Csci 211 Computer System Architecture

Limits on ILP and Simultaneous Multithreading

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Adapted from the slides by Dr. David Patterson @ UC Berkeley

Review from Last Time

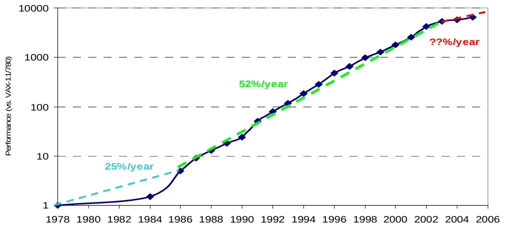
- Interest in multiple-issue because wanted to improve performance without affecting uniprocessor programming model
- Taking advantage of ILP is conceptually simple, but design problems are amazingly complex in practice
- Conservative in ideas, just faster clock and bigger
- Processors of last 5 years (Pentium 4, IBM Power 5, AMD Opteron) have the same basic structure and similar sustained issue rates (3 to 4 instructions per clock) as the 1st dynamically scheduled, multiple-issue processors announced in 1995
  - Clocks 10 to 20X faster, caches 4 to 8X bigger, 2 to 4X as many renaming registers, and 2X as many load-store units ⇒ performance 8 to 16X
- Peak v. delivered performance gap increasing

Outline

- Review
- Limits to ILP (another perspective)
- Thread Level Parallelism
- Multithreading
- Simultaneous Multithreading
- Head to Head: VLIW vs. Superscalar vs. SMT
- Commentary
- Conclusion

Limits to ILP

- How much ILP is available using existing mechanisms with increasing HW budgets?
- Do we need to invent new HW/SW mechanisms to keep on processor performance curve?



Overcoming Limits

- Advances in compiler technology + significantly new and different hardware techniques *may* be able to overcome limitations assumed in studies
- However, unlikely such advances when coupled *with realistic hardware* will overcome these limits in near future

Limits to ILP

Initial HW Model here; MIPS compilers.

Assumptions for ideal/perfect machine to start:

1. *Register renaming* – infinite virtual registers => all register WAW & WAR hazards are avoided
2. *Branch prediction* – perfect; no mispredictions
3. *Jump prediction* – all jumps perfectly predicted (returns, case statements)
   2 & 3 ⇒ no control dependencies; perfect speculation & an unbounded buffer of instructions available
4. *Memory-address alias analysis* – addresses known & a load can be moved before a store provided addresses not equal; 1&4 eliminates all but RAW

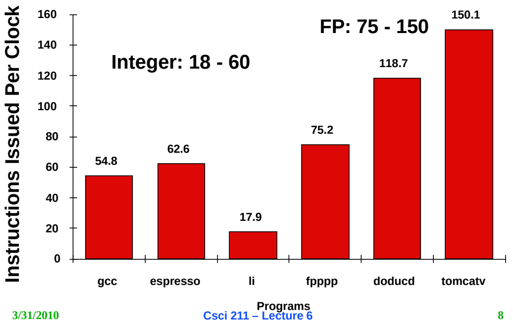
Also: perfect caches; 1 cycle latency for all instructions (FP *,/); unlimited instructions issued/clock cycle;

Limits to ILP HW Model comparison

	Model	Power 5
Instructions Issued per clock	Infinite	4
Instruction Window Size	Infinite	200
Renaming Registers	Infinite	88 integer + 88 Fl. Pt.
Branch Prediction	Perfect	2% to 6% misprediction (Tournament Branch Predictor)
Cache	Perfect	64KI, 32KD, 1.92MB L2, 36 MB L3
Memory Alias Analysis	Perfect	??

Upper Limit to ILP: Ideal Machine

(Figure 3.1)



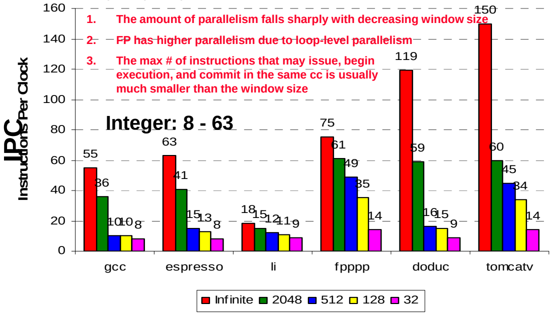
Limits to ILP HW Model comparison

	New Model	Model	Power 5
Instructions Issued per clock	Infinite	Infinite	4
Instruction Window Size	Infinite, 2K, 512, 128, 32	Infinite	200
Renaming Registers	Infinite	Infinite	88 integer + 88 Fl. Pt.
Branch Prediction	Perfect	Perfect	2% to 6% misprediction (Tournament Branch Predictor)
Cache	Perfect	Perfect	64KI, 32KD, 1.92MB L2, 36 MB L3
Memory Alias	Perfect	Perfect	??

More Realistic HW: Window Impact

Figure 3.2

Change from Infinite window to 2048, 512, 128, 32



1. The amount of parallelism falls sharply with decreasing window size
2. FP has higher parallelism due to loop-level parallelism
3. The max # of instructions that may issue, begin execution, and commit in the same cc is usually much smaller than the window size

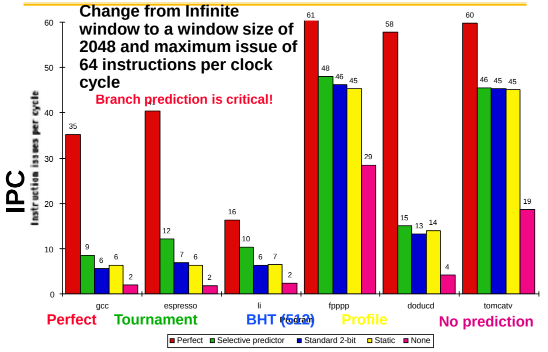
Limits to ILP HW Model comparison

	New Model	Model	Power 5
Instructions Issued per clock	64	Infinite	4
Instruction Window Size	2048	Infinite	200
Renaming Registers	Infinite	Infinite	88 integer + 88 Fl. Pt.
Branch Prediction	Perfect vs. 8K Tournament vs. 512 2-bit vs. profile vs. none	Perfect	2% to 6% misprediction (Tournament Branch Predictor)
Cache	Perfect	Perfect	64KI, 32KD, 1.92MB L2, 36 MB L3
Memory Alias	Perfect	Perfect	??

10 times as larger as the best implementation in 2005

More Realistic HW: Branch Impact

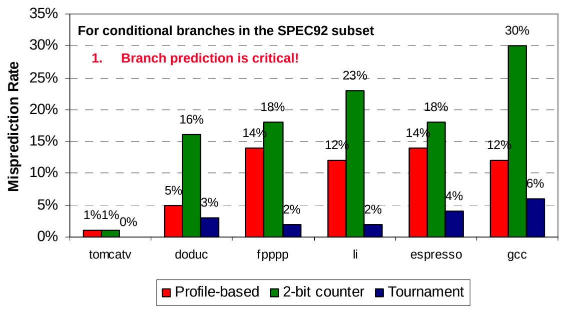
Figure 3.3



Change from Infinite window to a window size of 2048 and maximum issue of 64 instructions per clock cycle

Branch prediction is critical!

Misprediction Rates



For conditional branches in the SPEC92 subset

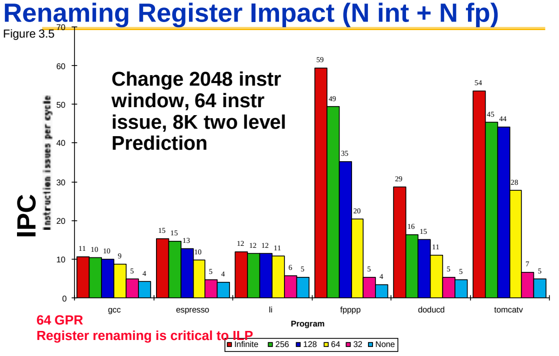
1. Branch prediction is critical!

Limits to ILP HW Model comparison

	New Model	Model	Power 5
Instructions Issued per clock	64	Infinite	4
Instruction Window Size	2048	Infinite	200
Renaming Registers	Infinite v. 256, 128, 64, 32, none	Infinite	88 integer + 88 Fl. Pt.
Branch Prediction	8K two level tournament	Perfect	Tournament Branch Predictor
Cache	Perfect	Perfect	64KI, 32KD, 1.92MB L2, 36 MB L3
Memory Alias	Perfect	Perfect	Perfect

More Realistic HW:
Renaming Register Impact (N int + N fp)

Figure 3.5



Change 2048 instr window, 64 instr issue, 8K two level Prediction

64 GPR

Register renaming is critical to ILP

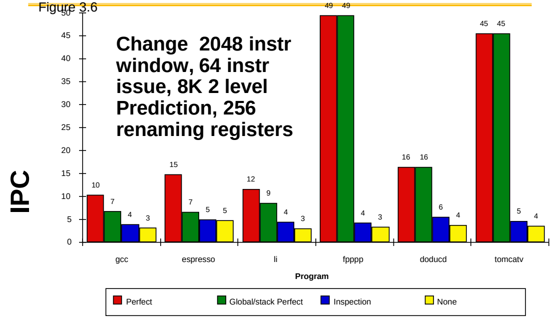
Infinite 256 128 64 32 None

Limits to ILP HW Model comparison

	New Model	Model	Power 5
Instructions Issued per clock	64	Infinite	4
Instruction Window Size	2048	Infinite	200
Renaming Registers	256 Int + 256 FP	Infinite	88 integer + 88 Fl. Pt.
Branch Prediction	8K two level tournament	Perfect	Tournament
Cache	Perfect	Perfect	64KI, 32KD, 1.92MB L2, 36 MB L3
Memory Alias	Perfect v. Stack v. Inspect v. none	Perfect	Perfect

More Realistic HW:
Memory Address Alias Impact

Figure 3.6



Change 2048 instr window, 64 instr issue, 8K 2 level Prediction, 256 renaming registers

Perfect Global/Stack perf; heap conflicts Inspec. Assem. None

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How to Exceed ILP Limits of this study?

- These are not laws of physics; just practical limits for today, and perhaps overcome via research
- Compiler and ISA advances could change results
- WAR and WAW hazards through memory: eliminated WAW and WAR hazards through register renaming, but not in memory usage
  - Can get conflicts via allocation of stack frames as a called procedure reuses the memory addresses of a previous frame on the stack

HW v. SW to increase ILP

- Memory disambiguation: HW best
- Speculation:
  - HW best when dynamic branch prediction better than compile time prediction
  - Exceptions easier for HW
  - HW doesn't need bookkeeping code or compensation code
  - Very complicated to get right
- Scheduling: SW can look ahead to schedule better
- Compiler independence: does not require new compiler, recompilation to run well

Performance beyond single thread ILP

- There can be much higher natural parallelism in some applications (e.g., Database or Scientific codes)
- Explicit Thread Level Parallelism or Data Level Parallelism
- Thread: process with own instructions and data
  - thread may be a process part of a parallel program of multiple processes, or it may be an independent program
  - Each thread has all the state (instructions, data, PC, register state, and so on) necessary to allow it to execute
- Data Level Parallelism: Perform identical operations on data, and lots of data

Thread Level Parallelism (TLP)

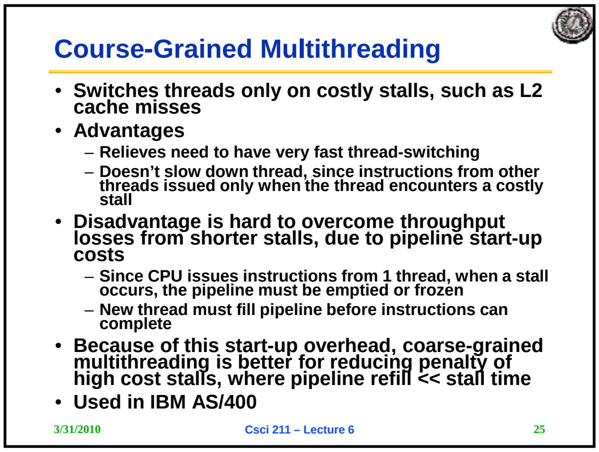
- ILP exploits implicit parallel operations within a loop or straight-line code segment
- TLP explicitly represented by the use of multiple threads of execution that are inherently parallel
- Goal: Use multiple instruction streams to improve
  1. Throughput of computers that run many programs
  2. Execution time of multi-threaded programs
- TLP could be more cost-effective to exploit than ILP

New Approach: Mulithreaded Execution

- Multithreading: multiple threads to share the functional units of 1 processor via overlapping
  - processor must duplicate independent state of each thread e.g., a separate copy of register file, a separate PC, and for running independent programs, a separate page table
  - memory shared through the virtual memory mechanisms, which already support multiple processes
  - HW for fast thread switch; much faster than full process switch ≈ 100s to 1000s of clocks
- When switch?
  - Alternate instruction per thread (fine grain)
  - When a thread is stalled, perhaps for a cache miss, another thread can be executed (coarse grain)

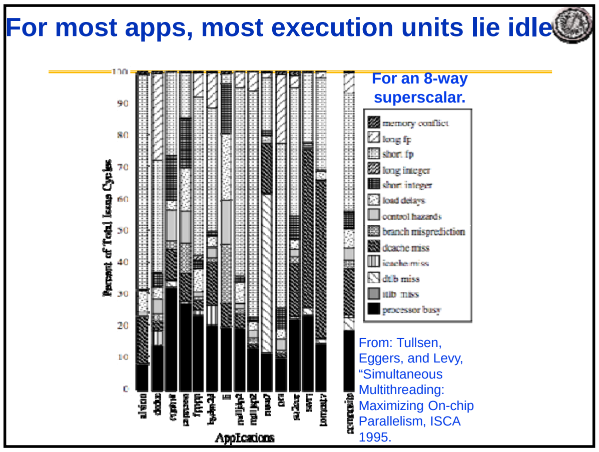
Fine-Grained Multithreading

- Switches between threads on each instruction, causing the execution of multiple threads to be interleaved
- Usually done in a round-robin fashion, skipping any stalled threads
- CPU must be able to switch threads at every clock
- Advantage is it can hide both short and long stalls, since instructions from other threads executed when one thread stalls
- Disadvantage is it slows down execution of individual threads, since a thread ready to execute without stalls will be delayed by instructions from other threads
- Used on Sun's Niagara (will see later)



Course-Grained Multithreading

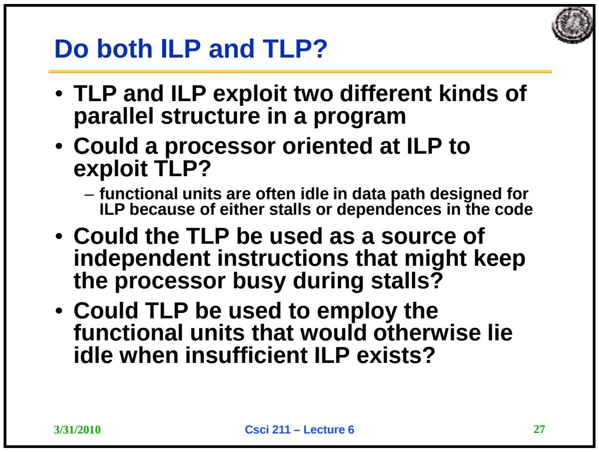
- Switches threads only on costly stalls, such as L2 cache misses
- Advantages
  - Relieves need to have very fast thread-switching
  - Doesn’t slow down thread, since instructions from other threads issued only when the thread encounters a costly stall
- Disadvantage is hard to overcome throughput losses from shorter stalls, due to pipeline start-up costs
  - Since CPU issues instructions from 1 thread, when a stall occurs, the pipeline must be emptied or frozen
  - New thread must fill pipeline before instructions can complete
- Because of this start-up overhead, coarse-grained multithreading is better for reducing penalty of high cost stalls, where pipeline refill << stall time
- Used in IBM AS/400



For most apps, most execution units lie idle

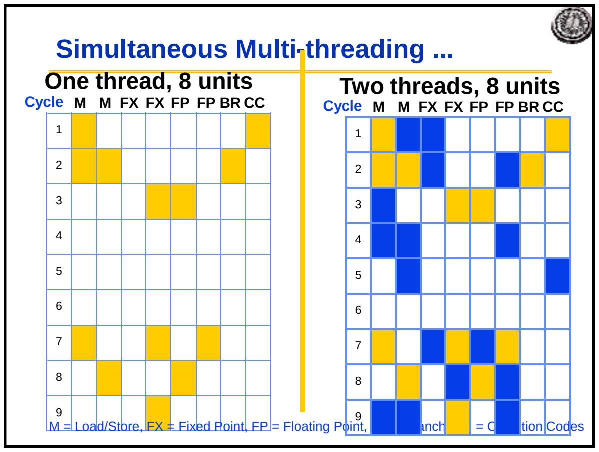
For an 8-way superscalar.

From: Tullsen, Eggers, and Levy, “Simultaneous Multithreading: Maximizing On-chip Parallelism, ISCA 1995.



Do both ILP and TLP?

- TLP and ILP exploit two different kinds of parallel structure in a program
- Could a processor oriented at ILP to exploit TLP?
  - functional units are often idle in data path designed for ILP because of either stalls or dependences in the code
- Could the TLP be used as a source of independent instructions that might keep the processor busy during stalls?
- Could TLP be used to employ the functional units that would otherwise lie idle when insufficient ILP exists?



Simultaneous Multi-threading ...

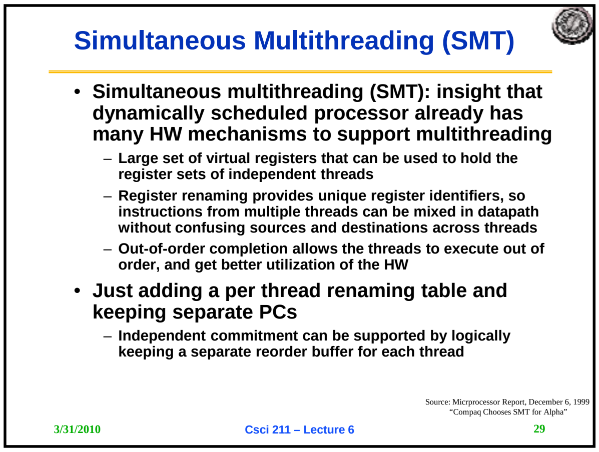
One thread, 8 units

Cycle	M	M	FX	FX	FP	FP	BR	CC
1	🟨							🟨
2	🟨	🟨					🟨	
3				🟨	🟨			
4								
5								
6								
7	🟨			🟨		🟨		
8		🟨			🟨			
9				🟨				

Two threads, 8 units

Cycle	M	M	FX	FX	FP	FP	BR	CC
1	🟨	🟦	🟦					🟨
2	🟨	🟨	🟦			🟦	🟨	
3	🟦			🟨	🟨			
4	🟦	🟦				🟦		
5		🟦						🟦
6								
7	🟨		🟦	🟨	🟦	🟨		
8		🟨		🟦	🟨	🟦		
9	🟦	🟦		🟨		🟦		

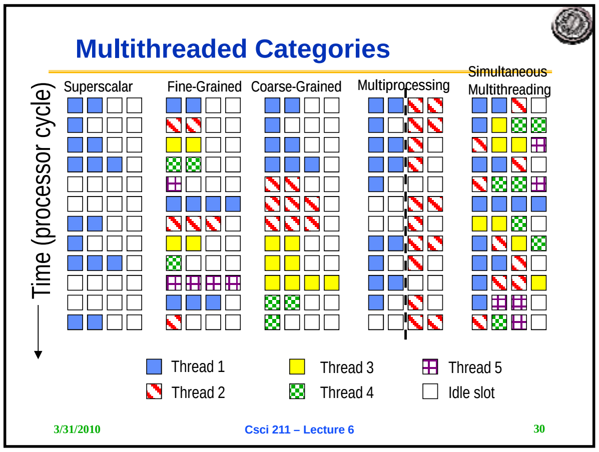
M = Load/Store, FX = Fixed Point, FP = Floating Point, anch = C tion Codes



Simultaneous Multithreading (SMT)

- Simultaneous multithreading (SMT): insight that dynamically scheduled processor already has many HW mechanisms to support multithreading
  - Large set of virtual registers that can be used to hold the register sets of independent threads
  - Register renaming provides unique register identifiers, so instructions from multiple threads can be mixed in datapath without confusing sources and destinations across threads
  - Out-of-order completion allows the threads to execute out of order, and get better utilization of the HW
- Just adding a per thread renaming table and keeping separate PCs
  - Independent commitment can be supported by logically keeping a separate reorder buffer for each thread

Source: Micrprocessor Report, December 6, 1999
“Compaq Chooses SMT for Alpha”



Multithreaded Categories

Time (processor cycle)

Superscalar	Fine-Grained	Coarse-Grained	Multiprocessing	Simultaneous Multithreading
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🟦 Thread 1 ▧ Thread 2 🟨 Thread 3 🟩 Thread 4 ⊞ Thread 5 □ Idle slot

Design Challenges in SMT

- Since SMT makes sense only with fine-grained implementation, impact of fine-grained scheduling on single thread performance?
  - A preferred thread approach sacrifices neither throughput nor single-thread performance?
  - Unfortunately, with a preferred thread, the processor is likely to sacrifice some throughput, when preferred thread stalls
- Larger register file needed to hold multiple contexts
- Not affecting clock cycle time, especially in
  - Instruction issue - more candidate instructions need to be considered
  - Instruction completion - choosing which instructions to commit may be challenging
- Ensuring that cache and TLB conflicts generated by SMT do not degrade performance

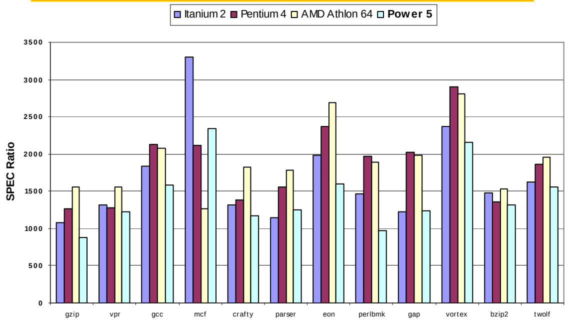
Initial Performance of SMT

- Pentium 4 Extreme SMT yields 1.01 speedup for SPECint_rate benchmark and 1.07 for SPECfp_rate
  - Pentium 4 is dual threaded SMT
  - SPECRate requires that each SPEC benchmark be run against a vendor-selected number of copies of the same benchmark
- Running on Pentium 4 each of 26 SPEC benchmarks paired with every other (26^2 runs) speed-ups from 0.90 to 1.58; average was 1.20
- Power 5, 8 processor server 1.23 faster for SPECint_rate with SMT, 1.16 faster for SPECfp_rate
- Power 5 running 2 copies of each app speedup between 0.89 and 1.41
  - Most gained some
  - Fl.Pt. apps had most cache conflicts and least gains

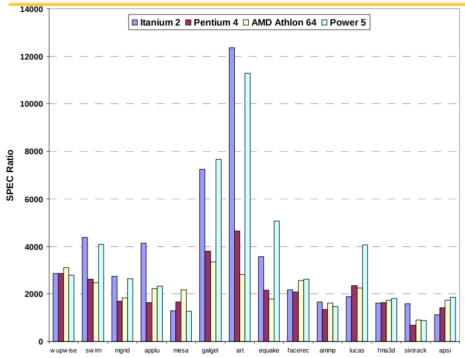
Head to Head ILP competition

Processor	Micro architecture	Fetch / Issue / Execute	FU	Clock Rate (GHz)	Transis -tors Die size	Power
Intel Pentium 4 Extreme	Speculative dynamically scheduled; deeply pipelined; SMT	3/3/4	7 int. 1 FP	3.8	125 M 122 mm^2	115 W
AMD Athlon 64 FX-57	Speculative dynamically scheduled	3/3/4	6 int. 3 FP	2.8	114 M 115 mm^2	104 W
IBM Power5 (1 CPU only)	Speculative dynamically scheduled; SMT; 2 CPU cores/chip	8/4/8	6 int. 2 FP	1.9	200 M 300 mm^2 (est.)	80W (est.)
Intel Itanium 2	Statically scheduled VLIW-style	6/5/11	9 int. 2 FP	1.6	592 M 423 mm^2	130 W

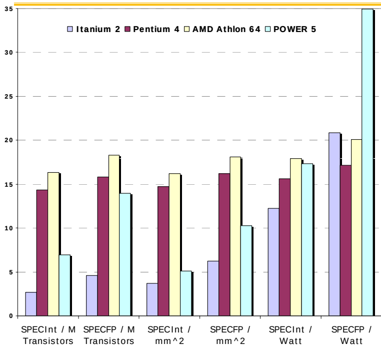
Performance on SPECint2000



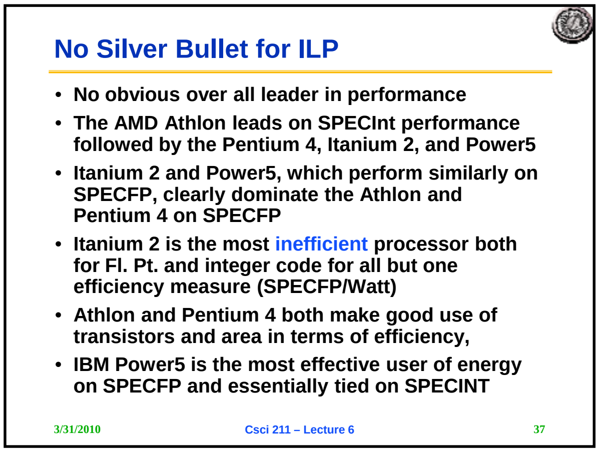
Performance on SPECfp2000



Normalized Performance: Efficiency

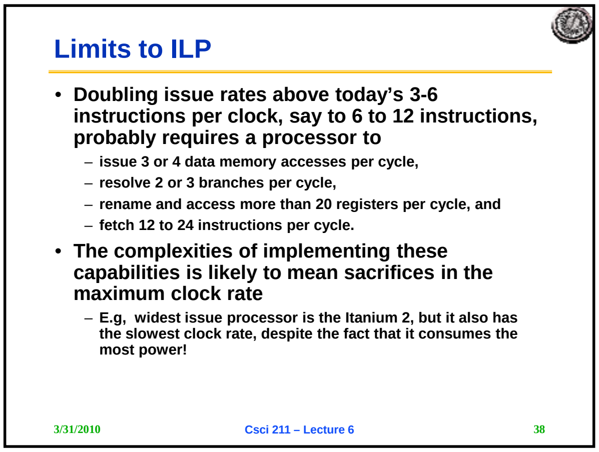


Rank	Itanium 2	Pentium 4	Athlon	Power 5
Int/Trans	4	2	1	3
FP/Trans	4	2	1	3
Int/area	4	2	1	3
FP/area	4	2	1	3
Int/Watt	4	3	1	2
FP/Watt	2	4	3	1



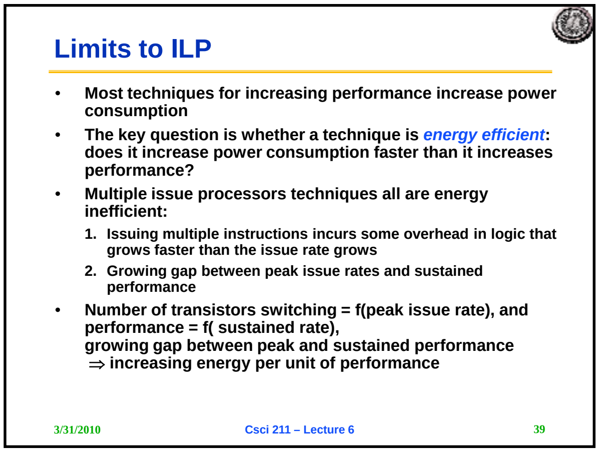
No Silver Bullet for ILP

- No obvious over all leader in performance
- The AMD Athlon leads on SPECInt performance followed by the Pentium 4, Itanium 2, and Power5
- Itanium 2 and Power5, which perform similarly on SPECFP, clearly dominate the Athlon and Pentium 4 on SPECFP
- Itanium 2 is the most inefficient processor both for Fl. Pt. and integer code for all but one efficiency measure (SPECFP/Watt)
- Athlon and Pentium 4 both make good use of transistors and area in terms of efficiency,
- IBM Power5 is the most effective user of energy on SPECFP and essentially tied on SPECINT



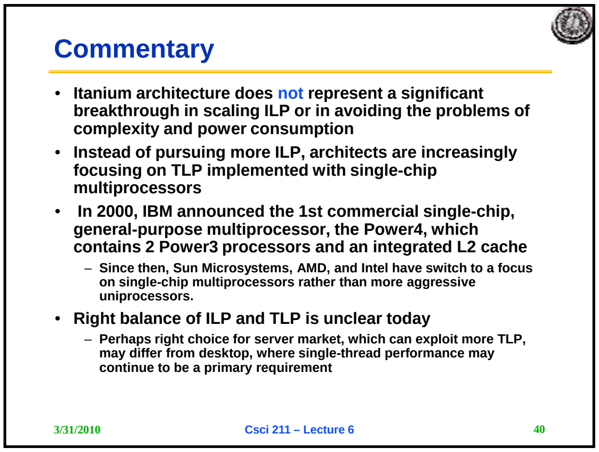
Limits to ILP

- Doubling issue rates above today's 3-6 instructions per clock, say to 6 to 12 instructions, probably requires a processor to
  - issue 3 or 4 data memory accesses per cycle,
  - resolve 2 or 3 branches per cycle,
  - rename and access more than 20 registers per cycle, and
  - fetch 12 to 24 instructions per cycle.
- The complexities of implementing these capabilities is likely to mean sacrifices in the maximum clock rate
  - E.g, widest issue processor is the Itanium 2, but it also has the slowest clock rate, despite the fact that it consumes the most power!



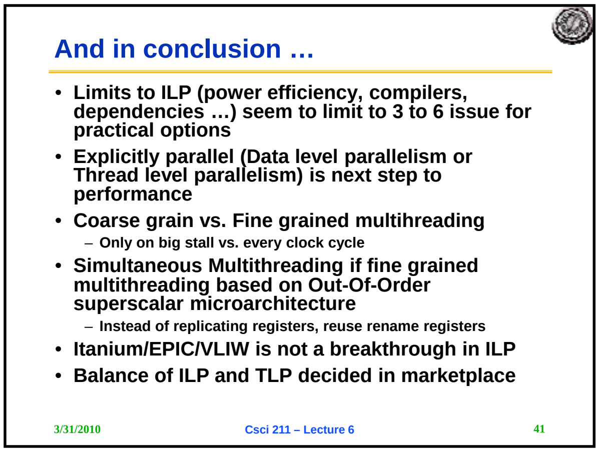
Limits to ILP

- Most techniques for increasing performance increase power consumption
- The key question is whether a technique is *energy efficient*: does it increase power consumption faster than it increases performance?
- Multiple issue processors techniques all are energy inefficient:
  1. Issuing multiple instructions incurs some overhead in logic that grows faster than the issue rate grows
  2. Growing gap between peak issue rates and sustained performance
- Number of transistors switching = f(peak issue rate), and performance = f(sustained rate),
  growing gap between peak and sustained performance
  ⇒ increasing energy per unit of performance



Commentary

- Itanium architecture does not represent a significant breakthrough in scaling ILP or in avoiding the problems of complexity and power consumption
- Instead of pursuing more ILP, architects are increasingly focusing on TLP implemented with single-chip multiprocessors
- In 2000, IBM announced the 1st commercial single-chip, general-purpose multiprocessor, the Power4, which contains 2 Power3 processors and an integrated L2 cache
  - Since then, Sun Microsystems, AMD, and Intel have switch to a focus on single-chip multiprocessors rather than more aggressive uniprocessors.
- Right balance of ILP and TLP is unclear today
  - Perhaps right choice for server market, which can exploit more TLP, may differ from desktop, where single-thread performance may continue to be a primary requirement



And in conclusion …

- Limits to ILP (power efficiency, compilers, dependencies …) seem to limit to 3 to 6 issue for practical options
- Explicitly parallel (Data level parallelism or Thread level parallelism) is next step to performance
- Coarse grain vs. Fine grained multihreading
  - Only on big stall vs. every clock cycle
- Simultaneous Multithreading if fine grained multithreading based on Out-Of-Order superscalar microarchitecture
  - Instead of replicating registers, reuse rename registers
- Itanium/EPIC/VLIW is not a breakthrough in ILP
- Balance of ILP and TLP decided in marketplace