

Speculative Execution

Mengjia Yan

Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory
M.I.T.

What does this
WW2 poster
have in common
with pipelined
processors?



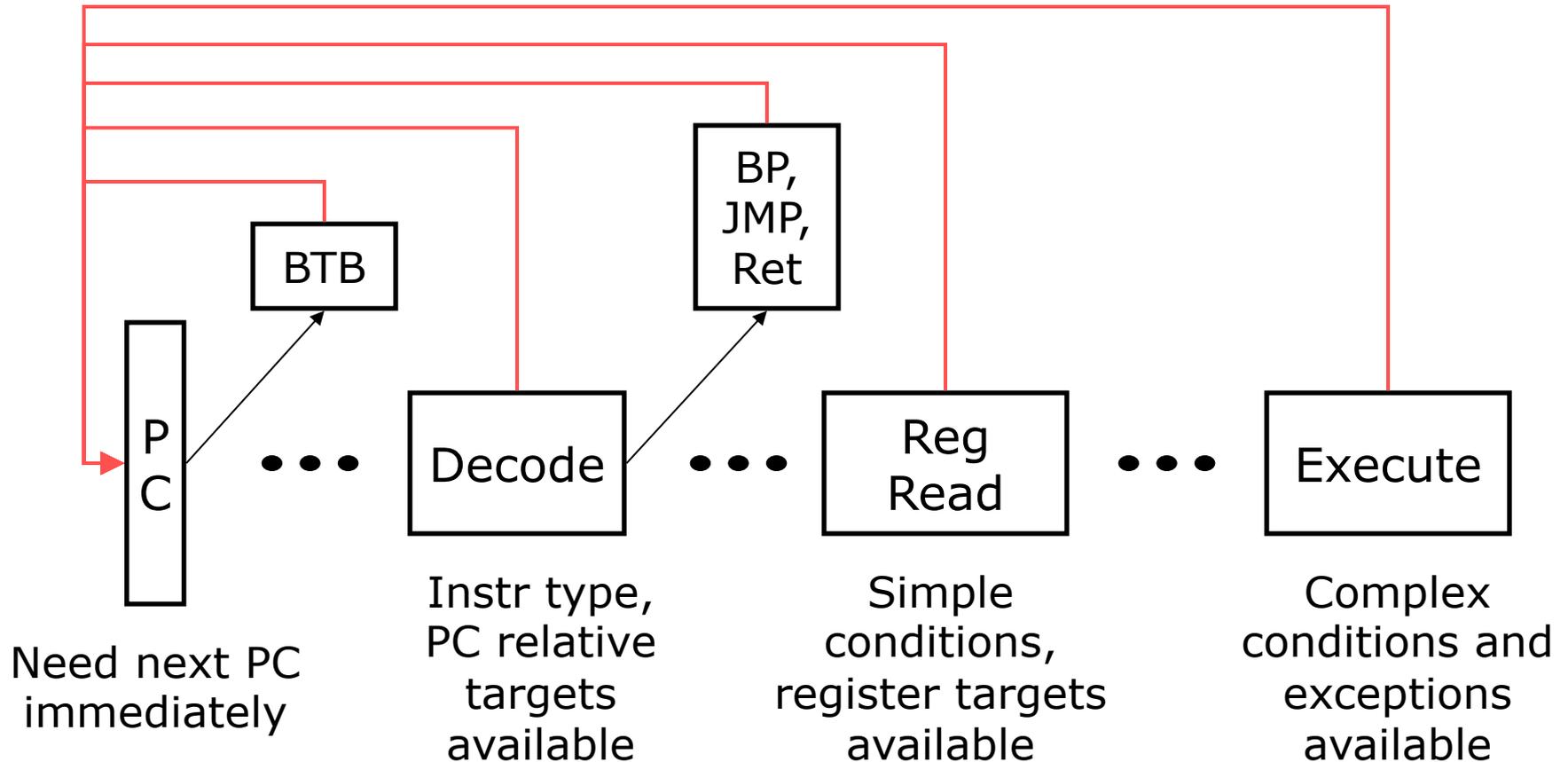
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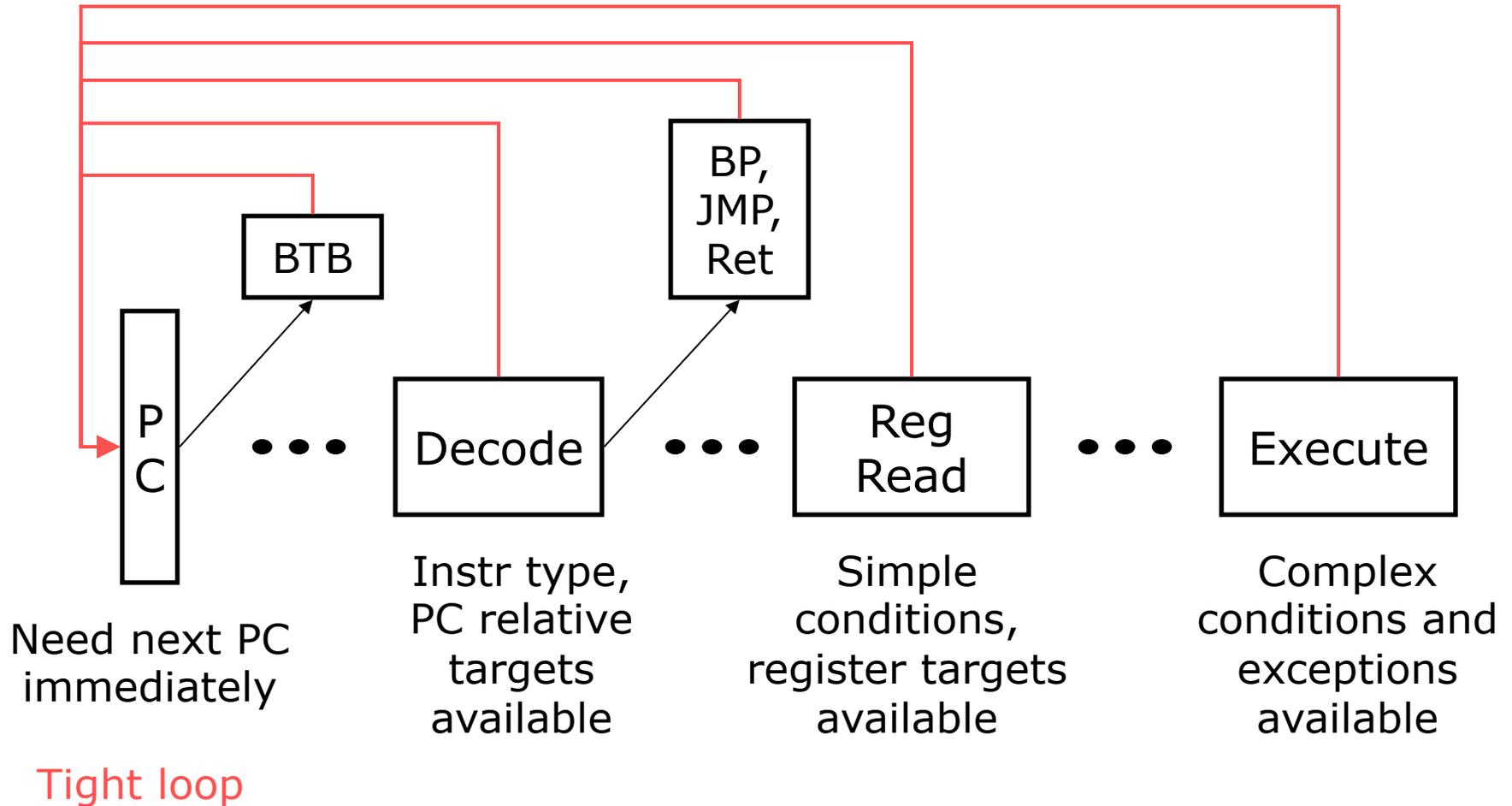
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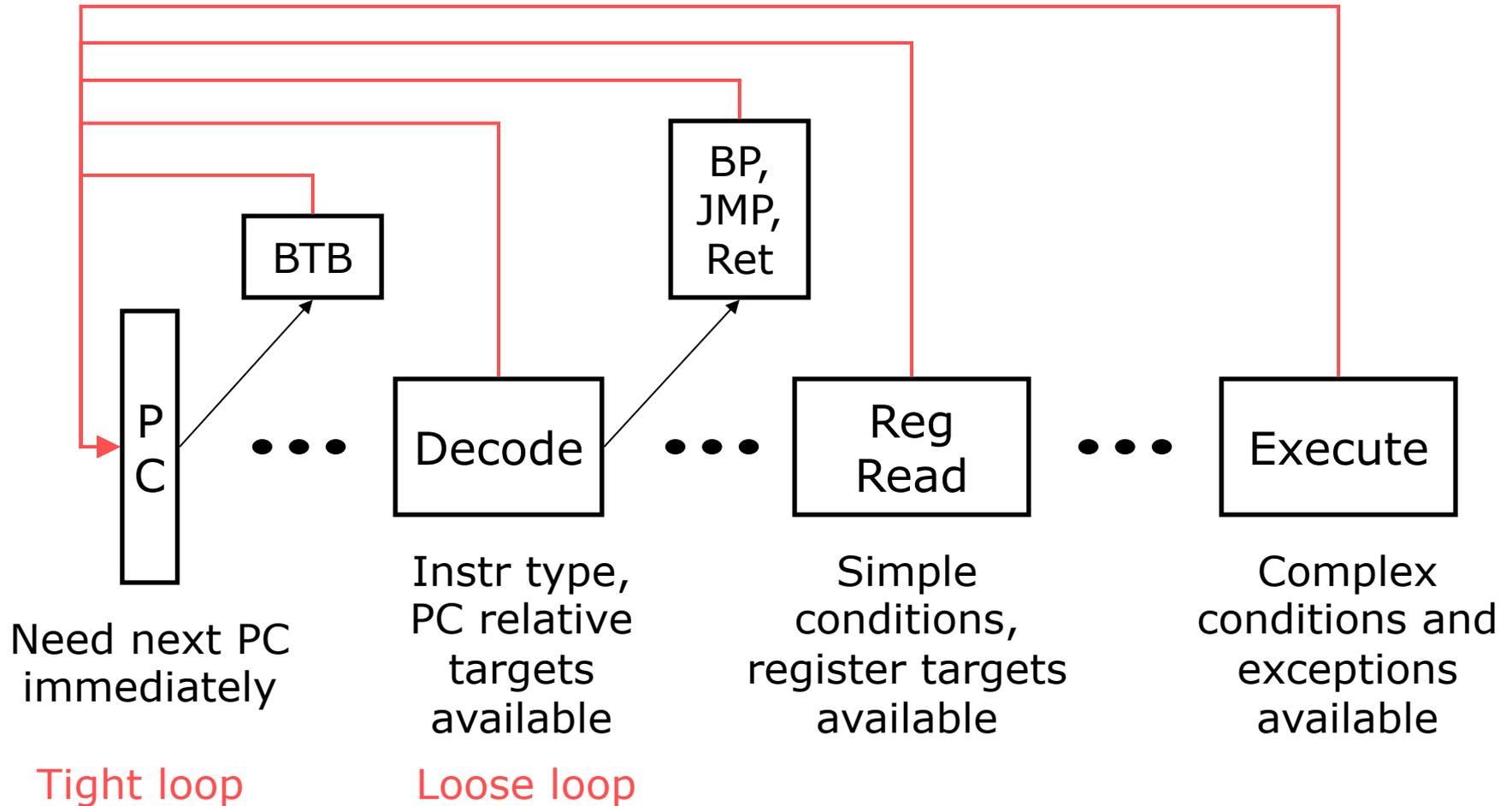
Overview of branch prediction



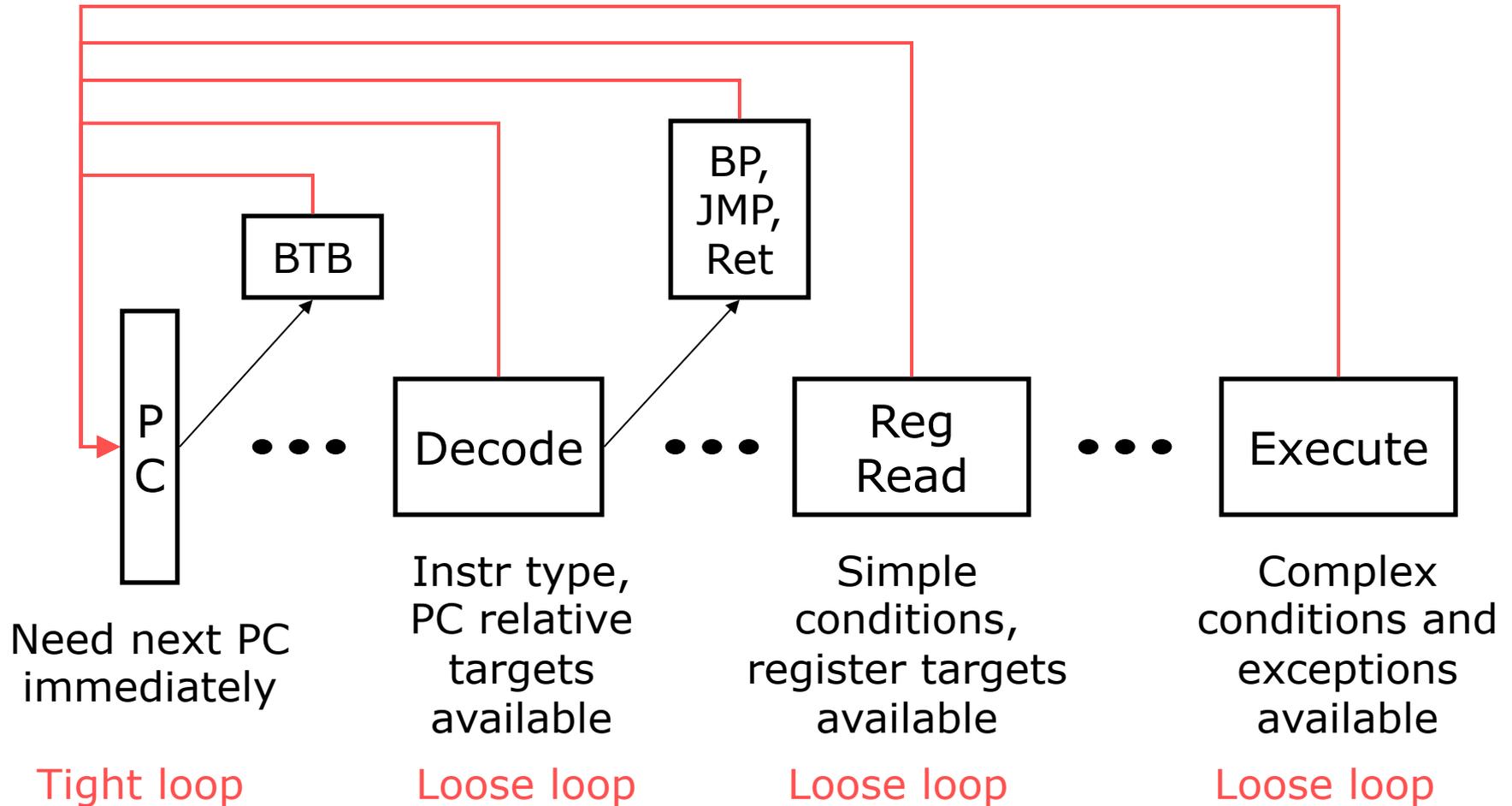
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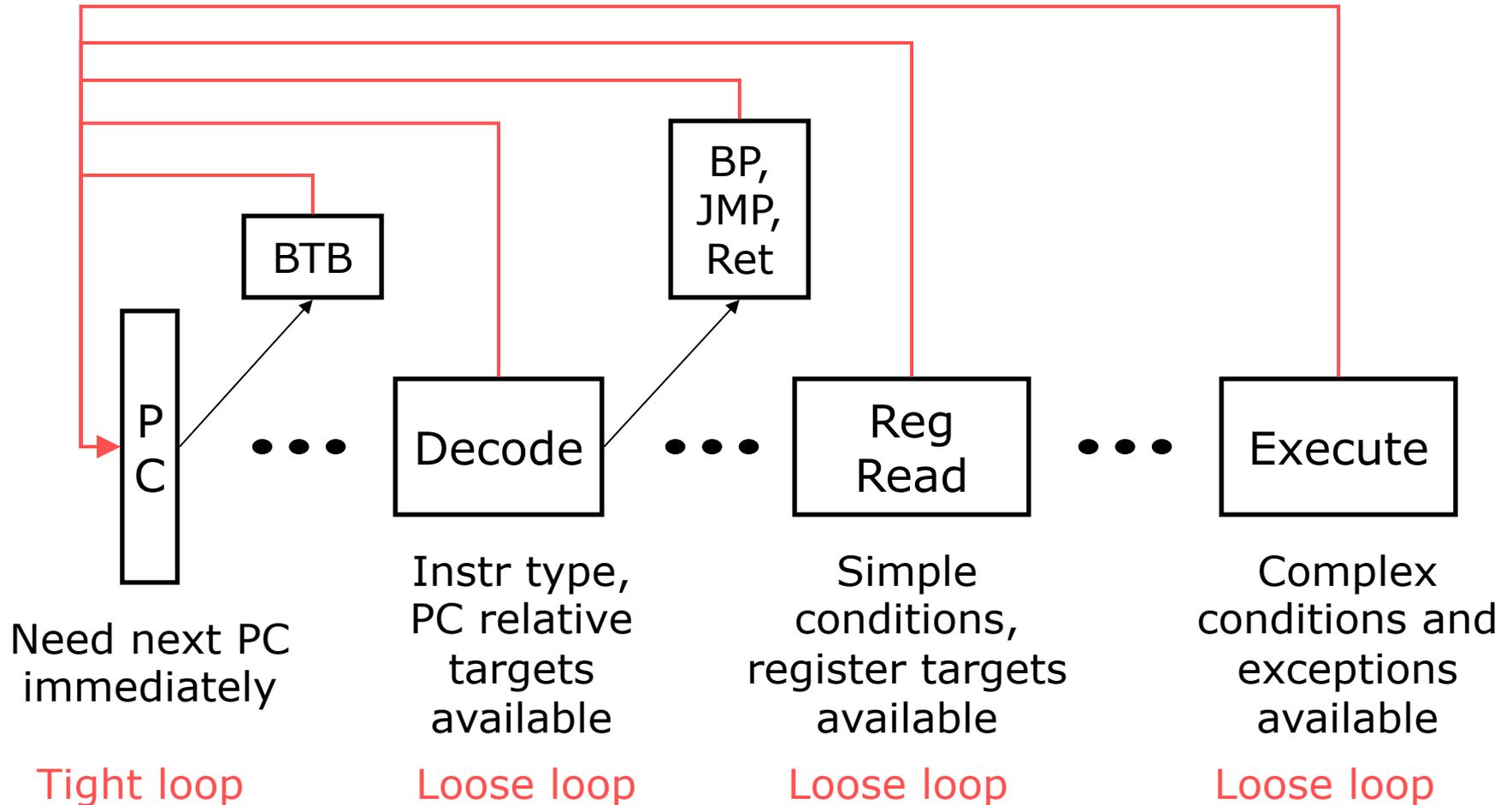
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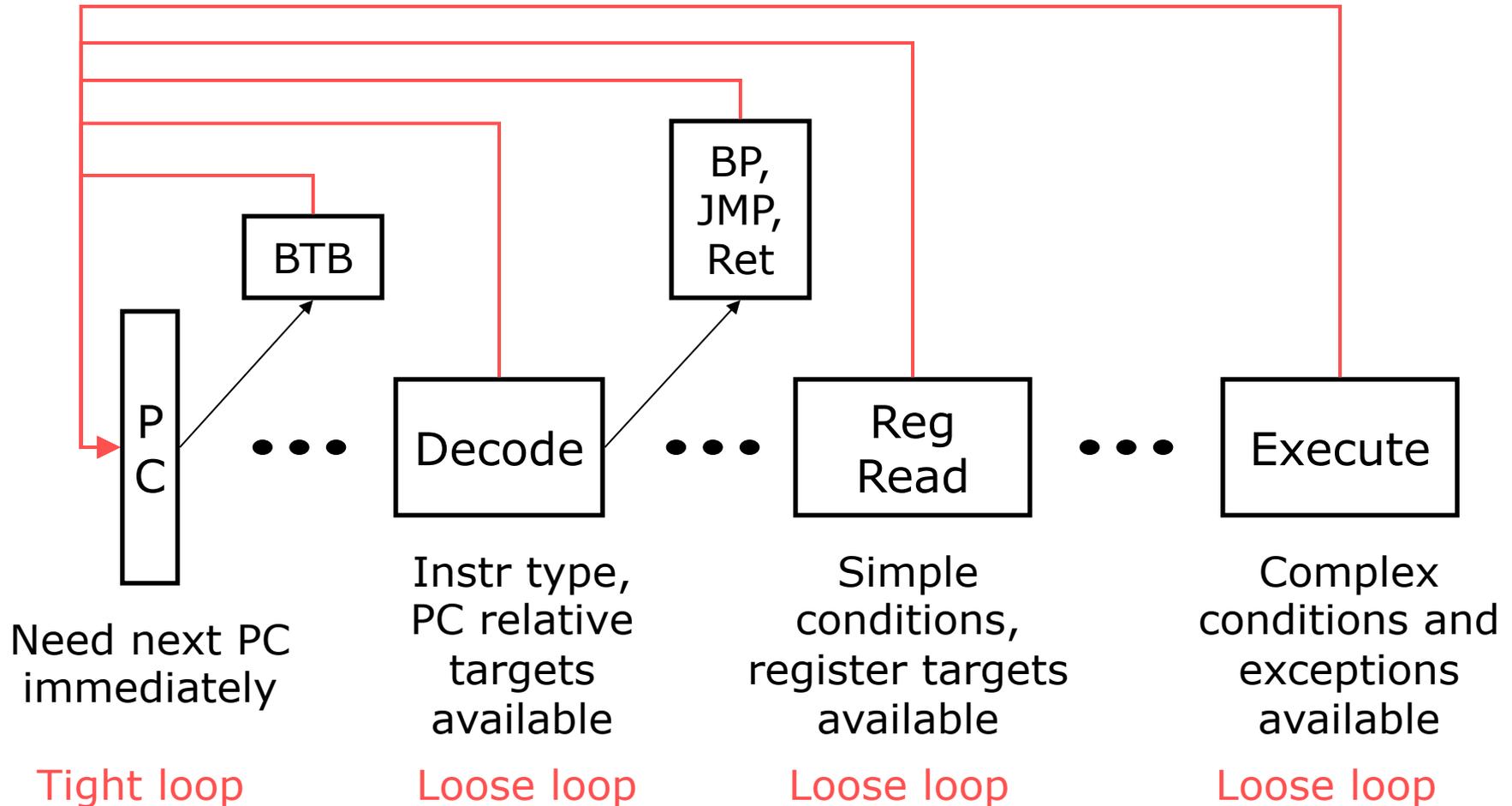
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Must speculation check always be correct? No...

Speculative Execution Recipe

1. Proceed ahead despite unresolved dependencies using a prediction for an architectural or micro-architectural value

2. Maintain both old and new values on updates to architectural (and often micro-architectural) state



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O-O-O WAR hazards

Value Management Strategies

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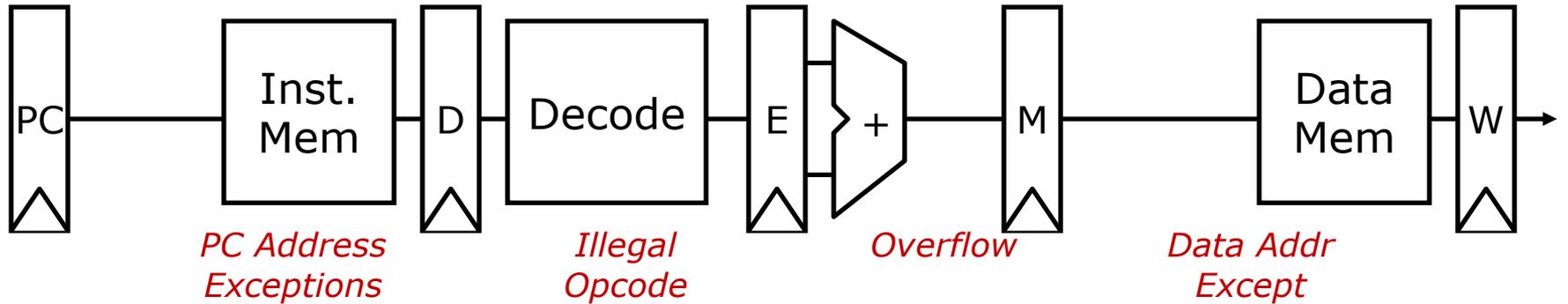
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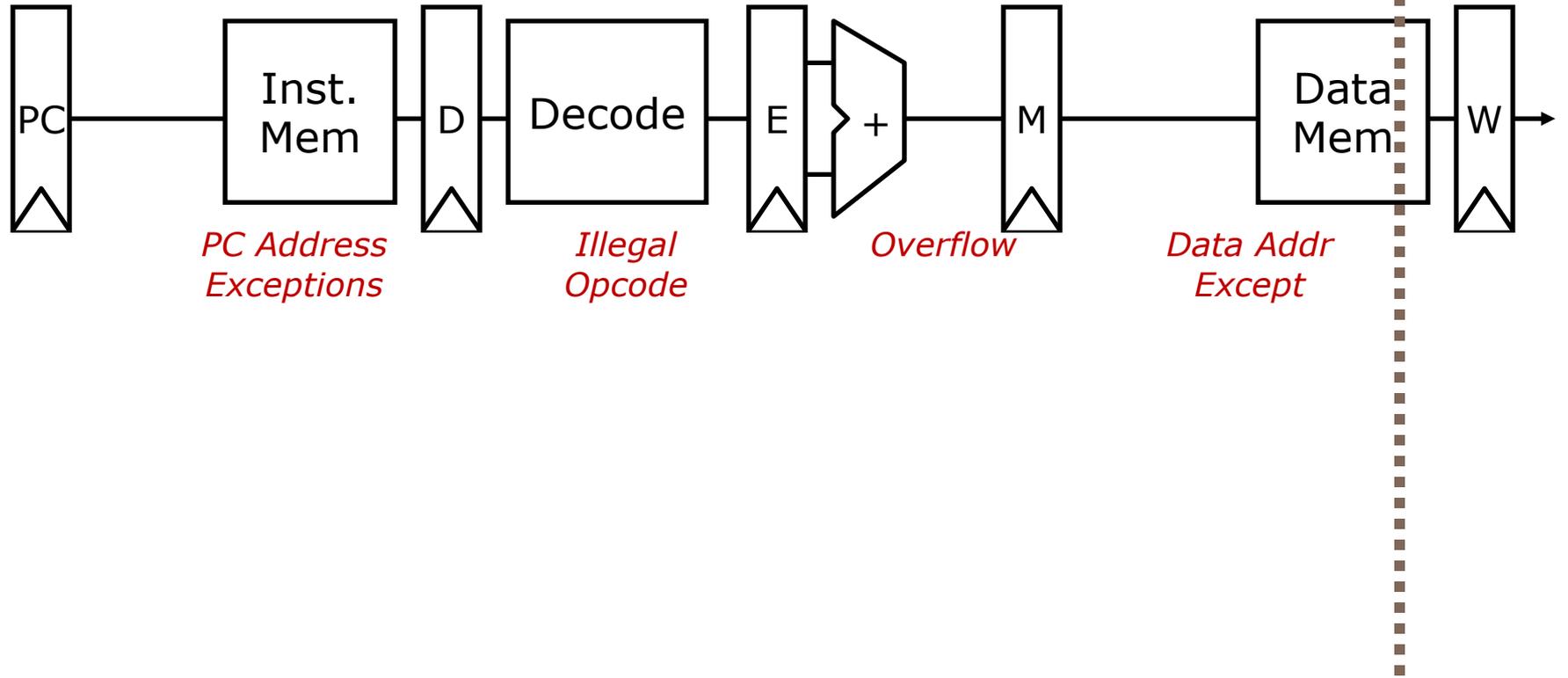
- When there will be limited use of new value
- To make it easy to use old value after new value is generated
- To simplify recovery

Reminder: Exception Handling

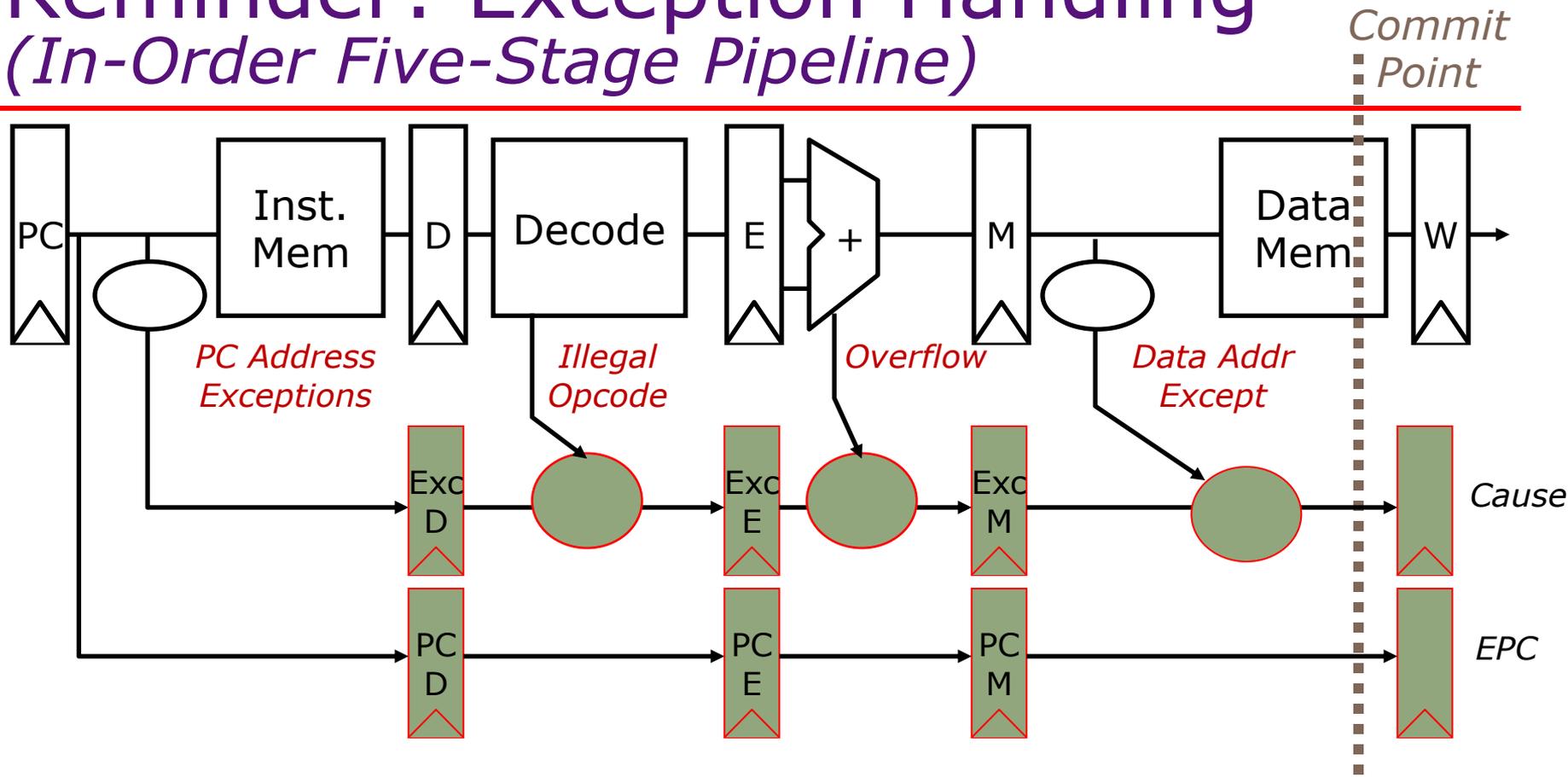
(In-Order Five-Stage Pipeline)



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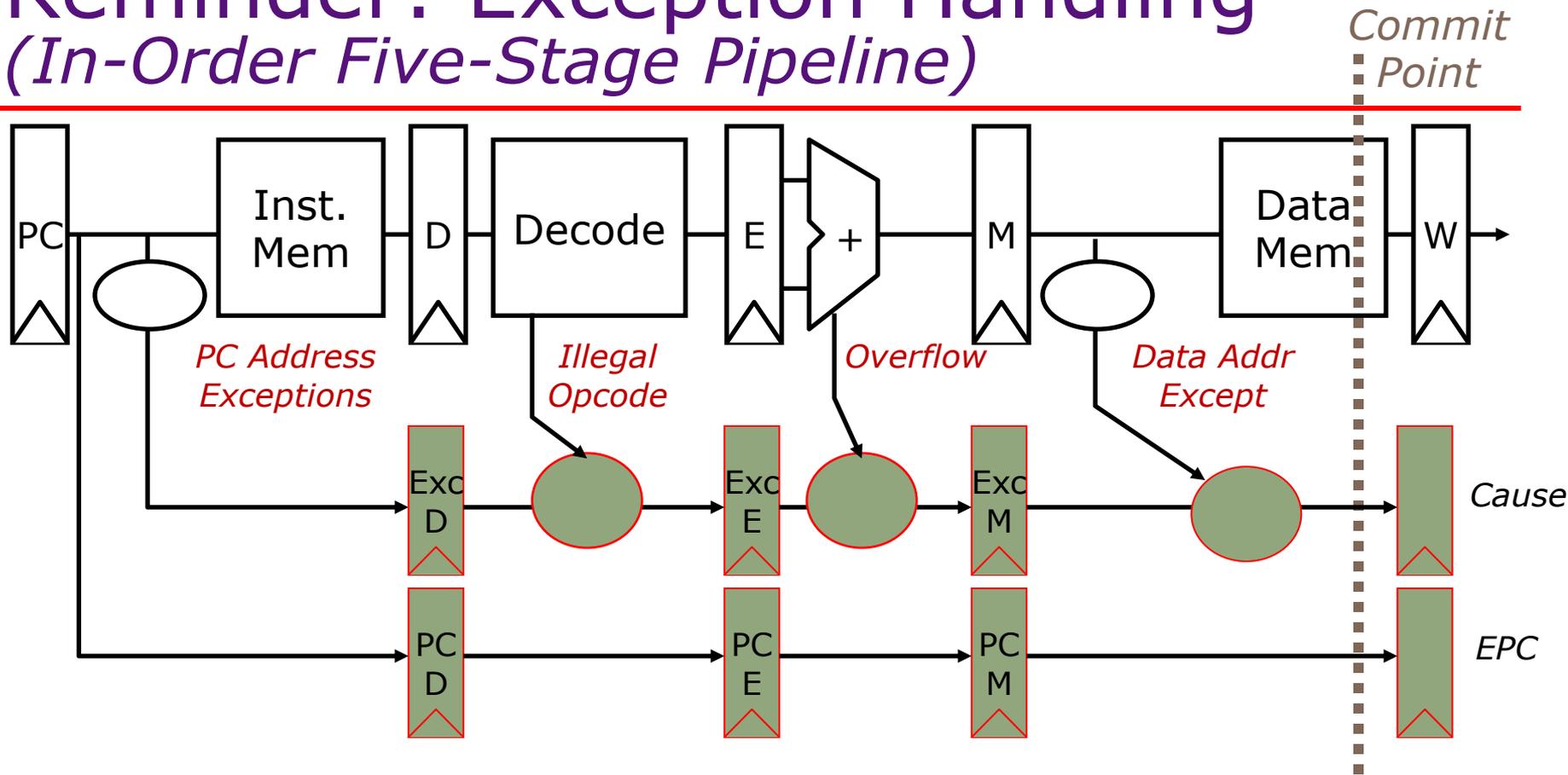


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Hold exception flags in pipeline until commit point (M stage)

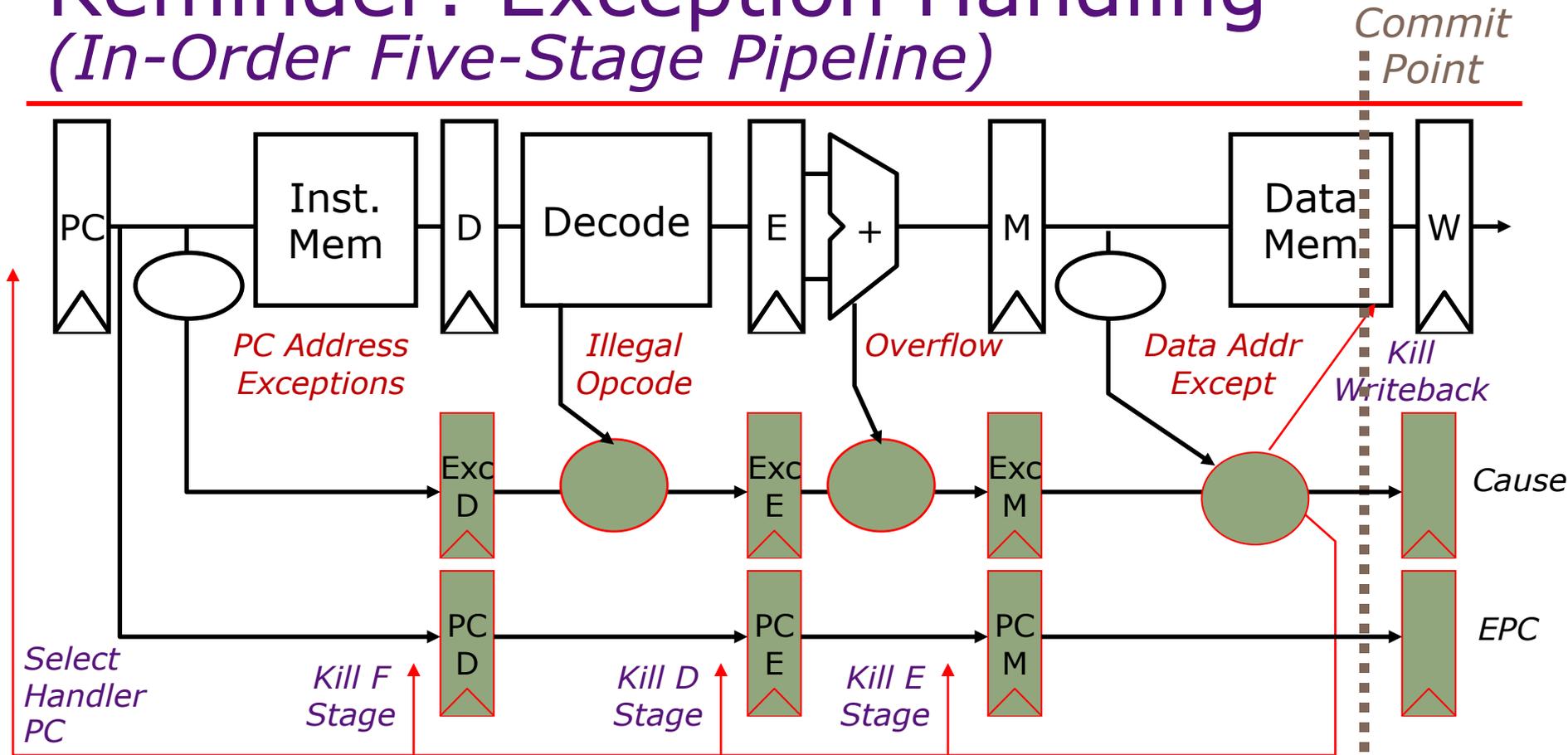
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 - update Cause/EPC registers
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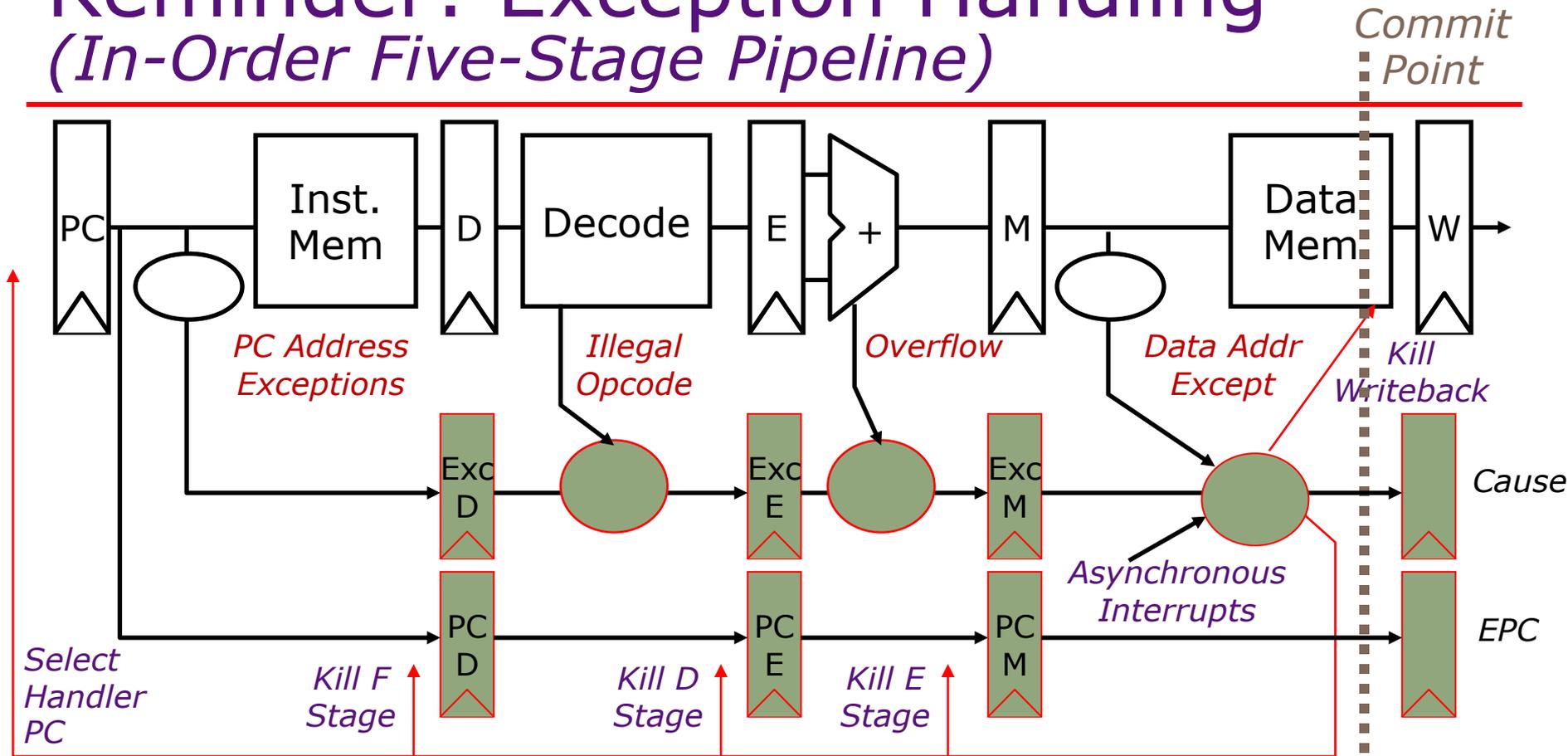
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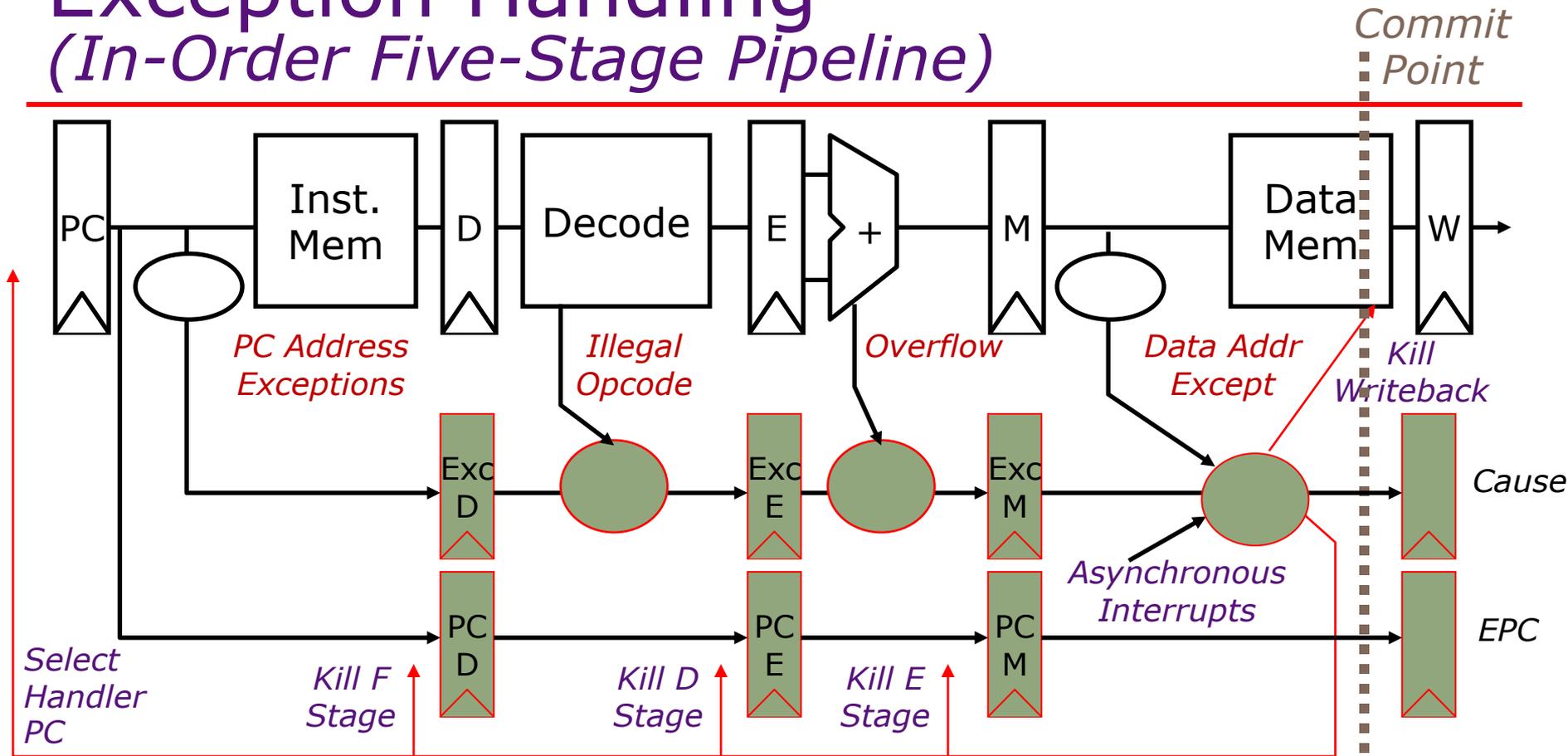
Hold exception flags in pipeline until commit point (M stage)

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Inject external interrupts at commit point

Exception Handling

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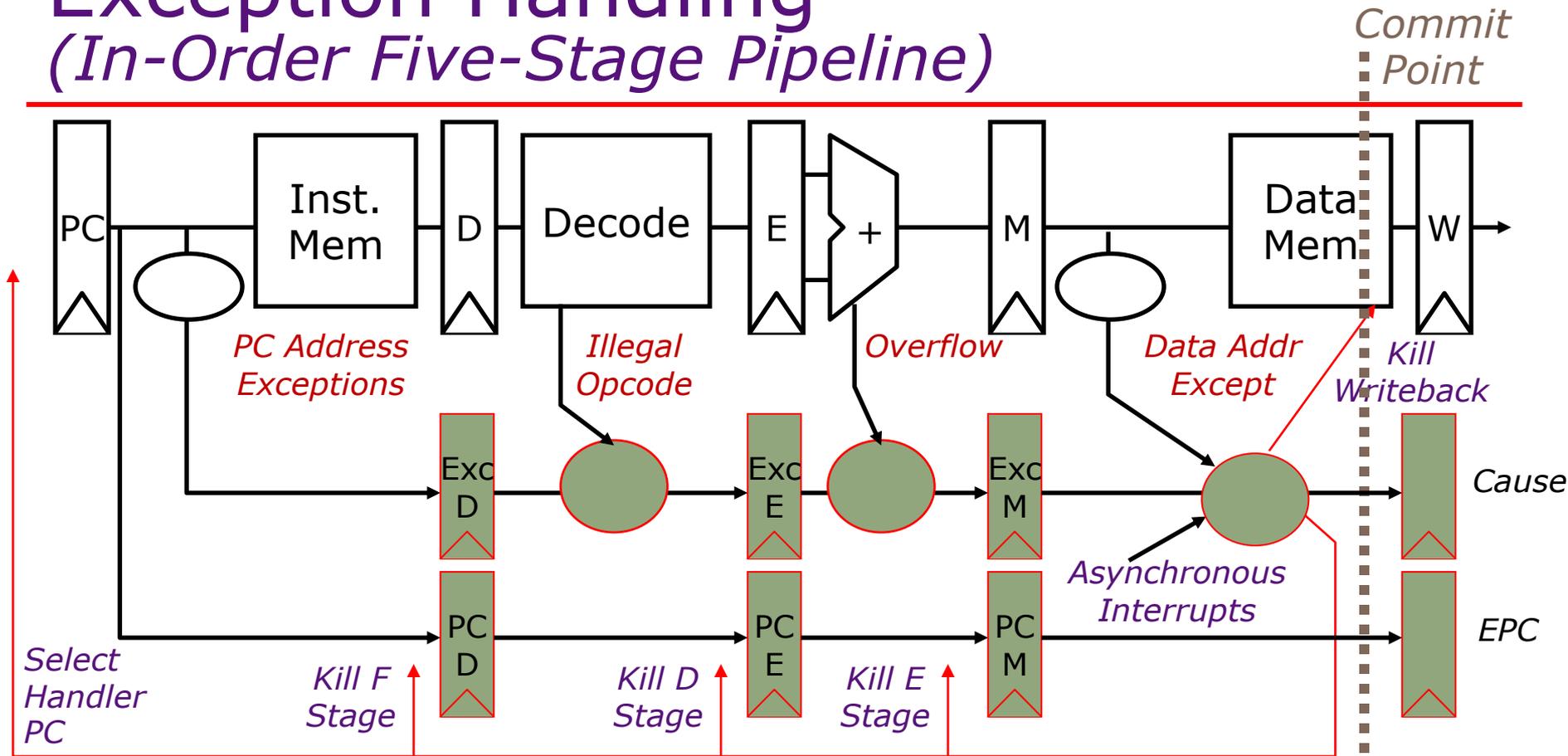


Strategy for Registers?

Strategy for PC?

Exception Handling

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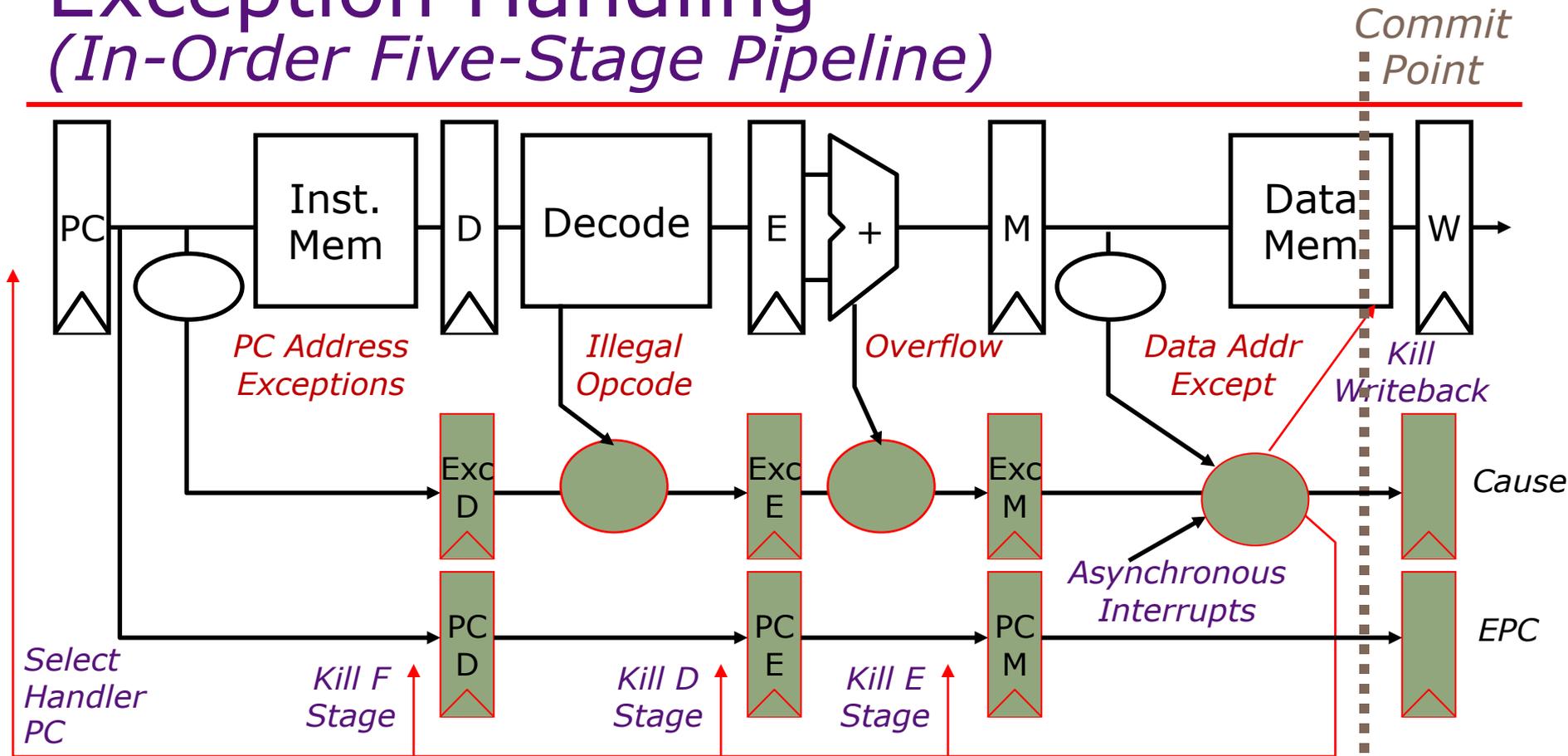
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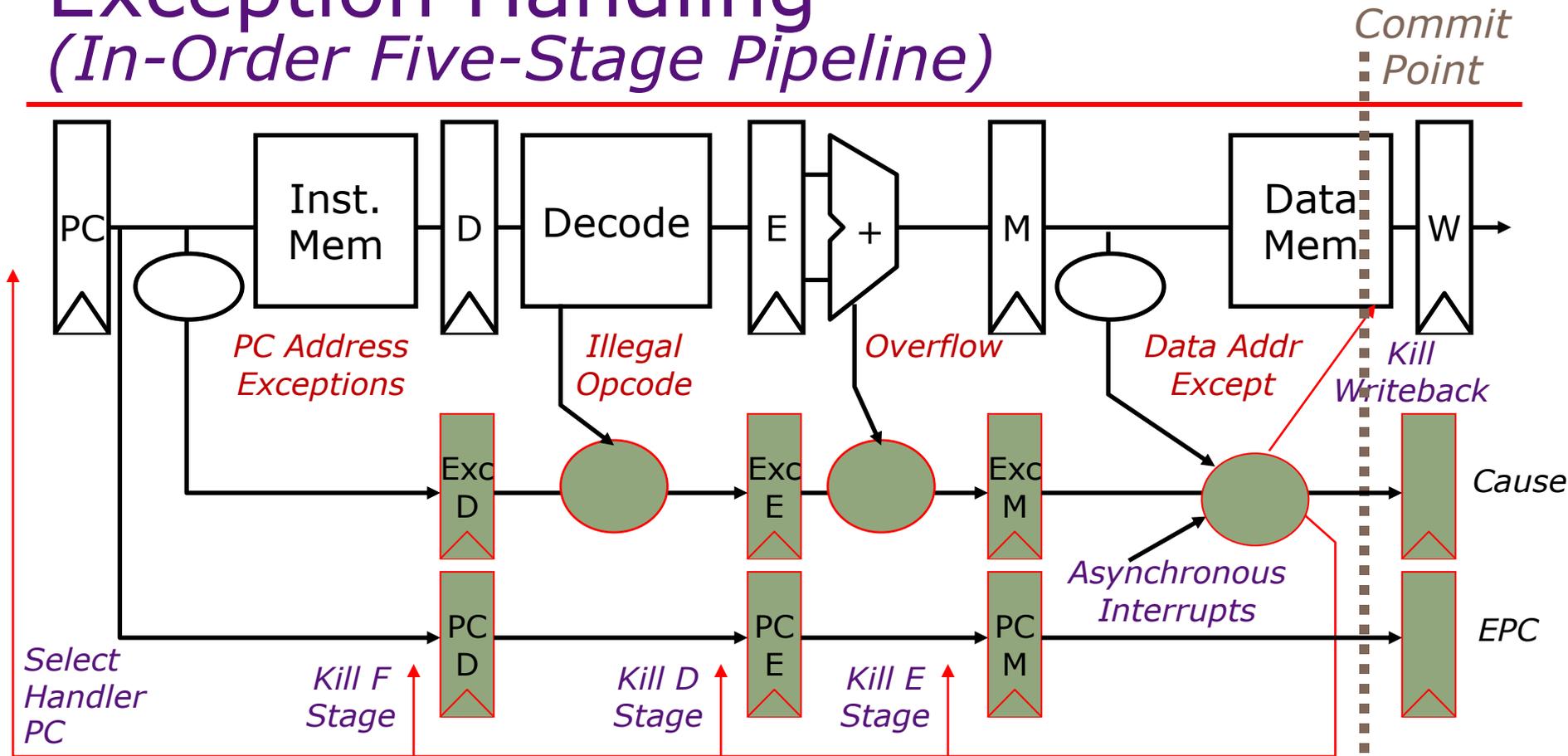


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 Where are 'new' values?
 Strategy for PC?

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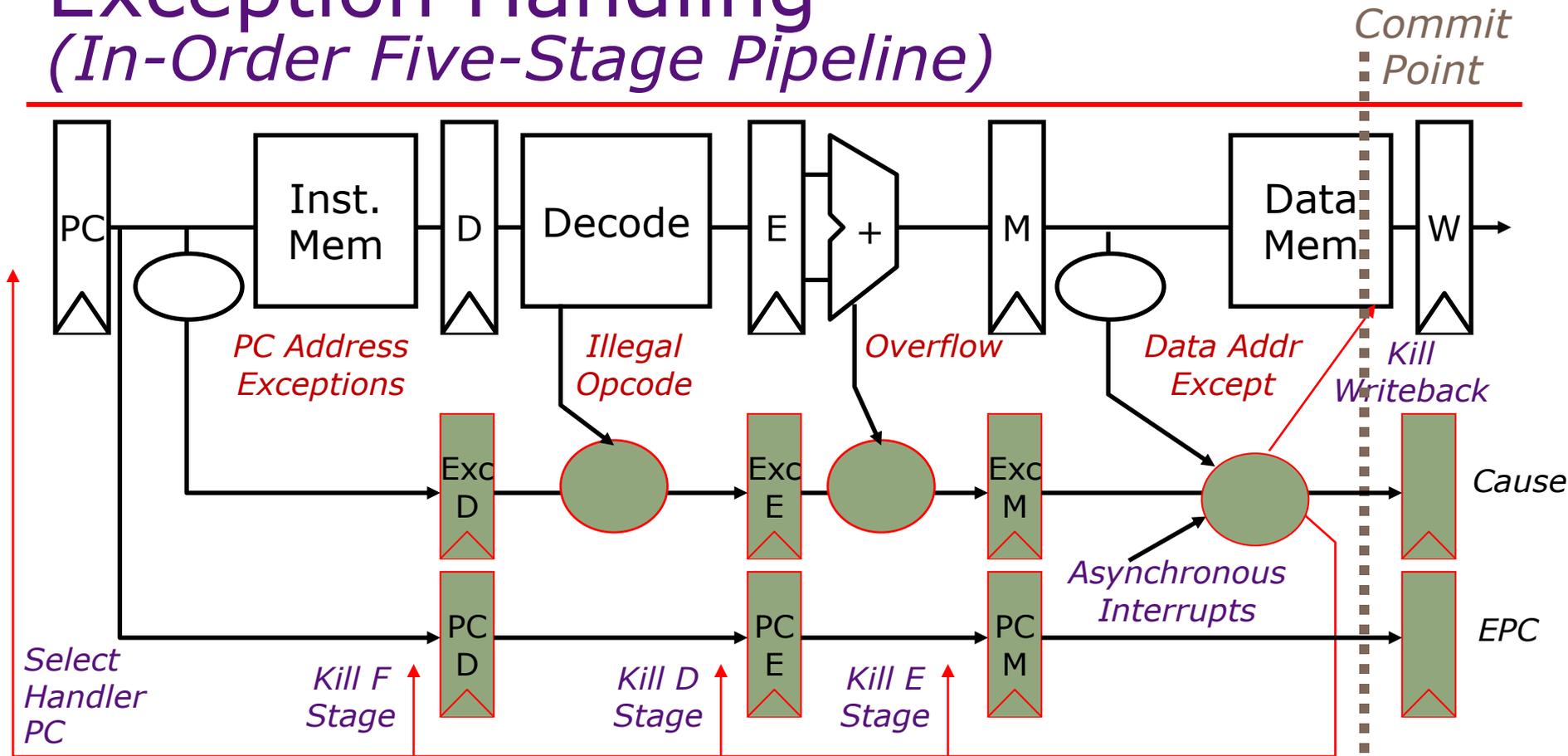


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 In execution pipeline

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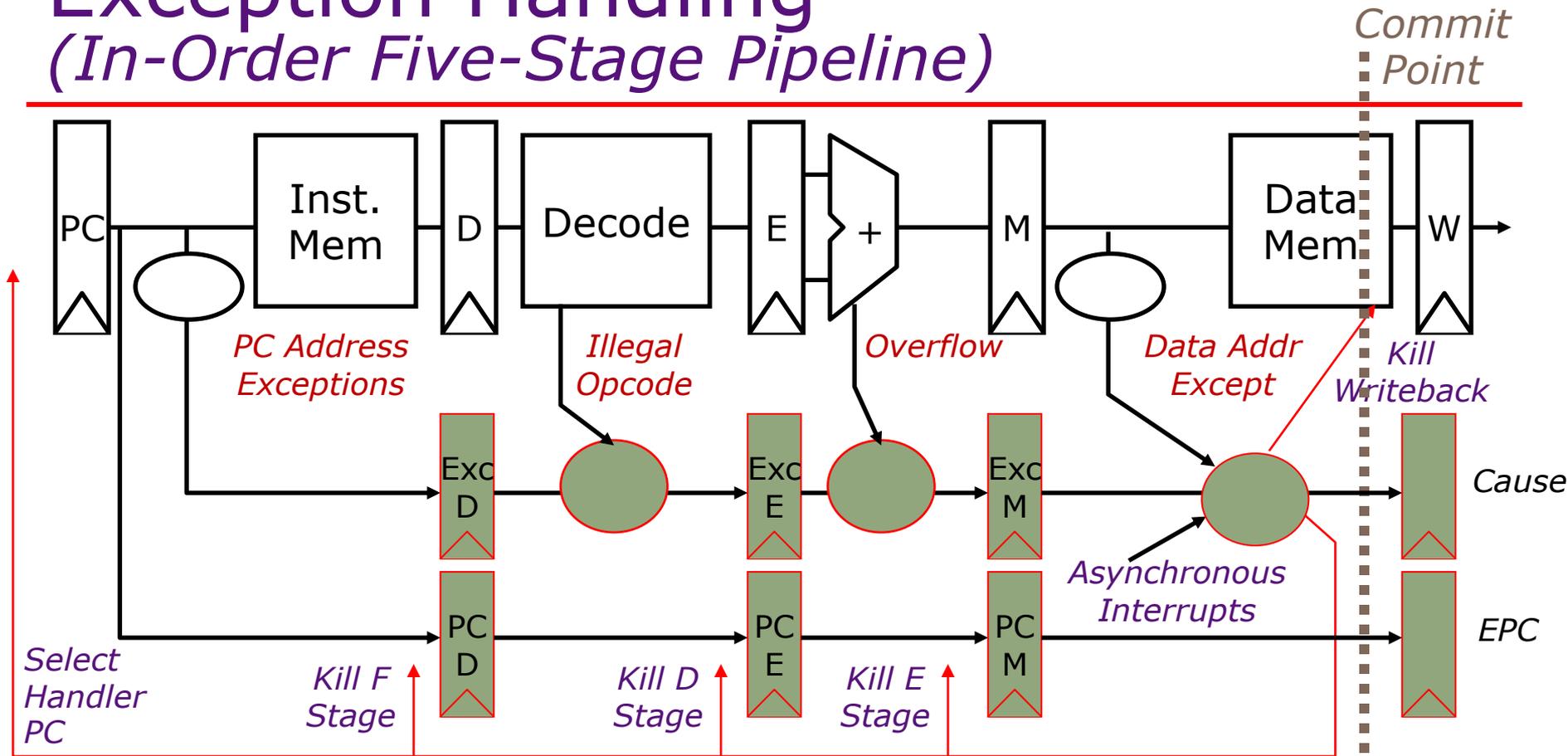


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 In execution pipeline
 Greedy – update immediately

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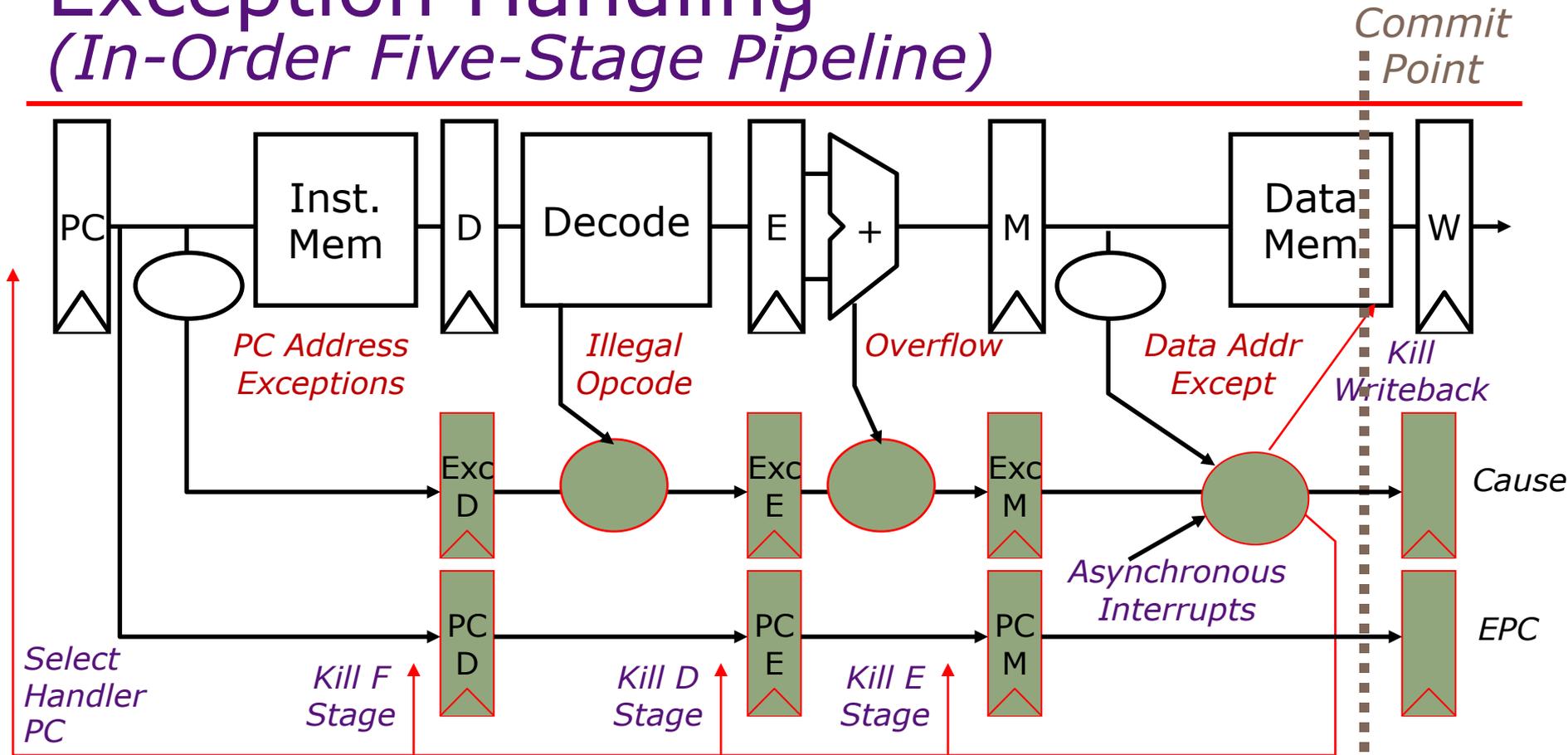


Strategy for Registers?
 Where are 'new' values?
 Strategy for PC?
 Where is 'log'?

Lazy – update at commit
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Strategy for Registers?
 Where are 'new' values?
 Strategy for PC?
 Where is 'log'?

Lazy – update at commit
 In execution pipeline
 Greedy – update immediately
 In pipeline of PC latches

Misprediction Recovery

In-order execution machines:

- Guarantee no instruction issued after branch can write-back before branch resolves by keeping values in the pipeline
- Kill all values from all instructions in pipeline behind mispredicted branch

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Out-of-order execution?

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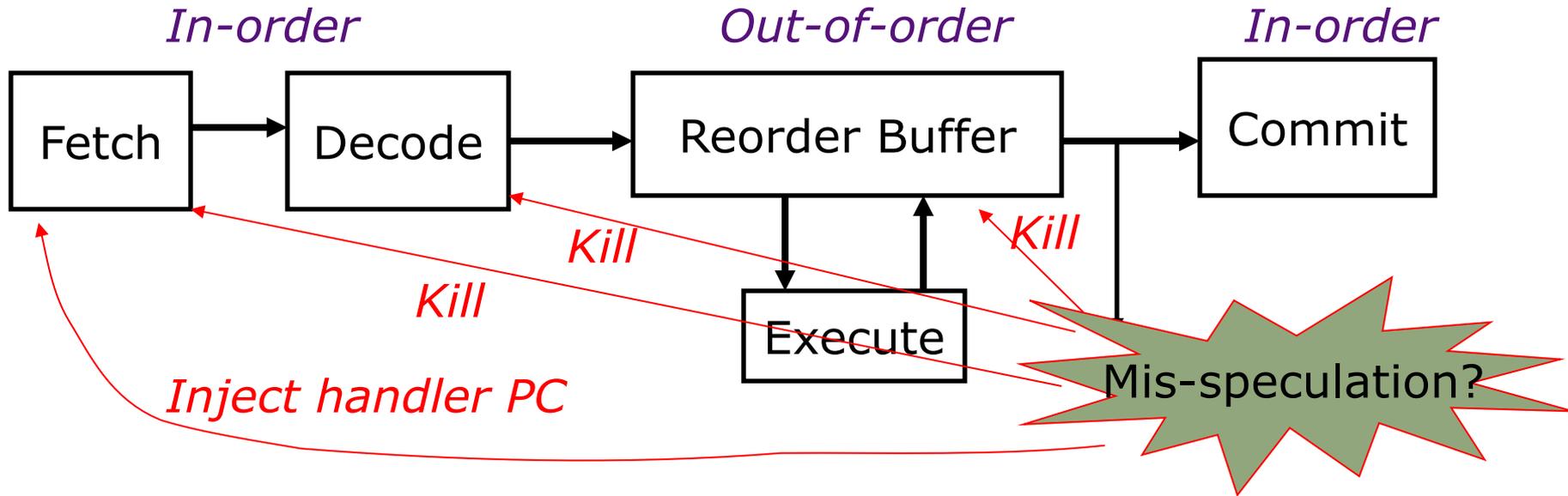
In-order execution machines:

- Guarantee no instruction issued after branch can write-back before branch resolves by keeping values in the pipeline
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Out-of-order execution?

- Multiple instructions following exception in program order can generate new values before exception resolves

In-Order Commit for Mis-speculation Recovery



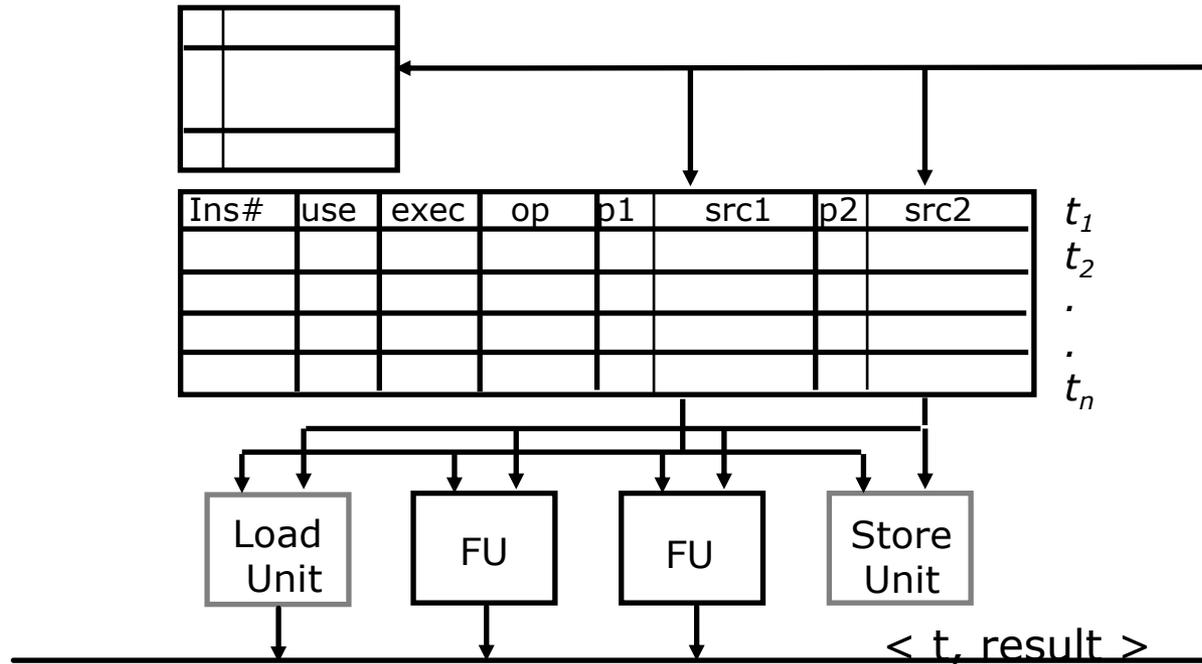
- Instructions fetched and decoded into instruction reorder buffer in-order
- Execution is out-of-order (\Rightarrow out-of-order completion)
- *Commit* (write-back to architectural state, i.e., regfile & memory) is in-order

Temporary storage needed to hold results before commit (shadow registers and store buffers)

Data-Driven Execution

*Renaming
table &
reg file*

*Reorder
buffer*



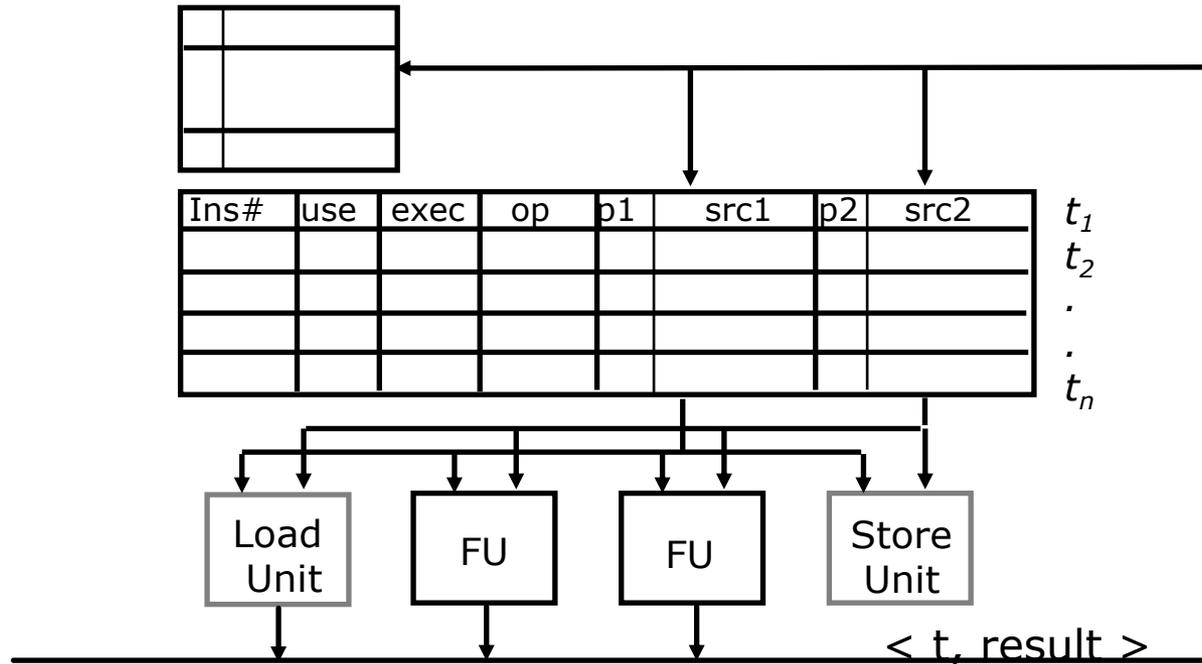
Basic Operation:

- Enter op and tag or data (if known) for each source
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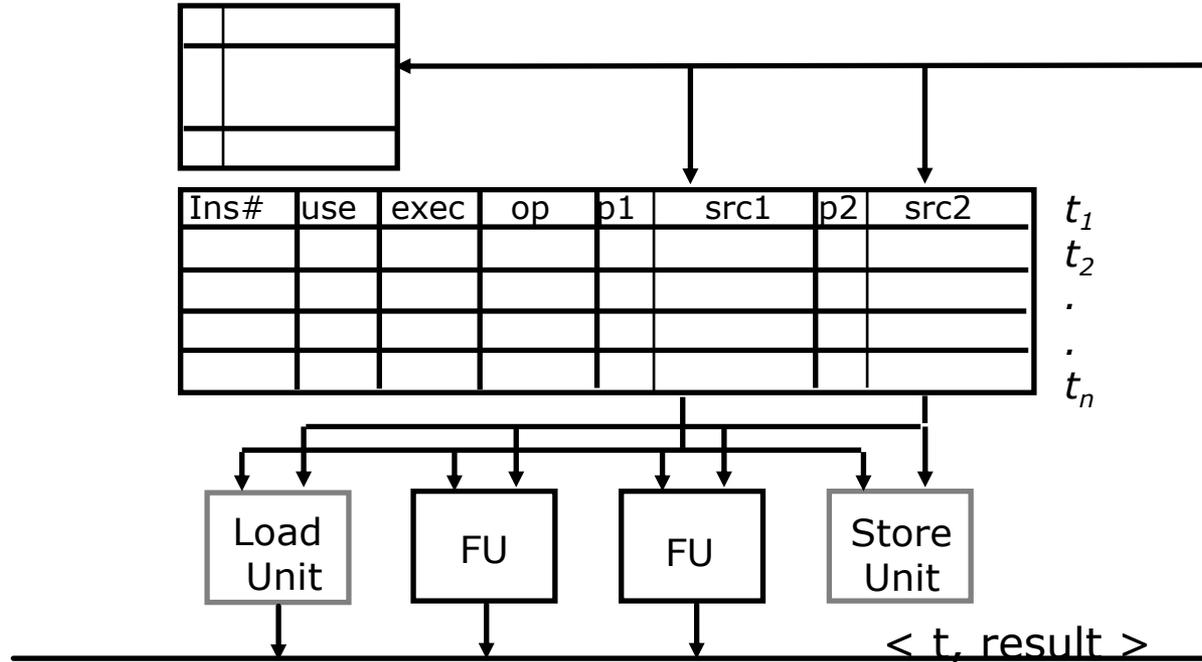
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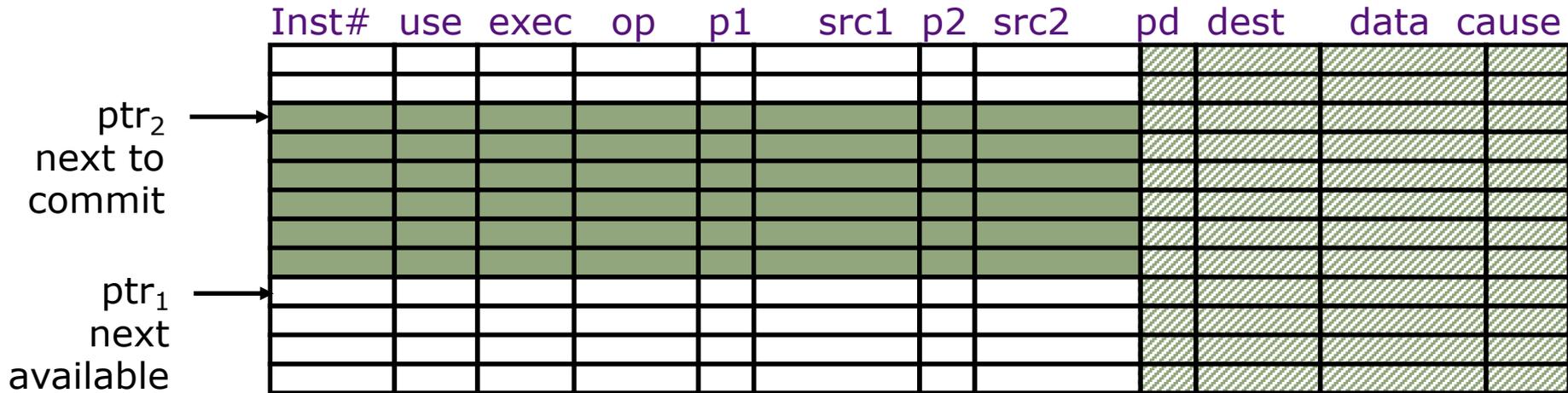
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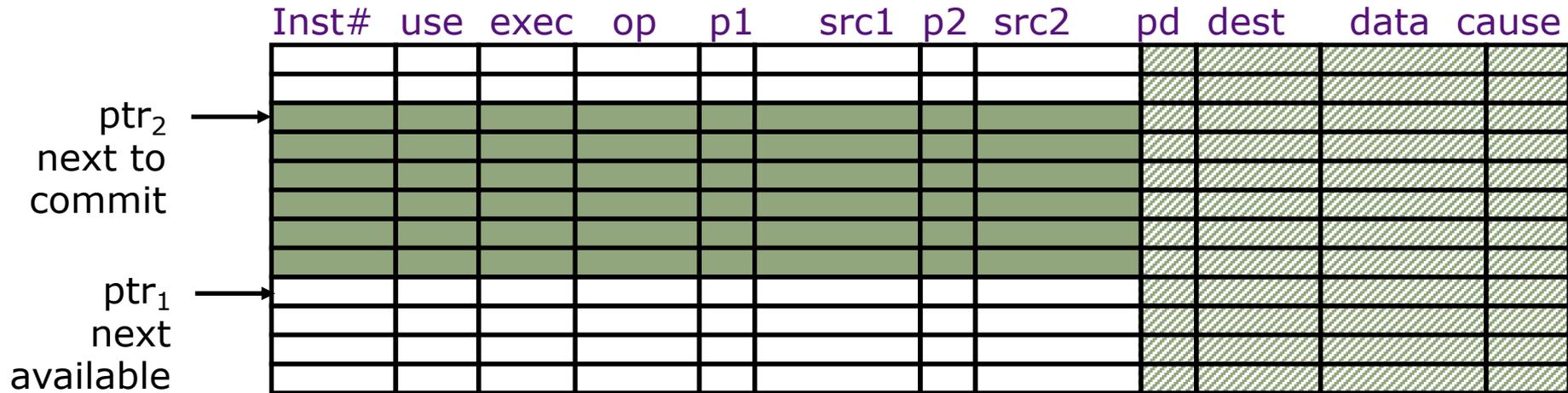
Extensions for Mis-speculation Recovery



Reorder buffer

- add $\langle \text{pd}, \text{dest}, \text{data}, \text{cause} \rangle$ fields in the instruction template
- commit instructions to reg file and memory in program order \Rightarrow buffers can be maintained circularly
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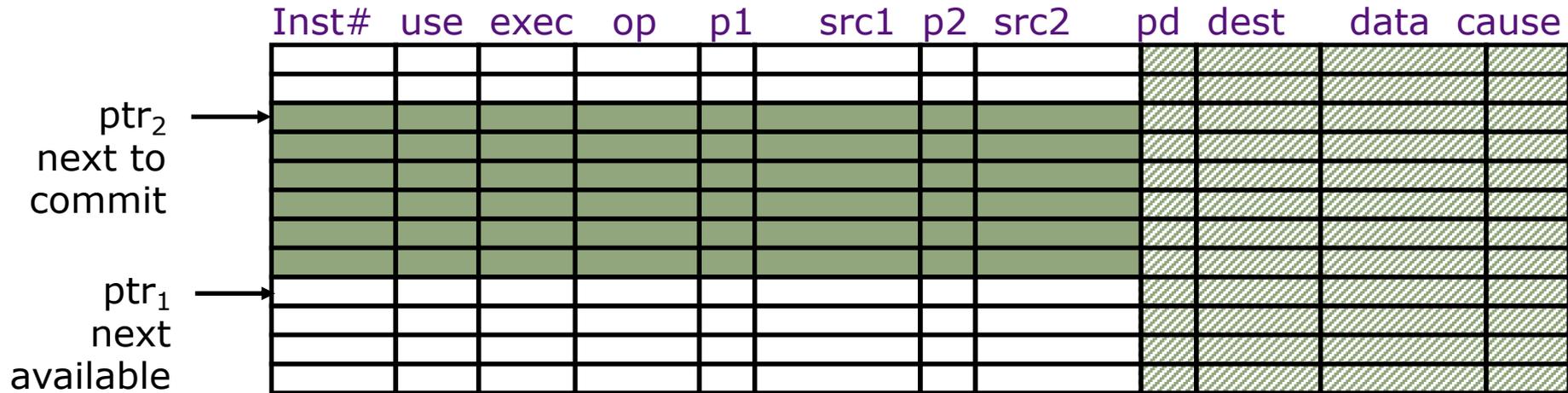


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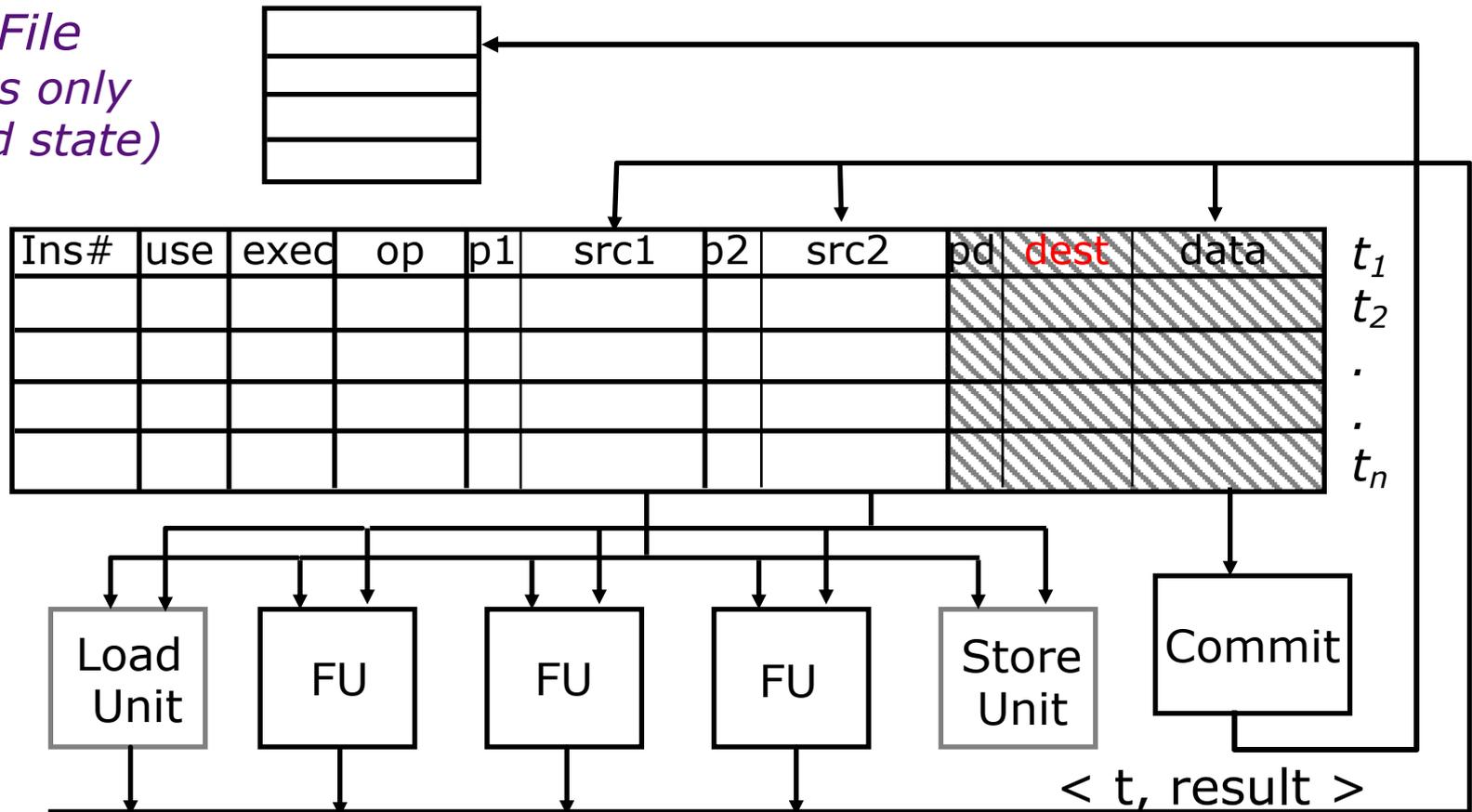
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Lazy

Rollback and Renaming

Register File
(now holds only committed state)

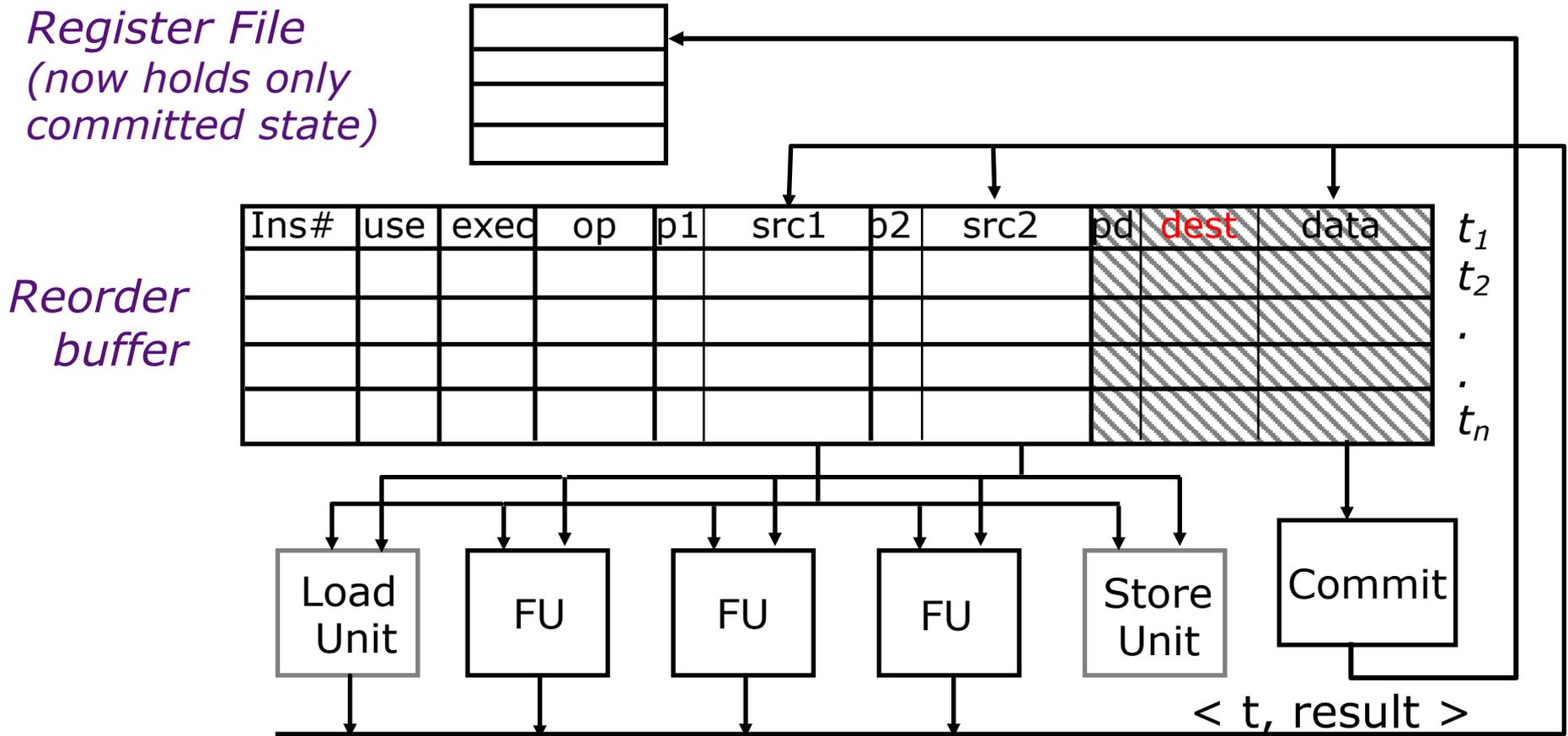
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Convert to lazy by holding data in ROB.

But how do we find values before they are committed?

Rollback and Renaming



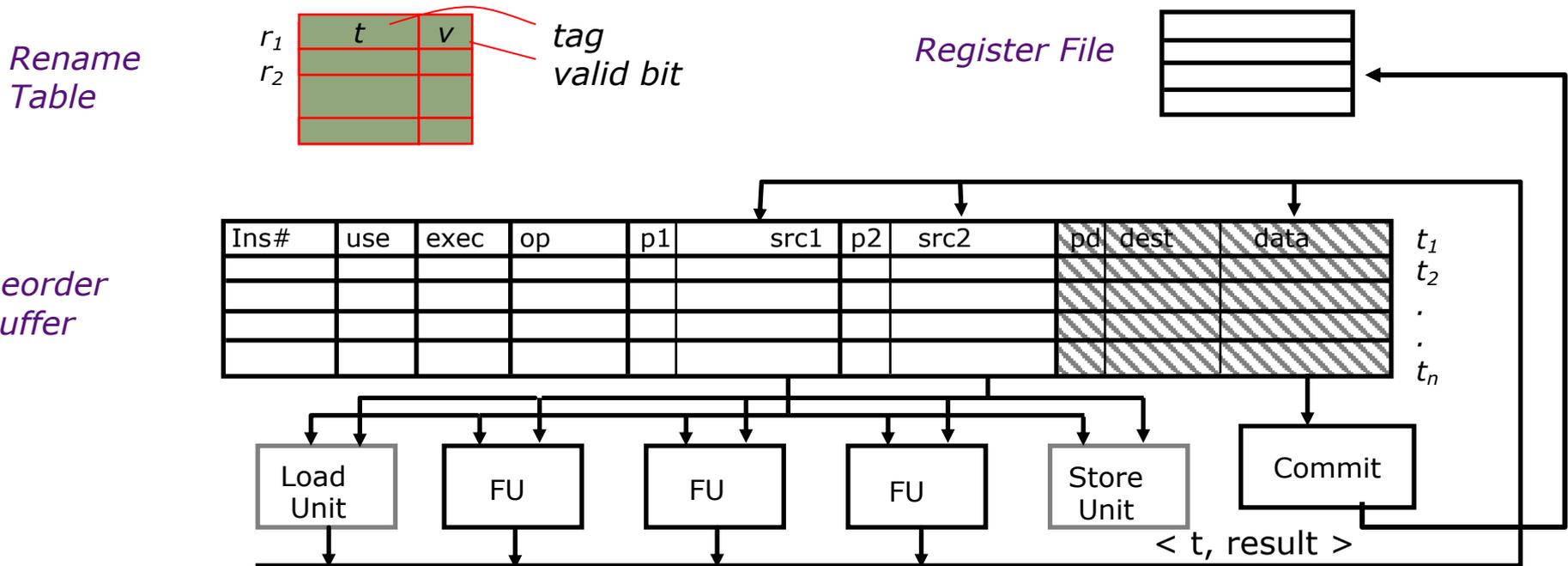
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Search the "dest" field in the reorder buffer

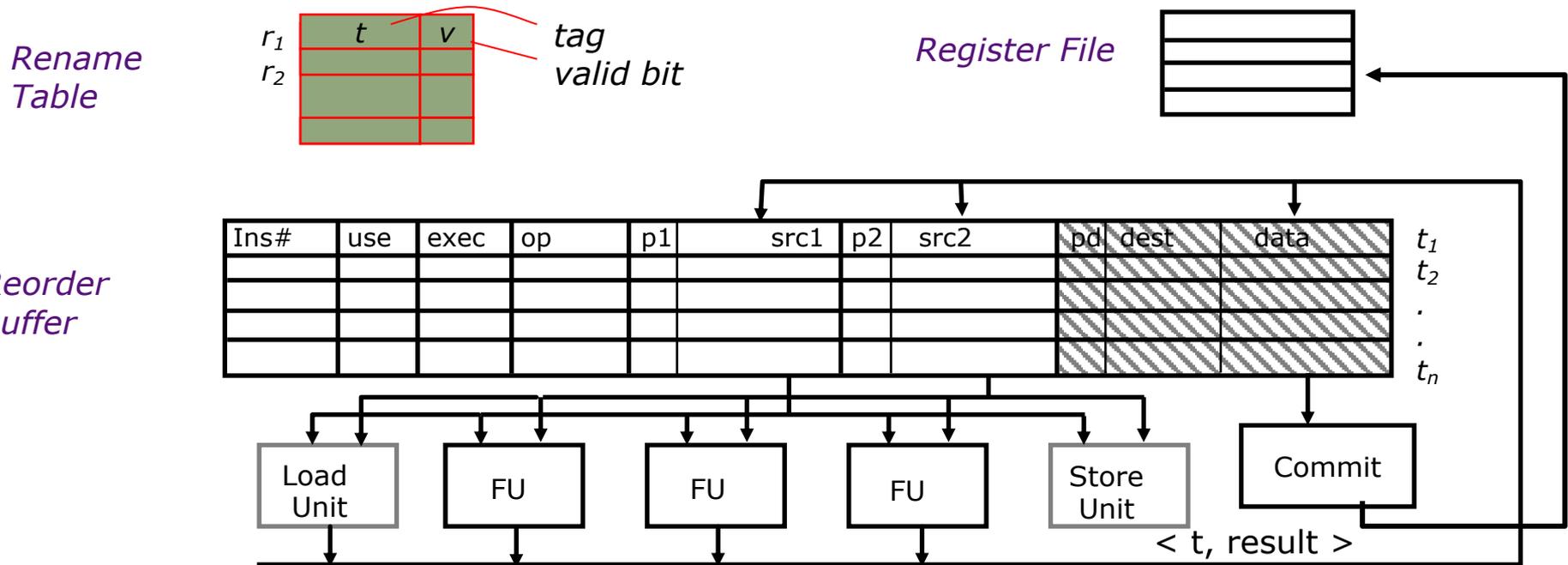
Renaming Table

Micro-architectural speculative cache to speed up tag look up.



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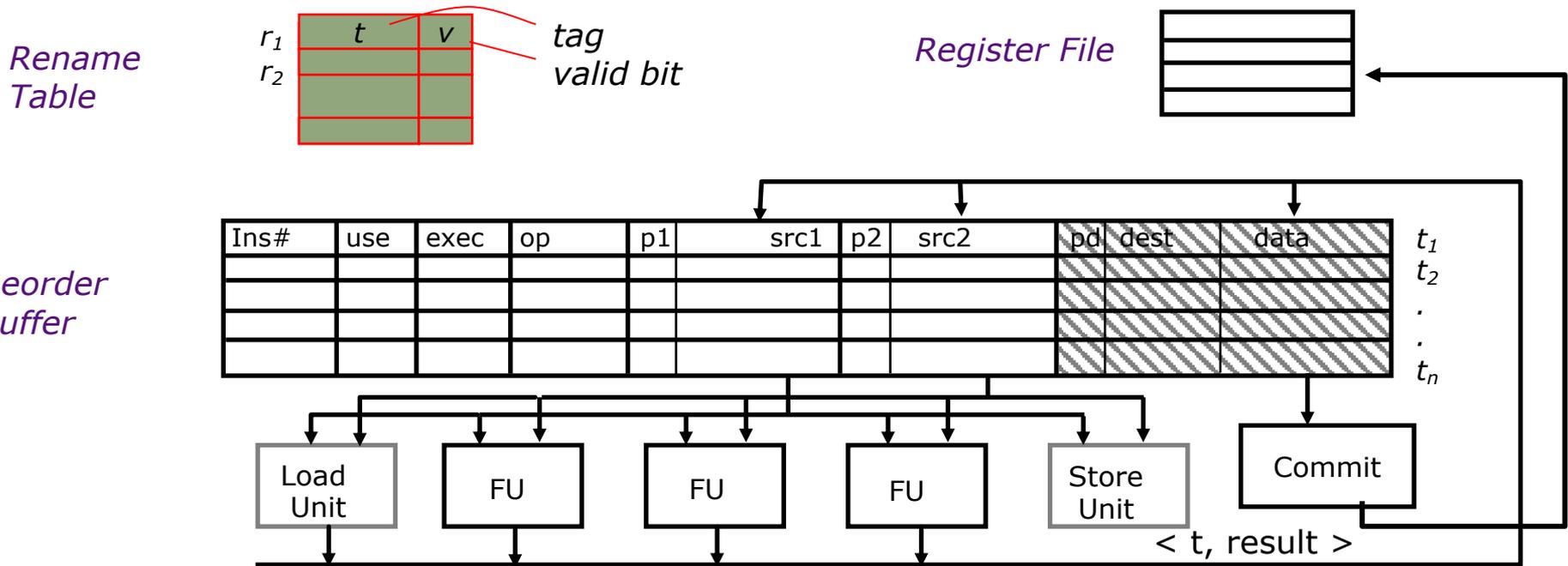
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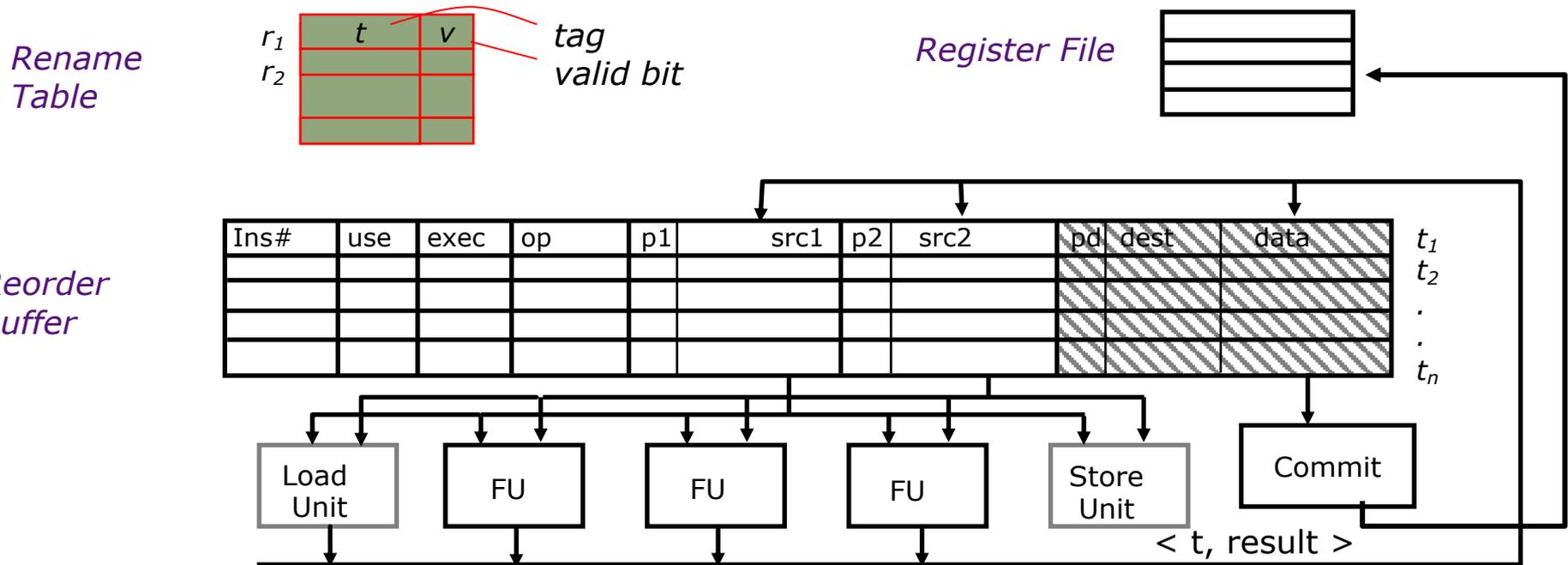


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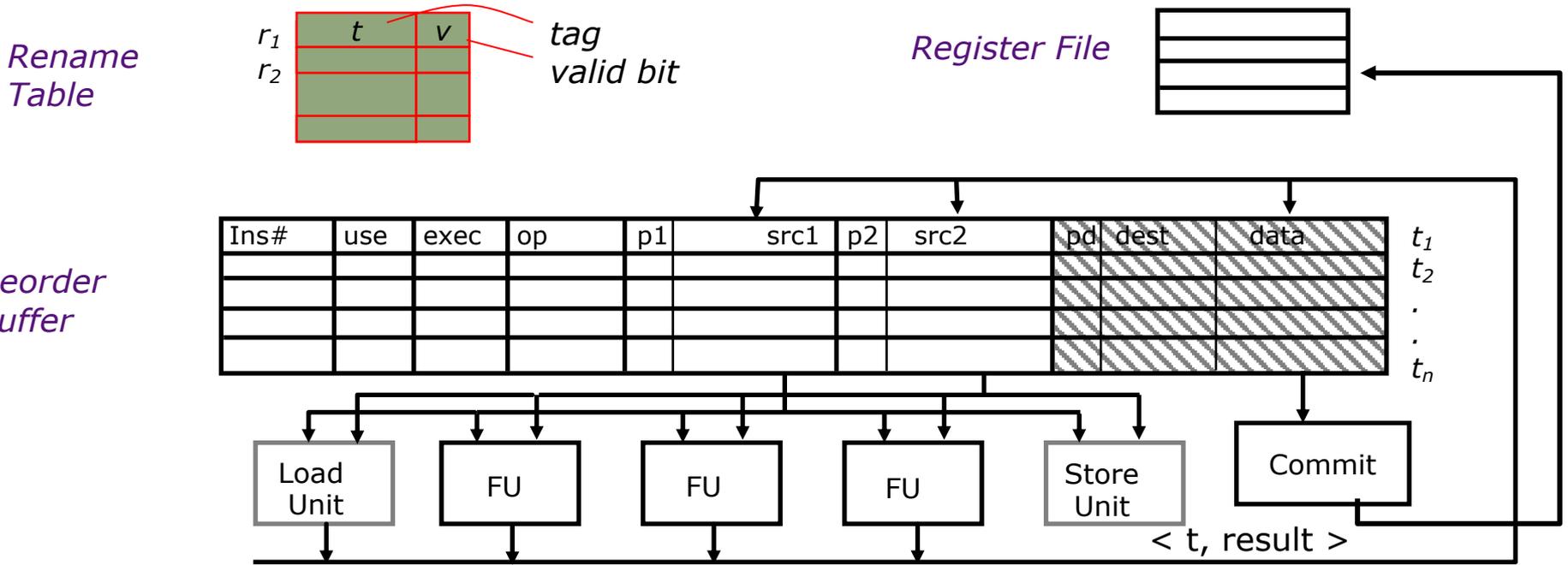


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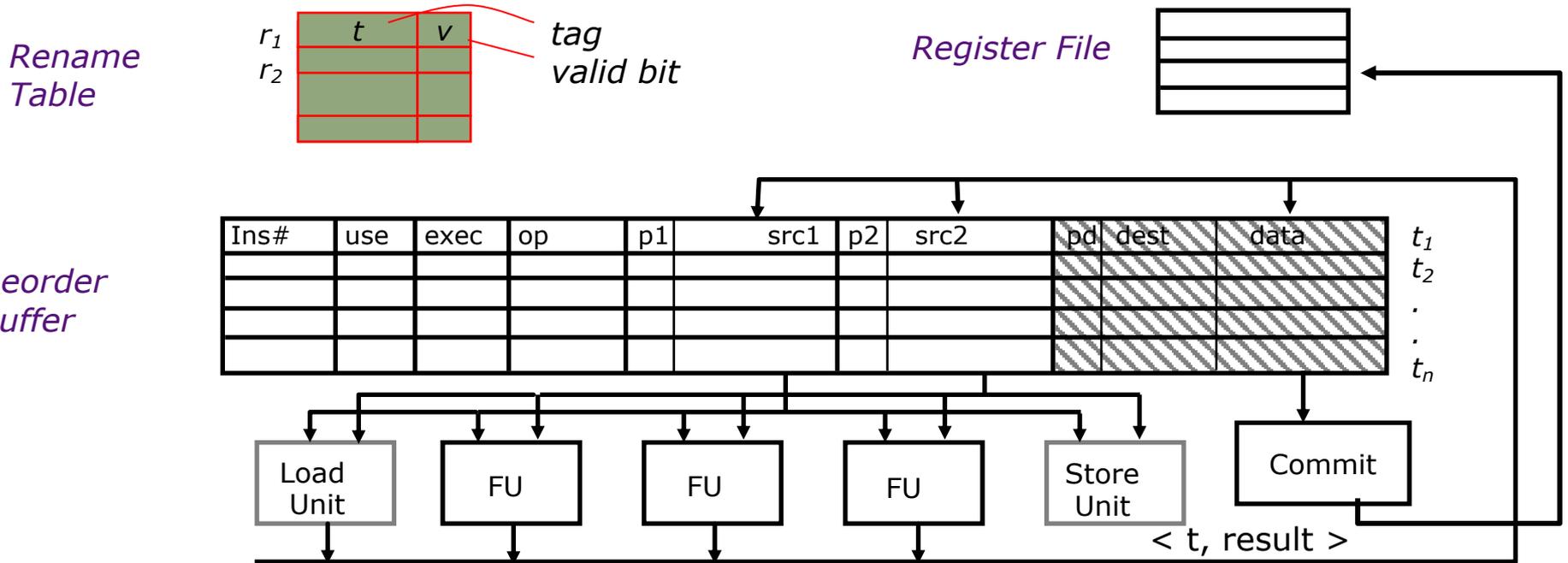


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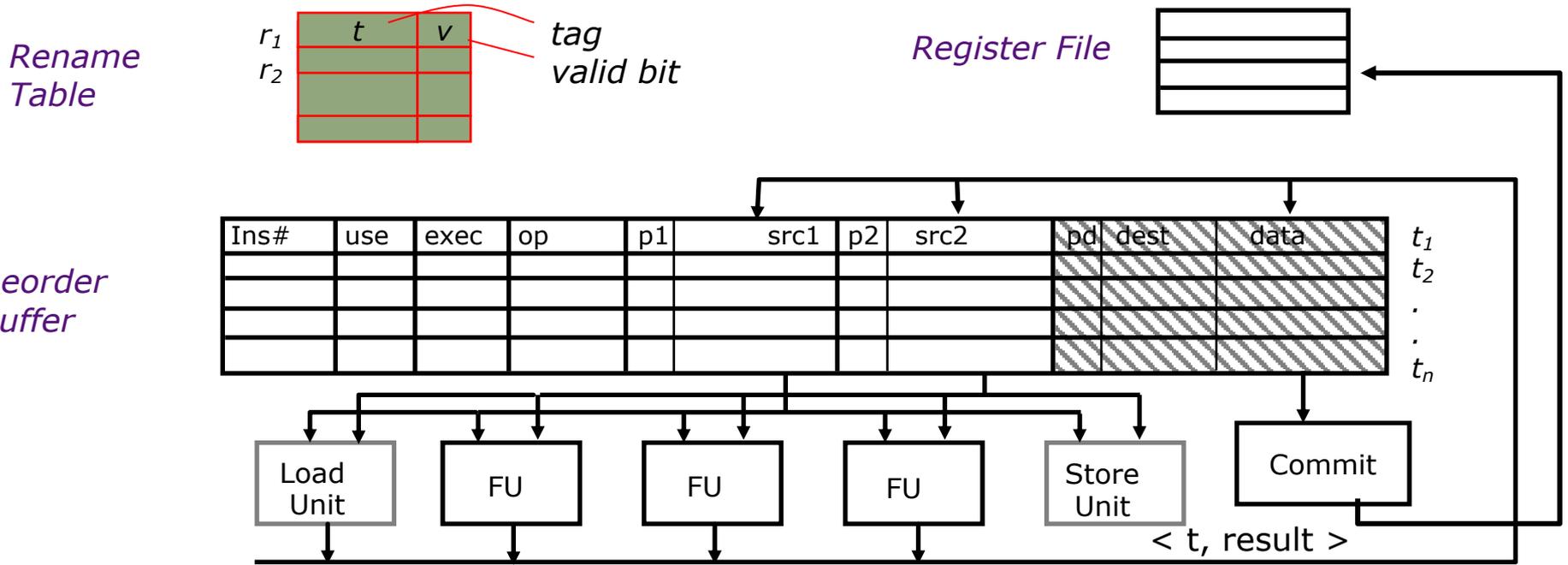
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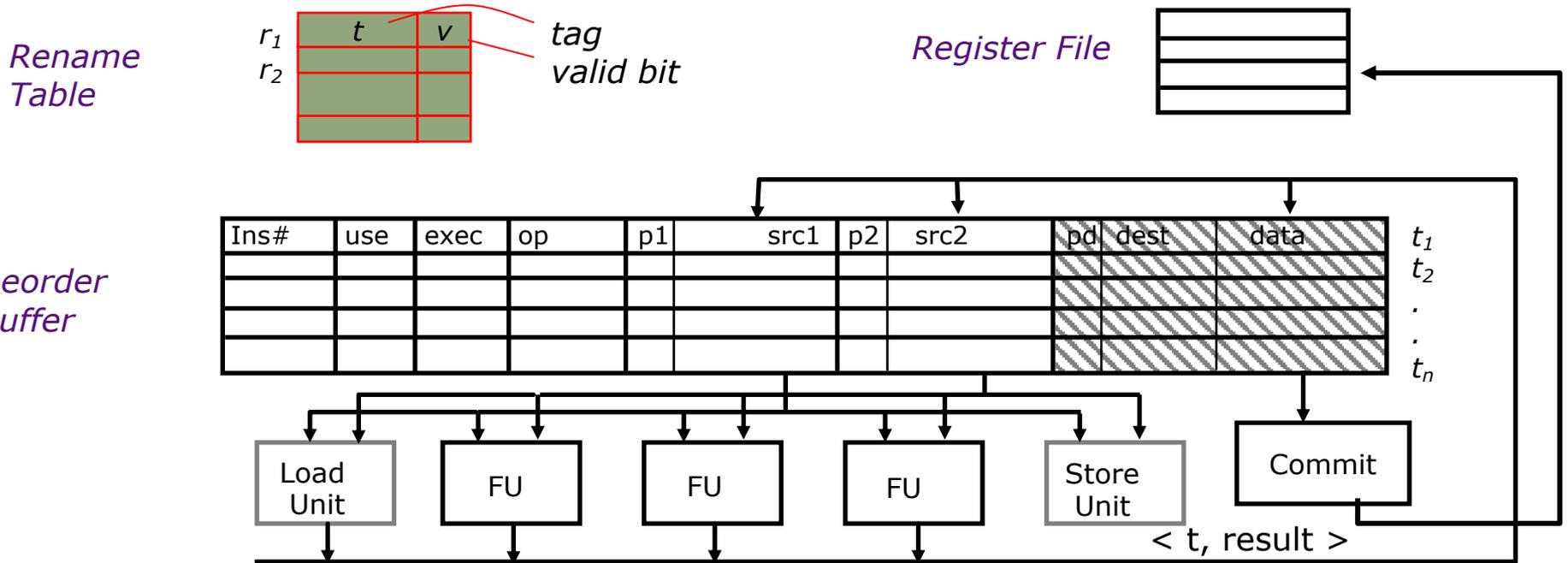
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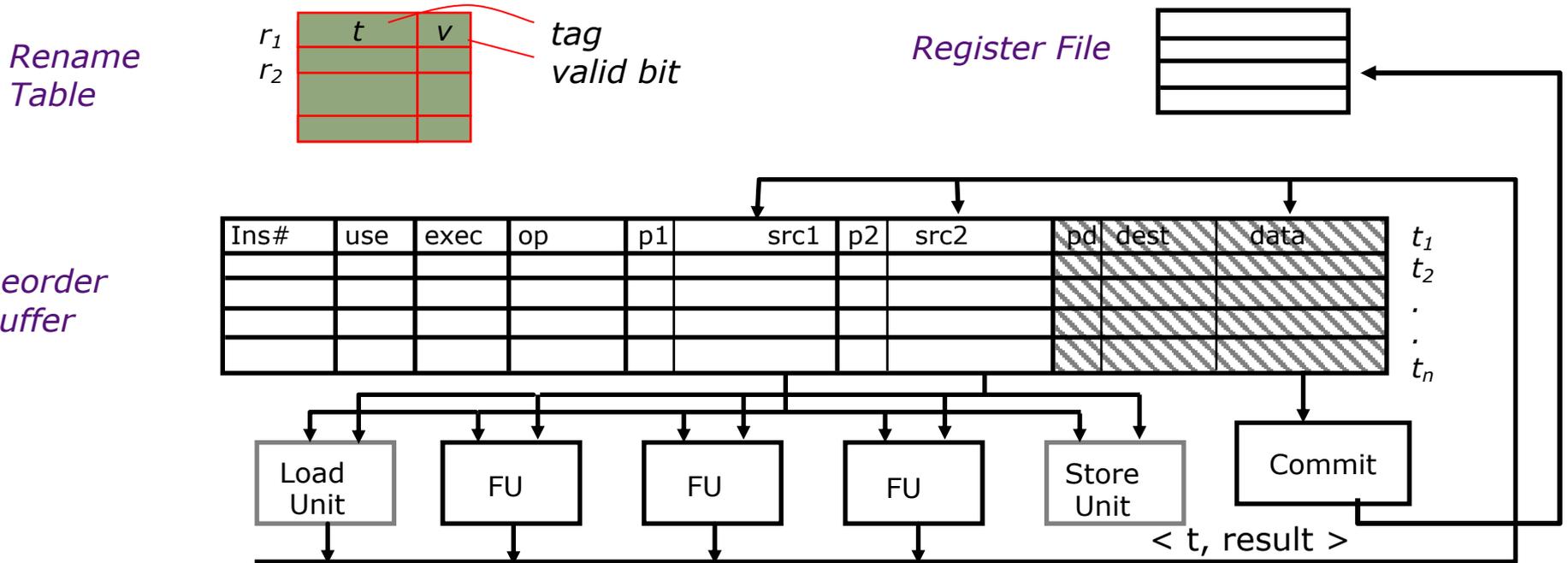
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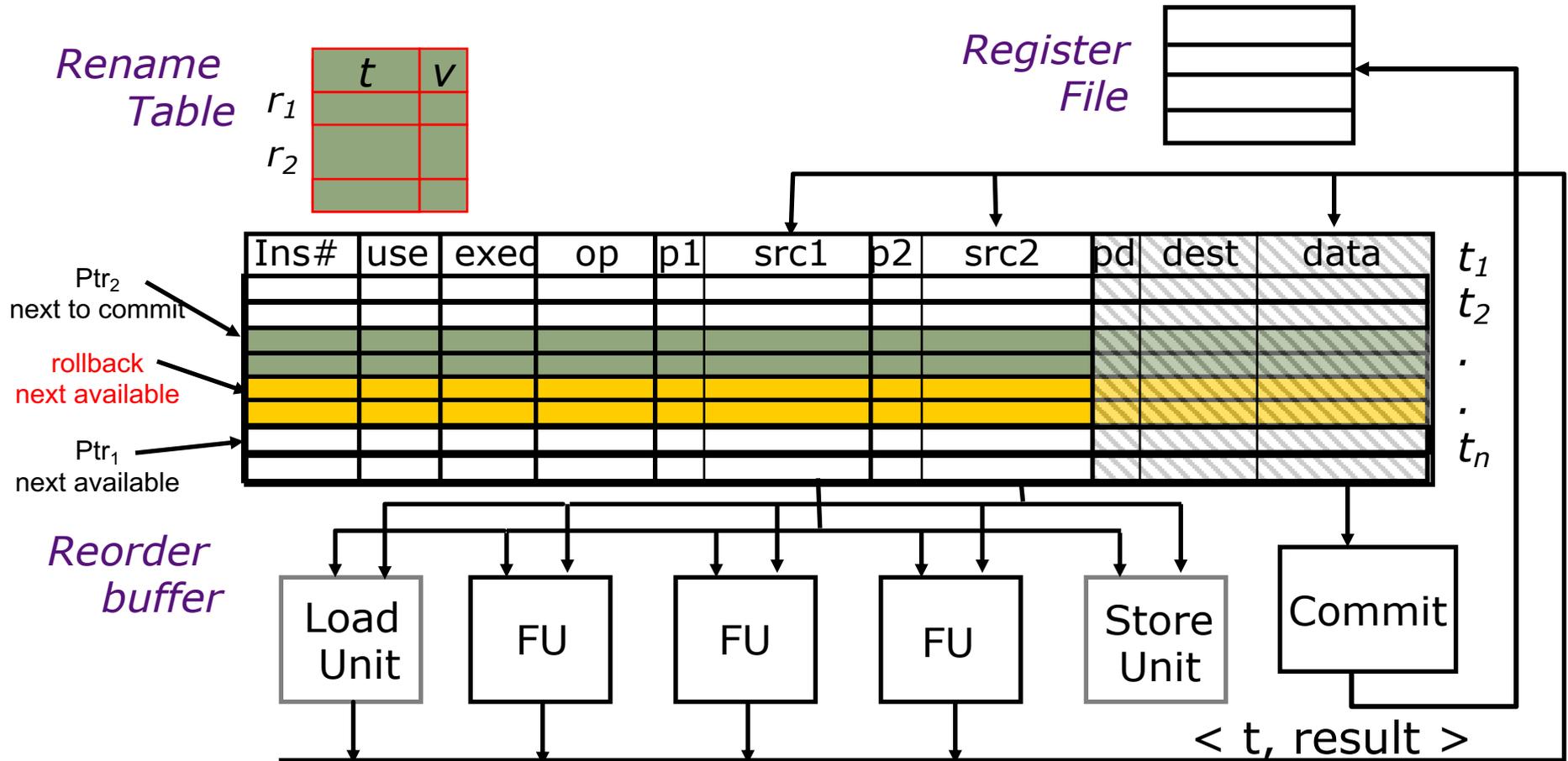
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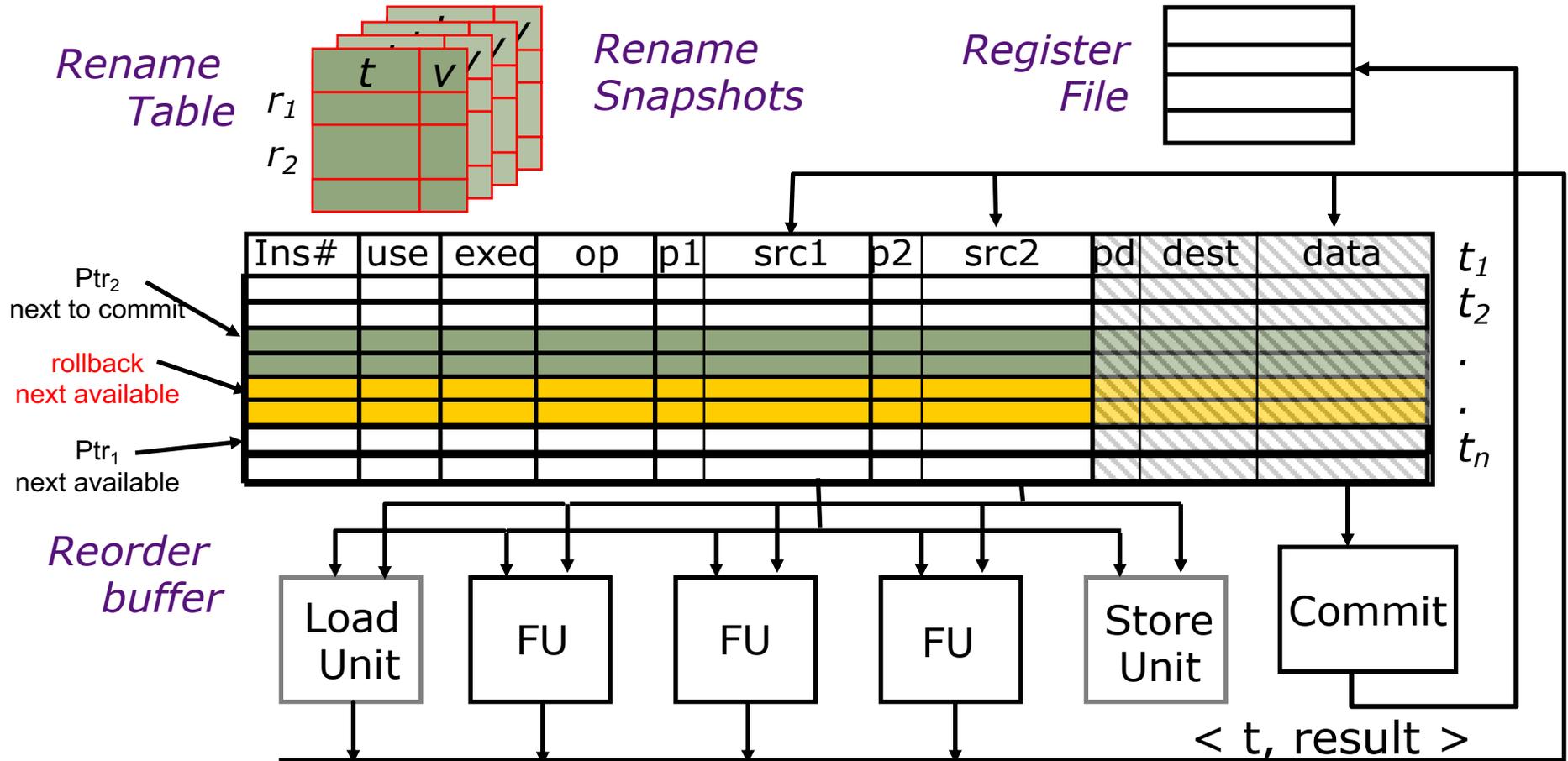
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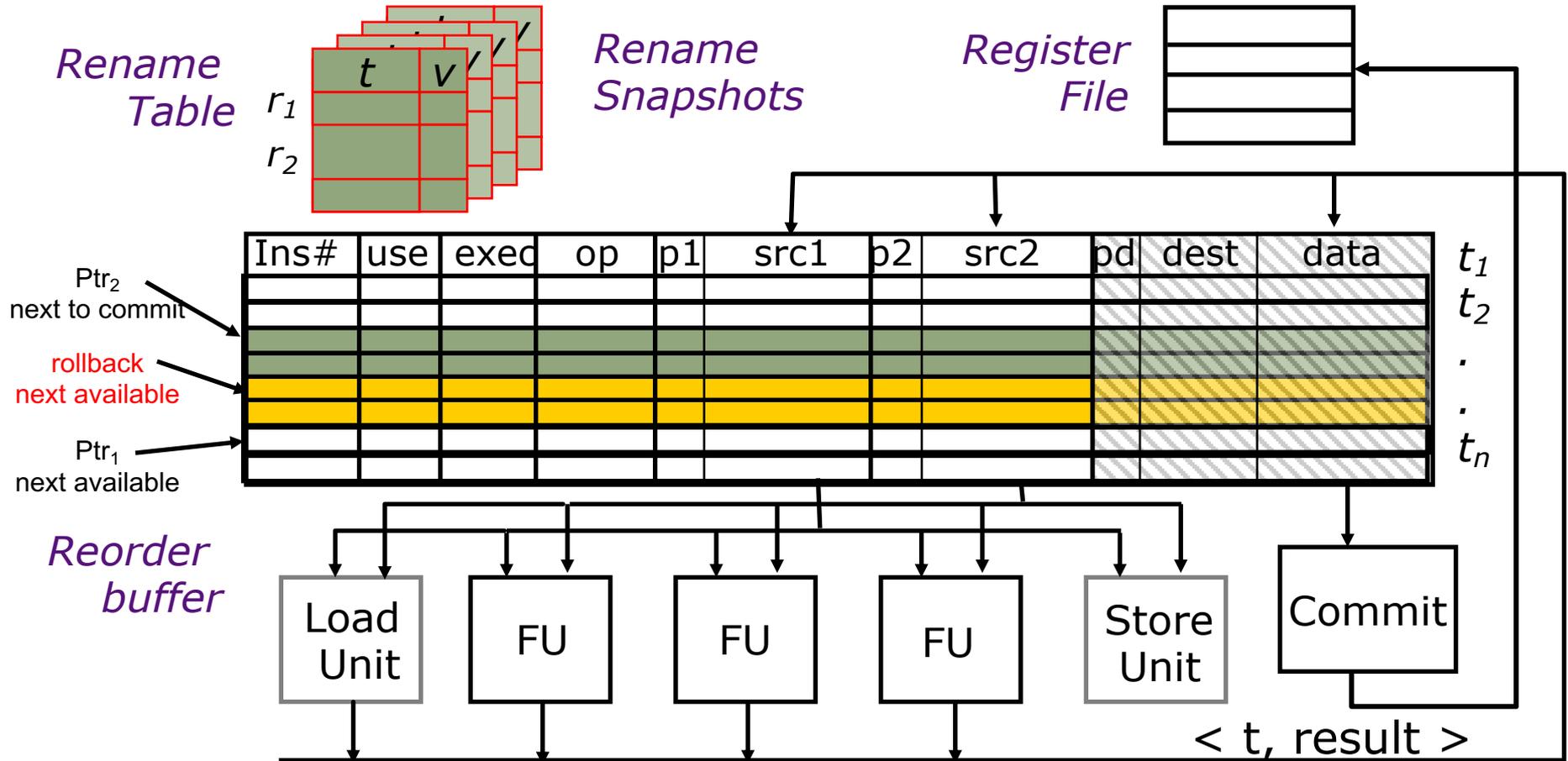
Recovering ROB/Renaming Table



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Recovering ROB/Renaming Table



Take snapshot of register rename table at each predicted branch, recover earlier snapshot if branch mispredicted

Map Table Recovery - Snapshots

Speculative value management of microarchitectural state

	Reg Map	V
R0	T20	X
R1	T08	
R2	T45	X
R3	T128	X
	•	
	•	
	•	
R30	T54	
R31	T88	X

Map Table Recovery - Snapshots

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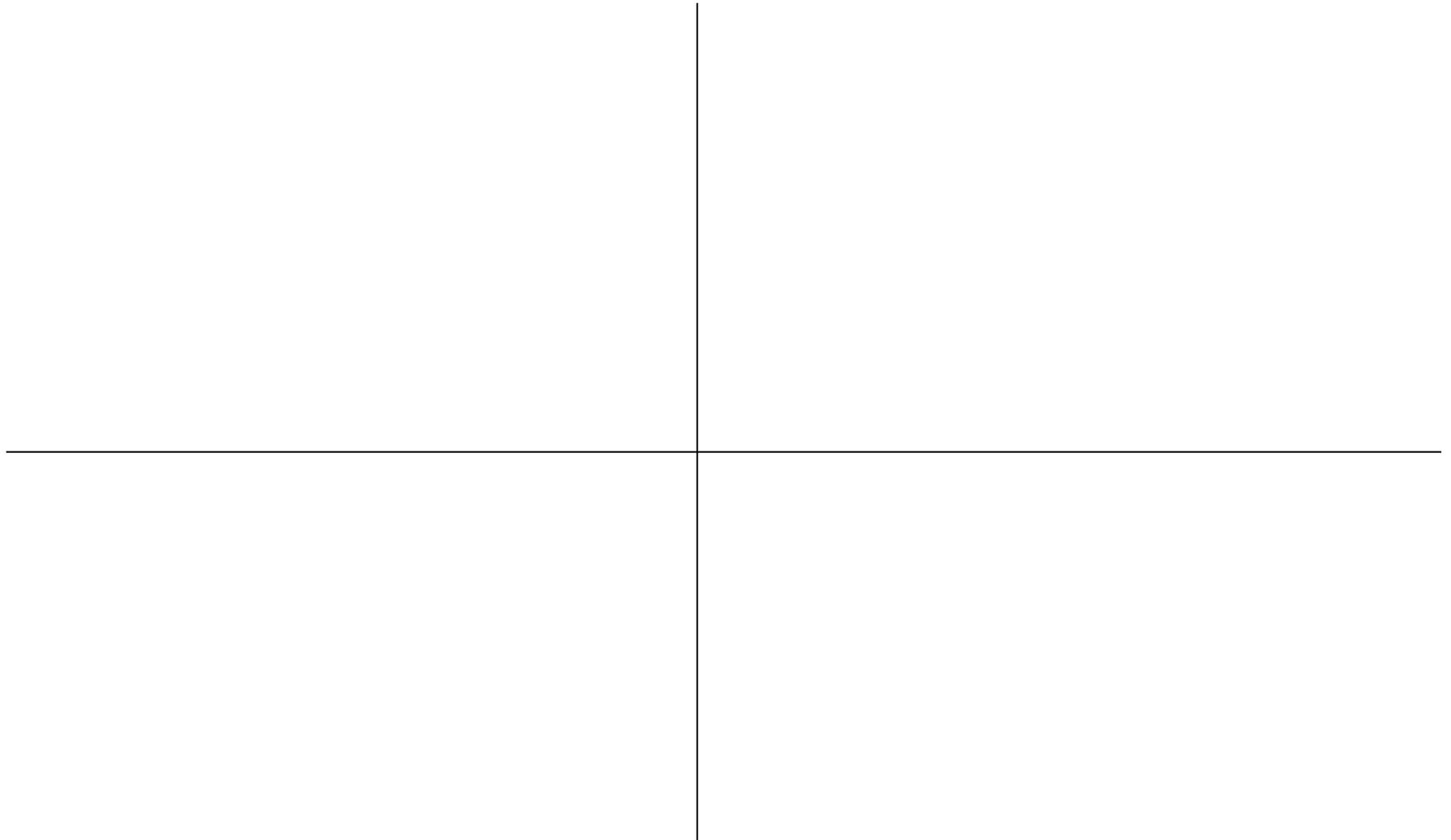
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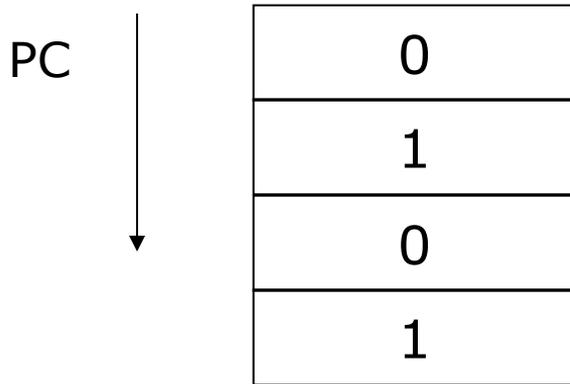
Greedy!!

Branch Predictor Recovery



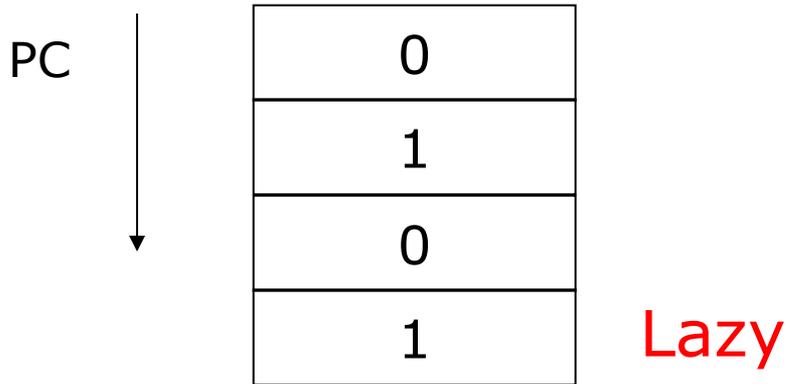
Branch Predictor Recovery

- 1-Bit Counter Recovery



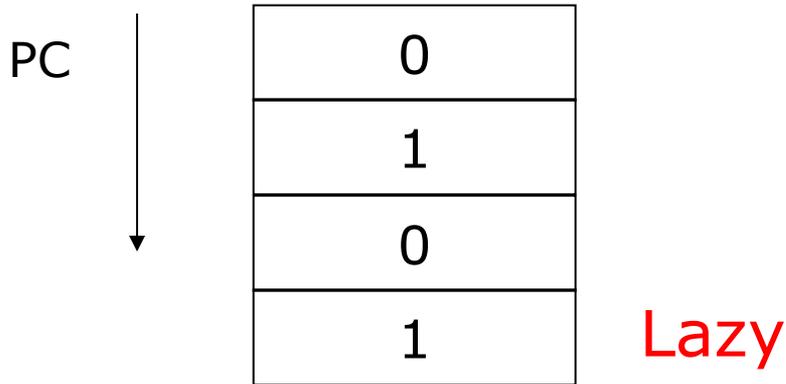
Branch Predictor Recovery

- 1-Bit Counter Recovery

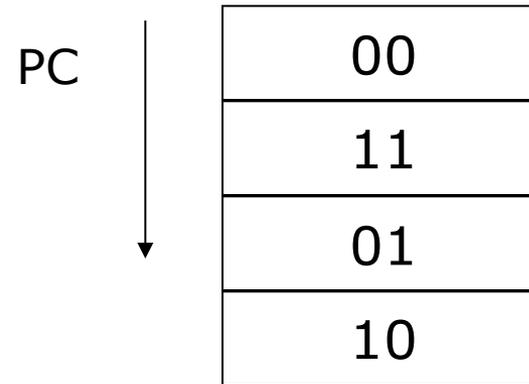


Branch Predictor Recovery

- 1-Bit Counter Recovery

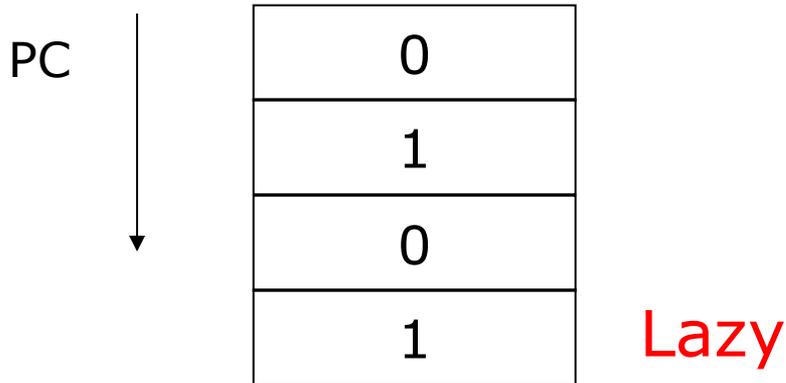


- 2-Bit Counter Recovery

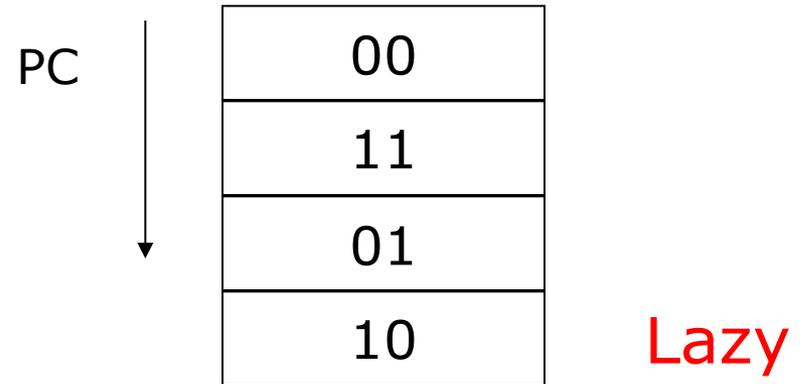


Branch Predictor Recovery

- 1-Bit Counter Recovery

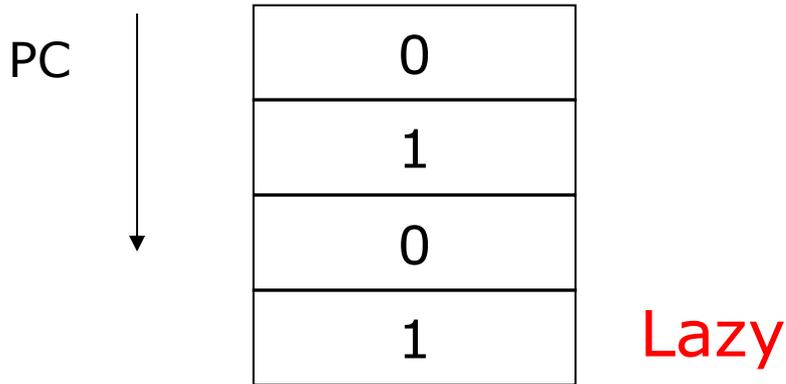


- 2-Bit Counter Recovery

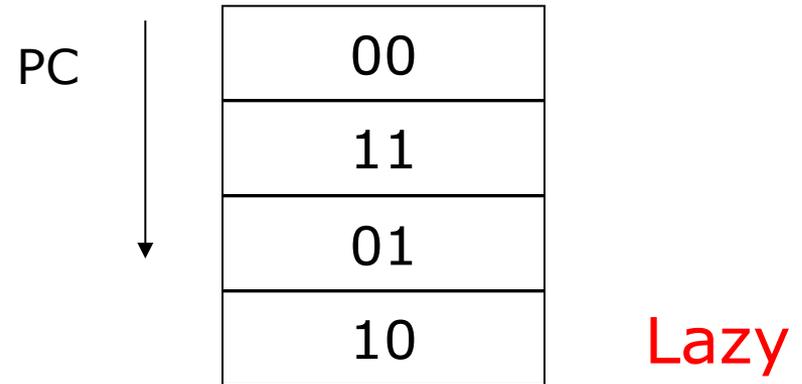


Branch Predictor Recovery

- 1-Bit Counter Recovery



- 2-Bit Counter Recovery

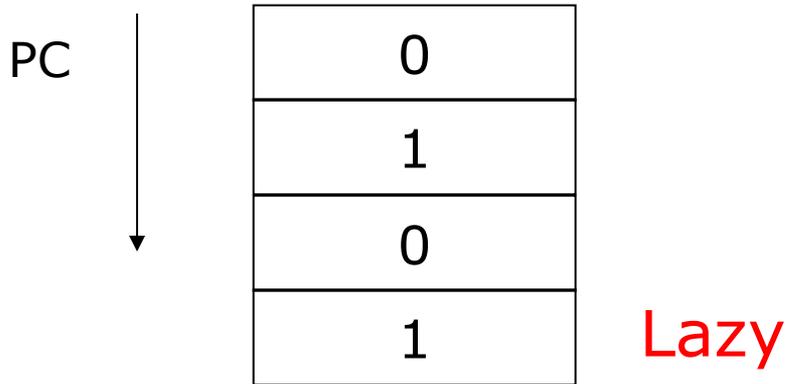


- Global History Recovery

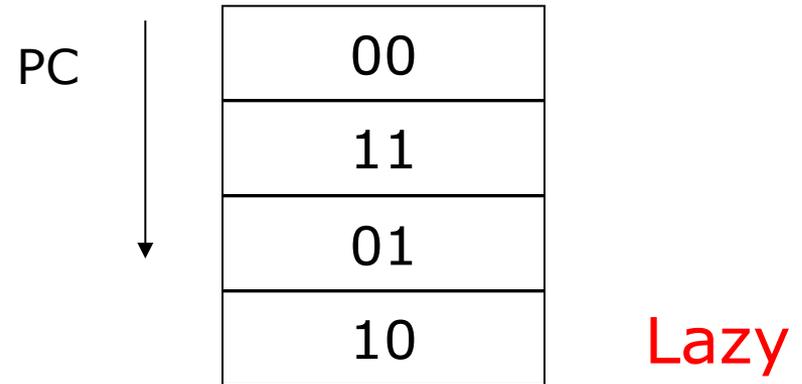
10101010

Branch Predictor Recovery

- 1-Bit Counter Recovery



- 2-Bit Counter Recovery



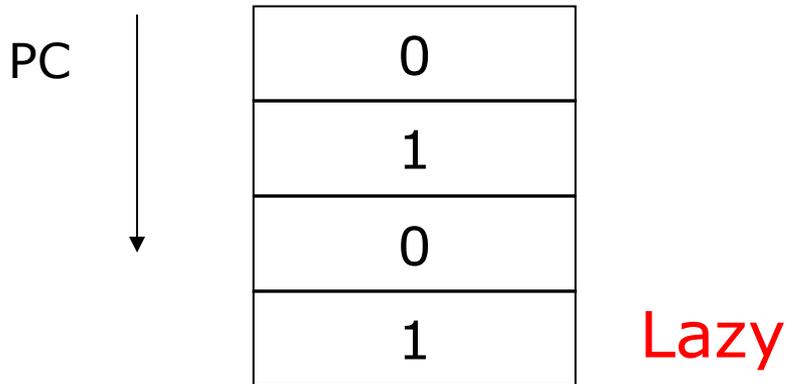
- Global History Recovery

10101010

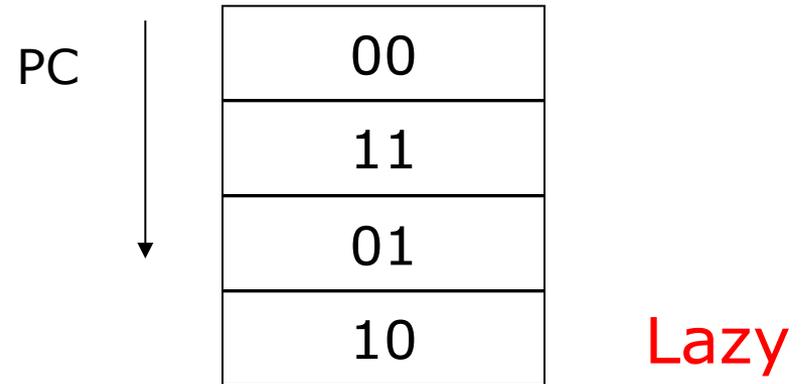
Greedy

Branch Predictor Recovery

- 1-Bit Counter Recovery



- 2-Bit Counter Recovery

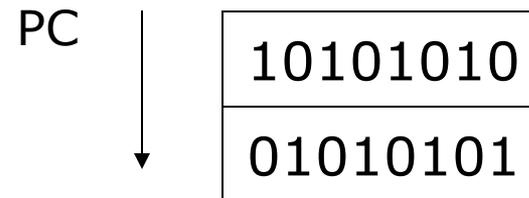


- Global History Recovery

10101010

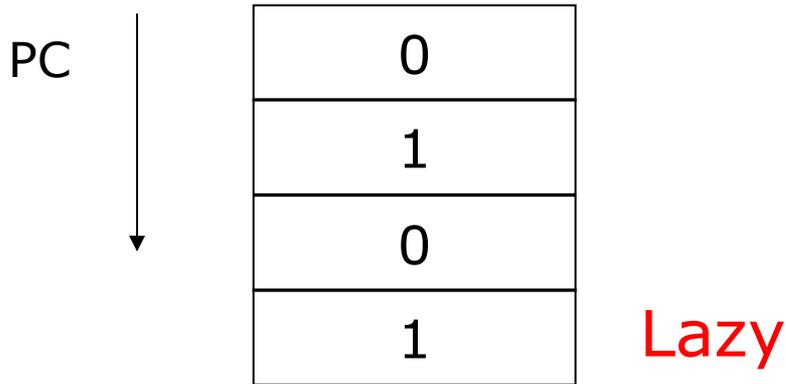
Greedy

- Local History Recovery

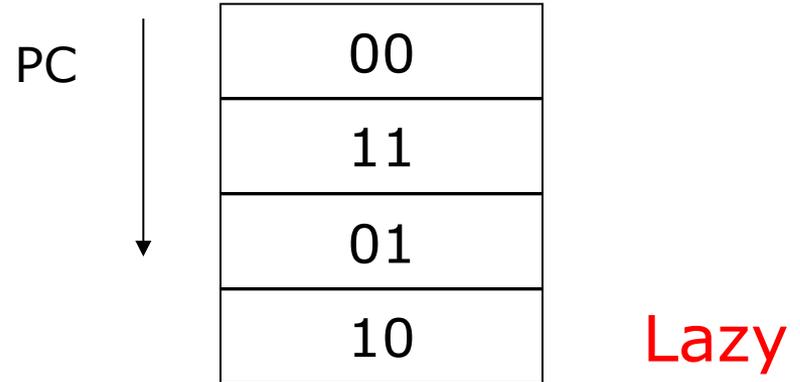


Branch Predictor Recovery

- 1-Bit Counter Recovery



- 2-Bit Counter Recovery



- Global History Recovery

10101010

Greedy

- Local History Recovery

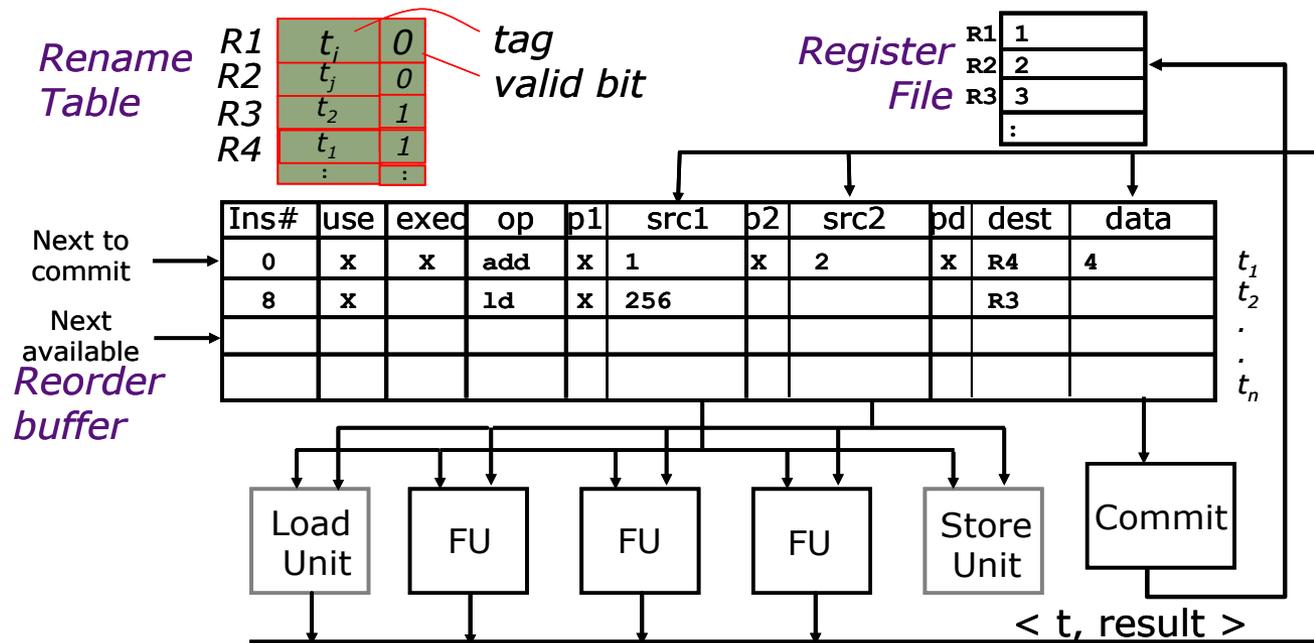
PC ↓

10101010
01010101

Greedy!!

O-o-O Execution with ROB

Data-in-ROB design

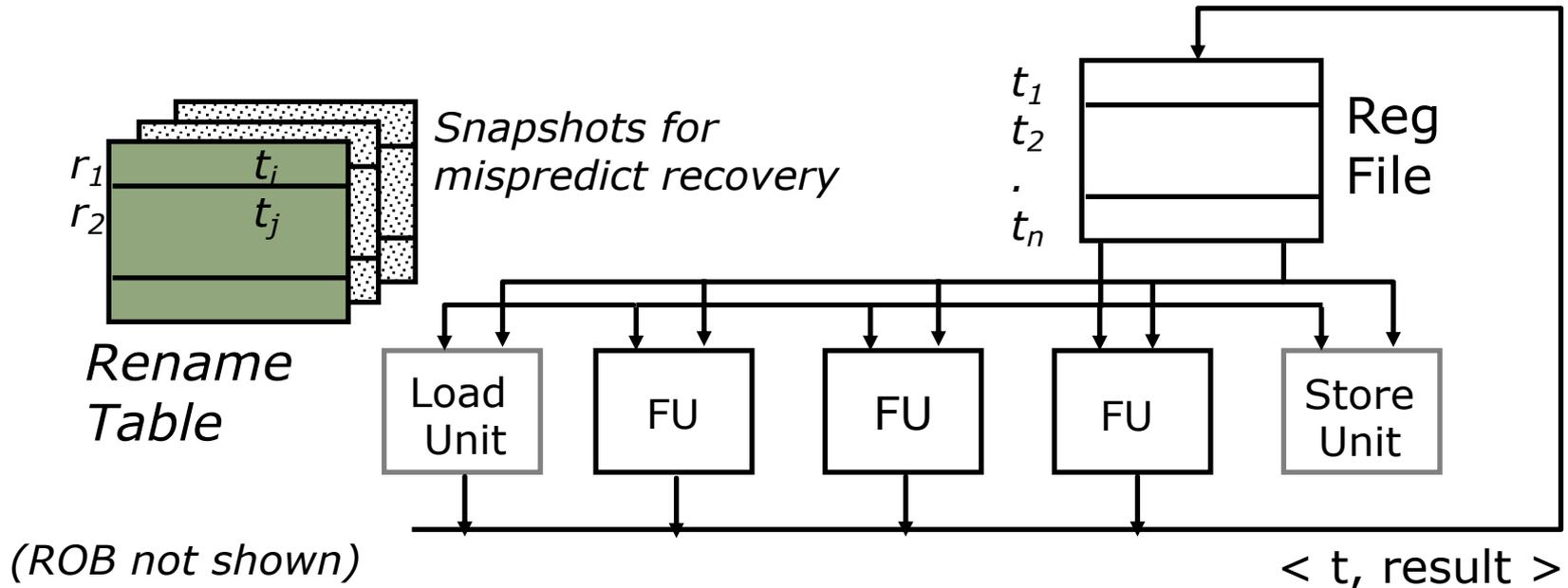


Basic Operation:

- Enter op and tag or data (if known) for each source
- Replace tag with data as it becomes available
- Issue instruction when all sources are available
- Save dest data when operation finishes
- Commit saved dest data when instruction commits

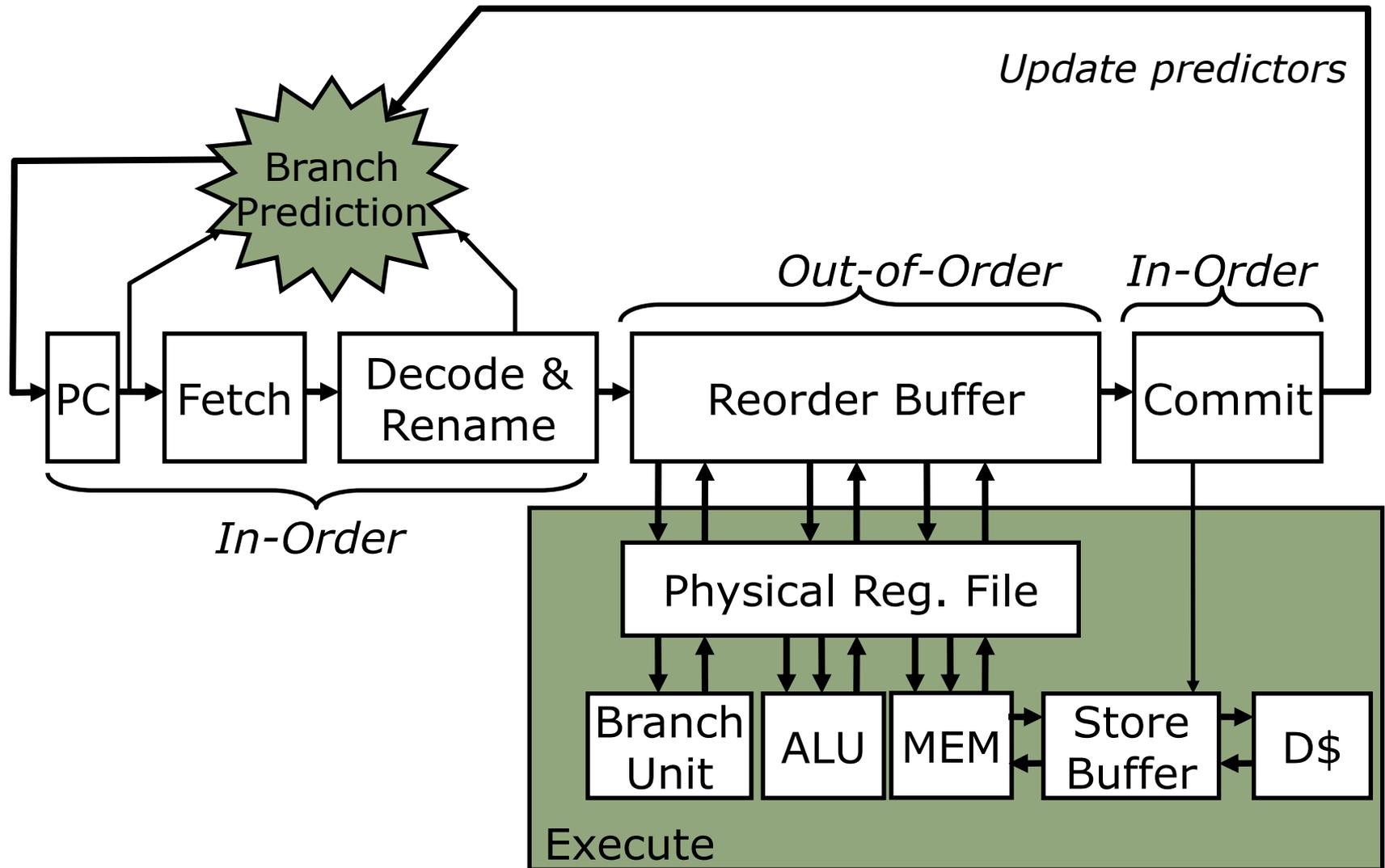
Unified Physical Register File

(MIPS R10K, Alpha 21264, Pentium 4)

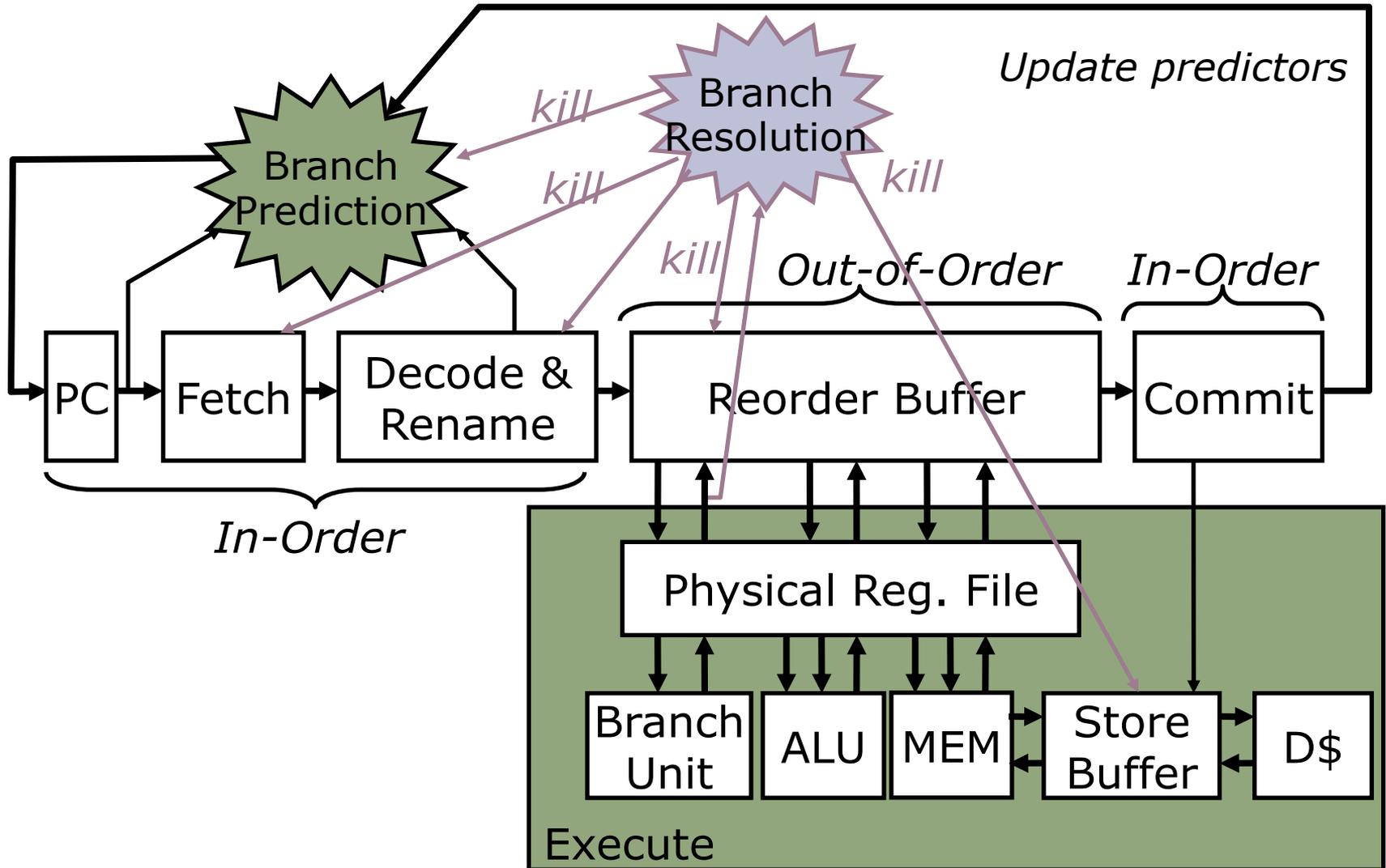


- One regfile for both *committed* and *speculative* values (no data in ROB)
- During decode, instruction result allocated new physical register, source regs translated to physical regs through rename table
- Instruction reads data from regfile at start of execute (not in decode)
- Write-back updates reg. busy bits on instructions in ROB (assoc. search)
- Snapshots of rename table taken at every branch to recover mispredicts
- On exception, renaming undone in reverse order of issue (*MIPS R10000*)

Speculative & Out-of-Order Execution



Speculative & Out-of-Order Execution



Lifetime of Physical Registers

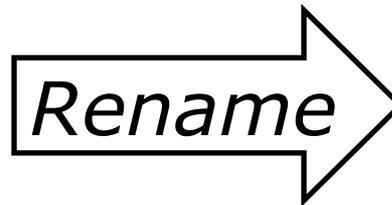
- Physical regfile holds committed and speculative values
- Physical registers decoupled from ROB entries (*no data in ROB*)

- a) ld r1, (r3)
- b) add r3, r1, #4
- c) sub r1, r3, r9
- d) add r3, r1, r7
- e) ld r6, (r1)
- f) add r8, r6, r3
- g) st r8, (r1)
- h) ld r3, (r11)

Lifetime of Physical Registers

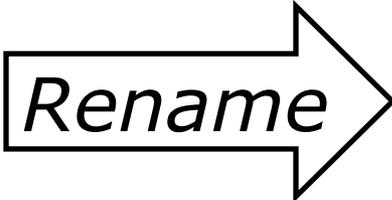
- Physical regfile holds committed and speculative values
- Physical registers decoupled from ROB entries (*no data in ROB*)

a) ld r1, (r3)
b) add r3, r1, #4
c) sub r1, r3, r9
d) add r3, r1, r7
e) ld r6, (r1)
f) add r8, r6, r3
g) st r8, (r1)
h) ld r3, (r11)



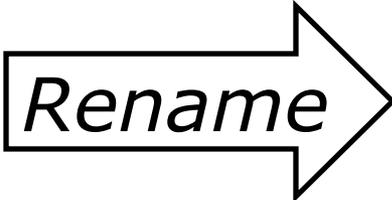
Lifetime of Physical Registers

- Physical regfile holds committed and speculative values
- Physical registers decoupled from ROB entries (*no data in ROB*)

a)	ld r1 , (r3)		ld P1 , (Px)
b)	add r3, r1, #4		add P2, P1, #4
c)	sub r1 , r3, r9		sub P3 , P2, Py
d)	add r3 , r1, r7		add P4 , P3, Pz
e)	ld r6, (r1)		ld P5, (P3)
f)	add r8, r6, r3		add P6, P5, P4
g)	st r8, (r1)		st P6, (P3)
h)	ld r3 , (r11)		ld P7 , (Pw)

Lifetime of Physical Registers

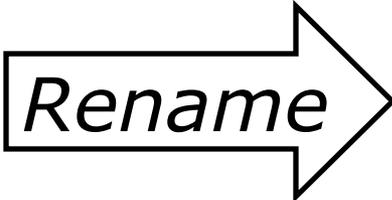
- Physical regfile holds committed and speculative values
- Physical registers decoupled from ROB entries (*no data in ROB*)

a)	ld r1 , (r3)		ld P1 , (Px)
b)	add r3, r1, #4		add P2, P1, #4
c)	sub r1 , r3, r9		sub P3 , P2, Py
d)	add r3 , r1, r7		add P4 , P3, Pz
e)	ld r6, (r1)		ld P5, (P3)
f)	add r8, r6, r3		add P6, P5, P4
g)	st r8, (r1)		st P6, (P3)
h)	ld r3 , (r11)		ld P7 , (Pw)

When can we reuse a physical register?

Lifetime of Physical Registers

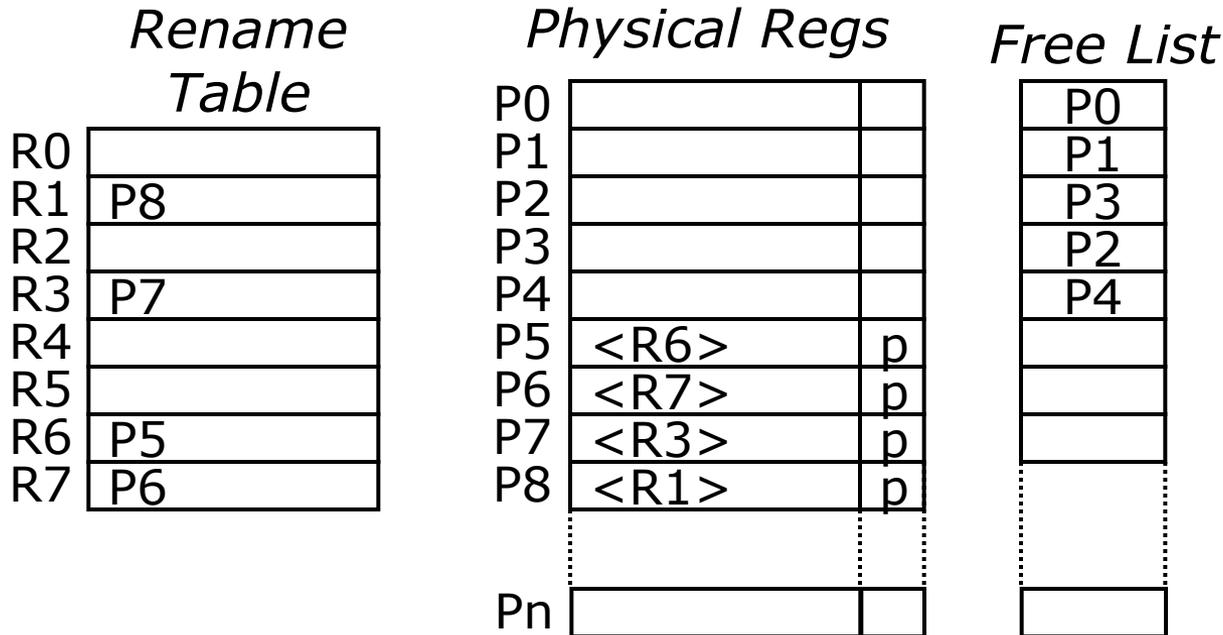
- Physical regfile holds committed and speculative values
- Physical registers decoupled from ROB entries (*no data in ROB*)

a)	ld r1 , (r3)		ld P1 , (Px)
b)	add r3, r1, #4		add P2, P1, #4
c)	sub r1 , r3, r9		sub P3 , P2, Py
d)	add r3 , r1, r7		add P4 , P3, Pz
e)	ld r6, (r1)		ld P5, (P3)
f)	add r8, r6, r3		add P6, P5, P4
g)	st r8, (r1)		st P6, (P3)
h)	ld r3 , (r11)		ld P7 , (Pw)

When can we reuse a physical register?

When next write to same architectural register commits

Physical Register Management



```
ld r1, 0(r3)
add r3, r1, #4
sub r6, r7, r6
add r3, r3, r6
ld r6, 0(r1)
```

ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd

(LPRd requires third read port on Rename Table for each instruction)

Physical Register Management

Rename Table

R0	
R1	P8
R2	
R3	P7
R4	
R5	
R6	P5
R7	P6

Physical Regs

P0		
P1		
P2		
P3		
P4		
P5	<R6>	p
P6	<R7>	p
P7	<R3>	p
P8	<R1>	p
...		
Pn		

Free List

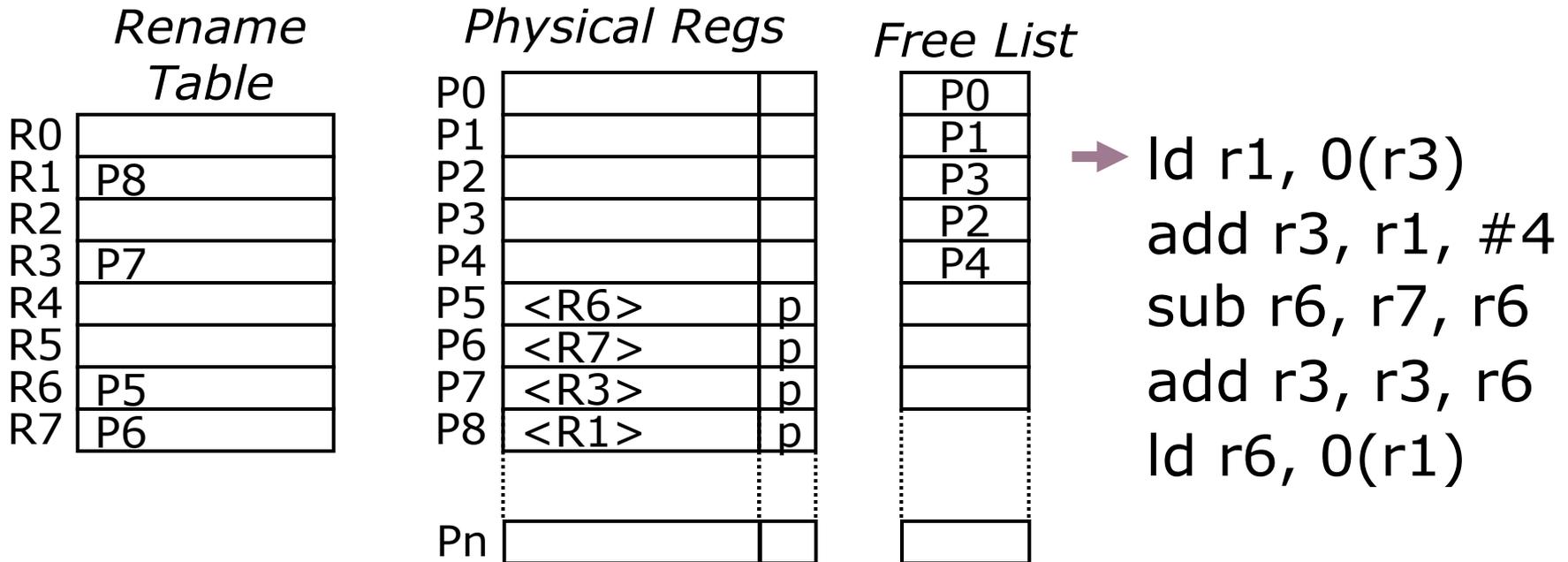
P0
P1
P3
P2
P4

```
ld r1, 0(r3)
add r3, r1, #4
sub r6, r7, r6
add r3, r3, r6
ld r6, 0(r1)
```

ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd

Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd

Physical Register Management

Rename Table

R0	
R1	P8
R2	
R3	P7
R4	
R5	
R6	P5
R7	P6

Physical Regs

P0		
P1		
P2		
P3		
P4		
P5	<R6>	p
P6	<R7>	p
P7	<R3>	p
P8	<R1>	p
...
Pn		

Free List

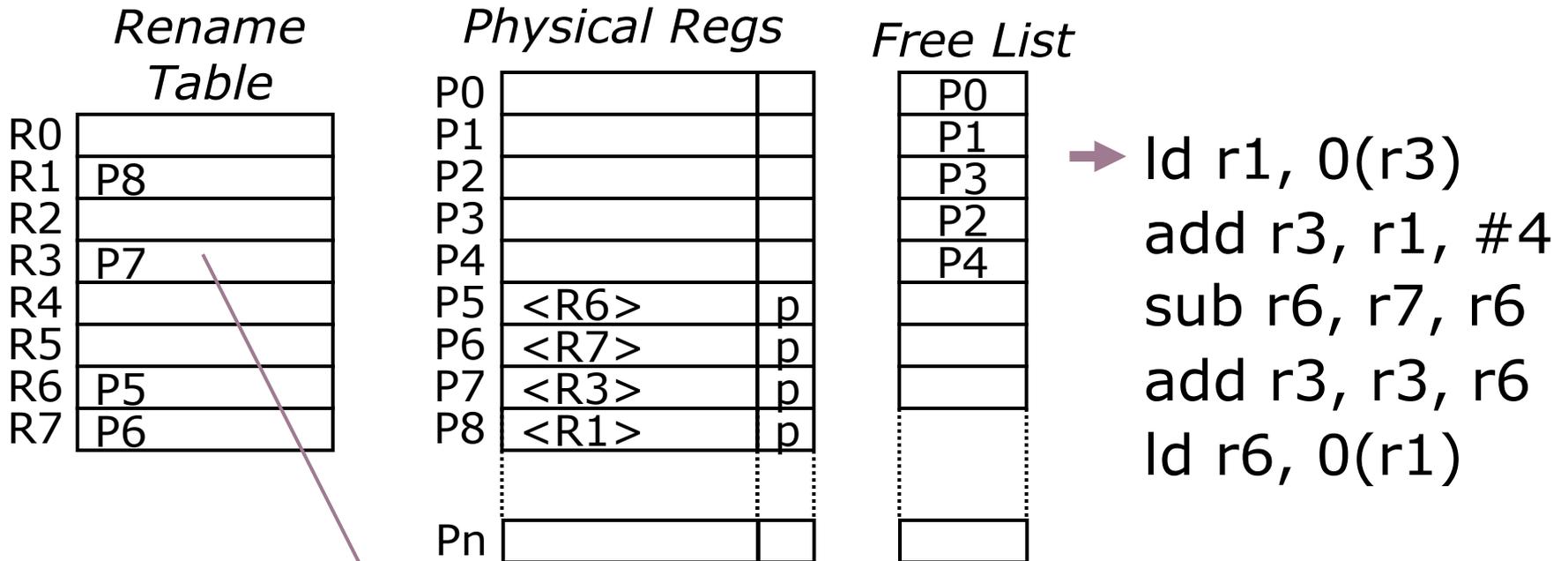
P0
P1
P3
P2
P4

→ `ld r1, 0(r3)`
`add r3, r1, #4`
`sub r6, r7, r6`
`add r3, r3, r6`
`ld r6, 0(r1)`

ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld					r1		

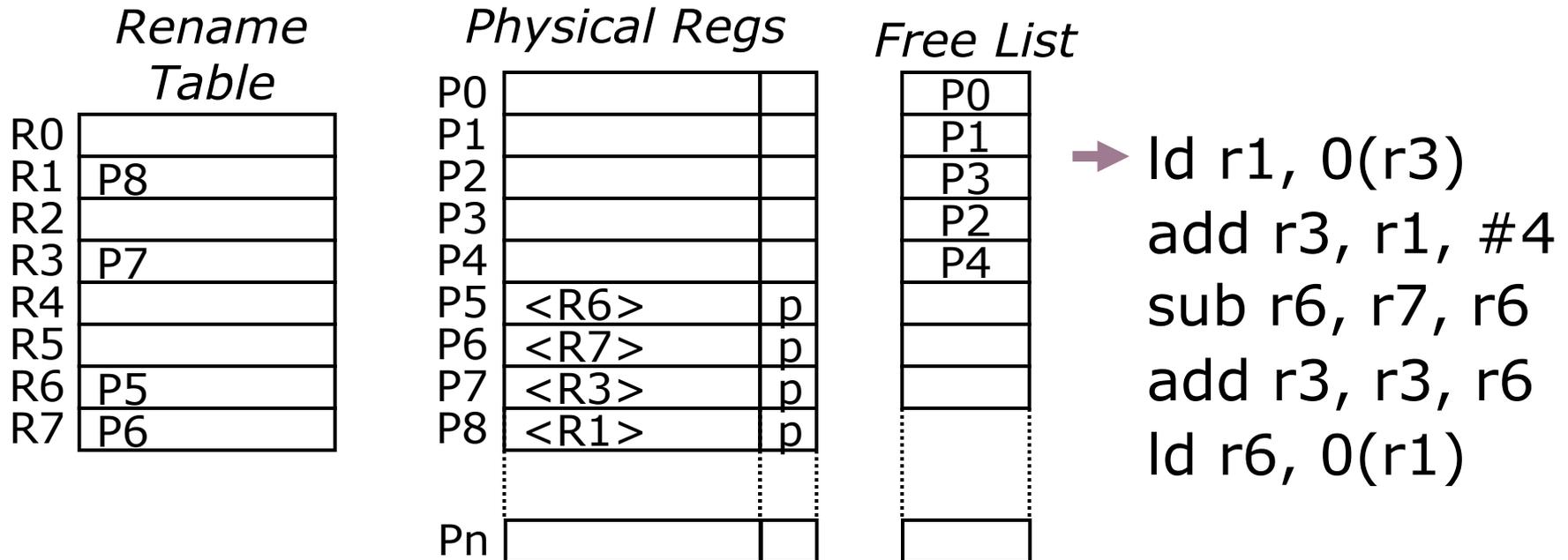
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld					r1		

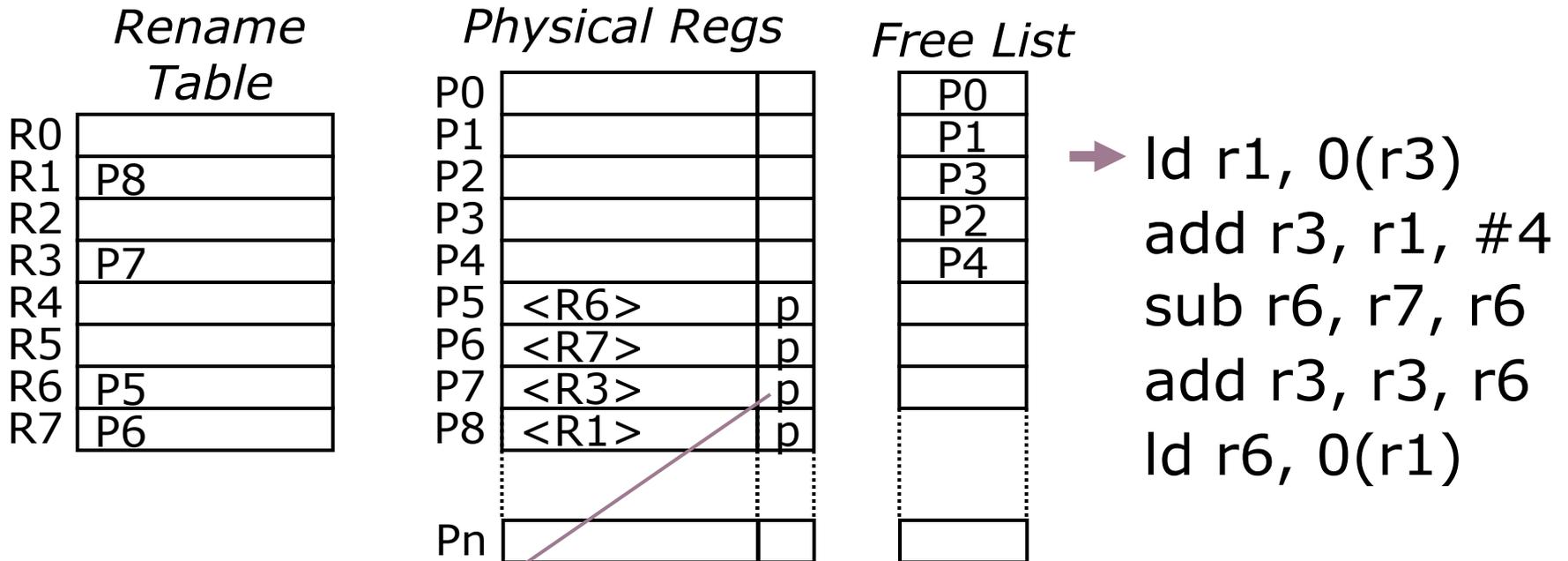
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld		P7			r1		

Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld		P7			r1		

Physical Register Management

Rename Table

R0	
R1	P8
R2	
R3	P7
R4	
R5	
R6	P5
R7	P6

Physical Regs

P0		
P1		
P2		
P3		
P4		
P5	<R6>	p
P6	<R7>	p
P7	<R3>	p
P8	<R1>	p
...		
Pn		

Free List

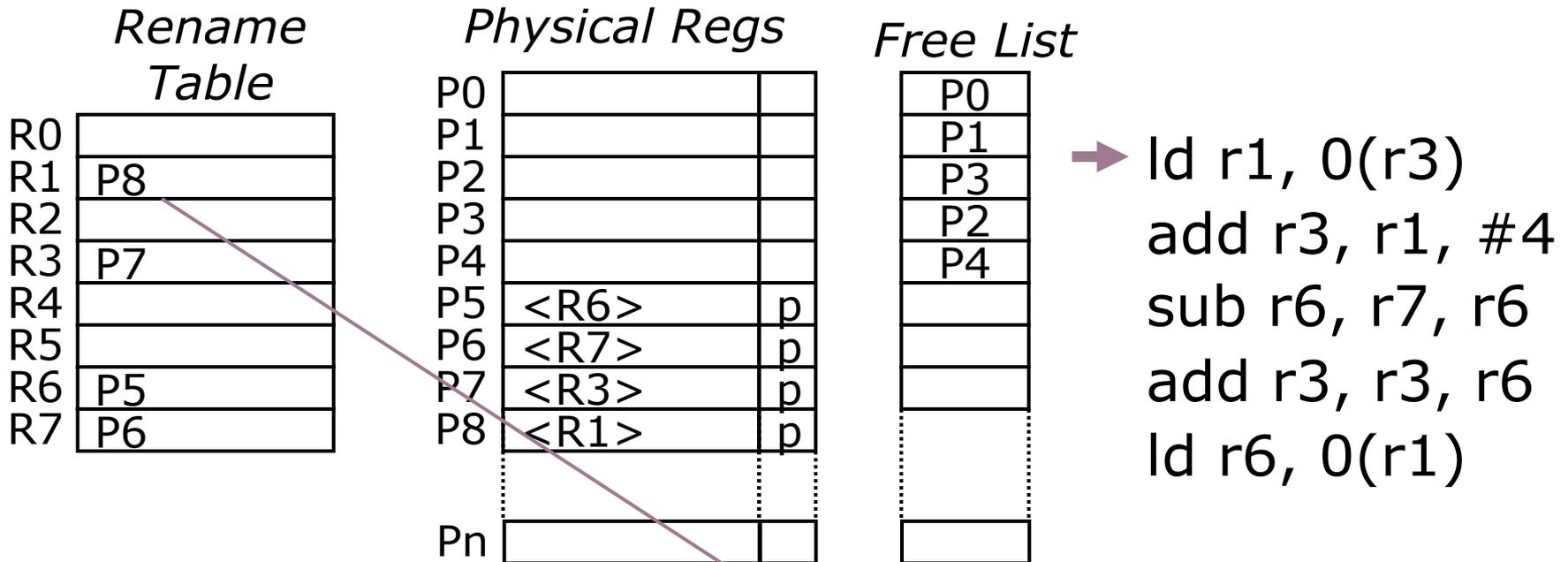
P0
P1
P3
P2
P4

→ `ld r1, 0(r3)`
`add r3, r1, #4`
`sub r6, r7, r6`
`add r3, r3, r6`
`ld r6, 0(r1)`

ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1		

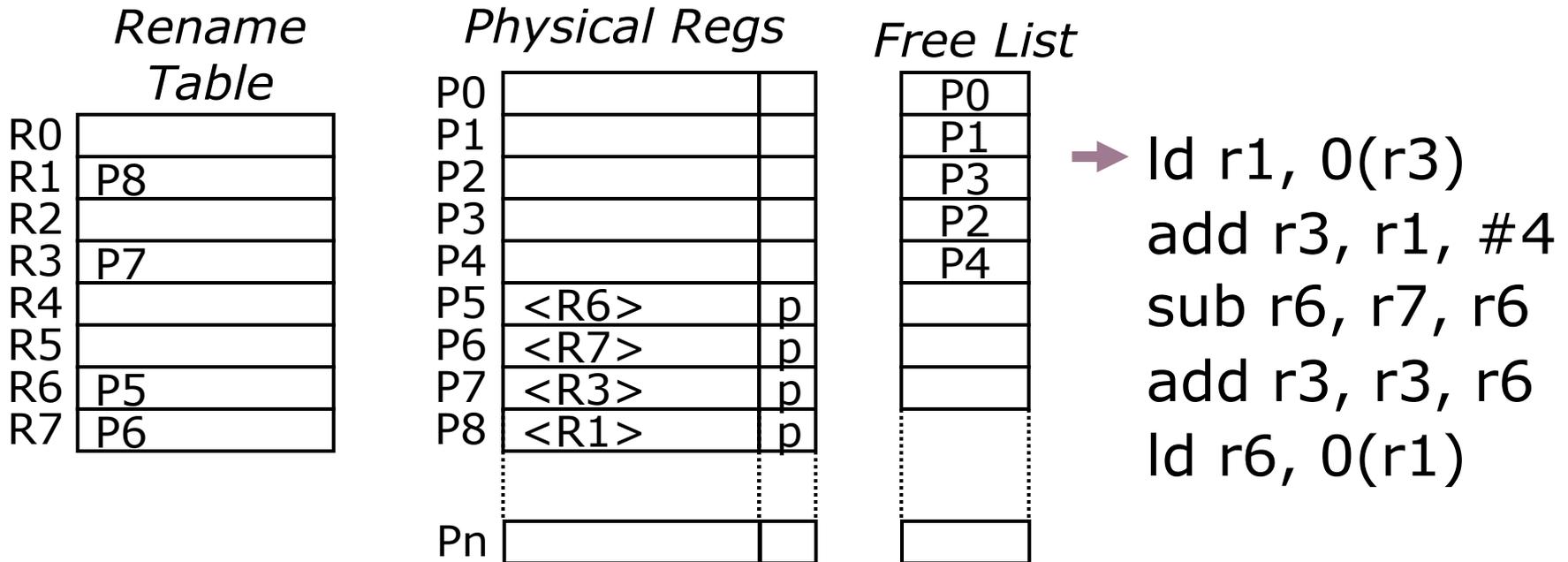
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1		

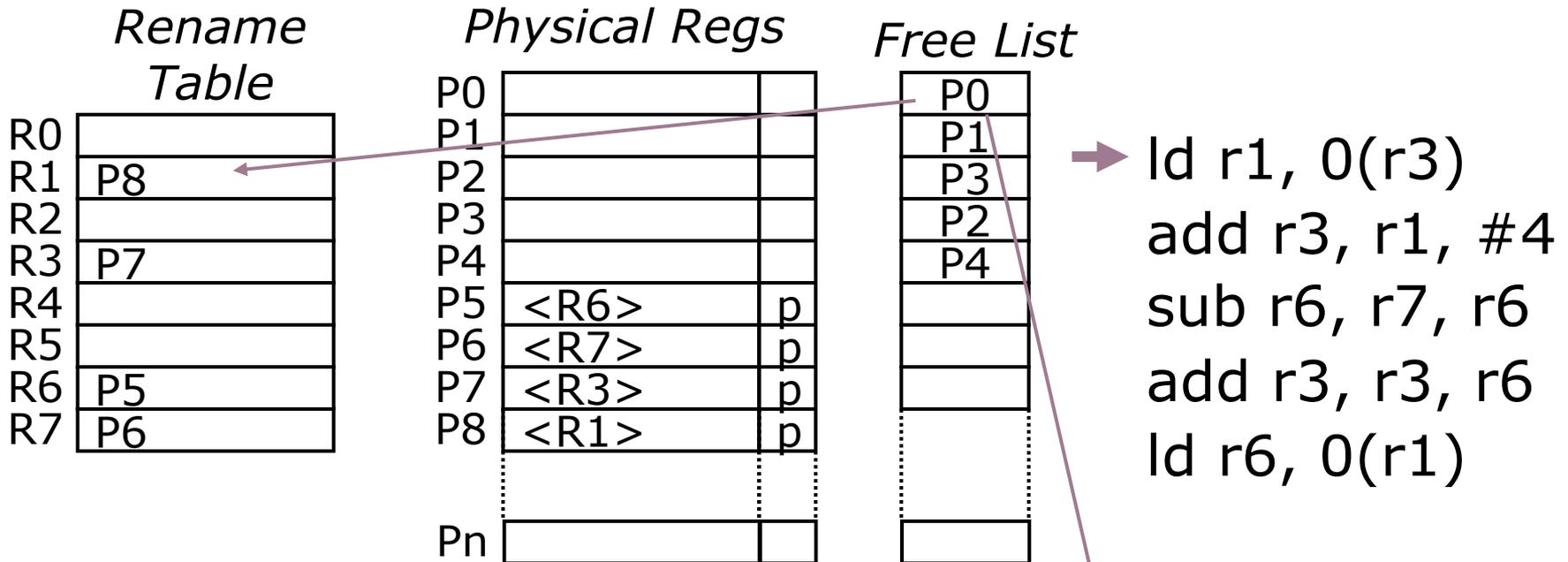
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	

Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	

Physical Register Management

Rename Table

R0	
R1	P8 P0
R2	
R3	P7
R4	
R5	
R6	P5
R7	P6

Physical Regs

P0		
P1		
P2		
P3		
P4		
P5	<R6>	p
P6	<R7>	p
P7	<R3>	p
P8	<R1>	p
...
Pn		

Free List

P0
P1
P3
P2
P4
...
...
...

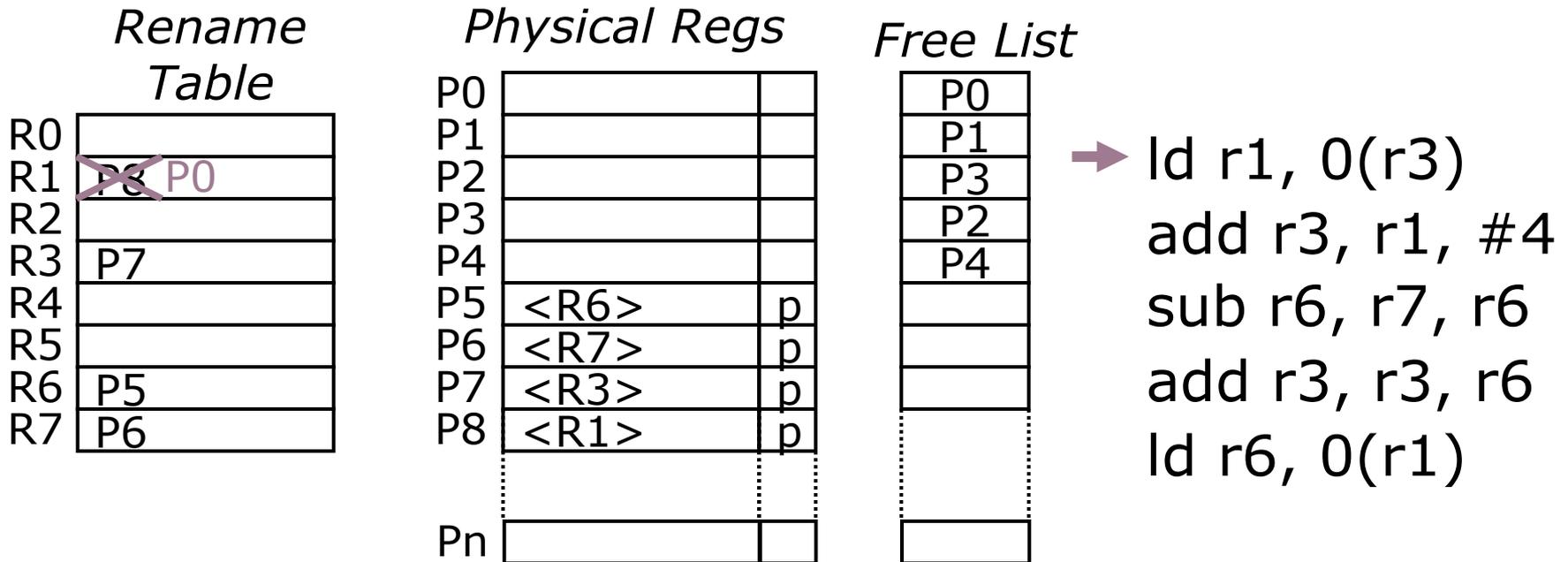
→

```
ld r1, 0(r3)
add r3, r1, #4
sub r6, r7, r6
add r3, r3, r6
ld r6, 0(r1)
```

ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	

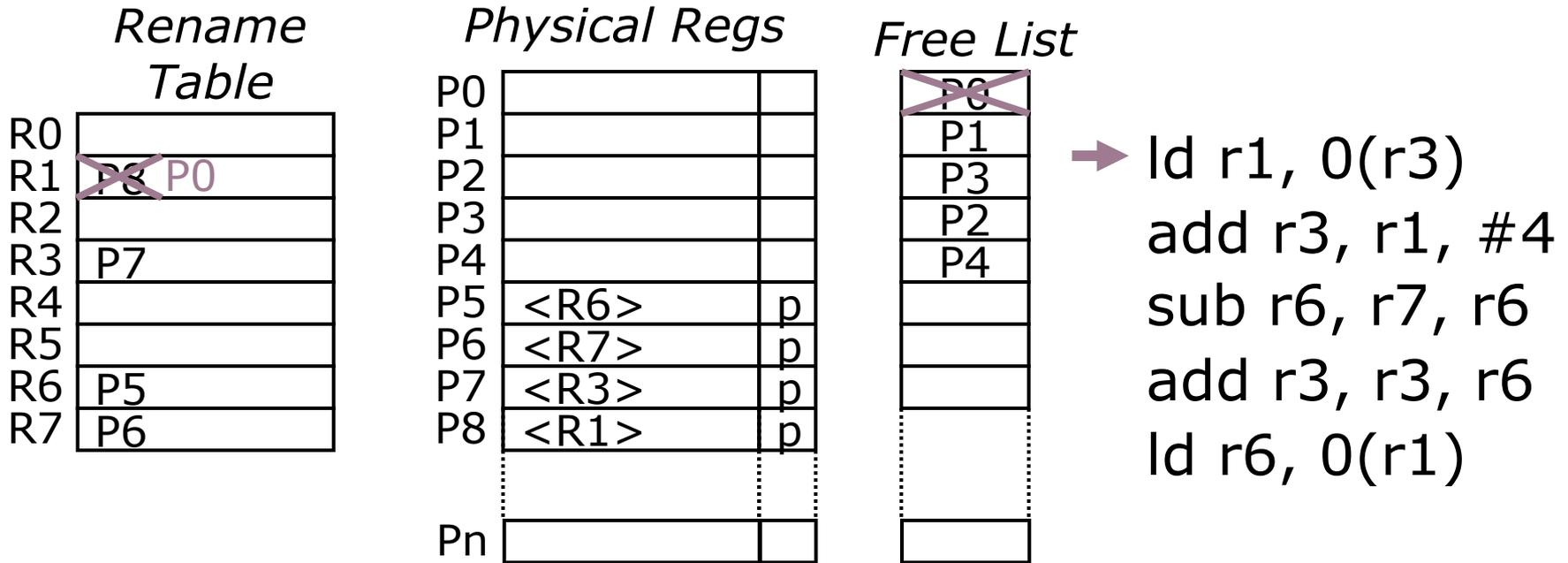
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0

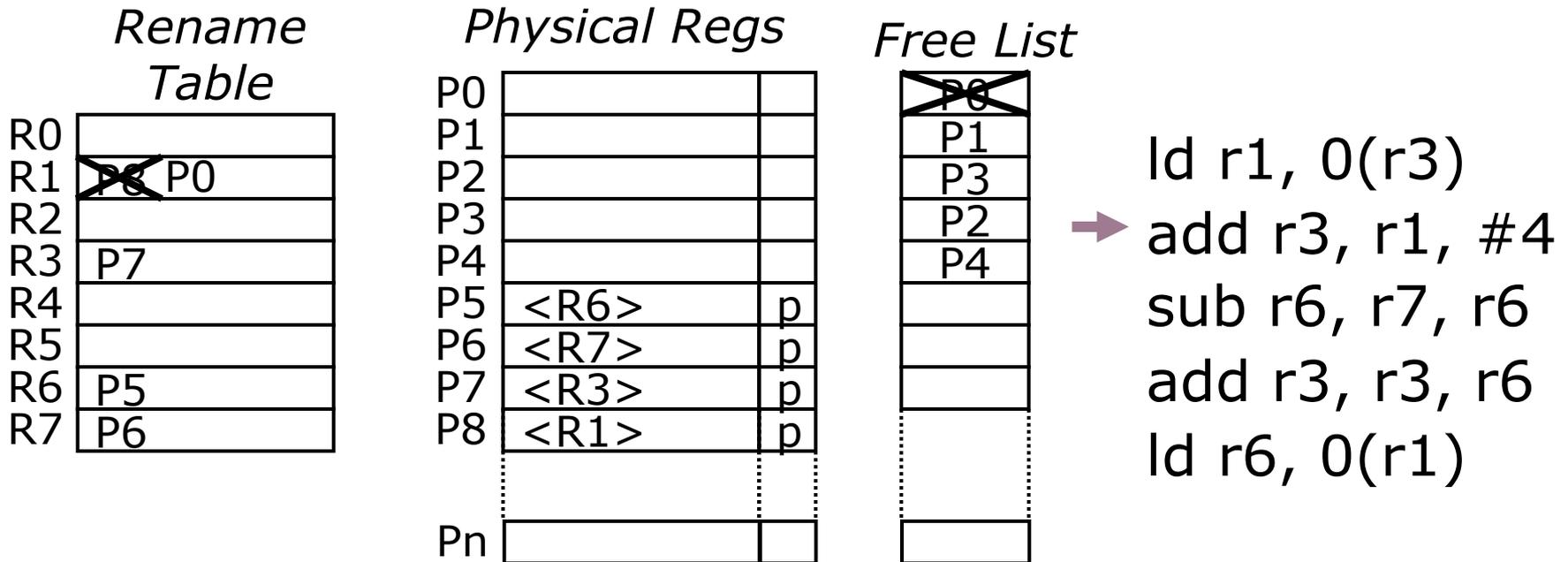
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0

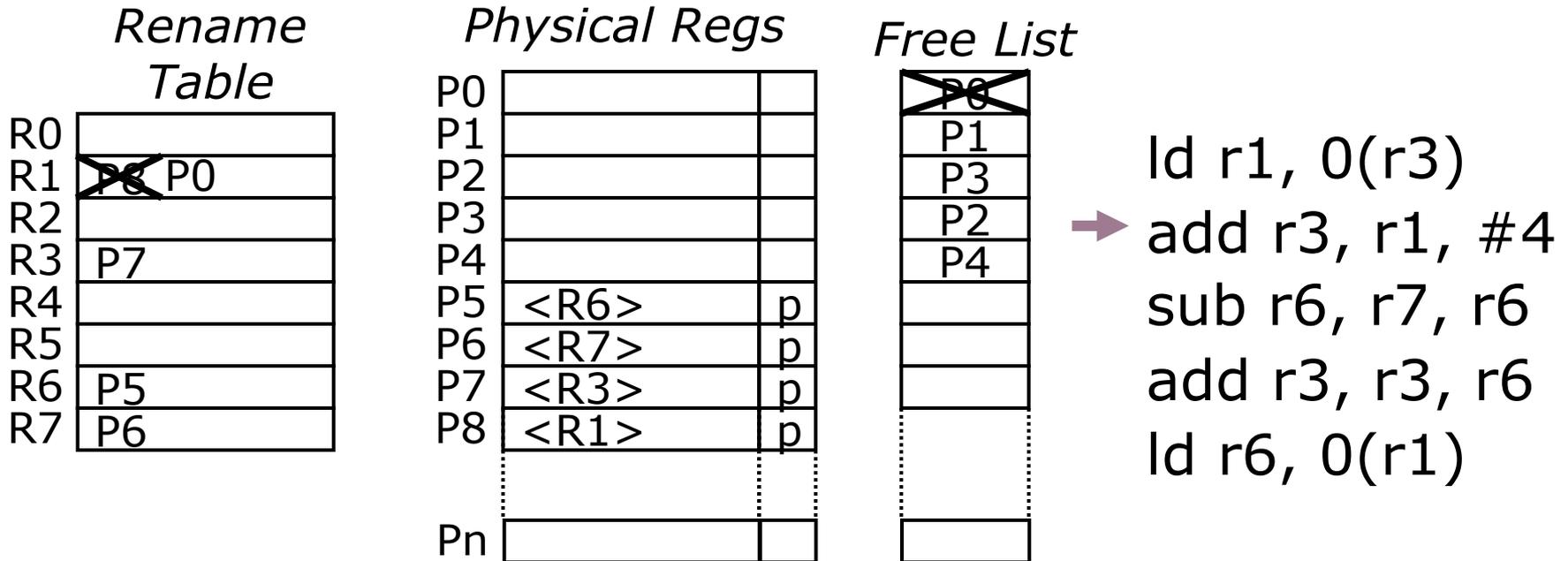
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0

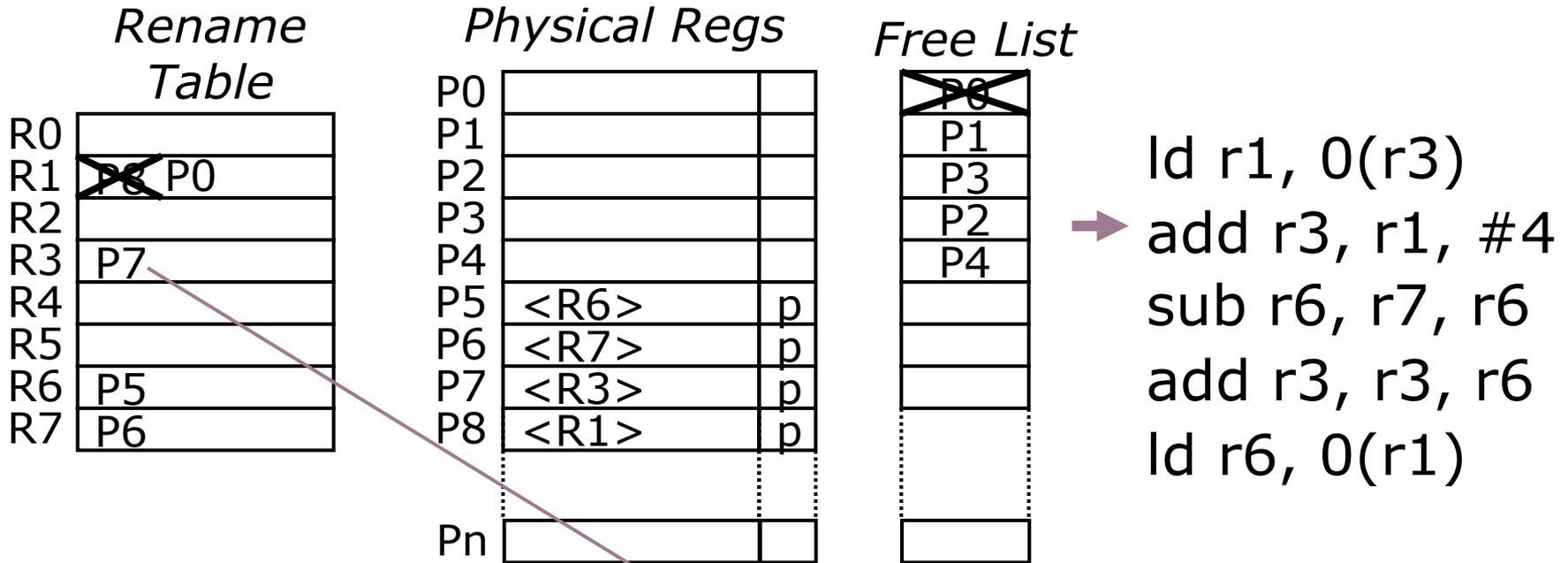
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x		add		P0			r3		

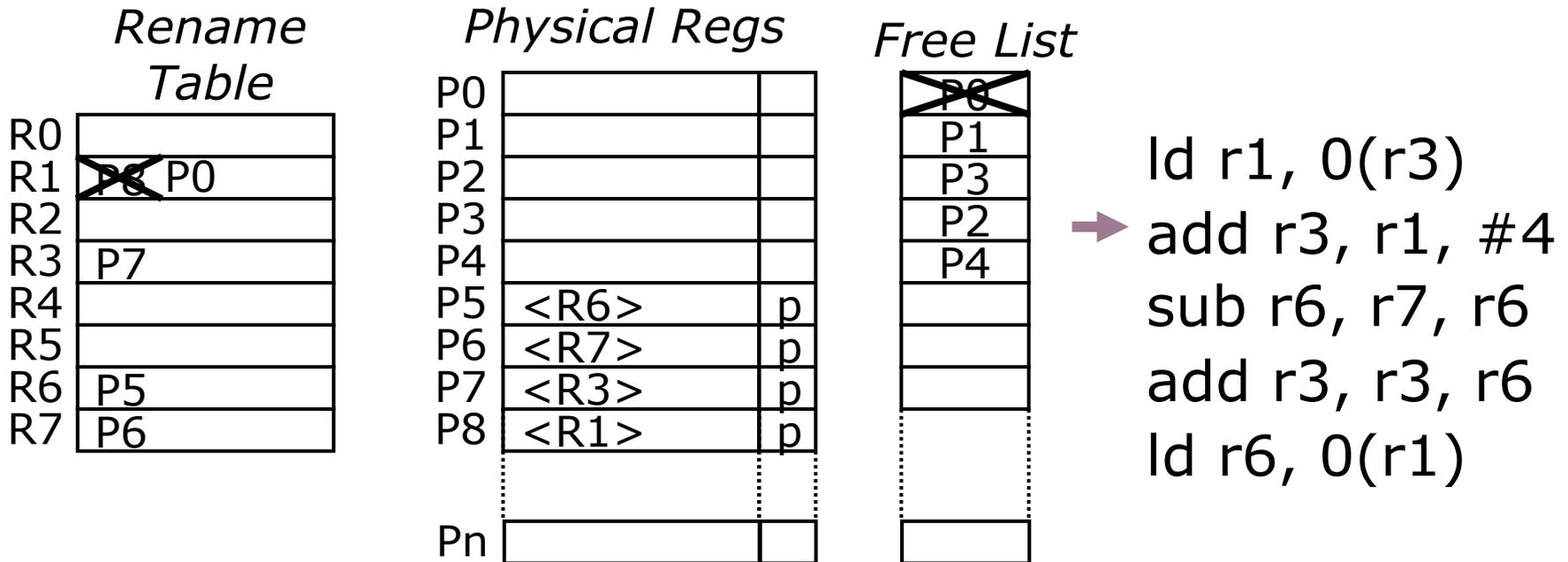
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x		add		P0			r3		

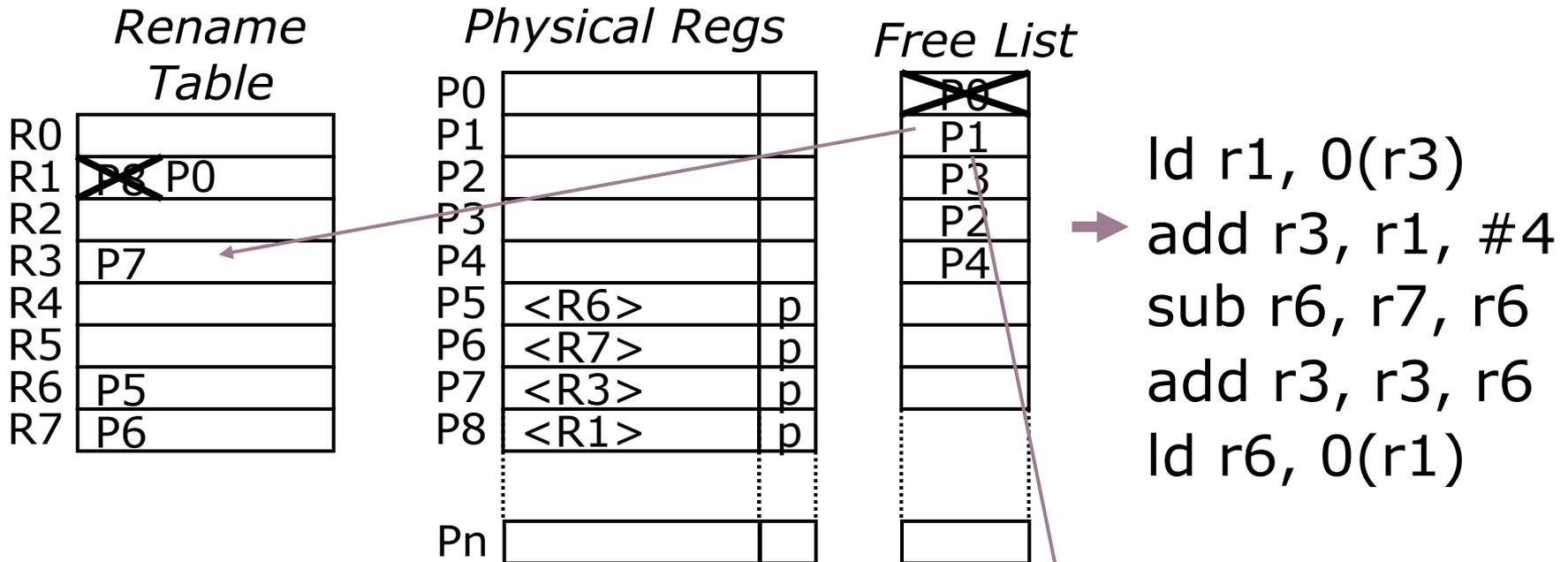
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x		add		P0			r3	P7	

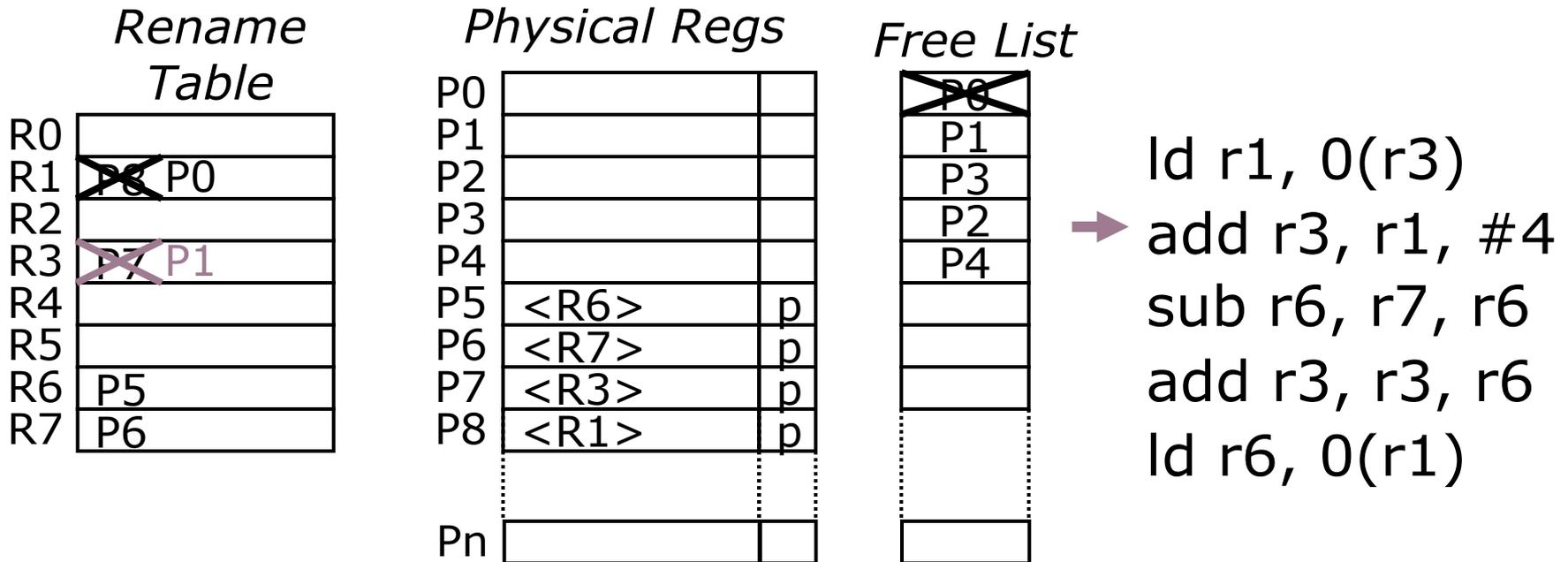
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x		add		P0			r3	P7	

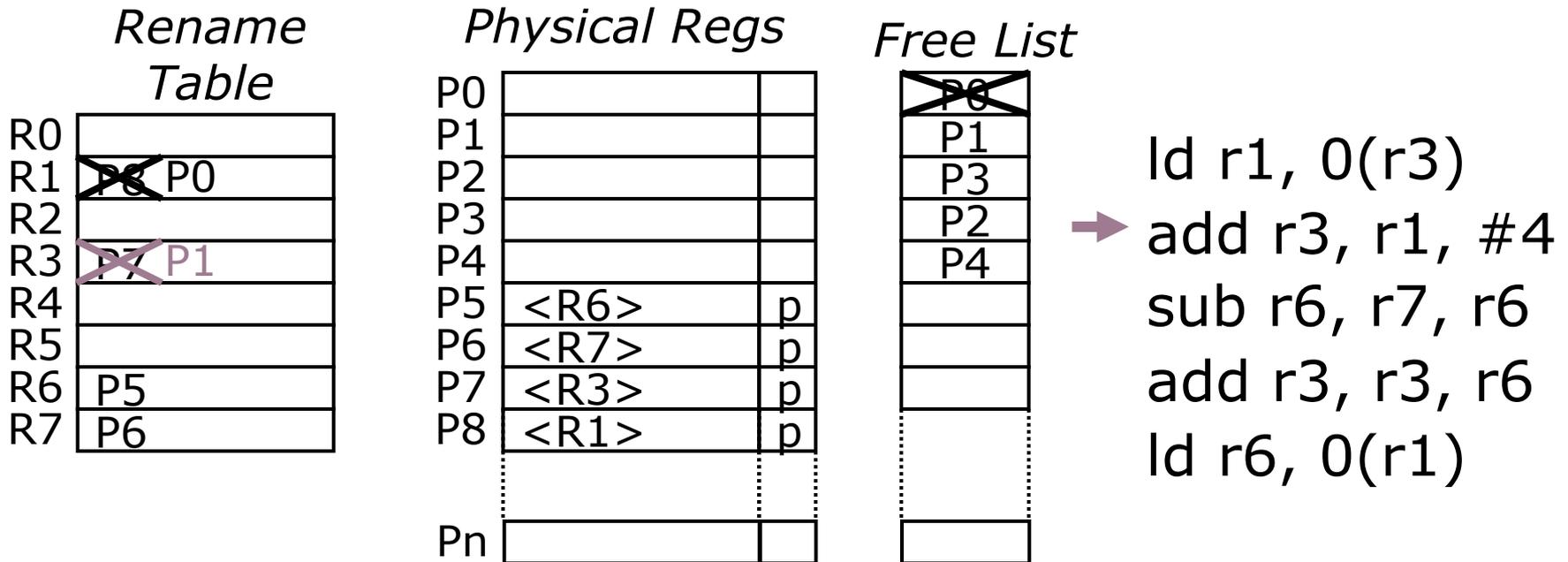
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x		add		P0			r3	P7	

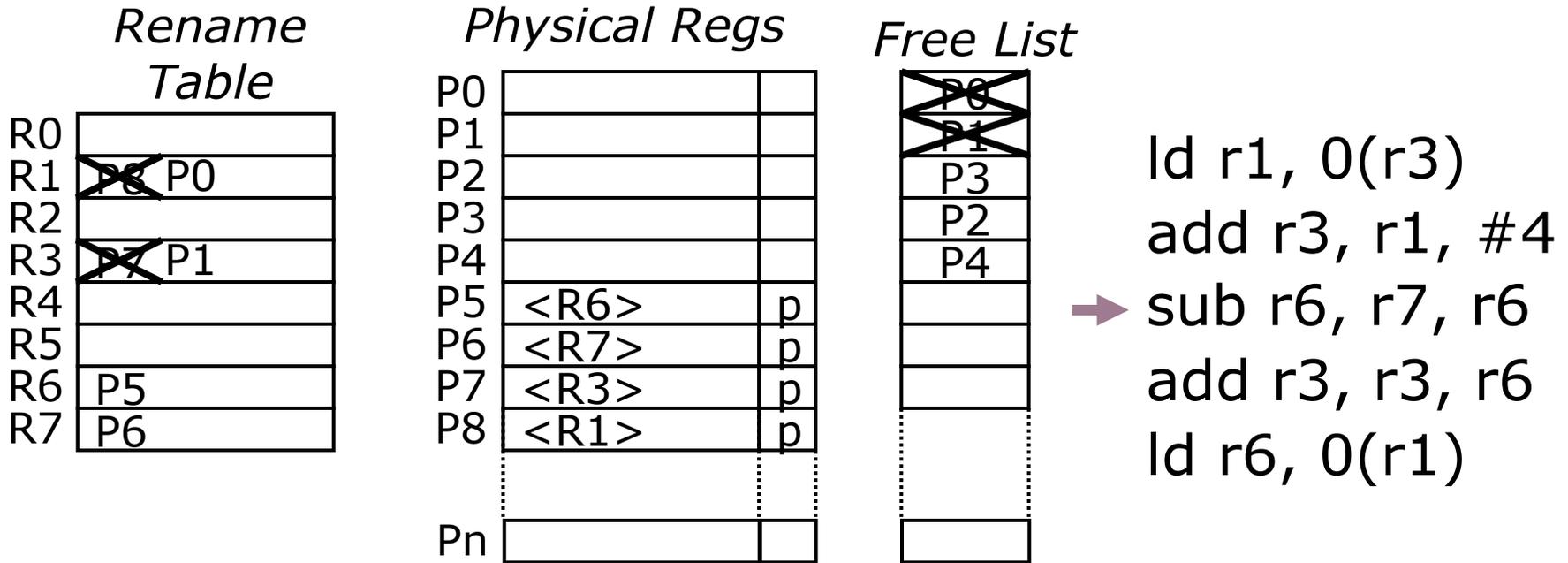
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x		add		P0			r3	P7	P1

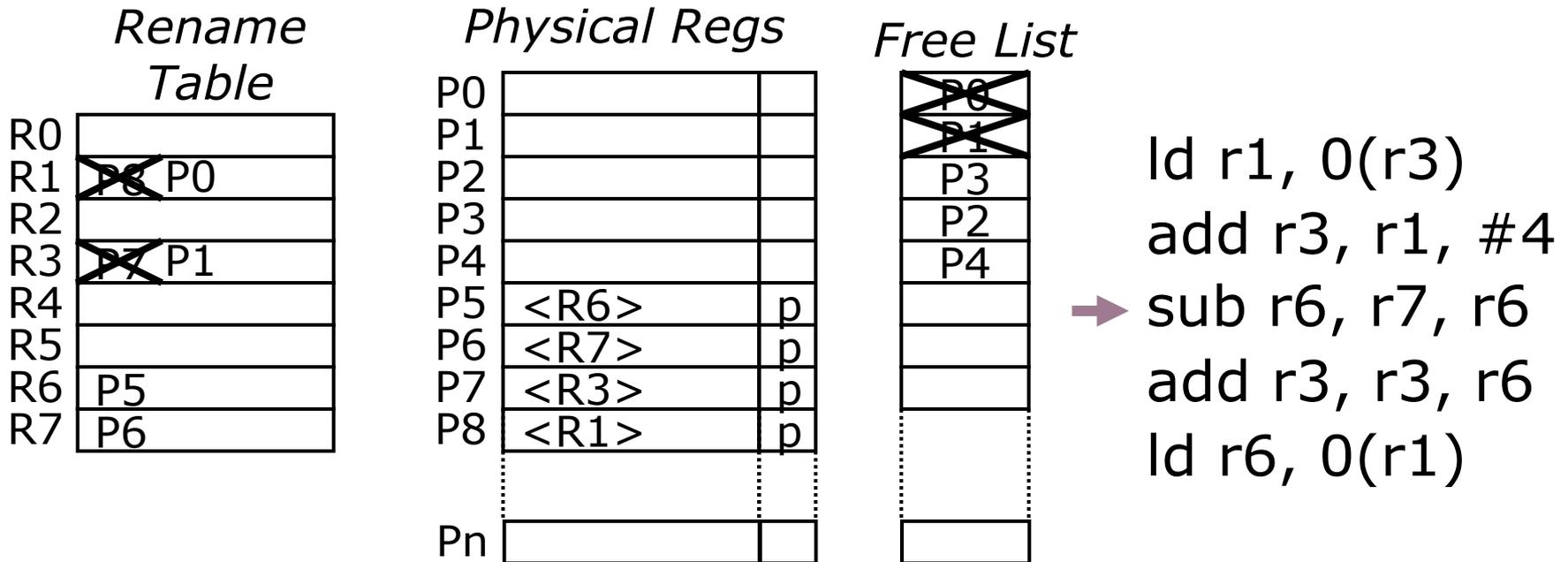
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x		add		P0			r3	P7	P1
x		sub	p	P6	p	P5	r6		

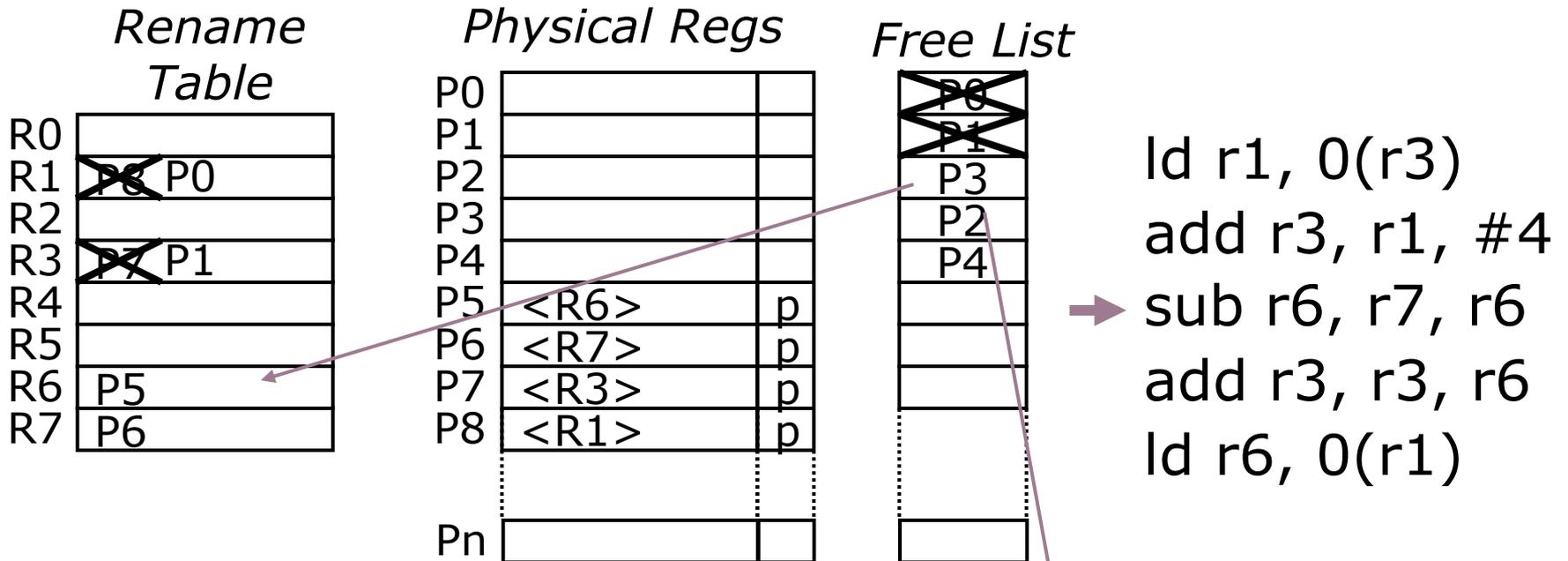
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x		add		P0			r3	P7	P1
x		sub	p	P6	p	P5	r6	P5	

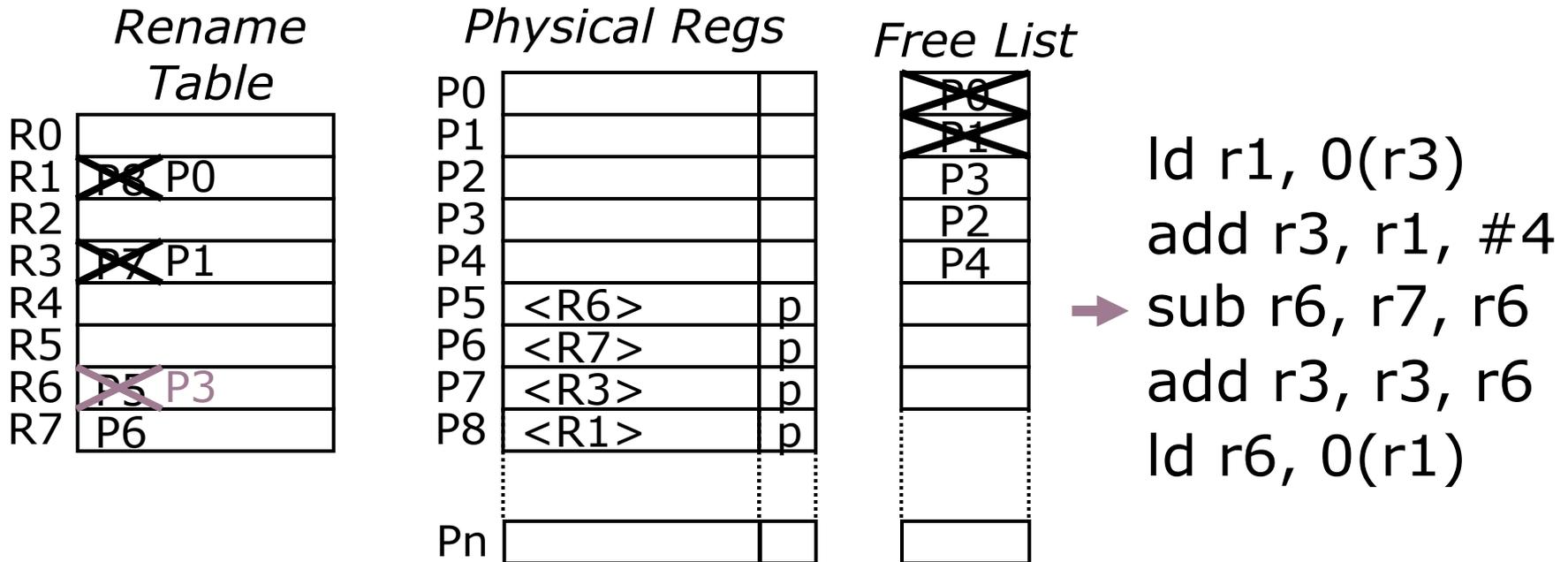
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x		add		P0			r3	P7	P1
x		sub	p	P6	p	P5	r6	P5	

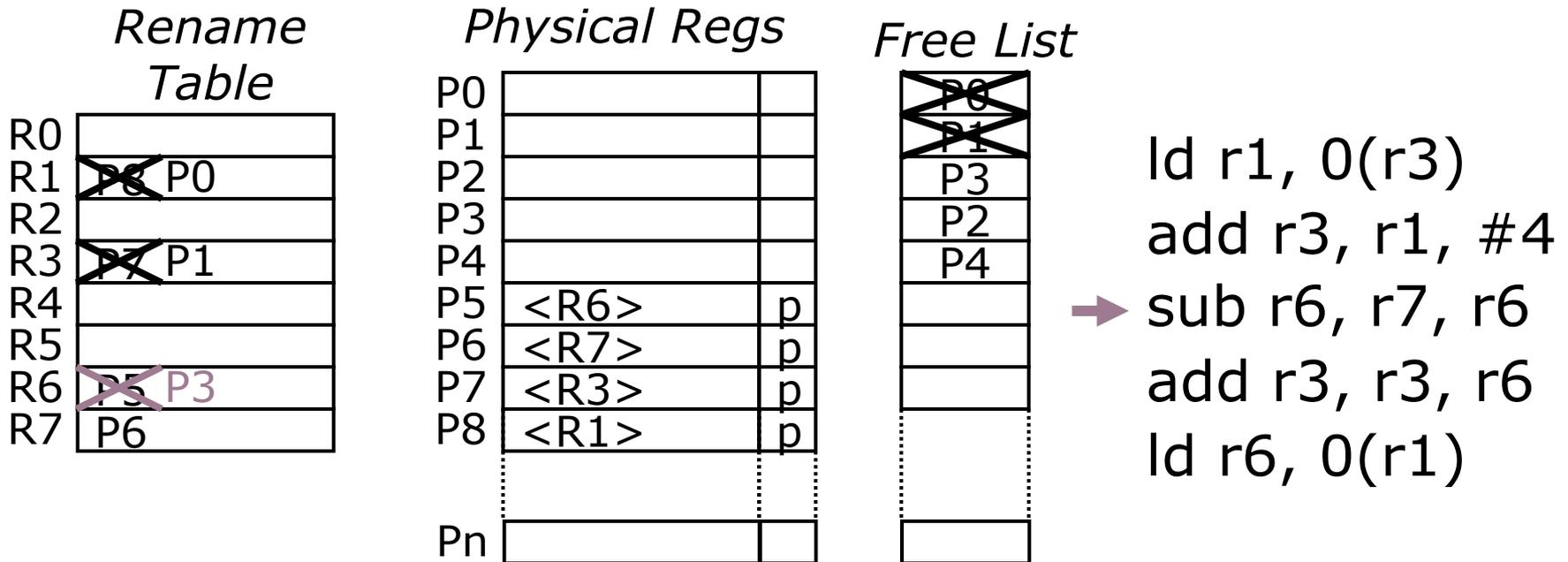
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x		add		P0			r3	P7	P1
x		sub	p	P6	p	P5	r6	P5	

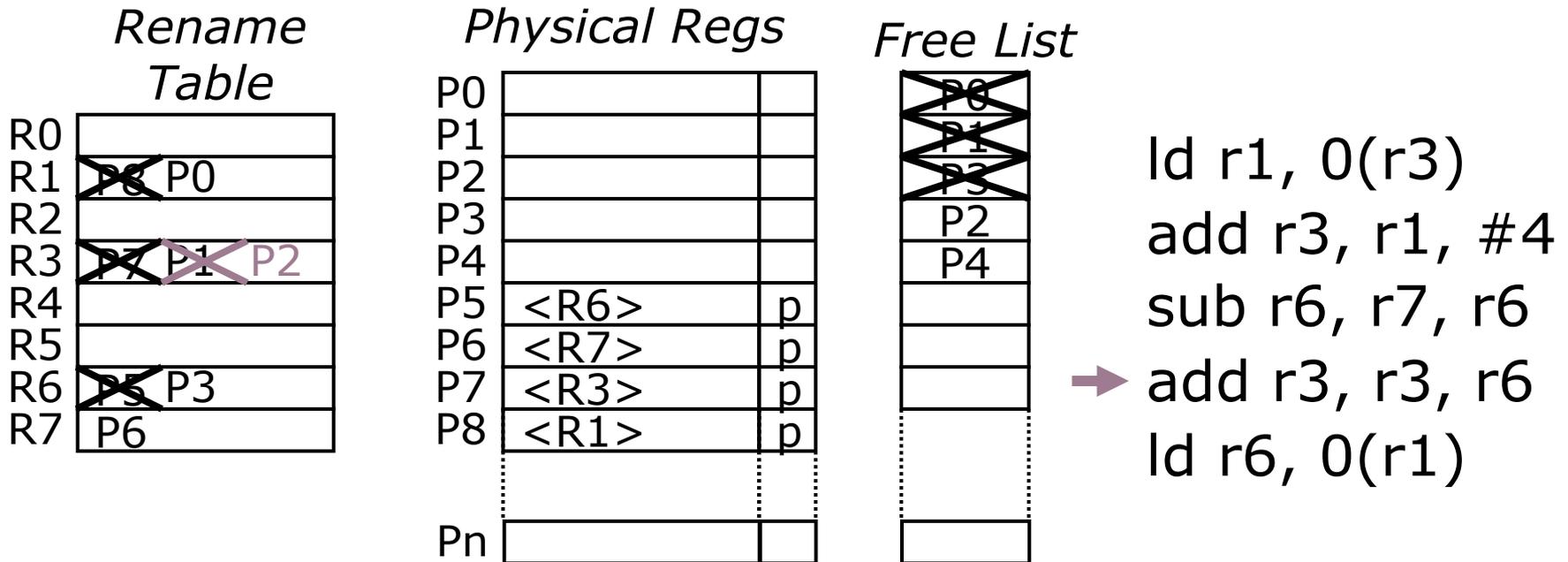
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x		add		P0			r3	P7	P1
x		sub	p	P6	p	P5	r6	P5	P3

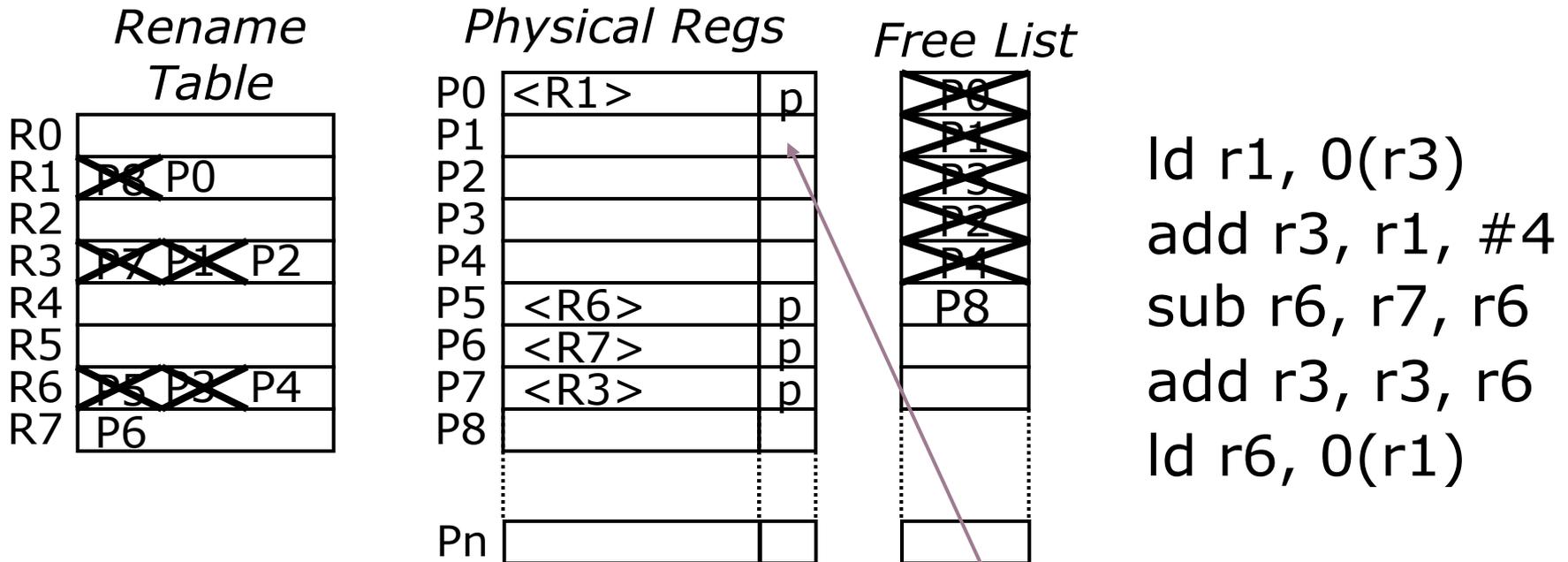
Physical Register Management



ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x		ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x		add		P0			r3	P7	P1
x		sub	p	P6	p	P5	r6	P5	P3
x		add		P1		P3	r3	P1	

Physical Register Management

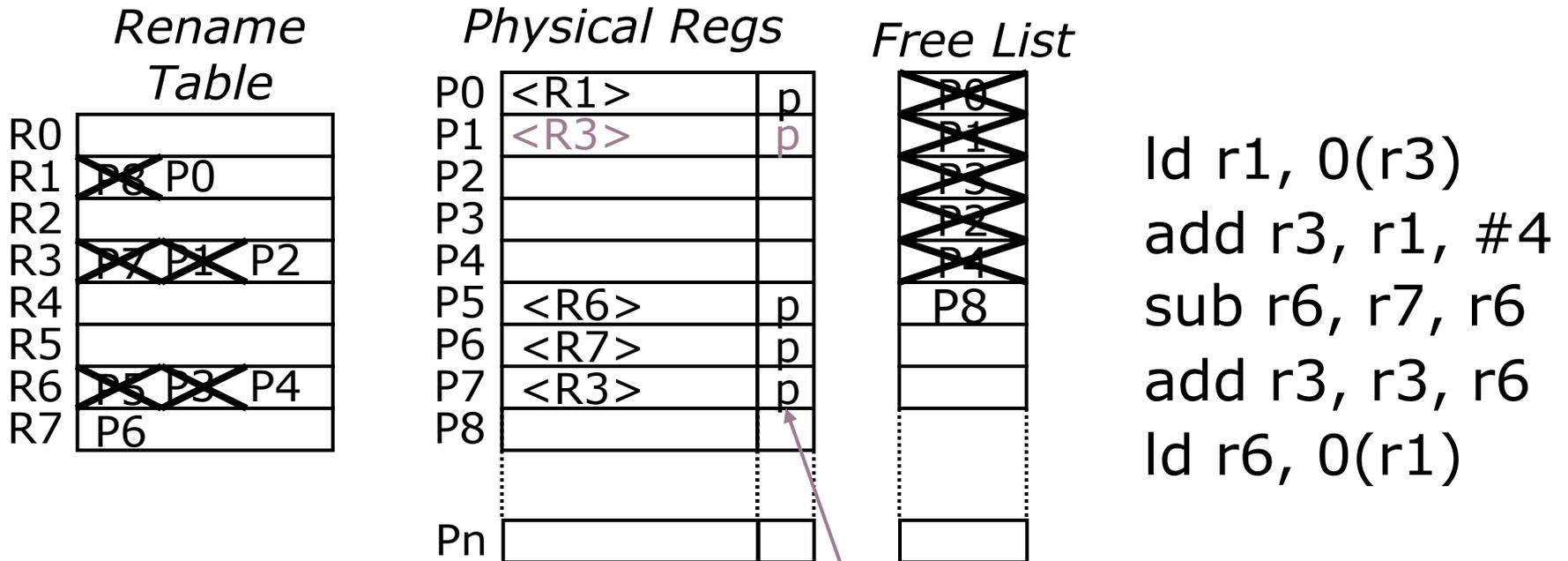


ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
X	X	ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
X		add	p	P0			r3	P7	P1
X		sub	p	P6	p	P5	r6	P5	P3
X		add		P1		P3	r3	P1	P2
X		ld	p	P0			r6	P3	P4

Execute & Commit

Physical Register Management

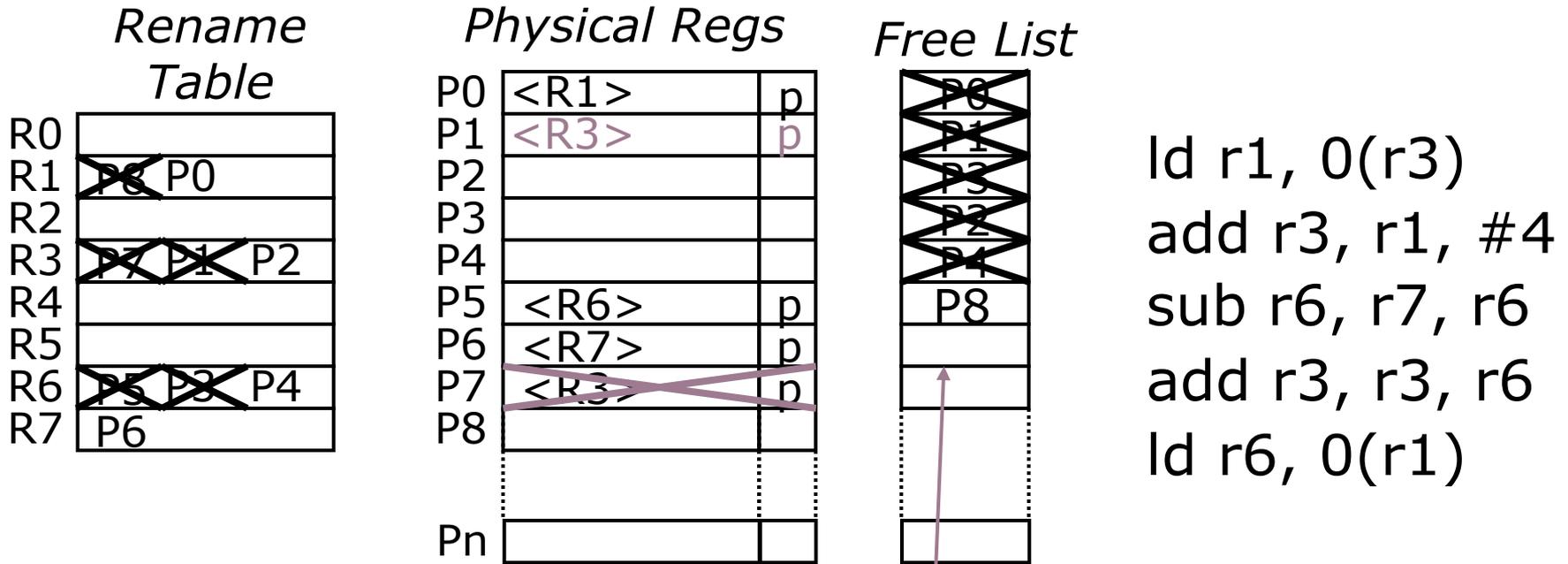


ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
x	x	ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x	x	add	p	P0			r3	P7	P1
x		sub	p	P6	p	P5	r6	P5	P3
x		add	p	P1		P3	r3	P1	P2
x		ld	p	P0			r6	P3	P4

Execute & Commit

Physical Register Management

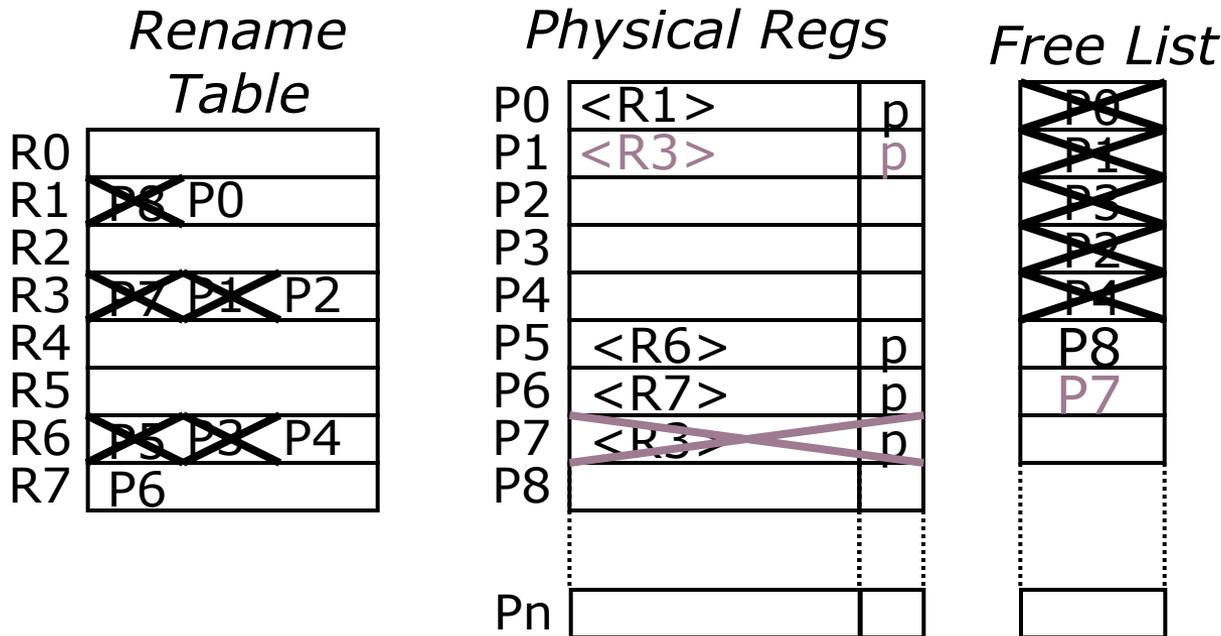


Execute & Commit

ROB

use	ex	op	p1	PR1	p2	PR2	Rd	LPRd	PRd
X	X	ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
X	X	add	p	P0			r3	P7	P1
X		sub	p	P6	p	P5	r6	P5	P3
X		add	p	P1		P3	r3	P1	P2
X		ld	p	P0			r6	P3	P4

Physical Register Management



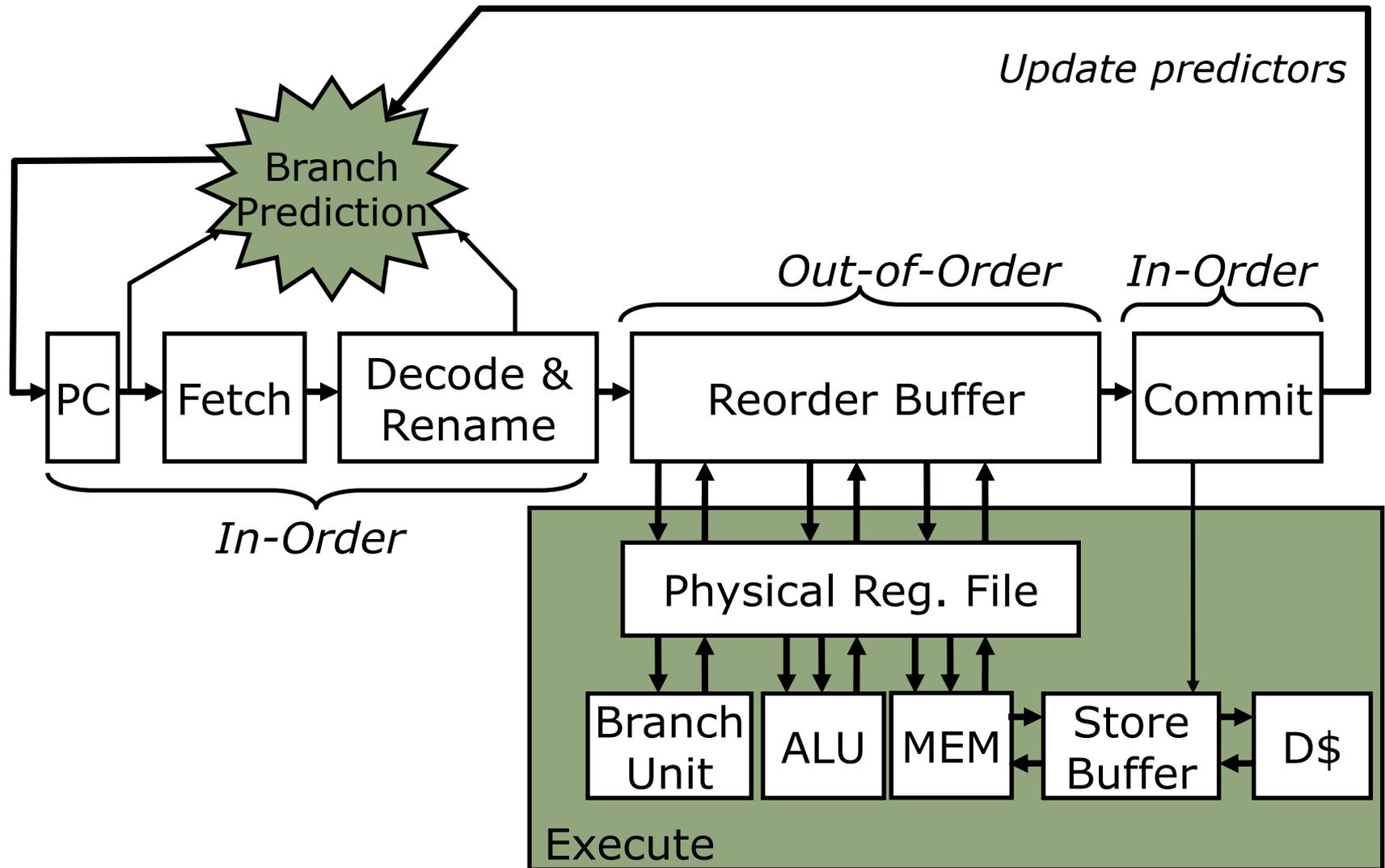
```
ld r1, 0(r3)
add r3, r1, #4
sub r6, r7, r6
add r3, r3, r6
ld r6, 0(r1)
```

ROB

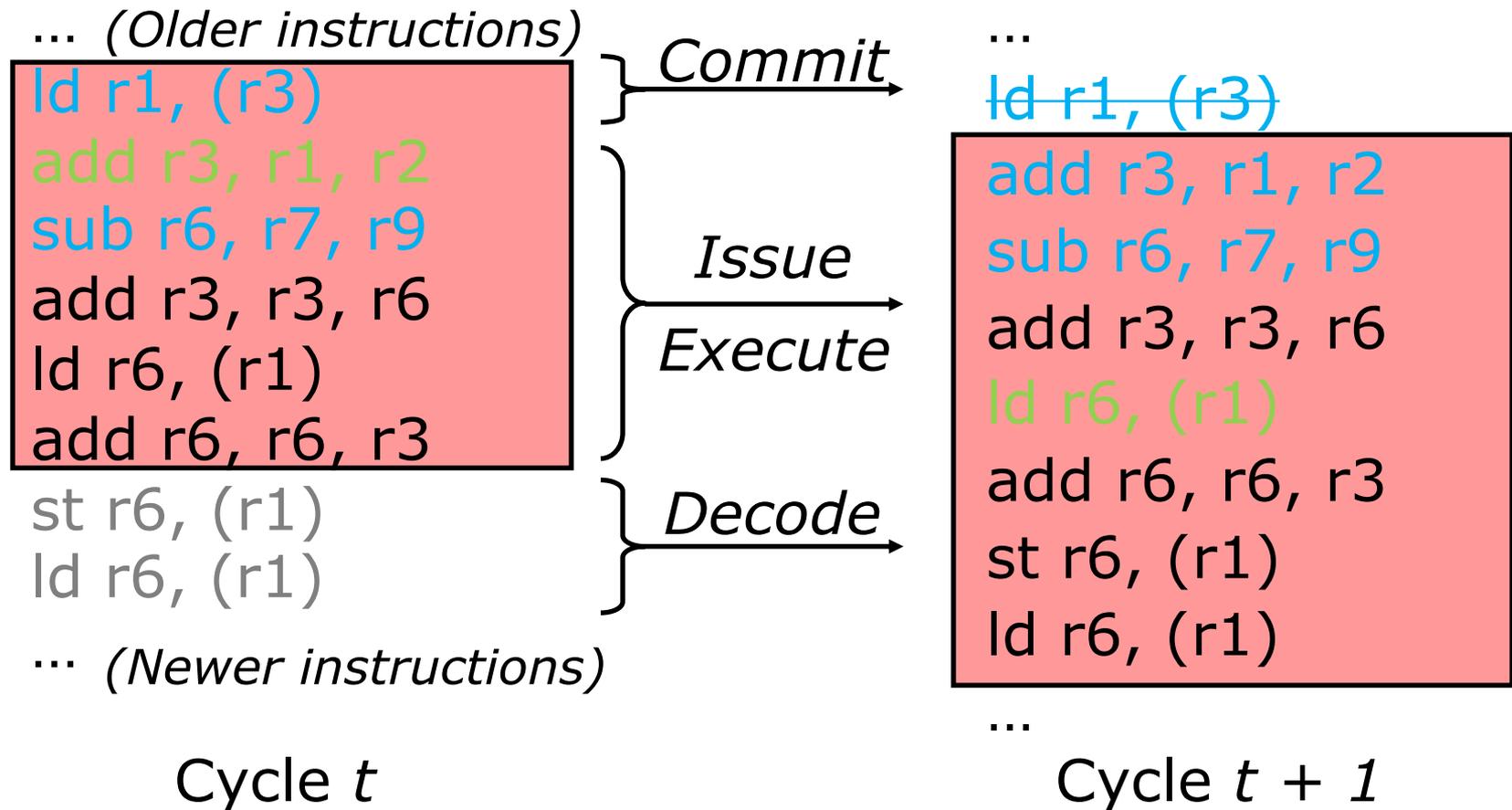
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x	x	ld	p	P7			r1	P8	P0
x	x	add	p	P0			r3	P7	P1
x		sub	p	P6	p	P5	r6	P5	P3
x		add	p	P1		P3	r3	P1	P2
x		ld	p	P0			r6	P3	P4

Execute & Commit ←

Speculative & Out-of-Order Execution



Reorder Buffer Holds Active Instruction Window



Key: predecode, decoded, issued, executed, committed

Issue Timing

i1	Add R1,R1,#1	Issue ₁	Execute ₁		
i2	Sub R1,R1,#1			Issue ₂	Execute ₂

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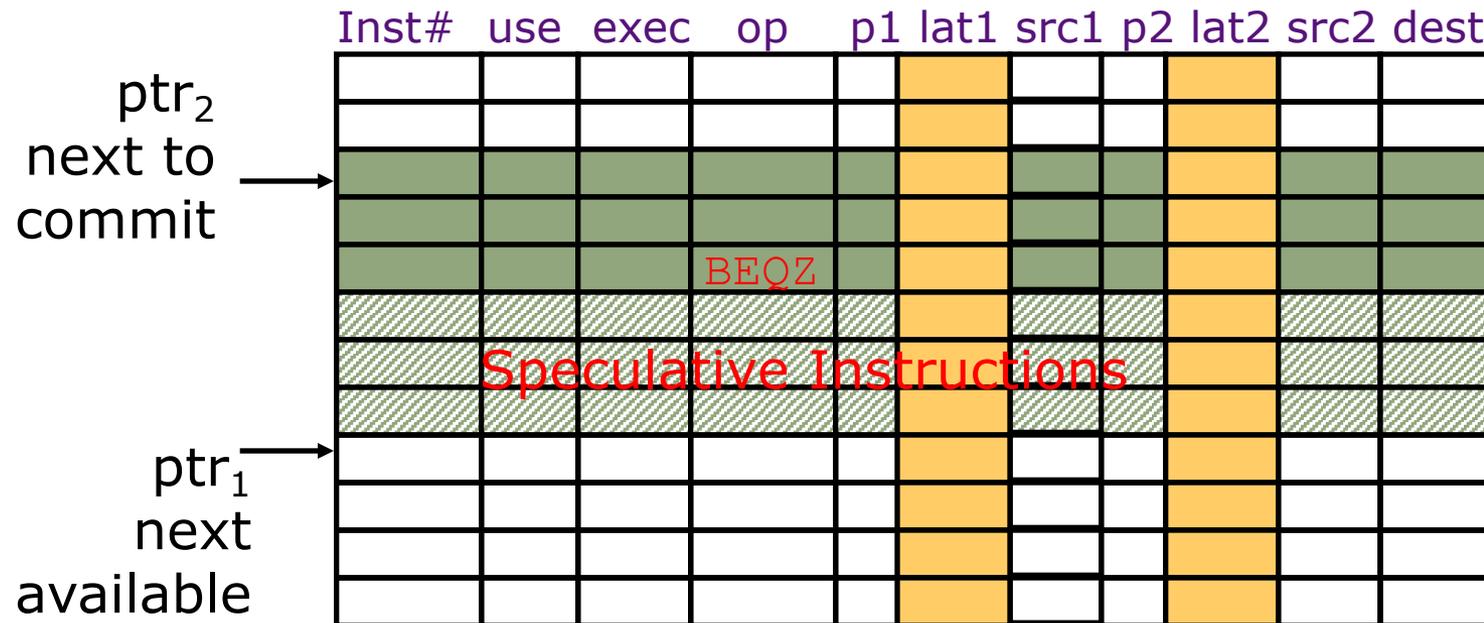
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i1	LD R1, (R3)	Issue ₁	Execute ₁		
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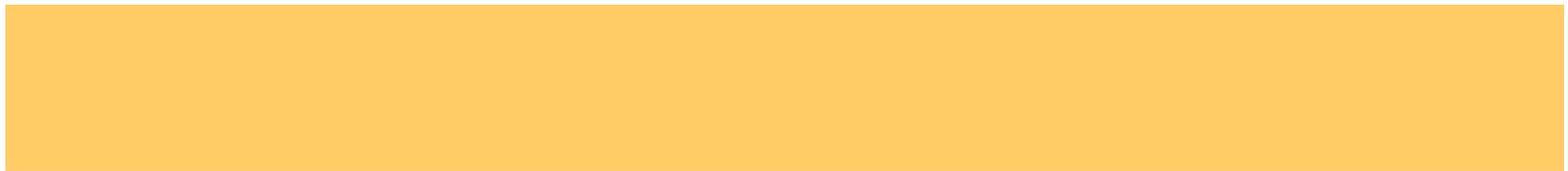
What might make this schedule fail?

If execution latency wasn't as expected

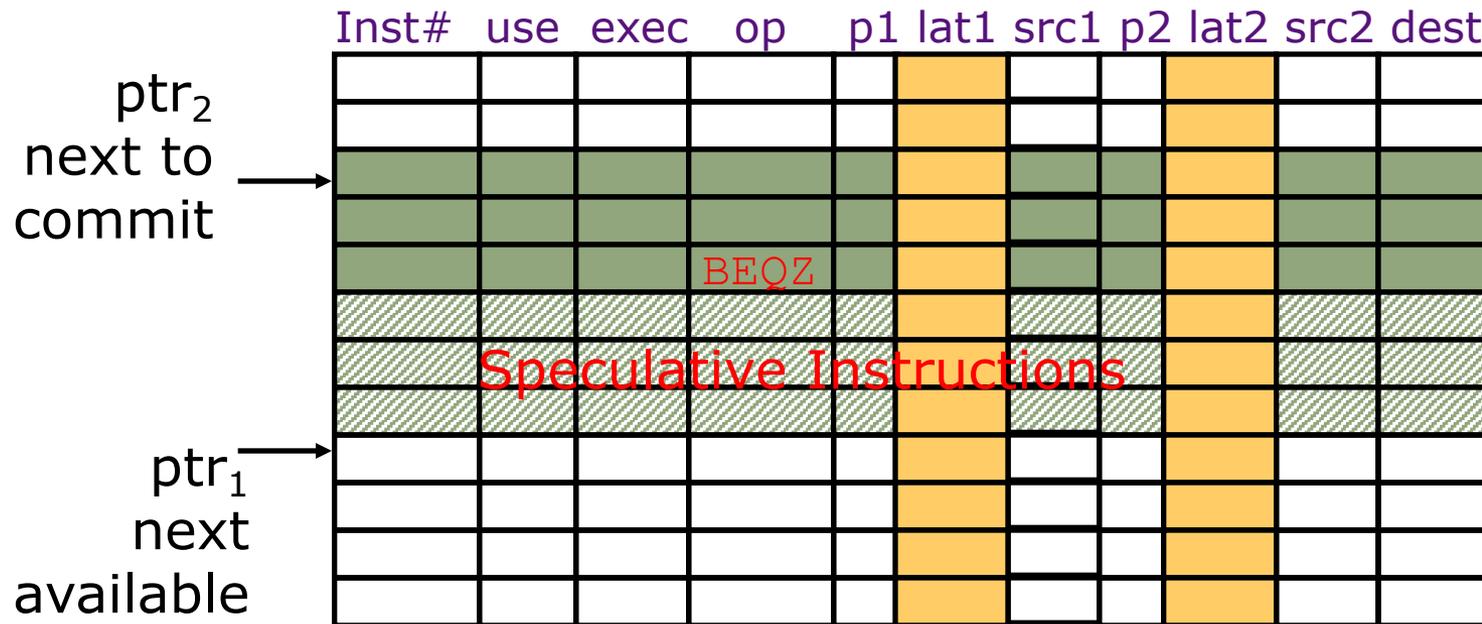
Issue Queue with latency prediction



Issue Queue (Reorder buffer)



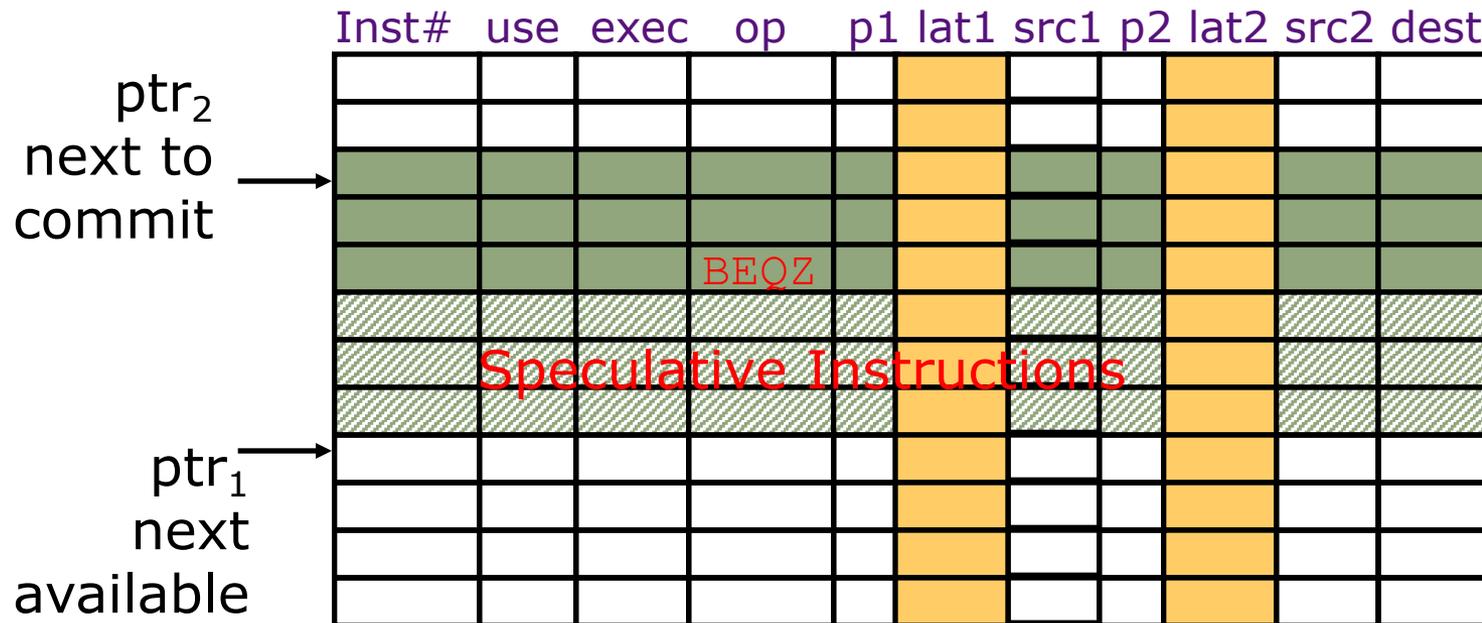
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- Fixed latency: latency included in queue entry ('bypassed')

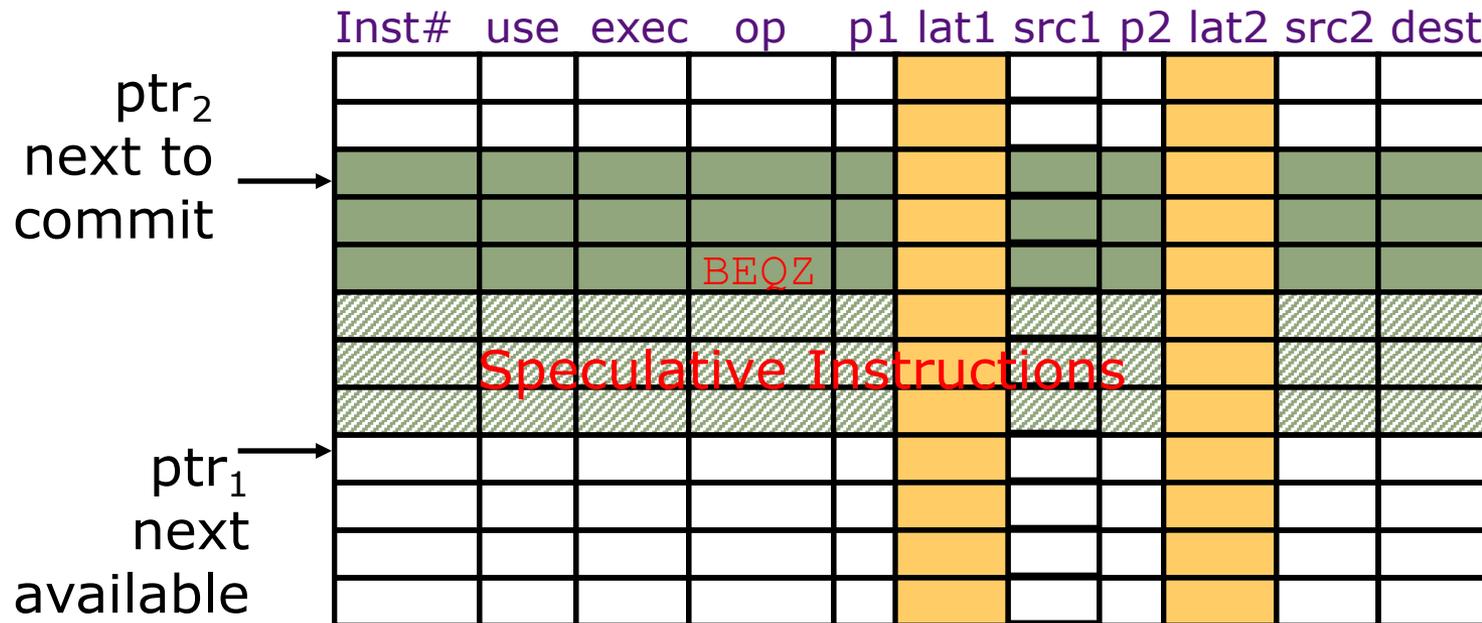
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Issue Queue with latency prediction

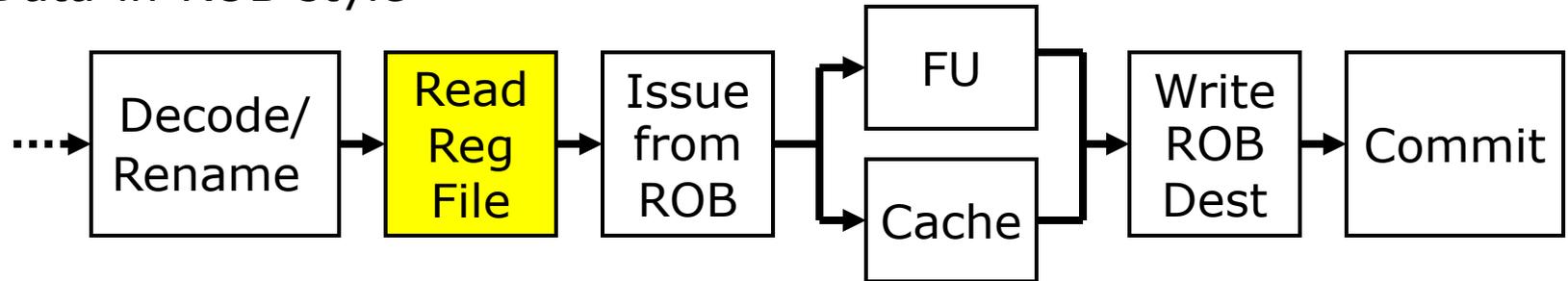


Issue Queue (Reorder buffer)

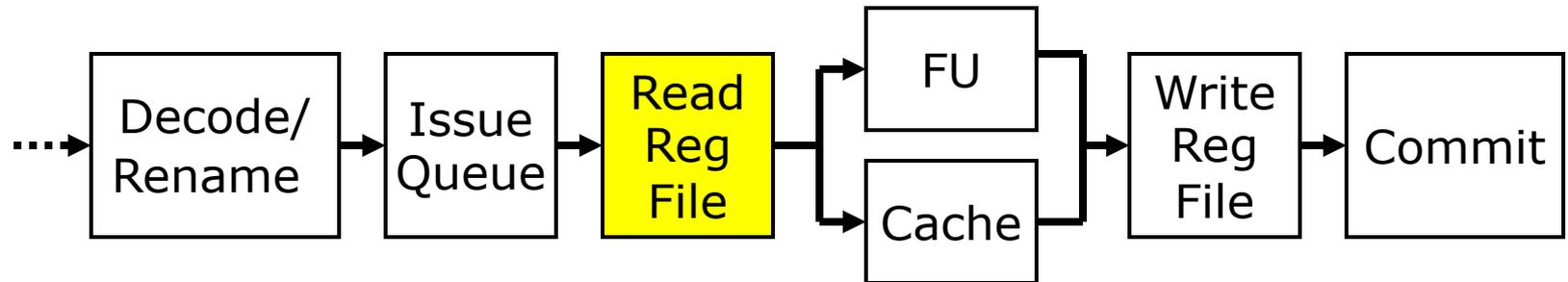
- Fixed latency: latency included in queue entry ('bypassed')
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- Variable latency: wait for completion signal (stall)

Data-in-ROB vs. Unified RegFile

Data-in-ROB style



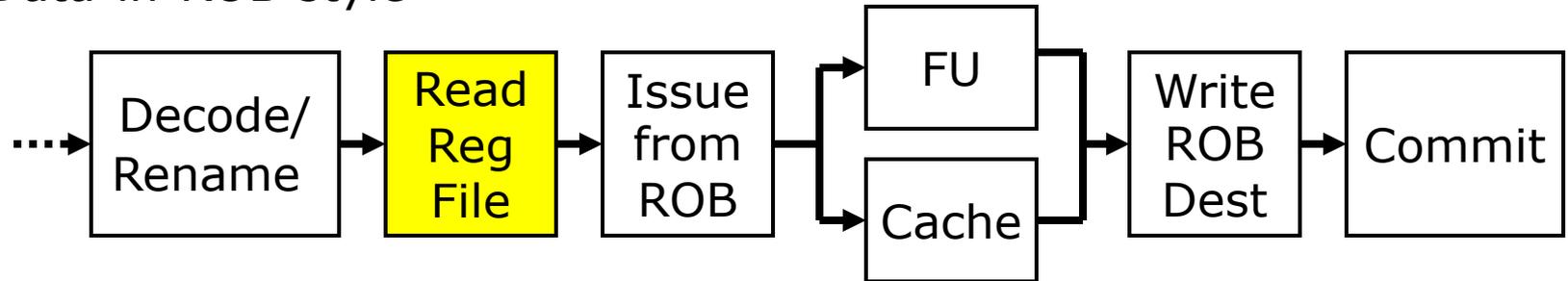
Unified-register-file style



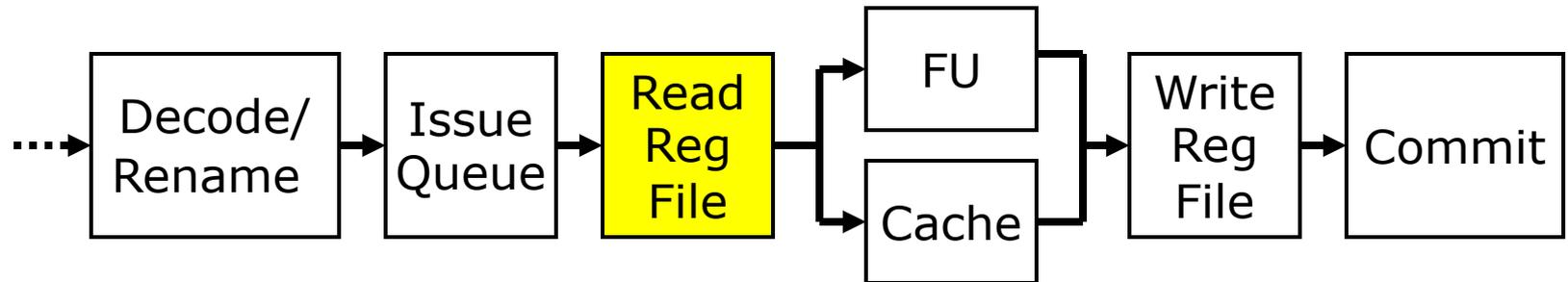
How does issue speculation differ, e.g., on cache miss?

Data-in-ROB vs. Unified RegFile

Data-in-ROB style



Unified-register-file style

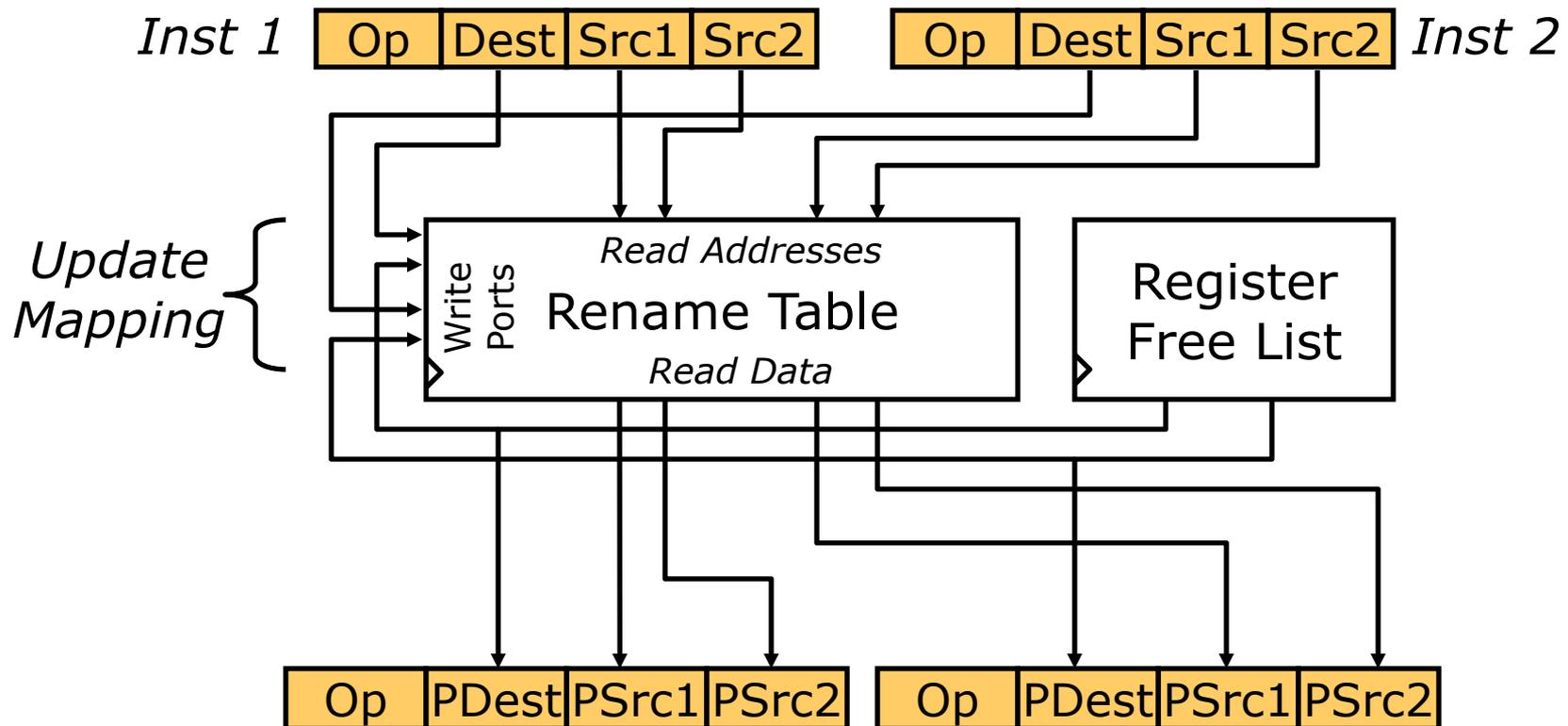


How does issue speculation differ, e.g., on cache miss?

Dependency loop shorter for data-in-ROB style

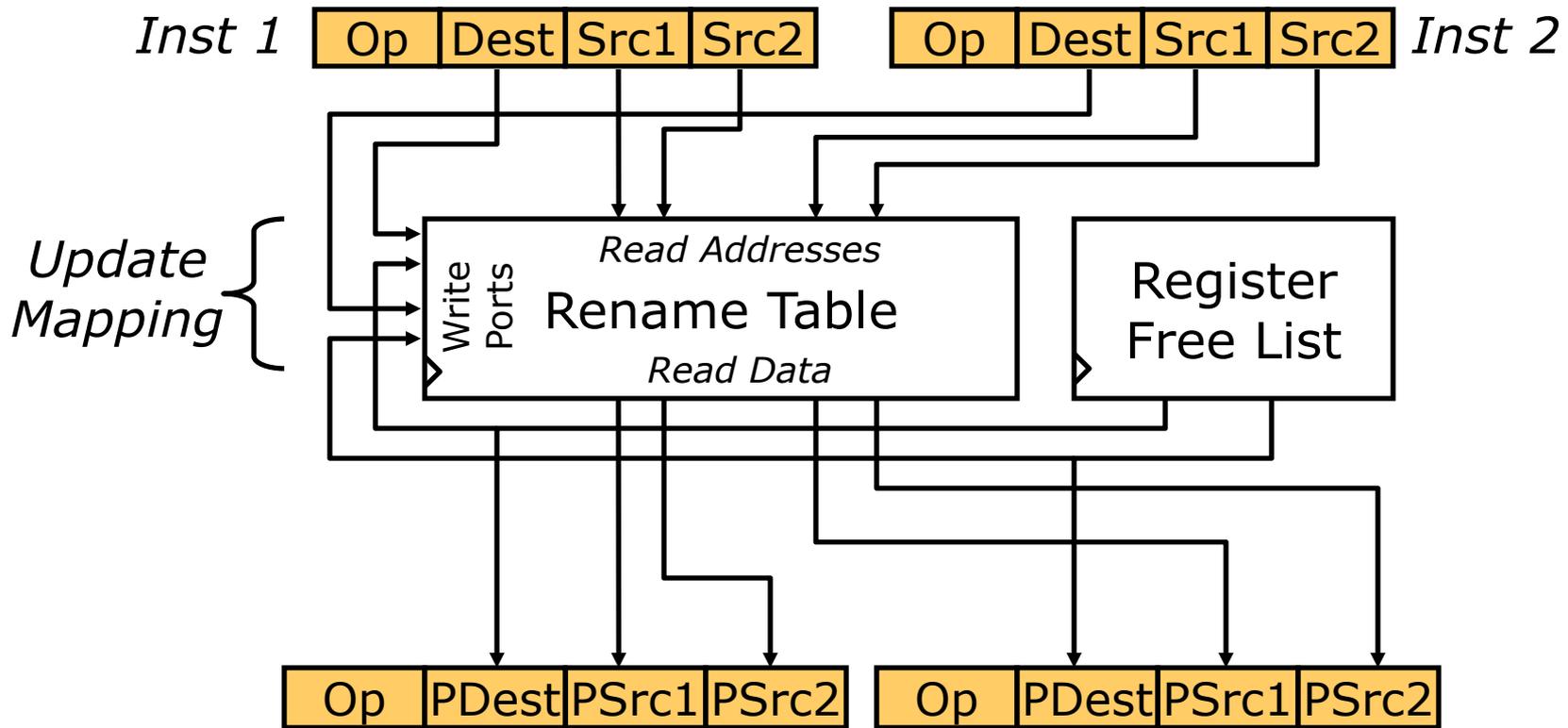
Superscalar Register Renaming

- During decode, instructions allocated new physical destination register
- Source operands renamed to physical register with newest value
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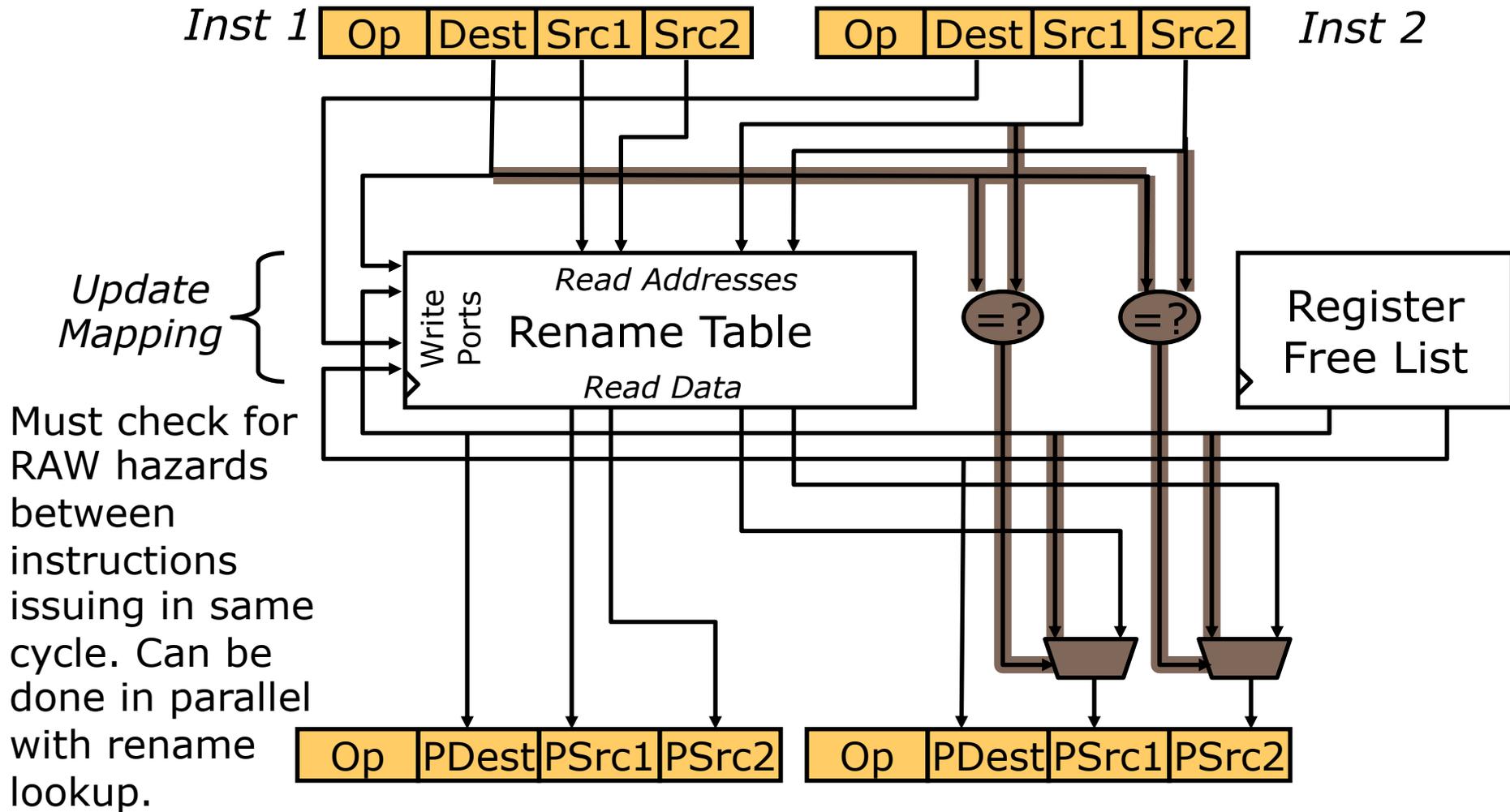
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Does this work?

Superscalar Register Renaming



(MIPS R10K renames 4 serially-RAW-dependent insts/cycle)

Thank you!

Split Issue and Commit Queues

- How large should the ROB be?
 - Think Little's Law...

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- Cons: More complex mis-speculation recovery

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- Branch prediction takes less resources than speculative execution of both paths

With accurate branch prediction, it is more cost effective to dedicate all resources to the predicted direction