Lab 5: Matrix Multiplication

In this Lab, we are going to using Vivado High Level Synthesis (HLS) tool to create a hardware accelerator for Matrix Multiplication.

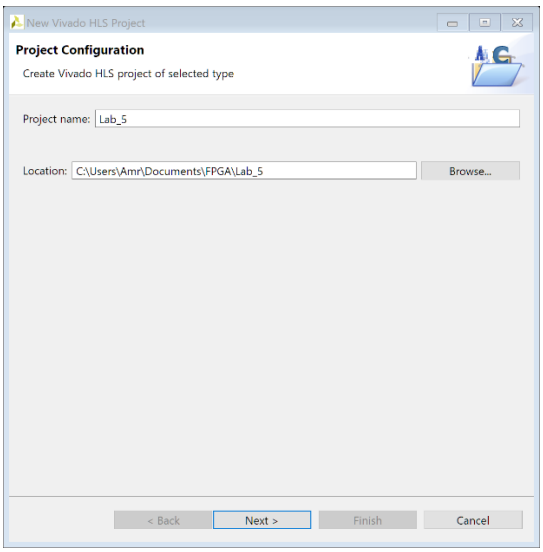
1. Vivado HLS

This section will walk you through creating a new Vivado HLS project

a. Download the lab5_template.zip and extract it.

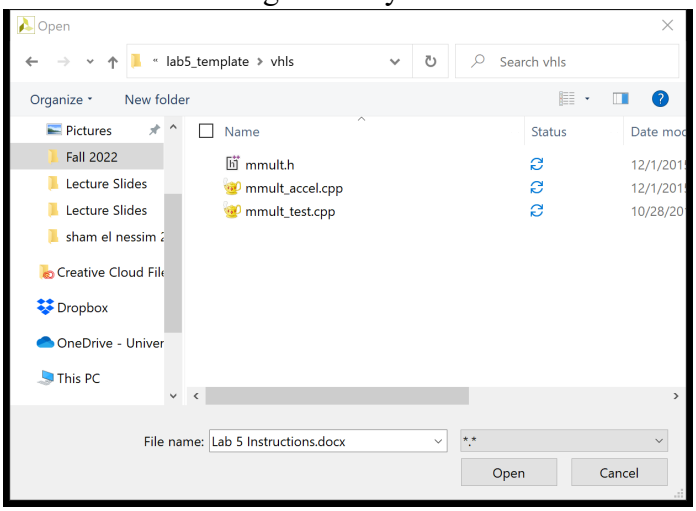
b. Open Vivado HLS and click on New Project.

c. Choose a project name and make sure that the path to it doesn't have any spaces at all! Click Next.

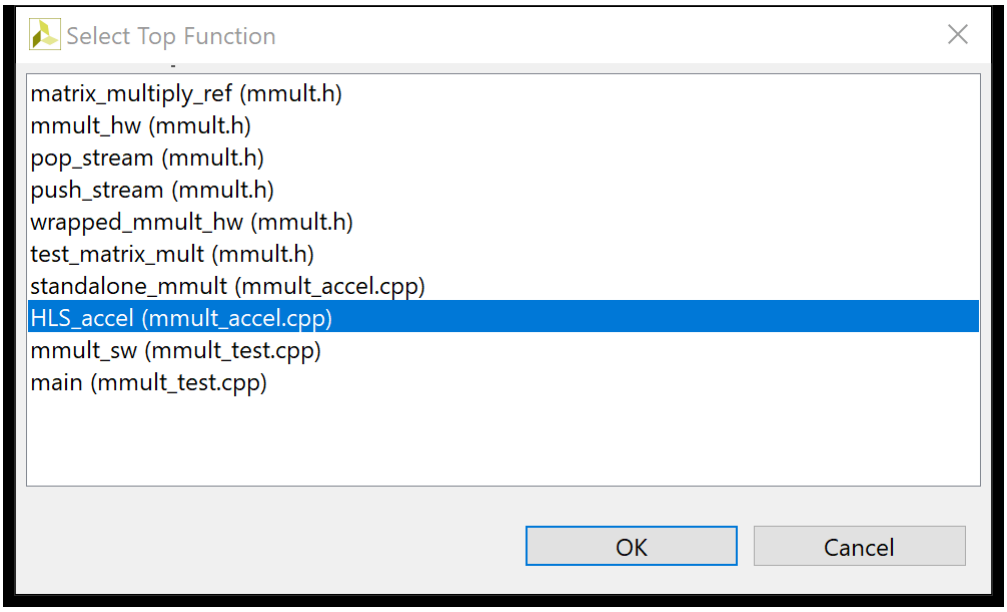


d. Copy the folder name "vhls" under lab5_template folder and paste in the folder of the project.

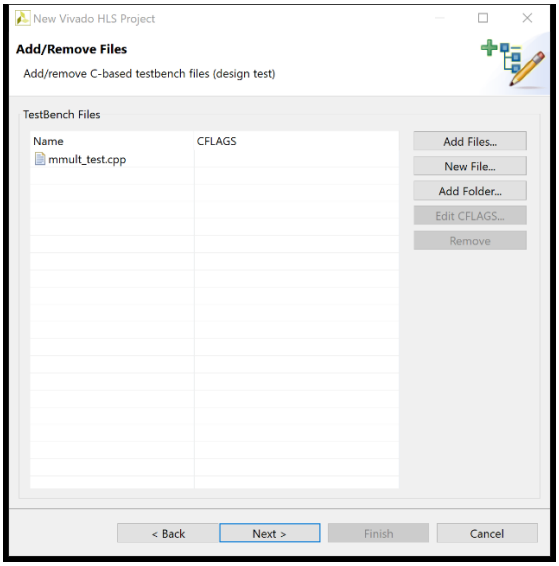
e. Choose the following files as your sources:



f. Next to Top Function, click on browse and choose HLS_accel (mmult_accel.cpp) as the top function. Click Next.

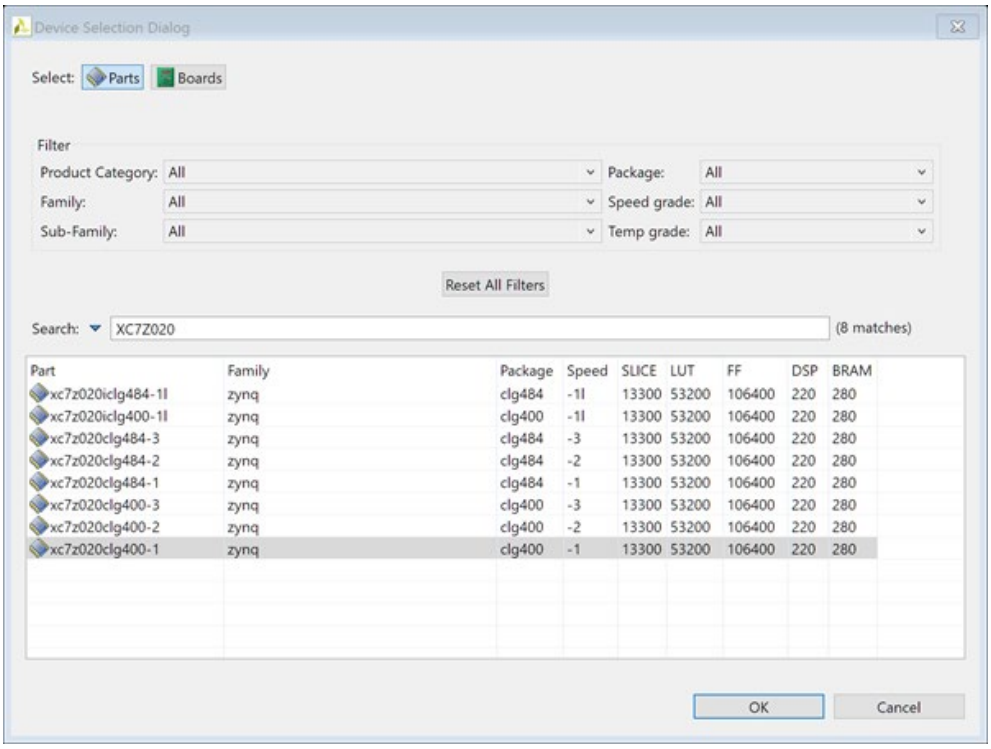


g. Choose the mmult_test.cpp as your simulation file. Click Next.

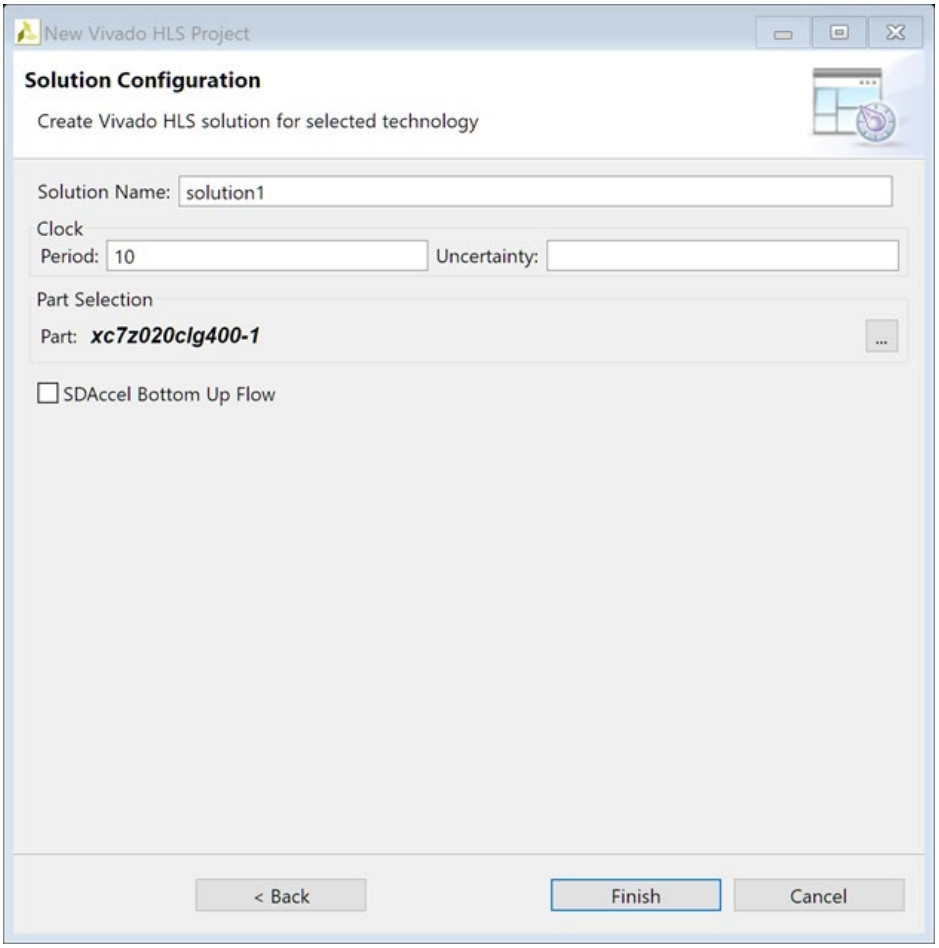


h. In this window, we are going to choose ZYNQ Part number: search for: xc7z020clg and choose

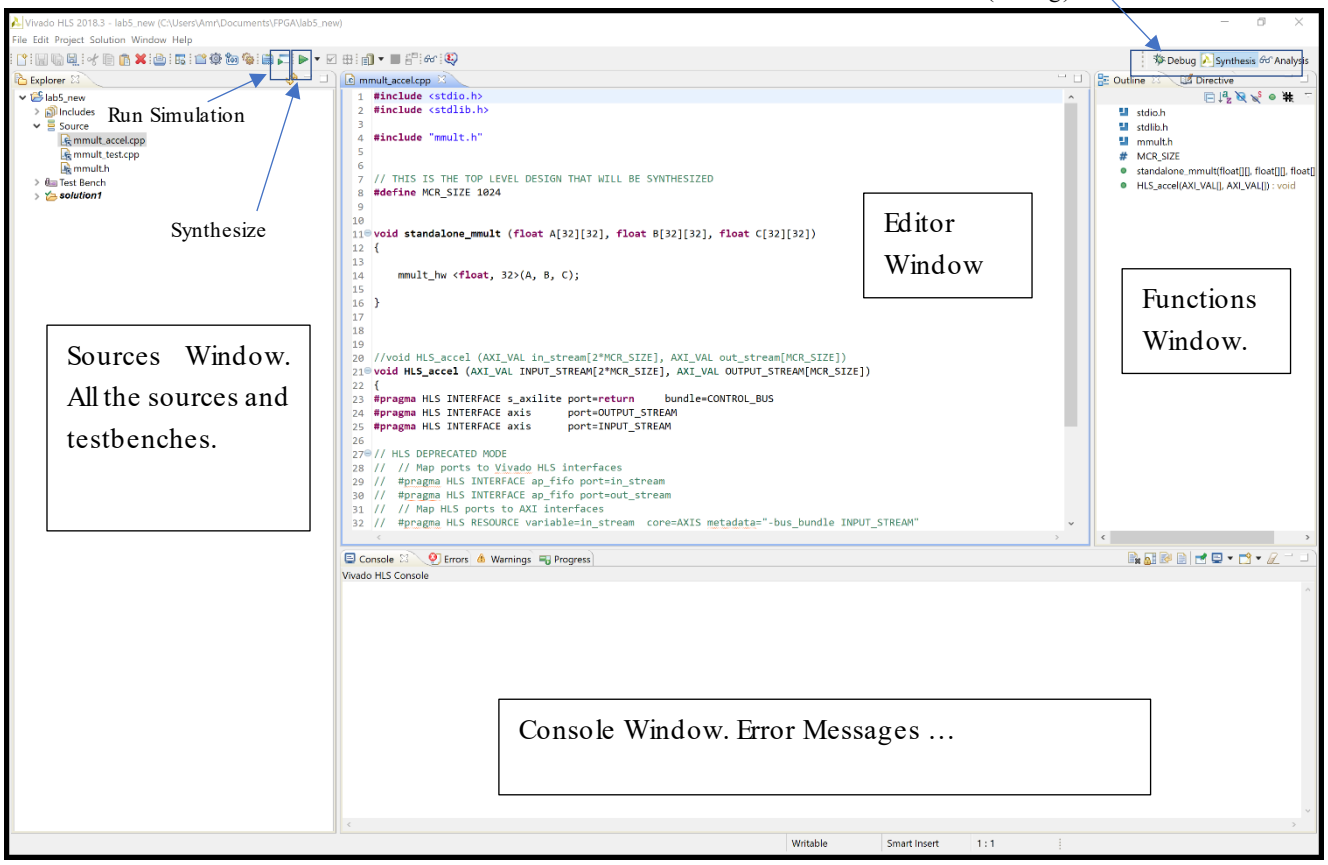
the following part number: Click Ok.



i. Click Finish here



j. This is what the project should look like now.

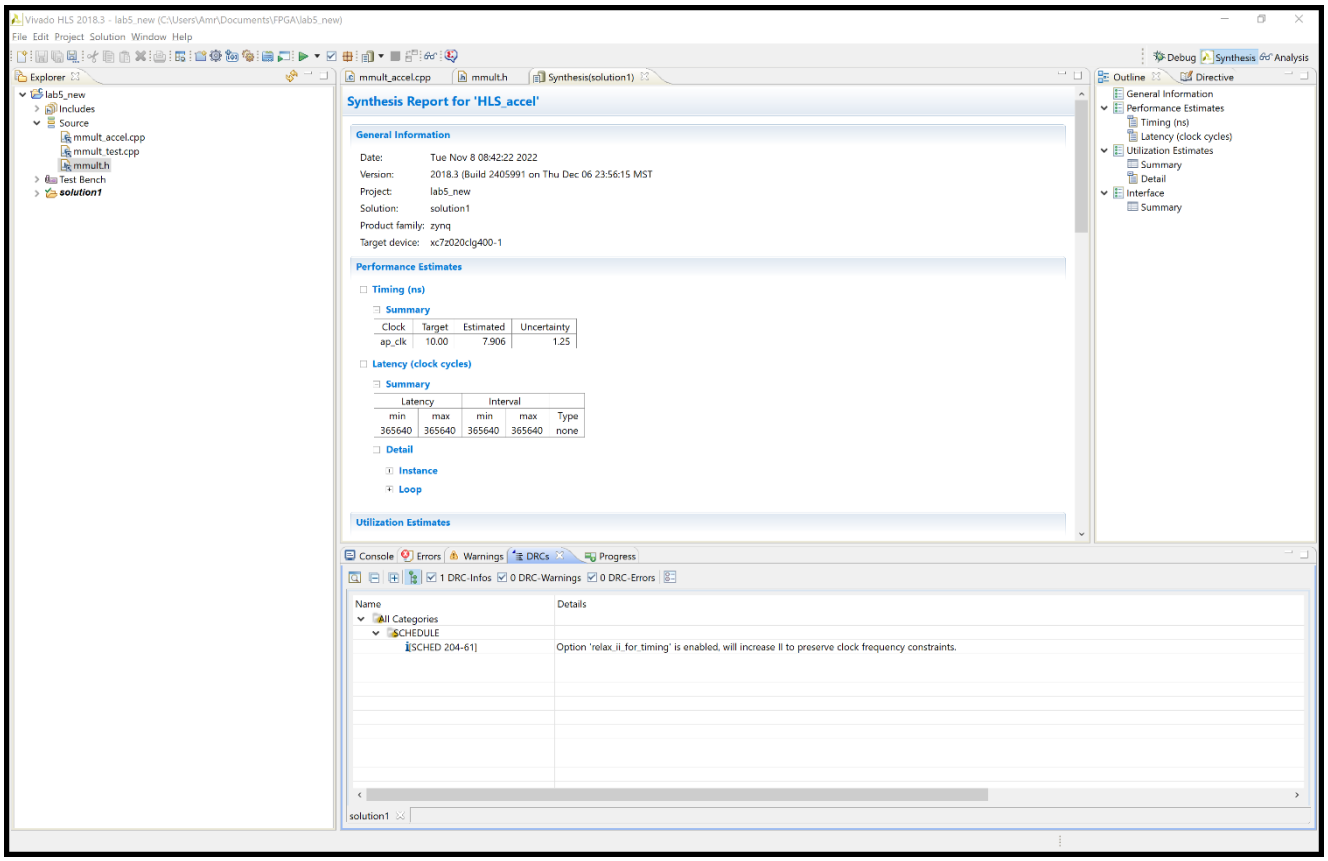


2. Synthesizing Top Function

Now you should open the *mmult.h* and start implementing the function named *mmult_hw*. Note that you would need the mmult_hw to be completed before running the synthesize step. In this step, Vivado HLS will try and generate hardware (.vhd) file representing this Top Function. It will take into consideration all the directive written and will try to optimize your design as it can.

a. When you are done implementing your C function, click on the Synthesize button.

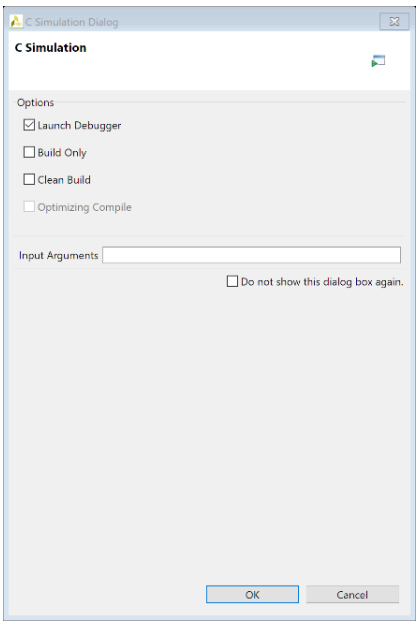
b. If there were no errors in the synthesis and implementation, you should see the following window. Any errors will be displayed in the console window, you can go back and fix them.



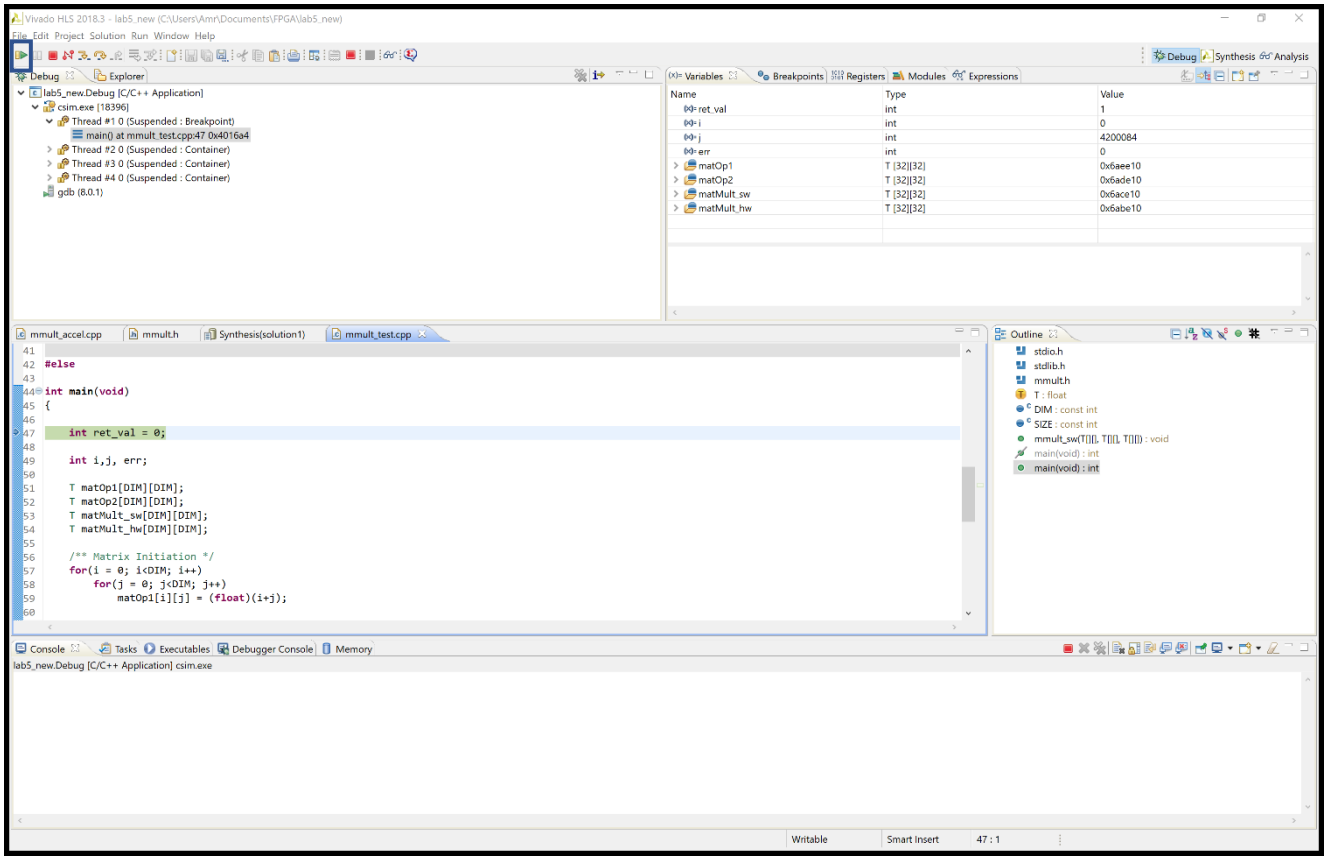
c. This is the generated Synthesis Report, which has an estimate of the Performance (Timing, maximum Clock frequency, Utilization, no. of each of the resources used, and the Interface ports), as discussed in the lecture.

Please take a screenshot of this report and name it: Trial 1, no optimization.

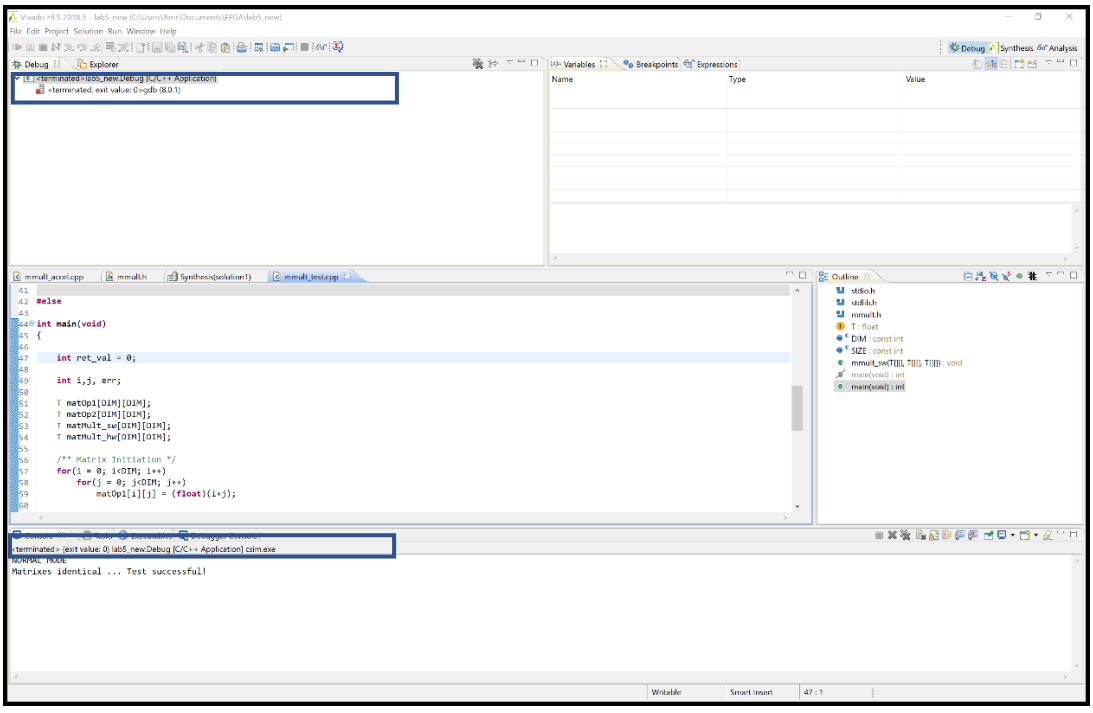
d. Now you are ready to Simulate. Click on the Run Simulation Icon, and Check Launch Debug in the following window.
Note: you might also want to check Clean Build in between runs, just to make sure that nothing gets written over.



e. If the simulation was able to start successfully, then you the view will be switched to the Debug view as in the following window. This is the Debug mode, so you are able to go through your code step by step. If you wish to run your code entirely, Click on Resume (the first icon to the left) or hit F8. In the following Simulation runs, if you don't wish to go in the Debug mode and run the code directly, uncheck the "Launch Debugger" in the previous step.



f. Any errors, will appear in the console window, you can go back and fix them. If the code was run in its entirety with no errors, you will see the following window. Note that the exit code is zero, meaning no issues.



3. Optimizing the Design, Trial 2

Now that you were able to synthesize the function, it's time to add some optimization to it.

In your implemented code for matrix multiplication, add the following pragma directive as the first line inside your second for loop:

#pragma HLS PIPELINE II=1

You can copy and paste it from here. This line is going to do full pipelining for your accelerator to speed it.

Synthesize your design as you did before and take a screenshot of the generated report and name it: Trial 2, fully pipelined.

Notice how the latency drops drastically.

Simulate your new function and make sure that you pass the test cases.

4. Optimizing the Design, Trial 3

Uncomment the pragma directives on line 52 and 53 in mmult.h file:

```
//#pragma HLS array_partition variable=a block factor=FACTOR dim=2
//#pragma HLS array_partition variable=b block factor=FACTOR dim=1
```

Keep the pipeline directive as is from the second trial.

Synthesize your design as you did before and take a screenshot of the generated report and name it: Trial 3, fully pipelined with partitioning.

Notice how the latency drops drastically, even from trial 2.

Simulate your new function and make sure that you pass the test cases.

What to do:

1. You should design the mmult_hw function in the provided mmult.h template, as described above.
2. Synthesize the Top Function and generate the Synthesis Report. You will be writing a report for this Lab so make sure to get screenshots that would cover all parts of the report.
3. Simulate the c testbench and make sure the test cases are passed. Take screenshots showing that the test case was passed as they will be included in the report.
4. Modify your implementation to achieve better performance, as described in Trial 2 and Trial 3.
5. Repeat step 2 and 3 for each trial and make sure to take screenshots.

Deliverables:

1. You will be delivering all the C codes that you have written, The submission will be on Canvas Assignment for Lab 5. You can just Zip the top Vivado HLS project folder. You will also include make a report and add all the necessary screenshots mentioned in the What to do section.
   Please make sure to submit this report along with the zipped project folder and **NOT** inside the zipped folder. So submit two files, the zipped project folder and the report.
2. Check-offs will be done on the due date for this assignment. The rubric for the check-offs will be provided later.