



# **Timing Error Aware Register Allocation in TS**

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Abstract: Timing speculative (TS) architecture is promising for improving the energy efficiency of microprocessors. Error recovery units, designed for tolerating occasional timing errors, have been used to support a wider range of voltage scaling, therefore to achieve a better energy efficiency. More specifically, the timing error rate, influenced mainly by data forwarding, is the bottleneck for voltage down-scaling in TS processors. In this paper, a new Timing Error Aware Register Allocation method is proposed. First, we designed the Dependency aware Interference Graph (DIG) construction to get the information of Read after Write (RAW) in programs. To build the construction, we get the disassemble code as input and suppose that there are unlimited registers, the same way as so-called virtual registers in many compilers. Then we change the disassemble codes to the SSA form for each basic block to make sure the registers are defined only once. Based on the DIG construction, registers were reallocated to eliminate the timing error, by loosening the RAW dependencies. We construct the DIG for each function of the program and sort the edge of DIG by an increasing weight order. Since a smaller weighted-edge value means that its owner nodes have more frequent access in instruction flows, we expect it in different registers with no read-write dependency. At the same time, we make sure that there are no additional new spill codes emerging in our algorithm to minimize the rate of spill code. A high rate of spill code will not only decrease the performance of the system but also increase the unexpected read-write dependency. Next, we reallocate the registers by weight order in turn to loosen the RAW dependencies. Furthermore, we use the NOP operation to pad the instructions with a minimal distance value of 2. Experiment results showed that the average distance of RAW dependencies was increased by over 20%.

**Keywords:** Timing error; timing speculative architecture; register allocation; energy efficiency

## **1** Introduction

Energy efficiency is an important issue. A number of works in different aspects have been completed [1–4]. Recently, timing speculation (TS) architecture has been proposed to improve the energy efficiency



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of microprocessors [5]. The traditional design of worst-case assumption about circuit timing constraints and clock-frequency is dated. Instead, TS architecture is proposed with the expectation that timing errors could occasionally occur in the system. To ensure the proper function of the processor, TS processor was included in timing error detection. Recovery mechanisms such as enhanced latches, checker and recovery modules were also included so that errors could be dynamically flagged and recovered [5,6]. With relaxed timing constraints, timing error detection and recovery mechanisms, TS processor can work with a lower supply voltage, leading to potentially improved energy efficiency. However, error recovery operations are highly energy-consuming in TS processors, and the error rate is the dominating factor on how low the voltage can be scaled down to. A reduction of timing errors is therefore critical to improve the energy efficiency of the TS processors.

Compiler is an important system software and numerous optimization schemes are employed to generate optimized code for different architectures. In our previous work [7], we used register reallocation to reduce the crosstalk which could save energy and enhance the security. Recently, compilation-based techniques for TS processors have been studied [8,9]. Hoang et al. used compiler transformation to replace long delay operations with faster ones, so that the number of timing errors was reduced [8]. In Sartori and Kumar's work [9], the relationship between current compilation optimization and TS processor was evaluated. Their experiments showed that the closer the read-write dependency was, the more likely timing errors could occur.

In recent years, an abundant amount of work has been done to improve the performance of TS processors by reducing timing errors in hardware architecture. Ernst et al. [5] proposed to dynamically detect and recover the timing error. Greskamp et al. [6] designed a timing error tolerated architecture. They used a fast approximation version for critical components of processor for execution and use a coprocessor to detect and recover errors. Xin and Joseph used timing error prediction to avoid full recovery overhead of timing errors [10]. Greskamp et al. [11] designed a processor from the ground up for TS. They identified the most frequently-exercised critical paths in the design and sped them up so that the error rate increases much more slowly as frequency increases. Kahng et al. [12] proposed a poweraware slack redistribution to enable extended voltage/reliability tradeoffs in processors. Powell et al. [13] used hardware mechanisms to save and transfer state. Xun et al. [14] proposed CLIM, a cross-level workload-aware timing error prediction model for functional units(FUs). CLIM predicted whether there are timing errors in FU at two levels: bit-level and value-level. On average, CLIM exhibited 95 percent prediction accuracy at value-level, 97 percent at bit-level, and executed at a rate of 173 times faster than GLS. Rioux et al. [15] presented a solution to connect the model-checking tool ROMEO to the designed process, thus allowing the verification of the system timing behavior at early stages. In order to avoid aging-induced timing errors, Heba et al. [16] proposed a paradigm shift in designing guard-bands: to select the guard-band types on-the-fly with respect to the workload-induced temperatures, aiming at optimizing for performance under temperature and reliability constraints. Ying et al. [17] proposed a novel timing analysis and frequency setting method for NN-based approximate computing circuits, based on in-field NN retraining. Their experimental results showed that timing errors in neural circuits could be effectively tamed for different applications, so that the circuits could operate at higher clocking rates under the specified quality constraint or be dynamically scaled to work at a wide range of frequency states with only minor accuracy losses.

There is also research from the software side that considers optimization for TS processors such as code transformation at the compiler level. Meixer et al. [18] used code transformation to avoid working in faulty processor components. Reddiet et al. [19] applied compiler optimization to reduce the stress on power delivery system. In Hari et al.'s work [20], the authors proposed a method of system-software guided detection of hard faults during processor lifetime. Hoang et al. observed that some code sequences could place greater demand on circuit timing deadlines than others. If these codes were selectively replaced

with semantically equivalent instruction sequences which can reduce activity on timing critical circuit paths, fewer timing errors would be triggered, and thus recovery overhead could be reduced [8]. Sartori et al. [9] evaluated loop optimizations in compiler and also some other standard optimizations in *GCC* to show that significant energy benefits could be possible from TS-aware binary optimization.

In this paper, we propose a novel timing error aware register allocation method to reduce the energy consummation of TS architecture by reducing the distance of read-write dependencies: First, a heuristic register allocation method was designed to reschedule registers based on the distance of the read-write dependencies in each basic block. Then, an inter-block optimization algorithm was implemented to further increase the distance of read-write dependencies by considering the dependency between basic blocks. Experiment results showed that the proposed technique could increase the distance of read-write dependencies by 20% on average. Timing error could thus be reduced and an average energy saving ofapproximately15% could be achieved.

The primary contributions of the paper are as follows:

- Analyzes the distribution of RAW dependencies of the whole program and designed the Dependency aware Interference Graph (DIG) construction to express the relationship of RAW.
- Designs a heuristic register allocation method to break and increase the distance the RAW dependencies. As a result, the average distance of RAW is increased significantly.
- Implements the algorithm based on the GCC compiler. Experimental results verified that the average distance of RAW can be increased significantly. Error rate reduction leads to significantly energy saving by further voltage scaling.

The remainder of the paper is structured as follows: In Section 2, we introduce background information and a motivation example about the RAW reduction algorithm firstly. Then, the RAW dependencies optimization algorithm is described in detail. In Section 3, we present the evaluation methodology and the experimental results. The related work and conclusion are presented in Section 4 and Section 5, respectively.

### 2 Materials and Methods

## 2.1 TS Architecture Overview

Timing Speculation (TS) processor can improve the energy by more voltage scaling supporting. Razor [5] is typical TS processor. Razor relies on a combination of architectural and circuit level techniques for efficient error detection and correction of delay path failures. Each flip-flop in the design is augmented with a so-called shadow latch which is controlled by a delayed clock. The operation of a Razor flip flop is illustrated in Fig. 1 In clock cycle 1, the combinational logicL1 meets the setup time by the rising edge of the clock and both the main flip-flop and the shadow latch will latch the correct data. In this case, the error signal at the output of the XOR gate remains low and the operation of the pipeline is unaltered.



Figure 1: Pipeline augmented with razor latches and control lines

In cycle 2 in Fig. 1, we show an example of the operation when the combinational logic exceeds the intended delay due to sub-critical voltage scaling. In this case, the data is not latched by the main flip-flop, but since the shadow latch operates using a delayed clock, it successfully latches the data some time in cycle 3. To guarantee that the shadow latch will always latch the input data correctly, the allowable operating voltage is constrained at design time such that under worst-case conditions, the logic delay does not exceed the setup time of the shadow latch. By comparing the valid data of the shadow latch with the data in the main flip-flop, an error signal is then generated in cycle 3 and in the subsequent cycle, cycle 4, the valid data in the shadow latch is restored into the main flip-flop and becomes available to the next pipeline stage L2. Note that the local error signals *Error\_l* are OR'ed together to ensure that the data in all flip-flops is restored even when only one of the Razor flip-flops generates an error.

If an error occurs in pipeline stage L1 in a particular clock cycle, the data in L2 in the following clock cycle is incorrect and must be flushed from the pipeline using one of the pipeline control methods such as clock gating, counter flow pipelining, and so on. However, since the shadow latch contains the correct output data of pipeline stage L1, the instruction does not need to be re-executed through this failing stage. Thus, a key feature of Razor is that if an instruction fails in a particular pipeline stage it is re-executed through the following pipeline stage, while incurring a one cycle penalty. The most of the proposed approaches therefore guarantee forward progress of a failing instruction, which is essential to avoid the perpetual failure of an instruction at a particular stage in the pipeline.

In addition to invalidating the data in the following pipeline stage, an error must also stall the preceding pipeline stages while the shadow latch data is restored into the main flip-flops. A number of different methods, such as clock gating or flushing the instruction in the preceding stages, were examined to accomplish this.

#### 2.2 Motivation

TS architecture is a promising concept for microprocessor energy efficiency. By using recovery mechanisms to tolerate the occasionally occurring timing errors, it can work in a lower supply voltage to obtain considerable energy saving. Recovery mechanisms are usually energy demanding in TS processors. Minimizing timing errors can significantly improve the energy efficiency of TS processor. As shown in the reference Sartori et al. [9], read-write dependencies in pipeline have a close relationship to timing errors for TS processors.

Read-write dependencies area common dependency in programs that break the pipelining and causes data hazard. Let instruction distance Dins(i,j) be the number of instructions between instruction *i* and *j*, and let Read-write distance *RWdis* represent the distance between RAW stages in pipeline. For example, the *RWdis* is two in Fig. 2 because the distance between RegRead and WriteBack stages is two.

The Read-write dependency will occur if and only if Eq. (1) is satisfied.

Dins(i,j) < RWdis



Figure 2: Pipeline of strongArm

(1)

#### 2.3 Timing Error Aware Register Allocation

In order to achieve aggressive optimization for the whole program such as the library of system, we make our optimization process get the disassemble codes and the profiling results as inputs. Then *DIG* constructor is used to build the *DIG* from the disassemble codes and sets the weight of it. Finally, we make the *DIGRR* processor analyze the *DIG* to relocate the register and generate the optimized code. The outline of the process is presented in Fig. 3.



Figure 3: Outline of the optimization process

From this outline, we can see that the kernel of the optimization is *DIG* construction and *DIGRR* process, in the following two subsections, we will describe them in detail.

## 2.3.1 DIG Construction

The goal of this work is to loosen the dependency of read-write operations in the TS processor. Therefore, the more frequently-accessed patterns of register pairs there are, the more important the register pairs are. For better illustration of the dependency accesses frequency feature, combined with the register allocation, we attempt to enhance the original Interference Graph that is widely used for register allocation and we construct the new dependency aware interference graph, called *DIG*.

*DIG* is a weighted undirected graph that can be represented by a four tuple  $G = (V, E_I, EN, WE)$  Where  $v \in V$  represents a variable or constant of the program,  $e(u, v) \in E_I$  expresses that the node *u* and node *v* can't share the same register,  $e'(u', v') \in E_I$  expresses that the node *u* and node *v* may be the same register and the weight represents the minimal number of instructions of such read-write dependency if the node *u* and *v* are assigned to the same register.

For building the *DIG*, we get the disassemble code as input and suppose that there are unlimited registers, the same as the registers called virtual registers in many compilers. First, we change the disassemble codes into the *SSA* form for each basic block that makes sure the registers are defined only once (line 1-4). Then, we use the methods described in the reference Liu et al. [3] to construct the data flow of each basic block and get the lifetime of each register in each instruction (line 5-6). The interference graph can be constructed with analysis of the live register in each instruction (line 7-15). After getting the interference graph, we can use the profiling results to add the weight of edges (line 16-21). And then we return the constructed *DIG* at last (line 22). The detailed construction algorithm is expressed in Algorithm 1. In Algorithm 1, the *CFG* is the control flow graph for the program and each node  $v \in V'$  represents a basic block that contains number of in order executed instructions. The *Liveregi* expresses the register defined before the instruction *i* and will be used after the instruction that called the live register.

To reduce the cost of a spill node is complex work because it changes the source order of instruction by inserting extra spill codes that will make the *DIG* rebuilt. Luckily, in our algorithm, we can avoid generating the spill codes since the source code is allocated successfully and we can always eliminate the spill code by assigning the spill node with its original one. The detailed reallocation algorithm is presented in next section.

Figs. 4a and 4b is the source instructions and the changed SSA representation respectively.

Algorithm 1: *DIG* construction algorithm

Input: source disassemble codes, S;

Output: The profiling results,  $p: V_p \rightarrow V_p \rightarrow W_E$ ;  $DIG(V,E_I,W_E)$ ;

- 1: CFG(V',E') := ConstructCFG(S)
- 2: for each  $v \Box V$  do
- 3: Translate v to SSA form
- 4: end for
- 5: DS=DateFlowAnalysis (CFG)
- 6: *Livereg<sub>i</sub>=GetLiveregi(DS)* based on methods in [3]
- 7: for each  $v \in V$  do
- 8: for each  $i \in v$  do
- 9: for each  $i, j \in Livereg_i \& \& i \neq j$  do
- 10: DIG.V.add(i)
- 11: *DIG.V.add(j)*
- 12:  $DIG.E_I. add(i,j)$
- 13: end for
- 14: end for
- 15: end for
- 16: for each *pair*  $< r_i, r_j, w_{i,j} > \epsilon$  P do
- 17: DIG. V.add(i)
- 18: DIG.V.add(j)
- 19:  $NAIG.E_N. add(i,j)$
- 20: DIG.  $W_E$ .  $add(w_i,j)$
- 21: end for
- 22: return NBTI;

| INLive { R1, R4, R5, R8, R9 } |     |     | }   | INLive { R1, R4, R5, R8, R9 } |                          |     |     |       |       |    |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|----|
| I1:                           | ADD | R0, | 5,  | R1                            |                          | I1: | ADD | R0,   | 5,    | R1 |
| I2:                           | OR  | R2, | R5, | R0                            |                          | I2: | OR  | R2,   | R5,   | R0 |
| I3:                           | XOR | R5, | R4, | R9                            |                          | I3: | XOR | \$R0, | R4,   | R9 |
| I4:                           | SUB | R4, | R4, | R8                            |                          | I4: | SUB | \$R1, | R4,   | R8 |
| I5:                           | MUL | R7, | R2, | R9                            |                          | I5: | MUL | R7,   | R2,   | R9 |
| I6:                           | MUL | R8, | R4, | 5                             |                          | I6: | MUL | \$R2, | \$R1, | 5  |
| OUTLive{R5,R7,R8}             |     |     |     |                               | OUTLive {\$R0, R7, \$R2} |     |     |       |       |    |
| (a)                           |     |     |     |                               |                          | (b) |     |       |       |    |

Figure 4: Example for SSA transforming (a) source code (b) SSA translation

#### 2.3.2 DIG Based Timing Error Aware Register Reallocation (DIGRR)

Based on the above *DIG*, we implement our new *DIG* based Timing Error aware Register Reallocation (*DIGRR*) algorithm as follows. First, we construct the *DIG* for each function of the program 1. Then, we sort the edge of *DIG* by an increasing weight order (line 1). Since a smaller weighted-edge value means that its owner nodes have more frequently access in instruction flows, we expect it indifferent registers with no read-write dependency. At the same time, we expect to minimize the rate of spill code, of which a high rate will not only lose the performance of the system but also increase the unexpected read-write dependency, to make sure that no additional new spill codes will be emerged in our algorithm.

Then, we analyze the ordered edges one by one to finish the register allocation for each node (line 2-36). For each edge  $e(u, v) \in E_I$ , we first check whether a node is assigned. If any one of nodes u is assigned for register  $r_i$ , we will choose the register other than  $r_i$  to assign it for v (line 5-7). If both nodes are not assigned, we first assign any of them to one register and then find the other suitable register as the previous case for the other one (line 15-19). If the two nodes are assigned with the same register, we will try to change one assigning to another register (line 6-14). For the edge not in  $E_I$ , we first try to assign the two nodes in the same register. If it is not assignable, we can handle it as the edge in  $E_I$  (line 22-34). The detailed algorithm is shown in Algorithm 2.

| Algorithm | 2: | DIGRR | algorithm |
|-----------|----|-------|-----------|
|-----------|----|-------|-----------|

**Input:** the DIG(V,E<sub>*I*</sub>,E<sub>N</sub>,W<sub>E</sub>) foreach function of program; the available registers  $R = \{r_0, r_1, \dots, r_n\}$ 

**Output:** The allocation map M:  $V \rightarrow R$  for each node V in DIG;

- 1: E' := sort  $E_N$  by decreased order in  $W_E$
- 2: while  $E' \neq \emptyset$  do
- 3: e(u,v) := pop the first element of E'

```
4: if e \in E_I then
```

5: **if** only one node (assuming for u) is assigned for register  $r_i$  **then** 

```
6: get the register r_{j \neq} r_i
```

- 7:  $M. add (v, r_j)$
- 8: else if both u, v are assigned for the same register  $r_i$  then
- 9: **if** one of this two node (assuming for *u*) can be changed to other register Set R' without violating the IG of current analysis **then**

10: 
$$\mathbf{r}_i := \mathbf{r}_k$$
 where  $\mathbf{r}_k \in \mathbf{R}'$ ,  $\mathbf{e}$  (n,u)  $\in E_N$ 

$$11: \qquad M(u) := r_k$$

12: else

- 13: assign the two nodes for original regisers.
- 14: **end if**
- 15: else if both u, v are not assigned for any register then
- 16:  $r_i :=$  get the random register that node v can be used.

17: M.add (v,  $r_i$ )

```
Algorithm 2 (continued).
```

```
get the register r_i \neq r_i with
18:
       M.add(u, r_i)
19.
      end if
20:
21: else
       if only one node (assuming for u) is assigned for register r_i then
22:
       assign as line 5-7
23:
       else if none of node is assigned then
24:
       assign as line 15 - 19
25:
       end if
26:
       end if
27:
     end while
28:
29: return M
```

To further increase the distance of read-write dependency, we use the *NOP* operation to pad the instructions with a minimal distance value of 2.

#### **3** Results

## 3.1 Experiment Methodology

Benchmarks from each category in Mibench [21] and Mediabench [22] are selected to evaluate the performance of the proposed algorithm. The target architecture is based on StrongARM. Arm-linux-gcc 4.4.3 is used as the base compiler. Obj-dump 2.19.51 is used to get the disassemble codes. The simprofile tool for arm is used as profile tool to get the access frequency of instructions. The sim-profile in simplescalar arm tools is used as the base simulator. The static analysis method described in Wu et al. [23] is used to obtain the hot Read-write blocks and hot branches. The whole experimental framework is shown in Fig. 5.

In the experiments, the GCC compiler is modified by first obtaining the profiling information with O2 optimization option. Then, we disassemble and get profile information for the binary codes respectively. After getting the disassemble codes and profile information, we use them as input for the DIGRR processor to get the timing error aware optimized binary codes. Finally, we compare the source binary codes with the optimized binary codes to evaluate the performance of DIGRR from four aspects: the average distance of read-write dependency, the minimal distance of read-write dependency, and the energy saving values.

## 3.2 Experiment Results

To evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed algorithm in overall, we compared the average distance of the read-write dependency before and after *DIGRR* optimization. Fig. 6 shows the optimization result for the algorithm *DIGRR*. We normalize the results of optimization rate to the original *GCC* code.



Figure 5: Experiment framework





Figure 6: *DF* reduction results for GMS

## 3.2.1 The Average Distance of Read-write Dependency

The experiment result shows that we achieve, on average, up to 20% read-write reduction compared to the original *GCC* code. For some testing cases (such assusan\_c\_large, rijndael, sha, et al.) with a frequent use of registers, the optimization rate can reach up to more than 30%, which shows clearly the effectiveness of the

algorithm in this paper. According to the relationship between error rate and scaled voltage as shown in Sartori et al. [9,24], a further voltage down-scaling can be achieved for better energy saving.

## 3.2.2 The Minimal Distance of Read-write Dependency

To evaluate the worst situation of our proposed algorithm, we compared the minimal distance value and its occurrence times obtained under *GCC* mode with those obtained under *GMIS* conditions. Tab. 1 shows the optimization results for the algorithm *DIGRR*. In the table, the first column lists the test case set, the second and third column represents the minimum distance of read-write dependency for *GCC* and *GMIS*, respectively. And the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> column represents their occurrence times of the minimum distance of read-write dependency, respectively.

| Benchmarks          | Min DF GCC | Min DF GMIS | CMin DF GCC | CMin DF GMIS |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Basicmatch_large    | 3          | 4           | 421         | 241          |
| Basicmatch_small    | 2          | 5           | 334         | 220          |
| Bitcnts_large       | 1          | 4           | 507         | 295          |
| Bitents_small       | 2          | 3           | 777         | 59           |
| qsort_large         | 2          | 5           | 307         | 143          |
| qsort_small         | 1          | 3           | 648         | 287          |
| susan_s_large       | 2          | 5           | 588         | 211          |
| susan_e_large       | 2          | 3           | 427         | 129          |
| susan_c_large       | 2          | 3           | 143         | 87           |
| susan_s_small       | 3          | 4           | 861         | 265          |
| susan_e_small       | 1          | 5           | 980         | 108          |
| susan_c_small       | 2          | 3           | 371         | 138          |
| jpeg-6a/cjpeg_large | 1          | 3           | 786         | 270          |
| jpeg-6a/djpeg_large | 3          | 4           | 783         | 219          |
| jpeg-6a/cjpeg_small | 2          | 3           | 740         | 76           |
| jpeg-6a/djpeg_small | 2          | 5           | 349         | 121          |
| lame3.70/lame_large | 2          | 3           | 649         | 174          |
| lame3.70/lame_small | 3          | 5           | 99          | 96           |
| dijkstra_large      | 1          | 4           | 636         | 224          |
| dijkstra_small      | 1          | 5           | 437         | 299          |
| patricia_large      | 3          | 4           | 829         | 124          |
| patricia_small      | 2          | 4           | 439         | 77           |
| ispell              | 1          | 4           | 919         | 258          |
| search_large        | 1          | 4           | 208         | 255          |
| blowfish_en         | 3          | 4           | 879         | 248          |
| blowfish_de         | 2          | 5           | 901         | 202          |

Table 1: The experimental result of minimal distance of read-write dependency

(Continued)

| Table 1 (continued).   |            |             |             |              |  |  |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|
| Benchmarks             | Min DF GCC | Min DF GMIS | CMin DF GCC | CMin DF GMIS |  |  |
| rijndael_en            | 1          | 5           | 196         | 166          |  |  |
| rijndael_de            | 3          | 5           | 314         | 86           |  |  |
| sha                    | 1          | 4           | 942         | 251          |  |  |
| bin/rawcaudio(adpcm_c) | 2          | 3           | 245         | 257          |  |  |
| bin/rawcaudio(adpcm_d) | 3          | 4           | 433         | 117          |  |  |
| crc                    | 3          | 3           | 977         | 269          |  |  |
| fft_i                  | 3          | 3           | 294         | 71           |  |  |
| fft                    | 1          | 4           | 146         | 296          |  |  |
| bin/toast              | 3          | 4           | 488         | 132          |  |  |
| bin/ untoast           | 3          | 5           | 245         | 167          |  |  |
| average                | 2          | 4           | 536         | 184          |  |  |

From the table, we can see that the minimum distance value of read-write dependency in *GMIS* is more than 2, and most of the individually-tested results are better under *GMIS* than under *GGC* (Tab. 1, column 3 vs. column 2).

It is obvious that the number of occurrence times for the minimum distance of read-write dependency is significantly reduced (Tab. 1, column 5 *vs*. column 4), the average occurrence times are reduced from 536 to 184, so the *GMIS* system also has a significant improvement for the worst-case scenario.

#### 3.2.3 The Cost of Read-write Dependency

In order to increase the distance of read-write dependency, the *NOP* padding technology was used in our algorithm. Therefore, it could increase the time and space cost of the program to a certain extent. We conducted an evaluation of the increased costs. We used the original *GCC* code as the standard percentage base to evaluate the code after *GMIS* method optimization. The evaluation results are shown in Figs. 7 and 8.



Figure 7: The space cost of DF reduction results for GMS



Figure 8: The timing cost of DF reduction results for GMS

From the experiment results, we can see that the timing cost and the space cost are both lowered. They are both about 0.5% on average. Therefore, the cost impact of our algorithm on the performance and size of the program is very small.

#### 3.2.4 The Energy Saving Values

In order to evaluate the impact of this method on the energy consumption of TS architecture processors, a comparative analysis of the code generated by *GCC* compilation and that obtained under the optimized conditions, was completed. From the experiment results shown in Fig. 9, we can see that the energy consumption of all programs has been reduced in a certain proportion. For some cases (such as susan\_c\_large, rijndael, sha, et al.), the energy consumption decreased by more than 20%, and the average energy consumption decreased by an approximate value of 16%. Therefore, it demonstrates in another aspect the effectiveness of this TS method for energy saving.



Figure 9: The space cost of DF reduction results for GMS

## 4 Discussion

The experiment results demonstrate that our new register allocation method effectively increases the average raw dependent distance by making a lot of optimized, speculative executions allowing correct

results, and greatly reduces the energy consumption wasted by speculation errors. Therefore, we have a very good auxiliary solution for TS architecture processors, especially for applications attempting a low energy consumption.

## **5** Conclusions

TS architecture is a promising trend for microprocessor development to improve the energy efficiency. Reducing the read-write dependencies can reduce timing error which in turn make more voltage downscaling for TS processors. Optimized voltage scaling is beneficial for reducing the energy of processors. In this paper, we provide a *DIGRR* method to reduce the dependency of read-write between registers, with the objective of improving the energy efficiency of TS processors. The experiment results show that, more than 20% read-write dependency can be reduced on average, and the execution error rate is also reduced. As a result, energy consumption can be reduced by using lower voltage for TS processors.

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