

The project is divided into clusters with the following estimated staffing (subject to change).

Chip Cluster:	14 + 4
Datapath Unit:	6
Control Unit:	4
Memory Unit:	4 HMC + 4 Adelaide
COP0 Unit:	2
Microarchitecture Cluster: 4	
Chief Microarchitect	ţ
Memory Microarchitect	
Architecture Validation	
Systems Cluster:	5
Compiler	
Benchmarking	
External Memory System	
FPGA Emulation	
Packaging	
Processor Card	
Demo Software	
Library Cluster:	2
Library cells	
PLA Generator	
Databook Generator	

This document defines the acceptance criteria for the various project milestones for each cluster.

Documentation Standards

To facilitate the chip report, all documents should be prepared to uniform standards:

- Document format: Microsoft Word
- Illustrations: Visio

Include the author, date, and title of the document at the top.

All documents should be stored in the E158/www/07 directory under the appropriate cluster subdirectory, and linked to the appropriate web page at the same time that they are submitted in hard copy.

Use 12-point Times New Roman for body text, 14-point bold Times Roman for headings, and 10-point Arial for figures. Paste in schematics and layouts from Electric. If transistor or gate schematic elements are needed and Electric schematics are not available, use the Visio symbol library in E158/www/gateStencils.vsd.

One or two editors should be designated for the final report. The editor is responsible for combining the pieces into a coherent whole and for editing for grammar and consistency. All participants in the class should read the entire report and indicate suggestions and corrections to the editors before the report is turned in. This memo outlines documentation for the final report. The list should not be viewed as exhaustive or required, but merely suggestive. Ultimately, the report should contain everything necessary to understand and reproduce or extend the work on the chip.

Milestones

Meeting milestones on a large team project requires advanced planning, effective meetings, and the willingness to work hard when last-minute surprises arise. A hallmark of an effective team manager is to minimize the number of last-minute surprises.

Each cluster or unit on the project has a team and team manager. One of the first tasks is to organize the teams. If the team believes it has too few or too many people, notify Prof. Harris and changes will be made if resources are available.

The team should meet on a regularly scheduled basis in advance of milestones. Managers should set internal team deadlines (e.g., at the start of the team meeting) in advance of the final deadline so that there is time to review, revise, and assemble. The team meetings will commonly include design reviews offering constructive criticism of each team member's work in order to avoid problems later when making changes is more painful. Pay particular attention to system integration issues so that the amount of rework is minimized.

At each milestone, turn in a report demonstrating that the milestone is met. The reports may be informal and should be as brief as possible while still covering the necessary information. Track of the number of hours spent on each element of each milestone.

Chip Cluster Milestones

The Chip Cluster is under the direction of the Chief Circuit Designer and four Unit Managers. The Unit Manager, with the input of the team, is responsible for dividing the unit into blocks. Each block should be associated with a module in the Verilog register transfer level (RTL) model. This may require giving feedback to the Microarchitecture Cluster team to reorganize the RTL. The Chief Circuit Designer and Unit Managers are also individually responsible for blocks on the chip.

Unit Organization 1/30 Unit Managers, 2/13 Blocks Assigned

Each Unit Manager will provide a list of all of the blocks in the unit and the team member responsible for each block. Team members may be responsible for more than one block, depending on the complexity.

The Memory Unit team will have a group of students from the University of Adelaide joining in, starting around Feb. 26th. This team will travel to Adelaide over Spring Break to collaborate on the design.

Control PLAs are owned by the Library Cluster. A member of the library cluster crossreports to the Control Unit Manager and is responsible for the Chip Cluster milestones.

Preliminary Chip Floorplan 2/6 Ted & Carl

The Chief Circuit Designer and Chief Microarchitect are jointly responsible for a preliminary floorplan. The preliminary floorplan describes the rough size and arrangement of the units and the major busses (at least 5 bits) connecting the units.

At the time of completion of the Preliminary Chip Floorplan, the RTL should be partitioned into modules that reflect the units and the blocks within the units. Blocks should be organized as datapaths, arrays, PLAs, or control. Datapath blocks should be further divided into word slices. Word slices contain N (usually 32) rows of cells and a zipper on top (preferably 1 row tall) containing inverters or other logic needed to drive the column. There is a 5-bit register ID datapath that should also be considered.

The Preliminary Chip Floorplan also includes analysis of the maximum number of horizontal wires at any point in the datapath. This sets the cell pitch in the word slices; if it is incorrect, it will lead to enormous amounts of layout rework. Ideally, the number of wires will be limited to 7 or perhaps 8 to run over the MuddLib cells, but this may not be feasible.

MOSIS will subsidize fabrication of chips up to 4 mm (12 k λ) on a side. If it is possible to fit the chip in these dimensions, our prospects of manufacturing the chip are much better.

Detailed Floorplans 2/20 Entire Cluster

Each block and each unit needs a floorplan (see CMOS VLSI Fig 1.60). The floorplan will include the dimensions and the port locations for all signals. Where possible, the internal structure should be identified at one lower level of hierarchy. The floorplan should be accompanied by notes justifying the dimensions.

Datapath-type block and/or unit floorplans should include the slice plan (see CMOS VLSI Fig 1.68) identifying the number and arrangement of wires in the bitslice.

Block owners are responsible for each block floorplan. The Unit Managers are responsible for reviewing the block floorplans, providing feedback, and generating a unit floorplan based on the constituent blocks. The Chief Circuit Designer is responsible for reviewing the unit floorplans, providing feedback, and generating a revised chip floorplan.

Each block owner should prepare a list of the names of every cell that will be used in the design. Remember to include leaf cells (selected from MuddLib when possible), For cells that are not already in the library, estimate the dimensions, the number of hours needed to achieve a correctly simulating schematic, and the number of hours to achieve a validated layout. The Unit Managers and Chief Circuit Designer should compile the list of chips into a single spreadsheet and identify duplication, then assign cells to team members.

Turn in the spreadsheet listing each unique cell to be designed, the owner, dimensions, and budgeted times for schematics and layout. Keep records of the time spent on each cell during the remainder of the semester.

Clock and Power Networks 2/20 Nikhil & Andy Chin

Define the locations and widths of the major power and clock wires on the floorplan.

For long-term electromigration reliability, try to keep the V_{DD} and GND wire currents under 1 mA / μ m of width (0.3 mA/ λ). Also keep the power supply droop to less than 5% of VDD.

The current drawn by transistors switching is αCVf . α is the activity factor and can be conservatively estimated at 0.2 for most logic. C is the switching capacitance. A high-drive NAND gate has approximately 100 l of transistor width in an area of about 2400 λ^2 . Gate capacitance is about 2 fF/µm, giving a gate capacitance density of 60 fF/2400 λ^2 . Double this to account for diffusion and wire capacitance, giving an overall capacitance density of 0.05 fF/ λ^2 . V_{DD} = 3.3V. A FO4 delay is 312 ps in our process. A cycle time of 30 FO4 delays corresponds to *f* of about 100 MHz. In summary, the estimated switching current is 3.3 nA/ λ^2 or 33 µA per 100 x 100 λ block.

How long can a datapath bitslice be before the 81 Metal1 power wires are inadequate to deliver power to the bitslice? Use this information to determine whether the datapaths need strapping.

A datapath has many bitslices, so the wires supplying current to the end of the datapath typically have to be fat. The power and ground wires should be run adjacently to avoid large inductive loops.

Typical sheet resistance of wires is 0.1 Ω /square for Metal1 and Metal2 and 0.05 Ω /square for Metal3. Wire capacitance is about 0.2 fF/µm of length for minimum-width wires.

Estimate the loads on the clock. What is the delay from one end to the other of a 32-bit wordslice for a clock wire uniformly loaded with flip-flops? How much capacitance is on the wire?

Determine the clock distribution path. Insert clock buffers where necessary. Strive to keep the clock skew below 2 FO4 inverter delay if possible; otherwise, determine how hold times will be guaranteed.

Simulations show that the maximum skew between two back-to-back dffenr_c_2x cells is slightly more than 2.4 ns before the flops suffer a hold time failure. This is approximately 8 FO4 delays of skew tolerance, which is quite generous. The clock to Q delay is about 1.5 ns, or 5 FO4 delays.

Block Schematics Simulate 2/27 Everybody

Each block should:

- Have complete schematics and icons
 - all module and signal names match RTL
- Have a written test plan
- Have a self-checking Verilog test fixture implementing the test plan
- Pass all of the test vectors in simulation
- Have a written summary of the tests performed and their results

If the block uses any cells that are not simple static CMOS gates (e.g. those from MuddLib), it should also be simulated in IRSIM. If the block contains any ratioed or dynamic logic, a test plan for those circuits should be written and the relevant circuits should be simulated in HSPICE to show that the criteria described in the test plan is satisfied.

Turn in an informal write-up for each block.

Unit & Chip Schematics Simulate 3/6 Unit Managers

The unit and chip schematic should meet the same milestones as the blocks. The chip should be placed in the pad frame defined by the Systems cluster. It should pass the same regression suite used to validate the RTL.

Not all team members may be needed for chip schematic assembly. This is a good time for layout to begin, because layout will be time consuming.

Block Layout Validated 3/20 Everybody + Adelaide

Each block should

- Have complete layout consistent with the floorplan
- Pass DRC, NCC, and ERC
- Simulate correctly in the self-checking Verilog test fixture

All routing should be done with vertical metal2 and horizontal metal 3, except that short stretches of metal1 may be used to connect adjacent cells. Use a width of 4 for metal1 and metal2, and a width of 6 for metal3. Use a spacing of 4 for all metal layers.

Turn in an informal write-up for each block.

Unit Layout Validated 3/27 Unit Managers

Each unit should meet the same milestones as the blocks.

Chip Layout Validated 4/3 Unit Managers

The chip should meet the same milestones as the blocks. It should be placed in the pad frame and wired to the pads, and should pass the same regression suite used to validate the RTL.

Chip Report 4/10 Everybody

- An attractive top-level picture of the chip
- An overview of the chip design
- The chip, unit, and block-level floorplans
- A diagram indicating the name and number of each pin
- Interface specifications describing the function and direction of each pin
- A spreadsheet listing each cell in the design and its owner, including estimated vs. actual dimensions, schematic time, and layout time.
- Lessons of the design: from each team member, include a paragraph or more on the key ideas learned regarding VLSI design, large team dynamics, estimated vs. actual budgets, and anything else worth noting for the future.
- Documentation on each cell including:

- Notes about the function
- o Schematic
- o Layout
- Block, unit, and chip documentation also includes
 - Test plan

 - Self-checking test bench
 IRSIM or Spice results where applicable

Microarchitecture Cluster Milestones

The Microarchitecture Cluster is under the direction of the Chief Microarchitect, Carl Nygaard, who has written much of the RTL over Winter Break. The Chief Microarchitect is responsible for ensuring that all cluster tasks are allocated to team members, and for reviewing the work of the team. The Chief Microarchitect is individually responsible for the initial RTL model of the CPU, excluding caches.

Microarchitecture Team Organization 1/23

In consultation with the team, the Chief Microarchitect will develop a list of the responsibilities and deadlines of each member of the team. At the discretion of the team, up to two people may share responsibility for a given task.

CPU Block Diagram 2/6 Carl

Extend the Pipelined Processor block diagram from *Digital Design and Computer Architecture* to show the entire CPU microarchitecture. Where appropriate, use hierarchy to keep the complexity manageable.

Memory System Specification 1/23

The Memory Microarchitect(s) will prepare a specification for the caches and external memory system. The specification will describe the inputs, outputs, and functionality. It should include a block diagram of the components of the memory system.

The memory system should contain identical 4KB direct-mapped write-back instruction and data caches with 1-word block size. It should also contain an interface to external memory. The external memory is accessed over a standard address and data bus when the cache misses or the processor accesses a location in uncacheable memory. The interface must arbitrate between multiple possible requesters and should tolerate multiple cycles of external memory latency.

The external memory can be modeled for testing purposes as a single array with some contents initialized from a file. The System Cluster will extend it to include I/O devices.

Test Plan 2/6 Matt Totino

The test plan should cover the entire processor with the CPU and cache. It should contain both directed and random test cases. The directed test cases should address both the architecture and microarchitecture. The architectural cases should include corner cases for all of the instructions. The microarchitectural cases should include corner cases specific to the implementation, such as pipelining.

Pay particular attention to how the self-checking test bench will operate. It may be helpful to use PCSpim to generate expected results.

Describe the significance of branch delay slots and any discrepancies between the RTL and PCSpim.

The most important test cases should appear first. Some care should be given to achieving full coverage while keeping the run time acceptable on a transistor-level model of the chip.

CPU Function Complete 1/30 Team

At this milestone, all known functions of the CPU are implemented and have undergone basic testing. Turn in the Verilog code.

RTL Function Complete 2/6 Team

At this milestone, all known functions of the combined CPU and memory are implemented and have undergone basic testing in simulation. Turn in the Verilog code.

RTL Tuning 2/8 Team

Analyze the partitioning of the circuit. Break it into appropriate modules to facilitate the circuit design. Each module should be solely datapath, datapath control, PLA control, random control, or array. Datapaths should have a single bit width where possible. If modules contain too many elements, group the elements hierarchically to simplify physical design (debugging a problem in a layout with many elements is difficult).

Synthesize the RTL using Synplify Pro. Identify the critical paths. If they can be sped up in a reasonable fashion, do so. Make sure all of the synthesized hardware matches expectations.

CPU Validated 2/10 Team

At this milestone, the CPU should pass a full regression test of the entire test plan using an ideal memory system that immediately returns the correct value.

Keep a spreadsheet of bugs corrected after function complete signoff. List the date and a short description.

RTL Validated 2/13 Team

At this milestone, the RTL should pass the full regression test for the CPU attached to a real memory system.

Chip Report 2/27 Team, Carl Editor

- CPU and memory system specifications
- CPU and memory system block diagrams
- Test plan
- Microarchitecture validation results including
 - Spreadsheet listing bugs caught during validation
 - Histogram of #bugs caught vs. time
- Complete RTL code for hardware and self-checking test bench
- Lessons of the design: from each team member, include a paragraph or more on the key ideas

Systems Cluster Milestones

The Systems Cluster is under the direction of the Systems Manager, who is responsible for ensuring that all of the cluster tasks are allocated to team members, and for reviewing the work of the team. The Systems Manager is expected to own some of the cluster tasks.

Package Definition 2/20 Cassie

The chip will be packaged in a PGA. The Systems team must select the smallest feasible pin grid array (PGA) package available through MOSIS:

http://www.mosis.com/Technical/Packaging/Ceramic/menu-pkg-ceramic.html

Based on the selected package and the floorplan, the team should prepare two diagrams. The first will show which bond pads are associated with which signals. The second will show which package pins are associated with which signals. The easiest way to do this is to download the bonding diagram and connections diagram from the MOSIS site and annotate it.

Write the pad frame schematic and layout .arr files and automatically generate the pad frame for the AMI 0.6 μ m process. Expand the layout pad ring as necessary to accommodate the chip floorplan.

External Memory and I/O System Specification 2/27 Howard

Create a specification for the external memory system. It may be helpful to look at the *See MIPS Run* book and consult Carl Nygaard to understand the issues. Create a memory map. Specify how much RAM and ROM are included and what addresses map to the I/O space.

Plan to be able to implement your memory system on a Xilinx XCV2P30 Virtex-II Pro FPGA. The FPGA has somewhat over 256 KB of Block SelectRAM.

Include the ability to initialize the memory from a file.

Determine which I/O devices will be supported. At a minimum, it would be good to be able to access the LEDs and DIP switches on the V2P board. Supporting audio and/or video would be impressive.

Prepare a test plan for the external memory system.

External Memory Operational 3/6 Howard

Develop Verilog code for the external memory system to replace the simple system used by the Microarchitecture Cluster. Demonstrate that the external memory system passes the simulation portion of the test plan.

MIPS Compiler 2/20 Matt

Bring up GCC for MIPS on a Windows-based platform. This may involve using Cygwin, or may run directly at the command prompt. Prof. James Stine at U. Oklahoma has done a port called yoda_warrior that will be our starting point. Be sure that GCC only generates the MIPS I instructions supported by the processor. Study the assembly code that it produces and understand the various pieces, including startup code. Determine how to run the code on PCSpim.

MIPS Compiler Interface 3/27 Matt

Develop a way to run compiled MIPS code on the RTL simulation. Provide a way to load the object file into ROM or RAM. This may require linking in startup code or otherwise modifying the GCC output. Includes boot loader to initialize cache so programs can run out of the cache. Test on a simple program.

MiBench Benchmarks 3/6 Matt

The MiBench embedded benchmark suite contains programs representative of those that would be run on embedded systems such as ours. There are benchmarks for several application spaces. Choose one that the team believes is appropriate.

http://www.eecs.umich.edu/mibench/

Compile the MiBench benchmark for MIPS and run it in small data set mode on the RTL simulation.

Determine the IPC for each program assuming (1) a 1-cycle external memory system and (2) a 6-cycle external memory system.

Compiler Floating Point Library 2/20 Matt

Library to compile programs using floating point.

FPGA Synthesizes 2/13 Eddie

Synthesize without cache.

FPGA Emulation 3/6 Eddie

Synthesize the entire RTL and memory system onto the XUPV2P board. Run a simple program that reads the DIP switches and controls the LEDs.

How fast will the RTL run according to the timing analyzer? What is the critical path?

Dual FPGA Emulation3/27Eddie

Find or build a connector to connect two XUPV2P boards together, preferably through the high speed expansion port. Program the processor onto one board and the external memory onto the other.

Demo Program 4/3 Cassie

Write a program to show off the capabilities of the processor. The program should do something nontrivial and should exploit the I/O devices on the XUPV2P board and possibly the PCB. The demo should be interesting to a prefrosh visiting campus and to your grandmother seeing it at graduation.

Processor Board Design Specification 2/27 Bart

Design a printed circuit board (PCB) to hold the processor. The PCB should have the appropriate socket for mounting the CPU and the same connector used for dual FPGA emulation. If there are enough pins, consider adding I/O devices such as a 7-segment display, speech synthesizer chip, LED bar or A/D converter. Be sure to have a way of supplying 3.3 V power to the CPU and of precisely measuring the current drawn by the CPU. Include an ON/OFF switch and a power indicator LED.

Identify all of the features that will be on the board and sketch a paper schematic.

Processor Board Schematics Complete 3/6 Bart

Draw the PCB Schematic using Protel. Contact Prof. Sarah Harris for advice on the tool. You will need to learn to create symbols and footprints for nonstandard parts on the board.

Processor Board Layout Complete 3/27 Bart

Finish the PCB layout using Protel. Design it as a 4-layer board with power and ground planes. Traces should be at least 8 mil width and spacing. The board should be no larger than necessary. Include appropriate bypass capacitors. Send the board to Advanced Circuits (<u>www.4pcb.com</u>) for manufacturing.

Post-Silicon Test Plan 4/3 Bart

Write a step-by-step test plan to determine if the chip is functional after fabrication. The test plan should be as simple as possible.

Chip Report 4/10

- Packaging information
 - o pad frame diagram with pin names and numbers
 - o pinout diagram with pin names and numbers
 - Pad frame generator files
- External memory & I/O system
 - Specification
 - o Verilog
 - Test results
- Compiler and benchmark
 - Compiler user instructions
 - Compiler technical documentation
 - o Documentation on loading compiled code into the testfixture
 - o Benchmark results
- FPGA emulation
 - o Instructions
 - Testing results
 - o Demo program documentation
- Processor board
 - o Specifications
 - o Schematics
 - o Layout
- Post-silicon test plan
- Lessons of the design: from each team member, include a paragraph or more on the key ideas

Library Cluster Milestones

The Library Cluster is under the direction of the Library Manager, who is responsible for ensuring that all of the cluster tasks are allocated to team members, and for reviewing the work of the team. The Library Manager is expected to own some of the cluster tasks.

Control PLAs are owned by the Library Cluster. A member of the library cluster crossreports to the Control Unit Manager and is responsible for the Chip Cluster milestones.

Library Team Organization 1/30 Justin

In consultation with the team, the Library Manager will develop a list of the responsibilities and deadlines of each member of the team. At the discretion of the team, up to two people may share responsibility for a given task. Each member of the team will provide a proposal flushing out the specifications for that element.

At this point, the library team will also provide the code name for the chip.

MuddLib Complete 2/6 Preliminary, 2/20 Final Justin

The MuddLib should have all of the cell types and sizes listed on the MuddLib spreadsheet. The cells should meet all of the guidelines in the Standard Cell Library specification.

In particular, many flavors of flip-flops layouts need to be created. These can be done by duplicating and modifying the existing layouts.

PLA Generator Complete 3/6 Justin

The PLA Generator should read a Verilog case statement and produce an Electric library containing the corresponding pseudo-nMOS PLA layout and schematic. The generator should be written in Java so that it can potentially be integrated into Electric.

The Verilog should be written in the following form. It may include either a case or casez statement. The parser should ignore all lines before the case and after the endcase, along with all comments. A default statement containing anything other than all x's should cause an error. Any other invalid syntax should cause an error to be reported. The parser should be insensitive to white space. It may assume that the inputs and outputs are specified in binary with a proper Verilog number prefix.

```
casez(a, b, c, d)
4'b??00: y <= 5'b10000;
4'b??01: y <= 5'b11000;
4'b?010: y <= 5'b1100;
4'b?110: y <= 5'b1110;
4'b0011: y <= 5'b11111;
4'b1011: y <= 5'b01110;
default: y <= 5'bxxxx;</pre>
```

endcase

The PLA Generator should produce one minterm for each row of the case statement. It should produce an AND plane and an OR plane with 1x (10, 7) inverters on the inputs and outputs. The pMOS pull-ups should be $3/4 \lambda$, while the nMOS pulldowns in the array should be $4/2 \lambda$. See Figure 11.58 for an example of a PLA, but try to produce one with a regular structure of horizontal Metal1 and vertical Metal2. All metal and diffusion should be 4λ wide. Be sure that there are adequate wells and well/substrate contacts. The pMOS pull-ups should be tagged as weak in the schematic and layout so that they netlist properly to Verilog.

The PLA Generator should write a .jelib file containing the schematic, layout, and icon. See the Electric User Manual for a description of the .jelib file format.

Use the tool to create PLAs for the Control Unit. Simulate the PLAs in IRSIM and Verilog to verify that they work correctly.

Turn in a description of the PLA generator, along with the source code and a description of the testing sufficient to convince a skeptical reader that the PLA generator works properly.

Databook Generator N/A

The Databook Generator should read a file describing all of the cells in MuddLib and automatically create a PDF describing the cells. See Figure 4.25 in CMOS VLSI design for an example of cell library data sheets. There is room in this project for significant creativity.

The Databook Generator may be written in Perl, Python, or Java at the discretion of the Library team. A library characterization script already exists in Perl (see E158/spice/charlib/charlib.pl), and it would be a convenient basis for the Databook Generator. The script reads a charlib.lst file containing the names of the cells to characterize. It runs HSPICE on the list file and produces a report.

The Databook Generator will produce a LaTeX file and compile this file to produce a PDF. Develop an attractive page format.

The databook should at a minimum contain one page for each combinational logic gate. All of the different drive strengths should be described on the same page. For each drive strength, list the width and height (in lambda), the pin capacitance (fF) of each input, the AC power (nW/MHz) from each input, and the delays from each input to the output. The delays should include rising, falling, and average components. Include both the parasitic delay (in ps) and the load-dependent delay (in ps/fF). Use a chain of five gates and measure the middle one to be sure the slopes and loading are appropriate, as discussed in Section 5.2.4 of CMOS VLSI Design.

Use Electric to create SPICE netlists for all of the layouts in the library.

There are many ways to use SPICE to generate false results. Convince a skeptical reader that your approach is correct.

An excellent Databook Generator would also characterize the sequential cells. See Section 7.4.4 for a discussion of measuring setup, hold, contamination, and propagation delays for flip-flops. Think carefully about how to characterize enable or reset signals.

Other possible features in a Databook Generator could include:

- Table of contents
- Logic equations, functions, and symbols for gates
- Normalized logical effort and parastic delay, fit across all drive strengths

Logo 3/37 Danny

The Library team will create a chip logo layout. The team must work with the Chief Circuit Designer to ensure that the logo fits in the floorplan. Electric has automatic text generation capabilities that may be useful, especially for generating people's names or initials. There is also an HMC logo in MuddLib.

Chip Report 4/10 Justin

- PLA Generator Documentation
 - User instructions
 - o Example test case
 - Principles of operation
 - \circ Source code
- MuddLib Databook
 - List of other cells in library that are not characterized
- Databook Generator Documentation
 - o User instructions
 - Principles of operation
 - Source code
- Lessons of the design: from each team member, include a paragraph or more on the key ideas