

# 11014 MS1

## MPLAB<sup>®</sup> Simulator Fundamentals

# Class Objective

- **When you finish this class you will be able to:**
  - Use MPLAB<sup>®</sup> Simulator to **test and debug** firmware
  - Create and apply simple **stimulus**
  - Use **Logic Analyzer** and **Instruction Trace**

# Agenda

- **Understanding MPLAB<sup>®</sup> Simulator**
  - (demo)
- **Stimulus**
  - Asynchronous
  - Simple Synchronous
  - (Lab 1)
- **Tools of Simulator**
  - Stopwatch
  - Trace
  - Logic Analyzer
  - (Lab 2)

# MPLAB<sup>®</sup> IDE and Simulator

# What is MPLAB<sup>®</sup> Simulator?

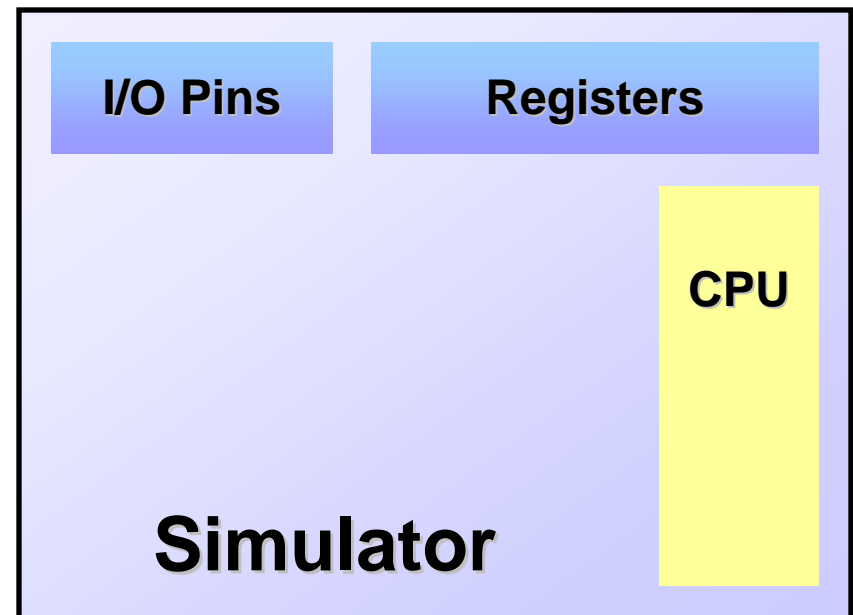
- **One of the MPLAB<sup>®</sup> debuggers**
- **Supports all PIC<sup>®</sup> MCU & dsPIC<sup>®</sup> DSC families**
  - Baseline                      –PIC24
  - Mid-Range                    –dsPIC30
  - PIC18                         –dsPIC33
- **Speed**
- **Sophisticated stimulus engine**

# Why MPLAB<sup>®</sup> Simulator?

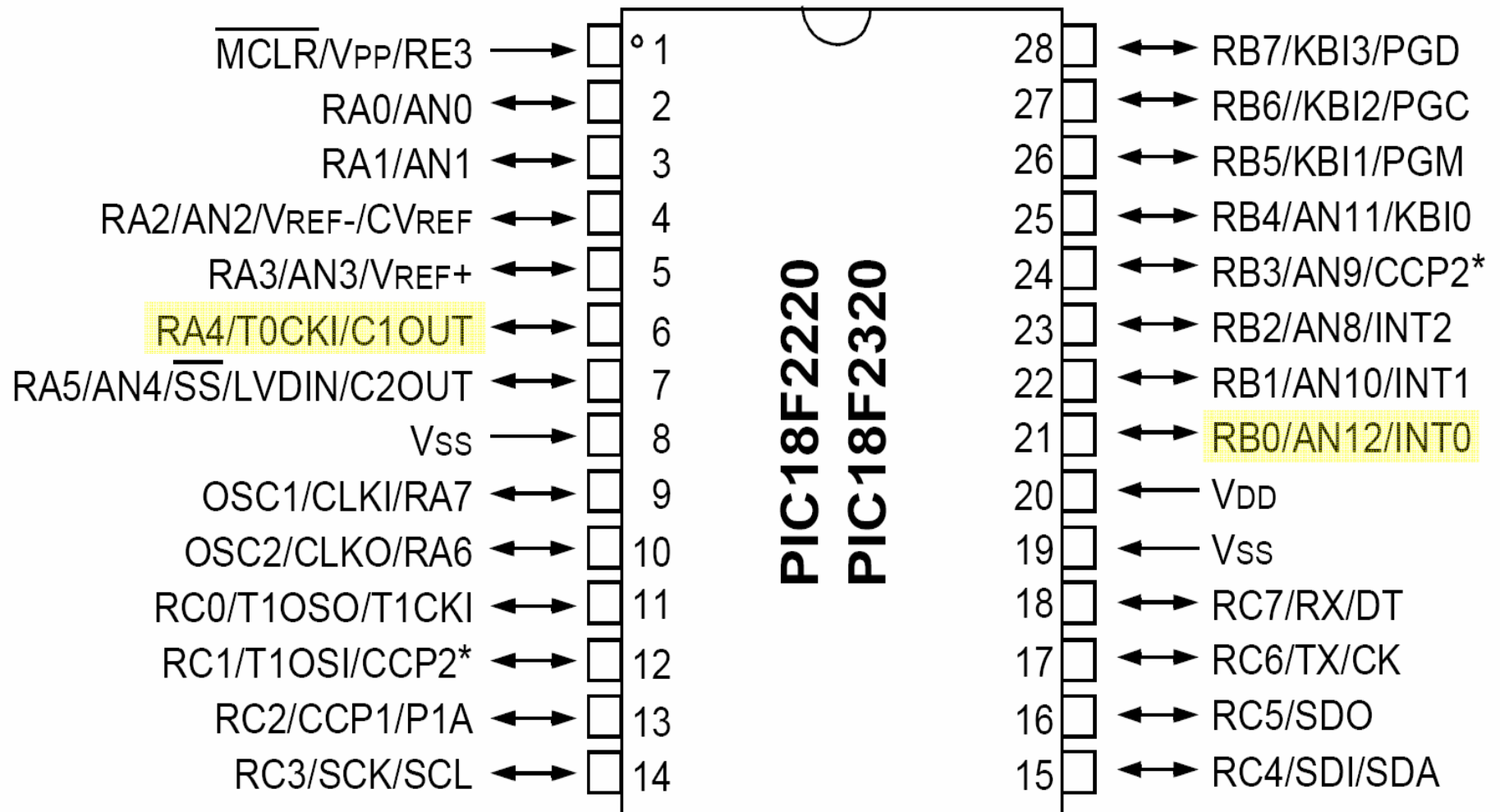
- **Pure software debugger**
  - Develop firmware before silicon arrives
  - Much faster than using ICD, ICE
- **Repeatable testing**
  - With pre-set stimulus
- **Load testing**
- **Free!**

# Block Diagram of Simulator

- **Cycle-based CPU simulation**
- **Registers**
  - SFR (WREG, RXREG, T1CON)
  - GPR (2F0h)
- **I/O Pins**
  - RA0 (PORTA)
  - U1RX, T0CKI



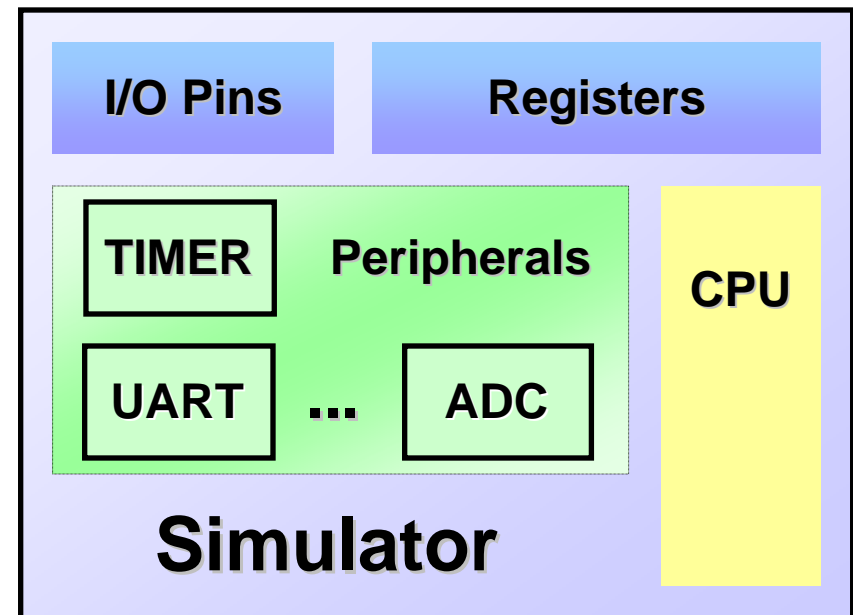
# Alias Names of I/O Pins












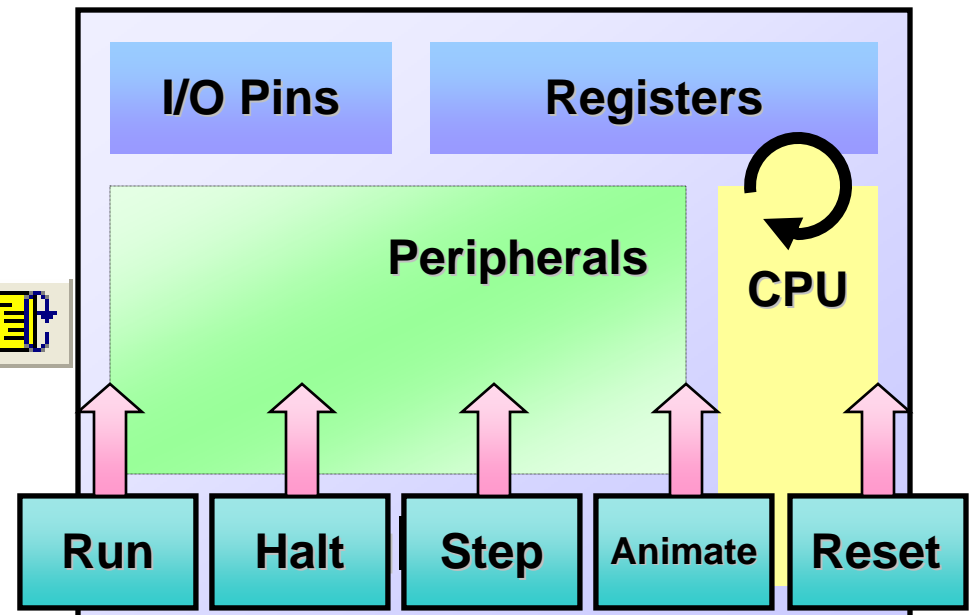
# Block Diagram of Simulator

- **Simulate behavior of peripherals**
  - TIMER
  - UART, CCP, PWM, ADC
  - Input Capture
  - Output Compare
  - Comparator



# Functions of Simulator

- **Run: until breakpoint is reached** 
- **Halt: stop!** 
- **Step Into**  **Out** 
- **Step Over** 
- **Animate: slow** 
- **Reset: start over** 



# Using Simulator

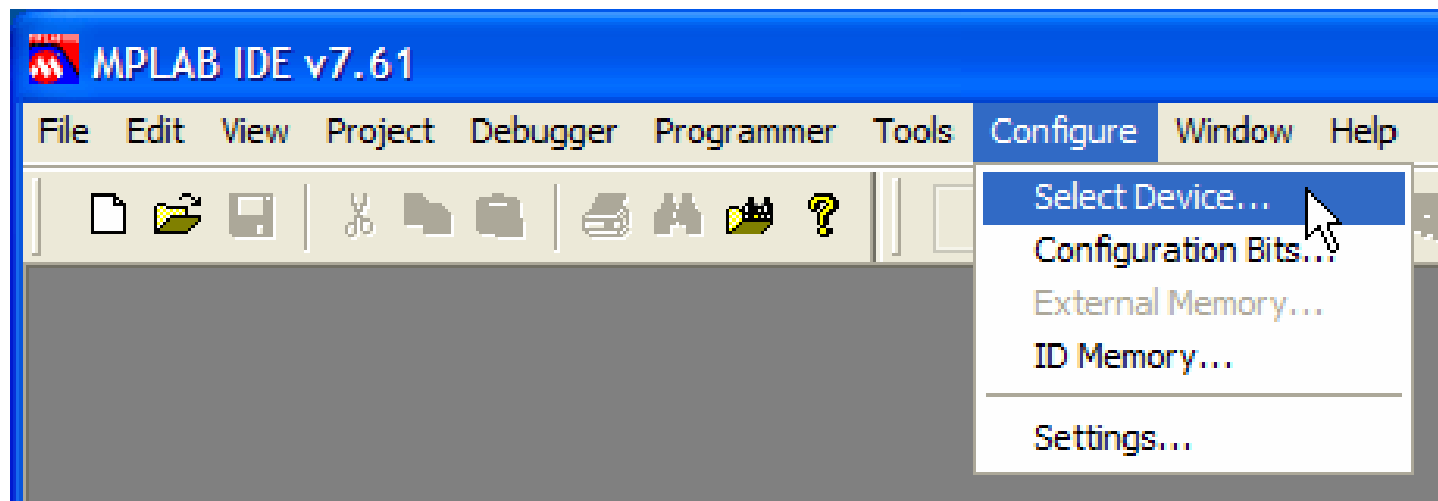
## 1. Start MPLAB® IDE

Start>Programs>Microchip>MPLAB IDE  
>MPLAB IDE



## 2. Select the right device

Configure>Select Device...

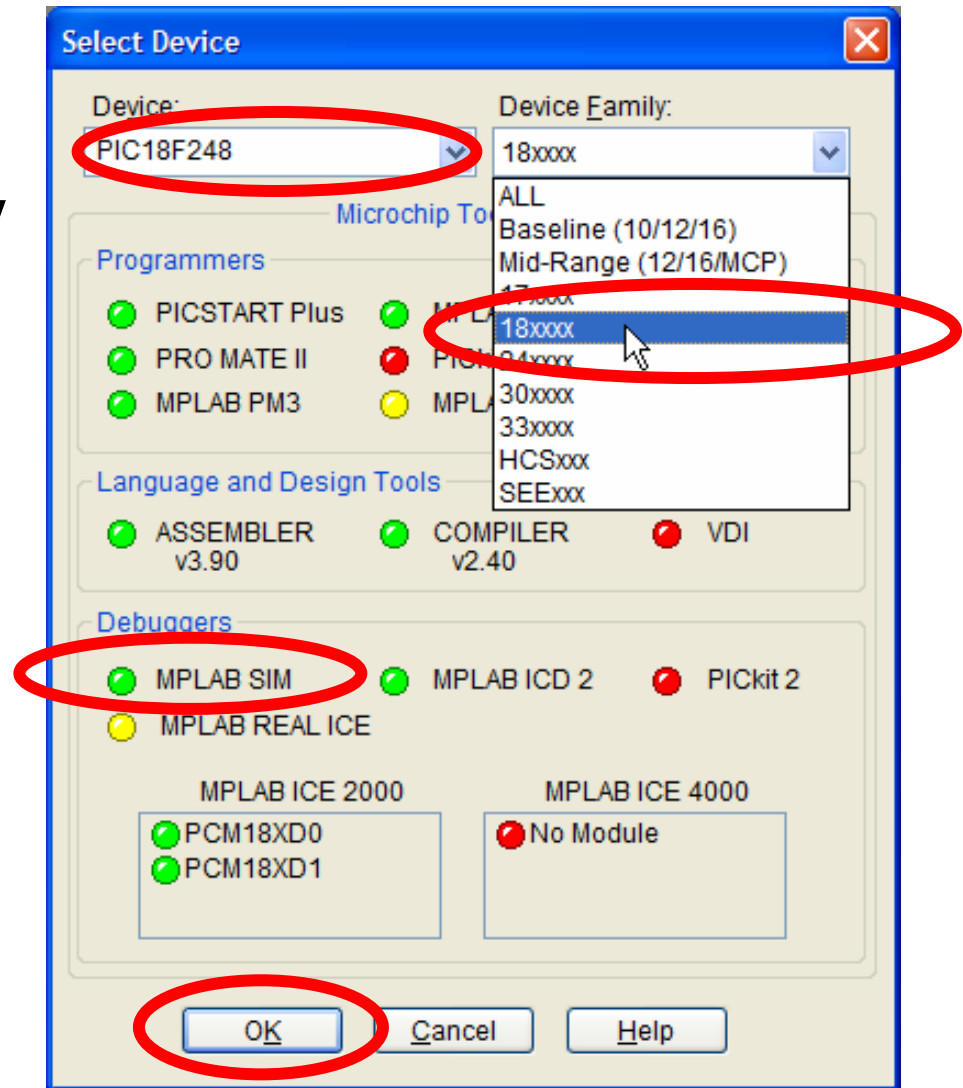


# Select the Right Device

3. Choose the Device Family

4. Then choose Device

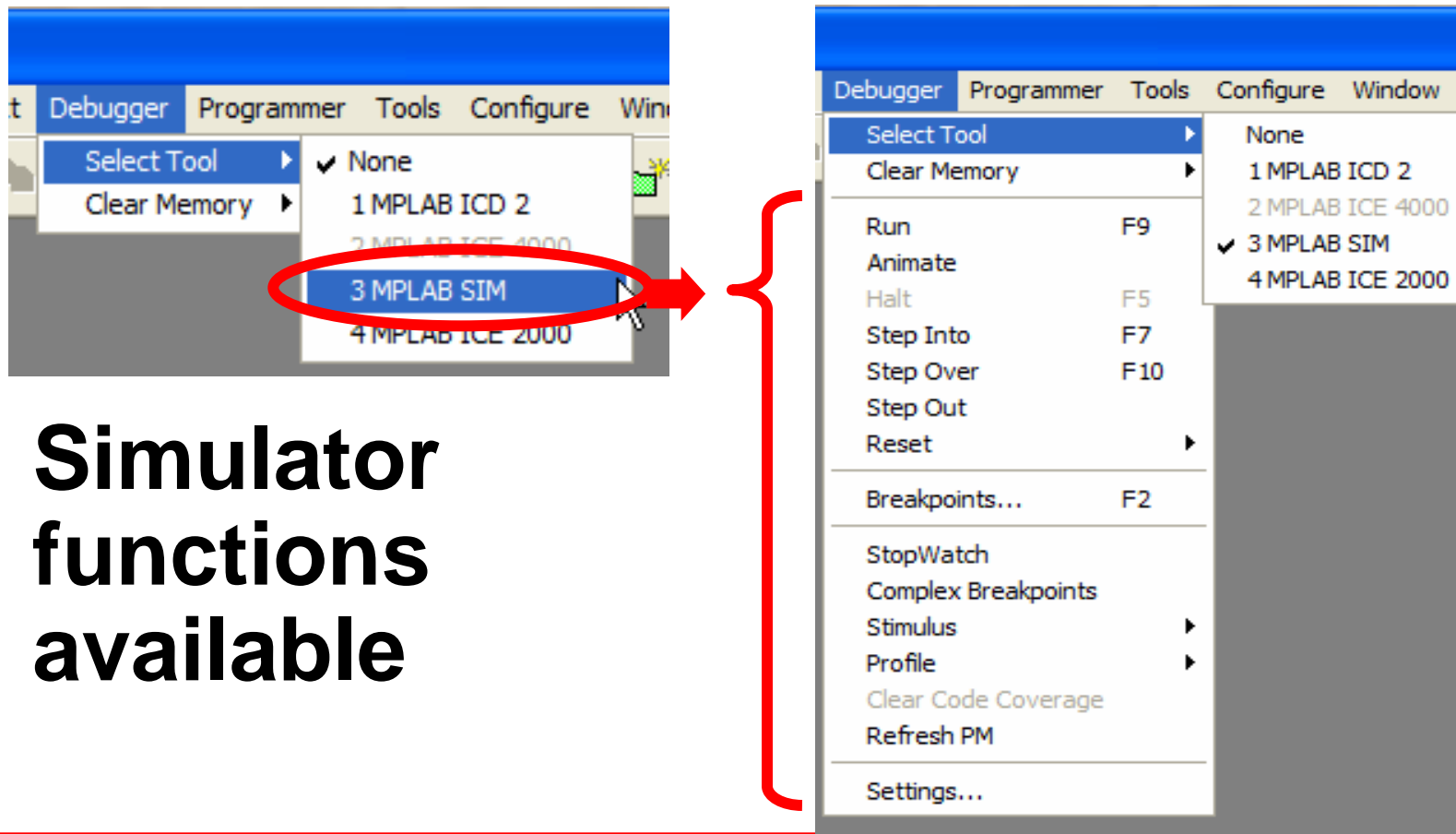
5. Tool Support  
Green: *supported*  
Yellow: *beta*  
Red: *not ready*



# Simulator

## 6. Select the Simulator

*Debugger > Select Tool > MPLAB SIM*



## 7. Simulator functions available

# Simulator

## 8. (Optional) Configure device *Configure > Configuration Bits...*

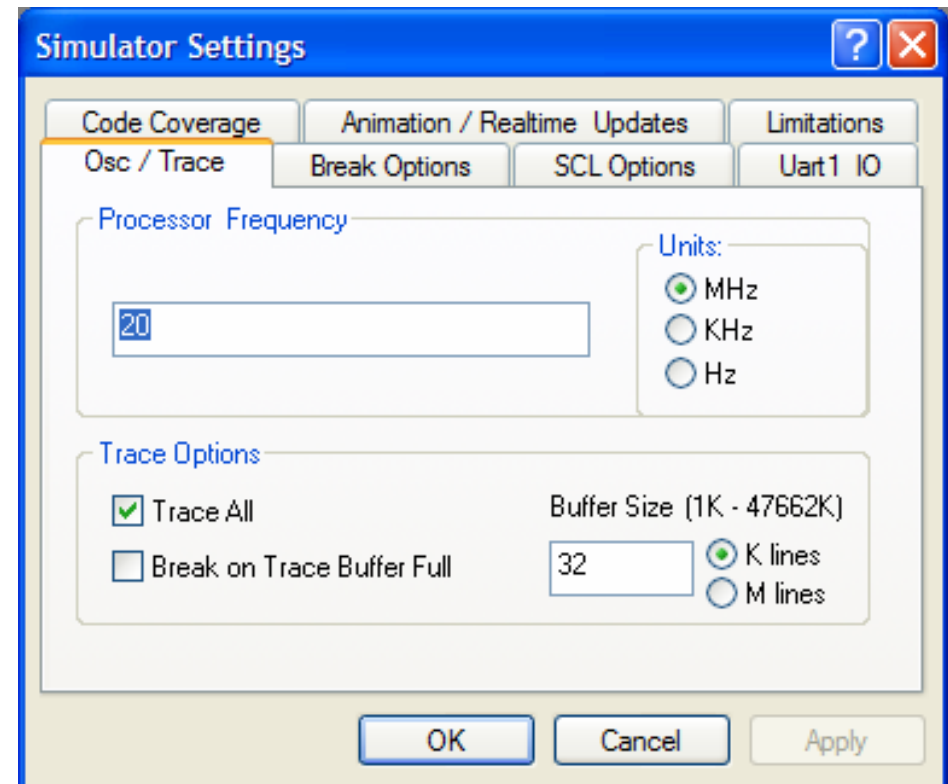
Address	Value	Category	Setting
300001	27	Oscillator	RC-OSC2 as RA6
		Osc. Switch Enable	Disabled
300002	0F	Power Up Timer	Disabled
		Brown Out Detect	Enabled
		Brown Out Voltage	2.0V
300003	0F	Watchdog Timer	Enabled
		Watchdog Postscaler	1:128
300006	85	Stack Overflow Reset	Enabled
		Low Voltage Program	Enabled
300008	0F	Code Protect 00200-01FFF	Disabled

- **Changes to configuration effective after next processor reset** 
- **Alternatively, set these in code using `__config` directive**

# Simulator

## 9. (Optional) Check Simulator Settings Debugger>Settings...

- Trace Options
- UART I/O
- Animation Speed
- Real time updates
- Break options
- Code Coverage



# Demo: Using MPLAB<sup>®</sup> Simulator



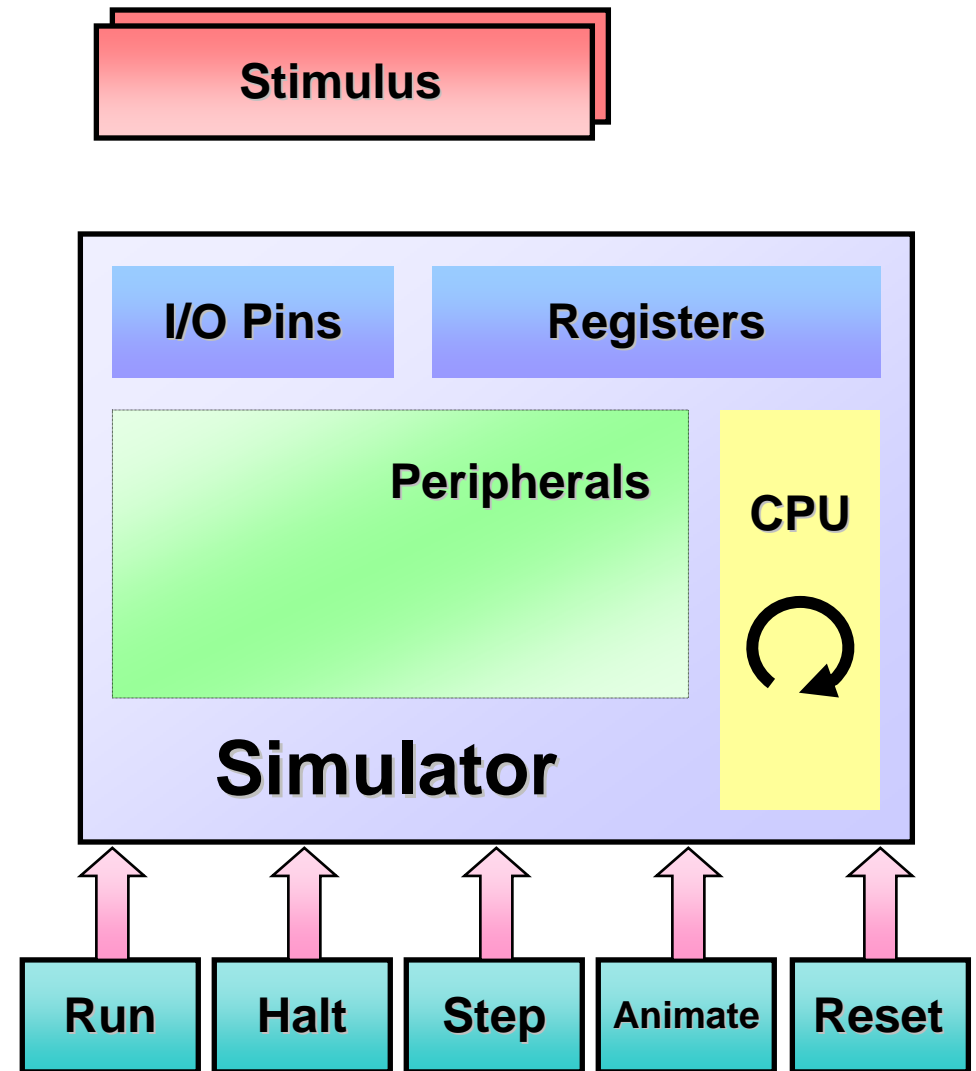
# Stimulus

# Stimulus

- **A signal to stimulate a device through I/O ports / variables**
- **Signal can be:**
  - UART data (communications)
  - ADC data (temperature sensor)
  - Digital I/O (switches)

# Two Kinds of Stimulus

- **Asynchronous**
  - Any time
- **Synchronous**
  - Preset time



# Asynchronous Stimulus

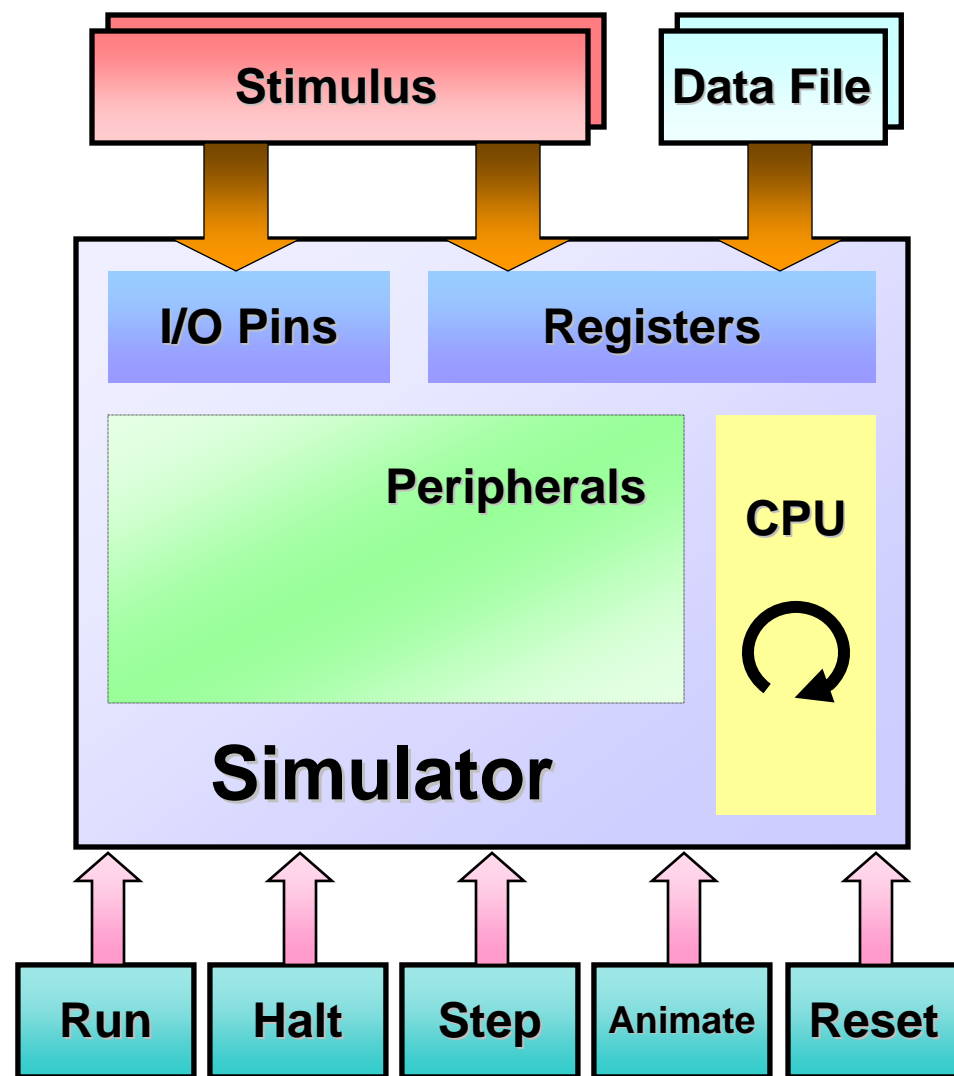
- **User-initiated (click a button)**
- **Any time during simulation**
- **Apply to:**
  - I/O pins
  - UART buffer registers (RCREG)
- **Actions:**
  - Set low / high
  - Pulse low / Pulse high
  - Toggle

# Synchronous Stimulus

- **Pre-programmed when to happen**
- **Applicable to**
  - I/O Pins
  - All registers
- **Tied to events, e.g.**
  - When it is @ cycle 20 or @ 120 ms
  - When PC reaches address 0xC40
  - When ADCBUF is read in program
  - When RA4 is set

# Destination of Stimulus

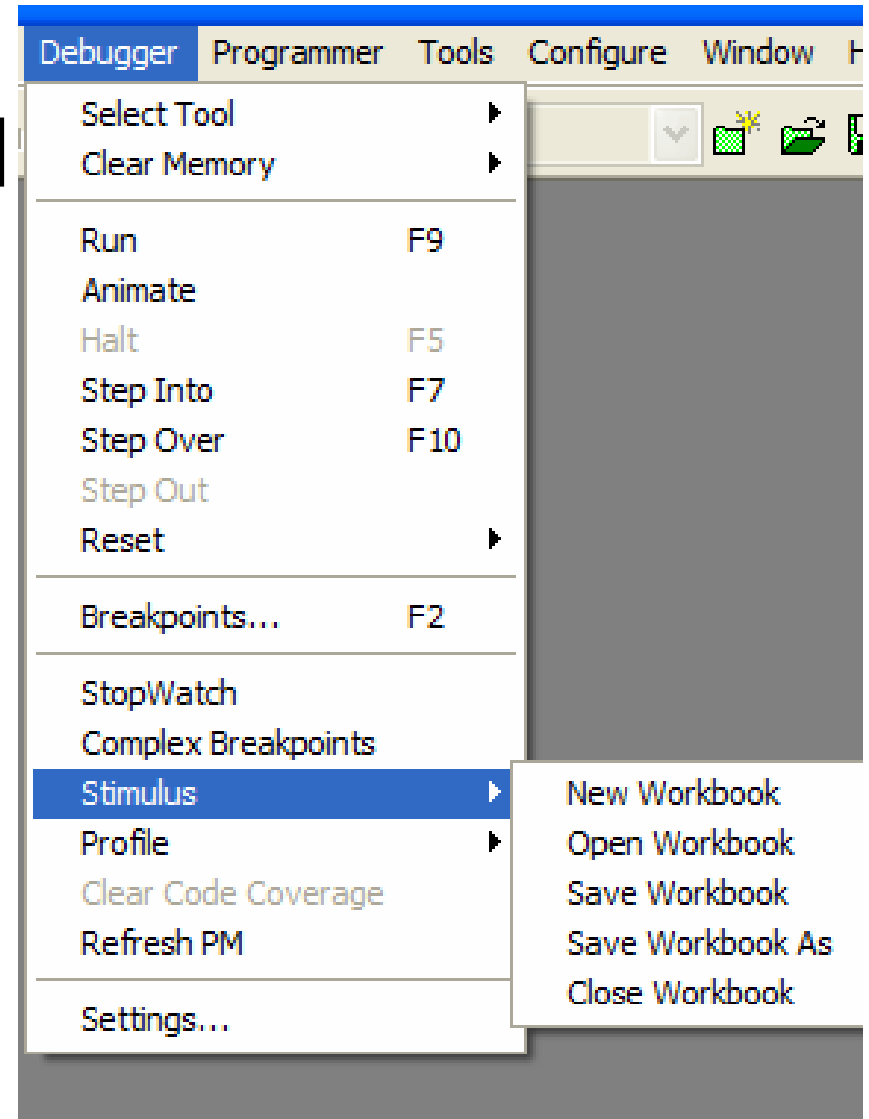
- I/O Pins  
Toggle pin  
T0CKI
- Registers  
UARTRX ← 123  
*foo* ← 0x5B
- Data  
Can be injected  
from data file



# Using Stimulus GUI

# Using Stimulus

- **Stimuli are defined in workbook:**
  - New Workbook
  - Open Workbook
  - Save Workbook
  - Save Workbook As
  - Close Workbook

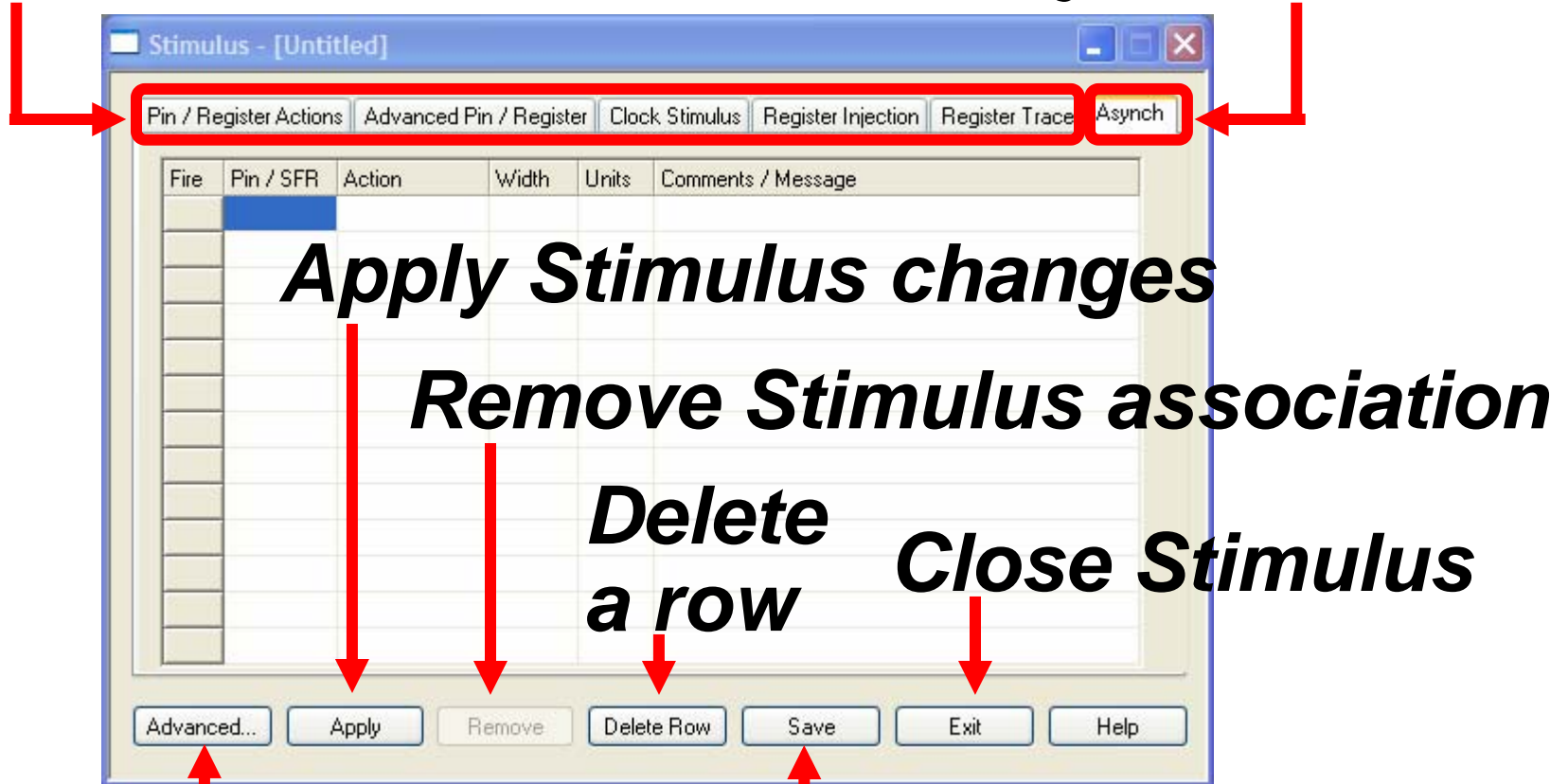




# 6 Tabs of Stimulus Window

*Synchronous*

*Asynchronous*



*Advanced SCL operations*

*Save all stimulus definitions to workbook*

# Steps to Define/Use Stimulus

- 1. Bring up stimulus window**  
*Debugger>Stimulus>New Workbook*
- 2. Define stimulus**
- 3. Save stimulus (optional)**  
*Debugger>Stimulus>Save Workbook*
- 4. Apply stimulus**
- 5. Stimulus window remains open**
- 6. Start simulation**

# Asynchronous Stimulus

- Last tab in Stimulus Window
- Fire button for each row

Fire	Pin / SFR	Action	Width	Units	Comments / Message
>	TOCKI	Toggle			
>	INT0	Set High			
>	RA0	Pulse Low		2 cyc	
>	RCREG	File Message			message.txt
>	RCREG	Direct Message			"Hello World"

- Destination: I/O Pin or RCREG



# Asynchronous Stimulus

Fire	Pin / SFR	Action	Width	Units	Comments / Message
>	TOCKI	Toggle			
>	INT0	Set High			
>	RA0	Pulse Low	2	cyc	
>	RCREG	File Message			message.txt
>	RCREG	Direct Message			"Hello World"

## ● Action for RCREG:

- Message-based Stimulus
  - File Message: Inject from file
  - Direct Message: defined in GUI
- More information in appendix

# Asynchronous Summary

- **Quick stimulus to test application**
- **Possible uses:**
  - True random event (user key press)
  - Asynchronous UART message
  
- **Onto Synchronous Stimulus...**

# Pin/Register Actions

- Define Sequence of stimulus @ pre-set time
- Pin  
T0CKI, RB0
- Port  
PORTA
- SFR  
TMR2, WREG
- Bit field  
SSPBUF

Stimulus - [Untitled]

Pin / Register Actions    Advanced Pin / Register    Clock Stimulus    Register Injection    Register Trace    Asynch

Time Units: cyc    Repeat  after: 1 (dec)    restart at: (dec)

Time (dec)	T0CKI (bin)	RB0 (bin)	PORTA (hex)	TMR2 (hex)	WREG (hex)	SSPBUF.SSPBUF (bin)	Click here to Add Signals
10		1	1E		80	00000001	
12	1					01010100	
15	0		2C	A0	D8		
20		0		BF			
30	1				2C	00011111	

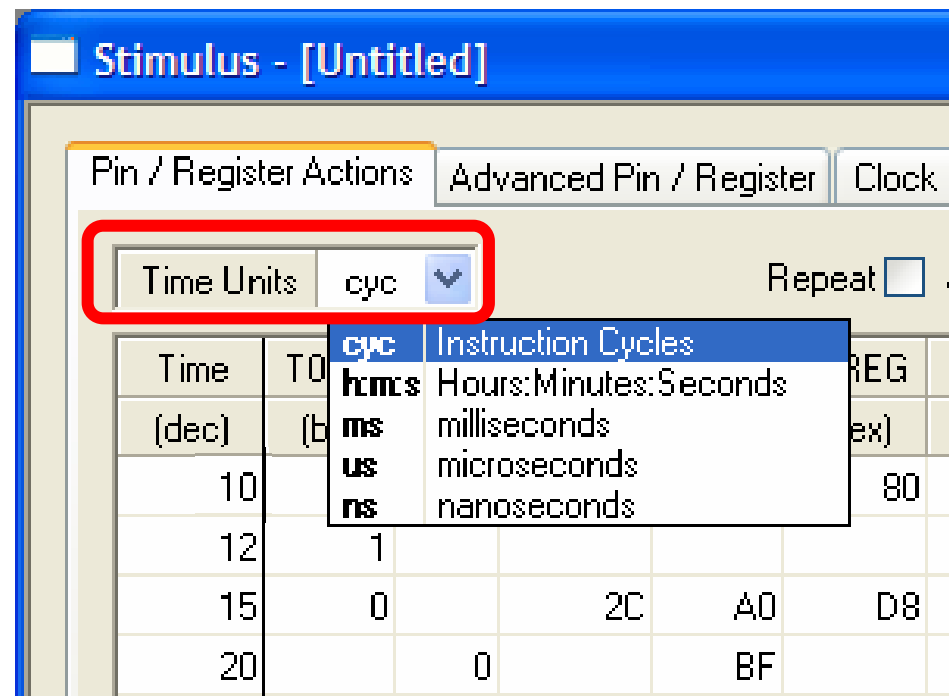
**Events at cycle 10, 12, 15, 20, 30 after reset**

Advanced...    Apply    Remove    Delete Row    Save    Exit    Help

# Pin/Register Actions

## ● Time Unit

- common to all events on this tab
- Cycle
- Hour:Min:Sec
- ms
- us
- ns

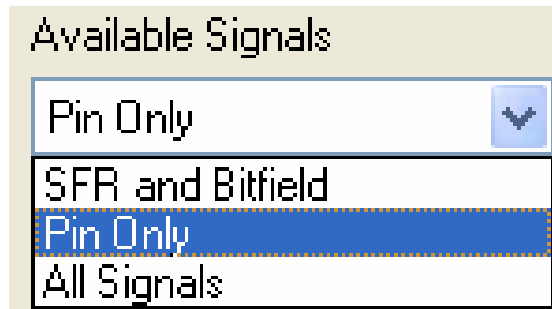




# Pin/Register Actions

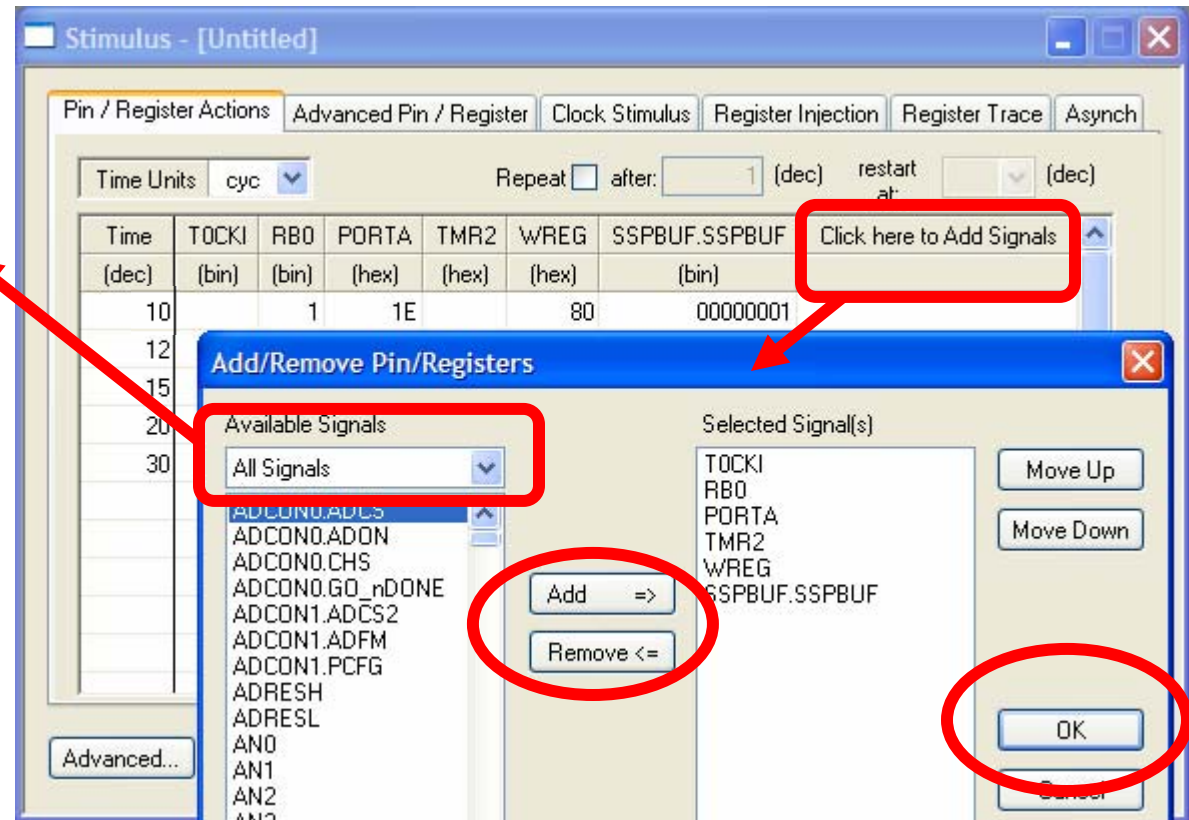
- **Add/Remove Signals**

Signal Filter:



Add/Remove

Click OK



# What Happens at Run Time?

- **At cycle 10:**
  - RBO ← high
  - PORTA ← 1E
- **At cycle 12:**
  - T0CKI ← high
- **At cycle 15:**
  - T0CKI ← low
  - PORTA ← 2C
  - TMR2 ← A0

Time	T0CKI	RBO	PORTA	TMR2
(dec)	(bin)	(bin)	(hex)	(hex)
10		1	1E	
12	1			
15	0		2C	A0
20		0		BF
30	1			

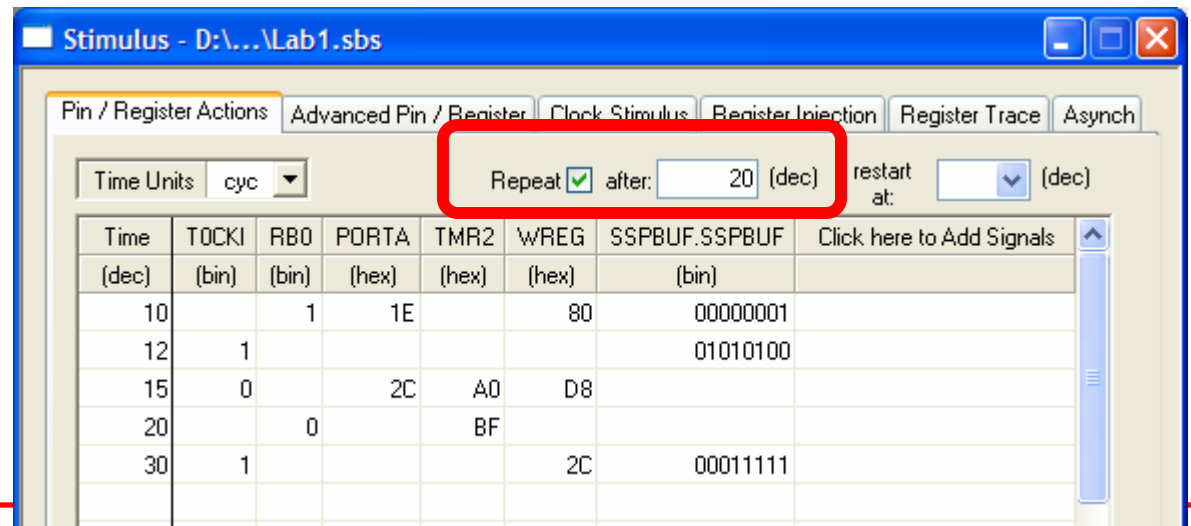
*Radix for  
data entry*

# Might need to repeat stimuli

- Check “Repeat” and enter delay

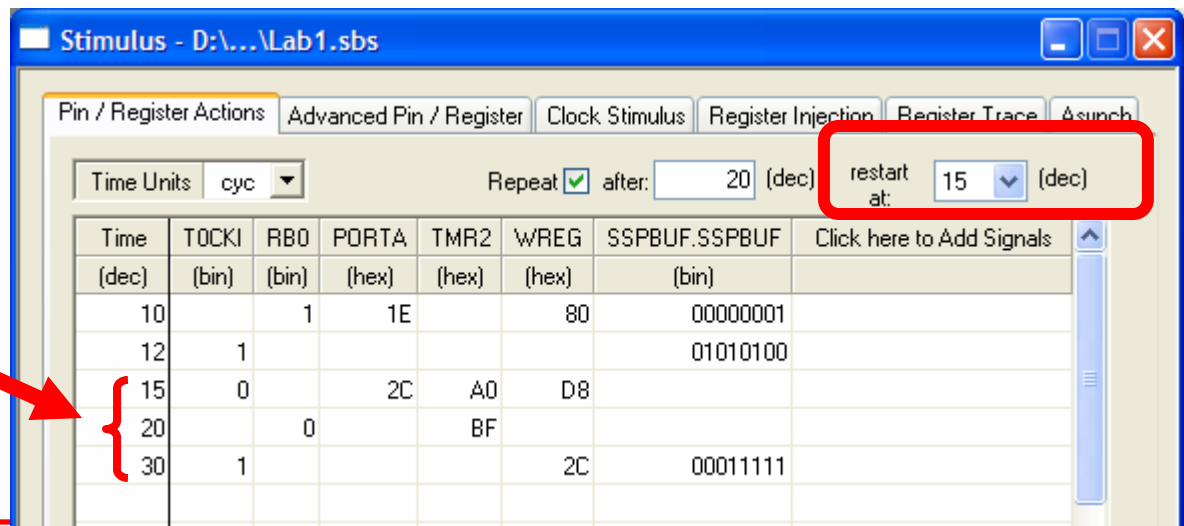
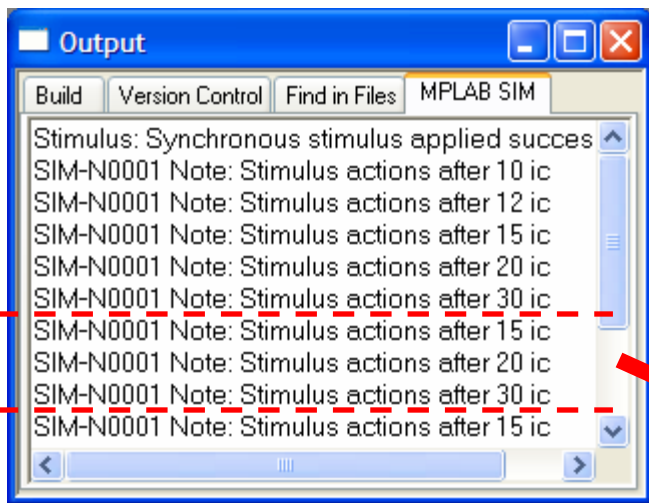
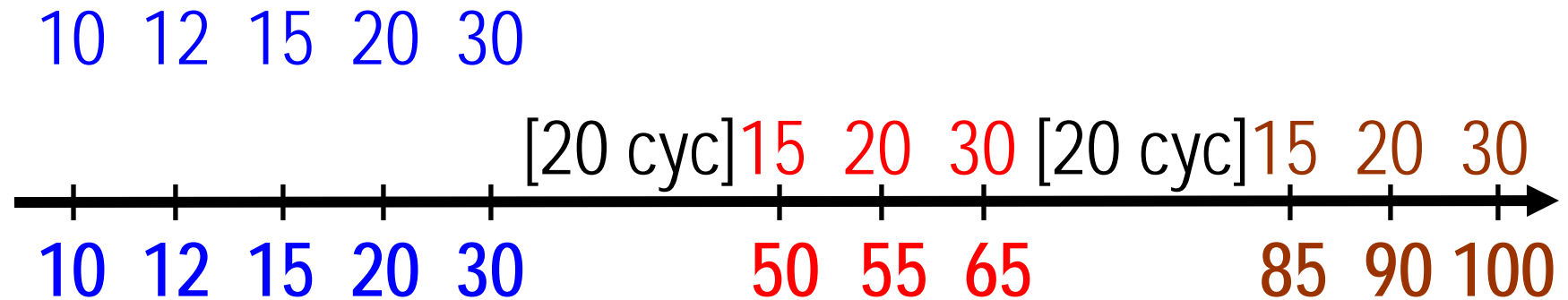
10 12 15 20 30

[wait 20 cycles]



# “Restart at” option

- Selects which row to begin repeating after delay



# Pin/Register Summary

- **Set / Clear pin, SFR, SFR bit field**
- **At specific time during simulation**
- **All data contained in the workbook**
- **Possible uses:**
  - Setting two IRQ flags simultaneously
  - Simulating A/D buffer (ADRES)
  - Setting pulse to ext clock input T0CKI
  - Duration test (using “repeat”)

# Lab 1: Simple Stimulus

**C:>Masters>11014>Lab1>Lab1.mcw**

# Other Stimulus Tabs

- **Register Injection**
  - Attach input data file to Register or GPR
- **Register Trace**
  - Attach output file to Register or GPR
- **Clock Stimulus**
  - Generates waveform to I/O pin

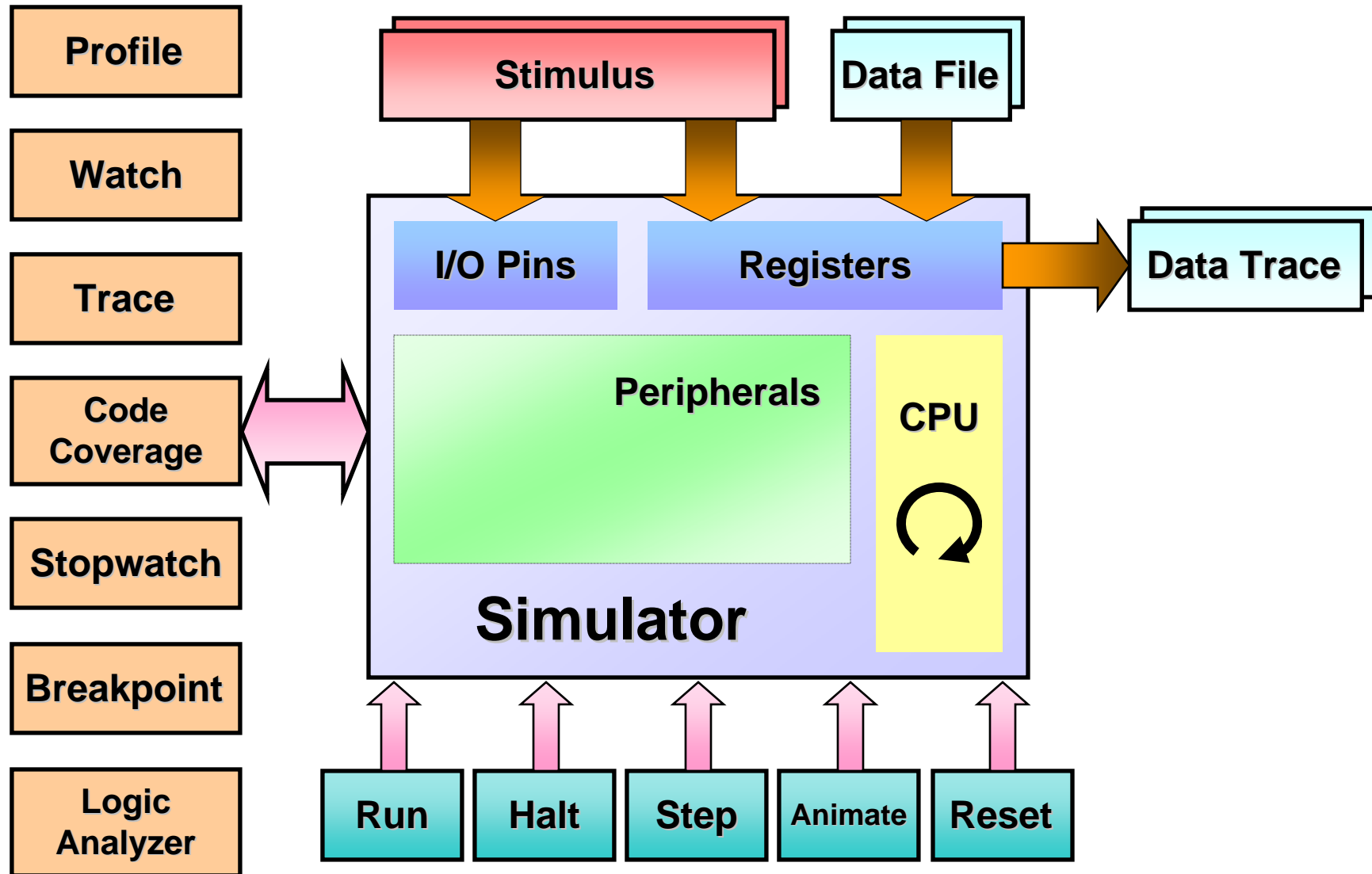
# Other Stimulus Tabs (Cont'd)

- **Advanced Pin/Register**
  - Conditional Pin/Register stimulus
- **Other MASTERS classes**
  - Advanced Stimulus (11015 MS2)
  - Debugging Techniques (11016 MS3)  
***NEW!***



# Tools in Simulator

# Tools in Simulator



# Tools in Simulator

Profile

Watch

Trace

Code  
Coverage

Stopwatch

Breakpoint

Logic  
Analyzer

- **Profile**
  - Count # of times used by each instruction
- **Real-time Watch Window**
  - See contents of memory / variables during simulation
  - Drag and drop variables from editor

# Execution Trace

Profile

Watch

Trace

Code  
Coverage

Stopwatch

Breakpoint

Logic  
Analyzer

- Record execution history of program
- Instruction tagged with time stamp (execution cycle)
- Disassembled Opcodes
- Source and Destination Data values
- Source and Destination Address

# Execution Trace (cont'd)

Profile

Watch

Trace

Code  
Coverage

Stopwatch

Breakpoint

Logic  
Analyzer

- Filter In/Out from source
- Trace to Source Correlation
- Select Menu  
*View>Simulator Trace*
- **Trace All** must be selected in debugger settings
- Trace buffer up to 2GB  
(one trace record ~40 bytes)

# Trace to Source Correlation

- Right click → select *Show Source*

The screenshot shows the 'Trace' window with a table of instructions and a source code editor below it. A red arrow points from the selected instruction in the trace table to the corresponding source code line. A context menu is open over the source code, with 'Show Source' selected.

Line	Addr	Op	Label	Instruction	SA	SD	DA	DD	Cycles
0	0000	0E07		MOVLW 0x7	W	--	W	07	0000000000000
1	0002	6EC1		MOVWF 0xfc1, ACCESS	----	--	0FC1	07	0000000000001
2	0004	8AD5		BSF 0xfd5, 0x5, ACCESS	0FD5	FF	0FD5	FF	0000000000002
3	0006	88D5		BSF 0xfd5, 0x4, ACCESS	0FD5	FF	0FD5	FF	0000000000003
4	0008	8CD5		BSF 0xfd5, 0x6, ACCESS	0FD5	FF	0FD5	FF	0000000000004

```

C:\MASTERS\11014\LAB1\LAB1.ASM
10 #include p18f248.inc ; standard header fo
11
12     movlw 0x7         ; configure PORTA
13     movwf ADCON1     ; for digital RA0 in
14     bsf T0CON, T0CS  ; use external sourc
15     bsf T0CON, T0SE  ; increment TMR0 on
16     bsf T0CON, T08BIT ; TMR0 as 8-bit coun
17     clrf TMR0L      ; clear TMR0
18     clrf PORTA     ; clear PORTA
19     ; -----
20     ; infinite loop
21     : -----
  
```

# Filter Trace – selective

- Trace certain lines, e.g. loop  
 right click →  
Add Filter-in Trace

C:\MPLAB\_net\Docs\MSTR5\2005\LAB\_908\LAB908.A

```

293 Zone1StartDone
294   decf   START_HEATER1,F
295   btfsz  STATUS,Z
296   return
297   bsf    HEATER1PORT, HEA
298   if(PRINT_STATUS == 1)
299     movlw HEAT1 ON MSG
  
```

- Not trace some  
 e.g. eliminate  
 wait loops  
 right click →  
Add Filter-out Trace

C:\MPLAB\_net\Docs\MSTR5\2005\LAB\_908\LAB9

```

470 SAMPLE_ADC_CHAN5
471   bsf    ADCON0, CHS0
472   bcf    ADCON0, CHS1
473   bsf    ADCON0, CHS2
474   movlw  LOW SAMPLE_AD
475   movwf  SAMPLE_ARRAY
476   movwf  FSR
  
```

# Code Coverage

Profile

Watch

Trace

Code Coverage

Stopwatch

Breakpoint

Logic Analyzer

- Visually shows executed code in editor window (checked)
- Identifies unreachable code

```
C:\Masters\11014\Lab1\Lab1.asm
movlw 0x7          ; configure PORTA
movwf ADCON1      ; for digital RA0 inputs
bsf TOCON, TOCS   ; use external source T0CKI
bsf TOCON, TOSE   ; increment TMRO on falling edge
bsf TOCON, T08BIT ; TMRO as 8-bit counter
clrf TMR0L        ; clear TMRO
clrf PORTA        ; clear PORTA

; -----
; infinite loop
; -----

foo  nop
    nop
    nop
    nop
    nop
    goto foo

; -----
end
```



# Stopwatch

Profile

Watch

Trace

Code Coverage

Stopwatch

Breakpoint

Logic Analyzer

- Measures in cycles & time
- Reset to zero upon reset

The screenshot shows a window titled "Stopwatch" with a blue title bar and standard window controls. The main area contains a table with two columns: "Stopwatch" and "Total Simulated".

	Stopwatch	Total Simulated
<input type="button" value="Synch"/> Instruction Cycles	75	75
<input type="button" value="Zero"/> Time (uSecs)	15.000000	15.000000
Processor Frequency (MHz)		20.000000

# Breakpoint

Profile

Watch

Trace

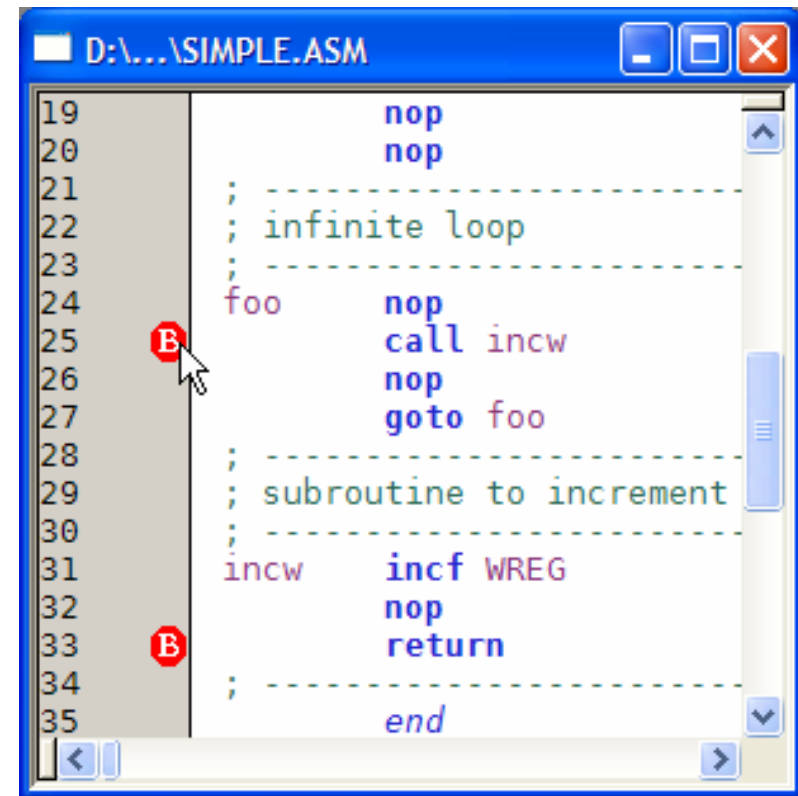
Code Coverage

Stopwatch

**Breakpoint**

Logic Analyzer

- Set unlimited # of breakpoints
- Double click in editor margin to set



The screenshot shows a window titled "D:\...\SIMPLE.ASM" containing assembly code. The code is as follows:

```
19          nop
20          nop
21          ; -----
22          ; infinite loop
23          ; -----
24          foo      nop
25          call incw
26          nop
27          goto foo
28          ; -----
29          ; subroutine to increment
30          ; -----
31          incw     incf WREG
32          nop
33          return
34          ; -----
35          end
```

Two red circular markers with the letter 'B' are placed in the left margin. One is on line 25, and the other is on line 33. A mouse cursor is pointing at the 'B' on line 25.

# Complex Breakpoints

Profile

Watch

Trace

Code  
Coverage

Stopwatch

Breakpoint

Logic  
Analyzer

- Provides great flexibility when to halt execution
- Break on Program Memory or Data Memory R/W
- Anded Breakpoints  
**A & B must happen same time**
- Sequenced Breakpoints  
**A then B must happen in order**

# Logic Analyzer

Profile

Watch

Trace

Code  
Coverage

Stopwatch

Breakpoint

Logic  
Analyzer

- Display I/O port data graphically
- Uses data in trace buffer
- Trace **MUST** be enabled (Trace All selected in settings)
- Max. 32 channels
- Bus (collection of I/O pins)  
e.g. PORTB = RB0...RB7

# Logic Analyzer (Cont'd)

Profile

Watch

Trace

Code  
Coverage

Stopwatch

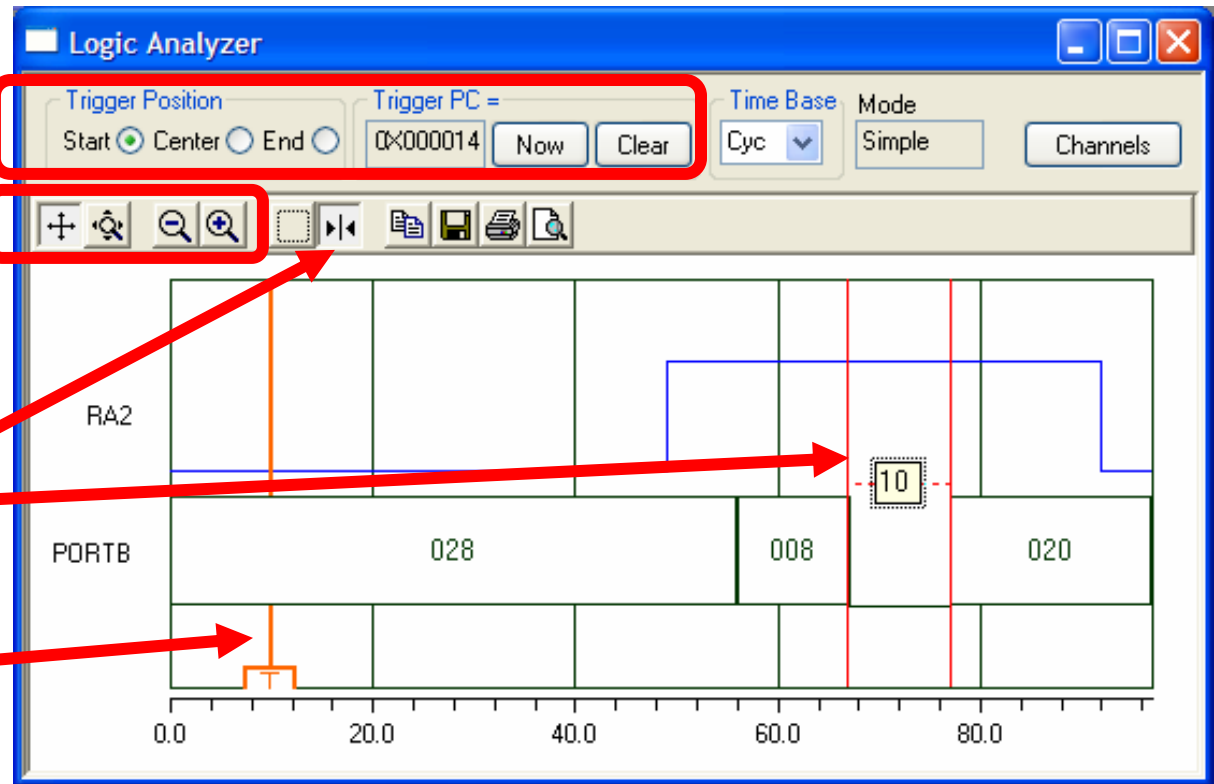
Breakpoint

Logic  
Analyzer

- Simple Trigger on a PC
  - Start: history after trigger
  - End: history before trigger
  - Center: history before and after trigger
- May stop at trace buffer full
- Cursors for time measurement
- Printable displays

# Logic Analyzer (Cont'd)

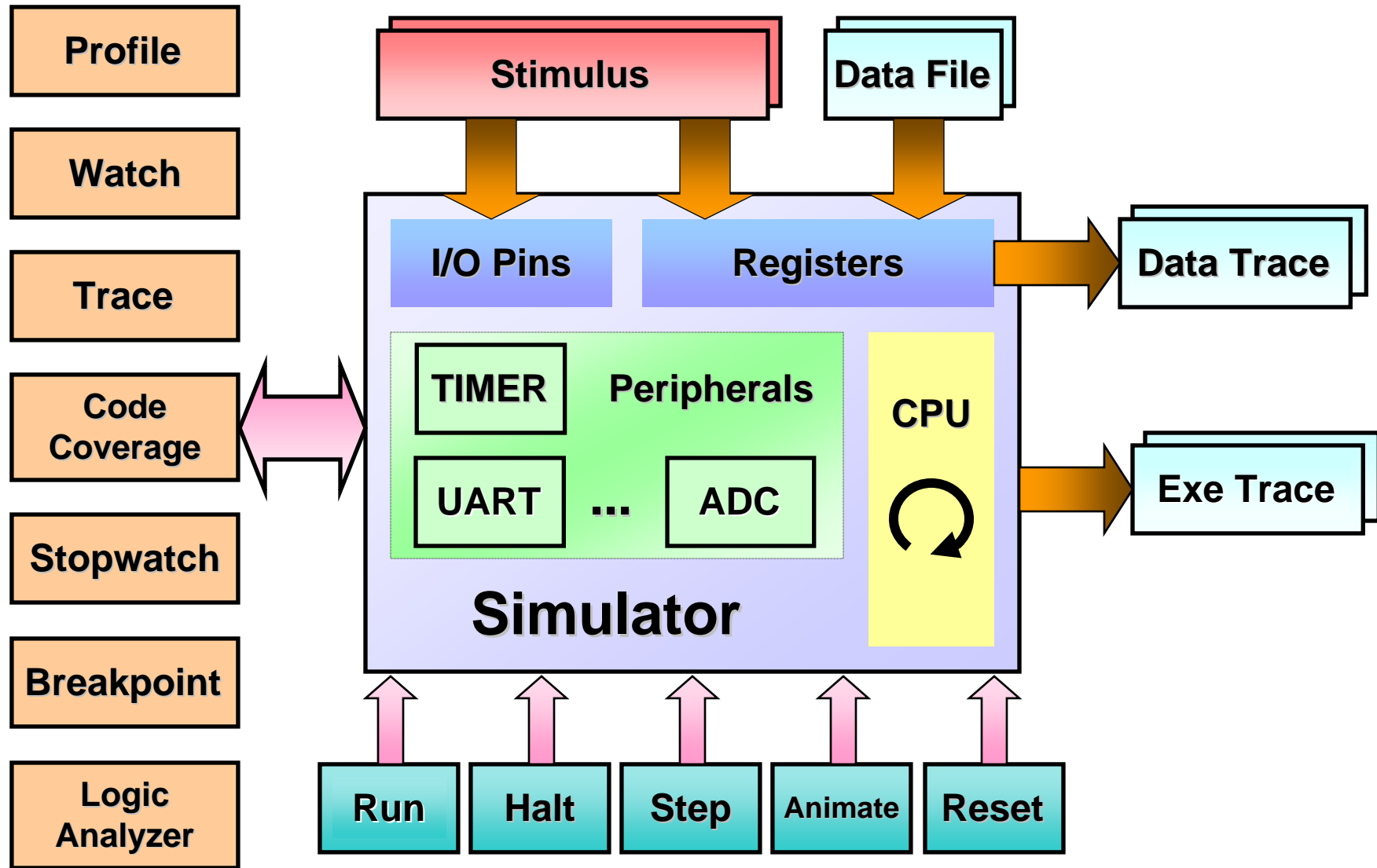
- *View>Simulator Logic Analyzer*
- Simple Trigger Definition
- Zoom
- Cursor
- Trigger



# Lab 2: Logic Analyzer

**C:>Masters>11014>Lab2>Lab2.mcw**

# Summary





# Summary

- **MPLAB<sup>®</sup> IDE and Simulator**
- **Stimulus**
  - Asynchronous
  - Simple Synchronous
- **Tools in Simulator**
  - Trace
  - Logic Analyzer

# Where to find out more

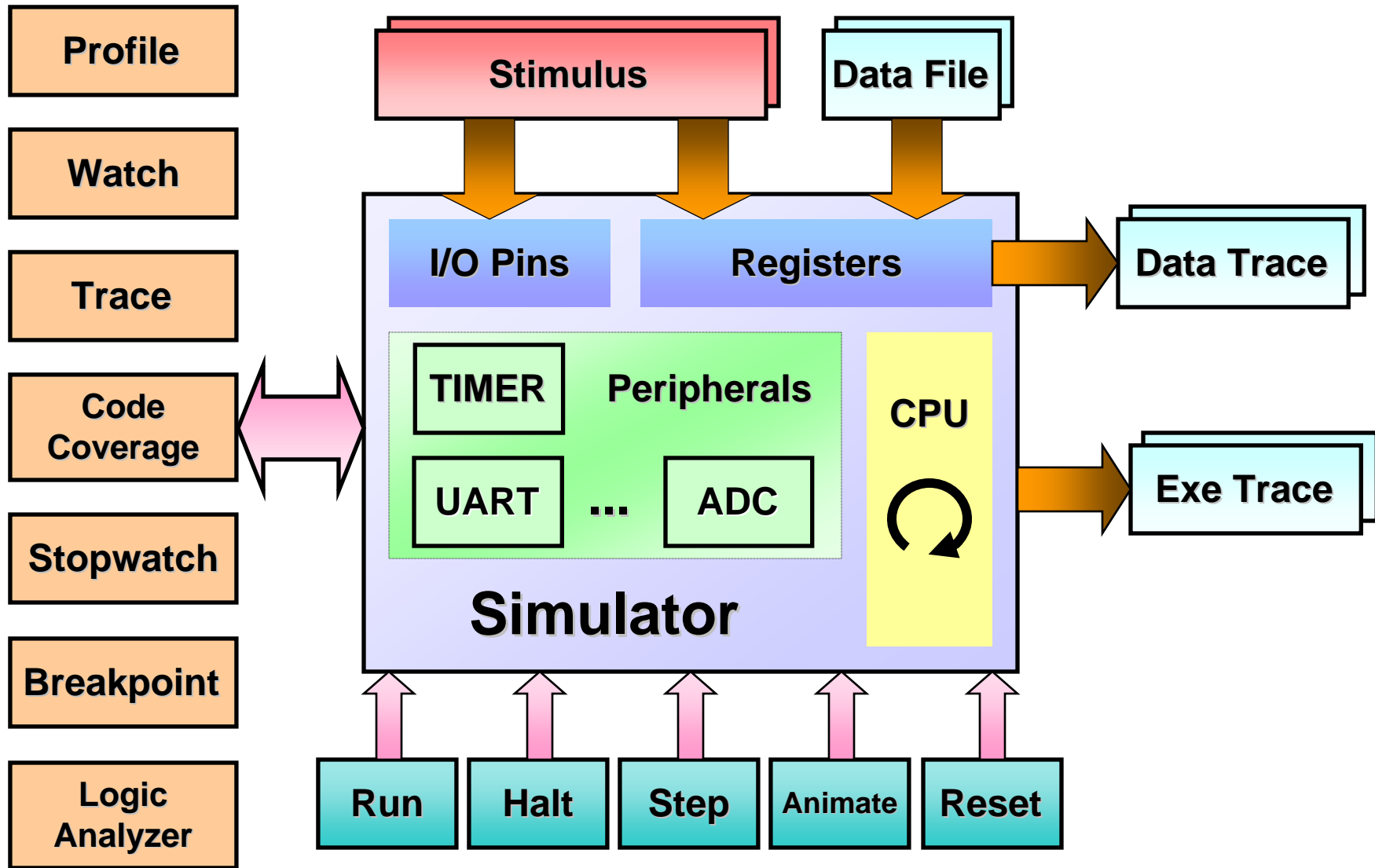
- **MPLAB<sup>®</sup> IDE Help**
  - Topic: MPLAB SIM
- **Forums / Webinars**
  - <http://forum.microchip.com>
  - <http://techtrain.microchip.com/webseminars>

# Useful Links

- **Microchip Change Notification (good way to keep up to date on latest MPLAB® IDE and C18/C30 releases, as well as important Dev Tool notifications);**
- **[http://cn.microchip.com/sales/product\\_change.nsf](http://cn.microchip.com/sales/product_change.nsf)**
  
- **Microchip Dev Tools Getting Started (series of many tutorials and overviews):**
- **[http://www.microchip.com/stellent/idcplg?IdcService=SS\\_GET\\_PAGE&nodeId=2122](http://www.microchip.com/stellent/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&nodeId=2122)**
  
- **Microchip archives:**
- **[http://www.microchip.com/stellent/idcplg?IdcService=SS\\_GET\\_PAGE&nodeId=1406&dDocName=en023073](http://www.microchip.com/stellent/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&nodeId=1406&dDocName=en023073)**
  
- **Development Tool Selector (to find out tool support, accessories, adapters, etc.):**
- **[http://www.microchip.com/stellent/idcplg?IdcService=SS\\_GET\\_PAGE&nodeId=1496](http://www.microchip.com/stellent/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&nodeId=1496)**
  
- **Third Party Development Tools:**
- **[http://www.microchip.com/stellent/idcplg?IdcService=SS\\_GET\\_PAGE&nodeId=1926&type=-1&label=A](http://www.microchip.com/stellent/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&nodeId=1926&type=-1&label=A)**
  
- **MPLAB download page:**
- **<http://www.microchip.com/mplab>**

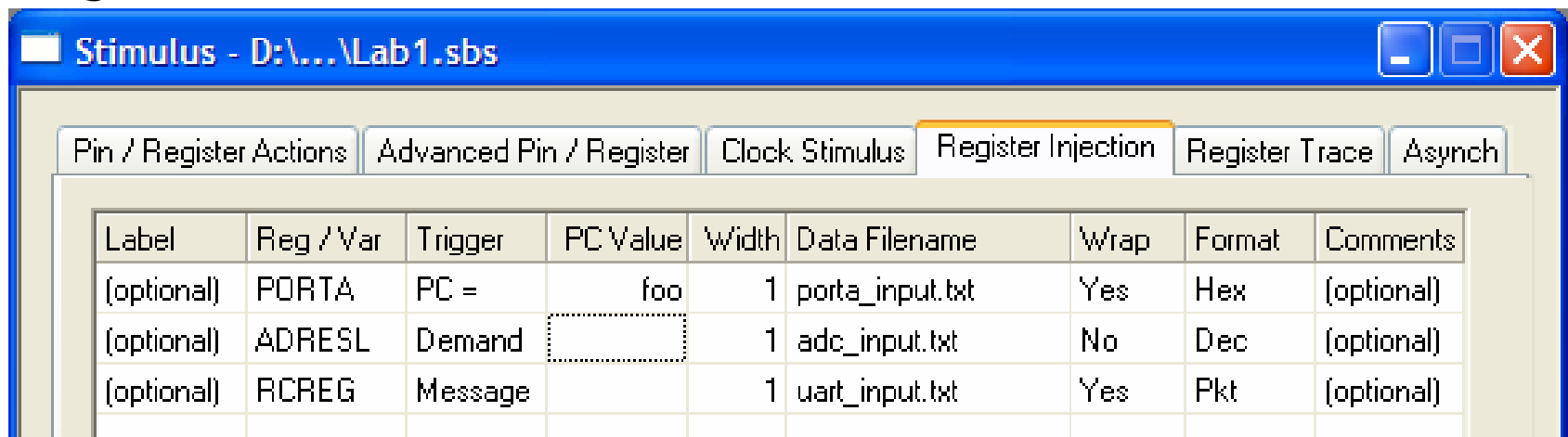
# THANK YOU!

# Block Diagram of Simulator



# Register Injection

- Inject values from data file



- Can inject a message to UART  
Select Trigger = Message
- Can inject to GPR (variable) also

# Register Injection

Reg / Var	Trigger	PC Value	Width	Data Filename	Wrap	Format
PORTA	PC =	foo	1	porta_input.txt	Yes	Hex
ADRESL	Demand	<input type="text"/>	1	adc_input.txt	No	Dec
RCREG	Message		1	uart_input.txt	Yes	Pkt

## ● Destination

- SFR (e.g. ADRESL, RCREG), or
- GPR (aka. Variable)
  - Select variable from drop down
  - Type address directly (2C0) in hex

# Register Injection

Reg / Var	Trigger	PC Value	Width	Data Filename	Wrap	Format
PORTA	PC =	foo	1	porta_input.txt	Yes	Hex
ADRESL	Demand		1	adc_input.txt	No	Dec
RCREG	Message		1	uart_input.txt	Yes	Pkt

- **Trigger**

- **PC=**

when PC reaches a location, e.g. *foo*

- **On Demand**

when the program reads register/variable

- **Message (UART only)**

data injected to RCREG per baud rate



# Register Injection

Reg / Var	Trigger	PC Value	Width	Data Filename	Wrap	Format
PORTA	PC =	foo	1	porta_input.txt	Yes	Hex
ADRESL	Demand		1	adc_input.txt	No	Dec
RCREG	Message		1	uart_input.txt	Yes	Pkt

- **Width (bytes)**

- SFR (dsPIC<sup>®</sup> DSC: 2, others: 1)
- GPR (user-specified)

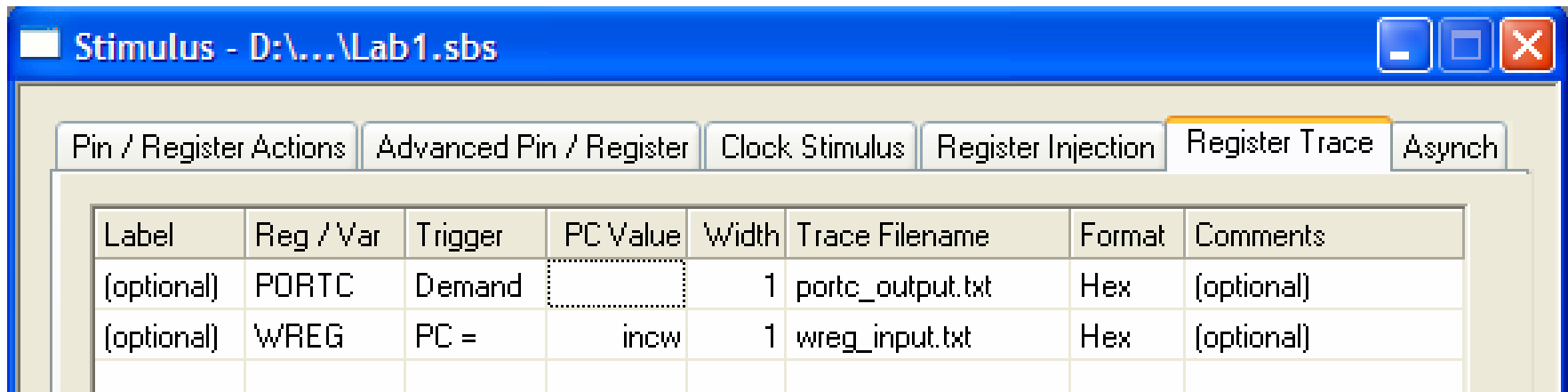
- **Wrap**

- Wrap-around at the end of input file

# Register Injection Summary

- **Difference than Pin/Reg Actions Tab**
  - Data is not defined in the workbook
  - Use Excel-generated data
  - Can switch test data set easily
- **Possible uses:**
  - A/D simulation (ADRES)
  - Zero-crossing – covered in **Advanced Stimulus (11015 MS2)**

# Register Trace



- **Similar to Register Injection Tab**
- **Sends register value to output file**
- **Supports GPR / variable**
- **No Wrap column**

# Register Trace

Reg / Var	Trigger	PC Value	Width	Trace Filename	Format
PORTC	Demand		1	portc_output.txt	Hex
WREG	PC =	incw	1	wreg_input.txt	Hex

- **Demand**

- Every time the program changes the register/variable

- **PC=**

- Every time PC reaches a location
- e.g. label *incw* or address 2C0

# Register Data File Formats

## ● Format

- **Hex:** white space delimited hex value  
e.g. `1FF AC 53`
- **Dec:** white space delimited dec value  
e.g. `128 75 145`
- **Raw:** binary data recorded as-is

- **Packet:** only for UART buffer
  - **Combo of Hex and “string”**
  - **Wait time**

```
wait 2 ms  
61 62 62 20  
"abc"
```

# Clock Stimulus

- **Generates waveform to pin**
- **Target Pin**
- **Initial State**
- **Low Cycles**
- **High Cycles**
- **Begin cond.**
- **End cond.**

The screenshot shows the 'Stimulus' window for 'D:\...\Lab1.sbs'. The 'Clock Stimulus' tab is active, displaying a table with columns: Label, Pin, Initial, Low Cycles, High Cycles, Begin, End, and Comments. Below the table are configuration panels for 'Begin' and 'End' conditions.

Label	Pin	Initial	Low Cycles	High Cycles	Begin	End	Comments
RC0	RC0	Low	2	4	At Start	Never	
T1CKI	T1CKI	High	10	10	RC4 is High	Never	
CCP1	CCP1	Low	5	20	23 cyc	200 cyc+	
RC4	RC4	Low	5	2	At Start	PC = foo	

**Begin Configuration:**

- At Start
- PC =  hex/label
- Cycle =  dec absolute time
- Pin =  is

**End Configuration:**

- Never
- PC =  hex/label
- Cycle =  dec from clock start
- Pin =  is

# Clock Stimulus

- **Any type of clocking signals**
- **Possible uses:**
  - TMR external clock signals T0CKI
  - Key bounce – covered in  
**Advanced Stimulus (11015 MS2)**

# Advanced Pin/Register

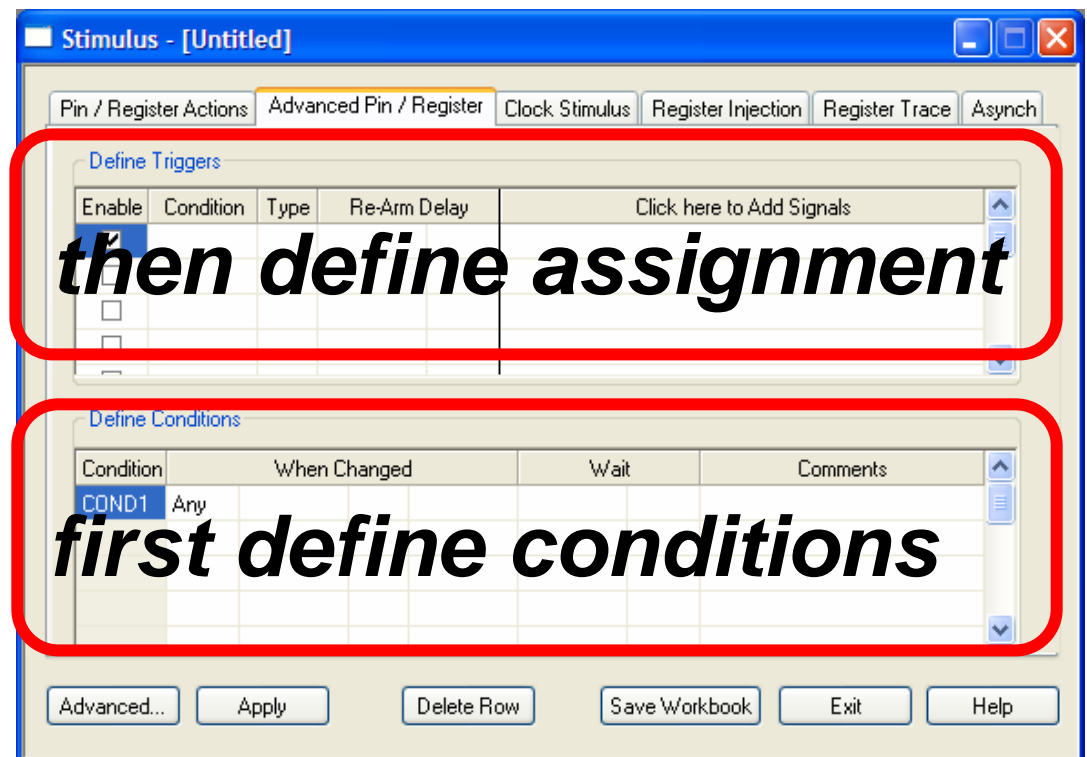
- Pin/Register assignment with conditional control

- **Condition**

- If TMR2 is E0
- If INT1IF is '1'

- **Assignment**

- Triggered once
- Whenever cond happens





# Advanced Pin/Register

- **Provides flexibility with gating**
  - Complex pin and register stimulus based on other signals
- **Possible uses:**
  - Set IRQ flags based on clock stimulus
  - Pulse train – covered in **Advanced Stimulus (12025 MS2)**

# 11014 MS1

## MPLAB Simulator Fundamentals

### (END)

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