Chapter 14

Digital design using PicoBlaze

14.1 What is PicoBlaze?

PicoBlaze is an efficient 8-bit microcontroller architecture which can be synthesized in Spartan 3FPGAs (and also in other architectures of Xilinx FPGAs). PicoBlaze is similar to many microcontrollers architectures but it is specifically designed and optimized for Xilinx FPGAs. PicoBlaze is typically referred to as soft processor cores since they are synthesized from an HDL and use the programmable logic and routing resources of an FPGA for their implementation, as opposed to a dedicated processor hard core such as the PowerPC that is incorporated in some Xilinx's families.

The PicoBlaze design was originally named KCPSM which stands for Constant(K) Coded Programmable State Machine (formerly "Ken Chapman's PSM"). Ken Chapman is the Xilinx systems designer who devised and implemented the microcontroller.

14.2 Microprocessor Vs Microcontroller

Microprocessor is an IC which has only the CPU inside them i.e. only the processing powers such as Intel' Pentium 1,2,3,4, core 2 duo, i3, i5 etc. T hese microprocessors don't have RAM, ROM, and other peripheral on the chip. A system designer has to add them externally to make them functional. Application of microprocessor includes Desktop PC's, Laptops, notepads etc.

But this is not the case with Microcontrollers. Microcontroller has a CPU, in addition with a fixed amount of RAM, ROM and other peripherals all embedded

on a single chip. At times it is also termed as a mini computer or a computer on a single chip.

Micro Controller is a heart of embedded system. Micro controller has external processor along with internal memory and i/O components Since memory and I/O are present internally, he circuit is small.
with internal memory and i/O components Since memory and I/O are present internally,
no circuit is smail.
Can be used in compact systems and hence it s an efficient technique
Cost of the entire system is low
Since external components are low, total power consumption is less and can be used with devices running on stored power like patteries.
Most of the micro controllers have power saving modes like idle mode and power saving mode. This helps to reduce power consumption even further.
Since components are internal, most of the operations are internal instruction, hence speed is fast.
Micro controller have more number of egisters, hence the programs are easier to vrite.
Micro controllers are based on Harvard architecture where program memory and Data memory are separate

Figure 14.1: Microprocessor Vs Microcontroller

14.3 Von Neumann architecture

Von Neumann architecture

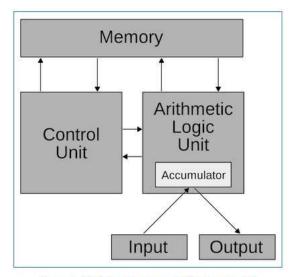


Figure 1. The Von Neumann architecture model.

- 1. Stroed-Program model
- 2. Memory holds both program and data
- 3. Program and data will be organized in bytes/words etc
- 4. Program and data will have different address
- 5. Data can be moved to registers and moved back to memory
- 6. PC knows the instruction to be executed
- 7. By changing stored data and program, different program happens

Figure 14.2: Von Neumann architecture

14.4 SAP1

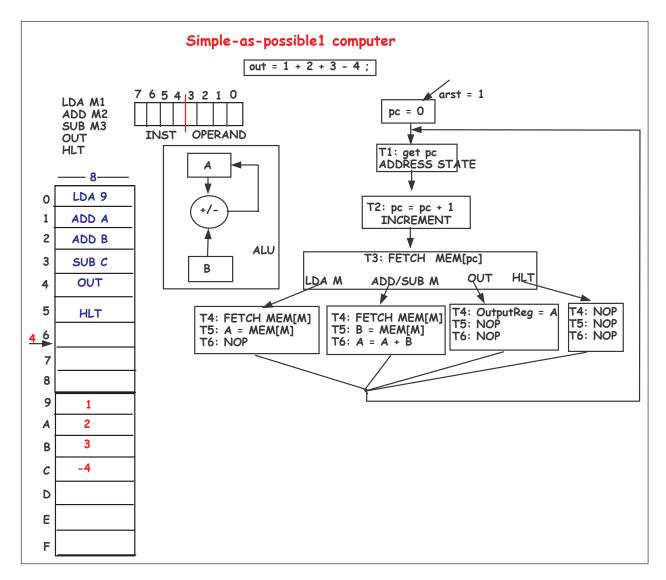


Figure 14.3: SAP1 architecture

14.5 Architecture of PicoBlaze

Architecture of PicoBlaze Has two parts: 1. Soft Processor Core: KCPSM3 KCPSM3 - which stands for Ken Chapman Programmable State Machine version 3. 2) the program memory from which instructions are fetched and executed by the processor core kcpsm3.v KCPSM3 IN_PORT[7:0] OUT_PORT[7:0] Instruction ROM INTERRUPT PORT_ID[7:0] (Block RAM) RESET READ_STROBE WE OUT[17:0] INSTRUCTION[17:0] WRITE_STROBE ADDR[9:0] INTERRUPT ACK ADDRESS[9:0] embedded_kcpsm3.v module embedded_kcpsm3(..) kcpsm3 processor prog_rom program endmodule http://www.xilinx.com/ipcenter/processor central/picoblaze/member/

Figure 14.4: Architecture of PicoBlaze

14.6 How big is KCPSM3?

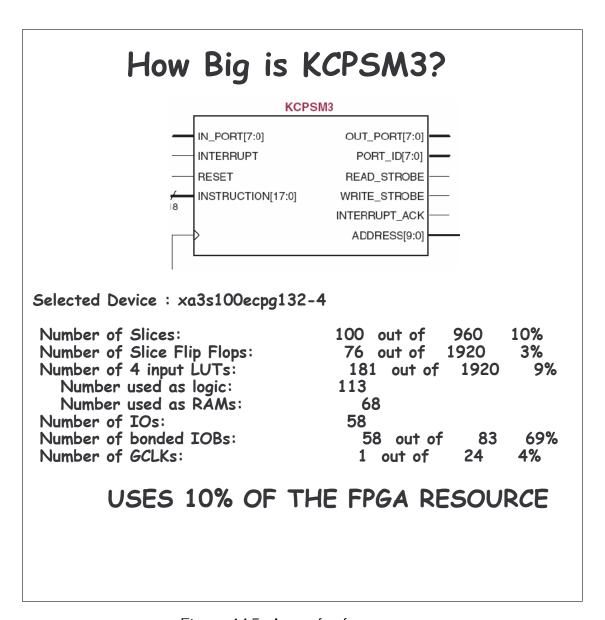


Figure 14.5: Area of soft processor

14.7 How fast is KCPSM3?

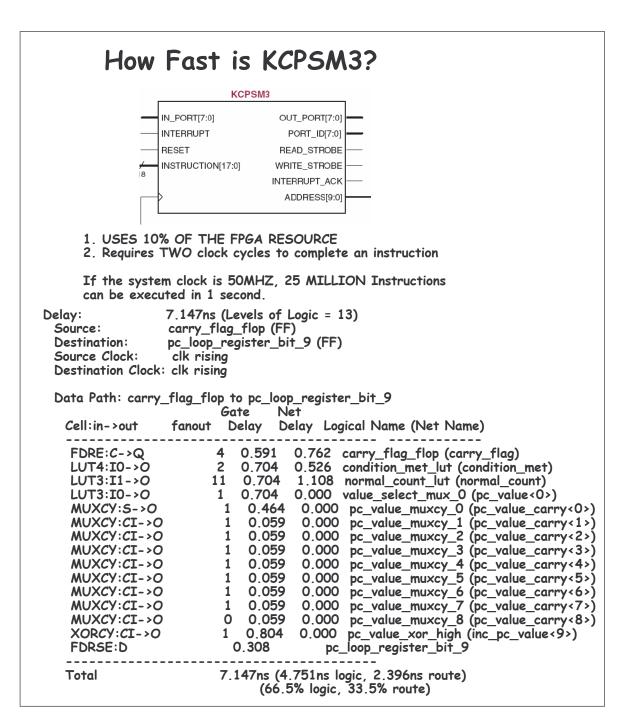


Figure 14.6: Fmax of soft processor

14.8 KCPSM3 + ROM \equiv embedded_kcpsm3

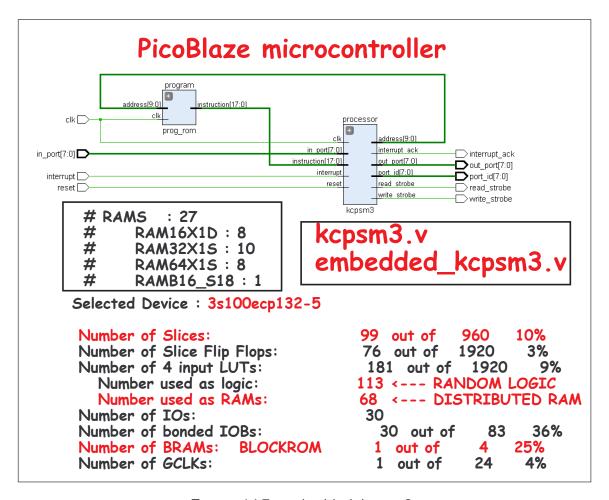


Figure 14.7: embedded_kcpsm3

14.9 Software view of architecture of PicoBlaze

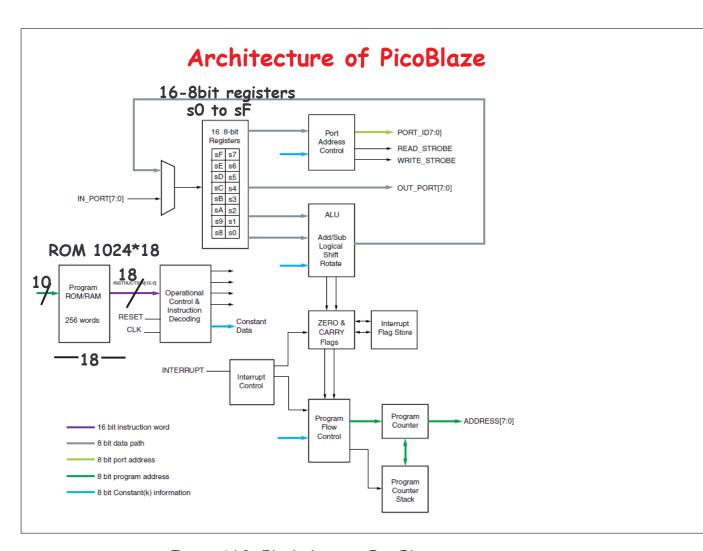


Figure 14.8: Block diagram PicoBlaze

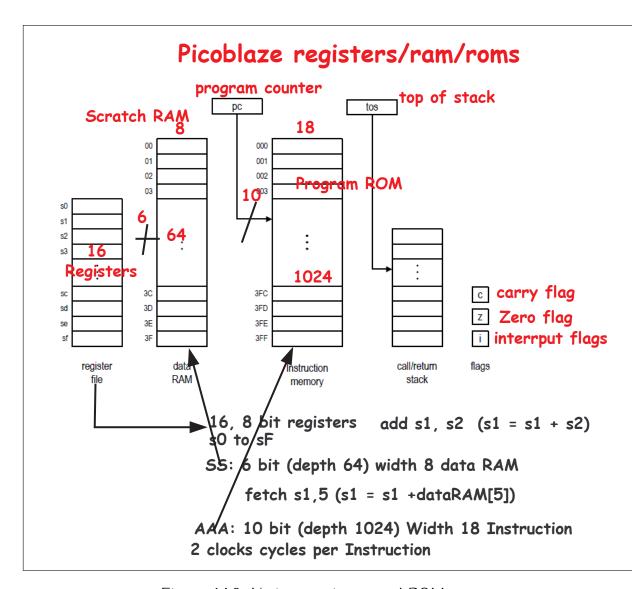


Figure 14.9: Various registers and ROMs

14.10 Instruction format

14.10.1 Arithmetic Instructions

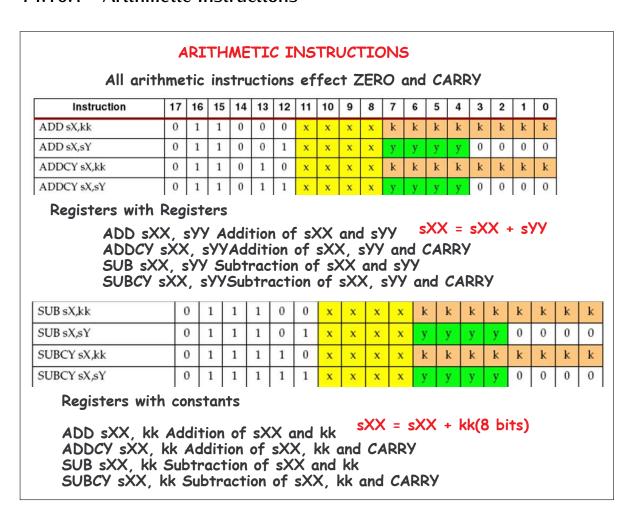


Figure 14.10: Arithmetic Instructions

14.10.2 Logical Instructions

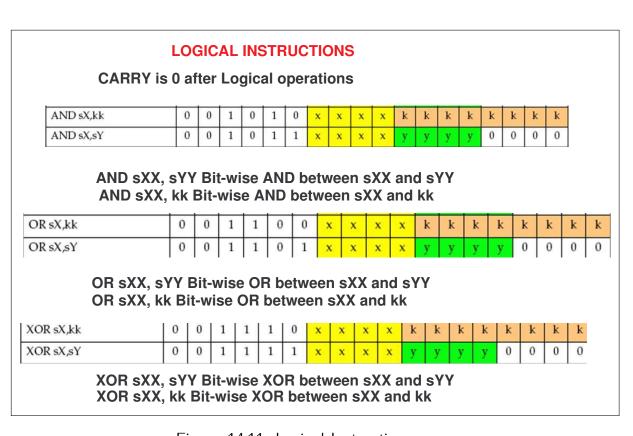


Figure 14.11: Logical Instructions

14.10.3 Compare Instructions

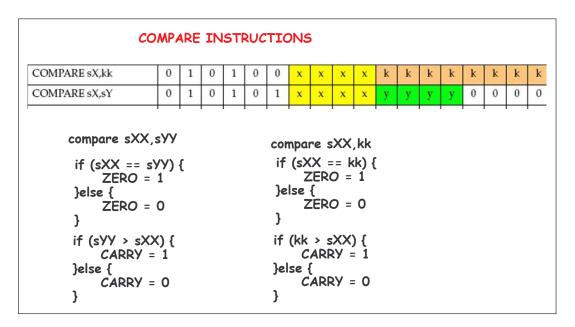


Figure 14.12: Compare Instructions

14.10.4 Data movement Instructions

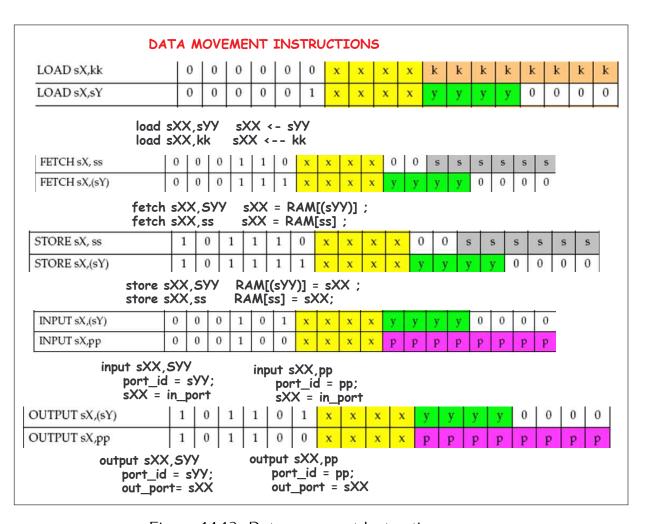


Figure 14.13: Data movement Instructions

14.10.5 INPUT Instruction

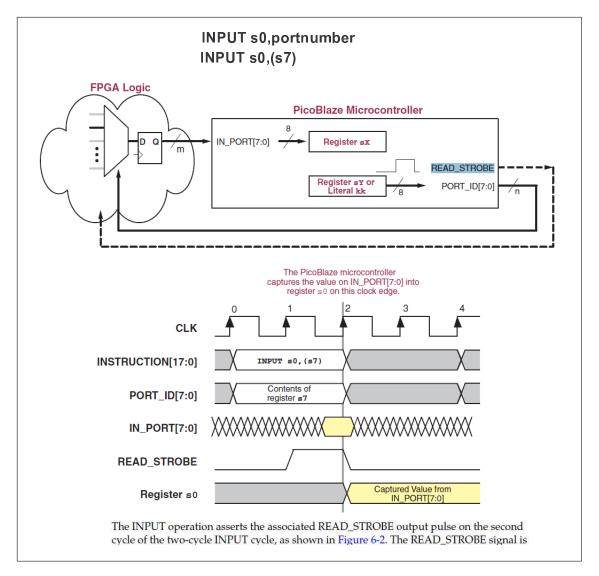


Figure 14.14: Input Instruction

- 14.10.6 Shift and rotate Instructions
- 14.10.7 Program flow Instructions

14.11 PicoBlaze programming model

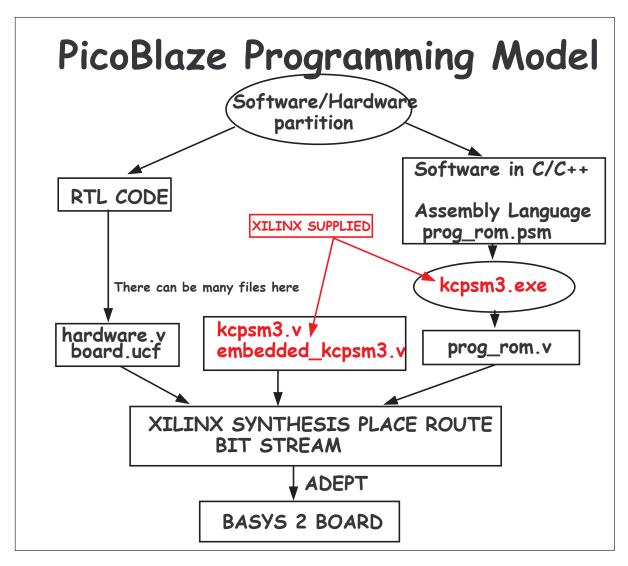


Figure 14.15: PicoBlaze programming model

14.12 Required files and executables to use MicroB-laze

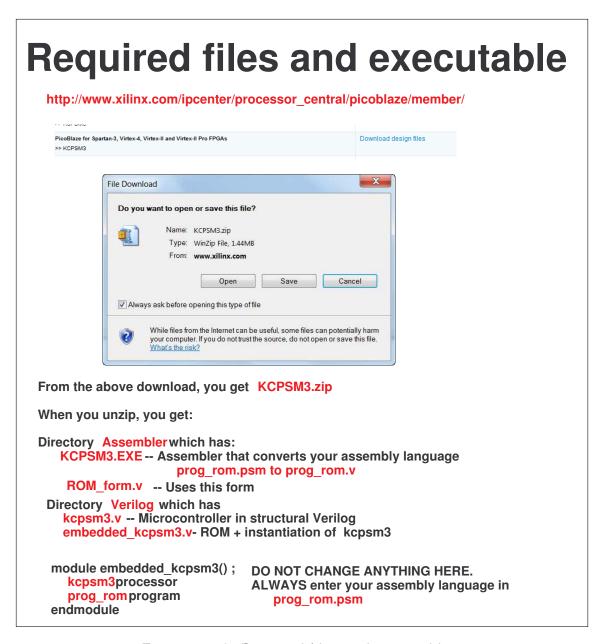


Figure 14.16: Required files and executables

14.13 Example 1

14.13.1 Problem description

- 1. Read 8 switches of the board using Input port of the processor.
- 2. Output the read value (0 to 255) on to the LEDS of the board.
- 3. Convert the lower 4 bits of the read values (SW3 to SW0) (15 to 0) to hexadecimal and display on the last segment of the seven segment display.
- 4. When switches are changed, both the LEDS and seven segment display should change correctly.

Figure 14.17: Problem description

14.13.2 Assembly language to Verilog ROM

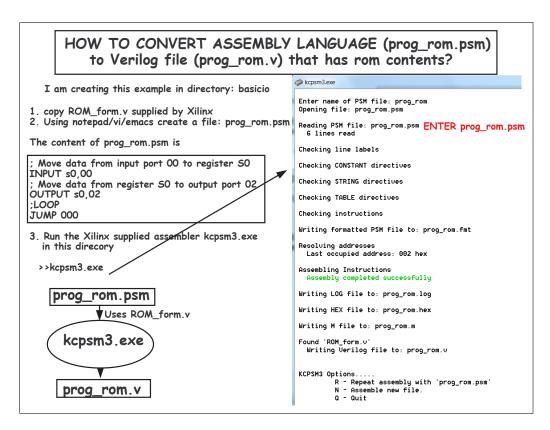


Figure 14.18: Assembly to Verilog

14.13.3 Hardware Design

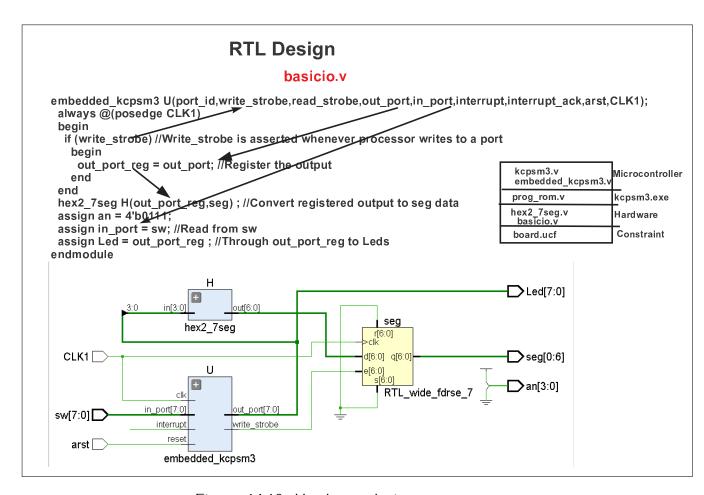


Figure 14.19: Hardware design

1 ;prog_rom.psm
2 ; Move data from input port 00 to register S0
3 INPUT s0,00
4 ; Move data from register S0 to output port 02
5 OUTPUT s0,02
6 ;LOOP
7 JUMP 000
8

```
1
 2
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\picoblazeapplications\gold\kcpsm3.v
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\picoblazeapplications\gold\embedded_kcpsm3.v
 3
4
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\ch7seg\hex2 7seg.v
 5
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\ch7seg\board.ucf
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\picoblazeapplications\basicio\prog ram.v
7
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\picoblazeapplications\basicio\basicio.v
8
9
     module basicio(CLK1,sw, arst, seg, an,Led);
10
             parameter N = 7;
11
             parameter W = 4;
12
             input CLK1, arst;
             input [N:0] sw ; /* 3210 */
13
14
             output [0:N-1] seg;
15
             output [W-1:0] an ;
16
             output [N:0] Led ;
17
18
             wire[9:0] address;
19
             wire[17:0] instruction;
20
             wire [7:0] port_id,in_port,out_port;
21
             wire write strobe ;
22
             wire interrupt_ack;
23
             wire read strobe;
24
             reg [7:0] out_port_reg ;
25
26
             embedded kcpsm3 U(port id, write strobe, read strobe, out port, in port
     ,interrupt,interrupt ack,arst,CLK1);
27
             always @(posedge CLK1)
28
             begin
                     if (write strobe) //Write strobe is asserted whenever
29
     processor writes to a port
30
                             begin
31
                                     out port reg = out port; //Register the
     output
32
                             end
33
             end
34
             hex2_7seg H(out_port_reg,seg) ; //Convert registered output to seg
     data
35
             assign an = 4'b0111;
36
             assign in port = sw; //Read from sw
37
             assign Led = out_port_reg ; //Through out_port_reg to Leds
38
     endmodule
39
```

14.14 Example 2

14.14.1 Problem description

- 1. Read 8 switches of the board using Input port of the processor.
- 2. Output the read value (0 to 255) on to the LEDS of the board.
- 3. Sum the lower 4 bits of the read values (SW3 to SW0) (15 to 0) to 1 example: If switch is 1010(10) sum is: 10 + 9 + 8 + .. + 1 = 55
- 4. Convert binary value of sum to hexadecimal and display on the seven segment display.
- 5. When switches are changed, both the LEDS and seven segment display should change correctly.
- 6. Note that, this program produces wrong results, if the sum is greater than 255. This is because the picoblaze processor is 8 bits.
- 7. Modify the code to produce correct results.

Figure 14.20: Problem description

14.14.2 Software and hardware partition

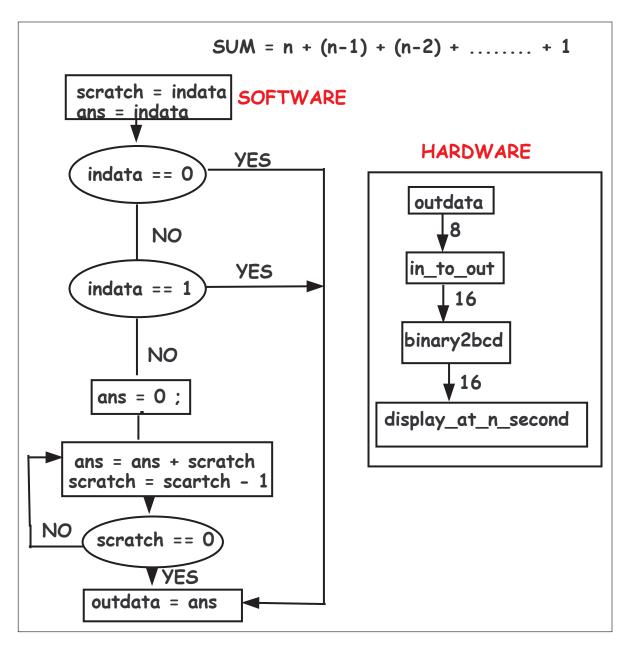


Figure 14.21: Software and hardware partition

14.14.3 Assembly language to Verilog ROM

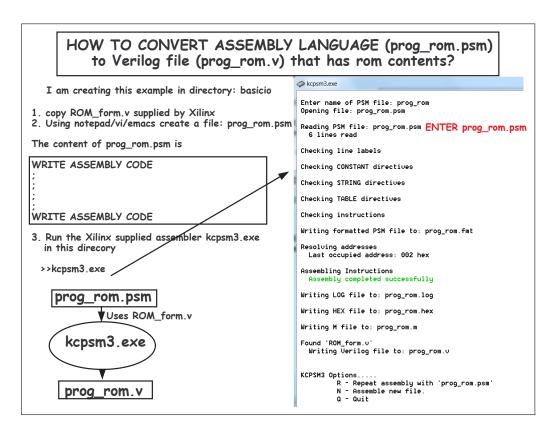


Figure 14.22: Assembly to Verilog

14.14.4 Hardware Design

RTL Design sum.v module sum(CLK1,sw, arst, seg, an,Led); embedded kcpsm3 U(port id,write strobe,read strobe,out port ,in port,interrupt,interrupt ack,arst,CLK1); in to out #(S8,S16)I(out port reg,num); //8bit sum answer is converted to 16 bits binary2bcd #(S16,S16)M(num,text);_ //16 bits binary is converted to BCD display_at_n_second #(Ø.5) D(CLK1, arst, seg, an, text,done); always @(posedge C/LK1) **SUM IS COMPUTED BY PROCESSOR** begin and put on out port if (write_strobe) begin out port reg = out port; //Seg shows sum of 1+2+3+ ..+in_port end kcpsm3.v end embedded kcpsm3.v hex2 7seg.v assign in port = sw; //Read from sw seq7.v assign Led = in port; //LEDs shows input value display at n second.v endmodule binary2bcd.v prog ram.v sum.v board uc out_port_reg an [3:0] Seg [0:6] arst 🗀

Figure 14.23: Hardware design

```
;FILE: prog rom.psm
    ; Move data from input port 00 to register S0
3
    ;INPUT s0,00
4
    ; Move data from register S0 to output port 02
5
    ;0UTPUT s0,02
6
    :L00P
7
    ;JUMP 000
8
9
    10
    ; input and output port
11
    constant INPUTPORT, 00
    constant OUTPUTPORT, 02
12
13
    14
15
    16
    ; register alias
17
    namereg s0, indata ;//s0 reg has indata, switch contents (0 to 255)
18
    namereg s1, scratch; //Use s1 reg as a scratch
19
    namereg s2, ans; //Use s2 for final answer
20
    21
    ; Main Program
22
    loop:
23
       call read switch
       call compute_sum
24
25
       call display
26
       jump loop
27
    read switch:
28
29
        input indata,INPUTPORT ; //Read INPUTPORT to indata reg
30
       return
31
32
    display:
33
       output ans, OUTPUTPORT; //Output ans reg value to OUTPUTPORT
34
       return
35
36
    compute sum:
37
       load ans, indata ;//Copy indata to ans
       load scratch, indata ;//Copy indata to scratch
38
39
       compare indata, 00; //is indata == 0
40
       jump nz, start1 ; //Goto start1 if indata != 0 ;
41
       return ; //Return if indata == 0
42
       start1: compare indata, 01; //is indata == 1
43
       jump nz, start ; //Goto start if indata != 1 ;
44
       return ; //Return if indata = 1
45
46
       start: load ans, 00 ;//ans = 0 ;
47
       until:
48
               add ans, scratch; //ans = ans + scratch
49
               sub scratch, 01 ;//scratch = scratch - 1;
50
               jump nz, until ; //repeat until scratch = 0 ;
51
       return ;
52
```

```
//FILE: sum.v
 2
 3
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\picoblazeapplications\gold\kcpsm3.v
 4
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\picoblazeapplications\gold\embedded_kcpsm3.v
 5
     //hex2 7seg.v seg7.v display at n second.v binary2bcd.v board.ucf
7
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\picoblazeapplications\sum\prog ram.v
8
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\picoblazeapplications\sum\sum.v
9
10
     module in to out(in,out);
11
         parameter IN = 8;
12
         parameter OUT = 16 ;
13
         input [IN-1:0] in ;
14
         output [OUT-1:0] out ;
15
16
         assign out = in ;
17
     endmodule
18
19
     module sum(CLK1,sw, arst, seg, an,Led);
20
         parameter N = 7;
21
         parameter W = 4;
22
         parameter S8 = 8 ;
23
         parameter S16 = 16 ;
24
         input CLK1, arst;
         input [N:0] sw ; /* 3210 */
25
26
         output [0:N-1] seg;
27
         output [W-1:0] an ;
28
         output [N:0] Led ;
29
         wire[9:0] address;
30
31
         wire[17:0] instruction;
32
         wire [7:0] port_id,in_port,out_port;
33
         wire write strobe ;
34
         wire interrupt ack;
35
         wire
                 read strobe;
36
         wire [N-1:0] seg out;
37
         reg [7:0] out_port_reg;
38
         wire [S16-1:0] num ;
39
         wire [S16-1:0] text;
40
         wire done ;
41
42
         embedded kcpsm3 U(port id, write strobe, read strobe, out port, in port,
     interrupt,interrupt ack,arst,CLK1);
43
         in_to_out #(S8,S16)I(out_port_reg,num);
44
         binary2bcd #(S16,S16)M(num,text);
45
         display_at_n_second #(0.5) D(CLK1, arst, seg, an, text,done);
46
47
         always @(posedge CLK1)
48
         begin
49
             if (write_strobe)
50
                 begin
51
                     out port reg = out port; //Seg shows sum of 1+2+3+
```

14.15 Example 3

14.15.1 Problem description

- 1. Start with a number, start, say 4.
- 2. Increment the number by a number, incr, say 20
- 3. Addition is done using microblaze
- 4. Display the number on the board at a time interval of 'n' second Example 4,24,44,64 etc
- 5. Output the above results on LED's also
- 6. What happens after the sum > 255
- 7. Modify the code, both hardware and software code, to handle 16 bits.

Figure 14.24: Problem description

14.15.2 Software and hardware partition

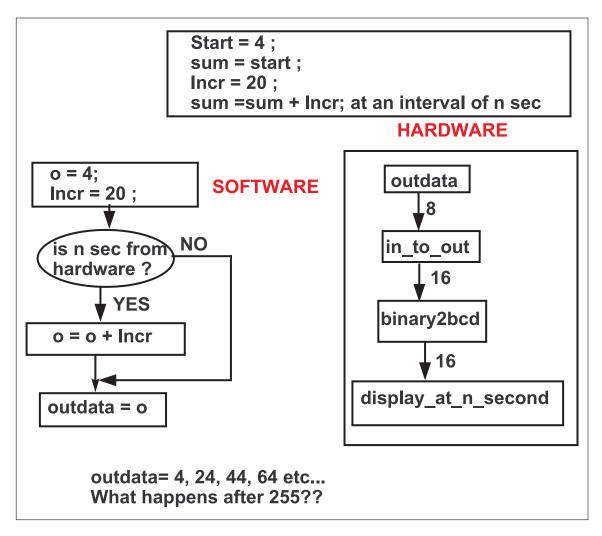


Figure 14.25: Software and hardware partition

14.15.3 Assembly language to Verilog ROM

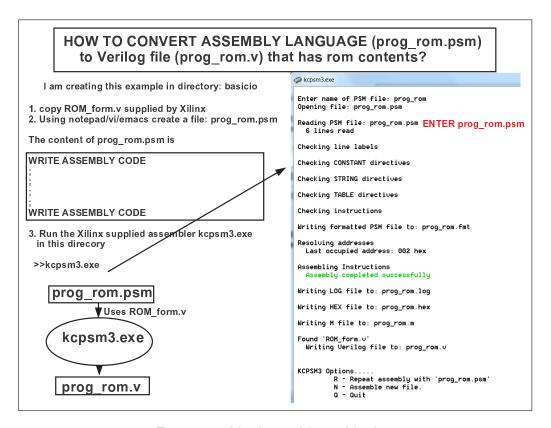


Figure 14.26: Assembly to Verilog

14.15.4 Hardware Design

RTL Design add16.v module add16(CLK1,sw, arst, seg, an,Led); embedded kcpsm3 U(port id,write strobe,read strobe,out port ,in port,interrupt,interrupt ack,arst,CLK1); in_to_out #(S8,S16)I(out_port_reg,num); //8bit sum answer is converted to 16 bits //16 bits binary is converted to BCD binary2bcd #(S16,S16)M(num,text);_ display at n second #(1) D(CLK1, arst, seg, an, text, donewire); always @(posedge C/LK1) SUM IS COMPUTED BY PROCESSOR begin and put on out port if (write_strobe) begi out port rég <= out port; end kcpsm3.v end embedded kcpsm3.v This is how picoblaze knows always @(posedge CLK1) n sec has happened hex2 7seg.v seg7.v begin display_at_n_second.v donereg = (read strobe)? 0 : donewire ; binary2bcd.v end prog ram.v add16.v assign in_port = donereg; board.ucf assign Led = out_port_reg endmodule

Figure 14.27: Hardware design

```
;prog rom.psm
2
3
  4
  ; input and output port
5
  constant INPUTPORT, 00
  constant OUTPUTPORT, 02
6
7
  9
  10
  ; register alias
11
  namereg s0, indata ; //Read from switch. Will be 1 when 1sec is passed
  else 0
  namereg s1, startdata; //s1 has initial data, say 05
12
  namereg s2, ans; //s2 has answer, ans = ans + s1
13
14
  15
16
  17
  ; Main Program
18
  19
  loop:
20
       call init
21
       call add_num
22
23
  24
  ; read switch
25
  26
   read switch:
27
       input indata,INPUTPORT ; //Read INPUTPORT to indata reg
28
       return
29
30
  31
  ; send data to external world
32
  33
  display:
       output ans,OUTPUTPORT; //Output ans reg value to OUTPUTPORT
34
35
       return
36
37
  38
  ; initialize
39
  40
41
       load ans, 01; //start with 04 HEXNUMBER
42
       load startdata, 01; //increment at a distance of 35. 23 is HEXNUMBER
43
       call display
44
       return
45
46
  47
  ; add numbers
48
  49
  add num:
50
       call read_switch; //Read in_port
       compare indata, 00; //is indata == 0? when done is 1 indata is 1.
```

```
That means 1 sec has happened

jump nz, accumulate; //Goto accumulate if indata != 0;

jump add_num; //LOOP

accumulate: add ans, startdata; //s2 = s2 + s1

call display
jump add_num

jump add_num
```

```
//MICROCONTROLLER
 2
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\picoblazeapplications\gold\kcpsm3.v
 3
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\picoblazeapplications\gold\embedded_kcpsm3.v
 4
    //CODE FOR DISPLAY
 5
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\ch7seg\hex2_7seg.v seg7.v display_at_n_second.v
     binary2bcd.v board.ucf
     //SOFTWARE CODE
8
9
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\picoblazeapplications\add16\prog_ram.v
10
11
     //MAIN
     //C:\work\fpga\course\v\picoblazeapplications\add16\add16.v
12
13
14
     //THIS WORKS PERFECTLY AT A DISTANCE OF 1 Sec
15
16
    module in_to_out(in,out);
17
       parameter IN = 8;
18
       parameter OUT = 16 ;
19
       input [IN-1:0] in ;
20
       output [OUT-1:0] out ;
21
       assign out = {8'b0,in};
22
     endmodule
23
24
25
    module add16(CLK1,sw, arst, seg, an,Led);
26
       parameter N = 7;
27
       parameter W = 4;
28
       parameter S8 = 8;
29
       parameter S16 = 16;
30
       input CLK1, arst;
       input [N:0] sw ; /* 3210 */
31
32
       output [0:N-1] seg;
33
       output [W-1:0] an ;
34
       output [N:0] Led ;
35
       wire[9:0] address;
36
37
       wire[17:0] instruction;
38
       wire [7:0] port_id,in_port,out_port;
39
       wire write strobe ;
40
       wire interrupt ack;
41
                read strobe;
       wire
42
       wire [N-1:0] seg out;
43
44
       reg [7:0] out_port_reg;
45
       wire [S16-1:0] num;
       wire [S16-1:0] text ;
46
47
       wire donewire;
48
       reg donereg ;
49
50
       embedded_kcpsm3 U(port_id,write_strobe,read_strobe,out_port,in_port,
     interrupt,interrupt ack,arst,CLK1);
```

```
51
       in_to_out #(S8,S16) I(out_port_reg,num);
       binary2bcd #(S16,S16) B2B(num,text);
52
53
       display_at_n_second #(1) D(CLK1, arst, seg, an, text,donewire);
54
55
       always @(posedge CLK1)
56
       begin
57
         if (write_strobe)
58
           begin
59
            //All the work is done by microblaze.
60
            //It gives answer in out_port. But we sample at edge of clock
61
            out_port_reg <= out_port;</pre>
62
           end
63
       end
64
       always @(posedge CLK1)
65
66
       begin
         donereg = (read_strobe)? 0 : donewire ;
67
68
       end
69
70
       assign in_port = donereg;
       //in_port will have value of '1' for every 1 second
71
72
       assign Led = out_port_reg ;
     endmodule
73
74
```