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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	416
Number of Logic Elements/Cells	4160
Total RAM Bits	53248
Number of I/O	93
Number of Gates	263000
Voltage - Supply	2.375V ~ 2.625V
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/ep20k100fc144-3

- Flexible clock management circuitry with up to four phase-locked loops (PLLs)
  - Built-in low-skew clock tree
  - Up to eight global clock signals
  - ClockLock® feature reducing clock delay and skew
  - ClockBoost® feature providing clock multiplication and division
  - ClockShift™ programmable clock phase and delay shifting
- Powerful I/O features
  - Compliant with peripheral component interconnect Special Interest Group (PCI SIG) ***PCI Local Bus Specification, Revision 2.2*** for 3.3-V operation at 33 or 66 MHz and 32 or 64 bits
  - Support for high-speed external memories, including DDR SDRAM and ZBT SRAM (ZBT is a trademark of Integrated Device Technology, Inc.)
  - Bidirectional I/O performance ($\mathbf{t_{CO}} + \mathbf{t_{SU}}$) up to 250 MHz
  - LVDS performance up to 840 Mbits per channel
  - Direct connection from I/O pins to local interconnect providing fast t_{CO} and t_{SU} times for complex logic
  - MultiVolt I/O interface support to interface with 1.8-V, 2.5-V, 3.3-V, and 5.0-V devices (see Table 3)
  - Programmable clamp to V_{CCIO}
  - Individual tri-state output enable control for each pin
  - Programmable output slew-rate control to reduce switching noise
  - Support for advanced I/O standards, including low-voltage differential signaling (LVDS), LVPECL, PCI-X, AGP, CTT, stub-series terminated logic (SSTL-3 and SSTL-2), Gunning transceiver logic plus (GTL+), and high-speed terminated logic (HSTL Class I)
  - Pull-up on I/O pins before and during configuration
- Advanced interconnect structure
  - Four-level hierarchical FastTrack® Interconnect structure providing fast, predictable interconnect delays
  - Dedicated carry chain that implements arithmetic functions such as fast adders, counters, and comparators (automatically used by software tools and megafunctions)
  - Dedicated cascade chain that implements high-speed, high-fan-in logic functions (automatically used by software tools and megafunctions)
  - Interleaved local interconnect allows one LE to drive 29 other LEs through the fast local interconnect
- Advanced packaging options
  - Available in a variety of packages with 144 to 1,020 pins (see Tables 4 through 7)
  - FineLine BGA® packages maximize board space efficiency
- Advanced software support
  - Software design support and automatic place-and-route provided by the Altera® Quartus® II development system for

Cascade Chain

With the cascade chain, the APEX 20K architecture can implement functions with a very wide fan-in. Adjacent LUTs can compute portions of a function in parallel; the cascade chain serially connects the intermediate values. The cascade chain can use a logical AND or logical OR (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 short cascade delay. Cascade chain logic can be created automatically by the Quartus II software Compiler during design processing, or manually by the designer during design entry.

Cascade chains longer than ten LEs are implemented automatically by linking LABs together. For enhanced fitting, a long cascade chain skips alternate LABs in a MegaLAB structure. A cascade chain longer than one LAB skips either from an even-numbered LAB to the next even-numbered LAB, or from an odd-numbered LAB to the next odd-numbered LAB. For example, the last LE of the first LAB in the upper-left MegaLAB structure carries to the first LE of the third LAB in the MegaLAB structure. Figure 7 shows how the cascade function can connect adjacent LEs to form functions with a wide fan-in.

Figure 7. APEX 20K Cascade Chain

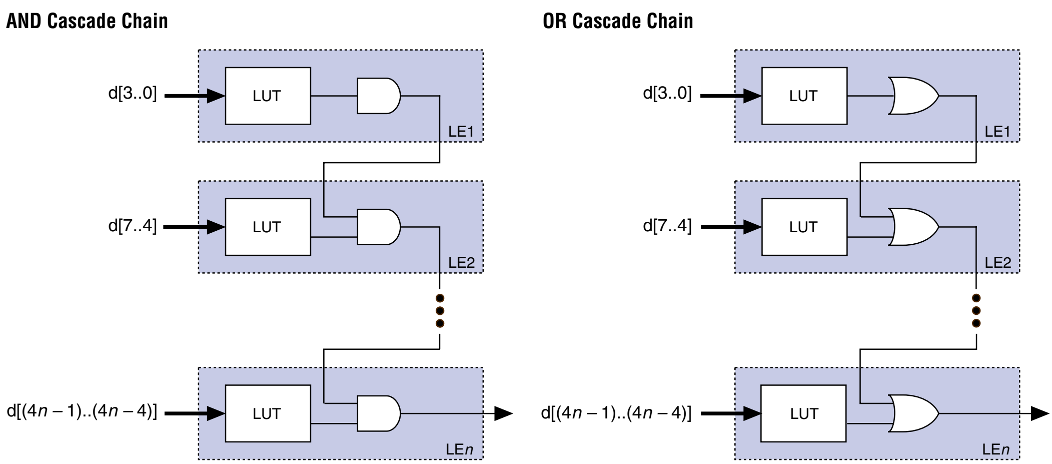
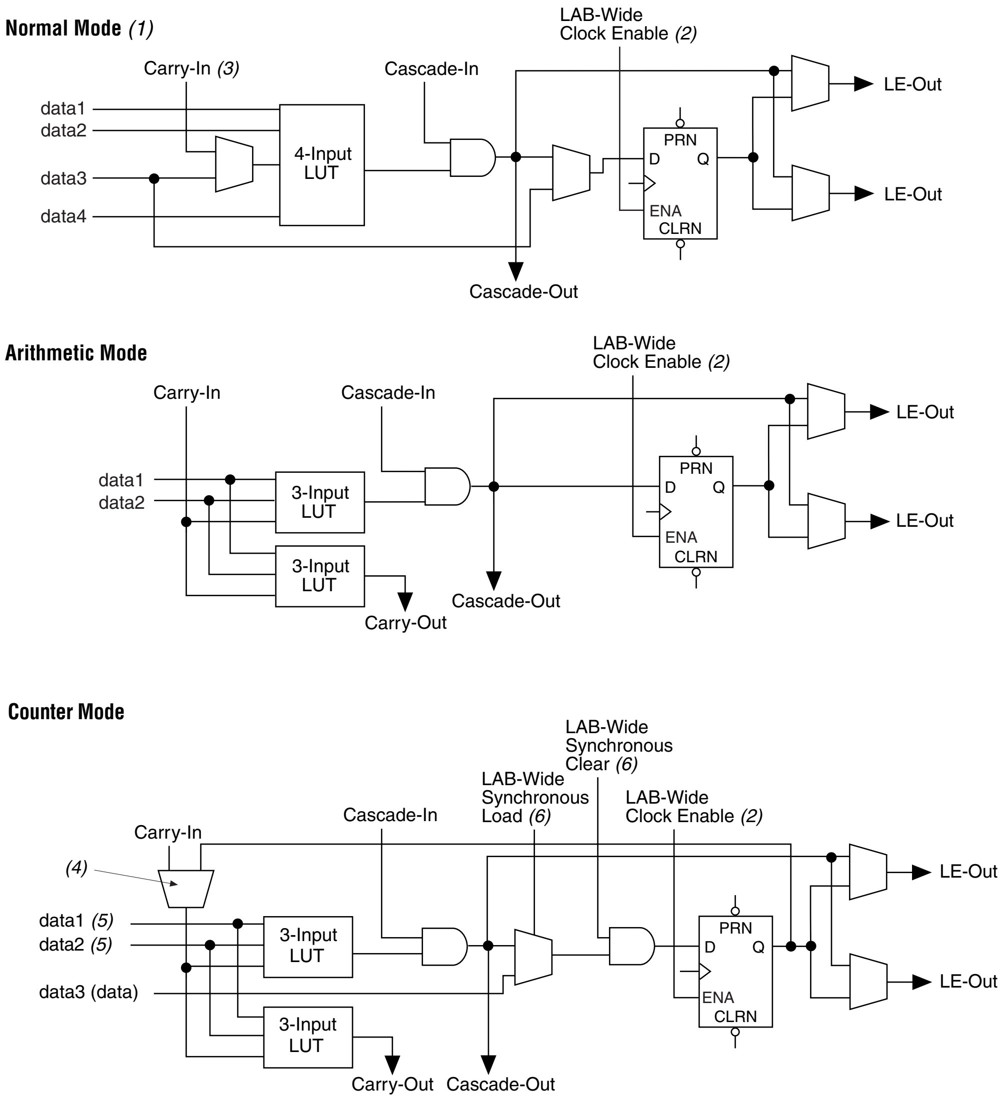


Figure 8. APEX 20K LE Operating Modes



Notes to Figure 8:

(1) LEs in normal mode support register packing.
(2) There are two LAB-wide clock enables per LAB.
(3) When using the carry-in in normal mode, the packed register feature is unavailable.
(4) A register feedback multiplexer is available on LE1 of each LAB.
(5) The DATA1 and DATA2 input signals can supply counter enable, up or down control, or register feedback signals for LEs other than the second LE in an LAB.
(6) The LAB-wide synchronous clear and LAB wide synchronous load affect all registers in an LAB.

The counter mode uses two three-input LUTs: one generates the counter data, and the other generates the fast carry bit. A 2-to-1 multiplexer provides synchronous loading, and another AND gate provides synchronous clearing. If the cascade function is used by an LE in counter mode, the synchronous clear or load overrides any signal carried on the cascade chain. The synchronous clear overrides the synchronous load. LEs in arithmetic mode can drive out registered and unregistered versions of the LUT output.

Clear & Preset Logic Control

Logic for the register's clear and preset signals is controlled by LAB-wide signals. The LE directly supports an asynchronous clear function. The Quartus II software Compiler can use a NOT-gate push-back technique to emulate an asynchronous preset. Moreover, the Quartus II software Compiler can use a programmable NOT-gate push-back technique to emulate simultaneous preset and clear or asynchronous load. However, this technique uses three additional LEs per register. All emulation is performed automatically when the design is compiled. Registers that emulate simultaneous preset and load will enter an unknown state upon power-up or when the chip-wide reset is asserted.

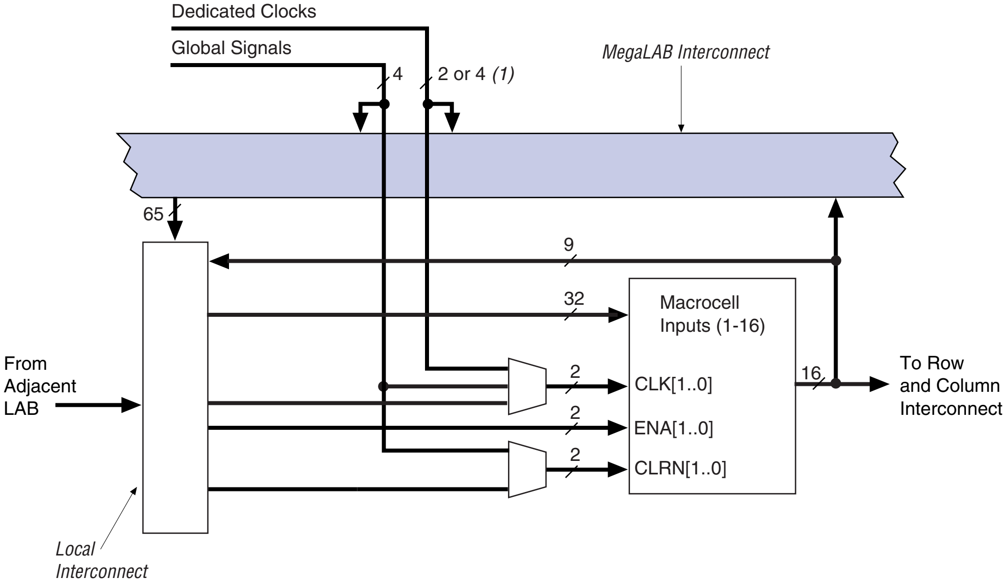
In addition to the two clear and preset modes, APEX 20K devices provide a chip-wide reset pin (DEV_CLRn) that resets all registers in the device. Use of this pin is controlled through an option in the Quartus II software that is set before compilation. The chip-wide reset overrides all other control signals. Registers using an asynchronous preset are preset when the chip-wide reset is asserted; this effect results from the inversion technique used to implement the asynchronous preset.

FastTrack Interconnect

In the APEX 20K architecture, connections between LEs, ESBs, and I/O pins are provided by the FastTrack Interconnect. The FastTrack Interconnect is a series of continuous horizontal and vertical routing channels that traverse the device. This global routing structure provides predictable performance, even in 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 row and column interconnect channels that span the entire device. The row interconnect routes signals throughout a row of MegaLAB structures; the column interconnect routes signals throughout a column of MegaLAB structures. When using the row and column interconnect, an LE, IOE, or ESB can drive any other LE, IOE, or ESB in a device. See Figure 9.

Figure 13. Product-Term Logic in ESB



Note to Figure 13:

(1) APEX 20KE devices have four dedicated clocks.

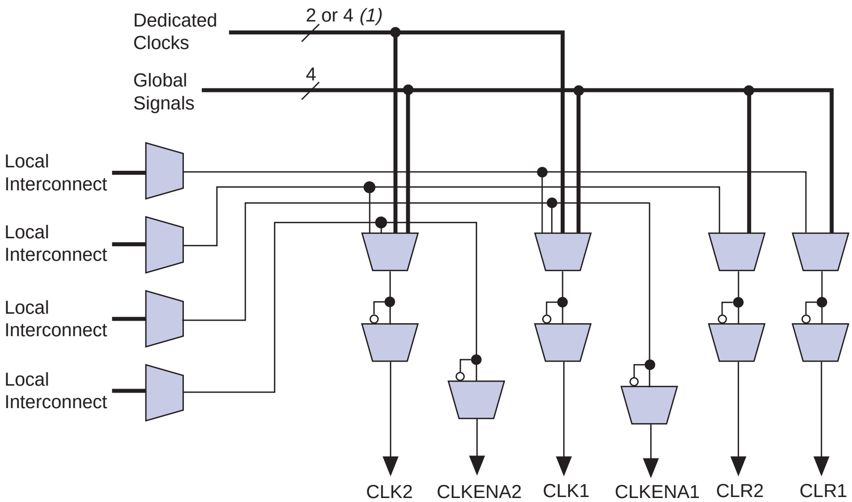
Macrocells

APEX 20K macrocells can be configured individually for either sequential or combinatorial logic operation. The macrocell consists of three functional blocks: the logic array, the product-term select matrix, and the programmable register.

Combinatorial logic is implemented in the product terms. The product-term select matrix allocates these product terms for use as either primary logic inputs (to the `OR` and `XOR` gates) to implement combinatorial functions, or as parallel expanders to be used to increase the logic available to another macrocell. One product term can be inverted; the Quartus II software uses this feature to perform DeMorgan's inversion for more efficient implementation of wide `OR` functions. The Quartus II software Compiler can use a `NOT`-gate push-back technique to emulate an asynchronous preset. Figure 14 shows the APEX 20K macrocell.

The programmable register also supports an asynchronous clear function. Within the ESB, two asynchronous clears are generated from global signals and the local interconnect. Each macrocell can either choose between the two asynchronous clear signals or choose to not be cleared. Either of the two clear signals can be inverted within the ESB. Figure 15 shows the ESB control logic when implementing product-terms.

Figure 15. ESB Product-Term Mode Control Logic



Note to Figure 15:

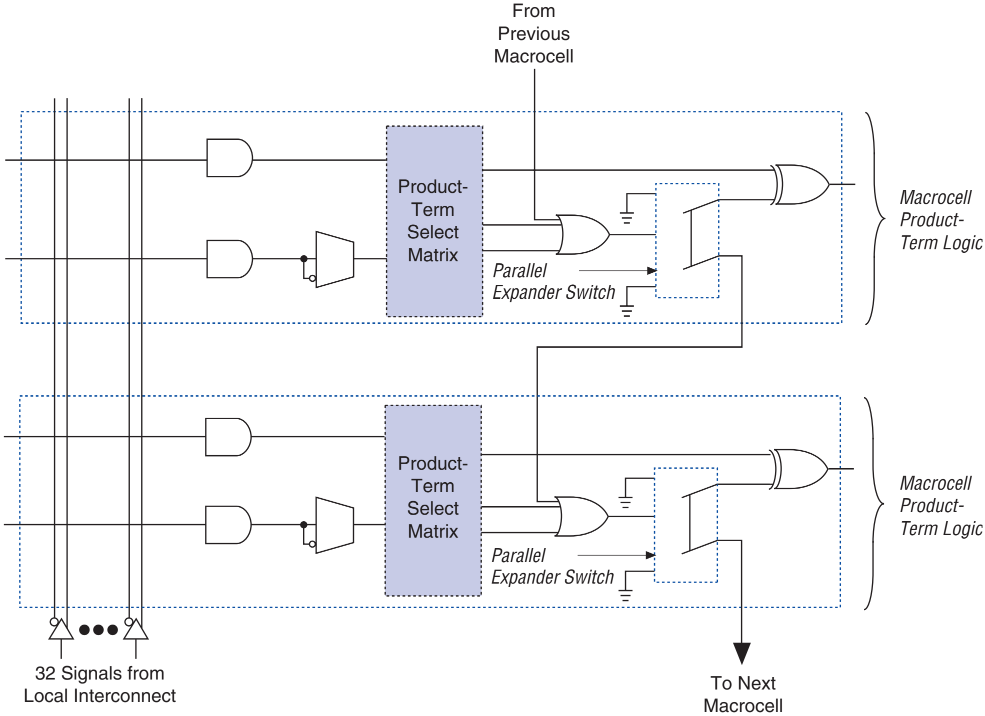
(1) APEX 20KE devices have four dedicated clocks.

Parallel Expanders

Parallel expanders are unused product terms that can be allocated to a neighboring macrocell to implement fast, complex logic functions. Parallel expanders allow up to 32 product terms to feed the macrocell OR logic directly, with two product terms provided by the macrocell and 30 parallel expanders provided by the neighboring macrocells in the ESB.

The Quartus II software Compiler can allocate up to 15 sets of up to two parallel expanders per set to the macrocells automatically. Each set of two parallel expanders incurs a small, incremental timing delay. Figure 16 shows the APEX 20K parallel expanders.

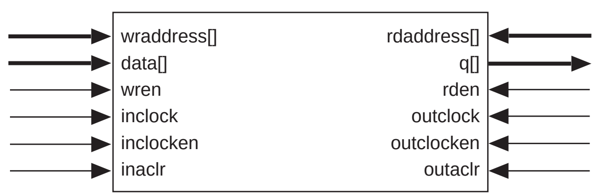
Figure 16. APEX 20K Parallel Expanders



Embedded System Block

The ESB can implement various types of memory blocks, including dual-port RAM, ROM, FIFO, and CAM blocks. The ESB includes input and output registers; the input registers synchronize writes, and the output registers can pipeline designs to improve system performance. The ESB offers a dual-port mode, which supports simultaneous reads and writes at two different clock frequencies. Figure 17 shows the ESB block diagram.

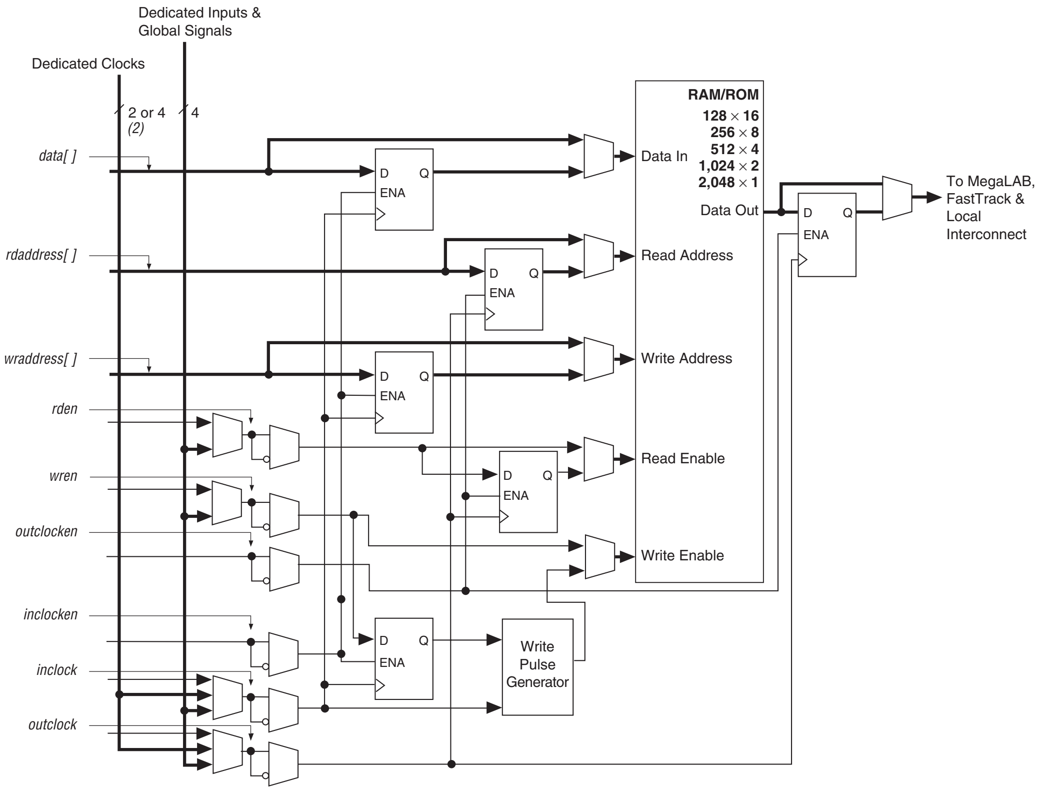
Figure 17. ESB Block Diagram



Read/Write Clock Mode

The read/write clock mode contains two clocks. One clock controls all registers associated with writing: data input, WE, and write address. The other clock controls all registers associated with reading: read enable (RE), read address, and data output. The ESB also supports clock enable and asynchronous clear signals; these signals also control the read and write registers independently. Read/write clock mode is commonly used for applications where reads and writes occur at different system frequencies. Figure 20 shows the ESB in read/write clock mode.

Figure 20. ESB in Read/Write Clock Mode Note (1)



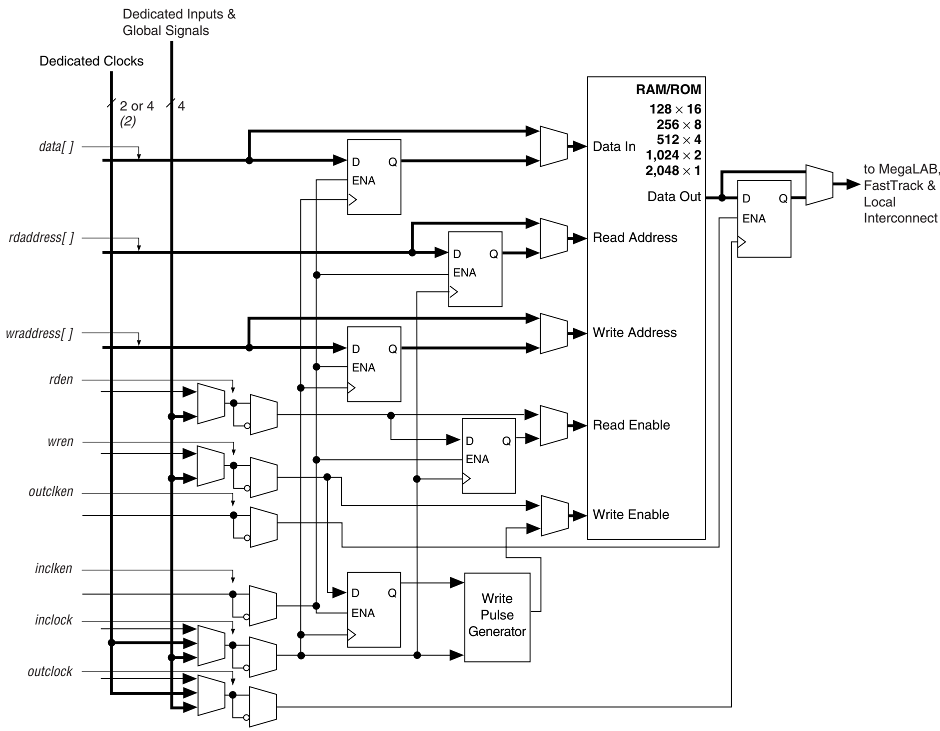
Notes to Figure 20:

(1) All registers can be cleared asynchronously by ESB local interconnect signals, global signals, or the chip-wide reset.
(2) APEX 20KE devices have four dedicated clocks.

Input/Output Clock Mode

The input/output clock mode contains two clocks. One clock controls all registers for inputs into the ESB: data input, WE, RE, read address, and write address. The other clock controls the ESB data output registers. The ESB also supports clock enable and asynchronous clear signals; these signals also control the reading and writing of registers independently. Input/output clock mode is commonly used for applications where the reads and writes occur at the same system frequency, but require different clock enable signals for the input and output registers. Figure 21 shows the ESB in input/output clock mode.

Figure 21. ESB in Input/Output Clock Mode Note (1)



Notes to Figure 21:

(1) All registers can be cleared asynchronously by ESB local interconnect signals, global signals, or the chip-wide reset.

(2) APEX 20KE devices have four dedicated clocks.

Single-Port Mode

The APEX 20K ESB also supports a single-port mode, which is used when simultaneous reads and writes are not required. See Figure 22.

Table 10 describes the APEX 20K programmable delays and their logic options in the Quartus II software.

Table 10. APEX 20K Programmable Delay Chains

Programmable Delays	Quartus II Logic Option
Input pin to core delay	Decrease input delay to internal cells
Input pin to input register delay	Decrease input delay to input register
Core to output register delay	Decrease input delay to output register
Output register t_{CO} delay	Increase delay to output pin

The Quartus II software compiler can program these delays automatically to minimize setup time while providing a zero hold time. Figure 25 shows how fast bidirectional I/Os are implemented in APEX 20K devices.

The register in the APEX 20K IOE can be programmed to power-up high or low after configuration is complete. If it is programmed to power-up low, an asynchronous clear can control the register. If it is programmed to power-up high, the register cannot be asynchronously cleared or preset. This feature is useful for cases where the APEX 20K device controls an active-low input or another device; it prevents inadvertent activation of the input upon power-up.

APEX 20KE devices include an enhanced IOE, which drives the FastRow interconnect. The FastRow interconnect connects a column I/O pin directly to the LAB local interconnect within two MegaLAB structures. This feature provides fast setup times for pins that drive high fan-outs with complex logic, such as PCI designs. For fast bidirectional I/O timing, LE registers using local routing can improve setup times and OE timing. The APEX 20KE IOE also includes direct support for open-drain operation, giving faster clock-to-output for open-drain signals. Some programmable delays in the APEX 20KE IOE offer multiple levels of delay to fine-tune setup and hold time requirements. The Quartus II software compiler can set these delays automatically to minimize setup time while providing a zero hold time.

Table 11 describes the APEX 20KE programmable delays and their logic options in the Quartus II software.

Table 11. APEX 20KE Programmable Delay Chains

Programmable Delays	Quartus II Logic Option
Input Pin to Core Delay	Decrease input delay to internal cells
Input Pin to Input Register Delay	Decrease input delay to input registers
Core to Output Register Delay	Decrease input delay to output register
Output Register t_{CO} Delay	Increase delay to output pin
Clock Enable Delay	Increase clock enable delay

The register in the APEX 20KE IOE can be programmed to power-up high or low after configuration is complete. If it is programmed to power-up low, an asynchronous clear can control the register. If it is programmed to power-up high, an asynchronous preset can control the register. Figure 26 shows how fast bidirectional I/O pins are implemented in APEX 20KE devices. This feature is useful for cases where the APEX 20KE device controls an active-low input or another device; it prevents inadvertent activation of the input upon power-up.

Under hot socketing conditions, APEX 20KE devices will not sustain any damage, but the I/O pins will drive out.

MultiVolt I/O Interface

The APEX device architecture supports the MultiVolt I/O interface feature, which allows APEX devices in all packages to interface with systems of different supply voltages. The devices have one set of `VCC` pins for internal operation and input buffers (`VCCINT`), and another set for I/O output drivers (`VCCIO`).

The APEX 20K `VCCINT` pins must always be connected to a 2.5 V power supply. With a 2.5-V V_{CCINT} level, input pins are 2.5-V, 3.3-V, and 5.0-V tolerant. The `VCCIO` pins can be connected to either a 2.5-V or 3.3-V power supply, depending on the output requirements. When `VCCIO` pins are connected to a 2.5-V power supply, the output levels are compatible with 2.5-V systems. When the `VCCIO` pins are connected to a 3.3-V power supply, the output high is 3.3 V and is compatible with 3.3-V or 5.0-V systems.

Table 12 summarizes 5.0-V tolerant APEX 20K MultiVolt I/O support.

Table 12. 5.0-V Tolerant APEX 20K MultiVolt I/O Support

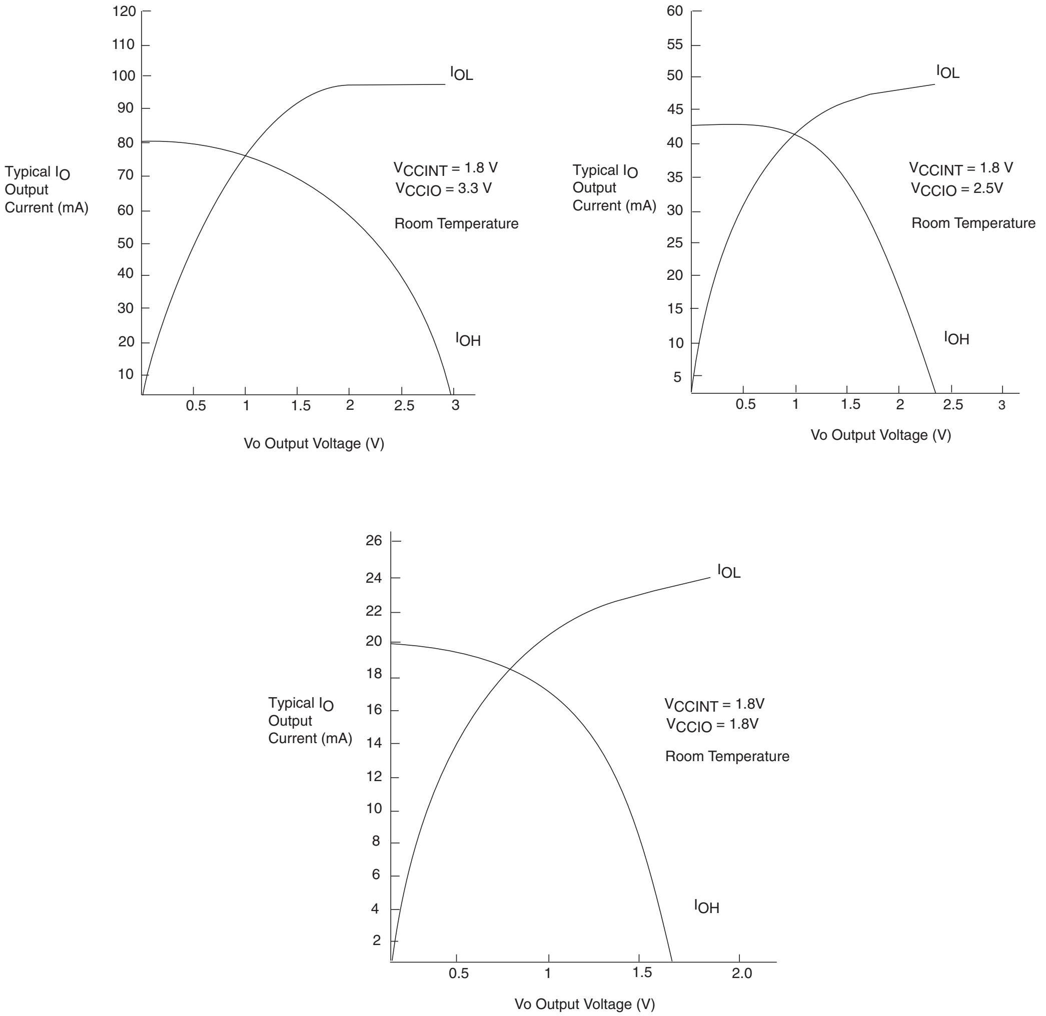
V_{CCIO} (V)	Input Signals (V)			Output Signals (V)		
	2.5	3.3	5.0	2.5	3.3	5.0
2.5	✓	✓ *(1)*	✓ *(1)*	✓		
3.3	✓	✓	✓ *(1)*	✓ *(2)*	✓	✓

Notes to Table 12:
(1) The PCI clamping diode must be disabled to drive an input with voltages higher than V_{CCIO}.
(2) When V_{CCIO} = 3.3 V, an APEX 20K device can drive a 2.5-V device with 3.3-V tolerant inputs.

Open-drain output pins on 5.0-V tolerant APEX 20K devices (with a pull-up resistor to the 5.0-V supply) can drive 5.0-V CMOS input pins that require a V_{IH} of 3.5 V. When the pin is inactive, the trace will be pulled up to 5.0 V by the resistor. The open-drain pin will only drive low or tri-state; it will never drive high. The rise time is dependent on the value of the pull-up resistor and load impedance. The I_{OL} current specification should be considered when selecting a pull-up resistor.

Figure 35 shows the output drive characteristics of APEX 20KE devices.

Figure 35. Output Drive Characteristics of APEX 20KE Devices *Note (1)*



Note to Figure 35:

(1) These are transient (AC) currents.

Timing Model

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

Figure 39. ESB Synchronous Timing Waveforms

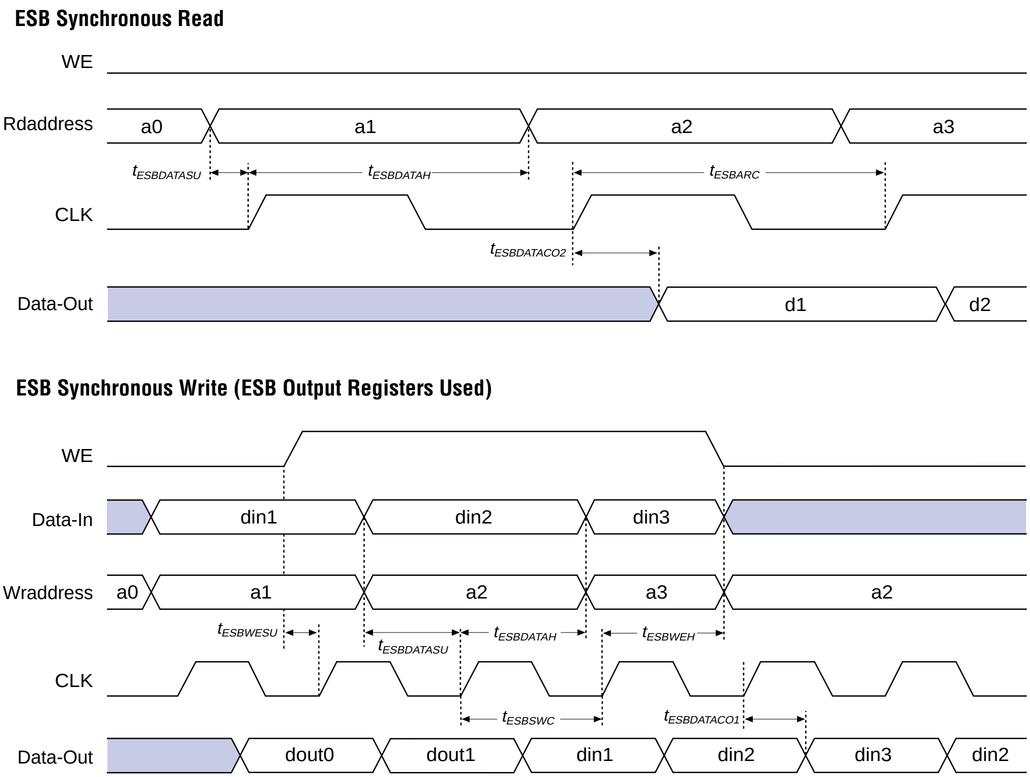


Figure 40 shows the timing model for bidirectional I/O pin timing.

Tables 55 through 60 describe f_{MAX} LE Timing Microparameters, f_{MAX} ESB Timing Microparameters, f_{MAX} Routing Delays, Minimum Pulse Width Timing Parameters, External Timing Parameters, and External Bidirectional Timing Parameters for EP20K60E APEX 20KE devices.

Table 55. EP20K60E f_{MAX} LE Timing Microparameters

Symbol	-1		-2		-3		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{SU}	0.17		0.15		0.16		ns
t_H	0.32		0.33		0.39		ns
t_{CO}		0.29		0.40		0.60	ns
t_{LUT}		0.77		1.07		1.59	ns

Table 57. EP20K60E f_{MAX} Routing Delays

Symbol	-1		-2		-3		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{F1-4}		0.24		0.26		0.30	ns
t_{F5-20}		1.45		1.58		1.79	ns
t_{F20+}		1.96		2.14		2.45	ns

Table 58. EP20K60E Minimum Pulse Width Timing Parameters

Symbol	-1		-2		-3		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{CH}	2.00		2.50		2.75		ns
t_{CL}	2.00		2.50		2.75		ns
t_{CLRP}	0.20		0.28		0.41		ns
t_{PREP}	0.20		0.28		0.41		ns
t_{ESBCH}	2.00		2.50		2.75		ns
t_{ESBCL}	2.00		2.50		2.75		ns
t_{ESBWP}	1.29		1.80		2.66		ns
t_{ESBRP}	1.04		1.45		2.14		ns

Table 59. EP20K60E External Timing Parameters

Symbol	-1		-2		-3		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{INSU}	2.03		2.12		2.23		ns
t_{INH}	0.00		0.00		0.00		ns
t_{OUTCO}	2.00	4.84	2.00	5.31	2.00	5.81	ns
$t_{INSUPLL}$	1.12		1.15		-		ns
t_{INHPLL}	0.00		0.00		-		ns
$t_{OUTCOPLL}$	0.50	3.37	0.50	3.69	-	-	ns

Table 78. EP20K200E External Bidirectional Timing Parameters

Symbol	-1		-2		-3		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
$t_{INSUBIDIR}$	2.81		3.19		3.54		ns
$t_{INHBIDIR}$	0.00		0.00		0.00		ns
$t_{OUTCOBIDIR}$	2.00	5.12	2.00	5.62	2.00	6.11	ns
$t_{XZBIDIR}$		7.51		8.32		8.67	ns
$t_{ZXBIDIR}$		7.51		8.32		8.67	ns
$t_{INSUBIDIRPLL}$	3.30		3.64		-		ns
$t_{INHBIDIRPLL}$	0.00		0.00		-		ns
$t_{OUTCOBIDIRPLL}$	0.50	3.01	0.50	3.36	-	-	ns
$t_{XZBIDIRPLL}$		5.40		6.05		-	ns
$t_{ZXBIDIRPLL}$		5.40		6.05		-	ns

Tables 79 through 84 describe f_{MAX} LE Timing Microparameters, f_{MAX} ESB Timing Microparameters, f_{MAX} Routing Delays, Minimum Pulse Width Timing Parameters, External Timing Parameters, and External Bidirectional Timing Parameters for EP20K300E APEX 20KE devices.

Table 79. EP20K300E f_{MAX} LE Timing Microparameters

Symbol	-1		-2		-3		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{SU}	0.16		0.17		0.18		ns
t_{H}	0.31		0.33		0.38		ns
t_{CO}		0.28		0.38		0.51	ns
t_{LUT}		0.79		1.07		1.43	ns

Table 82. EP20K300E Minimum Pulse Width Timing Parameters

Symbol	-1		-2		-3		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{CH}	1.25		1.43		1.67		ns
t_{CL}	1.25		1.43		1.67		ns
t_{CLRP}	0.19		0.26		0.35		ns
t_{PREP}	0.19		0.26		0.35		ns
t_{ESBCH}	1.25		1.43		1.67		ns
t_{ESBCL}	1.25		1.43		1.67		ns
t_{ESBWP}	1.25		1.71		2.28		ns
t_{ESBRP}	1.01		1.38		1.84		ns

Table 83. EP20K300E External Timing Parameters

Symbol	-1		-2		-3		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{INSU}	2.31		2.44		2.57		ns
t_{INH}	0.00		0.00		0.00		ns
t_{OUTCO}	2.00	5.29	2.00	5.82	2.00	6.24	ns
$t_{INSUPLL}$	1.76		1.85		-		ns
t_{INHPLL}	0.00		0.00		-		ns
$t_{OUTCOPLL}$	0.50	2.65	0.50	2.95	-	-	ns

Table 84. EP20K300E External Bidirectional Timing Parameters

Symbol	-1		-2		-3		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
$t_{INSUBIDIR}$	2.77		2.85		3.11		ns
$t_{INHBIDIR}$	0.00		0.00		0.00		ns
$t_{OUTCOBIDIR}$	2.00	5.29	2.00	5.82	2.00	6.24	ns
$t_{XZBIDIR}$		7.59		8.30		9.09	ns
$t_{ZXBIDIR}$		7.59		8.30		9.09	ns
$t_{INSUBIDIRPLL}$	2.50		2.76		-		ns
$t_{INHBIDIRPLL}$	0.00		0.00		-		ns
$t_{OUTCOBIDIRPLL}$	0.50	2.65	0.50	2.95	-	-	ns
$t_{XZBIDIRPLL}$		5.00		5.43		-	ns
$t_{ZXBIDIRPLL}$		5.00		5.43		-	ns

Table 108. EP20K1500E External Bidirectional Timing Parameters

Symbol	-1 Speed Grade		-2 Speed Grade		-3 Speed Grade		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
$t_{INSUBIDIR}$	3.47		3.68		3.99		ns
$t_{INHBIDIR}$	0.00		0.00		0.00		ns
$t_{OUTCOBIDIR}$	2.00	6.18	2.00	6.81	2.00	7.36	ns
$t_{XZBIDIR}$		6.91		7.62		8.38	ns
$t_{ZXBIDIR}$		6.91		7.62		8.38	ns
$t_{INSUBIDIRPLL}$	3.05		3.26				ns
$t_{INHBIDIRPLL}$	0.00		0.00				ns
$t_{OUTCOBIDIRPLL}$	0.50	2.67	0.50	2.99			ns
$t_{XZBIDIRPLL}$		3.41		3.80			ns
$t_{ZXBIDIRPLL}$		3.41		3.80			ns

Tables 109 and 110 show selectable I/O standard input and output delays for APEX 20KE devices. If you select an I/O standard input or output delay other than LVCMOS, add or subtract the selected speed grade to or from the LVCMOS value.

Table 109. Selectable I/O Standard Input Delays

Symbol	-1 Speed Grade		-2 Speed Grade		-3 Speed Grade		Unit
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
LVCMOS		0.00		0.00		0.00	ns
LVTTL		0.00		0.00		0.00	ns
2.5 V		0.00		0.04		0.05	ns
1.8 V		–0.11		0.03		0.04	ns
PCI		0.01		0.09		0.10	ns
GTL+		–0.24		–0.23		–0.19	ns
SSTL-3 Class I		–0.32		–0.21		–0.47	ns
SSTL-3 Class II		–0.08		0.03		–0.23	ns
SSTL-2 Class I		–0.17		–0.06		–0.32	ns
SSTL-2 Class II		–0.16		–0.05		–0.31	ns
LVDS		–0.12		–0.12		–0.12	ns
CTT		0.00		0.00		0.00	ns
AGP		0.00		0.00		0.00	ns

Version 4.1

APEX 20K Programmable Logic Device Family Data Sheet version 4.1 contains the following changes:

- t_{ESBWEH} added to Figure 37 and Tables 35, 50, 56, 62, 68, 74, 86, 92, 97, and 104.
- Updated EP20K300E device internal and external timing numbers in Tables 79 through 84.