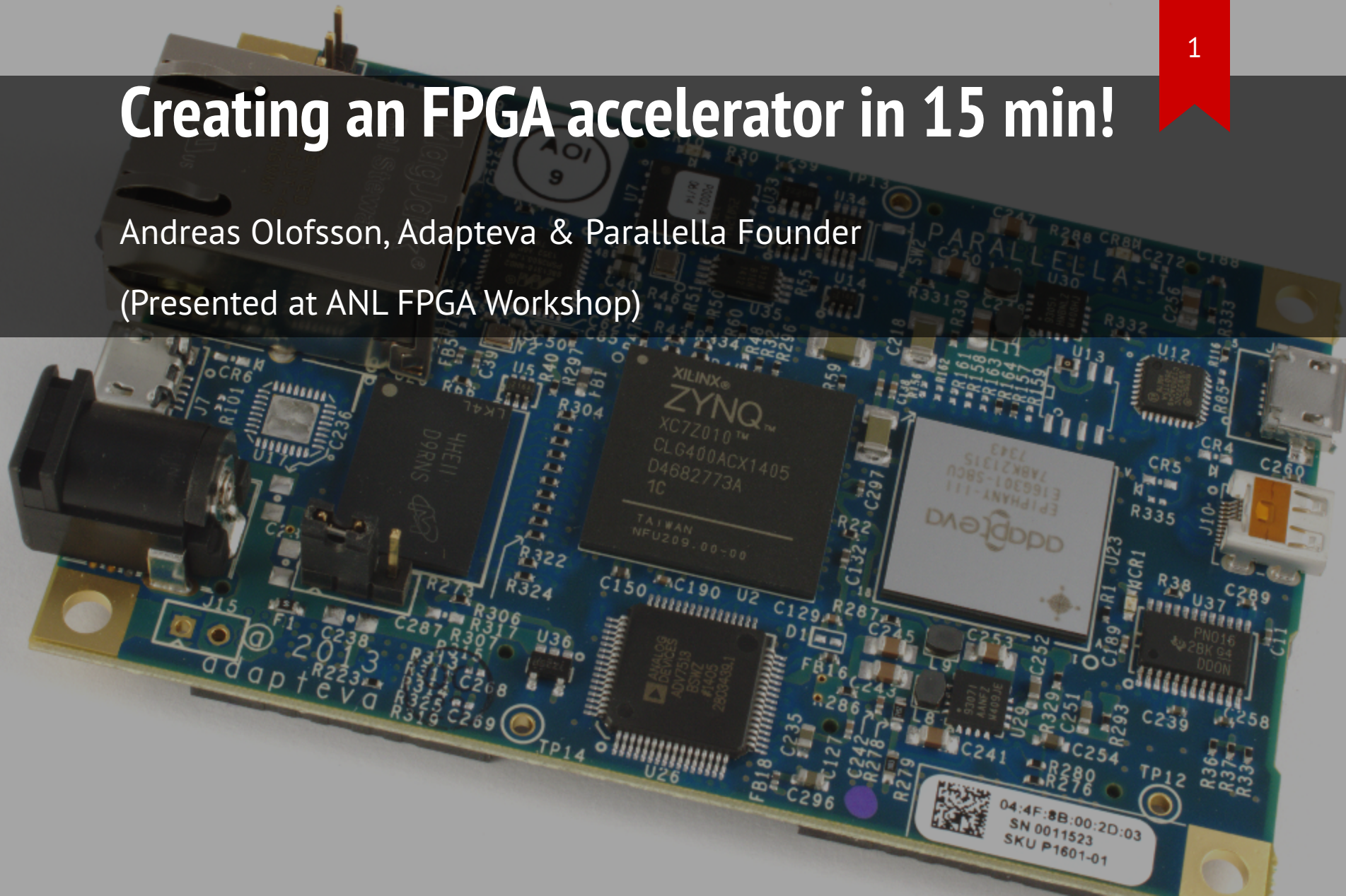


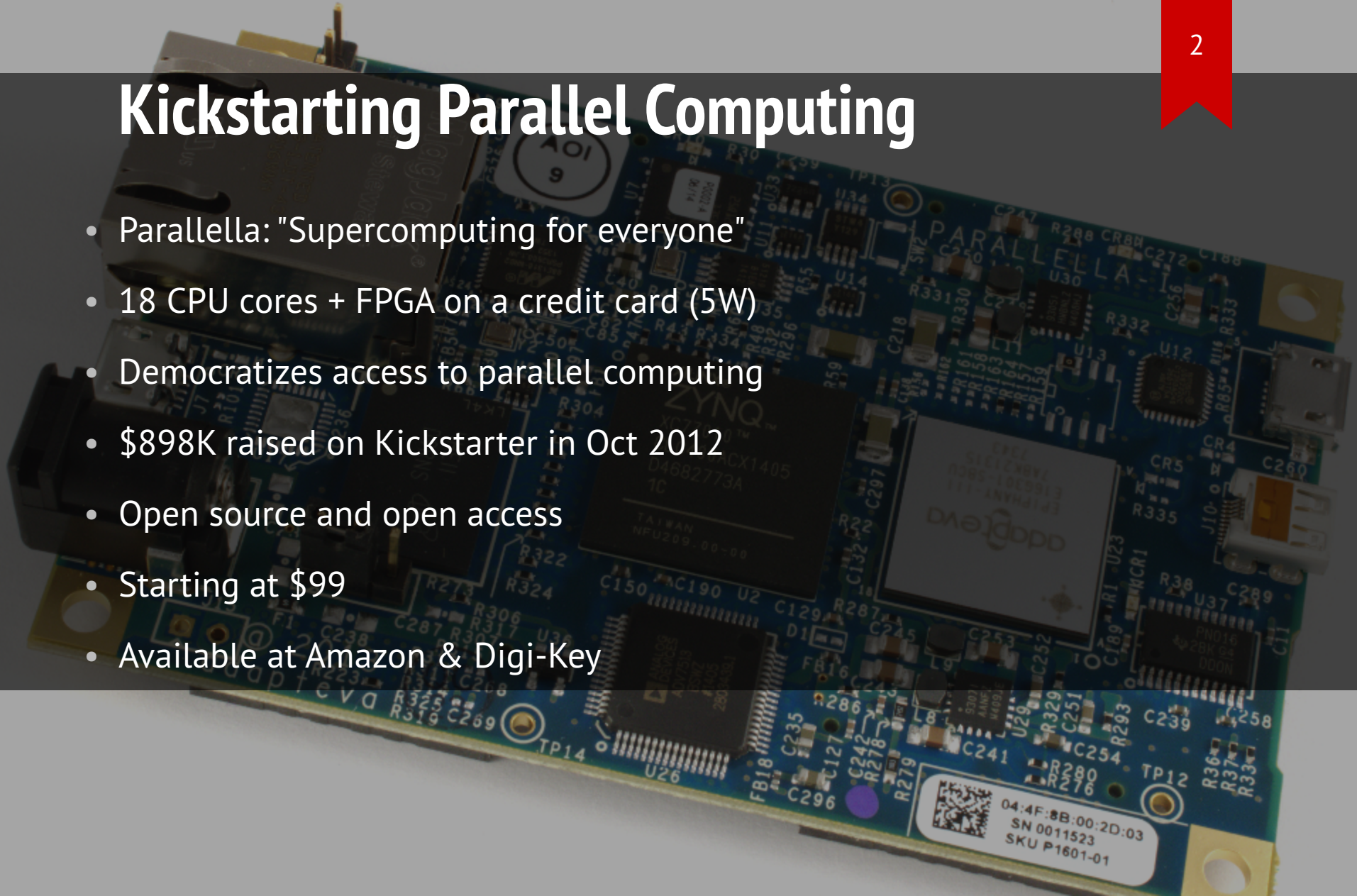
Creating an FPGA accelerator in 15 min!

Andreas Olofsson, Adapteva & Parallella Founder
(Presented at ANL FPGA Workshop)



Kickstarting Parallel Computing

- Parallella: "Supercomputing for everyone"
- 18 CPU cores + FPGA on a credit card (5W)
- Democratizes access to parallel computing
- \$898K raised on Kickstarter in Oct 2012
- Open source and open access
- Starting at \$99
- Available at Amazon & Digi-Key



Parallella Specs (<http://parallella.org>)

Performance	~30 GFLOPS
Architecture	ARM + FPGA + MANYCORE
Memory	1GB DDR3
IO	~25 Gb/s (48 GPIO)
Size	credit-card
Power	<5W
Cost	\$99 -> \$249

"Hello World" in Software

1. **CODE:** `main() { printf("Hello World\n"); }`
2. **COMPILE:** `gcc hello.c`
3. **TEST:** `./a.out`
4. **DEBUG:** `printf`, `gdb`

"Hello World" in Hardware

1. **CODE:** Verilog/VHDL source
2. **CODE MORE:** Verilog/SystemC testbench
3. **TEST:** VCS/NC/Icarus/Verilator
4. **DEBUG:** Waveform debugging
5. **SYNTHESIZE:** HDL-->NETLIST-->POLYGONS
6. **BURN:** FPGA/ASIC
7. **TEST MORE:** Pray that it works...

Hardwave vs Software

	SW	HW
Compile Time	seconds	minutes/months
Libraries	lots	little
Debugging	"easy"	an art
Cost of mistake	low	VERY HIGH!!!!

Let's start..."hello world"

```
assign result[31:0]=input0[31:0]+input1[31:0];
```



Now what??

What's missing

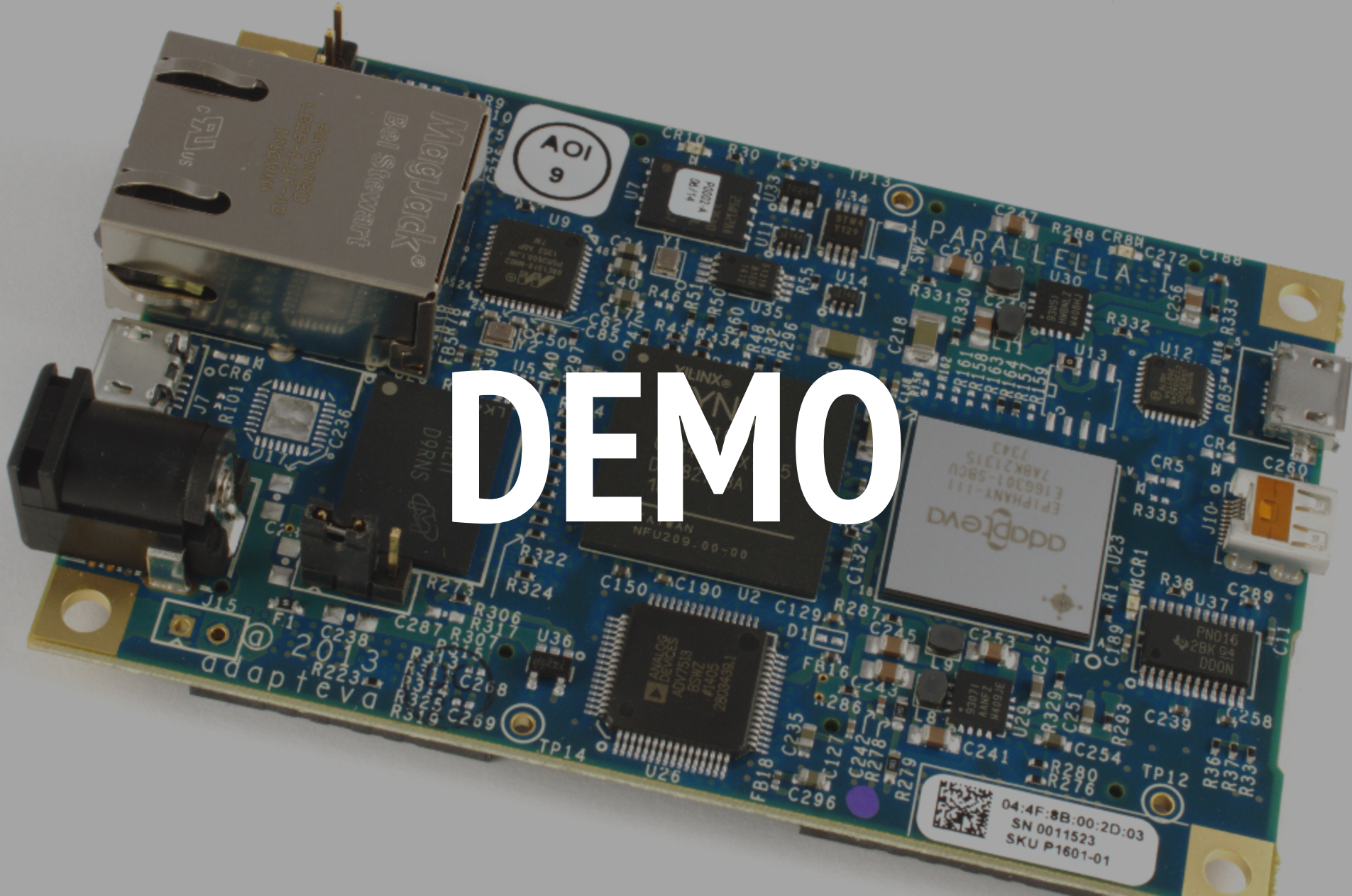
1. Control code
2. Host/Accelerator Hardware interfaces
3. Test environment
4. Synthesis scripts (non trivial)
5. Drivers (software)

“ *How many man-years is that?* ”

OH! (Open Hardware Library)

- Verilog
- MIT license
- ~15K lines of code so far
- Best practices based on 20 years of chip design
- Silicon proven building blocks
- **Small:** FIFOs, synchronizers, muxes, arbiters, etc
- **Big:** chip to chip link, mailboxes, memory translators
- <http://github.com/parallela/oh>
- Yes, we do accept pull requests!

DEMO



Accelerator Case Study

1. **Coding:** 2hrs
2. **Simulate/Debug:** 2hrs
3. **Synthesize:** 2hrs
4. **Debug 1st "Bus Error":** 1hr
5. **Debug 2nd "Bus Error":** 2hrs



9hrs to put together something that takes 30 seconds in C!

Files Used

SOURCES: <http://github.com/parallella/oh/accelerator>

1. **Code:** hdl/{accelerator.v,axi_accelerator.v}
2. **Testbench:** dv/{dut_axi_accelerator.v,build.sh,run.sh}
3. **Synthesis:** fpga/{package.tcl, run.tcl}
4. **Drivers:** sw/{driver.c,test.c}

How to Verify, Modify, and Burn

```
$ cd accelerator/dv
$ ./build.sh # build
$ ./run.sh tests/hello.emf # load data
$ gtkwave waveform.vcd # view waveform
$ emacs ../hdl/accelerator.v # "put code here"
$ cd ../fpga
$ ./build.sh # build bitstream
$ sudo cp parallella.bit.bin /media/$user/boot
$ sync #Insert SD card in parallella
```

Conclusions

1. Yes, today you CAN build an FPGA accelerator in 15 min
2. Anything new is still 100x more expensive to develop than SW
3. Develop for FPGAs, but keep ASIC option open

“ *...to make FPGA universally viable we need to catch up with >>\$trillion investment in software infrastructure*

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