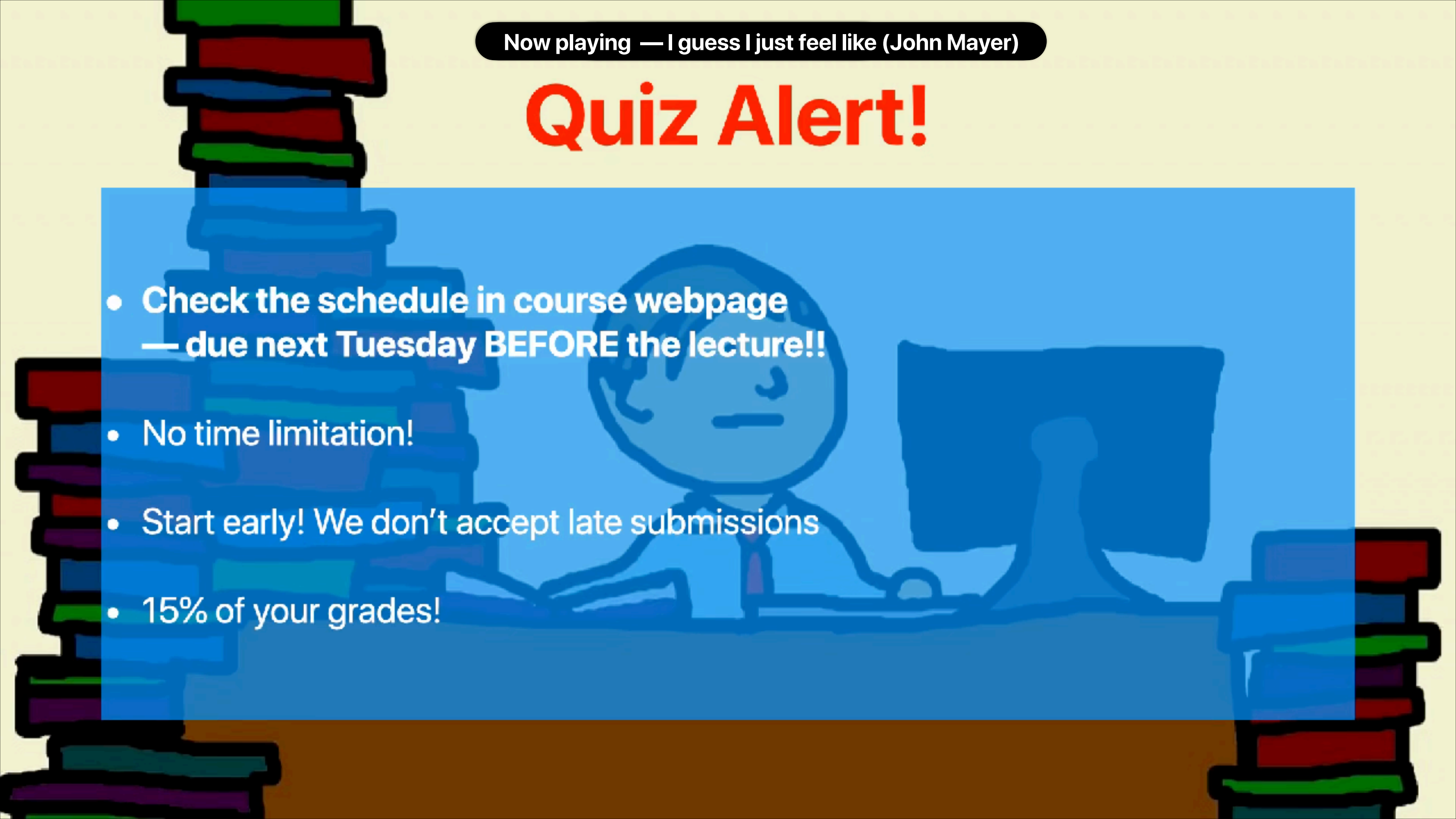


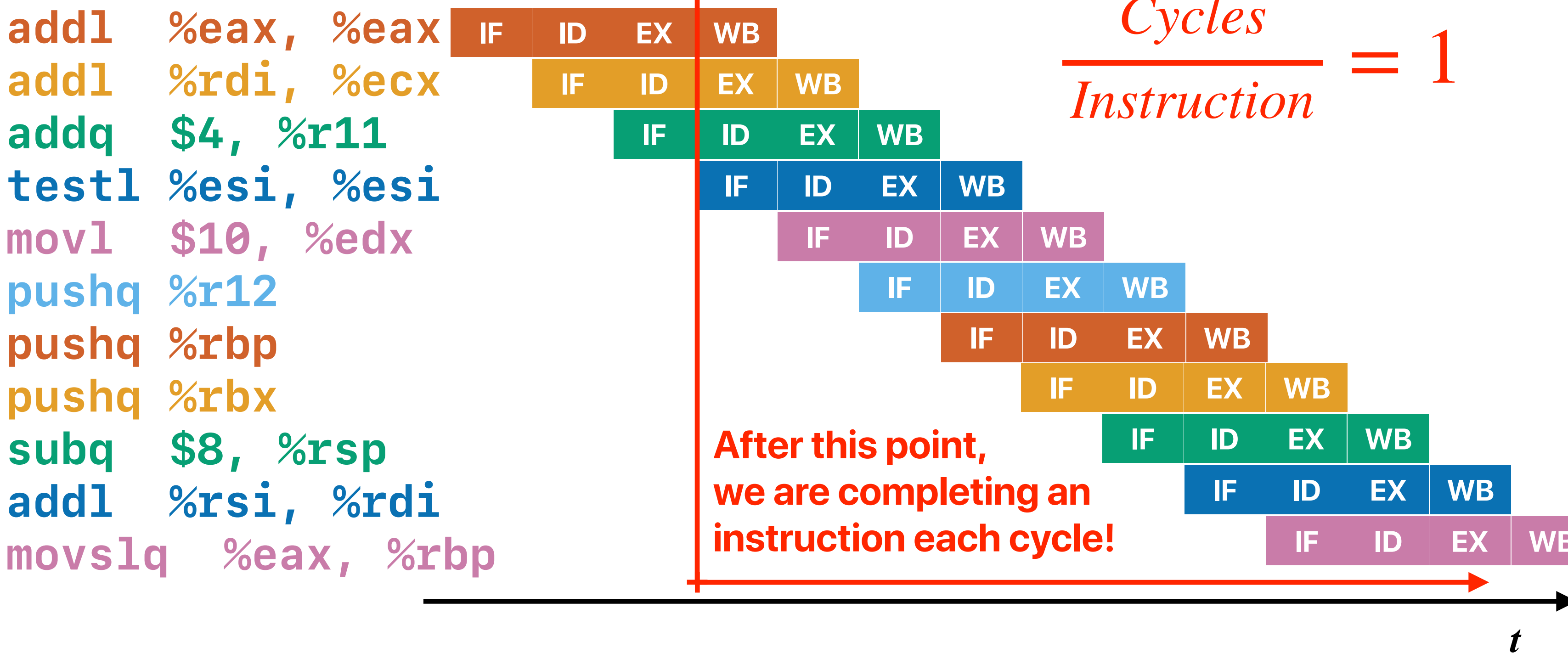
Now playing — I guess I just feel like (John Mayer)

Quiz Alert!

- Check the schedule in course webpage
— due next Tuesday BEFORE the lecture!!
- No time limitation!
- Start early! We don't accept late submissions
- 15% of your grades!



Recap: Pipelining



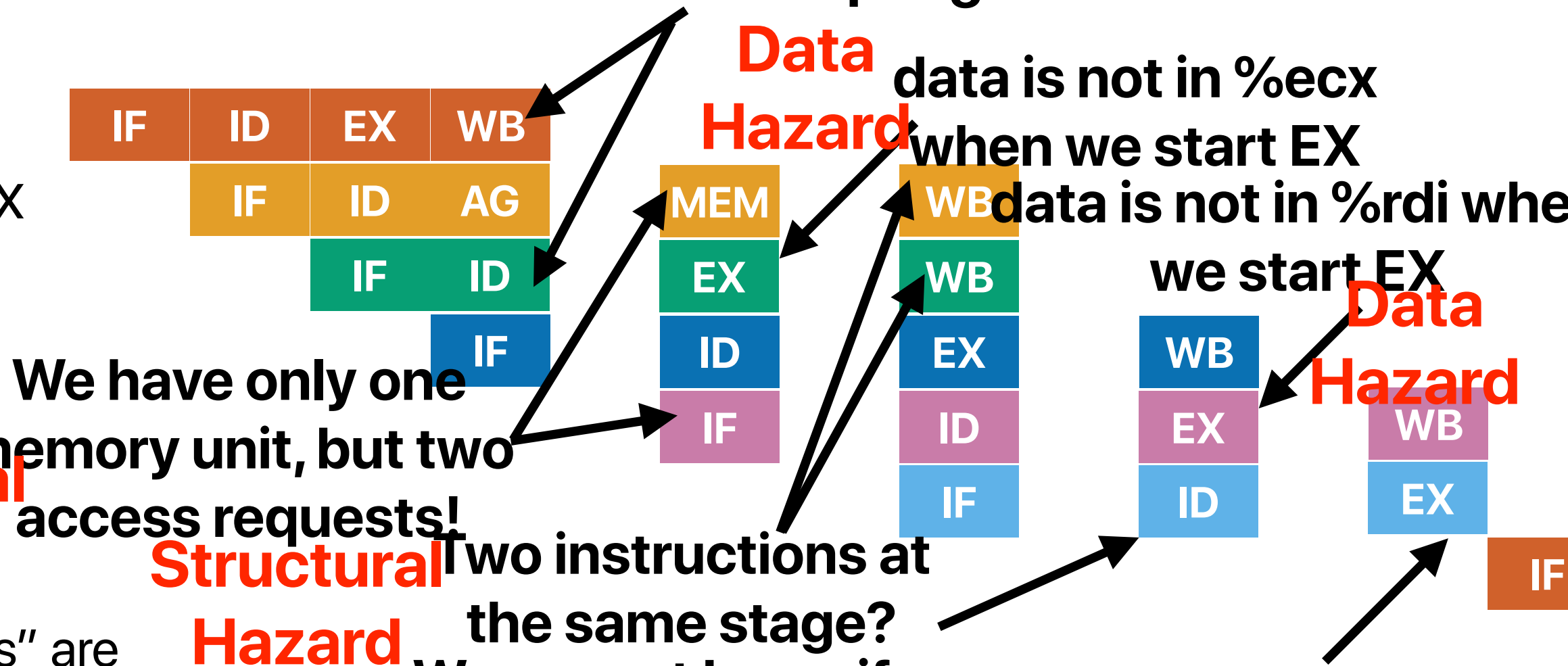
Pipeline Hazards

```

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
    
```

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

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



Control Hazard

Recap: Structural Hazards

- Force later instructions to stall
- Improve the pipeline unit design to allow parallel execution
 - Write-first, read later register files
 - Split L1-Cache
 - Non-blocking, multi-banked cache/memory

3:00

**When and how will you make a
guess?**

Outline

- Why branch prediction for control hazards
- Dynamic branch predictions
 - Local predictor — 2 bit
 - Global predictor — 2-level
 - Hybrid predictors
 - Tournament
 - Perceptron

Control Hazards

How does the code look like?

```
for (unsigned i = 0; i < size; ++i) {  
    if (data[i] < threshold)   
        call_when_true(&a[i]);  
    else  
        call_when_false(&a[i]);  
}
```

**Branch taken simply means
we are using branch target
address as the next address**

```
.LFB16:  
    endbr64  
    testl %esi, %esi  
    jle    .L10  
    movslq %esi, %rsi  
    pushq %r12  
    leaq   (%rdi,%rsi,8), %r12  
    pushq %rbp  
    movslq %edx, %rbp  
    pushq %rbx  
    movq   %rdi, %rbx  
    jmp    .L5  
    .p2align 4,,10  
    .p2align 3  
.L15:  
    call   call_when_true@PLT  
    addq   $8, %rbx
```

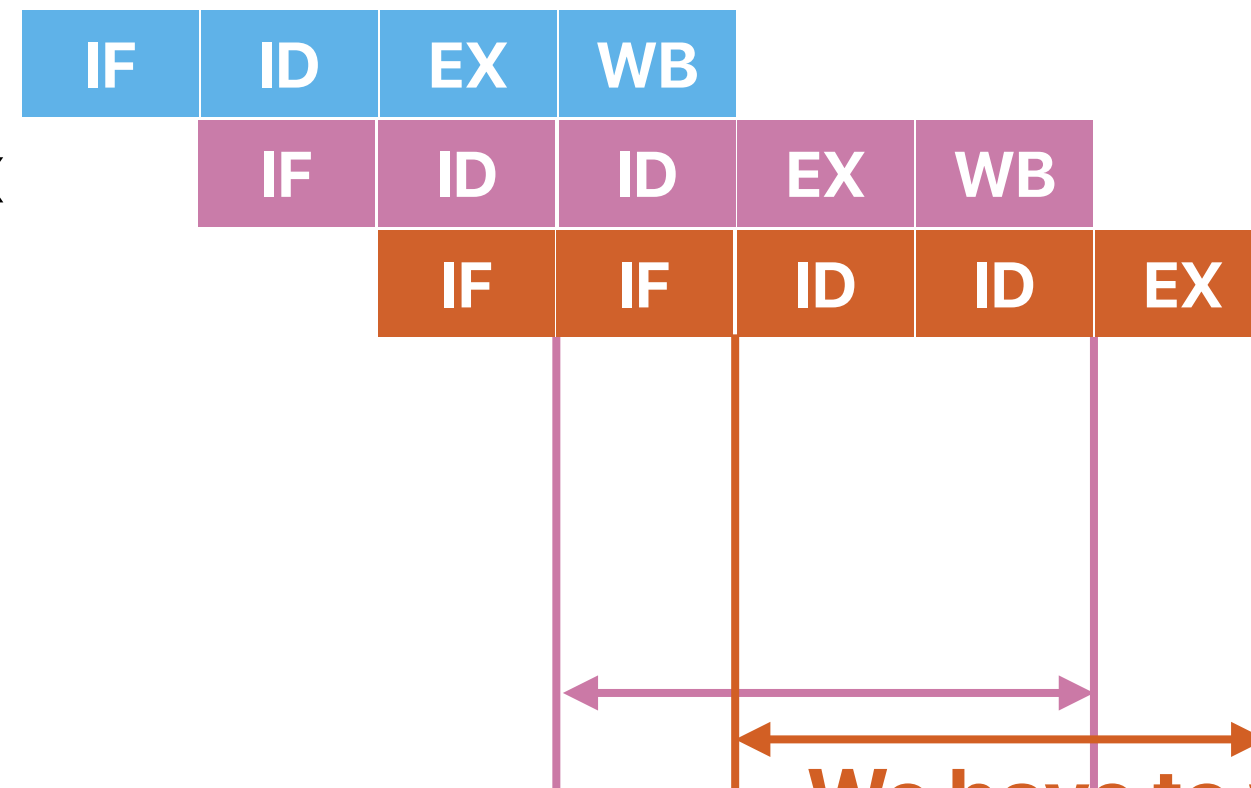
Branch taken

Branch taken

```
    cmpq   %r12, %rbx  
    je     .L14  
.L5:  
    movq   %rbx, %rdi  
    cmpq   %rbp, (%rbx)  
    jl     .L15  
    call   call_when_false@PLT  
    addq   $8, %rbx  
    cmpq   %r12, %rbx  
    jne    .L5  
.L14:  
    popq   %rbx  
    xorl   %eax, %eax  
    popq   %rbp  
    popq   %r12  
    ret
```


Why is "branch" problematic in performance?

① addq \$8, %rbx
② cmpq %r12, %rbx
③ jne .L5



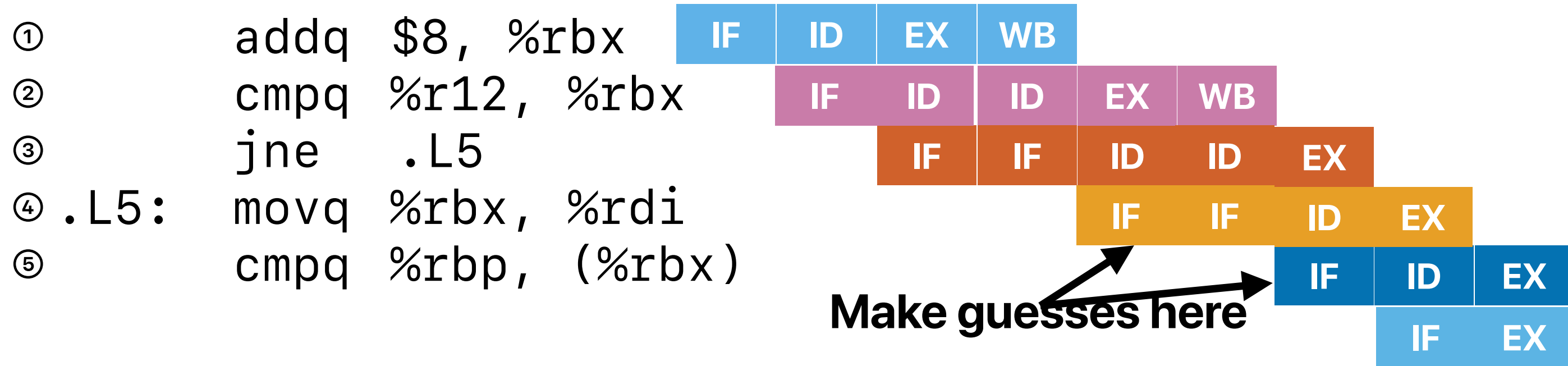
The latency of executing the cmpq instruction

We have to wait almost as long as the latency of the previous instruction to make a decision — we cannot fetch anything before that

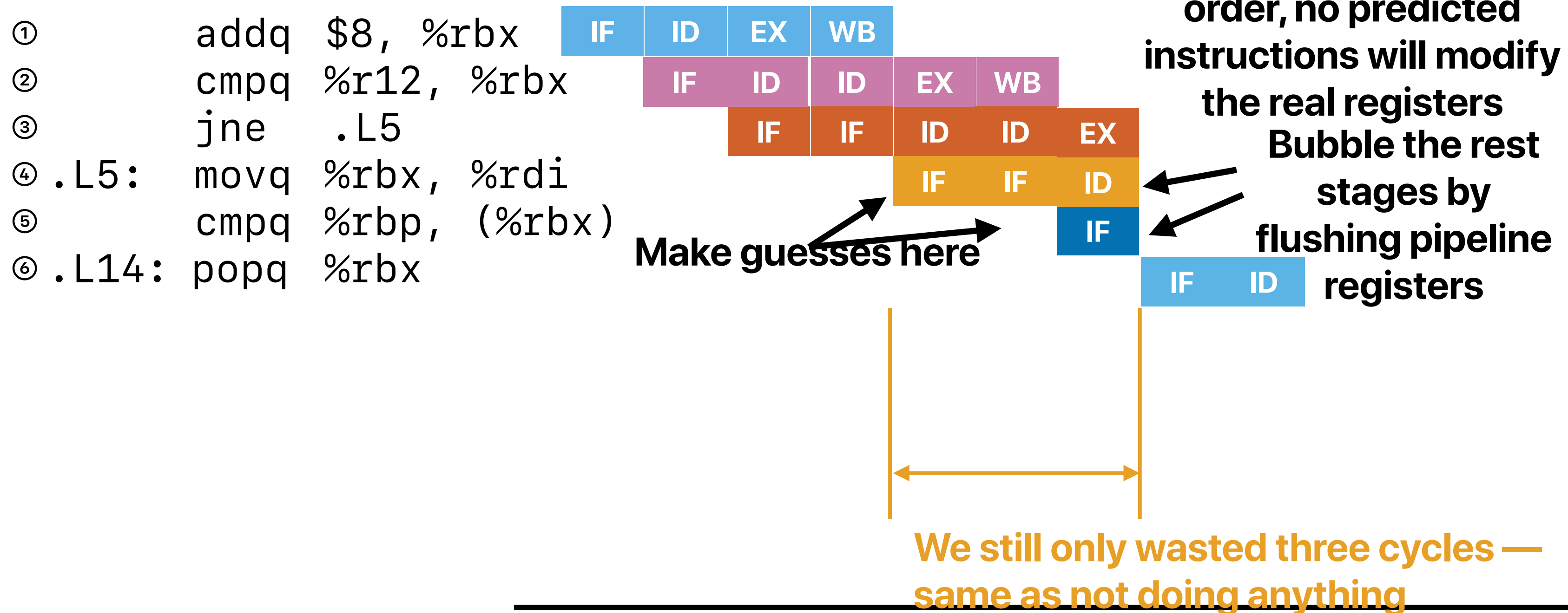
Takeaways: branch predictions

- The cost of not to predict a branch is to stall until the data dependency is resolved

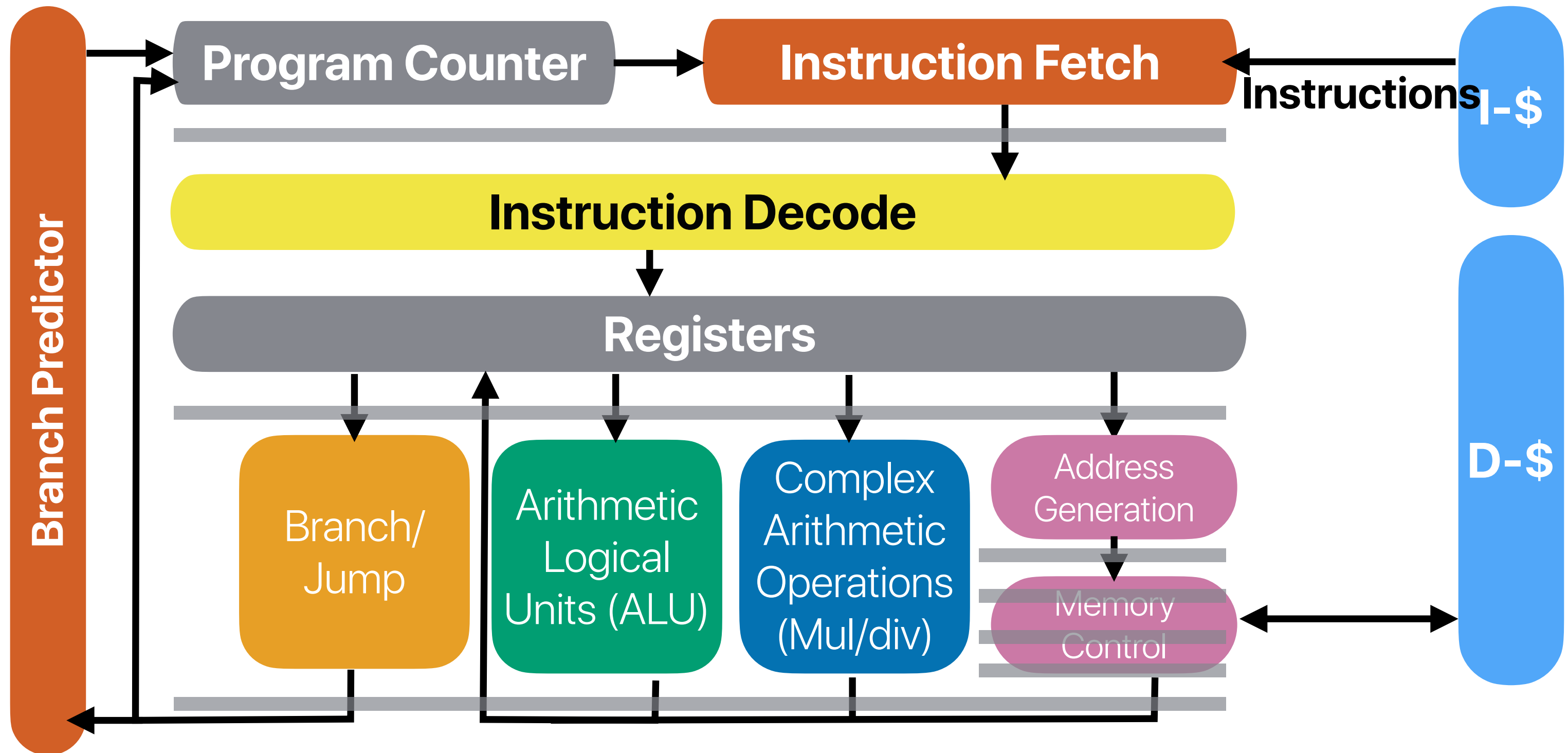
Prediction: What if we guessed right?



Prediction: What if we are wrong?



Microprocessor with a "branch predictor"



Takeaways: branch predictions

- The cost of not to predict a branch is to stall until the data dependency is resolved
- Branch predictions allow the processor to at least make some progress and hide the stalls if we guessed correctly!



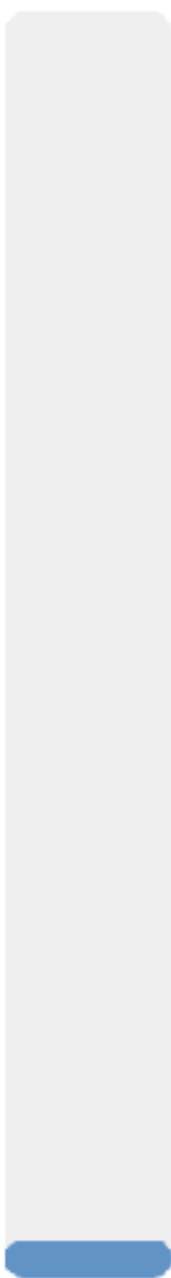
What should branch prediction "predict"

- How many of the following statements are true regarding the why is branch can lead to serious performance issues
 - ① The result value of the previous instruction generating the input to the branch
 - ② The direction of the branch (i.e., taken or not-taken)
 - ③ The target address of the branch
 - ④ The forth-through address of the branch

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

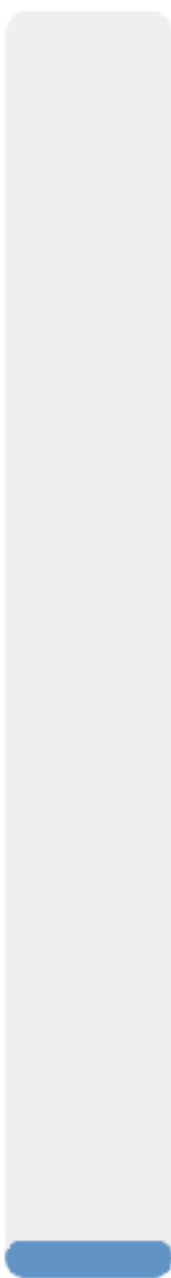
A screenshot of a poll interface. It shows five horizontal input boxes, each preceded by a letter: A, B, C, D, and E. The boxes are empty, suggesting a multiple-choice or multiple-answer poll where users select one or more options.

0%



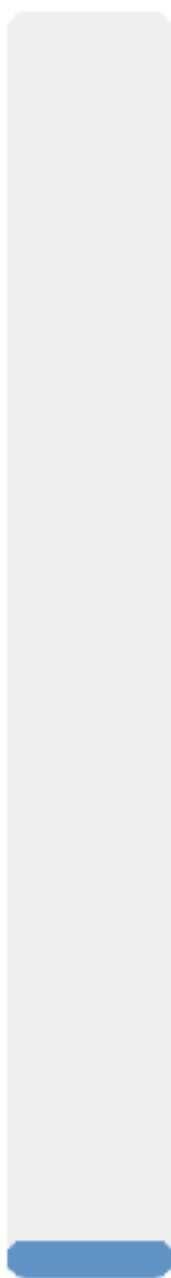
A

0%



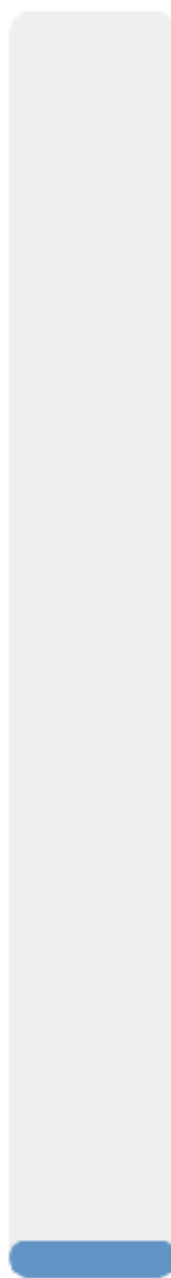
B

0%



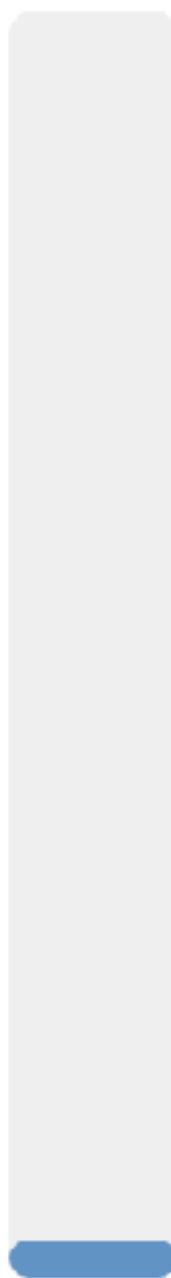
C

0%



D

0%



E



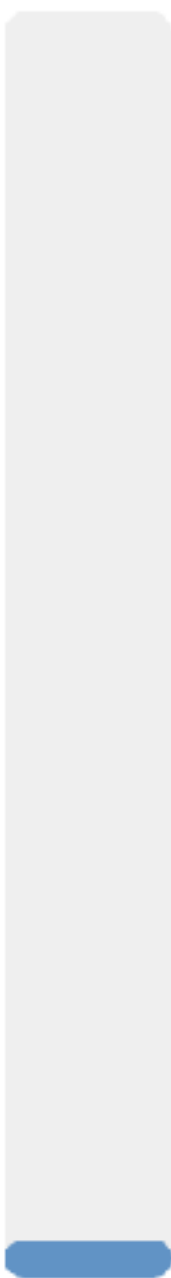
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A. 0
B. 1
C. 2
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E. 4

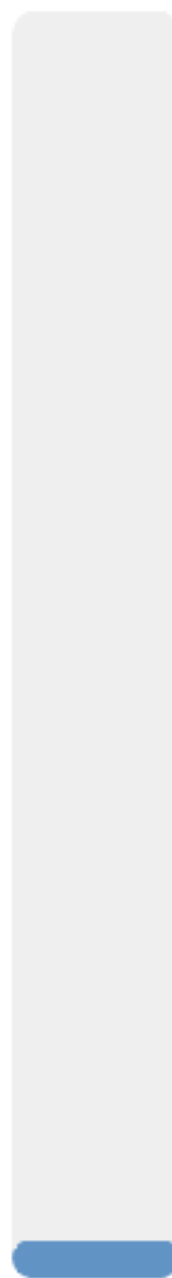
A screenshot of a poll interface. It shows five horizontal input boxes, each preceded by a letter: A, B, C, D, and E. The boxes are empty, suggesting a multiple-choice or multiple-answer poll where users select one or more options.

0%



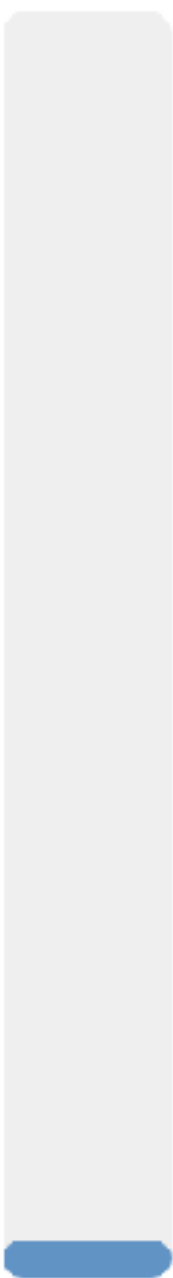
A

0%



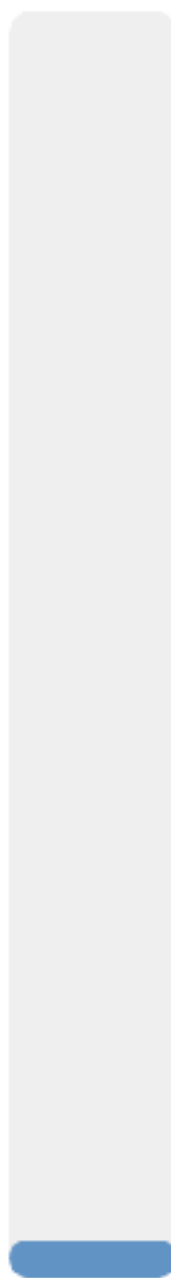
B

0%



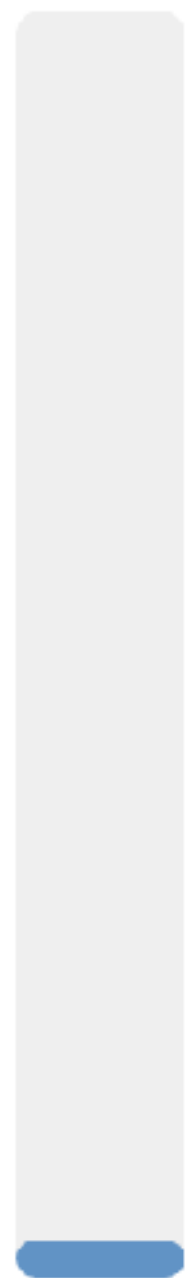
C

0%



D

0%



E

What should branch prediction "predict"

- How many of the following statements are true regarding the why is branch can lead to serious performance issues

- ① The result value of the previous instruction generating the input to the branch
- ✓ ② The direction of the branch (i.e., taken or not-taken)
- ✓ ③ The target address of the branch
- ④ The forth-through address of the branch

A. 0

B. 1

C. 2

D. 3

E. 4

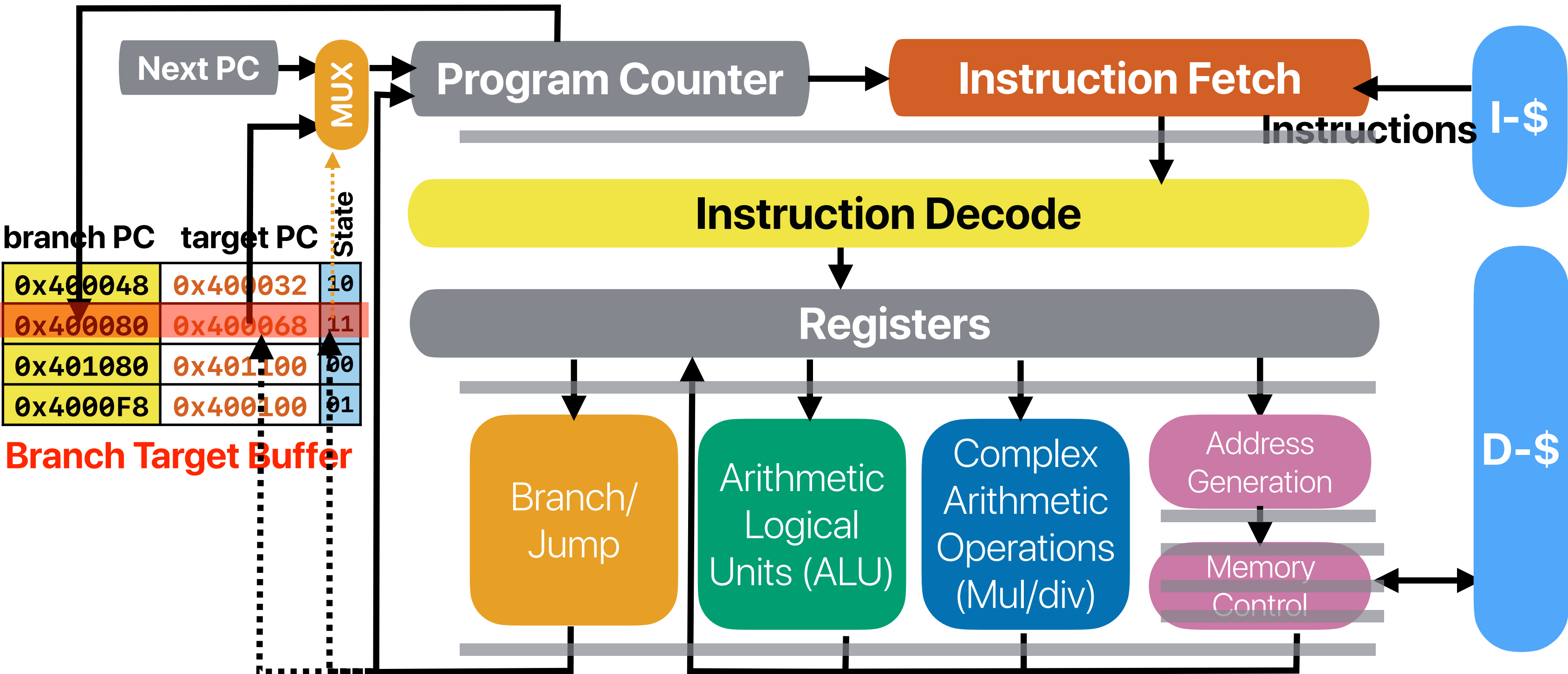
What are the "outcome" of the branch?

- **Taken, not-take** You need to predict that — history/states

- **Target address, if taken**

You need a cheatsheet for that — branch target buffer

Detail of a basic dynamic branch predictor

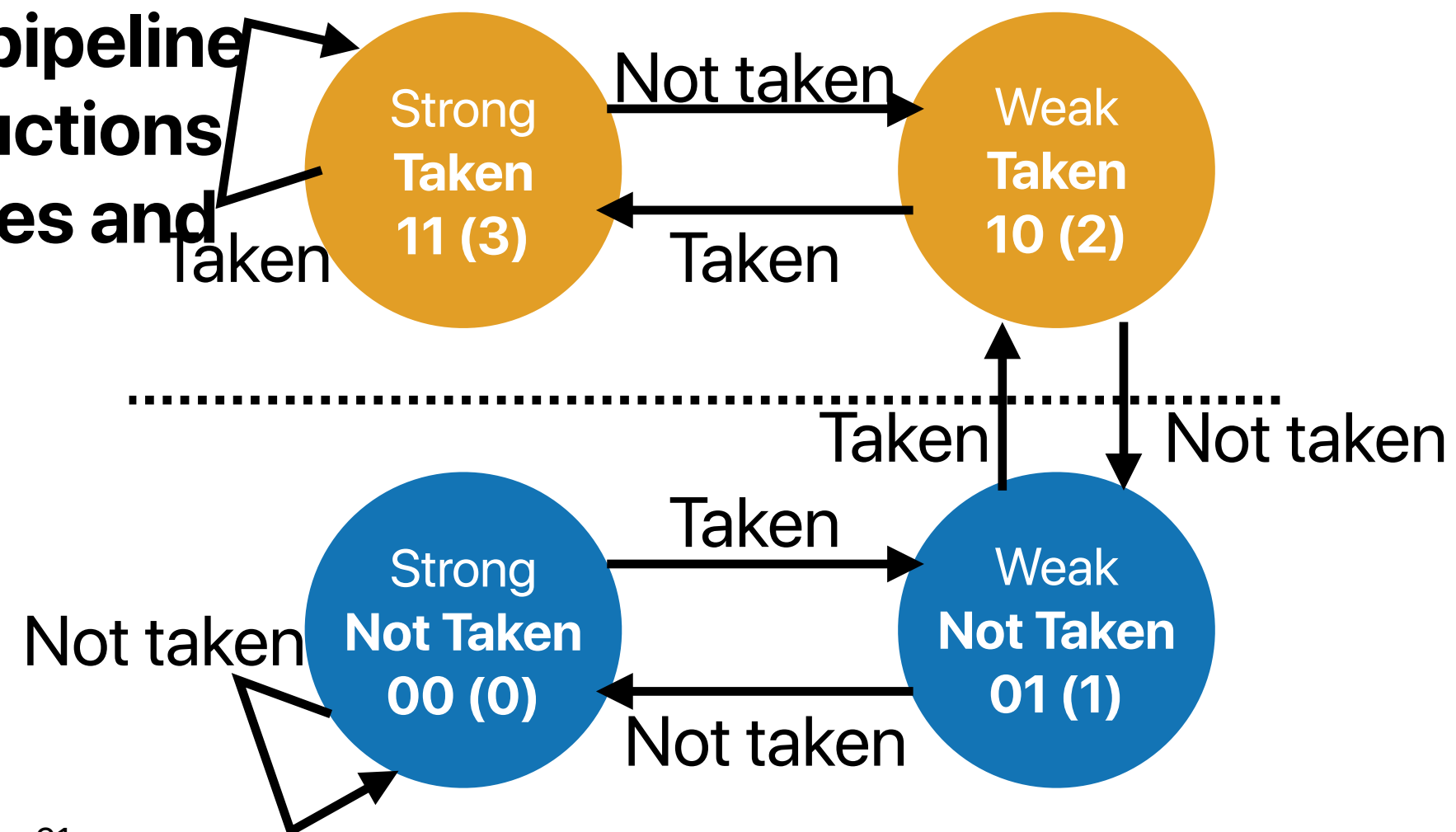


2-bit/Bimodal local predictor

- 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**

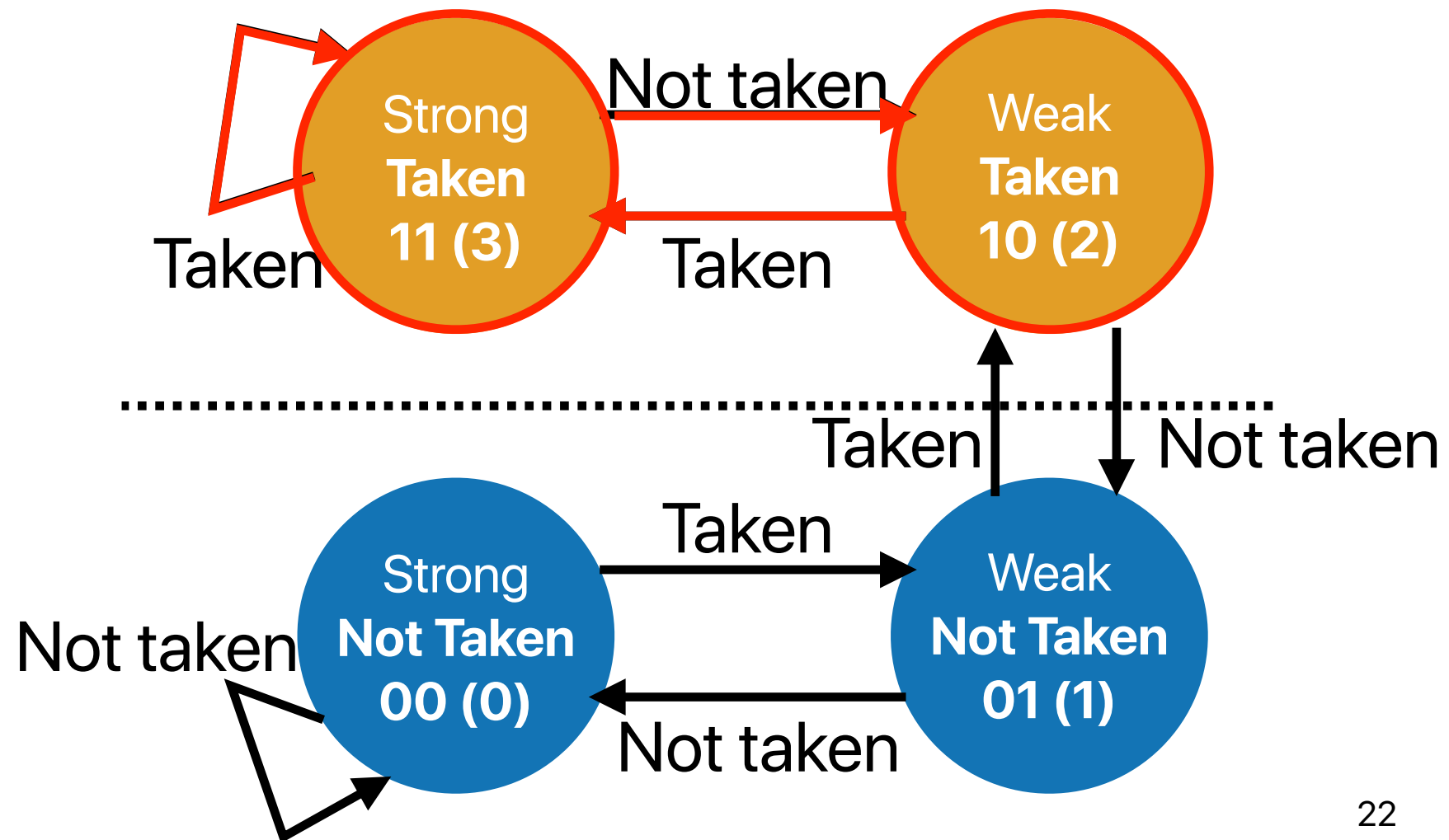
branch PC	target PC	State
0x400048	0x400032	10
0x400080	0x400068	11
0x401080	0x401100	00
0x4000F8	0x400100	01

Predict Taken



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!



Demo revisited

- Assume that we have a 2-bit local predictor and the values in data is randomly distributed in the number space, what's the branch prediction accuracy of branch X when option is "0" and "1". You may also assume the predictors' states start with 0s.

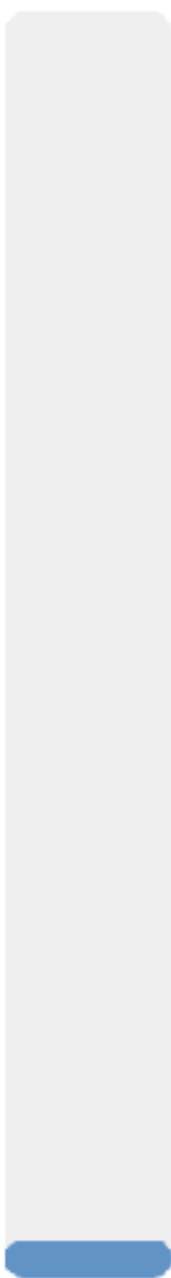
	Without sorting	After sorting
A	100%	0%
B	50%	0%
C	50%	50%
D	50%	100%
E	0%	100%

```
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) // Branch X
            sum ++;
    }
}
```

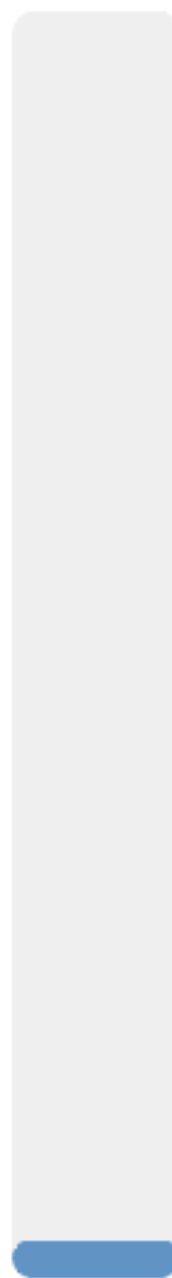


0%



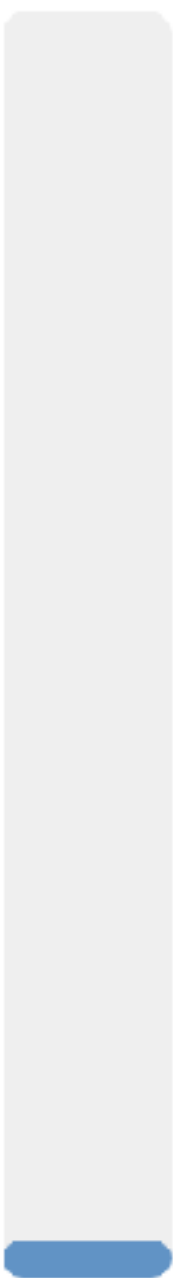
A

0%



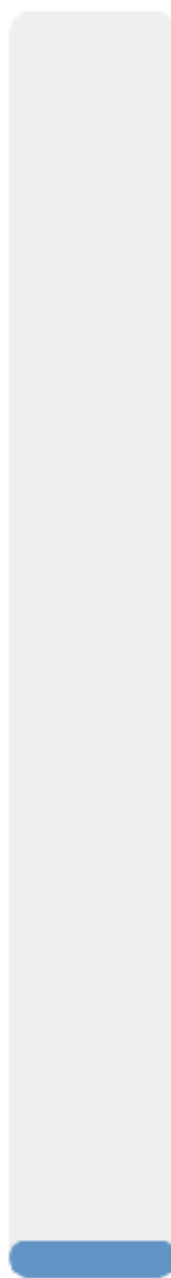
B

0%



C

0%



D

0%



E



Demo revisited

- Assume that we have a 2-bit local predictor and the values in data is randomly distributed in the number space, what's the branch prediction accuracy of branch X when option is "0" and "1". You may also assume the predictors' states start with 0s.

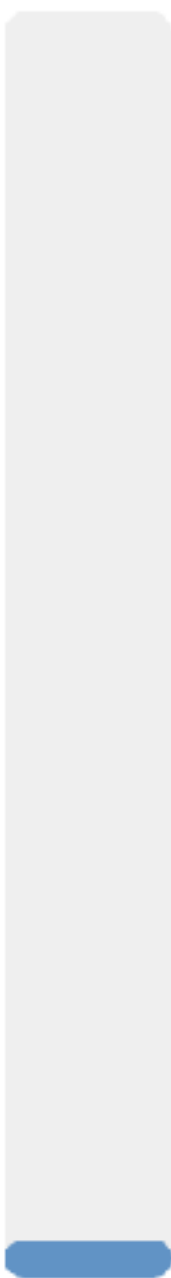
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        if (data[i] >= threshold) // Branch X
            sum ++;
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}
```

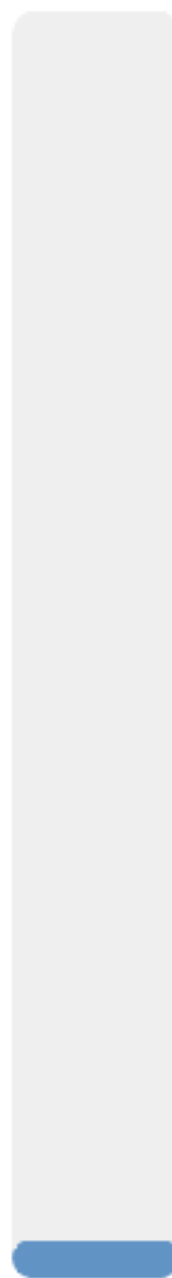


0%



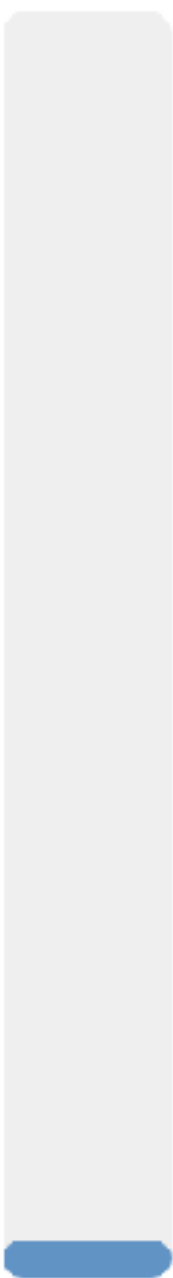
A

0%



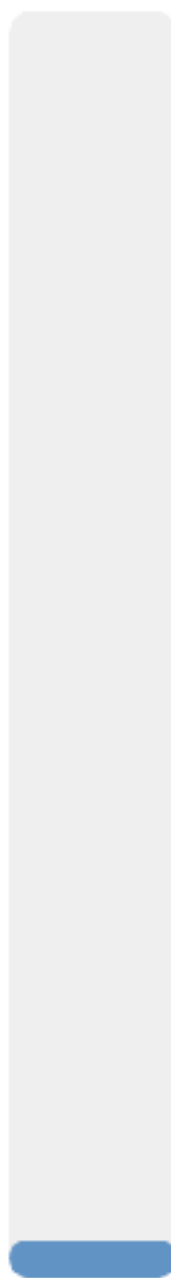
B

0%



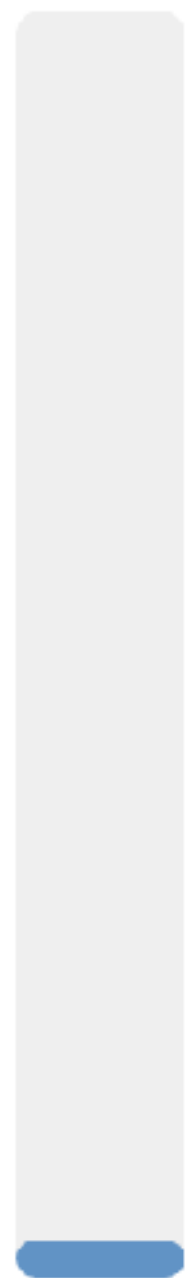
C

0%



D

0%



E

Demo revisited

- Assume that we have a 2-bit local predictor and the values in data is randomly distributed in the number space, what's the branch prediction accuracy of branch X when option is "0" and "1". You may also assume the predictors' states start with 0s.

	Without sorting	After sorting
A	100%	0%
B	50%	0%
C	50%	50%
D	50%	100%
E	0%	100%

```
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) // Branch X
            sum ++;
    }
}
```



Demo revisited

- Assume that we have a 2-bit local predictor and the values in data is randomly distributed in the number space, what's the branch prediction accuracy of branch X when option is "0" and "1". You may also assume the predictors' states start with 0s.

	Without sorting	After sorting
A	100%	0%
B	50%	0%
C	50%	50%
D	50%	100%
E	0%	100%

```
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) // Branch X
            continue;
    }
}
```

	Without sorting	With sorting
The prediction accuracy of X before threshold	50%	100%
The prediction accuracy of X after threshold	50%	100%

Demo revisited

If there is no branch predictor on the processor, the code w/ sorting will be slower — but every processor has branch predictors now

```
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) // Branch X
    }
}
```

	Without sorting	After sorting
A	100%	0%
B	50%	0%
C	50%	50%
D	50%	100%
E	0%	100%



	Without sorting	With sorting
The prediction accuracy of X before threshold	50%	100%
The prediction accuracy of X after threshold	50%	100%

How can we evaluate the cost of mis-predicted branches?

- Compare the number of mis-predictions
- Calculate the difference of cycles
- We can get the "average CPI" of a mis-prediction!



Demo revisited: evaluating the cost of mis-predicted branches

- Compare the number of mis-predictions
- Calculate the difference of cycles
- We can get the “average CPI” of a mis-prediction!

34 cycles on Intel Alder Lake

23 cycles on AMD Zen 3

Could be more expensive than cache misses



2-bit local predictor

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

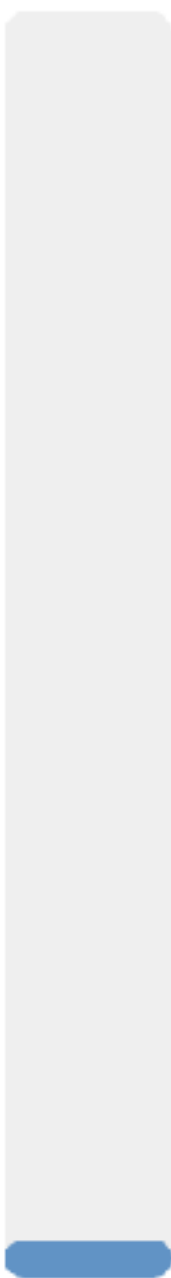
```
i = 0;
do {
    if( i % 2 != 0) // Branch X, taken if i % 2 == 0
        a[i] *= 2;
    a[i] += i;
} while ( ++i < 100) // Branch Y
```

(assume all states started with 00)

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

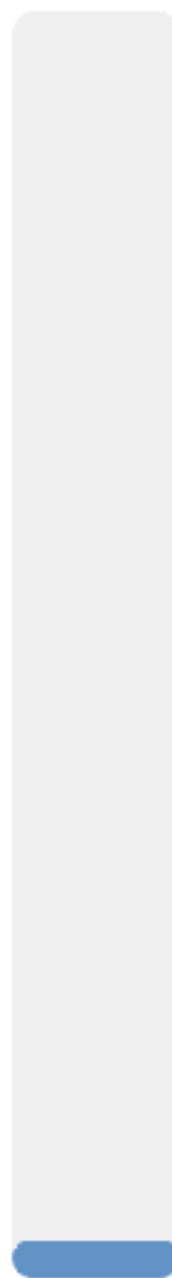


0%



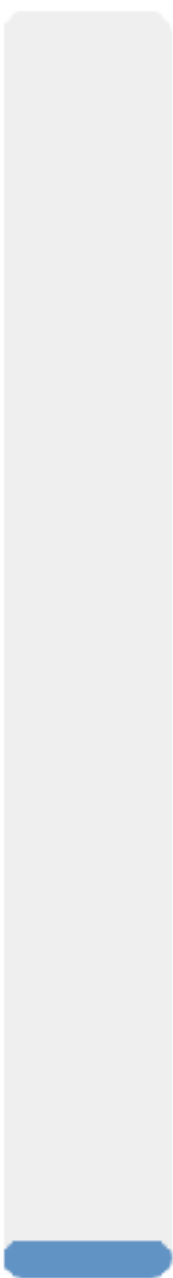
A

0%



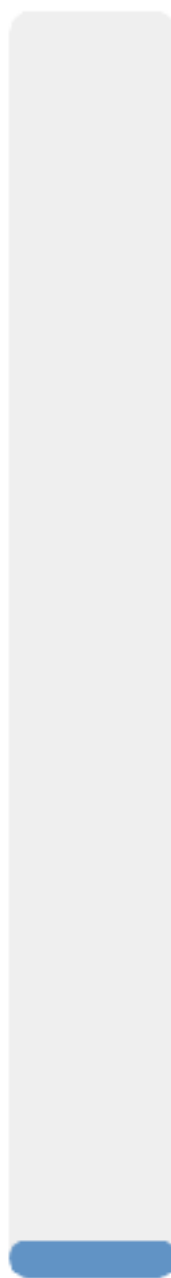
B

0%



C

0%



D

0%



E



2-bit local predictor

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

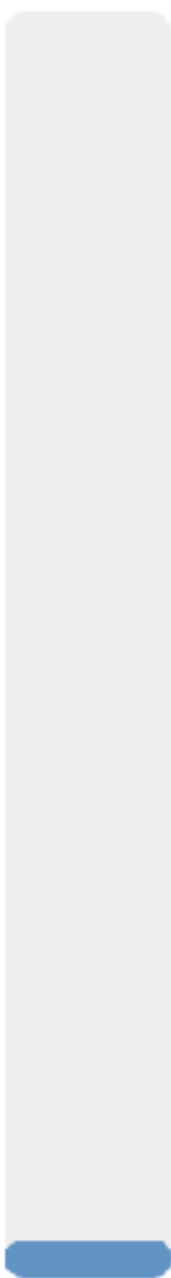
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        a[i] *= 2;  
    a[i] += i;  
} while ( ++i < 100) // Branch Y
```

(assume all states started with 00)

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

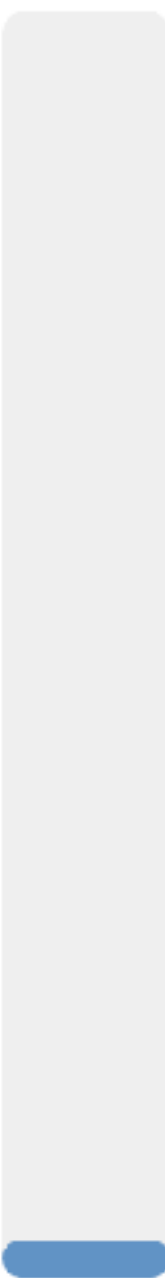


0%



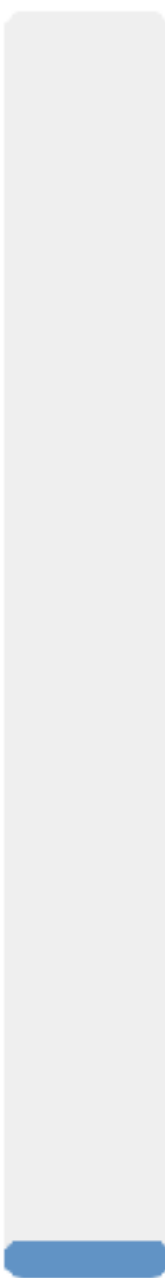
A

0%



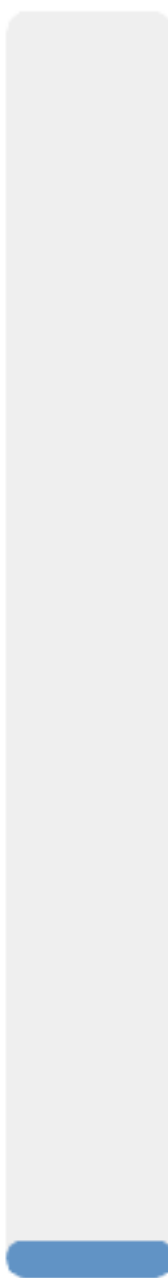
B

0%



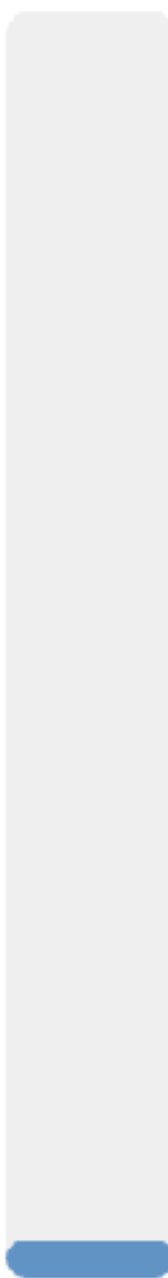
C

0%



D

0%



E

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
```

Can we do a
better job?

(assume all states started with 00)

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

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

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

Takeaways: branch predictions

- The cost of not to predict a branch is to stall until the data dependency is resolved — 34 cycles on modern intel processors and 23 on AMD processors
- Branch predictions allow the processor to at least make some progress and hide the stalls if we guessed correctly!
- Dynamic branch prediction — predict based on prior history
 - Local predictor — make prediction based on the state of each branch instruction

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)

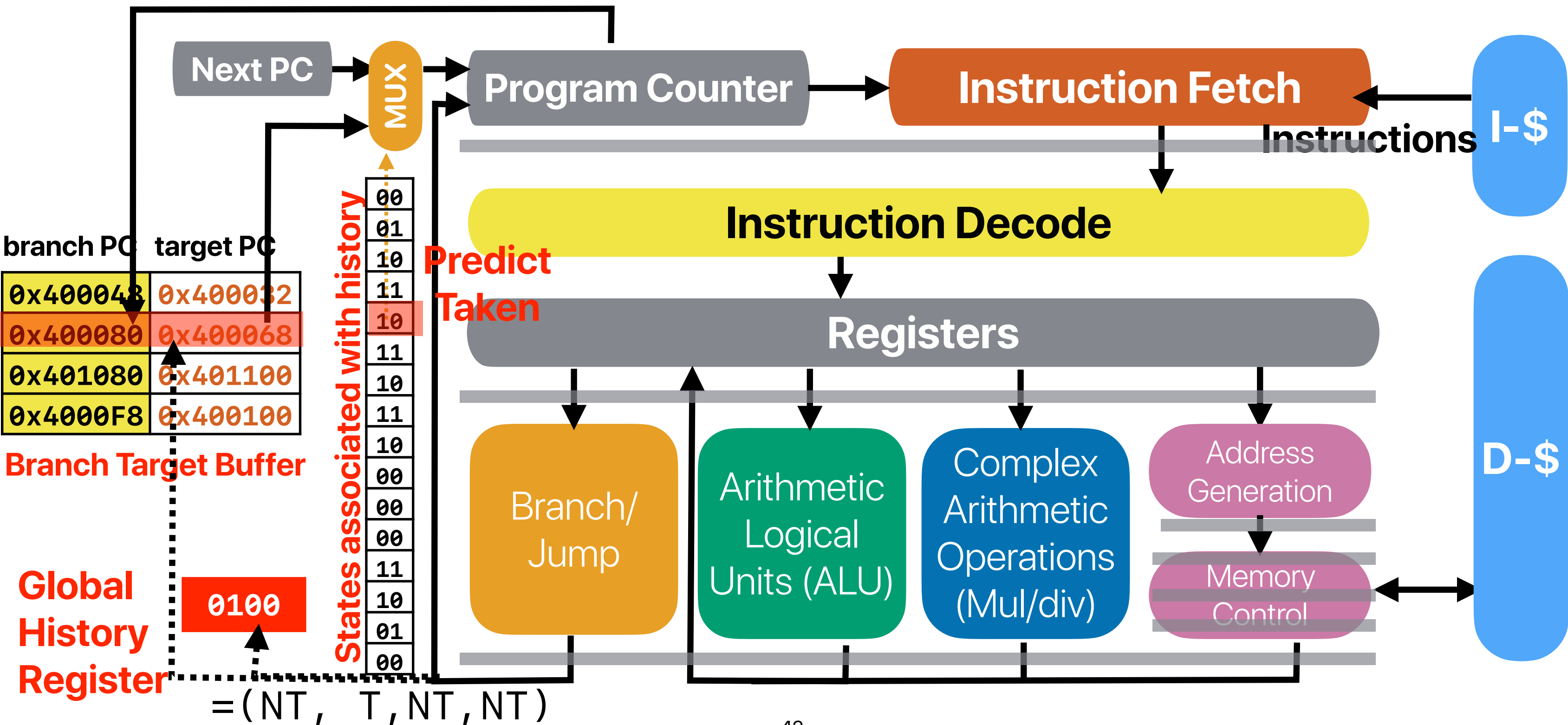
- A. ~25%
- B. ~33%
- C. ~50%
- D. ~67%
- E. ~75%**

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
1	Y	00	NT	T
2	X	01	NT	NT
2	Y	01	NT	T
3	X	00	NT	T
3	Y	10	NT	T
4	X	01	NT	NT
4	Y	01	NT	T
5	X	11	T	T
5	Y	11	T	T
6	X	00	NT	T
6	Y	00	NT	T
7	X	01	NT	NT
7	Y	01	NT	T
7	X	11	T	T
7	Y	11	T	T

Detail of a basic dynamic branch 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
1	Y	001	00	NT	T
1	X	011	00	NT	NT
2	Y	110	00	NT	T
2	X	101	00	NT	T
3	Y	011	00	NT	T
3	X	111	00	NT	NT
4	Y	110	01	NT	T
4	X	101	01	NT	T
5	Y	011	01	NT	T
5	X	111	00	NT	NT
6	Y	110	10	T	T
6	X	101	10	T	T
7	Y	011	10	T	T
7	X	111	00	NT	NT
8	Y	110	11	T	T
8	X	101	11	T	T
9	Y	011	11	T	T
9	X	111	00	NT	NT
10	Y	110	11	T	T
10	X	101	11	T	T
11	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 = 0;
do {
    if( i % 10 != 0)
        a[i] *= 2;
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} while ( ++i < 100);
```

=

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do {
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```

≡

```
i = 0;
do {
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```

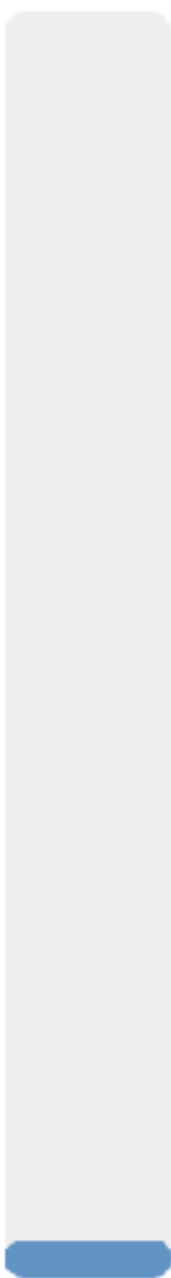
≥

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} while ( ++i < 100)
```

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

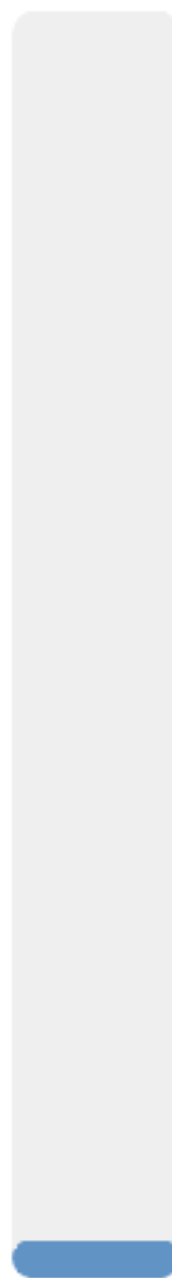


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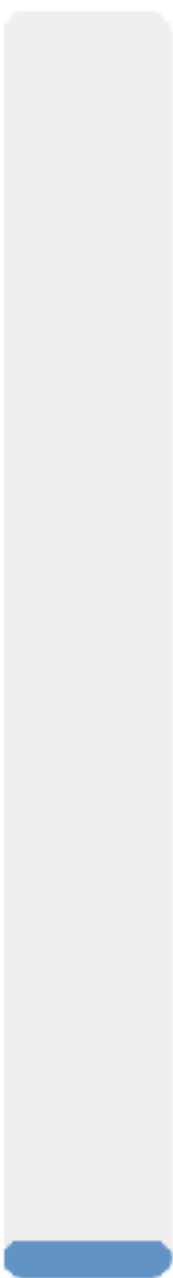
A

0%



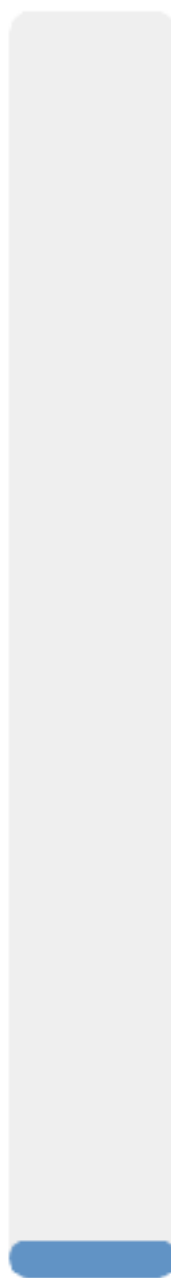
B

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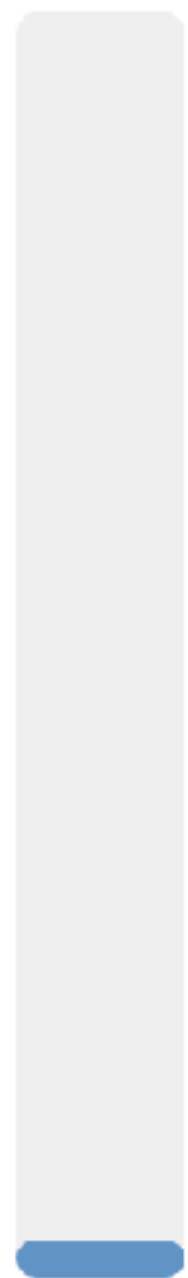
C

0%



D

0%



E



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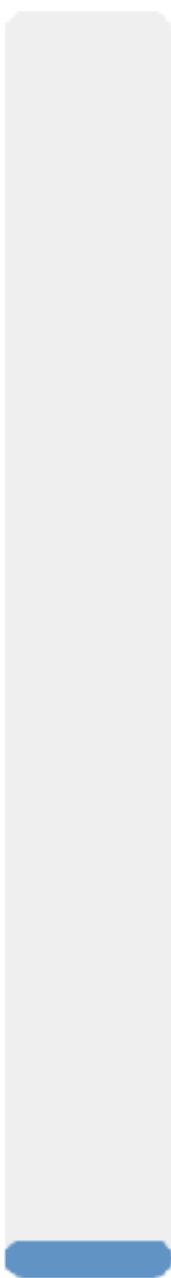
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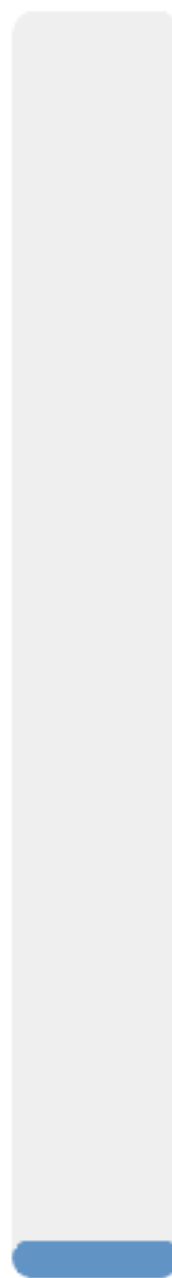


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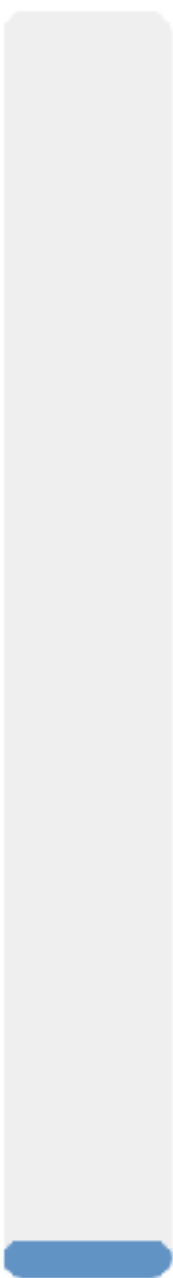
A

0%



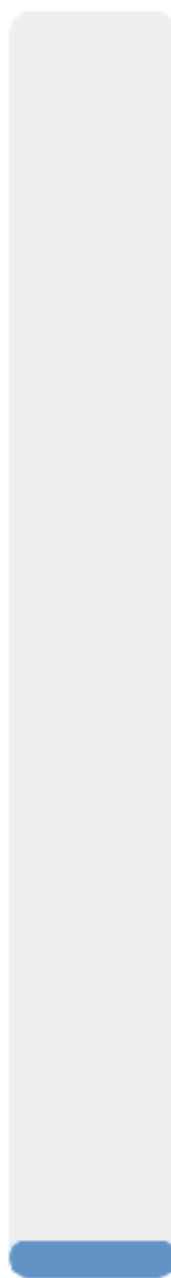
B

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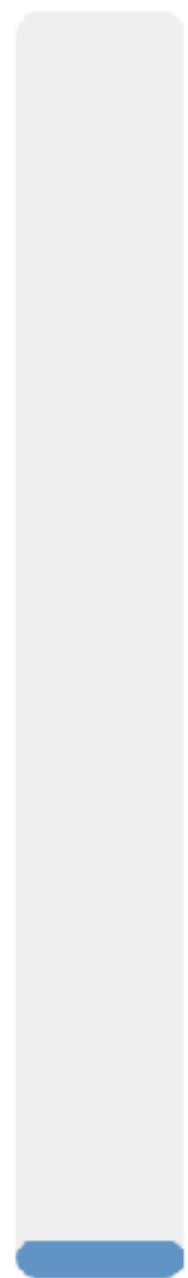
C

0%



D

0%



E

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L could be better

≥

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Takeaways: branch predictions

- The cost of not to predict a branch is to stall until the data dependency is resolved — 34 cycles on modern intel processors and 23 on AMD processors
- Branch predictions allow the processor to at least make some progress and hide the stalls if we guessed correctly!
- Dynamic branch prediction — predict based on prior history
 - Local predictor — make predictions based on the state of each branch instruction
 - Global predictor — make predictions based on the state from all branches
 - Both are not perfect

Hybrid predictors

Tournament Predictor

Global
History
Register

0100

Local
History
Predictor

branch PC local history

0x400048	1000
0x400080	0110
0x401080	1010
0x4000F8	0110

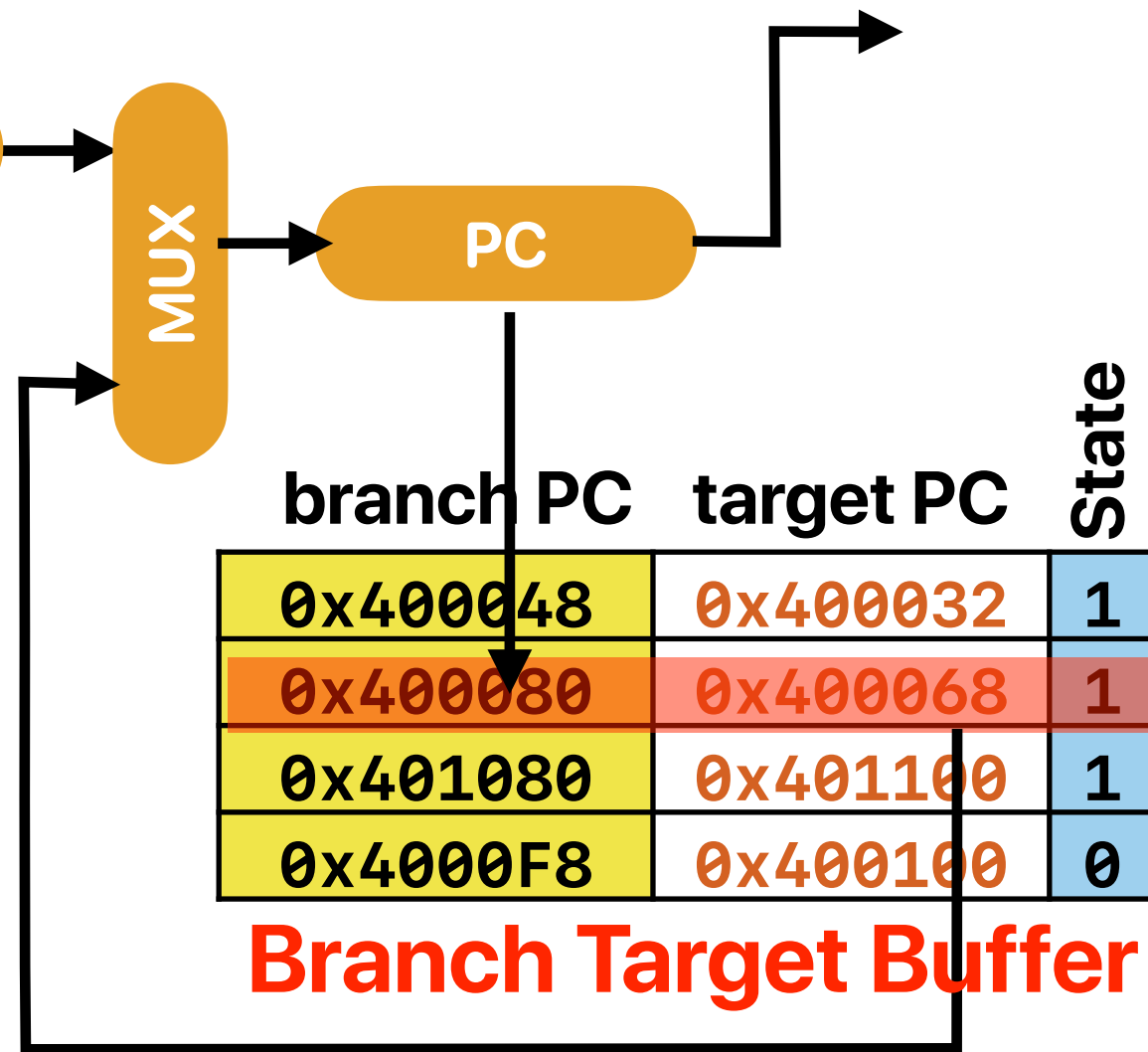
Predict Taken

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

States associated with history

States associated with history

00
01
10
11
10
11
10
11
10
11
10
00
00
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
- Tournament predictor is a “hybrid predictor” as it takes both local & global information into account

gshare predictor

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

TAGE

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

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≥

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} while ( ++i < 100)
```

A. 0

B. 1

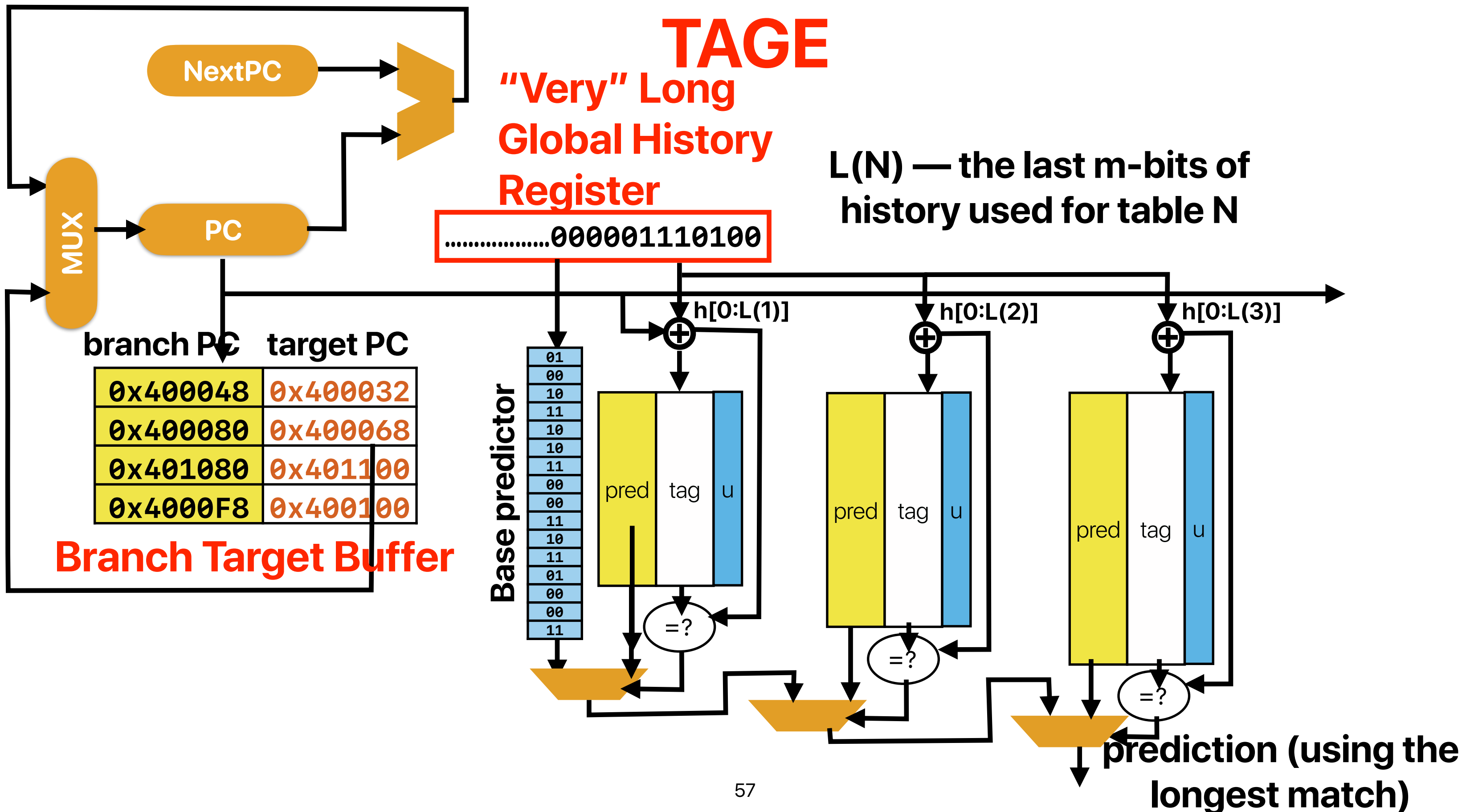
C. 2

D. 3

E. 4

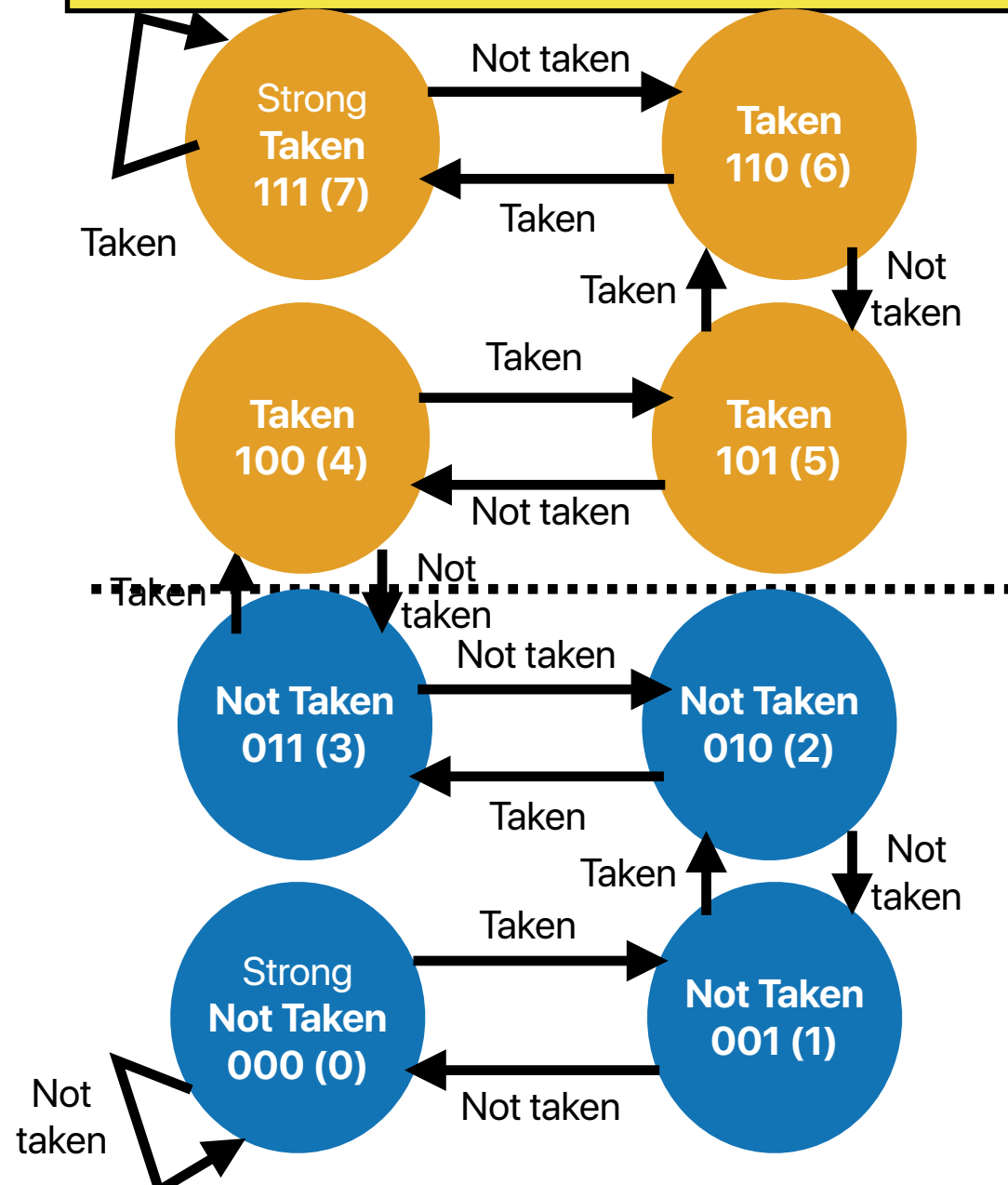
different branch needs different length of history

global predictor can work if the history is long enough!



What's inside each table?

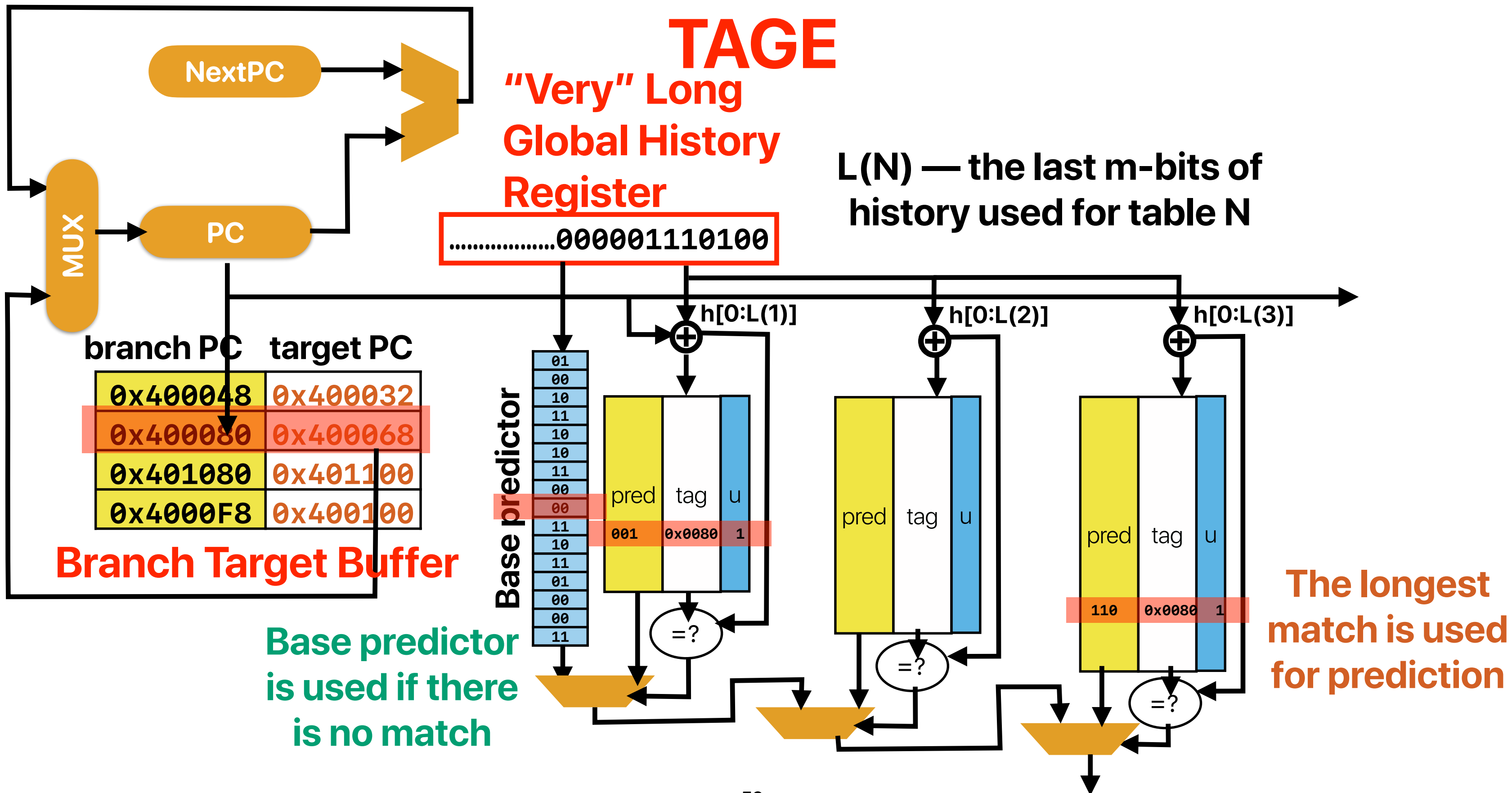
pred (3-bit counter)	tag (partial branch PC)	u (usefulness)
-------------------------	----------------------------	----------------



if $prediction(alt_predictor) \neq prediction(pred)$:

if $prediction(pred) = actual\ result$: $u = u + 1$

if $prediction(pred) \neq actual\ result$: $u = u - 1$



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

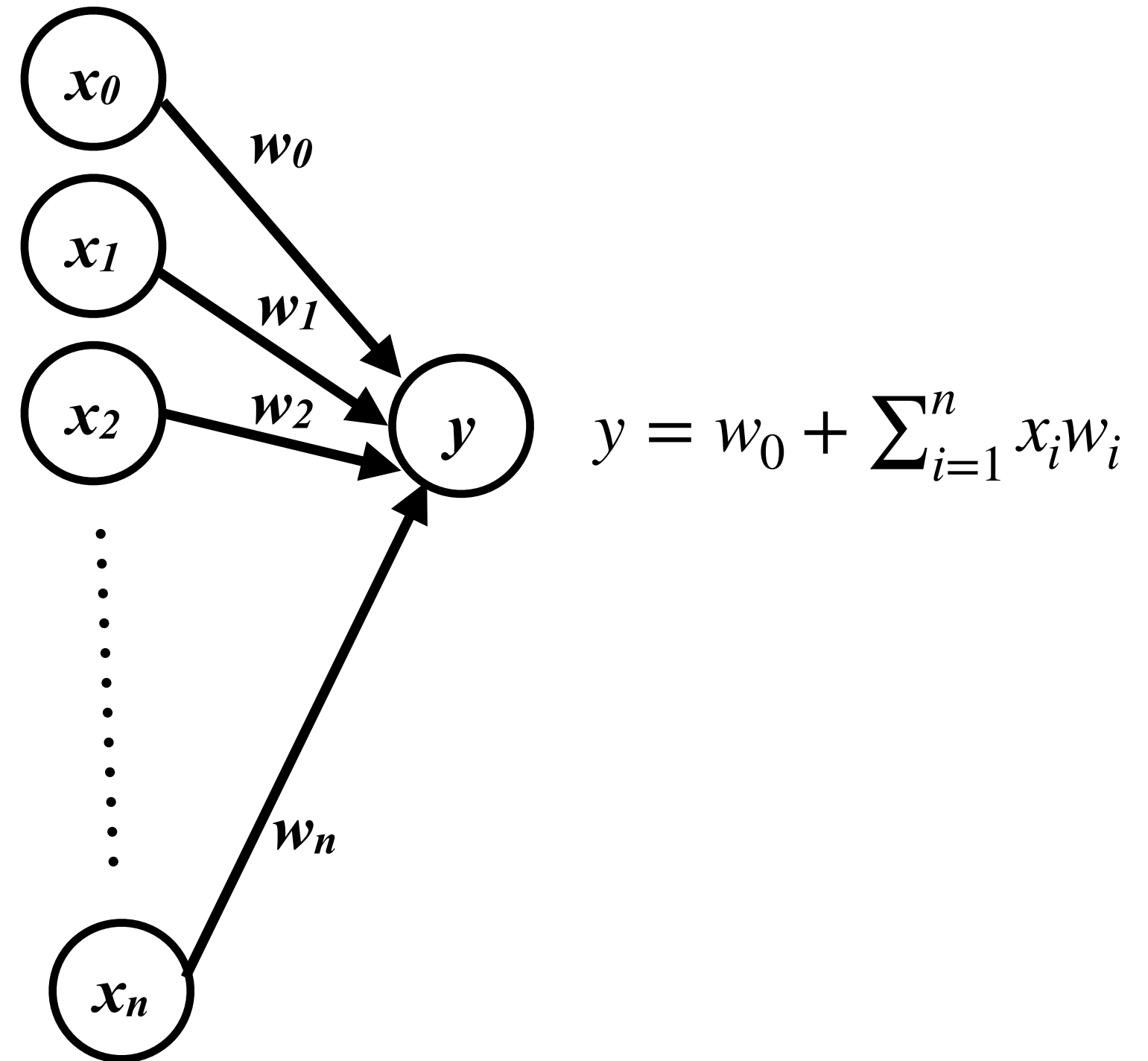
- The machine learns to predict conditional branches
- Artificial neural networks
 - Simple model of neural networks in brain cells
 - Learn to recognize and classify patterns

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.

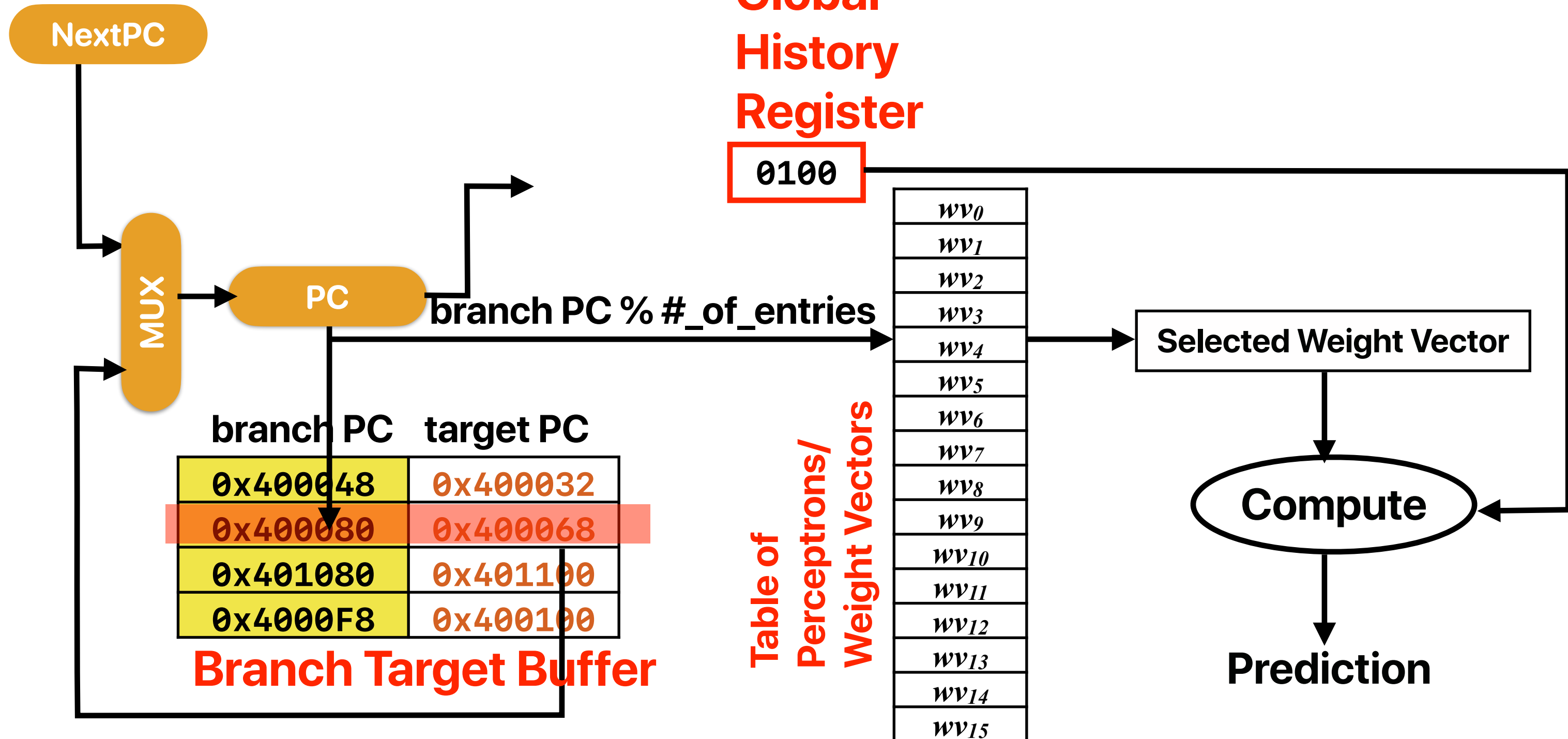
θ is the training threshold.

```
if  $|y| \leq \theta$  or  $((y \geq 0) \neq t)$  then
  for each  $0 \leq i \leq n$  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

Global
History
Register

0100





Design decisions in real practice

- Based on D. Suggs, D. Bouvier, M. Subramony and K. Lepak's "Zen 2", AMD Zen 2 (RyZen 3000 series processors) adopts a design with first level predictor using perceptron and using TAGE for the 2nd level. What such a design decision reflects on the characteristics of TAGE and Perceptron?

- ① Perceptron takes longer to train than TAGE
- ② Perceptron takes longer to predict than TAGE
- ③ Perceptron is more accurate than TAGE
- ④ Perceptron's performance improves less given more area

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perceptron predictors. For this reason, TAGE was a good choice for [REDACTED] L2 predictor while keeping perceptron as the L1 predictor for [REDACTED].



TAGE vs Perceptron





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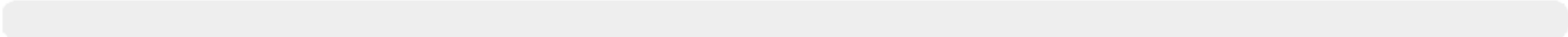
- A. 0
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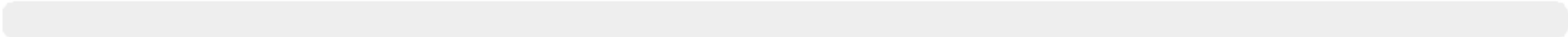
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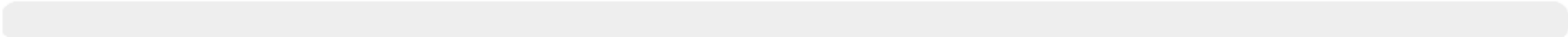


TAGE vs Perceptron — Group

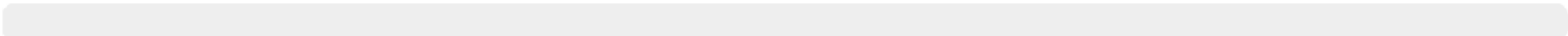


A  0%

B  0%

C  0%

D  0%

E  0%

Design decisions in real practice

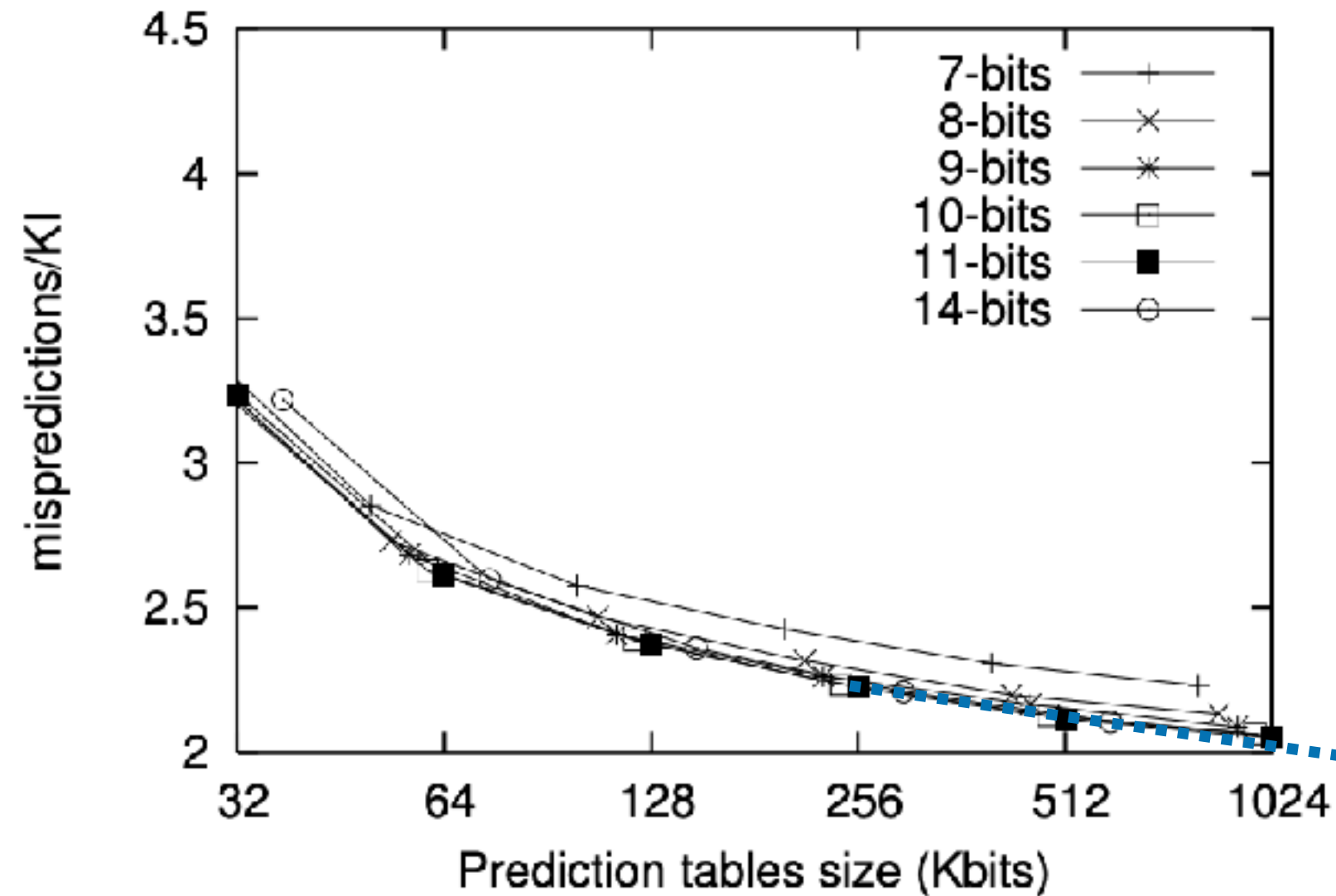
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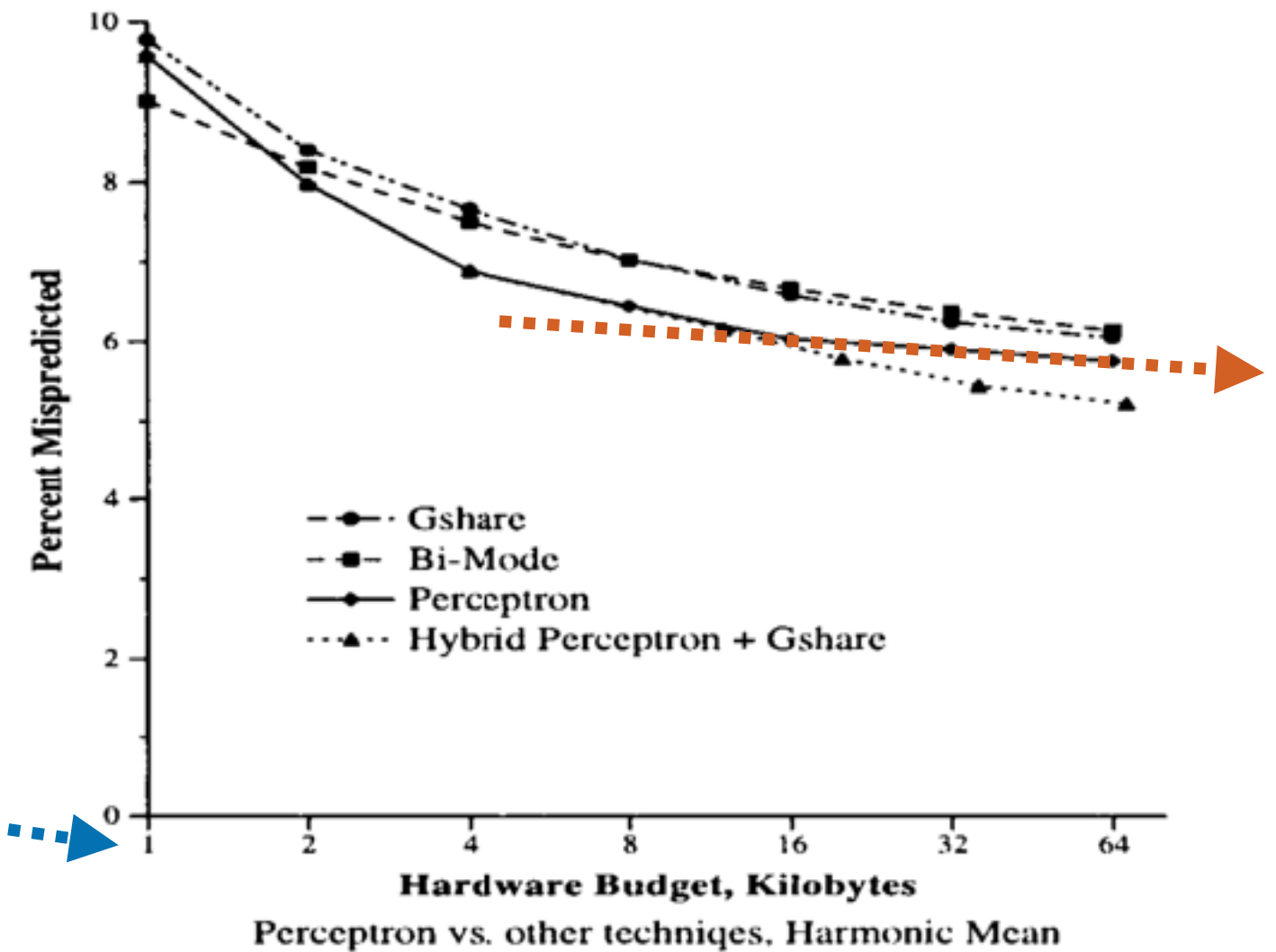
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Area efficiency between TAGE and Perceptron



TAGE



Perceptron

How good is prediction using perceptrons?

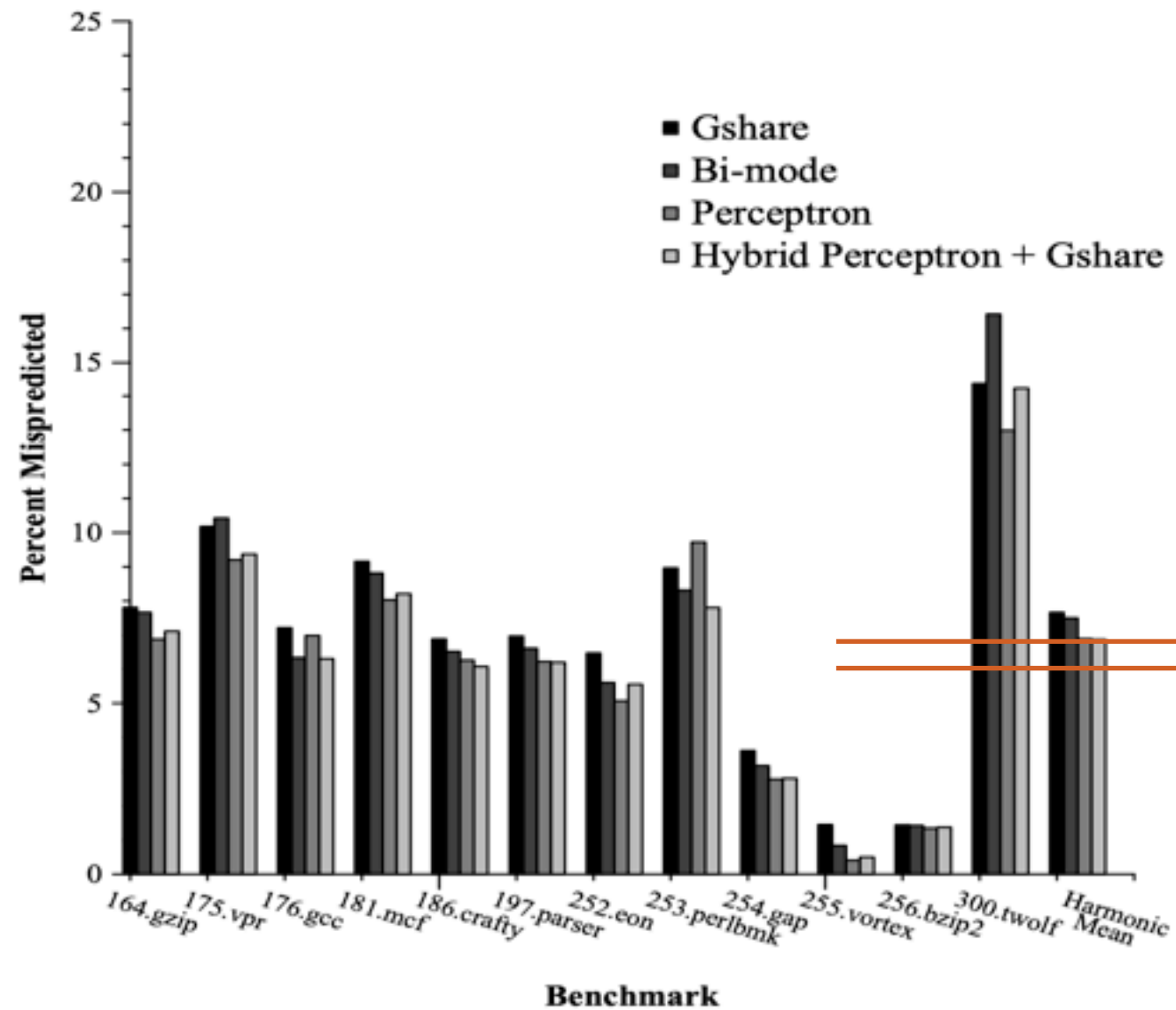


Figure 4: Misprediction Rates at a 4K budget. The perceptron predictor has a lower misprediction rate than *gshare* for all benchmarks except for *186.crafty* and *197.parser*.

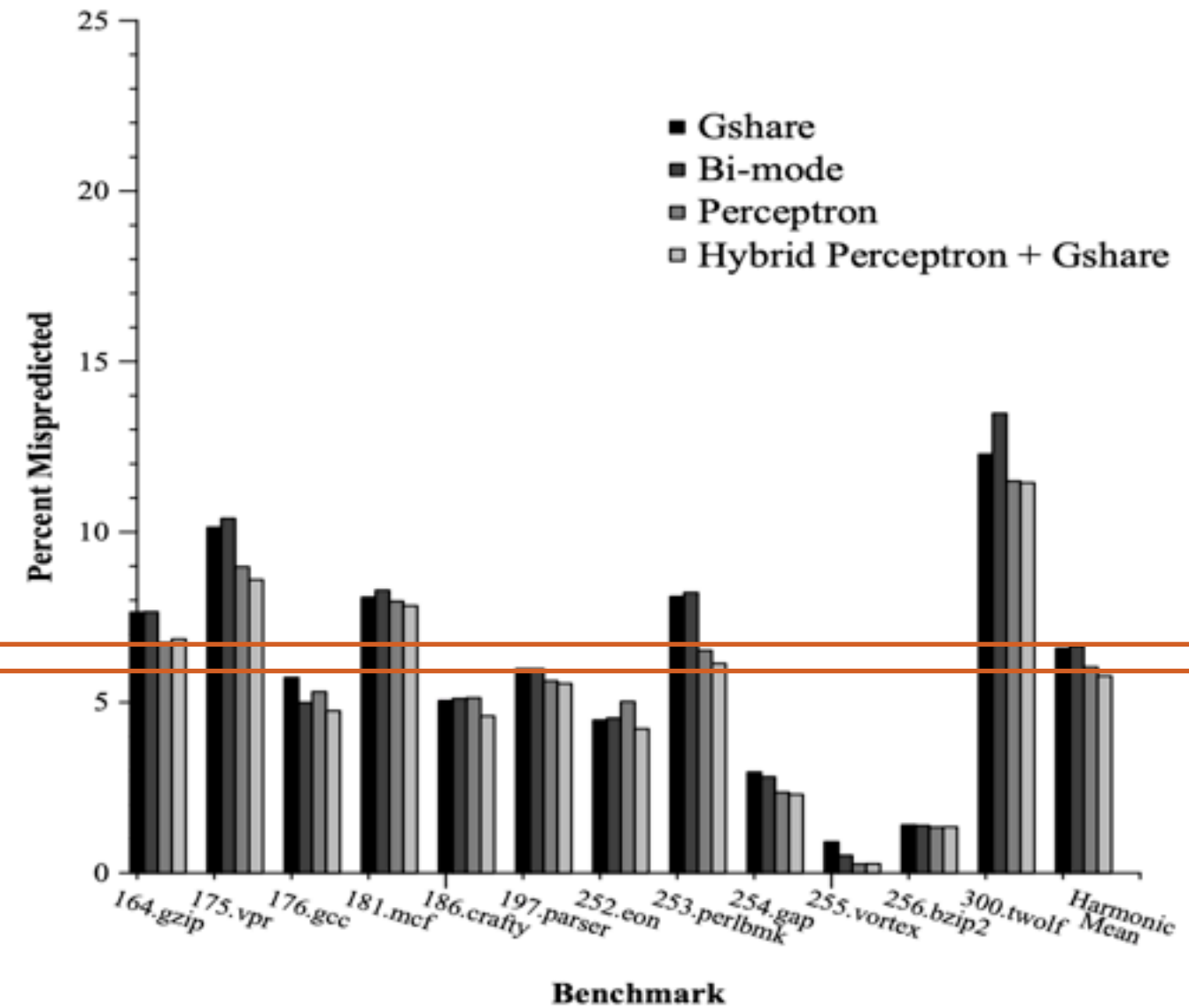
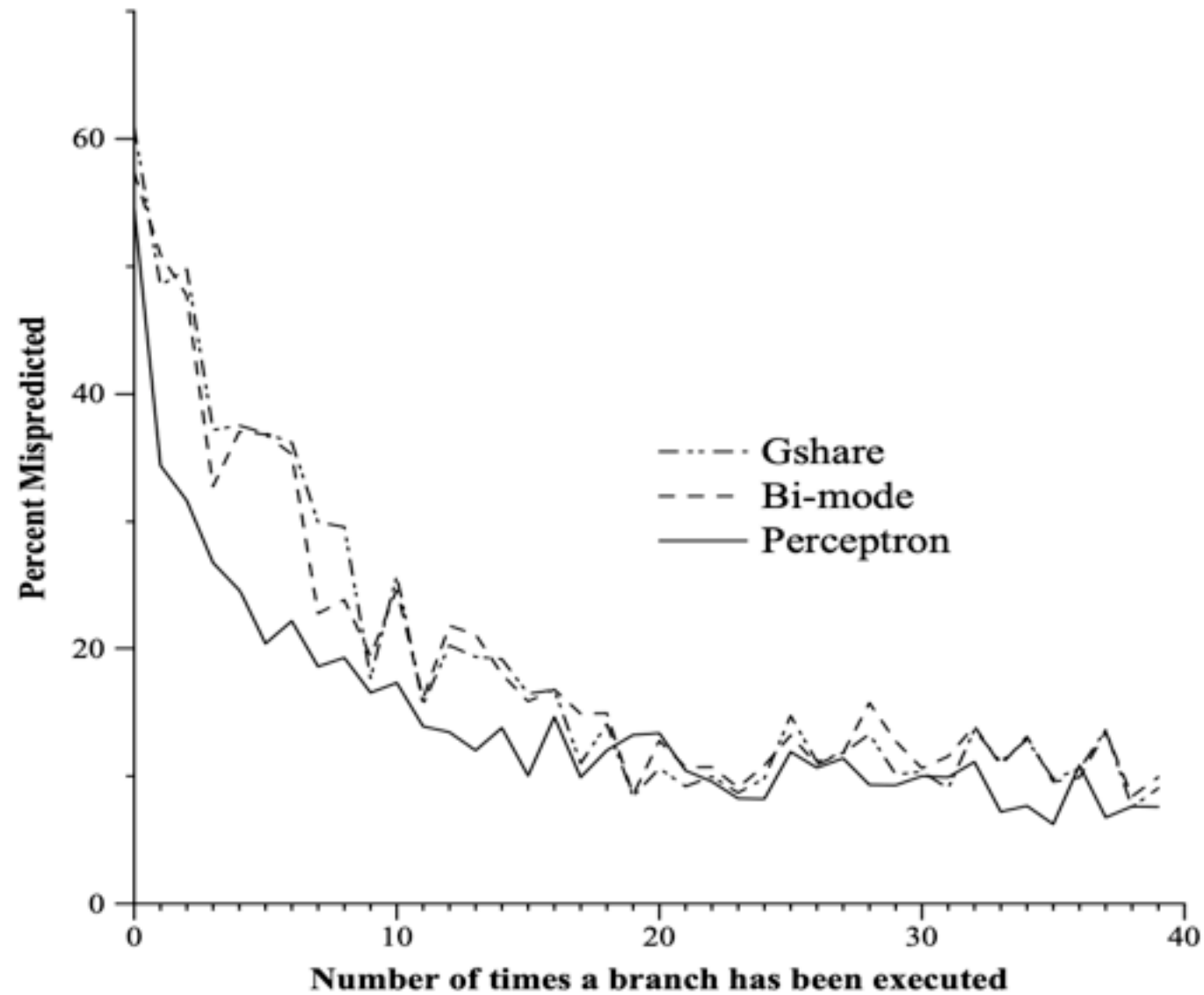


Figure 5: Misprediction Rates at a 16K budget. *Gshare* outperforms the perceptron predictor only on *186.crafty*. The hybrid predictor is consistently better than the PHT schemes.

History/training for perceptrons



Hardware budget in kilobytes	History Length		
	<i>gshare</i>	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.

AMD Zen 2's design experience

PREDICTION, FETCH, AND DECODE

The in-order front-end of the Zen 2 core includes branch prediction, instruction fetch, and decode. The branch predictor in Zen 2 features a two-level conditional branch predictor. To increase prediction accuracy, the L2 predictor has been upgraded from a perceptron predictor in Zen to a tagged geometric history length (TAGE) predictor in Zen 2.⁵ TAGE predictors provide high accuracy per bit of storage capacity. However, they do multiplex read data from multiple tables, requiring a timing tradeoff versus perceptron predictors. For this reason, TAGE was a good choice for the longer-latency L2 predictor while keeping perceptron as the L1 predictor for best timing at low latency.

D. Suggs D. Bouvier M. Subramony and K. Lepak "Zen 2" Hot Chips vol. 31 2019.

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no — based on the paper
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short — otherwise won't be in L1
- ③ Perceptron is more accurate than TAGE
less accurate — otherwise won't need an L2
- ④ Perceptron's performance improves less given more area

A. 0

no — based on the paper

B. 1

C. 2

D. 3

E. 4

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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
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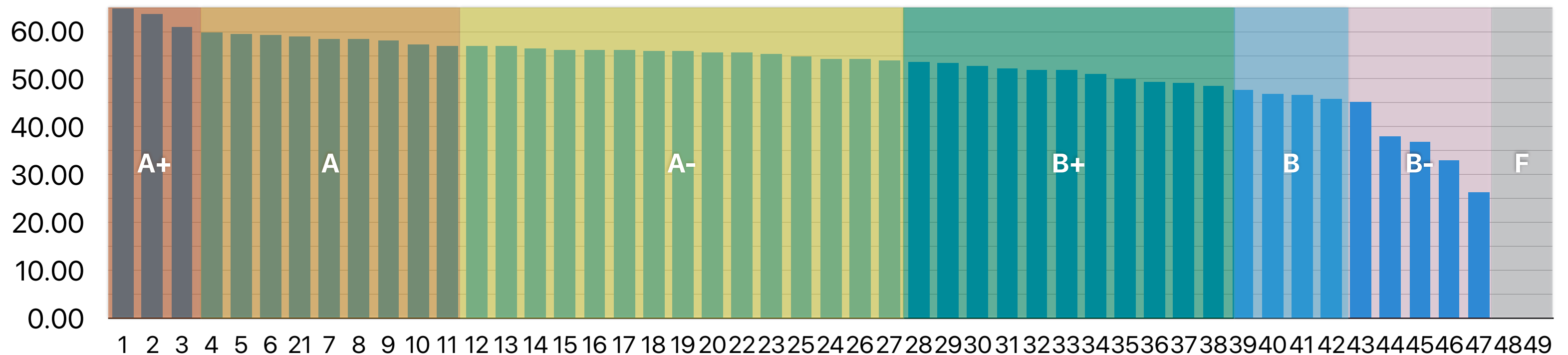
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 - Local predictor — make predictions based on the state of each branch instruction
 - Global predictor — make predictions based on the state from all branches
 - Both are not perfect — hybrid predictors
 - Tournament
 - Perceptron
- All modern processors have branch predictors!

Announcements

- Reading quiz #7 due next Tuesday
- Assignment #4 will be up on tonight and due on 11/21
- Your overall grade decides your final letter grade, not just the midterm. Midterm is only 25%
- Midterm and how are you doing so far
 - Midterm average is 69, Max is 100
 - Your overall grade decides your final letter grade, not just the midterm

Current "Total" in myGrades and "Projected" Letter Grades



Computer Science & Engineering

203

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