

A Simulated Environment For RISC-V Using Spike And RV8 Simulators

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1 Introduction

RISC-V is an open source hardware instruction set which is abbreviated as Reduced Instruction Set Computer. This project came into existence in 2010, and is implemented at University of California at Berkeley and is now taken care by RISC-V foundation. The recent platforms of open hardware mainly reduce the cost which is required to design the device architectures. For next generation embedded systems and many IoT devices, RISC-V instruction set became so popular. The instruction set of RISC-V is an open hardware instruction set which is initially designed to develop an extensible and open instruction set that can be used for research and commercial purposes. The RISC-V architecture can be implemented using a multitude of different type of microarchitectures. The RISC-V is defined as a small reduced instruction set computer-based architecture that can be divided into different modules which supports floating-point computation, vector and atomic operations. Each module mainly focuses on upcoming targets like IoT embedded devices and some of the cloud servers. [7]

RISC-V is also defined as frozen ISA which means that the base instructions as well as the optional extensions which are approved are frozen. The frozen ISA deploys a strong foundation to preserve the investments that are made in software. Along with that, the hardware designers are also having the flexibility during processor design and the ISA takes a major part in implementing this. Through this, the input which is provided by the software to hardware designers about developing a RISC-V core can be more software centric. Since RISC-V ISA consists of high stability, the software development is using the ISA and the code which is designed for RISC-V of a software will be able to run on all cores of RISC-V forever. The RISC-V ISA is equivalent to everyone who carries the microarchitecture

license. The ISA can optimize performance, security and some designs of lower power... etc. by having the full compatibility with the other designs. RISC-V supports the custom instructions for the designs which need specific functions. In addition to that, RISC-V also provide some additional benefits. If the engineers are developing a soft RISC-V core in FPGA, then the RTL source code is available by the making the process easier and enables deep inspection. This also helps in creating the significant flexibility to port a RISC-V design. Some of the key features of RISC-V are:

- It has the ability to deliver the new of hardware and software architecture in open source mode.
- Broad range of operating systems, software vendors and too developers are supported by RISC-V ISA.
- RISC-V does not depend on only a single supplier, it supports for multiple suppliers and massive potential for future growth.
- RISC-V ISA allows the user extensibility without breaking the previous extensions or any kind of software fragmentation.

1.1 Spike Simulator

Spike is one of the major functional simulators that are used for RISC-V instruction set and its principal public API is RISC-V ISA. It is an instruction set simulator, which excludes all internal delays like cache misses, some of the memory transactions and IO accesses. Initially, Spike simulator is implemented to support high performance, rapid evaluation of RISC-V and some microarchitecture changes. [5] One of the major concept is that, it has the ability to support for user defined extensions as well as to simulate the extensions of a full suite standard RISC-V for 32 bit and 64 bit RISC-V cores. One of the major drawback in Spike is that, it

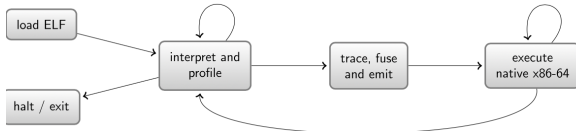


Figure 1: RV8 Simulator For RISC-V [4]

does not have a fully cache model, rather it considers cache as a tracer. In RISC-V, the specifications which are given, determines the functionality of each instruction but it does not determine the number of cycles taken by an each instruction. In that manner, Spike simulator does not have the ability to count the number of cycles. Spike consists of a simple cache and memory model and no one has made any attempt to design the spike memory subsystem in a cycle-based manner. The Spike has the ability to insert the memory requests and helps the researchers to scale the experiments in an easy way. [6]

1.2 RV8 Simulator

RV8 is another major functional simulator that is used in RISC-V instruction set. It mainly comprises the best performance for x86-64 binary translator, a user mode simulator, a full system translator and an ELF binary analysis tool. This simulator suits mainly consists of different libraries and the command line tools for different systems that helps in implementing the RISC-V and an x86-64 binary translator.

The binary translator engine for RV8 mainly works by interpreting the code while profiling for hot paths. This mainly supports for hybrid binary translation and interpretation so that it can be able to handle the instructions that does not have any native translations. The RV8 binary translator supports for optimization's like:

- Compiling the hot code paths and hybrid interpretation.
- Increasing the translation with the help of dynamic trace linking.
- Making the inline caching function calls in the hot code paths.
- The single cache layer jumps target cache for calls and returns in an indirect manner.
- Macro-op fusion for common RISC-V instruction sequences.

The RV8 full system emulator has a homogenous debugger that allows to handle the breakpoints, single step and disassemble the instructions in the way they are executed. This system has some important characteristics like, it has an address space which is protected. The ISA metadata generated ab extensible interpreter. It consists of simple debugging command line interface.

The RV8 user mode simulator is defined as a single address space implementation which represents the

system call to the underlying operating system. This kind of simulator runs RISC-V Linux libraries on non-linux OS with the help of system call emulation. This is almost similar to the full system emulator. But the only difference is that user mode has an address space which is a shared one while full system emulator has protected address space. [8] The optimization of the simulator can be done in different ways. One is register allocation which mainly deals with the solving of the size of the register set by using static register allocation. Due to this, some amount of performance is lost, but there exists multiple number of available registers and low frequent stack spills. Another technique is using the translator temporaries. It uses several host registers to point at internal structures. The factors that are required to quantify the performance differences between the original x86-64 and translated RISC-V code, the bench marks should measure the sign extension overhead, indirect call or return overhead, improvement in Macro-op fusion, register allocation and work per instruction. [3]

2 Methodology

Our experiment with RISC-V instruction set is made with two simulators. One is Spike and the other one is RV8 simulator. While coming to the execution part, we installed the Spike in MacOS and RV8 on Linux system, and executed the required benchmarks. In order to install and execute the benchmarks using these simulators, there are some of the steps that are need to be followed.

2.1 Spike Installation

In order to install Spike, it requires some base tools like device-tree-compiler and OpenBSD. The device-tree-compiler is mainly used to compile the given source code into binary form. The files which are included in this can be divided into multiple files so that it can get compatible with the system. Hence the primary step that is needed to install Spike is to install the device-tree-compiler. The following command helped us in installing this compiler.

[1]

```
$ apt-get install device-tree-compiler
```

Later we created a folder named build and created a path by using the command,

```
$ mkdir build $ cd build
```

Now, it is requires to configure the prefix and set it as RISCV and it done by using the command,

```
$ ../configure --prefix=$RISCV
```

By doing this, in the build folder it creates all the required files along with a makefile. Hence, by executing the makefile, the device-tree-compiler will be installed successfully by following the command,

```
$ [sudo] make install
```

Another important aspect in installing the Spike is to install bash, game, etc and clang on a OpenBSD. An OpenBSD is defined as a free source which mainly emphasizes the portability, standard, correctness and security. The following build steps helps in installing the prerequisites for Spike on OpenBSD.

The bash, game and etc can be installed as a package within the terminal by using the pkg_add command which helps in installing the software packages,

```
$ pkg_add bash gmake dtc
```

Since the packages are already downloaded, we execute the bash software by using exec command. The exec is mainly used for system calls.

```
$ exec bash
```

Now, we export the c++ file by using the command export,

```
$ export CC=cc; export CXX=c++.
```

We create the same build file again and create a path in the terminal like the way the device-tree-compiler did,

```
$ mkdir build $ cd build
```

Now, we configure the build folder by having the prefix as RISC-V,

```
$ ../configure --prefix=$RISC-V
```

This creates the list of program files and these are executed using the gmake command,

```
$ gmake
```

Finally, the docs executes the command as per the instructions given by the user and install the packages successfully.

```
$ [doas] make install
```

For compiling and running a sample program using Spike, it requires some prerequisite tool sets like riscv-gnu-toolchain and riskv-pk.

The GNU tool chain of RISC-V is the cross-compiler and it supports two different modules, one is a generic ELF/Newlib tool chain and the other one is Linux-ELF/glibc tool chain. Hence, in order to download

the gnu tool chain from internet we do by using the command called git clone, [9]

```
$ git clone --recursive https://github.com/riscv/riscv-gnu-toolchain
```

Now, in order to install and run the programs using gnu toolchain, some of the prerequisites must be installed. They are like,

```
$ brew install gawk gnu-sed gmp mpfr limbic isl zlib expat
```

This requires a case-insensitive file system and the simple format to build the glib is to create and add a new disk image with the case sensitive format. The overall process gets started by downloading the upstream sources and then they will patch, build and finally they install the toolchain. By default, the system requires 8GB of disk space, so that the installation will be completed successfully.

Finally, in order to build the cross-compiler which supports for 32 and 64-bit, the commands that are required are:

```
$ ./configure --prefix=/opt/riscv --enable-multilib  
$ make
```

Finally, the riscv-gnu-toolchain is installed in the system.

The riscv-pk works as a proxy kernel for RISC-V and it is essential to install gnu tool chain and the commands that are required to build the proxy kernel are:

```
$ Mkdir build  
$ Cd build  
$ ../configure --prefix=$RISC-V --host=riscv64-unknown-elf  
$ Make  
$ Make install
```

The building steps from OpenBSD are:

```
$ pkg_add riscv-elf-binutils riscv-elf-gcc riscv-elf-newlib
```

Finally the proxy kernel for the RISC-V is also installed.

In order to compile and run the programs, we took two different programs. One is to multiply two matrices and the other one is to find whether the given number is a prime number or not. The commands that we took to compile and run both the programs are:

```
$ riscv64-unknown-elf-gcc -o multiply multiply.c
```

```
$ spike pk multiply
```

```
$ riscv64-unknown-elf-gcc -o prime prime.c
```

```
$ spike pk prime
```

We also made an interactive debug mode by launching the spike with -d command:

```
$ spike -d pk multiply/prime
```

In order to see the contents of the floating point and memory register, we use the commands:

```
: reg 0 a0
```

```
: fregs 0 ft0
```

```
: mem 2020
```

```
:mem 0 2020
```

In this way, we installed the spike and executed the programs by using the riscv commands.

2.2 RV8 Installation

The prerequisites that are required to install the RV8 simulator in RISC-V are musl-riscv-toolchain and riscv-qemu. The commands and the process of installing RV8 simulator are: [4]

```
$ git clone https://github.com/rv8-io/rv8.git
$ cd rv8
$ git submodule update --init
$ make -j4 && sudo make install
```

Qemu is defined as an open source machine emulator and a virtualizer which can run OSs and programs that are made for one machine. It delivers the good performance by using dynamic translation. Hence the steps that are required to install the riscv-qemu are defined as follows:[2]

```
$ git clone https://github.com/riscv/riscv-qemu.git
$ cd riscv-qemu
$ git submodule update --init
$ ./configure --target-list=riscv64-softmmu,riscv32-softmmu
$ make -j4 && sudo make install
```

Through this it creates a makefile by including all the required files and programs and benchmarks.

```
$ cd rv8-bench
$ make
```

Finally, it executes all the files along with the benchmarks and successfully installs the RV8 simulator in the system.

3 Experimental Results

The List of screen shots that are available after compiling and running the programs on both Spike and RV8 are described below.

3.1 Spike Results

```
dharmas36e:AC-2 dharmatejab$ riscv64-unknown-elf-gcc -o multiply Multiply.c
dharmas36e:AC-2 dharmatejab$ spike pk multiply
bbl loader
Result matrix is
10 10 10 10
20 20 20 20
30 30 30 30
40 40 40 40
dharmas36e:AC-2 dharmatejab$ spike -d pk multiply
: reg 0 a0
0x0000000000000000
:
:
core 0: 0x00000000000001000 (0x00000297) auipc t0, 0x0
:
core 0: 0x00000000000001004 (0x02028593) addi a1, t0, 32
:
core 0: 0x00000000000001008 (0xf1402573) csrr a0, mhartid
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000100c (0x0182b283) ld t0, 24(t0)
:
core 0: 0x00000000000001010 (0x00028067) jr t0
:
core 0: 0x00000000000000000 (0x1f80006f) j pc + 0x1f8
:
core 0: 0x000000000000001f8 (0x00000093) li ra, 0
:
core 0: 0x000000000000001fc (0x00000113) li sp, 0
:
core 0: 0x00000000000000200 (0x00000193) li gp, 0
:
core 0: 0x00000000000000204 (0x00000213) li tp, 0
```

Figure 2: Spike Multiplication of Two Matrices

```
: fregs 0 ft0
nan
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000208 (0x00000293) li t0, 0
:
core 0: 0x000000000000020c (0x00000313) li t1, 0
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000210 (0x00000393) li t2, 0
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000214 (0x00000413) li s0, 0
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000218 (0x00000493) li s1, 0
:
core 0: 0x000000000000021c (0x00000613) li a2, 0
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000220 (0x00000693) li a3, 0
```

Figure 3: Spike Multiplication Floating Point Register

```
: mem 2020
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000224 (0x00000713) li a4, 0
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000228 (0x00000793) li a5, 0
:
core 0: 0x000000000000022c (0x00000813) li a6, 0
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000230 (0x00000893) li a7, 0
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000234 (0x00000913) li s2, 0
: mem 20
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000238 (0x00000993) li s3, 0
:
core 0: 0x000000000000023c (0x00000a13) li s4, 0
```

Figure 4: Spike Multiplication Memory Register

```
: q
dharmas36e:AC-2 dharmatejab$ spike -d pk prime
: reg x1
:
core 0: 0x00000000000001000 (0x00000297) auipc t0, 0x0
:
core 0: 0x00000000000001004 (0x02028593) addi a1, t0, 32
:
core 0: 0x00000000000001008 (0xf1402573) csrr a0, mhartid
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000100c (0x0182b283) ld t0, 24(t0)
:
core 0: 0x00000000000001010 (0x00028067) jr t0
:
core 0: 0x00000000000000000 (0x1f80006f) j pc + 0x1f8
:
core 0: 0x000000000000001f8 (0x00000093) li ra, 0
:
core 0: 0x000000000000001fc (0x00000113) li sp, 0
:
core 0: 0x00000000000000200 (0x00000193) li gp, 0
:
core 0: 0x00000000000000204 (0x00000213) li tp, 0
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000208 (0x00000293) li t0, 0
:
core 0: 0x000000000000020c (0x00000313) li t1, 0
:
core 0: 0x0000000000000210 (0x00000393) li t2, 0
```

Figure 5: Spike Result For Prime Number

3.2 RV8 Results

```

bin CMakeLists.txt LICENSE meta scripts third_party
build doc Makefile README.md src
dharmateja@linux1:~/riscv-gnu-toolchain/rv8$ rv-bin dump -c -a build/riscv64-unknown-elf/bin/prime
-----[ ELF Header ]-----
File      build/riscv64-unknown-elf/bin/prime
Class     ELF64
Data      little-endian
Type      shared object
Machine   x86-64
Interp    /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2

-----[ Section Headers ]-----

Shdr Name      Align  Ents Link Info      Type      Flags      Addr      Offset     Siz
[ 0]          0x0      0      0      0      NULL      0x0      0x0      0x0
[ 1] .interp      0x1      0      0      0      PROGBITS  +ALLOC     0x2a8     0x2a8     0x1
[ 2] .note.ABI-tag 0x4      0      0      0      NOTE      +ALLOC     0x2c4     0x2c4     0x2
[ 3] .note.gnu.build-id 0x4      0      0      0      NOTE      +ALLOC     0x2e4     0x2e4     0x2
[ 4] .gnu.hash     0x8      0      5      0      UNKNOWN   +ALLOC     0x308     0x308     0x2
[ 5] .dynsym        0x8      24     6      1      DYNSYM     +ALLOC     0x330     0x330     0xd
[ 6] .dynstr        0x1      0      0      0      STRTAB     +ALLOC     0x408     0x408     0xb
[ 7] .gnu.version   0x2      2      5      0      GNU_VERSYM +ALLOC     0x4c0     0x4c0     0x1
[ 8] .gnu.version_r 0x8      0      6      1      GNU_VERNEED +ALLOC     0x4d8     0x4d8     0x4
[ 9] .rela.dyn      0x8      24     5      0      RELA       +ALLOC     0x518     0x518     0xc
[10] .rela.plt      0x8      24     5      22     RELA       +ALLOC+INFO_LINK 0x5d8     0x5d8     0x4
[11] .init          0x4      0      0      0      PROGBITS  +ALLOC+EXEC 0x1000    0x1000    0x1

```

Figure 6: RV8 Output For Prime Program

In RV8 compilation process, we took a sample Hello World program and when the program is executed, it creates different header files. Primarily it creates an ELF header files. This file will help to choose either 32-bit or 64-bit addresses by using its fields like file, class, data, type, machine and an interpreter. Next It produces the section headers, which consists of different sections like shdr name, type, flags, address, offset, size and aligned ents link information. Later it creates a symbol table which is defined as a data structure that is used by the language translator like compiler or interpreter. It creates the table with the contents like the value of the symbol, size, type, bind, vis and the type of index that is used.

After the symbol table is created, it creates the program header files which is defined as an array of structures that gives the information to the system about the requirements for the execution. It creates with the contents like phdr, memsize type, flags, offset align, virtual address, physical address and the size of the file. The above headers are all meant to be about the assembling the code. While coming to the disassembling the code, it processes with different functions like init, plt...etc. Finally, the makemap of the program is created by defining all the registers and executing all the required programs successfully.

```

-----[ Symbol Table ]-----
Symbol Value      Size Type Bind Vis Index Name
[ 0] 0x0           0 NOTYPE LOCAL DEFAULT UNDEF
[ 1] 0x2a8         0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 1
[ 2] 0x2c4         0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 2
[ 3] 0x2e4         0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 3
[ 4] 0x308         0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 4
[ 5] 0x330         0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 5
[ 6] 0x408         0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 6
[ 7] 0x4c0         0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 7
[ 8] 0x4d8         0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 8
[ 9] 0x518         0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 9
[10] 0x5d8         0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 10
[11] 0x1000        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 11
[12] 0x1020        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 12
[13] 0x1060        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 13
[14] 0x1070        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 14
[15] 0x12a4        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 15
[16] 0x2000        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 16
[17] 0x2080        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 17
[18] 0x20c8        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 18
[19] 0x3da8        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 19
[20] 0x3db0        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 20
[21] 0x3db8        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 21
[22] 0x3fa8        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 22
[23] 0x4000        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 23
[24] 0x4010        0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 24
[25] 0x0           0 SECTION LOCAL DEFAULT 25
[26] 0x0           0 FILE LOCAL DEFAULT ABS crtstuff.c
[27] 0x10a0        0 FUNC LOCAL DEFAULT 14 deregister_tm_clones
[28] 0x10d0        0 FUNC LOCAL DEFAULT 14 register_tm_clones
[29] 0x1110        0 FUNC LOCAL DEFAULT 14 __do_global_dtors_aux
[30] 0x4010        1 OBJECT LOCAL DEFAULT 24 completed.7930
[31] 0x3db0        0 OBJECT LOCAL DEFAULT 20 __do_global_dtors_aux_fini_array_entry
[32] 0x1150        0 FUNC LOCAL DEFAULT 14 frame_dummy
[33] 0x3da8        0 OBJECT LOCAL DEFAULT 19 __frame_dummy_init_array_entry
[34] 0x0           0 FILE LOCAL DEFAULT ABS prime.c

```

Figure 7: Symbol Table for Prime Program

```

-----[ Program Headers ]-----
Phdr Type      Flags      Offset      Align      VirtAddr      PhysAddr      FileSize
[ 0] PHDR      +R      0x40      8      0x40      0x40      0x268
[ 1] INTERP     +R      0x2a8      1      0x2a8      0x2a8      0x1c
[ 2] LOAD       +R      0x0      4096      0x0      0x0      0x620
[ 3] LOAD       +R+X     0x1000     4096      0x1000     0x1000     0x2ad
[ 4] LOAD       +R      0x2000     4096      0x2000     0x2000     0x1d0
[ 5] LOAD       +R+W     0x2da8     4096      0x3da8     0x3da8     0x268
[ 6] DYNAMIC     +R+W     0x2db8     8      0x3db8     0x3db8     0x1f0
[ 7] NOTE       +R      0x2c4      4      0x2c4      0x2c4     0x44
[ 8] GNU_EH_FRAME +R      0x2088     4      0x2088     0x2088     0x3c
[ 9] GNU_STACK   +R+W     0x0      16      0x0      0x0      0x0
[10] GNU_RELRO    +R      0x2da8     1      0x3da8     0x3da8     0x258

```

Figure 8: Program Headers of Prime Program


```
META src/app/test-cc.cc
dharmateja@linux1:-/riscv-gnu-toolchain/rv8$ make map
META src/asm/strings.cc
META src/asm/strings.h
META src/asm/meta.cc
META src/asm/meta.h
META src/asm/jit.cc
META src/asm/operands.h
META src/asm/switch.h
META src/asm/constraints.h
META src/asm/jit.h
META src/test/test-fpu-gen.h
META src/test/test-fpu-gen.c
META src/emul/interp.h
META src/app/test-cc.cc
//      3          2          1          0
// 10987654321098765432109876543210
// SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSRRRRR0110111 lui rd, imm # rv32i
// 00000000000000000000RRRRR0010111 auipc rd, offset # rv32i
// 00000000000000000000RRRRR1111111 jal rd, offset # rv32i
// 000000000000RRRRR000RRRRR110111 jalc rd, rs1, offset # rv32i
// 00000000RRRRRRRRRR000000001100011 beq rs1, rs2, offset # rv32i
// 00000000RRRRRRRRRR001000001100011 bne rs1, rs2, offset # rv32i
// 00000000RRRRRRRRRR100000001100011 blt rs1, rs2, offset # rv32i
// 00000000RRRRRRRRRR101000001100011 bge rs1, rs2, offset # rv32i
// 00000000RRRRRRRRRR110000001100011 bltu rs1, rs2, offset # rv32i
// 00000000RRRRRRRRRR111000001100011 bgeui rs1, rs2, offset # rv32i
// 000000000000RRRRR000RRRR0000011 lb rd, offset(rs1) # rv32i
// 000000000000RRRRR001RRRR0000011 lh rd, offset(rs1) # rv32i
// 000000000000RRRRR010RRRR0000011 lw rd, offset(rs1) # rv32i
// 000000000000RRRRR100RRRR0000011 lbu rd, offset(rs1) # rv32i
// 000000000000RRRRR101RRRR0000011 lhu rd, offset(rs1) # rv32i
// 00000000RRRRRRRRRR00000000110011 sb rs2, offset(rs1) # rv32i
// 00000000RRRRRRRRRR00100000110011 sh rs2, offset(rs1) # rv32i
// 00000000RRRRRRRRRR01000000110011 sw rs2, offset(rs1) # rv32i
// SSSSSSSSSSSSSRRRRR000RRRR010011 addi rd, rs1, imm # rv32i
// SSSSSSSSSSSSSRRRRR010RRRR010011 slti rd, rs1, imm # rv32i
// SSSSSSSSSSSSSRRRRR011RRRR010011 sltiu rd, rs1, imm # rv32i
// SSSSSSSSSSSSSRRRRR100RRRR001011 xori rd, rs1, imm # rv32i
//      3          2          1          0
// 10987654321098765432109876543210
// SSSSSSSSSSSSSRRRRR110RRRR0010011 ori rd, rs1, imm # rv32i
// SSSSSSSSSSSSSRRRRR111RRRR0010011 andi rd, rs1, imm # rv32i
// RRRRRUUUUUUUUU000RRRRR010011 slli rd, rs1, imm # rv32i
```

Figure 9: *Makemap of Prime Program*

4 Related Work

The main reference for this project is taken from GitHub and followed the commands that are needed to install the simulators. Also, we referred to the main websites like RISC-V, RV8 that has all the guidance to process the implementation. The Wikipedia as well as other websites has the best reference about Spike and RV8 simulators that are really helpful. Other than these simulators we also tried to install Gem5 and Firesim in our system, but we didn't had the time to complete the installation process. Thus we continued with Spike and RV8 simulators. More than that, GitHub will be the major resource for the information about processors and the simulators.

5 Conclusion

Even though RISC-V is considered as an open source instruction set, it is not yet been recognized completely. But for the upcoming years, RISC-V will become popular and will become helpful in installing different simulators on it. There is a lot of research that is been going on about RISC-V, many simulators were built. Other than Spike and RV8, we have Gem5, Firesim which works with the amazon web services and many more are yet to come. Overall, in the coming years, RISC-V will play a major role in improving the performance in computing applications.

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