

ECE 385
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Experiment #8

SOC with USB and VGA Interface in SystemVerilog

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8.1 Introduction

The purpose of this lab was to experiment with C code VHDL to work with a monitor and a keyboard. The experiment allowed us to create a very simple game in which we controlled a ball where it bounced off the walls and where it could not have travelled diagonally. We used the W, A, S, and D key to travel up, left, down, and right. After each key press, the corresponding ASCII value was also displayed to the FPGA board.

The monitor was able to display content through a VGA connection, and the keyboard used USB interface to send data to the FPGA board. Universal Serial Bus (USB) is an industry standard that sets out requirements for cables and connectors and protocols for connection, communication and power supply between computers, peripherals and other devices. The NIOS II chip can handle the keycode sent from keyboard, and the DE2 board has a USB controller which can handle data transmission. Video Graphics Array, also known as VGA, also considered my favorite I/Os has 15 pins. These 15 pins are used to send analog component RGBHV video signals. RGBHV stands for red, green, blue, horizontal sync, and vertical sync.

8.2 Written Description of Lab 8 System

8.2.1 NIOS Interaction

We have similar functionality of the NIOS interaction as Lab 7 because some modules were re-used, specifically `clk_0`, `nios2_gen2_0`, `onchip_memory2_0`, `sdram`, and `sdram_pll`. These modules are the backbone to the operation of the system. `Clk_0` outputs a clock signal that connects to all components that are synchronous on the same clock. The `nios2_gen2_0` is our processor which will perform operations and read instructions. For memory storage, we have `onchip_memory2_0` which although is faster than the SDRAM, there is much less of it in terms of storage space. The `sdram_pll` generates the clock that goes into the SDRAM, 3ns behind the system clock in order to give output enough time to stabilize.

One of the new modules we introduce is the `jtag_uart` modules, which allows you to use a terminal on your computer to communicate with the NIOS II. The other modules we had were specific to the way the Cypress EZ-OTG (CY7C67200) chip

handles the protocol. These were specifically hpi_address (chooses which HPI register to write to), hpi_cs (chip select), hpi_r (read), hpi_w (write), and otg_hpi_data (our data).

8.2.2 USB Protocol

The Nios II handles the USB protocol with its software, and the keycode that is extracted is outputted to other hardware that checks for keypresses (ie. ball.sv). We had to write out functions such as IO_write and IO_read based on the datasheet showed the timing diagram and the order of the operations. For example:

IO_write:

- 1) Write address in hpi_address location
- 2) Set cs to 0 (active low)
- 3) Set w to 0 (active low)
- 4) Write data in hpi_data location
- 5) Set w to 1
- 6) Set cs to 1

And for

IO_read:

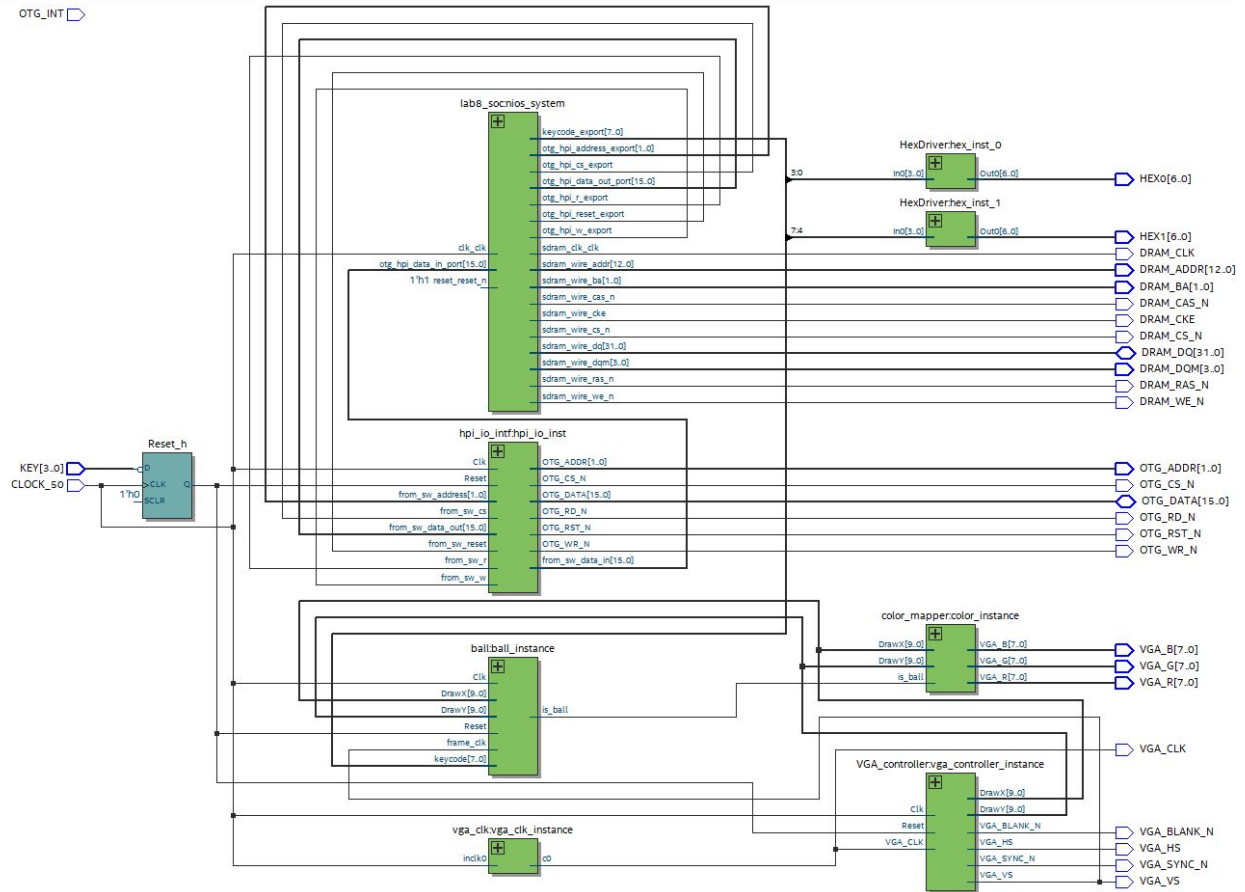
- 1) Write address in hpi_address location
- 2) Set cs to 0 (active low)
- 3) Set w to 1 (active high)
- 4) Store hpi_data in temp variable
- 5) Set w to 0
- 6) Set cs to 1
- 7) Return temp.

The order of the signals is very important in order to match up with the protocol, and incorrect order/ programming can lead to failure of reads or writes

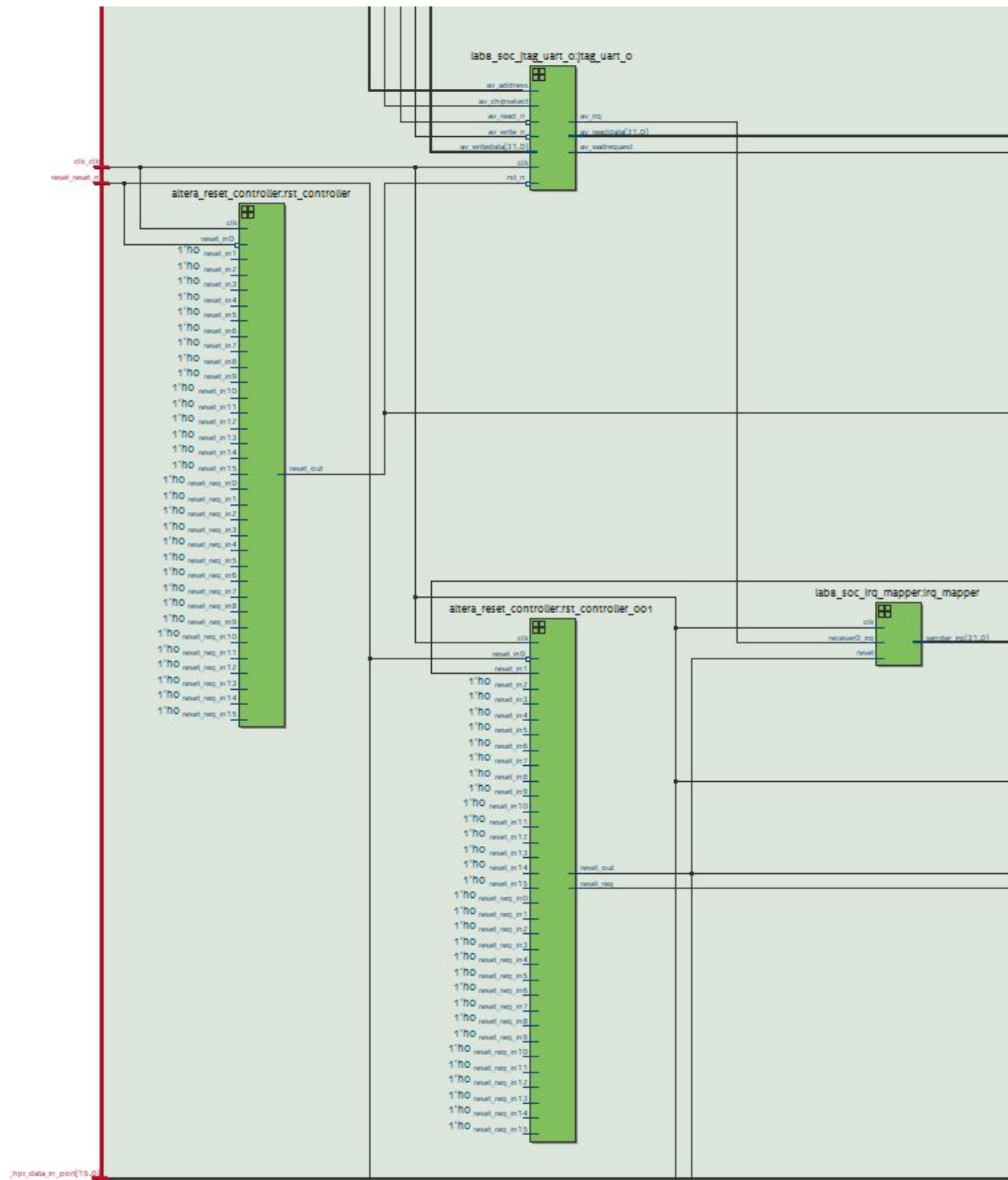
8.2.3 Block Diagram

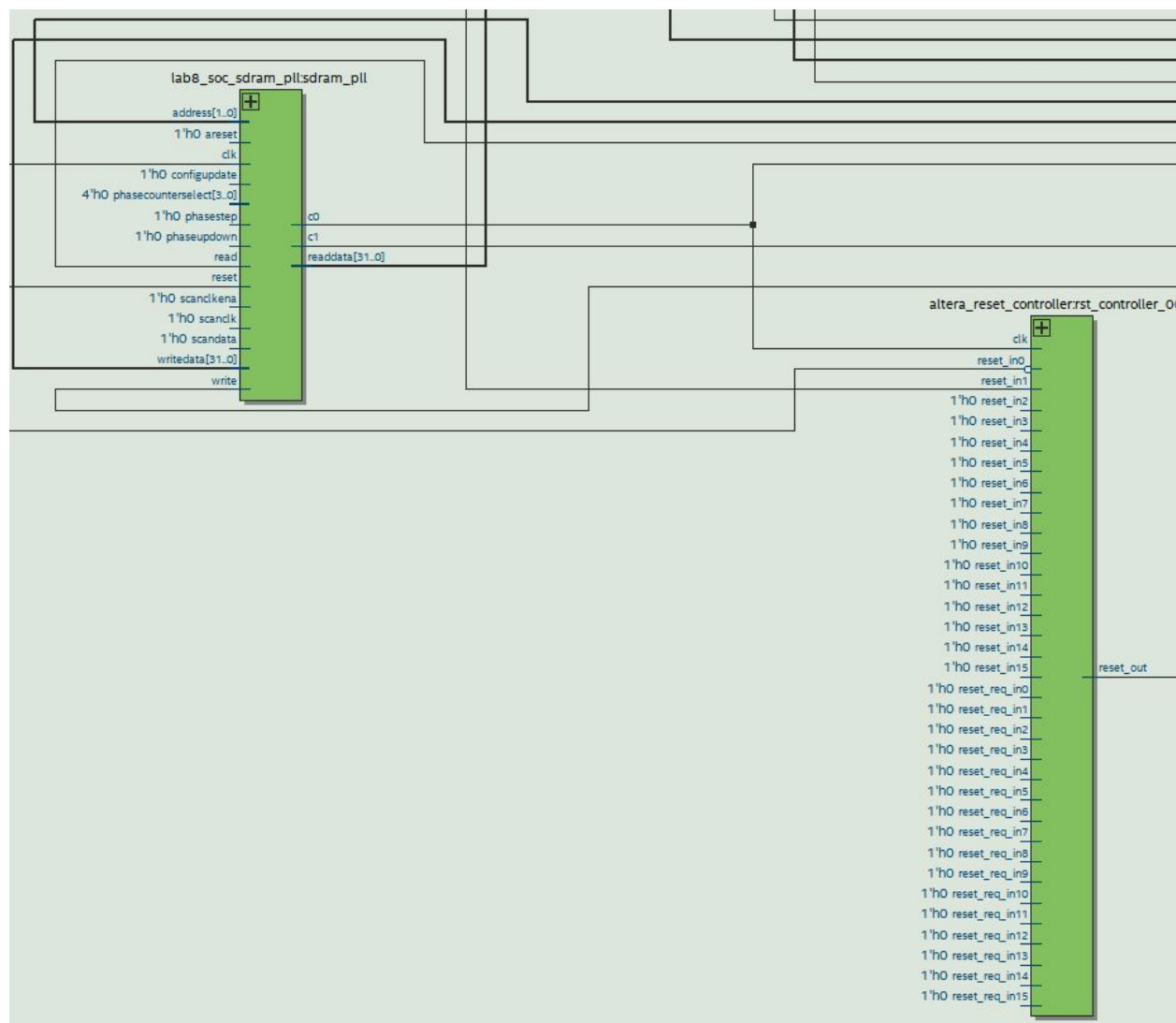
Top Level

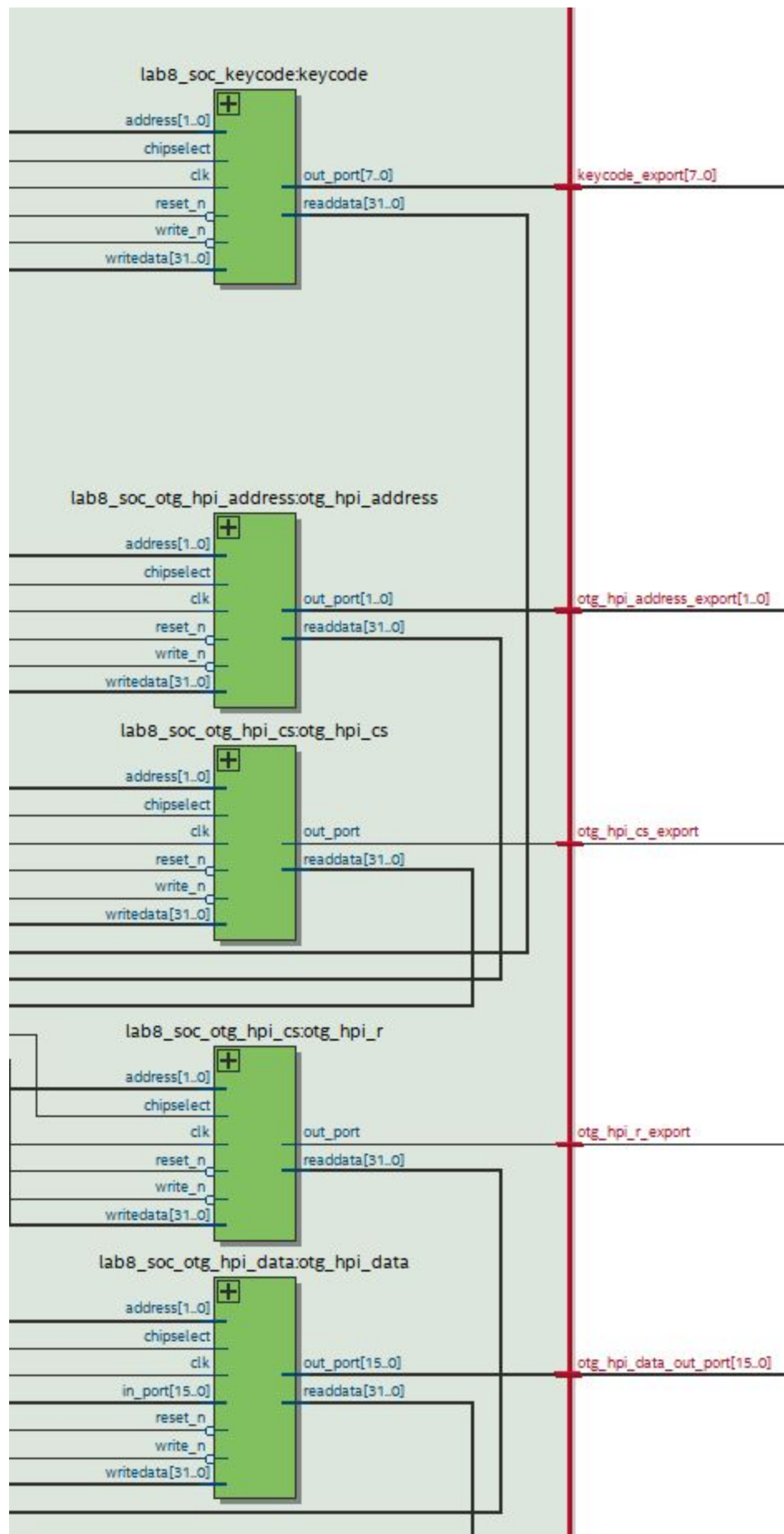
OTG_INT

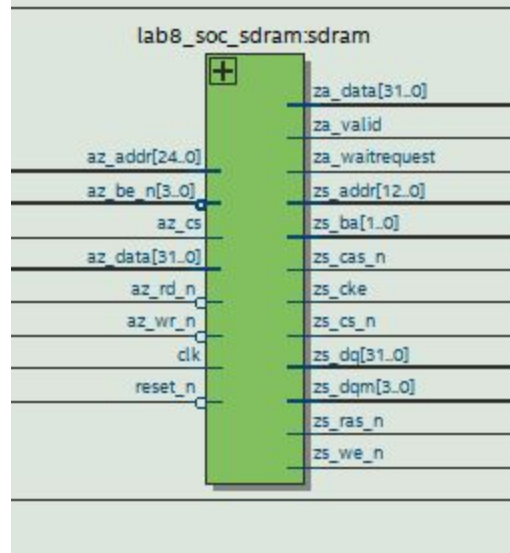
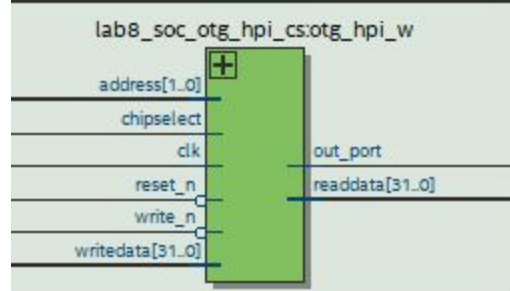
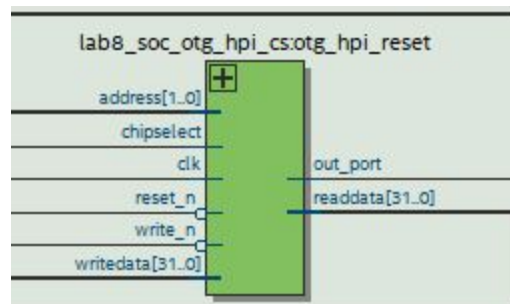


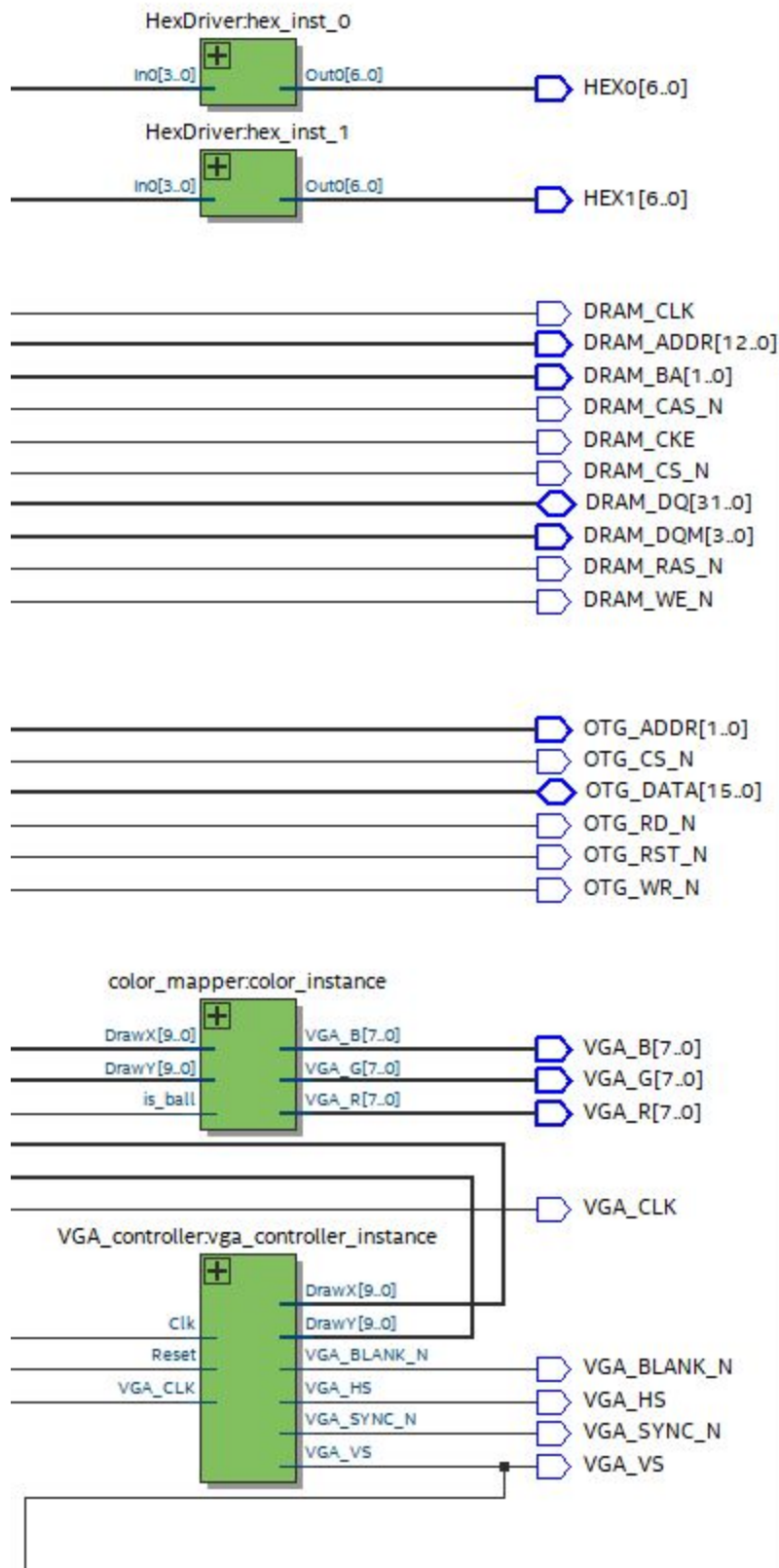
Nios II Expanded











8.2.4 Module Description

Module: VGA Controller

```
module VGA_controller (input      Clk,           // 50 MHz clock
                       Reset,       // Active-high reset signal
                       output Logic VGA_HS,      // Horizontal sync pulse. Active low
                       output Logic VGA_VS,      // Vertical sync pulse. Active low
                       input  VGA_CLK,          // 25 MHz VGA clock input
                       output Logic VGA_BLANK_N,  // Blanking interval indicator. Active low.
                       output Logic VGA_SYNC_N,  // Composite Sync signal. Active low. We don't use it in this lab,
                                                // but the video DAC on the DE2 board requires an input for it.
                       output Logic [9:0] DrawX, // horizontal coordinate
                       output Logic DrawY       // vertical coordinate
                       );
```

Description: This module handles the synchronization of signals(VS = vertical sync, HS = horizontal sync) of the VGA signal we are outputting in addition to “drawing” pixels

Purpose: Used to display the ball bouncing on the screen, as an output from the FPGA

Module: Ball

```
module ball ( input      Clk,           // 50 MHz clock
              Reset,       // Active-high reset signal
              frame_clk,    // The clock indicating a new frame (~60Hz)
              input [9:0] DrawX, DrawY, // Current pixel coordinates
              input Logic [7:0] keycode,
              output Logic is_ball       // Whether current pixel belongs to ball or background
              );
```

Description: Updates the position and motion of the ball only at the rising edge of frame clock. If no keys are pressed it keeps the motion unchanged.

Purpose: Calculate the positions and reacts to keypresses which are from the user via the keyboard. Defines ball operation

Module: Color Mapper

```
module color_mapper ( input      is_ball,          // Whether current pixel belongs to ball
                     // or background (computed in ball.sv)
                     input [9:0] DrawX, DrawY,    // Current pixel coordinates
                     output Logic [7:0] VGA_R, VGA_G, VGA_B // VGA RGB output
                     );
```

Description: Decides which color to be output to VGA for each pixel. Whether the pixel belongs to ball or background, and uses RGB color selection.

Purpose: Is used to draw the ball, background, and implement RGB colors on screen.

Module: Hex Driver

```
module HexDriver (input [3:0] In0,
                  output Logic [6:0] Out0);
```

Description: The HexDriver was provided to us during Experiment 4 and was simply recycled for this experiment. The HexDriver translates a binary input representing a number into the specific segments of a 7-segment display that would need to be able to display that number in hex.

Purpose: This is used to display inputs on the FPGA board in run-time.

Module: hpi_io_intf

```
module hpi_io_intf( input      Clk, Reset,
                   input [1:0]  from_sw_address,
                   output[15:0] from_sw_data_in,
                   input  [15:0] from_sw_data_out,
                   input      from_sw_r, from_sw_w, from_sw_cs, from_sw_reset, // Active low
                   inout [15:0] OTG_DATA,
                   output[1:0]  OTG_ADDR,
                   output      OTG_RD_N, OTG_WR_N, OTG_CS_N, OTG_RST_N // Active low
                   );
```

Description: Makes OTG_DATA is high Z (tristated) when NIOS is not writing to OTG_DATA inout bus. Also handles buffers.

Purpose: Processes and handles the OTG data

Module: lab8

```
module lab8( input      CLOCK_50,
             input      [3:0] KEY,           //bit 0 is set up as Reset
             output Logic [6:0] HEX0, HEX1,
             // VGA Interface
             output Logic [7:0] VGA_R,       //VGA Red
             output Logic [7:0] VGA_G,       //VGA Green
             output Logic [7:0] VGA_B,       //VGA Blue
             output Logic      VGA_CLK,      //VGA Clock
             output Logic      VGA_SYNC_N,   //VGA Sync signal
             output Logic      VGA_BLANK_N,  //VGA Blank signal
             output Logic      VGA_VS,       //VGA vertical sync signal
             output Logic      VGA_HS,       //VGA horizontal sync signal
             // CY7C67200 Interface
             inout wire [15:0] OTG_DATA,     //CY7C67200 Data bus 16 Bits
             output Logic [1:0] OTG_ADDR,    //CY7C67200 Address 2 Bits
             output Logic      OTG_CS_N,     //CY7C67200 Chip Select
             output Logic      OTG_RD_N,     //CY7C67200 Write
             output Logic      OTG_WR_N,     //CY7C67200 Read
             output Logic      OTG_RST_N,    //CY7C67200 Reset
             input      OTG_INT,            //CY7C67200 Interrupt
             // SDRAM Interface for Nios II Software
             output Logic [12:0] DRAM_ADDR,   //SDRAM Address 13 Bits
             inout wire [31:0] DRAM_DQ,      //SDRAM Data 32 Bits
             output Logic [1:0] DRAM_BA,     //SDRAM Bank Address 2 Bits
             output Logic [3:0] DRAM_DQM,    //SDRAM Data Mast 4 Bits
             output Logic      DRAM_RAS_N,   //SDRAM Row Address Strobe
             output Logic      DRAM_CAS_N,   //SDRAM Column Address Strobe
             output Logic      DRAM_CKE,     //SDRAM Clock Enable
             output Logic      DRAM_WE_N,    //SDRAM Write Enable
             output Logic      DRAM_CS_N,    //SDRAM Chip Select
             output Logic      DRAM_CLK     //SDRAM Clock
             );
```

Description: This is the top level, all inputs and outputs go through it, and this module helps them communicate with one another.

Purpose: Connects the NIOS to all the blocks and drivers.

Platform Designer Modules

clk_0	Clock Source
clk_in	Clock Input
clk_in_reset	Reset Input
clk	Clock Output
clk_reset	Reset Output

This module is the clock module- it is simply the 50Mhz generated by the FPGA. The clk from here goes to all the other clocks inputs

nios2_gen2_0	Nios II Processor
clk	Clock Input
reset	Reset Input
data_master	Avalon Memory Mapped Master
instruction_master	Avalon Memory Mapped Master
irq	Interrupt Receiver
debug_reset_request	Reset Output
debug_mem_slave	Avalon Memory Mapped Slave
custom_instruction_m...	Custom Instruction Master

This is the actual processor- in our case we have the Nios II/e, the economy version of the Nios II/f. This is the module responsible for processing all the instructions. The NIOS II is a 32-bit modified Harvard RISC architecture.

onchip_memory2_0	On-Chip Memory (RAM or RO...
clk1	Clock Input
s1	Avalon Memory Mapped Slave
reset1	Reset Input

This module is our on-chip memory, which is often smaller than SRAM in size but is faster and is actually on the chip. The data width is 32 bits and the total memory size is 16 bytes

sdram	SDRAM Controller Intel FPGA IP
clk	Clock Input
reset	Reset Input
s1	Avalon Memory Mapped Slave
wire	Conduit

This module is our SDRAM that we are interfacing with. We use SDRAM to store the software program because the on-chip memory is limited. We have to use an SDRAM controller to interface with the bus since we have row/column addressing and constantly needs to refresh in order to retain data.

[-] sdram_pll	ALTPLL Intel FPGA IP
→ indk_interface	Clock Input
→ indk_interface_reset	Reset Input
→ pll_slave	Avalon Memory Mapped Slave
< c0	Clock Output
< c1	Clock Output

This module generates the clock that goes into the SDRAM. The PLL allows us to account for delays, specifically 3ns in order to have the SDRAM wait for the outputs to stabilize.

[-] jtag_uart_0	JTAG UART Intel FPGA IP
→ clk	Clock Input
→ reset	Reset Input
→ avalon_jtag_slave	Avalon Memory Mapped Slave
< irq	Interrupt Sender

[-] keycode	PIO (Parallel I/O) Intel FPGA IP
· clk	Clock Input
· reset	Reset Input
· s1	Avalon Memory Mapped Slave
· external_connection	Conduit

This module is a simple PIO block, which outputs the keycode from the IO_READ (keyboard), 8 bits wide

[-] otg_hpi_address	PIO (Parallel I/O) Intel FPGA IP
· clk	Clock Input
· reset	Reset Input
· s1	Avalon Memory Mapped Slave
· external_connection	Conduit

This module is a simple PIO block, which outputs the 2 bit value corresponding to the specific HPI register

[-] otg_hpi_data	PIO (Parallel I/O) Intel FPGA IP
· clk	Clock Input
· reset	Reset Input
· s1	Avalon Memory Mapped Slave
· external_connection	Conduit

This module is a simple PIO block, which is inout because data is both read from and written to here. This block is 32 bits wide.

[-] otg_hpi_r	PIO (Parallel I/O) Intel FPGA IP
→ clk	Clock Input
→ reset	Reset Input
→ s1	Avalon Memory Mapped Slave
external_connection	Conduit

This module is a simple PIO block, which is a 1bit output corresponding to a “read” enable signal

[-] otg_hpi_w	PIO (Parallel I/O) Intel FPGA IP
→ clk	Clock Input
→ reset	Reset Input
→ s1	Avalon Memory Mapped Slave
external_connection	Conduit

This module is a simple PIO block, which is a 1bit output corresponding to a “write” enable signal

[-] otg_hpi_cs	PIO (Parallel I/O) Intel FPGA IP
→ clk	Clock Input
→ reset	Reset Input
→ s1	Avalon Memory Mapped Slave
external_connection	Conduit

This module is a simple PIO block, which is a 1bit output corresponding to a “chip enable” signal

[-] otg_hpi_reset	PIO (Parallel I/O) Intel FPGA IP
→ clk	Clock Input
→ reset	Reset Input
→ s1	Avalon Memory Mapped Slave
external_connection	Conduit

This module is a simple PIO block, which is a 1bit output corresponding to a “reset” signal

8.3 Questions

8.3.1 Hidden Questions

1. What are the advantages and/or disadvantages of using a USB interface over PS/2 interface to connect to the keyboard? List any two.

If you want to use PS/2 mouse or keyboard, you need to shutdown the system, plug it in then reboot it. While for USB you can just plug it into the system and after a

second or so you can use it. However, PS/2 has faster response than USB. This is due to the fact that PS/2 directly connects to the MOBO while USB connects to the BUS which is then makes contact with the MOBO. Thus USB is “further” from the processor. You can send files over USB but not over PS/2 because PS/2 is always an HID which is good and bad. In some sense PS/2 is more secure because you can not be sure that cheap USB mouse off Amazon isn’t transmitting files.

2. Notice that Ball_Y_Pos is updated using Ball_Y_Motion. Will the new value of Ball_Y_Motion be used when Ball_Y_Pos is updated, or the old? What is the difference between writing "Ball_Y_Pos_in = Ball_Y_Pos + Ball_Y_Motion;" and "Ball_Y_Pos_in = Ball_Y_Pos + Ball_Y_Motion_in;"? How will this impact behavior of the ball during a bounce, and how might that interact with a response to a keypress?

When signals are being assigned on the same clock edge, we used parallel assignments which causes the old value to be utilized rather than the new one. This means that when the ball is “bouncing” it is actually would continue moving into the “wall”. This happens for only 1 frame.

If the key press didn’t take into account the edge case, the ball would move in the wrong direction. Again this would happen in 1 frame. The fix to all these issues was accounting for them with conditional (if, elseif, and else statements).

8.3.2 Post Lab Questions

1.

LUT	2689
DSP	0
BRAM	55,296
Flip-Flop	2234

Frequency	130.28 MHz
Static Power	101.15mW
Dynamic Power	0.74mW
Total Power	174.84mW

2. In the file `io_handler.h`, why is it that the `otg_hpi_data` is defined as an integer pointer while the `otg_hpi_r` is defined as a char pointer?

Recall that an integer is 32 bits while a char is 8 characters. We need the integer pointer because our data is 32 bits wide. Meanwhile, we only need a char pointer to point to the HPI registers because we only have 4 registers and the system cannot allocate less than a byte.

3. What is the difference between `VGA_CLK` and `Clk`?

`VGA_Clk` runs at 25Mhz where as `Clk` runs at 50 Mhz. The `VGA_Clk` is used to update the monitor frames while the `Clk` is used for the FPGA.

8.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, there were no issues during the demo. The ball was able to move in all 4 directions, but not diagonally. The key presses showed up correctly on the FPGA board on the hex display. While this lab at first seemed very intimidating and difficult, the parts started falling altogether as we understood the different aspects and worked on it. The most confusing part and the biggest issue we had was the fact that 1 keyboard did not work with our board, and caused a lot of confusion and added about 40 mins to our debugging time. However, it was an easy fix. Over all this lab was a great introduction for implementing I/O and how we can implement it in future labs and projects.