Spring 2006 Midterm Exam Review

When / Where

Wednesday, 29 October 2006, 11:40-12:30 CST

CEBA 3140 (Here)

Conditions

Closed Book, Closed Notes

Bring one sheet of notes (both sides), 216 mm × 280 mm.

No use of communication devices.

Format

Several problems, short-answer questions.
Resources

Solved tests and homework: [http://www.ece.lsu.edu/ee4720/prev.html](http://www.ece.lsu.edu/ee4720/prev.html)

Statically Scheduled MIPS Study Guide: ...
... [http://www.ece.lsu.edu/ee4720/guides/ssched.pdf](http://www.ece.lsu.edu/ee4720/guides/ssched.pdf)

Study Recommendations

Study this semester’s homework assignments. Similar problems may appear on the exam.

**Solve** Old Problems—memorizing solutions is not the same as solving.

Following and understanding solutions is not the same as solving.

Use the solutions for brief hints and to check your own solutions.

Previous Midterms
Emphasis

Implementation Diagrams and Pipeline Execution Diagrams

They are a *team*, so study them together.

MIPS Programming and Instruction Use

Should be able to easily understand MIPS programs.

Should be able to use other instructions in examples.

For example, SPARC, DLX, etc.

Not required to memorize instruction names, except for common MIPS instructions.
Topics

Introductory Material

ISA v. Implementation.

CPU Performance Equation

Benchmark types.

Compiling and Optimization

SPEC Benchmark Suite

SPEC membership and their interests.

Benchmark programs (types, how they were selected).

Rules for running benchmarks and disclosing results.
Compilers and Optimization

Steps in building and compiling.

Basic optimization techniques, compiler optimization switches.

Profiling.

Compiler ISA and implementation switches.

How programmer typically uses compiler switches (options).
Instruction Set Design

Data Types: What to include, what to leave out.

Basic integer and floating point

Packed types: BCD, integer, saturating integer.

Size choices.

Addressing Modes: What they do, which ones to include.

Register, Immediate, Direct, Register Deferred (Register Indirect), Displacement, Indexed, Memory Indirect, Autoincrement, Autodecrement, Scaled.

Synthetic Instructions
Control Transfer Instructions: Types, when to use.

Branch, Jump, Jump & Link, Call, Return

Format of displacements in instruction.

Specification of condition: condition code registers, integer registers, loop counter.

Delayed and predicated instructions; prediction hints.

Instruction Coding.

Fixed-length, variable-length, and bundled instructions.

Splitting of opcode field (as in MIPS type-R instructions).
ISA Classifications: RISC, CISC, VLIW, Stack, Accumulator

MIPS and DLX

Classification: RISC

Goals: ISA should allow simple, high-speed implementation.

Instruction types.

Know how to read and write MIPS programs.
Statically Scheduled MIPS Implementations

Unpipelined Implementation

Understand relationship between insn format and connections to register file, etc.

Pipelined Implementations

Basic (2-cycle branch penalty).

Zero-cycle branch penalty.

Bypassed.
Dependency Definitions

Hazard Definitions

For a Given Pipelined Implementation

Show pipeline execution diagrams.

Show register contents at any cycle.

Determine control hardware.

Determine CPI.
Interrupts and Exceptions and Traps

Difference between interrupt, exception, trap.

Causes of exceptions, role of handler.

Privileged Mode.

Pipeline activity leading to execution of handler.

SPARC trap mechanism. (Trap base register, etc.).

Precise exceptions, achieving with floating-point operations.
Long Latency Operations

Types of operations. (Floating point and maybe load.)

Degree of pipelining: Initiation interval, latency.

Detecting functional unit structural hazards.

Detecting WB structural hazards: reservation register.

Detecting and handling RAW hazards: ID-stage v. pre-WB stall.