Digital Design & Computer Arch.

Lecture 19c: Decoupled Access-Execute

Prof. Onur Mutlu

ETH Zürich

Spring 2022

6 May 2022

Approaches to (Instruction-Level) Concurrency

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

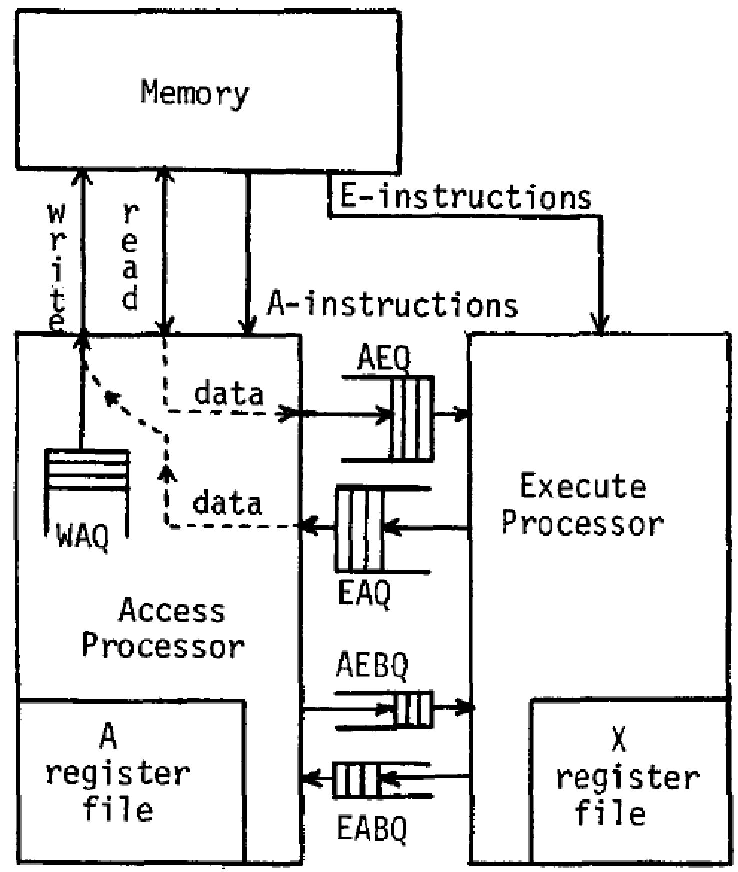
Decoupled Access/Execute (DAE)

Decoupled Access/Execute (DAE)

- Motivation: Tomasulo's algorithm too complex to implement
  - 1980s before Pentium Pro

- Idea: Decouple operand access and execution via two separate instruction streams that communicate via ISA-visible queues.

- Smith, "Decoupled Access/Execute Computer Architectures," ISCA 1982, ACM TOCS 1984.



Decoupled Access/Execute (II)

- Compiler generates two instruction streams (A and E)
  - Synchronizes the two upon control flow instructions (using branch queues)

```
      q = 0.0
      Do 1  k = 1, 400
1     x(k) = q + y(k) * (r * z(k+10) + t * z(k+11))
```

Fig. 2a. Lawrence Livermore Loop 1 (HYDRO EXCERPT)

```
       A7 ← -400             . negative loop count
       A2 ← 0                . initialize index
       A3 ← 1                . index increment
       X2 ← r                . load loop invariants
       X5 ← t                . into registers
loop:  X3 ← z + 10, A2       . load z(k+10)
       X7 ← z + 11, A2       . load z(k+11)
       X4 ← X2 *f X3         . r*z(k+10)-flt. mult.
       X3 ← X5 *f X7         . t * z(k+11)
       X7 ←  y, A2           . load y(k)
       X6 ← X3 +f X4         . r*z(x+10)+t*z(k+11))
       X4 ← X7 *f X6         . y(k) * (above)
       A7 ← A7 + 1           . increment loop counter
       x, A2 ← X4            . store into x(k)
       A2 ← A2 + A3          . increment index
       JAM  loop             . Branch if A7 < 0
```

Fig. 2b. Compilation onto CRAY-1-like architecture

```
        Access                     Execute
          .
          .

          .
AEQ ← z + 10, A2             X4 ← X2 *f AEQ
AEQ ← z + 11, A2             X3 ← X5 *f AEQ
AEQ ← y, A2                  X6 ← X3 +f X4
A7 ← A7 + 1                 EAQ ← AEQ *f X6
x, A2 ← EAQ                              .
A2  ← A2+ A3                             .
          .                              .
          .
          .
```

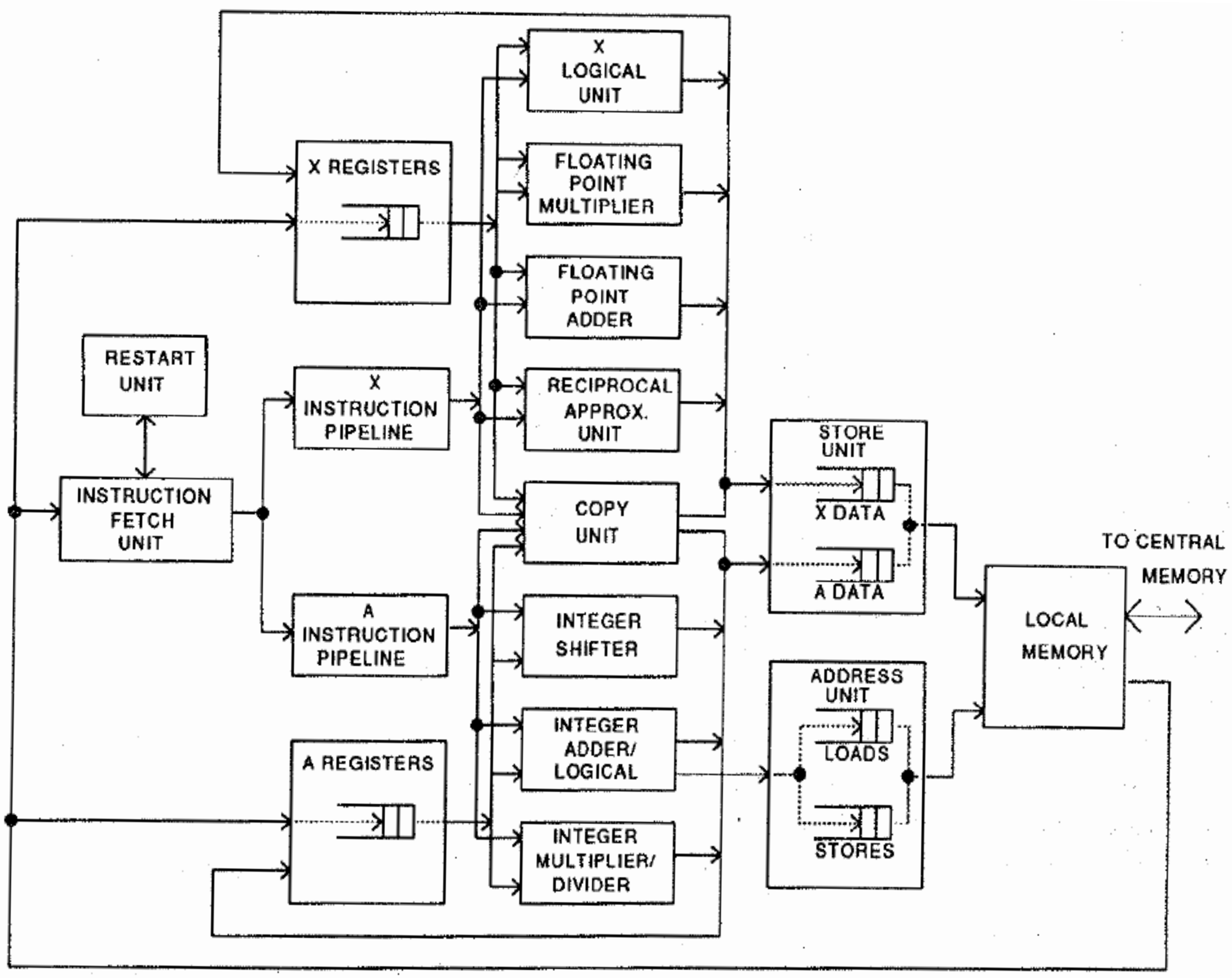
Fig. 2c. Access and execute programs for straight-line section of loop

Decoupled Access/Execute (III)

- Advantages:
  + Execute stream can run ahead of the access stream and vice versa
    + If A is waiting for memory, E can perform useful work
    + If A hits in cache, it supplies data to lagging E
    + Queues reduce the number of required registers
  + Limited out-of-order execution without wakeup/select complexity

- Disadvantages:
  -- Compiler support to partition the program and manage queues
    -- Determines the amount of decoupling
  -- Branch instructions require synchronization between A and E
  -- Multiple instruction streams (can be done with a single one, though)

Astronautics ZS-1



- Single stream steered into A and X pipelines
- Each pipeline in-order

- Smith et al., "The ZS-1 central processor," ASPLOS 1987.

- Smith, "Dynamic Instruction Scheduling and the Astronautics ZS-1," IEEE Computer 1989.

Loop Unrolling to Eliminate Branches

```
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++){

  A[i] = A[i] + B[i];

}
```

```
for (int i = 0; i < N; i+=4){

  A[i]   = A[i]   + B[i];
  A[i+1] = A[i+1] + B[i+1];
  A[i+2] = A[i+2] + B[i+2];
  A[i+3] = A[i+3] + B[i+3];

}
```

- Idea: Replicate loop body multiple times within an iteration

\+ Reduces loop maintenance overhead
- Induction variable increment or loop condition test

\+ Enlarges basic block (and analysis scope)
- Enables code optimization and scheduling opportunities

-- What if iteration count not a multiple of unroll factor? (need extra code to detect this)

-- Increases code size

A Modern DAE Example: Pentium 4

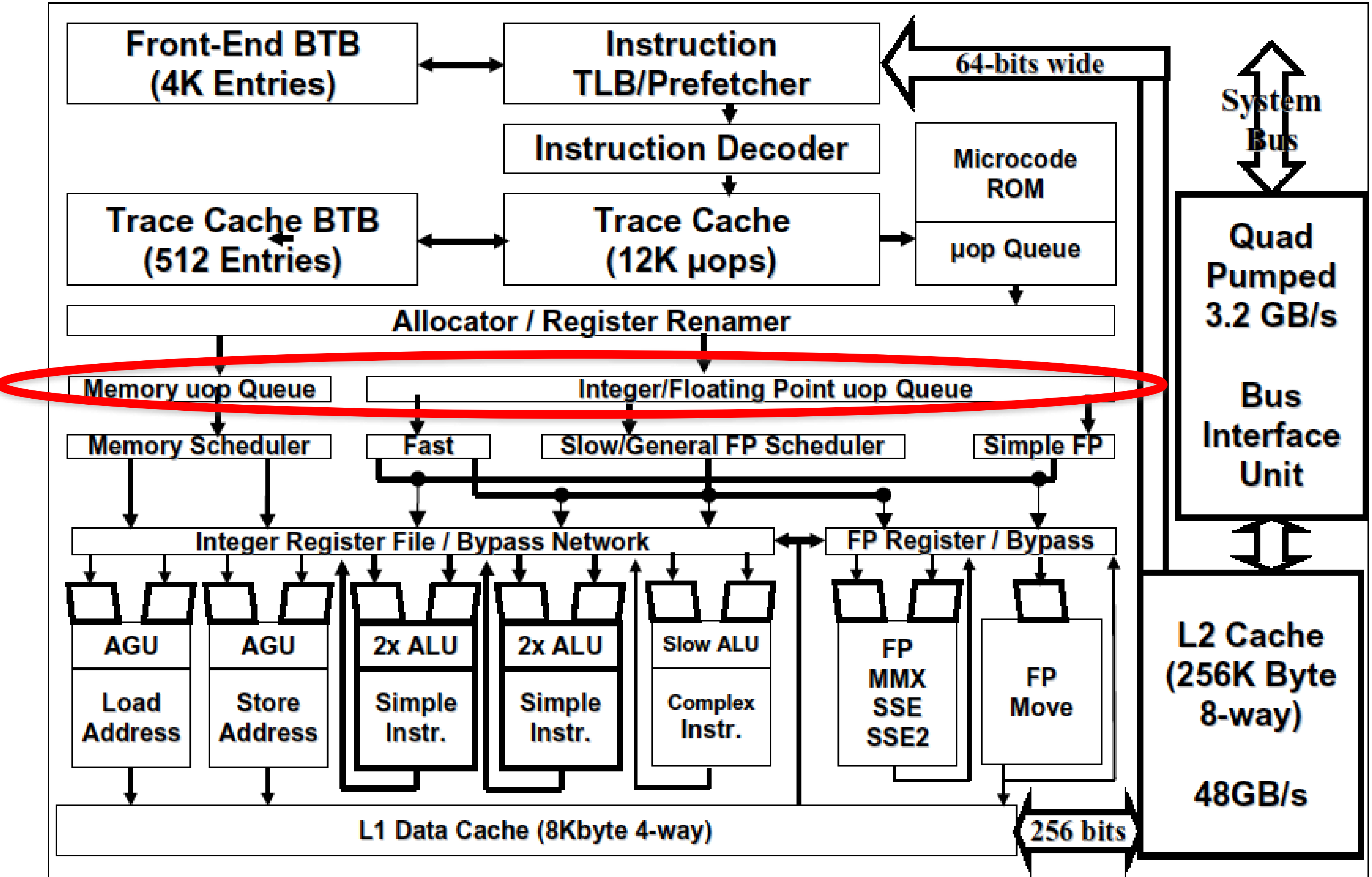
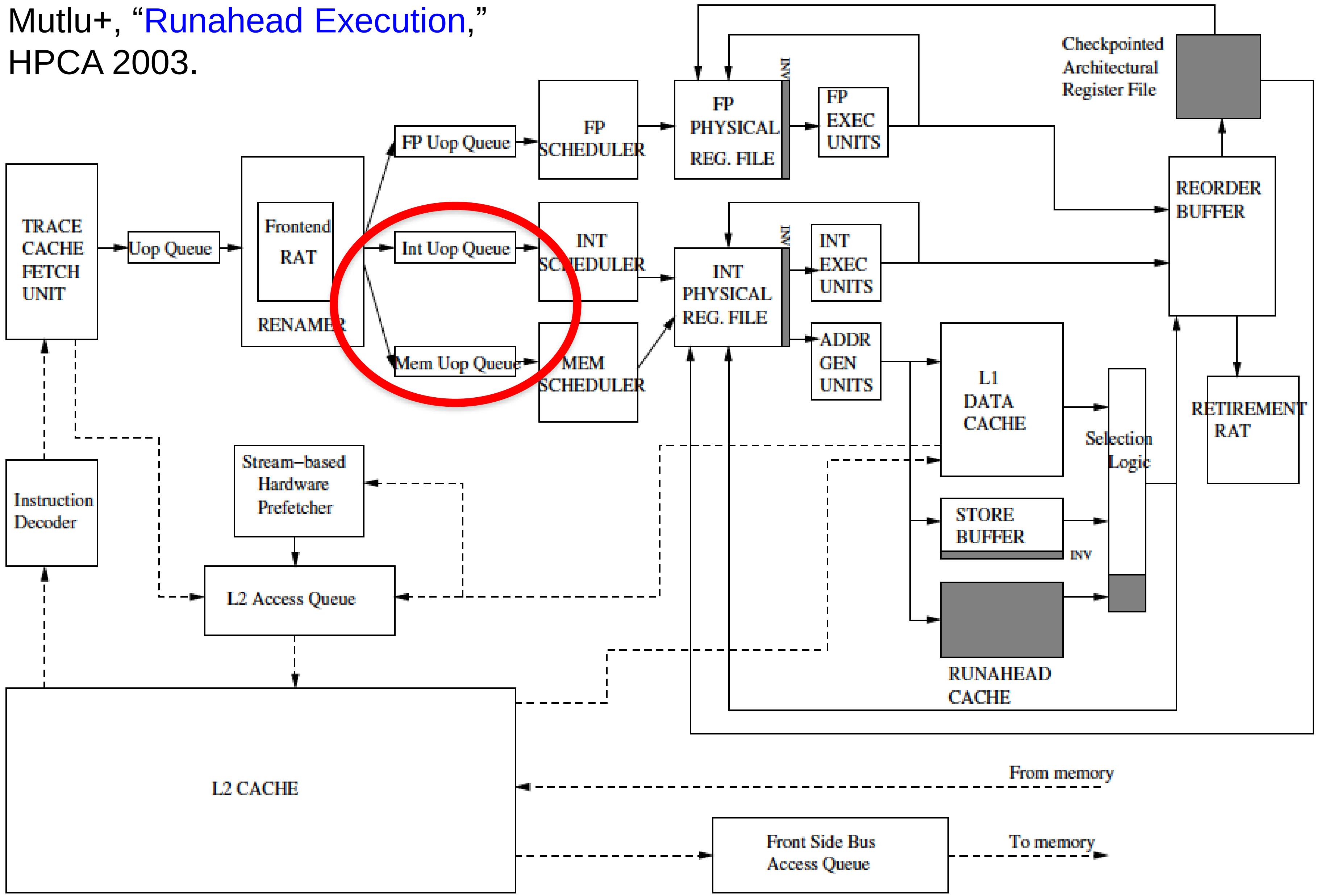


Figure 4: Pentium® 4 processor microarchitecture

Boggs et al., "The Microarchitecture of the Pentium 4 Processor," Intel Technology Journal, 2001.

Intel Pentium 4 Simplified

Mutlu+, "Runahead Execution," HPCA 2003.



Approaches to (Instruction-Level) Concurrency

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

Digital Design & Computer Arch.

Lecture 19c: Decoupled Access-Execute

Prof. Onur Mutlu

ETH Zürich

Spring 2022

6 May 2022