The Processor: Instruction-Level Parallelism

Computer Organization

Wednesday, 26 October 16

Many slides adapted from:
Computer Organization and Design,
Patterson & Hennessy
5th Edition, © 2014, MK
and from Prof. Mary Jane Irwin, PSU

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Instruction-Level Parallelism (ILP)

- Pipelining: executing multiple instructions in parallel
- To increase ILP
  - Deeper pipeline
    - Less work per stage $\Rightarrow$ shorter clock cycle
  - Multiple issue
    - Replicate pipeline stages $\Rightarrow$ multiple pipelines
    - Start multiple instructions per clock cycle
    - CPI < 1, so use Instructions Per Cycle (IPC)
    - E.g., 4GHz 4-way multiple-issue
      - 16k MIPS, peak CPI = 0.25, peak IPC = 4
    - But dependencies reduce this in practice

Multiple Issue

- Static multiple issue
  - Compiler groups instructions to be issued together
  - Packages them into “issue slots”
  - Compiler detects and avoids hazards
- Dynamic multiple issue
  - CPU examines instruction stream and chooses instructions to issue in each cycle
  - Compiler can help by reordering instructions
  - CPU resolves hazards using advanced techniques at runtime

Static Multiple Issue

- Compiler groups instructions into “issue packets”
  – Group of instructions that can be issued on a single cycle
  – Determined by pipeline resources required

- Think of an issue packet as a very long instruction
  – Specifies multiple concurrent operations
  $\Rightarrow$ Very Long Instruction Word (VLIW)

Scheduling Static Multiple Issue

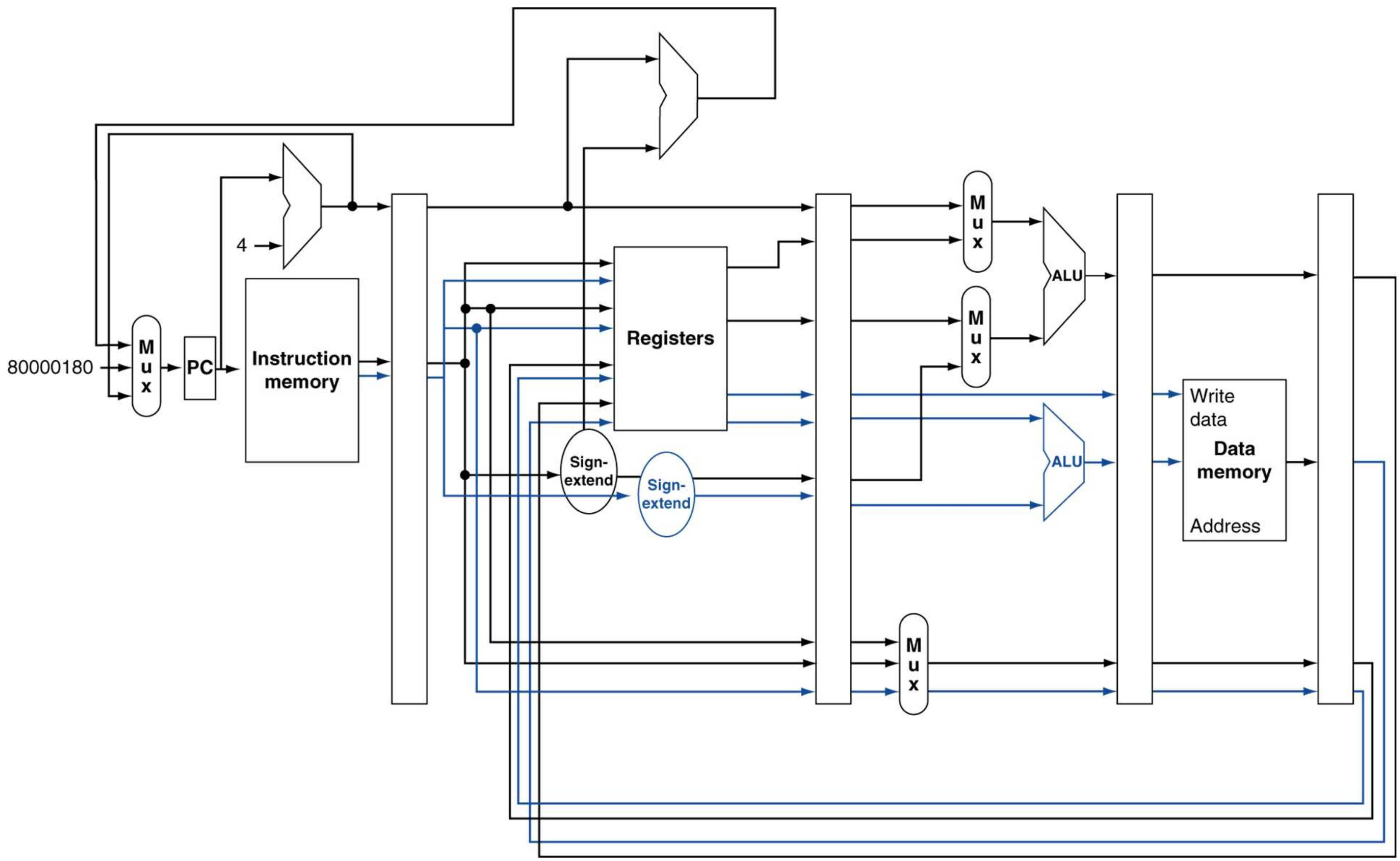
- Compiler must remove some/all hazards
  - Reorder instructions into issue packets
  - No dependencies within a packet
  - Possibly some dependencies between packets
    - Varies between ISAs; compiler must know!
  - Pad with `nop` if necessary

MIPS with Static Dual Issue

- Two-issue packets
  - One ALU/branch instruction
  - One load/store instruction
  - 64-bit aligned
    - ALU/branch, then load/store
    - Pad an unused instruction with `nop`

Address	Instruction type	Pipeline Stages						
n	ALU/branch	IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB		
n + 4	Load/store	IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB		
n + 8	ALU/branch		IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB	
n + 12	Load/store		IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB	
n + 16	ALU/branch			IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB
n + 20	Load/store			IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB

MIPS with Static Dual Issue



Hazards in the Dual-Issue MIPS

- More instructions executing in parallel
- EX data hazard
  - Forwarding avoided stalls with single-issue
  - Now can't use ALU result in load/store in same packet

```
add  $t0, $s0, $s1
load $s2, 0($t0)
```

    - Split into two packets, effectively a stall
- Load-use hazard
  - Still one cycle use latency, but now two instructions
- More aggressive scheduling required

Scheduling Example

- Schedule this for dual-issue MIPS

```
Loop: lw   $t0, 0($s1)        # $t0=array element
      addu $t0, $t0, $s2      # add scalar in $s2
      sw   $t0, 0($s1)        # store result
      addi $s1, $s1, -4       # decrement pointer
      bne  $s1, $zero, Loop   # branch $s1!=0
```

	ALU/branch	Load/store	cycle
`Loop:`	`nop`	`lw $t0, 0($s1)`	1
	`addi $s1, $s1,-4`	`nop`	2
	`addu $t0, $t0, $s2`	`nop`	3
	`bne $s1, $zero, Loop`	`sw $t0, 4($s1)`	4

IPC = 5/4 = 1.25 (c.f. peak IPC = 2)

Loop Unrolling

- Replicate loop body to expose more parallelism
  - Reduces loop-control overhead

- Use different registers per replication
  - Called “register renaming”
  - Avoid loop-carried “anti-dependencies”
    - Store followed by a load of the same register
    - Aka “name dependence”
      - Reuse of a register name

Loop Unrolling Example

```
Loop: lw   $t0, 0($s1)
      addu $t0, $t0, $s2
      sw   $t0, 0($s1)
      addi $s1, $s1,-4
      bne  $s1, $zero, Loop
```

	ALU/branch	Load/store	Cycle
`Loop:`	`addi $s1, $s1,-16`	`lw $t0, 0($s1)`	1
	`nop`	`lw $t1, 12($s1)`	2
	`addu $t0, $t0, $s2`	`lw $t2, 8($s1)`	3
	`addu $t1, $t1, $s2`	`lw $t3, 4($s1)`	4
	`addu $t2, $t2, $s2`	`sw $t0, 16($s1)`	5
	`addu $t3, $t3, $s2`	`sw $t1, 12($s1)`	6
	`nop`	`sw $t2, 8($s1)`	7
	`bne $s1, $zero, Loop`	`sw $t3, 4($s1)`	8

IPC = 14/8 = 1.75

– Closer to 2, but at cost of registers and code size

Dynamic Multiple Issue

- "Superscalar" processors
- CPU decides whether to issue 0, 1, 2, … each cycle
  - Avoiding structural and data hazards
- Avoids the need for compiler scheduling
  - Though it may still help
  - Code semantics ensured by the CPU

Dynamic Pipeline Scheduling

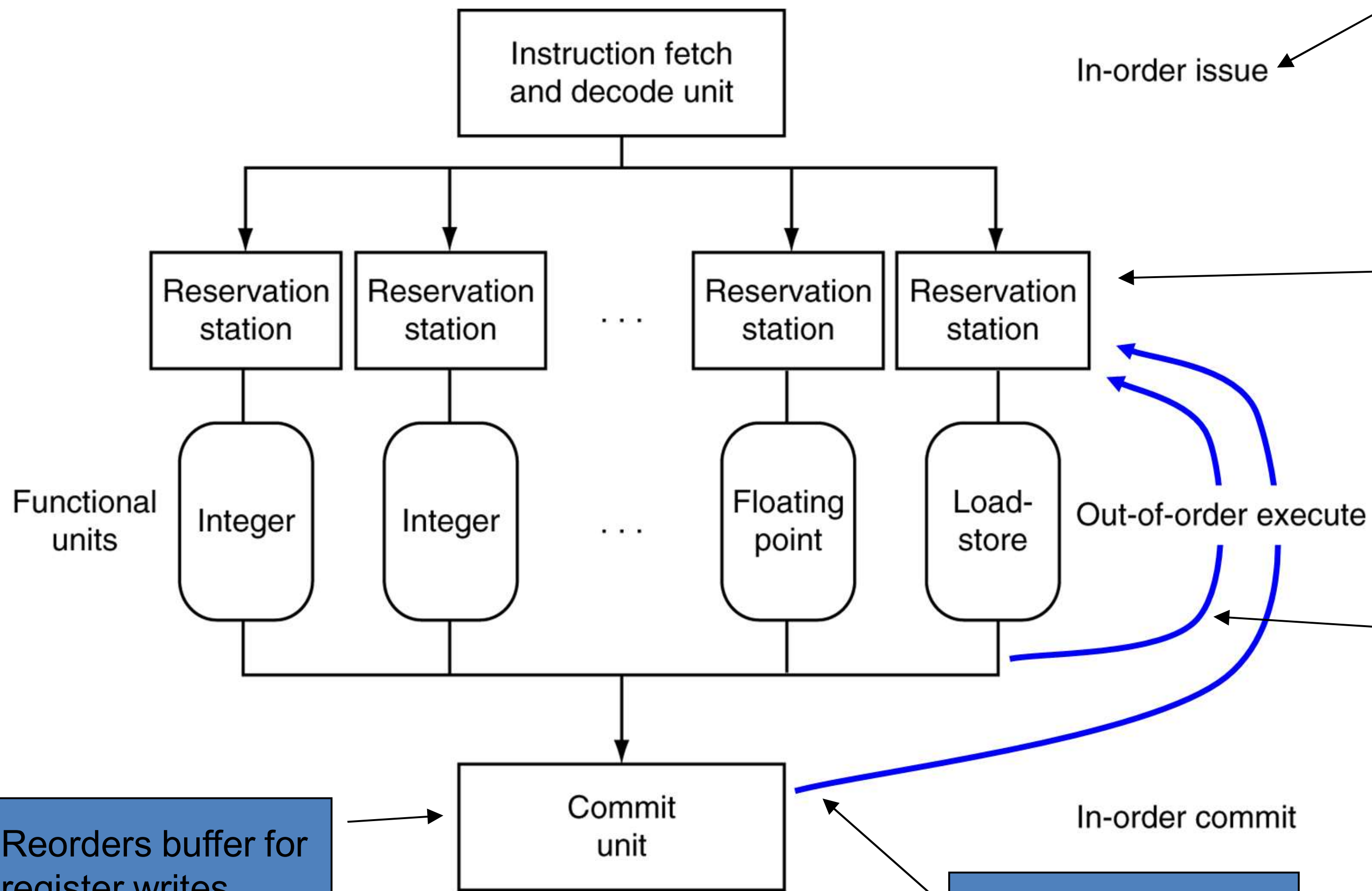
- Allow the CPU to execute instructions out of order to avoid stalls
  - But commit result to registers in order

- Example

```
lw     $t0, 20($s2)
addu   $t1, $t0, $t2
sub    $s4, $s4, $t3
slti   $t5, $s4, 20
```

  - Can start `sub` while `addu` is waiting for `lw`

Dynamically Scheduled CPU



Preserves dependencies

Hold pending operands

Results also sent to any waiting reservation stations

Reorders buffer for register writes

Can supply operands for issued instructions

Register Renaming

- Reservation stations and reorder buffer effectively provide register renaming
- On instruction issue to reservation station
  - If operand is available in register file or reorder buffer
    - Copied to reservation station
    - No longer required in the register; can be overwritten
  - If operand is not yet available
    - It will be provided to the reservation station by a function unit
    - Register update may not be required

Speculation

- "Guess" what to do with an instruction
  - Start operation as soon as possible
  - Check whether guess was right
    - If so, complete the operation
    - If not, roll-back and do the right thing
- Common to static and dynamic multiple issue
- Examples
  - Speculate on branch outcome
    - Roll back if path *taken* is different
  - Speculate on load
    - Roll back if location is updated

Speculation

- Predict branch and continue issuing
  - Don't commit until branch outcome determined

- Load speculation
  - Avoid load and cache miss delay
    - Predict the effective address
    - Predict loaded value
    - Load before completing outstanding stores
    - Bypass stored values to load unit
  - Don't commit load until speculation cleared

Compiler/Hardware Speculation

- Compiler can reorder instructions
  - e.g., move load before branch
  - Can include “fix-up” instructions to recover from incorrect guess
- Hardware can look ahead for instructions to execute
  - Buffer results until it determines they are actually needed
  - Flush buffers on incorrect speculation

Speculation and Exceptions

- What if exception occurs on a speculatively executed instruction?
  - e.g., speculative load before null-pointer check
- Static speculation
  - Can add ISA support for deferring exceptions
- Dynamic speculation
  - Can buffer exceptions until instruction completion (which may not occur)

Why Do Dynamic Scheduling?

Why not just let the compiler schedule code?

- Not all stalls are predicable
  - e.g., cache misses
- Can't always schedule around branches
  - Branch outcome is dynamically determined
- Different implementations of an ISA have different latencies and hazards

Does Multiple Issue Work?

The BIG Picture

- Yes, but not as much as we'd like
- Programs have real dependencies that limit ILP
- Some dependencies are hard to eliminate
  - e.g., pointer aliasing
- Some parallelism is hard to expose
  - Limited window size during instruction issue
- Memory delays and limited bandwidth
  - Hard to keep pipelines full
- Speculation can help if done well

Power Efficiency

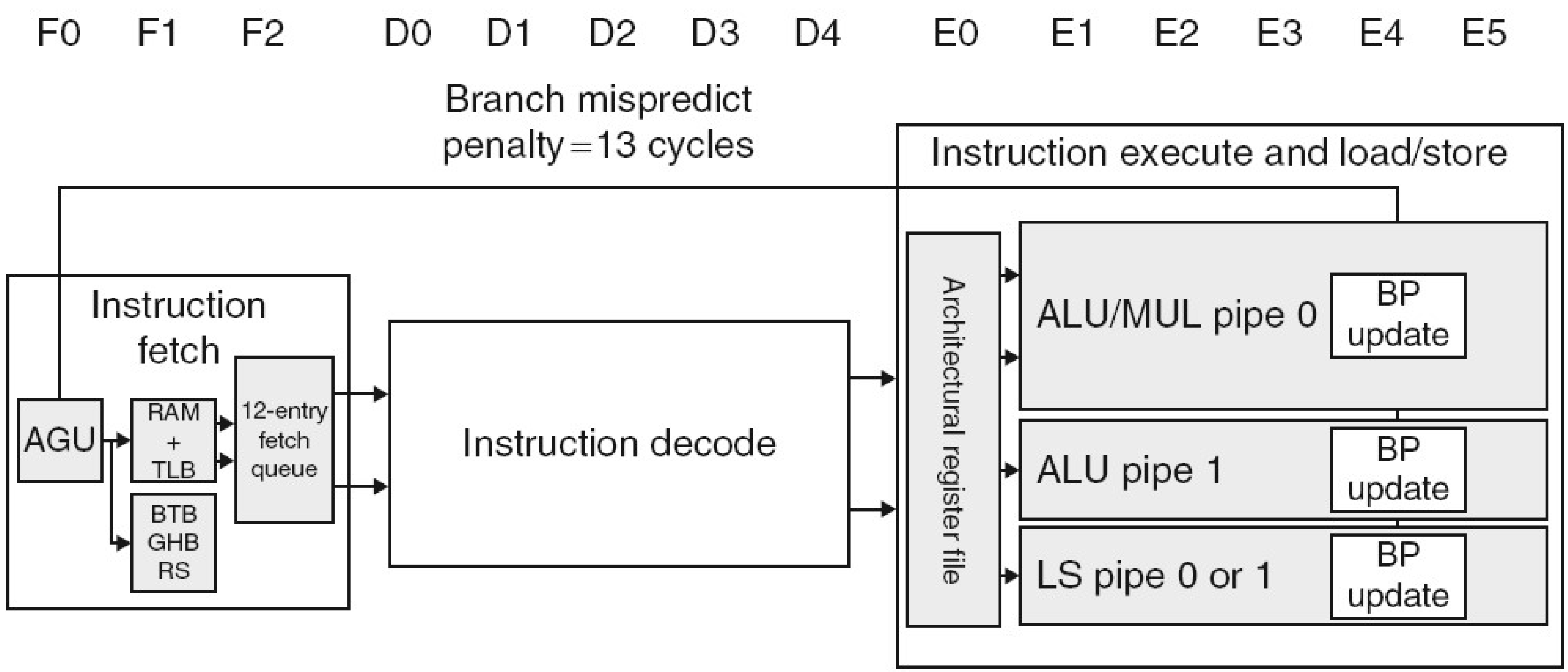
- Complexity of dynamic scheduling and speculations requires power
- Multiple simpler cores may be better

Microprocessor	Year	Clock Rate	Pipeline Stages	Issue Width	Out-of-Order/ Speculation	Cores/ Chip	Power	
Intel 486	1989	25 MHz	5	1	No	1	5	W
Intel Pentium	1993	66 MHz	5	2	No	1	10	W
Intel Pentium Pro	1997	200 MHz	10	3	Yes	1	29	W
Intel Pentium 4 Willamette	2001	2000 MHz	22	3	Yes	1	75	W
Intel Pentium 4 Prescott	2004	3600 MHz	31	3	Yes	1	103	W
Intel Core	2006	2930 MHz	14	4	Yes	2	75	W
Intel Core i5 Nehalem	2010	3300 MHz	14	4	Yes	4	87	W
Intel Core i5 Ivy Bridge	2012	3400 MHz	14	4	Yes	8	77	W

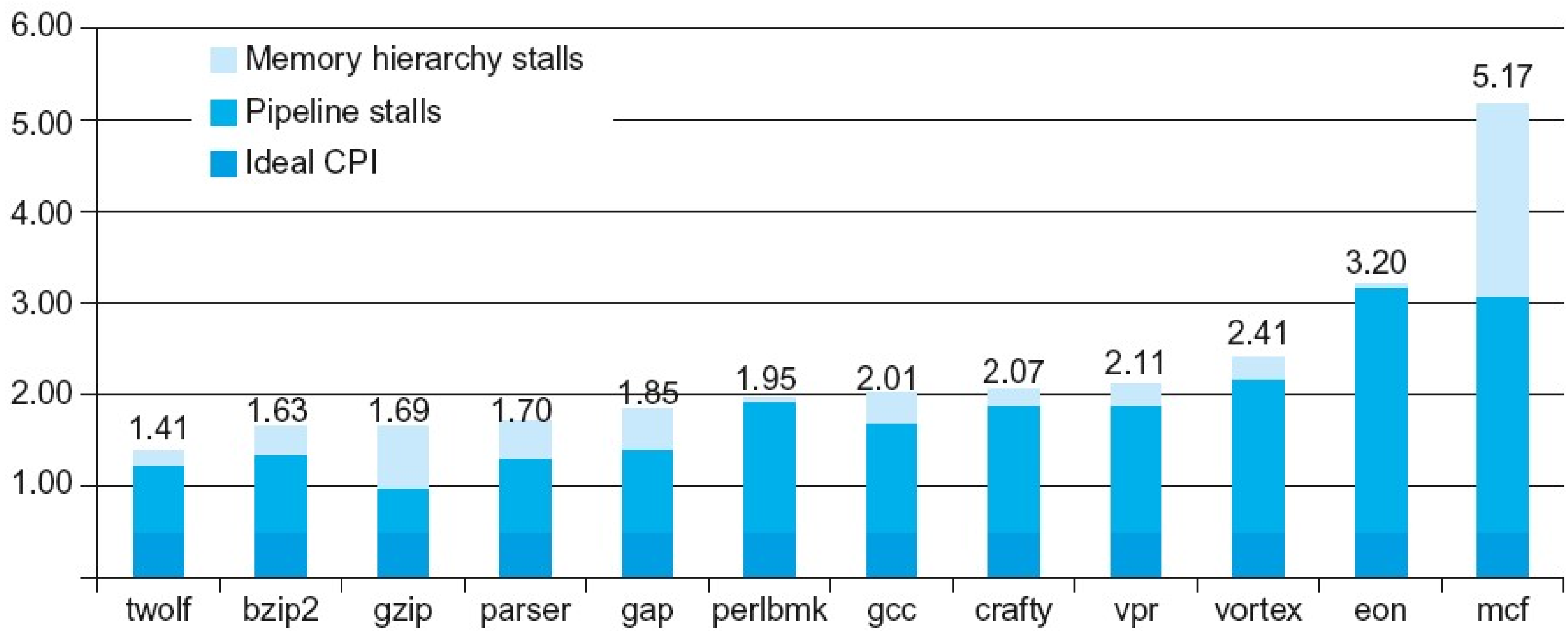
Cortex A8 and Intel i7

Processor	ARM A8	Intel Core i7 920
Market	Personal Mobile Device	Server, cloud
Thermal design power	2 Watts	130 Watts
Clock rate	1 GHz	2.66 GHz
Cores/Chip	1	4
Floating point?	No	Yes
Multiple issue?	Dynamic	Dynamic
Peak instructions/clock cycle	2	4
Pipeline stages	14	14
Pipeline schedule	Static in-order	Dynamic out-of-order with speculation
Branch prediction	2-level	2-level
1st level caches/core	32 KiB I, 32 KiB D	32 KiB I, 32 KiB D
2nd level caches/core	128-1024 KiB	256 KiB
3rd level caches (shared)	-	2- 8 MB

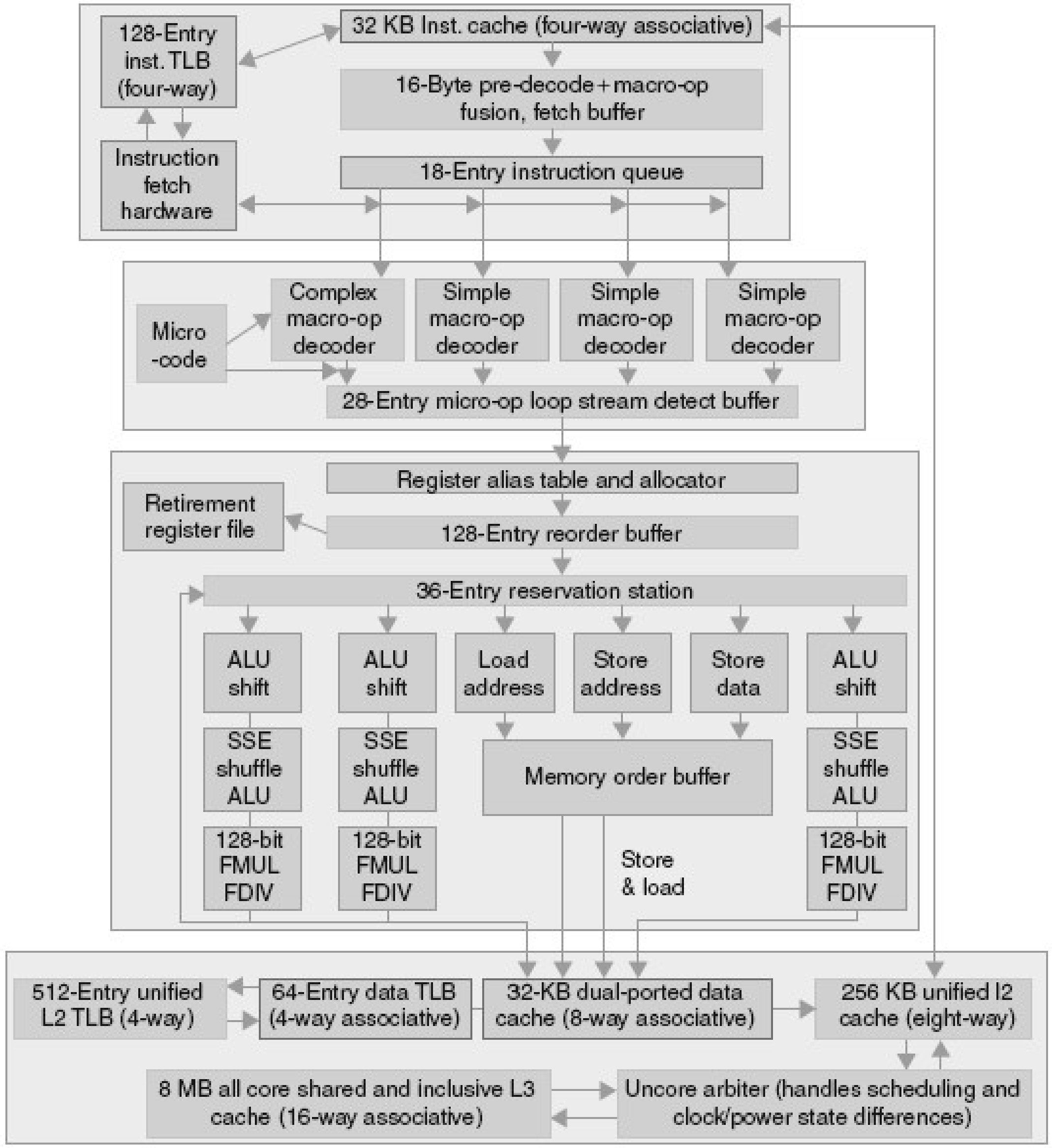
ARM Cortex-A8 Pipeline



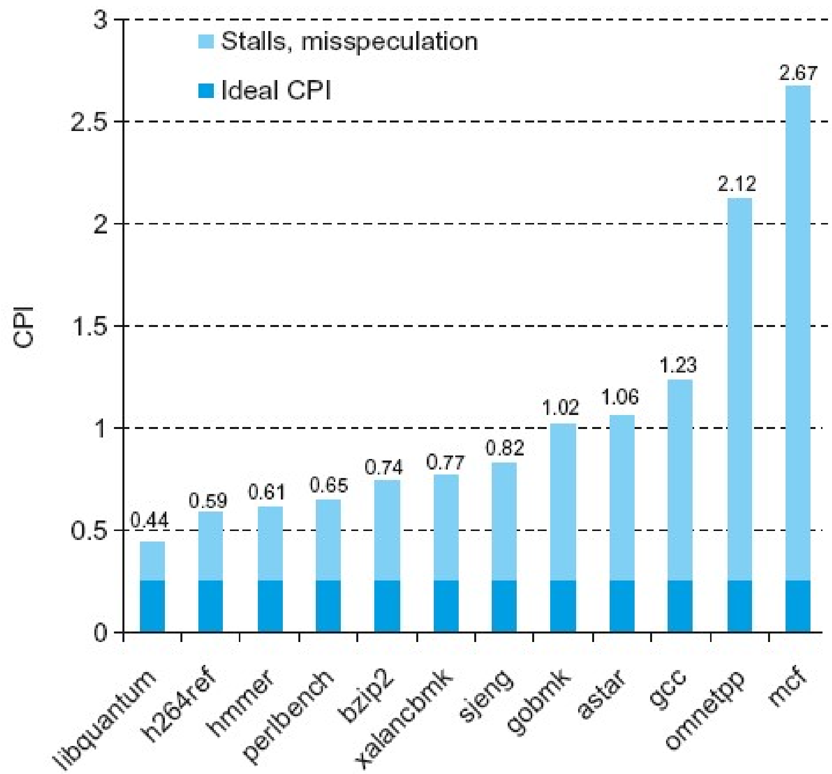
ARM Cortex-A8 Performance

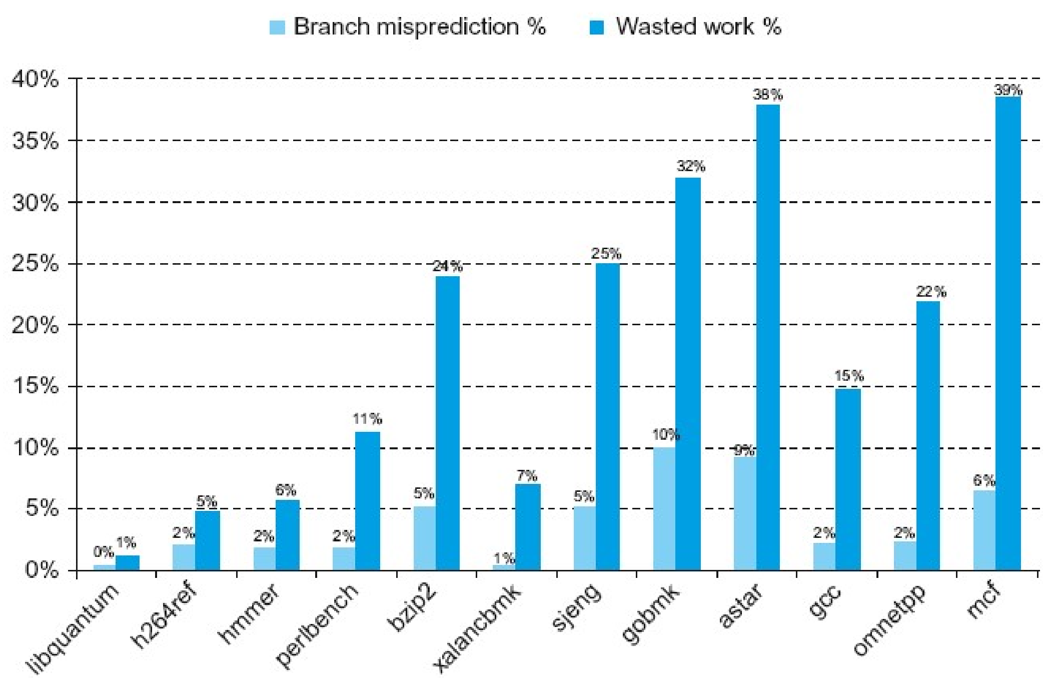


Core i7 Pipeline



Core i7 Performance





Fallacies

- Pipelining is easy (!)
  - The basic idea is easy
  - The devil is in the details
    - e.g., detecting data hazards

- Pipelining is independent of technology
  - So why haven't we always done pipelining?
  - More transistors make more advanced techniques feasible
  - Pipeline-related ISA design needs to take into account technology trends
    - e.g., predicated instructions

Pitfalls

- Poor ISA design can make pipelining harder
  - e.g., complex instruction sets (VAX, IA-32)
    - Significant overhead to make pipelining work
    - IA-32 micro-op approach
  - e.g., complex addressing modes
    - Register update side effects, memory indirection
  - e.g., delayed branches
    - Advanced pipelines have long delay slots

Concluding Remarks

- ISA influences design of datapath and control
- Datapath and control influence design of ISA
- Pipelining improves instruction throughput using parallelism
  - More instructions completed per second
  - Latency for each instruction not reduced
- Hazards: structural, data, control
- Multiple issue and dynamic scheduling (ILP)
  - Dependencies limit achievable parallelism
  - Complexity leads to the power wall

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