

AARHUS UNIVERSITET

ERTS - GROUP 2

RAPPORT

Assignment 2

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EXERCISE 3

Write a C-application that implements a command language interpreter, controlled via the USB-UART interface. The following commands must be implemented:

- 1 - Sets the binary value from 0-15 on the red led's by reading switch input (SW0-SW3)
- 2 - Counts binary the red led's using a timer of 1 sec.

1.1 Command 1

The essence of the first command is to set a binary value from 0-15 by using the four switches, which will be represented as a binary value by the four LED's on the board.

The code snippet below shows how we read input from the terminal, and execute the a command based on that input.

```
1 //read input from the terminal in byte
2 int userInput = inbyte();
3 xil_printf("Received: %d\r\n", userInput);
4
5 switch(userInput)
6 {
7     case (int)'1':
8         xil_printf("Received command 1\r\n");
9         execute_command_1();
10        break;
11        case (int)'2':
12            xil_printf("Received command 2\r\n");
13            execute_command_2();
14            break;
15            case (int)'3':
16                xil_printf("Received command 3\r\n");
17                execute_command_3();
18                break;
19            case (int)'4':
```

```
20 xil_printf("Received command 4\r\n");
21 execute_command_4();
22 break;
23 default:
24 xil_printf("Received unknown command.");
25 break;
26 }
```

Below is a code snippet of the implemented first command.

When the function `execute_command_1()` is called the switches on the board is read with the function `XGpio_DiscreteRead(&dip, 1)`. Where `&dip` is the InstancePtr that points to the XGpio instance that is being worked on, and the '1' is the channel.

The `writeValueToLEDs(int val)` takes the value returned from the `XGpio_DiscreteRead()` and writes the value to the LED registers.

```
1 void execute_command_1()
2 {
3     xil_printf("Executing command 1\r\n");
4     while(1)
5     {
6         dip_check = XGpio_DiscreteRead(&dip, 1);
7
8         writeValueToLEDs(dip_check);
9     }
10 }
11 }
12
13 void writeValueToLEDs(int val)
14 {
15     LED_IP_mWriteReg(XPAR_LED_IP_S_AXI_BASEADDR, 0, val);
16 }
```

Command 1 work as expected.

1.2 Command 2

Command 2 should, as states in the problem description, count the binary red LED's using the timer of 1 sec.

First the timer needs to be initialized. Below is a code snippet of how the timer is implemented. Comments in the code explains the implementation.

```
1 #define ONE_SECOND 325000000 // half of the CPU clock speed
2
3 // PS Timer related definitions
4 XScuTimer_Config *ConfigPtr;
5 XScuTimer *TimerInstancePtr = &Timer;
6
7 int main (void)
8 {
9 //initialize timer
10 ConfigPtr = XScuTimer_LookupConfig
    (XPAR_PS7_SCUTIMER_0_DEVICE_ID);
11 s32 Status = XScuTimer_CfgInitialize (TimerInstancePtr,
    ConfigPtr, ConfigPtr->BaseAddr);
12 if (Status != XST_SUCCESS){
13 xil_printf("Timer init() failed\r\n");
14 return XST_FAILURE;
15 }
16
17 // Load timer with delay in multiple of ONE_SECOND
18 XScuTimer_LoadTimer(TimerInstancePtr, ONE_SECOND);
19 // Set AutoLoad mode
20 XScuTimer_EnableAutoReload(TimerInstancePtr);
21 }
```

The function **execute_command_2()** sets up a counter and writes the value of counter to the LED's with the function **writeValueToLEDs(counter)** which was explained above. Then it starts the timer, and waits for the timer to expire, which will take one second. When the timer has expired the timer is cleared and the counter is incremented, before the loop starts again. Below is a code snippet of command 2.

```
1 void execute_command_2()
2 {
3 xil_printf("Executing command 2\r\n");
4 int counter = 0;
5 while(1)
6 {
7 xil_printf("Counter: %d\r\n", counter);
8 writeValueToLEDs(counter);
9
10 // Start the timer
11 XScuTimer_Start(TimerInstancePtr);
12
13 // Wait until timer expires
14 while(!XScuTimer_IsExpired(TimerInstancePtr));
15
16 // clear status bit
```

```
17 XScuTimer_ClearInterruptStatus(TimerInstancePtr);
18
19 counter++;
20
21 // Timer auto-enables
22
23 }
```

The function **execute_command_2()** works as expected.

EXERCISE 4

This exercise will deal with the steps to implement a matrix multiplier.

At first three global variables of the data structure **vectorArray** called **pInst**, **aInst** and **bTInst** were created.

Next a function called **setInputMatrices()** was implemented. This function will initialize two matrices. Below is a code snippet of the implementation. The comments in the code explains how the each element in the matrices are initialized.

```
1  void setInputMatrices()
2  {
3  //Set matrix a
4  // A, row 0
5  aInst[0].comp[0] = 1;
6  aInst[0].comp[1] = 2;
7  aInst[0].comp[2] = 3;
8  aInst[0].comp[3] = 4;
9
10 // A, row 1
11 aInst[1].comp[0] = 5;
12 aInst[1].comp[1] = 6;
13 aInst[1].comp[2] = 7;
14 aInst[1].comp[3] = 8;
15
16 // A, row 2
17 aInst[2].comp[0] = 9;
18 aInst[2].comp[1] = 10;
19 aInst[2].comp[2] = 11;
20 aInst[2].comp[3] = 12;
21
22 // A, row 3
23 aInst[3].comp[0] = 13;
24 aInst[3].comp[1] = 14;
25 aInst[3].comp[2] = 15;
26 aInst[3].comp[3] = 16;
27
28 //Set matrix bT
```

```
29 // A, row 0
30 bTInst[0].comp[0] = 1;
31 bTInst[0].comp[1] = 2;
32 bTInst[0].comp[2] = 3;
33 bTInst[0].comp[3] = 4;
34
35 //Set matrix bT
36 // A, row 1
37 bTInst[1].comp[0] = 1;
38 bTInst[1].comp[1] = 2;
39 bTInst[1].comp[2] = 3;
40 bTInst[1].comp[3] = 4;
41
42 //Set matrix bT
43 // A, row 2
44 bTInst[2].comp[0] = 1;
45 bTInst[2].comp[1] = 2;
46 bTInst[2].comp[2] = 3;
47 bTInst[2].comp[3] = 4;
48
49 //Set matrix bT
50 // A, row 3
51 bTInst[3].comp[0] = 1;
52 bTInst[3].comp[1] = 2;
53 bTInst[3].comp[2] = 3;
54 bTInst[3].comp[3] = 4;
55 }
```

Next a function called **displayMatrix(vectorArray matrix)** was implemented. As the name of the function strongly implies, this function will display a given matrix in the terminal. To implement **displayMatrix(vectorArray matrix)** a function called **displayMatrixRow(vectorArray matrix, int row)** is implemented in addition. That's because we have to display the matrix row for row. Below is a code snippet of the implemented function.

```
1 void displayMatrix(vectorArray matrix)
2 {
3     xil_printf("\r\n");
4     displayMatrixRow(matrix, 0);
5     displayMatrixRow(matrix, 1);
6     displayMatrixRow(matrix, 2);
7     displayMatrixRow(matrix, 3);
8     xil_printf("\r\n");
9 }
10
11 void displayMatrixRow(vectorArray matrix, int row)
12 {
```

```
13  xil_printf("%d %d %d %d \r\n", matrix[row].comp[0],  
           matrix[row].comp[1], matrix[row].comp[2],  
           matrix[row].comp[3]);  
14  }
```

Next a function called **multiMatrixSoft(vectorArray in1, vectorArray in2, vectorArray out)** was implemented, which is responsible for computing 4x4 matrix product of the expression

$$P = Ax B^T$$

This function takes three input because its not possible to return a matrix. So the result matrix is given as the third input parameter, that way we can set the new value of the result matrix in the function. To iterate through all combinations of the result matrix P to calculate the sum of products of each element in P, three nested for-loops were used. Below is a code snippet of the **multiMatrixSoft(vectorArray in1, vectorArray in2, vectorArray out)**

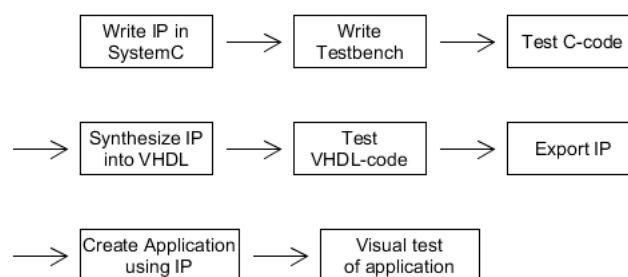
```
1  void multiMatrixSoft(vectorArray in1, vectorArray in2,  
           vectorArray out)  
2  {  
3      for (int row = 0 ; row < MSIZE; row++)  
4      {  
5          for (int col = 0 ; col < MSIZE; col++)  
6          {  
7              xil_printf("[%d,%d]\r\n", row, col);  
8              for (int i = 0 ; i < MSIZE ; i++)  
9              {  
10                 out[row].comp[col] += in1[row].comp[i] *  
                    in2[row].comp[i];  
11             }  
12         }  
13     }  
14 };
```

Kapitel 3

EXERCISE 5

EXERCISE 7

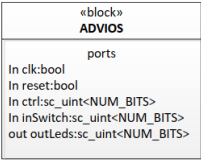
In this exercise, a custom IP called "advios" is created using SystemC. Then a testbench is written that verifies the functionality of the IP. Using the tool "vivado HLS", the C-code is synthesized into VHDL-code. Using the aforementioned testbench, the VHDL-code is verified to have the same functionality as the C-code. After synthesizing the IP, a project is created, in which the IP is used in an application, and the functionality is tested through visual inspection.



Figur 4.1: Procedure of exercise 7.

4.1 Implementation of IP using SystemC

First, the IP is implemented using SystemC. The interfaces and the functionality is given in the assignment, as seen in figures ?? and ??.



Figur 4.2: Procedure of exercise 7.

Ctrl value	Behavior
0x0	The outLeds are incremented by a second counter and cleared by inSwitch. <i>outLeds = increments every 1 seconds</i> <i>if inSwitch = 0x8 then clear outLeds</i>
0x1 – 0f	The value of outLeds are masked by ctrl register and inSwitch. <i>outLeds = ctrl AND inSwitch</i>

Figur 4.3: Procedure of exercise 7.

The IP is implemented in the following .h and .cpp-files.

```
1  #pragma once
2  #include <systemc.h>
3
4  #define NUM_BITS 4
5  #define CLKFREQ = 100000000
6
7  #ifndef _ADVIOS_
8  #define _ADVIOS_
9
10 #include <systemc.h>
11
12 SC_MODULE(advios) {
13
14     //Ports
15     sc_in<bool> clk;
16     sc_in<bool> reset;
17     sc_in<sc_uint<NUM_BITS>> ctrl;
18     sc_in<sc_uint<NUM_BITS>> inSwitch;
19     sc_out<sc_uint<NUM_BITS>> outLeds;
20
21     // Signal to communicate between the two threads.
22     sc_signal<bool> oneSecPulse;
23
24     //Variables
25     sc_uint<8> switchs;
26
27     int clkCount; // Used in clock-divider-thread
28
29     //Process Declaration
30     void adviosThread();
31     void clkDivide();
32     void writeToLeds();
33
34     //Constructor
35     SC_CTOR(advios) {
36         clkCount = 0;
37         //Process Registration
38         // Clock-divider-thread, which outputs a high signal to
39         // oneSecPulse once every second.
40         SC_CTHREAD(clkDivide, clk.pos());
41         reset_signal_is(reset, true);
42
43         // "Main"-thread for the module.
44         SC_CTHREAD(adviosThread, clk.pos());
45     }
46 };
```

```
46
47 #endif
```

```
1  #include "Advios.h"
2
3  void advios::clkDivide()
4  {
5      while (1)
6      {
7          // Clock = 100 MHZ.
8          // Every 100*1000*1000 cycles, make a "true" pulse, and
              reset the counter.
9          clkCount++;
10         if (clkCount >= 1000000000)
11         {
12             oneSecPulse.write(true);
13             clkCount = 0;
14         }
15         else
16         {
17             oneSecPulse.write(false);
18         }
19         // Wait to be triggered by clock again.
20         wait();
21     }
22 }
23
24 void advios::adviosThread()
25 {
26
27     // Used in connecting the ctrl-port to the
                AXI4Lite-interface.
28     #pragma HLS resource core=AXI4LiteS metadata="-bus_bundle
                slv0" variable=ctrl
29
30     // Init counter
31     sc_uint<4> cnt = 0;
32
33     while (1)
34     {
35         // if ctrl == 0, write value of counter to LEDs. Counter
                increments 1 every second.
36         // if ctrl != 0, write the value of the switches masked by
                the ctrl-signal.
37         int val_ctrl = ctrl.read().to_int();
38         int val_switches = inSwitch.read().to_int();
39         if (val_ctrl == 0)
```

```
40 {
41   outLeds.write(cnt);
42   // if all switches are engaged, clear LEDs and reset
   counter.
43   if (val_switches == 0x8)
44   {
45     outLeds.write(0);
46     cnt = 0;
47   }
48   else
49   {
50     // If the one-sec-pulse is high (which it is for only 1
       cycle pr. second), increment the counter.
51     if (oneSecPulse == true)
52     {
53       //Increment counter, write to LEDs and wait for new clock.
54       cnt++;
55       outLeds.write(cnt);
56     }
57   }
58 }
59 else
60 {
61   // sc_uint<NUM_BITS> outLedVal = val_switches && val_ctrl;
62   outLeds.write((val_switches & val_ctrl));
63 }
64
65 // Wait to be triggered by clock again.
66 wait();
67 }
68 }
```

4.2 Test of C-code

In order to test the functionality of the C-code, a test-bench and a driver is made. The driver defines the interfaces to the "Device Under Test", along with a series of input stimuli and expected outputs. The test-bench sets up the test environment and executes the test-simulation.

The drivers and the test-bench are implemented in the following .h and .cpp-files

```
1 #ifndef _ADVIOS_DRIVER
2 #define _ADVIOS_DRIVER
3
4 #include <systemc.h>
5 // #include "Advios.h"
```

```
6
7 #define NUM_BITS 4
8
9 SC_MODULE(advios_driver) {
10
11     //Ports
12     sc_in <bool> clk;
13     sc_out <bool> reset;
14
15     sc_out<sc_uint<NUM_BITS> > ctrl;
16     sc_out<sc_uint<NUM_BITS> > outSwitch;
17     sc_in<sc_uint<NUM_BITS> > inLeds;
18
19     int retval;
20
21     //Process Declaration
22     void test();
23
24     //Constructor
25     SC_CTOR(advios_driver) : retval(-1) {
26
27         //Process Registration
28         SC_THREAD(test);
29         sensitive << clk.pos();
30     }
31 };
32
33 #endif
```

```
1 #include "advios_driver.h"
2
3 void advios_driver::test() {
4
5
6     //Variables
7     sc_uint<NUM_BITS> sw_test;
8     sc_uint<NUM_BITS> ctrl_test;
9     sc_uint<NUM_BITS> led_result;
10
11     //Initialization
12     sw_test = 0b1111;
13     ctrl_test = 0b0111;
14
15     // Reset at start, then make sure reset is false.
16     reset.write(true);
17     wait();
18     reset.write(false);
```



```
19 wait();
20
21 // Write stimuli to DUT
22 ctrl.write(ctrl_test);
23 outSwitch.write(sw_test);
24
25 // Wait for DUT to react to stimuli.
26 wait();
27 wait();
28
29 // Record output
30 led_result = inLeds.read();
31 wait();
32
33 // Compare output to expected value.
34 if (ctrl_test == led_result)
35     retval = 0;
36 else
37     retval = 1;
38 }
```

```
1 #include <systemc.h>
2 #include <stdio.h>
3
4 // if running RTL-simulation use generated RTL-wrapper
5 #ifdef __RTL_SIMULATION__
6 #include "advios_rtl_wrapper.h"
7 #define advios advios_rtl_wrapper
8 // if not, the c-simulation is being run, and the c-version
   is used instead.
9 #else
10 #include "advios.h"
11 #endif
12
13 #include "advios_driver.h"
14
15 #define TRACE_FILE_NAME "advios_trace"
16
17 int sc_main (int argc , char *argv[])
18 {
19     sc_report_handler::set_actions("/IEEE Std 1666/deprecated",
        SC_DO_NOTHING);
20     sc_report_handler::set_actions( SC_ID_LOGIC_X_TO_BOOL_,
        SC_LOG);
21     sc_report_handler::set_actions(
        SC_ID_VECTOR_CONTAINS_LOGIC_VALUE_, SC_LOG);
22     sc_report_handler::set_actions( SC_ID_OBJECT_EXISTS_,
```

```
        SC_LOG);
23
24 sc_trace_file *tracefile;
25
26 // Test signals
27 sc_signal<bool> s_reset;
28 sc_signal<sc_uint<NUM_BITS> > s_switch;
29 sc_signal<sc_uint<NUM_BITS> > s_ctrl;
30 sc_signal<sc_uint<NUM_BITS> > s_leds;
31
32 // Create a 10ns period clock signal
33 sc_clock s_clk("s_clk", 10, SC_NS);
34 advios U_Advios("advios");
35 advios_driver U_advios_driver("advios_driver");
36
37 // Create tracefile
38 tracefile = sc_create_vcd_trace_file(TRACE_FILE_NAME);
39 if (!tracefile) cout << "Could not create trace file." <<
    endl;
40
41 // Set resolution of trace file to be in 10 US
42 tracefile->set_time_unit(1, SC_NS);
43
44 // Trace signals
45 sc_trace(tracefile, s_clk, "clock");
46 sc_trace(tracefile, s_reset, "reset");
47 sc_trace(tracefile, s_ctrl, "ctrl");
48 sc_trace(tracefile, s_leds, "leds");
49 sc_trace(tracefile, s_switch, "switch");
50
51 // Connect the DUT to the signals
52 U_Advios.clk(s_clk);
53 U_Advios.reset(s_reset);
54 U_Advios.ctrl(s_ctrl);
55 U_Advios.outLeds(s_leds);
56 U_Advios.inSwitch(s_switch);
57
58 // Connect the driver to the signals
59 U_advios_driver.clk(s_clk);
60 U_advios_driver.reset(s_reset);
61 U_advios_driver.inLeds(s_leds);
62 U_advios_driver.outSwitch(s_switch);
63 U_advios_driver.ctrl(s_ctrl);
64
65 // Simulate for 200
66 int end_time = 200;
67 std::cout << "INFO: Simulating" << std::endl;
68 // start simulation
69 sc_start(end_time, SC_NS);
70
71 // Check whether test passed or not
```

```

72 if (U_advios_driver.retval == 0) {
73     printf("Test passed !\n");
74 } else {
75     printf("Test failed !!!\n");
76 }
77
78 // Close trace file.
79 sc_close_vcd_trace_file(tracefile);
80 std::cout << TRACE_FILE_NAME << ".vcd" << std::endl;
81
82 return U_advios_driver.retval;
83 };

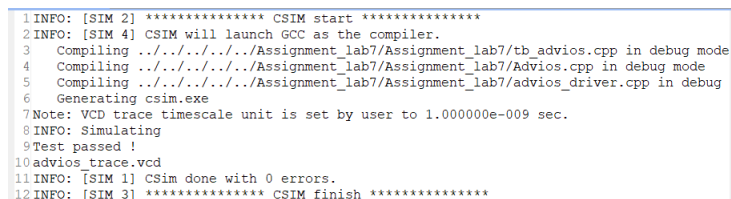
```

4.2.1 Result of C-simulation

Figure ?? show the result of running the C-simulation of the code. As seen, the test is passed, which indicates that the received result from the simulated matched the expected result.

4.3 Synthesis of C-code into VHDL

Using Vivado HLS, the C-code is synthesized into VHDL-code. From the figures ?? and ?? the performance and resource utilization of the synthesized code can be seen. It can be seen that there is a latency of a maximum of 5 clock cycles throughout the module. Furthermore, it can be seen that there is only used 170 Flip Flops and 187 Lookup Tables, which is virtually none of the existing resources of the board.

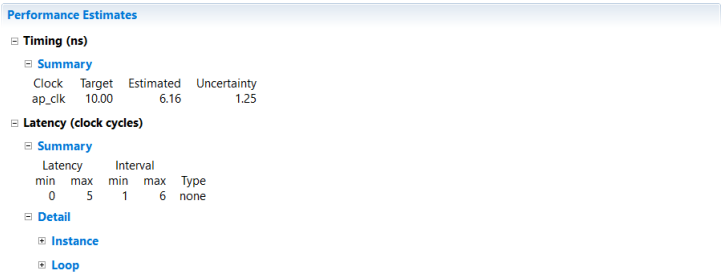


```

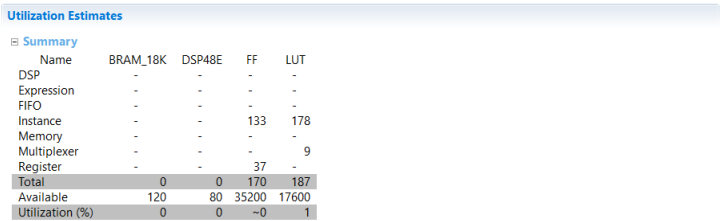
1INFO: [SIM 2] ***** CSIM start *****
2INFO: [SIM 4] CSIM will launch GCC as the compiler.
3  Compiling ../../../../Assignment_lab7/Assignment_lab7/tb_advios.cpp in debug mode
4  Compiling ../../../../Assignment_lab7/Assignment_lab7/Advios.cpp in debug mode
5  Compiling ../../../../Assignment_lab7/Assignment_lab7/advios_driver.cpp in debug
6  Generating csim.exe
7Note: VCD trace timescale unit is set by user to 1.000000e-009 sec.
8INFO: Simulating
9Test passed !
10advios_trace.vcd
11INFO: [SIM 1] CSim done with 0 errors.
12INFO: [SIM 3] ***** CSIM finish *****

```

Figur 4.4: Result of C-simulation



Figur 4.5: Performance of synthesized VHDL code.



Figur 4.6: Resource utilization of synthesized VHDL code.

4.4 RTL/C co-simulation

In order to verify that the synthesized VHDL-code functions as expected, an RTL/C co-simulation is carried out. Basically, a the test defined using the test bench and the driver is carried out, first on C-level as before, and then again using the newly synthesized VHDL-code. It then compares the result of the two tests, in order to verify that the functionality is the same.

As seen in figure ??, it is seen that the simulation passes, indicating that the functionality of the synthesized VHDL-code matches that of the C-code.

4.5 Connect ctrl-port to AXI4Lite-interface

The ctrl-port is connected to the AXI4Lite-interface, simply by adding the following line of code

```
1  #pragma HLS resource core=AXI4LiteS metadata="-bus_bundle
    slv0" variable=ctrl
```

at the top of the "main-thread of the advios-module, as seen in the file Advios.cpp. This makes it possible to connect an external signal to the block in order to send messages to the ctrl-port of the module.

4.6 Using the IP in an application

```
source xsim.dir/advios/xsim_script.tcl
# xsim {advios} -autoloadwcfg -tclbatch {advios.tcl}
Vivado Simulator 2017.2
Time resolution is 1 ps
source advios.tcl
## run all
Note: simulation done!
Time: 195 ns Iteration: 0 Process: /AUTOTB_TOP/proc_tv_out File: C:/Users/Mathi/Desktop/Skole/ERTS/Assignments/ERTS_Assignment2/Assignment2/Lab7/lab7_HLS/lab7_HLS/solution1/
Failure: NORMAL EXIT (note: failure is to force the simulator to stop)
Time: 195 ns Iteration: 0 Process: /AUTOTB_TOP/proc_tv_out File: C:/Users/Mathi/Desktop/Skole/ERTS/Assignments/ERTS_Assignment2/Assignment2/Lab7/lab7_HLS/lab7_HLS/solution1/
$finish called at time : 195 ns
## quit
INFO: [Common 17-206] Exiting xsim at Sun Oct 6 13:25:54 2018...
INFO: [COSIM 212-1000] *** C/RTL co-simulation finished: PASS***
INFO: [COSIM 212-211] It is measurable only when transaction number is greater than 1 in RTL simulation. Otherwise, they will be marked as all NA. If user wants to calculate th
Finished C/RTL cosimulation.
```

Figur 4.7: Result of RTL/C co-simulation

4.6.1 Generating the hardware

After having exported the RTL core from Vivado HLS, by simply pressing "Export RTL", the IP core can be used in a Vivado block design. A design was made using the IP, the ZYNQ processing system and an instance of the AXI4Lite-interface, as seen in figure ??.

Next, the bitstream is generated, and the hardware is exported to Xilinx SDK, where an application for the hardware is written.

4.6.2 Writing the application

A simple application is written, which uses UART-communication to prompt the user for a value to be used as the ctrl-value. Upon receiving a new value, the value is written to the ctrl-signal. As the rest of the functionality is handled by hardware, the program will function as expected, even though the "main-program is waiting for a new input from the user.

```

1 #include "xparameters.h"
2 #include "xadvios.h" // Include HAL for iosc driver
3 //=====
4 void writeToCtrl(int);
5
6 // driver created as global, so it can be used in
7 // "helper"-function writeToCtrl.
8 XAdvios adviosHLS; // Create an instance of the advios driver
9
10 int main (void)
11 {
12 // Initialize the advios driver
13 if (XAdvios_Initialize(&adviosHLS, XPAR_ADVIOS_0_DEVICE_ID)

```

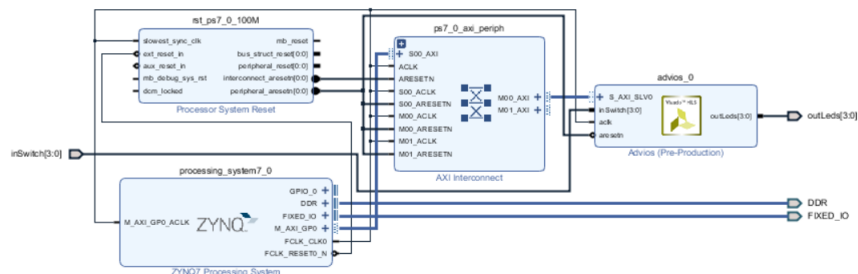


Figure 4.8: Block design using the exported IP.

```

    != XST_SUCCESS) return XST_FAILURE;
13
14 xil_printf("-- Start of the Program --\r\n");
15
16 // Loop: Prompt user for ctrl-value. If valid value, write
    to ctrl, else tell user.
17 while(1)
18 {
19     xil_printf("\r\n");
20     xil_printf("-----\r\n");
21     xil_printf("\r\n");
22     xil_printf("Enter ctrl-value\r\n");
23
24     int userInput = inbyte()-48;
25     if ((userInput < 0) || (userInput > 15))
26     {
27         xil_printf("Value must be between 0 and 15\r\n");
28     }
29     else
30     {
31         writeToCtrl(userInput);
32     }
33 }
34 }
35
36
37 void writeToCtrl(int val)
38 {
39     // Writing 0xff to the ctrl register of the iosc IP core
40     XAdvios_SetCtrl(&adviosHLS, val);
41 }

```

4.6.3 Results

Upon visual inspection, the following functionality is confirmed:

- **ctrl = 0:** The LEDs are used to count, incrementing with the value of 1 every second.
- **ctrl = 1-15:** The LEDs show the value of the number corresponding to the value of ctrl, provided that all switches are in the "on-position. If a switch is in the "off-position, the corresponding LED is turned off.

Thus, the functionality of the system is as stated in the requirements.

4.7 Summary

In this exercise, an IP has been written in C using SystemC, synthesized using High Level Synthesis, and integrated in a design. It has taught us the general procedure for creating custom IPs at a relatively high level of abstraction, in order to utilize them at a much lower level of abstraction.