

RISC-V Processor Design

Building Tiny Veda

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Lecture 2

Agenda

- Digital Systems
- Combinatorial Logic
- Digital Arithmetic
- ALU Design

What is a system?

- For now, it's a black box that transforms **input** signals into **output** signals
- Our job is to design the content of the black box* to obtain the intended **output** from the **input**



* In LTV Systems jargon, is called a transfer function

What is a signal?

- A signal is a function that changes over time, mathematically $x(t)$
- Signals are classified based on the type of values that $x(t)$ can assume
 - Analog: $x(t)$ can assume any value in a continuous range
 - Digital: $x(t)$ can assume only certain values in a discrete set
- Binary signals are a particular subset of digital signals where $x(t)$ can assume only two values: 0 and 1*

* We'll see that we have to introduce two more values to deal with multi-driven nets and non-driven nets, **X** and **Z** respectively

Designing digital systems

- We need a language to **describe** what's inside the black box --> **Hardware Description Language (HDL)**
- Regardless of the specific HDL, all HDL have these two components:
 - Input and Output port definition
 - Logic definition (how inputs transform into outputs)
- We'll call it a **module**

System Verilog Module Skeleton

```
module <module_name> (  
    <port_list>,  
    <port_list>  
);  
  
    // Internal signals  
    <wires_and_registers>  
  
    // Logic  
endmodule
```

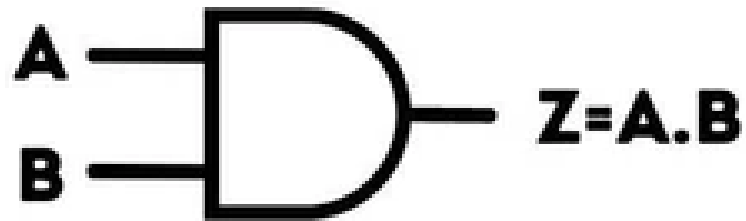
Combinatorial Logic - AND Gate

- Logic that has no memory
- Output depends only on the current values of the inputs

```
module and_gate (  
    input logic x,  
    input logic y,  
    output logic z  
);  
  
    assign z = x & y; /* AND operation in SV is & */  
  
endmodule
```

Combinatorial Logic - AND Gate

symbol + notation



*output = Z

truth table

A	B	Z=A.B
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

Testing the AND Gate - Our First Testbench

```
`timescale 1ns/1ns
module and_gate_tb;

    logic x, y, z;

    and_gate dut (x, y, z); /* AND gate instantiation */

    initial begin
        x = 0; y = 0; #10; /* Wait 10ns */
        $display("x = %b, y = %b, z = %b", x, y, z); /* Display the values */
        x = 0; y = 1; #10; /* Wait 10ns */
        $display("x = %b, y = %b, z = %b", x, y, z); /* Display the values */
        x = 1; y = 0; #10; /* Wait 10ns */
        $display("x = %b, y = %b, z = %b", x, y, z); /* Display the values */
        x = 1; y = 1; #10; /* Wait 10ns */
        $display("x = %b, y = %b, z = %b", x, y, z); /* Display the values */
        $finish; /* Finish the simulation */
    end
endmodule
```

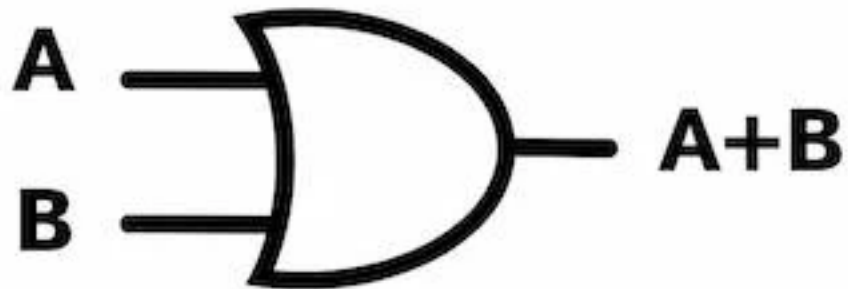
Testing the AND Gate - Verilator Code

```
#include "Vand_gate_tb.h" /* Transforms the System Verilog module into a C++ module */
#include "verilated_vcd_c.h"
int main(int argc, char **argv, char **env) {
    Verilated::commandArgs(argc, argv);
    Vand_gate_tb* top = new Vand_gate_tb;
    Verilated::traceEverOn(true);
    VerilatedVcdC* tfp = new VerilatedVcdC;
    top->trace(tfp, 99);
    tfp->open("and_gate.vcd");
    printf("***** START of AND GATE TEST ***** \n");
    while (!Verilated::gotFinish()) {
        top->eval();
        tfp->dump(Verilated::time());
        Verilated::timeInc(1);
    }
    tfp->close();
    printf("***** END of AND GATE TEST ***** \n");
    delete top;
    return 0;
}
```

Combinatorial Logic - OR Gate

```
module or_gate (  
    input logic x,  
    input logic y,  
    output logic z  
);  
  
    assign z = x | y; /* OR operation in SV is | */  
  
endmodule
```

Combinatorial Logic - OR Gate



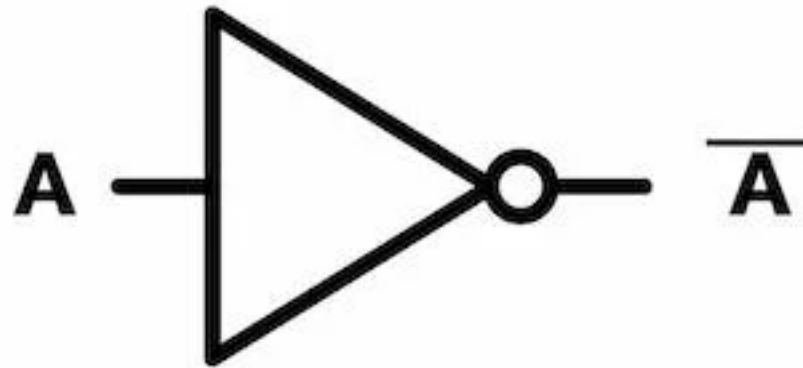
2 input OR gate

A	B	A+B
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1

Combinatorial Logic - NOT Gate

```
module not_gate (  
    input logic x,  
    output logic z  
);  
  
    assign z = ~x; /* NOT operation in SV is ~ */  
endmodule
```

Combinatorial Logic - NOT Gate



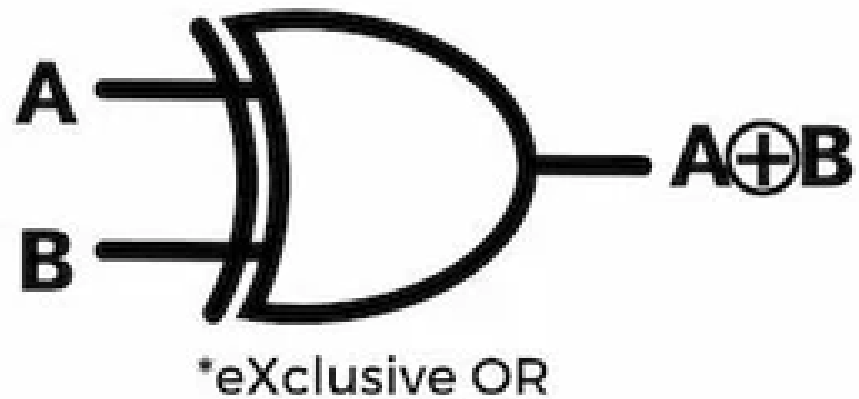
2 input NOT gate

A	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$
0	1
1	0

Combinatorial Logic - XOR Gate

```
module xor_gate (  
    input logic x,  
    input logic y,  
    output logic z  
);  
  
    assign z = x ^ y; /* XOR operation in SV is ^ */  
  
endmodule
```

Combinatorial Logic - XOR Gate



2 input XOR gate

A	B	$A \oplus B$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

Combinatorial Logic - Bitwise Operations

- I can apply the AND, OR, and XOR operations to multiple bits at once

```
module bitwise_operations (  
    input logic [3:0] x,  
    input logic [3:0] y,  
    output logic [3:0] z_and,  
    output logic [3:0] z_or,  
    output logic [3:0] z_xor  
);  
  
    assign z_and = x & y;  
    assign z_or = x | y;  
    assign z_xor = x ^ y;  
  
endmodule
```

Digital Arithmetic - Binary Encoding

- We can encode any decimal number (base-10) in binary (base-2)
- d prefix means decimal
- b prefix means binary
- Each binary digit is called a **bit**

$$d12 = b1100 = 1*2^3 + 1*2^2 + 0*2^1 + 0*2^0 = 8 + 4 + 0 + 0 = d12$$

$$d10 = b1010 = 1*2^3 + 0*2^2 + 1*2^1 + 0*2^0 = 8 + 0 + 2 + 0 = d10$$

$$d7 = b0111 = 0*2^3 + 1*2^2 + 1*2^1 + 1*2^0 = 0 + 4 + 2 + 1 = d7$$

Digital Arithmetic - Hexadecimal Encoding

- Hexadecimal (base-16) is a more compact representation of binary
 - Group 4 bits into a **nibble** (nobody uses that term anymore!)
 - Digits can be 0-9 and A-F (10-15)
- h prefix means hexadecimal

$$d12 = hC = 12 * 16^0 = d12$$

$$d10 = hA = 10 * 16^0 = d10$$

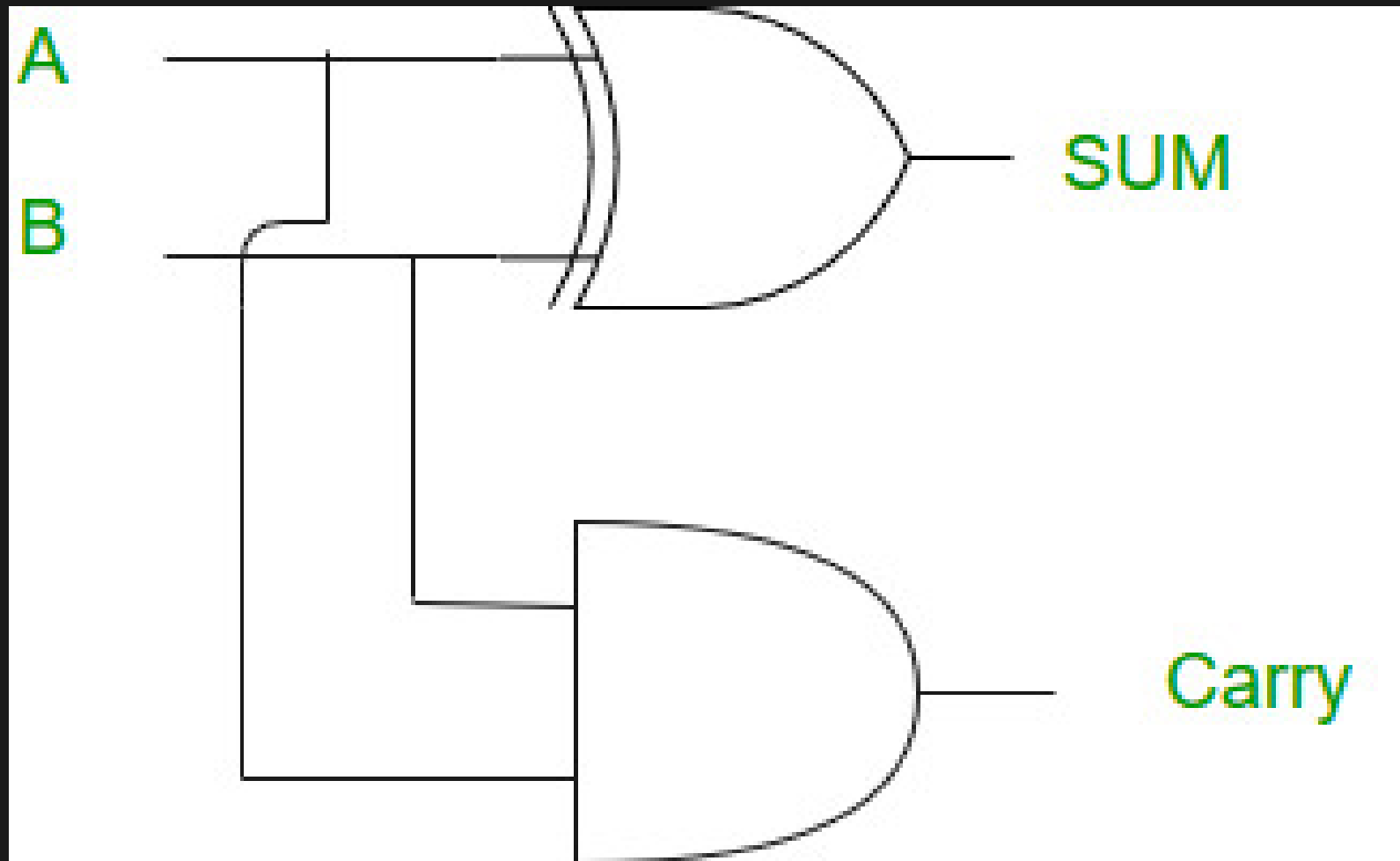
$$d7 = h7 = 7 * 16^0 = d7$$

Digital Arithmetic - Half-Adder

- A half-adder is a combinatorial logic circuit that adds two bits
- It has two inputs and two outputs
- The inputs are the two bits to be added
- The outputs are the sum and the carry

```
module half_adder (  
    input logic x,  
    input logic y,  
    output logic sum,  
    output logic carry  
);  
  
    assign sum = x ^ y;  
    assign carry = x & y;  
  
endmodule
```

Digital Arithmetic - Half-Adder



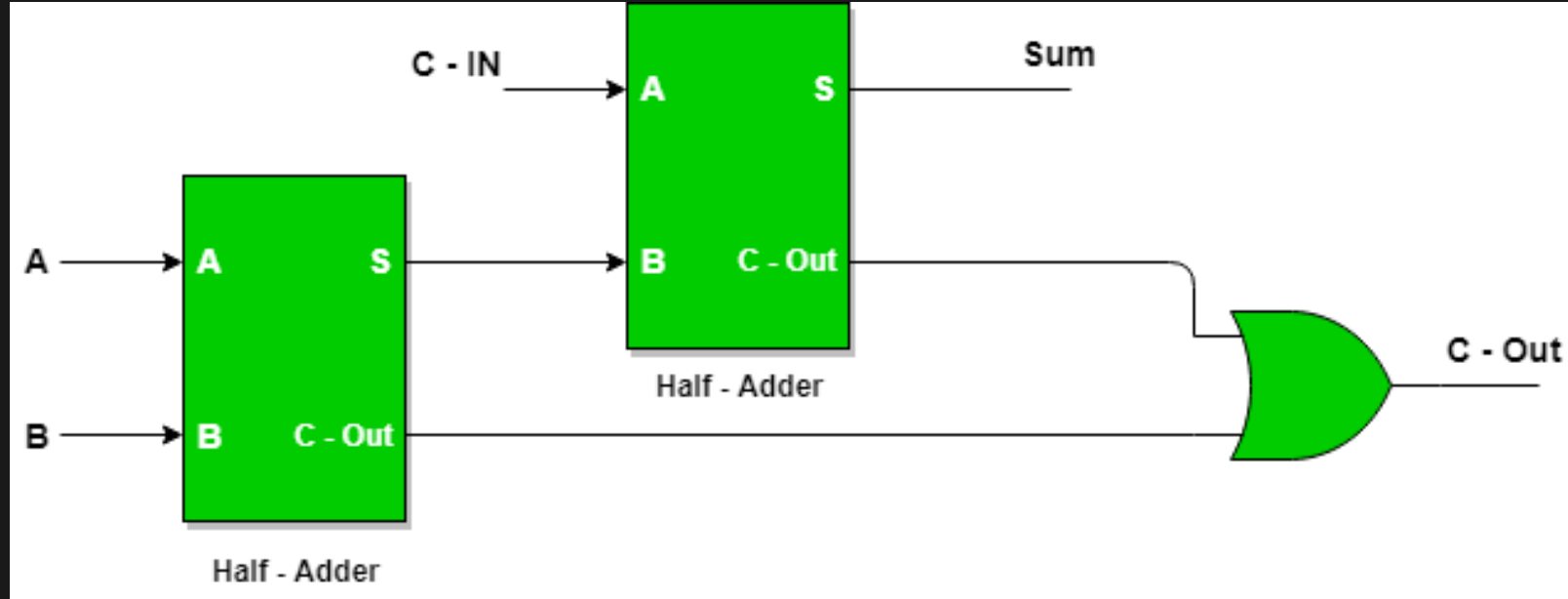
Digital Arithmetic - Full-Adder

- A full-adder is a combinatorial logic circuit that adds two bits and a carry
- It has three inputs and two outputs
- The inputs are the two bits to be added and the carry
- The outputs are the sum and the carry

Digital Arithmetic - Full-Adder

```
module full_adder (  
    input logic x,  
    input logic y,  
    input logic carry_in,  
    output logic sum,  
    output logic carry_out  
);  
  
    // Internal signals  
    logic sum_a, carry_a, sum_b, carry_b;  
  
    // Half-adders  
    half_adder ha1 (x, y, sum_a, carry_a);  
    half_adder ha2 (sum_a, carry_in, sum, carry_b);  
  
    // Final sum and carry  
    assign sum = sum_b;  
    assign carry_out = carry_a | carry_b;  
  
endmodule
```

Digital Arithmetic - Full-Adder



Digital Arithmetic - Adding 4-bit Numbers (unsigned)

```
module adder_4bit (  
    input logic [3:0] x,  
    input logic [3:0] y,  
    output logic [4:0] z  
);  
  
    // Internal signals  
    logic [3:0] sum;  
    logic [3:0] carry;  
  
    // Full-adders  
    half_adder ha0 (x[0], y[0], sum[0], carry[0]);  
    full_adder fa1 (x[1], y[1], carry[0], sum[1], carry[1]);  
    full_adder fa2 (x[2], y[2], carry[1], sum[2], carry[2]);  
    full_adder fa3 (x[3], y[3], carry[2], sum[3], carry[3]);  
  
    assign z = {carry[3], sum};
```

Digital Arithmetic - Adding 4-bit Numbers (unsigned)

- More conveniently

```
module adder_4bit (  
    input logic [3:0] x,  
    input logic [3:0] y,  
    output logic [4:0] z  
);  
  
    assign z = unsigned'(x) + unsigned'(y);  
  
endmodule
```

Digital Arithmetic - Overflow

```
module adder_4_bit_overflow (  
    input logic [3:0] x,  
    input logic [3:0] y,  
    output logic [3:0] z,  
    output logic overflow  
);  
  
    logic [4:0] z_unsigned;  
  
    assign z_unsigned = unsigned'(x) + unsigned'(y);  
    assign z = z_unsigned[3:0];  
    assign overflow = z_unsigned[4];  
  
endmodule
```

Digital Arithmetic - Handling Signed Numbers

- Signed numbers are encoded using two's complement
- The most significant bit is the sign bit
- The range of signed numbers is from $-2^{(n-1)}$ to $2^{(n-1)} - 1$
- The range of unsigned numbers is from 0 to $2^n - 1$

Binary	Decimal			Two's complement	Decimal
0000	0			1111	-1
0001	1			1110	-2
0010	2			1101	-3
0011	3			1100	-4
0100	4			1011	-5
0101	5			1010	-6
0110	6			1001	-7
0111	7			1000	-8

Digital Arithmetic - Handling Signed Numbers

- The beauty of two's complement is that the addition of signed numbers works the same way as the addition of unsigned numbers
- We can use the same adder module to add signed and unsigned numbers

```
module adder_4_bit_signed (  
    input logic [3:0] x,  
    input logic [3:0] y,  
    output logic [4:0] z  
);  
  
    assign z = signed'(x) + signed'(y);  
  
endmodule
```

Digital Arithmetic - Left Shift

- Left shift is a combinatorial logic circuit that shifts a number to the left by a given number of bits
- It has two inputs and one output, equivalent to multiplying by 2^y
- The inputs are the number to be shifted and the number of bits to shift
- The output is the shifted number

```
parameter OPERAND_WIDTH = 4;

module left_shift (
    input logic [OPERAND_WIDTH-1:0] x,
    input logic [$clog2(OPERAND_WIDTH)-1:0] y,
    output logic [OPERAND_WIDTH-1:0] z
);
    assign z = x << y;
endmodule
```

Digital Arithmetic - Logical Right Shift

- Logical right shift is a combinatorial logic circuit that shifts a number to the right by a given number of bits
- It has two inputs and one output
- The inputs are the number to be shifted and the number of bits to shift
- The output is the shifted number

```
parameter OPERAND_WIDTH = 4;

module logical_right_shift (
    input logic [OPERAND_WIDTH-1:0] x,
    input logic [$clog2(OPERAND_WIDTH)-1:0] y,
    output logic [OPERAND_WIDTH-1:0] z
);
    assign z = x >> y;
endmodule
```

Digital Arithmetic - Arithmetic Right Shift

- Arithmetic right shift is a combinatorial logic circuit that shifts a number to the right by a given number of bits
- It has two inputs and one output
- The inputs are the number to be shifted and the number of bits to shift
- The output is the shifted number such that the sign bit is preserved

```
parameter OPERAND_WIDTH = 4;

module arithmetic_right_shift (
    input logic [OPERAND_WIDTH-1:0] x,
    input logic [$clog2(OPERAND_WIDTH)-1:0] y,
    output logic [OPERAND_WIDTH-1:0] z
);
    assign z = $signed(x) >>> y;
endmodule
```


Building the ALU for Tiny VedaS

- Tiny VedaS is a RISC-V RV32IM processor
 - RV --> RISC-V
 - 32 --> 32-bit architecture
 - I --> Integer instructions
 - M --> Integer multiplication and division
- The Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU) is the unit that performs the arithmetic and logic operations
- It is a combinational logic circuit that takes two operands and an operation code, and produces a result

RISC-V ALU Operations

- Complete list of RISC-V operations are available [here](#)
- Or [here](#) for quick and dirty reference
- Our ALU will support the following operations:
 - Arithmetic: add, subtract
 - Logic: and, or, xor
 - Shifts: shift left, shift right
 - Comparisons: less than, equal, not equal

ALU Design

- Two 32-bit inputs: src1 and src2
- One 32-bit output: result
- One 4-bit opcode: alu_op (need to support ~10 ops, so $\text{ceil}(\log_2(10)) = 4$ bits)

ALU Design

- Let's define an enum for the operations

```
enum logic [3:0] {  
    ALU_ADD, /* Encoded as 0000 */  
    ALU_SUB, /* Encoded as 0001 */  
    ALU_AND, /* Encoded as 0010 */  
    ALU_OR, /* Encoded as 0011 */  
    ALU_XOR, /* Encoded as 0100 */  
    ALU_SLL, /* Encoded as 0101 */  
    ALU_SRL, /* Encoded as 0110 */  
    ALU_SRA, /* Encoded as 0111 */  
    ALU_SLT, /* Encoded as 1000 */  
    ALU_SLTU, /* Encoded as 1001 */  
    ALU_XNOR /* Encoded as 1010 */  
} alu_op_t;
```

ALU Design

- Let's define the module

```
module alu (  
    input logic [31:0] src1,  
    input logic [31:0] src2,  
    input alu_op_t alu_op,  
    output logic [31:0] result  
);  
  
<logic_goes_here>  
  
endmodule
```

ALU Design

- Let's add the logic

```
casez (alu_op)
  ALU_ADD: result = $signed(src1) + $signed(src2);
  ALU_SUB: result = $signed(src1) - $signed(src2);
  ALU_AND: result = src1 & src2;
  ALU_OR: result = src1 | src2;
  ALU_XOR: result = src1 ^ src2;
  ALU_SLL: result = src1 << src2;
  ALU_SRL: result = src1 >> src2;
  ALU_SRA: result = $signed(src1) >>> src2;
  ALU_SLT: result = $signed(src1) < $signed(src2);
  ALU_SLTU: result = src1 < src2;
  ALU_XNOR: result = ~(src1 ^ src2);
  default: result = 32'b0;
endcase
```

Logic Datatype

- Logic is a datatype that can be used to represent a single bit or a vector of bits
- A single logic bit can assume four values:
 - 0
 - 1
 - X (unknown) --> multiple drivers driving different values
 - Z (high-impedance) --> no driver
- Verilator is a two-state simulator, so it doesn't support X and Z values
 - How we deal with potential bugs due to X and Z in verilator if it doesn't support it?
 - We randomize the inputs, error will eventually bubble up at the outputs