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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	291
Number of Logic Elements/Cells	2910
Total RAM Bits	59904
Number of I/O	65
Number of Gates	-
Voltage - Supply	1.425V ~ 1.575V
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Operating Temperature	0°C ~ 85°C (TJ)
Package / Case	100-TQFP
Supplier Device Package	100-TQFP (14x14)
Purchase URL	https://www.e-xfl.com/product-detail/intel/ep1c3t100c6n

Table 1–1. Cyclone Device Features (Part 2 of 2)

Feature	EP1C3	EP1C4	EP1C6	EP1C12	EP1C20
Total RAM bits	59,904	78,336	92,160	239,616	294,912
PLLs	1	2	2	2	2
Maximum user I/O pins (1)	104	301	185	249	301

Note to [Table 1–1](#):

- (1) This parameter includes global clock pins.

Cyclone devices are available in quad flat pack (QFP) and space-saving FineLine® BGA packages (see [Tables 1–2 through 1–3](#)).

Table 1–2. Cyclone Package Options and I/O Pin Counts

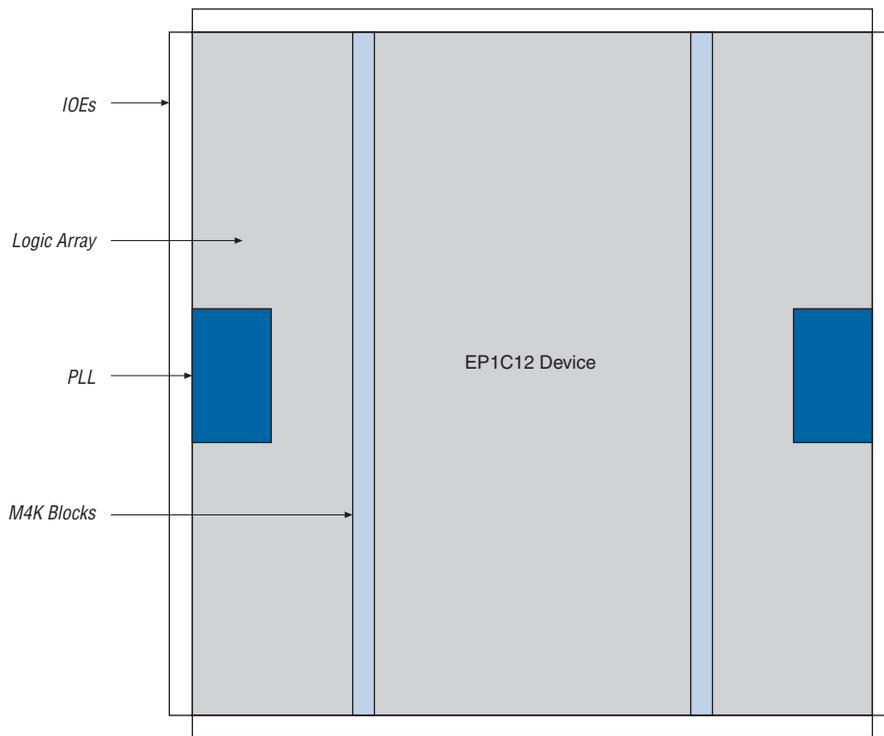
Device	100-Pin TQFP (1)	144-Pin TQFP (1), (2)	240-Pin PQFP (1)	256-Pin FineLine BGA	324-Pin FineLine BGA	400-Pin FineLine BGA
EP1C3	65	104	—	—	—	—
EP1C4	—	—	—	—	249	301
EP1C6	—	98	185	185	—	—
EP1C12	—	—	173	185	249	—
EP1C20	—	—	—	—	233	301

Notes to [Table 1–2](#):

- (1) TQFP: thin quad flat pack.
PQFP: plastic quad flat pack.
- (2) Cyclone devices support vertical migration within the same package (i.e., designers can migrate between the EP1C3 device in the 144-pin TQFP package and the EP1C6 device in the same package).

Vertical migration means you can migrate a design from one device to another that has the same dedicated pins, JTAG pins, and power pins, and are subsets or supersets for a given package across device densities. The largest density in any package has the highest number of power pins; you must use the layout for the largest planned density in a package to provide the necessary power pins for migration.

For I/O pin migration across densities, cross-reference the available I/O pins using the device pin-outs for all planned densities of a given package type to identify which I/O pins can be migrated. The Quartus® II software can automatically cross-reference and place all pins for you when given a device migration list. If one device has power or ground pins, but these same pins are user I/O on a different device that is in the migration path, the Quartus II software ensures the pins are not used as user I/O in the Quartus II software. Ensure that these pins are connected

Figure 2–1. Cyclone EP1C12 Device Block Diagram

The number of M4K RAM blocks, PLLs, rows, and columns vary per device. [Table 2–1](#) lists the resources available in each Cyclone device.

Table 2–1. Cyclone Device Resources

Device	M4K RAM		PLLs	LAB Columns	LAB Rows
	Columns	Blocks			
EP1C3	1	13	1	24	13
EP1C4	1	17	2	26	17
EP1C6	1	20	2	32	20
EP1C12	2	52	2	48	26
EP1C20	2	64	2	64	32

functions. Another special packing mode allows the register output to feed back into the LUT of the same LE so that the register is packed with its own fan-out LUT. This provides another mechanism for improved fitting. The LE can also drive out registered and unregistered versions of the LUT output.

LUT Chain and Register Chain

In addition to the three general routing outputs, the LEs within a LAB have LUT chain and register chain outputs. LUT chain connections allow LUTs within the same LAB to cascade together for wide input functions. Register chain outputs allow registers within the same LAB to cascade together. The register chain output allows a LAB to use LUTs for a single combinatorial function and the registers to be used for an unrelated shift register implementation. These resources speed up connections between LABs while saving local interconnect resources. “[MultiTrack Interconnect](#)” on page 2–12 for more information on LUT chain and register chain connections.

addsub Signal

The LE's dynamic adder/subtractor feature saves logic resources by using one set of LEs to implement both an adder and a subtractor. This feature is controlled by the LAB-wide control signal `addsub`. The `addsub` signal sets the LAB to perform either $A + B$ or $A - B$. The LUT computes addition; subtraction is computed by adding the two's complement of the intended subtractor. The LAB-wide signal converts to two's complement by inverting the B bits within the LAB and setting carry-in = 1 to add one to the least significant bit (LSB). The LSB of an adder/subtractor must be placed in the first LE of the LAB, where the LAB-wide `addsub` signal automatically sets the carry-in to 1. The Quartus II Compiler automatically places and uses the adder/subtractor feature when using adder/subtractor parameterized functions.

LE Operating Modes

The Cyclone LE can operate in one of the following modes:

- Normal mode
- Dynamic arithmetic mode

Each mode uses LE resources differently. In each mode, eight available inputs to the LE—the four data inputs from the LAB local interconnect, `carry-in0` and `carry-in1` from the previous LE, the LAB carry-in from the previous carry-chain LAB, and the register chain connection—are directed to different destinations to implement the desired logic function. LAB-wide signals provide clock, asynchronous clear, asynchronous

Embedded Memory

The Cyclone embedded memory consists of columns of M4K memory blocks. EP1C3 and EP1C6 devices have one column of M4K blocks, while EP1C12 and EP1C20 devices have two columns (refer to [Table 1–1 on page 1–1](#) for total RAM bits per density). Each M4K block can implement various types of memory with or without parity, including true dual-port, simple dual-port, and single-port RAM, ROM, and FIFO buffers. The M4K blocks support the following features:

- 4,608 RAM bits
- 250 MHz performance
- True dual-port memory
- Simple dual-port memory
- Single-port memory
- Byte enable
- Parity bits
- Shift register
- FIFO buffer
- ROM
- Mixed clock mode

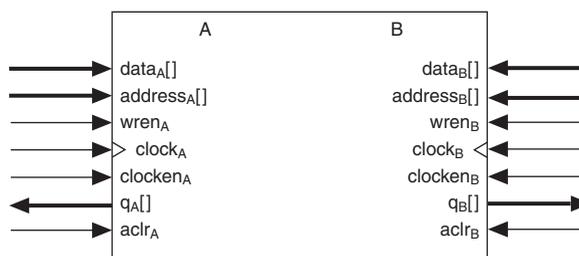


Violating the setup or hold time on the address registers could corrupt the memory contents. This applies to both read and write operations.

Memory Modes

The M4K memory blocks include input registers that synchronize writes and output registers to pipeline designs and improve system performance. M4K blocks offer a true dual-port mode to support any combination of two-port operations: two reads, two writes, or one read and one write at two different clock frequencies. [Figure 2–12](#) shows true dual-port memory.

Figure 2–12. True Dual-Port Memory Configuration



signal. The output registers can be bypassed. Pseudo-asynchronous reading is possible in the simple dual-port mode of M4K blocks by clocking the read enable and read address registers on the negative clock edge and bypassing the output registers.

When configured as RAM or ROM, you can use an initialization file to pre-load the memory contents.

Two single-port memory blocks can be implemented in a single M4K block as long as each of the two independent block sizes is equal to or less than half of the M4K block size.

The Quartus II software automatically implements larger memory by combining multiple M4K memory blocks. For example, two 256×16-bit RAM blocks can be combined to form a 256×32-bit RAM block. Memory performance does not degrade for memory blocks using the maximum number of words allowed. Logical memory blocks using less than the maximum number of words use physical blocks in parallel, eliminating any external control logic that would increase delays. To create a larger high-speed memory block, the Quartus II software automatically combines memory blocks with LE control logic.

Parity Bit Support

The M4K blocks support a parity bit for each byte. The parity bit, along with internal LE logic, can implement parity checking for error detection to ensure data integrity. You can also use parity-size data words to store user-specified control bits. Byte enables are also available for data input masking during write operations.

Shift Register Support

You can configure M4K memory blocks to implement shift registers for DSP applications such as pseudo-random number generators, multi-channel filtering, auto-correlation, and cross-correlation functions. These and other DSP applications require local data storage, traditionally implemented with standard flip-flops, which can quickly consume many logic cells and routing resources for large shift registers. A more efficient alternative is to use embedded memory as a shift register block, which saves logic cell and routing resources and provides a more efficient implementation with the dedicated circuitry.

The size of a $w \times m \times n$ shift register is determined by the input data width (w), the length of the taps (m), and the number of taps (n). The size of a $w \times m \times n$ shift register must be less than or equal to the maximum number of memory bits in the M4K block (4,608 bits). The total number of shift

Figure 2–15. M4K RAM Block Control Signals

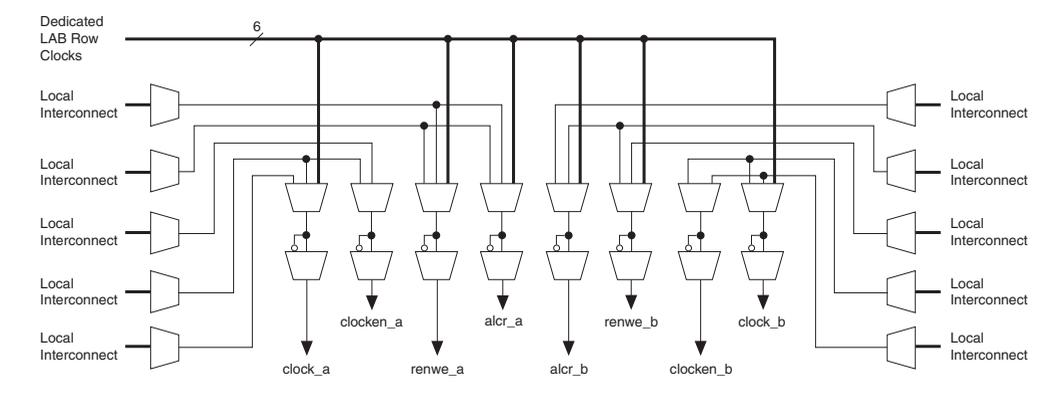
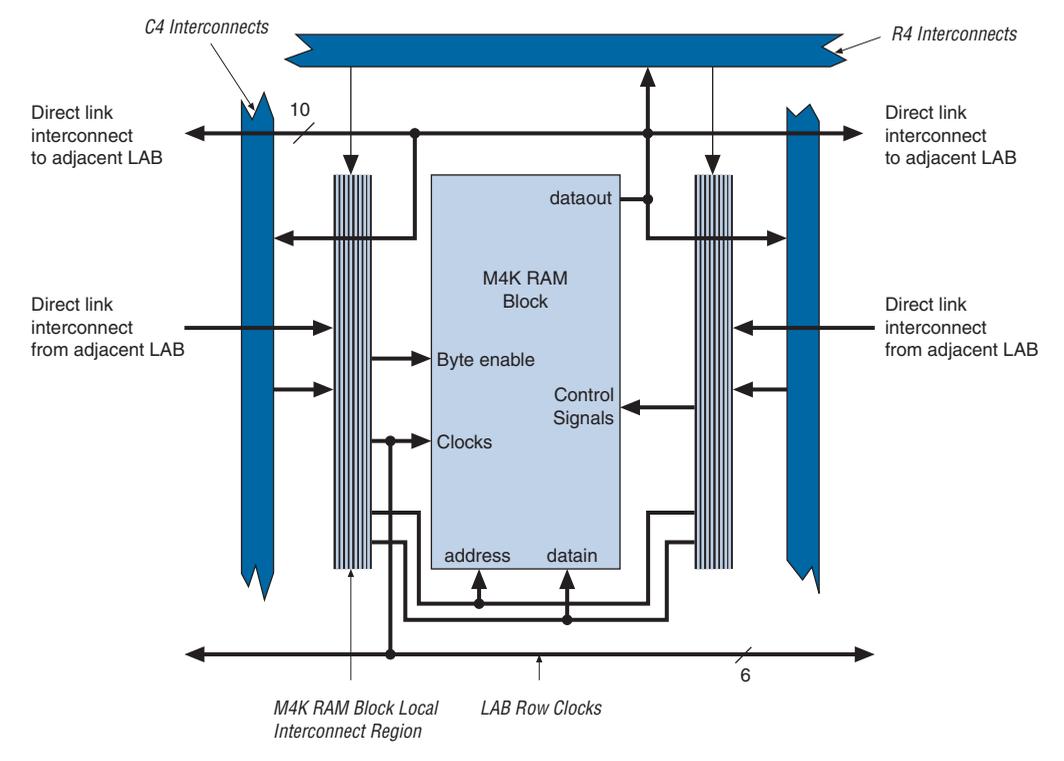


Figure 2–16. M4K RAM Block LAB Row Interface



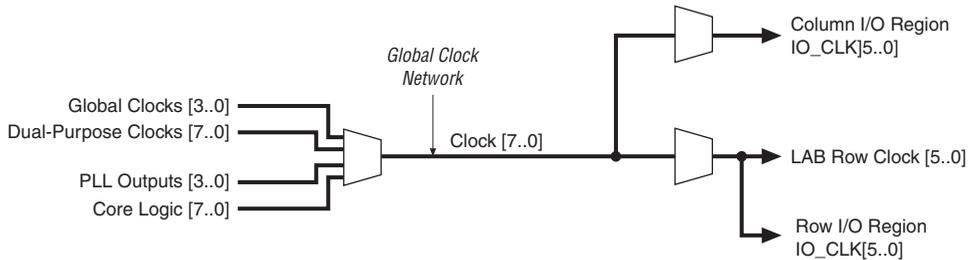
Dual-Purpose Clock Pins

Each Cyclone device except the EP1C3 device has eight dual-purpose clock pins, $DPCLK[7..0]$ (two on each I/O bank). EP1C3 devices have five $DPCLK$ pins in the 100-pin TQFP package. These dual-purpose pins can connect to the global clock network (see [Figure 2–22](#)) for high-fanout control signals such as clocks, asynchronous clears, presets, and clock enables, or protocol control signals such as $TRDY$ and $IRDY$ for PCI, or DQS signals for external memory interfaces.

Combined Resources

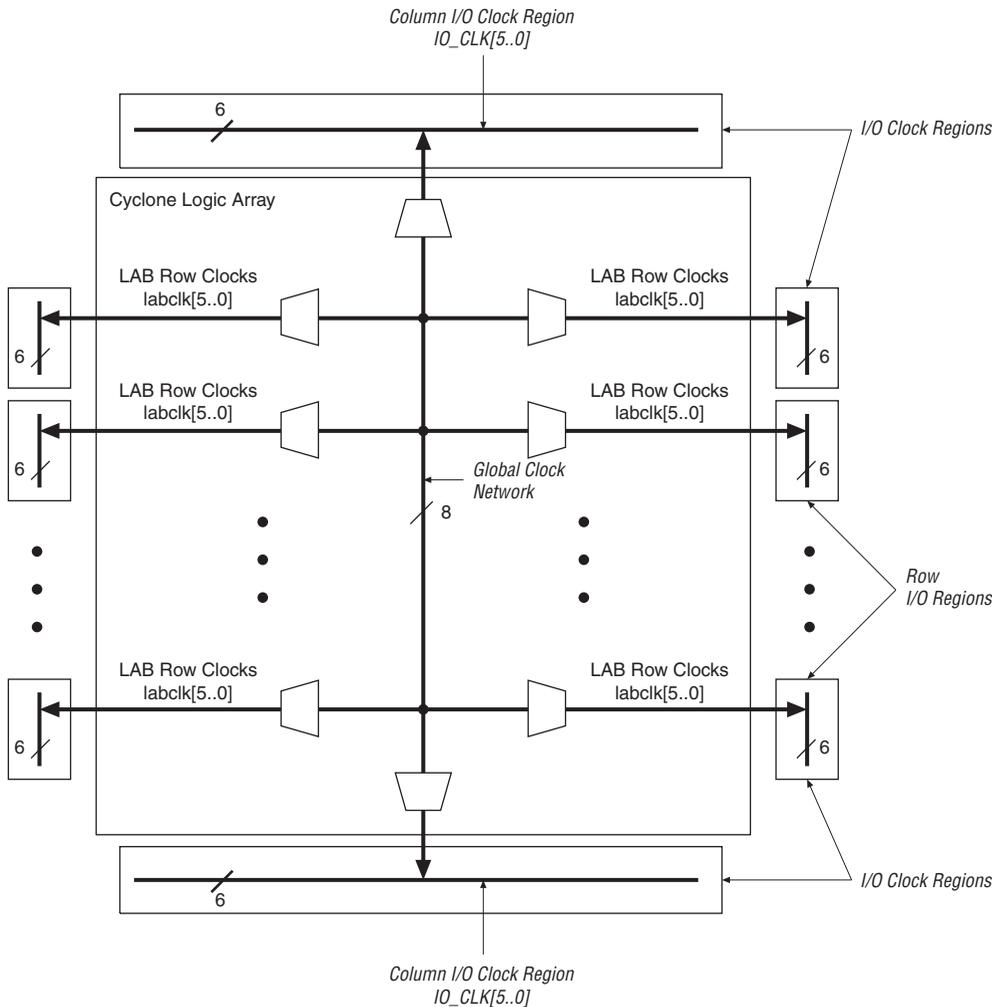
Each Cyclone device contains eight distinct dedicated clocking resources. The device uses multiplexers with these clocks to form six-bit buses to drive LAB row clocks, column IOE clocks, or row IOE clocks. See [Figure 2–23](#). Another multiplexer at the LAB level selects two of the six LAB row clocks to feed the LE registers within the LAB.

Figure 2–23. Global Clock Network Multiplexers



IOE clocks have row and column block regions. Six of the eight global clock resources feed to these row and column regions. [Figure 2–24](#) shows the I/O clock regions.

Figure 2–24. I/O Clock Regions



PLLs

Cyclone PLLs provide general-purpose clocking with clock multiplication and phase shifting as well as outputs for differential I/O support. Cyclone devices contain two PLLs, except for the EP1C3 device, which contains one PLL.

External Clock Inputs

Each PLL supports single-ended or differential inputs for source-synchronous receivers or for general-purpose use. The dedicated clock pins (CLK [3..0]) feed the PLL inputs. These dual-purpose pins can also act as LVDS input pins. See [Figure 2-25](#).

[Table 2-8](#) shows the I/O standards supported by PLL input and output pins.

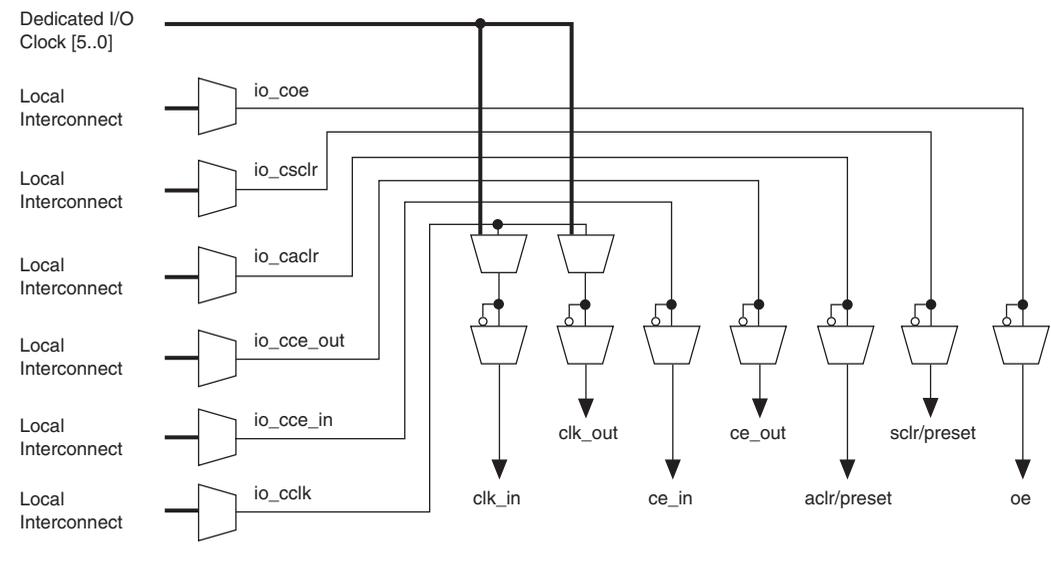
I/O Standard	CLK Input	EXTCLK Output
3.3-V LVTTTL/LVCMOS	✓	✓
2.5-V LVTTTL/LVCMOS	✓	✓
1.8-V LVTTTL/LVCMOS	✓	✓
1.5-V LVCMOS	✓	✓
3.3-V PCI	✓	✓
LVDS	✓	✓
SSTL-2 class I	✓	✓
SSTL-2 class II	✓	✓
SSTL-3 class I	✓	✓
SSTL-3 class II	✓	✓
Differential SSTL-2	—	✓

For more information on LVDS I/O support, refer to “LVDS I/O Pins” on [page 2-54](#).

External Clock Outputs

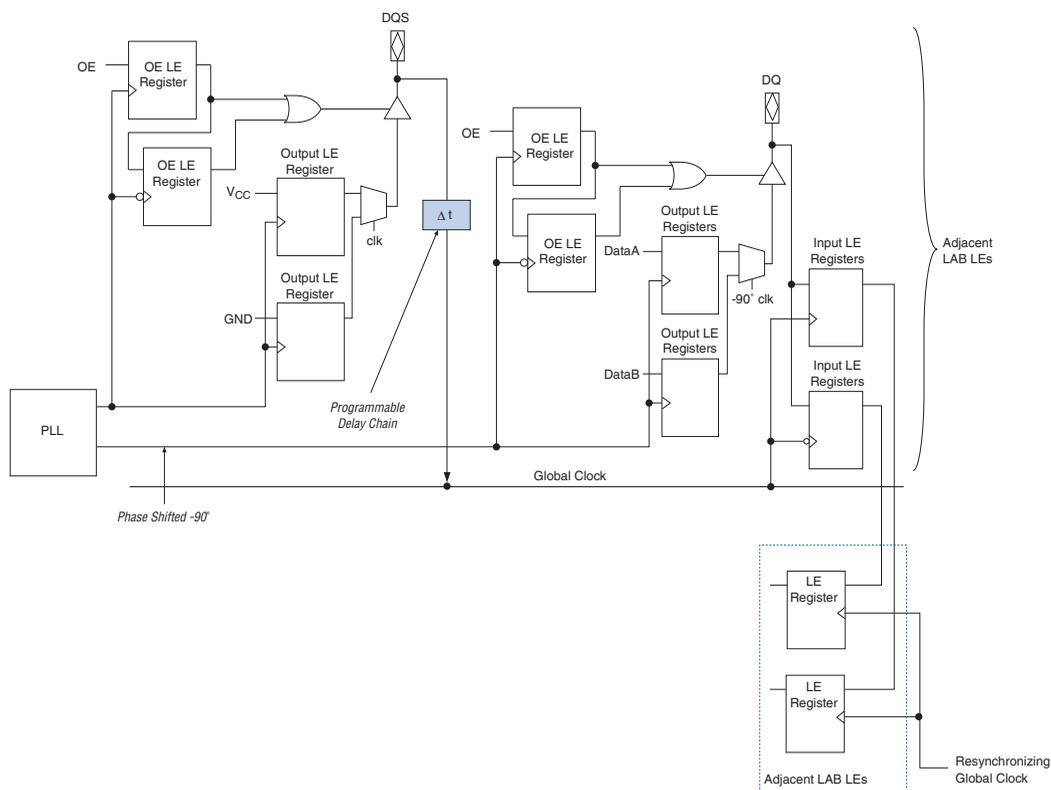
Each PLL supports one differential or one single-ended output for source-synchronous transmitters or for general-purpose external clocks. If the PLL does not use these PLL_OUT pins, the pins are available for use as general-purpose I/O pins. The PLL_OUT pins support all I/O standards shown in [Table 2-8](#).

The external clock outputs do not have their own V_{CC} and ground voltage supplies. Therefore, to minimize jitter, do not place switching I/O pins next to these output pins. The EP1C3 device in the 100-pin TQFP package

Figure 2–31. Control Signal Selection per IOE

In normal bidirectional operation, you can use the input register for input data requiring fast setup times. The input register can have its own clock input and clock enable separate from the OE and output registers. The output register can be used for data requiring fast clock-to-output performance. The OE register is available for fast clock-to-output enable timing. The OE and output register share the same clock source and the same clock enable source from the local interconnect in the associated LAB, dedicated I/O clocks, or the column and row interconnects. [Figure 2–32](#) shows the IOE in bidirectional configuration.

Figure 2–34. DDR SDRAM and FCRAM Interfacing

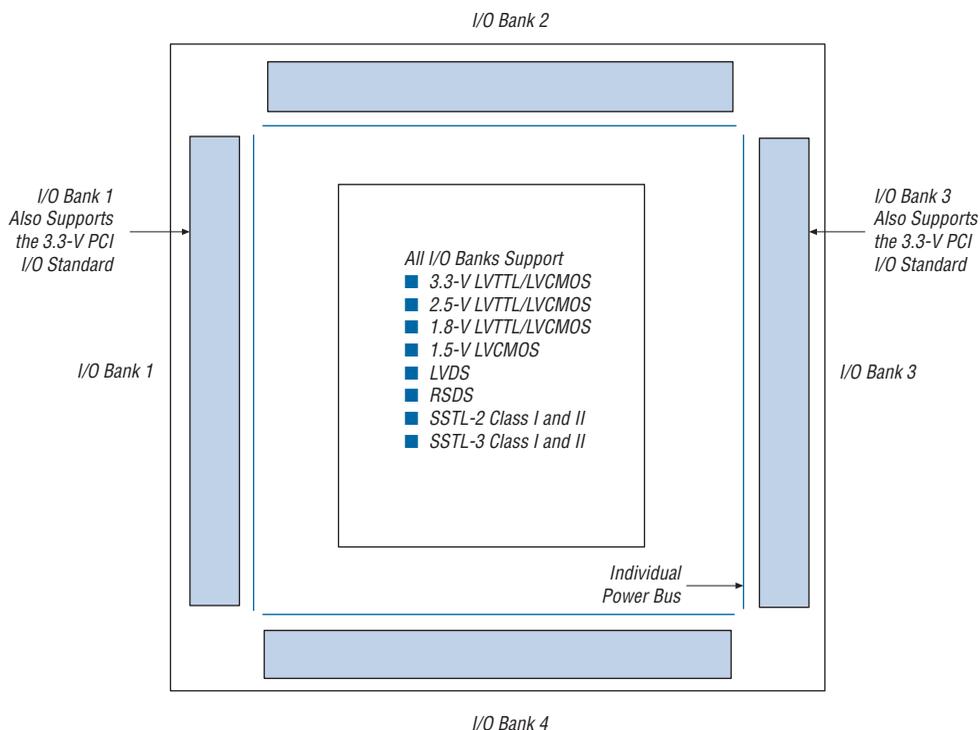


Programmable Drive Strength

The output buffer for each Cyclone device I/O pin has a programmable drive strength control for certain I/O standards. The LVTTTL and LVCMOS standards have several levels of drive strength that the designer can control. SSTL-3 class I and II, and SSTL-2 class I and II support a minimum setting, the lowest drive strength that guarantees the I_{OH}/I_{OL}

and DM pins to support a DDR SDRAM or FCRAM interface. I/O bank 1 can also support a DDR SDRAM or FCRAM interface, however, the configuration input pins in I/O bank 1 must operate at 2.5 V. I/O bank 3 can also support a DDR SDRAM or FCRAM interface, however, all the JTAG pins in I/O bank 3 must operate at 2.5 V.

Figure 2–35. Cyclone I/O Banks Notes (1), (2)



Notes to Figure 2–35:

- (1) Figure 2–35 is a top view of the silicon die.
- (2) Figure 2–35 is a graphic representation only. Refer to the pin list and the Quartus II software for exact pin locations.

Each I/O bank has its own V_{CCIO} pins. A single device can support 1.5-V, 1.8-V, 2.5-V, and 3.3-V interfaces; each individual bank can support a different standard with different I/O voltages. Each bank also has dual-purpose V_{REF} pins to support any one of the voltage-referenced standards (e.g., SSTL-3) independently. If an I/O bank does not use voltage-referenced standards, the V_{REF} pins are available as user I/O pins.

Each I/O bank can support multiple standards with the same V_{CCIO} for input and output pins. For example, when V_{CCIO} is 3.3-V, a bank can support LVTTTL, LVCMOS, 3.3-V PCI, and SSTL-3 for inputs and outputs.

LVDS I/O Pins

A subset of pins in all four I/O banks supports LVDS interfacing. These dual-purpose LVDS pins require an external-resistor network at the transmitter channels in addition to 100- Ω termination resistors on receiver channels. These pins do not contain dedicated serialization or deserialization circuitry; therefore, internal logic performs serialization and deserialization functions.

Table 2–13 shows the total number of supported LVDS channels per device density.

Device	Pin Count	Number of LVDS Channels
EP1C3	100	(1)
	144	34
EP1C4	324	103
	400	129
EP1C6	144	29
	240	72
	256	72
EP1C12	240	66
	256	72
	324	103
EP1C20	324	95
	400	129

Note to Table 2–13:

- (1) EP1C3 devices in the 100-pin TQFP package do not support the LVDS I/O standard.

MultiVolt I/O Interface

The Cyclone architecture supports the MultiVolt I/O interface feature, which allows Cyclone devices in all packages to interface with systems of different supply voltages. The devices have one set of V_{CC} pins for internal operation and input buffers (V_{CCINT}), and four sets for I/O output drivers (V_{CCIO}).

The Cyclone device instruction register length is 10 bits and the USERCODE register length is 32 bits. Tables 3–2 and 3–3 show the boundary-scan register length and device IDCODE information for Cyclone devices.

Device	Boundary-Scan Register Length
EP1C3	339
EP1C4	930
EP1C6	582
EP1C12	774
EP1C20	930

Device	IDCODE (32 bits) (1)			
	Version (4 Bits)	Part Number (16 Bits)	Manufacturer Identity (11 Bits)	LSB (1 Bit) (2)
EP1C3	0000	0010 0000 1000 0001	000 0110 1110	1
EP1C4	0000	0010 0000 1000 0101	000 0110 1110	1
EP1C6	0000	0010 0000 1000 0010	000 0110 1110	1
EP1C12	0000	0010 0000 1000 0011	000 0110 1110	1
EP1C20	0000	0010 0000 1000 0100	000 0110 1110	1

Notes to Table 3–3:

- (1) The most significant bit (MSB) is on the left.
- (2) The IDCODE's least significant bit (LSB) is always 1.

Table 4–16. Cyclone Device Capacitance *Note (14)*

Symbol	Parameter	Typical	Unit
C_{IO}	Input capacitance for user I/O pin	4.0	pF
C_{LVDS}	Input capacitance for dual-purpose LVDS/user I/O pin	4.7	pF
C_{VREF}	Input capacitance for dual-purpose V_{REF} /user I/O pin.	12.0	pF
C_{DPCLK}	Input capacitance for dual-purpose $DPCLK$ /user I/O pin.	4.4	pF
C_{CLK}	Input capacitance for CLK pin.	4.7	pF

Notes to Tables 4–1 through 4–16:

- (1) Refer to the *Operating Requirements for Altera Devices Data Sheet*.
- (2) Conditions beyond those listed in Table 4–1 may cause permanent damage to a device. Additionally, device operation at the absolute maximum ratings for extended periods of time may have adverse effects on the device.
- (3) Minimum DC input is -0.5 V. During transitions, the inputs may undershoot to -2.0 V or overshoot to 4.6 V for input currents less than 100 mA and periods shorter than 20 ns.
- (4) Maximum V_{CC} rise time is 100 ms, and V_{CC} must rise monotonically.
- (5) All pins, including dedicated inputs, clock, I/O, and JTAG pins, may be driven before V_{CCINT} and V_{CCIO} are powered.
- (6) Typical values are for $T_A = 25^\circ$ C, $V_{CCINT} = 1.5$ V, and $V_{CCIO} = 1.5$ V, 1.8 V, 2.5 V, and 3.3 V.
- (7) $V_I =$ ground, no load, no toggling inputs.
- (8) This value is specified for normal device operation. The value may vary during power-up. This applies for all V_{CCIO} settings (3.3 , 2.5 , 1.8 , and 1.5 V).
- (9) R_{CONF} is the measured value of internal pull-up resistance when the I/O pin is tied directly to GND. R_{CONF} value will be lower if an external source drives the pin higher than V_{CCIO} .
- (10) Pin pull-up resistance values will lower if an external source drives the pin higher than V_{CCIO} .
- (11) Drive strength is programmable according to values in *Cyclone Architecture* chapter in the *Cyclone Device Handbook*.
- (12) Overdrive is possible when a 1.5 V or 1.8 V and a 2.5 V or 3.3 V input signal feeds an input pin. Turn on “Allow voltage overdrive” for LVTTTL/LVCMOS input pins in the Assignments > Device > Device and Pin Options > Pin Placement tab when a device has this I/O combination. However, higher leakage current is expected.
- (13) The Cyclone LVDS interface requires a resistor network outside of the transmitter channels.
- (14) Capacitance is sample-tested only. Capacitance is measured using time-domain reflections (TDR). Measurement accuracy is within ± 0.5 pF.

Power Consumption

Designers can use the Altera web Early Power Estimator to estimate the device power.

Cyclone devices require a certain amount of power-up current to successfully power up because of the nature of the leading-edge process on which they are fabricated. Table 4–17 shows the maximum power-up current required to power up a Cyclone device.

Table 4–17. Cyclone Maximum Power-Up Current (I_{CCINT}) Requirements (In-Rush Current)

Device	Commercial Specification	Industrial Specification	Unit
EP1C3	150	180	mA
EP1C4	150	180	mA
EP1C6	175	210	mA
EP1C12	300	360	mA
EP1C20	500	600	mA

Notes to Table 4–17:

- (1) The Cyclone devices (except for the EP1C20 device) meet the power up specification for Mini PCI.
- (2) The lot codes 9G0082 to 9G2999, or 9G3109 and later comply to the specifications in Table 4–17 and meet the Mini PCI specification. Lot codes appear at the top of the device.
- (3) The lot codes 9H0004 to 9H29999, or 9H3014 and later comply to the specifications in this table and meet the Mini PCI specification. Lot codes appear at the top of the device.

Designers should select power supplies and regulators that can supply this amount of current when designing with Cyclone devices. This specification is for commercial operating conditions. Measurements were performed with an isolated Cyclone device on the board. Decoupling capacitors were not used in this measurement. To factor in the current for decoupling capacitors, sum up the current for each capacitor using the following equation:

$$I = C (dV/dt)$$

The exact amount of current that is consumed varies according to the process, temperature, and power ramp rate. If the power supply or regulator can supply more current than required, the Cyclone device may consume more current than the maximum current specified in Table 4–17. However, the device does not require any more current to successfully power up than what is listed in Table 4–17.

The duration of the I_{CCINT} power-up requirement depends on the V_{CCINT} voltage supply rise time. The power-up current consumption drops when the V_{CCINT} supply reaches approximately 0.75 V. For example, if the V_{CCINT} rise time has a linear rise of 15 ms, the current consumption spike drops by 7.5 ms.

Table 4–47. Cyclone IOE Programmable Delays on Row Pins

Parameter	Setting	-6 Speed Grade		-7 Speed Grade		-8 Speed Grade		Unit
		Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
Decrease input delay to internal cells	Off	—	154	—	177	—	200	ps
	Small	—	2,212	—	2,543	—	2,875	ps
	Medium	—	2,639	—	3,034	—	3,430	ps
	Large	—	3,057	—	3,515	—	3,974	ps
	On	—	154	—	177	—	200	ps
Decrease input delay to input register	Off	—	0	—	0	—	0	ps
	On	—	3,057	—	3,515	—	3,974	ps
Increase delay to output pin	Off	—	0	—	0	—	0	ps
	On	—	556	—	639	—	722	ps

Note to [Table 4–47](#):

- (1) EPC1C3 devices do not support the PCI I/O standard.

Maximum Input and Output Clock Rates

[Tables 4–48](#) and [4–49](#) show the maximum input clock rate for column and row pins in Cyclone devices.

Table 4–48. Cyclone Maximum Input Clock Rate for Column Pins

I/O Standard	-6 Speed Grade	-7 Speed Grade	-8 Speed Grade	Unit
LVTTTL	464	428	387	MHz
2.5 V	392	302	207	MHz
1.8 V	387	311	252	MHz
1.5 V	387	320	243	MHz
LVC MOS	405	374	333	MHz
SSTL-3 class I	405	356	293	MHz
SSTL-3 class II	414	365	302	MHz
SSTL-2 class I	464	428	396	MHz
SSTL-2 class II	473	432	396	MHz
LVDS	567	549	531	MHz

Software

Cyclone® devices are supported by the Altera® Quartus® II design software, which provides a comprehensive environment for system-on-a-programmable-chip (SOPC) design. The Quartus II software includes HDL and schematic design entry, compilation and logic synthesis, full simulation and advanced timing analysis, SignalTap® II logic analysis, and device configuration.



For more information about the Quartus II software features, refer to the *Quartus II Handbook*.

The Quartus II software supports the Windows 2000/NT/98, Sun Solaris, Linux Red Hat v7.1 and HP-UX operating systems. It also supports seamless integration with industry-leading EDA tools through the NativeLink® interface.

Device Pin-Outs

Device pin-outs for Cyclone devices are available on the Altera website (www.altera.com) and in the *Cyclone Device Handbook*.

Ordering Information

Figure 5-1 describes the ordering codes for Cyclone devices. For more information about a specific package, refer to the *Package Information for Cyclone Devices* chapter in the *Cyclone Device Handbook*.

Document Revision History

February 2005 v1.1	Updated Figure 5-1.	—
May 2003 v1.0	Added document to Cyclone Device Handbook.	—