

CS152 Section 7

Q1. VLIW and Software Pipelining

Consider the following loop which computes a dot product:

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

A and B are arrays of double-precision floating-point numbers. The result is accumulated into C.

The code is compiled into the following assembly. x1 and x2 are initialized to the base addresses of arrays A and B, respectively. x3 contains a pointer to the end of array A. f0 holds C.

```
loop:  
    fld f1, 0(x1)  
    fld f2, 0(x2)  
    fmul f3, f1, f2  
    fadd f0, f0, f3  
    addi x1, x1, 8  
    addi x2, x2, 8  
    bne x1, x3, loop
```


Q2: Branch Prediction

Consider the following code:

```

for (int i = 0; i < 4; i++)          // BRANCH_A
  for (int j = 0; j < 4; j++)      // BRANCH_B
    if (j % 2)                     // BRANCH_C
      sum += i

      li x4, 4
      li x1, 0
loop1:
  li x2, 0
loop2:
  andi x5, x2, 0x1
  beqz x5, skip                    // BRANCH_C
  add x3, x3, x1
skip:
  addi x2, x2, 1
  bne x2, x4, loop2                // BRANCH_B
  addi x1, x1, 1
  bne x1, x4, loop1                // BRANCH_A

```

Q2.1: Bimodal Counters

Assume a BHT that is indexed by PC, where the PCs of these branches do not alias to the same entry.

What is the branch prediction accuracy for each branch if the BHT uses 1-bit counters? The counters are initialized to 0 (not taken).

What is the branch prediction accuracy for each branch if the BHT uses 2-bit counters? The counters are initialized to 00 (strongly not taken).

Q2.2: Two-level Predictors

At least how many bits of local branch history are required to perfectly predict each branch?

At least how many bits of global branch history are required to perfectly predict each branch?