Topic 8

Data Hazards

Hazards

- Situations that prevent starting the next instruction in the next cycle
- Structure hazards
  - A required resource is busy
- Data hazard
  - Need to wait for previous instruction to complete its data read/write
- Control hazard
  - Decision on control action depends on previous instruction

Structure Hazards

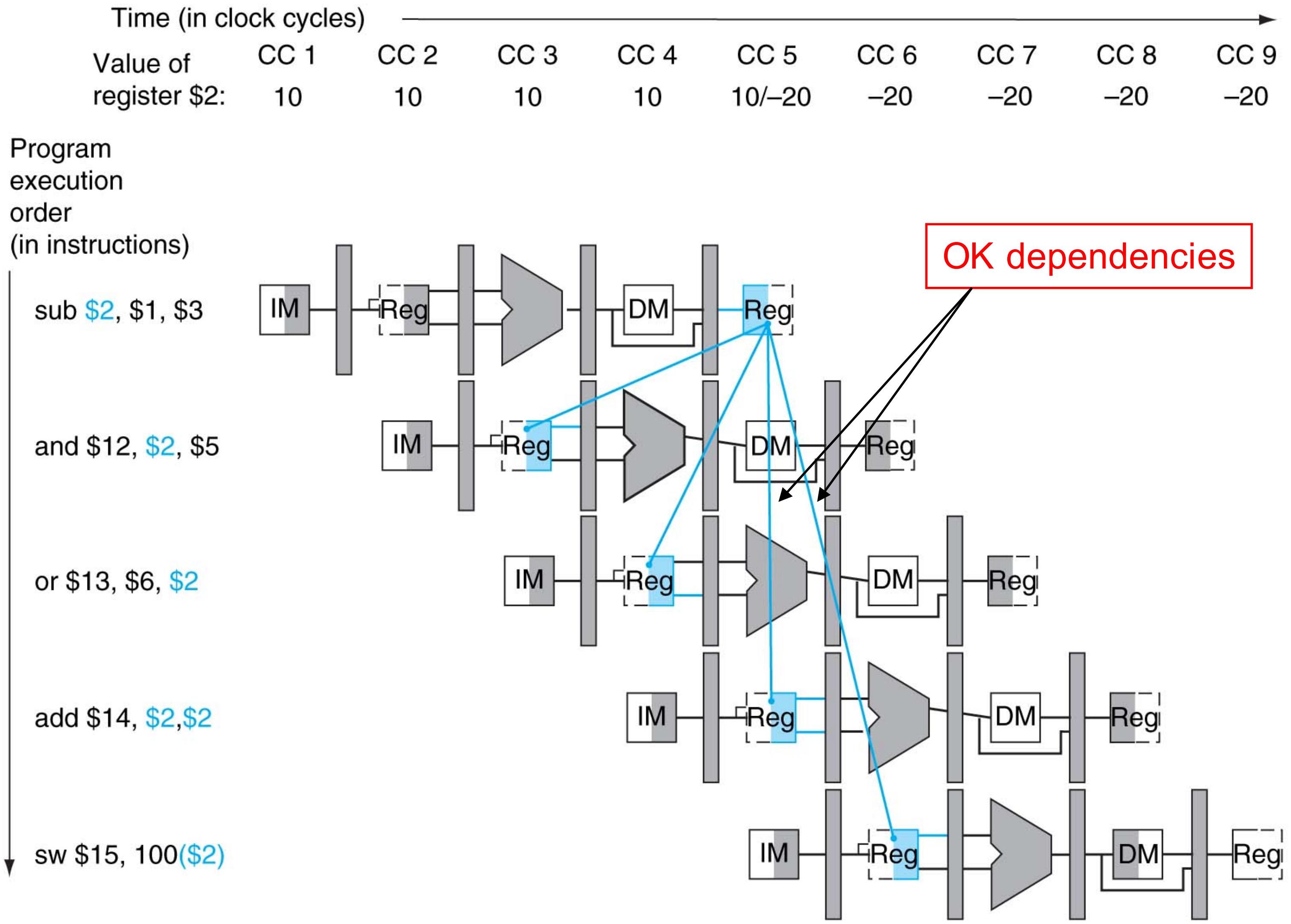
- Conflict for use of a resource
- If common memory for program and data
  - Load/store requires data access
  - Instruction fetch would have to *stall* for that cycle
    - Would cause a pipeline "bubble"
- Hence, pipelined datapaths require separate instruction/data memories
  - separate instruction/data caches (Harvard)
  - Common low-level memory (Von Neumann)

Data Hazards in ALU Instructions

- Consider this sequence:

```
sub $2, $1,$3
and $12,$2,$5
or  $13,$6,$2
add $14,$2,$2
sw  $15,100($2)
```

Data Dependencies

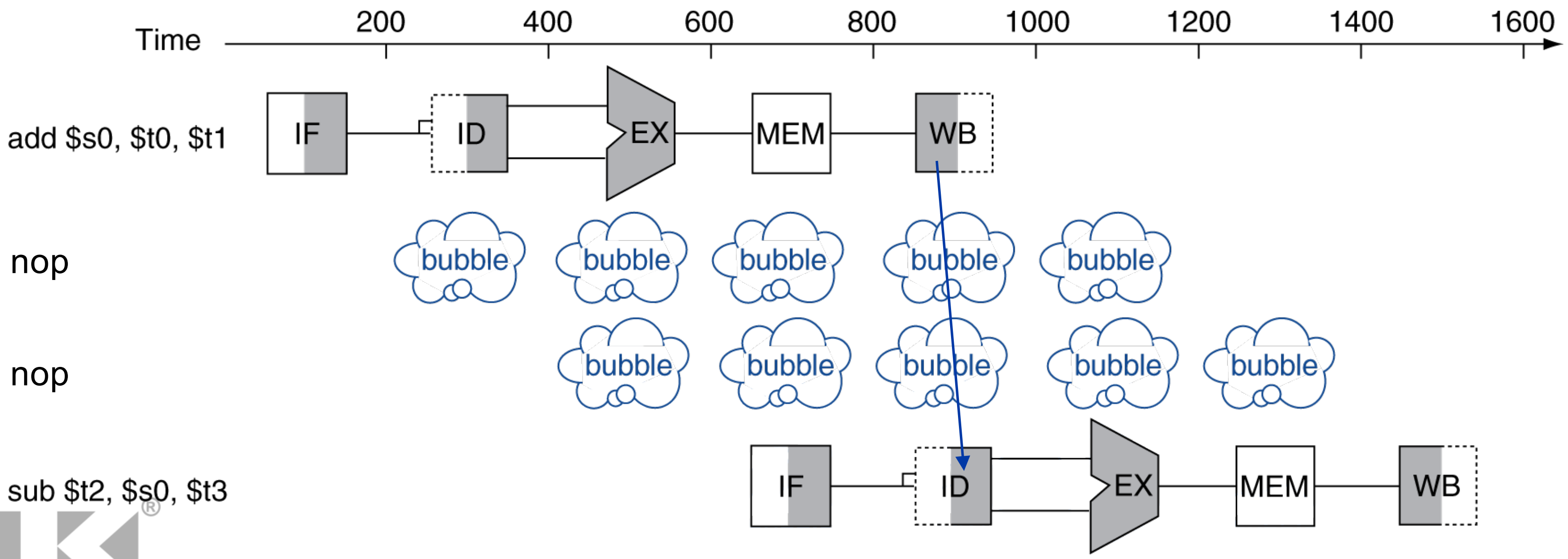


Time (in clock cycles)
CC 1 CC 2 CC 3 CC 4 CC 5 CC 6 CC 7 CC 8 CC 9
Value of register $2: 10 10 10 10 10/–20 –20 –20 –20 –20
Program execution order (in instructions)
sub $2, $1, $3
and $12, $2, $5
or $13, $6, $2
add $14, $2,$2
sw $15, 100($2)
IM
Reg
DM
OK dependencies

Data Hazards

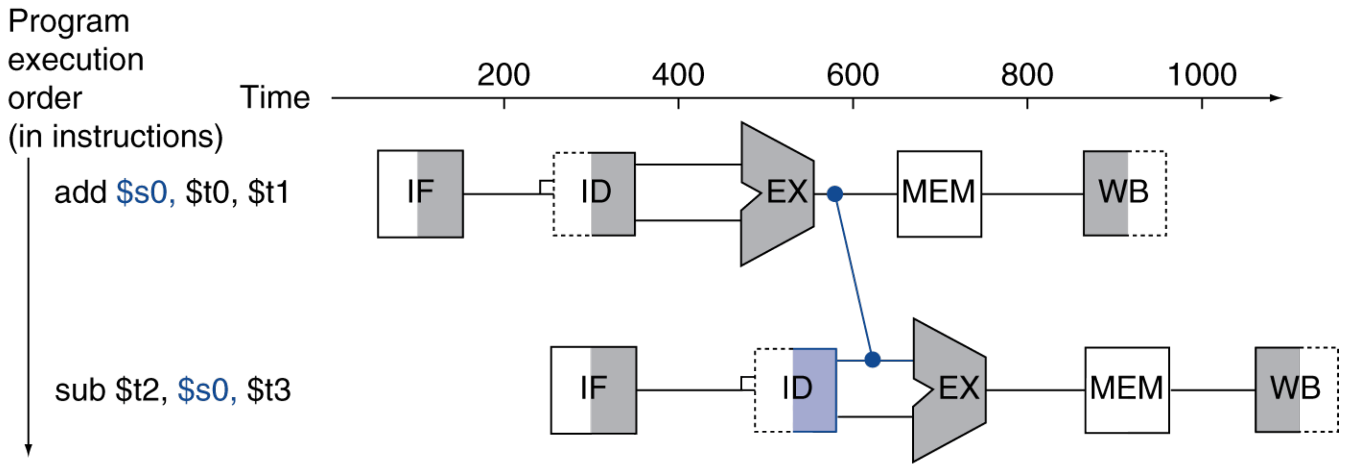
- An instruction must be delayed
  - If an instruction depends on completion of data access by a previous instruction
  - By inserting *bubbles* or *stalls*
  - Example

```
add    $s0, $t0, $t1
sub    $t2, $s0, $t3
```



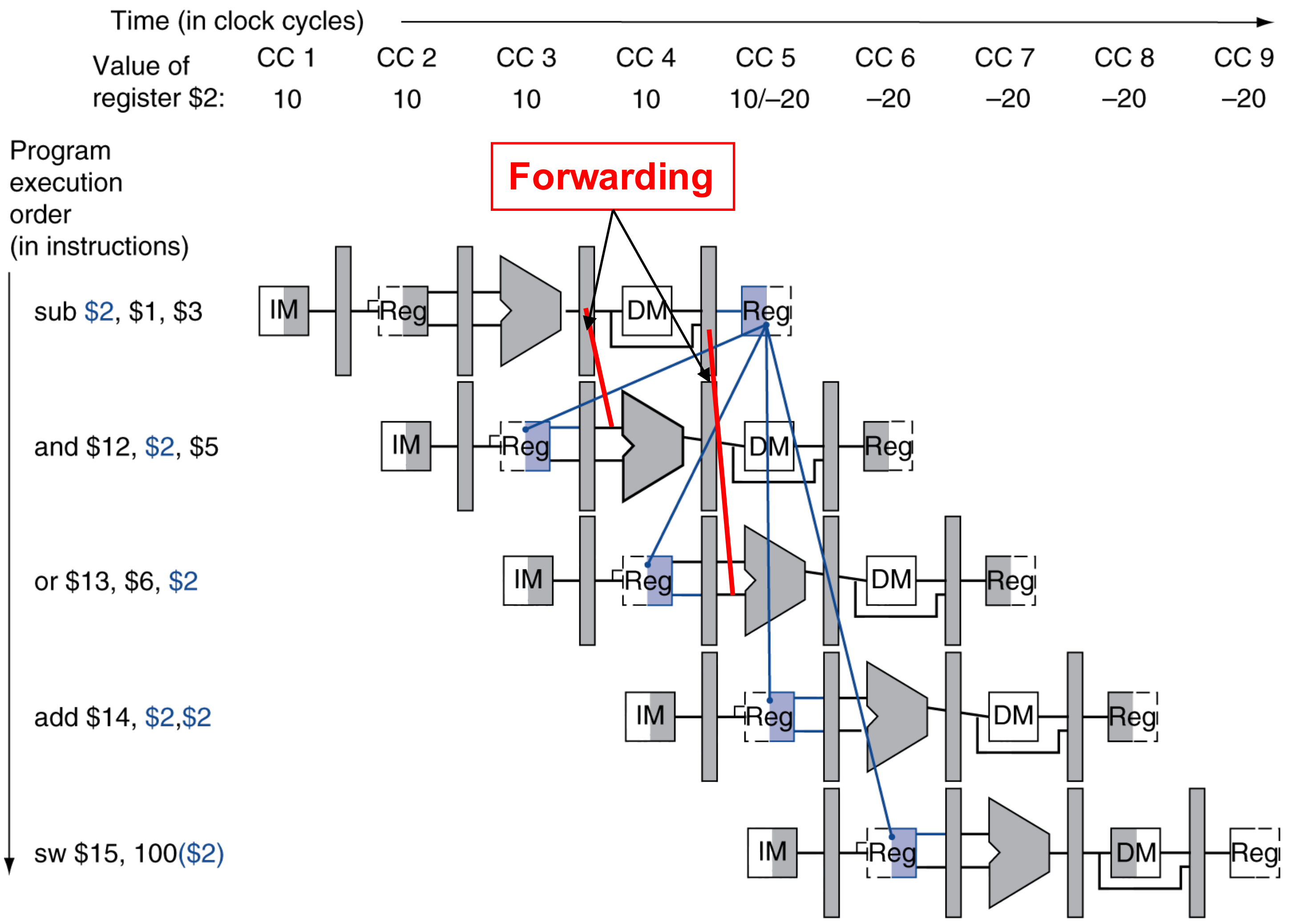
Forwarding (aka Bypassing)

- Data hazard can be solved with **Forwarding**
  - To avoid delaying an instruction
- Use result as soon as it is computed
  - Don’t wait for it to be stored in a register
  - Requires extra connections in the datapath

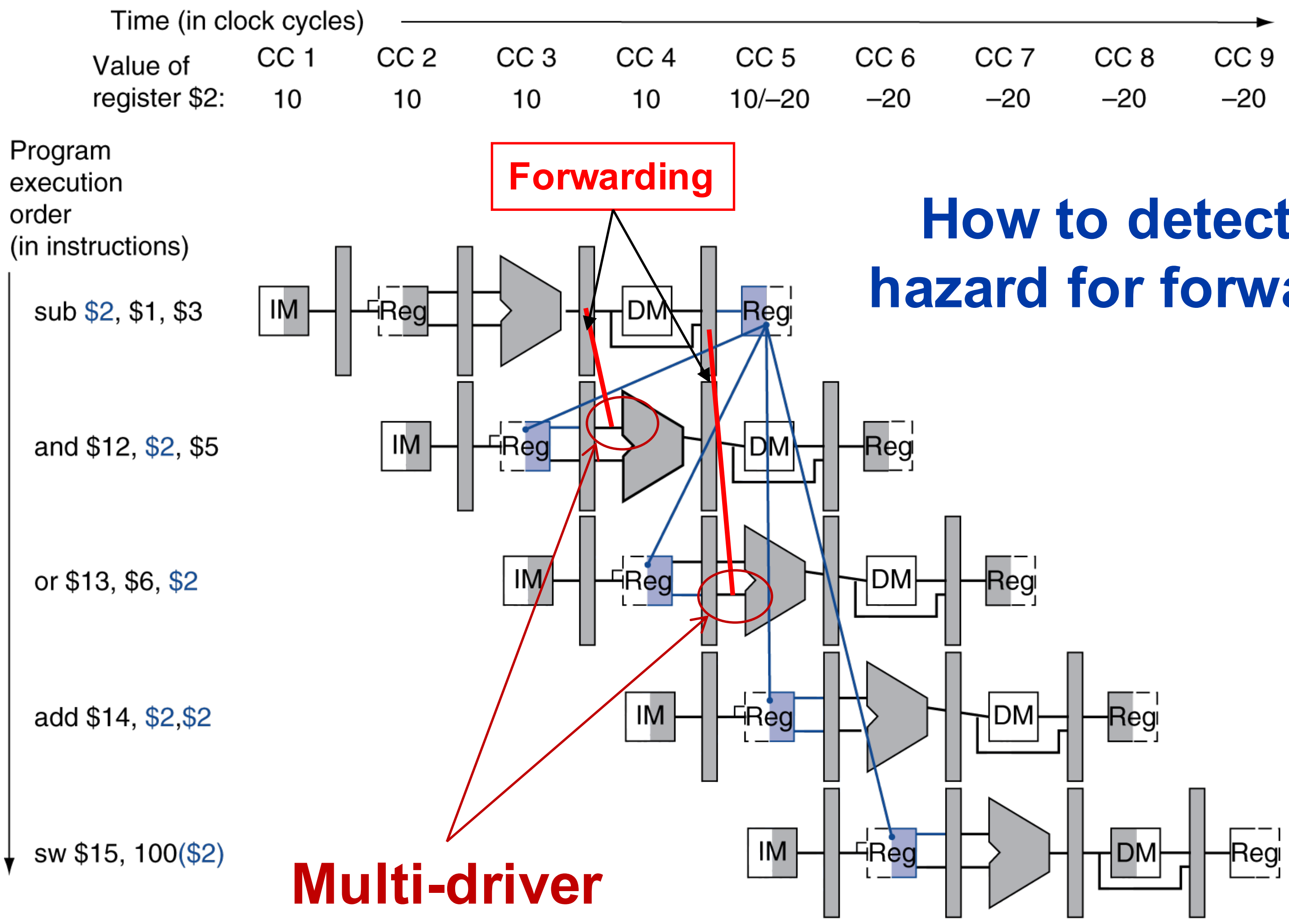


Can’t connect input and output of a component directly

Forwarding from Registers



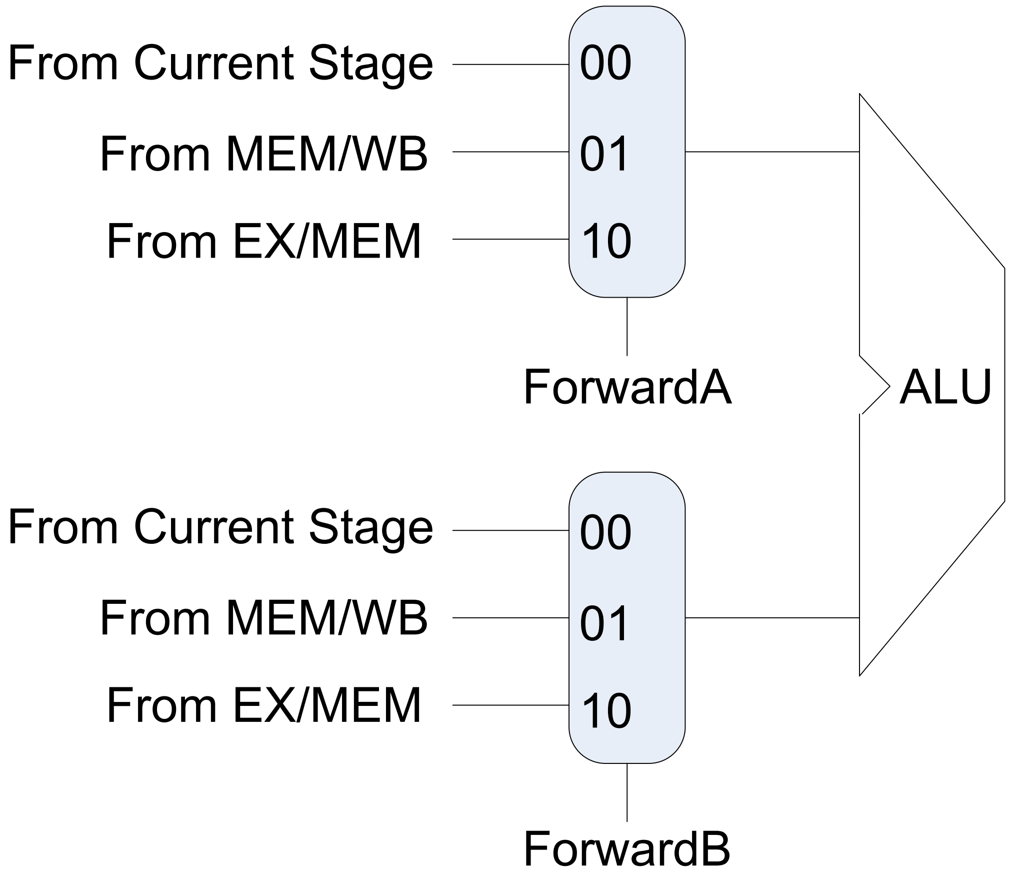
Dependencies & Forwarding



How to detect data hazard for forwarding?

Forwarding Path

- Forwarding paths are created between stage pipeline registers and ALU inputs
  - By using MUXes



Detect the Condition for Forwarding

- Denotation:
  - E.g. ID/EX.RegisterRs = register number for Rs residing in ID/EX pipeline register
- ALU operand register numbers in EX stage are given by
  - ID/EX.RegisterRs, ID/EX.RegisterRt
- Data hazard conditions include

  1a. EX/MEM.RegisterRd==ID/EX.RegisterRs
  1b. EX/MEM.RegisterRd==ID/EX.RegisterRt
  } Fwd from EX/MEM pipeline reg

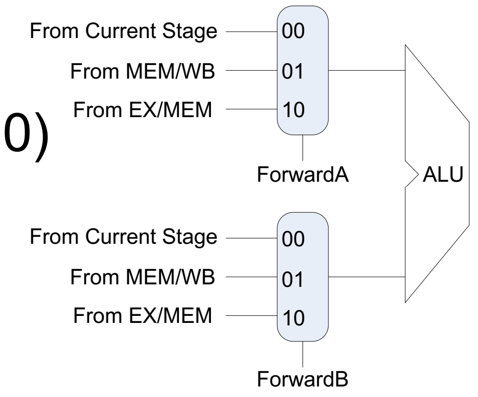
  2a. MEM/WB.RegisterRd==ID/EX.RegisterRs
  2b. MEM/WB.RegisterRd==ID/EX.RegisterRt
  } Fwd from MEM/WB pipeline reg

Detecting the Need to Forward

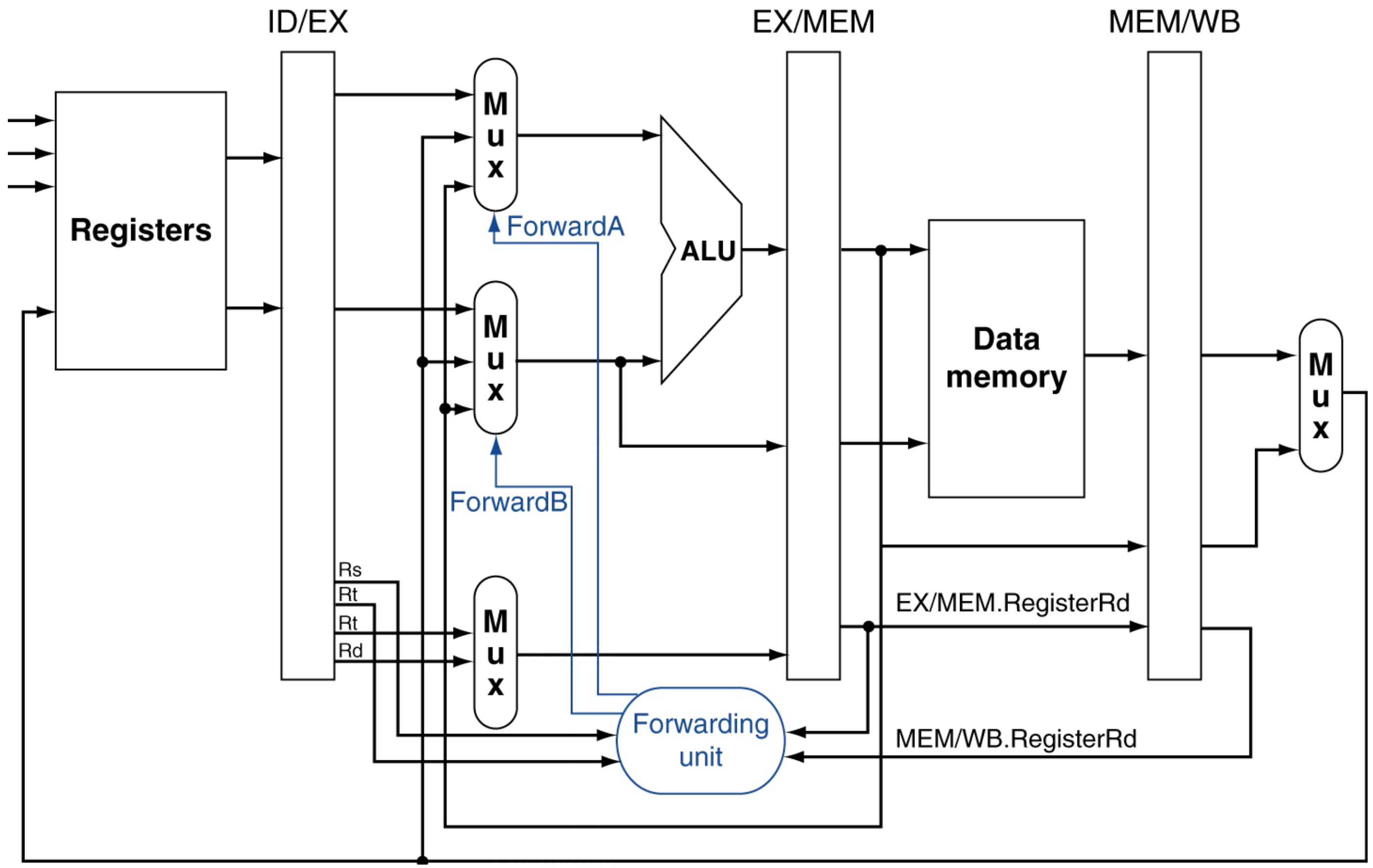
- Only if an earlier instruction will write back to a register, determined by
  - EX/MEM.RegWrite
  - MEM/WB.RegWrite
- And only if Rd for that instruction is not $zero (constant register), determined by
  - EX/MEM.RegisterRd ≠ 0
  - MEM/WB.RegisterRd ≠ 0

Revised Forwarding Conditions

- EX hazard
  - if (EX/MEM.RegWrite and (EX/MEM.RegisterRd ≠ 0)
    and (EX/MEM.RegisterRd = ID/EX.RegisterRs))
    MUX select signal ForwardA = 10
  - if (EX/MEM.RegWrite and (EX/MEM.RegisterRd ≠ 0)
    and (EX/MEM.RegisterRd = ID/EX.RegisterRt))
    MUX select signal ForwardB = 10
- MEM hazard
  - if (MEM/WB.RegWrite and (MEM/WB.RegisterRd ≠ 0)
    and (MEM/WB.RegisterRd = ID/EX.RegisterRs))
    MUX select signal ForwardA = 01
  - if (MEM/WB.RegWrite and (MEM/WB.RegisterRd ≠ 0)
    and (MEM/WB.RegisterRd = ID/EX.RegisterRt))
    MUX select signal ForwardB = 01

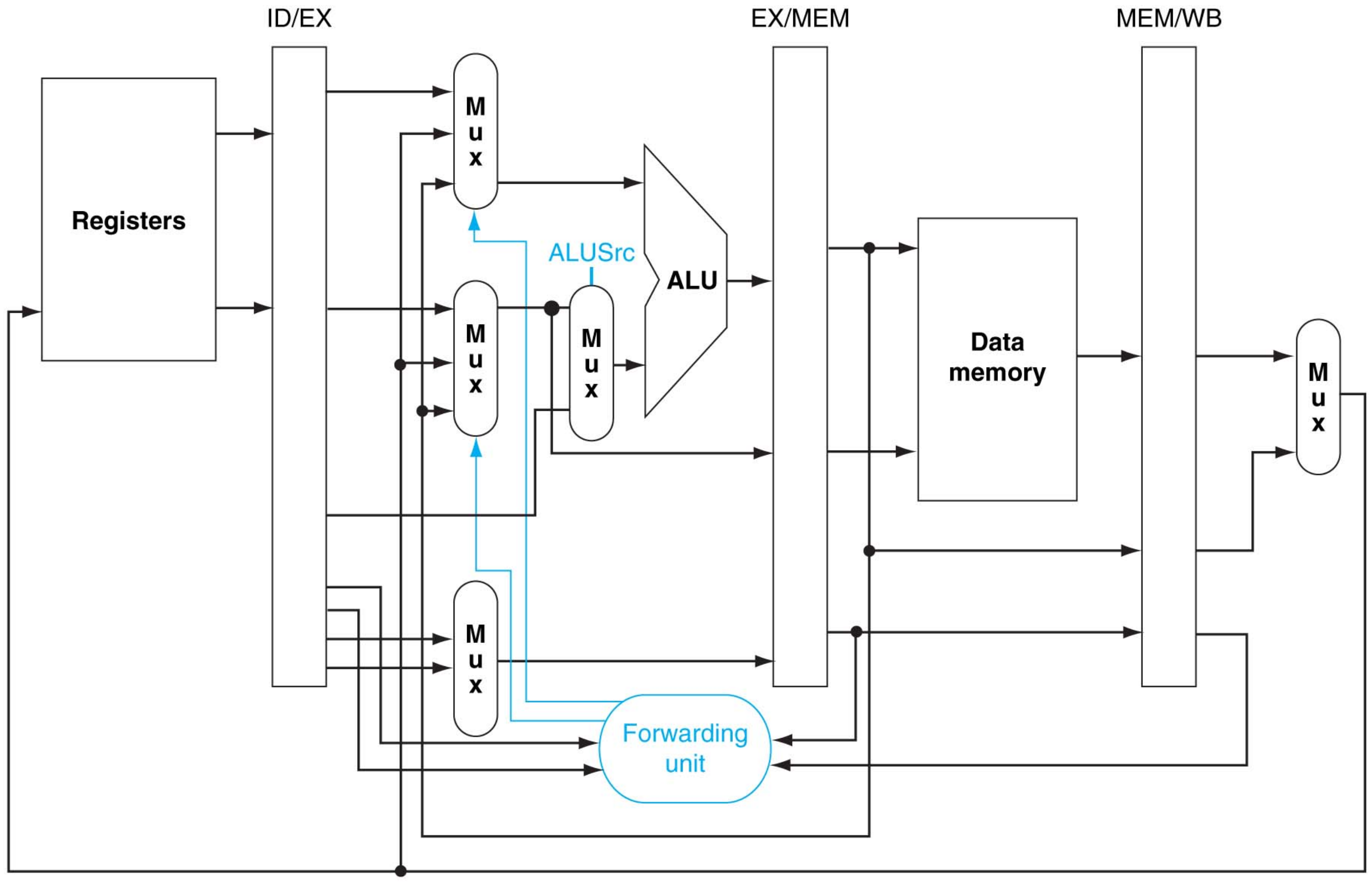


Forwarding Paths



Forwarding Unit in **EX** stage

Forwarding Paths with ALUSrc



Double Data Hazard

- Consider the sequence:

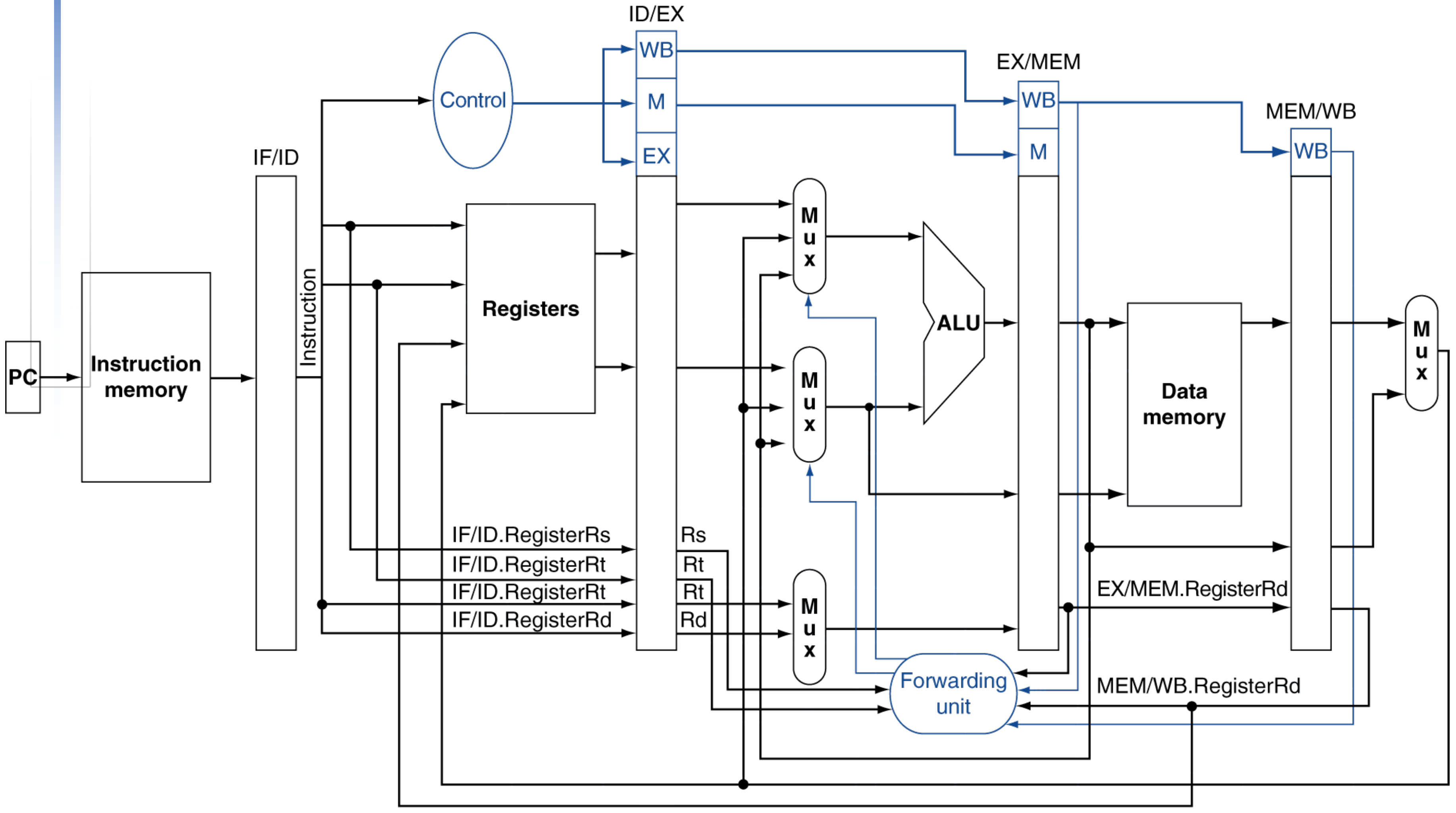
```
add $1,$1,$2
add $1,$1,$3
add $1,$1,$4
```

- Conditions for both hazards are satisfied
  - Want to use the most recent
  - Forwarding between 1st and 3rd – MEM hazard condition should be disabled
- Revise MEM hazard condition
  - Only fwd if EX hazard condition isn’t true

Revised Forwarding Condition

- MEM hazard (not EX hazard)
  - if (MEM/WB.RegWrite and (MEM/WB.RegisterRd ≠ 0)
    and (MEM/WB.RegisterRd = ID/EX.RegisterRs)
    and not (EX/MEM.RegWrite and (EX/MEM.RegisterRd ≠ 0)
    and (EX/MEM.RegisterRd = ID/EX.RegisterRs)))
    ForwardA = 01
  - if (MEM/WB.RegWrite and (MEM/WB.RegisterRd ≠ 0)
    and (MEM/WB.RegisterRd = ID/EX.RegisterRt)
    and not (EX/MEM.RegWrite and (EX/MEM.RegisterRd ≠ 0)
    and (EX/MEM.RegisterRd = ID/EX.RegisterRt)))
    ForwardB = 01

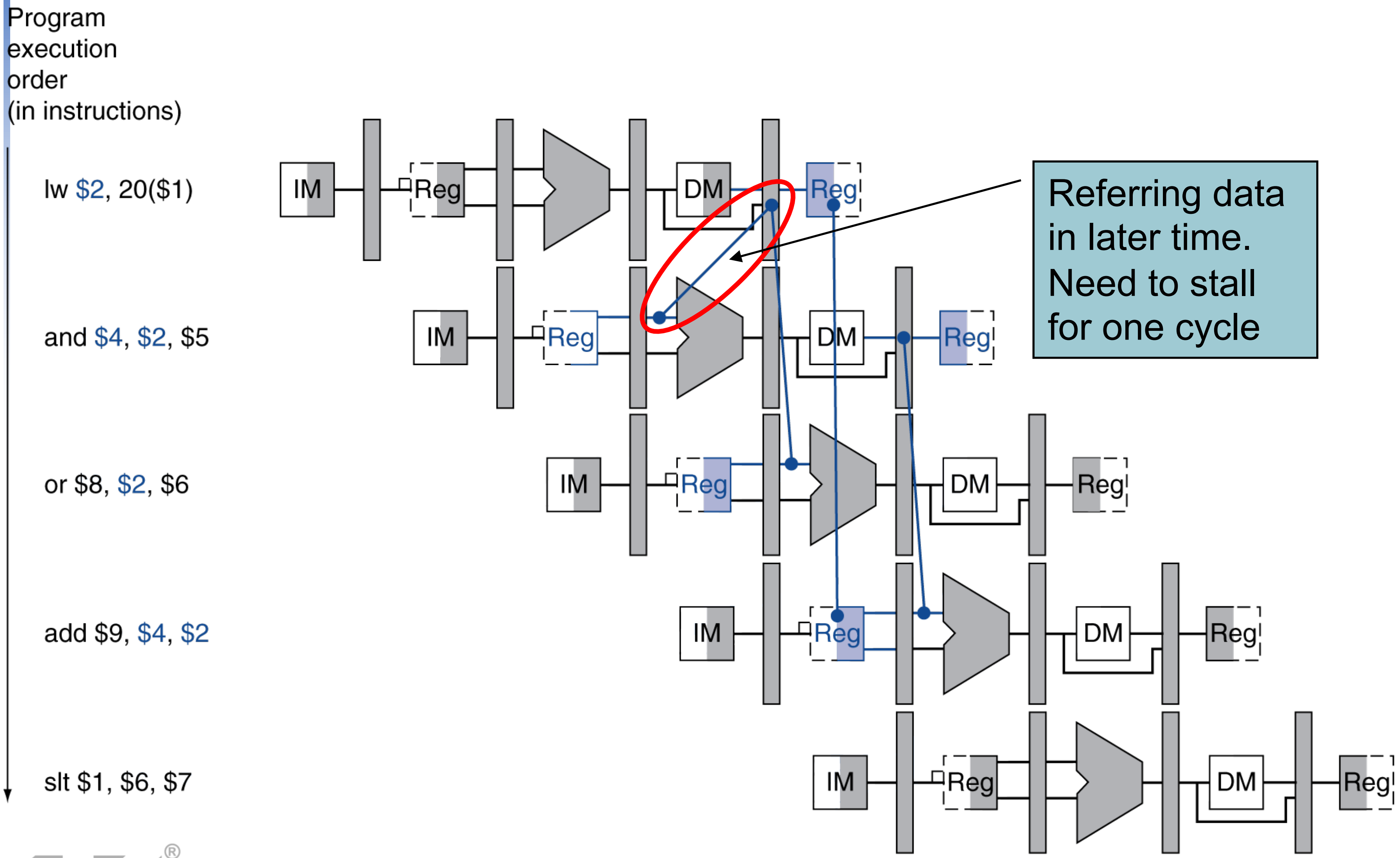
Datapath with Forwarding Unit



Load-Use Data Hazard

- Can’t always avoid stalls by forwarding
  - If value not computed when needed
  - Can’t forward backwards in time!

Load-Use Data Hazard



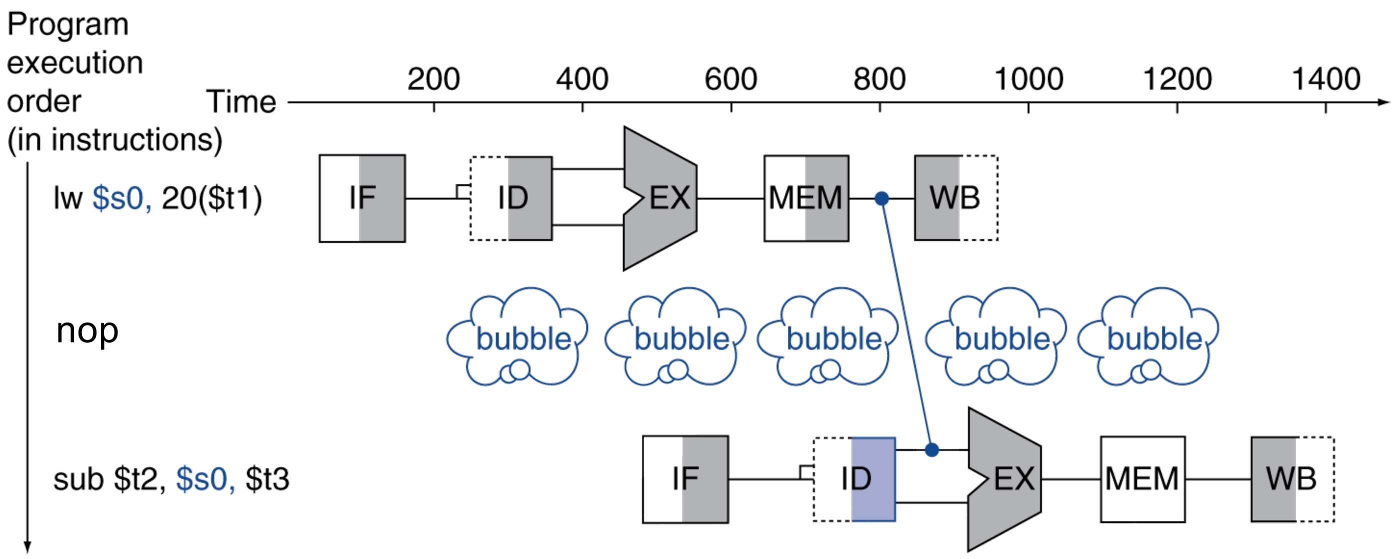
Referring data in later time.
Need to stall for one cycle

Load-Use Hazard Detection

- Need to check only for a ***load*** instruction, determined by
  - ID/EX.MemRead
- Load-use hazard when
  - ID/EX.MemRead and
    ((ID/EX.RegisterRt == IF/ID.RegisterRs) or
    (ID/EX.RegisterRt == IF/ID.RegisterRt))
- Hazard Detection is in **ID** stage
- If detected, stall and insert bubble

Load-Use Data Hazard

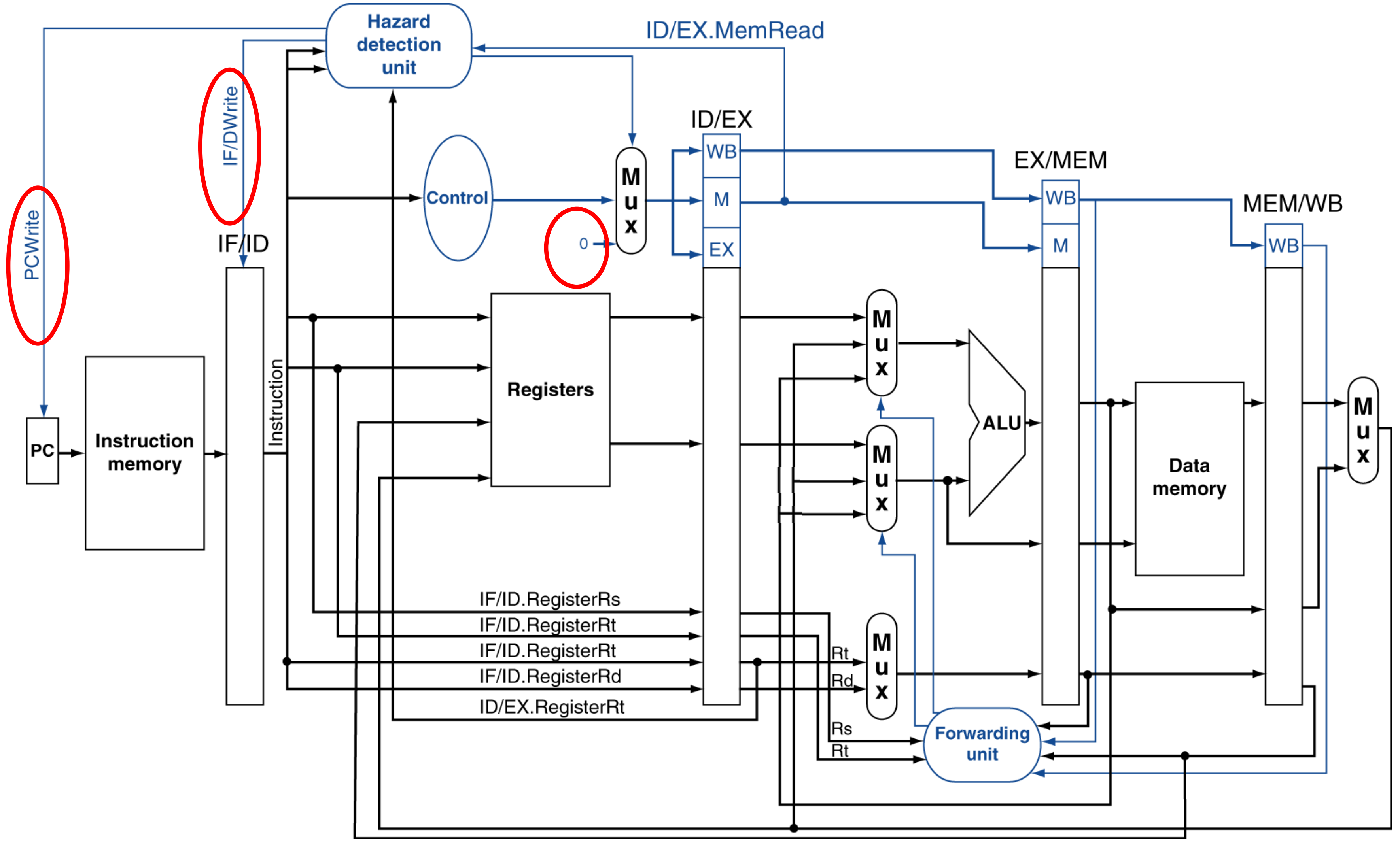
- Resolve by inserting stalls



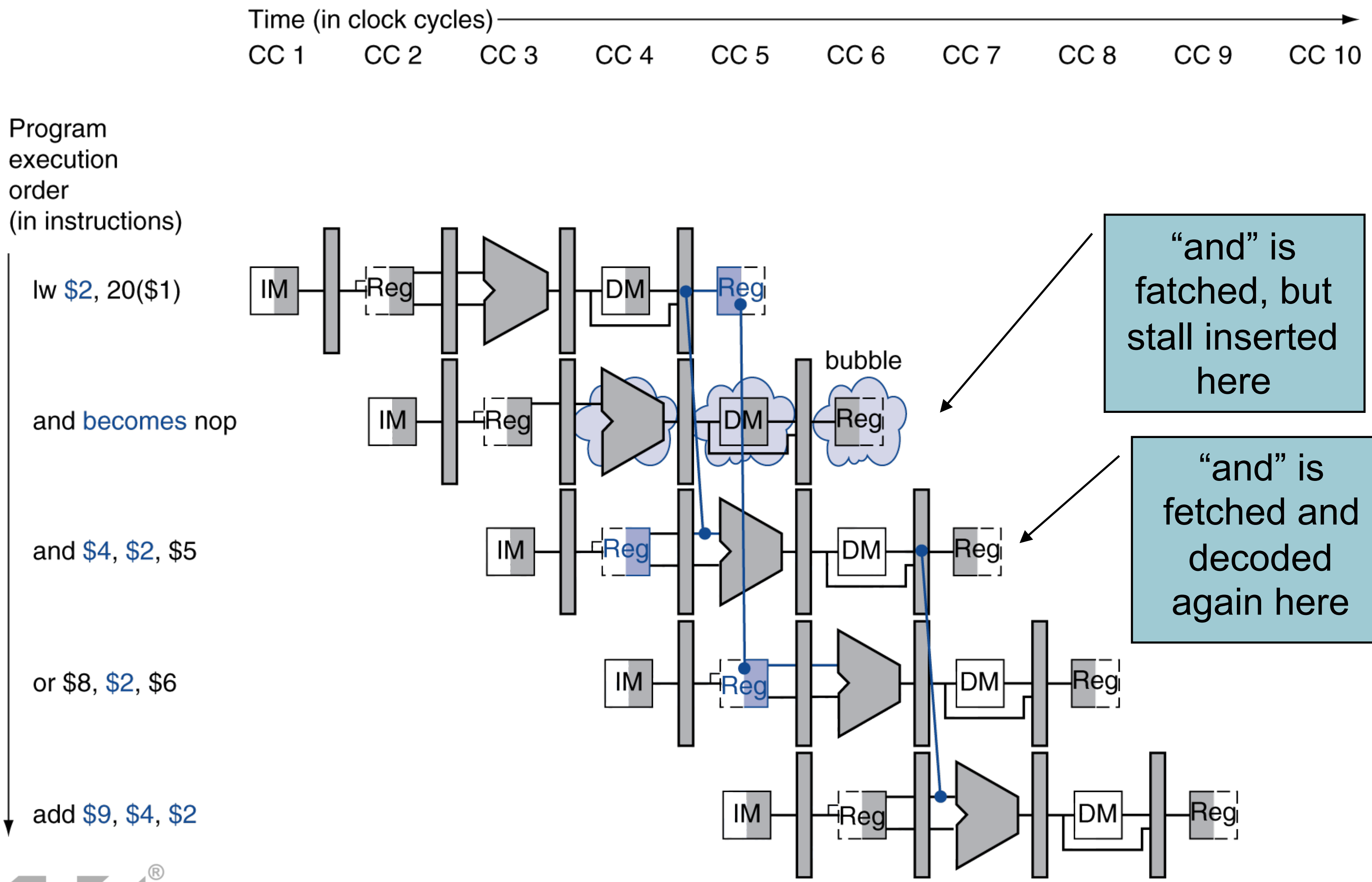
How to Stall the Pipeline?

- Force control signals in ID/EX register to 0's
  - EX, MEM and WB in following cycles do no-operation (nop) with those 0 control signals
- Prevent updates of PC and IF/ID registers
  - Instruction in IF/ID is held and decoded again
  - PC is held, so the same instruction is fetched again

Datapath with Hazard Detection



Stall/Bubble in the Pipeline



“and” is fatched, but stall inserted here

“and” is fetched and decoded again here

Question

How to implement?

(in instructions)

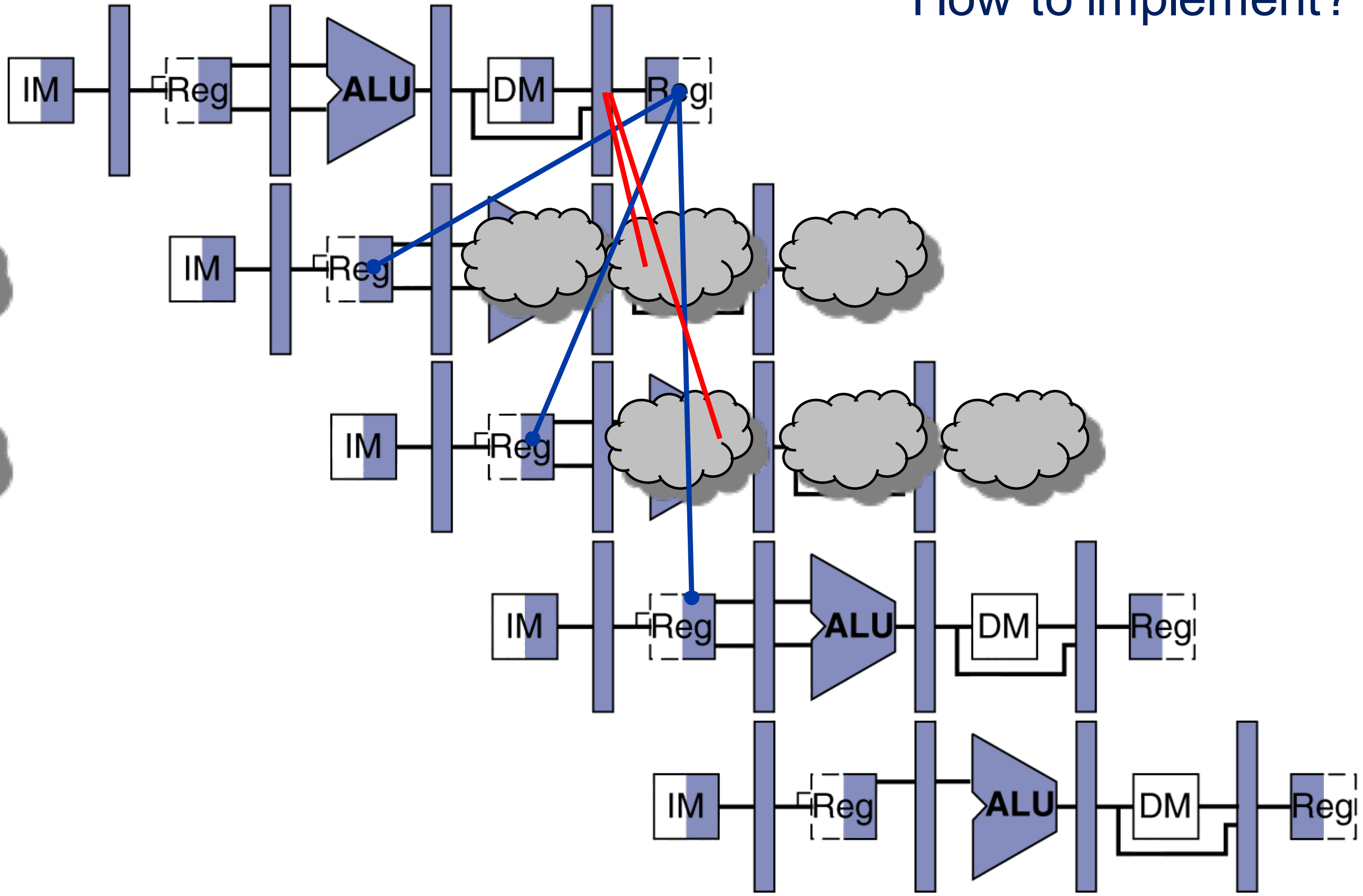
lw $10, 20($1)

sw $

sw $

sw $10, 40($1)

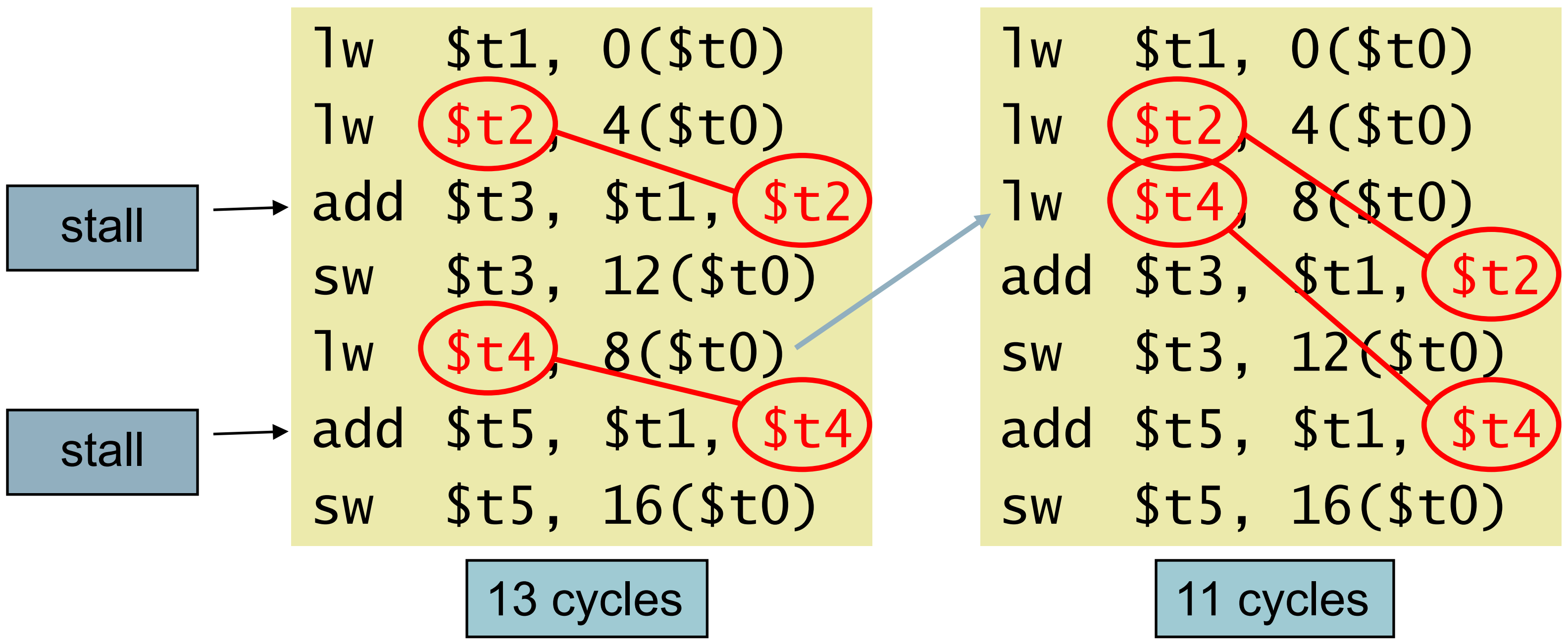
add $12, $3, $4



This delays the execution too much, how to fix?

Code Scheduling to Avoid Stalls

- Reorder code to avoid use of load result in the next instruction
- C code for `A = B + E; C = B + F;`



```
lw   $t1, 0($t0)
lw   $t2, 4($t0)
add  $t3, $t1, $t2
sw   $t3, 12($t0)
lw   $t4, 8($t0)
add  $t5, $t1, $t4
sw   $t5, 16($t0)
```

```
lw   $t1, 0($t0)
lw   $t2, 4($t0)
lw   $t4, 8($t0)
add  $t3, $t1, $t2
sw   $t3, 12($t0)
add  $t5, $t1, $t4
sw   $t5, 16($t0)
```

Stalls and Performance

The BIG Picture

- Stalls reduce performance
  - But are required to get correct results
- Hardware can be improved to take care of the hazards automatically
  - forwarding
- Compiler can arrange code to avoid hazards and stalls
  - Requires knowledge of the pipeline structure