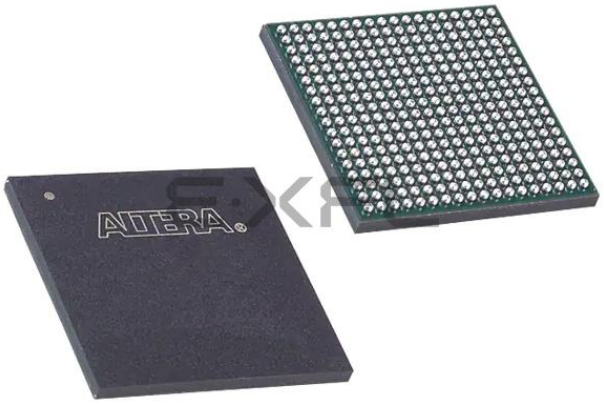

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Understanding Embedded - FPGAs (Field Programmable Gate Array)

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	2560
Number of Logic Elements/Cells	2560
Total RAM Bits	32768
Number of I/O	196
Number of Gates	162000
Voltage - Supply	1.71V ~ 1.89V
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Operating Temperature	0°C ~ 85°C (TJ)
Package / Case	324-BGA
Supplier Device Package	324-FBGA (19x19)
Purchase URL	https://www.e-xfl.com/product-detail/intel/ep20k60efc324-1n

All APEX 20K devices are reconfigurable and are 100% tested prior to shipment. As a result, test vectors do not have to be generated for fault coverage purposes. Instead, the designer can focus on simulation and design verification. In addition, the designer does not need to manage inventories of different application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) designs; APEX 20K devices can be configured on the board for the specific functionality required.

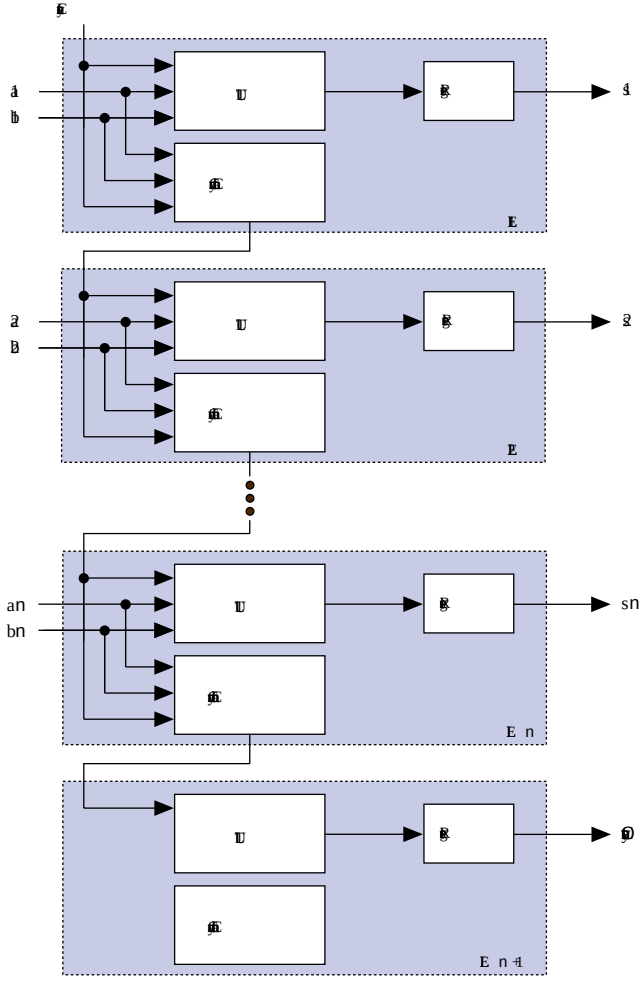
APEX 20K devices are configured at system power-up with data stored in an Altera serial configuration device or provided by a system controller. Altera offers in-system programmability (ISP)-capable EPC1, EPC2, and EPC16 configuration devices, which configure APEX 20K devices via a serial data stream. Moreover, APEX 20K devices contain an optimized interface that permits microprocessors to configure APEX 20K devices serially or in parallel, and synchronously or asynchronously. The interface also enables microprocessors to treat APEX 20K devices as memory and configure the device by writing to a virtual memory location, making reconfiguration easy.

After an APEX 20K device has been configured, it can be reconfigured in-circuit by resetting the device and loading new data. Real-time changes can be made during system operation, enabling innovative reconfigurable computing applications.

APEX 20K devices are supported by the Altera Quartus II development system, a single, integrated package that offers HDL and schematic design entry, compilation and logic synthesis, full simulation and worst-case timing analysis, SignalTap logic analysis, and device configuration. The Quartus II software runs on Windows-based PCs, Sun SPARCstations, and HP 9000 Series 700/800 workstations.

The Quartus II software provides NativeLink interfaces to other industry-standard PC- and UNIX workstation-based EDA tools. For example, designers can invoke the Quartus II software from within third-party design tools. Further, the Quartus II software contains built-in optimized synthesis libraries; synthesis tools can use these libraries to optimize designs for APEX 20K devices. For example, the Synopsys Design Compiler library, supplied with the Quartus II development system, includes DesignWare functions optimized for the APEX 20K architecture.

Figure 6. APEX 20K Carry Chain



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.

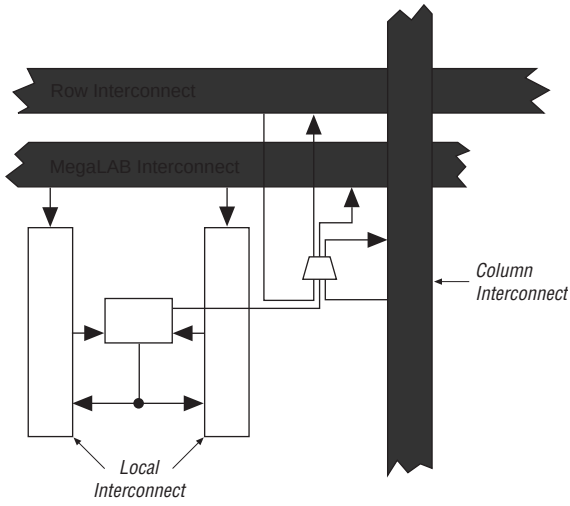
FastTrack Interconnect

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 11 shows the intersection of a row and column interconnect, and how these forms of interconnects and LEs drive each other.

Figure 11. Driving the FastTrack Interconnect



APEX 20KE devices include an enhanced interconnect structure for faster routing of input signals with high fan-out. Column I/O pins can drive the FastRow interconnect, which routes signals directly into the local interconnect without having to drive through the MegaLAB interconnect. FastRow lines traverse two MegaLAB structures. Also, these pins can drive the local interconnect directly for fast setup times. On EP20K300E and larger devices, the FastRow interconnect drives the two MegaLABs in the top left corner, the two MegaLABs in the top right corner, the two MegaLABS in the bottom left corner, and the two MegaLABs in the bottom right corner. On EP20K200E and smaller devices, FastRow interconnect drives the two MegaLABs on the top and the two MegaLABs on the bottom of the device. On all devices, the FastRow interconnect drives all local interconnect in the appropriate MegaLABs except the local interconnect on the side of the MegaLAB opposite the ESB. Pins using the FastRow interconnect achieve a faster set-up time, as the signal does not need to use a MegaLAB interconnect line to reach the destination LE. Figure 12 shows the FastRow interconnect.

Figure 12. APEX 20KE FastRow Interconnect

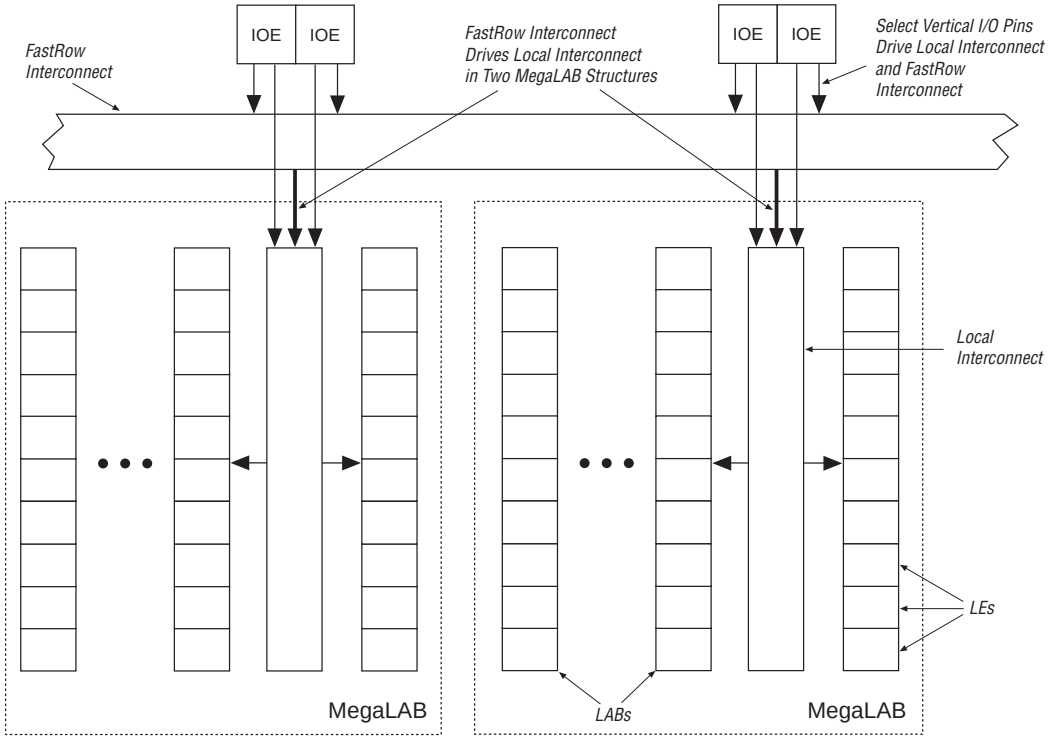


Table 9 summarizes how various elements of the APEX 20K architecture drive each other.

ESBs can implement synchronous RAM, which is easier to use than asynchronous RAM. A circuit using asynchronous RAM must generate the RAM write enable (WE) signal, while ensuring that its data and address signals meet setup and hold time specifications relative to the WE signal. In contrast, the ESB's synchronous RAM generates its own WE signal and is self-timed with respect to the global clock. Circuits using the ESB's self-timed RAM must only meet the setup and hold time specifications of the global clock.

ESB inputs are driven by the adjacent local interconnect, which in turn can be driven by the MegaLAB or FastTrack Interconnect. Because the ESB can be driven by the local interconnect, an adjacent LE can drive it directly for fast memory access. ESB outputs drive the MegaLAB and FastTrack Interconnect. In addition, ten ESB outputs, nine of which are unique output lines, drive the local interconnect for fast connection to adjacent LEs or for fast feedback product-term logic.

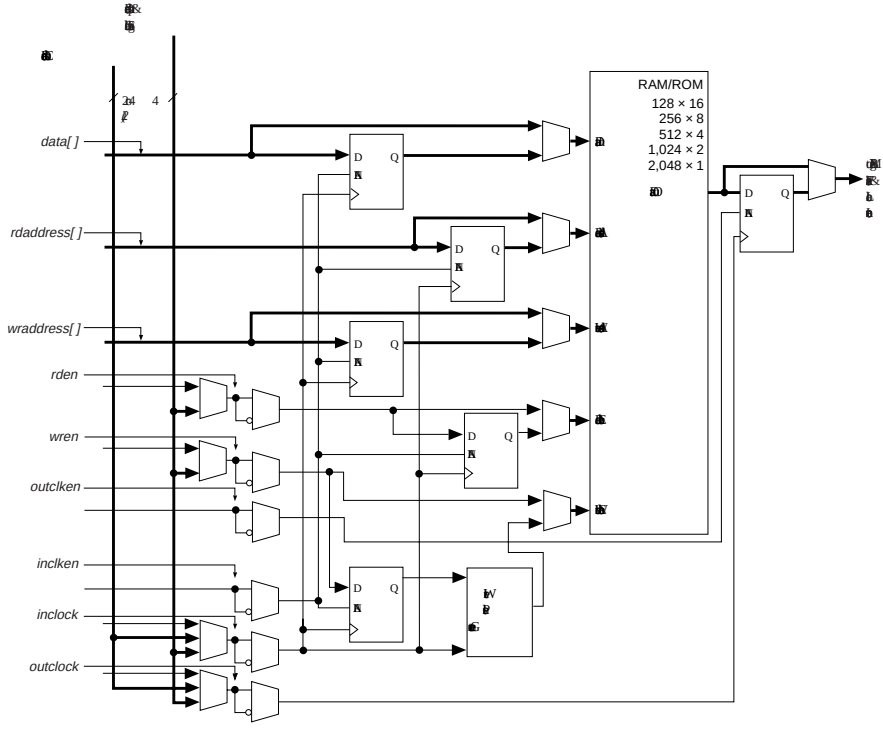
When implementing memory, each ESB can be configured in any of the following sizes: 128 × 16, 256 × 8, 512 × 4, 1,024 × 2, or 2,048 × 1. By combining multiple ESBs, the Quartus II software implements larger memory blocks automatically. For example, two 128 × 16 RAM blocks can be combined to form a 128 × 32 RAM block, and two 512 × 4 RAM blocks can be combined to form a 512 × 8 RAM block. Memory performance does not degrade for memory blocks up to 2,048 words deep. Each ESB can implement a 2,048-word-deep memory; the ESBs are used in parallel, eliminating the need for any external control logic and its associated delays.

To create a high-speed memory block that is more than 2,048 words deep, ESBs drive tri-state lines. Each tri-state line connects all ESBs in a column of MegaLAB structures, and drives the MegaLAB interconnect and row and column FastTrack Interconnect throughout the column. Each ESB incorporates a programmable decoder to activate the tri-state driver appropriately. For instance, to implement 8,192-word-deep memory, four ESBs are used. Eleven address lines drive the ESB memory, and two more drive the tri-state decoder. Depending on which 2,048-word memory page is selected, the appropriate ESB driver is turned on, driving the output to the tri-state line. The Quartus II software automatically combines ESBs with tri-state lines to form deeper memory blocks. The internal tri-state control logic is designed to avoid internal contention and floating lines. See Figure 18.

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)



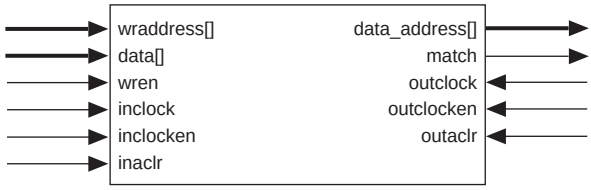
Notes to Figure 21:

(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.

Figure 23. APEX 20KE CAM Block Diagram



CAM can be used in any application requiring high-speed searches, such as networking, communications, data compression, and cache management.

The APEX 20KE on-chip CAM provides faster system performance than traditional discrete CAM. Integrating CAM and logic into the APEX 20KE device eliminates off-chip and on-chip delays, improving system performance.

When in CAM mode, the ESB implements 32-word, 32-bit CAM. Wider or deeper CAM can be implemented by combining multiple CAMs with some ancillary logic implemented in LEs. The Quartus II software combines ESBs and LEs automatically to create larger CAMs.

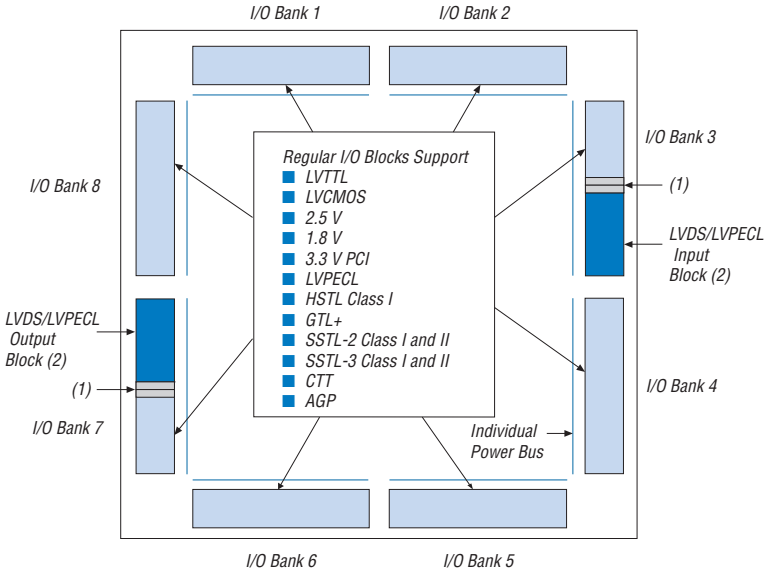
CAM supports writing "don't care" bits into words of the memory. The "don't-care" bit can be used as a mask for CAM comparisons; any bit set to "don't-care" has no effect on matches.

The output of the CAM can be encoded or unencoded. When encoded, the ESB outputs an encoded address of the data's location. For instance, if the data is located in address 12, the ESB output is 12. When unencoded, the ESB uses its 16 outputs to show the location of the data over two clock cycles. In this case, if the data is located in address 12, the 12th output line goes high. When using unencoded outputs, two clock cycles are required to read the output because a 16-bit output bus is used to show the status of 32 words.

The encoded output is better suited for designs that ensure duplicate data is not written into the CAM. If duplicate data is written into two locations, the CAM's output will be incorrect. If the CAM may contain duplicate data, the unencoded output is a better solution; CAM with unencoded outputs can distinguish multiple data locations.

CAM can be pre-loaded with data during configuration, or it can be written during system operation. In most cases, two clock cycles are required to write each word into CAM. When "don't-care" bits are used, a third clock cycle is required.

Figure 29. APEX 20KE I/O Banks



Notes to Figure 29:

(1) For more information on placing I/O pins in LVDS blocks, refer to the Guidelines for Using LVDS Blocks section in Application Note 120 (Using LVDS in APEX 20KE Devices).

(2) If the LVDS input and output blocks are not used for LVDS, they can support all of the I/O standards and can be used as input, output, or bidirectional pins with V_{CCIO} set to 3.3 V, 2.5 V, or 1.8 V.

Power Sequencing & Hot Socketing

Because APEX 20K and APEX 20KE devices can be used in a mixed-voltage environment, they have been designed specifically to tolerate any possible power-up sequence. Therefore, the V_{CCIO} and V_{CCINT} power supplies may be powered in any order.

f For more information, please refer to the Power Sequencing Considerations section in the Configuring APEX 20KE & APEX 20KC Devices chapter of the Configuration Devices Handbook.

Signals can be driven into APEX 20K devices before and during power-up without damaging the device. In addition, APEX 20K devices do not drive out during power-up. Once operating conditions are reached and the device is configured, APEX 20K and APEX 20KE devices operate as specified by the user.

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 V_{CC} pins for internal operation and input buffers (V_{CCINT}), and another set for I/O output drivers (V_{CCIO}).

The APEX 20K V_{CCINT} 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 V_{CCIO} pins can be connected to either a 2.5-V or 3.3-V power supply, depending on the output requirements. When V_{CCIO} pins are connected to a 2.5-V power supply, the output levels are compatible with 2.5-V systems. When the V_{CCIO} 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	v	v (1)	v (1)	v		
3.3	v	v	v (1)	v (2)	v	v

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.

Table 29. APEX 20KE Device DC Operating Conditions Notes (7), (8), (9)

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
V_H			(10)			V
V_L					(10)	V
V_{OH}						V
			V_{CCIO}			V
	I					V
	I					V
						V
						V
V_{OL}						V
						V
	I					V
	I					V
						V
						V
I_I	V					
I_{OZ}	V					
I_{CC}						mA
				5		mA
R_{PU}					k	
					k	
					k	

Table 41. EP20K200 f_{MAX} Timing Parameters

Symbol	-1 Speed Grade		-2 Speed Grade		-3 Speed Grade		Units
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
t_{SU}	0		0	0		ns	
t_{H}	0		0	0		ns	
t_{CO}		0		0	0	ns	
t_{LUT}		0		0	1	ns	
t_{CLR}		0		0	0	ns	
t_{PRE}		0		0	0	ns	
t_{ESBCH}	3		3	4		ns	
t_{ESBCL}	2		2	3		ns	
t_{ESBWP}	0		0	0		ns	
t_{ESBRP}	2		2	3		ns	
$t_{ESBWESU}$		3		6	8	ns	
$t_{ESBDATASU}$		0		1	6	ns	
$t_{ESBADDRSU}$		3		3	6	ns	
$t_{ESBDATAH}$		3		0	6	ns	
$t_{ESBWESU}$	3		2	3		ns	
$t_{ESBRWESU}$		5		8	2	ns	
$t_{ESBWDSU}$		0		0	0	ns	
$t_{ESBWASU}$		6		7	8	ns	
t_{ESBWAH}		2		2	2	ns	
t_{EH}	0		3	0		ns	
t_{EC}	0		3	0		ns	
t_{ERD}	0		0	0		ns	
t_{ERDH}	0		0	6		ns	
t_{EWR}	0		3	0		ns	
t_{EWC}	0		3	0		ns	
t_{EWDSU}	6		9	2		ns	
t_{EWDH}	0		3	4		ns	