

CS 3432 Fall 2021 Lab 6:

Exception Handling

For this lab, you will implement an exception handler for a RISC-V processor running in bare metal mode. Libgloss is a free board support package (BSP) commonly used with gcc and g++ to produce a fully linked executable for an embedded system. We will use the libgloss port for RISC-V machine mode that implements system calls through the Berkeley Host-Target Interface (HTIF), together with our RISC-V toolchain, to simulate running a RISC-V executable in machine mode on a RISC-V processor. The libgloss port is called libgloss-htif and can be found here: <https://github.com/ucb-bar/libgloss-htif>.

The exception that you will handle is an ecall trap exception caused by a Venus ecall instruction. Implementing the exception handler will allow you to run RISC-V assembly programs that use Venus ecall instructions over a simulated bare metal RISC-V processor using spike. The Venus ecall instructions are described here: <https://github.com/kvakil/venus/wiki/Environmental-Calls>. You are required to implement `print_int`, `sbrk`, `exit`, `print_character`, and `exit2`. For extra credit, you may also implement `print_string`.

The tasks that you should carry out are as follows:

1. Follow the instructions at <https://github.com/ucb-bar/libgloss-htif> to install libgloss-htif so that it works with your already installed RISC-V toolchain.
2. Follow the instructions at <https://github.com/ucb-bar/libgloss-htif> to compile, link, and run some example RISC-V programs in bare metal mode using your RISC-V gcc compiler, libgloss-htif, and spike.
3. In the same manner, assemble and run the provided example RISC-V assembly program `ecall.s` that contains two ecall instructions. Use your RISC-V `objdump` program to disassemble the executable and find the address of the main function. Use spike in debug mode to set a breakpoint at this address and step through the main function until an exception occurs. Examine the contents of the machine mode CSRs related to exception handling. Step through several instructions to observe how the exception is currently handled.
4. Write a trap handler that will emulate the ecall instructions using system calls available through HTIF. (See instructions at the bottom of the libgloss-htif readme).

The example `ecall.s` program is as follows:

```
.text
.globl main
main:
addi sp,sp,-16
sw   ra,0(sp)
li   a0,9
li   a1,4
ecall
li   a4,5
```

```
sw    a4,0(a0)
lw    a1,0(a0)
li    a0,1
ecall
lw    ra,0(sp)
addi  sp,sp,16
li    a0, 10
ecall
```

The assembly program was translated from the following C program: `#include <stdio.h>#include <stdlib.h>int main() {int *p = malloc(sizeof(int));*p = 5;printf("%d", *p);}` We will work on and grade Lab 6 the last week of class during the lab session.