

When / Where

Tuesday, 11 December 2007, 15:00-17:00 (3 **PM** to 5 **PM**) CST (Here).

Conditions

Closed Book, Closed Notes

Bring one 215 × 280 mm note sheet.

Cannot use communication devices.

Format

Two or three or maybe four problems.

Short-answer questions.

Resources

Check course Web page daily for hints, new resources.

Web page: <http://www.ece.lsu.edu/ee4720/index.html>

RSS feed: http://www.ece.lsu.edu/ee4720/rss_home.xml

Solved tests and homework: <http://www.ece.lsu.edu/ee4720/prev.html>

Statically Scheduled MIPS Study Guide:...

... <http://www.ece.lsu.edu/ee4720/guides/ssched.pdf>

Dynamically Scheduled MIPS Study Guide:...

... <http://www.ece.lsu.edu/ee4720/guides/ds.pdf>

Cache Study Guide:...

... <http://www.ece.lsu.edu/ee4720/guides/cache.pdf>

Study Recommendations

Study homework assigned this semester—**test questions often are based on homework.**

Solve previous test problems, start with more recent 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.

Implementation Diagrams and Pipeline Execution Diagrams

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

Instruction Use

Should be able to easily write MIPS programs.

Should be able to use MIPS and SPARC instructions in examples.

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

Branch Predictors

Understand Operation, Determine Prediction Ratios and Warmup

Cache Diagram, Address Bits, and Program

Determine cache structure from diagram. (Line size, etc.)

Determine hit ratio from program.

Write program to fill cache, maximize misses, etc.

Introductory Material

ISA v. Implementation.

Factors influencing ISA and 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).

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.

Instruction Coding.

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

Splitting of opcode field (as in MIPS type-R instructions).

ISA Classifications: RISC, CISC, VLIW

Dependency Definitions

Hazard Definitions

MIPS

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

Pipelined Implementations

Basic (no bypassing, 2-cycle branch penalty), bypassed, branch in ID.

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.

Trap Table

Precise exceptions, achieving with floating-point operations.

Long Latency (FP) Operations

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

Degree of pipelining: Initiation interval.

Detecting functional unit structural hazards.

Detecting WB structural hazards: reservation register.

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

Handling WAW hazards.

Dynamic Scheduling

Register Renaming

How renaming allows out-of-order execution.

Multiple Issue

n-Way Superscalar

VLIW

Difference with superscalar: instruction bundling.

Dependence information in bundles.

Branch Prediction

Bimodal predictor.

Correlated branch predictors: local, global, gshare.

Less Important Topics

Branch target prediction.

Return address stack.

Predictability of indirect control transfers.

Memory

General

Connection of memory devices.

Caches

Cache structure, connection of memory devices.

Line size implications.

Computing hit ratio for given program.

Set Associative Caches

Definitions: line (block), index, tag, alignment, associativity

Connection of tag and data memory.

Special Cases: Direct mapped, Fully associative.

Cache Write Options

Write allocate or write around.

Write back or write through.

Victim (Block to replace) Selection

Least-Recently Used (LRU), Random (arbitrary).