

EECS 222C: System-on-Chip Software Synthesis Lecture 3

Rainer Dömer

doemer@uci.edu

The Henry Samueli School of Engineering
Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
University of California, Irvine

Lecture 3: Overview

- Assignment 1
- The SpecC Model
 - Basic concepts
- The SpecC Language
 - Syntax and Semantics
- The SpecC Compiler and Simulator
 - Tools
- Assignment 2

Assignment 1

- Login on Server via SSH
 - `epsilon.eecs.uci.edu`
 - Account infos have been emailed
- Install JPEG Encoder example
 - `mkdir eecs222c`
 - `cd eecs222c`
 - `gtar xvzf`
`/home/doemer/EECS222C_F08/jpegencoder.tar.gz`
 - `cd jpegencoder`
 - `Make`
- Become familiar with the application and its structure
 - Browse and read the source files
 - Combine all code into one single ANSI-C file
 - Keep the functional hierarchy, we need it!
 - Draw a block diagram of the functions and their communication

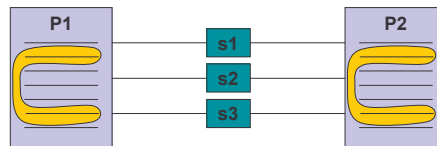
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The SpecC Model

- Traditional model



- Processes and signals
- Mixture of computation and communication
- Automatic replacement impossible

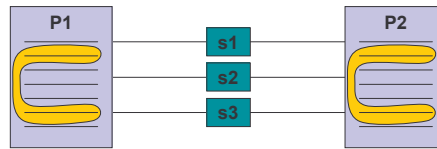
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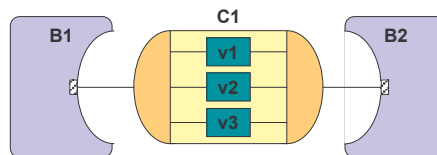
The SpecC Model

- Traditional model



- Processes and signals
- Mixture of computation and communication
- Automatic replacement impossible

- SpecC model



- Behaviors and channels
- Separation of computation and communication
- Plug-and-play!

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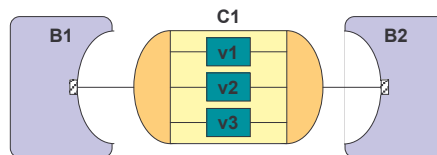
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The SpecC Model

- SpecC Model

- Behaviors
 - Computation
- Channels
 - Communication
- System Modeling!



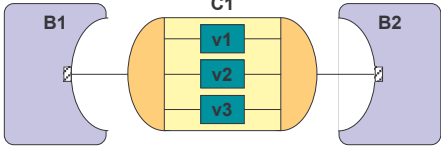
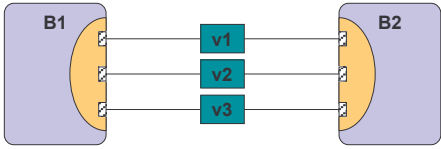
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The SpecC Model

- SpecC Model
 - Behaviors
 - Computation
 - Channels
 - Communication
 - System Modeling!
- Implementation through *Protocol Inlining*
 - Channel disappears
 - Communication is inlined into behaviors
 - Signals are exposed
 - Model is converted to traditional model for implementation!

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The SpecC Language

- Overview
 - Foundation
 - Types
 - Structural and behavioral hierarchy
 - Concurrency
 - State transitions
 - Exception handling
 - Communication
 - Synchronization
 - Timing
 - (RTL)

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The SpecC Language

- Foundation: ANSI-C
 - Software requirements are fully covered
 - SpecC is a true superset of ANSI-C
 - Every C program is a SpecC program
 - Leverage of large set of existing programs
 - Well-known
 - Well-established

The SpecC Language

- Foundation: ANSI-C
 - Software requirements are fully covered
 - SpecC is a true superset of ANSI-C
 - Every C program is a SpecC program
 - Leverage of large set of existing programs
 - Well-known
 - Well-established
- SpecC has extensions needed for hardware
 - Minimal, orthogonal set of concepts
 - Minimal, orthogonal set of constructs
- SpecC is a real language
 - Not just a class library

The SpecC Language

- ANSI-C
 - Program is set of functions
 - Execution starts from function `main()`

```
/* HelloWorld.c */
#include <stdio.h>

void main(void)
{
    printf("Hello World!\n");
}
```

The SpecC Language

- ANSI-C
 - Program is set of functions
 - Execution starts from function `main()`
- SpecC
 - Program is set of behaviors, channels, and interfaces
 - Execution starts from behavior `Main.main()`

```
/* HelloWorld.c */
#include <stdio.h>

void main(void)
{
    printf("Hello World!\n");
}
```

```
// HelloWorld.sc
#include <stdio.h>

behavior Main
{
    void main(void)
    {
        printf("Hello World!\n");
    }
};
```

The SpecC Language

- SpecC types
 - Support for all ANSI-C types
 - predefined types (`int`, `float`, `double`, ...)
 - composite types (arrays, pointers)
 - user-defined types (`struct`, `union`, `enum`)
 - Boolean type: Explicit support of truth values
 - `bool b1 = true;`
 - `bool b2 = false;`
 - Bit vector type: Explicit support of bit vectors of arbitrary length
 - `bit[15:0] bv = 1111000011110000b;`
 - Event type: Support of synchronization
 - `event e;`
 - Buffered and signal types: Explicit support of RTL concepts
 - `buffered[clk] bit[32] reg;`
 - `signal bit[16] address;`

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The SpecC Language

- Bit vector type
 - signed or unsigned
 - arbitrary length
 - standard operators
 - logical operations
 - arithmetic operations
 - comparison operations
 - type conversion
 - type promotion
 - concatenation operator
 - `a @ b`
 - slice operator
 - `a[l:r]`

```
typedef bit[7:0] byte; // type definition
byte a;
unsigned bit[16] b;

bit[31:0] BitMagic(bit[4] c, bit[32] d)
{
    bit[31:0] r;

    a = 11001100b; // constant
    b = 1111000011110000ub; // assignment

    b[7:0] = a; // sliced access
    b = d[31:16];

    if (b[15]) // single bit
        b[15] = 0b; // access

    r = a @ d[11:0] @ c // concatenation
        @ 11110000b;

    a = ~(a & 11110000); // logical op.
    r += 42 + 3*a; // arithmetic op.

    return r;
}
```

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The SpecC Language

- Basic structure
 - Top behavior
 - Child behaviors
 - Channels
 - Interfaces
 - Variables (wires)
 - Ports

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The SpecC Language

- Basic structure

```

interface I1
{
    bit[63:0] Read(void);
    void Write(bit[63:0]);
};

channel C1 implements I1;

behavior B1(in int, I1, out int);

behavior B(in int p1, out int p2)
{
    int v1;
    C1 c1;
    B1 b1(p1, c1, v1),
    b2(v1, c1, p2);

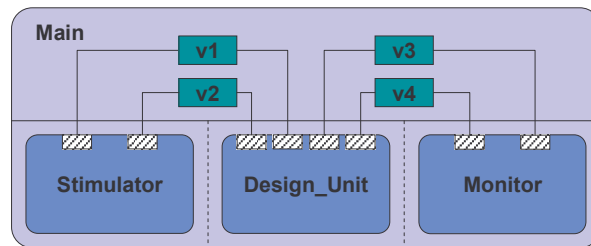
    void main(void)
    { par {
        b1;
        b2;
    }
};
    
```

SpecC 2.0:
if `b` is a behavior instance,
`b;` is equivalent to `b.main()`;

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The SpecC Language

- Typical test bench
 - Top-level behavior: Main
 - Stimulator provides test vectors
 - Design unit under test
 - Monitor observes and checks outputs



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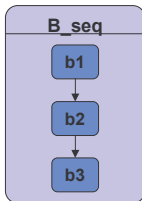
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The SpecC Language

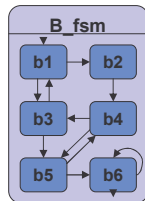
- Behavioral hierarchy

Sequential execution



```
behavior B_seq
{
  B b1, b2, b3;
  void main(void)
  {
    b1;
    b2;
    b3;
  }
};
```

FSM execution



```
behavior B_fsm
{
  B b1, b2, b3,
  b4, b5, b6;
  void main(void)
  {
    fsm { b1: {...}
          b2: {...}
          ... }
  }
};
```

Concurrent execution

Pipelined execution

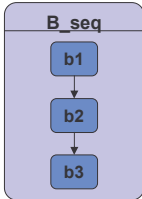
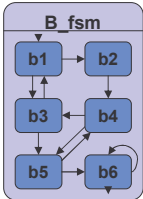
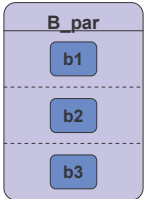
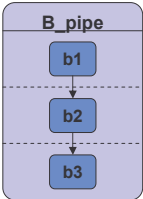
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The SpecC Language

- Behavioral hierarchy

Sequential execution	FSM execution	Concurrent execution	Pipelined execution
			
<pre>behavior B_seq { B b1, b2, b3; void main(void) { b1; b2; b3; } };</pre>	<pre>behavior B_fsm { B b1, b2, b3, b4, b5, b6; void main(void) { fsm { b1: {...} b2: {...} ...; } };</pre>	<pre>behavior B_par { B b1, b2, b3; void main(void) { par { b1; b2; b3; } } };</pre>	<pre>behavior B_pipe { B b1, b2, b3; void main(void) { pipe { b1; b2; b3; } } };</pre>

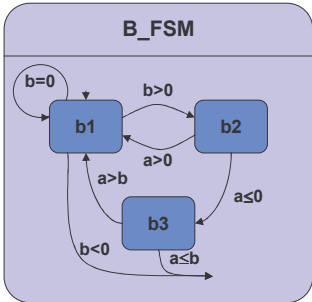
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The SpecC Language

- Finite State Machine (FSM)
 - Explicit state transitions
 - triple $\langle \text{current_state}, \text{condition}, \text{next_state} \rangle$
 - `fsm { <current_state> : { if <condition> goto <next_state> } ... }`
 - Moore-type FSM
 - Mealy-type FSM

```
behavior B_FSM(in int a, in int b)
{
  B b1, b2, b3;

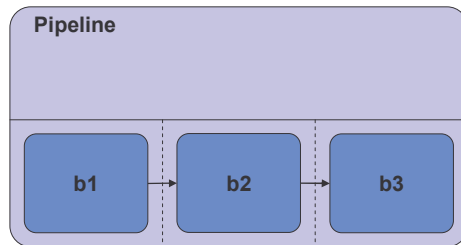
  void main(void)
  {
    fsm {
      b1: {
        if (b<0) break;
        if (b==0) goto b1;
        if (b>0) goto b2;
      }
      b2: {
        if (a>0) goto b1;
      }
      b3: {
        if (a>b) goto b1;
      }
    }
  }
};
```



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The SpecC Language

- Pipeline
 - Explicit execution in pipeline fashion
 - `pipe { <instance_list> };`



```
behavior Pipeline
{
    Stage1 b1;
    Stage2 b2;
    Stage3 b3;

    void main(void)
    {
        pipe
        { b1;
          b2;
          b3;
        }
    }
};
```

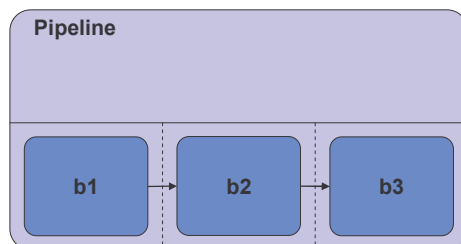
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The SpecC Language

- Pipeline
 - Explicit execution in pipeline fashion
 - `pipe { <instance_list> };`
 - `pipe (<init>; <cond>; <incr>){ ... }`



```
behavior Pipeline
{
    Stage1 b1;
    Stage2 b2;
    Stage3 b3;

    void main(void)
    {
        int i;
        pipe(i=0; i<10; i++)
        { b1;
          b2;
          b3;
        }
    }
};
```

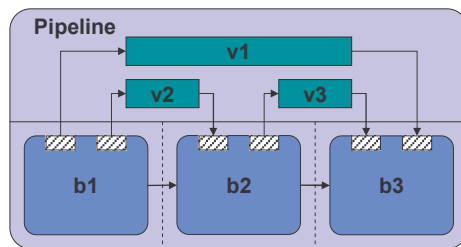
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The SpecC Language

- Pipeline
 - Explicit execution in pipeline fashion
 - `pipe { <instance_list> };`
 - `pipe (<init>; <cond>; <incr>) { ... }`
 - Support for automatic buffering



```
behavior Pipeline
{
  int v1;
  int v2;
  int v3;

  Stage1 b1(v1, v2);
  Stage2 b2(v2, v3);
  Stage3 b3(v3, v1);

  void main(void)
  {
    int i;
    pipe(i=0; i<10; i++)
    {
      b1;
      b2;
      b3;
    }
  }
};
```

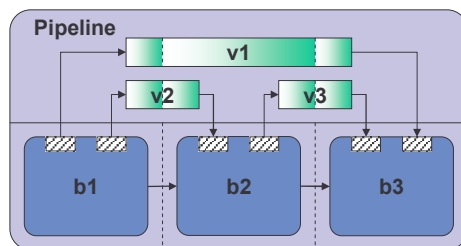
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The SpecC Language

- Pipeline
 - Explicit execution in pipeline fashion
 - `pipe { <instance_list> };`
 - `pipe (<init>; <cond>; <incr>) { ... }`
 - Support for automatic buffering
 - `piped [...] <type> <variable_list>;`



```
behavior Pipeline
{
  piped piped int v1;
  piped int v2;
  piped int v3;

  Stage1 b1(v1, v2);
  Stage2 b2(v2, v3);
  Stage3 b3(v3, v1);

  void main(void)
  {
    int i;
    pipe(i=0; i<10; i++)
    {
      b1;
      b2;
      b3;
    }
  }
};
```

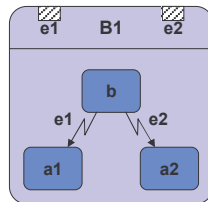
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The SpecC Language

- Exception handling
 - Abortion
 - Interrupt

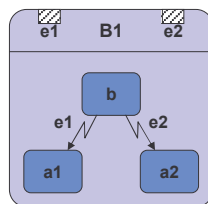


```
behavior B1(in event e1, in event e2)
{
  B b, a1, a2;

  void main(void)
  { try { b; }
    trap (e1) { a1; }
    trap (e2) { a2; }
  }
};
```

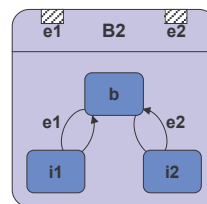
The SpecC Language

- Exception handling
 - Abortion
 - Interrupt



```
behavior B1(in event e1, in event e2)
{
  B b, a1, a2;

  void main(void)
  { try { b; }
    trap (e1) { a1; }
    trap (e2) { a2; }
  }
};
```

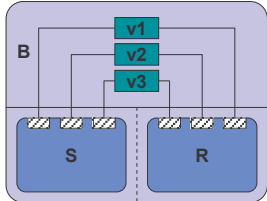


```
behavior B2(in event e1, in event e2)
{
  B b, i1, i2;

  void main(void)
  { try { b; }
    interrupt (e1) { i1; }
    interrupt (e2) { i2; }
  }
};
```

The SpecC Language

- Communication
 - via shared variable

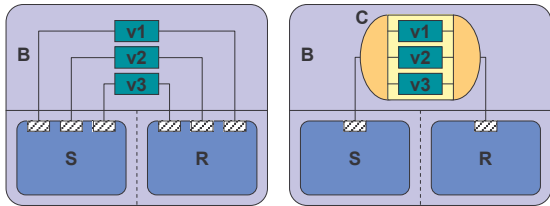


Shared memory

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The SpecC Language

- Communication
 - via shared variable
 - via virtual channel



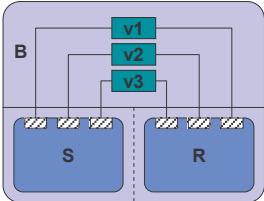
Shared memory

Message passing

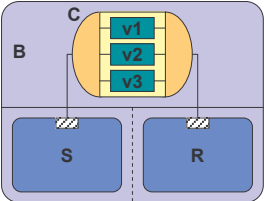
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The SpecC Language

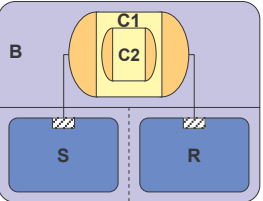
- Communication
 - via shared variable
 - via virtual channel
 - via hierarchical channel



Shared memory



Message passing

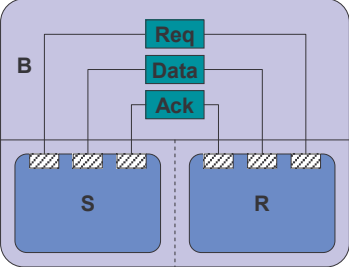


Protocol stack

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The SpecC Language

- Synchronization
 - Event type
 - `event <event_List>`;
 - Synchronization primitives
 - `wait <event_list>`;
 - `notify <event_list>`;
 - `notifyone <event_list>`;



```

behavior S(out event Req,
           out float Data,
           in event Ack)
{
  float X;
  void main(void)
  {
    ...
    Data = X;
    notify Req;
    wait Ack;
    ...
  }
};

behavior R(in event Req,
           in float Data,
           out event Ack)
{
  float Y;
  void main(void)
  {
    ...
    wait Req;
    Y = Data;
    notify Ack;
    ...
  }
};
                    
```

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The SpecC Language

- Communication
 - Interface class
 - **interface** <name> { <declarations> };
 - Channel class
 - **channel** <name> implements <interfaces> { <implementations> };

```

interface IS
{
    void Send(float);
};
interface IR
{
    float Receive(void);
};

behavior S(IS Port)
{
    float X;
    void main(void)
    { ...
      Port.Send(X);
    }
};

behavior R(IR Port)
{
    float Y;
    void main(void)
    { ...
      Y=Port.Receive();
    }
};

channel C
    implements IS, IR
{
    event Req;
    float Data;
    event Ack;

    void Send(float X)
    { Data = X;
      notify Req;
      wait Ack;
    }

    float Receive(void)
    { float Y;
      wait Req;
      Y = Data;
      notify Ack;
      return Y;
    }
};
                
```

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The SpecC Language

- Hierarchical channel
 - Virtual channel implemented by standard bus protocol
 - example: PCI bus

```

interface PCI_IF
{
    void Transfer(
        enum Mode,
        int NumBytes,
        int Address);
};

behavior S(PCI_IF Port)
{
    float X;
    void main(void)
    { ...
      Port.Transfer(X);
    }
};

behavior R(IR Port)
{
    float Y;
    void main(void)
    { ...
      Y=Port.Receive();
    }
};

interface IS
{
    void Send(float);
};
interface IR
{
    float Receive(void);
};

channel PCI
    implements PCI_IF;

channel C2
    implements IS, IR
{
    PCI Bus;
    void Send(float X)
    { Bus.Transfer(
      PCI_WRITE,
      sizeof(X), &X);
    }

    float Receive(void)
    { float Y;
      Bus.Transfer(
      PCI_READ,
      sizeof(Y), &Y);
      return Y;
    }
};
                
```

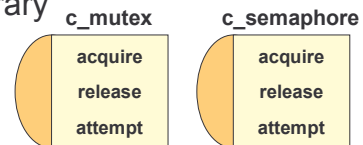
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The SpecC Language

- SpecC Standard Channel Library
 - introduced with SpecC Language Version 2.0
 - includes support for
 - mutex
 - semaphore
 - critical section
 - barrier
 - token
 - queue
 - handshake
 - double handshake
 - ...

The SpecC Language

- SpecC Standard Channel Library
 - mutex channel
 - semaphore channel



```
interface i_semaphore
{
  void acquire(void);
  void release(void);
  void attempt(void);
};
```

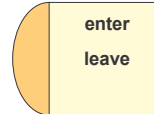
```
channel c_mutex
implements i_semaphore;
```

```
channel c_semaphore(
  in const unsigned long c)
implements i_semaphore;
```

The SpecC Language

- SpecC Standard Channel Library
 - mutex channel
 - semaphore channel
 - critical section

c_critical_section



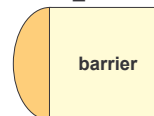
```
interface i_critical_section
{
  void enter(void);
  void leave(void);
};
```

```
channel c_critical_section
implements i_critical_section;
```

The SpecC Language

- SpecC Standard Channel Library
 - mutex channel
 - semaphore channel
 - critical section
 - barrier

c_barrier



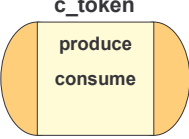
```
interface i_barrier
{
  void barrier(void);
};
```

```
channel c_barrier(
  in unsigned long n)
implements i_barrier;
```

The SpecC Language

- SpecC Standard Channel Library
 - mutex channel
 - semaphore channel
 - critical section
 - barrier
 - token

```
interface i_token
{
  void consume(unsigned long n);
  void produce(unsigned long n);
};
```



c_token

```
interface i_consumer
{
  void consume(unsigned long n);
};
```

```
interface i_producer
{
  void produce(unsigned long n);
};
```


```
channel c_token
  implements i_consumer,
             i_producer,
             i_token;
```

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The SpecC Language

- SpecC Standard Channel Library
 - mutex channel
 - semaphore channel
 - critical section
 - barrier
 - token
 - queue

```
interface i_tranceiver
{
  void receive(void *d, unsigned long l);
  void send(void *d, unsigned long l);
};
```



c_queue

```
interface i_receiver
{
  void receive(void *d,
               unsigned long l);
};
```

```
interface i_sender
{
  void send(void *d,
            unsigned long l);
};
```

```
channel c_queue(
  in const unsigned long s)
  implements i_receiver,
             i_sender,
             i_tranceiver;
```

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The SpecC Language

- SpecC Standard Channel Library
 - mutex channel
 - semaphore channel
 - critical section
 - barrier
 - token
 - queue
 - handshake

```
interface i_receive
{
  void receive(void);
};
```

```
interface i_send
{
  void send(void);
};
```

```
channel c_handshake
implements i_receive,
           i_send;
```

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The SpecC Language

- SpecC Standard Channel Library
 - mutex channel
 - semaphore channel
 - critical section
 - barrier
 - token
 - queue
 - handshake
 - double handshake
 - ...

```
interface i_receiver
{
  void receive(void *d,
               unsigned long l);
};
```

```
interface i_sender
{
  void send(void *d,
            unsigned long l);
};
```

```
channel c_double_handshake
implements i_receiver,
           i_sender;
```

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The SpecC Language

- Timing
 - Exact timing
 - `waitfor <delay>;`

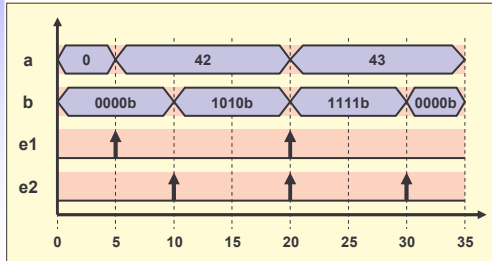
```
behavior Testbench_Driver
(inout int a,
 inout int b,
 out event e1,
 out event e2)
{
  void main(void)
  {
    waitfor 5;
    a = 42;
    notify e1;

    waitfor 5;
    b = 1010b;
    notify e2;

    waitfor 10;
    a++;
    b |= 0101b;
    notify e1, e2;

    waitfor 10;
    b = 0;
    notify e2;
  }
};
```

Example: stimulator for a test bench



The SpecC Language

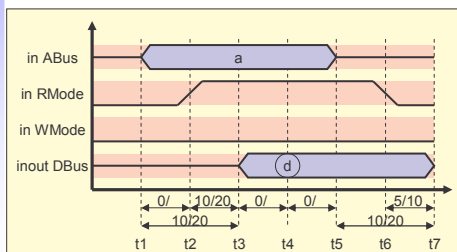
- Timing
 - Exact timing
 - `waitfor <delay>;`
 - Timing constraints
 - `do { <actions> } timing { <constraints> }`

Specification

```
bit[7:0] Read_SRAM(bit[15:0] a)
{
  bit[7:0] d;

  do { t1: {ABus = a; }
        t2: {RMode = 1;
              WMode = 0; }
        t3: { }
        t4: {d = Dbus; }
        t5: {ABus = 0; }
        t6: {RMode = 0;
              WMode = 0; }
        t7: { }
      }
  timing { range(t1; t2; 0; );
           range(t1; t3; 10; 20);
           range(t2; t3; 10; 20);
           range(t3; t4; 0; );
           range(t4; t5; 0; );
           range(t5; t7; 10; 20);
           range(t6; t7; 5; 10);
         }
  return(d);
}
```

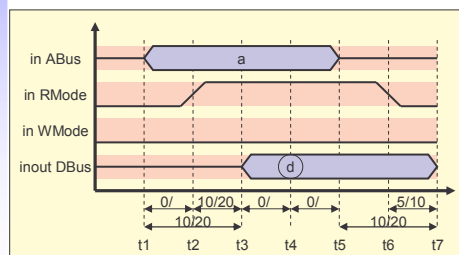
Example: SRAM read protocol



The SpecC Language

- Timing
 - Exact timing
 - `waitfor <delay>;`
 - Timing constraints
 - `do { <actions> }`
`timing {<constraints>}`

Example: SRAM read protocol



Implementation 1

```

bit[7:0] Read_SRAM(bit[15:0] a)
{
  bit[7:0] d;

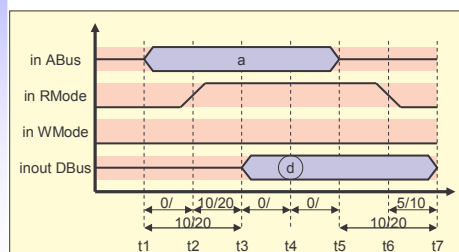
  do { t1: {ABus = a; waitfor( 2);}
      t2: {RMode = 1;
          WMode = 0; waitfor(12);}
      t3: { waitfor( 5);}
      t4: {d = Dbus; waitfor( 5);}
      t5: {ABus = 0; waitfor( 2);}
      t6: {RMode = 0;
          WMode = 0; waitfor(10);}
      t7: { }
    }
  timing { range(t1; t2; 0; );
          range(t1; t3; 10; 20);
          range(t2; t3; 10; 20);
          range(t3; t4; 0; );
          range(t4; t5; 0; );
          range(t5; t7; 10; 20);
          range(t6; t7; 5; 10);
        }
  return(d);
}

```

The SpecC Language

- Timing
 - Exact timing
 - `waitfor <delay>;`
 - Timing constraints
 - `do { <actions> }`
`timing {<constraints>}`

Example: SRAM read protocol



Implementation 2

```

bit[7:0] Read_SRAM(bit[15:0] a)
{
  bit[7:0] d; // ASAP Schedule

  do { t1: {ABus = a; }
      t2: {RMode = 1;
          WMode = 0; waitfor(10);}
      t3: { }
      t4: {d = Dbus; }
      t5: {ABus = 0; }
      t6: {RMode = 0;
          WMode = 0; waitfor(10);}
      t7: { }
    }
  timing { range(t1; t2; 0; );
          range(t1; t3; 10; 20);
          range(t2; t3; 10; 20);
          range(t3; t4; 0; );
          range(t4; t5; 0; );
          range(t5; t7; 10; 20);
          range(t6; t7; 5; 10);
        }
  return(d);
}

```

The SpecC Language

- Library support
 - Import of precompiled SpecC code
 - **import** *<component_name>*;
 - Automatic handling of multiple inclusion
 - no need to use **#ifdef** - **#endif** around included files
 - Visible to the compiler/synthesizer
 - not inline-expanded by preprocessor
 - simplifies reuse of IP components

```
// MyDesign.sc
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

import "Interfaces/I1";
import "Channels/PCI_Bus";
import "Components/MPEG-2";

...
```

The SpecC Language

- Persistent annotation
 - Attachment of a key-value pair
 - globally to the design, i.e. **note** *<key>* = *<value>*;
 - locally to any symbol, i.e. **note** *<symbol>*.*<key>* = *<value>*;
 - Visible to the compiler/synthesizer
 - eliminates need for pragmas
 - allows easy data exchange among tools

The SpecC Language

- Persistent annotation
 - Attachment of a key-value pair
 - globally to the design, i.e. **note** <key> = <value>;
 - locally to any symbol, i.e. **note** <symbol>.<key> = <value>;
 - Visible to the compiler/synthesizer
 - eliminates need for pragmas
 - allows easy data exchange among tools

SpecC 2.0:
<value> can be a
composite constant
(just like complex
variable initializers)

```

/* comment, not persistent */

// global annotations
note Author = "Rainer Doemer";
note Date   = "Fri Feb 23 23:59:59 PST 2001";

behavior CPU(in event CLK, in event RST, ...)
{
  // local annotations
  note MinMaxClockFreq = {750*1e6, 800*1e6 };
  note CLK.IsSystemClock = true;
  note RST.IsSystemReset = true;
  ...
};

```

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SpecC Summary

- SpecC model
 - Hierarchical network of behaviors and channels
 - Separation of communication and computation
- SpecC language
 - Support for software design
 - True superset of ANSI-C
 - Support for hardware design
 - RTL extensions (FSMD, bit vectors, signals, etc.)
 - Support for system design
 - Structural hierarchy
 - Behavioral hierarchy
 - State transitions
 - Exception handling
 - Communication
 - Synchronization
 - Timing

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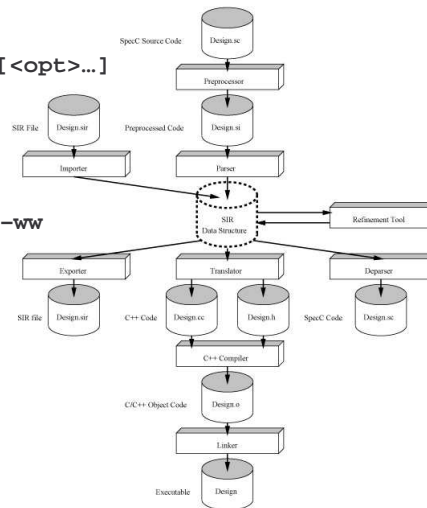
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The SpecC Compiler and Simulator

- SpecC Compiler
 - Command line interface
 - Usage: `scc <design> [<cmd>] [<opt>...]`
 - Help: `scc -h`
`man scc`
 - Example:


```
% scc HelloWorld -sc2out -v -ww
scc: SpecC Compiler V 2.2.1
(c)2008 CECS, UC Irvine
Preprocessing...
Parsing...
Translating...
Compiling...
Linking...
Done.
```



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The SpecC Compiler and Simulator

- SpecC Simulator
 - Execution as regular program
 - Example: `./HelloWorld`
`Hello World!`
 - Simulation library
 - Access via inclusion of SpecC header files
 - Example: Print the current simulation time


```
- #include <sim.sh>
- ...
- sim_time t;
- sim_delta d;
- sim_time_string buffer;
- ...
- t = now(); d = delta();
- printf("Time is now %s pico seconds.\n", time2str(buffer, t));
- printf("(delta count is %s)\n", time2str(buffer, d);
- waitfor 10 NANO_SEC;
- printf("Time is now %s pico seconds.\n", time2str(buffer, t));
- ...
```

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The SpecC Compiler and Simulator

- SpecC Command Line Tools
 - Tools working with SpecC Internal Representation (SIR) files
 - Example:


```
% scc Adder -sc2sir -o Adder.sir
- % sir_list -t Adder.sir
- behavior ADD8
- behavior AND2
- behavior FA
- behavior HA
- behavior Main
- behavior XOR2
- % sir_tree -bt Adder.sir FA
- behavior FA
- |----- HA ha1
- |         |----- AND2 and1
- |         \----- XOR2 xor1
- |----- HA ha2
- |         |----- AND2 and1
- |         \----- XOR2 xor1
- \----- OR2 or1
```

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Assignment 2

1. Practice SpecC Tools
 - Setup
 - `source /opt/sce-20080601/bin/setup.csh`
 - Examine simple examples
 - `mkdir simple_tests`
 - `cd simple_tests`
 - `cp $SPECC/examples/simple/* .`
 - `ls`
 - `vi HelloWorld.sc`
 - Practice the compiler
 - `man scc`
 - `scc HelloWorld -sc2out -vv -ww`
 - Practice the simulator
 - `./HelloWorld`
 - Practice the tools
 - `man sir_tree`
 - `scc Adder -sc2sir -o Adder.sir`
 - `sir_tree -bt Adder.sir FA`

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Assignment 2

2. Convert JPEG Encoder application into SpecC Model
 - Version 0
 - Compile JPEG Encoder with SpecC compiler
 - `scc jpegencoder.sc -vv -ww`
 - Version 1
 - Introduce test bench
 - Stimulus behavior (`ReadBmp`)
 - Design-under-Test behavior (`JPEGencoder`)
 - » Seq. child behaviors (`DCT1`, `DCT2`, `Quantize`, `Zigzag`, `Huffman`)
 - » Communication through variables mapped to ports
 - Monitor behavior (`DiffGolden`)
 - Version 1.1
 - Add timing to test bench
 - Print encoding time for each block (in Stimulus and/or Monitor)
 - Version 2.0
 - Create a parallel model
 - Change DUT execution to `'par { }'`
 - Change communication to typed `double_handshake` channels
 - Version 2.1
 - Create a pipelined model
 - Change communication to typed `queue` channels