# EE/CE/CS 6304 Computer Architecture Gem5

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## Overview

- Gem5 resources
- 1. Gem5 introduction
- 2. login to CE6304 Server system
- 3. Download the Benchmarks
- 4. Run the experiment for 429.mcf benchmark



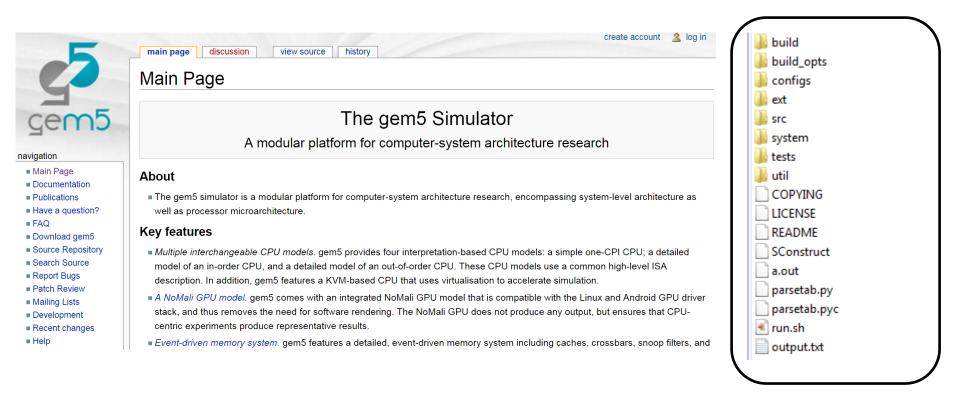
# Learning about gem5

- http://learning.gem5.org/
- https://github.com/powerjg/learning\_gem5
- Google.com



## gem5

Ref : http://gem5.org/Main\_Page





# 1. gem5

- Modular platform for computer-system architecture research, encompassing system-level architecture as well as processor microarchitecture
- Four CPU models
  - Simple (one CPI) CPU
  - Detailed in-order CPU
  - Detailed out-of-order CPI
  - In order pipelined model
- All CPU models use a common high-level ISA



# 1. gem5

- gem5 is written primarily in C++ and python
- It can simulate a complete system:
  - With devices and an operating system in full system mode (FS mode)
  - User space only programs where system services are provided directly by the simulator in syscall emulation mode (SE mode).
- There are varying levels of support for executing Alpha, ARM, MIPS, Power, SPARC, and 64-bit x86 binaries on any of the 4 CPU models



## Download and Install

```
%git clone https://gem5.googlesource.com/public/gem5
%cd gem5
%scons build/X86/gem5.opt –j5
```

Git= Online repository . Can be downloaded directly from Linux terminal

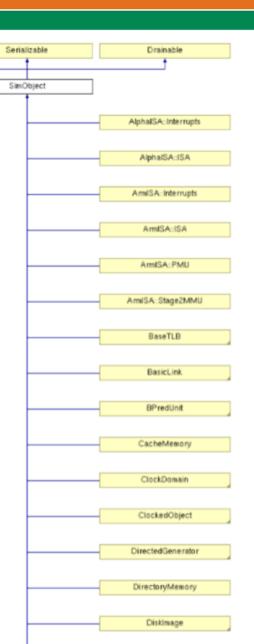
cd = change directory

Scons = Builds the system (similar to make) – See <a href="http://scons.org">http://scons.org</a> build/X86/gem5.opt = Parameter passed to scons



## Gem5 Architecture

- gem5 consists of "SimObjects" Most C++ objects in gem5 inherit
- from class SimObject
- Represent physical system components



EventManager



## Gem5 Simulator

- Gem5 is a discrete event simulator
  - 1. Event is added to queue
  - 2. Event is dequeued
  - 3. Event is executed

#### **Event Queue**

Event - 52

Event - 50

Event - 50

Event - 20

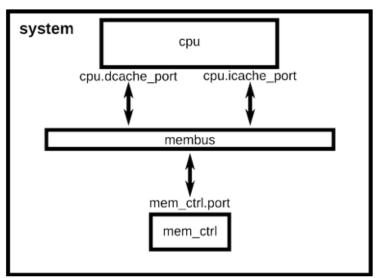
Event - 11

Event - 10



# Gem5 configuration scripts

- http://learning.gem5.org/book/part1/simple\_config.html http://learning.gem5.org/book/part1/cache\_config.html
- gem5 binary takes, as a parameter, a <u>python</u> script
  - Sets up and executes the simulation
  - Creates all of the components of the system
  - Specifies all of the parameters for the system components





# Running gem5

# %build/X86/gem5.opt configs/tutorial/simple.py Output:

```
gem5 Simulator System. http://gem5.org
gem5 is copyrighted software; use the --copyright option for details.

gem5 compiled Mar 16 2018 10:24:24
gem5 started Mar 16 2018 15:53:27
gem5 executing on amarillo, pid 41697
command line: build/X86/gem5.opt configs/tutorial/simple.py

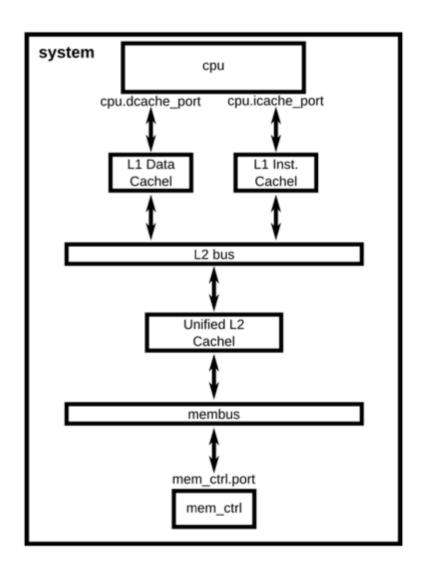
Global frequency set at 10000000000000 ticks per second
warn: DRAM device capacity (8192 Mbytes) does not match the address range assigned (512 Mbytes)
0: system.remote_gdb: listening for remote gdb on port 7000
Beginning simulation!
info: Entering event queue @ 0. Starting simulation...
Hello world!
Exiting @ tick 507841000 because exiting with last active thread context
```

Results change if configuration parameters are modified, e.g., type of CPU or type of DDR controller



# Caches in gem5

- http://learning.gem5.o rg/book/part1/cache\_ config.html
- Extending SimObjects in Python
- Object-oriented





# Gem5 Output

http://learning.gem5.org/book/part1/gem5\_stats.html %ls m5out

Filename	Description
Config.ini	Dumps all of the parameters Simobjects Shows exactly what you simulated
Config.json	Same as config.ini, but in json format (JavaScript Object Notation)
Stats.txt	Detailed statistic output. Each SimObject defines and updates statistics. They are printed here at the end of simulation



# gem5 - Usage

- The gem5 command line has four parts,
  - 1. the gem5 binary
  - 2. options for the binary
  - 3. a python simulation script
  - 4. Options for the script
- The options that are passed to the gem5 binary and those passed to the script are handled separately, so be sure any options you use are being passed to the right component.
- % <gem5 binary> [gem5 options] <simulation script> [script options]



# gem5 - Usage -con't

command line: build/ALPHA/gem5.opt configs/example/se.py -h

Usage: se.py [options]

```
Options:
                                                                   -n NUM CPUS, --num-cpus=NUM CPUS
 -h, --help
                show this help message and exit
                                                                   --caches
                     The binary to run in syscall emulation mode.
 -c CMD, --cmd=CMD
                                                                   -- l2cache
 -o OPTIONS, --options=OPTIONS,
                                                                   --fastmem
   The options to pass to the binary, use " " around the entire string
                                                                   --clock=CLOCK
 -i INPUT, --input=INPUT Read stdin from a file.
                                                                   --num-dirs=NUM_DIRS
                      Redirect stdout to a file.
 --output=OUTPUT
                                                                   --num-l2caches=NUM L2CACHES
 --errout=ERROUT
                     Redirect stderr to a file.
                                                                   --l1d size=L1D SIZE
 -d, --detailed
                                                                   --l2 size=L2 SIZE
 -t, --timing
                                                                   --I1d assoc=L1D ASSOC
 --inorder
                                                                   -- l2 assoc=L2 ASSOC
```

# gem5 – Example

% <gem5 binary> [gem5 options] <simulation script> [script options]

Core

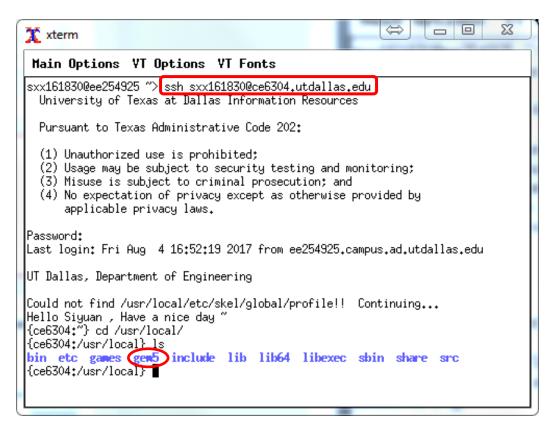
L1D \$

L1I\$

```
export GEM5 DIR=/usr/local/gem5
                                                                   CPU
4 export BENCHMARK=./src/benchmark
5 export ARGUMENT=./data/inp.in
                                                                           Atomic/Timing/Functional...
   time $GEM5 DIR/build/X86/gem5.opt
   -d ~/m5out
   $GEM5_DIR/configs/example/se.py --▶ System call emulation mode
   -c $BENCHMARK
                    Binary file and its input
                                                                           Core
   -o $ARGUMENT
   -I 100000000
                                     Simulation Instruction Number
   --cpu-type=atomic -----
                                                                               L1D$
                                    → Atomic CPU
                                                                      L1I$
  --caches
14 --12cache
                                                                                        L2$
15 --11d size=128kB
16 --l1i size=128kB
                            Cache Info
17 --12 size=1MB
                                                                             On-Chip System Bus
18 --11d assoc=2
19 --l1i assoc=2
20 --12 assoc=1
21 --cacheline size=64
                                                                                      DRAM
```



# 2. Login to Server system



#### Login to Server system:

- Your netid @ ce6304.utdallas.edu
- Your password( the same as galaxy)

Off-campus, you need to setup the VPN, info: http://www.utdallas.edu/oit/vpn/

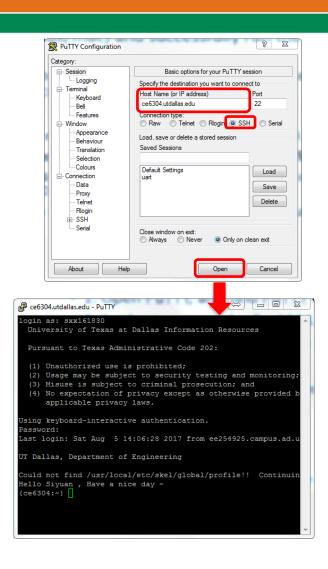


- ➤ Gem5 is installed in the /usr/local/ folder
- NOTE: You DO NOT have write permissions on this folder → work on your home directory



# 2. Login to Server system -- Con't

- Log on server from Windows:
- 1. Open PuTTY, and find PuTTY configuration window;
- 2. Set host name to be "ce6304.utdallas.edu";
- 3. Select connection type to be "SSH";
- 4. Click on open;
- 5. Fills in your NetID and password in coming windows.
- Log on server from Mac/Linux:
- 1. Open Terminal;
- 2. Type in command "ssh <your-net-id>@ce6304.utdallas.edu";
- 3. Type in your password.





# 2. Login to Server system -- Con't

• If you are using your own Linux machine you can install the gem5 as you can modify it by yourself (download link):

Steps to install gem5 are generally broken down into two steps:

- first, install all dependencies; second, install gem5 itself. Detailed steps can be found in following links.
- Install dependencies: http://gem5.org/Dependencies
- Install gem5 itself: http://gem5.org/Build\_System
- Particularly, if you choose to install gem5 on Ubuntu system, you have an easier way to install dependencies (sudo for access administrator access):
- sudo apt-get install python-dev scons m4 build-essential g++ swig zlib-dev



### 3.Download the Benchmarks

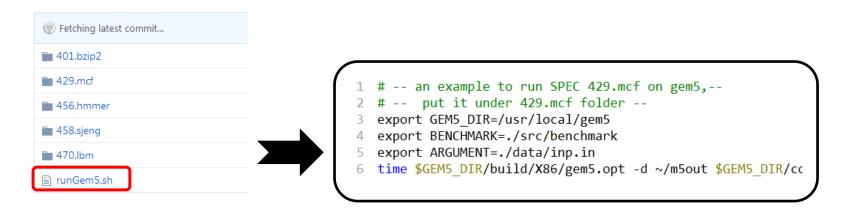
- We will use a set of CPU benchmarks to simulate your architectural design. You can download the benchmarks at the following link:
- https://github.com/timberjack/Project1\_SPEC.git
- Or you could download the zip file from the following link:
- https://github.com/timberjack/Project1\_SPEC





## 4. Run the experiments for 429.mcf benchmark

• Within "spec" folder, you can also find the script "runGem5.sh". It is a sample script that runs gem5 on benchmark 429.mcf. You can use this as an example how to specify the command line to run a benchmark program on gem5.





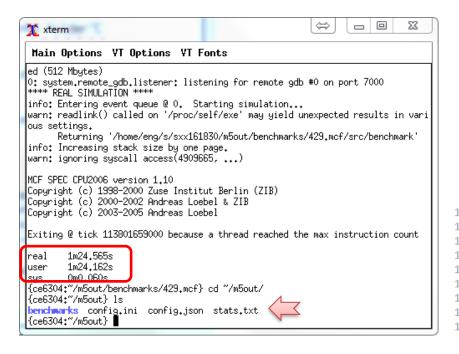
## 4. Run the experiments for 429.mcf benchmark

```
X xterm
 Main Options YT Options YT Fonts
|{ce6304:^}
{ce6304:"} mkdir "/m5out
{ce6304:"} cd m5out/
                                                      Not a Command
 {ce6304:~/m5out} mkdir benchmarks
{ce6304:~/m5out} copy your benchmarks to the ./benchmarks folder
{ce6304:~/m5out}
{ce6304:~/m5out} cd benchmarks/429.mcf/
{ce6304:~/m5out/benchmarks/429.mcf} cp -rf ../runGem5.sh ./
{ce6304:~/m5out/benchmarks/429.mcf} ./runGem5.sh
gem5 Simulator System. http://gem5.org
gem5 is copyrighted software; use the --copyright option for details.
gem5 compiled Jan 22 2016 11:48:41
gem5 started Aug 5 2017 13:23:09
gem5 executing on ce6304.utdallas.edu, pid 86669
command line: /usr/local/gem5/build/X86/gem5.opt -d /home/eng/s/sxx161830/m5out
/usr/local/gem5/configs/example/se.py -c ./src/benchmark -o ./data/inp.in -I 100
| 000000 --cpu-type=atomic --caches --12cache --11d_size=128kB --11i_size=128kB -
12_size=1MB --11d_assoc=2 --11i_assoc=2 --12_assoc=1 --cacheline_size=64
/usr/local/gem5/configs/common/CacheConfig.py:48: SyntaxWarning: import * only a
llowed at module level
  def config_cache(options, system);
Global frequency set at 1000000000000 ticks per second
```

- 1. Create the folder ~/m5out
- 2. Go to that folder, then create the folder ./benchmarks
- 3. Copy the spec(downloads) to the ./benchmarks folder
- 4. To run SPEC 429.mcf on gem5, put ./runGem5.sh under
- 429.mcf folder
- 5. Run the ./runGem5.sh



### 4. Run the experiments for 429.mcf benchmark



The execution of this command provides the output file "stats.txt" under folder "m5out" (default, or into your defined directory).

```
----- Begin Simulation Statistics -----
                                                0.113802
   sim seconds
   sim_ticks
                                            113801659000
   final tick
                                            113801659000
   sim freq
                                            10000000000000
   host inst rate
                                                 1195793
 8 host_op_rate
                                                 2278462
   host tick rate
                                              1360830753
10 host mem usage
                                                  821056
11 host seconds
                                                   83.63
12 sim insts
                                               100000000
   sim ops
                                               190540015
   system.voltage domain.voltage
15 system.clk domain.clock
                                                    1000
16 system.mem ctrls.bytes read::cpu.inst
                                                    31168
   system.mem ctrls.bytes read::cpu.data
                                                 5889856
   system.mem ctrls.bytes read::total
                                                 5921024
```



# Project

- Using GEM5, in this project, we will study the effect of varying Branch Prediction parameters on different benchmarks.
- There are 3 kinds of Branch Predictors available in GEM5 (stable).
  - 1. 2bit local Predictor
  - 2. Bi mode Predictor
  - 3. Tournament Predictor
- Groups of 2
- 10min ppt report summarizing all the results
- Grading rubric attached at the end of pdf report



# Project: Branch Predictor

- 1. Set up the simulation environment
- 2. Adding Branch Predictor for TimingSimpleCPU
- 3. Adding extra resulting parameter in stats.txt file
- 4. Comparison among different branch predictors



# 2. Adding Branch Predictor

 By default, the Gem5 TimingSimple CPU does not have the Branch Predictor Support, thus, in the \$gem5/src/cpu/simple/BaseSimpleCPU.py

```
branchPred = Param.BranchPredictor(NULL, "Branch Predictor")

→ branchPred = Param.BranchPredictor(LocalBP(), "Branch Predictor")

→ branchPred = Param.BranchPredictor(TournamentBP(), "Branch Predictor")

→ branchPred = Param.BranchPredictor(BiModeBP(), "Branch Predictor")
```

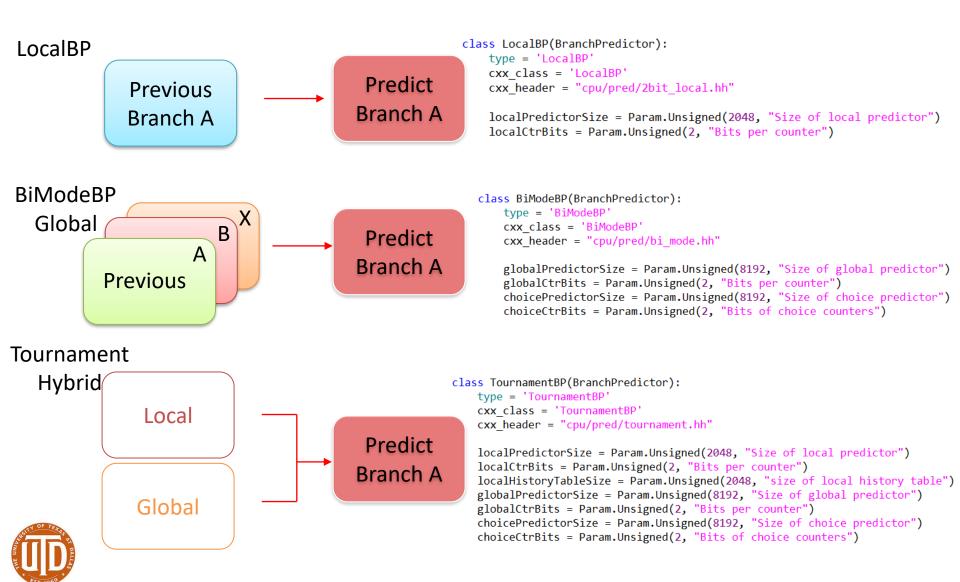
LocalBP 2bit Local Branch Predictor

BiModeBP Global Behavioral Branch Predictor

Tournament Combined/Hybrid Predictor



# 2. Adding Branch Predictor



# 2. Adding Branch Predictor

LocalBP : 2bit Local Branch Predictor

BiModeBP : Global Behavioral Branch Predictor

Tournament : Combined/Hybrid Predictor



#### config.ini - Local

[system.cpu.branchPred]
type=LocalBP
BTBEntries=4096
BTBTagSize=16
RASSize=16
eventq\_index=0
instShiftAmt=2
localCtrBits=2
localPredictorSize=2048
numThreads=1



#### config.ini - Bimode

[system.cpu.branchPred]
type=BiModeBP
BTBEntries=4096
BTBTagSize=16
RASSize=16
choiceCtrBits=2
choicePredictorSize=8192
eventq\_index=0
globalCtrBits=2
globalPredictorSize=8192
instShiftAmt=2
numThreads=1



#### config.ini - Tournament

[system.cpu.branchPred]
type=TournamentBP
BTBEntries=4096
BTBTagSize=16
RASSize=16
choiceCtrBits=2
choicePredictorSize=8192
eventq\_index=0
globalCtrBits=2
globalPredictorSize=8192
instShiftAmt=2
localCtrBits=2
localHistoryTableSize=2048
numThreads=1



### 2. Result with Tournament for hello Bench

```
siyuan@gimli1:~/proj2 t/results/hello PredStd/TournamentBP hello3 PredStd
                                                                                                                                                         _ 🗆 X
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[siyuan@gimli1 TournamentBP hello3 PredStd]
[siyuan@gimli1 TournamentBP hello3 PredStd] grep -ri tournament ./
./config.ini:type=TournamentBP
./config.ini:cwd=/home/siyuan/proj2 t/gem5 TournamentBP PredStd
                                      "cwd": "/home/siyuan/proj2 t/gem5 TournamentBP PredStd",
./config.json:
./config.json:
                                  "cxx class": "TournamentBP",
                                  "type": "TournamentBP".
./config.json:
[siyuan@gimli1 TournamentBP hello3 PredStd]$
[siyuan@gimli1 TournamentBP hello3 PredStdls
[siyuan@gimli1 TournamentBP hello3 PredSto]$ grep -ri branch ./
./stats.txt:system.cpu.branchPred.lookups
                                                                                        # Number of BP lookups
./stats.txt:system.cpu.branchPred.condPredicted
                                                             1317
                                                                                        # Number of conditional branches predicted
./stats.txt:system.cpu.branchPred.condIncorrect
                                                              477
                                                                                        # Number of conditional branches incorrect
./stats.txt:system.cpu.branchPred.BTBLookups
                                                              998
                                                                                        # Number of BTB lookups
                                                              367
./stats.txt:system.cpu.branchPred.BTBHits
                                                                                        # Number of BTB hits
./stats.txt:system.cpu.branchPred.BTBCorrect
                                                                                        # Number of correct BTB predictions (this stat may not work properly.
./stats.txt:svstem.cpu.branchPred.BTBHitPct
                                                                                        # BTB Hit Percentage
                                                        36.773547
./stats.txt:svstem.cpu.branchPred.BTBMissPct
                                                        63.226453
                                                                                        # BTB Miss Percentage
./stats.txt:svstem.cpu.branchPred.usedRAS
                                                                                        # Number of times the RAS was used to get a target.
                                                              105
                                                                                        # Number of incorrect RAS predictions.
./stats.txt:system.cpu.branchPred.RASInCorrect
                                                               75
./stats.txt:system.cpu.Branches
                                                             1317
                                                                                        # Number of branches fetched
                                                                                        # Number of branches predicted as taken
./stats.txt:system.cpu.predictedBranches
                                                              472
./stats.txt:system.cpu.BranchMispred
                                                              477
                                                                                        # Number of branch mispredictions
./stats.txt:system.cpu.BranchMispredPercent
                                                        36.218679
                                                                                        # Percent of Branch Mispredict
./config.ini:children=apic clk domain branchPred dtb interrupts isa itb tracer workload
./config.ini:branchPred=system.cpu.branchPred
./config.ini:[system.cpu.branchPred]
                             "branchPred": {
./config.json:
./config.json:
                                  "name": "branchPred",
./config.json:
                                  "path": "system.cpu.branchPred",
[siyuan@qimli1 TournamentBP hello3 PredStd]$
[siyuan@gimli1 TournamentBP hello3 PredStd]$
```



# 3. Adding BTB Miss Percentage



\$Gem5/src/cpu/pred/bpred\_unit.cc



\$Gem5/src/cpu/pred/bpred\_unit.hh

```
void
                                   BPredUnit::regStats()
                                   /** Stat for percent times an entry in BTB not found. */
                                   Stats::Formula BTBMissPct;
                                   /*----- Siyuan Xu ----- */
   BTBMissPct
      .name(name() + ".BTBMissPct")
      .desc("BTB Miss Percentage")
      .precision(6);
   BTBMissPct = (1 - (BTBHits/BTBLookups)) * 100;
```



## 3. Adding extra resulting Parameters



#### \$Gem5/src/cpu/simple/base.cc



\$Gem5/src/cpu/simple/exec\_context.hh

```
void
                                                       class SimpleExecContext : public ExecContext {
BaseSimpleCPU::regStats()
                                                        public:
   using namespace Stats;
                                                          // Percent of Branch Mispredict
   BaseCPU::regStats();
                                                          Stats::Formula BranchMispredPercent;
                                                          for (ThreadID tid = 0; tid < numThreads; tid++) {</pre>
       t info.BranchMispredPercent =
          (t info.numBranchMispred / t info.numBranches) * 100;
       t info.BranchMispredPercent
          .name(thread str + ".BranchMispredPercent")
          .desc("Percent of Branch Mispredict")
          .prereq(t info.BranchMispredPercent);
```



# 4. Branch Prediction Exploration

- BTBEntries : 4096 -> 2048
- LocalBP localPredictorSize : 2048 -> 1024
- BiModeBP globalPredictorSize : 8192 -> 2048
- BiModeBP choicePredictorSize : 8192 -> 2048
- TournamentBP localPredictorSize : 2048 -> 1024
- TournamentBP globalPredictorSize: 8192 -> 4096
- TournamentBP choicePredictorSize 8192 -> 4096



#### Technical deliverables (70%) marking scheme:

Feature	Max marks	Marks	Comments
Part 1: Problem discussion	10		
Part 2: Result of config.ini	15		
Part 3: Modification of source code (clarity and correctness)	25		
Part 4: BP exploration	60		
TOTAL	100		

#### Presentation Marking Scheme (30%):

Feature	Max	Marks	Comments
	marks		
Quality of PowerPoint slides and	100		
clarity of results shown			
TOTAL	100		

