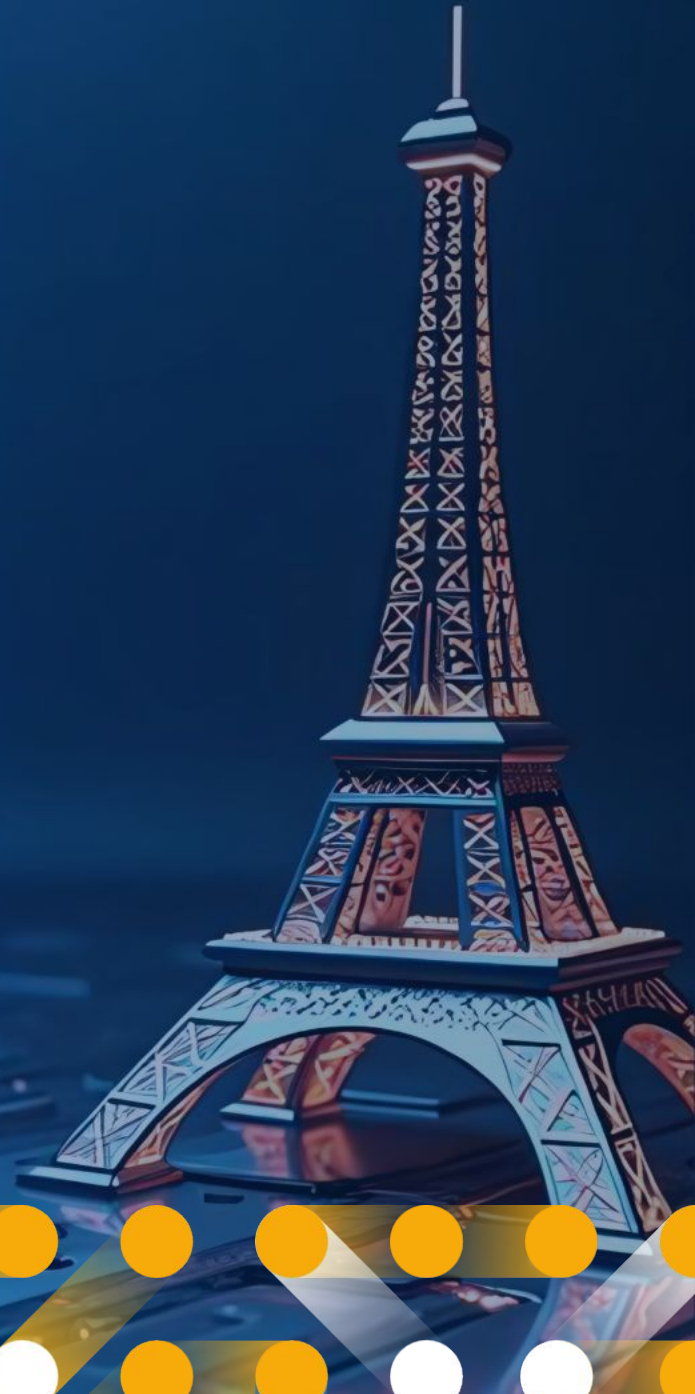


RISC-V and Software

RISC-V 101

Nathan Egge



Software Readiness



RISC-V Software Success Today

- RISC-V has good adoption in microcontrollers
 - Single purpose application
 - Limited set of standard extensions needed, custom instructions
 - RTOS or Bare Metal
 - Control often a driving factor



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Seagate says it's designed two of its own RISC-V CPU cores – and they'll do more than just control storage drives

Processors are 'critical to future products', set to perform tasks for host systems

- Examples
 - Seagate custom SOCs in HDD [[2020](#)]

 [Chris Mellor](#)

Tue 8 Dec 2020 / 18:00 UTC



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 - Meta custom RISC-V transcoding [[2023](#)]

Seagate VIOCO Processor
META SEES LITTLE RISK IN RISC-V CUSTOM ACCELERATORS
December 1, 2023 Nicole Hemsoth Prickett

Many have waited years to hear someone like Prahlad Venkatapuram, Senior Director of Meta, say what came out this week at the RISC-V Summit:

 [Chri](#)

“We’ve identified that RISC-V is the way to go for us moving forward for all the products in our roadmap. That includes not just next-generation video transcoders but also next-generation accelerators and training chips.”



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- Nvidia RISC-V in GPUs for 9 years! [[2024](#)]



Chips and Components

October 19, 2024

Nvidia will discuss how it uses the RISC-V architecture at the RISC-V Summit from October 22 to 24. The GPU maker has used the RISC-V CPU architecture in its GPU microcontrollers for nine years. A 20-minute keynote from Frans Sijstermans, vice president at Nvidia, will be held on October 22



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META SEES LITTLE RISK IN RISC-V CUSTOM ACCELERATOR

Nvidia, Google to Speak About RISC-V Use at

Meta is reportedly testing its first RISC-V based AI chip for AI training

News By Anton Shilov published March 11, 2025

Could be one of the industry's first RISC-V-based accelerators for AI training.

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- Meta testing RISC-V for AI accelerator [2025]
- Billions and billions of cores shipped! \o/

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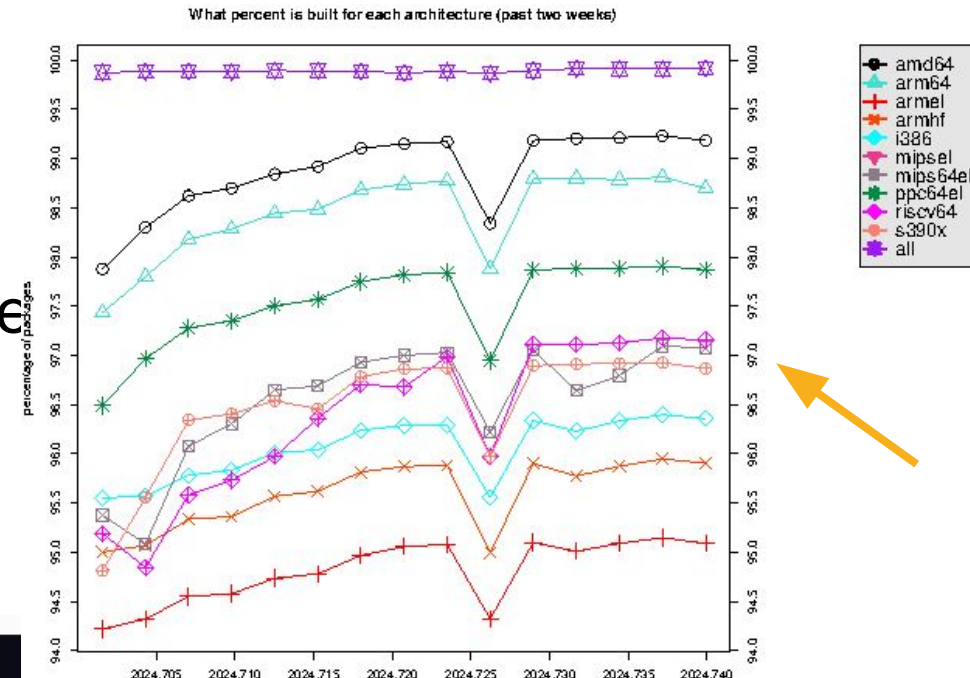
Operating Systems

- Most systems software in C/C++ without significant specialization
 - libc + syscalls good enough for POSIX support
- Examples
 - Linux: Debian, Fedora, Gentoo, etc.
 - Embedded: Yocto
 - RTOS: Zephyr, FreeRTOS
- Enterprise Linux Support is here!
 - Upstream distros like Fedora worked to enable downstream counterparts
- What % of Linux packages are enabled?



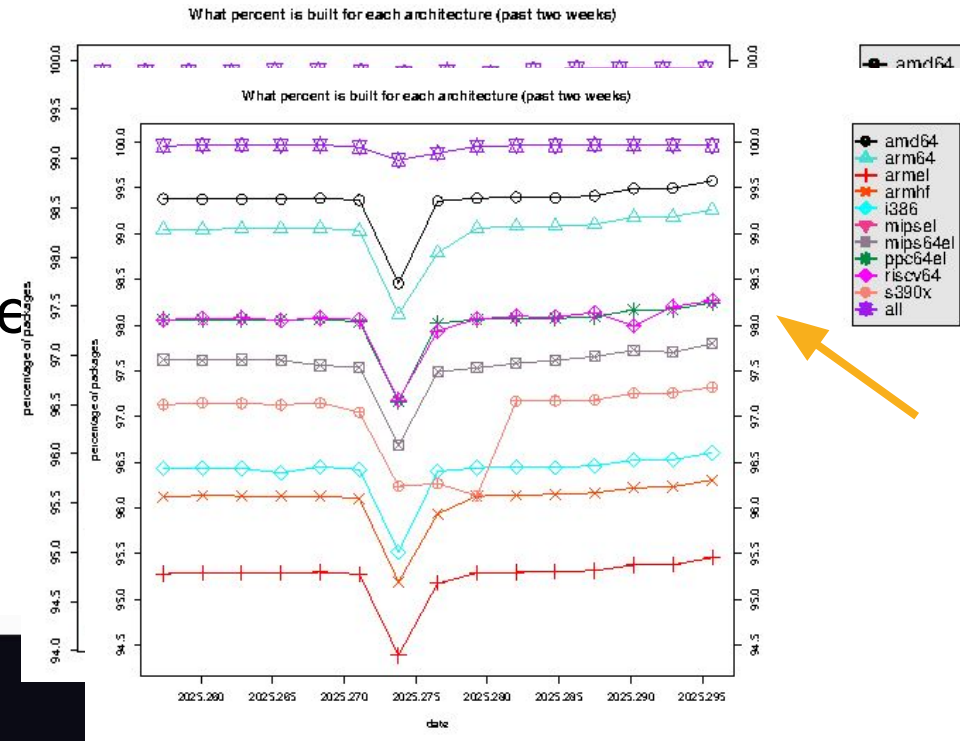
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 - ~~As of July 2024, 97% in Debian!~~
 - As of May 2025, >98% in Debian!



Linux Kernel

- Active work to enable RISC-V in Linux
 - Early HWCAP feature detection, but limited to 32 long bit-vector
 - RISC-V Vector 1.0 support in 6.5
 - hwprobe() syscall added in 6.6
 - PMU support, pointer masking, bitmanip, and others on-going
- SOC support still a challenge
 - Most developer boards come with a heavily modified vendor kernel
 - Requires “bring-up” to get suitable environment for development
 - No generic RISC-V kernel in Debian, can still replace rootfs



Application Software

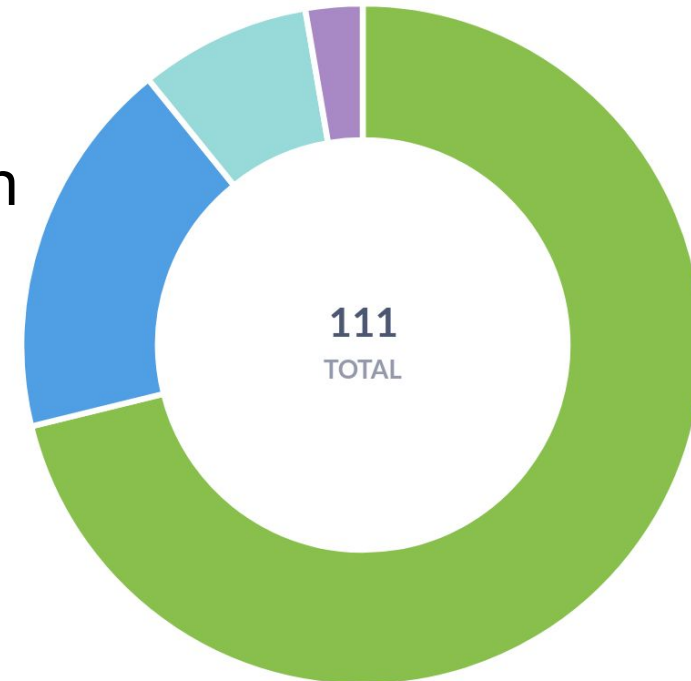
- Must “just work” on range of heterogeneous hardware
 - Scale from IOT device, to laptop, to HEDT, to server class
 - Multimedia: IOT camera, watch streaming video, multi-channel transcoding
 - Potentially all use the same libraries
- Written in managed or interpreted languages
 - Most runtimes work, but performance limited
 - No or partial JIT, native .so not compiled for RISC-V, e.g. Python
 - Java and Go getting performance optimizations through RISE
- Variable set of workloads, performance critical execution
 - Really only one mechanism for performance, SIMD aka RISC-V Vector 1.0
 - May not contain the same extensions, or same vector length



Software Readiness

- Very much application or “domain” dependent
 - Do not need everything to be perfect, just enough to get work done
- RISC-V Software Ecosystem Dashboard [1]
 - Attempts to catalog key software components based on
 - Enabled: RISC-V base support established
 - In Progress: Active development underway
 - Optimized: Software performant on RISC-V
 - TBD: No commitment to RISC-V enablement

Enabled	71.17%
In Progress	18.02%
TBD	8.11%
Optimized	2.70%



[1] <https://tech.riscv.org/software-ecosystem>

Software Readiness

- In practice this is hard to measure, readiness can also mean
 - Does it build (configure and compile)



Software Readiness

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 - Does it run



Software Readiness

- In practice this is hard to measure, readiness can also mean
 - Does it build (configure and compile)
 - Does it run
 - Does it run correctly (unit and integration tests)



Software Readiness

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 - Does it build (configure and compile)
 - Does it run
 - Does it run correctly (unit and integration tests)
 - Does it run correctly on my hardware



Software Readiness

- In practice this is hard to measure, readiness can also mean
 - Does it build (configure and compile)
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 - Does it run correctly (unit and integration tests)
 - Does it run correctly on my hardware
 - Does it run correctly on my hardware with enough performance



Software Readiness

- In practice this is hard to measure, readiness can also mean
 - Does it build (configure and compile)
 - Does it run
 - Does it run correctly (unit and integration tests)
 - Does it run correctly on my hardware
 - Does it run correctly on my hardware with enough performance
- Optimized software is also nebulous
 - Performance often achieved over time through incremental improvements
 - Unclear what the lower bound is on compute
 - dav1d-1.5.1 still improving 7 years later



Languages and Runtimes

Language	Implementation	Status	Notes
C/C++	GCC, Clang	Good	RVV Intrinsics, tunings per target, autovectorization
Javascript	v8, Spidermonkey	Works	Upstreamed, v8 wiki , spidermonkey initial support Plenty of performance work ongoing
WebAssembly	v8, Cranelift	Works	Upstreamed, available, plenty of work ongoing still
Go	golang	Good	Since Go 1.16 Supports also cgo.
Rust	rustc (LLVM, Cranelift)	Works	But no RVV intrinsics yet, cpu features runtime detection coming soon
Python	CPython, pypy	Good	You can run pytorch just fine, jit backend for pypy
Java	OpenJDK	Good	Tracker , Apertus Distributes LTS for Java 11, 17, 21 and 22
Haskell	GHC	Works	Tracker , both LLVM and NCG backends are supported
Erlang	otp	Works	No JIT yet



Additional Tools

Tool	Type	Status	Notes
GDB	Debugger	Works	Does not print RVV registers yet
LLDB	Debugger	Works	Less available by default
linux-perf	Profiler	Sort-of	On some platforms only custom events are available
rr-project	Debugger	Missing	Tracker , Could work for cpu with Zacas support
mold	Linker	Good	Works
wild	Linker	Initial	Tracker , Works ongoing



Ways to Improve Performance

Auto-vectorization

- Pros: Compiler does all the work
 - Performance can get better with newer compilers
- Cons: Language and code have to give hints
 - Scalar code often does not map to efficient vector operations
 - Compiler support may not always be present (or bug free)

Intrinsics

- Pros: Code uses primitives present in the instruction set
 - Same language as the rest of the code, easy to reason about and debug
 - The instruction scheduling should be optimal and tuned for the target
- Cons: Compiler support may not always be present
 - Intrinsic version changes force code updates 0.11 -> 0.12

Pure Assembly

- Pros: Full control, no chance of mis-compilation
 - Overcome ABI limitations, not everything representable with intrinsics
- Cons: Must account for everything: instruction scheduling, register allocation, etc
 - Difficult to write, difficult to debug, difficult to modify



Code Size Considerations

- Can trade binary size for more specialization
 - Multiple implementations selected at runtime, even with same extensions
 - e.g., Intrinsics + Function Multi-Versioning for micro-architecture tuning
- Some deployments sensitive to binary size, no universal solution
 - Desktop application on DVD may be fine
 - Mobile applications highly sensitive to download time
 - Middleware vendors differentiate on binary size
 - Server can and often rebuild everything bespoke for hardware
- Reasonable, domain-specific tradeoffs should be made



Conclusions

- Most software “ready” in that it will build and run on Linux
- Good performance is domain specific, need to test on target HW
- Toolchain support is good and RISC-V parity steadily improving
- Many software workloads will run fine as-is and unmodified
- Top priority for RISC-V enablement is more optimizations, e.g., for V (vector), Zb{a,b,c,s} (bit manip) and Zvk (vector crypto)
- You can start today!



Getting Started Guide



Ways to Develop for RISC-V

- FPGA
 - Pros: Cycle accurate model of hardware
 - Cons: Whole system booting very slow, 10's of MHz
- Emulation
 - Pros: First to get RVI extensions, flexible and configurable
 - Cons: Essentially impossible to measure performance
- Hardware
 - Pros: Performance will match what ships exactly,
 - Cons: Long lead time, may overfit microarchitecture, limited vector length



RISC-V Summit EU 2024

- Presented single slide on manually prebuilt developer images
 - Since then work has focused on build automation

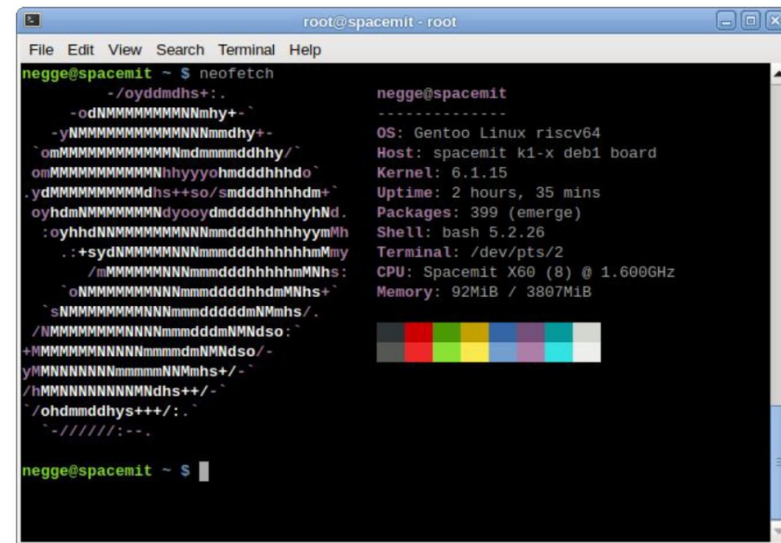
Prebuilt Developer Images

- Facilitate development by providing up-to-date toolchains for building and testing

- Latest toolchain package versions

- clang-18.1.5
- gcc-13.2.1_p20240503
- rust-1.77.1
- binutils-2.42
- cmake-3.29.3
- python-3.12.3
- perl-5.38.2
- git-2.45.1
- subversion-1.14.3

- Kendryte K230 and Banana Pi BPI-F3



[1] <https://people.videolan.org/~negge/canaan-3G-2024-04-08.img.xz>

[2] <https://people.videolan.org/~negge/spacemit-4G-2024-05-15.img.xz>

ROMA II image coming soon!!

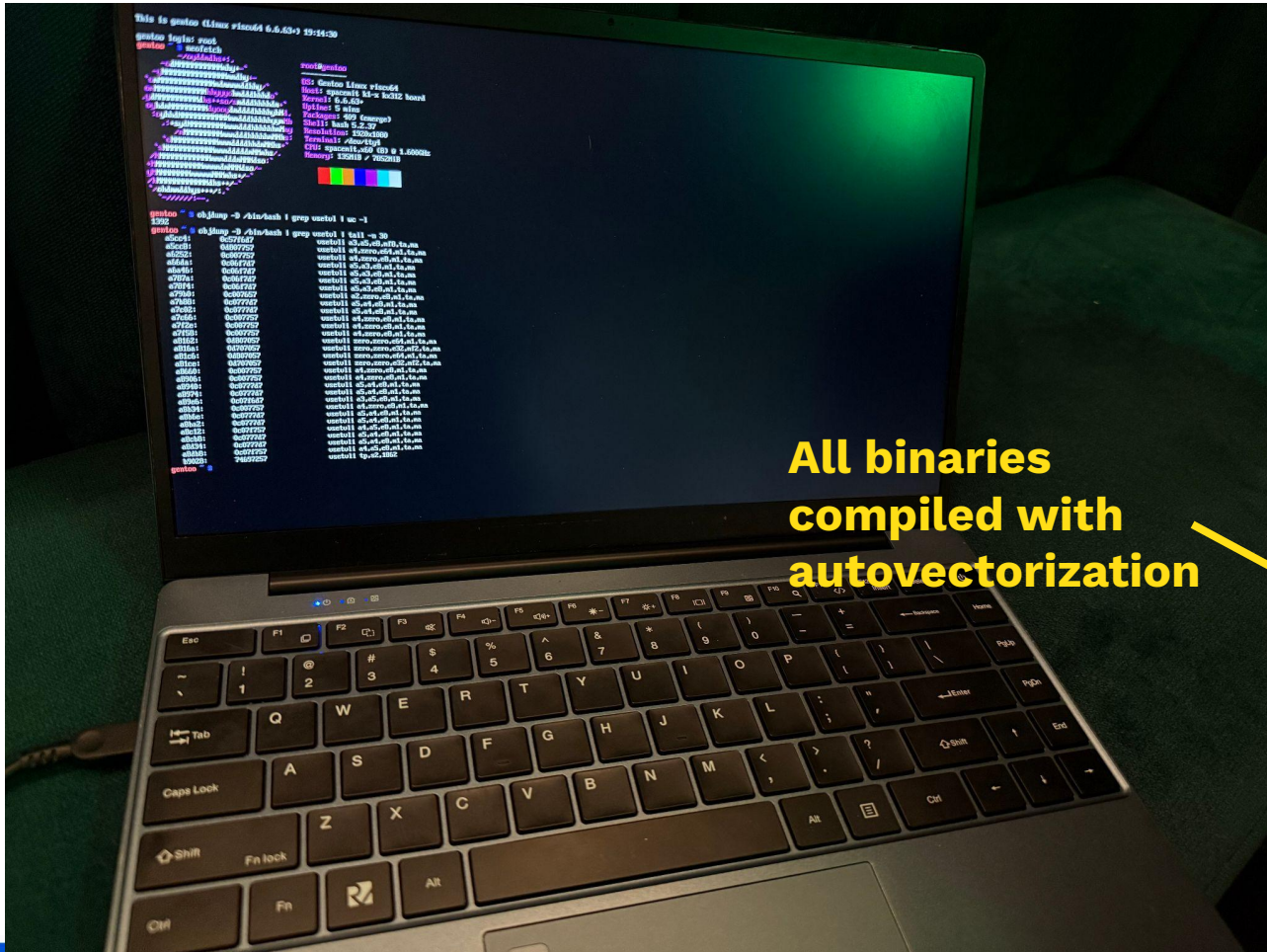
Gentoo Developer Images

- Project Goal
 - Fastest way to create bootable images with **up-to-date** toolchains!
- *Key Idea*: Automate developer image building
 - Now takes only ~300 minutes (!) to cross compile bootable image
 - U-Boot + Kernel + ~330 software packages
 - Bespoke CFLAGS possible, testing surfaced several gcc autovector issues [1]
- Partnered with Luca Barbato, RISC-V Gentoo developer
 - Fixed multiple issues unblocking full cross compilation <-- **no other distro has this**
 - Right now BPI-F3, ROMA-II, Orange Pi RV2D and others based on SpacemiT K1
 - Now building *everything* with **-O3 -march=rv64gcv_zvl256b** ← **New with gcc-15**

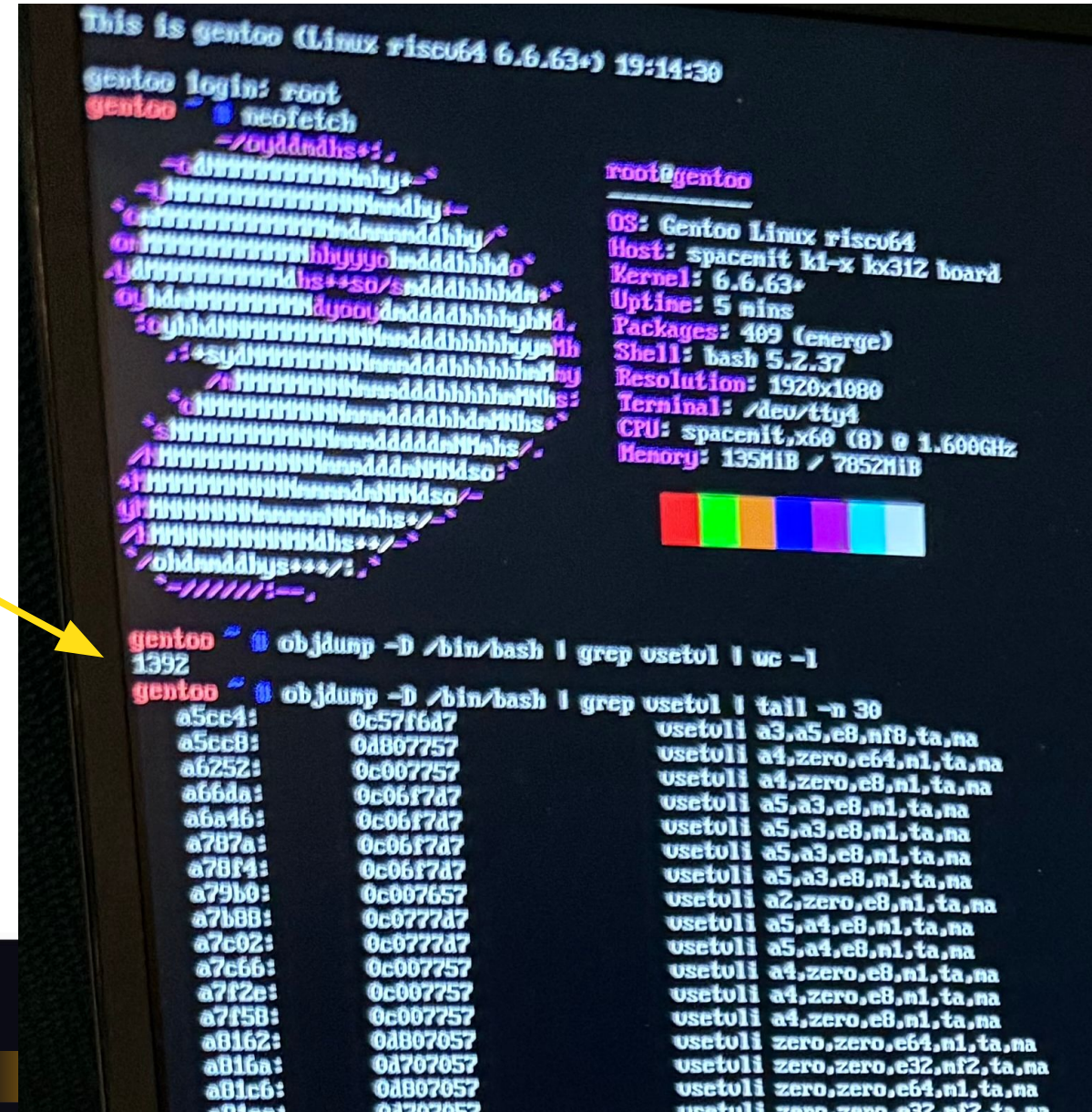
[1] [GCC Bug 116242](#) - [meta-bug] Tracker for zvl issues in RISC-V



Developing on ROMANA-II with RVV 1.0



All binaries compiled with **autovectorization**



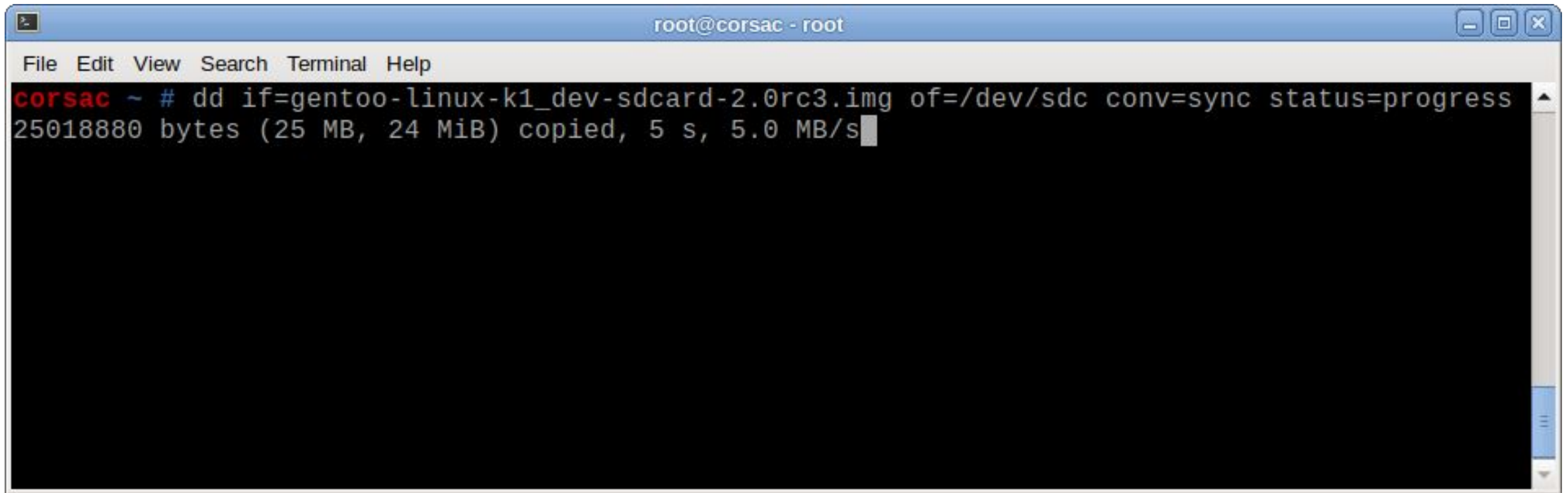
Developing on ROMA-II with RVV 1.0

- But is it faster...
- Greg Sterling of RISC-V International compared images with and without RVV
- Built using gcc-15.1 with -march=rv64gcv_zvl256b
 - Good speed-ups for C only code:
 - qwen:0.5b model 302% faster than scalar
 - deepseek-r1:1.5b model 368% faster than scalar
- ISCAS landing 128-bit RVV in llama.cpp (used by ollama demo)
 - Good improvements gcc-14 -> gcc-15
 - Need to test on other HW with gcc-15 autovectorizer enabled



Installing the Image [1] (from Aug-15)

```
$ dd if=gentoo-linux-k1_dev-sdcard-2.0rc3.img of=/dev/sdc conv=sync status=progress
```

A terminal window titled 'root@corsac - root' with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Search, Terminal, Help). The prompt is 'corsac ~ #'. The command 'dd if=gentoo-linux-k1_dev-sdcard-2.0rc3.img of=/dev/sdc conv=sync status=progress' has been executed. The output shows '25018880 bytes (25 MB, 24 MiB) copied, 5 s, 5.0 MB/s' followed by a cursor.

```
root@corsac - root
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
corsac ~ # dd if=gentoo-linux-k1_dev-sdcard-2.0rc3.img of=/dev/sdc conv=sync status=progress
25018880 bytes (25 MB, 24 MiB) copied, 5 s, 5.0 MB/s
```

[1] https://dev.gentoo.org/~lu_zero/gentoo-linux-k1_dev-sdcard-2.0rc3.img.xz



Boot Process

```
U-Boot SPL 2022.10spacemit (Aug 14 2024 - 20:15:22 -0000)
```

```
DDR type LPDDR4X
```

```
lpddr4_silicon_init consume 11ms
```

```
Change DDR data rate to 2400MT/s
```

```
Boot from fit configuration k1-x_deb1
```

```
## Checking hash(es) for config conf_2 ... OK
```

```
## Checking hash(es) for Image uboot ... crc32+ OK
```

```
## Checking hash(es) for Image fdt_2 ... crc32+ OK
```

```
## Checking hash(es) for config config_1 ... OK
```

```
## Checking hash(es) for Image opensbi ... crc32+ OK
```

```
U-Boot 2022.10spacemit (Aug 14 2024 - 20:15:22 -0000)
```

```
CPU:   rv64imafdcv
```

```
Model: spacemit k1-x deb1 board
```

```
DRAM:  DDR size = 4096 MB
```

```
DDR size = 4096 MB
```

```
DDR size = 4096 MB
```

```
## Loading kernel from FIT Image at 11000000 ...
```

```
Using 'conf-default' configuration
```

```
Verifying Hash Integrity ... OK
```

```
Trying 'kernel' kernel subimage
```

```
Description:  Linux 6.6.36+
```

```
Type:         Kernel Image
```

```
Compression:  gzip compressed
```

```
Data Start:   0x110000bc
```

```
Data Size:    14255955 Bytes = 13.6 MiB
```

```
Architecture: RISC-V
```

```
OS:           Linux
```

```
Load Address: 0x00200000
```

```
Entry Point:  0x00200000
```

```
Hash algo:    crc32
```

```
Hash value:   7c3065e0
```

```
Verifying Hash Integrity ... crc32+ OK
```

```
## Flattened Device Tree blob at 31000000
```

```
Booting using the fdt blob at 0x31000000
```

```
Uncompressing Kernel Image
```



Boot Process (Con't)

OpenRC 0.54.2 is starting up Gentoo Linux (riscv64)

```
* Mounting /proc ...
[ ok ]
* Mounting /run ...
[ ok ]
* /run/openrc: creating directory
* /run/lock: creating directory
* /run/lock: correcting owner
* Caching service dependencies ...
[ 5.445256] usb 2-1.5: new high-speed
[ ok ]
* Mounting /sys ...
[ ok ]
* Mounting debug filesystem ...
[ ok ]
* Mounting config filesystem ...
[ ok ]
* Mounting fuse control filesystem ...
* Create Volatile Files and Directories ...
[ ok ]
INIT: Entering runlevel: 3
* Starting metalog ...
[ ok ]
* Starting DHCP Client Daemon ...
dhcp_vendor: No such process
[ ok ]
* Mounting network filesystems ...
[ ok ]
* Starting sshd ...
[ ok ]
* Starting local ...
[ ok ]
This is localhost (Linux riscv64 6.6.36+) 21:56:52
localhost login: █
```



Full Gentoo Linux System

```
localhost ~ # neofetch
      -/oyddmdhs+:.
      -odNNNNNNNNNNmhy+-`
      -yNNNNNNNNNNNNNNrmdhy+-
`omNNNNNNNNNNNNNNmdrmmrddhhy/`
omNNNNNNNNNNNNhhyyyohmdddhhhd`
.ydNNNNNNNNNNdhs++so/smdddhhhhdm+`
oyhdmNNNNNNNNdyooydmdddhhhhhyhNd.
:oyhhdNNNNNNNNNNrmdddhhhhhyymMh
.:+sydNNNNNNNNNNrmdddhhhhhhhmMny
/mNNNNNNNNNNrmdddhhhhhhmMNs:
`oNNNNNNNNNNrmddddhhdMNhs+`
`sNNNNNNNNNNrmddddmNMhs/.
/NNNNNNNNNNNrmdddmNMNds+:`
+MMNNNNNNNNNNrmdmNMNds+/-
yMMNNNNNNNNNNrmmmmNMhs+/-`
/hMMNNNNNNNNNMdhs++/-`
`/ohdmddhys+++/:.`
`-////////:--.
```

```
root@localhost
-----
OS: Gentoo Linux riscv64
Host: spacemit k1-x deb1 board
Kernel: 6.6.36+
Uptime: 23 mins
Packages: 330 (emerge)
Shell: bash 5.2.32
Terminal: /dev/console
CPU: Spacemit X60 (8) @ 1.600GHz
Memory: 207MiB / 3808MiB
```



Up-to-date Toolchains!

```
localhost ~ # clang --version
```

```
clang version 18.1.8 ← 2024 Jun 20
```

```
Target: riscv64-unknown-linux-gnu
```

```
Thread model: posix
```

```
InstalledDir: /usr/lib/llvm/18/bin
```

```
Configuration file: /etc/clang/riscv64-unknown-linux-gnu-clang.cfg
```

```
localhost ~ # gcc --version ← 2024 Aug 1
```

```
gcc (Gentoo 14.2.0 p4) 14.2.0
```

```
Copyright (C) 2024 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
```

```
This is free software; see the source for copying conditions. There is NO  
warranty; not even for MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
```

```
localhost ~ # /usr/lib/ld-linux-riscv64-lp64d.so.1 --version
```

```
ld.so (Gentoo 2.40 (patchset 1)) stable release version 2.40. ←
```

```
Copyright (C) 2024 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
```

```
This is free software; see the source for copying conditions.
```

```
There is NO warranty; not even for MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A  
PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
```

```
localhost ~ #
```

2024 Jul 22



Wifi and ethernet just work out of the box

```
localhost ~ # modprobe 8852bs
localhost ~ # /etc/init.d/wpa_supplicant start
* Starting WPA Supplicant Daemon ...
Successfully initialized wpa_supplicant [ ok ]
localhost ~ # ifconfig wlan0
wlan0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 192.168.9.202 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 192.168.9.255
    inet6 fd1a:637d:f215:0:d7e5:b531:88fc:b12e prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x0<global>
    inet6 fd95:b4c7:7c8b:0:300c:64b3:c757:b96f prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x0<global>
    inet6 fd8d:88cb:94f4:0:b5d0:53e4:4cf:2073 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x0<global>
    inet6 fe80::b7a2:5296:db95:fe64 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20<link>
    inet6 fd1a:637d:f215::93c prefixlen 128 scopeid 0x0<global>
    ether c0:4b:24:36:6b:af txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 12326 bytes 51588926 (49.1 MiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 12397 bytes 696222 (679.9 KiB)
```



Emergence (install) new packages

```
localhost ~ # ldconfig
localhost ~ # emerge-webrsync -q
* Latest snapshot date: 20240814
*
* Approximate snapshot timestamp: 1723682700
* Current local timestamp: 1723682400
*
* The current local timestamp is possibly identical to the
* timestamp of the latest snapshot. In order to force sync, use
* the --revert option or remove the timestamp file located at
* '/var/db/repos/gentoo/metadata/timestamp.x'.
localhost ~ # getuto && emerge -g neofetch

* IMPORTANT: 18 news items need reading for repository 'gentoo'.
* Use eselect news read to view new items.
```

Local copy of remote index is up-to-date and will be used.

Calculating dependencies... done!

Future Work

- Experiment with alternate whole system build configs
 - Crossdev already supports `riscv64-unknown-linux-musl` as target
 - Paves the way to build the whole system using clang
- Improve the overall cross-building experience
 - This project already found many bugs
 - Few packages (e.g. perl) already got some fixes
 - Crossdev has a pending patch to make it profile-aware
- Automate image generation on monthly or weekly basis
 - Latest images:

[1] Canaan K230 <https://people.videolan.org/~negge/canaan-3G-2024-04-08.img.xz>

[2] BPI F3 / ROMA II https://dev.gentoo.org/~lu_zero/riscv/gentoo-linux-k1_dev-sdcard-2.1.0-20250411-rvv.img.xz

[3] Orange Pi RV2 https://people.videolan.org/~negge/gentoo-linux-x1_dev-sdcard-20250422-rvv.img.xz

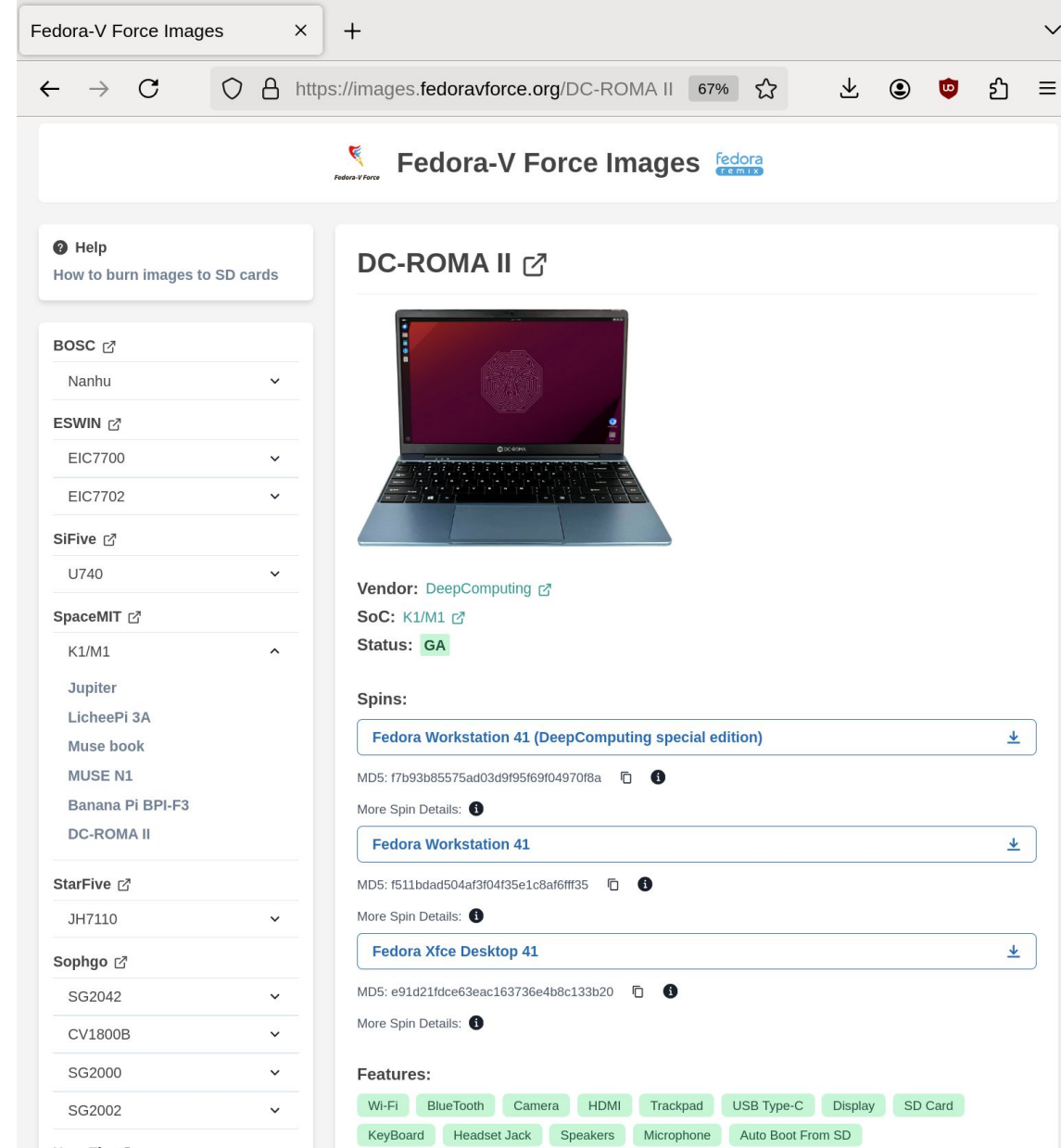


Fedora Images Available

- Community built as rv64gc [1]
 - Images for many SOC's and devices
- Official Fedora 41 and 42 builds [2]
 - Supporting:
 - StarFive VisionFive 2
 - SiFive HiFive Unmatched
 - SiFive HiFive Premier P550

[1] <https://images.fedoravforce.org>

[2] <https://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Architectures/RISC-V>



The screenshot shows the Fedora-V Force Images website. The main header is "Fedora-V Force Images" with the Fedora logo. On the left, there is a sidebar with a "Help" section titled "How to burn images to SD cards" and a list of device categories: BOSC, ESWIN, SiFive, SpaceMIT, StarFive, and Sophgo. The main content area displays the "DC-ROMA II" device page. It features a laptop image, the vendor "DeepComputing", SoC "K1/M1", and status "GA". Below this, there are three "Spins" listed: "Fedora Workstation 41 (DeepComputing special edition)", "Fedora Workstation 41", and "Fedora Xfce Desktop 41". Each spin has a download button and an MD5 hash. At the bottom, there is a "Features" section with tags for various hardware and software features.

Fedora-V Force Images

Help
How to burn images to SD cards

BOSC
Nanhu

ESWIN
EIC7700
EIC7702

SiFive
U740

SpaceMIT
K1/M1
Jupiter
LicheePi 3A
Muse book
MUSE N1
Banana Pi BPI-F3
DC-ROMA II

StarFive
JH7110

Sophgo
SG2042
CV1800B
SG2000
SG2002

DC-ROMA II

Vendor: DeepComputing
SoC: K1/M1
Status: GA

Spins:

Fedora Workstation 41 (DeepComputing special edition)

MD5: f7b93b85575ad03d9f95169f04970f8a

More Spin Details:

Fedora Workstation 41

MD5: f511bdad504af3f04f35e1c8af6ff35

More Spin Details:

Fedora Xfce Desktop 41

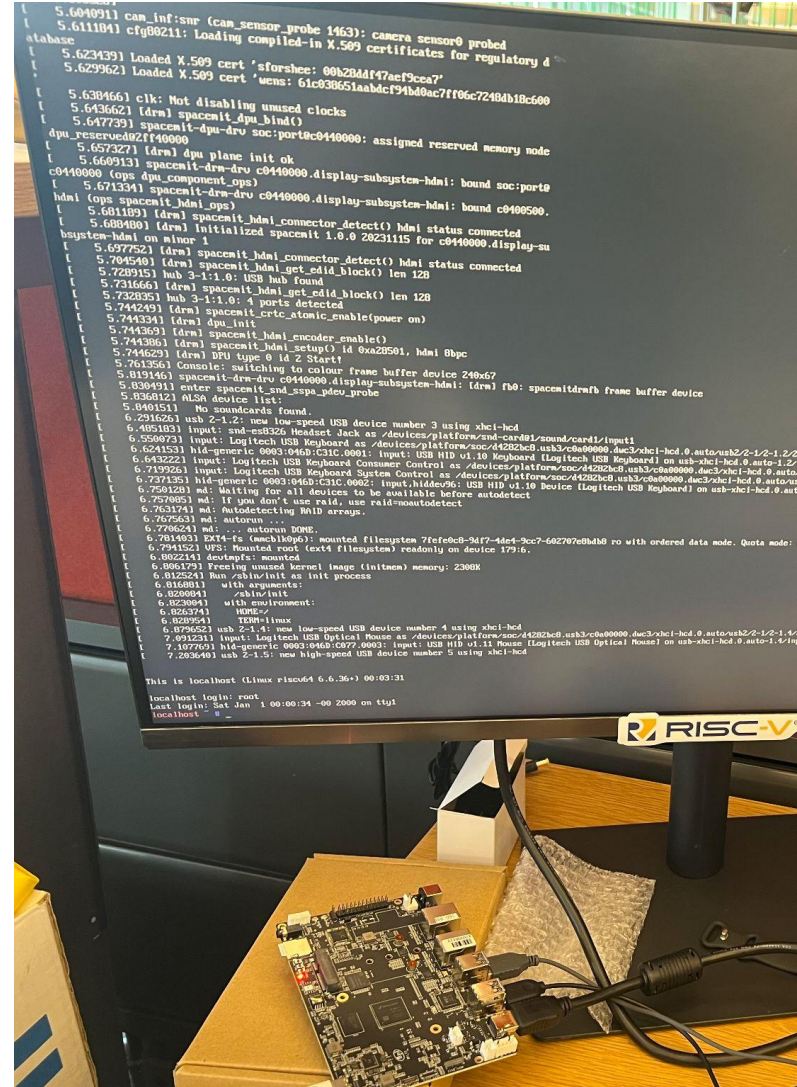
MD5: e91d21fdce63eac163736e4b8c133b20

More Spin Details:

Features:

Wi-Fi Bluetooth Camera HDMI Trackpad USB Type-C Display SD Card
KeyBoard Headset Jack Speakers Microphone Auto Boot From SD

Demo in RISE Lounge



This is gentoo (Linux riscv64 6.6.63+) 00:00:16

gentoo login: root

gentoo ~ # ls

gentoo ~ # fastfetch

- /oyddmdhs+..

root@gentoo

-odNNNNNNNNNNmhy+-`

-yNNNNNNNNNNNNmmdhy+-`

`omNNNNNNNNNNNNmmdmddhhy/`

omNNNNNNNNNNNNhhyyyohmdddhhd`

.ydmNNNNNNNNNNdhs++so/smdddhhhdM+

oyhdmNNNNNNNNdyooydmdddhhyhNd.

:oyhhdNNNNNNNNNNmmdddhhhyhMh

..: +sydNNNNNNNNNNmmdddhhhhhmMmy

/mNNNNNNNNNNmmdddhhhhhmMNs:

`oNNNNNNNNNNmmdddhhdMNNhs+

`sNNNNNNNNNNmmddddmMmhs/.

/NNNNNNNNNNNNmmdmMNdso:

+MMNNNNNNNNNNmmdmMNdso/-

yMMNNNNNNNNNNmmdmMmhs+/-

/hMMNNNNNNNNNNmmdhs++/-

~ohdmddhys+++/:

-////-:-

gentoo ~ #

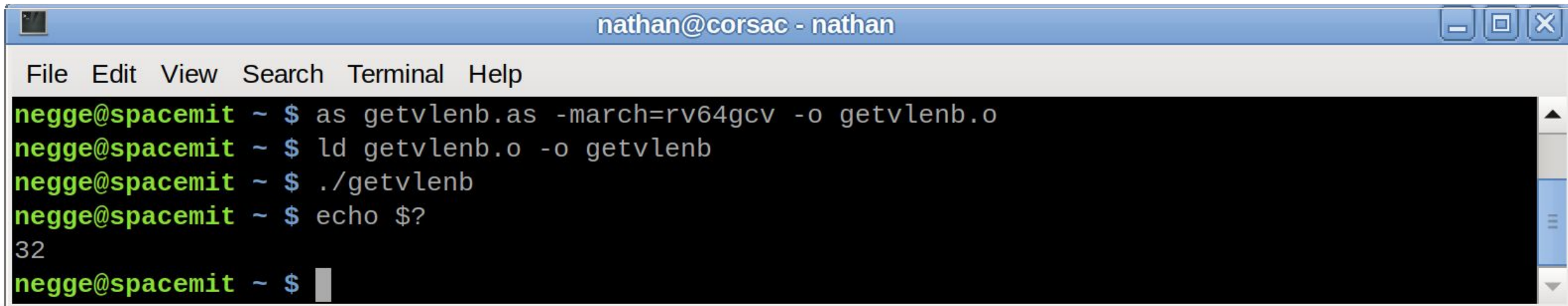
OS: Gentoo Linux riscv64
Host: ky x1 orangepi-rv2d
Kernel: Linux 6.6.63+
Uptime: 41 seconds
Packages: 382 (emerge)
Shell: bash 5.2.37
Terminal: /dev/console
CPU: x1 (8) @ 1.60 GHz
Memory: 218.98 MiB / 7.7)
Swap: Disabled
Disk (/): 2.62 GiB / 4.64
Locale: C.UTF8



Example RVV 1.0 Code #1 - Get vector length

```
.global _start
```

```
_start:  
    csrr a0, vlenb  
    addi a7, x0, 93  
    ecall
```



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "nathan@corsac - nathan". The terminal content is as follows:

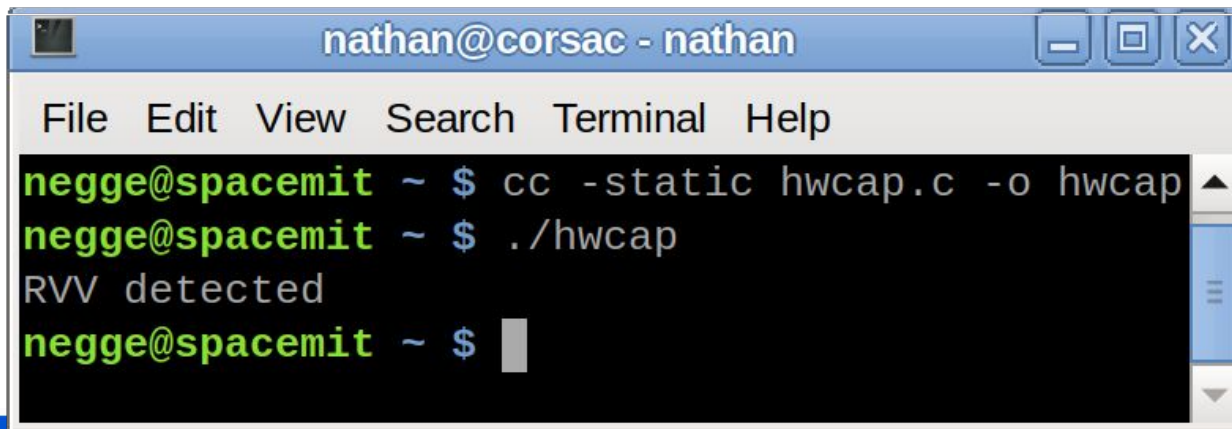
```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
negge@spacemit ~ $ as getvlenb.as -march=rv64gcv -o getvlenb.o  
negge@spacemit ~ $ ld getvlenb.o -o getvlenb  
negge@spacemit ~ $ ./getvlenb  
negge@spacemit ~ $ echo $?  
32  
negge@spacemit ~ $
```


Example RVV 1.0 Code #2 - Run-time detect

```
#include <sys/auxv.h>
#include <stdio.h>

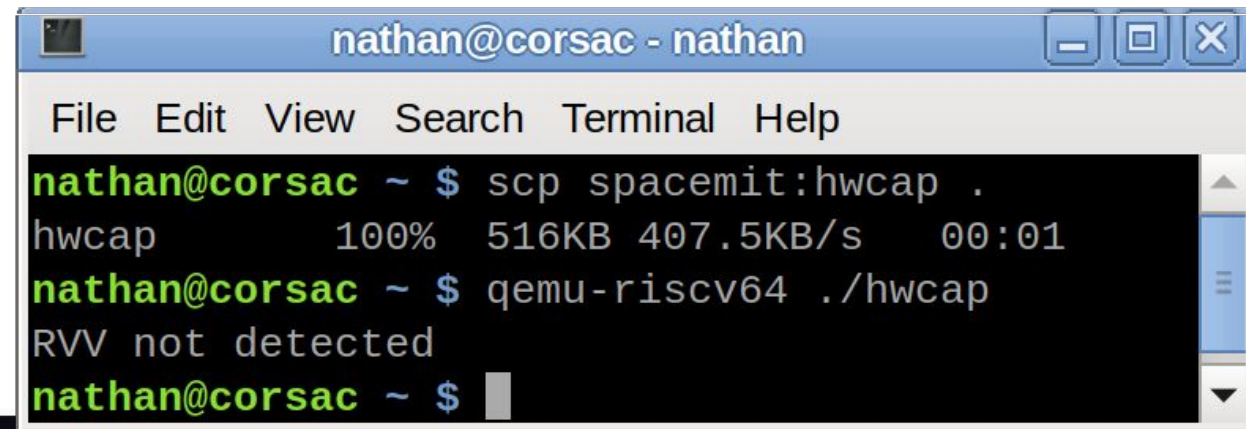
#define ISA_V_HWCAP (1 << ('v' - 'a'))

void main() {
    unsigned long hw_cap = getauxval(AT_HWCAP);
    printf("RVV %s\n", hw_cap & ISA_V_HWCAP ? "detected" : "not found");
}
```



A terminal window titled "nathan@corsac - nathan" with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Search, Terminal, Help). The terminal shows the following commands and output:

```
negge@spacemit ~ $ cc -static hwcap.c -o hwcap
negge@spacemit ~ $ ./hwcap
RVV detected
negge@spacemit ~ $
```



A terminal window titled "nathan@corsac - nathan" with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Search, Terminal, Help). The terminal shows the following commands and output:

```
nathan@corsac ~ $ scp spacemit:hwcap .
hwcap      100% 516KB 407.5KB/s   00:01
nathan@corsac ~ $ qemu-riscv64 ./hwcap
RVV not detected
nathan@corsac ~ $
```

Example RVV 1.0 #3 - Application Profiling

```
$ perf record -e u_mode_cycle ./dav1d -i Bosphorus_1080p_8bit.ivf -o /dev/null
dav1d 1.5.0-3-g55fb943 - by VideoLAN
Decoded 600/600 frames (100.0%) - 10.04/30.00 fps (0.33x)
[ perf record: Woken up 84 times to write data ]
[ perf record: Captured and wrote 22.223 MB perf.data (582464 samples) ]
$ perf report
```

```
# To display the perf.data header info, please use --header/--header-only options.
#
#
# Total Lost Samples: 0
#
# Samples: 578K of event 'u_mode_cycle:u'
# Event count (approx.): 218918769644
#
# Overhead  Command          Shared Object          Symbol
# .....  .....
#
67.59%  dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] prep_8tap_c
3.68%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] put_8tap_c
3.58%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] $xrv64i2p1_m2p0_a2p1_f2p2_d2p2_c2p0_zicsr2p0_zifencei2p0_zmmul1p0
2.45%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] wiener_c
2.22%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] $xrv64i2p1_m2p0_a2p1_f2p2_d2p2_c2p0_zicsr2p0_zifencei2p0_zmmul1p0
2.11%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] prep_8tap_smooth_sharp_c
1.44%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] prep_8tap_smooth_regular_c
1.29%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] dav1d_mask_8bpc_rvv
0.87%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] $xrv64i2p1_m2p0_a2p1_f2p2_d2p2_c2p0_zicsr2p0_zifencei2p0_zmmul1p0
0.80%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] load_tmvs_c
0.70%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] prep_8tap_sharp_c
0.69%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] prep_8tap_smooth_c
0.68%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] decode_b
0.62%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] dav1d_create_lf_mask_inter
0.58%   dav1d-worker  libdav1d.so.7.0.0      [.] put_8tap_scaled_c
0.54%   dav1d-worker  libc.so.6               [.] __strxfrm_l
```

RISC-V Hacking!

- Kaleidoscopico by lft [1]
 - Bare-metal demoscene art
 - 2nd place wild compo at Revision [2]
 - RP2350 Pico 2 @ 130MHz
 - 17,000 lines RISC-V asm
 - [Full technical write-up](#)

[1] <https://www.pouet.net/prod.php?which=104053>

[2] <https://2025.revision-party.net/>

[3] <https://youtu.be/KhhLoVBpg48>

Linus Åkesson's Kaleidoscopico Turns a Raspberry Pi Pico 2 Into a Powerful Demoscene Machine

Commodore Amiga-inspired project, totaling 17,000 lines of RISC-V assembler, shows just what the RP2350 can do.



Gareth Halfacree ✓

14 days ago • Art / Music / HW101

Follow



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                   const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h-- > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
        for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

Pseudo-code for RVV, note w can be 4, 8, 16 or 32 only

- Set VL based on w

- Load vectors for dst, tmp and mask

- Scratch vector for widening multiply, followed by widening multiply accumulate

- Narrowing shift with rounding

- Store back into dst



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (outer loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h-- > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
        for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
function blend_8bpc_rvv, export=1, ext="v"
```

```
ret
endfunc
```

Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (outer loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h-- > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
        for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
function blend_8bpc_rvv, export=1, ext="v"
    vsetvli zero, a3, e8, m1, ta, ma
```

```
ret
endfunc
```

Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (outer loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h-- > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
        for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
function blend_8bpc_rvv, export=1, ext="v"
    vsetvli zero, a3, e8, m1, ta, ma
    li t1, 64                // t1 = 64;
```

```
ret
endfunc
```



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (outer loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h-- > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
        for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
function blend_8bpc_rvv, export=1, ext="v"
    vsetvli zero, a3, e8, m1, ta, ma
    li t1, 64                // t1 = 64;
1:                          // do {
    addi a4, a4, -1          // h = h - 1;
    ...

    bnez a4, 1b             // } while (h != 0)
    ret
endfunc
```



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (outer loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h-- > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
        for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
function blend_8bpc_rvv, export=1, ext="v"
    vsetvli zero, a3, e8, m1, ta, ma
    li t1, 64                // t1 = 64;
1:                          // do {
    addi a4, a4, -1          // h = h - 1;
    ...
    add a0, a0, a1           // dst += dst_stride
    add a2, a2, a3           // tmp += w;
    add a5, a5, a3           // mask += w;
    bnez a4, 1b             // } while (h != 0)
    ret
endfunc
```



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (inner loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
for (; h > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
    for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (inner loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
for (; h > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
    for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
vle8.v v0, (a0)           // v0 = *dst;
vle8.v v4, (a2)           // v4 = *tmp;
vle8.v v8, (a5)           // v8 = *mask;
```

Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (inner loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
for (; h > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
    for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
vle8.v v0, (a0) // v0 = *dst;
vle8.v v4, (a2) // v4 = *tmp;
vle8.v v8, (a5) // v8 = *mask;
vwmulu.vv v16, v4, v8 // v16 = v4*v8;
```



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (inner loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
for (; h > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
    for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
vle8.v v0, (a0)           // v0 = *dst;
vle8.v v4, (a2)           // v4 = *tmp;
vle8.v v8, (a5)           // v8 = *mask;
vwmulu.vv v16, v4, v8     // v16 = v4*v8;
vrsub.vx v8, v8, t1       // v8 = 64 - v8;
```

Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (inner loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
    for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
vle8.v v0, (a0)          // v0 = *dst;
vle8.v v4, (a2)          // v4 = *tmp;
vle8.v v8, (a5)          // v8 = *mask;
vwmulu.vv v16, v4, v8     // v16 = v4*v8;
vrsub.vx v8, v8, t1       // v8 = 64 - v8;
vwmaccu.vv v16, v0, v8    // v16 = v16 + v0*v8;
```



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (inner loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
    for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
vle8.v v0, (a0)          // v0 = *dst;
vle8.v v4, (a2)          // v4 = *tmp;
vle8.v v8, (a5)          // v8 = *mask;
vwmulu.vv v16, v4, v8    // v16 = v4*v8;
vrsub.vx v8, v8, t1      // v8 = 64 - v8;
vwmaccu.vv v16, v0, v8   // v16 = v16 + v0*v8;
vnsra.wi v0, v16, 6      // v0 = (v16 + 32) >> 6;
```



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (inner loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
    for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
vle8.v v0, (a0)          // v0 = *dst;
vle8.v v4, (a2)          // v4 = *tmp;
vle8.v v8, (a5)          // v8 = *mask;
vwmulu.vv v16, v4, v8     // v16 = v4*v8;
vrsub.vx v8, v8, t1       // v8 = 64 - v8;
vwmaccu.vv v16, v0, v8    // v16 = v16 + v0*v8;
vnsra.wi v0, v16, 6    // v0 = (v16 + 32) >> 6; <-- does not work due to signed-signed operation
vnclipu.wi v0, v16, 6     // v0 = MAX(0, MIN(256, (v16 + 32) >> 6));
```



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (inner loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
    for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
vle8.v v0, (a0)          // v0 = *dst;
vle8.v v4, (a2)          // v4 = *tmp;
vle8.v v8, (a5)          // v8 = *mask;
vwmulu.vv v16, v4, v8    // v16 = v4*v8;
vrsub.vx v8, v8, t1      // v8 = 64 - v8;
vwmaccu.vv v16, v0, v8   // v16 = v16 + v0*v8;
vnsra.wi v0, v16, 6    // v0 = (v16 + 32) >> 6; <-- does not work due to signed-signed operation
vnclipu.wi v0, v16, 6    // v0 = MAX(0, MIN(256, (v16 + 32) >> 6));
vse8.v v0, (a0)          // *dst = v0;
```



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (all together)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
    for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
function blend_8bpc_rvv, export=1, ext="v"
    vsetvli zero, a3, e8, m1, ta, ma
    csrw vxrm, zero
    li t1, 64                // t1 = 64;
1:                          // do {
    addi a4, a4, -1          //   h = h - 1;

    vle8.v v0, (a0)          // v0 = *dst;
    vle8.v v4, (a2)          // v4 = *tmp;
    vle8.v v8, (a5)          // v8 = *mask;

    vwmulu.vv v16, v4, v8    // v16 = v4*v8;
```

```
    vrsub.vx v8, v8, t1      // v8 = 64 - v8;
    vwmaccu.vv v16, v0, v8   // v16 = v16 + v0*v8;
    vnclipu.wi v0, v16, 6    // v0 = MAX(0, MIN(256, (v16 + 32) >> 6));
    vse8.v v0, (a0)         // *dst = v0;

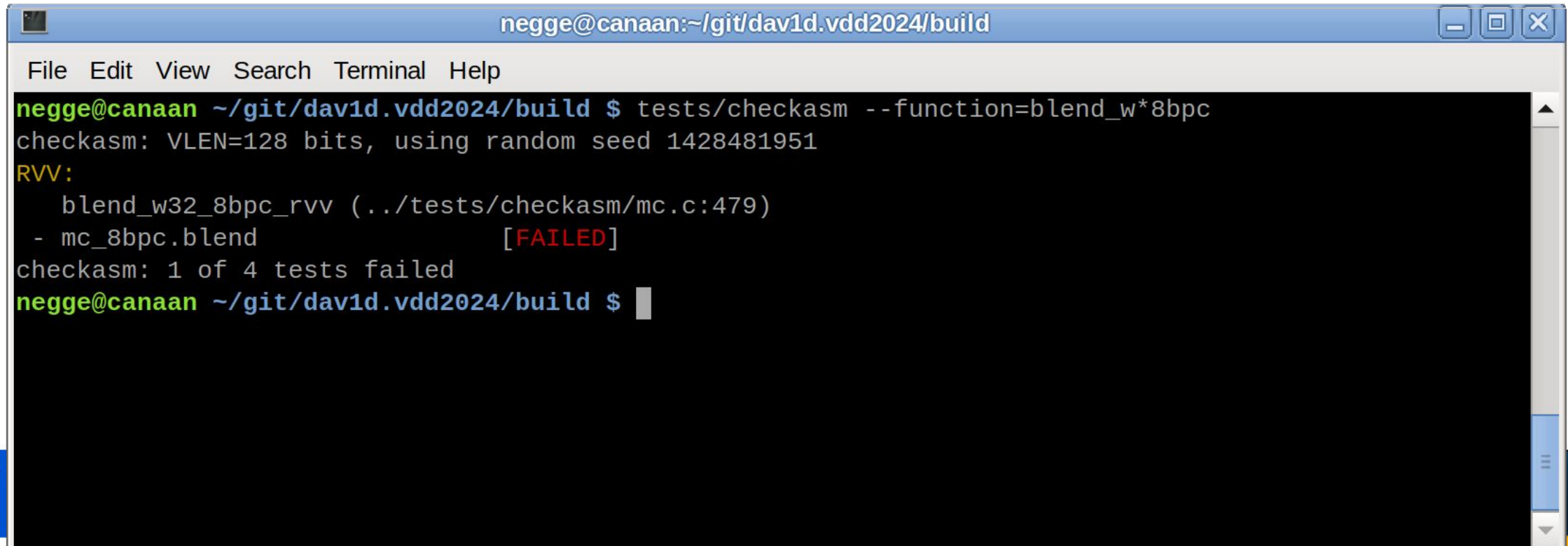
    add a0, a0, a1           // dst += dst_stride
    add a2, a2, a3           // tmp += w;
    add a5, a5, a3           // mask += w;

    bnez a4, 1b             // } while (h != 0)
    ret
endfunc
```



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (checkasm)

- Run checkasm to verify correctness
 - Passes at width of 4, 8 and 16 but fails when $w = 32$
 - What is going on?

A terminal window titled 'negge@canaan:~/git/dav1d.vdd2024/build' with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Search, Terminal, Help). The terminal shows the command 'tests/checkasm --function=blend_w*8bpc' being executed. The output indicates 'VLEN=128 bits, using random seed 1428481951' and then 'RVV: blend_w32_8bpc_rvv (../tests/checkasm/mc.c:479)'. A sub-test '- mc_8bpc.blend' is marked as '[FAILED]'. The summary 'checkasm: 1 of 4 tests failed' is shown, followed by the prompt 'negge@canaan ~/git/dav1d.vdd2024/build \$' with a cursor.

```
negge@canaan:~/git/dav1d.vdd2024/build
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
negge@canaan ~/git/dav1d.vdd2024/build $ tests/checkasm --function=blend_w*8bpc
checkasm: VLEN=128 bits, using random seed 1428481951
RVV:
  blend_w32_8bpc_rvv (../tests/checkasm/mc.c:479)
  - mc_8bpc.blend [FAILED]
checkasm: 1 of 4 tests failed
negge@canaan ~/git/dav1d.vdd2024/build $
```

Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (outer loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h-- > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
        for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
function blend_8bpc_rvv export=1, ext="v"
    vsetvli zero, a3, e8, m1, ta, ma
```

Canaan K230 has VLEN = 128
LMUL = m1 is not large enough for
8bpc * 32 = 256 bits

```
ret
endfunc
```



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (outer loop)

```
#define blend_px(a, b, m) (((a * (64 - m) + b * m) + 32) >> 6)
static void blend_c(uint8_t *dst, const ptrdiff_t dst_stride, const uint8_t *tmp,
                    const int w, int h, const uint8_t *mask) {
    for (; h-- > 0; dst += dst_stride, tmp += w, mask += w)
        for (int x = 0; x < w; x++) dst[x] = blend_px(dst[x], tmp[x], mask[x]);
}
```

```
function blend_8bpc_rvv, export=1, ext="v"
    vsetvli zero, a3, e8, m2, ta, ma
```

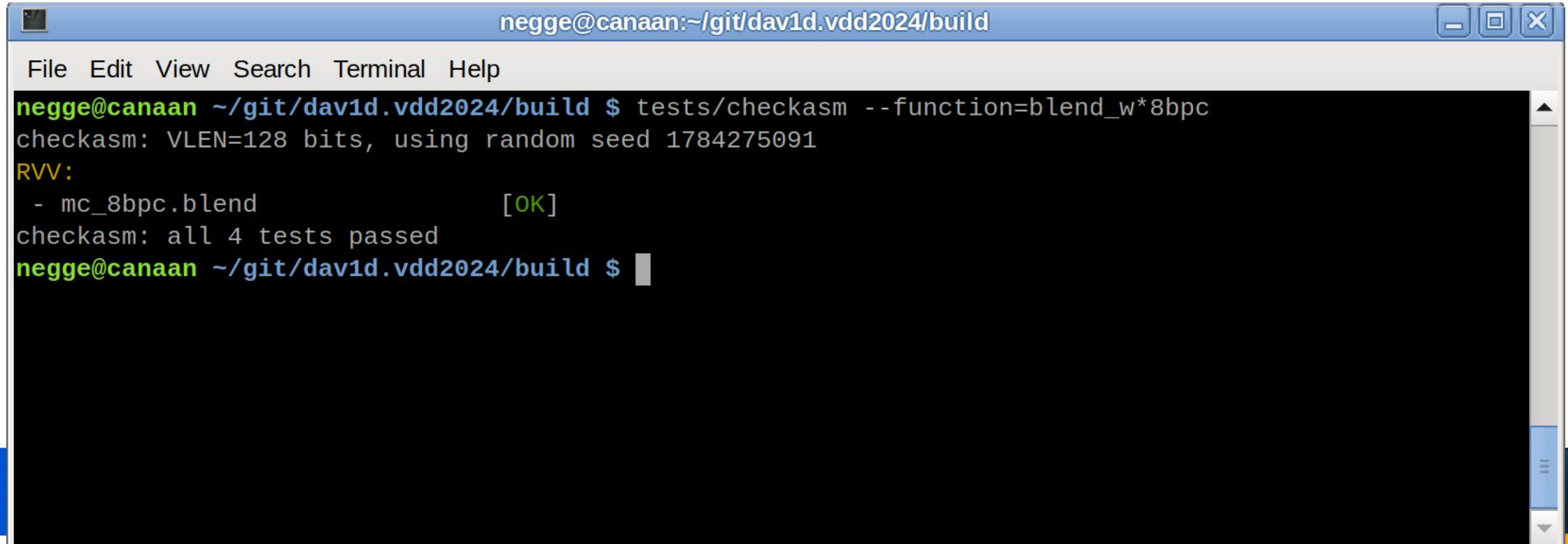
Canaan K230 has VLEN = 128
LMUL = m1 is not large enough for
8bpc * 32 = 256 bits

```
ret
endfunc
```



Example RVV 1.0 #4 - dav1d 8bpc mc blend (checkasm)

- Run checkasm to verify correctness
 - Passes at all widths, of 4, 8, 16 and 32

A terminal window titled 'negge@canaan:~/git/dav1d.vdd2024/build' with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Search, Terminal, Help). The terminal shows the command 'tests/checkasm --function=blend_w*8bpc' being executed. The output indicates 'VLEN=128 bits, using random seed 1784275091' and 'RVV: - mc_8bpc.blend [OK]'. It concludes with 'checkasm: all 4 tests passed' and returns to the prompt.

```
negge@canaan:~/git/dav1d.vdd2024/build $ tests/checkasm --function=blend_w*8bpc
checkasm: VLEN=128 bits, using random seed 1784275091
RVV:
- mc_8bpc.blend [OK]
checkasm: all 4 tests passed
negge@canaan:~/git/dav1d.vdd2024/build $
```


Questions?

