Lecture 14 (Wed 10/29/2008)

- Lab #2 Software - Due Fri Oct 31 at 5pm
- Lab #2 Hardware - Due Fri Nov 7 at 5pm

- Today’s objectives:
  - Pipelining:
    - data hazards (a problem)
    - forwarding (a solution)

PipeLine diagram review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clock cycle</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lw $8, 4($29)</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>EX</td>
<td>MEM</td>
<td>WB</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>sub $2, $4, $5</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>EX</td>
<td>MEM</td>
<td>WB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and $9, $10, $11</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>EX</td>
<td>MEM</td>
<td>WB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or $16, $17, $18</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>EX</td>
<td>MEM</td>
<td>WB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>add $13, $14, $0</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>EX</td>
<td>MEM</td>
<td>WB</td>
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- This diagram shows the execution of an ideal code fragment.
  - Each instruction needs a total of five cycles for execution.
  - One instruction begins on every clock cycle for the first five cycles.
  - One instruction completes on each cycle from that time on.

Our examples are too simple

- Here is the example instruction sequence used to illustrate pipelining on the previous page.

  lw $8, 4($29)
  sub $2, $4, $5
  and $9, $10, $11
  or $16, $17, $18
  add $13, $14, $0

- The instructions in this example are independent.
  - Each instruction reads and writes completely different registers.
  - Our datapath handles this sequence easily, as we saw last time.
- But most sequences of instructions are not independent!
## An example with dependencies

```
sub $2, $1, $3
and $12, $2, $5
or $13, $6, $2
add $14, $2, $2
sw $15, 100($2)
```

There are several dependencies in this new code fragment.

- The first instruction, `SUB`, stores a value into `$2`.
- That register is used as a source in the rest of the instructions.
- This is not a problem for the single-cycle and multicycle datapaths.
- Each instruction is executed completely before the next one begins.
- This ensures that instructions 2 through 5 above use the new value of `$2` (the `SUB` result), just as we expect.

**How would this code sequence fare in our pipelined datapath?**

## Data hazards in the pipeline diagram

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>sw $15, 100($2)</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>EX</td>
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<td>WB</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- The `SUB` instruction does not write to register `$2` until clock cycle 5. This causes two data hazards in our current pipelined datapath.
  - The `AND` reads register `$2` in cycle 3. Since `SUB` hasn't modified the register yet, this will be the old value of `$2`, not the new one.
  - Similarly, the `OR` instruction uses register `$2` in cycle 4, again before it's actually updated by `SUB`.

## Things that are okay

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- The `ADD` instruction is okay, because of the register file design.
  - Registers are written at the beginning of a clock cycle.
  - The new value will be available by the end of that cycle.
- The `SW` is no problem at all, since it reads `$2` after the `SUB` finishes.
Arrows indicate the flow of data between instructions.
- The tails of the arrows show when register $2$ is written.
- The heads of the arrows show when $2$ is read.
- Any arrow that points backwards in time represents a data hazard in our basic pipelined datapath. Here, hazards exist between instructions 1 & 2 and 1 & 3.

We have to eliminate the hazards, so the AND and OR instructions in our example will use the correct value for register $2$.

Let's look at when the data is actually produced and consumed.
- The SUB instruction produces its result in its EX stage, during cycle 3 in the diagram below.
- The AND and OR need the new value of $2$ in their EX stages, during clock cycles 4-5 here.
Bypassing the register file

- The actual result $1 - $3 is computed in clock cycle 3, before it’s needed in cycles 4 and 5.
- If we could somehow bypass the writeback and register read stages when needed, then we can eliminate these data hazards.
  - Today we’ll focus on hazards involving arithmetic instructions.
  - Next time, we’ll examine the lw instruction.
- Essentially, we need to pass the ALU output from SUB directly to the AND and OR instructions, without going through the register file.

Where to find the ALU result

- The ALU result generated in the EX stage is normally passed through the pipeline registers to the MEM and WB stages, before it is finally written to the register file.
- This is an abridged diagram of our pipelined datapath.

Forwarding

- Since the pipeline registers already contain the ALU result, we could just forward that value to subsequent instructions, to prevent data hazards.
  - In clock cycle 4, the AND instruction can get the value $1 - $3 from the EX/MEM pipeline register used by sub.
  - Then in cycle 5, the OR can get that same result from the MEM/WB pipeline register being used by SUB.

Outline of forwarding hardware

- A forwarding unit selects the correct ALU inputs for the EX stage.
  - If there is no hazard, the ALU’s operands will come from the register file, just like before.
  - If there is a hazard, the operands will come from either the EX/MEM or MEM/WB pipeline registers instead.
- The ALU sources will be selected by two new multiplexers, with control signals named ForwardA and ForwardB.
Simplified datapath with forwarding muxes

Detecting EX/MEM data hazards

- So how can the hardware determine if a hazard exists?

- An EX/MEM hazard occurs between the instruction currently in its EX stage and the previous instruction if:
  1. The previous instruction will write to the register file, and
  2. The destination is one of the ALU source registers in the EX stage.

- There is an EX/MEM hazard between the two instructions below.

  - sub $2, $1, $3
  - and $12, $2, $5

- Data in a pipeline register can be referenced using a class-like syntax. For example, ID/EX.RegisterRt refers to the rt field stored in the ID/EX pipeline.

EX/MEM data hazard equations

- The first ALU source comes from the pipeline register when necessary.

  if (EX/MEM.RegWrite = 1 
  and EX/MEM.RegisterRd = ID/EX.RegisterRs) 
  then ForwardA = 2

- The second ALU source is similar.

  if (EX/MEM.RegWrite = 1 
  and EX/MEM.RegisterRd = ID/EX.RegisterRt) 
  then ForwardB = 2

- sub $2, $1, $3
- and $12, $2, $5
Detecting MEM/WB data hazards

- A MEM/WB hazard may occur between an instruction in the EX stage and the instruction from two cycles ago.
- One new problem is if a register is updated twice in a row.
- Register $1$ is written by both of the previous instructions, but only the most recent result (from the second ADD) should be forwarded.

![Diagram of simplified datapath with forwarding](image)

MEM/WB hazard equations

- Here is an equation for detecting and handling MEM/WB hazards for the first ALU source.

\[
\text{if } (\text{MEM/WB.RegWrite} = 1 \text{ and } \text{MEM/WB.RegisterRd} = \text{ID/EX.RegisterRs} \\text{ and } (\text{EX/MEM.RegisterRd} \neq \text{ID/EX.RegisterRs} \text{ or } \text{EX/MEM.RegWrite} = 0) \text{ then } \text{ForwardA} = 1)
\]

- The second ALU operand is handled similarly.

\[
\text{if } (\text{MEM/WB.RegWrite} = 1 \text{ and } \text{MEM/WB.RegisterRd} = \text{ID/EX.RegisterRt} \\text{ and } (\text{EX/MEM.RegisterRd} \neq \text{ID/EX.RegisterRt} \text{ or } \text{EX/MEM.RegWrite} = 0) \text{ then } \text{ForwardB} = 1)
\]

The forwarding unit

- The forwarding unit has several control signals as inputs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID/EX.RegisterRs</th>
<th>EX/MEM.RegisterRd</th>
<th>MEM/WB.RegisterRd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ID/EX.RegisterRt</td>
<td>EX/MEM.RegisterW</td>
<td>MEM/WB.RegisterW</td>
</tr>
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</table>

(The two RegWrite signals are not shown in the diagram, but they come from the control unit.)

- The forwarding unit outputs are selectors for the ForwardA and ForwardB multiplexers attached to the ALU. These outputs are generated from the inputs using the equations on the previous pages.
- Some new buses route data from pipeline registers to the new muxes.
Example

sub $2, $1, $3
and $12, $2, $5
or $13, $6, $2
add $14, $2, $2
sw $15, 100($2)

- Assume again each register initially contains its number plus 100.
  - After the first instruction, $2 should contain -2 (101 - 103).
  - The other instructions should all use -2 as one of their operands.

- We'll try to keep the example short.
  - Assume no forwarding is needed except for register $2.
  - We'll skip the first two cycles, since they're the same as before.
Lots of data hazards

- The first data hazard occurs during cycle 4.
  - The forwarding unit notices that the ALU's first source register for the AND is also the destination of the SUB instruction.
  - The correct value is forwarded from the EX/MEM register, overriding the incorrect old value still in the register file.
- A second hazard occurs during clock cycle 5.
  - The ALU's second source (for OR) is the SUB destination again.
  - This time, the value has to be forwarded from the MEM/WB pipeline register instead.
- There are no other hazards involving the SUB instruction.
  - During cycle 5, SUB writes its result back into register $2$.
  - The ADD instruction can read this new value from the register file in the same cycle.

What about stores?

- Two "easy" cases:
  - $\text{add }$ $s1, s2, s3$
  - $\text{sw }$ $s4, 0(s1)$
  - $\text{add }$ $s1, s2, s3$
  - $\text{sw }$ $s1, 0(s4)$

Complete pipelined datapath...so far

Store Bypassing: Version 1
What about stores?

- A harder case:
  - lw $1, 0($2)
  - sw $1, 0($4)

  In what cycle is:
  - The load value available?
  - The store value needed?

  What do we have to add to the datapath?

Miscellaneous comments

- Each MIPS instruction writes to at most one register.
  - This makes the forwarding hardware easier to design, since there is only one destination register that ever needs to be forwarded.
- Forwarding is especially important with deep pipelines like the ones in all current PC processors.
- Section 6.4 of the textbook has some additional material not shown here.
  - Their hazard detection equations also ensure that the source register is not $0$, which can never be modified.
  - There is a more complex example of forwarding, with several cases covered. Take a look at it!
Summary

- In real code, most instructions are dependent upon other ones.
  - This can lead to data hazards in our original pipelined datapath.
  - Instructions can’t write back to the register file soon enough for the next two instructions to read.
- Forwarding eliminates data hazards involving arithmetic instructions.
  - The forwarding unit detects hazards by comparing the destination registers of previous instructions to the source registers of the current instruction.
  - Hazards are avoided by grabbing results from the pipeline registers before they are written back to the register file.
- Next, we’ll finish up pipelining.
  - Forwarding can’t save us in some cases involving lw.
  - We still haven’t talked about branches for the pipelined datapath.