

# Direct Memory Access using CDMA

## Introduction

In Zynq, multiple interconnections are available between the PS and PL sections with different performance levels for data transfer between the two subsystems. The General Purpose (GP) Master and Slave AXI interconnect used in the previous labs are intended for peripherals that do not have high bandwidth requirements. E.g. switches, leds, keyboard, mouse. There are four High Performance PS slave to PL master AXI interfaces available for peripherals that need higher bandwidth. E.g. Video and image processing applications. This lab guides you through the process of enabling a High Performance AXI slave port in the PS, adding an AXI central DMA (CDMA) controller, and performing Direct Memory Access (DMA) operations between various memories.

## Objectives

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Enable a High Performance (HP) port of the processing system
- Add and connect the CDMA controller in the programmable logic
- Perform DMA operation between various memories

## Procedure

This lab is separated into steps that consist of general overview statements that provide information on the detailed instructions that follow. Follow these detailed instructions to progress through the lab.

## Design Description

In this lab, you will enable the HP port of the PS and add an instance of the Central DMA (CDMA) controller in the PL. You will also add another instance of an AXI-BRAM controller to access the second port of the BRAM via the processor. You will connect the interrupt request line from the CDMA to the input of the GIC of the PS. The following diagram represents the completed design (**Figure 1**).

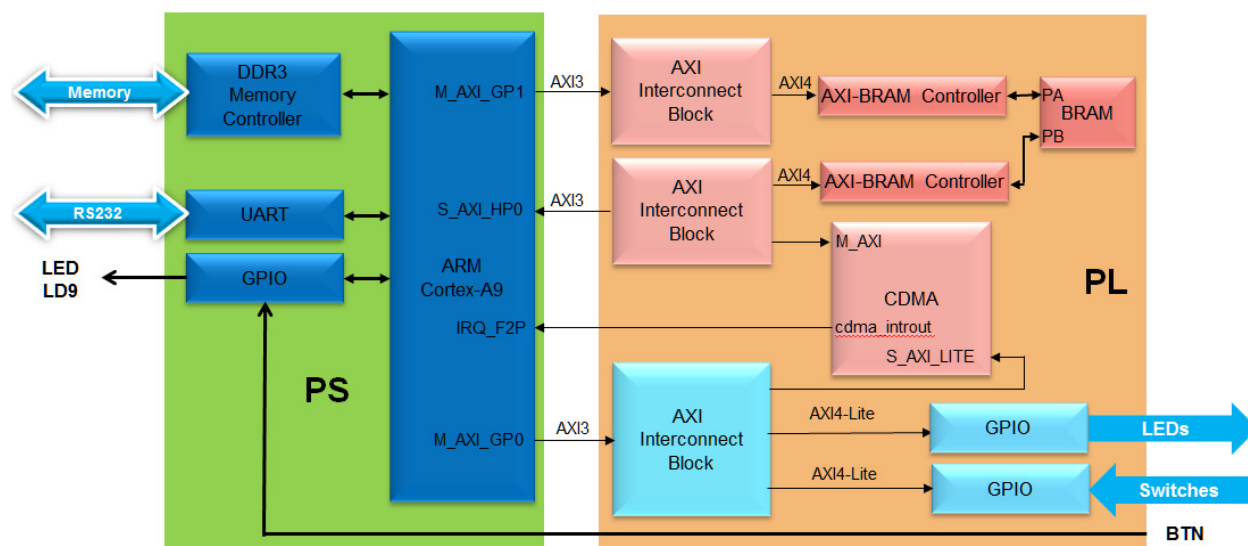
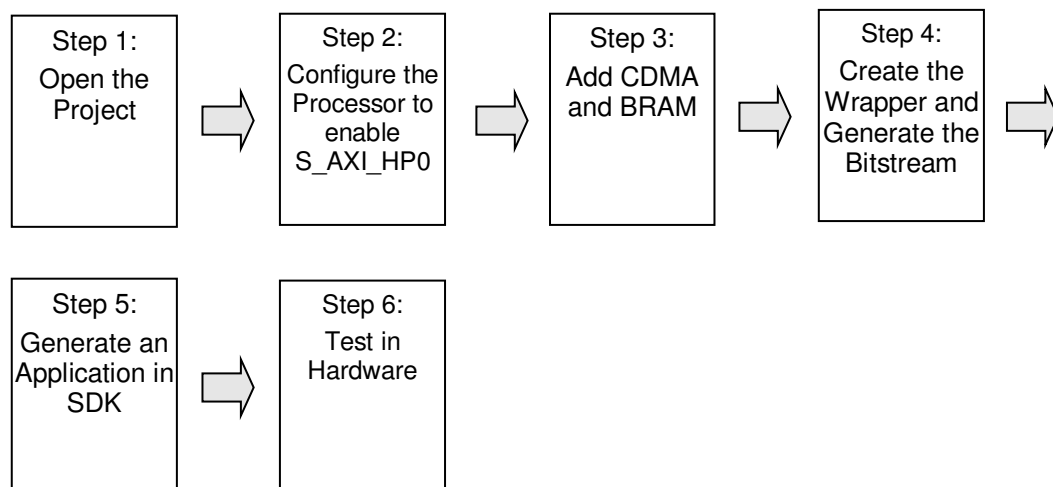


Figure 1. Completed Design

## General Flow for this Lab



### Open the Project

### Step 1

- 1-1. **Open the Vivado program. Open the *lab3* project you created earlier or use the *lab3* project from the labsolutions directory, and save the project as *lab4*.**
  - 1-1-1. Start Vivado if necessary and open either the lab3 project (lab3.xpr) you created earlier or the lab3 project in the labsolution directory using the **Open Project** link in the Getting Started page.
  - 1-1-2. Select **File > Save Project As ...** to open the *Save Project As* dialog box. Enter **lab4** as the project name. Make sure that the *Create Project Subdirectory* option is checked, the project directory path is **c:\xup\adv\_embedded\labs\** and click **OK**.
  - 1-1-3. This will create the lab4 directory and save the project and associated directory with lab4 name

### Configure the Processor to Enable S\_AXI\_HP0

### Step 2

#### 2-1. Open the Block Design and enable the S\_AXI\_HP0 interface

- 2-1-1. Click **Open Block Design** in the *Flow Navigator* pane
- 2-1-2. Double-click on the *Zynq processing system* instance to open its configuration form.
- 2-1-3. Select *PS-PL Configuration* in the Page Navigator window in the left pane, expand *HP Slave AXI Interface* on the right, and click on the check-box of the **S AXI HP0 Interface** to enable it, and click **OK** to close the Configuration window.

## Add CDMA and BRAM

## Step 3

### 3-1. Instantiate the AXI central DMA controller.

3-1-1. Click the Add IP icon  and search for **Central** in the catalog.

3-1-2. Double-click the **AXI Central Direct Memory Access** to add an instance to the design.

3-1-3. Double-click on the *axi\_cdma\_0* instance and uncheck the *Enable Scatter Gather* option and click **OK**.

### 3-2. Run connection automation

Connection automation could be run on all unconnected ports simultaneously. For the purposes of this lab, each port will be connected separately so that the changes made by the automation process are easier to follow.

3-2-1. Click on **Run Connection Automation** and select **processing\_system7\_0/S\_AXI\_HP0** only.

3-2-2. Check that this port will be connected to the */axi\_cdma\_0/M\_AXI* port and click **OK**.

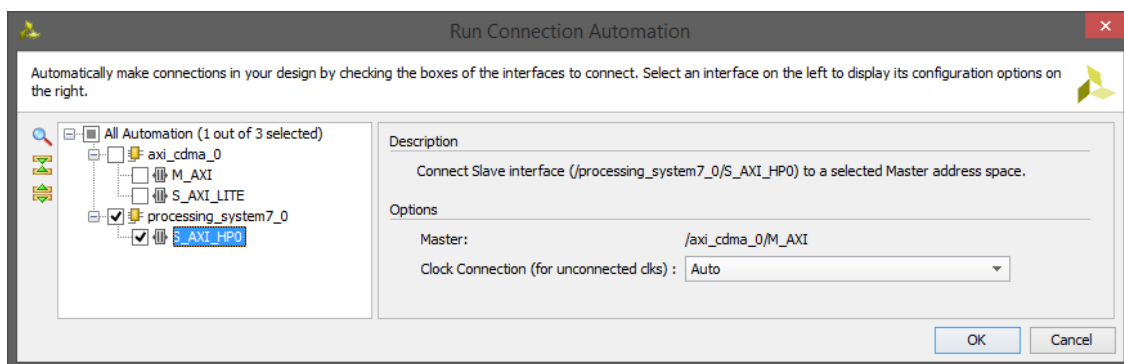


Figure 2. Connection automation

3-2-3. Verify the CDMA connection through the AXI Interconnect to the HP0 port

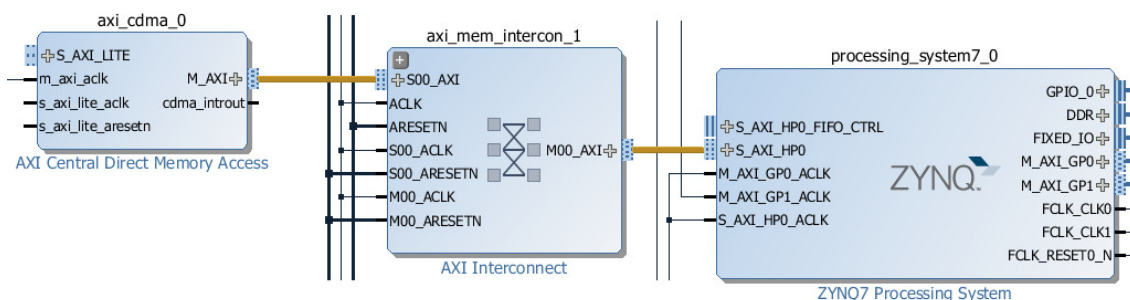


Figure 3. Connecting AXI Central DMA controller to S\_AXI\_HP0

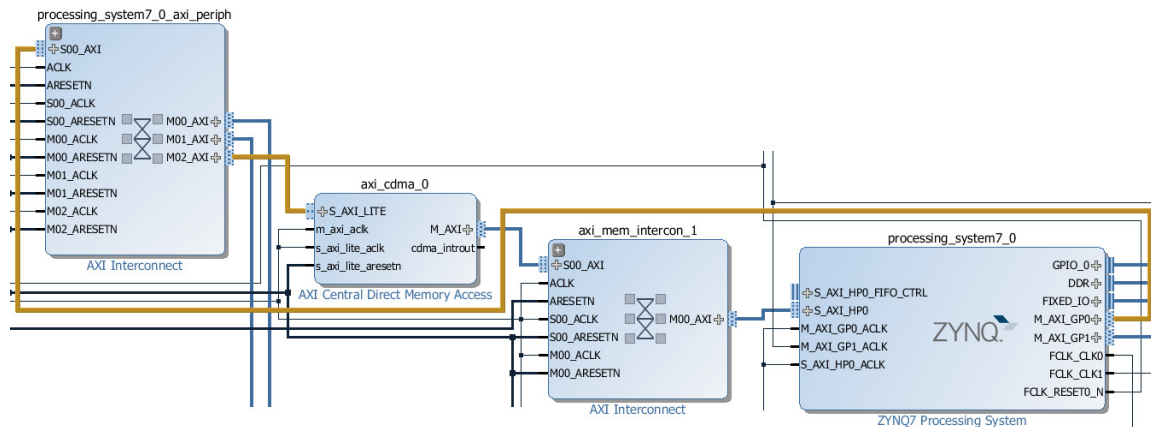
Notice that an instance of AXI Interconnect (*axi\_mem\_interconn\_1*) is added, *S\_AXI\_HP0* of the *processing\_system7\_0* is connected to *M00\_AXI* of the *axi\_mem\_interconn\_1*, *S00\_AXI* of the *axi\_mem\_interconn\_1* is connected to the *m\_axi* of the *axi\_cdm\_1* instance. Also, *m\_axi\_aclk* of

the axi\_cdma\_1 is connected to the net originating from FCLK\_CLK0 of the processing\_system7\_0.

- 3-2-4.** Click on **Run Connection Automation** again, and select **/axi\_cdma\_0** (which includes **S\_AXI\_LITE**).


Notice that the axi\_cdma\_0/M\_AXI port is no longer available to select. This is because it was connected to the processing system in the previous step.

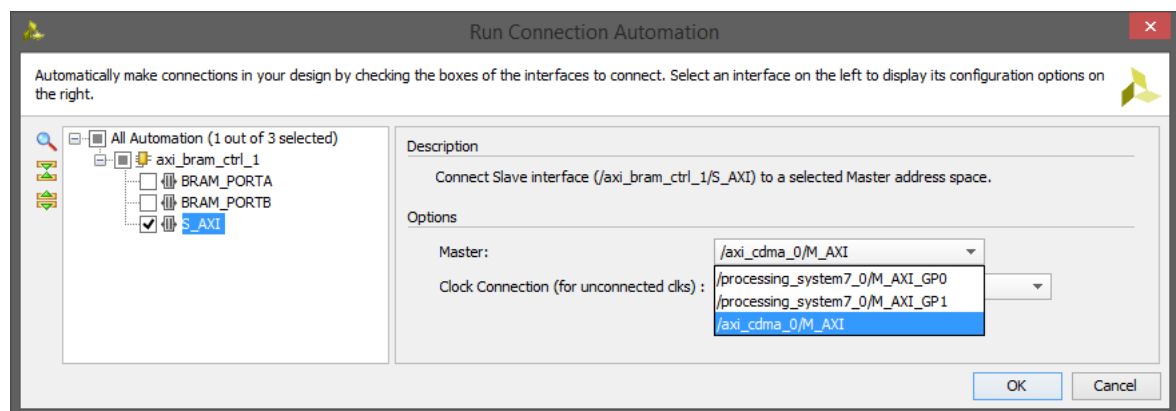
- 3-2-5.** Ensure **/processing\_system7\_0/M\_AXI\_GP0** is selected in the drop-down button and click **OK**.



**Figure 4. CDMA connected**

### 3-3. Instantiate another BRAM Controller and a BRAM.

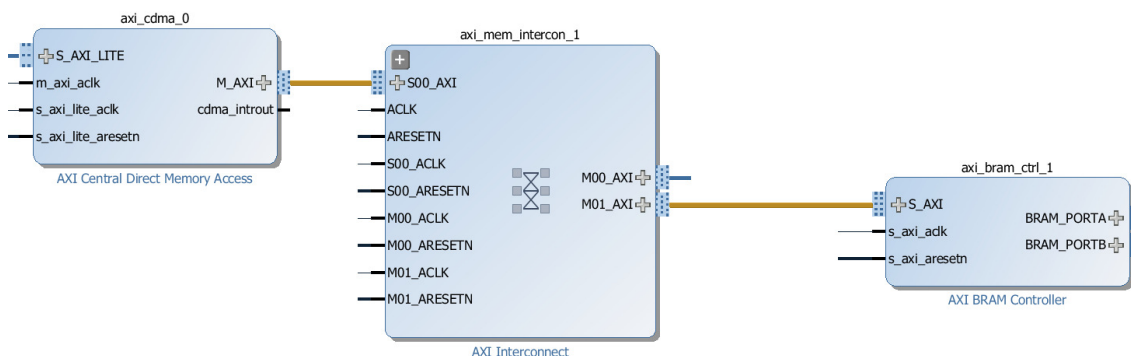
- 3-3-1.** Click the Add IP icon  and search for **BRAM** in the catalog.
- 3-3-2.** Double-click the **AXI BRAM Controller** to add an instance to the design.
- 3-3-3.** Click on **Run Connection Automation**, and select **/axi\_bram\_ctrl\_1/S\_AXI** only.
- 3-3-4.** For the *Master* connection, select **axi\_cdma\_0/M\_AXI** from the dropdown box.



**Figure 5. BRAM connection automation**

**3-3-5.** Click **OK** to connect to make the connection.

Notice that another axi interface (M01\_AXI) is added to the axi\_mem\_intercon\_1 instance and is connected to the S\_AXI interface of the axi\_bram\_ctrl\_1 instance.



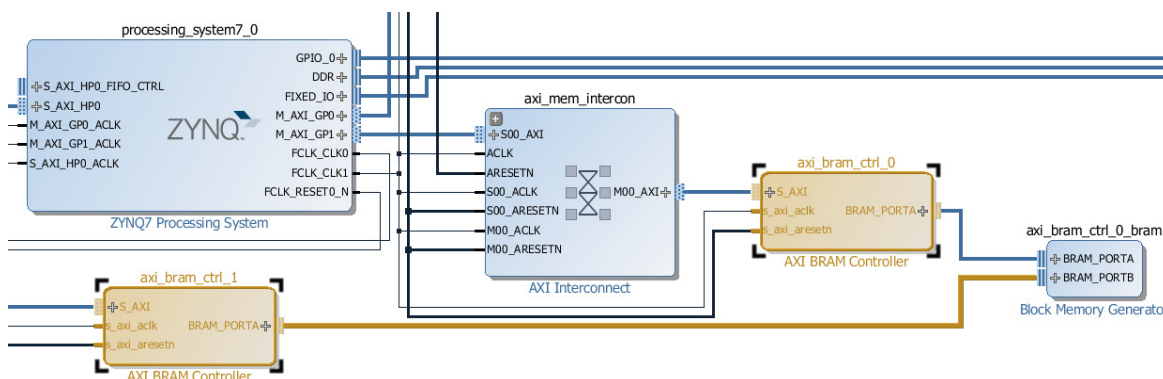
**Figure 6. Connection between the new BRAM controller to the CDMA**

**3-3-6.** Double-click the *axi\_bram\_ctrl\_1* instance and change the *Number of BRAM Interface* to 1.

**3-3-7.** Change the *Data Width* to 64 and click **OK**.

**3-3-8.** Double-click the *axi\_bram\_ctrl\_0* instance and also change the *Number of BRAM Interface* to 1. Click **OK**.

**3-3-9.** Using the wire tool, connect the **BRAM\_PORTA** of the *axi\_bram\_ctrl\_1* instance to the **BRAM\_PORTB** of the Block Memory Generator *axi\_bram\_ctrl\_0\_bram* instance.



**Figure 7. Connect the second BRAM controller**

**3-4. Connect the CDMA interrupt out port to the port of the processor.**

**3-4-1.** Double-click on the *processing\_system7\_0* instance to open its configuration form.

**3-4-2.** Select *Interrupts* in the Page Navigator window in the left pane, check the *Fabric Interrupts* box.

**3-4-3.** Expand *Fabric Interrupts > PL-PS Interrupts Ports*, and click on the check-box of the **IRQ\_F2P**.

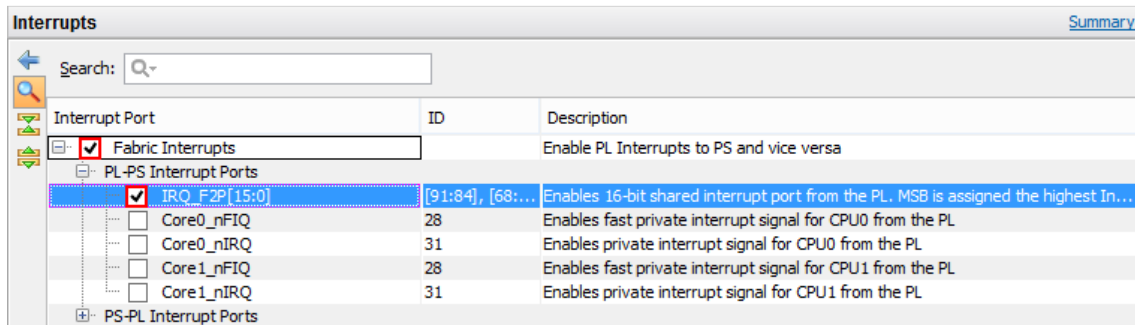


Figure 8. Enabling the processor interrupt

3-4-4. Click OK.

3-4-5. Using wiring tool, connect the `cdma_introut` to the `IRQ_F2P` port. (Click on the `cdma_introut` port and drag to the `IRQ_F2P` port)

3-5. **Using the Address Editor tab, set the BRAM controller size to 64KB. Validate the design.**

3-5-1. Select the **Address Editor** tab.

3-5-2. Expand the `axi_cdma_0` > `Data` section, and change the memory size of `axi_bram_ctrl_1` to **64K**.

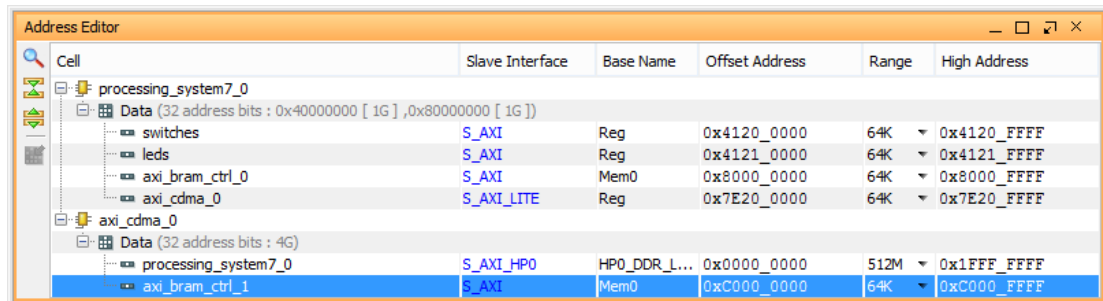


Figure 9. Address space

3-5-3. The design should look similar to the figure below.

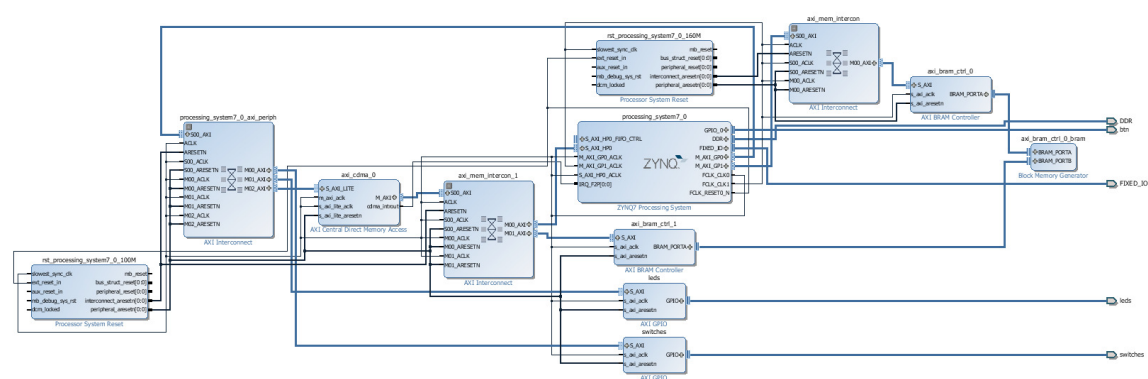


Figure 10. Completed design

3-5-4. Select **Tools > Validate Design** and fix errors if necessary.

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## Generate the Bitstream

## Step 4

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- 4-1-1. Click on the **Generate Bitstream** to run the synthesis, implementation, and bit generation processes.
- 4-1-2. Click **Save** to save the project, and **Yes** if prompted to run the processes.
- 4-1-3. When the bitstream generation process has completed successfully, click **Cancel**.

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## Generate an Application in the SDK

## Step 5

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### 5-1. Export the implemented design, and start SDK

- 5-1-1. Export the hardware configuration by clicking **File > Export > Export Hardware...**
- 5-1-2. Click the box to *Include Bitstream* and click **OK** (Click *Yes* if prompted to overwrite a previous module)
- 5-1-3. Launch SDK by clicking **File > Launch SDK** and click **OK**
- 5-1-4. To clean the workspace, right-click on each open project except *system\_wrapper\_hw\_2* and select close project.

### 5-2. Create an empty application project, named lab4, and import the provided lab4.c file.

- 5-2-1. Select **File > New > Application Project**.
- 5-2-2. In the *Project Name* field, enter **lab4** as the project name.
- 5-2-3. Leave the default settings to create a new *Board Support Package* and click **Next**.
- 5-2-4. Select the **Empty Application** template and click **Finish**.  
The lab4 project will be created in the Project Explorer window of SDK.
- 5-2-5. Select **lab4 > src** in the project view, right-click, and select **Import**.
- 5-2-6. Expand the **General** category and double-click on **File System**.
- 5-2-7. Browse to the **c:\xup\adv\_embedded\sources\lab4** folder.
- 5-2-8. Select **lab4.c** and click **Finish**.



## Test in Hardware

## Step 6

### 6-1. Connect and power up the board. Download the bitstream and program the FPGA.

6-1-1. Connect and power up the board.

6-1-2. In SDK, select **Xilinx Tools > Program FPGA**.


6-1-3. Click the **Program** button to program the FPGA.

### 6-2. Establish serial communication, and run the lab4 application from the DDR3 memory.

6-2-1. Connect the terminal by selecting the appropriate COM port and set the Baud Rate to **115200**.

6-2-2. Select the **lab4** project in *Project Explorer*. Right-click and select **Run As > Launch on Hardware (GDB)**.

Follow the menu in the terminal emulator window and test transfers between various memories.

6-2-3. Select option 4 in the menu to complete the execution or click the Terminate button (  ) on the Console ribbon bar to terminate the execution if needed.

6-2-4. Close the SDK and Vivado programs by selecting **File > Exit** in each program.

6-2-5. Turn OFF the power on the board.

## Conclusion

This lab led you through adding a CDMA controller to the PS so that you can perform DMA transfers between various memories. You used the high-performance port so DMA could be done between the BRAM residing in the PL section and DDR3 connected to the PS. You verified the design functionality by creating an application and executing it from the DDR3 memory.