

LED Blinking experiment and simulation in vivado

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1 Experiment Introduction

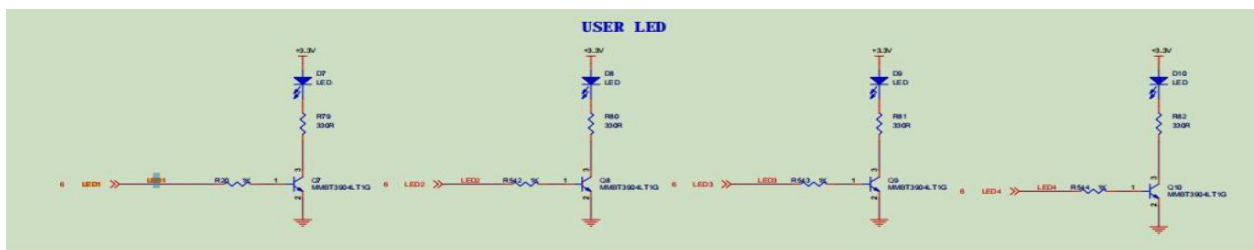
Through the LED flow lamp experiment, the basic process of developing FPGA using vivado software is introduced, device selection, setting, code writing, compiling, distributing pins, downloading, program FLASH curing, erasing, etc.; also checking whether the LED lights on the board are normal.

2 Experiment Environment

- Windows 7 SP1 64 bit
- vivado 2017.4
- ALINX Brand FPGA Development Board (AXKU040 FPGA Development Board)

3 Experiment Principle

3.1 LED Hardware Circuit



LED Hardware Circuit on AXKU040 FPGA Development Board

As can be seen from the LED part schematic above, the AXKU040 FPGA development board connect the IO through a resistor and LED in series. The IO output of the FPGA are high level, that will illuminates the LED. The IO output are low level, then LED is off.

3.2 Programming

In the design of the FPGA, the counter is usually used for timing. For a 200Mhz system clock, one clock cycle is 5ns, then one second needs 200000000 clock cycles. If one clock cycle counter is accumulated once, the counter is from 0 to 199999999 is exactly 200000000 cycles. That is the 1 second clock.

A 32-bit counter is defined in the program :

```
//Define the time counter  
reg [31:0] timer;
```

The maximum can be 4294967295, hexadecimal is FFFFFFFF, if the counter reaches the maximum value, it can represent 85.89934592 seconds. In the program design, the LED changes once every 0.25 second, and a total of 1 seconds is used to run a cycle.

```
always@(posedge sys_clk or negedge rst_n)  
begin  
    if (~rst_n)  
        timer <= 32'd0;  
    else if (timer == 32'd199_999_999)  
        timer <= 32'd0;  
    else  
        timer <= timer + 1'b1;  
end
```

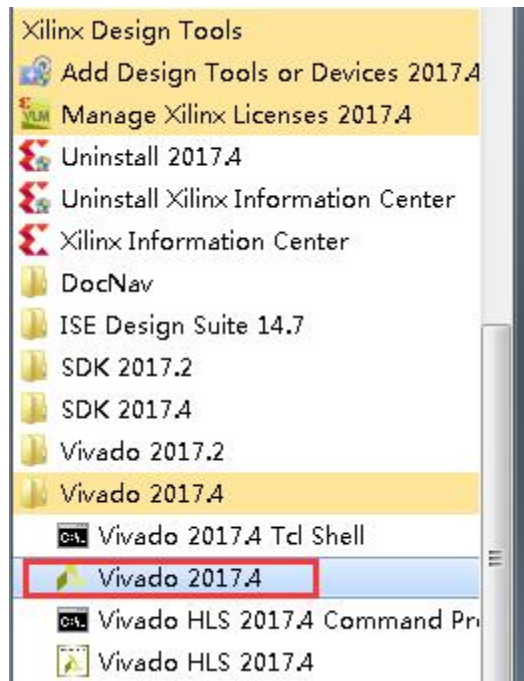
The state of the LED is changed at 0.25 seconds, 0.5 seconds, 0.75 seconds, and 1 second, and the original value remains unchanged at other times.

```
// LED control  
always@(posedge sys_clk or negedge rst_n)  
begin  
    if (~rst_n)  
        led <= 2'b00;  
    else if (timer == 32'd49_999_999)  
        led <= 2'b01;  
    else if (timer == 32'd99_999_999)  
        led <= 2'b10;  
    else if (timer == 32'd149_999_999)  
        led <= 2'b01;  
    else if (timer == 32'd199_999_999)  
        led <= 2'b10;  
end
```

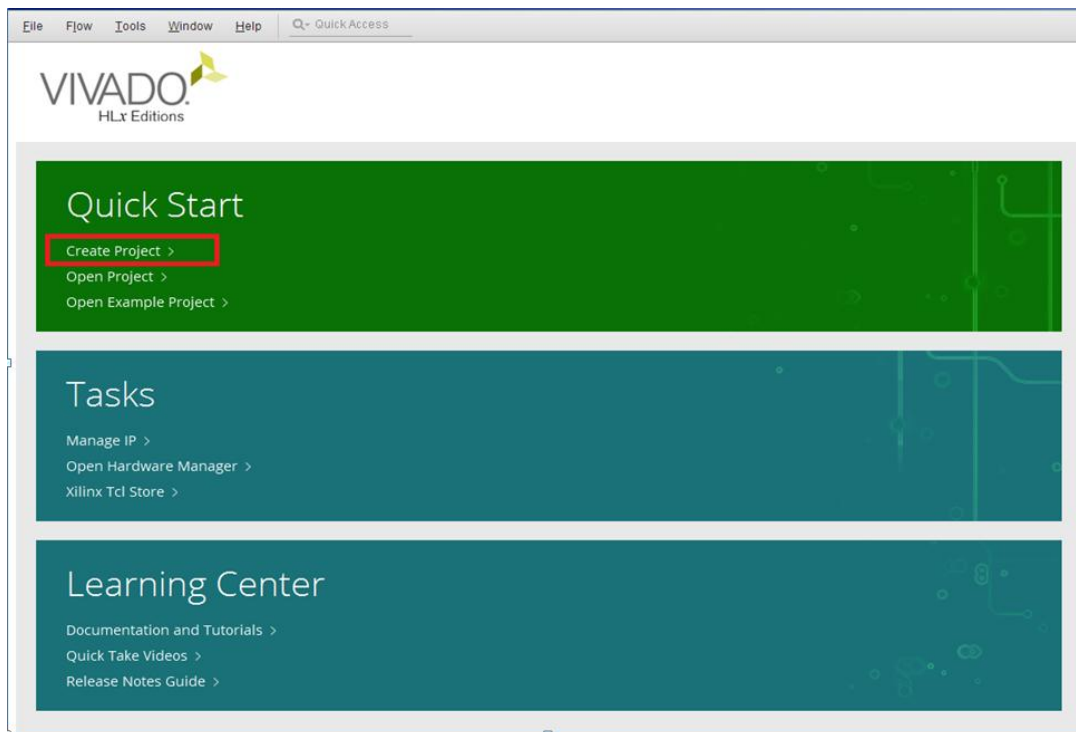
4 Vivado Project

4.1 Create a project

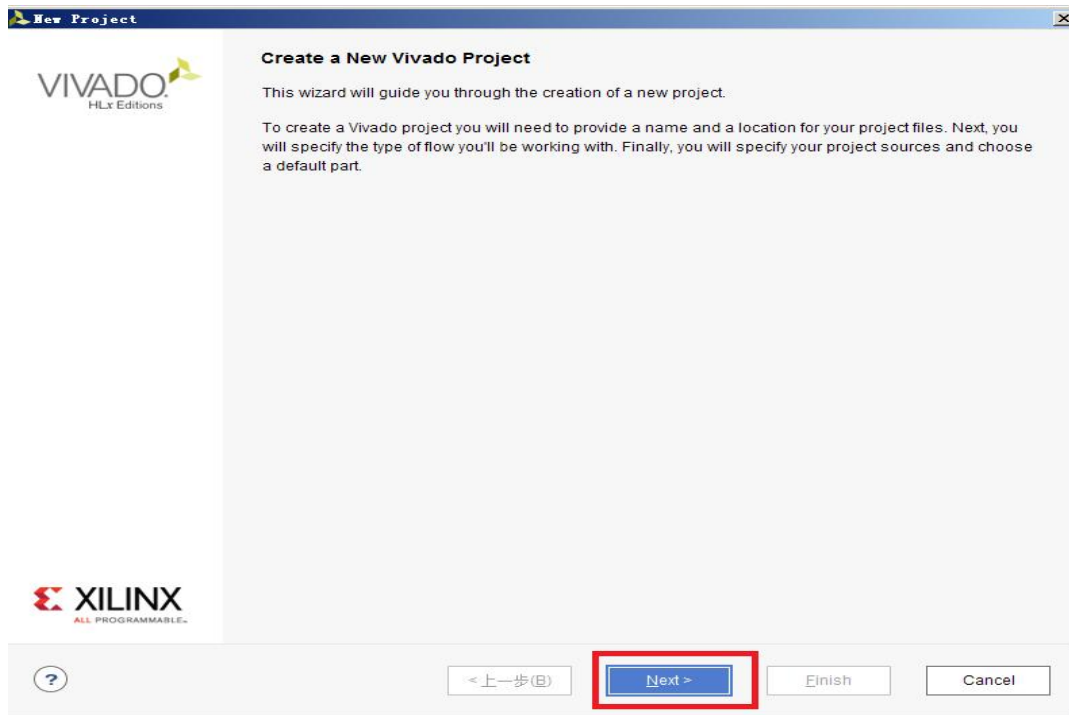
1. Start the Vivado 2017.4 development environment (Select Xilinx Design Tools->Vivado 2017.4->Vivado 2017.4 in the Start menu or double-click the icon of Vivado 2017.4 on the desktop to open the software directly)



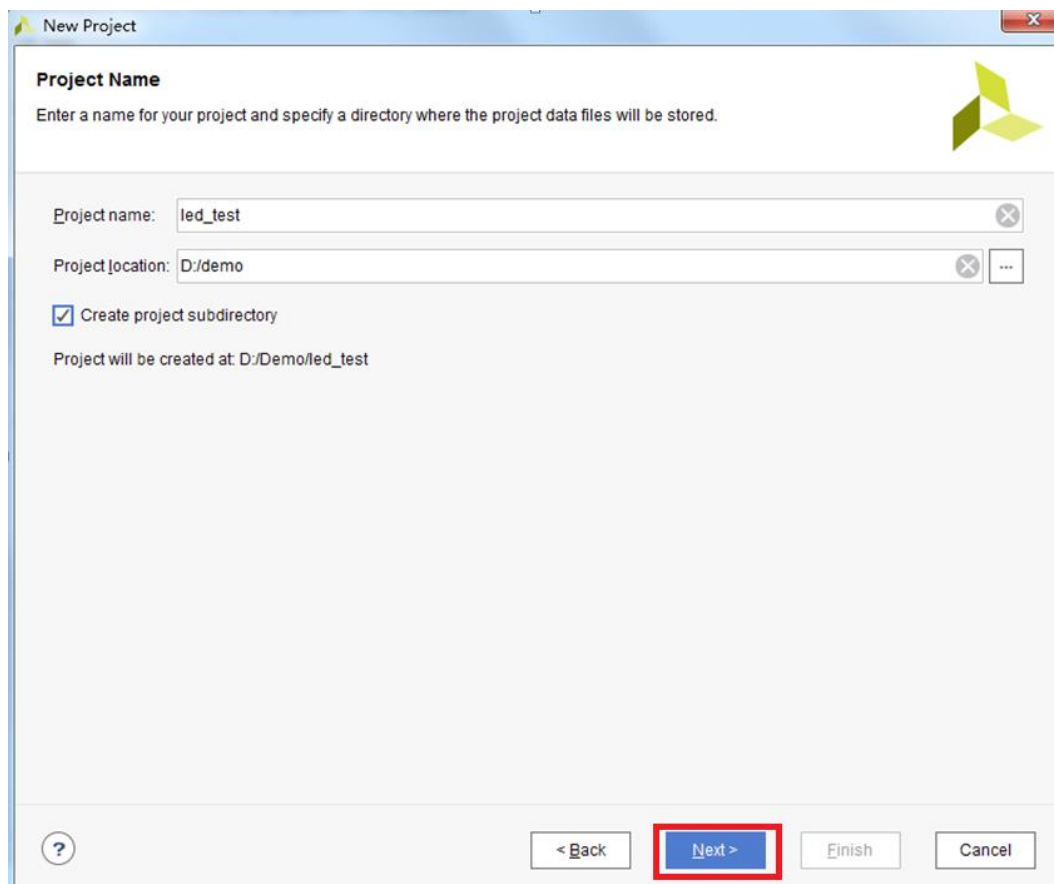
2. Double-click Create Project in the Vivado 2017.4 development environment, as shown below:



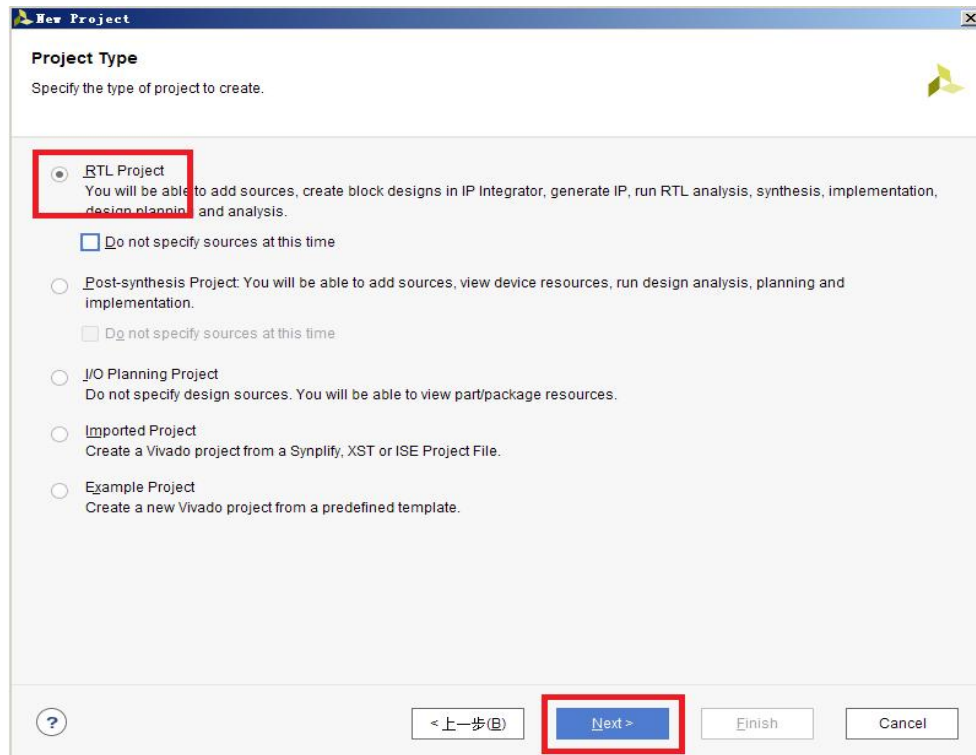
3. Pop up a Vivado project wizard and click the Next button.



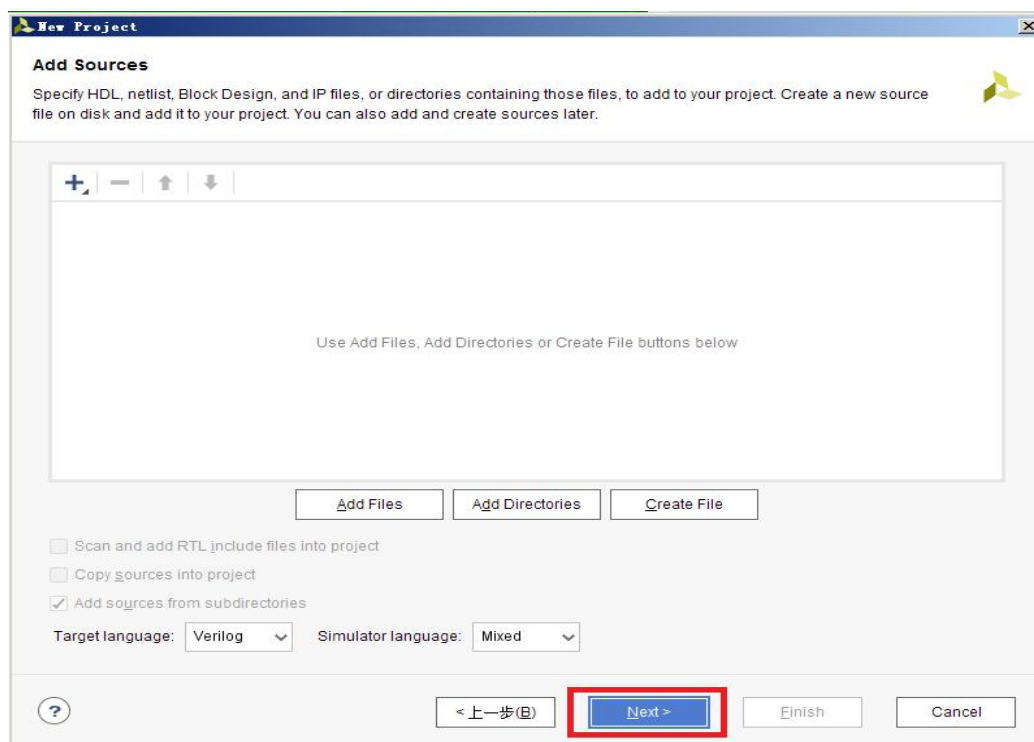
4. In the pop-up dialog box, enter the project name and the directory where the project is stored. Here, take a project name of `led_test` and click Next.



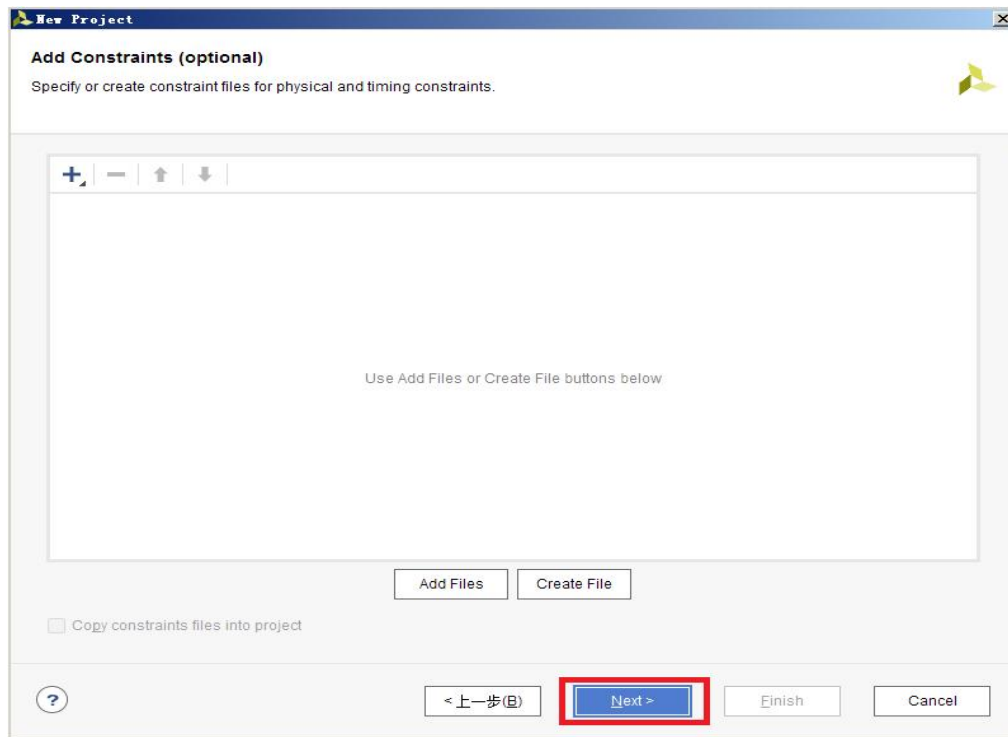
5. The RTL Project is selected by default in the dialog below, as we are programming here using the verilog behavior description language. The following “Do not specify source at this time ”can also be checked. If you do not check the box, the next step will enter to add the source file interface.



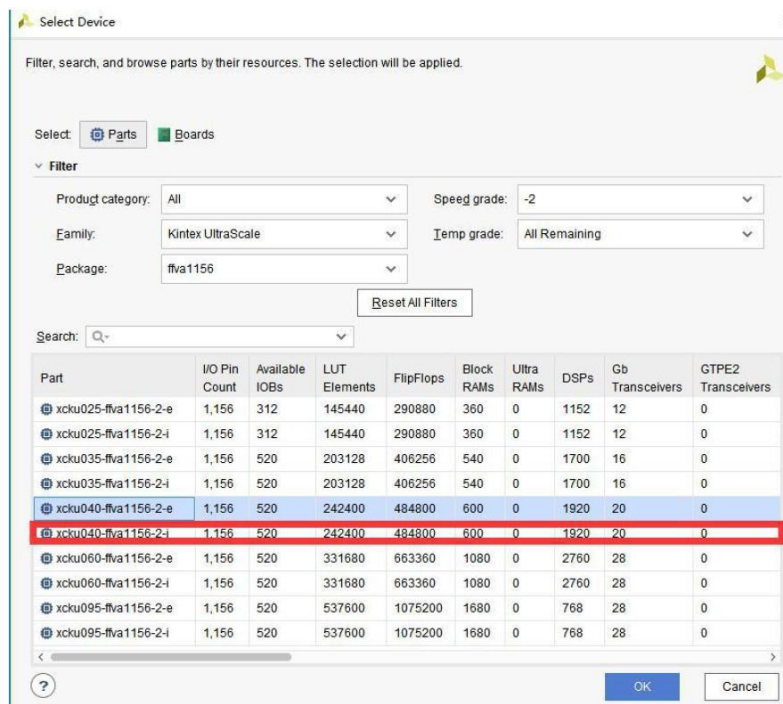
6. Go to the add “source file” interface, here do not add any design files. Click Next



7. Prompt whether to add an existing constraint file, here the constraint file we have not designed, do not add

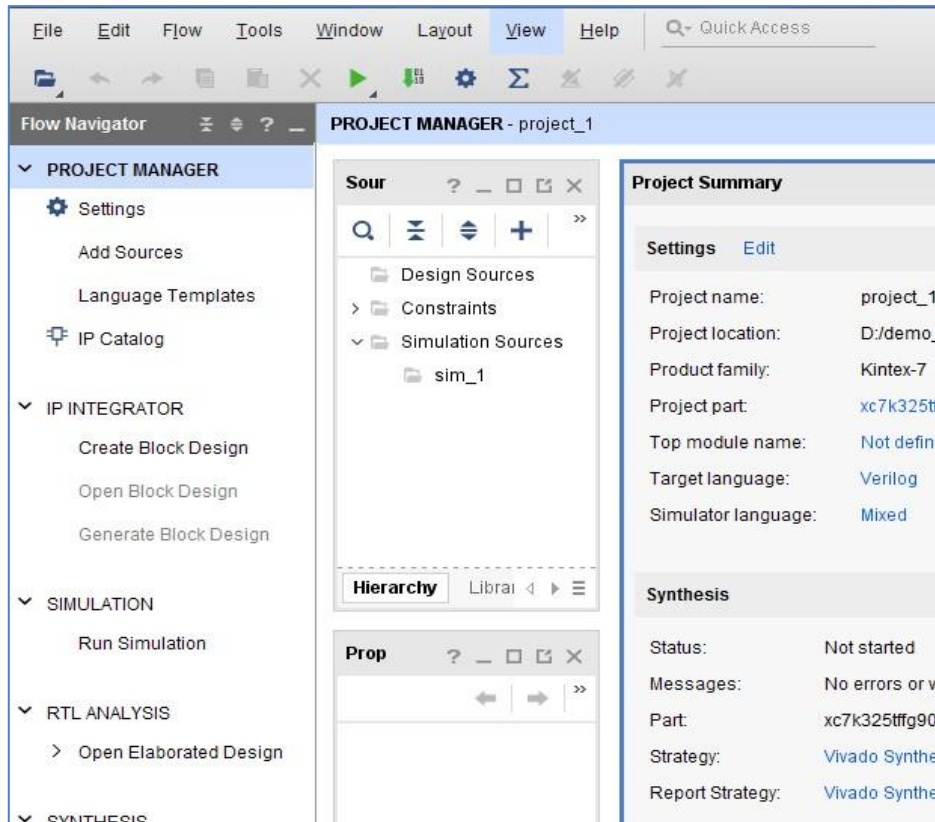


8. In the following dialog, select the FPGA device you are using and make some configuration. The FPGA chip model must be the same as the model on the development board. First selects “Kintex UltraScale” in the Family column, selects “-2” in the Speed grade column, selects “ffva1156” in the Package column, and then selects “xcku040_ffva1156-2” in the list below; Click NEXT to go to the next screen:



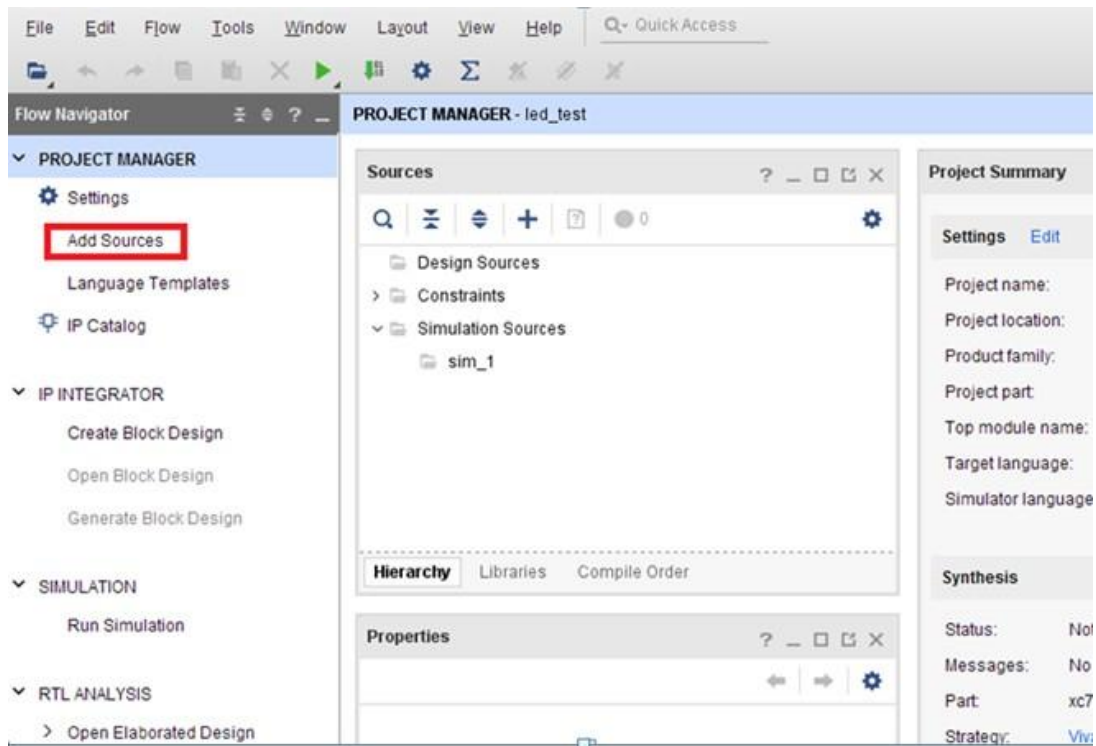
9. Once again, confirm that FPGA Chip Model has been selected. If there is no problem, click “Finish” to complete the project creation.

10. After the project is created, as shown below:

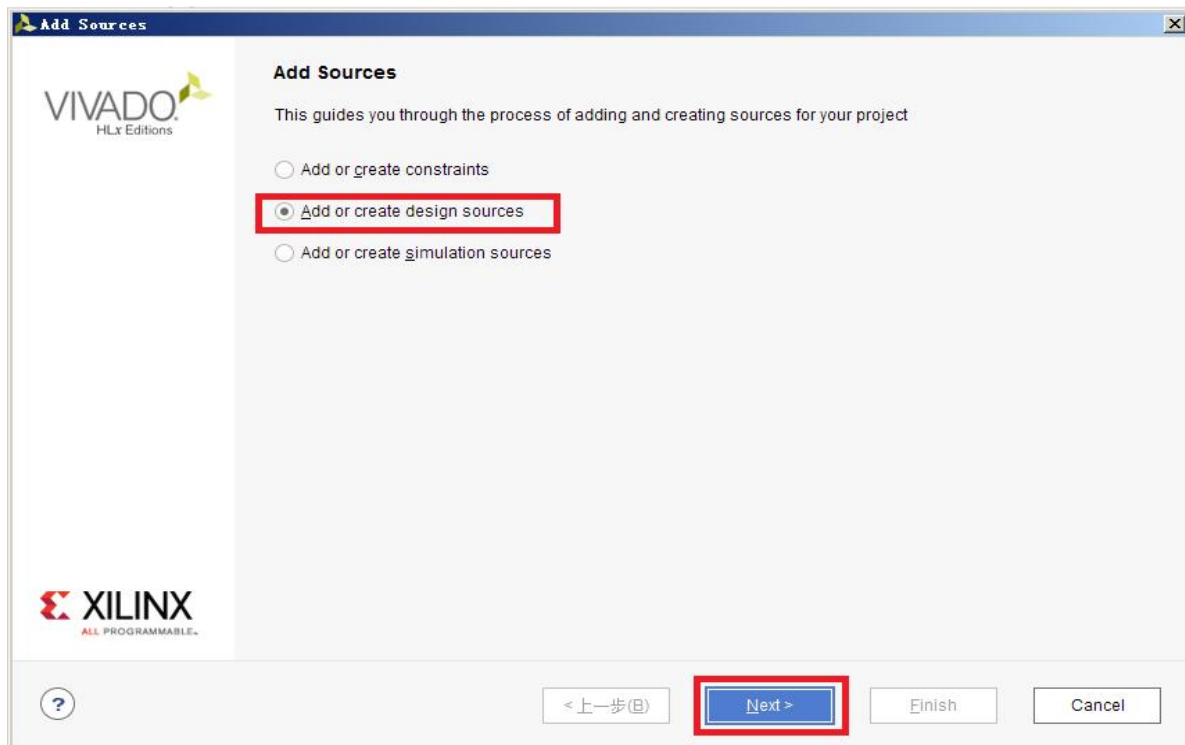


4.2 Write the Verilog code of the running light

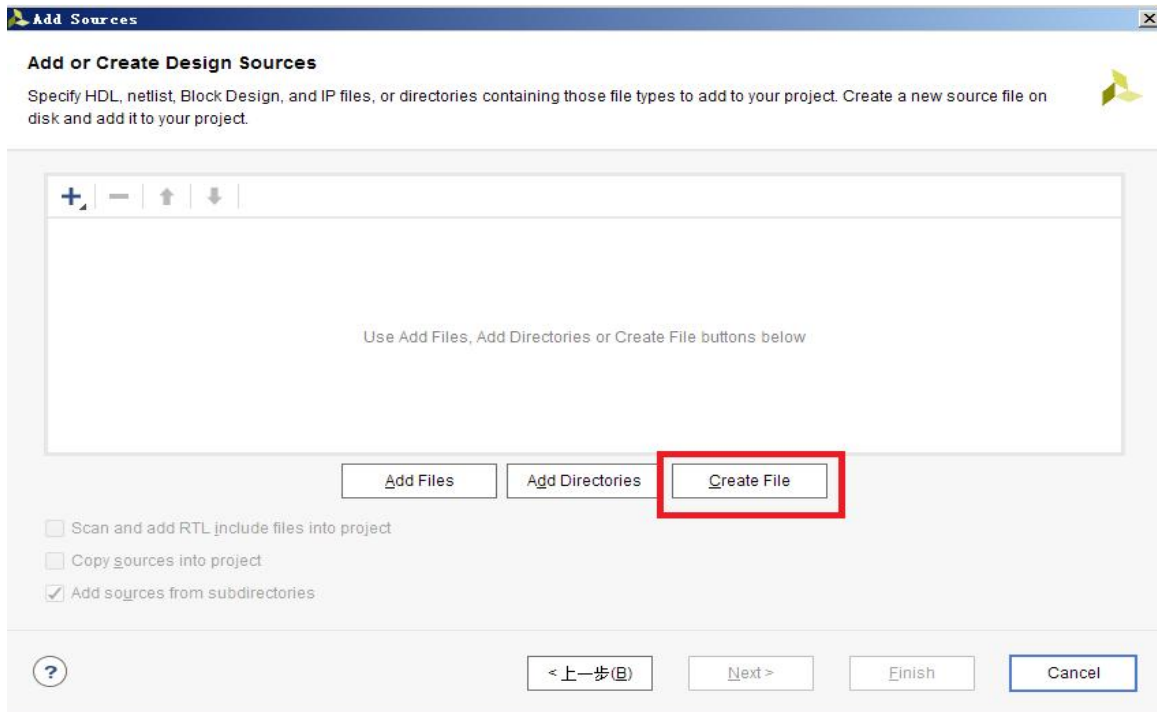
1. Click “Project Manager ” under the “Add Source” icon (or use hot key Alt+A)



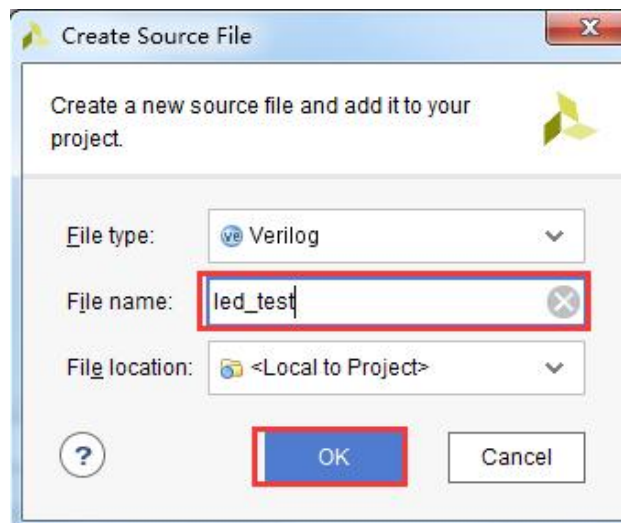
2. Select “Add or create design source”, click “Next”



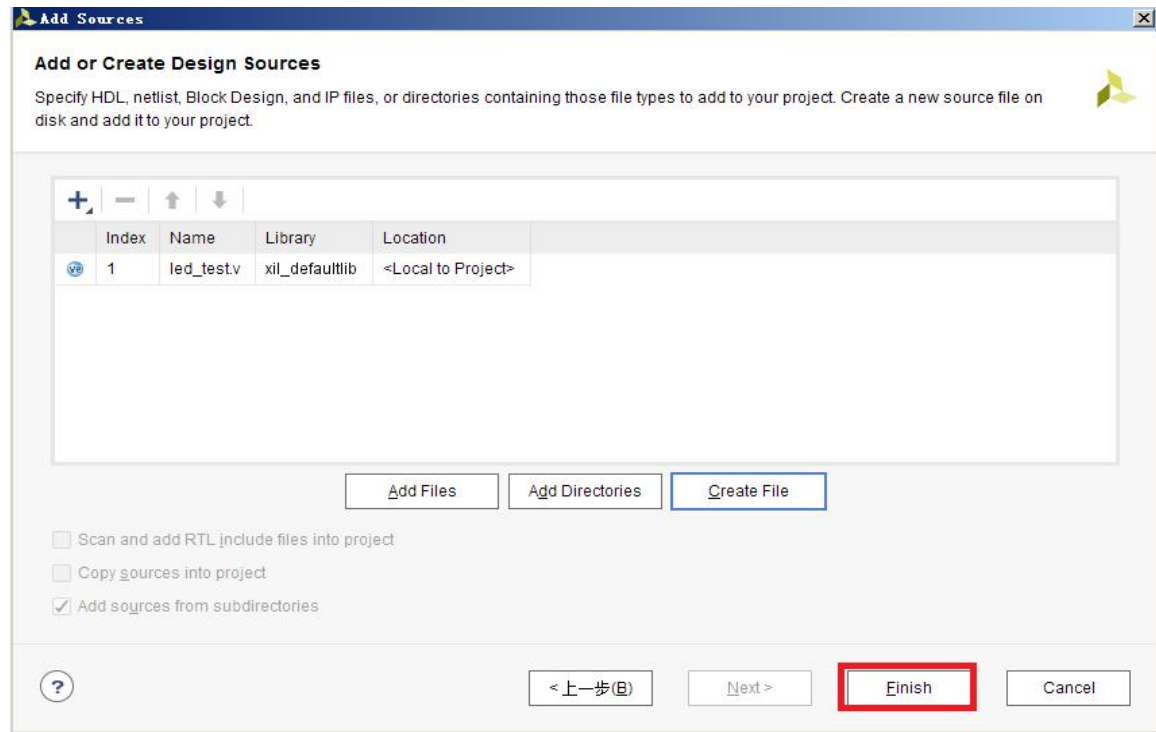
3. Click “Add Files” to add source files one by one. Click “Add Directories” to add source files by directory. Since we don't have a design program yet, click the “Create File button” here.



In the pop-up dialog box, select “File type” is “verilog”, “File name” is “led_test”, click the OK button.



4. Click "Finish"



Add Sources

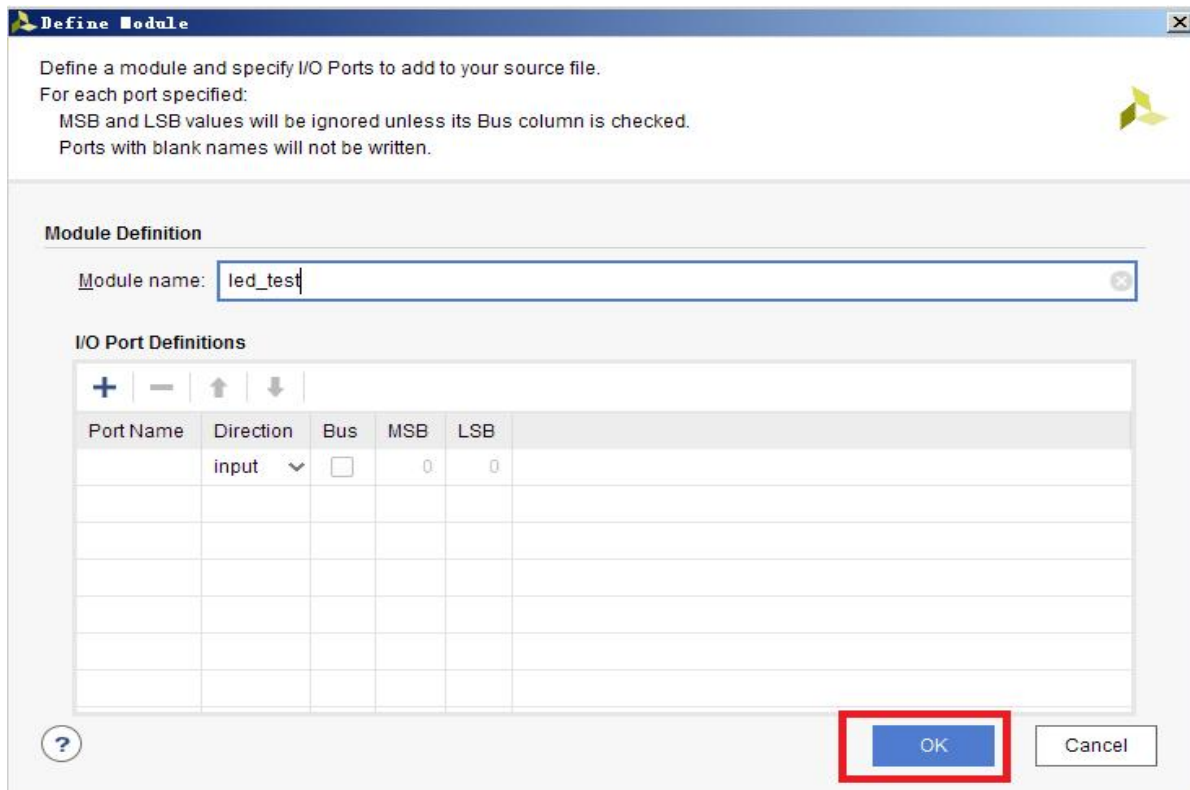
Add or Create Design Sources

Specify HDL, netlist, Block Design, and IP files, or directories containing those file types to add to your project. Create a new source file on disk and add it to your project.

Index	Name	Library	Location
1	led_test.v	xil_defaultlib	<Local to Project>

☐ Scan and add RTL include files into project
☐ Copy sources into project
☒ Add sources from subdirectories

The wizard will prompt you to define the I / O port, here not define, you can write it yourself in the program, click OK to complete.



Define Module

Define a module and specify I/O Ports to add to your source file.

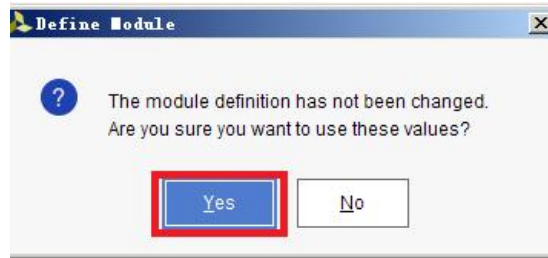
For each port specified:
 MSB and LSB values will be ignored unless its Bus column is checked.
 Ports with blank names will not be written.

Module Definition

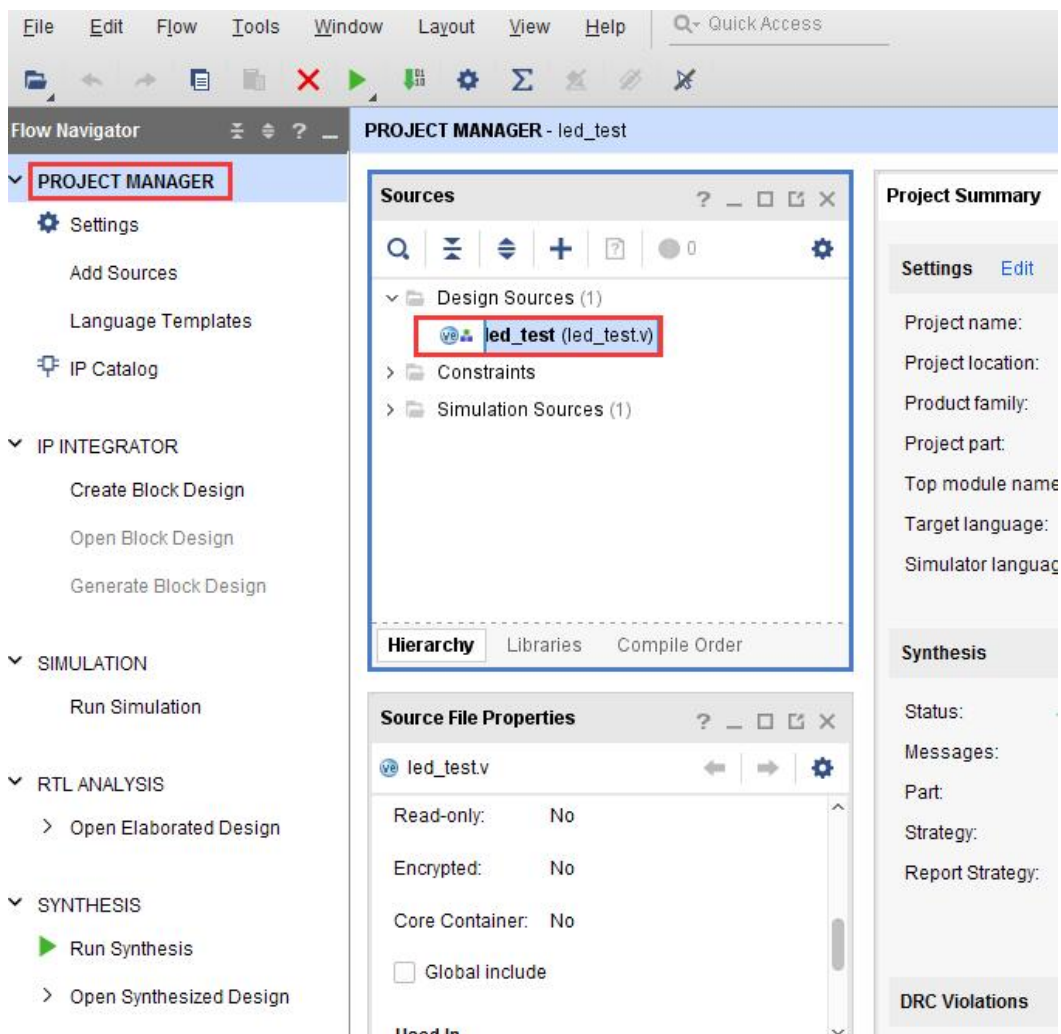
Module name:

I/O Port Definitions

Port Name	Direction	Bus	MSB	LSB
	input	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	0



Then, there is already a “led_test.v” file in Design Sources under the “Project Manager” interface, and it automatically becomes the top module of the project.



5. Next we will write the “led_test.v” program, here we define a 32-bit register timer for loop counting 0~199_999_999 (1 second), When counting to 49_999_999 (0.25 second), the first LED is extinguished; When counting to 99_999_999 (0.5 second), the second LED is turned off; When counting to 149_999_999 (0.75 second), the third LED is turned off; When counting to 199_999_999 (1 second), the fourth LED is turned off. The counter is recounted. Look at the code directly for the specific operation.

```

//=====
// Module name: led_test.v
//=====
`timescale 1ns / 1ps

module led_test
(
    sys_clk_p,      // Differentia system clock 200Mhz input on board
    sys_clk_n,
    rst_n,          // reset ,low active
    led,            // LED,use for control the LED signal on board
    fan_pwm         //fan control
);

//=====
// PORT declarations
//=====

input      sys_clk_p;
input      sys_clk_n;
input      rst_n;
output [3:0] led;
output fan_pwm;
//define the time counter
reg [31:0] timer;
reg [3:0] led;
assign fan_pwm = 1'b0;
//=====
//Differentia system clock to single end clock
//=====
wire      sys_clk;
IBUFGDS u_ibufg_sys_clk
(
    .I (sys_clk_p),
    .IB (sys_clk_n),
    .O (sys_clk )
);
//=====
// cycle counter:from 0 to 1 sec
//=====
always @(posedge sys_clk or negedge rst_n)
begin
    if (~rst_n)
        timer <= 32'd0; // when the reset signal valid,time counter clearing
    else if (timer == 32'd199_999_999) //1 seconds count(200M-1=199999999)
        timer <= 32'd0; //count done,clearing the time counter
    else
        timer <= timer + 1'b1; //timer counter = timer counter + 1
end

//=====
// LED control
//=====
always @(posedge sys_clk or negedge rst_n)
begin
    if (~rst_n)
        led <= 4'b0000; //when the reset signal active
    else if (timer == 32'd49_999_999) //time counter count to 0.25 sec,LED1 lighten
        led <= 4'b0001;
    else if (timer == 32'd99_999_999) //time counter count to 0.5 sec,LED2 lighten
    begin
        led <= 4'b0010;
    end
    else if (timer == 32'd149_999_999) //time counter count to 0.75 sec,LED3 lighten
        led <= 4'b0100;
    else if (timer == 32'd199_999_999) //time counter count to 1 sec,LED4 lighten
        led <= 4'b1000;
end

endmodule

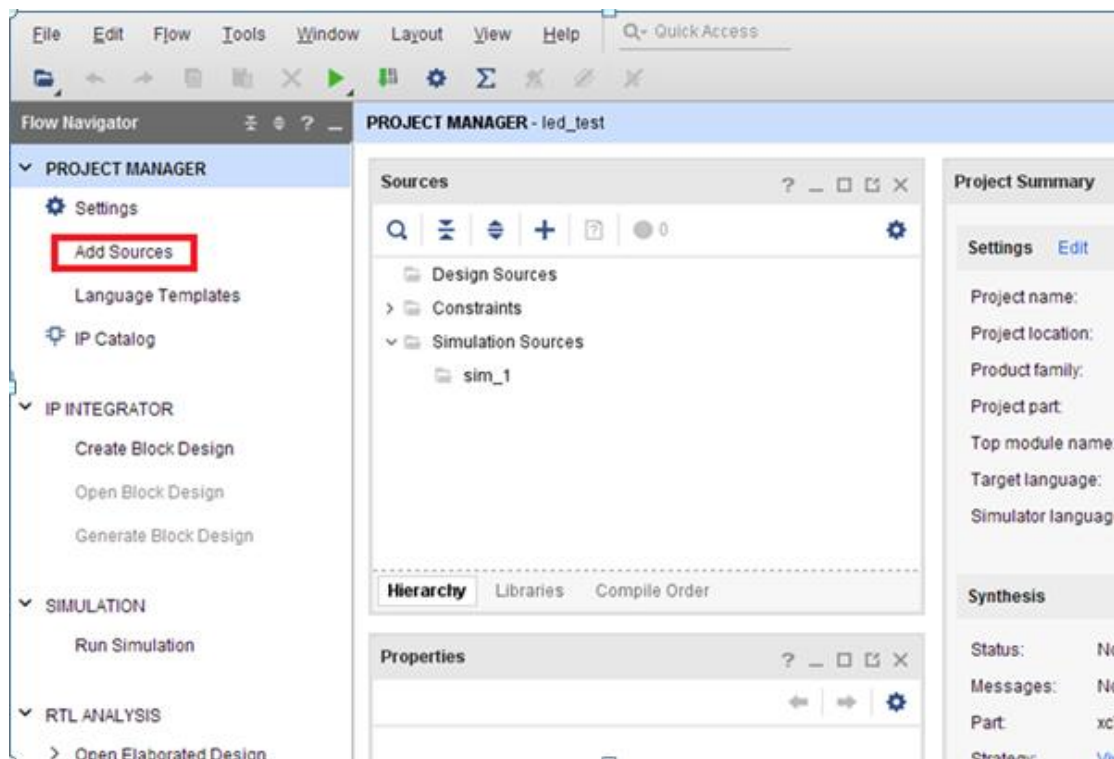
```

6. Save after writing the code. Click on the menu “File - Save All Files”

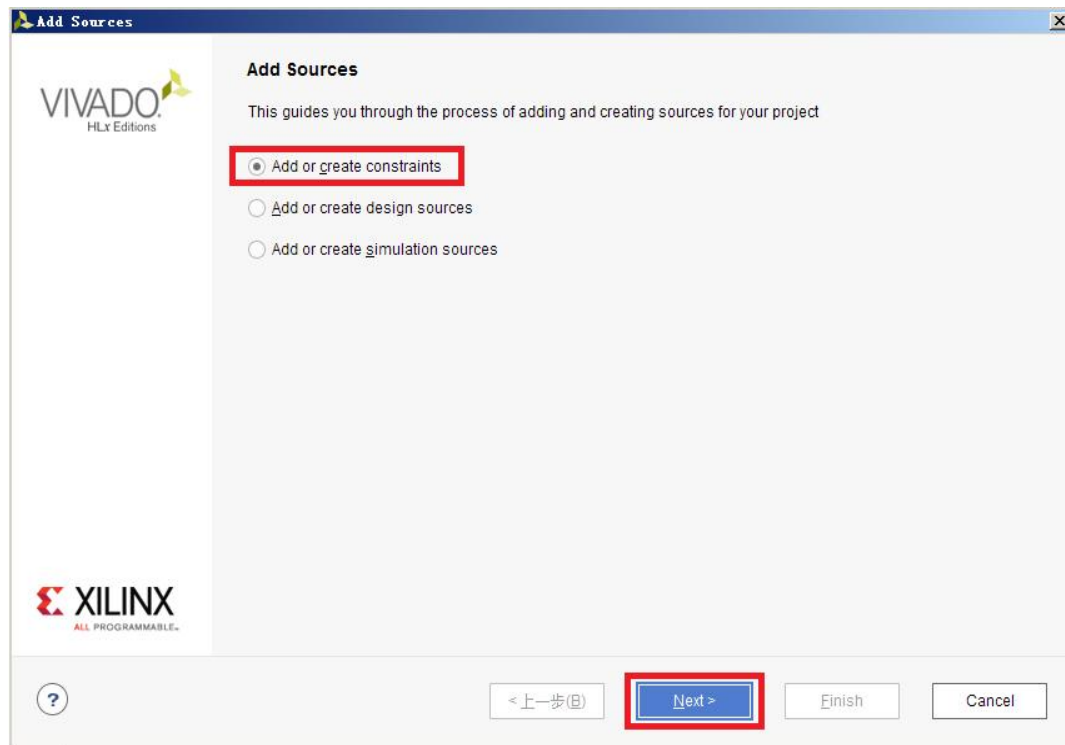
4.3 Add XDC pin constraint file

Unlike ISE software, the constraint file format used by Vivado is an xdc file. The xdc file is mainly used to complete the constraints of the pins, the constraints of the clock, and the constraints of the group. Here we need to allocate the input and output ports in the “led_test.v” program to the real pins of the FPGA. This requires preparing an FPGA pin binding file .xdc, and adding it to the project.

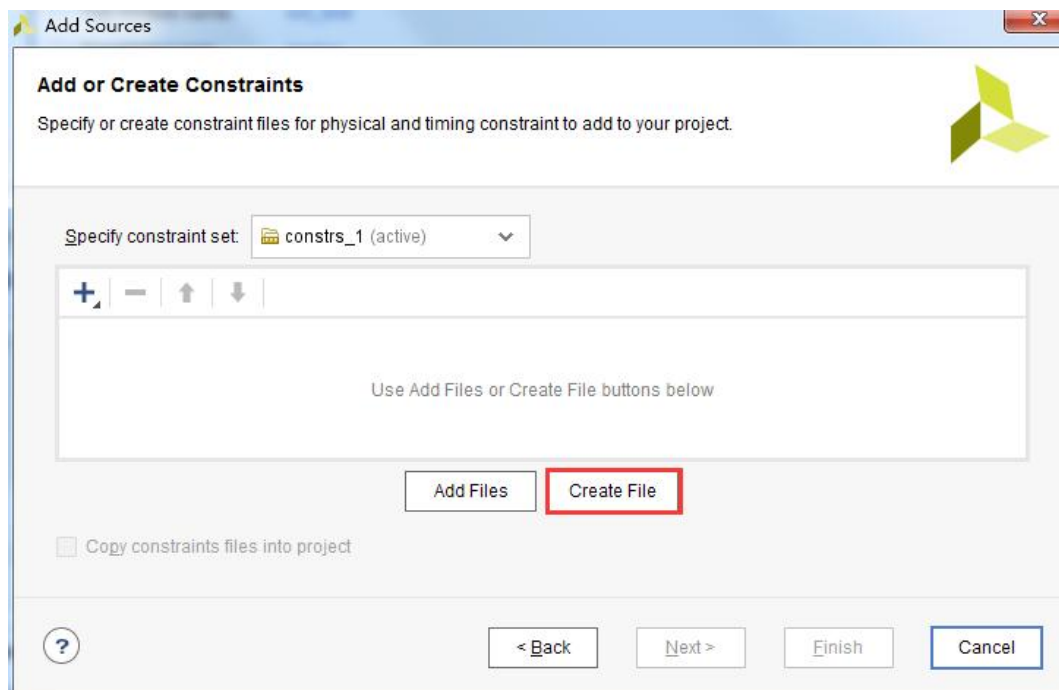
1. Click the “Add Sources” icon under “Project Manager”



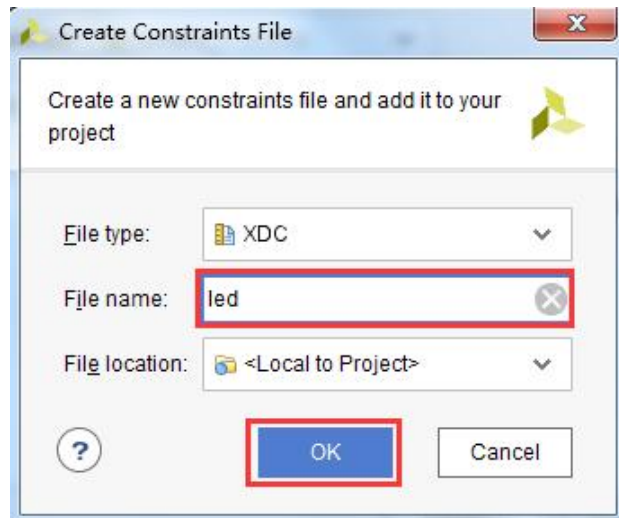
2. Select “Add or create constraints” option and click “Next”



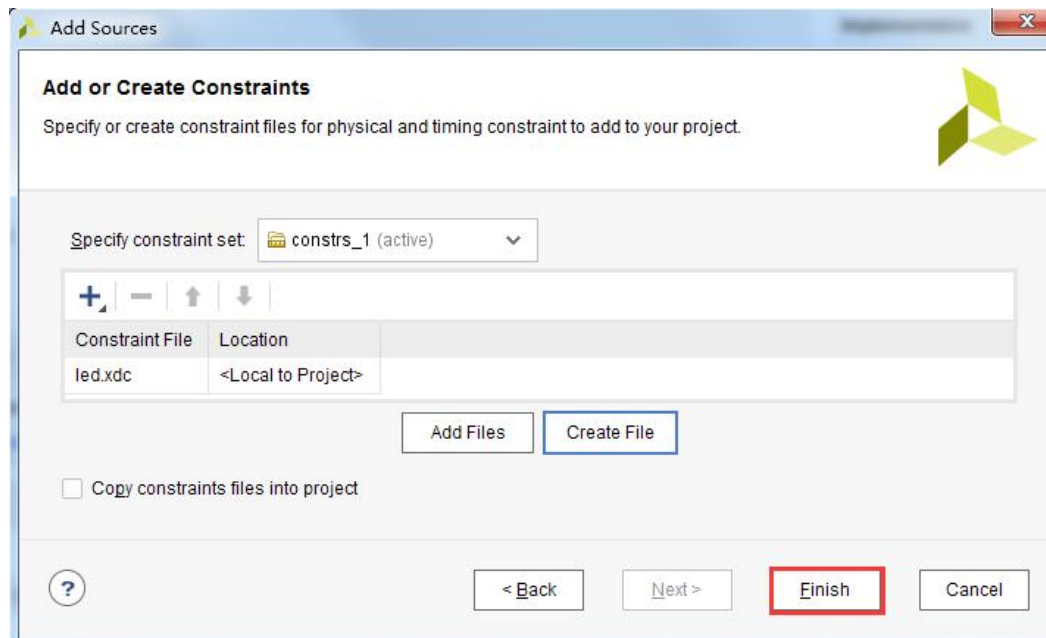
3. Click “Create File” Button



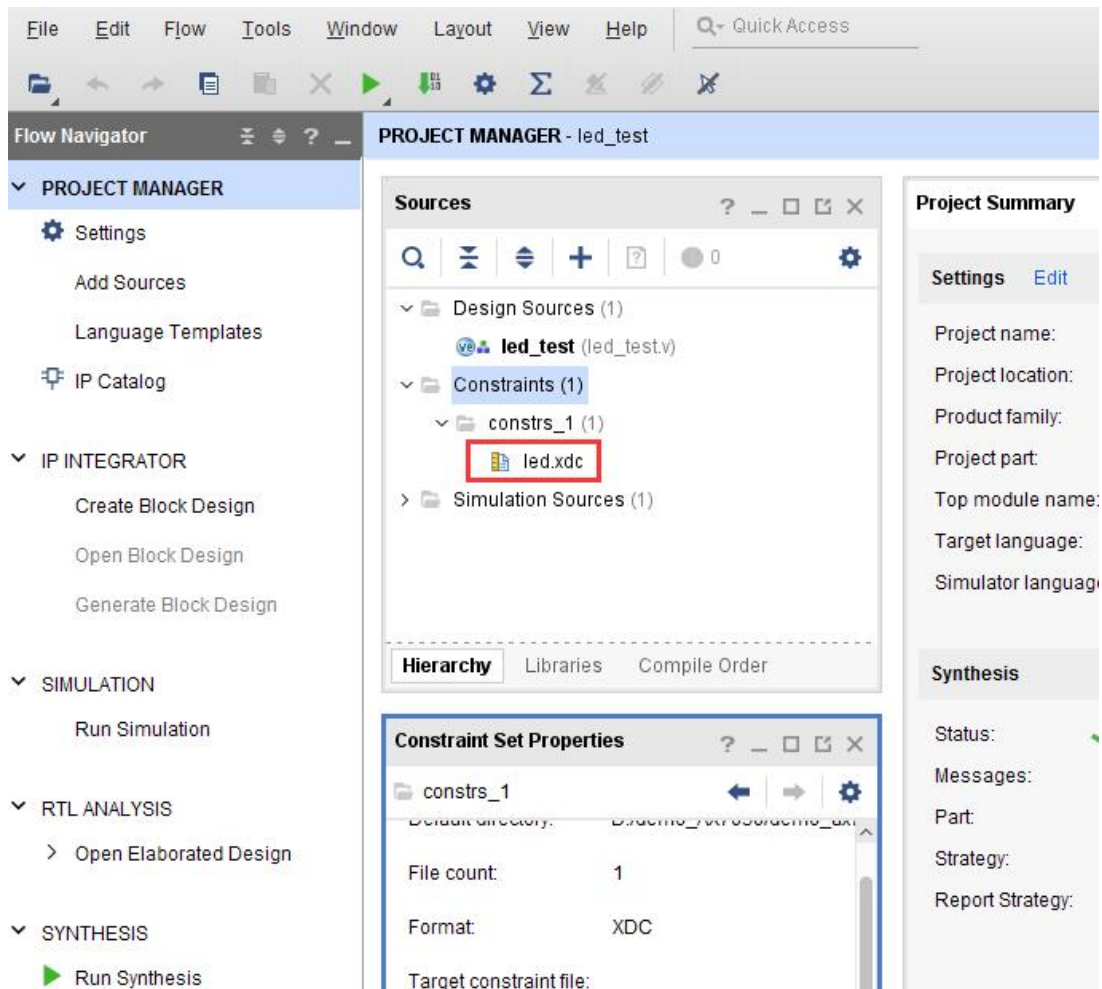
In the pop-up dialog box, select “File type” is “XDC”, “File name” is “led”, click the OK button.



4. Click “Finish”



Then, there is already a “led.xdc” file in the “constrs_1” directory of the Constraints directory under the “Project Manager” interface.



5. Double-click to open the led.xdc file and add the following pin definitions to this file.

```
#####SPI Configurate Setting#####

set_property CFGBVS VCCO [current_design]

set_property CONFIG_VOLTAGE 3.3 [current_design]

set_property BITSTREAM.GENERAL.COMPRESS TRUE [current_design]

set_property BITSTREAM.CONFIG.UNUSEDPIN Pullup [current_design]

##### clock define#####

create_clock -period 5.000 [get_ports sys_clk_p]

set_property PACKAGE_PIN AE10 [get_ports sys_clk_p]

set_property IOSTANDARD DIFF_SSTL15 [get_ports sys_clk_p]

##### key define#####

set_property PACKAGE_PIN AG27 [get_ports rst_n]
```

```
set_property IOSTANDARD LVCMOS25 [get_ports rst_n]

#####fan define#####

set_property IOSTANDARD LVCMOS25 [get_ports fan_pwm]

set_property PACKAGE_PIN AE26 [get_ports fan_pwm]

#####LED define#####

set_property PACKAGE_PIN A22 [get_ports {led[0]}]

set_property IOSTANDARD LVCMOS15 [get_ports {led[0]}]


set_property PACKAGE_PIN C19 [get_ports {led[1]}]

set_property IOSTANDARD LVCMOS15 [get_ports {led[1]}]


set_property PACKAGE_PIN B19 [get_ports {led[2]}]

set_property IOSTANDARD LVCMOS15 [get_ports {led[2]}]


set_property PACKAGE_PIN E18 [get_ports {led[3]}]

set_property IOSTANDARD LVCMOS15 [get_ports {led[3]}]
```

The first two sentences of the XDC file are the voltage of the CFGBVS pin and the voltage of the configuration circuit, because the CFGBVS pin on the development board is pulled up to 3.3V, which is the VCCIO of BANK0. In addition, the voltage of the configuration circuit is 3.3V. So here are configured as VCCIO and 3.3V respectively.

Let's introduce the syntax of the most basic XDC. The normal IO port only needs to constrain the pin number and voltage. The pin constraints are as follows:

```
set_property PACKAGE_PIN "Pin nuber" [get_ports "Port name" ]
```

The constraints of the level signal are as follows:

```
set_property IOSTANDARD "Voltage" [get_ports "Port Name" ]
```

Here you need to pay attention to the case of the text. If the port name is an array, enclose it with { }. The port name must be the same as the name in the source code, and the port name cannot be the same as the keyword.

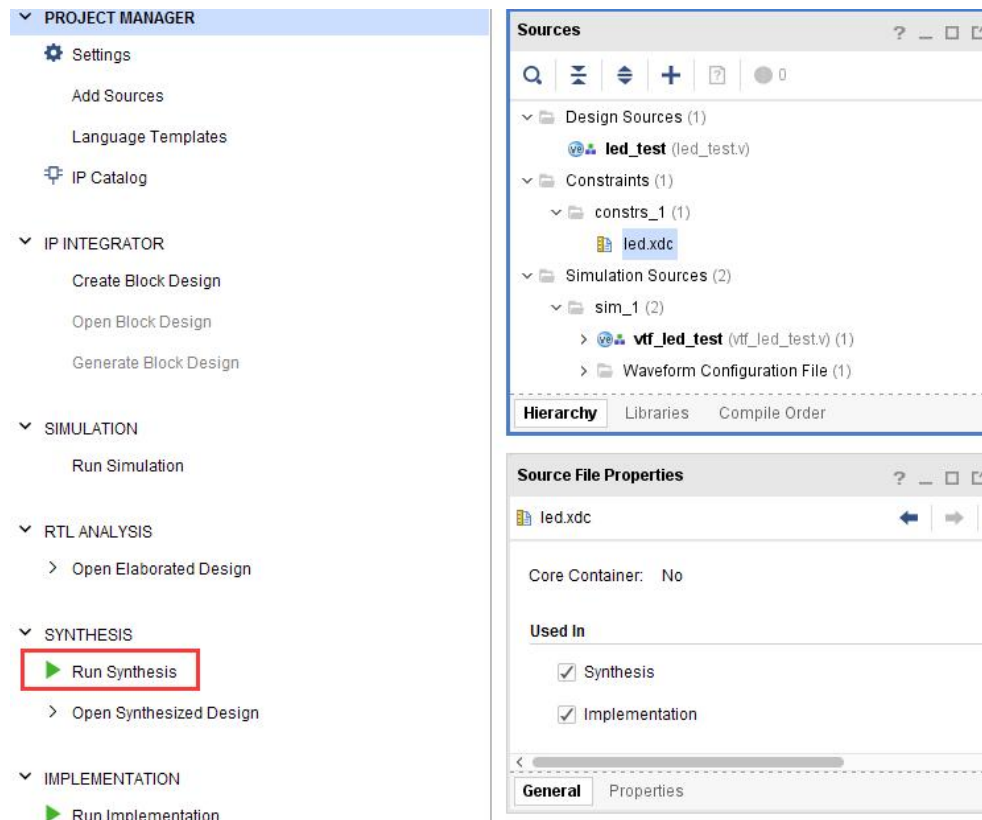
The clock port can also define clock cycle constraints. For example, we define the input differential clock in the XDC with a clock period of 20ns. The clock cycle constraint method is as follows:

```
create_clock -period " cycle " [get_ports "Port name" ]
```

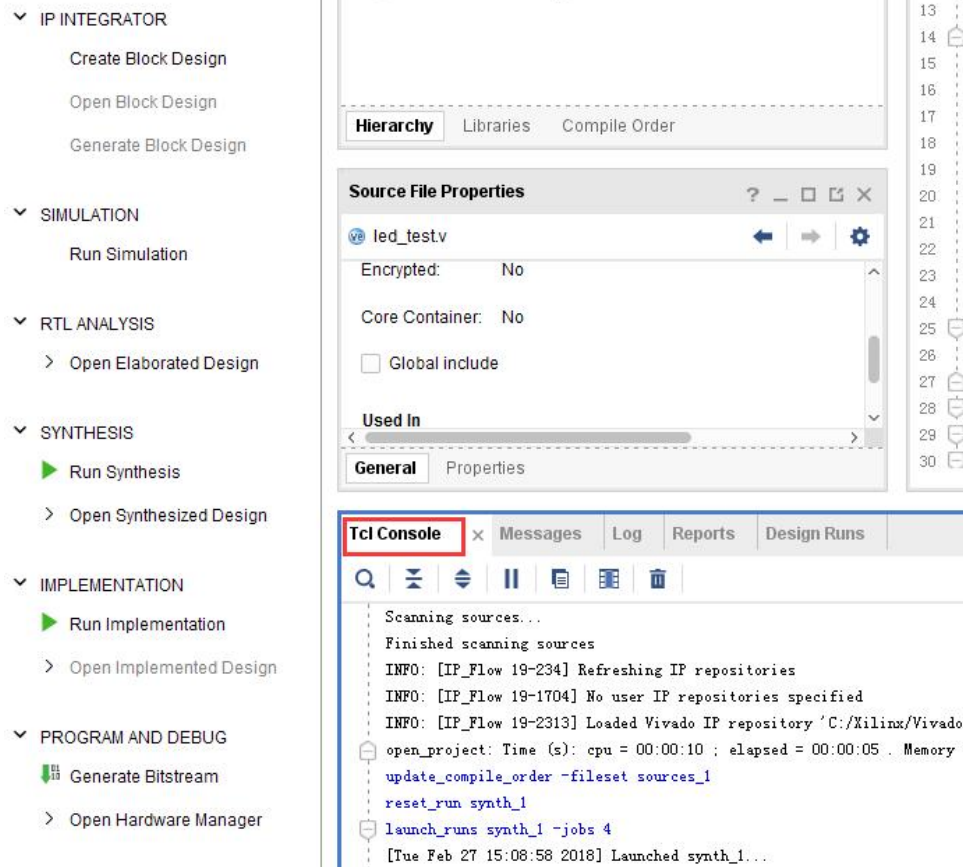
When finished, select the menu “File->Save all files” to save all files.

4.4 Compile

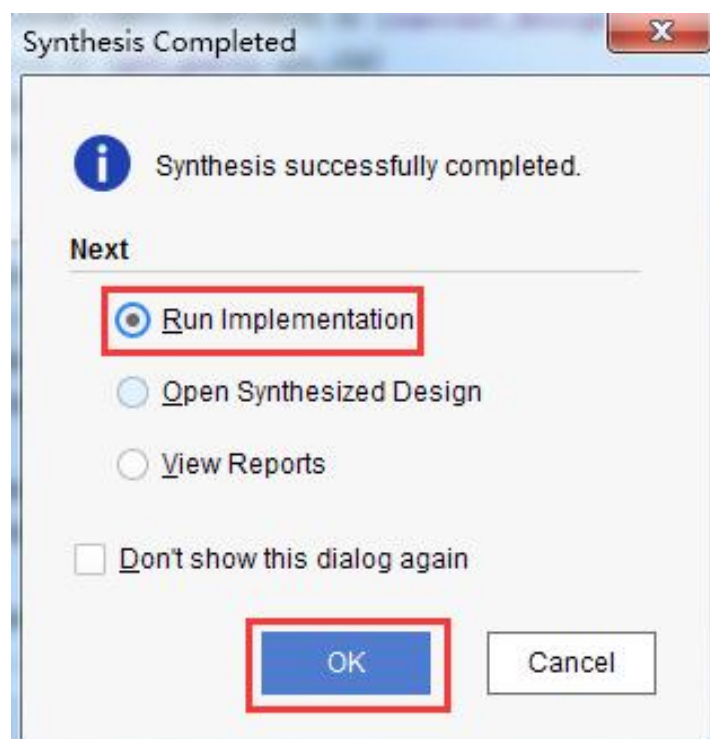
Click “Run Synthesis” to start synthesizing and generating netlist files:



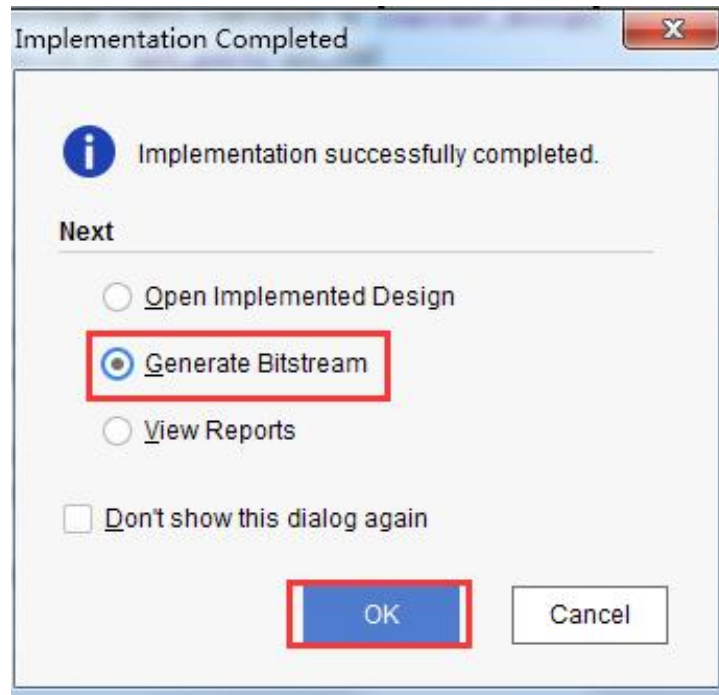
Some status information can be seen in the “Tcl Console” window or the “Messages” window.



After Synthesis is completed, a small window will pop up. You can start the Layout and Wiring by clicking “Run Implementation” here:



A prompt window will pop up when the wiring is completed. You can generate a bit file by clicking the “Generate Bitstream” here



After the Bit file is generated, we can open the “Table” of the “Project Summary” page to check the actual resource usage on the FPGA board. Because our “led_test program” is relatively simple, only four resources are used: LUT (Lookup Table), FF (Flip Flop) Register), IO (pin) and BUFG (clock buffer).

The screenshot shows the Vivado IDE interface. On the left sidebar, the 'IMPLEMENTATION' section is expanded, and 'Report Utilization' is highlighted with a red box. The main window displays the 'Summary' report, which is also highlighted with a red box. The report shows the following utilization data:

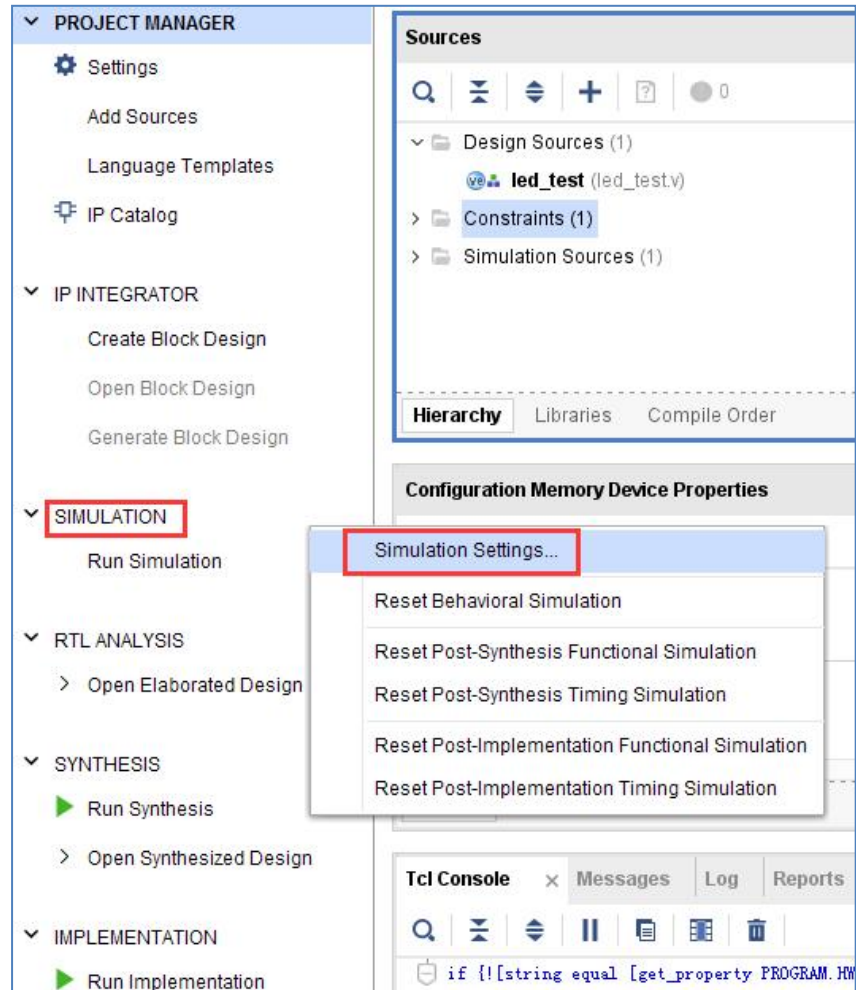
Resource	Utilization
LUT	1%
FF	1%
IO	2%

The 'Summary' report is part of a larger 'utilization_1' report, which is visible at the bottom of the main window.

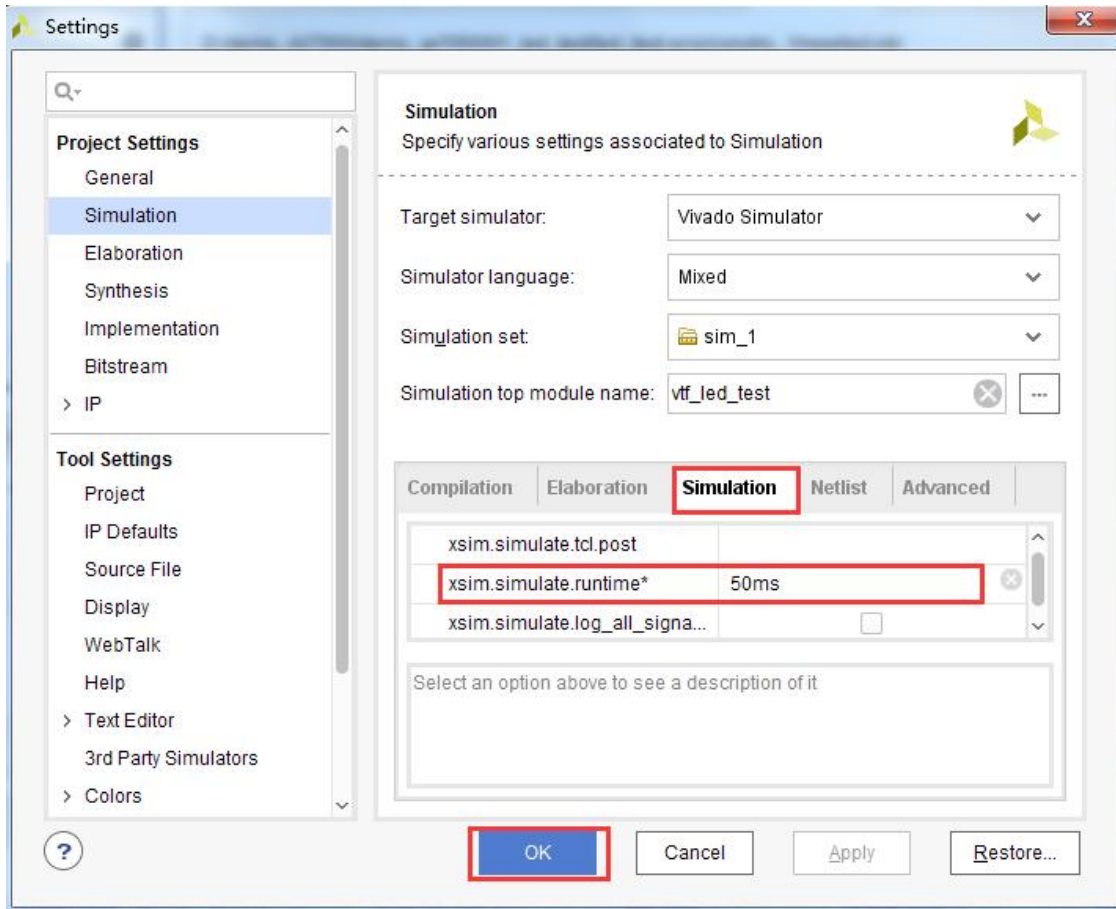
4.5 Vivado simulation verification

The simulation tool Vivado uses the output waveform to verify that the flow light programming results are consistent with our expectations. Specific steps are as follows:

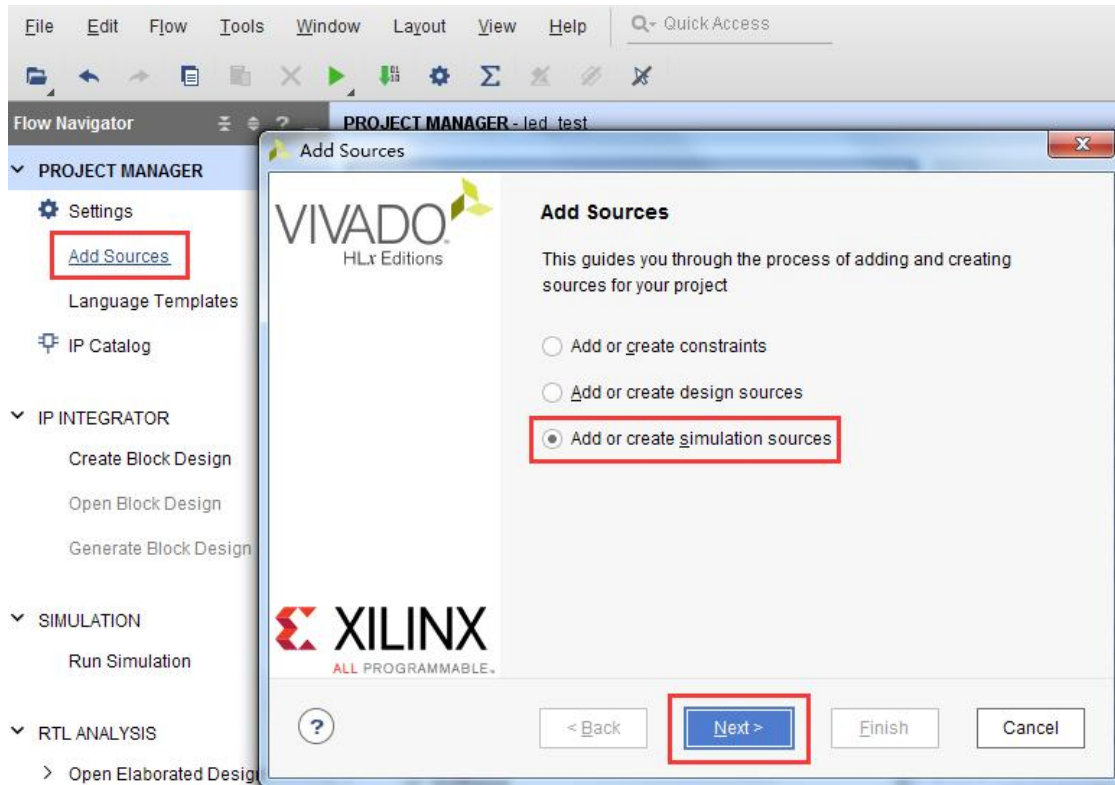
1. Set up the simulation configuration for Vivado and right click on "Simulation Settings" in "SIMULATION"



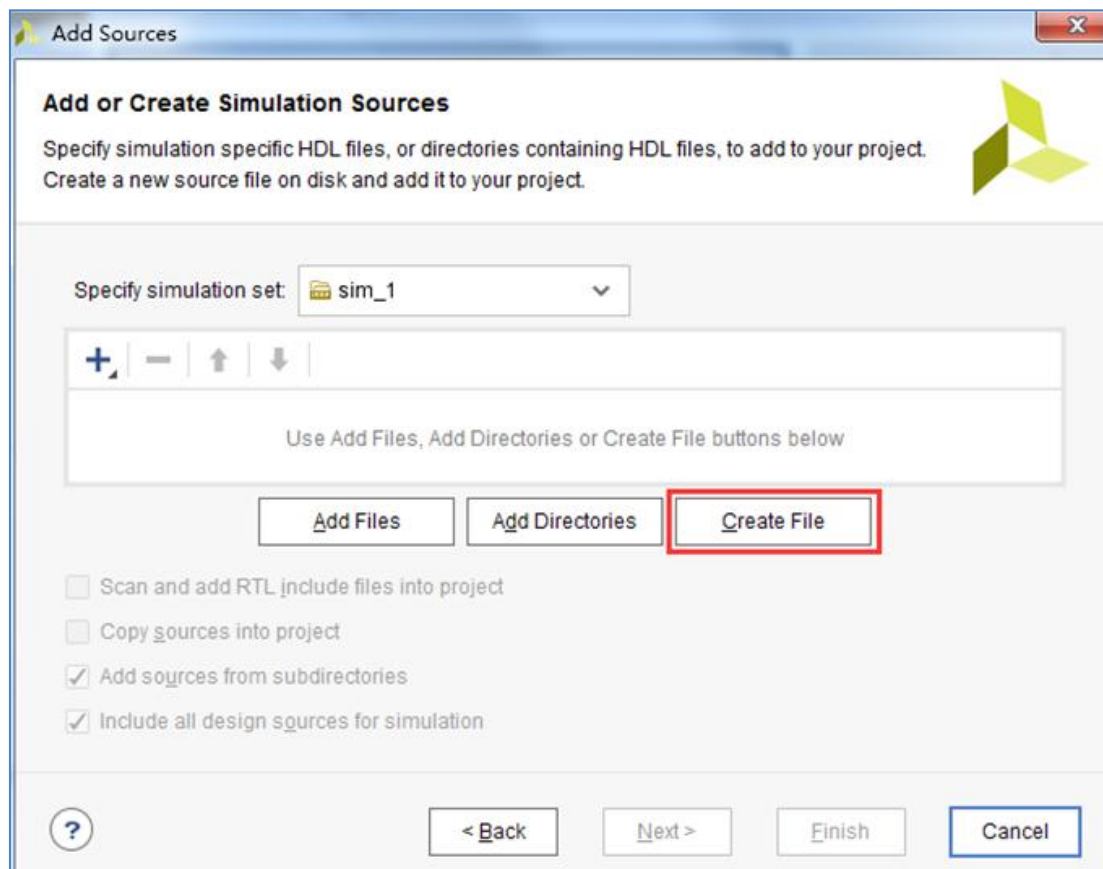
2. In the “Simulation Settings” window, perform the following configuration to configure it. Set it to 50ms (set it as needed), and press OK by default.



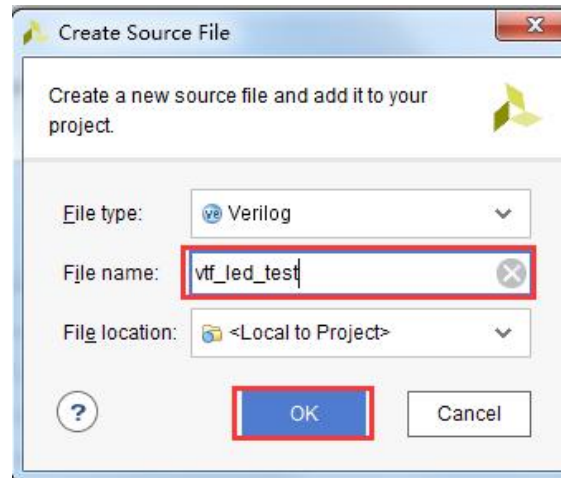
3. Add the stimulus test file, click the “Add Sources” icon under “Project Manager”, click on the settings below and click Next.



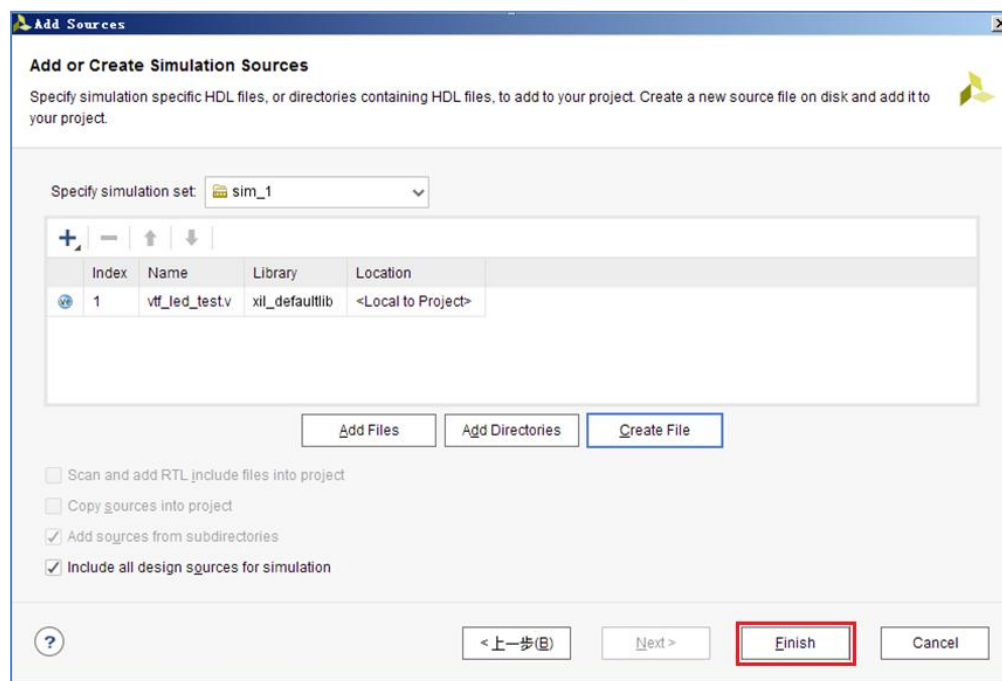
4. Click “Create File” to generate a simulation stimulus file.



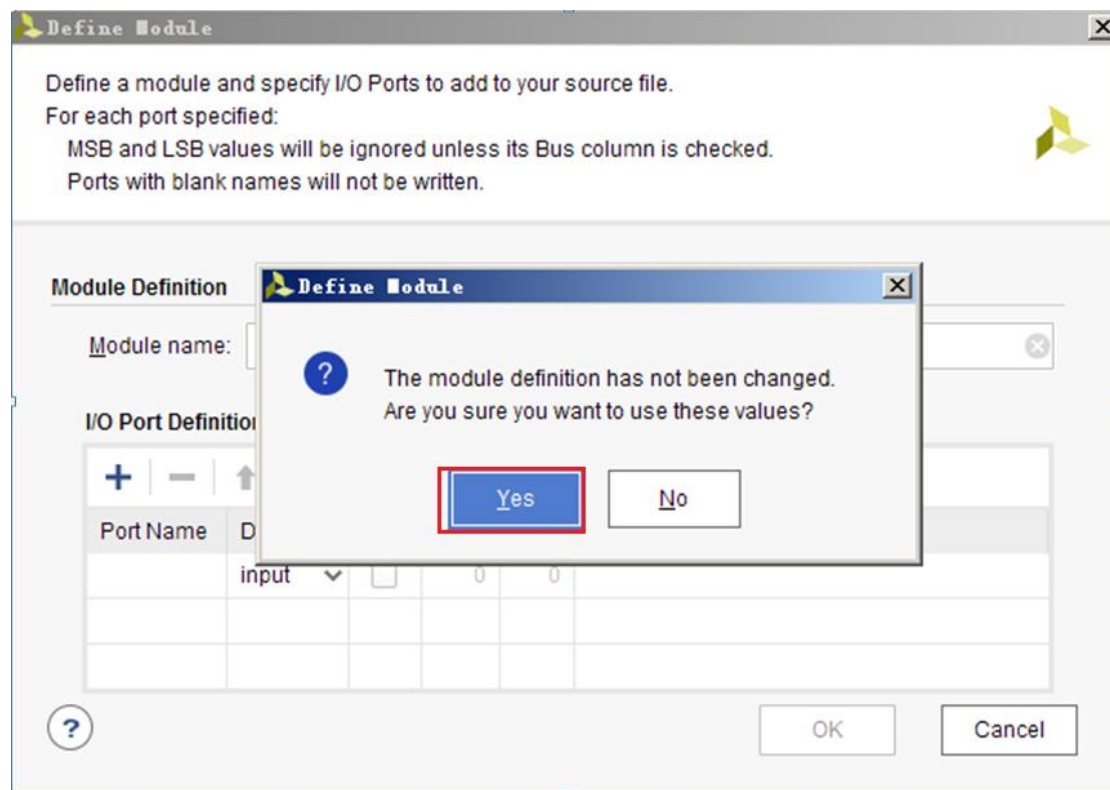
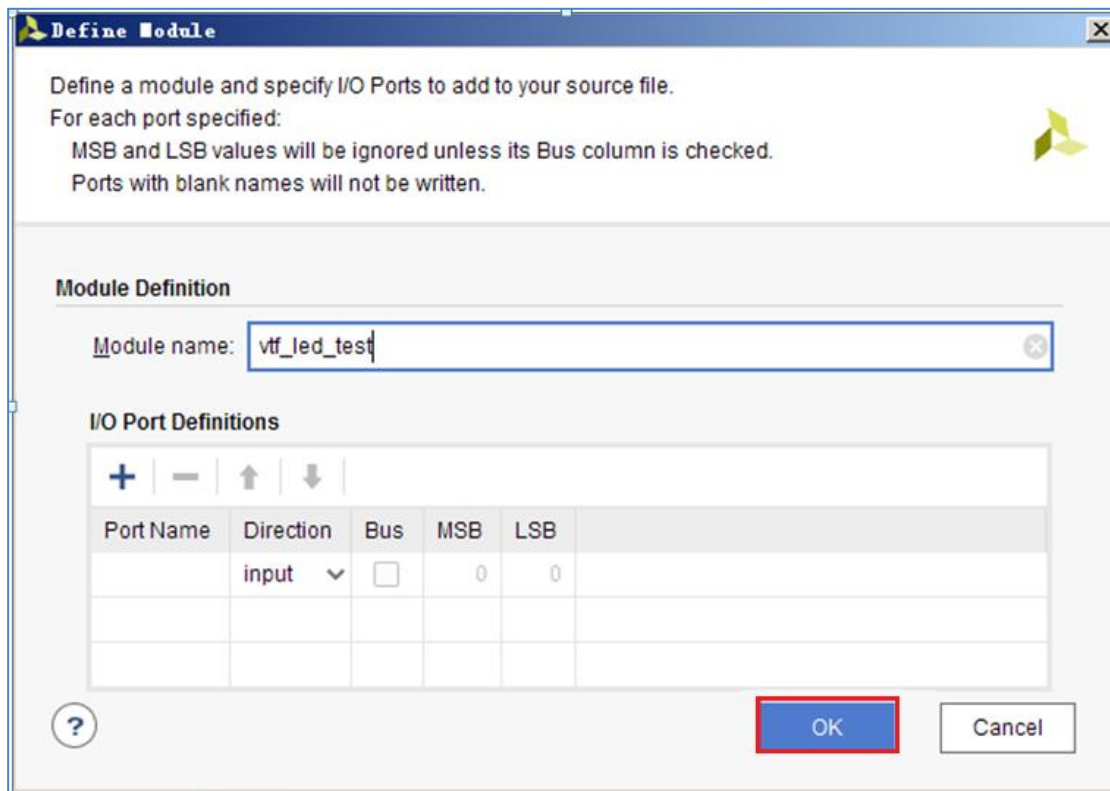
5. Enter the name of the stimulus file in the pop-up dialog box, here we enter the name “vtf_led_test”.



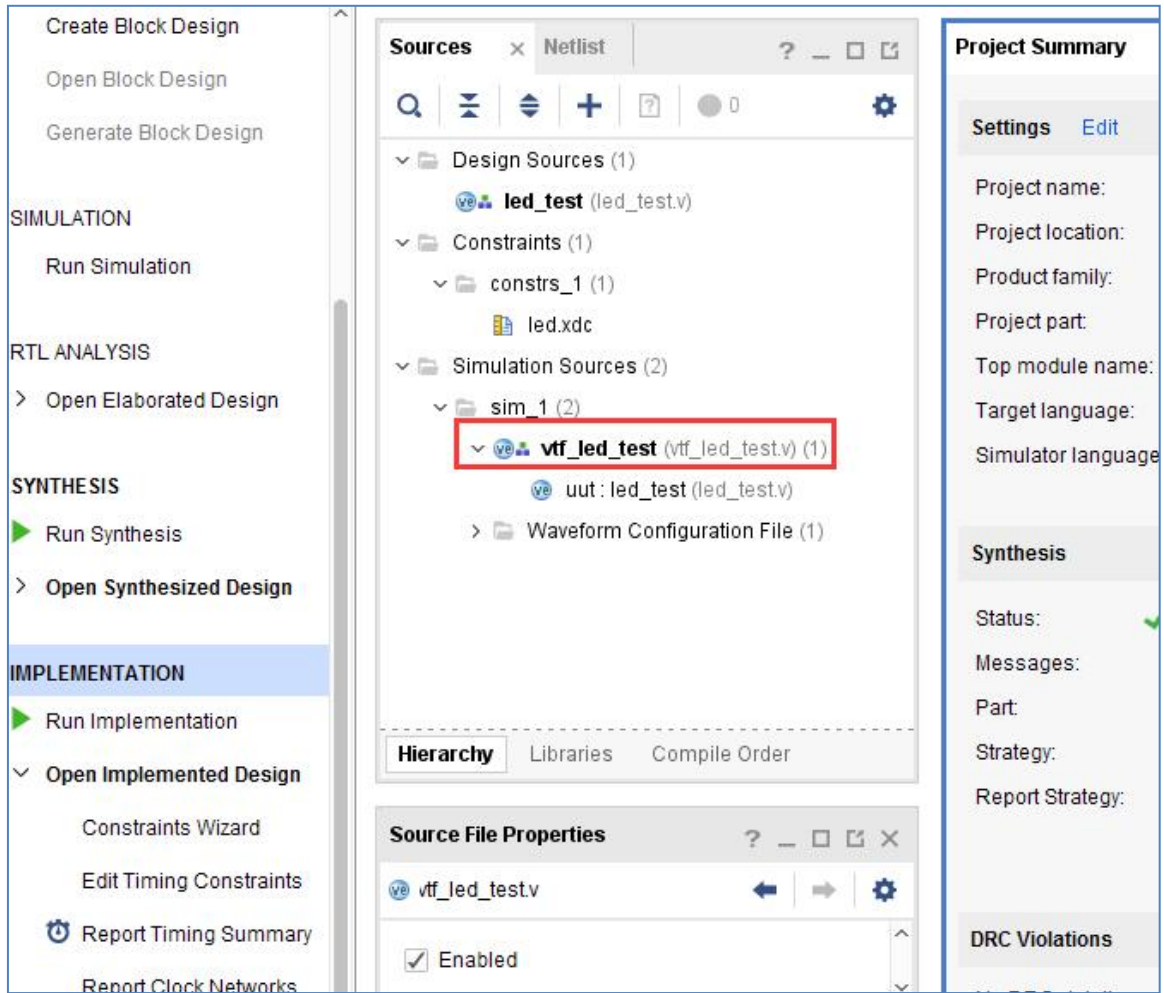
6. Click the “Finish” button to return.



Here we do not add “IO Ports” first, click OK.



The "vtf_led_test" file just added in the "Simulation Sources" directory. Double-click to open this file, you can see that there is only the definition of the module name, nothing else.



7. Next we need to write the contents of this “vtf_led_test.v” file. First define the input and output signals, then you need to instantiate the “led_test” module to make the “led_test” program part of the test program. Add the reset and clock excitation. The completed vtf_led_test.v file is as follows:

```
`timescale 100ps / 1ps
////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
// Module Name: vtf_led_test
////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////

module vtf_led_test;
    // Inputs
    reg sys_clk_p;
    wire sys_clk_n;
    reg rst_n;

    // Outputs
    wire [3:0] led;

    // Instantiate the Unit Under Test (UUT)
    led_test uut (
        .sys_clk_p(sys_clk_p),
        .sys_clk_n(sys_clk_n),
        .rst_n(rst_n),
```



```

        .led(led)
    );

    initial begin
        // Initialize Inputs
        sys_clk_p = 0;
        rst_n = 0;

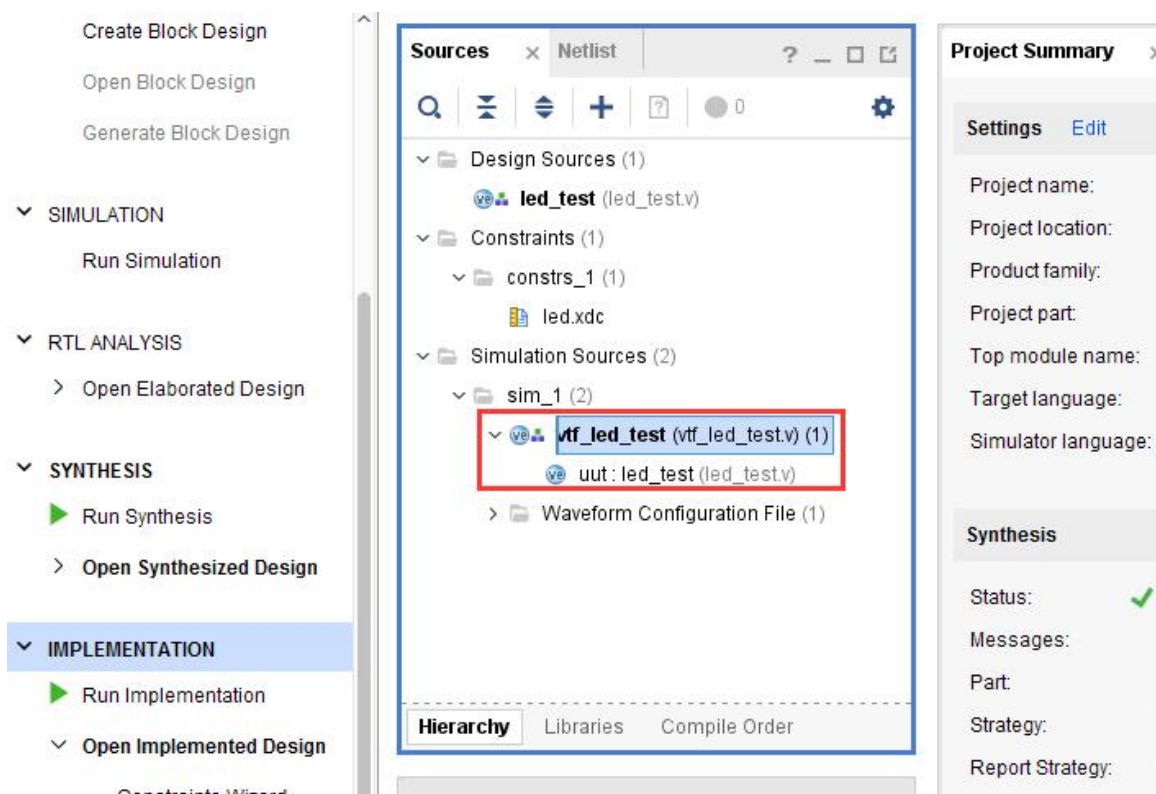
        // Wait 100 ns for global reset to finish
        #1000;
        rst_n = 1;
        // Add stimulus here
        #20000;
        // $stop;
    end

    always #25 sys_clk_p = ~ sys_clk_p; //5ns一个周期，产生200MHz时钟源
    assign sys_clk_n=~sys_clk_p;

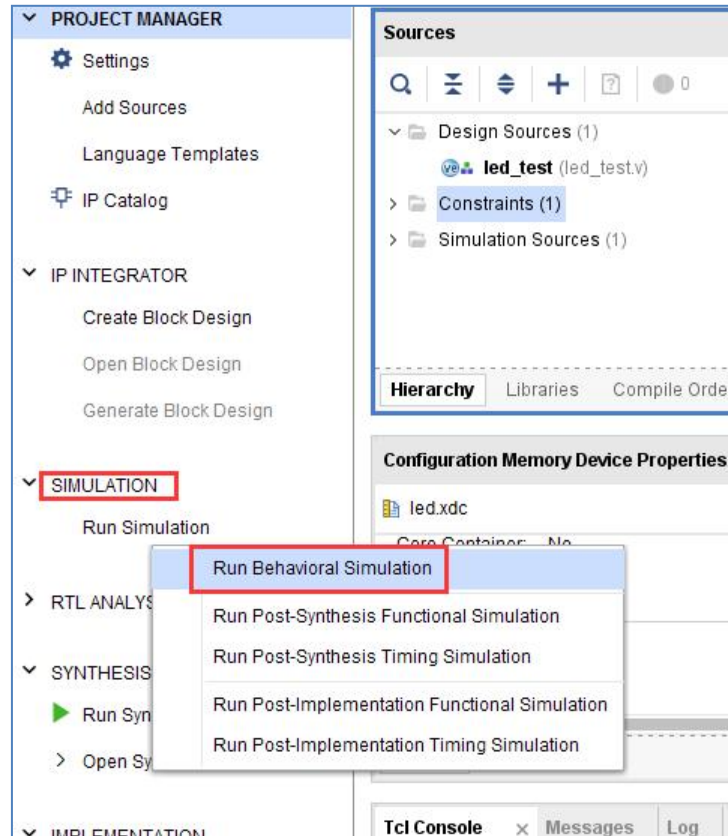
endmodule

```

8. After writing and saving, “vtf_led_test.v” automatically becomes the top layer of this simulation Hierarchy. Below it is the design file “led_test.v”

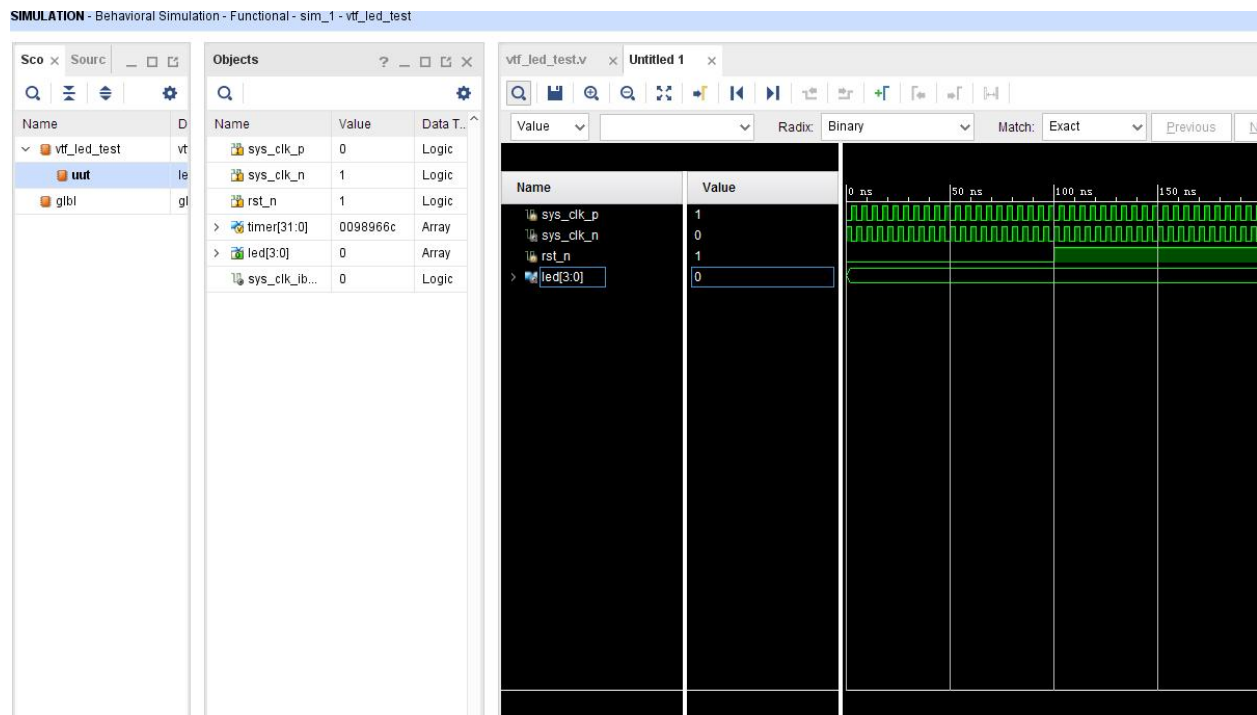


9. Click the “Run Simulation” button and select “Run Behavioral Simulation”. Here we can do the behavioral level simulation.

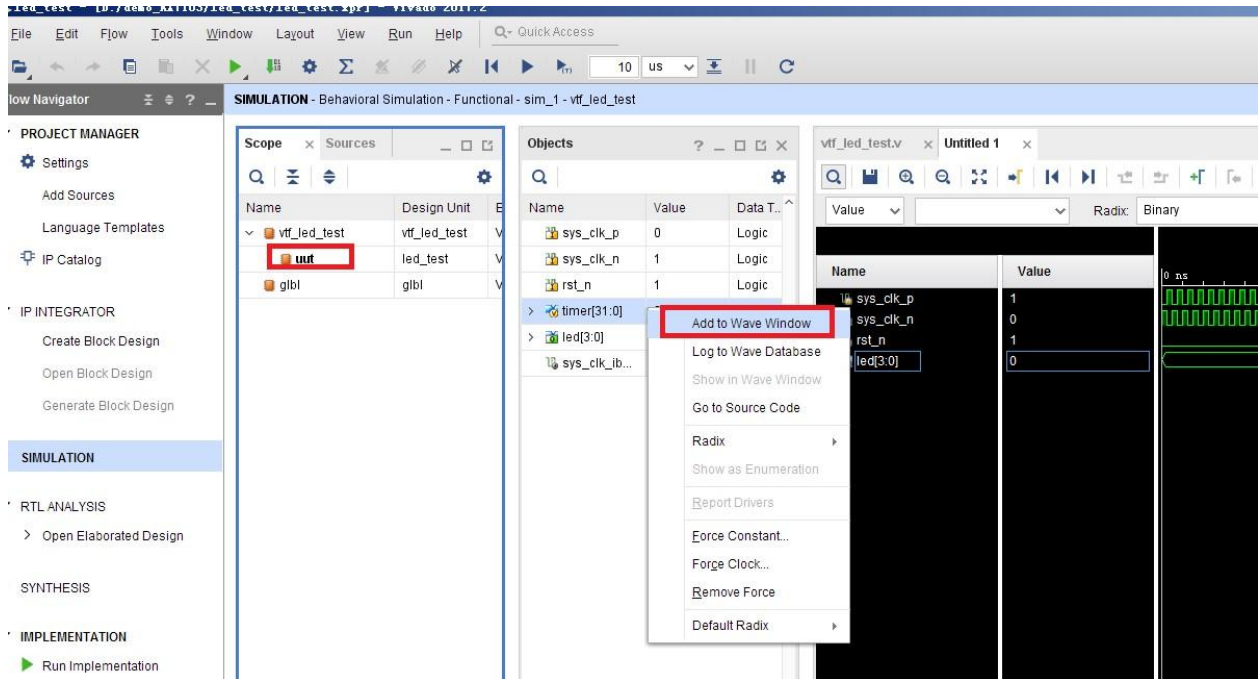


If there are no errors, the simulation software in Vivado is working.

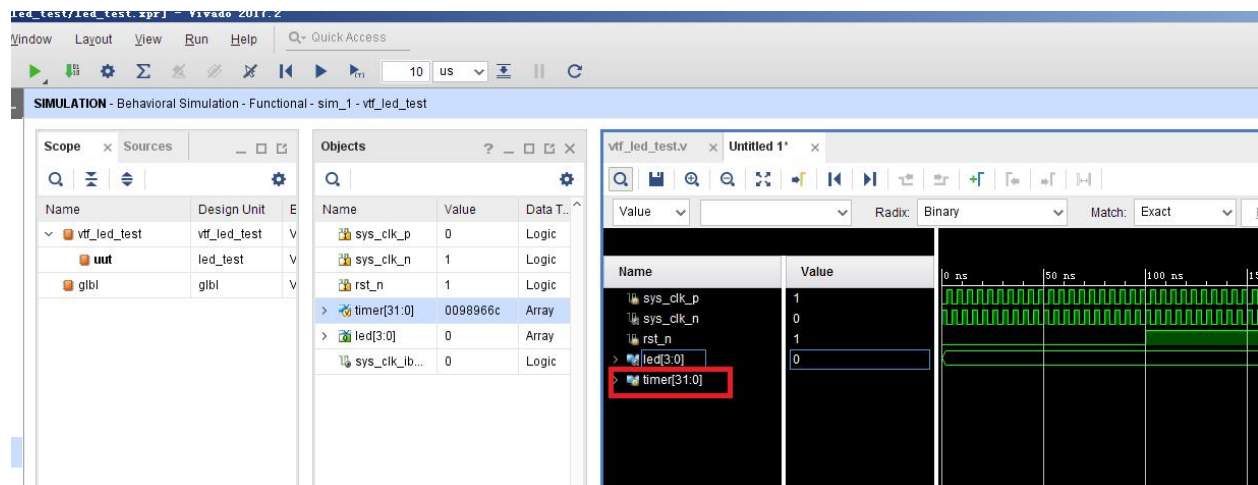
10. After popping up the simulation interface, as shown in the following figure, the interface is a 50ms waveform that the simulation software automatically runs to the simulation setup.



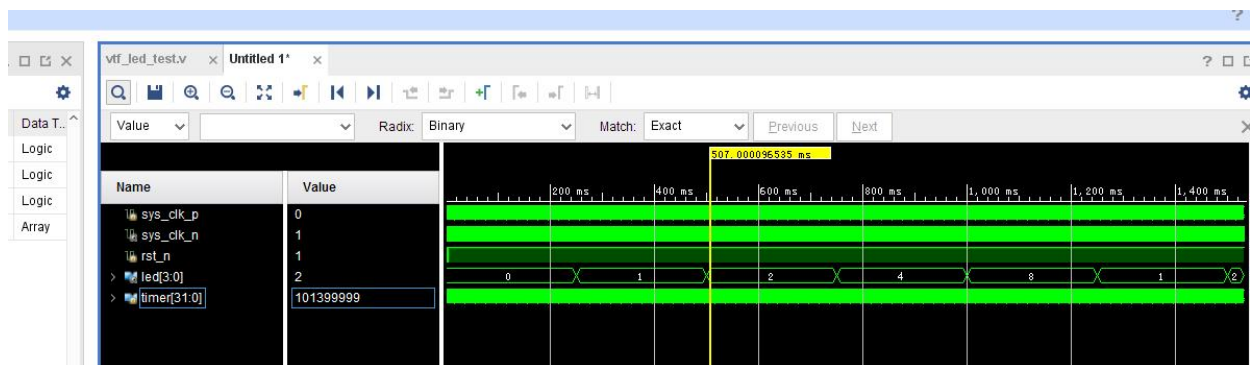
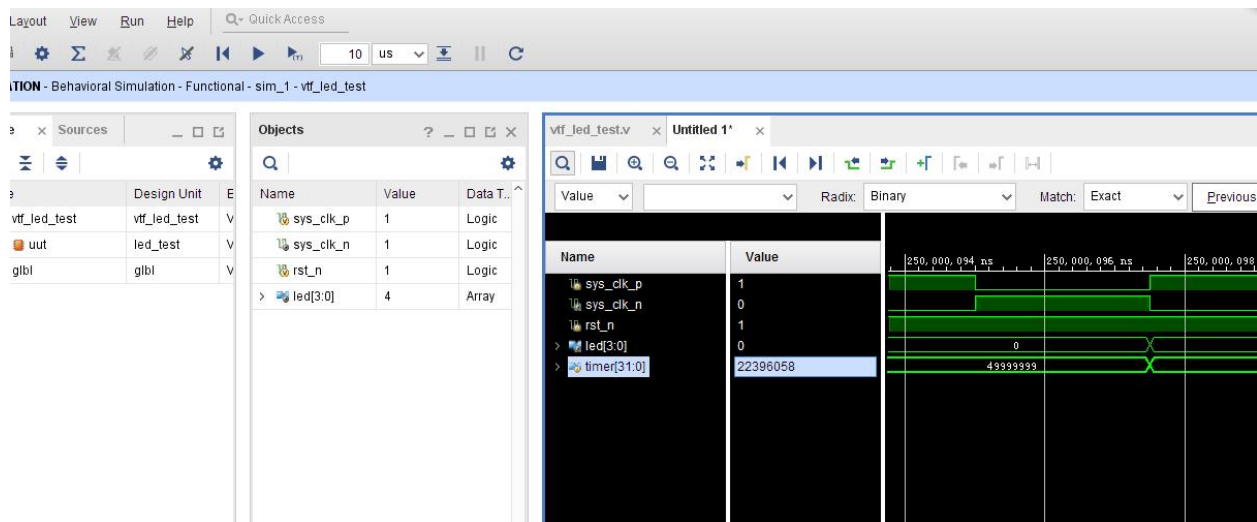
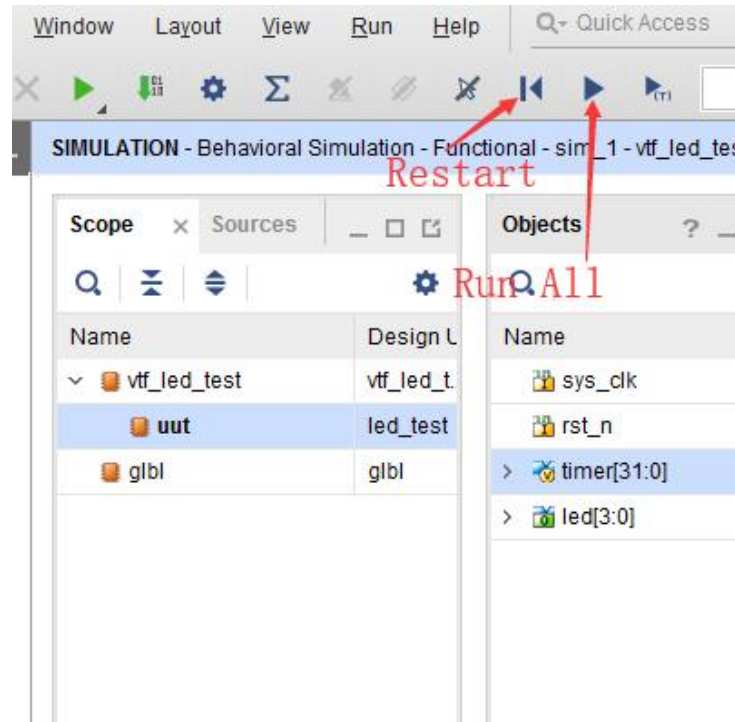
Since the state of “LED[3:0]” design in the program changes for a long time, and the simulation is time consuming, observe the “timer[31:0]” counter change here. Put it in Wave to observe (click “uut” under the “Scope” interface, then right click on the “timer” under the “Objects” interface, select “Add Wave Window” in the pop-up drop-down menu).



After adding, the “timer” is displayed on the waveform interface of Wave, as shown in the figure below.



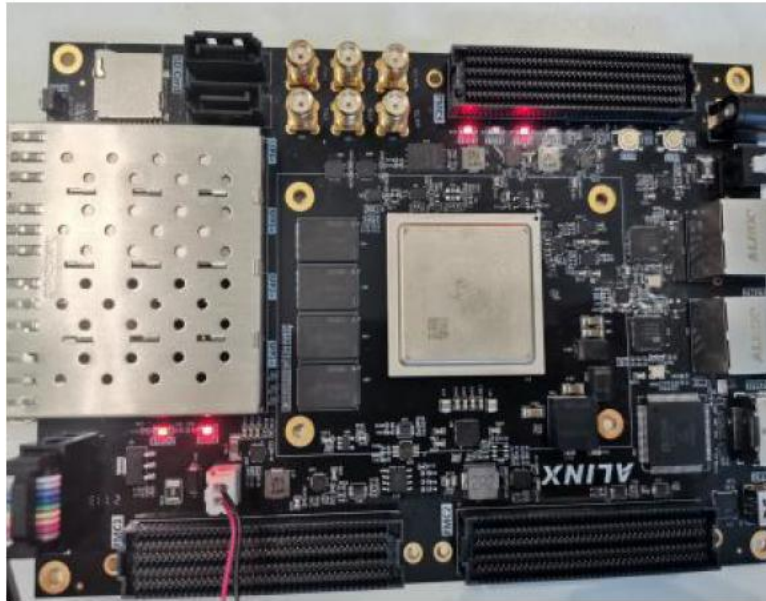
11. Click the “Restart” button labeled below to reset it, then click the “Run All” button. (Need patience!!!), you can see that the simulation waveform matches the design.



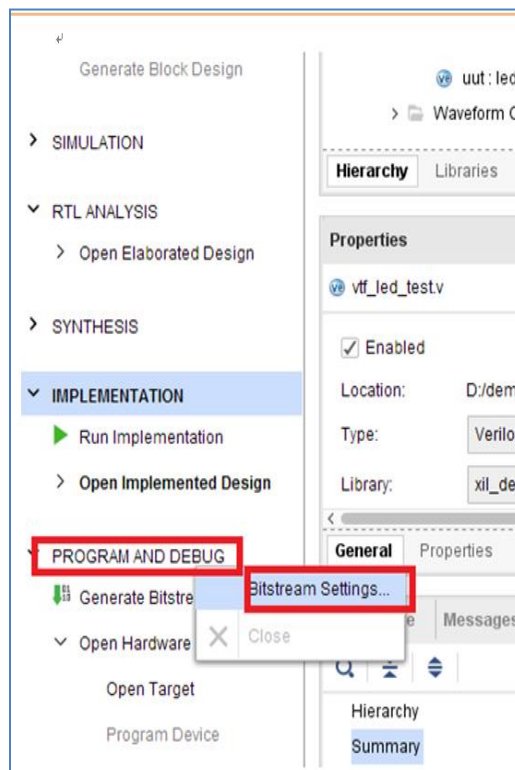
We can see that the LED signal will change to 1 one by one, indicating that the LED1~LED4 lights are extinguished one by one.

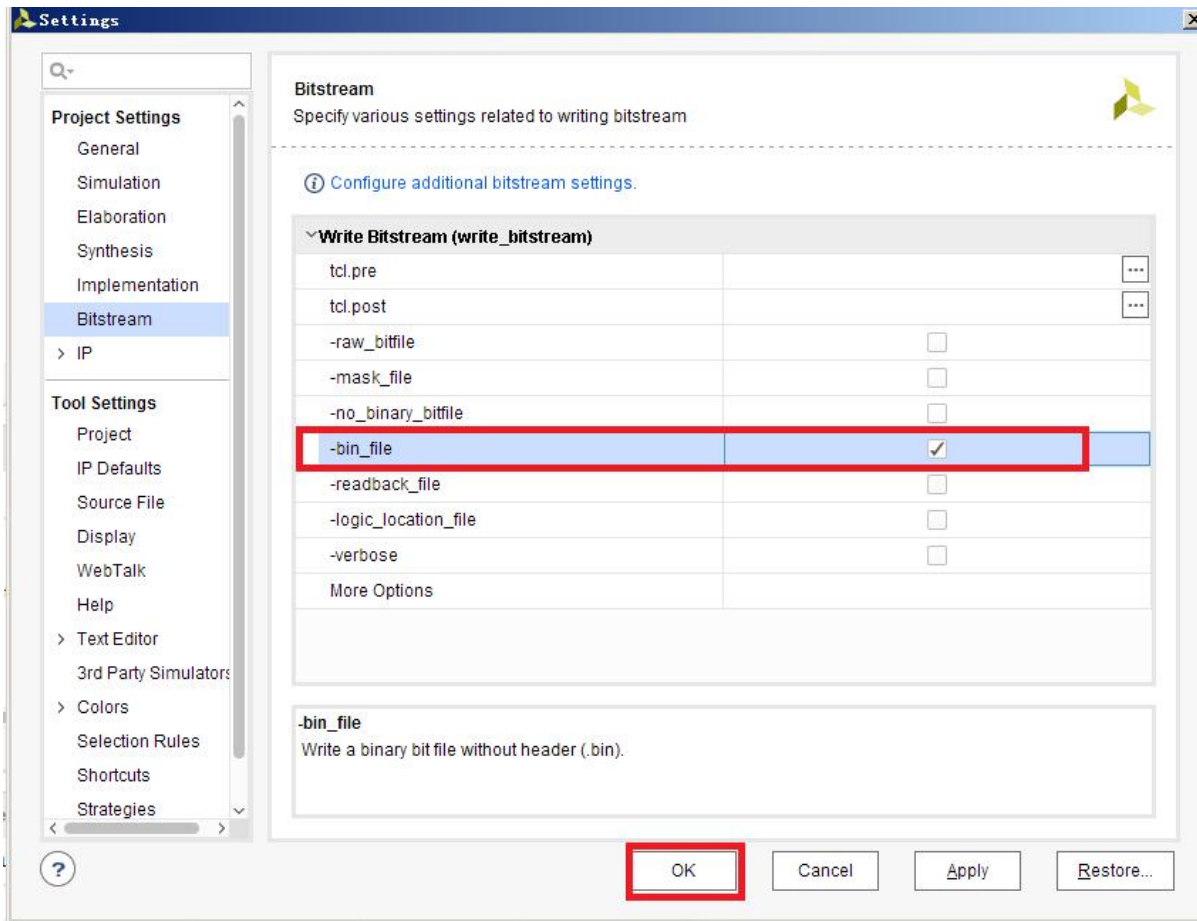
4.6 Download and debug

After the previous compilation and simulation, we can download the “bit” file to the “FPGA” chip and see the actual operation of the “LED”. Connect the hardware before downloading and debugging, connect the “JTAG” downloader to the development board, and then plug in the power adapter on the development board

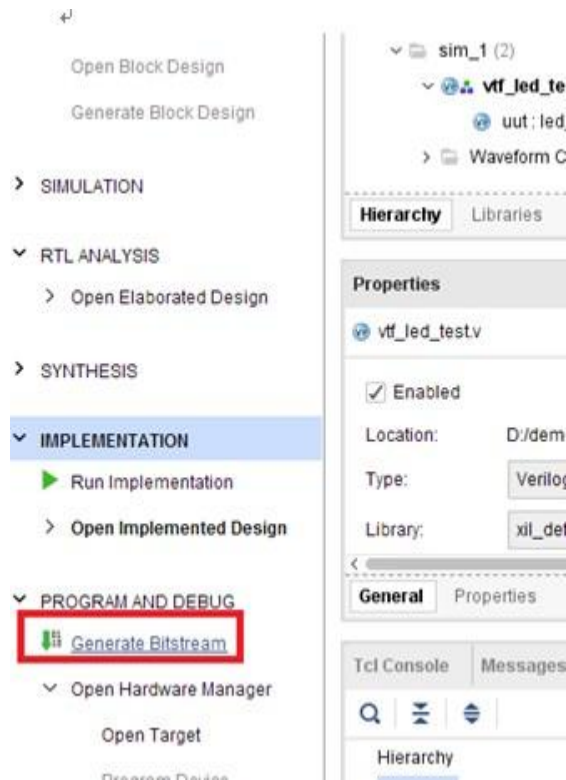


1. Settings are also required before downloading: right-click on “PROGRAM AND DEBUG” and set it as shown below:

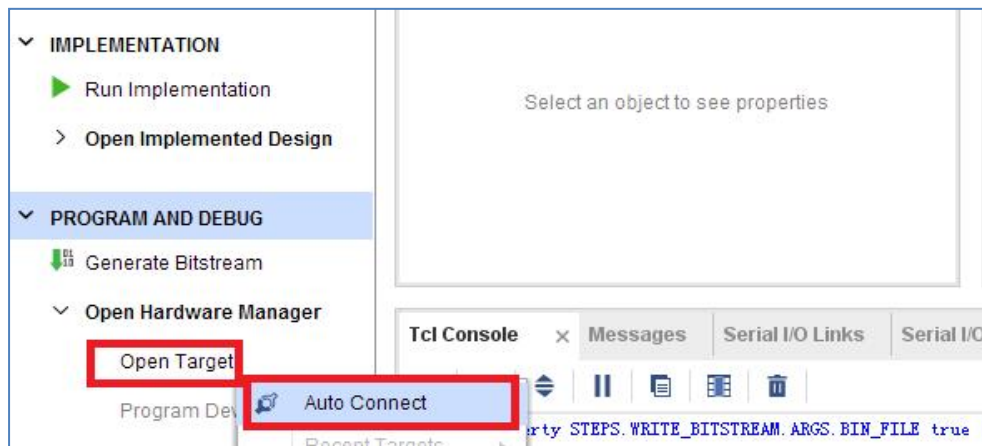


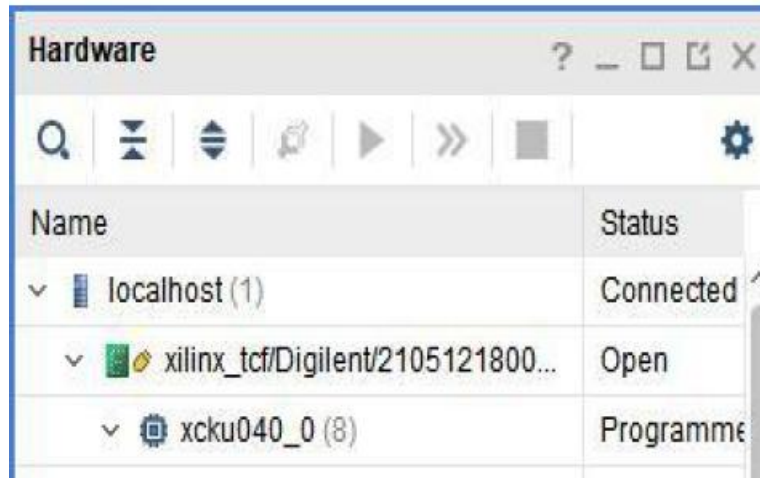


After the setup is completed, click “Generate Bitstream” to generate the “bit” and “bin files”.

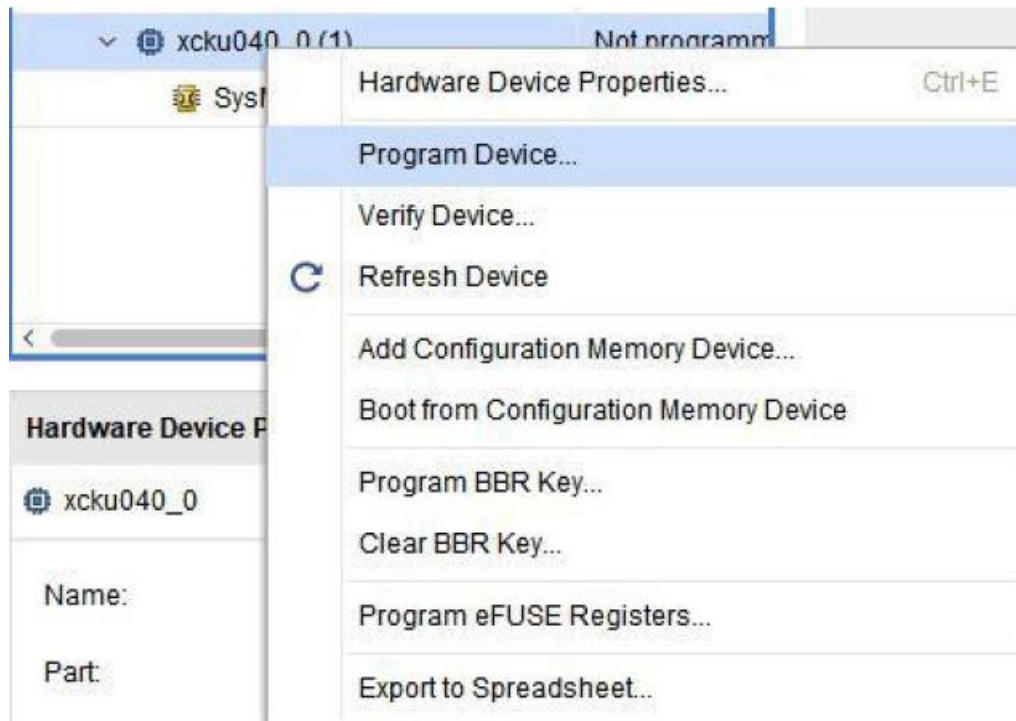


2. Click the “Open target” ->”Auto Connect”. The icon of xc7k325t_0, it will be displayed under the hardware interface, indicating that the JTAG connection has been established.

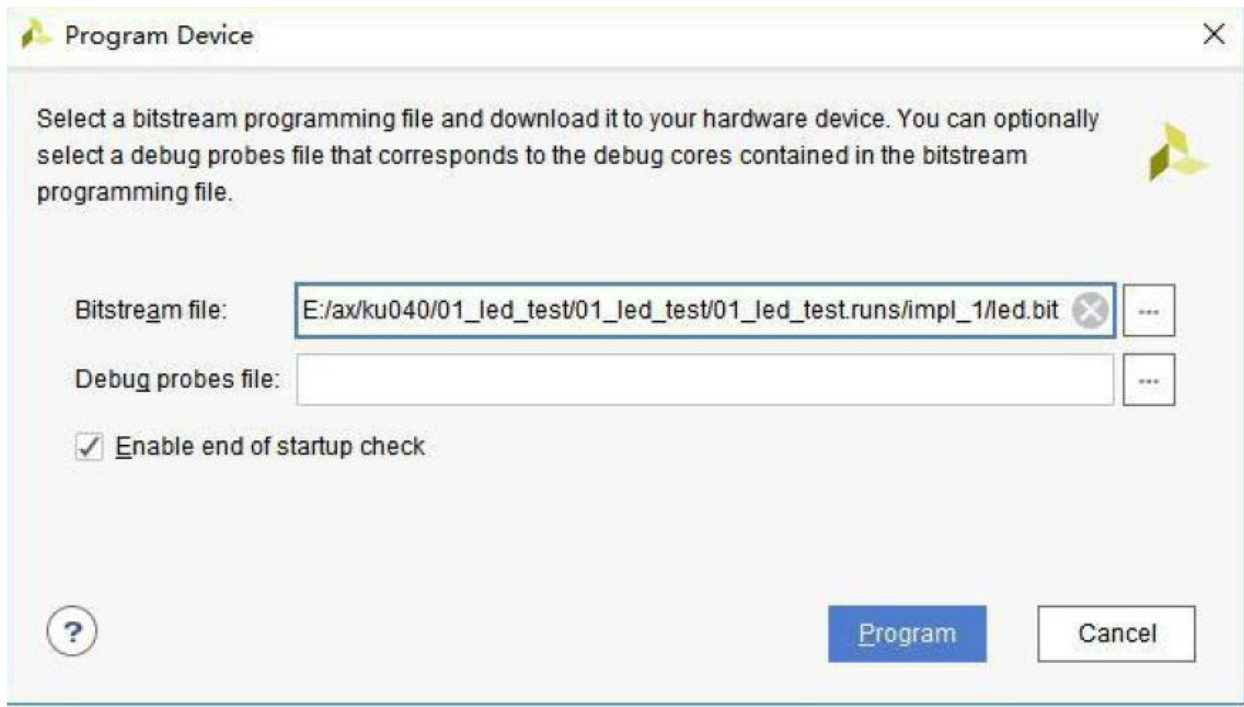




Right click on xcku040, select “Program Device” item in the pop-up options.



In the “Program Device” dialog box that pops up, select the “bit file” generated by the “led_test” project and click the “Program” button to program the FPGA.



After the programming is completed, Then, we can see that the two LED lights on the development board are already working as a water light

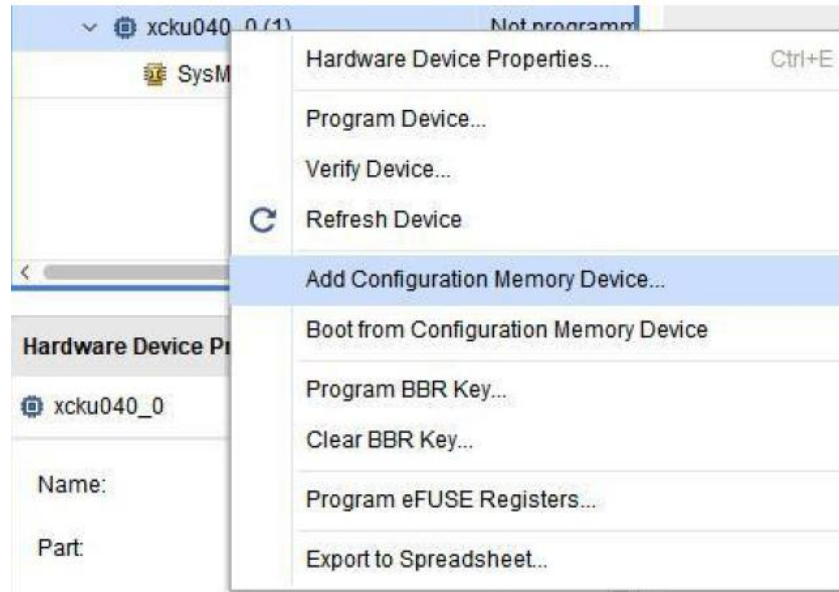
You can also try other patterns to light the LEDs, for example, let the lights run faster, or when several lights are on and off at the same time, etc., depending on your imagination, you can achieve more by writing your own program.

4.7 FLASH program curing

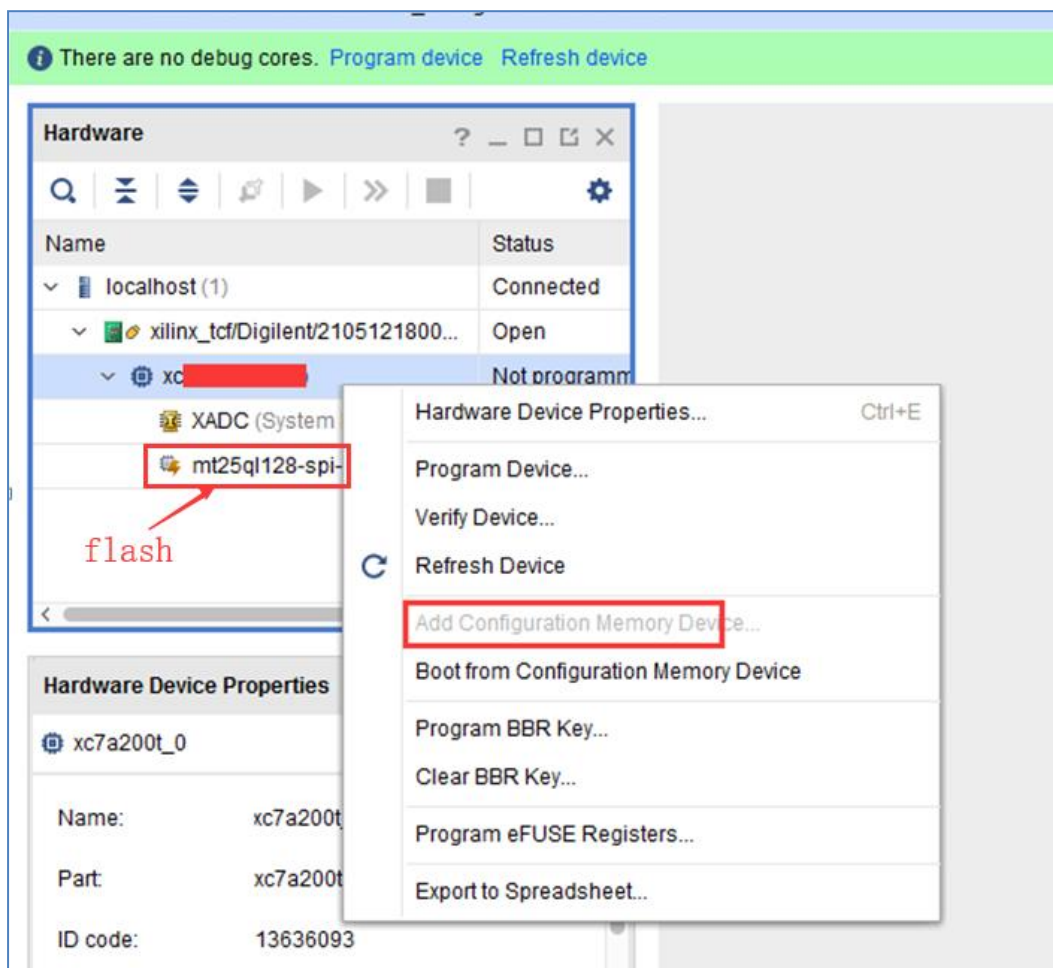
Some friends may have found that after downloading the Bit file to the FPGA, the configuration program has been lost after the development board is powered on, and JTAG download is required. This is no trouble! Well, in this section we will introduce how to solidify the configuration program into the FLASH on the development board, so that you don't have to worry about the program being lost after power off

On our development board there is an 8Pin 128Mbit FLASH for storing configuration programs. We can't directly download the "bit file" to this FLASH. We can only download the "Bin file" or the "MCS file". In the previous we generated the bit file and also generated the Bin file. Let's take a look at the Bin file as an example to introduce the curing of the FLASH program.

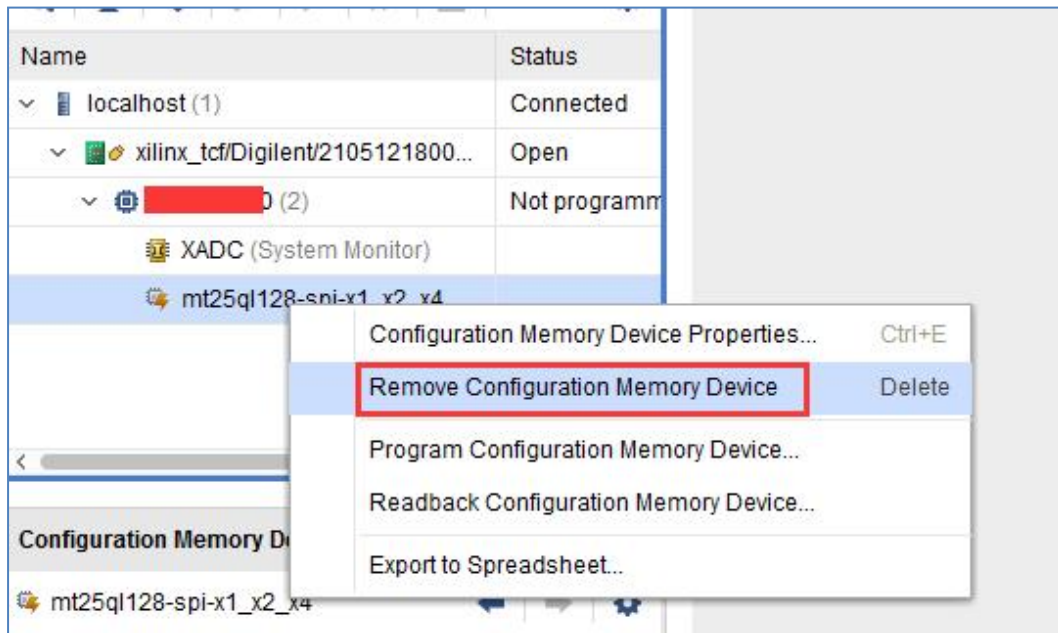
1. In the following figure, right click to select xc7a325t_0 chip, select "Add Configuration Memory Device..." in the pop-up list



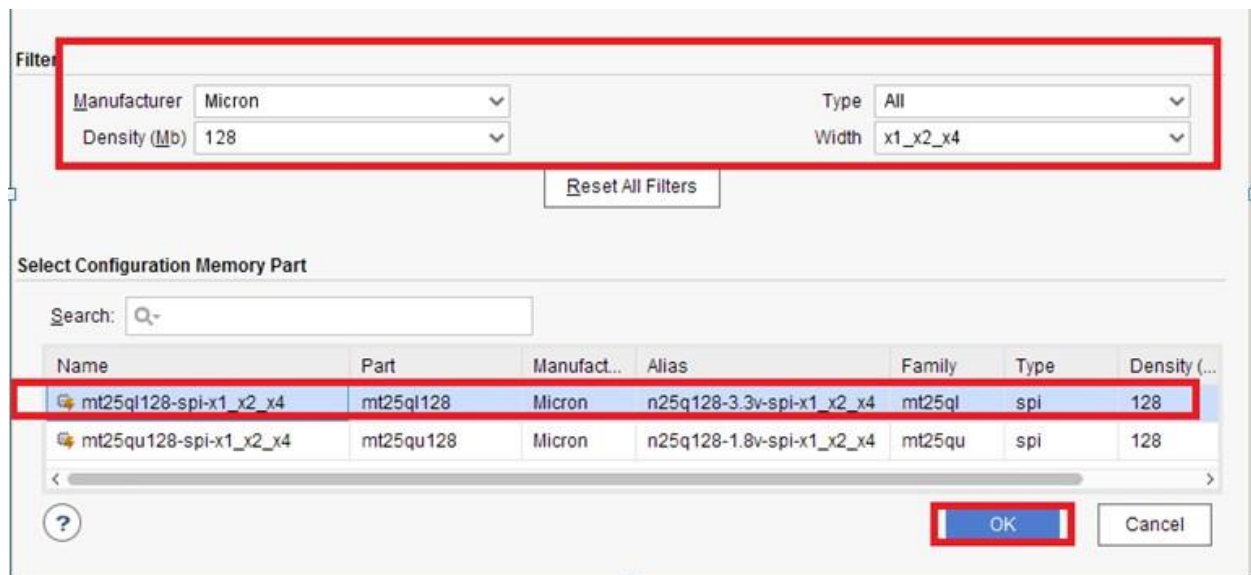
Note: If you find that this item is grayed out, it is because the FLASH configuration has been added to the project we provided, and FLASH cannot be added, as follows:



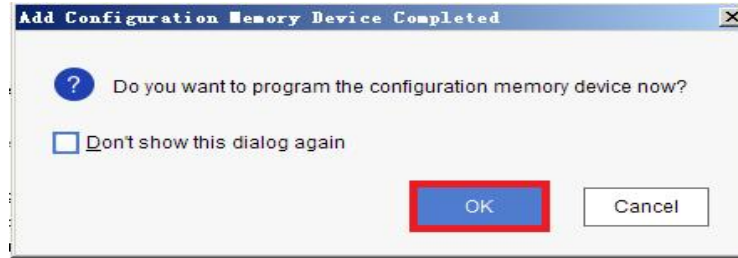
Of course, if you want to add experiments again in the existing flash project, you can remove the flash as shown below, and then follow the steps of adding flash above:



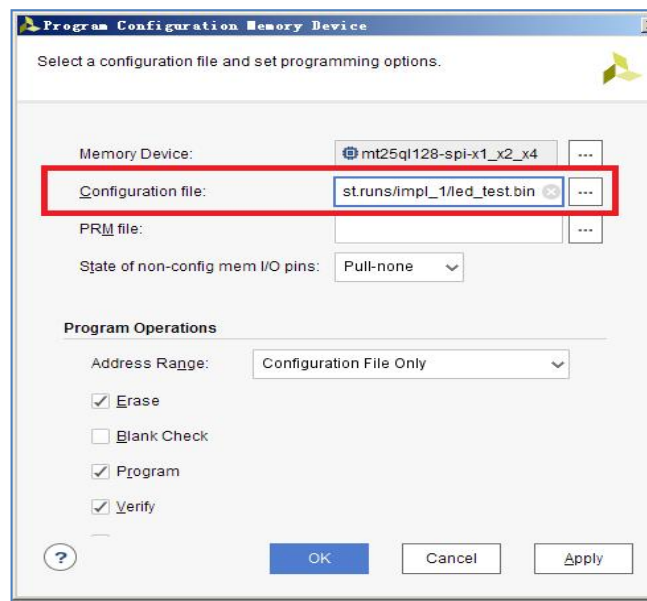
2. Select the correct FLASH model in the configuration interface of “Add configuration Memory Device”, as shown below:



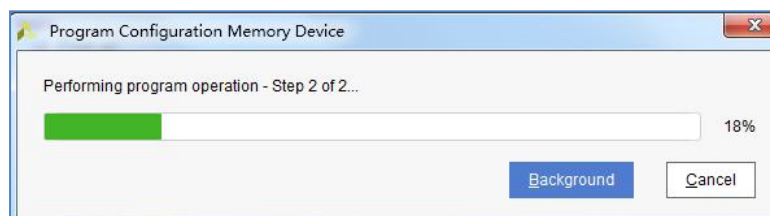
3. Prompt whether to program SPI FLASH, click OK.



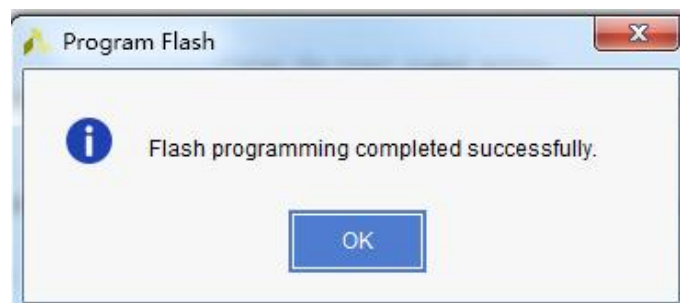
In the pop-up “ Program Configuration Memory Device” window, the “ Configure file ” item selects the “led_test.bin” file generated by Vivado (this file defaults to the “imp1_1” directory). The “PRM File” item is not selected. In addition, in this window, users can also configure I/O for pull-up, pull-down or no pull-down. The configuration action options are left to the default.



Click OK to start programming FLASH.



After FLASH is programmed, the following successful interface will pop up



At this point, the SPI FLASH is burned and the “led_test program” has been solidified into “SPI FLASH”. Let's verify, turn off the power and Power on the development board again. Wait a while and you can see that the LED lights on the development board are already run as water light

As you may have noticed, turning off the FPGA power and then powering it back on, it takes a long time for the LED lights on the development board to start run as water light. This is definitely not enough for some projects that are going to work soon after power-on. Is there any way to solve it? Of course, we can improve the read and write clock of SPI FLASH, and use “x4” to read and write. “QSPI” supports 4 data lines to read and write! The method is very simple, we just add the following three statements to the xdc file:

```
#####SPI Configurate Setting#####  
  
set_property BITSTREAM.CONFIG.SPI_BUSWIDTH 4 [current_design]  
  
set_property CONFIG_MODE SPIx4 [current_design]  
  
set_property BITSTREAM.CONFIG.CONFIGRATE 50 [current_design]
```

The first two sets the data width and configuration mode of “QSPI FLASH”, and the latter one is the configuration speed. The larger is the value, the faster is the speed. After modifying the xdc file, you need to recompile, then regenerate the bit and bin files, and then burn the “SPI FLASH” chip again according to the previous method. After the completion of the development of the board, this is not a power-up, LED lights began to exercise, right? After the completion, the development board is powered off and re-powered on. Is the development board powered up, and the LED lights start to exercise immediately?

So far, our first project has been successfully completed. I believe that you have mastered the entire process of Vivado's FPGA development, and it is no longer a layman of that FPGA! The use and mastery of some vivado software skills need to be familiar with everyone in the long-term practice and exploration.

5 Appendix

led_test.v (verilog Code)

```
//=====
// Module name: led_test.v
//=====
`timescale 1ns / 1ps

module led_test
(
    sys_clk_p,          // Differentia system clock 200Mhz input on board
    sys_clk_n,
    rst_n,              // reset ,low active
    led,                // LED,use for control the LED signal on board

```

```

fan_pwm          //fan control
);

//=====================================================
// PORT declarations
//=====================================================

input            sys_clk_p;
input            sys_clk_n;
input            rst_n;
output [3:0]     led;
output fan_pwm;
//define the time counter
reg [31:0] timer;
reg [3:0] led;
assign fan_pwm = 1'b0;
//=====================================================
//Differentia system clock to single end clock
//=====================================================
wire            sys_clk;
IBUFGDS #
(
    .DIFF_TERM    ("FALSE"),
    .IBUF_LOW_PWR ("FALSE")
)
u_ibufg_sys_clk
(
    .I  (sys_clk_p),
    .IB (sys_clk_n),
    .O  (sys_clk)
);
//=====================================================
// cycle counter:from 0 to 1 sec
//=====================================================
always @(posedge sys_clk or negedge rst_n)
begin
    if (~rst_n)
        timer <= 32'd0;                // when the reset signal valid,time
counter clearing
        else if (timer == 32'd199_999_999) //1 seconds count(200M-1=199999999)
            timer <= 32'd0;            //count done,clearing the time
counter
        else
            timer <= timer + 1'b1;      //timer counter = timer counter + 1
    end

//=====================================================
// LED control
//=====================================================
always @(posedge sys_clk or negedge rst_n)
begin
    if (~rst_n)
        led <= 4'b0000;                //when the reset signal active
    else if (timer == 32'd49_999_999)    //time counter count to 0.25 sec,LED1
lighten
        led <= 4'b0001;
    else if (timer == 32'd99_999_999)    //time counter count to 0.5 sec,LED2 lighten
begin

```



```
        led <= 4'b0010;
    end
    else if (timer == 32'd149_999_999)    //time counter count to 0.75 sec,LED3
lighten
        led <= 4'b0100;
    else if (timer == 32'd199_999_999)    //time counter count to 1 sec,LED4 lighten
        led <= 4'b1000;
    end

endmodule
```

Note: When defining a register, if the register is used in the “always” block, it must be defined as the “reg” type. If it is only used for wiring or the direct assignment needs to be defined as the “wire” type, the input signal type cannot be defined as “reg” type, whether it is “reg” type signal or a “wire” type signal. The defined register width must meet the needs of use, but must be slightly larger or equal to the bit width to be used. If the defined register bit width is much larger than the usage requirement, it will waste resources. If the defined bit width is smaller than the usage requirement, the data bit will be truncated, resulting in a program error. There are other types of signals and usage, please refer to the Verilog syntax tutorial.