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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	196
Number of Logic Elements/Cells	1960
Total RAM Bits	-
Number of I/O	171
Number of Gates	24000
Voltage - Supply	3V ~ 3.6V
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/epf6024aqc208-2

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.

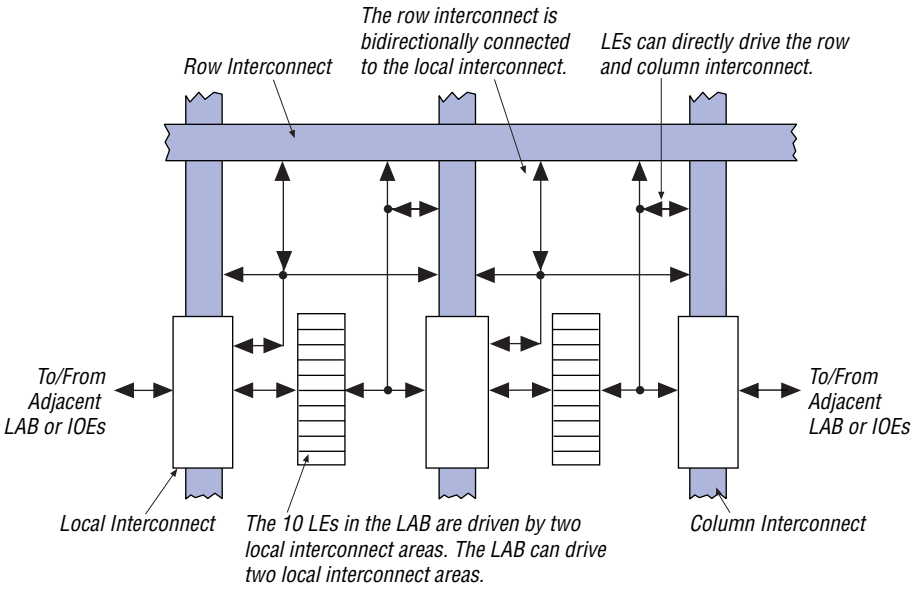
Table 3. FLEX 6000 Device Performance for Common Designs

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.

Carry Chain

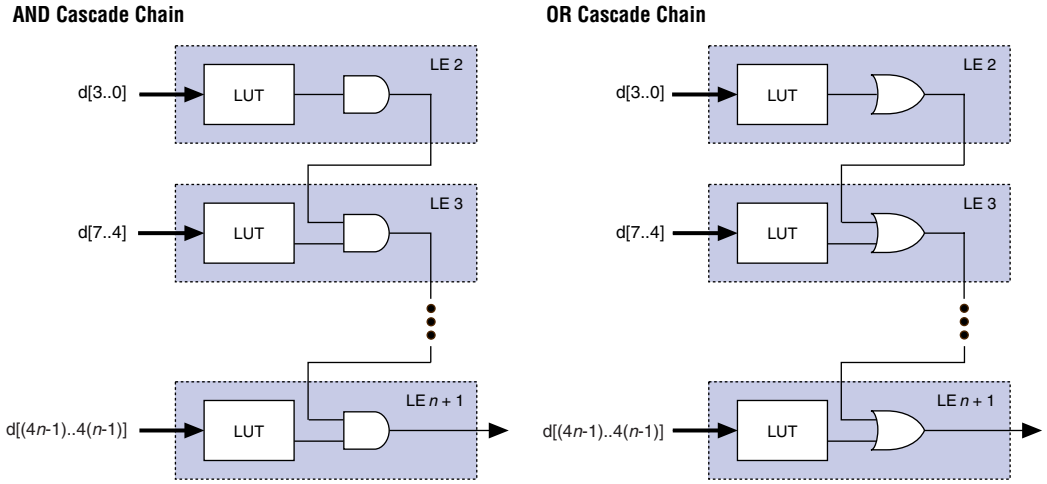
The carry chain provides a very fast (0.1 ns) carry-forward function between LEs. The carry-in signal from a lower-order bit drives forward into the higher-order bit via the carry chain, and feeds into both the LUT and the next portion of the carry chain. This feature allows the FLEX 6000 architecture to implement high-speed counters, adders, and comparators of arbitrary width. Carry 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 carry chains for the appropriate functions.

Because the first LE of each LAB can generate control signals for that LAB, the first LE in each LAB is not included in carry chains. In addition, the inputs of the first LE in each LAB may be used to generate synchronous clear and load enable signals for counters implemented with carry chains.

Carry chains longer than nine LEs are implemented automatically by linking LABs together. For enhanced fitting, a long carry chain skips alternate LABs in a row. A carry 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 carries to the second LE of the third LAB in the row. In addition, the carry chain does not cross the middle of the row. For instance, in the EPF6016 device, the carry chain stops at the 11th LAB in a row and a new carry chain begins at the 12th LAB.

Figure 5 shows how an *n*-bit full adder can be implemented in *n* + 1 LEs with the carry chain. One portion of the LUT generates the sum of two bits using the input signals and the carry-in signal; the sum is routed to the output of the LE. Although the register can be bypassed for simple adders, it can be used for an accumulator function. Another portion of the LUT and the carry chain logic generates the carry-out signal, which is routed directly to the carry-in signal of the next-higher-order bit. The final carry-out signal is routed to an LE, where it is driven onto the FastTrack Interconnect.

Figure 6. Cascade Chain Operation



LE Operating Modes

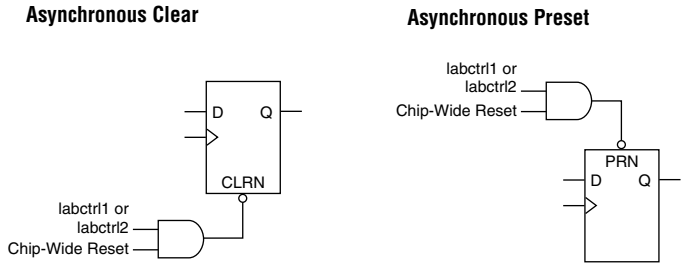
The FLEX 6000 LE can operate in one of the following three modes:

- 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.

Table 5 summarizes the FastTrack Interconnect resources available in each FLEX 6000 device.

Table 5. FLEX 6000 FastTrack Interconnect Resources

Device	Rows	Channels per Row	Columns	Channels per Column
EPF6010A	4	144	22	20
EPF6016 EPF6016A	6	144	22	20
EPF6024A	7	186	28	30

In addition to general-purpose I/O pins, FLEX 6000 devices have four dedicated input pins that provide low-skew signal distribution across the device. These four inputs can be used for global clock and asynchronous clear control signals. These signals are available as control signals for all LEs in the device. The dedicated inputs can also be used as general-purpose data inputs because they can feed the local interconnect of each LAB in the device. Using dedicated inputs to route data signals provides a fast path for high fan-out signals.

The local interconnect from LABs located at either end of two rows can drive a global control signal. For instance, in an EPF6016 device, LABs C1, D1, C22, and D22 can all drive global control signals. When an LE drives a global control signal, the dedicated input pin that drives that signal cannot be used. Any LE in the device can drive a global control signal by driving the FastTrack Interconnect into the appropriate LAB. To minimize delay, however, the Altera software places the driving LE in the appropriate LAB. The LE-driving-global signal feature is optimized for speed for control signals; regular data signals are better routed on the FastTrack Interconnect and do not receive any advantage from being routed on global signals. This LE-driving-global control signal feature is controlled by the designer and is not used automatically by the Altera software. See Figure 11.

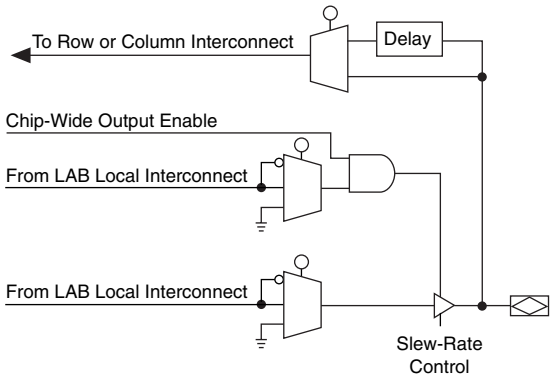
I/O Elements

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.

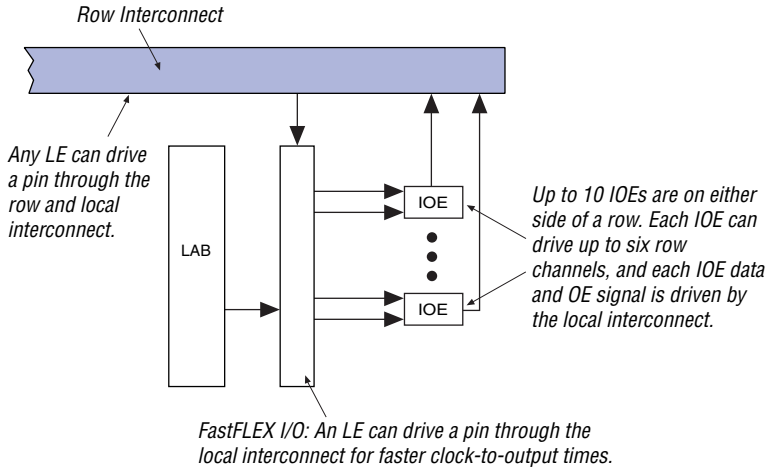
Figure 12 shows the IOE block diagram.

Figure 12. IOE Block Diagram



Each IOE drives a row or column interconnect when used as an input or bidirectional pin. A row IOE can drive up to six row lines; a column IOE can drive up to two column lines. The input path from the I/O pad to the FastTrack Interconnect has a programmable delay element that can be used to guarantee a zero hold time. Depending on the placement of the IOE relative to what it is driving, the designer may choose to turn on the programmable delay to ensure a zero hold time. Figure 13 shows how an IOE connects to a row interconnect, and Figure 14 shows how an IOE connects to a column interconnect.

Figure 13. IOE Connection to Row Interconnect



The instruction register length for FLEX 6000 devices is three bits. Table 9 shows the boundary-scan register length for FLEX 6000 devices.

Table 9. FLEX 6000 Device Boundary-Scan Register Length

Device	Boundary-Scan Register Length
EPF6010A	522
EPF6016	621
EPF6016A	522
EPF6024A	666

FLEX 6000 devices include a weak pull-up on JTAG pins.

f See *Application Note 39 (IEEE 1149.1 (JTAG) Boundary-Scan Testing in Altera Devices)* for more information.

Figure 16 shows the timing requirements for the JTAG signals.

Figure 16. JTAG Waveforms

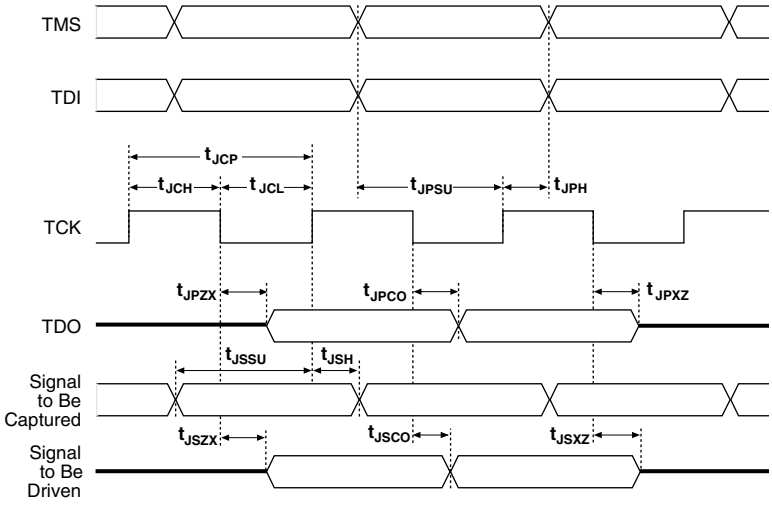


Table 10 shows the JTAG timing parameters and values for FLEX 6000 devices.

Table 10. JTAG Timing Parameters & Values

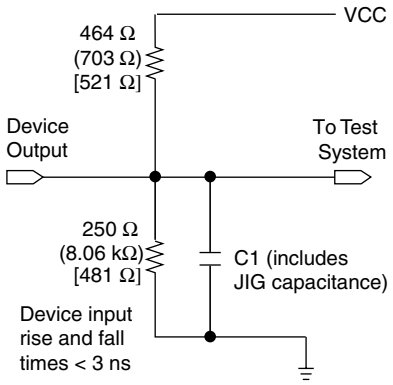
Symbol	Parameter	Min	Max	Unit
t_{JCP}	TCK clock period	100		ns
t_{JCH}	TCK clock high time	50		ns
t_{JCL}	TCK clock low time	50		ns
t_{JPSU}	JTAG port setup time	20		ns
t_{JPH}	JTAG port hold time	45		ns
t_{JPCO}	JTAG port clock-to-output		25	ns
t_{JPZX}	JTAG port high impedance to valid output		25	ns
t_{JPXZ}	JTAG port valid output to high impedance		25	ns
t_{JSSU}	Capture register setup time	20		ns
t_{JSH}	Capture register hold time	45		ns
t_{JSCO}	Update register clock-to-output		35	ns
t_{JSZX}	Update register high impedance to valid output		35	ns
t_{JSXZ}	Update register valid output to high impedance		35	ns

Generic Testing

Each FLEX 6000 device is functionally tested. Complete testing of each configurable SRAM bit and all logic functionality ensures 100% configuration yield. AC test measurements for FLEX 6000 devices are made under conditions equivalent to those shown in Figure 17. Multiple test patterns can be used to configure devices during all stages of the production flow.

Figure 17. AC Test Conditions

Power supply transients can affect AC measurements. Simultaneous transitions of multiple outputs should be avoided for accurate measurement. Threshold tests must not be performed under AC conditions. Large-amplitude, fast-ground-current transients normally occur as the device outputs discharge the load capacitances. When these transients flow through the parasitic inductance between the device ground pin and the test system ground, significant reductions in observable noise immunity can result. Numbers without parentheses are for 5.0-V devices or outputs. Numbers in parentheses are for 3.3-V devices or outputs. Numbers in brackets are for 2.5-V devices or outputs.



Timing Model

The continuous, high-performance FastTrack Interconnect routing resources ensure predictable performance and accurate simulation and timing analysis. This predictable performance contrasts with that of FPGAs, which use a segmented connection scheme and therefore have unpredictable performance.

Device performance can be estimated by following the signal path from a source, through the interconnect, to the destination. For example, the registered performance between two LEs on the same row can be calculated by adding the following parameters:

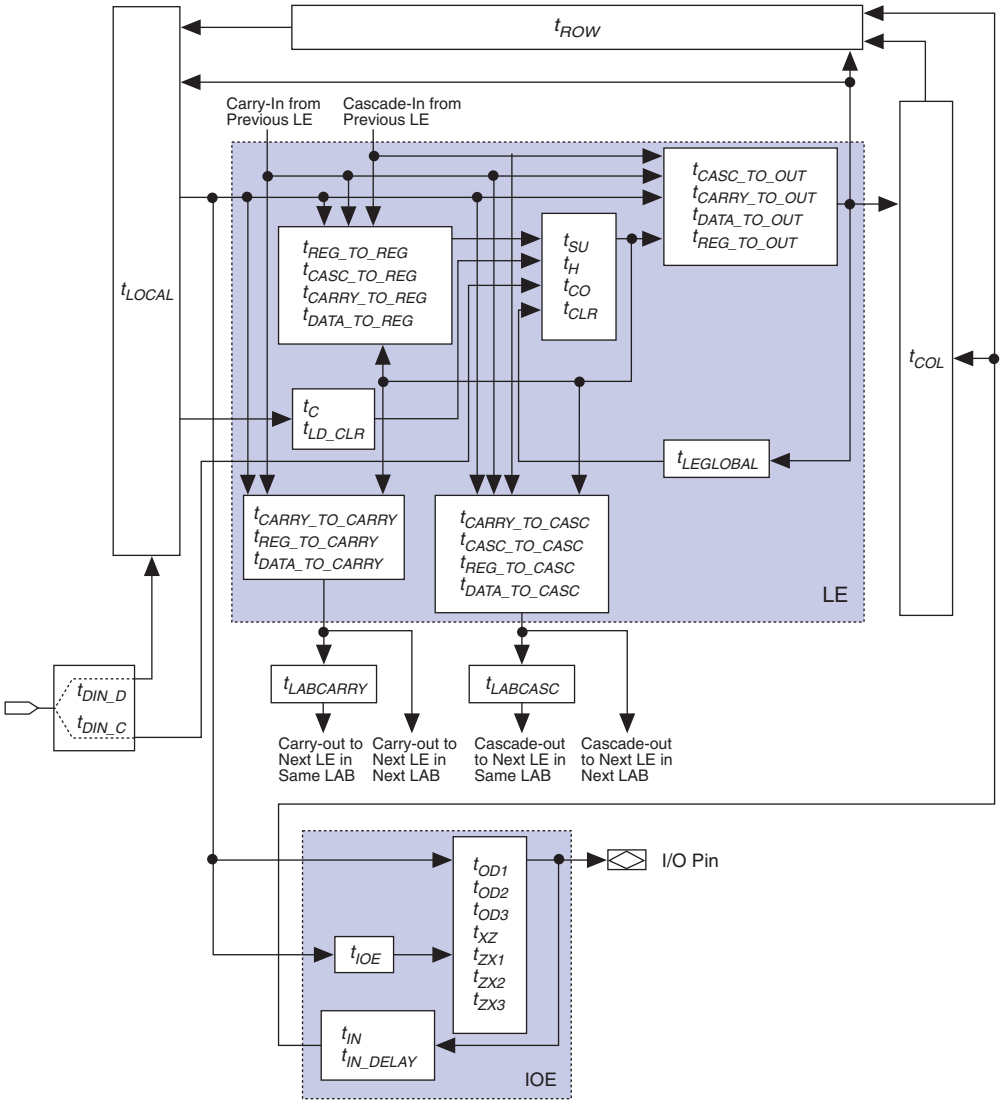
- LE register clock-to-output delay (t_{CO} + $t_{REG\_TO\_OUT}$)
- Routing delay (t_{ROW} + t_{LOCAL})
- LE LUT delay ($t_{DATA\_TO\_REG}$)
- LE register setup time (t_{SU})

The routing delay depends on the placement of the source and destination LEs. A more complex registered path may involve multiple combinatorial LEs between the source and destination LEs.

Timing simulation and delay prediction are available with the Simulator and Timing Analyzer, or with industry-standard EDA tools. The Simulator offers both pre-synthesis functional simulation to evaluate logic design accuracy and post-synthesis timing simulation with 0.1-ns resolution. The Timing Analyzer provides point-to-point timing delay information, setup and hold time analysis, and device-wide performance analysis.

Figure 19 shows the overall timing model, which maps the possible routing paths to and from the various elements of the FLEX 6000 device.

Figure 19. FLEX 6000 Timing Model



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 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 33. External Timing Parameters for EPF6016 Devices

Parameter	Speed Grade				Unit
	-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{INSU}	3.2		4.1		ns
t_{INH}	0.0		0.0		ns
t_{OUTCO}	2.0	7.9	2.0	9.9	ns

Tables 34 through 38 show the timing information for EPF6024A devices.

Table 34. LE Timing Microparameters for EPF6024A Devices

Parameter	Speed Grade						Unit
	-1		-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
$t_{REG\_TO\_REG}$		1.2		1.3		1.6	ns
$t_{CASC\_TO\_REG}$		0.7		0.8		1.0	ns
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_REG}$		1.6		1.8		2.2	ns
$t_{DATA\_TO\_REG}$		1.3		1.4		1.7	ns
$t_{CASC\_TO\_OUT}$		1.2		1.3		1.6	ns
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_OUT}$		2.0		2.2		2.6	ns
$t_{DATA\_TO\_OUT}$		1.8		2.1		2.6	ns
$t_{REG\_TO\_OUT}$		0.3		0.3		0.4	ns
t_{SU}	0.9		1.0		1.2		ns
t_{H}	1.3		1.4		1.7		ns
t_{CO}		0.2		0.3		0.3	ns
t_{CLR}		0.3		0.3		0.4	ns
t_{C}		1.9		2.1		2.5	ns
t_{LD_CLR}		1.9		2.1		2.5	ns
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_CARRY}$		0.2		0.2		0.3	ns
$t_{REG\_TO\_CARRY}$		1.4		1.6		1.9	ns
$t_{DATA\_TO\_CARRY}$		1.3		1.4		1.7	ns
$t_{CARRY\_TO\_CASC}$		1.1		1.2		1.4	ns
$t_{CASC\_TO\_CASC}$		0.7		0.8		1.0	ns
$t_{REG\_TO\_CASC}$		1.4		1.6		1.9	ns
$t_{DATA\_TO\_CASC}$		1.0		1.1		1.3	ns
t_{CH}	2.5		3.0		3.5		ns
t_{CL}	2.5		3.0		3.5		ns

Table 38. External Timing Parameters for EPF6024A Devices

Parameter	Speed Grade						Unit
	-1		-2		-3		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{INSU}	2.0 *(1)*		2.2 *(1)*		2.6 *(1)*		ns
t_{INH}	0.2 *(2)*		0.2 *(2)*		0.3 *(2)*		ns
t_{OUTCO}	2.0	7.4	2.0	8.2	2.0	9.9	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.

Power Consumption

The supply power (P) for FLEX 6000 devices can be calculated with the following equations:

$$P = P_{INT} + P_{IO}$$
$$P = (I_{CCSTANDBY} + I_{CCACTIVE}) \times V_{CC} + P_{IO}$$

Typical $I_{CCSTANDBY}$ values are shown as I_{CC0} in the "FLEX 6000 Device DC Operating Conditions" table on pages 31 and 33 of this data sheet. The $I_{CCACTIVE}$ value depends on the switching frequency and the application logic. This value is based on the amount of current that each LE typically consumes. The P_{IO} value, which depends on the device output load characteristics and switching frequency, can be calculated using the guidelines given in *Application Note 74 (Evaluating Power for Altera Devices)*.

The $I_{CCACTIVE}$ value can be calculated with the following equation:

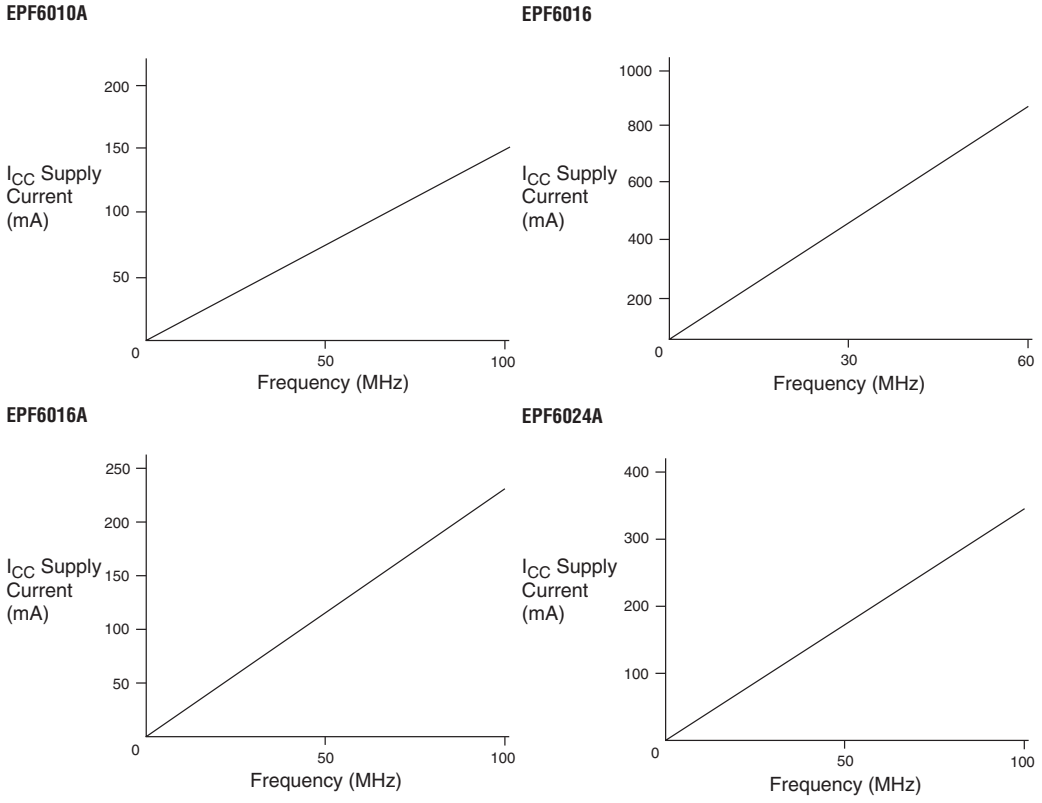
$$I_{CCACTIVE} = K \times \mathbf{f_{MAX}} \times N \times \mathbf{tog_{LC}} \times \frac{\mu A}{MHz \times LE}$$

Where:
$\mathbf{f_{MAX}}$ = Maximum operating frequency in MHz
N = Total number of LEs used in a FLEX 6000 device
$\mathbf{tog_{LC}}$ = Average percentage of LEs toggling at each clock (typically 12.5%)
K = Constant, shown in Table 39

Table 39. K Constant Values

Device	K Value
EPF6010A	14
EPF6016	88
EPF6016A	14
EPF6024A	14

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

Device Pin-Outs

See the Altera web site (**http://www.altera.com**) or the *Altera Digital Library* for pin-out information.