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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	598
Number of Logic Elements/Cells	5980
Total RAM Bits	92160
Number of I/O	98
Number of Gates	-
Voltage - Supply	1.425V ~ 1.575V
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/ep1c6t144c8n

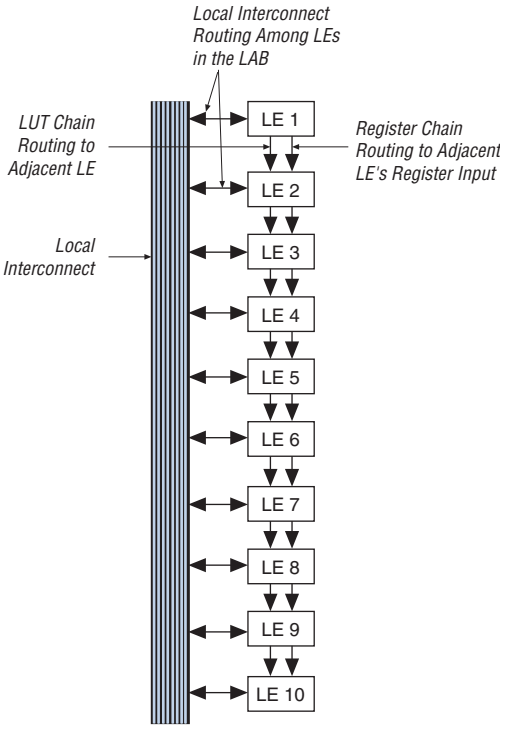
migrating through different device densities. Dedicated row interconnects route signals to and from LABs, PLLs, and M4K memory blocks within the same row. These row resources include:

- Direct link interconnects between LABs and adjacent blocks
- R4 interconnects traversing four blocks to the right or left

The direct link interconnect allows a LAB or M4K memory block to drive into the local interconnect of its left and right neighbors. Only one side of a PLL block interfaces with direct link and row interconnects. The direct link interconnect provides fast communication between adjacent LABs and/or blocks without using row interconnect resources.

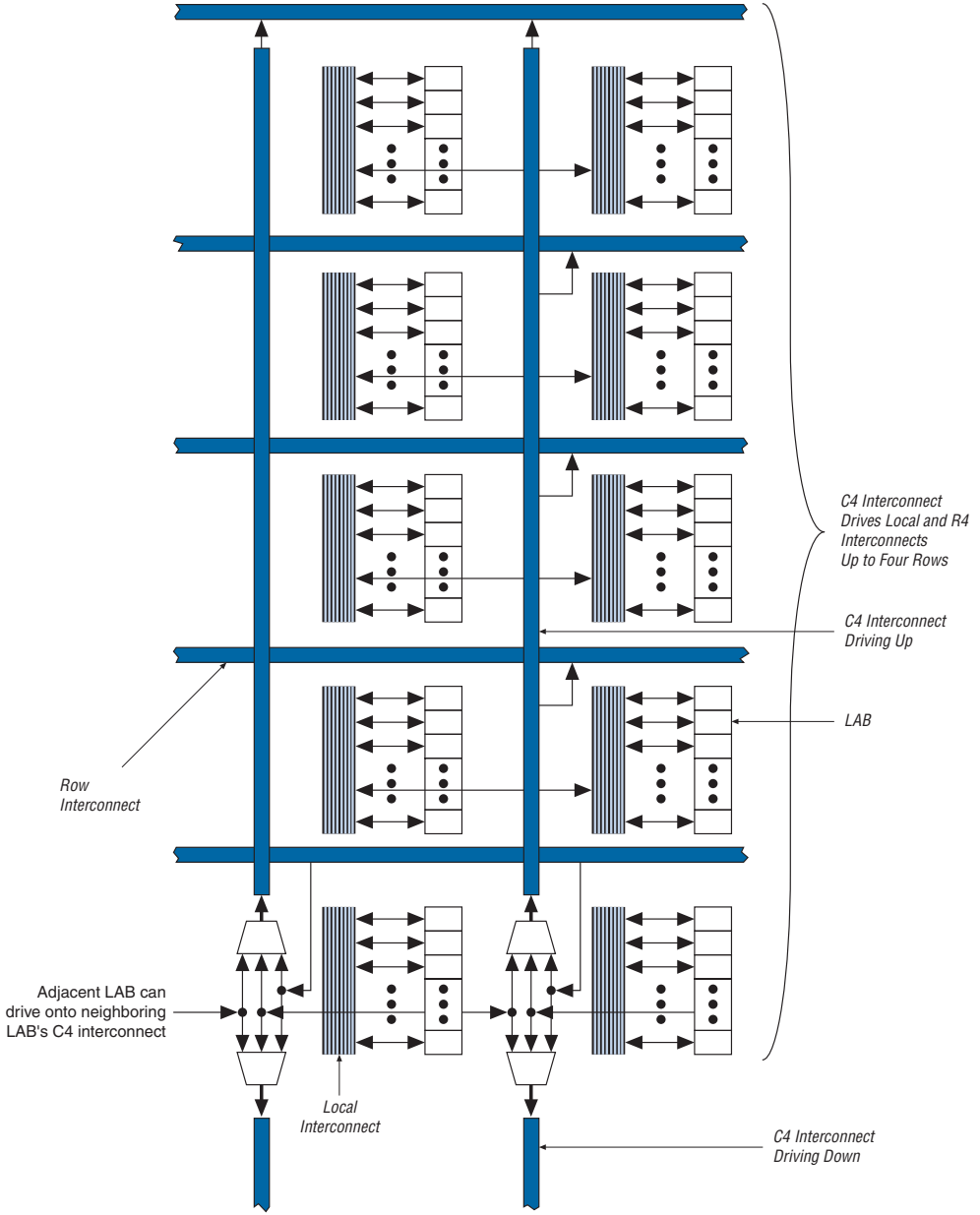
The R4 interconnects span four LABs, or two LABs and one M4K RAM block. These resources are used for fast row connections in a four-LAB region. Every LAB has its own set of R4 interconnects to drive either left or right. Figure 2–9 shows R4 interconnect connections from a LAB. R4 interconnects can drive and be driven by M4K memory blocks, PLLs, and row IOEs. For LAB interfacing, a primary LAB or LAB neighbor can drive a given R4 interconnect. For R4 interconnects that drive to the right, the primary LAB and right neighbor can drive on to the interconnect. For R4 interconnects that drive to the left, the primary LAB and its left neighbor can drive on to the interconnect. R4 interconnects can drive other R4 interconnects to extend the range of LABs they can drive. R4 interconnects can also drive C4 interconnects for connections from one row to another.

Figure 2–10. LUT Chain and Register Chain Interconnects



The C4 interconnects span four LABs or M4K blocks up or down from a source LAB. Every LAB has its own set of C4 interconnects to drive either up or down. Figure 2–11 shows the C4 interconnect connections from a LAB in a column. The C4 interconnects can drive and be driven by all types of architecture blocks, including PLLs, M4K memory blocks, and column and row IOEs. For LAB interconnection, a primary LAB or its LAB neighbor can drive a given C4 interconnect. C4 interconnects can drive each other to extend their range as well as drive row interconnects for column-to-column connections.

Figure 2–11. C4 Interconnect Connections *Note (1)*



Note to Figure 2–11:
(1) Each C4 interconnect can drive either up or down four rows.

Figure 2–15. M4K RAM Block Control Signals

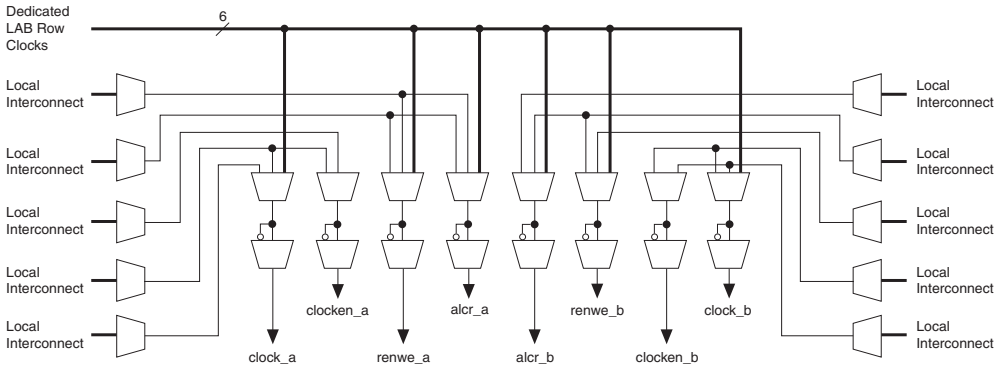


Figure 2–16. M4K RAM Block LAB Row Interface

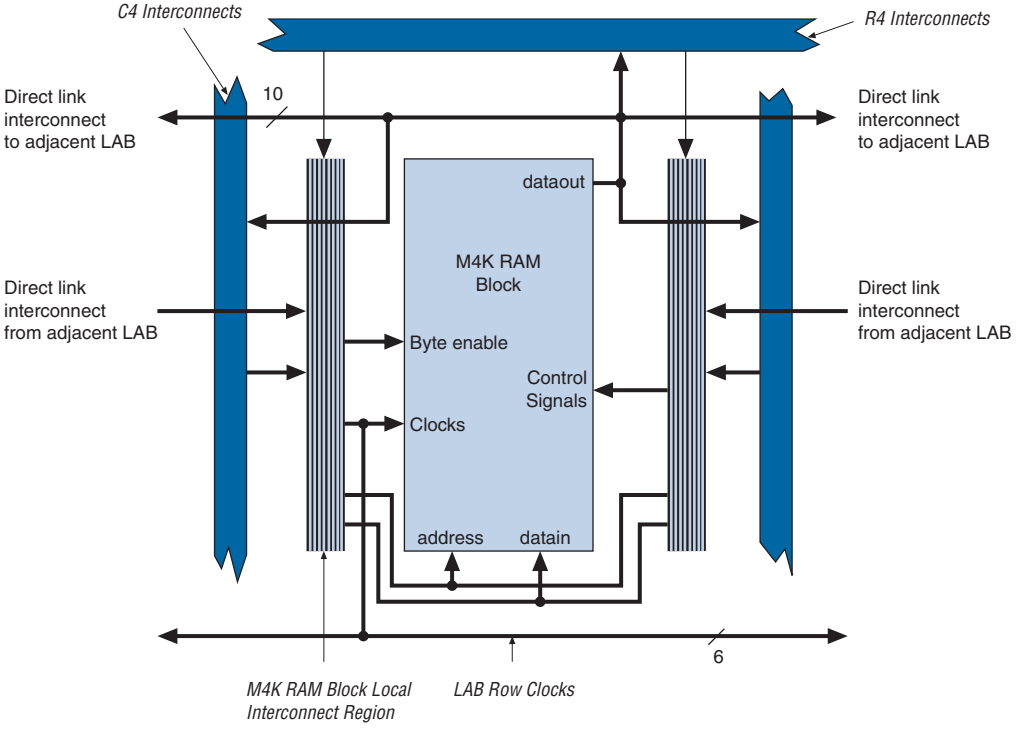
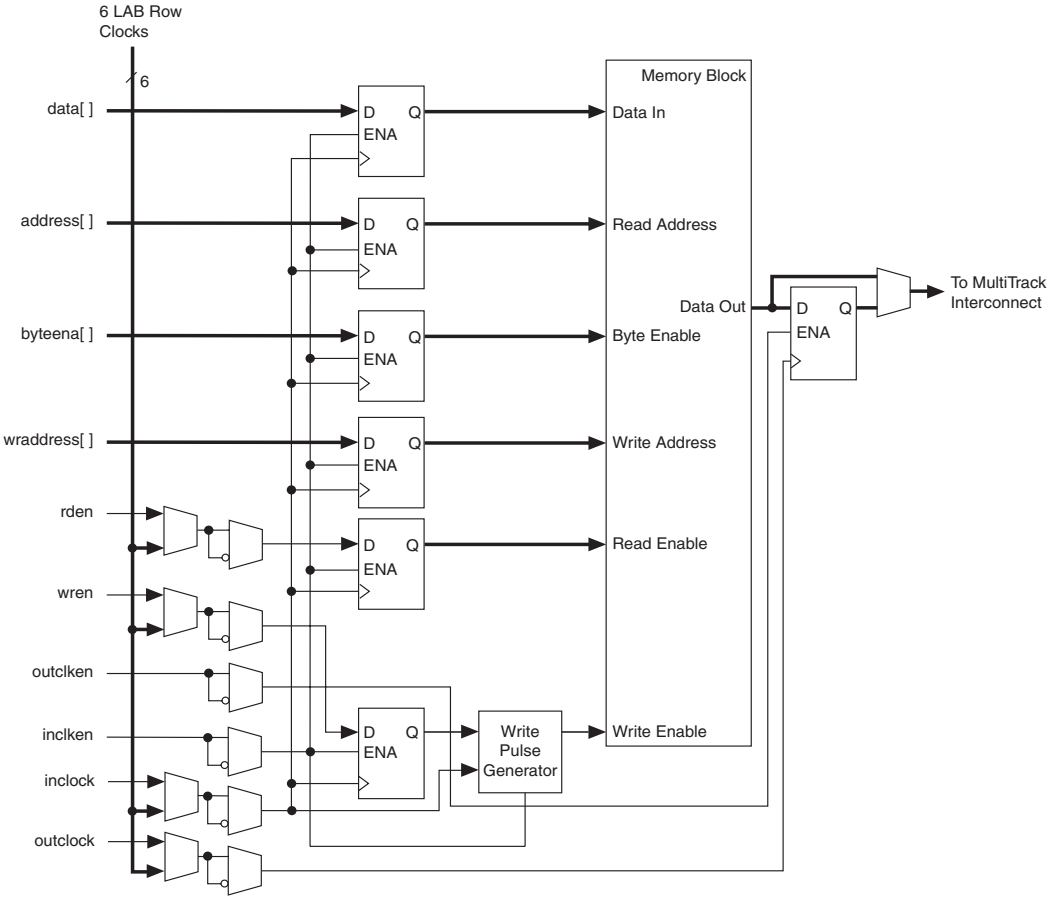


Figure 2–19. Input/Output Clock Mode in Simple Dual-Port Mode *Notes (1), (2)*



Notes to Figure 2–19:

(1) All registers shown except the rden register have asynchronous clear ports.

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

Programmable Duty Cycle

The programmable duty cycle allows PLLs to generate clock outputs with a variable duty cycle. This feature is supported on each PLL post-scale counter (g0, g1, e). The duty cycle setting is achieved by a low- and high-time count setting for the post-scale dividers. The Quartus II software uses the frequency input and the required multiply or divide rate to determine the duty cycle choices.

Control Signals

There are three control signals for clearing and enabling PLLs and their outputs. You can use these signals to control PLL resynchronization and the ability to gate PLL output clocks for low-power applications.

The `pllenable` signal enables and disables PLLs. When the `pllenable` signal is low, the clock output ports are driven by ground and all the PLLs go out of lock. When the `pllenable` signal goes high again, the PLLs relock and resynchronize to the input clocks. An input pin or LE output can drive the `pllenable` signal.

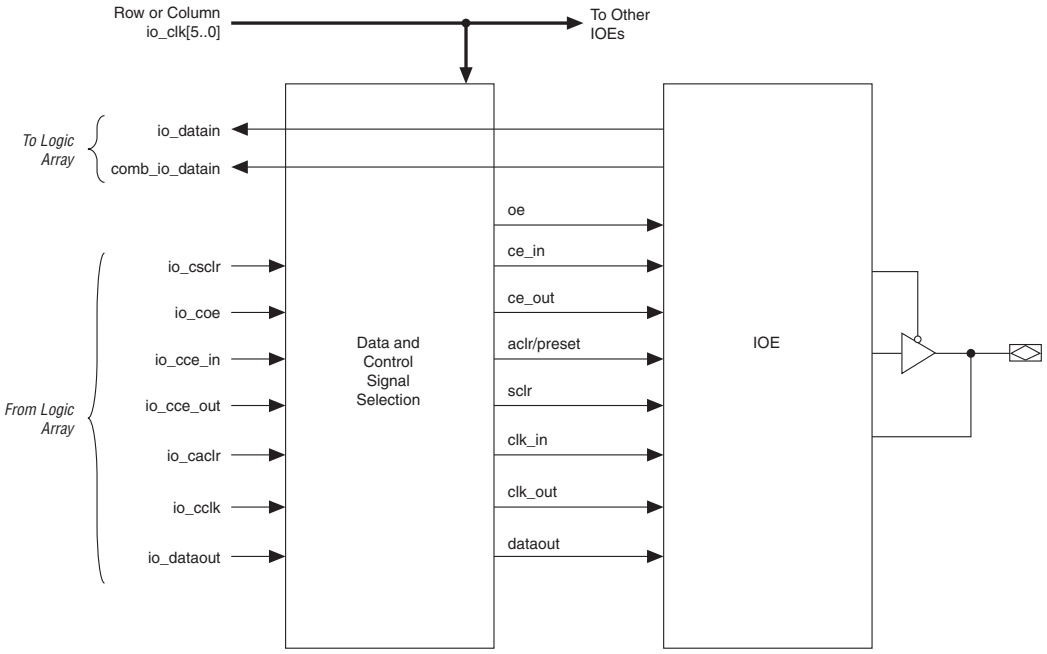
The `areset` signals are reset/resynchronization inputs for each PLL. Cyclone devices can drive these input signals from input pins or from LEs. When `areset` is driven high, the PLL counters will reset, clearing the PLL output and placing the PLL out of lock. When driven low again, the PLL will resynchronize to its input as it relocks.

The `pfdena` signals control the phase frequency detector (PFD) output with a programmable gate. If you disable the PFD, the VCO will operate at its last set value of control voltage and frequency with some drift, and the system will continue running when the PLL goes out of lock or the input clock disables. By maintaining the last locked frequency, the system has time to store its current settings before shutting down. You can either use their own control signal or gated locked status signals to trigger the `pfdena` signal.

For more information about Cyclone PLLs, refer to *Using PLLs in Cyclone Devices* chapter in the *Cyclone Device Handbook*.

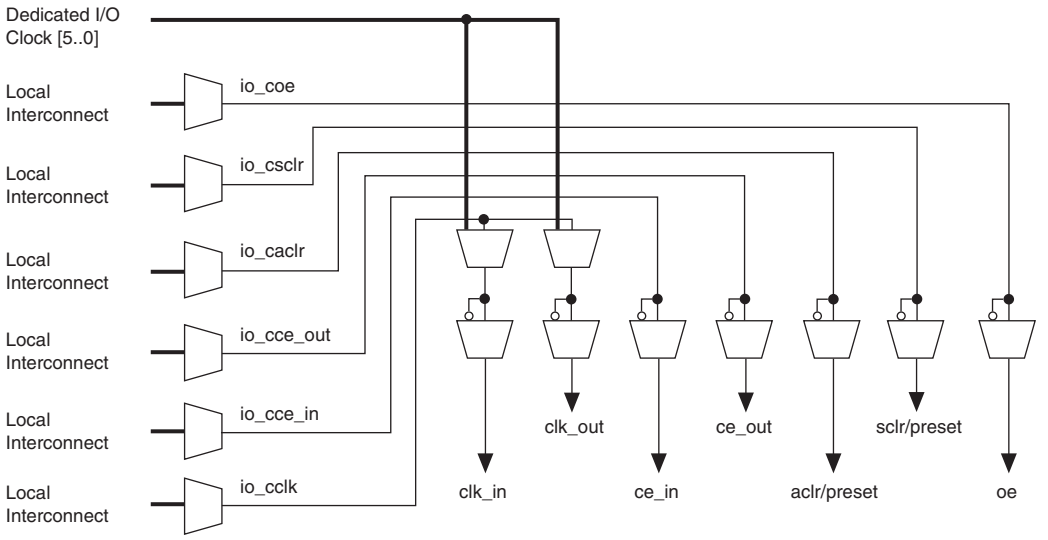
The pin's datain signals can drive the logic array. The logic array drives the control and data signals, providing a flexible routing resource. The row or column IOE clocks, `io_clk[5..0]`, provide a dedicated routing resource for low-skew, high-speed clocks. The global clock network generates the IOE clocks that feed the row or column I/O regions (see "Global Clock Network and Phase-Locked Loops" on page 2–29). Figure 2–30 illustrates the signal paths through the I/O block.

Figure 2–30. Signal Path through the I/O Block



Each IOE contains its own control signal selection for the following control signals: `oe`, `ce_in`, `ce_out`, `aclr/preset`, `sclr/preset`, `clk_in`, and `clk_out`. Figure 2–31 illustrates the control signal selection.

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.

Table 2–10. DQ Pin Groups (Part 2 of 2)

Device	Package	Number of ×8 DQ Pin Groups	Total DQ Pin Count
EP1C6	144-pin TQFP	4	32
	240-pin PQFP	4	32
	256-pin FineLine BGA	4	32
EP1C12	240-pin PQFP	4	32
	256-pin FineLine BGA	4	32
	324-pin FineLine BGA	8	64
EP1C20	324-pin FineLine BGA	8	64
	400-pin FineLine BGA	8	64

Note to Table 2–10:
(1) EP1C3 devices in the 100-pin TQFP package do not have any DQ pin groups in I/O bank 1.

A programmable delay chain on each DQS pin allows for either a 90° phase shift (for DDR SDRAM), or a 72° phase shift (for FCRAM) which automatically center-aligns input DQS synchronization signals within the data window of their corresponding DQ data signals. The phase-shifted DQS signals drive the global clock network. This global DQS signal clocks DQ signals on internal LE registers.

These DQS delay elements combine with the PLL's clocking and phase shift ability to provide a complete hardware solution for interfacing to high-speed memory.

The clock phase shift allows the PLL to clock the DQ output enable and output paths. The designer should use the following guidelines to meet 133 MHz performance for DDR SDRAM and FCRAM interfaces:

- The DQS signal must be in the middle of the DQ group it clocks
- Resynchronize the incoming data to the logic array clock using successive LE registers or FIFO buffers
- LE registers must be placed in the LAB adjacent to the DQ I/O pin column it is fed by

Figure 2–34 illustrates DDR SDRAM and FCRAM interfacing from the I/O through the dedicated circuitry to the logic array.

of the standard. Using minimum settings provides signal slew rate control to reduce system noise and signal overshoot. Table 2–11 shows the possible settings for the I/O standards with drive strength control.

Table 2–11. Programmable Drive Strength *Note (1)*

I/O Standard	I_{OH}/I_{OL} Current Strength Setting (mA)
LVTTL (3.3 V)	4
	8
	12
	16
	24 *(2)*
LVCMOS (3.3 V)	2
	4
	8
	12 *(2)*
LVTTL (2.5 V)	2
	8
	12
	16 *(2)*
LVTTL (1.8 V)	2
	8
	12 *(2)*
LVCMOS (1.5 V)	2
	4
	8 *(2)*

Notes to Table 2–11:

(1) SSTL-3 class I and II, SSTL-2 class I and II, and 3.3-V PCI I/O Standards do not support programmable drive strength.

(2) This is the default current strength setting in the Quartus II software.

Open-Drain Output

Cyclone devices provide an optional open-drain (equivalent to an open-collector) output for each I/O pin. This open-drain output enables the device to provide system-level control signals (e.g., interrupt and write-enable signals) that can be asserted by any of several devices.

Operating Modes

The Cyclone architecture uses SRAM configuration elements that require configuration data to be loaded each time the circuit powers up. The process of physically loading the SRAM data into the device is called configuration. During initialization, which occurs immediately after configuration, the device resets registers, enables I/O pins, and begins to operate as a logic device. Together, the configuration and initialization processes are called command mode. Normal device operation is called user mode.

SRAM configuration elements allow Cyclone devices to be reconfigured in-circuit by loading new configuration data into the device. With real-time reconfiguration, the device is forced into command mode with a device pin. The configuration process loads different configuration data, reinitializes the device, and resumes user-mode operation. Designers can perform in-field upgrades by distributing new configuration files either within the system or remotely.

A built-in weak pull-up resistor pulls all user I/O pins to V_{CCIO} before and during device configuration.

The configuration pins support 1.5-V/1.8-V or 2.5-V/3.3-V I/O standards. The voltage level of the configuration output pins is determined by the V_{CCIO} of the bank where the pins reside. The bank V_{CCIO} selects whether the configuration inputs are 1.5-V, 1.8-V, 2.5-V, or 3.3-V compatible.

Configuration Schemes

Designers can load the configuration data for a Cyclone device with one of three configuration schemes (see Table 3–5), chosen on the basis of the target application. Designers can use a configuration device, intelligent controller, or the JTAG port to configure a Cyclone device. A low-cost configuration device can automatically configure a Cyclone device at system power-up.

Internal timing parameters are specified on a speed grade basis independent of device density. Tables 4–25 through 4–28 show the internal timing microparameters for LEs, IOEs, TriMatrix memory structures, DSP blocks, and MultiTrack interconnects.

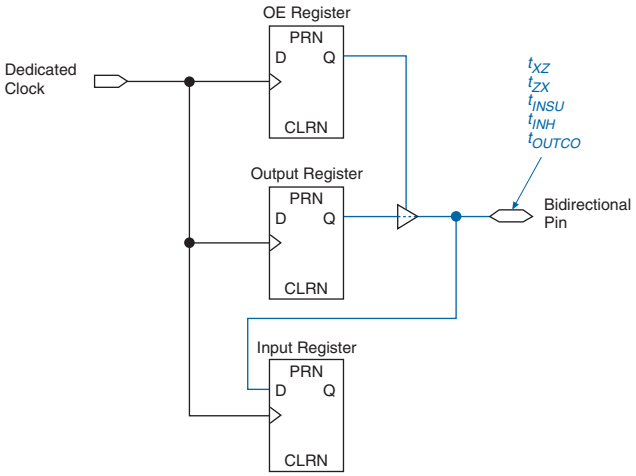
Table 4–25. LE Internal Timing Microparameters

Symbol	-6		-7		-8		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{SU}	29	—	33	—	37	—	ps
t_{H}	12	—	13	—	15	—	ps
t_{CO}	—	173	—	198	—	224	ps
t_{LUT}	—	454	—	522	—	590	ps
t_{CLR}	129	—	148	—	167	—	ps
t_{PRE}	129	—	148	—	167	—	ps
t_{CLKHL}	1,234	—	1,562	—	1,818	—	ps

Table 4–26. IOE Internal Timing Microparameters

Symbol	-6		-7		-8		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{SU}	348	—	400	—	452	—	ps
t_{H}	0	—	0	—	0	—	ps
t_{CO}	—	511	—	587	—	664	ps
$t_{PIN2COMBOUT\_R}$	—	1,130	—	1,299	—	1,469	ps
$t_{PIN2COMBOUT\_C}$	—	1,135	—	1,305	—	1,475	ps
$t_{COMBIN2PIN\_R}$	—	2,627	—	3,021	—	3,415	ps
$t_{COMBIN2PIN\_C}$	—	2,615	—	3,007	—	3,399	ps
t_{CLR}	280	—	322	—	364	—	ps
t_{PRE}	280	—	322	—	364	—	ps
t_{CLKHL}	1,234	—	1,562	—	1,818	—	ps

Figure 4–2. External Timing in Cyclone Devices



All external I/O timing parameters shown are for 3.3-V LVTTL I/O standard with the maximum current strength and fast slew rate. For external I/O timing using standards other than LVTTL or for different current strengths, use the I/O standard input and output delay adders in Tables 4–40 through 4–44.

Table 4–29 shows the external I/O timing parameters when using global clock networks.

Table 4–29. Cyclone Global Clock External I/O Timing Parameters *Notes (1), (2)* ***(Part 1 of 2)***

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions
t_{INSU}	Setup time for input or bidirectional pin using IOE input register with global clock fed by CLK pin	—
t_{INH}	Hold time for input or bidirectional pin using IOE input register with global clock fed by CLK pin	—
t_{OUTCO}	Clock-to-output delay output or bidirectional pin using IOE output register with global clock fed by CLK pin	C_{LOAD} = 10 pF
$t_{INSUPLL}$	Setup time for input or bidirectional pin using IOE input register with global clock fed by Enhanced PLL with default phase setting	—
t_{INHPLL}	Hold time for input or bidirectional pin using IOE input register with global clock fed by enhanced PLL with default phase setting	—

Table 4–39. EP1C20 Row Pin Global Clock External I/O Timing Parameters							
Symbol	-6 Speed Grade		-7 Speed Grade		-8 Speed Grade		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{INSU}	2.417	—	2.779	—	3.140	—	ns
t_{INH}	0.000	—	0.000	—	0.000	—	ns
t_{OUTCO}	2.000	3.724	2.000	4.282	2.000	4.843	ns
t_{XZ}	—	3.645	—	4.191	—	4.740	ns
t_{ZX}	—	3.645	—	4.191	—	4.740	ns
$t_{INSUPLL}$	1.417	—	1.629	—	1.840	—	ns
t_{INHPLL}	0.000	—	0.000	—	0.000	—	ns
$t_{OUTCOPLL}$	0.500	1.667	0.500	1.917	0.500	2.169	ns
t_{XZPLL}	—	1.588	—	1.826	—	2.066	ns
t_{ZXPLL}	—	1.588	—	1.826	—	2.066	ns

External I/O Delay Parameters

External I/O delay timing parameters for I/O standard input and output adders and programmable input and output delays are specified by speed grade independent of device density.

Tables 4–40 through 4–45 show the adder delays associated with column and row I/O pins for all packages. If an I/O standard is selected other than LVTTL 4 mA with a fast slew rate, add the selected delay to the external t_{CO} and t_{SU} I/O parameters shown in Tables 4–25 through 4–28.

Table 4–40. Cyclone I/O Standard Column Pin Input Delay Adders (Part 1 of 2)							
I/O Standard	-6 Speed Grade		-7 Speed Grade		-8 Speed Grade		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
LVCMOS	—	0	—	0	—	0	ps
3.3-V LVTTL	—	0	—	0	—	0	ps
2.5-V LVTTL	—	27	—	31	—	35	ps
1.8-V LVTTL	—	182	—	209	—	236	ps
1.5-V LVTTL	—	278	—	319	—	361	ps
SSTL-3 class I	—	–250	—	–288	—	–325	ps
SSTL-3 class II	—	–250	—	–288	—	–325	ps
SSTL-2 class I	—	–278	—	–320	—	–362	ps

Table 4–40. Cyclone I/O Standard Column Pin Input Delay Adders (Part 2 of 2)

I/O Standard	-6 Speed Grade		-7 Speed Grade		-8 Speed Grade		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
SSTL-2 class II		–278	—	–320	—	–362	ps
LVDS		–261	—	–301	—	–340	ps

Table 4–41. Cyclone I/O Standard Row Pin Input Delay Adders

I/O Standard	-6 Speed Grade		-7 Speed Grade		-8 Speed Grade		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
LVCMOS	—	0	—	0	—	0	ps
3.3-V LVTTL	—	0	—	0	—	0	ps
2.5-V LVTTL	—	27	—	31	—	35	ps
1.8-V LVTTL	—	182	—	209	—	236	ps
1.5-V LVTTL	—	278	—	319	—	361	ps
3.3-V PCI *(1)*	—	0	—	0	—	0	ps
SSTL-3 class I	—	–250	—	–288	—	–325	ps
SSTL-3 class II	—	–250	—	–288	—	–325	ps
SSTL-2 class I	—	–278	—	–320	—	–362	ps
SSTL-2 class II	—	–278	—	–320	—	–362	ps
LVDS	—	–261	—	–301	—	–340	ps

Table 4–42. Cyclone I/O Standard Output Delay Adders for Fast Slew Rate on Column Pins (Part 1 of 2)

Standard		-6 Speed Grade		-7 Speed Grade		-8 Speed Grade		Unit
		Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
LVCMOS	2 mA	—	0	—	0	—	0	ps
	4 mA	—	–489	—	–563	—	–636	ps
	8 mA	—	–855	—	–984	—	–1,112	ps
	12 mA	—	–993	—	–1,142	—	–1,291	ps
3.3-V LVTTL	4 mA	—	0	—	0	—	0	ps
	8 mA	—	–347	—	–400	—	–452	ps
	12 mA	—	–858	—	–987	—	–1,116	ps
	16 mA	—	–819	—	–942	—	–1,065	ps
	24 mA	—	–993	—	–1,142	—	–1,291	ps

Table 4–45. Cyclone I/O Standard Output Delay Adders for Slow Slew Rate on Row Pins (Part 2 of 2)

I/O Standard	-6 Speed Grade		-7 Speed Grade		-8 Speed Grade		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
SSTL-3 class I	—	1,390	—	1,598	—	1,807	ps
SSTL-3 class II	—	989	—	1,137	—	1,285	ps
SSTL-2 class I	—	1,965	—	2,259	—	2,554	ps
SSTL-2 class II	—	1,692	—	1,945	—	2,199	ps
LVDS	—	802	—	922	—	1,042	ps

Note to Tables 4–40 through 4–45:
(1) EP1C3 devices do not support the PCI I/O standard.

Tables 4–46 through 4–47 show the adder delays for the IOE programmable delays. These delays are controlled with the Quartus II software options listed in the Parameter column.

Table 4–46. Cyclone IOE Programmable Delays on Column 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	—	155	—	178	—	201	ps
	Small	—	2,122	—	2,543	—	2,875	ps
	Medium	—	2,639	—	3,034	—	3,430	ps
	Large	—	3,057	—	3,515	—	3,974	ps
	On	—	155	—	178	—	201	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	—	552	—	634	—	717	ps

Table 4–49. Cyclone Maximum Input Clock Rate for Row Pins				
I/O Standard	-6 Speed Grade	-7 Speed Grade	-8 Speed Grade	Unit
LVTTL	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
LVCMOS	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
3.3-V PCI *(1)*	464	428	387	MHz
LVDS	567	549	531	MHz

Note to Tables 4–48 through 4–49:
(1) EP1C3 devices do not support the PCI I/O standard. These parameters are only available on row I/O pins.

Tables 4–50 and 4–51 show the maximum output clock rate for column and row pins in Cyclone devices.

Table 4–50. Cyclone Maximum Output Clock Rate for Column Pins				
I/O Standard	-6 Speed Grade	-7 Speed Grade	-8 Speed Grade	Unit
LVTTL	304	304	304	MHz
2.5 V	220	220	220	MHz
1.8 V	213	213	213	MHz
1.5 V	166	166	166	MHz
LVCMOS	304	304	304	MHz
SSTL-3 class I	100	100	100	MHz
SSTL-3 class II	100	100	100	MHz
SSTL-2 class I	134	134	134	MHz
SSTL-2 class II	134	134	134	MHz
LVDS	320	320	275	MHz

Note to Table 4–50:
(1) EP1C3 devices do not support the PCI I/O standard.

Referenced Document

This chapter references the following documents:

- *Cyclone Architecture* chapter in the *Cyclone Device Handbook*
- *Operating Requirements for Altera Devices Data Sheet*

Document Revision History

Table 4–53 shows the revision history for this chapter.

Table 4–53. Document Revision History

Date and Document Version	Changes Made	Summary of Changes
May 2008 v1.7	Minor textual and style changes. Added "Referenced Document" section.	—
January 2007 v1.6	• Added document revision history. • Added new row for V_{CCA} details in Table 4–1. • Updated R_{CONF} information in Table 4–3. • Added new *Note (12)* on voltage overdrive information to Table 4–7 and Table 4–8. • Updated *Note (9)* on R_{CONF} information to Table 4–3. • Updated information in "External I/O Delay Parameters" section. • Updated speed grade information in Table 4–46 and Table 4–47. • Updated LVDS information in Table 4–51.	—
August 2005 v1.5	Minor updates.	—
February 2005 v1.4	• Updated information on Undershoot voltage. Updated Table 4-2. • Updated Table 4-3. • Updated the undershoot voltage from 0.5 V to 2.0 V in Note 3 of Table 4-16. • Updated Table 4-17.	—
January 2004 v.1.3	• Added extended-temperature grade device information. Updated Table 4-2. • Updated I_{CC0} information in Table 4-3.	—
October 2003 v.1.2	• Added clock tree information in Table 4-19. • Finalized timing information for EP1C3 and EP1C12 devices. Updated timing information in Tables 4-25 through 4-26 and Tables 4-30 through 4-51. • Updated PLL specifications in Table 4-52.	—

July 2003 v1.1	Updated timing information. Timing finalized for EP1C6 and EP1C20 devices. Updated performance information. Added PLL Timing section.	—
May 2003 v1.0	Added document to Cyclone Device Handbook.	—