



ECE4810J System-on-Chip (SoC) Design

Fall 2021

Lab #1 Getting Started with Arty Z7 SoC development platform

Due: 11:59pm Sept. 30th, 2021

Logistics:

- This lab is a team exercise.
- Please use the [discussion board](#) on Piazza for Q&A.
- All reports and code (if available) MUST be submitted to the assignment of Canvas.
- Internet usage is allowed and encouraged.
- No late submission is allowed for this lab.

1. Overview

In this lab, you will go through several exercises to set up and get started with the Arty Z7-20 SoC development board. The goals of this lab are to:

- Get familiar with the board
- Set up the environment correctly
- Be able to build a basic Zynq system on the board
- Learn to create custom IP blocks at RTL level (Verilog, VHDL)
- Use AXI bus to connect an IP block with the Zynq PS

2. Environment Setup

Please follow the tutorial below to install Vivado, Xilinx SDK, and Digilent Board Files.

<https://digilent.com/reference/programmable-logic/guides/installing-vivado-and-sdk?redirect=1>

Note: If you already have Vivado 2018.2 or later on your PC, please skip the first step and go to Step 3 directly.

Regarding the Vivado installation process, you can also refer to canvas>Files>Software>A Brief Tutorial for Xilinx Vivado--New Version.docx.

3. Building a basic ZYNQ system on the Arty Z-7 board

3.1 Create a new Vivado project

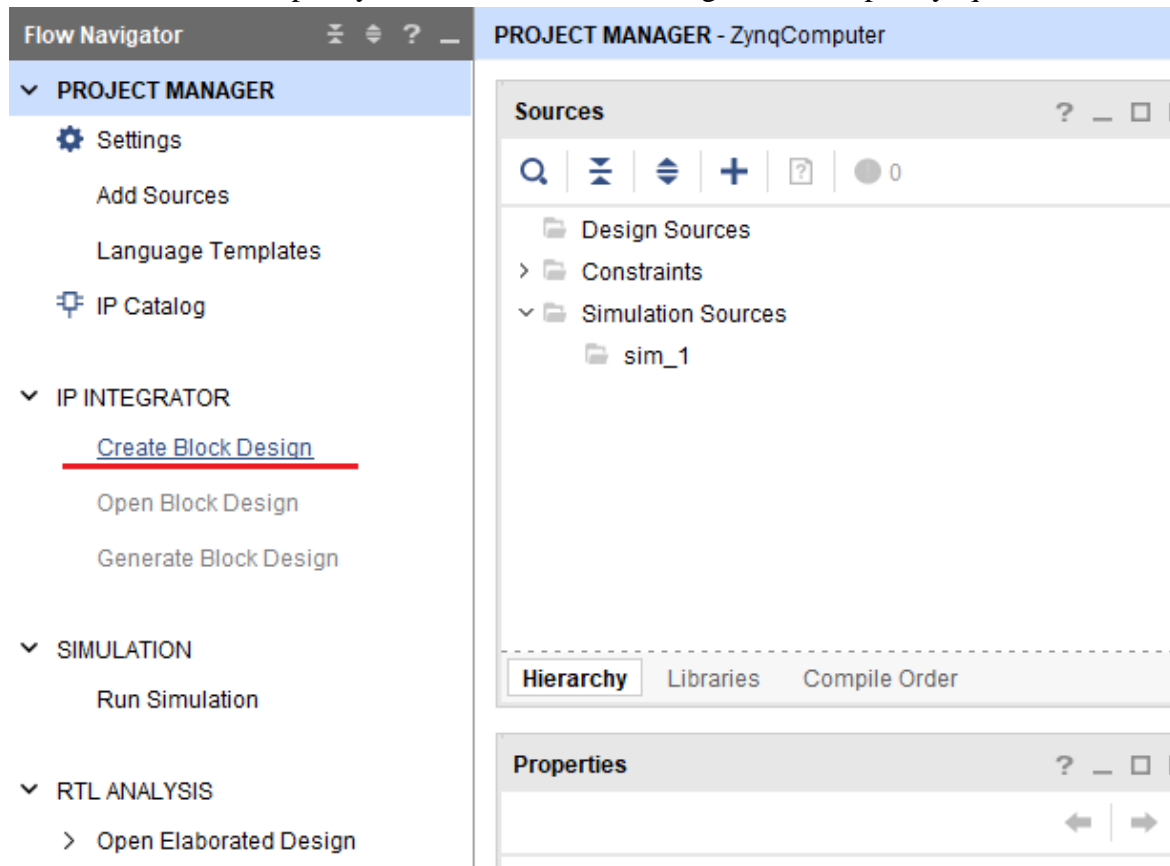
On your computer, go to Start -> Xilinx Design Tools -> Vivado <version>. From the welcome screen, under Quick Start, click Create Project and follow the wizard.

- Name the project as ZynqComputer and locate it in a directory like C:\FPGALabGroupName\.
- Go with RTL Project, Next, Next, and for the Default Part, click on Boards and select the Arty-Z7 board.
- If the board is not listed, you might need to download the board file and add it into the Vivado folder (Section 2 should already cover this part)

3.2 Setup the Zynq Processor System (PS)

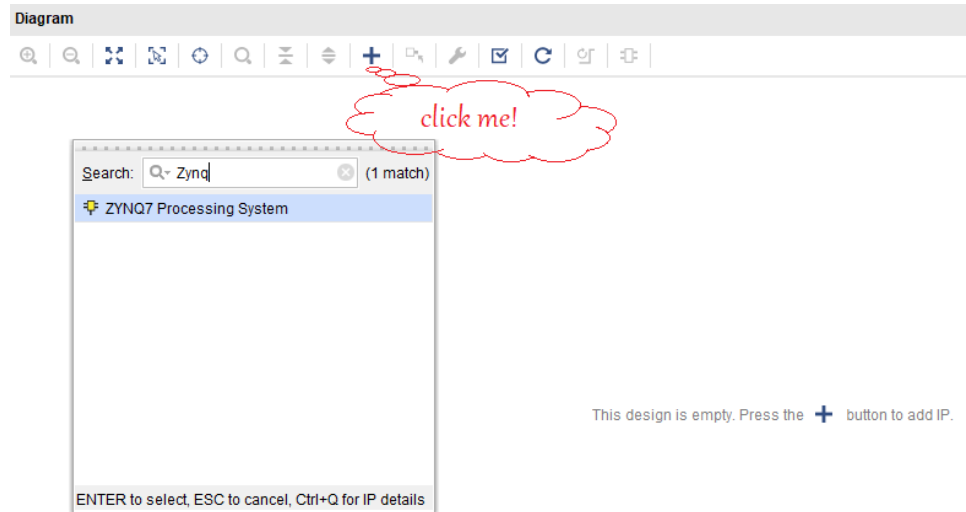
The new Vivado project starts off blank, so to create a functional base design, we need to at least add the Zynq PS (processor system) and make the minimal required connections. Follow these steps to add the PS to the project:

- From the Vivado Flow Navigator, under IP Integrator, click Create Block Design.
 - Next, specify a name for the block design, for example Zynq_CPU.

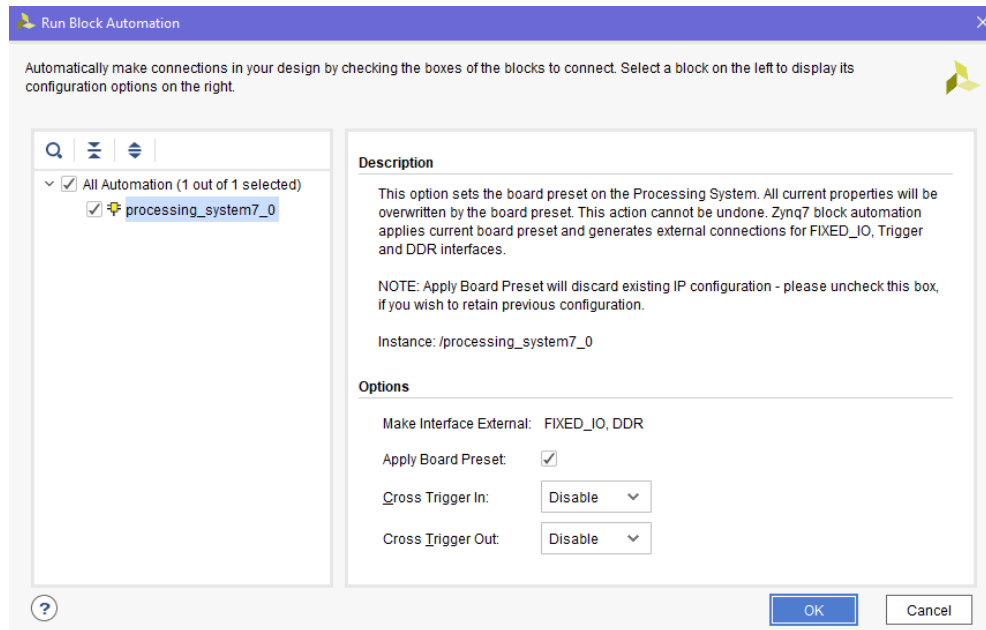


- In the Block Design Diagram, you will be informed that the design is empty. Press the Plus button to browse for existing IP blocks.

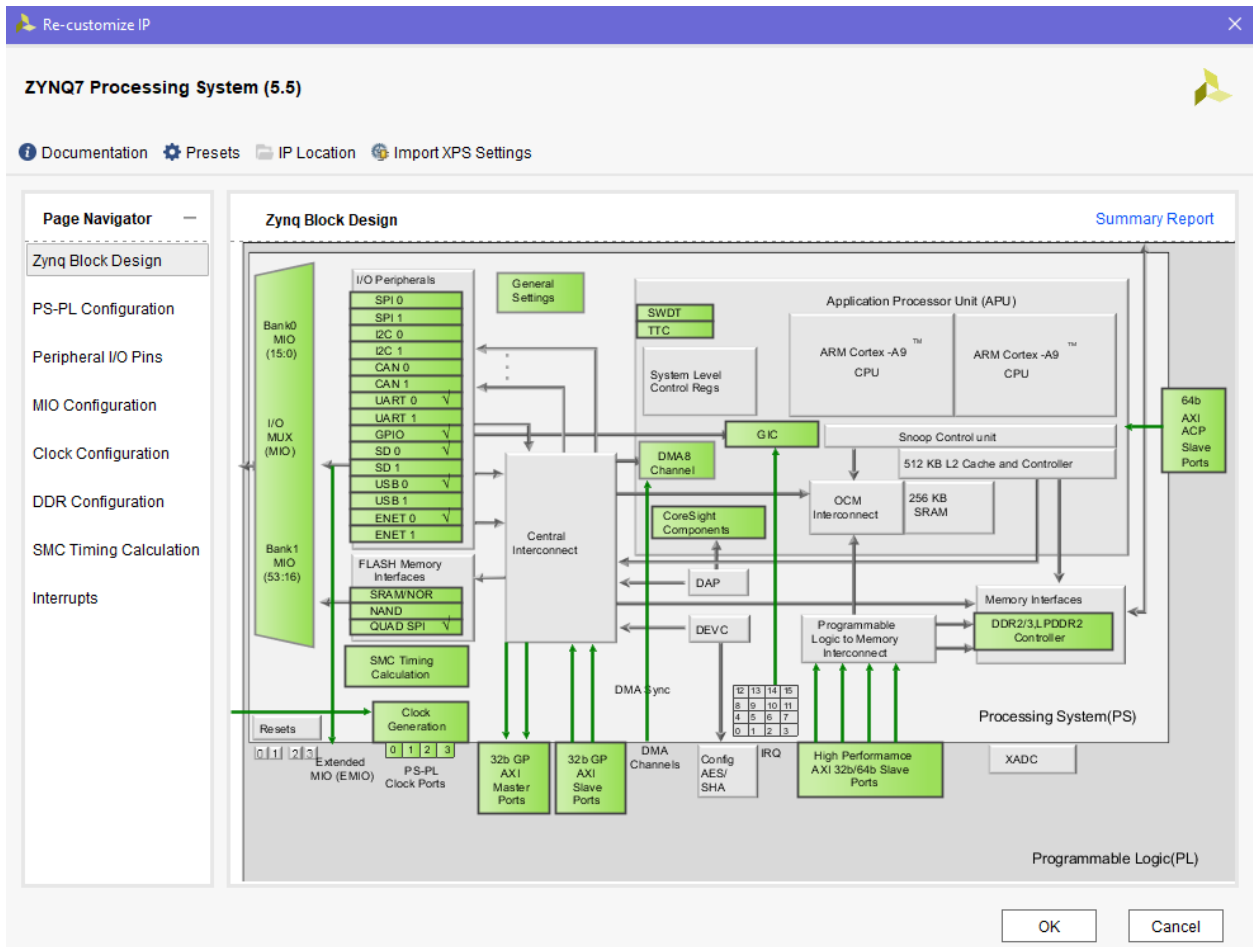
- In the IP catalog, search for Zynq and select the ZYNQ7 Processing System by double-clicking on it. The ZYNQ IP block will appear in the Diagram.



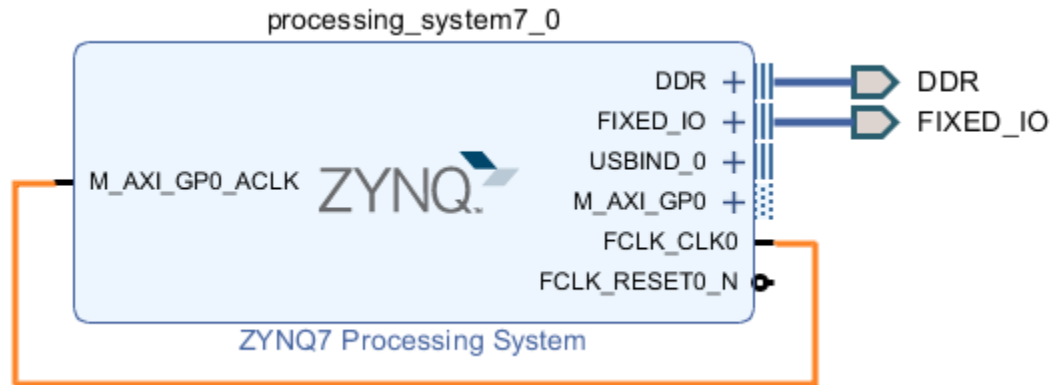
- In the Block Design Diagram, you will see a message that says Designer Assistance available. Run Block Automation. Click on the Run Block Automation link and select processing_system7_0. Block Automation makes connections and pin assignments to external hardware such as the DDR and fixed IO. It does this using the board definition of the hardware platform you specified when you created the project (Arty Z7). We could make these connections ourselves if we were using a custom board, but for off-the-shelf boards, Block Automation makes the process a lot easier.



- Now the block diagram has changed and we can see that the DDR and FIXED_IO are connected externally. Double-click the ZYNQ PS block and explore the customization options available. Leave all settings as default.



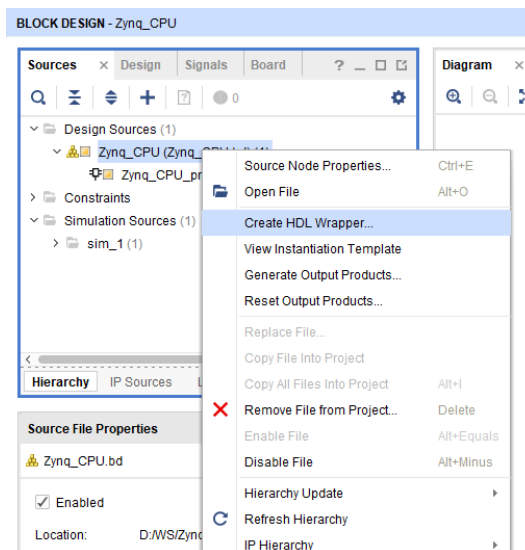
- The only remaining connection to make is the clock that we will use for the AXI buses. Connect the FCLK_CLK0 output to the M_AXI_GP0_ACLK clock input. To do this, click on the FCLK_CLK0 output and drag with the pencil onto the M_AXI_GP0_ACLK input. This will trace a wire between the pins and make the connection.



3.3 Create the HDL wrapper

Now the Zynq Processing System is setup and all we need to do is to create a HDL wrapper for the design.

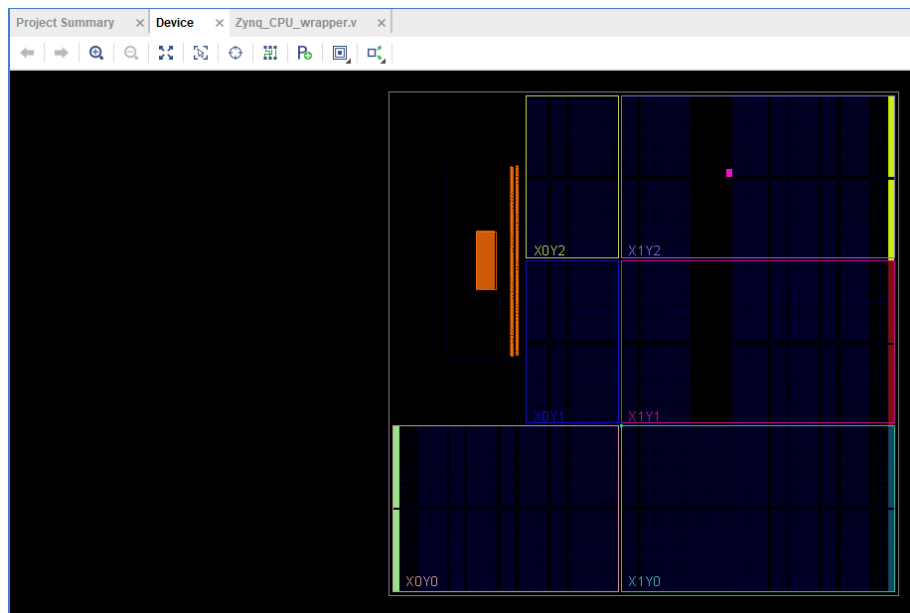
- Save the Block Design, then, under the Sources tab, right-click on Zynq_CPU and select Create HDL wrapper... and then go with the Let Vivado manage wrapper and auto-update.



We now have a base design containing the Zynq PS from which we could generate a bitstream and test on the Arty Z7 board. We haven't exploited any of the FPGA fabric, but the Zynq PS is already connected to the DDR, Gigabit Ethernet PHY, the USB PHY, the SD card, the UART port and the GPIO, all thanks to the Block Automation feature. So there is already quite a lot we could do with the design at this point, such as running Linux on the PS or running a bare metal application on it.

3.4 Generate the bitstream

- To generate the bitstream needed to program the chip, click Generate Bitstream under Program and Debug in the Flow Navigator. You can also go step by step, first with Run Synthesis, then Run Implementation and then Generate Bitstream.
- Once the bitstream is generated, select Open Implemented Design from the Bitstream Generation Completed dialog box.
- The implemented design will open in Vivado showing you a map of the Zynq device and how the design has been placed. In our case, we haven't used any of the FPGA fabric (only the PS), so the map is empty for the most part.

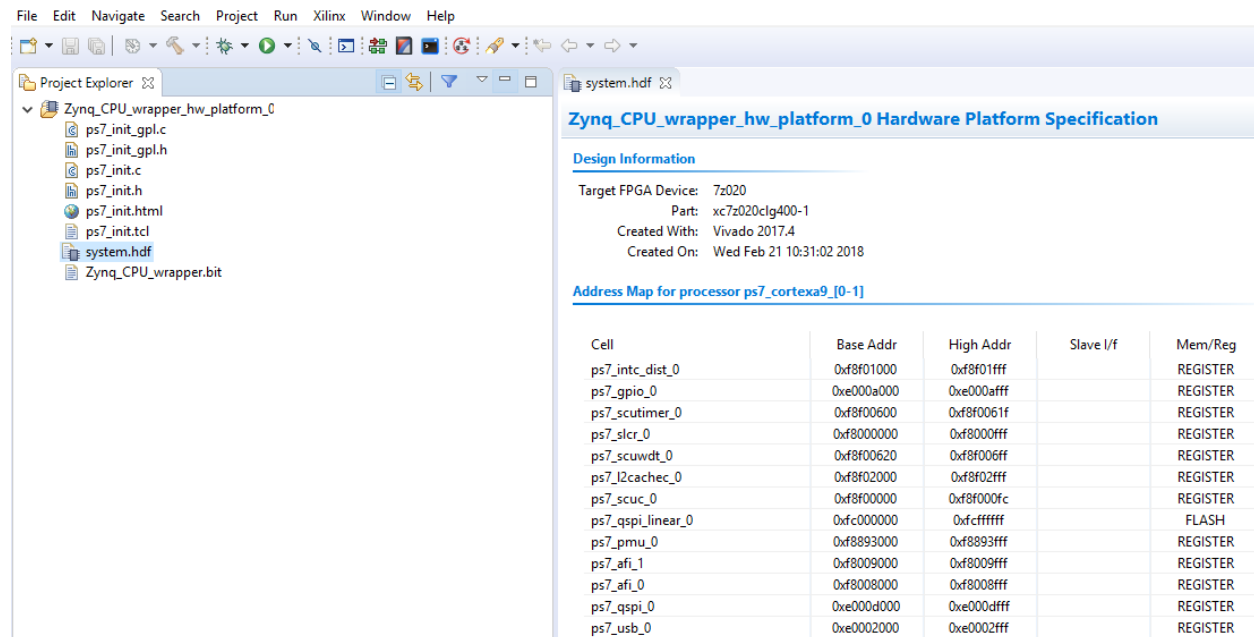


3.5 Export the hardware to SDK

Once the bitstream has been generated, the hardware design is done and we're ready to develop the code to run on the processor. This part of the design process is done in Xilinx Software Development Kit (SDK), so from Vivado we must first export the project to SDK.

- In Vivado, from the File menu, select Export -> Export Hardware..., then check the Include bitstream option and click OK.
- Again from the File menu, select Launch SDK.

At this point, the familiar Eclipse environment SDK loads and a hardware platform specification is created for your design, as shown below. Now, let's create a software application to run on the PS.



The screenshot shows the Vivado IDE interface. On the left, the Project Explorer displays the project structure for 'Zynq_CPU_wrapper_hw_platform_0', including files like 'ps7_init_gpl.c', 'ps7_init_gpl.h', 'ps7_init.c', 'ps7_init.h', 'ps7_init.html', 'ps7_init.tcl', 'system.hdf', and 'Zynq_CPU_wrapper.bit'. On the right, the 'Zynq_CPU_wrapper_hw_platform_0 Hardware Platform Specification' window is open, showing design information and an address map for the processor 'ps7_cortexa9_0-1'.

Zynq_CPU_wrapper_hw_platform_0 Hardware Platform Specification

Design Information

Target FPGA Device: 7z020
 Part: xc7z020clg400-1
 Created With: Vivado 2017.4
 Created On: Wed Feb 21 10:31:02 2018

Address Map for processor ps7_cortexa9_0-1

Cell	Base Addr	High Addr	Slave I/f	Mem/Reg
ps7_intc_dist_0	0xf8f01000	0xf8f01fff		REGISTER
ps7_gpio_0	0xe000a000	0xe000afff		REGISTER
ps7_scutimer_0	0xf8f00600	0xf8f0061f		REGISTER
ps7_slcr_0	0xf8000000	0xf8000fff		REGISTER
ps7_scuwdt_0	0xf8f00620	0xf8f006ff		REGISTER
ps7_l2cachec_0	0xf8f02000	0xf8f02fff		REGISTER
ps7_scuc_0	0xf8f00000	0xf8f000fc		REGISTER
ps7_qspi_linear_0	0xfc000000	0xfcffffff		FLASH
ps7_pmu_0	0xf8893000	0xf8893fff		REGISTER
ps7_afi_1	0xf8009000	0xf8009fff		REGISTER
ps7_afi_0	0xf8008000	0xf8008fff		REGISTER
ps7_qspi_0	0xe000d000	0xe000dfff		REGISTER
ps7_usb_0	0xe0002000	0xe0002fff		REGISTER

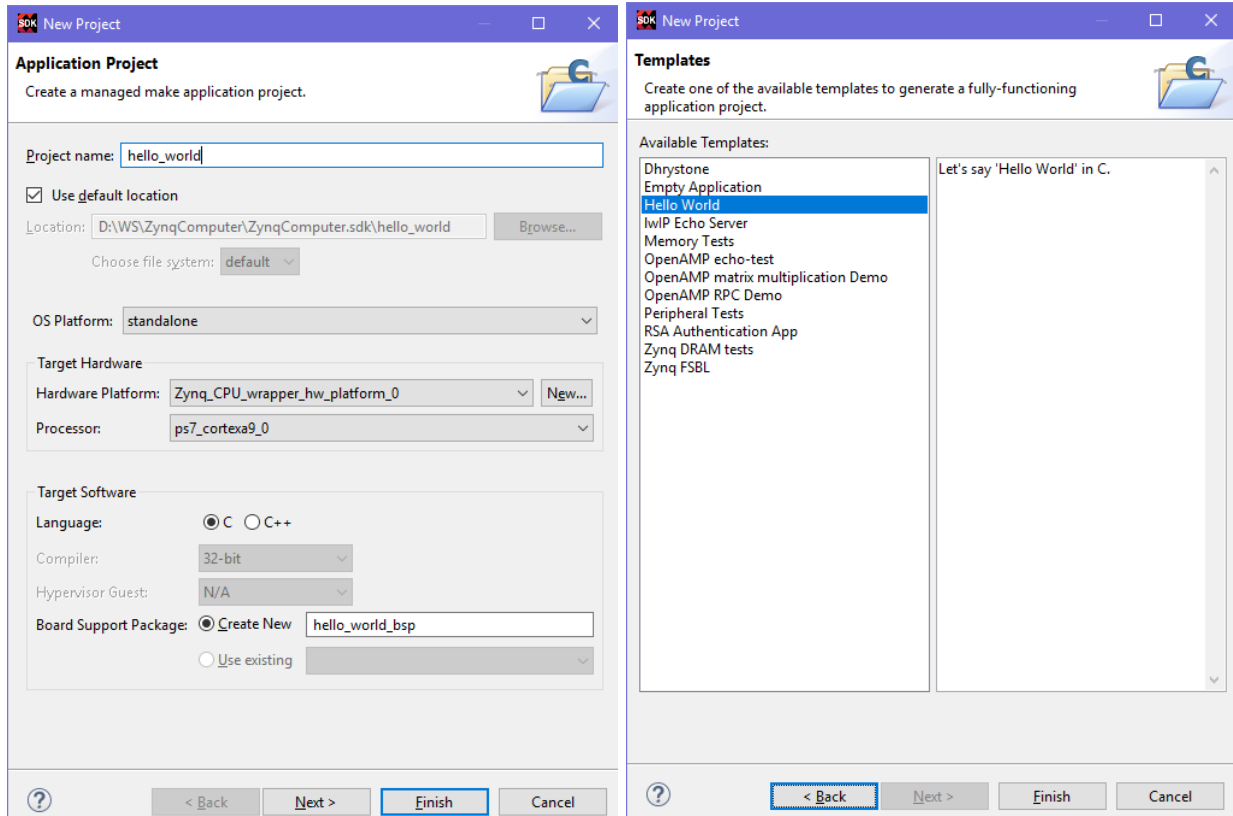
3.6 Create a Software application

To demonstrate creating an application for the Zynq, we'll create a hello world application that will send Hello, World! out the UART and to your PC.

- From the File menu, select New -> Application Project.
- Set the name of the project as hello_world, the OS Platform is standalone, the Hardware Platform is our previously created Zynq_CPU_wrapper_hw_platform_0, etc.
- Click Next, then, on the Templates page, select the Hello World template and click Finish.

The SDK will generate two new project folders, hello_world and hello_world_bsp. The hello_world folder contains the software application, which you can browse and modify. I suggest you take a look at the code that is contained here and get familiar with it. The hello_world_bsp folder contains the Board Support Package, which is a bunch of libraries that are provided for accessing the various peripherals and features of the Zynq. In general, it's better not to modify this code because it gets written over every time you use the Clean Project option.

Once the software application has been created, it is automatically built. Once the application is built, we are ready to test the design on hardware.



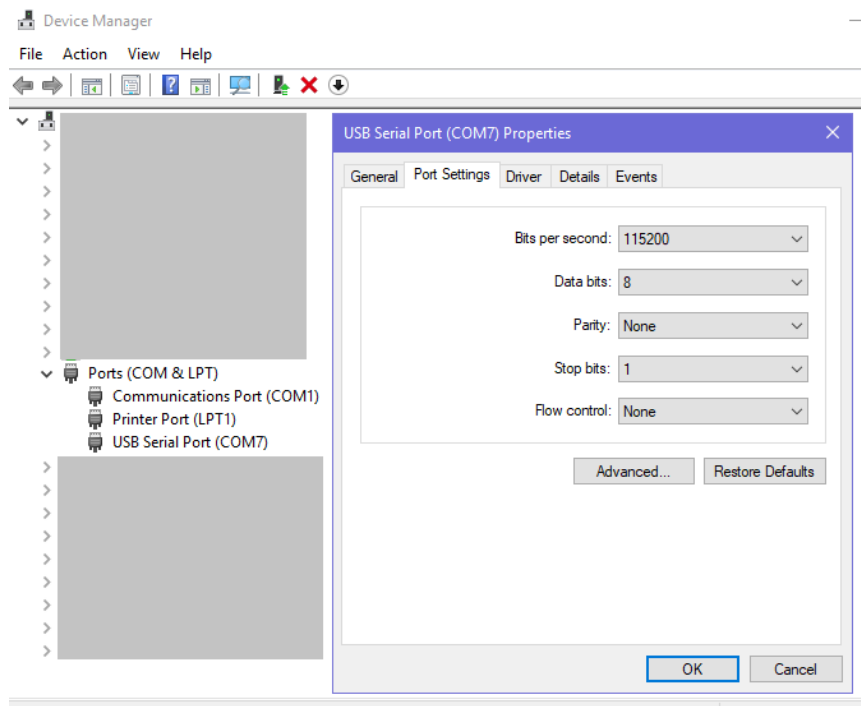
3.7 Test the design on the hardware

1. Grab a Arty Z7 board and connect the USB cable to your PC and to the *PROG UART* port.
2. Set the *JP4* jumper to *JTAG* mode to enable chip configuration via the JTAG.
3. Set the *JP5* jumper to *USB* mode to enable power supply via the USB.
4. You should see the LED *LD13* shine red.

Now you need to set up the UART connection between the PC and the board.

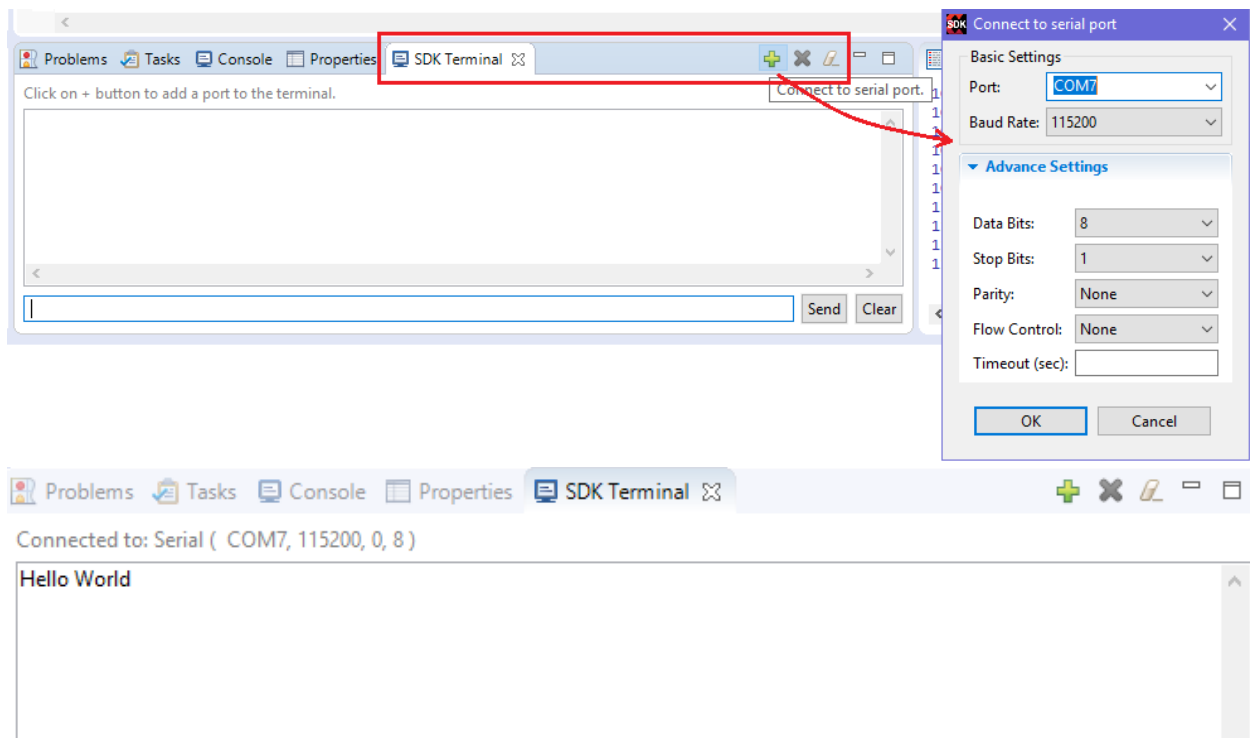
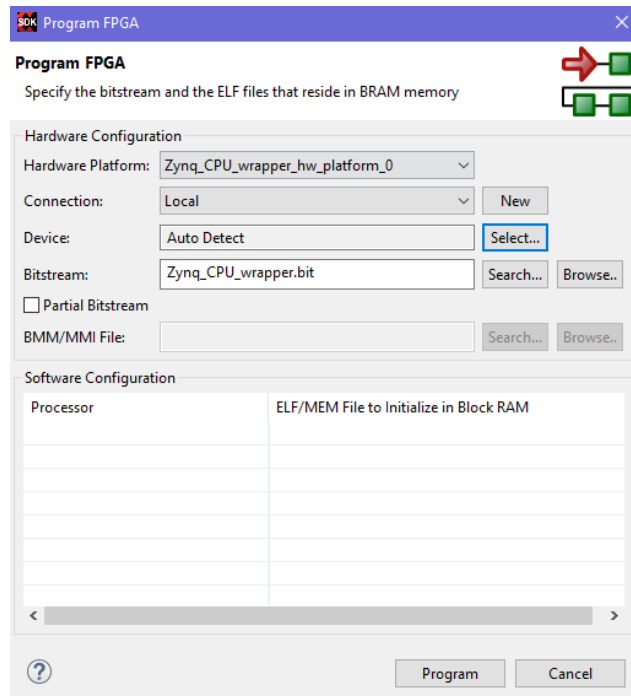
- In Windows 10, right-click on the Start button and go to Device Manager.
- Under Ports, one of the available COM ports, probably the latest ones, is the Arty Z7 board. Right click on it, and set the Port Settings as shown below.

- Note: If you can't set the Port Settings in Windows due to lack of administrator rights, do not worry. Setting the correct settings in the SDK Terminal should be sufficient.



Now that your PC is ready to receive the Hello World message, we are ready to send our bitstream and software application to the hardware. In the SDK, from the menu, select Xilinx Tools -> Program FPGA. Ensure that the settings in the Program FPGA dialog window are reasonable and click Program. If successful, there will be no error messages, the SDK Log will output the message FPGA configured successfully ... and the LED LD12 on the Arty Z7 board will shine yellow.

- Click on the SDK Terminal tab and then on the green plus button to connect the SDK to a serial port. Then select the settings matching the ones set in Device Manager and click OK. You should then see the message Connected to COM_nr at 115200 in the SDK Terminal.
- Lastly, select the project folder hello_world, then select the menu Run -> Run and select Lunch on Hardware (GDB) in the Run As dialog window. The program will run on the board and you will see the message Hello World in the SDK Terminal.





3.8 Follow-up

Now you have gone through the whole process of building a ZYNQ system on Arty Z7 board, as a followup, please change the initial C code so that your group name and group members' names are the output of the SDK terminal.

Note: Please refer to this site if anything is unclear <https://digilent.com/reference/vivado/getting-started-with-ipi/2018.2>

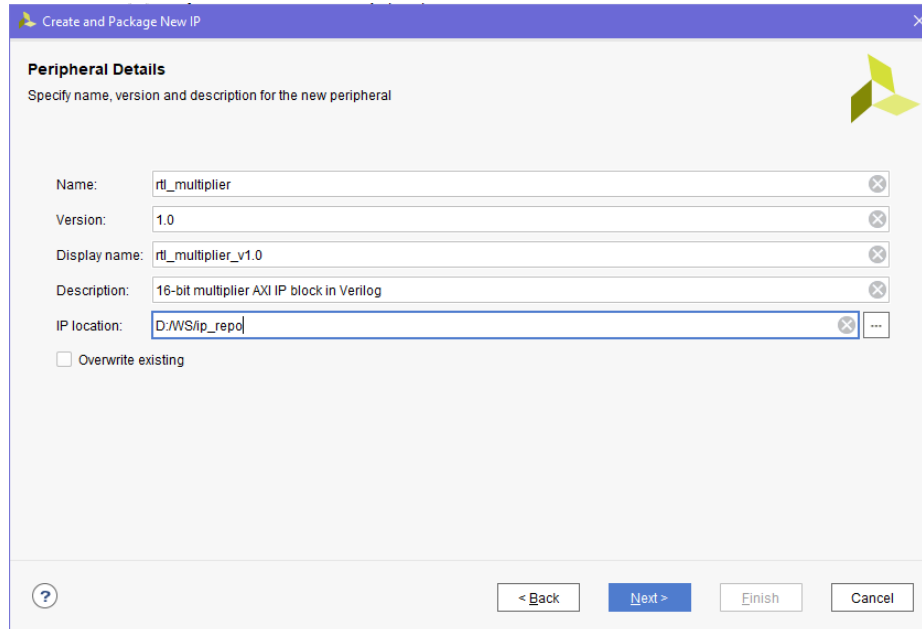
4. Creating and using custom IP blocks in Verilog

A system on a chip consisting of both a Hard Processor System and FPGA fabric, such as the Zynq-7000, offers the opportunity of offloading computation to the FPGA. Parallelizable algorithms can thus be accelerated, or more computations can be executed in parallel. In this section, we will create a simple custom AXI IP block that multiplies two numbers and will connect it to the Zynq PS. The multiplier will take as input two 16-bit unsigned numbers and will output the product as one 32-bit unsigned number. A single 32-bit write to the IP block will contain the two 16-bit inputs, separated into the lower and higher 16 bits. A single 32-bit read from the peripheral will contain the result from the multiplication of the two 16-bit inputs. Although this design doesn't really make much sense as an accelerator, it is a good learning example.

4.1 Create and Package the IP block

Feel free to start with any previously made Vivado project that contains a Zynq system. For example, you can start with the system you created in the previous section. To make your work easier, you can copy-paste the project ZynqComputer to ZynqComputerExtended and open it in Vivado too. Now that you have a project with a Zynq PS System open in Vivado, follow the instructions below.

- Start by going to menu Tools -> Create and Package New IP....
 - Read the overview of the Create and Package New IP wizard and then click Next.
- We are interested in a new AXI4 peripheral, therefore select the Create a new AXI4 peripheral and click Next. To read more about AXI, please go to Canvas>File>Reading Materials>Zynq> ug761_axi_reference_guide.pdf.



Create and Package New IP

Peripheral Details
Specify name, version and description for the new peripheral

Name:

Version:

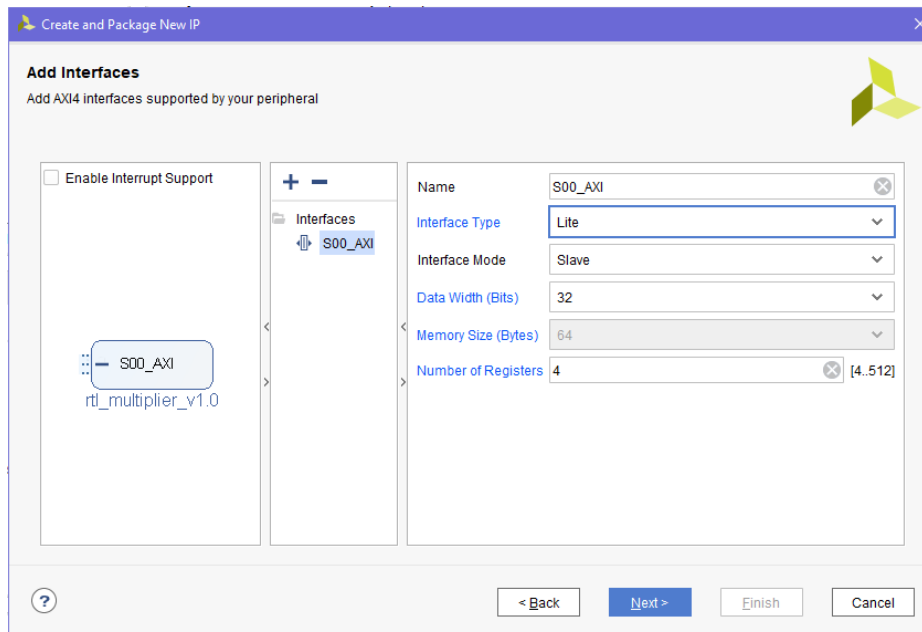
Display name:

Description:

IP location:

☐ Overwrite existing

- On the *Add Interfaces* page, use the default 32-bit AXI4 Lite Slave interface.



Create and Package New IP

Add Interfaces
Add AXI4 interfaces supported by your peripheral

☐ Enable Interrupt Support

Interfaces

- S00_AXI

S00_AXI

Name:

Interface Type:

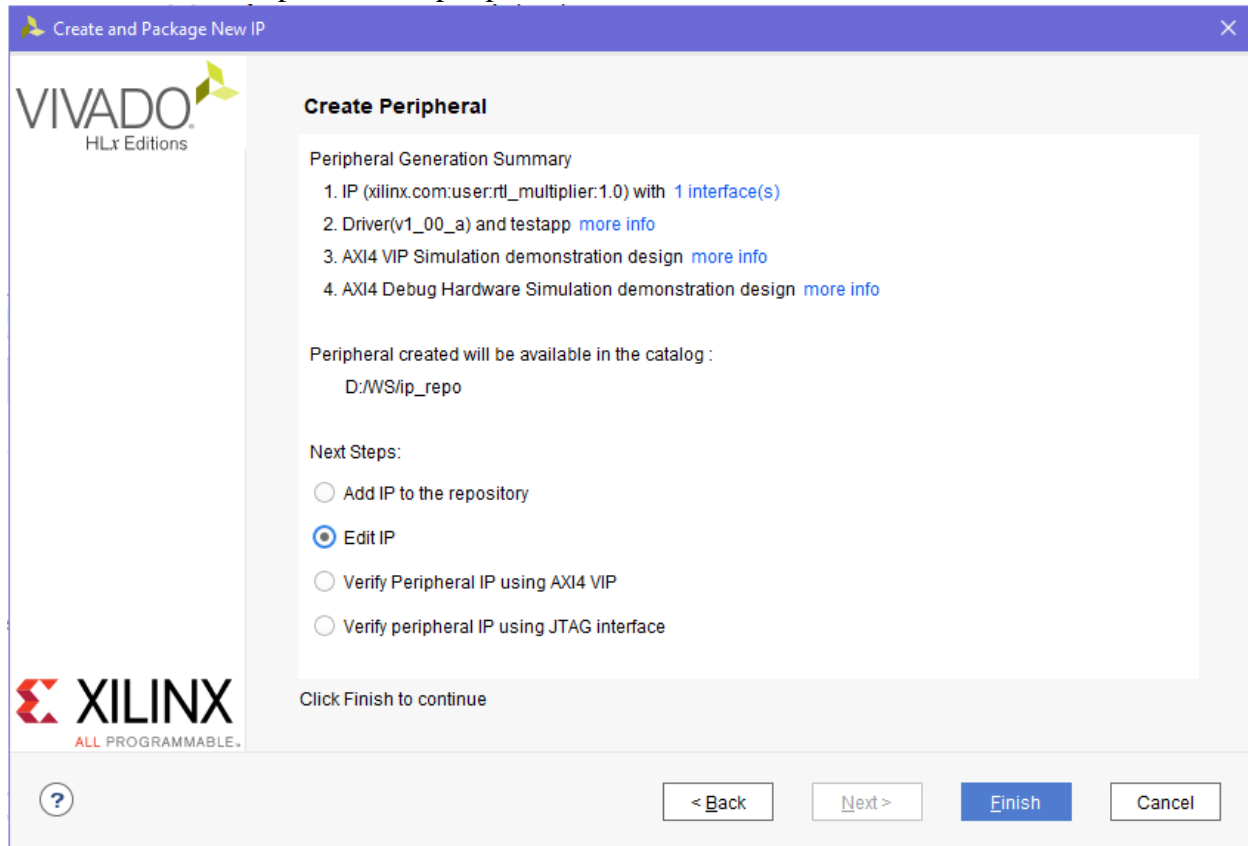
Interface Mode:

Data Width (Bits):

Memory Size (Bytes):

Number of Registers: [4..512]

- On the last page, select Edit IP and click Finish. This will open another Vivado window in which we will implement the peripheral.



4.2 Edit the IP block

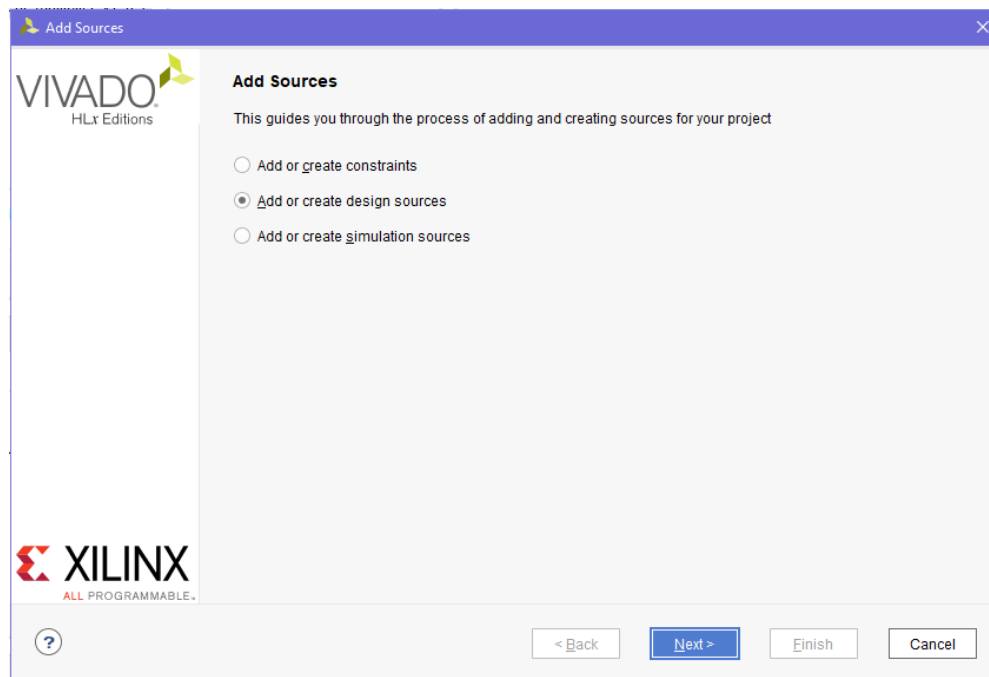
- The multiplier Verilog code is simple since it only multiplies two numbers. For example, this code will do:

```
module rtl_multiplier(
    input clk,
    input [15:0] a,
    input [15:0] b,
    output [31:0] product
);

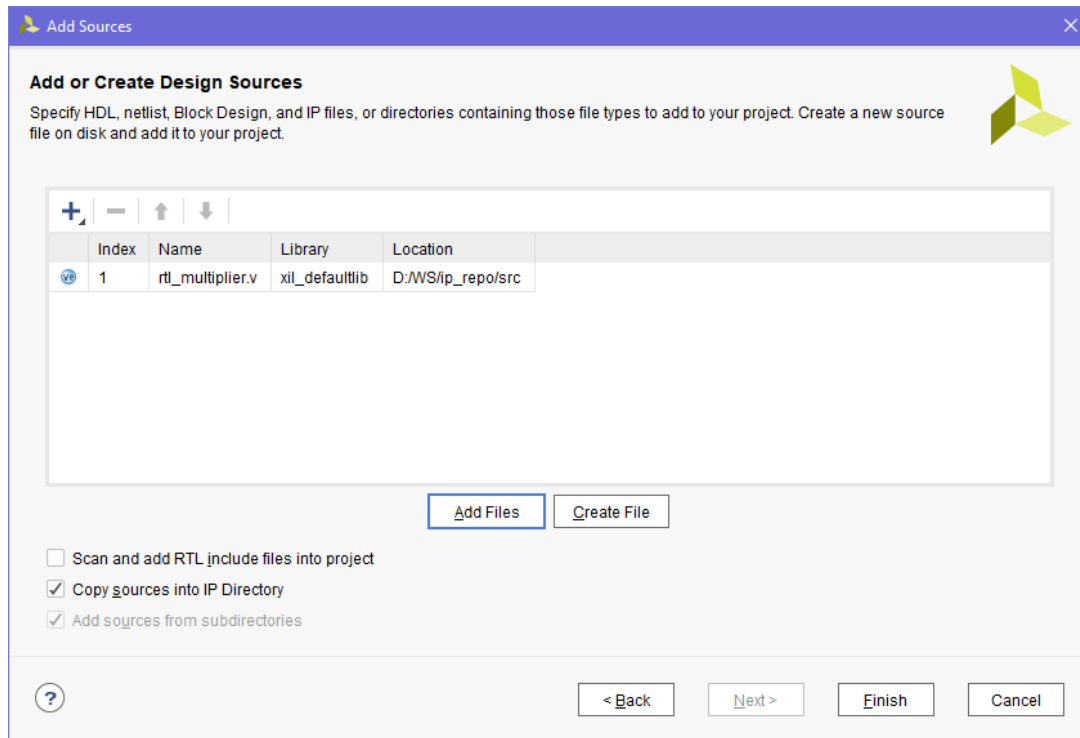
    reg [31:0] productReg;
    assign product = productReg;
```

```
always @(posedge clk) begin
    productReg <= a * b;
end
endmodule
```

- Save this file as rtl_multiplier.v in a directory such as ip_repo\src\ for later access.
- From the pannel Flow Navigator on the left, click Add Sources and, in the new Add Sources window, select Add or create design sources.

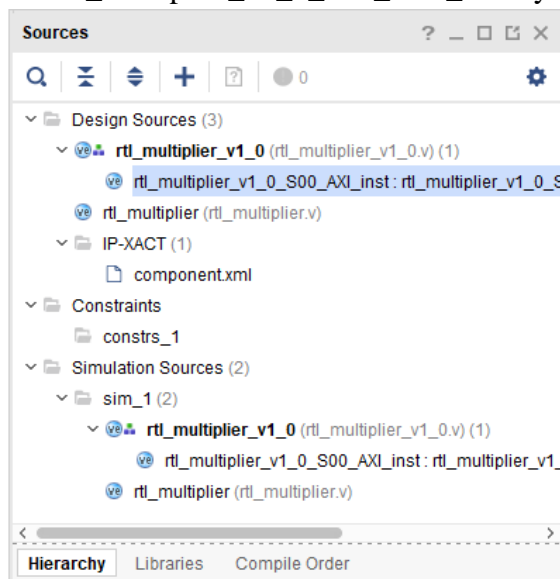


- Next, select the previously saved ip_repo\src\rtl_multiplier.v file and have the option Copy sources into IP Directory checked. Click Finish and the file will be added to the Design Sources.



At this point the *rtl_multiplier.v* file is separately part of the *Design Sources*. Let's connect it to the AXI IP block.

- Expand the top branch (*rtl_multiplier_v1_0.v*) and open the file *rtl_multiplier_v1_0_S00_AXI_inst* by double-clicking on it.



- Scroll down to the end of the file where the comment Add user logic here is and insert the code below. The code below instantiates the rtl_multiplier module inside the AXI IP block and connects the clock to the AXI clock, the inputs a and b to the 16 MSB and LSB of the first register (slv_reg0) and the output product to a created wire rtl_multiplier_out.
- Take a pulse here and try to understand this code before you move forward.

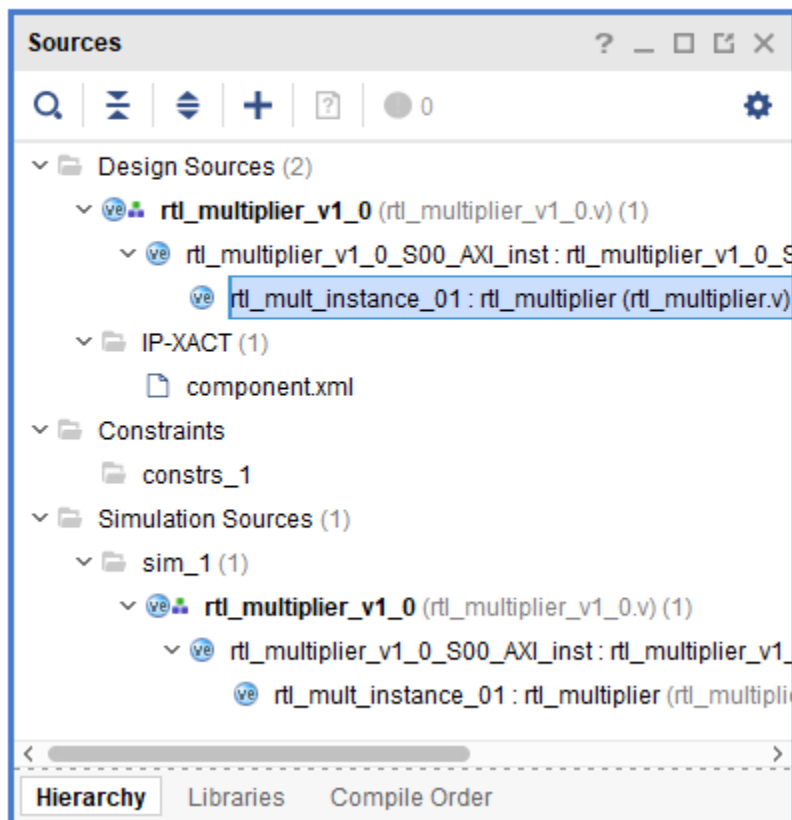
```
// Add user logic here
// wire to hold rtl_multiplier output
wire [31:0] rtl_multiplier_out;
// instantiate the rtl_multiplier
rtl_multiplier rtl_mult_instance_01(
    .clk(S_AXI_ACLK),
    .a(slv_reg0[31:16]),
    .b(slv_reg0[15:0]),
    .product(rtl_multiplier_out)
);
// User logic ends
```

- Finally, set the *rtl_multiplier_out* as the output of one of the AXI registers, as shown below.

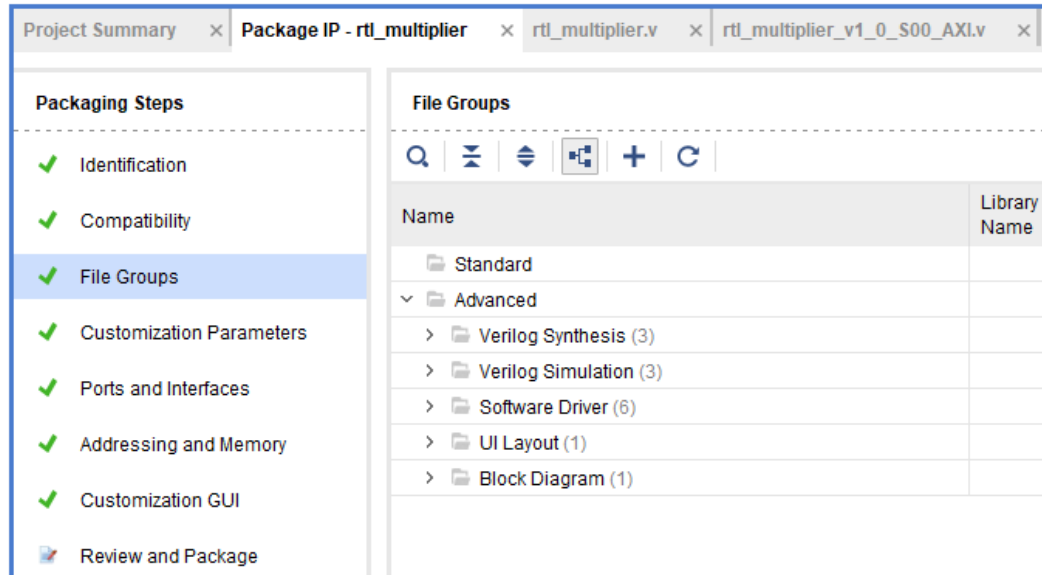
```
366 : // Slave register read enable is asserted when valid address is available
367 : // and the slave is ready to accept the read address.
368 : assign slv_reg_rden = axi_arready & S_AXI_ARVALID & ~axi_rvalid;
369 : always @(*)
370 : begin
371 : // Address decoding for reading registers
372 : case ( axi_araddr[ADDR_LSB+OPT_MEM_ADDR_BITS:ADDR_LSB] )
373 : 2'h0 : reg_data_out <= slv_reg0;
374 : 2'h1 : reg_data_out <= rtl_multiplier_out; //slv_reg1;
375 : 2'h2 : reg_data_out <= slv_reg2;
376 : 2'h3 : reg_data_out <= slv_reg3;
377 : default : reg_data_out <= 0;
378 : endcase
379 : end
380 :
381 : // Output register or memory read data
382 : always @( posedge S_AXI_ACLK )
383 : begin
384 : if ( S_AXI_ARESETN == 1'b0 )
385 : begin
386 : axi_rdata <= 0;
387 : end
388 : else
389 : begin
390 : // When there is a valid read address (S_AXI_ARVALID) with
391 : // acceptance of read address by the slave (axi_arready),
392 : // output the read data
393 : if (slv_reg_rden)
394 : begin
395 : axi_rdata <= reg_data_out; // register read data
396 : end
397 : end
398 : end
399 :
400 : // Add user logic here
401 : // wire to hold rtl_multiplier output
```

After saving the file(s) you will notice that the rtl_multiplier.v file has been integrated under the AXI file in the hierarchy. Good work so far! Almost there - just a few more rudimentary steps.

PROJECT MANAGER - edit_rtl_multiplier_v1_0



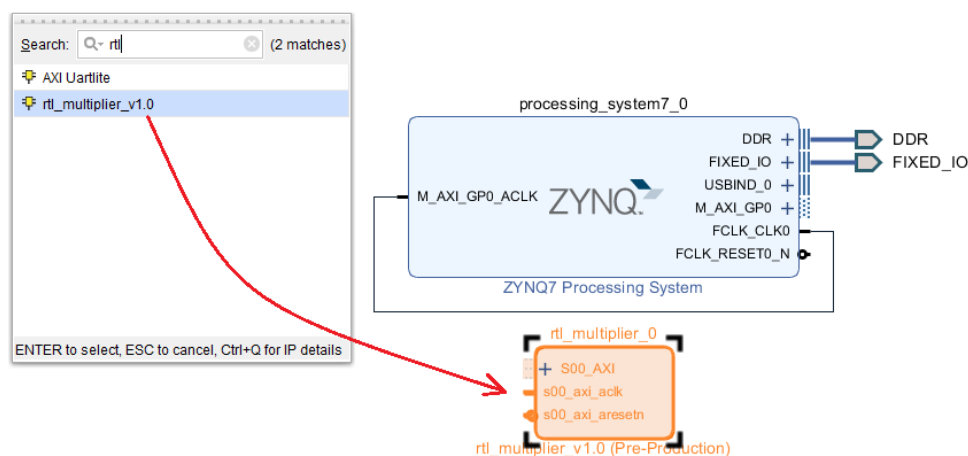
- In the Package IP tab, click on File Groups and then on Merge changes from the File Groups Wizard. This will OK the File Groups step with a flattering green tick badge of great success. :)



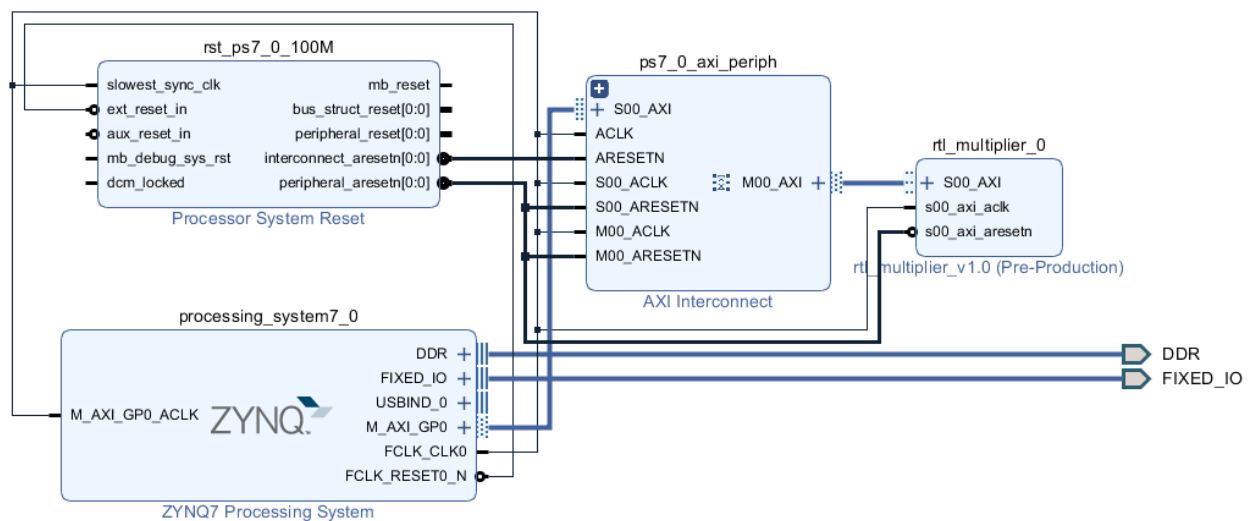
- Next, click on *Review and Package* and proceed with *Re-Package IP*. The IP block will be packaged and you can safely close the project.

4.3 Add the IP block to the Zynq PS System

- In the original Vivado project containing the Zynq PS system, click on *Open Block Design* in the *IP Integrator* section to open the design.
- As in the previous lab, to browse for an IP block, click on the *Add IP (+)* button and search for our newly custom created *rtl_multiplier*. Double click it to add it to the design.



- Now let Vivado do the "magic" of connecting it to the ZYNQ7 PS by clicking on Run Connection Automation and use the default settings in the new dialog window. The Connection Automation will add a few necessary intermediate IP blocks. It might look scary at first, but fear not! It's just a Processor System Reset and an AXI Interconnect here and there, no biggie. To make it more clear (and hopefully less scary), click on the Regenerate Layout (looks like a Refresh) button. You should see a "neat" design as shown below.

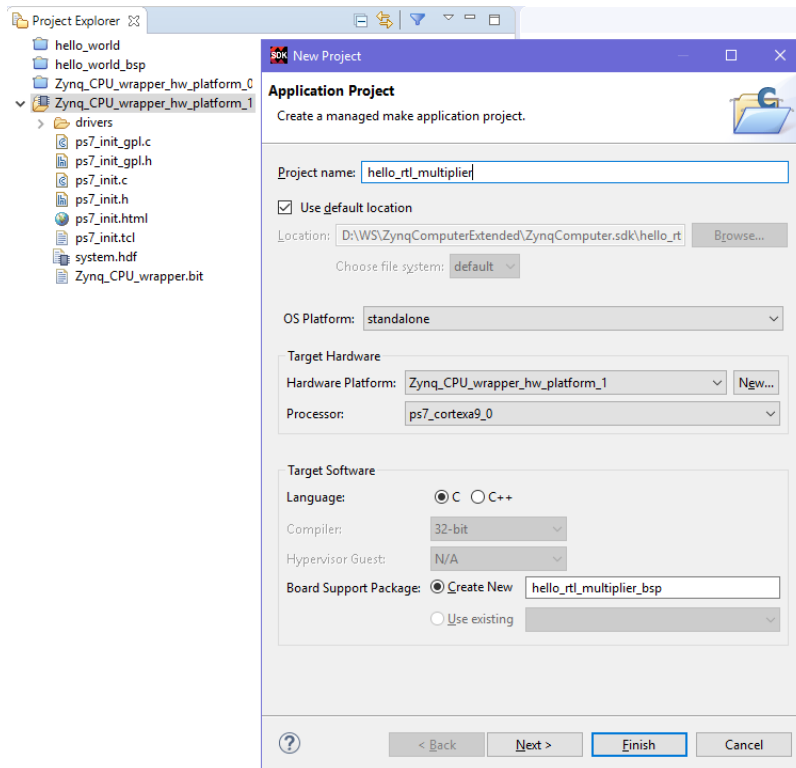


- This is all! Now, as in the previous tutorial in Section 3, save all files and click on Generate Bitstream. This will run through Synthesis, Implementation and will generate the bitstream file. Compilation takes a while - see the status in the upper-right corner. When completed, select Open Implemented Design. Next, export the hardware design to SDK including the bitstream and then launch the SDK. **In the Implementation reports, check the resource utilization and take a screenshot, and analyze if it is reasonable?**

4.4 Interfacing with the IP Block in Software

So far we have the Zynq PS and the RTL Multiplier as an AXI Lite slave IP block all nicely interconnected, but it is all useless unless we use it in an application - so let's do that.

- Note: In case you have previous projects in the SDK, close them and start with the most recent exported hardware platform.
- Create a File -> New -> Application Project and give it a name as shown below.



- In the next step, select the *Hello World* template and click *Finish*. The SDK will generate a new application which will appear in the *Project Explorer* as *hello_rtl_multiplier* and *hello_rtl_multiplier_bsp*.
 - Optional*: Feel free to test that this part works by programming the FPGA, connecting the SDK Terminal and then running the default "Hello World" on the Arty Z7 board.
- Open the *hello_rtl_multiplier/src/helloworld.c* C-source file and update the file with the code provided below. Understand the code well - it's quite simple.

```
#include "platform.h"
#include "xbasic_types.h"
#include "xparameters.h" // Contains definitions for peripheral RTL_MULTIPLIER

// we will use the Base Address of the RTL_MULTIPLIER
Xuint32 *baseaddr_p = (Xuint32 *) XPAR_RTL_MULTIPLIER_0_S00_AXI_BASEADDR;

int main() {
    init_platform();
```

```
xil_printf("Performing a test of the RTL_MULTIPLIER... \n\r");

// Write multiplier inputs to register 0
*(baseaddr_p + 0) = 0x00020003;
xil_printf("Wrote to register 0: 0x%08x \n\r", *(baseaddr_p + 0));

// Read multiplier output from register 1
xil_printf("Read from register 1: 0x%08x \n\r", *(baseaddr_p + 1));

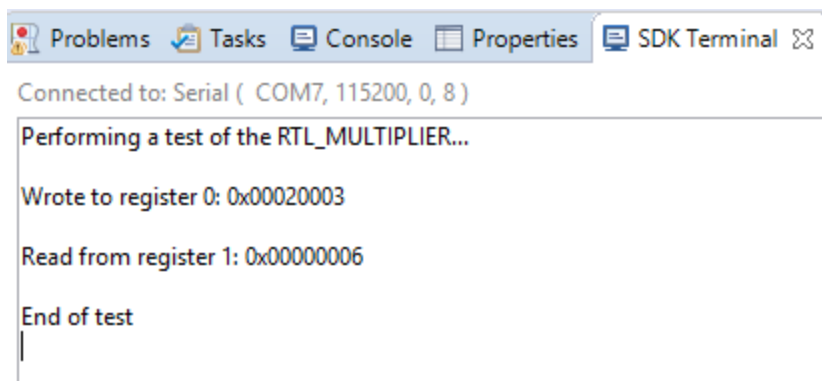
xil_printf("End of test\n\n\r");

cleanup_platform();
return 0;
}
```

Save the updated files and run the application on the Arty Z7 board as described in the previous tutorial.

- Program the FPGA
- Connect the SDK Terminal to the serial port
- *Run As -> 4 Launch on Hardware (GDB)*

You should see a number of warnings, but also the successful completion of the test in the SDK Terminal, as shown below.



```
Problems Tasks Console Properties SDK Terminal
Connected to: Serial ( COM7, 115200, 0, 8 )
Performing a test of the RTL_MULTIPLIER...
Wrote to register 0: 0x00020003
Read from register 1: 0x00000006
End of test
```

4.4 Follow-up assignment

implement an IP block as an AXI Lite Slave that takes in two numbers as arguments and returns the div and mod of them.



References:

1. Arty Z7 Reference Manual <https://digilent.com/reference/programmable-logic/arty-z7/reference-manual>
2. Get familiar with Arty 7 <https://digilent.com/reference/programmable-logic/arty-z7/start>
3. Getting Started with the Vivado IP Integrator <https://digilent.com/reference/vivado/getting-started-with-ipi/2018.2>
4. AXI: Canvas>File>Reading Materials>Zynq> ug761_axi_reference_guide.pdf.

Acknowledgement:

- Sergiu Masanu, Mircea Stan (U of Virginia)
- Andreas Gerstlauer (U of Austin)
- Digilent
- Xilinx University Program



Deliverables:

- **Group Deliverables** (Compile everything as a single pdf report besides the code):
 - Based on **part 3**, please submit the screenshot of
 - the Eclipse environment
 - the message Hello World in the SDK Terminal.
 - The SDK terminal where it outputs your group name and members' names
 - The modified C code
 - Based on **part 4**, please submit the following
 - Resource utilization report/screenshot of your multiplier
 - Screenshot of your SDK Terminal for the multiplier
 - Resource utilization report/screenshot of your divider
 - SDK Terminal of your SDK Terminal for the divider
 - The divider source code (Verilog or VHDL)
 - Answer the following questions (based on your understanding, feel free to use the internet):
 - What is a bare metal test?
 - How does the Zynq PS communicate with the IP blocks we created in this lab?
 - Briefly read out the AXI, and summarize the main features.
 - Overall, what did you learn from this lab? Any difficulties?
- **Individual Deliverables**
 - Complete the peer-evaluation form appended in the end of this document

Grading Policy

Factor	Percentage
Part 3	40%
Part 4	50%
Questions	10%



ECE4810J System-on-Chip (SoC) Design

Fall 2021

Lab #1 Peer Evaluation Form

Each team member is required to provide a peer evaluation for the team effort of the lab. The score of the peer evaluation should be integers ranging between 0 to 5, inclusively, with 5 indicating the biggest contribution. A score should be given to each team member including yourself according to the team member's contribution based on your observation. A brief description of contribution of each team member should also be provided, as shown in the following table.

Name	Level of contribution (0 – 5)	Description of contribution
(yourself)		
Team member 1		
Team member 2		
Team member 3		

Your lab grade is calculated based on the following:

$\text{Individual_Average} = (\text{sum of all team member's marks}) / (\text{size of the student team})$

$\text{Group_Average} = \text{sum of Individual_Average of all team members} / \text{size of student team}$

$\text{Individual_Difference} = \text{Individual_Average} / \text{Group_Average} - 1.0$

Using the calculated Individual_Difference, we find a factor from the following lookup table.

Individual_Difference	Factor	Individual_Difference	Factor
≥ 0 and $< +10\%$	1.0	$> -10\%$ and < 0	1.0
$\geq +10\%$ and $< +20\%$	1.1	$> -20\%$ and $\leq -10\%$	0.9
$\geq +20\%$ and $< +30\%$	1.2	$> -30\%$ and $\leq -20\%$	0.8
$\geq +30\%$	1.3	$\leq -30\%$	0.7

Your final lab grade is calculated by :

Final grade of lab = points for team effort * factor

Note that the final grade of the lab will not exceed the maximum points assigned to the project. If the peer-evaluation form is not submitted, then your individual_difference will be based on the available data (without yours) only, and your final score will be:

Final grade of lab = points for team effort * factor * 95%