

mcx16 is a 16-bit microcontroller written in VHDL. It was inspired by PicoBlaze, an 8-bit microcontroller designed by Ken Chapman at Xilinx. mcx16 uses an instruction set and architecture similar to PicoBlaze, so if you've already learned one, using the other should be straightforward. The mcx16 code is tested on Xilinx FPGAs.

Some highlights of mcx16:

- 16-bit addresses, data, port addresses and ports
- Can use 1 (non-pipelined) or 2 (pipelined) clocks per instruction
- 74MHz (74 MIPS) on a Spartan 3 XC3S200AN-4 non-pipelined, and 119 MHz when pipelined (59 MIPS), using 110/114 slices
(area optimized, 16 registers, 32 deep stack, 512 word program, distributed stack)
- 107 MHz (107 MIPS) on a Spartan 6 XC6SLX9-2 non-pipelined, and 166 MHz when pipelined (83 MIPS), using 46/41 slices
- Pipelining, register count (1 – 256), stack depth (1 – 65536), and program/stack type (BRAM/distributed) are all user-set generics; program size up to 65536 words
- Cross-platform assembler
- Optional JTAG loader using Kris Chaplin's technique and cross-platform Xilinx tools

Source Files	3	Addresses	28	INPUT	52
Instantiation	4	Op-Codes	29	OUTPUT	53
Basic Usage	5	Conditionals	30	JUMP	54
Optional Usage	6	NOP	31	CALL	55
Architecture	7	LOAD	32	RETURN	56
Command Set	8	AND	33	LOADRETURN	57
Basic Operation	9	OR	34	TEST	58
Reset	10	XOR	35	TESTCY	59
Clocking	11	ADD	36	COMPARE	60
Clock Enable	12	ADDCY	37	COMPARECY	61
Input Port	13	SUB	38	SETCY	62
Output Port	14	SUBCY	39	CLEARCY	63
Single Cycle I/O	15	SLO	40	STRING	64
Two Cycle I/O	16	SL1	41	WSTRING	65
IN_BIT	17	SLX	42	Escape Codes	66
LOAD Ports	18	SLA	43	mcx16loader	67
Unused Inputs	19	SLB	44	JTAG Generics	68
Generic Parameters	20	RL	45	JTAG Loading	69
Stack	21	SR0	46	JTAG Chain	70
Assembler	22	SR1	47	JTAG Examples	71
Assembly Language	24	SRX	48	mcx16rom	72
Instructions	25	SRA	49	mcx16uart	74
Registers	26	SRB	50	Conclusion	75
Constants	27	RR	51		

- mcx16.vhd: Microcontroller VHDL
- mcx16rom.vhd: ROM VHDL template
- mcx16loader.vhd: JTAG loader VHDL
- mcx16uart.vhd: UART VHDL
- mcx16util.vhd: Utility library VHDL
- mcx16asm.cpp: Assembler
- mcx16asm.pro: Qt project file for assembler

The above are all distributed under the simplified BSD license. The assembler is built on the Qt GUI Toolkit, which is available under the LGPL.

mcx16 declaration:

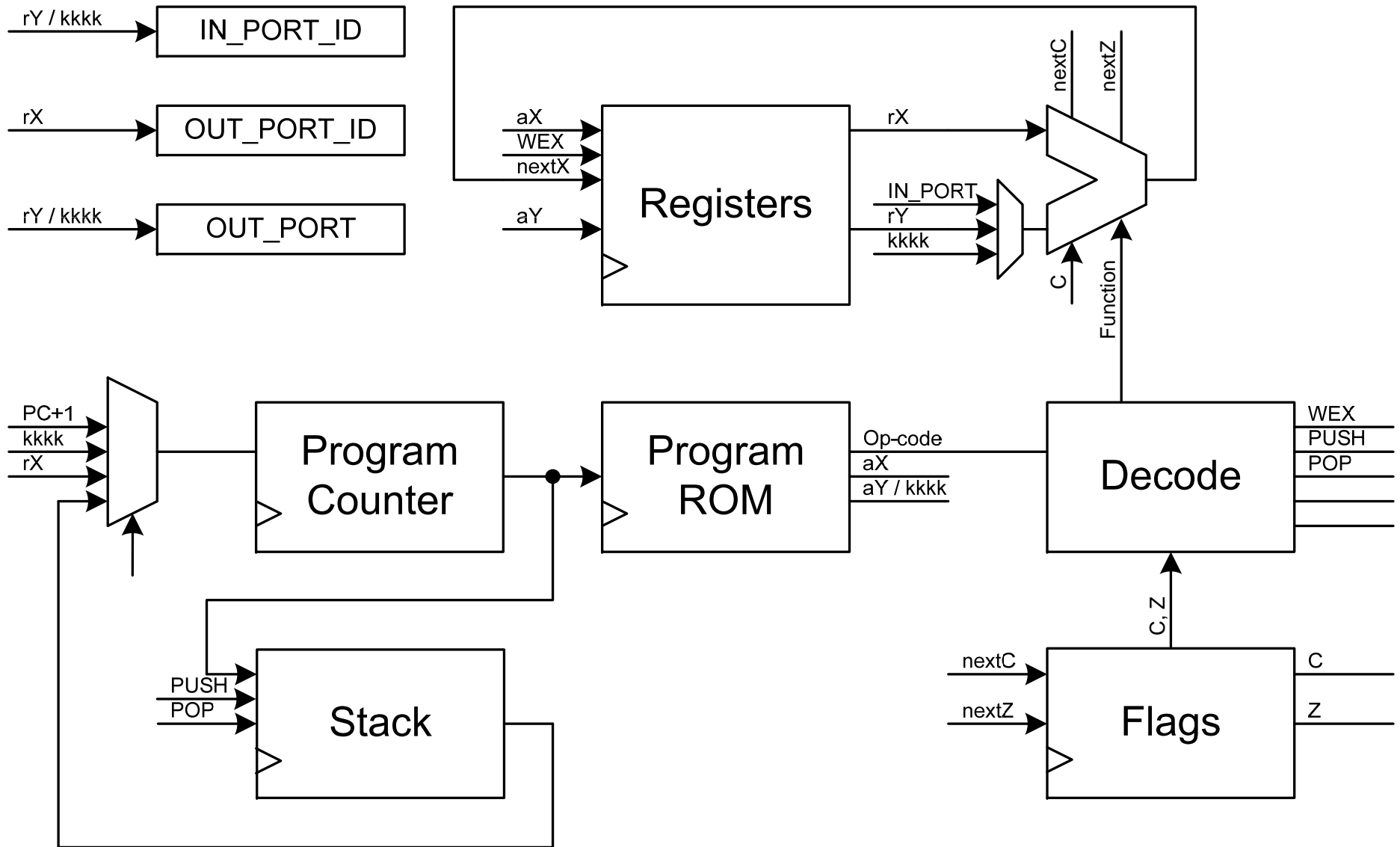
```
component mcx16 is
  generic (
    REGISTER_COUNT: integer;
    STACK_DEPTH: integer;
    SINGLE_CYCLE: boolean;
    STACK_BRAM: boolean
  );
  port (
    RST: in std_logic;
    CLK: in std_logic;
    CE: in std_logic;
    READ_STROBE: out std_logic;
    IN_PORT_ID: out std_logic_vector(15 downto 0);
    IN_PORT: in std_logic_vector(15 downto 0);
    WRITE_STROBE: out std_logic;
    OUT_PORT_ID: out std_logic_vector(15 downto 0);
    OUT_PORT: out std_logic_vector(15 downto 0);
    IN_BIT: in std_logic;
    ROM_CE: out std_logic;
    ADDR: out std_logic_vector(15 downto 0);
    CODE: in std_logic_vector(35 downto 0)
  );
end component;
```

mcx16 instance:

```
inst_mcx16: mcx16
  generic map (
    REGISTER_COUNT => 16,
    STACK_DEPTH => 32,
    SINGLE_CYCLE => true,
    STACK_BRAM => false
  )
  port map (
    RST => RST,
    CLK => CLK,
    CE => CE,
    READ_STROBE => READ_STROBE,
    IN_PORT_ID => IN_PORT_ID,
    IN_PORT => IN_PORT,
    WRITE_STROBE => WRITE_STROBE,
    OUT_PORT_ID => OUT_PORT_ID,
    OUT_PORT => OUT_PORT,
    IN_BIT => IN_BIT,
    ROM_CE => ROM_CE,
    ADDR => ADDR,
    CODE => CODE
  );
```

- You write an mcx16 assembly program (“myprogram.txt”).
- You assemble it, and output an mcx16rom module initialized with your code:
 - `mcx16asm myprogram.txt -o`
- You add mcx16.vhd, mcx16util.vhd and myprogram.vhd to your FPGA project, and connect the mcx16 and mcx16rom signals to the rest of your design appropriately.
- Run it on your FPGA!

- Add mcx16loader.vhd to your project, and connect it to the LOAD ports on mcx16rom and RST port on mcx16.
- After you've compiled your design and your FPGA is up and running with an embedded mcx16 (and is connected via JTAG to your system), load a new program into mcx16:
 - `mcx16asm mybetterprogram.txt -1`
- This requires running in an environment with access to iMPACT (ISE Design Suite Command Prompt)



Logical

LOAD rX, rY / kkkk

AND rX, rY / kkkk

OR rX, rY / kkkk

XOR rX, rY / kkkk

Arithmetic

ADD rX, rY / kkkk

ADDCY rX, rY / kkkk

SUB rX, rY / kkkk

SUBCY rX, rY / kkkk

Shifting

SLO/SL1/SLX/SLA/SLB/RL rX

SR0/SR1/SRX/SRA/SRB/RR rX

I/O

INPUT rX, rY / kkkk

OUTPUT rX, rY / kkkk

Branching

JUMP rX / kkkk

CALL rX / kkkk

RETURN

LOADRETURN rX, kkkk

Flags and Comparisons

TEST rX, rY / kkkk

TESTCY rX, rY / kkkk

COMPARE rX, rY / kkkk

COMPARECY rX, rY / kkkk

SETCY

CLEARCY

ConditionalsAll commands can be
prefixed with:

IF C / NC / Z / NZ / B / NB

If the condition
specified is true, the
command is executed. If
not, it behaves as a NOP.Assembler Macros

STRING "abcdef\n"

WSTRING "abcdef\n"

Translated into a
sequence of 8 or 16-bit
LOADRETURNS.

NOP

Translated into
LOAD r0, r0

- mcx16 is fundamentally a state machine. Its present state is defined by the contents of the program counter, registers, stack, and flags. The next state is a function of the current state, the current instruction word (from the ROM), and the input port/bit.
- Instruction words are 36-bits wide, and are fetched from a ROM. The ROM contents are filled by the assembler, either at compile time in VHDL or at run time via a JTAG interface.

- Setting RST high resets the program counter, stack pointer, and flags. READ_STROBE and WRITE_STROBE are also driven low. Normal operation begins a few clock cycles after RST goes low.
- The RST input is optional, since mcx16 self-resets after FPGA configuration is complete. Tie RST to zero if resets during normal operation are unnecessary.

- mcx16 is a fully synchronous design. All registers are updated on the rising edge of the clock.
- mcx16 can operate single-cycle by setting the top level generic `SINGLE_CYCLE` to true. In this mode, a single instruction is executed every clock cycle.
- To support higher system clock frequencies, set `SINGLE_CYCLE` to false. This causes pipeline registers to be inserted in the design. In this mode, a single instruction is executed every two clock cycles.

CLOCK ENABLE

- The top level CE input can be driven low to pause mcx16 for an arbitrary number of clock cycles. Operation will resume from wherever mcx16 was stopped.
- Use CE to save power when mcx16 is unused, or to delay execution if extra time is needed during input/output operations (to compensate for pipeline stages in input port muxes, for example).

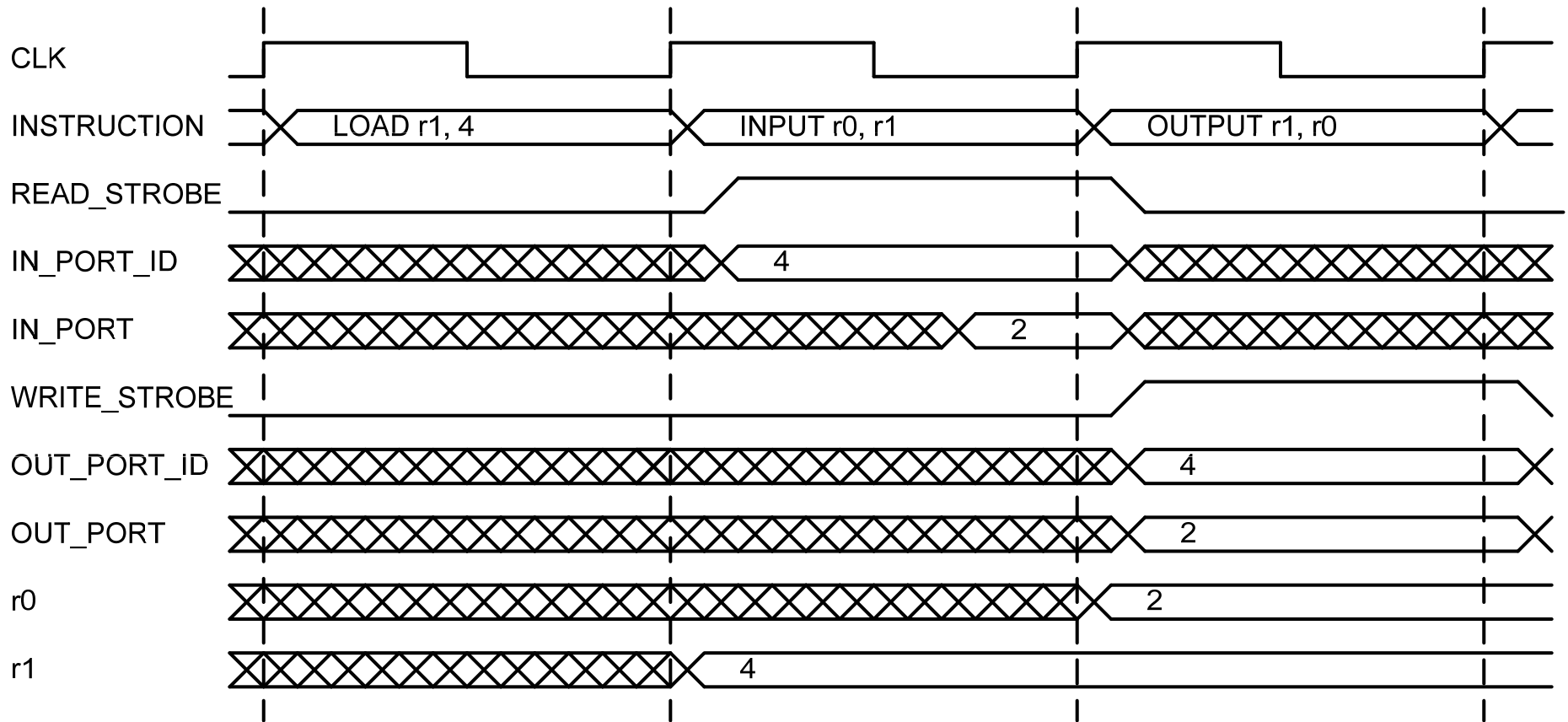
INPUT PORT

- The INPUT rX, kkkk and INPUT rX, rY instructions set IN_PORT_ID to kkkk or rY, respectively, and set READ_STROBE to 1. Your logic must decode IN_PORT_ID and connect the requested signal to IN_PORT. The data at IN_PORT must be valid before the rising clock edge while READ_STROBE is high.
- For two-cycle operation, IN_PORT_ID will be valid for both cycles, while READ_STROBE will only be high for the second cycle.

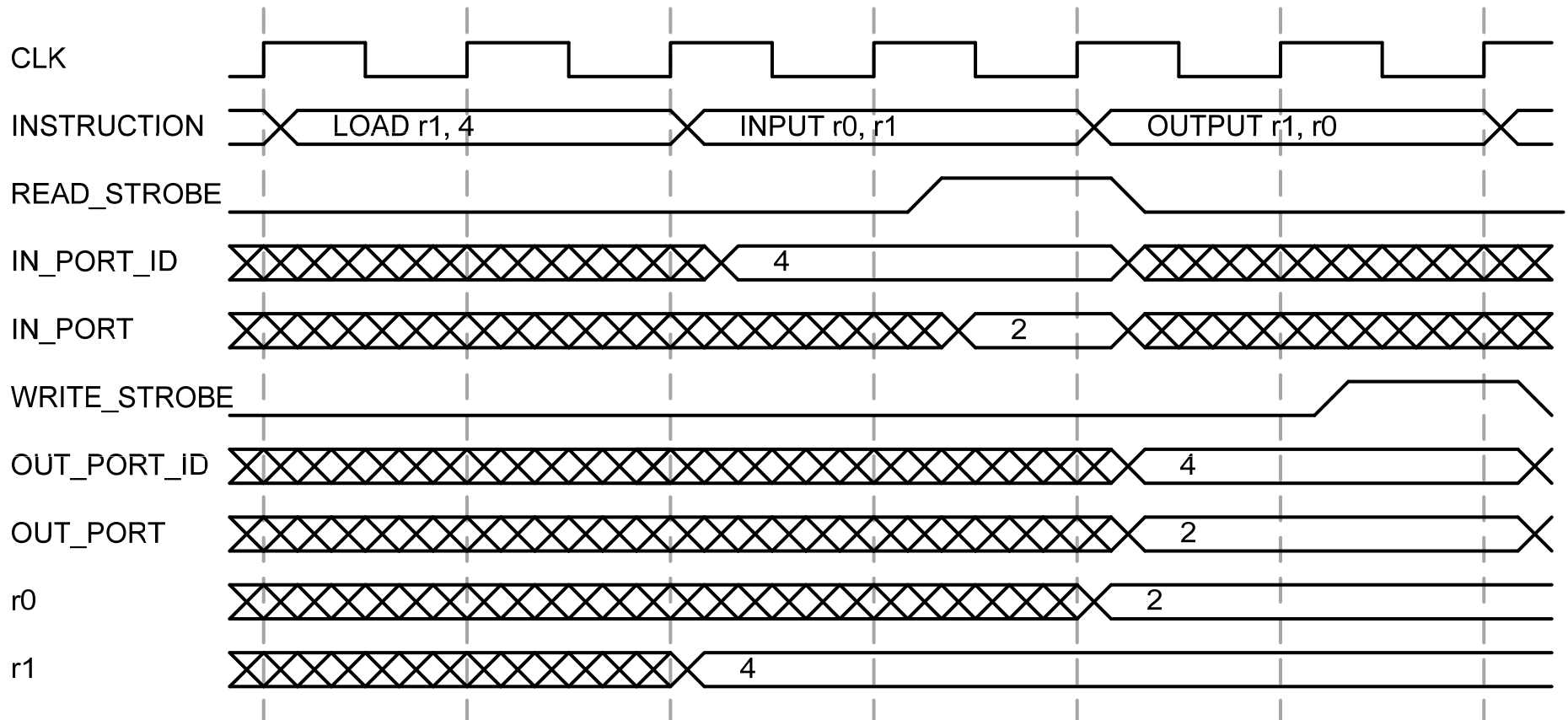
OUTPUT PORT

- The OUTPUT rX, kkkk and OUTPUT rX, rY instructions set OUT_PORT_ID to kkkk or rY, respectively, and set WRITE_STROBE to 1. Your logic must decode OUT_PORT_ID and connect OUT_PORT to the desired destination (typically a flip-flop with its CE controlled by OUT_PORT_ID).
- For two-cycle operation, OUT_PORT_ID will be valid for both cycles, while WRITE_STROBE will only be high for the second cycle.

SINGLE CYCLE I/O



TWO CYCLE I/O



- mcx16 provides an IN_BIT input. This input can be used in conditional statements (IF B JUMP bit_set) or shift instructions (SLB serial_to_parallel_reg).
- If there's only a single bit in your design that you'll use with this input, tie it directly to IN_BIT (unless pipeline registers are needed for timing).
- For selecting among multiple bits, use an OUTPUT command to write to a register that controls a mux for the IN_BIT input.

- The mcx16rom program can be modified using the LOADCLK / LOAD / LOADADDR / LOADDATA inputs. LOADCLK can be asynchronous to CLK. The instruction at LOADADDR will change to LOADDATA on any LOADCLK rising edge when LOAD is high.
- To avoid unpredictable operation, RST should be held high during ROM modifications.
- mcx16loader can be connected to the LOAD ports to allow JTAG updating of the program ROM.

UNUSED INPUTS

- Tie unused input ports (IN_BIT, IN_PORT, LOADs) to zero. This will typically cause warnings about unused signals during implementation, but the design will usually come out smaller and faster.
- If the LOAD ports are unused, tie LOADCLK to CLK (and the remaining LOAD inputs to zero) to avoid BRAM implementation errors.

- Use the top-level generics REGISTER_COUNT, SINGLE_CYCLE, STACK_DEPTH and STACK_BRAM to adjust the capabilities of an mcx16.
- Certain values fit most naturally into a particular FPGA. For example, program lengths up to 512 words fit into 1 BRAM in Spartan FPGAs, while 1024 words fit into 1 BRAM in Virtex FPGAs. 16 registers fit best in a Spartan 3, while 32 registers fit best in Spartan 6 and Virtex FPGAs. Feel free to experiment!

- The number of CALL instructions that can be nested is controlled by the STACK_DEPTH generic. A depth of 32 is best for Spartan 3 FPGAs, and 64 for Spartan 6 and Virtex devices.
- To save logic, the stack can use a BRAM by setting STACK_BRAM to true. This is only possible when SINGLE_CYCLE is false.
- Together, the mcx16 generics allow you to trade size, speed, and functionality to fit your needs.

- The mcx16asm assembler is provided as C++ source code and as a Windows executable. To compile it yourself, first download and install the Qt SDK for your platform:
 - <http://qt.nokia.com/downloads>
- Then, from a command prompt with Qt in the path, compile mcx16asm:
 - qmake
 - make

- For a list of assembler options, execute:
 - `mcx16asm -h`
- To check the syntax of a program, execute:
 - `mcx16asm myprogram.txt`
- To assemble a program and generate an mcx16rom module with the program embedded:
 - `mcx16asm myprogram.txt -o`
- Note that the `mcx16rom.vhd` template file must be available to use the `-o` option. Use the `-t` option to specify a different template file.

- Blank lines are ignored.
- Lines that start with a semicolon are comments, and are ignored.
- Instructions can be followed by a semicolon to have comments on the same line.
- Labels must be alone on a line, and are an alphanumeric string followed by a colon.
- Programs start at address zero.
- The assembler doesn't know how many registers your mcx16 instance has – you are responsible for staying within the hardware limits.

- Instructions are of the form:
[conditional] instruction [destination][, source]
- As an example,
IF Z LOAD r0, 7
will load the source value 7 into the destination register r0 if the zero flag is set.
- Registers are referred to as r[hex value], where [hex value] can go from 0 to [number of registers – 1], so r0 to r1F for 32 registers.

- mcx16 has REGISTER_COUNT identical 16-bit general purpose registers.
- You can give a register a more meaningful label with the ALIAS assembler directive:

```
ALIAS r0 MyCounter
```

```
ALIAS r0 MyCaptain
```

```
LOAD r0, 8 ; Sets r0 to 8
```

```
LOAD MyCounter, 8 ; Also sets r0 to 8
```

```
LOAD MyCaptain, 8 ; Also also sets r0 to 8
```

- Register aliases, constant names, and labels must all be unique.

- When an instruction uses a constant (“kkkk”), you can specify it in decimal, hexadecimal, ASCII, or as a named constant/label.
- Examples:
MyLabel:
MyConstant = 100
LOAD r0, 100 ; Sets r0 to 100
LOAD r0, 0x64 ; Also sets r0 to 100
LOAD r0, 'd' ; Also also sets r0 to 100
LOAD r0, '\n' ; Sets r0 to newline (0xA)
LOAD r0, MyLabel ; Sets r0 to the address of MyLabel
LOAD r0, MyConstant ; Back to setting r0 to 100
- Everything but ASCII/strings are case-insensitive.

- By default, the assembler begins generating instructions at address 0. To change the address of the next assembled instruction, use the command:
`ADDRESS 100`
- The assembler reports the highest address used, which defines how large the ROM must be.
- JUMP/CALL instructions can use constants, labels, or register values as a destination, which enables the use of jump tables.

- Each mcx16 op-code is 36 bits wide.
- Bits 35 – 33 identify conditional instructions.
- Bits 32 – 25 specify the instruction.
- Bit 24 selects rY or kkkk as the source.
- Bits 23 – 16 identify the destination register rX.
- Bits 15 – 8 identify the source register rY.
- Bits 15 – 0 specify the 16 bit constant kkkk, and are also used to select amongst the shift operations.

CONDITIONALS

- All instructions can be prefixed with a conditional (bits 35 – 33, ccc).
- If the condition is true, the instruction is executed, if false, it behaves as a NOP.

35	34	33	Condition
0	0	0	Unconditional
0	1	0	Z = 1
0	1	1	Z = 0
1	0	0	C = 1
1	0	1	C = 0
1	1	0	IN_BIT = 1
1	1	1	IN_BIT = 0

LOAD

LOAD rX, rY

c	c	c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

LOAD rX, kkkk

c	c	c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 $rX \leftarrow rY /$ $rX \leftarrow kkkk$

Z unchanged

C unchanged

 $PC \leftarrow PC + 1$

Stack unchanged

 $WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$ $READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$

AND rX, rY

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

AND rX, kkkk

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 $rX \leftarrow rX \text{ and } rY /$ $rX \leftarrow rX \text{ and } kkkk$ $Z \leftarrow 1 \text{ if result is } 0$ $C \leftarrow 0$ $PC \leftarrow PC + 1$

Stack unchanged

 $WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$ $READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$

OR rX, rY

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

OR rX, kkkk

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 $rX \leftarrow rX \text{ or } rY /$ $rX \leftarrow rX \text{ or } kkkk$ $Z \leftarrow 1 \text{ if result is } 0$ $C \leftarrow 0$ $PC \leftarrow PC + 1$

Stack unchanged

 $WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$ $READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$

XOR

XOR rX, rY

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

XOR rX, kkkk

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 $rX \leftarrow rX \text{ xor } rY /$ $PC \leftarrow PC + 1$ $rX \leftarrow rX \text{ xor } kkkk$

Stack unchanged

 $Z \leftarrow 1$ if result is 0 $WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$ $C \leftarrow 0$ $READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$

ADD

ADD rX, rY

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ADD rX, kkkk

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 $rX \leftarrow rX + rY /$ $PC \leftarrow PC + 1$ $rX \leftarrow rX + kkkk$

Stack unchanged

 $Z \leftarrow 1$ if result is 0 $WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$ $C \leftarrow 1$ if result > FFFF $READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$

ADDCY

ADDCY rX, rY

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ADDCY rX, kkkk

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 $rX \leftarrow rX + rY + C /$ $PC \leftarrow PC + 1$ $rX \leftarrow rX + kkkk + C$

Stack unchanged

 $Z \leftarrow 1$ if result is 0 $WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$ and last $Z = 1$ $READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$ $C \leftarrow 1$ if result $> FFFF$

SUB

SUB rX, rY

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

SUB rX, kkkk

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 $rX \leftarrow rX - rY /$ $PC \leftarrow PC + 1$ $rX \leftarrow rX - kkkk$

Stack unchanged

 $Z \leftarrow 1$ if result is 0 $WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$ $C \leftarrow 1$ if result < 0 $READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$

SUBCY

SUBCY rX, rY

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

SUBCY rX, kkkk

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$$rX \leftarrow rX - rY - C /$$

$$PC \leftarrow PC + 1$$

$$rX \leftarrow rX - kkkk - C$$

Stack unchanged

$$Z \leftarrow 1 \text{ if result is } 0$$

$$\text{WRITE_STROBE} \leftarrow 0$$

$$\text{and last } Z = 1$$

$$\text{READ_STROBE} \leftarrow 0$$

$$C \leftarrow 1 \text{ if result } < 0$$

SLX rX

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$$rX(0) \leftarrow rX(0)$$

$$rX(15-1) \leftarrow rX(14-0)$$

$$Z \leftarrow 1 \text{ if result is } 0$$

$$C \leftarrow rX(15)$$

$$PC \leftarrow PC + 1$$

Stack unchanged

$$WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

$$READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

SLA rX

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$$rX(0) \leftarrow C$$

$$rX(15-1) \leftarrow rX(14-0)$$

$$Z \leftarrow 1 \text{ if result is } 0$$

$$C \leftarrow rX(15)$$

$$PC \leftarrow PC + 1$$

Stack unchanged

$$WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

$$READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

SLB rX

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$$rX(0) \leftarrow \text{IN_BIT}$$

$$rX(15-1) \leftarrow rX(14-0)$$

$$Z \leftarrow 1 \text{ if result is } 0$$

$$C \leftarrow rX(15)$$

$$PC \leftarrow PC + 1$$

Stack unchanged

$$\text{WRITE_STROBE} \leftarrow 0$$

$$\text{READ_STROBE} \leftarrow 0$$

RL rX

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$$rX(0) \leftarrow rX(15)$$

$$rX(15-1) \leftarrow rX(14-0)$$

$$Z \leftarrow 1 \text{ if result is } 0$$

$$C \leftarrow rX(15)$$

$$PC \leftarrow PC + 1$$

Stack unchanged

$$\text{WRITE_STROBE} \leftarrow 0$$

$$\text{READ_STROBE} \leftarrow 0$$

SRO rX

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$$rX(15) \leftarrow 0$$

$$rX(14-0) \leftarrow rX(15-1)$$

$$Z \leftarrow 1 \text{ if result is } 0$$

$$C \leftarrow rX(0)$$

$$PC \leftarrow PC + 1$$

Stack unchanged

$$WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

$$READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

SR1 rX

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$$rX(15) \leftarrow 1$$

$$rX(14-0) \leftarrow rX(15-1)$$

$$Z \leftarrow 0$$

$$C \leftarrow rX(0)$$

$$PC \leftarrow PC + 1$$

Stack unchanged

$$WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

$$READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

SRX rX

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$$rX(15) \leftarrow rX(15)$$

$$rX(14-0) \leftarrow rX(15-1)$$

$$Z \leftarrow 1 \text{ if result is } 0$$

$$C \leftarrow rX(0)$$

$$PC \leftarrow PC + 1$$

Stack unchanged

$$WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

$$READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

SRA rX

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$$rX(15) \leftarrow C$$

$$rX(14-0) \leftarrow rX(15-1)$$

$$Z \leftarrow 1 \text{ if result is } 0$$

$$C \leftarrow rX(0)$$

$$PC \leftarrow PC + 1$$

Stack unchanged

$$WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

$$READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

SRB rX

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 $rX(15) \leftarrow \text{IN_BIT}$
 $rX(14-0) \leftarrow rX(15-1)$
 $Z \leftarrow 1$ if result is 0

 $C \leftarrow rX(0)$
 $PC \leftarrow PC + 1$

Stack unchanged

 $\text{WRITE_STROBE} \leftarrow 0$
 $\text{READ_STROBE} \leftarrow 0$

RR rX

c	c	c	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$$rX(15) \leftarrow rX(0)$$

$$rX(14-0) \leftarrow rX(15-1)$$

$$Z \leftarrow 1 \text{ if result is } 0$$

$$C \leftarrow rX(0)$$

$$PC \leftarrow PC + 1$$

Stack unchanged

$$WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

$$READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$$

INPUT rX, rY

c	c	c	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

INPUT rX, kkkk

c	c	c	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

IN_PORT_ID \leftarrow rY /PC \leftarrow PC + 1IN_PORT_ID \leftarrow kkkk

Stack unchanged

rX \leftarrow IN_PORTWRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0

Z unchanged

READ_STROBE \leftarrow 1

C unchanged

OUTPUT

OUTPUT rX, rY

c	c	c	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

OUTPUT rX, kkkk

c	c	c	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

OUT_PORT_ID \leftarrow rX

PC \leftarrow PC + 1

OUT_PORT \leftarrow rY /

Stack unchanged

OUT_PORT \leftarrow kkkk

WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 1

Z unchanged

READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0

C unchanged

JUMP

JUMP rY

c	c	c	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

JUMP kkkk

c	c	c	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

rX unchanged

Z unchanged

C unchanged

$PC \leftarrow rY / kkkk$

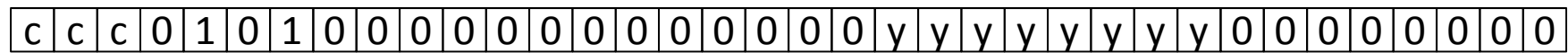
Stack unchanged

$WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$

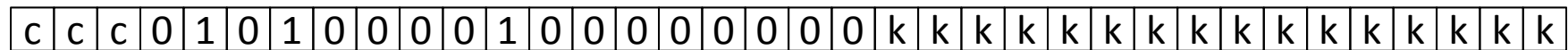
$READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$

CALL

CALL rY



CALL kkkk



rX unchanged

Z unchanged

C unchanged

PC ← rY / kkkk

Stack ← PC

WRITE_STROBE ← 0

READ_STROBE ← 0

LOADRETURN

LOADRETURN rX, kkkk

c	c	c	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

rX ← kkkk

Z unchanged

C unchanged

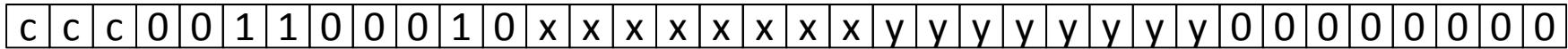
PC ← stack + 1

WRITE_STROBE ← 0

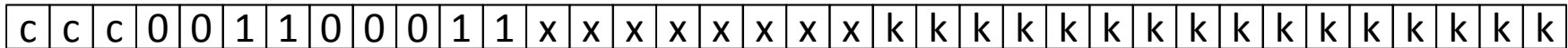
READ_STROBE ← 0

TEST

TEST rX, rY



TEST rX, kkkk



rX unchanged

result \leftarrow rX and rY /
rX and kkkk

Z \leftarrow 1 if result is 0

C \leftarrow 1 if result has an
odd number of
bits set

PC \leftarrow PC + 1

Stack unchanged

WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0

READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0

TESTCY

TESTCY rX, rY

c	c	c	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

TESTCY rX, kkkk

c	c	c	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

rX unchanged

 $PC \leftarrow PC + 1$ result \leftarrow rX and rY /

Stack unchanged

rX and kkkk

WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0Z \leftarrow 1 if result is 0 andREAD_STROBE \leftarrow 0

last Z = 1

C \leftarrow 1 if result with Chas an odd number
of bits set

COMPARE

COMPARE rX, rY

c	c	c	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

COMPARE rX, kkkk

c	c	c	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

rX unchanged

result \leftarrow rX - rY /

rX - kkkk

Z \leftarrow 1 if result is 0C \leftarrow 1 if result < 0PC \leftarrow PC + 1

Stack unchanged

WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0

COMPARECY

COMPARECY rX, rY

c	c	c	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

COMPARECY rX, kkkk

c	c	c	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

rX unchanged

$PC \leftarrow PC + 1$

result $\leftarrow rX - rY - C /$

Stack unchanged

$rX - kkkk - C$

WRITE_STROBE $\leftarrow 0$

Z $\leftarrow 1$ if result is 0 and

READ_STROBE $\leftarrow 0$

last Z = 1

C $\leftarrow 1$ if result < 0

SETCY

SETCY

c	c	c	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

rX unchanged

Z unchanged

 $C \leftarrow 1$ $PC \leftarrow PC + 1$

Stack unchanged

 $WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$ $READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$

CLEARCY

CLEARCY

c	c	c	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

rX unchanged

Z unchanged

 $C \leftarrow 0$ $PC \leftarrow PC + 1$

Stack unchanged

 $WRITE_STROBE \leftarrow 0$ $READ_STROBE \leftarrow 0$

- **STRING** is an assembler directive which expands into a series of **LOADRETURN** instructions.

```
LOAD r0, MyString          ; Put the address of MyString in r0
StringLoop:
CALL r0                    ; Read the next char of MyString
TEST r1, 0xFF              ; Each char is stored in r1
IF Z JUMP StringDone      ; We're done if the char is zero
CALL WriteCharacter       ; Call a subroutine to transmit r1
ADD r0, 1                  ; Move to the next character
JUMP StringLoop

MyString:
; Specify a register to be loaded and then the string
STRING r1, "This string will get sent to the world!\0"

StringDone:
; The rest of the program follows
```

- WSTRING operates similarly to STRING, but two characters are stored per LOADRETURN.

WSTRING r2, “Yikes” is translated into:

```
LOADRETURN r2, 0x5969 ; ‘Y’ ‘i’
```

```
LOADRETURN r2, 0x6B65 ; ‘k’ ‘e’
```

```
LOADRETURN r2, 0x7300 ; ‘s’ 0
```

- This allows memory savings for long strings, at the expense of more complicated decoding routines.

- Strings and character constants can use the following set of escape codes (similar to C):

\\ : Backslash (0x5C)

\r : Carriage return (0x0D)

\n : Newline (0x0A)

\t : Tab (0x09)

\" : Double quote (0x22)

\' : Single quote (0x27)

\0 : Null terminator (0x00)

- To facilitate faster debugging of mcx16 programs, mcx16loader.vhd is provided to allow JTAG access to an mcx16 program running in an FPGA.
- Connect the RST and LOADx signals to the same ports on the mcx16 and mcx16rom.

mcx16loader declaration:

```
component mcx16loader is
  generic (
    FPGA: string;
    JTAG_CHAIN: integer
  );
  port (
    RST: out std_logic;
    LOADCLK: out std_logic;
    LOAD: out std_logic;
    LOADADDR: out std_logic_vector(15 downto 0);
    LOADDATA: out std_logic_vector(35 downto 0)
  );
end component;
```

mcx16loader instance:

```
inst_mcx16loader: mcx16loader
  generic map (
    FPGA => "S3",
    JTAG_CHAIN => 1
  )
  port map (
    RST => RST,
    LOADCLK => LOADCLK,
    LOAD => LOAD,
    LOADADDR => LOADADDR,
    LOADDATA => LOADDATA
  );
```

- Set the mcx16loader generics as desired. FPGA can be “S3” (Spartan 3), “S3A” (Spartan 3A), “S6” (Spartan 6), “V4” (Virtex 4), “V5” (Virtex 5), or “V6” (Virtex 6).
- Set JTAG_CHAIN to 1 or 2 (corresponding to USER1/USER2) for Spartan 3/3As, and 1 through 4 (USER1-USER4) for Spartan 6s and Virtex 4s/5s/6s.
- The mcx16asm -u <chain> option should be set to match the value of JTAG_CHAIN.

- To load a program via JTAG into an mcx16 embedded in a configured FPGA, run:

```
mcx16asm myprogram.txt -l
```

- If you're using a Spartan 3/3A alone on a JTAG chain, and set to JTAG_CHAIN=1 (USER1), that's all that's necessary. Add a "-v" to see the action.
- For more complex scenarios, you must give mcx16asm additional information:
- Pass "-f s3", "-f s6", "-f v4", "-f v5" or "-f v6" to specify the target FPGA family.

- Pass “-bi <bits>”, “-bd <bits>”, “-ai <bits>”, and “-ad <bits>” to specify the IR and DR register lengths of all devices before and after the target FPGA. The DR lengths will just be the number of devices before (-bd) or after (-ad) the FPGA. The IR lengths will be the sum of the lengths of the JTAG instruction registers of all devices before (-bi) and after (-ai) the FPGA. These lengths can be found in the BSDL documentation for each device.

- If your JTAG chain is TDI → XCF01S → V5 → TDO and JTAG_CHAIN is 3, the command would be:

```
mcx16asm prog.txt -l -f v5 -u 3 -bi 8 -bd 1
```
- If your JTAG chain is TDI → S6 → XCF01S → TDO and JTAG_CHAIN is 1, the command would be:

```
mcx16asm prog.txt -l -f s6 -u 1 -ai 8 -ad 1
```
- Creating a batch file to save typing this repeatedly is recommended!

- The mcx16rom.vhd file is the template mcx16asm uses to generate a ROM prepopulated with the user's program.
- The mcx16rom component will have been given a name matching the assembly code filename:

mcx16rom declaration:

```
component mymcx16rom is
  generic (
    ROM_TYPE: string
  );
  port (
    LOADCLK: in std_logic;
    LOAD: in std_logic;
    LOADADDR: in std_logic_vector(15 downto 0);
    LOADDATA: in std_logic_vector(35 downto 0);
    CLK: in std_logic;
    CE: in std_logic;
    ADDR: in std_logic_vector(15 downto 0);
    DATA: out std_logic_vector(35 downto 0)
  );
end component;
```

mcx16loader instance:

```
inst_mymcx16rom: mymcx16rom
  generic map (
    ROM_TYPE => "block"
  )
  port map (
    LOADCLK => LOADCLK,
    LOAD => LOAD,
    LOADADDR => LOADADDR,
    LOADDATA => LOADDATA,
    CLK => CLK,
    CE => CE,
    ADDR => ADDR,
    DATA => DATA
  );
```

- Pass mcx16asm the `-m` option to set a minimum ROM size (defaults to 512 words), for example:

```
mcx16asm prog.txt -o -m 1024
```

This will make the ROM at least 1024 words big (larger if the prog.txt exceeds that size): useful during development as your program may grow, and you wish to avoid recompiling the design.

- Set the ROM_TYPE generic to “block” to force BRAM usage or “distributed” to use distributed RAM. mcx16 can use zero BRAMs if the stack and ROM are both set to use distributed memory.

- mcx16uart is a simple N81 UART that can be used with mcx16 (see the mcx16s6mb Spartan-6 LX9 MicroBoard example)

mcx16uart declaration:

```

component mcx16uart is
  generic (
    CLOCK_RATE: real;
    BAUD_RATE: real;
    MAX_BAUD_ERROR: real;
    FIFO_DEPTH: integer
  );
  port (
    CLK: in std_logic;
    TX_RST: in std_logic;
    TX_WRITE: in std_logic;
    TX_DATA: in std_logic_vector(7 downto 0);
    TX: out std_logic;
    TX_EMPTY: out std_logic;
    TX_FULL: out std_logic;
    RX_RST: in std_logic;
    RX_READ: in std_logic;
    RX: in std_logic;
    RX_DATA: out std_logic_vector(7 downto 0);
    RX_EMPTY: out std_logic;
    RX_FULL: out std_logic
  );
end component;

```

mcx16uart instance:

```

inst_mcx16uart: mcx16uart
  generic map (
    CLOCK_RATE => CLOCK_RATE,
    BAUD_RATE => BAUD_RATE,
    MAX_BAUD_ERROR => MAX_BAUD_ERROR,
    FIFO_DEPTH => FIFO_DEPTH
  )
  port map (
    CLK => CLK,
    TX_RST => TX_RST,
    TX_WRITE => TX_WRITE,
    TX_DATA => TX_DATA,
    TX => TX,
    TX_EMPTY => TX_EMPTY,
    TX_FULL => TX_FULL,
    RX_RST => RX_RST,
    RX_READ => RX_READ,
    RX => RX,
    RX_DATA => RX_DATA,
    RX_EMPTY => RX_EMPTY,
    RX_FULL => RX_FULL
  );

```

- Thanks for taking a look at mcx16! This is free software, so I can't guarantee any support. However, you can post questions, comments, bugs, improvements, etc. on the mcx16 forum here:

<http://www.bitpond.com/forums/forum/mcx16-forum/>

- Enjoy!

- Greg Bredthauer