

ARC EM9D and EM11D RISC + DSP Processors

Highlights

- Combined RISC + DSP processors
- XY multi-banked memory to improve MAC/cycle performance
- Easy DSP programming support with Metaware C/C++ Compiler
- Feature-rich DSP software library for easy algorithm programming
- ITU-T base operations for leveraging ITU-T C code base
- ARCV2DSP ISA adds over 150 DSP instructions
- Fixed point, vector/SIMD DSP processing support
- Power-efficient unified 32x32 MUL/MAC unit
- 1.81 DMIPS/MHz and 4.42 CoreMark/MHz
- Two 16x16 MACs/cycle, one 32x32 MAC/cycle
- Optional hardware divider
- Supports acceleration for APEX processor extensions
- Unaligned load/store

Target Applications

- Voice/speech processing, including voice activation
- “Always-on” sensor processing
- Baseband control for wireless devices
- Embedded audio processing (low to mid-range mobile audio)
- Face detection

32-Bit Processors for Low-Power Embedded DSP Applications

The MIPS ARC® EM DSP Family, which includes the EM5D, EM7D, EM9D and EM11D processors, is optimized for use in low-power embedded applications where DSP performance and low-power consumption is a requirement. Typical “always-on” applications such as those in the IoT market need this combination of features to enable optimum device performance and extended battery life. The ARC EM9D supports up to 1MB each of instruction and data closely coupled memory (CCM). The EM11D adds support for up to 64KB of instruction and data cache. The EM9D and EM11D also support multi-banked memories (called XY) to vastly improve MAC/cycle performance and lower energy consumption, with support for two 16x16 MACs/cycle or one 32x32 MAC/cycle.

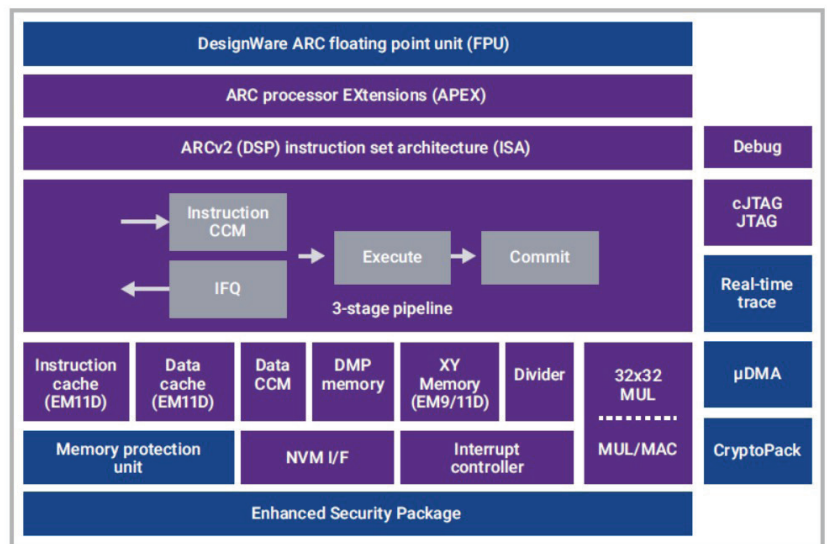


Figure 1: ARC EM9D and EM11D block diagram

The processors are based on the area, power and code-efficient ARCV2 Instruction Set Architecture (ISA) and feature a balanced 3-stage Harvard architecture pipeline that provides efficient throughput, delivering up to 1.81 DMIPS/MHz and 4.42 CoreMark/MHz. These DSP-enhanced cores include the ARCV2 DSP ISA, which adds over 150 optimized DSP instructions. The EM9D and EM11D cores feature a power-efficient unified 32x32 MUL/MAC unit and support for fixed-point DSP datatypes and vector/SIMD (single instruction multiple data) operations. To enable easy DSP software development the ARC MetaWare Development Toolkit features a rich DSP software library and the included LLVM-based C/C++ Compiler supports commonly used DSP datatypes for easy algorithm programming. The EM9D and EM11D also include optional unaligned load/store for easy vectorization. The EM9D and EM11D hardware DSP capabilities are configurable to allow tailoring of the DSP features to match the application's DSP requirements more effectively.

The ARC EM9D and EM11D processors maintain the high code density capability that is synonymous with the ARCV2 ISA and the efficient MetaWare C Compiler. The cores offer excellent real-time control and DSP performance within a very small footprint.

ARCV2DSP ISA

The MIPS ARC EM9D and EM11D processor cores implement the DSP enhanced ARCV2DSP 16-/32-bit RISC ISA, which supports advanced processor capabilities and incorporates 150+ DSP instructions that improve DSP performance (Table 1). The architecture and pipeline are designed to meet the needs of next-generation system-on-chip (SoC) applications and enable the development of a full range of 32-bit processor cores, from low-end, extremely power-efficient embedded DSP cores to high-performance solutions that are binary compatible and designed with common pipeline elements. The ARCV2DSP ISA enables the implementation of complex heterogeneous SoCs with processor cores precisely targeted to meet the specific performance and power requirements for each instance on an SoC, while offering the same software programmer's model to simplify program development and task partitioning.

Instruction Set Summary

The ARCV2DSP ISA supports the following classes of DSP instructions/ operations: basic saturating arithmetic, vector unpacking/packing, accumulator operations, vector 16x16 MAC, dual 16x16 MAC, dual 16x8 MAC, 32x16 MAC, 32x32 MAC and complex (16+16)x(16+16) MAC.

Operation	Mnemonics	Description
Arithmetic		
Absolute value	ABSS, ABSSH, VABSS2H, VABSS2H	(Non-)saturating absolute value
Add	ADDS, ADCS, VADD2H, VADDS2H, VADD4B	(Non-)saturating add
Add-subtract	VADDSUB2H, VADDSUBS2H	(Non-)saturating add-subtract
Min/max	VMIN2H, VMAX2H	Minimum/maximum
Negate	NEGS, NEGSH, VNEG2H, VNEGS2H	(Non-)saturating negative
Normalize	VNORM2H	Vector normalize
Subtract	SUBS, SBCS, VSUB2H, VSUBS2H, VSUB4B	(Non-)saturating subtract
Subtract-add	VSUBADD2H, VSUBADDS2H	(Non-)saturating subtract-add

Table 1: ARCV2DSP ISA DSP instructions

Operation	Mnemonics	Description
MUL/MAC operations		
16x16 integer	MPYW, MPYW_S, MPYUW, MPYUW_S	Signed/unsigned 16x16 MUL
32x16 fractional	MPYWHFM, MPYWHFMR, MACWHFM, MACWHFMR, MSUBWHFM, MSUBWHFMR, MPYWHFL, MPYWHFLR, MACWHFL, MACWHFLR, MSUBWHFL, MSUBWHFLR	32x16 fractional MUL/MAC/MSUB, saturating, (non-)rounding
32x16 integer	MPYWHL, MACWHL, MPYWHUL, MACWHUL, MPYWHKL, MACWHKL, MPYWHKUL, MACWHKUL	Signed/unsigned 32x16 MUL/MAC
32x32 fractional	MPYF, MPYFR, MACF, MACFR, MSUBF, MSUBFR, MPYDF, MACDF, MSUBDF	32x32 fractional MUL/MAC/MSUB, saturating, (non-)rounding
32x32 integer	MPY, MPY_S, MPYU, MAC, MACU, MPYM, MPYMU, MPYD, MPYDU, MACD, MACDU	Signed/unsigned 32x32 MUL/MAC
Dual 16x8	DMPYHBL, DMPYHBM, DMACHBL, DMACHBM	Dual 16x8 signed MUL/MAC, inner-product style
Vector 16x16 fractional	VMPY2HF, VMPY2HFR, VMAC2HF, VMAC2HFR, VMPY2HWF, VMAC2HNFR, VMSUB2HF, VMSUB2HFR, VMSUB2HNFR	Vector/SIMD 16x16 fractional MUL/MAC/MSUB, saturating, (non-) rounding
Vector 16x16 integer	VMPY2H, VMPY2HU, VMAC2H, VMAC2HU	Vector/SIMD 16x16 integer MUL/MAC, signed/unsigned
Dual 16x16 fractional	DMPYHF, DMPYHFR, DMACHF, DMACHFR, DMPYHWF	Dual 16x16 fractional MUL/MAC, inner-product style, saturating, (non-) rounding
Dual 16x16 integer	DMPYH, DMPYHU, DMACH, DMACHU	Dual 16x16 integer MUL/MAC, inner-product style, signed/unsigned
Complex (16+16)x(16+16)	CMPYHFMR, CMPYHNFR, CMPYHFR, CMPYCHNFR, CMPYCHFR, CMACHNFR, CMACHFR, CMACCHNFR, CMACCHFR	(16+16)x(16+16) complex MUL/MAC, rounding
FFT butterfly (16+16)x(16+16)	CBFLYHF0R, CBFLYHF1R	First half and second half of 2-cycle FFT butterfly
Saturation and rounding		
Saturate	SATH, SATF	Saturate 32b to 16b/32b
Round	RNDH	Round and saturate 32b to 16b
Shifting		
Saturating shifts	ASLS, ASRS, VASLS2H, VASRS2H	Saturating left/right shift
Shifts with rounding	ASRSR, VASRSR2H	Right shift with rounding
Non-saturating shifts	VASL2H, VASR2H, VLSR2H	Non-saturating left/right shift
Vector packing/unpacking		
16b to 32b packing	VALGN2H, VPACK2HL, VPACK2HM	Pack two 16b into 2x16 vector
Replicate	VREP2HL, VREP2HM	Replicate 16b in 2x16 vector
8b to 16b unpacking	VEXT2BHL, VEXT2BHM, VSEXT2BHL, VSEXT2BHM, VEXT2BHLF, VEXT2BHMF	Expand two bytes to 2x16 vector
16b to 8b packing	VPACK2HBL, VPACK2HBM, VPACK2HBLF, VPACK2HBMF	Pack two 16b values into two upper/lower bytes
Permute	VPERM	Permute bytes and sign extend

Table 1: ARCV2DSP ISA DSP instructions (continued)

Operation	Mnemonics	Description
Divide and square root		
Divide	DIV, DIVU, DIVF	Integer/fractional divide
Remainder	REM, REMU	Signed/unsigned integer remainder
Square root	SQRT, SQRTF	Integer/fractional square root
Accumulator operations		
Get/set	GETACC, SETACC	Get/set accumulator value
Flag	FLAGACC	Copy accumulator status flags
Left-shift	ASLACC, ASLSACC	(non-)saturating shift left
Normalize	NORMACC	Normalize accumulator
Auxiliary operations		
XY address pointer update	MODIF	Apply modifier
Bitstream parsing	BSPEEK, BSPOP, BSPUSH	Access head/tail of bitstream

Table 1: ARCV2DSP ISA DSP instructions (continued)

Features

- 3-stage Harvard architecture pipeline
- Fractional data type support
- Multiple rounding modes
- Supports MUL/MAC operations
- Support for XY multi-banked memory
- FFT butterfly, square root and divide acceleration
- Single and dual 32b/40b and single 64b/72b accumulators
- Single-cycle access closely coupled memory
- Up to 64Kbyte instruction and data caches with error correction (EMIID)
- User-configurable program counter
- Configurable zero overhead loop counter
- Architectural clock gating and enhanced sleep modes and instructions
- 32-bit instruction and data busses
- ARM® AMBA® AHB™ and AHB-Lite™ native bus interfaces
- Integrated watchdog timer
- Interface to external PMU
- UPF-ready power domains and supporting management logic

Pipeline

The EM DSP processors have a low latency three-stage pipeline that is optimally balanced to achieve very low power consumption with excellent embedded real-time and DSP performance. The pipeline is designed to give longer access to memory, allowing maximum clock speeds comparable to typical five-stage pipeline-based cores at all process nodes. The pipeline is a Harvard architecture with separate instruction and data memory storage that can be simultaneously accessed. The ARC EM9D and EMIID pipeline supports precise exceptions with a commit point after the second stage.

Configurable Options

The EM9D and EM11D processor cores support a broad range of configurable options, enabling optimization for a specific application's performance, power and size requirements. The included ARChitect configuration tool allows selection and configuration of processor features via an easy-to-use graphical user interface. The tool produces verified RTL and synthesis scripts that are compatible with industry-standard design flows. With ARChitect, designers can add or remove features that improve the efficiency or performance of the core for their application, including options such as multipliers, hardware divide, memory configuration, program counter width, address bus width, timers, interrupts, register file structure and user-defined hardware and instructions.

Closely Coupled Memory

The ARC EM9D and EM11D processors support 512B to 2MB of closely coupled memory (CCM) for both instruction and data memory. The CCM is implemented as separate memory spaces for the Instruction Closely Coupled Memory (ICCM) and Data Closely Coupled Memory (DCCM). Both memory spaces can be accessed every clock cycle. Both ICCM and DCCM can be read and written to from outside the core through AHB-Lite target interfaces. They can also both be separately configured for 512B, 1KB, 2KB, 4KB, 8KB, 16KB, 32KB, 64KB, 128KB, 256KB, 512KB or 1MB. The EM9D and EM11D share the same features, but the EM11D adds up to 64KB of instruction and data caches.

Multi-Banked (XY) Memory

The EM9D and EM11 improve DSP performance by adding multi-banked memories (called X and Y), architected to alleviate DSP applications' need for fast memory accesses while performing repeated mathematical operations on arrays of numbers. The XY memory system consists of memory banks, address pointers, address update registers and address generation units (AGUs). The X and Y memory supports multiple configuration options (logical partitions with data CCM) as well as interleaving or splitting one logical partition into two physical memories supporting even and odd logical words respectively. The address generation units provide additional addressing modes such as modulo, bit reverse and variable +/- linear offset. They make complex address calculations independently, removing a significant overhead from the CPU and ensuring efficient memory access without cycle penalties. These AGUs are built into the instruction pipeline.

Register File and Program Counter

ARC EM9D and EM11D register files are configurable, with a default size of 16 x 32-bit registers that can be increased to 32 x 32-bit registers at build time. The register file can be constructed from fast, single-cycle access memory or flip-flops, and supports one or two write ports (one is the default) and two read ports. The general-purpose registers can be used for any purpose by the programmer. Some of the core registers have defined special purposes like stack pointers, link registers and loop counters. The register file can be expanded to up to a total of 60 registers. The ARCV2 16-bit instructions have limited direct access to some registers and can indirectly access the remaining registers' various instructions. If an instruction references an unimplemented core register, an Instruction Error exception will be raised. The program counter is read only and located at r63 in the register file. The program counter is a 32-bit word aligned register for use as a source operand in all instructions supporting PC-relative addressing. The default size for the program counter is 16-bit, and this is user configurable at build time to 20-, 24- or 32-bits.

Bus Interfaces

The EM9D and EM11D cores have native support for the ARM AMBA AHB and AHB-Lite bus protocols. This is a build-time option with the ARM AMBA AHB interface as the default selection. These enable the solutions to be easily connected to the SoC infrastructure in most chips without incurring any delay or complication in the bus interface.

Interrupts and Exceptions

EM9D and EM11D processors support up to 32 interrupts and exceptions, with the default setting of three exceptions and no interrupts. Designers can select any additional number of interrupts up to 29 (32 total interrupts and exceptions) at build time. The interrupts support multiple user-defined priority levels. The Exceptions Reset, Memory Error and Instruction Error have a higher priority than the highest priority interrupts. The interrupts are serviced through a jump table that allows higher flexibility in the location and implementation of the interrupt vectors. Interrupts can be triggered by hardware or software.

ARC Processor EXTension (APEX) Technology

The EM9D and EM11D processors are designed to be extend-able with the addition of user-defined instructions. These extensions may include more core and auxiliary registers, new user-defined instructions, and additional condition code tests. The extensions of the core enable efficient addition of user-defined hardware and other capabilities that are tightly

Licensable Options

- Floating Point Unit (FPU) offers single- and double-precision math support
- The enhanced security package enables designers to create a secure, tamper resistant environment that protects their systems and software from evolving security threats
- CryptoPack provides APEX acceleration for software encryption algorithms including AES, 3DES, ECC, SHA-256, CRC, RSA
- The Memory Protection Unit (MPU) gives the software running on the processor the ability to control access rights to the memory
- Real-time Trace (RTT) provides instruction and data real-time trace features to the ARC processors
- Tightly coupled microDMA engine allows system resources and peripherals to access memory resources independent of the processor
- ARConnect module facilitates multicore implementations with hardware for inter-core message passing, interrupt handling, semaphores and debug

Complete Suite of Development Tools

To facilitate rapid development of software for EM9D and EM11D, they are supported by a complete suite of development tools. This includes the MetaWare Development Toolkit that generates highly efficient code ideal for deeply embedded applications and has an LLVM-based C/C++ DSP Compiler, ARC xCAM and nSIM simulators, and the ARChitect core configuration tool (Table 2).

Function	Product	Benefit
Tools	MetaWare development toolkit	• Develop efficient code with an optimizing C/C++ compiler, debugger and instruction set simulator • Rich DSP software library supporting commonly used DSP functions • ITU-T base operations library for easy voice codec porting
	JTAG debuggers	• Debug programs quickly with JTAG probes and cables from Ashling, Digilent and Lauterbach
Simulation models	nSIM Pro	• Build fast Virtual Prototypes to debug software before hardware is available
	xCAM	• Use a 100% Cycle Accurate Model to aid in hardware verification and software optimization
Operating Systems	MQX RTOS	• Use a small, fast, real-time operating system optimized for running on ARC processors
	3rd Party	• Use open-source RTOSes such as FreeRTOS and Contiki, and 3rd party RTOSes such as ThreadX and OPENRTOS
Middleware	3rd Party	• Choose middleware provided by ARC Access Program members and ported to ARC processors

Table 2: MIPS ARC EM9D and EM11D software and development tools

embARC

MIPS' embARC Open Software Platform is an easily accessible and productive solution for developing ARC processor-based embedded software. It gives software developers online access to a comprehensive suite of free and open-source software that eases the development of code for IoT and other embedded applications. Device drivers, operating systems and middleware ported to and optimized for ARC processors are available for download free of cost from the embARC.org website. The website also provides access to software development tools and documentation as well as user forums to facilitate the sharing of information and expertise among the ARC-based design community.

Documentation

The following documentation is available for the MIPS ARC EM9D and EM11D processors:

- ARC EM9D and EM11D Databook
- ARC EM9D and EM11D Release Notes
- ARC EM9D and EM11D Getting Started
- ARCV2DSP Programmers Reference
- ARC EM Integration Guide

Testing, Compliance, and Quality

Verification of the MIPS ARC EM9D and EM11D processors follow a bottom-up verification methodology from block-level through system-level. Each functional block within the product follows a functional coverage-driven test plan. The plan includes testing for ARCV2DSP ISA compliance as well as state- and control-specific coverage points that have been exercised using constrained pseudorandom environments and a random instruction sequence generator.

Deliverables

The ARC EM9D and EM11D processors are delivered to system designers as Verilog HDL in the ARCHitect IP Library. The HDL is configured and output from the ARCHitect IP Configurator tool. To ensure that the product performs as expected, a basic testbench of Customer Confidence Tests (CCT) is delivered with the processor cores.

The MetaWare Development Toolkit comes complete with a new DSP C/ C++ Compiler specifically supporting all the DSP instructions in the ARCV2DSP ISA. The MetaWare Toolkit also features a DSP software library supporting a full set of commonly used DSP functions (Table 3).

Function	Data types			
	FP32	Q31	Q15	Q7
Scalar math functions				
Cosine	✓	✓	✓	
Sine	✓	✓	✓	
Tangent		✓	✓	
Arccosine		✓	✓	
Arcsine		✓	✓	
Arctangent		✓	✓	
Two argument arctangent (atan2)		✓	✓	
Square root	✓	✓	✓	
Exponential 2 ^x		✓	✓	

Table 3: Summary of DSP software library functions

Function	Data types			
	FP32	Q31	Q15	Q7
Base 2 logarithmic (log2)		✓	✓	
Reciprocal 1/x		✓	✓	
Fractional division		✓	✓	
Vector math functions				
Addition	✓	✓	✓	✓
Subtraction	✓	✓	✓	✓
Offset—addition with scalar	✓	✓	✓	✓
Absolute value	✓	✓	✓	✓
Negation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shift		✓	✓	✓
Multiplication	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scale—multiplication by a scalar and shift	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dot product	✓	✓	✓	✓
Minimum	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maximum	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complex math functions				
Conjugate	✓	✓	✓	
Dot product	✓	✓	✓	
Magnitude	✓	✓	✓	
Magnitude squared	✓	✓	✓	
Complex multiplication by complex	✓	✓	✓	
Complex multiplication by real	✓	✓	✓	
Matrix functions				
Addition	✓	✓	✓	
Subtraction	✓	✓	✓	
Multiplication	✓	✓	✓	
Transpose	✓	✓	✓	
Scaling	✓	✓	✓	
Inversion	✓			
Transforms				
Complex FFT		✓	✓	
Complex iFFT		✓	✓	
Real FFT		✓	✓	
Real iFFT		✓	✓	
DCT type II		✓	✓	
DCT type III		✓	✓	
DCT type IV		✓	✓	
MDCT		✓	✓	
iMDCT		✓	✓	

Table 3: Summary of DSP software library functions (continued)

About MIPS:

MIPS by GlobalFoundries delivers software to silicon with RISC-V for building physical AI platforms. MIPS delivers software-hardware co-design, optimized AI, and custom ASSP design and manufacturing. Together with ARC, MIPS delivers the open, standards-based processor IP portfolio for embedded applications. Physical AI is built on MIPS.

For more information, visit www.mips.com/arc.