Paper Number(s): **ISE2.3**

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING
EXAMINATIONS 2001

ISE PART II: M.Eng. and B.Eng.

COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE 2

Monday, 30 April 2:00 pm

There are FOUR questions on this paper.

Answer THREE questions.

There is 5 minutes reading time for this paper.

Time allowed: 1:30 hours

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Examiners: Luk,W.

1a What does CPI stand for? Explain whether the CPI for a processor can be affected by the compiler, the instruction set architecture, and the implementation technology for that processor.

b A subset of the instructions for a machine M can be accelerated by n_1 times using a coprocessor C_1. Given that a program P is compiled into instructions of M such that the overall speedup is K_1, calculate α_1, the fraction of instructions that belongs to the subset which can be accelerated by C_1.

c For the system containing M and C_1 described in part b, express β_1, the fraction given by the ratio of the execution time when C_1 is in use and the excution time of the system containing M and C_1, in terms of α_1 and n_1.

d Another subset of the instructions for the machine M in part b, which does not overlap with the instruction subset for C_1, can be accelerated by n_2 times using a coprocessor C_2. Given that P is compiled into instructions of M, such that a fraction α_1 of the instructions is accelerated by C_1 and a fraction α_2 of the instructions is accelerated by C_2. What is the overall speedup that can be achieved using C_1 and C_2?

The four parts carry, respectively, 30%, 25%, 25% and 20% of the marks.

2 This question concerns regular combinational circuits formed by replicating a simple unit. For each of the four parts below, provide a circuit diagram and label one of the replicating units using a dotted box.

a Design a circuit for multiplying an N-bit number by 3, using only N fulladders. Label the signal value on all the wires in your circuit when N=4 and the input is 0100.

b Design a circuit, using and-gates, or-gates and inverters, that will produce a one at the output when all the input bits are the same. Provide a diagram for the case when the input is 0000.

c Leading zeroes of a multi-bit number are zeroes in a more significant position than the most significant one; for instance there are two leading zeroes in 001XXX, and three leading zeroes in 0001XX, where X is either a zero or a one.

Design a circuit, using inverters, and-gates and halfadders, that counts the number of leading zeroes in an N-bit number. Provide a diagram for the case when N=5, the input is 00101 and the output is 010.

The three parts carry, respectively, 25%, 25% and 50% of the marks.

3a Provide an advantage and a disadvantage for datapaths supporting

i) horizontal microinstructions, and

ii) vertical microinstructions.

b A datapath containing m control signals has been developed for a set of instructions with n-bit opcode. A microsequencer, which supports k-bit horizontal microinstructions, has been developed for this datapath. The microsequencer contains an incrementer, a ROM (Read-Only Memory), a register, and address select logic. Provide a diagram for the microsequencer, and label the size of components and wires in the diagram whenever possible.

c Describe how the address select logic in part b can be implemented using ROMs and multiplexors. Explain how the number of ROMs in the address select logic relates to the state diagram for the control unit.

d The microprogram for a microsequencer has n ℓ-bit microinstructions, some of which are identical. Given that there are k distinct microinstructions in this microprogram, explain how the total microprogram storage can be reduced by reducing the width of the microinstructions, while including an additional store of the k distinct microinstructions. Calculate the value of ℓ to achieve a reduction of α bits in microprogram storage using this approach, and comment on possible disadvantages.

The four parts carry, respectively, 20%, 25%, 20% and 35% of the marks.

4a Give one advantage and one disadvantage of

i) a direct-mapped cache, and

ii) a fully-associative cache.

b Explain what is an n-way set-associative cache, and indicate the effect of increasing n on the size and speed of the cache.

c Calculate the total number of tag bits when implementing a cache, containing 2^n blocks and dealing with m-bit addresses, as:

i) a direct-mapped cache,

ii) a 2^k-way set-associative cache, and

iii) a fully-associative cache.

d Explain what TLB stands for, and how associative caches improve the performance of TLBs.

The four parts carry, respectively, 20%, 30%, 30% and 20% of the marks.