

Modeling and simulation of Power Consumption on Heterogenous CPU Cores under varying workloads and operating conditions

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Abstract—This document serves as phase-1 report for E0-240 - Modeling and Simulation course project delivery. The main objective of this project is to apply concepts learned in E0-240 course in to Modeling and simulation of a real-world system, which in this case is Multi-core, Heterogenous CPU. This project, will focus on developing a Power Consumption Model for simulated Full-System [1] under varying workloads. This model will be developed taking in consideration various operating conditions of the CPU such as Dynamic Frequency Scaling, Heterogenous Cores [2]

Index Terms—Modeling, simulation, heterogenous CPU cores, power consumption

I. BACKGROUND

Power consumption is one of the key performance indices of any embedded or mobile device which operate of power budget, as this directly impacts on user experience and usability of any such devices. Hence, the need for accurate power models in simulation environment has increased as well, to enable designer and manufacturers to measure the impact of any new functionality or optimization that is being prototyped. Insights from such models, will allow all key stakeholders in an embedded product development arena for evaluation without waiting hardware fabrication and rollout, there by saving resources and investment.

One of the main motivations for this project is the top-down power modeling approach [3] that utilized Performance Monitoring Counters(PMCs) in an actual hardware along with overall power consumption data to develop an empirical power model in Gem5 simulator [4]. The average error achieved by this approach is claimed to be less than 6%. We will further explore in to additional enhancement over this said approach by factoring in additional CPU performance metrics.

II. METHODOLOGY

As mentioned in previous work [3], a similar method is followed in developing a Top-down Power model that will be integrated in to Gem5. ODROID-XU4 [5] Big-Little development board is chosen as first target for experimentation, data gathering and validation efforts. An overview of this hardware is show in Figure. 1. ODROID-XU4 offers minimalistic development platform with a Samsung Exynos 5422 Octa ARM Cortex™-A15 Quad 2GHz and Cortex™-A7 Quad 1.3GHz CPUs, with a 2GB LPDDR3 RAM operating at 933MHz stacked along with CPU package. Both Cortex-A15 and Cortex-A7 cores has 32KB Instruction and Data caches each. For L2 cache, the Cortex-A15 and Cortex-A7 cores makes use of 2MB and 512 KB respectively.

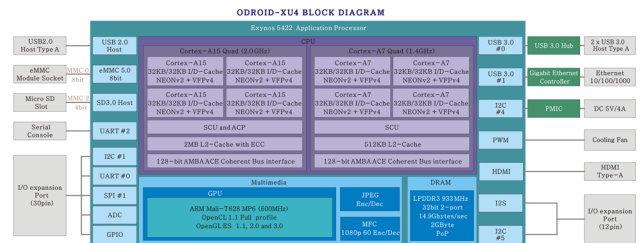


Fig. 1. ODroid XU4 board overview

A. Modeling and Development Strategy

Simulation of the ODROID-XU4/Exynos5422 will be integrated in to Gem5, that would closely resemble its CPU operating parameters. A SmartPower3 [6], power monitor unit will be used along ODROID-XU4 as represented in Figure. 2, to measure overall power consumption on the hardware, while most of the peripheral modules on it will be kept to reduce any variation or impact on the measured data. In addition, the perf

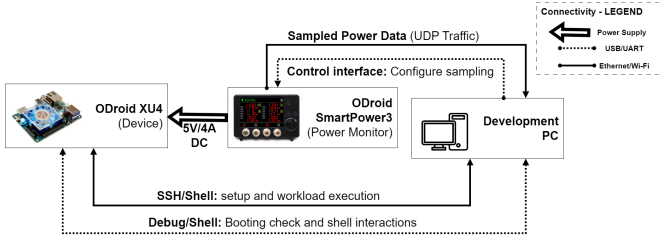


Fig. 2. Experiment setup for power data gathering from ODROID-XU4 [5] hardware

[7] will be used to gather PMC data-points. A summary of data-points being gathered for this modeling exercise is listed in Table I.

TABLE I
POWER AND PERFORMANCE FEATURE GATHERED FROM MENTIONED
EXPERIMENT SETUP

Feature/Statistics Type	Feature details	
	Source	Details
CPU Clock Cycles	perf[x]	CPU cycles, us cycles, instructions, CPU frequency, CPU idle state statistics
Instruction Branches	perf[x]	Branch instruction and speculative operation statistics
Caches	perf[x]	Data/Instruction cache references, misses at L1, Last-Level-Cache levels
Board Level Power	SmartPower3 [6]	Current, Power drawn from power supply.
Misc. Performance	perf[x]	CPU Migrations, Context switches, Virtual memory

A set of preliminary workloads that would induce resource load for CPU and memory will be executed on the ODROID-XU4 device, while the power consumption and PMC data are simultaneously recorded. Few of the workloads that are being considered as listed in Table II. As of now, a total of 5 workloads have been employed. Furthermore, integration of SPEC2017 will allow inclusion of up to 43 feasible benchmarks to improve quantity of data.

TABLE II
LIST OF WORKLOADS BEING USED FOR DATA GATHERING AND
VALIDATION

Workload Type	Workload details and status of integration	
	Workloads	Status
Stress Test	stress command [8]	✓
Video Encoding	ffmpeg encode [8]	✓
File Compression	gzip, bzip2, xz on complex datasets [9]	✓
Benchmark Suite	SPEC2017 CPU Benchmarks [10]	Planned

III. PHASE-2 PROGRESS

test

IV. PHASE-2 OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

test

V. DISCUSSION ON PHASE-2 OUTCOMES

VI. NEXT STEP

A. Modeling and Empirical Model generation

B. Power Model Integration to Gem5

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