Case Study: Verification of DSP Coprocessor





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Overview

MicroTESK technology was applied to verification of a DSP coprocessor. The coprocessor implements 109 instructions. All instructions can be clustered into 8 groups:

- complex arithmetic (12 instructions)
- floating-point SIMD arithmetic (12)
- type conversion (11)
- integer arithmetic (21)
- comparison (4)
- move (6)
- memory (22)
- control operations (21)

Specification and Test Development

We used triples of instructions as test cases. Test situations were directed to exceptions, boundary values, and hard-to-round cases.

The table below shows size of test descriptions in lines of code without comments (LOCWC).

Type of description	Volume, LOCWC	Volume, Percentage
Specification of subsystems	1650	8.5%
Specification of instructions	6250	32.5%
Test situations	11400	59%
Total	19300	100%

Detected Bugs

We have found about 5 errors in the RTL model of the DSP coprocessor and more than 10 errors in the coprocessor simulator (reference model).