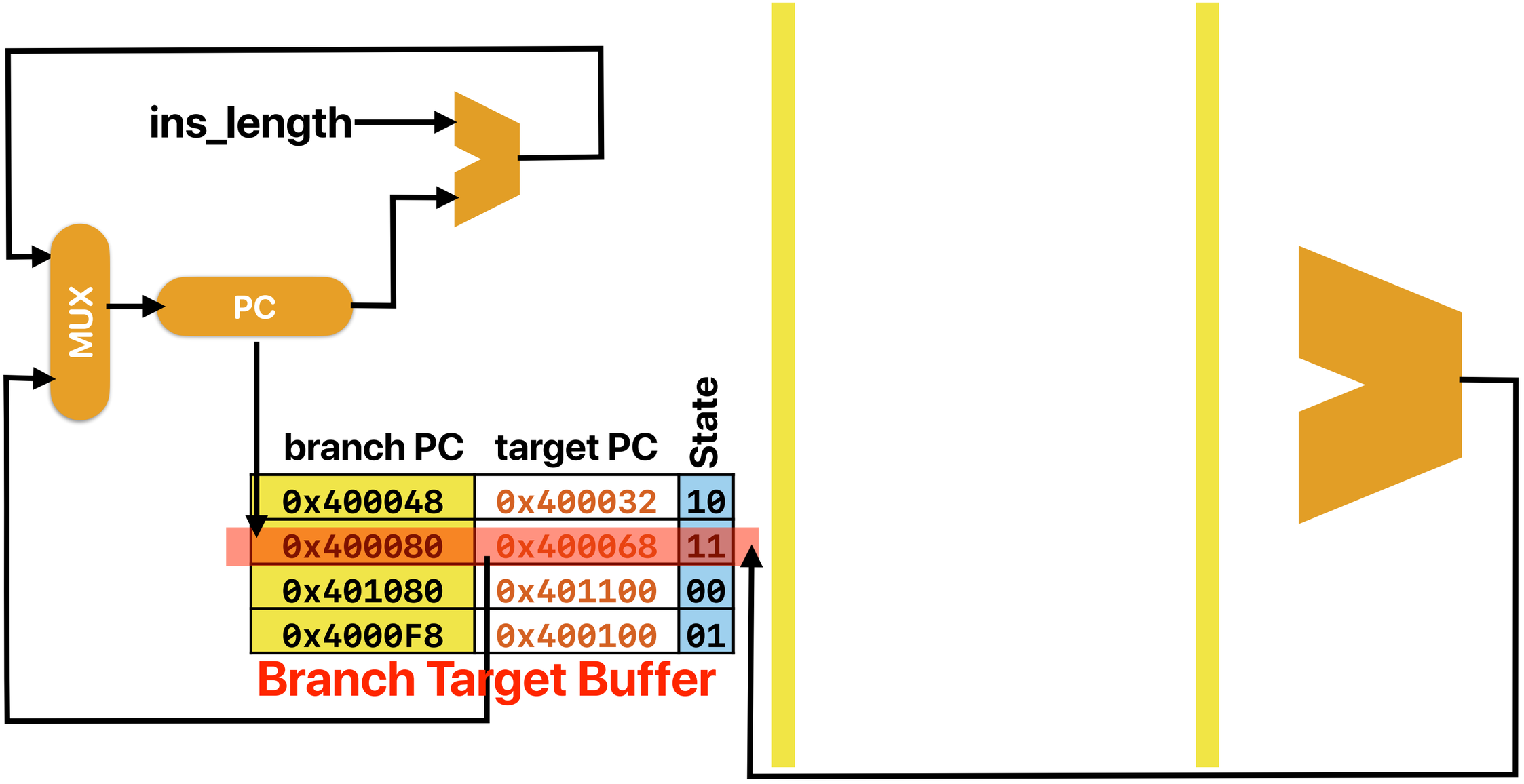
A. 0
B. 1
C. 2
D. 3
E. 4

Dynamic Branch Prediction

Microprocessor with a “branch predictor”



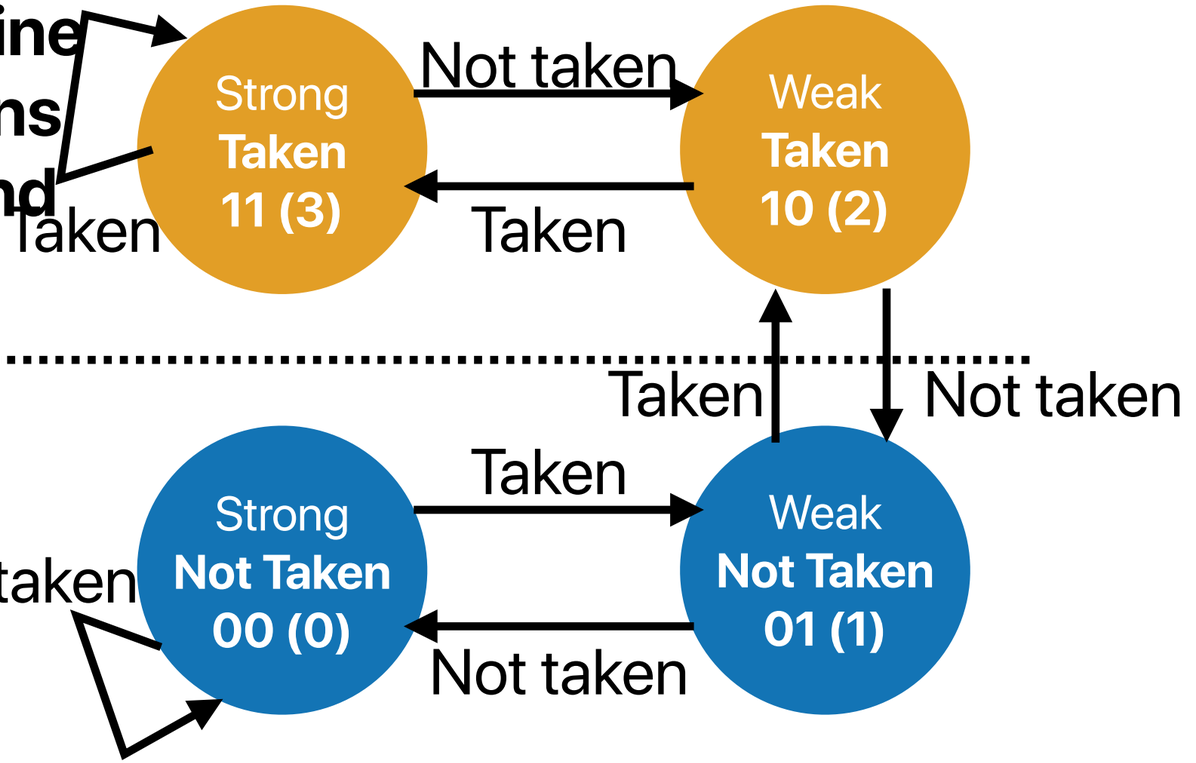
Detail of a basic dynamic branch predictor



2-bit/Bimodal local predictor

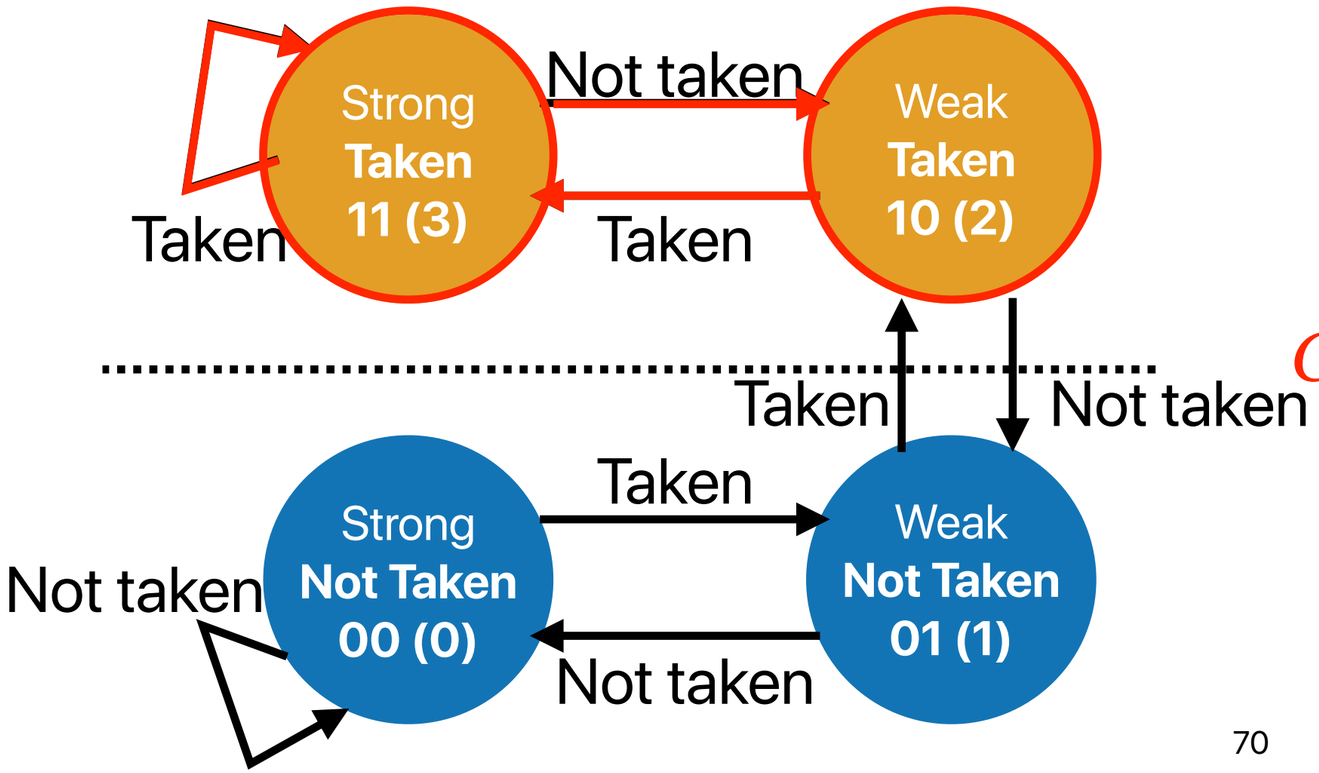
- Local predictor — every branch instruction has its own state
- 2-bit — each state is described using 2 bits
- Change the state based on **actual** outcome
- If we guess right — no penalty
- **If we guess wrong — flush (clear pipeline registers) for mis-predicted instructions that are currently in IF and ID stages and reset the PC**

	branch PC	target PC	State
	0x400048	0x400032	10
Predict Taken	0x400080	0x400068	11
	0x401080	0x401100	00
	0x4000F8	0x400100	01



2-bit local predictor

```
i = 0;
do {
     sum += a[i];
} while(++i < 10);
```



i	state	predict	actual
1	10	T	T
2	11	T	T
3	11	T	T
4-9	11	T	T
10	11	T	NT

90% accuracy!

$$CPI_{average} = 1 + 20\% \times 10\% \times 2 = 1.04$$

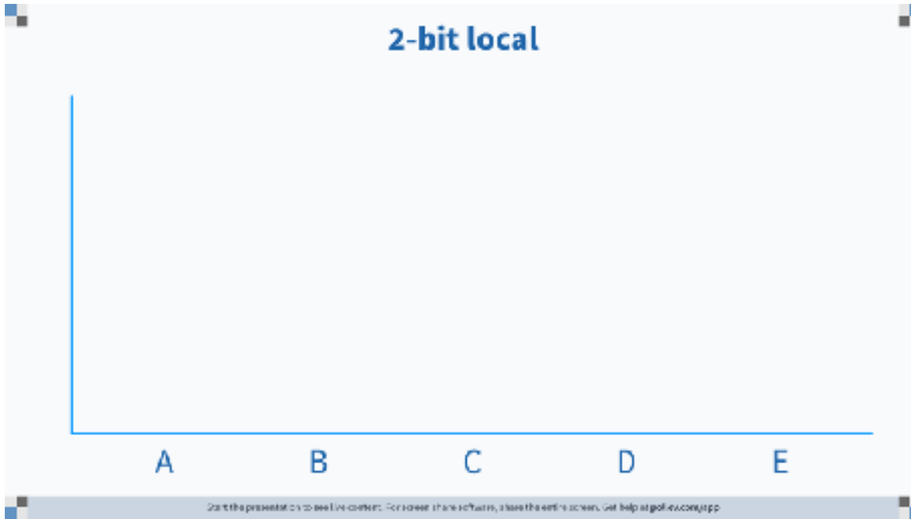
2-bit local predictor

- What's the overall branch prediction (include both branches) accuracy for this nested for loop?

```
i = 0;
do {
    if( i % 2 != 0) // Branch X, taken if i % 2 == 0
       a[i] *= 2;
    a[i] += i;
} while ( ++i < 100)// Branch Y
```

(assume all states started with 00)

A. ~25%
B. ~33%
C. ~50%
D. ~67%
E. ~75%



Two-level global predictor

Marius Evers, Sanjay J. Patel, Robert S. Chappell, and Yale N. Patt. 1998. An analysis of correlation and predictability: what makes two-level branch predictors work. In Proceedings of the 25th annual international symposium on Computer architecture (ISCA '98).

2-bit local predictor

- What's the overall branch prediction (include both branches) accuracy for this nested for loop?

```
i = 0;
do {
    if( i % 2 != 0) // Branch X, taken if i % 2 == 0
       a[i] *= 2;
    a[i] += i;
} while ( ++i < 100)// Branch Y
```

(assume all states started with 00)

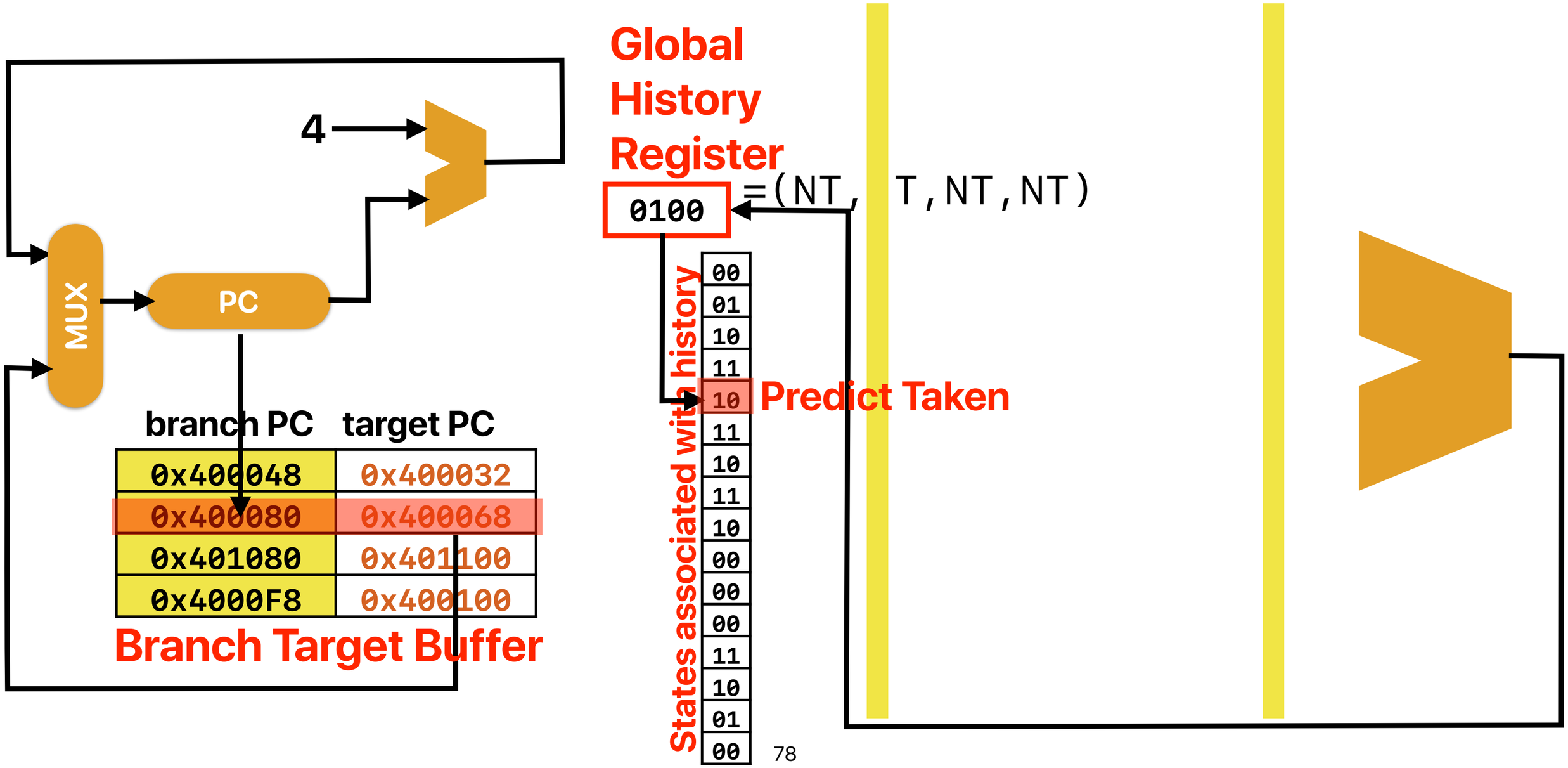
A. ~25%
B. ~33%
C. ~50%
D. ~67%
E. ~75%

This pattern repeats all the time!

For branch Y, almost 100%,
For branch X, only 50%

i	branch?	state	prediction	actual
0	X	00	NT	T
0	Y	01	NT	T
1	X	01	NT	NT
1	Y	01	NT	T
2	X	00	NT	T
2	Y	10	T	T
3	X	01	NT	NT
3	Y	11	T	T
4	X	00	NT	T
4	Y	11	T	T
5	X	01	NT	NT
5	Y	11	T	T
6	X	00	NT	T
6	Y	11	T	T

Global history (GH) predictor



Performance of GH predictor

```
i = 0;
do {
    if( i % 2 != 0) // Branch X, taken if i % 2 == 0
       a[i] *= 2;
    a[i] += i;
} while ( ++i < 100)// Branch Y
```

i	branch?	GHR	state	prediction	actual
0	X	000	00	NT	T
0	Y	001	00	NT	T
1	X	011	00	NT	NT
1	Y	110	00	NT	T
2	X	101	00	NT	T
2	Y	011	00	NT	T
3	X	111	00	NT	NT
3	Y	110	01	NT	T
4	X	101	01	NT	T
4	Y	011	01	NT	T
5	X	111	00	NT	NT
5	Y	110	10	T	T
6	X	101	10	T	T
6	Y	011	10	T	T
7	X	111	00	NT	NT
7	Y	110	11	T	T
8	X	101	11	T	T
8	Y	011	11	T	T
9	X	111	00	NT	NT
9	Y	110	11	T	T
10	X	101	11	T	T
10	Y	011	11	T	T

Near perfect after this

Better predictor?

- Consider two predictors — (L) 2-bit local predictor with unlimited BTB entries and (G) 4-bit global history with 2-bit predictors. How many of the following code snippet would allow (G) to outperform (L)?

I
```
i = 0;
do {
    if( i % 10 != 0)
       a[i] *= 2;
    a[i] += i;
} while ( ++i < 100);
```

II
```
i = 0;
do {
    a[i] += i;
} while ( ++i < 100);
```

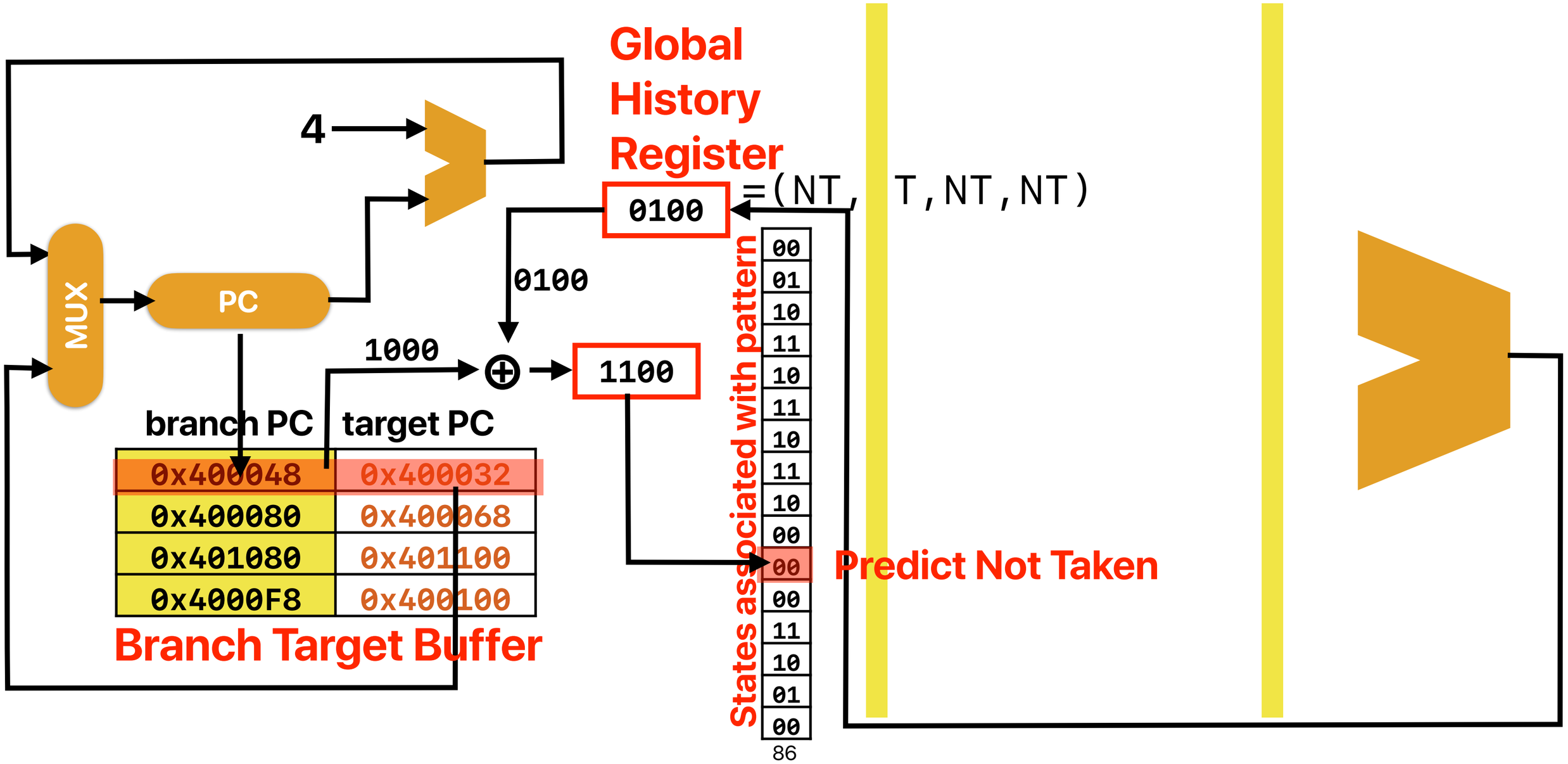
III
```
i = 0;
do {
    j = 0;
    do {
      sum += A[i*2+j];
    }
    while( ++j < 2);
} while ( ++i < 100);
```

IV
```
i = 0;
do {
    if( rand() %2 == 0)
       a[i] *= 2;
    a[i] += i;
} while ( ++i < 100)
```

A. 0
B. 1
C. 2
D. 3
E. 4

Hybrid predictors

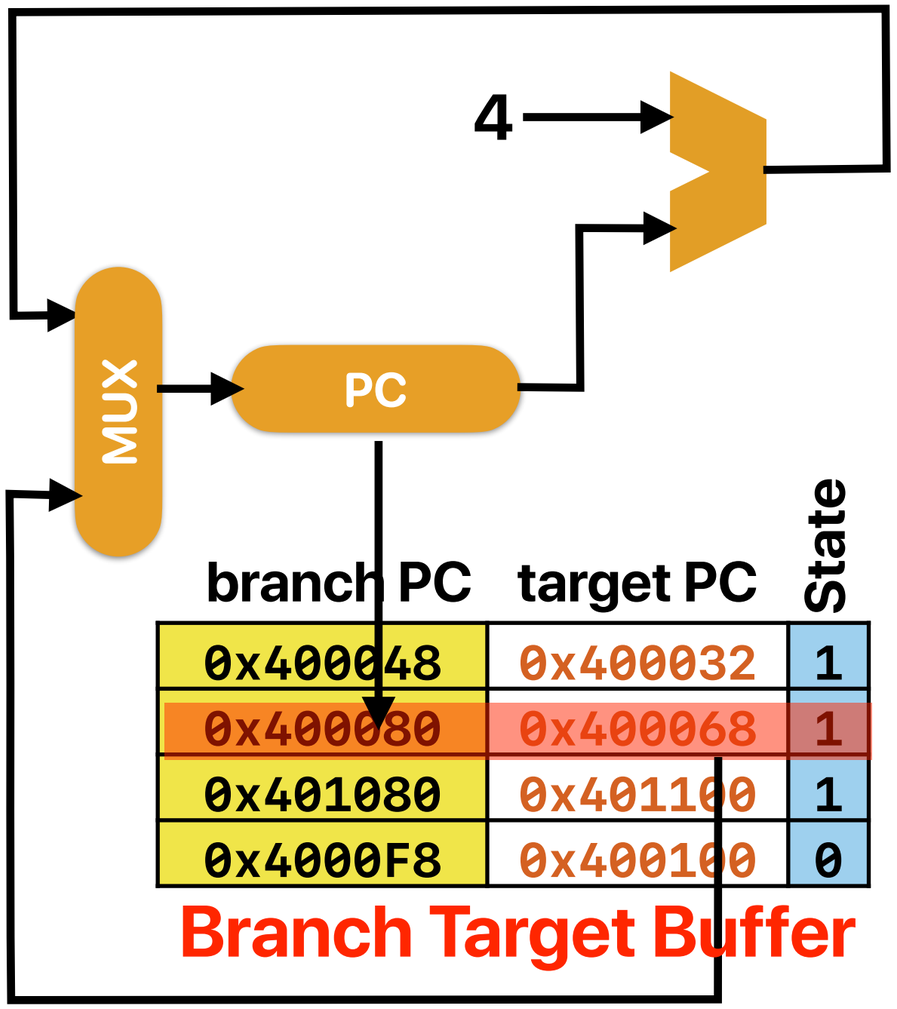
gshare predictor



gshare predictor

- Allowing the predictor to identify both branch address but also use global history for more accurate prediction

Tournament Predictor



Global History Register

0100

States associated with history

00
01
10
11
10
11
10
11
10
00
00
00
11
10
01
00

Local History Predictor

branch PC	local history
0x400048	1000
0x400080	0110
0x401080	1010
0x4000F8	0110

Predict Taken

States associated with history

00
01
10
11
10
11
10
11
10
00
00
00
11
10
01
00

Tournament Predictor

- The state predicts “which predictor is better”
  - Local history
  - Global history
- The predicted predictor makes the prediction

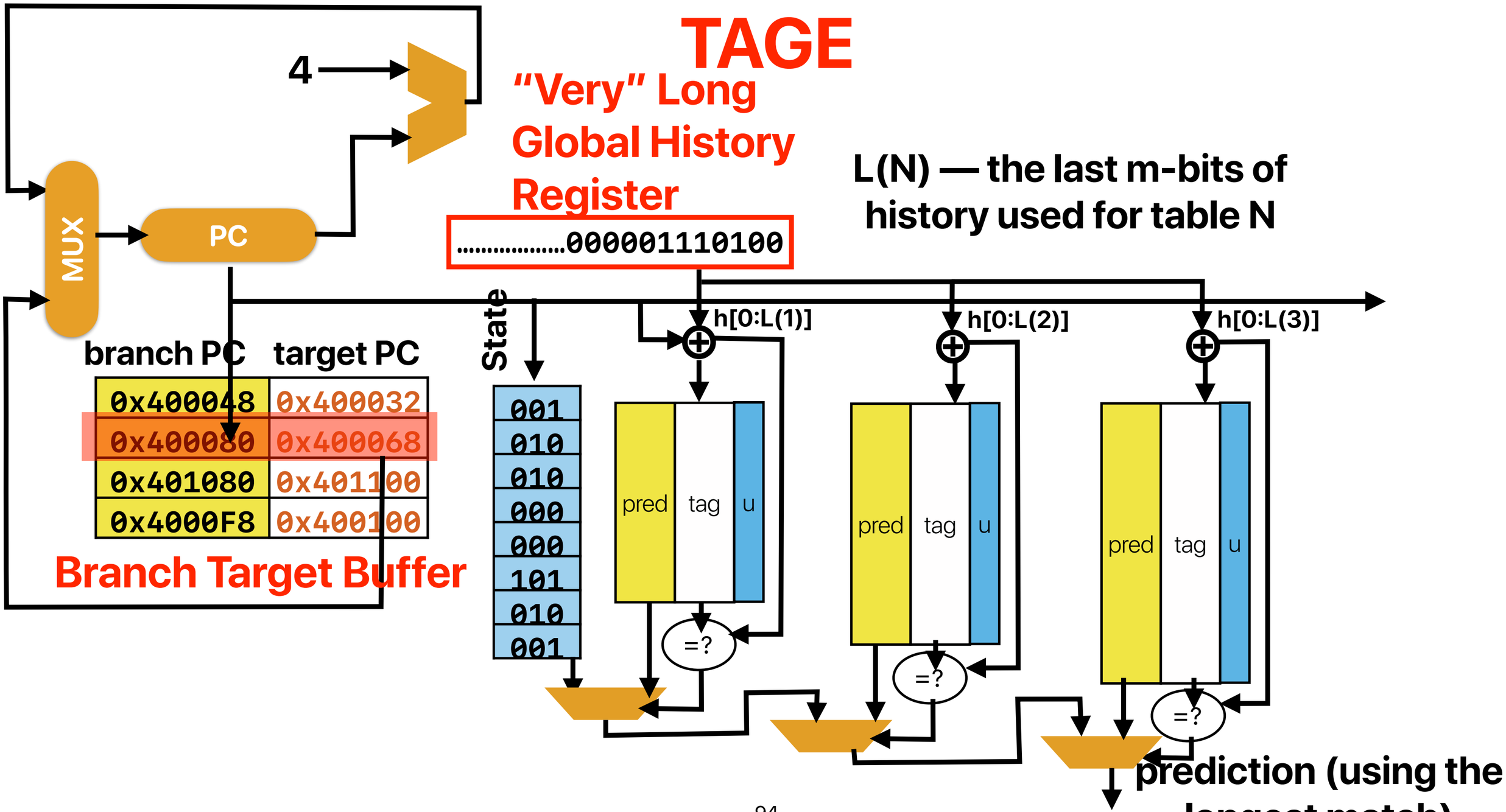
Hybrid predictors

Branch predictors in processors

- The Intel Pentium MMX, Pentium II, and Pentium III have local branch predictors with a local 4-bit history and a local pattern history table with 16 entries for each conditional jump.
- Global branch prediction is used in Intel Pentium M, Core, Core 2, and Silvermont-based Atom processors.
- Tournament predictor is used in DEC Alpha, AMD Athlon processors
- The AMD Ryzen multi-core processor's Infinity Fabric and the Samsung Exynos processor include a perceptron based neural branch predictor.

TAGE

André Seznec. The L-TAGE branch predictor. Journal of Instruction Level Parallelism (http://wwwjilp.org/vol9), May 2007.


TAGE
"Very" Long Global History Register
L(N) — the last m-bits of history used for table N
4
MUX
PC
.....000001110100
branch PC
target PC
0x400048
0x400032
0x400080
0x400068
0x401080
0x401100
0x4000F8
0x400100
Branch Target Buffer
State
001
010
010
000
000
101
010
001
h[0:L(1)]
h[0:L(2)]
h[0:L(3)]
pred
tag
u
=?
prediction (using the longest match)

Perceptron

Jiménez, Daniel, and Calvin Lin. "Dynamic branch prediction with perceptrons." Proceedings HPCA Seventh International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture. IEEE, 2001.

The following slides are excerpted from https://www.jilp.org/cbp/Daniel-slides.PDF by Daniel Jiménez

Branch Prediction is Essentially an ML Problem

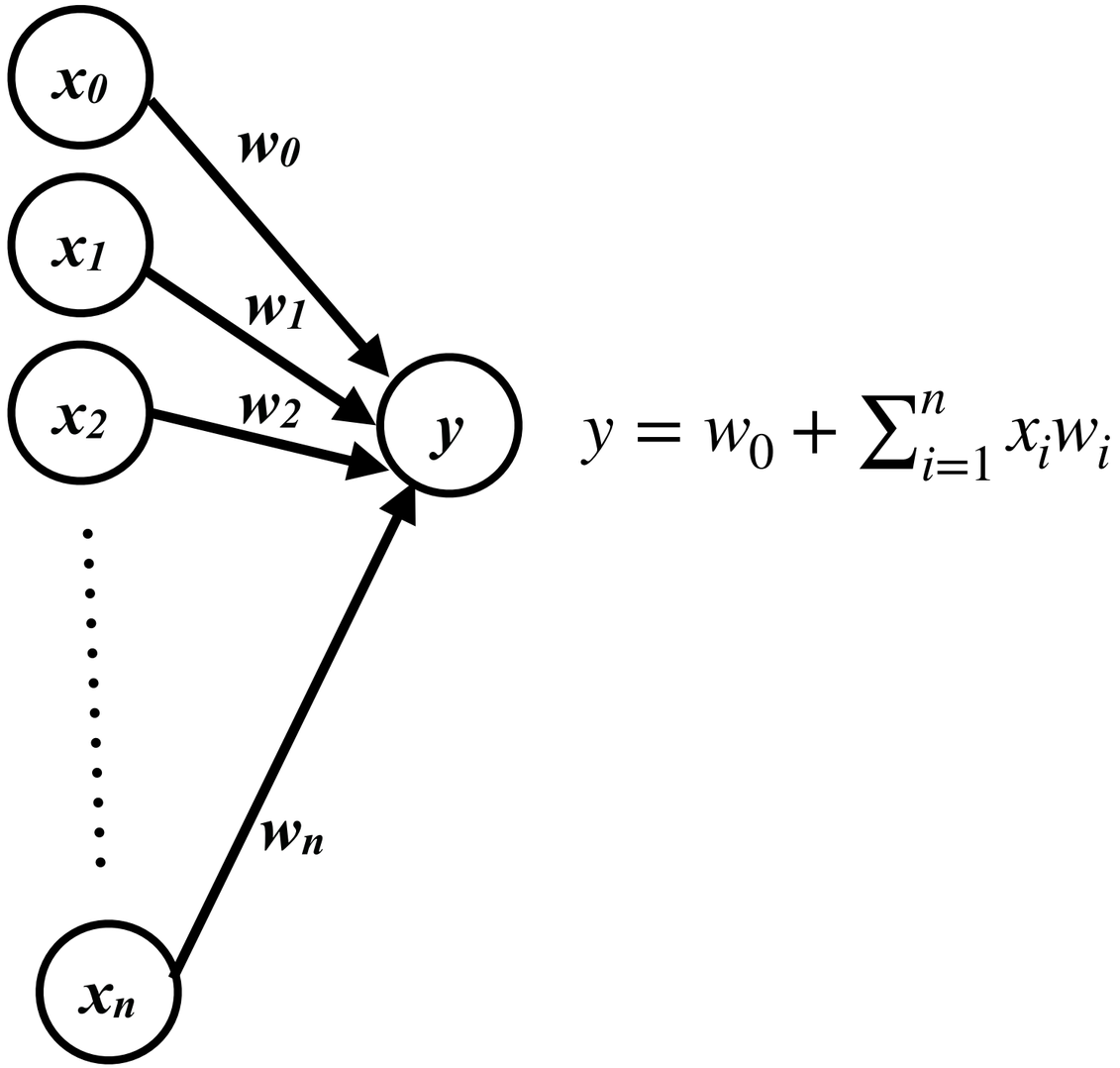
- The machine learns to predict conditional branches
- Artificial neural networks
  - Simple model of neural networks in brain cells
  - Learn to recognize and classify patterns

Mapping Branch Prediction to NN

- The inputs to the perceptron are branch outcome histories
  - Just like in 2-level adaptive branch prediction
  - Can be global or local (per-branch) or both (alloyed)
  - Conceptually, branch outcomes are represented as
    - +1, for taken
    - -1, for not taken
- The output of the perceptron is
  - Non-negative, if the branch is predicted taken
  - Negative, if the branch is predicted not taken
- Ideally, each static branch is allocated its own perceptron

Mapping Branch Prediction to NN (cont.)

- Inputs (x's) are from branch history and are -1 or +1
- n + 1 small integer weights (w's) learned by on-line training
- Output (y) is dot product of x's and w's; predict taken if y = 0
- Training finds correlations between history and outcome

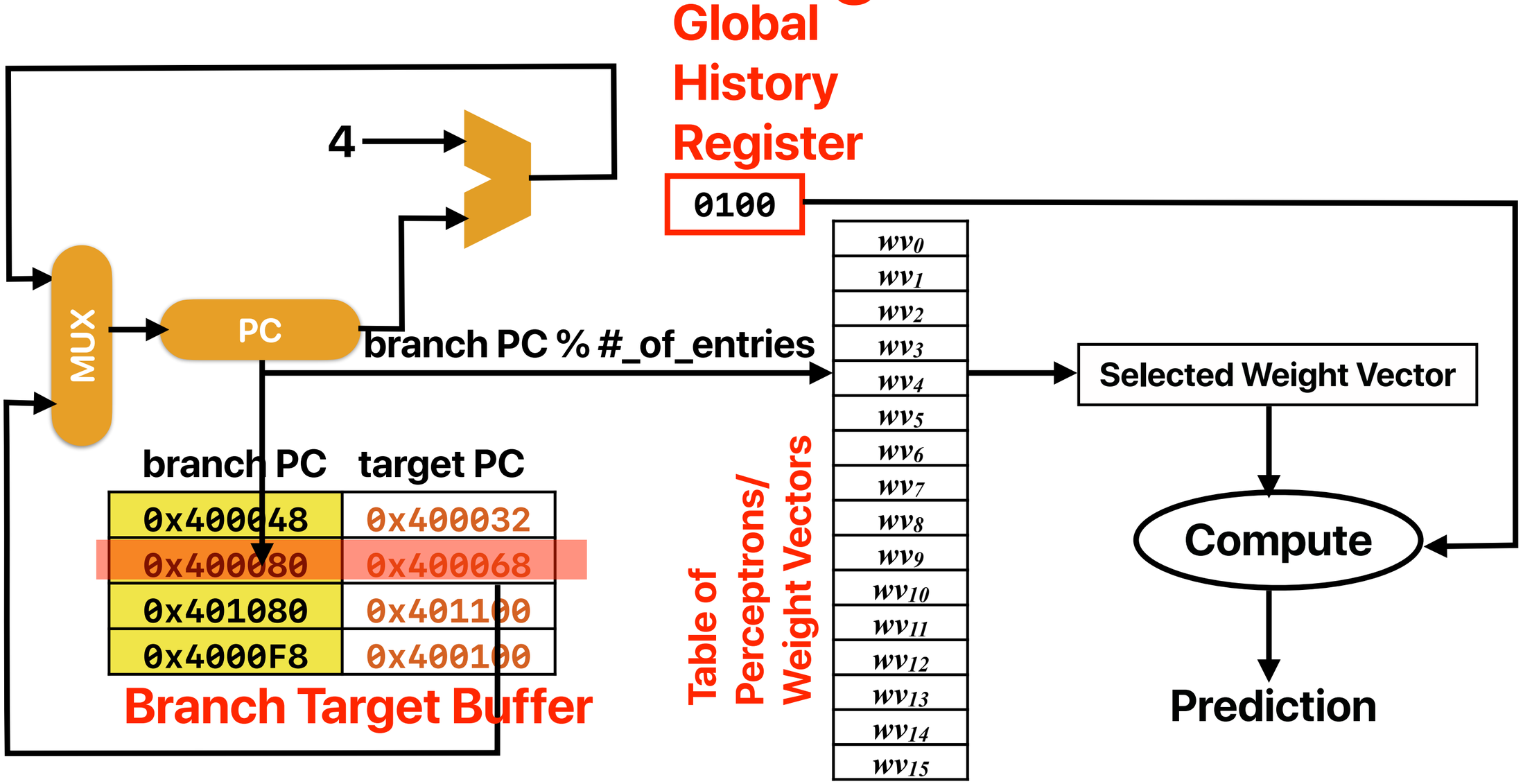


Training Algorithm

$x_{1..n}$ is the n-bit history register, x_0 is 1.
$w_{0..n}$ is the weights vector.
t is the Boolean branch outcome.
θ is the training threshold.

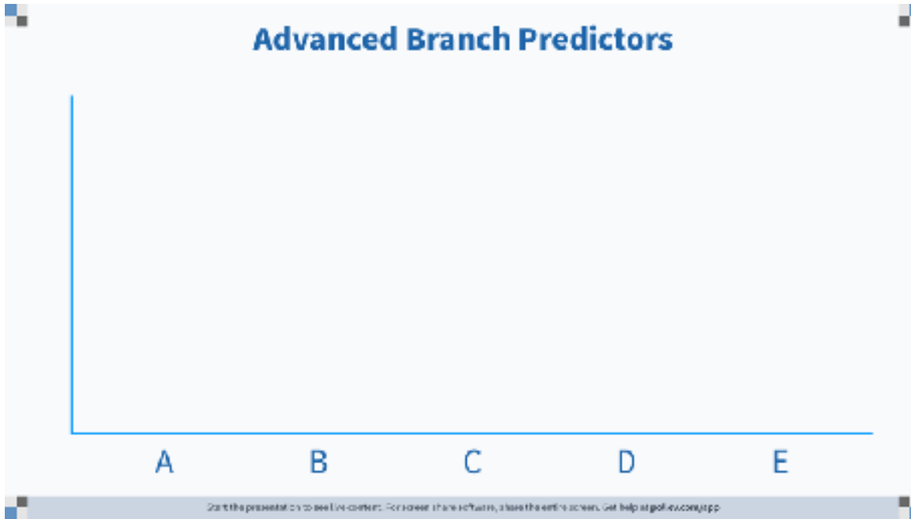
```
if |y| ≤ θ or ((y ≥ 0) ≠ t) then
    for each 0 ≤ i ≤ n in parallel
        if t = x_i then
            w_i := w_i + 1
        else
            w_i := w_i − 1
        end if
    end for
end if
```

Predictor Organization

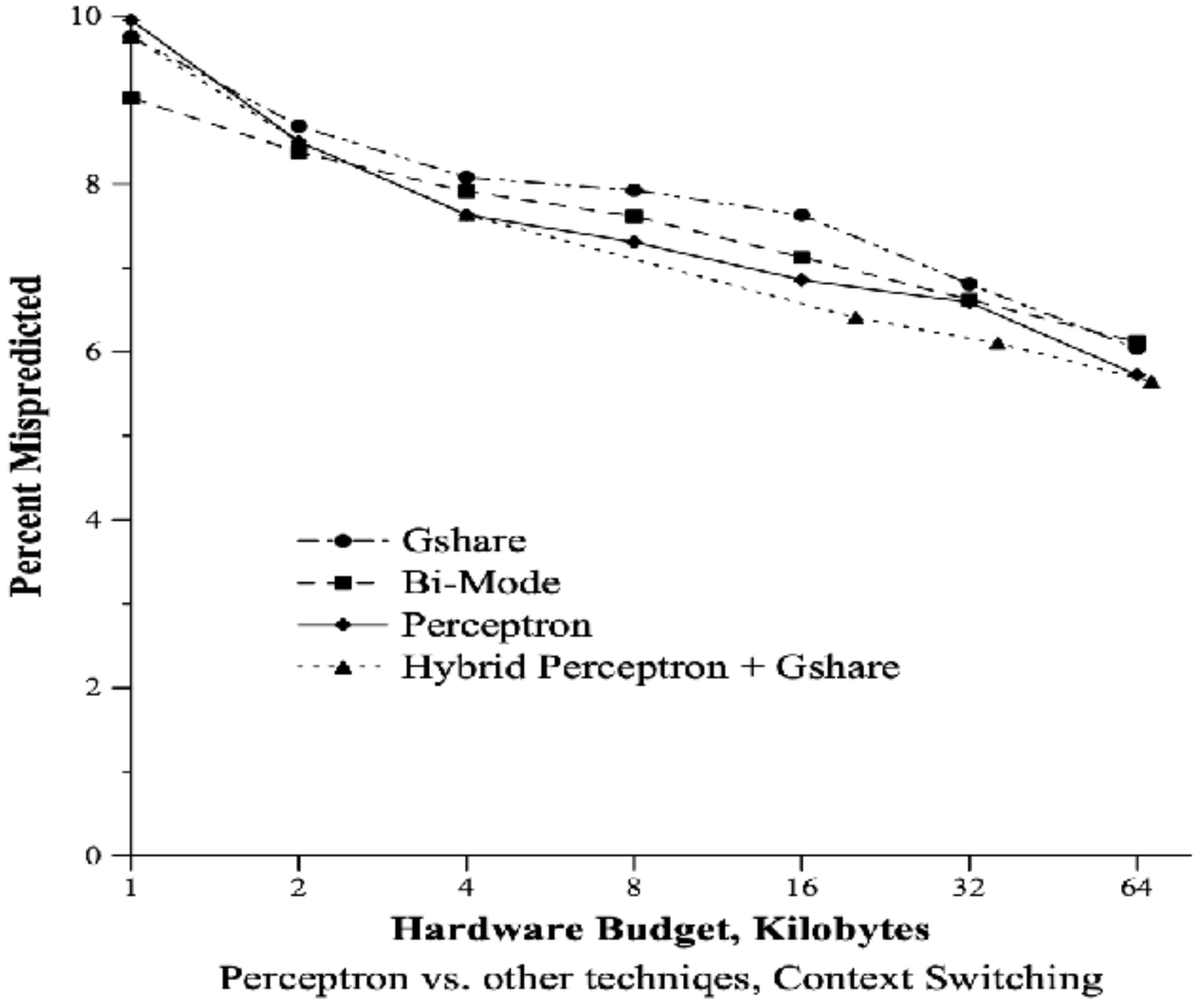


Advanced Dynamic Predictors

- Which of the following predictor works the best when the processor has very limited hardware budget (e.g., 1K) for a branch predictor
  A. gshare
  B. bi-mode (2-bit local)
  C. Tournament predictor
  D. Perceptrons
  E. TAGE



How good is prediction using perceptrons?



Perceptron vs. other techniqes, Context Switching

How good is prediction using perceptrons?

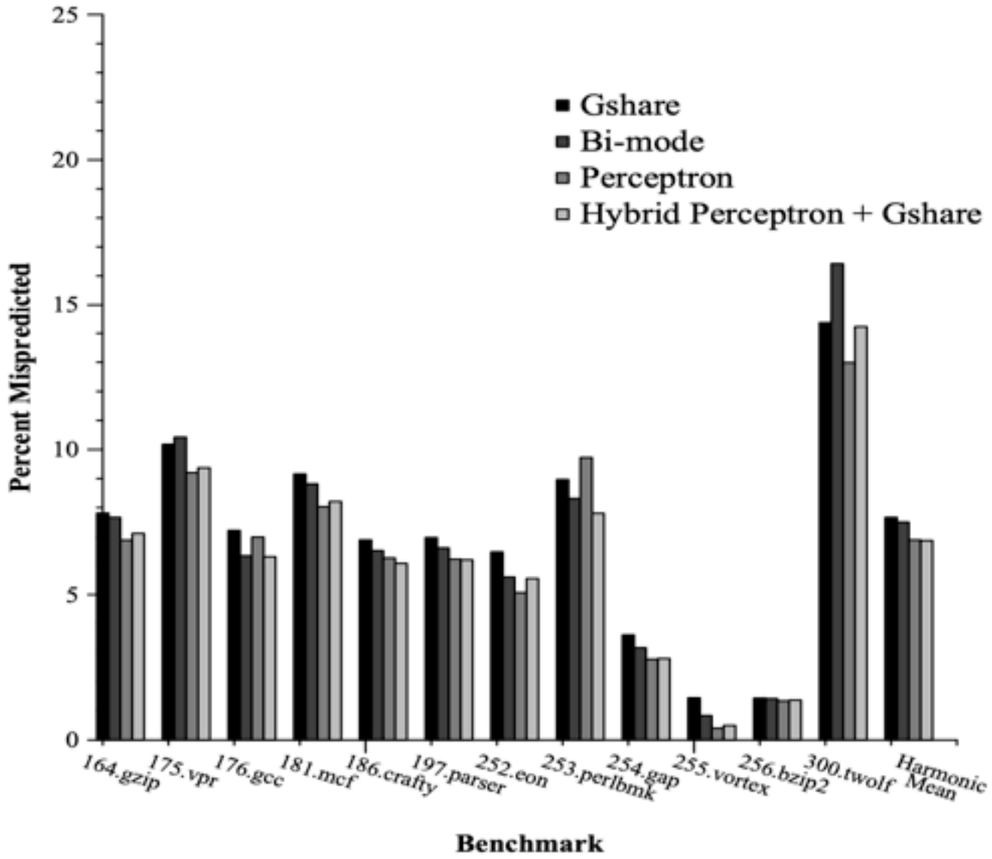


Figure 4: Misprediction Rates at a 4K budget. The perceptron predictor has a lower misprediction rate than *gshare* for all benchmarks except for `186.crafty` and `197.parser`.

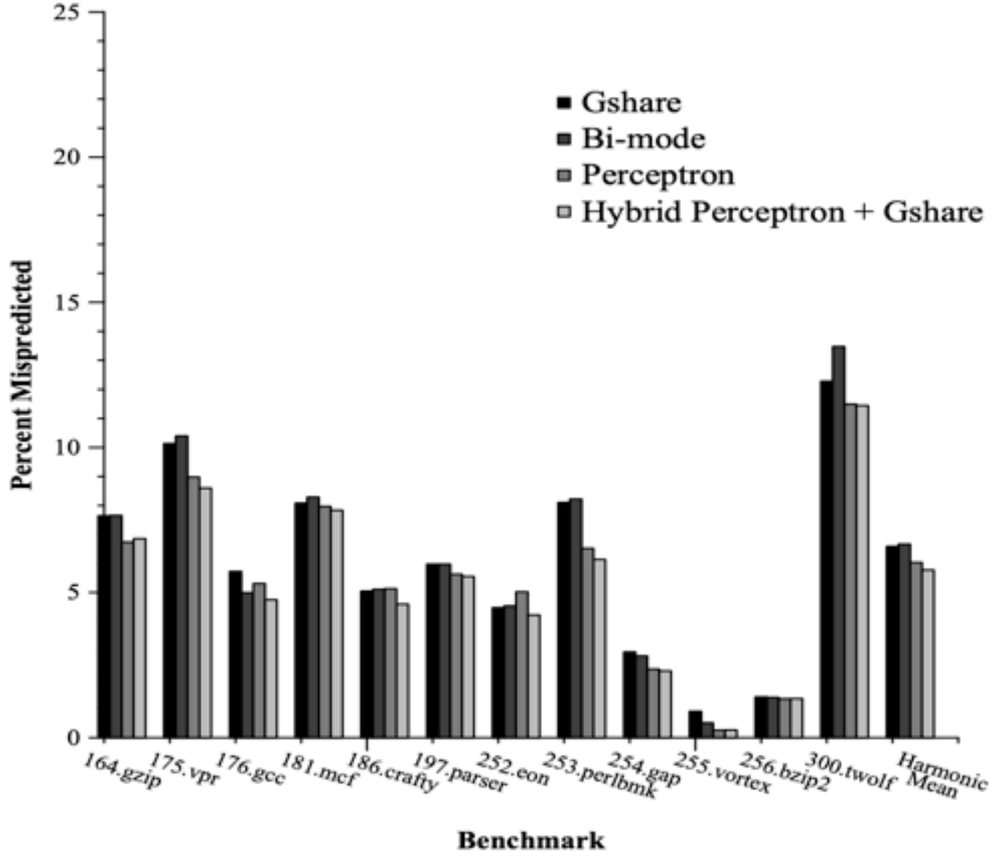
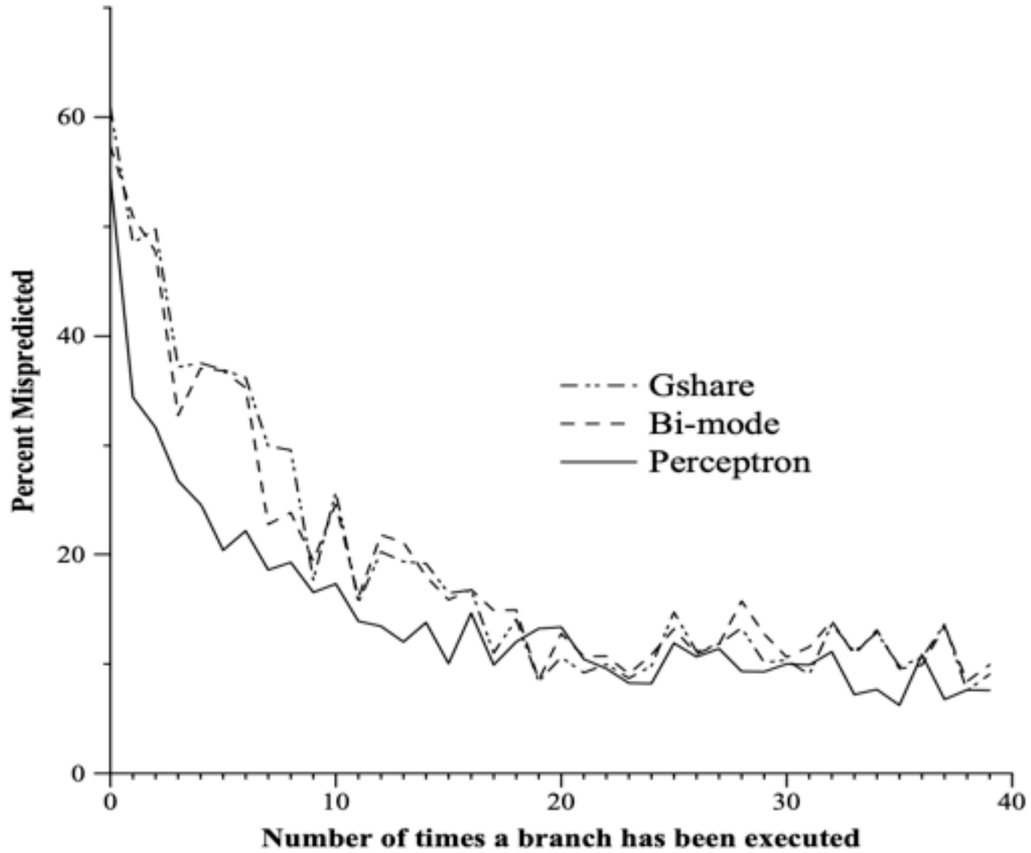


Figure 5: Misprediction Rates at a 16K budget. Gshare outperforms the perceptron predictor only on `186.crafty`. The hybrid predictor is consistently better than the PHT schemes.

History/training for perceptrons



Hardware budget in kilobytes	History Length		
	gshare	bi-mode	perceptron
1	6	7	12
2	8	9	22
4	8	11	28
8	11	13	34
16	14	14	36
32	15	15	59
64	15	16	59
128	16	17	62
256	17	17	62
512	18	19	62

Table 1: Best History Lengths. This table shows the best amount of global history to keep for each of the branch prediction schemes.

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- Global branch prediction is used in Intel Pentium M, Core, Core 2, and Silvermont-based Atom processors.
- Tournament predictor is used in DEC Alpha, AMD Athlon processors
- The AMD Ryzen multi-core processor's Infinity Fabric and the Samsung Exynos processor include a perceptron based neural branch predictor.

Branch and programming

Demo revisited

```
if(option)
    std::sort(data, data + arraySize);

for (unsigned i = 0; i < 100000; ++i) {
    int threshold = std::rand();
    for (unsigned i = 0; i < arraySize; ++i) {
        if (data[i] >= threshold)
            sum ++;
    }
}
```

option = 1 is faster!!!

```
SELECT count(*) FROM TABLE WHERE val < A and val >= B;
```

Demo revisited

- Why the performance is better when option is not "0"
  - ① The amount of dynamic instructions needs to execute is a lot smaller
  - ② The amount of branch instructions to execute is smaller
  - ③ The amount of branch mis-predictions is smaller
  - ④ The amount of data accesses is smaller

A. 0
B. 1
C. 2
D. 3
E. 4

```
if(option)
    std::sort(data, data + arraySize);

for (unsigned i = 0; i < 100000; ++i) {
    int threshold = std::rand();
    for (unsigned i = 0; i < arraySize; ++i) {
        if (data[i] >= threshold)
            sum ++;
    }
}
```