

EE382V-ICS: System-on-a-Chip (SoC) Design

Lecture 11 – Scheduling

Source: G. De Micheli, *Integrated Systems Center, EPFL*
“Synthesis and Optimization of Digital Circuits”, McGraw Hill, 2001.

Additional sources:

Notes by Kia Bazargan, <http://www.ece.umn.edu/users/kia/Courses/EE5301>
Notes by Rajesh Gupta, UCSD, <http://www.cecs.uci.edu/~rgupta/ics280.html>

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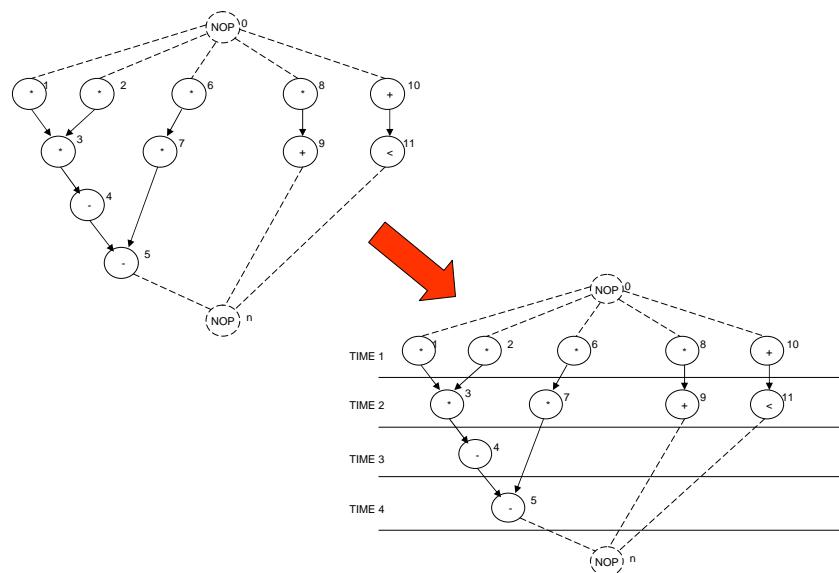

Lecture 11: Outline

- **The scheduling problem**
 - Case analysis
- **Unconstrained scheduling**
 - ASAP and ALAP schedules
- **Resource constrained (RC) scheduling**
 - List scheduling
- **Time constrained (TC) scheduling**
 - Force-directed scheduling
- **Advanced scheduling problems**
 - Chaining
 - Pipelining

Scheduling

- **Circuit model:**
 - Sequencing graph
 - Cycle-time is given
 - Operation delays expressed in cycles
- **Scheduling:**
 - Determine the start times for the operations
 - Satisfying all the sequencing (timing and resource) constraint
- **Goal:**
 - Determine *area/latency* trade-off

Example



Operation Scheduling

- **Input:**
 - Sequencing graph $G(V, E)$, with n vertices
 - Cycle time τ
 - Operation delays $D = \{d_i; i=0..n\}$
- **Output:**
 - Schedule ϕ determines start time t_i of operation v_i
 - Latency $\lambda = t_n - t_0$
- **Goal: determine area / latency tradeoff**
- **Classes:**
 - Non-hierarchical and unconstrained
 - Latency constrained
 - Resource constrained
 - Hierarchical

Simplest Method

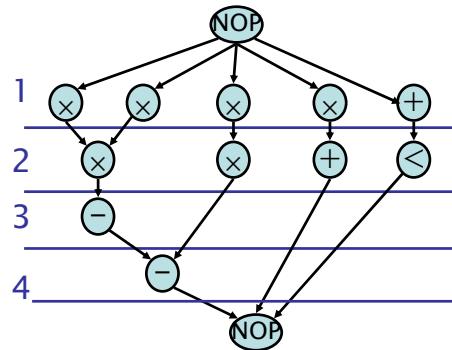
- **All operations have bounded delays**
- **All delays are in cycles:**
 - Cycle-time is given
- **No constraints – no bounds on area**
- **Goal:**
 - Minimize latency

Min Latency Unconstrained Scheduling

- Simplest case: no constraints, find min latency
 - Given set of vertices V , delays D and a partial order $>$ on operations E ,
 - find an integer labeling of operations $\phi: V \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that:
 - $t_i = \phi(v_i)$
 - $t_i \geq t_j + d_j \quad \forall (v_j, v_i) \in E$
 - and $\lambda = t_n - t_0$ is minimum
- Solvable in polynomial time
- Bounds on latency for resource constrained problems
 - ASAP algorithm used: topological order

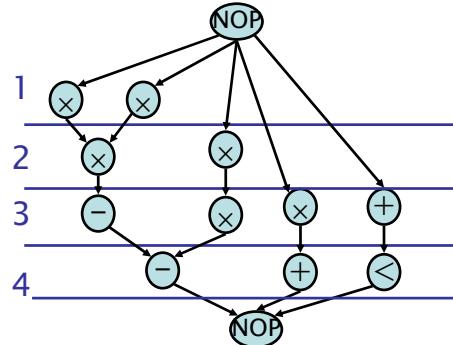
ASAP Schedules

- Schedule v_0 at $t_0=0$
- While (v_n not scheduled)
 - Select v_i with all scheduled predecessors
 - Schedule v_i at $t_i = \max \{t_j + d_j\}$, v_j being a predecessor of v_i
- Return t_n



ALAP Schedules

- Schedule v_n at $t_n=l$
- While (v_0 not scheduled)
 - Select v_i with all scheduled successors
 - Schedule v_i at $t_i = \min \{t_j - d_j\}$, v_j being a successor of v_i



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Remarks

- **ALAP solves a latency-constrained problem**
 - Latency bound can be set to latency computed by ASAP algorithm
- **Mobility**
 - Defined for each operation
 - Difference between ALAP and ASAP schedule
 - Slack on the start time

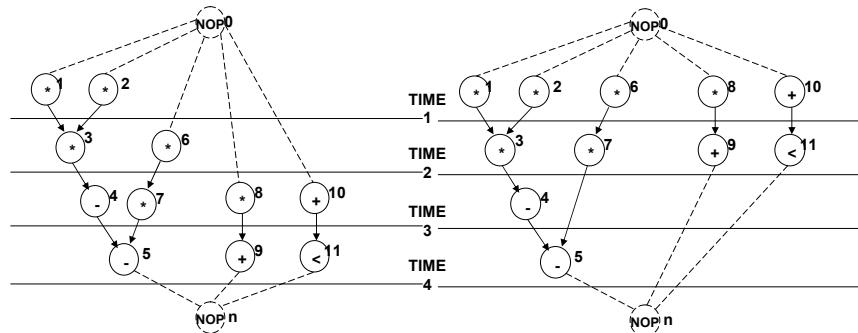
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Example

- Operations with zero mobility:
 - $\{ v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5 \}$
 - Critical path
- Operations with mobility one:
 - $\{ v_6, v_7 \}$
- Operations with mobility two:
 - $\{ v_8, v_9, v_{10}, v_{11} \}$



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Lecture 11: Outline

- ✓ The scheduling problem
- ✓ Unconstrained scheduling
- Resource constrained (RC) scheduling
 - Exact formulations
 - ILP
 - Hu's algorithm
 - Heuristic methods
 - List scheduling
- Time constrained (TC) scheduling
- Advanced scheduling problems

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Scheduling under Resource Constraints

- **Classical scheduling problem**
 - Fix area bound – minimize latency (ML-RCS)
 - Minimum latency resource constrained scheduling
 - The amount of available resources affects the achievable latency
- **Dual problem:**
 - Fix latency bound – minimize resources (MR-LCS)
 - Minimum resources latency constrained scheduling
- **Assumption:**
 - All delays bounded and known

ML-RCS

- **Given**
 - a set of ops V with integer delays D
 - a partial order on the operations E
 - upper bounds $\{a_k; k = 1, 2, \dots, n_{res}\}$ on resource usage
- **Find an integer labeling $\phi: V \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that:**
 - $t_i = \phi(v_i)$,
 - $t_i \geq t_j + d_j$ for all i, j s.t. $(v_j, v_i) \in E$,
 - $|\{v_i | T(v_i) = k \text{ and } t_i \leq l < t_j + d_j\}| \leq a_k$
 - for all types $k = 1, 2, \dots, n_{res}$ and steps l

➤ and t_n is minimum

➤ Intractable problem

ILP Formulation

- **Binary decision variables**
 - $X = \{x_{il} \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, n; l = 1, 2, \dots, \bar{\lambda} + 1\}$
 - x_{il} is **TRUE** only when operation v_i starts in step l of the schedule (i.e. $l = t_i$)
 - $\bar{\lambda}$ is an upper bound on latency
- **Start time of operation** $v_i : \sum_l l \cdot x_{il}$

ILP Constraints

- **Operations start only once**

$$\sum x_{il} = 1 \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$
- **Sequencing relations must be satisfied**

$$t_i \geq t_j + d_j \rightarrow t_i - t_j - d_j \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } (v_j, v_i) \in E$$

$$\sum_l l \cdot x_{il} - \sum_l l \cdot x_{jl} - d_j \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } (v_j, v_i) \in E$$
- **Resource bounds must be satisfied**
Simple case (unit delay)
$$\sum_{\substack{l \\ i: T(v_i)=k}} x_{il} \leq a_k \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n_{res}; \quad \text{for all } l$$

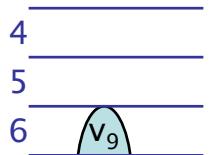
Start Time vs. Execution Time

- For each operation v_i , only one start time
- If $d_i=1$, then the following questions are the same:
 - Does operation v_i start at step l ?
 - Is operation v_i running at step l ?
- But if $d_i > 1$, the two questions should be formulated as:
 - Does operation v_i start at step l ?
 - Does $x_{il} = 1$ hold?
 - Is operation v_i running at step l ?
 - Does the following hold?

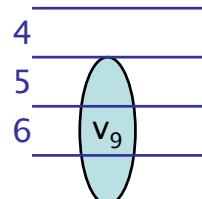
$$\sum_{m=l-d_i+1}^l x_{im} \stackrel{?}{=} 1$$

Operation v_i Still Running at Step l ?

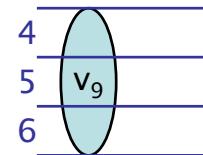
- Is v_9 running at step 6?
 - Is $x_{9,6} + x_{9,5} + x_{9,4} = 1$?



$$x_{9,6}=1$$



$$x_{9,5}=1$$

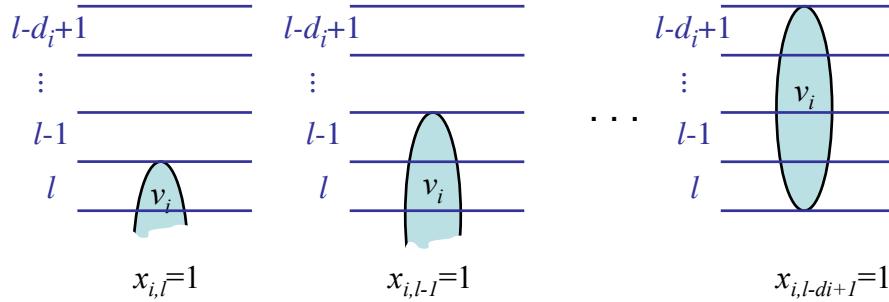


$$x_{9,4}=1$$

- Note:
 - Only one (if any) of the above three cases can happen
 - To meet resource constraints, we have to ask the same question for ALL steps, and ALL operations of that type

Operation v_i Still Running at Step l ?

- Is v_i running at step l ?
 - Is $x_{i,l} + x_{i,l-1} + \dots + x_{i,l-d_i+1} = 1$?



ILP Formulation of ML-RCS

- **Constraints:**

- Unique start times: $\sum_l x_{il} = 1, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n$

- Sequencing (dependency) relations must be satisfied

$$t_i \geq t_j + d_j \quad \forall (v_j, v_i) \in E \Rightarrow \sum_l l \cdot x_{il} \geq \sum_l l \cdot x_{jl} + d_j$$

- Resource constraints

$$\sum_{i:T(v_i)=k} \sum_{m=l-d_i+1}^l x_{im} \leq a_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, n_{res}, \quad l = 1, \dots, \bar{\lambda} + 1$$

- **Objective:** $\min c^T t$

- t = start times vector, c = cost weight (e.g., [0 0 ... 1])

- When $c = [0 0 \dots 1]$, $c^T t = \sum_l l \cdot x_{nl}$

ILP Example

- **Resource constraints**
 - 2 ALUs; 2 Multipliers
 - $a_1 = 2$; $a_2 = 2$
- **Single-cycle operation**
 - $d_i = 1 \quad \text{for all } i$

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ILP Example

- **Assume $\bar{\lambda} = 4$**
- **First, perform ASAP and ALAP**
 - (we can write the ILP without ASAP and ALAP, but using ASAP and ALAP will simplify the inequalities)

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ILP Example: Unique Start Times

- Without using ASAP and ALAP values:

$$\begin{aligned}x_{1,1} + x_{1,2} + x_{1,3} + x_{1,4} &= 1 \\x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} + x_{2,3} + x_{2,4} &= 1 \\\dots \\x_{11,1} + x_{11,2} + x_{11,3} + x_{11,4} &= 1\end{aligned}$$

- Using ASAP and ALAP:

$$\begin{aligned}x_{1,1} &= 1 \\x_{2,1} &= 1 \\x_{3,2} &= 1 \\x_{4,3} &= 1 \\x_{5,4} &= 1 \\\dots \\x_{6,1} + x_{6,2} &= 1 \\x_{7,2} + x_{7,3} &= 1 \\x_{8,1} + x_{8,2} + x_{8,3} &= 1 \\x_{9,2} + x_{9,3} + x_{9,4} &= 1 \\\dots\end{aligned}$$

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ILP Example: Dependency Constraints

- Using ASAP and ALAP, the non-trivial inequalities are:
(assuming unit delay for + and *)

$$\begin{aligned}2.x_{7,2} + 3.x_{7,3} - x_{6,1} - 2.x_{6,2} - 1 &\geq 0 \\2.x_{9,2} + 3.x_{9,3} + 4.x_{9,4} - x_{8,1} - 2.x_{8,2} - 3.x_{8,3} - 1 &\geq 0 \\2.x_{11,2} + 3.x_{11,3} + 4.x_{11,4} - x_{10,1} - 2.x_{10,2} - 3.x_{10,3} - 1 &\geq 0 \\4.x_{5,4} - 2.x_{7,2} - 3.x_{7,3} - 1 &\geq 0 \\5.x_{n,5} - 2.x_{9,2} - 3.x_{9,3} - 4.x_{9,4} - 1 &\geq 0 \\5.x_{n,5} - 2.x_{11,2} - 3.x_{11,3} - 4.x_{11,4} - 1 &\geq 0\end{aligned}$$

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ILP Example: Resource Constraints

- **Resource constraints (assuming 2 adders and 2 multipliers)**

$$x_{1,1} + x_{2,1} + x_{6,1} + x_{8,1} \leq 2$$

$$x_{3,2} + x_{6,2} + x_{7,2} + x_{8,2} \leq 2$$

$$x_{7,3} + x_{8,3} \leq 2$$

$$x_{10,1} \leq 2$$

$$x_{9,2} + x_{10,2} + x_{11,2} \leq 2$$

$$x_{4,3} + x_{9,3} + x_{10,3} + x_{11,3} \leq 2$$

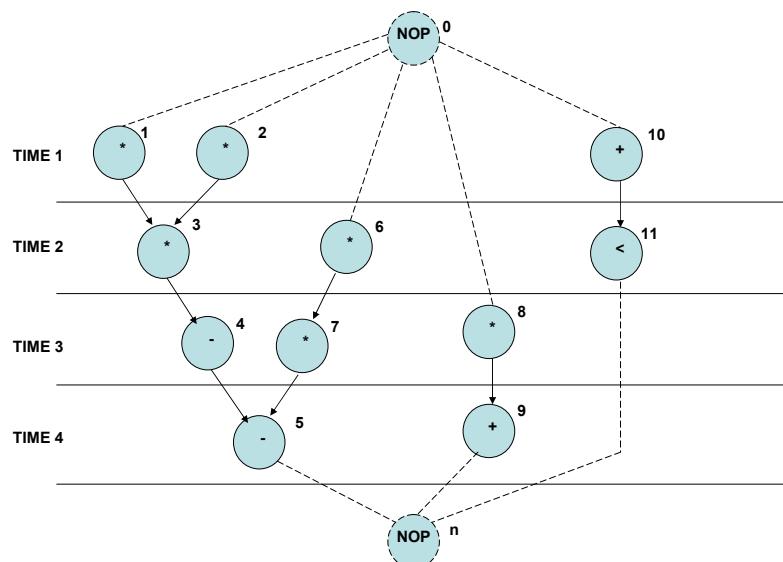
$$x_{5,4} + x_{9,4} + x_{11,4} \leq 2$$

- **Objective:**

- Since $\lambda=4$ and sink has no mobility, any feasible solution is optimum, but we can use the following anyway:

$$\text{Min } x_{n,1} + 2.x_{n,2} + 3.x_{n,3} + 4.x_{n,4}$$

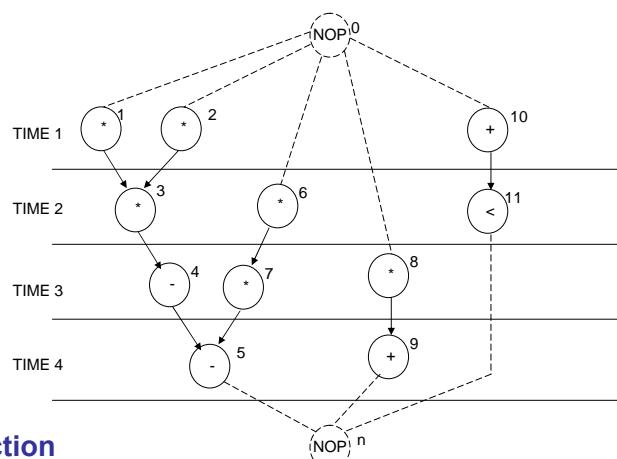
ILP Example: Solution



MR-LCS Dual ILP formulation

- Minimize resource usage under latency constraint
- Additional constraint
 - Latency bound must be satisfied
 - $\sum_l l x_{nl} \leq \lambda + 1$
- Resource usage is unknown in the constraints
 - Resource usage is the objective to minimize

MR-LCS ILP Example



- Cost function
 - Multiplier area = 5
 - ALU area = 1
 - Objective function: $5a_1 + a_2$

ILP Solving

- Use standard ILP packages
- Transform into LP problem
- Advantages
 - Exact method
 - Others constraints can be incorporated
- Disadvantages
 - Works well up to few thousand variables

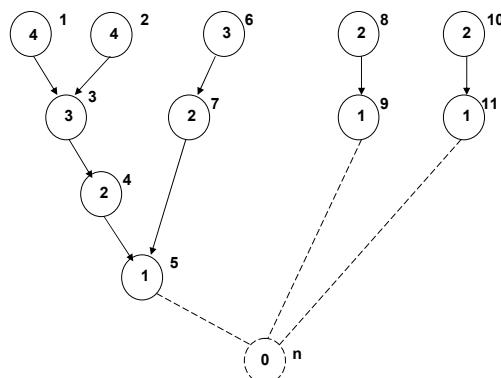
Hu's Algorithm

- Simple case of the scheduling problem
 - Operations of unit delay
 - Operations (and resources) of the same type
- Hu's algorithm
 - Greedy, polynomial *and* optimal (exact)
 - Computes lower bound on number of resources for given latency
OR
 - Computes lower bound on latency subject to resource constraints
- Basic idea
 - Label operations based on their distances from the sink
 - Try to schedule nodes with higher labels first
(i.e., most “critical” operations have priority)

Hu's Algorithm with \bar{a} Resources

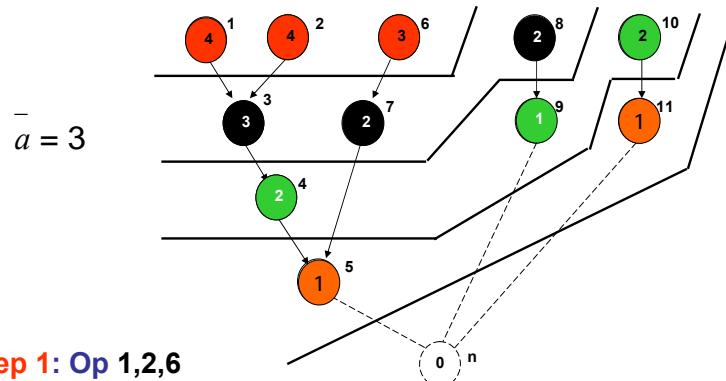
- Label operations with distance to sink
- Set step $l = 1$
- Repeat until all ops are scheduled
 - $U = \text{unscheduled vertices in } V$
 - Predecessors have been scheduled (or no predecessors)
 - Select $S \subseteq U$ resources with
 - $|S| \leq \bar{a}$
 - Maximal labels
 - Schedule the S operations at step l
 - Increment step $l = l + 1$

Hu's Algorithm Example



- Assumptions
 - One resource type only
 - All operations have unit delay
- Labels
 - Distance to sink

Hu's Algorithm Example



Step 1: Op 1,2,6

Step 2: Op 3,7,8

Step 3: Op 4,9,10

Step 4: Op 5,11

List Scheduling

- **Heuristic method for:**
 - Min *latency* subject to *resource bound* (ML-RCS)
 - Min *resource* subject to *latency bound* (MR-LCS)
- **Greedy strategy (like Hu's)**
 - Does not guarantee optimality (unlike Hu's)
- **General graphs (unlike Hu's)**
 - Resource constraints on different resource types
 - Operations of arbitrary delay
- **Priority list heuristics**
 - Priority decided by criticality (similar to Hu's)
 - Longest path to sink, longest path to timing constraint
 - $O(n)$ time complexity

List Scheduling for Minimum Latency

```

LIST_L( G(V, E), a) {
    l = 1;
    repeat {
        for each resource type k = 1, 2, ..., nres {
            Determine ready operations Ul,k;
            Determine unfinished operations Tl,k;
            Select Sk ⊆ Ul,k vertices, s.t. |Sk| + |Tl,k| ≤ ak;
            Schedule the Sk operations at step l;
        }
        l = l + 1;
    }
    until (vn is scheduled);
    return (t);
}

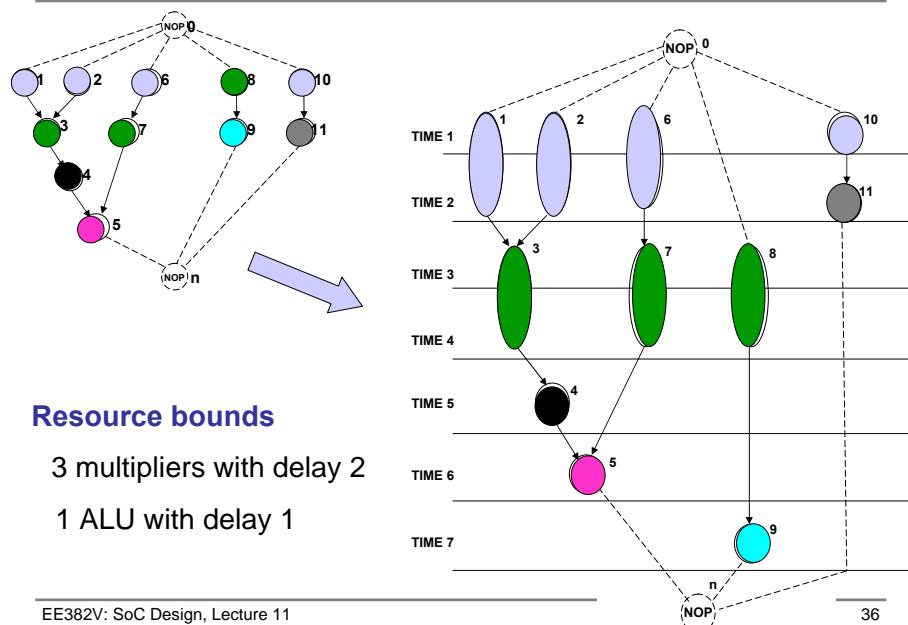
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List Scheduling Example



Lecture 11: Outline

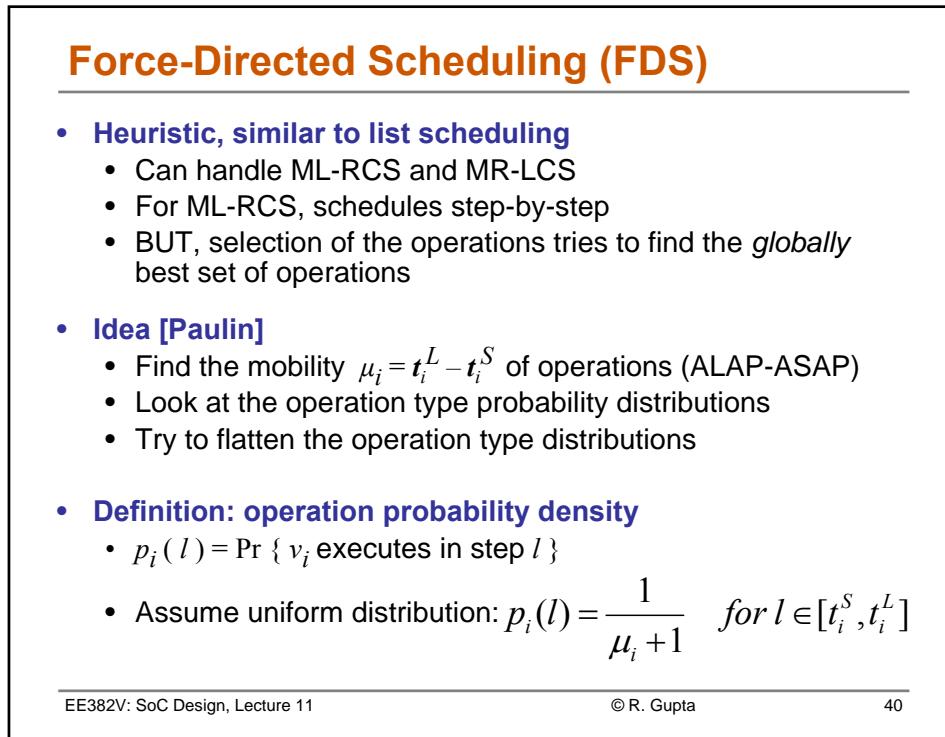
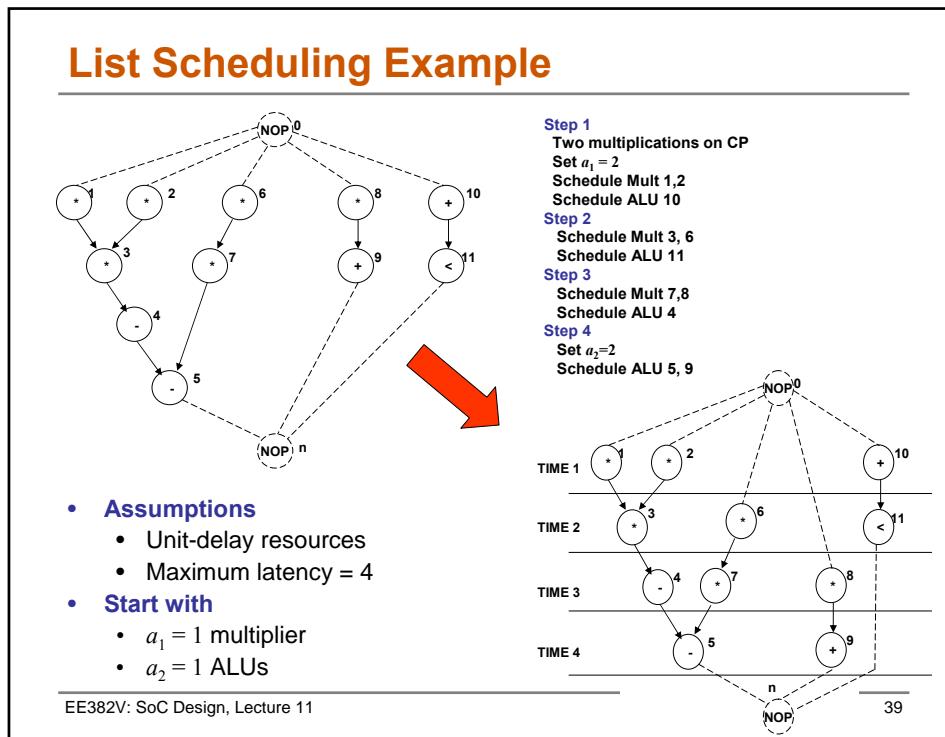
- ✓ The scheduling problem
- ✓ Unconstrained scheduling
- ✓ Resource constrained (RC) scheduling
- Time constrained (TC) scheduling
 - ✓ Exact methods
 - ✓ ILP formulations
 - ✓ Hu's algorithm
 - Heuristics
 - List scheduling
 - Force-directed scheduling
 - Advanced scheduling problems

List Scheduling for Minimum Resources

```

LIST_R( G(V, E),  $\bar{\lambda}$  ) {
    a = 1;
    Compute the latest possible start times  $t^L$  by ALAP ( G(V, E),  $\bar{\lambda}$  );
    if ( $t_0 < 0$ )
        return ( $\emptyset$ );
    I = 1;
    repeat {
        for each resource type  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n_{res}$  {
            Determine ready operations  $U_{I,k}$ ;
            Compute the slacks {  $s_i = t_i - I$  for all  $v_i \in U_{Ik}$  };
            Schedule candidate operations with zero slack and update a;
            Schedule candidate operations not needing add'l resources;
        }
        I = I + 1;
    }
    until ( $v_n$  is scheduled);
    return (t, a);
}

```



Force-Directed Scheduling: Definitions

- **Operation-type distribution**
(sum of operation probabilities for each type)

$$\bullet \quad q_k(l) = \sum_{i:T(v_i)=k} p_i(l)$$

- **Operation probabilities over control steps**

$$\bullet \quad p_i = \{p_i(0), p_i(1), \dots, p_i(n)\}$$

- **Distribution graph of type k over all steps**

$$\bullet \quad \{q_k(0), q_k(1), \dots, q_k(n)\}$$

• $q_k(l)$ can be thought of as *expected operator cost* for implementing operations of type k at step l

Force-Directed Scheduling Example

$$q_{add}(1) = \frac{1}{3} = 0.33$$

$$q_{mult}(1) = 1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} = 2.83$$

$$q_{add}(2) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = 1$$

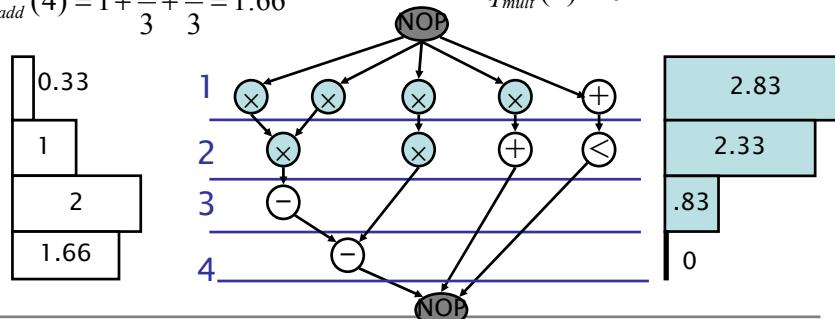
$$q_{mult}(2) = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} = 2.33$$

$$q_{add}(3) = 1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = 2$$

$$q_{mult}(3) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} = 0.83$$

$$q_{add}(4) = 1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = 1.66$$

$$q_{mult}(4) = 0$$



Force-Directed Scheduling Algorithm

- **Very similar to LIST_L($G(V,E)$, a)**
 - Compute mobility of operations using ASAP and ALAP
 - Computer operation probabilities and type distributions
 - Select and schedule operations
 - Update operation probabilities and type distributions
 - Go to next control step
- **Difference with list scheduling in selecting operations**
 - Select operations with least force
 - $O(n^2)$ time complexity due to pair-wise force computations

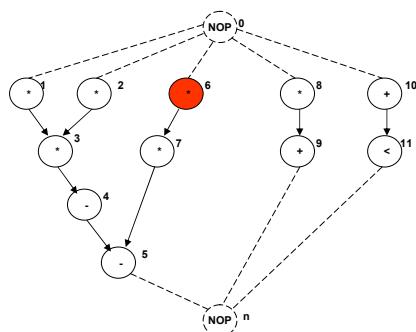
Force

- **Used as priority function**
- **Force is related to concurrency**
 - Sort operations for least force
- **Mechanical analogy (spring)**
 - Force = constant \times displacement
 - Constant = operation-type distribution
 - Displacement = change in probability

Two Types of Forces

- **Self-force**
 - Sum of forces to feasible schedule steps
 - Self-force for operation v_i in step l
 - Sum over type distribution \times delta probability
 $\sum_{m \text{ in interval}} q_k(m) (\delta_{lm} - p_i(m))$
 - Higher self-force indicates higher mobility
- **Predecessor/successor-force**
 - Related to the predecessors/successors
 - Fixing an operation timeframe restricts timeframe of predecessors/successors
 - Ex: Delaying an operation implies delaying its successors
 - Computed by changes in self-forces of neighbors

Example: Schedule Operation v_6



- **Distribution graphs for multiplier and ALU**



- **Operation v_6 can be scheduled in step 1 or step 2**

Example: Operation v_6

- **Op v_6 can be scheduled in the first two steps**
 - $p(1) = 0.5; p(2) = 0.5; p(3) = 0; p(4) = 0$
- **Distribution**
 - $q(1) = 2.8; q(2) = 2.3$
- **Assign v_6 to step 1**
 - Variation in probability $1 - 0.5 = 0.5$ for step 1
 - Variation in probability $0 - 0.5 = -0.5$ for step 2
- **Self-force**
 - $2.8 * 0.5 - 2.3 * 0.5 = + 0.25$
- **No successor force**
- **Total force = 0.25**

Example: Operation v_6

- **Assign v_6 to step 2**
 - variation in probability $0 - 0.5 = -0.5$ for step 1
 - variation in probability $1 - 0.5 = 0.5$ for step 2
- **Self-force**
 - $- 2.8 * 0.5 + 2.3 * 0.5 = - 0.25$
- **Successor-force**
 - Operation v_7 assigned to step 3
 - Succ. force is $2.3 (0 - 0.5) + 0.8 (1 - 0.5) = - .75$
- **Total force = -1**

Example: Operation v_6

- Total force in step 1 = + 0.25
- Total force in step 2 = -1

➤ Conclusion:

- Least force is for step 2
- Assigning v_6 to step 2 reduces concurrency

FDS for Minimum Resources

```
FDS ( G ( V, E ),  $\bar{\lambda}$  )
{
    repeat {
        Compute/update the time-frames;
        Compute the operation and type probabilities;
        Compute the self-forces, p/s-forces and total forces;
        Schedule the op. with least force;
    }
    until (all operations are scheduled)
    return (t);
}
```

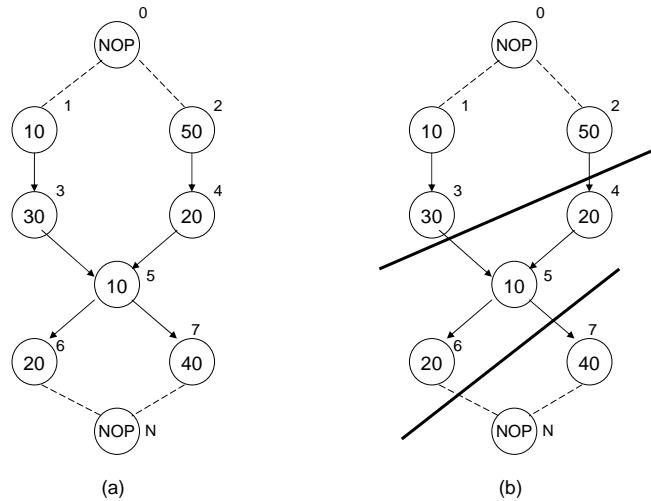
Scheduling Generalizations

- **Detailed timing constraints**
 - Protocol and interface synthesis
 - Bounds on start time differences
 - Forward & backward edges for min/max constraints
- **Operation generalizations**
 - Unbounded delay operations (e.g. synchronization)
 - Relative scheduling w.r. to anchors and combine
 - Conditional operations
- **Resource generalizations**
 - Multi-cycling and chaining
 - Pipelined resources
- **Model generalizations**
 - Hierarchy
 - Pipelining
 - Loops

Multi-Cycling and Chaining

- **Consider delays of resources not in terms of cycles**
 - Use scheduling to *chain* multiple operations in the same control step
 - Use scheduling to *multi-cycle* an operation across more than one control step
- **Useful techniques to explore effect of *cycle-time* on area/latency trade-off**
- **Algorithms**
 - ILP
 - ALAP/ASAP
 - List scheduling

Chaining Example



- **Cycle-time: 50**

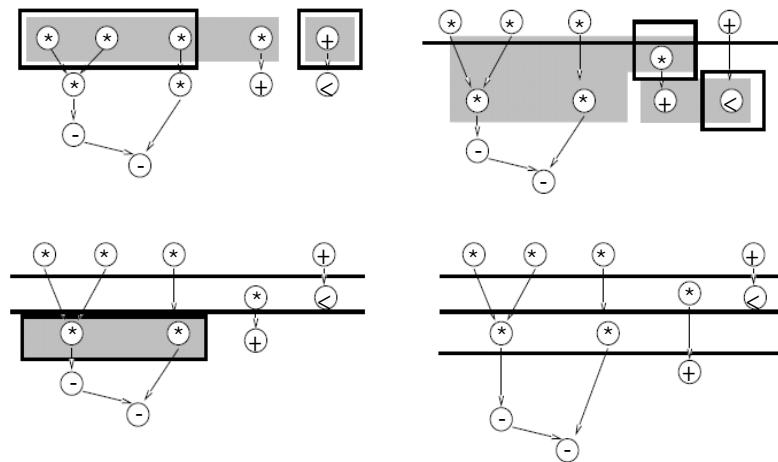
Pipelining

- **Two levels of data pipelining**
 - Structural pipelining
 - Pipelined resources
 - Non-pipelined model
 - Functional pipelining
 - Non-pipelined resources
 - Pipelined model
- **Control pipelining**
 - Pipelined control logic

Structural Pipelining

- Non-pipelined model using pipelined resources
 - Resources characterized by
 - Execution delay
 - Data introduction interval: DII
 - Implications
 - Operations sharing a pipelined resource are serialized (always)
 - Operations do not have data dependency
- Solution using list scheduling
 - Relax criteria for selection of vertices

Structural Pipelining Example



- 3 multipliers w/ 2 cycle delay and $DII = 1$

Functional Pipelining

- Pipelined model, non-pipelined resources
- Assume non-hierarchical graphs
- Model characterized by
 - Latency
 - Initiation interval, II
- Restart source before completing sink
 - Implicit loop
 - Limited by loop-carried dependencies
- Solutions using ILP or heuristics
 - ILP resource constraints modified to include increased concurrency
 - List or force-directed methods

Pipelining and Concurrency

- II determines resource usage
 - Smaller II leads to larger overlaps, higher resource requirements
 $\min\{a_k\} = n_k$, for $II=1$ (all n_k operations are concurrent)
 - In general, $\bar{a}_k = \left\lceil \frac{n_k}{II} \right\rceil$
- Concurrent operations
 - Operations v_i and v_j are executing concurrently at control step l , if
 $\text{rem}\{t_i/II\} = \text{rem}\{t_j/II\} = l$
 - Affects the design of the controller circuitry

Loop Scheduling

- Potential parallelism across loop invocations
- Single loop executions
 - Sequential execution
 - Loop unrolling (known iteration count)
 - Merge multiple iterations into one to provide scheduling opportunities
 - Loop pipelining (iteration count might be unknown)
 - Start next iteration while current one is still running
 - Depends on dependencies across iterations
 - Functional pipelining
- Merging of multiple loops
 - Run different loops in parallel (no dependencies)

Loop Scheduling Example

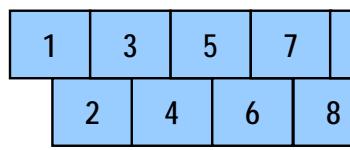
- Sequential



- Unrolled



- Pipelined



- Iteration count = N
- Loop latency = $N \cdot \lambda$
- Pipeline loop iterations with $II < \lambda$
- Latency of the pipelined loop
 - $N \cdot II + \text{overhead}$
 - Overhead = $\lceil \frac{N}{\lambda} \rceil - 1$

Lecture 11: Summary

- **Scheduling determines area/latency trade-off**
- **Intractable problem in general**
 - Heuristic algorithms
 - ILP formulation (small-case problems)
- **Several heuristic formulations**
 - List scheduling is the fastest and most used
 - Force-directed scheduling tends to yield good results
- **Several extensions**
 - Chaining and multi-cycling
 - Pipelining