


Exercise 1:

Software Optimizations

Starting from Exercise 2 of Lab 4, you are required to further speedup the benchmark (*my_c_benchmark*) .

For readability, provide the previously used configurations (Cut & Paste).

Parameters	Configuration 1	Configuration 2	Configuration 3	Configuration 4
The_cpu.fetchWidth	12	8	none	12
The_cpu.fetchBufferSize	none	32	none	16
The_cpu.fetchQueueSize	none	64	none	256
The_cpu.decodeWidth	8	8	none	12
The_cpu.renameWidth	none	4	none	12
The_cpu.dispatchWidth	none	8	none	12
The_cpu.issueWidth	none	none	none	12
The_cpu.CPU_IntALU	6	6	6	6
The_cpu.numIQEntries	none	none	32	64
CPU_FP_ALU FloatAdd optLat	none	none	none	1
CPU_FP_ALU FloatCvt optLat	none	none	none	1
CPU_FP_MultDiv FloatMult optLat	none	none	none	1
CPU_FP_MultDiv FloatDiv optLat	none	none	none	1

Original CPI (no hardware optimization): 2.08310

	Configuration 1	Configuration 2	Configuration 3	Configuration 4
CPI	1.983529	1.946718	0.945976	0.859995
Speedup (wrt Original CPI)	1.0625	1.0625	2.125	2.428

Despite the hardware enhancements for increasing the CPU performance, remember that optimizing compilers for programs in high-level code also exist. The aim of optimizing compilers is to minimize

or maximize some attributes of an executable computer program (code size, performance, etc.). They are also aware of hardware enhancements to perform very accurate optimizations.

Compilers can be your best friend (or worst enemy!). The more information you provide in your program, the better the optimized program will be.

You can compile your programs with different SW optimization strategies and/or additional features. In the *setup_default* file:

```
ase_riscv_gem5_sim > $ setup_default
>
6 #####
7 ##### CROSS COMPILER RISC-V #####
8 #####
9 export CC="/mnt/d/gem5_simulator/riscv_toolchain/bin/riscv64-unknown-elf-gcc"
10 export CC_INSTALLATION_PATH="/mnt/d/gem5_simulator/riscv_toolchain/"
11 ## optimization flags for the compiler
12 export OPTIMIZATION_FLAGS="-O0 "
13
```

You can change the line 12.

Simulate the program for different optimization levels and collect statistics. You are required to change the OPTIMIZATION_FLAGS variable in the *setup_default*. O0 is the default value, you need to change the optimization value accordingly to the values in parenthesis in the following Table.

DO NOT CONFUSE -O3 WITH O3 PROCESSOR.

TABLE1: IPC for different compiler optimization levels and configurations

Optimization Configuration	Opt lvl 0 (-O0)	Opt lvl 1 (-O1)	Opt lvl 2 (-O2)	Opt size (-Os)	Opt lvl 3 (-O3)	Opt lvl 2 (-O2 --fast-math)
Original Configuration	0.48005 3.	0.39644 6	0.44362 6	0.41502 7	0.44362 6	0.458622
Configuration 1	0.50415 2	0.42157 0	0.45764 3	0.43592 9	0.45764 3	0.467137
Configuration 2	0.51368 5	0.43390 3	0.45698 0	0.43685 3	0.45698 0	0.482706
Configuration 3	1.05711 6	0.96756 0	1.01920 9	0.92715 0	1.01920 9	0.996838
Configuration 4	1.16279 7	*	1.09950 8	0.99609 6	1.09950 8	1.048318
Program Size [Bytes]	3228	3044	3032	3016	3032	3032

Regarding the Program Size (Code and Data!!), you can retrieve the size from:

```
~/ase_riscv_gem5_sim$ /opt/riscv-2023.10.18/bin/riscv64-unknown-elf-size -format=gnu  
-radix=10 ./programs/my_c_benchmark1s+k/my_c_benchmark.elf
```

For brave and curious guys:

For visualize the enabled optimizations from the compiler perspective, you can run:

```
~/my_gem5Dir$ /opt/riscv-2023.10.18/bin/riscv64-unknown-elf-gcc -O -O2 --help=optimizers
```

By changing the “-O2” parameter with the desired one, you will find the enabled/disabled optimizations.

Here are some possible types of optimizations:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Optimizing_compiler
- <https://gcc.gnu.org/onlinedocs/gcc/Optimize-Options.html>

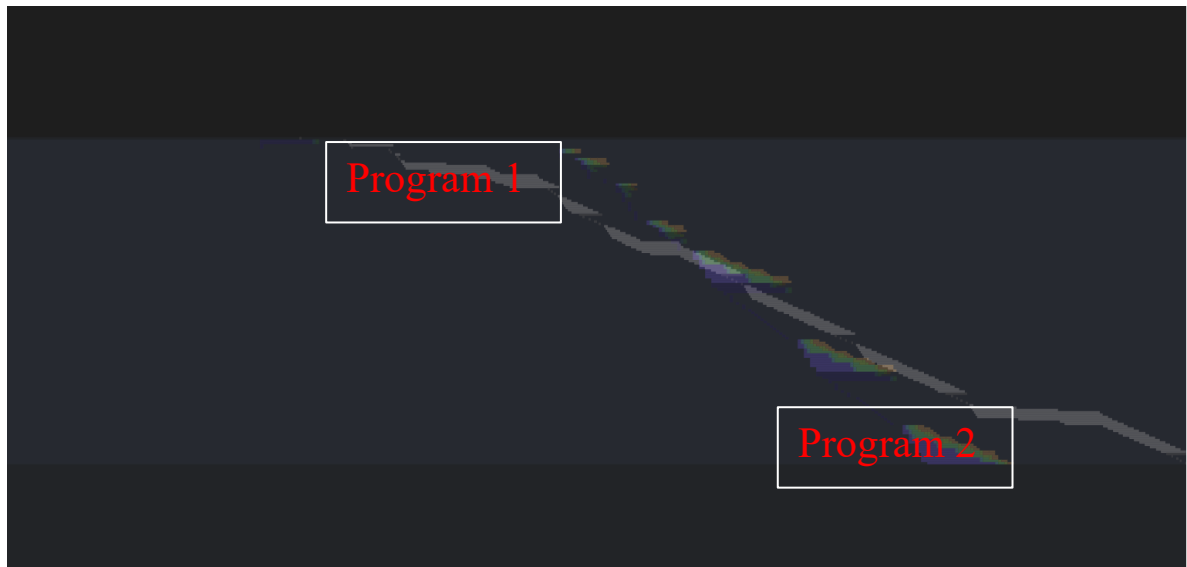
Exercise 2:

Given your benchmark (*my_c_benchmark.c*), select the best optimization to obtain **your best angle of optimization**, compared to the baseline configuration (*riscv_o3_custom.py; -O0*).

1. Based on Table 1 (from Exercise 1), select the best optimization (**for example**, the green box corresponding to Configuration 1 with -O2).

Optimization Configuration	Opt lvl 0 (-O0)	Opt lvl 1 (-O1)	Opt lvl 2 (-O2)	Opt size (-Os)	Opt lvl 3 (-O3)	Opt lvl 2 (-O2 --fast-math)
Original Configuration	0.48005 3.	0.39644 6	0.44362 6	0.41502 7	0.44362 6	0.458622
Configuration 1	0.50415 2	0.42157 0	0.45764 3	0.43592 9	0.45764 3	0.467137
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2. By using **Konata**, overlap the two pipelines (the original obtained with *riscv_o3_custom.py* and the optimized corresponding to the best SW-HW combination) to compute your angle of optimization.

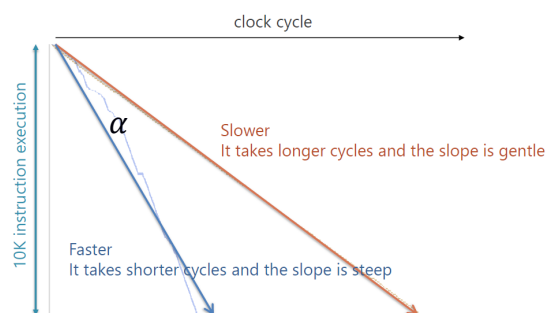


Compute the angle α (named optimization angle) existing between the traces.

Hint: To load different traces in **Konata**, load them **separately**. Afterward, **right-click in the pipeline visualizer and select “transparent mode”**. You need to adjust the scale!

3. To compute the **angle of optimization α** :

$$\alpha = \arctan\left(\frac{ClockCycles_{baseline}}{Instructions_{baseline}}\right) - \arctan\left(\frac{ClockCycles_{optimized}}{Instructions_{optimized}}\right)$$



1. The angle of optimization is equal to: 27.68
 $\alpha = \text{atan}(2.522) - \text{atan}(0.8599) = 68.37 - 40.69 = 27.68$

4. Do you see any visual improvements (for example, a less discontinued pipeline)? Yes, why? No, why? What is happening? How they could be improved?

Comment box: We can see different strong improvements. In particular the optimization code is faster than the baseline so the CPU execute less instruction than the other. Moreover with an increase of values of the pipeline there are less hazards.