

Course Description

Lecture 15: Advanced Architecture: Superscalar and Out of Order

This course covers the design and implementation of computer systems from the perspective of the hardware software interface. The purpose of this course is for students to understand the relationship between the operating system, software, and computer architecture. Students that complete the course will have learned operating system fundamentals, computer architecture fundamentals, compilation to hardware abstractions, and how software actually executes from the perspective of the hardware software/boundary. The course will focus especially on understanding the relationships between software and hardware, and how those relationships influence the design of a computer system's software and hardware. The course will convey these topics through a series of practical, implementation-oriented lab assignments.

Credit: Brandon Lucia

Today: Advanced Microarchitecture Techniques

- Advanced Instruction-Level Parallelism: Multiple Issue, Out of Order Execution, Register Renaming, SMT

Pipelined scalar design

instruction



Fetch

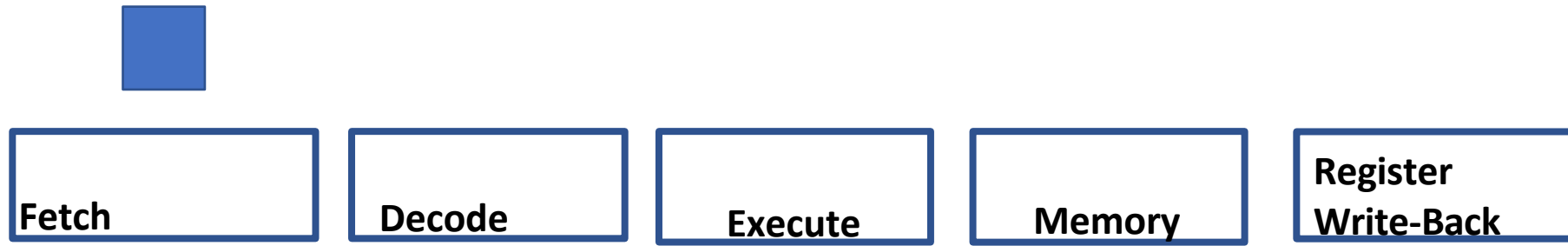
Decode

Execute

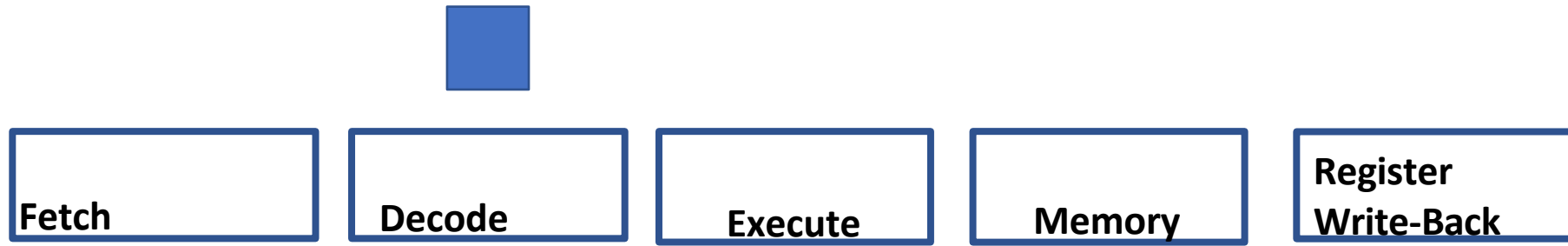
Memory

**Register
Write-Back**

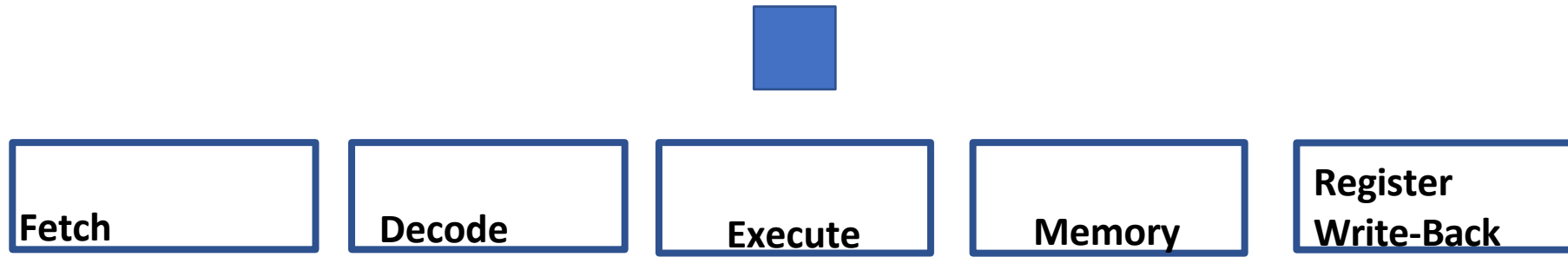
Pipelined scalar design



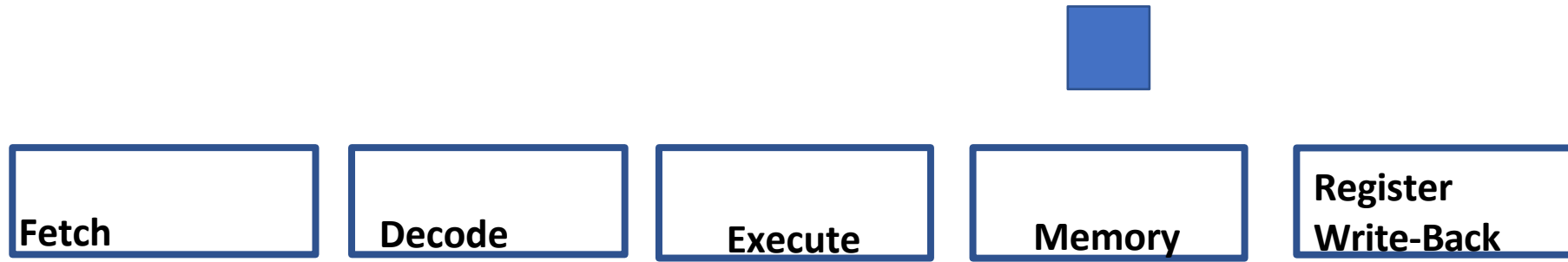
Pipelined scalar design



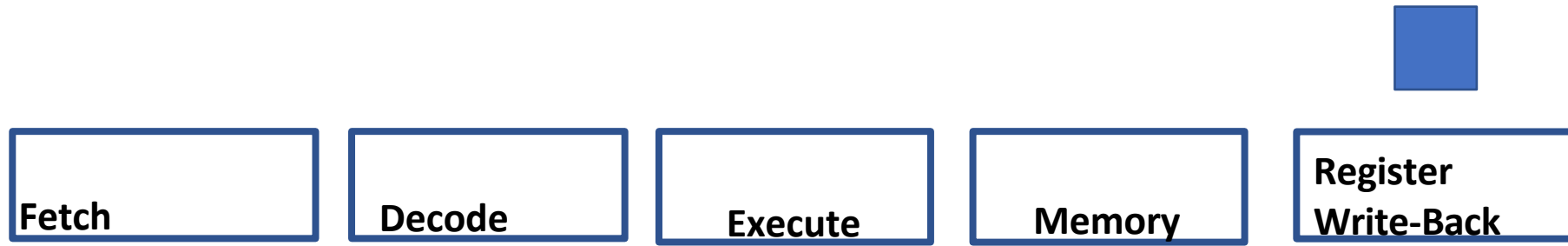
Pipelined scalar design



Pipelined scalar design

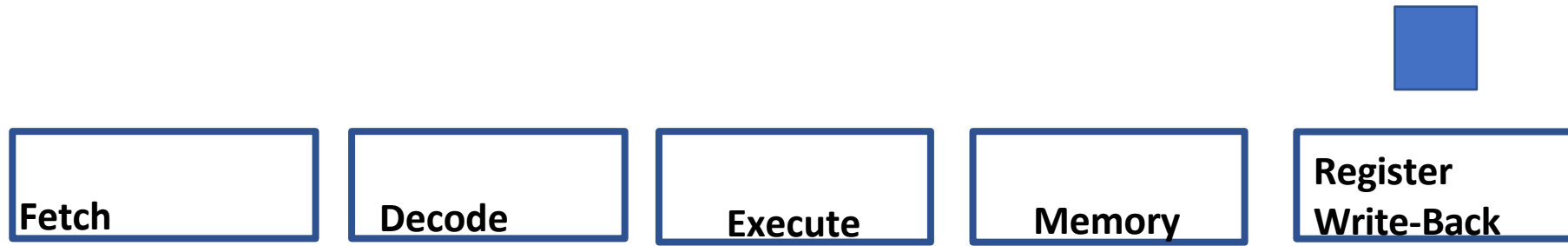


Pipelined scalar design



What is the best performance that we can ever get out of a pipeline like the one we have been studying?
(how do we answer this question?)

Pipelined scalar design

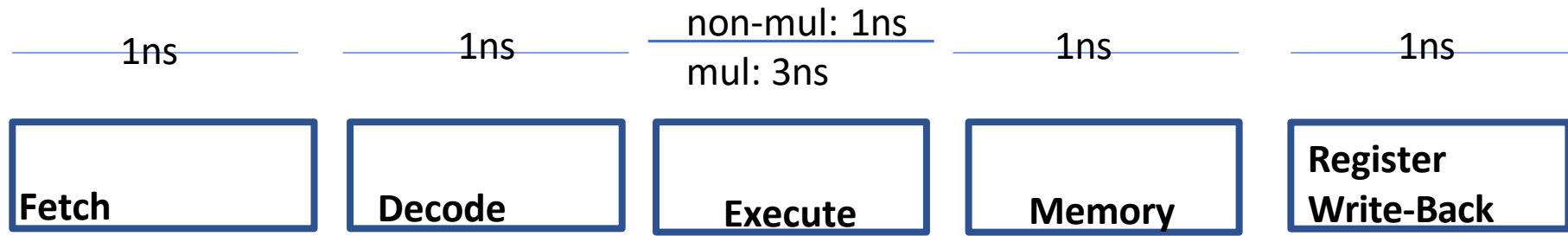


Iron Law of Processor Performance:

Instr / Prog x Cycles / Instr x Seconds / Cycle

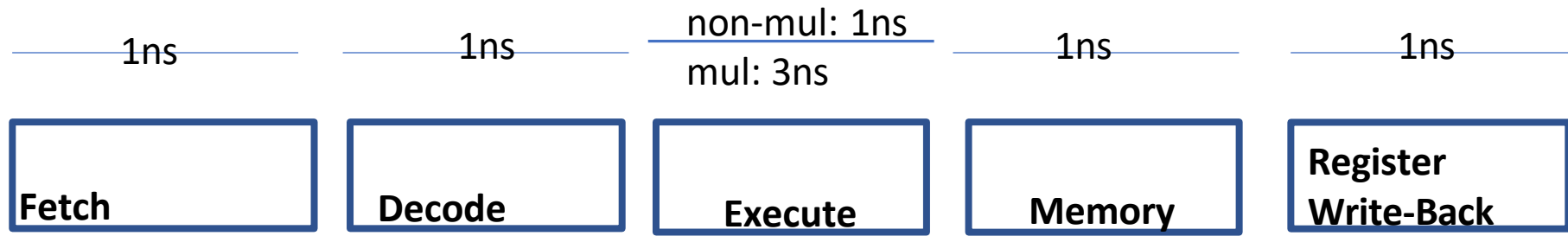
Fundamental limits to each of these terms in our current pipeline?

Thinking about latency (again) to optimize for cycle time



What is the implication of mul having a 3ns latency, compared to the latency of each of the other stages?

Thinking about latency (again) to optimize for cycle time

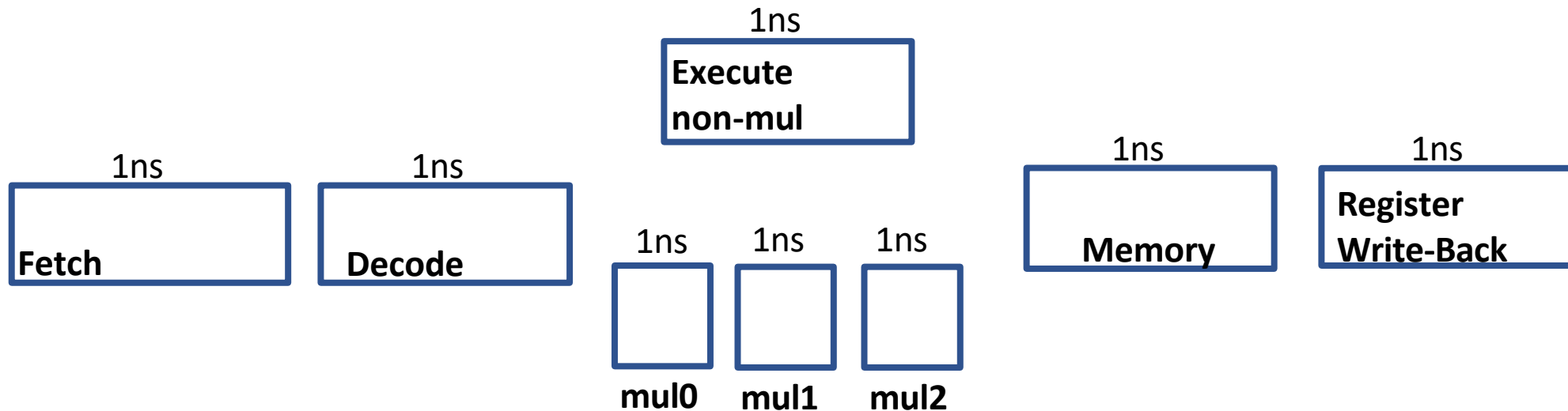


What is the implication of mul having a 3ns latency, compared to the latency of each of the other stages?

333MHz max clock frequency

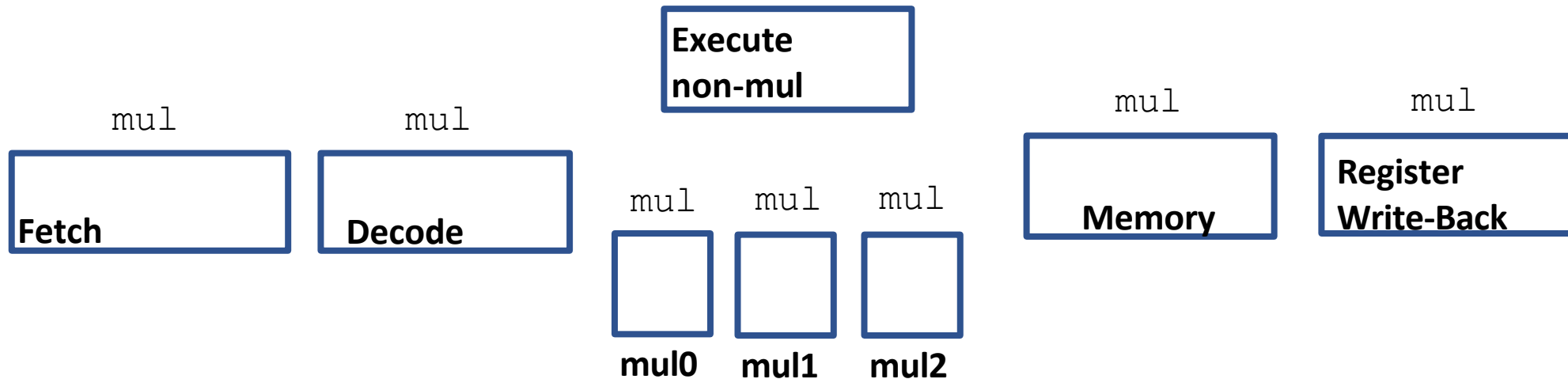
(despite 1GHz being OK for non-mul operations)

What if we pipeline the multiplier independently?



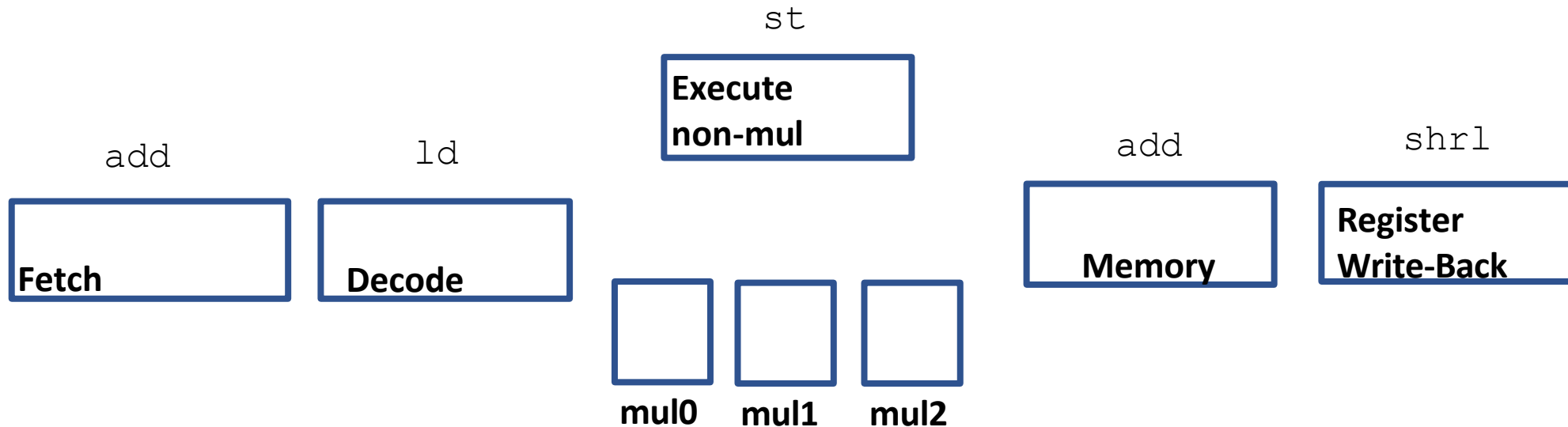
Break the multiply unit into 3 parts, each of which takes 1ns, equalizing all stages' latencies

What if we pipeline the multiplier independently?



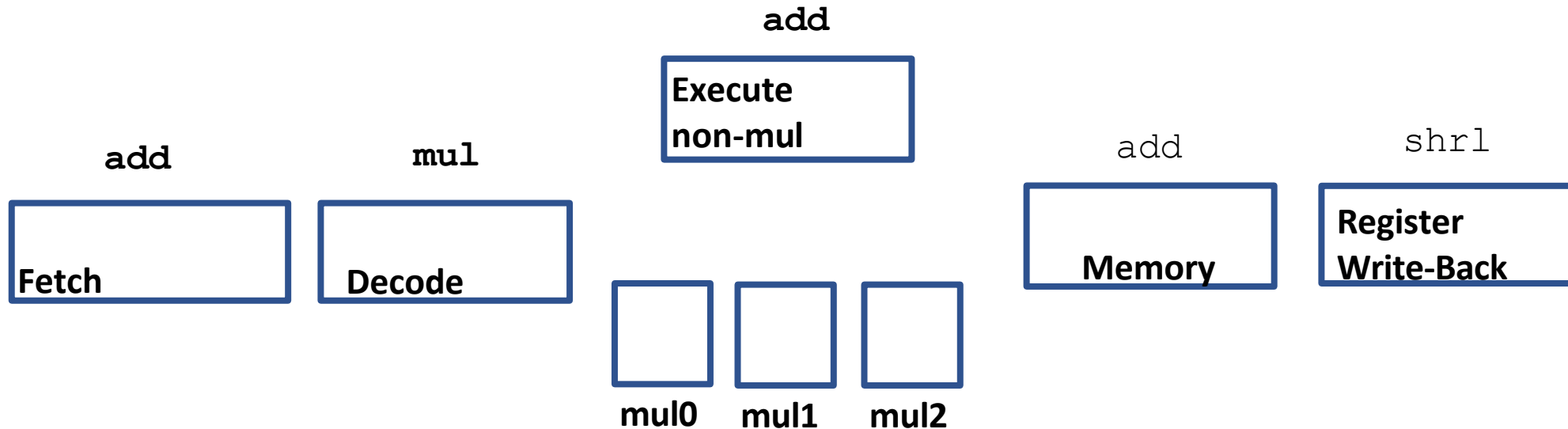
Back-to-back multiplies keep the mul pipe full, at 1GHz latency

What if we pipeline the multiplier independently?



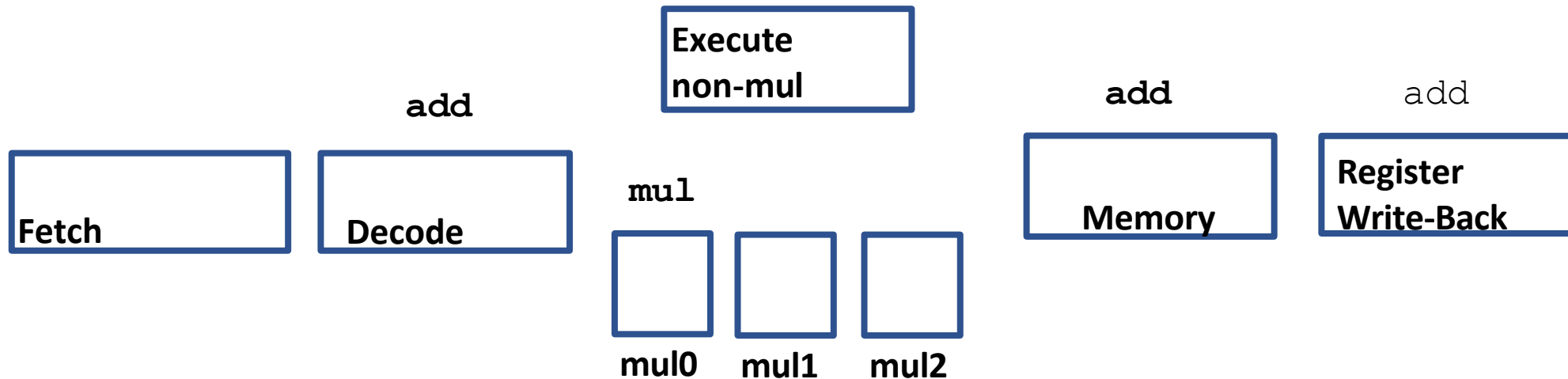
Back-to-back non-mul ops keep the pipe full, at 1GHz latency

What if we pipeline the multiplier independently?



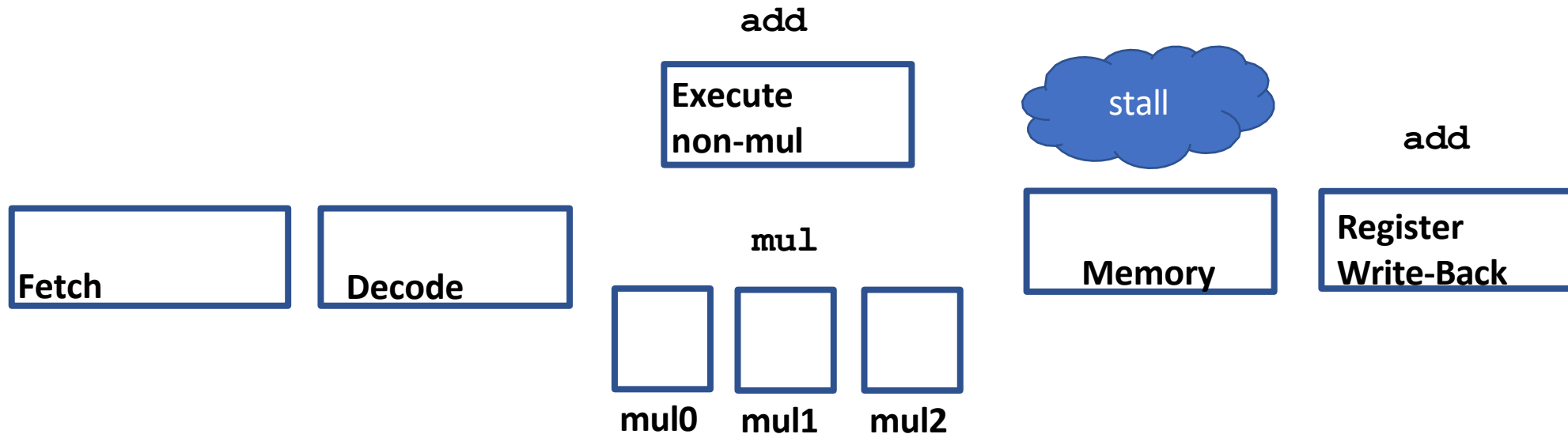
Question: What about add mul add mul?

What if we pipeline the multiplier independently?



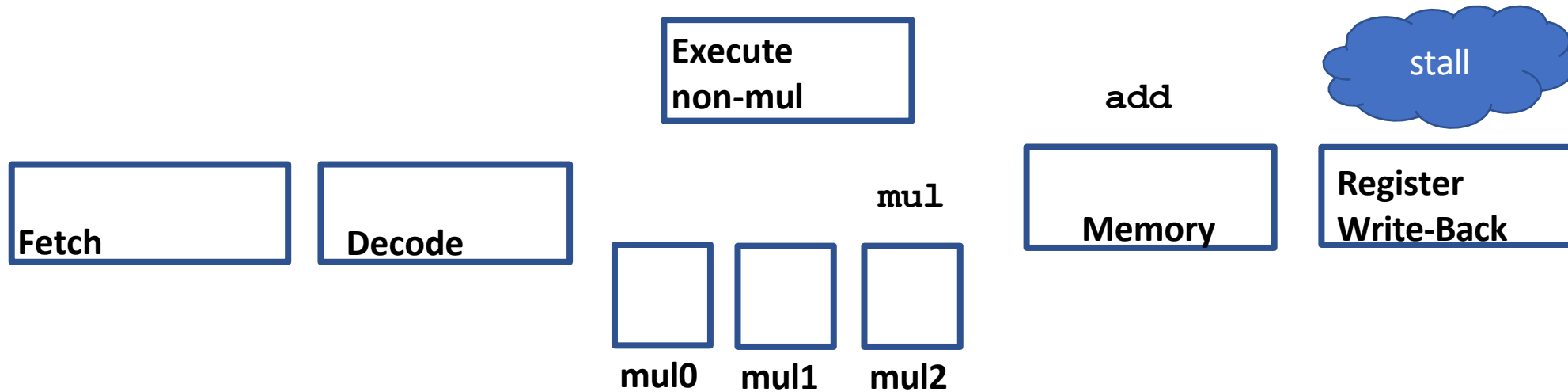
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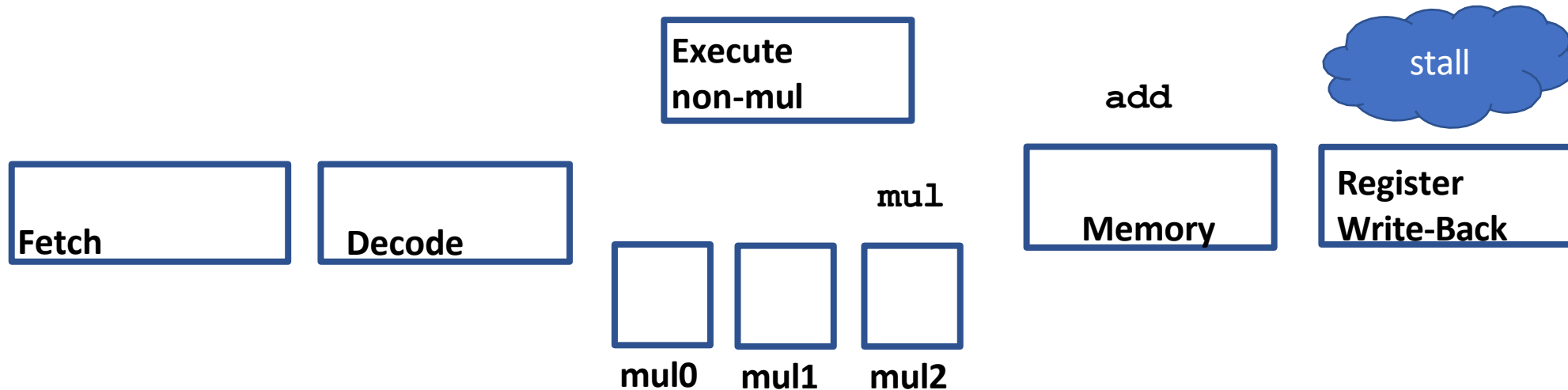
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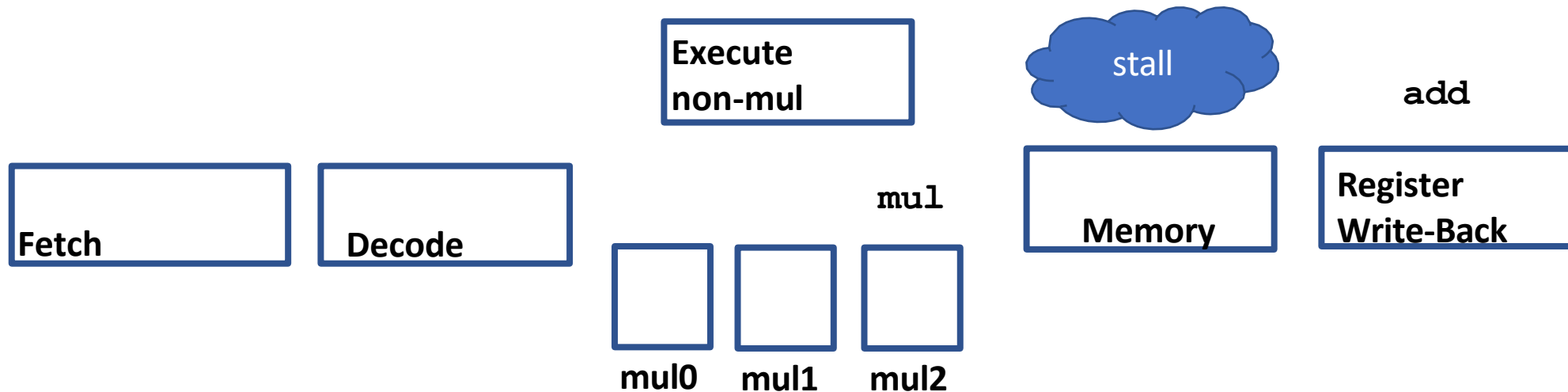
Problem?

Instructions might complete out of order if we are not careful!



In addition to the unfortunate **stall in the memory stage**, the add and the mul **execute in the wrong order!**

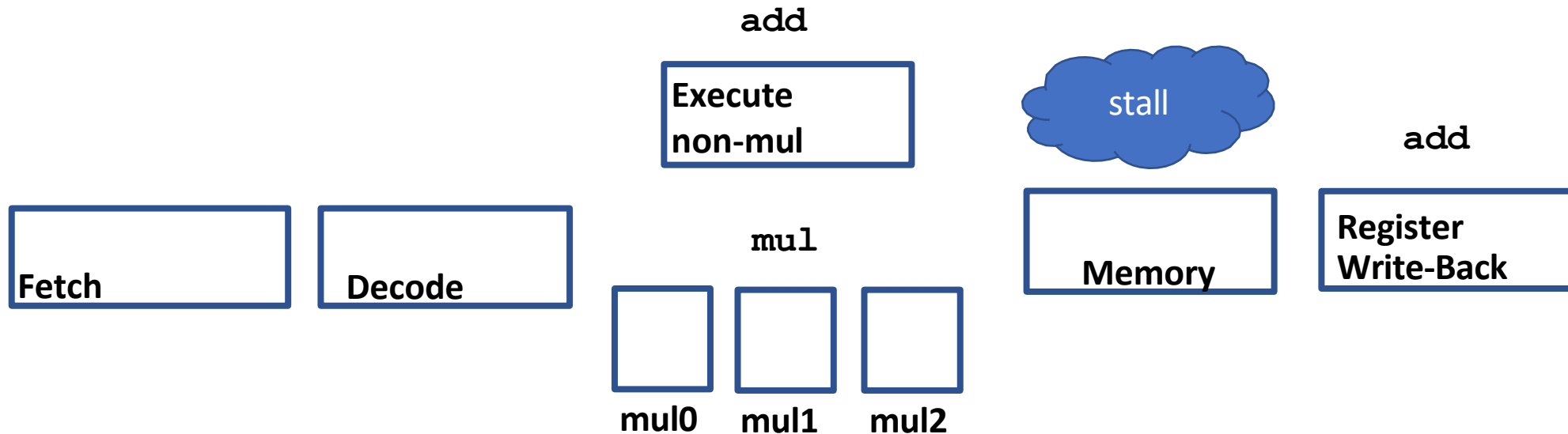
Avoiding out-of-order completion



Hard to avoid the *stall*...

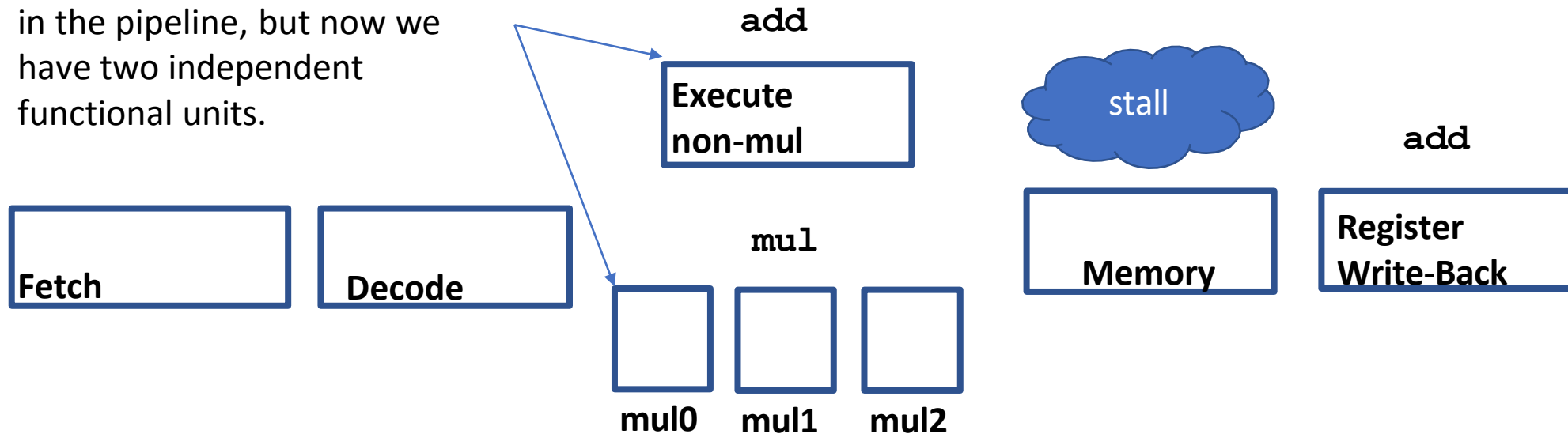
Can avoid the *ordering problem* with extra stall logic in **Ex**

Let's Rewind: Anything interesting about this snapshot in time?



Independent FUs allow us to optimize IPC directly by increasing ILP

Until now, we've considered a single ALU in a single **Ex stage** in the pipeline, but now we have two independent functional units.



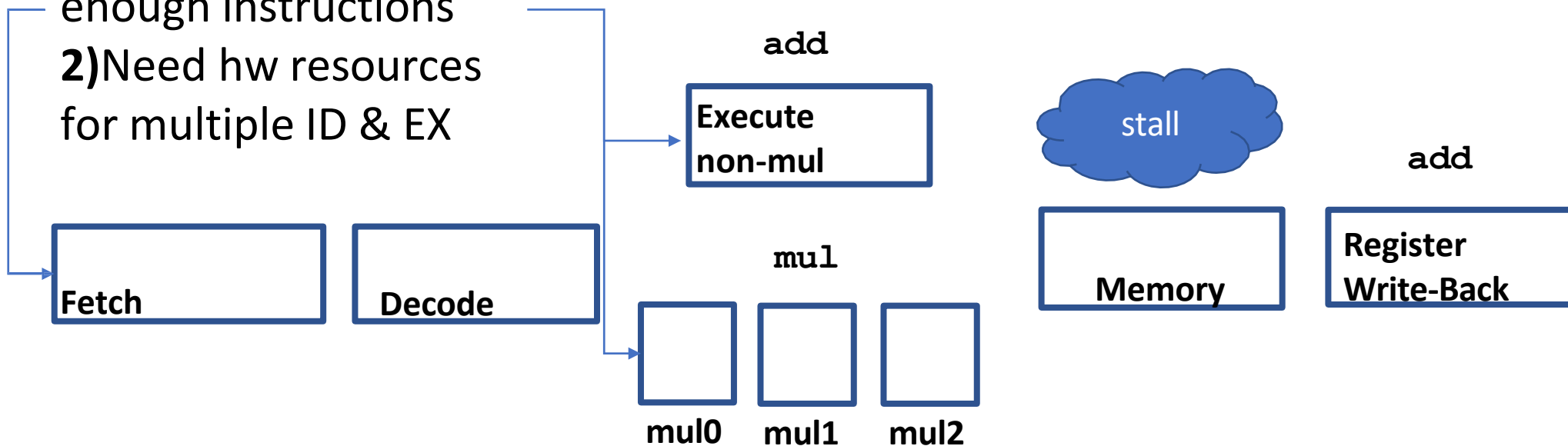
This pipeline is **Executing** multiple instructions at the same time on different functional units. **ILP begets IPC!**

Superscalar Out of Order Execution

A Superscalar Processor Executes Multiple Instructions at the Same Time

Front End Challenges:

- 1) Need to supply enough instructions
- 2) Need hw resources for multiple ID & EX

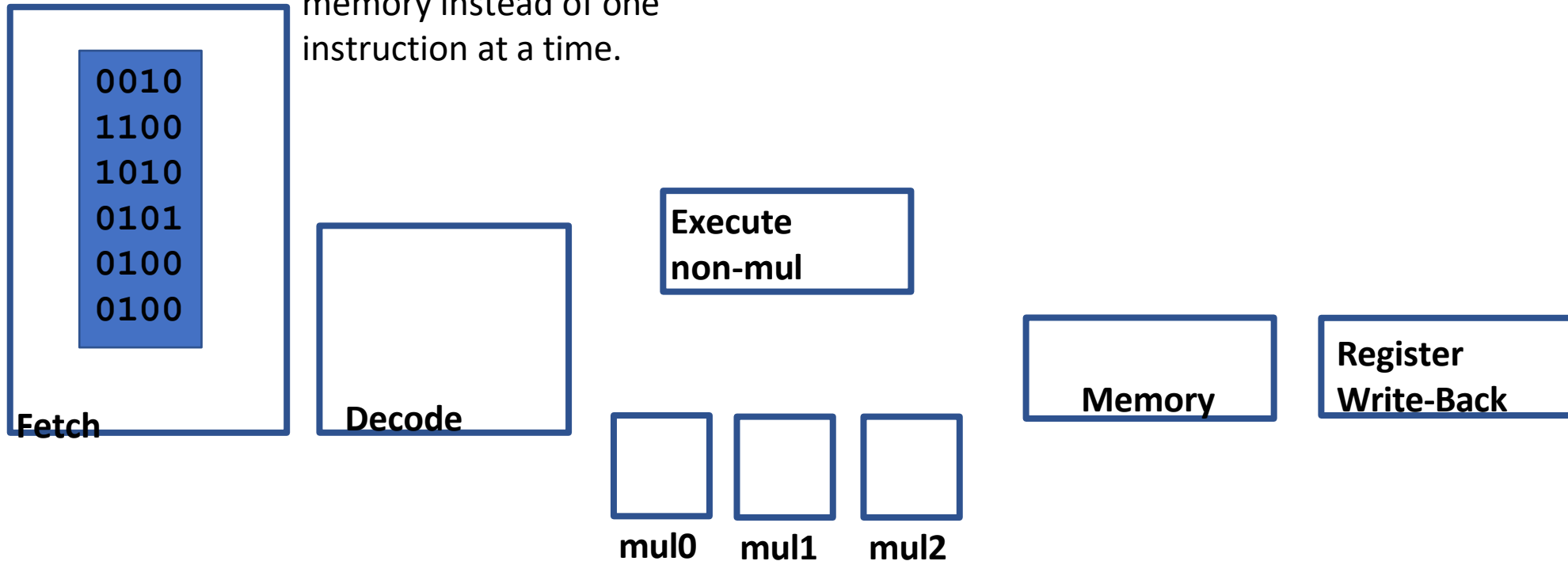


Scalar executes one instruction at a time

Superscalar executes multiple instructions at a time

Superscalar processors

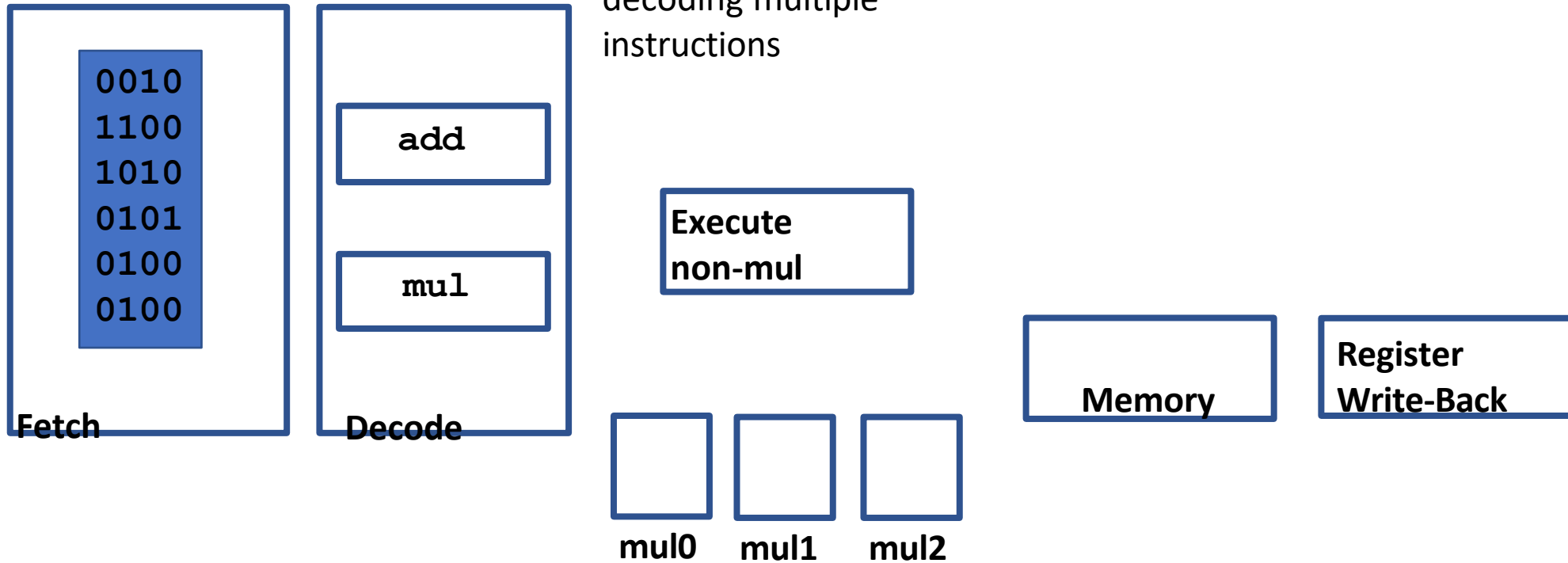
First idea: fetch a block of data from instruction memory instead of one instruction at a time.



(Here, we give up on the detailed pipeline diagram due to the increased complexity of the design.)

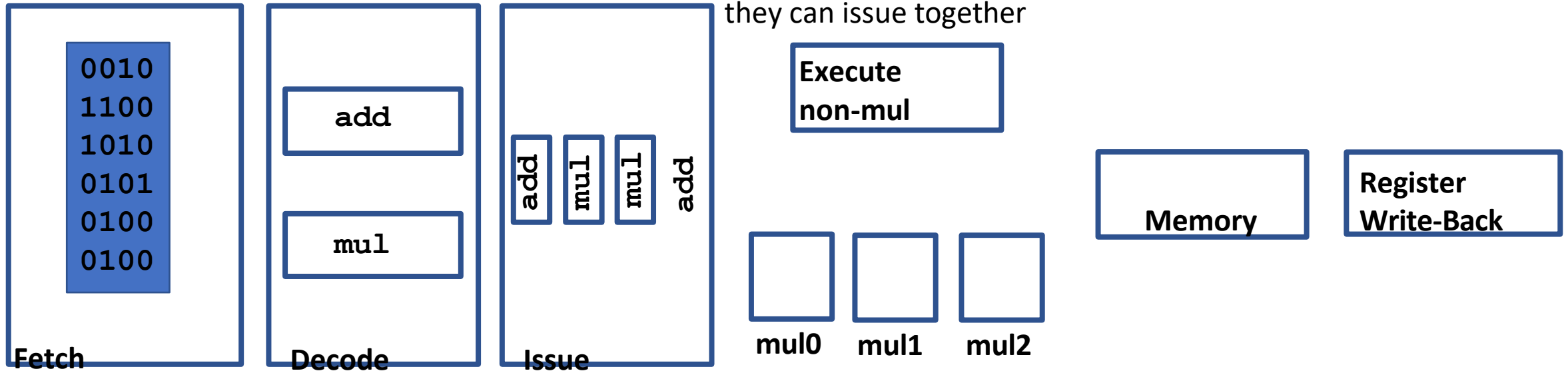
Superscalar processors

Second idea: Replicate
decode logic to allow
decoding multiple
instructions



Superscalar processors

Third idea: Add *issue queue* of instructions ready to issue & logic to check whether they can issue together

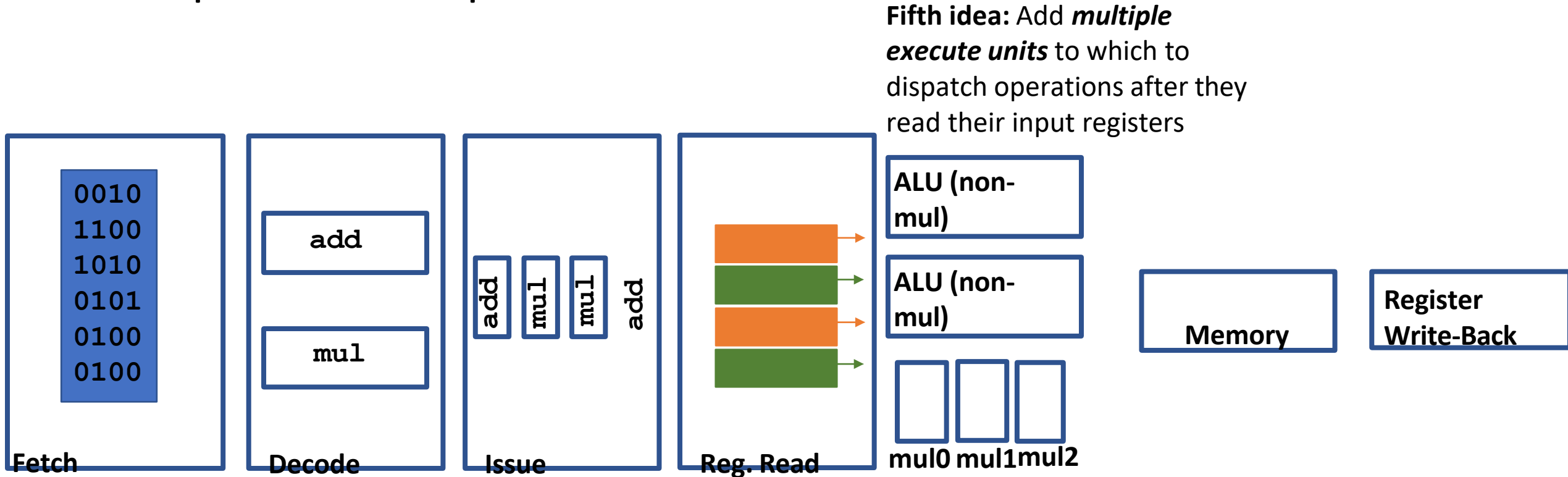


add x6 x8 x11
add x12 x6 x13
mul x7 x12 x14

These instructions **cannot** issue together (why? two reasons, actually!)

Question: how much checking required for n-wide issue?

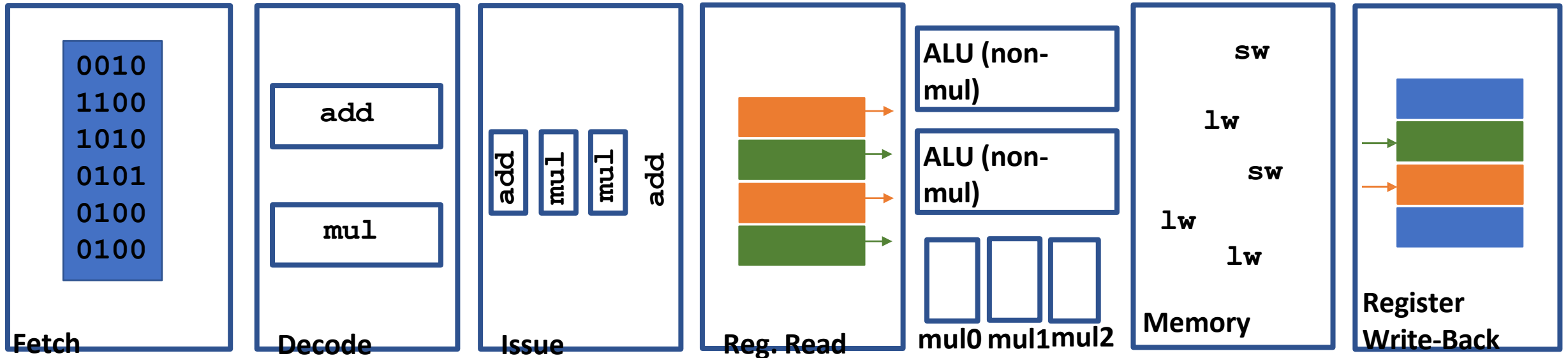
Superscalar processors



Fourth idea: Decouple **register read** from decode. Register read happens for **issued** instructions now

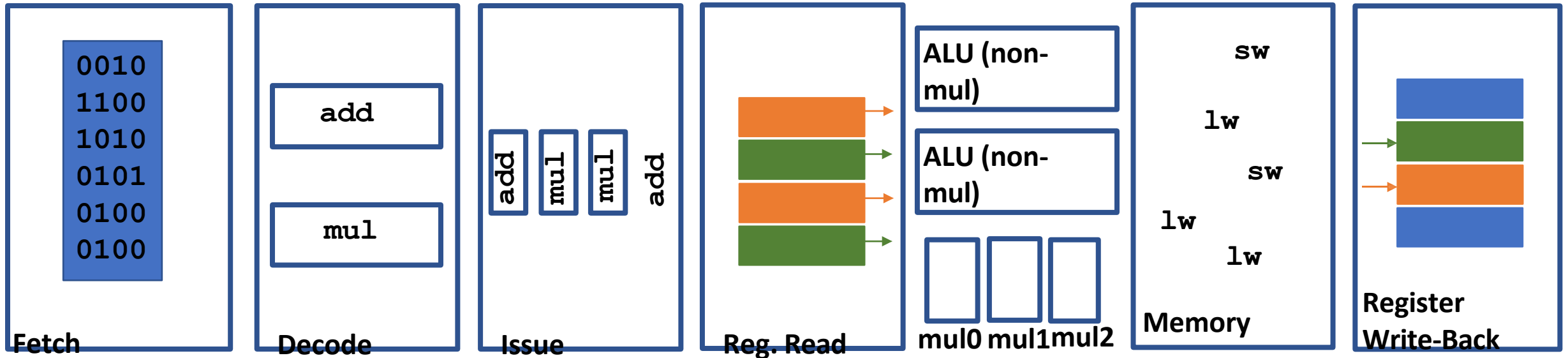
Superscalar processors

Seventh idea: Add *multiple write ports* to register file to allow simultaneous multiple register writebacks



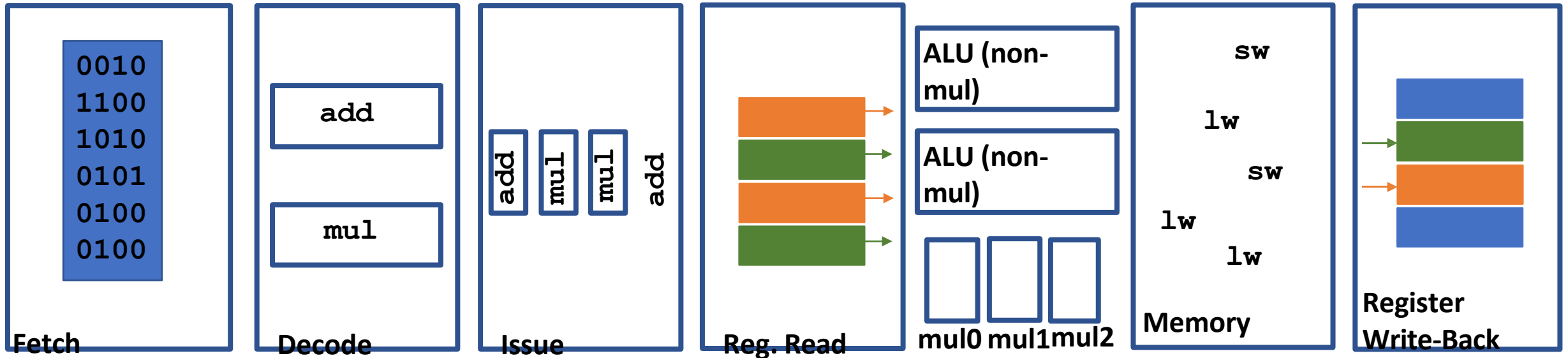
Sixth idea: Handle multiple outstanding memory operations in memory system (complex! we will mostly ignore this part)

Superscalar processors: Challenges & sources of complexity



Fetch:

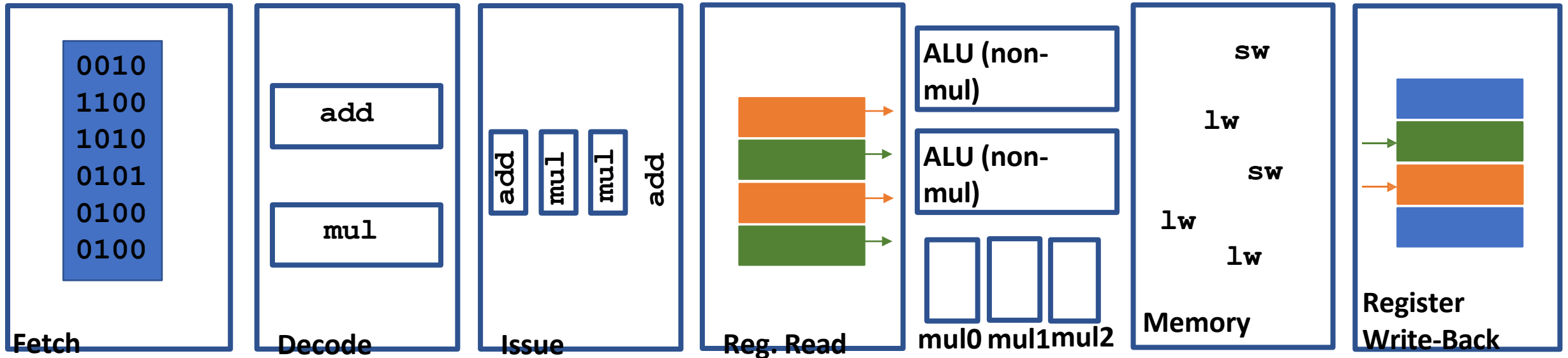
Superscalar processors: Challenges & sources of complexity



Fetch: Branch prediction more complex. Risk of *overfetch* because we're fetching a whole block? Must consider multiple, sequential fetches based on predictions

Superscalar processors: Challenges & sources of complexity

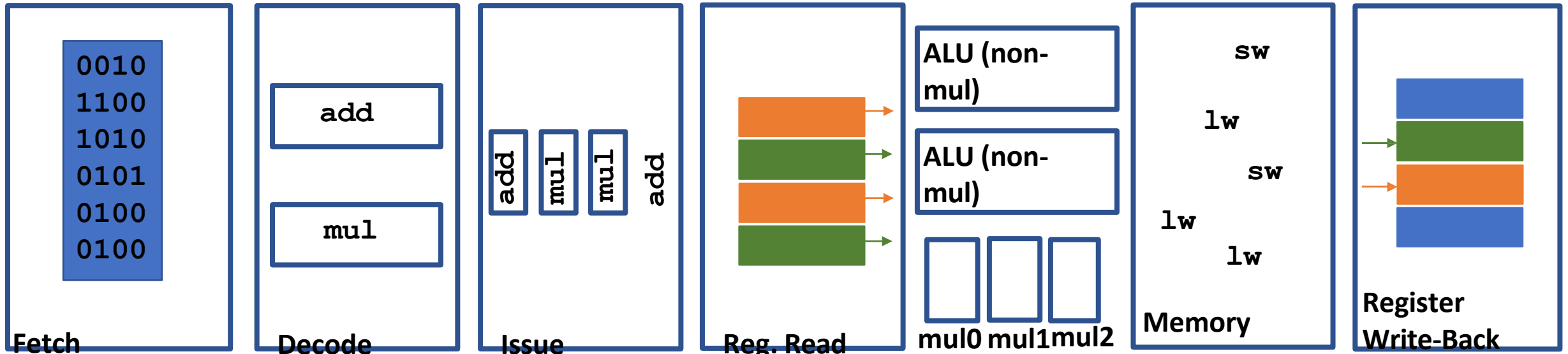
Decode:



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Superscalar processors: Challenges & sources of complexity

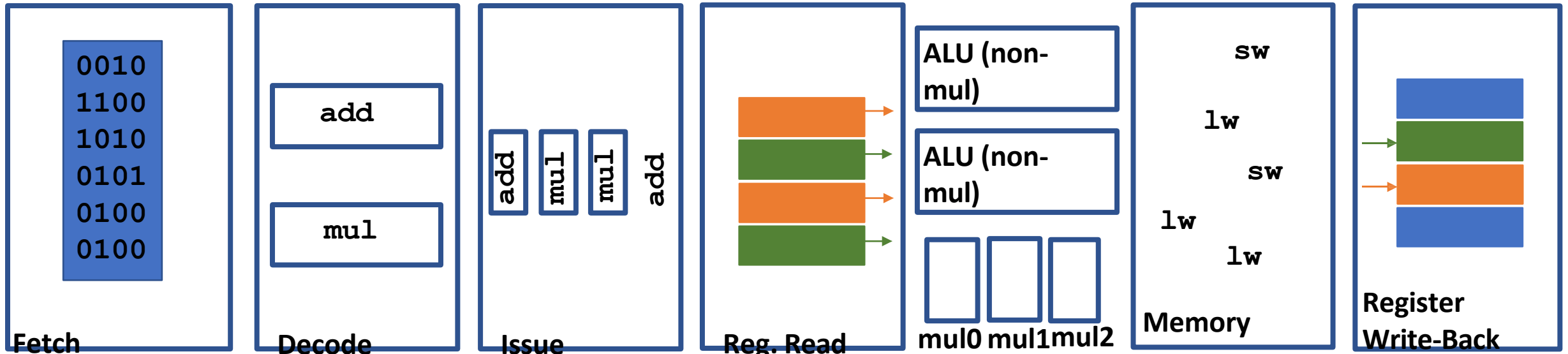
Decode: Not too bad, just replication of resources



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Superscalar processors: Challenges & sources of complexity

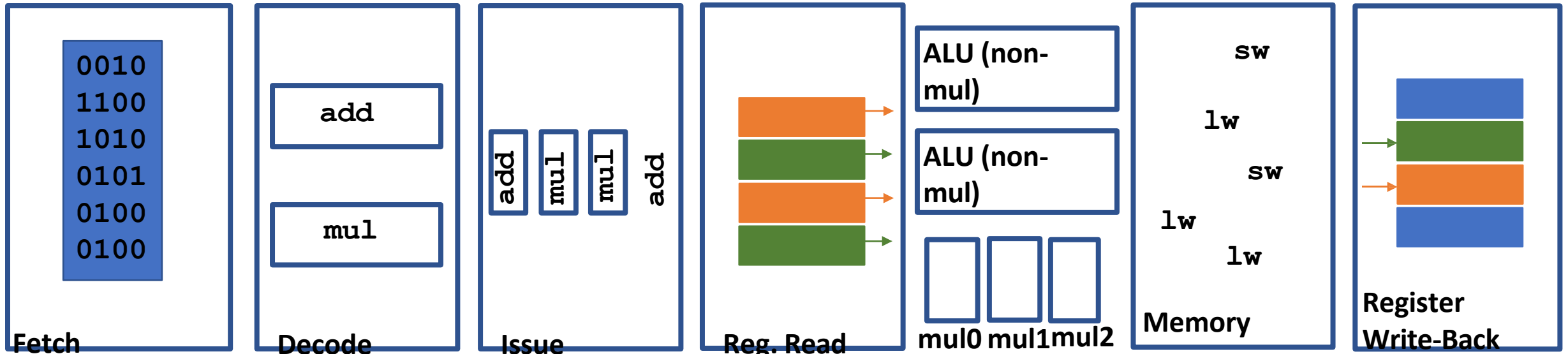
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Superscalar processors: Challenges & sources of complexity

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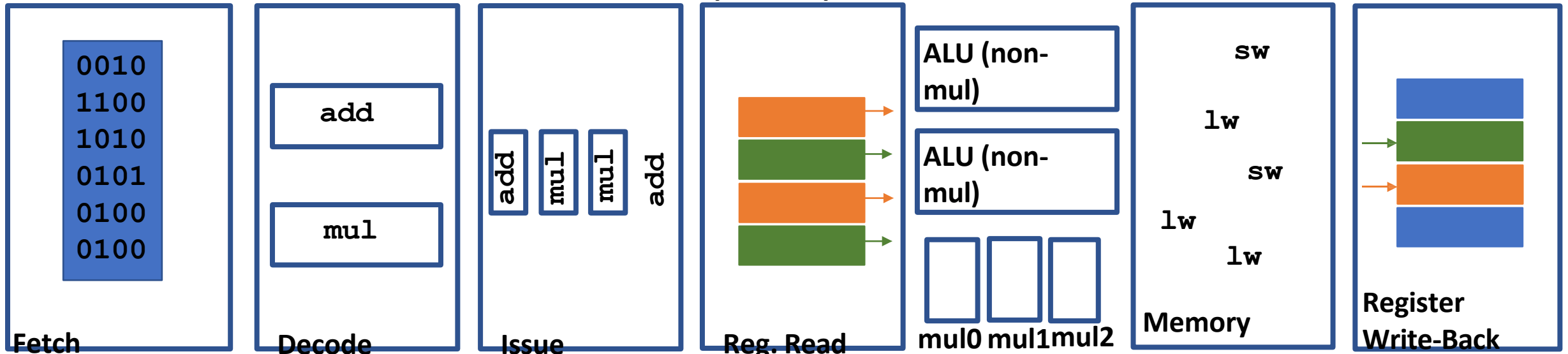
Fetch: Branch prediction more complex. Risk of *overfetch* because we're fetching a whole block? Must consider multiple, sequential fetches based on predictions

Issue: Dependence / hazard detection logic complexity. Need to detect dependences between all instructions in issue queue and some combinations of instructions cannot issue simultaneously

Superscalar processors: Challenges & sources of complexity

Decode: Not too bad, just replication of resources

Reg Read: Multi-porting
register file has high cost (4-wide = 8 read ports) & area cost is proportional to *square* of port count



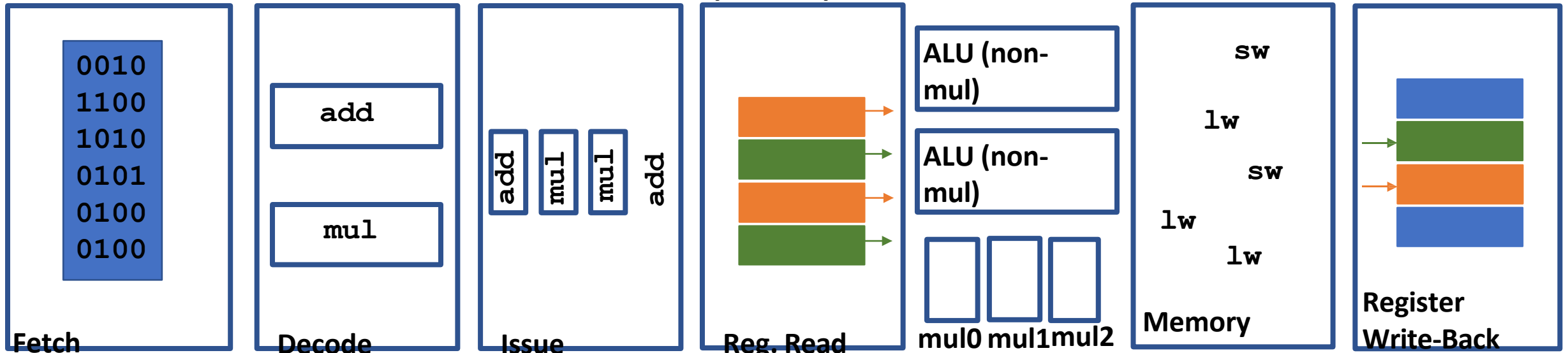
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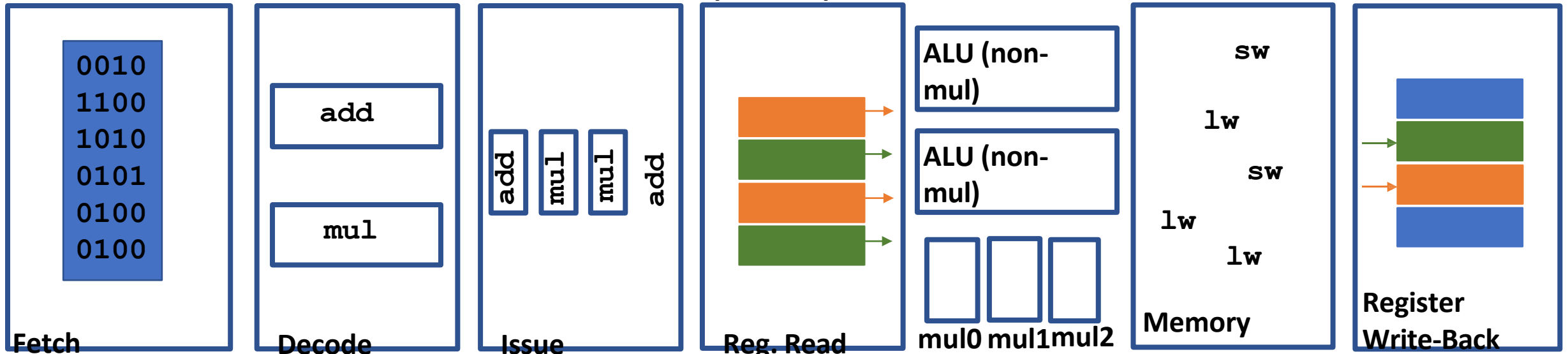
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Execute / Memory:

Superscalar processors: Challenges & sources of complexity

Decode: Not too bad, just replication of resources

Reg Read: Multi-ported
register file has high cost (4-wide = 8 read ports) & area cost is proportional to *square* of port count



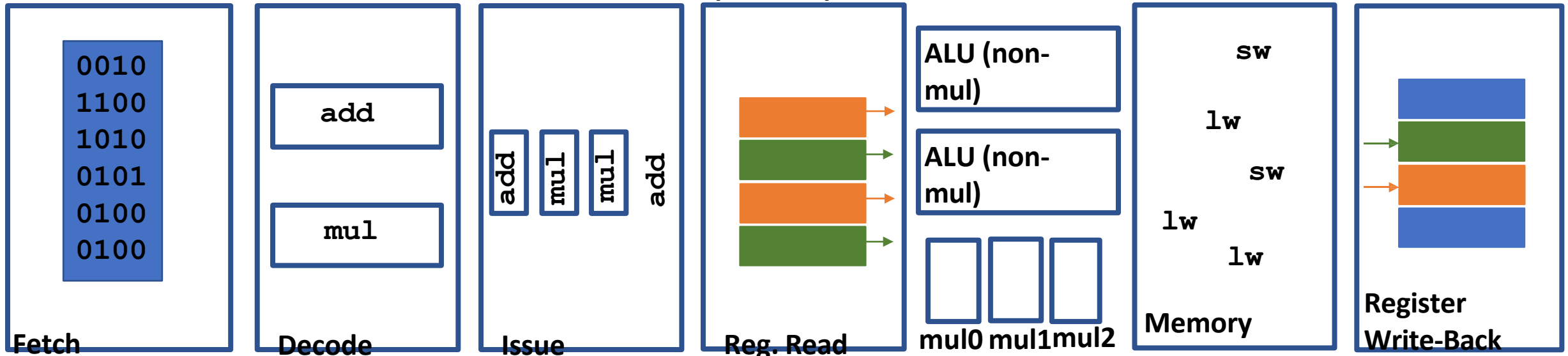
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Execute / Memory: More execute units, more cache ports. Forwarding paths & input operand selection logic become very complicated.

Superscalar processors: Challenges & sources of complexity

Decode: Not too bad, just replication of resources



Fetch: Branch prediction more complex. Risk of *overfetch* because we're fetching a whole block? Must consider multiple, sequential fetches based on predictions

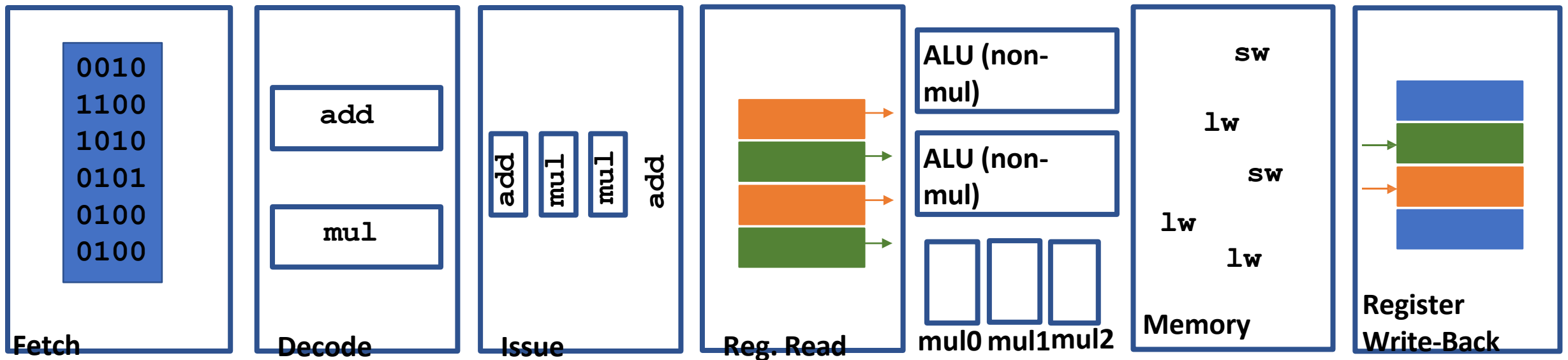
Issue: Dependence / hazard detection logic complexity. Need to detect dependences between all instructions in issue queue and some combinations of instructions cannot issue simultaneously

Reg Read: Multi-ported register file has high cost (4-wide = 8 read ports) & area cost is proportional to *square* of port count

Reg. WB: Write port per instruction that may complete that writes a register (4-wide = 4 write ports)

Execute / Memory: More execute units, more cache ports. Forwarding paths & input operand selection logic become very complicated.

Remaining limits on performance of this processor?



Application itself may not have ample ILP

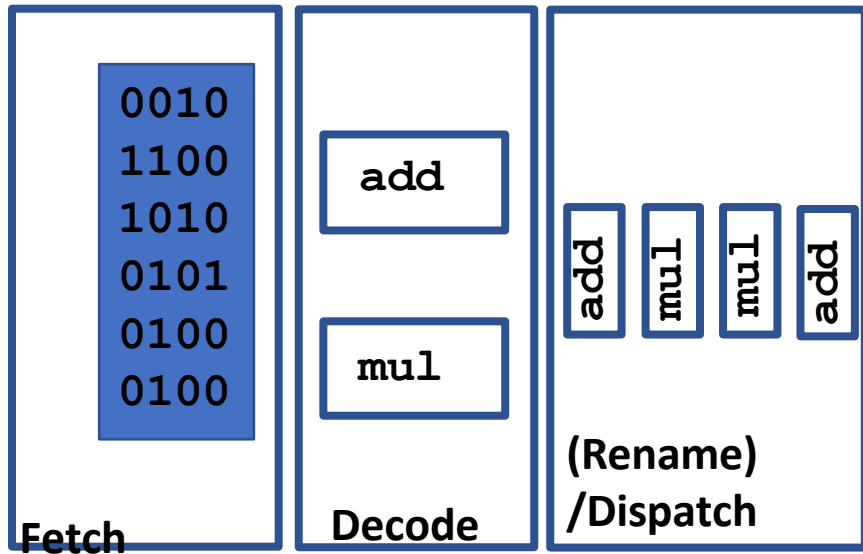
```
add x6 x8 x11
add x12 x6 x13
mul x7 x9 x14
```

In-order issue rule:

“Unlucky” sequence of instructions may prevent multiple issue. (e.g., the first add and the mul can issue together, but the second add prevents it.)

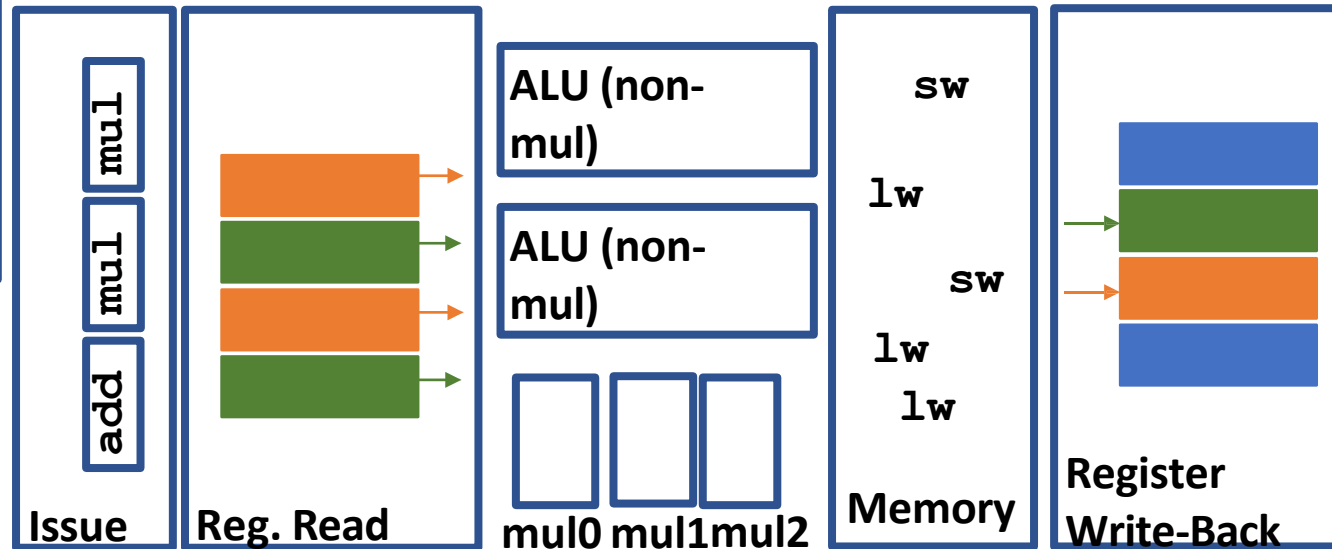
Out of Order Execution

In-order Front-end



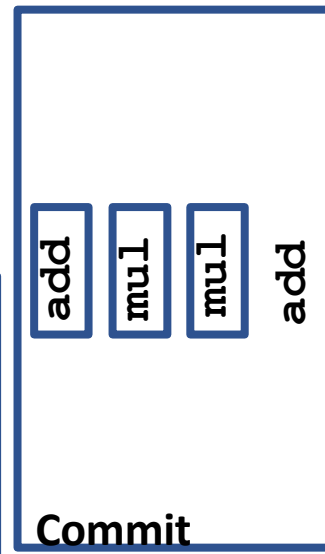
Dispatch instructions into an *issue window* that issues instructions to execute *as soon as input operands are available*

Execute instructions from the issue window fully out of order *even if instructions have a WAW or WAR dependence that would prevent them from superscalar issuing together (how!?)*



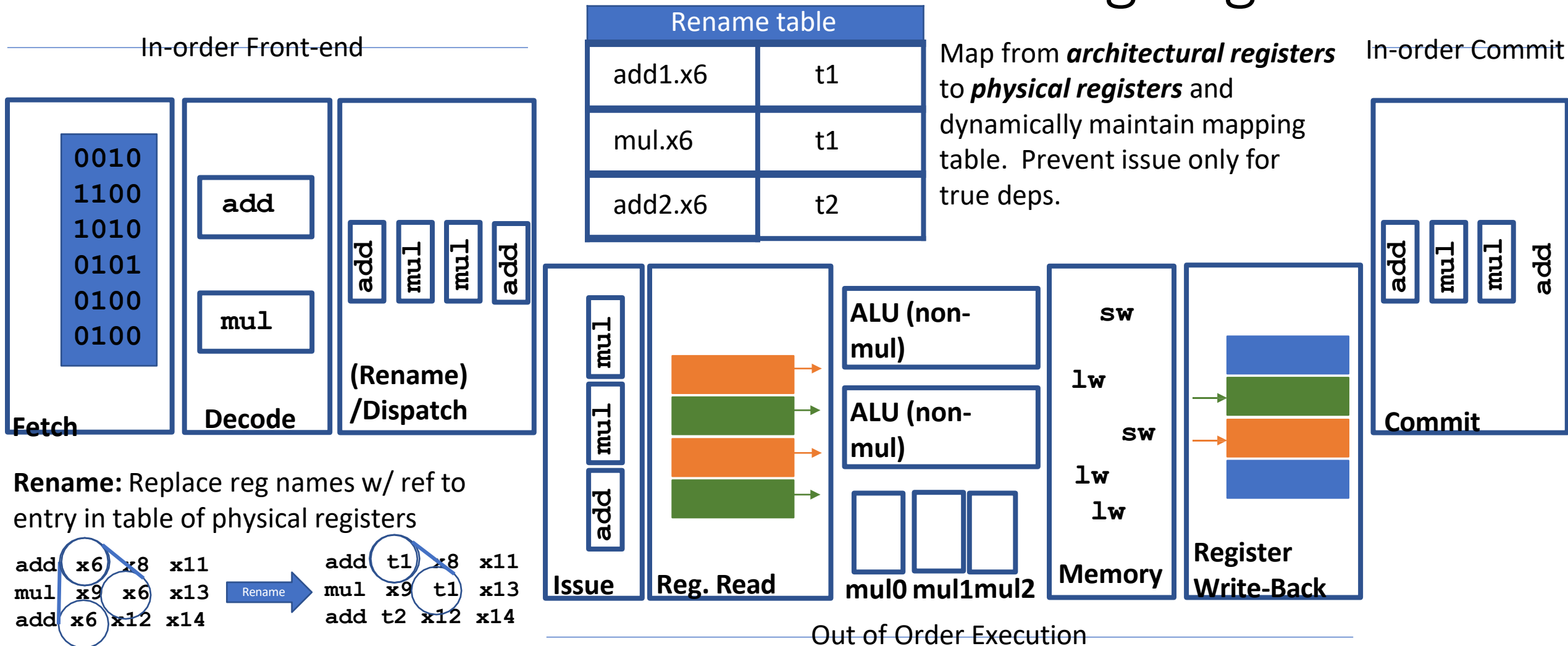
Out of Order Execution

In-order Commit



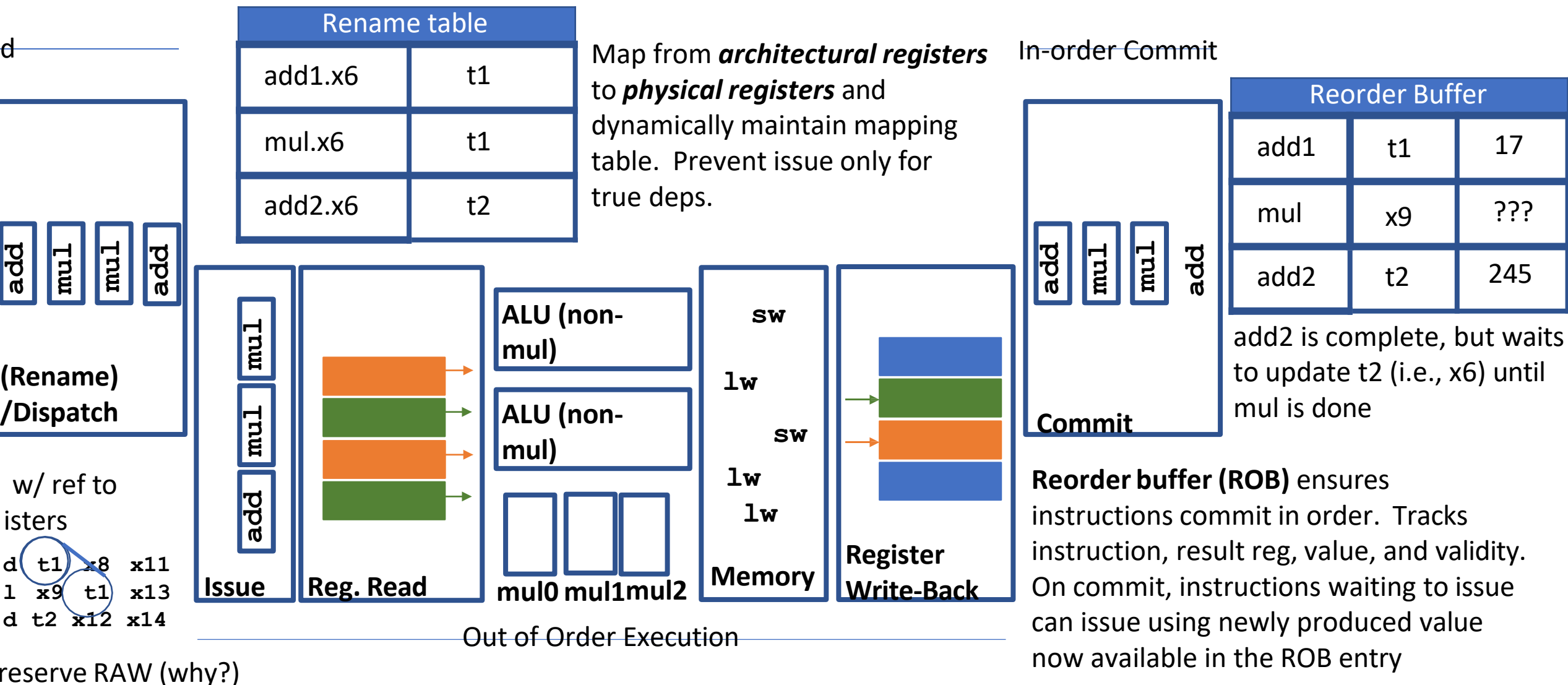
Commit in order to respect original program semantics

Register Renaming Resolves Dependences that Prevent Instructions from Executing Together



Eliminate WAW, WAR, and preserve RAW (why?)

In-order commit tracks instruction completion and ensures architectural state updates in order



All Types of Data Hazards Matter in OoO Execution

sub x6 x5 x4
lw x16 0xabc
add x12 x6 x14

Read-After-Write (RAW)

sub x8 x16 x4
add x16 x6 x14
lw x16 0xabc

Write-After-Read (WAR)


lw x6 0xabc
sub x6 x5 x4
add x12 x6 x14

Write-After-Write (WAW)

Only Read-After-Write (RAW) hazards are possible in our simple pipeline

Types of Data Hazards

```
lw    x6  0xabc  
sub   x6  x5  x4  
add   x12 x6  x14
```




Write-After-Write (WAW)

lw x6 0xabc

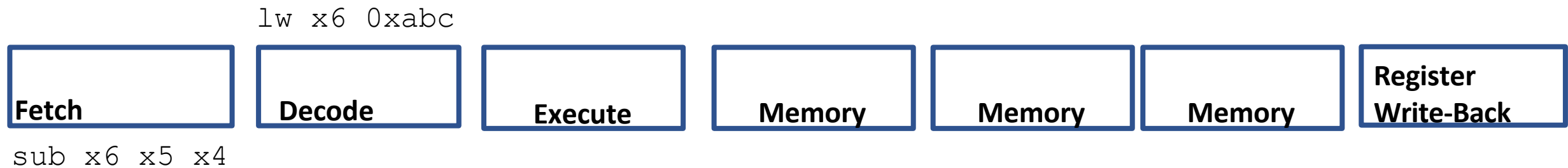


Types of Data Hazards

```
lw    x6  0xabc  
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add   x12 x6  x14
```




Write-After-Write (WAW)

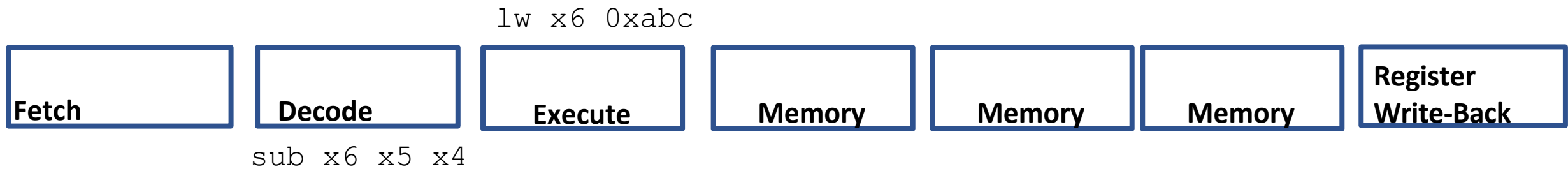


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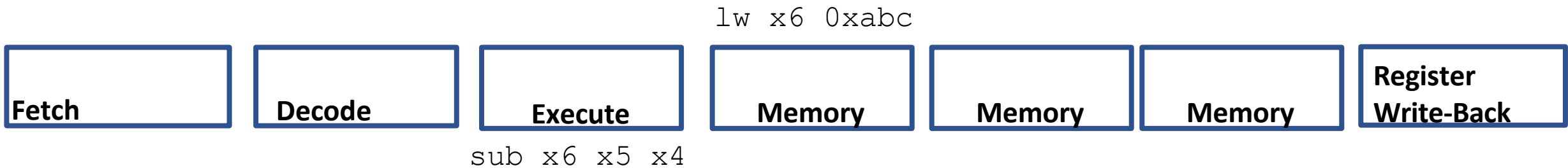


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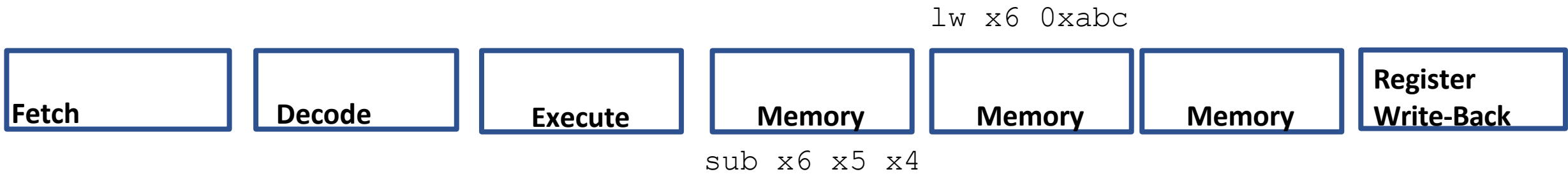


Types of Data Hazards

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```



Write-After-Write (WAW)

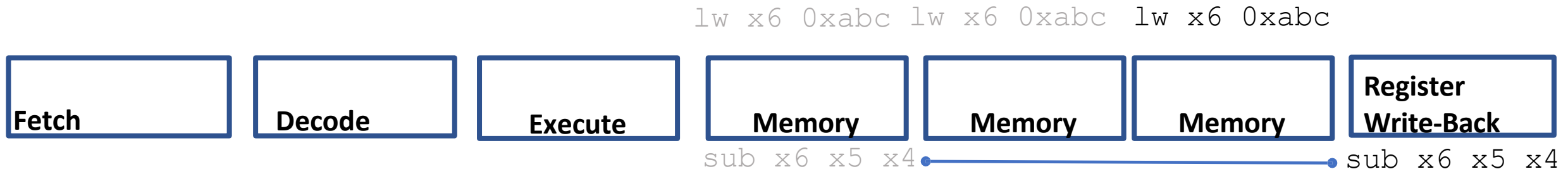


Types of Data Hazards

```
lw    x6 0xabc  
sub   x6 x5 x4  
add   x12 x6 x14
```

Write-After-Write (WAW)

Multi-cycle latency memory op




Non-mem-op, single memory cycle

Earlier `lw` instruction finishes after later `sub` instruction. Both write `x6`. Wrong final value in `x6`.
Explicitly handled with logic to maintain ordering in processors that allow this behavior (not our datapath)

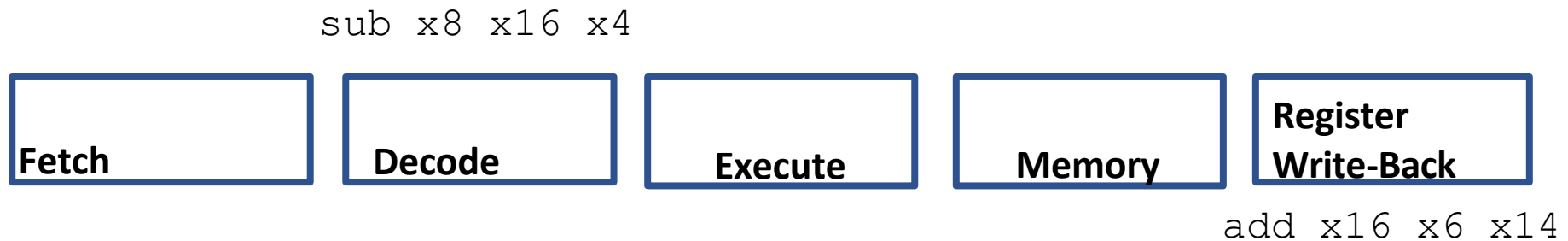
Types of Data Hazards

```
sub  x8  x16  x4
add  x16 x6   x14
lw   x11 0xabc
```



Write-After-Read (WAR)

Stalled at decode/reg. read

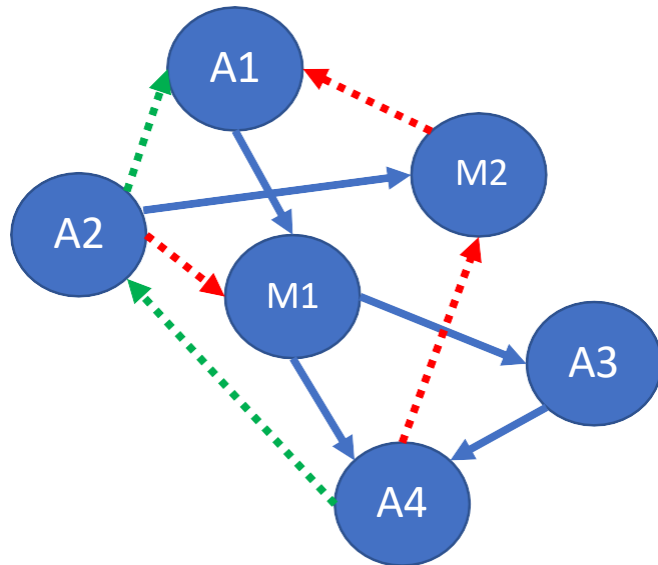


Completes quickly and writes reg.

**Later add instruction writes x16 before earlier
sub instruction reads x16. sub sees wrong value!**

Renaming Example

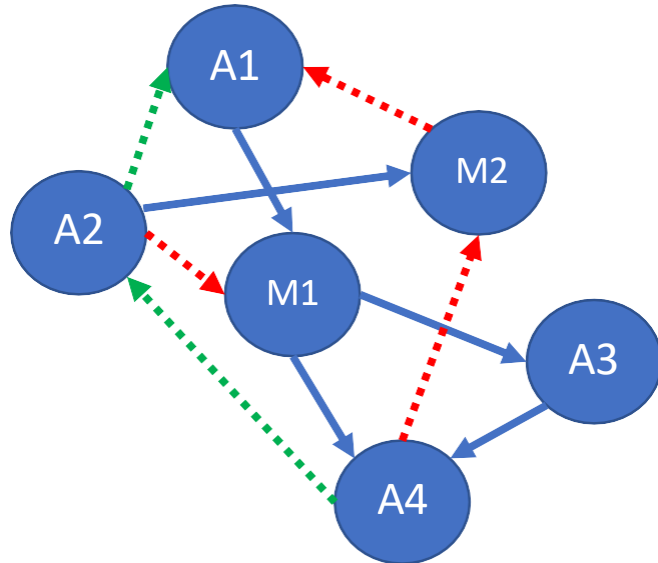
```
A1: add x6 x8 x11  
M1: mul x9 x6 x13  
A2: add x6 x17 x30  
A3: add x7 x9 x14  
M2: add x8 x18 x6  
A4: add x6 x7 x9
```



Question: How can instructions issue to our out-of-order pipeline in which instructions may execute and complete out of order?
If WAW or WAR, can't just dispatch or OoO execution may read regs not yet updated

Renaming Example

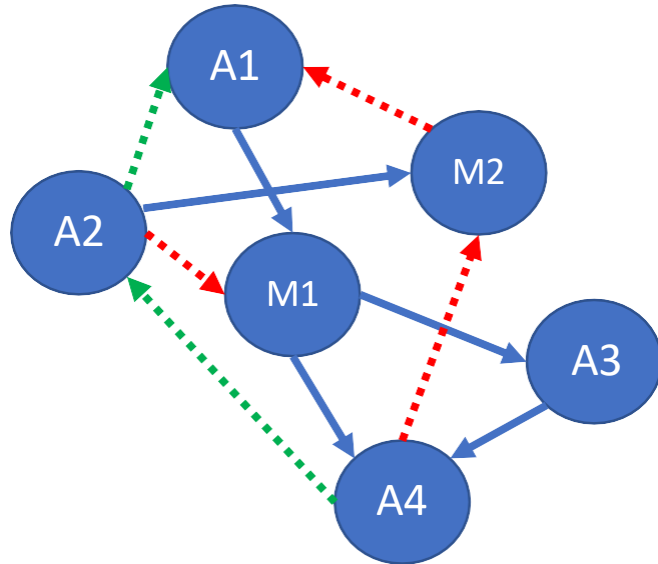
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```



Rename Table
A1.x6 -> r0

Renaming Example

```
A1: add x6 x8 x11
M1: mul x9 x6 x13
A2: add x6 x17 x30
A3: add x7 x9 x14
M2: add x8 x18 x6
A4: add x6 x7 x9
```



Rename Table

A1.x6 -> r0

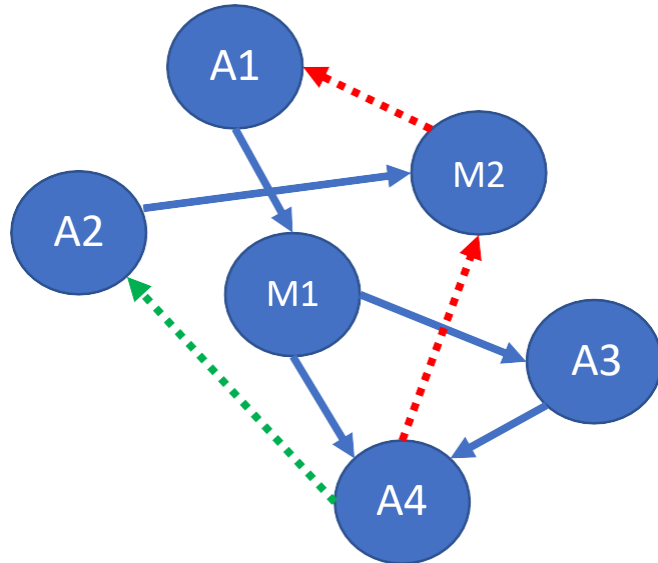
M1.x9 -> r1

M1.x6 <- r0

RAW dependence on x6
M1 waiting on result from A1 (r0)

Renaming Example

```
A1: add x6 x8 x11
M1: mul x9 x6 x13
A2: add x6 x17 x30
A3: add x7 x9 x14
M2: add x8 x18 x6
A4: add x6 x7 x9
```



Rename Table

A1.x6 -> r0

M1.x9 -> r1

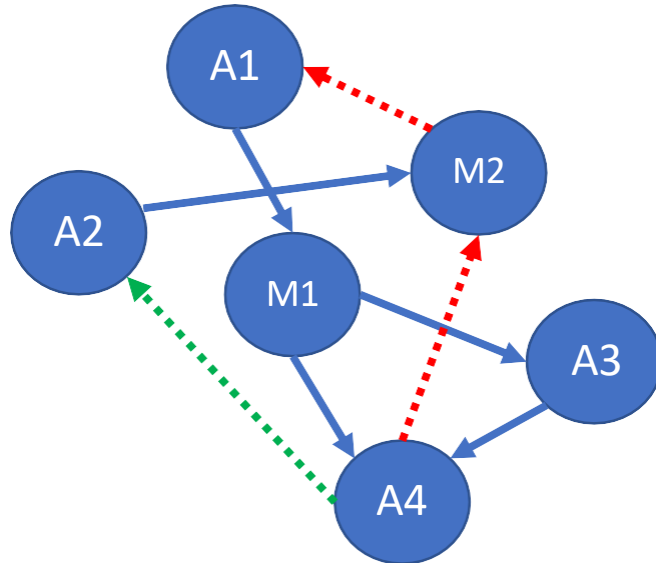
M1.x6 <- r0

A2.x6 -> r2

WAW dep b/w A1 & A2 & WAR dep w/ M1
Resolved by renaming output regs

Renaming Example

```
A1: add x6 x8 x11
M1: mul x9 x6 x13
A2: add x6 x17 x30
A3: add x7 x9 x14
M2: add x8 x18 x6
A4: add x6 x7 x9
```



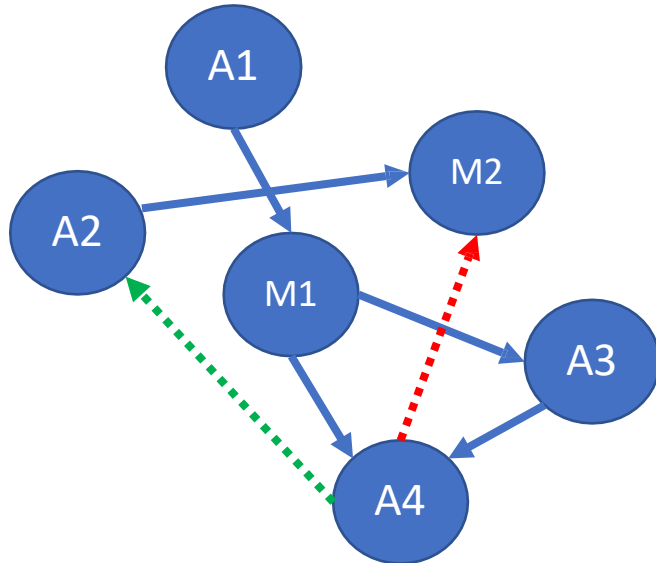
Rename Table

A1.x6	->	r0
M1.x9	->	r1
M1.x6	<-	r0
A2.x6	->	r2
A3.x7	->	r3
A3.x9	<-	r1
M2.x8	->	r4

RAW dependence between M1 & A3
Cannot be resolved by renaming

Renaming Example

```
A1: add x6 x8 x11
M1: mul x9 x6 x13
A2: add x6 x17 x30
A3: add x7 x9 x14
M2: add x8 x18 x6
A4: add x6 x7 x9
```



Rename Table

A1.x6 -> r0

M1.x9 -> r1

M1.x6 <- r0

A2.x6 -> r2

A3.x7 -> r3

A3.x9 <- r1

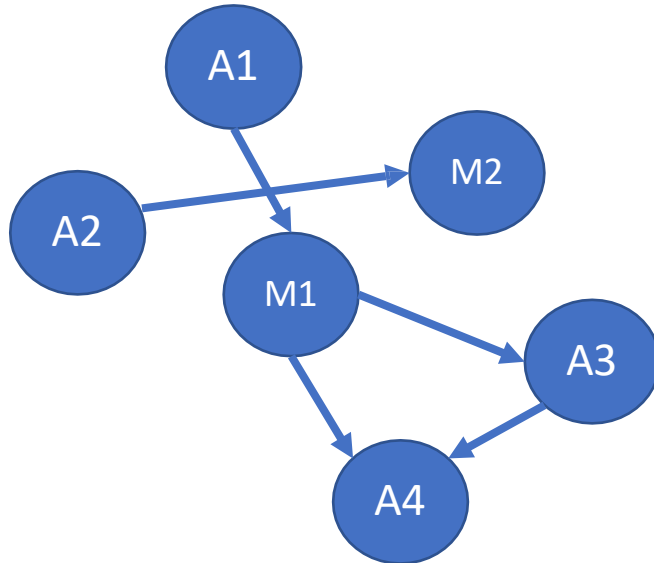
M2.x8 -> r4

M2.x6 <- r2

WAW dep w/ A1 resolved by renaming
*True dep w/ A2 resolved by looking up
renamed result of A2*

Renaming Example

```
A1: add x6 x8 x11
M1: mul x9 x6 x13
A2: add x6 x17 x30
A3: add x7 x9 x14
M2: add x8 x18 x6
A4: add x6 x7 x9
```



Rename Table

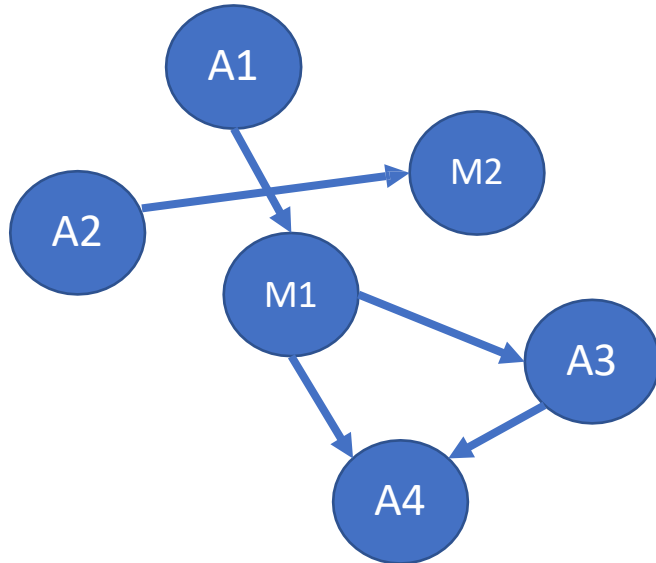
A1.x6	->	r0
M1.x9	->	r1
M1.x6	<-	r0
A2.x6	->	r2
A3.x7	->	r3
A3.x9	<-	r1
M2.x8	->	r4
M2.x6	<-	r2
A4.x6	->	r5
A4.x7	<-	r3
A4.x9	<-	r1

WAR dep with M2 & WAW w/ A2
resolved by renaming

*True deps w/ A3 and M1 resolved by
looking up renamed regs in table*

Renaming Example

```
A1: add x6 x8 x11
M1: mul x9 x6 x13
A2: add x6 x17 x30
A3: add x7 x9 x14
M2: add x8 x18 x6
A4: add x6 x7 x9
```



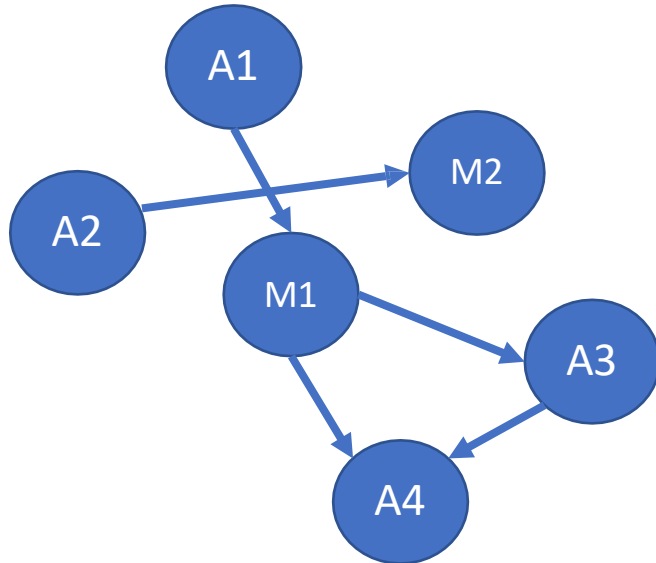
Rename Table

```
A1.x6 -> r0
M1.x9 -> r1
M1.x6 <- r0
A2.x6 -> r2
A3.x7 -> r3
A3.x9 <- r1
M2.x8 -> r4
M2.x6 <- r2
A4.x6 -> r5
A4.x7 <- r3
A4.x9 <- r1
```

After register renaming, only RAW dependences (i.e., “True Dependences”) remain in the execution

Renaming Example

```
A1: add r0 x8 x11
M1: mul r1 r0 x13
A2: add r2 x17 x30
A3: add r3 r1 x14
M2: add r4 x18 r2
A4: add r5 r3 r1
```



Rename Table

```
A1.x6 -> r0
M1.x9 -> r1
M1.x6 <- r0
A2.x6 -> r2
A3.x7 -> r3
A3.x9 <- r1
M2.x8 -> r4
M2.x6 <- r2
A4.x6 -> r5
A4.x7 <- r3
A4.x9 <- r1
```

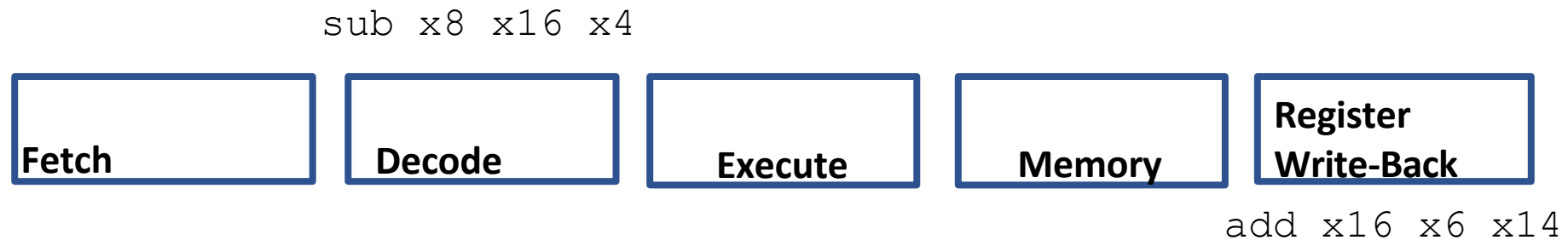
After register renaming, only RAW dependences (i.e., “True Dependences”) remain in the execution

Renaming Avoids False Deps

```
sub  x8  x16  x4
add  r1 x6   x14
lw    x11 0xabc
```

Write-After-Read (WAR)

Stalled at decode/reg. read



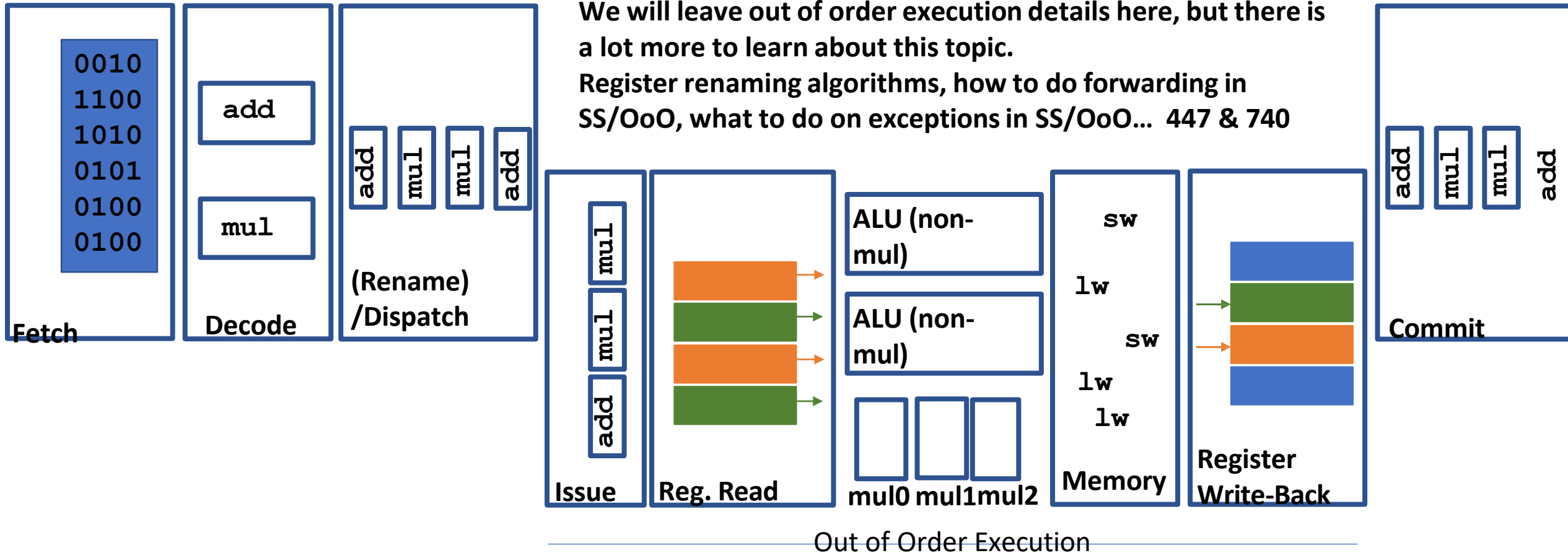
Completes quickly and writes reg.

Later `add` instruction writes **r1** before earlier `sub` instruction reads `x16`, **which is perfectly ok!**

Superscalar Out of Order Execution is *extremely complex to implement*

In-order Front-end

In-order Commit



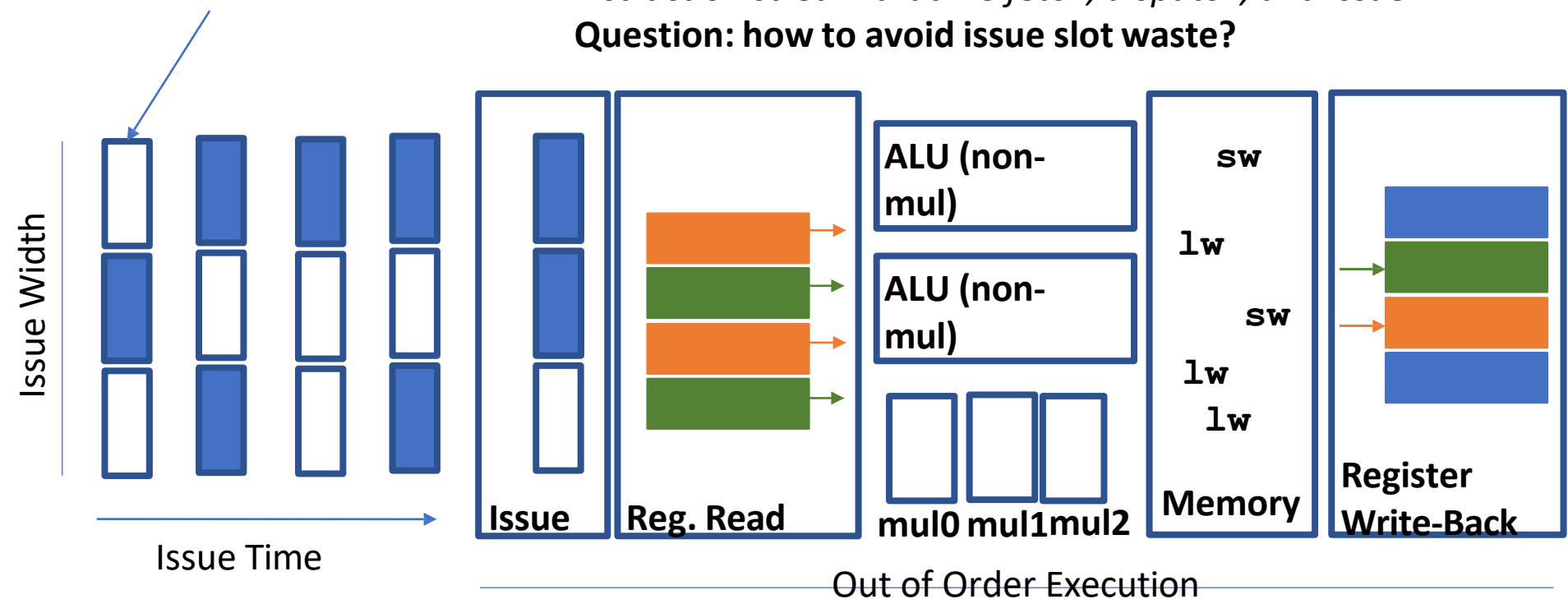
Scheduling Techniques to Maximize ILP

Superscalar execution exploits ILP to increase IPC

Performance in a superscalar processor depends on the existence of ILP in the program.

We need there to be parallelizable instructions in the instruction stream that we fetch, dispatch, and issue.
Question: how to avoid issue slot waste?

Empty issue slot represent wasted opportunity to do some work on a cycle

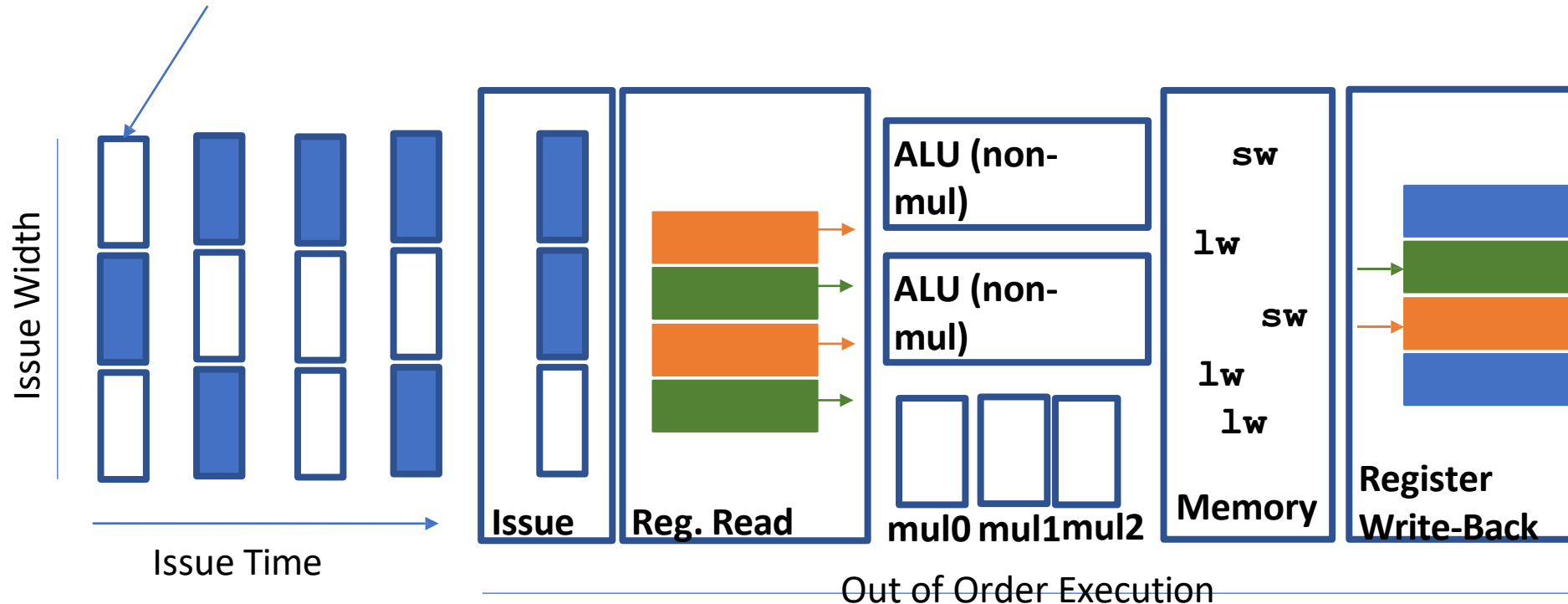


Superscalar execution exploits ILP to increase IPC

Question: how to avoid issue slot waste?

- *Schedule code in program to avoid dependences*
- *Schedule code in loops to align with fetch granularity*
- *Schedule code to avoid oversubscribing functional units (i.e., a sequence of consecutive multiplies can't issue together)*

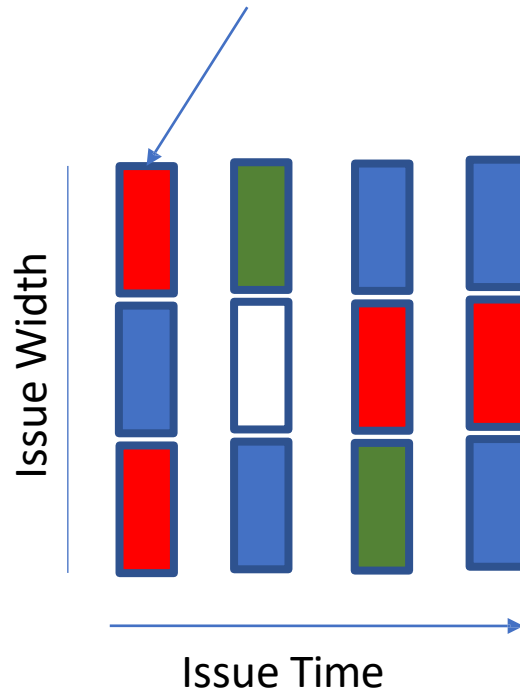
Empty issue slot represent wasted opportunity to do some work on a cycle



Simultaneous Multi-Threading (SMT)

Also known as “Hyper-threading” on Intel processors, used for decades now.

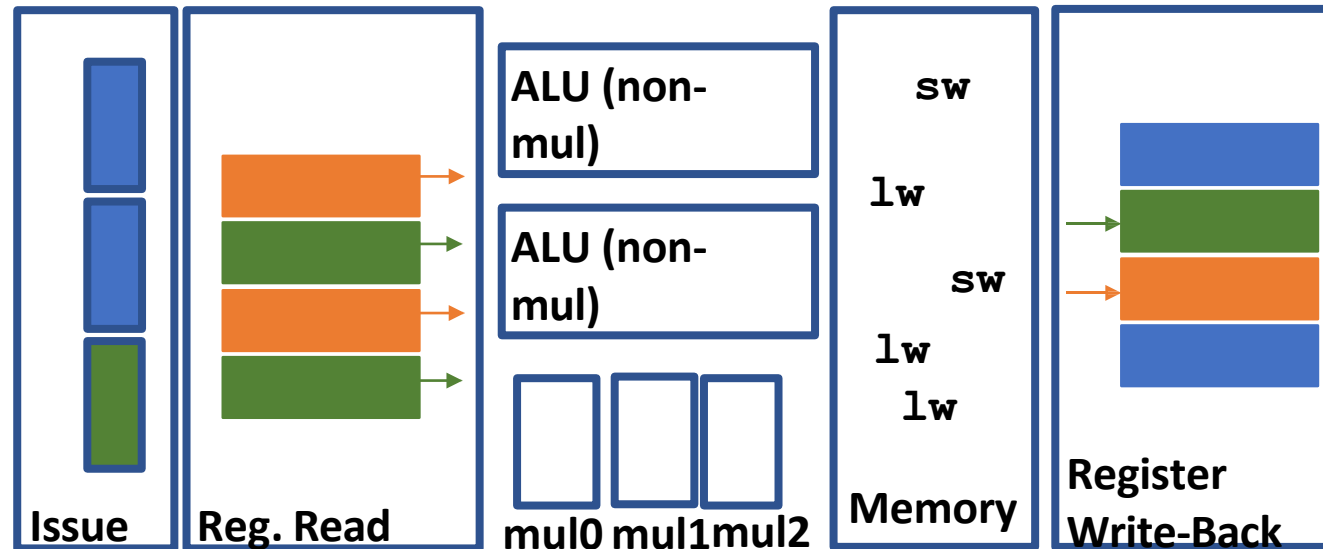
Fill empty issue slots with instructions from another *thread*



SMT exploits thread-level parallelism (TLP) instead of ILP to increase a machine's useful IPC.

If a program has multiple threads, issue from each thread.

Question: Sources of hardware complexity for SMT?

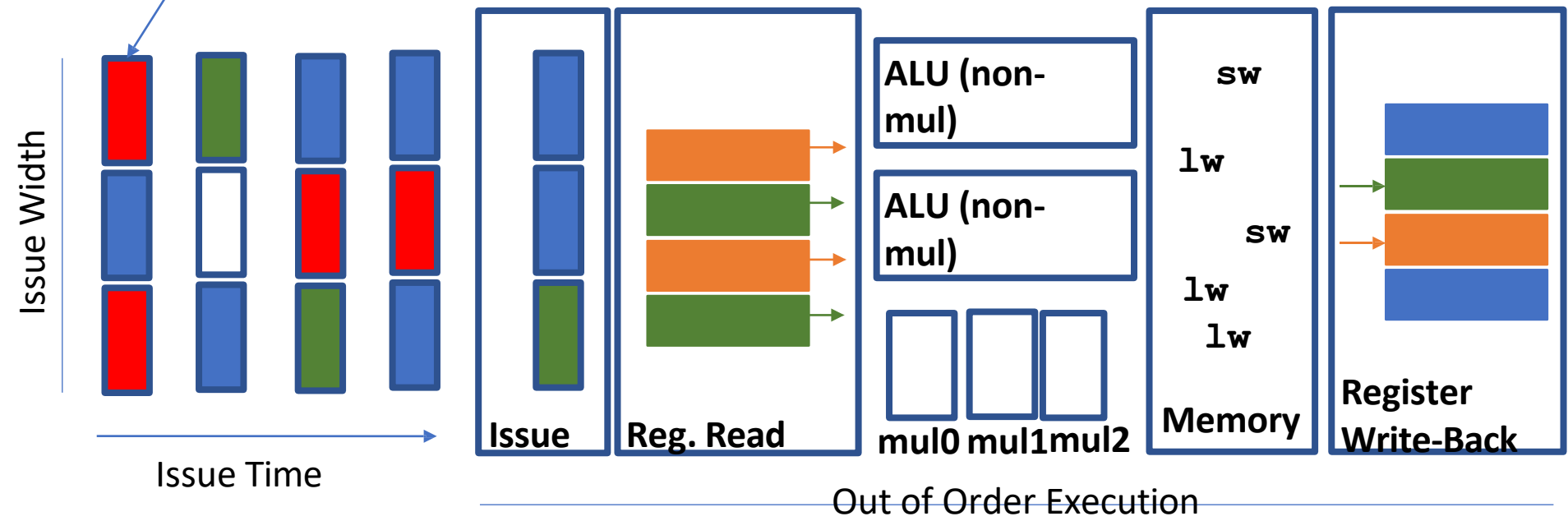


Out of Order Execution

Simultaneous Multi-Threading (SMT)

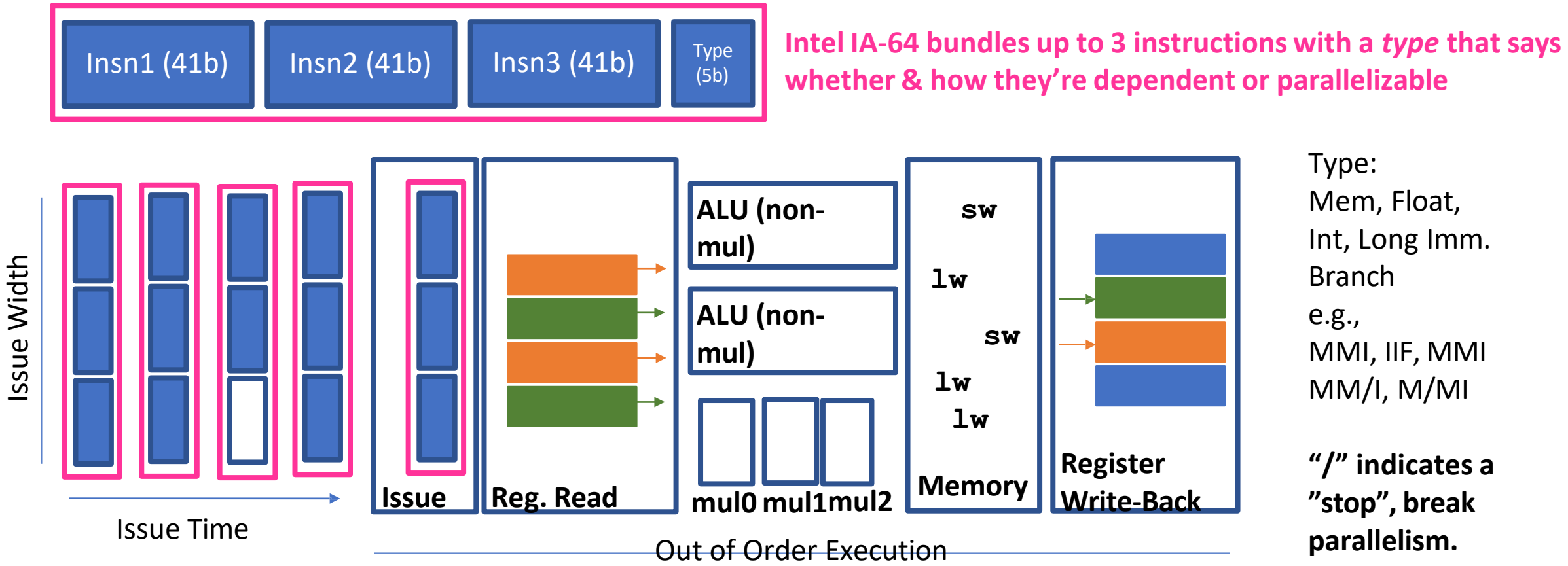
Fill empty issue slots with instructions from another *thread*

- Question: Sources of hardware complexity for SMT?
- Need fetch to support multiple streams (including branch prediction logic...)
 - Need to tag functional units, rename table entries, ROB entries (and other structures) to route values to correct downstream instructions



Very Large Instruction Word (VLIW) Architectures

Change the *ISA*! In VLIW, the ISA **exposes** the issue width architecturally
Each fetch / issue is on a *packet* of instructions, hopefully independent



The compiler plays a crucial role

- We will pick up next time with more discussion of hardware/software interfaces that expose opportunities for parallelism
- We will study how the compiler exposes parallelism and exploits the opportunities for parallelism in the architecture
- More VLIW, Vector architectures
- Then we will look at some compiler fundamentals and see how all of these ideas converge in software