The Distributed Approach

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Centralized Instruction Windows

- It holds all pending instructions
- When all the operands arrive to the instruction the instruction is routed to the appropriate functional unit for execution
- More than bus is provided to allow the issue of multiple instructions
- When a register (in register file) is updated, the instruction window is accessed and any matching register (in the instruction) is replaced by the value of the register

Distributed Instruction Windows

- The instruction buffers are called "reservation stations"
- The reservation stations are placed at the front of each functional unit

Distributed Instruction Windows



Register Renaming

• Example:

MULT R_1 , R_2 , R_4 $R_1 \leftarrow R_2 \times R_4$ ADD R_2 , R_6 , 1 $R_2 \leftarrow R_6 + 1$ ADD R_1 , R_4 , R_5 $R_1 \leftarrow R_4 + R_5$

 By introducing register renaming: R₁^{*} and R₂^{*} will be used to avoid data dependencies

MULT
$$R_1$$
, R_2 , R_4
ADD R_2^* , R_6 , 1
ADD R_1^* , R_4 , R_5

Register Renaming Example

ADD R_3 , R_4 , R_5	ADD R_3 , R_4 , R_5
LOAD R_7 , (R_3)	LOAD R_7 , (R_3)
SUB R ₃ , R ₁₂ , R ₁₁	SUB R_{HW20} , R_{12} , R_{11}
STORE (R ₁₅), R ₃	STORE (R_{15}), R_{HW20}

Before Register Renaming

ADD	IF	OF	EX	MEM	WB						657
LOAD		IF	STALL	STALL	STALL	OF	EX	MEM	WB	1	
SUB			IF	OF	EX	MEM	WB				
STORE			11	F	STALL	STALL	STALL	OF	EX	MEM	WB

After Register Renaming

ADD	IF	OF	EX	MEM	WB				
LOAD		IF	STALL	STALL	STALL	OF	EX	MEM	WB
SUB	IF	OF	EX	MEM	WB		1		
STORE		IF	STALL	STALL	STALL	OF	EX	MEM	WB

Register Renaming Summary

- We have a set of registers in the processor
- The number of registers is limited
- This technique dynamically assigns values to new registers

Hidden Registers



Architectural Register File



Forwarding

- Forwarding is a technique that allows us to pass results of one instruction directly to another instruction
- Example:



Forwarding Example (Cont.)





Forwarding (Using Multiple Functional Units)



This model was used in the IBM 360 Model 91 as reported by Tomasulo (1969)