**Report Computer Architecture 2021**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Implementation* | *Area* | *Critical Path (ns)* | *Maximum Operating Frequency* | *Number of Cycles for program MULT\*\** | *Minimal time to execute the program MULT* |
| *Single Cycle* |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Single Cycle with Multiplication Support* |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Pipelined* |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Pipelined with hazard and stall logic* |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Optional: RISC-V ISA support\* (Pipelined-Single Cycle)* |  |  |  |  |  |

*\*Please specify if you implemented RISC-V ISA in the single cycle or pipelined version of the core.*

*\*\* The program MULT1 is used for “Single cycle”, MULT2 for “Single Cycle with Multiplication Support” and “Pipelined”, whereas MULT3 is used for “Pipelined with hazard and stall logic”.*

*Questions:*

* *For the single cycle processor, which kind of instruction would stimulate the critical path found? How would you improve it without adding any pipe stage?*

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* *For the single cycle processor, which resources constitute most part of the gates? What is your explanation for this distribution? Is it possible to reduce gate cells number?*

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* *What are the advantages of using a single cycle processor compared with more advanced implementations? Can you imagine/propose an application scenario of such cores?*

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* *Is the critical path affected when hardware support for multiplication is added to the single cycle processor? What is your explanation for this? Do you know any multiplier implementation that can improve timing?*

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* *Is adding hardware support for multiplication a good choice for every microprocessor? Motivate exhaustively your answer*

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* *How much larger is the pipelined implementation compared to the single cycle processor? What is the main cause for its increase? How is the critical path affected when we pass from a single cycle processor to a pipelined implementation ?*

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* *Taking into account the critical path found for the pipelined processor, how would be possible to increase the performance of the system? Would your solution significantly speed up the core? Also, what will be the new critical path?*

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* *What other microarchitecture techniques (besides pipelining) could be implemented in our microprocessor in order to improve performance? Please explain under what conditions/type of workload you will have the maximum/minimum performance.*

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* *Is the addition of hardware improvements, like pipelining, correlated with higher power consumption? How can we assess if a specific modification to our processor improve or diminish the energy efficiency of the system?*

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