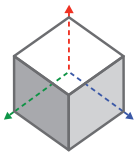
A Free and Open ISA

Enabling a Diversity of CPU Cores and Accelerators

Guy Lemieux CEO



VectorBlox
embedded supercomputing

Professor

a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

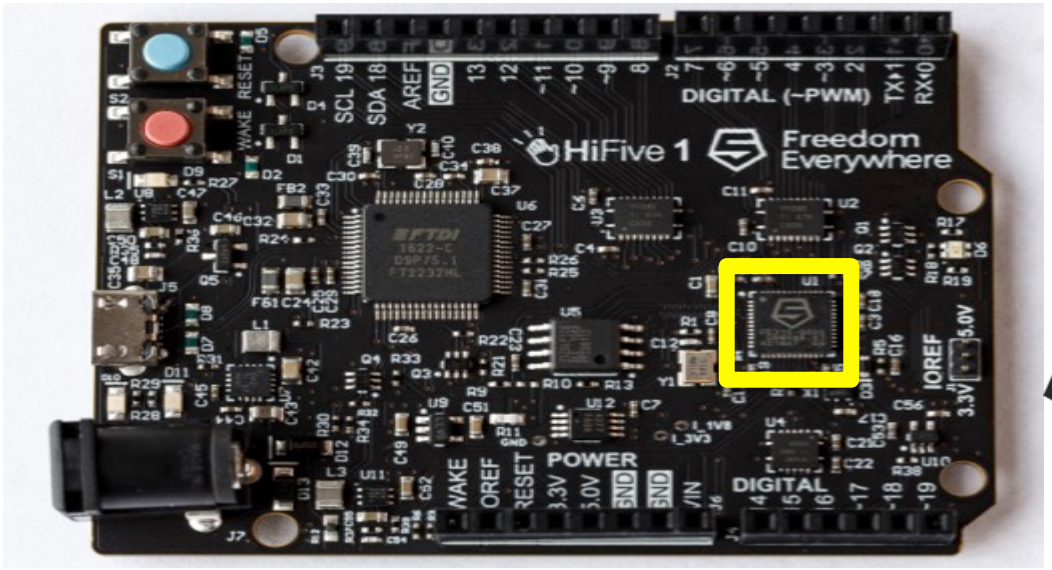

RISC-V
Not so long ago in
academia far, far away,
researchers at UC Berkeley
started a 3 month project
to design a new open ISA...

What is RISC-V?

- 5th generation RISC Instruction Set Architecture (UC Berkeley)
  - Andrew Waterman, Yunsup Lee, Dave Patterson, Krste Asanovic
  - First public specification released in May 2011

- High-quality, license-free, royalty-free ISA spec.
  - Microcontrollers to supercomputers

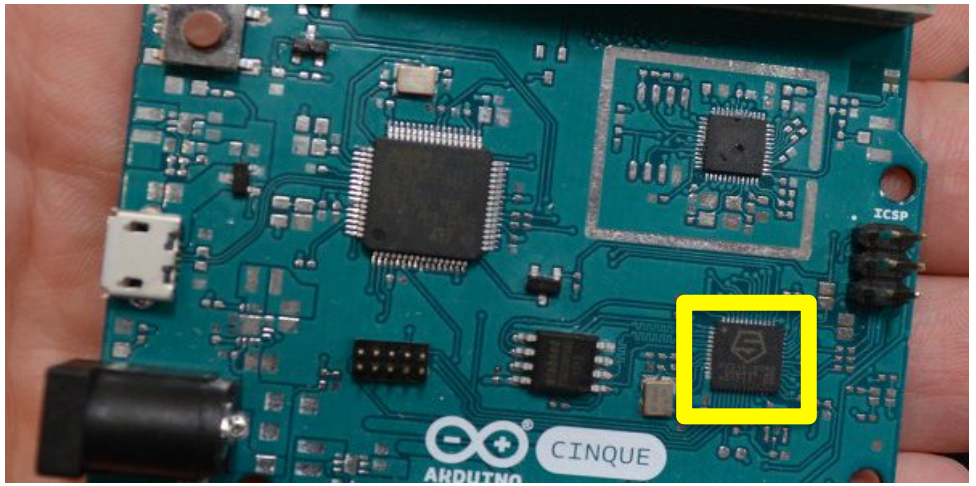
- Standard maintained by *RISC-V Foundation*



SiFive HiFive 1

Arduino Cinque

Announced at Bay Area Maker Faire ,
May 20, 2017



RISC-V ISA "Green Card"

RISC-V ① ② ③ **RISC-V Reference Card** ④

Base Integer Instructions (32|64|128)

Category	Name	Fmt	RV{32|64|128}I Base
Loads	Load Byte	I	LB rd,rs1,imm
	Load Halfword	I	LH rd,rs1,imm
	Load Word	I	L{W|D|Q} rd,rs1,imm
	Load Byte Unsigned	I	LBU rd,rs1,imm
	Load Half Unsigned	I	L{H|W|D}U rd,rs1,imm
Stores	Store Byte	S	SB rs1,rs2,imm
	Store Halfword	S	SH rs1,rs2,imm
	Store Word	S	S{W|D|Q} rs1,rs2,imm
Shifts	Shift Left	R	SLL{|W|D} rd,rs1,rs2
	Shift Left Immediate	I	SLLI{|W|D} rd,rs1,shamt
	Shift Right	R	SRL{|W|D} rd,rs1,rs2
	Shift Right Immediate	I	SRLI{|W|D} rd,rs1,shamt
	Shift Right Arithmetic	R	SRA{|W|D} rd,rs1,rs2
	Shift Right Arith Imm	I	SRAI{|W|D} rd,rs1,shamt
Arithmetic	ADD	R	ADD{|W|D} rd,rs1,rs2
	ADD Immediate	I	ADDI{|W|D} rd,rs1,imm
	SUBtract	R	SUB{|W|D} rd,rs1,rs2
	Load Upper Imm	U	LUI rd,imm
	Add Upper Imm to PC	U	AUIPC rd,imm
Logical	XOR	R	XOR rd,rs1,rs2
	XOR Immediate	I	XORI rd,rs1,imm
	OR	R	OR rd,rs1,rs2
	OR Immediate	I	ORI rd,rs1,imm
	AND	R	AND rd,rs1,rs2
	AND Immediate	I	ANDI rd,rs1,imm
Compare	Set <	R	SLT rd,rs1,rs2
	Set < Immediate	I	SLTI rd,rs1,imm
	Set < Unsigned	R	SLTU rd,rs1,rs2
	Set < Imm Unsigned	I	SLTIU rd,rs1,imm
Branches	Branch =	SB	BEQ rs1,rs2,imm
	Branch ≠	SB	BNE rs1,rs2,imm
	Branch <	SB	BLT rs1,rs2,imm
	Branch ≥	SB	BGE rs1,rs2,imm
	Branch < Unsigned	SB	BLTU rs1,rs2,imm
	Branch ≥ Unsigned	SB	BGEU rs1,rs2,imm
Jump & Link	J&L	UJ	JAL rd,imm
	Jump & Link Register	I	JALR rd,rs1,imm
Synch	Synch thread	I	FENCE
	Synch Instr & Data	I	FENCE.I
System	System CALL	I	SCALL
	System BREAK	I	SBREAK
Counters	ReaD CYCLE	I	RDCYCLE rd
	ReaD CYCLE upper Half	I	RDCYCLEH rd
	ReaD TIME	I	RDTIME rd
	ReaD TIME upper Half	I	RDTIMEH rd
	ReaD INSTR RETired	I	RDINSTRET rd
	ReaD INSTR upper Half	I	RDINSTRETH rd

RV Privileged Instructions (32|64|128)

Category	Name	Fmt	RV mnemonic
CSR Access	Atomic R/W	R	CSRRW rd,csr,rs1
	Atomic Read & Set Bit	R	CSRRS rd,csr,rs1
	Atomic Read & Clear Bit	R	CSRRC rd,csr,rs1
	Atomic R/W Imm	R	CSRRWI rd,csr,imm
	Atomic Read & Set Bit Imm	R	CSRRSI rd,csr,imm
	Atomic Read & Clear Bit Imm	R	CSRRCI rd,csr,imm
Change Level	Env. Call	R	ECALL
	Environment Breakpoint	R	EBREAK
	Environment Return	R	ERET
Trap Redirect	to Superviso	R	MRTS
	Redirect Trap to Hypervisor	R	MRTH
	Hypervisor Trap to Supervisor	R	HRTS
Interrupt	Wait for Interrup	R	WFI
MMU	Supervisor FENCE	R	SFENCE.VM rs1

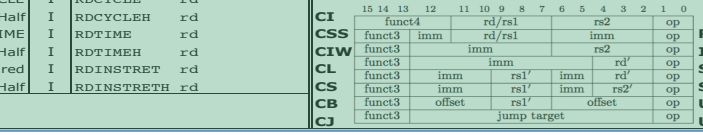
Optional Multiply-Divide Extension: RV32M

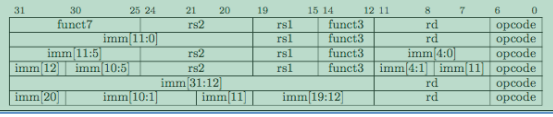
Category	Name	Fmt	RV32M (Mult-Div)
Multiply	MULtiply	R	MUL{|W|D} rd,rs1,rs2
	MULtiply upper Half	R	MULH rd,rs1,rs2
	MULtiply Half Sign/Uns	R	MULHSU rd,rs1,rs2
	MULtiply upper Half Uns	R	MULHU rd,rs1,rs2
Divide	DIVide	R	DIV{|W|D} rd,rs1,rs2
	DIVide Unsigned	R	DIVU rd,rs1,rs2
Remainder	REMainder	R	REM{|W|D} rd,rs1,rs2
	REMainder Unsigned	R	REMU{|W|D} rd,rs1,rs2

Optional Atomic Instruction Extension: RVA

Category	Name	Fmt	RV{32|64|128}A (Atomic)
Load	Load Reserved	R	LR.{W|D|Q} rd,rs1
Store	Store Conditiona	R	SC.{W|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
Swap	SWAP	R	AMOSWAP.{W|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
Add	ADD	R	AMOADD.{W|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
Logical	XOR	R	AMOXOR.{W|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	AND	R	AMOAND.{W|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	OR	R	AMOOR.{W|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
Min/Max	MINimum	R	AMOMIN.{W|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	MAXimum	R	AMOMAX.{W|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	MINimum Unsigned	R	AMOMINU.{W|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	MAXimum Unsigned	R	AMOMAXU.{W|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2

16-bit (RVC) and 32-bit Instruction Formats





3 Optional FP Extensions: RV32{F|D|Q}

Category	Name	Fmt	RV{F|D|Q} (HP/SP,DP,QP)
Load	Load	I	FL{W,D,Q} rd,rs1,imm
Store	Store	S	FS{W,D,Q} rs1,rs2,imm
Arithmetic	ADD	R	FADD.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	SUBtract	R	FSUB.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	MULtiply	R	FMUL.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	DIVide	R	FDIV.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	SQuare RooT	R	FSQRT.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1
Mul-Add	Multiply-ADD	R	FMADD.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2,rs3
	Multiply-SUBtract	R	FMSUB.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2,rs3
	Negative Multiply-SUBtract	R	FMNSUB.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2,rs3
	Negative Multiply-ADD	R	FMNADD.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2,rs3
Sign Inject	SiGN source	R	FSGNJ.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	Negative SiGN source	R	FSGNJN.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	Xor SiGN source	R	FSGNJX.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
Min/Max	MINimum	R	FMIN.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	MAXimum	R	FMAX.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
Compare	Compare Float =	R	FEQ.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	Compare Float <	R	FLT.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
	Compare Float ≤	R	FLE.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1,rs2
Categorize	Classify Type	R	FCLASS.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1
Move	Move from Integer	R	FMV.S.X rd,rs1
	Move to Integer	R	FMV.X.S rd,rs1
Convert	Convert from Int	R	FCVT.{S|D|Q}.W rd,rs1
	Convert from Int Unsigned	R	FCVT.{S|D|Q}.WU rd,rs1
	Convert to Int	R	FCVT.W.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1
	Convert to Int Unsigned	R	FCVT.WU.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1
Configuration	Read Stat	R	FRCSR rd
	Read Rounding Mode	R	FRRM rd
	Read Flags	R	FRFLAGS rd
	Swap Status Reg	R	FSCSR rd,rs1
	Swap Rounding Mode	R	FSRM rd,rs1
	Swap Flags	R	FSFLAGS rd,rs1
Swap Rounding Mode Imm		I	FSRMI rd,imm
	Swap Flags Imm	I	FSFLAGSI rd,imm

3 Optional FP Extensions: RV{64|128}{F|D|Q}

Category	Name	Fmt	RV{F|D|Q} (HP/SP,DP,QP)
Move	Move from Integer	R	FMV.{D|Q}.X rd,rs1
	Move to Integer	R	FMV.X.{D|Q} rd,rs1
Convert	Convert from Int	R	FCVT.{S|D|Q}.{L|T} rd,rs1
	Convert from Int Unsigned	R	FCVT.{S|D|Q}.{L|T}U rd,rs1
	Convert to Int	R	FCVT.{L|T}.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1
	Convert to Int Unsigned	R	FCVT.{L|T}U.{S|D|Q} rd,rs1

Optional Compressed Instructions: RVC

Category	Name	Fmt	RVC
Loads	Load Word	CL	C.LW rd',rs1',imm
	Load Word SP	CI	C.LWSP rd,imm
	Load Double	CL	C.LD rd',rs1',imm
	Load Double SP	CI	C.LWSP rd,imm
	Load Quad	CL	C.LQ rd',rs1',imm
	Load Quad SP	CI	C.LQSP rd,imm
	Load Byte Unsigned	CL	C.LBU rd',rs1',imm
	Float Load Word	CL	C.FLW rd',rs1',imm
	Float Load Double	CL	C.FLD rd',rs1',imm
	Float Load Word SP	CI	C.FLWSP rd,imm
	Float Load Double SP	CI	C.FLDSP rd,imm
Stores	Store Word	CS	C.SW rs1',rs2',imm
	Store Word SP	CSS	C.SWSP rs2,imm
	Store Double	CS	C.SD rs1',rs2',imm
	Store Double SP	CSS	C.SDSP rs2,imm
	Store Quad	CS	C.SQ rs1',rs2',imm
	Store Quad SP	CSS	C.SQSP rs2,imm
	Float Store Word	CSS	C.FSW rd',rs1',imm
	Float Store Double	CSS	C.FSD rd',rs1',imm
	Float Store Word SP	CSS	C.FSWSP rd,imm
	Float Store Double SP	CSS	C.FSDSP rd,imm
Arithmetic	ADD	CR	C.ADD rd,rs1
	ADD Word	CR	C.ADDW rd',rs2'
	ADD Immediate	CI	C.ADDI rd,imm
	ADD Word Imm	CI	C.ADDIW rd,imm
	ADD SP Imm * 16	CI	C.ADDI16SP x0,imm
	ADD SP Imm * 4	CIW	C.ADDI4SPN rd',imm
	Load Immediate	CI	C.LI rd,imm
	Load Upper Imm	CI	C.LUI rd,imm
	MoVe	CR	C.MV rd,rs1
	SUB	CR	C.SUB rd',rs2'
	SUB Word	CR	C.SUBW rd',rs2'
Logical	XOR	CS	C.XOR rd',rs2'
	OR	CS	C.OR rd',rs2'
	AND	CS	C.AND rd',rs2'
	AND Immediate	CB	C.ANDI rd',rs2'
Shifts	Shift Left Imm	CI	C.SLLI rd,imm
	Shift Right Immediate	CB	C.SRLI rd',imm
	Shift Right Arith Imm	CB	C.SRAI rd',imm
Branches	Branch=0	CB	C.BEQZ rs1',imm
	Branch≠0	CB	C.BNEZ rs1',imm
Jump	Jump	CJ	C.J imm
	Jump Register	CR	C.JR rd,rs1
Jump & Link	J&L	CJ	C.JAL imm
	Jump & Link Register	CR	C.JALR rs1
System	Env. BREAK	CI	C.EBREAK

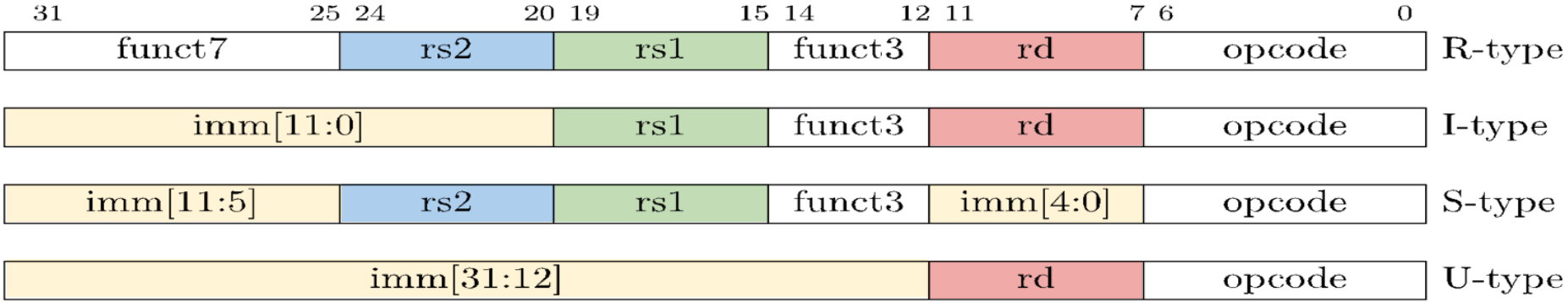
RISC-V Base + Standard Extensions

- Base < 50 instructions, 4 variants
  - 16 registers: RV32E
  - 32 registers: RV32I, RV64I, RV128I

- Standard extensions
  - M: Integer multiply/divide
  - A: Atomic memory operations (AMOs + LR/SC)
  - F: Single-precision floating-point
  - D: Double-precision floating-point
  - Q: Quad-precision floating-point

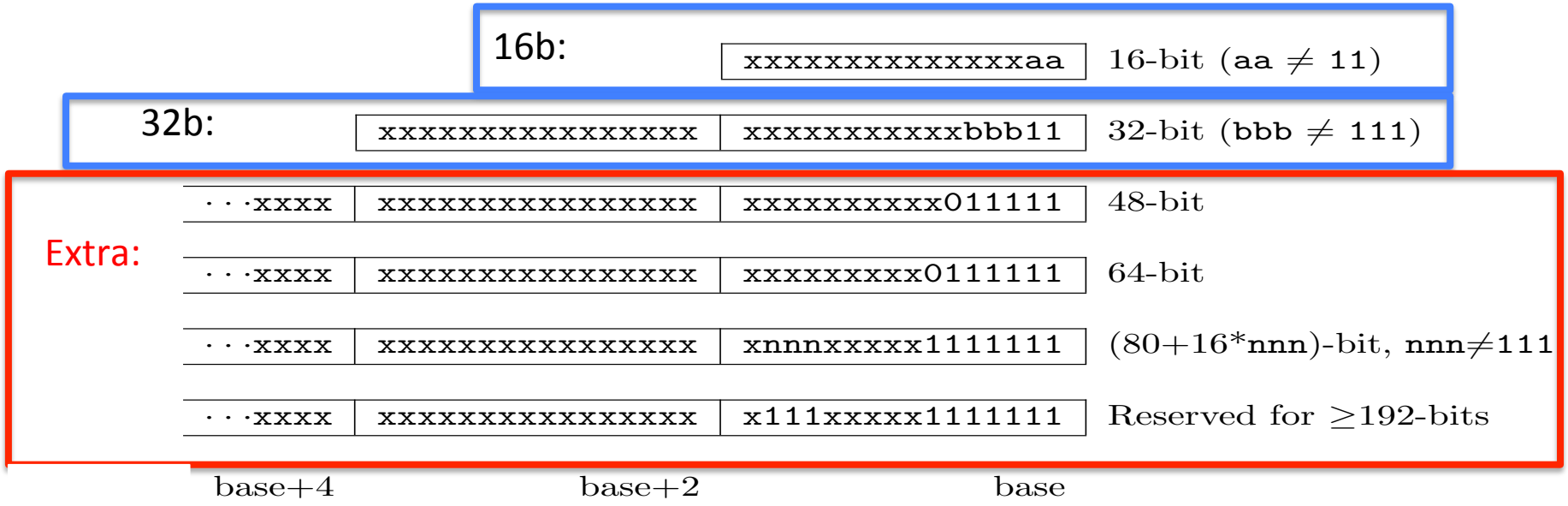
- Fairly standard RISC encoding 32-bit instruction format

Base ISA Encoding: Always 32 Bits



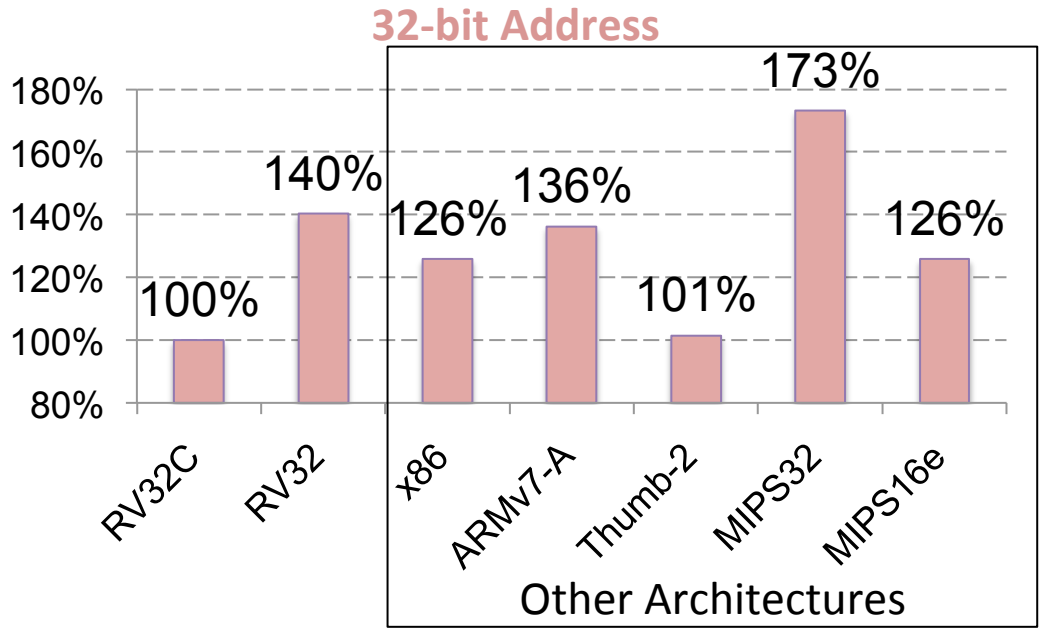
- 32b x 32 registers (32b x 16 in “embedded”)
  - 64b, 128b variants
- rd/rs1/rs2 in fixed location, no implicit registers
- Immediate field (instr[31]) always sign-extended

Rich Instruction Encoding Space



Compressed Instructions

- 16b encoding
  - Expands into one 32b instr.
  - 2-address forms (32 reg.)
  - 3-address forms (8 reg.)
- Implementation
  - Decoder ~700 gates
  - 16-bit instruction alignment
  - Compiler-oblivious

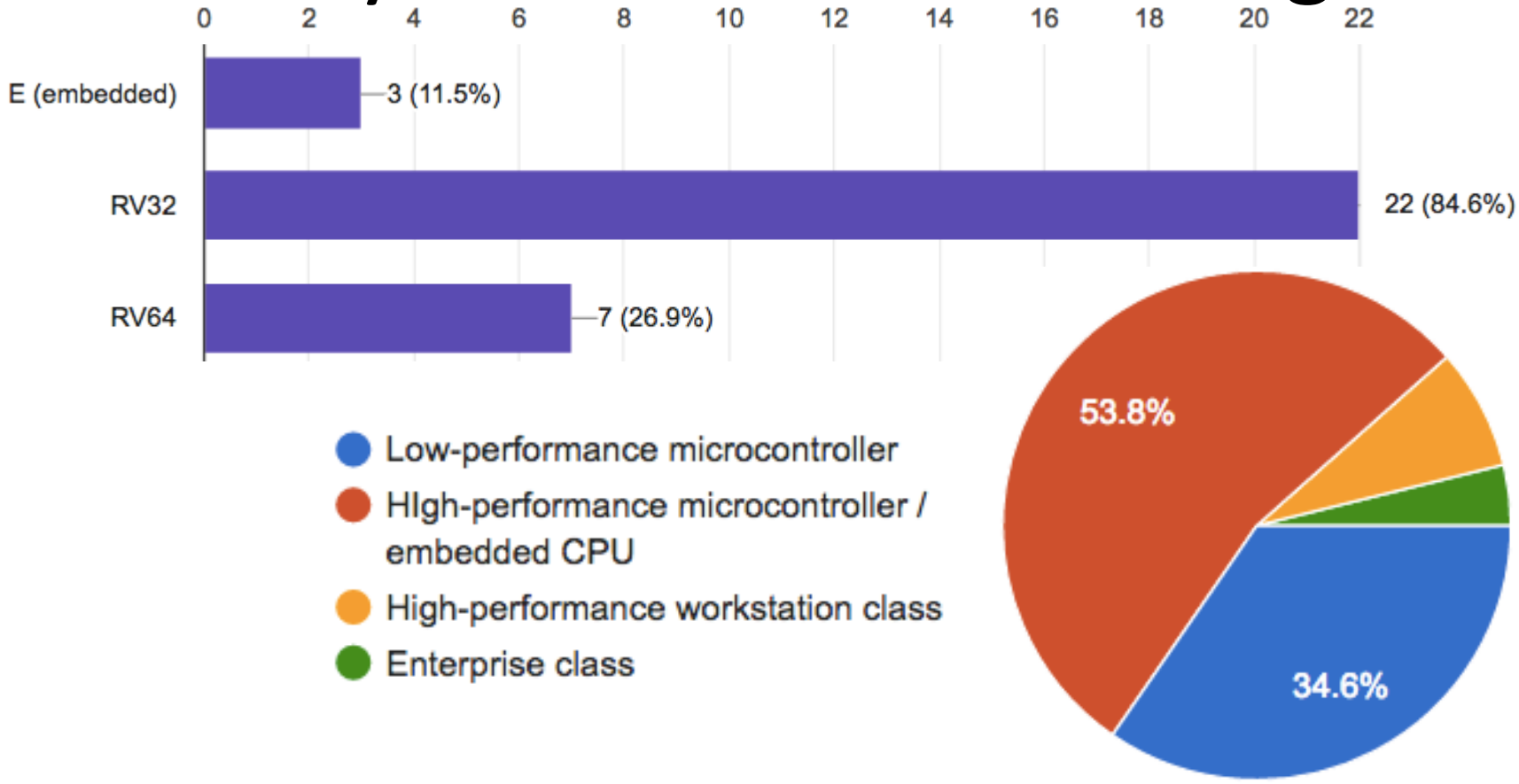


RISC-V smallest on SPECint2006

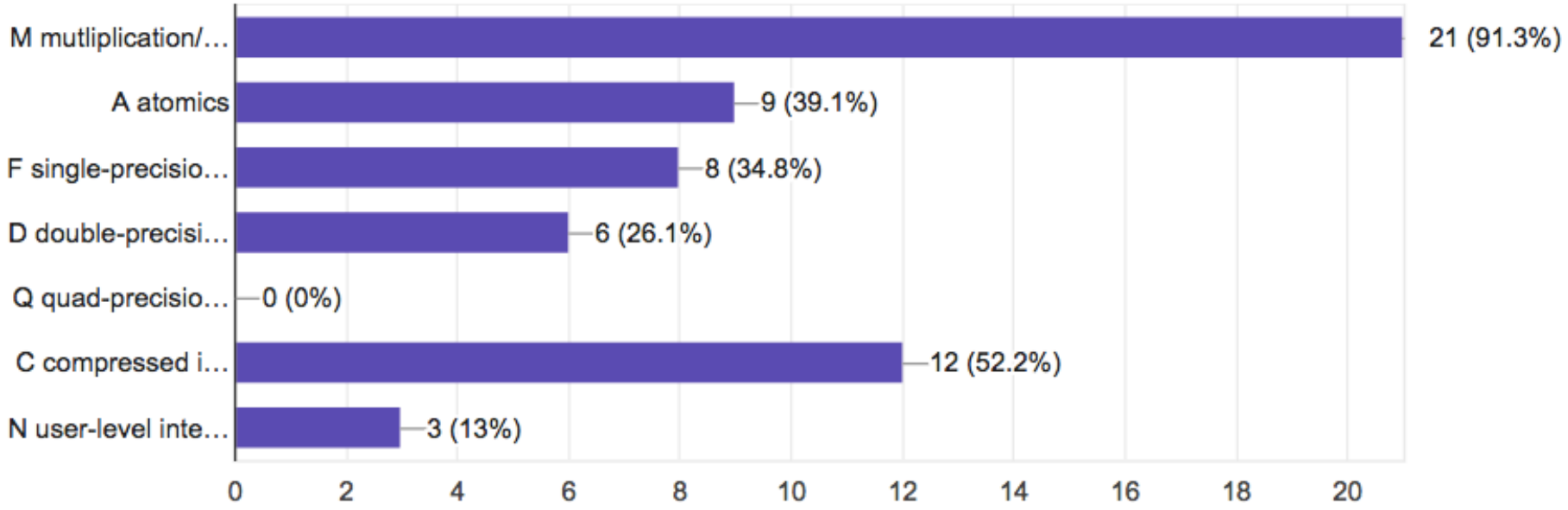
RISC-V Growth

- Rapid uptake in industry + academia
  - Google, Microsoft, IBM, Samsung, AMD, NVIDIA, …
- Growing open software ecosystem
- Variety of proprietary + open-source cores
  - Seeded by Rocket SoC Generator (open source)

Survey: 26 RISC- V CPU Designs

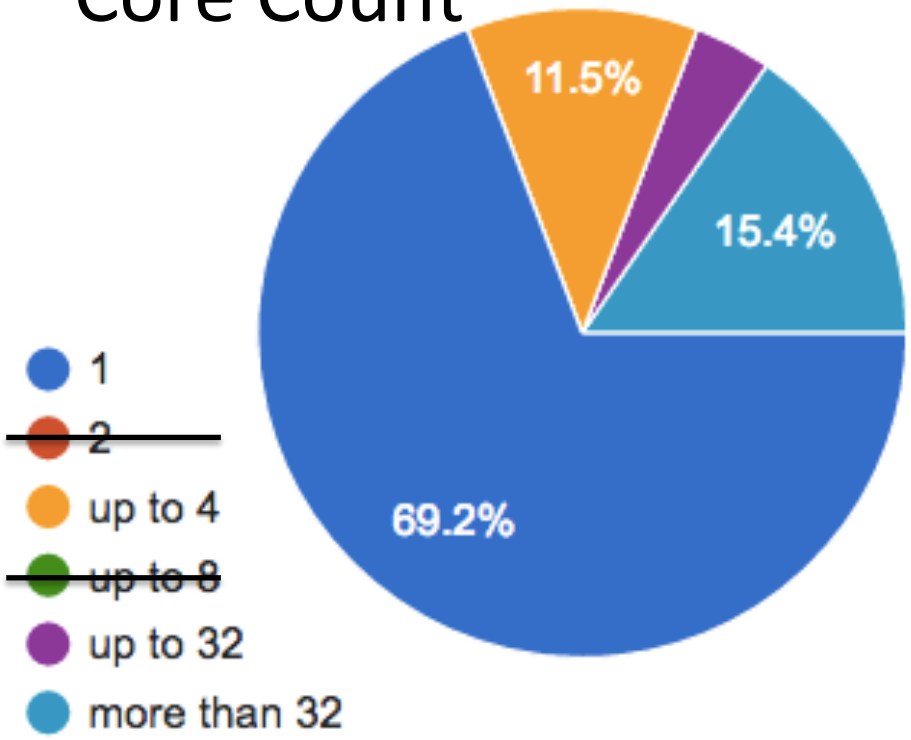


Survey: Standard Extensions

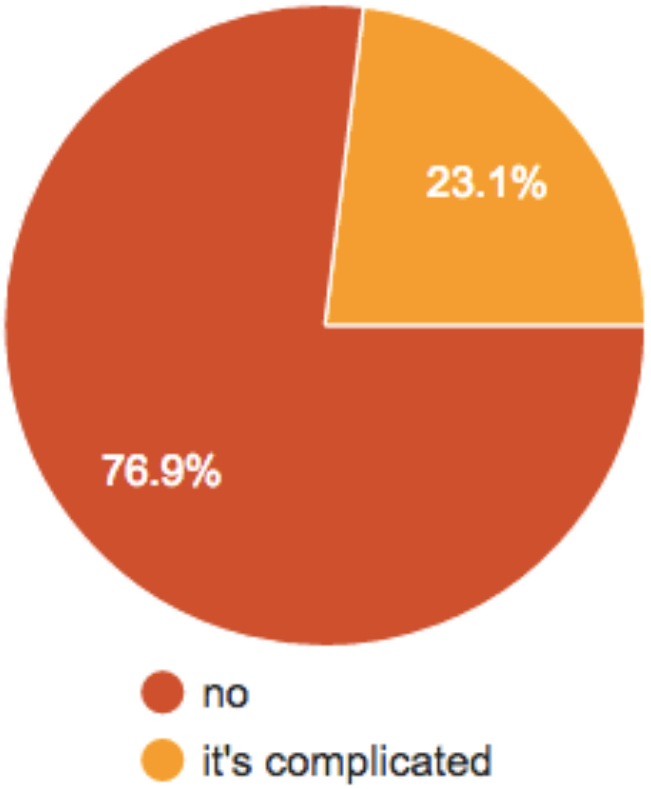


Survey: Multicore

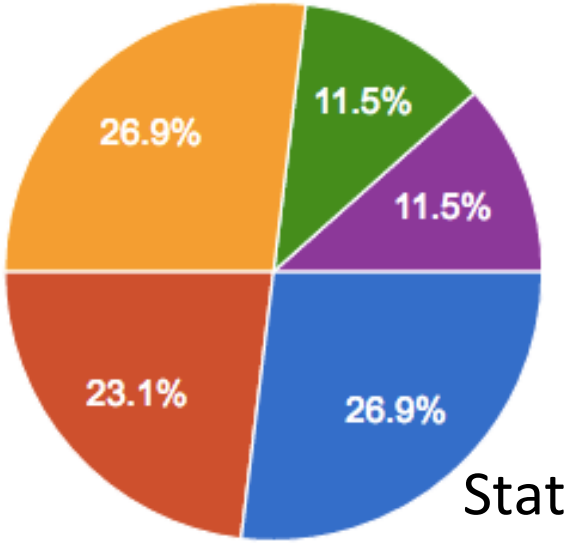
Core Count



big.LITTLE

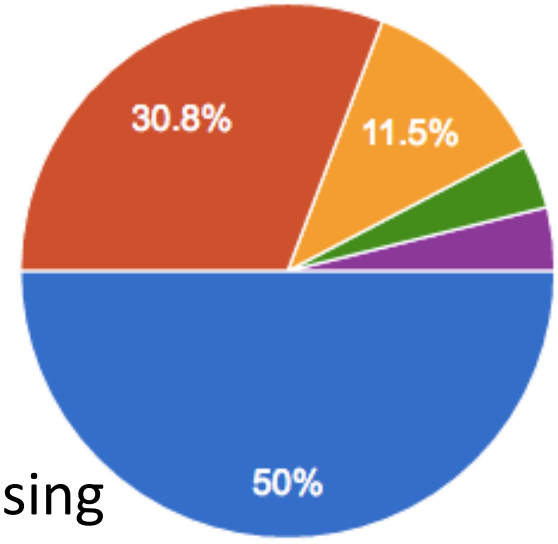


Survey: Availability



Status

- In development
- Works in research lab
- In a select few customer labs
- In many customer labs
- Fully shipping



Licensing

- open source
- for fee under license
- privately held / may be available at some point
- privately held / unavailable / please don't ask us
- it's complicated

Core and Accelerator Choices

RISC-V enables two kinds of choices…

1. Choices as a user
   - Variety of RISC-V providers/products
   - Best selection / performance / availability / competitive prices

2. Choices a provider (SoC designer, cpu architect, …)
   - Variety of design/implementation options
   - More value to users

FPGA Soft Processor Choices

	ISA	Interconnect	Tool
Intel/Altera	Nios II	Avalon	Qsys
Xilinx	MicroBlaze	AXI	IPI
Lattice	Mico32	Wishbone3	MicoSystemBuilder
Microsemi	ARM M1	APB/AHP/AXI	SystemBuilder

- Highly fractured
  - No common ISA, closed-source CPUs
  - No common interconnect
  - No common system build tools
  - No common IP or software

How is any **IP Ecosystem** going to thrive?

FPGAs + RISC-V

- **Healthy shared ecosystem, cross-platform potential (all vendors)**

- Members of RISC-V Foundation
  - Microsemi Rocket chip + SoftConsole IDE
  - Lattice

- FPGA-optimized soft cores
  - ORCA VectorBlox 200 MHz pipelined (all vendors)
  - PicoRV32 Clifford Wolf 300+ MHz multicycle (Xilinx)
  - GRVI Jan Gray 1,000+ pipelined cores (Xilinx)

Case Study

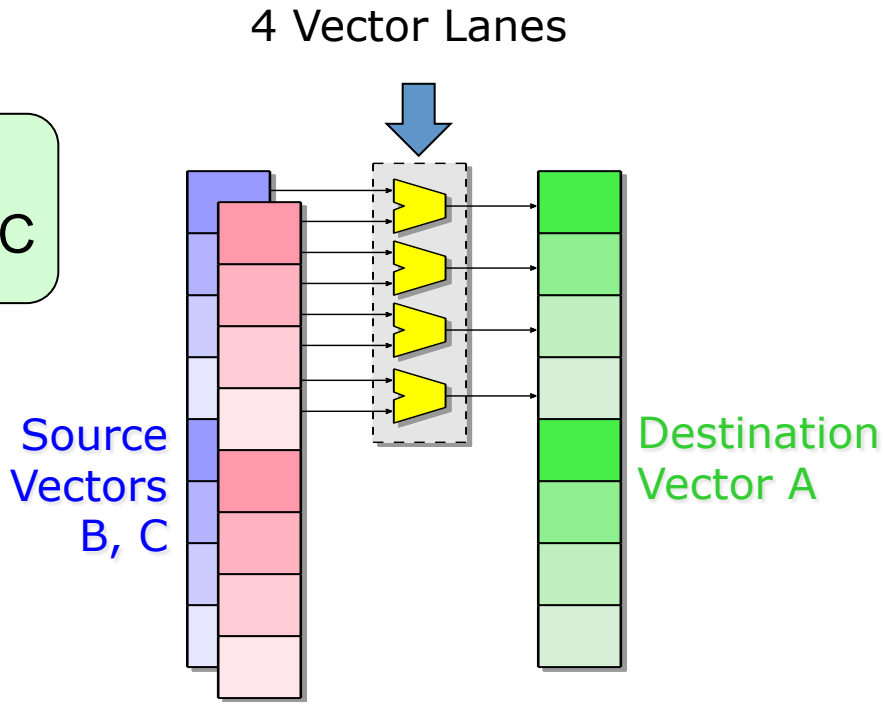
- VectorBlox mission
  - Design custom vector accelerators
- But…
  - No access to soft processor source code
  - Hard ARM cores are inflexible
  - Fragmented ecosystems – very costly/risky for small IP Vendors

- VectorBlox ORCA http://www.github.com/vectorblox/orca
  - Open source RISC-V, optional proprietary extensions
    - Lightweight vector: share the RISC-V ALU
    - Full vector: up to 256 parallel ALUs

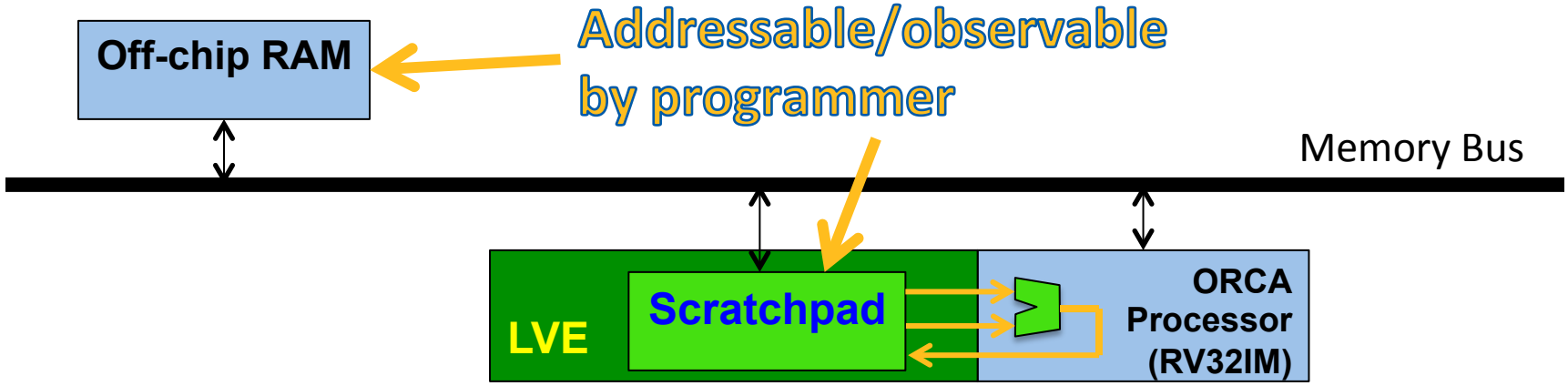
Vector Programming

Data-level parallelism

```
for ( i=0; i<8; i++ )        set VL, 8
  A[i] = B[i] * C[i];        vmult  A, B, C
```



System Model



- Vector instructions operate only on scratchpad
  - Stream data through RISC V ALU
  - Address generators in hardware

Lightweight Vector Extension (LVE)

```
Vadd    Vsub            // RV32I base (vectorized)
Vsll    Vsrl    Vsra
Vxor    Vor     Vand
Vslt    Vsltu

Vmul    Vmulh           // RV32M multiplication (vectorized)
Vdiv    Vrem

Vcmv_z  Vcmv_nz         // VectorBlox: conditional move
Vtype                   // VectorBlox: data type, vector length
```

FIR filter (12x speedup)

- RV32IM

```
00000030 <scalar_fir(long*, long*, long*, int, int)>:
  30:   40e686b3            sub     a3,a3,a4
  34:   06d05263            blez    a3,98 <.L6>
  38:   00269693            slli    a3,a3,0x2
  3c:   00271e13            slli    t3,a4,0x2
  40:   00d50eb3            add     t4,a0,a3
  44:   01c60e33            add     t3,a2,t3
  48:   00100f13            li      t5,1

0000004c <.L10>:
  4c:   0005a683            lw      a3,0(a1)
  50:   00062803            lw      a6,0(a2)
  54:   00460793            addi    a5,a2,4
  58:   00058893            mv      a7,a1
  5c:   03068833            mul     a6,a3,a6
  60:   01052023            sw      a6,0(a0)
  64:   02ef5263            ble     a4,t5,88 <.L11>

00000068 <.L13>:
  68:   0048a683            lw      a3,4(a7)
  6c:   0007a303            lw      t1,0(a5)
  70:   00478793            addi    a5,a5,4
  74:   00488893            addi    a7,a7,4
  78:   026686b3            mul     a3,a3,t1
  7c:   00d80833            add     a6,a6,a3
  80:   01052023            sw      a6,0(a0)
  84:   fefe12e3            bne     t3,a5,68 <.L13>

00000088 <.L11>:
  88:   00450513            addi    a0,a0,4
  8c:   00458593            addi    a1,a1,4
  90:   faae9ee3            bne     t4,a0,4c <.L10>
  94:   00008067            ret
```

No vectors

8 instructions, N stalls

72 bytes code for 2 loops

- RV32IM + LVE

```
00000000 <vector_fir(long*, long*, long*, int, int)>:
   0:   000007b7            lui     a5,0x0
   4:   00e7a023            sw      a4,0(a5)
   8:   40e686b3            sub     a3,a3,a4
   c:   02d05063            blez    a3,2c <.L1>
  10:   00269693            slli    a3,a3,0x2
  14:   00d586b3            add     a3,a1,a3

00000018 <.L3>:
  18:   08c5fe2b            vtype.www   a1,a2
  1c:   a6e50cab            vmul.vv.1d.sss.acc  a0,a4
  20:   00458593            addi    a1,a1,4
  24:   00450513            addi    a0,a0,4
  28:   fed598e3            bne     a1,a3,18 <.L3>

0000002c <.L1>:
  2c:   00008067            ret
```

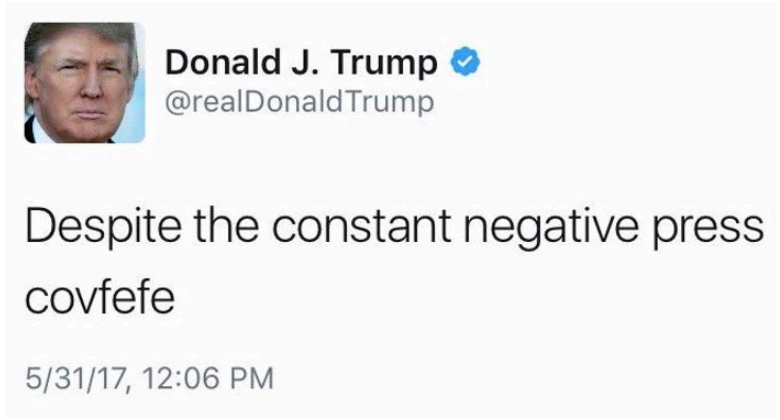
Vectors

1 instruction, 0 stalls

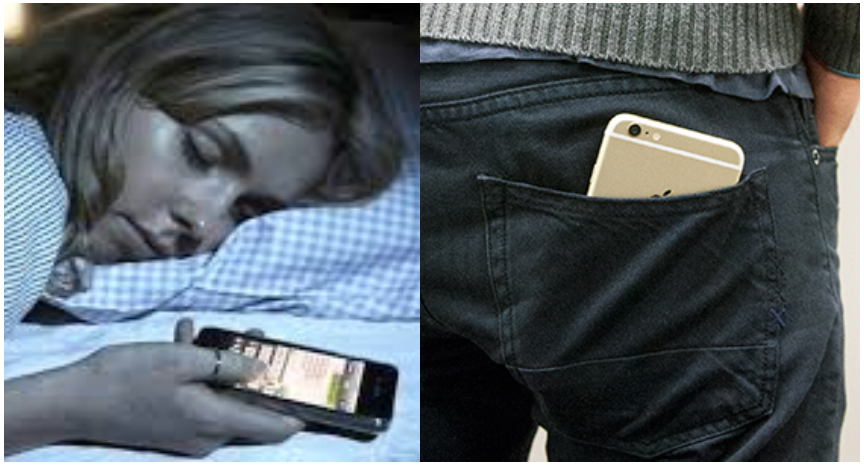
20 bytes code for 2 loops

Real application:

"butt-posting"
"butt-tweeting"



cause?



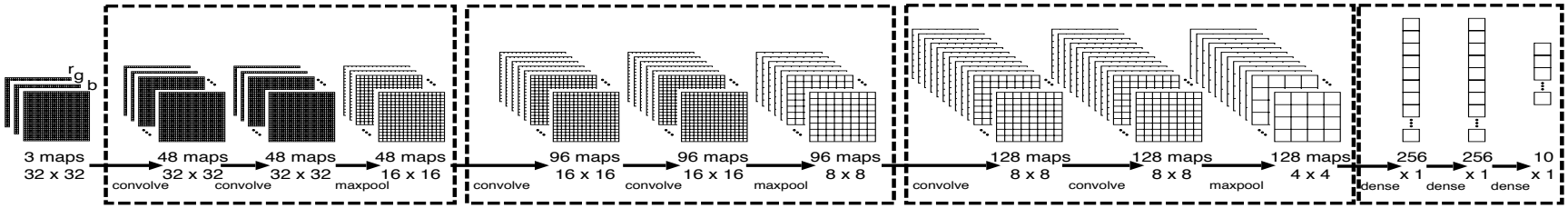
solution!

Deep Learning: Face Detector

Built using
ORCA RISC-V
+
Lightweight
Vectors
+
BNN Accel.

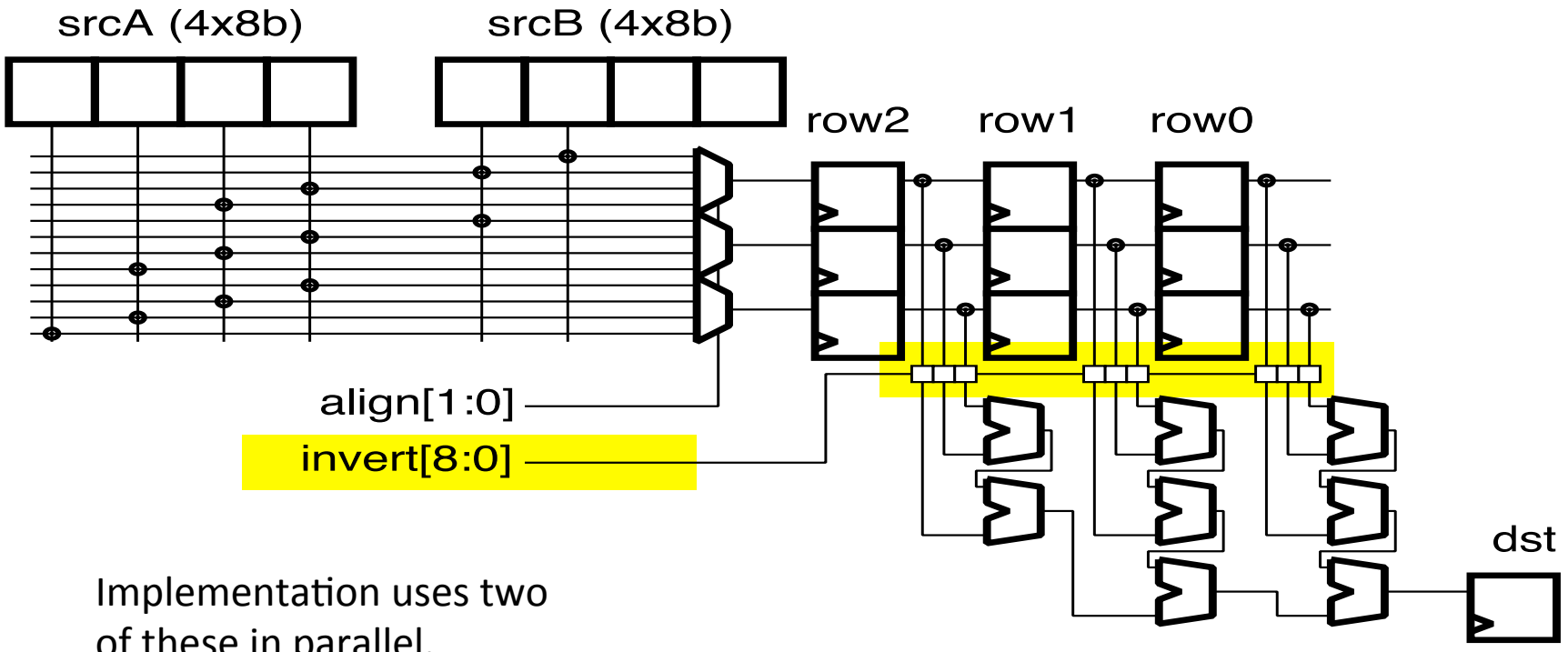
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0rWDrOGqrk

Deep Learning w/ Binary Weights



- Binary weights: only +1/-1, no *
- Database > 75,000 face images
- Trained 99% accurate

Binary-weight NN Accelerator



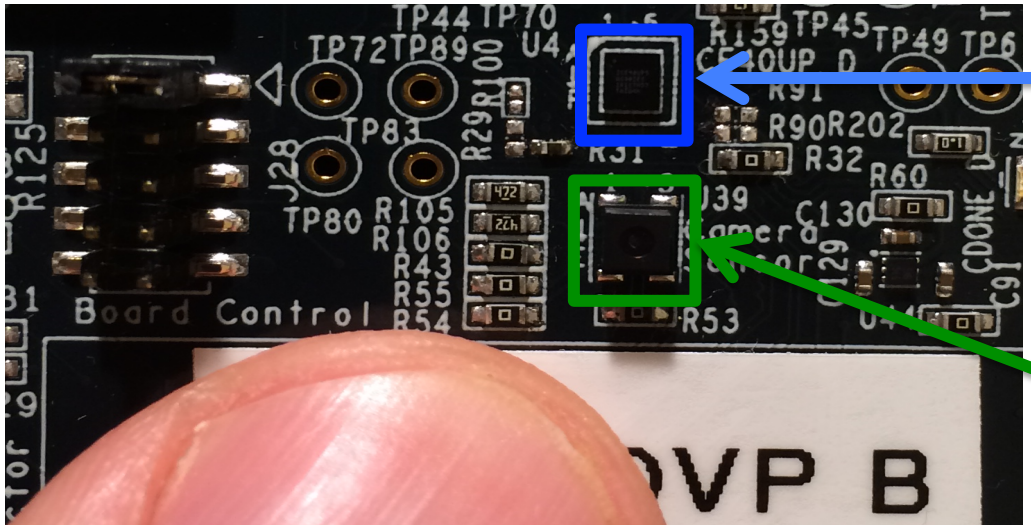
Implementation uses two
of these in parallel.

Face Detector

7.3s **RISC-V soft core (unaccelerated)**

0.1s **+ vector + BNN accel. (71x)**

1.0s **+ power-optimized (< 5mW)**



FPGA

VGA Camera
(3mm x 3mm)

VectorBlox ORCA

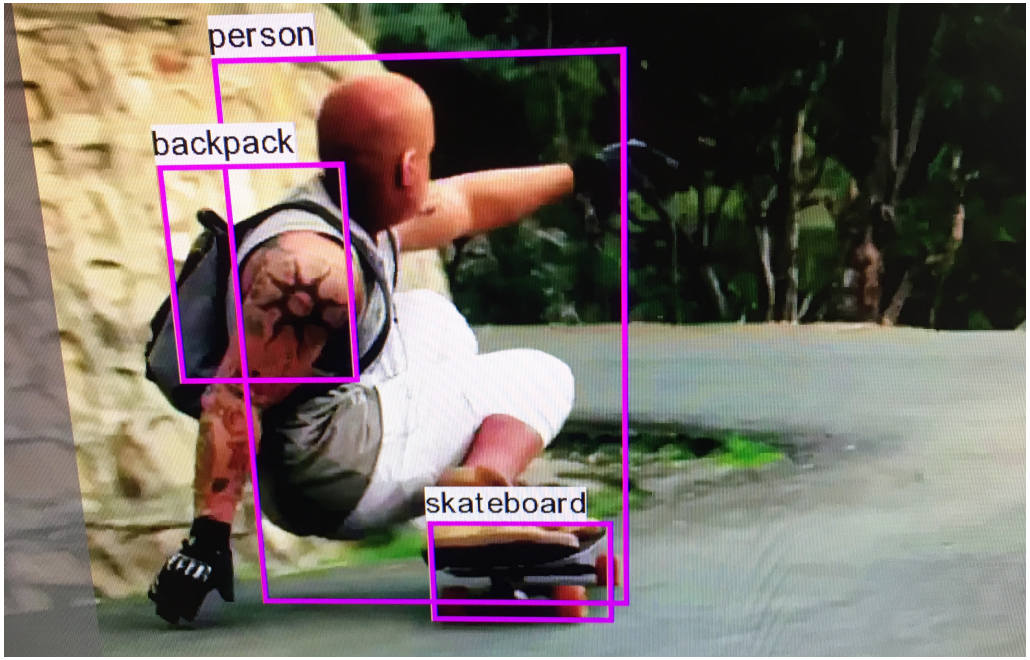
5,280 LUTs

Low-power Face Detection

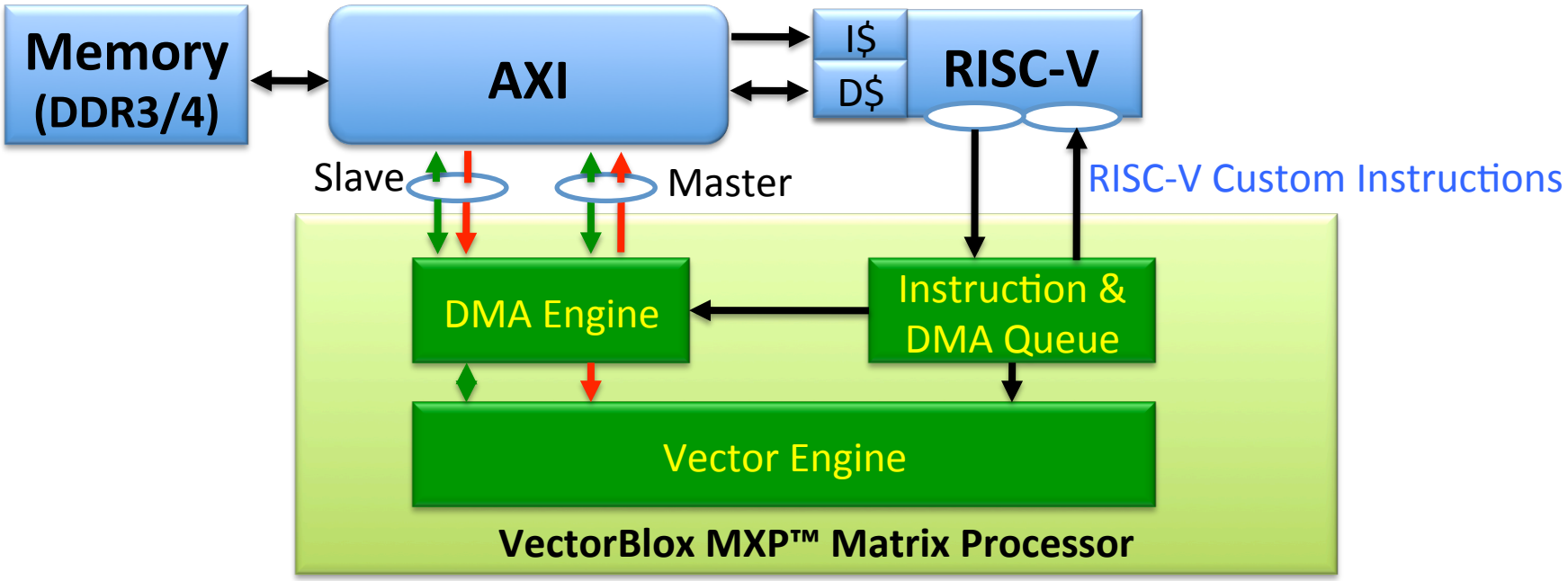
- RISC-V made this possible!
  - Open ISA → FPGA-based CPU + gcc
  - Lightweight vectors → 10x performance \ 70x
  - BNN accelerator → 73x performance / combined
  - Power optimizations → about 15x lower power

- Not possible with closed-source CPUs
  - Could not add lightweight vectors
  - Could not add BNN accelerator
  - Could not make power optimizations

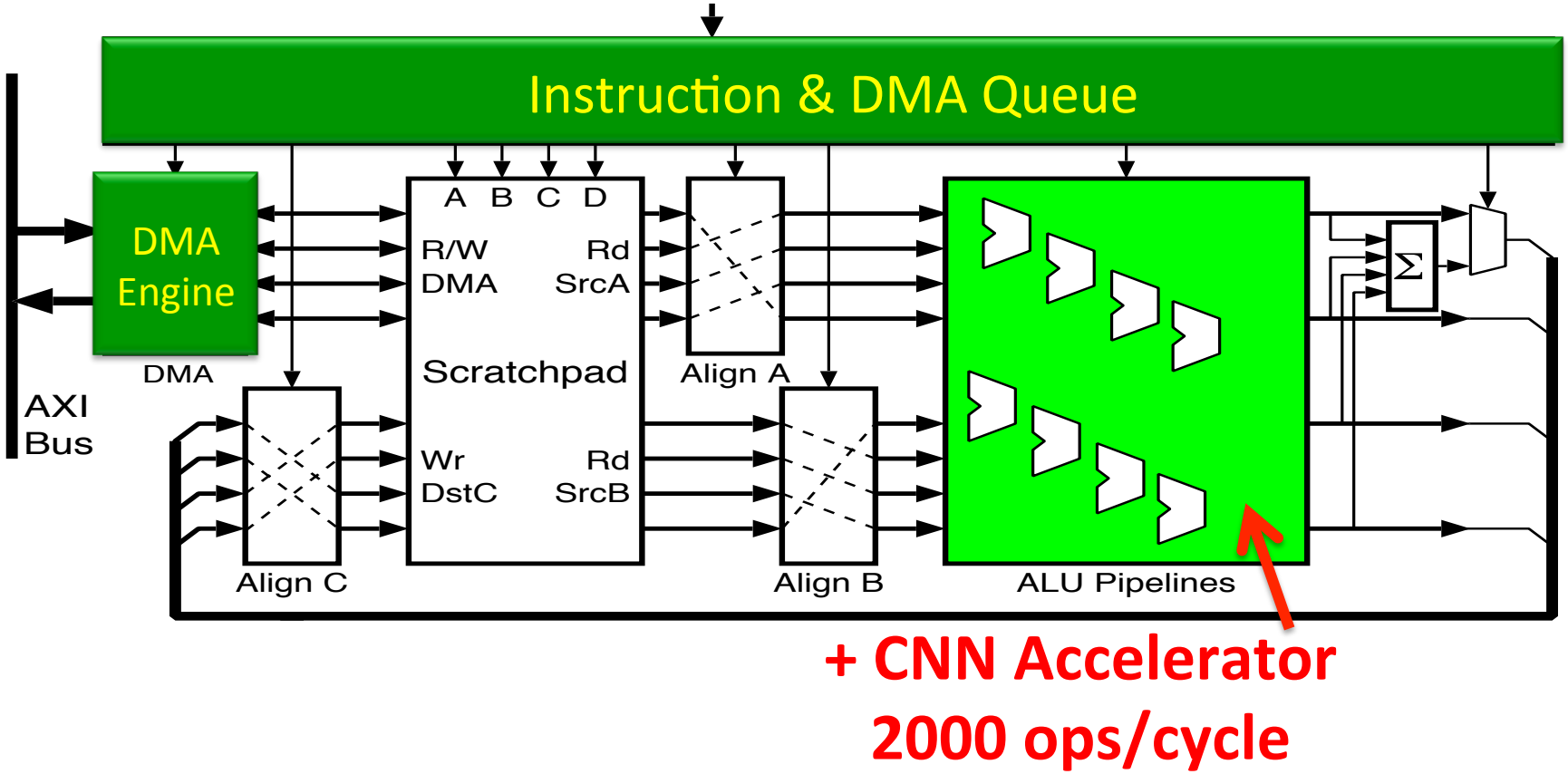
Deep Learning Application: YOLO



Full Vector Extension (MXP)



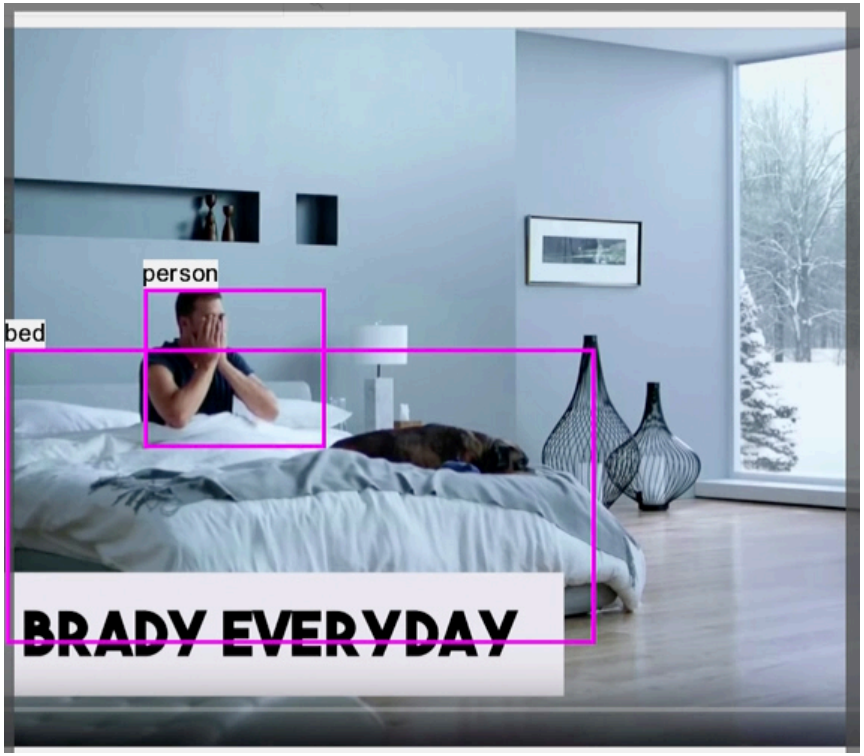
Inside the VectorBlox MXP (2)



Deep Learning Performance

- Same 28nm FPGA
  - ARM Cortex A9 667 MHz
  - VectorBlox MXP 160 MHz (1/4 of Cortex A9)
- About 300x speedup over A9
  - RISC-V Custom Instructions: Vectors + CNN Accel.
  - Parallelism: 2,000 operations / clock cycle

Deep Learning on VectorBlox



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SS2Rc5zpwxs

Summary

- RISC-V is a free and open ISA
  - Enables healthy software (and hardware) ecosystems
  - Variety of cores available / in development

- Impact on VectorBlox
  - Single ecosystem for all FPGA Vendors
    - Shared SW + HW costs, leverage open source contributions
  - Access to CPU internals → performance + power
  - Full vectors (MXP) →10x to 10,000x performance (vs. soft core)
    - CNN application → about 300x performance (vs. hard ARM)
  - Lightweight vectors (LVE) → 10x performance
    - BNN application → 70x performance
    - Power optimizations → about 15x lower power

RISC-V CPU Survey Respondents

Rocket	github.com/freechipsproject/
Freedom Everywhere	SiFive.com
Mythic IPU	mythic-ai.com
riscV	n/a
PulpTR	ankasys.com
proc_rv32ec_p2	astc-design.com
proc_rv32ic_p5	astc-design.com
KCP53000	kestrelcomputer.github.io/kestrel
RV12	roalogic.com
PicoRV32	github.com/cliffordwolf/picorv32
Klessydra processing core	en.uniroma1.it
BOOM	ucb-bar.github.io/riscv-boom
PULP	github.com/pulp-platform

RV01	n/a
IntenCore	intensivate.com
YARVI	github.com/tommythorn/yarvi
RISCVBusiness	purduesoceet.github.io
GRVI Phalanx	fpga.org/gray-research-llc
SCR1	syntacore.com
SCR2	syntacore.com
SCR3	syntacore.com
SCR4	syntacore.com
SCR5	syntacore.com
Celerity	n/a
riscv-lanzones	github.com/e19293001/riscv-lanzones
ORCA	github.com/vectorblox/orca