

RAVE: RISC-V Analyzer of Vector Executions

a QEMU tracing plugin

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HiPEAC - Workshop: RISC-V: the cornerstone ISA for the next generation of HPC infrastructures

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Outline

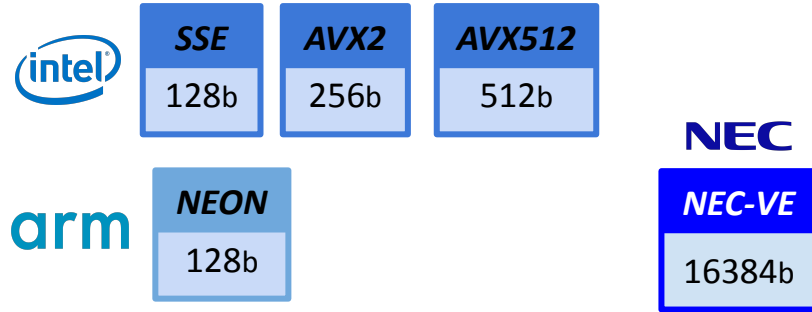
- Background on RVV
- EPAC chip
- Emulation environment
 - Why do we need **RAVE**?
 - How does **RAVE** work?
- Use cases

Motivation

- **RVV** (RISC-V Vector extension) is RV's bet for High Performance Computing

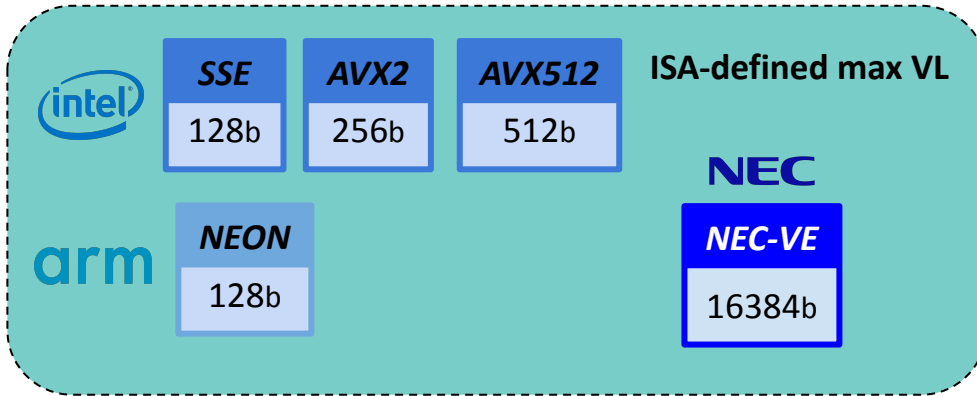
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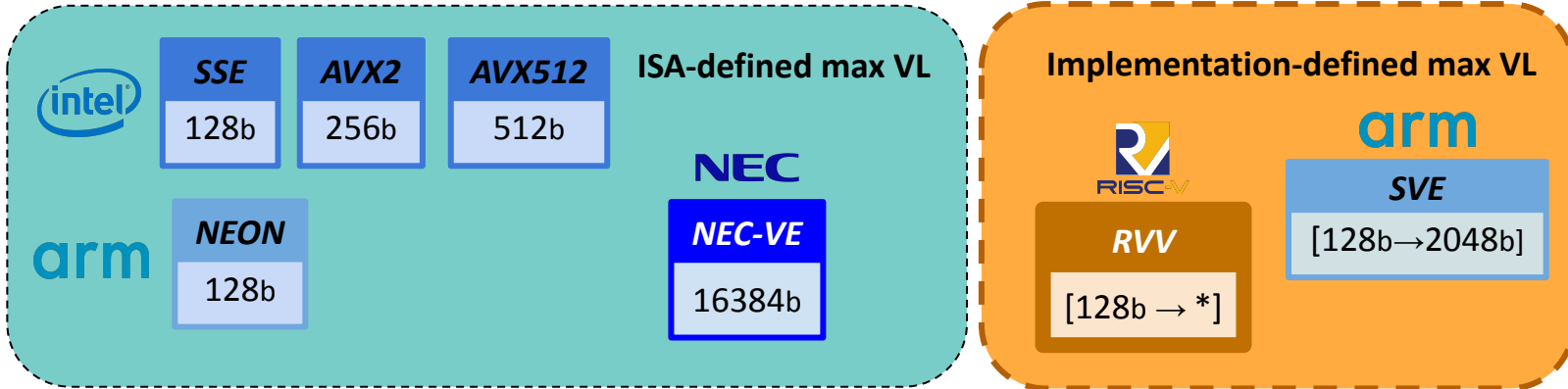
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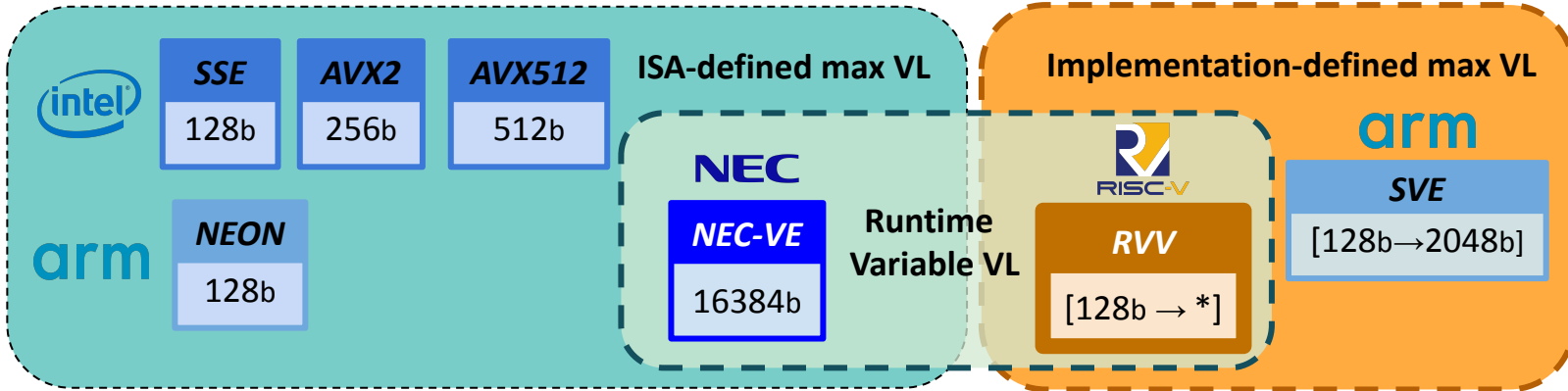
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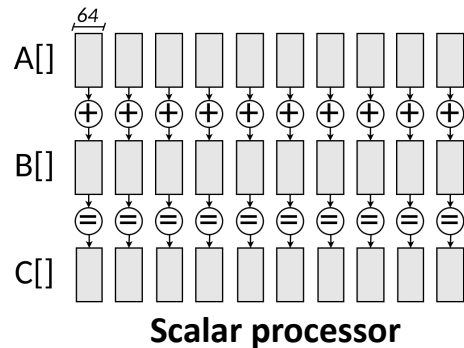
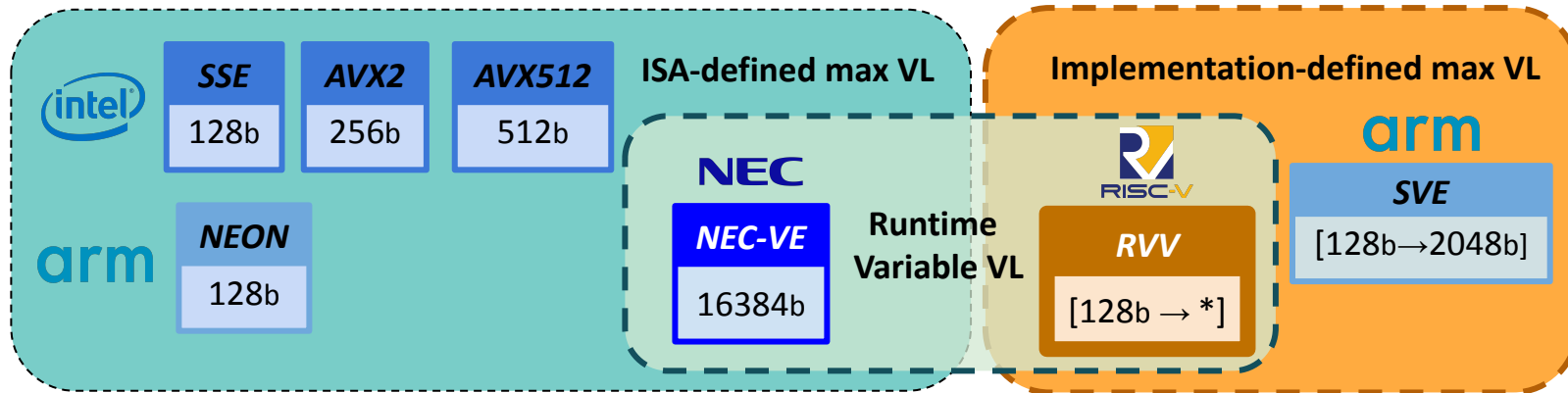
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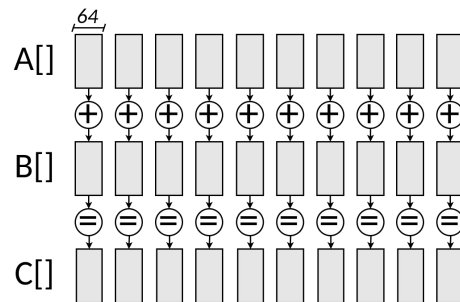
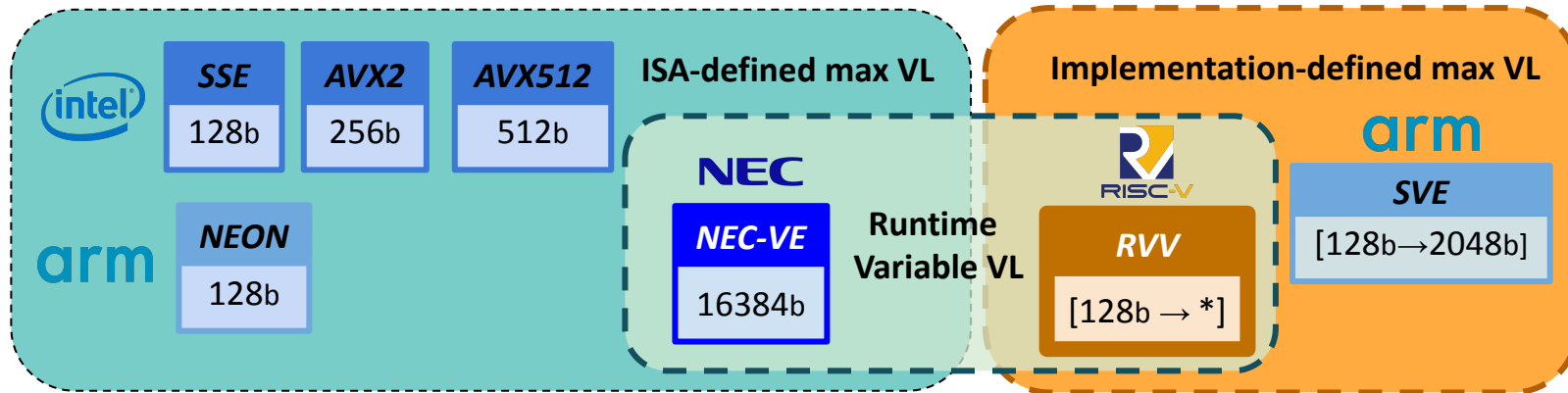
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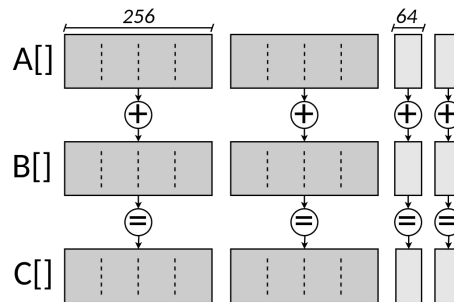


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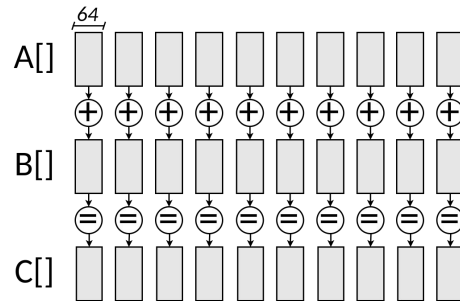
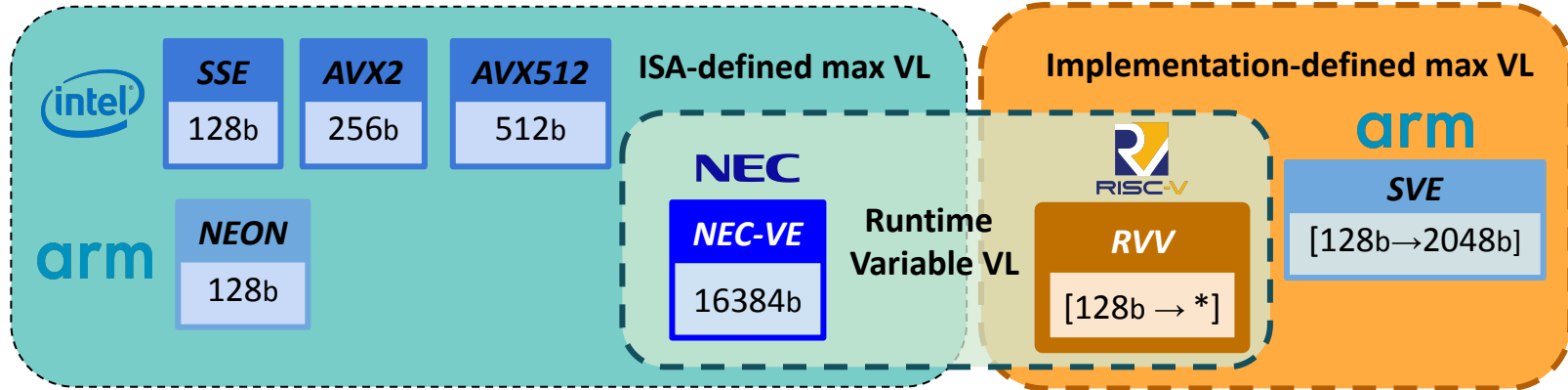
Scalar processor



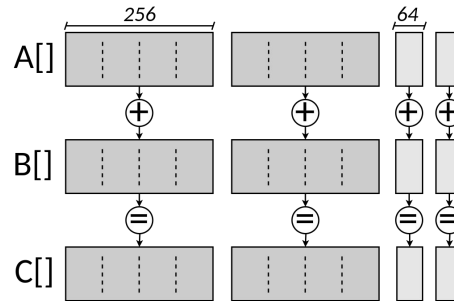
SIMD (e.g., AVX2)

Motivation

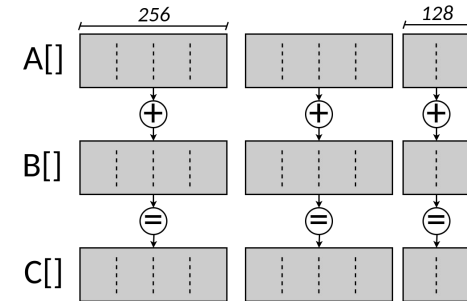
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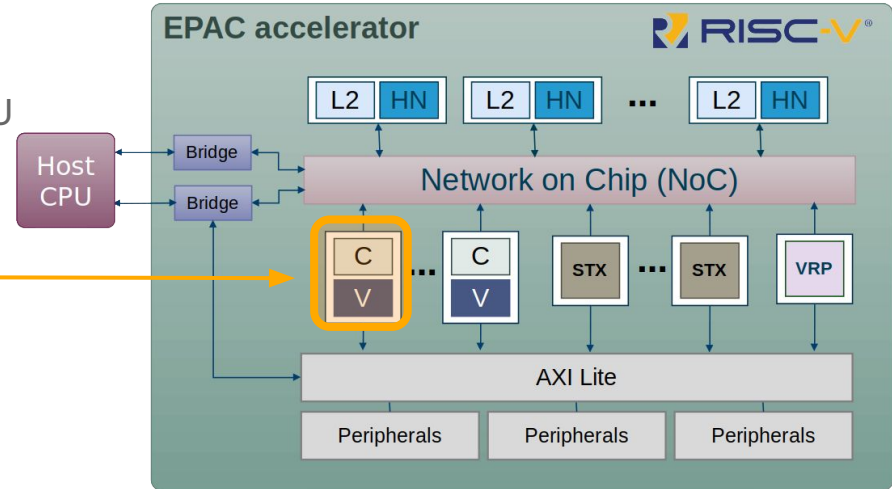
Variable VL (e.g., RVV)

Who is implementing this technology?

European Processor Initiative (EPI)

- **Rhea**: arm-based general purpose CPU
- **EPAC**: European Processor Accelerator
 - Based on **RISC-V**
 - Many tiles: VRP, STX, **VEC**

Very large vector length:



— AVX512



← 512 bits per vector (8 DP elems)

arm – SVE



← Up to 2048 bits per vector (16 DP elems)

NEC

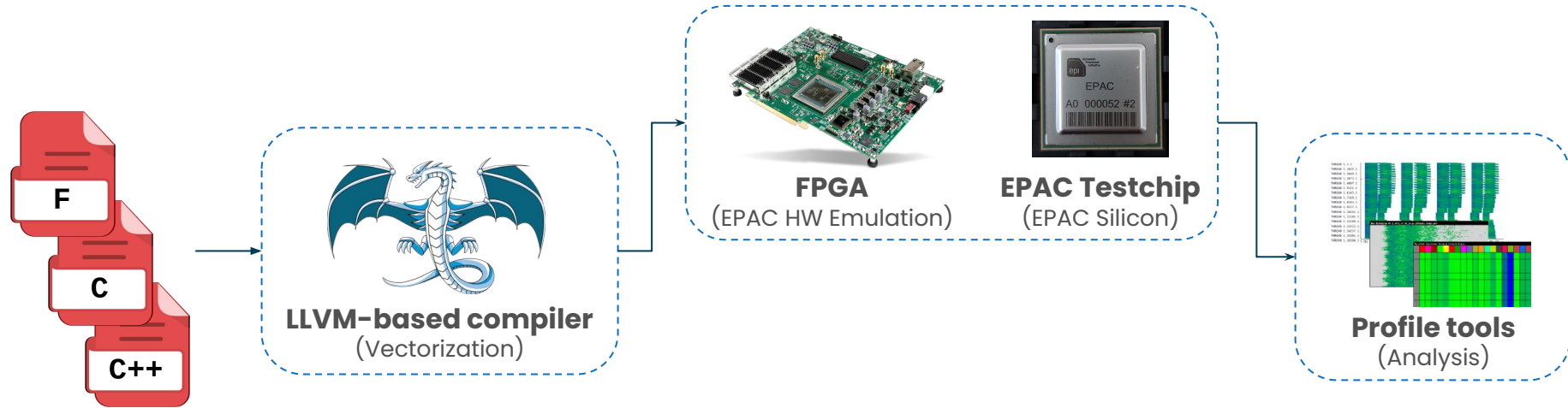


**16384 bits per vector
(256 DP elems)**



How can you develop code for this accelerator?

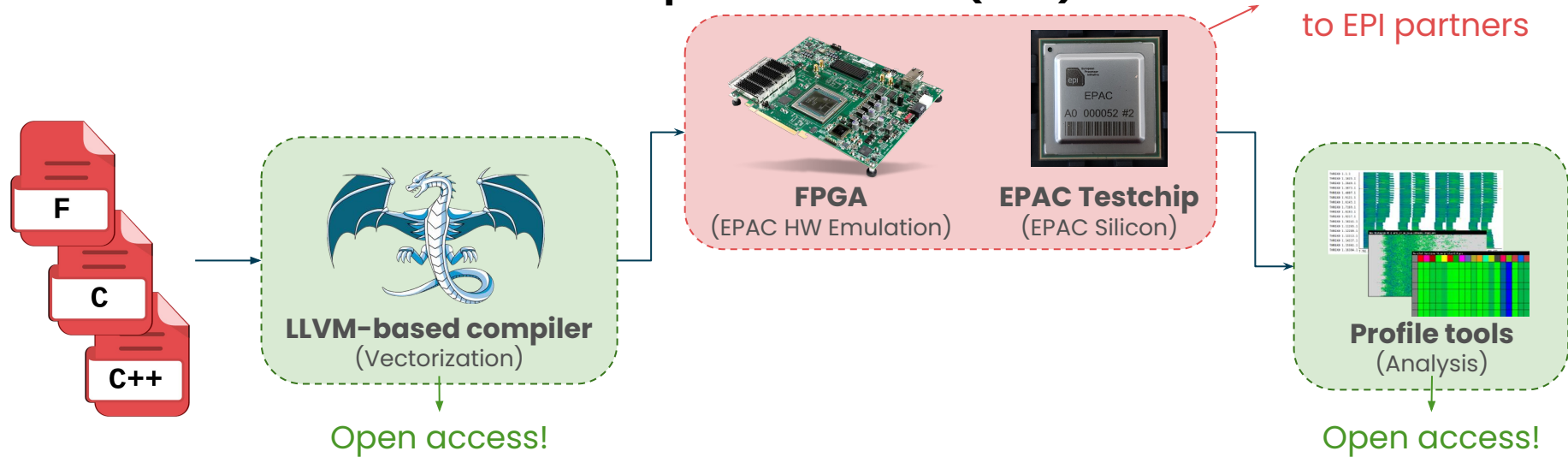
- BSC has the **Software Development Vehicles (SDV)**^[1]:



[1] Filippo Mantovani et al. (2023, May). Software Development Vehicles to enable extended and early co-design: a RISC-V and HPC case of study. In International Conference on High Performance Computing (pp. 526-537). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

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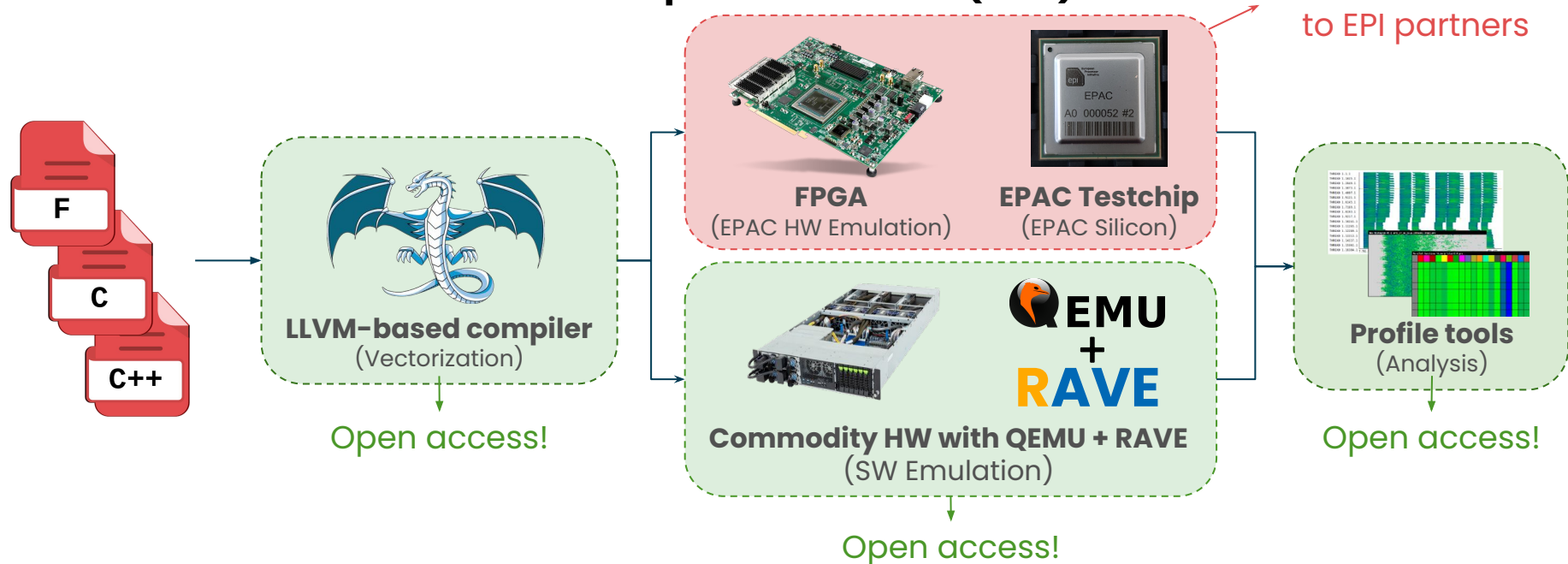
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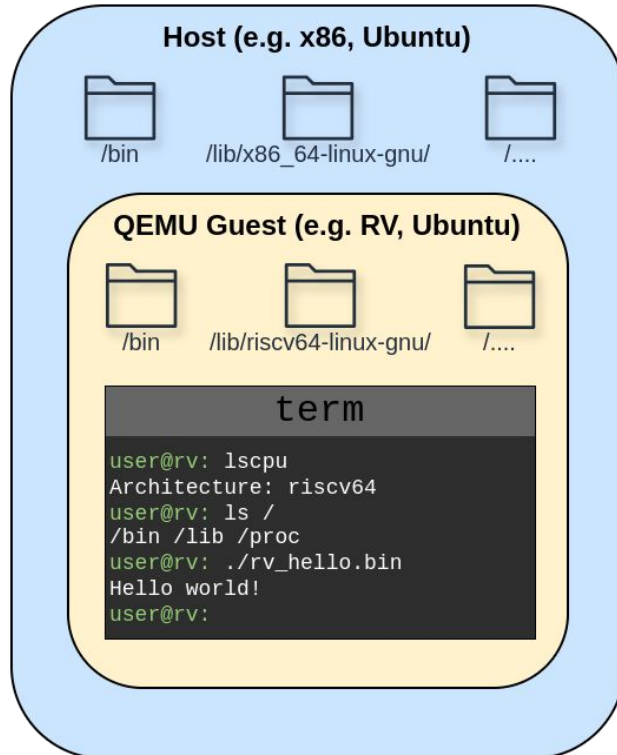
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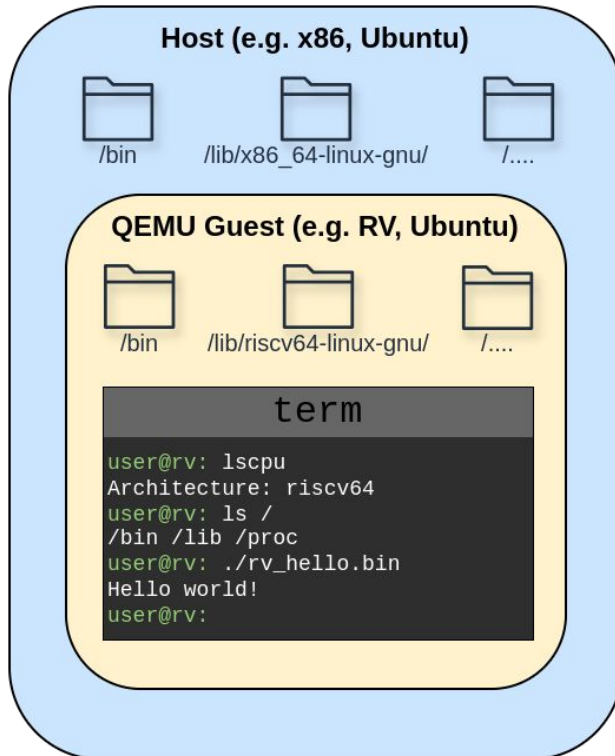
What is **QEMU**? a software emulator

System-level emulation

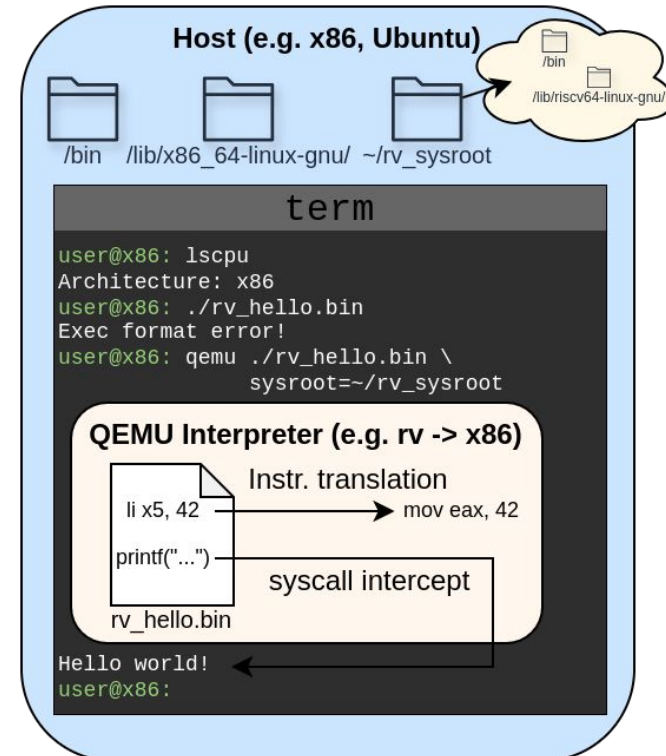


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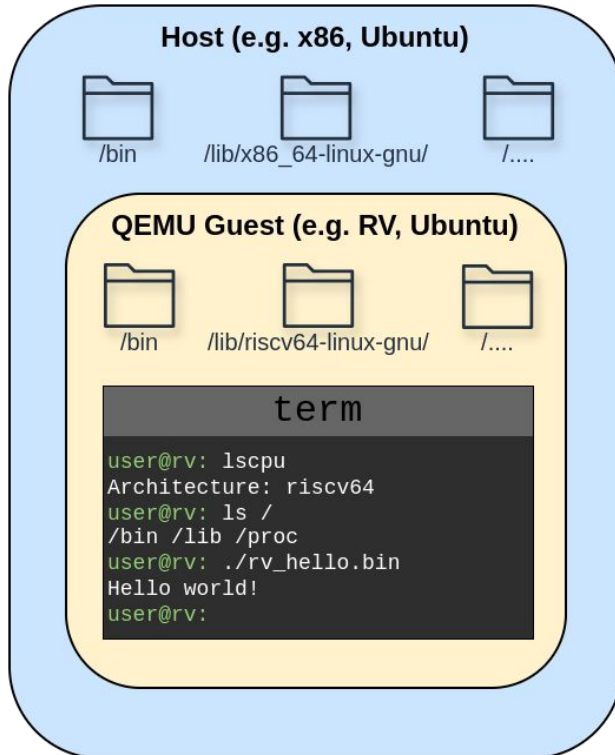


User-level emulation

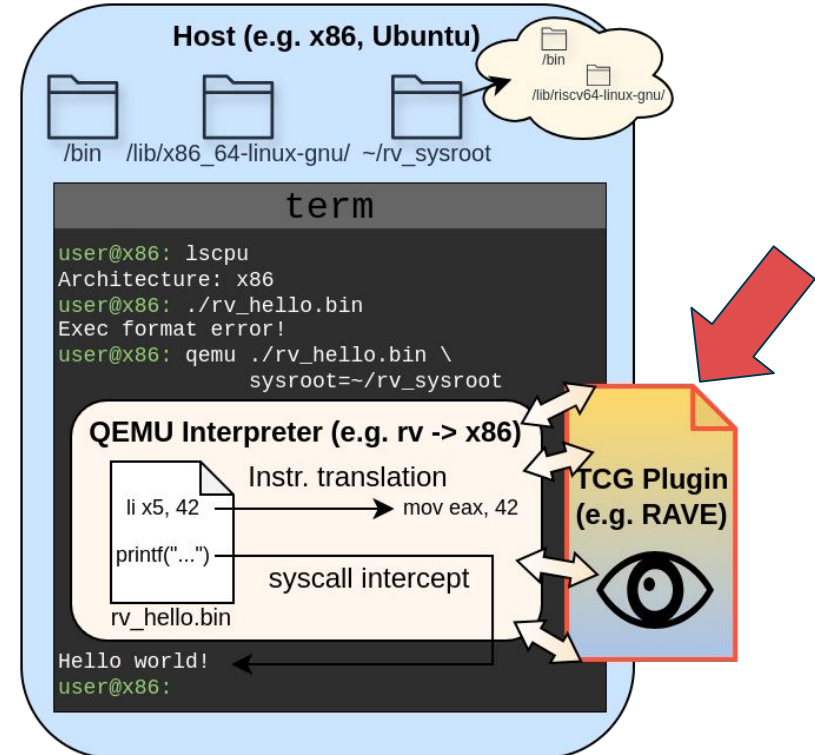


What is **RAVE**? an analysis/profiling plugin

System-level emulation



User-level emulation



What is **RAVE** useful for?

- **RAVE monitors** and **counts** metrics such as:
 - Number of emulated scalar and vector **instructions** (*you can compute Vec.Mix*)
 - Divided by type (Memory, Arithmetic, Mask, stride type, SEW, ...)
 - Average Vector Length (**VL**)
 - Number of **bytes load/stored** with scalar/vector instructions
 - Program Counter (**PC**)

- **RAVE** provides:
 - **API** called for user application to instrument regions of interest
 - Generation of **reports/logs** at the end of the emulation
 - Generation of **Paraver traces** (BSC's format for traces)

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Controlling the trace with the **RAVE** API

- We add instrumentation mechanisms, to define regions of interest.
- We work with tuples of Events and Values:

```
int main(){
    rave_name_event(1000, "Code Region")
    rave_name_value(1000, 1, "Ini")
    rave_name_value(1000, 2, "Compute")

    double array1[256], array2[256], array3[256];

    rave_event_and_value(1000, 1)
    ini_vectors(array1, array2, array3);
    rave_event_and_value(1000, 0)

    rave_event_and_value(1000, 2)
    for(int i=0; i<256; ++i)
        array3[i] += array1[i] + array2[i];
    rave_event_and_value(1000, 0)
};
```

Define event **1000** = "Code Region"

Value **1** = "Ini"

Value **2** = "Compute"

Enclose first region with value **1** ("Ini")

Enclose second region with value **2** ("Compute")

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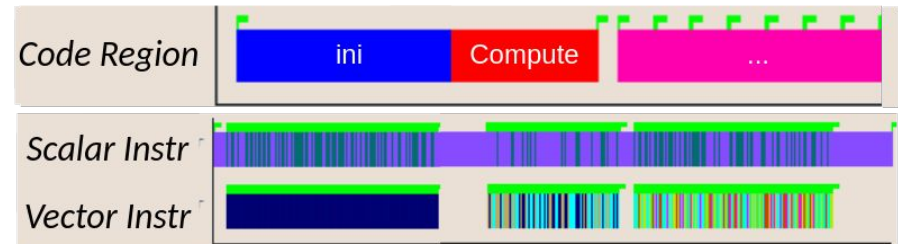
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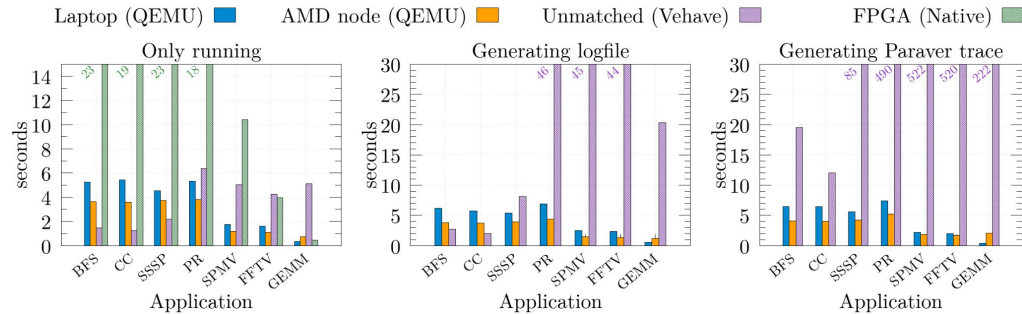
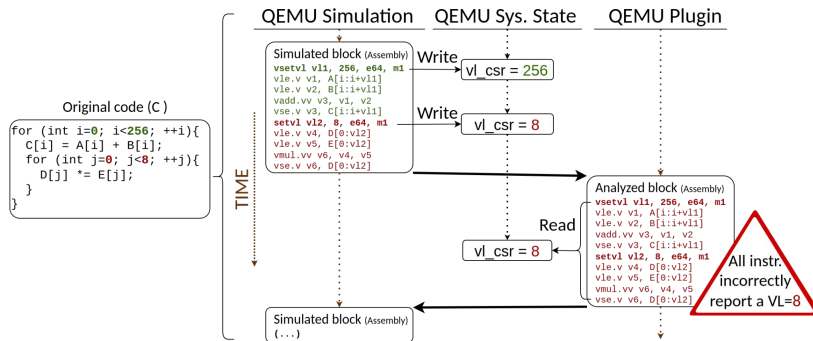
Enclose second region with value **2** ("Compute")



Before continuing....

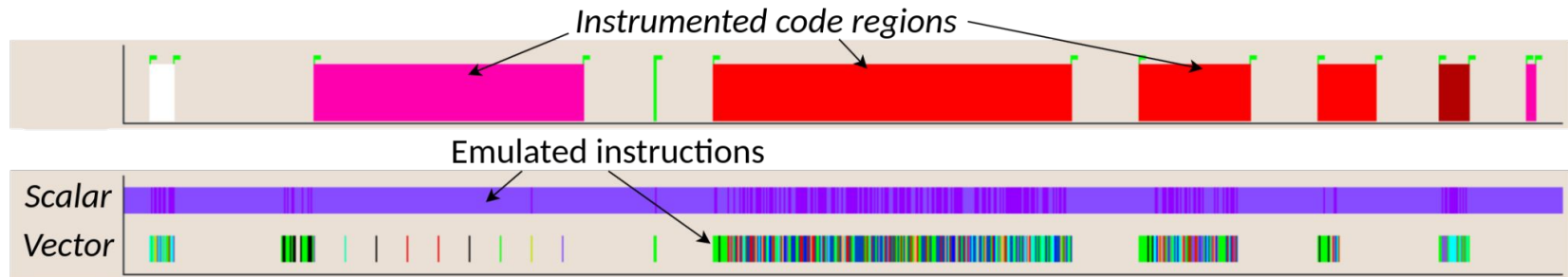
- If you want to know more about the **RAVE** internals :

 **RAVE: RISC-V Analyzer of Vector Executions, a QEMU tracing plugin** <https://arxiv.org/abs/2409.13639>



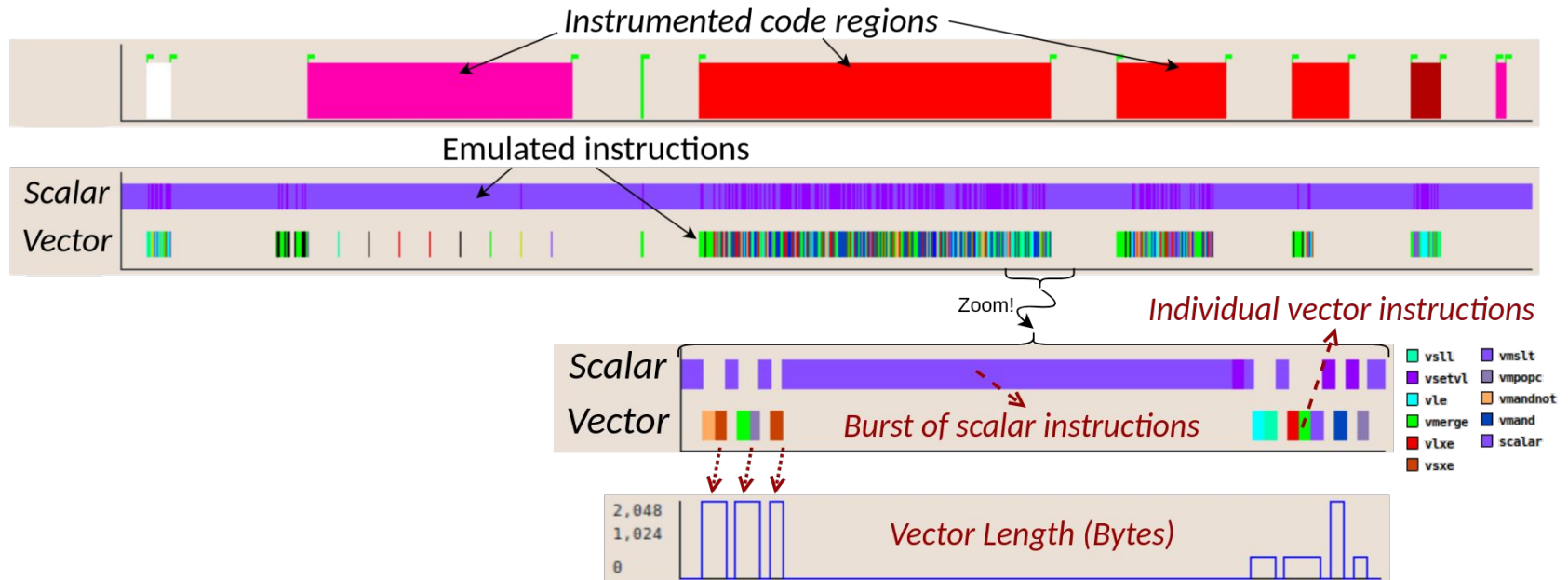
RAVE Use case: Emulation Trace (I)

- We emulated a Breadth First Search (**BFS**) code vectorized with **RVV**



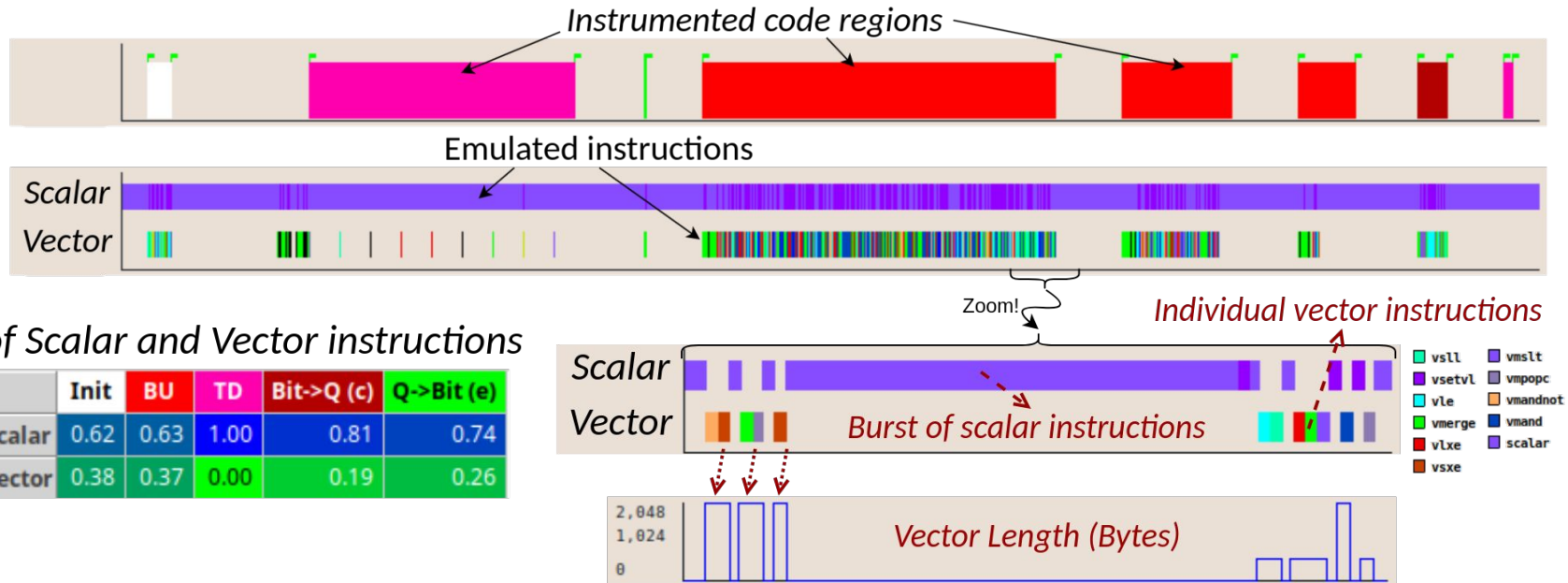
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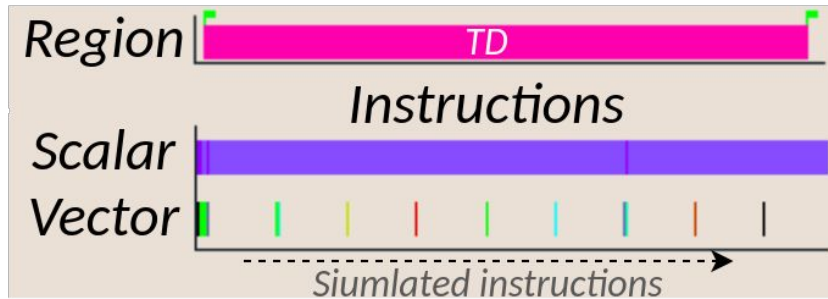
Prop. of Scalar and Vector instructions

	Init	BU	TD	Bit->Q (c)	Q->Bit (e)
qemu_scalar	0.62	0.63	1.00	0.81	0.74
qemu_vector	0.38	0.37	0.00	0.19	0.26

RAVE Use case: Emulation Trace (II)

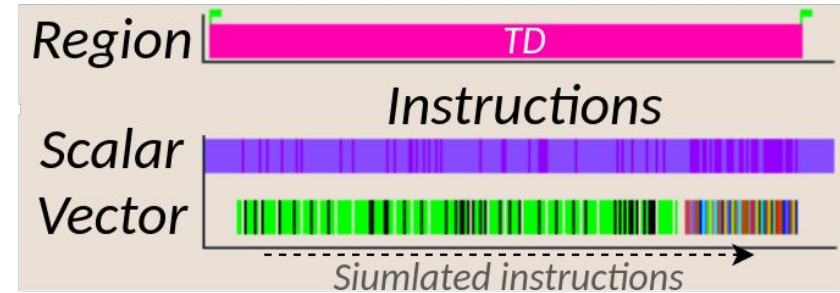
Use trace insight to improve vectorization:

Before increasing TD Vectorization



	Init	BU	TD	Bit->Q (c)
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qemu_vector	0.38	0.37	0.00	0.19

After increasing TD Vectorization



	Init	BU	TD	Bit->Q (c)
qemu_scalar	0.62	0.63	0.84	0.81
qemu_vector	0.38	0.37	0.16	0.19

RAVE Use case: Emulation Trace (III)

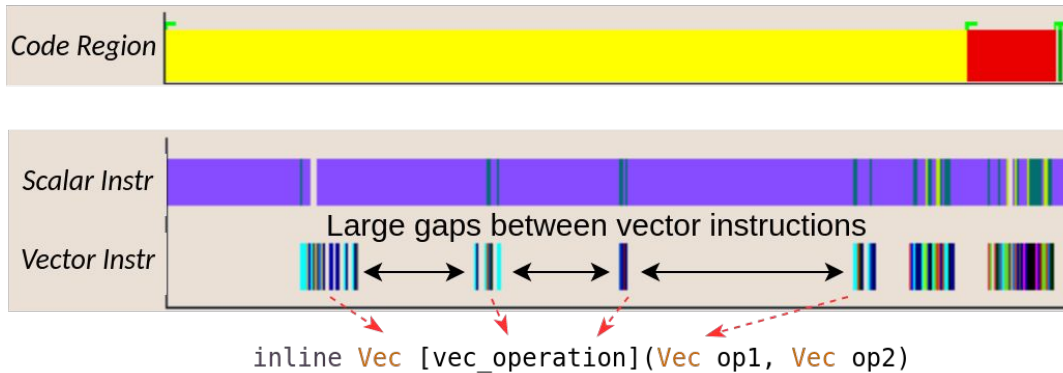
- We emulated a Plasma-Physics application called Vlasiator^[1]
- The code was not initially designed with long vectors in mind:

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Vanilla Version

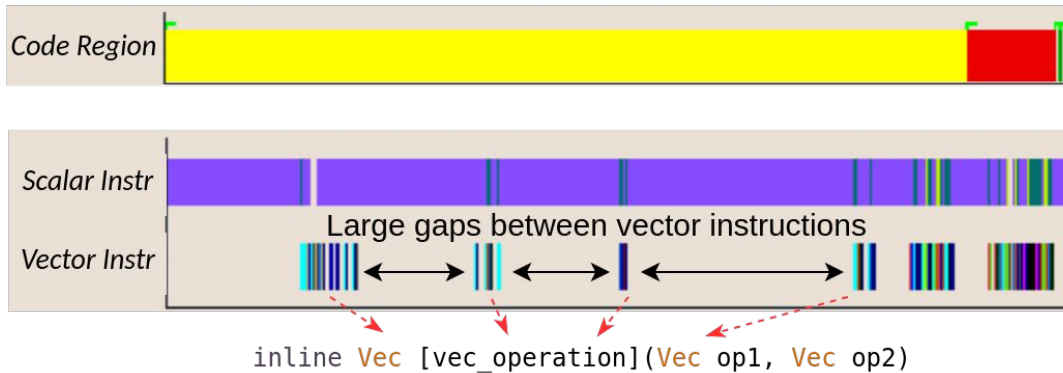


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Scalar gaps not seen on the C++ code

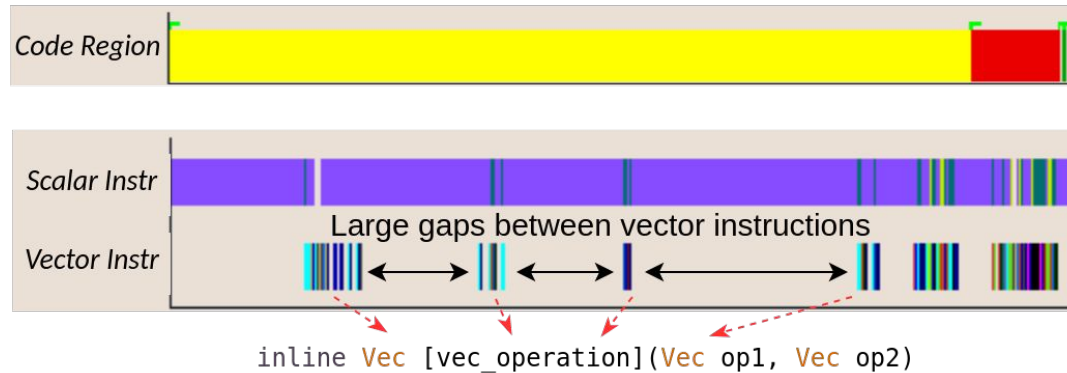
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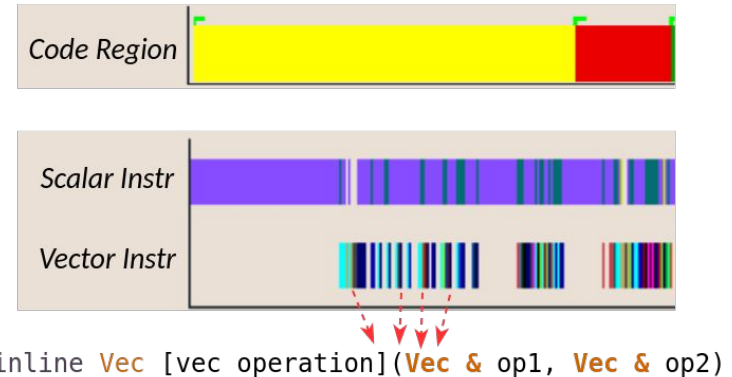
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After eliminating scalar copies



*Removed by passing
operands per reference*

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RAVE Use case: Console report

You can also obtain vectorization metrics on a console report:

```
your-machine$ rave ./bfs -f graph.el
(...)
Reg. #3: Event 1000(code_region), Value 3(BU)
  tot_instr: 38872
  scalar_instr: 15818 (40.69 %)
  vsetvl_instr: 5236 (13.47 %)
  SEW 64 vector_instr: 17818 (45.84 %)
    avg_VL: 255.60 elements
    Arith: 2466 (13.84 %)
      FP: 0 (0.00 %)
      INT: 2466 (100.00 %)
    Mem: 3142 (17.63 %)
      unit: 1573 (50.06 %)
      strided: 0 (0.00 %)
      indexed: 1569 (49.94 %)
    Mask: 8171 (45.86 %)
    Other: 4039 (22.67 %)
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Reduction in Mask and
Other Vec Instructions

```
your-machine$ rave ./bfs_no_if -f graph.el
(...)
Reg. #3: Event 1000(code_region), Value 3(BU)
  tot_instr: 44780
  scalar_instr: 21866 (48.83 %)
  vsetvl_instr: 9556 (21.34 %)
  SEW 64 vector_instr: 13358 (29.83 %)
    avg VL: 254.77 elements
    Arith: 2481 (18.57 %)
      FP: 0 (0.00 %)
      INT: 2481 (100.00 %)
    Mem: 3028 (22.67 %)
      unit: 1454 (48.02 %)
      strided: 0 (0.00 %)
      indexed: 1574 (51.98 %)
    Mask: 4992 (37.37 %)
    Other: 2857 (21.39 %)
```

Conclusions

- We developed a plugin for **QEMU** targeting the **RISC-V Vector Extension**
- **RAVE** allows to study vectorized applications with fine-grain detail:
 - Instruction Mix, Vector Length, ...
- **RAVE** is already being used by performance analysts at BSC to study HPC applications
- Future work includes:
 - Multi-core emulation (OMP and MPI)
 - Automatic instrumentation of user functions
 - Adding a timing model

Try it yourself!

<https://repo.hca.bsc.es/gitlab/pvizcaino/rave>



Acknowledgment

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Don't hesitate to contact me at pablo.vizcaino@bsc.es !