Towards custom RFSoC firmwares for quantum control

Rodolfo Carobene QubIT PNRR joint Meeting 27/02/2024

Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca















Why do we need custom RFSoC

firmwares?

The QICK: Quantum Instrumentation Control Kit

Developed at FNAL in 2021
 https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.00557

- Provides multiple firmwares for RFSoC4x2, ZCU111, ZCU216
- Exploits the PYNQ fraework to control the FPGA using Python



The QICK: Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Fast prototyping: various firmwares ready to use
- High phase-stability

https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.17171

- Large community of users: QICK is used in many labs for different qubit technologies
- Open-source

Cons:

- Small developer community
- Firmwares are static and non modifiable
- Local operations and only pulse-based
 (→ Qibosoq required for computing
 applications) https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.05851
- Firmware contributions are not accepted

What are we working on?

The process of building a QICK-like application

Writing custom
IPs in
VHDL/Verilog
(dacs, adc, tprocessor)

Composing the
block design and
manage PL and
PS interactions



Writing PYNQ drivers for custom IPs (memory/register level)



Hardware testing

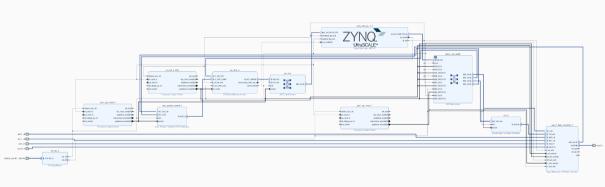








Single DAC and ADC enabled



Conclusions

Realistic objectives

- 1. Being able to add (move) blocks to current QICK designs
- 2. Being able to add custom blocks
- 3. Extending QICK capabilities (adding memory, processing power)
- 4. Writing custom firmwares for specific applications (error-correction, defined architectures)