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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	117
Number of Gates	24000
Voltage - Supply	3V ~ 3.6V
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Operating Temperature	0°C ~ 85°C (TJ)
Package / Case	144-LQFP
Supplier Device Package	144-TQFP (20x20)
Purchase URL	https://www.e-xfl.com/product-detail/intel/epf6024atc144-1

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.

Table 4 shows FLEX 6000 performance for more complex designs.

Table 4. FLEX 6000 Device Performance for Complex Designs <i>Note (1)</i>					
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
16450 universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter (UART)	487	36	30	25	MHz
PCI bus target with zero wait states	609	56	49	42	MHz

Note:

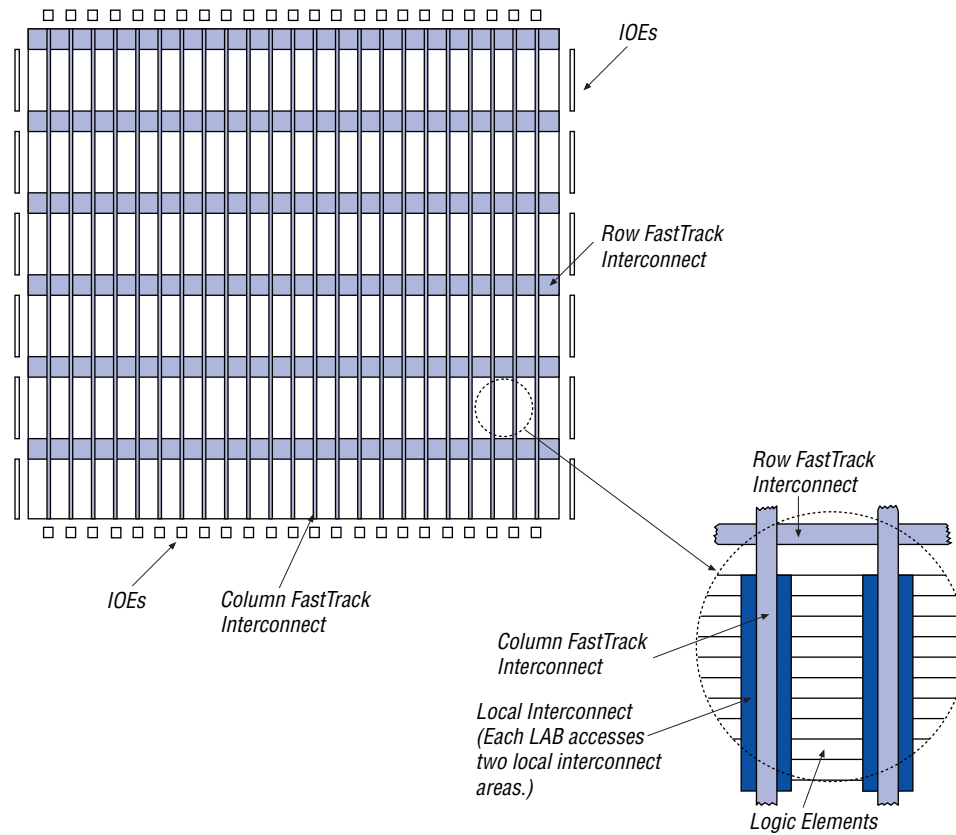
(1) The applications in this table were created using Altera MegaCore™ functions.

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.

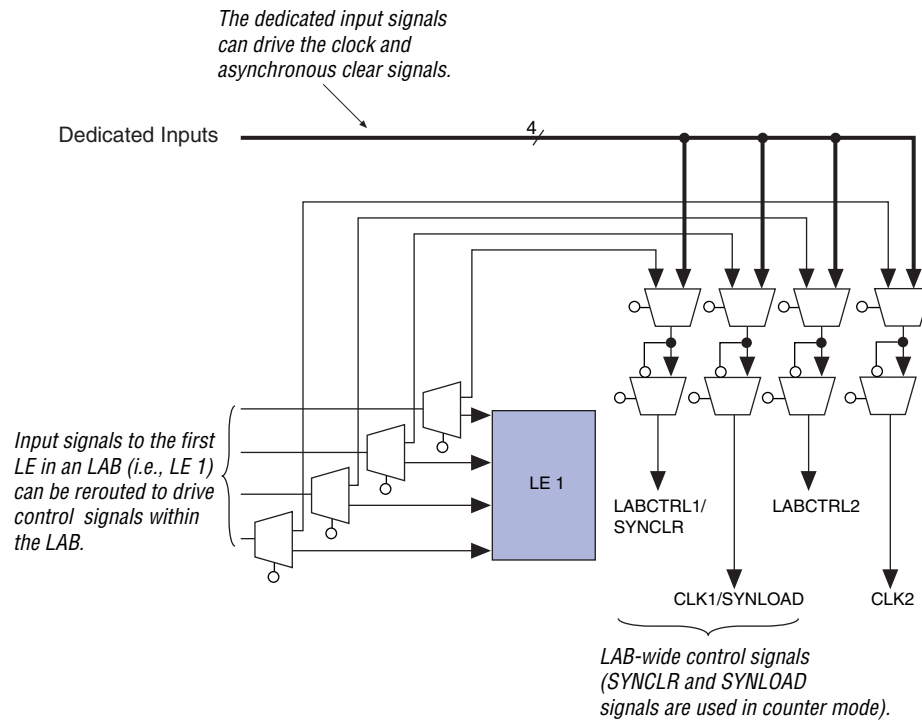
f See the *MAX+PLUS II Programmable Logic Development System & Software Data Sheet* and the *Quartus Programmable Logic Development System & Software Data Sheet* for more information.

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](#).

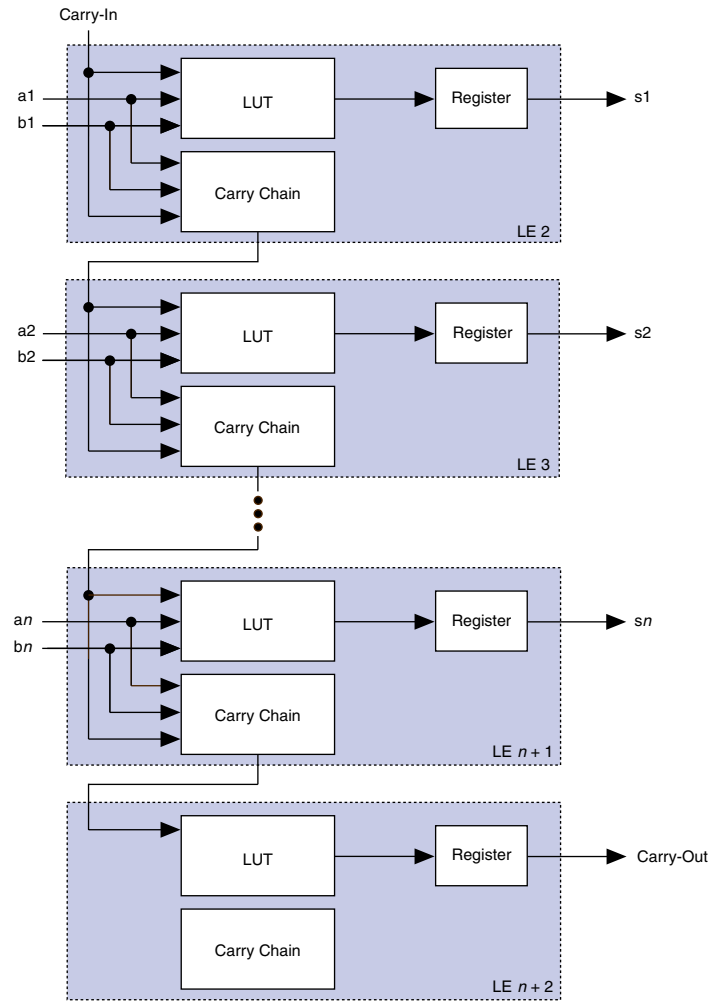
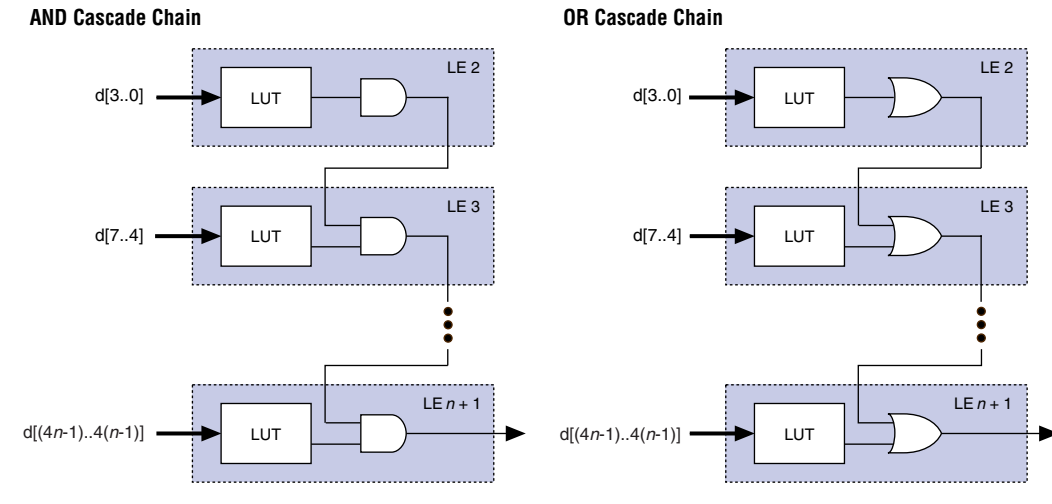
Figure 5. Carry Chain Operation

Figure 6. Cascade Chain Operation

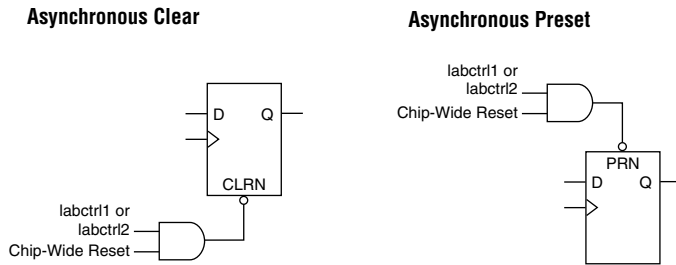
LE Operating Modes

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.

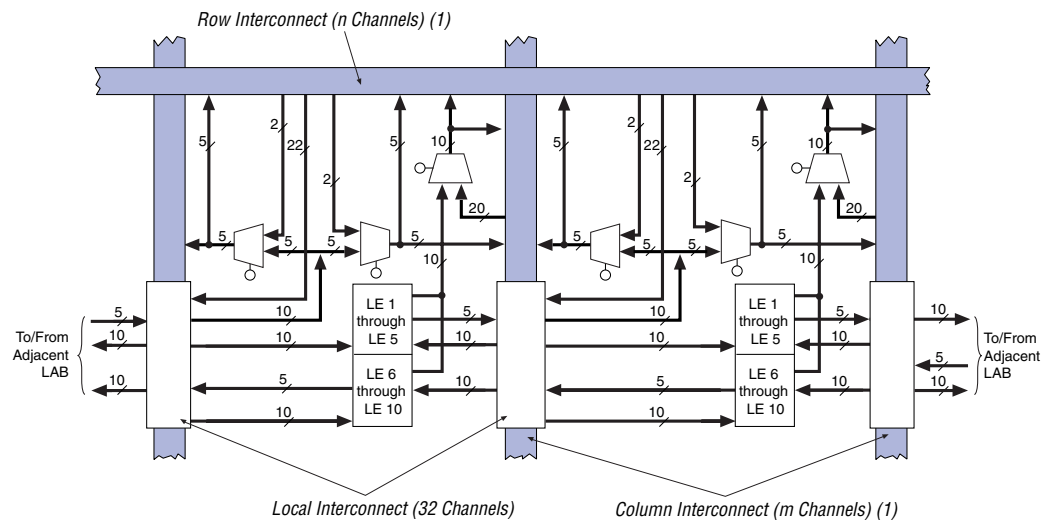
FastTrack Interconnect

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.

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.

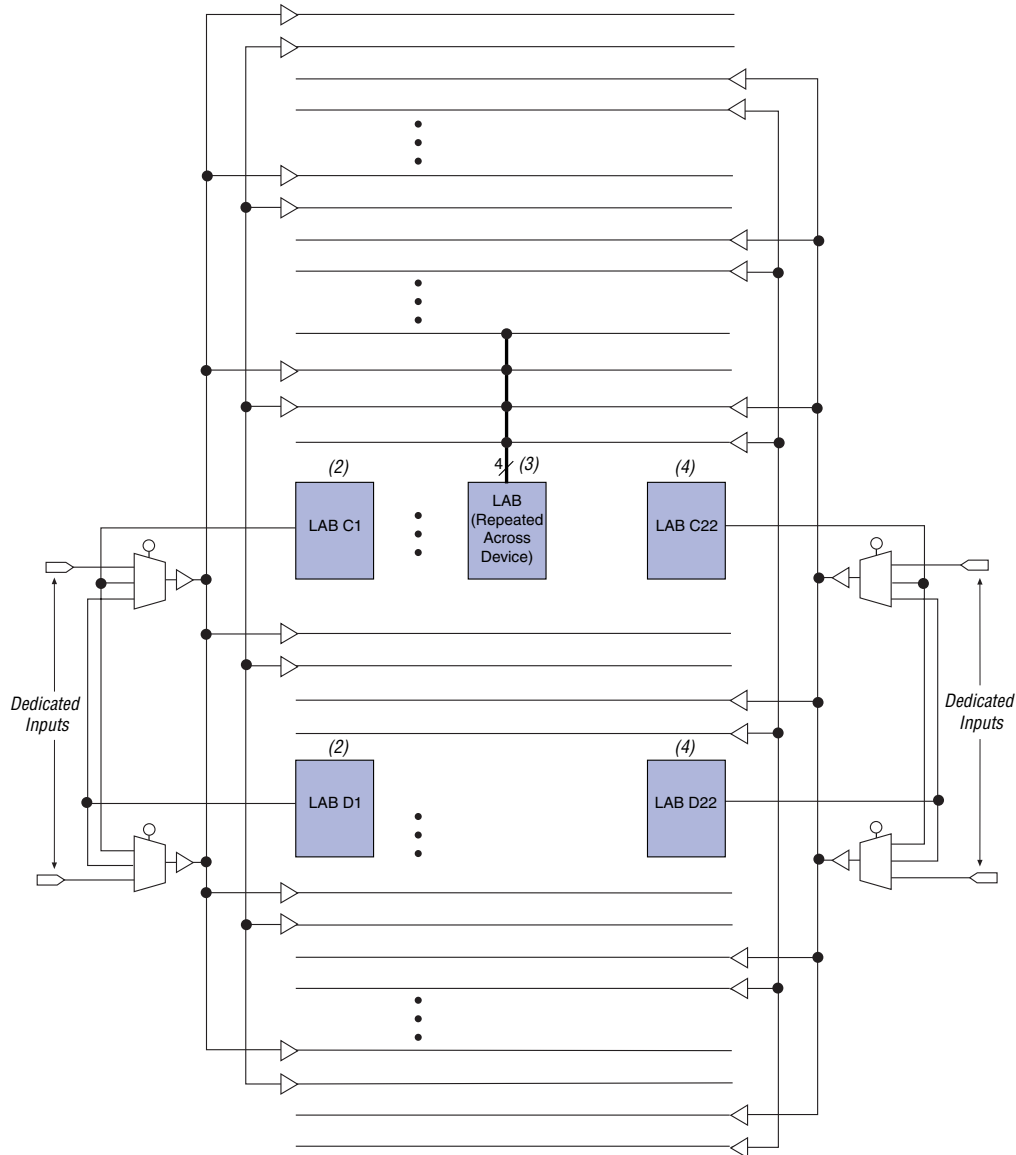
LEs 1 through 5 of an LAB drive the local interconnect to the right, while LEs 6 through 10 drive the local interconnect to the left. The DATA1 and DATA3 inputs of each LE are driven by the local interconnect to the left; DATA2 and DATA4 are driven by the local interconnect to the right. The local interconnect 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.

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.

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.

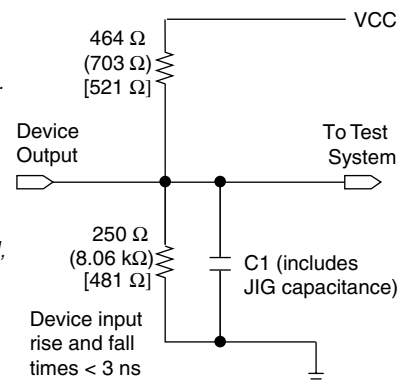


Table 13. FLEX 6000 5.0-V Device DC Operating Conditions *Notes (5), (6)*

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
V_{IH}	High-level input voltage		2.0		$V_{CCINT} + 0.5$	V
V_{IL}	Low-level input voltage		-0.5		0.8	V
V_{OH}	5.0-V high-level TTL output voltage	$I_{OH} = -8$ mA DC, $V_{CCIO} = 4.75$ V (7)	2.4			V
	3.3-V high-level TTL output voltage	$I_{OH} = -8$ mA DC, $V_{CCIO} = 3.00$ V (7)	2.4			V
	3.3-V high-level CMOS output voltage	$I_{OH} = -0.1$ mA DC, $V_{CCIO} = 3.00$ V (7)	$V_{CCIO} - 0.2$			V
V_{OL}	5.0-V low-level TTL output voltage	$I_{OL} = 8$ mA DC, $V_{CCIO} = 4.75$ V (8)			0.45	V
	3.3-V low-level TTL output voltage	$I_{OL} = 8$ mA DC, $V_{CCIO} = 3.00$ V (8)			0.45	V
	3.3-V low-level CMOS output voltage	$I_{OL} = 0.1$ mA DC, $V_{CCIO} = 3.00$ V (8)			0.2	V
I_I	Input pin leakage current	$V_I = V_{CC}$ or ground (8)	-10		10	μ A
I_{OZ}	Tri-stated I/O pin leakage current	$V_O = V_{CC}$ or ground (8)	-40		40	μ A
I_{CC0}	V_{CC} supply current (standby)	$V_I =$ ground, no load		0.5	5	mA

Table 14. FLEX 6000 5.0-V Device Capacitance *Note (9)*

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions	Min	Max	Unit
C_{IN}	Input capacitance for I/O pin	$V_{IN} = 0$ V, $f = 1.0$ MHz		8	pF
C_{INCLK}	Input capacitance for dedicated input	$V_{IN} = 0$ V, $f = 1.0$ MHz		12	pF
C_{OUT}	Output capacitance	$V_{OUT} = 0$ V, $f = 1.0$ MHz		8	pF

Notes to tables:

- (1) See the *Operating Requirements for Altera Devices Data Sheet*.
- (2) Minimum DC input is -0.5 V. During transitions, the inputs may undershoot to -2.0 V or overshoot to 7.0 V for input currents less than 100 mA and periods shorter than 20 ns.
- (3) Numbers in parentheses are for industrial-temperature-range devices.
- (4) Maximum V_{CC} rise time to 100 ms. V_{CC} must rise monotonically.
- (5) Typical values are for $T_A = 25^\circ$ C and $V_{CC} = 5.0$ V.
- (6) These values are specified under the FLEX 6000 Recommended Operating Conditions shown in Table 12 on page 31.
- (7) The I_{OH} parameter refers to high-level TTL or CMOS output current.
- (8) The I_{OL} parameter refers to low-level TTL, PCI, or CMOS output current. This parameter applies to open-drain pins as well as output pins.
- (9) Capacitance is sample-tested only.

Table 15. FLEX 6000 3.3-V Device Absolute Maximum Ratings *Note (1)*

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions	Min	Max	Unit
V_{CC}	Supply voltage	With respect to ground (2)	−0.5	4.6	V
V_I	DC input voltage		−2.0	5.75	V
I_{OUT}	DC output current, per pin		−25	25	mA
T_{STG}	Storage temperature	No bias	−65	150	°C
T_{AMB}	Ambient temperature	Under bias	−65	135	°C
T_J	Junction temperature	PQFP, PLCC, and BGA packages		135	°C

Table 16. FLEX 6000 3.3-V Device Recommended Operating Conditions

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions	Min	Max	Unit
V_{CCINT}	Supply voltage for internal logic and input buffers	(3), (4)	3.00 (3.00)	3.60 (3.60)	V
V_{CCIO}	Supply voltage for output buffers, 3.3-V operation	(3), (4)	3.00 (3.00)	3.60 (3.60)	V
	Supply voltage for output buffers, 2.5-V operation	(3), (4)	2.30 (2.30)	2.70 (2.70)	V
V_I	Input voltage		−0.5	5.75	V
V_O	Output voltage		0	V_{CCIO}	V
T_J	Operating temperature	For commercial use	0	85	°C
		For industrial use	−40	100	°C
t_R	Input rise time			40	ns
t_F	Input fall time			40	ns

Figure 19. FLEX 6000 Timing Model

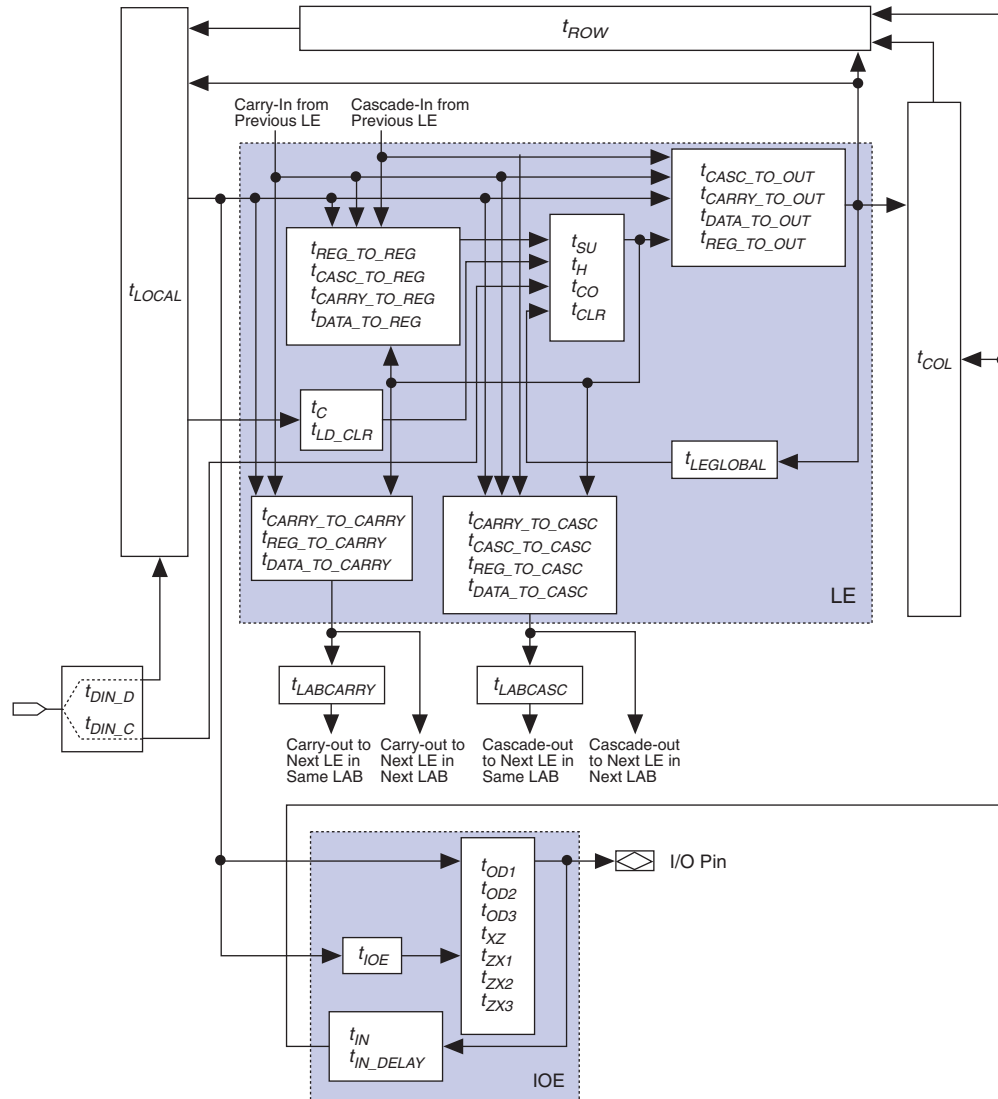


Table 23. External Timing Parameters		
Symbol	Parameter	Conditions
t_{INSU}	Setup time with global clock at LE register	(8)
t_{INH}	Hold time with global clock at LE register	(8)
t_{OUTCO}	Clock-to-output delay with global clock with LE register using FastFLEX I/O pin	(8)

Notes to tables:

- (1) Microparameters are timing delays contributed by individual architectural elements and cannot be measured explicitly.
- (2) Operating conditions:
 $V_{\text{CCIO}} = 5.0 \text{ V} \pm 5\%$ for commercial use in 5.0-V FLEX 6000 devices.
 $V_{\text{CCIO}} = 5.0 \text{ V} \pm 10\%$ for industrial use in 5.0-V FLEX 6000 devices.
 $V_{\text{CCIO}} = 3.3 \text{ V} \pm 10\%$ for commercial or industrial use in 3.3-V FLEX 6000 devices.
- (3) Operating conditions:
 $V_{\text{CCIO}} = 3.3 \text{ V} \pm 10\%$ for commercial or industrial use in 5.0-V FLEX 6000 devices.
 $V_{\text{CCIO}} = 2.5 \text{ V} \pm 0.2 \text{ V}$ for commercial or industrial use in 3.3-V FLEX 6000 devices.
- (4) Operating conditions:
 $V_{\text{CCIO}} = 2.5 \text{ V}, 3.3 \text{ V}, \text{ or } 5.0 \text{ V}.$
- (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

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

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

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

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 _{DDR}		16.0		20.0	ns

Table 35. IOE Timing Microparameters for EPF6024A Devices

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

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

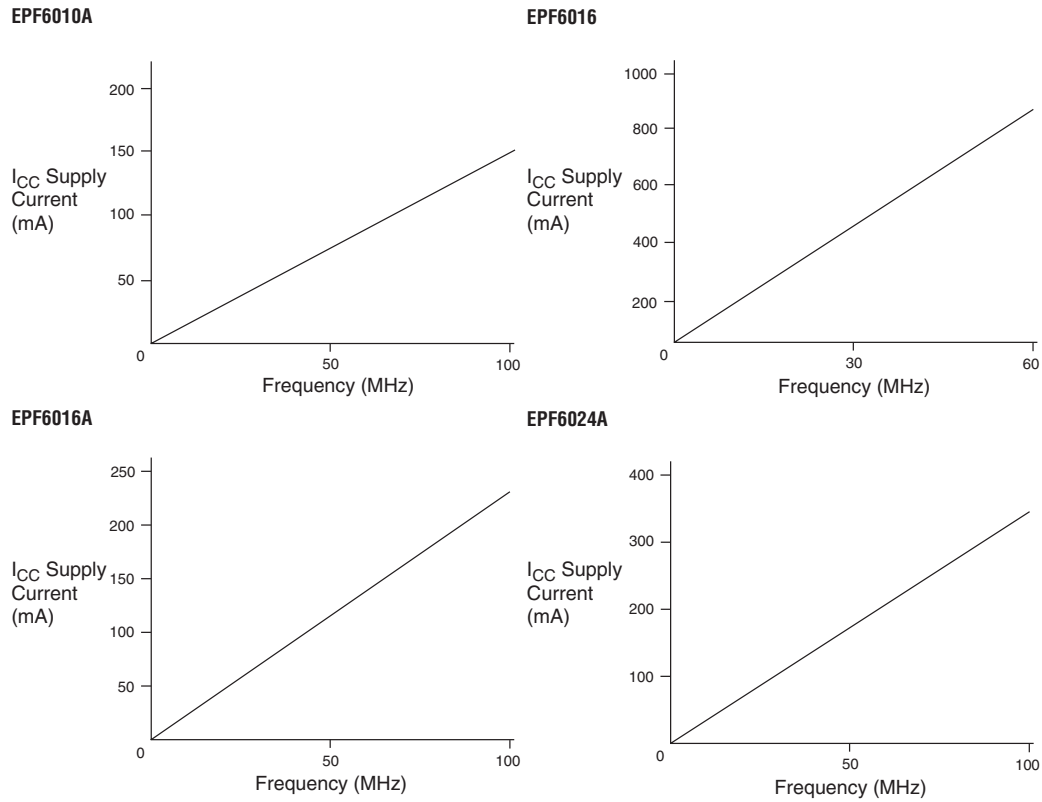
Table 37. External Reference Timing Parameters for EPF6024A Devices

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