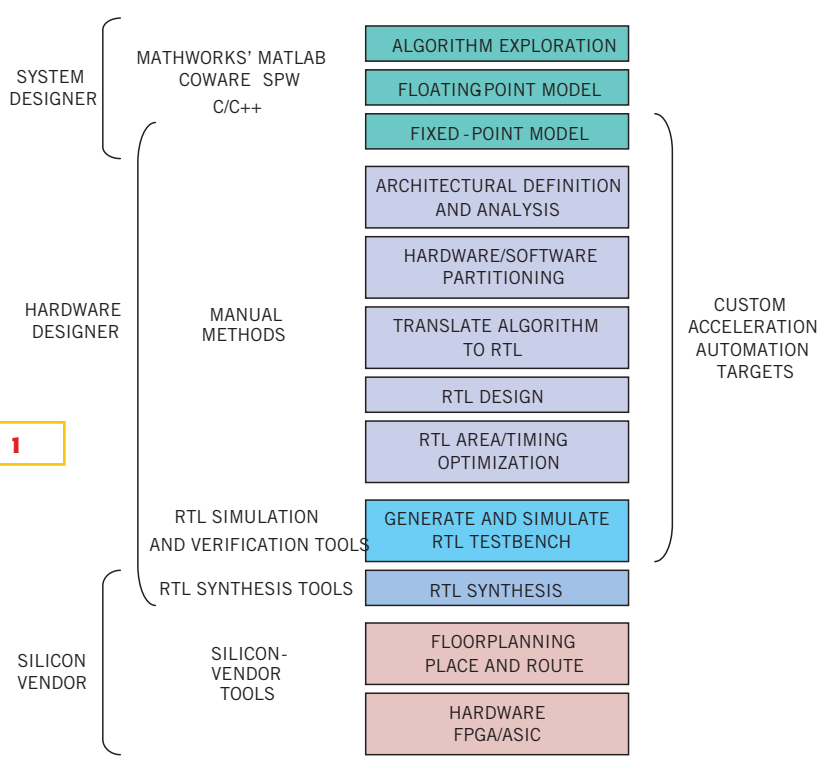


Figure 1



Certain steps in the design-tool flow for accelerating software with hardware are good candidates for automation. Some designer activities overlap in the tool flow, and unique tools support each portion of the flow.