LSU EE 4720

Homework 3

Problem 1: The code below executes on the illustrated MIPS implementation. Assume that any reasonable bypasses needed for the FP operands are available, even though they are not shown in the illustration. A bypass is reasonable if it does not have a significant impact on clock frequency and if it does not use circuitry that can predict the future.



addi r1, r1, 8

(a) Show a pipeline execution diagram covering enough iterations to compute the CPI. Don't forget to check code for dependencies.

(b) Compute the CPI.

(c) Remember, that some bypass paths are assumed present though not illustrated. Add the needed paths to the implementation and show when they are used.

Problem 2: Precise exceptions are necessary for integer instructions, but only Nice To Have for floating-point instructions. Suppose exception conditions, such as overflow, were detected in A4 and M6 in the pipeline from the previous problem.

mul.d f2, f0, f4
add.d f6, f6, f2
and r3, r3, r5
addi r1, r1, 8

(a) For the code fragment above, would a mul.d exception detected in M6 be precise? Explain in terms of architecturally visible storage (register and memory values) when the handler starts. (Note that in general exceptions detected in M6 would not be precise, but the question is only asking about the fragment above.)

(b) For the code fragment above, would a add.d exception detected in A4 be precise? Explain in terms of architecturally visible storage when the handler starts.

Problem 3: The MIPS implementation below has a fully pipelined FP add unit. Replace the FP add unit with one that has an initiation interval of 2 and a total computation time of 4 cycles. Note that the time to compute a floating point sum is the same on the original and replacement adder.



The new adder has two stages, A1 and A2, each has two inputs (like their fully pipelined counterparts), and each has two outputs. In the first cycle of computation the source operands are placed at the inputs to A1, in the second cycle of computation the values at the outputs of A1 at the end of the first cycle are placed at the inputs to A1. In the third cycle the values at the outputs of A1 at the end of the second cycle are placed at the inputs A2, and in the fourth cycle the inputs to A2 are the values at the outputs of A2 at the end of the third cycle. The sum is available from the upper output of A2 at the end of the fourth cycle.

(a) Replace the FP adder datapath with the one described above.

(b) Modify the control logic for the new adder. Be sure to account for the structural hazard when there are two consecutive FP add instructions.