**SAP based Microprocessor Design**

**Comprehensive Report**

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Prepared By Version

**Team 5**  **1.0**

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# **Introduction**

## **Background**

Microprocessors stand at the forefront of digital systems and Systems on Chip (SoCs), serving as the foundational building blocks that empower the modern computing landscape. The evolution of microprocessor design has been instrumental in shaping the efficiency, speed, and versatility of digital systems. Rooted in this context, our project focuses on the creation of a 'Basic' microprocessor, drawing inspiration from the Simple As Possible (SAP)-1 architecture.

The SAP architecture, known for its simplicity and educational value, provides a solid framework for students to delve into the core principles of digital design. This project serves as a bridge between theoretical concepts and practical application, offering an immersive experience in crafting a functional microprocessor.

## **Objectives**

The primary objective of this project is to design and implement an 8-bit microprocessor, adhering rigorously to established design best practices. The microprocessor specifications mandate a minimum of 2 arithmetic operations, 2 logic operations, and one branch operation. Beyond these foundational requirements, students with advanced skills are encouraged to explore additional functionalities, provided they enhance the design without compromising the quality of the design documentation.

A specific focus lies on the control unit, requiring a detailed breakdown of various blocks and a clear articulation of the teamwork plan. The project is designed to not only cultivate technical skills but also to showcase effective team management, reflecting real-world scenarios where collaborative efforts are crucial for success.

## **Importance and Applications**

The importance of microprocessor design transcends the boundaries of theoretical knowledge, extending into practical applications that drive innovation. Microprocessors serve as the central nervous system of electronic devices, enabling functionalities ranging from simple arithmetic operations to complex computations. The successful design and implementation of a microprocessor not only contributes to advancements in digital systems but also enhances the problem-solving capabilities of the designers.

In the broader context, microprocessors find applications in diverse fields, including embedded systems, IoT devices, communication systems, and beyond. The skills acquired through this project are directly transferable to real-world scenarios, making students well-equipped for challenges in the ever-evolving landscape of digital IC design. The project, therefore, holds significance not only in its educational value but also in its practical implications for future technological advancements.

# **Project Team**

In order to design and implement the outlined microprocessor, it is essential to assemble a proficient team consisting of members with expertise in digital IC design, control unit development, RTL implementation, simulation, verification and teamwork. Our team possesses the required skill set, comprising the following members:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
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## **Supervision Team**

|  |
| --- |
| **Name** |
| Dr. Islam Yehia |
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# **Project Scope and Objectives**

## **Microprocessor Design Overview**

In this section, the microprocessor specifications are determined, considering the developed microprocessor as a black box tasked with performing the required functions.

test


*Figure 1: A block diagram representing the input/output pins of the microprocessor as a black box.*

The RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computing) architecture is followed for the ISA (Instruction Set Architecture) of an 8-bit microprocessor, enabling the execution of multiple arithmetic and logic operations. The microprocessor features three registers, namely A, B, and C, which can be utilized in various operations.

Registers A, B, and C also have output wires that can be used to display their content to the external world, for instance, through a 7-segment display. This feature allows users to visualize the values stored in these registers during the execution of instructions.

Additionally, a dynamic stack is employed to enhance the capability of executing multiple function calls and branching. This dynamic stack facilitates efficient management of function calls and branching instructions within the microprocessor.

Direct, immediate, and register-based addressing modes are supported in load and store instructions. Furthermore, the microprocessor incorporates a Program Status Register containing flags obtained from the operations. This register provides information about the status of the microprocessor after each operation.

A single bus is utilized following the Von Neumann Architecture. The technical specifications, including the mentioned features, are outlined in the following table:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tech Specifications** | |
| Data Width | 8 bits |
| Clock Speed | 16 MHz |
| Memory (RAM) | 64 Kb |
| Program Memory/Data Memory | Adopting a flexible partitioning strategy guided by initialization instructions.  (Allocate the initial 48 KB for Program Memory and 16 KB for Data Memory unless explicitly initialized) |
| Registers | X Registers, 3 8-bit Data Registers, 1 4-bit Program Status Register, and 3 16-bit Operations Registers |
| Arithmetic Operations | Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication |
| Logic Operations | AND, OR, XOR, NAND, NOR, XNOR |
| Branching Operations |  |
| Stack | Dynamic Stack Size managed by a 16-bit Stack Pointer (SP) |
| Input Pins | RST (Reset Pin), CLK (Clock Pin) |
| Output Pins | Output ALU flags through a 4-bit SREG pins, and display the values of internal registers A, B, and C through three 8-bit {A|B|C}PORT pins. |
| Power Consumption | X mW |
| Instruction Set Architecture | Reduced Instruction Set Computing (RISC) |
| Bus Architecture | Von Neumann Architecture |

## **Project Goals and Constraints**

The project aims to design and implement a microcontroller with the [specified characteristics](#_Microprocessor_Design_Overview), adhering to best practices in design, Verilog standards, and comprehensive documentation. The preferred approach is to prioritize completeness over complexity.

The SAP-based microprocessor design project concludes upon the completion of the following deliverables:

* Microprocessor design, ranging from high-level conceptualization to detailed sub-block designs.
* A programming guide outlining the instruction set in assembly, hexadecimal, and binary formats.
* Verilog implementation of the designed sub-blocks, integrated to form the desired microprocessor.
* Multiple test benches, including one for each sub-block and another for the top level to verify overall microprocessor functionality.
* An assembler developed in Python to convert assembly instructions into a binary file ready for execution.
* A demonstration video showcasing the microprocessor's verification on FPGA.
* A presentation summarizing the work done, highlighting the characteristics of the microprocessor design.

# **Project Management**

## **Milestones**

The project plan outlines specific milestones that collectively contribute to accomplishing the defined objectives and deliverables presented in the preceding section. These milestones are as follows:

1. **Define Project Objectives**

Establish the project's goals, scope, and objectives, identifying specific functionalities for the microprocessor.

1. **Select Microprocessor Architecture**

Explore various versions of SAP, conduct a thorough analysis, and select an appropriate microprocessor architecture that aligns with the project's specific requirements.

1. **Specifications Determination and Instruction Set Architecture**

Outline the microprocessor specifications, including data width, I/O signals, instruction set architecture, and register configuration.

1. **High-Level Design**

Create a comprehensive block diagram outlining major components, data paths, and control units in a high-level design.

1. **Control Unit Design**

Design the control unit along with its Finite State Machines (FSMs), responsible for managing instruction and data flow.

1. **Data Path and ALU Design**

Design the data path and incorporate the arithmetic logic unit to achieve precise manipulation of data.

1. **Memory Design**

Design the memory hierarchy components ensuring seamless interfacing and communication within the microprocessor.

1. **Control Unit Components Implementation**

Implement the FSMs and the components defined during the “Control Unit Design” milestone and perform unit testing on each component to ensure readiness for integration.

1. **Data Path Components Implementation**

Implement the data path and ALU components defined during the “Data Path and ALU Design” milestone and perform unit testing on each component to ensure readiness for integration.

1. **Memory Components Implementation**

Implement the memory components defined during the “Memory Design” milestone and perform unit testing on each component to ensure readiness for integration.

1. **Components Integration**

Integrate units into the complete microprocessor and conduct testing to verify proper communication and coordination.

1. **Timing Analysis**

Assess the timing characteristics of the microprocessor, ensuring compliance with specified constraints, involving analysis of propagation delays, setup times, and hold times for optimal performance and prevention of timing-related issues.

1. **Simulation and Verification**

Conduct simulations to validate the RTL design, analyzing microprocessor behavior under various conditions and inputs.

1. **Hardware Implementation**

Implement the microprocessor on hardware, an FPGA, conducting real-world hardware testing.

1. **Assembler Development**

Develop a crucial software component, the assembler, by designing algorithms for syntax parsing and code generation. This facilitates the translation of assembly language programs into machine code, streamlining the programming process for improved efficiency.

1. **Documentation**

Create comprehensive documentation covering architecture, design specifics, implementation, and testing outcomes in a final report.

## **Estimated Timeline**

The project progresses through five (**5**) phases, outlined as follows:

1. **Phase 1 – Project Initiation**

In this initial phase, project objectives, scope, and deliverables are established. The optimal architecture, informed by research and a detailed review of SAP, is selected, and microprocessor specifications are meticulously set, forming a clear guide for the project's trajectory.

1. **Phase 2 – Microprocessor Architecture Design**

This phase is centered on the design of the microprocessor, progressing from a detailed block diagram to the construction of subblocks. Simultaneously, the instruction set architecture is defined, specifying opcode assignments, and addressing modes.

1. **Phase 3 – RTL Implementation & Unit Testing**

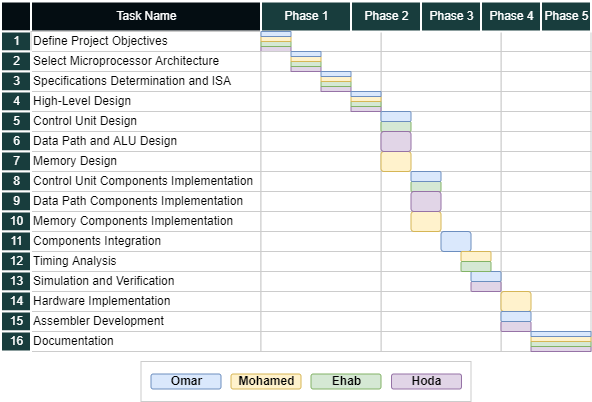
During Phase 3, the implementation of microprocessor blocks is undertaken, with rigorous unit testing conducted for each block individually before integration into one system.

1. **Phase 4 – Simulation and Verification**

During this phase, simulations are conducted to validate the microprocessor's implementation. Simultaneously, a defined testing plan is executed to ensure the functionality and correctness of the microprocessor.

1. **Phase 5 – Final Report Creation**

In the final phase, detailed documentation for the microprocessor is created by consolidating sub-documents, offering a comprehensive record of architecture, design, implementation, testing outcomes, and project lessons.

The following is the initial Gantt chart that provides a precise schedule and work plan for each milestone within the project.

## **Challenges Faced and Solutions**

Discuss any challenges encountered during the project and the corresponding solutions.

# **Microprocessor Architecture**

## **Choice of Microprocessor Architecture**

Specify the chosen microprocessor architecture (e.g., SAP-1, MIPS, ARM) and rationale.

## **Block Diagram and Components**

Provide a high-level schematic or block diagram of the microprocessor, detailing its key components.

# **Instruction Set Architecture (ISA)**

## **Definition of Instruction Set**

Describe the set of instructions that the microprocessor will support.

## **Opcode Assignments**

Define the operation codes for each instruction.

## **Addressing Modes**

Explain the addressing modes supported by the microprocessor.

## **Assembler (Programming Guide)**

Explain the addressing modes supported by the microprocessor.

# **Design Methodology**

## **High-Level Design Overview**

Provide an overview of the microprocessor's high-level design.

## **Control Unit Design**

Detail the design of the control unit and its role in instruction execution.

## **Data Path Design**

Explain the organization and components of the data path.

## **Memory Hierarchy**

Describe how memory is managed within the microprocessor.

# **Implementation**

## **Register Transfer Level (RTL) Description**

Offer a detailed description of the microprocessor's design at the RTL, including data and control flow.

## **Simulation Results**

Present results from simulations to verify the correctness and performance of the design.

## **Hardware Description Language (HDL) Code Snippets**

Include relevant portions of the HDL code.

# **Testing and Verification**

## **Test Plan**

Outline the plan for testing and verifying the microprocessor's functionality.

## **Simulation Verification**

Discuss how simulations were used to validate the design.

## **Hardware Testing Strategies**

Detail strategies for testing the microprocessor on hardware.

# **Results and Analysis**

## **Evaluation of Microprocessor Performance**

Assess the microprocessor's performance against specified criteria.

## **Comparison with Project Requirements**

Evaluate how well the designed microprocessor meets the initial project requirements.

# **Conclusion**

## **Summary of Achievements**

Summarize the key achievements of the project.

## **Lessons Learned**

Reflect on lessons learned during the design and implementation process.

# **Resources**

1. [Albert P. Malvino, Jerald A. Brown. “Digital Computer Electronics” (3rd Edition)](https://ia803000.us.archive.org/8/items/367026792DigitalComputerElectronicsAlbertPaulMalvinoAndJeraldABrownPdf1/367026792-Digital-Computer-Electronics-Albert-Paul-Malvino-and-Jerald-A-Brown-pdf%20%281%29.pdf)