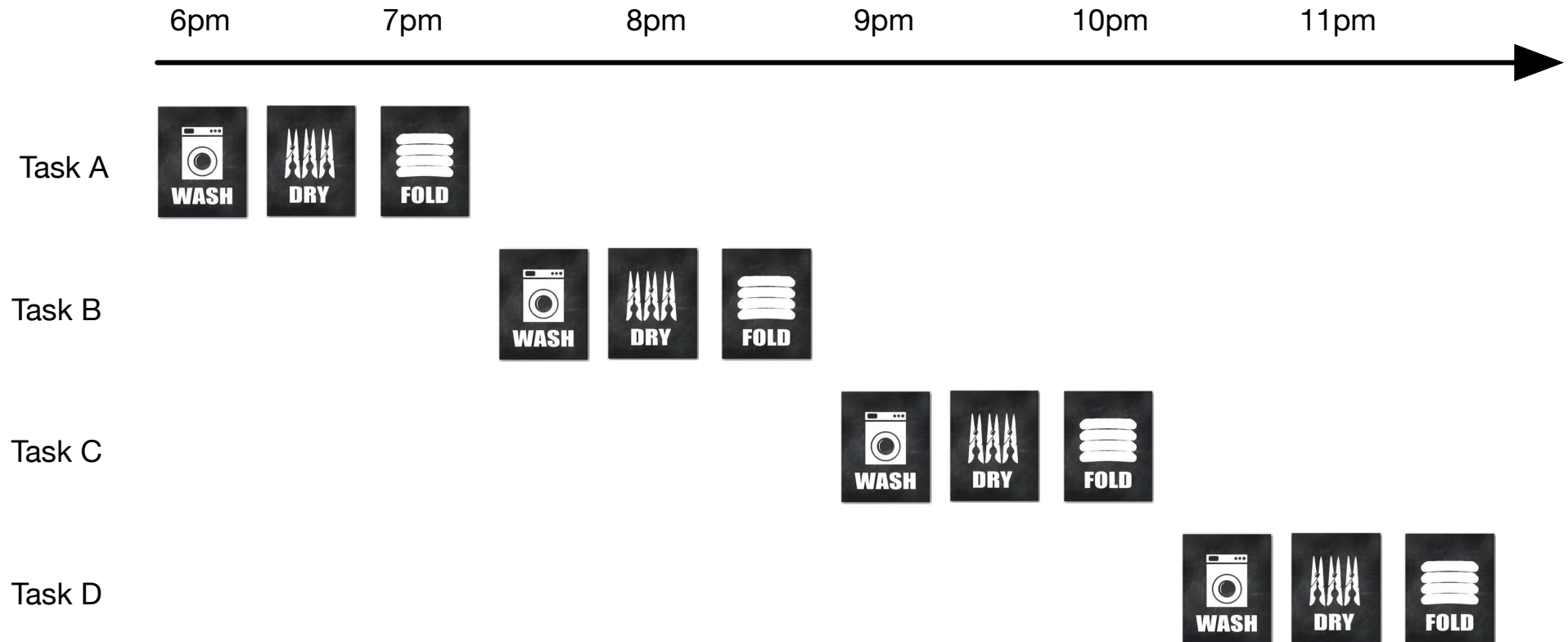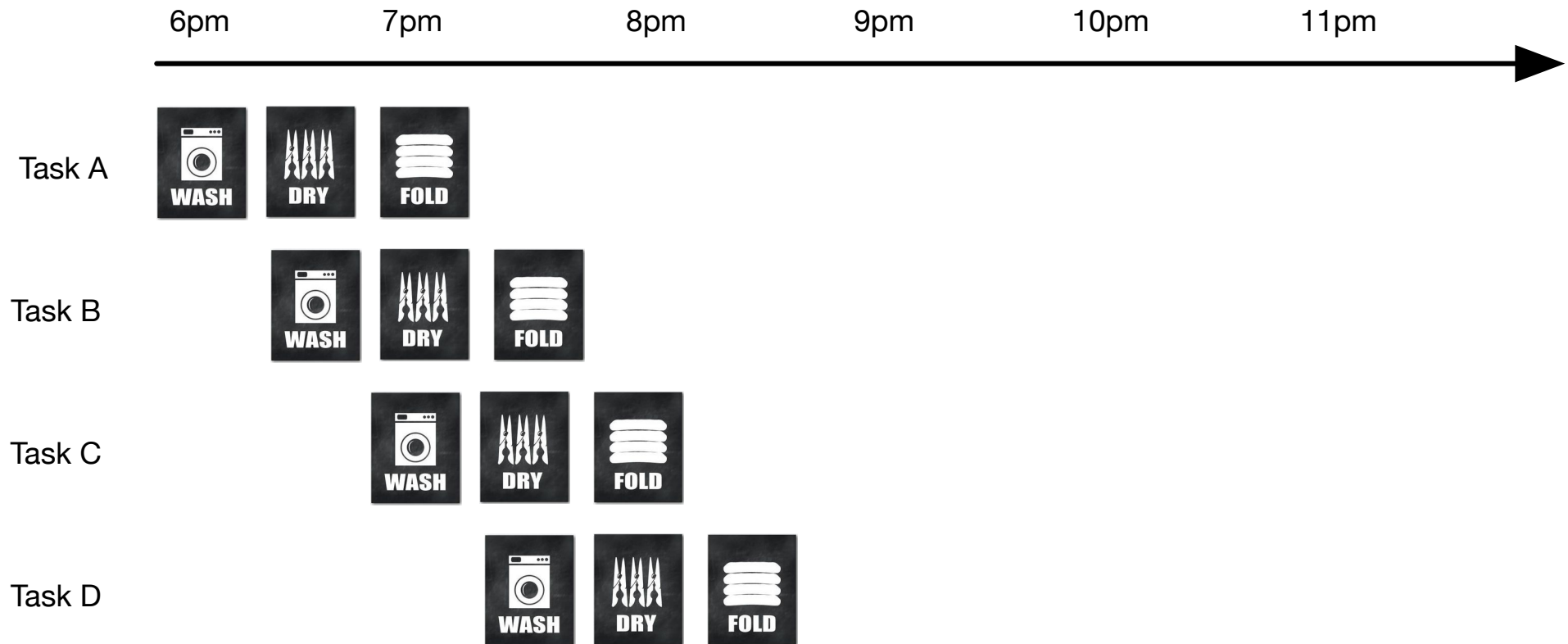# Pipelining

Philipp Koehn

26 March 2018

Laundry Analogy

Laundry Pipelined

Speed-up

- Theoretical speed-up: 3 times

- Actual speed-up in example: 2 times

  – sequential: 1:30+1:30+1:30+1:30 = 6 hours

  – pipelined: 1:30+0:30+0:30+0:30 = 3 hours

- Many tasks $\rightarrow$ speed-up approaches theoretical limit

mips instruction pipeline

- Fetch instruction from memory

- Read registers and decode instruction
  (note: registers are always encoded in same place in instruction)

- Execute operation OR calculate an address

- Access an operand in memory

- Write result into a register

Time for Instructions

- Breakdown for each type of instruction

Instruction class	Instr. fetch	Register read	ALU oper.	Data access	Register write	Total time
Load word (lw)	200ps	100ps	200ps	200ps	100ps	800ps
Store word (lw)	200ps	100ps	200ps	200ps		700ps
R-format (add)	200ps	100ps	200ps		100ps	600ps
Brand (beq)	200ps	100ps	200ps			500ps

Pipeline Execution
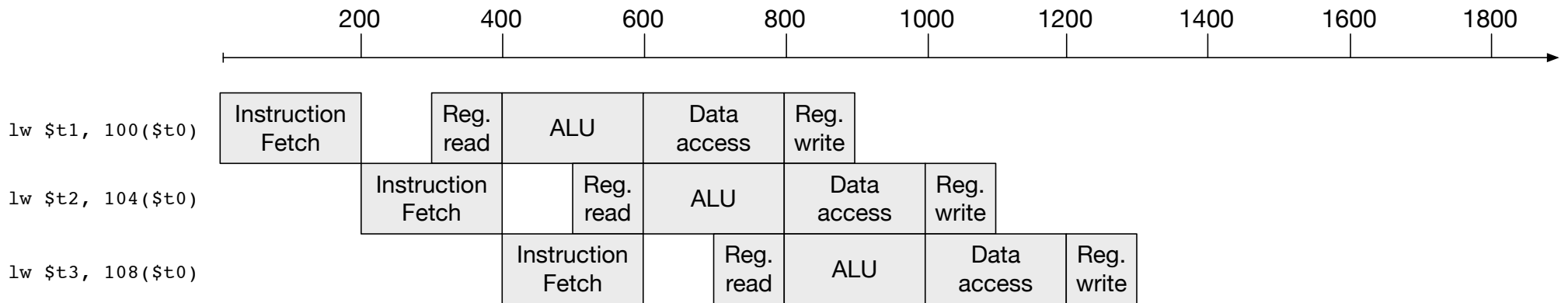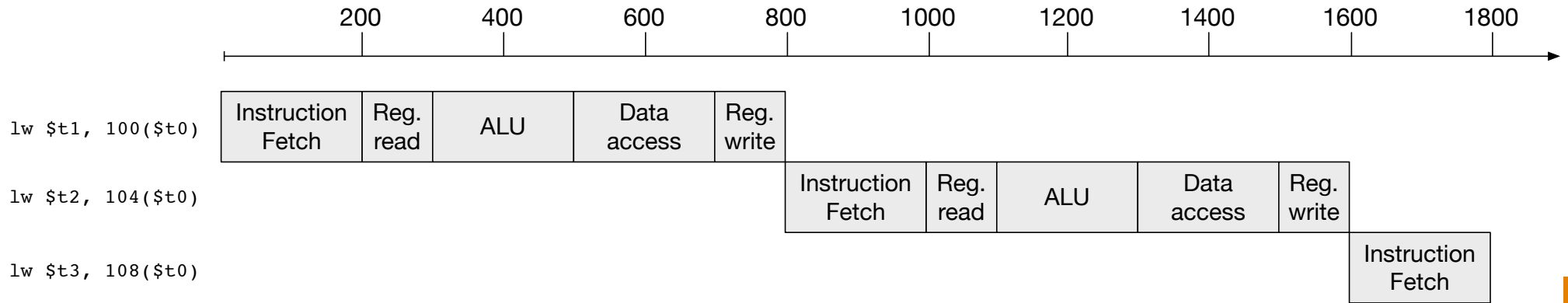
Speed-up

- Theoretical speed-up: 4 times

- Actual speed-up in example: 1.71 times

  – sequential: 800ps + 800ps + 800ps = 2400ps

  – pipelined: 1000ps + 200ps + 200ps = 1400ps

- Many tasks $\rightarrow$ speed-up approaches theoretical limit

Design for Pipelining

- All instructions are 4 bytes

  $\rightarrow$ easy to fetch next instruction

- Few instruction formats

  $\rightarrow$ parallel op decode and register read

- Memory access limited to load and store instructions

  $\rightarrow$ stage 3 used for memory access, otherwise operation execution

- Words aligned in memory

  $\rightarrow$ able to read in one instruction

  (aligned = memory address multiple of 4)

hazards

- Hazard = next instruction cannot be executed in next clock cycle

- Types

  – structural hazard

  – data hazard

  – control hazard

Structural Hazard

- Definition: instructions overlap in resource use in same stage

- For instance: memory access conflict

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
i1	FETCH	DECODE	MEMORY	MEMORY	ALU	REGISTER	
i2		FETCH	DECODE	MEMORY	MEMORY	ALU	REGISTER
				conflict			

- MIPS designed to avoid structural hazards

Data Hazard

- Definition: instruction waits on result from prior instruction

- Example

  ```
  add $s0, $t0, $t1
  sub $t0, $s0, $t3
  ```

  – add instruction writes result to register $s0 in stage 5
  – sub instruction reads $s0 in stage 2

⇒ Stage 2 of sub has to be delayed

- We overcome this in hardware

Graphical Representation

200   400   600   800   1000

add $s0,$t0,$t1

IF   ID   EX   MEM   WB
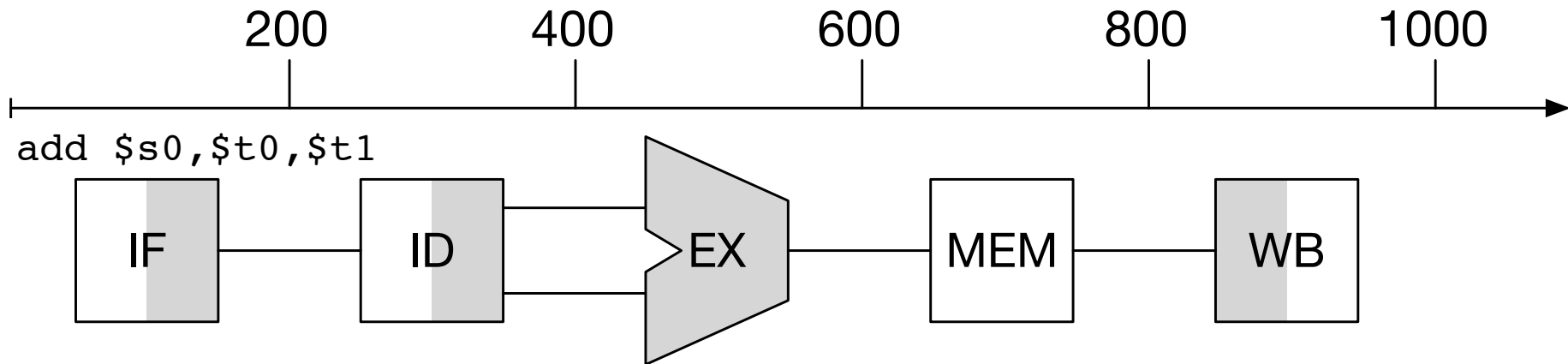
- IF: instruction fetch

- ID: instruction decode

- EX: execution

- MEM: memory access

- WB: write-back

Add and Subtract
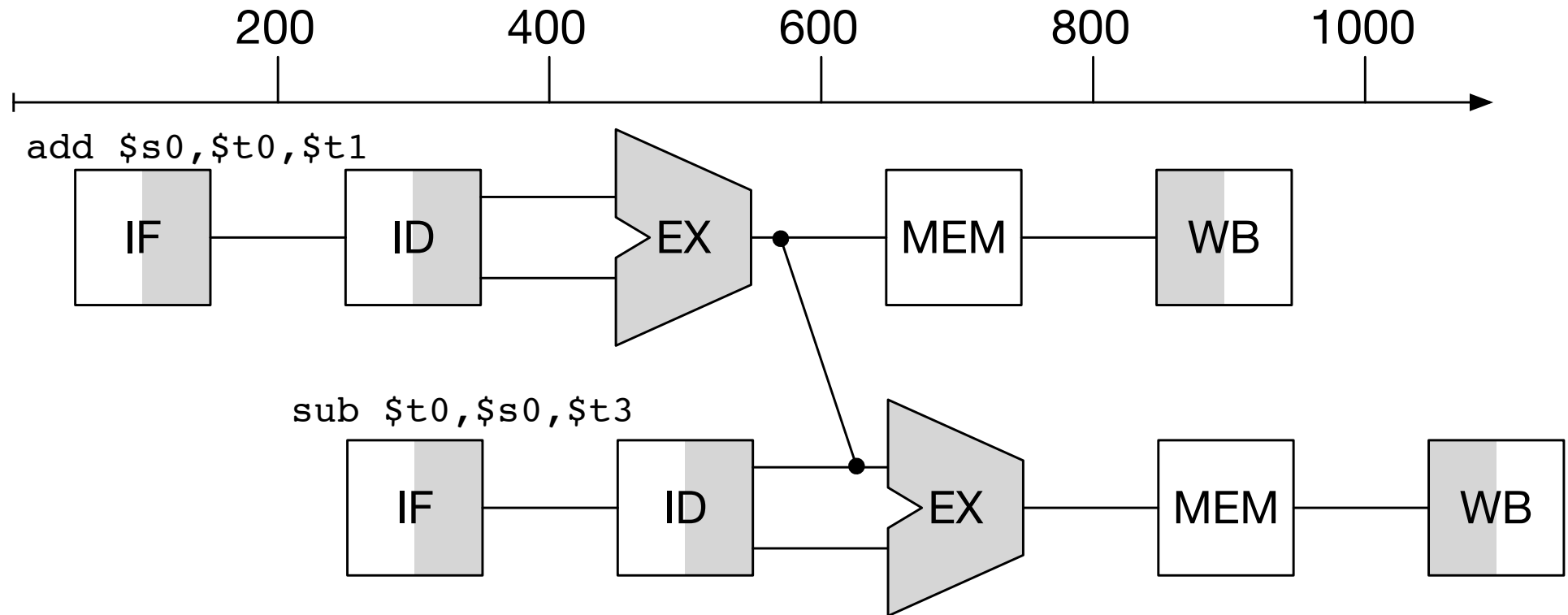
- Add wiring to circuit to directly connect
  output of ALU for next instruction

Load and Subtract
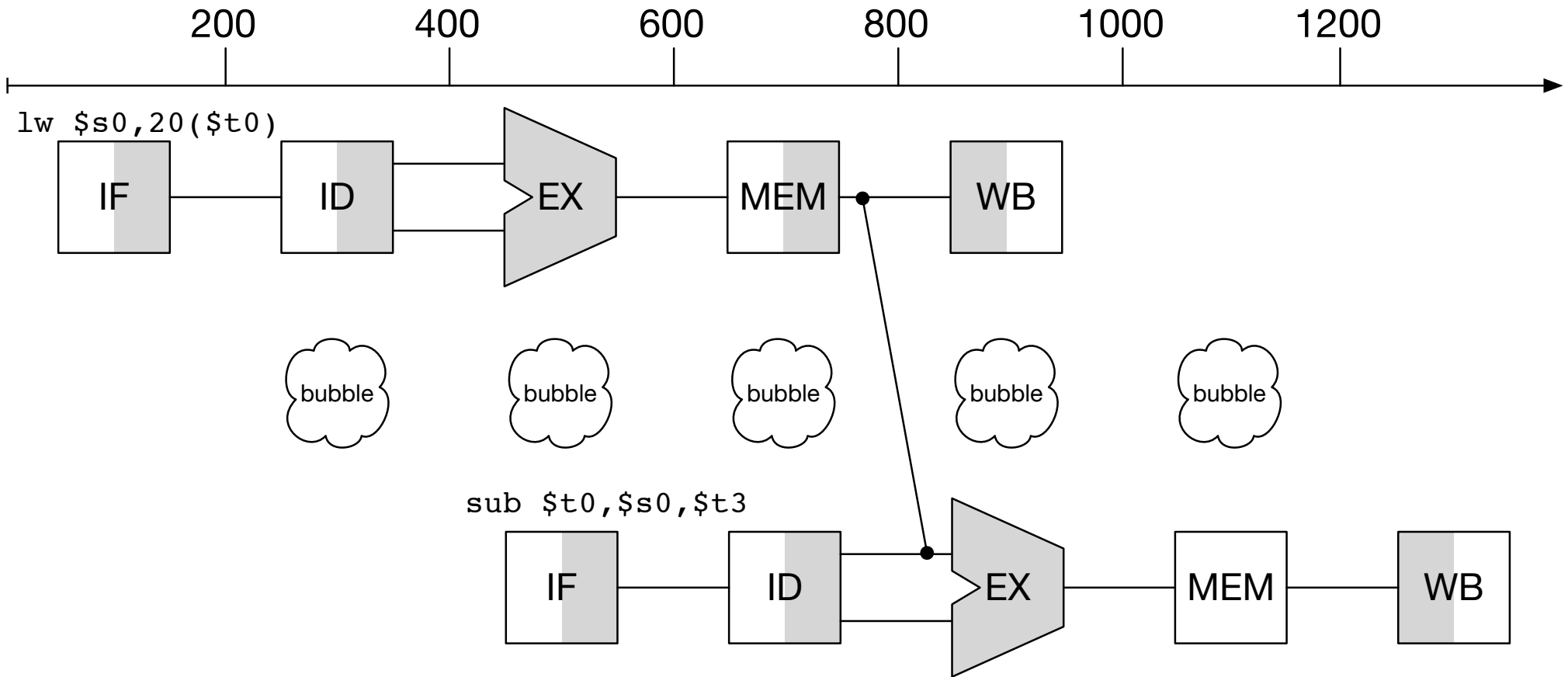
- Add wiring from memory lookup to ALU

- Still 1 cycle unused: "pipeline stall" or "bubble"

Reorder Code

- Code with data hazard

```
lw  $t1, 0($t0)          lw  $t1, 0($t0)
lw  $t2, 4($t0)          lw  $t2, 4($t0)
add $t3, $t1, $t2        lw  $t4, 8($t0)
sw  $t3, 12($t0)         add $t3, $t1, $t2
lw  $t4, 8($t0)          sw  $t3, 12($t0)
add $t5, $t1, $t4        add $t5, $t1, $t4
sw  $t5, 16($t0)         sw  $t5, 16($t0)
```

- Reorder code (may be done by compiler)

- Load instruction now completed in time

- Also called branch hazard

- Selection of next instruction depends on outcome of previous

- Example

```
add $s0, $t0, $t1
beq $s0, $s1, ff40
sub $t0, $s0, $t3
```

  – sub instruction only executed if branch condition fails

  $\rightarrow$ cannot start until branch condition result known

- Assume that branches are never taken

  $\rightarrow$ full speed if correct

- More sophisticated

  – keep record of branch taken or not

  – make prediction based on history

pipelined data path

Datapath
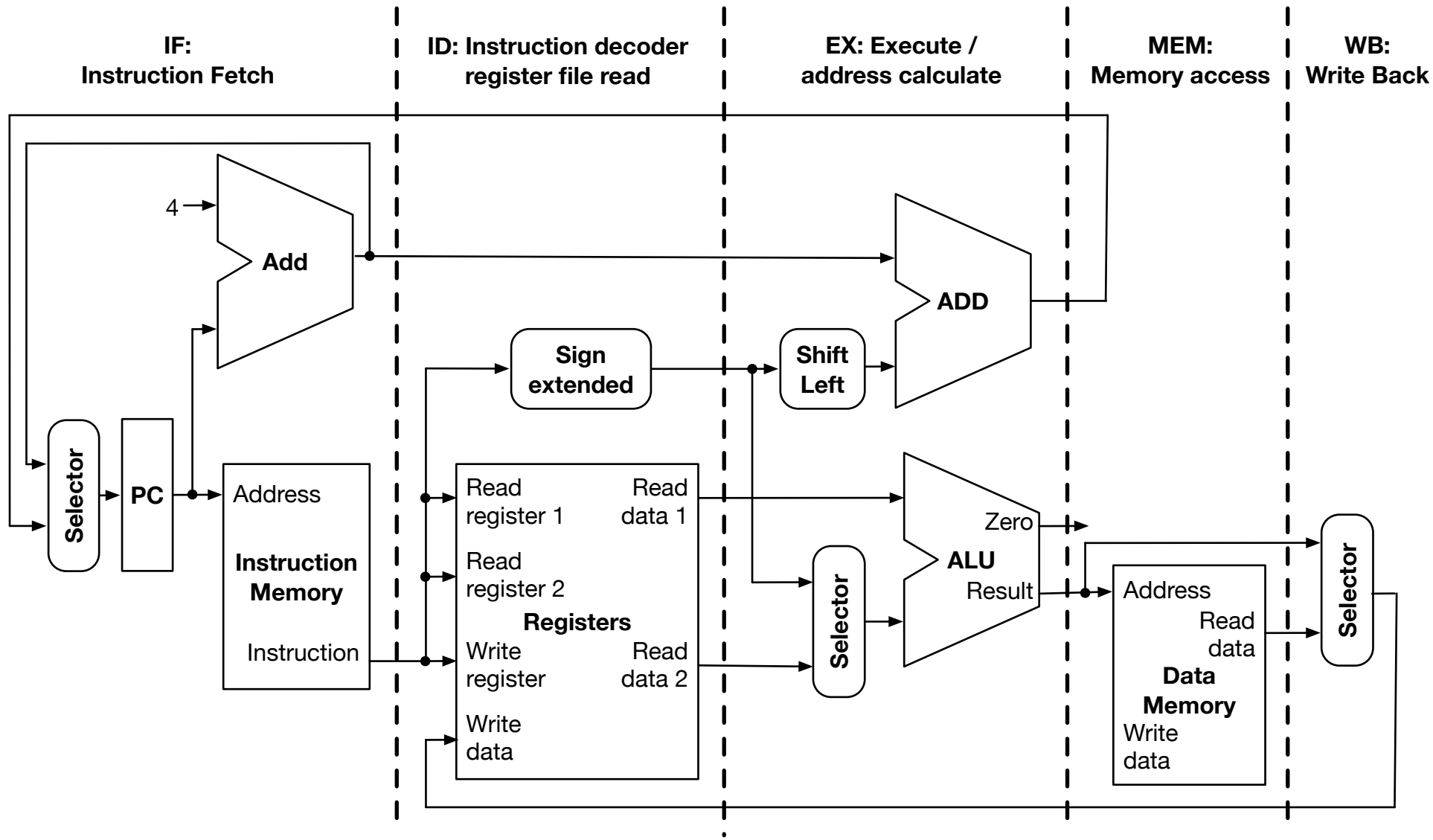
Pipelined Datapath
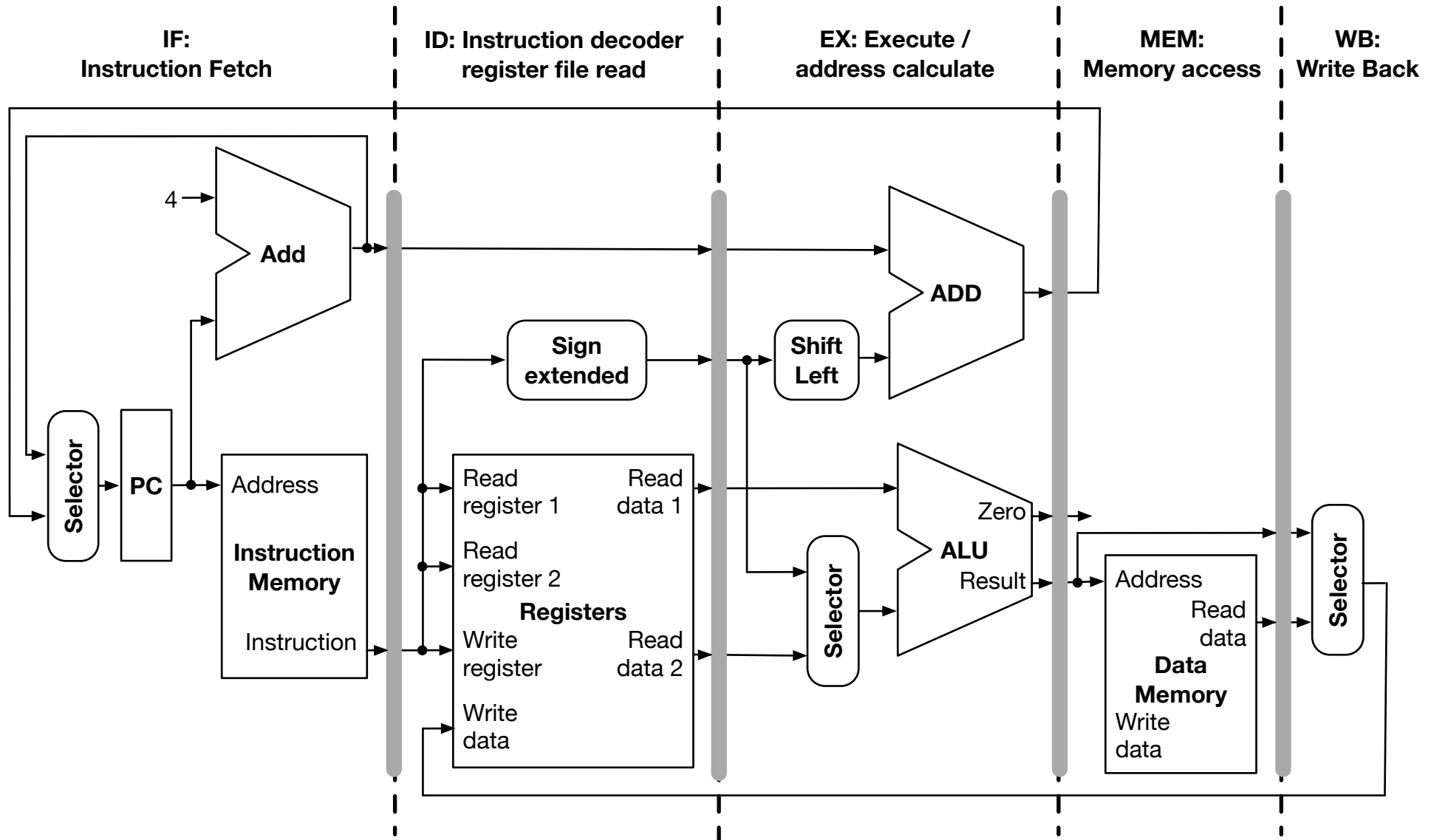
load

Load: Stage 5
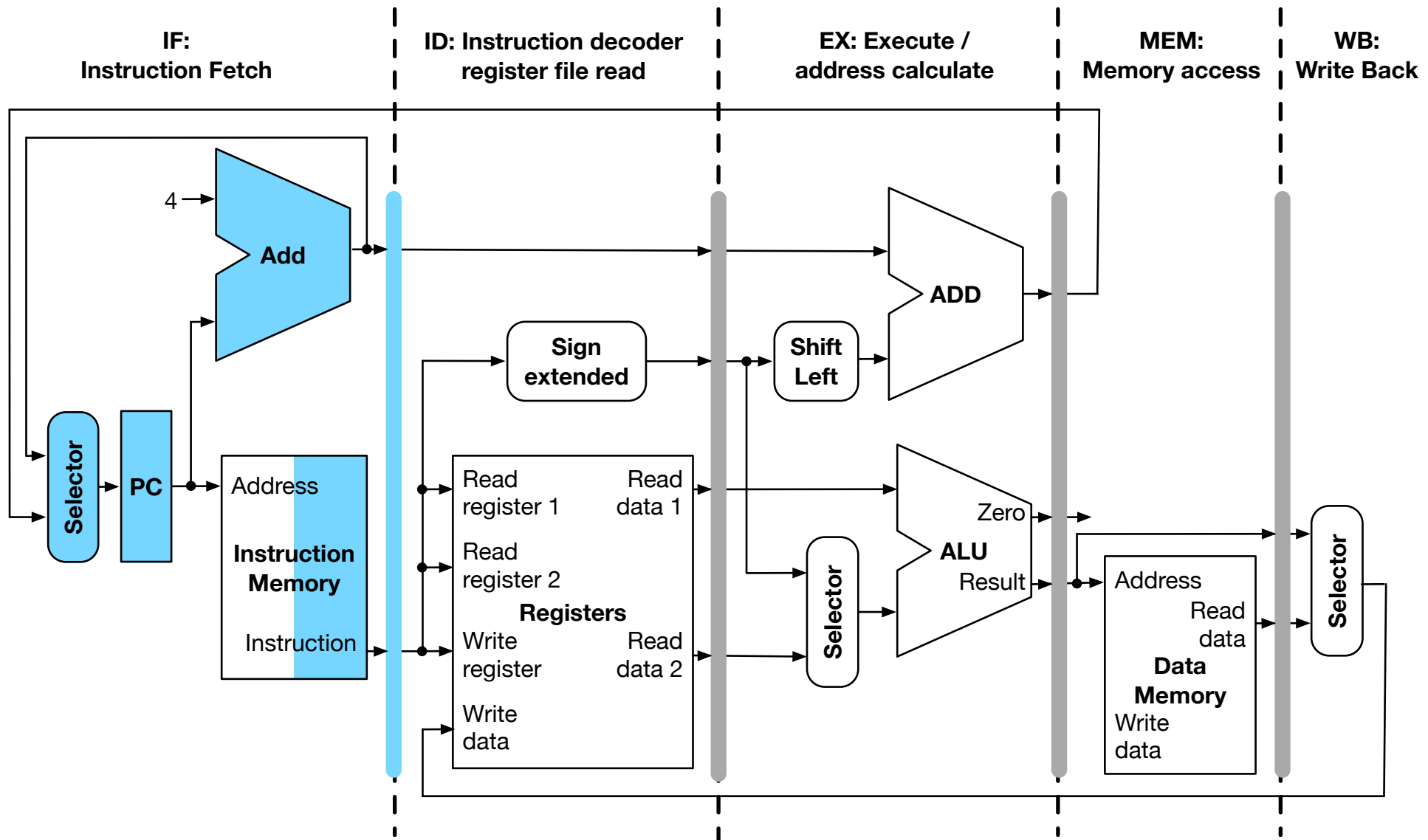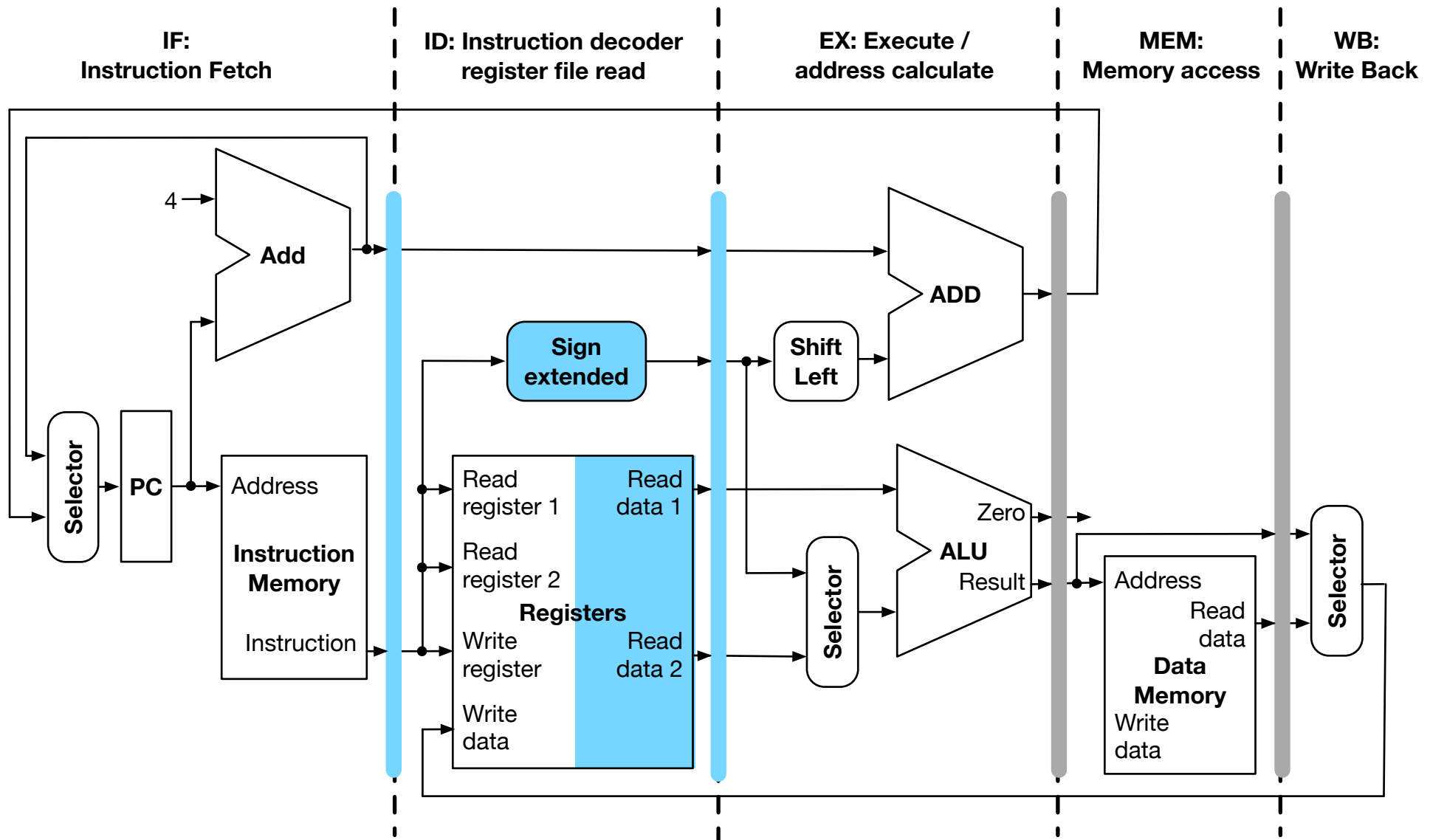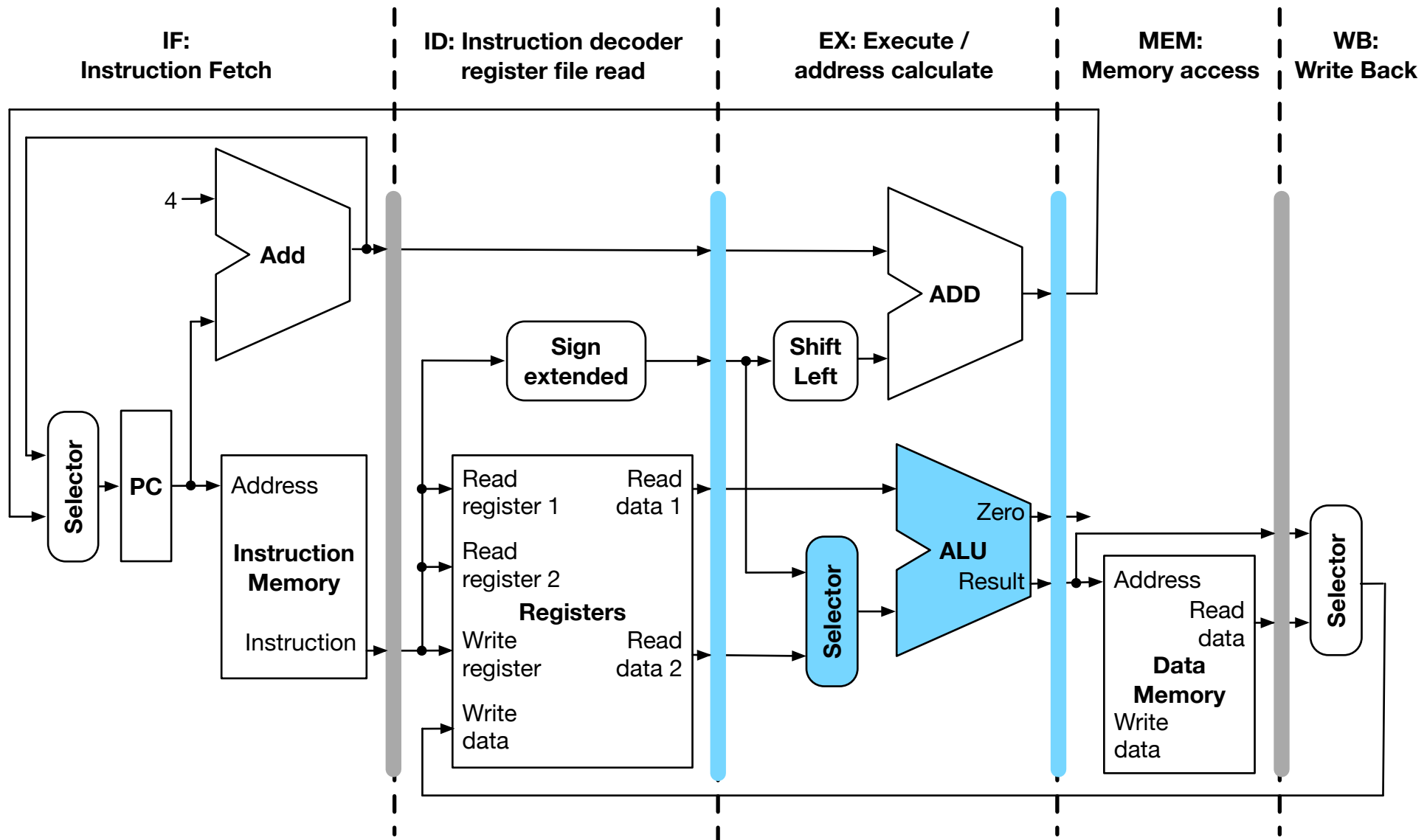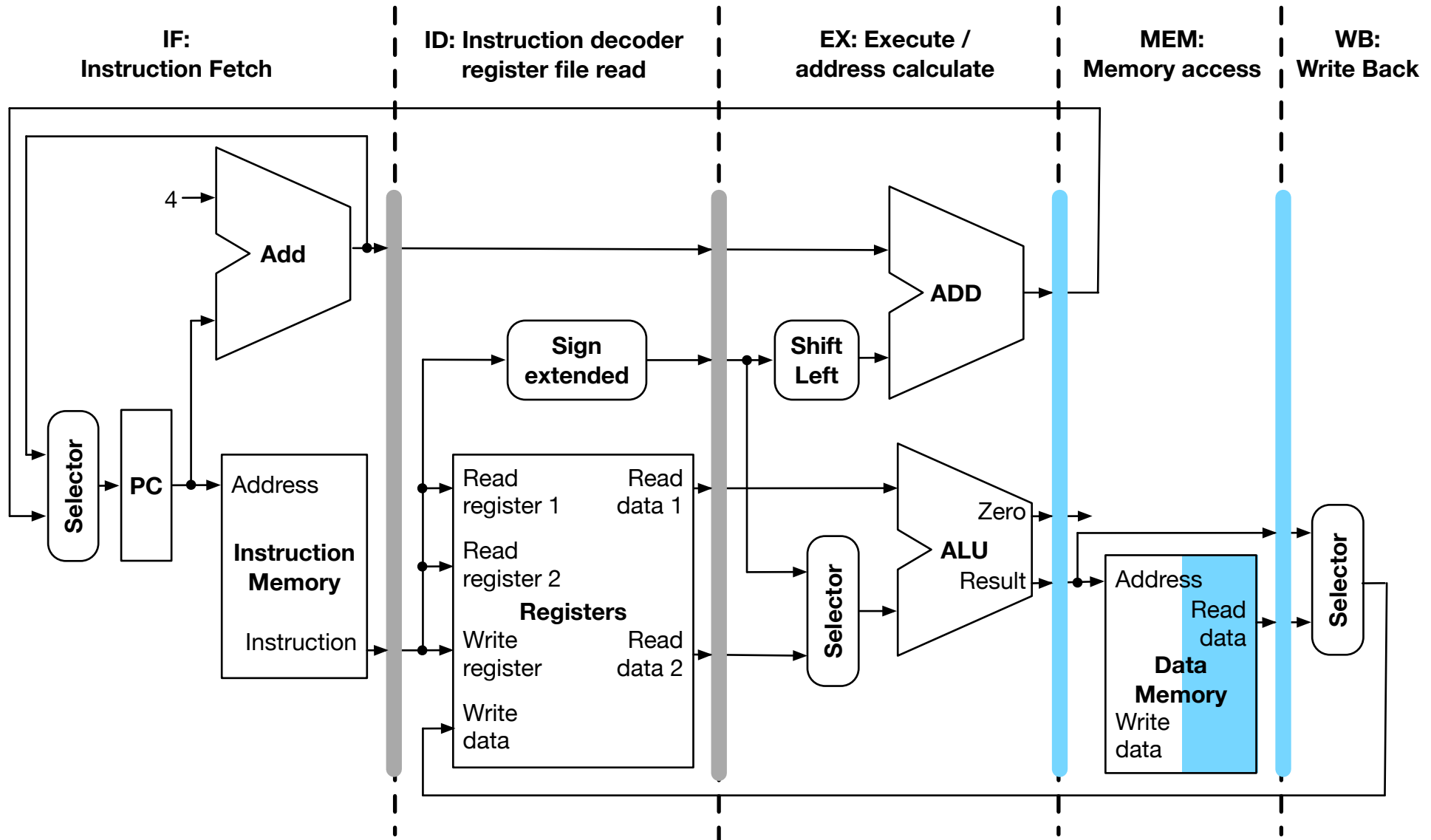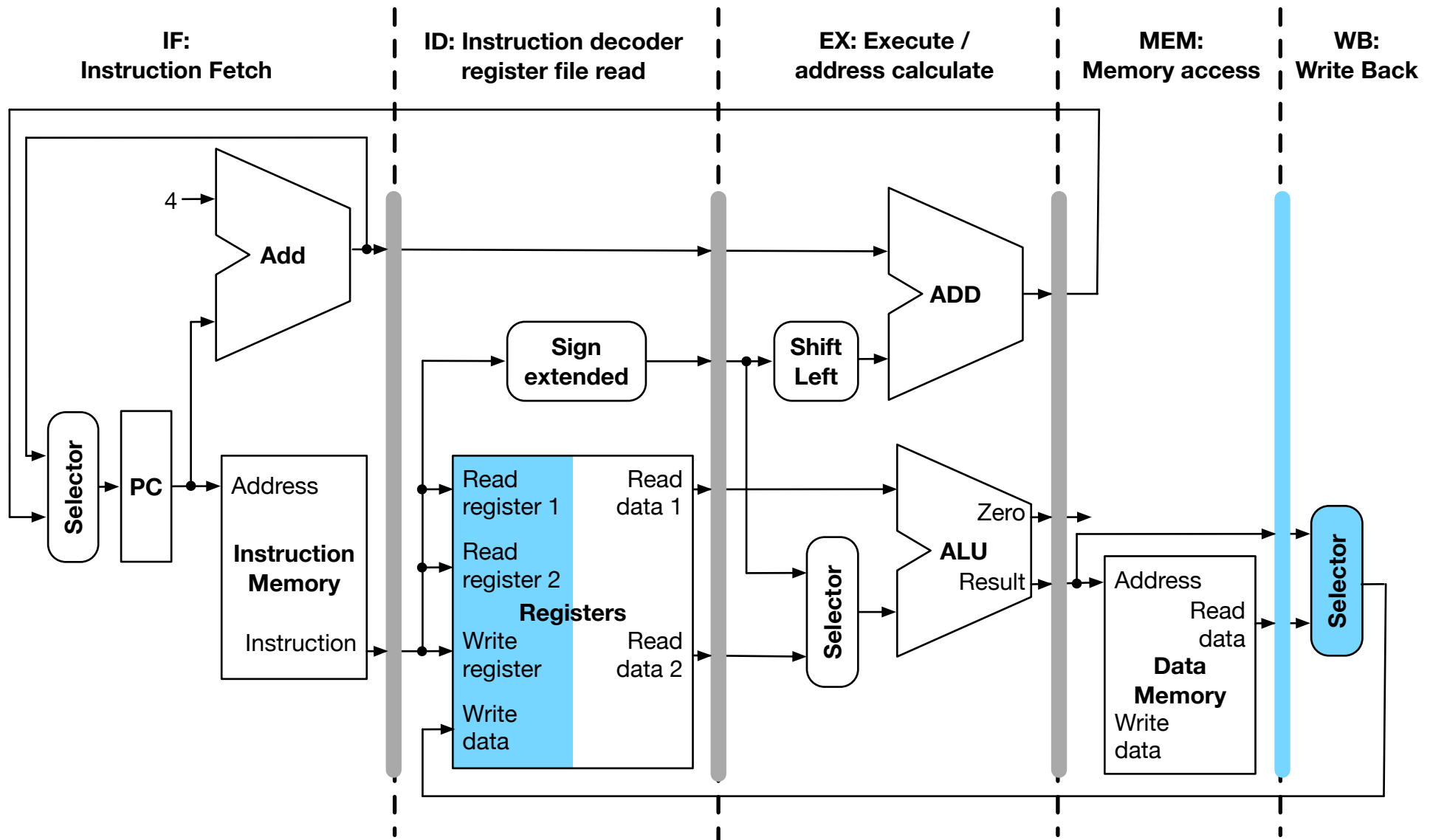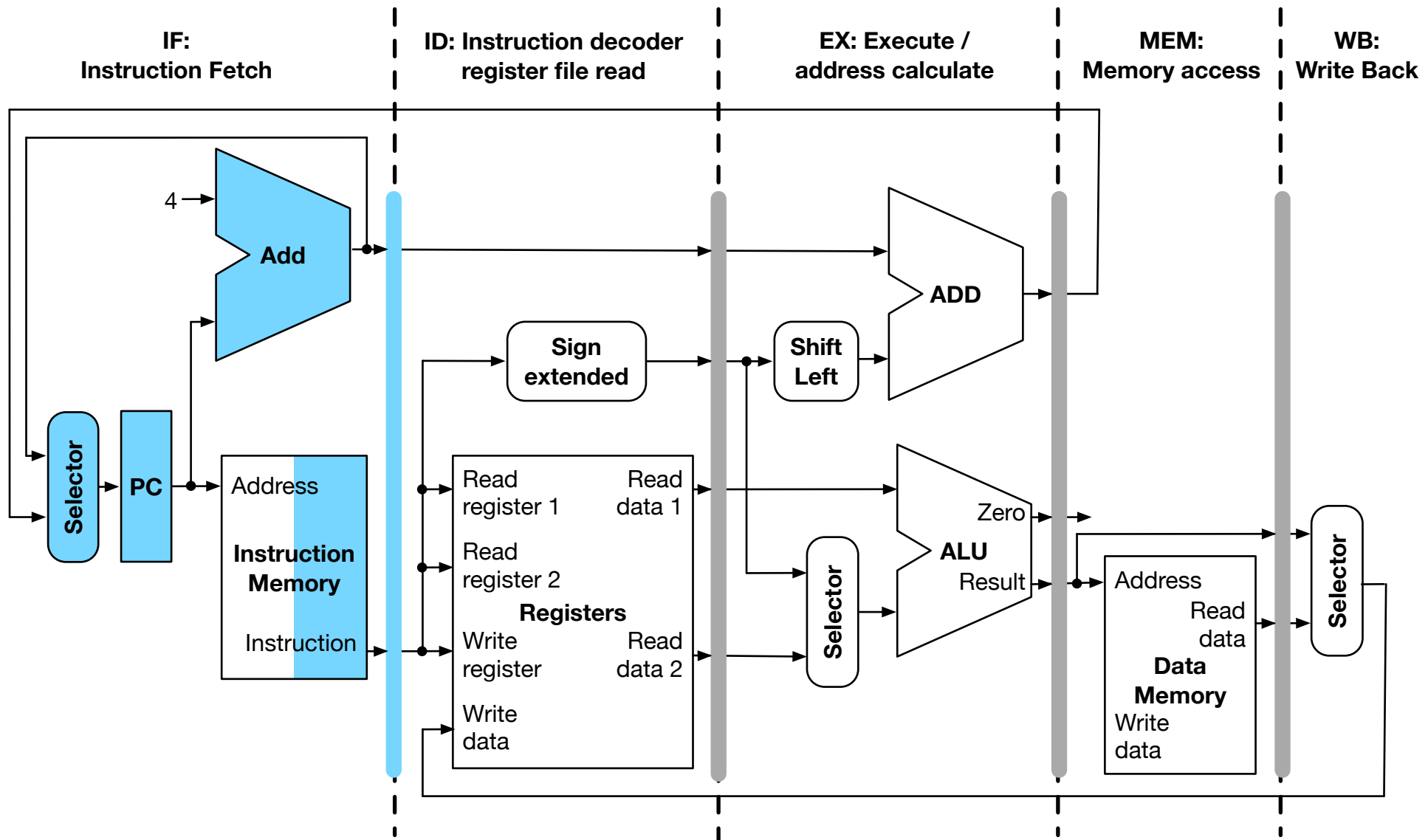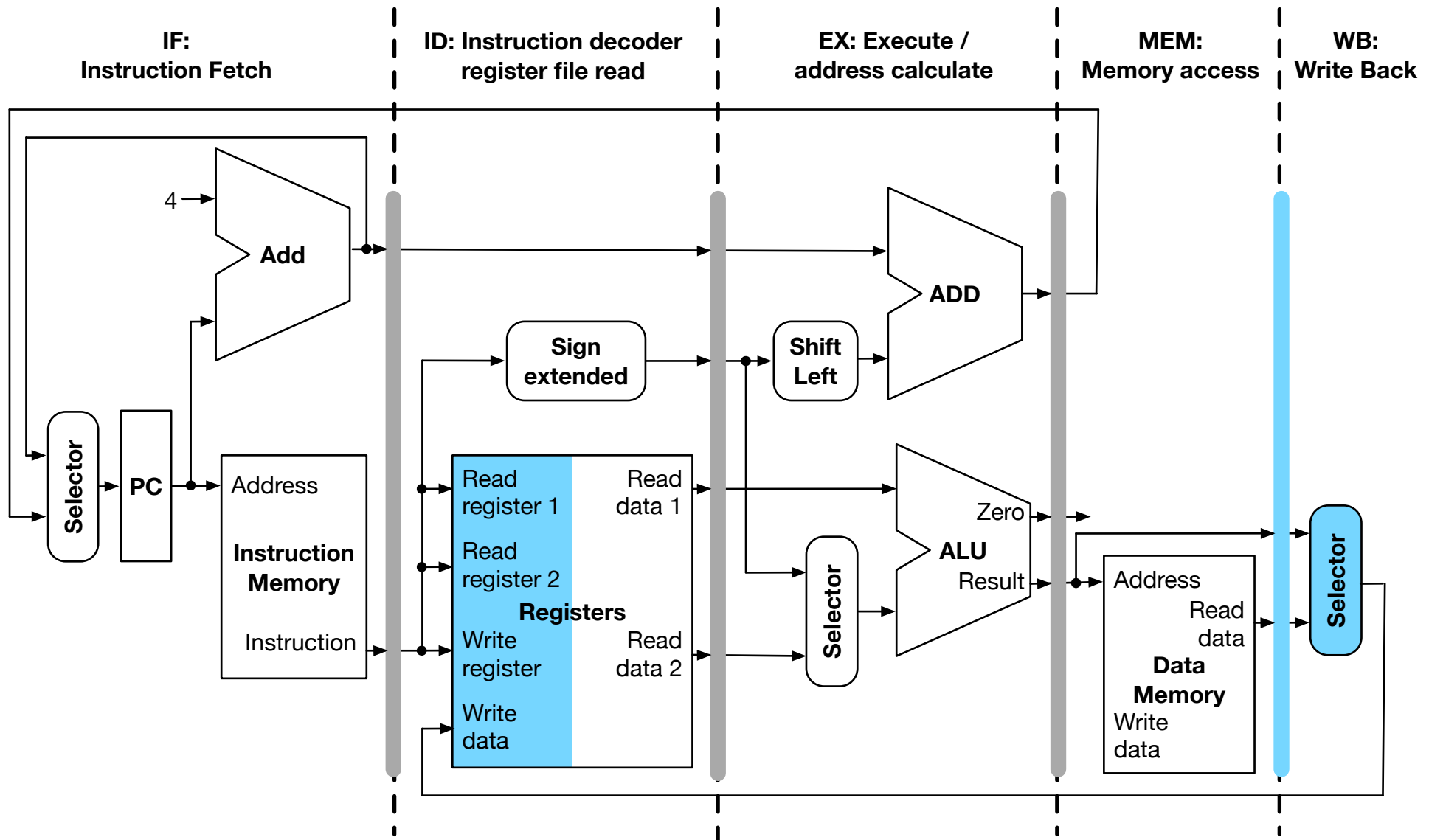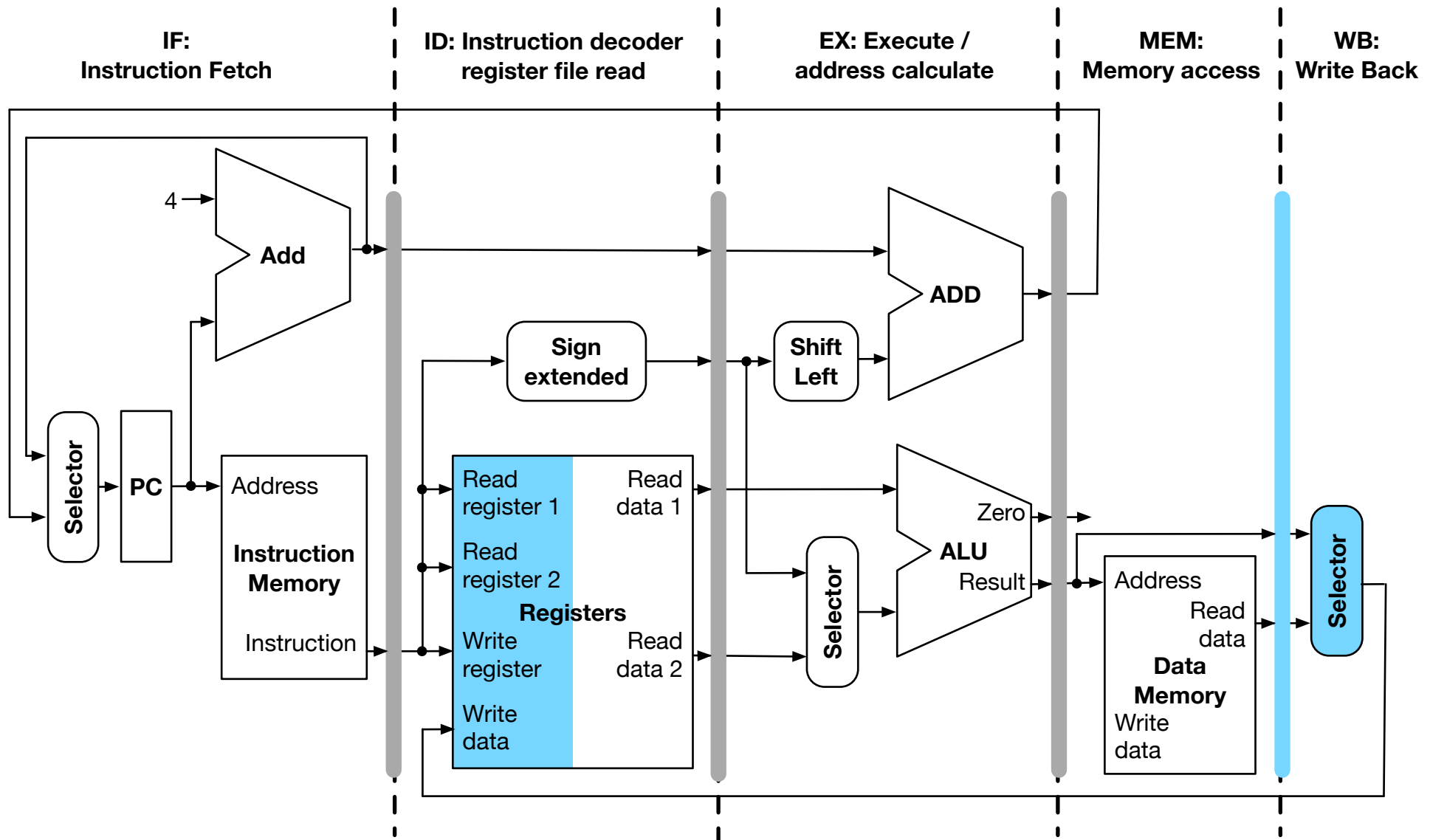
store

add
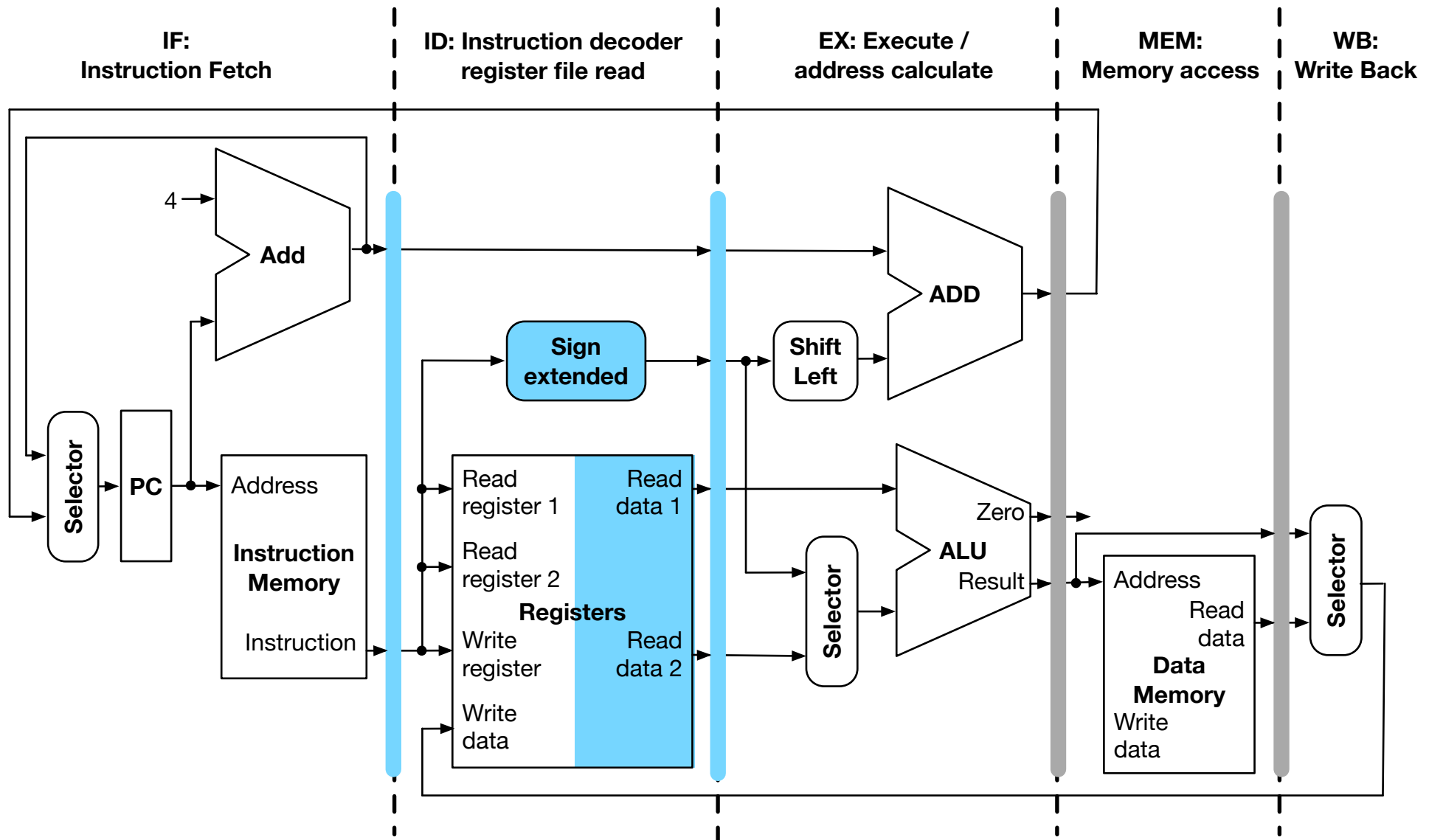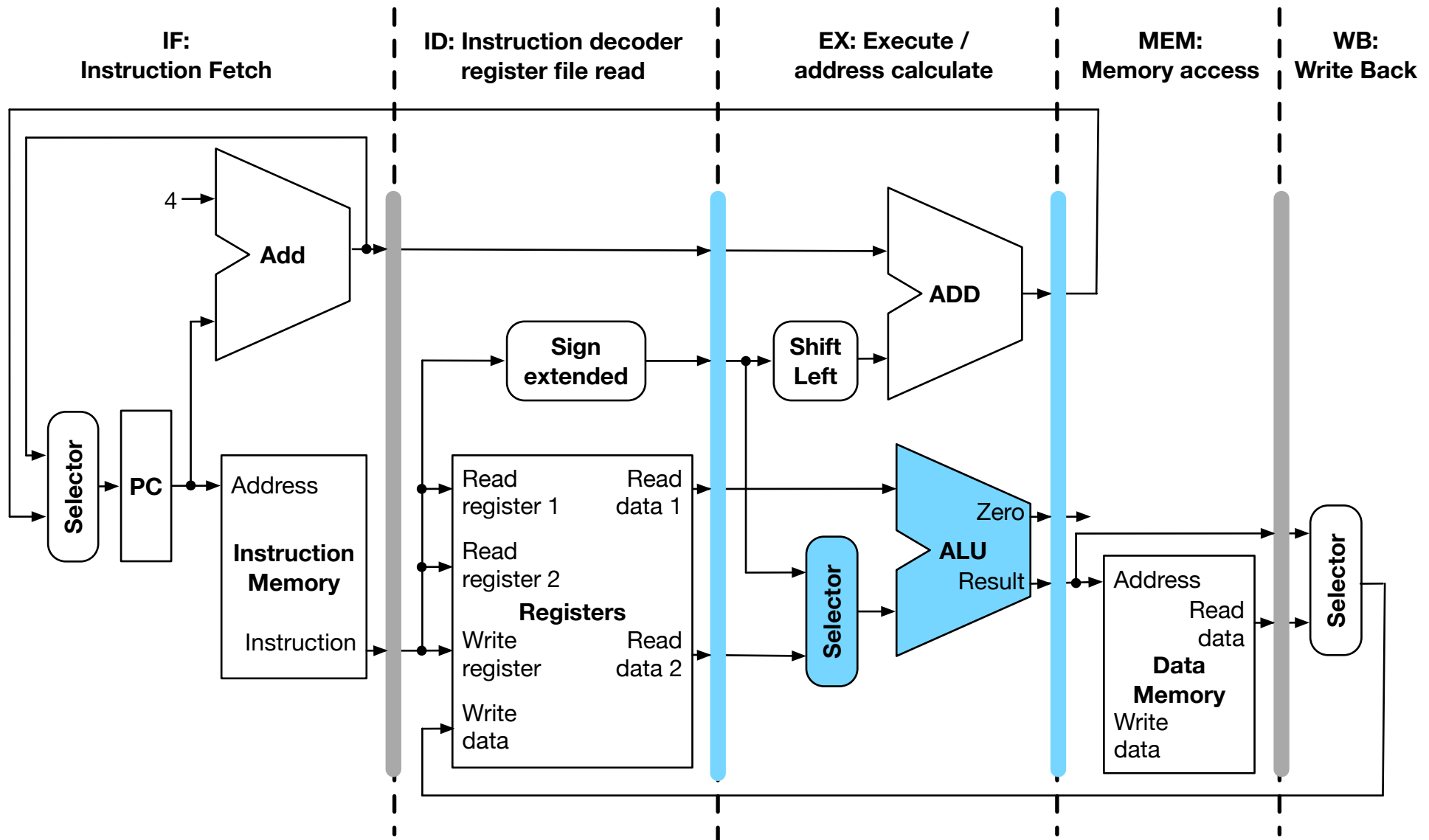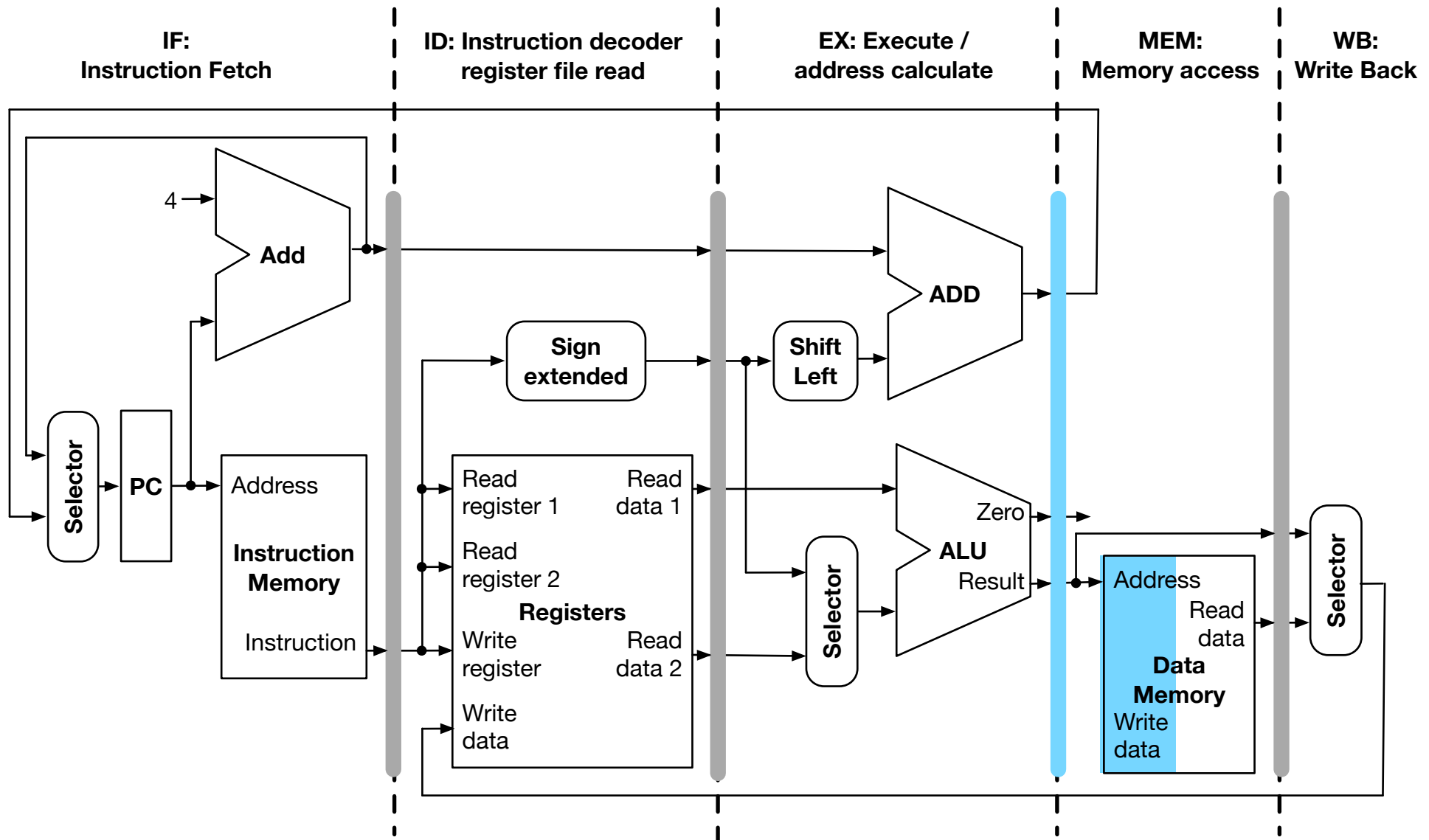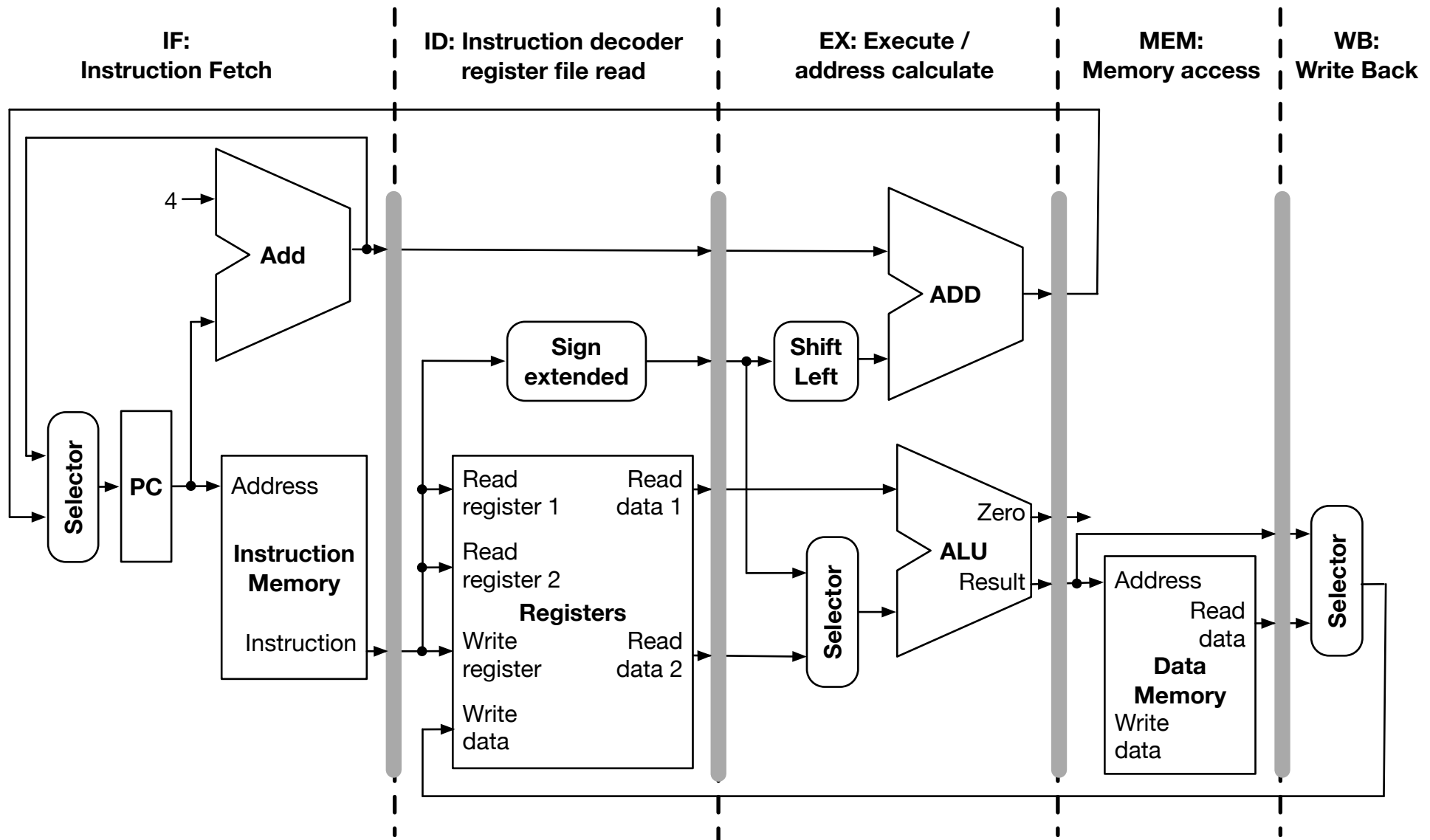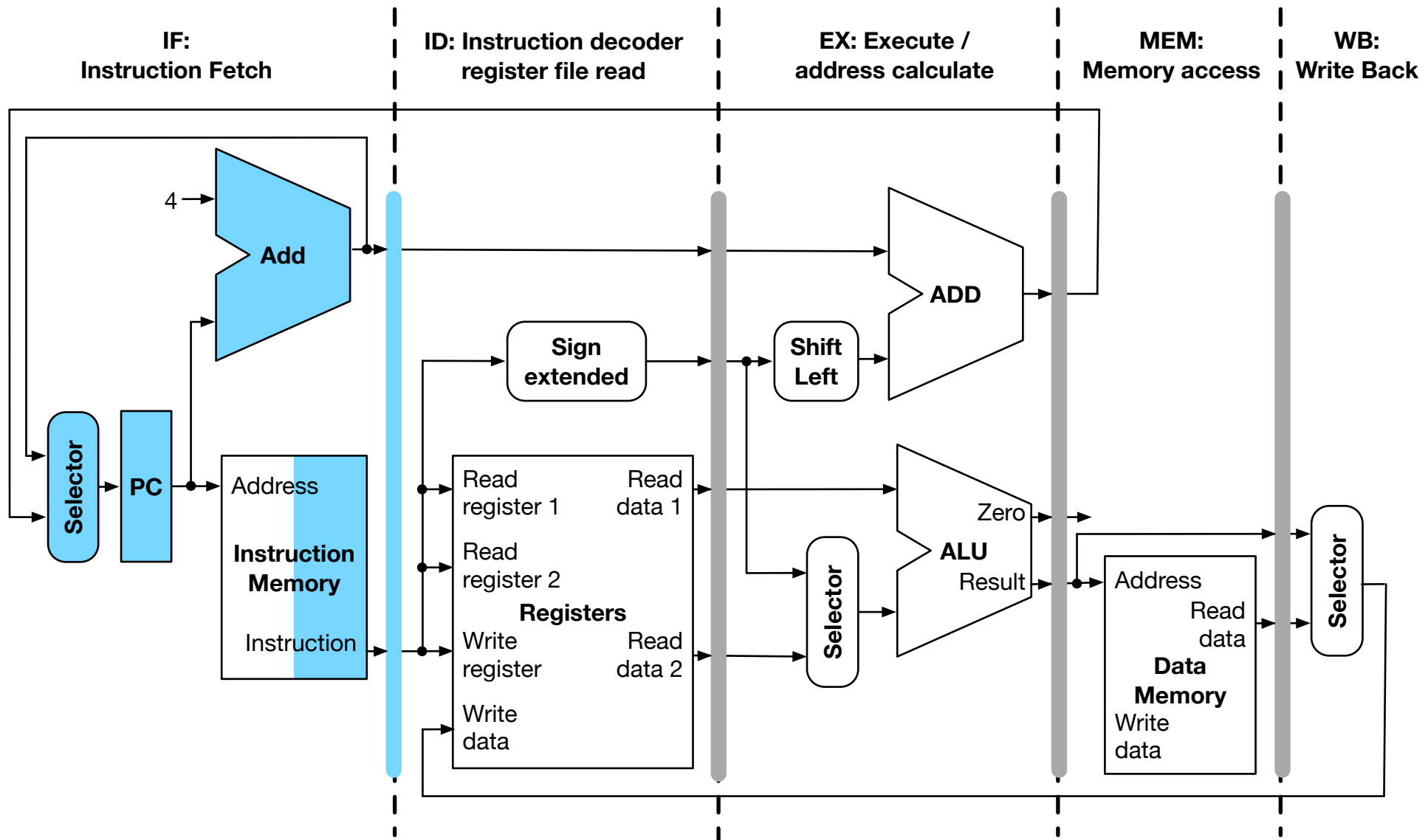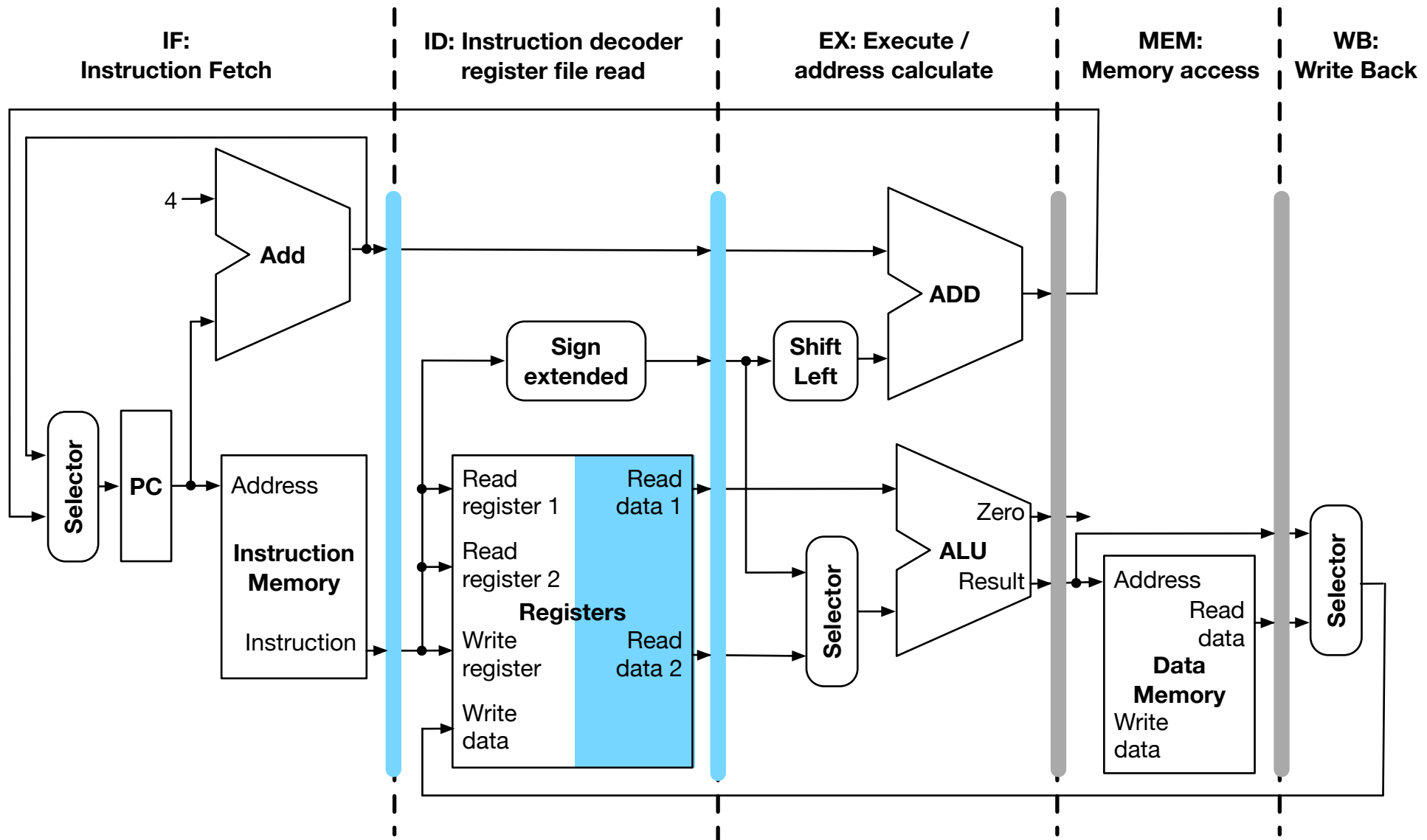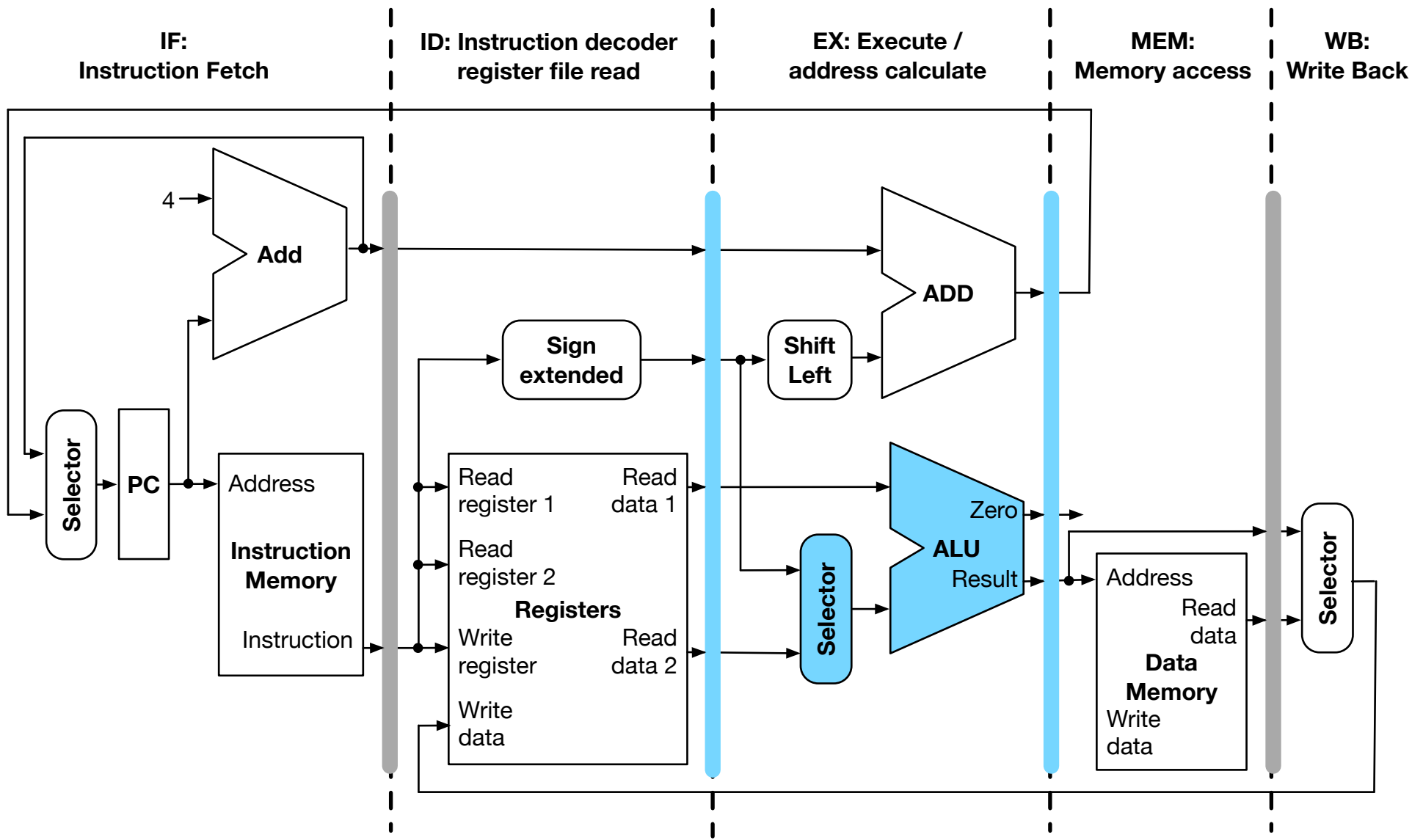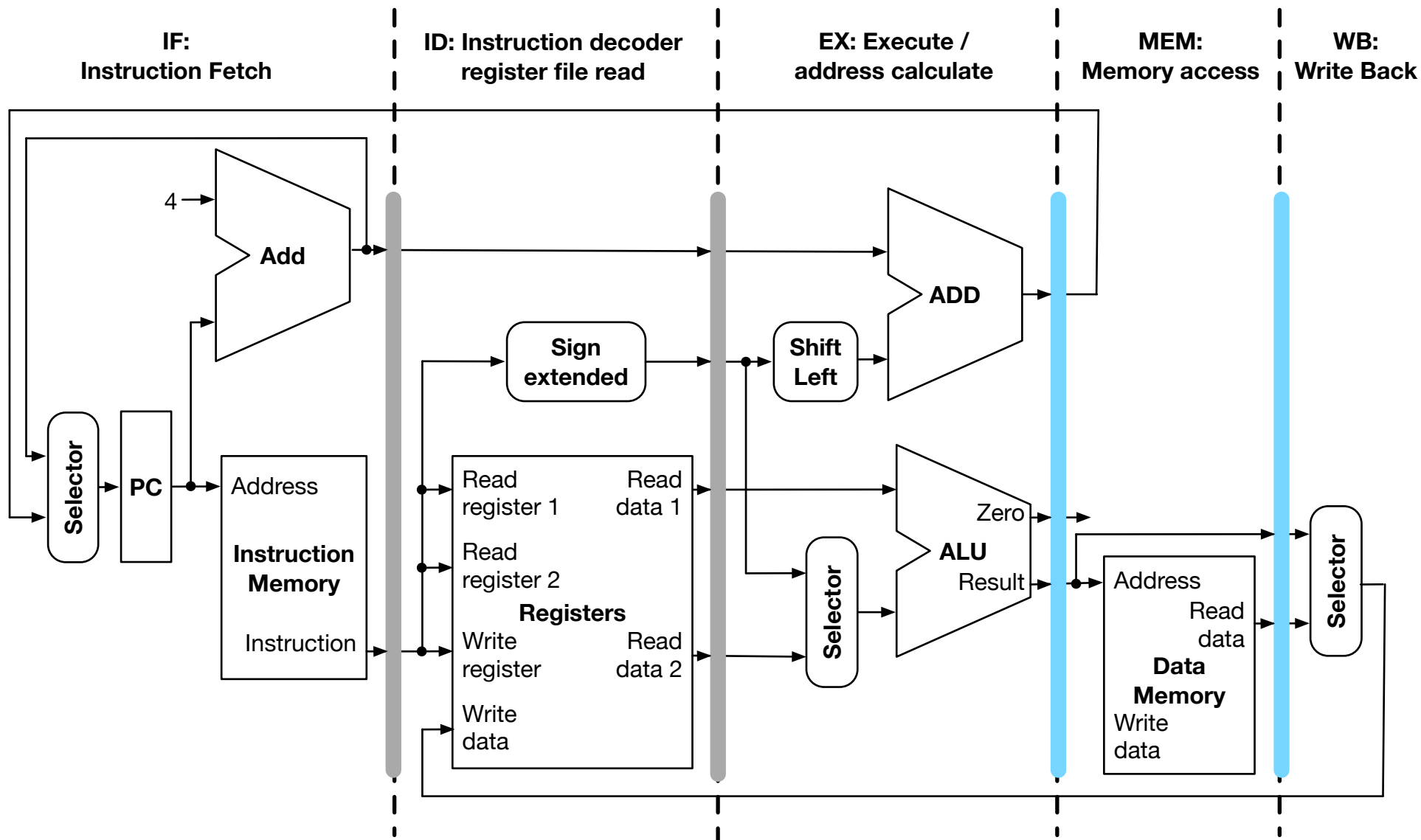
Add: Stage 5

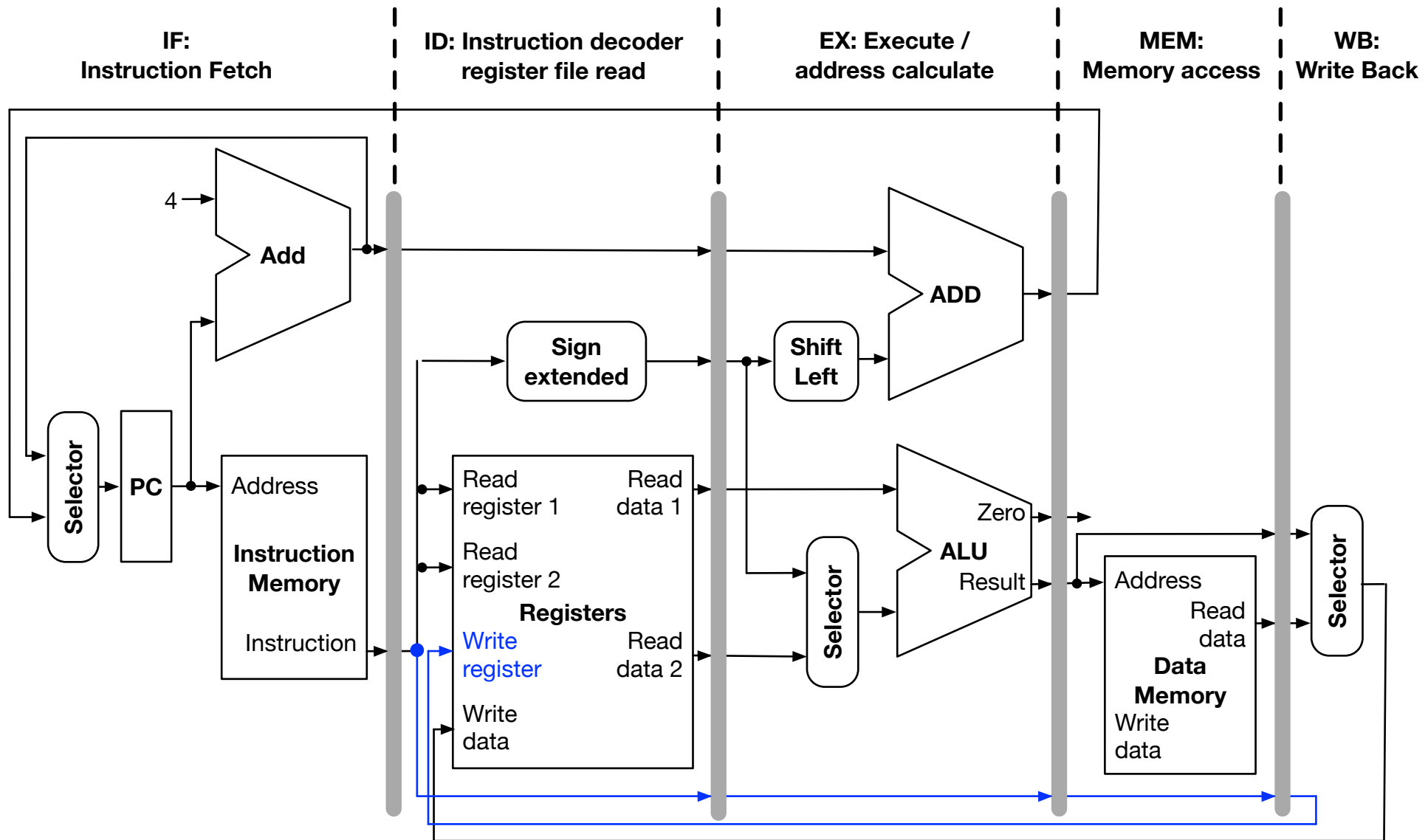# write to register

Which Register?

Problem

- Write register

  – decoded in stage 2

  – used in stage 5

- Identity of register has to be passed along

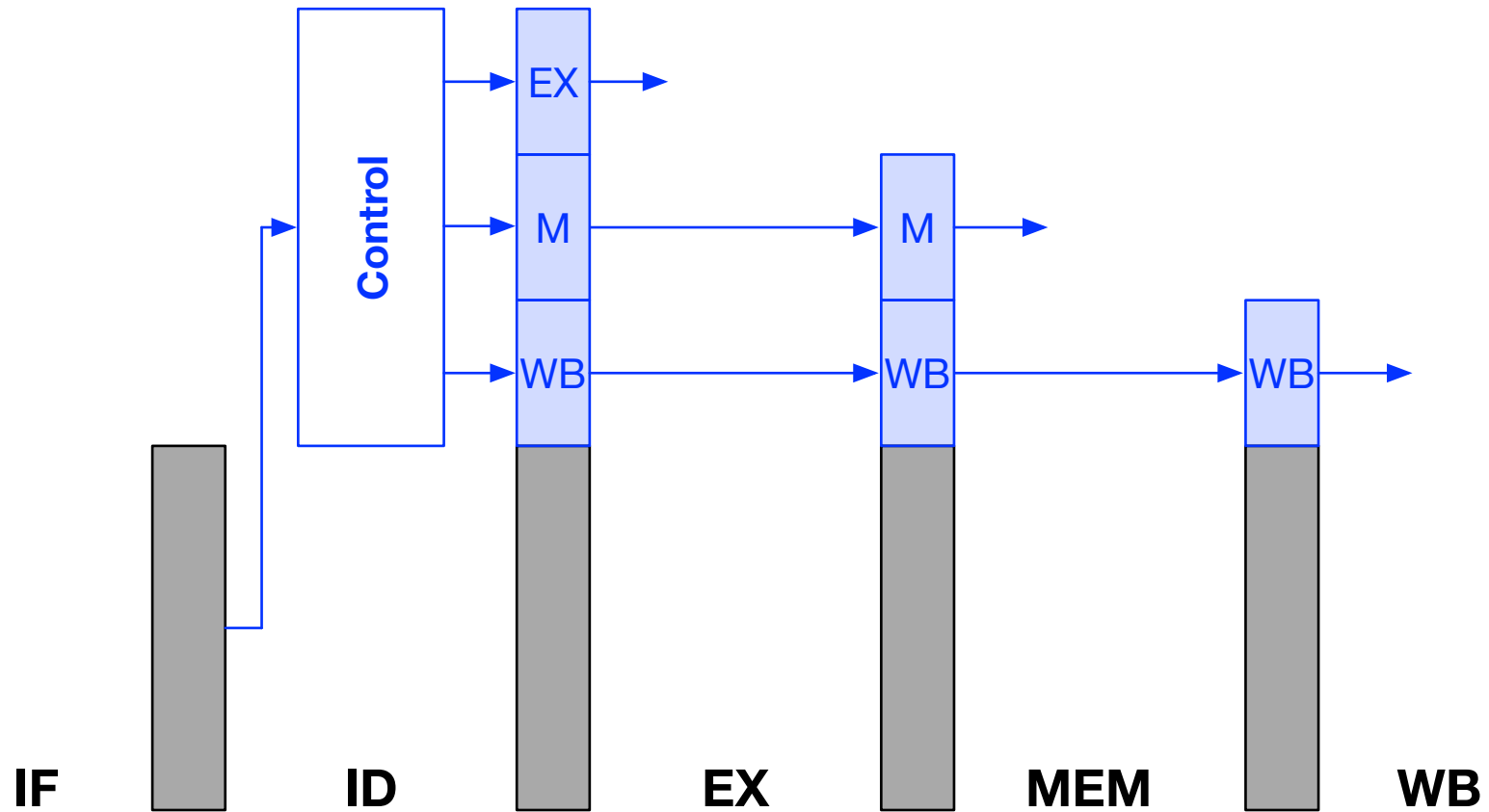# Data Path for Write Register

pipelined control

Pipelined Control

- At each stage, information from instruction is needed

    - which ALU operation to execute

    - which memory address to consult

    - which register to write to

- This control information has to be passed through stages