Design of Digital Circuits

Lecture 20: SIMD Processors

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We Are **Almost** Done With This...

- Single-cycle Microarchitectures
- Multi-cycle and Microprogrammed Microarchitectures
- Pipelining
- Issues in Pipelining: Control & Data Dependence Handling,
 State Maintenance and Recovery, ...
- Out-of-Order Execution
- Other Execution Paradigms

Approaches to (Instruction-Level) Concurrency

- Pipelining
- Out-of-order execution
- Dataflow (at the ISA level)
- Superscalar Execution
- VLIW
- Fine-Grained Multithreading
- Systolic Arrays
- Decoupled Access Execute
- SIMD Processing (Vector and array processors, GPUs)

Readings for this Week

Required

 Lindholm et al., "NVIDIA Tesla: A Unified Graphics and Computing Architecture," IEEE Micro 2008.

Recommended

 Peleg and Weiser, "MMX Technology Extension to the Intel Architecture," IEEE Micro 1996.

Exploiting Data Parallelism: SIMD Processors and GPUs

SIMD Processing: Exploiting Regular (Data) Parallelism

Flynn's Taxonomy of Computers

- Mike Flynn, "Very High-Speed Computing Systems," Proc. of IEEE, 1966
- SISD: Single instruction operates on single data element
- SIMD: Single instruction operates on multiple data elements
 - Array processor
 - Vector processor
- MISD: Multiple instructions operate on single data element
 - Closest form: systolic array processor, streaming processor
- MIMD: Multiple instructions operate on multiple data elements (multiple instruction streams)
 - Multiprocessor
 - Multithreaded processor

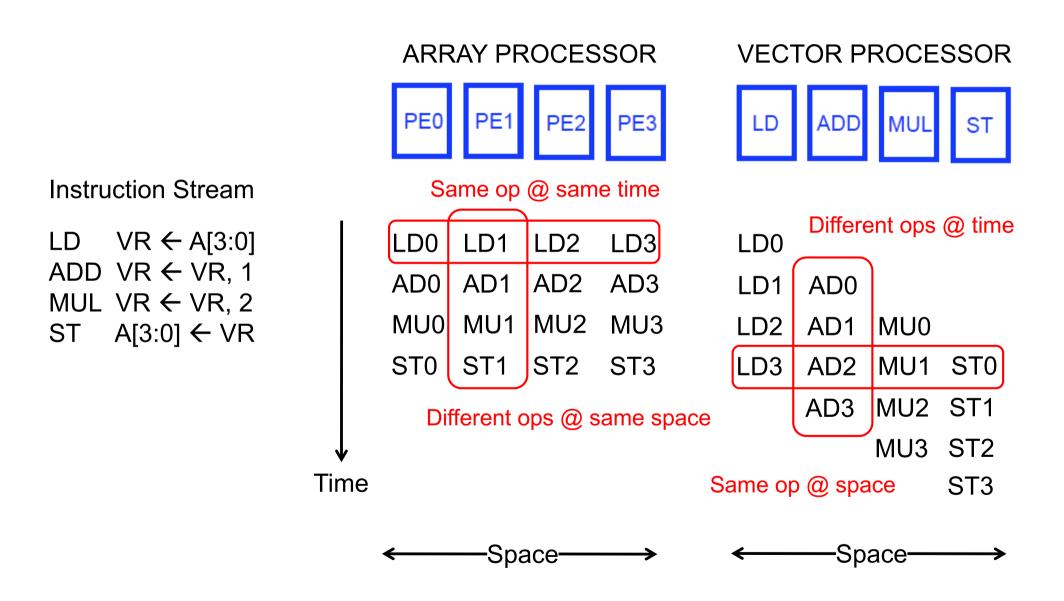
Data Parallelism

- Concurrency arises from performing the same operation on different pieces of data
 - Single instruction multiple data (SIMD)
 - E.g., dot product of two vectors
- Contrast with data flow
 - Concurrency arises from executing different operations in parallel (in a data driven manner)
- Contrast with thread ("control") parallelism
 - Concurrency arises from executing different threads of control in parallel
- SIMD exploits operation-level parallelism on different data
 - Same operation concurrently applied to different pieces of data
 - A form of ILP where instruction happens to be the same across data

SIMD Processing

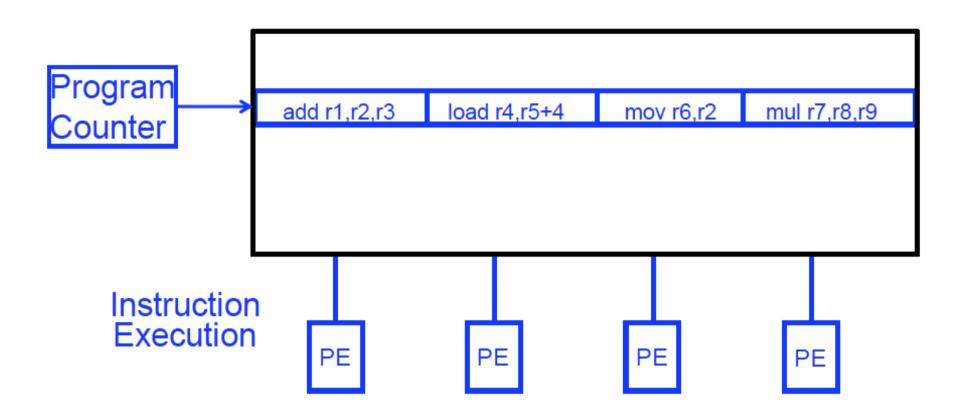
- Single instruction operates on multiple data elements
 - In time or in space
- Multiple processing elements
- Time-space duality
 - Array processor: Instruction operates on multiple data elements at the same time using different spaces
 - Vector processor: Instruction operates on multiple data elements in consecutive time steps using the same space

Array vs. Vector Processors



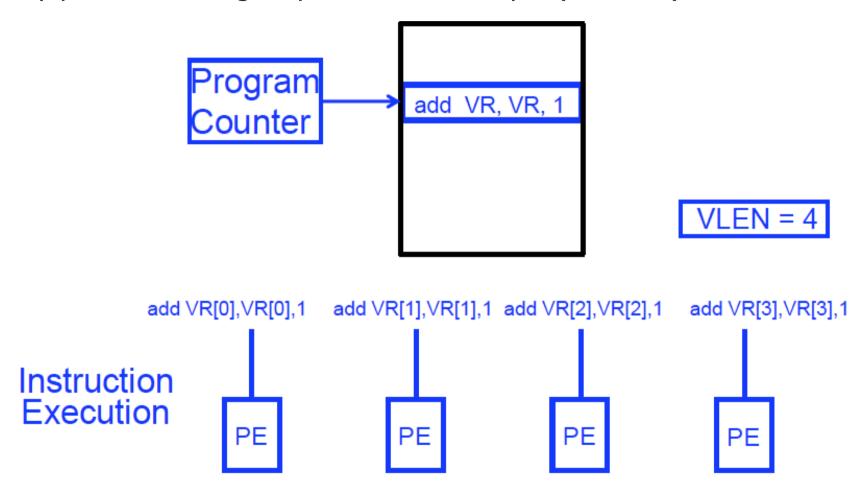
SIMD Array Processing vs. VLIW

VLIW: Multiple independent operations packed together by the compiler



SIMD Array Processing vs. VLIW

Array processor: Single operation on multiple (different) data elements



Vector Processors (I)

- A vector is a one-dimensional array of numbers
- Many scientific/commercial programs use vectors

```
for (i = 0; i < =49; i++)

C[i] = (A[i] + B[i]) / 2
```

- A vector processor is one whose instructions operate on vectors rather than scalar (single data) values
- Basic requirements
 - □ Need to load/store vectors → vector registers (contain vectors)
 - Need to operate on vectors of different lengths → vector length register (VLEN)
 - □ Elements of a vector might be stored apart from each other in memory → vector stride register (VSTR)
 - Stride: distance in memory between two elements of a vector

Vector Processors (II)

- A vector instruction performs an operation on each element in consecutive cycles
 - Vector functional units are pipelined
 - Each pipeline stage operates on a different data element
- Vector instructions allow deeper pipelines
 - No intra-vector dependencies → no hardware interlocking needed within a vector
 - No control flow within a vector
 - Known stride allows easy address calculation for all vector elements
 - Enables prefetching of vectors into registers/cache/memory

Vector Processor Advantages

- + No dependencies within a vector
 - Pipelining & parallelization work really well
 - Can have very deep pipelines, no dependencies!
- + Each instruction generates a lot of work
 - Reduces instruction fetch bandwidth requirements
- + Highly regular memory access pattern
- + No need to explicitly code loops
 - Fewer branches in the instruction sequence

Vector Processor Disadvantages

- -- Works (only) if parallelism is regular (data/SIMD parallelism)
 - ++ Vector operations
 - -- Very inefficient if parallelism is irregular
 - -- How about searching for a key in a linked list?

To program a vector machine, the compiler or hand coder must make the data structures in the code fit nearly exactly the regular structure built into the hardware. That's hard to do in first place, and just as hard to change. One tweak, and the low-level code has to be rewritten by a very smart and dedicated programmer who knows the hardware and often the subtleties of the application area. Often the rewriting is

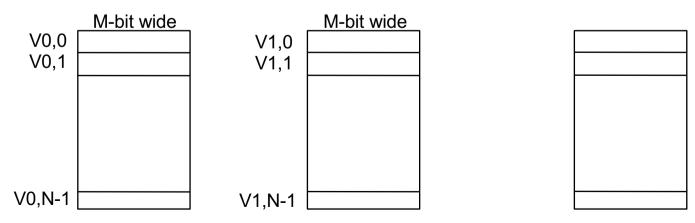
Vector Processor Limitations

- Memory (bandwidth) can easily become a bottleneck, especially if
 - 1. compute/memory operation balance is not maintained
 - 2. data is not mapped appropriately to memory banks

Vector Processing in More Depth

Vector Registers

- Each vector data register holds N M-bit values
- Vector control registers: VLEN, VSTR, VMASK
- Maximum VLEN can be N
 - Maximum number of elements stored in a vector register
- Vector Mask Register (VMASK)
 - Indicates which elements of vector to operate on
 - Set by vector test instructions
 - e.g., $VMASK[i] = (V_k[i] == 0)$



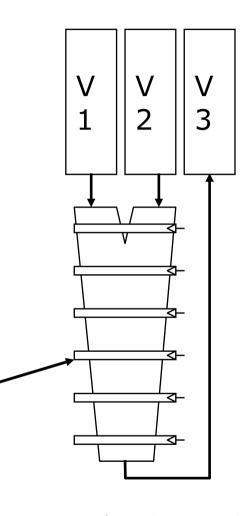
Vector Functional Units

 Use a deep pipeline to execute element operations

→ fast clock cycle

 Control of deep pipeline is simple because elements in vector are independent

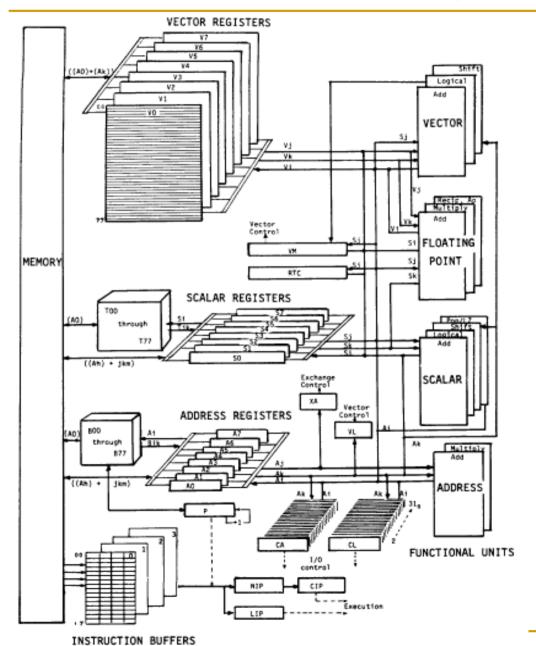
Six stage multiply pipeline



 $V1 * V2 \rightarrow V3$

Slide credit: Krste Asanovic

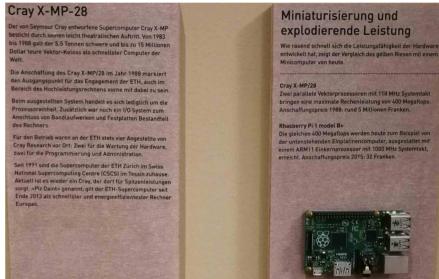
Vector Machine Organization (CRAY-1)



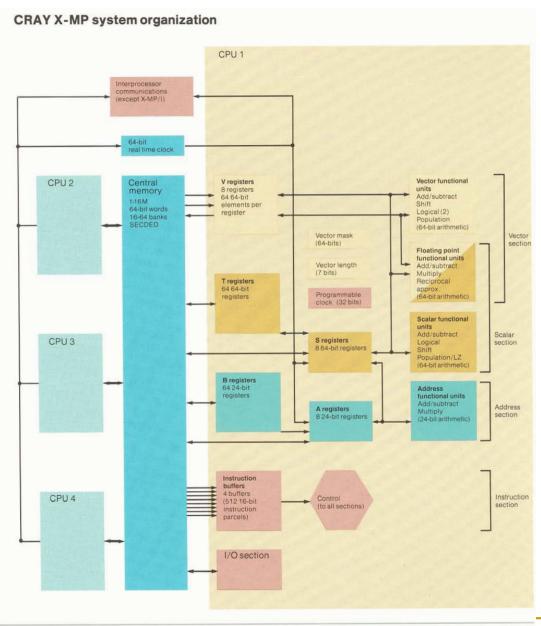
- CRAY-1
- Russell, "The CRAY-1 computer system,"
 CACM 1978.
- Scalar and vector modes
- 8 64-element vector registers
- 64 bits per element
- 16 memory banks
- 8 64-bit scalar registers
- 8 24-bit address registers

CRAY X-MP-28 @ ETH (CAB, E Floor)





CRAY X-MP System Organization





CRAY X-MP Design Detail

CRAY X-MP design detail

Mainframe

CRAY X-MP single- and multiprocessor systems are designed to offer users outstanding performance on large-scale, compute-intensive and I/O-bound jobs.

CRAY X-MP mainframes consist of six (X-MP/1), eight (X-MP/2) or twelve (X-MP/4) vertical columns arranged in an arc. Power supplies and cooling are clustered around the base and extend outward.

Model	Number of CPUs	(millions of 64-bit words)	Number of banks
CRAY X-MP/416	4	16	64
CRAY X-MP/48	4	8	32
CRAY X-MP/216	2	16	32
CRAY X-MP/28	2	8	32
CRAY X-MP/24	2	4	16
CRAY X-MP/18	1	8	32
CRAY X-MP/14	1	4	16
CRAY X-MP/12	1	2	16
CRAY X-MP/11	1	1	16

Hardware features:

- ☐ 9.5 nsec clock
- One, two or four CPUs, each with its own computation and control sections
- □ Large multiport central memory
- Memory bank cycle time of 38 nsec on X-MP/4 systems, 76 nsec on X-MP/1 and X-MP/2 models
- Memory bandwidth of 25-100 gigabits, depending on model
- ☐ I/O section
- Proven cooling and packaging technologies

A description of the major system components and their functions follows.

CPU computation section

Within the computation section of each CPU are operating registers, functional units and an instruction control network — hardware elements that cooperate in executing sequences of instructions. The instruction control network makes all decisions related to instruction issue as well as coordinating the three types of processing within each CPU: vector, scalar and address. Each of the processing modes has its associated registers and functional units.

The block diagram of a CRAY X-MP/4 (opposite page) illustrates the relationship of the registers to the functional units, instruction buffers, I/O channel control registers, interprocessor communications section and memory. For multiple-processor CRAY X-MP models, the interprocessor

communications section coordinates processing between CPUs, and central memory is shared.

Registers

The basic set of programmable registers is composed of:

Memory size

Eight 24-bit address (A) registers Sixty-four 24-bit intermediate address (B) registers Eight 64-bit scalar (S) registers Sixty-four 64-bit scalar-save

(T) registers

Eight 64-element (4096-bit) vector (V) registers with 64 bits per element

The 24-bit A registers are generally used for addressing and counting operations. Associated with them are 64 B registers, also 24 bits wide. Since the transfer between an A and a B register takes only one clock period, the B registers assume the role of data cache, storing information for fast access without tying up the A registers for relatively long periods.

CRAY X-MP CPU Functional Units

Register usage	Time in clock periods
A	2
Α	4
S	3
S	3 2 3
S	3
S	1
S	3 or 4
V	3
V	3 or 4
V	2
V	4
V	5
	usage A A V V V V V

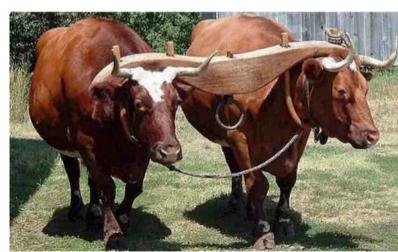
CRAY X-MP System Configuration

	X-MP/1	X-MP/2	X-MP/4
Mainframe			
CPUs	1	2	
Bipolar memory (64-bit words)	N/A	N/A	8 or 16N
MOS memory (64-bit words)	1, 2, 4 or 8M	4, 8 or 16M	N/A
6-Mbyte channels	2 or 4	4	
100-Mbyte channels	1 or 2	2	
1000-Mbyte channels	1	1	
/O Subsystem /O processors Disk storage units Magnetic tape channels Front-end interfaces Buffer memory (Mbytes)	2, 3 or 4 2-32 1-8 1-7 8, 32 or 64	2, 3 or 4 2-32 1-8 1-7 8, 32 or 64	2-3: 1-1 1-6
Solid-state Storage Device	256, 512 or 1024	256, 512 or 1024	256, 512 or 102
Memory size (Mbytes)			

Seymour Cray, the Father of Supercomputers



"If you were plowing a field, which would you rather use: Two strong oxen or 1024 chickens?"

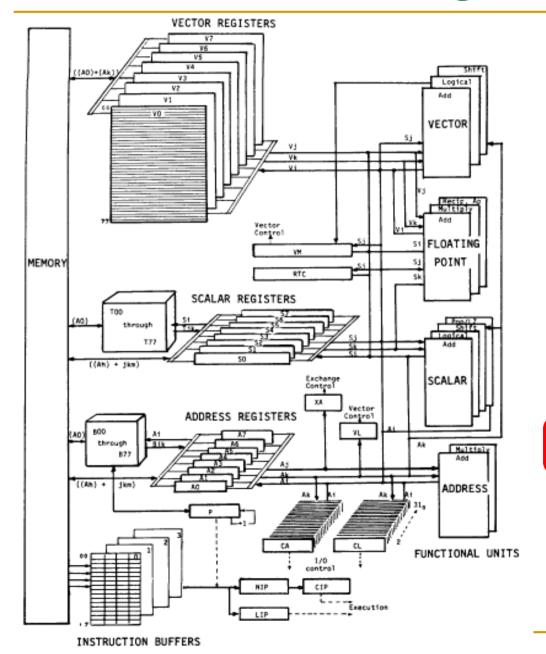


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Vector Machine Organization (CRAY-1)



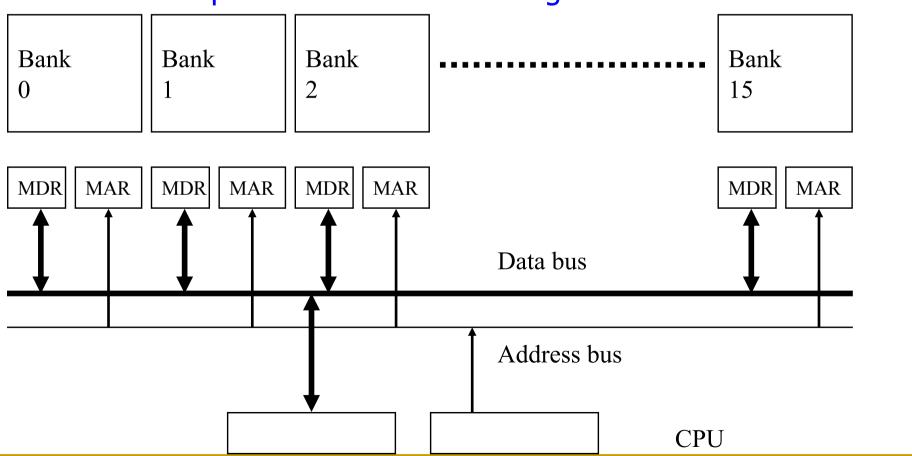
- CRAY-1
- Russell, "The CRAY-1 computer system," CACM 1978.
- Scalar and vector modes
- 8 64-element vector registers
- 64 bits per element
- 16 memory banks
- 8 64-bit scalar registers
- 8 24-bit address registers

Loading/Storing Vectors from/to Memory

- Requires loading/storing multiple elements
- Elements separated from each other by a constant distance (stride)
 - Assume stride = 1 for now
- Elements can be loaded in consecutive cycles if we can start the load of one element per cycle
 - Can sustain a throughput of one element per cycle
- Question: How do we achieve this with a memory that takes more than 1 cycle to access?
- Answer: Bank the memory; interleave the elements across banks

Memory Banking

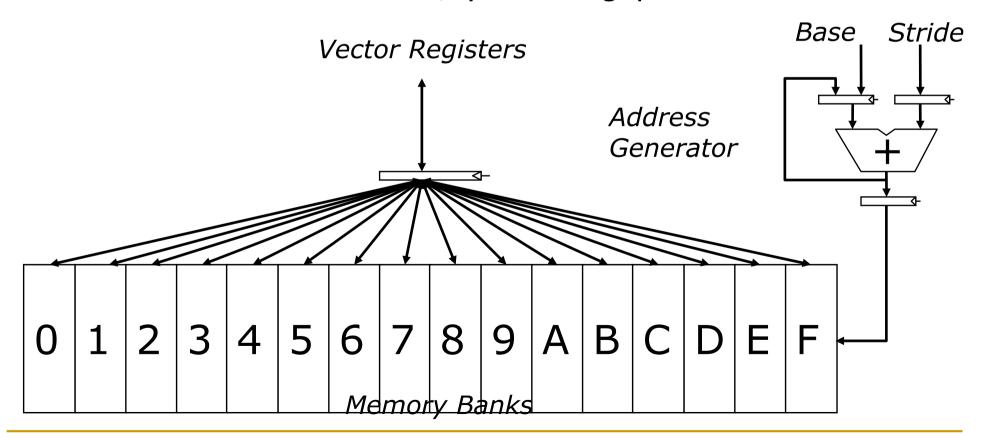
- Memory is divided into banks that can be accessed independently;
 banks share address and data buses (to minimize pin cost)
- Can start and complete one bank access per cycle
- Can sustain N parallel accesses if all N go to different banks



Picture credit: Derek Chiou

Vector Memory System

- Next address = Previous address + Stride
- If (stride == 1) && (consecutive elements interleaved across banks) && (number of banks >= bank latency), then
 - we can sustain 1 element/cycle throughput



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Scalar Code Example: Element-Wise Avg.

- For I = 0 to 49C[i] = (A[i] + B[i]) / 2
- Scalar code (instruction and its latency)

```
MOVI R0 = 50 1
MOVA R1 = A 1 304 dynamic instructions
MOVA R2 = B 1
MOVA R3 = C 1
X: LD R4 = MEM[R1++] 11 ;autoincrement addressing
LD R5 = MEM[R2++] 11
ADD R6 = R4 + R5 4
SHFR R7 = R6 >> 1 1
ST MEM[R3++] = R7 11
DECBNZ R0, X 2 ;decrement and branch if NZ
```

Scalar Code Execution Time (In Order)

- Scalar execution time on an in-order processor with 1 bank
 - □ First two loads in the loop cannot be pipelined: 2*11 cycles
 - 4 + 50*40 = 2004 cycles
- Scalar execution time on an in-order processor with 16 banks (word-interleaved: consecutive words are stored in consecutive banks)
 - First two loads in the loop can be pipelined
 - 4 + 50*30 = 1504 cycles
- Why 16 banks?
 - □ 11-cycle memory access latency
 - Having 16 (>11) banks ensures there are enough banks to overlap enough memory operations to cover memory latency

Vectorizable Loops

 A loop is vectorizable if each iteration is independent of any other

- For I = 0 to 49C[i] = (A[i] + B[i]) / 2
- Vectorized loop (each instruction and its latency):

MOVI VLEN = 50	1 7 dynamic instructions
MOVI VSTR = 1	7 dynamic instructions 1
VLD V0 = A	11 + VLEN - 1
VLD V1 = B	11 + VLEN - 1
VADD V2 = V0 + V1	4 + VLEN - 1
VSHFR $V3 = V2 \gg 1$	1 + VLEN - 1
VST C = V3	11 + VLEN - 1

Basic Vector Code Performance

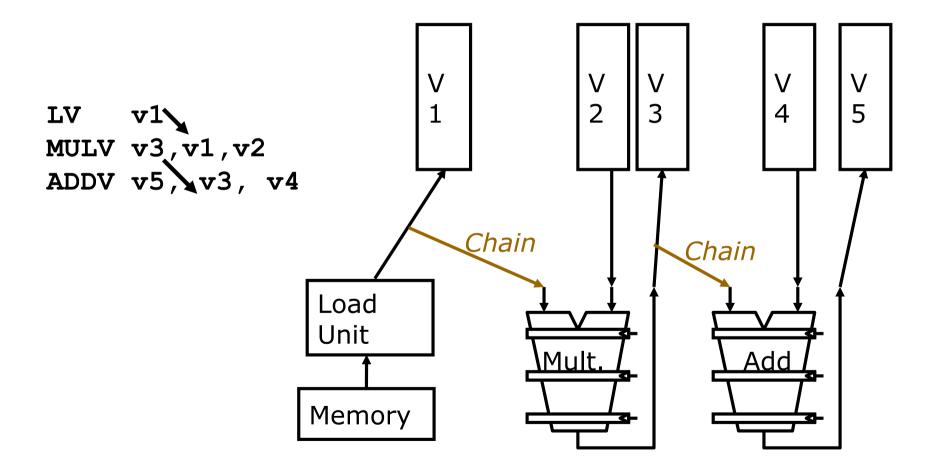
- Assume no chaining (no vector data forwarding)
 - i.e., output of a vector functional unit cannot be used as the direct input of another
 - The entire vector register needs to be ready before any element of it can be used as part of another operation
- One memory port (one address generator)
- 16 memory banks (word-interleaved)



285 cycles

Vector Chaining

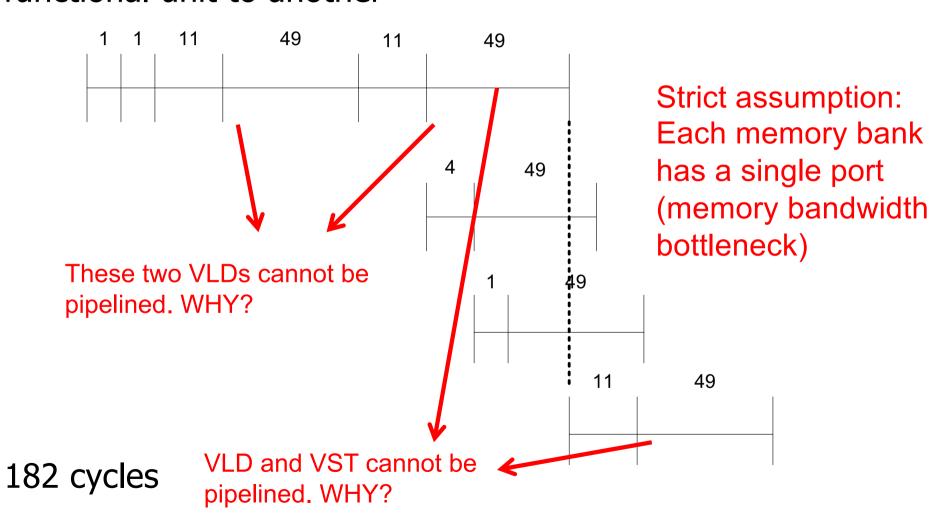
 Vector chaining: Data forwarding from one vector functional unit to another



Slide credit: Krste Asanovic 36

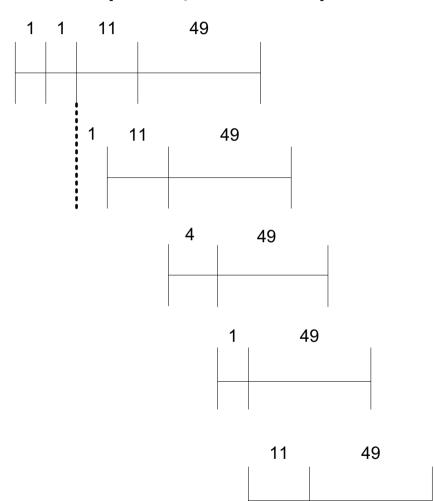
Vector Code Performance - Chaining

 Vector chaining: Data forwarding from one vector functional unit to another



Vector Code Performance – Multiple Memory Ports

Chaining and 2 load ports, 1 store port in each bank



- 79 cycles
- 19X perf. improvement!

Questions (I)

- What if # data elements > # elements in a vector register?
 - Idea: Break loops so that each iteration operates on # elements in a vector register
 - E.g., 527 data elements, 64-element VREGs
 - 8 iterations where VLEN = 64
 - 1 iteration where VLEN = 15 (need to change value of VLEN)
 - Called vector stripmining

(Vector) Stripmining

Surface mining, including strip mining, open-pit mining and mountaintop removal mining, is a broad category of mining in which soil and rock overlying the mineral deposit (the overburden) are removed, in contrast to underground mining, in which the overlying rock is left in place, and the mineral removed through shafts or tunnels.

Surface mining began in the mid-sixteenth century^[1] and is practiced throughout the world, although the majority of surface coal mining occurs in North America.^[2] It gained



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surface mining

Questions (II)

- What if vector data is not stored in a strided fashion in memory? (irregular memory access to a vector)
 - Idea: Use indirection to combine/pack elements into vector registers
 - Called scatter/gather operations

Gather/Scatter Operations

Want to vectorize loops with indirect accesses:

```
for (i=0; i<N; i++)
A[i] = B[i] + C[D[i]]
```

Indexed load instruction (Gather)

```
LV vD, rD  # Load indices in D vector

LVI vC, rC, vD  # Load indirect from rC base

LV vB, rB  # Load B vector

ADDV.D vA,vB,vC  # Do add

SV vA, rA  # Store result
```

Gather/Scatter Operations

- Gather/scatter operations often implemented in hardware to handle sparse vectors (matrices)
- Vector loads and stores use an index vector which is added to the base register to generate the addresses

Scatter example

Index Vector	Data Vector (to Store)	Stored Vector (in Memory)
0	3.14	Base+0 3.14
2	6.5	Base+1 X
6	71.2	Base+2 6.5
7	2.71	Base+3 X
		Base+4 X
		Base+5 X
		Base+6 71.2
		Base+7 2.71

Conditional Operations in a Loop

What if some operations should not be executed on a vector (based on a dynamically-determined condition)?

```
loop: for (i=0; i<N; i++)

if (a[i] != 0) then b[i]=a[i]*b[i]
```

- Idea: Masked operations
 - VMASK register is a bit mask determining which data element should not be acted upon

```
VLD V0 = A

VLD V1 = B

VMASK = (V0 != 0)

VMUL V1 = V0 * V1

VST B = V1
```

This is predicated execution. Execution is predicated on mask bit.

Another Example with Masking

```
for (i = 0; i < 64; ++i)

if (a[i] >= b[i])

c[i] = a[i]

else

c[i] = b[i]
```

Α	В	VMASK		
1	2	0		
2	2	1		
3	2	1		
4	10	0		
- 5	-4	0		
0	-3	1		
6	5	1		
-7	-8	1		

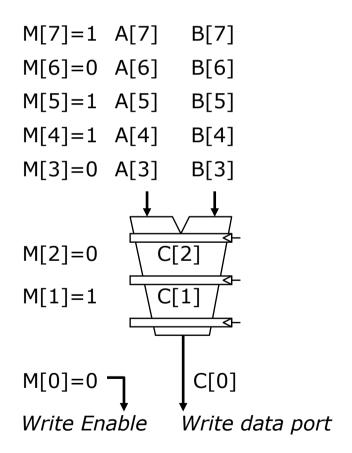
Steps to execute the loop in SIMD code

- 1. Compare A, B to get VMASK
- 2. Masked store of A into C
- 3. Complement VMASK
- 4. Masked store of B into C

Masked Vector Instructions

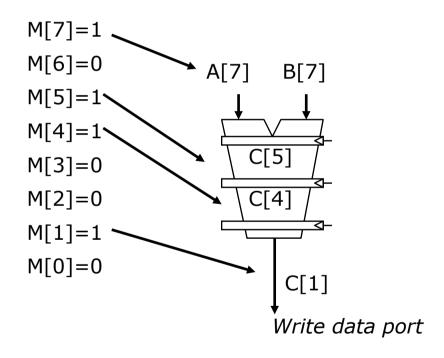
Simple Implementation

 execute all N operations, turn off result writeback according to mask



Density-Time Implementation

 scan mask vector and only execute elements with non-zero masks



Which one is better?

Tradeoffs?

Some Issues

Stride and banking

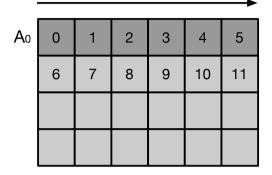
As long as they are relatively prime to each other and there are enough banks to cover bank access latency, we can sustain 1 element/cycle throughput

Storage of a matrix

- Row major: Consecutive elements in a row are laid out consecutively in memory
- Column major: Consecutive elements in a column are laid out consecutively in memory
- You need to change the stride when accessing a row versus column

Matrix Multiplication

A and B, both in row-major order



$$A_{4x6} B_{6x10} \rightarrow C_{4x10}$$

Dot products of rows and columns of A and B

Bo	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20									
	30									
	40									
7	50									

- A: Load A₀ into vector register V₁
 - Each time, increment address by one to access the next column
 - Accesses have a stride of 1
- B: Load B₀ into vector register V₂
 - Each time, increment address by 10
 - Accesses have a stride of 10

Different strides can lead to bank conflicts

How do we minimize them?

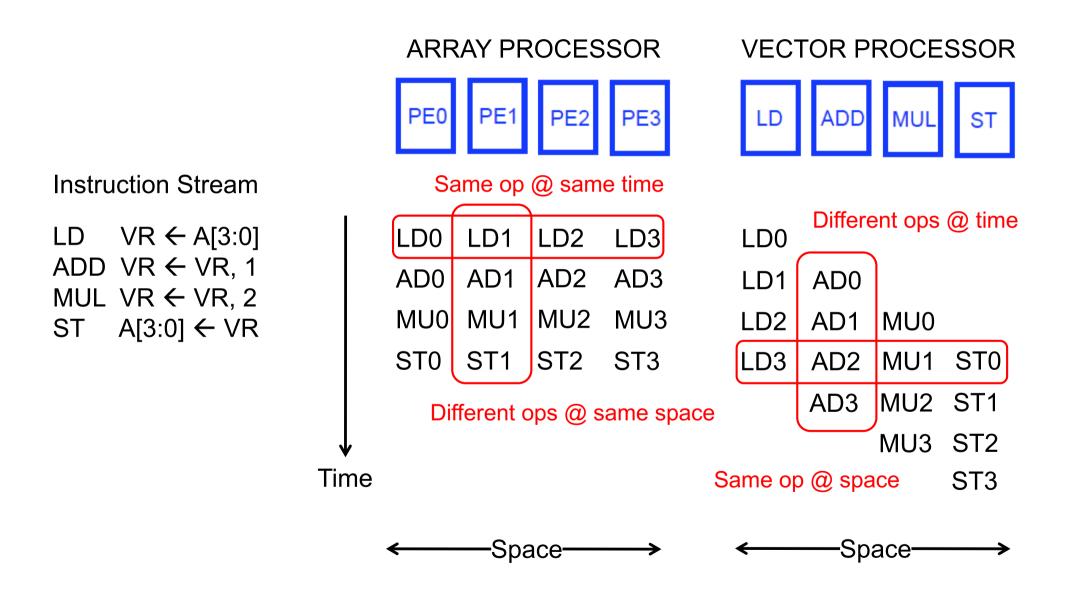
Minimizing Bank Conflicts

- More banks
- Better data layout to match the access pattern
 - Is this always possible?
- Better mapping of address to bank
 - E.g., randomized mapping
 - Rau, "Pseudo-randomly interleaved memory," ISCA 1991.

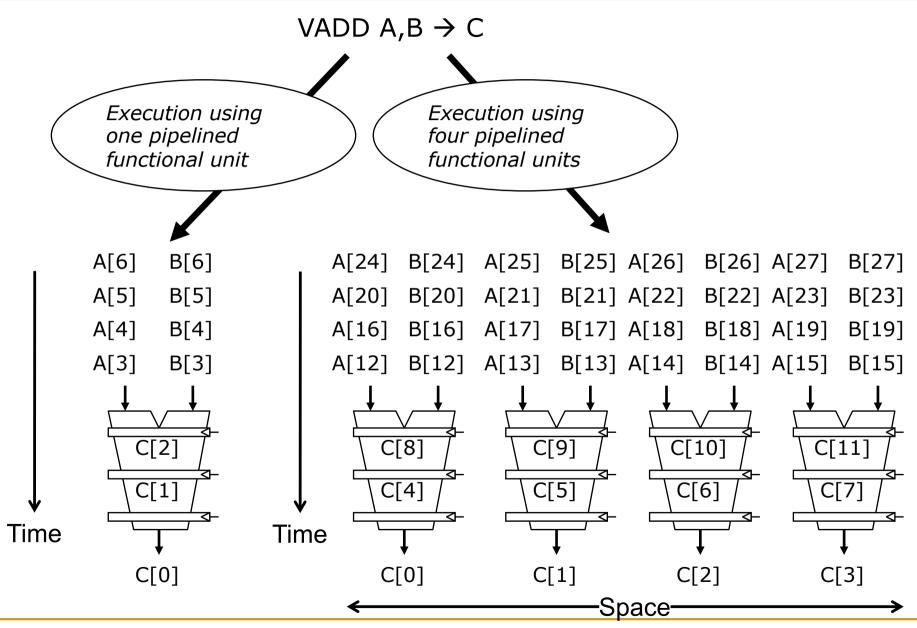
Array vs. Vector Processors, Revisited

- Array vs. vector processor distinction is a "purist's" distinction
- Most "modern" SIMD processors are a combination of both
 - They exploit data parallelism in both time and space
 - GPUs are a prime example we will cover in a bit more detail

Recall: Array vs. Vector Processors

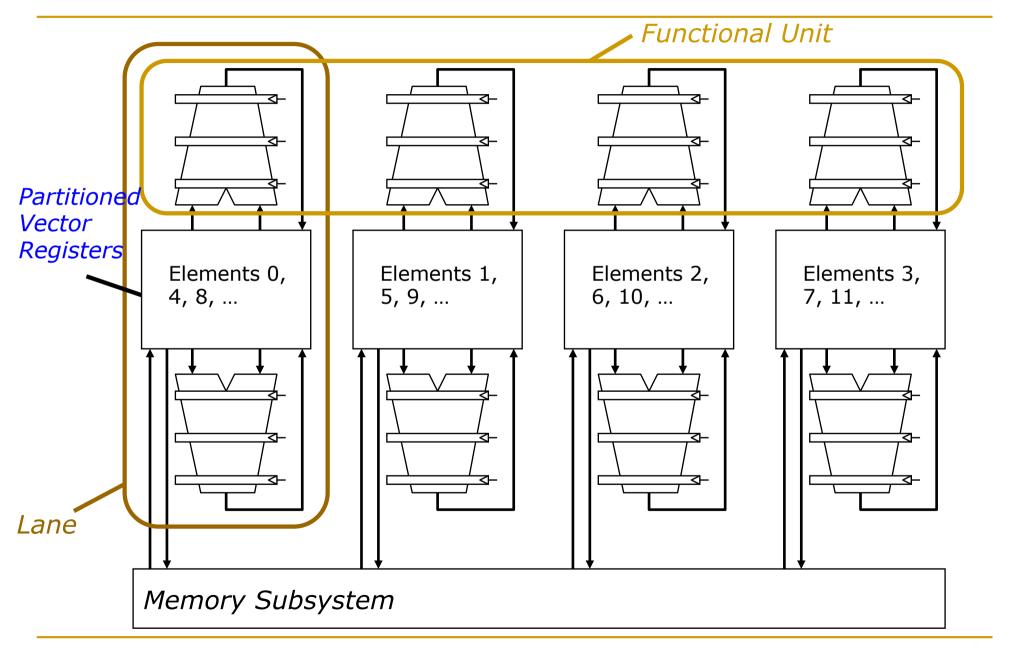


Vector Instruction Execution



Slide credit: Krste Asanovic 52

Vector Unit Structure

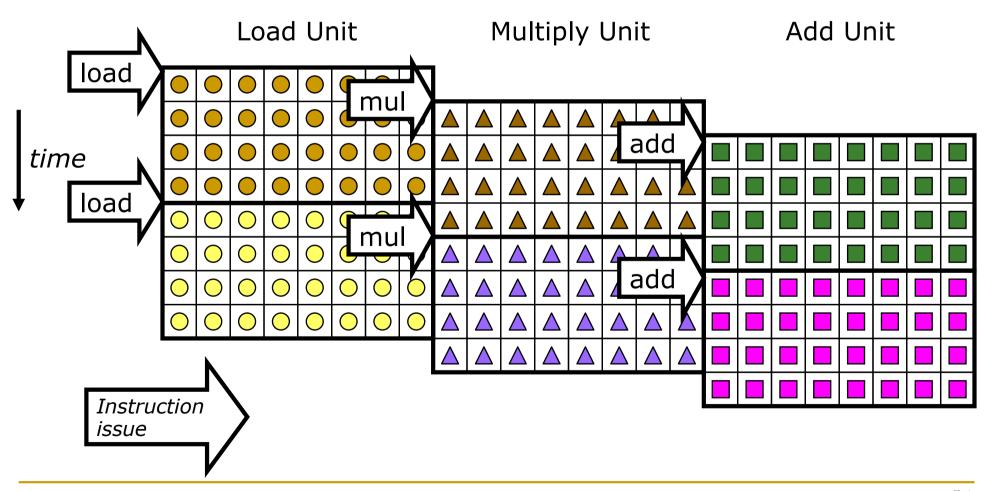


Slide credit: Krste Asanovic 53

Vector Instruction Level Parallelism

Can overlap execution of multiple vector instructions

- Example machine has 32 elements per vector register and 8 lanes
- Completes 24 operations/cycle while issuing 1 vector instruction/cycle

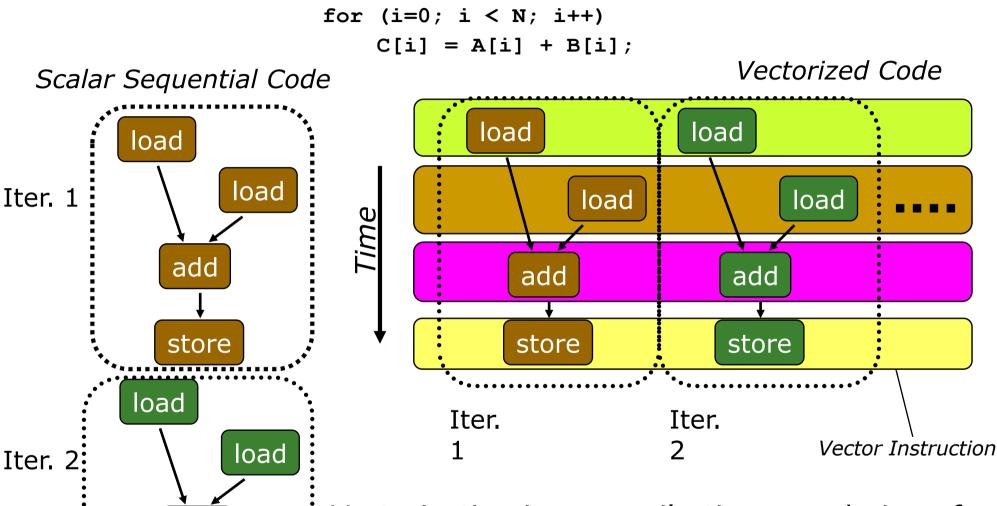


Slide credit: Krste Asanovic 54

Automatic Code Vectorization

add

store



Vectorization is a compile-time reordering of operation sequencing

⇒ requires extensive loop dependence analysis

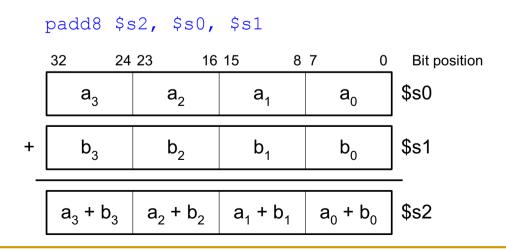
Vector/SIMD Processing Summary

- Vector/SIMD machines are good at exploiting regular datalevel parallelism
 - Same operation performed on many data elements
 - Improve performance, simplify design (no intra-vector dependencies)
- Performance improvement limited by vectorizability of code
 - Scalar operations limit vector machine performance
 - Remember Amdahl's Law
 - CRAY-1 was the fastest SCALAR machine at its time!
- Many existing ISAs include (vector-like) SIMD operations
 - Intel MMX/SSEn/AVX, PowerPC AltiVec, ARM Advanced SIMD

SIMD Operations in Modern ISAs

SIMD ISA Extensions

- Single Instruction Multiple Data (SIMD) extension instructions
 - Single instruction acts on multiple pieces of data at once
 - Common application: graphics
 - Perform short arithmetic operations (also called packed arithmetic)
- For example: add four 8-bit numbers
- Must modify ALU to eliminate carries between 8-bit values



Intel Pentium MMX Operations

- Idea: One instruction operates on multiple data elements simultaneously
 - À la array processing (yet much more limited)
 - Designed with multimedia (graphics) operations in mind

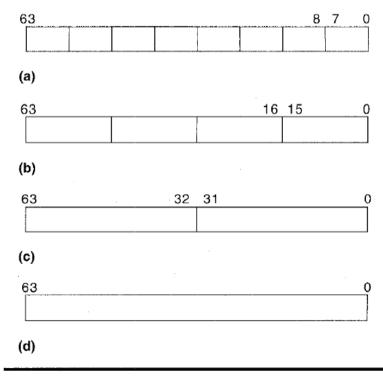


Figure 1. MMX technology data types: packed byte (a), packed word (b), packed doubleword (c), and quadword (d).

No VLEN register

Opcode determines data type:

8 8-bit bytes

4 16-bit words

2 32-bit doublewords

1 64-bit quadword

Stride is always equal to 1.

Peleg and Weiser, "MMX Technology Extension to the Intel Architecture," IEEE Micro, 1996.

MMX Example: Image Overlaying (I)

Goal: Overlay the human in image 1 on top of the background in image 2

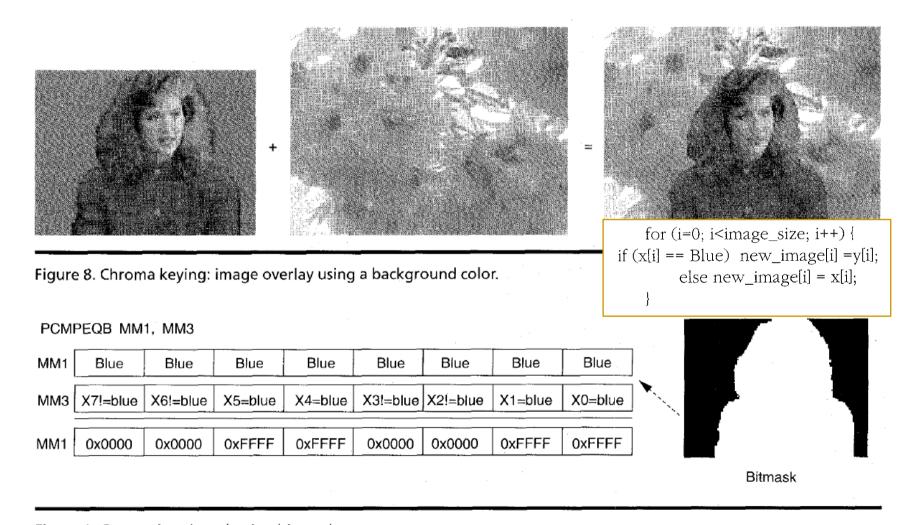


Figure 9. Generating the selection bit mask.

MMX Example: Image Overlaying (II)

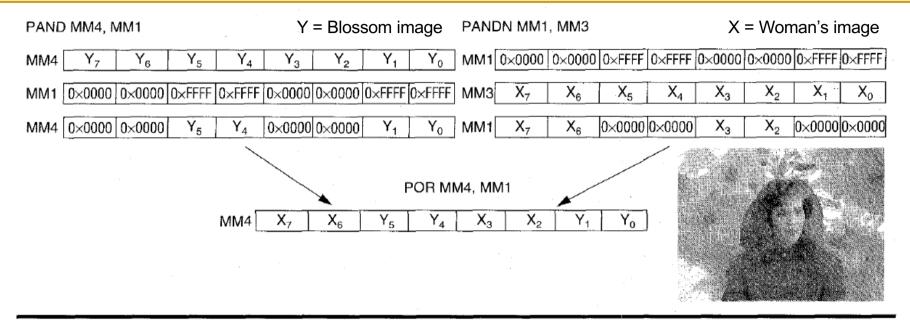


Figure 10. Using the mask with logical MMX instructions to perform a conditional select.

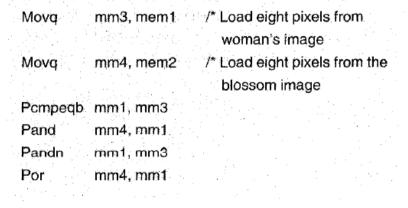


Figure 11. MMX code sequence for performing a conditional select.

Design of Digital Circuits

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