

Exercises - Chapter 1

Q1: Consider three different processors P1, P2, and P3 executing the same instruction set. P1 has a 3 GHz clock rate and a CPI of 1.5. P2 has a 2.5 GHz clock rate and a CPI of 1.0. P3 has a 4.0 GHz clock rate and has a CPI of 2.2.

- a. Which processor has the highest performance expressed in instructions per second?
- b. If the processors each execute a program in 10 seconds, find the number of cycles and the number of instructions.
- c. We are trying to reduce the execution time by 30% but this leads to an increase of 20% in the CPI. What clock rate should we have to get this time reduction?

Q2: Consider two different implementations of the same instruction set architecture. The instructions can be divided into four classes according to their CPI (class A, B, C, and D). P1 with a clock rate of 2.5 GHz and CPIs of 1, 2, 3, and 3, and P2 with a clock rate of 3 GHz and CPIs of 2, 2, 2, and 2.

Given a program with a dynamic instruction count of 1.0E6 instructions divided into classes as follows: 10% class A, 20% class B, 50% class C, and 20% class D.

- a.** What is the global CPI for each implementation?
- b.** Which implementation is faster?

Q3: Compilers can have a profound impact on the performance of an application. Assume that for a program, compiler A results in a dynamic instruction count of $1.0\text{E}9$ and has an execution time of 1.1 s, while compiler B results in a dynamic instruction count of $1.2\text{E}9$ and an execution time of 1.5 s.

- a.** Find the average CPI for each program given that the processor has a clock cycle time of 1 ns.

- b.** Assume the compiled programs run on two different processors. If the execution times on the two processors are the same, how much faster is the clock of the processor running compiler A's code versus the clock of the processor running compiler B's code?

- c.** A new compiler is developed that uses only $6.0E8$ instructions and has an average CPI of 1.1. What is the speedup of using this new compiler versus using compiler A or B on the original processor?

Q4: Consider a computer running a program that requires 250 s, with 70 s spent executing FP instructions, 85 s executed L/S instructions, and 40 s spent executing branch instructions.

- a.** By how much is the total time reduced if the time for FP operations is reduced by 20%?
- b.** By how much is the time for INT operations reduced if the total time is reduced by 20%?
- c.** Can the total time can be reduced by 20% by reducing only the time for branch instructions?