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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/epf6024aqc208-3

Table 4 shows FLEX 6000 performance for more complex designs.

Table 4. FLEX 6000 Device Performance for Complex Designs *Note (1)*

Application	LEs Used	Performance			Units
		-1 Speed Grade	-2 Speed Grade	-3 Speed Grade	
8-bit, 16-tap parallel finite impulse response (FIR) filter	599	94	80	72	MSPS
8-bit, 512-point fast Fourier transform (FFT) function	1,182	75 63	89 53	109 43	µS MHz
a16450 universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter (UART)	487	36	30	25	MHz
PCI bus target with zero wait states	609	56	49	42	MHz

Note:
(1) The applications in this table were created using Altera MegaCore™ functions.

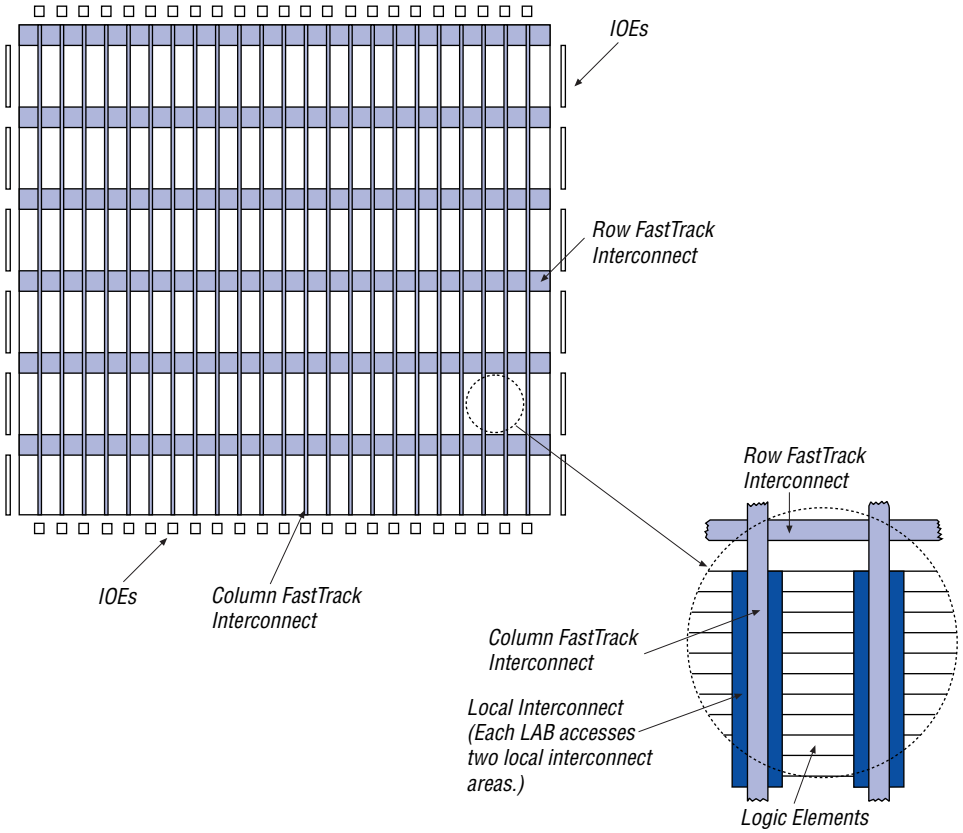
FLEX 6000 devices are supported by Altera development systems; a single, integrated package that offers schematic, text (including AHDL), and waveform design entry, compilation and logic synthesis, full simulation and worst-case timing analysis, and device configuration. The Altera software provides EDIF 2 0 0 and 3 0 0, LPM, VHDL, Verilog HDL, and other interfaces for additional design entry and simulation support from other industry-standard PC- and UNIX workstation-based EDA tools.

The Altera software works easily with common gate array EDA tools for synthesis and simulation. For example, the Altera software can generate Verilog HDL files for simulation with tools such as Cadence Verilog-XL. Additionally, the Altera software contains EDA libraries that use device-specific features such as carry chains which are used for fast counter and arithmetic functions. For instance, the Synopsys Design Compiler library supplied with the Altera development systems include DesignWare functions that are optimized for the FLEX 6000 architecture.

The Altera development system runs on Windows-based PCs, Sun SPARCstations, and HP 9000 Series 700/800.

f See the *MAX+PLUS II Programmable Logic Development System & Software Data Sheet* and the *Quartus Programmable Logic Development System & Software Data Sheet* for more information.

Figure 1. OptiFLEX Architecture Block Diagram

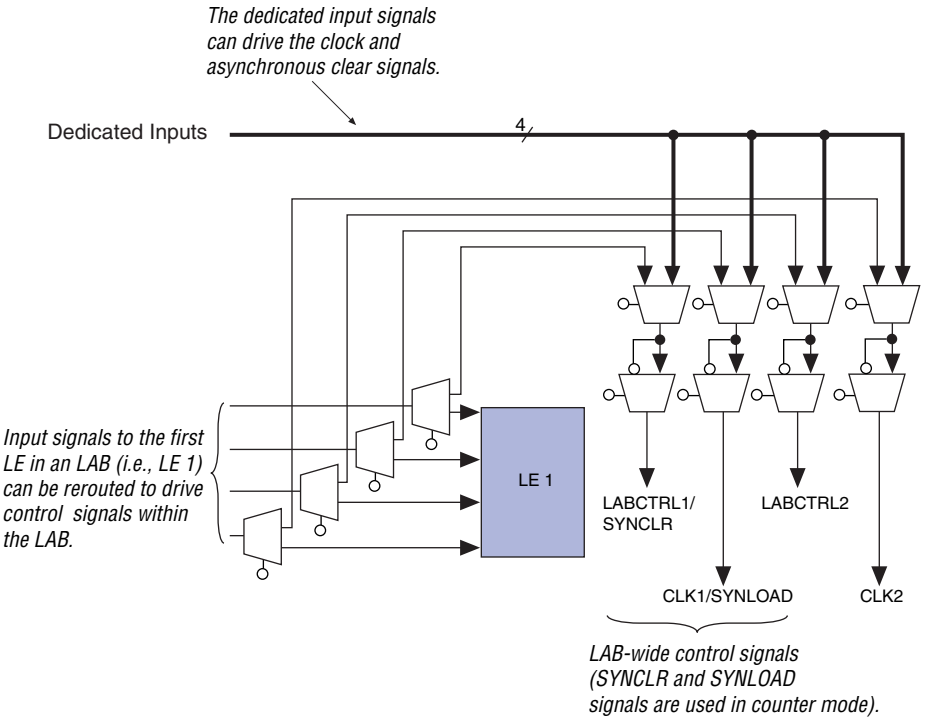


FLEX 6000 devices provide four dedicated, global inputs that drive the control inputs of the flipflops to ensure efficient distribution of high-speed, low-skew control signals. These inputs use dedicated routing channels that provide shorter delays and lower skews than the FastTrack Interconnect. These inputs can also be driven by internal logic, providing an ideal solution for a clock divider or an internally generated asynchronous clear signal that clears many registers in the device. The dedicated global routing structure is built into the device, eliminating the need to create a clock tree.

Logic Array Block

An LAB consists of ten LEs, their associated carry and cascade chains, the LAB control signals, and the LAB local interconnect. The LAB provides the coarse-grained structure of the FLEX 6000 architecture, and facilitates efficient routing with optimum device utilization and high performance.

Figure 3. LAB Control Signals



Logic Element

An LE, the smallest unit of logic in the FLEX 6000 architecture, has a compact size that provides efficient logic usage. Each LE contains a four-input LUT, which is a function generator that can quickly implement any function of four variables. An LE contains a programmable flipflop, carry and cascade chains. Additionally, each LE drives both the local and the FastTrack Interconnect. See Figure 4.

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.

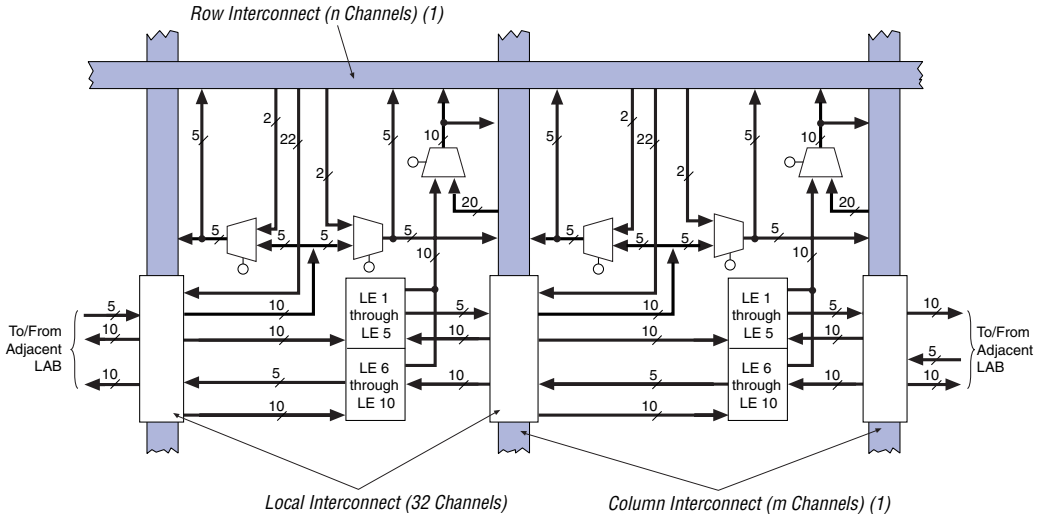
Because the first LE of an LAB can generate control signals for that LAB, the first LE in each LAB is not included in cascade chains. Moreover, cascade chains longer than nine bits are automatically implemented by linking several LABs together. For easier routing, a long cascade chain skips every other 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.

The FastTrack Interconnect consists of column and row interconnect channels that span the entire device. Each row of LABs is served by a dedicated row interconnect, which routes signals between LABs in the same row, and also routes signals from I/O pins to LABs. Additionally, the local interconnect routes signals between LEs in the same LAB and in adjacent LABs. The column interconnect routes signals between rows and routes signals from I/O pins to rows.

LEs 1 through 5 of an LAB drive the local interconnect to the right, while LEs 6 through 10 drive the local interconnect to the left. The `DATA1` and `DATA3` inputs of each LE are driven by the local interconnect to the left; `DATA2` and `DATA4` are driven by the local interconnect to the right. The local interconnect also routes signals from LEs to I/O pins. Figure 9 shows an overview of the FLEX 6000 interconnect architecture. LEs in the first and last columns have drivers on both sides so that all LEs in the LAB can drive I/O pins via the local interconnect.

Figure 9. FastTrack Interconnect Architecture



Note:

(1) For EPF6010A, EPF6016, and EPF6016A devices, n = 144 channels and m = 20 channels; for EPF6024A devices, n = 186 channels and m = 30 channels.

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.

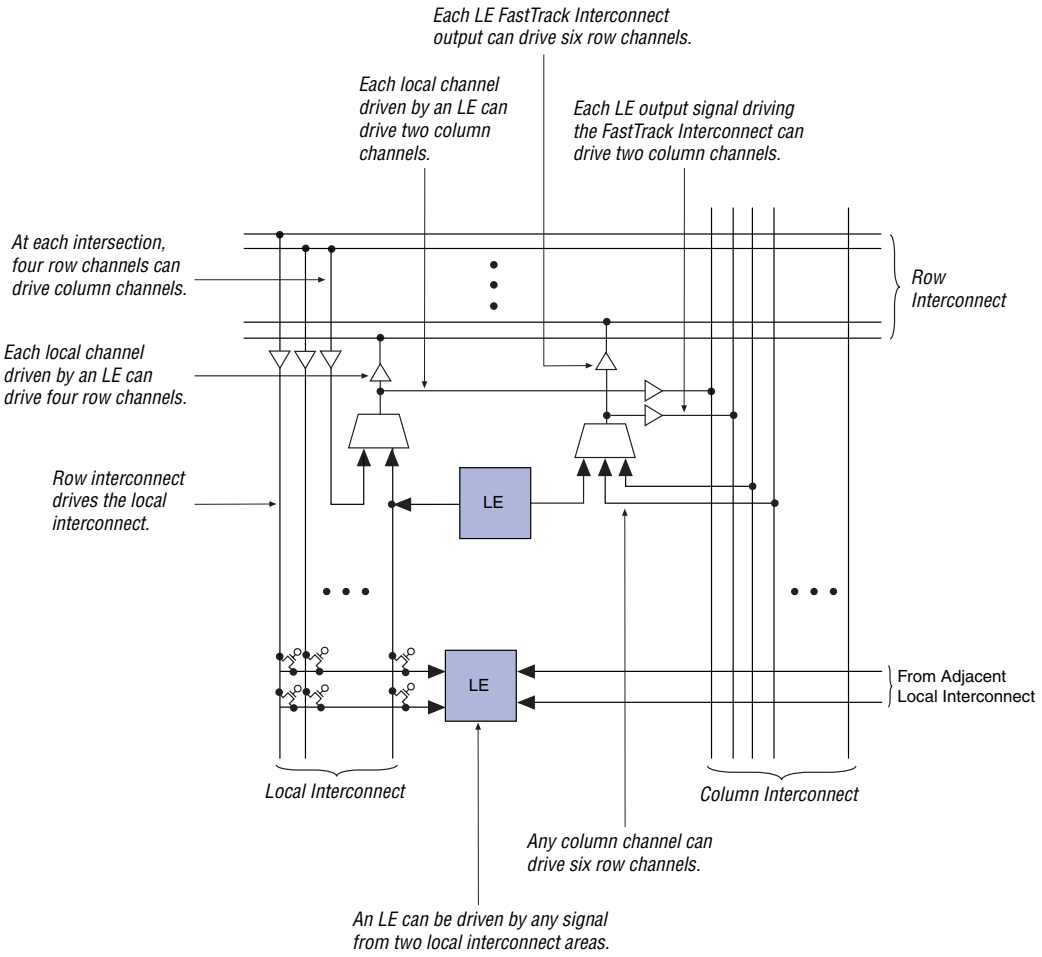
Each column of LABs is served by a dedicated column interconnect. The LEs in an LAB can drive the column interconnect. The LEs in an LAB, a column IOE, or a row interconnect can drive the column interconnect. The column interconnect can then drive another row's interconnect to route the signals to other 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.

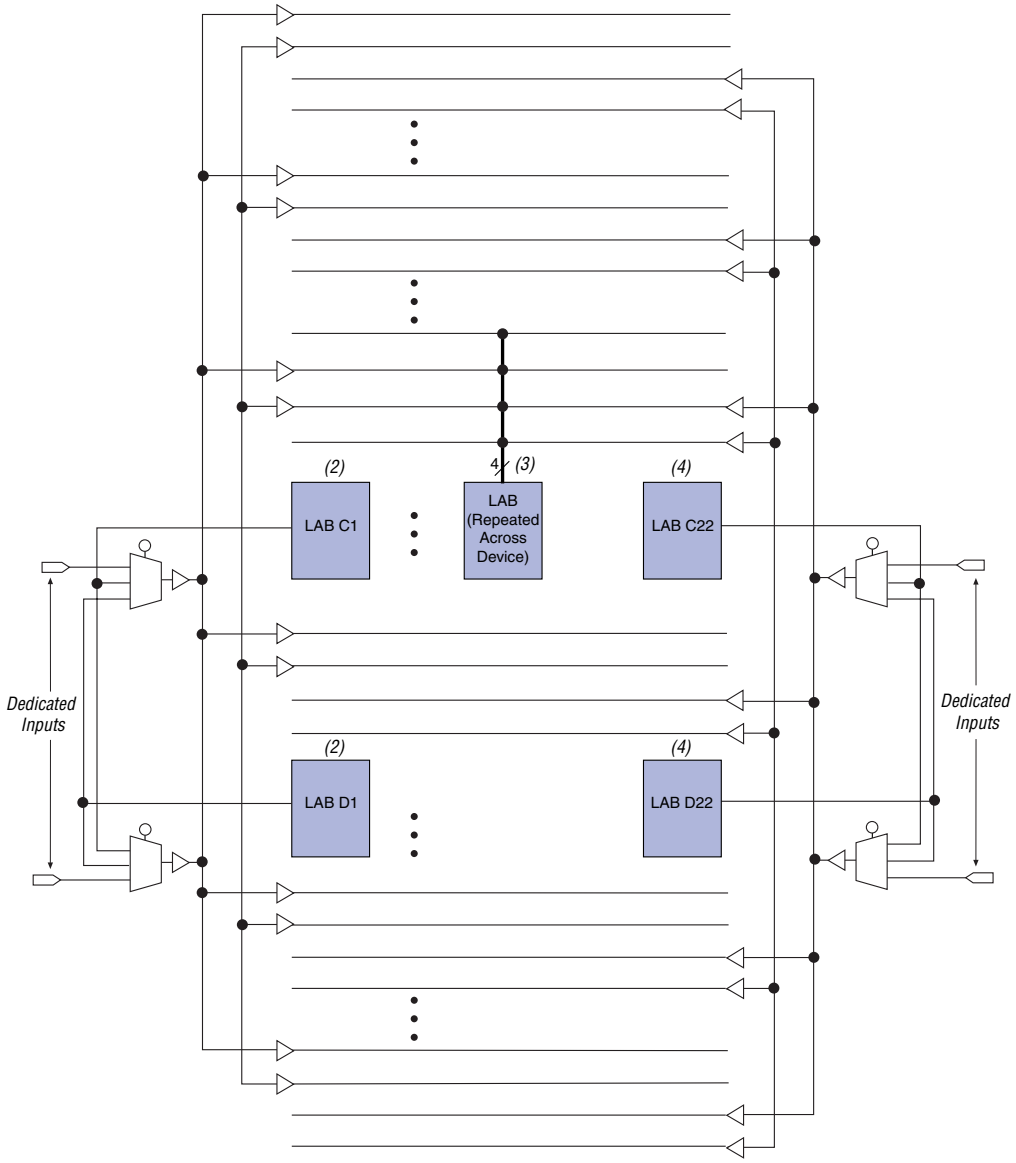
Each LAB drives two groups of local interconnects, which allows an LE to drive two LABs, or 20 LEs, via the local interconnect. The row-to-local multiplexers are used more efficiently, because the multiplexers can now drive two LABs. Figure 10 shows how an LAB connects to row and column interconnects.

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.

Figure 11. Global Clock & Clear Distribution *Note (1)*



Notes:

(1) The global clock and clear distribution signals are shown for EPF6016 and EPF6016A devices. In EPF6010A devices, LABs in rows B and C drive global signals. In EPF6024A devices, LABs in rows C and E drive global signals.
(2) The local interconnect from LABs C1 and D1 can drive two global control signals on the left side.
(3) Global signals drive into every LAB as clock, asynchronous clear, preset, and data signals.
(4) The local interconnect from LABs C22 and D22 can drive two global control signals on the right side.

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

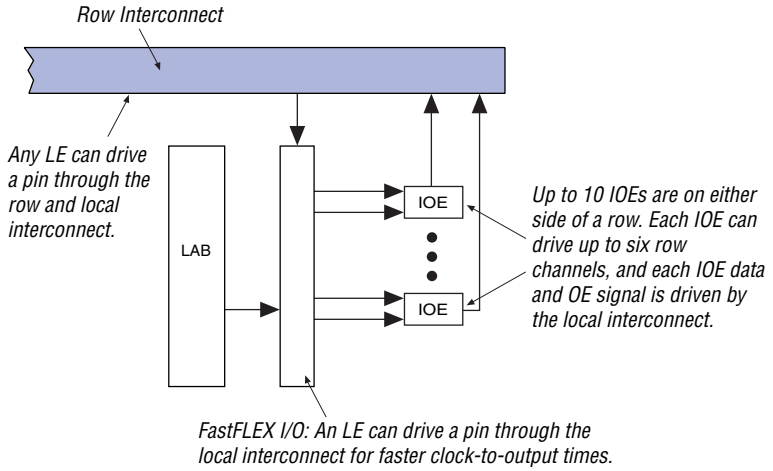
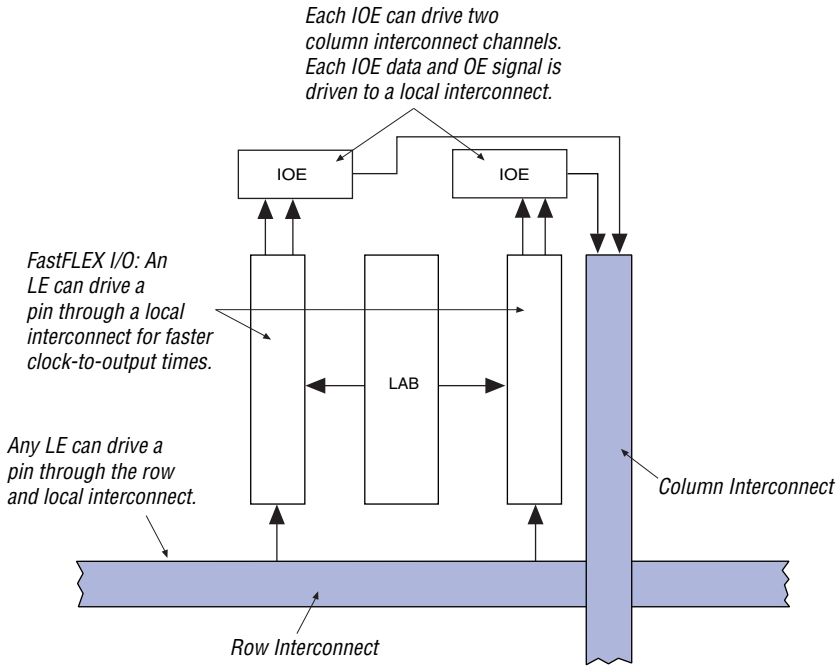


Figure 14. IOE Connection to Column Interconnect



SameFrame Pin-Outs

3.3-V FLEX 6000 devices support the SameFrame pin-out feature for FineLine BGA packages. The SameFrame pin-out feature is the arrangement of balls on FineLine BGA packages such that the lower-ball-count packages form a subset of the higher-ball-count packages. SameFrame pin-outs provide the flexibility to migrate not only from device to device within the same package, but also from one package to another. A given printed circuit board (PCB) layout can support multiple device density/package combinations. For example, a single board layout can support an EPF6016A device in a 100-pin FineLine BGA package or an EPF6024A device in a 256-pin FineLine BGA package.

The Altera software packages provide support to design PCBs with SameFrame pin-out devices. Devices can be defined for present and future use. The Altera software packages generate pin-outs describing how to lay out a board to take advantage of this migration (see Figure 15).

Figure 15. SameFrame Pin-Out Example

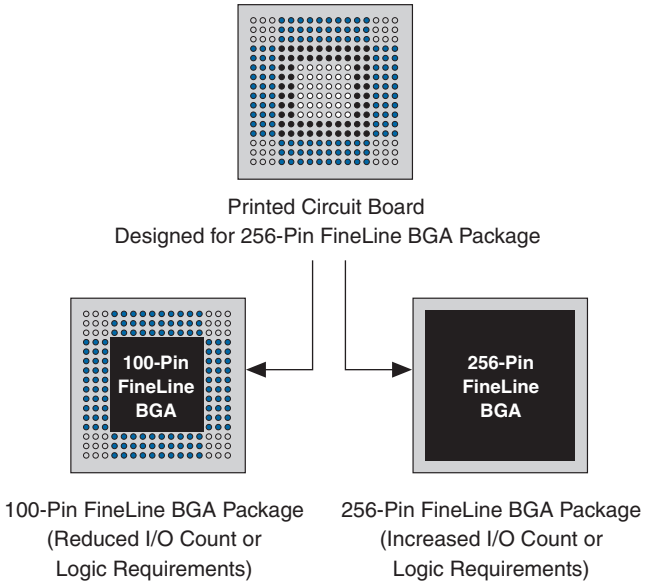


Table 6 lists the 3.3-V FLEX 6000 devices with the SameFrame pin-out feature.

Table 6. 3.3-V FLEX 6000 Devices with SameFrame Pin-Outs

Device	100-Pin FineLine BGA	256-Pin FineLine BGA
EPF6016A	v	v
EPF6024A		v

Output Configuration

This section discusses slew-rate control, the MultiVolt I/O interface, power sequencing, and hot-socketing for FLEX 6000 devices.

Slew-Rate Control

The output buffer in each IOE has an adjustable output slew-rate that can be configured for low-noise or high-speed performance. A slower slew-rate reduces system noise and adds a maximum delay of 6.8 ns. The fast slew-rate should be used for speed-critical outputs in systems that are adequately protected against noise. Designers can specify the slew-rate on a pin-by-pin basis during design entry or assign a default slew rate to all pins on a device-wide basis. The slew-rate setting affects only the falling edge of the output.

MultiVolt I/O Interface

The FLEX 6000 device architecture supports the MultiVolt I/O interface feature, which allows FLEX 6000 devices to interface with systems of differing supply voltages. The EPF6016 device can be set for 3.3-V or 5.0-V I/O pin operation. This device has one set of V_{CC} pins for internal operation and input buffers (VCCINT), and another set for output drivers (VCCIO).

The VCCINT pins on 5.0-V FLEX 6000 devices must always be connected to a 5.0-V power supply. With a 5.0-V V_{CCINT} level, input voltages are at TTL levels and are therefore compatible with 3.3-V and 5.0-V inputs.

The VCCIO pins on 5.0-V FLEX 6000 devices can be connected to either a 3.3-V or 5.0-V power supply, depending on the output requirements. When the VCCIO pins are connected to a 5.0-V power supply, the output levels are compatible with 5.0-V systems. When the VCCIO pins are connected to a 3.3-V power supply, the output high is 3.3 V and is therefore compatible with 3.3-V or 5.0-V systems. Devices operating with V_{CCIO} levels lower than 4.75 V incur a nominally greater timing delay of t_{OD2} instead of t_{OD1}.

On 3.3-V FLEX 6000 devices, the VCCINT pins must be connected to a 3.3-V power supply. Additionally, 3.3-V FLEX 6000A devices can interface with 2.5-V, 3.3-V, or 5.0-V systems when the VCCIO pins are tied to 2.5 V. The output can drive 2.5-V systems, and the inputs can be driven by 2.5-V, 3.3-V, or 5.0-V systems. When the VCCIO pins are tied to 3.3 V, the output can drive 3.3-V or 5.0-V systems. MultiVolt I/Os are not supported on 100-pin TQFP or 100-pin FineLine BGA packages.

Table 7 describes FLEX 6000 MultiVolt I/O support.

Table 7. FLEX 6000 MultiVolt I/O Support

V_{CCINT} (V)	V_{CCIO} (V)	Input Signal (V)			Output Signal (V)		
		2.5	3.3	5.0	2.5	3.3	5.0
3.3	2.5	v	v	v	v		
3.3	3.3	v	v	v	v *(1)*	v	v
5.0	3.3		v	v		v	v
5.0	5.0		v	v			v

Note:

(1) When V_{CCIO} = 3.3 V, a FLEX 6000 device can drive a 2.5-V device that has 3.3-V tolerant inputs.

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.

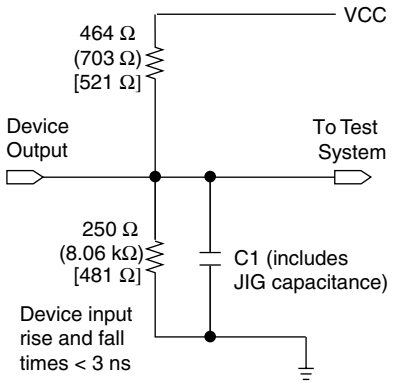
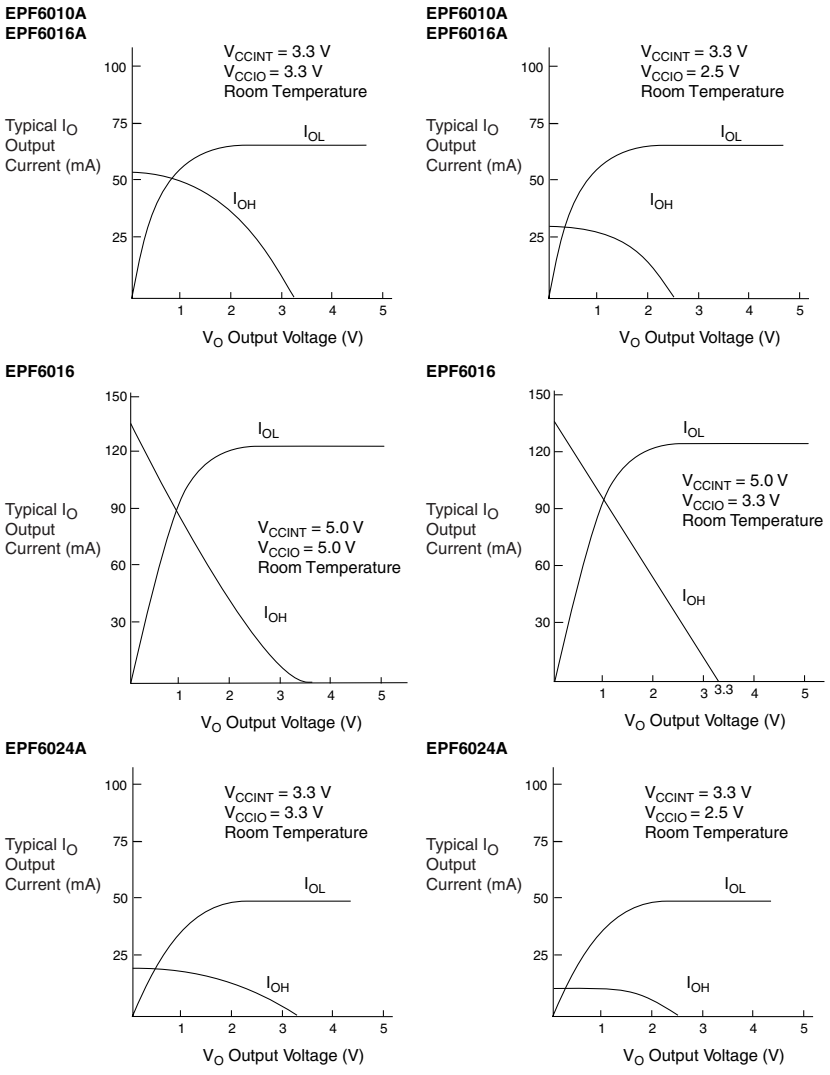


Figure 18 shows the typical output drive characteristics of 5.0-V and 3.3-V FLEX 6000 devices with 5.0-V, 3.3-V, and 2.5-V V_{CCIO}. When V_{CCIO} = 5.0 V on EPF6016 devices, the output driver is compliant with the ***PCI Local Bus Specification, Revision 2.2*** for 5.0-V operation. When V_{CCIO} = 3.3 V on the EPF6010A and EPF6016A devices, the output driver is compliant with the ***PCI Local Bus Specification, Revision 2.2*** for 3.3-V operation.

Figure 18. Output Drive Characteristics



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 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

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.

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.