Digital Waveform Generator using EEPROM ROM

By

Saeid Moslehpour
moslehpou@hartford.edu
Electrical & Computer Engineering
University of Hartford

Edward Filteau
filteau@hartford.edu
Electrical & Computer Engineering
University of Hartford

Dave Fairbanks
dftuna@aol .com
Electrical & Computer Engineering
University of Hartford

Sergio Nieto
oteins@msn.com
Electrical & Computer Engineering
University of Hartford

Abstract: *For a long time TTL (Transistor Transistor Logic) integrated circuits (7400 series) have been used to design digital circuits; with the creation of ROM (Read Only Memory), SPLD (Simple Programmable Logic Devices), CPLD (Complex Programmable Logic Devices) and FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array), digital design has been easier than ever. This paper discusses the programming and simulation of ROM family devices such as EPROM (Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory), EEPROM (Electronically Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory), and Flash ROM and how to integrate them to designing a digital waveform generator. We are using PSpice software to program ROM family devices. The PSpice manual provides little information about the procedures of ROM programming. The following steps will include programming the chip in PSpice, which is similar to programming the actual ROM devices.*

I. Introduction

ROMs are memory devices used to store data permanently [1]. ROMs hold a bit pattern for each distinct address applied to their inputs. In dedicated microcontroller applications, often used in equipments like oscilloscope and logic analyzer, ROMs are used extensively. ROMs are generally used for read-only operations and are not written to after they are initially programmed. EEPROMs store their bit as charges held on gates and hence can be erased and reprogrammed using either UV light or voltage [2].

In an EPROM we have a grid of columns and rows [3]. The cell at each intersection has two transistors. The two transistors are separated from each other by a thin oxide layer [4]. One of the transistors is known as the floating gate and the other as the control gate. The floating gate's only link to the row (wordline) is through the control gate [5]. As long as this link is in place, the cell has a value of 1. To change the value to 0 requires a curious process called Fowler-Nordheim tunneling. Tunneling is used to alter the placement of electrons in the floating gate [6]. An

electrical charge, usually 10 to 13 volts, is applied to the floating gate. The charge comes from the column (bitline), enters the floating gate, and drains to a ground.

II. Programming Description

Task 1-Programming a ROM device using PSpice ROM map
This shows how to create a memory map to program a ROM in PSpice for any types of waveforms using a 32Kx8 ROM from the PSpice [7] Breakout library to create a digital waveform generator from 16 pages of waveform inputs and outputs.

Task 2-Programming a ROM device using Intel Hex File
Using the TTROM compiler, create a Hex file to download into a device programmer. Then, program a ROM chip.

Task 1
Using Excel, create a memory map for the application then calculate how many memory locations needed for the ROM. First the examination of input waveforms takes place and then, they need to be divided into 32 pieces to effectively recreate the original waveforms. This meant that we would be using 32X16 = 512 locations of ROM. Each one of the outputs is assigned to an input waveform as shown below in Figure 1.

Table 1 - Memory Map for 512 X 8 ROM

MEMORY MAP FOR 512 x 8 ROM

Figure #	Memory Address (Hex)	Out 0	Out 1	Out 2	Out 3	Out 4
8-9	000-01F	E1not	A0	A1	A2	N/A
8-16	020-03F	I7not	I8not	I9not	N/A	N/A
8-19	040-05F	Einot	I6not	I7not	N/A	N/A
10-6	060-07F	S	R	Q	N/A	N/A
10-10	080-09F	G	S	R	N/A	N/A
10-11	0A0-0BF	G	S	R	N/A	N/A
10-13	0C0-0DF	G	D	N/A	N/A	N/A
10-16	0E0-0FF	E0-1	D0	N/A	N/A	N/A
10-19	100-11F	Cp	Sdnot	Rdnot	D	N/A
10-21	120-13F	Cp	Sdnot	Rdnot	D	N/A
10-21 (continued)	140-15F	Cp	Sdnot	Rdnot	D	N/A
10-31	160-17F	Cpnot	J	K	N/A	N/A
10-34	180-19F	Cpnot	Sdnot	Rdnot	J	K
10-36	1A0-1BF	Cp	Sdnot	Rdnot	J	K
10-38	1C0-1DF	Cp	Sdnot	Rdnot	J	Knot
10-43	1E0-1FF	Trigger	Rdnot	Data	N/A	N/A

N/A = Not Applicable
*Outputs not utilized held low in the ROM programming
** Outputs 5,6,7 are not needed for this experiment.

Creating the schematic in PSpice

First select a ROM32X8break from the breakout library as shown below in Figure 1.

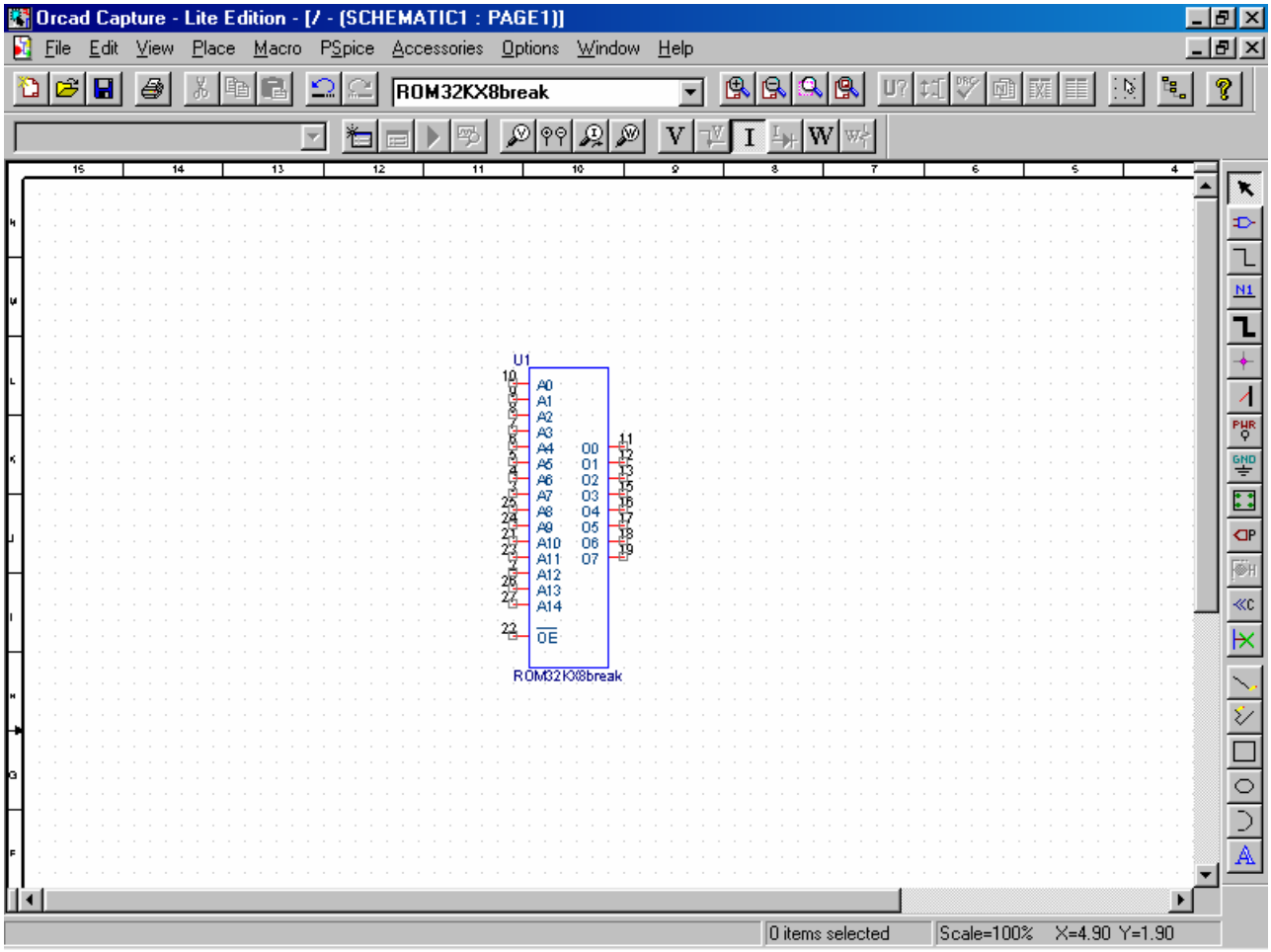

Figure 1 - ROM 32 by 8 from breakout library

Second, add the clock section to count up to 512 and the bus for the outputs as shown below in Figure 2.

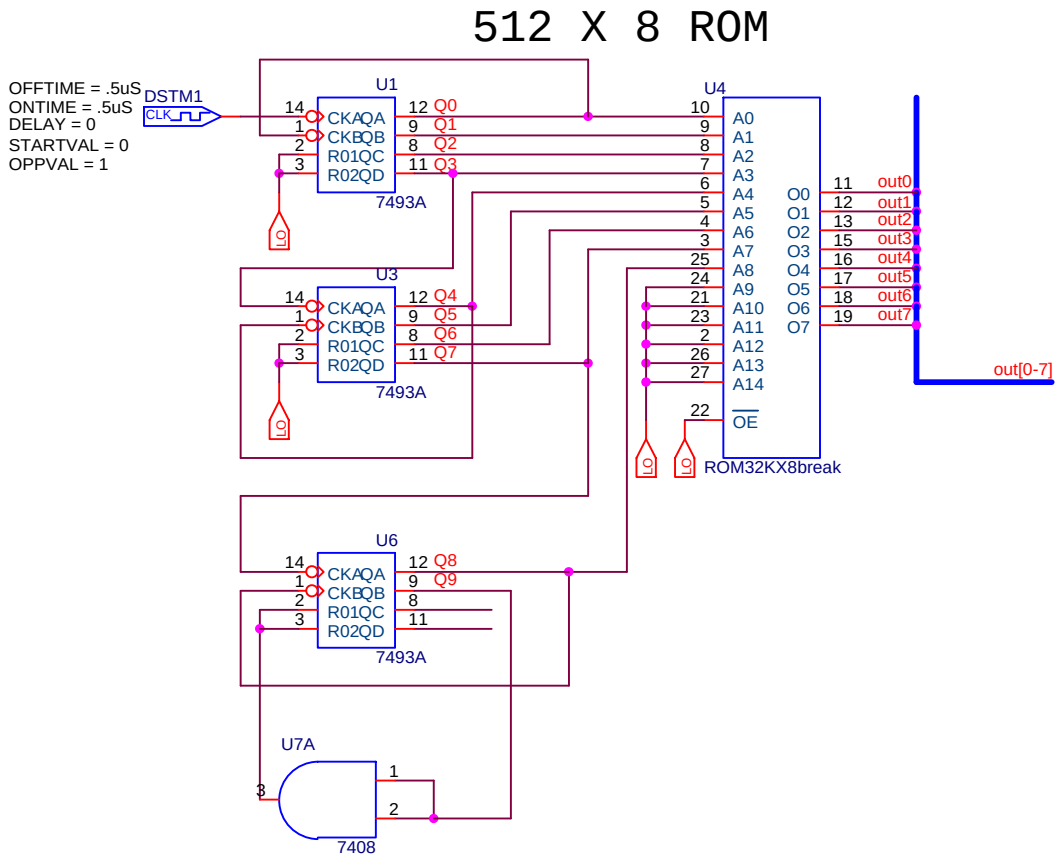

Figure 2 - Clock and 10 bit binary counter

Third, after creating the schematic, select the ROM chip and right click on it to bring up the "Edit PSpice Model" option, as shown below in Figure 3.

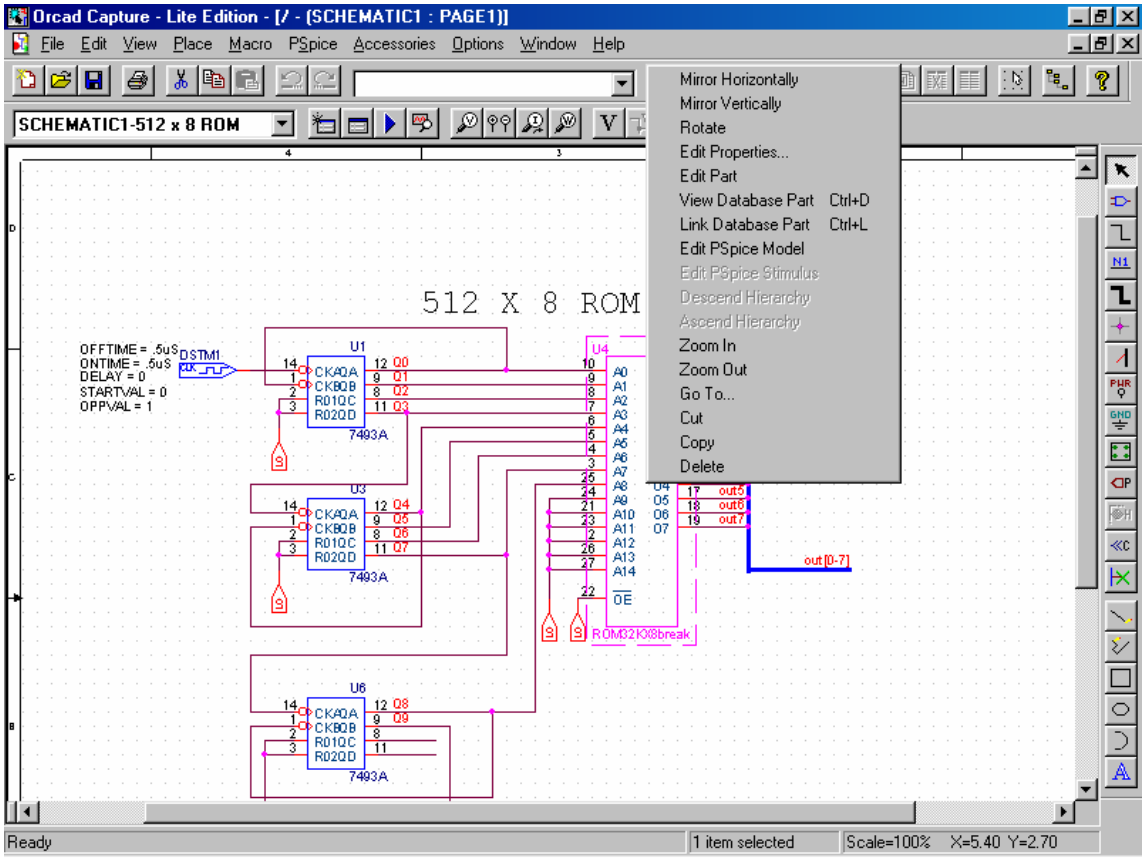

Figure 3 - Editing the ROM Model

Forth, for programming the ROM on the device line, we include the data on the DATA line as shown below in Figure 4.

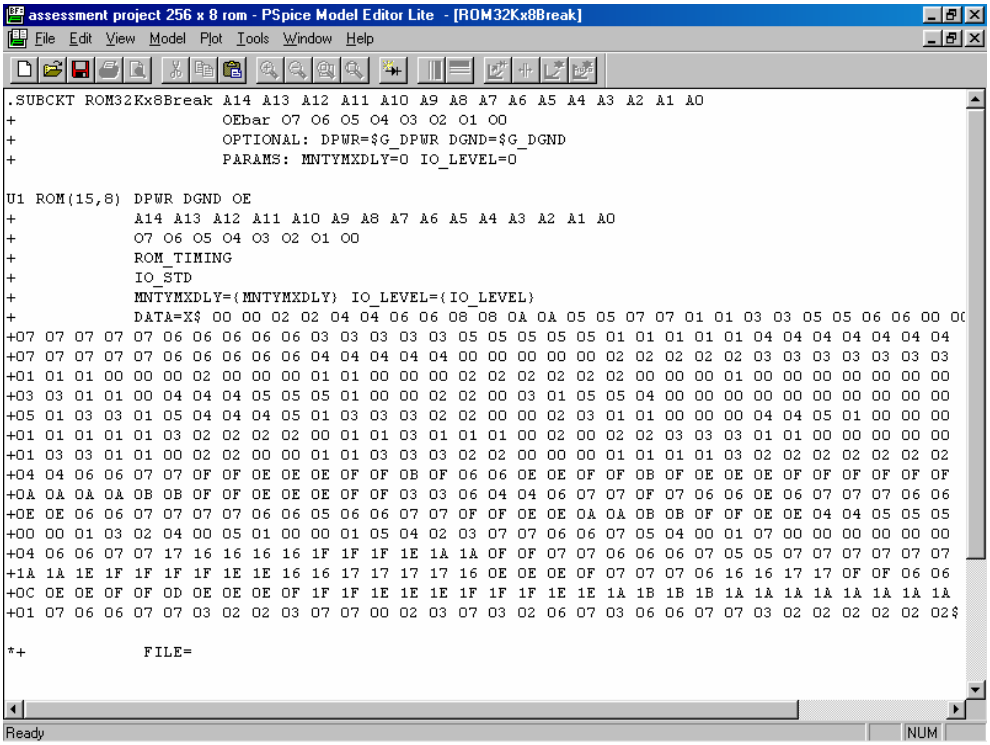

Figure 4 - Programming the ROM in Model Editor

A. First remove the * sign, or the entire line will be considered a comment.
B. Next, enter "X$" after the = sign. The X refers to Hex and the $ signs are used to tell PSpice that's the beginning of the data.
C. Then put a $ at the end of the data as shown above to tell PSpice the data is done.
Fifth, run the simulation in PSpice and examine the data to verify it is correct as shown below in Figure 5.

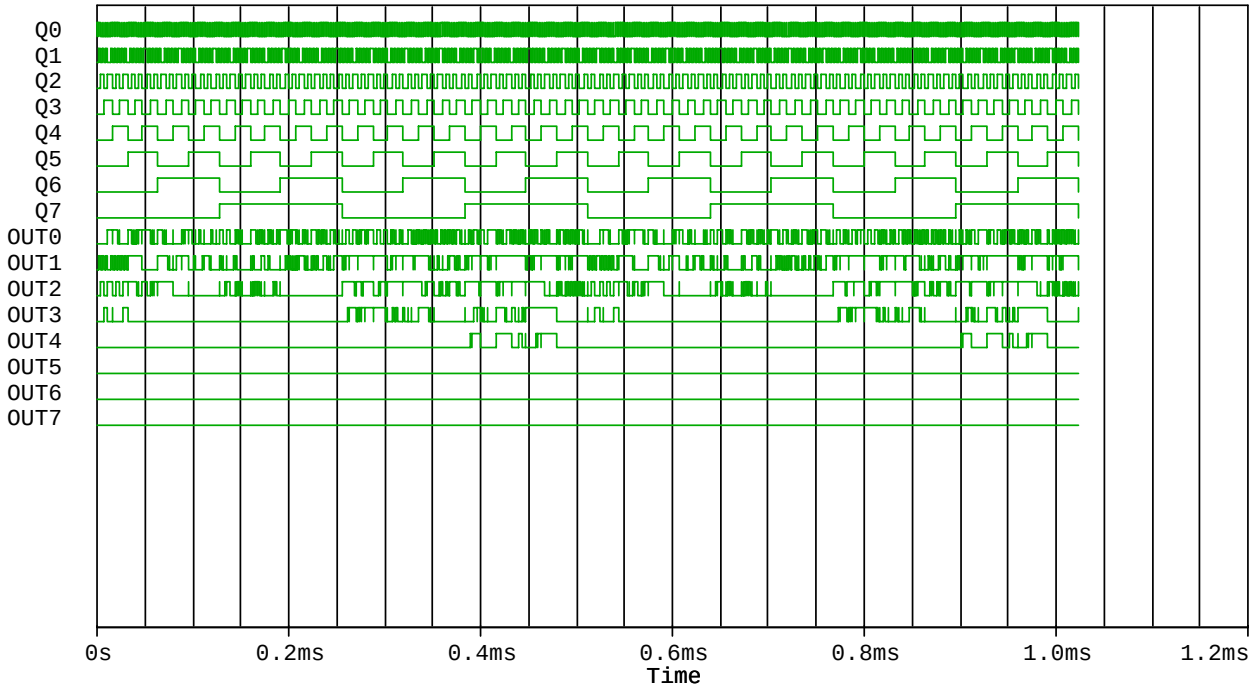

Figure 5 - The output file resulting from the binary counter

Creating an Intel Hex-File and Downloading Into a ROM Device

Using Notepad for small files, run the TTROM [8] complier and create a Hex file to download into a device programmer [9].

First copy or input the data into Notepad as shown below in Figure 6.

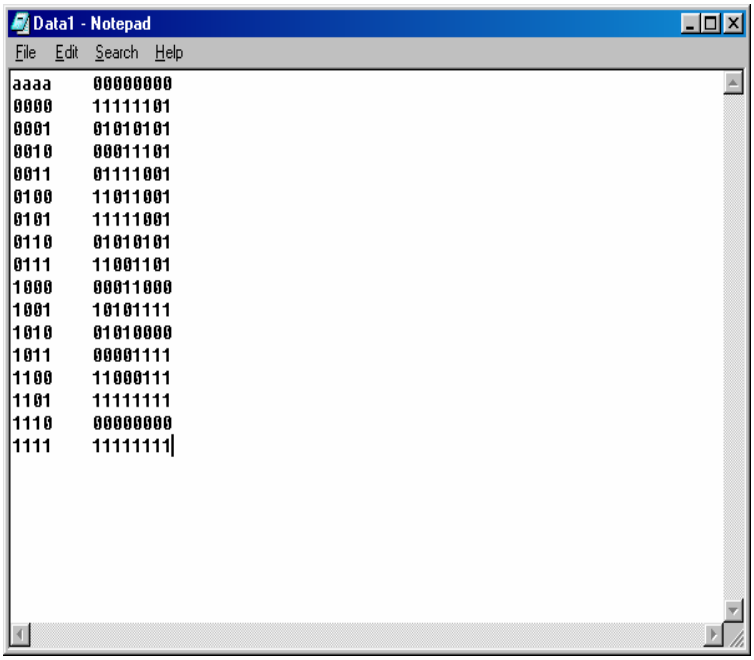

Figure 6 - Creating the ROM table in notepad

2. Run a DOS prompt window and go to the TTROM folder as shown below.
3. Enter the command: "tt2rom c:\ filename.txt"
4. The file has now been converted to Intel Hex format as shown below in Figure 7 [10].

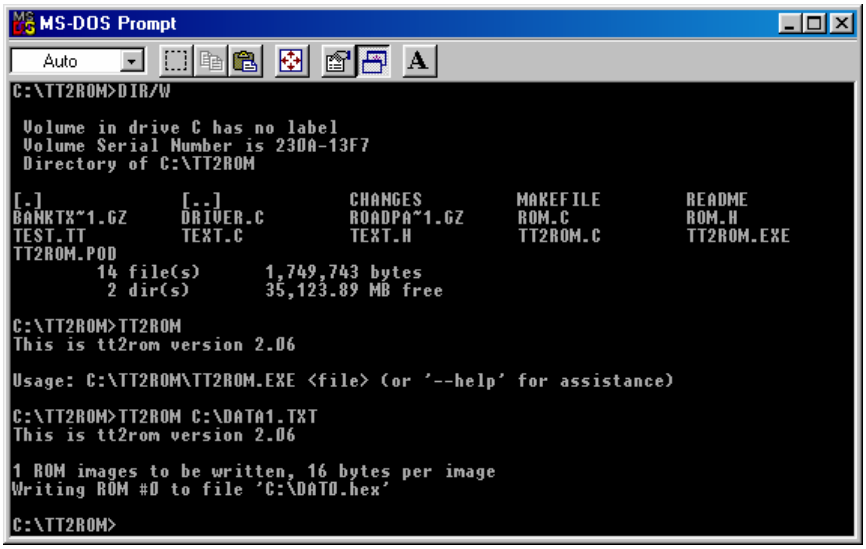

Figure 7 - Running the TT2ROM program in DOS prompt

Note the actual Intel Hex file for the Digital Waveform Generator was not shown. This Figure is for reference, as shown below in Figure 8.

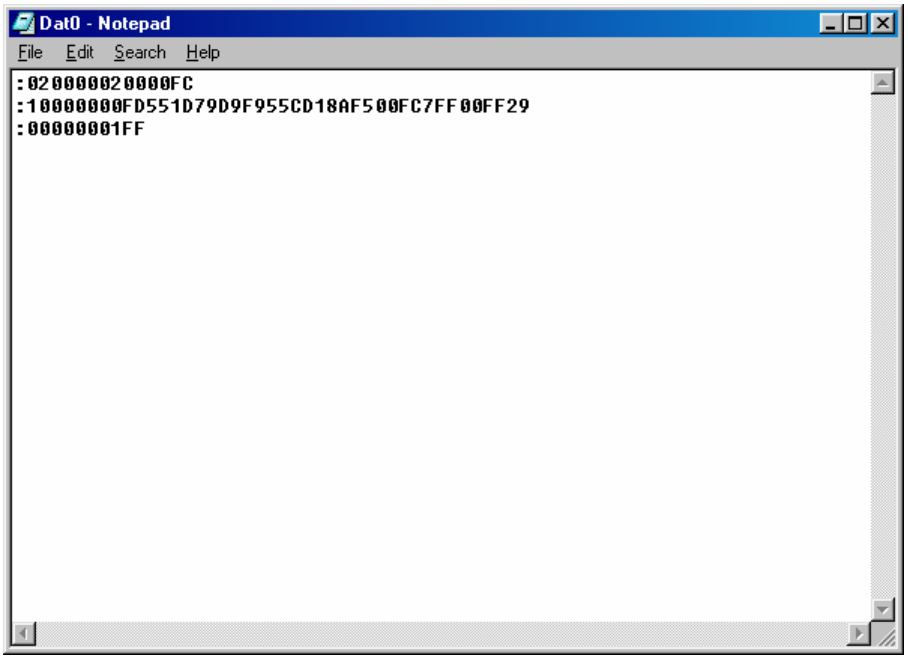

Figure 8 - Intel Hex File created by TT2ROM Program

Task 2

Now the Intel Hex file that you created can be read into the input buffer of programming software like ICROMMASTER- LV48 [5].

1. The type of programmer used for this program run was the ICROMMASTER- LV48
(A) More information can be found at http://www.icetech.com/
2. Open programmer by selecting the icon for WinLV as shown below in Figure 10.
2. Open Intel Hex file loading buffer with Hex codes, as shown in Figure 9 and10 [6].

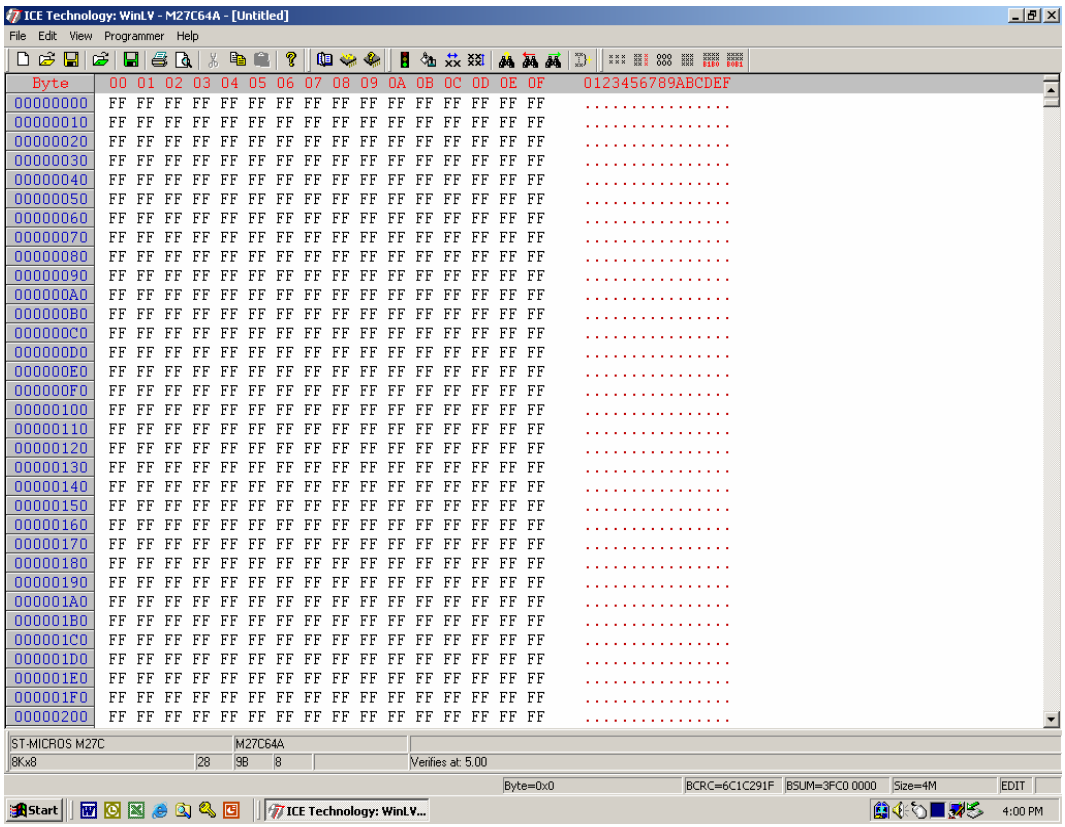

Figure 9 - EEPROM Programmer

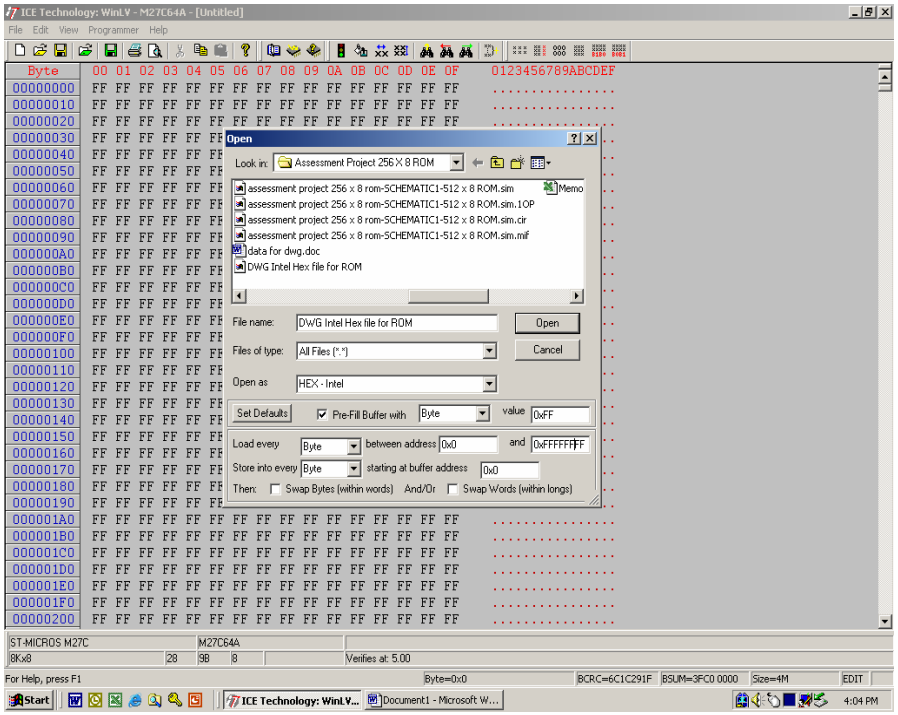

Figure 10- Uploading file to EEPOM Programmer

3. The data buffer has the required information for our Digital Waveform Generator ROM chip in the program buffer starting at location 0000 Hex, as shown in Figure 11.

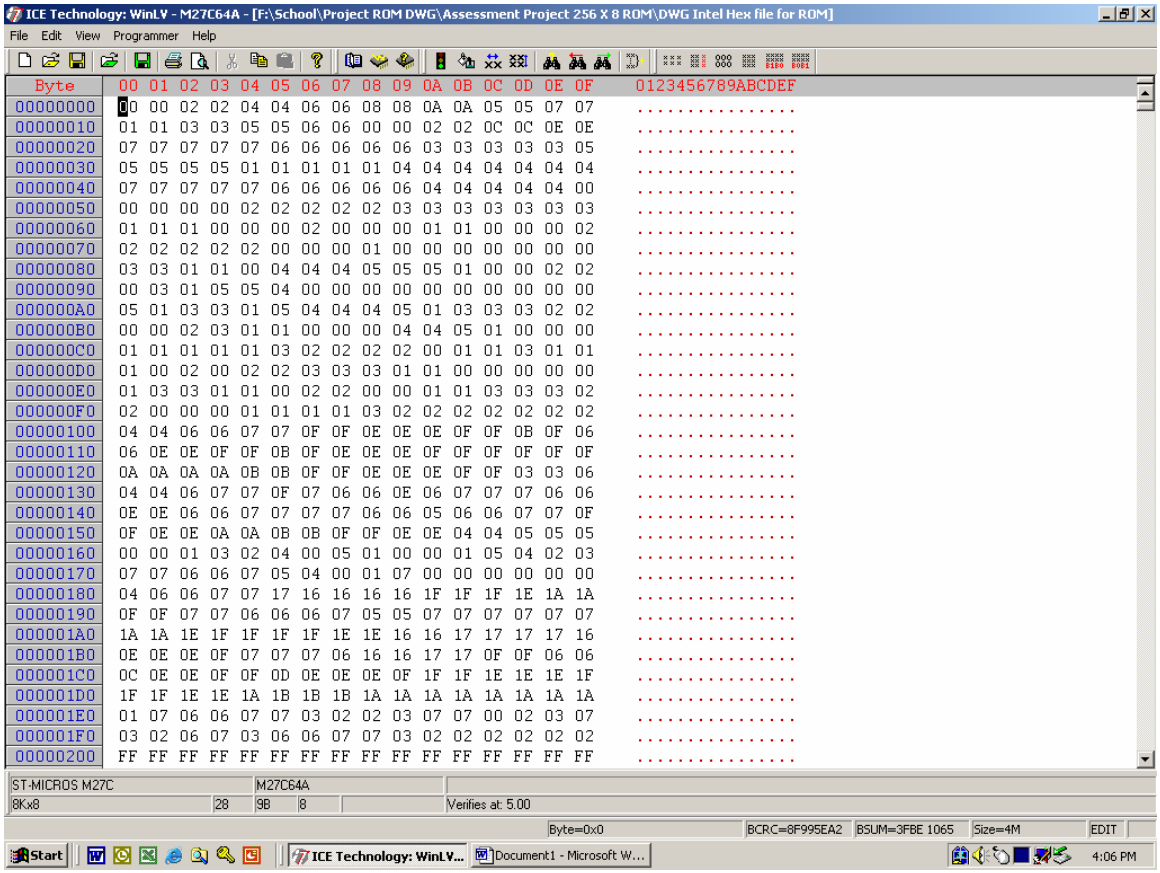

Figure 11 - Uploaded HEX codes

Next, select operations icon displaying several selections, as shown in Figure 12.

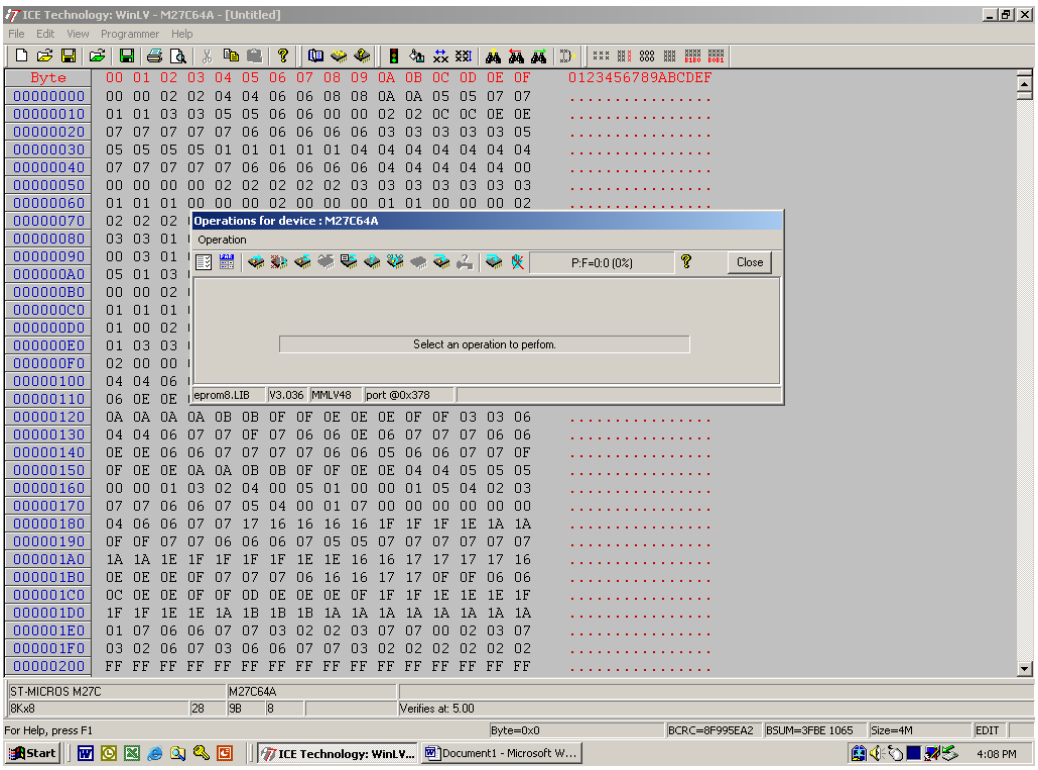

Figure 12 - Operation selection

With parameters menu changes can be made to locations for data storage into ROM but in this case no changes are necessary so select accept, as shown below in Figure 13.

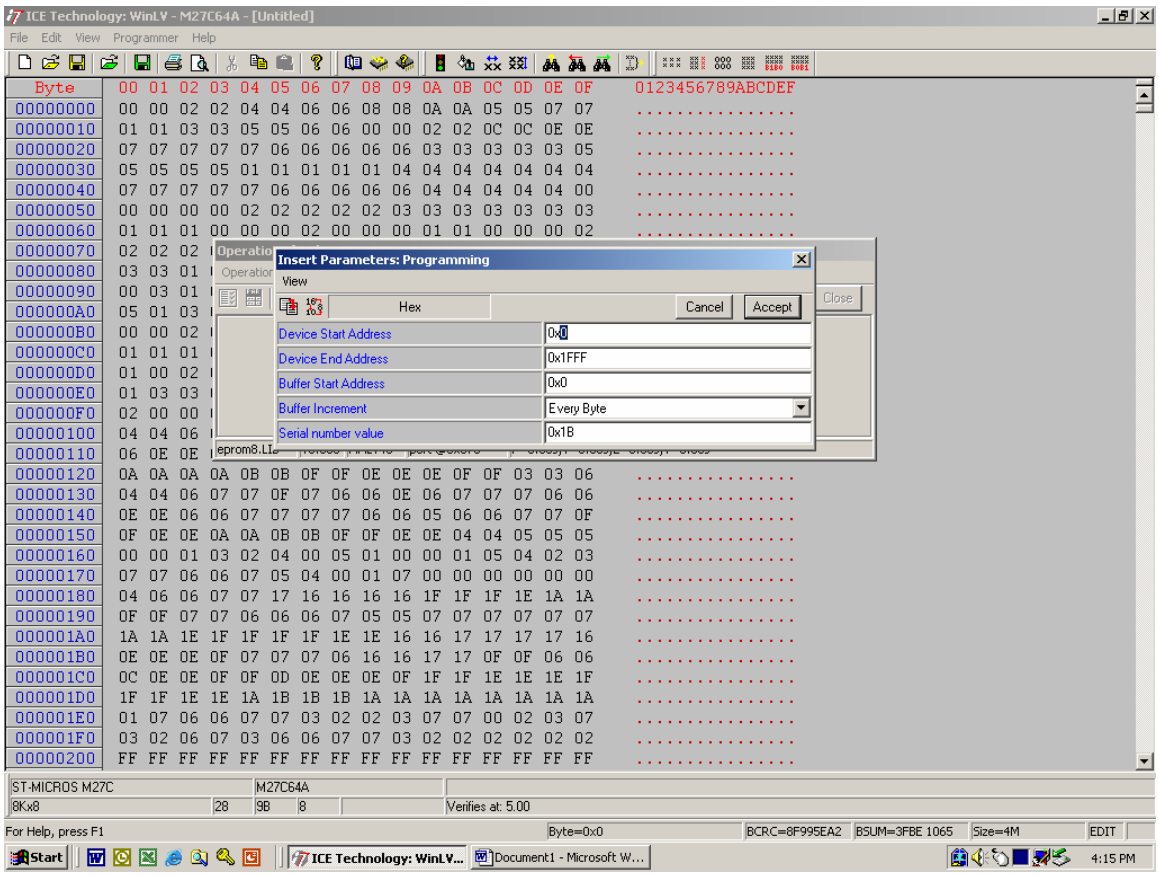

Figure 13 - Device selection

The data has now been loaded into the ROM.

7. At the end of the operation the program data has been programmed into the ROM and it should also report that the data was verified as shown below in Figure 14.

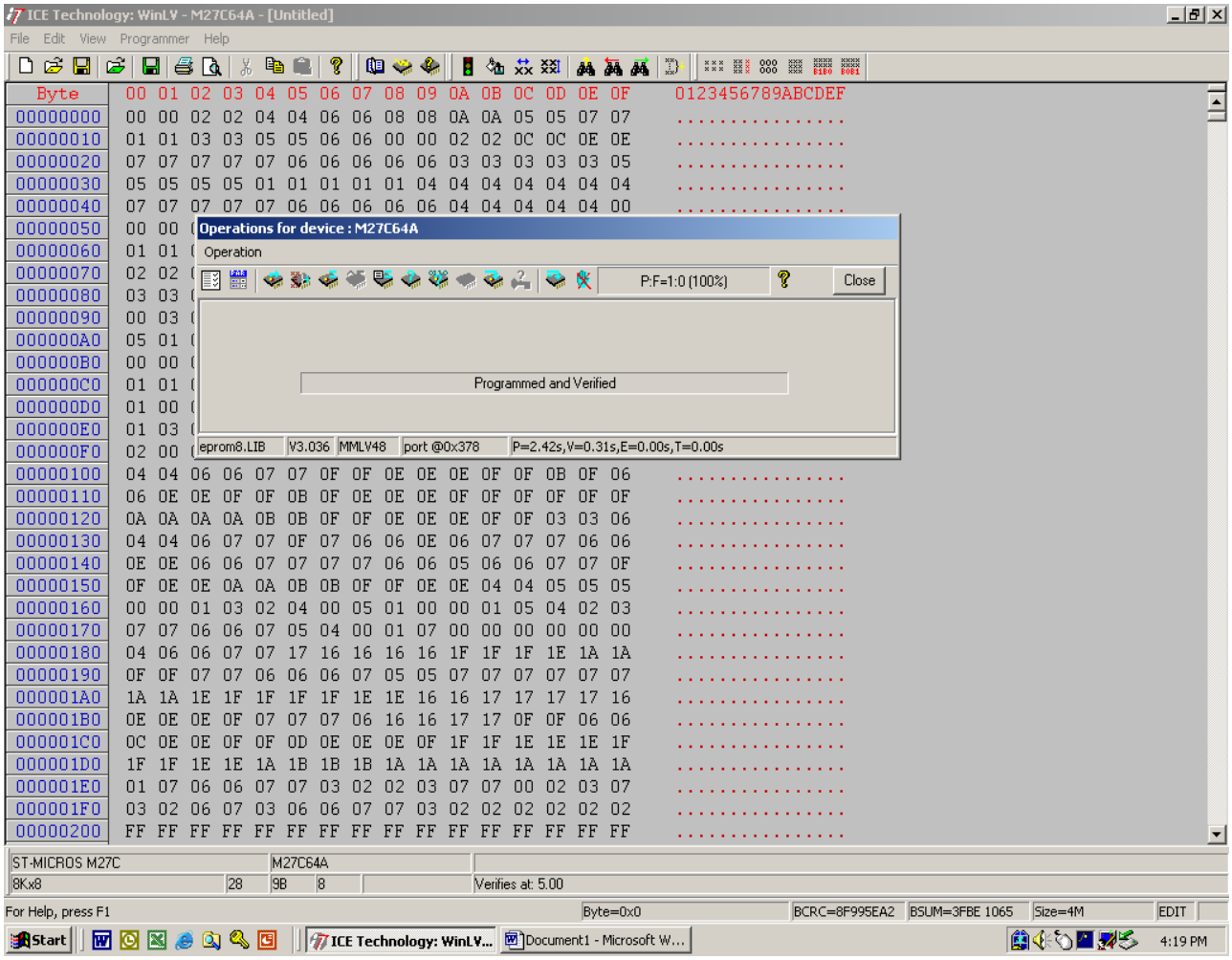

Figure14 - Data verification

Conclusion

Teaching students real industrial hardware/software has been a challenging one, the step by step illustration of usage of these hardware/software with proper screenshots improves students learning. There has been good student feedback about usage of software simulation for digital courses. PSpice now knows as Cadence SPB, is leading electronic automation design software, a student version can be obtain form the company's website. The company also has a "university program" that allows educational institutions to buy full version of this software at extremely low price.

References

[1] "How ROM Works" http://computer.howstuffworks.com/rom.htm, 1998-2005 How Stuff Work .Inc. 2.

[2] "Microprocessor", EDN, Vol 49 Issue 25, p110, 2p 12/7/2004

[3] Kleitz, W., "Digital Electronics with VHDL", Chapter. 16 Semiconductors, Magnetic, and Optical Memory, Prentice Hall 2005.

[4] Manes, S., "The Weird New World of Hardware Fixes", PC World, Vol. 23 Issue pg 176, 1p, 1c.

[5] Schweber, B., "Mems Make a Nonvolatile-Memory Match", EDN, Vol.49 Issue 16 pg 20, 1/4p, 8/5/2004

[6] Tocci, R, N. Widmer, and G. L. Moss, "Digital Systems: Principles and Applications, 9/E, Chpt. 12 Memory Devices, Prentice Hall 2003

[7] "Orcad Capture", http://www.orcad.com/orcadcapture.aspx , Cadence Design Systems, Inc. 2004

[8] "Using tt2rom to Synthesize Truth Table in ROM". http://engineering.dartmouth.edu/~Brian_W_Pogue/demos/tt2rom.pdf , Spring 2002

[9] Ameen, M., Brown, R., Rashik R, Sundaran S., Zeeshan, M. "Programming Read Only Memory with Orcad", unpublished manual.

[10] Cook, N., "Electronics: A Complete Course, 2/E", Chapter. 27 Semiconductor Memory, Prentice Hall 2004.