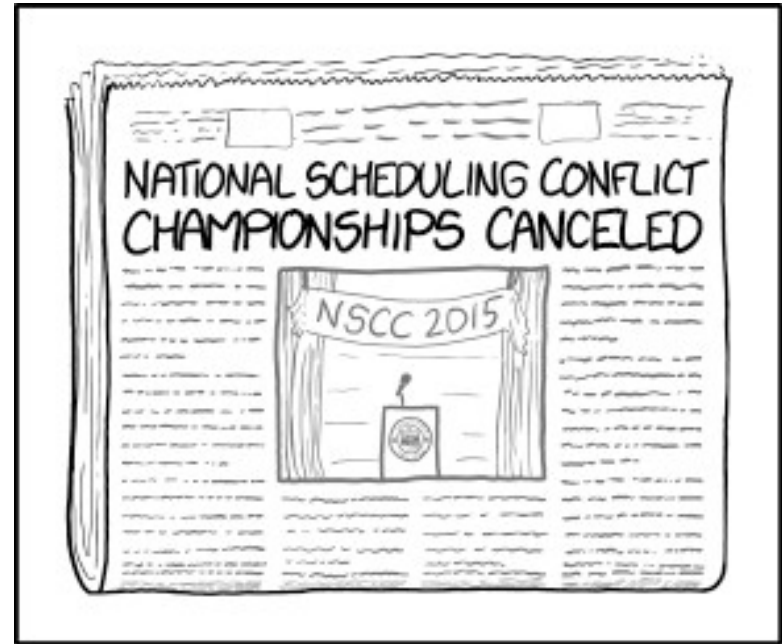


CS 432 Fall 2025

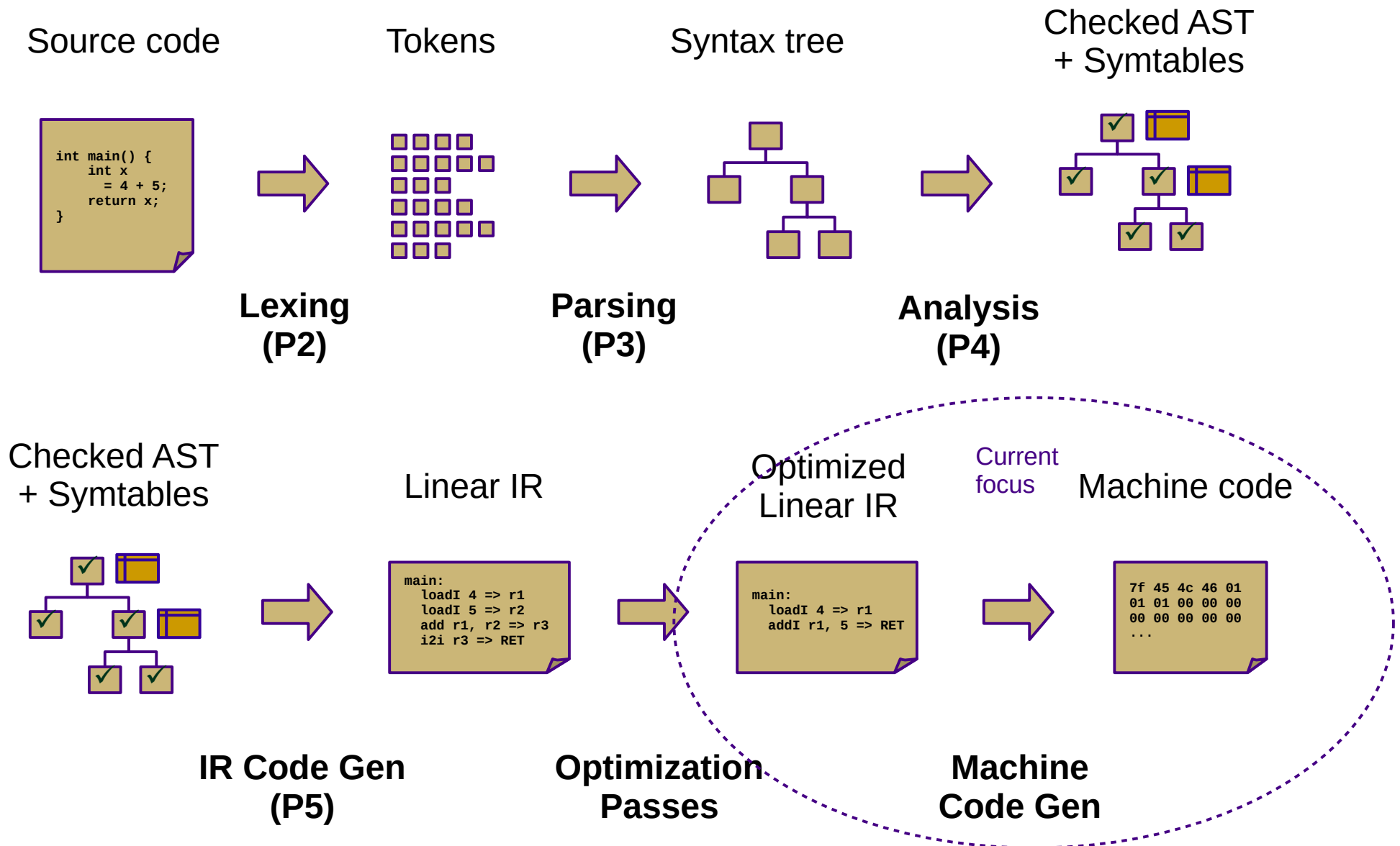
Mike Lam, Professor



<https://xkcd.com/1542/>

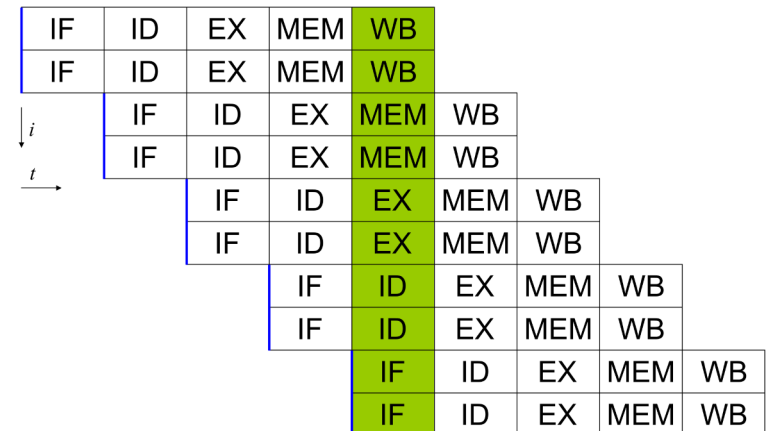
List Scheduling

Compilers



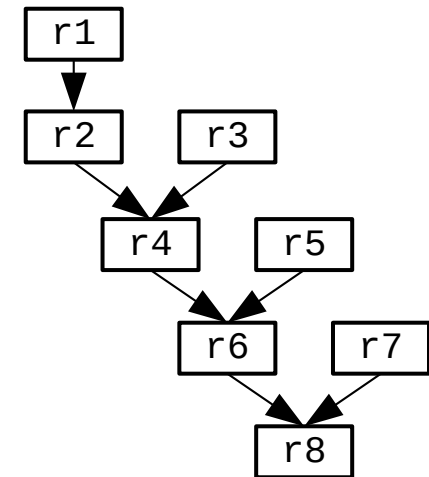
Instruction Scheduling

- Modern architectures expose many opportunities for optimization
 - Some instructions require fewer cycles
 - **Superscalar** processing (multiple functional units)
 - Instruction pipelining
 - Speculative execution
- Primary obstacle: **data dependencies**
 - A **stall** is a delay caused by having to wait for an operand to load
- **Scheduling**: re-order instructions to improve performance
 - Maximize utilization and prevent stalls
 - Must not modify program semantics
 - Main algorithm: **list scheduling**



Example

- Which program is preferable?
- Assumptions:
 - Loads and stores have a 3-cycle latency
 - Multiplications have a 2-cycle latency
 - All other instructions have a 1-cycle latency



```
1  loadAI [BP-4] => r1
4  add r1, r1 => r2
5  loadAI [BP-8] => r3
8  mult r2, r3 => r4
9  loadAI [BP-12] => r5
12 mult r4, r5 => r6
13 loadAI [BP-16] => r7
16 mult r6, r7 => r8
18 store AI r8 => [BP-20]
```

```
1  loadAI [BP-4] => r1
2  loadAI [BP-8] => r3
3  loadAI [BP-12] => r5
4  add r1, r1 => r2
5  mult r2, r3 => r4
6  loadAI [BP-16] => r7
7  mult r4, r5 => r6
9  mult r6, r7 => r8
11 store AI r8 => [BP-20]
```

Schedules

- A **schedule** is a list of instructions in **start/issue** order
 - Sometimes with “idle” cycles (no new instructions) marked with “-”
 - Example: “a, b, -, c, -, -” means “start instruction a on cycle one, b on cycle two, nothing on cycle three, c on cycle four, and then wait two more cycles for everything to finish”

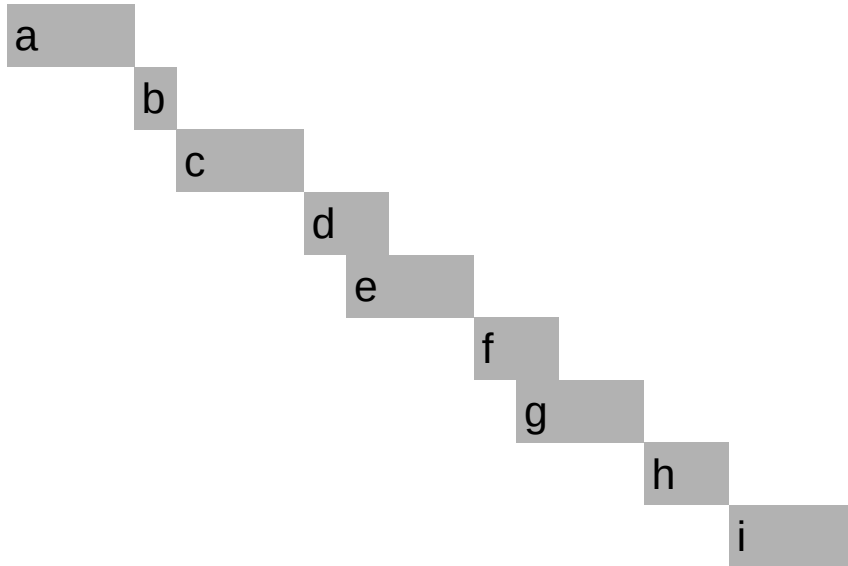
```
1  a) loadAI [BP-4] => r1
4  b) add r1, r1 => r2
5  c) loadAI [BP-8] => r3
8  d) mult r2, r3 => r4
9  e) loadAI [BP-12] => r5
12 f) mult r4, r5 => r6
13 g) loadAI [BP-16] => r7
16 h) mult r6, r7 => r8
18 i) storeAI r8 => [BP-20]
```

a, -, -, b, c, -, -, d, e, -, -,
f, g, -, -, h, -, i, -, -

```
1  a) loadAI [BP-4] => r1
2  c) loadAI [BP-8] => r3
3  e) loadAI [BP-12] => r5
4  b) add r1, r1 => r2
5  d) mult r2, r3 => r4
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a, c, e, b, d, g, f, -, h, -, i, -, -

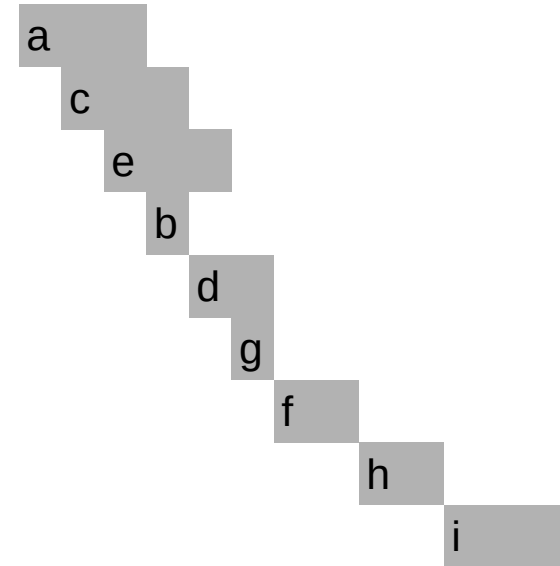
Schedules



```

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```

a, -, -, b, c, -, -, d, e, -, -, f, g, -, -, h, -, i, -, -



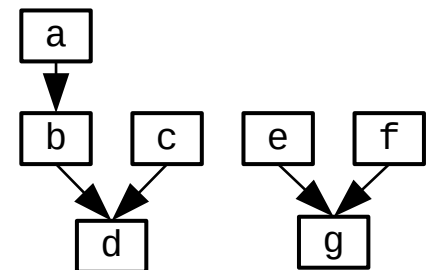
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```

a, c, e, b, d, g, f, -, h, -, i, -, -

Data Dependence

- **Data dependency** ($x = _;$ $_ = x$)
 - Read after write
 - Hard constraint
- **Antidependency** ($_ = x;$ $x = _$)
 - Write after read (not generally present in SSA form)
 - Can rename second “x” to avoid (could require more register spills)
- **Dependency graph**
 - One for each basic block
 - Could have multiple roots; technically a **forest** of **directed acyclic graphs (DAGs)**
 - Nodes for each instruction
 - Edges represent data dependencies
 - Edge (n_1, n_2) means that n_1 must be done when n_2 runs



List Scheduling

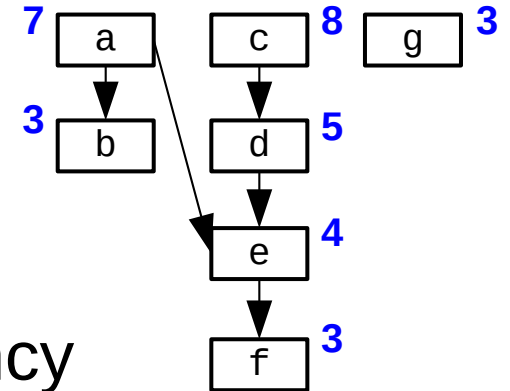
- Prep work
 - Rename to avoid antidependencies
 - Build data dependence graph
 - Assign priority for each instruction
 - Usually based on node height and instruction **latency**
 - Priority of a leaf node is its latency
 - Priority of a branch node is its latency plus the maximum priority of any immediate successor
 - Goal: prioritize instructions on the **critical path**
 - Longest-latency path through the graph

List Scheduling

- Track a set of "ready" instructions
 - No remaining unresolved data dependencies; i.e., can be scheduled
- For each cycle:
 - Check all currently executing instructions for any that have finished
 - Add any new "ready" dependents to set
 - Start executing a new "ready" instruction (if there are any)
 - Greedy algorithm: if multiple instructions are ready, choose the one with the highest priority
 - Helps to note the cycle where the instruction will finish

Example

- Schedule the following code:
 - Loads and stores have a 3-cycle latency
 - Multiplications have a 2-cycle latency
 - All other instructions have a 1-cycle latency



[1] a) loadAI [BP-4] => r2
 [4] b) storeAI r2 => [BP-8]
 [5] c) loadAI [BP-12] => r3
 [8] d) add r3, r4 => r3
 [9] e) add r3, r2 => r3
 [10] f) storeAI r3 => [BP-16]
 [11] g) storeAI r7 => [BP-20]

CYCLE	READY	START	[DONE]	DONE
[1]	a, c, g	c [3]		
[2]	a, g	a [4]		
[3]	g	g [5]		c
[4]	d	d [4]		a, d
[5]	b, e	e [5]		e, g
[6]	b, f	b [8]		
[7]	f	f [9]		
[8]	-	-		b
[9]	-	-		f

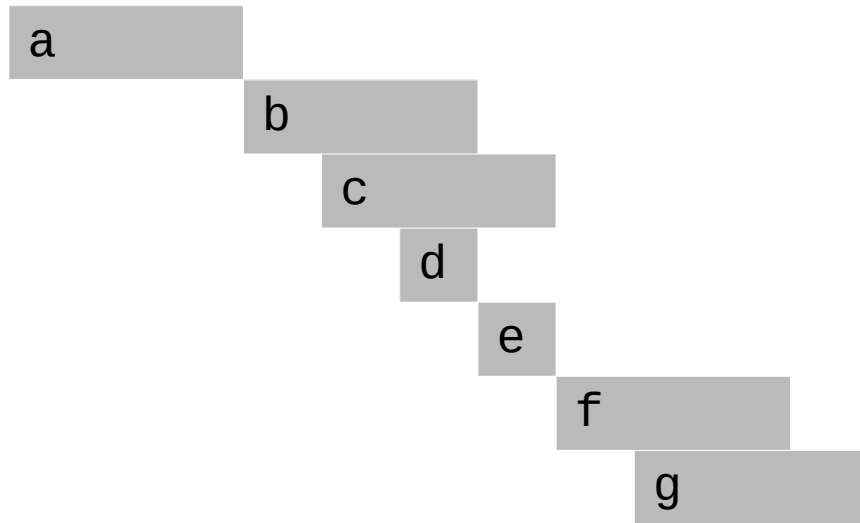
Original schedule:

a, -, -, b, c, -, -, d, e, f, g, -, -
(13 cycles)

New schedule:

c, a, g, d, e, b, f, -, - (9 cycles)

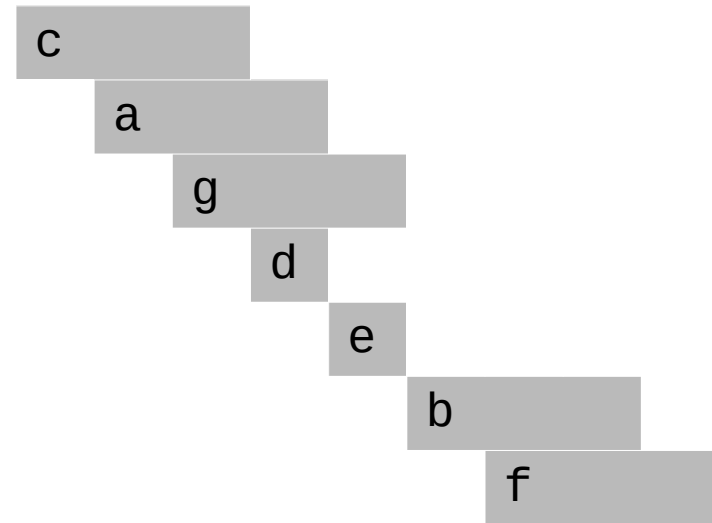
Example



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 (13 cycles)



CYCLE	READY	START	[DONE]	DONE
[1]	a, c, g	c [3]		
[2]	a, g	a [4]		
[3]	g	g [5]		c
[4]	d	d [4]		a, d
[5]	b, e	e [5]		e, g
[6]	b, f	b [8]		
[7]	f	f [9]		
[8]				b
[9]				f

New schedule:

c, a, g, d, e, b, f, -, - (9 cycles)

Instruction Priorities

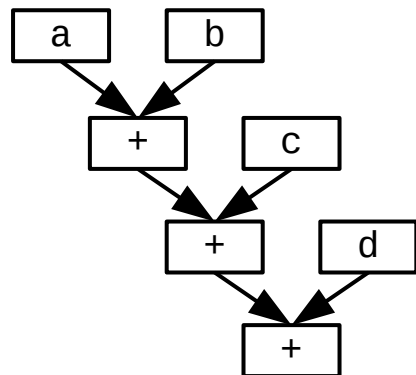
- Usually based on node height and latency first
 - Minimizes critical path
- Many methods for tie-breaking
 - Node's rank (# of successors; breadth-first search)
 - Node's descendant count
 - Latency (maximize resource efficiency)
 - Resource ordering (maximize resource efficiency)
 - Source code ordering (minimize reordering)
 - **No clear winner here!**

Tradeoffs

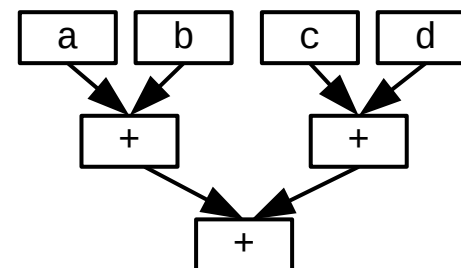
- **Forward** vs. **backward** list scheduling
 - Backward scheduling: build schedule in reverse
 - Choose last instruction on critical path first
 - Schedule from roots to leaves instead of leaves to roots
 - Similar to backward data flow analysis
 - List scheduling is cheap; just run several variants to see which works better for particular code segments

Tradeoffs

- Instruction scheduling vs. register allocation
 - Fewer registers → more sequential code
 - More registers → more possibilities for parallelism
 - Scheduling can also impact number of spills/loads



Fewer registers required (2)
More sequential (max latency = 6)



More registers required (3)
Less sequential (max latency = 5)

Regional scheduling

- Usually based on local list scheduling
- Extended using various techniques
 - Analyze **extended basic blocks** (chains of basic blocks)
 - Detect **hot traces** or **paths** using profile information
 - Sometimes need to insert **compensation code**
 - Sometimes need to clone entire blocks
- Particularly important for loops
 - Focus on core **kernel** of the loop
 - Constrained by **loop-carried dependencies**

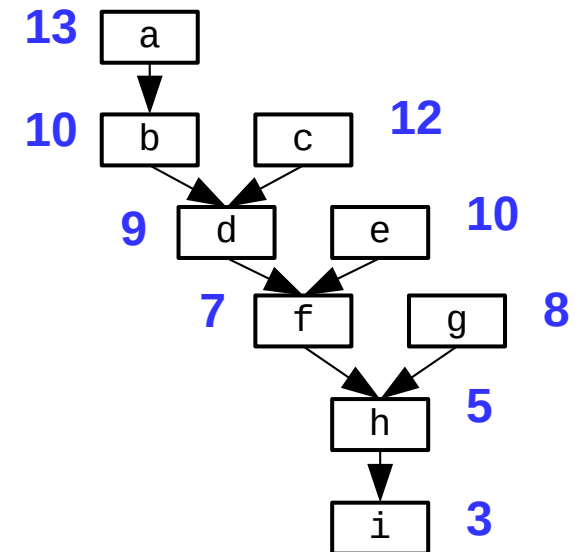
Exercise

- Schedule this program from earlier
- Assumptions:
 - Loads and stores have a 3-cycle latency
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h) mult r6, r7 => r8
i) storeAI r8 => [BP-20]
    
```

<u>CYC</u>	<u>RDY</u>
1	a, c, e, g
2	c, e, g
3	e, g
4	b, g
5	d, g
6	g
7	f
8	
9	h
10	
11	i
12	
13	

<u>START</u>	<u>[DONE]</u>	<u>DONE</u>
a	[3]	
c	[4]	
e	[5]	a
b	[4]	b, c
d	[6]	e
g	[8]	d
f	[8]	
-		f, g
h	[10]	
-		h
i	[13]	
-		
-		i

List Scheduling Overview

- Build data dependence graph
- Assign priority for each instruction
 - Based on node height and instruction **latency**
 - Priority of a leaf node is its latency
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- Track a set of "ready" instructions
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