Exercise 2: SystemC and Virtual Prototyping

SystemC Modules

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The source code to start this execise is available here:

https://github.com/TUK-SCVP/SCVP.Exercise2

Task 1

NAND Gate

In this task you will write your first SystemC module. The module should have the name nand and should implement the functionality of a NAND gate, shown below.

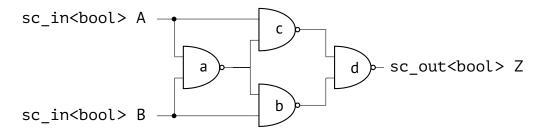
As input and output signals sc_in and sc_out should be used with the template type bool. The input and output signals should be initialized with a proper name in the SC_CTOR. The module should have one SC_METHOD called do_nand(), which is sensitive to the input signals A and B. The module should be implemented in the file nand.h.

In order to test your module make sure nand_main.cpp is included in the CMake file CMakeLists.txt. After successfully testing your NAND gate change the project file to include exor_main.cpp. This is necessary to test your next SystemC module in which you will implement an XOR gate using four instances of your NAND.

Task 2

SystemC Module Hierarchy - XOR

In this task you will write a SystemC module that is composed of other SystemC modules. The module should have the name exor and should implement the functionality of an XOR using only NAND gates, as shown below.



In order to connect the nand modules, you need additional helping signals which you will implement by using the sc_signal <bool > datatype. The signals should have the names h1, h2 and h3. All input, output and helping signals as well as the nand modules should be initialized properly with a name from the SC CTOR(exor).

If you are done with the implementation, have a look at the SC_MODULEs stim and mon and the sc_main() function and try to understand what these components are doing.

Why is the stim class using an SC_THREAD for its process and not an SC_METHOD? Now lets compile and run your program. If you did everything correctly, you should see the following output:

time	Α	В	F
0 s	0	0	1
0 s	0	0	0
10 ns	0	1	0
10 ns	0	1	1
25 ns	1	0	1
35 ns	1	1	1
35 ns	1	1	0
45 ns	0	0	0

Why are you seeing several outputs for each time, sometimes even with wrong results?

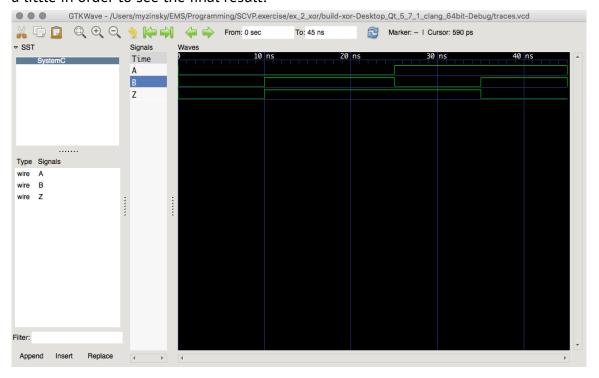
Task 3

Debugging Tracing

Additionally to the mon component, use the waveform feature of SystemC in the sc_main method before sc_start. Then use the tool GTKWave in order to have a look on the waveform. The file is located inside the build folder.

Information on this feature can be found here: https://www.doulos.com/knowhow/
systemc/tutorial/debugging/

In GTKWave you have to drop the signals to the waveform and you have to zoom out a little in order to see the final result:



Task 4

Clocked Processes

Add an sc_clock to the sc_main function. Remove the wait(XX, SC_NS) statements in the stim module and replace them with empty wait() statements. Add an sc_in<book> Clk to the stim and the mon components and make the processes of both modules only sensitive to the positive edge of the clock. Then connect the sc_clock in the sc_main to the modules. What you will observe at the terminal output? Now add the clock signal to the waveform and analyze it with GTKWave.