

Web-based HW/SW co-design automation of an 802.16 channel codec

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ABSTRACT

This study designs an 802.16 channel codec by using the MIPS-like processor and develops a HW/SW co-design framework in which various EDA tools are effectively integrated. An 802.16 channel codec designed by C program language is compiled with MS Visual C++ 6 to verify its correctness at first. The C design of the 802.16 channel codec is further compiled by GCC compiler to generate the MIPS assembly which can be utilized for MIPS-machine simulation by using PCSpim. The generated machine code by PCSpim can be further embedded into the Verilog behavioral model of the MIPS-like processor. The simulation of Verilog design by ModelSim is with comparison to that by PCSpim for verification. The Virtex-II Pro FPGA development system interfacing with flash memory is applied to verify the aforementioned Verilog model. The Verilog behavioral model is synthesized by using ISE design suite. The data and the program of the 802.16 channel codec are programmed into flash memory, and the synthesized Verilog model of the MIPS-like processor is programmed into FPGA chip, respectively. When the signal encoding or decoding process is accomplished, the encoded or decoded data will appear in flash memory finally for further verification. The web-based HW/SW co-design framework which utilizes Abyss web server, CGI programs, GCC compiler, SPIM simulator, and EDA tools such as Cadence BuildGates and SOC Encounter has been implemented for running in Windows XP and TopologiLinux. In this study, the web-based HW/SW co-design framework can achieve compilation, assembly, simulation, synthesis, and VLSI layout. The main contribution of this study is to develop a web-based HW/SW co-design framework successfully which can design a MIPS-like processor and integrate various EDA tools to achieve VLSI layout automatically. Using the proposed web-based HW/SW co-design automation can reduce the complexity of the design flow.

Keywords : MIPS ; 802.16 channel codec ; web-based ; HW/SW co-design

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