



RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

ECE493 SPECIAL TOPICS

Hardware/Software Design of Embedded Systems Laboratory

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1 Lab 1 - Introduction to FPGA's and VHDL

1.1 Introduction

This lab will introduce you to the Altera DE2-115 FPGA Development Board. The DE2-115 contains all of the hardware necessary to prototype and create various hardware configurations on the Altera Cyclone IV FPGA chip that will be used throughout the course of this lab. By completing this lab, you will have an understanding of all the hardware contained on the FPGA development board, along with an understanding of how to connect peripherals to the development board. Lastly, this lab will go over the standard template for designing hardware in the VHDL programming language. All this will be accomplished by following the Quartus II introductory packet along with the following activities.

1.2 The DE2-115 FPGA Development Board

An overview of the DE2-115 FPGA Development Board can be found in Figure 1. Take note of the layout of the board. It is expected that by the end of this course you should be able to point out and explain the various clocks, ports, configuration devices, and peripheral ports on the development board.

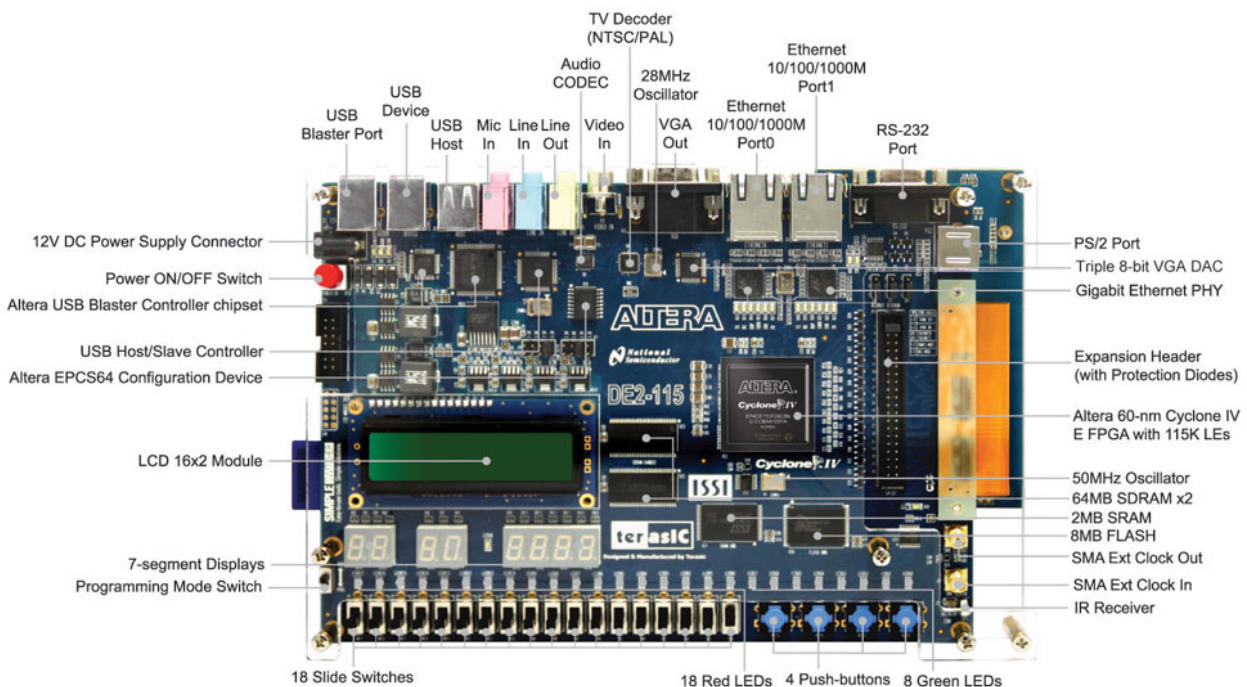


Figure 1: The DE2-115 FPGA Development Board

Figure 2 is an overview of how all the components of the board are connected to the FPGA device.

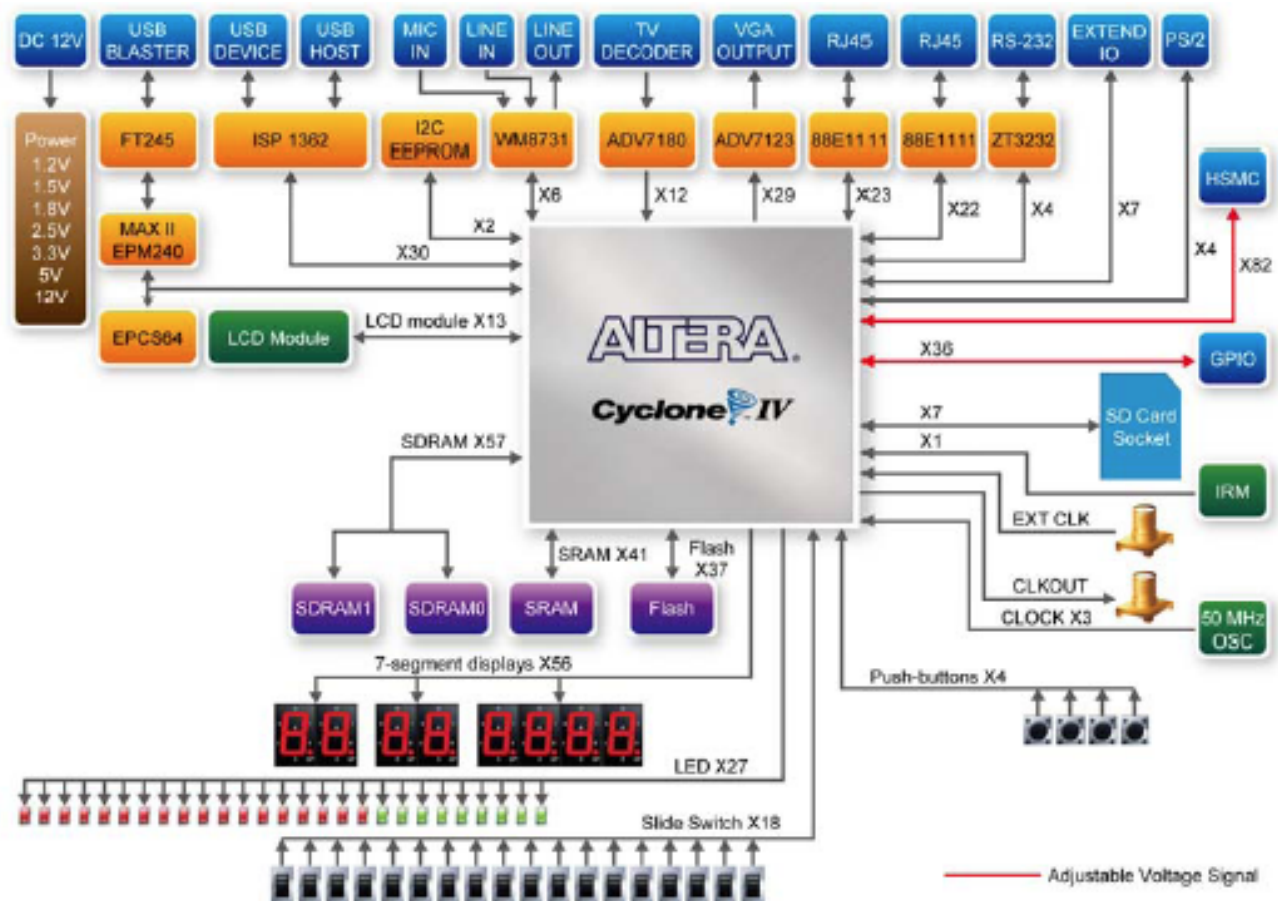


Figure 2: The DE2-115 Block Diagram

1.3 Pre-lab

Before attempting this lab, you should complete the following:

- Download and install the *Quartus II 13.0 Web Edition Software* located at:
<http://www.altera.com/products/software/quartus-ii/web-edition/qts-we-index.html>
- Download and install the *Altera University Installer Software 13.0* located at:
<http://www.altera.com/education/univ/software/upds/unv-upds.html>
- Download and read the following documents from the Sakai Resources pages; *DE2-115 User Manual*, *Quartus II Introduction*.

1.4 Working with Quartus II

1.4.1 Creating a New Project

1. In order to begin working on your first FPGA project, you must open the program Altera Quartus II. To begin a new project go to **File** → **New Project Wizard** as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Create a new project menu

2. When the *New Project Wizard* window opens click **NEXT**.
3. Create a folder in your Z-drive called *FPGA Lab*.
4. Create a folder in *FPGA Lab* called *lab1*.
5. Set the working directory to *lab1*.
6. Name the project *lab1*.
7. Click **NEXT** to proceed.
8. Skip this step, click **NEXT** to proceed.
9. Under Device Family select *Cyclone IV E*, set the package to *FBGA*, pin count to *780*, and speed grade to *7*. In the Available devices list, look for and select *EP4CE115F29C7* as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Device selection menu

10. Click **FINISH** to begin your new project.

1.4.2 Creating an Empty File

1. Go to **File** → **New** → **VHDL File** → **OK** as shown in Figure 5.

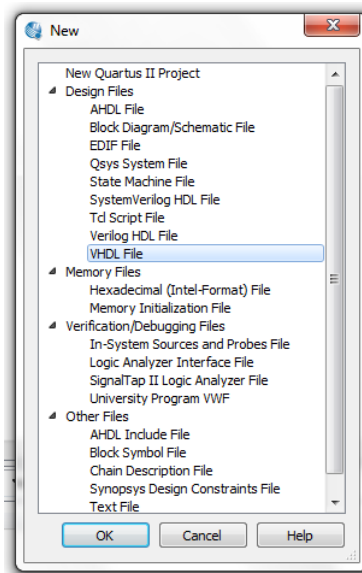


Figure 5: Create a new file menu

2. Save this new file by going to **File** → **Save As** → **lab1.vhd** → **SAVE** as shown in Figure 6.

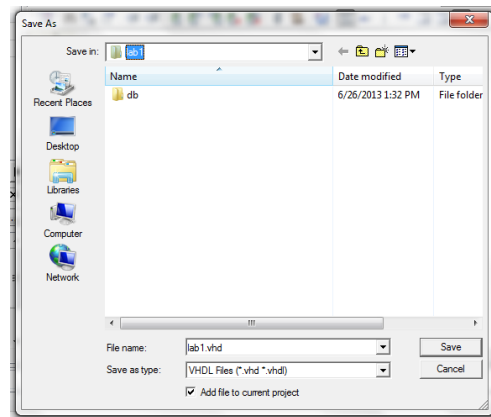


Figure 6: Save As dialog box

1.4.3 Writing VHDL Code

The following code block shows how to interact with the switches and LEDs on the DE2-115. Notice how the program begins with importing the ieee library which contains all of the basic logic primitives as established within the IEEE standard 1164. When working in industry it is common for large companies to create their own libraries as well. Every VHDL file should contain at least one entity (module) that is the same as the name of the file. An entity contains information about the structure of the module such as how many inputs/outputs (I/O) and what type of logic to expect at the I/O. Once the port structure for the entity is defined, its logical behavior is described within an architecture block. As can be seen, the code below is setting the red LEDs as defined in the array to the accompanying switches on the board. Take note on the use of comments throughout the code, comments begin with two dashes (--) and should always be used to describe what you are trying to accomplish, this way someone else who reads your code will understand it easily and your code will look more professional.

```

1  -- Import logic primitives
2  LIBRARY ieee;
3  USE ieee.std_logic_1164.all;
4
5  -- Simple module that connects the SW switches to the LEDR lights
6  ENTITY lab1 IS
7  PORT ( SW: IN STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(17 DOWNTO 0); -- Initialize switches as an input
8         LEDR: OUT STD_LOGIC_VECTOR(17 DOWNTO 0)); -- Initialize red LEDs as an output
9  END lab1;
10
11 -- Define characteristics of the entity lab1
12 ARCHITECTURE Behavior OF lab1 IS
13 BEGIN
14     LEDR <= SW; -- Assign each switch to one red LED
15 END Behavior;

```

1.4.4 Setting Pin Assignments

The Cyclone IV chip on the DE2-115 contains 780 pins. Most of the pins have been predetermined through their routing on the PCB to directly control all of the interfaces on the board. As a result, Altera has provided a file that contains all of the pin assignments so that you can interact directly with the hardware on the board through your VHDL code. To set the pin assignments:

1. Go to **Assignments** → **Import Assignments** → **Select DE2-115.qsf** as shown in Figure 7. This file should be downloaded from Sakai under resources.
2. Then click **ADVANCED** → **check Global Assignments** → **Ok** as shown in Figure 8.

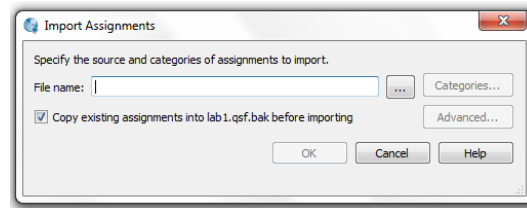


Figure 7: Import assignments dialog box

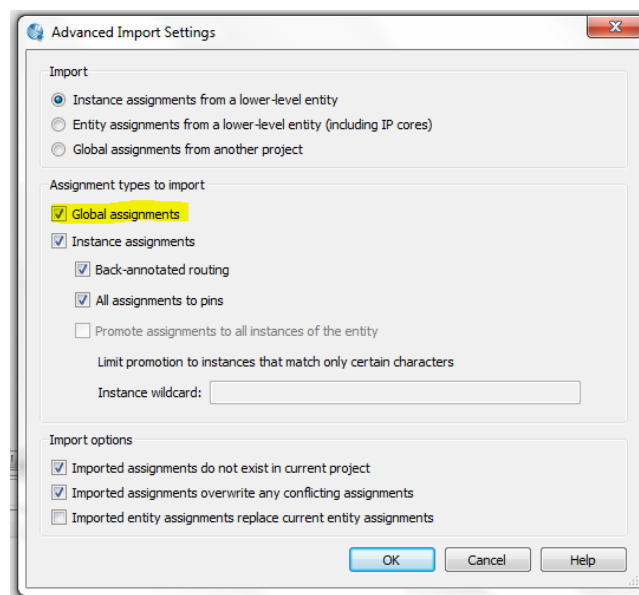


Figure 8: Import assignments advanced options menu

1.4.5 Compiling Hardware

1. To begin compiling your hardware, go to **Processing** → **Start Compilation** or you may press *Ctrl + L* on your keyboard.

If the project compiles successfully, you may proceed to uploading the hardware. Otherwise if you have any errors you should debug your code. It is helpful to note that the first error should be solved first which will make it easier to solve the other errors. A successful compilation will look like Figure 9.

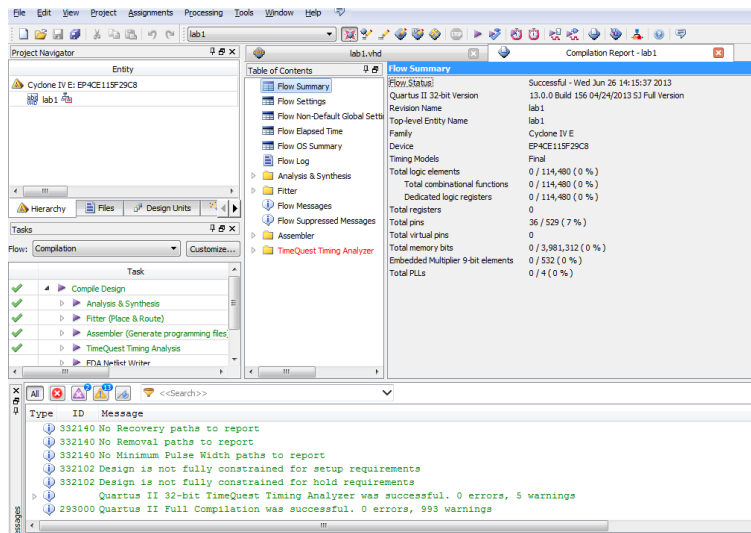


Figure 9: Successful completion of compilation

1.4.6 Testing Hardware with Waveforms

All hardware implementations should be tested for correctness before the VHDL code is uploaded to the FPGA device. To accomplish this, please follow the tutorial titled *Quartus_II_Simulation.pdf* listed under Sakai resources.

1.4.7 Uploading Hardware to Device

Once the hardware has compiled successfully, go to **Tools** → **Programmer** to open the hardware upload options. There are two typical modes for uploading hardware and it is important to understand when to use them. This can be seen in Figure 10.



Figure 10: Modes for uploading hardware to the FPGA device

1. JTAG or Joint Test Action Group

- This method loads the VHDL code directly to the FPGA chip.

- The FPGA is unable to save its current state so if the power is turned off the programmed hardware will disappear.
- To program the FPGA with this method all you need to do is connect the USB cable to the development board and ensure that under **Hardware Setup** that USB-Blaster is selected. Then you must go to **Add Files** and add your compiled *lab1.sof* file.
- Press **START** to upload your hardware, in a few moments you should see your development board behaving as instructed by your code.

2. Active Serial

- This method loads the hardware on to the on-board configuration device. What this means is that the hardware description is saved into memory and is loaded onto the FPGA chip whenever the board is powered on. This method is more desirable because it allows the FPGA to work without being connected to the computer and only to an external power source.
- Before beginning this method you should first check that under **Assignments** → **Device** → **Device and Pin Options** are configured in the same way as shown in Figure 11. If not, you must set the configuration scheme to *Active Serial* and also set the configuration device to *EPCS64*. If this was not set you must recompile your hardware.

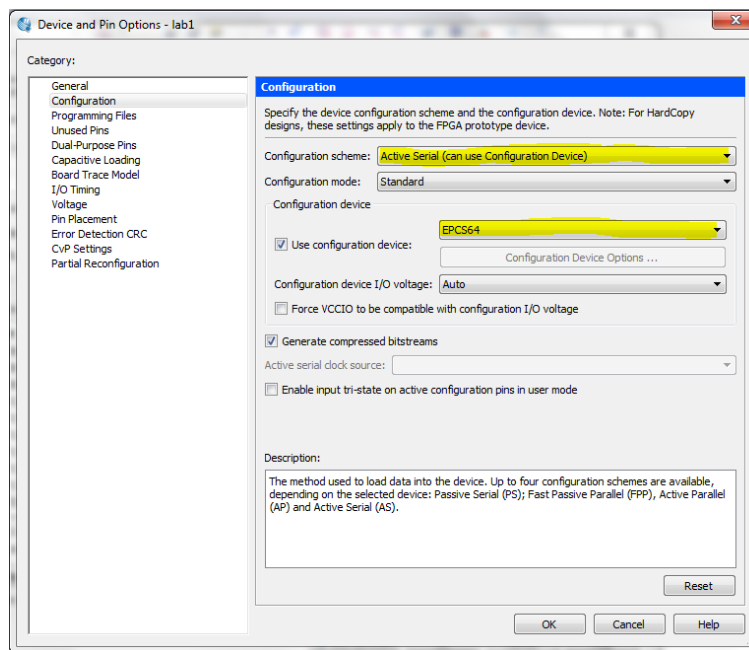


Figure 11: Active Serial Configuration Settings

- Next once again ensure that the hardware is set to *USB-Blaster* and that the mode is set to *Active Serial*
- Click on **Add Files**, and select *lab1.pof*.
- Ensure that the development board is switched to *PROG*.
- Click **START** to begin programming. This method takes slightly longer.
- Switch the board back into the *RUN* position and verify that your logic is behaving properly.

1.5 Activities

1.5.1 Implementing Logic

Implement the hardware from the circuit in Figure 12. The inputs should come from SW(1) and SW(2) and the output should be shown on any of the available LEDs. Use the implemented circuit to test and create a truth table with your results and place it within a comment in the program file.

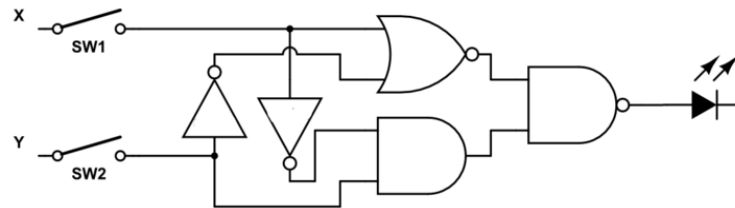


Figure 12: Circuit for activity 1

1.5.2 7 Segment Display Decoder

The 7-segment display is comprised of 7 LEDs that are arranged in such a way that allows for the creation of the numbers 0-9 and a select few characters with some clever use. Figure 13 shows the block diagram and output table. Your task is to create a 4 input, 7 output decoder that will display a number from 0-9 and the letters A-F. To accomplish this task, you should program the switches SW(0) - SW(3) to act as a 4-bit input to the decoder and output the result across all of the displays, HEX0 - HEX7.

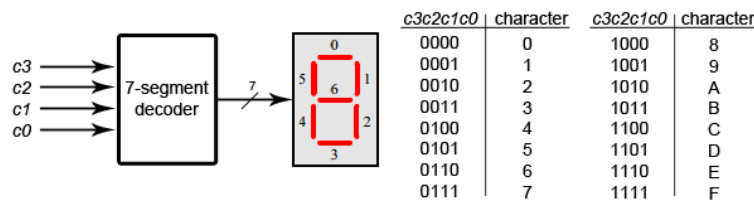


Figure 13: 7 segment display and decoder

Tips:

- You should create two entities, one labeled part2 that contains the logic for the switch input and output to the displays and another labeled bcd7seg that acts as a decoder for the display.
- The eight 7 segment displays can be accessed with the 7-bit signal vectors HEX0... HEX7. For example, to output to the first display (HEX0) you can either set each bit individually (HEX0(5) <= '0'); or set the whole vector with (HEX0 <= '00000000') which would display the number 8. Keep in mind that the LED segments use inverted logic.
- Figure 14 shows how to correctly display all the required characters.

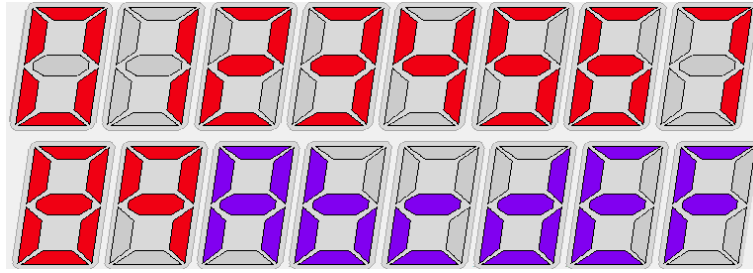


Figure 14: 7 segment displays showing all combinations for 0-9 and A-F

1.6 Lab Report

Your lab report should be upload to Sakai in a zip folder that includes; your commented VHDL code, your VHDL test bench, a pdf of your waveforms, and a text file answering any questions from the activities.

2 Lab 2 - Latches, Flip-Flops, and Counters

2.1 Introduction

Elementary latches and flip-flops have been used for years as a means to store temporary data either from the outputs of logic operations or by setting them to configure logic to behave in certain ways. This lab will go into the aspects of creating latches and flip-flops which will then be used to create a counter.

2.2 Pre-lab

Before you begin this lab you should complete the following and upload to Sakai:

- Write down the truth table for a D-latch, SR-latch and J-K flip-flop
- Design a block diagram for an 8-bit counter using J-K flip-flops

2.3 Lab Activities

2.3.1 Latches

The following VHDL code implements the logic for a D-latch based off of the schematic in Figure 15.

```

1  -- A gated D latch
2  LIBRARY ieee;
3  USE ieee.std_logic_1164.all;
4
5  ENTITY dlatch IS
6      PORT (      Clk, D      : IN STD_LOGIC;
7              Q, Qbar      : OUT      STD_LOGIC);
8  END dlatch;
9
10 ARCHITECTURE rtl OF dlatch IS
11
12     SIGNAL D1, D2, Qa, Qb : STD_LOGIC; -- Intermediate signals
13     ATTRIBUTE keep: boolean; -- For waveform results
14     ATTRIBUTE keep of D1, D2, Qa, Qb : signal is true;
15
16 BEGIN
17
18     D1 <= NOT (D AND CLK);
19     D2 <= NOT (D1 AND CLK);
20     Qa <= NOT (D1 AND Qb);
21     Qb <= NOT (D2 AND Qa);
22
23     Q <= Qa;
24     Qbar <= Qb;
25
26 END rtl;

```

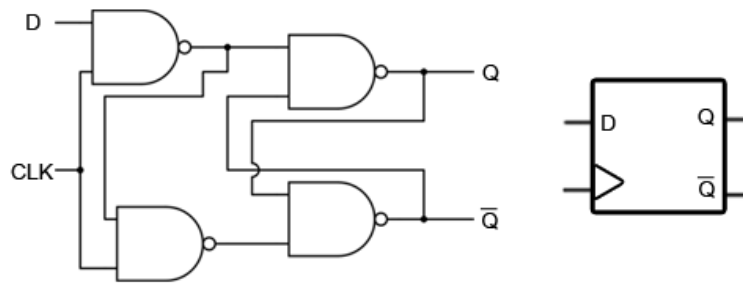


Figure 15: D-latch circuit and block diagram

Using this as a reference, design VHDL for an SR-latch with a clock input. Verify with waveforms that the circuit behaves the same as the truth table you created in the pre-lab.

2.3.2 Flip-Flop

Design VHDL code that implements the logic for a J-K flip-flop from Figure 16. Verify with waveforms that the circuit behaves the same as the truth table you created in the pre-lab

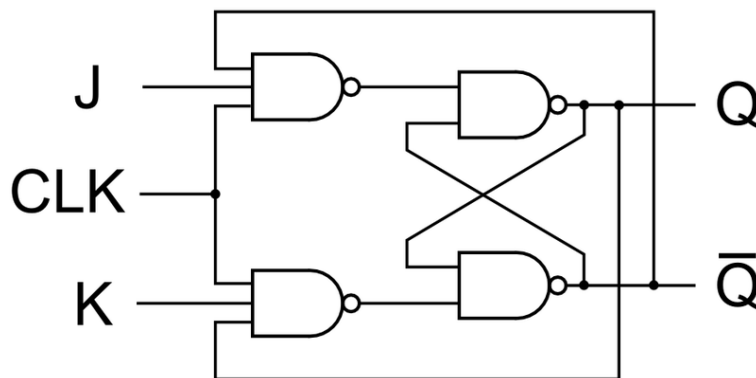


Figure 16: J-K flip-flop circuit

2.3.3 Counters

In the pre-lab, you created a block diagram for an 8-bit counter using J-K flip flops. Using the same VHDL code you created for implementing the J-K flip-flop, implement an 8-bit counter that increments when you press KEY0 on the DE2-115 development board. Link the binary output of the flip-flops to the red LEDs and then convert the binary value into hexadecimal to be shown on the 7-segment displays. *Hint: you should refer to your code for the 7-segment display driver designed in the previous lab.*

2.4 Lab Report

After completing the activities in this lab you should create a zip folder with the following and then submit it to Sakai:

- Commented VHDL code.
- VHDL test benches for all activities.

- Waveforms for all activities.
- A discussion on the results of compilation including longest path delay, the total number of logic elements used, and issues you encountered while performing the lab.

3 Lab 3 - Complex Addition Systems

3.1 Introduction

From your pocket calculator to inside modern CPUs adders have long been used as more than just a simple way to sum numbers together. This lab will go into the logic structure of the adder as well as provide a method for converting the simple full adder in to an *arithmetic logic unit* (ALU) capable of handling 10 operations.

3.2 Pre-lab

Before coming to the lab, please complete the following and upload to Sakai:

- A truth table for a half adder and a full adder
- The logic equation for a 4-bit ripple carry adder

3.3 Lab Activities

3.3.1 Half Adder

Build the circuit in Figure 17, create a test bench and verify that the logic is correct.

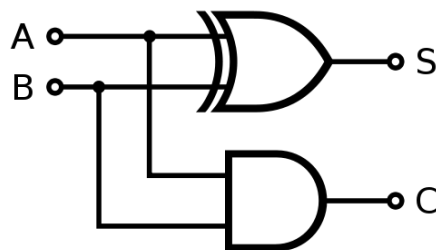


Figure 17: Circuit for a 1-bit half adder

3.3.2 Full Adder

The circuit in Figure 18 implements a full 1-bit adder. Implement this circuit in VHDL, create a test bench, and verify that the logic behaves as expected.

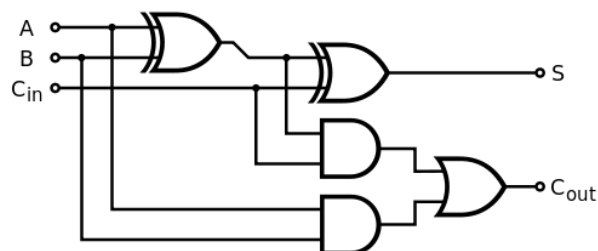


Figure 18: Circuit for a 1-bit full adder

Now that you have a working 1-bit full adder, implement a 4-bit ripple carry adder that sums the binary numbers "0110" and "0101." A block diagram for the 4-bit ripple carry adder is shown in Figure 19. Verify your results by creating a test bench and simulating the circuit.

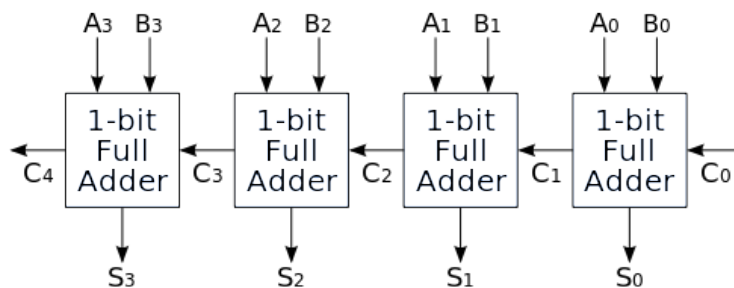


Figure 19: 4-bit ripple carry adder block diagram

3.3.3 Full Adder Based ALU

The block diagram in Figure 20 is an example of how the regular 1-bit full adder can be manipulated to implement additional functionality. For this activity, you must build VHDL code that implements a 4-bit complex adder ALU, the list of instructions can be found in Table 1.

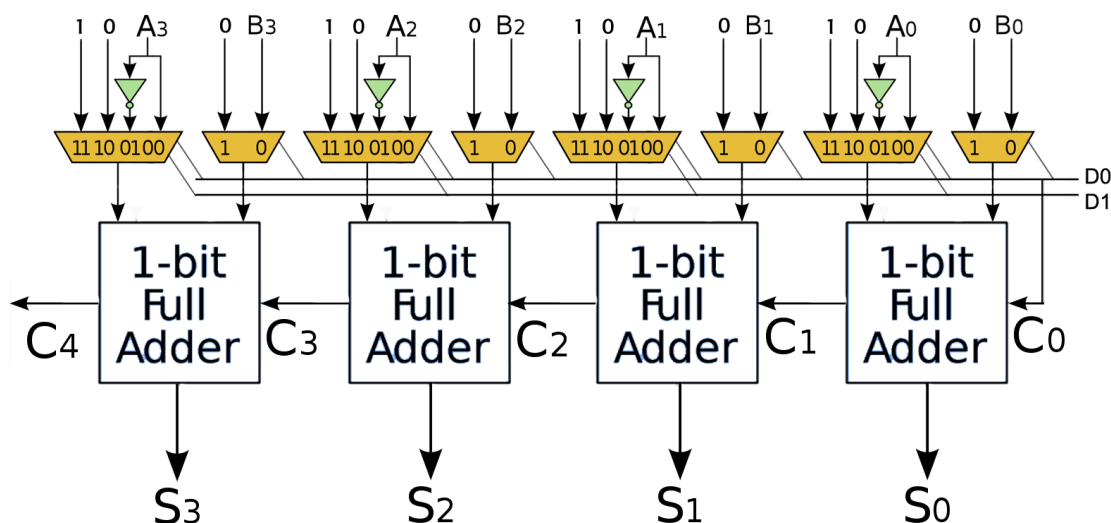


Figure 20: Block diagram for a 4-bit ripple carry adder ALU with 10 operations

After writing and testing your VHDL code, upload it on the DE2-115 FPGA Development board. Connect the inputs **A0-A3** to SW0 - SW3 and the inputs **B0-B3** to SW4 - SW7. Also connect **D0** to SW8 and **D1** to SW9. Display inputs **A** and **B** in hexadecimal on HEX0 and HEX2, respectively and the output **S** on HEX4. If the result over-flows display **C4** on LEDG0. If the result is negative turn on LEDR0 and if it is zero turn on LEDR1. Test and verify all ten operations and take a picture of each result (make a table that includes the values for **A**, **B**, **S**, **C4**, **Neg**, and **Zero**).

A_i	B_i	$D_0 D_1$	Result
Set to 0	Set to 0	00	0
Set to 0	Set to 0	10	1
A	Set to 0	00	A
Set to 0	B	00	B
A	Set to 0	10	A + 1
Set to 0	B	10	B + 1
A	B	00	A + B
A	B	10	A – B
Set to invert	Set to 0	01	\overline{A}
Set to invert	Set to 0	11	–A

Table 1: List of operations for the adder based ALU

When you finish building the VHDL upload your code to the FPGA board. Test and verify all ten operations and take a picture of each result (make a table with that includes the values for **A, B, S, C₄, Neg, and Zero**).

3.4 Lab Report

After completing the activities in this lab you should create a zip folder with the following and then submit it to Sakai:

- Commented VHDL code.
- VHDL test benches for the half adder and full adder activities.
- Waveforms for the half adder and full adder activities.
- Pictures of the results from the ALU activity.
- A discussion on the results of compilation including longest path delay, the total number of logic elements used, and issues you encountered while performing the lab.

4 Lab 4 - Finite-State Machines

4.1 Introduction

A finite-state machine (FSM) is a system that can be in only one state at a time; the state it is in at any given time is called the current state. It can change from one state to another when initiated by a triggering event or condition; this is called a transition. A particular FSM is defined by a list of its states, and the triggering condition for each transition. This lab will examine a simple FSM to give the general idea of how they work and build upon it to create a system modeled off of a real world system, a vending machine.

4.2 Lab Activities

4.2.1 FSM

Given the state machine transition graph in Figure 21, design VHDL for the state transitions of this diagram. Note that in the state transition graph, we show the transition behavior as $D0\ D1 = 00 / 1\ 0$ to indicate that the transition occurs when $D0 = 0$ and $D1 = 0$, and causes $Z1$ to be 1 and $Z2$ to be 0. Assume that state A is the reset state for this machine.

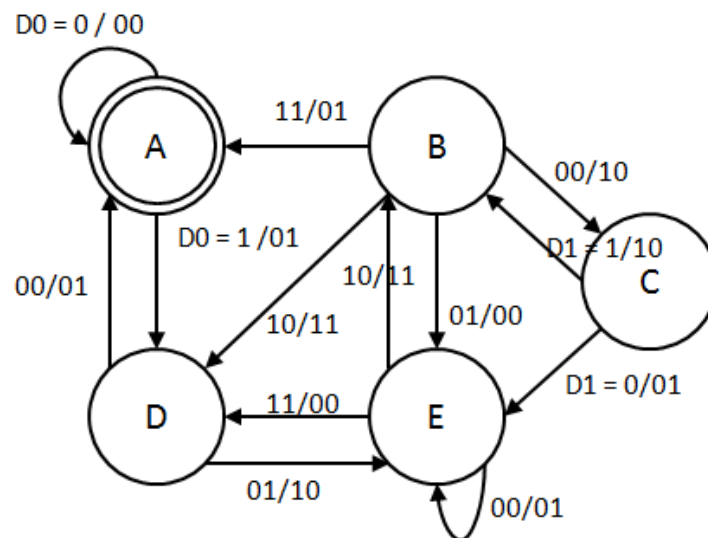


Figure 21: State machine transition graph

You may find the code below to be helpful in completing this activity.

```

1  -- User-Encoded State Machine
2  library ieee;
3  use ieee.std_logic_1164.all;
4
5  entity state_machine is
6      port(clk      : in std_logic;
7            reset    : in std_logic;
8            input     : in std_logic;
9            output    : out std_logic);
10
11  end entity;
12

```

```

13 architecture rtl of state_machine is
14     -- Build an enumerated type for the state machine
15     type count_state is (A, B, C, D);
16
17     -- Registers to hold the current state and the next state
18     signal present_state, next_state      : count_state;
19
20     -- Attribute to declare a specific encoding for the states
21     attribute syn_encoding                : string;
22     attribute syn_encoding of count_state : type is "11 01 10 00";
23
24 begin
25     -- Move to the next state
26     process(clk, reset)
27     begin
28         if reset = '1' then
29             present_state <= A;
30         elsif (rising_edge(clk)) then
31             present_state <= next_state;
32         end if;
33     end process;
34
35     -- Determine what the next state will be, and set the output bits
36     process (present_state, input)
37     begin
38         case present_state is
39             when A =>
40                 if (input = '0') then
41                     next_state <= B;
42                     output <= '0';
43                 else
44                     next_state <= D;
45                     output <= '0';
46                 end if;
47             when B =>
48                 if (input = '0') then
49                     next_state <= C;
50                     output <= '1';
51                 else
52                     next_state <= A;
53                     output <= '0';
54                 end if;
55             when C =>
56                 if (input = '0') then
57                     next_state <= D;
58                     output <= '0';
59                 else
60                     next_state <= B;
61                     output <= '1';
62                 end if;
63             when D =>
64                 if (input = '0') then
65                     next_state <= A;

```

```

66         output <= '0';
67     else
68         next_state <= C;
69         output <= '1';
70     end if;
71 end case;
72 end process;
73
74 end rtl;

```

4.2.2 Vending Machine

Design a custom finite-state machine to control a vending machine to dispense products. The design must follow the following specifications:

- The state machine should have three states:
 - IDLE**: This is the default state for the machine. The machine should stay in this state until a product is selected. If no items are selected, display a dash across all HEX displays. This state should also set the 6-bit signal `QUARTERS` and the signal `DISPENSE_READY` to zero as well as `LEDR0` - `LEDR17`. `KEY1` should set the signal `COIN_RETURN` to HIGH which will reset the machine.
 - PRODUCT_SELECT**: The state machine will move into this state if product(s) are selected through use of the switches (`SW0` - `SW15`) on the FPGA board. Display the total cost in number of quarters needed of all products selected on `HEX5` - `HEX4` in decimal. `KEY3` and `KEY2` should increment `QUARTERS` by a dollar and quarter respectively when pressed. Display the value of `QUARTERS` on `HEX1` - `HEX0`. When the correct number of quarters have been inserted, the signal `DISPENSE_READY` should go HIGH and the state should transition to `DISPENSE`. If `KEY1` is pressed, return to the `IDLE` state. A list of available products and their cost can be found in Table 2.
 - DISPENSE**: Once the proper amount of quarters have been deposited, the item should be dispensed from the machine. To show that the item(s) have been dispensed, turn on `LEDR0`-`LEDR17` and set the next state to idle.
- `KEY0` will act as a `CLOCK` input. The states should transition on the rising edge. This means that you should select a product and then send a `CLOCK` pulse to calculate the cost of the item(s) selected. Then add quarters into the machine and send another `CLOCK` pulse when there is the right amount of quarters. If there is not enough quarters inserted, the state should not change. Once the item(s) are dispensed, send another `CLOCK` pulse to return to `IDLE`.
- The current state; *IDLE*, *PRODUCT_SELECT*, and *DISPENSE* should be displayed by turning on `LEDG0` - `LEDG2` respectively.

Product	Cost	Switch
SODA_CAN[0:3]	\$1.00	SW12 - SW15
CHIPS[0:3]	\$0.75	SW8 - SW11
CHOCOLATE[0:3]	\$0.50	SW4 - SW7
BUBBLE_GUM[0:3]	\$0.25	SW0 - SW3

Table 2: List of vending machine items, cost, and switch correspondence

4.3 Lab Report

After completing the activities in this lab you should create a zip folder with the following and then submit it to Sakai:

- Commented VHDL code.
- VHDL test bench for the FSM activity.
- Waveform for the FSM activity.
- Pictures of the results from the vending machine activity.
- A discussion on the results of compilation including longest path delay, the total number of logic elements used, and issues you encountered while performing the lab.

5 Lab 5 - A Simple Computer

5.1 Introduction

In this lab you will create a simple computer that can compute 8 operations. Each instruction will be 18 bits set up in the following way:

OPCODE	Destination Address	Source Address 1	Source Address 2 / Shift Amount
3 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits

5.2 Pre-lab

Before coming to the lab, please complete the following and upload to Sakai:

- Create a system diagram that shows how all of the modules in the lab are connected to each other (ALU, Control, Multiplexer, FLASH, and Display).
- Read through the datasheet for working with the FLASH memory chip on the FPGA board. This can be found under Sakai Resources.

5.3 Lab Activities

5.3.1 CPU Controller

Instructions are fed to the CPU controller as an 18 bit instruction IR, the format of an instruction can be seen in Table ??.

OPCODE	Destination Address	Source Address 1	Source Address 2 / Shift Amount
3 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits

Table 3: 18 bit instruction format

The Control module should take apart the instruction IR and break it down into signals to be used by the other modules. It is best to think of Control as a "Top" level state machine for the entire computer. The computer should have the following states IDLE, DECODE, and EXECUTE.

The device should initiate in the IDLE state by sending an active low RESET signal in your test bench. If RESET is HIGH, take in the instruction IR and proceed to the DECODE state.

If the device is in the DECODE state, you should break down the instruction IR into the various signals required for the modules ALU and FLASH controller.

5.3.2 Design an ALU

Using the operations listed in Table 4, create an ALU in VHDL that takes in two 8 bit values and returns the result to the processor. Required signals: **A**, **B**, **opcode**, and **result**.

OPCODE	Instruction
000	AND
001	OR
010	NAND
011	NOR
100	XOR
101	ADD
110	SUB
111	Shift Right Logical

Table 4: List of ALU operations

5.3.3 FLASH Memory Controller

The Altera DE2-115 FPGA Development Board contains an 8 MB FLASH memory chip. For this activity you will implement a FLASH memory controller that can read and write to the first 256 bits of the chip. A list of pins used for interacting with the chip can be found in Table 5. Notice that addresses are normally 23 bits long however for this exercise you should set FL_ADDR[19] to FL_ADDR[22] to the source address and set the remaining bits to zero. You should pay careful attention to how data is read and written to the chip. The signal FL_CE_N should be kept HIGH to keep the chip enabled. If you want to read data from the chip, you must first tell the chip the address of where the data is stored and then set the signal FL_OE_N to HIGH in order to send the data onto the data lines. Once the data is read, set the signal FL_OE_N back to LOW. If you want to write data to the chip, you must tell the chip the address location and set the data on the data lines then set FL_WE_N to HIGH. When the operation is completed, make sure to set the signal FL_WE_N to LOW. NOTE: you should never set both FL_OE_N and FL_WE_N to HIGH at the same time as you may damage the device. FL_RY may be useful to determine if an operation has been completed.

Signal	Description
FL_ADDR[0] to FL_ADDR[22]	FLASH Address[0] to FLASH Address[22]
FL_DQ[0] to FL_DQ[7]	FLASH Data[0] to FLASH Data[7]
FL_CE_N	FLASH Chip Enable (set HIGH)
FL_OE_N	FLASH Output Enable
FL_RST_N	FLASH Reset (set LOW)
FL_RY	FLASH Ready/Busy output
FL_WE_N	FLASH Write Enable
FL_WP_N	Flash Write Protect (set LOW)

Table 5: Signal assignments for interfacing with the flash memory chip

5.3.4 Create a VGA Driver

Display the output onto the screen

5.4 Lab Report

After completing the activities in this lab you should create a zip folder with the following and then submit it to Sakai:

- Commented VHDL code.
- VHDL test bench with at least one instruction for all 8 operations.
- Photos of results from the test bench
- A discussion on the results of compilation including longest path delay, the total number of logic elements used, and issues you encountered while performing the lab.

6 Final Project

6.1 Introduction

For the remainder of this course you will be required to work on and complete a project that

6.2 Requirements

6.3 Project Ideas

6.4 Deliverables