EEDG/CE 6370
Design and Analysis of Reconfigurable Systems
Homework 5
VGA-FPGA Interface

1. Laboratory Objectives

- Create a VGA interface between the FPGA and a monitor.
- Prototype the design on the Terasic DE1-SoC FPGA board.
- Understand the timing reports before and after place and route

2. Summary

In this lab you will learn to interface the DE1-SoC board with a monitor through the VGA controller

3. Pre-lab

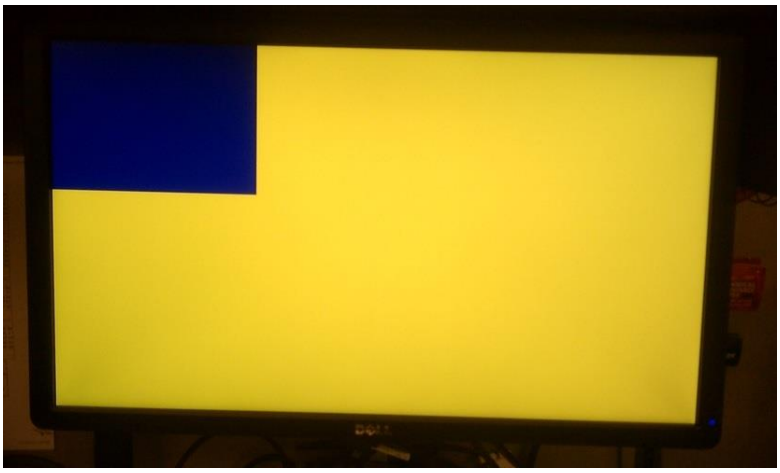
- Review the lecture slides that covers Physical Design of FPGAs

4. Tool Requirements

- Quartus Prime
- DE1-SoC board

5. VGA Interface Description

The given program will draw a blue square over a yellow background on the monitor as shown in the picture below:



The VGA controller should generate the entire control signal to drive the VGA output. The controller should have the following structure:

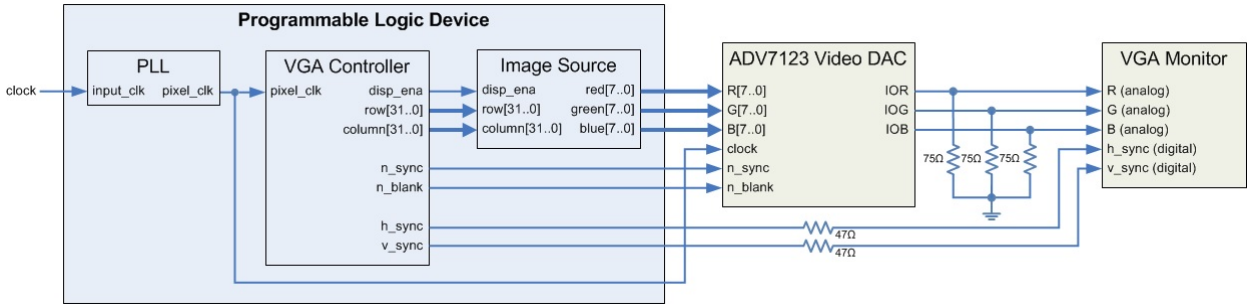


Figure 1 VGA controller block diagram
(source :http://eewiki.net/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=15925278)

VGA Background

VGA is a standard interface for controlling analog monitors. The computing side of the interface provides the monitor with horizontal and vertical sync signals, color magnitudes, and ground references.
The horizontal and vertical sync signals are 0V/5V digital waveforms that synchronize the signal timing with the monitor. Being digital, they are provided directly by the FPGA (3.3V meets the minimum threshold for a logical high, so 3.3V can be used instead of 5V).

The color magnitudes are 0V-0.7V analog signals sent over the R, G, and B wires. (Alternatively, the green wire can use 0.3V-1V signals that incorporate both the horizontal and vertical sync signals, eliminating the need for those lines. This is called *sync-on-green* and is not addressed here.) The three-color magnitude wires are terminated with 75Ω resistors. These lines are also terminated with 75Ω inside the monitor. To create these analog signals, the FPGA outputs an 8-bit bus for each color to a video DAC, in this example an **ADV71235** from Analog Devices (data sheet attached). This video DAC also requires a pixel clock to latch in these values.

The VGA interface also specifies four wires that can be used to communicate with a ROM in the monitor. This ROM contains EDID (extended display identification data), which consists of the monitor's parameters in a standard format. Several communication standards exist to access this data, but in the simplest case, these lines can be left unconnected.

Connections

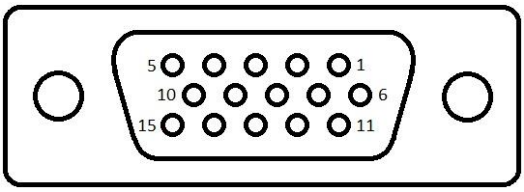


Figure 2 VGA connector

Table 1 VGA connections description

Pin	Signal	Description	Connection
1	R	analog red, 0-0.7V	DAC output
2	G	analog green, 0-0.7V or 0.3-1V (if sync-on-green)	DAC output
3	B	analog blue, 0-0.7V	DAC output
4	EDID Interface	function varies depending on standard used	no connect
5	GND	general	GND
6	GND	for R	GND
7	GND	for G	GND
8	GND	for B	GND
9	no pin	or optional +5V	no connect
10	GND	for h_sync and v_sync	GND
11	EDID Interface	function varies depending on standard used	no connect
12	EDID Interface	function varies depending on standard used	no connect
13	h_sync	horizontal sync, 0V/5V waveform	FPGA output
14	v_sync	vertical sync, 0V/5V waveform	FPGA output
15	EDID Interface	function varies depending on standard used	no connect

Pixel Clock

This VGA controller requires the user to provide the pixel clock. This can be brought into the FPGA on a dedicated clock pin or can be derived inside the FPGA using a PLL. In the example project for the ML402 development board, the available 100MHz clock is input into one of the Intel Cyclone V DCM to produce a 193.16MHz pixel clock, as required by the 1920x1200 @60Hz VGA mode or 108 MHz for 1280x1024@60Hz (see appendix for more resolutions or search online, e.g., https://tomverbeure.github.io/video_timings_calculator).

Operation

Figure 3 illustrates the timing signals produced by the VGA controller. The controller contains two counters. One counter increments on pixel clocks and controls the timing of the *h_sync* (horizontal sync) signal. By setting it up such that the display time starts at counter value 0, the counter value equals the pixel's column coordinate during the display time. The horizontal display time is followed by a blanking time, which includes a horizontal front porch, the horizontal sync pulse itself, and the horizontal back porch, each of specified duration. At the end of the row, the counter resets to start the next row.

The other counter increments as each row completes, therefore controlling the timing of the *v_sync* (vertical sync) signal. Again, this is set up such that the display time starts at counter value 0, so the counter value equals the pixel's row coordinate during the display time. As before, the vertical display time is followed by a blanking time, with its corresponding front porch, sync pulse, and back porch. Once the vertical blanking time completes, the counter resets to begin the next screen refresh.

A display enable is defined by the logical AND of the horizontal and vertical display times.

Using these counters, the VGA controller outputs the horizontal sync, vertical sync, display enable, and pixel coordinate signals. The sync pulses are specified as positive or negative polarity for each VGA mode. The GENERIC parameters *h_pol* (horizontal polarity) and *v_pol* (vertical polarity) set the polarity of the VGA controller's *h_sync* and *v_sync* outputs, respectively.

Reset

The *reset_n* input port must have a logic high for the VGA controller component to operate. A low logic level on this port asynchronously resets the component. During reset, the component deasserts the horizontal and vertical counters, clears the pixel coordinates, and disables the display. Once released from reset, the VGA controller resumes operation.

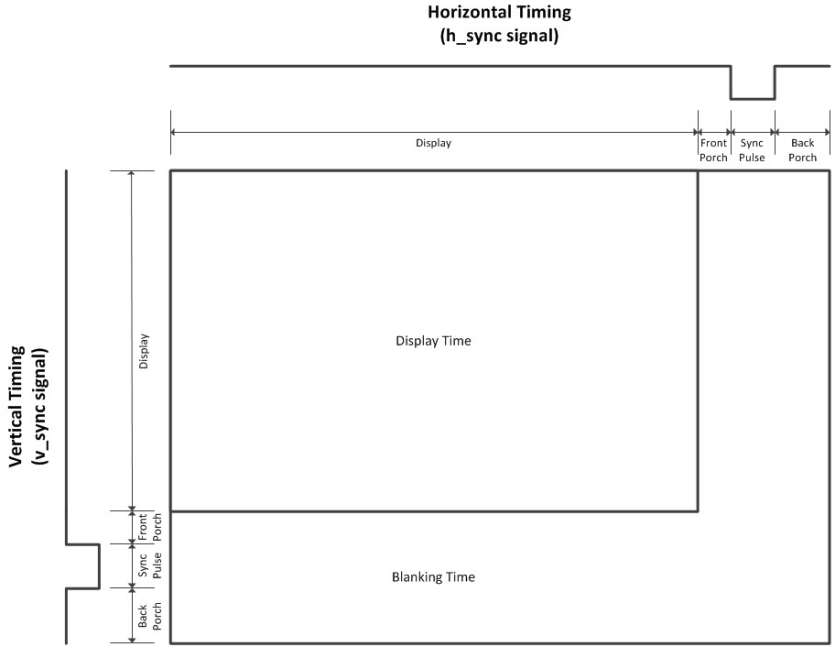


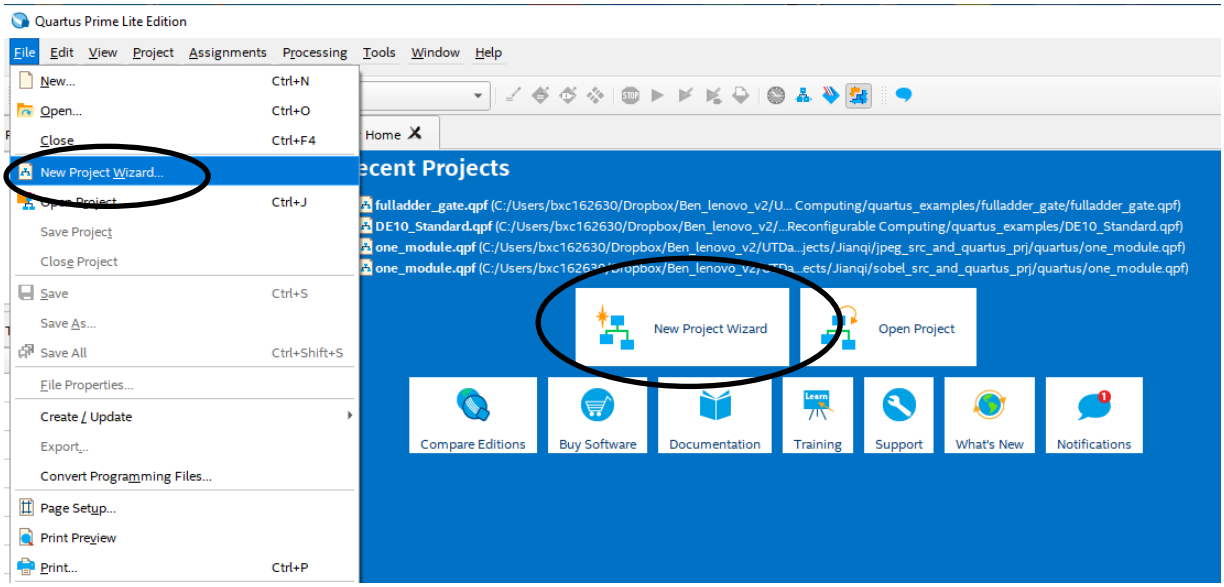
Figure 3 Signal timing diagram

6. VGA Controller Design

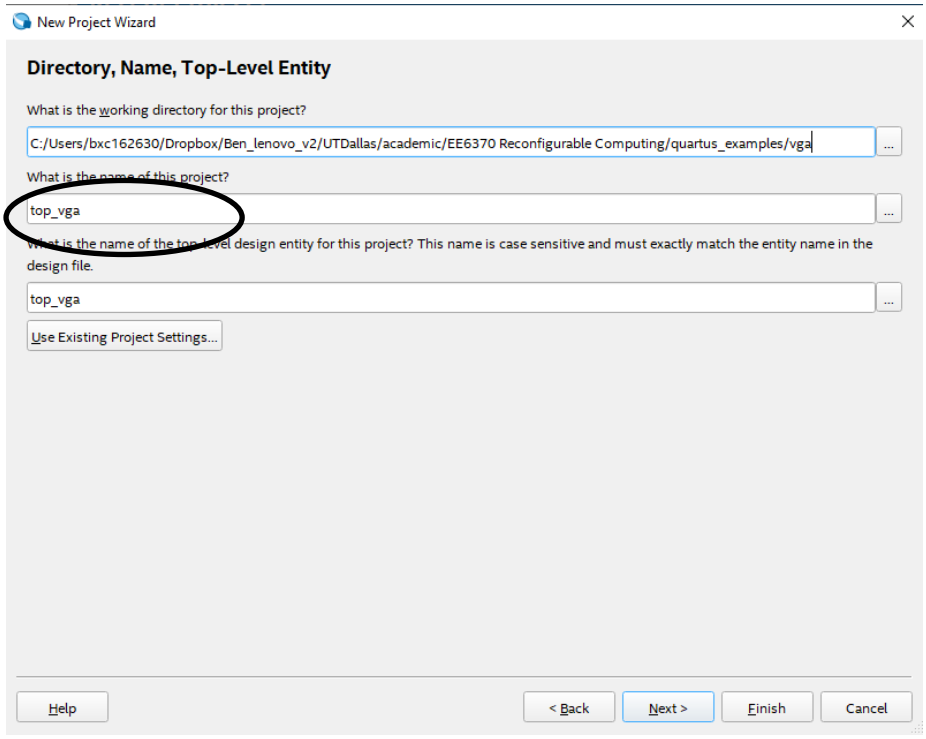
- Open Quartus Prime click in icon)

In case of Windows run the tools always as administrator (right

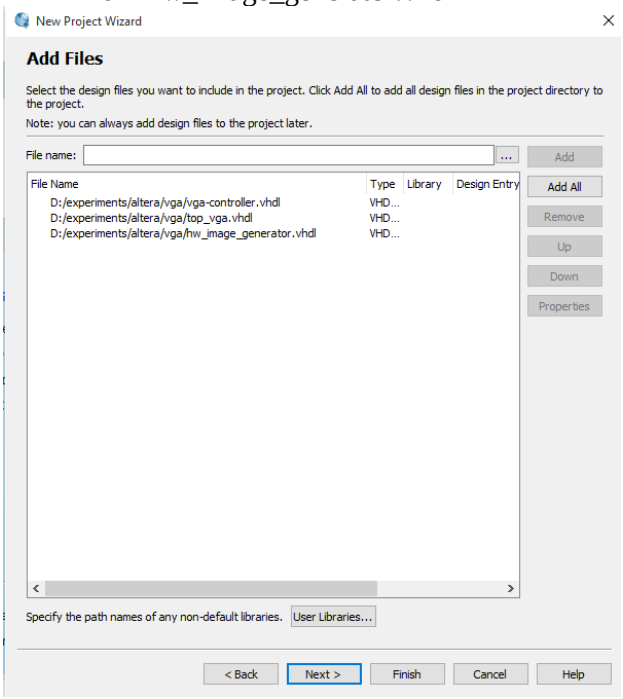
- Create a new project.
  File ➔ New Project Wizard



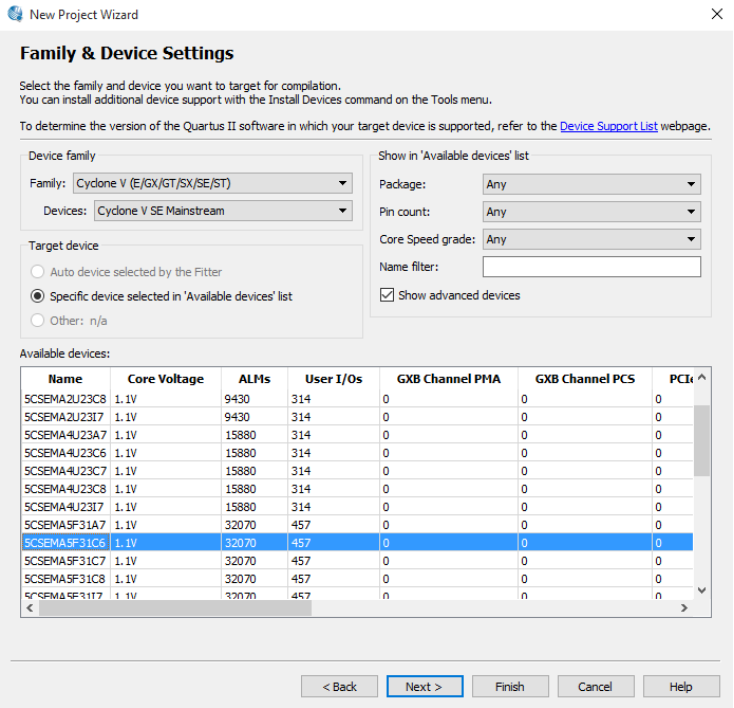
Name the project “top_vga”



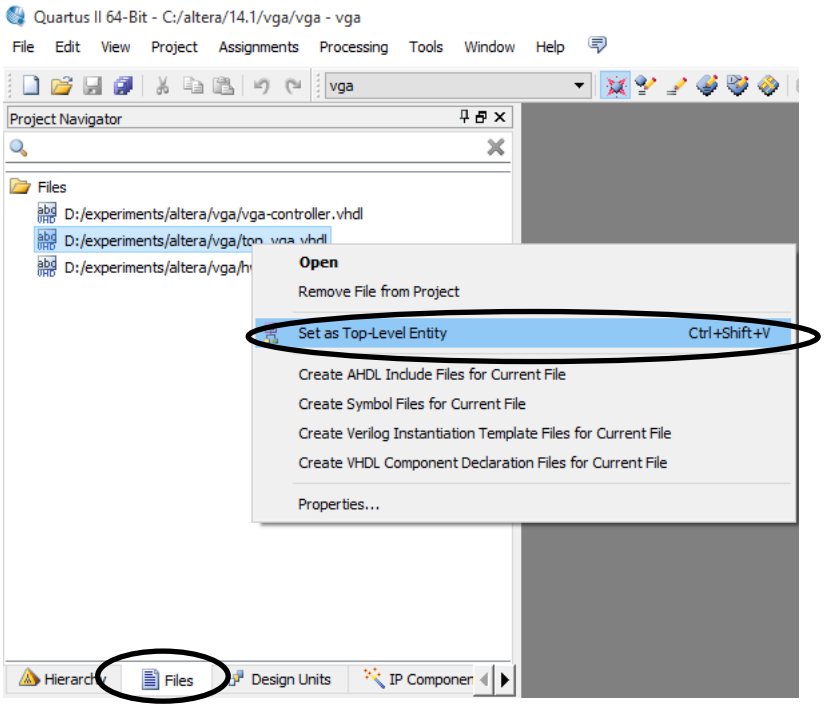
- Add the following files to the project:
  - top_vga.vhdl
  - vga-controller.vhdl
  - hw_image_generator.vhdl



- Click next.
- Select Cyclone V 5CSEMA5F31C6 device



- Click next and Finish.
- Click on Files tab → Right click on “top_vga.vhdl” →Set as Top-Level Entity

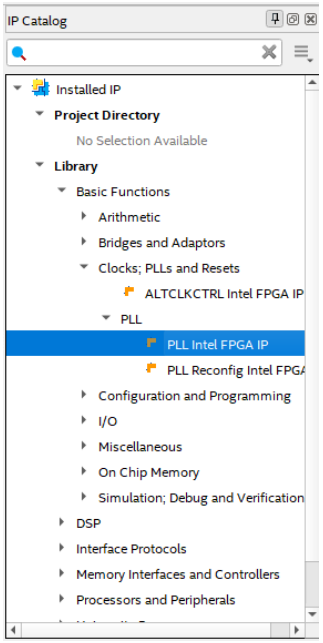


- Check the resolution of your monitor and modify the Generic parameters of the VGA controller. You need to modify the resolution (h_pixels and v_pixels) and the horizontal and vertical porch widths.

Edit source code to the VGA controller:

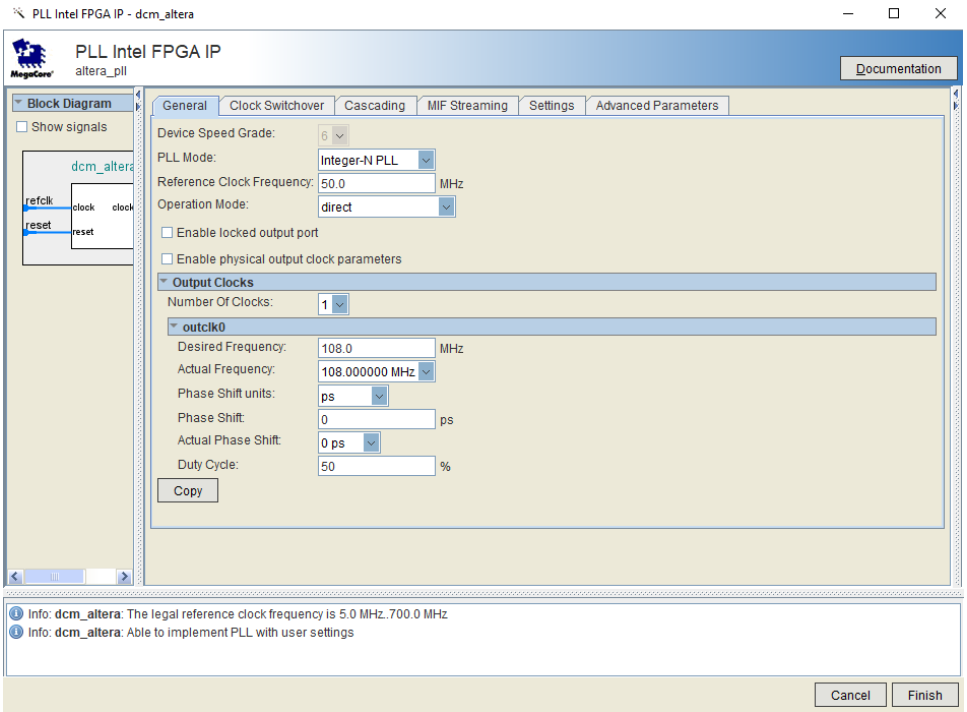
```
LIBRARY ieee;
USE ieee.std_logic_1164.all;

ENTITY vga_controller IS
 GENERIC(
  h_pulse : INTEGER := 208;  --horizontal sync pulse width in pixels
  h_bp    : INTEGER := 336;  - -horizontal back porch width in pixels
  h_pixels : INTEGER := 1280;  --horizontal display width in pixels
  h_fp    : INTEGER := 128;     --horizontal front porch width in pixels
  h_pol   : STD_LOGIC := '0';    --horizontal sync pulse polarity (1 = positive, 0 = negative)
  v_pulse : INTEGER := 3;       --vertical sync pulse width in rows
  v_bp    : INTEGER := 38;      --vertical back porch width in rows
  v_pixels : INTEGER := 1024;  --vertical display width in rows
  v_fp    : INTEGER := 1;                 --vertical front porch width in rows
  v_pol   : STD_LOGIC := '1');     --vertical sync pulse polarity (1 = positive, 0 = negative)
 PORT(
  pixel_clk : IN  STD_LOGIC;  --pixel clock at frequency of VGA mode being used
END behavior;
```

- The hw_image_generator.vhdl block is responsible for drawing the two squares to the screen. Read the code and identify how this is done.
- Create the pixel clock using Quartus's IP generator (IP catalogue). Go to IP Catalogue (right pane of Quartus) to create a PLL. A new clock depending on the monitor's resolution is needed.
- Library→ Basic Functions→Clocks; PLL and Resets → PLL Intel FPGA IP.

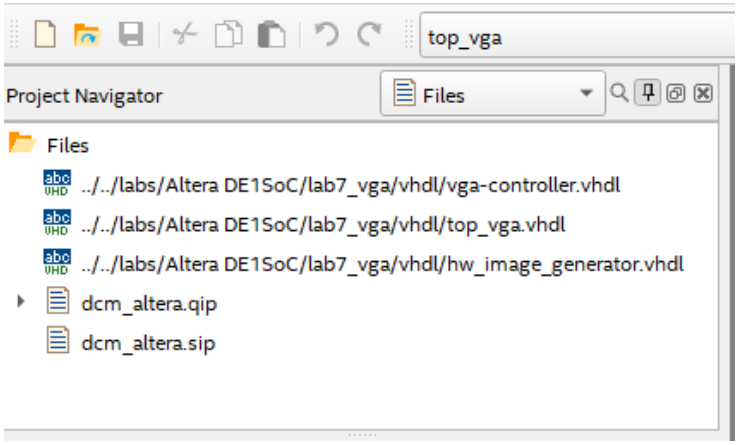


- Call it dcm_altera (digital clock manager) and select VHDL.

- Enter 50MHz as Reference Clock Frequency
- Disable “Enable locked output port”
- Specify 108MHz as Desired Frequency.



- The project navigator should not show the newly generated PLL:



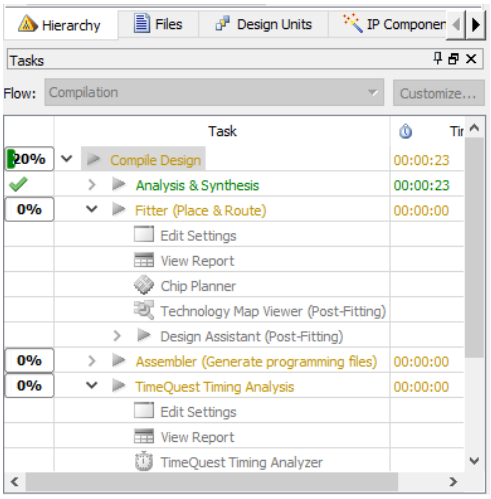
- Instantiate DCM into top_vga.vhdl module as a component (top_vga.vhdl)

```
architecture Behavioral of top_vga is



COMPONENT dcm_altera is
   port (
      refclk   : in  std_logic;
      rst      : in  std_logic;
      outclk_0 : out std_logic );

end COMPONENT;



COMPONENT vga_controller
  PORT(
```

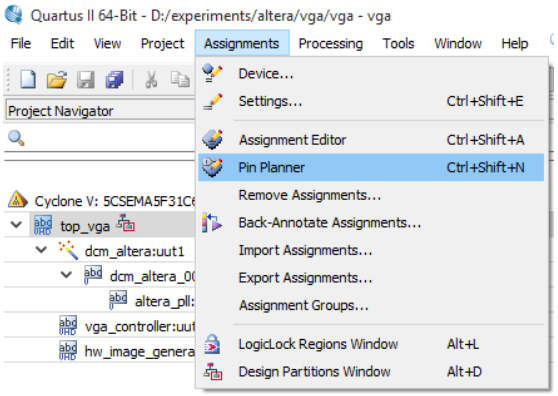
Note: the DCM reset is active high and hence it needs to be inverted

```
-- Signals declaration
signal disp_ena : std_logic;
signal row : INTEGER;
signal column : INTEGER;
signal pixel_clk       : std_logic;
signal reset_inv : std_logic;

begin

reset_inv <= NOT reset_n;

 uut1: dcm_altera PORT MAP (
      refclk   => sys_clk_in,
      rst      => reset_inv,
      outclk_0 => pixel_clk);


pixel_clk_out <= pixel_clk;

uut2: vga_controller PORT MAP (

    pixel_clk => pixel_clk,
    reset_n   => reset_n,
    h_sync    => h_sync,
    v_sync    => v_sync,
    disp_ena  => disp_ena,
    column    => column,
    row       => row,
    n_blank   => n_blank,
    n_sync    => n_sync);
```

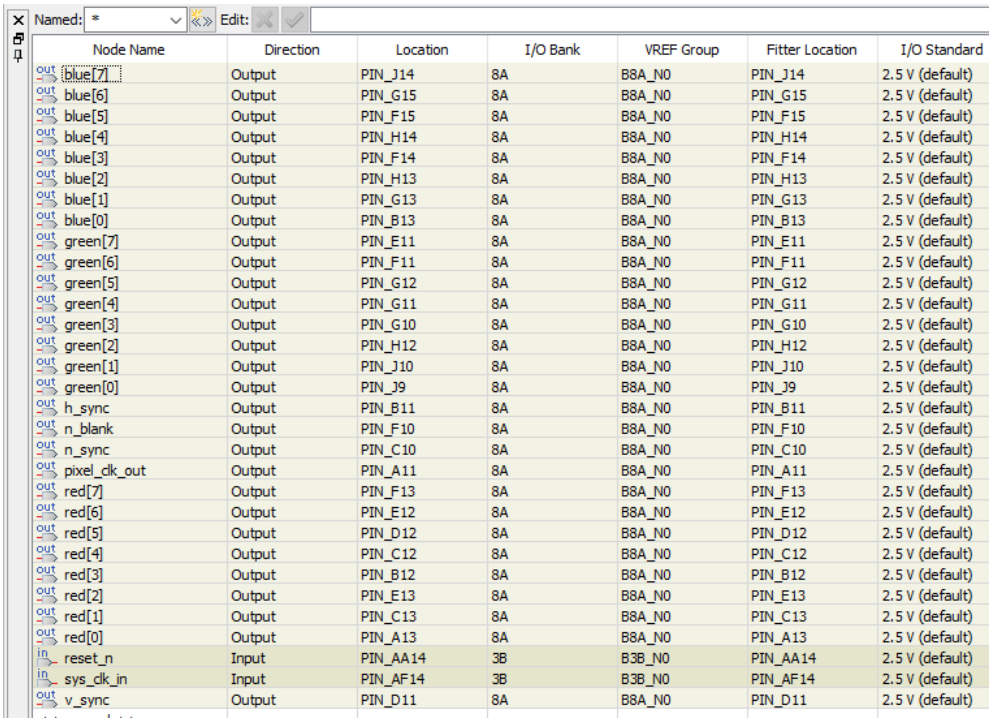
- Compile the design to make sure there are no errors by clicking on “Compile Design”



- Go to Pin Planner to assign the top module's IOs to physical pins on the FPGA board.



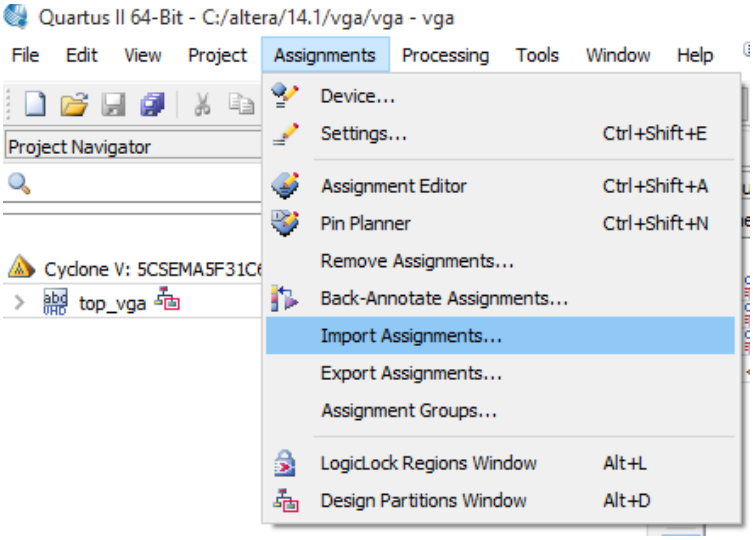
- Assign the IOs to the following pins as indicated in Terasic's DE1-SoC board user manual.



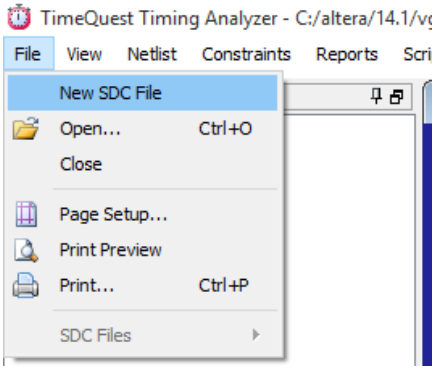
Named: * Edit:

Node Name	Direction	Location	I/O Bank	VREF Group	Fitter Location	I/O Standard
blue[7]	Output	PIN_J14	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_J14	2.5 V (default)
blue[6]	Output	PIN_G15	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_G15	2.5 V (default)
blue[5]	Output	PIN_F15	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_F15	2.5 V (default)
blue[4]	Output	PIN_H14	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_H14	2.5 V (default)
blue[3]	Output	PIN_F14	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_F14	2.5 V (default)
blue[2]	Output	PIN_H13	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_H13	2.5 V (default)
blue[1]	Output	PIN_G13	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_G13	2.5 V (default)
blue[0]	Output	PIN_B13	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_B13	2.5 V (default)
green[7]	Output	PIN_E11	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_E11	2.5 V (default)
green[6]	Output	PIN_F11	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_F11	2.5 V (default)
green[5]	Output	PIN_G12	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_G12	2.5 V (default)
green[4]	Output	PIN_G11	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_G11	2.5 V (default)
green[3]	Output	PIN_G10	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_G10	2.5 V (default)
green[2]	Output	PIN_H12	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_H12	2.5 V (default)
green[1]	Output	PIN_J10	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_J10	2.5 V (default)
green[0]	Output	PIN_J9	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_J9	2.5 V (default)
h_sync	Output	PIN_B11	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_B11	2.5 V (default)
n_blank	Output	PIN_F10	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_F10	2.5 V (default)
n_sync	Output	PIN_C10	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_C10	2.5 V (default)
pixel_clk_out	Output	PIN_A11	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_A11	2.5 V (default)
red[7]	Output	PIN_F13	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_F13	2.5 V (default)
red[6]	Output	PIN_E12	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_E12	2.5 V (default)
red[5]	Output	PIN_D12	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_D12	2.5 V (default)
red[4]	Output	PIN_C12	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_C12	2.5 V (default)
red[3]	Output	PIN_B12	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_B12	2.5 V (default)
red[2]	Output	PIN_E13	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_E13	2.5 V (default)
red[1]	Output	PIN_C13	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_C13	2.5 V (default)
red[0]	Output	PIN_A13	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_A13	2.5 V (default)
reset_n	Input	PIN_AA14	3B	B3B_N0	PIN_AA14	2.5 V (default)
sys_clk_in	Input	PIN_AF14	3B	B3B_N0	PIN_AF14	2.5 V (default)
v_sync	Output	PIN_D11	8A	B8A_N0	PIN_D11	2.5 V (default)

- In case that the input constraint file (.qsf) is given you can import it directly. Assignments→ Import Assignments → Choose .qsf file.



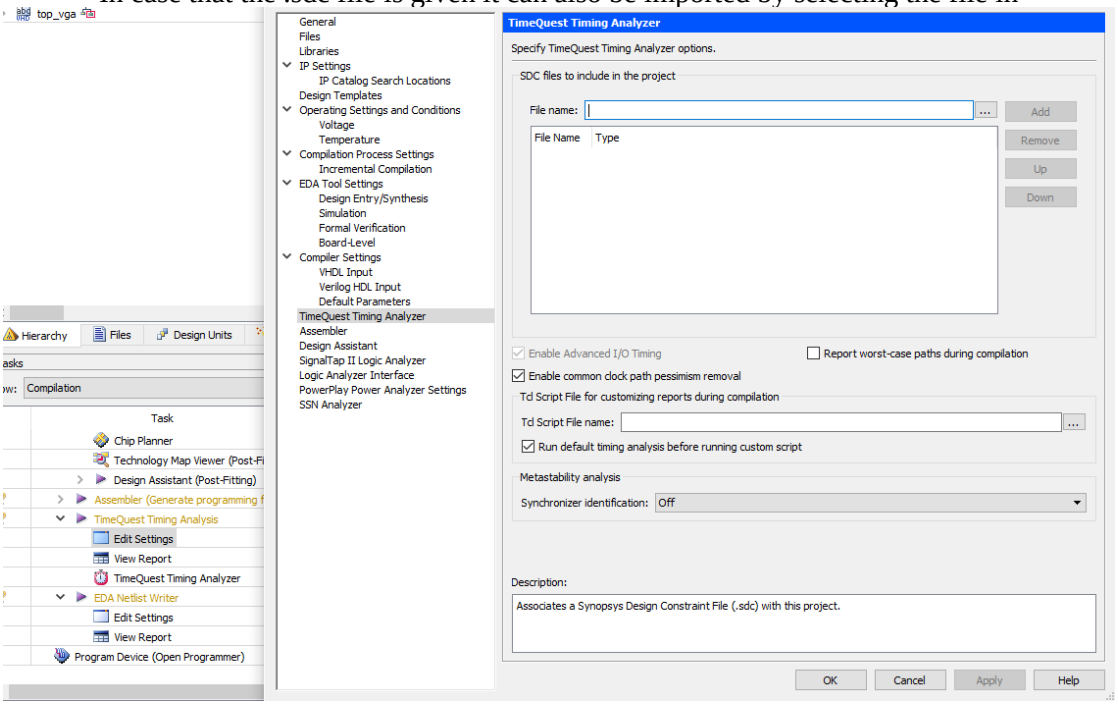
- Finally generate .sdc (Synopsys Design Constraint) file, which includes the timing constraints of our design.



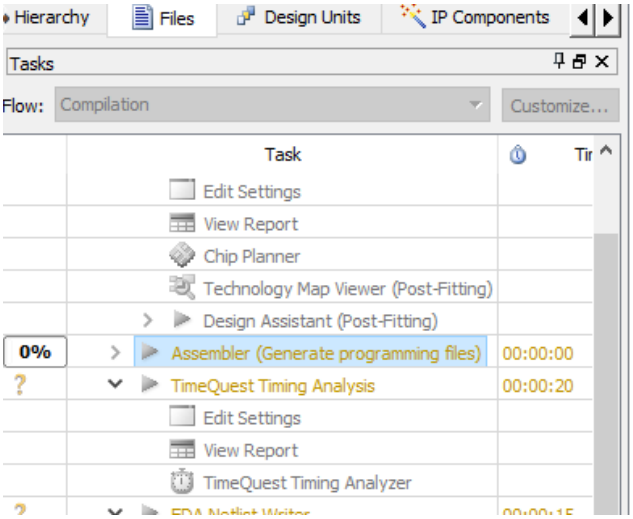
- Add to the new file, where' sys_clk_in' has to be the same name as the input clock

```
create_clock -name "sys_clk_in" -period 20.000ns [get_ports {sys_clk_in}]
derive_pll_clocks
derive_clock_uncertainty
```

- In case that the .sdc file is given it can also be imported by selecting the file in

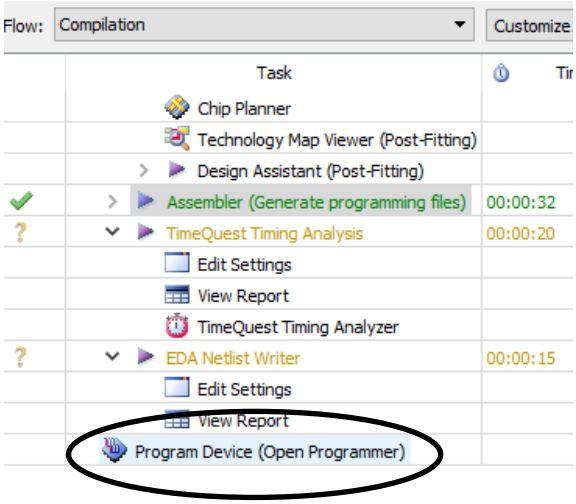


- When finished the .sdc file should be visible in the project files.
- Synthesize the entire design by clicking on the “Assembler (Generate programming files)” option

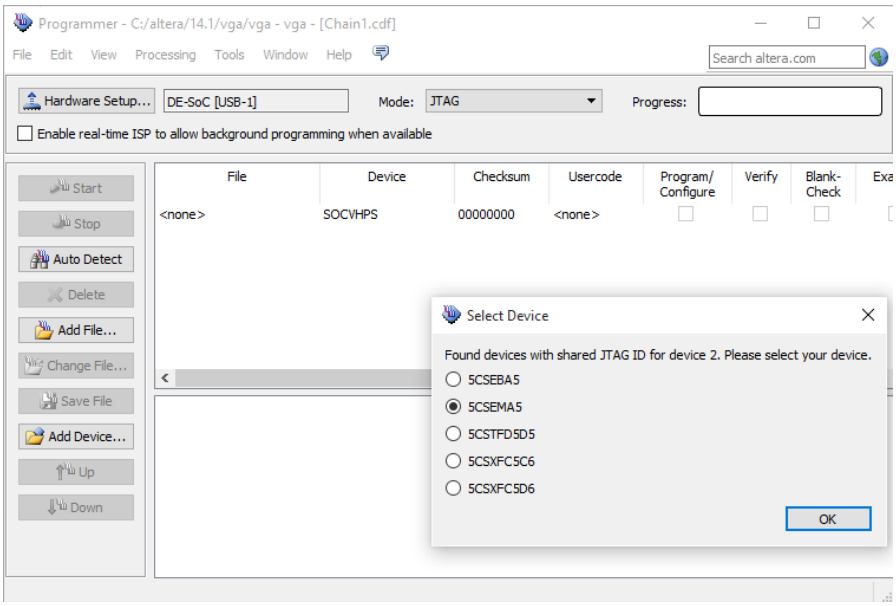


- This should generate the .sof file to configure the FPGA in output_files/vga.sof

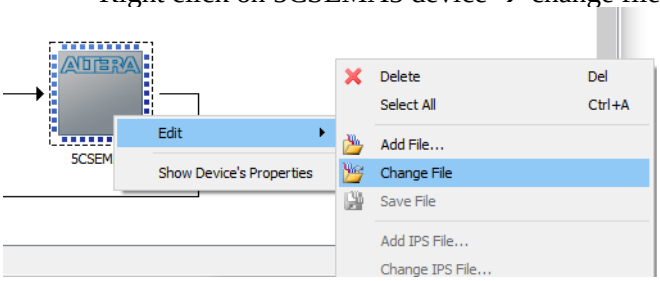
- Connect the FPGA board to the power, the USB Blaster cable and the VGA cable to the monitor.
- Power the FPGA on
- Open the programmer



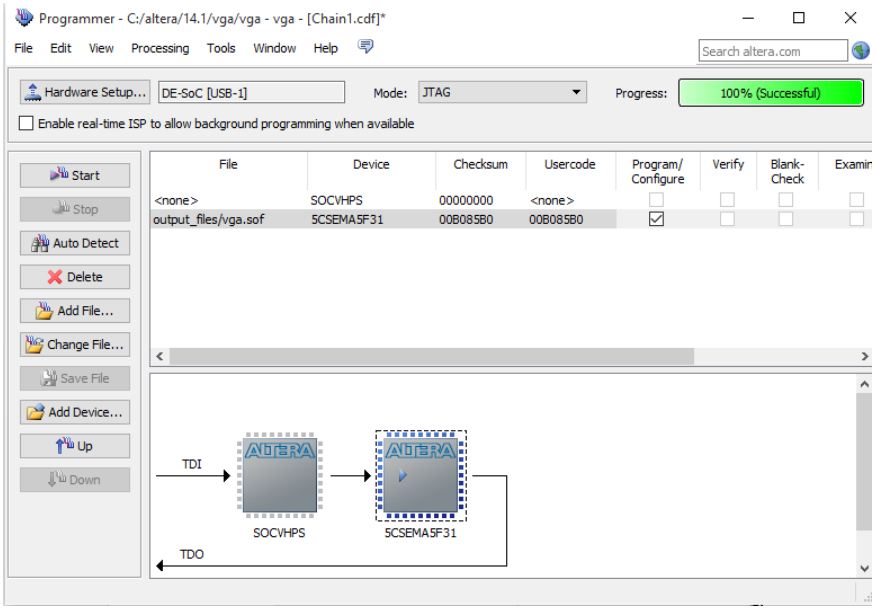
- Click on Hardware Setup and select DE-SoC[USB-1] FPGA
- Click on Auto Detect
- Select 5CSEMA5



- Right click on 5CSEMA5 device → change file → select /output_files/vga.sof



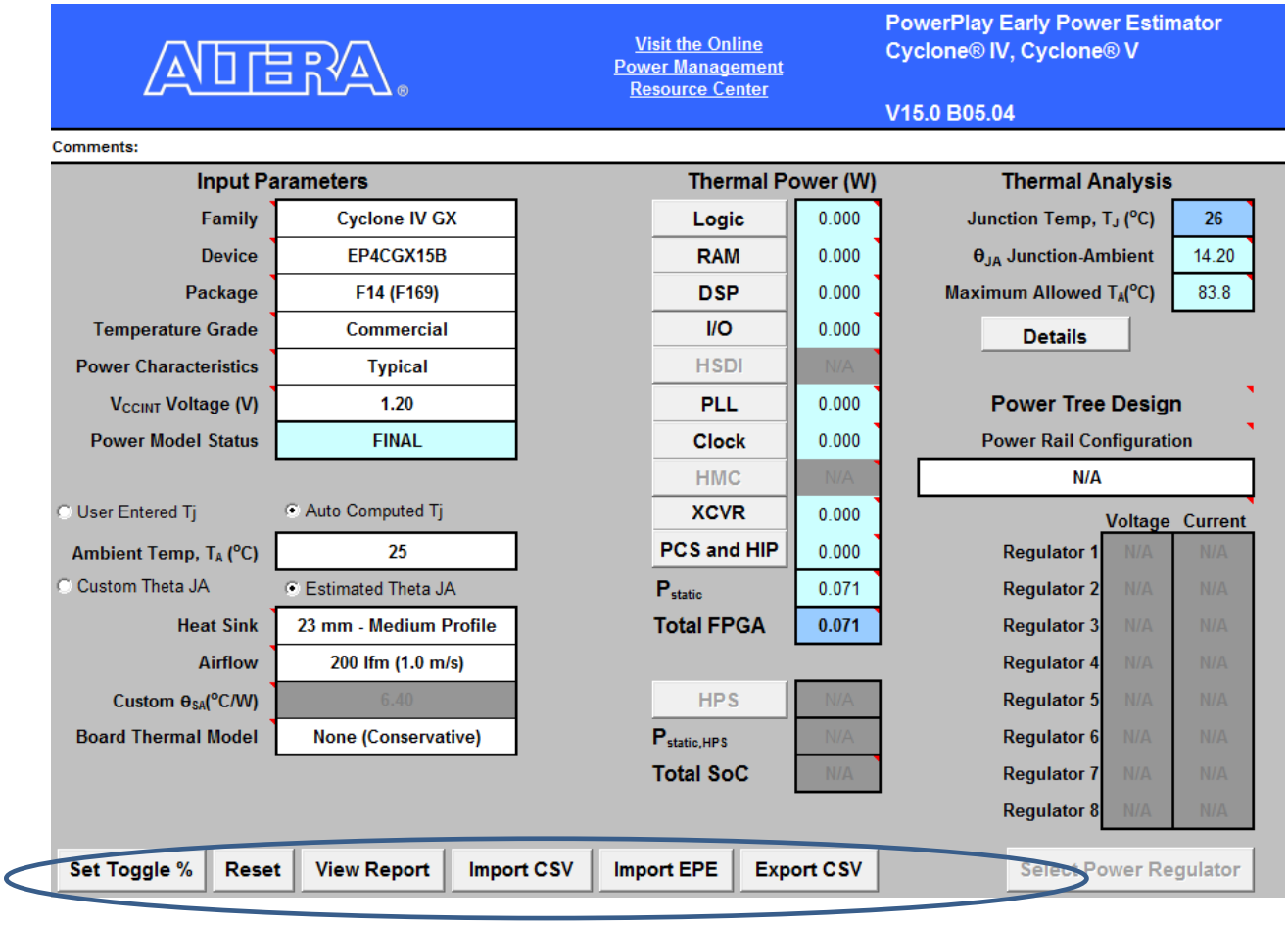
- Select Program/Configure on the table with the .sof entry.
- Click on Auto-detect if the start button is not enabled → Start.



- The FPGA should have been successfully programmed.
- Turn the monitor on and see if the design is working.

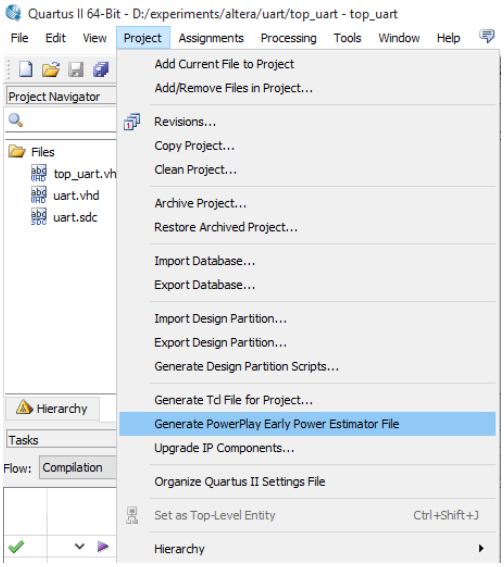
7. Power Consumption Estimation:

Annotate from the synthesis report the total number of Logic Cells, Shift registers, FFs, IOs, BRAM and DSP used in the design. Manually enter this information with the clock frequency (50MHz) at the given Power estimation **excel spreadsheet**.

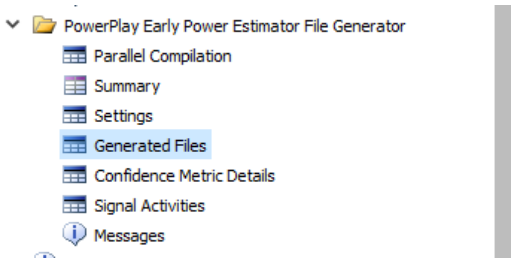


This will give you an initial estimate of the static and power consumption of your design. You can modify the values to analyse different scenarios.

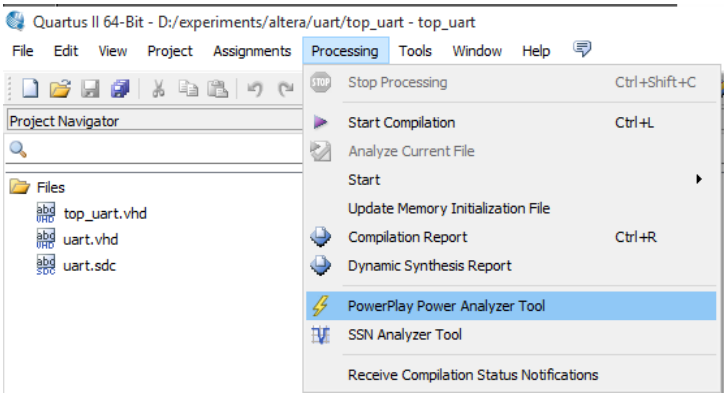
- Altera also provides an automated way of generating the information for this spreadsheet in Quartus Prime. PowerPlay is a tool included at Quartus which displays the power consumption of your design and allows to export an _pwr.csv file, which can in turn be imported by the Excel spreadsheet.



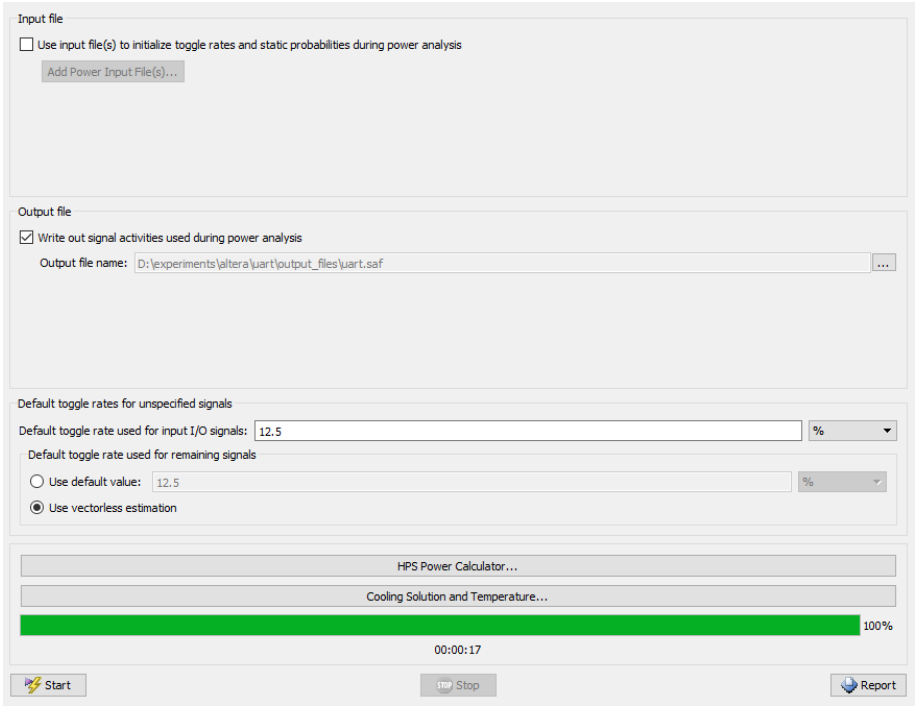
Import this file into the excel sheet.



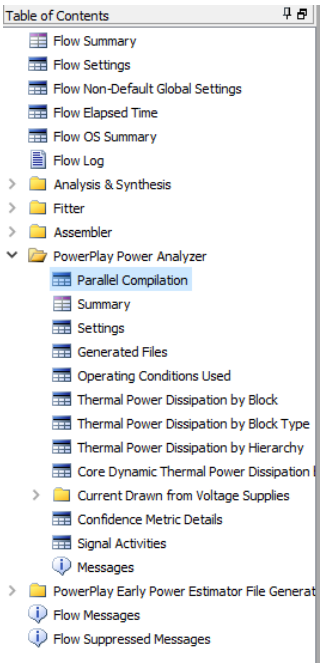
- Click on Processing→ PowerPlay Power Analyzer tool



This will open Quartus's power analyser, which allows you to get an estimate of the power consumption and also to export a .xpe file for the Excel spreadsheet.



- A PowerPlay Analyzer entry is generated in the report section.



Appendix

Resolution	Refresh Rate (Hz)	Pixel Clock (MHz)	Horizontal (pixel clocks)				Vertical (rows)				Hsync Polarity	Vsync Polarity
			Display	Front Porch	Sync Pulse	Back Porch	Display	Front Porch	Sync Pulse	Back Porch		
640x350	70	25.175	640	16	96	48	350	37	2	60	p	n
640x350	85	31.5	640	32	64	96	350	32	3	60	p	n
640x400	70	25.175	640	16	96	48	400	12	2	35	n	p
640x400	85	31.5	640	32	64	96	400	1	3	41	n	p
640x480	60	25.175	640	16	96	48	480	10	2	33	n	n
640x480	73	31.5	640	24	40	128	480	9	2	29	n	n
640x480	75	31.5	640	16	64	120	480	1	3	16	n	n
640x480	85	36	640	56	56	80	480	1	3	25	n	n
640x480	100	43.16	640	40	64	104	480	1	3	25	n	p
720x400	85	35.5	720	36	72	108	400	1	3	42	n	p
768x576	60	34.96	768	24	80	104	576	1	3	17	n	p
768x576	72	42.93	768	32	80	112	576	1	3	21	n	p
768x576	75	45.51	768	40	80	120	576	1	3	22	n	p
768x576	85	51.84	768	40	80	120	576	1	3	25	n	p
768x576	100	62.57	768	48	80	128	576	1	3	31	n	p
800x600	56	36	800	24	72	128	600	1	2	22	p	p
800x600	60	40	800	40	128	88	600	1	4	23	p	p
800x600	75	49.5	800	16	80	160	600	1	3	21	p	p
800x600	72	50	800	56	120	64	600	37	6	23	p	p
800x600	85	56.25	800	32	64	152	600	1	3	27	p	p
800x600	100	68.18	800	48	88	136	600	1	3	32	n	p
1024x768	43	44.9	1024	8	176	56	768	0	8	41	p	p
1024x768	60	65	1024	24	136	160	768	3	6	29	n	n
1024x768	70	75	1024	24	136	144	768	3	6	29	n	n
1024x768	75	78.8	1024	16	96	176	768	1	3	28	p	p
1024x768	85	94.5	1024	48	96	208	768	1	3	36	p	p
1024x768	100	113.31	1024	72	112	184	768	1	3	42	n	p
1152x864	75	108	1152	64	128	256	864	1	3	32	p	p
1152x864	85	119.65	1152	72	128	200	864	1	3	39	n	p
1152x864	100	143.47	1152	80	128	208	864	1	3	47	n	p
1152x864	60	81.62	1152	64	120	184	864	1	3	27	n	p
1280x1024	60	108	1280	48	112	248	1024	1	3	38	p	p
1280x1024	75	135	1280	16	144	248	1024	1	3	38	p	p
1280x1024	85	157.5	1280	64	160	224	1024	1	3	44	p	p
1280x1024	100	190.96	1280	96	144	240	1024	1	3	57	n	p
1280x800	60	83.46	1280	64	136	200	800	1	3	24	n	p
1280x960	60	102.1	1280	80	136	216	960	1	3	30	n	p
1280x960	72	124.54	1280	88	136	224	960	1	3	37	n	p
1280x960	75	129.86	1280	88	136	224	960	1	3	38	n	p
1280x960	85	148.5	1280	64	160	224	960	1	3	47	p	p
1280x960	100	178.99	1280	96	144	240	960	1	3	53	n	p
1368x768	60	85.86	1368	72	144	216	768	1	3	23	n	p
1400x1050	60	122.61	1400	88	152	240	1050	1	3	33	n	p
1400x1050	72	149.34	1400	96	152	248	1050	1	3	40	n	p
1400x1050	75	155.85	1400	96	152	248	1050	1	3	42	n	p
1400x1050	85	179.26	1400	104	152	256	1050	1	3	49	n	p
1400x1050	100	214.39	1400	112	152	264	1050	1	3	58	n	p
1440x900	60	106.47	1440	80	152	232	900	1	3	28	n	p
1600x1200	60	162	1600	64	192	304	1200	1	3	46	p	p
1600x1200	65	175.5	1600	64	192	304	1200	1	3	46	p	p
1600x1200	70	189	1600	64	192	304	1200	1	3	46	p	p
1600x1200	75	202.5	1600	64	192	304	1200	1	3	46	p	p
1600x1200	85	229.5	1600	64	192	304	1200	1	3	46	p	p
1600x1200	100	280.64	1600	128	176	304	1200	1	3	67	n	p
1680x1050	60	147.14	1680	104	184	288	1050	1	3	33	n	p
1792x1344	60	204.8	1792	128	200	328	1344	1	3	46	n	p
1792x1344	75	261	1792	96	216	352	1344	1	3	69	n	p
1856x1392	60	218.3	1856	96	224	352	1392	1	3	43	n	p
1856x1392	75	288	1856	128	224	352	1392	1	3	104	n	p
1920x1200	60	193.16	1920	128	208	336	1200	1	3	38	n	p
1920x1440	60	234	1920	128	208	344	1440	1	3	56	n	p
1920x1440	75	297	1920	144	224	352	1440	1	3	56	n	p

[END]