Problem M10.1: Multithreading

Problem 10.1.A

Since there is no penalty for conditional branches, instructions take one cycle to execute unless there is a dependency problem. The following table summarizes the execution time for each instruction. From the table, the loop takes **104 cycles** to execute.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instruction</th>
<th>Start Cycle</th>
<th>End Cycle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LW R3, 0(R1)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LW R4, 4(R1)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEQ R3, R3, R2</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNEZ R3, End</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADD R1, R0, R4</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNEZ R1, Loop</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Problem M10.1.B

If we have N threads and the first load executes in cycle 1, **SEQ**, which depends on the load, executes in cycle 2N + 1. To fully utilize the processor, we need to hide the 100-cycle memory latency, 2N + 1 – 101. The minimum number of thread needed is **50**.

Problem M10.1.C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Throughput</th>
<th>Latency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Better</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worse</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Problem M10.1.D

In steady state, each thread can execute 6 instructions (**SEQ, BNEZ, ADD, BNEZ, LW, LW**). Therefore, to hide 99 cycles between the second **LW** and **SEQ**, a processor needs \( \lceil \frac{99}{6} \rceil + 1 = 18 \) threads.
Problem M10.2: Multithreaded architectures

Problem M10.2.A
4, since the largest latency for any instruction is 4.

Problem M10.2.B
2/12 = 0.17 flops/cycle, on average we complete a loop every 12 cycles

Problem M10.2.C
Yes, we can hide the latency of the floating point instructions by moving the add instructions in between floating point and store instructions – we’d only need 3 threads. Moving the third load up to follow the second load would further reduce thread requirement to only 2.
Problem M10.3: Multithreading

Problem M10.3.A

Fixed Switching: ______6______ Thread(s)

If we have N threads and L.D. executes in cycle 1, FADD, which depends on the load executes in cycle 2N + 1. To fully utilize the processor, we need to hide 12-cycle memory latency, 2N + 1 13. The minimum number of thread needed is 6.

Data-dependent Switching: ______4______ Thread(s)

In steady state, each thread can execute 4 instructions (FADD, BNE, LD, ADDI). Therefore, to hide 11 cycles between ADDI and FADD, a processor needs 11/4 + 1 = 4 threads.

Problem M10.3.B

Fixed Switching: ______2______ Thread(s)

Each FADD depends on the previous iteration's FADD. If we have N threads and the first FADD executes in cycle 1, the second FADD executes in cycle 4N + 1. To fully utilize the processor, we need to hide 5-cycle latency, 4N + 1 6. The minimum number of thread needed is 2.

Data-dependent Switching: ______2______ Thread(s)

In steady state, each thread can execute 4 instructions (FADD, BNE, LD, ADDI). Therefore, to hide 2 cycles between ADDI and FADD, a processor needs 2/4 + 1 = 2 threads.
Consider a Simultaneous Multithreading (SMT) machine with limited hardware resources. Circle the following hardware constraints that can limit the total number of threads that the machine can support. For the item(s) that you circle, briefly describe the minimum requirement to support $N$ threads.

(A) Number of Functional Units
(B) Number of Physical Registers
(C) Data Cache Size
(D) Data Cache Associatively

Since not all the threads are executed in each cycle, the number of functional unit is not a constraint that limits the total number of threads that the machine can support.

We need at least $[N \times \text{number of architecture registers} + 1]$ physical registers.

This is for performance reasons.
Problem M10.4: Multithreading (Spring 2015 Quiz 2, Part D)

Consider the following instruction sequence.

```
  addi  r3, r0, 256
loop: lw   f1, r1, #0
lw    f2, r2, #0
mul   f3, f1, f2
sw    f3, r2, #0
addi  r1, r1, #4
addi  r2, r2, #4
addi  r3, r3, #-1
bnez  r3, loop
```

Assume that memory operations take 4 cycles (i.e., if instruction I1 starts execution at cycle N, then instructions that depend on the result of I1 can only start execution at or after cycle N+4); multiply instructions take 6 cycles; and all other operations take 1 cycle. Assume the multiplier and memory are pipelined (i.e., they can start a new request every cycle). Also assume perfect branch prediction.

Problem M10.4.A

Suppose the processor performs fine-grained multithreading with fixed round-robin switching: the processor switches to the next thread every cycle, and if the instruction of the next thread is not ready, it inserts a bubble into the pipeline. What is the minimum number of threads required to fully utilize the processor every cycle while running this code?

6 threads to cover the latency between mul and sw
Problem M10.4.B

Suppose the processor performs coarse-grained multithreading, i.e. the processor only switches to another thread when there is a L2 cache miss. Will the following three metrics increase or decrease, compared to fixed round-robin switching? Use a couple of sentences to answer the following questions.

1) Compared to fixed round-robin switching, will the number of threads needed for the highest achievable utilization increase or decrease? Why?

It will decrease because the processor will switch less frequently and stall for instructions with long latency (e.g. mul).

2) Compared to fixed round-robin switching, will the highest achievable pipeline utilization increase or decrease? Why?

It will decrease because the processor will stall for instructions with long latency (e.g. mul) and insert bubbles into pipeline.

3) Compared to fixed round-robin switching, will cache hit rate increase or decrease? Why?

It will increase since there will be less threads competing the cache capacity.