

EE380-001 Assignment 2: Multicycle Lab Project

Implementor's Notes

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This project involved us implementing 4 new MIPS instructions (or MIPS-like instructions as some of them are not part of the MIPS standard) to the provided verilog MIPS simulator. The instructions were a Set Less Than Immediate (slti) instruction, a simplistic 8-bit 'random' number generator (rand8) instruction, a 32-bit population count (ones) instruction and an atomic increment (inc) instruction. We were provided with some hints for the right methods to use to implement them so most of the project boils down to triggering the right components in the right order to implement the more-or-less known procedure to do them, based on our understanding of how this simple CPU is designed and operates.

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instructions used an immediate value meaning that the only way to figure out how to use that was to go back and look through the list of available 'define' macros and find the "IRimmedout" one.

1 GENERAL APPROACH

Our general approach was initially to review the provided macros and two provided instructions to get an idea of how each component worked. We had to do the same with the one provided decoding function which would return an arbitrary value if the provided instruction matched a reference value for each instruction we had to implement. After reviewing the provided code we traced through the values of each register, making sure that all of the output statements were triggered before the input statements to ensure that we didn't have any errors associated with when values were actually latched from the bus. From there we just had to follow along each step of the process, loading the values we had into the right registers and then running whatever procedures we had to (such as ALU operations or memory reads/writes) to complete the step before moving onto the next one.

2 ISSUES

One of the biggest issues we faced was a simple unfamiliarity with the simulator and how it was designed. While there were enough references to figure it out eventually, the references available weren't entirely complete and it required piecing different bits and pieces together to get a full picture of how things worked. For instance, neither of the two provided

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