

AGH University of Science  
and Technology  
Cracow  
Department of Electronics



# **Custom system design in FPGA laboratory**

## **Tutorial 2**

### **Simulation of the AXI-based accelerated system**

Author: Paweł Russek  
ver. 2018.01.09

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Glossary

AXI-Light – is a sub-class of AXI bus standard that is a system-on-chip bus standard used *e.g.* by ARM processors for peripheral interfacing. AXI is a part of Advanced Microcontroller Bus Architecture (Advanced Microcontroller Bus Architecture) that is introduced by ARM as an open-standard for on-chip interconnect.

Microblaze – a processor design for Xilinx's FPGAs. It is called a soft-processor as it does not exist as a hard-wired element. It is essentially an IP-Core for FPGA-based SoCs and it comes into existence via FPGA configuration. Microblaze uses AXI bus for peripheral interconnect.

## 1.2. Objectives

The goal of this tutorial is to present the step-by-step procedure of creating the accelerator module for sin/cos calculations for the AXI-base system-on-chips.

We will create custom peripheral module for the cordic algorithm. In this process the custom cordic processor that was created in the Tutorial 1 of this laboratory classes will be used. We will add AXI-Light interface to the cordic processor to enable its use in the SoC designs with ARM processors.

For the verification of the new cordic IP-Core we will use Microblaze processor system. The simulation is an essential part of the custom peripheral design. The reason to create a Microblaze-based SoC is the simplicity of this soft-processor that enables system simulation.

For the creation of the cordic IP-Core and SoC design, we will use Xilinx's Vivado development software.

## 1.3. Prerequisites

Before starting this laboratory student should complete Tutorial 1 of the laboratory. Understanding and basic knowledge of Verilog and C programming language will be necessary to complete the tutorial. Prior experience with the Xilinx's Vivado tool will be an advantage.

## 1.4. Software and hardware

- Vivado v2016.2 (64-bit)
- The cordic\_rtl.v file that is a result of Tutorial

# 2. Creating Cordic IP

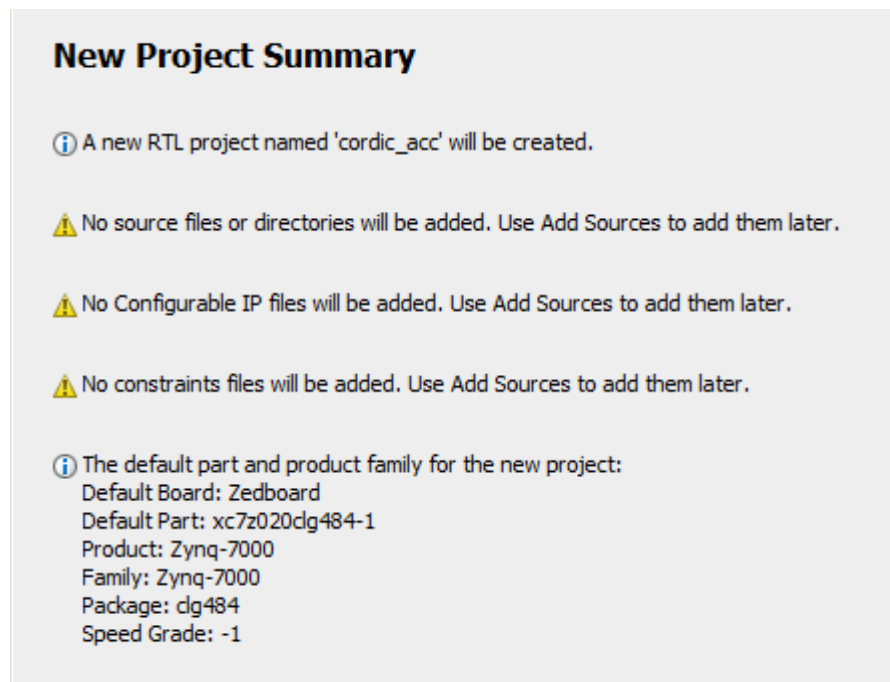
Before our cordic processor code can be incorporated into the Microblaze system, it has to be converted into the IP block that conforms the AXI-Light standard.

We will use Vivado wizard tool to create the template HDL code for AXI-Light peripheral. Next, to implement the desired peripheral functionality, we will add to the project our cordic processor code.

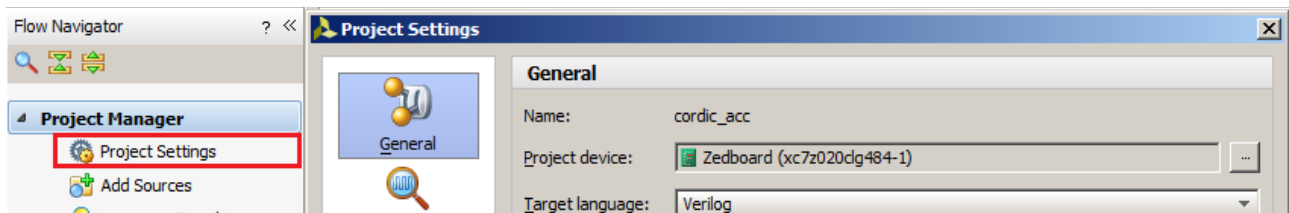
## 2.1 Launch Vivado on your computer.

## 2.2 Create new project “cordic\_test” for Zedboard.

Check your project settings in the figure below.



## 2.3 Select “Project settings” in the “Flow navigator” window under “Project manager”. Change “Target language” to Verilog.



## 2.4 Launch “Tools → Create and Package IP ...” form the main window menu.

Click **Next** button

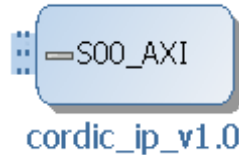
## 2.5 Select “Create a new AXI4 peripheral” in the “Create Peripheral, Package IP or Package a Block Diagram” window.

Click **Next** button

**2.6 In “Peripheral Details” window” name the IP as “cordic\_ip” and note the IP directory location.**

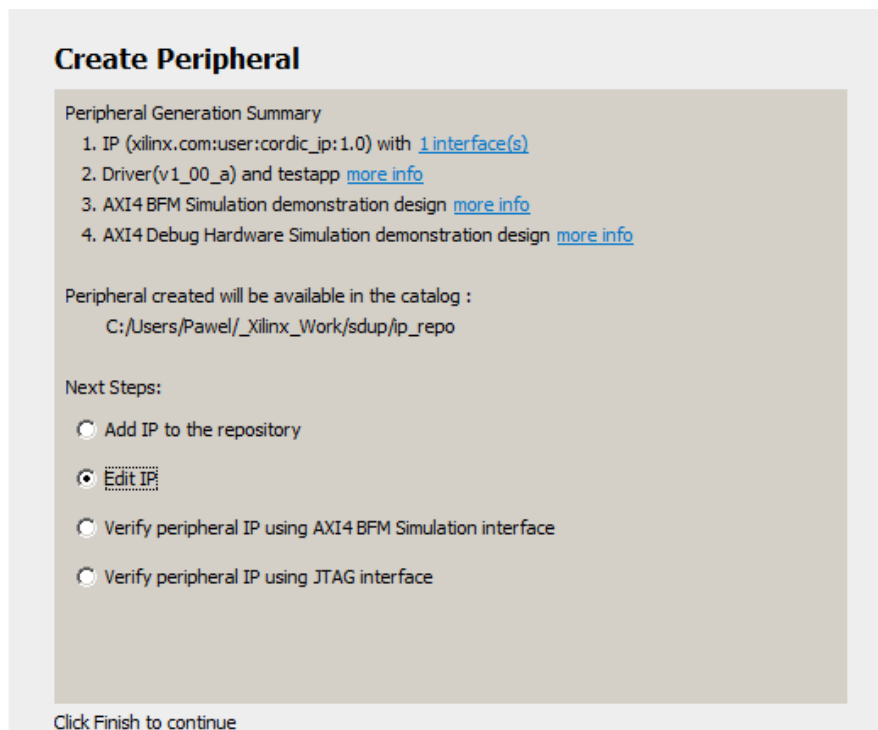
You can select the directory according your preferences or leave the default location.  
Click **Next** button

**2.7 Leave one Slave AXI Lite interface for your IP.**



Click **Next** button

**2.8 Verify your settings in the figure below**



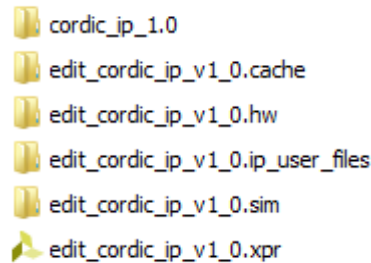
Read information in boxes that appear on click of “[more info](#)” links.

**Select “Edit IP”.**

Click **Finish** button

## 2.9 The Vivado project “edit\_cordic\_ip” should open automatically in the separate Window.

You should be able to find the “edit\_cordic\_ip” design files in the selected “ip\_repo” directory location.



The new IP will be added to “cordic\_acc” project later. You can edit IP functionality any time opening “edit\_cordic\_ip” project in Vivado.

## 3. Customizing Cordic IP

You have generated IP module for the AXI-Light peripheral module in Section 2. AXI Light is a subclass of the AXI4 bus standard, and the peripheral can be connected both to Zynq's ARM subsystem and Microblaze system.

However, created Verilog code for the IP contains only logic for the AXI-Light interface and four memory mapped registers r0-r3. The Vivado's user work is to customize IP and add the peripheral specific functionality that is also called **user algorithm**. Figure 1 presents the architecture of the Vivado's peripheral IP.

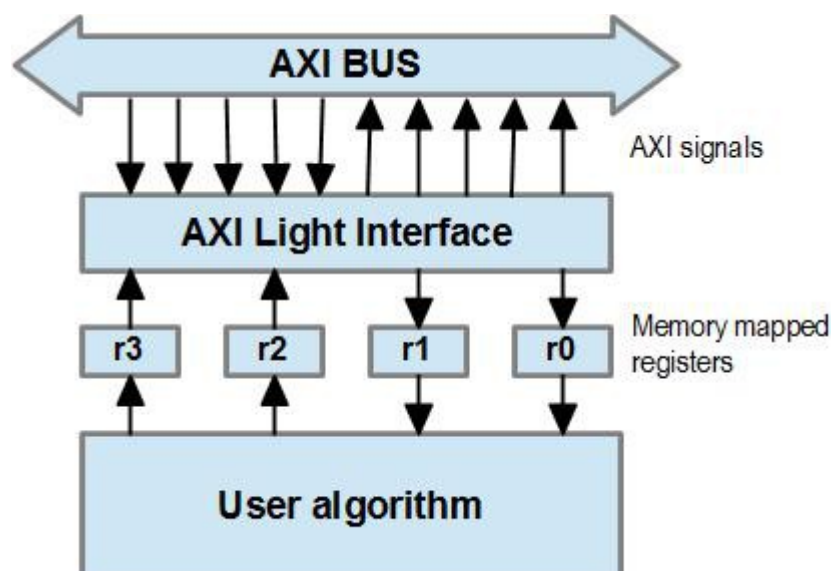


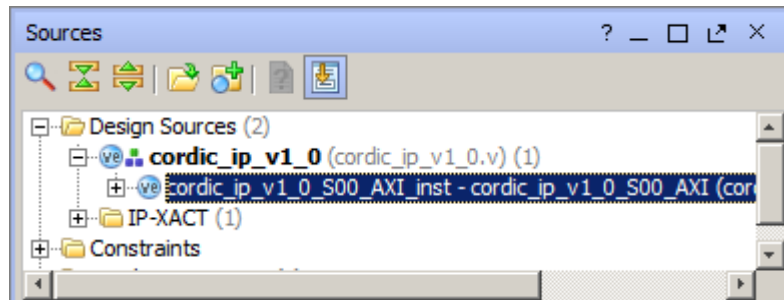
Figure 1

### 3.1 Open cordic\_ip in Vivado

Go to “./ip\_repo” subdirectory of your main project directory and open “edit\_cordic\_ip.xpr” if it is not already open on your computer (see step 2.9).

### 3.2 Locate and open the “cordic\_ip\_v1\_0\_S00\_AXI.v” file in the Vivado editor

Go to “Design sources” and click “cordic\_ip\_v1\_0\_S00\_AXI”.



The “cordic\_ip\_v1\_0\_S00\_AXI.v” file will appear in editor window.

### 3.2 Add “cordic\_rtl” module definition at the end of the “cordic\_ip\_v1\_0\_S00\_AXI.v” file.

The “cordic\_rtl” module is a module created in Tutorial 1 of this laboratory. Copy and paste the code for cordic\_rtl.v to “cordic\_ip\_v1\_0\_S00\_AXI.v”

The cordic\_rtl.v file can be downloaded [here](#).

### 3.3 Locate the “Add user logic” section in “cordic\_ip\_v1\_0\_S00\_AXI.v” and add “cordic\_rtl” module instantiation.

The corresponding instantiation code is given below:

```
// Add user logic here

//Reset signal for cordic processor
wire ARESET;
assign ARESET = ~S_AXI_ARESETN;

//Transfer output from cordic processor to output registers
wire [C_S_AXI_DATA_WIDTH-1:0] slv_wire2;
wire [C_S_AXI_DATA_WIDTH-1:0] slv_wire3;
always @(posedge S_AXI_ACLK)
begin
    slv_reg2 <= slv_wire2;
    slv_reg3 <= slv_wire3;
end

//Assign zeros to unused bits
assign slv_wire2[31:1] = 31'b0;
assign slv_wire3[15:12] = 4'b0;
assign slv_wire3[31:28] = 4'b0;
```

```

cordic_rtl cordic_rtl_inst( S_AXI_ACLK,      //clock,
                           ARESET,         //reset,
                           slv_reg0[0],     //start
                           slv_reg1,        //angle_in
                           slv_wire2[0],    //ready_out,
                           slv_wire3[11:0], //sin_out,
                           slv_wire3[27:16] //cos_out
                           );

// User logic end

```

Note, that the four peripheral registers r0-r3 are named *slv\_reg0* – *slv\_reg3* in the Verilog code. We have connected “cordic\_rtl” ports to the bits of the AXI peripheral registers. The connection mapping is summarised in Table 1.

cordic_rtl port	AXI mapped register	Direction	Port width
start	slv_reg0(0)	input	1
angle_in	slv_reg1(11:0)	input	12
ready_out	slv_reg2(0)	output	1
sin_out	slv_reg3(11:0)	output	12
cos_out	slv_reg3(27:16)	output	12

**3.4 Find write assignments to *slv\_reg2* and *slv\_reg3* in the peripheral code. We have “cordic\_rtl” to be the only signal source for *slv\_reg2* and *slv\_reg3* so the rest of the assignments has to be commented.**

```

1:
if ( S_AXI_ARESETN == 1'b0 )
begin
    slv_reg0 <= 0;
    slv_reg1 <= 0;
    //slv_reg2 <= 0;
    //slv_reg3 <= 0;
end

2:
//slv_reg2[(byte_index*8) +: 8] <= S_AXI_WDATA[(byte_index*8) +: 8];

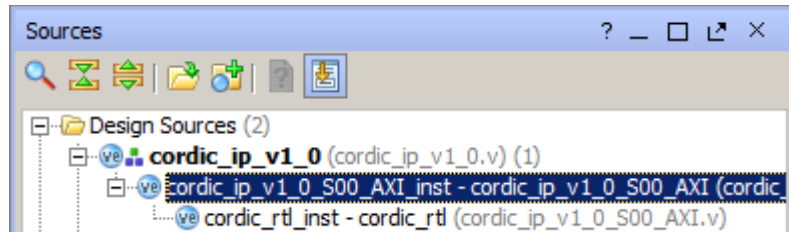
3:
//slv_reg3[(byte_index*8) +: 8] <= S_AXI_WDATA[(byte_index*8) +: 8];

```

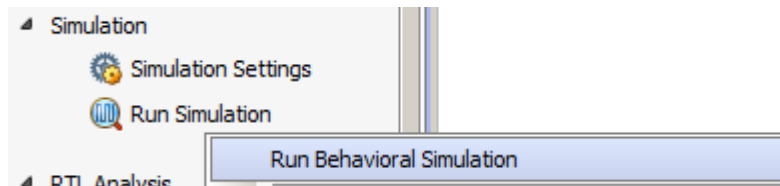
Alternatively to the steps 3.2, 3.3, and 3.5, you can take the modified cordic\_ip\_v1\_0\_S00\_AXI.v from the repository [here](#).

### 3.5 Check the correctness of your project.

The file structure should look like (no error icons)



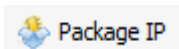
Also, for ultimate code check, run the trial project simulation.



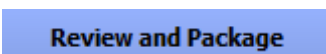
Check for possible errors and problems in “**Tcl Console**”. If there is no errors, proceed with the tutorial. Correct problems, otherwise.

### 3.6 Update IP library and close IP project

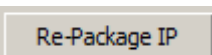
Select “**Package IP**” form “**Project manager**”



Select “**Review and Package**”



Select “Re-Package IP” and select to close the “edit\_cordic\_ip” project.



The last action updated data in the IP library and closed the “edit\_cordic\_ip” project.

## 4. Creating Microblaze accelerated project

In this part of the tutorial we will create the Microblaze system with the cordic accelerator connected to the processor AXI bus. The block diagram of the final system is presented in Figure 2.

The Microblaze processor features the **harvard architecture**, as it has separate data and instruction interfaces. Further, Microblaze can be connected to the Local Memory Bus (LMB) or AXI bus. Consequently, Microblaze has four bus interfaces: I\_LMB, D\_LMB (Instruction and Data LMBs), I\_AXI, and D\_AXI (Instruction and Data AXI). The LMB bus is a proprietary Xilinx solutions that is dedicated for Block RAMs interfacing. Block RAMs are internal FPGA memory blocks that have two access ports (dual-port memories). Thus, BRAMs allows the system for the two memory operations at the same clock cycle. Consequently, I\_LMB and D\_LMB can be connected to the same memory block (see Figure 2).



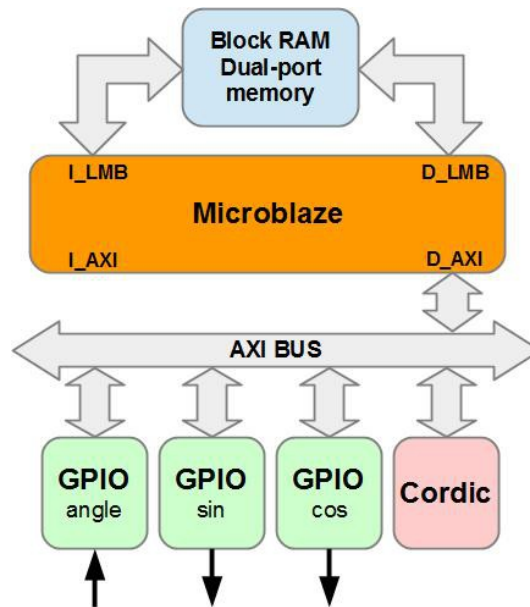


Figure 2

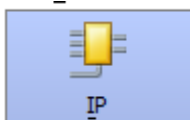
In our test system, we will use LMB bus to connect program and data memory as dual port BRAM, and AXI to connect peripherals. We will use GPIO to system input/output interface. The In our scheme, we want Microblaze to read the binary angle value form GPIO\_angle, run calculations in Cordic accelerator , and send results to GPIO\_sin and GPIO\_cos.

#### 4.1. Adding “cordic\_ip” library to the “cordic\_acc” project

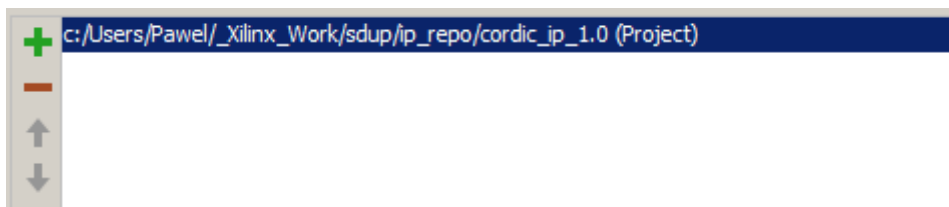
##### 4.1.1 Select “Tools”->”Project settings” for the menu



##### 4.1.2 Select “IP” in the side menu



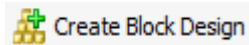
##### 4.1.3 Add “./ip\_repo/cordic\_ip\_1.0” catalog to the repositories list



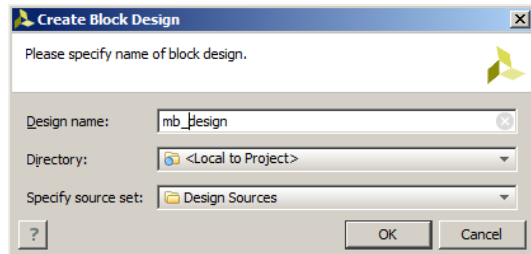
##### 4.1.4 Click “OK” button in the “Project settings” window to complete

## 4.2. Creating the new block diagram

### 4.2.1 Select “Create block design”

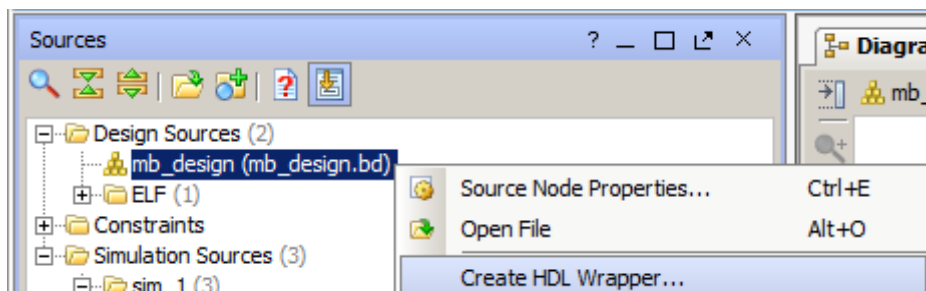


### 4.2.2 Create “mb\_design”



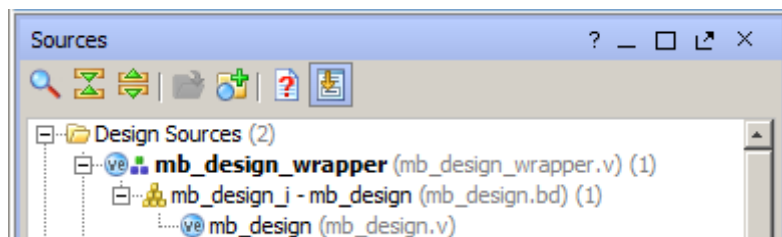
### 4.2.3 Create HDL wrapper for the block design

Right-click “mb\_design” entry in the “Sources” window, and select “Create HLD wrapper”



### 4.2.4 Select “Allow Vivado to manage wrapper and autoupdate”

### 4.2.5 Verify your “Sources” window with the figure below



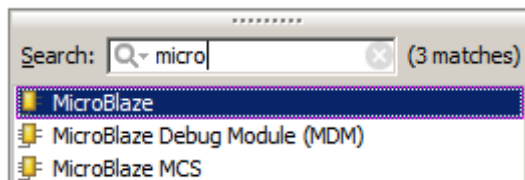
### 4.3. Creating Microblaze system block diagram

#### 4.3.1 Add microblaze to the design

Select add IP button from the block diagram side menu



Select microblaze IP form the list



The Microblaze IP appears in the block diagram



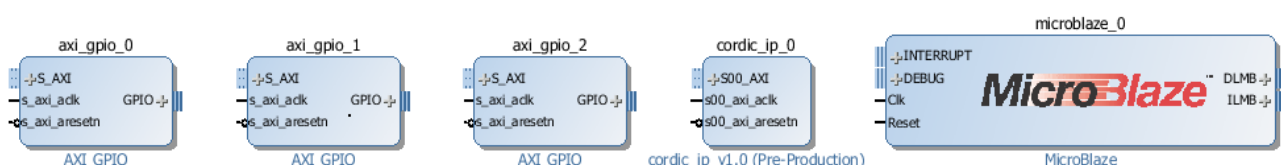
#### 4.3.2 Add three GPIO IPs

Repeat the 4.3.2 procedure for GPIO three times

#### 4.3.3 Add cordic\_ip

Repeat the 4.3.2 procedure for cordic\_ip\_1.0

#### 4.3.4 Verify your results in figure below

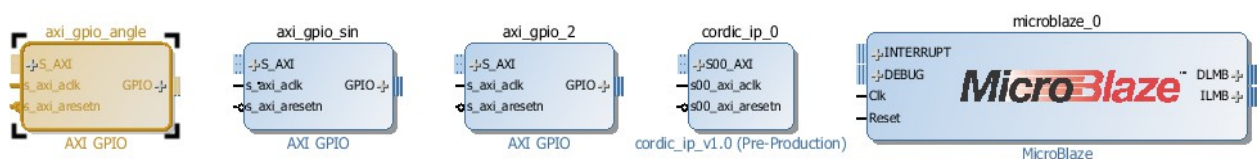


#### 4.3.4 Rename GPIOs

Rename "axi\_gpio\_0" to axi\_gpio\_angle

Rename "axi\_gpio\_0" to axi\_gpio\_sin

Rename "axi\_gpio\_0" to axi\_gpio\_cos



#### 4.3.5 Set “axi\_gpio\_angle” bit-width to 12 bits

Double-click “axi\_gpio\_angle” symbol and change “GPIO Width”

GPIO Width	<input type="text" value="12"/>	[ 1 - 32]
Default Output Value	<input type="text" value="0x00000000"/>	[0x00000000,0xFFFFFFFF]
Default Tri State Value	<input type="text" value="0xFFFFFFFF"/>	[0x00000000,0xFFFFFFFF]

#### 4.3.6 Set “axi\_gpio\_sin” and “axi\_gpio\_cos” bit-width to 12 bits

Repeat 4.3.5 for “axi\_gpio\_sin” and “axi\_gpio\_cos”

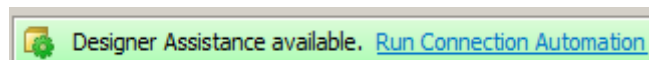
#### 4.3.7 Run “Block automation”

Click “Block automation” in the “Designer assistance” menu

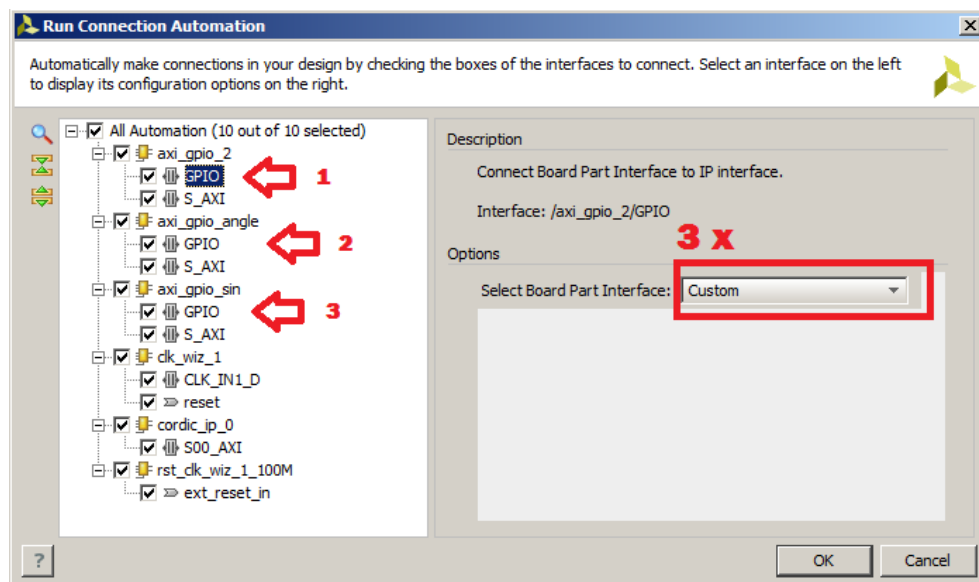


#### 4.3.8 Run “Connection automation”

Click “Connection automation” in the “Designer assistance” menu

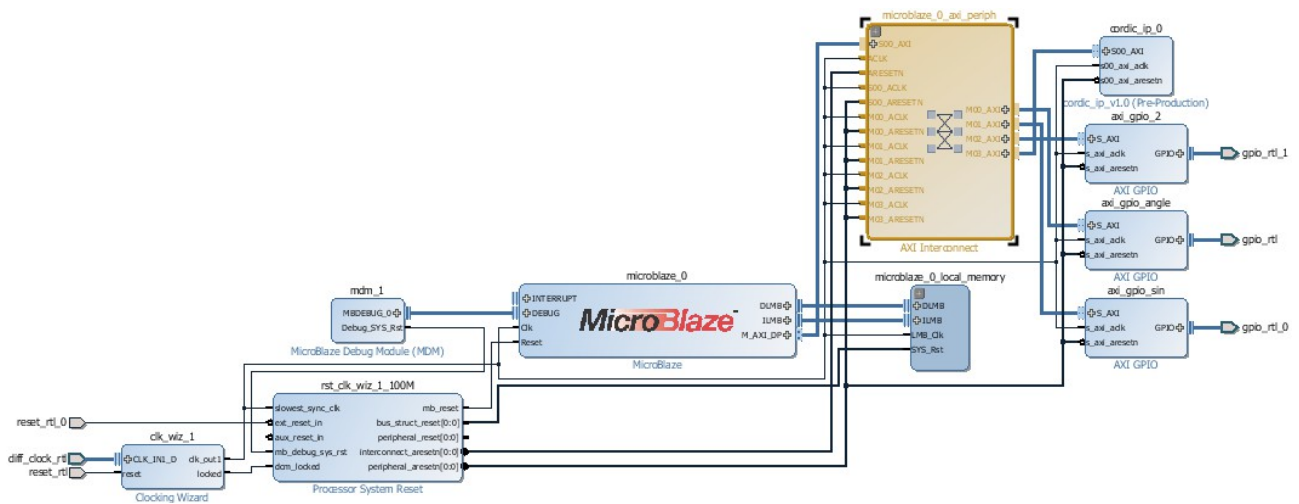


Select “Custom” for “Board Part Interface” for all three GPIOs !!!



Click OK

The block diagram will appear



### 4.3.9 Change the port names

Change "gpio\_rtl\_0" to "gpio\_angle"

Change "gpio\_rtl\_1" to "gpio\_sin"

Change "gpio\_rtl\_2" to "gpio\_cos"

Change "reset\_rtl" to "reset"

Change "reset\_rtl\_0" to "reset\_n"

Change "diff\_clock\_rtl" to "clock"

### 4.3.10 Verify your "mb\_design\_wrapper.v"

Check if the wrapper corresponds to the block diagram. Generate the wrapper again if necessary (see section 4.2)

## 5. Export hardware platform to SDK

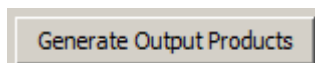
In this section, we will create the hardware platform specification for the Vivado Software Development Kit (SDK). The specification will be necessary to build Board Support Platform (hardware abstraction layer) that allow programmer to write portable programs for the Microblaze system.

### 5.1 Export hardware information

Select “File”->”Export”->”Export hardware” form the main Vivado menu.

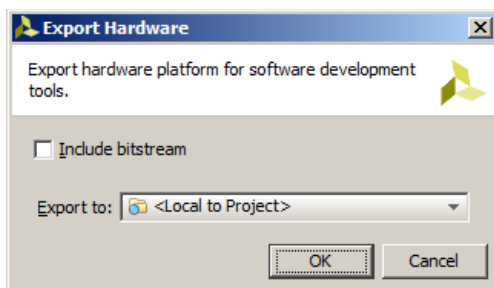


Select “Generate Output Products” in the “Generate Output Products” window



Click OK when generation is completed

Export to the local project folder: <Local to Project>



Click OK

## 6. Build software program for Microblaze

We will build the code that reads binary angle value from GPIO\_angle, sends it to CORDIC accelerator, read the results from the accelerator, and sends sinus (cosinus) value to GPIO\_sin (GPIO\_cos).

First the GPIOs are initialised (GPIO\_angle as input, GPIO\_sin and GPIO cos as outputs) the data is read from GPIO\_angle.

Then data is written into *slv\_reg1(11:0)* register and the conversion is started with the *start* bit set in *slv\_reg0(0)*.

Later, the Microblaze waits for the end of conversion what is signalled by *ready\_out* bit in *slv\_reg2(0)*.

At the end, results are read from *slv\_reg3* register and send to GPIO\_sin and GPIO\_cos.

## 6.1 Open Vivado SDK

Select “File”->”Launch SDK” in Vivado

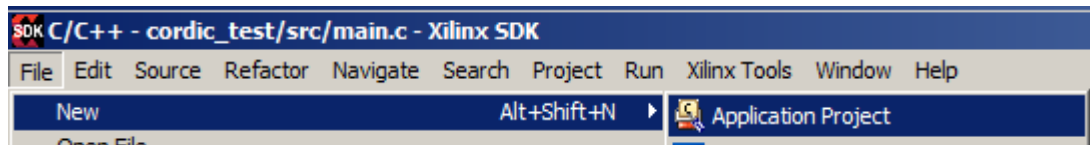


Click OK

The Microblaze software project opens in Vivado SDK window

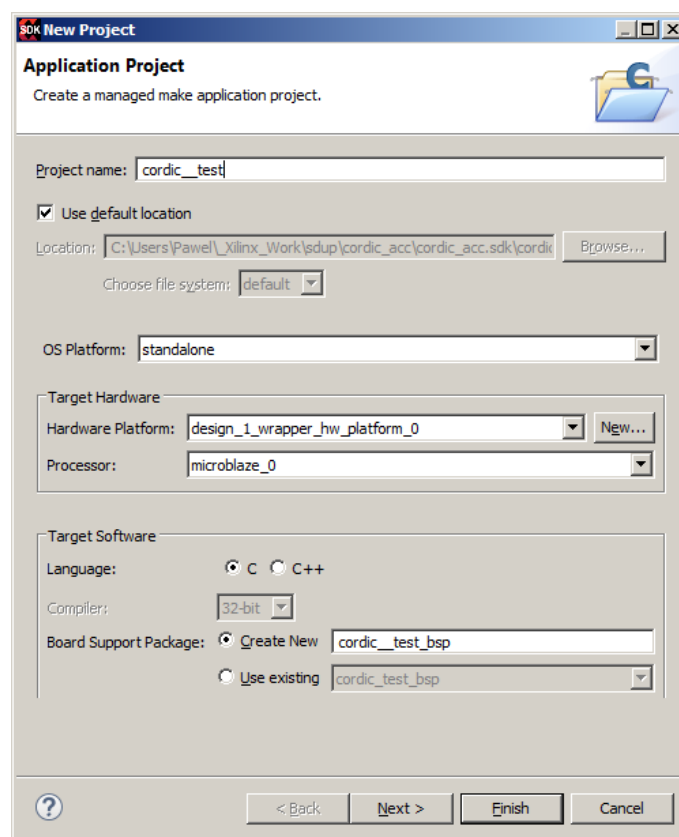
## 6.2 Create the new application project “cordic\_test” in Vivado SDK

Select “File”->”New”->”Application Project”



Edit project name in the “New project” window.

Enter “cordic\_test”



Click Finish

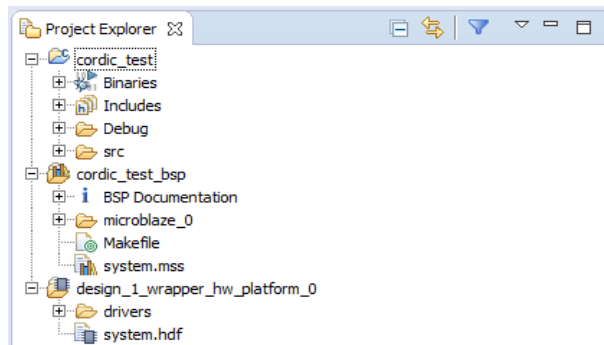
## 6.3 Verify your project hierarchy

The project contains:

**cordic\_test** – microblaze application sources

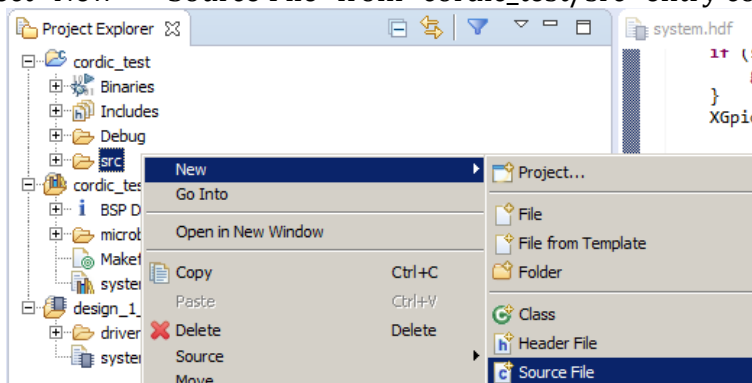
**cordic\_test\_bsp** – board support platform sources

**design\_1\_wrapper\_hw\_platform\_0** – hardware platform specification and peripheral drivers.

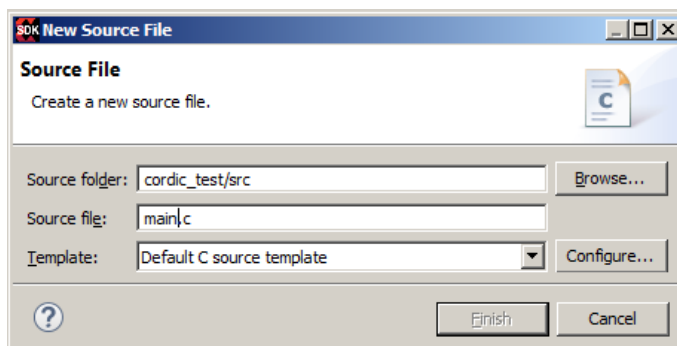


## 6.4 Add the “main.c” source file to “cordic\_test/src”

Select “New”->“Source File” from “cordic\_test/src” entry context menu



Enter “main.c” name in the “New Source File” window



Click Finish



## 6.5 Insert the microblaze source code into “main.c”

Copy the code below into “main.c”

```
#include "xparameters.h"
#include "xgpio.h"
#include "cordic_ip.h"

/***** user definitions *****/
#define CHANNEL 1

//Cordic processor base address redefinition
#define CORDIC_BASE_ADDR      XPAR_CORDIC_IP_0_S00_AXI_BASEADDR

//Cordic processor registers' offset redefinition
#define CONTROL_REG_OFFSET    CORDIC_IP_S00_AXI_SLV_REG0_OFFSET
#define ANGLE_REG_OFFSET      CORDIC_IP_S00_AXI_SLV_REG1_OFFSET
#define STATUS_REG_OFFSET     CORDIC_IP_S00_AXI_SLV_REG2_OFFSET
#define RESULT_REG_OFFSET     CORDIC_IP_S00_AXI_SLV_REG3_OFFSET
#define RESULT_REG_SIN(param) ((u32)param & (u32)(0x00000FFF))
#define RESULT_REG_COS(param) (((u32)param & (u32)(0xFFF0000)) >> 16 )

/***** Main function *****/

int main(){
int status;
XGpio angleGpio, sinGpio, cosGpio;
u32 data;
u32 result, sin, cos;

/* Initialize driver for the input angle GPIOe */
status = XGpio_Initialize(&angleGpio, XPAR_AXI_GPIO_ANGLE_DEVICE_ID);
if (status != XST_SUCCESS) {
goto FAILURE;
}
XGpio_SetDataDirection(&angleGpio, CHANNEL, 0xFFF);

/* Initialize driver for the output sin GPIO */
status = XGpio_Initialize(&sinGpio, XPAR_AXI_GPIO_SIN_DEVICE_ID);
if (status != XST_SUCCESS) {
goto FAILURE;
}
XGpio_SetDataDirection(&sinGpio, CHANNEL, 0x000);

/* Initialize driver for the output cos GPIO */
status = XGpio_Initialize(&cosGpio, XPAR_AXI_GPIO_COS_DEVICE_ID);
if (status != XST_SUCCESS) {
goto FAILURE;
}
XGpio_SetDataDirection(&cosGpio, CHANNEL, 0x000);

//Read angle binary data from angle GPIO. fxp(12:10) format
data = XGpio_DiscreteRead(&angleGpio, CHANNEL);

//Send data to data register of cordic processor
CORDIC_IP_mWriteReg(CORDIC_BASE_ADDR, ?????????, data);

//Start cordic processor - pulse start bit in control register
CORDIC_IP_mWriteReg(CORDIC_BASE_ADDR, ?????????, 1);
CORDIC_IP_mWriteReg(CORDIC_BASE_ADDR, ?????????, 0);
```

```

//Wait for ready bit in status register
while( (CORDIC_IP_mReadReg(CORDIC_BASE_ADDR, ??????????????) & 0x01) == 0);

//Get results
result = CORDIC_IP_mReadReg(CORDIC_BASE_ADDR, ??????????????);

//Extract sin and cos from 32-bit register data
sin = RESULT_REG_SIN( result );
cos = RESULT_REG_COS( result );

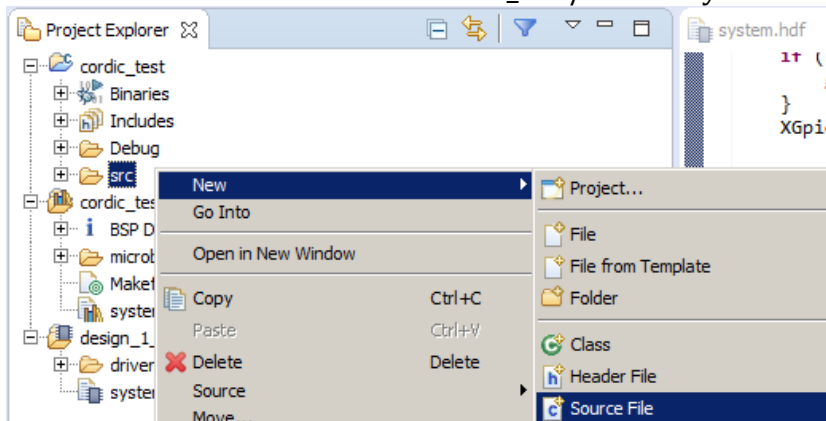
//Send to GPIO
XGpio_DiscreteWrite(&sinGpio, CHANNEL, sin);
XGpio_DiscreteWrite(&cosGpio, CHANNEL, cos);

/* Failure or end trap */
FAILURE:
while(1);
}

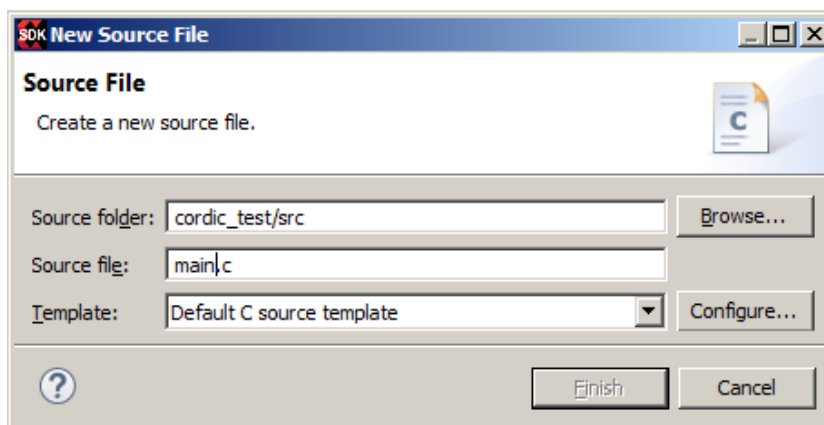
```

## 6.4 Add the “main.c” source file to “cordic\_test/src”

Select “New”->“Source File” from “cordic\_test/src” entry context menu



Enter “main.c” name in the “New Source File” window

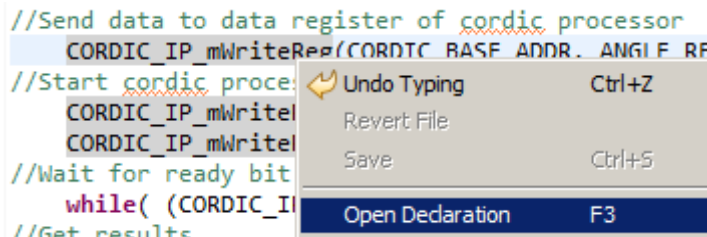


Click Finish

## 6.5 Replace question mark strings with correct symbols

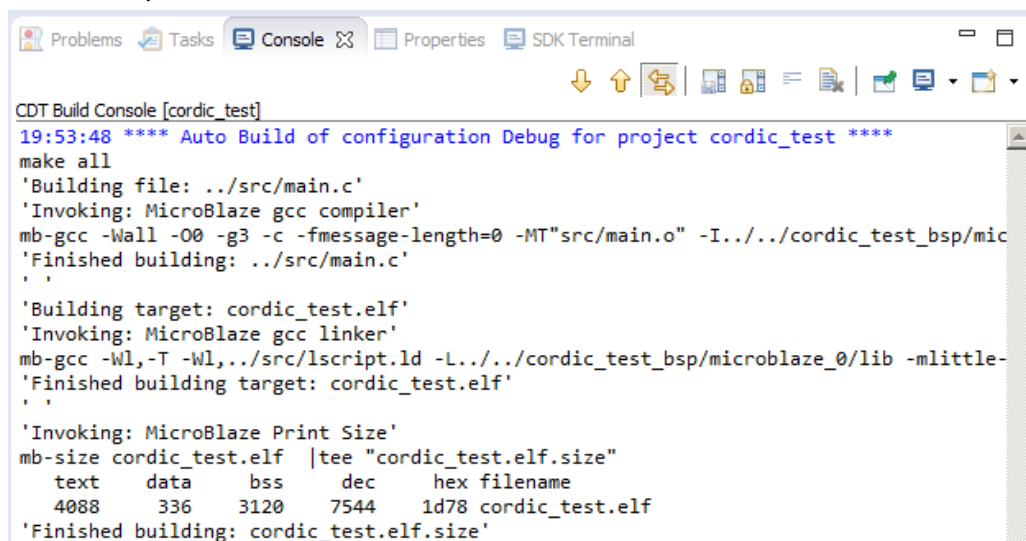
All hardware platform definitions are included in “xparameters.h” header file. The file contains ids, base addresses, and offsets of peripheral devices,

You can easily find the definitions and descriptions of the used function by selecting “Open declaration F3” in the context menu (right click the selected symbol, variable or function).



## 6.6 Build the application

Select “Project” → “Build all” from the SDK window menu.



Ensure that the console is free of errors.

Now, you have **cordic\_test.elf** file that contains the application image data. We will use that file to initialize Microblaze program memory before simulation is started.

## 7. Simulation of accelerated Microblaze system

### 7.1 Go to Vivado “cortic\_test” project window



### 7.2 Create “mb\_design\_tb” testbench simulation file

Click “Add sources” in the “Sources” window menu

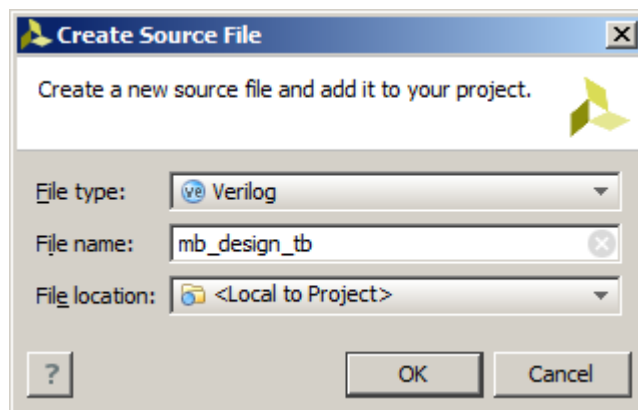


And follow dialog windows sequence that will appear.

Select “Add or create simulation sources”

Click “Create File” button

Enter “mb\_design\_tb” file name



Click OK

### 7.3 Enter the simulation testbench code into “mb\_design\_tb.v”

Copy and paste the Verilog code given below into “mb\_design\_tb.v”

```
module mb_design_tb();
    reg clk_n, clk_p;
    wire [11:0] angle;
    wire [11:0] sin;
    wire [11:0] cos;
    reg reset, reset_n;

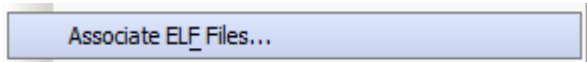
    real r_angle = 1024*3.14*0.2;
    real r_sin, r_cos;
    // Dip switches stimulus
    assign angle = r_angle;
    // Reset stimulus
    initial
    begin
        reset = 1'b1;
        reset_n = 1'b0;
        #10 reset = 1'b0;
        reset_n = 1'b1;
    end
    // Clocks stimulus
    initial
    begin
        clk_n = 1'b0; //set clk to 0
        clk_p = 1'b1;
    end
    always
    begin
        #5 clk_n = ~clk_n; //toggle clk every 5 time units
        clk_p = ~clk_p; //toggle clk every 5 time units
    end
    //Put sin and cos as real values
    always @*
    begin
        r_sin = sin;
        r_cos = cos;
        r_sin = r_sin / 1024;
        r_cos = r_cos / 1024;
    end
    //Instantiate tested module
    mb_design_wrapper mb_design_inst ( clk_n, clk_p, angle, cos, sin, reset, reset_n);
endmodule
```

### 7.3 Verify your design hierarchy in Simulation Sources folder

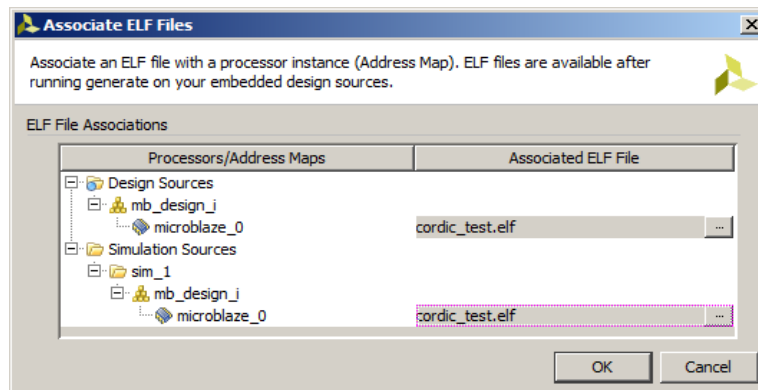


## 7.5 Associate “cordic\_test.elf” file with the Microblaze program memory

Select “Tools”->”Associate ELF files” from the program menu



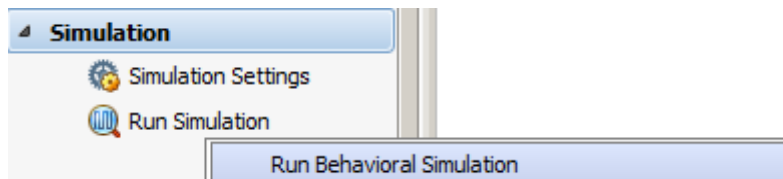
Select “cordic\_test.elf” file from the SDK project menu:  
“.\cordic\_test\cordic\_test.sdk\cordic\_test\Debug\cordic\_test.elf”



Click OK

## 7.6 Run simulation

Click “Run simulation”->”Run Behavioural Simulation” in the flow navigator



## 7.7 Verify results

Check if the GPIO binary data corresponds each other. Is the *sin* and *cos* value of the given *angle* correct?