ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

APAI Lab01: PULP Embedded Programming

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Objective of the Class

Intro: PULP platform and the PULP-SDK

Tasks: some basics of C programming on PULP:

- Hello world
- vector sum,
- Matrix-vector multiplication
- Measuring execution performance

Programming Language: C

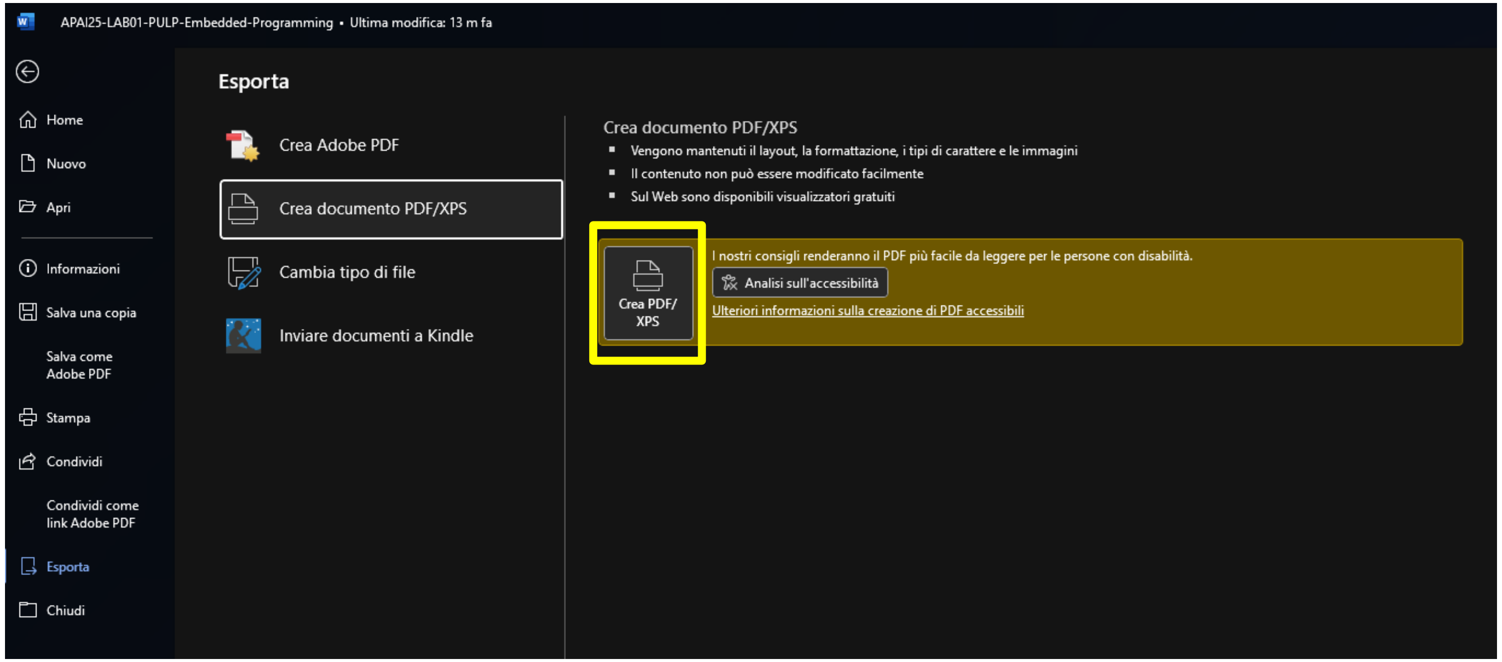
Lab duration: 3h

The class is meant to be interactive: coding together and on your own!

How to deliver the Assignment

You will deliver ONLY the PDF assignment, no code

- Download the assignment file from Virtuale.
- Fill the results required by the assignment.
- Export to pdf format.
- Rename the file to: LAB<number_of_the_lesson>_APAI_<your_name>.pdf
- Use Virtuale platform to load ONLY your .pdf file



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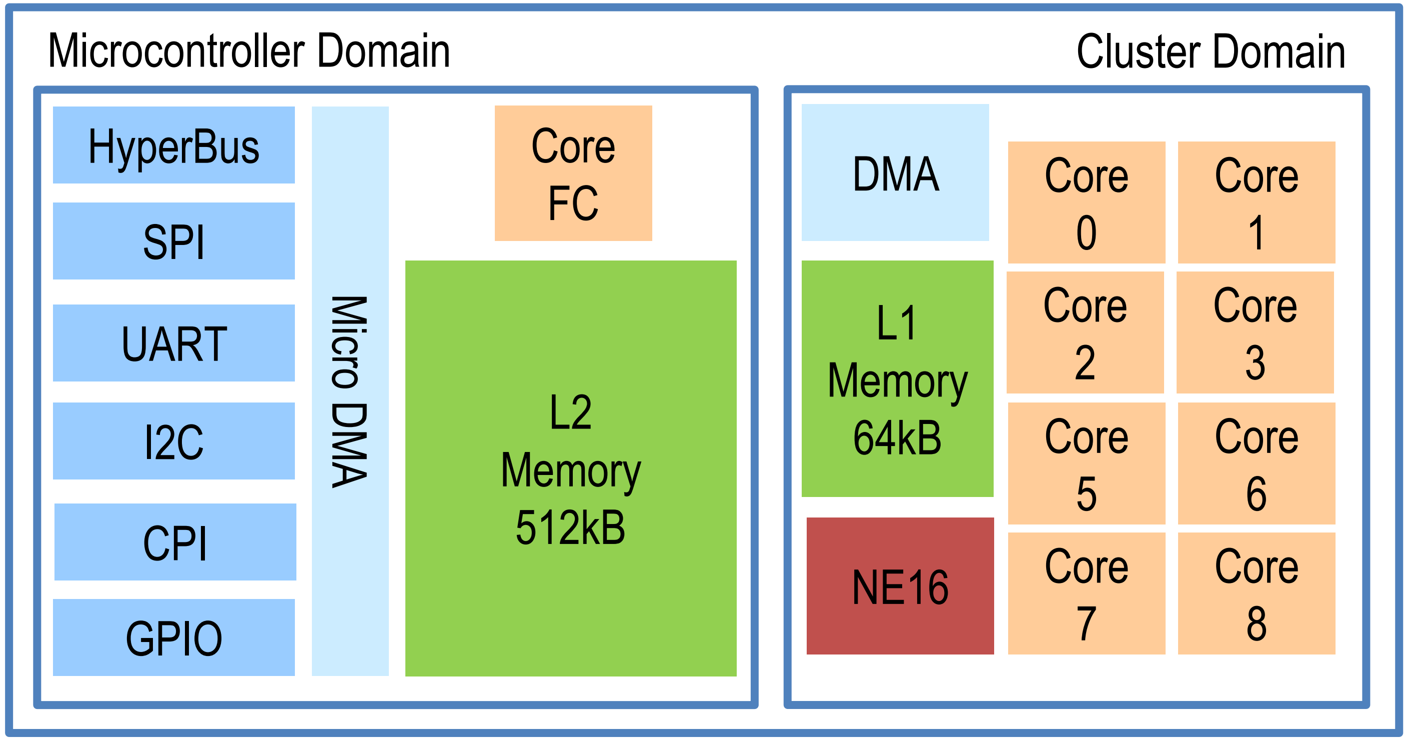
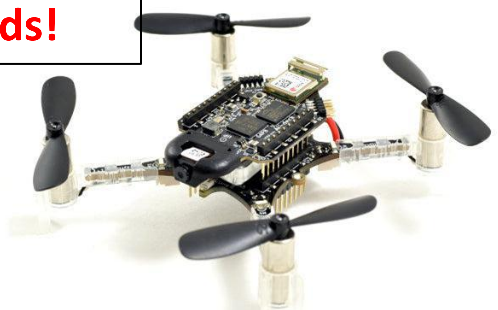
INTRO

Get confident with the PULP Platform



- **Cores**: 1 + 8
- **On-chip Memories**
    - A level 2 Memory, shared among all cores
    - A level 1 Memory, shared by the 8-cores cluster
- **cluster-DMA:** A multi-channel 1D/2D DMA, controlling the transactions between the L2 and L1 memories
- **micro-DMA**: A smart, lightweight and completely autonomous DMA () capable of handling complex I/O scheme
  - **Bus+Peripherals:** HyperBus, I2S, CPI, timers, SPI, GPIOs, etc...

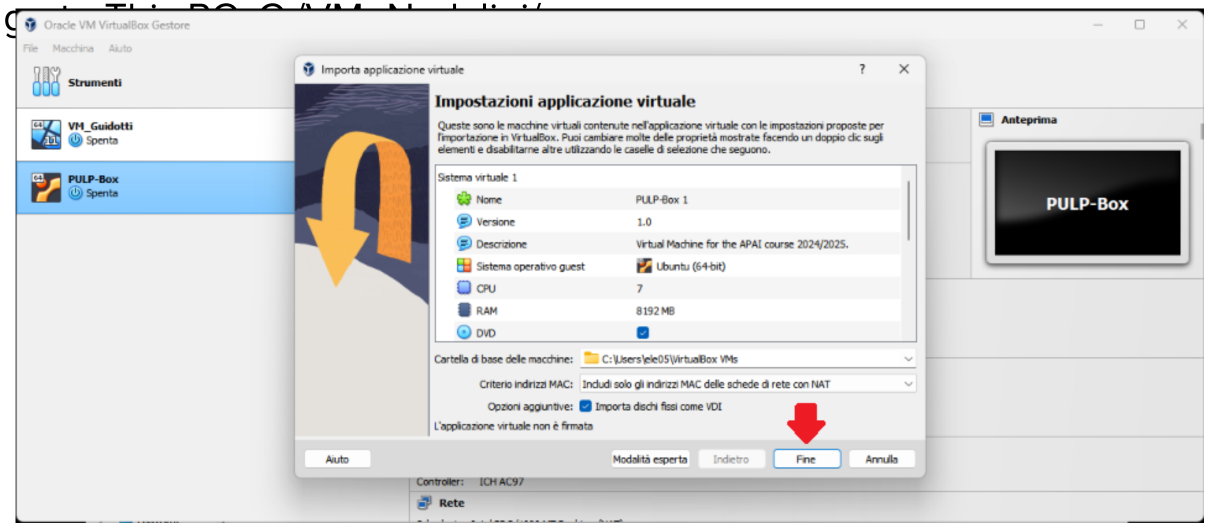
NB: this is the architecture you find on our nano-drones and GAP boards!



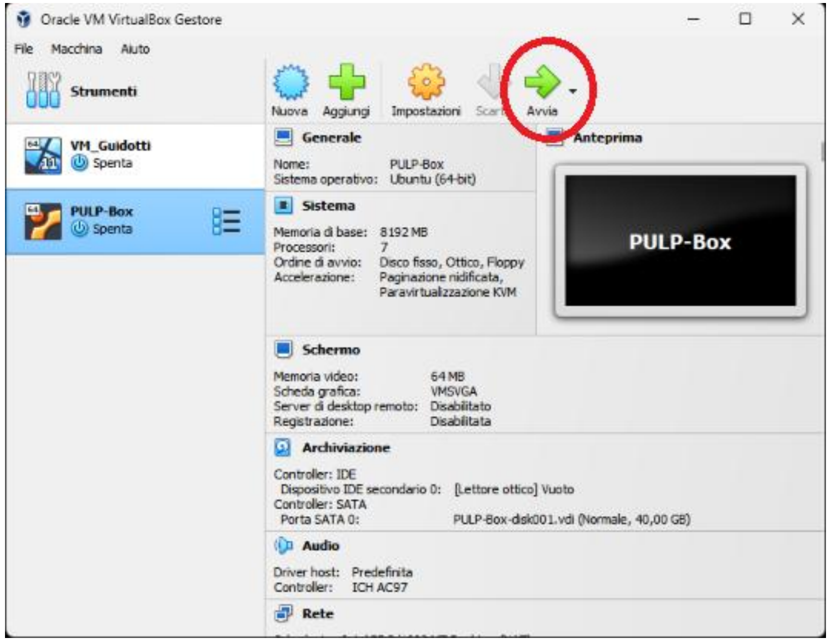
GitHub HW Project: https://github.com/pulp-platform/pulp
HW Documentation: https://raw.githubusercontent.com/pulp-platform/pulp/master/doc/datasheet.pdf

Opening the VM and VSCode

1. On the lab’s PCs, open the file explorer and g



2. Double click on PULP-box.ova
3. VirtualBox opens, just click on “Fine”
4. Wait for the VM to be imported
5. Open the VM with “Avvia”



Password is ‘pulp’

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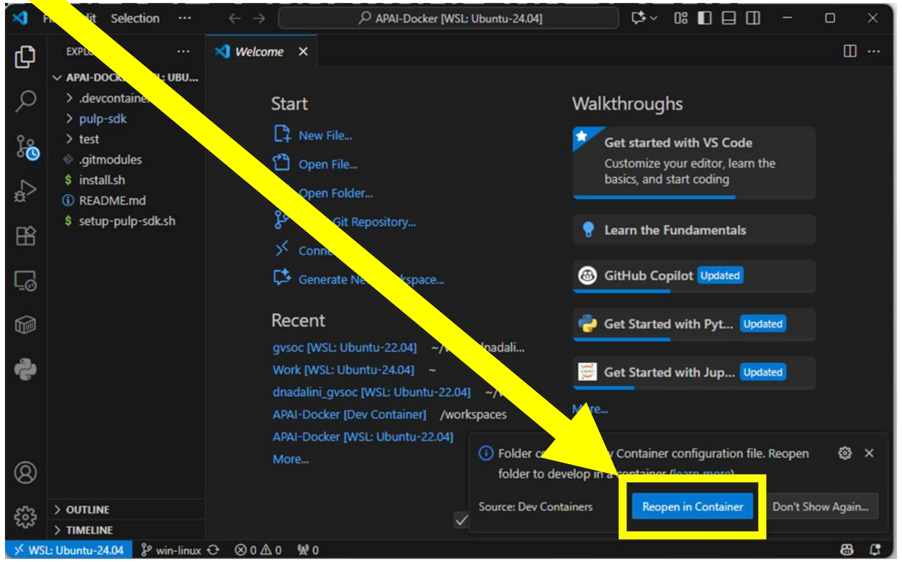
Opening the Docker with VSCode

1. Open a terminal (right click – open a new terminal)
2. From the terminal, open VSCode in the folder of the Docker

```
$ cd APAI-Docker
$ code .
```

1. Reopen the APAI-Docker folder in VSCode (click on “Reopen in container”)

1. Now you can use the integrated terminal (open with CTRL+J) to run your applications!



IMPORTANT: every time you open a new terminal to work on PULP, launch

```
$ source setup-pulp-sdk.sh
```

Getting Started: *Helloworld*

IMPORTANT: activate the pulp-sdk module file every time a new shell is open.

```
$ source setup-pulp-sdk.sh
```

HOW TO RUN THE CODE:

```
$ git clone https://github.com/EEESlab/APAI25-LAB01-PULP-Embedded-Programming
$ cd APAI25-LAB01-PULP-Embedded-Programming
$ cd pulp-helloworld/
$ make clean all run
```

test.c

- Can you see the **Helloworld from PULP!** ?

```
int main()
{
    printf("Helloworld from PULP!\n");
}
```

Behind the box: Build Automation with Makefiles

Clean previous build processes
(folder *BUILD/*)

Compile the program and produce the ***binary code***

Run ***binary code*** *on the target platform*

```
$ make clean all run
```

Build automation is the process of automating the main steps required to create a software, including *compiling*, *assembling*, *linking* and (possibly) *testing*

Make is one of the most widespread utilities

- ➢ configuration files are called **Makefiles**

A *Makefile* contains rules in the form:

```
target: prerequisites
<TAB> command
```

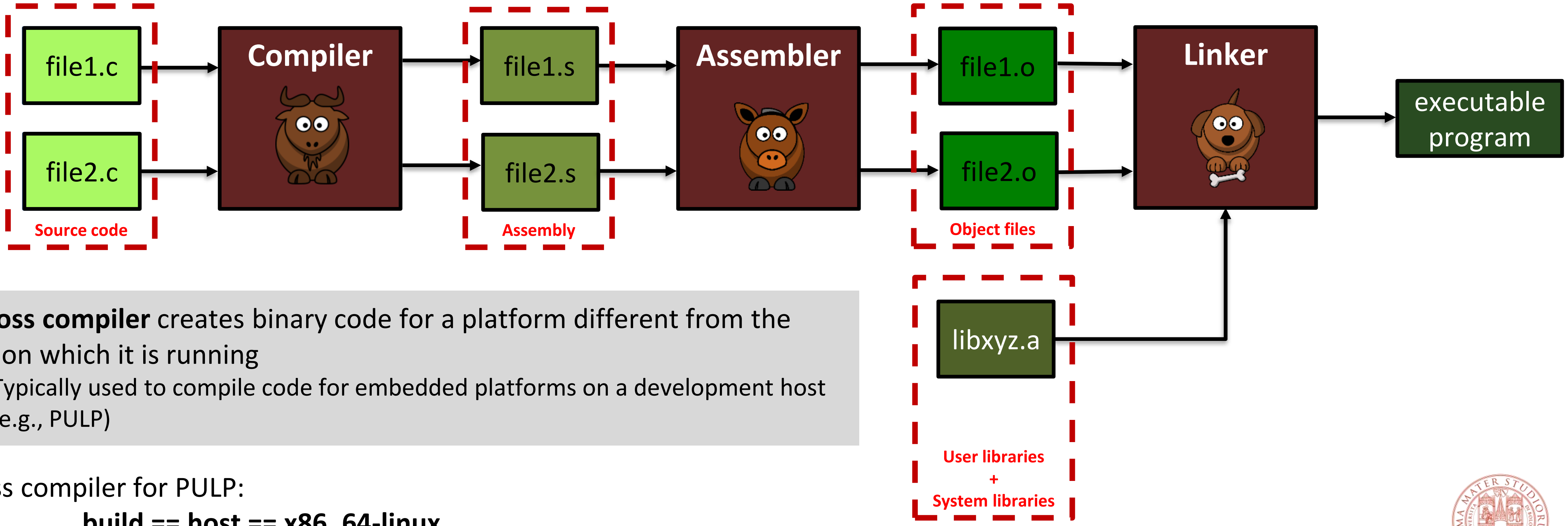
Makefile

```
APP = test

# This is a comment
APP_SRCS    += test.c
APP_CFLAGS  += -O3 -g
APP_LDFLAGS +=

include $(RULES_DIR)/pmsis_rules.mk
```

Compilation toolchain

A compilation toolchain includes several tools to achieve its final goal

- The **COMPILER** translates high-level source code (e.g., C) to a lower-level representation (e.g., assembly)
- The **ASSEMBLER is** program that translates assembly language to machine language
- The **LINKER** combines multiple object files into a single executable



A **cross compiler** creates binary code for a platform different from the one on which it is running

- Typically used to compile code for embedded platforms on a development host (e.g., PULP)

Cross compiler for PULP:

build == host == x86_64-linux

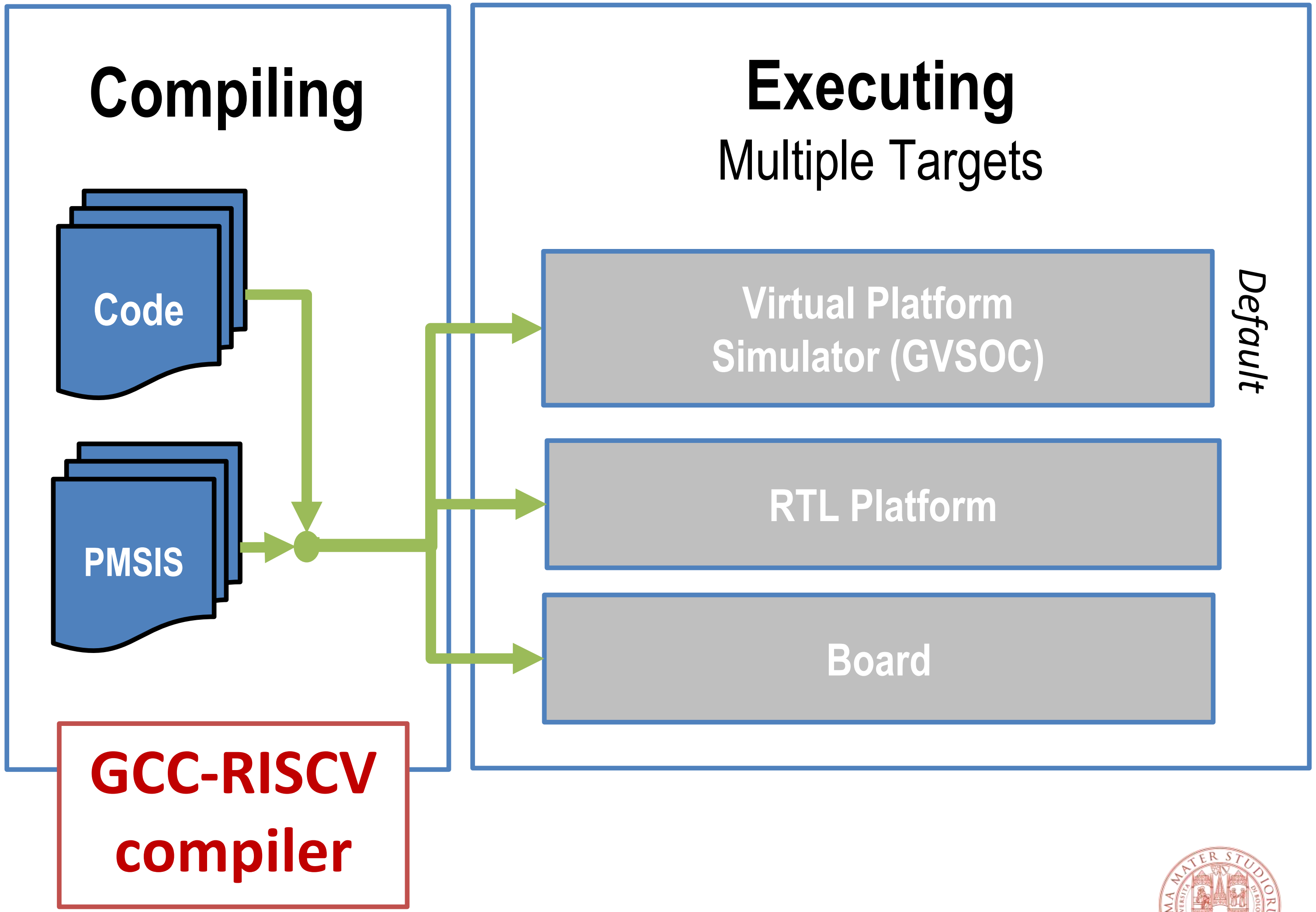
target = riscv-none

PULP Software Environment Workflow

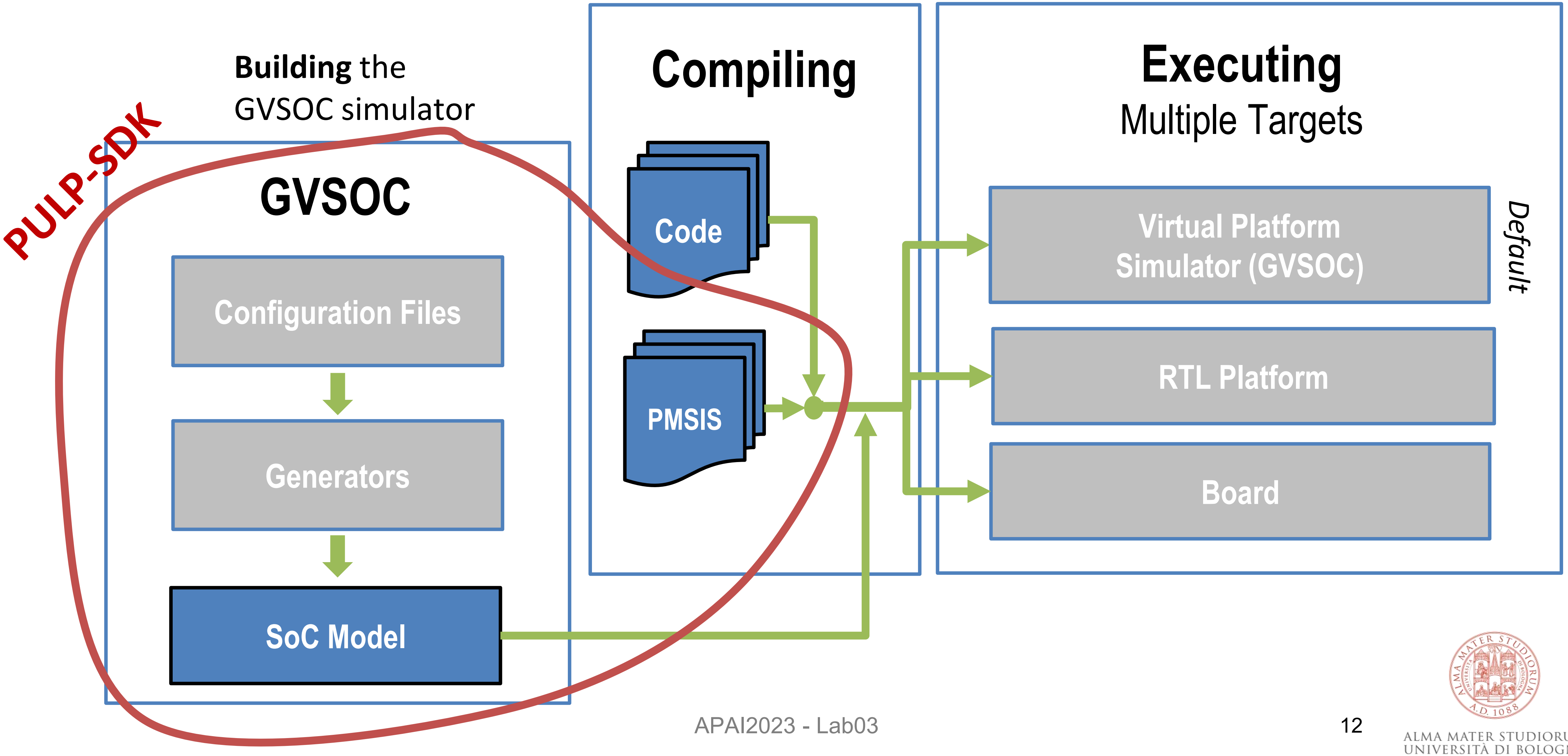
Application code: *main* function, application libraries, e.g. CNN inference function code…

Runtime SW: Peripheral *Drivers,* RTOS, Board support packages (BSP)

- *PMSIS layer*



PULP Software Environment Workflow



PULP SDK (software development kit)

The PULP-SDK (https://github.com/pulp-platform/pulp-sdk) includes a **PULP platform simulator (GVSOC)** and the SW libraries.

Check the */pulp/pulp-sdk* folder:

- `rtos/` runtime code and software stack
- `tools/` configuration files, python generators, pulp runner and the gvsoc components
- `tests/` sample code to test the platform's features
- `applications/` full-application codes

```
$ cd /pulp/pulp-sdk
```

```
pulp-user@pulp-box /pulp/pulp-sdk $ ll
total 60
drwxrwxr-x  9 pulp-user pulp-user  4096 Feb  3  2021 ./
drwxrwxr-x  6 pulp-user pulp-user  4096 Feb  3  2021 ../
drwxrwxr-x  6 pulp-user pulp-user  4096 Feb  3  2021 build/
drwxrwxr-x  2 pulp-user pulp-user  4096 Feb  3  2021 configs/
drwxrwxr-x  8 pulp-user pulp-user  4096 Feb  3  2021 .git/
-rw-rw-r--  1 pulp-user pulp-user    80 Feb  3  2021 .gitignore
drwxrwxr-x  4 pulp-user pulp-user  4096 Feb  3  2021 install/
-rw-rw-r--  1 pulp-user pulp-user 11357 Feb  3  2021 LICENSE
-rw-rw-r--  1 pulp-user pulp-user   877 Feb  3  2021 Makefile
-rw-rw-r--  1 pulp-user pulp-user  2455 Feb  3  2021 README.md
drwxrwxr-x  4 pulp-user pulp-user  4096 Feb  3  2021 rtos/
drwxrwxr-x  2 pulp-user pulp-user  4096 Feb  3  2021 rules/
drwxrwxr-x 10 pulp-user pulp-user  4096 Feb  3  2021 tools/
pulp-user@pulp-box /pulp/pulp-sdk $
```

You could get the latest update from the open-source community and rebuild the GVSOC simulator

```
$ git pull origin main
$ source configs/pulp-open.sh
$ make build
```

Do NOT do it

GVSoC – Features

Virtual platform features:

- *C++* for fast native simulation
- *Python* for instantiation + configuration
- Complete set of traces to see what happen

Timing model:

- Fully-event based, instances can generate events at specific time
- Includes timing models for interconnects, DMACs, memories…
- Performance counters for information from the execution

Simulation performance:

- Around 1MIPS simulation speed
- Functionally aligned and calibrated with HW
- Timing accuracy is within 10-20% of target HW

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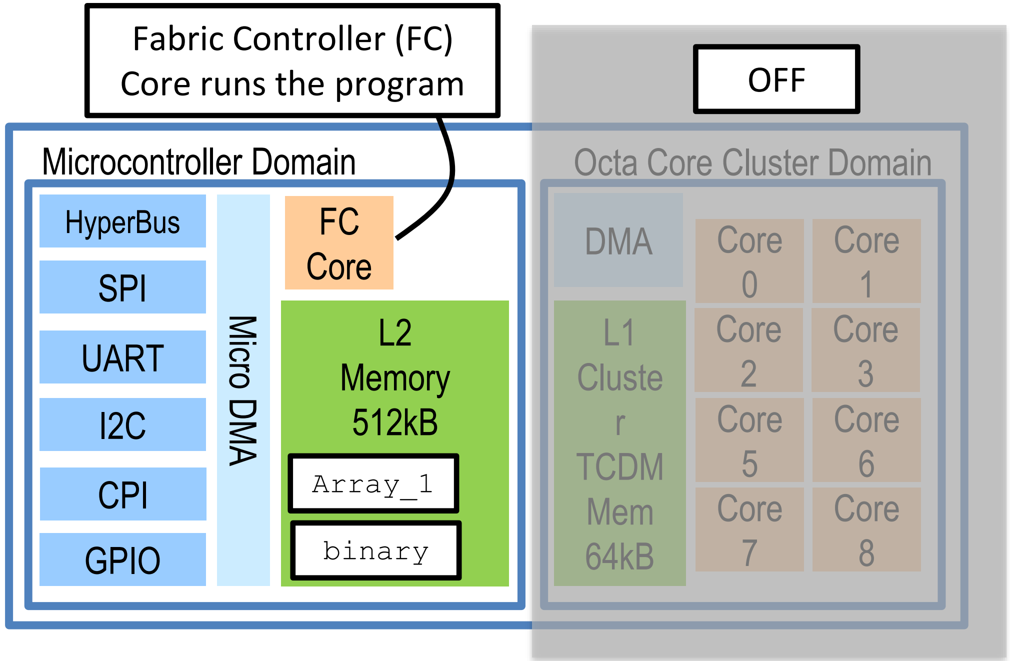
TASK1

TASK 1: vector sum example



Preparation

1. Clone repository for the lab, if you didn't already do it

```
git clone https://github.com/EEESlab/APAI25-LAB01-PULP-Embedded-Programming
```

2. Go into folder for task1

```
cd APAI25-LAB01-PULP_Embedded_Programming/
cd vector_sum/
make clean all run
```

Tasks

Read your assignment!

The `vector_sum()` function returns the element-wise add of the values in `array_1[N]`.

Note: the `main` include the function testbench : $S = \sum_{i=1}^{N} i = \frac{N \cdot (N-1)}{2}$

Good practice for test!

I. Array initialization (*a[i] = i*)
II. Function Call
III. Check Result

Task 1.2

Take now a look to the code.
What happen if you change:
(*line 13*) `#define N 350`
➢ **How would you solve it?**

SOLUTION: Casting Variables

(line 13) `#define N 350`

Output: Result is **not** correct. Got 37105 instead of 61425

If printing the `array_1` values after initialization:

```
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 [....] 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 [...] 88 89 90 91 92 93 94
```

- `unsigned char` datatype can represent numbers from 0 to 255!! If >255, assigned values get truncated (value % 256)!
- **Solution:** cast array_1 to `int` or `short int` (and the function's arguments!)

(optional) Passing parameters via `Makefile`

(OPTIONAL) After applying the fix

We can pass parameters via Makefile: comment line 13, change the *Makefile* and launch:

```
$ make clean all run N=350
```

Makefile

```
APP = test
N?=50

APP_SRCS    += test.c
APP_CFLAGS  += -O3 -g
APP_CFLAGS  += -DN=$(N)
APP_LDFLAGS +=
include $(RULES_DIR)/pmsis_rules.mk
```

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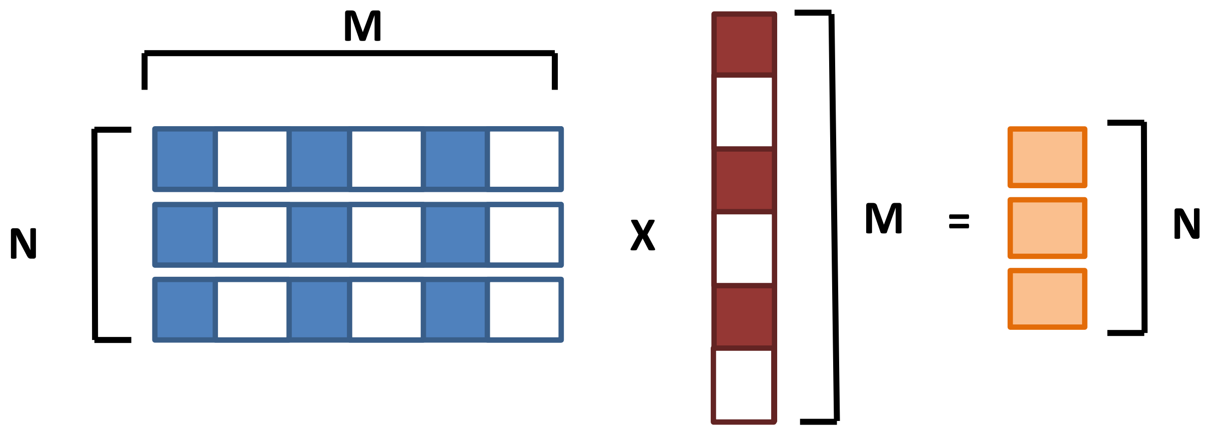
Intro: TASK2

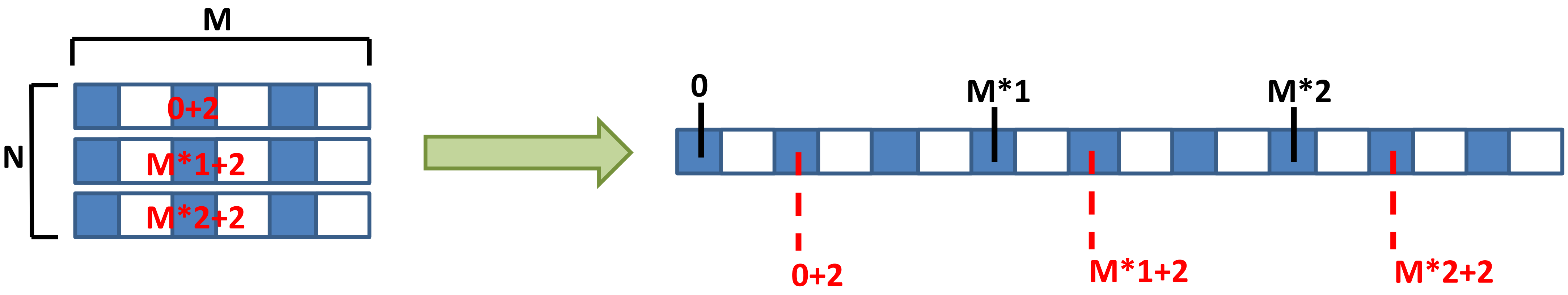
TASK2: Matrix-Vector Product




```
$ cd matrix_vector/
$ make clean all run
```

Example II: Matrix-Vector Product

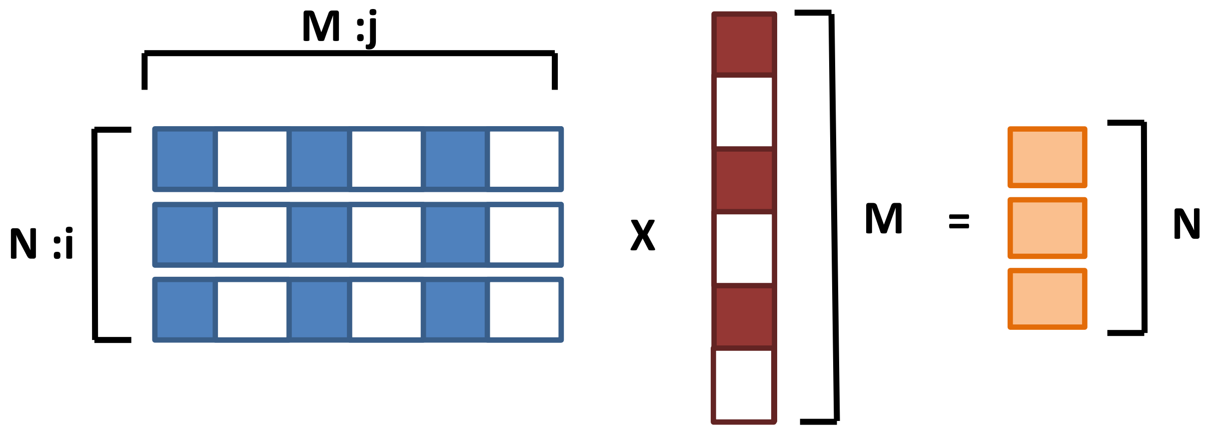
A multi-dimensional array, including a matrix, is efficiently represented as a memory-contiguous array (**NOT** Mat[M][N]).



In general: **Mat[i][j]** -> **M[i*M+j]**

```
$ cd matrix_vector/
$ make clean all run
```

Example II: Matrix-Vector Product




```
// generic matrix-vector multiplication
int gemv(int N, int M, float * mat, float *vec, float * output_vec){

    for (int i=0; i<N; i++){
      for (int j=0; j<M; j++){
        vec_o[i] += mat_i[i*size_M+j] * vec_i[j];
      }
    }

}
```

Assembly Code

A disassembler is a computer program that translates machine language into assembly language → the inverse operation to that of an assembler.

Disassembly, the output of a disassembler, is often formatted for human-readability rather than suitability for input to an assembler, making it principally a reverse-engineering tool. *[Wikipedia]*

To obtain the assembly code use the command:

```
$ make dis > dis.txt
```

Check the RI5CY User manual:

https://riscv.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/riscv-spec-v2.2.pdf

https://www.pulp-platform.org/docs/ri5cy_user_manual.pdf

Assembly Code

```
1c008706 <gemv>:
1c008706:  02a05d63      blez   a0,1c008740 <gemv+0x3a>
1c00870a:  00259f13      slli   t5,a1,0x2
1c00870e:  8fb6          mv     t6,a3
1c008710:  01e68e33      add    t3,a3,t5
1c008714:  4e81          li     t4,0
1c008716:  a005          j      1c008736 <gemv+0x30>
1c008718:  0048230b      p.lw   t1,4(a6!)
1c00871c:  0046a88b      p.lw   a7,4(a3!)
1c008720:  431c          lw     a5,0(a4)
1c008722:  431307b3      p.mac  a5,t1,a7
1c008726:  c31c          sw     a5,0(a4)
1c008728:  ffc698e3      bne    a3,t3,1c008718 <gemv+0x12>
1c00872c:  0e85          addi   t4,t4,1
1c00872e:  967a          add    a2,a2,t5
1c008730:  0711          addi   a4,a4,4
1c008732:  01d50763      beq    a0,t4,1c008740 <gemv+0x3a>
1c008736:  86fe          mv     a3,t6
1c008738:  8832          mv     a6,a2
1c00873a:  fcb04fe3      bgtz   a1,1c008718 <gemv+0x12>
1c00873e:  b7fd          j      1c00872c <gemv+0x26>
```

1c008738:	8832	mv a6,a2
PC	opcode	Instruction

Program counter

Inner loop

```
// generic matrix-vector multiplication
void gemv(int size_N, int size_M,
          float * mat_I, float *vec_i, float * vec_o)
{
    for (int i=0; i<size_N; i++){
      for (int j=0; j<size_M; j++){
        // multiply accumulate operation
        vec_o[i] += mat_i[i*size_M+j] * vec_i[j];
      }
    }
}
```

In the **Makefile**:

1. Change from -01 to -03. What has changed in the assembly?
2. Remove –mnohwloop. What has changed in the assembly?

<u>NB</u>. After changing the compiler flags, compile the code again and generate and disassembly using `make dis`

Assembly Code: O3 optimization

```
APP = matrix-vector

APP_SRCS += test.c
APP_CFLAGS += -O3 -g -mnohwloops
APP_LDFLAGS +=

include $(RULES_DIR)/pmsis_rules.mk
```

```
1c008706 <gemv>:
1c008706:   02a05c63    blez  a0,1c00873e <gemv+0x38>
1c00870a:   02b05a63    blez  a1,1c00873e <gemv+0x38>
1c00870e:   00259e93    slli  t4,a1,0x2
1c008712:   050a        slli  a0,a0,0x2
1c008714:   00a70e33    add   t3,a4,a0
1c008718:   01d68333    add   t1,a3,t4
1c00871c:   0047258b    p.lw  a1,4(a4!) # 10004 <__l1_heap_size+0x20>
1c008720:   87b6        mv    a5,a3
1c008722:   8532        mv    a0,a2
1c008724:   0045288b    p.lw  a7,4(a0!)
1c008728:   0047a80b    p.lw  a6,4(a5!)
1c00872c:   430885b3    p.mac a1,a7,a6
1c008730:   feb72e23    sw    a1,-4(a4)
1c008734:   fef318e3    bne   t1,a5,1c008724 <gemv+0x1e>
1c008738:   9676        add   a2,a2,t4
1c00873a:   feee11e3    bne   t3,a4,1c00871c <gemv+0x16>
1c00873e:   8082        ret
```

The -03 optimized code get rid of a *lw* instruction because the accumulator is kept in the register file!

Inner loop

```
// generic matrix-vector multiplication
void gemv(int size_N, int size_M,
float * mat_I, float *vec_i, float * vec_o)
{
    for (int i=0; i<size_N; i++){
        for (int j=0; j<size_M; j++){
            // multitply accumulate operation
            vec_o[i] += mat_i[i*size_M+j] * vec_i[j];
        }
    }
}
```

Assembly Code: HW loops

```
APP = matrix-vector

APP_SRCS += test.c
APP_CFLAGS += -O3 -g -mnohwloops
APP_LDFLAGS +=

include $(RULES_DIR)/pmsis_rules.mk
```

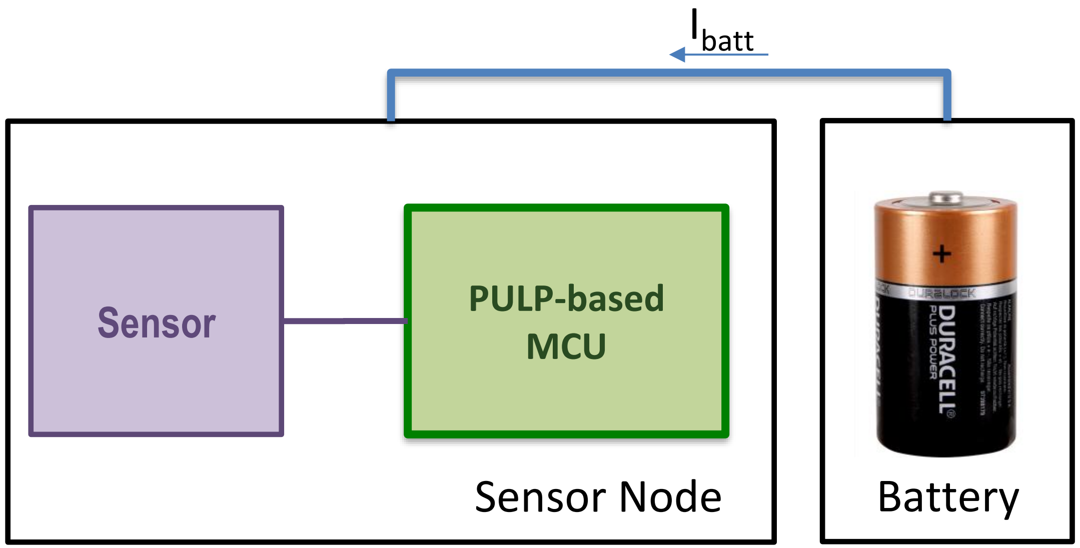
Hardware Loops Instructions have been placed!

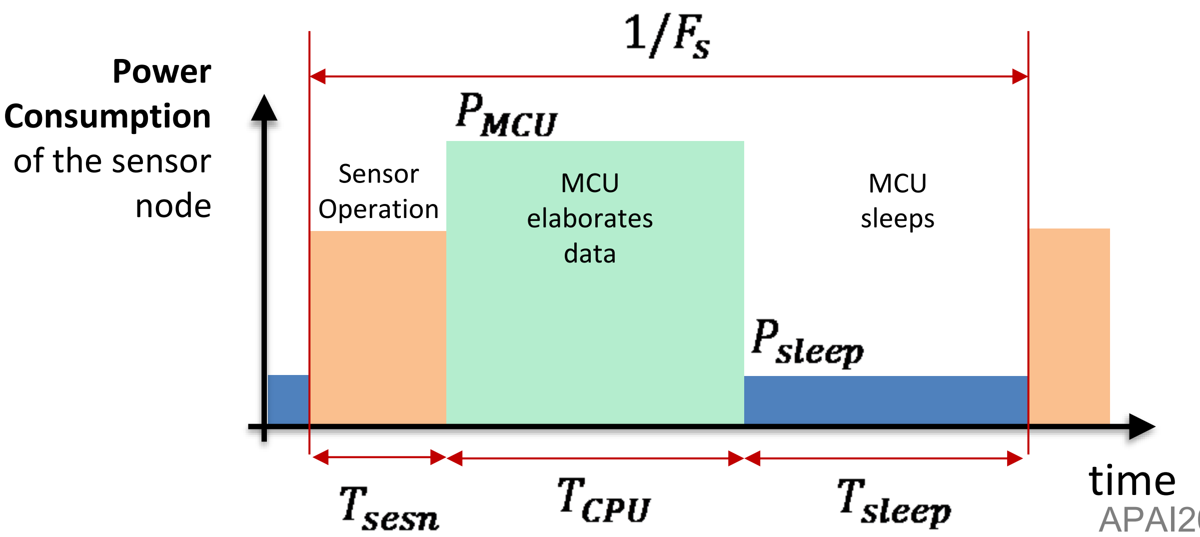
```
1c008706 <gemv>:
1c008706:    04a05463    blez       a0,1c00874e <ge
1c00870a:    04b05263    blez       a1,1c00874e <ge
1c00870e:    00251e13    slli       t3,a0,0x2
1c008712:    1e71        addi       t3,t3,-4
1c008714:    00259e93    slli       t4,a1,0x2
1c008718:    002e5e13    srli       t3,t3,0x2
1c00871c:    01d68f33    add        t5,a3,t4
1c008720:    0e05        addi       t3,t3,1
1c008722:    015e407b    lp.setup   x0,t3,1c00874c <gemv+0x46>
1c008726:    40df07b3    sub        a5,t5,a3
1c00872a:    17f1        addi       a5,a5,-4
1c00872c:    0047258b    p.lw       a1,4(a4!) # 10004 <__l1_heap_size+0x20>
1c008730:    8389        srli       a5,a5,0x2
1c008732:    8836        mv         a6,a3
1c008734:    8532        mv         a0,a2
1c008736:    0785        addi       a5,a5,1
1c008738:    0087c0fb    lp.setup   x1,a5,1c008748 <gemv+0x42>
1c00873c:    0045230b    p.lw       t1,4(a0!)
1c008740:    0048288b    p.lw       a7,4(a6!)
1c008744:    431305b3    p.mac      a1,t1,a7
1c008748:    feb72e23    sw         a1,-4(a4)
1c00874c:    9676        add        a2,a2,t4
1c00874e:    8082        ret
```

```
// generic matrix-vector multiplication
void gemv(int size_N, int size_M,
float * mat_I, float *vec_i, float * vec_o)
{
    for (int i=0; i<size_N; i++){
     for (int j=0; j<size_M; j++){
        // multiply accumulate operation
        vec_o[i] += mat_i[i*size_M+j] * vec_i[j];
     }
    }
}
```

Inner loop

Assessing the MCU performance





Goal

- Extending the battery lifetime
  - Minimize the sensor node energy consumption
- Real time processing of sensor data

$$\min E_s + E_{MCU} \quad \text{s.t. } T_{CPU} < 1/F_s$$

Assuming:

- a fixed sample rate F_s a negligible sensor energy cost $E_s \ll E_{MCU}$(e.g., $T_{sesn} \ll 1/F_s$)
- a constant power envelope of the MCU for active (P_{MCU}) and sleep ($P_{sleep} \ll P_{MCU}$) modes

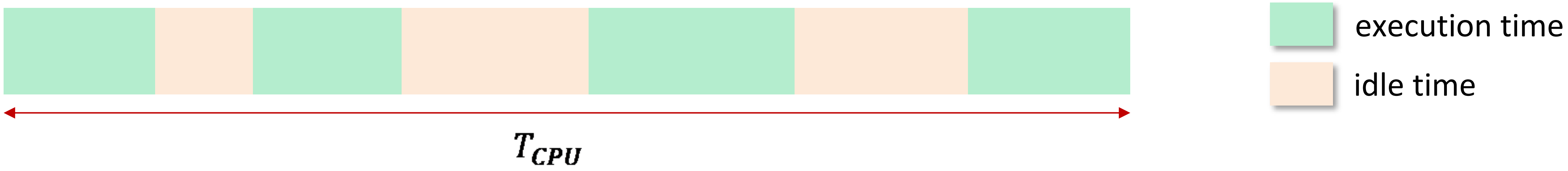
$$\min T_{CPU}\, P_{MCU} + T_{sleep} P_{sleep} \qquad T_{CPU} + T_{sleep} = 1/F_s$$

Aim: minimize the processing time T_{CPU}

What can we optimize? -> the execution time

The processing time T_{CPU} composes of:

- the **execution time**, where the CPU
- the **idle time**, where the CPU waits for events or IRQ (the core may be clock gated to save power)



Given a CPU clock frequency, the performance of a task (e.g. a C function) can be measured by accounting:

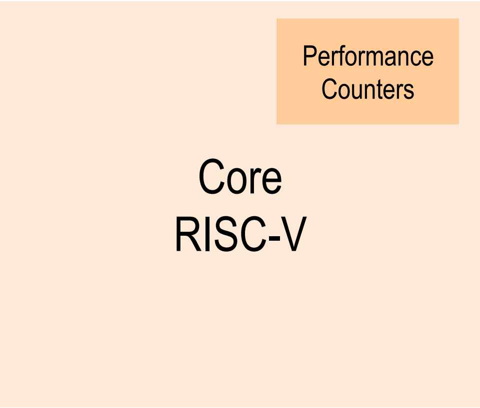
- the number of **elapsed clock cycles** (N_{clk})
- the **number of instructions** (N_{instr}) executed within the task depends on the code optimization!
- **CPI (Clock Cycles Per Instruction)**: different instructions may take a different number of **clock cycles** (depending on the CPU microarchitecture)

$$T_{CPU} = N_{clk} \times T_{clk} = CPI_{avg} \times N_{instr} \times T_{clk}$$

$$CPI_{avg} = \frac{N_{clk}}{N_{instr}}$$

$\boldsymbol{N_{clk}}$ and $\boldsymbol{N_{instr}}$ **greatly** affects CPU performance!

Performance Counters: Measuring the CPU Time



Each RI5CY cores of the PULP platform provide a **performance counter**. These 32-bit counters can be configured to count the:

- Total number of cycles (also includes the cycles where the core is sleeping)
- Number of cycles the core was active (not sleeping)
- Number of instructions executed
- Number of load data hazards
- Number of jump register data hazards
- Number of cycles waiting for instruction fetches, i.e. number of instructions wasted due to non-ideal caching
- Number of data memory loads executed. Misaligned accesses are counted twice
- Number of data memory stores executed. Misaligned accesses are counted twice
- Number of unconditional jumps (j, jal, jr, jalr)
- Number of both taken and not taken branches
- Number of taken branches
- Number of compressed instructions executed

The performance counters of the cluster cores can also account:

- Number of memory loads to EXT executed. Misaligned accesses are counted twice. Every non-L1 access is considered external
- Number of memory stores to EXT executed. Misaligned accesses are counted twice. Every non-L1 access is considered external
- Number of cycles used for memory loads to EXT. Every non-L1 access is considered external
- Number of cycles used for memory stores to EXT. Every non-L1 access is considered external
- Number of cycles wasted due to L1/log-interconnect contention

Important: while on the PULP Virtual Platform multiple perf counters can be enabled concurrently, only one counter is available on a real HW device!

Using the performance Counters on PULP

Using the PMSIS library APIs:

```c
// enable the perf counters of interest
pi_perf_conf(    1 << PI_PERF_CYCLES |
                 1 << PI_PERF_INSTR );

// reset the performance counters
pi_perf_reset();
// start the performance counters
pi_perf_start();

// task to profile
foo();

// stop the performance counters
pi_perf_stop();

// collect and print statistics
uint32_t instr_cnt = pi_perf_read(PI_PERF_INSTR);
uint32_t cycles_cnt = pi_perf_read(PI_PERF_CYCLES);
```

Configure which performance counters to enable!

```c
typedef enum {
  PI_PERF_CYCLES        = 17, /*!< Total number of cycles (also includes the
    cycles where the core is sleeping). Be careful that this event is using a
    timer shared within the cluster, so resetting, starting or stopping it on
    one core will impact other cores of the same cluster. */
  PI_PERF_ACTIVE_CYCLES = 0,  /*!< Counts the number of cycles the core was
    active (not sleeping). */
  PI_PERF_INSTR         = 1,  /*!< Counts the number of instructions executed.
  */
  PI_PERF_LD_STALL      = 2,  /*!< Number of load data hazards. */
  PI_PERF_JR_STALL      = 3,  /*!< Number of jump register data hazards. */
  PI_PERF_IMISS         = 4,  /*!< Cycles waiting for instruction fetches, i.e.
    number of instructions wasted due to non-ideal caching. */
  PI_PERF_LD            = 5,  /*!< Number of data memory loads executed.
    Misaligned accesses are counted twice. */
  PI_PERF_ST            = 6,  /*!< Number of data memory stores executed.
    Misaligned accesses are counted twice. */
  PI_PERF_JUMP          = 7,  /*!< Number of unconditional jumps (j, jal, jr,
    jalr). */
  PI_PERF_BRANCH        = 8,  /*!< Number of branches. Counts both taken and
    not taken branches. */
  PI_PERF_BTAKEN        = 9, /*!< Number of taken branches. */
  PI_PERF_RVC           = 10, /*!< Number of compressed instructions
    executed. */
  PI_PERF_LD_EXT        = 12, /*!< Number of memory loads to EXT executed.
    Misaligned accesses are counted twice. Every non-TCDM access is considered
    external (cluster only). */
  PI_PERF_ST_EXT        = 13, /*!< Number of memory stores to EXT executed.
    Misaligned accesses are counted twice. Every non-TCDM access is considered
    external (cluster only). */
  PI_PERF_LD_EXT_CYC    = 14, /*!< Cycles used for memory loads to EXT.
  Every non-TCDM access is considered external (cluster only). */
  PI_PERF_ST_EXT_CYC    = 15, /*!< Cycles used for memory stores to EXT.
  Every non-TCDM access is considered external (cluster only). */
  PI_PERF_TCDM_CONT     = 16, /*!< Cycles wasted due to TCDM/log-interconnect
  contention (cluster only). */
} pi_perf_event_e;
```

/rtos/pmsis/pmsis_api/include/pmsis/chips/default.h

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TASK2

Profile the *gemv*

Make a new project by copying the *matrix-vector gemv* example into a new folder

```
$ cd matrix_vector/
make clean all run
```

For any of the previous compiler optimization, **measure the performance** using the PMSIS performance counters and report:

- number of clock cycles.
- number of instructions.
- Number of Multiply-Add operations
- the CPI.
- compute the number of clock cycles and instructions per *elementary operation*.
  - Define 1 elementary operation == 1 Multiply-and-Accumulate

$$a \leftarrow a + (b \times c)$$

#MAC = N x M = 50 x 50 = 2500

	-01	-03	-03 HWLoops
Clock Cycles			
Instr.			
MAC			
CPI			
Intr/Cycles			
Instr / MAC			

SOLUTION: Profile the *gemv*

Make a new project by copying the *matrix-vector gemv* example into a new folder

```
$ cd matrix_vector/
make clean all run
```

Solution:

```
  pi_perf_conf(1<<PI_PERF_CYCLES | 1<<PI_PERF_INSTR);
  pi_perf_reset();

  pi_perf_start();
  // call the matrix-vector fucntion
  gemv(N, M, matrix, vector, output_vec);
  pi_perf_stop();

  uint32_t instr_cnt = pi_perf_read(PI_PERF_INSTR);
  uint32_t cycles_cnt = pi_perf_read(PI_PERF_CYCLES);
  printf("Num.Istr: %d Num.Cycles: %d \n", instr_cnt,
cycles_cnt);
```

#MAC = N x M = 50 x 50 = 2500

	-01	-03	-03 HWLoops
Clock Cycles			
Instr.			
MAC			
CPI			
Intr/Cycles			
Instr / MAC			

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