

## 1.1 Uniqueness in threads -- the FIFO

*in\_data* is pushed into a FIFO upon a *push* control signal, data is popped out as *out\_data* upon a *pop* signal.

On second thoughts, the problem with this assertion for the fifo is uniqueness. Below is a way to fix this using tags to force uniqueness. What I mean here is that you don't want a pop to complete 2 separate threads, as shown in the simulation results for *ap\_data\_checker\_bad* where one pop terminates both threads.

A solution that appears plausible, but has severe issues, is the following:

```
module fifo_aa;
  bit clk, push, pop;
  int ticket, now_serving;
  bit [7:0] in_data, out_data;
  initial forever #5 clk=!clk;

  property p_data_chk_bad; //
    bit [7:0] push_data;
    @(posedge clk) (push, push_data=in_data[7:0])
      |-> ##[1:10] pop ##0 (out_data == push_data);
  endproperty
  ap_data_checker_bad: assert property(p_data_chk_bad);
```

Problem is uniqueness,  
one pop can terminate  
all threads

Figure XXX demonstrates the simulation result for this assertion. Note that after 2 push controls with the same value of data, both assertion threads terminate with a single pop; this is obviously not desired.

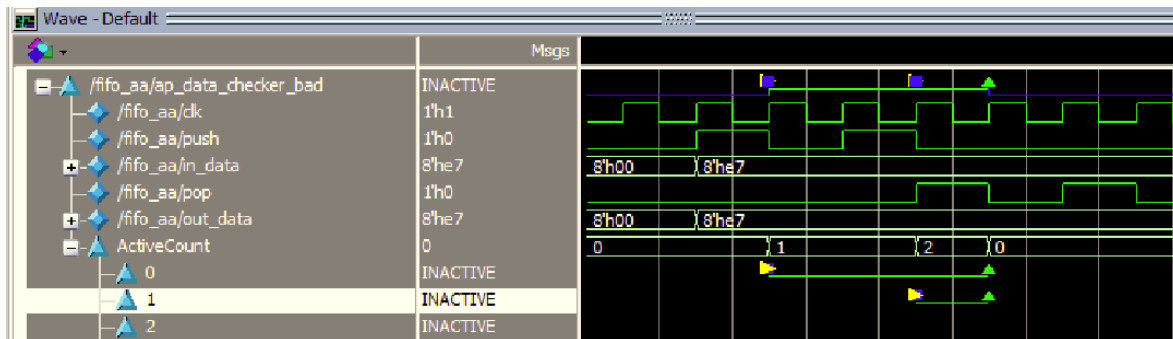


Figure XXX Simulation of a plausible, but incorrect assertion

The issue with the above assertion is that there is a lack of uniqueness, or identity for each thread. What is desired for this FIFO assertion is the independence of each attempted thread sequences. To accomplish this, one could use concepts of a model seen in hardware stores in the paint department. There, the store provides a spool of tickets, each with a number. As a customer comes in, he takes a **ticket**. The clerk serving the customers has a sign that reads "**NOW SERVING TICKET #X**". The customer that has the ticket gets served. When done, the number X is incremented, and the next in-line customer gets served. The assertion code could then be written as follows:

```

module fifo_aa;
  bit clk, push, pop;
  int ticket, now_serving;
  bit [7:0] in_data, out_data;
  initial forever #5 clk=!clk;

  function void inc_ticket();
    ticket = ticket + 1'b1;
  endfunction

  property p_data_unique;
    bit [7:0] push_data;
    int v_serving_ticket;
    @(posedge clk) (push, push_data=in_data[7:0],
                   v_serving_ticket=ticket, inc_ticket())
    |-> ##[1:10] pop && now_serving==v_serving_ticket
        ##0 (out_data == push_data);
  endproperty
  ap_data_unique: assert property(p_data_unique)
    now_serving =now_serving+1;
  else now_serving =now_serving+1;

```

support variable to achieve attempted thread uniqueness

Function needed to increment the ticket pool in the sequence\_match\_item

now\_serving tag incremented at conclusion of assertion for pass or fail case.

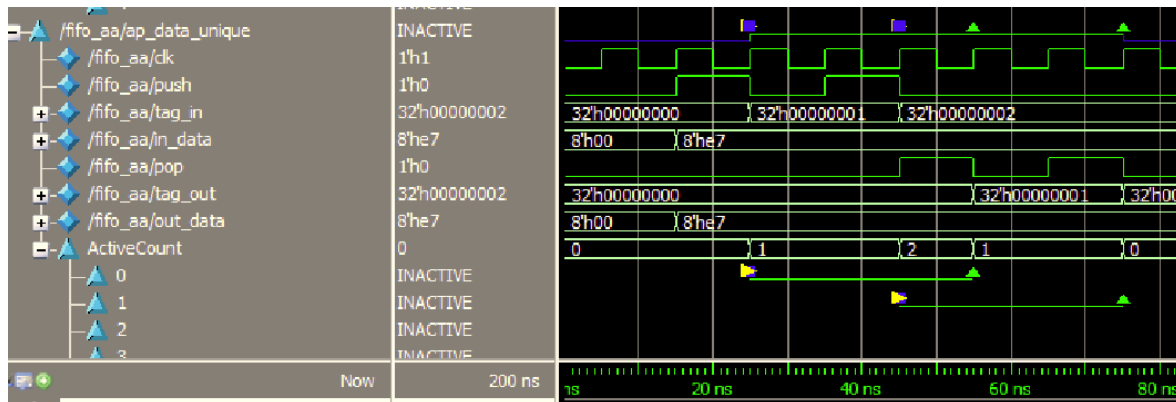


Figure XXXX simulation results with code uniqueness

