Techniques to Increase Instruction Level Parallelism:

- Pipelining: Pipelining is a technique that divides the execution of instructions into multiple stages to enable simultaneous execution of different instructions. It helps to increase ILP by overlapping the execution of multiple instructions. The stages typically include instruction fetch, decode, execute, memory access, and write-back.
- 2. <u>Superscalar Processors:</u> Superscalar processors are designed to exploit ILP by executing multiple instructions in parallel within a single clock cycle. They achieve this by employing multiple functional units and pipelines. Instructions are fetched and decoded in parallel, and dependencies are resolved through techniques like register renaming and out-of-order execution.
- 3. <u>Speculative Execution</u>: Speculative execution is a technique where instructions are executed before all dependencies are known, based on predictions made by the processor. This helps to increase ILP by allowing instructions to proceed independently, even if they are dependent on branches or data whose values are not yet determined.
- 4. <u>Dynamic Scheduling</u>: Dynamic scheduling is a technique that allows instructions to be executed out of order, based on the availability of resources and the absence of dependencies. Instructions are dispatched to reservation stations, which hold the operands and track the availability of resources. This technique helps to maximize ILP by allowing instructions to be executed as soon as their dependencies are resolved.
- 5. Branch Prediction: Branch prediction is a technique used to mitigate the performance impact of conditional branches, which can disrupt the instruction flow and reduce ILP. Predictors are used to guess the outcome of branches, and instructions are speculatively executed based on these predictions. If the prediction is correct, ILP is increased; otherwise, the pipeline is flushed, and the correct execution path is taken.
- 6. Loop Unrolling: Loop unrolling is a technique where multiple iterations of a loop are combined into a single iteration, allowing for increased ILP. By reducing the number of branch instructions and increasing the amount of work per iteration, more instructions can be executed in parallel.
- 7. Software Pipelining: Software pipelining is a technique used to exploit ILP by overlapping the execution of consecutive iterations of a loop. It involves scheduling instructions from different iterations to execute in parallel, effectively transforming a loop into a pipeline. This technique helps to increase ILP by maximizing the utilization of functional units.
- 8. Predicated Execution: Predicated execution is a technique where instructions are conditionally executed based on the outcome of a previous instruction, removing the need for branching. It increases ILP by eliminating branches and allowing instructions to proceed independently based on the evaluation of a predicate.

Here are concise examples for each of the techniques used to increase Instruction Level Parallelism:

1. Pipelining: In a five-stage pipeline (fetch, decode, execute, memory, write-back), while the first instruction is being executed, the second instruction can be decoded, the third instruction can be fetched, the fourth instruction can be in the execution stage, and the fifth instruction can be in the memory stage. This allows multiple instructions to be executed simultaneously, increasing ILP.

- 2. Superscalar Processors: A superscalar processor can execute an arithmetic instruction and a memory access instruction simultaneously. For example, while a floating-point addition is being executed, a load instruction can be issued and executed in parallel, effectively increasing ILP.
- 3. Speculative Execution: Suppose there is a branch instruction where the target is dependent on a condition. Speculative execution allows the processor to predict the outcome of the branch and speculatively execute instructions along the predicted path. For example, if a branch instruction predicts a taken outcome, the subsequent instructions can be executed speculatively along that path, increasing ILP.
- 4. Dynamic Scheduling: Consider a processor with out-of-order execution capabilities. If an instruction is waiting for a specific register value to be available, but another instruction that is not dependent on that value can be executed, the processor can dynamically schedule and execute the independent instruction, thereby increasing ILP.
- 5. Branch Prediction: Suppose there is a branch instruction with a history of being taken most of the time. A branch predictor can predict that the branch will be taken and speculatively execute instructions along that path. If the prediction is correct, ILP is increased by overlapping the execution of the instructions in the predicted path.
- 6. Loop Unrolling: Consider a loop that performs vector addition. Instead of executing the loop one iteration at a time, loop unrolling allows multiple iterations to be combined, enabling multiple additions to occur simultaneously. For example, if the loop unrolling factor is four, four vector additions can be executed in parallel, increasing ILP.
- 7. Software Pipelining: In a loop that performs matrix multiplication, software pipelining allows overlapping of iterations. For example, while one iteration is performing multiplication, another iteration can perform addition, and a third iteration can perform assignment. This overlap increases ILP by executing multiple stages of different iterations simultaneously.
- 8. Predicated Execution: Suppose there is a conditional branch that determines whether to execute a certain instruction. Instead of branching, predicated execution allows the instruction to be conditionally executed based on the outcome of the previous instruction. For example, an add instruction can be conditionally executed only if a compare instruction yields a specific result, increasing ILP by avoiding branch instructions.