

Cosimulation using SoCLib components and RTL models

You may use CABA models together with RTL models using ModelSim. This needs the following parts:

- a set of SystemC models
- a set of Verilog/VHDL models
- glue wrappers where needed, exporting a RTL model to SystemC or SystemC to RTL (scgenmod to export RTL model to SystemC but this is not covered in this guide)
- a SystemC clock driver (we had some issues with vhdl clock driver), i.e. a module bagotting clock signal

SystemC modules are SoCLib ones and are usually compiled with SoCLib-cc. They come with pure-c++ dependancies which must be linked together with the modules.

Due to its simulator core design, ModelSim has to compile SystemC modules a special way, and has a dedicated tool to compile SystemC/C++ files: `sccom`.

Soclib-cc has three main jobs:

- Select modules and dependancies from a platform description file,
- Explicitly instantiate C++ templates,
- Call the C++ compiler. Only this step is implemented in `sccom`.

The flow is as in the picture:



soclib-cc handles most of this automagically if correctly configured. This guide explains how to set things up.

Moreover, the C/C++ only dependancies are not directly compileable with the dedicated ModelSim tool, but can be *injected* at the last time, for the linkage phase (`sccom -link`).

How to configure SoCLib-cc to call ModelSim compiler driver

Sometimes, the C++-only dependencies of SystemC modules need to Know about SystemC types. Therefore, SystemC includes must be available.

soclib-cc needs new configuration sections for

- the compiler used by `sccom`
- the path to ModelSim's SystemC implementation
- used flags
- object file names pattern in `sccom` work directory

For all these, we must create 3 new configurations in soclib-cc's configuration file:

- a compiler
- a SystemC library
- a build environment

```

# Definition of the compiler used for ModelSim-usable SoCLib components.
# We use sccom for components compilation and linkage, gcc/g++ for utilities
config.modelsim_toolchain = Toolchain(
    parent = config.toolchain,
    # Must use this.
    tool_SCCOM_CC = 'sccom',
    tool_SCCOM_CXX = 'sccom',
    tool_CC = '/users/soft/mentor/modelsim-6.5c/modeltech/bin/gcc',
    tool_CXX = '/users/soft/mentor/modelsim-6.5c/modeltech/bin/g++',
    tool_CC_LINKER = 'sccom',
    tool_CXX_LINKER = 'sccom',
    # Modelsim cant do parallel builds :(
    max_processes = 1,
    # No cflags are needed, sccom forces them
    cflags = ['-m32'],
    # Special features, it has a -link invocation needed at end...
    libs = ['-link'],
)

# Definition of the ModelSim SystemC implementation. Must modify the
# path according to the ModelSim current installation.
config.libsystemc_modelsim = Library(
    name = 'systemc',
    # This special vendor attributes enables some quirks in soclib-cc
    vendor = 'modelsim',
    # This is the path of the produced .o files when compiled with sccom.
    # You have to try it by hand, and adapt
    sc_workpath = "work/_sc/linux_gcc-4.1.2",
    # Empty useless variables
    libs = [],
    # cflags have to be deducted from actual invocation
    # Try using sccom -v by hand
    cflags = ['-I/users/soft/mentor/modelsim-6.5c/modeltech/include/systemc',
              '-I/users/soft/mentor/modelsim-6.5c/modeltech/include',
              '-I'+config.path+'/soclib/lib/include'],
)

# Definition of a new build environment, which can be referenced with 'soclib-cc -t'
config.modelsim = BuildEnv(
    parent = config.build_env,
    toolchain = config.modelsim_toolchain,
    libraries = [config.libsystemc_modelsim],
    # Where temporary files lies, beware that if you set a global path,
    # you'll need a mechanism to make user-unique directories.
    repos = "/tmp/",
)

```

SystemC modules in ModelSim limitations

All modules that may be used from the outside of the SystemC-part (from RTL or from GUI) have to be declared with a special macro (SC_MODULE_EXPORT).

There is no `sc_main()` function in modelsim-based simulators. The top module must be a `sc_module` with no interfaces. This probably needs a rewrite of your netlists.

If you use DSX-generated netlists, this is done transparently.

Usage

Now we configured soclib-cc, we can compile a complete SystemC system.

Let's have an example system with two basic components communicating through a fifo.



We'll use

- SoCLib SystemC Fifo Ports,
- a VHDL `fifo_gen` component,
- a VHDL-SystemC `fifo_gen_wrapper` wrapper,
- a SystemC `fifo_wrapper` hosting a pure-C++.

This basic system has to be modeled as the following tree:



It contains:

```
fifo_gen
    The VHDL component writing to the Fifo
fifo_gen_wrapper
    The VHDL/SystemC wrapper to export fifo_gen to the SystemC world
fifo_reader
    A SystemC component reading from the fifo
topcell
    A SystemC component implementing the topcell
system_driver
    A SystemC component controlling reset and clock signals
```

In order to simulate this system we need to:

- Reset the work directory, to make sure,

```
$ rm -rf work transcript modelsim.ini fifo_gen_wrapper/fifo_gen.h vsim.wlf
```

- Initialize modelsim work directory,

```
$ vlib work
$ vmap work work
```

- Compile the VHDL module with vcom.

```
$ vcom fifo_gen/fifo_gen.vhd
```

- Generate the SystemC wrapper of the `fifo_gen` VHDL module with `scgenmod`

```
$ scgenmod -sc_uint -bool fifo_gen > fifo_gen_wrapper/fifo_gen.h
```

- Compile the SystemC system driver with `soclib-cc`, all dependancies are pulled with it. `.sd` metadata are needed (even for the VHDL/SystemC wrapper), see in tarball.

```
$ soclib-cc -l caba:system_driver -t modelsim -v -o sccom-link.o
```

- Open modelsim with the platform

```
$ vsim -novopt -sclib work system_driver
```

See the attached tarball for the complete example