

Π -Ware: An Embedded Hardware Description Language using Dependent Types

Introduction

Author: João Paulo Pizani Flor
<joaopizani@uu.nl>

Supervisor: Wouter Swierstra
<w.s.swierstra@uu.nl>

Department of Information and Computing Sciences
Utrecht University

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Section 1

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Hardware Design

Introduction

- ▶ Hardware acceleration has growing applicability
- ▶ Implementing algorithms in hardware is *harder*
 - Intel FDIIV



Hardware Description Languages

- ▶ *De facto* industry standards: VHDL and Verilog
- ▶ Were intended for *simulation*, not modelling or synthesis
 - *Unsynthesizable* constructs
 - Widely variable tool support



Functional Programming

- ▶ Easier to *reason* about program properties
- ▶ Inherently *parallel* and *stateless* semantics
 - In contrast to imperative programming



Functional Hardware Description

- ▶ A functional program describes a circuit
- ▶ Several *functional* HDLs during the 1980s
- ▶ For example, FP [Sheeran, 1984]



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Conclusion

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Future work

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Thank you!

Questions?





Sheeran, M. (1984).

MuFP, a language for VLSI design.

In Proceedings of the 1984 ACM Symposium on LISP and Functional Programming, LFP '84, pages 104–112, New York, NY, USA. ACM.

