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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	1600
Number of Logic Elements/Cells	3800
Total RAM Bits	51200
Number of I/O	193
Number of Gates	44000
Voltage - Supply	3V ~ 3.6V
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Operating Temperature	-40°C ~ 100°C (TJ)
Package / Case	240-BFQFP Exposed Pad
Supplier Device Package	240-PQFP (32x32)
Purchase URL	https://www.e-xfl.com/product-detail/xilinx/xc4044xl-3hq240i

XC4000E and XC4000X Series Compared to the XC4000

For readers already familiar with the XC4000 family of Xilinx Field Programmable Gate Arrays, the major new features in the XC4000 Series devices are listed in this section. The biggest advantages of XC4000E and XC4000X devices are significantly increased system speed, greater capacity, and new architectural features, particularly Select-RAM memory. The XC4000X devices also offer many new routing features, including special high-speed clock buffers that can be used to capture input data with minimal delay.

Any XC4000E device is pinout- and bitstream-compatible with the corresponding XC4000 device. An existing XC4000 bitstream can be used to program an XC4000E device. However, since the XC4000E includes many new features, an XC4000E bitstream cannot be loaded into an XC4000 device.

XC4000X Series devices are not bitstream-compatible with equivalent array size devices in the XC4000 or XC4000E families. However, equivalent array size devices, such as the XC4025, XC4025E, XC4028EX, and XC4028XL, are pinout-compatible.

Improvements in XC4000E and XC4000X

Increased System Speed

XC4000E and XC4000X devices can run at synchronous system clock rates of up to 80 MHz, and internal performance can exceed 150 MHz. This increase in performance over the previous families stems from improvements in both device processing and system architecture. XC4000 Series devices use a sub-micron multi-layer metal process. In addition, many architectural improvements have been made, as described below.

The XC4000XL family is a high performance 3.3V family based on 0.35 μ SRAM technology and supports system speeds to 80 MHz.

PCI Compliance

XC4000 Series -2 and faster speed grades are fully PCI compliant. XC4000E and XC4000X devices can be used to implement a one-chip PCI solution.

Carry Logic

The speed of the carry logic chain has increased dramatically. Some parameters, such as the delay on the carry chain through a single CLB (T_{BYP}), have improved by as

much as 50% from XC4000 values. See [“Fast Carry Logic” on page 18](#) for more information.

Select-RAM Memory: Edge-Triggered, Synchronous RAM Modes

The RAM in any CLB can be configured for synchronous, edge-triggered, write operation. The read operation is not affected by this change to an edge-triggered write.

Dual-Port RAM

A separate option converts the 16x2 RAM in any CLB into a 16x1 dual-port RAM with simultaneous Read/Write.

The function generators in each CLB can be configured as either level-sensitive (asynchronous) single-port RAM, edge-triggered (synchronous) single-port RAM, edge-triggered (synchronous) dual-port RAM, or as combinatorial logic.

Configurable RAM Content

The RAM content can now be loaded at configuration time, so that the RAM starts up with user-defined data.

H Function Generator

In current XC4000 Series devices, the H function generator is more versatile than in the original XC4000. Its inputs can come not only from the F and G function generators but also from up to three of the four control input lines. The H function generator can thus be totally or partially independent of the other two function generators, increasing the maximum capacity of the device.

IOB Clock Enable

The two flip-flops in each IOB have a common clock enable input, which through configuration can be activated individually for the input or output flip-flop or both. This clock enable operates exactly like the EC pin on the XC4000 CLB. This new feature makes the IOBs more versatile, and avoids the need for clock gating.

Output Drivers

The output pull-up structure defaults to a TTL-like totem-pole. This driver is an n-channel pull-up transistor, pulling to a voltage one transistor threshold below V_{cc} , just like the XC4000 family outputs. Alternatively, XC4000 Series devices can be globally configured with CMOS outputs, with p-channel pull-up transistors pulling to V_{cc} . Also, the configurable pull-up resistor in the XC4000 Series is a p-channel transistor that pulls to V_{cc} , whereas in the original XC4000 family it is an n-channel transistor that pulls to a voltage one transistor threshold below V_{cc} .

Detailed Functional Description

XC4000 Series devices achieve high speed through advanced semiconductor technology and improved architecture. The XC4000E and XC4000X support system clock rates of up to 80 MHz and internal performance in excess of 150 MHz. Compared to older Xilinx FPGA families, XC4000 Series devices are more powerful. They offer on-chip edge-triggered and dual-port RAM, clock enables on I/O flip-flops, and wide-input decoders. They are more versatile in many applications, especially those involving RAM. Design cycles are faster due to a combination of increased routing resources and more sophisticated software.

Basic Building Blocks

Xilinx user-programmable gate arrays include two major configurable elements: configurable logic blocks (CLBs) and input/output blocks (IOBs).

- CLBs provide the functional elements for constructing the user's logic.
- IOBs provide the interface between the package pins and internal signal lines.

Three other types of circuits are also available:

- 3-State buffers (TBUFs) driving horizontal longlines are associated with each CLB.
- Wide edge decoders are available around the periphery of each device.
- An on-chip oscillator is provided.

Programmable interconnect resources provide routing paths to connect the inputs and outputs of these configurable elements to the appropriate networks.

The functionality of each circuit block is customized during configuration by programming internal static memory cells. The values stored in these memory cells determine the logic functions and interconnections implemented in the FPGA. Each of these available circuits is described in this section.

Configurable Logic Blocks (CLBs)

Configurable Logic Blocks implement most of the logic in an FPGA. The principal CLB elements are shown in **Figure 1**. Two 4-input function generators (F and G) offer unrestricted versatility. Most combinatorial logic functions need four or fewer inputs. However, a third function generator (H) is provided. The H function generator has three inputs. Either zero, one, or two of these inputs can be the outputs of F and G; the other input(s) are from outside the CLB. The CLB can, therefore, implement certain functions of up to nine variables, like parity check or expandable-identity comparison of two sets of four inputs.

Each CLB contains two storage elements that can be used to store the function generator outputs. However, the storage elements and function generators can also be used independently. These storage elements can be configured as flip-flops in both XC4000E and XC4000X devices; in the XC4000X they can optionally be configured as latches. DIN can be used as a direct input to either of the two storage elements. H1 can drive the other through the H function generator. Function generator outputs can also drive two outputs independent of the storage element outputs. This versatility increases logic capacity and simplifies routing.

Thirteen CLB inputs and four CLB outputs provide access to the function generators and storage elements. These inputs and outputs connect to the programmable interconnect resources outside the block.

Function Generators

Four independent inputs are provided to each of two function generators (F1 - F4 and G1 - G4). These function generators, with outputs labeled F' and G', are each capable of implementing any arbitrarily defined Boolean function of four inputs. The function generators are implemented as memory look-up tables. The propagation delay is therefore independent of the function implemented.

A third function generator, labeled H', can implement any Boolean function of its three inputs. Two of these inputs can optionally be the F' and G' functional generator outputs. Alternatively, one or both of these inputs can come from outside the CLB (H2, H0). The third input must come from outside the block (H1).

Signals from the function generators can exit the CLB on two outputs. F' or H' can be connected to the X output. G' or H' can be connected to the Y output.

A CLB can be used to implement any of the following functions:

- any function of up to four variables, plus any second function of up to four unrelated variables, plus any third function of up to three unrelated variables¹
- any single function of five variables
- any function of four variables together with some functions of six variables
- some functions of up to nine variables.

Implementing wide functions in a single block reduces both the number of blocks required and the delay in the signal path, achieving both increased capacity and speed.

The versatility of the CLB function generators significantly improves system speed. In addition, the design-software tools can deal with each function generator independently. This flexibility improves cell usage.

1. When three separate functions are generated, one of the function outputs must be captured in a flip-flop internal to the CLB. Only two unregistered function generator outputs are available from the CLB.

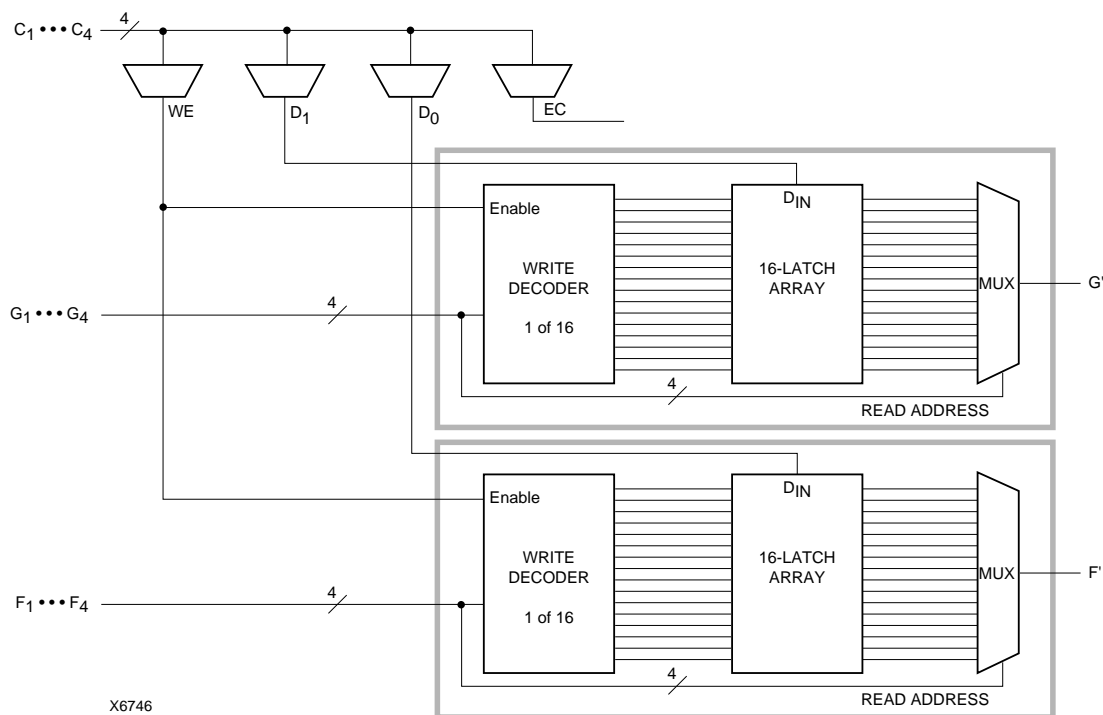


Figure 9: 16x2 (or 16x1) Level-Sensitive Single-Port RAM

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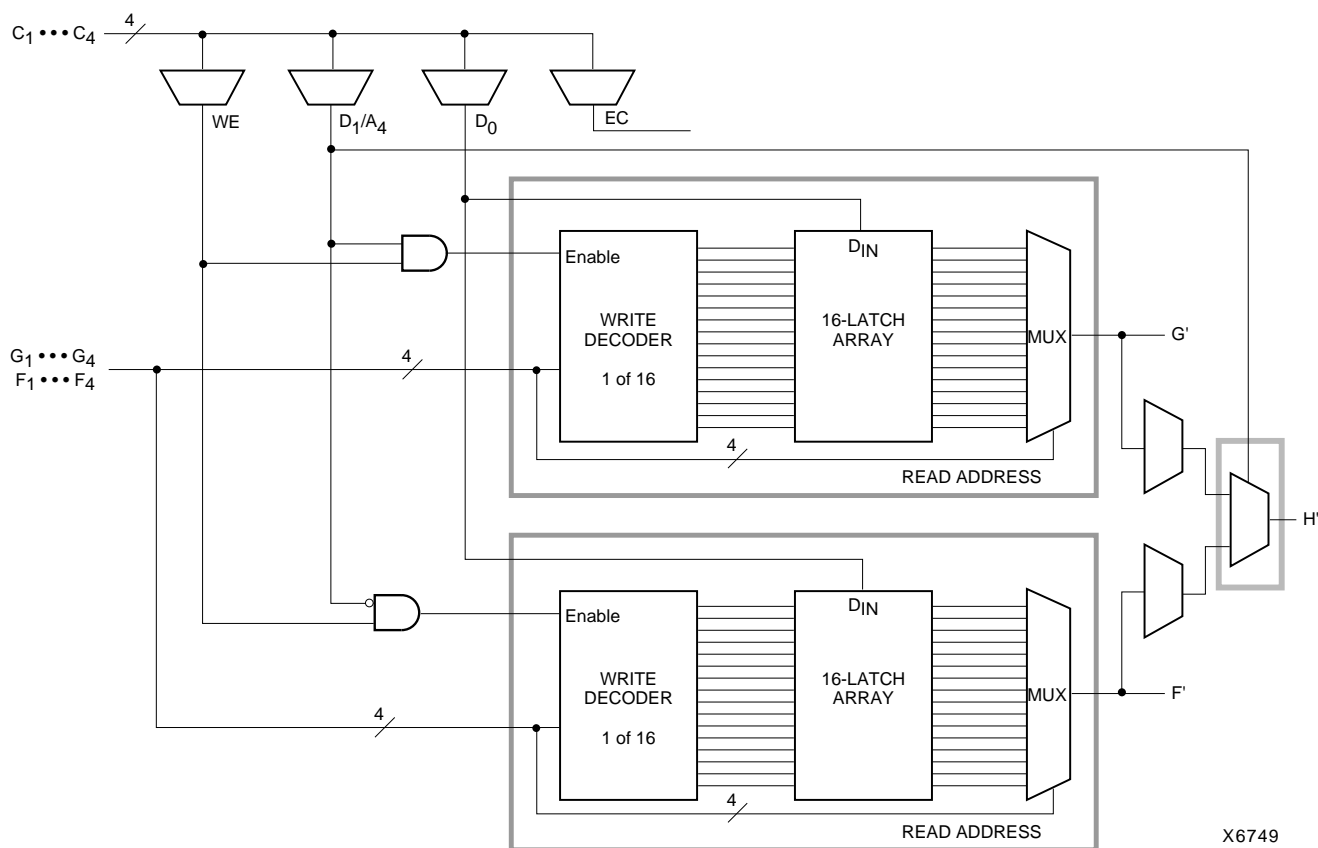


Figure 10: 32x1 Level-Sensitive Single-Port RAM (F and G addresses are identical)

Fast Carry Logic

Each CLB F and G function generator contains dedicated arithmetic logic for the fast generation of carry and borrow signals. This extra output is passed on to the function generator in the adjacent CLB. The carry chain is independent of normal routing resources.

Dedicated fast carry logic greatly increases the efficiency and performance of adders, subtractors, accumulators, comparators and counters. It also opens the door to many new applications involving arithmetic operation, where the previous generations of FPGAs were not fast enough or too inefficient. High-speed address offset calculations in micro-processor or graphics systems, and high-speed addition in digital signal processing are two typical applications.

The two 4-input function generators can be configured as a 2-bit adder with built-in hidden carry that can be expanded to any length. This dedicated carry circuitry is so fast and efficient that conventional speed-up methods like carry generate/propagate are meaningless even at the 16-bit level, and of marginal benefit at the 32-bit level.

This fast carry logic is one of the more significant features of the XC4000 Series, speeding up arithmetic and counting into the 70 MHz range.

The carry chain in XC4000E devices can run either up or down. At the top and bottom of the columns where there are no CLBs above or below, the carry is propagated to the right. (See Figure 11.) In order to improve speed in the high-capacity XC4000X devices, which can potentially have very long carry chains, the carry chain travels upward only, as shown in Figure 12. Additionally, standard interconnect can be used to route a carry signal in the downward direction.

Figure 13 on page 19 shows an XC4000E CLB with dedicated fast carry logic. The carry logic in the XC4000X is similar, except that COUT exits at the top only, and the signal CINDOWN does not exist. As shown in Figure 13, the carry logic shares operand and control inputs with the function generators. The carry outputs connect to the function generators, where they are combined with the operands to form the sums.

Figure 14 on page 20 shows the details of the carry logic for the XC4000E. This diagram shows the contents of the box labeled "CARRY LOGIC" in Figure 13. The XC4000X carry logic is very similar, but a multiplexer on the pass-through carry chain has been eliminated to reduce delay. Additionally, in the XC4000X the multiplexer on the G4 path has a memory-programmable 0 input, which permits G4 to directly connect to COUT. G4 thus becomes an additional high-speed initialization path for carry-in.

The dedicated carry logic is discussed in detail in Xilinx document XAPP 013: "Using the Dedicated Carry Logic in

XC4000." This discussion also applies to XC4000E devices, and to XC4000X devices when the minor logic changes are taken into account.

The fast carry logic can be accessed by placing special library symbols, or by using Xilinx Relationally Placed Macros (RPMs) that already include these symbols.



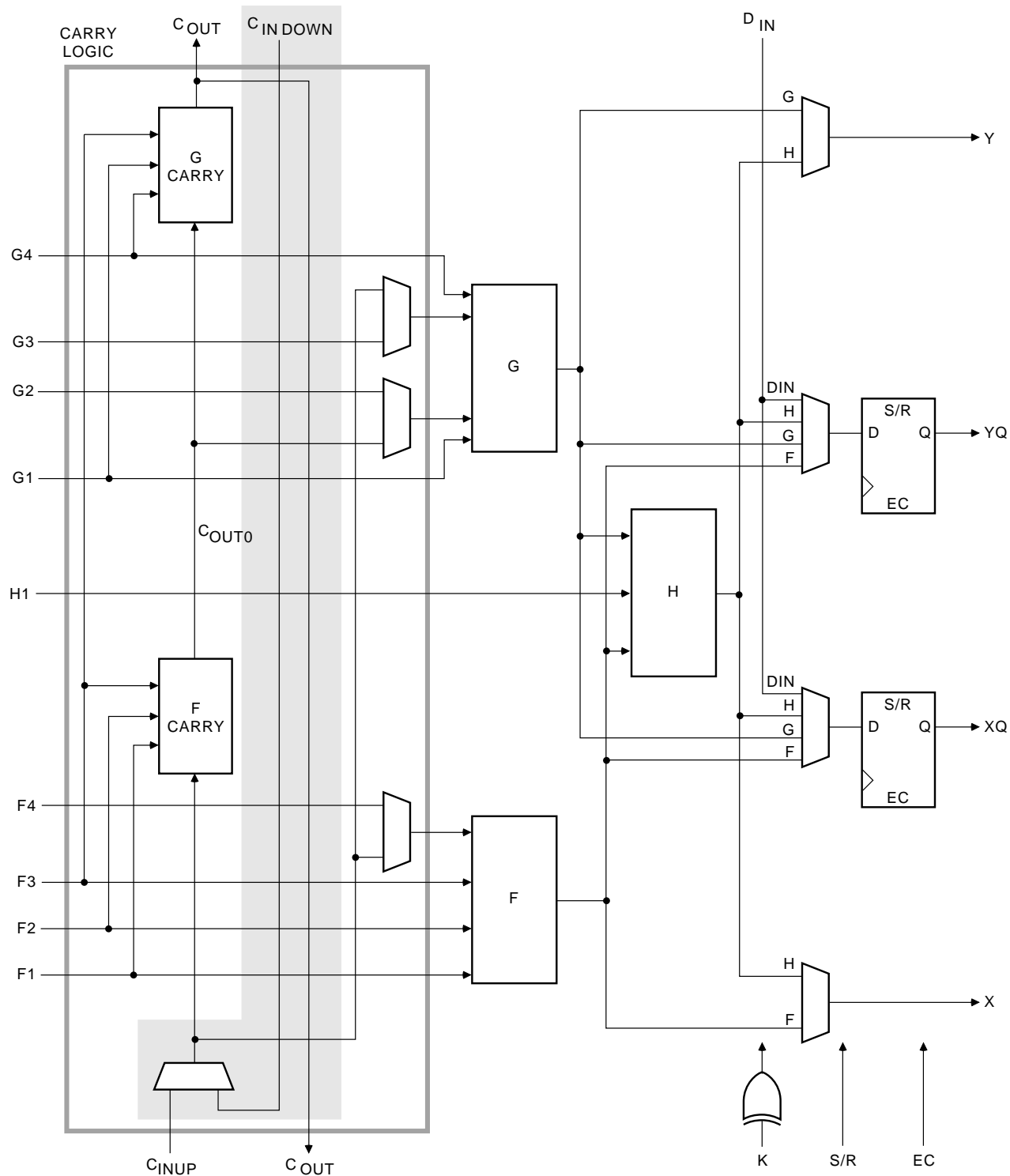
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Figure 11: Available XC4000E Carry Propagation Paths



X6610

Figure 12: Available XC4000X Carry Propagation Paths (dotted lines use general interconnect)



X6699

Figure 13: Fast Carry Logic in XC4000E CLB (shaded area not present in XC4000X)

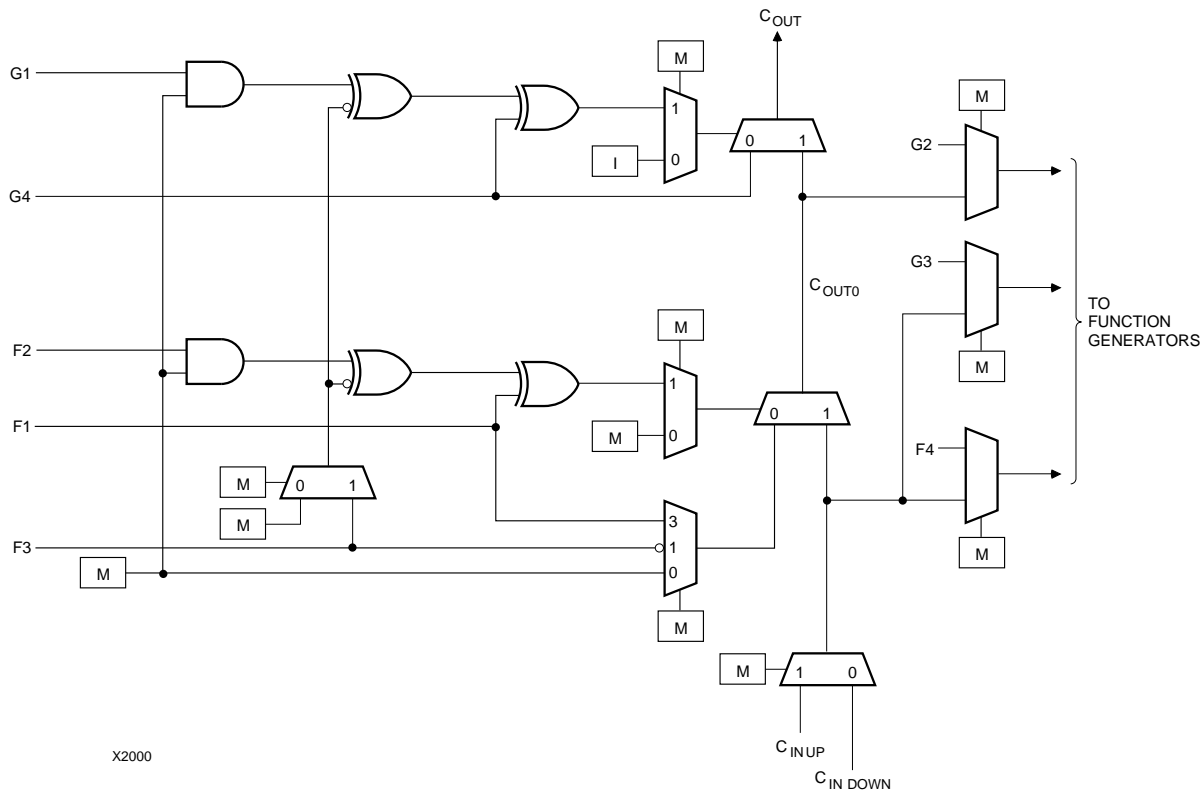


Figure 14: Detail of XC4000E Dedicated Carry Logic

Input/Output Blocks (IOBs)

User-configurable input/output blocks (IOBs) provide the interface between external package pins and the internal logic. Each IOB controls one package pin and can be configured for input, output, or bidirectional signals.

Figure 15 shows a simplified block diagram of the XC4000E IOB. A more complete diagram which includes the boundary scan logic of the XC4000E IOB can be found in Figure 40 on page 43, in the “Boundary Scan” section.

The XC4000X IOB contains some special features not included in the XC4000E IOB. These features are highlighted in a simplified block diagram found in Figure 16, and discussed throughout this section. When XC4000X special features are discussed, they are clearly identified in the text. Any feature not so identified is present in both XC4000E and XC4000X devices.

IOB Input Signals

Two paths, labeled I1 and I2 in Figure 15 and Figure 16, bring input signals into the array. Inputs also connect to an input register that can be programmed as either an edge-triggered flip-flop or a level-sensitive latch.

The choice is made by placing the appropriate library symbol. For example, IFD is the basic input flip-flop (rising edge triggered), and ILD is the basic input latch (transparent-High). Variations with inverted clocks are available, and some combinations of latches and flip-flops can be implemented in a single IOB, as described in the *XACT Libraries Guide*.

The XC4000E inputs can be globally configured for either TTL (1.2V) or 5.0 volt CMOS thresholds, using an option in the bitstream generation software. There is a slight input hysteresis of about 300mV. The XC4000E output levels are also configurable; the two global adjustments of input threshold and output level are independent.

Inputs on the XC4000XL are TTL compatible and 3.3V CMOS compatible. Outputs on the XC4000XL are pulled to the 3.3V positive supply.

The inputs of XC4000 Series 5-Volt devices can be driven by the outputs of any 3.3-Volt device, if the 5-Volt inputs are in TTL mode.

Supported sources for XC4000 Series device inputs are shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Supported Sources for XC4000 Series Device Inputs

Source	XC4000E/EX Series Inputs		XC4000XL Series Inputs
	5 V, TTL	5 V, CMOS	3.3 V CMOS
Any device, V _{CC} = 3.3 V, CMOS outputs	✓	Unreliable Data	✓
XC4000 Series, V _{CC} = 5 V, TTL outputs	✓		✓
Any device, V _{CC} = 5 V, TTL outputs (V _{oh} ≤ 3.7 V)	✓		✓
Any device, V _{CC} = 5 V, CMOS outputs	✓	✓	✓

XC4000XL 5-Volt Tolerant I/Os

The I/Os on the XC4000XL are fully 5-volt tolerant even though the V_{CC} is 3.3 volts. This allows 5 V signals to directly connect to the XC4000XL inputs without damage, as shown in Table 8. In addition, the 3.3 volt V_{CC} can be applied before or after 5 volt signals are applied to the I/Os. This makes the XC4000XL immune to power supply sequencing problems.


Registered Inputs

The I1 and I2 signals that exit the block can each carry either the direct or registered input signal.

The input and output storage elements in each IOB have a common clock enable input, which, through configuration, can be activated individually for the input or output flip-flop, or both. This clock enable operates exactly like the EC pin on the XC4000 Series CLB. It cannot be inverted within the IOB.

The storage element behavior is shown in Table 9.

Table 9: Input Register Functionality (active rising edge is shown)

Mode	Clock	Clock Enable	D	Q
Power-Up or GSR	X	X	X	SR
Flip-Flop		1*	D	D
	0	X	X	Q
Latch	1	1*	X	Q
	0	1*	D	D
Both	X	0	X	Q

Legend:

X 

SR

0*

1*

Don't care
Rising edge

Set or Reset value. Reset is default.

Input is Low or unconnected (default value)

Input is High or unconnected (default value)

Optional Delay Guarantees Zero Hold Time

The data input to the register can optionally be delayed by several nanoseconds. With the delay enabled, the setup time of the input flip-flop is increased so that normal clock routing does not result in a positive hold-time requirement. A positive hold time requirement can lead to unreliable, temperature- or processing-dependent operation.

The input flip-flop setup time is defined between the data measured at the device I/O pin and the clock input at the IOB (not at the clock pin). Any routing delay from the device clock pin to the clock input of the IOB must, therefore, be subtracted from this setup time to arrive at the real setup time requirement relative to the device pins. A short specified setup time might, therefore, result in a negative setup time at the device pins, i.e., a positive hold-time requirement.

When a delay is inserted on the data line, more clock delay can be tolerated without causing a positive hold-time requirement. Sufficient delay eliminates the possibility of a data hold-time requirement at the external pin. The maximum delay is therefore inserted as the default.

The XC4000E IOB has a one-tap delay element: either the delay is inserted (default), or it is not. The delay guarantees a zero hold time with respect to clocks routed through any of the XC4000E global clock buffers. (See "Global Nets and Buffers (XC4000E only)" on page 35 for a description of the global clock buffers in the XC4000E.) For a shorter input register setup time, with non-zero hold, attach a NODELAY attribute or property to the flip-flop.

The XC4000X IOB has a two-tap delay element, with choices of a full delay, a partial delay, or no delay. The attributes or properties used to select the desired delay are shown in Table 10. The choices are no added attribute, MEDDELAY, and NODELAY. The default setting, with no added attribute, ensures no hold time with respect to any of the XC4000X clock buffers, including the Global Low-Skew buffers. MEDDELAY ensures no hold time with respect to the Global Early buffers. Inputs with NODELAY may have a positive hold time with respect to all clock buffers. For a description of each of these buffers, see "Global Nets and Buffers (XC4000X only)" on page 37.

Table 10: XC4000X IOB Input Delay Element

Value	When to Use
full delay (default, no attribute added)	Zero Hold with respect to Global Low-Skew Buffer, Global Early Buffer
MEDDELAY	Zero Hold with respect to Global Early Buffer
NODELAY	Short Setup, positive Hold time

Output Multiplexer/2-Input Function Generator (XC4000X only)

As shown in [Figure 16 on page 21](#), the output path in the XC4000X IOB contains an additional multiplexer not available in the XC4000E IOB. The multiplexer can also be configured as a 2-input function generator, implementing a pass-gate, AND-gate, OR-gate, or XOR-gate, with 0, 1, or 2 inverted inputs. The logic used to implement these functions is shown in the upper gray area of [Figure 16](#).

When configured as a multiplexer, this feature allows two output signals to time-share the same output pad; effectively doubling the number of device outputs without requiring a larger, more expensive package.

When the MUX is configured as a 2-input function generator, logic can be implemented within the IOB itself. Combined with a Global Early buffer, this arrangement allows very high-speed gating of a single signal. For example, a wide decoder can be implemented in CLBs, and its output gated with a Read or Write Strobe Driven by a BUFGE buffer, as shown in [Figure 19](#). The critical-path pin-to-pin delay of this circuit is less than 6 nanoseconds.

As shown in [Figure 16](#), the IOB input pins Out, Output Clock, and Clock Enable have different delays and different flexibilities regarding polarity. Additionally, Output Clock sources are more limited than the other inputs. Therefore, the Xilinx software does not move logic into the IOB function generators unless explicitly directed to do so.

The user can specify that the IOB function generator be used, by placing special library symbols beginning with the letter "O." For example, a 2-input AND-gate in the IOB function generator is called OAND2. Use the symbol input pin labelled "F" for the signal on the critical path. This signal is placed on the OK pin — the IOB input with the shortest delay to the function generator. Two examples are shown in [Figure 20](#).



Figure 19: Fast Pin-to-Pin Path in XC4000X



Figure 20: AND & MUX Symbols in XC4000X IOB

Other IOB Options

There are a number of other programmable options in the XC4000 Series IOB.

Pull-up and Pull-down Resistors

Programmable pull-up and pull-down resistors are useful for tying unused pins to Vcc or Ground to minimize power consumption and reduce noise sensitivity. The configurable pull-up resistor is a p-channel transistor that pulls to Vcc. The configurable pull-down resistor is an n-channel transistor that pulls to Ground.

The value of these resistors is 50 kΩ – 100 kΩ. This high value makes them unsuitable as wired-AND pull-up resistors.

The pull-up resistors for most user-programmable IOBs are active during the configuration process. See [Table 22 on page 58](#) for a list of pins with pull-ups active before and during configuration.

After configuration, voltage levels of unused pads, bonded or un-bonded, must be valid logic levels, to reduce noise sensitivity and avoid excess current. Therefore, by default, unused pads are configured with the internal pull-up resistor active. Alternatively, they can be individually configured with the pull-down resistor, or as a driven output, or to be driven by an external source. To activate the internal pull-up, attach the PULLUP library component to the net attached to the pad. To activate the internal pull-down, attach the PULLDOWN library component to the net attached to the pad.

Independent Clocks

Separate clock signals are provided for the input and output flip-flops. The clock can be independently inverted for each flip-flop within the IOB, generating either falling-edge or rising-edge triggered flip-flops. The clock inputs for each IOB are independent, except that in the XC4000X, the Fast Capture latch shares an IOB input with the output clock pin.

Early Clock for IOBs (XC4000X only)

Special early clocks are available for IOBs. These clocks are sourced by the same sources as the Global Low-Skew buffers, but are separately buffered. They have fewer loads and therefore less delay. The early clock can drive either the IOB output clock or the IOB input clock, or both. The early clock allows fast capture of input data, and fast clock-to-output on output data. The Global Early buffers that drive these clocks are described in ["Global Nets and Buffers \(XC4000X only\)" on page 37](#).

Global Set/Reset

As with the CLB registers, the Global Set/Reset signal (GSR) can be used to set or clear the input and output registers, depending on the value of the INIT attribute or property. The two flip-flops can be individually configured to set

The oscillator output is optionally available after configuration. Any two of four resynchronized taps of a built-in divider are also available. These taps are at the fourth, ninth, fourteenth and nineteenth bits of the divider. Therefore, if the primary oscillator output is running at the nominal 8 MHz, the user has access to an 8 MHz clock, plus any two of 500 kHz, 16kHz, 490Hz and 15Hz (up to 10% lower for low-voltage devices). These frequencies can vary by as much as -50% or +25%.

These signals can be accessed by placing the OSC4 library element in a schematic or in HDL code (see [Figure 24](#)).

The oscillator is automatically disabled after configuration if the OSC4 symbol is not used in the design.

Programmable Interconnect

All internal connections are composed of metal segments with programmable switching points and switching matrices to implement the desired routing. A structured, hierarchical matrix of routing resources is provided to achieve efficient automated routing.

The XC4000E and XC4000X share a basic interconnect structure. XC4000X devices, however, have additional routing not available in the XC4000E. The extra routing resources allow high utilization in high-capacity devices. All XC4000X-specific routing resources are clearly identified throughout this section. Any resources not identified as XC4000X-specific are present in all XC4000 Series devices.

This section describes the varied routing resources available in XC4000 Series devices. The implementation software automatically assigns the appropriate resources based on the density and timing requirements of the design.

Interconnect Overview

There are several types of interconnect.

- CLB routing is associated with each row and column of the CLB array.
- IOB routing forms a ring (called a VersaRing) around the outside of the CLB array. It connects the I/O with the internal logic blocks.

- Global routing consists of dedicated networks primarily designed to distribute clocks throughout the device with minimum delay and skew. Global routing can also be used for other high-fanout signals.

Five interconnect types are distinguished by the relative length of their segments: single-length lines, double-length lines, quad and octal lines (XC4000X only), and longlines. In the XC4000X, direct connects allow fast data flow between adjacent CLBs, and between IOBs and CLBs.

Extra routing is included in the IOB pad ring. The XC4000X also includes a ring of octal interconnect lines near the IOBs to improve pin-swapping and routing to locked pins.

XC4000E/X devices include two types of global buffers. These global buffers have different properties, and are intended for different purposes. They are discussed in detail later in this section.

CLB Routing Connections

A high-level diagram of the routing resources associated with one CLB is shown in [Figure 25](#). The shaded arrows represent routing present only in XC4000X devices.

[Table 14](#) shows how much routing of each type is available in XC4000E and XC4000X CLB arrays. Clearly, very large designs, or designs with a great deal of interconnect, will route more easily in the XC4000X. Smaller XC4000E designs, typically requiring significantly less interconnect, do not require the additional routing.

[Figure 27 on page 30](#) is a detailed diagram of both the XC4000E and the XC4000X CLB, with associated routing. The shaded square is the programmable switch matrix, present in both the XC4000E and the XC4000X. The L-shaped shaded area is present only in XC4000X devices. As shown in the figure, the XC4000X block is essentially an XC4000E block with additional routing.

CLB inputs and outputs are distributed on all four sides, providing maximum routing flexibility. In general, the entire architecture is symmetrical and regular. It is well suited to established placement and routing algorithms. Inputs, outputs, and function generators can freely swap positions within a CLB to avoid routing congestion during the placement and routing operation.

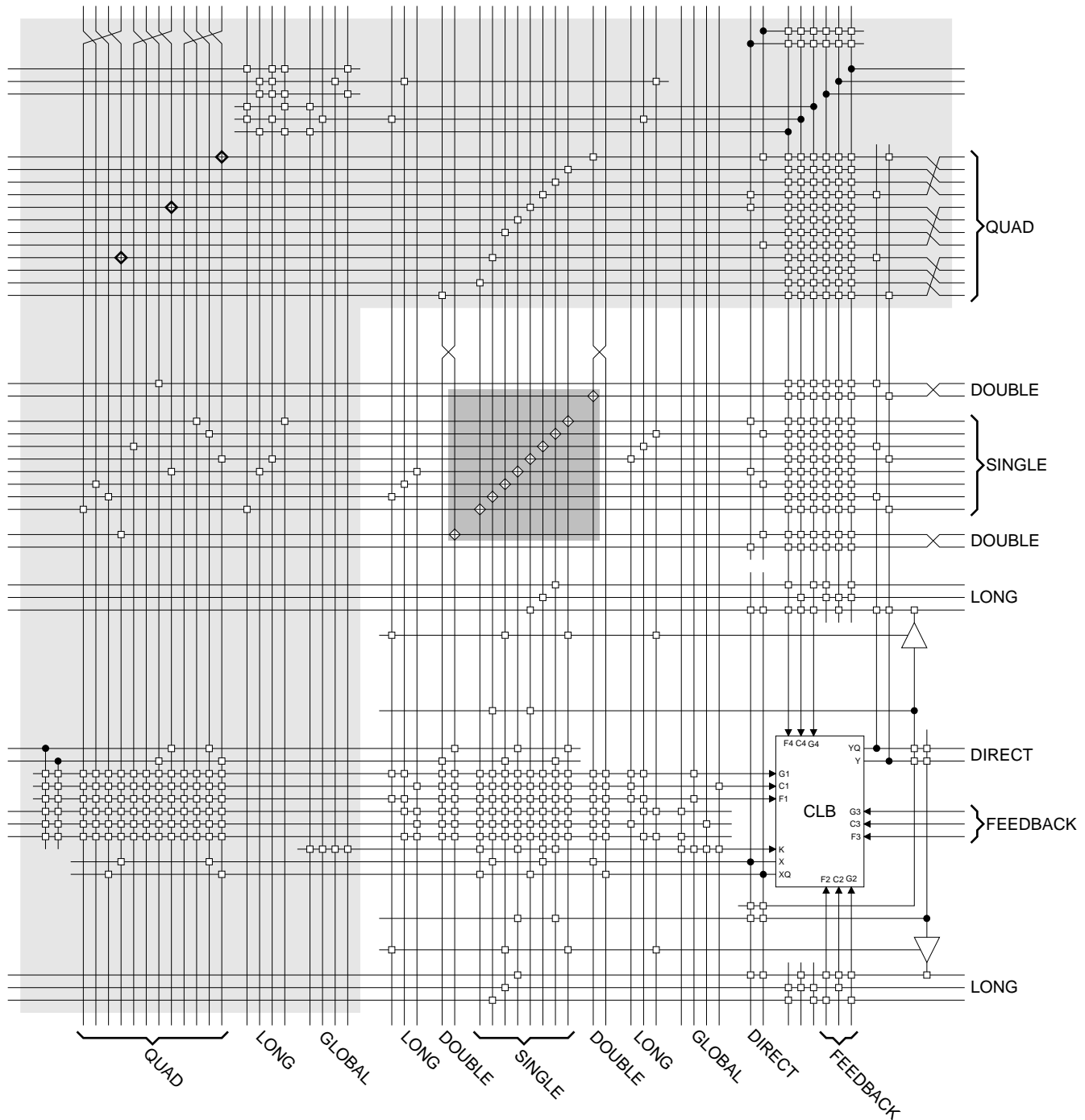
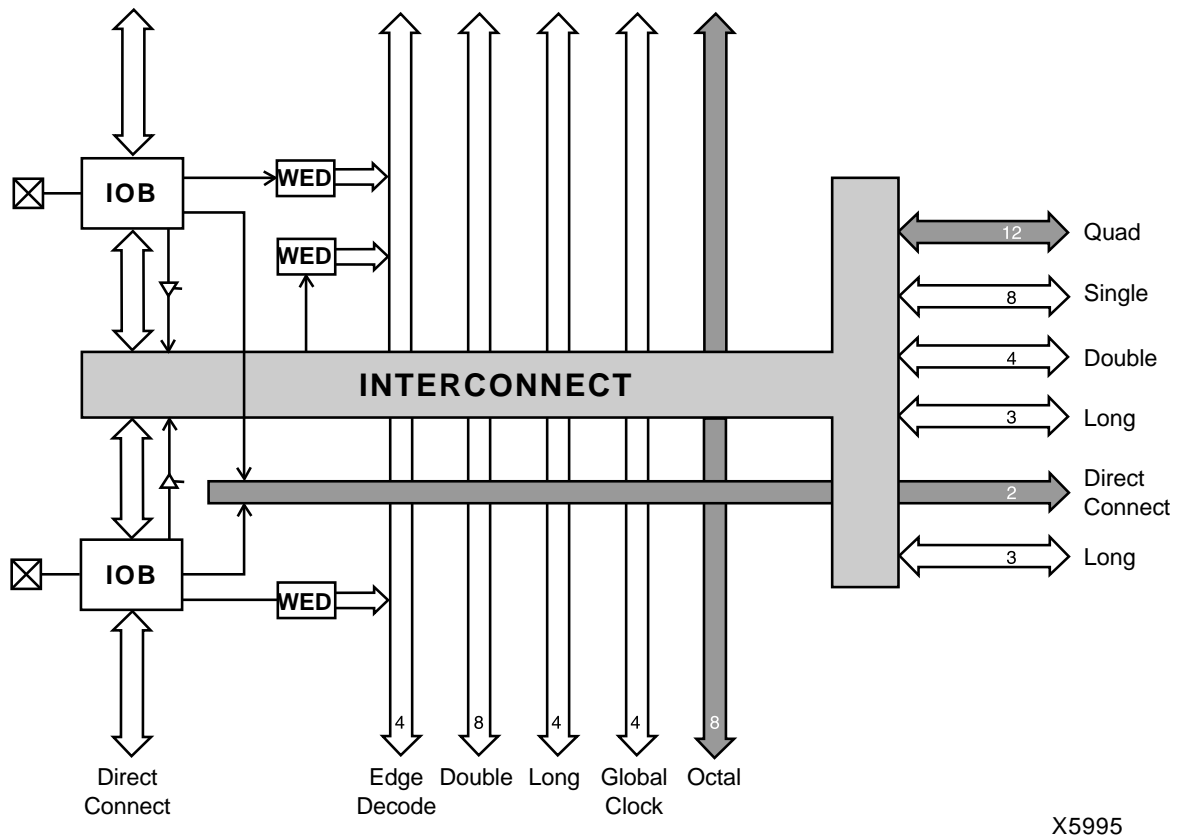


Figure 27: Detail of Programmable Interconnect Associated with XC4000 Series CLB



X5995

Figure 31: High-Level Routing Diagram of XC4000 Series VersaRing (Left Edge)
WED = Wide Edge Decoder, IOB = I/O Block (shaded arrows indicate XC4000X only)

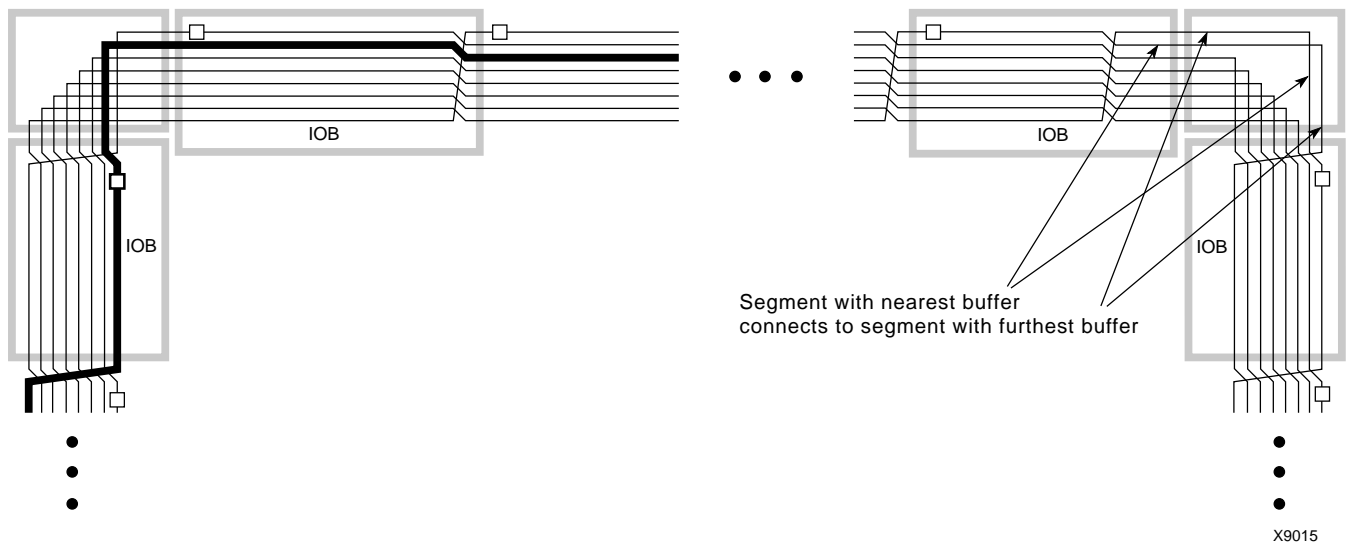


Figure 32: XC4000X Octal I/O Routing

IOB inputs and outputs interface with the octal lines via the single-length interconnect lines. Single-length lines are also used for communication between the octals and double-length lines, quads, and longlines within the CLB array.

Segmentation into buffered octals was found to be optimal for distributing signals over long distances around the device.

Global Nets and Buffers

Both the XC4000E and the XC4000X have dedicated global networks. These networks are designed to distribute clocks and other high fanout control signals throughout the devices with minimal skew. The global buffers are described in detail in the following sections. The text descriptions and diagrams are summarized in [Table 15](#). The table shows which CLB and IOB clock pins can be sourced by which global buffers.

In both XC4000E and XC4000X devices, placement of a library symbol called BUFG results in the software choosing the appropriate clock buffer, based on the timing requirements of the design. The detailed information in these sections is included only for reference.

Global Nets and Buffers (XC4000E only)

Four vertical longlines in each CLB column are driven exclusively by special global buffers. These longlines are in addition to the vertical longlines used for standard interconnect. The four global lines can be driven by either of two types of global buffers. The clock pins of every CLB and IOB can also be sourced from local interconnect.

Two different types of clock buffers are available in the XC4000E:

- Primary Global Buffers (BUFGP)
- Secondary Global Buffers (BUFGS)

Four Primary Global buffers offer the shortest delay and negligible skew. Four Secondary Global buffers have slightly longer delay and slightly more skew due to potentially heavier loading, but offer greater flexibility when used to drive non-clock CLB inputs.

The Primary Global buffers must be driven by the semi-dedicated pads. The Secondary Global buffers can be sourced by either semi-dedicated pads or internal nets.

Each CLB column has four dedicated vertical Global lines. Each of these lines can be accessed by one particular Primary Global buffer, or by any of the Secondary Global buffers, as shown in [Figure 34](#). Each corner of the device has one Primary buffer and one Secondary buffer.

IOBs along the left and right edges have four vertical global longlines. Top and bottom IOBs can be clocked from the global lines in the adjacent CLB column.

A global buffer should be specified for all timing-sensitive global signal distribution. To use a global buffer, place a BUFGP (primary buffer), BUFGS (secondary buffer), or BUFG (either primary or secondary buffer) element in a schematic or in HDL code. If desired, attach a LOC attribute or property to direct placement to the designated location. For example, attach a LOC=L attribute or property to a BUFGS symbol to direct that a buffer be placed in one of the two Secondary Global buffers on the left edge of the device, or a LOC=BL to indicate the Secondary Global buffer on the bottom edge of the device, on the left.

Table 15: Clock Pin Access

	XC4000E		XC4000X			Local Inter-connect
	BUFGP	BUFGS	BUFGLS	L & R BUFGE	T & B BUFGE	
All CLBs in Quadrant	√	√	√	√	√	√
All CLBs in Device	√	√	√			√
IOBs on Adjacent Vertical Half Edge	√	√	√	√	√	√
IOBs on Adjacent Vertical Full Edge	√	√	√	√		√
IOBs on Adjacent Horizontal Half Edge (Direct)				√		√
IOBs on Adjacent Horizontal Half Edge (through CLB globals)	√	√	√	√	√	√
IOBs on Adjacent Horizontal Full Edge (through CLB globals)	√	√	√			√

L = Left, R = Right, T = Top, B = Bottom

Global Nets and Buffers (XC4000X only)

Eight vertical longlines in each CLB column are driven by special global buffers. These longlines are in addition to the vertical longlines used for standard interconnect. The global lines are broken in the center of the array, to allow faster distribution and to minimize skew across the whole array. Each half-column global line has its own buffered multiplexer, as shown in [Figure 35](#). The top and bottom global lines cannot be connected across the center of the device, as this connection might introduce unacceptable skew. The top and bottom halves of the global lines must be separately driven — although they can be driven by the same global buffer.

The eight global lines in each CLB column can be driven by either of two types of global buffers. They can also be driven by internal logic, because they can be accessed by single, double, and quad lines at the top, bottom, half, and quarter points. Consequently, the number of different clocks that can be used simultaneously in an XC4000X device is very large.

There are four global lines feeding the IOBs at the left edge of the device. IOBs along the right edge have eight global lines. There is a single global line along the top and bottom edges with access to the IOBs. All IOB global lines are broken at the center. They cannot be connected across the center of the device, as this connection might introduce unacceptable skew.

IOB global lines can be driven from two types of global buffers, or from local interconnect. Alternatively, top and bottom IOBs can be clocked from the global lines in the adjacent CLB column.

Two different types of clock buffers are available in the XC4000X:

- Global Low-Skew Buffers (BUFGLS)
- Global Early Buffers (BUFGE)

Global Low-Skew Buffers are the standard clock buffers. They should be used for most internal clocking, whenever a large portion of the device must be driven.

Global Early Buffers are designed to provide a faster clock access, but CLB access is limited to one-fourth of the device. They also facilitate a faster I/O interface.

[Figure 35](#) is a conceptual diagram of the global net structure in the XC4000X.

Global Early buffers and Global Low-Skew buffers share a single pad. Therefore, the same IPAD symbol can drive one buffer of each type, in parallel. This configuration is particularly useful when using the Fast Capture latches, as described in [“IOB Input Signals” on page 20](#). Paired Global

Early and Global Low-Skew buffers share a common input; they cannot be driven by two different signals.

Choosing an XC4000X Clock Buffer

The clocking structure of the XC4000X provides a large variety of features. However, it can be simple to use, without understanding all the details. The software automatically handles clocks, along with all other routing, when the appropriate clock buffer is placed in the design. In fact, if a buffer symbol called BUFG is placed, rather than a specific type of buffer, the software even chooses the buffer most appropriate for the design. The detailed information in this section is provided for those users who want a finer level of control over their designs.

If fine control is desired, use the following summary and [Table 15 on page 35](#) to choose an appropriate clock buffer.

- The simplest thing to do is to use a Global Low-Skew buffer.
- If a faster clock path is needed, try a BUFG. The software will first try to use a Global Low-Skew Buffer. If timing requirements are not met, a faster buffer will automatically be used.
- If a single quadrant of the chip is sufficient for the clocked logic, and the timing requires a faster clock than the Global Low-Skew buffer, use a Global Early buffer.

Global Low-Skew Buffers

Each corner of the XC4000X device has two Global Low-Skew buffers. Any of the eight Global Low-Skew buffers can drive any of the eight vertical Global lines in a column of CLBs. In addition, any of the buffers can drive any of the four vertical lines accessing the IOBs on the left edge of the device, and any of the eight vertical lines accessing the IOBs on the right edge of the device. (See [Figure 36 on page 38](#).)

IOBs at the top and bottom edges of the device are accessed through the vertical Global lines in the CLB array, as in the XC4000E. Any Global Low-Skew buffer can, therefore, access every IOB and CLB in the device.

The Global Low-Skew buffers can be driven by either semi-dedicated pads or internal logic.

To use a Global Low-Skew buffer, instantiate a BUFGLS element in a schematic or in HDL code. If desired, attach a LOC attribute or property to direct placement to the designated location. For example, attach a LOC=T attribute or property to direct that a BUFGLS be placed in one of the two Global Low-Skew buffers on the top edge of the device, or a LOC=TR to indicate the Global Low-Skew buffer on the top edge of the device, on the right.

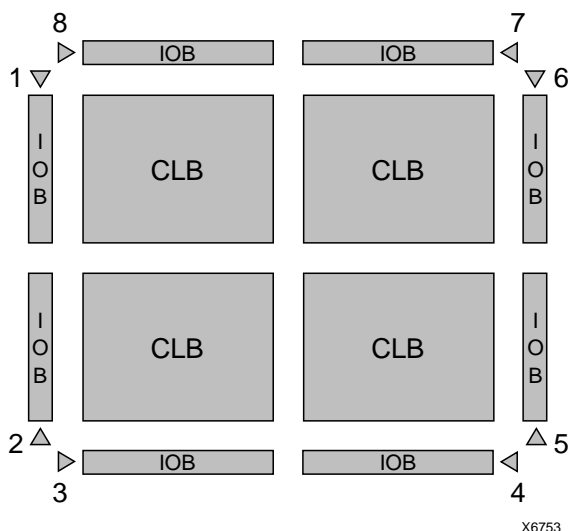


Figure 36: Any BUFGLS (GCK1 - GCK8) Can Drive Any or All Clock Inputs on the Device

Global Early Buffers

Each corner of the XC4000X device has two Global Early buffers. The primary purpose of the Global Early buffers is to provide an earlier clock access than the potentially heavily-loaded Global Low-Skew buffers. A clock source applied to both buffers will result in the Global Early clock edge occurring several nanoseconds earlier than the Global Low-Skew buffer clock edge, due to the lighter loading.

Global Early buffers also facilitate the fast capture of device inputs, using the Fast Capture latches described in “**IOB Input Signals**” on page 20. For Fast Capture, take a single clock signal, and route it through both a Global Early buffer and a Global Low-Skew buffer. (The two buffers share an input pad.) Use the Global Early buffer to clock the Fast Capture latch, and the Global Low-Skew buffer to clock the normal input flip-flop or latch, as shown in **Figure 17** on page 23.

The Global Early buffers can also be used to provide a fast Clock-to-Out on device output pins. However, an early clock in the output flip-flop IOB must be taken into consideration when calculating the internal clock speed for the design.

The Global Early buffers at the left and right edges of the chip have slightly different capabilities than the ones at the top and bottom. Refer to **Figure 37**, **Figure 38**, and **Figure 35** on page 36 while reading the following explanation.

Each Global Early buffer can access the eight vertical Global lines for all CLBs in the quadrant. Therefore, only one-fourth of the CLB clock pins can be accessed. This restriction is in large part responsible for the faster speed of the buffers, relative to the Global Low-Skew buffers.

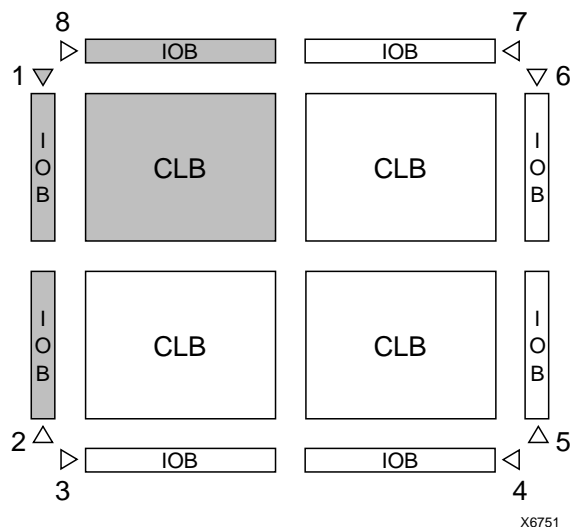


Figure 37: Left and Right BUFGEs Can Drive Any or All Clock Inputs in Same Quadrant or Edge (GCK1 is shown. GCK2, GCK5 and GCK6 are similar.)

The left-side Global Early buffers can each drive two of the four vertical lines accessing the IOBs on the entire left edge of the device. The right-side Global Early buffers can each drive two of the eight vertical lines accessing the IOBs on the entire right edge of the device. (See **Figure 37**.)

Each left and right Global Early buffer can also drive half of the IOBs along either the top or bottom edge of the device, using a dedicated line that can only be accessed through the Global Early buffers.

The top and bottom Global Early buffers can drive half of the IOBs along either the left or right edge of the device, as shown in **Figure 38**. They can only access the top and bottom IOBs via the CLB global lines.

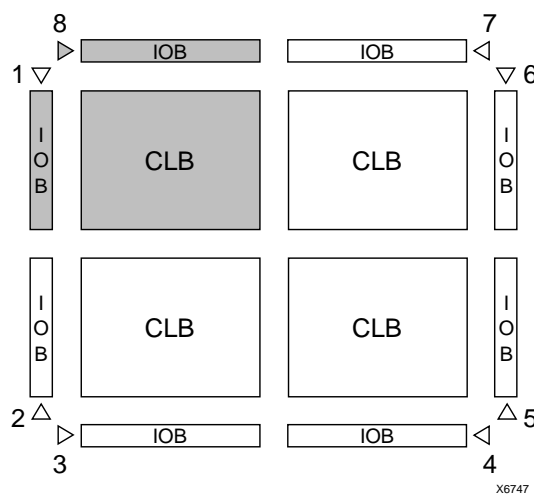


Figure 38: Top and Bottom BUFGEs Can Drive Any or All Clock Inputs in Same Quadrant (GCK8 is shown. GCK3, GCK4 and GCK7 are similar.)

Setting CCLK Frequency

For Master modes, CCLK can be generated in either of two frequencies. In the default slow mode, the frequency ranges from 0.5 MHz to 1.25 MHz for XC4000E and XC4000EX devices and from 0.6 MHz to 1.8 MHz for XC4000XL devices. In fast CCLK mode, the frequency ranges from 4 MHz to 10 MHz for XC4000E/EX devices and from 5 MHz to 15 MHz for XC4000XL devices. The frequency is selected by an option when running the bitstream generation software. If an XC4000 Series Master is driving an XC3000- or XC2000-family slave, slow CCLK mode must be used. In addition, an XC4000XL device driving a XC4000E or XC4000EX should use slow mode. Slow mode is the default.

Table 19: XC4000 Series Data Stream Formats

Data Type	All Other Modes (D0...)
Fill Byte	11111111b
Preamble Code	0010b
Length Count	COUNT(23:0)
Fill Bits	1111b
Start Field	0b
Data Frame	DATA(n-1:0)
CRC or Constant Field Check	xxxx (CRC) or 0110b
Extend Write Cycle	—
Postamble	01111111b
Start-Up Bytes	xxh
Legend:	
Not shaded	Once per bitstream
Light	Once per data frame
Dark	Once per device

Data Stream Format

The data stream (“bitstream”) format is identical for all configuration modes.

The data stream formats are shown in [Table 19](#). Bit-serial data is read from left to right, and byte-parallel data is effectively assembled from this serial bitstream, with the first bit in each byte assigned to D0.

The configuration data stream begins with a string of eight ones, a preamble code, followed by a 24-bit length count and a separator field of ones. This header is followed by the actual configuration data in frames. The length and number of frames depends on the device type (see [Table 20](#) and [Table 21](#)). Each frame begins with a start field and ends with an error check. A postamble code is required to signal the end of data for a single device. In all cases, additional start-up bytes of data are required to provide four clocks for the startup sequence at the end of configuration. Long daisy chains require additional startup bytes to shift the last data through the chain. All startup bytes are don't-cares; these bytes are not included in bitstreams created by the Xilinx software.

A selection of CRC or non-CRC error checking is allowed by the bitstream generation software. The non-CRC error checking tests for a designated end-of-frame field for each frame. For CRC error checking, the software calculates a running CRC and inserts a unique four-bit partial check at the end of each frame. The 11-bit CRC check of the last frame of an FPGA includes the last seven data bits.

Detection of an error results in the suspension of data loading and the pulling down of the $\overline{\text{INIT}}$ pin. In Master modes, CCLK and address signals continue to operate externally. The user must detect $\overline{\text{INIT}}$ and initialize a new configuration by pulsing the $\overline{\text{PROGRAM}}$ pin Low or cycling Vcc.

Start-up from a User Clock (STARTUP.CLK)

When, instead of CCLK, a user-supplied start-up clock is selected, Q1 is used to bridge the unknown phase relationship between CCLK and the user clock. This arbitration causes an unavoidable one-cycle uncertainty in the timing of the rest of the start-up sequence.

DONE Goes High to Signal End of Configuration

XC4000 Series devices read the expected length count from the bitstream and store it in an internal register. The length count varies according to the number of devices and the composition of the daisy chain. Each device also counts the number of CCLKs during configuration.

Two conditions have to be met in order for the DONE pin to go high:

- the chip's internal memory must be full, and
- the configuration length count must be met, *exactly*.

This is important because the counter that determines when the length count is met begins with the very first CCLK, not the first one after the preamble.

Therefore, if a stray bit is inserted before the preamble, or the data source is not ready at the time of the first CCLK, the internal counter that holds the number of CCLKs will be one ahead of the actual number of data bits read. At the end of configuration, the configuration memory will be full, but the number of bits in the internal counter will not match the expected length count.

As a consequence, a Master mode device will continue to send out CCLKs until the internal counter turns over to zero, and then reaches the correct length count a second time. This will take several seconds [$2^{24} * \text{CCLK period}$] — which is sometimes interpreted as the device not configuring at all.

If it is not possible to have the data ready at the time of the first CCLK, the problem can be avoided by increasing the number in the length count by the appropriate value. The *XACT User Guide* includes detailed information about manually altering the length count.

Note that DONE is an open-drain output and does not go High unless an internal pull-up is activated or an external pull-up is attached. The internal pull-up is activated as the default by the bitstream generation software.

Release of User I/O After DONE Goes High

By default, the user I/O are released one CCLK cycle after the DONE pin goes High. If CCLK is not clocked after DONE goes High, the outputs remain in their initial state — 3-stated, with a 50 k Ω - 100 k Ω pull-up. The delay from DONE High to active user I/O is controlled by an option to the bitstream generation software.

Release of Global Set/Reset After DONE Goes High

By default, Global Set/Reset (GSR) is released two CCLK cycles after the DONE pin goes High. If CCLK is not clocked twice after DONE goes High, all flip-flops are held in their initial set or reset state. The delay from DONE High to GSR inactive is controlled by an option to the bitstream generation software.

Configuration Complete After DONE Goes High

Three full CCLK cycles are required after the DONE pin goes High, as shown in [Figure 47 on page 53](#). If CCLK is not clocked three times after DONE goes High, readback cannot be initiated and most boundary scan instructions cannot be used.

Configuration Through the Boundary Scan Pins

XC4000 Series devices can be configured through the boundary scan pins. The basic procedure is as follows:

- Power up the FPGA with $\overline{\text{INIT}}$ held Low (or drive the $\overline{\text{PROGRAM}}$ pin Low for more than 300 ns followed by a High while holding $\overline{\text{INIT}}$ Low). Holding $\overline{\text{INIT}}$ Low allows enough time to issue the CONFIG command to the FPGA. The pin can be used as I/O after configuration if a resistor is used to hold $\overline{\text{INIT}}$ Low.
- Issue the CONFIG command to the TMS input
- Wait for $\overline{\text{INIT}}$ to go High
- Sequence the boundary scan Test Access Port to the SHIFT-DR state
- Toggle TCK to clock data into TDI pin.

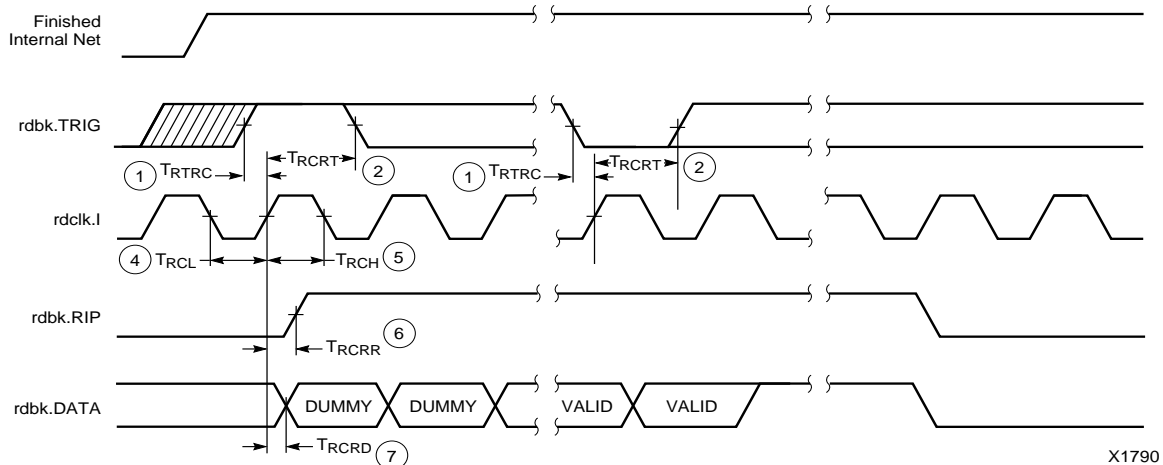
The user must account for all TCK clock cycles after INIT goes High, as all of these cycles affect the Length Count compare.

For more detailed information, refer to the Xilinx application note XAPP017, “*Boundary Scan in XC4000 Devices*.” This application note also applies to XC4000E and XC4000X devices.

XC4000E/EX/XL Program Readback Switching Characteristic Guidelines

Testing of the switching parameters is modeled after testing methods specified by MIL-M-38510/605. All devices are 100% functionally tested. Internal timing parameters are not measured directly. They are derived from benchmark timing patterns that are taken at device introduction, prior to any process improvements.

The following guidelines reflect worst-case values over the recommended operating conditions.



6

E/EX

	Description	Symbol	Min	Max	Units
rdbk.TRIG	rdbk.TRIG setup to initiate and abort Readback	1 T_{RTRC}	200	-	ns
	rdbk.TRIG hold to initiate and abort Readback	2 T_{RCRT}	50	-	ns
rdclk.1	rdbk.DATA delay	7 T_{RCRD}	-	250	ns
	rdbk.RIP delay	6 T_{RCRR}	-	250	ns
	High time	5 T_{RCH}	250	500	ns
	Low time	4 T_{RCL}	250	500	ns

Note 1: Timing parameters apply to all speed grades.

Note 2: If rdbk.TRIG is High prior to Finished, Finished will trigger the first Readback.

XL

	Description	Symbol	Min	Max	Units
rdbk.TRIG	rdbk.TRIG setup to initiate and abort Readback	1 T_{RTRC}	200	-	ns
	rdbk.TRIG hold to initiate and abort Readback	2 T_{RCRT}	50	-	ns
rdclk.1	rdbk.DATA delay	7 T_{RCRD}	-	250	ns
	rdbk.RIP delay	6 T_{RCRR}	-	250	ns
	High time	5 T_{RCH}	250	500	ns
	Low time	4 T_{RCL}	250	500	ns

Note 1: Timing parameters apply to all speed grades.

Note 2: If rdbk.TRIG is High prior to Finished, Finished will trigger the first Readback.

Configuration Timing

The seven configuration modes are discussed in detail in this section. Timing specifications are included.

Slave Serial Mode

In Slave Serial mode, an external signal drives the CCLK input of the FPGA. The serial configuration bitstream must be available at the DIN input of the lead FPGA a short setup time before each rising CCLK edge.

The lead FPGA then presents the preamble data—and all data that overflows the lead device—on its DOUT pin.

There is an internal delay of 0.5 CCLK periods, which means that DOUT changes on the falling CCLK edge, and the next FPGA in the daisy chain accepts data on the subsequent rising CCLK edge.

Figure 51 shows a full master/slave system. An XC4000 Series device in Slave Serial mode should be connected as shown in the third device from the left.

Slave Serial mode is selected by a <111> on the mode pins (M2, M1, M0). Slave Serial is the default mode if the mode pins are left unconnected, as they have weak pull-up resistors during configuration.

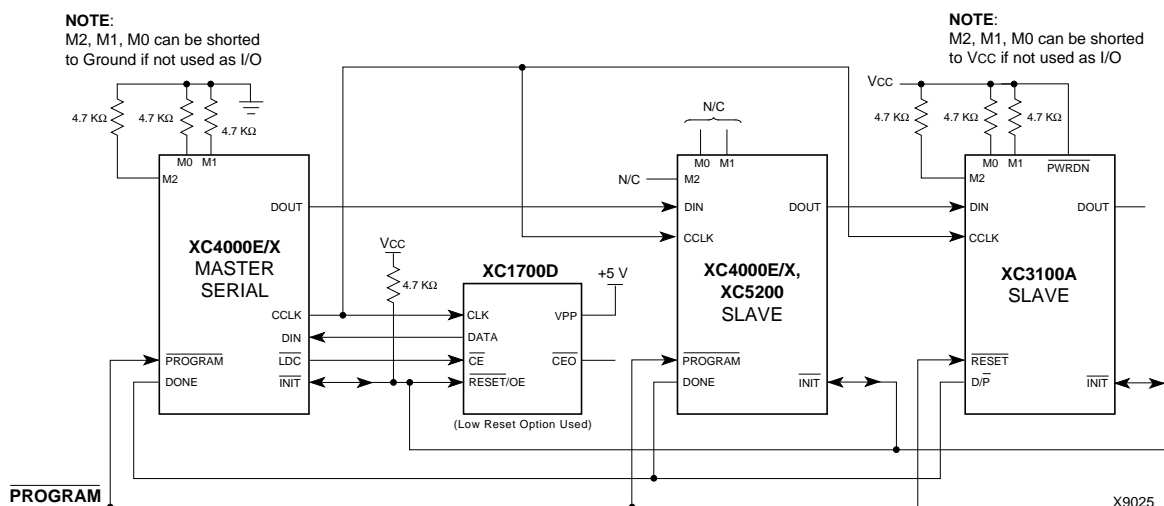
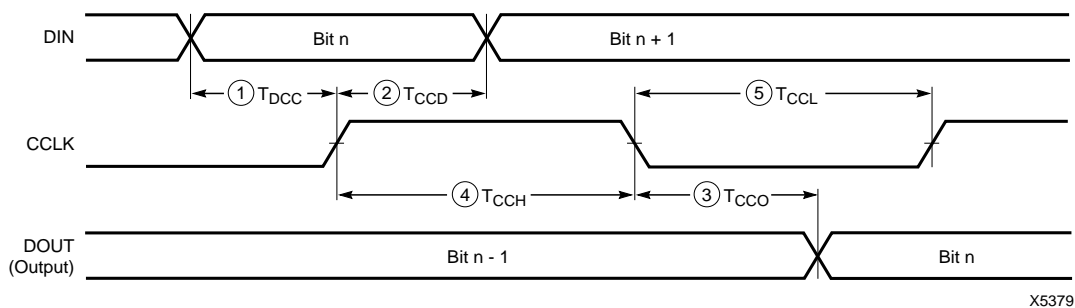


Figure 51: Master/Slave Serial Mode Circuit Diagram



X5379

	Description	Symbol	Min	Max	Units
CCLK	DIN setup	1 T_{DCC}	20		ns
	DIN hold	2 T_{CCD}	0		ns
	DIN to DOUT	3 T_{CCO}		30	ns
	High time	4 T_{CCH}	45		ns
	Low time	5 T_{CCL}	45		ns
	Frequency	F_{CC}		10	MHz

Note: Configuration must be delayed until the INIT pins of all daisy-chained FPGAs are High.

Figure 52: Slave Serial Mode Programming Switching Characteristics

Master Serial Mode

In Master Serial mode, the CCLK output of the lead FPGA drives a Xilinx Serial PROM that feeds the FPGA DIN input. Each rising edge of the CCLK output increments the Serial PROM internal address counter. The next data bit is put on the SPROM data output, connected to the FPGA DIN pin. The lead FPGA accepts this data on the subsequent rising CCLK edge.

The lead FPGA then presents the preamble data—and all data that overflows the lead device—on its DOUT pin. There is an internal pipeline delay of 1.5 CCLK periods, which means that DOUT changes on the falling CCLK edge, and the next FPGA in the daisy chain accepts data on the subsequent rising CCLK edge.

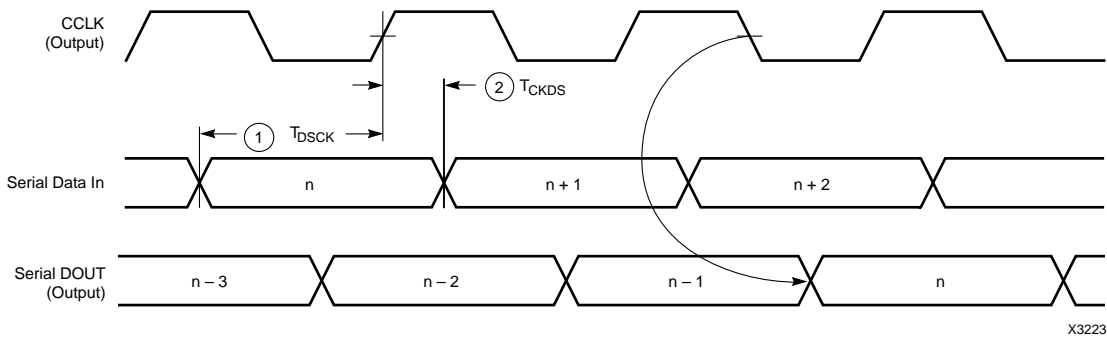
In the bitstream generation software, the user can specify Fast ConfigRate, which, starting several bits into the first frame, increases the CCLK frequency by a factor of eight.

For actual timing values please refer to “[Configuration Switching Characteristics](#)” on page 68. Be sure that the serial PROM and slaves are fast enough to support this data rate. XC2000, XC3000/A, and XC3100A devices do not support the Fast ConfigRate option.

The SPROM CE input can be driven from either \overline{LDC} or DONE. Using \overline{LDC} avoids potential contention on the DIN pin, if this pin is configured as user-I/O, but \overline{LDC} is then restricted to be a permanently High user output after configuration. Using DONE can also avoid contention on DIN, provided the early DONE option is invoked.

[Figure 51 on page 60](#) shows a full master/slave system. The leftmost device is in Master Serial mode.

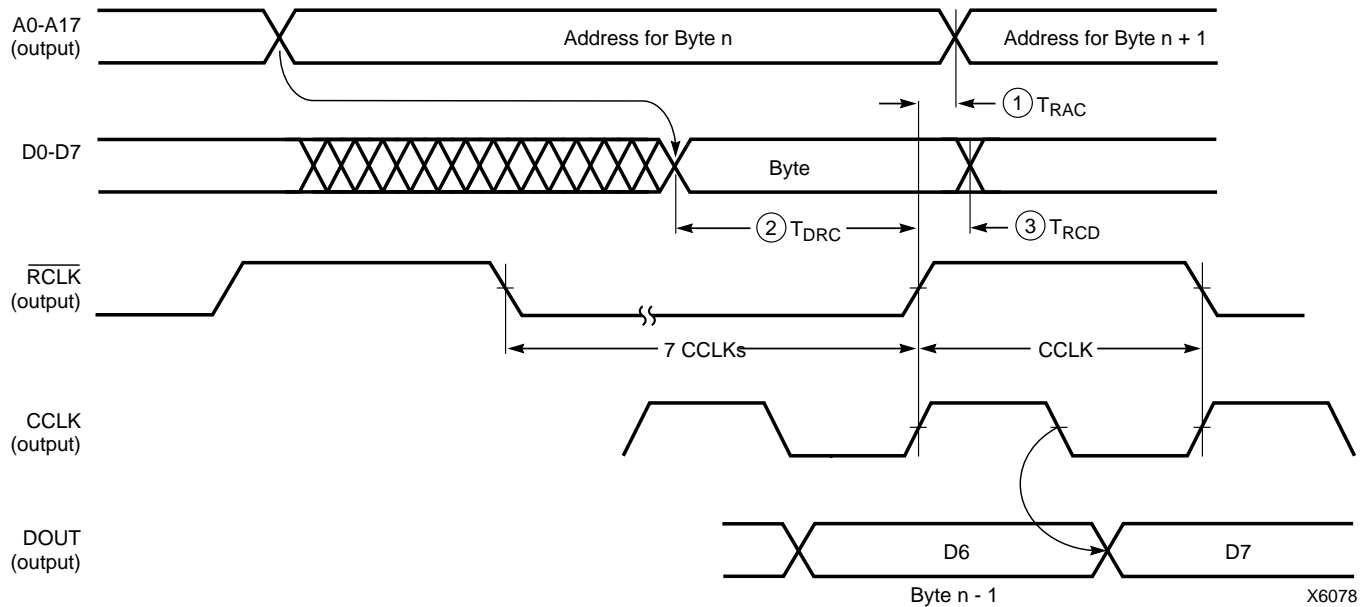
Master Serial mode is selected by a <000> on the mode pins (M2, M1, M0).



	Description	Symbol	Min	Max	Units
CCLK	DIN setup	1 T_{DSCK}	20		ns
	DIN hold	2 T_{CKDS}	0		ns

Notes: 1. At power-up, Vcc must rise from 2.0 V to Vcc min in less than 25 ms, otherwise delay configuration by pulling PROGRAM Low until Vcc is valid.
2. Master Serial mode timing is based on testing in slave mode.

Figure 53: Master Serial Mode Programming Switching Characteristics



	Description	Symbol	Min	Max	Units
RCLK	Delay to Address valid	1 T_{RAC}	0	200	ns
	Data setup time	2 T_{DRC}	60		ns
	Data hold time	3 T_{RCD}	0		ns

Notes: 1. At power-up, V_{CC} must rise from 2.0 V to V_{CC} min in less than 25 ms, otherwise delay configuration by pulling PROGRAM Low until V_{CC} is valid.

2. The first Data byte is loaded and CCLK starts at the end of the first \overline{RCLK} active cycle (rising edge).

This timing diagram shows that the EPROM requirements are extremely relaxed. EPROM access time can be longer than 500 ns. EPROM data output has no hold-time requirements.

Figure 55: Master Parallel Mode Programming Switching Characteristics