

IntelliJ IDEA Setup for Chisel

Xiaokun Yang

9/23/2024



1. Install IntelliJ

Please download and install IntelliJ
Community edition is free-licensed version
Or apply for student license which is also free



IntelliJ IDEA
The Leading Java and Kotlin IDE

Enjoy more productive development

[Download](#) [.exe](#) ▼

30-day free trial

The banner features a dark background with abstract purple and blue shapes. On the right side, there is a screenshot of the IntelliJ IDEA IDE interface. The IDE shows a Java file named 'LanguageFolding.java' with the following code:

```
package com.intellij.lang.folding;

import ...

public final class LanguageFolding extends LanguageExtension<Fold...
public static final ExtensionPointName<KeyedLazyInstance<Foldin...
public static final LanguageFolding INSTANCE = new LanguageFold...

private static final Logger LOG = Logger.getInstance(LanguageFo...

private LanguageFolding() { super(EP_NAME); }

This method is left to preserve binary compatibility.

@Override
public FoldingBuilder forLanguage(@NotNull Language l) { return...

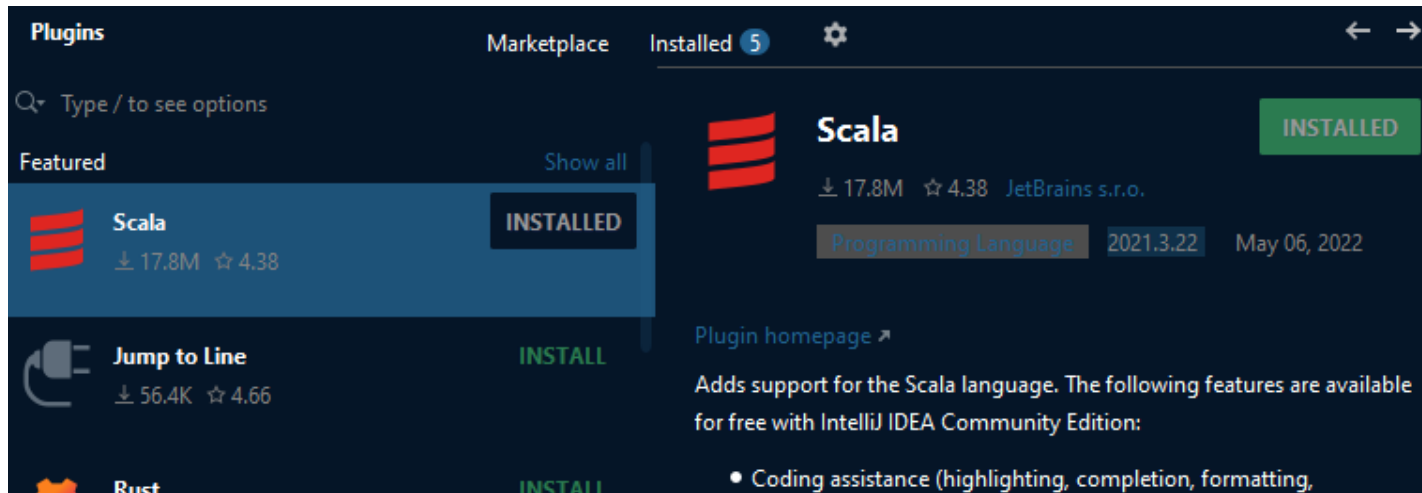
@Override
protected FoldingBuilder findForLanguage(@NotNull Language l) {
    List<FoldingBuilder> extensions = allForLanguage(l);
    if (extensions.isEmpty()) {
        return null;
    }
}
```

On the right side of the IDE screenshot, the 'AI Assistant' chat window is open, displaying the message: 'Me: Hi there!' and 'AI Assistant: Hello! How can I assist you today with your IntelliJ IDEA plugin project?'. There is also a 'Share your feedback' link and an 'Ask AI Assistant' button at the bottom of the chat window.

2. Install Scala Plugin

Chisel is based on **Scala**, so you'll need to install the **Scala plugin** in **IntelliJ** to work with Chisel code.

File -> setting -> plugin -> **Marketplace**



3 JDK (Java Development Kit) for SBT (Scala Build Tool)

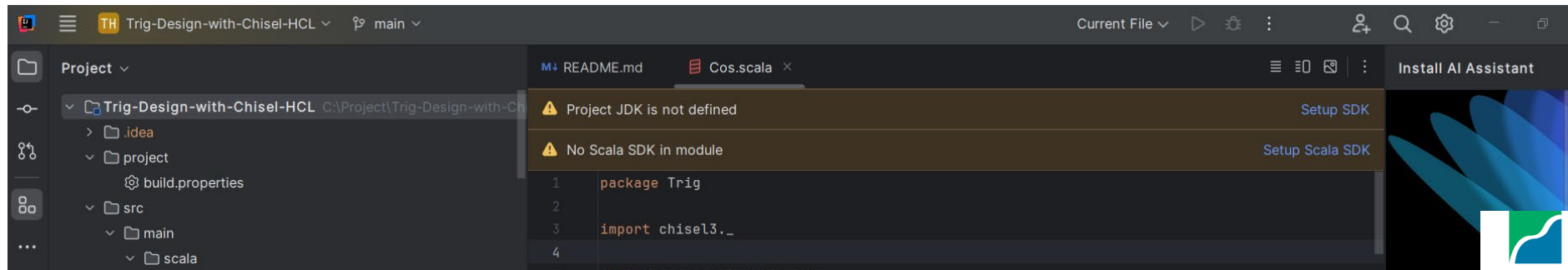
3.1 Install JDK (Java Development Kit)

To set up Chisel in **IntelliJ**, we use **sbt (Scala Build Tool)**, and sbt requires the **JDK** to function correctly. Chisel is based on Scala, and Scala, in turn, runs on the **Java Virtual Machine (JVM)**.

3.2 Configure IntelliJ:

After installing the **JDK**, you'll need to configure it in **IntelliJ** by going to:

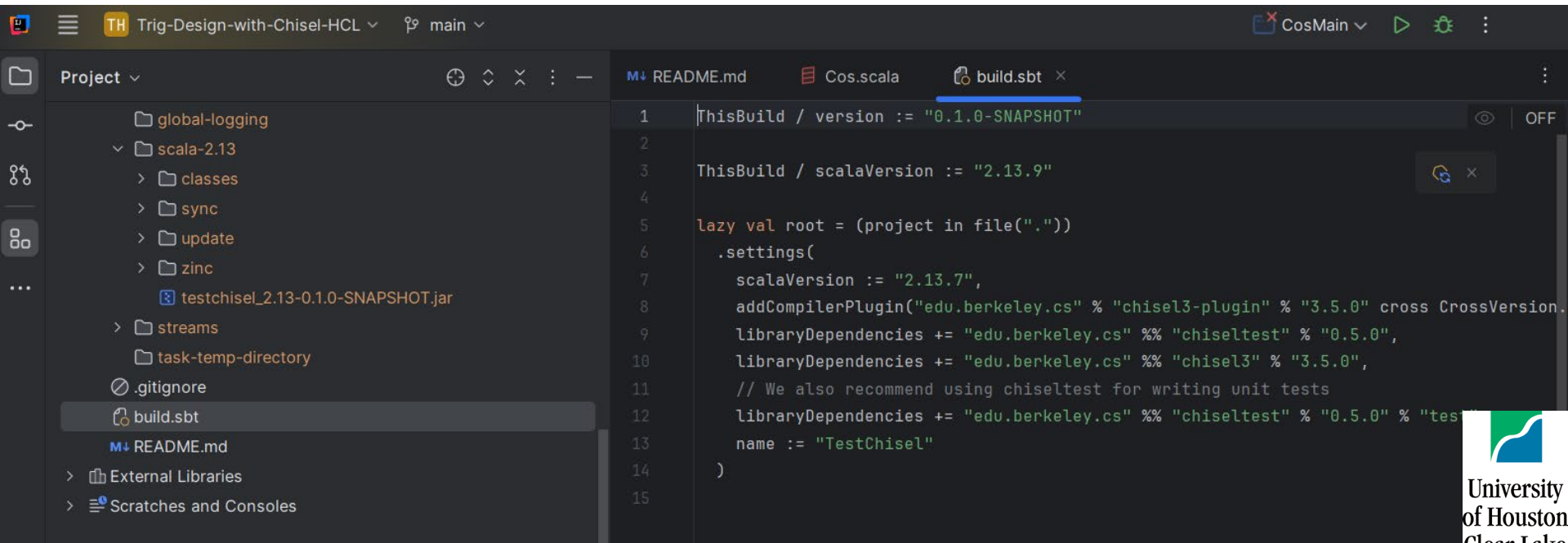
- File -> Project Structure -> Project Settings -> Project -> Select the JDK under "Project SDK."



4. SBT (Scala Build Tool)

Chisel projects are typically managed using **sbt**, which simplifies building Scala (and Chisel) projects.

Before running sbt, please create/check the Chisel dependencies in your **build.sbt** file which is shown in the screenshot. **You can skip this step by clone the Git Repository in step 5.**



The screenshot shows an IDE interface with a project explorer on the left and a code editor on the right. The project explorer shows a project named 'Trig-Design-with-Chisel-HCL' with a 'main' branch. The project structure includes folders like 'global-logging', 'scala-2.13', 'classes', 'sync', 'update', 'zinc', 'streams', 'task-temp-directory', and files like 'testchisel_2.13-0.1.0-SNAPSHOT.jar', '.gitignore', and 'build.sbt'. The 'build.sbt' file is selected and its content is displayed in the code editor. The code defines the project version as '0.1.0-SNAPSHOT', the Scala version as '2.13.9', and sets up the root project with various dependencies including 'edu.berkeley.cs' for 'chisel3-plugin', 'chiseltest', and 'chisel3'.

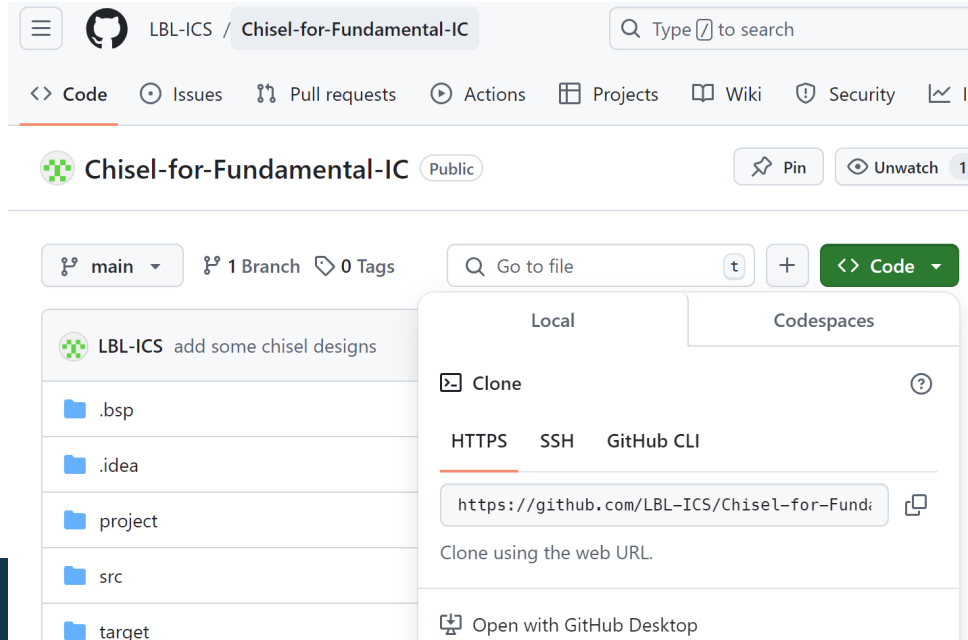
```
1 ThisBuild / version := "0.1.0-SNAPSHOT"
2
3 ThisBuild / scalaVersion := "2.13.9"
4
5 lazy val root = (project in file("."))
6   .settings(
7     scalaVersion := "2.13.7",
8     addCompilerPlugin("edu.berkeley.cs" %% "chisel3-plugin" % "3.5.0" cross CrossVersion.full),
9     libraryDependencies += "edu.berkeley.cs" %% "chiseltest" % "0.5.0",
10    libraryDependencies += "edu.berkeley.cs" %% "chisel3" % "3.5.0",
11    // We also recommend using chiseltest for writing unit tests
12    libraryDependencies += "edu.berkeley.cs" %% "chiseltest" % "0.5.0" % "test",
13    name := "TestChisel"
14  )
15
```

5. Clone Git Repository for Chisel Env and Project

Please clone the Git repository: <https://github.com/LBL-ICS/Chisel-for-Fundamental-IC.git>

- 1) Locate to your local directory and open Gitbash
- 2) Typing: `git clone` <https://github.com/LBL-ICS/Chisel-for-Fundamental-IC.git>

```
bobbi@Thinkpad-X1-NN MINGW64 /c/Mirror/GitProject
$ git clone https://github.com/LBL-ICS/test.git
Cloning into 'test'...
remote: Enumerating objects: 41, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (41/41), done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (29/29), done.
remote: Total 41 (delta 4), reused 40 (delta 3), pack-reused 0
Receiving objects: 100% (41/41), 32.89 KiB | 673.00 KiB/s, done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (4/4), done.
```



LBL-ICS / Chisel-for-Fundamental-IC

Code Issues Pull requests Actions Projects Wiki Security

Chisel-for-Fundamental-IC Public

main 1 Branch 0 Tags

Go to file

Clone

HTTPS SSH GitHub CLI

`https://github.com/LBL-ICS/Chisel-for-Fundamental-IC.git`

Clone using the web URL.

Open with GitHub Desktop

6. Run Chisel Project

After setting up sbt, you can compile and run your Chisel project by clicking the green triangle!
When successfully run the sbt, you will find the generated Verilog code in verification/dut



The screenshot displays an IDE interface with a project explorer on the left and a code editor on the right. The project explorer shows a directory structure for 'Chisel-for-Fundamental-IC [Fundamental-IC-ChiselHCL]'. The 'src' directory is expanded, showing 'main' and 'test' subdirectories. The 'test' directory is further expanded, showing a 'scala' subdirectory and a 'GenVerilog' file. The 'target' directory is also visible. The code editor shows the 'main' object definition, which extends 'App' and calls 'ChiselGeneratorAnnotation' to generate Verilog code. A green triangle icon on line 10 of the code editor indicates the execution point.

```
1 import chisel3._
2 import chiseltest._
3 import org.scalatest.flatspec.AnyFlatSpec
4 import chiseltest.WriteVcdAnnotation
5 import chiseltest.VerilatorBackendAnnotation
6 import chisel3.stage.ChiselGeneratorAnnotation
7 import circt.stage.{ChiselStage, FirtoolOption}
8 import Fundamental_IC._
9
10 object main extends App {
11   (new ChiselStage).execute(
12     Array("--target", "systemverilog", "--target-dir", "verification/dut"),
13     Seq(ChiselGeneratorAnnotation(() => new parallel_adder(4, bw = 32)),
14       FirtoolOption("--disable-all-randomization"),
15       FirtoolOption("-strip-debug-info")
16     )
17   )
18 }
```

References

1. Chisel Design – XY. Pdf
2. Chisel and IC Projects Structuring – XY. pdf
3. Chisel Bootcamp
4. Chisel3 Cheat sheet
5. Chisel textbook, version 5
6. Chisel Designs for Fundamental IC, Git repository: <https://github.com/LBL-ICS/Chisel-for-Fundamental-IC.git>
7. Xiaokun Yang, “Integrated Circuit Design: IC Design Flow and Project-Based Learning”, CRC Press -Taylor & Francis Group, ISBN: 978-1-032-03079-1 (ebook ISBN: 978-1-003-18708-0), First edition
8. Project Structuring for IC Design and Simulation, Git repository: <https://github.com/LBL-ICS/IC-Design.git>