**In-order vs. Out-of-order Execution**

**In-order instruction execution**
- instructions are fetched, executed & committed in compiler-generated order
  - if one instruction stalls, all instructions behind it stall
- instructions are **statically scheduled** by the hardware
  - scheduled in compiler-generated order
  - how many of the next $n$ instructions can be issued, where $n$ is the superscalar issue width
    - superscalars can have structural & data hazards within the $n$ instructions
- advantage of in-order instruction scheduling: simpler implementation
  - faster clock cycle
  - fewer transistors
  - lower power
  - faster design/development/debug time

**Out-of-order instruction execution**
- instructions are fetched in compiler-generated order
- instruction commit is in-order (today) or out-of-order (older computers)
- in between they may be executed in some other order
- instructions are **dynamically scheduled** by the hardware
  - hardware decides in what order instructions can be executed
  - instructions behind a stalled instruction can pass it if not dependent upon it
- advantages: higher performance
  - better at hiding latencies, less processor stalling
  - higher utilization of functional units
In-order instruction issue

(at least) 2 styles of static instruction scheduling
• dispatch buffer & instruction slotting (Alpha 21164)
• shift register model (UltraSPARC-1)

In-order instruction issue: Alpha 21164

Instruction slotting
• can issue up to 4 instructions
  • completely empty the instruction buffer before filling it again
  • compiler can pad with nops so a conflicting instruction is issued with the following instructions, not alone
21164 Instruction Unit Pipeline

Fetch & issue

**S0:** instruction fetch
branch prediction bits read

**S1:** opcode decode
target address calculation
if predict taken, redirect the fetch

**S2:** instruction slotting: decide which of the next 4 instructions can be issued
- intra-cycle structural hazard check
- intra-cycle data hazard check

**S3:** instruction dispatch
- inter-cycle load-use hazard check
- register read
In-order instruction issue: UltraSparc 1

Shift register model

• can issue up to 4 instructions per cycle
• shift in new instructions after every group of instructions is issued