**Design with FPGAs & CPLDs**

In this chapter we discuss some of the FPGAs & CPLDs given below.

**FPGAs**
- Xilinx 3000 series
- Xilinx 4000 series

**CPLDs**
- Altera Max 7000 series
- Altera FLEX 10K Series

**XC3000 Series Field Programmable Gate Arrays**

**Features**
- Complete line of four related Field Programmable Gate Array product families
  - XC3000A, XC3000L, XC3100A, XC3100L
- Ideal for a wide range of custom VLSI design tasks
- Replaces TTL, MSI, and other PLD logic
- Integrates complete sub-systems into a single package
- Avoids the NRE, time delay, and risk of conventional masked gate arrays
- High-performance CMOS static memory technology
  - Guaranteed toggle rates of 70 to 370 MHz, logic delays from 7 to 1.5 ns
  - System clock speeds over 85 MHz
  - Low quiescent and active power consumption
- Flexible FPGA architecture
  - Compatible arrays ranging from 1,000 to 7,500 gate complexity
  - Extensive register, combinatorial, and I/O capabilities
  - High fan-out signal distribution, low-skew clock nets
  - Internal 3-state bus capabilities
  - TTL or CMOS input thresholds
  - On-chip crystal oscillator amplifier
- Unlimited reprogrammability
  - Easy design iteration
  - In-system logic changes
- Extensive packaging options
  - Over 20 different packages
  - Plastic and ceramic surface-mount and pin-grid array packages
  - Thin and Very Thin Quad Flat Pack (TQFP and VQFP) options
- Ready for volume production
  - Standard, off-the-shelf product availability
  - 100% factory pre-tested devices
  - Excellent reliability record

The XC3000 Field Programmable Gate Array families provide a variety of logic capacities, package styles, temperature ranges and speed grades.
**Introduction**

XC3000-Series Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs) provide a group of high-performance, high-density, digital integrated circuits. Their regular, extendable, flexible, user-programmable array architecture is composed of a configuration program store plus three types of configurable elements: a perimeter of I/O Blocks (IOBs), a core array of Configurable Logic Blocks (CLBs) and resources for interconnection. The general structure of an FPGA is shown in Figure 2. The development system provides schematic capture and auto place-and-route for design entry. Logic and timing simulation, and in-circuit emulation are available as design verification alternatives. The design editor is used for interactive design optimization, and to compile the data pattern that represents the configuration program.

The FPGA user logic functions and interconnections are determined by the configuration program data stored in internal static memory cells. The program can be loaded in any of several modes to accommodate various system requirements. The program data resides externally in an EEPROM, EPROM or ROM on the application circuit board, or on a floppy disk or hard disk. On-chip initialization logic provides for optional automatic loading of program data at power-up. The companion XC17XX Serial Configuration PROMs provide a very simple serial configuration program storage in a one-time programmable package.

**Detailed Functional Description**

The perimeter of configurable Input/Output Blocks (IOBs) provides a programmable interface between the internal logic array and the device package pins. The array of Configurable Logic Blocks (CLBs) performs user-specified logic functions. The interconnect resources are programmed to form networks, carrying logic signals among blocks, analogous to printed circuit board traces connecting MSI/SSI packages. The block logic functions are implemented by programmed look-up tables. Functional options are implemented by program-controlled multiplexers. Interconnecting networks between blocks are implemented with metal segments joined by program-controlled pass transistors. These FPGA functions are established by a configuration program which is loaded into an internal, distributed array of configuration memory cells. The configuration program is loaded into the device at power-up and may be reloaded on command. The FPGA includes logic and control signals to implement automatic or passive configuration. Program data may be either bit serial or byte parallel. The development system generates the configuration program bitstream used to configure the device. The memory loading process is independent of the user logic functions.

**Configuration Memory**

The static memory cell used for the configuration memory in the Field Programmable Gate Array has been designed specifically for high reliability and noise immunity. Integrity of the device configuration memory based on this design is assured even under adverse conditions. As shown in Figure 3, the basic memory cell consists of two CMOS inverters plus a pass transistor used for writing and reading cell data. The cell is only written during configuration and only read during readback. During normal operation, the
cell provides continuous control and the pass transistor is off and does not affect cell stability. This is quite different from the operation of conventional memory devices, in which the cells are frequently read and rewritten.

The memory cell outputs \( Q \) and \( \bar{Q} \) use ground and VCC levels and provide continuous, direct control. The additional capacitive load together with the absence of address decoding and sense amplifiers provides high stability to the cell. Due to the structure of the configuration memory cells, they are not affected by extreme power-supply excursions or very high levels of alpha particle radiation. In reliability testing, no soft errors have been observed even in the presence of very high doses of alpha radiation. The method of loading the configuration data is selectable. Two methods use serial data,
while three use byte-wide data. The internal configuration logic utilizes framing information, embedded in the program data by the development system, to direct memory-cell loading. The serial-data framing and length-count preamble provide programming compatibility for mixes of various FPGA device devices in a synchronous, serial, daisy-chain fashion.

**I/O Block**

Each user-configurable IOB shown in Figure 4, provides an interface between the external package pin of the device and the internal user logic. Each IOB includes both registered and direct input paths. Each IOB provides a programmable 3-state output buffer, which may be driven by a registered or direct output signal. Configuration options allow each IOB an inversion, a controlled slew rate and a high impedance pull-up. Each input circuit also provides input clamping diodes to provide electrostatic protection, and circuits to inhibit latch-up produced by input currents.

![Figure 4: Input/Output Block.](image)

Each IOB includes input and output storage elements and I/O options selected by configuration memory cells. A choice of two clocks is available on each die edge. The polarity of each clock line (not each flip-flop or latch) is programmable. A clock line that triggers the flip-flop on the rising edge is an active Low Latch Enable (Latch transparent) signal and vice versa. Passive pull-up can only be enabled on inputs, not on outputs. All user inputs are programmed for TTL or CMOS thresholds.

The input-buffer portion of each IOB provides threshold detection to translate external signals applied to the package pin to internal logic levels. The global input-buffer threshold of the IOBs can be programmed to be compatible with either TTL or CMOS levels. The buffered input signal drives the data input of a storage element, which
may be configured as either a flip-flop or a latch. The clocking polarity (rising/falling edge-triggered flip-flop, High/Low transparent latch) is programmable for each of the two clock lines on each of the four die edges. Note that a clock line driving a rising edge-triggered flip-flop makes any latch driven by the same line on the same edge Low-level transparent and vice versa (falling edge, High transparent). All Xilinx primitives in the supported schematic-entry packages, however, are positive edge-triggered flip-flops or High transparent latches. When one clock line must drive flip-flops as well as latches, it is necessary to compensate for the difference in clocking polarities with an additional inverter either in the flip-flop clock input or the latch-enable input. I/O storage elements are reset during configuration or by the active-Low chip RESET input. Both direct input (from IOB pin I) and registered input (from IOB pin Q) signals are available for interconnect.

For reliable operation, inputs should have transition times of less than 100 ns and should not be left floating. Floating CMOS input-pin circuits might be at threshold and produce oscillations. This can produce additional power dissipation and system noise. A typical hysteresis of about 300 mV reduces sensitivity to input noise. Each user IOB includes a programmable high-impedance pull-up resistor, which may be selected by the program to provide a constant High for otherwise undriven package pins. Although the Field Programmable Gate Array provides circuitry to provide input protection for electrostatic discharge, normal CMOS handling precautions should be observed. Flip-flop loop delays for the IOB and logic-block flip-flops are short, providing good performance under asynchronous clock and data conditions. Short loop delays minimize the probability of a metastable condition that can result from assertion of the clock during data transitions. Because of the short-loop-delay characteristic in the Field Programmable Gate Array, the IOB flip-flops can be used to synchronize external signals applied to the device. Once synchronized in the IOB, the signals can be used internally without further consideration of their clock relative timing, except as it applies to the internal logic and routing-path delays.

IOB output buffers provide CMOS-compatible 4-mA source-or-sink drive for high fan-out CMOS or TTL-compatible signal levels (8 mA in the XC3100A family). The network driving IOB pin O becomes the registered or direct data source for the output buffer. The 3-state control signal (IOB) pin T can control output activity. An open-drain output may be obtained by using the same signal for driving the output and 3-state signal nets so that the buffer output is enabled only for a Low. Configuration program bits for each IOB control features such as optional output register, logic signal inversion, and 3-state and slew-rate control of the output.

The program-controlled memory cells of Figure 4 control the following options.

- Logic inversion of the output is controlled by one configuration program bit per IOB.
- Logic 3-state control of each IOB output buffer is determined by the states of configuration program bits that turn the buffer on, off, or select the output buffer 3-state control interconnection (IOB pin T). When this IOB output control signal is High, a logic one, the buffer is disabled and the package pin is high impedance. When this IOB output control signal is Low, a logic zero, the buffer is enabled and the package pin is active. Inversion of the buffer 3-state control-logic sense (output enable) is controlled by an additional configuration program bit.
• Direct or registered output is selectable for each IOB. The register uses a positive-edge, clocked flip-flop. The clock source may be supplied (IOB pin OK) by either of two metal lines available along each die edge. Each of these lines is driven by an invertible buffer.
• Increased output transition speed can be selected to improve critical timing. Slower transitions reduce capacitive-load peak currents of non-critical outputs and minimize system noise.
• An internal high-impedance pull-up resistor (active by default) prevents unconnected inputs from floating.

Unlike the original XC3000 series, the XC3000A, XC3000L, XC3100A, and XC3100L families include the Soft Startup feature. When the configuration process is finished and the device starts up in user mode, the first activation of the outputs is automatically slew-rate limited. This feature avoids potential ground bounce when all outputs are turned on simultaneously. After start-up, the slew rate of the individual outputs is determined by the individual configuration option.

Summary of I/O Options
• Inputs
  - Direct
  - Flip-flop/latch
  - CMOS/TTL threshold (chip inputs)
  - Pull-up resistor/open circuit
• Outputs
  - Direct/registered
  - Inverted/not
  - 3-state/on/off
  - Full speed/slew limited
  - 3-state/output enable (inverse)

Configurable Logic Block
The array of CLBs provides the functional elements from which the user’s logic is constructed. The logic blocks are arranged in a matrix within the perimeter of IOBs. For example, the XC3020A has 64 such blocks arranged in 8 rows and 8 columns. The development system is used to compile the configuration data which is to be loaded into the internal configuration memory to define the operation and interconnection of each block. User definition of CLBs and their interconnecting networks may be done by automatic translation from a schematic-capture logic diagram or optionally by installing library or user macros.

Each CLB has a combinatorial logic section, two flip-flops, and an internal control section. See Figure 5. There are: five logic inputs (A, B, C, D and E); a common clock input (K); an asynchronous direct RESET input (RD); and an enable clock (EC). All may be driven from the interconnect resources adjacent to the blocks. Each CLB also has two outputs (X and Y) which may drive interconnect networks.
Data input for either flip-flop within a CLB is supplied from the function F or G outputs of the combinatorial logic, or the block input, DI. Both flip-flops in each CLB share the asynchronous RD which, when enabled and High, is dominant over clocked inputs. All flip-flops are reset by the active-Low chip input, RESET, or during the configuration process. The flip-flops share the enable clock (EC) which, when Low, recirculates the flip-flops’ present states and inhibits response to the data-in or combinatorial function inputs on a CLB. The user may enable these control inputs and select their sources. The user may also select the clock net input (K), as well as its active sense within each CLB. This programmable inversion eliminates the need to route both phases of a clock signal throughout the device.

![Diagram](image.png)

Figure 5: Configurable Logic Block.

Each CLB includes a combinatorial logic section, two flip-flops and a program memory controlled multiplexer selection of function. It has the following:
- five logic variable inputs A, B, C, D, and E
- a direct data in DI
- an enable clock EC
- a clock (invertible) K
- an asynchronous direct RESET RD
- two outputs X and Y

Flexible routing allows use of common or individual CLB clocking.
The combinatorial-logic portion of the CLB uses a 32 by 1 look-up table to implement Boolean functions. Variables selected from the five logic inputs and two internal block flip-flops are used as table address inputs. The combinatorial propagation delay through the network is independent of the logic function generated and is spike free for single input variable changes. This technique can generate two independent logic functions of up to four variables each as shown in Figure 6a, or a single function of five variables as shown in Figure 6b, or some functions of seven variables as shown in Figure 6c. Figure 7 shows a modulo-8 binary counter with parallel enable. It uses one CLB of each type. The partial functions of six or seven variables are implemented using the input variable (E) to dynamically select between two functions of four different variables. For the two functions of four variables each, the independent results (F and G) may be used as data inputs to either flip-flop or either logic block output. For the single function of five variables and merged functions of six or seven variables, the F and G outputs are identical. Symmetry of the F and G functions and the flip-flops allows the interchange of CLB outputs to optimize routing efficiencies of the networks interconnecting the CLBs and IOBs.

**Programmable Interconnect**

Programmable-interconnection resources in the Field Programmable Gate Array provide routing paths to connect inputs and outputs of the IOBs and CLBs into logic networks. Interconnections between blocks are composed of a two-layer grid of metal segments. Specially designed pass transistors, each controlled by a configuration bit, form programmable interconnect points (PIPs) and switching matrices used to implement the necessary connections between selected metal segments and block pins. Figure 8 is an example of a routed net. The development system provides automatic routing of these interconnections. Interactive routing is also available for design optimization. The inputs of the CLBs or IOBs are multiplexers which can be programmed to select an input network from the adjacent interconnect segments.

**Since the switch connections to block inputs are unidirectional, as are block outputs, they are usable only for block input connection and not for routing.**

Figure 9 illustrates routing access to logic block input variables, control inputs and block outputs.

Three types of metal resources are provided to accommodate various network interconnect requirements.

- General Purpose Interconnect
- Direct Connection
- Longlines (multiplexed busses and wide AND gates)
6a. Combinatorial Logic Option FG generates two functions of four variables each. One variable, A, must be common to both functions. The second and third variable can be any choice of B, C, QX and QY. The fourth variable can be any choice of D or E.

6b. Combinatorial Logic Option F generates any function of five variables: A, D, E and two choices out of B, C, QX, QY.

6c. Combinatorial Logic Option FGM allows variable E to select between two functions of four variables: Both have common inputs A and D and any choice out of B, C, QX and QY for the remaining two variables. Option 3 can then implement some functions of six or seven variables.
The modulo-8 binary counter with parallel enable and clock enable uses one combinatorial logic block of each option.

Figure 7: Counter.

Figure 8: A Design Editor view of routing resources used to form a typical interconnection network from CLB GA.
General Purpose Interconnect

General purpose interconnect, as shown in Figure 10, consists of a grid of five horizontal and five vertical metal segments located between the rows and columns of logic and IOBs. Each segment is the height or width of a logic block. Switching matrices join the ends of these segments and allow programmed interconnections between the metal grid segments of adjoining rows and columns. The switches of an unprogrammed device are all non-conducting. The connections through the switch matrix may be established by the automatic routing or by selecting the desired pairs of matrix pins to be connected or disconnected. The legitimate switching matrix combinations for each pin are indicated in Figure 11.
Special buffers within the general interconnect areas provide periodic signal isolation and restoration for improved performance of lengthy nets. The interconnect buffers are available to propagate signals in either direction on a given general interconnect segment. These bidirectional (bidi) buffers are found adjacent to the switching matrices, above and to the right. The other PIPs adjacent to the matrices are accessed to or from Longlines. The development system automatically defines the buffer direction based on the location of the interconnection network source. The delay calculator of the development system automatically calculates and displays the block, interconnect and buffer delays for any paths selected. Generation of the simulation netlist with a worst-case delay model is provided.

**Direct Interconnect**

Direct interconnect, shown in Figure 12, provides the most efficient implementation of networks between adjacent CLBs or I/O Blocks. Signals routed from block to block using the direct interconnect exhibit minimum interconnect propagation and use no general interconnect resources. For each CLB, the X output may be connected directly to the B input of the CLB immediately to its right and to the C input of the CLB to its left. The Y output can use direct interconnect to drive the D input of the block immediately above and the A input of the block below. Direct interconnect should be used to maximize the speed of high-performance portions of logic. Where logic blocks are adjacent to IOBs, direct connect is provided alternately to the IOB inputs (I) and outputs (O) on all four edges of the die. The right edge provides additional direct connects from CLB outputs to adjacent IOBs. Direct interconnections of IOBs with CLBs are shown in Figure 13.

*Figure 10: FPGA General-Purpose Interconnect.*

Composition of a grid of metal segments that may be interconnected through switch matrices to form networks for CLB and IOB inputs and outputs.
Figure 11: Switch Matrix Interconnection Options for Each Pin.
Switch matrices on the edges are different.

Figure 12: CLB X and Y Outputs.
The X and Y outputs of each CLB have single contact, direct access to inputs of adjacent CLBs.
Longlines

The Longlines bypass the switch matrices and are intended primarily for signals that must travel a long distance, or must have minimum skew among multiple destinations. Longlines, shown in Figure 14, run vertically and horizontally the height or width of the interconnect area. Each interconnection column has three vertical Longlines, and each interconnection row has two horizontal Longlines. Two additional Longlines are located adjacent to the outer sets of switching matrices. In devices larger than the XC3020A and XC3120A FPGAs, two vertical Longlines in each column are connectable half-length lines. On the XC3020A and XC3120A FPGAs, only the outer Longlines are connectable half-length lines.

Figure 14: XC3020A Die-Edge I/Os. The XC3020A die-edge I/Os are provided with direct access to adjacent CLBs.
Longlines can be driven by a logic block or IOB output on a column-by-column basis. This capability provides a common low skew control or clock line within each column of logic blocks. Interconnections of these Longlines are shown in Figure 15. Isolation buffers are provided at each input to a Longline and are enabled automatically by the development system when a connection is made.

Figure 14: Horizontal and Vertical Longlines. These Longlines provide high fan-out, low-skew signal distribution in each row and column. The global buffer in the upper left die corner drives a common line throughout the FPGA.

Figure 15: Programmable Interconnection of Longlines. This is provided at the edges of the routing area. Three-state buffers allow the use of horizontal Longlines to form on-chip wired AND and multiplexed buses. The left two non-clock vertical Longlines per column (except XC30120A) and the outer perimeter Longlines may be programmed as connectable half-length lines.
A buffer in the upper left corner of the FPGA chip drives a global net which is available to all K inputs of logic blocks. Using the global buffer for a clock signal provides a skew-free, high fan-out, synchronized clock for use at any or all of the IOBs and CLBs. Configuration bits for the K input to each logic block can select this global line or another routing resource as the clock source for its flip-flops. This net may also be programmed to drive the die edge clock lines for IOB use. An enhanced speed, CMOS threshold, direct access to this buffer is available at the second pad from the top of the left die edge.

A buffer in the lower right corner of the array drives a horizontal Longline that can drive programmed connections to a vertical Longline in each interconnection column. This alternate buffer also has low skew and high fan-out. The network formed by this alternate buffer’s Longlines can be selected to drive the K inputs of the CLBs. CMOS threshold, high speed access to this buffer is available from the third pad from the bottom of the right die edge.

Internal Busses
A pair of 3-state buffers, located adjacent to each CLB, permits logic to drive the horizontal Longlines. Logic operation of the 3-state buffer controls allows them to implement wide multiplexing functions. Any 3-state buffer input can be selected as drive for the horizontal long-line bus by applying a Low logic level on its 3-state control line. See Figure 16. The user is required to avoid contention which can result from multiple drivers with opposing logic levels.

Control of the 3-state input by the same signal that drives the buffer input, creates an open-drain wired-AND function. A logic High on both buffer inputs creates a high impedance, which represents no contention. A logic Low enables the buffer to drive the Longline Low. See Figure 17. Pull-up resistors are available at each end of the Longline to provide a High output when all connected buffers are non-conducting. This forms fast, wide gating functions. When data drives the inputs, and separate signals drive the 3-state
control lines, these buffers form multiplexers (3-state busses). In this case, care must be used to prevent contention through multiple active buffers of conflicting levels on a common line. Each horizontal Longline is also driven by a weak keeper circuit that prevents undefined floating levels by maintaining the previous logic level when the line is not driven by an active buffer or a pull-up resistor. Figure 18 shows 3-state buffers, Longlines and pull-up resistors.

Figure 18: Design Editor.
An extra large view of possible interconnections in the lower right corner of the XC3020A.

Crystal Oscillator
Figure 18 also shows the location of an internal high speed inverting amplifier that may be used to implement an on-chip crystal oscillator. It is associated with the auxiliary buffer in the lower right corner of the die. When the oscillator is configured and connected as a signal source, two special user IOBs are also configured to connect the oscillator amplifier with external crystal oscillator components as shown in Figure 19. A divide by two option is available to assure symmetry. The oscillator circuit becomes active early in the configuration process to allow the oscillator to stabilize. Actual internal connection is delayed until completion of configuration. In Figure 19 the feedback resistor R1, between the output and input, biases the amplifier at threshold. The inversion of the amplifier, together with the R-C networks and an AT-cut series resonant crystal, produce the 360-degree phase shift of the Pierce oscillator. A series resistor R2 may be included to add to the amplifier output impedance when needed for phase-shift control, crystal resistance matching, or to limit the amplifier input swing to control clipping at large amplitudes. Excess feedback voltage may be corrected by the ratio of
C2/C1. The amplifier is designed to be used from 1 MHz to about one-half the specified CLB toggle frequency. Use at frequencies below 1 MHz may require individual characterization with respect to a series resistance. Crystal oscillators above 20 MHz generally require a crystal which operates in a third overtone mode, where the fundamental frequency must be suppressed by an inductor across C2, turning this parallel resonant circuit to double the fundamental crystal frequency, i.e., 2/3 of the desired third harmonic frequency network. When the oscillator inverter is not used, these IOBs and their package pins are available for general user I/O.

Figure 19: Crystal Oscillator Inverter. When activated, and by selecting an output network for its buffer, the crystal oscillator inverter uses two unconfigured package pins and external components to implement an oscillator. An optional divide-by-two mode is available to assure symmetry.
In the next section we discuss the **XC 4000 series**.

- **The disadvantages of XC3020**
  - FG mode generates two functions of four variables each but the inputs must overlap
  - One variable, A, must be common to both functions.
  - To implement Functions with 6 or more variables need more number of logic cells
- Hence use FPGAs from XC 4000 series

**Introduction**

XC4000 Series high-performance, high-capacity Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs) provide the benefits of custom CMOS VLSI, while avoiding the initial cost, long development cycle, and inherent risk of a conventional masked gate array.

**Description**

XC4000 Series devices are implemented with a regular, flexible, programmable architecture of Configurable Logic Blocks (CLBs), interconnected by a powerful hierarchy of versatile routing resources, and surrounded by a perimeter of programmable Input/Output Blocks (IOBs). They have generous routing resources to accommodate the most complex interconnect patterns.

The devices are customized by loading configuration data into internal memory cells. The FPGA can either actively read its configuration data from an external serial or byte-parallel PROM (master modes), or the configuration data can be written into the FPGA from an external device (slave and peripheral modes).

XC4000 Series FPGAs are supported by powerful and sophisticated software, covering every aspect of design from schematic or behavioral entry, floor planning, simulation, automatic block placement and routing of interconnects, to the creation, downloading, and readback of the configuration bit stream. Because Xilinx FPGAs can be reprogrammed an unlimited number of times, they can be used in innovative designs where hardware is changed dynamically, or where hardware must be adapted to different user applications.

FPGAs are ideal for shortening design and development cycles, and also offer a cost-effective solution for production rates well beyond 5,000 systems per month.

**Taking Advantage of Re-configuration**

FPGA devices can be re-configured to change logic function while resident in the system. This capability gives the system designer a new degree of freedom not available with any other type of logic.

Hardware can be changed as easily as software. Design updates or modifications are easy, and can be made to products already in the field. An FPGA can even be re-configured dynamically to perform different functions at different times.
Re-configurable logic can be used to implement system self-diagnostics, create systems capable of being re-configured for different environments or operations, or implement multi-purpose hardware for a given application. As an added benefit, using re-configurable FPGA devices simplifies hardware design and debugging and shortens product time-to-market.

**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 variables
• 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.
Flip-Flops
The CLB can pass the combinatorial output(s) to the interconnect network, but can also store the combinatorial results or other incoming data in one or two flip-flops, and connect their outputs to the interconnect network as well.

The two edge-triggered D-type flip-flops have common clock (K) and clock enable (EC) inputs. Either or both clock inputs can also be permanently enabled. Storage element functionality is described in Table 2.

Latches (XC4000X only)
The CLB storage elements can also be configured as latches. The two latches have common clock (K) and clock enable (EC) inputs. Storage element functionality is described in Table 2.

Clock Input
Each flip-flop can be triggered on either the rising or falling clock edge. The clock pin is shared by both storage elements. However, the clock is individually invertible for each storage element. Any inverter placed on the clock input is automatically absorbed into the CLB.

Clock Enable
The clock enable signal (EC) is active High. The EC pin is shared by both storage elements. If left unconnected for either, the clock enable for that storage element defaults to the active state. EC is not invertible within the CLB.
Data Inputs and Outputs
The source of a storage element data input is programmable. It is driven by any of the functions $F'$, $G'$, and $H'$, or by the Direct In (DIN) block input. The flip-flops or latches drive the XQ and YQ CLB outputs.
Two fast feed-through paths are available, as shown in Figure 1. A two-to-one multiplexer on each of the XQ and YQ outputs selects between a storage element output and any of the control inputs. This bypass is sometimes used by the automated router to repower internal signals.

Control Signals
Multiplexers in the CLB map the four control inputs (C1 - C4 in Figure 1) into the four internal control signals (H1, DIN/H2, SR/H0, and EC). Any of these inputs can drive any of the four internal control signals.

When the logic function is enabled, the four inputs are:
- EC — Enable Clock
- SR/H0 — Asynchronous Set/Reset or H function generator Input 0
- DIN/H2 — Direct In or H function generator Input 2
- H1 — H function generator Input 1.

When the memory function is enabled, the four inputs are:
- EC — Enable Clock
- WE — Write Enable
- D0 — Data Input to F and/or G function generator
- D1 — Data input to G function generator (16x1 and 16x2 modes) or 5th Address bit (32x1 mode).

Using FPGA Flip-Flops and Latches
The abundance of flip-flops in the XC4000 Series invites pipelined designs. This is a powerful way of increasing performance by breaking the function into smaller subfunctions and executing them in parallel, passing on the results through pipeline flip-flops. This method should be seriously considered wherever throughput is more important than latency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>EC</th>
<th>SR</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>Q</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power-Up or GSR</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>SR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flip-Flop</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>SR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>0*</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latch</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>0*</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>0*</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0*</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Q</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To include a CLB flip-flop, place the appropriate library symbol. For example, FDCE is a D-type flip-flop with clock enable and asynchronous clear. The corresponding latch symbol (for the XC4000X only) is called LDCE.

In XC4000 Series devices, the flip flops can be used as registers or shift registers without blocking the function generators from performing a different, perhaps unrelated task. This ability increases the functional capacity of the devices. The CLB setup time is specified between the function generator inputs and the clock input K. Therefore, the specified CLB flip-flop setup time includes the delay through the function generator.

**Using Function Generators as RAM**

Optional modes for each CLB make the memory look-up tables in the F’ and G’ function generators usable as an array of Read/Write memory cells. Available modes are level-sensitive (similar to the XC4000/A/H families), edge-triggered, and dual-port edge-triggered. Depending on the selected mode, a single CLB can be configured as either a 16x2, 32x1, or 16x1 bit array.

Supported CLB memory configurations and timing modes for single- and dual-port modes are shown in Table 3.

XC4000 Series devices are the first programmable logic devices with edge-triggered (synchronous) and dual-port RAM accessible to the user. Edge-triggered RAM simplifies system timing. Dual-port RAM doubles the effective throughput of FIFO applications. These features can be individually programmed in any XC4000 Series CLB.

**Advantages of On-Chip and Edge-Triggered RAM**

The on-chip RAM is extremely fast. The read access time is the same as the logic delay. The write access time is slightly slower. Both access times are much faster than any off-chip solution, because they avoid I/O delays. Edge-triggered RAM, also called synchronous RAM, is a feature never before available in a Field Programmable Gate Array. The simplicity of designing with edge-triggered RAM, and the markedly higher achievable performance, add up to a significant improvement over existing devices with on-chip RAM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3: Supported RAM Modes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-Port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual-Port</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RAM Configuration Options
The function generators in any CLB can be configured as RAM arrays in the following sizes:
- Two 16x1 RAMs: two data inputs and two data outputs with identical or, if preferred, different addressing for each RAM
- One 32x1 RAM: one data input and one data output. One F or G function generator can be configured as a 16x1 RAM while the other function generators are used to implement any function of up to 5 inputs.

Figure 4: 16x2 (or 16x1) Edge-Triggered Single-Port RAM
Figure 5: 32x1 Edge-Triggered Single-Port RAM (F and G addresses are identical)
MAX 7000 Programmable Logic Device Family

Features...

- High-performance, EEPROM-based programmable logic devices (PLDs) based on second-generation MAX® architecture
- 5.0-V in-system programmability (ISP) through the built-in IEEE Std. 1149.1 Joint Test Action Group (JTAG) interface available in MAX 7000S devices
  – ISP circuitry compatible with IEEE Std. 1532
- Includes 5.0-V MAX 7000 devices and 5.0-V ISP-based MAX 7000S devices
- Built-in JTAG boundary-scan test (BST) circuitry in MAX 7000S devices with 128 or more macrocells
- Complete EPLD family with logic densities ranging from 600 to 5,000 usable gates (see Tables 1 and 2)
- 5-ns pin-to-pin logic delays with up to 175.4-MHz counter frequencies (including interconnect)
- PCI-compliant devices available
- Open-drain output option in MAX 7000S devices
- Programmable macrocell flipflops with individual clear, preset, clock, and clock enable controls
- Programmable power-saving mode for a reduction of over 50% in each macrocell
- Configurable expander product-term distribution, allowing up to 32 product terms per macrocell
- Software design support and automatic place-and-route provided by Altera’s development system for Windows-based PCs and Sun SPARCstation, and HP 9000 Series 700/800 workstations

General Description

The MAX 7000 family of high-density, high-performance PLDs is based on Altera’s second-generation MAX architecture. Fabricated with advanced CMOS technology, the EEPROM-based MAX 7000 family provides 600 to 5,000 usable gates, ISP, pin-to-pin delays as fast as 5 ns, and counter speeds of up to 175.4 MHz.

MAX 7000 devices use CMOS EEPROM cells to implement logic functions. The user-configurable MAX 7000 architecture accommodates a variety of independent combinatorial and sequential logic functions. The devices can be reprogrammed for quick and efficient iterations during design development and debug cycles, and can be programmed and erased up to 100 times.
MAX 7000 devices contain from 32 to 256 macrocells that are combined into groups of 16 macrocells, called logic array blocks (LABs). Each macrocell has a programmable-AND/fixed-OR array and a configurable register with independently programmable clock, clock enable, clear, and preset functions. To build complex logic functions, each macrocell can be supplemented with both shareable expander product terms and highspeed parallel expander product terms to provide up to 32 product terms per macrocell.

The MAX 7000 family provides programmable speed/power optimization. Speed-critical portions of a design can run at high speed/full power, while the remaining portions run at reduced speed/low power. This speed/power optimization feature enables the designer to configure one or more macrocells to operate at 50% or lower power while adding only a nominal timing delay.

### Functional Description

The MAX 7000 architecture includes the following elements:
- Logic array blocks
- Macrocells
- Expander product terms (shareable and parallel)
- Programmable interconnect array
- I/O control blocks

The MAX 7000 architecture includes four dedicated inputs that can be used as general-purpose inputs or as high-speed, global control signals (clock, clear, and two output enable signals) for each macrocell and I/O pin.

Figure 1 shows the architecture of EPM7032, EPM7064, and EPM7096 devices.
Logic Array Blocks
The MAX 7000 device architecture is based on the linking of highperformance, flexible, logic array modules called logic array blocks (LABs). LABs consist of 16-macrocell arrays, as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Multiple LABs are linked together via the programmable interconnect array (PIA), a global bus that is fed by all dedicated inputs, I/O pins, and macrocells.

Each LAB is fed by the following signals:
- 36 signals from the PIA that are used for general logic inputs
- Global controls that are used for secondary register functions
- Direct input paths from I/O pins to the registers that are used for fast setup times for MAX 7000E and MAX 7000S devices

Macrocells
The MAX 7000 macrocell can be individually configured 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. The macrocell of EPM7032, EPM7064, and EPM7096 devices is shown in Figure 3.
Combinatorial logic is implemented in the logic array, which provides five product terms per macrocell. 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 secondary inputs to the macrocell’s register clear, preset, clock, and clock enable control functions. Two kinds of expander product terms (“expanders”) are available to supplement macrocell logic resources:

- Shareable expanders, which are inverted product terms that are fed back into the logic array
- Parallel expanders, which are product terms borrowed from adjacent macrocells

The Altera development system automatically optimizes product-term allocation according to the logic requirements of the design. For registered functions, each macrocell flipflop can be individually programmed to implement D, T, JK, or SR operation with programmable clock control. The flipflop can be bypassed for combinatorial operation.

During design entry, the designer specifies the desired flipflop type; the Altera development software then selects the most efficient flipflop operation for each registered function to optimize resource utilization.

Each programmable register can be clocked in three different modes:

- By a global clock signal. This mode achieves the fastest clock-to-output performance.
- By a global clock signal and enabled by an active-high clock enable. This mode provides an enable on each flipflop while still achieving the fast clock-to-output performance of the global clock.

Figure 3. EPM7032, EPM7064 & EPM7096 Device Macrocell

![Diagram of EPM7032, EPM7064 & EPM7096 Device Macrocell](image)
By an array clock implemented with a product term. In this mode, the flipflop can be clocked by signals from buried macrocells or I/O pins.

Each register also supports asynchronous preset and clear functions. As shown in Figures 3 and 4, the product-term select matrix allocates product terms to control these operations. Although the product-term-driven preset and clear of the register are active high, active-low control can be obtained by inverting the signal within the logic array. In addition, each register clear function can be individually driven by the active-low dedicated global clear pin (GCLRn). Upon power-up, each register in the device will be set to a low state.

All MAX 7000E and MAX 7000S I/O pins have a fast input path to a macrocell register. This dedicated path allows a signal to bypass the PIA and combinatorial logic and be driven to an input D flipflop with an extremely fast (2.5 ns) input setup time.

**Expander Product Terms**

Although most logic functions can be implemented with the five product terms available in each macrocell, the more complex logic functions require additional product terms. Another macrocell can be used to supply the required logic resources; however, the MAX 7000 architecture also allows both shareable and parallel expander product terms (“expanders”) that provide additional product terms directly to any macrocell in the same LAB. These expanders help ensure that logic is synthesized with the fewest possible logic resources to obtain the fastest possible speed.

**Shareable Expanders**

Each LAB has 16 shareable expanders that can be viewed as a pool of uncommitted single product terms (one from each macrocell) with inverted outputs that feed back into the logic array. Each shareable expander can be used and shared by any or all macrocells in the LAB to build complex logic functions. A small delay ($t_{SEXP}$) is incurred when shareable expanders are used. Figure 5 shows how shareable expanders can feed multiple macrocells.
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 20 product terms to directly feed the macrocell OR logic, with five product terms provided by the macrocell and 15 parallel expanders provided by neighboring macrocells in the LAB.

The compiler can allocate up to three sets of up to five parallel expanders automatically to the macrocells that require additional product terms. Each set of five parallel expanders incurs a small, incremental timing delay ($t_{PEXP}$). For example, if a macrocell requires 14 product terms, the Compiler uses the five dedicated product terms within the macrocell and allocates two sets of parallel expanders; the first set includes five product terms and the second set includes four product terms, increasing the total delay by $2 \times t_{PEXP}$.

Two groups of 8 macrocells within each LAB (e.g., macrocells 1 through 8 and 9 through 16) form two chains to lend or borrow parallel expanders. A macrocell borrows parallel expanders from lowernumbered macrocells. For example, macrocell 8 can borrow parallel expanders from macrocell 7, from macrocells 7 and 6, or from macrocells 7, 6, and 5. Within each group of 8, the lowest-numbered macrocell can only lend parallel expanders and the highest-numbered macrocell can only borrow them. Figure 6 shows how parallel expanders can be borrowed from a neighboring macrocell.
Programmable Interconnect Array

Logic is routed between LABs via the programmable interconnect array (PIA). This global bus is a programmable path that connects any signal source to any destination on the device. All MAX 7000 dedicated inputs, I/O pins, and macrocell outputs feed the PIA, which makes the signals available throughout the entire device. Only the signals required by each LAB are actually routed from the PIA into the LAB. Figure 7 shows how the PIA signals are routed into the LAB. An EEPROM cell controls one input to a 2-input AND gate, which selects a PIA signal to drive into the LAB. While the routing
delays of channel-based routing schemes in masked or FPGAs are cumulative, variable, and path-dependent, the MAX 7000 PIA has a fixed delay. The PIA thus eliminates skew between signals and makes timing performance easy to predict.

**I/O Control Blocks**

The I/O control block allows each I/O pin to be individually configured for input, output, or bidirectional operation. All I/O pins have a tri-state buffer that is individually controlled by one of the global output enable signals or directly connected to ground or VCC. Figure 8 shows the I/O control block for the MAX 7000 family. The I/O control block of EPM7032, EPM7064, and EPM7096 devices has two global output enable signals that are driven by two dedicated active-low output enable pins (OE1 and OE2).

The I/O control block of MAX 7000E and MAX 7000S devices has six global output enable signals that are driven by the true or complement of two output enable signals, a subset of the I/O pins, or a subset of the I/O macrocells.

When the tri-state buffer control is connected to ground, the output is tri-stated (high impedance) and the I/O pin can be used as a dedicated input. When the tri-state buffer control is connected to VCC, the output is enabled.

The MAX 7000 architecture provides dual I/O feedback, in which macrocell and pin feedbacks are independent. When an I/O pin is configured as an input, the associated macrocell can be used for buried logic.
Figure 8. I/O Control Block of MAX 7000 Devices

EPM7032, EPM7064 & EPM7096 Devices

MAX 7000E & MAX 7000S Devices

Six Global Output Enable Signals

From Macrocell

Fast Input to Macrocell Register

To PIA

To Other I/O Pins

Open-Drain Output (1)

Slew-Rate Control