Hardware-Based Speculation

- Execute instructions along predicted execution paths but only commit the results if prediction was correct
- Instruction commit: allowing an instruction to update the register file when instruction is no longer speculative
- Need an additional piece of hardware to prevent any irrevocable action until an instruction commits
  - Need to separate executing the instruction to pass data to other instructions from completing (performing operations that can not be undone)

Reorder Buffer

- Reorder buffer – holds the result of instruction between completion and commit (and supply them to any instruction who needs them just like the RS in Tomasulo's)
- Four fields:
  - Instruction type: branch/store/register
  - Destination field: register number or memory address
  - Value field: output value
  - Ready field: completed execution?
- Modify reservation stations:
  - Operand source is now reorder buffer instead of functional unit (results are tagged with ROB entry #)

Reorder Buffer

- Register values and memory values are not written until an instruction commits
- On misprediction:
  - Speculated entries in ROB are cleared
- Exceptions:
  - Not recognized until it is ready to commit
- 4 stages
  - Issue
  - Execute
  - Write Result
  - Commit

Reorder Buffer

- Issue
  - If empty RS and ROB entry → Issue; else stall
  - Send operands to RS if available in registers or ROB
  - The number of ROB entry allocated to instruction is sent to RS to tag the results with
  - If operands are not available yet, the ROB entry is sent to the RS to wait for results on the CDB

Reorder Buffer

- Execute
  - If one or more operands are not available, monitor the CDB.
  - When the result is broadcast on the CDB (we know that from the ROB entry tag) copy it
  - When all operands are ready, start execution
- Write Result
  - When execution is completed, broadcast the result on the CDB tagged with ROB entry #
  - Results are copied to ROB entry and all waiting RS

Reorder buffer

- When an instruction reaches the head of the ROB and the result is ready in the buffer, write it to the register file and remove instruction from ROB
- If the instruction is a store, write it to the memory and remove the instruction from the ROB
- If the instruction is a branch, if prediction is correct, remove it from the ROB. If misprediction flush the ROB and start from the correct successor.

Multiple Issue and Static Scheduling

- To achieve CPI < 1, need to complete multiple instructions per clock
- Solutions:
  - Statically scheduled superscalar processors
  - VLIW (very long instruction word) processors
  - dynamically scheduled superscalar processors

Multiple Issue

Common name	Issue structure	Hazard detection	Scheduling	Distinguishing characteristic	Examples
Superscalar (static)	Dynamic	Hardware	Static	In-order execution	Mostly in the embedded space: MIPS and ARM, including the ARM Coretex A8
Superscalar (dynamic)	Dynamic	Hardware	Dynamic	Some out-of-order execution, but no speculation	None at the present
Superscalar (speculative)	Dynamic	Hardware	Dynamic with speculation	Out-of-order execution with speculation	Intel Core i3, i5, i7; AMD Phenom; IBM Power 7
VLIW/LIW	Static	Primarily software	Static	All hazards determined and indicated by compiler (often implicitly)	Most examples are in signal processing, such as the TI C6x
EPIC	Primarily static	Primarily software	Mostly static	All hazards determined and indicated explicitly by the compiler	Itanium

VLIW Processors

- Package multiple operations into one instruction
- Example VLIW processor:
  - One integer instruction (or branch)
  - Two independent floating-point operations
  - Two independent memory references
- Must be enough parallelism in the code to fill the available slots

VLIW Processors

- Disadvantages:
  - Statically finding parallelism
  - Code size
  - No hazard detection hardware
  - Binary code compatibility

VLIW Example

Source instruction	Instruction using result	Latency
FP ALU OP	FP ALU OP	3
FP ALU OP	Store double	2
Load double	FP ALU OP	1
Load Double	Store double	0

```
Loop: L.D      F0,0(R1)
      ADD.D    F4,F0,F2
      S.D      0(R1),F4
      DADDUI   R1,R1,#-8
      BNE  R   1,R2,Loop
```

For (I=1000;I>0;I++)

x[I]=x[I]+s;

VLIW Example

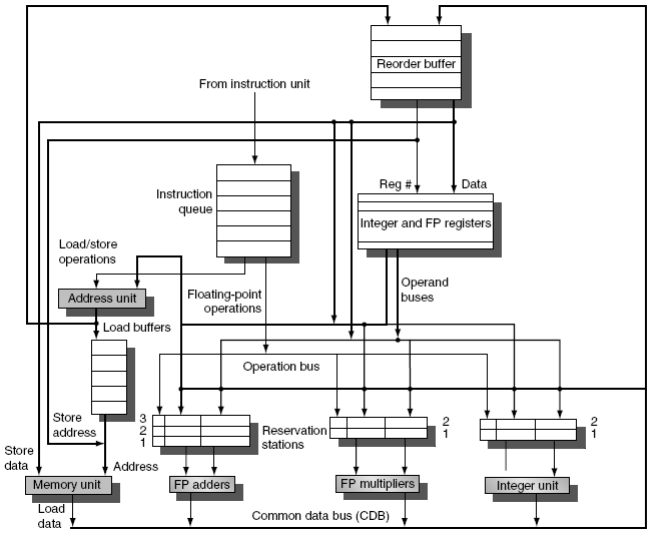
- Assume that w can schedule 2 memory operations, 2 FP operations, and one integer or branch

Memory reference 1	*Memory reference 2*	*FP operation 1*	*FP op. 2*	*Int. op/ branch*	*Clock*
LD F0,0(R1)	LD F6,-8(R1)				1
LD F10,-16(R1)	LD F14,-24(R1)				2
LD F18,-32(R1)	LD F22,-40(R1)	ADDD F4,F0,F2	ADDD F8,F6,F2		3
LD F26,-48(R1)		ADDD F12,F10,F2	ADDD F16,F14,F2		4
		ADDD F20,F18,F2	ADDD F24,F22,F2		5
SD 0(R1),F4	SD -8(R1),F8	ADDD F28,F26,F2			6
SD -16(R1),F12	SD -24(R1),F16			DADD R1,R1,#-56	7
SD 24(R1),F20	SD 16(R1),F24				8
SD 8(R1),F28				BNEZ R1,LOOP	9

Dynamic Scheduling, Multiple Issue, and Speculation

- Modern microarchitectures:
  - Dynamic scheduling + multiple issue + speculation
- Two approaches:
  - Assign reservation stations and update pipeline control table in half clock cycles
    - Only supports 2 instructions/clock
  - Design logic to handle any possible dependencies between the instructions
  - Hybrid approaches
- Issue logic can become bottleneck

Overview of Design



Multiple Issue

- Limit the number of instructions of a given class that can be issued in a “bundle”
  - I.e. on FP, one integer, one load, one store
- Examine all the dependencies amoung the instructions in the bundle
- If dependencies exist in bundle, encode them in reservation stations
- Also need multiple completion/commit

Example

```
Loop:  LD R2,0(R1)        ;R2=array element
       DADDIU R2,R2,#1    ;increment R2
       SD R2,0(R1)        ;store result
       DADDIU R1,R1,#8    ;increment pointer
       BNE R2,R3,LOOP     ;branch if not last element
```

Example (No Speculation)

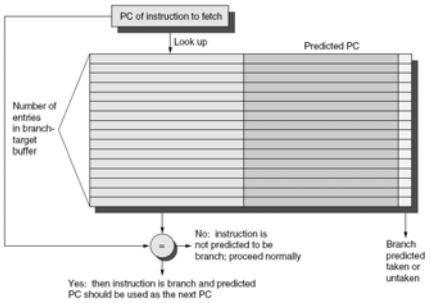
Iteration number	Instructions		Issues at clock cycle number	Executes at clock cycle number	Memory access at clock cycle number	Write CDB at clock cycle number	Comment
1	LD	R2,0(R1)	1	2	3	4	First issue
1	DADDIU	R2,R2,#1	1	5		6	Wait for LW
1	SD	R2,0(R1)	2	3	7		Wait for DADDIU
1	DADDIU	R1,R1,#8	2	3		4	Execute directly
1	BNE	R2,R3,LOOP	3	7			Wait for DADDIU
2	LD	R2,0(R1)	4	8	9	10	Wait for BNE
2	DADDIU	R2,R2,#1	4	11		12	Wait for LW
2	SD	R2,0(R1)	5	9	13		Wait for DADDIU
2	DADDIU	R1,R1,#8	5	8		9	Wait for BNE
2	BNE	R2,R3,LOOP	6	13			Wait for DADDIU
3	LD	R2,0(R1)	7	14	15	16	Wait for BNE
3	DADDIU	R2,R2,#1	7	17		18	Wait for LW
3	SD	R2,0(R1)	8	15	19		Wait for DADDIU
3	DADDIU	R1,R1,#8	8	14		15	Wait for BNE
3	BNE	R2,R3,LOOP	9	19			Wait for DADDIU

Example

Iteration number	Instructions		Issues at clock number	Executes at clock number	Read access at clock number	Write CDB at clock number	Commits at clock number	Comment
1	LD	R2,0(R1)	1	2	3	4	5	First issue
1	DADDIU	R2,R2,#1	1	5		6	7	Wait for LW
1	SD	R2,0(R1)	2	3			7	Wait for DADDIU
1	DADDIU	R1,R1,#8	2	3		4	8	Commit in order
1	BNE	R2,R3,LOOP	3	7			8	Wait for DADDIU
2	LD	R2,0(R1)	4	5	6	7	9	No execute delay
2	DADDIU	R2,R2,#1	4	8		9	10	Wait for LW
2	SD	R2,0(R1)	5	6			10	Wait for DADDIU
2	DADDIU	R1,R1,#8	5	6		7	11	Commit in order
2	BNE	R2,R3,LOOP	6	10			11	Wait for DADDIU
3	LD	R2,0(R1)	7	8	9	10	12	Earliest possible
3	DADDIU	R2,R2,#1	7	11		12	13	Wait for LW
3	SD	R2,0(R1)	8	9			13	Wait for DADDIU
3	DADDIU	R1,R1,#8	8	9		10	14	Executes earlier
3	BNE	R2,R3,LOOP	9	13			14	Wait for DADDIU

Branch-Target Buffer

- Need high instruction bandwidth!
  - Branch-Target buffers
    - Next PC prediction buffer, indexed by current PC



Branch Folding

- Optimization:
  - Larger branch-target buffer
  - Add target instruction into buffer to deal with longer decoding time required by larger buffer
  - “Branch folding”

Return Address Predictor

- Most unconditional branches come from function returns
- The same procedure can be called from multiple sites
  - Causes the buffer to potentially forget about the return address from previous calls
- Create return address buffer organized as a stack

Integrated Instruction Fetch Unit

- Design monolithic unit that performs:
  - Branch prediction
  - Instruction prefetch
    - Fetch ahead
  - Instruction memory access and buffering
    - Deal with crossing cache lines

Register Renaming

- Register renaming vs. reorder buffers
  - Instead of virtual registers from reservation stations and reorder buffer, create a single register pool
    - Contains visible registers and virtual registers
  - Use hardware-based map to rename registers during issue
  - WAW and WAR hazards are avoided
  - Speculation recovery occurs by copying during commit
  - Still need a ROB-like queue to update table in order
  - Simplifies commit:
    - Record that mapping between architectural register and physical register is no longer speculative
    - Free up physical register used to hold older value
    - In other words: SWAP physical registers on commit
  - Physical register de-allocation is more difficult

Integrated Issue and Renaming

- Combining instruction issue with register renaming:
  - Issue logic pre-reserves enough physical registers for the bundle (fixed number?)
  - Issue logic finds dependencies within bundle, maps registers as necessary
  - Issue logic finds dependencies between current bundle and already in-flight bundles, maps registers as necessary

How Much?

- How much to speculate
  - Mis-speculation degrades performance and power relative to no speculation
    - May cause additional misses (cache, TLB)
  - Prevent speculative code from causing higher costing misses (e.g. L2)
- Speculating through multiple branches
  - Complicates speculation recovery
  - No processor can resolve multiple branches per cycle

Energy Efficiency

- Speculation and energy efficiency
  - Note: speculation is only energy efficient when it significantly improves performance
- Value prediction
  - Uses:
    - Loads that load from a constant pool
    - Instruction that produces a value from a small set of values
  - Not been incorporated into modern processors
  - Similar idea--*address aliasing prediction*--is used on some processors