

Pipelining

CSE 410 - Computer Systems

October 17, 2001

Readings and References

- Reading
 - Sections 6.1 through 6.3, Patterson and Hennessy, Computer Organization & Design
- Other References

Execution Cycle



1. Instruction Fetch
2. Instruction Decode
3. Execute
4. Memory
5. Write Back

IF and ID Stages

1. Instruction Fetch

- Get the next instruction from memory
- Increment Program Counter value by 4

2. Instruction Decode

- Figure out what the instruction says to do
- Get values from the named registers
- Simple instruction format means we know which registers we may need before the instruction is fully decoded

Simple MIPS Instruction Formats

R	op code	source 1	source 2	dest	shamt	function
	<i>6 bits</i>	<i>5 bits</i>	<i>5 bits</i>	<i>5 bits</i>	<i>5 bits</i>	<i>6 bits</i>

I	op code	base reg	src/dest	offset or immediate value
	<i>6 bits</i>	<i>5 bits</i>	<i>5 bits</i>	<i>16 bits</i>

J	op code	word offset
	<i>6 bits</i>	<i>26 bits</i>

EX, MEM, and WB stages

3. Execute

- On a memory reference, add up base and offset
- On an arithmetic instruction, do the math

4. Memory Access

- If load or store, access memory
- If branch, replace PC with destination address
- Otherwise do nothing

5. Write back

- Place the results in the appropriate register

Example: add \$s0, \$s1, \$s2

- **IF** get instruction at PC from memory

op code	source 1	source 2	dest	shamt	function
000000	10001	10010	10000	00000	100000

- **ID** determine what instruction is and read registers
 - 000000 with 100000 is the add instruction
 - get contents of \$s1 and \$s2 (eg: \$s1=7, \$s2=12)
- **EX** add 7 and 12 = 19
- **MEM** do nothing for this instruction
- **WB** store 19 in register \$s0

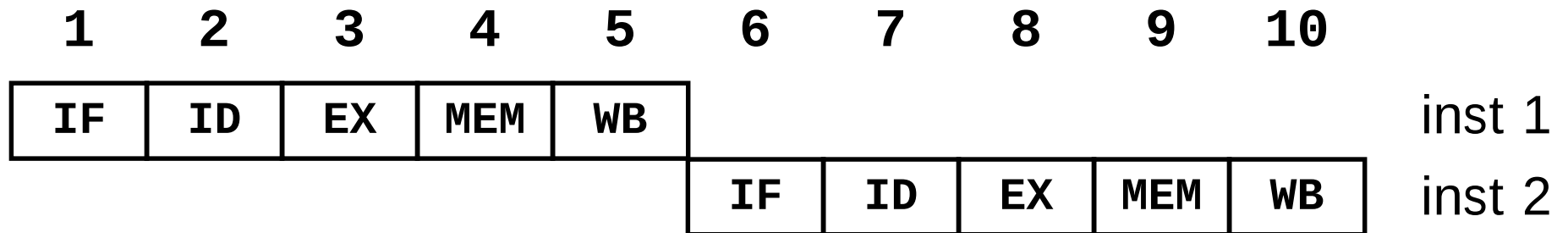
Example: lw \$t2, 16(\$s0)

- **IF** get instruction at PC from memory

op code	base reg	src/dest	offset or immediate value
010111	10000	01000	00000000000010000

- **ID** determine what 010111 is
 - 010111 is lw
 - get contents of \$s0 and \$t2 (we don't know that we don't care about \$t2) \$s0=0x200D1C00, \$t2=77763
- **EX** add 16 to 0x200D1C00 = 0x200D1C10
- **MEM** load the word stored at 0x200D1C10
- **WB** store loaded value in \$t2

Latency & Throughput



- **Latency**—the time it takes for an individual instruction to execute
 - What's the latency for this implementation?
- **Throughput**—the number of instructions that execute per unit time
 - What's the throughput of this implementation?

A case for pipelining

- If non-overlapped, the functional units are underutilized because each unit is used only once every five cycles
- If Instruction Set Architecture is carefully designed, organization of the functional units can be arranged so that they execute in parallel
- **Pipelining** overlaps the stages of execution so every stage has something to do each cycle

Pipelined Latency & Throughput

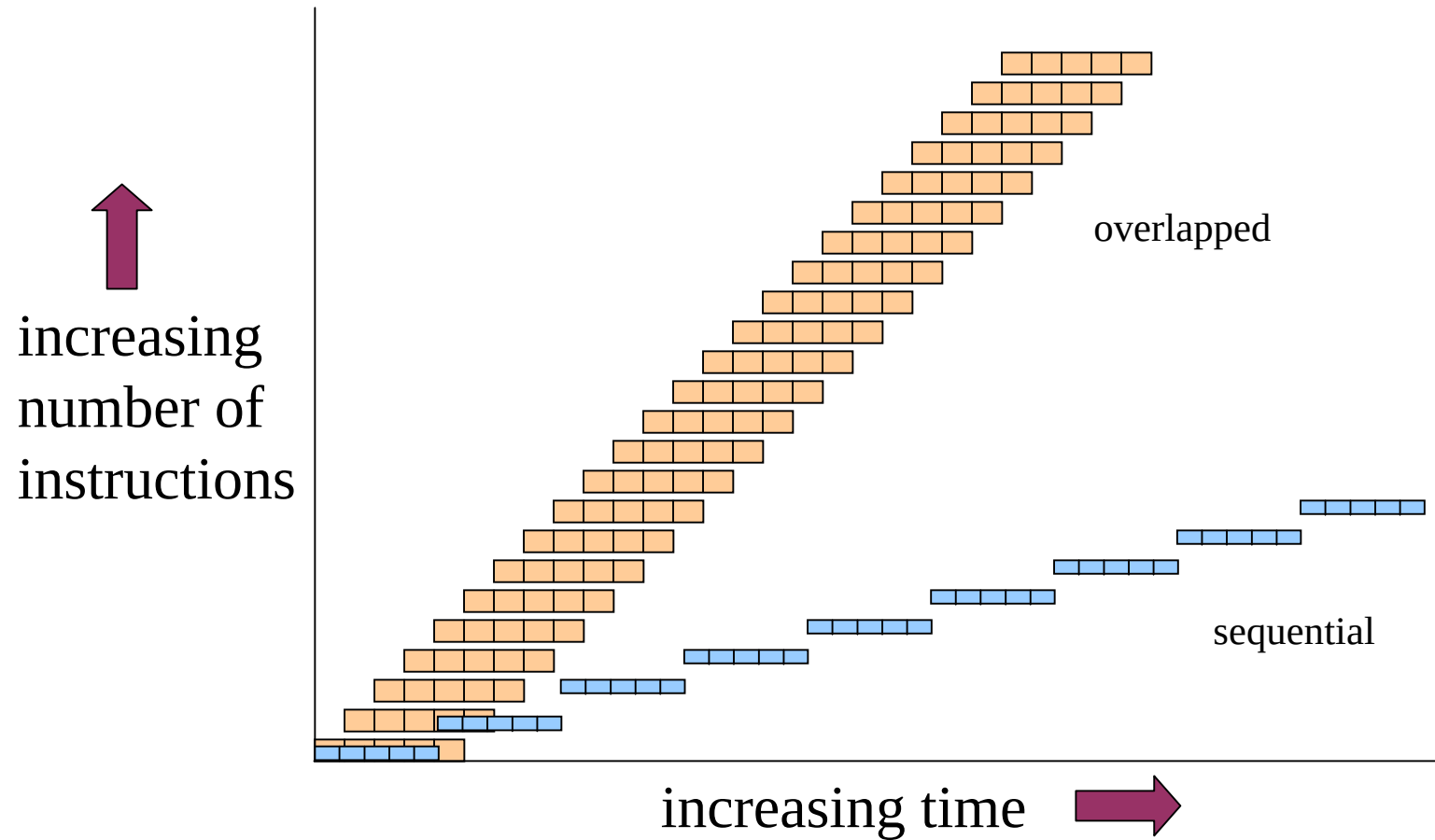
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB					inst 1
	IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB				inst 2
		IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB			inst 3
			IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB		inst 4
				IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB	inst 5

- What's the throughput of this implementation?
- What's the latency of this implementation?

Pipelined Analysis

- A pipeline with N stages could improve throughput by N times, but
 - each stage must take the same amount of time
 - each stage must always have work to do
 - there may be some overhead to implement
- Also, latency for each instruction may go up
 - Within some limits, we don't care

Throughput is good!



MIPS ISA: Born to Pipeline

- Instructions all one length
 - simplifies Instruction Fetch stage
- Regular format
 - simplifies Instruction Decode
- Few memory operands, only registers
 - only lw and sw instructions access memory
- Aligned memory operands
 - only one memory access per operand

Memory accesses

- Efficient pipeline requires each stage to take about the same amount of time
- CPU is much faster than memory hardware
- Cache is provided on chip
 - i-cache holds instructions
 - d-cache holds data
 - critical feature for successful RISC pipeline
 - more about caches next week

The Hazards of Parallel Activity

- Any time you get several things going at once, you run the risk of interactions and dependencies
 - juggling doesn't take kindly to irregular events
- Unwinding activities after they have started can be very costly in terms of performance
 - drop everything on the floor and start over

Design for Speed

- Most of what we talk about next relates to the CPU hardware itself
 - problems keeping a pipeline full
 - solutions that are used in the MIPS design
- Some programmer visible effects remain
 - many are hidden by the assembler or compiler
 - the code that you write tells what you want done, but the tools rearrange it for speed

Pipeline Hazards

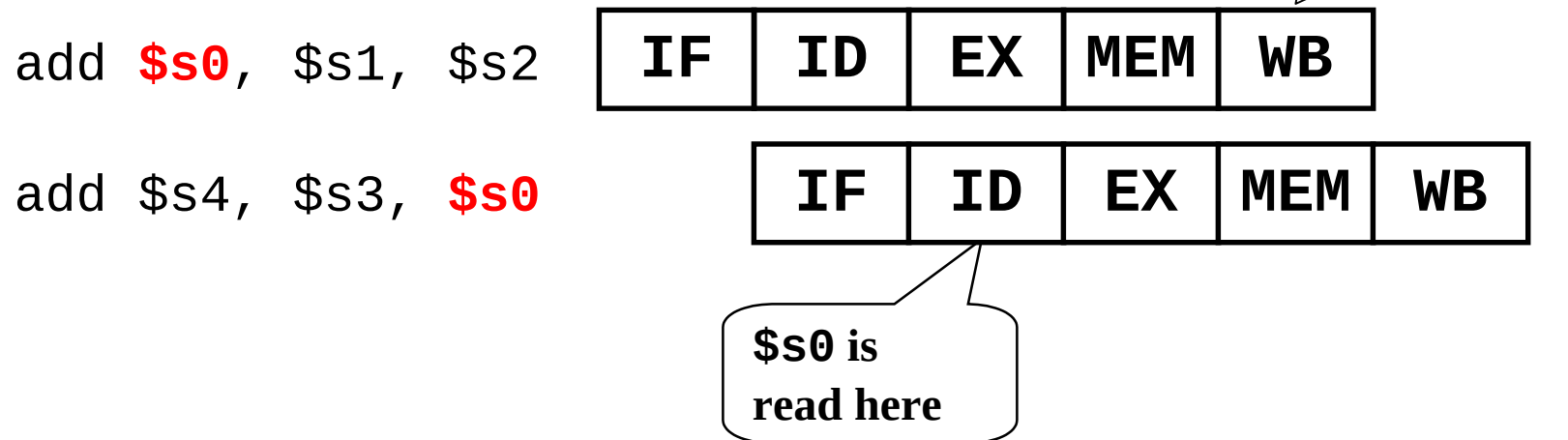
- Structural hazards
 - Instructions in different stages need the same resource, eg, memory
- Data hazards
 - data not available to perform next operation
- Control hazards
 - data not available to make branch decision

Structural Hazards

- Concurrent instructions want same resource
 - **lw** instruction in stage four (memory access)
 - **add** instruction in stage one (instruction fetch)
 - Both of these actions require access to memory; they would collide if not designed for
- Add more hardware to eliminate problem
 - separate instruction and data caches
- Or stall (cheaper & easier), not usually done

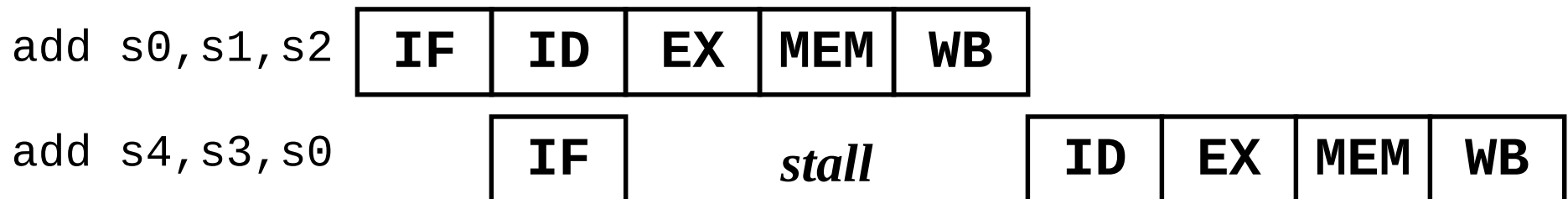
Data Hazards

- When an instruction depends on the results of a previous instruction still in the pipeline
- This is a data dependency



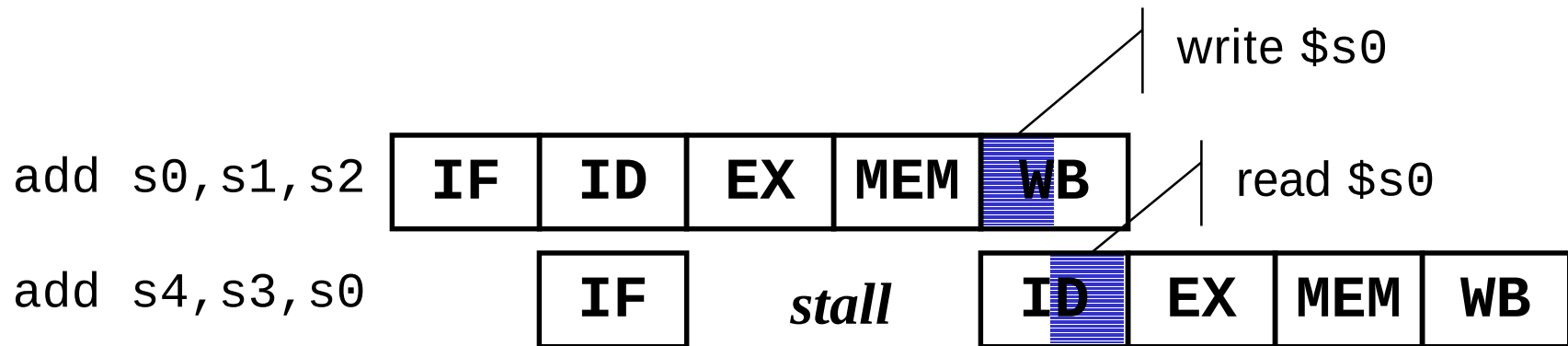
Stall for register data dependency

- Stall the pipeline until the result is available
 - this would create a 3-cycle *pipeline bubble*



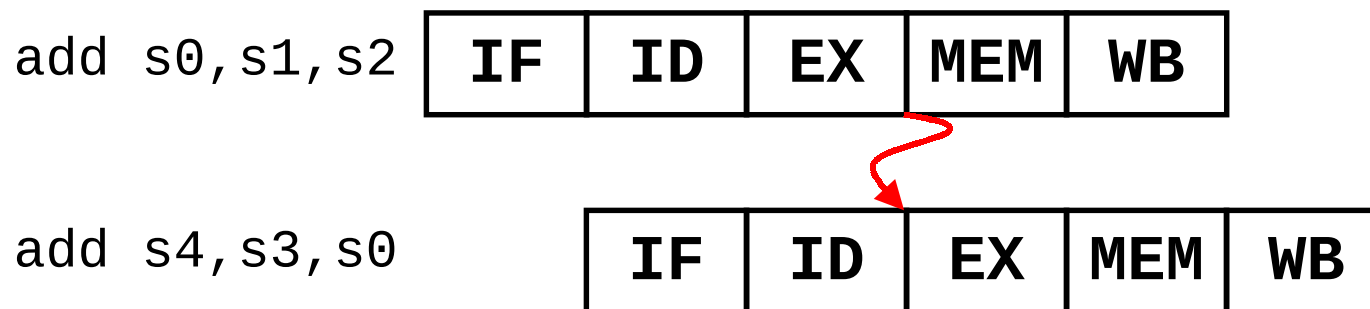
Read & Write in same Cycle

- Write the register in the first part of the clock cycle
- Read it in the second part of the clock cycle
- A 2-cycle stall is still required



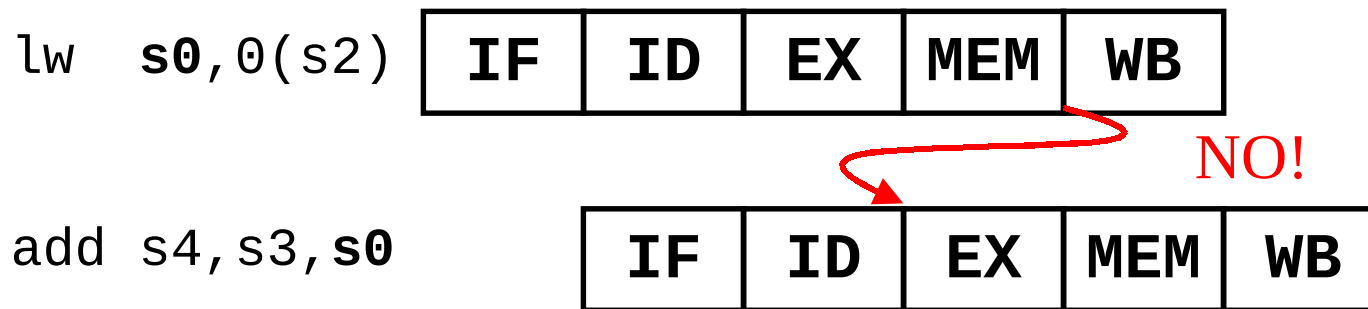
Solution: Forwarding

- The value of \$s0 is known internally after cycle 3 (after the first instruction's EX stage)
- The value of \$s0 isn't needed until cycle 4 (before the second instruction's EX stage)
- If we **forward** the result there isn't a stall



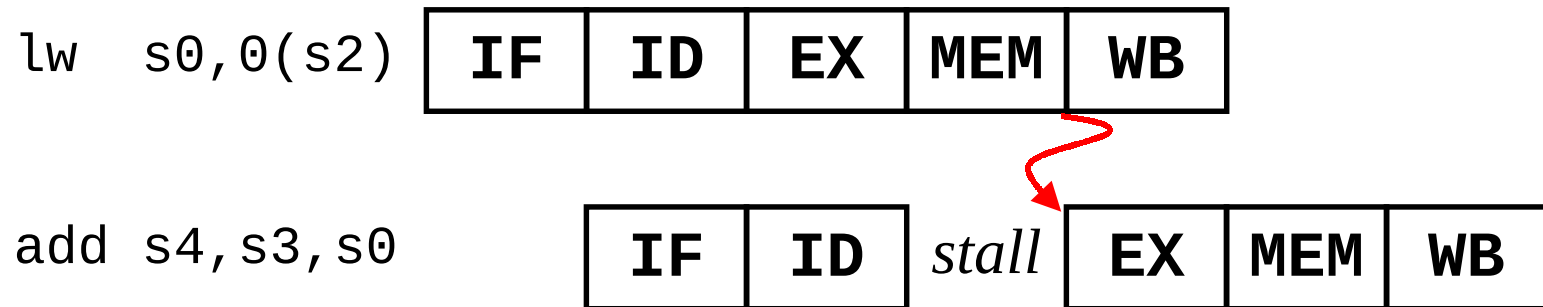
Another data hazard

- What if the first instruction is lw?
- s0 isn't known until after the MEM stage
 - We can't forward back into the past
- Either **stall** or **reorder** instructions



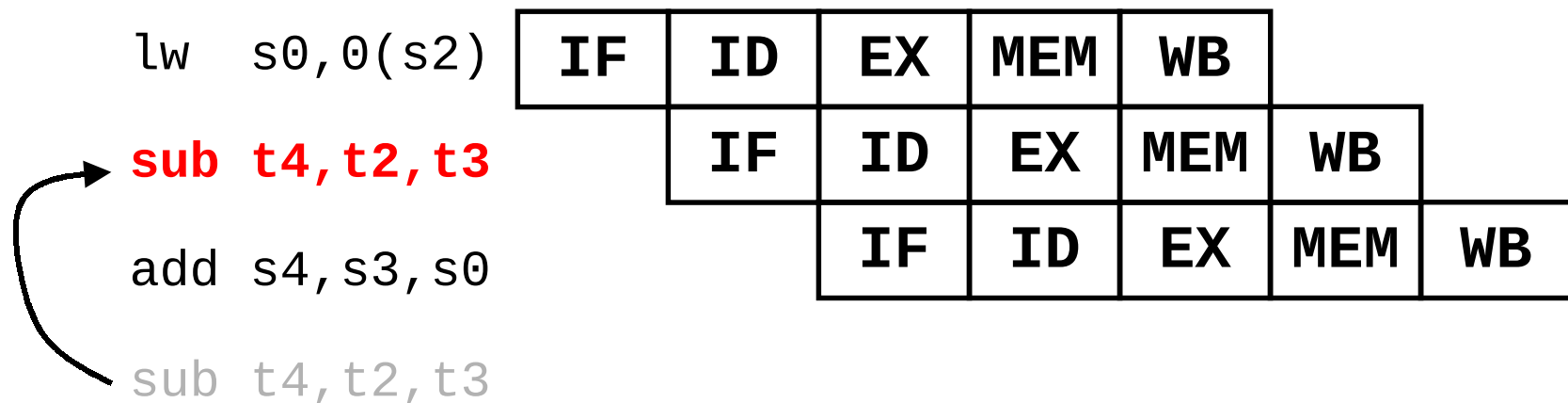
Stall for **lw** hazard

- We can stall for one cycle, but we hate to stall



Instruction Reorder for **lw** hazard

- Try to execute an unrelated instruction between the two instructions



Reordering Instructions

- Reordering instructions is a common technique for avoiding pipeline stalls
- Static reordering
 - programmer, compiler and assembler do this
- Dynamic reordering
 - modern processors can see several instructions
 - they execute any that have no dependency
 - this is known as *out-of-order execution* and is complicated to implement