



# High Level Synthesis (HLS)



- ◆ A process of converting high-level description of a design to a netlist
  - > Input:
    - High-level languages (ex: C/C++/System C)
    - Behavioral hardware description languages (ex: Verilog, VHDL)
    - Structural HDLs (ex: Verilog, VHDL)
    - State diagrams & logic networks
  - > Tools:
    - Parser
    - Library of modules
  - Constraints:
    - Area constraints (ex: # modules of a certain type)
    - Delay constraints (ex: set of operations should finish in  $\pmb{\lambda}$  clock cycles)
  - > Output:
    - Operation scheduling (time) and binding (resource)
    - Control generation and detailed interconnections

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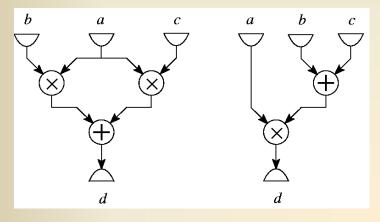
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# **Example of High-Level Optimization**



◆Applying the distributivity law to reduce resource requirement.

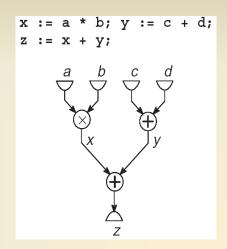




# **Internal Representation**

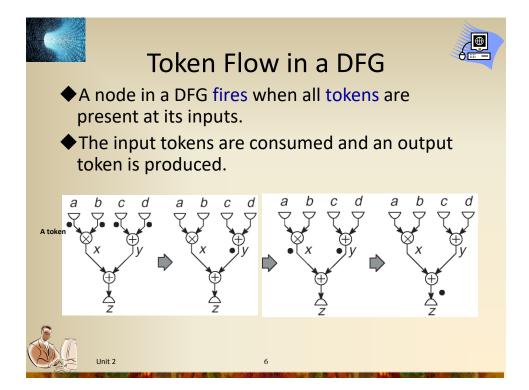


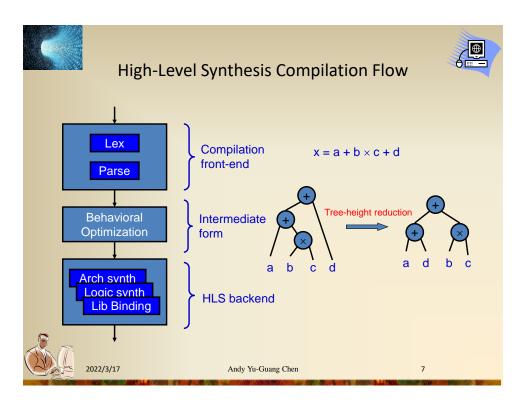
- ◆ Most systems use some form of a data-flow graph (DFG).
  - A DFG may or may not contain information on control flow.
- ◆A data-flow graph is built from
  - Vertices (nodes): representing computation, and
  - ➤ Edges: representing precedence relations.

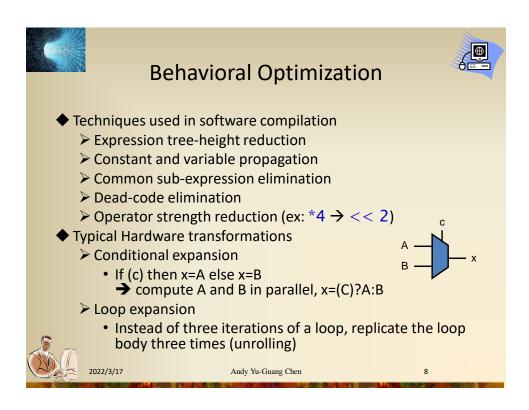




Unit 2









### **Architectural Synthesis**

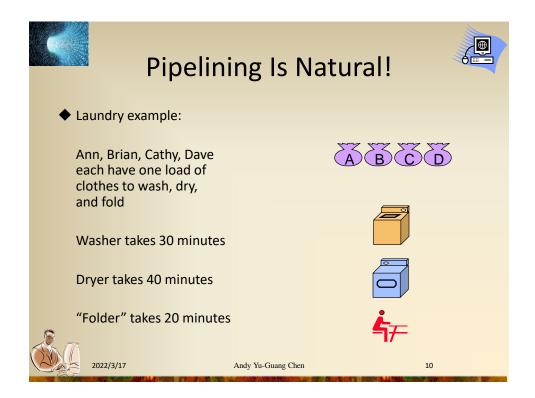


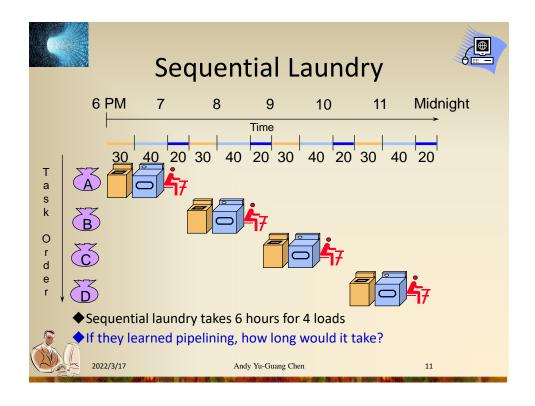
- ◆ Deals with "computational" behavioral descriptions
  - Behavior as sequencing graph (aka dependency graph, or data flow graph DFG)
  - > Hardware resources as library elements
    - Pipelined or non-pipelined
    - Resource performance in terms of execution delay
  - Constraints on operation timing
  - Constraints on hardware resource availability
  - Storage as registers, data transfer using wires
- ◆ Objective
  - Generate a synchronous, single-phase clock circuit
  - Might have multiple feasible solutions (explore tradeoff)
  - > Satisfy constraints, minimize objective:
    - Maximize performance subject to area constraint
    - Minimize area subject to performance constraints

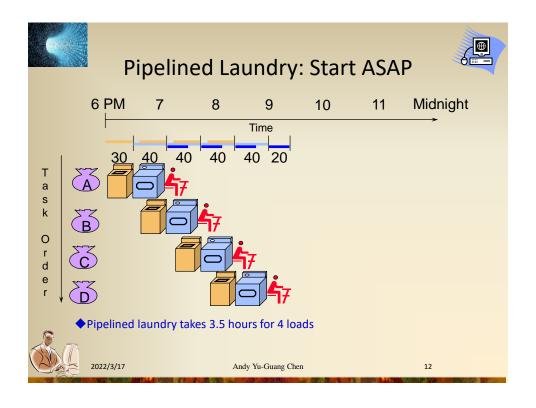
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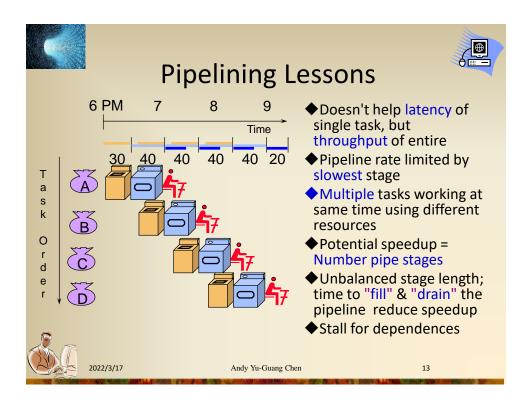
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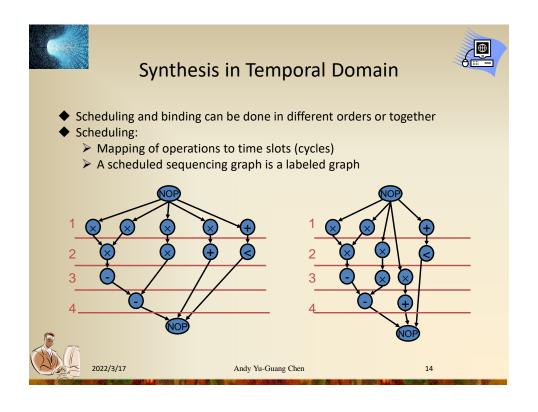
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# **Operation Types**



- ◆ For each operation, define its type
- ◆ For each resource, define a resource type and its delay (in terms of # cycles)
- ◆ T is a relation that maps an operation to a resource type that can implement it
  - > T: V → {1, 2, ...,  $n_{res}$ }.
- ♦ More general case:
  - ➤ A resource type may implement more than one operation type (ex: ALU)
- ◆ Resource binding:
  - Map each operation to a resource with the same type
  - Might have multiple options



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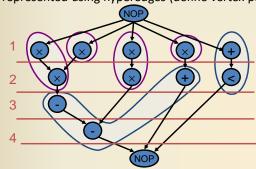
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# Schedule in Spatial Domain



- ◆ Resource sharing
  - More than one operation is bound to same resource
    - Operations have to be serialized
    - Can be represented using hyperedges (define vertex partition)





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### HLS Subtasks: Allocation, Scheduling, Assignment

- ◆ Subtasks in high-level synthesis
  - Allocation (Module selection): specify the hardware resources that will be necessary.
  - Scheduling: determine for each operation the time at which it should be performed such that no precedence constraint is violated.
  - ➤ Assignment (Binding): map each operation to a specific functional unit and each variable to a register.
- ◆ Remarks:
  - ➤ Though the subproblems are strongly interrelated, they are often solved separately.
  - ➤ However, to attain a better solution, an iterative process executing these three subtasks must be performed.
  - ➤ Most scheduling problems are NP-complete ⇒ heuristics are used.



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## Scheduling and Binding

- Resource constraints:
  - Number of resource instances of each type  $\{a_k: k=1, 2, ..., n_{res}\}$
- ◆ Scheduling:
  - $\triangleright$  Labeled vertices  $\phi(v_3)=1$
- ♦ Binding:
  - $\triangleright$  Hyperedges (or vertex partitions)  $\beta(v_2)$ =adder<sub>1</sub>
- ◆ Cost:
  - ➤ Number of resources ≈ area Resource dominated
  - Registers, steering logic (mux, bus), wiring, control unit Control dominated
- ◆ Delay:
  - > Start time of the "sink" node
  - Might be affected by steering logic and scheduling (control logic) resource-dominated vs. control-dominated



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### **Architectural Optimization**



- ◆ Optimization in view of design space flexibility
- ◆ A multi-criteria optimization problem:
  - $\triangleright$  Determine schedule  $\phi$  and binding  $\beta$ .
    - $\triangleright$  Under area A, latency  $\lambda$ , and cycle time  $\tau$  objectives
- ◆ Find non-dominated points in solution space
- ◆ Solution space tradeoff curves:
  - Non-linear, discontinuous
  - > Area, latency, cycle time (more?)
- ◆ Evaluate (estimate) cost functions
- Unconstrained optimization problems for resource dominated circuits:
  - Min area: solve for minimal binding
  - $\triangleright$  Min latency: solve for minimum  $\lambda$  scheduling

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## Scheduling and Binding



- igspace Cost  $\lambda$  and A determined by both  $\phi$  and  $\beta$ 
  - > Also affected by floorplan and detailed routing
- $\blacklozenge \beta$  affected by  $\phi$ :
  - > Resources cannot be shared among concurrent operations
- $\blacklozenge \phi$  affected by  $\beta$ :
  - > Resources cannot be shared among concurrent operations
  - When register and steering logic delays added to execution delays, might violate cycle time
- ♦Order?
  - > Apply either one (scheduling, binding) first



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- ◆Hardware is normally partitioned into two parts:
  - **Data path:** a network of functional units, registers, multiplexers and buses.
    - The actual "computation" takes place in the data path.
  - ➤ Control: the part of the hardware that takes care of having the data present at the right place at a specific time, of presenting the right instructions to a programmable unit, etc.
- Often high-level synthesis concentrates on <u>data-</u> path synthesis.
  - ➤ The control part is then realized as a finite state machine or in microcode.



Unit 2

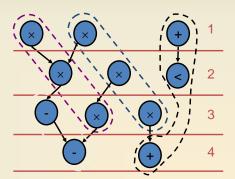
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# How Is the Datapath Implemented?



- Assuming the following scheduling and binding
  - ➤ Wires between modules?
  - ➤ Input selection?
  - How do binding and scheduling affect congestion?
  - How do binding and scheduling affect steering logic?





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### **Operation Scheduling**



- ♦ Input:
  - > Sequencing graph G(V, E), with *n* vertices
  - > Cycle time τ
  - $\triangleright$  Operation delays  $D = \{d_i: i=0..n\}$
- ◆ Output:
  - $\triangleright$  Schedule  $\phi$  determines start time  $t_i$  of operation  $v_i$
  - $\triangleright$  Latency  $\lambda = t_n t_0$
- ◆ Goal: determine area & latency tradeoff
- ♦ Issues:
  - Non-hierarchical and unconstrained
  - > Latency constrained
  - Resource constrained
  - Hierarchical



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# Min Latency Unconstrained Scheduling



- ◆ Simplest case: no constraints, find minimum latency
- ◆ Given set of vertices *V*, delays *D*, and partial order ≻ on operations *E*, find an integer labeling of operations

$$\phi: V \rightarrow Z^+$$
, such that:

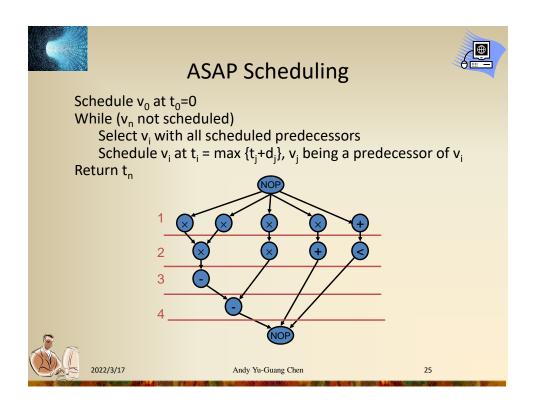
$$> t_i = \phi(v_i)$$

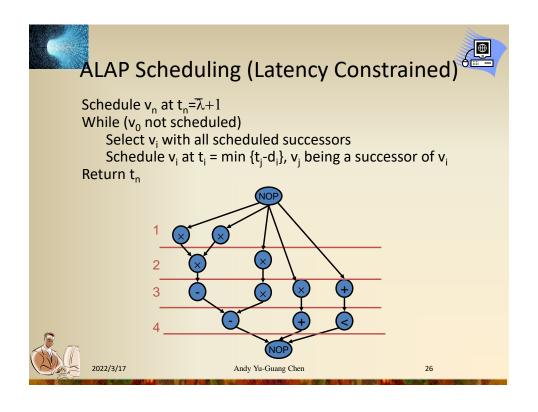
$$ightharpoonup t_i \ge t_i + d_i \qquad \forall (v_i, v_i) \in E$$

- $\lambda = t_n t_0$  is minimum
- ◆ Solvable in polynomial time
- ◆ Bounds on latency for resource constrained problems
- ◆ ASAP algorithm used: topological order
- Applying the DFG algorithm to finding the longest path between the start and end nodes leads to the latency of the result

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### **Related Terminologies**



- ◆ASAP, ALAP
  - ➤ Slack, mobility
  - >Critical node, critical path
  - **≻**Criticality
- **◆**Static timing analysis
  - >Arrival time
  - > Required time
- ◆Statistical static timing analysis
  - Advanced process technology: 45nm, 32nm, ...



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# **Constrained Scheduling**

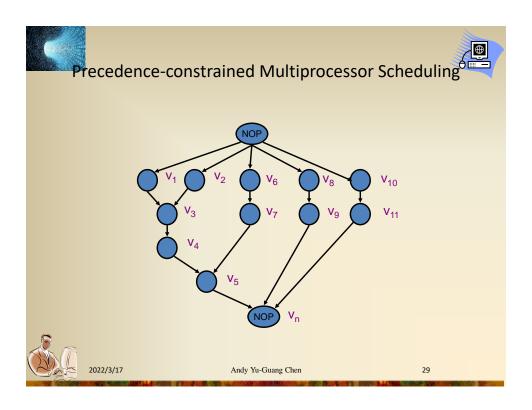


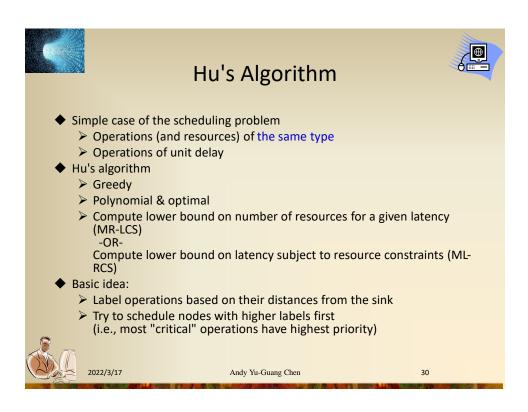
- Constrained scheduling
  - ➤ General case NP-complete
    - Minimize latency, given constraints on area or the resources (ML-RCS)
    - ➤ Minimize resources subject to bound on latency (MR-LCS)
- Exact solution methods
  - ➤ Hu's heuristic algorithm for identical processors (operations)
  - > ILP: Integer Linear Programming
- Heuristics
  - List scheduling
  - Force-directed scheduling

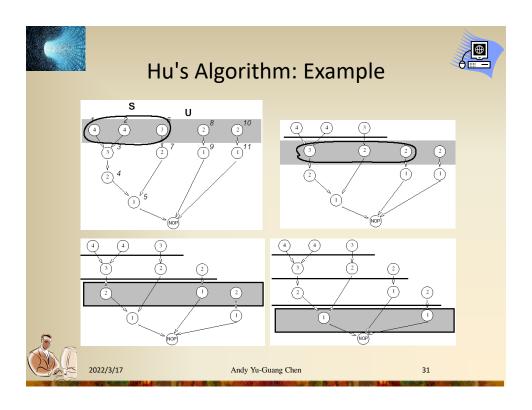


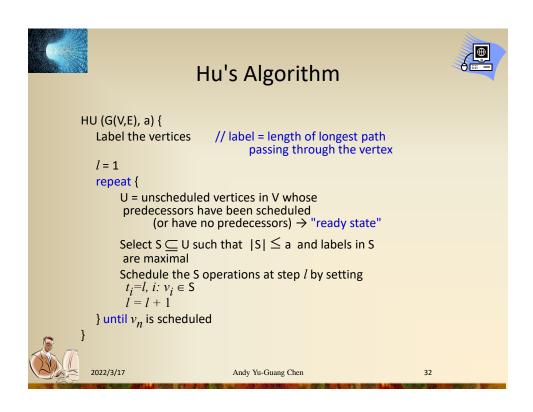
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### **Constrained Scheduling**



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### List Scheduling

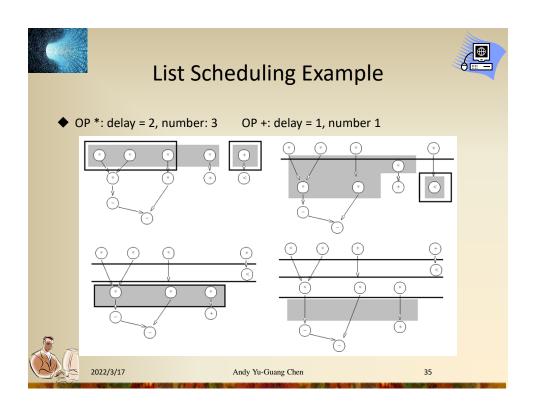


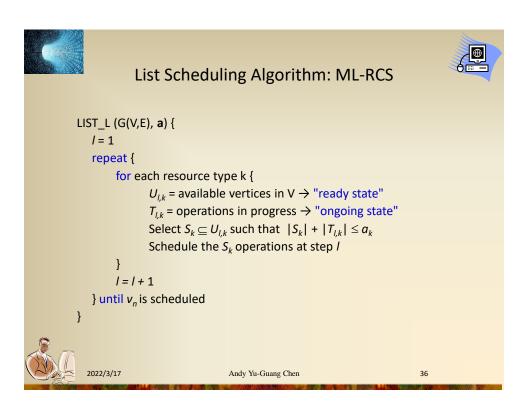
- ◆ Greedy algorithm for ML-RCS and MR-LCS
  - ➤ Does NOT guarantee optimum solution
- ◆Similar to Hu's algorithm
  - Operation selection decided by criticality
  - ➤ O(n) time complexity
- ◆More general input
  - > Resource constraints on different resource types

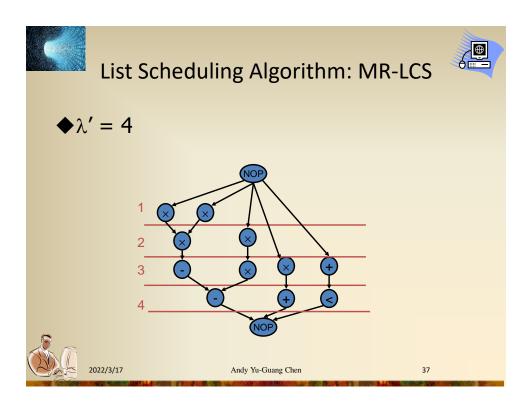


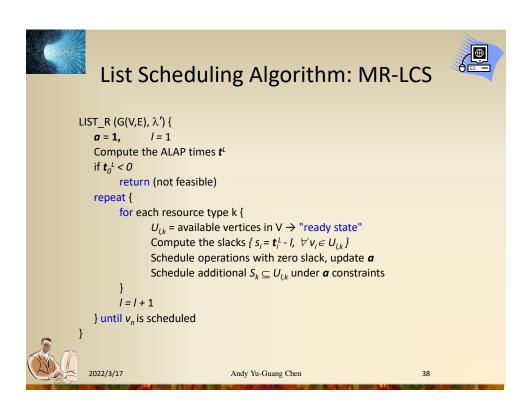
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### **Constrained Scheduling**



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## Force-Directed Scheduling



- Similar to list scheduling
  - Can handle ML-RCS and MR-LCS
  - For MR-LCS, schedules step-by-step
  - > BUT, selection of the operations tries to find the globally best set of operations
- Idea time frame:
  - Find the mobility  $\mu_i = t_i^L t_i^S$  of operations
  - Look at the operation type probability distributions
  - Try to flatten the operation type distributions
- Definition: operation probability density
  - $\triangleright p_i(1) = \Pr \{v_i \text{ starts at step } l\}$

Assume uniform distribution: 
$$p_i(l) = \frac{1}{\mu_i + 1} \quad for \ l \in [t_i^S, t_i^L]$$



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#### Force-Directed Scheduling: Definitions

◆ Operation-type distribution (NOT normalized to 1)

$$q_k(l) = \sum_{i:T(v_i)=k} p_i(l)$$

◆ Operation probabilities over control steps:

$$p_i = \{ p_i(0), p_i(1), \dots, p_i(n) \}$$

◆ Distribution graph of type *k* over all steps:

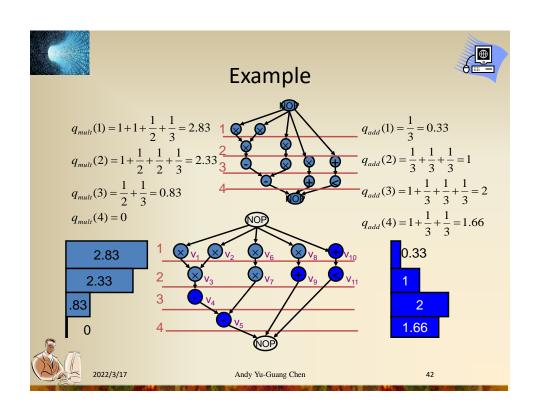
$$\{q_k(0), q_k(1), \dots, q_k(n)\}$$

 $ightharpoonup q_k(\ l\ )$  can be thought of as *expected* operator cost for implementing operations of type k at step l.



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#### **Force**



- ◆Used as priority function
- ◆ Force is related to concurrency:
  - > Sort operations for least force
- ◆Mechanical analogy:
- ◆Force = constant × displacement
  - $\triangleright$  Constant = operation-type distribution,  $q_k(l)$
  - Displacement = change in probability



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#### Self Force



- ◆Sum of forces to feasible schedule steps
- igspace Self-force for operation  $v_i$  in step l

self – force
$$(i,l) = \sum_{m=i_s^s}^{t_i^L} q_k(m) (\delta_{lm} - p_i(m))$$

$$= q_k(l) - \frac{1}{\mu_i + 1} \sum_{m=l_i^s}^{l_i^L} q_k(m)$$

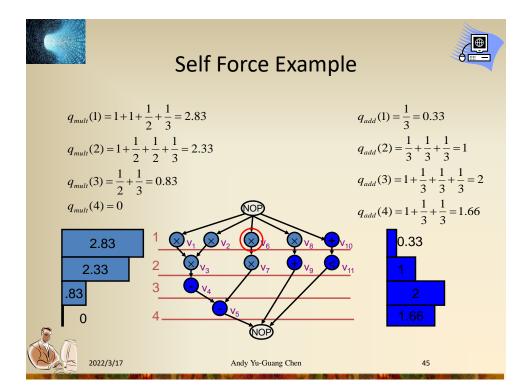
$$\delta_{lm} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } l = m \\ 0, & \text{if } l \neq m \end{cases}$$

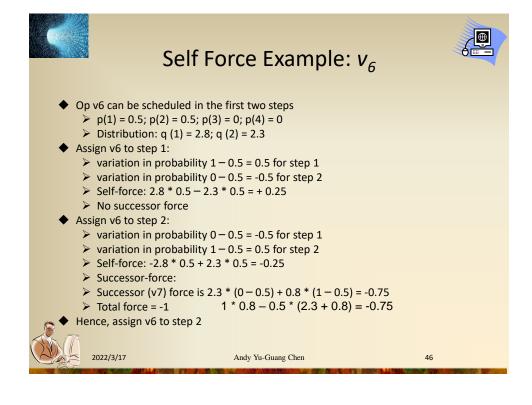
$$p_i(m) = \frac{1}{\mu_i + 1}$$



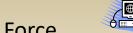
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## Predecessor/successor Force

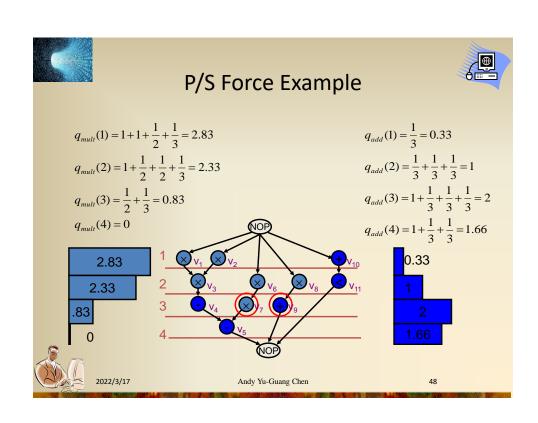
- ◆ Related to the predecessors/successors
  - ➤ Fixing an operation timeframe restricts timeframe of predecessors/successors
  - Ex: Delaying an operation implies delaying its successors

$$ps-force(i,l) = \frac{1}{\widetilde{\mu}_i + 1} \sum_{m=\widetilde{t}_i}^{\widetilde{t}_i^L} q_k(m) - \frac{1}{\mu_i + 1} \sum_{m=t_i^S}^{t_i^L} q_k(m)$$



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# P/S Force Example: $v_7 \& v_9$



- ◆ Type 1 (v7) distribution:
  - $\Rightarrow$  q(1) = 2.8; q(2) = 2.3; q(3) = 0.8; q(4) = 0
- ◆ Assign v6 to step 2:
  - > Time frame of v7 is reduced
  - → 1 \* (0.8) 0.5 \* (2.3 + 0.8) = -0.75
- ◆ Type 2 (v9) distribution:
  - ightharpoonup q(1) = 0.3; q(2) = 1; q(3) = 2; q(4) = 1.6
- ◆ Assign v8 to step 2:
  - > Time frame of v9 is reduced
  - $\triangleright$  0.5 \* (2 + 1.6) 0.3 \* (1 + 2 + 1.6) = 0.42



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#### Force-Directed Scheduling: Algorithm



```
FDS (G(V, E), λ̄) {
    repeat {
        Compute/update the time-frames
        Compute the operation and type probabilities
        Compute the self-force, ps-force and total force
        Schedule the op. with least force
    }
    until (all operations are scheduled)
    return (t)
}
```

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#### Force-Directed Scheduling: Algorithm



- ◆ Very similar to LIST\_L(G(V,E), a)
  - Compute mobility of operations using ASAP and ALAP
  - > Select and schedule operations
  - ➤ Go to next control step
- ◆ Difference with list scheduling in selecting operations
  - Compute operation probabilities and type distributions
  - Select operations with least force
  - Update operation probabilities and type distributions
  - Consider the effect on the type distribution
  - Consider the effect on p/s nodes and their type distributions
  - Complexity: O(n<sup>3</sup>)



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### **Resource Constraint Scheduling**

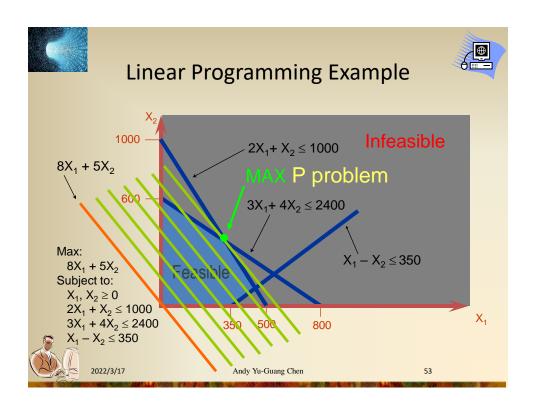


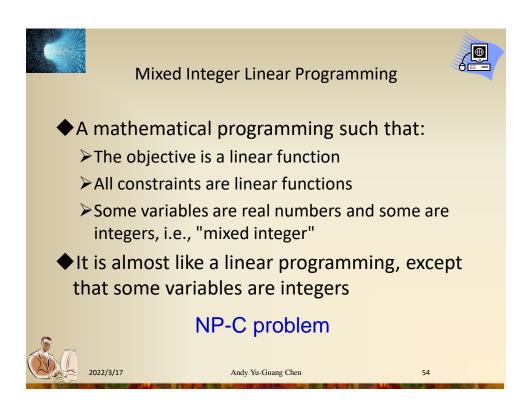
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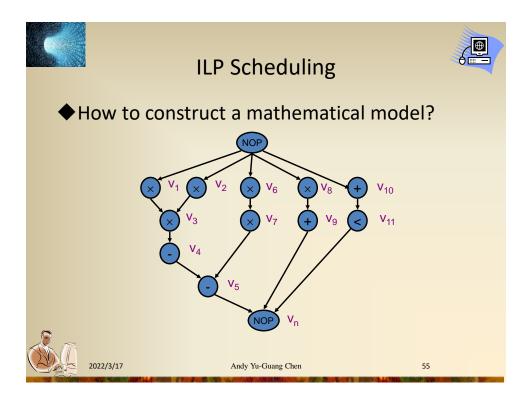


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#### **ILP Formulation of ML-RCS**



- Use binary decision variables
  - > i = 0, 1, ..., n
  - $> l = 1, 2, ..., \lambda' + 1$   $\lambda'$ : given upper-bound on latency
  - $x_{i,l} = 1$  if operation *i* starts at step *l*, 0 otherwise.
- Set of linear inequalities (constraints), and an objective function (min latency)
- Observations

$$x_{i,l} = 0 \quad for \quad l < t_i^S \quad and \quad l > t_i^L \quad \text{feasibility}$$

$$(t_i^S = ASAP(v_i), t_i^L = ALAP(v_i))$$

- $t_i = \sum l \cdot x_{i,l}$   $t_i = \text{start time of op } i$
- If op  $v_i$  takes  $d_i$  steps, is op  $v_i$  (still) executing at step l?



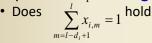
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#### Start Time vs. Execution Time



- lacktriangle For each operation  $v_i$ , only one start time
- $\bullet$  If  $d_i=1$ , then the following questions are the same:
  - $\triangleright$  Does operation  $v_i$  start at step l?
  - $\triangleright$  Is operation  $v_i$  running at step l?
- ♦ But if  $d_i > 1$ , then the two questions should be formulated as:
  - $\triangleright$  Does operation  $v_i$  start at step l?
    - Does  $x_{i,l} = 1$  hold?
  - $\triangleright$  Is operation  $v_i$  running at step l?





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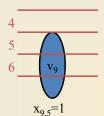
#### Operation v, Still Running at Step /?

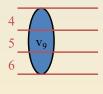


lacktriangle Assume that  $v_Q$  takes 3 steps, is  $v_Q$  running at step 6?

$$>$$
 Is  $x_{9,6} + x_{9,5} + x_{9,4} = 1$ ?







 $x_{9,4} = 1$ 

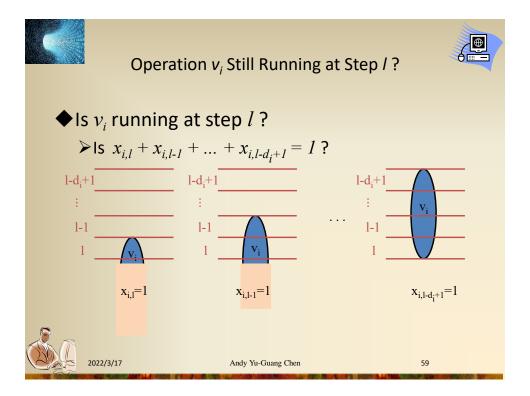
• Note:  $x_{9,6}=1$ 

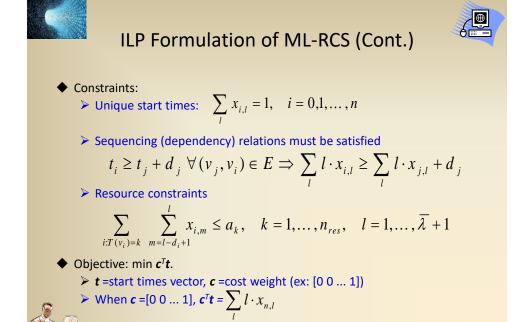
- > Only one (if any) of the above three cases can happen
- ➤ To meet resource constraints, we have to ask the same question for ALL steps, and ALL operations of that type



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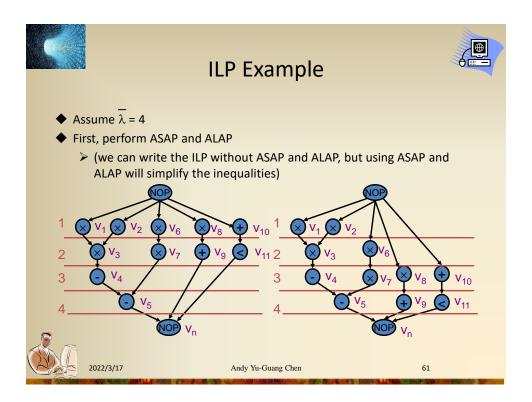




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### ILP Example: Unique Start Times Constraint

Without using ASAP and ALAP values:

$$x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{1,3} + x_{1,4} = 1$$
  
 $x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} + x_{2,3} + x_{2,4} = 1$ 

•••

•••

$$x_{11,1} + x_{11,2} + x_{11,3} + x_{11,4} = 1$$

☐ Using ASAP and ALAP:

$$x_{1,1} = 1$$

$$x_{2,1} = 1$$

$$x_{3,2} = 1$$

$$x_{4,3} = 1$$

$$x_{5,4} = 1$$

$$x_{6,1} + x_{6,2} = 1$$

$$x_{7,2} + x_{7,3} = 1$$

$$x_{8,1} + x_{8,2} + x_{8,3} = 1$$

$$x_{9,2} + x_{9,3} + x_{9,4} = 1$$



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#### **ILP Example: Dependency Constraints**

◆Using ASAP and ALAP, the non-trivial inequalities are: (assuming unit delay for + and \*)

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \cdot x_{7,2} + 3 \cdot x_{7,3} - 1 \cdot x_{6,1} - 2 \cdot x_{6,2} - 1 &\geq 0 \\ 2 \cdot x_{9,2} + 3 \cdot x_{9,3} + 4 \cdot x_{9,4} - 1 \cdot x_{8,1} - 2 \cdot x_{8,2} - 3 \cdot x_{8,3} - 1 &\geq 0 \\ 2 \cdot x_{11,2} + 3 \cdot x_{11,3} + 4 \cdot x_{11,4} - 1 \cdot x_{10,1} - 2 \cdot x_{10,2} - 3 \cdot x_{10,3} - 1 &\geq 0 \\ 4 \cdot x_{5,4} - 2 \cdot x_{7,2} - 3 \cdot x_{7,3} - 1 &\geq 0 \\ 5 \cdot x_{n,5} - 2 \cdot x_{9,2} - 3 \cdot x_{9,3} - 4 \cdot x_{9,4} - 1 &\geq 0 \\ 5 \cdot x_{n,5} - 2 \cdot x_{11,2} - 3 \cdot x_{11,3} - 4 \cdot x_{11,4} - 1 &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



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#### **ILP Example: Resource Constraints**

Resource constraints (assuming 2 adders and 2 multipliers)  $x_{1,1} + x_{2,1} + x_{6,1} + x_{8,1} \le 2$ 

$$x_{3,2} + x_{6,2} + x_{7,2} + x_{8,2} \le 2$$
  
 $x_{7,3} + x_{8,3} \le 2$ 

$$x_{10,1} \le 2$$

$$x_{9,2} + x_{10,2} + x_{11,2} \le 2$$

$$x_{4,3} + x_{9,3} + x_{10,3} + x_{11,3} \le 2$$

- $x_{5,4} + x_{9,4} + x_{11,4} \le 2$
- ◆Objective:
  - Since  $\lambda$ =4 and sink has no mobility, any feasible solution is optimum, but we can use the following anyway:  $Min = 1 \cdot x_{n,1} + 2 \cdot x_{n,2} + 3 \cdot x_{n,3} + 4 \cdot x_{n,4}$



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#### **ILP Formulation of MR-LCS**



- ◆ Dual problem to ML-RCS
- ◆Objective:
  - ➤ Goal is to optimize total resource usage, a.
  - ightharpoonup Objective function is  $c^Ta$ , where entries in c are respective area costs of resources
- **♦**Constraints:
  - Same as ML-RCS constraints, plus:
  - > Latency constraint added:

$$\sum_{l} l \cdot x_{n,l} \le \overline{\lambda} + 1$$

Note: unknown a<sub>k</sub> appears in constraints.



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## **Further Study**



- **♦**Linear programming
  - http://www.cs.sunysb.edu/~algorith/files/linear-programming.shtml
- **♦**Linear programming tools
  - http://lpsolve.sourceforge.net/5.5/



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