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Understanding Embedded - FPGAs (Field Programmable Gate Array)

Embedded - FPGAs, or Field Programmable Gate Arrays, are advanced integrated circuits that offer unparalleled flexibility and performance for digital systems. Unlike traditional fixed-function logic devices, FPGAs can be programmed and reprogrammed to execute a wide array of logical operations, enabling customized functionality tailored to specific applications. This reprogrammability allows developers to iterate designs quickly and implement complex functions without the need for custom hardware.

Applications of Embedded - FPGAs

The versatility of Embedded - FPGAs makes them indispensable in numerous fields. In telecommunications.

Details	
Product Status	Obsolete
Number of LABs/CLBs	132
Number of Logic Elements/Cells	1320
Total RAM Bits	-
Number of I/O	171
Number of Gates	16000
Voltage - Supply	4.75V ~ 5.25V
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Operating Temperature	0°C ~ 85°C (TJ)
Package / Case	208-BFQFP
Supplier Device Package	208-PQFP (28x28)
Purchase URL	https://www.e-xfl.com/product-detail/intel/epf6016qc208-2

General Description

The Altera® FLEX 6000 programmable logic device (PLD) family provides a low-cost alternative to high-volume gate array designs. FLEX 6000 devices are based on the OptiFLEX architecture, which minimizes die size while maintaining high performance and routability. The devices have reconfigurable SRAM elements, which give designers the flexibility to quickly change their designs during prototyping and design testing. Designers can also change functionality during operation via in-circuit reconfiguration.

FLEX 6000 devices are reprogrammable, and they are 100% tested prior to shipment. As a result, designers are not required to generate test vectors for fault coverage purposes, allowing them to focus on simulation and design verification. In addition, the designer does not need to manage inventories of different gate array designs. FLEX 6000 devices are configured on the board for the specific functionality required.

Table 3 shows FLEX 6000 performance for some common designs. All performance values shown were obtained using Synopsys DesignWare or LPM functions. Special design techniques are not required to implement the applications; the designer simply infers or instantiates a function in a Verilog HDL, VHDL, Altera Hardware Description Language (AHDL), or schematic design file.

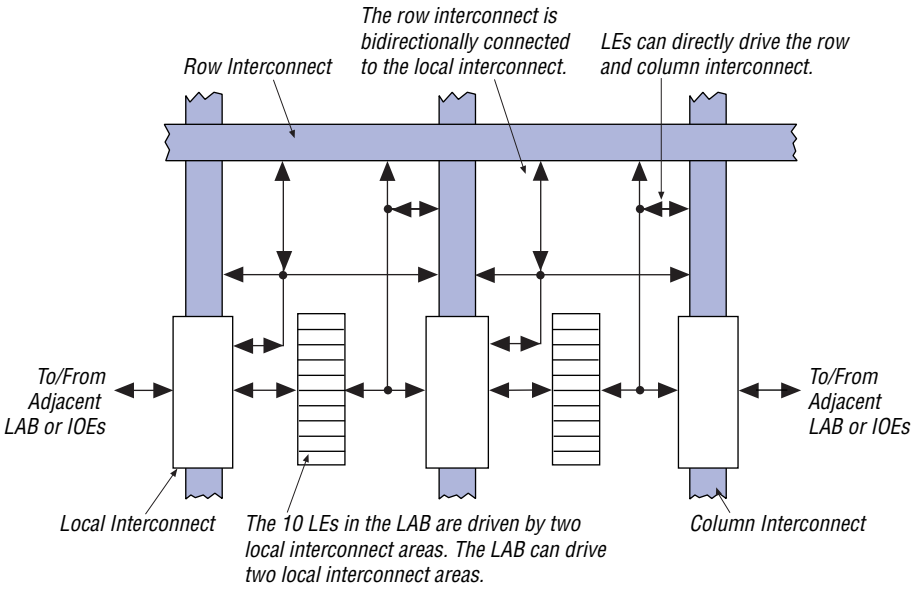
Table 3. FLEX 6000 Device Performance for Common Designs

Application	LEs Used	Performance			Units
		-1 Speed Grade	-2 Speed Grade	-3 Speed Grade	
16-bit loadable counter	16	172	153	133	MHz
16-bit accumulator	16	172	153	133	MHz
24-bit accumulator	24	136	123	108	MHz
16-to-1 multiplexer (pin-to-pin) *(1)*	10	12.1	13.4	16.6	ns
16 × 16 multiplier with a 4-stage pipeline	592	84	67	58	MHz

Note:
(1) This performance value is measured as a pin-to-pin delay.

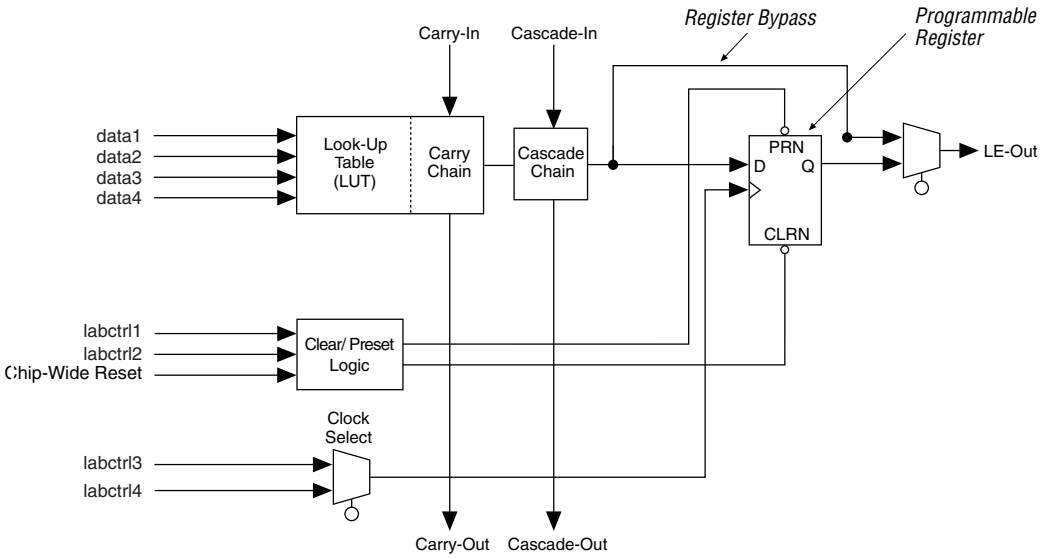
The interleaved LAB structure—an innovative feature of the FLEX 6000 architecture—allows each LAB to drive two local interconnects. This feature minimizes the use of the FastTrack Interconnect, providing higher performance. An LAB can drive 20 LEs in adjacent LABs via the local interconnect, which maximizes fitting flexibility while minimizing die size. See Figure 2.

Figure 2. Logic Array Block



In most designs, the registers only use global clock and clear signals. However, in some cases, other clock or asynchronous clear signals are needed. In addition, counters may also have synchronous clear or load signals. In a design that uses non-global clock and clear signals, inputs from the first LE in an LAB are re-routed to drive the control signals for that LAB. See Figure 3.

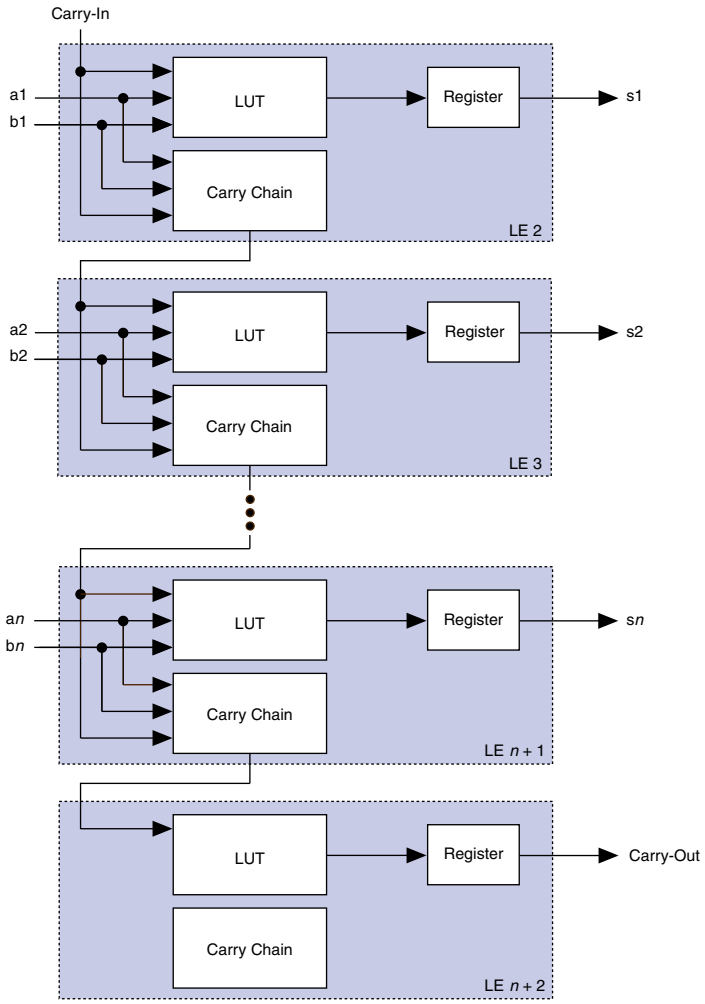
Figure 4. Logic Element



The programmable flipflop in the LE can be configured for D, T, JK, or SR operation. The clock and clear control signals on the flipflop can be driven by global signals, general-purpose I/O pins, or any internal logic. For combinatorial functions, the flipflop is bypassed and the output of the LUT drives the outputs of the LE. The LE output can drive both the local interconnect and the FastTrack Interconnect.

The FLEX 6000 architecture provides two types of dedicated high-speed data paths that connect adjacent LEs without using local interconnect paths: carry chains and cascade chains. A carry chain supports high-speed arithmetic functions such as counters and adders, while a cascade chain implements wide-input functions such as equivalent comparators with minimum delay. Carry and cascade chains connect LEs 2 through 10 in an LAB and all LABs in the same half of the row. Because extensive use of carry and cascade chains can reduce routing flexibility, these chains should be limited to speed-critical portions of a design.

Figure 5. Carry Chain Operation



Cascade Chain

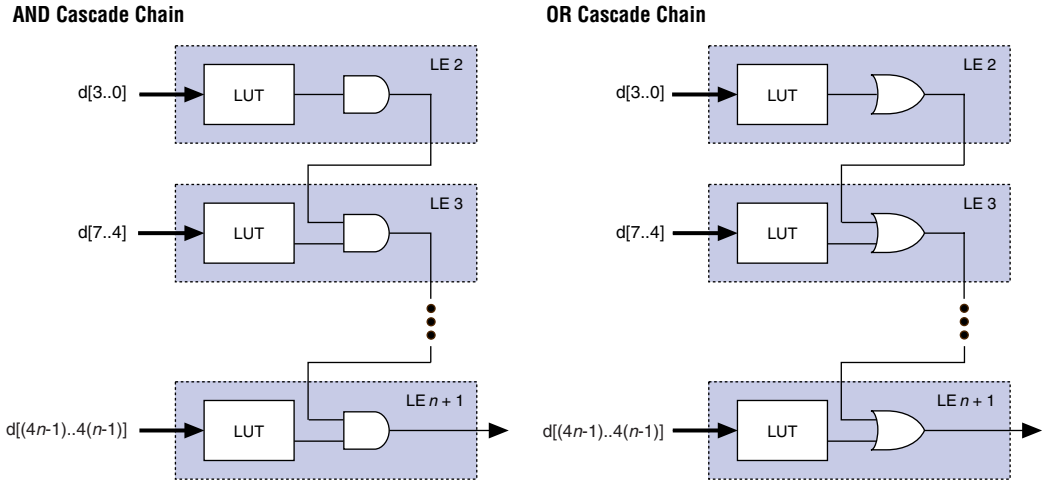
The cascade chain enables the FLEX 6000 architecture to implement very wide fan-in functions. Adjacent LUTs can be used to implement portions of the function in parallel; the cascade chain serially connects the intermediate values. The cascade chain can use a logical AND or logical OR gate (via De Morgan's inversion) to connect the outputs of adjacent LEs. Each additional LE provides four more inputs to the effective width of a function, with a delay as low as 0.5 ns per LE. Cascade chain logic can be created automatically by the Altera software during design processing, or manually by the designer during design entry. Parameterized functions such as LPM and DesignWare functions automatically take advantage of cascade chains for the appropriate functions.

A cascade chain implementing an AND gate can use the register in the last LE; a cascade chain implementing an OR gate cannot use this register because of the inversion required to implement the OR gate.

Because the first LE of an LAB can generate control signals for that LAB, the first LE in each LAB is not included in cascade chains. Moreover, cascade chains longer than nine bits are automatically implemented by linking several LABs together. For easier routing, a long cascade chain skips every other LAB in a row. A cascade chain longer than one LAB skips either from an even-numbered LAB to another even-numbered LAB, or from an odd-numbered LAB to another odd-numbered LAB. For example, the last LE of the first LAB in a row cascades to the second LE of the third LAB. The cascade chain does not cross the center of the row. For example, in an EPF6016 device, the cascade chain stops at the 11th LAB in a row and a new cascade chain begins at the 12th LAB.

Figure 6 shows how the cascade function can connect adjacent LEs to form functions with a wide fan-in. In this example, functions of 4*n* variables are implemented with *n* LEs. The cascade chain requires 3.4 ns to decode a 16-bit address.

Figure 6. Cascade Chain Operation



LE Operating Modes

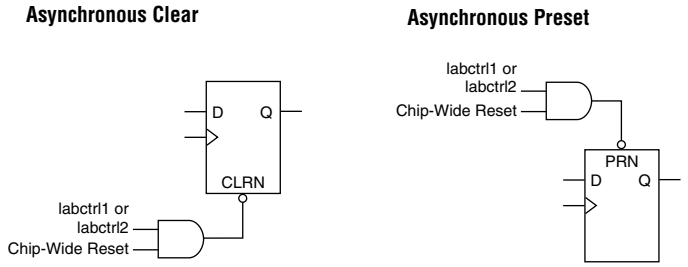
The FLEX 6000 LE can operate in one of the following three modes:

- Normal mode
- Arithmetic mode
- Counter mode

Each of these modes uses LE resources differently. In each mode, seven available inputs to the LE—the four data inputs from the LAB local interconnect, the feedback from the programmable register, and the carry-in and cascade-in from the previous LE—are directed to different destinations to implement the desired logic function. LAB-wide signals provide clock, asynchronous clear, synchronous clear, and synchronous load control for the register. The Altera software, in conjunction with parameterized functions such as LPM and DesignWare functions, automatically chooses the appropriate mode for common functions such as counters, adders, and multipliers. If required, the designer can also create special-purpose functions to use an LE operating mode for optimal performance.

Figure 7 shows the LE operating modes.

Figure 8. LE Clear & Preset Modes



Asynchronous Clear

The flipflop can be cleared by either LABCTRL1 or LABCTRL2.

Asynchronous Preset

An asynchronous preset is implemented with an asynchronous clear. The Altera software provides preset control by using the clear and inverting the input and output of the register. Inversion control is available for the inputs to both LEs and IOEs. Therefore, this technique can be used when a register drives logic or drives a pin.

In addition to the two clear and preset modes, FLEX 6000 devices provide a chip-wide reset pin (DEV_CLRn) that can reset all registers in the device. The option to use this pin is set in the Altera software before compilation. The chip-wide reset overrides all other control signals. Any register with an asynchronous preset will be preset when the chip-wide reset is asserted because of the inversion technique used to implement the asynchronous preset.

The Altera software can use a programmable NOT-gate push-back technique to emulate simultaneous preset and clear or asynchronous load. However, this technique uses an additional three LEs per register.

FastTrack Interconnect

In the FLEX 6000 OptiFLEX architecture, connections between LEs and device I/O pins are provided by the FastTrack Interconnect, a series of continuous horizontal and vertical routing channels that traverse the device. This global routing structure provides predictable performance, even for complex designs. In contrast, the segmented routing in FPGAs requires switch matrices to connect a variable number of routing paths, increasing the delays between logic resources and reducing performance.

A row channel can be driven by an LE or by one of two column channels. These three signals feed a 3-to-1 multiplexer that connects to six specific row channels. Row channels drive into the local interconnect via multiplexers.

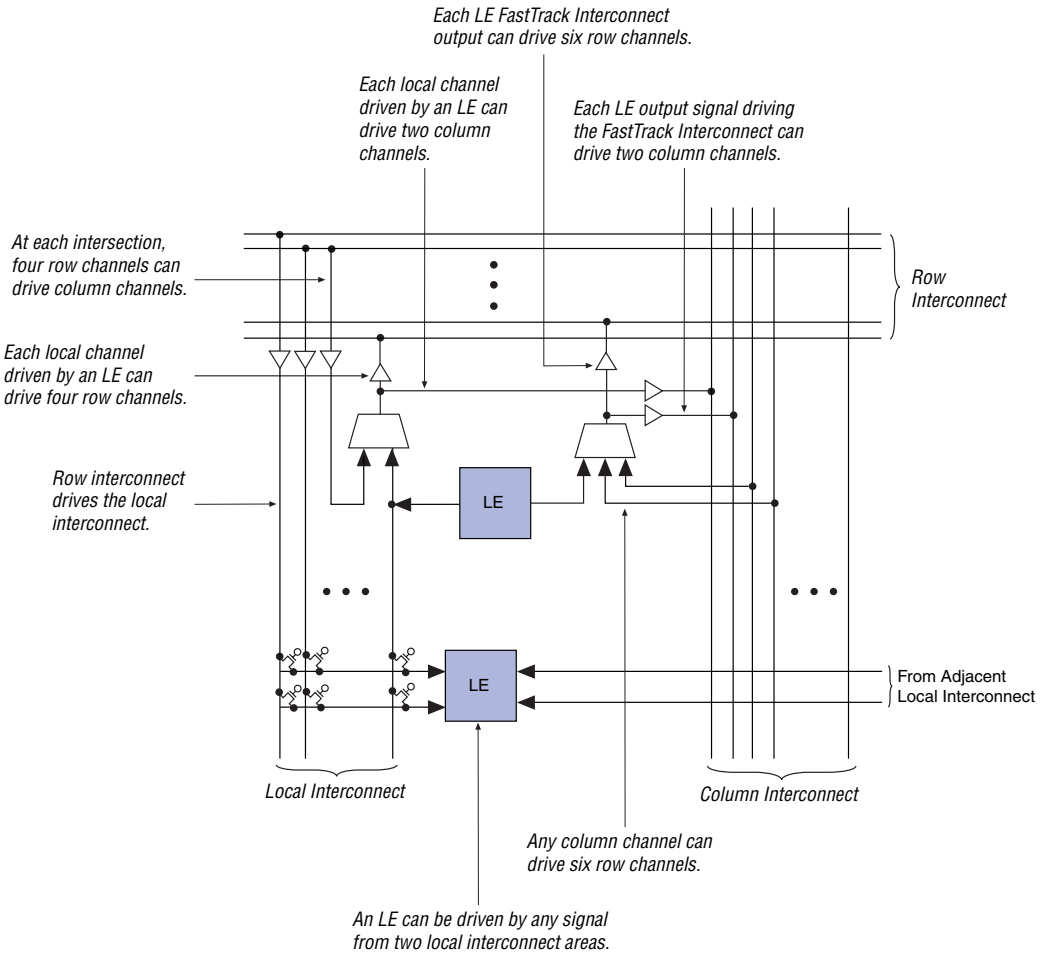
Each column of LABs is served by a dedicated column interconnect. The LEs in an LAB can drive the column interconnect. The LEs in an LAB, a column IOE, or a row interconnect can drive the column interconnect. The column interconnect can then drive another row's interconnect to route the signals to other LABs in the device. A signal from the column interconnect must be routed to the row interconnect before it can enter an LAB.

Each LE has a FastTrack Interconnect output and a local output. The FastTrack interconnect output can drive six row and two column lines directly; the local output drives the local interconnect. Each local interconnect channel driven by an LE can drive four row and two column channels. This feature provides additional flexibility, because each LE can drive any of ten row lines and four column lines.

In addition, LEs can drive global control signals. This feature is useful for distributing internally generated clock, asynchronous clear, and asynchronous preset signals. A pin-driven global signal can also drive data signals, which is useful for high-fan-out data signals.

Each LAB drives two groups of local interconnects, which allows an LE to drive two LABs, or 20 LEs, via the local interconnect. The row-to-local multiplexers are used more efficiently, because the multiplexers can now drive two LABs. Figure 10 shows how an LAB connects to row and column interconnects.

Figure 10. LAB Connections to Row & Column Interconnects



For improved routability, the row interconnect consists of full-length and half-length channels. The full-length channels connect to all LABs in a row; the half-length channels connect to the LABs in half of the row. In addition to providing a predictable, row-wide interconnect, this architecture provides increased routing resources. Two neighboring LABs can be connected using a half-length channel, which saves the other half of the channel for the other half of the row. One-third of the row channels are half-length channels.

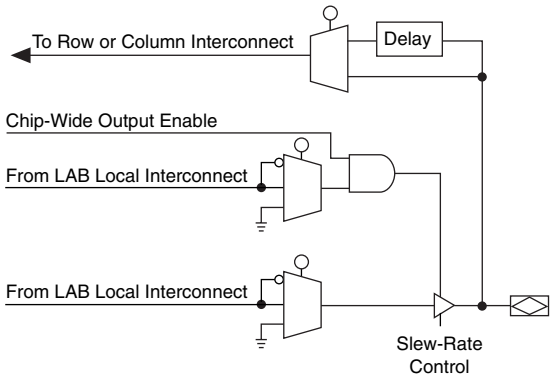
I/O Elements

An IOE contains a bidirectional I/O buffer and a tri-state buffer. IOEs can be used as input, output, or bidirectional pins. An IOE receives its data signals from the adjacent local interconnect, which can be driven by a row or column interconnect (allowing any LE in the device to drive the IOE) or by an adjacent LE (allowing fast clock-to-output delays). A FastFLEX™ I/O pin is a row or column output pin that receives its data signals from the adjacent local interconnect driven by an adjacent LE. The IOE receives its output enable signal through the same path, allowing individual output enables for every pin and permitting emulation of open-drain buffers. The Altera Compiler uses programmable inversion to invert the data or output enable signals automatically where appropriate. Open-drain emulation is provided by driving the data input low and toggling the OE of each IOE. This emulation is possible because there is one OE per pin.

A chip-wide output enable feature allows the designer to disable all pins of the device by asserting one pin (DEV_OE). This feature is useful during board debugging or testing.

Figure 12 shows the IOE block diagram.

Figure 12. IOE Block Diagram



Tables 19 through 21 describe the FLEX 6000 internal timing microparameters, which are expressed as worst-case values. Using hand calculations, these parameters can be used to estimate design performance. However, before committing designs to silicon, actual worst-case performance should be modeled using timing simulation and timing analysis. Tables 22 and 23 describe FLEX 6000 external timing parameters.

Table 19. LE Timing Microparameters *Note (1)*

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions
$t_{REG\_TO\_REG}$	LUT delay for LE register feedback in carry chain	
$t_{CASC\_TO\_REG}$	Cascade-in to register delay	
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_REG}$	Carry-in to register delay	
$t_{DATA\_TO\_REG}$	LE input to register delay	
$t_{CASC\_TO\_OUT}$	Cascade-in to LE output delay	
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_OUT}$	Carry-in to LE output delay	
$t_{DATA\_TO\_OUT}$	LE input to LE output delay	
$t_{REG\_TO\_OUT}$	Register output to LE output delay	
t_{SU}	LE register setup time before clock; LE register recovery time after asynchronous clear	
t_{H}	LE register hold time after clock	
t_{CO}	LE register clock-to-output delay	
t_{CLR}	LE register clear delay	
t_{C}	LE register control signal delay	
t_{LD_CLR}	Synchronous load or clear delay in counter mode	
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_CARRY}$	Carry-in to carry-out delay	
$t_{REG\_TO\_CARRY}$	Register output to carry-out delay	
$t_{DATA\_TO\_CARRY}$	LE input to carry-out delay	
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_CASC}$	Carry-in to cascade-out delay	
$t_{CASC\_TO\_CASC}$	Cascade-in to cascade-out delay	
$t_{REG\_TO\_CASC}$	Register-out to cascade-out delay	
$t_{DATA\_TO\_CASC}$	LE input to cascade-out delay	
t_{CH}	LE register clock high time	
t_{CL}	LE register clock low time	

Table 20. IOE Timing Microparameters *Note (1)*

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions
t_{OD1}	Output buffer and pad delay, slow slew rate = off, $V_{CCIO} = V_{CCINT}$	C1 = 35 pF *(2)*
t_{OD2}	Output buffer and pad delay, slow slew rate = off, V_{CCIO} = low voltage	C1 = 35 pF *(3)*
t_{OD3}	Output buffer and pad delay, slow slew rate = on	C1 = 35 pF *(4)*
t_{XZ}	Output buffer disable delay	C1 = 5 pF
t_{ZX1}	Output buffer enable delay, slow slew rate = off, $V_{CCIO} = V_{CCINT}$	C1 = 35 pF *(2)*
t_{ZX2}	Output buffer enable delay, slow slew rate = off, V_{CCIO} = low voltage	C1 = 35 pF *(3)*
t_{ZX3}	IOE output buffer enable delay, slow slew rate = on	C1 = 35 pF *(4)*
t_{IOE}	Output enable control delay	
t_{IN}	Input pad and buffer to FastTrack Interconnect delay	
t_{IN_DELAY}	Input pad and buffer to FastTrack Interconnect delay with additional delay turned on	

Table 21. Interconnect Timing Microparameters *Note (1)*

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions
t_{LOCAL}	LAB local interconnect delay	
t_{ROW}	Row interconnect routing delay	*(5)*
t_{COL}	Column interconnect routing delay	*(5)*
t_{DIN_D}	Dedicated input to LE data delay	*(5)*
t_{DIN_C}	Dedicated input to LE control delay	
$t_{LEGLOBAL}$	LE output to LE control via internally-generated global signal delay	*(5)*
$t_{LABCARRY}$	Routing delay for the carry-out of an LE driving the carry-in signal of a different LE in a different LAB	
$t_{LABCASC}$	Routing delay for the cascade-out signal of an LE driving the cascade-in signal of a different LE in a different LAB	

Table 22. External Reference Timing Parameters

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions
$\mathbf{t_1}$	Register-to-register test pattern	*(6)*
$\mathbf{t_{DRR}}$	Register-to-register delay via 4 LEs, 3 row interconnects, and 4 local interconnects	*(7)*

Table 23. External Timing Parameters		
Symbol	**Parameter**	**Conditions**
t_{INSU}	Setup time with global clock at LE register	*(8)*
t_{INH}	Hold time with global clock at LE register	*(8)*
t_{OUTCO}	Clock-to-output delay with global clock with LE register using FastFLEX I/O pin	*(8)*

Notes to tables:

(1) Microparameters are timing delays contributed by individual architectural elements and cannot be measured explicitly.
(2) Operating conditions:
V_{CCIO} = 5.0 V ±5% for commercial use in 5.0-V FLEX 6000 devices.
V_{CCIO} = 5.0 V ±10% for industrial use in 5.0-V FLEX 6000 devices.
V_{CCIO} = 3.3 V ±10% for commercial or industrial use in 3.3-V FLEX 6000 devices.
(3) Operating conditions:
V_{CCIO} = 3.3 V ±10% for commercial or industrial use in 5.0-V FLEX 6000 devices.
V_{CCIO} = 2.5 V ±0.2 V for commercial or industrial use in 3.3-V FLEX 6000 devices.
(4) Operating conditions:
V_{CCIO} = 2.5 V, 3.3 V, or 5.0 V.
(5) These parameters are worst-case values for typical applications. Post-compilation timing simulation and timing analysis are required to determine actual worst-case performance.
(6) This timing parameter shows the delay of a register-to-register test pattern and is used to determine speed grades. There are 12 LEs, including source and destination registers. The row and column interconnects between the registers vary in length.
(7) This timing parameter is shown for reference and is specified by characterization.
(8) This timing parameter is specified by characterization.

Tables 24 through 28 show the timing information for EPF6010A and EPF6016A devices.

Table 24. LE Timing Microparameters for EPF6010A & EPF6016A Devices (Part 1 of 2)							
Parameter	**Speed Grade**						**Unit**
	-1		**-2**		**-3**		
	Min	**Max**	**Min**	**Max**	**Min**	**Max**	
$t_{REG\_TO\_REG}$		1.2		1.3		1.7	ns
$t_{CASC\_TO\_REG}$		0.9		1.0		1.2	ns
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_REG}$		0.9		1.0		1.2	ns
$t_{DATA\_TO\_REG}$		1.1		1.2		1.5	ns
$t_{CASC\_TO\_OUT}$		1.3		1.4		1.8	ns
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_OUT}$		1.6		1.8		2.3	ns
$t_{DATA\_TO\_OUT}$		1.7		2.0		2.5	ns
$t_{REG\_TO\_OUT}$		0.4		0.4		0.5	ns
t_{SU}	0.9		1.0		1.3		ns
t_{H}	1.4		1.7		2.1		ns

Table 26. Interconnect Timing Microparameters for EPF6010A & EPF6016A Devices

Parameter	Speed Grade						Unit
	-1		-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{LOCAL}		0.7		0.7		1.0	ns
t_{ROW}		2.9		3.2		3.2	ns
t_{COL}		1.2		1.3		1.4	ns
t_{DIN_D}		5.4		5.7		6.4	ns
t_{DIN_C}		4.3		5.0		6.1	ns
$t_{LEGLOBAL}$		2.6		3.0		3.7	ns
$t_{LABCARRY}$		0.7		0.8		0.9	ns
$t_{LABCASC}$		1.3		1.4		1.8	ns

Table 27. External Reference Timing Parameters for EPF6010A & EPF6016A Devices

Parameter	Device	Speed Grade						Unit
		-1		-2		-3		
		Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_1	EPF6010A		37.6		43.6		53.7	ns
	EPF6016A		38.0		44.0		54.1	ns

Table 28. External Timing Parameters for EPF6010A & EPF6016A Devices

Parameter	Speed Grade						Unit
	-1		-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{INSU}	2.1 *(1)*		2.4 *(1)*		3.3 *(1)*		ns
t_{INH}	0.2 *(2)*		0.3 *(2)*		0.1 *(2)*		ns
t_{OUTCO}	2.0	7.1	2.0	8.2	2.0	10.1	ns

Notes:
(1) Setup times are longer when the *Increase Input Delay* option is turned on. The setup time values are shown with the *Increase Input Delay* option turned off.
(2) Hold time is zero when the *Increase Input Delay* option is turned on.

Tables 29 through 33 show the timing information for EPF6016 devices.

Table 29. LE Timing Microparameters for EPF6016 Devices

Parameter	Speed Grade				Unit
	-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	
$t_{REG\_TO\_REG}$		2.2		2.8	ns
$t_{CASC\_TO\_REG}$		0.9		1.2	ns
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_REG}$		1.6		2.1	ns
$t_{DATA\_TO\_REG}$		2.4		3.0	ns
$t_{CASC\_TO\_OUT}$		1.3		1.7	ns
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_OUT}$		2.4		3.0	ns
$t_{DATA\_TO\_OUT}$		2.7		3.4	ns
$t_{REG\_TO\_OUT}$		0.3		0.5	ns
t_{SU}	1.1		1.6		ns
t_{H}	1.8		2.3		ns
t_{CO}		0.3		0.4	ns
t_{CLR}		0.5		0.6	ns
t_{C}		1.2		1.5	ns
t_{LD_CLR}		1.2		1.5	ns
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_CARRY}$		0.2		0.4	ns
$t_{REG\_TO\_CARRY}$		0.8		1.1	ns
$t_{DATA\_TO\_CARRY}$		1.7		2.2	ns
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_CASC}$		1.7		2.2	ns
$t_{CASC\_TO\_CASC}$		0.9		1.2	ns
$t_{REG\_TO\_CASC}$		1.6		2.0	ns
$t_{DATA\_TO\_CASC}$		1.7		2.1	ns
t_{CH}	4.0		4.0		ns
t_{CL}	4.0		4.0		ns

Table 30. IOE Timing Microparameters for EPF6016 Devices

Parameter	Speed Grade				Unit
	-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{OD1}		2.3		2.8	ns
t_{OD2}		4.6		5.1	ns

Table 30. IOE Timing Microparameters for EPF6016 Devices

Parameter	Speed Grade				Unit
	-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{OD3}		4.7		5.2	ns
t_{XZ}		2.3		2.8	ns
t_{ZX1}		2.3		2.8	ns
t_{ZX2}		4.6		5.1	ns
t_{ZX3}		4.7		5.2	ns
t_{IOE}		0.5		0.6	ns
t_{IN}		3.3		4.0	ns
t_{IN_DELAY}		4.6		5.6	ns

Table 31. Interconnect Timing Microparameters for EPF6016 Devices

Parameter	Speed Grade				Unit
	-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{LOCAL}		0.8		1.0	ns
t_{ROW}		2.9		3.3	ns
t_{COL}		2.3		2.5	ns
t_{DIN_D}		4.9		6.0	ns
t_{DIN_C}		4.8		6.0	ns
$t_{LEGLOBAL}$		3.1		3.9	ns
$t_{LABCARRY}$		0.4		0.5	ns
$t_{LABCASC}$		0.8		1.0	ns

Table 32. External Reference Timing Parameters for EPF6016 Devices

Parameter	Speed Grade				Unit
	-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_1		53.0		65.0	ns
t_{DRR}		16.0		20.0	ns

Table 35. IOE Timing Microparameters for EPF6024A Devices

Parameter	Speed Grade						Unit
	-1		-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{OD1}		1.9		2.1		2.5	ns
t_{OD2}		4.0		4.4		5.3	ns
t_{OD3}		7.0		7.8		9.3	ns
t_{XZ}		4.3		4.8		5.8	ns
t_{XZ1}		4.3		4.8		5.8	ns
t_{XZ2}		6.4		7.1		8.6	ns
t_{XZ3}		9.4		10.5		12.6	ns
t_{IOE}		0.5		0.6		0.7	ns
t_{IN}		3.3		3.7		4.4	ns
t_{IN_DELAY}		5.3		5.9		7.0	ns

Table 36. Interconnect Timing Microparameters for EPF6024A Devices

Parameter	Speed Grade						Unit
	-1		-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{LOCAL}		0.8		0.8		1.1	ns
t_{ROW}		3.0		3.1		3.3	ns
t_{COL}		3.0		3.2		3.4	ns
t_{DIN_D}		5.4		5.6		6.2	ns
t_{DIN_C}		4.6		5.1		6.1	ns
$t_{LEGLOBAL}$		3.1		3.5		4.3	ns
$t_{LABCARRY}$		0.6		0.7		0.8	ns
$t_{LABCASC}$		0.3		0.3		0.4	ns

Table 37. External Reference Timing Parameters for EPF6024A Devices

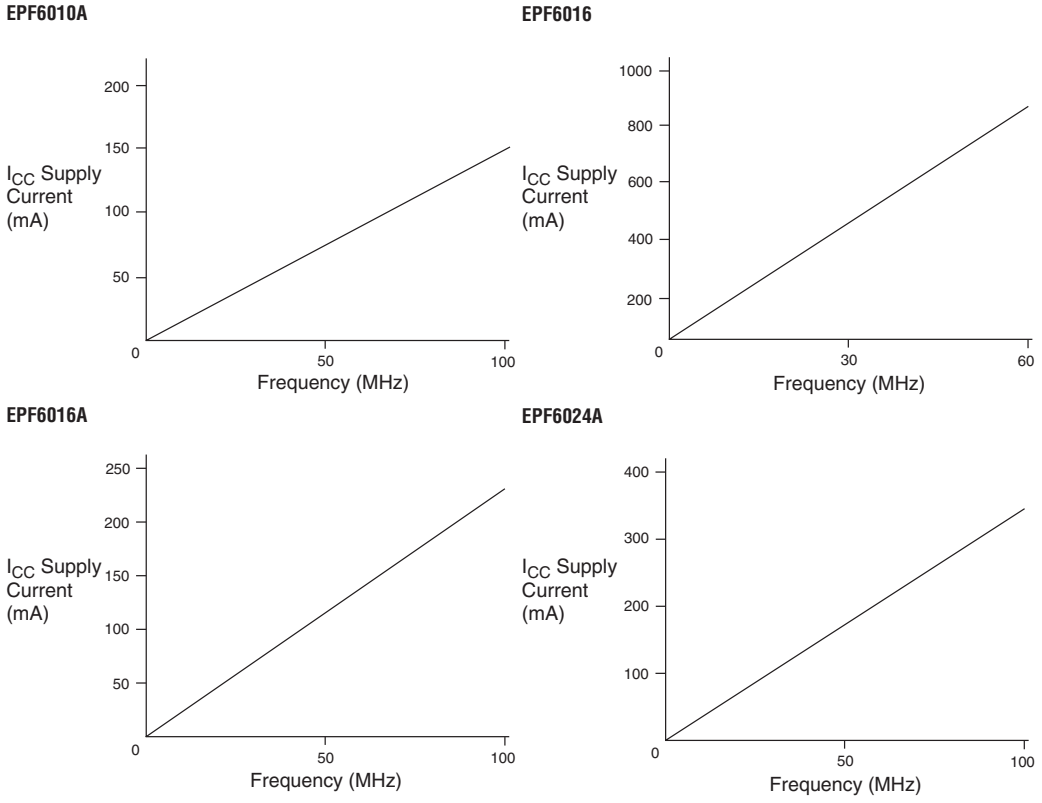
Parameter	Speed Grade						Unit
	-1		-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_1		45.0		50.0		60.0	ns

This calculation provides an I_{CC} estimate based on typical conditions with no output load. The actual I_{CC} should be verified during operation because this measurement is sensitive to the actual pattern in the device and the environmental operating conditions.

To better reflect actual designs, the power model (and the constant K in the power calculation equations shown above) for continuous interconnect FLEX devices assumes that LEs drive FastTrack Interconnect channels. In contrast, the power model of segmented FPGAs assumes that all LEs drive only one short interconnect segment. This assumption may lead to inaccurate results, compared to measured power consumption for an actual design in a segmented interconnect FPGA.

Figure 20 shows the relationship between the current and operating frequency for EPF6010A, EPF6016, EPF6016A, and EPF6024A devices.

Figure 20. $I_{CCACTIVE}$ vs. Operating Frequency



Device Configuration & Operation

The FLEX 6000 architecture supports several configuration schemes to load a design into the device(s) on the circuit board. This section summarizes the device operating modes and available device configuration schemes.

f See *Application Note 116 (Configuring APEX 20K, FLEX 10K & FLEX 6000 Devices)* for detailed information on configuring FLEX 6000 devices, including sample schematics, timing diagrams, configuration options, pins names, and timing parameters.

Operating Modes

The FLEX 6000 architecture uses SRAM configuration elements that require configuration data to be loaded every time the circuit powers up. This process of physically loading the SRAM data into a FLEX 6000 device is known as configuration. During initialization—a process that occurs immediately after configuration—the device resets registers, enables I/O pins, and begins to operate as a logic device. The I/O pins are tri-stated during power-up, and before and during configuration. The configuration and initialization processes of a device are referred to as *command mode*; normal device operation is called *user mode*.

SRAM configuration elements allow FLEX 6000 devices to be reconfigured in-circuit by loading new configuration data into the device. Real-time reconfiguration is performed by forcing the device into command mode with a device pin, loading different configuration data, reinitializing the device, and resuming user-mode operation. The entire reconfiguration process requires less than 100 ms and is used to dynamically reconfigure an entire system. Also, in-field system upgrades can be performed by distributing new configuration files.

Configuration Schemes

The configuration data for a FLEX 6000 device can be loaded with one of three configuration schemes, which is chosen on the basis of the target application. An EPC1 or EPC1441 configuration device or intelligent controller can be used to control the configuration of a FLEX 6000 device, allowing automatic configuration on system power-up.

Multiple FLEX 6000 devices can be configured in any of the three configuration schemes by connecting the configuration enable input (nCE) and configuration enable output (nCEO) pins on each device.

Table 40 shows the data sources for each configuration scheme.

Table 40. Configuration Schemes

Configuration Scheme	Data Source
Configuration device	EPC1 or EPC1441 configuration device
Passive serial (PS)	BitBlaster™, ByteBlasterMV™, or MasterBlaster™ download cables, or serial data source
Passive serial asynchronous (PSA)	BitBlaster, ByteBlasterMV, or MasterBlaster download cables, or serial data source