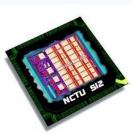
Testbench and Pattern

NCTU-EE IC Lab Fall-2021



Lecturer: Wen-Yue Lin



Outline

- ✓ Section 1- Introduction to Verification
- ✓ Section 2- Pattern
- ✓ Section 3- Testbench

Outline

- ✓ Section 1- Introduction to Verification
- √ Section 2- Pattern
- ✓ Section 3- Testbench

What is Verification?

Verification == Bug Hunting

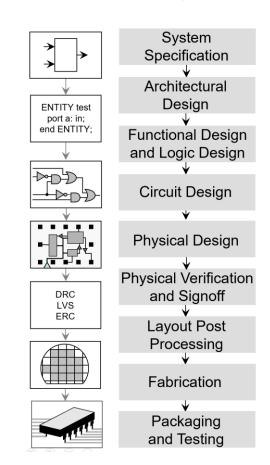
A process in which a design is verified against a given design specification before tape out.

Verification include:

- Functionality (Main goal !!)
- Performance
- Power
- Security
- Safety

How to perform the verification?

- Simulation of RTL design model (Lab3)
- Formal Verification (Bonus Lab @ 2021/12/8)
- Power-aware simulations (Lab8)
- Emulation/FPGA prototyping
- Static and dynamic timing checks



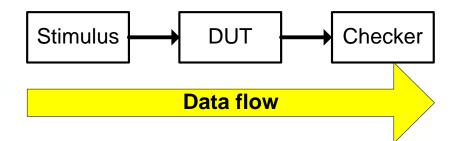
Introduction to Verification

✓ Stages (Types) of verification

- Preliminary verification -> Specification (ex. Output = 0 after rst)
- Broad-spectrum verification -> Test pattern (ex. Random test)
- Corner-case verification -> Special test pattern (ex. Boundary)

✓ Steps of verification

- Generate stimulus
- Apply stimulus to DUT (Design Under Test)
- Capture the response
- Check for correctness
- Measure progress against overall verification goal





The Verilog Design Environment

✓ TESTBED.v

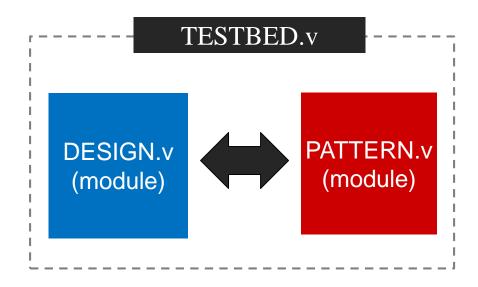
- Connecting testbench and design modules
- Dump waveform

✓ DESIGN.v

Design under test (DUT)

✓ PATTERN.v

- Pattern
- Test program



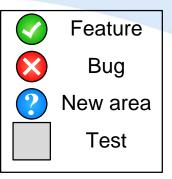


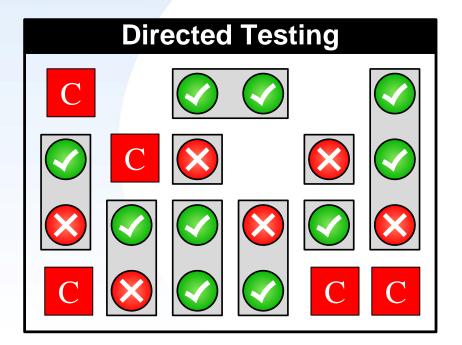
Outline

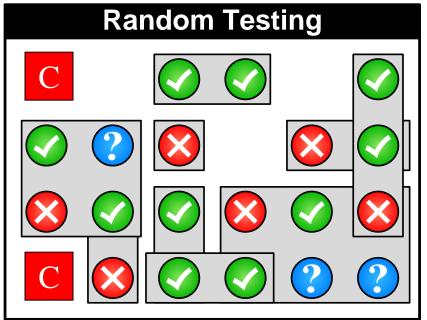
- ✓ Section 1- Introduction to Verification
- ✓ Section 2- Pattern
- ✓ Section 3- Testbench

✓ Two kinds of strategies

- Directed Testing -> Check what you know
- Random Testing -> Find what you don't know

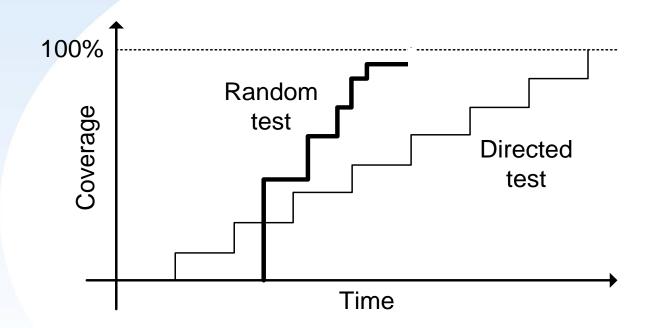






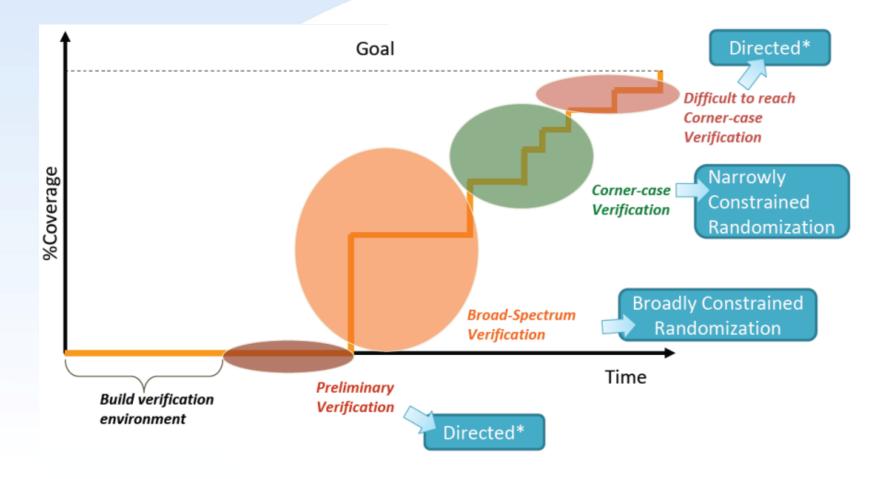


✓ Time consuming v.s. coverage





✓ Which one to use?

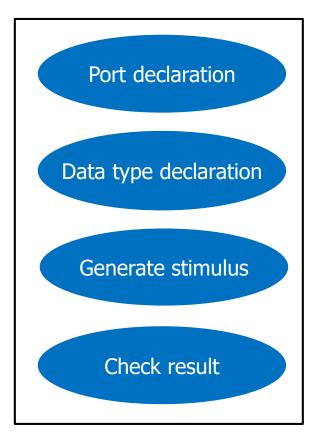




✓ Elements of pattern file

- Generate stimulus
- File I/O
- Procedural Blocks
- Display information
- Control flow
 - for, while, repeat, if, case, forever
- Task and Function

PATTERN.v





✓ Using Verilog random system task

- \$random(seed);
 - Return 32-bit signed value
 - Seed is optional
- \$urandom(seed);
 - Return 32-bit unsigned value
 - Seed is optional
- \$urandom_range(int unsigned MAX, int unsigned MIN=0);
 - Return value inside range

✓ Using high level language with file IO

- Generate random stimulus from MATLAB or Python etc. and output the stimulus into files.
- Read the files in pattern.v



✓ A simple example

Produce random number in 0~6

```
integer SEED,number;
SEED = 123;
number = $random(SEED) % 7;
```

```
integer SEED;

reg[3:0] number;

SEED = 123;

number = $random(SEED);

number = number % 7;
```

```
integer SEED,number;
SEED = 123;
number = $urandom(SEED) % 7;
```

```
integer SEED;
reg[3:0] number;
SEED = 123;
number = $random(SEED) % 7;
```

```
integer SEED;
reg[3:0] number;
SEED = 123;
number = $random(SEED) % 'd7;
```

Same ?
Not the Same



✓ A simple example

Produce random number in 0~6

May be negative

Correct

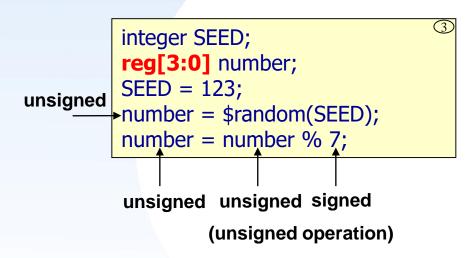
```
integer SEED, number;
SEED = 123;
number = $urandom(SEED) % 7;

signed unsigned signed
(unsigned operation)
```

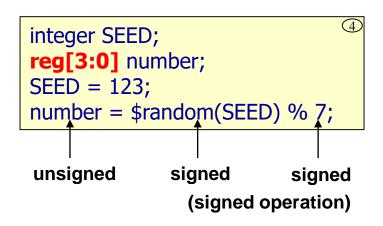
✓ A simple example

Produce random number in 0~6

Correct



The value may not in range 0~6



The key point is to use unsigned operation!

✓ A simple example

Produce random number in 0~6

Correct

The key point is to use unsigned operation!

File I/O

✓ Open file

- \$fopen opens the specified file and returns a 32-bit descriptor.
 - file_descriptor = \$fopen("file_name", "type");
 - ◆ file_descriptor: bit 32 always be set (=1), remaining bits hold a small number indicating what file is opened.
 - type: "r", open for read; "w", open for write

```
file = $fopen("test.txt","w");
file2 = $fopen("test2.txt","w");
file3 = $fopen("test3.txt","w");
```

- multi_channel_descriptor = \$fopen("file_name");
 - ◆ Multi_channel_descriptor: bit 32 always be clear (=0), bit 0 represent standard output, each remaining bit represents a single output channel.

```
file = $fopen("test.txt");
file2 = $fopen("test2.txt");
file3 = $fopen("test3.txt");
```



File I/O

✓ Close file

- \$fclose system task closes the channels specified in the multichannel descriptor
 - \$fclose(<multichannel_descriptor>);
 - The \$fopen task will reuse channels that have been closed



File Input

✓ Read data from specific file

- \$fgetc reading a byte at a time
 - c = \$fgetc(<descriptor>);
- \$fgets reading a line at a time
 - i = \$fgets(string, <descriptor>);
- \$fscanf reading formatted data
 - i = \$fscanf(<descriptor>," text", signal,signal,...);

```
rc = $fscanf(file_input,"opa=%d,opb=%d",opa,opb);
```

- \$readmemb, \$readmemh
 - \$readmemb("file_name", memory_name [, start_address [, end_address]]);
 - \$readmemh("file_name", memory_name [, start_address [, end_address]]);

```
$readmemh ("IN.txt",in);
$readmemh ("OUT.txt",out);
```



File Input

✓ A simple example for readmemb

```
@002
11111111 01010101
00000000 10101010
@006
1111zzzz 00001111
```

```
11111111_01010101
00000000_10101010
@006
1111zzzz_00001111
```

@002

```
reg [7:0] meme[0:7];
$readmemb("test.txt",meme);
```

```
reg [15:0] meme[0:7];
$readmemb("test.txt",meme);
```

```
meme[0]: xxxxxxxx
meme[1]: xxxxxxxx
meme[2]: 11111111
meme[3]: 01010101
meme[4]: 00000000
meme[5]: 10101010
meme[6]: 1111zzzz
meme[7]: 00001111
```

File Output

Display tasks that writes to specific files

- \$fdisplay, \$fwrite, \$fstrobe, \$fmonitor
 - \$fdisplay (<descriptor>,["format_specifiers",] <argument_list>);
 - \$fwrite (<descriptor>,["format_specifiers",] <argument_list>);
 - \$fstrobe (<descriptor>,["format_specifiers",] <argument_list>);
 - \$fmonitor (<descriptor>,["format_specifiers",] <argument_list>);

```
$fdisplay(file_output,"%d + %d = %d",opa,opb,sum);
```

- The first parameter must be a multichannel descriptor that indicates where to direct the file output
- All these four output system tasks support multiple bases
 - \$fdisplay /\$fdisplayb /\$fdisplayo
 - \$fwrite /\$fwriteb /\$fwriteo
 - \$fstrobe /\$fstrobeb /\$fstrobeo
 - \$fmonitor /\$fmonitorb /\$fmonitoro





File I/O

✓ Example

```
□module PATTERN (
     output reg rst n,
     output reg [7:0] opa,
     output reg [7:0] opb,
     input clk,
     input [7:0] sum,
     input ca,
     );
integer f in, f out, rc;
pinitial begin
  f in = $fopen("../00 TESTBED/in.txt", "r");
  f out = $fopen("../00 TESTBED/out.txt", "w");
 end
pinitial begin
     rst n = 1;
     opa = 0;
     opb = 0;
     repeat(5) @ (posedge clk);
     rst n = 0;
     repeat(5) @ (posedge clk);
     rst n = 1;
     rc = $fscanf(f in, "opa=%d, opb=%d", opa, opb);
     @ (posedge clk);
     $fdisplay(f out, "%d + %d = %d", opa, opb, sum);
     repeat(5) @ (posedge clk);
     $display("Adder Simulation End!");
     $finish;
 end
 endmodule
```



Procedural Blocks

- ✓ All procedural blocks will be executed concurrently.
- ✓ Initial Blocks
 - Only be executed once

```
initial
begin
statement...
end
```

- ✓ Always Blocks
 - Will be executed if the condition is met

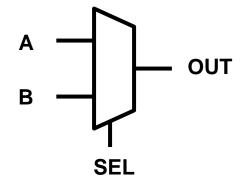
```
always@(condition_expression)
begin
statement...
end
```

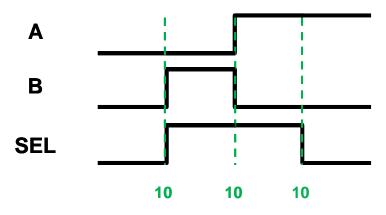
Procedural Blocks

✓ A simple example

```
module Test (OUT, A, B, SEL);
         output A,B,SEL;
                           Port declaration
         input OUT;
         initial
         begin
                     A=0;B=0;SEL=0;
Delay and timing
                     #10
                                 A=0;B=1;SEL=1;
                                 A=1;B=0;
                     #10
                     #10
                                 SEL=0;
                                 $finish;
                     #10
                                            End simulation
         end
         endmodule
```

- •If simulation never stop, check...
- 1.No "\$finish" in pattern
- 2. Have combinational loop in design
- 3. Have loop in pattern







Task and Function

✓ To break up a task into smaller, more manageable ones, and encapsulate reusable code, you can either divide your code into modules, or you can use tasks and functions.

✓ Task

 A task is typically used to perform debugging operations, or to behaviorally describe hardware.

✓ Function

 A function is typically used to perform a computation, or to represent combinational logics.

Tasks and Functions

✓ Task

- Tasks may execute in non-zero simulation time
- Can have timing controls (#delay, @, wait).
- Can have port arguments (input, output, and inout) or none.
- Can enable task or function.
- Does not return a value.
- Not synthesizable

✓ Function

- always execute in 0 simulation time
- Can't have timing controls.
- Has only input arguments and returns a single value through the function name.
- Can enable function, but can't enable task.
- Returns a single value.
- Synthesizable



Tasks

✓ Simplified Syntax

```
task identifier;

parameter_declaration;
input_decleration;
output_decleration;
inout_declaration;
register_declaration;

begin

statement;
....
end
endtask
```

Tasks

✓ An example of using a task

 Task can take, drive and source global variables, when no local variables are used.

```
temp_in = 30;
convert(temp_in, temp_out);
$display("%d ,%d",temp_in,temp_out);

task convert;
input [7:0] temp_in;
output [7:0] temp_out;
begin
    temp_in = 20;
    temp_out = (9/5)*(temp_in+32);
end
endtask
```

```
temp_in: 30 temp_out: 52
```

```
temp_in = 30;
convert;
$display("%d,%d",temp_in,temp_out);

task convert;
begin
    temp_in = 20;
    temp_out = (9/5)*(temp_in+32);
end
endtask
```

```
temp_in: 20 temp_out: 52
```



Tasks

✓ How to use task in Pattern

```
initial begin
  f in = $fopen("../00 TESTBED/in.txt", "r"); //file I/O
  f ans = $fopen("../00 TESTBED/ans.txt", "r");
  rst n=1'b1;
  force clk = 0:
  reset signal task;
                    //task to reset rst n
  #CYCLE; release clk;
  for (p=0; p<patnumber; p=p+1)</pre>
    begin
       input task; //task to send input
       compute ans; //task to compute correct answer
       wait out valid; //task to wait out valid
       check ans; //task to check the design's answer
    end
  YOU PASS task;
 end
task reset signal task; begin
    #CYCLE; rst n = 0;
    \#CYCLE; rst n = 1;
    if(out valid!==1'b0||out score!==0) begin //if out!==0, you will violate the spec!!
       $display("
                                   SPEC 3 FAIL!
                                                                   "):
       $display("* Output signal should be 0 after initial RESET at %8t *",$time);
       repeat (2) #CYCLE;
       $finish:
    end
 end endtask
```



Functions

✓ Simplified Syntax

```
function type_or_range identifier;
    parameter_declaration;
    input_decleration;
    register_declaration;

    begin
        statement;
    ....
    end
endfunction
```

Functions

✓ An example of using a function

 Although the function cannot contain timing, you can call it from a procedural block that does.

```
always@(posedge CLK)
sum = add(a,b);
...

function [7:0] add;
input [7:0] a;
input [7:0] b;
begin
add = a + b;
end
endfunction
...
```

Display Information

- ✓ There are mainly four kinds of instruction to display information.
 - \$display: automatically prints a new line to the end of its output
 - \$display (["format_specifiers",] <argument_list>);
 - \$write: identical to \$display, except that it does not print a newline character
 - \$write (["format_specifiers",] <argument_list>);
 - strobe: identical to \$display, except that the argument evaluation is delayed just prior to the advance of simulation time
 - \$strobe (["format_specifiers",] <argument_list>);
 - \$monitor: continuously monitors the variables in the parameter list
 - \$monitor(["format_specifiers",] <argument_list>);



Display Information (cont.)

✓ The following escape sequences are used for display special characters

\n	New line character	\"	" character
\t	Tab character	\o	A character specified in 1-3 octal digits
11	\ character	%%	Percent character

✓ The following table shows the escape sequences used for format specifications

specifier	Display format	specifier	Display format
%h or %H	Hexadecimal	%m or %M	Hierarchical name
%d or %D	Decimal	%s or %S	String
%o or %O	Octal	%t or %T	Current time
%b or %B	Binary	%e or %E	real number in exponential
%c or %C	ASCII character	%f or %F	Real number in decimal
%v or %V	Net signal strength	%p or %P	Array <only for="" system="" verilog=""></only>



Display Information

✓ More detail

- http://verilog.renerta.com/source/vrg00013.htm
- http://www.cnblogs.com/oomusou/archive/2011/06/25/verilog_strobe.html



Coding Note

Some note about coding

- Input delay
- Asynchronous reset and clock
- Check output data

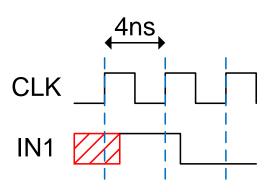


Input Delay

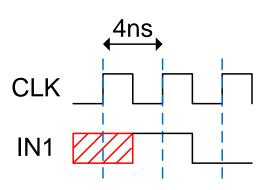
Consider the input interface

end

- Input signals should be synchronous to either positive clock edge or negative clock edge with specified input delays to avoid timing violation
- Assign input delays by absolute delay value



- Assign input delays by relative delay value (relative to clock period)
- Example:





Asynchronous Reset and Clock

Asynchronous reset:

Reset signal will reset all registers on the falling edge of reset signal.

Clock signal

- Clock signal should be forced to 0 before reset signal is given.
- Using always procedure to produce a duty cycle 50% clock signal
- Example:

```
reg clk, rst_n;
parameter CYCLE = 2.5;
initial clk = 0;
always #(CYCLE/2.0) clk = ~clk;
initial begin
    rst_n = 1'b1;
    force clk =0;
    #(0.5);    rst_n= 1'b0;
    #(10);    rst_n= 1'b1;
    #(3);    release clk;
end
```

Check output data

✓ Two ways to check the output data of design

- x cycles later, check output data
- Check output data when out_valid is high
- Example

```
task check ans; begin
    cnt=1;
    while (out valid)
    begin
        if(cnt>1)//prevent out valid pull up too many clock
            begin
                //display information...
            $finish;
            end
        if (ans! == out) // check output correct or not
            begin
                //display information...
            $finish;
            end
    end
end
```

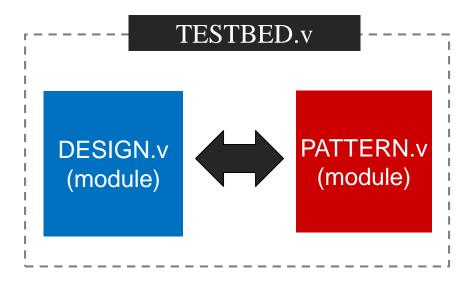


Outline

- ✓ Section 1- Introduction to Verification
- √ Section 2- Pattern
- ✓ Section 3- Testbench

Testbench

- Encapsulate DESIGN.v and PATTERN.v to be a top verification file
- Key element
 - Timescale
 - Dump Waveform
 - Port Connection



Timescale

√ 'timescale

- A compiler directive
- Specifies the unit of measurement for time and the degree of precision of the time
- Syntax:

`timescale <time_unit> / <time_precision>

- time_unit specifies the unit of measurement for times and delays
- time_precision specifies the degree of precision
- The time_precision must be at least as precise as the time_unit
- Valid integers are 1, 10, and 100
- Valid character strings are s, ms, us, ns, ps, and fs

Timescale

✓ A simple example:

```
CYCLE/2.0 = CYCLE/2 ??

If CYCLE = 5

◆ CYCLE/2.0 = 2.5

◆ CYCLE/2 = 3
```

CYCLE/2.0 = 1.25 ns
Precision requirement: 0.01ns < 100ps
Precision loss !! The CYCLE/2.0 will
become 1.3ns

'timescale Unit/Precision	Delay	Time Delay
'timescale 10ns/1ns	#5	50ns
'timescale 10ns/1ns	#5.738	57ns
'timescale 10ns/10ns	#5.5	60ns
'timescale 10ns/100ps	#5.738	57.4ns

 Note: if you use memory in your design, you should set timescale according to the timescale specified by memory file



- ✓ There are many different waveform file formats.
 - Value Change Dump (.VCD)
 - Included in Verilog HDL IEEE Standard
 - Wave Log File (.wlf)
 - Mentor Graphics Modelsim
 - SHM (.shm)
 - Cadence NC Verilog / Simvision
 - VPD (.vpd)
 - Synopsys VCS
 - Fast Signal DataBase (.fsdb)
 - Spring Soft (Merged with Synopsys) Debussy/Verdi

Command often used

- \$fsdbDumpfile(fsdb_name[,limit_size])
 - fsdb_name: assign waveform file name
 - (Optional) limit_size: assign the limitation of file size
- \$fsdbDumpvars([depth, instance][,"option"])
 - depth: level of waveform to be dumped
 - instance: module to be dumped
 - "option": other additional specification, ex: "+mda"
- \$sdf_annotate("sdf_file"[,instance][,config_file][,log_file][,mtm_spec][,scale_factors][,scale_type])

✓ Parameters of \$fsdbDumpvars()

- Depth
 - 0: all signals in all scopes
 - 1: all signals in current scope (scope of TESTBED.v)
 - 2: all signals in the current scope and all scopes one level below
 - n: all signals in the current scope and all scopes n-1 levels below

Option

- "+IO_only": only IO port signals will be dumped.
- "+Reg_only": only reg type signals will be dumped.
- "+all": dump all signals including the memory, MDA, packed array, structure, union and packed structure signals in all scopes specified in \$fsdbDumpvars.
- "+mda": dump all memory and MDA signals in all scopes specified in \$fsdbDumpvars.
- For further information, please refer http://www.eetop.cn/blog/html/55/1518355-433686.html



✓ A simple example:

- Used in RTL simulation or gate-level simulation
- Dump wave form in fsdb format for viewing in nWave
- Include timing information in the simulation

```
initial begin

'ifdef RTL

$fsdbDumpfile("Design.fsdb");
$fsdbDumpvars(0,"+mda");

'endif

'ifdef GATE

$fsdbDumpfile("Design_SYN.fsdb");
$fsdbDumpvars(0,"+mda");
$fsdbDumpvars(0,"+mda");
$fsdbDumpvars(0,"+mda");
$fsdbDumpvars(0,"+mda");
$fsdbDumpvars(0,"+mda");
$fsdbDumpvars(0,"+mda");
$fsdbDumpvars(0,"+mda");
$fsdbDumpvars(0,"+mda");
$fsdbDumpfile("CORE_SYN.sdf",dut);
```

Port Connection

- ✓ The input and output is reverse between design.v and pattern.v.
- ✓ A simple example:

```
TESTBED.v
//input signals
wire clk, rst_n, in;
//output signals
                                                                      cĺk
wire out;
                                                                      rst n
                                                                                PATTERN.v
DESIGN U_DESIGN(
                                                 DESIGN.v
            .in(in)
                                                                       in
                                                                                  (module)
                                                  (module)
            .rst_n(rst_n)
                                                                      out
            .clk(clk)
            .out(out)
PATTERN U_PATTERN(
            .in(in)
            .rst_n(rst_n)
            .clk(clk)
            .out(out)
endmodule
```



TA's Suggestion

✓ After receiving Exercise PDF

- Spend some time understanding the problem
- Write some input/output by hand
 - To make sure you fully understand the problem

Before writing the design

- Write high level language random stimulus generator
 - Think how to write the design when writing stimulus generator
- Finish PATTERN & TESTBED
 - Reference Lab01/Lab02 PATTERN & TESTBED

When writing the design

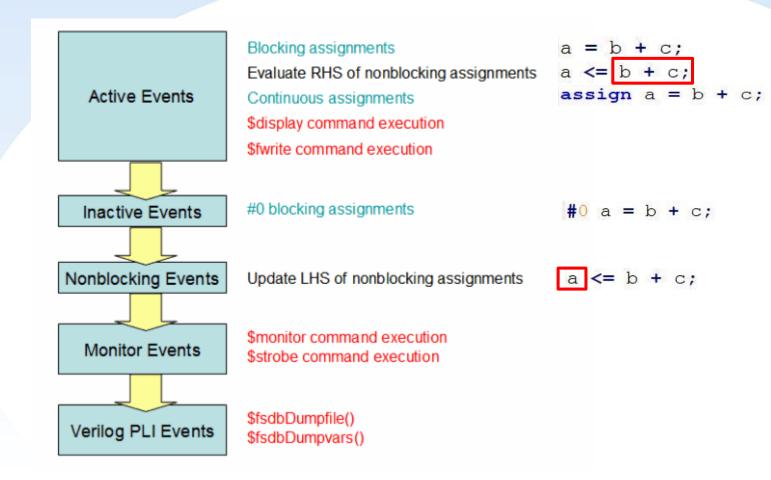
- Make sure your algorithm is correct before coding
- Keep track of every hardware and its area and timing overhead
- Use directed test to help writing the design

After finishing the design

Random test & corner case test & optimization



Appendix-Stratified Event Queue



Appendix-Stratified Event Queue

```
1 module nb schedule1;
   3 reg a, b;
   4 integer fp;
   6 initial begin
      fp = $fopen("log.txt","w");
   8 a = 0:
   9 b = 0:
      #1:
      a = 0:
  12 b = 1:
  13
      a <= b:
      b <= a:
  15
  16
      $monitor("%0dns :\$monitor: a=%b b=%b" , $stime, a, b);
  17 $display("%0dns:\$display: a=%b b=%b" , $stime, a, b);
  18
      $strobe ("%0dns :\$strobe : a=%b b=%b\n", $stime, a, b);
        $fwrite(fp, "%0dns :\$fwrite : a=%b b=%b\n", $stime, a, b);
  20 #0 $display("%0dns :#0 : a=%b b=%b" , $stime, a, b);
  21
  22
  23 #1 $monitor("%0dns:\$monitor: a=%b b=%b" , $stime, a, b);
  24 $display("%0dns:\$display: a=%b b=%b" , $stime, a, b);
      $strobe ("%0dns :\$strobe : a=%b b=%b\n", $stime, a, b);
       $fwrite(fp, "%0dns :\$fwrite : a=%b b=%b\n", $stime, a, b);
  27 #0 $display("%0dns :#0 : a=%b b=%b" , $stime, a, b);
  28
  29
      $fclose(fp);
  31 end
  32
  33 initial begin
  34 $fsdbDumpfile("nb schedule1.fsdb");
35 $fsdbDumpvars(0, nb schedule1);
   36 end
```

8 endmodule



Result

```
# 1ns :$display: a=0 b=1

# 1ns :#0 : a=0 b=1

# 1ns :$monitor: a=1 b=0

# 1ns :$strobe : a=1 b=0

#

# 2ns :$display: a=1 b=0

# 2ns :#0 : a=1 b=0

# 2ns :$monitor: a=1 b=0

# 2ns :$strobe : a=1 b=0
```

Appendix: Simulation environment

- √ 00_TESTBED
 - Pattern and testbench location.
- √ 01_RTL
 - RTL code functionality simulation
- √ 02_SYN
 - Circuit synthesize
- **✓** 03_GATE
 - Gate level simulation
- **✓** 04_MEM
- **✓** 05_APR
- **✓** 06_POST



Appendix: 00_TESTBED & 01_RTL

- ✓ 00_TESTBED:
- **✓ TESTBED.v**
- **✓ PATTERN.v**

- √ 01_RTL:
- ✓ DESIGN.v
- ✓ 01_run: irun TESTBED.v -define RTL -debug
- ✓ Link:
 - PATTERN.v & TESTBED.v

Appendix: 02_SYN & 03_GATE

- **✓** 02_SYN:
- ✓ syn.tcl
- ✓ 01_run_dc: dc_shell
- ✓ Generate file:
 - DESIGN_SYN.v & DESIGN_SYN.sdf
- **✓** 03_GATE:
- √ 01_run:
- ✓ Link:
 - DESIGN_SYN.v & DESIGN_SYN.sdf

