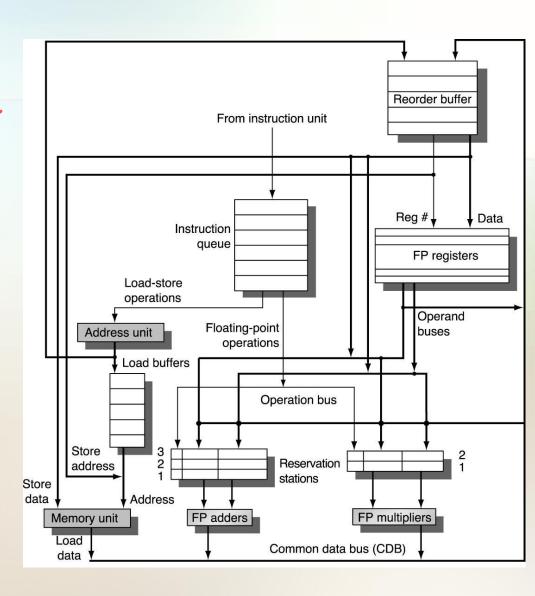
Instruction-level Parallelism

Hardware Speculative Execution

- Need HW buffer for results of uncommitted instructions: reorder buffer
 - Reorder buffer can be operand source
 - Once operand commits, result is found in register
 - 3 fields: instr. type, destination, value
 - Use reorder buffer number instead of reservation station as "name" of result
 - Instructions commit in order
 - As a result, its easy to undo speculated instructions on mispredicted branches or on exceptions



Four Steps of Speculative Tomasulo Algorithm

1. Issue—get instruction from FP Op Queue

If reservation station and reorder buffer slot free, issue instr & send operands & reorder buffer no. for destination. Operands may be read from register file or reorder buffer.

2. Execution—operate on operands (EX)

When both operands ready then execute; if not ready, watch CDB for result; when both in reservation station, execute

3. Write result—finish execution (WB)

Write on Common Data Bus to all awaiting FUs & reorder buffer; mark reservation station available.

4. Commit—update register with reorder result

When instr. at head of reorder buffer & result present, update register with result (or store to memory) and remove instr from reorder buffer.

