Vector SIMD Instructions

Contents

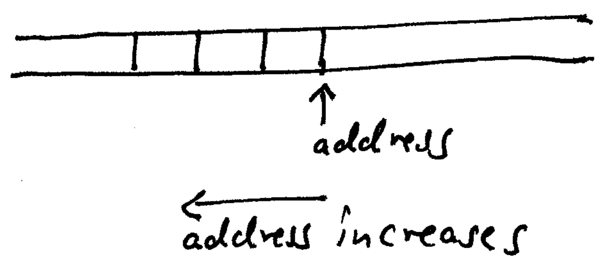
Information

vector indexing: a:

a_3	a_2	a_1	a_0
3	2	1	0

in most intrinsics, the order of operands matter

memory:

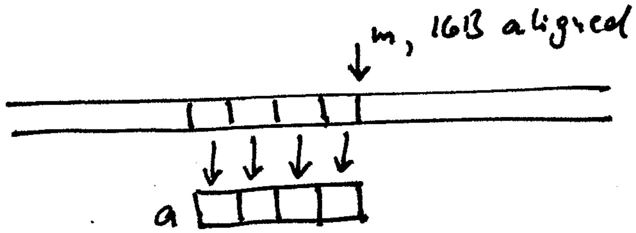


SIMD extensions time line: SSE, SSE2, SSE3, SSSE3, SSE4

We focus on single precision float, 4-way
1 vector = 128 bit = 16 B, data type __m128

Unless stated otherwise, instructions are SSE or later

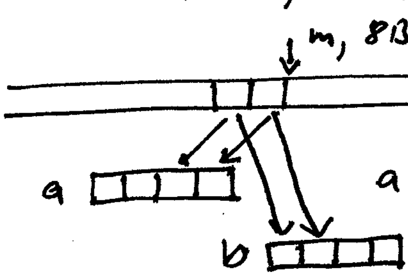
Load and Store



a = _mm_load_ps(m); aligned

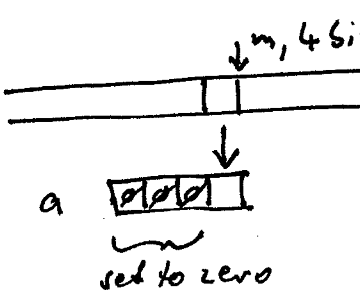
a = _mm_loadu_ps(m); unaligned (avoid)

a = p[i]; if p is: __m128 *p



a = _mm_loadl_pi(a, m); (keeps upper half)

b = _mm_loadh_pi(b, m); (keeps lower half)



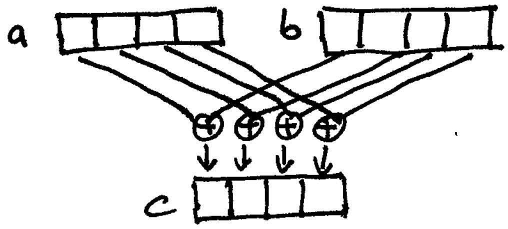
a = _mm_load_ss(m)

stores are analogous

Constants

c:	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	c = _mm_set_ps(4.0, 3.0, 2.0, 1.0);
d:	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	d = _mm_set1_ps(1.0);
e:	∅	∅	∅	1.0	e = _mm_set_ss(1.0);
f:	∅	∅	∅	∅	f = _mm_setzero_ps();

Vector arithmetic

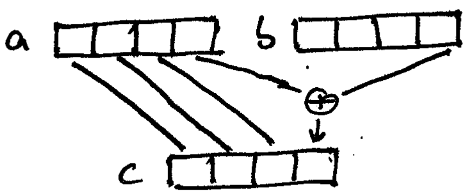



```
c = _mm_add_ps(a, b);      "a+b"
```

analogous:

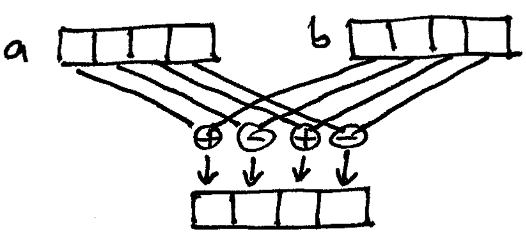
```
c = _mm_sub_ps(a, b);      "a-b"
c = _mm_mul_ps(a, b);      "a·b"
```

Scalar arithmetic

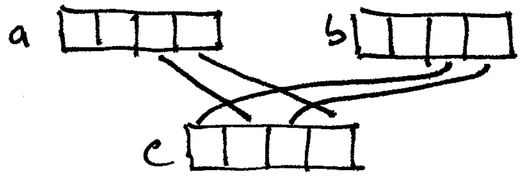



```
c = _mm_addss(a, b);
```

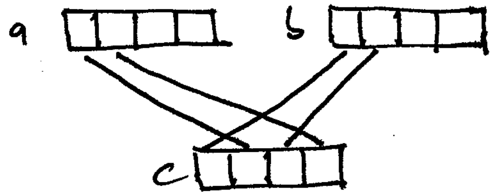
AddSub (SSE3 and later)



Reorder Instructions



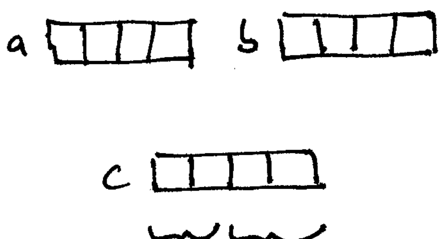
c= _mm_unpacklo_ps(a,b)



c= _mm_unpackhi_ps(a,b)

shuffle:

c =_mm_shuffle_ps(a, b, _MM_SHUFFLE(l,k,j,i))



any element of b   any element of a

$c_0 = a_i$

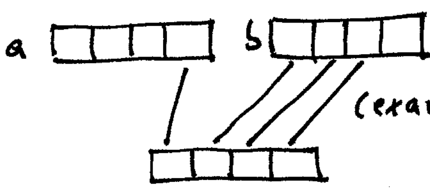
$c_1 = a_j$

$c_2 = b_k$

$c_3 = b_l$

$i, j, k, l \in \{0..3\}$

align: (SSE3 and later)

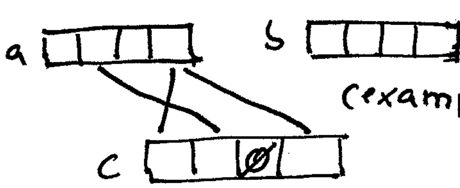


(example)

"any 4 consecutive elements of the concatenation of a and b go into c"

_mm_alignr_epi8   use with _mm_castsi128_ps

shuffle: (SSE3 and later)

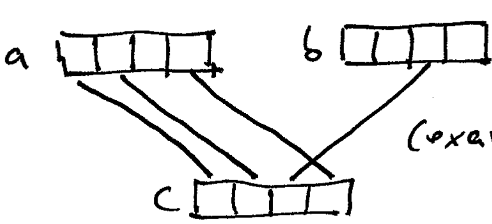


(example)

"c is filled in each position with any element from a or 0, as specified by b"

_mm_shuffle_epi8

blend: (SSE4 and later)

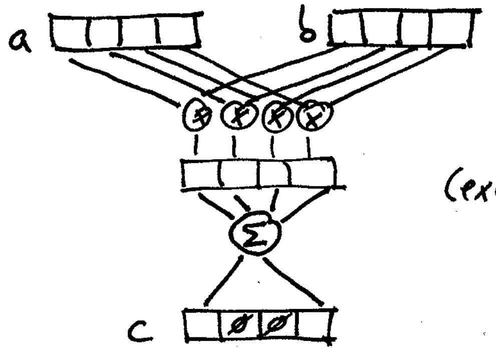


(example)

"c is filled in each position with an element from a or b from the same position"

_mm_blend_ps

Dot product (SSE4 and later)

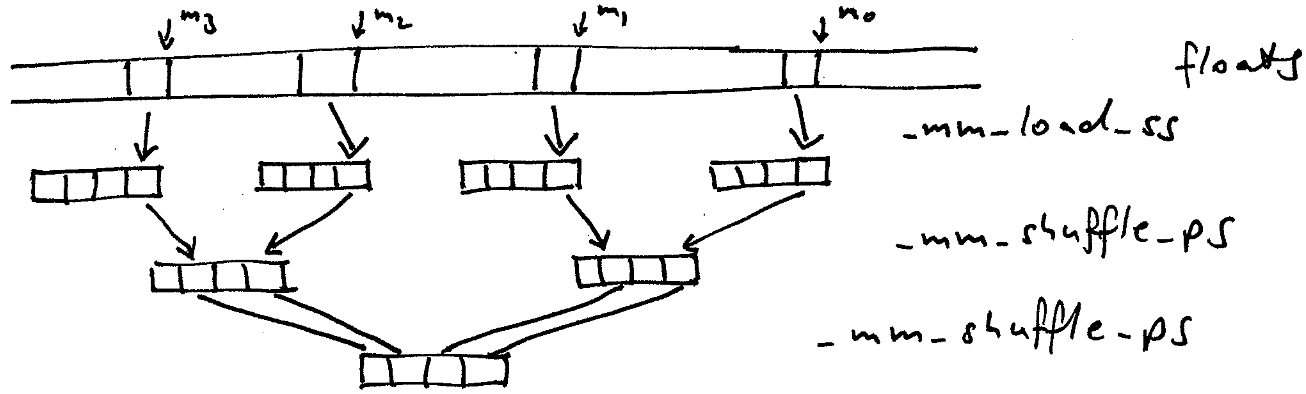


(example)

"computes the pointwise product of a and b and writes an arbitrary sum of the resulting numbers into selected elements of c — the others are set to zero"

_mm_dp_ps(a, b, mask)

Load 4 real numbers from arbitrary memory locations



7 instructions, this is the right way

Note:
- wherever possible avoid this by restructuring the algorithm or data to have aligned vector loads _mm_load_ps
- the above should be equivalent to the following but a.) the above is safer; b.) be aware that the below are 7 instructions

```
float f[20] = {... };
__m128 vf = _mm_set_ps(f[3], f[5], f[17], f[1]);
```

Don't do this:

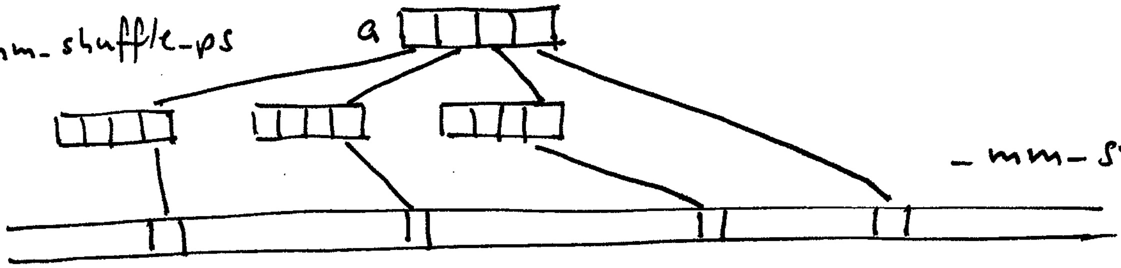
```
float f[20] = {...};
__declspec(align(16)) g[4];
__m128 vf;
g[0] = f[1];
g[1] = f[17];
g[2] = f[5];
g[3] = f[3];
vf = _mm_load_ps(g);
```

mem → register → mem round trip
⇒ expensive

(same problem with unions and pointers)

Store 4 real numbers to arbitrary memory locations

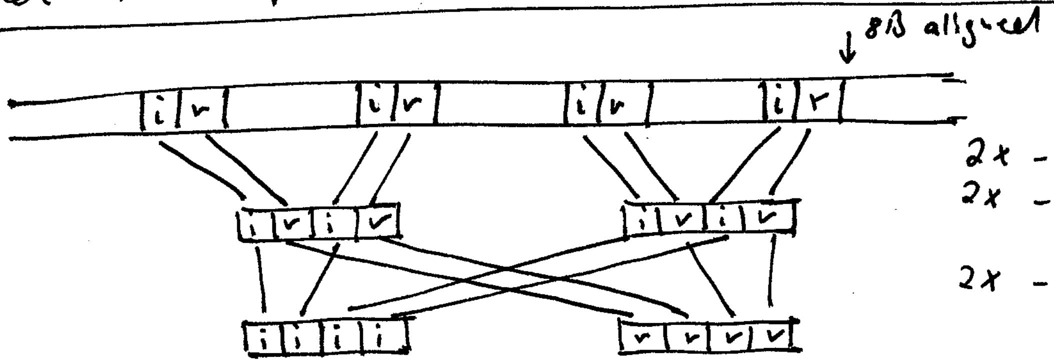
_mm_shuffle_ps



_mm_store_ss

7 instructions, shorter critical path than load

Load 4 complex numbers (= 4 pairs of real numbers)

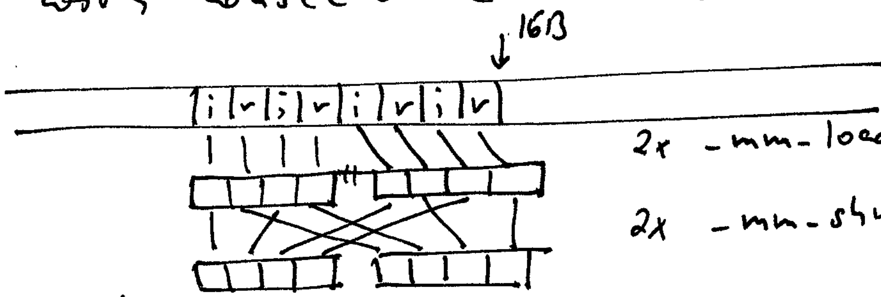


2x _mm_loadl_pi
2x _mm_loadh_pi

2x _mm_shuffle_ps

6 instructions
store analogous

same with consecutive data:

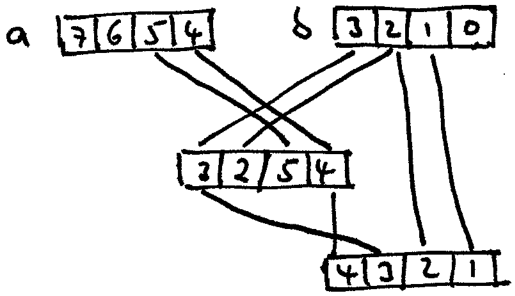


2x _mm_load_ps

2x _mm_shuffle_ps

4 instructions
store analogous

Shift by 1



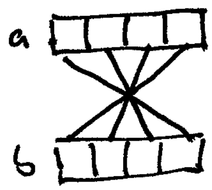
_mm_shuffle_ps

_mm_shuffle_ps

2 instructions

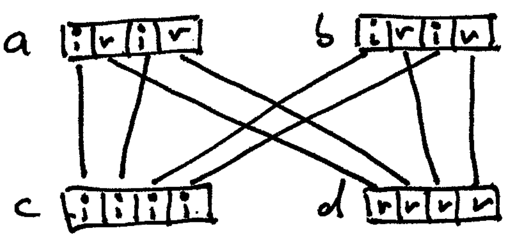
SSE3 and later: _mm_alignr_epi8 + casts 1 instruction

Reverse vector



b = _mm_shuffle_ps(a, a, _MM_SHUFFLE(0,1,2,3));

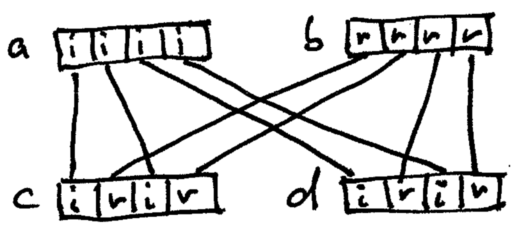
Interleaved complex → split complex



c = _mm_shuffle_ps(b, a, _MM_SHUFFLE(3,1,3,1));

d = ... _MM_SHUFFLE(2,0,2,0));

Split complex → interleaved complex



c = _mm_unpackhi_ps(b, a);

d = _mm_unpacklo_ps(b, a);

Transposition: 4×4 matrix

4×4 matrix: $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}\hline 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ \hline 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ \hline 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 \\ \hline 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 \\ \hline \end{array} = A$

in memory:

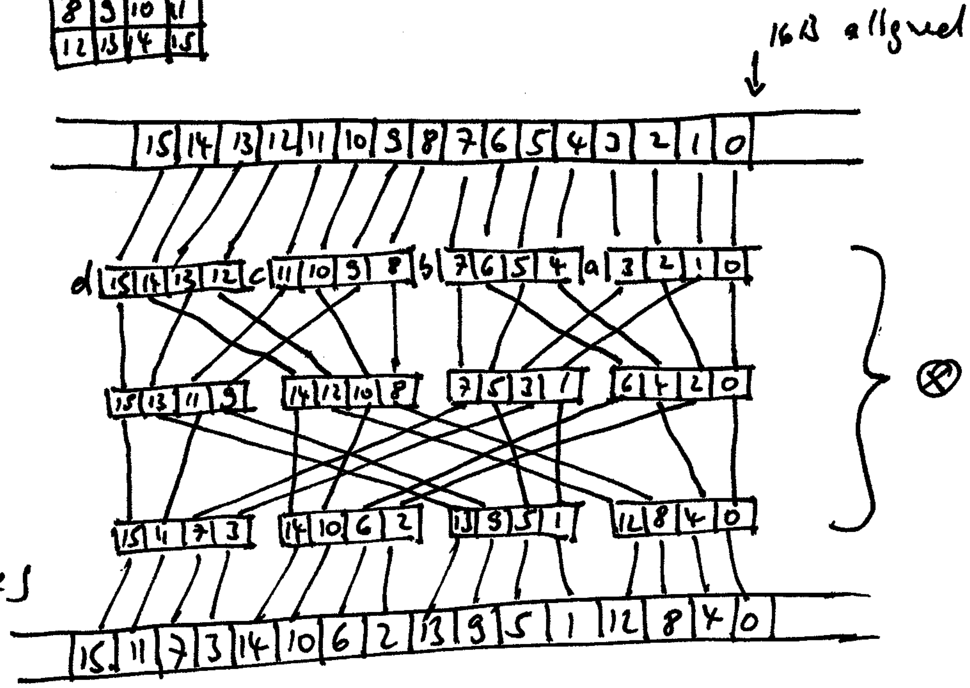
4 aligned loads

4 shuffles

4 shuffles

4 aligned stores

in memory:

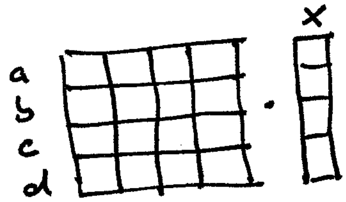


as matrix: $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}\hline 0 & 4 & 8 & 12 \\ \hline 1 & 5 & 9 & 13 \\ \hline 2 & 6 & 10 & 14 \\ \hline 3 & 7 & 11 & 15 \\ \hline \end{array} = A^T$

⊗ done by the macro _MM_TRANSPOSE4_PS(a,b,c,d);

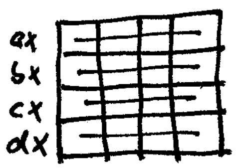
8 instructions

Matrix - vector product



1. step: 4 vector products ax, bx, cx, dx (4 instructions)

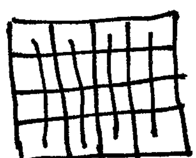
result:



SSE:

2. step: transpose (8 instructions)

result:

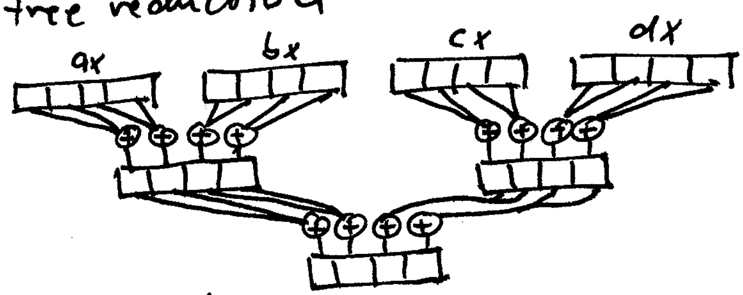


3. step: sum rows (3 instructions)

total: 15 instructions

SSE3:

2. step: tree reduction



3 instructions (_mm_hadd_ps)

total: 7 instructions

SSE4: has dot product instruction but still 7 instructions are needed (exercise)