COSE222 Computer Architecture

Newly updated for RISC-V on July 15, 2020

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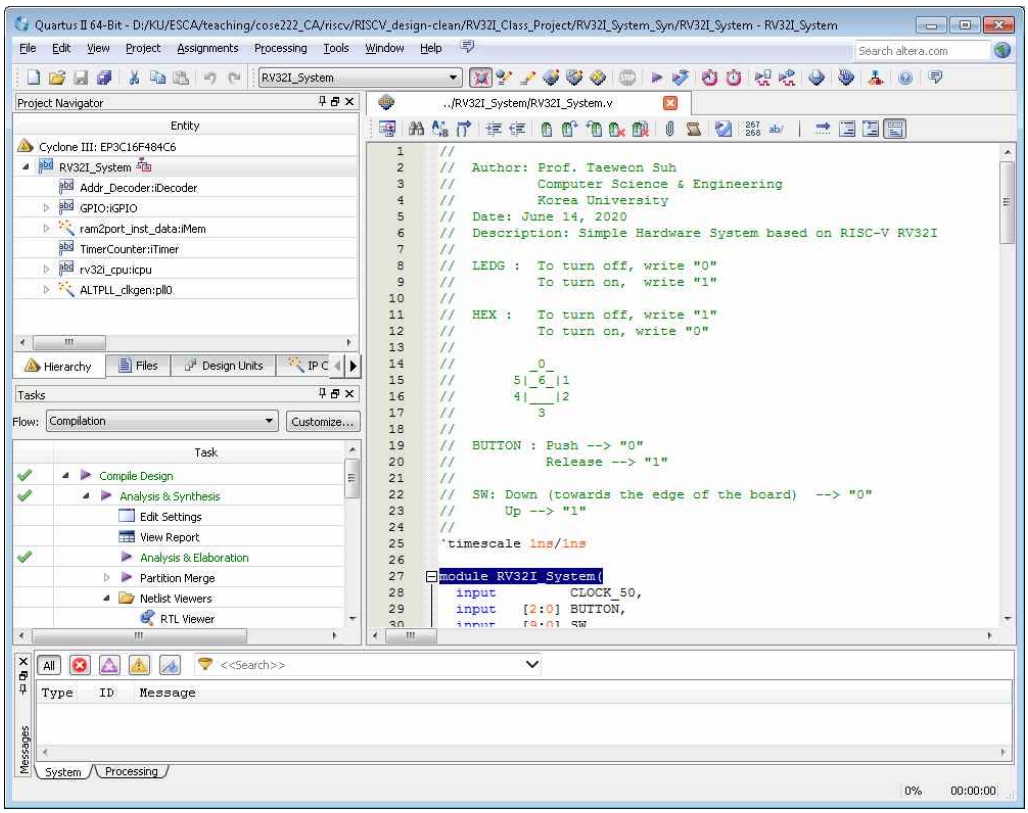
RV32I (RISC-V) System Synthesis and Simulation

This note provides the instructions on how to do the hardware synthesis & simulation. You are provided with a simple RV32I CPU design in Verilog. The CPU design has capability of executing only a few RV32I instructions. Its implementation is based on single-cycle execution, meaning that each machine code (instruction) takes 1 clock cycle for execution. The design also comes with a simple testbench. The test (assembly) program is loaded in memory after compilation. For the hardware simulation, we use a CAD (Computer Aided Design) tool called `ModelSim`, which is widely used in industry. Follow the steps below to run the RV32I CPU design with `ModelSim`. Prior to following the instructions below, install the EDA (Electronic Design Automation) tools linked on the class web: **ModelSim (v10.1d)** and **Quartus-II (v13.1)**. Download the RV32I System design on the class web, unzip `RV32I_Class_Project.7z` and you will find 3 directories:

- **`RV32I_System`** contains the Verilog source code for RV32I CPU, I/O devices (Timer and GPIO), etc. Traverse the directories and Verilog code yourself…
- **`RV32I_System_Sim`** contains the compiled binaries of the 'RV32I_system' for hardware simulation using ModelSim.
- **`RV32I_System_Syn`** contains the synthesized version of the 'RV32I_System' using Quartus-II.

- **Synthesis using Quartus-II and Download to DE0 Board**

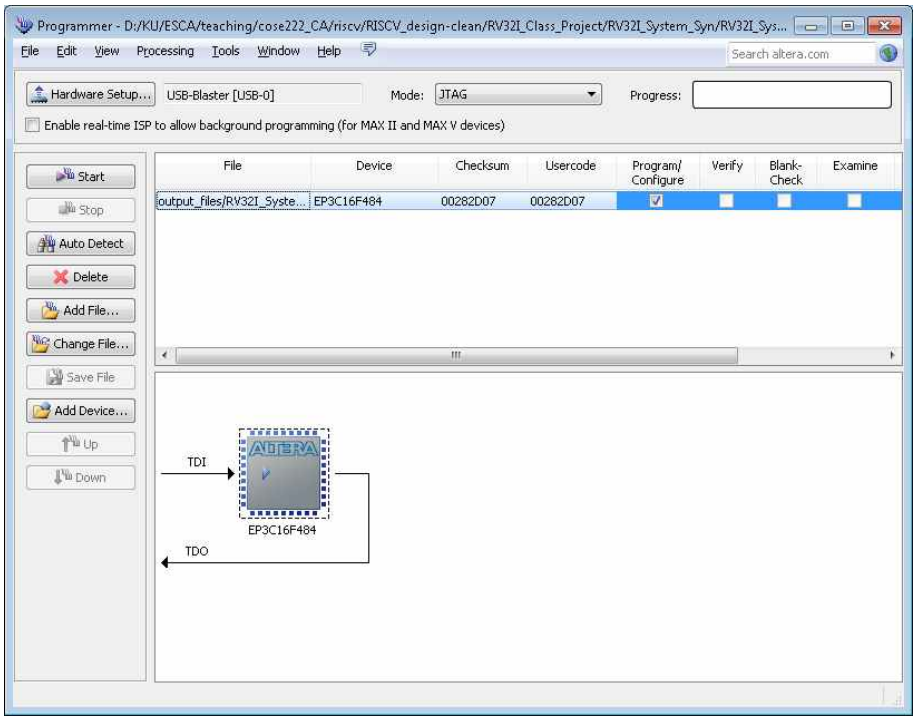
1. Double-click the Quartus project file (`RV32I_System.qpf`) at the `RV32I_System_Syn` directory
    - I have created a Quartus-II project for you. The project file contains all the necessary files for test-driving.

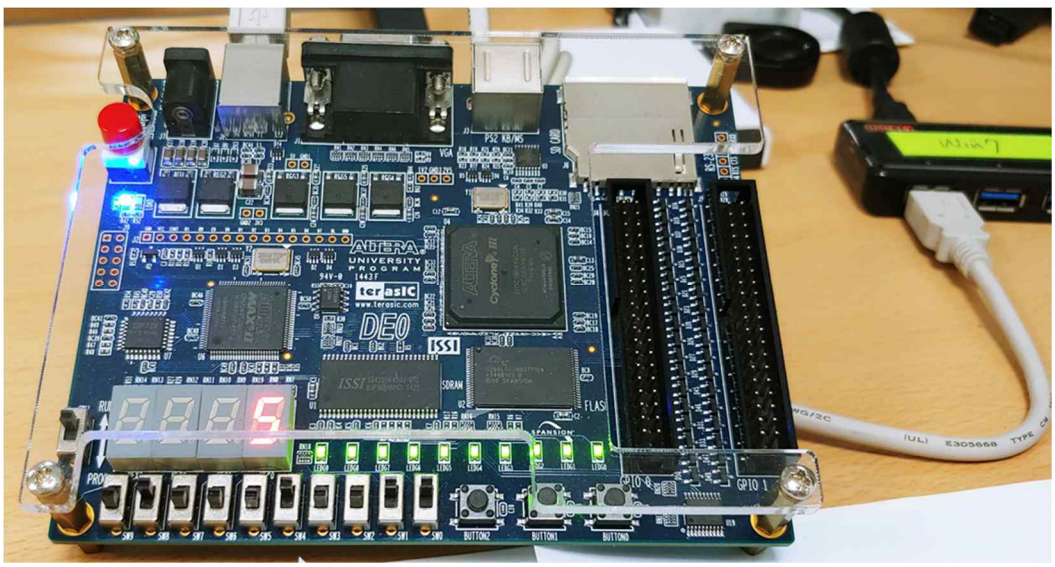


2. Synthesize the whole design again
    - Select `RV32I_System` in the **Project Navigator** pane
    - **Processing** → **Start Compilation.** It will take a little bit of time to compile the whole design

3. Download the design to the Cyclone-III FPGA on DE0 board
    - **Tools** → **Programmer,** Then click on **Start**

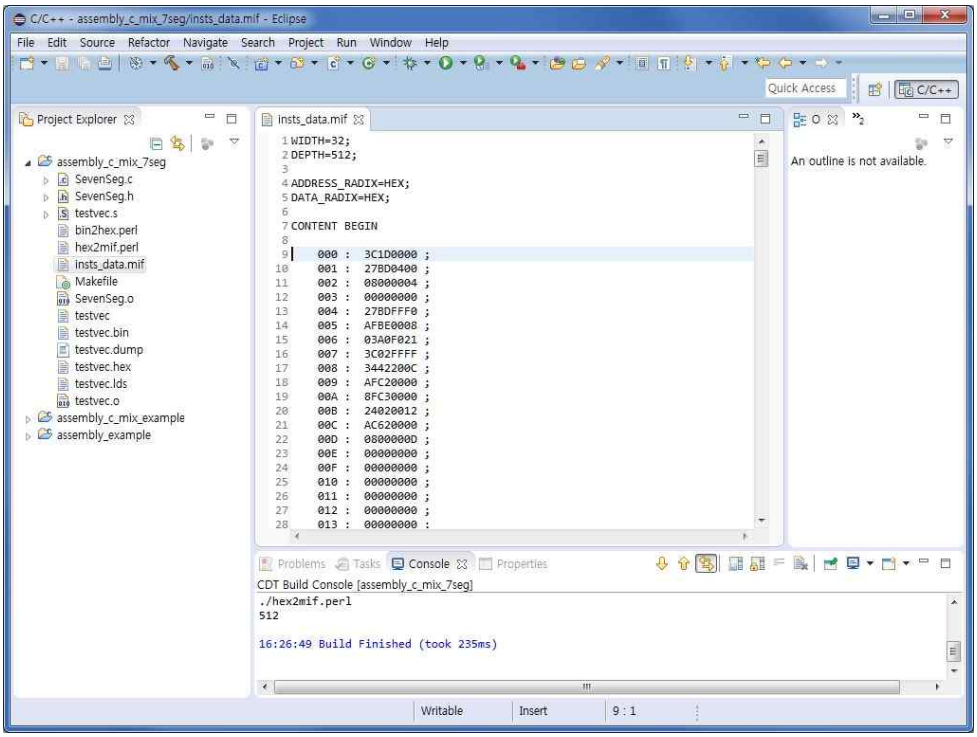
      • Make sure that you have USB-Blaster set up correctly, which is shown on the upper left corner of the window. If it is not set up correctly, click on **Hardware Setup** button and select USB blaster. If you don't have the USB blaster listed with the Hardware Setup, you should install the USB device driver. The driver is located at the Quartus-II installation directory. In my case, the driver is located at **C:\altera\13.1\quartus\drivers\usb-blaster**
    - **Number '5' should be displayed on the HEX0 7 Segment**





4. If you want to run your own program on RV32I, compile your C and/or assembly code with Eclipse.

- It will generate a file called **`insts_data.mif`**
- mif (memory initialization file) is for initializing the internal memory inside the Altera FPGA
- I have created the internal memory via **Tools** → **MegaWizard Plugin Manager** on Quartus-II

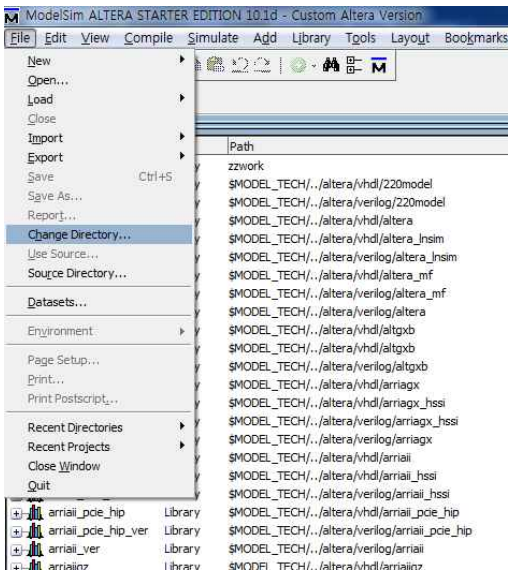


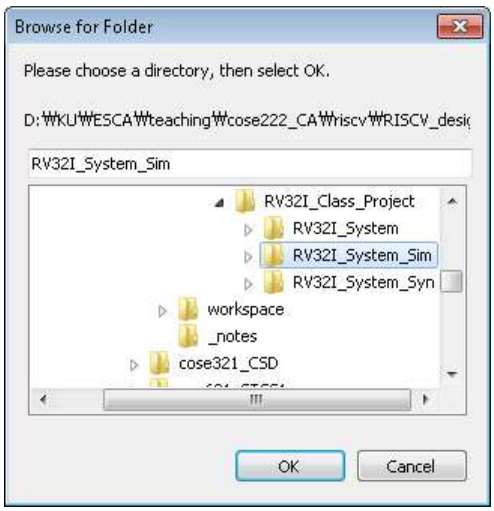
5. For testing your own assembly and/or C,
   - Download an example program (Assembly and C mixed program) at http://esca.korea.ac.kr/teaching/cose222_CA/hw-sw-tools/RISCV/lab0_c_asm_mix.7z
     The program will display a number 5 on HEX0 7 Segment.
     - ✓ Create an Eclipse project to compile the code
   - Copy **`insts_data.mif`** to the `RV32I_System_Syn` directory
   - Then, you have 2 options for downloading
     - ✓ 1st option: follow from step #1 to step #3
     - ✓ 2nd option: Execute the `quartus_mem_update_download.bat` by double-clicking the file (you don't have to start Quartus-II). The file is located under the `RV32I_System_Syn` directory
   - Change the example assembly and/or C code, generate mif, copy it to `RV32I_System_Syn` and download to DE0…

- **Hardware Simulation with ModelSim**

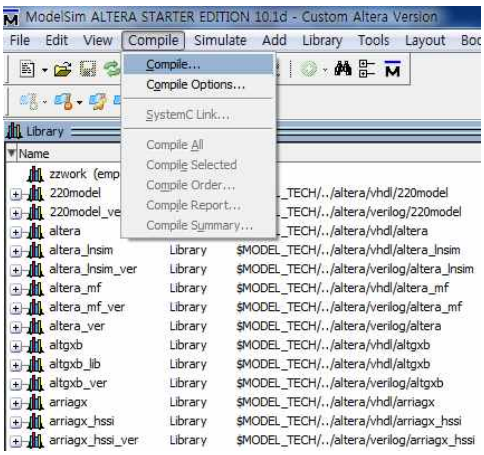
1. Invoke ModelSim

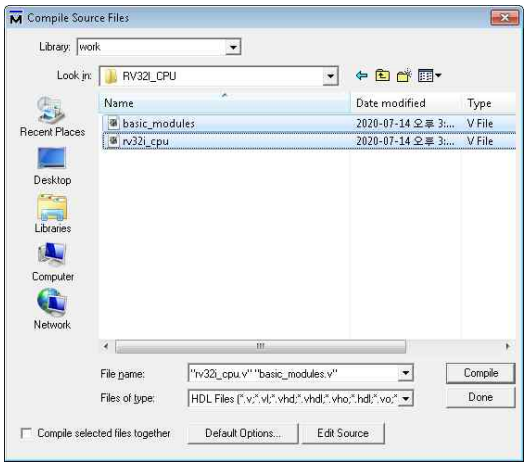
2. **File → Change Directory**
   - Select `RV32I_System_Sim`





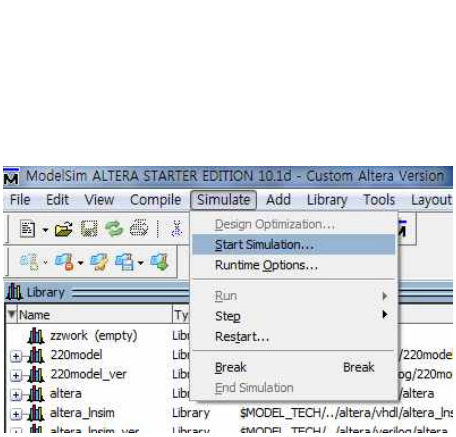
3. `'RV32I_System_Sim'` folder has a directory (called **work**) where the RV32I System Verilog design was compiled to
   - So, the **work** directory contains the compiled version of the Verilog code.
   - Remember that every time you change and/or add the Verilog code, you have to compile it before simulation.
   - Let's compile the CPU Verilog code just for showing the steps you have to take.
     - ✓ **Compile → Compile**
     - ✓ In the **Look in**, change to the directory where the CPU source code is located (`RV32I_System/RV32I_CPU`)
     - ✓Select all the files and click on **Compile**

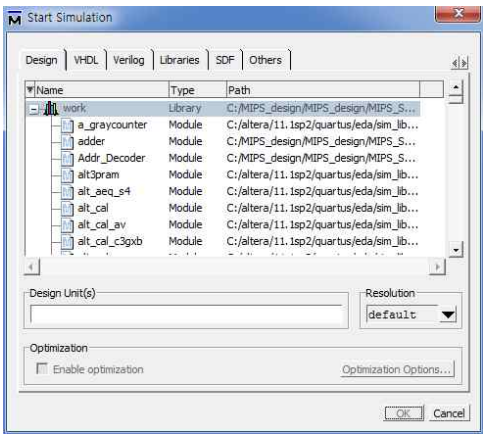


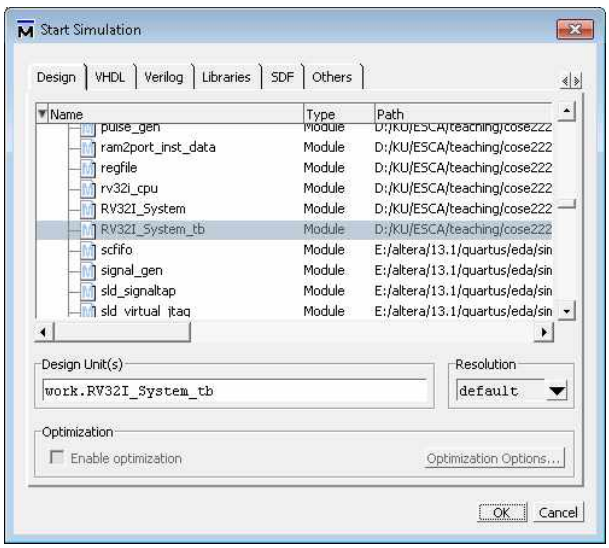


4. Start Simulation

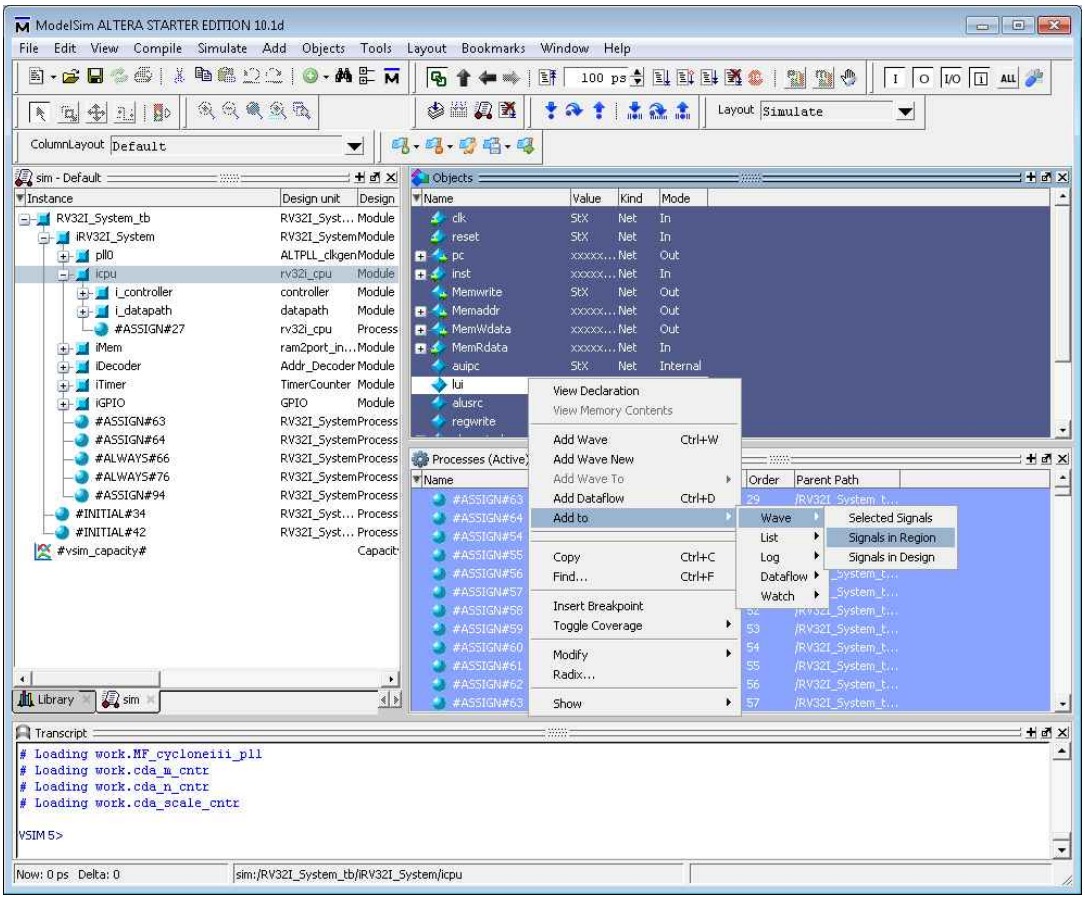
- **Simulate → Start Simulation**
- Select `RV32I_System_tb` (testbench) under **work** and click on **OK**
  - ✓ Check out the testbench source code (`RV32I_System_tb.v`) which is located at `RV32I_System`



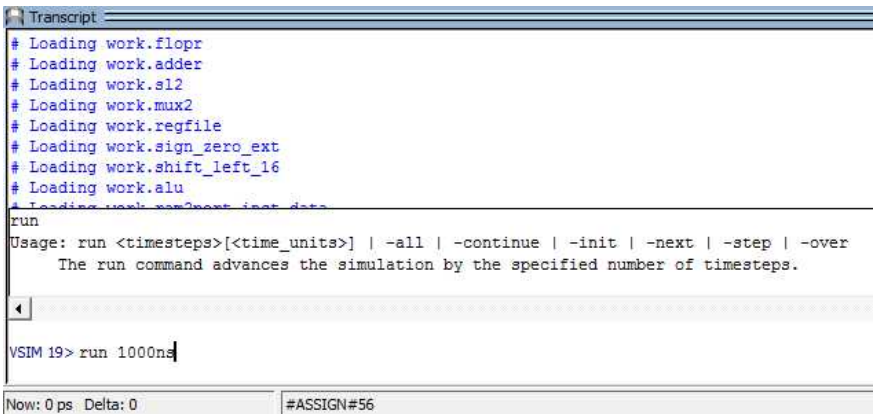




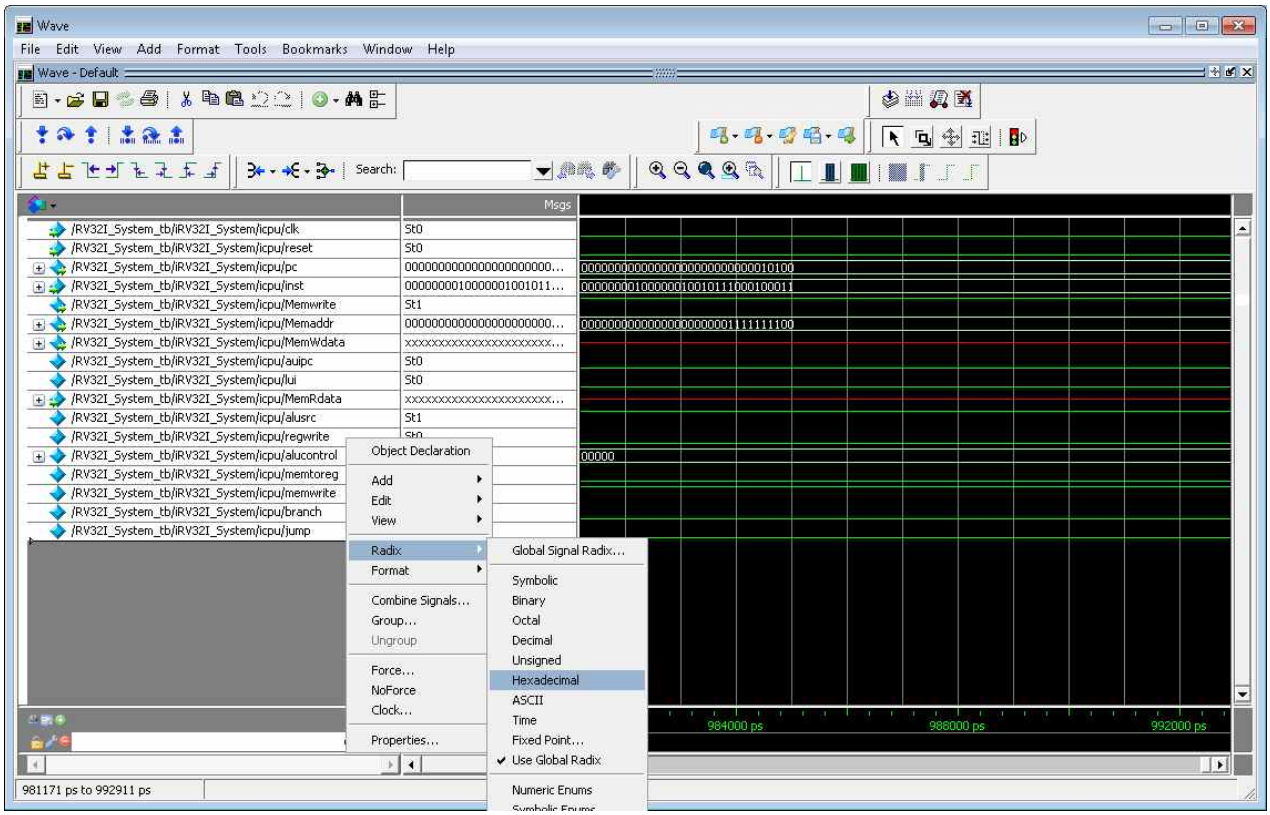
5. Add the signals you want to watch in the waveform
    - Select **icpu** on the left pane
    - Right-click on the **Objects** pane
        - ✓ **Add To** → **Wave** → **Signals in Region**



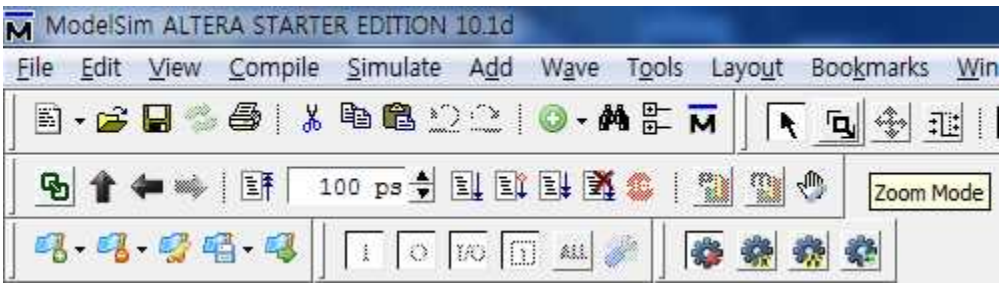
6. Run simulation
    - Type **run 1000ns** in the Transcript pane
        - ✓ It means that the simulation will run for 1000ns

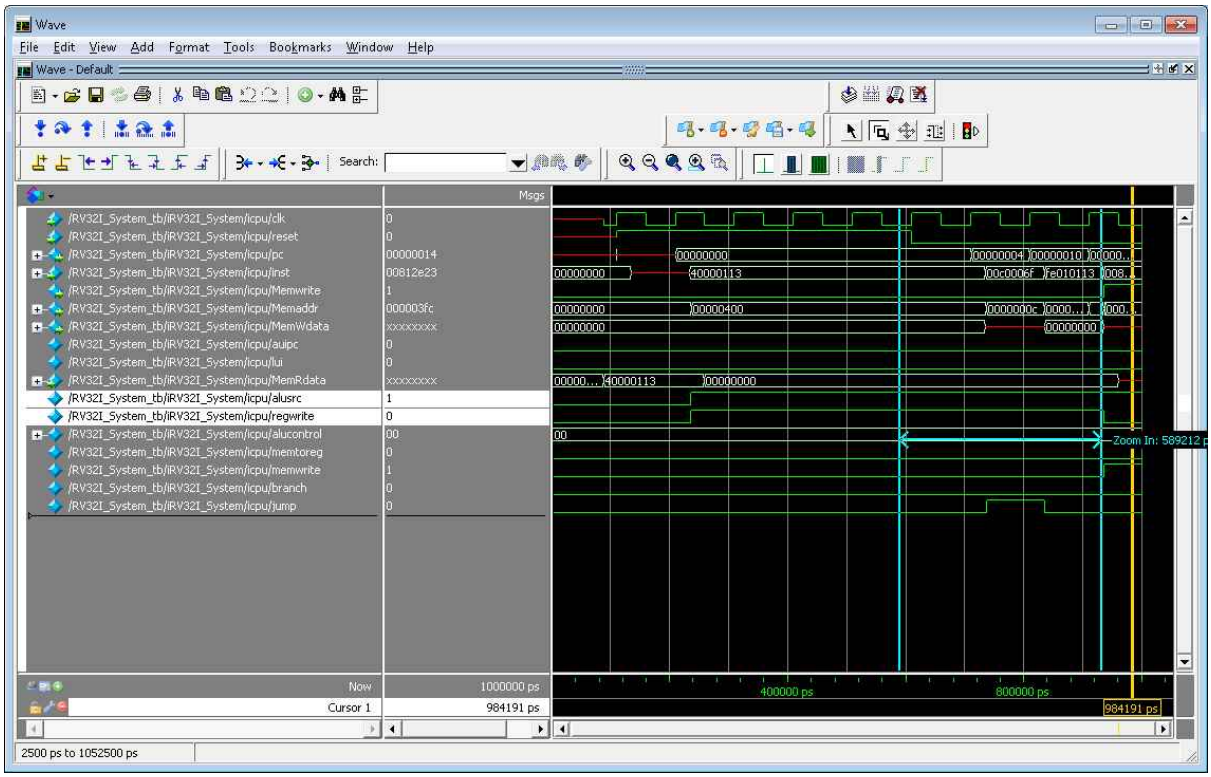


- Click on the Wave window and observe the signals (such as pc, fetched instructions, control signals, ALU output etc) you want to watch
  - ✓ **View → Zoom → Zoom Full**
  - ✓ Change the radix to Hexadecimal for buses
  - ✓ Run simulation for 1000ns more (type **run 1000ns** in the Transcript pane)

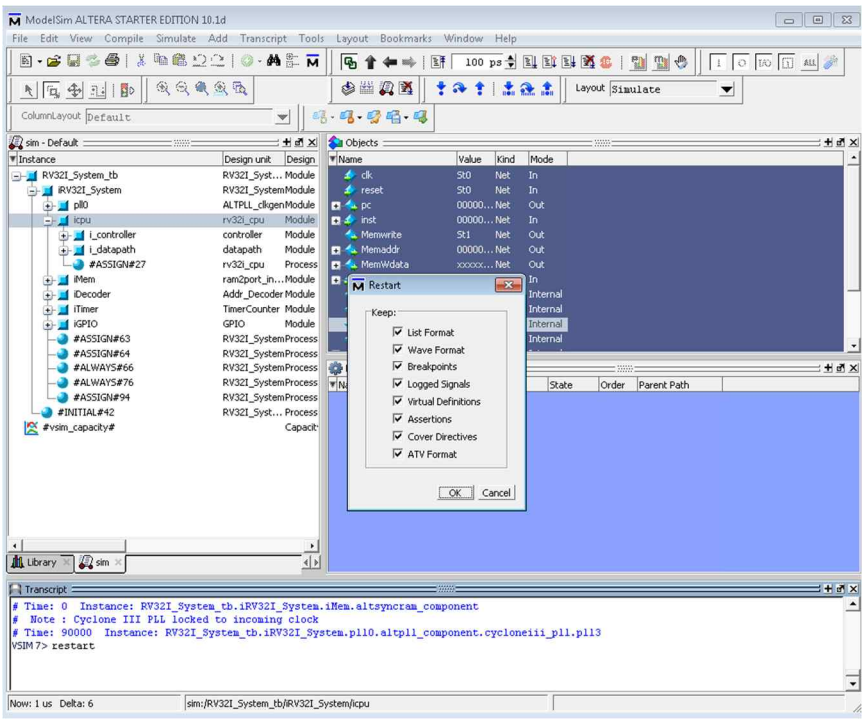


✓Use the Zoom Mode to zoom in the area you are interested in





7. To restart the simulation
    - Type **restart** in the Transcript pane and click on **OK**
    - Add more signals to the wave if you want to add more signals
        - ✓Go back to step #6 to see how to add signals to the wave
    - Run simulation
        - ✓For example, type **run 2000ns** in the Transcript pane as you did in the step #7



8. To run the simulation with a different program
    - Copy **`insts_data.mif`** you generated with Eclipse to the `RV32I_System_Sim` directory
    - Run the simulation again: Probably you only need to restart the simulation without exiting the ModelSim.