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Implementation of LVCMOS-based 4-bit FPGA-based ALU on SP 701 Board for New Digital Age Technologies

Chandrashekhar Patel, Abhay Saxena, Anita Rawat, Omprakash Nautiyal

Abstract: ***Objectives:*** *The 4-bit ALU of a RISC processor is designed as shown by the researcher in this paper. The 4-bit ALU used in this work can perform* $2^4 = 16$ *various arithmetic and logical operations, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, as well as logical AND, OR, NAND, NOR, NOT, XOR, XNOR, INCREMENT, DECREMENT, ROTATE LEFT, and ROTATE RIGHT.* ***Methods:*** *The author used the Vivado simulation tools with the Verilog HDL language to build the FPGA-based ALU, and the SP701 Spartan FPGA board was used to implement the entire design. It has been implemented to use energy-efficient IO standard approaches.* ***Findings:*** *By calculating the overall power usage at the pre- and post-levels, this research has developed a new method for building energy-efficient FPGA-based ALUs. The author utilised the Vivado simulation tool for this investigation. The SP701 FPGA board has also been used to implement this idea.* ***Novelty:*** *The Internet of Things and other emerging digital era technologies will undoubtedly benefit from this research work, and its energy-efficient design will support environmental initiatives.*

Keywords: SP701, FPGA, VIVADO, RISC, LVCMOS, Verilog

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's era, the usage of microprocessors is in demand, so it would always be a challenge to design a high-speed and high-performance arithmetic logic unit (ALU). Basic arithmetic operations are accomplished by standalone hardware in all recent processors. In response to the rapid development of arithmetic hardware, processors now utilise memory (cache) that allows them to achieve significant speed improvements by minimising data access delays from primary memory. The primary goal of this project is to inscribe the blueprint of functional blocks. In the design of such a digital system, an Arithmetic logic unit is a fundamental subsystem.

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It is a combinational logic unit and a fundamental component of a microprocessor that conducts arithmetic and logic operations. ALUs are now becoming smaller and more advanced, allowing developers to create even more powerful yet compact systems and processors. All types of microprocessors are used in various applications for arithmetic computations, including addition, Multiplication, Division, and subtraction, as well as logical operations such as XOR, NAND, AND, OR, and NOT.

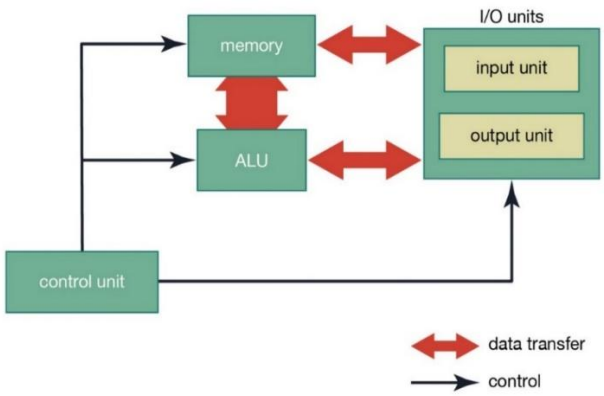

Figure 1: Working of ALU

The ALU is a central part of the CPU (Central Processing Unit). ALUs in today's CPUs and graphics processing units (GPUs) are extremely powerful and complicated, with a single unit containing multiple ALUs shown in Figure 1. VHDL is used to design the ALU in this research work. VHDL is also called a hardware description language, which is used to create various digital components used in electrical circuit design. The ALU is made using the Mixed Modelling Style. For HDL design, synthesis, and analysis of an ALU, Xilinx ISE (Integrated Software Environment) has been used. It enables developers to integrate their prototypes, perform timing evaluations, and assess RTL illustrations.

The ALU is implemented in parallel by using different functional units that execute specific functions, such as addition and subtraction. Data operands are given to the respective unit that corresponds to a particular operation to generate the desired result and transmit it to the ALU's output lines. Select lines are used to choose among different operations. A modular design is utilized to fabricate the ALU, which comprises of smaller, more accessible blocks, which could be recycled.

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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

[1] High Performance FIFO Design for Processor through Voltage Scaling Technique [2]HSTL IO Standards Based Processor Specific Green Counter [3]Capacitance Scaling Based Low Power Comparator Design on 28nm FPGA [4] SSTL-Based Energy-Efficient FIFO Design for High-Performance Processors of Portable Devices [5] Energy Efficient CRC Design for Processor of Workstation, and Server using LVCMOS [6] Cyclic redundancy check is a basic requirement for speed-optimised computation [7] Memory controller logic includes a CRC component configured to enable the CRC processes on the individual ranks [8] Speed-optimised computation of cyclic redundancy check codes [9] Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC) False Detection Reduction in Communication Systems [10] Researcher developed an instruction set architecture for programmable cyclic redundancy check (CRC) computation [11] An Approach for Testing Programmable/Configurable Field Programmable Gate Arrays [12] SSTL Based Energy Efficient FIFO Design for High Performance Processor of Portable Devices.

III. TOOLS REQUIRED

3.1. SP701 Evaluation Board

Most designs are becoming increasingly concerned about power. Lowering power increases cost and reliability, while also facilitating higher performance and fulfilling supply and thermal requirements. The Xilinx® 7 Series FPGAs meet the design goals for an increasingly wide range of applications with breakthrough reductions in power consumption. The XC7S100FGGA676 device, a member of the Xilinx® 7 series FPGA family, is used in the SP701 evaluation board shown in Figure 2.

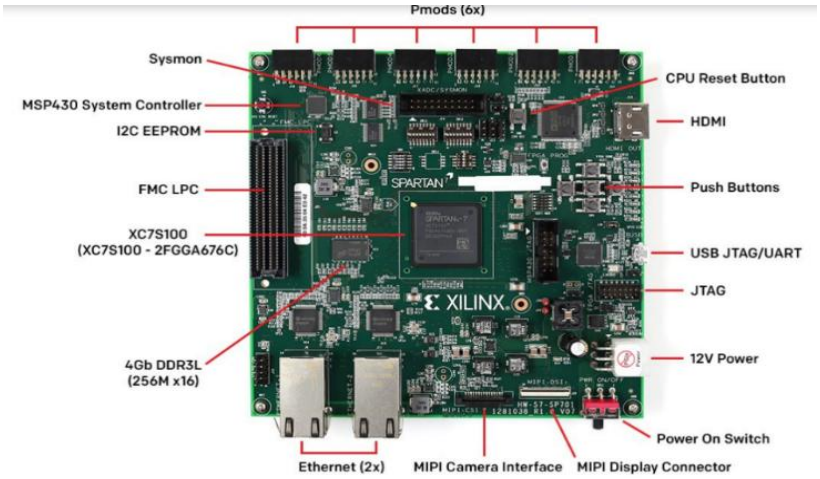

Figure 2: SP701 Evaluation Board.

3.2. Vivado

Vivado is software produced by Xilinx for analysing and synthesising hardware description language designs. It is popularly used to design, program, and debug Xilinx's line of FPGAs. It provides a complex integrated development environment (IDE) tool for the process of FPGA design and its implementation. Regarding its origin, it was introduced to the world in April 2012, accompanied by software and hardware-level tools that can be used for various purposes. It is based on the TCL scripting language. The eye-catching feature of Vivado is its high-level synthesis, which includes a tool chain that helps convert C code into programmable logic. It consists of many features that are rich and excellent in High-Level Synthesis. It can be used for various purposes, such as designing prototypes, hardware-software co-simulation, and attaching peripherals to the board. Figure 3. shows the Vivado home screen.

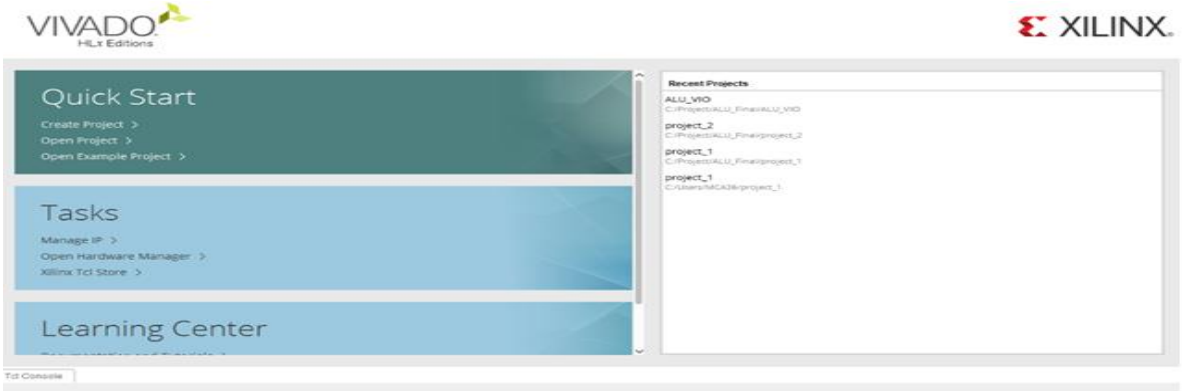

Figure 3: Vivado IDE home Screen

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IV. DESIGN METHODOLOGY

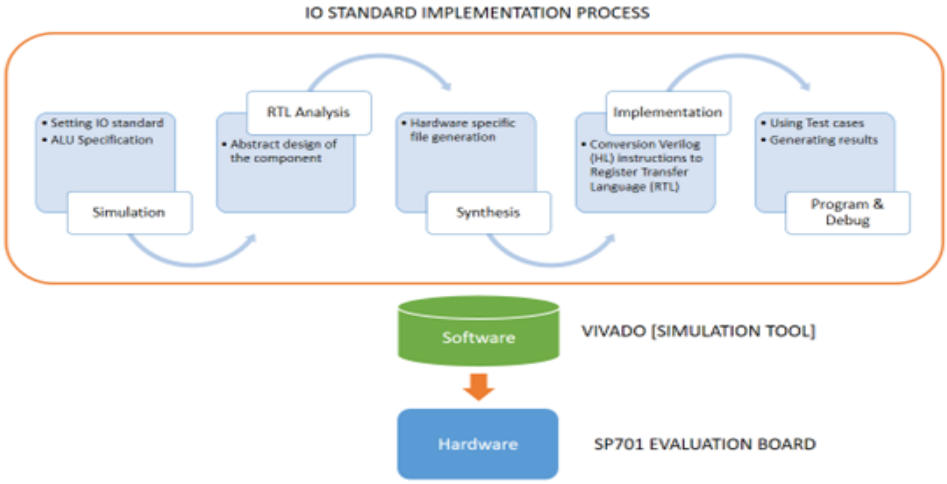
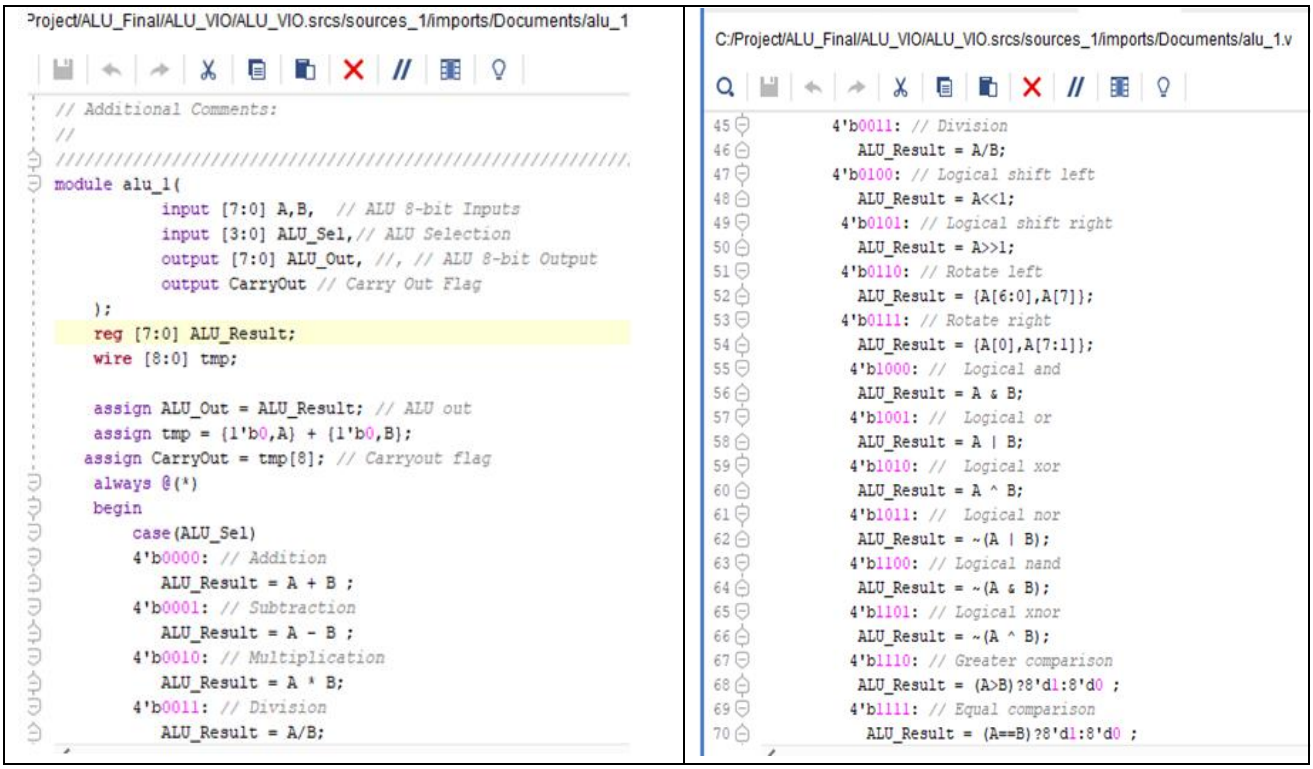


Figure 4: Design Methodology of FPGA-based ALU

In Figure 4, the author illustrates the research methodology of the FPGA-based ALU, and below, he provides a detailed description of each process.

4.1 Simulation

One of the most powerful analysis tools available to those responsible for designing and operating complex processes or systems is simulation. The Xilinx High Level Synthesis Vivado Tool is used to develop and simulate the ALU in Verilog. Figure 5. shown the Verilog code of ALU.



```
Project/ALU_Final/ALU_VIO/ALU_VIO.srcs/sources_1/imports/Documents/alu_1
// Additional Comments:
//
//////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
module alu_1(
          input [7:0] A,B,  // ALU 8-bit Inputs
          input [3:0] ALU_Sel,// ALU Selection
          output [7:0] ALU_Out, //, // ALU 8-bit Output
          output CarryOut // Carry Out Flag
    );
    reg [7:0] ALU_Result;
    wire [8:0] tmp;

    assign ALU_Out = ALU_Result; // ALU out
    assign tmp = {1'b0,A} + {1'b0,B};
   assign CarryOut = tmp[8]; // Carryout flag
    always @(*)
    begin
        case(ALU_Sel)
        4'b0000: // Addition
           ALU_Result = A + B ;
        4'b0001: // Subtraction
           ALU_Result = A - B ;
        4'b0010: // Multiplication
           ALU_Result = A * B;
        4'b0011: // Division
           ALU_Result = A/B;
```

```
C:/Project/ALU_Final/ALU_VIO/ALU_VIO.srcs/sources_1/imports/Documents/alu_1.v
45        4'b0011: // Division
46           ALU_Result = A/B;
47        4'b0100: // Logical shift left
48           ALU_Result = A<<1;
49         4'b0101: // Logical shift right
50           ALU_Result = A>>1;
51        4'b0110: // Rotate left
52           ALU_Result = {A[6:0],A[7]};
53        4'b0111: // Rotate right
54           ALU_Result = {A[0],A[7:1]};
55         4'b1000: //  Logical and
56           ALU_Result = A & B;
57        4'b1001: //  Logical or
58           ALU_Result = A | B;
59        4'b1010: //  Logical xor
60           ALU_Result = A ^ B;
61        4'b1011: //  Logical nor
62           ALU_Result = ~(A | B);
63        4'b1100: // Logical nand
64           ALU_Result = ~(A & B);
65        4'b1101: // Logical xnor
66           ALU_Result = ~(A ^ B);
67        4'b1110: // Greater comparison
68           ALU_Result = (A>B)?8'd1:8'd0 ;
69        4'b1111: // Equal comparison
70           ALU_Result = (A==B)?8'd1:8'd0 ;
```

Figure 5: Verilog code of ALU

4.2 RTL Analysis

The register-transfer level (RTL) is a design abstraction that represents the flow of digital signals (data) between hardware registers and the logical operations performed on those signals in a synchronous digital circuit. For each step of the design, the Vivado IDE supports "one-click" execution. Following synthesis, the file is co-simulated once again to acquire Verilog files and so examine the RTL Schematic shown in Figure 6.

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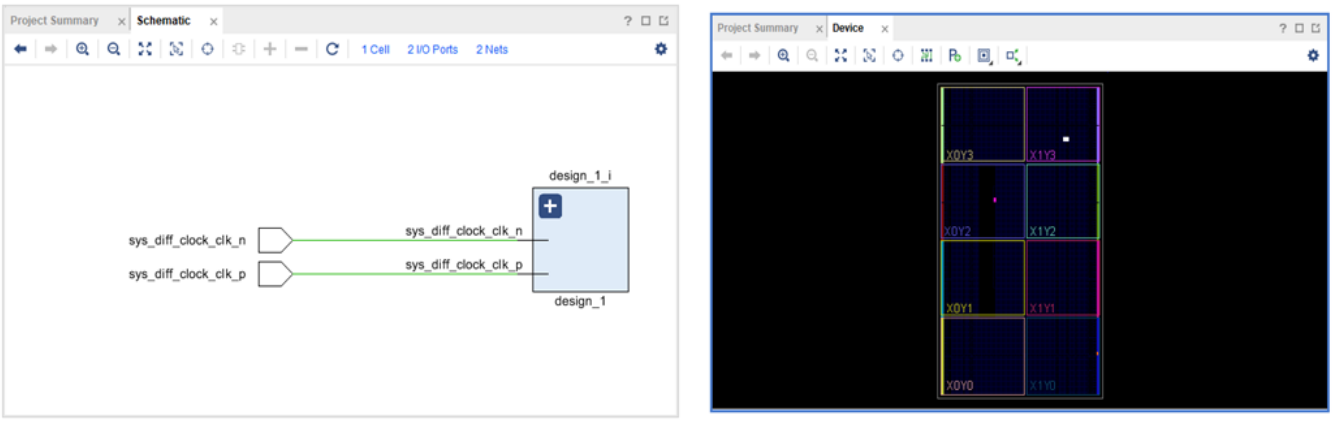

Figure 6: RTL Analysis and Synthesized Design of ALU Design of ALU

4.3 Synthesis

The act of combining parts to form something substantial is known as synthesis, shown in Figure 5.8.

4.4 Implementation

An ALU is a digital electrical circuit that performs arithmetic and binary value calculations. The Vivado HLS is built on converting a high-level language implementation into a register-transfer level implementation, as described in Figure 7.

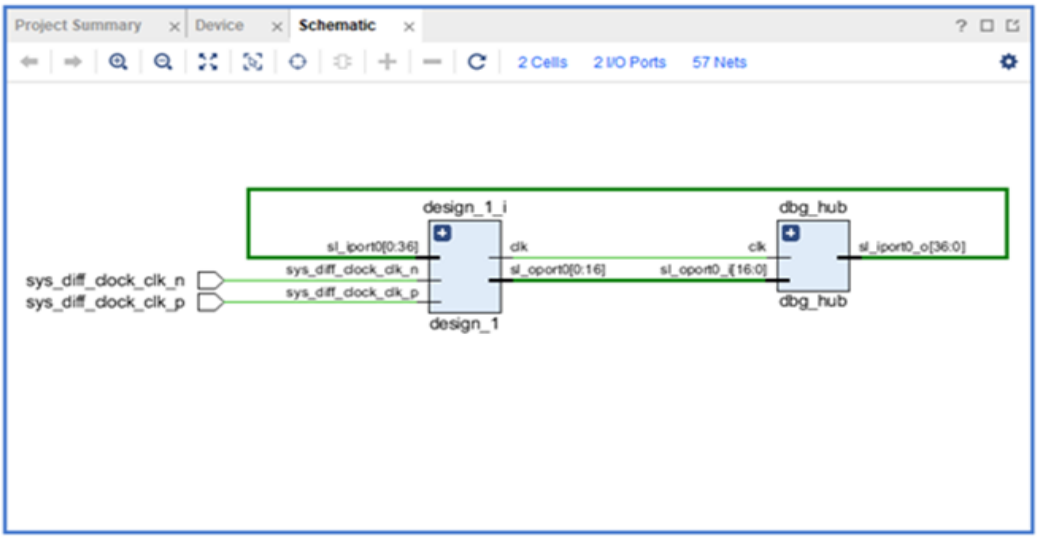

Figure 7: Implementation phase of ALU

4.5 Program and Debug

Internal FPGA signals may be monitored and driven in real time using the Virtual Input/Output (VIO) debug function.

4.6 Setting the Clock

Clock signals control the outputs of the sequential circuit. That is, it determines when and how the memory elements change their outputs. If a sequential circuit does not have a clock signal as input, the output of the circuit will change randomly. Figure 8. shows the code for setting clock for the ALU (Arithmetic Logic Unit) circuit.

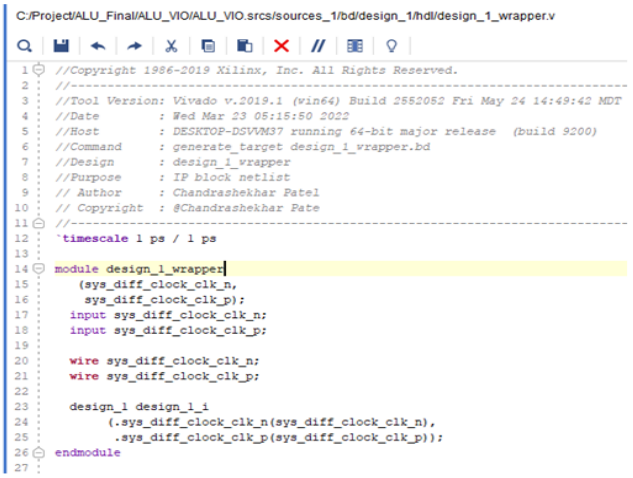

Figure 8: Setting the clock for the ALU (Arithmetic Logic Unit) circuit

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4.7 I/O Pin Planning

The I/O planning features include an integrated design environment (IDE) that allows you to create, configure, assign, and manage I/O Ports and clock logic objects within the design. In Figure 9, the code for I/O planning for an FPGA-based ALU in Vivado IDE is shown.

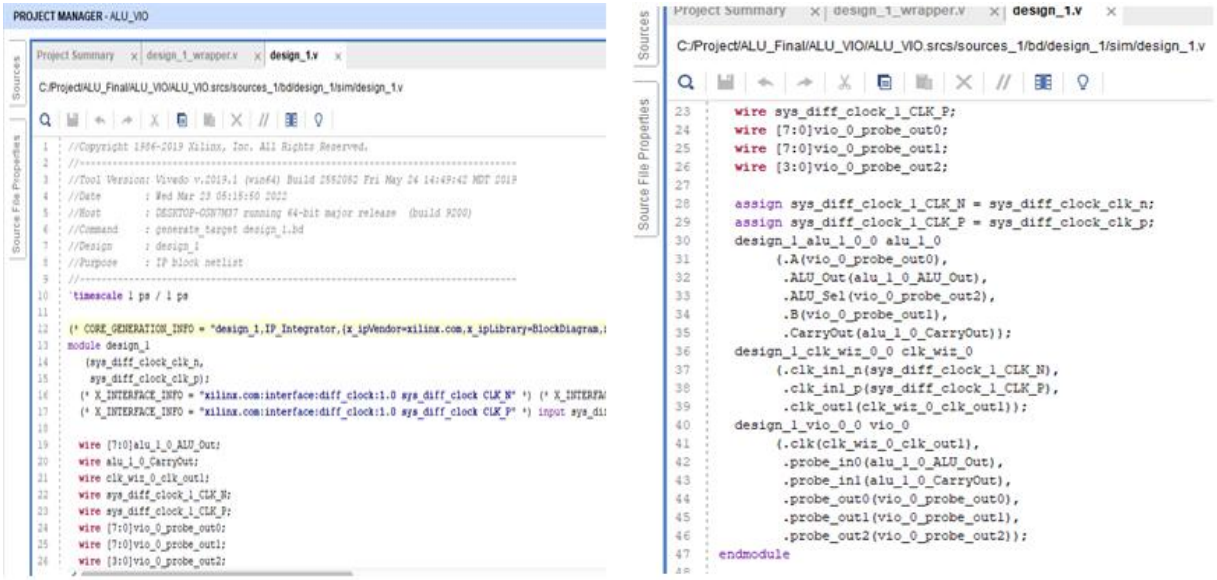

Figure 9: Setting I/O Pin planning for the ALU (Arithmetic Logic Unit) circuit

4.8 Generating Block Design

In Vivado, a *Hierarchical Block is a block design that is contained within another* block design. These blocks allow engineers to partition their designs into separate functional groups. This guide steps through the process of adding a pre-existing hierarchical block to a block design, recreating its example software application, and running the design in hardware, as illustrated in Figure 10.

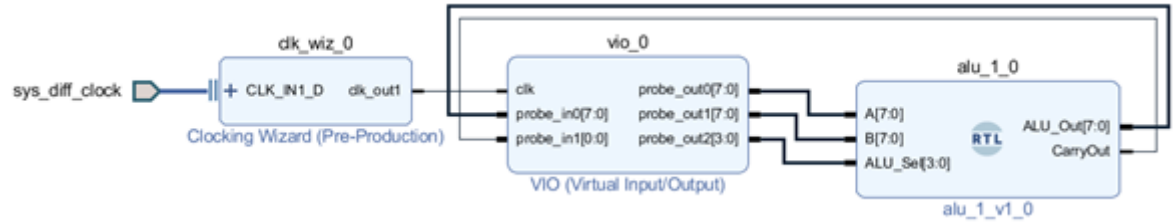

Figure 10: Generating a Block design of an FPGA-based ALU

A bit stream file contains not only the bits needed to configure an FPGA, but also human-readable fields that describe those bits. In fact, the FPGA configuration process is described using an assembly-like instruction set. This note is an attempt to lead you through it. A bit stream file is analogous to an executable programme on a high level. A bit stream, like the ELF format, has its format for describing its contents. It's worth noting that the file format is openly described. As a result, you may examine the contents of a bitstream file and comprehend the stages involved in configuring the FPGA.

Figure 11: Implementation of ALU with SP701 FPGA Board

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Figure 11. and Figure 12. shows the implementation of FPGA-based ALU on SP701 FPGA Board in the premises of the IoT lab, Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya.

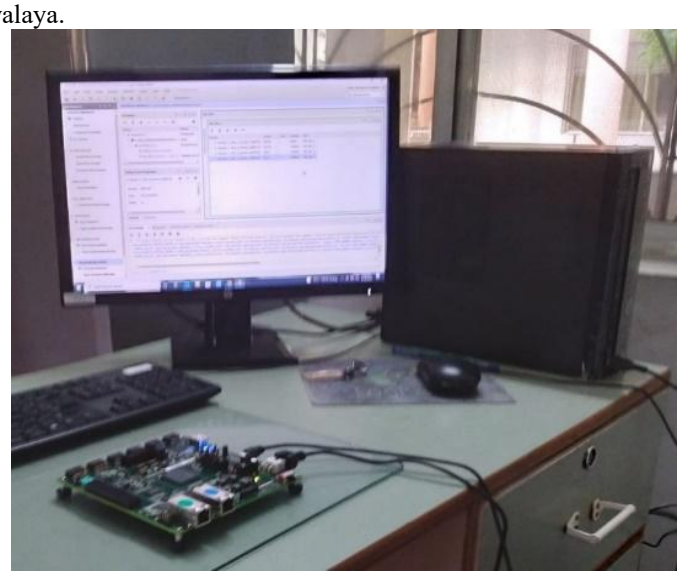
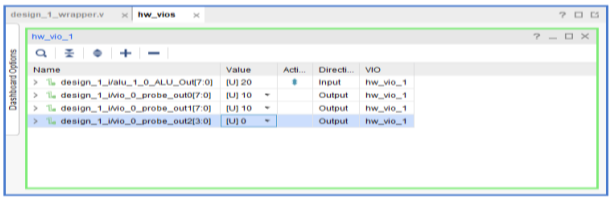
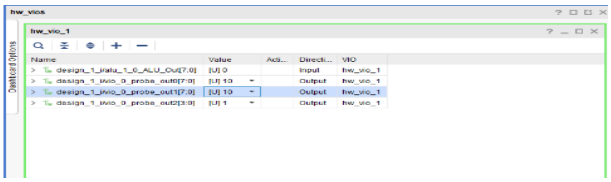
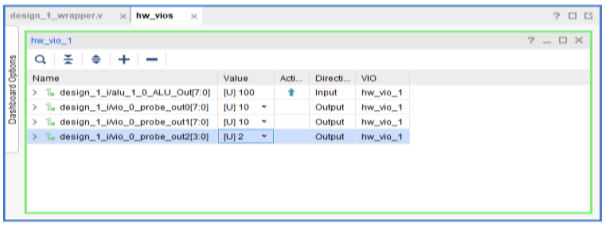
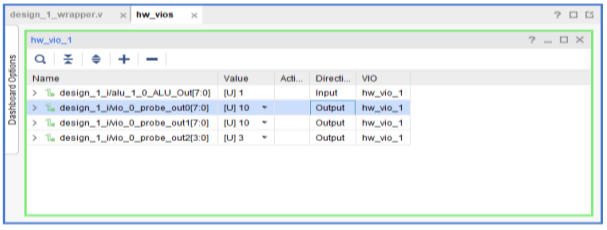


Figure 12: Complete Environment of FPGA-based ALU

V. SIMULATION RESULTS

During the ALU design research, the researcher works with a 4-bit ALU, so the total number of operations is 24 = 16. Table 1 presents all the operations performed by the ALU with I/O (Input/Output), along with their simulation results.

Table 1: Simulation result by FPGA-based Arithmetic Logic Unit

S.N.	Operation	Input (1)	Input (2)	Output	Simulation Result
1	ADD	10	10	20	
2	SUBTRACTION	10	10	0	
3	MULTIPLICATION	10	10	100	
4	DIVISION	10	10	1	

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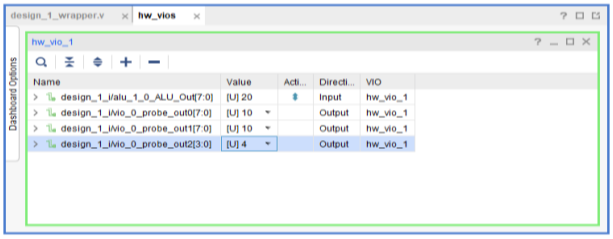
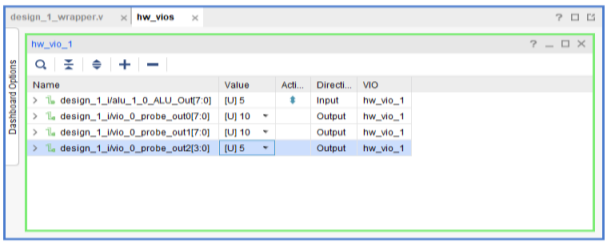
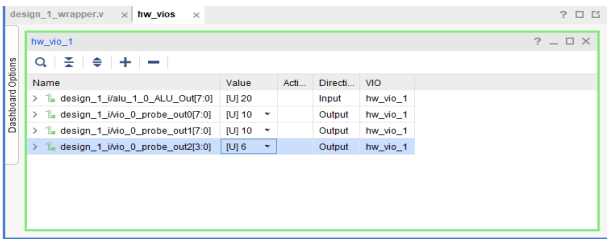
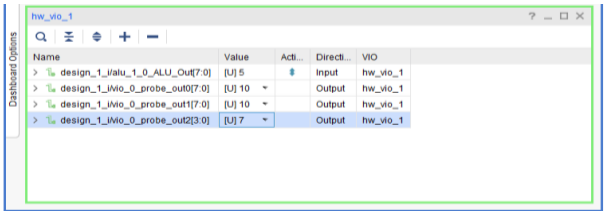
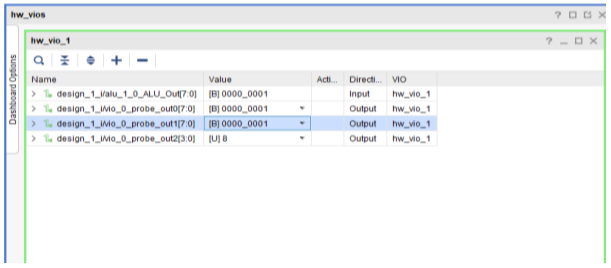
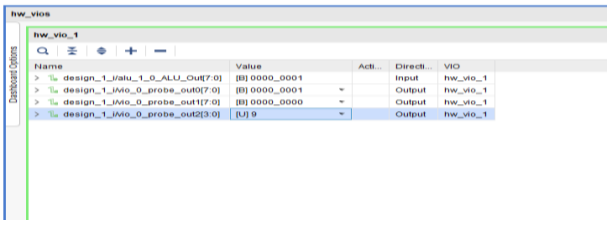
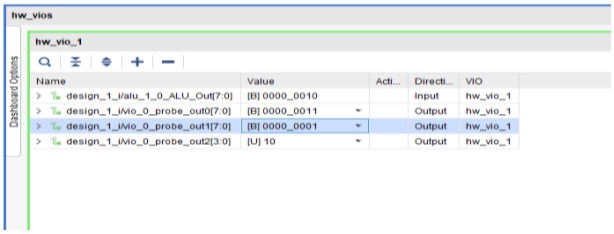
5	BINARY SHIFT LEFT	10	10	20	
6	BINARY SHIFT RIGHT	10	10	5	
7	ROTATAE LEFT	10	10	20	
8	ROTATE RIGHT	10	10	5	
9	LOGICAL AND	10	10	0000_0001	
10	LOGICAL OR	10	10	0000_0001	
11	LOGICAL XOR	10	10	0000_0010	

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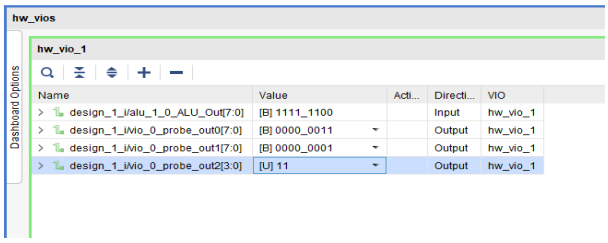
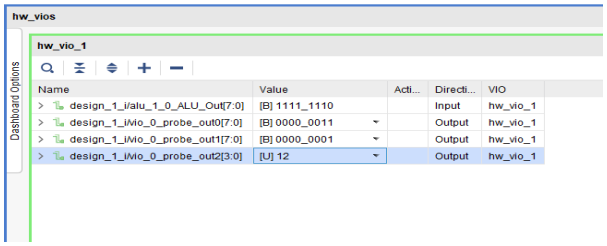
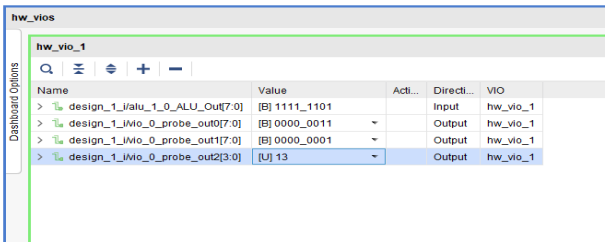
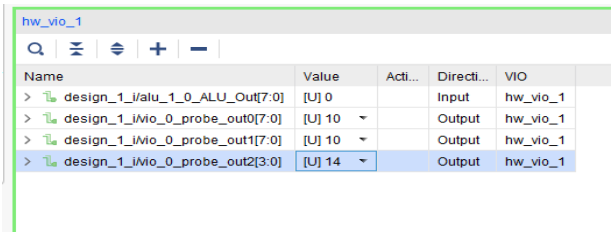
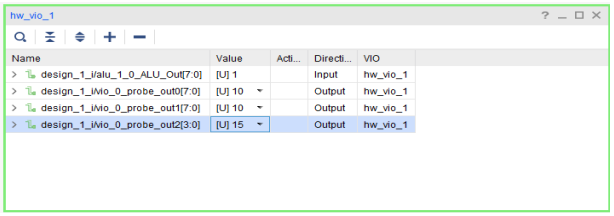
12	LOGICAL NOR	10	10	1111_1100	
13	LOGICAL NAND	10	10	1111_1110	
14	Logical XNOR	10	10	1111_1101	
15	Greater Comparison	10	10	0	
16	Equal Comparison	10	10	1	

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper presents a novel concept for a 4-bit ALU for a processor. An SP701 FPGA board has been used to implement this concept. The primary goal of this effort is to utilise industry standards to reduce the ALU's power consumption. To achieve this, the researcher determined the optimal IO standard (LVCMOS) for the ALU by calculating the total power consumption using several IO standards. The researcher is additionally attempting to improve the design architecture so that new features may be introduced without modifying the hardware.

FUTURE SCOPE

In this research work, the researcher has designed an ALU on a Spartan board, but this work can be carried forward with an advanced board, such as an Artix-7 Board. Instead of using Io Standard techniques, we can make changes at the architectural level to enhance this research work.

DECLARATION

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Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate	No, the article does not require ethical approval or consent to participate, as it presents evidence that is already publicly available.
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