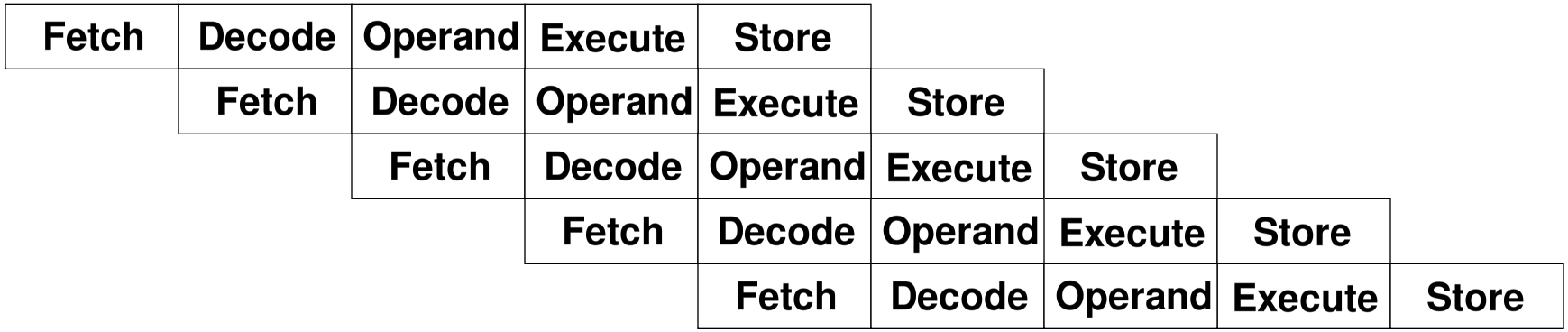
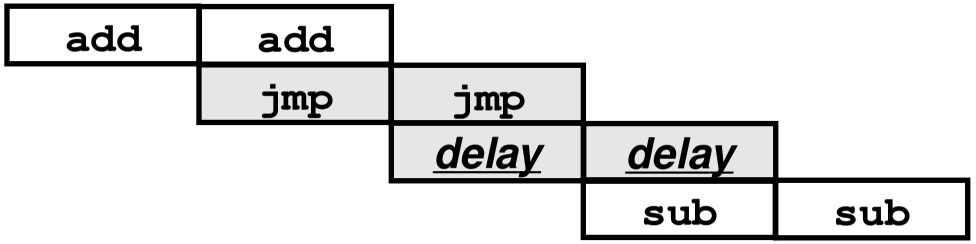
Instruction Pipelining

- Instruction Pipeline



- ***PC is incremented by*** 4 at the Fetch stage to fetch the next instruction
- A delay slot caused by a jmp instruction, why?

PC	*PC'*	*instruction*
8	12	`add`
12	16	`jmp 40`
16	40	***delay slot***
...		...
40	44	`sub`



- What happens to an instruction placed in the delay slot?

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Delay-Slot Instructions

- If this is a “feature,” it certainly contradicts “normal” expectations

  If you think this is confusing, use a **`nop`** in all delay slots

- Optimizers may be able take advantage of the delay slot

  unoptimized **`if (a > b) c = a; else c = b;`** takes 7 cycles

```
    cmp a,b
    ble L1
    nop
    mov a,c
    ba  L2
    nop
L1: mov b,c
L2:
```

  optimized takes 4 cycles

```
    cmp a,b
    ble L1
    mov b,c
    mov a,c
L1:
```

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Annul Bit

- What if the branch with an instruction in its delay slot does not take?
- ***Annul bit*** controls the execution of the delay-slot instruction

```
bg,a    L1
mov     a,c
```

the "`,a`" causes the `mov` instruction to be executed if the branch is taken,

and not executed if the branch is not taken

- Exception

  `ba,a L` does ***not*** execute its delay-slot instruction

- **What is the advantage of this counterintuitive convention?**

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Annul Bit, cont'd

- **Optimized for (i = 0; i < n; i++) 1; 2; ...; n**

```
     clr   i
     ba    L2
     nop
L1:  1
     2
     ...
     n
     inc   i
L2:  cmp   i,n
     bl    L1
     nop
```

n + 4 instructions/iteration

- **better code uses delay slots**

```
     clr   i
     ba,a  L2
L1:  2
     ...
     n
     inc   i
L2:  cmp   i,n
     bl,a  L1
     1
```

n + 3 instructions/iteration

- **Convention of programming**

  don't use annul unless absolutely necessary

  place nop after control-transfer instructions

- **What happens when the delay-slot instruction is a control-transfer instruction?**
- **See pages 51–55 in the SPARC Architecture Manual for details**

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