

INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO DE COSTA RICA
ÁREA ACADÉMICA DE INGENIERÍA EN COMPUTADORES
PROYECTO DE DISEÑO EN INGENIERÍA EN COMPUTADORES



Progress report #2 for the project: Design of (ASIPs) for Approximate Computing

Chair for Embedded Systems (CES)
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)
Period: 05/03/2018 (week 5) - 16/03/2018 (week 6)

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1 Performed activities

1. **Familiarization with the software platform (ID 01):** More laboratory scripts have been studied to get to know the software tools from which the ASIPs are going to be built. However, the activity is still being affected by access rights and general configuration of the environment. The laboratory sessions are expected to be completed by the next report, since they are almost finished by now.
2. **Find appropriate error-tolerant applications (ID 02):** Six possible applications have been found and analyzed for their approximate adaptation, this possibilities have been delivered to professor Jorge Castro, further discussion and his approval is being waited.
3. **Write Design document (ID 06):** The final design document was send to the professor.

2 Scope Changes

No scope changes have been made.

3 Earned Value analysis

Table 1 summarizes the gained value analysis.

Table 1: Earned Value

Activity ID	Activity	Budget	%Planned Value	PV	AC	%Completed work	EV	CPI	SPI	Initial planned date	Ending date	Initial real date	Real ending
01	Get to know the software platform	32	100%	32	30	95%	30.4	1.01	0.95	Week 1	Week 3	Week 1	-
02	Find appropriate error-tolerant applications	32	100%	32	15	70%	22.4	1.49	0.7	Week 4	Week 6	Week 4	-
06	Write Design document	8	100%	8	7	100%	8	1.14	1	Week 3	Week 4	Week 3	Week 5
	Total		%PVtotal	PV total	AC total	%CW total	EV total	CPI total	SPI total				

4 Difficulties Encountered

- The server errors have slowed down the progress of the activity 01, which should have been finished by the last report.
- The personal computer used for work got a fan malfunctioning, which prevented the use of Linux (since Windows does have a fan control driver contrary to Linux) and contributed to the slow progress on the laboratory sessions.

- Supervisor Jorge Castro was busy on week 6, situation that delayed the possible approximate applications review.

5 Hard Skills Required/Acquired

Knowledge in the following software frameworks has been acquired: Dlxsim, ModelSim and Xilinx ISE.

6 Soft Skills Required/Acquired

The following soft skills have been exercised:

- Communication: Weekly remote communication has been performed with Jorge Castro for the guidance of this project, and with Sajjad Hussain to request technical aid in the server. With both, swift communication was achieved, each topic that was talked was resolved or clarified in very few messages (one or two at most).
- Self-Motivation: Given that there is no direct round-the-clock supervision, self-motivation has been key in working continuously in the laboratory sessions and in the search of possible approximate applications.

7 Lessons Learned

It is very important to have tasks than can be parallelized because whenever something out of control (like the computer malfunctioning) stops a task, one can still advance in another activity so the general impact on the schedule is not so big.

References