

Adding Branch Logic to the Datapath to Complete Your Computer

1 Objective and Overview

In this lab you will complete your computer by making two changes to lab 7. You must complete Lab 7 before you start this experiment.

1. Rewrite the Program Counter (PC) logic to support branching.
2. Add the seven segment display (SSD) to your datapath to display the output of your ALU instructions.

Figure 1 shows the top level design for your computer.

When you have completed these changes, you should run the assembly code you wrote for the prelab to demonstrate that your computer works correctly and can run code. **You should now have a working computer!**

1.1 Prelab

Download the prelab assignment from the course webpage.

The TAs should let you know what needs to be handed in for the prelab. Part of your prelab is to write the code you will run on your computer.

2 Entering Your Design

2.1 Designing the top level

Get the top level Verilog file, `datapath_top.v` from the course webpage. This Verilog code shows how all of your components are connected. You should have regfile, alu and instruction decode components already designed. Get the debounce circuit, **`debounce.v`** from the course webpage.

You will need to generate instruction memory, data memory, SSD, and VIO to add to this experiment. You also will need to add the Verilog code that describes the program counter as described below. Note that the datapath uses two clocks: the debounced output of the pushbutton (`pb_clk_debounced`), and the free running clock, (`clk`). The push button clock is used by elements in your datapath. The free running clock is used by the SSD and the VIO.

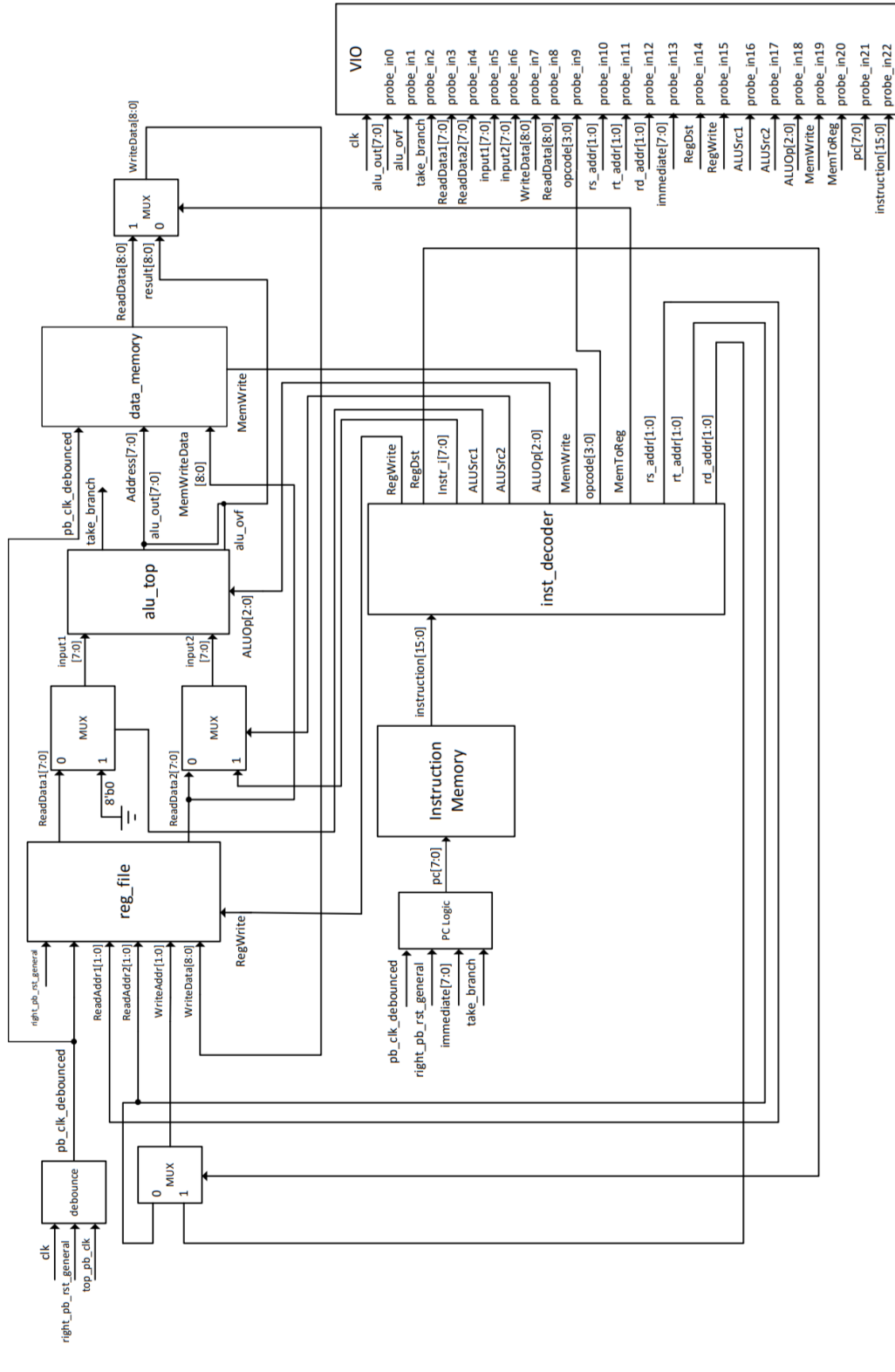


Figure 1: Final Computer

2.2 Program Counter

Enhance your program counter (PC) from lab 7 to handle branches. Inputs and outputs to the PC logic are shown in Fig. 1. Note that the signal `take_branch` is high when a branch, should be taken and low otherwise. In this architecture when we have a branch the next PC value should be the current PC value plus the offset which is extracted from the branch instruction. The offset is represented in two's complement, so the range of branch target is from $PC - 128$ to $PC + 127$. Note that the value of PC should not exceed `0xFF` as we have a 256-deep instruction memory. You do not need to check for this condition in your hardware.

2.3 Adding VIO and SSD

In this experiment we will be using both VIO and the SSD to display the output. The VIO module has the inputs shown in Fig. 1 and no outputs. You are using VIO to monitor what is happening in your hardware. All the control logic is being generated by you in hardware.

The SSD is implemented in the Verilog file, `adaptor_display.v` available on Canvas. This circuit has been instantiated for you in the `datapath_top.v` file.

2.4 Completing the top level

Add the constraint file for your design. The constraint file for this design is named: `pdatapath.xdc`

2.5 Testing in Hardware

2.5.1 Implementing the Design with Vivado Synthesizer

Click on Generate Bitstream under the Program and Debug section in the Flow Navigator pane to run the synthesis process. Vivado IDE will run the Synthesis and Implementation processes automatically.

If the synthesis process runs correctly, continue by programming the FPGA board. Follow the same steps you have for previous labs.

2.5.2 Programming the FPGA with Hardware Manager

Program your hardware the way you have in previous labs. Open the hardware manager, open the target device, and program the Zynq.

Now you should see the `hw_vio_1` window open. Click on the + sign and add all of the probes by selecting and adding them. Now you are ready to test your design in hardware.

2.5.3 Testing Your Design

This experiment uses the same buttons as in experiment 6. There is one reset, named `rst_general` in Verilog, to reset the PC, register file, and instruction memory output port. On the board, it is connected to the right push button (BTN0). The upper push button (BTN1) allows you to single step your design. You need to press BTN1 whenever you want to store data or update the PC.

Use VIO and the SSD to test your design. Run the code you generated in prelab on your computer. Keep screen shots to show that you have done this.

To change the inputs you will need to change the immediate values in your code, recompile and reload the file into instruction memory. To load a new file follow these steps: Double click on the instruction memory in the design hierarchy. This opens the configuration panel. Under the RST & Initialization tab browse for the new .coe file. Press ok then regenerate the memory IP. You will have to rerun synthesis and implementation and generate a new bitstream.

Once your hardware works, follow instructions from the TA regarding how you should demo your working computer and what you should turn in for a grade.

Congratulations, you now have a working computer!.