RISC Architecture: Pipelining

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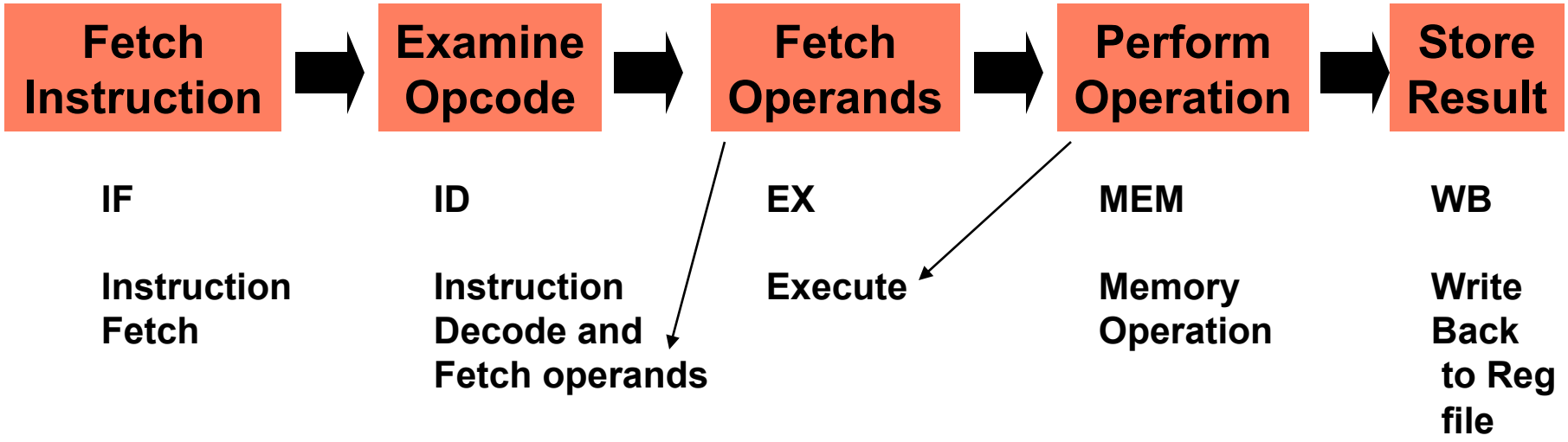
Computer Organization & Architecture

Lecture 17 (30 April 2013)

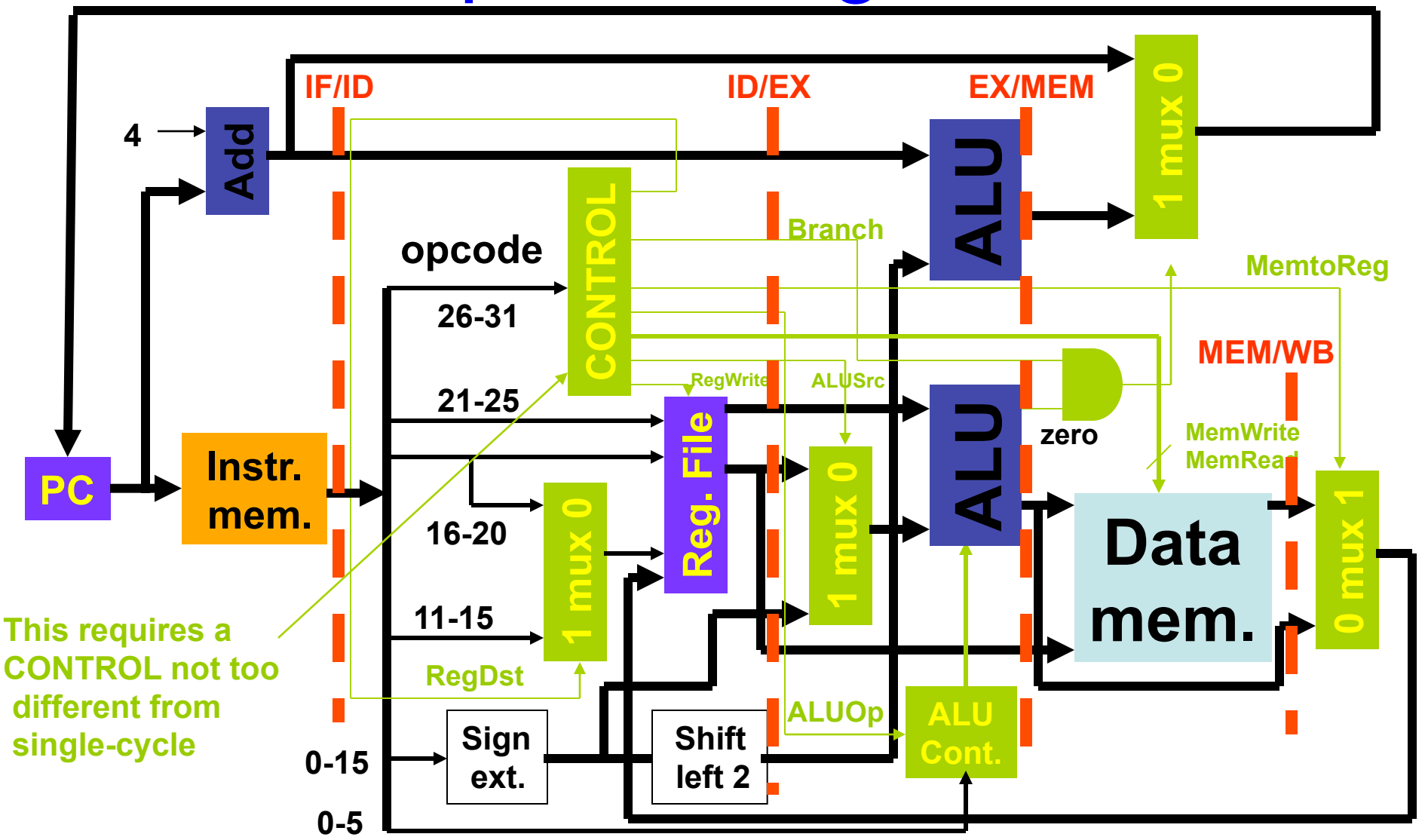
CADSL

Pipelining of RISC Instructions



Although an instruction takes five clock cycles, one instruction is completed every cycle.

Pipeline Registers



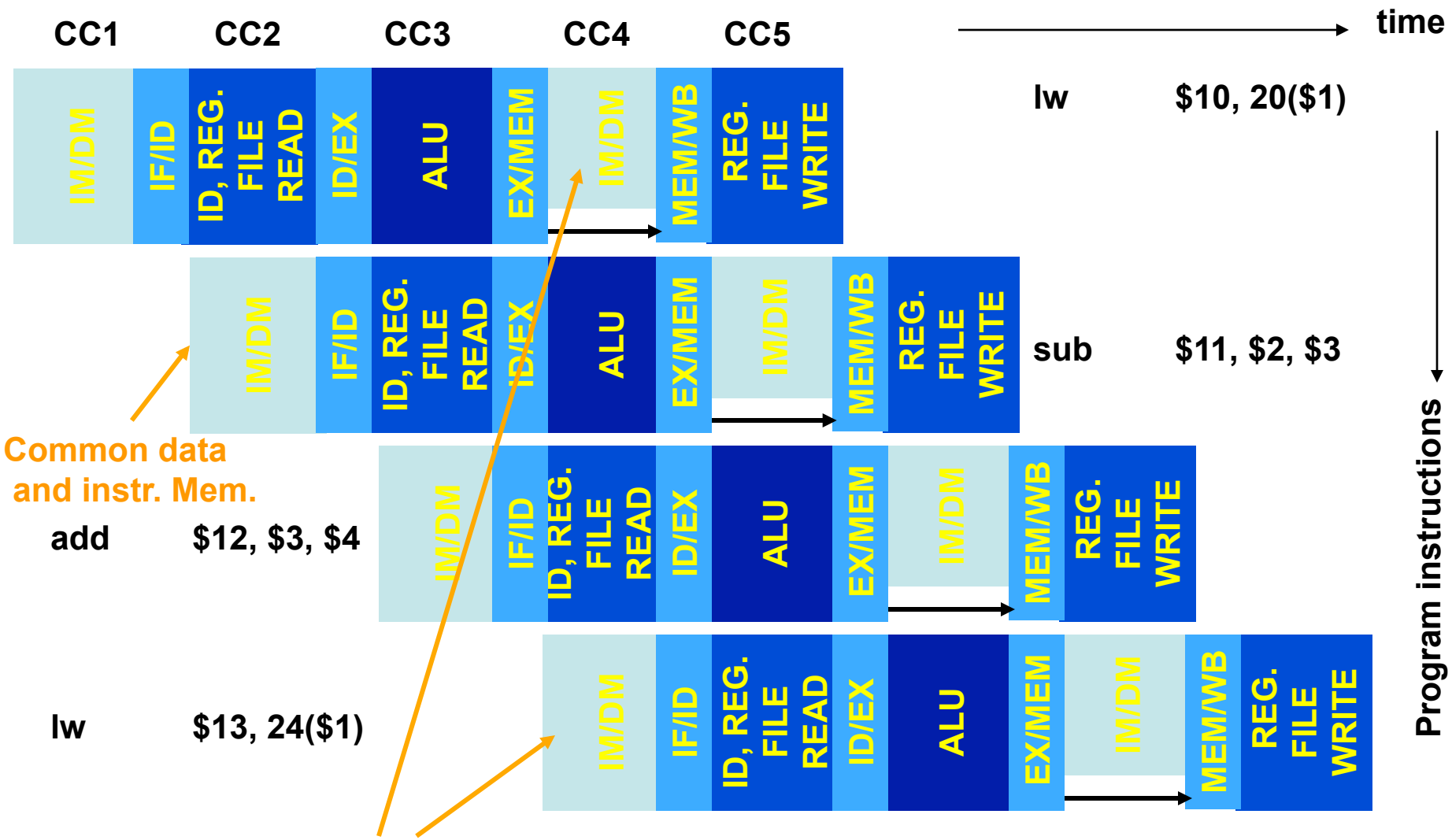
Pipeline Hazards

- Definition: *Hazard in a pipeline is a situation in which the next instruction cannot complete execution one clock cycle after completion of the present instruction.*
- Three types of hazards:
  - Structural hazard (resource conflict)
  - Data hazard
  - Control hazard

Structural Hazard

- Two instructions cannot execute due to a resource conflict.
- Example: Consider a computer with a common data and instruction memory. The fourth cycle of a *lw* instruction requires memory access (memory read) and at the same time the first cycle of the fourth instruction requires instruction fetch (memory read). This will cause a memory resource conflict.

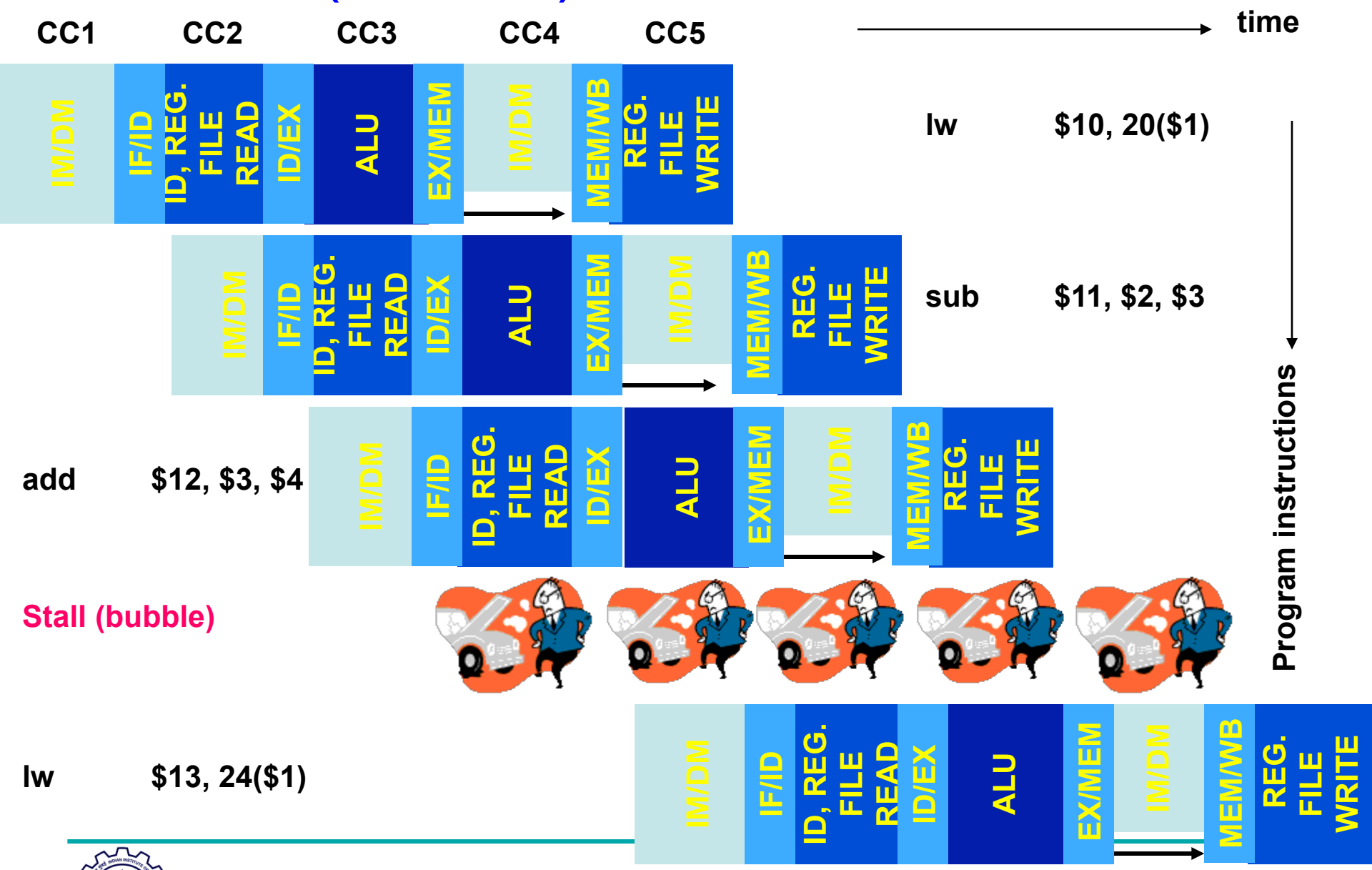
Example of Structural Hazard



Possible Remedies for Structural Hazards

- Provide duplicate hardware resources in datapath.
- Control unit or compiler can insert delays (no-op cycles) between instructions. This is known as pipeline *stall* or *bubble*.

Stall (Bubble) for Structural Hazard



Thank You