RANDOMIZATION AND CONSTRAINTS



Randomization in Verilog and drawbacks

- In Verilog, a system task **\$random** for generating random integer values
- Returns **32-bit** random value.
- Returns signed random values
- This is not good for object randomization (here object means class based).
- 100% Constraint randomization is not possible in Verilog
- To help with class-based objects to be randomized, System Verilog supports rand variables and **randomize()** method



Differences

Verilog

Used for design entry

Low level verification

System Verilog

Constrained verification

Object oriented randomization

Flexibility to control dynamically

Makes the programming closer to specification

As expected

O/P:

address = 7;

address = 2;

address = -3;

address = -5;

address = -9:

For Example, Requirement range between -9 to 9

Verilog randomization

```
O/p:
                                address = 8;
module tb;
                                address = 9;
integer address;
                                address = 4;
initial begin
                                address = 7;
repeat(5) begin
                                address = 9:
address= $random %10;
$display("address=%d",address);
end
                         Not as expected
end
endmodule
```

SV CRV

class abc;

rand integer address;

constraint range1{address inside {[-9:9]};}

Endclass

Module tb;

abc obj=new;

initial begin

repeat(5) begin

Obj.randomize();

\$display ("address=%d",address);

end

end

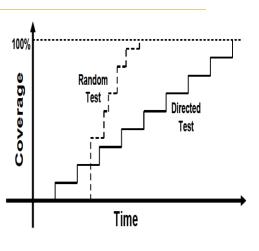
endmodule



Why Randomization?

Directed and random stimulus generation:

- Random stimulus is crucial for exercising complex designs
- A directed test finds the bugs you expect to be in the design
- A random test can find bugs you never expected.
- System Verilog allows object-oriented ways of random stimulus generation.
- Random test behavior depends upon the variable
- **Randomization** allows 2-state and 4-state types, though randomization only works with 2-state values.
- Can have random integers, bit vectors, etc. and can't have a random string
- Constraint stimulus is useful for random values to reach specification.
- Otherwise, takes too long to generate interesting stimulus or the stimulus might contain illegal values.





rand and randc

- For randomization, variables declared as rand or rando inside class are only randomized
- randc variables has the new random values unless it repeats all the possible values

Ex:

```
class Packet:
                             O/p:
 rand bit [1:0] addr;
                             Pkt.addr=3
endclass
                             Pkt.addr=0
module tb;
                             Pkt.addr=3
Packet Pkt=new;
                            Pkt.addr=3
initial begin
repeat(4)
begin
 Pkt.randomize();
 $display("Pkt.addr=%d",Pkt.addr);
end
end
endmodule
```

```
Ex:
class Packet;
                              O/p:
 randc bit [1:0] addr;
                              Pkt.addr=3
endclass
                              Pkt.addr=2
module tb:
                              Pkt.addr=0
Packet Pkt=new:
                              Pkt.addr=1
initial begin
repeat(4)
begin
 Pkt.randomize();
 $display("Pkt.addr=%d",Pkt.addr);
end
end
endmodule
```



randomize()

- The randomize() method is a **virtual function** that generates random values for all the active random variables in the object with respect to active constraints.
- The randomize() method returns '1', if it successfully randomizes all the random variables inside an objects, otherwise it returns '0'.
- In order to randomize the object variables, need to call randomize() method Syntax: object_handle.randomize();

```
Example:
                                           o/p:
class Packet;
                                           Pkt.addr=3, Pkt.data=11
 rand bit [1:0] addr;
                                           Pkt.addr=3, Pkt.data=15
 randc bit [3:0] data;
                                           Pkt.addr=3, Pkt.data=1
endclass
                                           Pkt.addr=1, Pkt.data= 2
module tb:
Packet Pkt=new;
initial begin
repeat(4)
begin
 Pkt.randomize();
 $display("Pkt.addr=%d, Pkt.data=%d ",Pkt.addr,Pkt.data);
end
end
endmodule
```

Random and Non-Random Variables

```
class Packet;
 rand bit [1:0] addr;
                                                          O/P:
 randc bit [3:0] data;
                                                                                                         0
                                                          Pkt.addr=3, Pkt.data=11, Pkt.Read=
                                                          Pkt.addr=3, Pkt.data=15, Pkt.Read=
                                                                                                         0
 int read;
                                                          Pkt.addr=3, Pkt.data= 1, Pkt.Read=
                                                                                                         0
endclass
                                                          Pkt.addr=1, Pkt.data= 2 ,Pkt.Read=
                                                                                                         0
module tb;
Packet Pkt=new;
initial begin
repeat(4)
begin
 Pkt.randomize();
  $\display(\text{"Pkt.addr}=\text{\gammad}, \text{Pkt.data}=\text{\gammad}, \text{Pkt.Read}=\text{\gammad}\text{\gammad}, \text{Pkt.addr, \text{Pkt.data}, \text{Pkt.read});}
end
end
endmodule
```



Constraints block

- Contains declarative statements which restrict the range of variable or defines the relation between variables.
- Lets users to build generic, reusable objects that can be extended or more constrained later.
- Constraint solver can only support 2 state values.
- If a 4 state variable is used, solver treats them as 2 state variable.
- Constraint solver fails only if there is no solution which satisfies all the constraints.
- Constraint block can also have non-random variables, but at least one random variable is needed for randomization.
- Allows inheritance, hierarchical constraints, controlling the constraints of specific object



Contd.. Example

```
class Packet;
 rand integer unsigned addr;
 constraint addr_range {
         addr < 100;
endclass
Packet Pkt;
module tb;
initial
begin
  repeat(3)
  begin
    Pkt=new();
    Pkt.randomize();
    $display("----");
    $display("Packet Var= %d",Pkt.addr);
    $display("----");
   end
 end
endmodule
```

Packet Var= 10 Packet Var= 23

Set membership: Inside operator

- Variables will only get randomized with the values mentioned using inside operator
- Values within the inside block can be variable, constant or range.
- A set membership is a list of expressions or a range.
- This operator searches for the existences of the value in the specified expression or range and returns 1 if it is existing.
- If you want to define a range which is outside the set, use negation.

```
Example :
rand bit [3:0] start_addr;
rand bit [3:0] end_addr;
rand bit [3:0] addr;

constraint addr_range{addr inside {1,3,[5:10],12,[13:15]}; }

constraint addr_range { addr inside {[start_addr:end_addr]}; }
```



```
Example:
                                                                                                     Result:
                                      constraint addr_range {
class Packet;
                                                        addr inside {0,4,6,8,10
                                                                                                     Packet Var= 0
 rand integer unsigned addr;
 constraint addr_range {
                                                                                                     Packet Var= 6
                                       constraint addr_range {
            addr inside {[0:15]};
                                               addr inside {[0:4],6,[8:10]};
                                                                                                     Packet Var= 4
endclass
Packet Pkt;
                        Result:
module tb;
                                                                                  constraint addr_range {
                                                Result:
                        Packet Var= 1
initial
                                                                                                addr inside {[0:20]};
                                                Packet Var= 3
                                                                                                addr>0;
begin
                        Packet Var= 3
                                                                                                addr<100;
  repeat(3)
                                                Packet Var= 2
  begin
                        Packet Var= 8
                                                                                     Result:
      Pkt=new();
                                                Packet Var= 8
                                                                                     Packet Var= 4
      Pkt.randomize();
      $display("----");
                                                                                     Packet Var= 11
       $display("Packet Var= %d",Pkt.addr);
      $display("----");
                                                                                     Packet Var= 9
  end
end
```



endmodule

Constraints solver failure

```
constraint addr_range {
                        addr inside {100,120};
                 addr>0;
                 addr<100;
                                    Solver failed when solving following set of constraints
                                     rand bit[31:0] addr; // rand_mode = ON
                                    constraint addr_range // (from this) (constraint_mode = ON)
                                     (testbench.sv:5)
                                     (addr inside {100, 120});
                                     (addr < 100);
```

Distribution(dist)

- By := or :/ operator, some values can be allocated more often to a random variable.
- It takes a list of values and weights depending upon := and :/
- The values and weights can be
 - a) Constants or variables
 - b) Single or a range
 - c) Default weight of an unspecified value is 1

Differences between := and :/

:=

- Assigns the specified weight to the item
- If the item is a range, specified weight to every value in the range.

```
Ex: addr dist { 2 := 5,[10:12] := 8 };
```

```
addr = 2, //weight 5
addr = 10, // weight 8
addr = 11, //weight 8
addr = 12,// weight 8
```

- Assigns weight to the item
- If the item is a range, specfied weight /n to every value in the range

Note: where n is number of values in the range.

```
Ex: addr dist { 2 :/ 5,[10:12] :/ 8 };
```

```
addr = 2 , //weight 5
addr = 10, //weight 8/3
addr = 11, //weight 8/3
addr = 12,// weight 8/3
```



```
class Packet;
 rand integer unsigned addr;
                                           constraint addr_range {
constraint addr_range {
                                             addr dist {[2:4]:=20, [5:8]:/40};
 addr dist {2:=20, 100:=40};
                    O/P:
                                                          O/P:
endclass
                    Packet Var= 100
                                                          Packet Var= 6
                    Packet Var= 100
                                                          Packet Var= 8
Packet Pkt:
module tb;
                    Packet Var= 2
                                                          Packet Var= 5
initial
                    Packet Var= 100
                                                          Packet Var= 7
begin
                    Packet Var= 100
                                                          Packet Var= 3
 repeat(5)
                                                          Packet Var= 3
 begin
    Pkt=new();
    Pkt.randomize();
    $display("Packet Var= %d",Pkt.addr);
 end
end
endmodule
```

Foreach iterative constraints

```
class Packet;
 rand bit[31:0] arr_addr[10];
constraint addr range {
         foreach(arr_addr[index])
           arr_addr[index] inside {1,2,10,8};
                               Packet Var[0]= 10
                               Packet Var[1]=1
                               Packet Var[2]=8
endclass
                               Packet Var[3]=1
                               Packet Var[4]= 10
Packet Pkt:
                               Packet Var[5]=8
module tb;
                               Packet Var[6]=1
                               Packet Var[7]=8
initial
                               Packet Var[8]= 2
begin
                               Packet Var[9]= 10
     Pkt=new();
     Pkt.randomize();
     foreach(Pkt.arr addr[loop])
      $display("Packet Var[%0d]=
%0d",loop,Pkt.arr addr[loop]);
end
endmodule
```

```
rand bit[31:0] arr addr[];
  constraint addr_range {
            foreach(arr_addr[index])
              arr_addr[index] inside {1,2,10,8};
             arr_addr.size() == 4;
                                       Packet Var[0]= 10
                                       Packet Var[1]=1
                                       Packet Var[2]=8
                                       Packet Var[3]=1
rand bit[31:0] arr_addr[$];
constraint addr range {
         foreach(arr_addr[index])
           arr_addr[index] inside {1,2,10,8};
         arr addr.size() == 5;
         arr addr.sum() == 8;
                                    Packet Var[0]= 2
                                    Packet Var[1]= 2
                                    Packet Var[2]=1
                                    Packet Var[3]= 2
                                    Packet Var[4]=1
```



If-else and Implication(->)

- Constraints provide two constructs for declaring conditional (predicated) relations: implication and **if-else**.
- **implication**: The Boolean equivalent of the implication operator a -> b is (!a || b). This states that if the expression is true, then random numbers generated are constrained by the constraint (or constraint set). Otherwise, the random numbers generated are unconstrained

If-else

```
class Packet;
 rand bit[3:0] addr;
 rand bit[3:0] data;
 constraint cnst{
  data inside \{1,3,2,4\};
  if(addr > 4) data == 5;
           data == 2;
  else
endclass
Packet Pkt:
module tb;
initial
begin
 repeat(3)
    begin
       Pkt=new();
        Pkt.randomize();//with {addr.size()<5;};
        $display("----");
     $display("Packet Var= %0p",Pkt);
        $display("----");
     end
end
endmodule
```

```
Result:
Packet Var= '{addr:'h0, data:'h2}
Packet Var= '{addr:'h2, data:'h2}
Packet Var= '{addr:'h2, data:'h2}
constraint cnst{
                     data inside \{1,3,2,4,5\};
                     if(addr>4) data == 5;
                     else
                                 data == 2;
   Result:
   Packet Var= '{addr:'h4, data:'h2}
   Packet Var= '{addr:'h6, data:'h5}
   Packet Var= '{addr:'h2, data:'h2}
```

Implication

```
class Packet;
 rand bit[3:0] data;
 rand enum{LOW,HIGH}Write;
constraint cnst_wr_data {
       (Write==LOW) -> data < 8; /* if(Write==LOW) data < 8
                                                         data >= 8*/
                                        else
                                                                Result:
endclass
                                                                Packet='{data:'h7, Write:HIGH}
                                                                Packet='{data:'h2, Write:LOW}
Packet Pkt:
                                                                Packet='{data:'h1, Write:HIGH}
module tb;
                                                                Packet='{data:'h6, Write:LOW}
initial
                                                                Packet='{data:'h6, Write:LOW}
begin
    Pkt=new();
    repeat(5) begin
      Pkt.randomize();
      $display("Packet=%p",Pkt);
    end
end
endmodule
```



Unique

- All members of the group of variables so specified (that is, any scalar variables, and all leaf elements of any arrays or slices) shall be of equivalent type.
- No randc variable shall appear in the group.

```
class Packet;
 rand bit[3:0] data;
 rand bit[3:0] addr;
constraint cnst_wr_data {
 unique {addr,data};
endclass
Packet Pkt;
module tb;
initial
begin
     Pkt=new();
    repeat(5) begin
      Pkt.randomize();
      $display("Packet=%p",Pkt);
     end
end
endmodule
```

```
Packet='{data:'h7, addr:'h8}
Packet='{data:'h4, addr:'h0}
Packet='{data:'h1, addr:'he}
Packet='{data:'hd, addr:'h6}
Packet='{data:'hd, addr:'h5}
```

Inline Constraints - with

Inline constraints is done using with keyword

Adds constraints when **randomize()** method is called

```
class Packet;
 rand bit[3:0] data;
 rand bit[3:0] addr:
constraint cnst_wr_data {
                  addr inside {[1:10]};
endclass
Packet Pkt;
module tb;
initial
begin
    Pkt=new();
    repeat(5) begin
     Pkt.randomize() with {addr>3;data<3;};
     $display("Packet=%p",Pkt);
    end
end
```

```
Packet='{data:'h1, addr:'h5}
Packet='{data:'h2, addr:'h9}
Packet='{data:'h2, addr:'ha}
Packet='{data:'h1, addr:'h4}
Packet='{data:'h0, addr:'h8}
```



endmodule

soft

```
class Packet;
 rand bit[9:0] addr;
constraint cnst_wr_data {
 soft addr ==2;
endclass
Packet Pkt;
module tb;
initial
begin
    Pkt=new();
    Pkt.randomize();
 $display("Packet addr=%d",Pkt.addr);
    #1;
 Pkt.randomize() with {addr>10;};
 $display("Packet addr=%d",Pkt.addr);
end
endmodule
```

Packet addr= 2
Packet addr= 182

Bidirectional Constraints

- System Verilog constraints solved *bidirectionally*, which means constraints on all random variables will be solved parallel.
- Constraint solver will consider all the constraints to choose values to all the random variable, because constrained value of one variable may depend on the value of other variable, which may be again constrained.

Disabling random variables

- The random nature of variables declared as rand or randc can be turned **on** or **off** dynamically
- The rand_mode() method can be used to disable the randomization of variable declared with rand/randc.
- By default rand_mode value for all the random variables will be 1.
- after setting rand_mode(0) to any random variable, it will get randomized only after rand_mode(1).
- The rand_mode() method is built-in and cannot be overridden

Syntax:

variable _name. rand_mode(0);



Example:

```
module sv_random();
class Packet;
 randc bit [3:0] Wdata;
 constraint cnst{
  Wdata < 6;
endclass
Packet obj=new();
 initial
  begin
     obj.randomize();
     $display("After randomize Wdata=%d",obj.Wdata);
     obj.rand_mode(0);
     $display("After rand_mode_off Wdata=%d",obj.Wdata);
   obj.randomize();// with {Wdata <2;};
     $display(" randmized when rand_mode_0 Wdata=%d",obj.Wdata);
     obj.rand_mode(1);
   obj.randomize(); //with {Wdata <2;};
     $display(" randmized when rand mode 1 Wdata=%d",obj.Wdata);
```

After randomize Wdata= 4 After rand_mode_off Wdata= 4 randmized when rand mode 0 Wdata= 4 randmized when rand_mode_1 Wdata= 0



end

endmodule

```
O/P
After randomize Wdata= 4
After rand_mode_off Wdata= 4
Solver failed when solving following set of constraints
bit[3:0] Wdata = 4'h4;
constraint cnst // (from this) (constraint_mode = ON) (testbench.sv:7)
(Wdata < 4'h6);
constraint WITH_CONSTRAINT // (from this) (constraint_mode = ON) (testbench.sv:20)
(Wdata < 4'h2);
Please check the inconsistent constraints being printed above and rewrite
them.
randmized when rand_mode_0 Wdata= 4
randmized when rand_mode_1 Wdata= 1
```



Constraint mode

- To change the status of a Constraint block, built in constraint_mode() method is used.
- By default all the constraint blocks are active(constaint_mode(1))
- We can pass 0 as argument to constarint_mode() to remove constraints on a class object or variable

```
class Packet;
 rand integer unsigned Var1, Var2;
                                                               Result:
 constraint Var_1 { Var1 == 20;}
                                                               constraint mode ON Var1:
                                                                                             20 Var2:
                                                                                                           20
 constraint Var 2 { Var2 == 20;}
                                                               constraint mode OFF Var1: 924167702 Var2: 2928684018
endclass
                                                               constraint mode ON Var1:
                                                                                              20 Var2:
                                                                                                            20
module sv random;
Packet obj;
initial begin
 obj=new();
  begin
 obj.randomize();
   $display("constraint_mode ON Var1:%d Var2 : %d ",obj.Var1,obj.Var2);
 obj.constraint mode(0);
 obj.randomize();
   $display("constraint_mode OFF Var1 : %d Var2 : %d ",obj.Var1,obj.Var2);
      obj.constraint mode(1);
 obj.randomize();
   $display("constraint_mode ON Var1 : %d Var2 : %d ",obj.Var1,obj.Var2);
 obj.constraint_mode(0);
end
end
endmodule
```

pre_randomize & post_Randomize Functions

- Every class contains **pre_randomize**() and **post_randomize**() methods, which are automatically called by **randomize**() before and after computing new random values.
- When **randomize**() is called, it first invokes the **pre_randomize**(), then **randomize**() finally for the user to perform operations such as setting initial values and performing if the randomization is successful only **post_randomize**() is invoked.
- The **pre_randomize**() and **post_randomize**() methods are not virtual. However, because they are automatically called by the **randomize**() method, which is virtual, they appear to behave as virtual methods.
- Users can override the **pre_randomize**() in any class to perform initialization and set values before the object is randomized
- Users can override the **post_randomize**() in any class to perform cleanup, and check post-conditions after the object is randomized.

Contd..

- If the class is a derived class and no user-defined implementation of **pre_randomize**() exists, then **pre_randomize**() will automatically invoke **super.pre_randomize**().
- If the class is a derived class and no user-defined implementation of **post_randomize**() exists, then **post_randomize**() will automatically calls **super.post_randomize**()
- If these methods are overridden, they shall call their associated base class methods; otherwise, their pre- and post-randomization processing steps shall be skipped.

```
Example:-
 program pre_post_15;
  class simple;
    function void pre_randomize;
     $display("PRE_RANDOMIZATION");
    endfunction
    function void post_randomize;
     $display("POST RANDOMIZATION");
    endfunction
  endclass
  simple obj = new();
  initial
   obj.randomize();
                                PRE RANDOMIZATION
                           o/p:
 endprogram
                                 POST RANDOMIZATION
```



Example

```
module sv random;
     class Packet;
   rand bit [3:0]Wdata;
   rand bit [2:0]addr;
     function void pre_randomize();
   $display("\npre_randomisation");
      Wdata=2;addr=7;
   $\display(\'\tWdata = \% d,\taddr= \% d'',\tWdata,addr);
      endfunction
     function void post_randomize();
   $display("\npost_randomisation");
    $\display(\'\tWdata=\%d\t,\taddr=\%d\',\Wdata,addr);
     endfunction
     endclass
initial begin
      Packet obj =new();
 repeat(3)
           obj.randomize();
end endmodule
```

o/p:

pre_randomisation Wdata = 2, addr= 7

post_randomisation
Wdata= 7 , addr=0

pre_randomisation
Wdata = 2, addr= 7

post_randomisation
Wdata=11 , addr=3

pre_randomisation
Wdata = 2, addr= 7

post_randomisation
Wdata= 9 , addr=7

Contd..

Behavior of randomization methods

- Random variables declared as static are shared by all instances of the class in which they are declared. Each time the randomize() method is called, the variable is changed in every class instance.
- If randomize() fails, the constraints are infeasible, and the random variables retain their previous values.
- If randomize() fails, post_randomize() is not called.
- The randomize() method is built-in and cannot be overridden.
- The randomize() method implements object random stability. An object can be seeded by calling its srandom() method
- The built-in methods pre_randomize() and post_randomize() are functions and cannot block.



randcase

randcase is a case statement that randomly selects one of its branches.

The randcase item expressions are non-negative integral values that constitute the branch weights.

Example:

randcase

3: x = 1;

1: x = 2;

4: x = 3;

endcase

Randsequence:

randsequence generator is useful for randomly generating sequences of stimulus. By randomizing a packet:

- it will generate most unlikely scenarios which are not interested.
- These type of sequence of unlike scenarios can be avoided using randsequence

Example:

```
randsequence:
module tb;
initial
begin
repeat(3)
begin
randsequence( main )
main : one two three ;
one : {$write("one");};
two : {$write("two");};
three: {$display("three");};
endsequence
end
end
end
endmodule
```

O/P

one two three one two three one two three

```
randcase:
initial
begin
repeat(5)
begin
randcase
3:$display("moschip with highest weight");
1:$display("moschip with least weight");
2:$display("moschip with medium weight");
endcase
end
```

O/P:

moschip with highest weight moschip with medium weight moschip with highest weight moschip with medium weight moschip with medium weight moschip with medium weight moschip with highest weight moschip with highest weight moschip with highest weight moschip with least weight



Randomizing classes

Similar to struct, the same can be achieved using class by calling the randomize() function on the object, which is created by using class.

```
Example:
                                                                        bit[2:0] Addr;
module class_rand;
 class Packet;
                                                                       Addr: 0 Wdata: 6
  rand bit[2:0] Addr;
                             O/P:
                                                                        Addr: 0 Wdata: 7
endclass
                                                                        Addr: 0 Wdata: 3
                             Addr: 0 Wdata: 6
 class my_Packet;
                             Addr: 1 Wdata: 3
                                                                        Addr: 0 Wdata: 4
  rand Packet Pkt
                            Addr: 3 Wdata: 0
  randc bit[2:0] Wdata;
                             Addr: 1 Wdata: 7
     function new();
                                                                       bit[2:0] Wdata;
       Pkt = new();
     endfunction
 endclass
                                                                       Addr: 7 Wdata: 0
                                                                       Addr: 0 Wdata: 0
 my Packet M Pkt = new();
 initial begin
                                                                       Addr: 3 Wdata: 0
 repeat(4)
                                                                       Addr: 3 Wdata: 0
   M_Pkt.randomize() with {Wdata > 5;Addr < 8};
    $display(" Var1 : %0d Var2 : %0d",M_Pkt.Pkt.Addr,M_Pkt.Wdata);
 end
endmodule
```

Constraint Inheritance

- Constraints also will get inherited from parent class to child class.
- Parent class constraint blocks are overridden in child class constraints of same variable

```
module SV_random;
initial begin
Packet Pkt= new();

M_Packet M_Pkt= new();

M_Pkt.randomize();
$display("Var = %0d ",M_Pkt.Var);
Pkt .randomize();
$display("Var = %0d ",Pkt.Var);
Pkt = M_Pkt;//handle assignment
Pkt .randomize();
$display("Var = %0d ",Pkt.Var);
end
endmodule
```

```
O/P Var = 40 Var = 189 Var = 37
```



Constraint Randomization:

