Chapter 3 – Instruction-Level Parallelism and its Exploitation (Part 2)

ILP vs. Parallel Computers

Dynamic Scheduling (Section 3.4, 3.5)

Dynamic Branch Prediction (Section 3.3, 3.9, and Appendix C)

Hardware Speculation and Precise Interrupts (Section 3.6)

Multiple Issue (Section 3.7)

Static Techniques (Section 3.2, Appendix H)

Limitations of ILP

Multithreading (Section 3.11)

Putting it Together (Mini-projects)

Dynamic Branch Prediction

Reducing penalties from control dependences

Basic idea

- Hardware guesses
  * Whether branch will be taken/not taken
  * Where the branch will go

Especially important for multiple issue processors

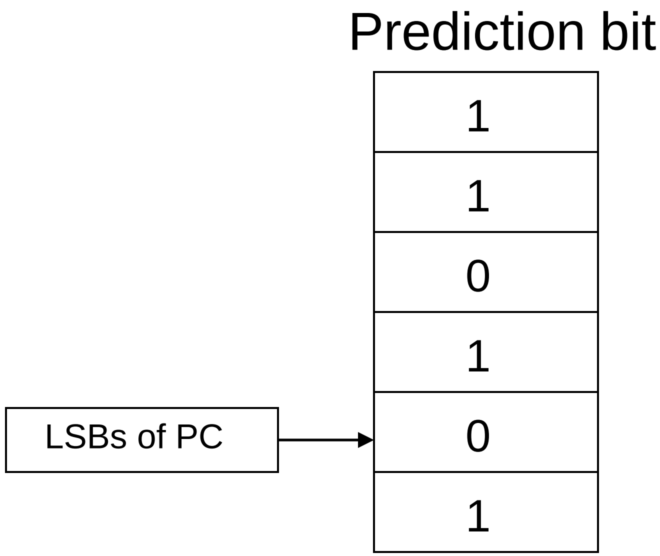
Desirable properties

- Good prediction rate
- Make correct prediction fast
- Don't slow too much on misprediction

Branch Prediction Buffer (Appendix C)

Maintain a buffer with prediction bits

Index buffer with LSBs of branch instruction PC



Predict based on indexed bit, change bit on misprediction

Accessed in ID stage (not useful for simple 5-stage pipeline)

Limitation of 1-bit predictor?

Variations on Branch Prediction Buffer

Variations

- n-bit predictor
- Correlating predictors
- Tournament predictors

N-bit Predictor

Contains n-bit saturating counter

Count up if taken, down if not taken

Predict taken if ≥ 2**(n-1); predict not taken if < 2**(n-1)

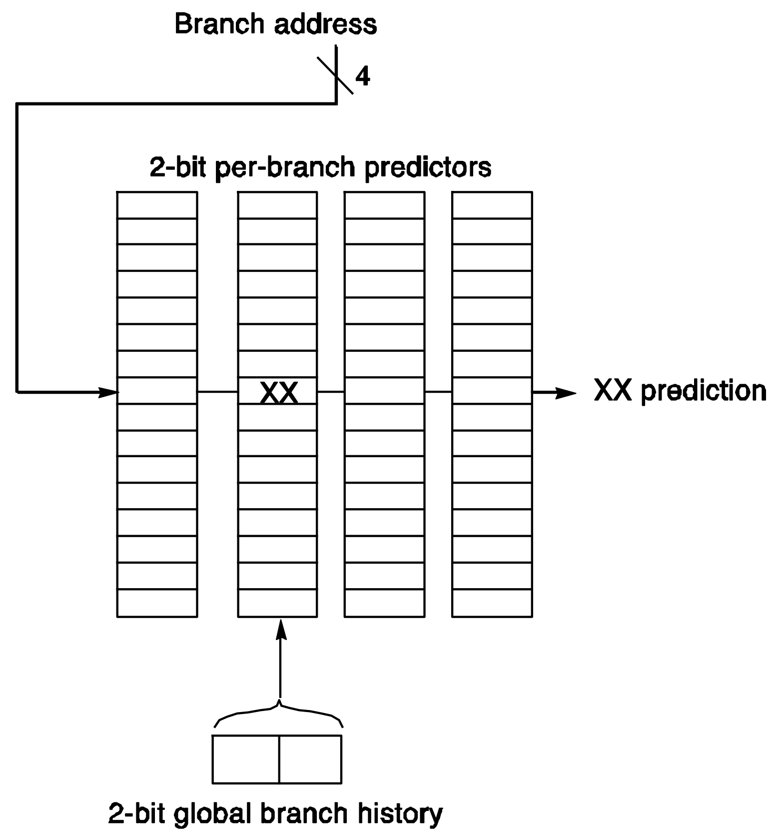
2-bit good for loops

Correlating Predictors: (m,n) Predictor

Use outcome of previous m branches and n-bit predictors

For each branch, the prediction buffer contains

- An entry for each possible history of previous m branches
- Each entry is an n-bit predictor



Correlating Predictors (Cont.)

(1,1) predictor

Prediction based on 1 previous branch,

1 bit predictor

Number of prediction entries per branch = ??

Number of bits per prediction entry = ??

Correlating Predictors Example

Loop:

    If a == 1   /* b1 */

        a = 0

    If a == 0   /* b2 */

        …

Let a = 1, 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, …

Notation: N=not taken; T=taken

Initialize (1,1) prediction buffer entries of b2 to NT

    (1^{st} entry for previous branch taken, 2^{nd} for not taken)

Direction of b1:

Direction of b2:

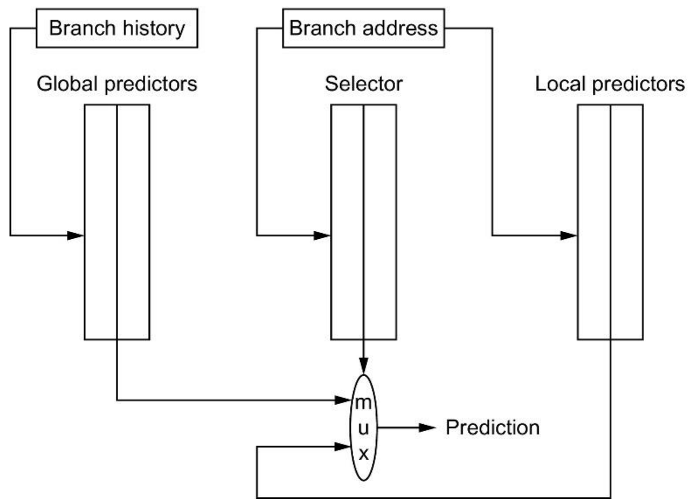
History at b2:

Prediction entries of b2:

Prediction for b2:

Tournament Predictor

- Combine multiple predictors with a selector
  - Often combine a global predictor and a local predictor
  - Selector typically two bit saturating counter
    - Increment when predicted predictor correct, other incorrect



Tournament Predictor Example - Alpha 21264

- Uses 4K 2-bit counters to choose from global and local predictor
- Global predictor
  - 4K entries of 2-bit predictors
  - Indexed by history of last 12 branches
- Local predictor is a two-level predictor
  - History table with 1K 10-bit entries (for that branch)
    - Each entry gives 10 most recent branch outcomes
  - Indexes table of 1K entries with 3-bit counters
- Total of 29K bits
- Misprediction rate
  - SPECfp95 – 1 per 1000
  - SPECint95 – 11.5 per 1000

More Predictors

Lots of work on branch prediction

International Branch Prediction Competition!

Branch Prediction Buffer Strategies: Limitations

Limitations

- May use bit from wrong PC
- Target must be known when branch resolved

Branch Target Buffer or Cache (Section 3.9)

Store target PC along with prediction

Accessed in IF stage

Next IF stage uses target PC

No bubbles on correctly predicted taken branch

Must store tag

More state

Can remove not-taken branches?

Branch Target Cache With Target Instruction

Store target instruction along with prediction

Send target instruction instead of branch into ID

Zero cycle branch - branch folding

Used for unconditional jumps

E.g., ARM Cortex A-53

Return Address Stack (Section 3.9)

Hardware stack for addresses for returns

Call pushes return address in stack

Return pops the address

Perfect prediction if stack length $\geq$ call depth

Speculative Execution

How far can we go with branch prediction?

- Speculative fetch?
- Speculative issue?
- Speculative execution?
- Speculative write?

Speculative Execution

Allows instructions after branch to *execute* before knowing if branch will be taken

Must be able to undo if branch is not taken

Often try to combine with dynamic scheduling

Key insight: Split Write stage into Complete and Commit

- Complete out of order
  - No state update
- Commit in order
  - State updated (instruction no longer speculative)

Use reorder buffer

Reorder Buffer

Overview

- Instructions complete out-of-order
- Reorder buffer reorganizes instructions
- Modify state in-order

head → 2; tail → 4

Entry	Busy	Type	Dest	Result	State	Excep
1	0					
2	1	LD	4		Exec	0
3	1	BR			Exec	0
4	1	ADD	6	75	Compl	0
5	0					
	0					
N	0					

Instruction tag now is reorder buffer entry

Re-order Buffer Pipeline

Issue:

Execute:

Complete:

Commit:

Precise Interrupts Again

Precise interrupts hard with dynamic scheduling

Consider our canonical code fragment:

```
LF F6,34(R2)
LF F2,45(R3)
MULTF F0,F2,F4
SUBF F8,F6,F2
DIVF F10,F0,F6
ADDF F6,F8,F2
```

What happens if DIVF causes an interrupt?

- ADDF has already completed

Out-of-order completion makes interrupts hard

But reorder buffer can help!

Reorder Buffer for Precise Interrupts

Re-order Buffer Drawback

Operands need to be read from reorder buffer or registers

Alternative: Rename registers

Rename Registers + Reorder Buffer

- Many current machines
  - More physical registers than logical registers
  - Reorder buffer does not have values
  - Read all values from registers
- Rename mechanism
  - Rename map stores mapping from logical to physical registers
    - (Logical register Rl mapped to physical register Rp)
    - On issue, Rl mapped to Rp-new
    - On completion, write to Rp-new
    - On commit, old mapping of Rl discarded (free Rp-old)
    - On misprediction, new mapping of Rl discarded (free Rp-new)