Performance

Kevin Walsh
CS 3410, Spring 2010
Computer Science
Cornell University

See: P&H 1.4

What to look for in a computer system?

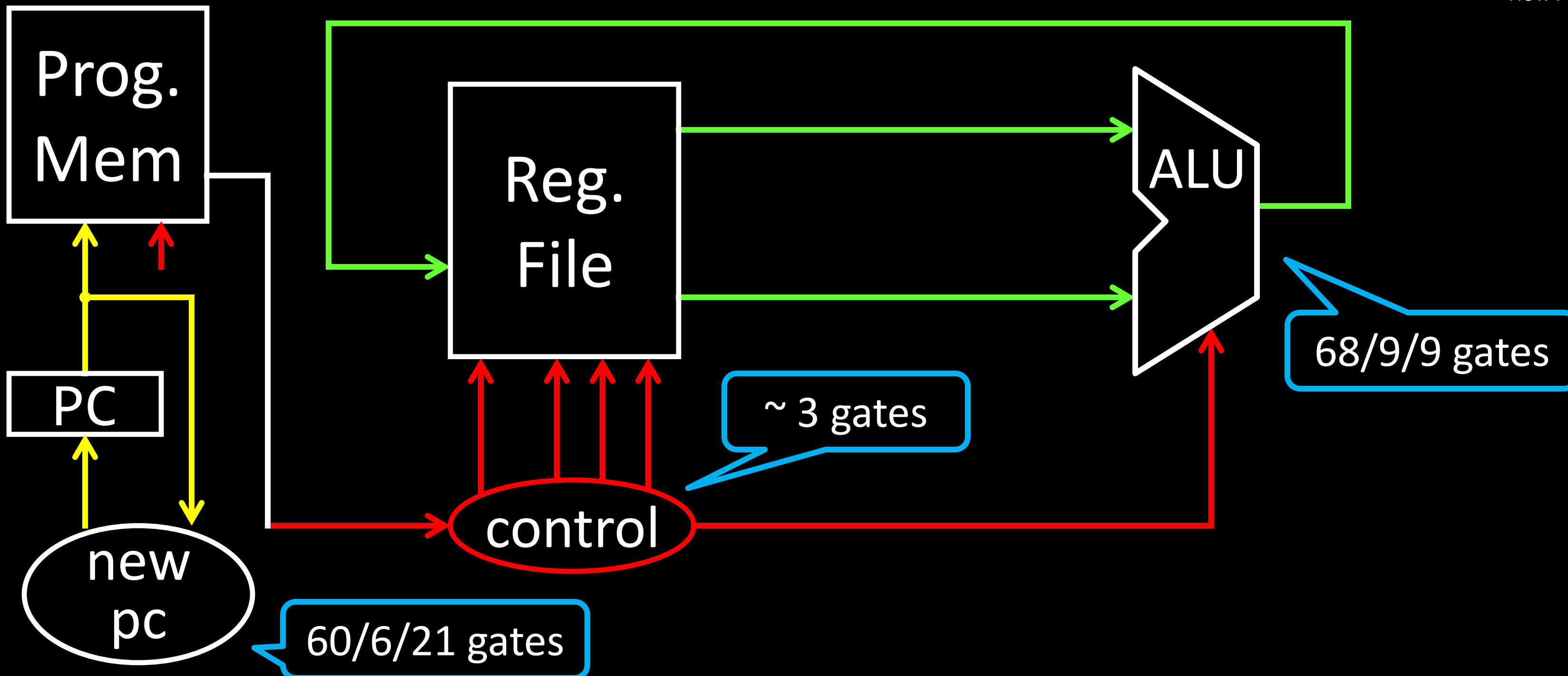
- Correctness: negotiable?
- Cost
  - purchase cost = f(silicon size = gate count, economics)
  - operating cost = f(energy, cooling)
  - operating cost >= purchase cost
- Efficiency
  - power = f(transistor usage, voltage, wire size, clock rate, …)
  - heat = f(power)
    - Intel Core i7 Bloomfield: 130 Watts
    - AMD Turion: 35 Watts
    - Intel Core 2 Solo: 5.5 Watts
- Performance
- Other: availability, size, greenness, features, …

How to measure performance?

- GHz (billions of cycles per second)
- MIPS (millions of instructions per second)
- MFLOPS (millions of floating point operations per second)
- benchmarks (SPEC, TPC, …)

Metrics

- latency: how long to finish my program
- throughput: how much work finished per unit time



Assumptions:

- alu: 32 bit ripple carry + some muxes
- next PC: 30 bit ripple carry
- control: minimized for delay
- program memory: 16 ns
- register file: 2 ns access
- ignore wires, register setup time
- transistors: 2 ns per gate

Better Still:

- next PC: cheapest adder faster than 21 gate delays

Better:

- alu: 32 bit carry lookahead + some muxes
- next PC: 30 bit carry lookahead

All signals are stable

80 gates = 160 ns; 21 gates = 42 ns

after clock edge

→ ~ 6 MHz; ~ 24MHz;

Note! 1 light ns = 1 ft

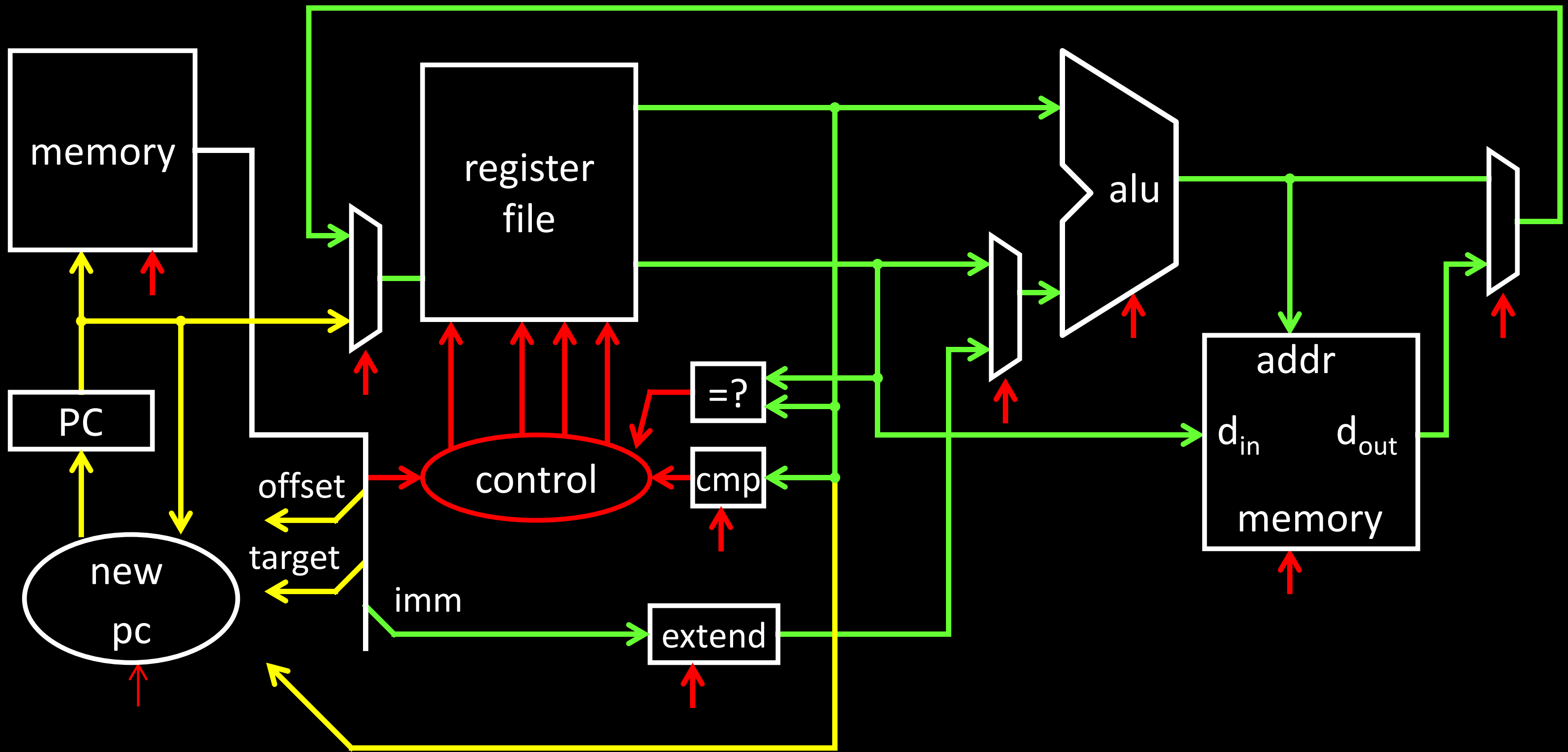
32 Bit Adder Design	Space	Time
Ripple Carry	≈ 300 gates	≈ 64 gate delays
2-Way Carry-Skip	≈ 360 gates	≈ 35 gate delays
3-Way Carry-Skip	≈ 500 gates	≈ 22 gate delays
4-Way Carry-Skip	≈ 600 gates	≈ 18 gate delays
2-Way Look-Ahead	≈ 550 gates	≈ 16 gate delays
Split Look-Ahead	≈ 800 gates	≈ 10 gate delays
Full Look-Ahead	≈ 1200 gates	≈ 5 gate delays

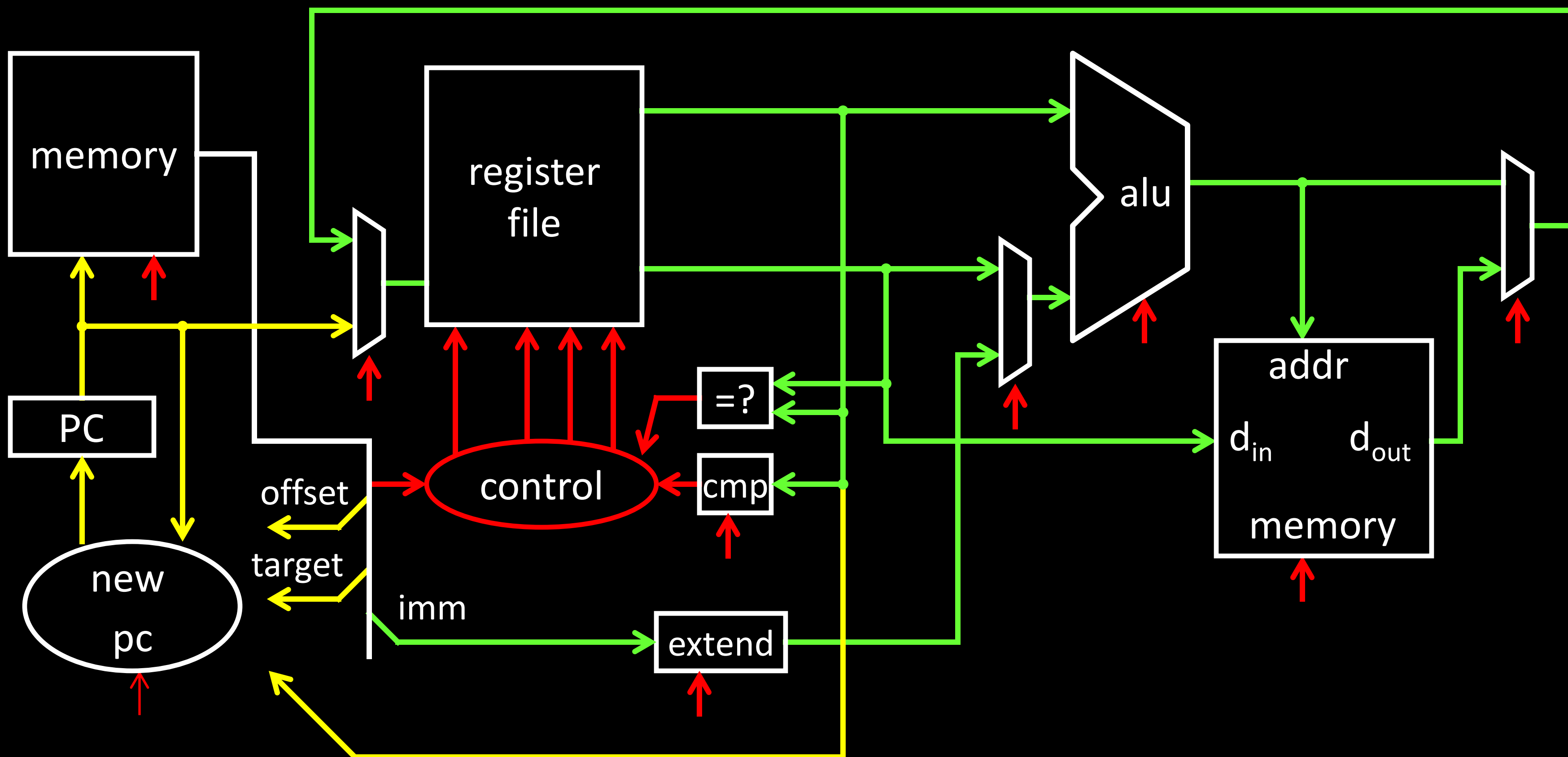
Critical Path

- Longest path from a register output to a register input
- Determines minimum cycle, maximum clock frequency

Strategy 1

- Optimize for delay on the critical path
- Optimize for size / power / simplicity elsewhere


memory
register
file
alu
PC
=?
cmp
control
offset
target
imm
new
pc
extend
addr
d_{in}
d_{out}
memory


memory
register
file
alu
PC
=?
cmp
control
addr
d_{in}
d_{out}
memory
offset
target
imm
extend
new
pc

Strategy 2

- Multiple cycles to complete a single instruction

E.g: Assume:

- load/store: 100 ns
- arithmetic: 50 ns
- branches: 33 ns

Multi-Cycle CPU

30 MHz (33 ns cycle) with

- 3 cycles per load/store
- 2 cycles per arithmetic
- 1 cycle per branch

Faster than Single-Cycle CPU?

10 MHz (100 ns cycle) with

- 1 cycle per instruction

Instruction mix for some program P, assume:

- 25% load/store (3 cycles / instruction)
- 60% arithmetic (2 cycles / instruction)
- 15% branches (1 cycle / instruction)

Multi-Cycle performance for program P:

3 * .25 + 2 * .60 + 1 * .15 = 2.1

average *cycles per instruction* (CPI) = 2.1

Multi-Cycle @ 30 MHz
Single-Cycle @ 10 MHz
Single-Cycle @ 15 MHz

800 MHz PIII "faster" than 1 GHz P4

Goal:

Make P run 2x faster via faster arithmetic instructions

Instruction mix (for P):

- 25% load/store, CPI = 3
- 60% arithmetic, CPI = 2
- 15% branches, CPI = 1

Amdahl’s Law

Execution time after improvement =

$$\frac{\text{execution time affected by improvement}}{\text{amount of improvement}} + \text{execution time unaffected}$$

Or:

Speedup is limited by popularity of improved feature

Corollary:

Make the common case fast

Caveat:

Law of diminishing returns