

EE214 boring Short Notes

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Ref: Prof's video lectures

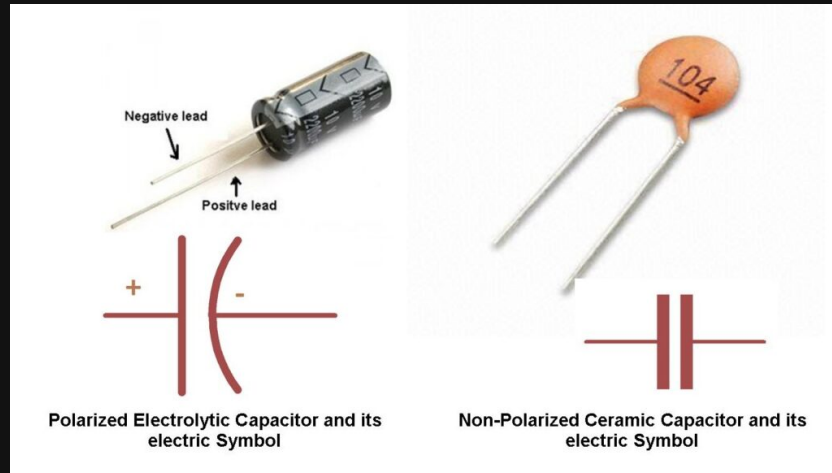
If you ain't getting anything, we'll be best friends!

Digital Circuits Lab

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Introduction

- **ceramic capacitors** - a type of low capacitance capacitors that have no polarity
- **electrolytic capacitors** - these type of capacitors have higher capacitance values than ceramic capacitors and they do have polarity



- Single-turn and multi-turn potentiometers are variable resistances, also multi-turn potentiometers provide finer tuning of resistances
- **hardware description language (HDL)** - is a specialized computer language used to describe the structure and behaviour of electronic circuits, and most commonly, digital logic circuits
- Very High Speed Integrated Circuit HDL (VHDL) - is a hardware description language which uses the syntax of ADA
- Uses of HDL:
 - For describing hardware
 - As a modelling language
 - For simulation of hardware
 - For early performance estimation of system architecture
 - For synthesis of hardware
 - For fault simulation, test and verification of designs
- **entity** - represents a template for a hardware block, describing its interface with other modules in terms of input and output signals
- **testbench** - includes the circuit being designed, blocks which apply test signals to it and those which monitor its output
- **architecture** - describes how an entity operates. An architecture is always associated with an entity. There can be multiple architectures associated with an entity.

```
entity name is
  generic(list);
  port(list);
end entity name;
```

Figure : Entity declaration (\geq VHDL 93)

```
architecture name of name_of_entity is
  (declarations)
begin (concurrent statements)
end architecture name;
```

Figure : Architecture declaration (\geq VHDL 93)

- The architecture inherits the port signals from its entity. Concurrent statements constituting the architecture can be placed in any order.
- Signals are carried by wires, variables are used for array indices, loop counters, etc.
- When you assign a value to a variable the assignment becomes effective immediately, however when you assign a value to a signal there is an associated delay for this assignment as it is there in a real circuit
- **component** - an **entity** ↔ **architecture** pair

```
component name is
generic(list);
port(list);
end component name;
```

Figure : Component declaration (\geq VHDL 93)

- **configuration** - describes linkages between component types and entity ↔ architecture pairs
- Related declarations and design elements like subprograms and procedures can be placed in a **package** for re-use. A package has a declarative part and an implementation part.
- Objects in a package can be referred to by a **packagename.objectname** syntax
- A description can include a **use** clause to incorporate the package in the design. Objects in the package then becomes visible to the description without having to use the dot reference as above.
- Many design elements such as packages, definitions and entire entity ↔ architecture pairs can be placed in a **library**
- Any description invokes a library by first declaring it (For e.g. Library IEEE;)
- Objects in the library can then be incorporated in the design by a **use** clause (For e.g. Use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;)
- Various types of objects in VHDL are **constants**, **variables**, **signals** and **files**.
- Declaration of objects include their object type as well as the data type of values that they can acquire (For e.g. signal Enable: BIT;)

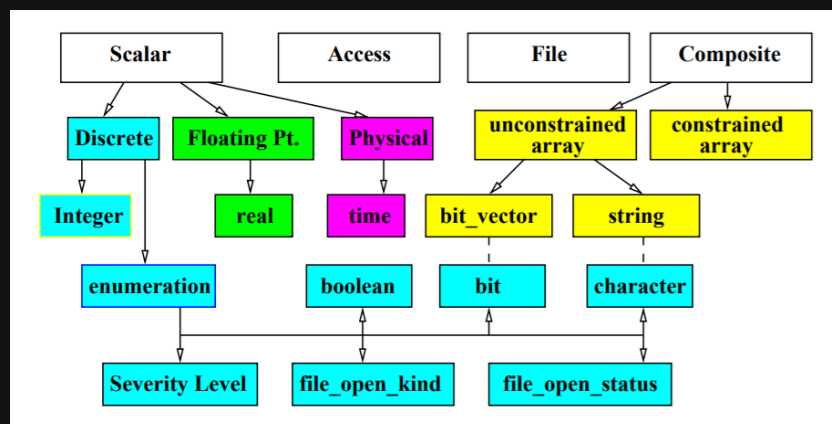


Figure : VHDL Data types

- VHDL **enumeration types** allow us to define a set of values that a variable of this type can acquire. For example, we can define a data type by the following declaration:
`type instr is (add, sub, adc, sbb, rotl, rotr);`
- Enumeration types pre-defined in the language are:
 - `type bit is ('0', '1');`
 - `type boolean is (false, true);`
 - `type severity_level is (note, warning, error, failure);`
 - `type file_open_kind is (read_mode, write_mode, append_mode);`
 - `type file_open_status is (open_ok, status_error, name_error, mode_error);`
 - In addition to the above types, the character type enumerates all the ASCII characters
- **std_logic** - is a signal which can take 1 of 9 possible values. It is defined by:
`type std_logic is ('U', 'X', '0', '1', 'Z', 'W', 'L', 'H', '-');`
- Object which are declared to be of **Physical type**, carry a value as well as a unit. These are used to represent physical quantities such as time, resistance and capacitance. Time is the only physical type, which is pre-defined in the language. We can define other physical types when required.
- **Composite data types** are collections of scalar types. VHDL recognizes records and arrays as composite data types. Records are like structures in C. Arrays are indexed collections of scalar types.
- Arrays can be constrained or unconstrained:
 - In constrained arrays, the type definition itself places bounds on index values
 - In unconstrained arrays, no bounds are placed on index values
- VHDL defines two built-in types of arrays:
 - bit_vector
`type bit_vector is array (natural range <>) of bit;`
 - strings
`type string_vector is array (positive range <>) of character;`

Structural description in VHDL

- **Structural style** describes a design in terms of components and their interconnections. Each component declares its ports and the type and direction of signals that it expects through them.
- A purely structural architecture for an entity will consist of:
 - **Component declarations:** to associate component types with their port lists.
 - **Signal declarations:** to declare the signals used.
 - **Component instantiations:** to place component instances and to portmap their ports to signals. Signals can be internal or port signals declared by the entity.
 - **Configurations:** to bind component types to entity \leftrightarrow architecture pairs.
 - **Repetition grammar:** for describing multiple instances of the same component type – for example, memory cells or bus buffers.

- When we associate a component type with a previously defined entity \leftrightarrow architecture pair, the chosen architecture could itself contain other components - and these components in turn would be associated with other entity \leftrightarrow architecture pairs. This hierarchical association can be described by a standalone design unit called a **configuration**.

```
configuration config-name of name_of_entity is
  for name_of_architecture
    for componentinstance-name1: componenttype-name
      use entity name_of_entity(name_of_architecture);
    end for
  end for
end configuration config-name;
```

Figure : Simplified configuration construct

- In VHDL, as we describe entities and architectures, these are compiled into a special library called **work**. This library is always included and does not have to be declared.

File I-O in VHDL

- In VHDL, in order to use files, we use a two step procedure:
 - We declare a file type first. This associates a file type with the kind of objects that files of this type will contain.
 - We can then declare files of this file type. The file declaration associates a VHDL filename with a file type and optionally, with a Physical file name and file mode (read, write or append).
- File type declaration:


```
type FileType is file of DataType;
```
- If a file has not been opened during its declaration, it can be opened later by specific statements
- Opening files:


```
procedure file_open(file f: FileType;
  Phys_name: in string;
  open_kind: in file_open_kind:=read_mode);
```
- Closing files:


```
procedure file_close(file f: FileType);
```
- Reading from files:


```
procedure read(file f: FileType; value: out Data_type);
```
- Writing to files:


```
procedure write(file f: FileType; value: in Data_type);
```

Behavioural description in VHDL

- Behavioural style describes a design in terms of its behaviour, and not in terms of a netlist of components. We describe behaviour through “if-then-else” type of constructs, loops, sequential and concurrent assignment statements. Statements like “if-then-else” are inherently sequential. These must therefore occur only inside sequential bodies like processes.

- A concurrent assignment can be made conditionally by using ‘when’ clauses:
`name <= [delay-mechanism]
 waveform when Boolean-expression else
 waveform when Boolean-expression;`
- VHDL operators:
 - **Logical operators:** AND, OR, NAND, NOR, XOR, XNOR and NOT
 - **Relational operators:** =, /, <, <=, >, >=
 - **Shift operators:** SLL (logical left), SLA (arithmetic left), SRL (logical right), SRA (Arithmetic right), ROL (rotate left) and ROR (rotate right)
- Sequential constructs need to be placed inside a process. A process uses the syntax:

```
[process-label:] process [(sensitivity-list)][is]  

[declarations]  

begin  

    [sequential statements]  

end process [process-label];
```

Sequential statements include “if” constructs, case statements, looping constructs, assertions, wait statements etc.

JTAG and Scanchain

JTAG:

- Joint Test Action Group
- Industry standard for verifying designs and testing PCBs
- Connects to an on-chip Test Access Port (TAP) controller
- TAP controller implements a protocol to access a set of registers or pins of a system
- Response is then stored into Flip-Flops and then compared with a golden response

Scanchain:

- Scan chain is a technique used in design for testing. The objective is to make testing easier by providing a simple way to set and observe every flip-flop in an IC.