CSE P 501 – Compilers

Instruction Scheduling

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Agenda

- Instruction scheduling issues – latencies
- List scheduling

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Issues (1)

- Many operations have non-zero latencies
- Modern machines can issue several operations per cycle
  - Want to take advantage of multiple function units on chip
- Loads & Stores may or may not block
  - ∴ may be slots after load/store for other useful work

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Issues (2)

- Branch costs vary
- Branches on some processors have delay slots
- Modern processors have heuristics to predict whether branches are taken and try to keep pipelines full

- GOAL: Scheduler should reorder instructions to hide latencies, take advantage of multiple function units and delay slots, and help the processor effectively pipeline execution

Latencies for a Simple Example Machine

Operation	Cycles
LOAD	3
STORE	3
ADD	1
MULT	2
SHIFT	1
BRANCH	0 TO 8

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Example: w = w*2*x*y*z;

- Simple schedule

  1 LOAD r1 <- w
  4 ADD r1 <- r1,r1
  5 LOAD r2 <- x
  8 MULT r1 <- r1,r2
  9 LOAD r2 <- y
  12 MULT r1 <- r1,r2
  13 LOAD r2 <- z
  16 MULT r1 <- r1,r2
  18 STORE w <- r1
  21 r1 free
  2 registers, 20 cycles

- Loads early

  1 LOAD r1 <- w
  2 LOAD r2 <- x
  3 LOAD r3 <- y
  4 ADD r1 <- r1,r1
  5 MULT r1 <- r1,r2
  6 LOAD r2 <- z
  7 MULT r1 <- r1,r3
  9 MULT r1 <- r1,r2
  11 STORE w <- r1
  14 r1 is free
  3 registers, 13 cycles

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Instruction Scheduling

- Problem
  - Given a code fragment for some machine and latencies for each operation, reorder to minimize execution time
- Constraints
  - Produce correct code
  - Minimize wasted cycles
  - Avoid spilling registers
  - Do this efficiently

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Precedence Graph

- Nodes *n* are operations
- Attributes of each node
  - type – kind of operation
  - delay – latency
- If node n2 uses the result of node n1, there is an edge e = (n1,n2) in the graph

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Example Graph

- Code

```
a  LOAD    r1 <- w
b  ADD     r1 <- r1,r1
c  LOAD    r2 <- x
d  MULT    r1 <- r1,r2
e  LOAD    r2 <- y
f  MULT    r1 <- r1,r2
g  LOAD    r2 <- z
h  MULT    r1 <- r1,r2
i  STORE   w <- r1
```


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Schedules (1)

- A correct schedule *S* maps each node n into a non-negative integer representing its cycle number, and
  - *S*(*n*) >= 0 for all nodes *n* (obvious)
  - If (n1,n2) is an edge, then S(n1)+delay(n1) <= S(n2)
  - For each type *t* there are no more operations of type *t* in any cycle than the target machine can issue

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Schedules (2)

- The *length* of a schedule S, denoted L(S) is

$$L(S) = \max_{n} (S(\underline{n}) + delay(n))$$

- The goal is to find the shortest possible correct schedule
  - Other possible goals: minimize use of registers, power, space, …

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Constraints

- Main points
  - All operands must be available
  - Multiple operations can be ready at any given point
  - Moving operations can lengthen register lifetimes
  - Moving uses near definitions can shorten register lifetimes
  - Operations can have multiple predecessors
- Collectively this makes scheduling NP-complete
- Local scheduling is the simpler case
  - Straight-line code
  - Consistent, predictable latencies

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Algorithm Overview

- Build a precedence graph *P*
- Compute a *priority function* over the nodes in *P* (typical: longest latency-weighted path)
- Use list scheduling to construct a schedule, one cycle at a time
  - Use queue of operations that are ready
  - At each cycle
    - Chose a ready operation and schedule it
    - Update ready queue
- Rename registers to avoid false dependencies and conflicts

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List Scheduling Algorithm

```
Cycle = 1;  Ready = leaves of P;  Active = empty;
while (Ready and/or Active are not empty)
    if (Ready is not empty)
        remove an op from Ready;
        S(op) = Cycle;
        Active = Active ∪ op;
    Cycle++;
    for each op in Active
        if (S(op) + delay(op) <= Cycle)
            remove op from Active;
            for each successor s of op in P
                if (s is ready – i.e., all operands available)
                    add s to Ready
```

Example

- Code

```
a  LOAD    r1 <- w
b  ADD     r1 <- r1,r1
c  LOAD    r2 <- x
d  MULT    r1 <- r1,r2
e  LOAD    r2 <- y
f  MULT    r1 <- r1,r2
g  LOAD    r2 <- z
h  MULT    r1 <- r1,r2
i  STORE   w <- r1
```


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Forward vs Backwards

- Backward list scheduling
  - Work from the root to the leaves
  - Schedules instructions from end to beginning of the block
- In practice, compilers try both and pick the result that minimizes costs
  - Little extra expense since the precedence graph and other information can be reused
  - Different directions win in different cases

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Beyond Basic Blocks

- List scheduling dominates, but moving beyond basic blocks can improve quality of the code. Some possibilities:
  - Schedule extended basic blocks
    - Watch for exit points – limits reordering or requires compensating
  - Trace scheduling
    - Use profiling information to select regions for scheduling using traces (paths) through code

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