MSc Thesis

Process Algebraic - Performance Modeling of Embedded Software

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Abstract

A compiler for embedded platforms has many optimization flags providing code size and speed improvement. Traditional profiling methods take lot of time to identify the best combination of the compiler flags to suit the requirement, especially if the software stack is very huge. AUTOSAR is one such growing software market in which there is a need for rapid performance assessment. In this thesis a means to estimate the performance of a program using the process algebraic language (PEPA) is investigated. The assembly program from trace is converted in to the PEPA model and the performance measures obtained by solving the model is verified against the actual execution time of the program. The experimental results provide valuable insights on the methodology.

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Process Algebraic - Performance Modeling of Embedded Software

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1. Introduction:

1.1 Motivation

The state-of-art automotive vehicle (Passenger Car / Commercial Vechicle) houses many embedded systems like Enginer Management System (EMS) , Exhaust Gas Treatment , Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) , Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) etc offering safety and comfort features. The basic embedded system unit of a vehicle is the Electronics Control Unit (ECU). A typical car houses about 80-100 ECUs and about 30% cost of the vehicle is attributed to the ECU. A ECU basically is a application specific hardware and software co-design. The complexity of the automotive software is increasing year by year , with contribution of the number of patents for the software techniques being highest combined with rapid innovation in the vehicle safety and comfort features.

The volume of the in-vehicle software is expected to increase by 30-40% in the coming years [23]. Automotive applications correspond to about 17% of the embedded market . From 2012 to 2013 the automotive applications have increased by 2%[23].According to the survey about 44% of the applications are started from scratch in 2013, and remaing 56% are the upgrades or improvement on the earlier project. One of the main catalyst to the the rapid changes in the automotive embedded market is AUTOSAR[1].

With increasing complexity of electronics in modern vehicle systems, the AUTOSAR (**AUT**motive **O**pen **S**ystem **A**rchitecture) community was born. The goal was to reduce this complexity by means of standardized software modules and a layered architecture. The side-effect of the standardization was that modules have to be developed in a generic way and cannot be optimized for each single project as it was the case in the past. Although the modules are highly configurable, the footprint and CPU load of AUTOSAR ECUs are strongly increasing.

In AUTOSAR, the software modules are rapidly developed/reused/configured and delivered. The entire automotive industry is migrating to the AUTOSAR. The software development model doesn't include a process of optimizing the software modules or any ad-hoc research in between. Although numerous guidelines (MISRA [2])are available to the developer, they only address compliance to safety. Guidelines for optimization are not the same among different hardware platforms. Hence the need of the hour is to develop a tool or methodologies in which the developer can rapidly asses the performance of the software modules validate the software reviews based on statistical measures. This project attempts to provide the prototype of such a tool.

Continental Engineering Services GmBH – AUTOSAR Center is one of the members of the AUTOSAR consortium. The R&D team of the company extensively reserches on the compiler optimization flags and coding guidelines for the best performance result .The team also specializes in developing, configuring the AUTOSAR modules , tailored to the needs of the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM'S like BMW, VOLVO, etc) and delivering for the series production.

1.2 Overview

Vowing to the rapid prototyping and validation of the software modules in AUTOSAR, and the large time consumed by the traditional profiling methods, the need is to investigate the possibility of assessing the performance measure with the help of modeling techniques.

Hence the problem statement is "***development of a methodology for rapid code profiling using process algebraic modeling language***".

In this project we *statically* evaluate embedded system software for different optimization strategies/coding styles to meet the best performance without actually running on the platform; Essentially a Static Code Analysis [3] .The source code is first fed through the compiler with a particular optimization set or with a certain coding style. The compiler does a transformation on the code and the assembly/trace file is generated. This intrinsically provides information on how fast the hardware is going to run the code. A model (explained in the subsequent sections) can be generated from the assembly code using the PEPA [4] terminology.

PEPA stands for ***P****erformance* ***E****valuation* ***P****rocess* ***A****lgebra*, is a tool supporting performance modeling techniques. It's simply an algebraic language which can be used to build a model of the system and ascertain its performance matrix. We chose PEPA because it is a high-level model specification language for low-level stochastic models, which allows the model of the system to be developed as a number of interacting components undertaking certain activities. A PEPA model has a finite set of components that correspond to indefinable parts or roles of the system. PEPA allows us to model different actors of a system (for example in a processor , instruction fetch unit, decode unit, execution unit, cache fetching etc.) and analyze the effect of each of these different actors in unison or independently.

The hardware properties basically refer to the basic properties like single fetch or superscalar processor, type and amount of cycles consumed by each instructions. Once we obtain the performance ratings, the source code and the compiler can be tuned for the best optimization results. In this case the performance can be obtained in the view of optimal speed. For validating the model we can later run the actual code on the platform and compare the results and as a feedback fine tune the model or the code.

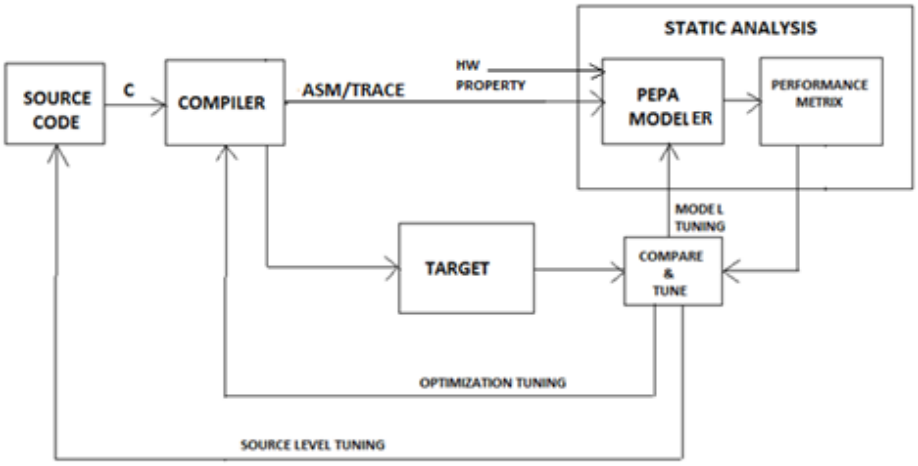


Figure 1: Overview

A program can be visualized as a set of basic blocks with each consuming different time for execution. The rate of execution of the basic blocks depends on

1) Distribution of the type of instructions in the blocks: In the sense the amount of cycles that each of the instructions in the block consumes.
2) Memory segment in which the block is available: In the sense the availability of the block in the main memory (cache miss) or in cache (cache hit).
3) The property of the hardware in which the program is run: In the sense the type of pipeline structure used (single fetch pipeline or dual fetch pipeline) and also the amount of cycles consumed by each memory or cache access.

Correspondingly, based on these three classification, we can define three type of execution rates.

1) Instruction Execution Rate : It's the rate (1/time) at which the block of instruction is executed by the processor.
2) Access Rate : It's the rate at which the block is accessed either from memory or from Cache
3) Effective rate: It's the combined rate of execution of the instruction block.

The figure 2 shows the basic representation of the program in terms of blocks of instructions , where r1,r2,r3…rN are the Instruction execution rate , AR1,AR2,AR3,…ARN are the Access rates and ER1,ER2,ER3…ERN are the Effective rate before transformation. Similarly r'1,r'2,r'3…r'N are the Instruction execution rate , AR'1,AR'2,AR'3,…AR'N are the Access rates and ER'1,ER'2,ER'3…ER'N are the Effective rate after transformation.

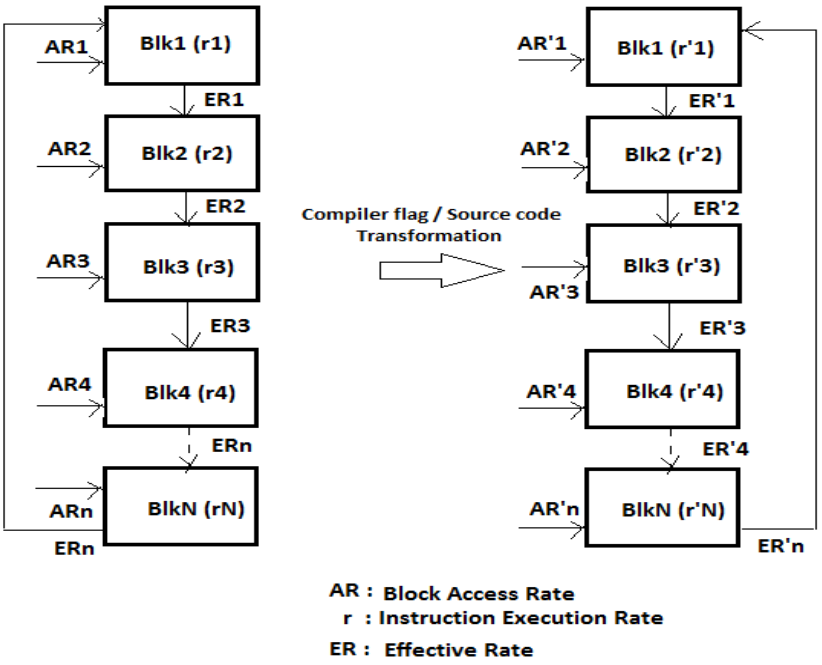


Figure 2: Program representation in terms or basic blocks

Block access rate can be the memory access (MA) or cache access (CA). In order to identify the change in rates of the basic blocks, CTMC (Continues Time Markov Chain) terminologies are used with the help of the modeling language PEPA. The above representation of the system can in turn be represented like a CTMC as shown in the following figure (with a possible memory / cache access scenario).

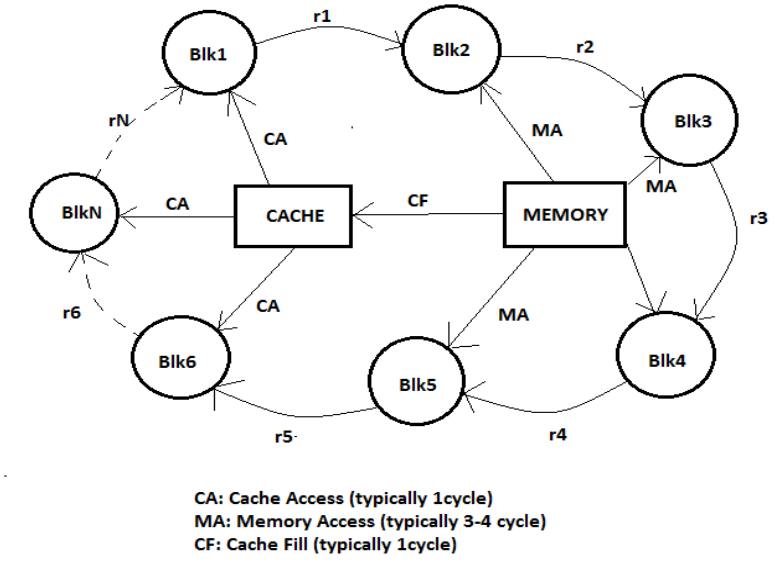


Figure 3: CTMC representation of basic blocks

Each block is represented as a state in the CTMC with, exit rates being the rate at which the block is executed and at the end of execution the state changes to the next block. The entry rate to a state depends on the rate of accesses (CA/MA) and the exit rate from the preceding state. From a CTMC, number of mathematical measure can be derived like the transient /

steady state probability matrices, Average response time, Cumulative distribution function etc. which in turn gives the performance of the system. A compiler flag or combination of compiler flags may alter the execution rate of the basic block of a program by

1) changing the type of instructions used ,
   or
2) by shifting the memory in which the instruction is stored(in case of a Instruction Cache)

and such changes can be easily identified in the performance measure of the CTMC. In order to evaluate the performance measures we need to convert the assembly program in to a process algebraic language model which can evaluate the performance measures. The number of instructions in a basic block and rate of cache and memory access is directly dependent on the issue fetching capability of the hardware platform. In the following chapters we will discuss important performance measures, methodology and tools used for performance estimation and the obtained results.

1.3 Challenges

The optimization criteria are the Speed of execution and the Memory consumption. Since memory consumption estimation is already available in the current project setup we will only consider estimating the speed of execution. A tool which can develop the PEPA script from the assembly / trace file needs to be developed which would make methodology scalable and less time consuming. Initial work can be dedicated to manual scripting and then can be extended to automated scripting. If it becomes necessary to analyze the Boolean predicate code then we also need to develop a script for the conversion to PEPA model.

If we use only assembly file for the analysis then it's tedious to trace back the original source in C and if we used Boolean predicate code [9] although it becomes easy to trace the source in C, we miss the compiler optimization effects which can only be seen in the assembly file. The best use-case is expected to be obtained during the experimentation. We start modeling for a simple CPU like (single core, single pipeline, and single thread [10]) and in the near future scale it to higher level systems.

1.4 Outcomes & Expectations

This method in a way produces the performance model [11] of the source code and the compiler or the developers. They can estimate the effect of different coding styles, and compiler optimizations (individually or in unison) statically & rapidly. The user can run the tool interactively and can include CSL (**C**ontinuous **S**tochastic **L**ogic) formula [12] checks to evaluate satisfiability of stochastic criteria or estimate a stochastic measure.

This kind of static performance estimation is of high importance as they are less costly and less time consuming. The entire setup will be rapid because of the fast solvers available in the PEPA supported compilers and plug-in and easily scalable if we can develop tool for

conversion to the PEPA model from the respective sources. As an extension of the thesis, we can test the project on some dedicated platforms to evaluate it further.

1.5 Background

a) AUTOSAR

AUTOSAR (**AU**Tomotive **O**pen **S**ystem **AR**chitecture) is a worldwide development partnership of car manufacturers, suppliers and other companies from the electronics, semiconductor and software industry.

- Paves the way for innovative electronic systems that further improve performance, safety and environmental friendliness
- Is a strong global partnership that creates one common standard: "Cooperate on standards, compete on implementation"
- Is a key enabling technology to manage the growing electrics/electronics complexity. It aims to be prepared for the upcoming technologies and to improve cost-efficiency without making any compromise with respect to quality
- Facilitates the exchange and update of software and hardware over the service life of the vehicle

AUTOSAR provides a common platform in which OEM's , suppliers , tool providers etc can collaborate with benefit that complexity of integration is reduced while improving the flexibility , quality and reliability. The OEM'S benefit by enhanced design flexibility , reuse of software modules across variants,simplified integration and reduced development costs. The suppliers benefit from reduction of version proliferation and the ease of function development. The tool developers can produce seamless and optimized landscapes for tools.Thus AUTOSAR allows for smoother portability between different platforms. The car production of AUTOSAR OEM members covers ~81% of the total cars produced worldwide.A rapid growth of AUTOSAR's market penetration between 2012 to 2016 is predicted such that least 25% of the total number of ECUs produced in 2016 will have AUTOSAR inside[1]

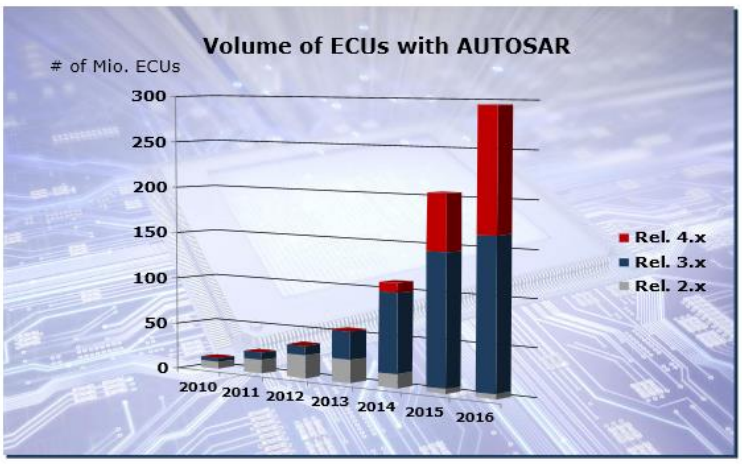


Figure 4: From 4th AUTOSAR open conference[1]

b) Code analysis & Profiling

There are basically two types of analyisis that can be performed on a code.

1) Static analyisis. : is a technique of analyzing the source code statically without actually running the program on the hardware.These techniques extract the information about the oppertunity for the optimization in the source code by analysis. Such technique are usually faster than the dynamic analysis but they are less precise.
2) Dynamic analysis : is a technique of analyzing the source code by running it on a real or virtual processor and profiling it. Profiling the program consists of collecting the oppertunities during the execution of the program in order to guide effective optimization.The optimizations can be performed either on the source code, assembly code or by re-compilation guided by the collected information.There are two types of dynamic analysis
    a. By Instrumentation : In this technique several instructions are inserted in source level or assembly level or in the binary level. Instrumentation adds code to increment counters at the entry or exit function which will simulate the harware performance counters or even simulate hardware to get synthetic event counts. The instrumentation technique may dramatically increase the execution time such that the time measurement become redundant. It also becomes time inefficient in case of a huge software stack making profiling itself time consuming. Example MAQAO*[31]*.
    b. By Sampling : In this method measurement points are inserted during short time intervals.The validity of the result depends on the choice of the measurement.Example Prof and Gprof.

c) Process algebra

Process algebra is a method for formally modeling concurrent systems. Process algebra provides a tool for the high-level description of interactions, communications, and synchronizations between a collection of independent agents or processes. They also provide algebraic laws that allow process descriptions to be manipulated and analyzed, and permit formal reasoning about equivalences between processes. Examples of process calculi include CSP, CCS, ACP, LOTOS ,π-calculus, the ambient calculus, PEPA, the fusion calculus and the join-calculus [37].

d) Model checking

Given a model of a system, Model checking refers to exhaustively and automatically checking whether the model meets a given specification.In general Model checking delas with verifying the correctness of a finite state systems.In order to achieve this , the model of the system and the specifications are fomulated in terms of precise mathematical language.

1.6 Related Work

Emphirical/Process algebraic model based performance prediction system for compiler optimization evaluation is an exclusive area of reaseach and it's the topic for the literature survey.

Qualitative analysis tools using model checking are available. Model checking and static analysis are automated techniques promising to ensure that the correctness of the software and to find certain class of bugs automatically. One of the drawbacks of the model checker is that they typically operate on a low level semantic abstraction making them suitable for small software stack, but less so for larger stack and when the soundness is paramount as in the case of industrial C/C++ code containing pointer arithmetic , unions templates and alike. Goanna is built on an automata based static analysis framework as described in *[25]*.The tool maps the C/C++ program to its Control Flow Graph (CFG) and labels the CFG with occurrences of syntactic constructs of interests automatically. The CFG together with the labels can be seen as a transition system with atomic propositions, which can be easily mapped to the input of a model checker (NuSMV) or translated in to a Kripke structure. The basic checks which can be performed by Goanna are access violations, memory leaks array and string overruns, division by zero, unspecified, non-portable, and/or dangerous constructs and security vulnerabilities. Model checking has also been used to check the malicious code patterns by *[26]*

One of the quantitative measures of a program execution is its Worst Case Execution Time WCET. METAMOC *[27]* (Modular Execution Time Analysis using Model Checking) is a modular method based on model checking and static analysis , that determines the safe and tight WCET for programs running on platforms featuring caching and pipelining. The method works by constructing the UPPAAL *[28] model* of the program being analyzed and annotating the model with information from the interprocedural value analysis. The program model is then combined with a model of the hardware platform and the model checked for the WCET. The tool is retargetable for platforms ARM7,ARM9 and ATMEL AVR 8-bit. The pipeline and cache behavior are modeled in UPPAAL. In *[29]* it is debated that model checking is not suitable for WCET analysis but in *[30]* its shown that model checking can actually improve the WCET estimates for hardware with caching. In the master thesis *[38]* modeling the Analytical Software Design blocks as queueing systems is investigated in order to reduce the implementation errors in the integration phase of the software project.

Qualitative performance measure of a code produced by the compiler is essential to get high performance. Previously the quantitative measure was assesed by the number of instructions. With recent generation of micro processors the matrices are no longer valid.The number of branches , use of specific instructions , Caches which have been introduced to improve the temporal locality and other architectural feature like instruction prefecting are responsible for the performance. Modular Assembler Quality Analyzer and Optimizer (MAQAO) *[31]* is a tool performing the static analyis on the assembly code. The tool takes assembly as input, constructs the CFG , call flow graph, loop structure . Furthur analysis can be scripted using the SQL scripting symantics. Some of the analysis that can be performed by MAQAO are gathering statistics like number of NOPs,number of bundles with three way branching or number of loops, generating the histogram of basic blocks size in a function or histogram of the IPC (instruction per count) , code pattern such as defecient sequence,missing prefetches detection , detection of the optimization performed by the compiler etc.

The lack of statically available information may prevent user to apply different compiler optimization or program transformation aggressively or applying them together. Performance aware compilation systems address this problem by a combination of run-time testing and static information. Dynamic compilation systems such as *[32]* enable the code generation at the runtime allowing the compiler to exploit the knowledge about the input values and hence generate more efficient code. In another case *[33]* at run-time the best combination of the optimizations is chosen by evaluating the performance of each of the versions. In case of performance prediction systems, empherical model of the code is used as static estimators to guide the application of the program transformations with goal to select the highest possible performance as done in [*34]*. In several other cases the performance of the application is modeled based on analytical expressions as done in *[35].*

Performance oriented modeling techniques *[36]* offer an alternative way of enabling the compiler to derive and select a set of program transformations . This modeling approach is valuable in scenarios in which the application takes extremely long time to execute making profiling impractical or even predict the performance on future architectures. Using the target architecture description in terms of the number of functional units , pipelines and their depth the compiler can derive a set of performance analytical expression for a set of scenarios and determine for each of these scenarios what the expected performance is in terms of consumed clock cycles and peak performance and execution of the code section would take. For example if one of the various memory references in the basic block casues a TLB miss that leads to pipeline stall (due to data dependencies) this leads to a substantial decrease in overall performance.For different scenario emperical model can be obtained or by target architecture cycle level accurate simulations.

2. Instruction Pipeline

2.1 Pipelines:

A assembly program is a contiguous set of instructions derived from the original C program. Each instruction in an assembly program takes certain cycles for execution. An instruction pipeline is a technique used in the design of computers architecture to increase their instruction throughput (the number of instructions that can be executed in a unit of time). Pipelining does not reduce the time to complete an instruction, but increases the number of instructions that can be processed at once.

Each instruction is split into a sequence of dependent steps. The first step is always to fetch the instruction from memory; the final step is usually writing the results of the instruction to processor registers or to memory. Pipelining seeks to let the processor work on as many instructions as there are dependent steps, rather than waiting until the current instruction is executed before admitting the next one. Pipelining lets the computer's cycle time be the time of the slowest step, and ideally lets one instruction complete in every cycle.

A pipeline typically includes the following 5 steps

1. Instruction fetch (IF)
2. Instruction decode and register fetch (ID)
3. Execute (EX)
4. Memory access (MEM)
5. Register write back (WB)

The following diagram shows the typical 5-stage instruction pipeline and the way the instruction is processed in each stage.

Instruction No	**Pipeline stage**						
1	IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB		
2		IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB	
3			IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB
4				IF	ID	EX	MEM
5					IF	ID	EX
Clock Cycle	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**

Figure 5 : Single Fetch Instruction Pipeline

2.2 Superscalar CPU

A superscalar CPU incorporates instruction level parallelism within a single processor and hence achieving faster throughput than a single fetch processor. A superscalar processor executes more than one instruction during clock cycle by simultaneously dispatching multiple instructions

The following diagram shows the typical dual fetch 5-stage instruction pipeline.

Instruction No			Pipeline stage				
1	IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB		
2	IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB		
3		IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB	
4		IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB	
5			IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB
6			IF	ID	EX	MEM	WB
Clock Cycle	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Figure 6 : Dual Fetch Instruction Pipeline

Similar to the single fetch CPU even in a dual fetch CPU, the instructions are fetched sequentially . The CPU checks dynamically the data dependencies between instructions at the run time

3. Cache

A cache is a small amount of memory which operates more quickly than main memory. Data is moved from the main memory to the cache, so that it can be accessed faster. The cache memory performance is the most significant factor in achieving high processor performance.

Cache works by storing a small subset of the external memory contents, typically out of its original order. Data and instructions that are being used frequently, such as a data array or a small instruction loop, are stored in the cache and can be read quickly without having to access the main memory. Cache runs at the same speed as the rest of the processor, which is typically much faster than the external RAM operates at. This means that if data is in the cache, accessing it is faster than accessing memory.

When the processor needs to read from or write to a location in main memory, it first checks whether a copy of that data is in the cache. If so, the processor immediately reads from or writes to the cache, which is much faster than reading from or writing to main memory. A hit in a cache is when the processor finds data in the cache that it is looking for. A miss is when the processor looks for data in the cache, but the data is not available. In the event of a miss, the cache controller unit must gather the data from the main memory, which can cost more time for the processor. Most modern CPUs have at least three independent caches: an instruction cache to speed up executable instruction fetch, a data cache to speed up data fetch and store, and a translation look aside buffer (TLB) used to speed up virtual-to-physical address translation for both executable instructions and data. The data cache is usually organized as a hierarchy of more cache levels

3.1 Cache Entry

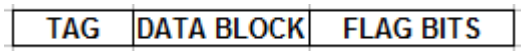
Data is transferred between memory and cache in blocks of fixed size, called *cache lines*. When a cache line is copied from memory into the cache, a cache entry is created. The cache entry will include the copied data as well as the requested memory location which is called as a tag.

When the processor needs to read or write a location in main memory, it first checks for a corresponding entry in the cache. The cache checks for the contents of the requested memory location in any cache lines that might contain that address. If the processor finds that the memory location is in the cache, a cache hit has occurred (otherwise, a cache misses).

In the case of

- a cache hit, the processor immediately reads or writes the data in the cache line.
- a cache miss, the cache allocates a new entry, and copies in data from main memory. Then, the request is fulfilled from the contents of the cache

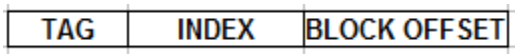
Cache row entries usually have the following structure:



The *data block* (cache line) contains the actual data fetched from the main memory. The *tag* contains a part of the address of the actual data fetched from the main memory. Flag bits indicate whether a cache block has been loaded with a valid data(valid bit).A instruction cache has only one flag bit(valid bit) per cache row where as a data cache has two flag bits (valid bit and dirty bit) per cache row.

The size of the cache is the amount of main memory data it can hold. This size can be calculated as the number of bytes stored in each data block times the number of blocks stored in the cache. (The number of tag and flag bits is irrelevant to this calculation, although it does affect the physical area of a cache).

An effective memory address is split (MSB to LSB) into the tag, the index and the block offset.



The index describes which cache row (which cache line) that the data has been put in. The index length is $log_2(cache\ rows)$ bits. The block offset specifies the desired data within the stored data block within the cache row. Typically the effective address is in bytes, so the block offset length is $log_2(byte\ per\ data\ block)$ bits. The tag contains the most significant bits of the address, which are checked against the current row (the row has been retrieved by index) to see if it is the one we need or another, irrelevant memory location that happened to have the same index bits as the one we want. The tag length in bits is *(address_length – index_length – block_offset_length)*.

3.2 Cache Replacement Policy

In order to make room for the new entry on a cache miss, the cache may have to evict one of the existing entries. The heuristic that it uses to choose the entry to evict is called the replacement policy. The fundamental problem with any replacement policy is that it must predict which existing cache entry is least likely to be used in the future. Predicting the future is difficult, so there is no perfect way to choose among the variety of replacement policies available. The following replacement policies exist.

- Least Recently Used (LRU)
- Round Robin (or FIFO)
- Most Recently Used (MRU)
- Random Replacement

3.3 Cache Associativity

The replacement policy decides where in the cache a copy of a particular entry of main memory will go. If the replacement policy is free to choose any entry in the cache to hold the copy, the cache is called fully associative. Accordingly there are 2-way,4-way associative cache. If each entry in main memory can go in just one place in the cache, the cache is called to be directly mapped.

3.4 Cache Performance:

A processor with a cache first looks in the cache for data (or instructions). On a miss, the processor then fetches the data (or instructions) from main memory. On a miss, this process takes longer time than an equivalent processor without a cache.

There are three ways a cache gives better net performance than a processor without a cache:

- A hit (read from the cache) is faster than the time it takes a processor without a cache to fetch from main memory. The trick is to design the cache so we get hits often enough that their increase in performance more than makes up for the loss in performance on the occasional miss. (This requires a cache that is faster than main memory).

- Multiprocessor computers with a shared main memory often have a bottleneck accessing main memory. When a local cache succeeds in satisfying memory operations without going all the way to main memory, main memory bandwidth is freed up for the other processors, and the local processor doesn't need to wait for the other processors to finish their memory operations.

- Many systems are designed so the processor often read multiple items from cache simultaneously -- either 3 separate caches for instruction, data, and TLB; or a multi

ported cache; or both -- which takes less time than reading the same items from main memory one at a time.

A processor without a cache has a constant memory reference time, T_r = T_m + E

A processor with a cache has an average memory access time, T_a = m * T_m+ T_h + E

where

- m is the miss ratio
- T_m is the time to make a main memory reference
- T_h is the time to make a cache reference on a hit
- E accounts for various secondary factors (memory refresh time, multiprocessor contention, etc.)

Cache hit/miss is evident in any assembly program and both the programmer and the compiler are the reason for the cache miss in a program. Depending on the cache configuration, the cache hit miss scenario can be modeled from the assembly program and the overall delay can be evaluated statically the best configuration can be selected.

4. Probability Theory & Stochastic Processes

4.1 Probability

If n is the number of possible outcomes of an system, each of them equally likely, n_A is the number of events in favor of event A , the Pr[A] = n_A / A. Set of all possible outcomes is called the sample space S. The following axioms hold good.

- Pr [S] =1
- Given A ∩ B = ϕ , events A & B are mutually exclusive then Pr [A U B] = Pr[A] + Pr[B] & Pr [A U B] = Pr[A] + Pr[B] - Pr [A ∩ B]
- If two events A and B are independent Pr [A ∩ B] = Pr [A] Pr [B] .
- Conditional probability Pr [A | B] = Pr [A ∩ B] / Pr [B]
- Law of total probability Pr [A] = $\sum_{k=0}^{N} \Pr[A \mid Bk] \Pr[Bk]$, Bk ∩ Bj = ϕ

4.2 Random Variables

A variable whose possible values are the numerical outcome of a random phenomenon is called as a random variable. More formally a random variable is a measurable function from a probability space (s,Ṣ,P) into a measurable space (s', Ṣ') known as the state space. Also a random variable *X* is a real function whose domain is the probability space *s* and such that:

1. The set *{X ≤ x}* is an event for any real number x.

2. The probability of the events *{ X = +∞}* and *{X = -∞ }* equals zero.

There are two types of random variables,

Discrete time random variable takes values in discrete steps denoted as X[k] where k= 0,1,2,3… ∞ .

Continuous time random variable takes in continuous steps denoted as X(t) where 0≤t<∞

4.2.1 Cumulative Distribution Function

A cumulative distribution function describes the probability that a real valued random variable X with a given probability distribution will be found at a value less than or equal to x

F(x) = Pr(X≤x)

4.2.2 Probability Density Function

A probability density function describes the relative likelihood for the random variable to take a given value.

$$f(x) = \frac{d}{dx}(Fx)$$

4.3 Probability Distribution Functions

1) Exponential Distribution

A random variable X is said to be exponentially distributed if it satisfies the probability density function $f(x) = \alpha e^{-\alpha x}$ $\alpha, x \geq 0$ where α is the rate at which the event occurs .

The cumulative distribution function is $F(x) = 1 - \alpha e^{-\alpha x}$

The mean , or average of the distribution , $\mu = 1/\alpha$. Variance $Var[X] = 1/\alpha^2$.

Exponential distribution satisfies memoryless property , $Pr[X \geq t + T \mid X > t] = Pr[X > T]$

2) Poisson Distribution

A random variable X is said to be Poisson distributed if its satisfies the probability density function ,

$$f(x,k) = \lambda^k e^{-\lambda} / k!.$$

The cumulative distribution function $F(x,k) = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{i=0}^{|k|} \lambda^i / i!$

$$\mu = Var[X] = \lambda$$

4.4 Discrete Time Markov Chain

A stochastic process formally denoted as $\{ X(t) , t \in T\}$ is a sequence of random variables X(t) , where the parameter t – time runs over an index set T. The state space of the stochastic process is the set of all possible values of the random variables *X(t)* and each of these possible values is called the state of the process. If the index set T is a countable set , *X [k]* is a discrete stochastic process. If T is continuous *X(t)* is a continuous stochastic process.

A stochastic process $\{ X(t) , t \in T\}$ is a Markov process if the future state of the process only depends on the current state of the process and not on its past history. Formally, a stochastic process $\{ X(t) , t \in T\}$ is a continuous time Markov process if for all $t0 < t1 < t2 < \ldots\ldots tn+1$ of the index set *T* and for any set $\{x0,x1,x2,\ldots.xn+1\}$ of the state space it holds that

$$Pr[X(tn+1)= x_{n+1} / X(t0)= x_0,\ldots.,X(tn)= x_0]=Pr[X(tn+1)= x_{n+1} / X(tn)=x_n]$$

The Markov property states that at any times *s* > *t* > 0, the conditional probability distribution of the process at time *s* given the whole history of the process up to and including time *t*, depends only on the state of the process at time *t*. In effect, the state of the process at time *s* is conditionally independent of the history of the process *before* time *t*, given the state of the process *at* time *t*.

A discrete time Markov chain { *X [k], k* $\in$ *T*} is a stochastic process whose state space is finite or countably infinite set with index set *T = {0, 1, 2….}* obeying

$$Pr[X_{k+1}=x_{k+1} / X_0=x_0,\ldots., X_k=x_k]=Pr[X_{k+1}=x_{k+1} / X_k=x_k]$$

A Markov process is called a Markov chain if its state space is discrete. The conditional probabilities **Pr [X_{k+1} = j|X_k = i]** are called the transition probabilities of the Markov chain. In general, these transition probabilities can depend on the (discrete) time k. A Markov chain is entirely defined by the transition probabilities and the initial distribution of the Markov chain ***Pr [$X_0 = x_0$]*** .

By using the definition of the conditional probability it can be shown that the complete information of the Markov chain is obtained if, apart from the initial distribution, all time depending transition probabilities are known as per the formula.

$$Pr[X_0=x_0,\ldots., X_k=x_k] = \prod_{j=1}^{k} Pr[X_j = x_j | X_{j-1} = x_{j-1}]\ Pr[X_0 = x_0]$$

If the transition probabilities are independent of time k i.e if P_{ij} **=** Pr [X_{k+1} = j|X_k = i] the Markov chain is called stationary. In a state space S with N states (where N = dim(S) can be infinite) Since Xk can take N possible values, we denote the corresponding state vector at discrete-time k by s[k] = [s1[k] s2[k] · · · sN [k]] with s(i)[k] = Pr[Xi = k].Hence, s[k] is a 1 × N vector. Since the state Xk at discrete-time k must be in one of the N possible states and hence ,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} Pr\ [X_k\ =\ i]\ =\ 1 \text{ or,}$$

in vector notation, **s[k].u =** $\sum_{i=1}^{N} 1.\ s_i\ [k]\ =\ 1$ **where u^T = [1 1 · · · · · · 1].**

In a stationary Markov chain the states Xk+1 and Xk are connected by the equation of total probability **Pr[Xk+1 = j] =** $\sum_{i=1}^{N} P_{ij}\ \mathbf{Pr}[X_k = \mathbf{i}]$ for all j or in vector notation s[k+1] = s[k]. P where P is the transition probability matrix and it must hold that $\sum_{j=1}^{N} P_{ij} = 1$, means that at discrete-time k, there certainly occurs a transition in the Markov chain, possibly to the same state as at time k-1. A matrix P satisfying this relation is called stochastic matrix. If Pij is independent of k then its called time homogeneous Markov chain.

Given an initial state vector s[0], the general solution of s[k] = s[0] .P^k and s[k+n] = s[0].P^{k+n}

The elements of matrix P^n are called n-step transition probabilities,

$$\boldsymbol{P_{ij}^n = \Pr[X_{k+n} = j \mid X_k = i]}$$

The transition probability matrix P is of the form

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} P_{11} & P_{12} & P_{13} & \cdots & P_{1;N-1} & P_{1N} \\ P_{21} & P_{22} & P_{23} & \cdots & P_{2;N-1} & P_{2N} \\ P_{31} & P_{32} & P_{33} & \cdots & P_{3;N-1} & P_{3N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ P_{N-1;1} & P_{N-1;2} & P_{N-1;3} & \cdots & P_{N-1;N-1} & P_{N-1;N} \\ P_{N1} & P_{N;2} & P_{N3} & \cdots & P_{N;N-1} & P_{NN} \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 7 : Transition probability matrix

Since it must hold for any initial state vector s[0], by choosing s[0] = [0 …..0 1 0…….0] (all column zero except for ith column) which expresses that Markov chain starts from one of the possible states , say state i , then s[1] = [P_{i1} P_{i2} P_{i3} ……P_{iN}]

4.4.1 The hitting time and Sojourn time

If A is a subset of states , A ⊂ S , the hitting time TA is the first positive time the Markov chain is in a state of set A , thus for k ≥ 0 , TA = min(k : $X_k \in$ A). The sojourn time of state i in a Markov chain is the amount of time the system spends in state i before leaving to state j≠i.

4.4.2 Transient ,Recurrent and Absorbing states

The probability that a Markov chain , starting at state i will come to state j is given as

$$\boldsymbol{P_{ij} = Pr[T_j < \infty \mid X0 = j]} .$$

If i = j then , P_{ii} is the probability of returning to state in i. If Pii =1 then the state is a recurrent and if P_{ii}< 1 , then the state is transient. If P_{ii} = 1 and P_{ij} = 0 for i≠j then it's called an absorbing state.

4.4.3 The steady state vector

The state of the system with k→∞ is called the steady state and the vector π = lim k→∞ s[k] is called the steady state vector and it must hold that $\pi = \pi . P$ or for each component

$$\boldsymbol{\pi_j = \sum_{k=1}^{N} P_{kj}\ \pi_k}$$

for $1 \leq j \leq N$ $\lim_{k\to\infty} P_{kj} = \pi_j$ such that $\sum_{j=1}^{N} \pi_j = 1$

The solution of π is obtained from the following equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} P_{11}-1 & P_{21} & P_{31} & \cdots & P_{N-1;1} & P_{N1} \\ P_{12} & P_{22}-1 & P_{32} & \cdots & P_{N-1;2} & P_{N2} \\ P_{13} & P_{23} & P_{33}-1 & \cdots & P_{N-1;3} & P_{N3} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ P_{1;N-1} & P_{2;N-1} & P_{3;N-1} & \cdots & P_{N-1;N-1}-1 & P_{N;N-1} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \pi_1 \\ \pi_2 \\ \pi_3 \\ \vdots \\ \pi_{N-1} \\ \pi_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

4.5 Continuous Time Markov Chain

For the continuous-time Markov chain {X(t),t≥ 0} with N states, the Markov property can be written as

$$Pr[X(t+\tau)=j \mid X(\tau)=i, X(u)=x(u), 0 \leq u < \tau)\ ] = Pr[X(t+\tau)= j \mid X(\tau)= i\ ]$$

and reflects the fact that the future state at time $t+\tau$ only depends on the current state at time τ . Similarly as for the discrete-time Markov chain, we assume that the transition probabilities for the continuous-time Markov chain {X(t),t≥ 0} are stationary, i.e. independent of a point τ in time,

$$Pij(t) = Pr[X(t+\tau) = j \mid X(\tau) = i] = Pr[X(t) = j \mid X(0) = i]$$

Similar to discrete time Markov chain, the state vector s(t) in continuous time components sk(t) = Pr[Xk = k] , with P(t) being the transition probability matrix ,satisfies

$$s(t+\tau) = s(\tau)\ P(t)\ \ \&\ P(t+u) = P(t)\ .\ P(u) = P(u).P(t)$$

Since Markov chain should be in one of the N states

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} P_{ij}(t) = 1 \text{ , with } P(0) = \lim_{t\to 0} P(t).$$

Given the infinitesimal generator Q = P'(0) = $\lim_{h\to 0} \frac{P(h)-I}{h}$ the transition probability matrix is differentiable for all t≥0 and hence ,

$$P'(t) = P(t)\ Q = Q\ P(t)$$

It can be proved that $\sum_{j=1\ i\neq j}^{N} q_{ij} = -q_{ii} > 0$ where $q_{ij} = lim_{h\to 0} \frac{P_{ij}(h)}{h} \geq 0$ and $q_{ii} \leq 0$, which implies that sum of rows of **Q** is zero . q_{ij} of Q are the derivatives of the probabilities and they reflect the change in the probability from state i towards state j and are called rates.

4.5.1 Properties of q_{ij}

If $q_i = -q_{ii} \geq 0$ then, $\sum_{j=1}^{N} |q_{ij}| = 2q_i$. This demonstrates that Q is bounded if and only if the rates q_i are bounded. For finite state Markov processes, q_j are finite (since qij are finite), but, if $q_j = \infty$, the state is called instantaneous since when the process enters this state, it immediately leaves the state. Continuous-time Markov chains with all states non-instantaneous are called conservative.

4.5.2 Properties of Q

Q has the property that $P(t) = e^{Qt} = lim_{n\to\infty} \left(1 + \frac{Qt}{n}\right)^n$ and can be explicitly given as follows

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} -q_1 & q_{12} & q_{13} & \cdots & q_{1;N-1} & q_{1N} \\ q_{21} & -q_2 & q_{23} & \cdots & q_{2;N-1} & q_{2N} \\ q_{31} & q_{32} & -q_3 & \cdots & q_{3;N-1} & q_{3N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ q_{N-1;1} & q_{N-1;2} & q_{N-1;3} & \cdots & -q_{N-1} & q_{N-1;N} \\ q_{N1} & q_{N;2} & q_{N3} & \cdots & q_{N;N-1} & -q_N \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 8: Infinitesimal generator matrix

4.5.3 Steady state

If the finite state Markov chain is irreducible, the steady state π exists. Since steady state vector π doesn't change over time $\lim_{t\to\infty}$ P'(t) =0 implies that Q(P_I) = (P_I)Q = 0 , where $P_I = \lim_{t\to\infty}$ P(t). Similar to the argument with discrete time markov chain , the steady state (row) vector π is solution of π Q = 0. Since $\lim_{t\to\infty} s_k(t) = \pi k$ and $\lim_{t\to\infty} s'_k(t) = 0$.

Alternatively $\pi = s(0)\ (P_I) = \lim_{t\to\infty} s(0)\ e^{Qt}$

The main difference between discrete and continuous-time Markov chains lies, apart from the concept of time, in the determination of the number of transitions. In case of a continuous time Markov chain, the sojourn time in a discrete chain is deterministic and all

times are equal to 1. The sojourn times τj of a continuous-time Markov process in a state j are independent, exponential random variables with mean $1/\boldsymbol{q_j}$

4.6 Embedded Markov chain :

A method of finding π of an ergodic continuous-time Markov chain, *Q*, is by first finding its embedded Markov chain (EMC). EMC is a regular discrete-time Markov chain, also called as a jump process. Each element of the one-step transition probability matrix of the EMC, *S*, is denoted by s_{ij}, and represents the conditional probability of transitioning from state *i* into state *j.*The relation between the steady state vector of the continuous time Markov chain π and its corresponding embedded discrete time markov chain v are,

$$\boldsymbol{v_i = \pi_i\, q_i \,/ \sum_{j=1}^{N} \pi_j\, q_i \;\; and \;\; \pi_i = (v_i/q_i) \,/ \sum_{j=1}^{N} (\frac{v_j}{q_j})}$$

The classification in the discrete-time case into transient and recurrent can be transferred via the embedded Markov chain to continuous Markov processes.

4.7 Uniformization:

Uniformization is a method to compute the transient solution of a finite state CTMC. The method involves construction of analogous DTMC , where transition occur to an exponential distribution with the same parameter in every state and hence the name uniformization.

For a continuous time Markov chain with infinitesimal generator matrix Q , the uniformized transition matrix P(P_{ij}) is given as follows

$$\boldsymbol{Pij} = \begin{cases} \dfrac{\boldsymbol{q_{ij}}}{\boldsymbol{q}}, & \boldsymbol{if\ i \neq j} \\ \boldsymbol{1 - \sum_{j \neq i} \dfrac{q_{ij}}{q}}, & \boldsymbol{if\ i = j} \end{cases}$$

Where q is a rate value which is chosen to be greater than the magnitude of all the rates within the generator matrix , i.e $q \geq max_i \mid Q(i,i) \mid$. In matrix notiation it can be written as ,

$$\boldsymbol{P} = \frac{\boldsymbol{Q}}{\boldsymbol{q}} + \boldsymbol{I}$$, where I is the Identity matrix

For a starting distribution $\pi(0)$, the distribution at time t, with system having completed n hops can be derived as

$$\boldsymbol{\pi(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \pi(0)\ P^n \frac{(qt)^n}{n!} e^{-qt}}$$

This representation shows, that "a continuous time Markov Chain can be described by a discrete Markov Chain with transition matrix *P* as defined above where jumps occur according to a Poisson process with intensity *qt*"

4.8 First Passage Time Analysis

Consider a finite, irreducible , CTMC with n states {1,2,3…..n} and the infinitesimal generator matrix Q. If X(t) denotes the state of the CTMC at time t (t≥0) , then the first passage time from a source state i into a non-empty set of target states $\underset{j}{\rightarrow}$ is given as

$$\boldsymbol{T_{\underset{ij}{\rightarrow}}(t) = inf\{u > 0 : X(t+u) \in \underset{j}{\rightarrow} \mid X(0) = i\} \quad \forall t \geq 0}$$

For stationary time-homogeneous CTMC $T_{\underset{ij}{\rightarrow}}$ is independent of t, so $T_{\underset{ij}{\rightarrow}}(t) = inf\{u > 0 : X(u) \in \underset{j}{\rightarrow} \mid X(0) = i\}$. $T_{\underset{ij}{\rightarrow}}$ is associated with probability density function, f(x) of the random variable by the relation

$$\boldsymbol{Pr(a < T_{\underset{ij}{\rightarrow}} < b) = \int_a^b f(t)\, dt \quad (0 \leq a < b)}$$

The cumulative density function (CDF) of passage is obtained by multiplying the probability of being in a target state j after exactly n hops within time t by the probability of performing n within the time t,

$$\boldsymbol{F(q,t) = 1 - e^{-qt} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(qt)^k}{k!}}$$

The probability density function (PDF) of a passage is the probability of performing n hops at exactly time t to reach state j is given as

$$\boldsymbol{f(q,t) = \frac{q^n\, t^{n-1}\, e^{-qt}}{(n-1)!}}$$

Hence the Passage time equations for CDF and PDF are as follows,

$$\boldsymbol{T_{\underset{ij}{\rightarrow}}(t)(CDF) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(F(q,t) . \left(\sum_{k \epsilon \underset{j}{\rightarrow}} \pi_k{}^n \right) \right)}$$

$$\boldsymbol{T_{\underset{ij}{\rightarrow}}(t)(PDF) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(f(q,t) . \left(\sum_{k \epsilon \underset{j}{\rightarrow}} \pi_k{}^n \right) \right)}$$

4.9 Poisson process

A continuous time stochastic process {X(t) , t≤0} satisfying the following properties is called a poisson process

(i) X(0) = 0

(ii) ∀ $t_0 = 0 < t_1 < t_2 \ldots < tn$, the increments $X(t_1) – X(t_0)$, $X(t_2) – X(t_1)$, ….,$X(t_n) – X(t_{n-1})$ are independent random variables

(iii) For t≥ 0, s > 0 and non negative integers k, the increments have Poisson distribution

Then $$\boldsymbol{Pr[\, X(t+s) – X(s) \; = k \,] = (\lambda t)^k \, e^{-\lambda t} / \, k!\,,}$$

$\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ is the rate of the Poisson process with mean of the process $\boldsymbol{= \lambda t}$

The above process is a homogenous Poisson process where the number of events in an interval (t, t+τ) follows a poisson distribution.

4.9.1 Properties

1) A Poisson process {X(t) , t ≥0} with rate λ > 0 and denoted by t0 = 0 <t1<t2…. the successive occurrence times of events, then the interarrival times $\tau_n = t_n - (t_n - 1)$ are independent identically distributed exponential random variables with mean 1/λ . In other words, the cumulative distribution function , $\boldsymbol{F(x) = Pr[\tau n \leq x] = 1 – e^{-\lambda x}}$

2) If X(t) and Y(t) are two independent poisson processes with rates λx and λy , then Z(t) = X(t) + Y(t) is also a poisson process with rate λx + λy

3) A Poisson process is the most basic form of a CTMC, i.e a chain of independent identically distributed states with mean sojurn time of 1/qj

5. Performance modeling

Performance modeling is a process of modeling system performance considering various sytem parameters with the objective of proactively predicting the performance statically. To obtain the performance model of a system, its required to denote the system in abstract form of which represents average behavior. In order to perform this several operational laws are applied. The advantages of the laws are that,

1) They are very general and make no assumptions about the behavior of the random variables characterizing the system.

2) They are very simple meaning that they can be applied quickly and easily by almost anyone.

Based on a few simple observations of the system , by applying these simple laws, we can derive more information. Using this information as input , we can gradually build up a more complete picture of the behavior of the system.

Operational laws are built on observable variables. These are values which we could derive from watching a system over a finite period of time. Consider a system receiving requests from its environment. Each requests generates a job in the system . when the job has been processed by the system the system responds to the environment with the completion of the requests. Based on this analogy , we can identify the following variables

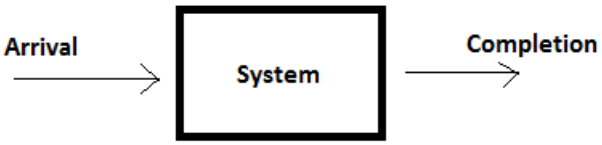


Figure 9 : A sample system model

T : the length of time we observe the system

A : the number of request arrivals we observe

C : the number of request completions we observe

B : the total amount of time during which the system is busy (B<T)

N : The average number of jobs in the system.

From these observed values we can derive the following four quantities:

λ = A/T, the arrival rate,

X = C/T, the throughput or completion rate,

U = B/T, the utilization,

S = B/C, the mean service time per completed job

Response time = Service time + Wait time , where response time is the time between the initiation and completion of the response to a request and wait time is the time between the submission of the request and initiation of the response. We assume that the system is job flow balanced , meaning that number of arrivals is equal to number of completions during an observation period and hence A = C => λ = X.

5.1 Little's Law

It states that the average number of jobs in a system is equal to the product of the throughput of the system and the average time spent in that system by a job

If average number of jobs in the system is N , and W is the average residence time of the jobs in the system , then the throughput of the system X = N / W

5.2 Forced flow law

It states that the throughput at the ith resource is equal to the product of the throughput of the system and the visit count at that resource.

If V_i is the visit count of the ith resource , the ratio of number of completions at that resource to the number of system completions is $V_i = C_i/C$. Hence if X_i is the throughput of the system at ith resource then $X_i = X.\ V_i$

5.3 Utilization Law

It states that the utilization of a resource is equal to the product of the throughput of that resource and the average service requirement at that resource.

The total amount of the service Si that a system job generates at the ith resource is called the service demand D_i. $D_i = S_i V_i$. The utilization of a resource is the percentage of time that the ith resource is in use processing the job

$$\boldsymbol{U_i = X_i S_i = X D_i}.$$

5.4 Residence Time Law

It states that the average residence time or average response time of a job in the system will be the sum of the product of its average residence time at each resource and the number of visits it makes to that resource.

$$W = \sum_{i=1}^{N} W_i V_i$$

5.5 Queueing theory

Queueing theory describes basic phenomena such as the waiting time, the throughput, the losses, the number of queueing items, etc. in queueing systems. A queueing system basically consists of a) Arrival process b) Queueing process c) Service process and d) Departure Process

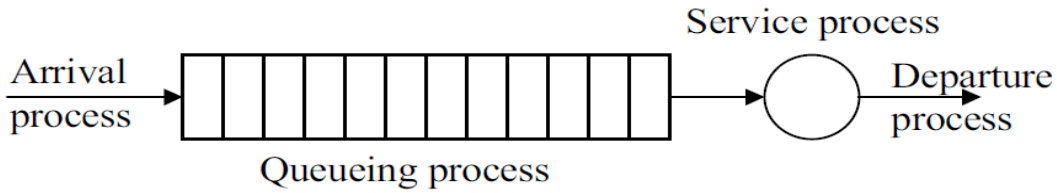


Figure 10 : Queueing model

The general syntax is A/B/n/K/m, where A specifies the interarrival process, B the service process, n the number of servers, K the number of positions in the queue and m restricts the number of allowed arrivals in the queueing system. Examples for both the interarrival distribution A and the service distribution B are M (memoryless or Markovian) for the exponential distribution, G for a general distribution and D for a deterministic distribution.

The traffic intensity of a Queueing system , also called Load or Utilization $\rho = E[x]/ E[\tau] = \lambda/\mu$, where λ is the mean interarrival rate and μ is the mean service rate. Applying Little's law , the average number of jobs in the system E[Ns] equals to the average arrival rate λ times the average time spend in the system E[T], $E[Ns] = \lambda . E[T]$.

5.6 Queueing Models

The M/M/1 queue (with unlimited positions in the queue , which will not be indicated in the notation) consists of a Poisson arrival process of jobs with exponentially distributed interarrival times, a service process with exponentially distributed service time, one server and an infinitely long queue. Similarly M/M/1/K queue consists of a Poisson arrival process of jobs with exponentially distributed interarrival times , a service process with exponentially distributed service time, one server and with a queue capacity of K.The following tables summarizes different performance measures of M/M/1 and M/M/1/K queue

Performance Measures	M/M/1	M/M/1/K
Traffic intensity, ρ	λ/μ	λ/μ
Utilization , U (per server)	P	$\rho(1-((1-\rho).\rho^{K}/(1-\rho^{K+1}))$
Average number of jobs in the system , E[Ns]	$\rho/(1-\rho)$	$\rho/(1-\rho)-((K+1).\rho^{(K+1)})/(1-\rho^{K+1}))$
Average response time, E[T]	$1/\mu(1-\rho)$	$N/\lambda*1/(1-((1-\rho).\rho^{K}/(1-\rho^{K+1}))$

Table 1 : Queueing model parameters

6. PEPA

PEPA is a stochastic process algebra designed for modeling computer and communication systems introduced by Jane Hillston. The language extends classical process algebras such as Milner's CCS and Hoare's CSP by introducing probabilistic branching and timing of transitions**.**

PEPA consists of set of agents which engage in action . Models can be constructed from components which engaged in activities. The structured operational (interleaving) semantics of language is used to generate a labeled transition system (LTS) . The behavior of the model is dictated by the semantic rules (Structure Operational Semantics) governing the combinator of the language. The possible evolutions of a model are captured by applying the rules exhaustively generating a labeled transition system. The resulting system can be viewed as a graph in which each node can be viewed as a state of the model and the arcs representing the actions which can cause the model to move from one state to another i.e a CTMC .

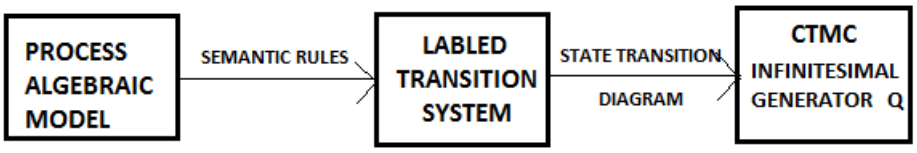


Figure 11 : PEPA overview

Rates are drawn from the exponential distribution and PEPA models are finite-state and so give rise to a stochastic process (CTMC). Thus the language can be used to study quantitative properties of models of computer and communication systems such as throughput, utilization and response time as well as qualitative properties such as freedom from deadlock. The language is formally defined using a structured operational semantics in the style invented by Gordon Plotkin.

PEPA has four combinators, *prefix*, *choice*, *co-operation* and *hiding*. Prefix is the basic building block of a sequential component: the process (*a*, *r*).*P* performs activity *a* at a rate *r* before evolving to behave as component *P*. Choice sets up a competition between two possible alternatives: in the process (*a*, *r*).*P* + (*b*, *s*).*Q* either *a* wins the race (and the process subsequently behaves as *P*) or *b* wins the race (and the process subsequently behaves as *Q*).

The co-operation operator requires the two "co-operands" to join for those activities which are specified in the co-operation set: in the process *P* < *a*, *b*> *Q* the processes *P* and *Q* must co-operate on activities *a* and *b*, but any other activities may be performed independently. Finally, the process *P*/{*a*} hides the activity *a* from view (and prevents other processes from joining with it).

6.1 Syntax & Properties

Given a set of action names, the set of CCS processes is defined by the following BNF grammar:

$$P ::= (a, \lambda).P \mid P + Q \mid P \langle L \rangle Q \mid P/L \mid A$$

The parts of the syntax are, in the order given above

(i) action :

The process *(a, λ).P* can perform an action *a* at a rate *λ* and continue as the process *P*.

(ii) choice :

The process *P+Q* may behave as either the process *P* or the process *Q*.

(iii) Cooperation :

The processes *P* and *Q* exist simultaneously and behave independently for actions whose names do not appear in <>. For actions whose names appear in <>, the action must be carried out jointly and a race condition determines the time this takes. E.g. P< a,b >Q : P and Q are synchronized over a and b

(iv) Parallel :

The processes *P* and *Q* exist simultaneously and behave independently. E.g. P < > Q.

(v) Hiding:

The process *P* behaves as usual for action names not in *L*, and performs a action for action names that appear in < *L* >. E.g. P/{a}.

(vi) Process identifier:

write $A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P$ to use the identifier *A* to refer to the process *P*.

6.1.1 Synchronization

PEPA has a bounded capacity for synchronization . When two activates with different rates are synchronized by co-operation operator, the rate of the shared activity is reduced to the minimum of the apparent rates of the activity in the co-operating components.

6.1.2 Activity Rate

When an activity α is enabled by a process P = (α, λ) , the completion of the activity is delayed for a period determined by the associated exponential distribution. The probability that the activity α happens within a period of time t , is given by the cumulative distribution function F(t) = 1 - $e^{-\lambda t}$.If several activities are enabled at the same time each will have their own associated timer.When the time t expires the activity is said to be completed w.r.t an external observer. A activity is preempted or aborted if another activity completes first.

The apparent rate of a component P with respect to the action type α , is the total capacity of the component P to carry out activities of type α , denoted by $r_\alpha(P)$

6.1.3 Time Homogeneity

PEPA models are time-homogeneous , since all the activities are time-homogeneous, i.e the rate and type of activates enabled by a component are independent of time.

6.1.4 Irreducibility & Positive recurrence

Only the PEPA models with finite number of states are solved, i.e the models should be irreducible and positive recurrent (strongly connected) which are expressed in terms of the derivation graph. This means that in the system whenever we chose a path it must eventually return to the point where the original choice is made possibly with different outcome

6.1.5 Exponential Property

The memory less property of the exponential distribution makes the recording of the residual time of an activity redundant.

6.1.6 Structured Operation Semantics

PEPA is defined using Plotkin-style structured operational semantics. The rules are described as follows

Prefix $\quad (\alpha, r).E \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r)} E$

Choice $\frac{E \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r)} E'}{E+F \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r)} E'}$, $\frac{F \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r)} F'}{E+F \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r)} F'}$

Cooperation $\frac{E \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r)} E'}{E \langle L \rangle F \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r)} E' \langle L \rangle F}$, α not belongs to L

$\frac{E \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r1)} E' , F \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r2)} F'}{E \langle L \rangle F \xrightarrow{(\alpha,R)} E' \langle L \rangle F}$, αϵL ,

where R = $r1/r_\alpha(E) \; . \; r1/r_\alpha(F) \; min(\; r_\alpha(E) \; , \; r_\alpha(F) \;)$.

Hiding $\frac{E \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r)} E'}{E/L \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r)} E'/L}$, α not belongs to L

$\frac{E \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r)} E'}{E/L \xrightarrow{(\tau,r)} E'/L}$, αϵL

Constant $\frac{E \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r)} E'}{A \xrightarrow{(\alpha,r)} E'} \; A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} E$

6.1.7 Multiway co-operation

Co-operation in PEPA can be multiway. Two , three , four or more partners may cooperate and they all need to synchronize for the activity to happen.

6.1.8 Solving PEPA

The generated CTMC are solved using the linear algebra in terms of the equilibrium behavior. IPC and PEPA eclipse plugin solve the equations and derives the performance measures.

6.1.9 State space Explosion problem

The solver in PEPA relies on constructing the N*N infinitesimal generation matrix Q and N dimensional probability vector π , where N is the size of the state space. Sometimes the size exceeds what could be handled by the memory and its called states space explosion problem.

It can be avoided by three methods

- State space reduction by Aggregation
- Stochastic simulation over discrete state space
- Fluid approximation of the state space

We use Aggregation method , in which the states space is partitioned in to number of smaller states, and replace each set by a macro state. By using the Markov property “The sojourn times τj of a continuous-time Markov process in a state j are independent, exponential random variables with mean 1/qj” , we can view the macro state as a state in a new CTMC.

6.2 PEPA Plug-in project:

The PEPA Plug-in Project [14] is a software tool for the Markovian analysis of PEPA models. The tool is implemented as a collection of plug-ins for Eclipse.The PEPA Plug-in contributes an editor for the language and views which assist the user during the entire cycle of model development. Static analysis is used for checking the well-formedness of a model and detecting potential errors prior to inferring the derivation graph of the system. A well-formed model can be derived, i.e. the underlying Markov process is extracted and the corresponding state space can thus be navigated and iterated via the State Space view. Finally, the CTMC view allows numerical steady-state analyses such as activity throughput and component utilization.

The plug-in will report errors in the model function:

- deadlock,
- absorbing states,
- static synchronization mismatch (co-operations which do not involve active participants).

The plug-in also generates the transition graph of the model , computes the number of states, formulates the Markov process matrix Q , communicates the matrix to a solver. The plug-in provides a simple pattern language for selecting states from the stationary distribution

The plug-in integrates the Hydra [15] compiler which can be used to process the well formed PEPA model for performance measures like

- Transient Analysis & Steady State analysis : Measures the transient and steady state probabilities of the system
- Passage Time Analysis : Measures the probability of the system response time to be at a certain value.
- Throughput, Utilization & Population: Measures the percentage occupation and utilization of the action components of the system.

6.3 IPC

Ipc stands for Imperial PEPA Compiler. It's a compiler for solving PEPA models and for performing various measurements. In ipc there are five general kinds of measurements that can be specified.

- Steady-state
- Passage-time
- Average response time
- Transient
- Count measures

Special probe components are used to specify complex performance measurements and use the simpler interface of specifying activities of interest. The first four kinds of measurements require 'start' and 'stop' actions to be given by the user, while a count measure requires only one set of action names. A passage-time measurement is used to measure between two events. The user specifies a set of start actions, the observation of the model performing any one of these actions will start the measurement. The user also specifies a set of stop actions and the measurement is terminated when the model performs any actions within that set.

This can be done with the following command line:

ipc --source <source actions> --target <target actions> <PEPA file name>

In addition to this, the start , stop and time step can also be specified in the command line as follows

ipc --source <source actions> --target <target actions> --start-time <start time> --stop-time <stop time> --time-step <time step> <PEPA file name>

The average response time measurement is also used to measure between two events, with a start and end action or a set of start and end actions with the following command

ipc --source <source action> --target <target action> --average-response <PEPA file name>

The following command can be issued to generate the state space view of the model

ipc --dot-file <PEPA file name >

The ipc compiler is integrated in to the tool for analysis of the 1-PIPELINE , 2-PIPELINE & Cache PEPA models. We use both Passage time measurement and Average response time measurement for the analysis.

6.4 PEPA Example

The following PEPA script models 2 processes, P and Q synchronizing over actions b and c

```
r = 1.0; s = 2.0; t = 1.5;          // Rate of transitions

P1 = (a, r).P2;                     // Transition P1 - > P2
P2 = (b ,r).P3 + (c ,s).P4;         // System can do a Transition  P2 -> P3 or P2 ->P4 (it has a choice)
P3 = (d ,r).P4;                     // Transition  P3 -> P4
P4 = (e ,r).P1;                     // Transition  P4 -> P1
Q1 = (b, t).Q2;                     // Transition  Q1 -> Q2
Q2 = (c, t).Q1;                     // Transition  Q2 -> Q1

P1<b,c>Q1           // P1  & Q1 paths synchronize over actions b & c , i.e b & c should be
                    //performed at the same time in both P1 & Q1
```

Figure 14 : Example PEPA script

In the first stage the model is parsed and checked for errors. The tool generated CTMC is as shown below.

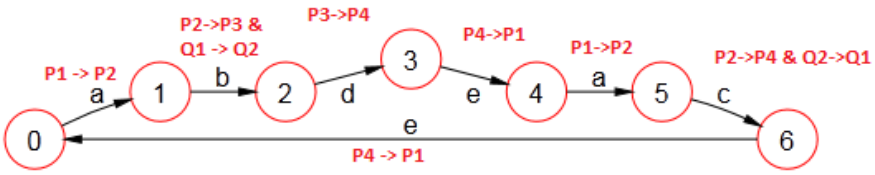


Figure 14 : Abstract State space View

The system has 2 components P & Q , which will co-operate / synchronize over actions b & c . By synchronization it means that P & Q will adjust each other to carry out actions b & c in unison where as in other cases they can carry out their actions independently but no actions can be missed.

The Passage time cumulative distribution with source action as ***a*** and target action as ***c*** is as shown in the Figure 15. This measure indicates, (as described in the section 4.8) the probability that the system starting from the state with action ***a*** , reaches state with action ***c*** (the number of hops determined by the actions) within a specific time. The effect of change in the rates r, s & t on the time to reach the target state with 99.99% probability is as shown below.

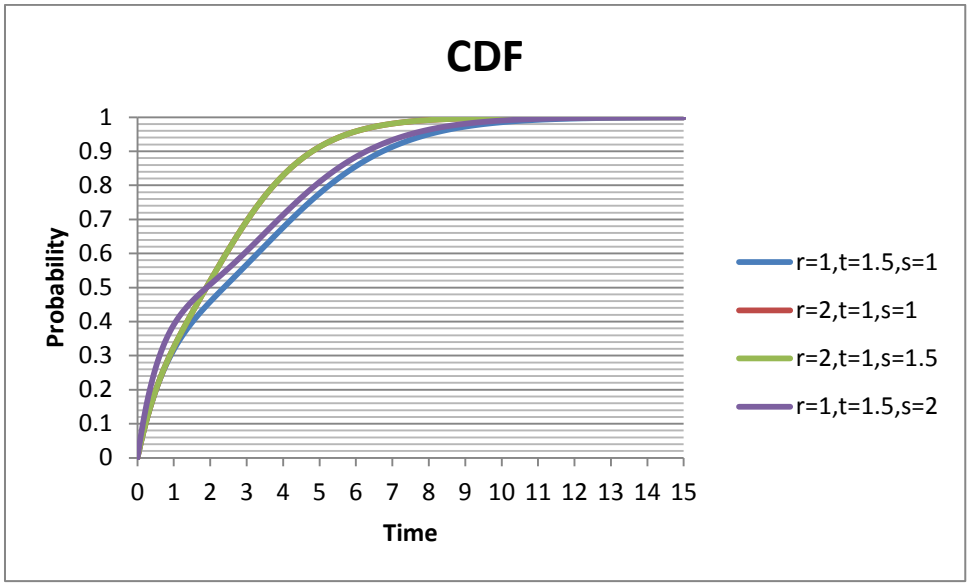


Figure 12 : Passage time CDF

The average response time (ART) of the model with source action as *a* and target action as *c* with different values of r,t and s along with time to reach 99.99% probability are as tabulated below. From the table its certain that the model runs faster when the rates arer=2,t=1 & s=1.

Rate	Average Response Time	Time to reach 99.99% probability
r = 1.0 , t =1.5, s= 1.0	2.5	9.8
r = 2.0 , t =1.0, s= 1.0	1.75	7.8
r = 2.0 , t =1.0, s= 1.5	1.75	7.8
r = 1.0 , t =1.5, s= 2.0	2.333	9.73

Table 2 : Rate vs ART

7. Design

In this chapter the different modeling approaches and the performance measures obtained in each is discussed.

7.1 Single fetch Pipeline Modeling

A typical 5 stage pipeline instruction execution sequence is as shown in the figure 5. For the sake of PEPA modeling we consider each instruction is made to undergo three actions.

1) Fetch : if
2) Decode :id
3) Execution : exe

The execution action can involve Memory Read/Write and or register Read/Write actions which is abstracted to a single exe action. The rate of execution (r) for each action is the inverse of the cycle taken for completion. Hence rate of ***if*** = 1, rate of ***id*** = 1 and rate of ***exe*** = (1/C). In an instruction set, each type of instruction has its own cycle of execution which is directly used in the PEPA equations.

Each instruction execution is imagined to be a Process component P(i) , which will synchronize with each subsequent instructions P(i+1) , P(i+2)….etc. As we can see from the figure 2, the ***if, id*** of instruction 2 must synchronize with id , exe (MEM,WB) of instruction 1. Similarly Instruction 3 must synchronize with the respective actions of instruction 1 & 2. However we can see that till the ***id*** actions , the rate of the synchronized action matches , but with exe action, the rate will be different for different type of instructions. PEPA assumes bounded capacity: that is, a component cannot be made to perform an activity faster by cooperation, so the rate of a shared activity is the minimum of the apparent rates of the activity in the cooperating components. So if we synchronize with ***exe*** can execute at the rate of 1 or ½=0.5 or ⅓ =0.333 or ¼=0.25 etc , we tend to pull the combined **exe,if,id** rate to the lowest of the set. (For example if we are synchronizing actions with rates 1,0.5,0.333 then the combined rate of execution is min{1,0.5,0.333}=0.333). This will be wrong interpretation of the system. However for the sake of experiments we will also model the system by synchronizing the *exe*. It should also be noted that while synchronizing the actions we should maintain common name for the actions to be synchronized. The following approaches are possible for modeling.

The number of instructions for modeling is limited to 4 because

- beyond 4 processes, the PEPA undergoes a population explosion in some approaches.
- In order to maintain uniformity in experimentation

Consider the following set of 4 instructions to be executed in a 5 stage pipeline

mr r5, r6

stmw r7,r8

mr r4, r8

bl r7

Approach 1:

The model of the system in approach 1 is as shown in the figure 19. In this approach we synchronize only the if and id stages of the instructions.

Instructions			Stages			
I0	if	id	exe			
I1		if	id	exe		
I2			if	id	exe	
I3				if	id	exe
Synchronizing Actions	→	cm	cm1	cm2		

PEPA CONVERSION
I0 = (if,1) . (cm,1) . (mr0,1) . I0;
I1 = (cm,1) . (cm1,1) . (stmw1,0.5) . I1;
I2 = (cm1,1) . (cm2,1) . (mr2,1) . I2;
I3 = (cm2,1) . (cm3,1) . (bl3,0.333) . I3;
I0 < cm > I1 < cm1 > I2 < cm2 > I3

Figure 13 : Approach 1 overview

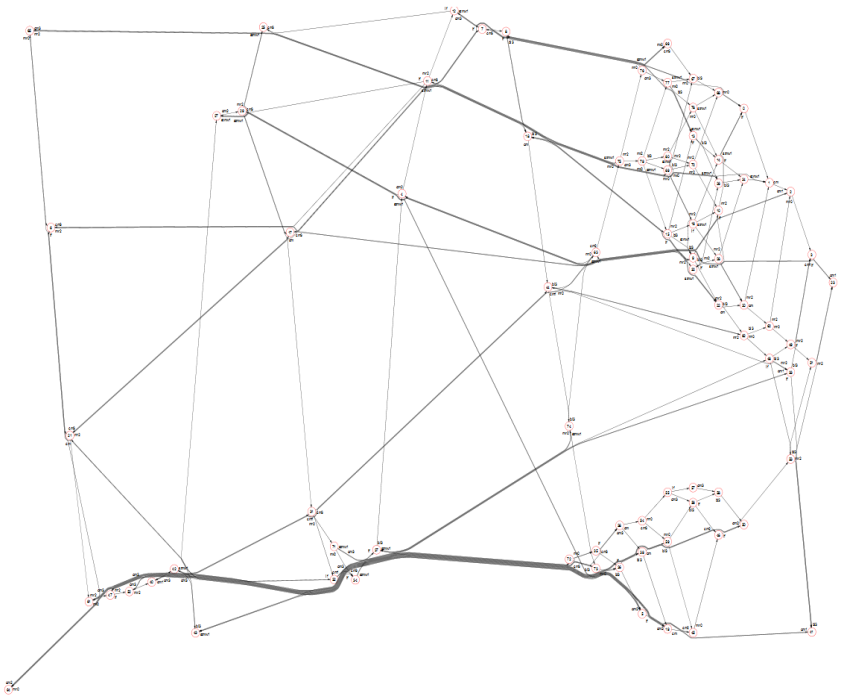


Figure 14 : Approach 1 state space

Approach 2:

The model of the system in approach 21 is as shown in the figure. In this approach we synchronize the if, id and exe of the instructions.

Instructions			Stages			
I0	if	id	exe			
I1		if	id	exe		
I2			if	id	exe	
I3				if	id	exe
Synchronizing Actions	→	cm	cm1	cm2	cm3	

PEPA CONVERSION

I0 = (if,1) . (cm,1) . (cm1,1) . I0;
I1 = (cm,1) . (cm1,1) . (cm2, 0.5) . I1;
I2 = (cm1,1) . (cm2,1) . (cm3 ,1) . I2;
I3 = (cm2,1) . (cm3, 1) . (bl3,0.333) . I3;

I0 < cm , cm 1> I1 < cm1 , cm2 > I2 < cm2, cm3 > I3

Figure 15 : Approach 2 overview

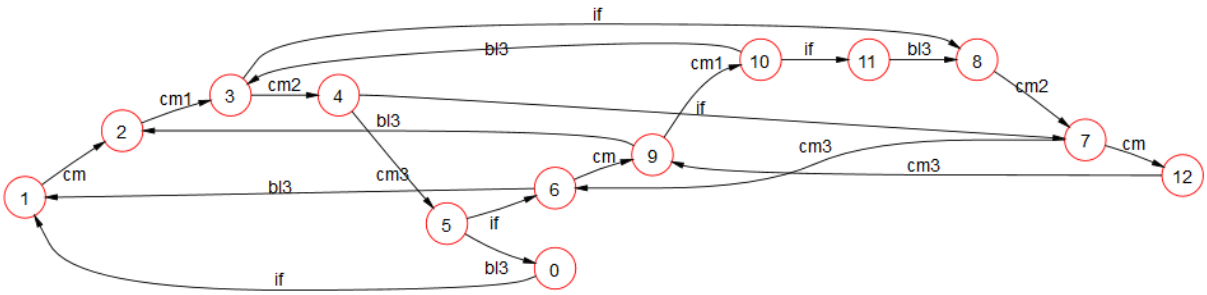
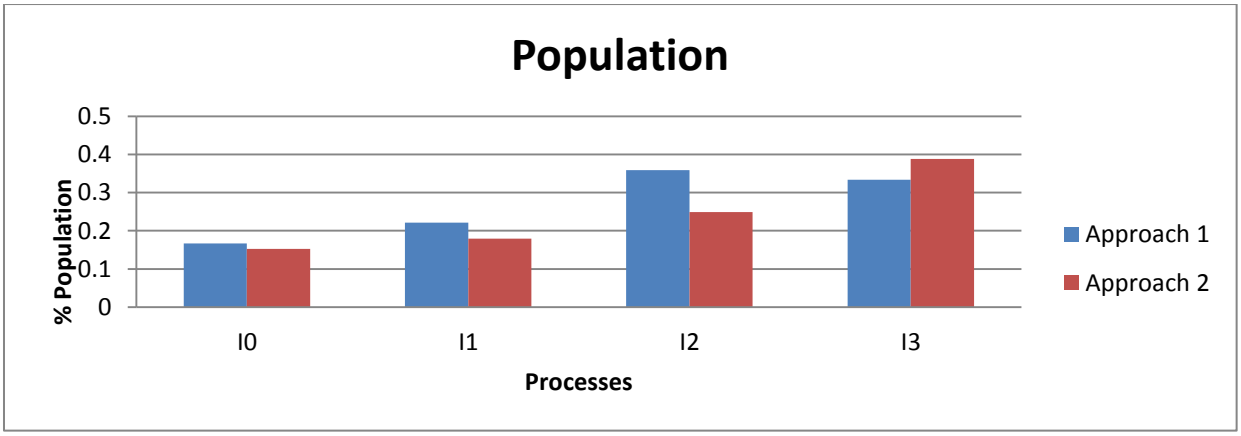


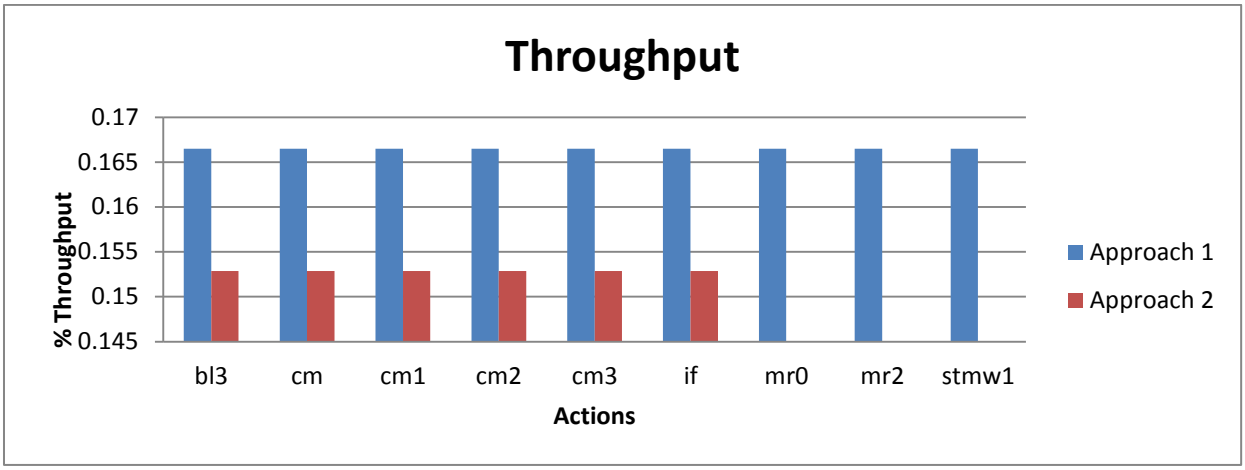
Figure 16: Approach 2 state space

The following table summarizes the Average response time measure for each approach. We use ***if*** as the source action and the set of all the ***exe***'s as the target action to evaluate ART.

Type	**Average Response Time**
Approach 1	2.94
Approach 2	3.40

Table 3 : Comparison





Similar to the evaluation of ART use ***if*** as the source action and the set of all the ***exe***'s as the target action to evaluate Passage time CDF.

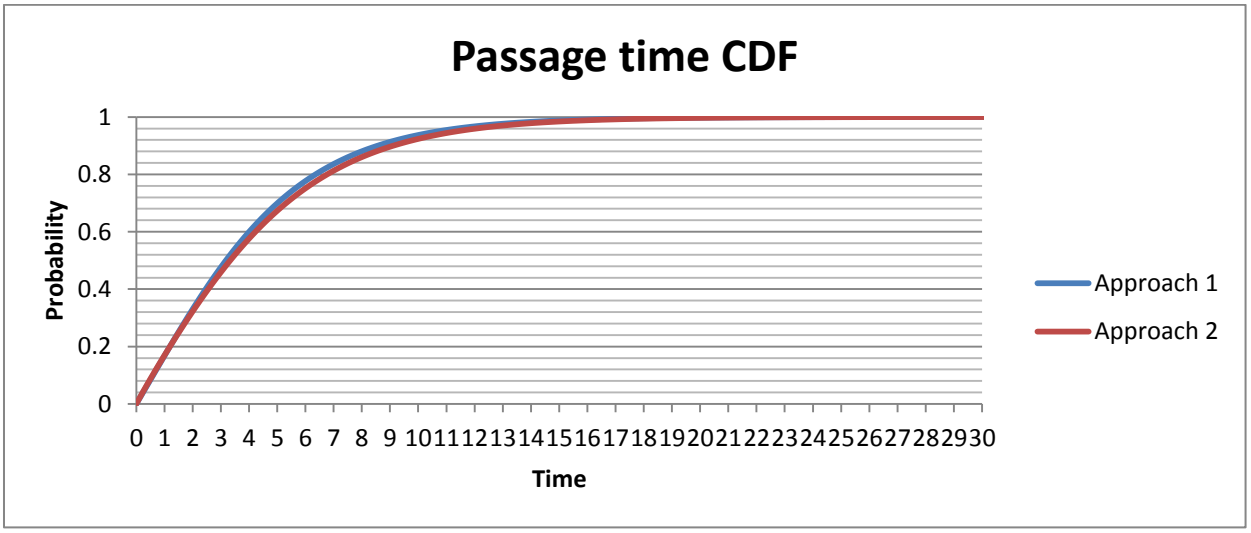


Figure 17 : Population, Throughput & Passage time CDF comparison

7.2 Dual fetch 1-Pipeline Modeling

A typical dual fetch-5 stage pipeline instruction execution sequence is as shown in the below figure 26. For the sake of PEPA modeling we consider each instruction is made to undergo three actions.

1) Fetch : if
2) Decode :id
3) Execution : exe

In case of a dual fetch pipeline, two instructions are fetched simultaneously and are executed in parallel. Each instruction in a first set , execution is imagined to be a Process component P(i) , which will synchronize with each subsequent instructions P(i+1) , P(i+2)….etc. As we can see from the figure 2, the ***if*** of the two instructions fetched is common and should synchronize; ***id*** of instruction 2 must synchronize. Similarly Instruction 3 must synchronize with the respective actions of instruction 4. However we can see that till the id actions , the rate of the synchronized action matches. Also ***id*** action on both the instruction set can be synchronized. Depending on the actions used for synchronization there are 2 approaches.

Approach 1

In this approach the if of the first two instructions will synchronize with each other, followed by id of the first 2 instructions along with the if of the 2nd instruction set, followed by the id of the 2nd instructions set.

	Instructions		Stages		
	I0	if	id	exe	
	I1	if	id	exe	
	I2		if	id	exe
	I3		if	id	exe
Synchronizing Actions	→	if	cm	cm1	

PEPA CONVERSION

I0= (if , 1) . (cm,1) . (mr0,1) . I0;
I1= (if , 1) . (cm,1) . (stmw1,0.5) . I1;
I2= (cm,1) . (cm2,1) . (mr2,1).I2;
I3= (cm,1) . (cm2,1) . (bl3,0.333).I3;

(I0 < if , cm > I1)< cm >(I2 < cm , cm2 > I3)

Figure 18 : Approach 1 overview

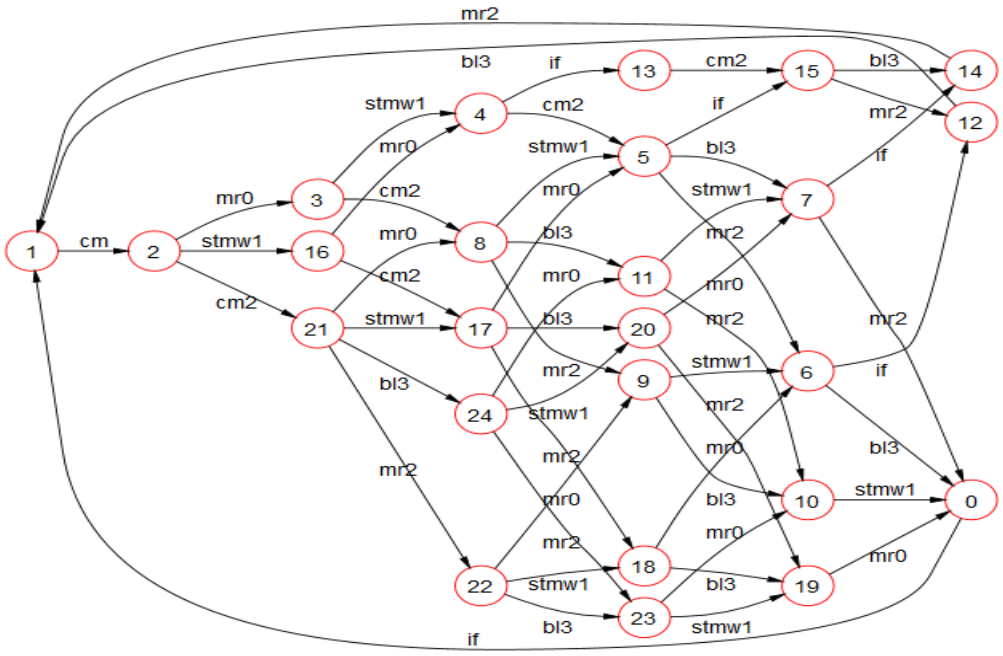


Figure 19: Approach 1 state space

Approach 2

In this approach the if of the first two instructions will synchronize, followed by id of the first 2 instructions along with the if of the 2nd instruction set, followed by the exe of the 1st set with the id of the 2nd instructions set , followed by the exe of the 2nd set.

	Instructions	Stages			
	I0	if	id	exe	
	I1	if	id	exe	
	I2		if	id	exe
	I3		if	id	exe
Synchronizing Actions	→	if	cm	cm1	cm2

PEPA CONVERSION

I0= (if , 1) . (cm,1) . (cm1, 1) . I0;
I1= (if , 1) . (cm,1) . (cm1,0.5) . I1;
I2= (cm,1) . (cm1,1) . (cm2,1).I2;
I3= (cm,1) . (cm1,1) . (cm2,0.333).I3;

(I0 < if , cm , cm1 > I1)< cm , cm1 >(I2 < cm , cm1 , cm2> I3)

Figure 20 : Approach 2 overview

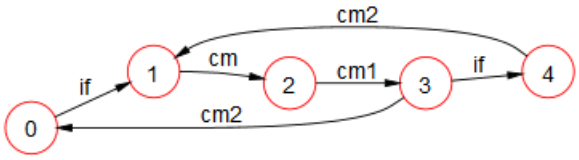


Figure 21: Approach 2 state space

Approach 3

In this approach the if of the first two instructions will synchronize, followed by id of the first 2 instructions. Along with the similar actions of the 2nd instruction set.

Instructions	Stages			
I0	if	id	exe	
I1	if	id	exe	
I2		if	id	exe
I3		if	id	exe
Synchronizing Actions		if		cm1

PEPA CONVERSION

I0= (if , 1) . (cm,1) . (mr0,1) . I0;
I1= (if , 1) . (cm,1) . (stmw1,0.5) . I1;
I2= (cm,1) . (cm2,1) . (mr2,1).I2;
I3= (cm,1) . (cm2,1) . (bl3,0.333).I3;

(I0 < if , cm > I1)< >(I2 < cm , cm2 > I3)

Figure 22 : Approach 3 overview

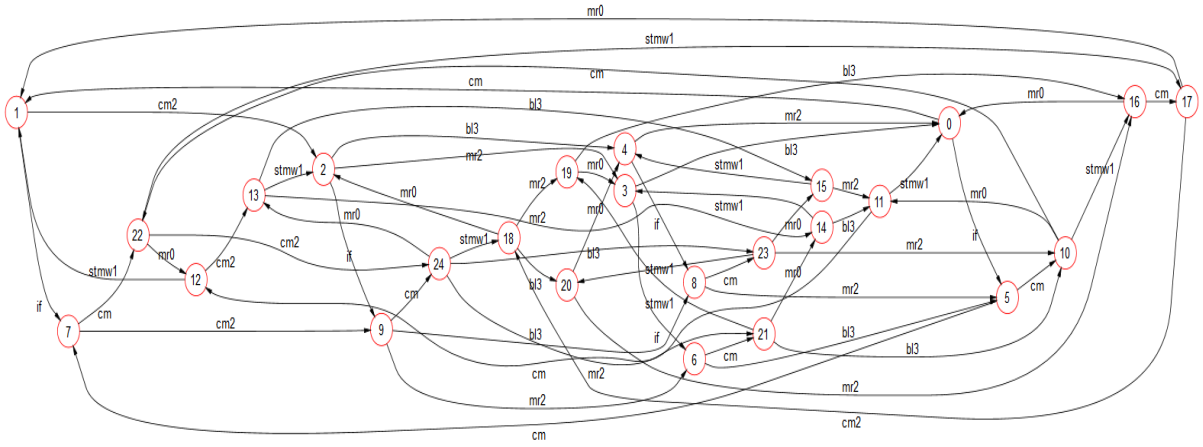
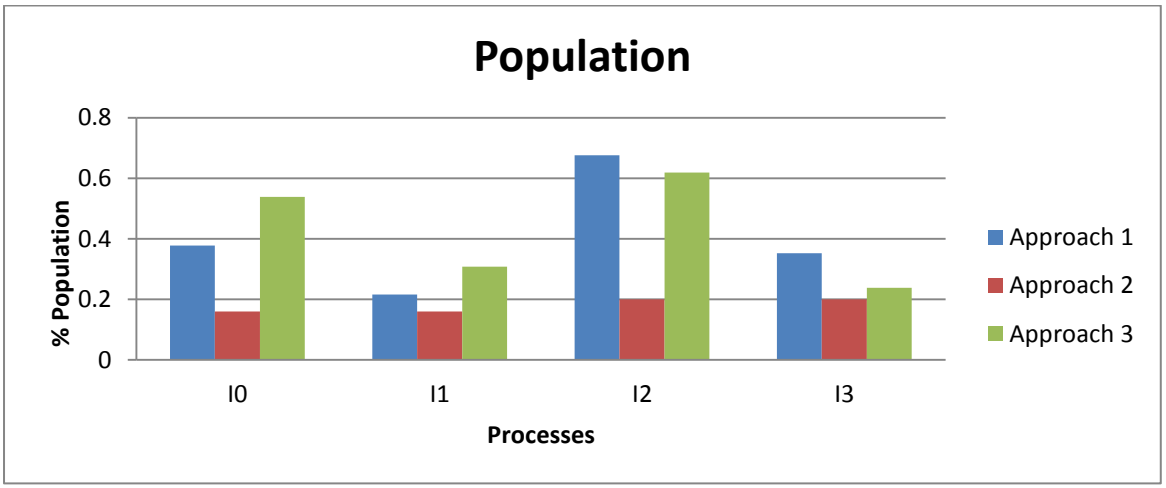
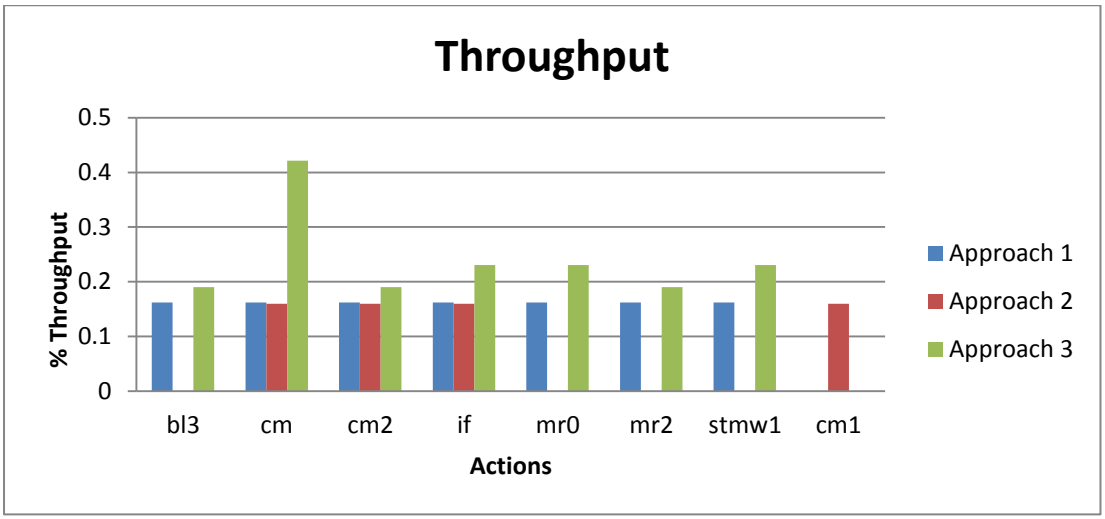


Figure 23 : Approach 3 state space





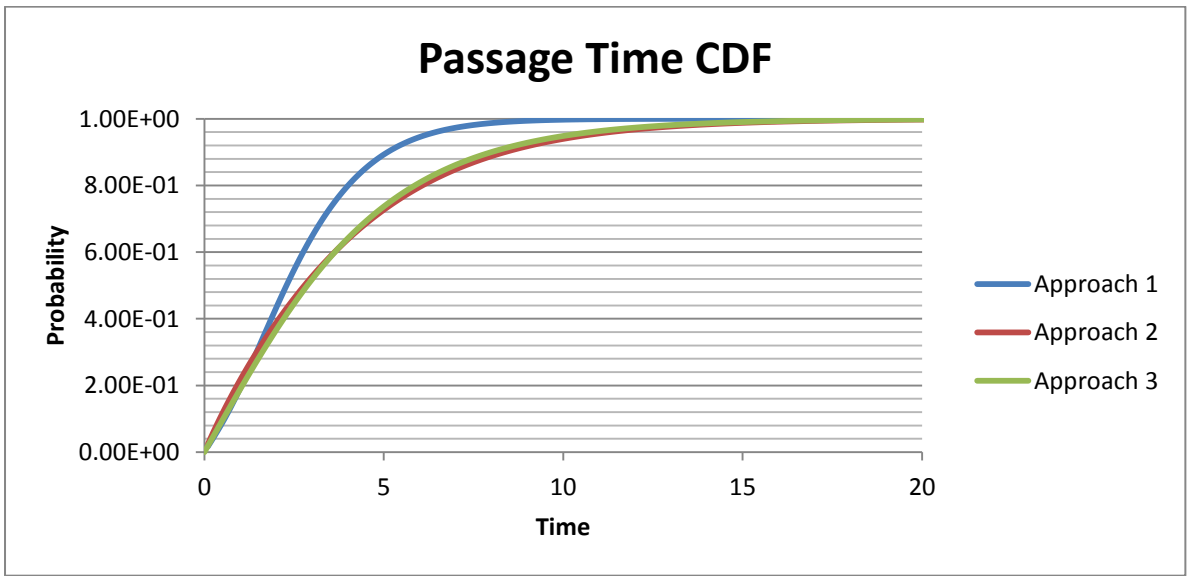


Figure 24: Population, throughput & passage time CDF comparison

The average response time of models in three different approaches is as shown in the following table. We use ***if*** as the source action and the set of all the ***exe***'s as the target action to evaluate ART.

Type	**Average Response Time**
Approach 1	3.28
Approach 2	3.18
Approach 3	2.47

Table 4 : Comparison

In order to choose the best approach, we compare the traditional performance measure i.e Cycle per instruction (CPI) with ART of the corresponding PEPA model. The cycle per instruction is given by the formula

$$\text{CPI} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{N}(ICi * Ci)}{IC}$$

Where *ICi* : Number of Instructions of type i

Ci : Number of cycles consumed by instruction of type *i*

IC : Total instruction count

In the below table I0,I1,I2,I3 in sequence are the number of execution cycles (EXE) of the instructions. For 4 instructions the value of CPI for a single fetch 5 stage pipeline can be calculated using the formula , CPI = (Total Cycles taken for I0 + I1 + I2 + I3) / 4
Total cycle taken by an Instruction = cycle for ***IF***+ cycle for ***ID*** + Cycle for ***EXE .*** In case of a dual fetch CPU the CPI is 0.5 times the CPI of a single fetch CPU.

No	I0(exe)	I1(exe)	I2(exe)	I3(exe)	Single Fetch CPI	PEPA Single Fetch ART	Dual Fetch CPI	PEPA Dual Fetch ART
1	1	1	1	1	3	2.17	1.5	1.78
2	1	1	1	2	3.25	2.43	1.625	2.02
3	1	1	1	3	3.5	2.82	1.75	2.23
4	1	1	1	4	3.75	3.31	1.875	2.4
5	1	1	2	2	3.5	2.68	1.75	2.17
6	1	1	2	3	3.75	3.01	1.875	2.32
7	1	1	2	4	4	3.46	2	2.46
8	1	1	3	3	4	3.29	2	2.43
9	1	1	3	4	4.25	3.67	2.125	2.53
10	1	1	4	4	4.5	3.93	2.25	2.61
11	1	2	2	2	3.75	2.84	1.875	2.4
12	1	2	2	3	4	3.15	2	2.6
13	1	2	2	4	4.25	3.55	2.125	2.78
14	1	2	3	3	4.25	3.44	2.125	2.75
15	1	2	3	4	4.5	3.79	2.25	2.89
16	1	2	4	4	4.75	4.08	2.375	2.99
17	1	3	3	3	4.5	3.59	2.25	3
18	1	3	3	4	4.75	3.92	2.375	3.18
19	1	3	4	4	5	4.22	2.5	3.32
20	1	4	4	4	5.25	4.36	2.625	3.59
21	2	2	2	2	4	2.99	2	2.56
22	2	2	2	3	4.25	3.26	2.125	2.81
23	2	2	2	4	4.5	3.62	2.25	3.03
24	2	2	3	3	4.5	3.56	2.25	2.98
25	2	2	3	4	4.75	3.87	2.375	3.16
26	2	2	4	4	5	4.19	2.5	3.29
27	2	3	3	3	4.75	3.7	2.375	3.19
28	2	3	3	4	5	4	2.5	3.4
29	2	3	4	4	5.25	4.32	2.625	3.56
30	2	4	4	4	5.5	4.46	2.75	3.78
31	3	3	3	3	5	3.85	2.5	3.35
32	3	3	3	4	5.25	4.13	2.625	3.59
33	3	3	4	4	5.5	4.44	2.75	3.78
34	3	4	4	4	5.75	4.58	2.875	3.98
35	4	4	4	4	6	4.72	3	4.14

Table 5 : CPI vs ART comparison

The following graph shows the variation of the CPI and ART with different combination of the instruction cycles.

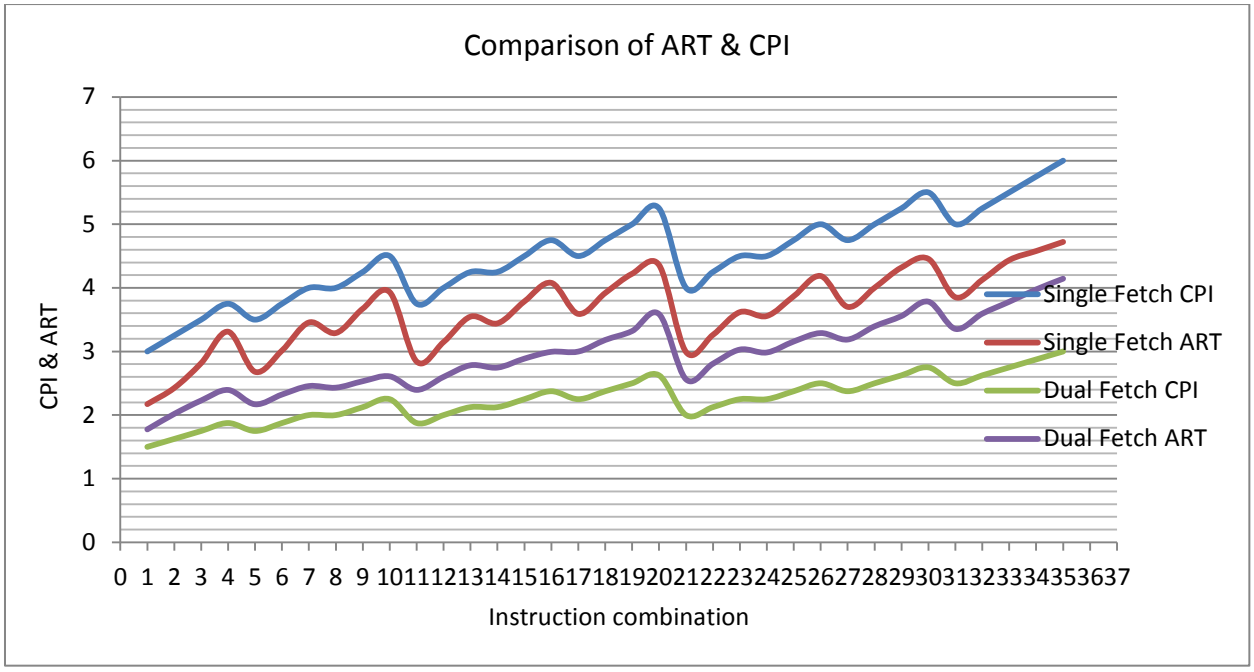


Figure 25 : CPI vs ART comparison

We take different combination of the instruction types with number of instructions being 4 and compare the variation of the CPI in case of the single fetch & dual fetch pipeline execution model, against the corresponding average response time. Only for Approach 1 in case of single fetch , and approach 3 in case of dual fetch pipeline, the CPI is in proportion to the average response time as shown in the figure 25. Along with this reason, those two models also avoid the bounded rate capacity drawback of the PEPA. Hence we choose approach 1 of single fetch and approach 3 of dual fetch for final modeling. Since the plots of CPI and ART are proportional, this could be the closest possible model of program execution by the processor.

7.3 Single fetch Cache Memory Access Modeling

A typical single fetch -5 stage pipeline instruction execution, along with cache and memory action sequence is as shown in the figure 26. For the sake of PEPA modeling we consider each instruction is made to undergo the following actions.

1) Cache access : ca
2) Memory Access :ma
3) Fetch : if
4) Decode :id
5) Execution : exe

In case of a single fetch pipeline, single instruction is fetched. The synchronization of actions as described in 1-pipeline modeling is followed. The algorithm for finding if the instruction is available in cache or in memory as shown in the figure 36 is used. If the instruction is available in the cache, then ca action appears in the equation else ma action appears in the equation. For showing the modeling example, we assume a scenario that 1st and 3rd instructions are available in cache and 2nd and 4th instructions are available in memory. We also assume to a show a distinctive rates of execution of the instruction blocks , that cache access takes 4 cycles and memory access takes 10 cycles.

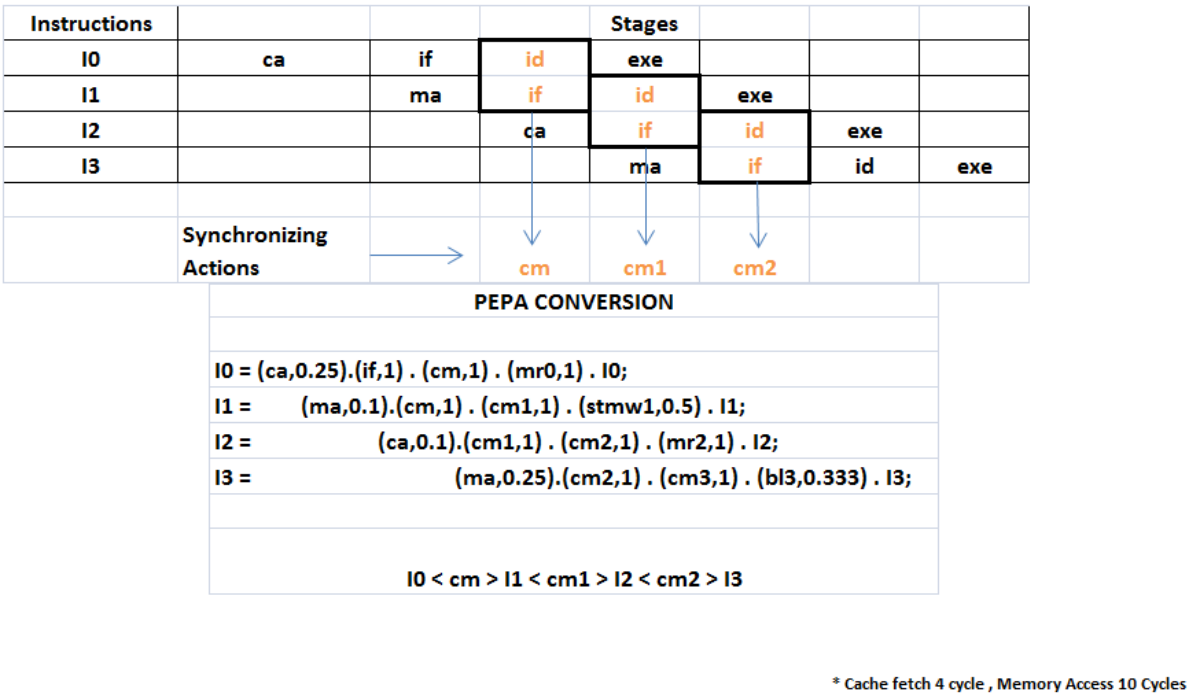
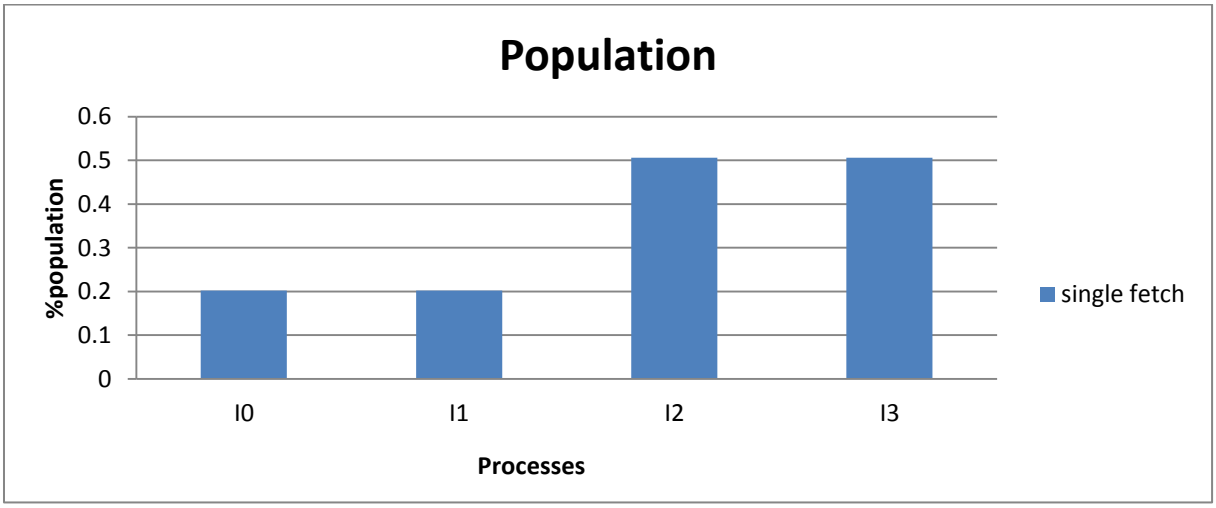
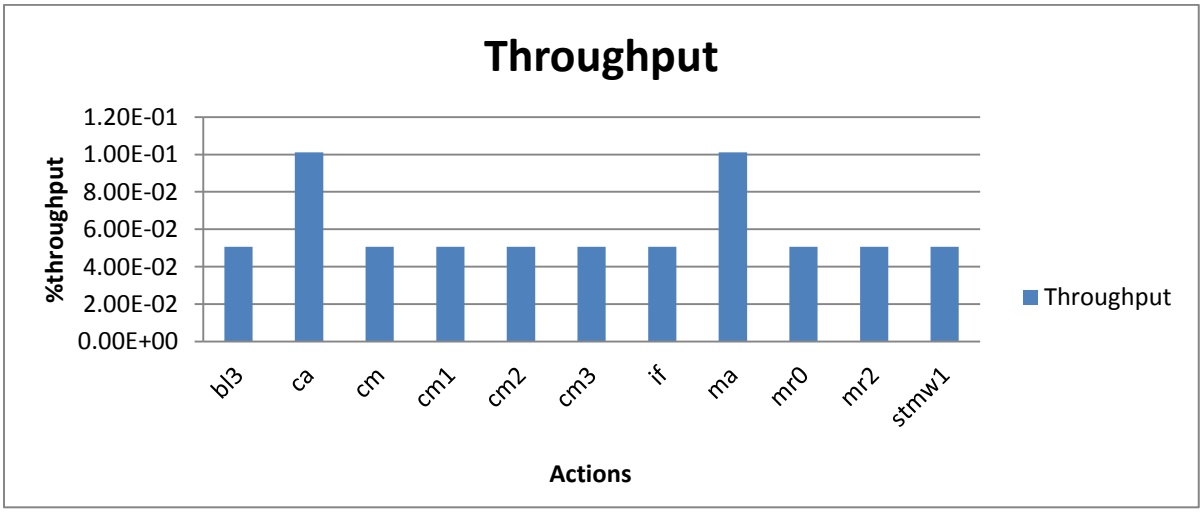


Figure 26 : Overview

Average response time = 6.43





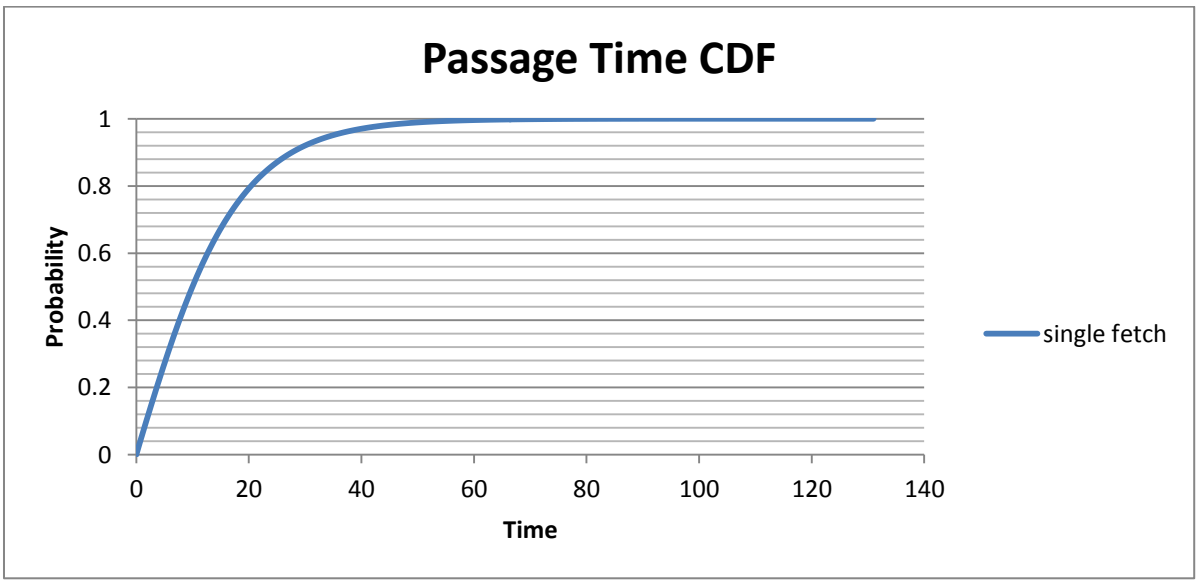


Figure 27: Population, throughput & passage time CDF

7.4 Dual fetch Cache Memory Access Modeling

A typical dual fetch -5 stage pipeline instruction execution, along with cache and memory action sequence is as shown in the figure 28. For the sake of PEPA modeling we consider each instruction is made to undergo three actions.

1) Cache access : ca
2) Memory Access :ma
3) Fetch : if
4) Decode :id
5) Execution : exe

In case of a dual fetch pipeline, two instructions are fetched simultaneously and are executed in parallel. The synchronization of actions as described in dual fetch 1-pipeline modeling is followed. The algorithm for finding if the instruction is available in cache or in memory as shown in the figure 36 is used. If the instruction is available in the cache, then ca action appears in the equation else ma action appears in the equation. For showing the modeling example, we assume a scenario that 1st and 2nd instructions are available in cache and 3rd and 4th instructions are available in memory. We also assume to a show a distinctive rates of execution of the instruction blocks, that cache access takes 4 cycles and memory access takes 10 cycles.

Instructions			Stages		
I0	ca	if	id	exe	
I1	ca	if	id	exe	
I2		ma	if	id	exe
I3		ma	if	id	exe
Synchronizing Actions	→	if		cm1	

PEPA CONVERSION

I0= (ca,0.25).(if , 1) . (cm,1) . (mr0,1) . I0;
I1= (ca,0.25).(if , 1) . (cm,1) . (stmw1,0.5) . I1;
I2= (ma,0.1). (cm,1) . (cm2,1) . (mr2,1).I2;
I3= (ma,0.1). (cm,1) . (cm2,1) . (bl3,0.333).I3;

(I0 < if , cm > I1)< >(I2 < cm ,cm2 > I3)

Figure 28 : Overview

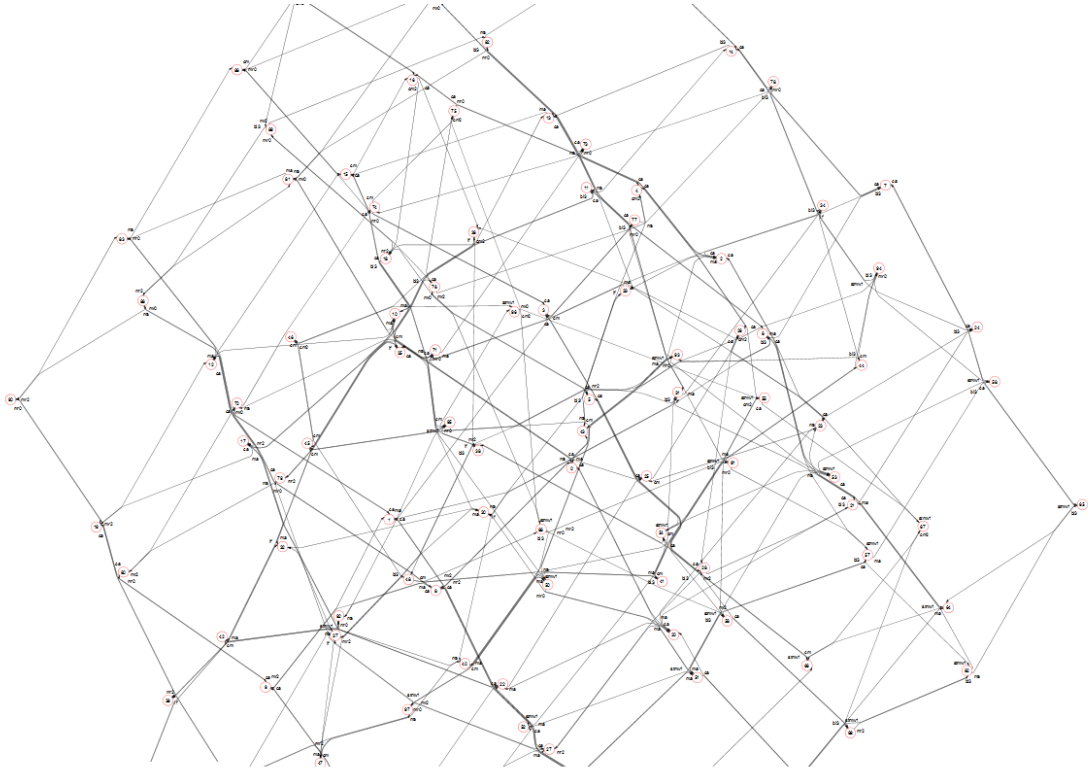
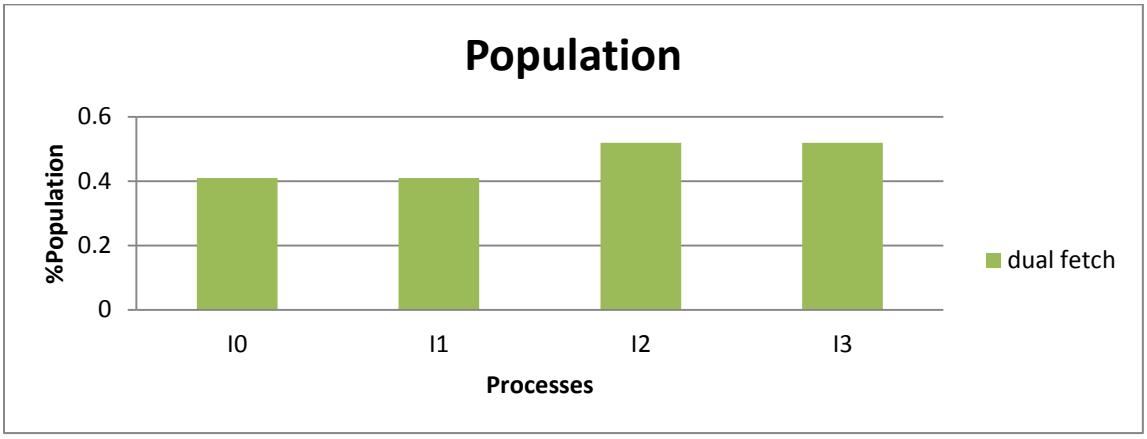
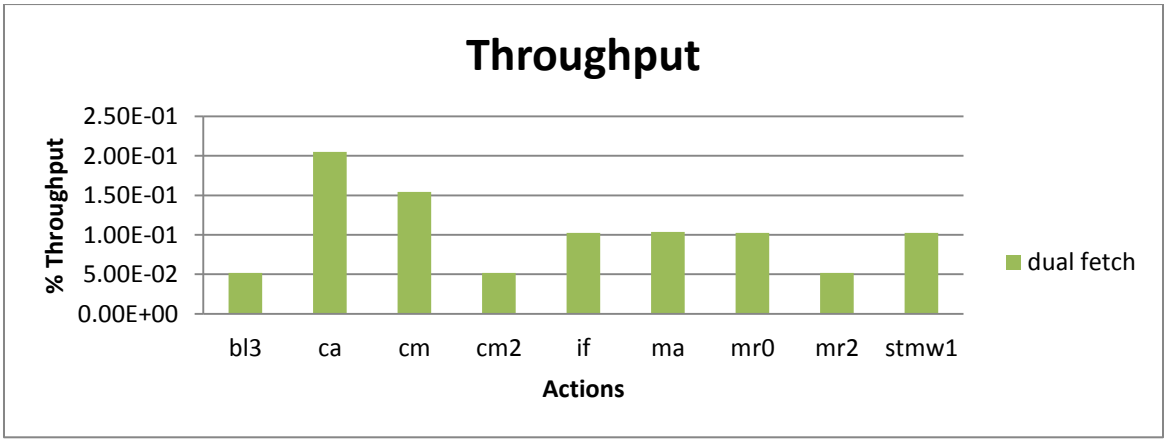


Figure 29 : State space





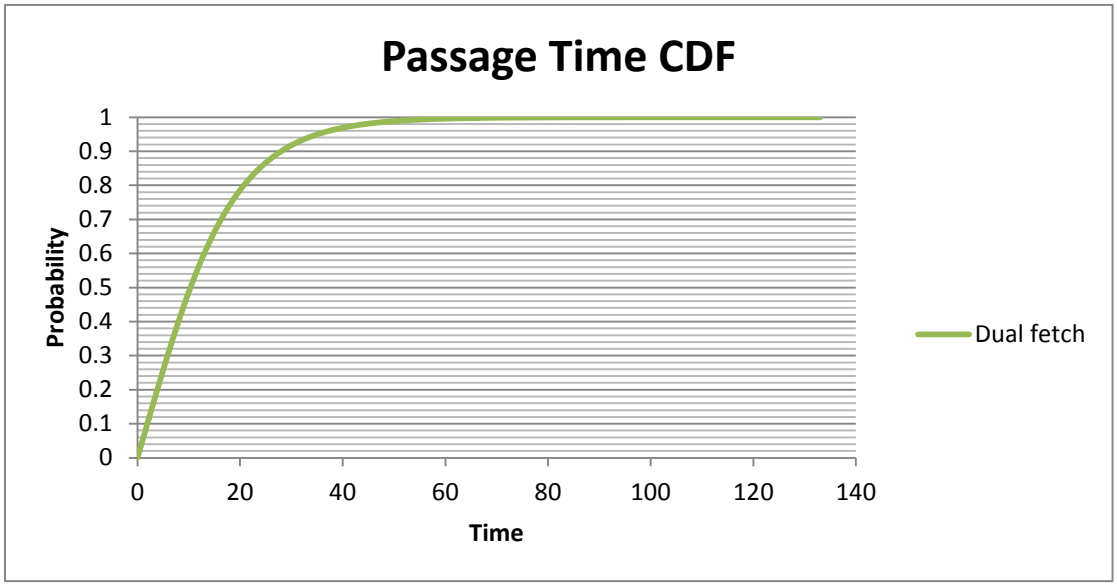


Figure 30 : Population, Throughput & passage Time CDF

Average Response time = 6.90985

7.5 Observations from the models

- From the state space of the models we can observe that ,starting from the initial state we cannot miss any actions and hence the corresponding rate of finishing it
- Synchronized action must be performed & hence can verify and validated model from trace
- Over synchronization reduces the state-space and gives lower average response time
- In CTMC or in a exponential distribution the mean expectation time = E[Tx]=μ= 1/λ where is the rate (parameter of an exponential distribution). Hence,
    - Higher the cycle taken by the instruction block=> lower the rate => Higher the response time of the model
    - Lower the cycle taken by the instruction block => higher the rate => Lower the response time of the model
- For the passage time CDF the same analogy as for the average response time holds good

7.7 Assembly to Pipelined PEPA model conversion

Given a assembly program, we can visualize each block B(i) {i=1,2,3,….N} as a independent Poisson process with a mean rate defined by λi= (1/ARTi). Each such block itself is comprised of instruction fetch process, decode process and execute process ,executed at a mean rate λ. From the postulate of the CTMC which states that "*The sojourn times τj of a continuous-time Markov process in a state j are independent, exponential random variables with mean 1/qj*". The converse implies that if the sojourn times of a random stochastic process are distributed with the mean rate of 1/qi then it must be CTMC and CTMC is a strong Poisson process. In a Poisson process time between each events is exponentially distributed. From PEPA modeling, we can observe that each activity is assigned a time that is exponentially distributed. From these we can obtain the following inferences.

1. Each block of the system can then be visualized as a part of Periodic CTMC , in which each state X(t) corresponds to the execution of the each block B(i).

2. Finding the stochastic measures of the CTMC gives us the performance measures of the program. Passage time analysis is one such stochastic measure used to find the time between the occurrences of two events in the stochastic process.

3. Passage time analysis evaluates how fast , starting from an initial state B_0 the system can jump to state B_n . i.e t at P(t)≥99.99% with source action as blk0 and target action as blkn. With change in the compiler flags used, we expect a change in the value of t.

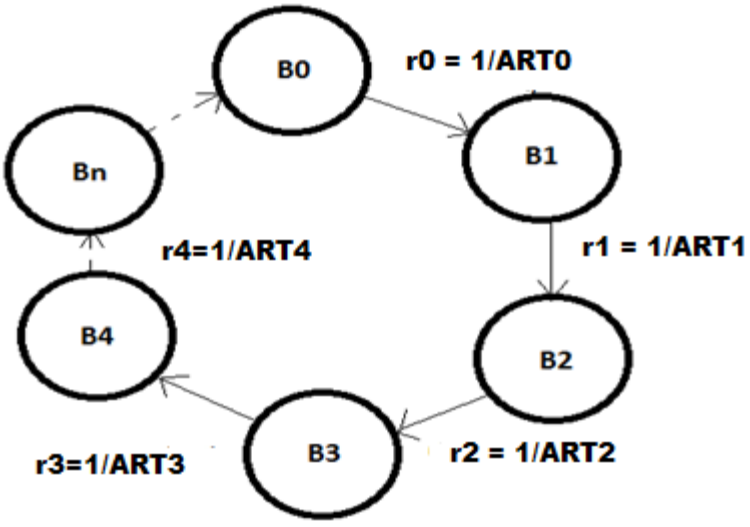


Figure 31 : Assembly to CTMC conversion

Vowing to the limitation in the number of instructions being used for modeling because of the states space explosion problem in PEPA and also the delay in producing the Average response time (ART) by the IPC and PEPA plugin , we can visualize a scenario as shown in the figure 33.

We divide the assembly program in to blocks of 4 as fetched by the processor, convert them to PEPA model and calculate ART for each block. We then can visualize that the each block executes at a rate defined by (1/ART), (by the property of CTMC). With the rates of each block available we can then view each block as a macro- state component in the abstract block model. Solving the abstract block model provides the performance measure of the whole system.The last equation *BlkN = (blkN,rN).Blk1 ;* basically indicates that there is choice for the system to continue the execution from the beginning.

The scripting is divided in to two parts

1) Assembly to PEPA instruction model construction and evaluation of ART
2) Conversion of PEPA instruction model to Abstract block model and evaluation of final performance measure.

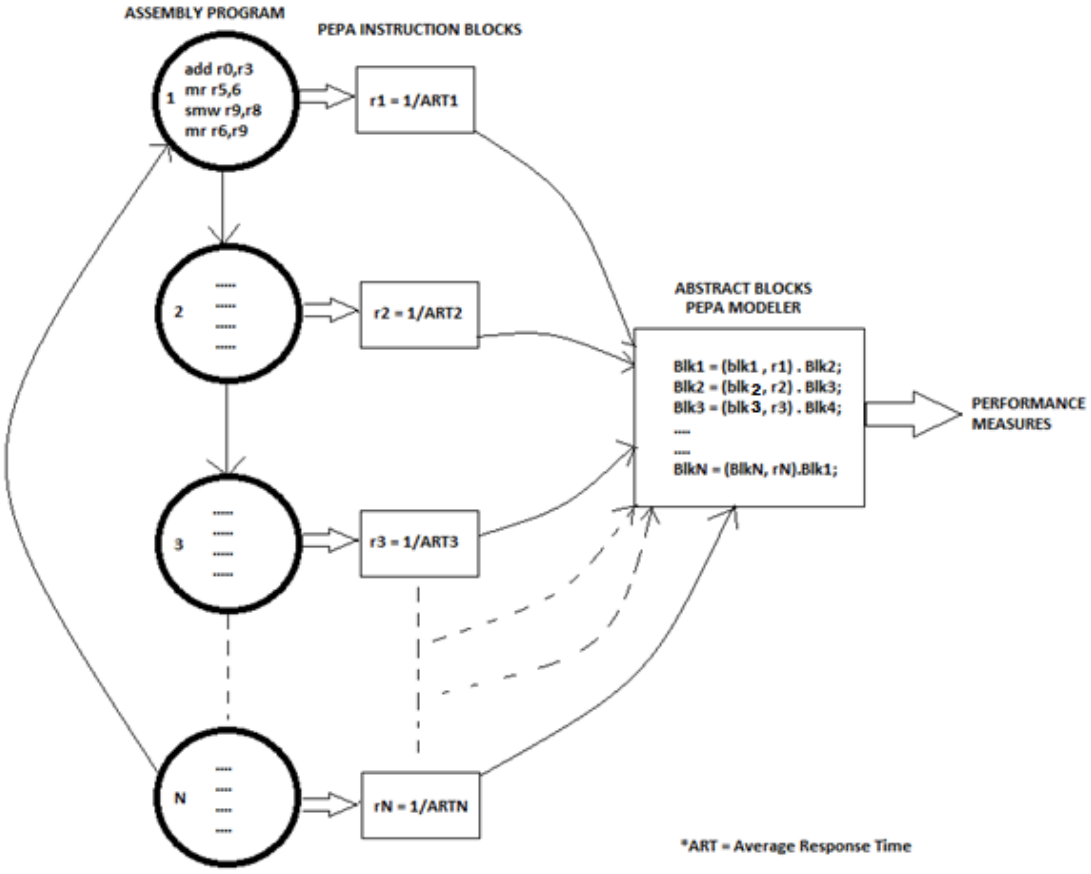


Figure 33: Performance Measurement

7.6 Hardware Details

The SPC56ELxx microcontroller is based on the e200z4 Power Architecture and targets the electric power steering, chassis, and safety applications that require a high safety integrity level. The e200z4 processor family is a set of CPU cores that implement low-cost versions of the Power Architecture technology. The e200z4 core is a dual-issue, 32-bit design with 64 - bit general purpose registers (GPRs). The host processor core of the SPC56ELxx is a CPU from the e200z4 family of compatible Power Architecture cores. The device's 5-stage pipeline dual issue core provides a high efficiency allowing high performance with minimum power dissipation.

The processor integrates a pair of integer execution units, a branch control unit, instruction fetch unit and load/store unit, and a multi-ported register file capable of sustaining six read and three write operations per clock cycle. Most integer instructions execute in a single clock cycle. Branch target perfecting is performed by the branch unit to allow single-cycle branches in many cases.

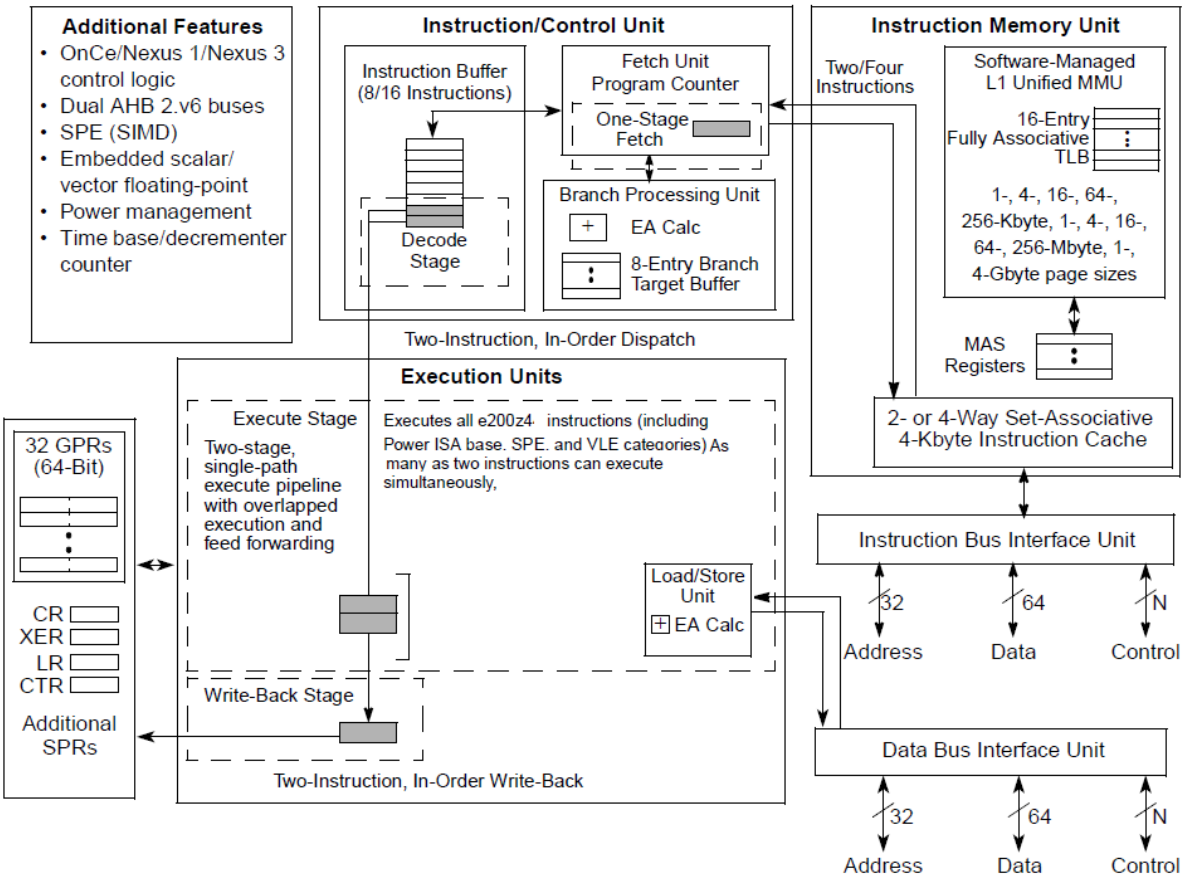


Figure 33: Block Diagram of e200z4

The key features of e200z4 can be summarized as follows

- Dual issue , 32-bit power ISA-compliant core
- Implementation of the VLE for reduced code foot print
- In-order execution and termination
- Precise exception handling
- Branch processor unit (BPU)
- Dedicated branch address calculation adder
- Branch target perfecting using and 8-entry branch target buffer (BTB)
- Supports independent instruction and data access to different memory subsystems, such as SRAM and flash memory by means of independent instruction and data bus interface units
- Load/store unit
- 64-bit general-purpose register file
- 4Kbyte , 2/4-way set-associative instruction cache

From the block diagram of the hardware it can be seen that , the instruction memory unit fetches 2/4 instructions from the memory or cache , and the instruction fetch unit fetches 2 instructions at a time executing in a pipelines structure as shown in the figure 7. The hardware can be configured to fetch 4 instructions at a time which suits our modeling approach.

7.7 Methematical Analysis

Lets assume that we have 3 blocks of instructions executing at the rate r1,r2, & r3.According to the figure 46, the corresponding PEPA model would be

Blk0 = (blk0,r1).Blk1;
Blk1 = (blk1,r2).Blk2;
Blk2 = (blk2,r3).Blk0;

Blk0

The following table summarizes the ARTs & time to reach 99.99% probability with source action as blk0 and target action as blk2 for few variations of r1,r2,&r3

r1	r2	r3	ART	Time to reach 99.99% probability
1	1	1	2	10
1	1	0.5	3	16
1	0.5	1	3	11.2
1	0.5	0.5	4	19.4

Table 6 : Rate comparison

Lower the block execution rate, higher is the cycles consumed by the block and hence higher the time consumed by the block. In such scenario, if we have a set of blocks with lower block execution rate, the cycle consumed by the block set is higher. But the corresponding ART & time to reach 99.99% probability is higher. Hence we need to consider the case with higher ART or higher time to reach 99.99% probability as the scenario with higher execution time of the program.

Mathematically ,we can analyze the situation as follows. From the equation of the passage time CDF we have

$$\boldsymbol{F(q,t) = 1 - e^{-qt} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(qt)^k}{k!}}$$

In each of the cases we mention in the table ***q*** value varies depending on the rate distribution in the CTMC. For a fixed value of rate ***q ,*** the ***t*** has to increase such that $\boldsymbol{e^{-qt}}$ becomes close to 0 making ***F(q,t)~*** 99.99%. In other words in case of higher execution time of the programs, ***q*** is lower such that ***t*** will increase to reach 99.99% probability.

```
----- trace on (skip), instruction: 0
 MSR   00000000 CTR   00000000 LR    00000000
 R0    00000000 R1    4005e450 R2    00000000 R3    00000001
 R4    4005e48c R5    4005feb8 R6    00000000 R7    00000000
 R8    00000000 R9    00000000 R10   00000000 R11   00000000
 R12   00000000 R13   00000000 R14   00000000 R15   00000000
 R16   00000000 R17   00000000 R18   00000000 R19   00000000
 R20   00000000 R21   00000000 R22   00000000 R23   00000000
 R24   00000000 R25   00000000 R26   00000000 R27   00000000
 R28   00000000 R29   00000000 R30   00000000 R31   00000000
 CR    00000000 XER   00000000 DEC   ffffffff IMMR  80000000
 FPR0    0 FPR1    0 FPR2    0 FPR3    0
 FPR4    0 FPR5    0 FPR6    0 FPR7    0
 FPR8    0 FPR9    0 FPR10   0 FPR11   0
 FPR12   0 FPR13   0 FPR14   0 FPR15   0
 FPR16   0 FPR17   0 FPR18   0 FPR19   0
 FPR20   0 FPR21   0 FPR22   0 FPR23   0
 FPR24   0 FPR25   0 FPR26   0 FPR27   0
 FPR28   0 FPR29   0 FPR30   0 FPR31   0
 SRR0   00000000 SRR1   00000000 DAR    00000000 DSISR 00000000
 SPRG0 00000000 SPRG1 00000000 SPRG2 00000000 SPRG3 00000000
000000fc <_start>:              e_lis     r1,16390
 R1    40060000
00000100 <_start+4>:                e_add16i  r1,r1,0
00000104 <_start+8>:                e_stwu    r1,-32(r1)
 R1    4005ffe0
00000108 <_start+12>:                   se_mflr   r0
0000010a <_start+14>:               e_stmw    r29,20(r1)
0000010a <_start+14>:               e_stmw    r29,20(r1)
0000010e <_start+18>:                   se_stw    r0,36(r1)
00000110 <_start+20>:                   se_mr     r31,r3
00000110 <_start+20>:                   se_mr     r31,r3
```

Figure 34: instruction trace (PowerPC)

```
374     e_or2i      r5,8720
375 .Llo13:
376     .d2line     62
377     diab.li     r3,0
378 .L62:
379     cmp     0,0,r0,r4
380     bc      0,2,.L105
381     cmpl        0,0,r3,r5
382 .L105:
383     bc      0,0,.L56        # ge
384     diab.li     r31,1
385     diab.li     r30,0
386     slw     r31,r31,r3
387     cmpi        0,0,r30,0
388     srawi       r30,r31,31
389     and     r31,r31,r5
390     bc      0,2,.L107
391     cmpli       0,0,r31,0
392 .L107:
393     diab.li     r28,1
394     bc      0,2,.L106       # ne
395     diab.li     r28,0
396 .L106:
397     srawi       r31,r28,31
398     diab.li     r30,1
399     diab.addi       r29,r3,1
400     addc        r6,r6,r28
401     slw     r30,r30,r29
402     adde        r7,r7,r31
403     diab.li     r28,0
404     and     r31,r5,r30
405     cmpi        0,0,r28,0
406     srawi       r30,r30,31
407     bc      0,2,.L109
408     cmpli       0,0,r31,0
```

Figure 35 : Assembly instructions (PowerPC)

The flow chart for the identification of cache hit/miss and cache entry if the replacement policy is FIFO is as follows.

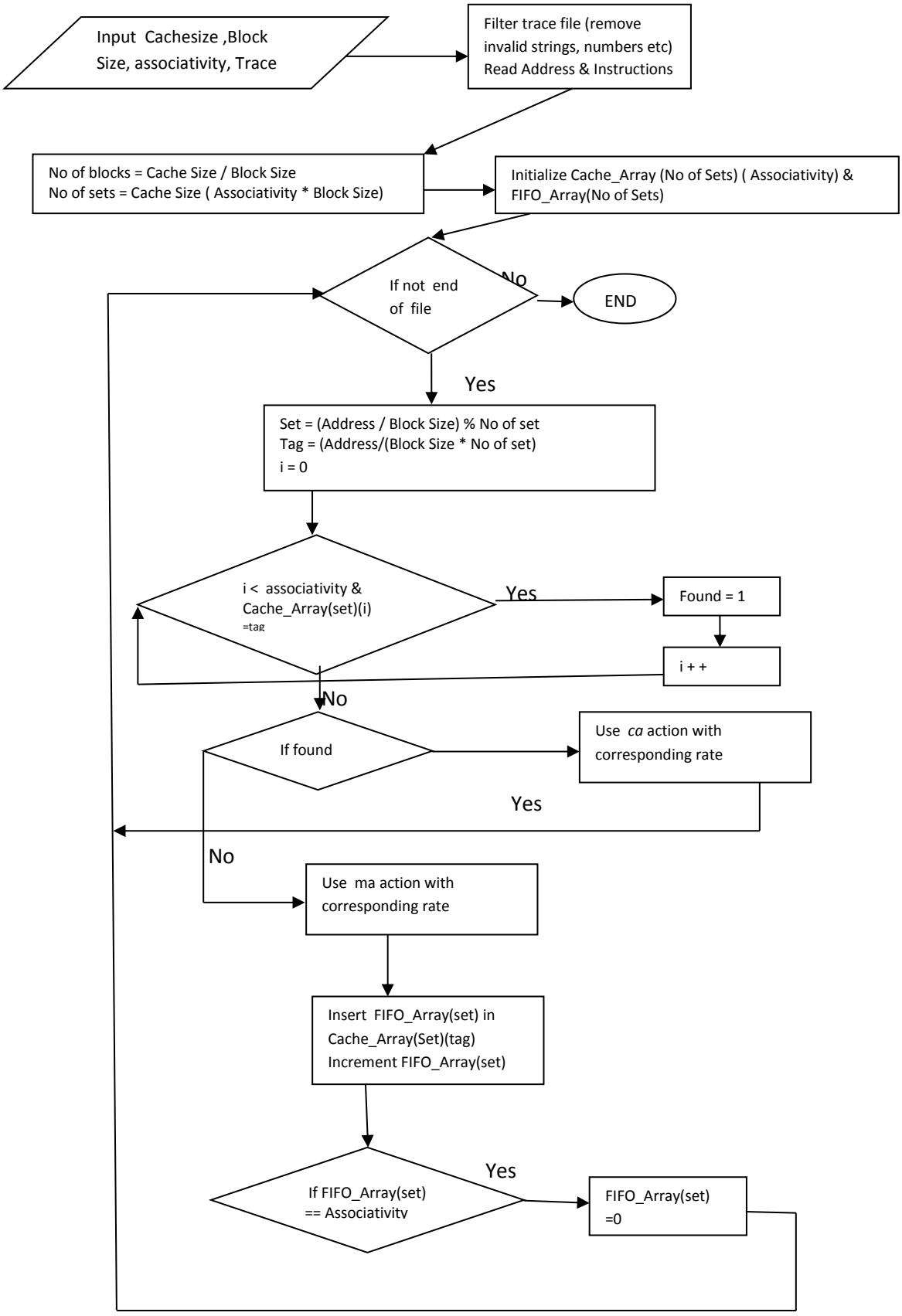


Figure 36: FIFO Replacement Algorithm

8. Experiments

In order to evaluate the tool we compiled some random programs provided under WCET benchmark suit [37] . This benchmark suit provides programs having different combinations of the 10 different software properties namely : I ,E,S,L,N,A,B,R,U,F where

I = uses include files.
E = calls external library routines.
S = always single path program (no potential flow dependency on external variables).
L = contains loops.
N = contains nested loops,
A = uses arrays and/or matrixes.
B = uses bit operations.
R = contains recursion.
U = contains unstructured code.
F = uses floating point calculation.

Results obtained with the modeling the programs available in this suite give assurance that the methodology is scalable and we can apply the techniques on any program.We use instruction trace file generated by the WindRiver DIAB tool as the input to a script which converts it to the corresponding PEPA model.From the tool we generate the ART and the Passage Time CDF with time to reach 99.99% probability as the performance measures for comparison. We use the dual fetch configurations described in the design chapter for modeling.We apply different compilation flag combination initially and see the actual run time on the hardware and the modeled results.. A summary of the compilation flags is given in the appendix. We use iTrace/PRO profiler/debugger to measure the program execution times. The instruction trace is generated by the wind-river DIAB compiler tool using the ELF file as the input.

In another experiment we compiled some random programs with the loop-unroll optimization compared against no-unroll , with linear search compared against binary search We use all the 4 configurations described in the design chapter and under each configuration we experiment with both optimized and un-optimized versions and compare the values

9. Results

9.1 Modeling Simple Programs

The following table shows the comparison of ARTs and the Peak passage time for each of the different configuration for the different code optimization implementation for a program which counts the number of bits in a given digit and binary and linear search algorithms.

Optimization type	Single Fetch ART	Single Fetch Peak passage time	Dual Fetch ART	Dual Fetch Peak passage time	Single Fetch with Cache/Memory Access ART	Single Fetch with Cache/Memory Access Peak passage time	Dual Fetch with Cache/Memory Access ART	Dual Fetch with Cache/Memory Access Peak passage time
No optimization	108.2837855	300	113.82946	200	243.5095771	531	182.5229049	399.9
Loop unroll	99.88723965	240	105.52241	196	233.8188852	543	175.3545013	397.5
Linear Search	158.6563983	317.8	132.36483	259.9	349.4255352	599.9	265.2210952	508
Binary Search	163.6951735	322.8	125.08464	267.2	354.2515392	575.9	270.4714945	529.1

Table 7 : Experimental result

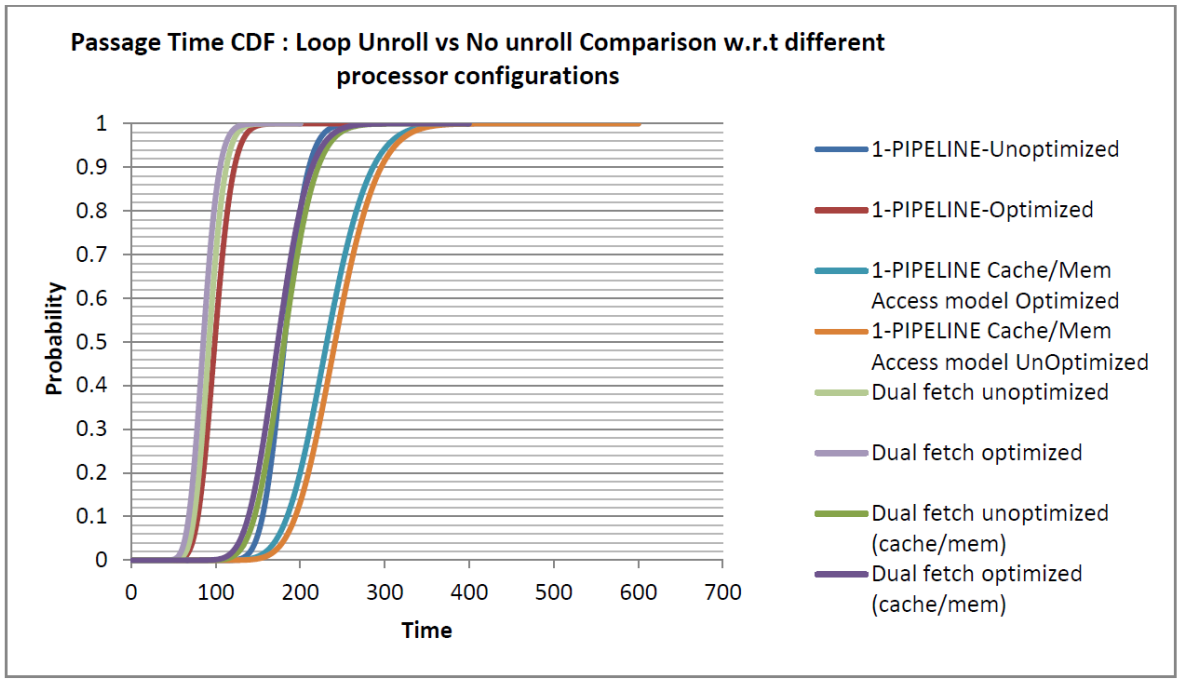


Figure 52 : Loop unroll vs No unroll

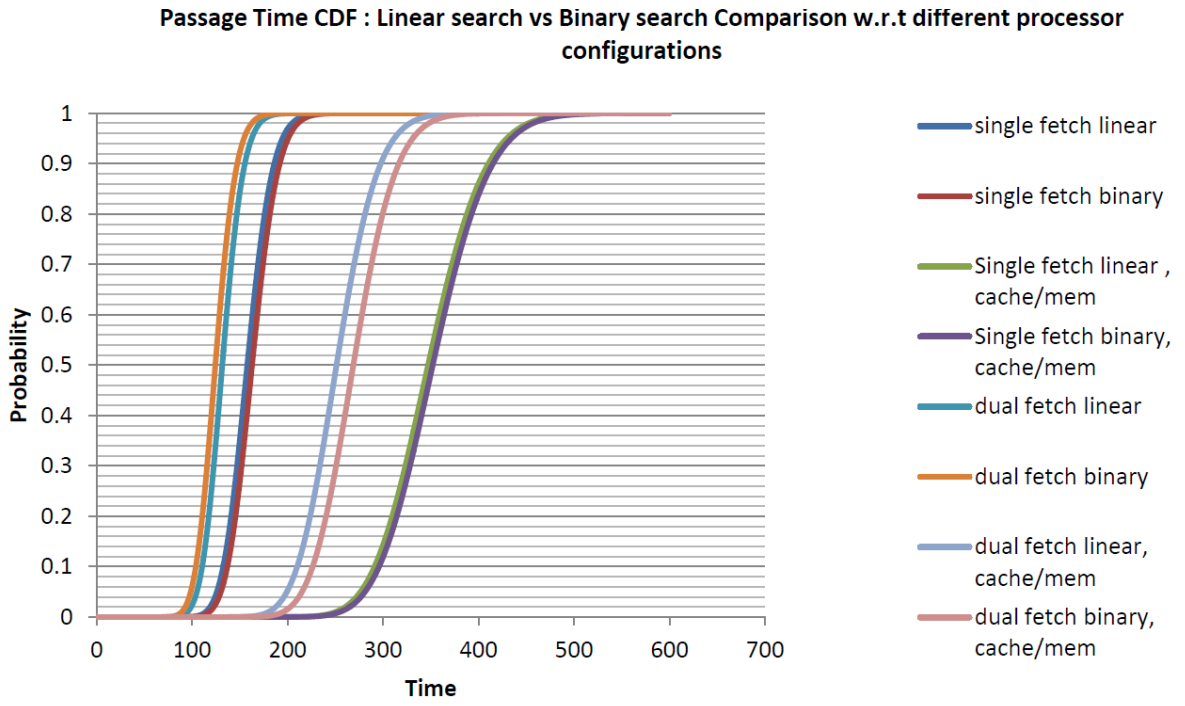


Figure 53 : Linear Search vs Binary Search

9.1.1 Result Analysis

From the plot 51, it can be seen that the response of the program rises steeply (increase in the slope , more faster to reach 100% probability) from no optimization to unroll optimization in all the 8 configurations. The slope of the graph increase from single fetch to dual fetch vindicating the fact that the throughput of the processor indeed increases from single fetch to dual fetch. However the effect of cache & memory reduces the slope of the graph as the access time to memory and cache are added to the model and the combined execution time increases due to this effect. Nevertheless we can observe that the unroll configuration has a better cache/memory access response compared to the cache memory response of the un-optimized version. Also the cache memory response of the dual fetch version is much better than the single fetch version.

9.2 Modeling Benchmark Programs

a) bs.c (Property : **L** = contains loops & **A** = uses arrays and/or matrixes)

No	Compiler flags	Execution time (ns)	ART	t at P(t)≥99.99%
1	Xsize-opt	89	67	126
2	Xwhole-prog-opt=0x9	91	67	126
3	xwhole-prog-opt=0x8	91	67	126
4	Xcoloring	88	67	126
5	(1)+(4)	90	67	126
6	(2)+(4)	88	67	126
7	(1)+(2)	91	67	126
8	(2)+(4)+xcode-factor	90	67	126
9	(3)+(4)+xcodefactor	89	67	126
10	(1)+(2)+(3)	91	67	126
11	(1)+(2)+(4)+xcg-min=1	90	67	126
12	(2)+(4)+xconservative-static-live	91	67	126
13	(2)+(4)+Xo	88	67	126
14	Xo	89	67	126

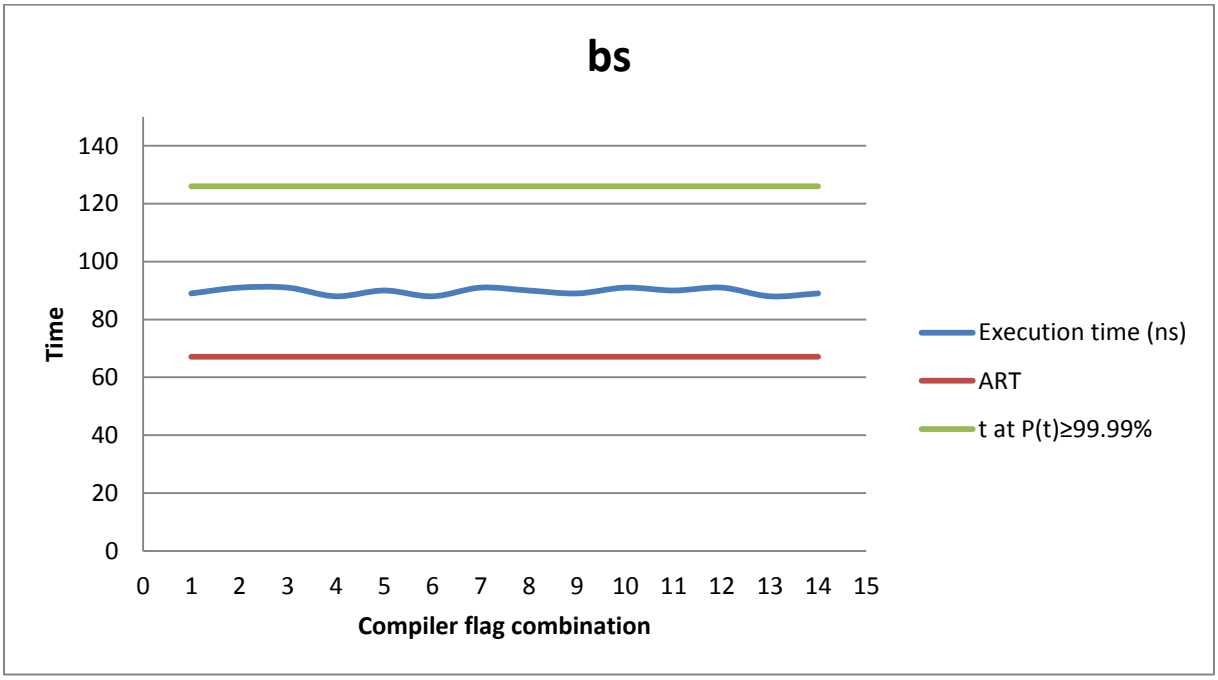


Figure 39: bs with different compiler combination

From the table it can be seen that the program doesn't change much w.r.t different combination of the compiler flags (means inherently optimized). The execution time ,ART and t at P(t) =99.99% are flat lines

b) countbit.c (Property : **L** = contains loops , **B** = uses bit operations)

No	Compiler flags	Execution time (ns)	ART	t at P(t)≥99.99%
1	Xsize-opt	65	96	172
2	Xwhole-prog-opt=0x9	68	97	173
3	xwhole-prog-opt=0x8	68	99	175
4	Xcoloring	67	96	172
5	(1)+(4)	68	99	173
6	(2)+(4)	63	93	172
7	(1)+(2)	55	86	163
8	(2)+(4)+xcode-factor	63	91	172
9	(3)+(4)+xcodefactor	68	93	173
10	(1)+(2)+(3)	62	91	169
11	(1)+(2)+(4)+xcg-min=1	63	91	170
12	(2)+(4)+xconservative-static-live	58	87	161
13	(2)+(4)+Xo	63	92	172
14	Xo	65	93	172

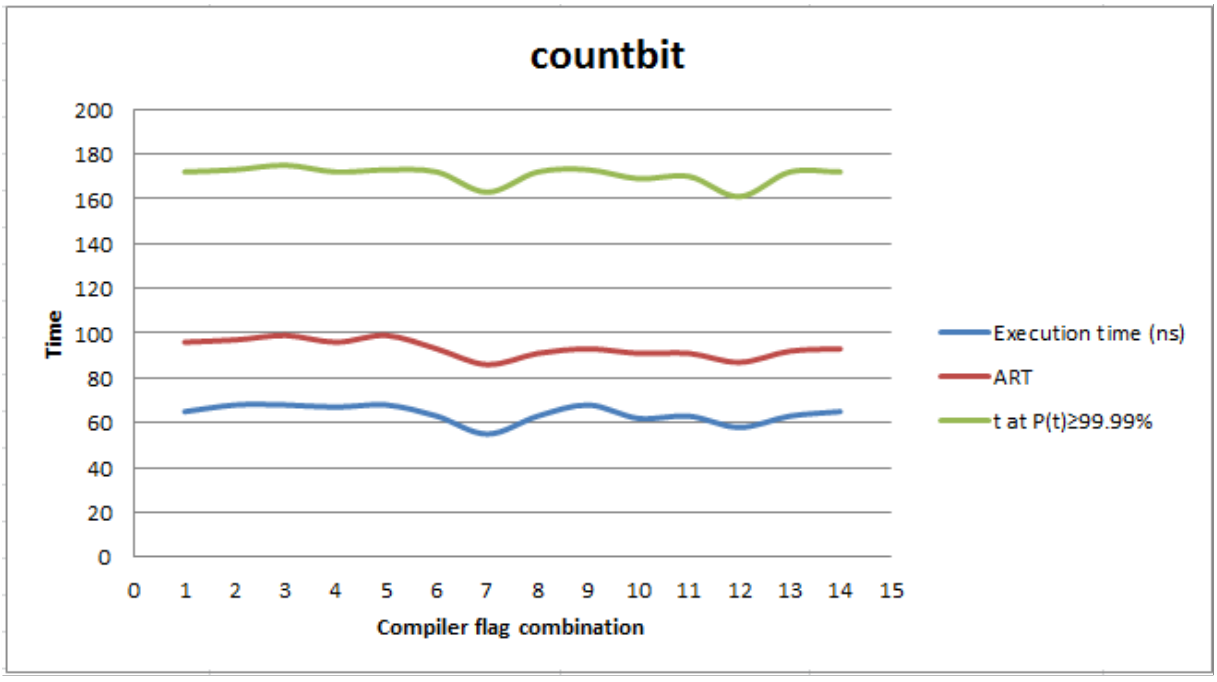


Figure 40: countbit with different compiler combination

It can be seen that the ART and t at P(t) ≥99.99% follow close proportional relation w.r.t the execution time and we can easily identify that Xsize-opt + Xwhole-prog-opt=0x9 is the best optimization.

c) fibcall.c (Property : **S** = Always single path program ,**L** = Contains loops)

No	Compiler flags	Execution time (ns)	ART	t at P(t)≥99.99%
1	O	34	82	158
2	O+Xcode-factor+Xsize-opt	35	83	159
3	O+coloring	34	82	159
4	O+codefactor+coloring+inline=40	20	67	138
5	O+codefactor+coloring+inline=40	20	67	138
6	O+codefactor+coloring+opt-count=2	33	82	159
7	O+parse-count=300000+restart+test-at-both	33	82	159
8	O+inline=40	20	68	138
9	O+opt-count=2	34	83	163
10	O+codefactor	34	82	162

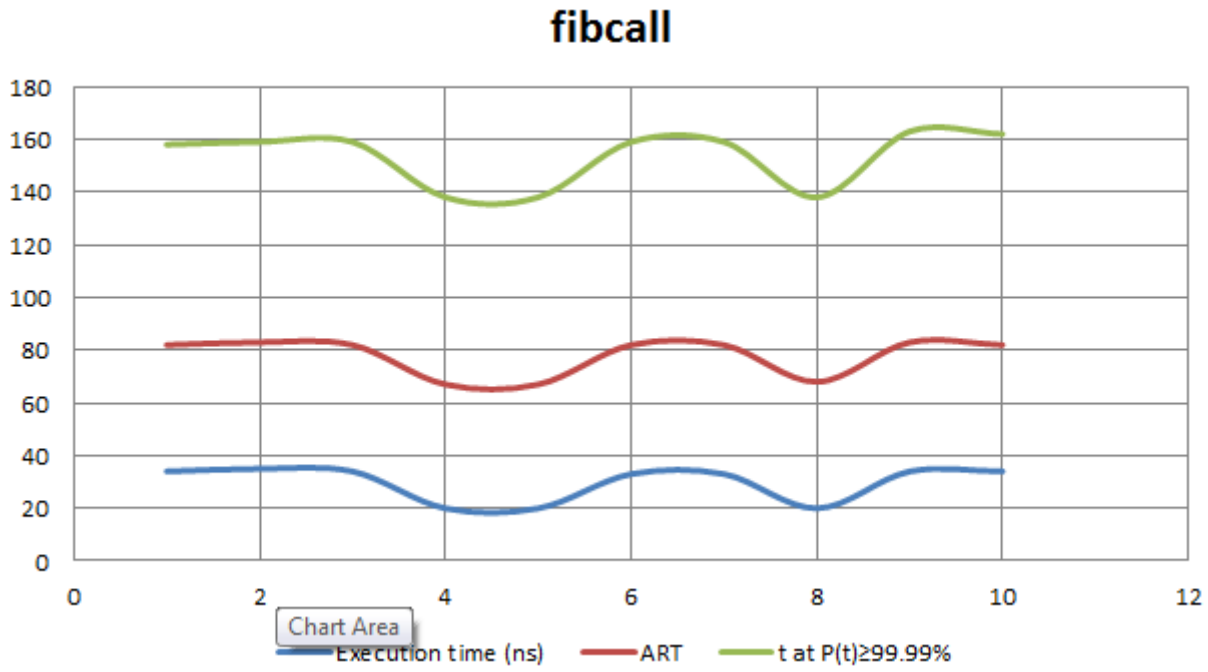


Figure 41: fibcall with different compiler combination

It can be seen that the ART and t at P(t) ≥99.99% follow proportional relation w.r.t the execution time and we can easily identify that O + Xcode-factor + Xinline = 40 is the best optimization.

d) jcomplex.c (Property : **S** = always single path program , **L** = contains loops , **N** = contains nested loops)

No	Compiler flags	Execution time (ns)	ART	t at P(t)≥99.99%
1	O	182	156	210
2	O+Xcode-factor+Xsize-opt	113	134	187
3	O+coloring	114	134	187
4	O+codefactor+coloring+inline=40	182	156	211
5	O+codefactor+coloring+inline=40	182	160	210
6	O+codefactor+coloring+opt-count=2	112	131	188
7	O+parse-count=300000+restart+test-at-both	114	132	189
8	O+inline=40	182	161	211
9	O+opt-count=2	182	162	212
10	O+codefactor	182	165	213

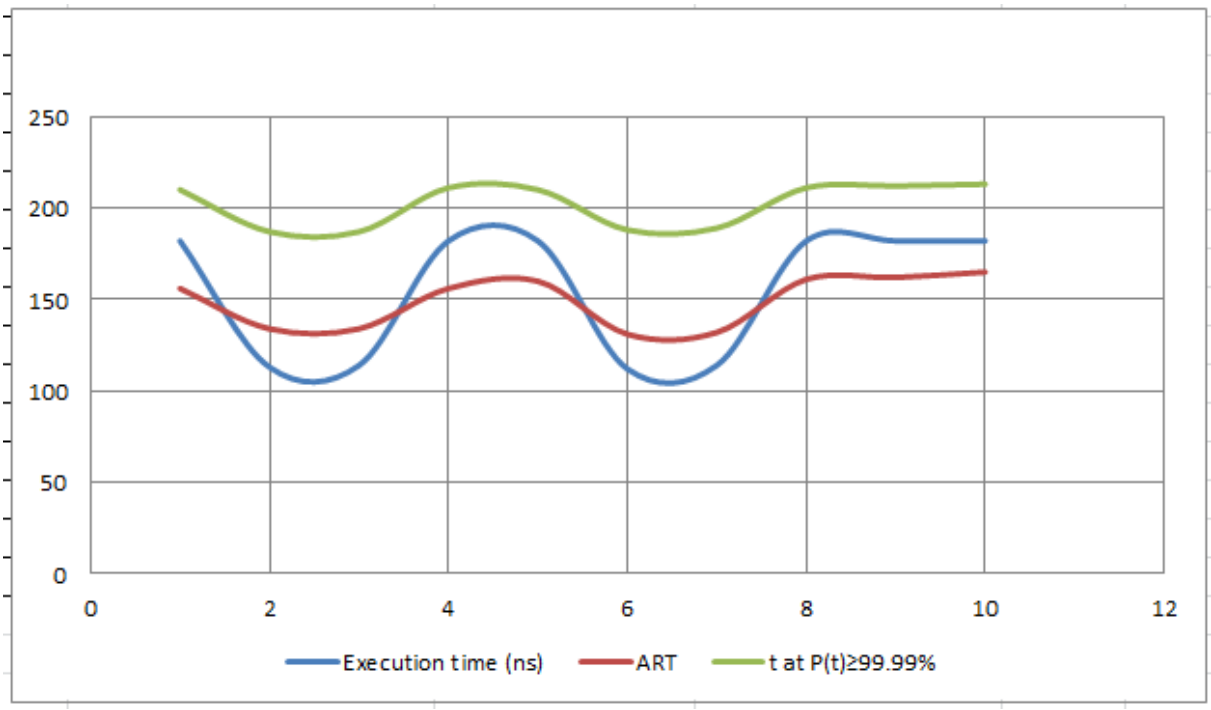


Figure 42: jcomplex with different compiler combination

It can be seen that the ART and t at P(t) ≥99.99% follow proportional relation w.r.t the execution time and we can easily identify that O + Xcode-factor + Xcoloring+Xopt-count=2 is the best optimization.

e) fac.c (Property : **S** = always single path program, **L** = contains loops , **R** = contains recursion)

No	Compiler flags	Execution time (ns)	ART	t at P(t)≥99.99%
1	O	34	82	158
2	O+Xcode-factor+Xsize-opt	35	83	159
3	O+coloring	34	82	159
4	O+codefactor+coloring+inline=40	20	67	138
5	O+codefactor+coloring+inline=40	20	67	138
6	O+codefactor+coloring+opt-count=2	33	82	159
7	O+parse-count=300000+restart+test-at-both	33	82	159
8	O+inline=40	20	68	138
9	O+opt-count=2	34	83	163
10	O+codefactor	34	82	162

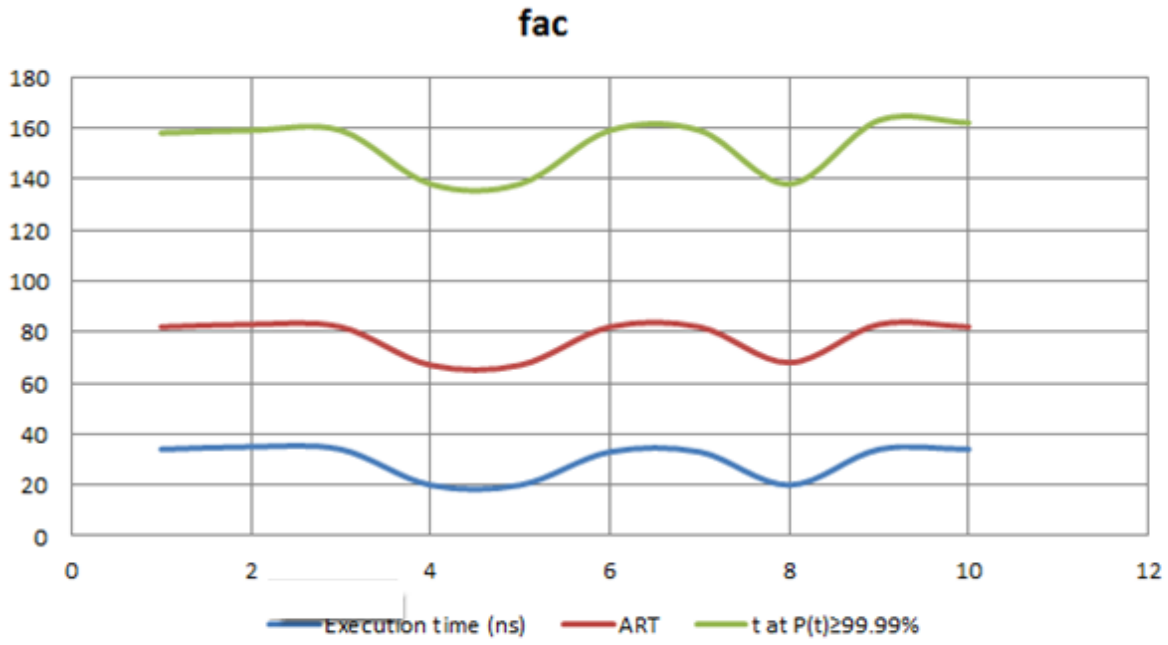


Figure 43: countbit with different compiler combination

It can be seen that the ART and t at P(t) ≥99.99% follow proportional relation w.r.t the execution time and we can easily identify that O + Xcode-factor + Xinline=40 is the best optimization.

f) crc.c (Property : **S** = always single path program, **L** = contains loops , **A** = uses arrays and/or matrixes , **B** = uses bit operations)

No	Compiler flags	Execution time (ns)	ART	t at P(t)≥99.99%
1	O	52	85	194
2	O+Xcode-factor+Xsize-opt	58	86	196
3	O+coloring	52	85	194
4	O+codefactor+coloring+inline=40	52	85	194
5	O+codefactor+coloring+inline=40	51	83	194
6	O+codefactor+coloring+opt-count=2	52	83	194
7	O+parse-count=300000+restart+test-at-both	52	83	194
8	O+inline=40	51	83	194
9	O+opt-count=2	51	83	194
10	O+codefactor	52	83	194

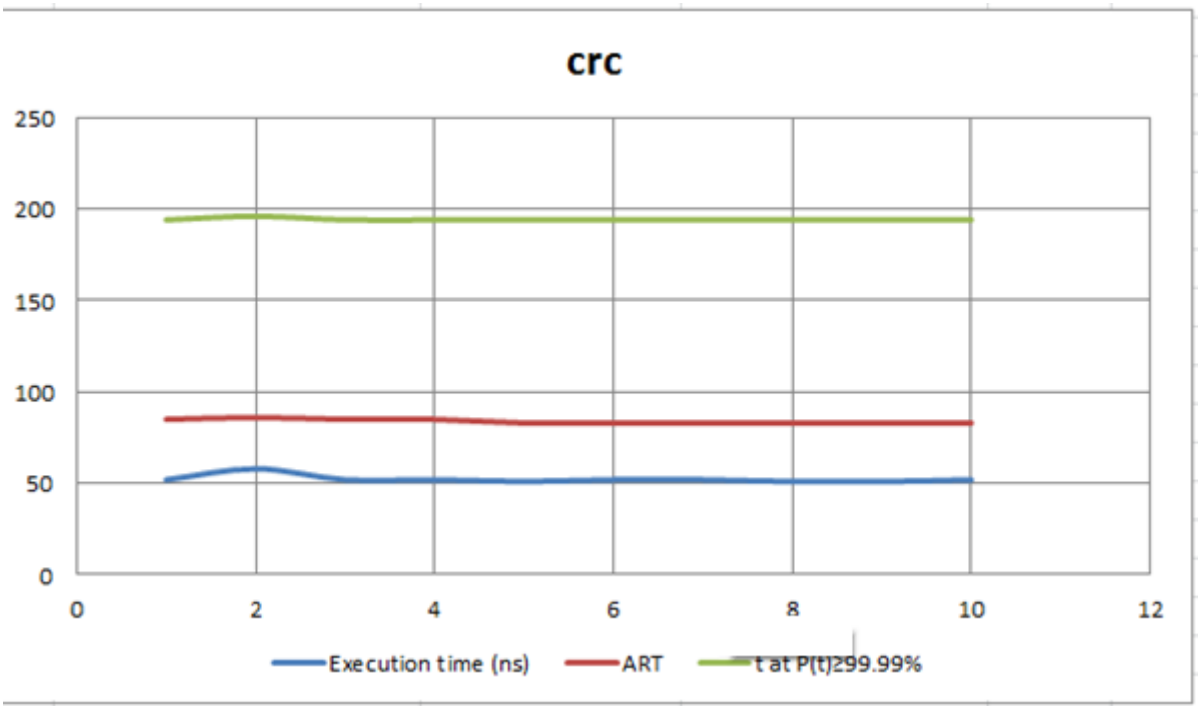


Figure 44: countbit with different compiler combination

It can be seen that the ART and t at P(t) ≥99.99% follow proprotional; relation w.r.t the execution time and we can easily identify that O + Xcode-factor + Xinline=20 is the best optimization.

10. Conclusions & Future work

The work presented attempts to provide the developer with process algebraic model of a static performance analyzer using the PEPA modeling language. We tried to model different hardware properties (like single fetch, dual fetch pipelines, with/ without cache effect) and take the effect on the performance of the program under different compiler flags usage. We faced the problem of state space explosion when using more than 4 instructions, but we incorporated a different modeling approach so that we could still be able to read the performance of the program. We modeled simple programs running on a dual fetch processor with L1 instruction cache. However it's also interesting to ascertain the performance even in the case of a data cache, which can be taken up in the future work. The tool was accelerated by incorporating the multi-threaded python programming. We used the simple program trace with predictable modeling but this would already give us the indication of how the program would execute , hence we need to develop a methodology where we can incorporate control flow graph, data flow graph, interprocedural value analysis methods to predict the program path apriori (from ELF file) and then model it. This would give us better prediction on the performance of the program.

The time taken in PEPA to parse a model and evaluate the performance measures is in order of 3m for Length of code~=100. There are tools which address software compliance checking and bug detection using model checking algorithms like Goanna, but the performance issues are addressed in this work. Although the system is as good as the model theory still holds good, this tool provides distinct statistical measures among different coding strategies and identifies the best use case.

10.1 Future work

The following points were identified for the future work.

1. Modeling in case of several other superscalar processors can be investigated and the performance can be predicted

2. The results are currently verified for smaller with predictable control flow , but in the future work we can compare the code profiler values against the PEPA performance measures using inter procedural data/control flow value analysis on huge programs.

4. Modeling techniques in case of presence of a data cache of higher levels (L2,L3)needs also to be investigated with.

5. We can also investigate modeling the program execution in case of multicore, multiple hardware units (Floating point unit, Digital signal processors).

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12. Appendix

12.1 Optimizations

Examples of the different coding guidelines used for experiment are provided below.

a) Inverse index optimization :
Loop variable increments are reversed to decrement towards zero

```
for (i=0; i<10; i++)      {      Converted to   =>      for (i=10; i>0; i--) {
        sum = *arp; arp++;                                sum += *arp; arp++;
}                                                         }
```

It is quicker to process i-- as the test condition, which says "Is `i` non-zero? If so, decrement it and continue". For the original code, the processor has to calculate "Subtract `i` from 10. Is the result non-zero? If so, increment i and continue.". In tight loops, this makes a considerable difference.

b) Loop unroll:
Small loops are unrolled to reduce the loop overhead and increase opportunities for rescheduling.

```
for (i=10; i>0; i--){          Converted to =>          for (i=10; i>0; i-=2){
sum += *arp;                                            sum += *arp;
arp++;                                                        sum += *(arp+1);
                                                        arp += 2;
}                                                      }
```

c) Common sub expression elimination :
Sub expressions, once computed, are held in registers and not re-computed the next time the sub expressions occur. Memory references are also held in registers.

```
if (p->op == A)                    Converted to =>                    tmp
= p->op;

                                                                  ... if (tmp == A)
else if (p->op == B) ...
                                                                  else if (tmp == B)
```

12.2 Power PC compilation flags

Xsize-opt	Optimize for size rather than speed when there is a choice. Optimizations affected, include inlining, loop unrolling, and branch to small code
Xwhole-prog-opt=0x9	Save module information for use in link-time optimization & enable link time object file cache.
Xwhole-prog-opt=0x8	Enable link-time object-file cache. At link time, allow the linker to reuse object files that have been optimized in previous links
Xcoloring	Use a graph coloring algorithm to optimize register allocation
Xcodefactor	Find common code sequences at link time and share them, reducing code size at the cost of inserting some additional branches
Xcga-min	When a global variable is accessed repeatedly within a conditional statement, the compiler can replace the global variable with a temporary local copy (which can be stored in a register), then reassign the local variable to the global variable when the conditional finishes execution.
Xconservative-static-live	Optimize static and global variable access conservatively. Make optimizations of static and global variable accessing less aggressive; for example, do not delete assignments to such variables in infinite loops from which there is no apparent return.
XO	Enable all standard optimizations plus the O,Xinline,Xparse-count,Xrestart,Xtest-at-both.
O	optimize the code
Xinline = 40	Set the limit on the number of nodes for automatic inlining