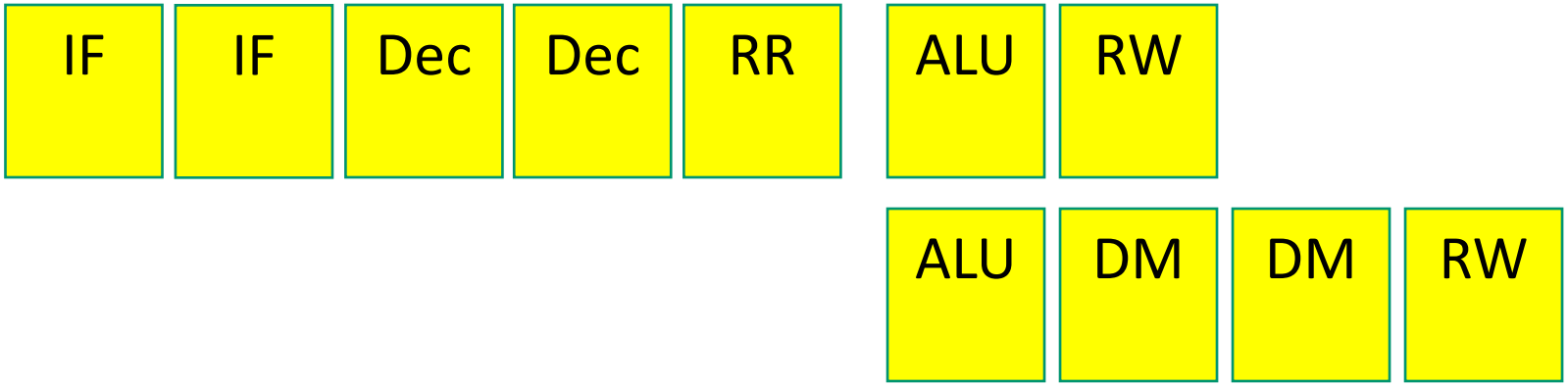
Lecture 20: Branches, OOO

- Today's topics:
  - Branch prediction
  - Out-of-order execution
  - (Also see class notes on pipelining, hazards, etc.)

Problem 4 – no Byp

A 7 or 9 stage pipeline, RR and RW take an entire stage

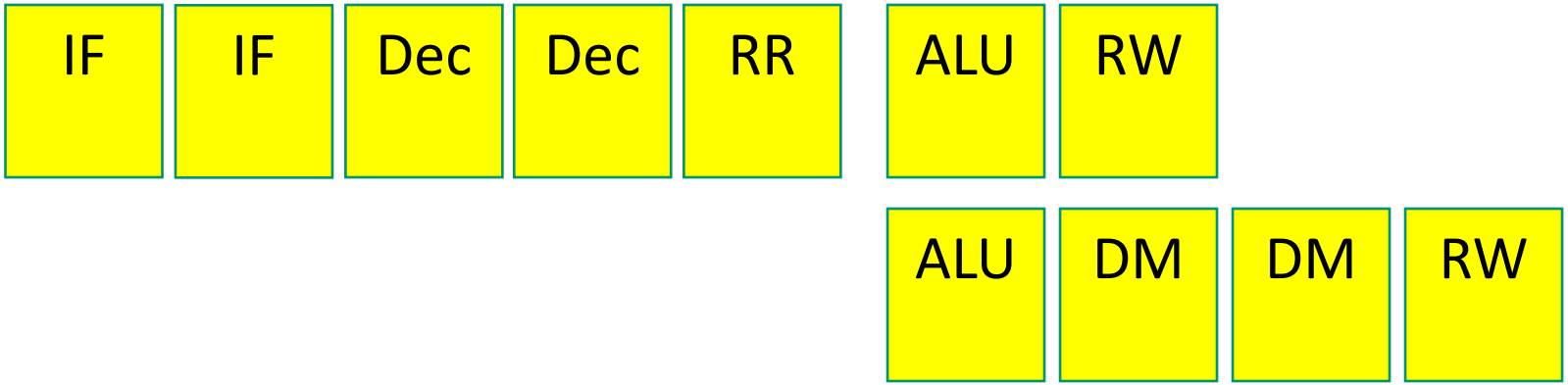


lw $1, 8($2)

add $4, $1, $3

Problem 4 – with Byp

A 7 or 9 stage pipeline, RR and RW take an entire stage



lw $1, 8($2)

add $4, $1, $3

Problem 4

Without bypassing: 4 stalls

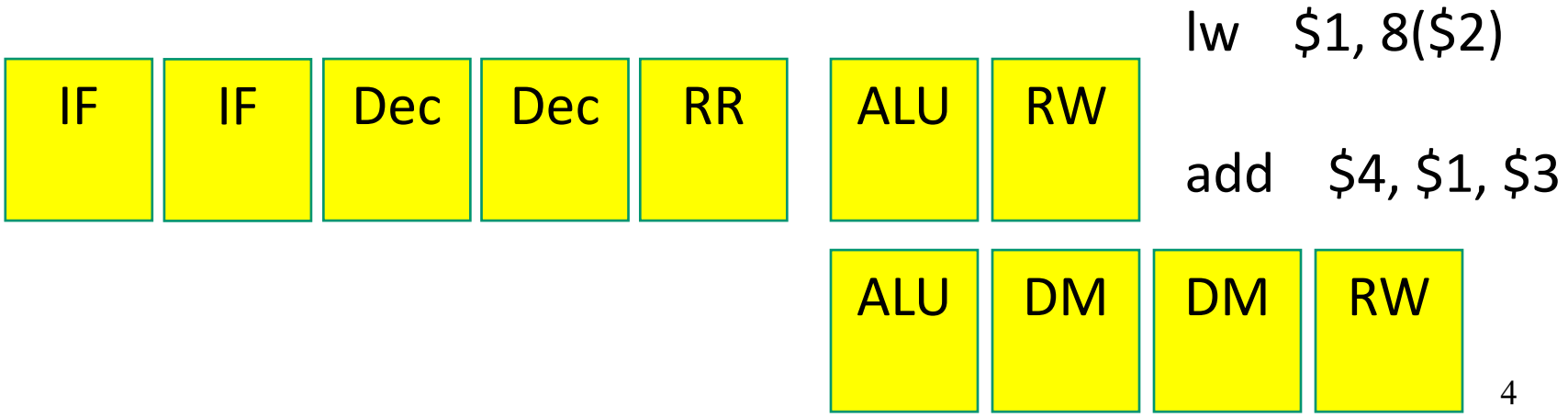
IF:IF:DE:DE:RR:AL:DM:DM:RW

IF: IF :DE:DE:DE:DE: DE :DE:RR:AL:RW

With bypassing: 2 stalls

IF:IF:DE:DE:RR:AL:DM:DM:RW

IF: IF :DE:DE:DE:DE: RR :AL:RW



Pipelining Example (Recap)

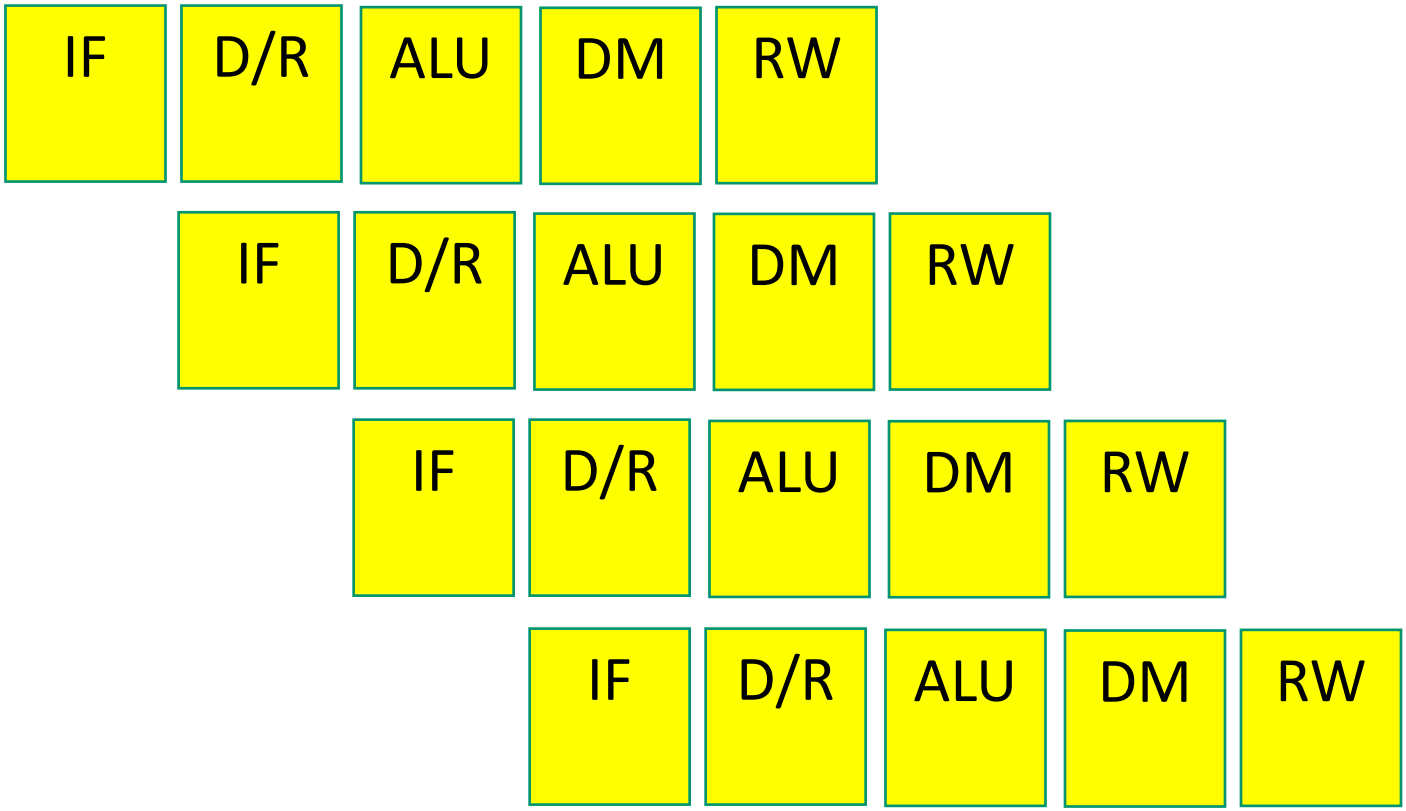
- Unpipelined design: the entire circuit takes 10ns to finish
  Cycle time = 10ns; Clock speed = 1/10ns = 100 MHz
  CPI = 1 (assuming no stalls)
  Throughput in instructions per second =
  #cycles in a second x instructions-per-cycle =
  100 M x 1 = 100 M instrs per second = 0.1 BIPS (billion instrs per sec)

- 5-stage pipeline: under ideal conditions, each stage takes 2ns
  Cycle time = 2ns; Clock speed = 1/2ns = 500 MHz (5x higher)
  CPI = 1 (continuing to assume no stalls)
  Throughput = # cycles in a second x instrs-per-cycle
  = 500 M x 1 = 500 MIPS = 0.5 BIPS
  Under ideal conditions, a 5-stage pipeline gives a 5x speedup.

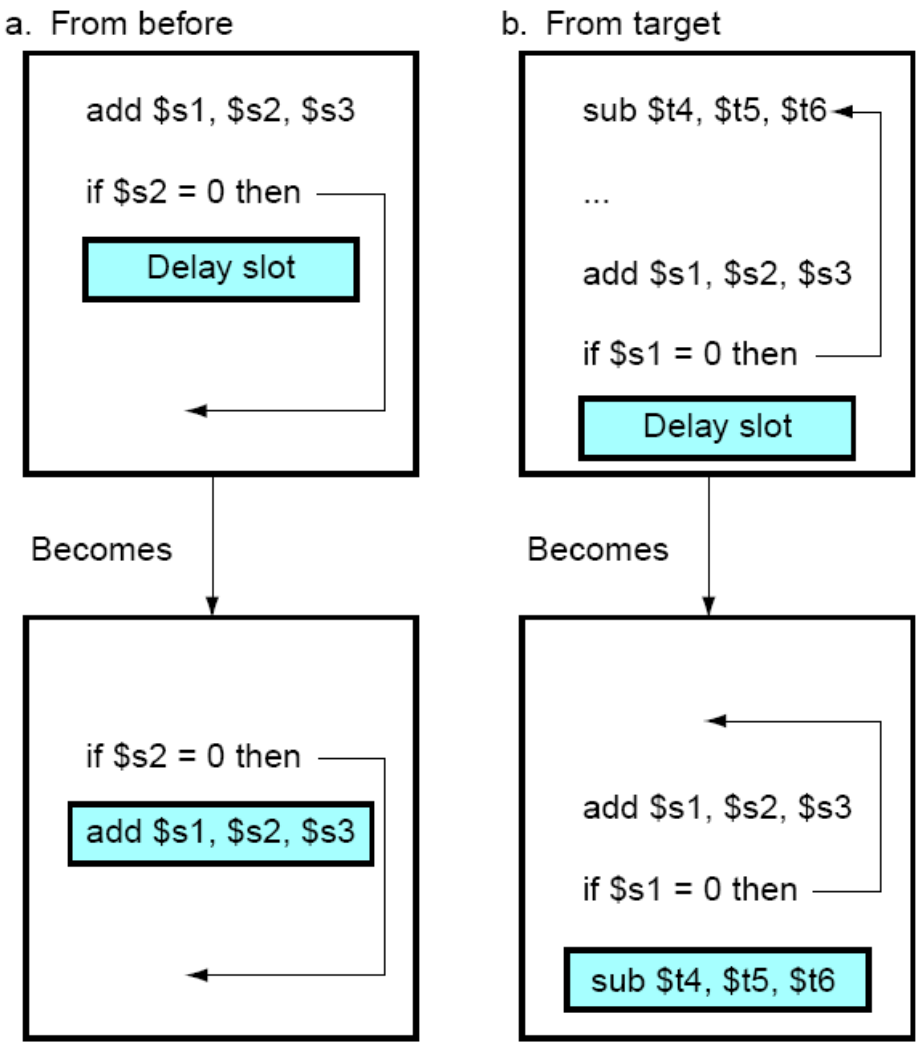
Control Hazards

- Simple techniques to handle control hazard stalls:
  - for every branch, introduce a stall cycle (note: every 6th instruction is a branch!)
  - assume the branch is not taken and start fetching the next instruction – if the branch is taken, need hardware to cancel the effect of the wrong-path instruction
  - fetch the next instruction (branch delay slot) and execute it anyway – if the instruction turns out to be on the correct path, useful work was done – if the instruction turns out to be on the wrong path, hopefully program state is not lost
  - make a smarter guess and fetch instructions from the expected target

Control Hazards

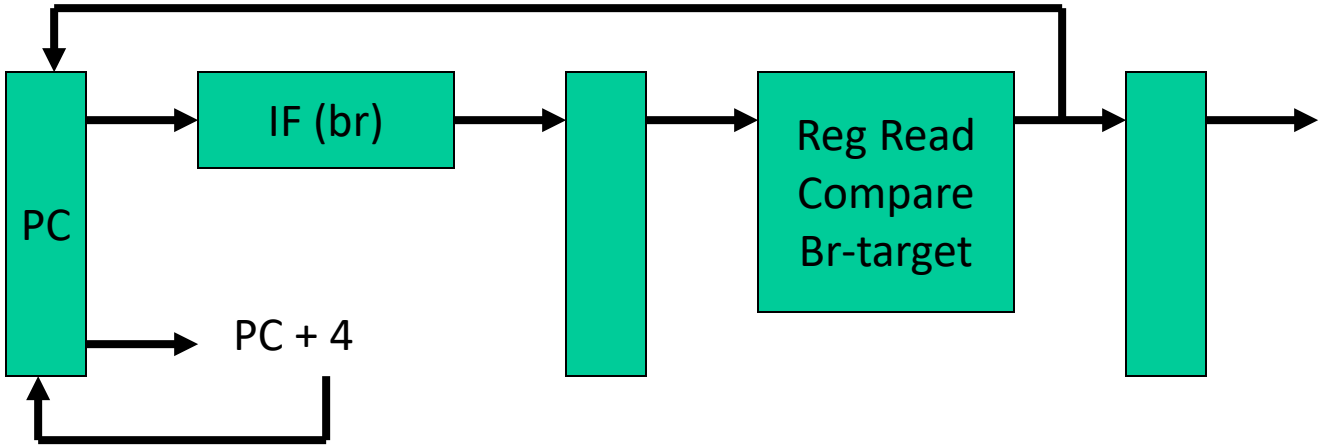


Branch Delay Slots

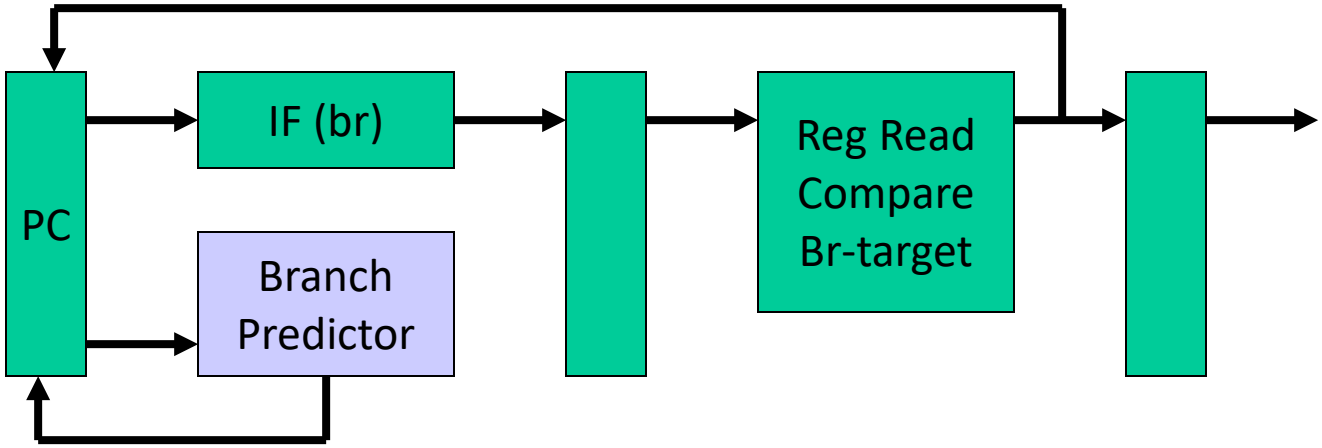


Source: H&P textbook

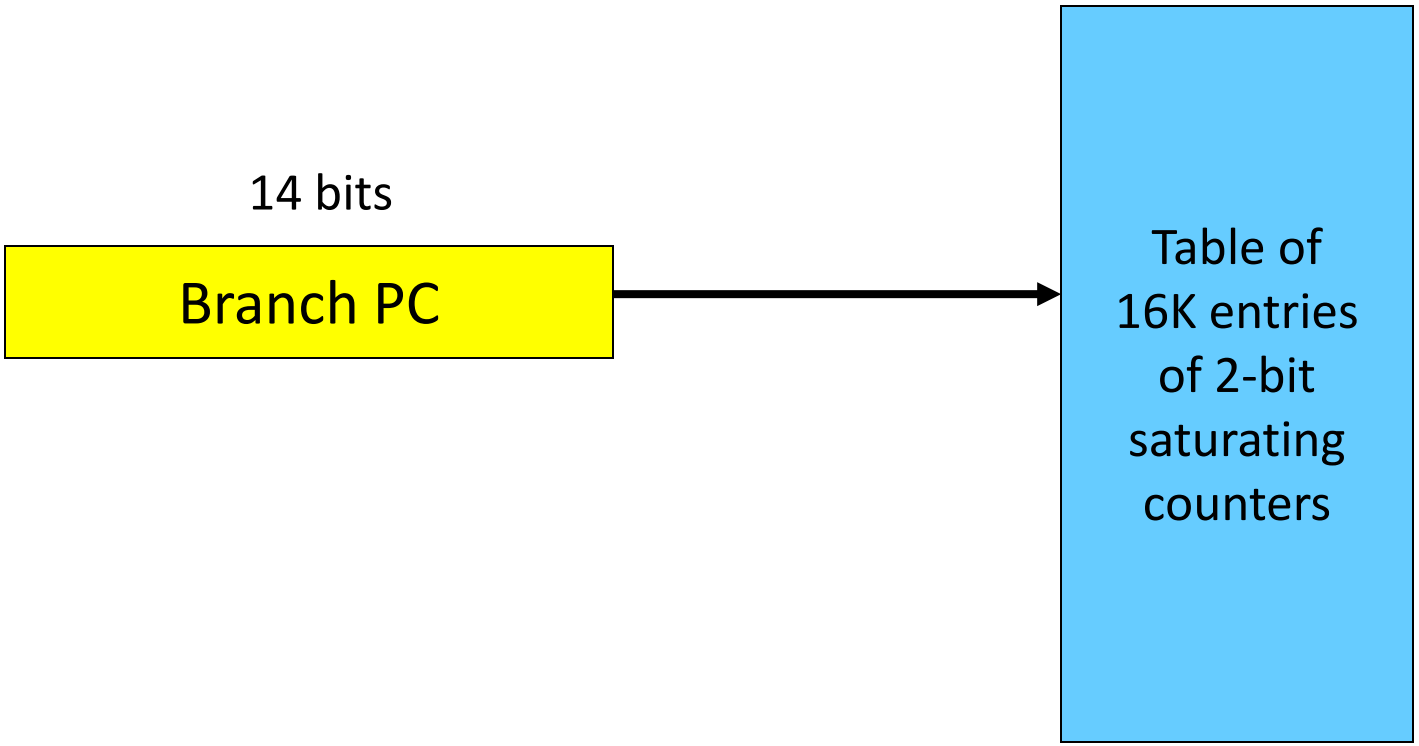
Pipeline without Branch Predictor



Pipeline with Branch Predictor



Bimodal Predictor



2-Bit Prediction

- For each branch, maintain a 2-bit saturating counter:
  if the branch is taken: counter = min(3,counter+1)
  if the branch is not taken: counter = max(0,counter-1)
  … sound familiar?

- If (counter >= 2), predict taken, else predict not taken

- The counter attempts to capture the common case for each branch

Indexing functions
Multiple branch predictors
History, trade-offs

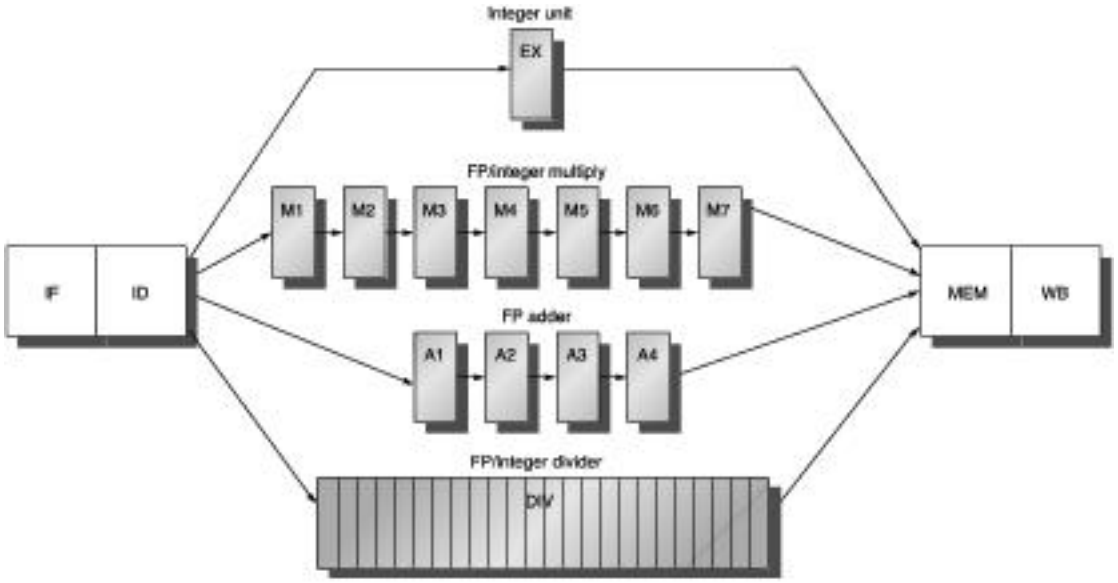
Slowdowns from Stalls

- Perfect pipelining with no hazards → an instruction completes every cycle (total cycles ~ num instructions)
  → speedup = increase in clock speed = num pipeline stages

- With hazards and stalls, some cycles (= stall time) go by during which no instruction completes, and then the stalled instruction completes

- Total cycles = number of instructions + stall cycles

Multicycle Instructions



- Multiple parallel pipelines – each pipeline can have a different number of stages

- Instructions can now complete out of order – must make sure that writes to a register happen in the correct order