

UNIT -I
INTRODUCTION TO ASICS, CMOS
LOGIC, ASIC LIBRARY DESIGN

Introduction

- ASIC [“a-sick”] is an acronym for Application Specific Integrated Circuit.
- As the name indicates, ASIC is a non-standard integrated circuit that is designed for a specific use or application.
- Generally an ASIC design will be undertaken for a product that will have a large production run , and the ASIC may contain a very large part of the electronics needed on a single integrated circuit.

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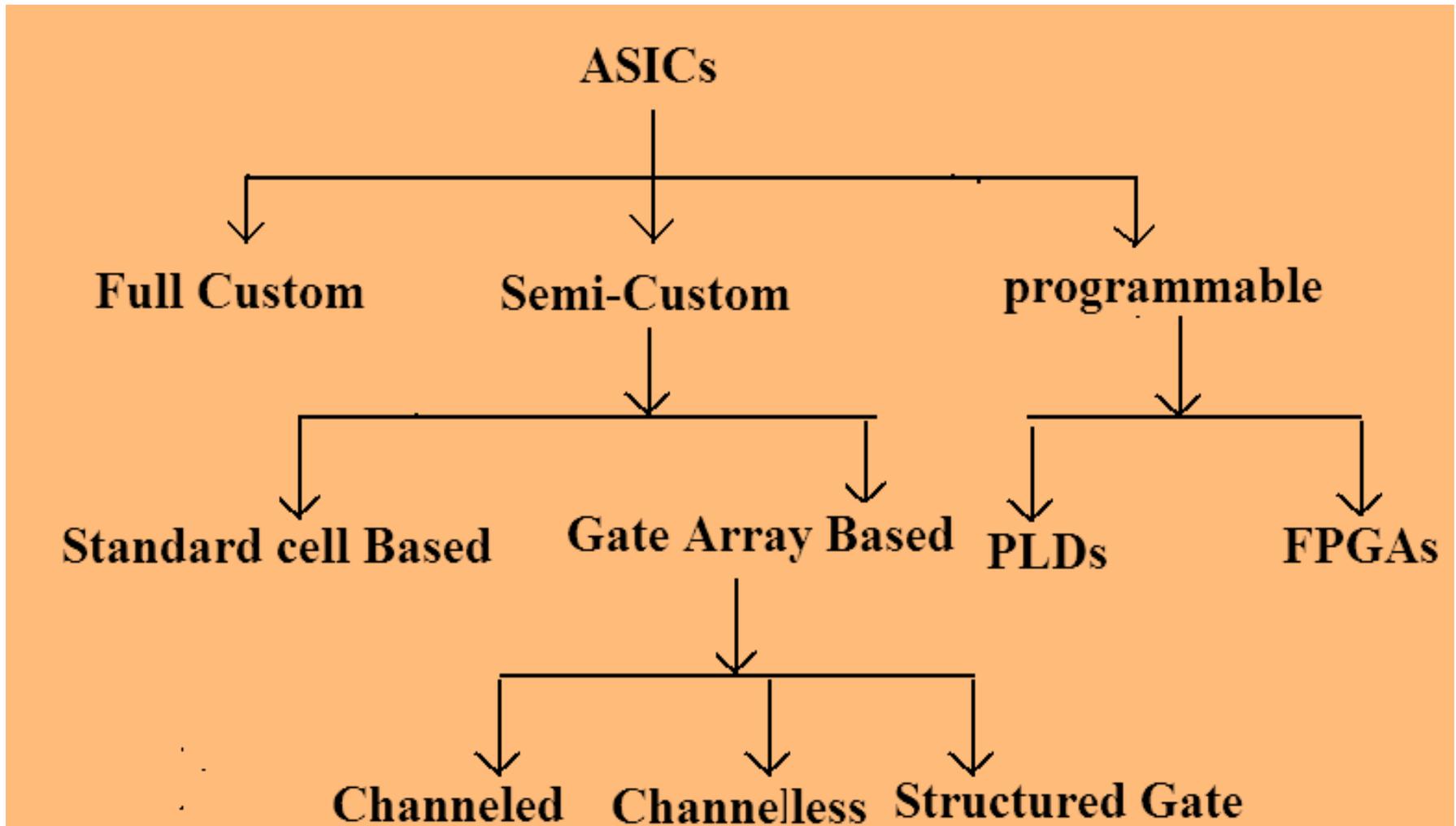
- Examples for ASIC Ics are : a chip for a toy bear that talks; a chip for a satellite; a chip designed to handle the interface between memory and a microprocessor for a workstation CPU; and a chip containing a microprocessor as a cell together with other logic.

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- Two ICs that might or might not be considered as ASICs are, a controller chip for a PC and a chip for a modem. Both of these examples are specific to an application (shades of an ASIC) but are sold to many different system vendors (shades of a standard part). ASICs such as these are sometimes called application-specific standard products (ASSPs).

Types of ASICs

- The classification of ASICs is shown below



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- So, as shown in the slide the ASICs are broadly classified into three types.
- I. Full-Custom ASICs
- II. Semi-custom ASICs
- III. Programmable ASICs

Full-Custom ASICs

- A Full custom ASIC is one which includes some (possibly all) logic cells that are customized and all mask layers that are customized.
- A microprocessor is an example of a full-custom IC . Designers spend many hours squeezing the most out of every last square micron of microprocessor chip space by hand.
- Customizing all of the IC features in this way allows designers to include analog circuits, optimized memory cells, or mechanical structures on an IC, for example. Full-custom ICs are the most expensive to manufacture and to design.

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- The manufacturing lead time (the time required just to make an IC not including design time) is typically eight weeks for a full-custom IC.
- These specialized full-custom ICs are often intended for a specific application so, we might call some of them as full-custom ASICs.

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- In a full-custom ASIC an engineer designs some or all of the logic cells, circuits, or layout specifically for one ASIC. This means the designer avoids using pretested and pre characterized cells for all or part of that design.
- This might be because existing cell libraries are not fast enough, or the logic cells are not small enough or consume too much power.

Contd...

- One has to use full-custom design if the ASIC technology is new or so specialized that there are no existing cell libraries or because the ASIC is so specialized that some circuits must be custom designed.
- Fewer and fewer full-custom ICs are being designed because of the problems with these special parts of the ASIC.
- The growing member of this family, now a days is the mixed analog/digital ASIC,

Semicustom ASICs

- ASICs , for which all of the logic cells are predesigned and some (possibly all) of the mask layers are customized are called semi custom ASICs.
- Using the predesigned cells from a cell library makes the design , much easier.
- There are two types of semicustom ASICs
- (i) Standard-cell–based ASICs (ii)Gate-array–based ASICs.

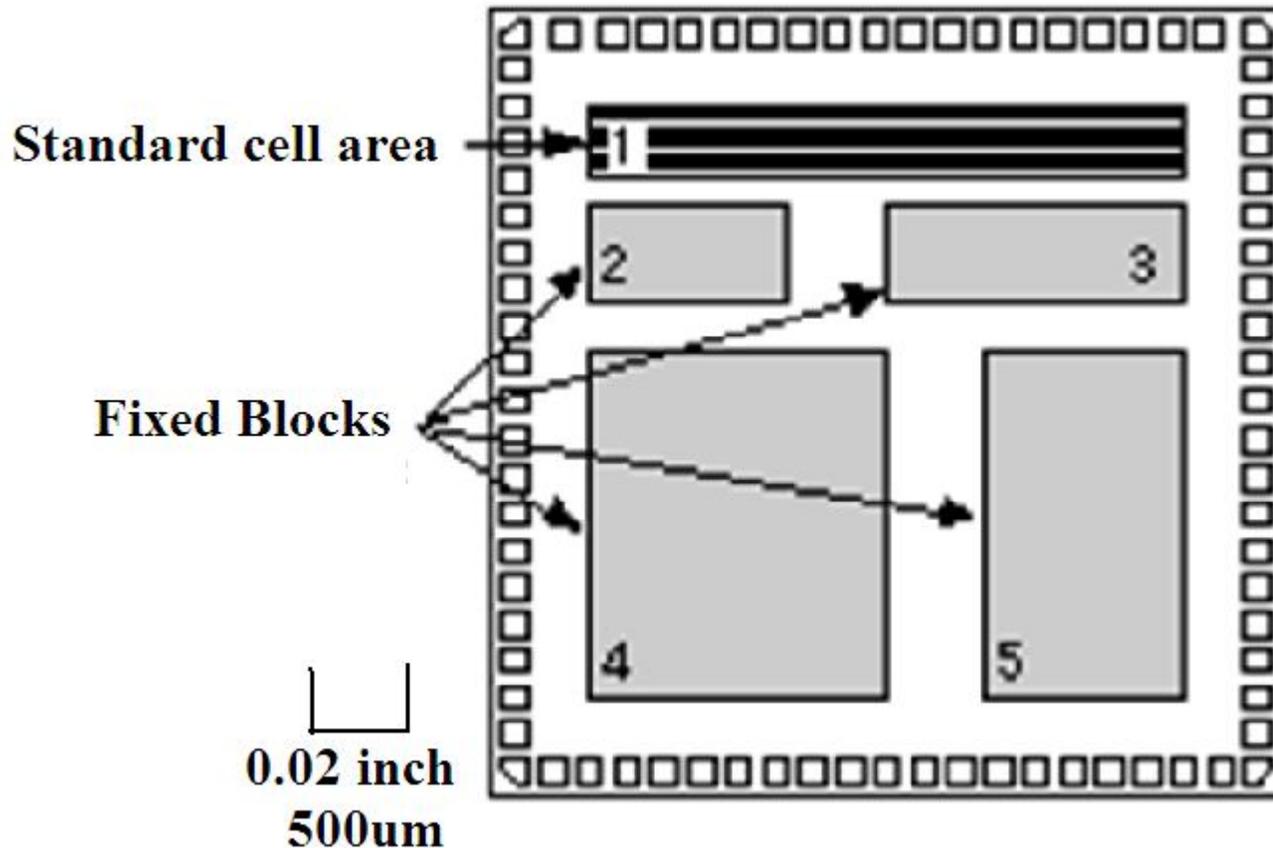
Standard-Cell Based ASICs

- A cell-based ASIC (cell-based IC, or CBIC pronounced sea-bick) uses predesigned logic cells (AND gates, OR gates, multiplexers, and flip-flops, for example) known as standard cells.
- One can apply the term CBIC to any IC that uses cells, but it is generally accepted that a cell-based ASIC or CBIC means a standard-cell based ASIC.

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- The standard-cell areas (also called flexible blocks) in a CBIC are built of rows of standard cells like a wall built of bricks. The standard-cell areas may be used in combination with microcontrollers or even microprocessors, known as mega cells. Mega cells are also called mega functions, full-custom blocks, system-level macros (SLMs), fixed blocks, cores, or Functional Standard Blocks (FSBs).

A cell-based ASIC (CBIC) die with a single standard-cell area (a flexible block) together with four fixed blocks.



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- The ASIC designer defines only the placement of the standard cells and the interconnect in a CBIC. However, the standard cells can be placed anywhere on the silicon; this means that all the mask layers of a CBIC are customized and are unique to a particular customer.
- The advantage of CBICs is that designers save time, money, and reduce risk by using a predesigned, pretested, and precharacterized standard-cell library.
- In addition each standard cell can be optimized individually. During the design of the cell library each and every transistor in every standard cell can be chosen to maximize speed or minimize area .

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- The disadvantages are the time or expense of designing or buying the standard-cell library and the time needed to fabricate all layers of the ASIC for each new design.

Gate-Array Based ASICs

- In a gate array (sometimes abbreviated GA) or gate-array based ASIC the transistors are predefined on the silicon wafer.
- The predefined pattern of transistors on a gate array is the base array , and the smallest element that is replicated to make the base array is the base cell (sometimes called a primitive cell).

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- Only the top few layers of metal, which define the interconnect between transistors, are defined by the designer using custom masks. To distinguish this type of gate array from other types of gate array, it is often called a masked gate array (MGA).
- The designer chooses from a gate-array library of predesigned and pre-characterized logic cells

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- The logic cells in a gate-array library are often called macros . The reason for this is that the base-cell layout is the same for each logic cell, and only the interconnect (inside cells and between cells) is customized, which is similar to a software macro.

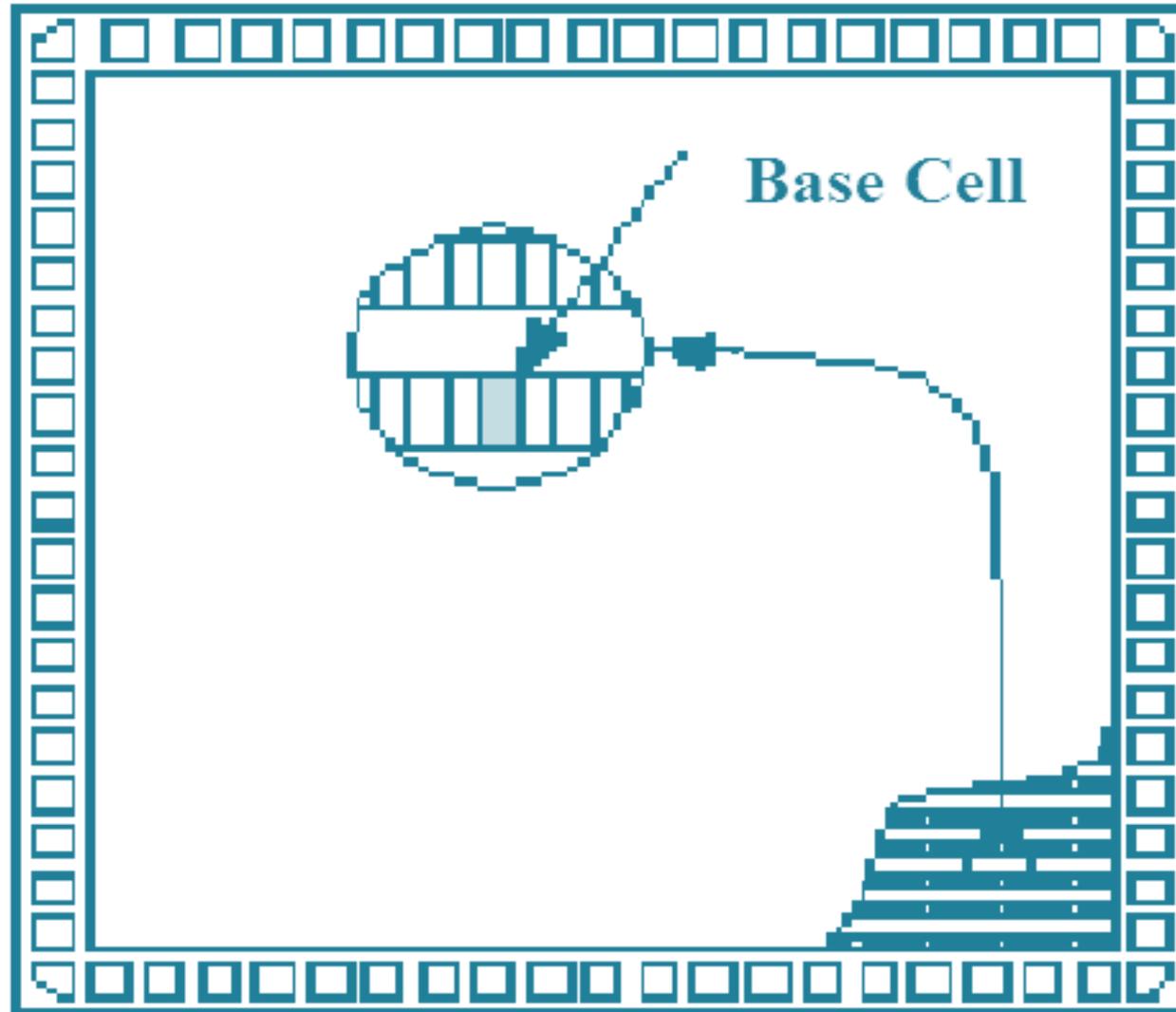
Types of MGA or Gate-array based ASICs

- There are three types of Gate Array based ASICs.
- Channeled gate arrays.
- Channelless gate arrays.
- Structured gate arrays.

Channeled gate arrays

- The channeled gate array was the first to be developed . In a channeled gate array space is left between the rows of transistors for wiring.
- A channeled gate array is similar to a CBIC. Both use the rows of cells separated by channels used for interconnect. One difference is that the space for interconnect between rows of cells are fixed in height in a channeled gate array, whereas the space between rows of cells may be adjusted in a CBIC.

A channeled gate-array die



Features of MGA

- Only the interconnect is customized.
- The interconnect uses predefined spaces between rows of base cells.
- Manufacturing lead time is between two days and two weeks.

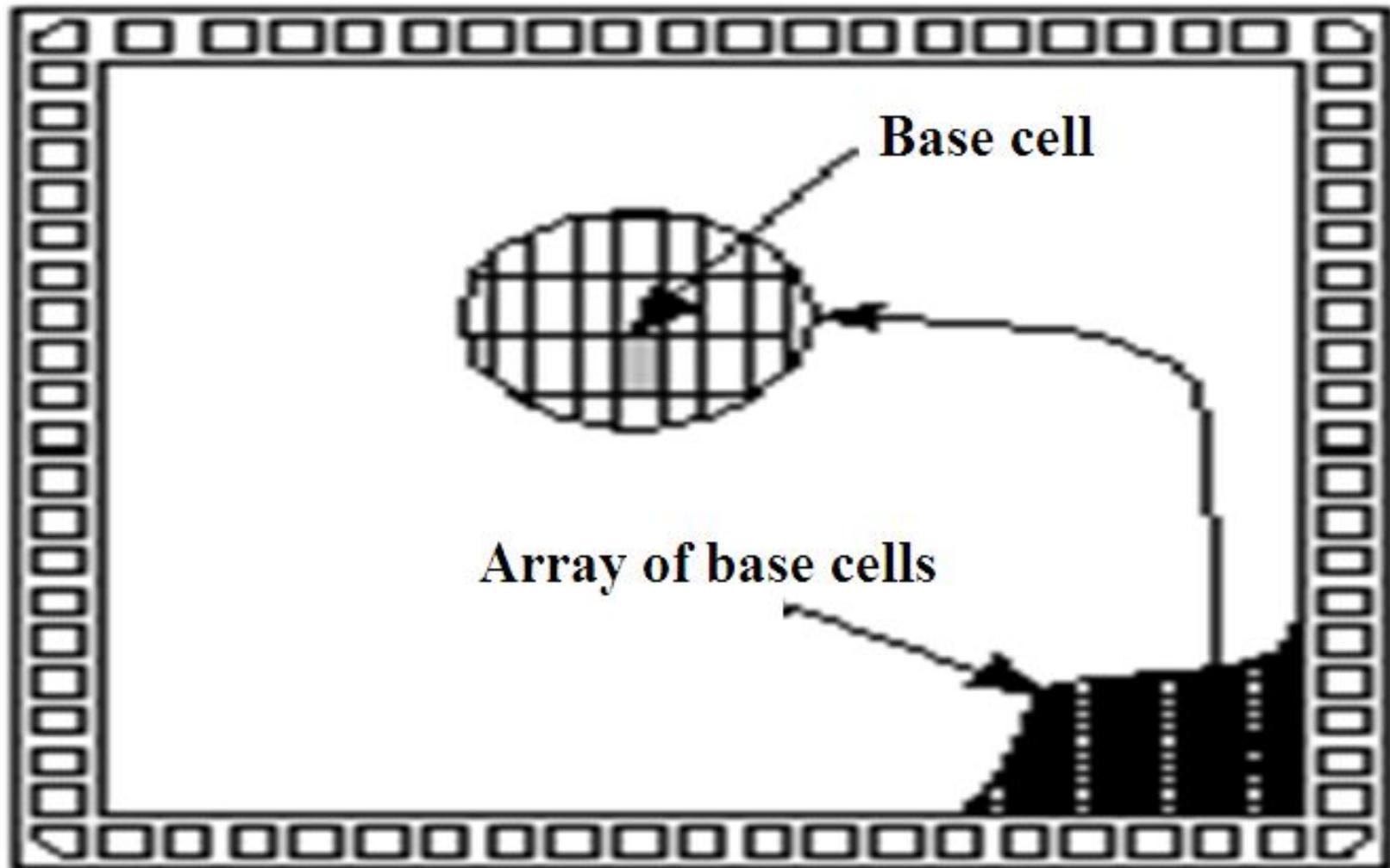
Channel less Gate Array

- This channel less gate-array architecture is now more widely used . The routing on a channelless gate array uses rows of unused transistors.
- The key difference between a channel less gate array and channeled gate array is that there are no predefined areas set aside for routing between cells on a channel less gate array. Instead we route over the top of the gate-array devices. We can do this because we customize the contact layer that defines the connections between metal 1, the first layer of metal, and the transistors.

Features of Channel less Gate Array

- Only the interconnect is customized.
- The interconnect uses predefined spaces between rows of base cells.
- Manufacturing lead time is around two days to two weeks.
- When we use an area of transistors for routing in a channel less array, we do not make any contacts to the devices lying underneath , we simply leave the transistors unused.

A channel less gate-array or sea-of-gates (SOG) array die.



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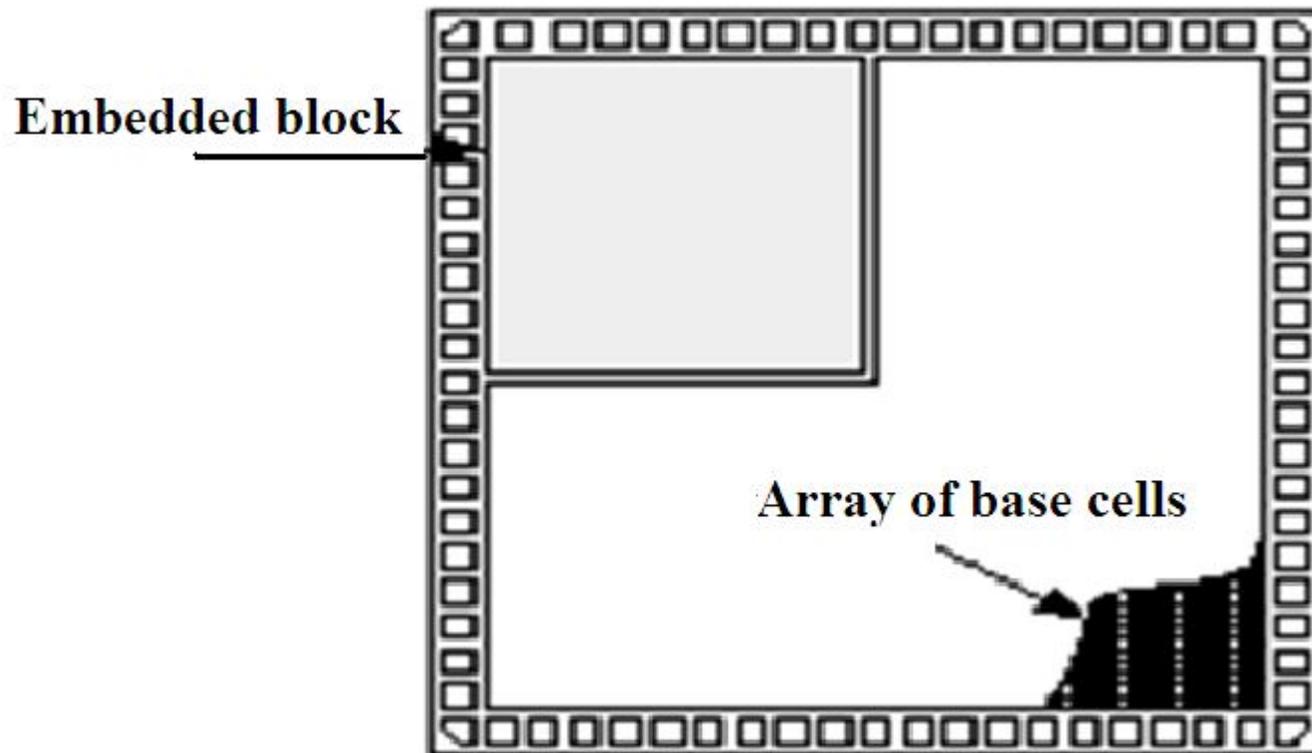
- The basic difference between a channel less gate array and channeled gate array is that there are no predefined areas set aside for routing between cells on a channel less gate array. Instead we route over the top of the gate-array devices.
- It is done like this because we customize the contact layer that defines the connections between metal1, the first layer of metal, and the transistors. When we use an area of transistors for routing in a channel less array, we do not make any contacts to the devices lying underneath; we simply leave the transistors unused.

Contd...

- The logic density, the amount of logic that can be implemented in a given silicon area is higher for channel less gate arrays than for channeled gate arrays. This is usually attributed to the difference in structure between the two types of array. In fact, the difference occurs because the contact mask is customized in a channel less gate array, but is not usually customized in a channeled gate array. This leads to denser cells in the channel less architectures. Customizing the contact layer in a channel less gate array allows us to increase the density of gate-array cells because we can route over the top of unused contact sites.

Structured Gate Array

- A structured or embedded gate-array die showing an embedded block in the upper left corner



Feature Of Structured Gate Array

- Only the interconnect is customized
- Custom Blocks(same for each design can be embedded)
- Manufacturing lead time is between two days and two weeks.
- An embedded gate array gives the improved area efficiency and increased performance of a CBIC but with the lower cost and faster turn around of an MGA.
- The disadvantage of an embedded gate array is that the embedded function is fixed.

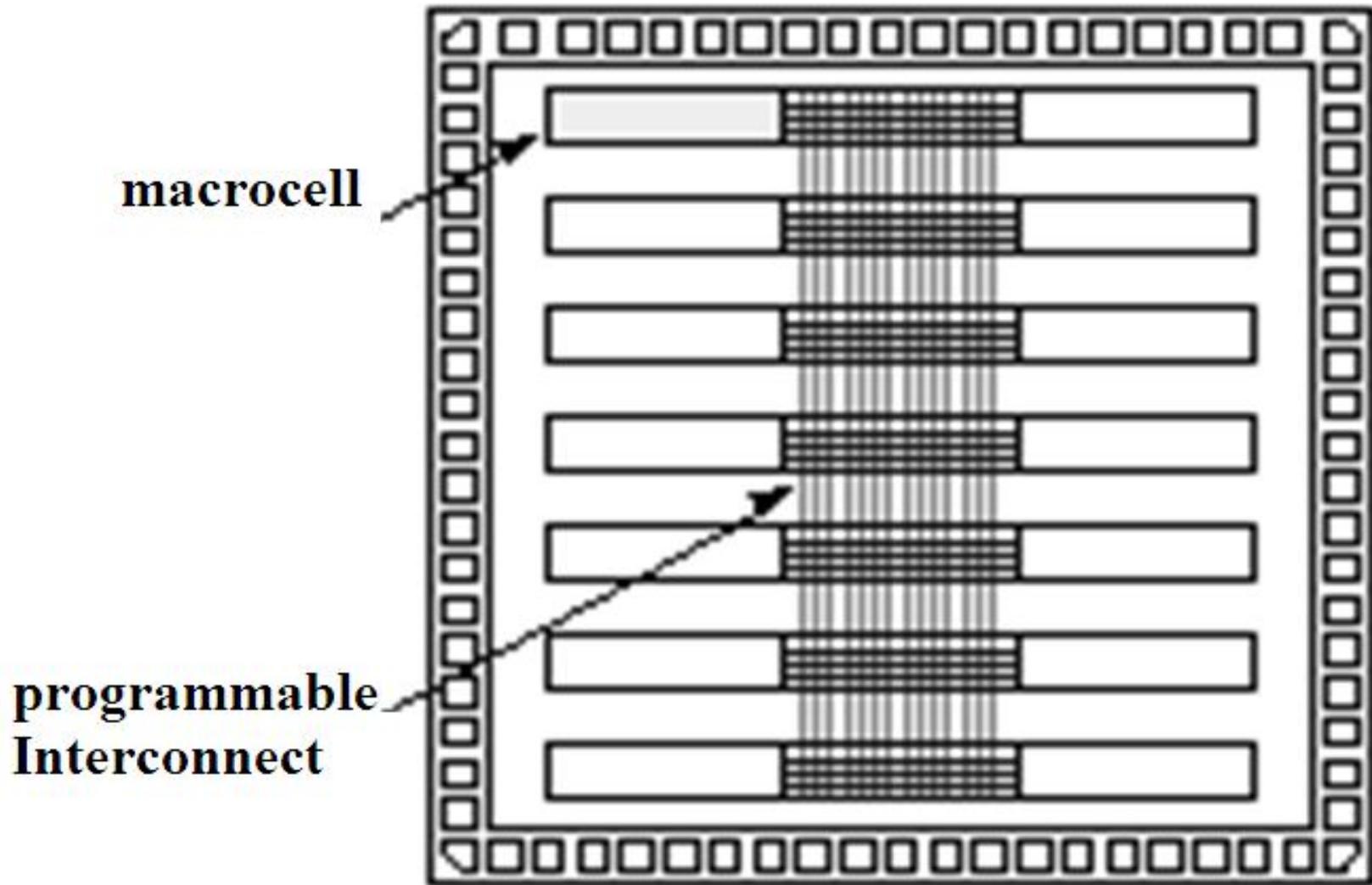
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- For example, if an embedded gate array contains an area set aside for a 32 k-bit memory, but we only need a 16 k-bit memory, then we may have to waste half of the embedded memory function. However, this may still be more efficient and cheaper than implementing a 32 k-bit memory using macros on a SOG array

Programmable Logic Devices

- Programmable logic devices (PLDs) are standard ICs that are available in standard configurations.
- However, PLDs may be configured or programmed to create a part customized to a specific application, and so they also belong to the family of ASICs.
- PLDs use different technologies to allow programming of the device.

A programmable logic device (PLD) die.



Features of PLDs

- No customized mask layers or logic cells
- Fast design turnaround
- A single large block of programmable interconnect
- A matrix of logic macro cells that usually consist of programmable array logic followed by a flip-flop or latch

Contd...

- The simplest type of programmable IC is a read-only memory(ROM). The most common types of ROM use a metal fuse that can be blown permanently (a programmable ROM or PROM).
- An electrically programmable ROM , or EPROM , uses programmable MOS transistors whose characteristics are altered by applying a high voltage.

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- One can erase an EPROM either by using another high voltage (an electrically erasable PROM , or EEPROM) or by exposing the device to ultraviolet light (UV-erasable PROM, or UVPROM).
- There is another type of ROM that can be placed on any ASIC a mask-programmable ROM (mask-programmed ROM or masked ROM). A masked ROM is a regular array of transistors permanently programmed using custom mask patterns.
- So, an embedded masked ROM is a large, specialized, logic cell.

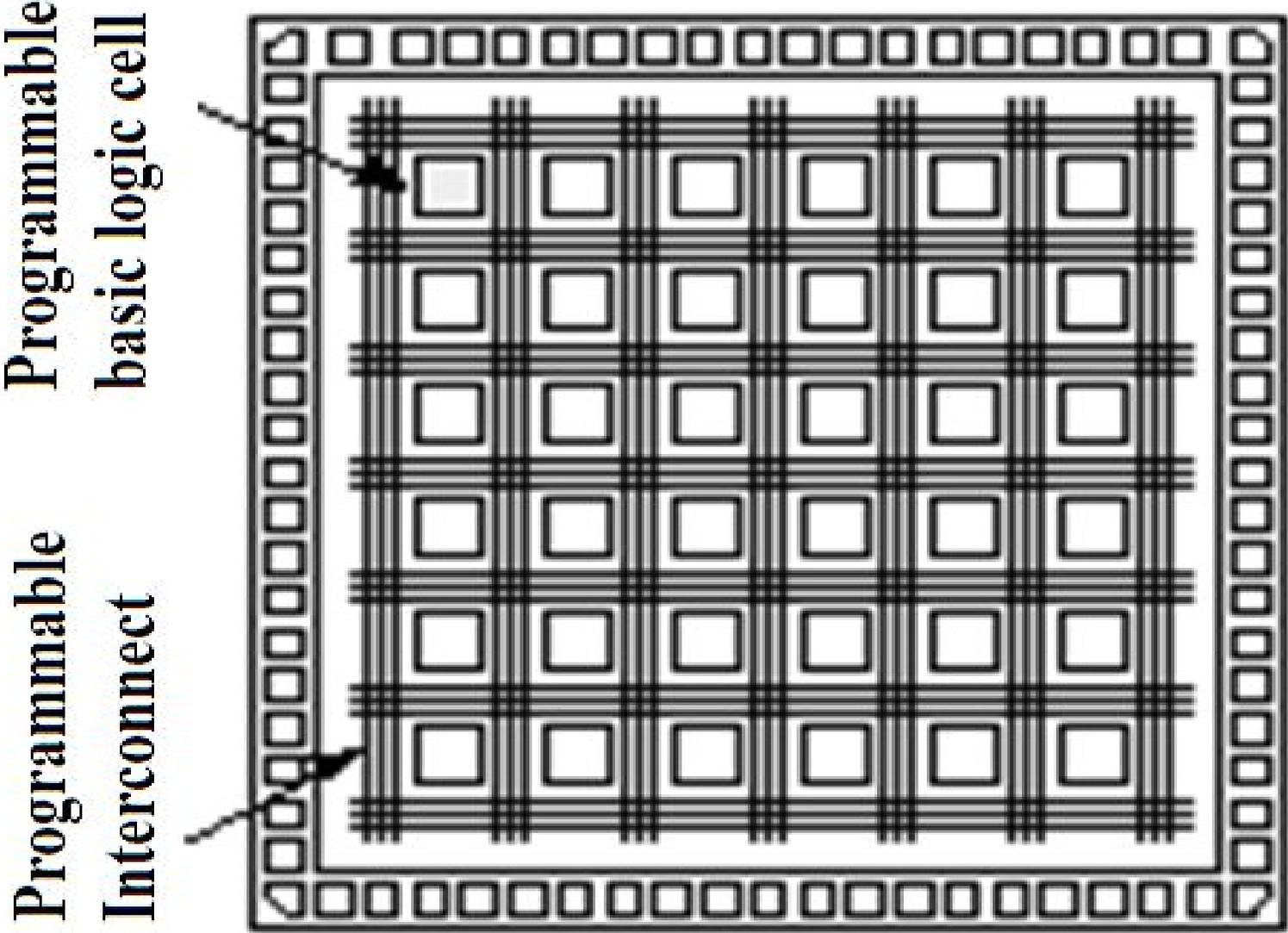
Field-Programmable Gate Arrays(FPGAs)

- FPGAs are the newest member of the ASIC family and are rapidly growing in , replacing TTL in microelectronic systems. Even though an FPGA is a type of gate array, we do not consider the term gate-array based ASICs to include FPGAs.
- There is very little difference between an FPGA and a PLD .An FPGA is usually just larger and more complex than a PLD. In fact, some vendors that manufacture programmable ASICs call their products as FPGAs and some call them as complex PLDs .

Characteristics of an FPGA

- None of the mask layers are customized.
- There is a method for programming the basic logic cells and the interconnect.
- The core is a regular array of programmable basic logic cells that can implement combinational as well as sequential logic (flip-flops).
- A matrix of programmable interconnect surrounds the basic logic cells.
- Programmable I/O cells surround the core.
- Design turnaround is a few hours.

Field-programmable gate array (FPGA) die.



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- The architecture consists of configurable logic blocks, configurable I/O blocks, and programmable interconnect. Also, there will be clock circuitry for driving the clock signals to each logic block, and additional logic resources such as ALUs, memory, and decoders may be available. The two basic types of programmable elements for an FPGA are Static RAM and anti-fuses.

CPLDs vs. FPGAs

	CPLD	FPGA
• Architecture:	PAL-like	Gate Array-like
• Density :	Low to medium	Medium to high
• Speed :	Fast, predictable dependent	Application
• Interconnect:	Crossbar	Routing
• Power Consumption:	High	Medium

Design Flow

- The sequence of steps to design an ASIC is known as the Design flow . The various steps involved in ASIC design flow are given below.
1. **Design entry** : Design entry is a stage where the micro architecture is implemented in a Hardware Description language like VHDL, Verilog , System Verilog etc.
In early days , a schematic editor was used for design entry where designers instantiated gates. Increased complexity in the current designs require the use of HDLs to gain productivity . Another advantage is that HDLs are independent

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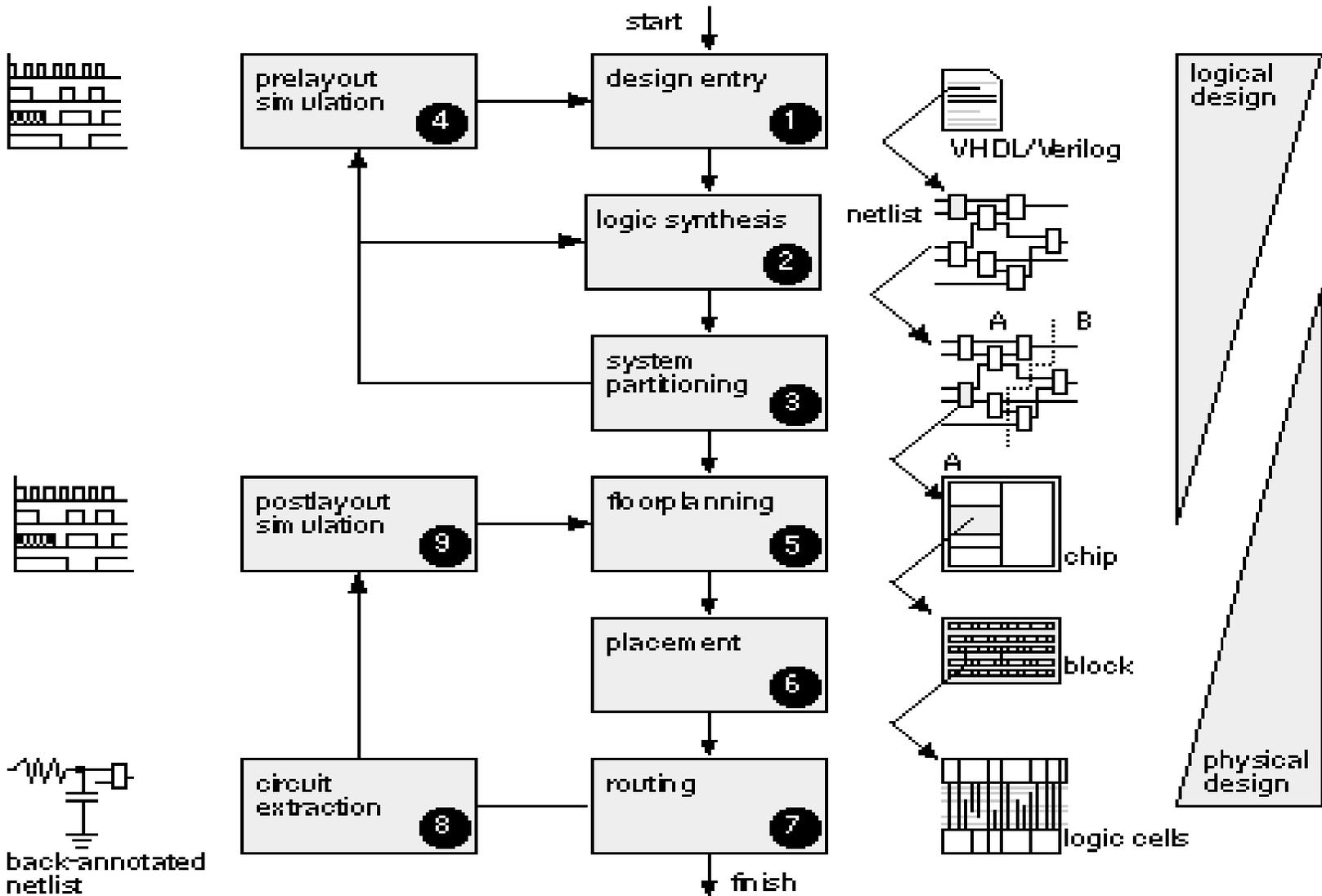
- 2. Logic synthesis:** Use an HDL (VHDL or Verilog) and a logic synthesis tool to produce a net list a description of the logic cells and their connections
- 3. System partitioning :** Divide a large system into ASIC-sized pieces.
- 4. Pre-layout simulation:** Check to see if the design functions correctly.
- 5. Floor planning:** Arrange the blocks of the netlist on the chip.
- 6. Placement:** Decide the locations of cells in a block.
- 7. Routing:** Make the connections between cells and blocks.

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- 8.Extraction :** Determine the resistance and capacitance of the interconnect.
- 9. Post layout simulation.** It is used to check to see whether the design still works with the added loads of the interconnect or not

The flow diagram is shown in the next slide.

ASIC design flow diagram



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- In the flow diagram the steps from 1 to 4 are part of logical design ,and steps from 5 to 9 are part of physical design.
- When we are performing system partitioning we have to consider both logical and physical factors.

CMOS Design Rules

- The design rules are Interface between designer and process engineer and guidelines for constructing process masks
- The figures in the next slides defines the design rules for a CMOS process using pictures. Arrows between objects denote a minimum spacing, and arrows showing the size of an object denote a minimum width.

Diagram 1

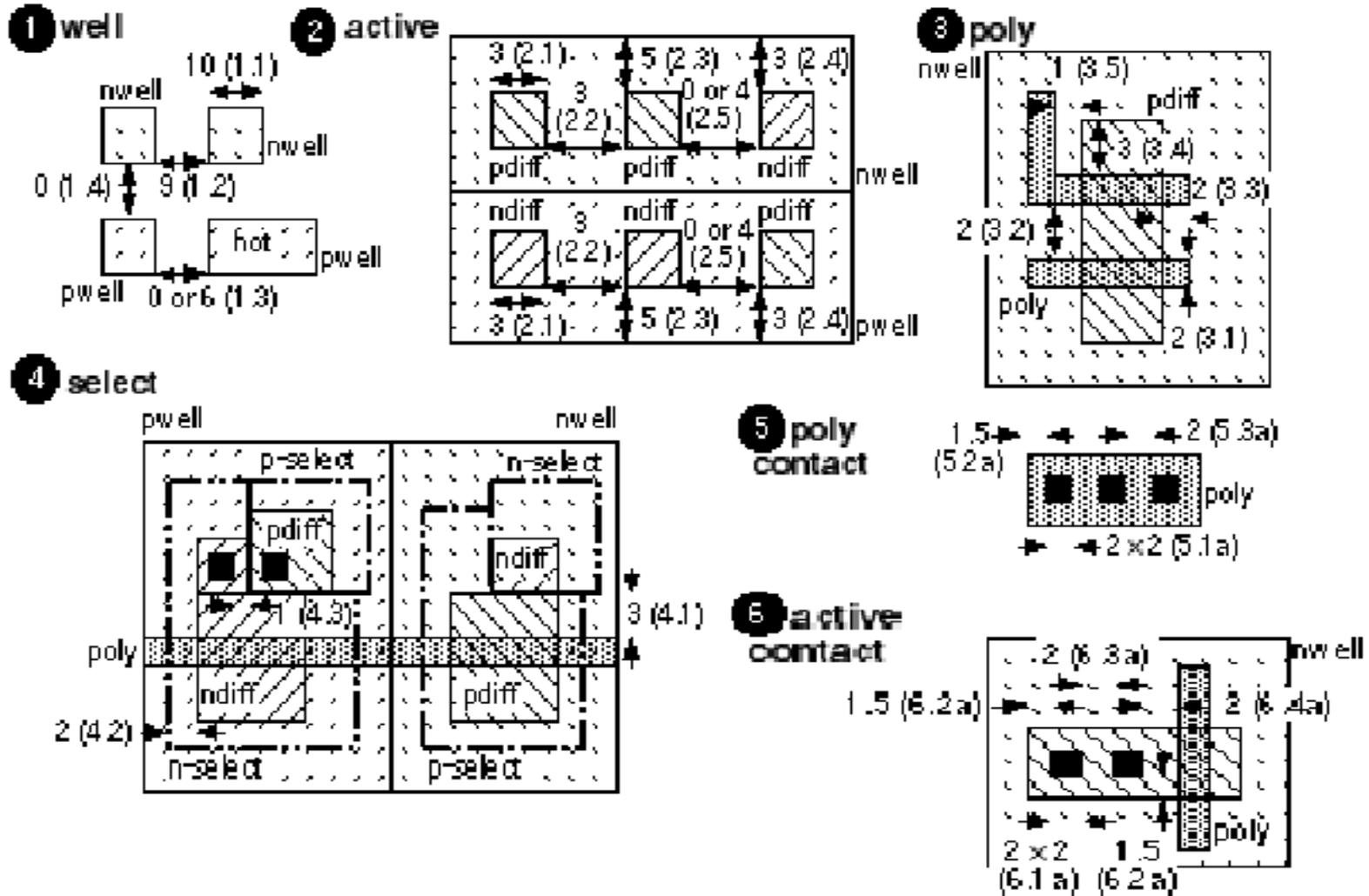
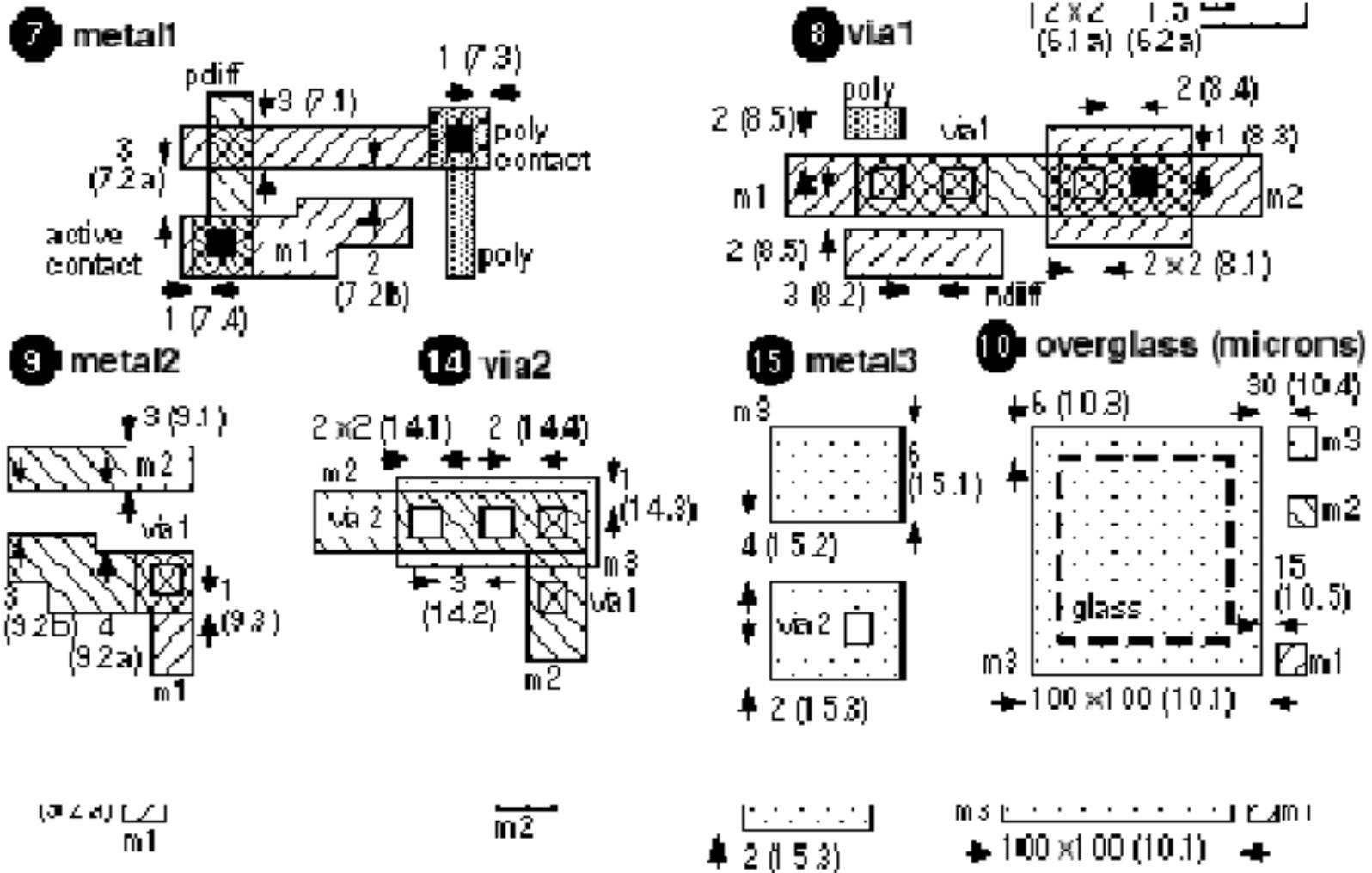
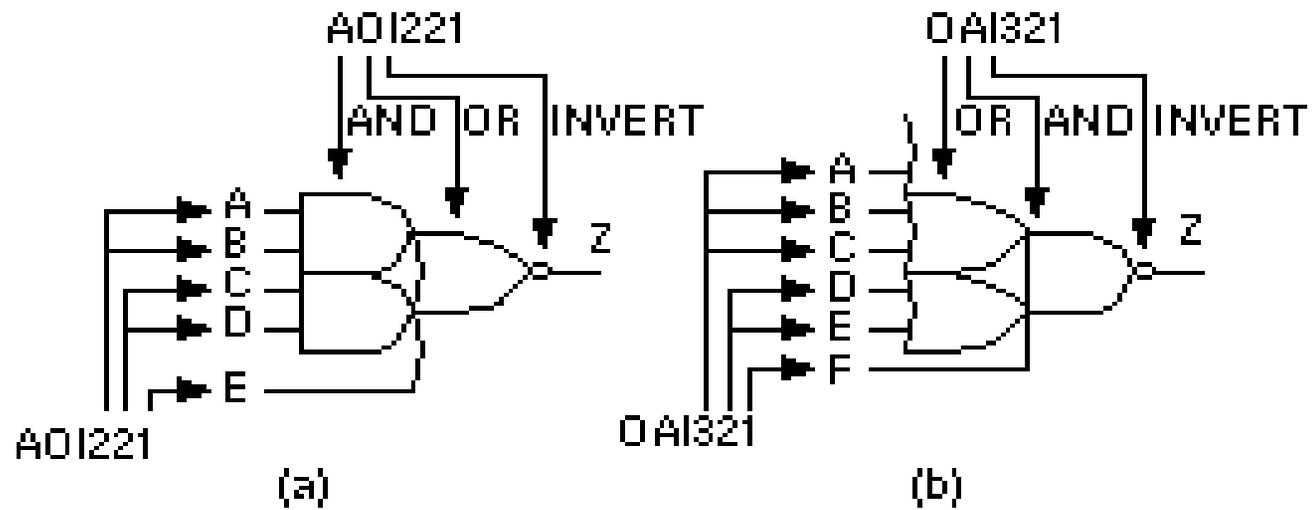


Diagram 2

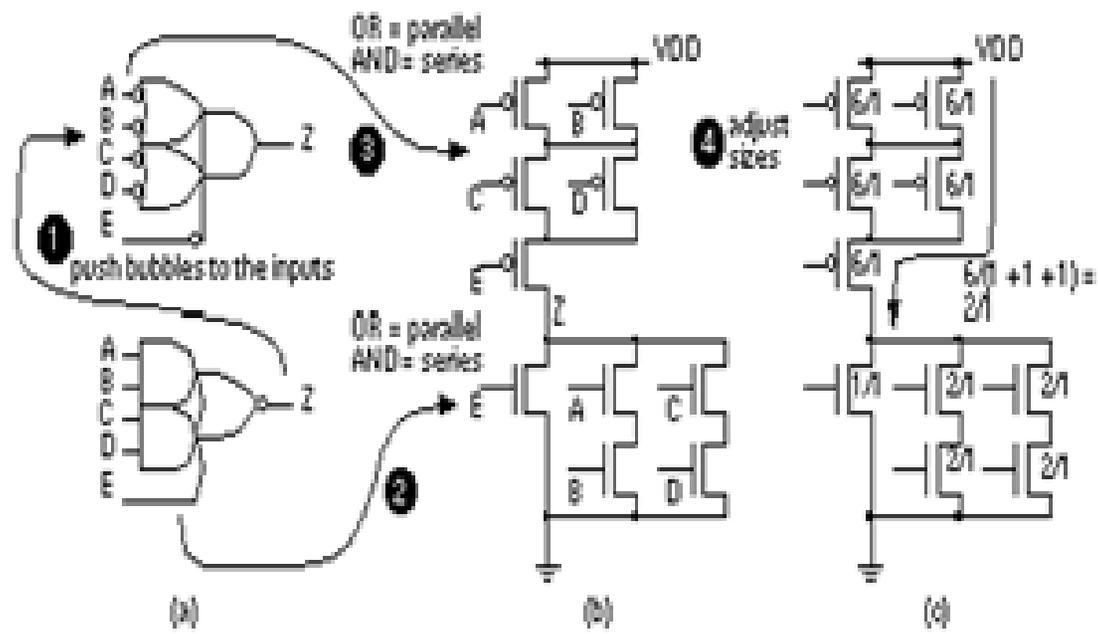


Combinational Logic Cell



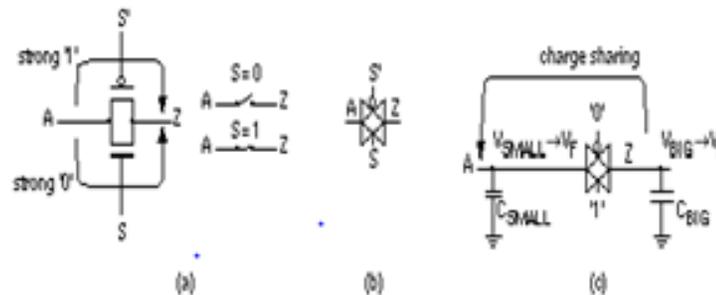
Pushing Bubbles

- The AOI and OAI logic cells can be built using CMOS using series parallel network of transistors called stacks. The following figure illustrates the procedure to build the n channel and p channel stacks using the AOI221 cell as an example



Transmission Gate

- The following figure shows the CMOS transmission gate (TG, Tx gate, pass gate, coupler) We connect a p channel transistor (to transmit a strong 1) in parallel with a n channel transistor (to transmit a strong 0)



Transistor as Resistors

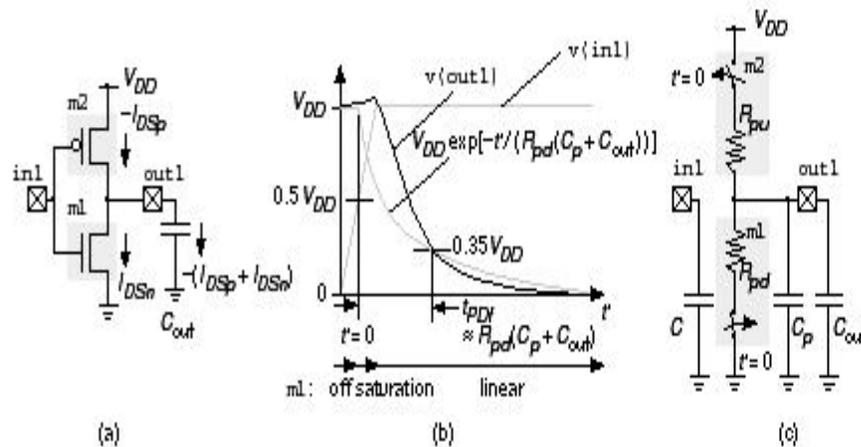


FIGURE 3.1 A model for CMOS logic delay. (a) A CMOS inverter with a load capacitance, C_{out} . (b) Input, $v(in1)$, and output, $v(out1)$, waveforms showing the definition of the falling propagation delay, t_{PDf} . In this case delay is measured from the input trip point of 0.5. The output trip points are 0.35 (falling) and 0.65 (rising). The model predicts $t_{PDf} \approx R_{pd}(C_p + C_{out})$. (c) The model for the inverter includes: the input capacitance, C ; the pull-up resistance (R_{pu}) and pull-down resistance (R_{pd}); and the parasitic output capacitance, C_p .

Junction Capacitance

- The junction capacitances, C_{BD} and C_{BS} , consist of two parts: junction area and sidewall; both have different physical characteristics with parameters CJ and MJ for the junction, CJSW and MJSW for the sidewall, and PB is common. These capacitances depend on the voltage across the junction (V_{DB} and V_{SB}).

Overlap Capacitance

- The overlap capacitance account for lateral diffusion (the amount the source and drain extend under the gate) *using SPICE parameter $LD = 5E-08$ or $L_D = 0.05$ m m.*
- Not all versions of SPICE use the equivalent parameter for width reduction, WD in calculating C_{GDOV} and not all versions subtract W_D to form W_{EFF} .

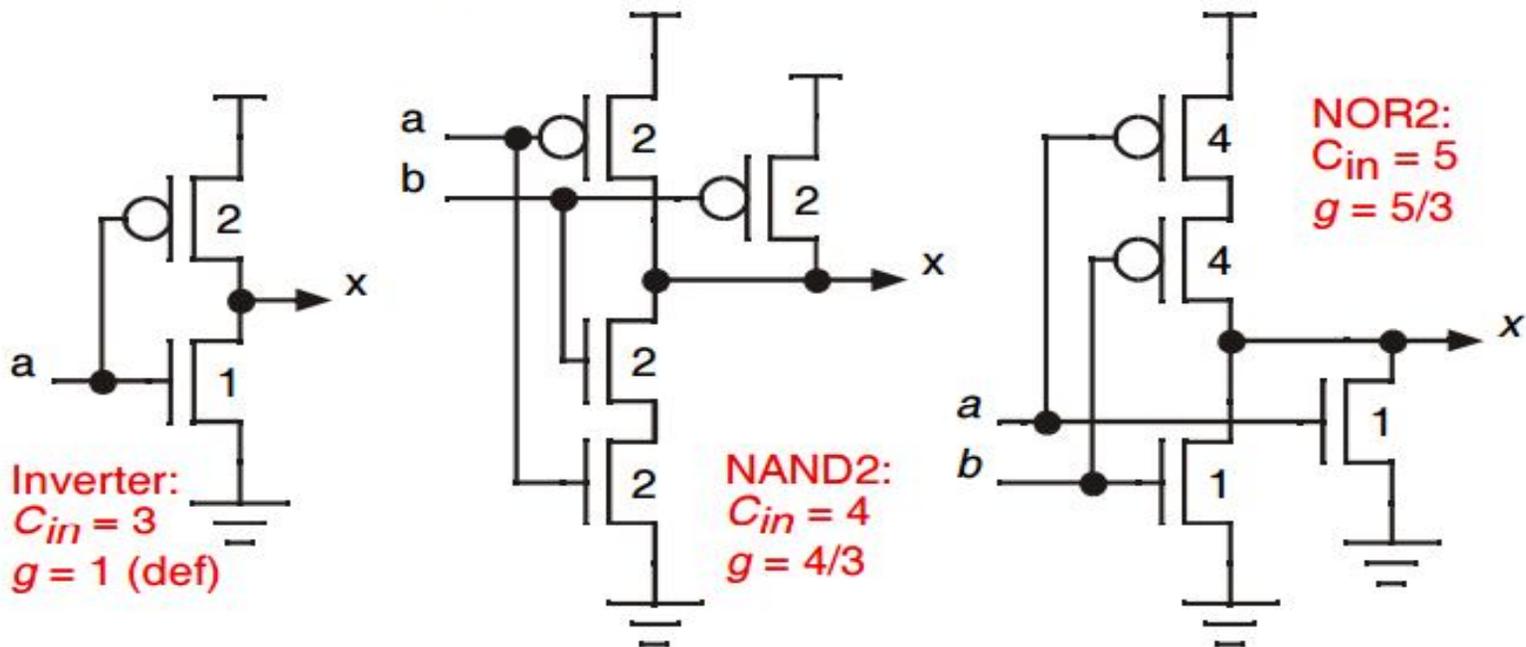
Gate Capacitance

- The gate–bulk capacitance C_{GB} may be viewed as two capacitors in series: the fixed gate-oxide capacitance, $C_O = W_{EFF} L_{EFF} \epsilon_{OX} / T_{OX}$. Variable depletion Capacitance, $C_S = W_{EFF} L_{EFF} \epsilon_{Si} / x_d$, formed by the depletion region that extends under the gate (with varying depth x_d).

Computation of Logical Effort

DEF: Logical effort is the ratio of the input capacitance of a gate to the input capacitance of an inverter delivering the same output current.

- Measured from delay vs. fanout plots of simulated or measured gates
- Or estimated, counting capacitance in units of transistor width:



Library –Cell Design

- The optimum cell layout for each process generation changes because the design rules for each ASIC vendor's process are always slightly different—even for the same generation of technology. For example, two companies may have very similar 0.35 μm CMOS process technologies, but the third-level metal spacing might be slightly different.
- If a cell library is to be used with both processes, we could construct the library by adopting the most stringent rules from each process.

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Library – Cell Design(Cont)

- A library constructed in this fashion may not be competitive with one that is constructed specifically for each process.
- The reason that most vendors have similar rules is because most vendors use the same manufacturing equipment and a similar process. It is possible to construct a highest common denominator library that extracts the most from the current manufacturing capability

Cont

- Layout of library cells is either hand-crafted or uses some form of symbolic layout .
- Symbolic layout is usually performed in one of two ways: using either interactive graphics or a text layout language. Shapes are represented by simple lines or rectangles, known as sticks or logs , in symbolic layout. The actual dimensions of the sticks or logs are determined after layout is completed in a post processing step.

Cont

- An alternative to graphical symbolic layout uses a text layout language, similar to a programming language such as C, that directs a program to assemble layout. The spacing and dimensions of the layout shapes are defined in terms of variables rather than constants. These variables can be changed after symbolic layout is complete to adjust the layout spacing to a specific process.
- As libraries get larger, and the capability to quickly move libraries and ASIC designs between different generations of process technologies becomes more important, the advantages of symbolic layout may outweigh the disadvantage

UNIT - II

PROGRAMMABLE ASICS, PROGRAMMABLE ASIC LOGIC CELLS

Programmable ASICs

- Two basic types of programmable ASICs
 - Programmable Logic Device (PLD) - first developed as small programmable devices that can replace a handful of TTL parts
 - least complex ones are a simple AND/OR PLA with latches on the outputs and feedback paths to the inputs of the array
 - Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) - more complex devices that can hold up to 100K gate equivalents or more
 - some implemented as symmetrical arrays of simple logic devices
 - others include more complex and specialized logic blocks
- Automatic tools create a string of bits (a *configuration file*) describing the extra connections necessary to program the FPGA to perform the required function

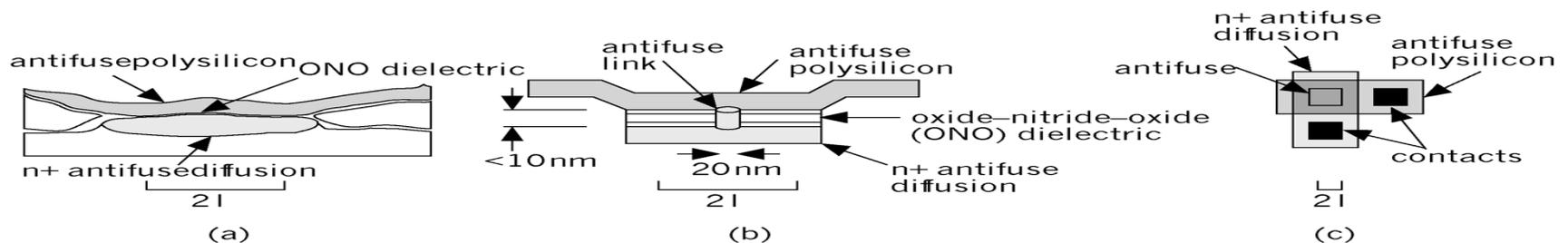
Programming Technologies

- Static RAM cells- Flipflops of static RAM
- Anti-fuse – Burnable Joints
- EPROM (Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory),EEPROM(Electrically Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory) and Flash ROM elements commanded by floating gate

Anti Fuse Technology

- An antifuse is normally open
- A high programming voltage is placed across it
- This forces a programming current (about 5 mA) through it which melts the thin insulating dielectric forming a permanent, resistive silicon link

An Actel antifuse. (a) A cross section. (b) A simplified drawing. (c) From above, an antifuse is approximately the same size as a contact.



SRAM Technology

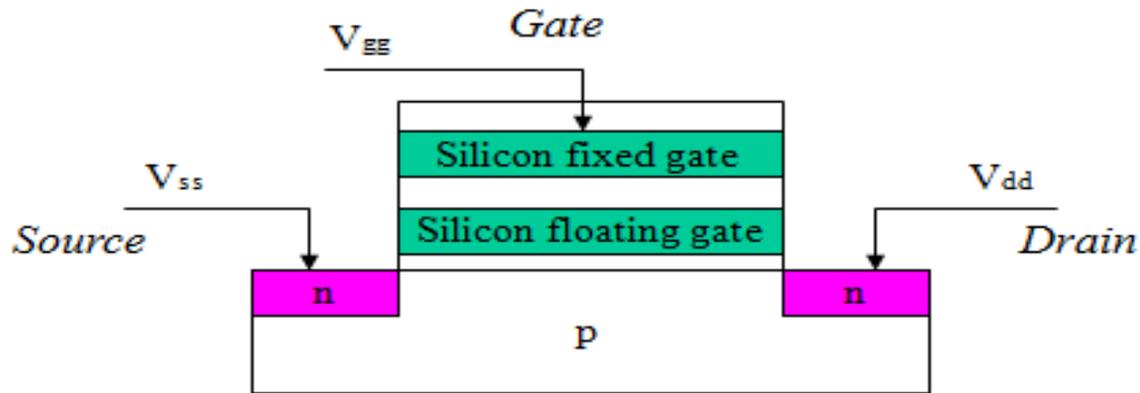
- Characteristics Of SRAM technology:
- Functional blocks and joints are commanded by SRAM flip-flops
- Joint elements are located in the surfaced of the same crystal.
- Programming takes place after turning power on.Its possible to reconfigure while working.



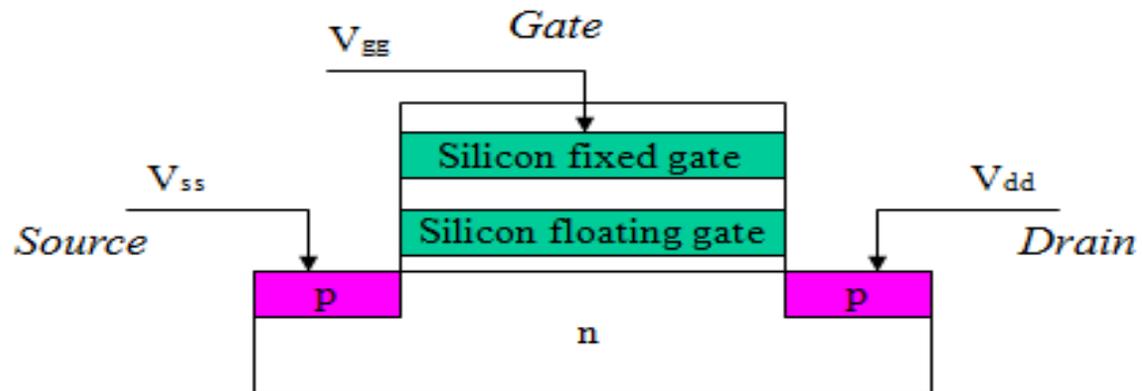
EPR0M-itechnology

MOSFET – Metal Oxide Semiconductor Fieft Effect Transistor

p-MOS

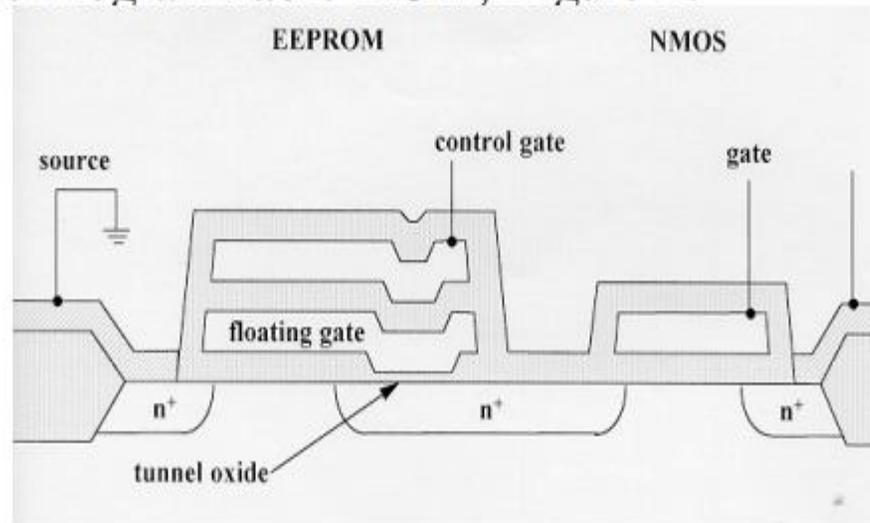


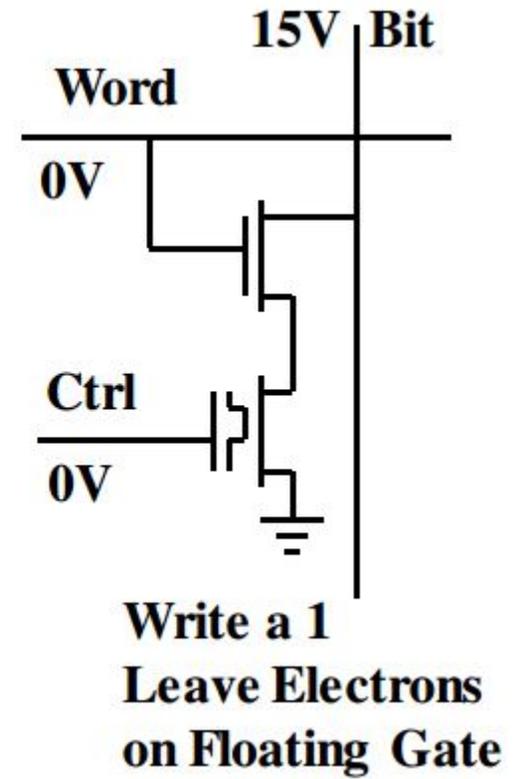
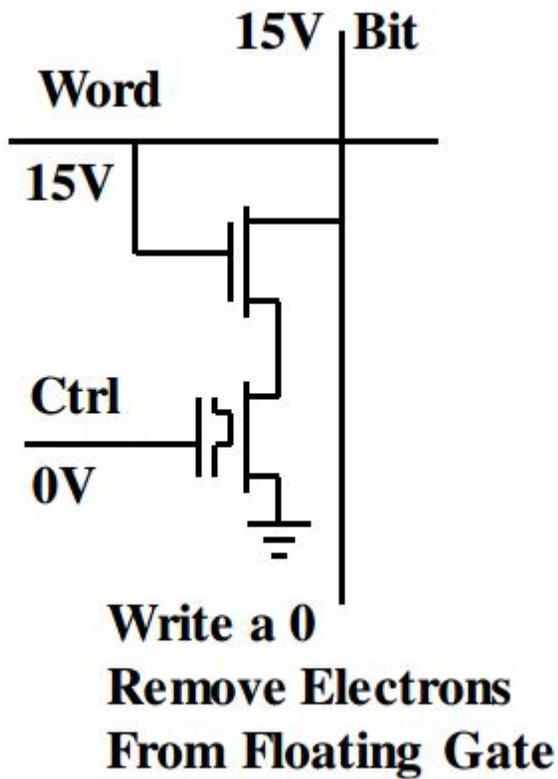
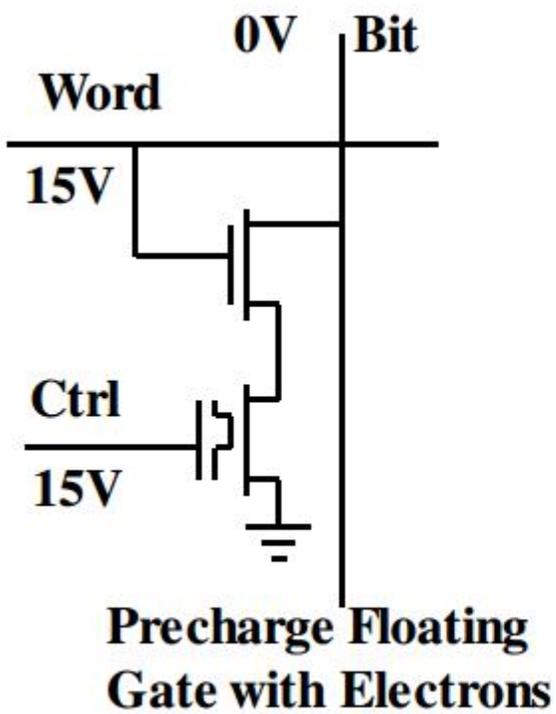
n-MOS



EEPROM TECHNOLOGY

In certain applications, data must be electrically entered and erased from Read Only Memory (ROM). The procedure can involve the entire ROM sections or one memory cell at a time. From the various technologies available, we have chosen the design of a FLOTOX EEPROM (FLOating-gate Tunneling Oxide Electrically Erasable Programmable ROM, Figure 1.





PREP BENCHMARKS

An 8-bit datapath consisting of 4:1 MUX, register, and shift-register

An 8-bit timer-counter consisting of two registers, a 4:1 MUX, a counter and a comparator

A small state machine (8 states, 8 inputs, and 8 outputs)

A larger state machine (16 states, 8 inputs, and 8 outputs)

An ALU consisting of a 4 × 4 multiplier, an 8-bit adder, and an 8-bit register

A 16-bit accumulator

A 16-bit counter with synchronous load and enable

A 16-bit prescaled counter with load and enable

A 16-bit address decoder

ASIC Logic Cells

All FPGAs contain a basic logic cell replicated in a regular array across the chip

There are three different types of basic logic cells:

- multiplexer based

- look-up table based

- programmable array based

Actel ACT1 Multiplexer Based Logic Cell

- Logic functions can be built by connecting logic signals to some or all of the Logic Module's inputs and by connecting the remaining Logic Module inputs to VDD or GND

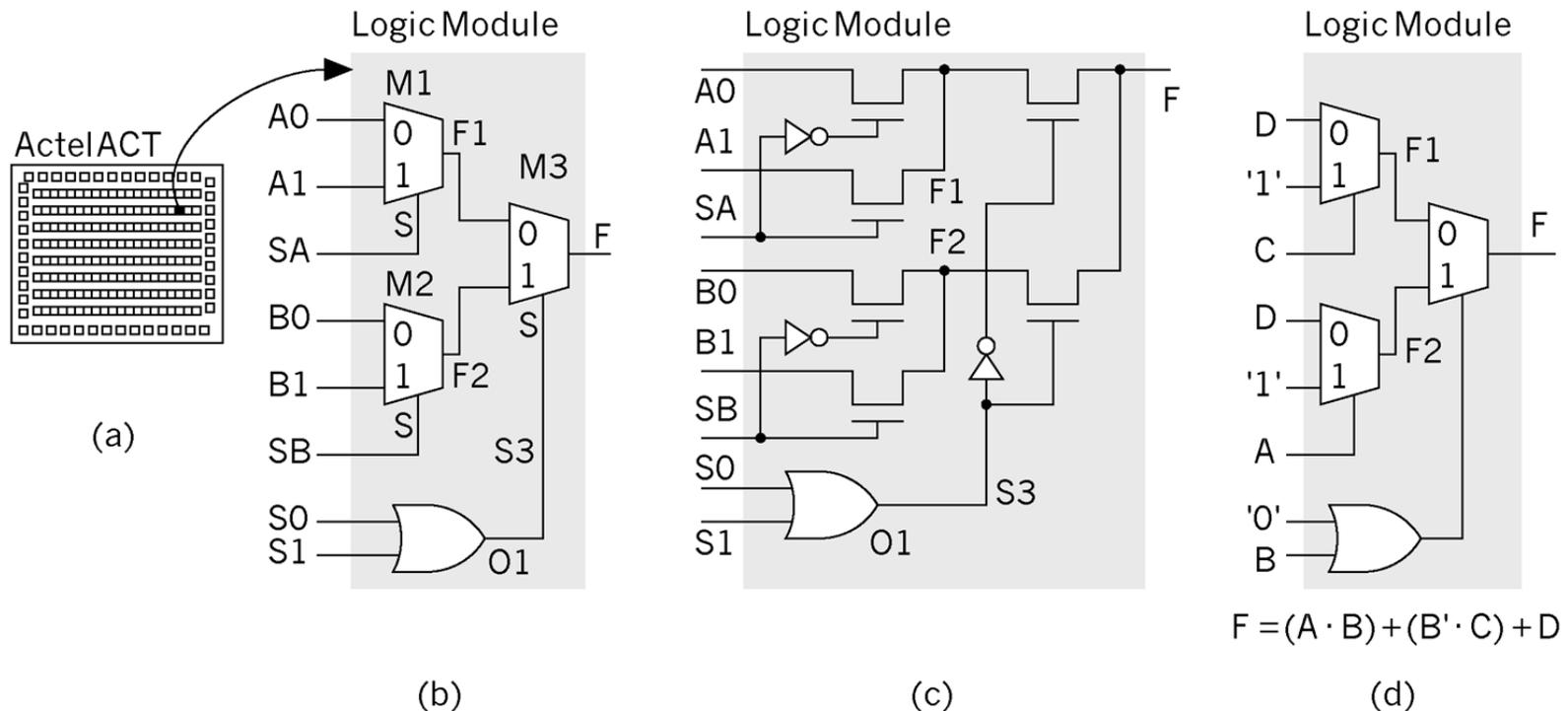


Figure 5.1 The Actel ACT1 architecture. (a) Organization of the basic cells. (b) The ACT1 logic module. (c) An implementation using pass transistors. (d) An example logic macro.

Shannon's Expansion Theorem

- We can use Shannon's expansion theorem to expand a function:
$$F = A \cdot F(A = '1') + A' \cdot F(A = '0')$$
 - Where $F(A='1')$ is the function evaluated with $A='1'$ and $F(A='0')$ is the function evaluated with $A='0'$

Example:
$$F = A' \cdot B + A \cdot B \cdot C' + A' \cdot B' \cdot C$$
$$= A \cdot (B \cdot C') + A' \cdot (B + B' \cdot C)$$

$F(A = '1') = B \cdot C'$ is the cofactor of F with respect to (*wrt*) A or F_A

- Eventually we reach the unique canonical form, which uses only minterms
- Final result for example above should be:
- $F = A' \cdot B \cdot C + A' \cdot B' \cdot C + A \cdot B \cdot C' + A' \cdot B \cdot C'$

Boolean Functions of Two Variables Using a 2:1 Mux

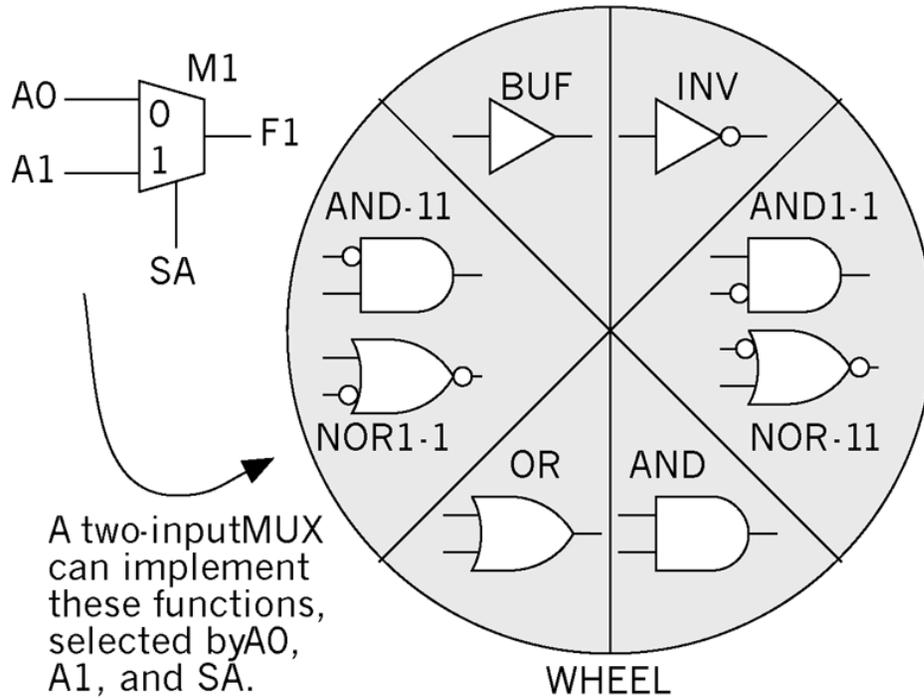
	Function, F	F =	Canonical form	Minterms	Minterm code	Function number	M1		
							A0	A1	SA
1	'0'	'0'	'0'	none	0000	0	0	0	0
2	NOR1-1(A, B)	$(A + B)'$	$A' \cdot B$	1	0010	2	B	0	A
3	NOT(A)	A'	$A' \cdot B' + A' \cdot B$	0, 1	0011	3	0	1	A
4	AND1-1(A, B)	$A \cdot B'$	$A \cdot B'$	2	0100	4	A	0	B
5	NOT(B)	B'	$A' \cdot B' + A \cdot B'$	0, 2	0101	5	0	1	B
6	BUF(B)	B	$A' \cdot B + A \cdot B$	1, 3	1010	6	0	B	1
7	AND(A, B)	$A \cdot B$	$A \cdot B$	3	1000	8	0	B	A
8	BUF(A)	A	$A \cdot B' + A \cdot B$	2, 3	1100	9	0	A	1
9	OR(A, B)	$A + B$	$A' \cdot B + A \cdot B' + A \cdot B$	1, 2, 3	1110	13	B	1	A
10	'1'	'1'	$A' \cdot B' + A' \cdot B + A \cdot B' + A \cdot B$	0, 1, 2, 3	1111	15	1	1	1

ACT1 LM as a Function Wheel (cont.)

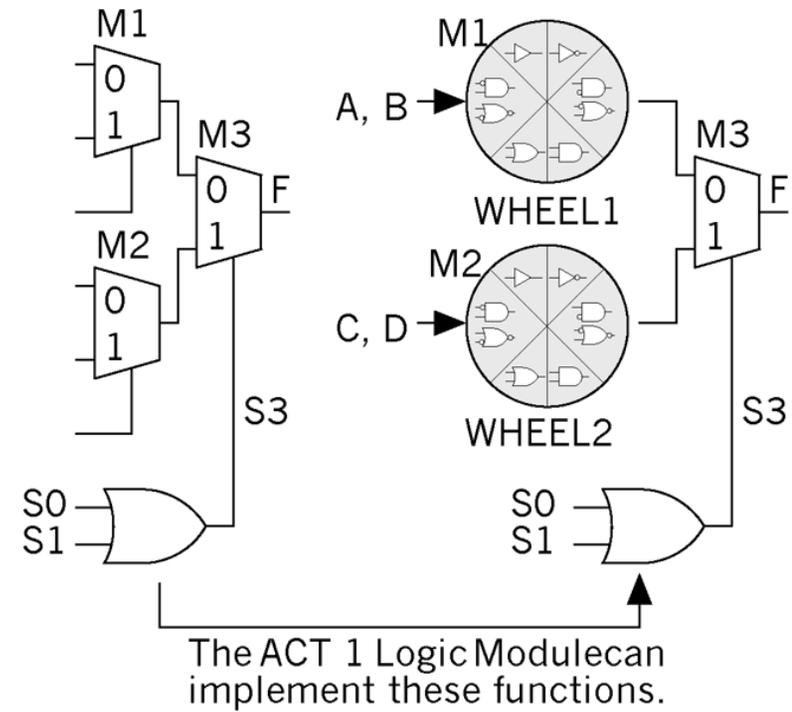
- A 2:1 MUX is a function wheel that can generate BUF, INV, AND-11, AND1-1, OR, AND
- Define a function WHEEL (A, B) = MUX (A0, A1, SA)
- $\text{MUX} (A0, A1, SA) = A0 \cdot SA' + A1 \cdot SA$
- Each of the inputs (A0, A1, and SA) may be A, B, '0', or '1'
- The ACT 1 LM is built from two function wheels, a 2:1 MUX, and a two-input OR gate:

$$\text{ACT 1 LM} = \text{MUX} [\text{WHEEL1}, \text{WHEEL2}, \text{OR} (S0, S1)]$$

ACT1 LM as a Function Wheel



(a)



(b)

Figure 5.3 The ACT1 logic module as a boolean function generator. (a) A 2:1 MUX viewed as a logic wheel. (b) The ACT1 logic module viewed as two function wheels.

Example of Implementing a Function with an ACT1 LM

- Example of using the WHEEL functions to implement:

$$F = \text{NAND}(A, B) = (A \cdot B)'$$

1. First express F as the output of a 2:1 MUX:

expand F wrt A (or wrt B; since F is symmetric)

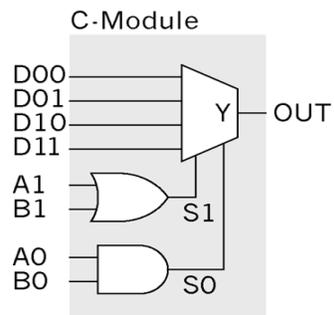
$$F = A \cdot (B') + A' \cdot ('1')$$

2. Assign WHEEL1 to implement INV (B), and WHEEL2 to implement '1'

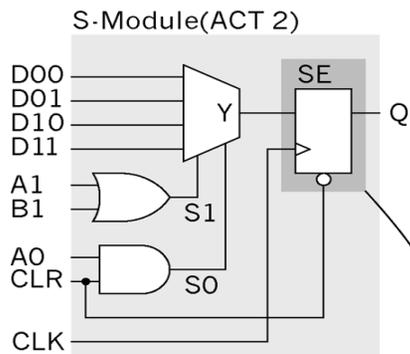
3. Set the select input to the MUX connecting WHEEL1 and WHEEL2, $S_0 + S_1 = A$. We can do this using $S_0 = A$, $S_1 = '1'$

- A single Actel ACT1 LM can implement all combinational two-input functions, most three input functions and many four input functions
- A transparent D latch can be implemented with one ACT1 LM and an edge triggered D flip-flop can be implemented with two LM's

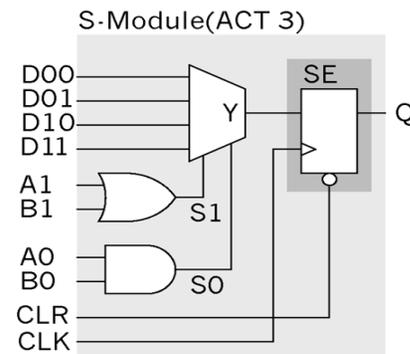
Actel ACT2 and ACT3 Logic Modules



(a)

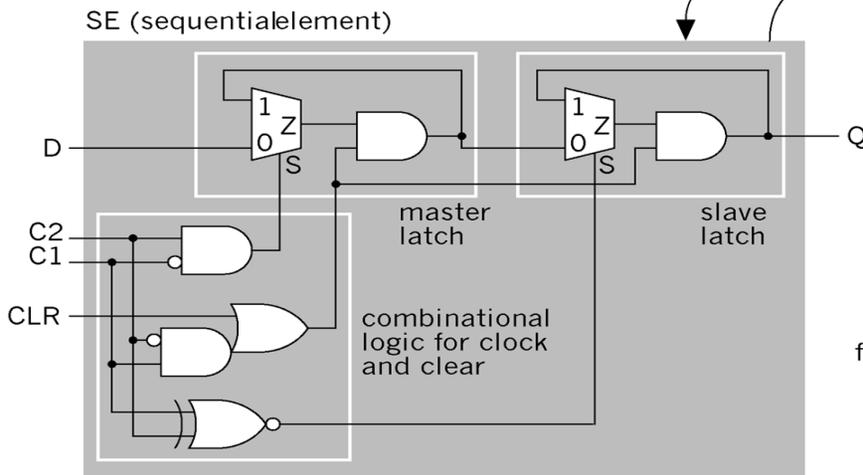


(b)

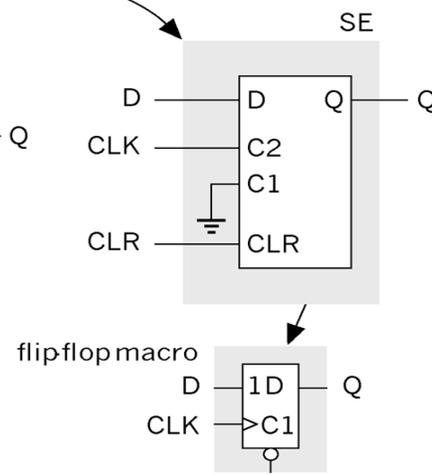


(c)

The ACT2 and ACT3 logic modules. (a) The C-module. (b) The ACT2 S-module. (c) The ACT3 S-module. (d) The equivalent circuit of the SE. (e) The SE configured as a positive edge-triggered D flip-flop.

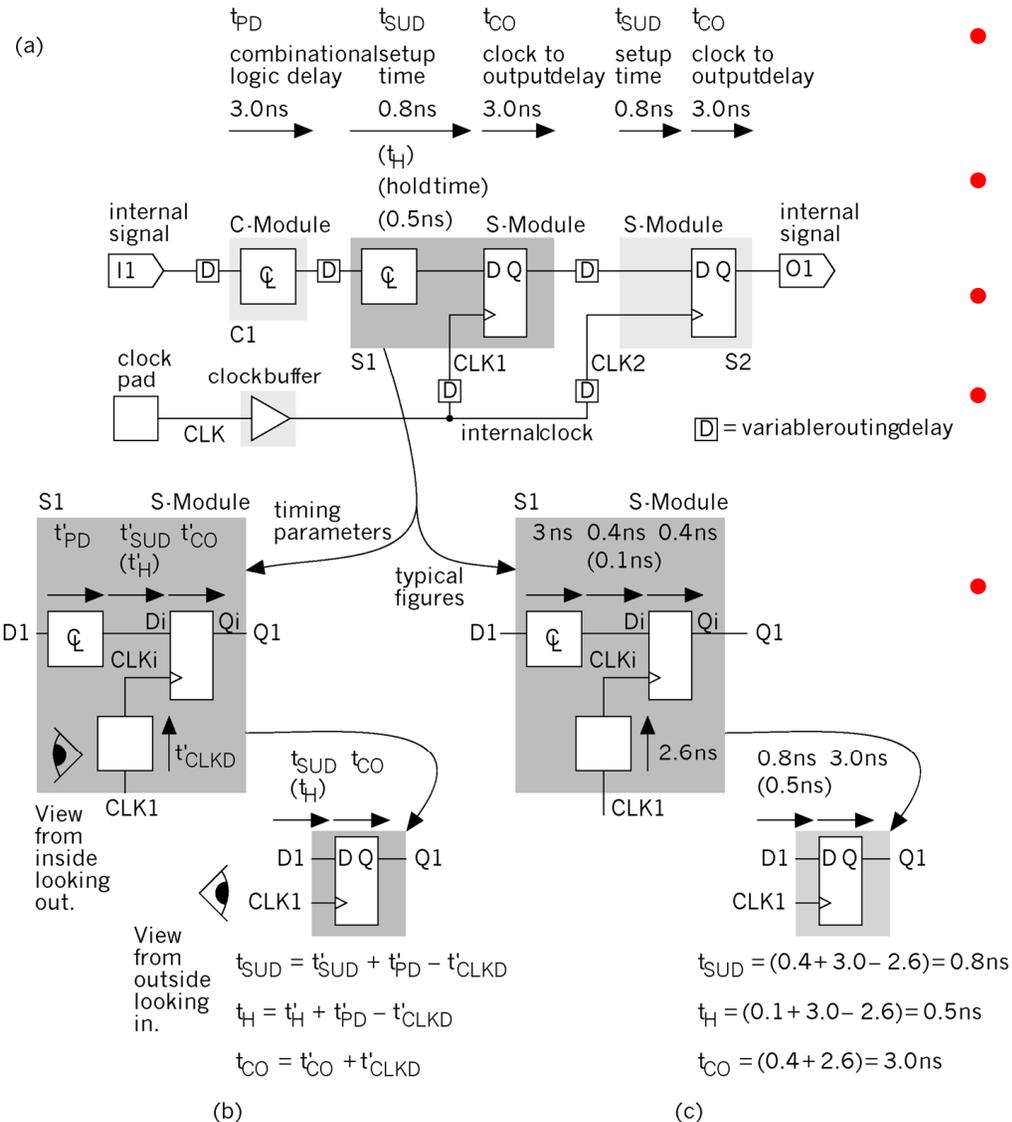


(d)



(e)

Actel Timing Model



- Exact delay values in Actel FPGAs can not be determined until interconnect delay is known - i.e., place and route are done
- Critical path delay between registers is:

$$t_{PD} + t_{SUD} + t_{CO}$$
- There is also a hold time for the flip-flops - t_H
- The combinational logic delay t_{PD} is dependent on the logic function (which may take more than one LM) and the wiring delays
- The flip-flop output delay t_{CO} can also be influenced by the number of gates it drives (fanout)

The Actel ACT timing model. (a) The timing parameters for a 'std' speed grade ACT3. (b) Flip-flop timing. (c) An example of flip-flop timing based on ACT3 parameters.

Xilinx Configurable Logic Block (CLB)

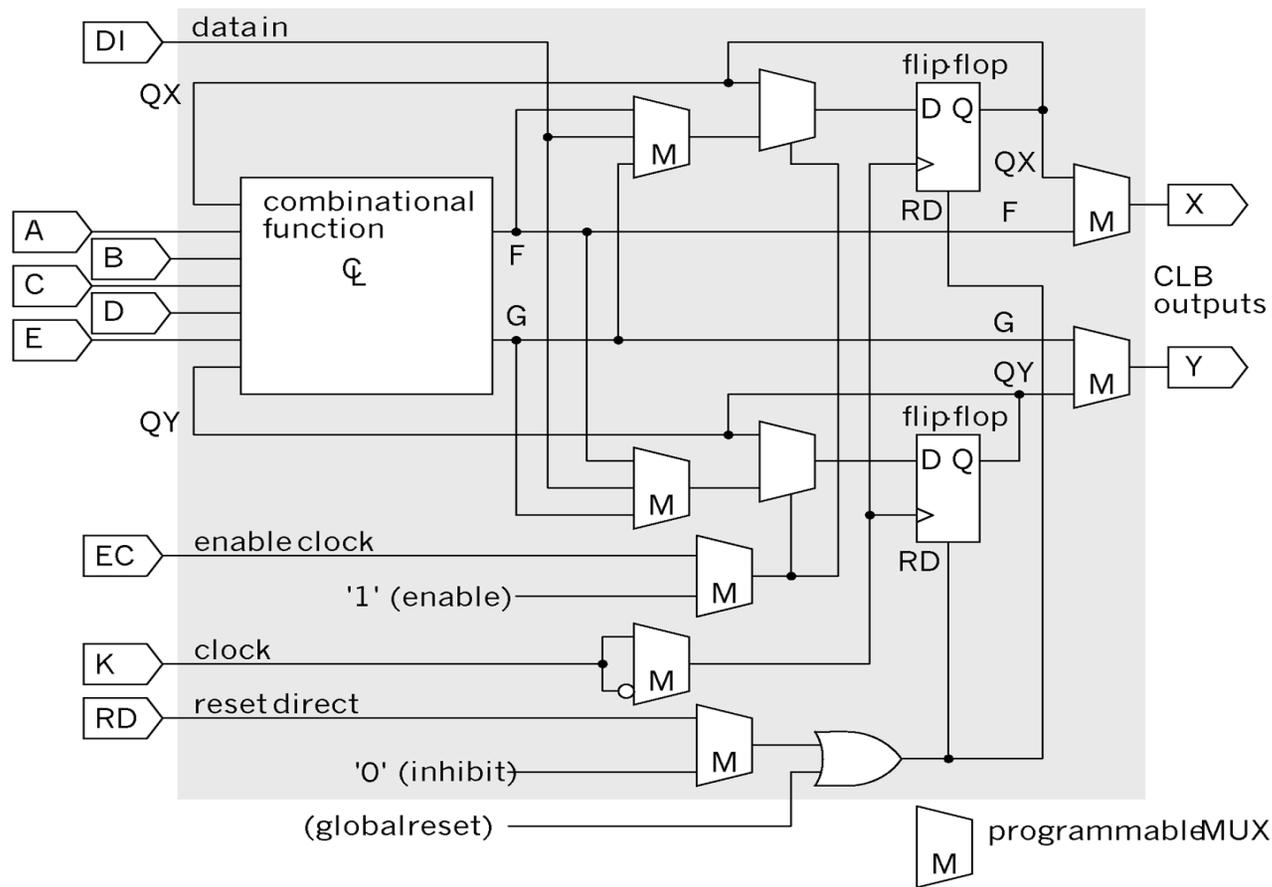


Figure 5.6 The Xilinx XC3000 CLB (configurable logic block).

Xilinx CLB (cont.)

- The combinational function in a CLB is implemented with a 32 bit *look-up table* (LUT)
 - LUT values are stored in 32 bits of SRAM
 - CLB delay is fixed and equal to the LUT access time
- There are seven inputs to the LUT, the five CLB inputs (A-E) and the flip-flop outputs (QX and QY) and two outputs (F,G)
- There are several ways to use the LUT:
 - You can use five of the seven possible inputs (A-E<QX,QY) with the entire LUT - the outputs (F,G) are identical
 - You can split the 32-bit LUT in half to implement two functions of four variables
 - The input variable can be chosen from A-E,QX,QY
 - Two of the inputs must come from A-E
 - You can split the LUT in half and use one of the seven input variables to select between the F and G output - allows some functions of seven variables to be implemented

Xilinx XC4000 Logic Block

- Cell contains 2 four-input LUTs that feed a three input LUT
- Cell also has special fast carry logic hard-wired between CLBs

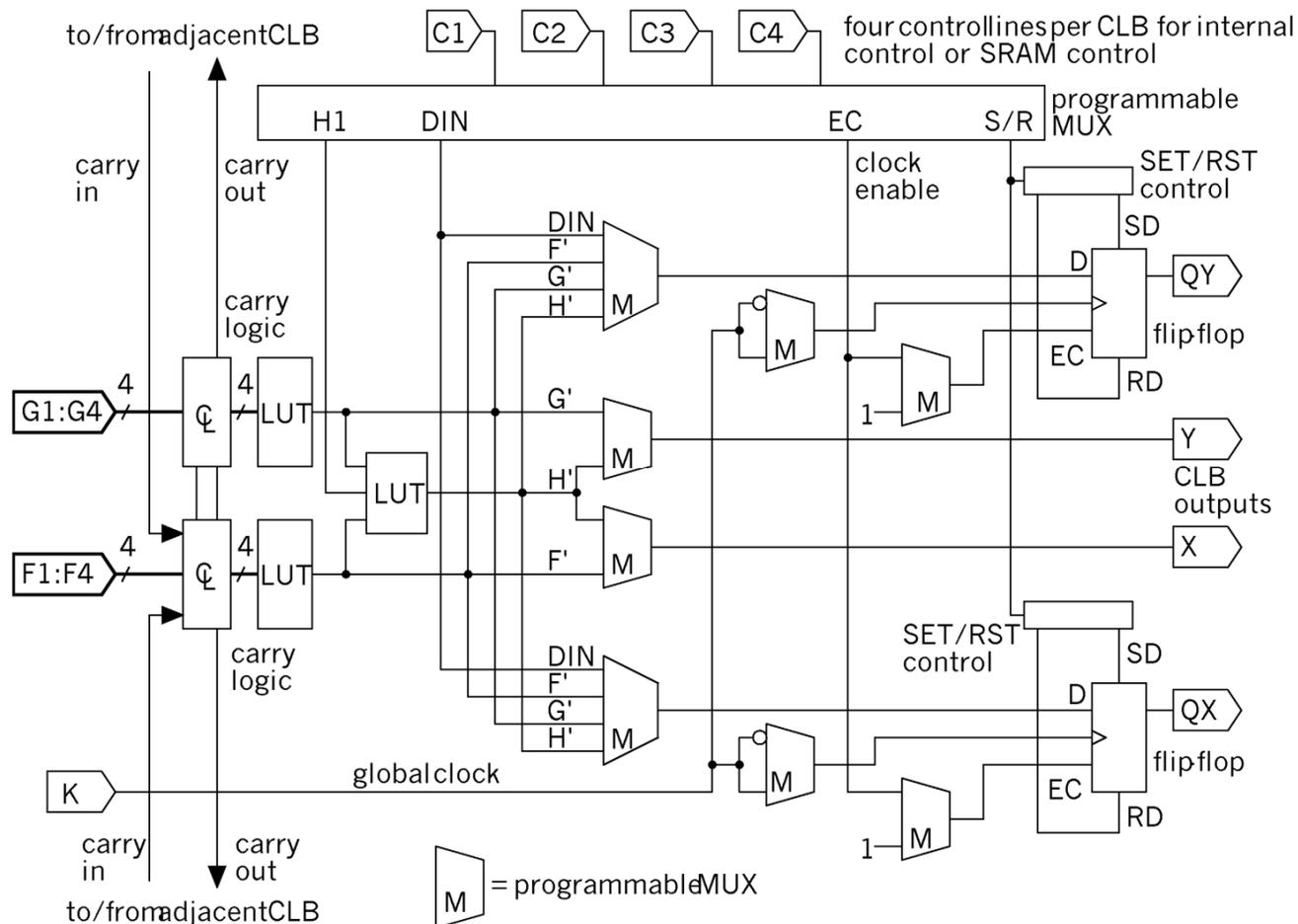
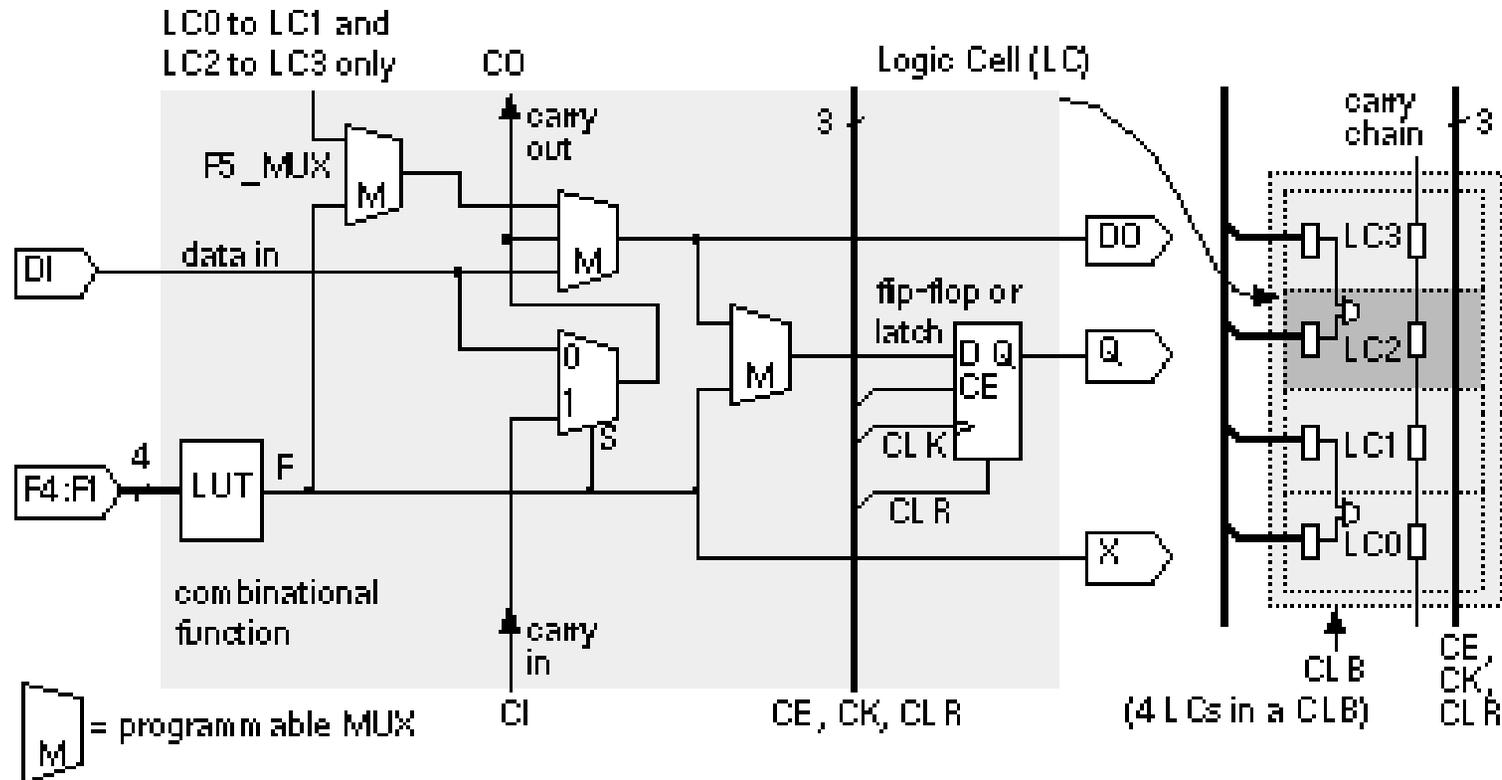


Figure 5.7 The Xilinx XC4000 CLB (configurable logic block).

Xilinx XC5200 Logic Block

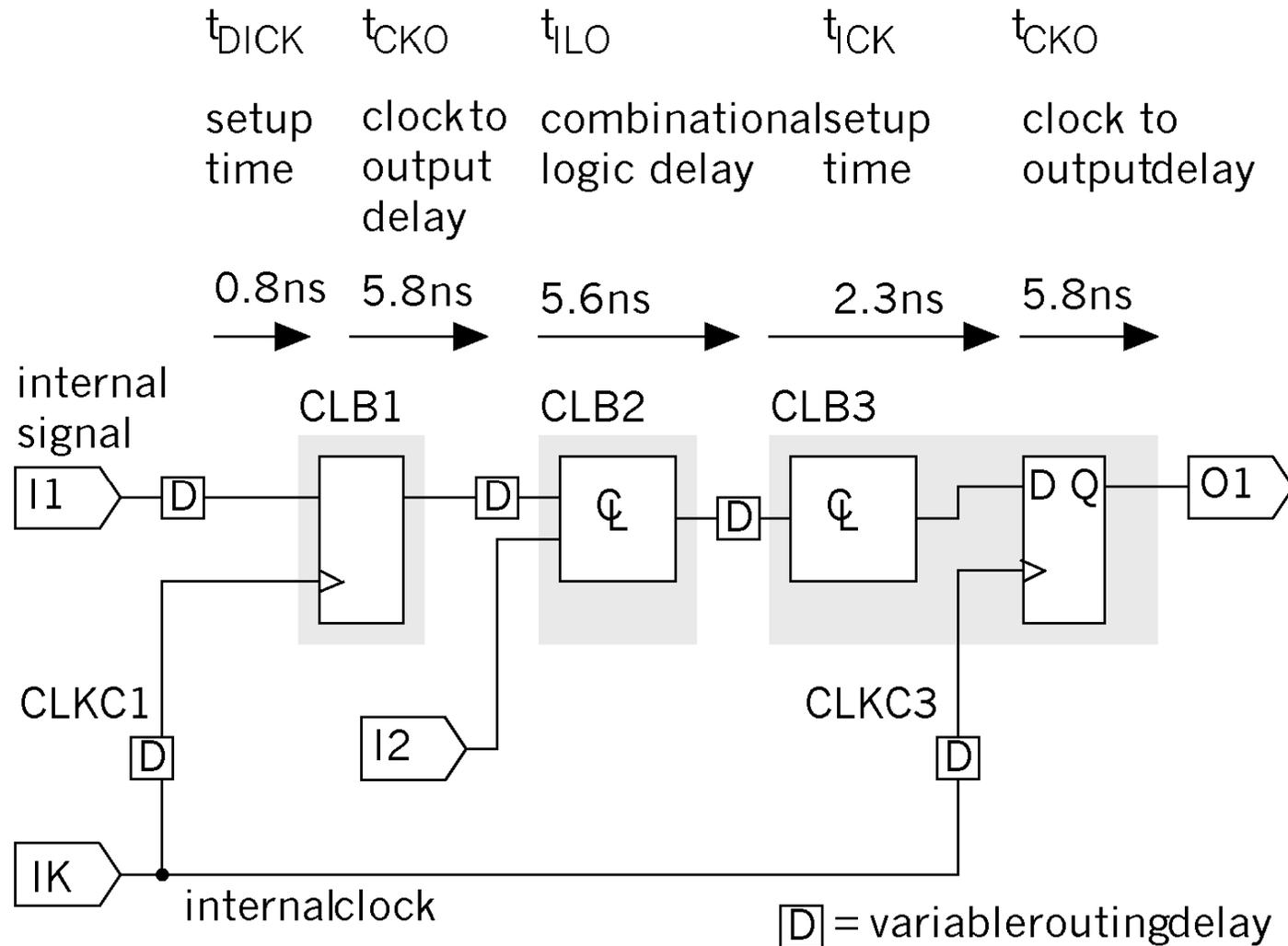
- Basic Cell is called a *Logic Cell* (LC) and is similar to, but simpler than, CLBs in other Xilinx families
- Term CLB is used here to mean a group of 4 LCs (LC0-LC3)



Implementing Functions with Xilinx CLBs

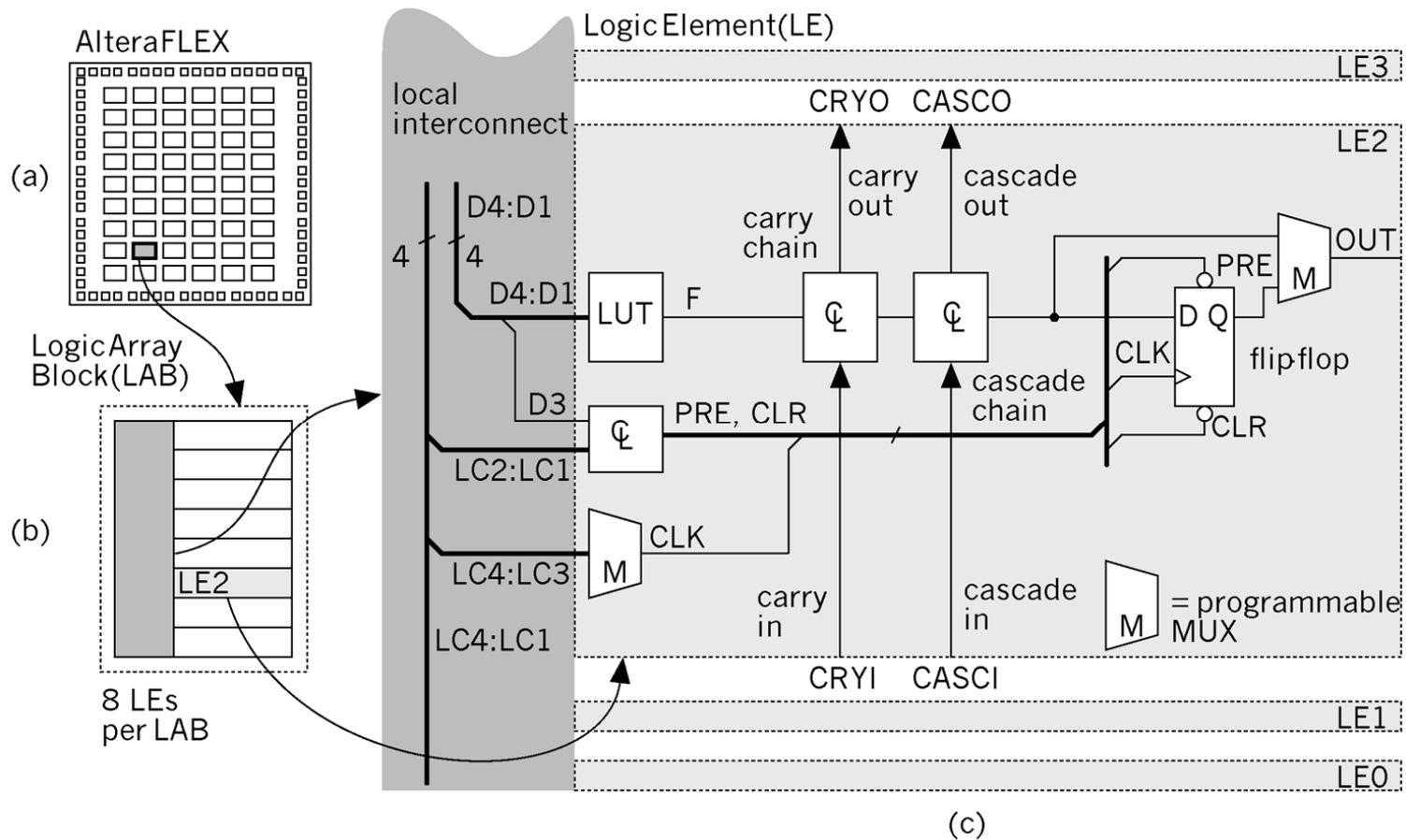
- Combinational logic functions all have the same delay - a 5 input NAND is as slow (fast) as an inverter
- For maximum efficiency, the tools must group logic functions into blocks that utilize the CLB efficiently (i.e., utilize a high percentage of its functionality)
- LUT simplifies the timing model when using synchronous logic
- The LUT matches the Xilinx SRAM programming technology well
- SRAM within the LUT can be used as a general purpose, on-chip SRAM, but it is expensive

Xilinx Timing Model

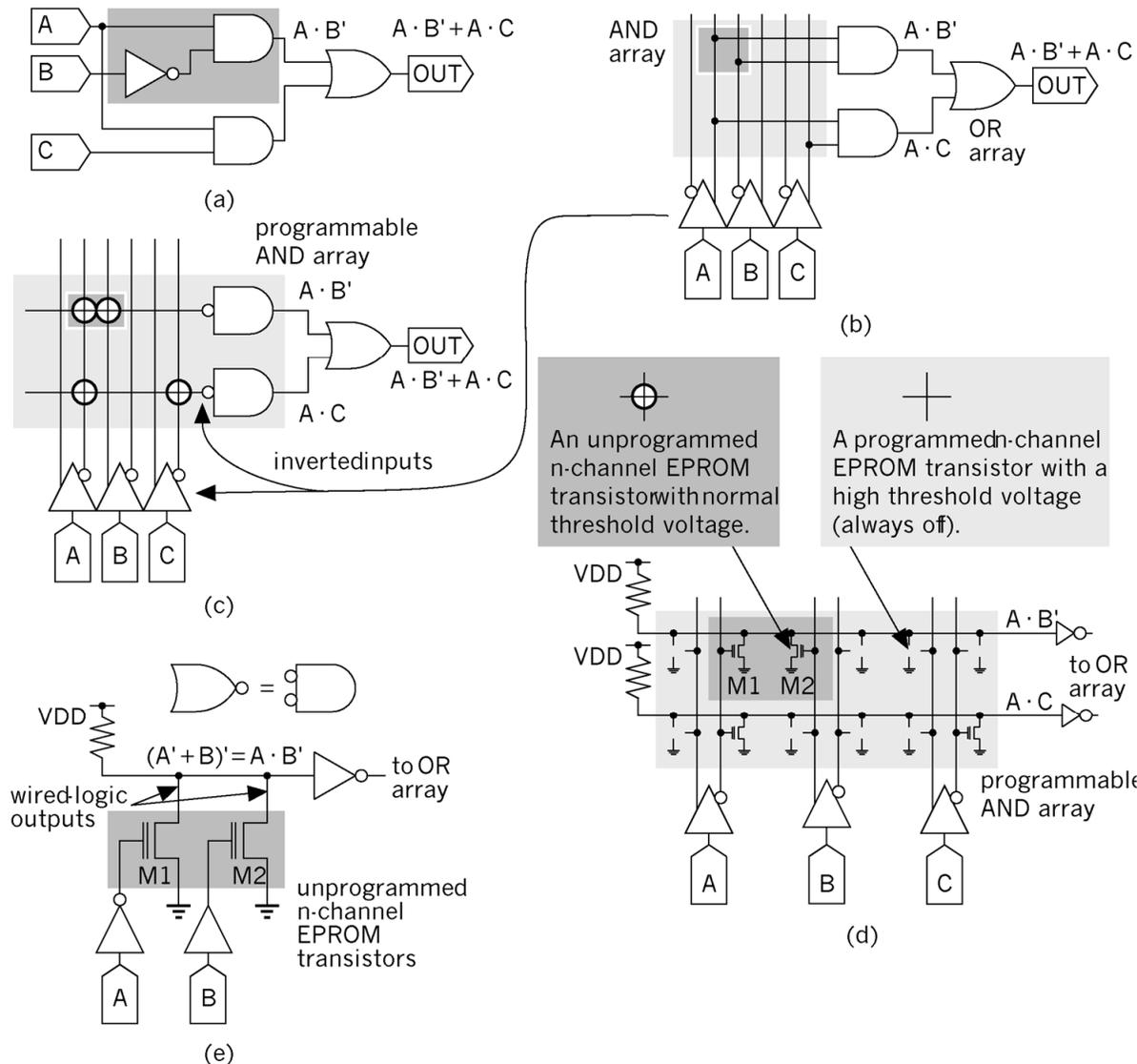


Altera FLEX Architecture

- Basic Cell is called a *Logic Element (LE)* and resembles the Xilinx XC5200 LC architecture
- Altera FLEX uses the same SRAM programming technology as Xilinx



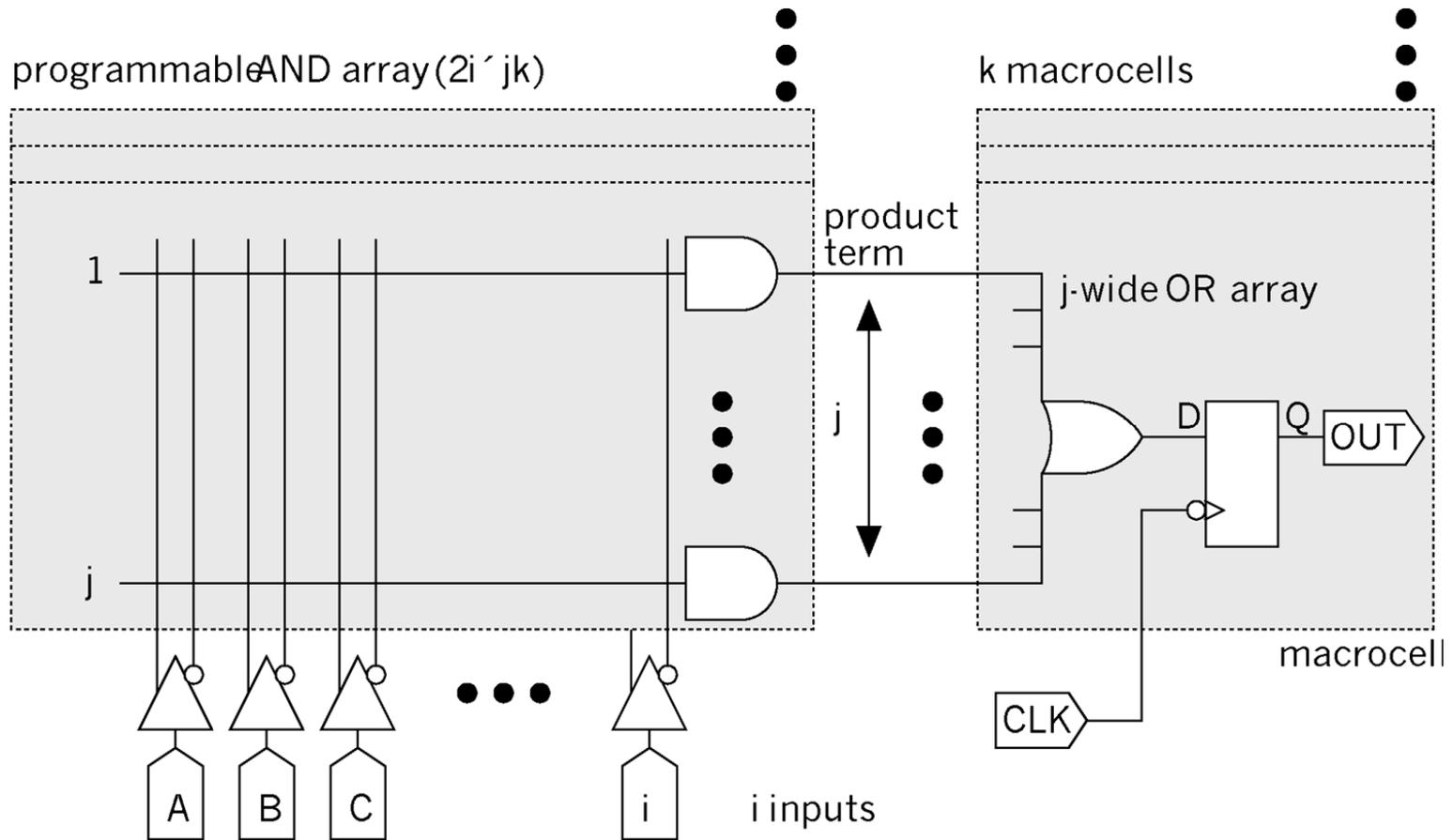
Programmable Logic Array



- Programmable AND array feeding into an OR array can implement a canonical sum-of-products form of an expression
- n-channel EPROM transistors wired to a pull-up resistor can implement a wired-AND function of the inputs
 - Output is high only when all the inputs are high
 - The inputs must be inverted

Logic Arrays. (a) Two-level logic. (b) Organized sum of products. (c) A programmable-AND plane. (d) EPROM logic array. (e) Wired logic.

Registered PAL



A registered PAL with i inputs, j product terms, and k macrocells.

Logic Expander

- A *logic expander* is an output line of the AND array that feeds back as an input to the array itself
- Logic expanders can help implement functions that require more product terms than are available in a simple PAL
- Consider implementing this function in in a three-wide OR array:

$$F = A' \cdot C \cdot D + B' \cdot C \cdot D + A \cdot B + B \cdot C'$$

- This can be rewritten as a “sum of (products of products):

$$F = (A' + B') \cdot C \cdot D + (A + C') \cdot B$$

$$F = (A \cdot B)' (C \cdot D) + (A' \cdot C)' \cdot B$$

- Logic expanders can be used to form the expander terms $(A \cdot B)'$ and $(A' \cdot C)'$

Logic Expander Implementation

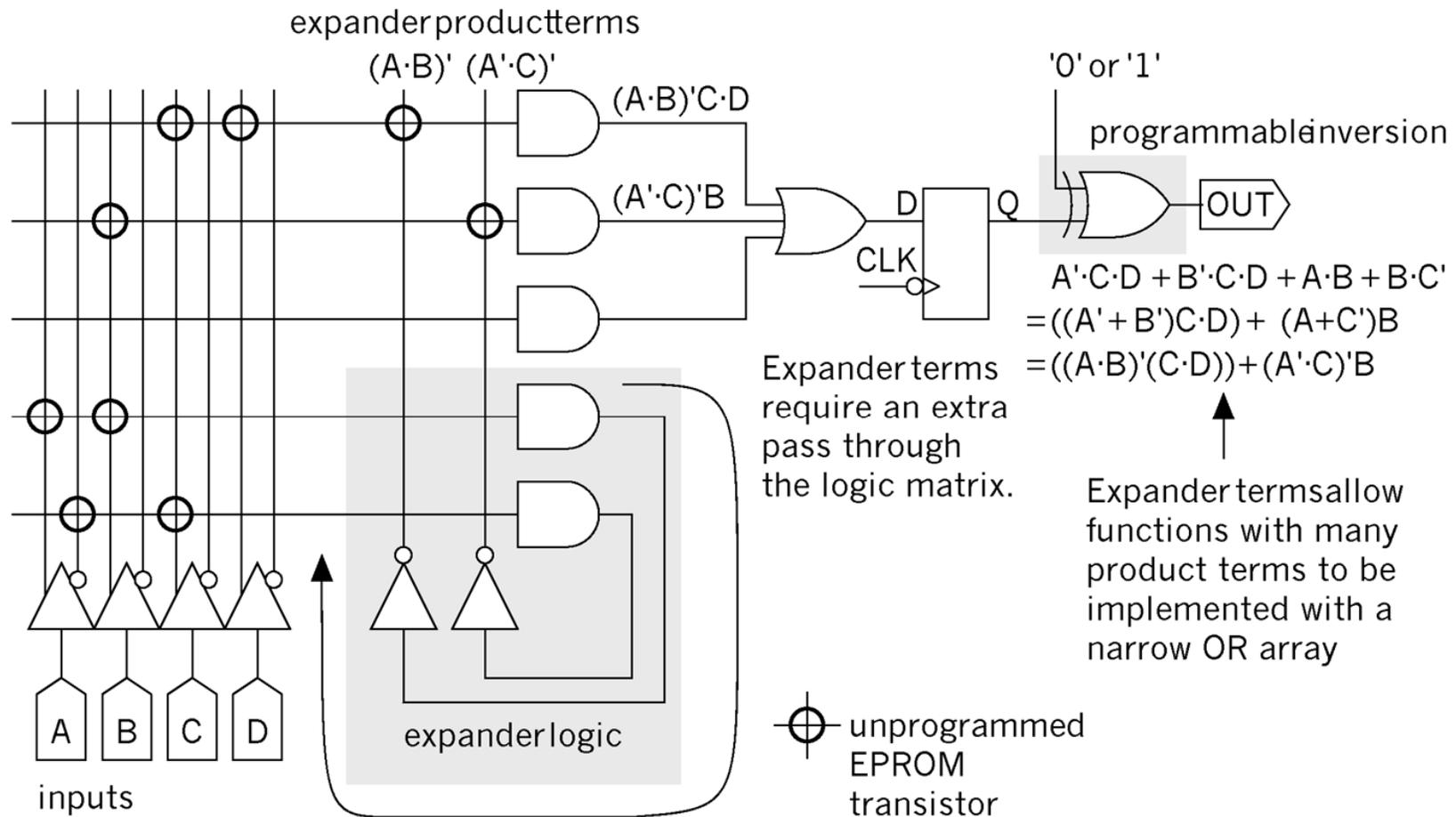


Figure 5.13 Expander logic and programmable inversion.

Simplifying Logic with Programmed Inversion

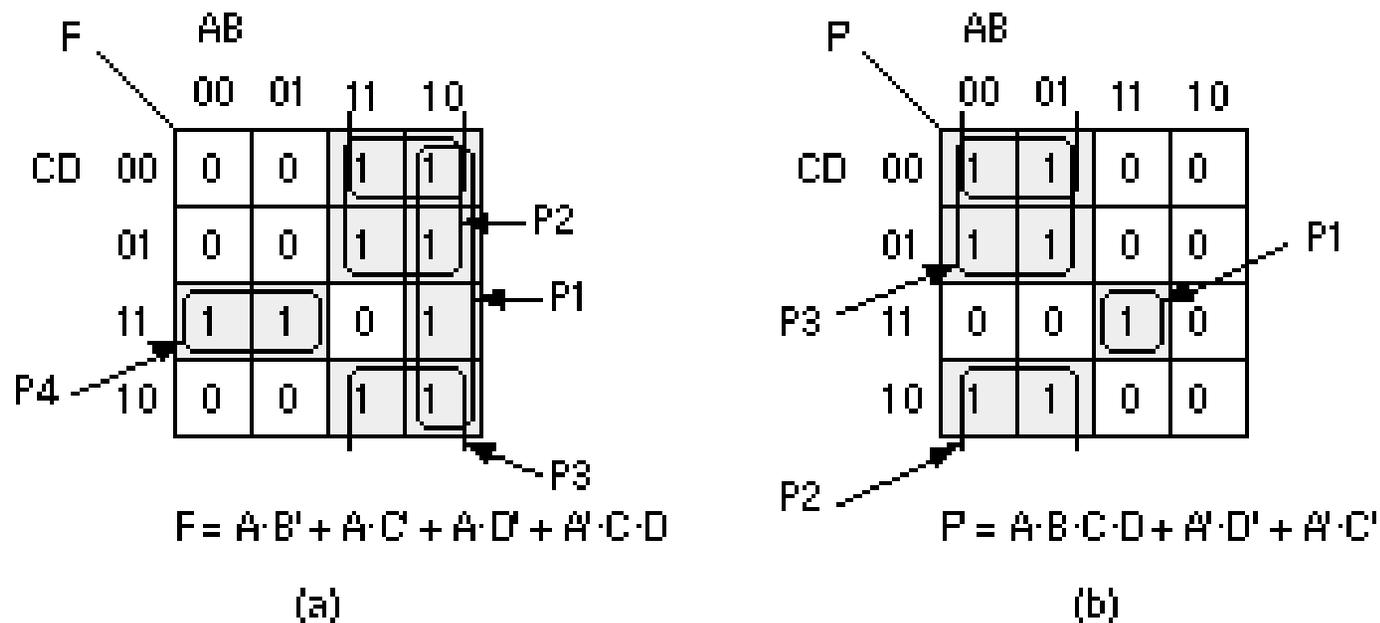
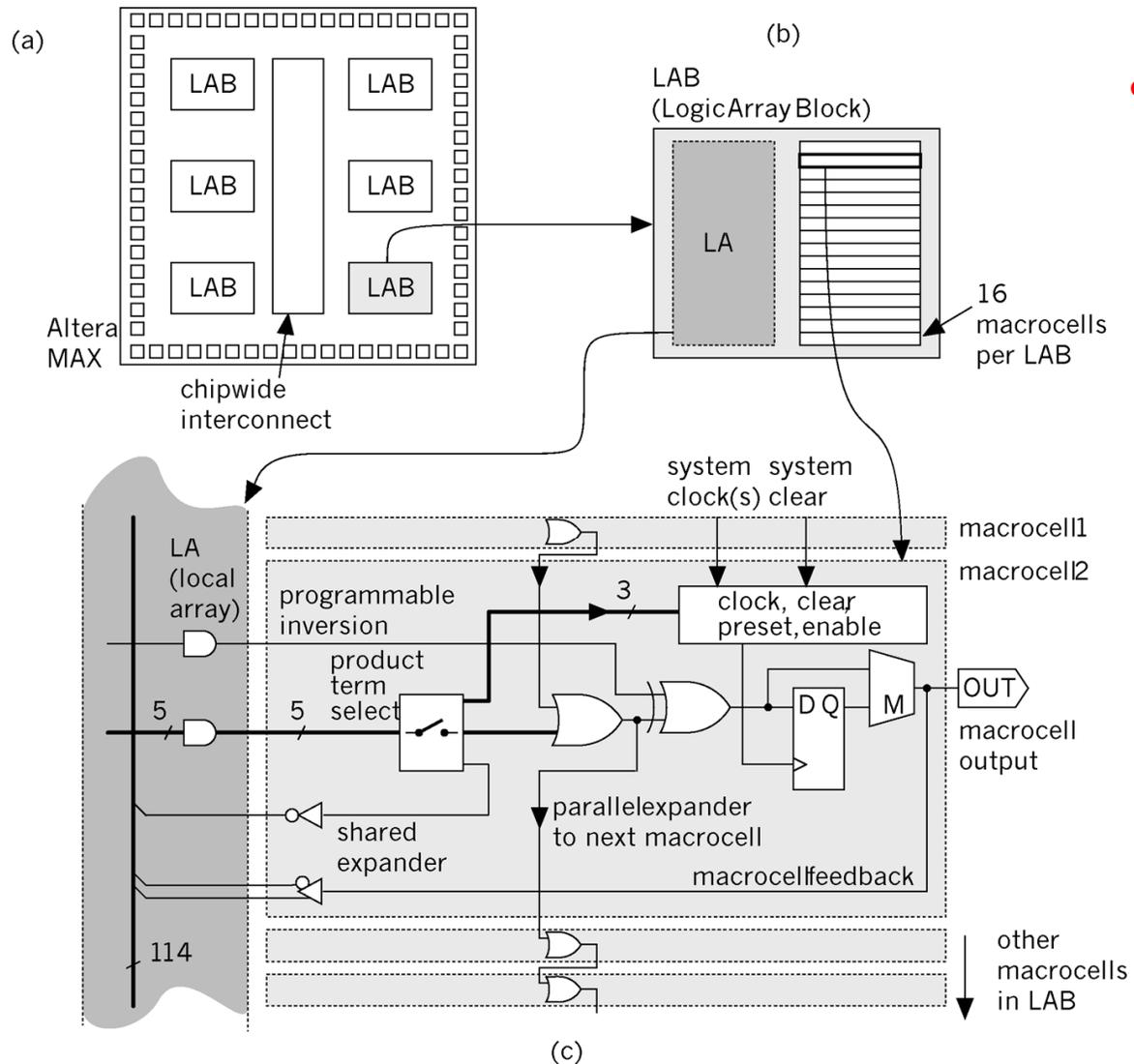


Figure 5.14 Use of programmed inversion to simplify logic. (a) The function $F = A \cdot B' + A \cdot C' + A \cdot D' + A' \cdot C \cdot D$ requires four product terms to implement while (b) the complement $F' = A \cdot B \cdot C \cdot D + A' \cdot D' + A' \cdot C'$ requires only three product terms.

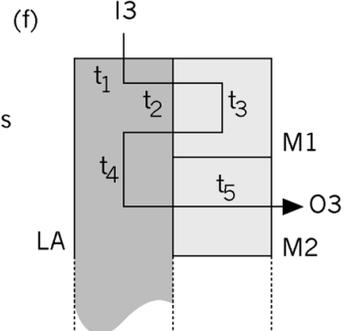
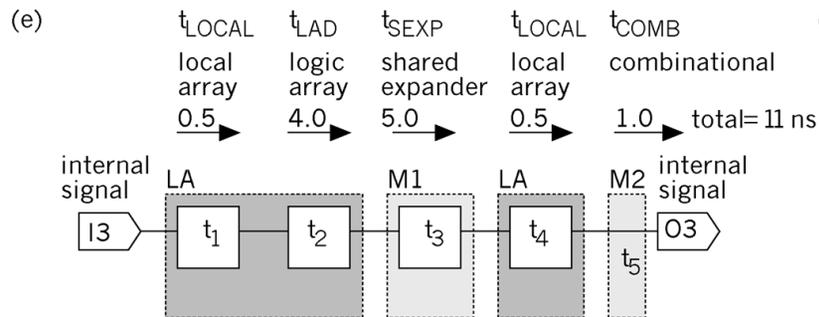
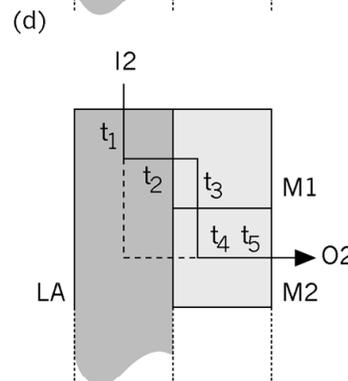
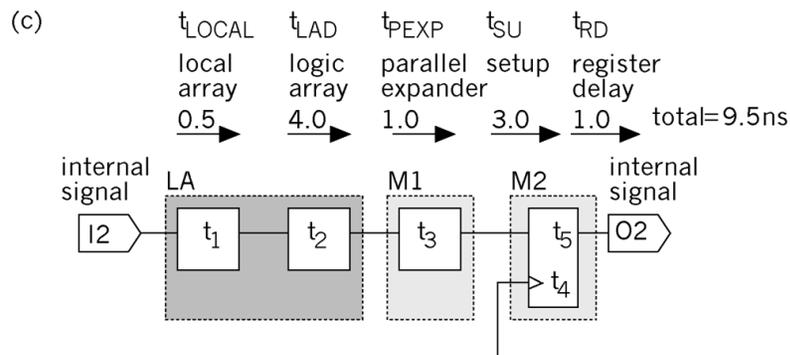
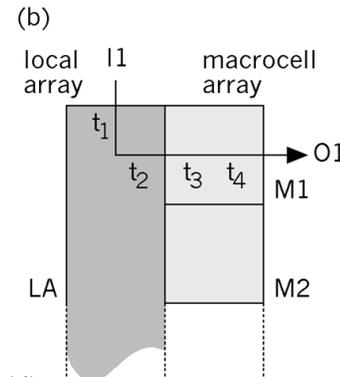
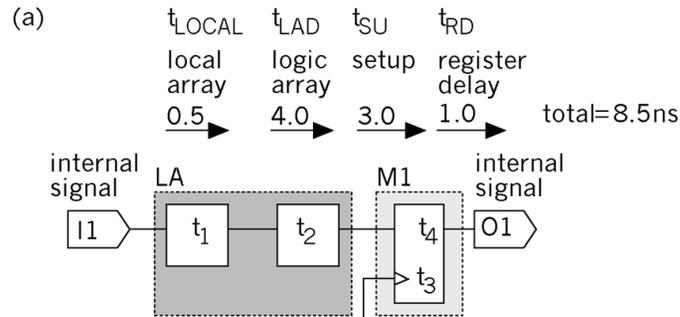
Altera MAX Architecture



- Macrocell features:
 - Wide, programmable AND array
 - Narrow, fixed OR array
 - Logic Expanders
 - Programmable inversion

Figure 5.15 The Altera MAX architecture. (a) Organization of logic and interconnect. (b) A MAX family LAB (Logic Array Block). (c) A MAX family macrocell.

Altera MAX Timing Model



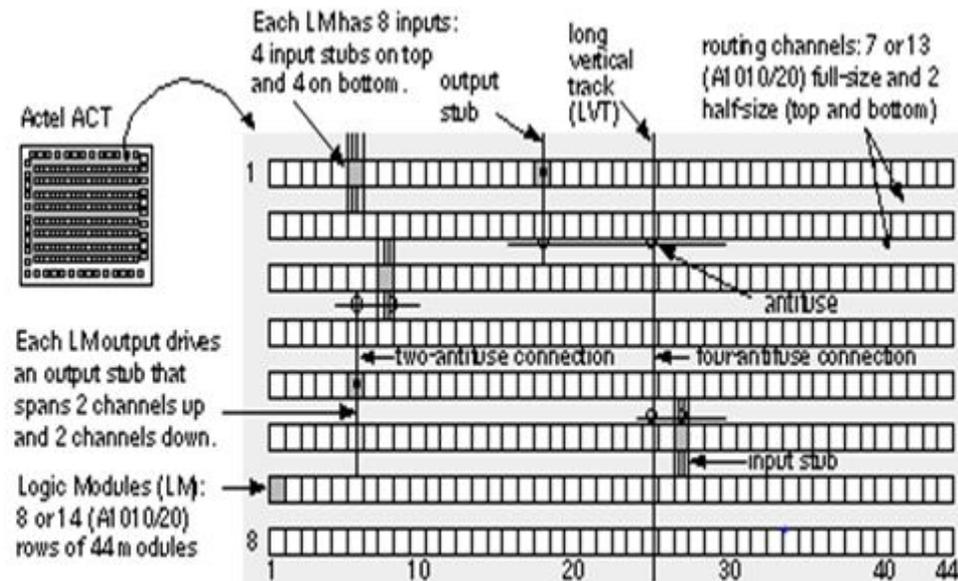
The timing model for the Altera MAX architecture. (a) A direct path through the logic array and a register. (b) Timing for the direct path. (c) Using a parallel expander. (d) Parallel expander timing. (e) Making two passes through the logic array to use a shared expander. (f) Timing for the shared expander.

UNIT III

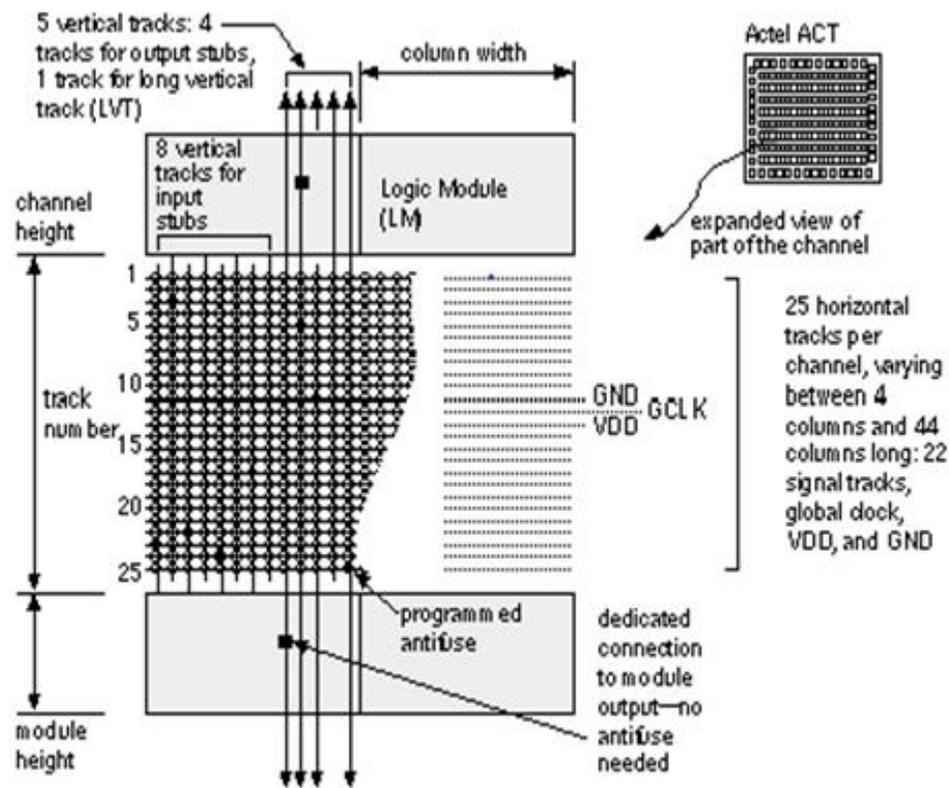
PROGRAMMABLE ASIC
INTERCONNECT,
PROGRAMMABLE ASIC DESIGN
SOFTWARE AND LOW LEVEL
DESIGN

Actel ACT

- The Actel ACT family interconnect scheme shown which is similar to a channeled gate array. The channel routing uses dedicated rectangular areas of fixed size within the chip called wiring channels (or just channels).
- The horizontal channels run across the chip in the horizontal direction. In the vertical direction there are similar vertical channels that run over the top of the basic logic cells, the Logic Modules.
- Within the horizontal or vertical channels wires run horizontally or vertically, respectively, within tracks .
- Each track holds one wire. The capacity of a fixed wiring channel is equal to the number of tracks it contains.
- A detailed view of the channel and the connections to each Logic Module—the input stubs and output stubs are shown.



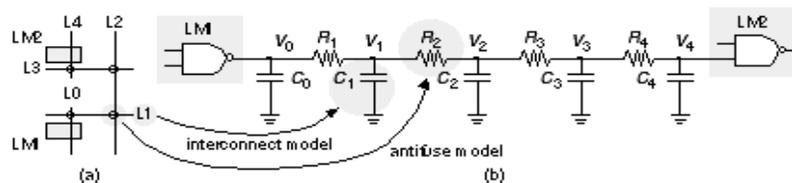
The interconnect architecture used in an Actel ACT family FPGA. (Source: Actel.)



ACT 1 horizontal and vertical channel architecture. (Source: Actel.)

RC DELAY IN ANTIFUSE CONNECTION

- Suppose a single antifuse, with resistance R_1 , connects to a wire segment with parasitic capacitance C_1 . Then a connection employing a single antifuse will delay the signal passing along that connection by approximately one time constant, or $R_1 C_1$ seconds. If we have more than one antifuse, we need to use the Elmore time constant to estimate the interconnect delay.



Actel routing model. (a) A four-antifuse connection. L0 is an output stub, L1 and L3 are horizontal tracks, L2 is a long vertical track (LVT), and L4 is an input stub. (b) An RC-tree model. Each antifuse is modeled by a resistance and each interconnect segment is modeled by a capacitance.

RC Delay calculation

For example, suppose we have the four-antifuse connection shown in figure. Then

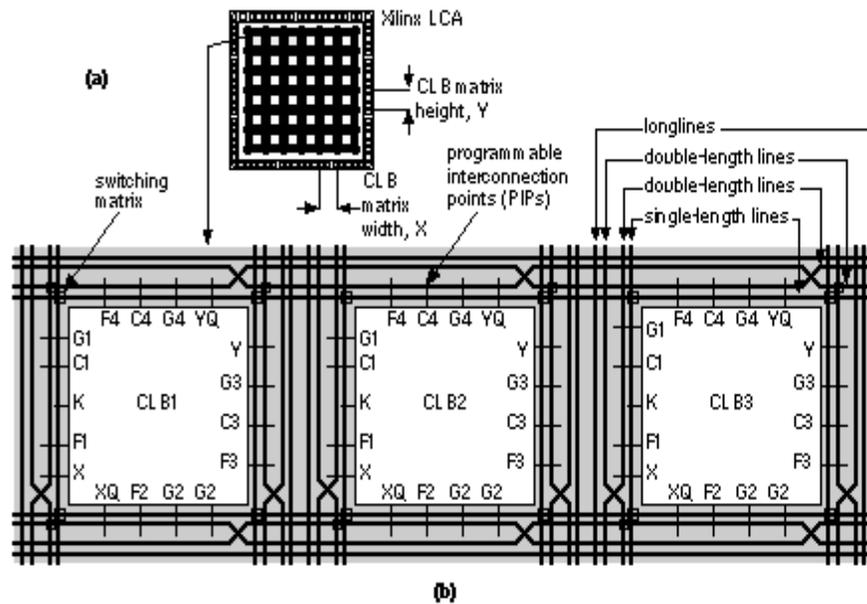
$$t_{D4} = R_{14} C_1 + R_{24} C_2 + R_{34} C_3 + R_{44} C_4 = (R_1 + R_2 + R_3 + R_4) C_4 + (R_1 + R_2 + R_3) C_3 + (R_1 + R_2) C_2 + R_1 C_1$$

If all the antifuse resistances are approximately equal (a reasonably good assumption) and the antifuse resistance is much larger than the resistance of any of the metal lines, L1–L5, shown in figure then $R_1 = R_2 = R_3 = R_4 = R$, and the Elmore time constant is $t_{D4} = 4 RC_4 + 3 RC_3 + RC_2 + RC_1$

ACT 2 and ACT 3 INTERCONNECT

- The ACT 1 architecture uses two antifuses for routing nearby modules, three antifuses to join horizontal segments, and four antifuses to use a horizontal or vertical long track.
- The ACT 2 and ACT 3 architectures use increased interconnect resources over the ACT 1 device that we have described. This reduces further the number of connections that need more than two antifuses. Delay is also reduced by decreasing the population of antifuses in the channels, and by decreasing the antifuse resistance of certain critical antifuses (by increasing the programming current).

Xilinx LCA

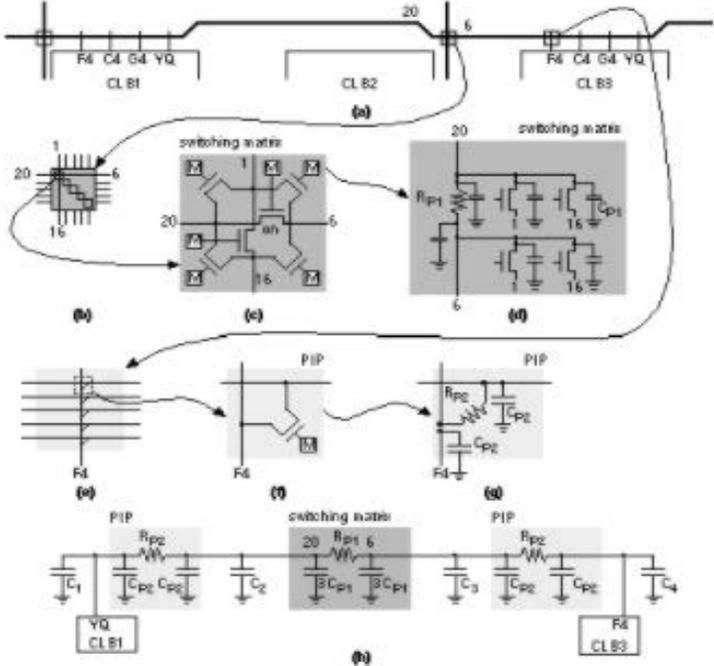


Xilinx LCA interconnect. (a) The LCA architecture (notice the matrix element size is larger than a CLB). (b) A simplified representation of the interconnect resources. Each of the lines is a bus.

Xilinx LCA Interconnect Architecture

- The vertical lines and horizontal lines run between CLBs.
- The general-purpose interconnect joins switch boxes (also known as magic boxes or switching matrices).
- The long lines run across the entire chip. It is possible to form internal buses using long lines and the three-state buffers that are next to each CLB.
- The direct connections (not used on the XC4000) bypass the switch matrices and directly connect adjacent CLBs.
- The Programmable Interconnection Points (PIP s) are programmable pass transistors that connect the CLB inputs and outputs to the routing network.
- The bidirectional (BIDI) interconnect buffers restore the logic level and logic strength on long interconnect paths.

Components of Interconnect Delay in Xilinx LCA

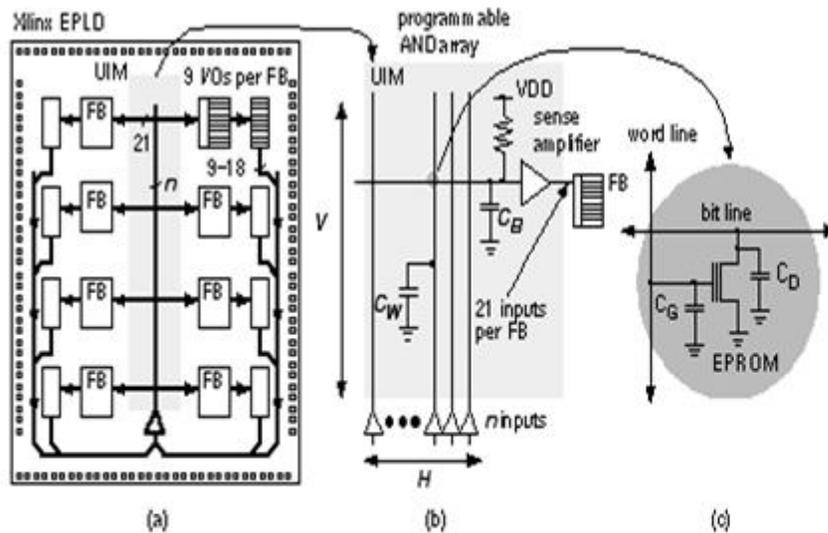


Components of interconnect delay in a Xilinx LCA array. (a) A portion of the interconnect around the CLBs. (b) A switching matrix. (c) A detailed view inside the switching matrix showing the pass-transistor arrangement. (d) The equivalent circuit for the connection between nets 6 and 20 using the matrix. (e) A view of the interconnect at a Programmable Interconnection Point (PIP). (f) and (g) The equivalent schematic of a PIP connection. (h) The complete RC delay path.

cont...

- $C_1 = 3C_{P1} + 3C_{P2} + 0.5C_{LX}$ is the parasitic capacitance due to the switch matrix and PIPs (F4, C4, G4) for CLB1, and half of the line capacitance for the double-length line adjacent to CLB1.
- C_{P1} and R_{P1} are the switching-matrix parasitic capacitance and resistance.
- C_{P2} and R_{P2} are the parasitic capacitance and resistance for the PIP connecting YQ of CLB1 and F4 of CLB3.
- $C_2 = 0.5C_{LX} + C_{LX}$ accounts for half of the line adjacent to CLB1 and the line adjacent to CLB2.
- $C_3 = 0.5C_{LX}$ accounts for half of the line adjacent to CLB3.
- $C_4 = 0.5C_{LX} + 3C_{P2} + C_{LX} + 3C_{P1}$ accounts for half of the line adjacent to CLB3, the PIPs of CLB3 (C4, G4, YQ), and the rest of the line and switch matrix capacitance following CLB3.

XILINX EPLD



The Xilinx EPLD UIM (Universal Interconnection Module). (a) A simplified block diagram of the UIM. The UIM bus width, n , varies from 68 (XC7236) to 198 (XC73108). (b) The UIM is actually a large programmable AND array. (c) The parasitic capacitance of the EPROM cell.

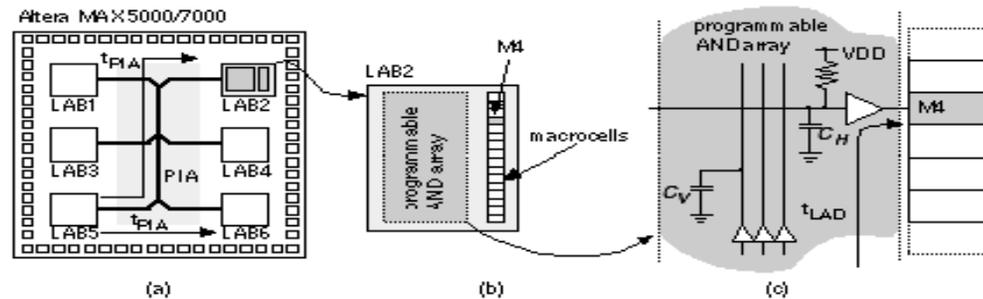
XILINX EPLD

- The Xilinx EPLD family uses an interconnect bus known as Universal Interconnection Module (UIM) to distribute signals within the FPGA. The UIM, is a programmable AND array with constant delay from any input to any output.
 - C_G is the fixed gate capacitance of the EPROM device.
 - C_D is the fixed drain parasitic capacitance of the EPROM device.
 - C_B is the variable horizontal bus (“bit” line) capacitance.
 - C_W is the variable vertical bus (“word” line) capacitance.
- The UIM has 21 output connections to each FB. Most (but not all) of the nine I/O cells attached to each FB have two input connections to the UIM, one from a chip input and one feedback from the macrocell output. For example, the XC7272 has 18 I/O cells that are outputs only and thus have only one connection to the UIM,
- In the UIM: the XC7272, for example, has $H = 126$ tracks and $V = 168/2 = 84$ tracks. The actual physical height, V , of the UIM is determined by the size of the FBs, and is close to the die height.

Altera MAX 5000 and 7000

- Altera MAX 5000 devices (except the EPM5032, which has only one LAB) and all MAX 7000 devices use a Programmable Interconnect Array (PIA)
- The PIA is a cross-point switch for logic signals traveling between LABs. The advantages of this architecture (which uses a fixed number of connections) over programmable interconnection schemes (which use a variable number of connections) is the fixed routing delay.
- An additional benefit of the simpler nature of a large regular interconnect structure is the simplification and improved speed of the placement and routing software.

Altera MAX 5000 and 7000

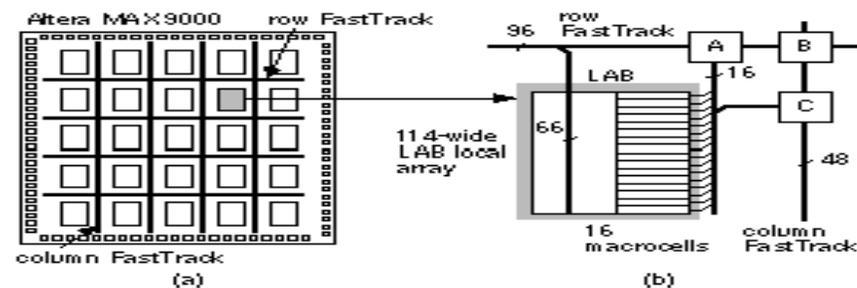


A simplified block diagram of the Altera MAX interconnect scheme. (a) The PIA (Programmable Interconnect Array) is deterministic—delay is independent of the path length. (b) Each LAB (Logic Array Block) contains a programmable AND array. (c) Interconnect timing within a LAB is also fixed.

Altera Max 9000

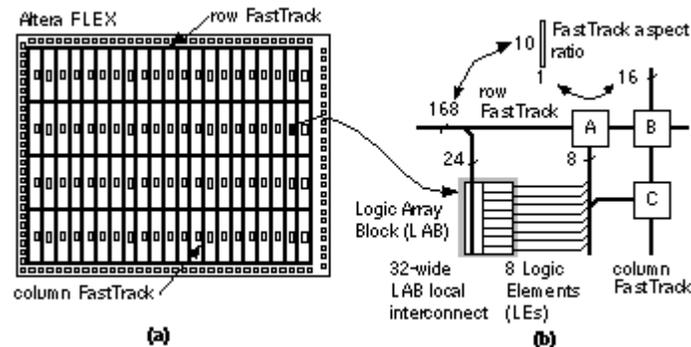
- The size of the MAX 9000 LAB arrays varies between $4 * 5$ (rows, columns) for the EPM9320 and $7*5$ for the EPM9560. The MAX 9000 is an extremely coarse-grained architecture, typical of complex PLDs, but the LABs themselves have a finer structure.
- Sometimes we say that complex PLDs with arrays (LABs in the Altera MAX family) that are themselves arrays (of macrocells) have a dual-grain architecture .

The Altera MAX 9000 interconnect scheme. (a) A $4 * 5$ array of Logic Array Blocks (LABs), the same size as the EMP9400 chip. (b) A simplified block diagram of the interconnect architecture showing the connection of the FastTrack buses to a LAB.



Altera Flex

Altera Flex Interconnect Scheme



The Altera FLEX interconnect scheme. (a) The row and column FastTrack interconnect. (b) A simplified diagram of the interconnect architecture showing the connections between the FastTrack buses and a LAB. Boxes A, B, and C represent the bus-to-bus connections.

Altera Flex

- Altera refers to the FLEX interconnect and MAX 9000 interconnect by the same name, FastTrack, but the two are different because the granularity of the logic cell arrays is different.
- The FLEX architecture is of finer grain than the MAX arrays—because of the difference in programming technology. The FLEX horizontal interconnect is much denser (at 168 channels per row) than the vertical interconnect (16 channels per column), creating an aspect ratio for the interconnect of over 10:1 (168:16).
- This imbalance is partly due to the aspect ratio of the die, the array, and the aspect ratio of the basic logic cell, the LAB.

LOW LEVEL PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

- ABEL is a PLD programming language from Data I/O.
- CUPL is a PLD design language from Logical Devices.
- PALASM is a PLD design language from AMD/MMI.

VERILOG AND LOGIC SYNTHESIS

```
module MyChip_ASIC(); ... (code to model ASIC I/O)  
... endmodule ;
```

- This top-level Verilog module is used to simulate the ASIC I/O connections and any bus I/O during the earliest stages of design. Often the reason that designs fail is lack of attention to the connection between the ASIC and the rest of the system.
- As a designer, you proceed down through the hierarchy as you add lower-level modules to the top-level Verilog module. Initially the lower-level modules are just empty placeholders, or stubs , containing a minimum of code. For example, you might start by using inverters just to connect inputs directly to the outputs. You expand these stubs before moving down to the next level of modules.

VERILOG AND LOGIC SYNTHESIS

- **module** MyChip_ASIC()

// behavioral "always", etc. ...

SecondLevelStub1 port mapping

SecondLevelStub2 port mapping

endmoduleInput1; **endmodule**

module SecondLevelStub2() ... **assign** Output2 = ~Input2;

of thStub1() ... **assign** Output1 = ~**endmodule**

module SecondLevelcomponent pieces

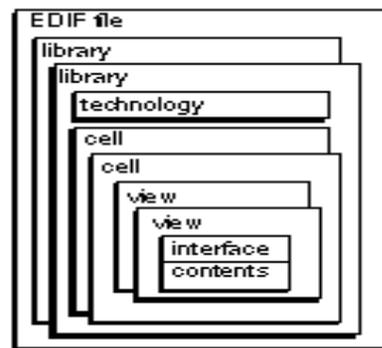
Eventually the Verilog modules will correspond to the various e ASIC.

VHDL and Logic Synthesis

- Most logic synthesizers insist we follow a set of rules when we use a logic system to ensure that what we synthesize matches the behavioral description. Here is a typical set of rules for use with the IEEE VHDL nine-value system:
- logic values corresponding to states '1' , 'H' , '0' , and 'L' in any manner Can be used.
- Some synthesis tools do not accept the uninitialized logic state 'U' .
- You can use logic states 'Z' , 'X' , 'W' , and '-' in signal and variable assignments in any manner. 'Z' is synthesized to three-state logic.
- The states 'X' , 'W' , and '-' are treated as unknown or don't care values.
- The values 'Z' , 'X' , 'W' , and '-' may be used in conditional clauses such as the comparison in an if or case statement. However, some synthesis tools will ignore them and only match surrounding '1' and '0' bits. Consequently, a synthesized design may behave differently from the simulation if a stimulus uses 'Z' , 'X' , 'W' or '-' . The IEEE synthesis packages provide the STD_MATCH function for comparisons.

EDIF

- The structure of EDIF is similar to the Lisp programming language or the Postscript printer language. This makes EDIF a very hard language to read and almost impossible to write by hand.
- EDIF is intended as an exchange format between tools, not as a design-entry language. Since EDIF is so flexible each company reads and writes different “flavors” of EDIF.



EDIF

- Within an EDIF file are one or more libraries of cell descriptions. Each library contains technology information that is used in describing the characteristics of the cells it contains. Each cell description contains one or more user-named views of the cell.
- Each view is defined as a particular view Type and contains an interface description that identifies where the cell may be connected to and, possibly, a contents description that identifies the components and related interconnections that make up the cell.
- The semantics of EDIF are defined by the EDIF keywords . Keywords are the only types of name that can immediately follow a left parenthesis.

EDIF

- The EDIF syntax consists of a series of statements in the following format:

(keywordName {form})

- A left parenthesis (round bracket) is always followed by a keyword name , followed by one or more EDIF forms (a form is a sequence of identifiers, primitive data, symbolic constants, or EDIF statements), ending with a right parenthesis..

CFI Design Representation

- The CAD Framework Initiative (CFI) is an independent nonprofit organization working on the creation of standards for the electronic CAD industry. One of the areas in which CFI is working is the definition of standards for design representation (DR). The CFI 1.0 standard [CFI, 1992] has tackled the problems of ambiguity in the area of definitions and terms for schematics by defining an information model (IM) for electrical connectivity information.
- It helps to solidify the concepts of the terms and definitions such as cell, net, and instance that we have already discussed. However, there are additional new concepts and terms to define in order to present the standard model, so this is not a good way to introduce schematic terminology.
- The ASIC design engineer is becoming more of a programmer and less of a circuit designer. This trend shows no sign of stopping as ASICs grow larger and systems more complex. A precise understanding of how tools operate and interact is becoming increasingly important

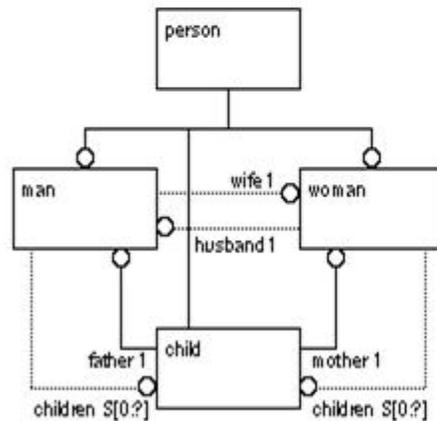
CFI CONNECTIVITY MODEL

The CFI connectivity model is defined using the EXPRESS language and its graphical equivalent EXPRESS-G . EXPRESS is an International Standards Organization (ISO) standard [EXPRESS, 1991]. EDIF 3 0 0 and higher also use EXPRESS as the internal formal description of the language. EXPRESS is used to define objects and their relationships.



(a)

(b)



(c)

Examples of EXPRESS-G. (a) Each day in January has a number from 1 to 31. (b) A shopping list may contain a list of items. (c) An EXPRESS-G model for a family.

UNIT IV

SILICON ON CHIP DESIGN

System On Chip

- An System on Chip (SoC) is an integrated circuit that implements most or all of the function of a complete electronic system
- Four vital areas of SoC:
 - ❖ Higher levels of abstraction
 - ❖ IP and platform re-use
 - ❖ IP creation – ASIPs, interconnect and algorithm
 - ❖ Earlier software development and integration

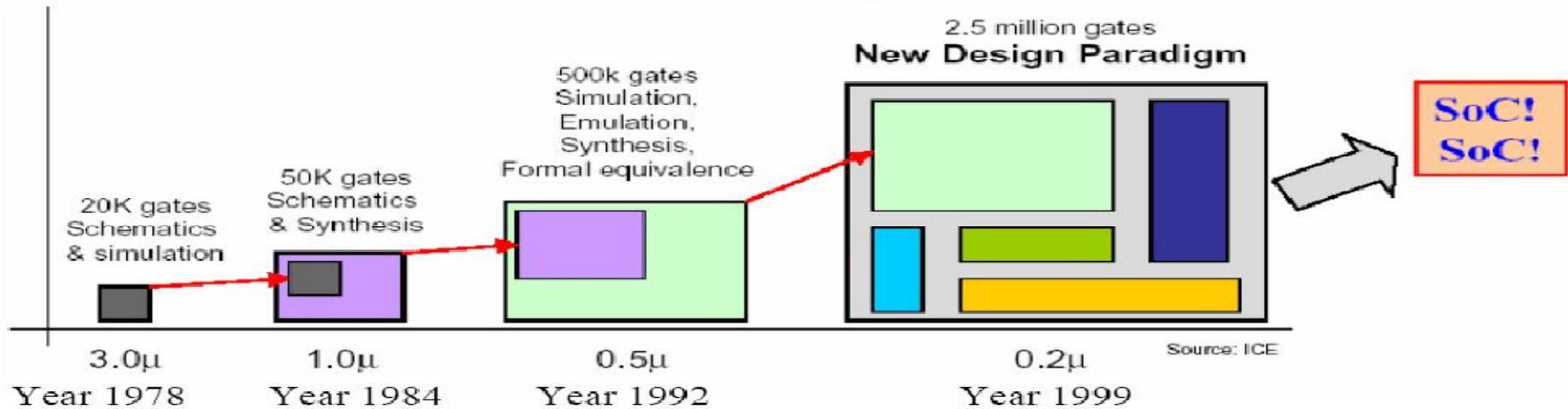
SOC



Evolution of Microelectronics: the SoC Paradigm

- Silicon Process Technology
 - 0.13 μ m CMOS
 - ~100 millions of devices, 3 GHz internal Clock

Yesterday's chip is today's function block!

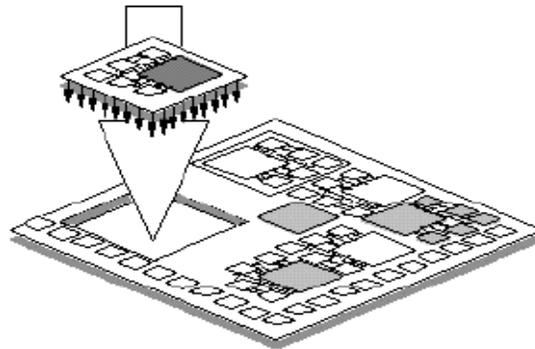


Migration from ASICs to SoCs

- ASICs are logic chips designed by end customers to perform a specific function for a desired application.
- ASIC vendors supply libraries for each technology they provide. In most cases, these libraries contain predesigned and preverified logic circuits.
- ASIC technologies are:
 - gate array
 - standard cell
 - full custom

Migration from ASICs to SoCs

- An SoC is an IC designed by stitching together multiple stand-alone VLSI designs to provide full functionality for an application.
- An SoC compose of predesigned models of complex functions known as cores (terms such as intellectual property block, virtual components, and macros) that serve a variety of applications.



Three forms of SoC design

1. ASIC vendor design: This refers to the design in which all the components in the chip are designed as well as fabricated by an ASIC vendor.
2. Integrated design: This refers to the design by an ASIC vendor in which all components are not designed by that vendor. It implies the use of cores obtained from some other source such as a core/IP vendor or a foundry.
3. Desktop design: This refers to the design by a fabless company that uses cores which for the most part have been obtained from other source such as IP companies, EDA companies, design services companies, or a foundry

SoC Design Challenges

- We must examine factors influencing the degree of difficulty and Turn Around Time (TAT) (the time taken from gate-level netlist to metal mask-ready stage) for designing ASICs and SOCs
- For an ASIC, the following factors influence TAT:
 - Frequency of the design
 - Number of clock domains
 - Number of gates
 - Density
 - Number of blocks and sub-blocks
- The key factor that influences TAT for SOCs is system integration (integrating different silicon IPs on the same IC).

SoCs vs. ASICs

SoC is not just a large ASIC

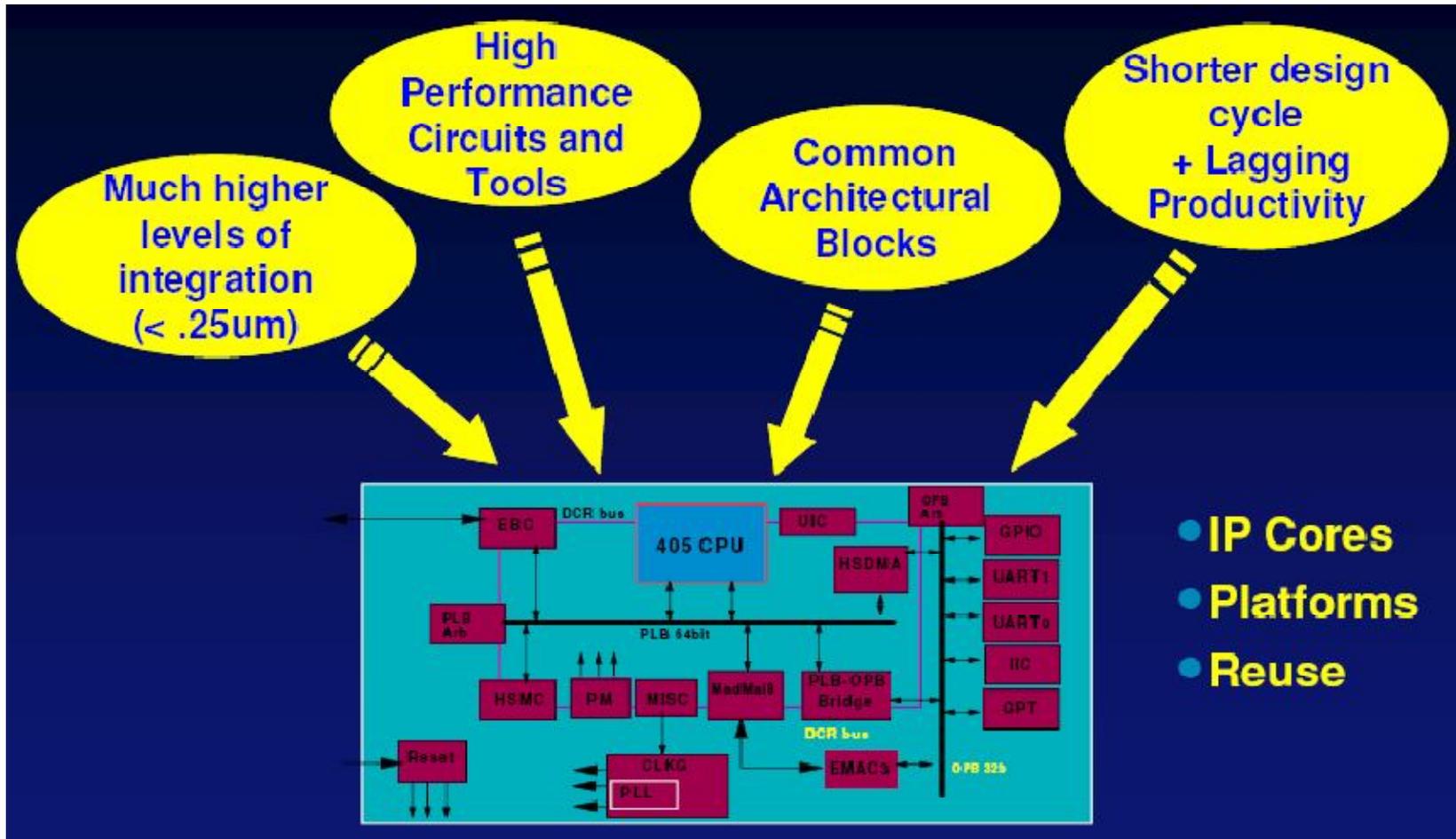
- ❖ Architectural approach involving significant design reuse
Addresses the cost and time-to-market problems

SoC methodology is an incremental step over ASIC methodology

SoC design is significantly more complex

1. Need cross-domain optimizations
2. IP reuse and Platform-based design increase productivity
3. Even with extensive IP reuse, many of the ASICs design problems remain
4. Productivity increase far from closing design gap

From ASICs to SOC



SOC Benefits

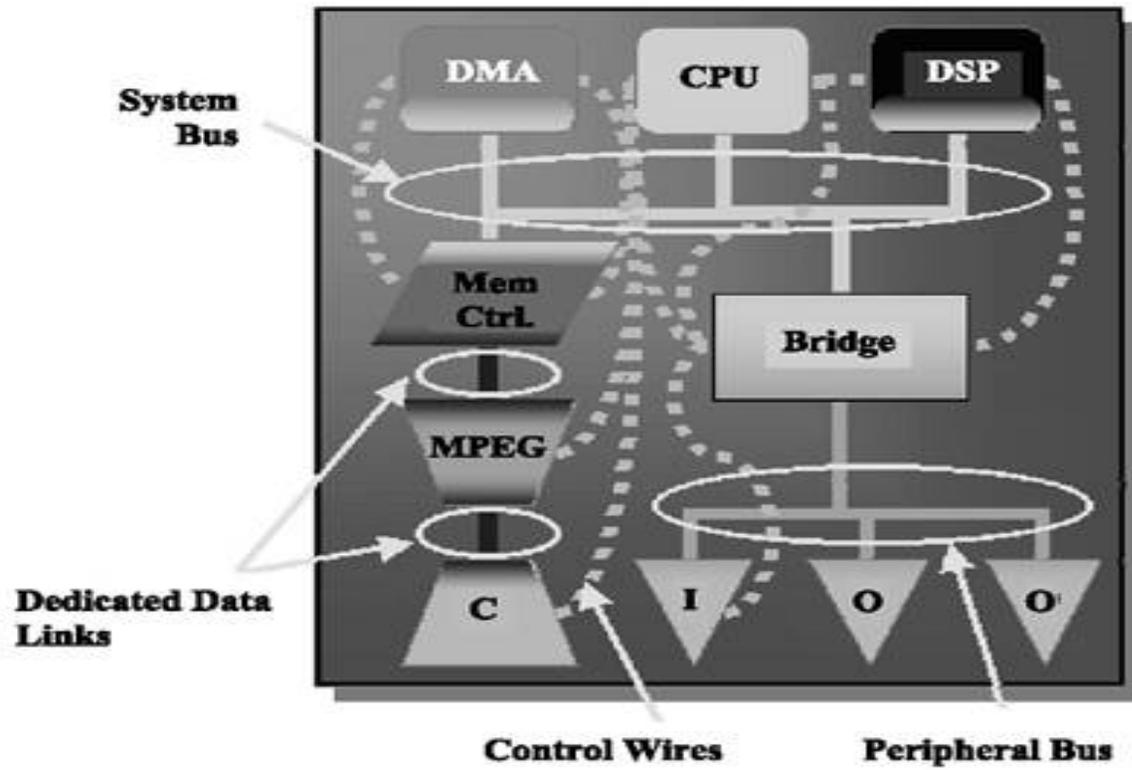
Typical approach :

- **Define requirements**
- **Design with off-the shelf chips**
 - **at 0.5 year mark : first prototypes**
 - **1 year : ship with low margins/loss**
- **start ASIC integration**
 - **2 years : ASIC-based prototypes**
 - **2.5 years : ship, make profits (with competition)**

SOC Benefits

- **With SoC**
- **Define requirements**
- **Design with off-the shelf cores**
 - **at 0.5 year mark : first prototypes**
 - **1 year : ship with high margin and market share**

SOC Architecture



SOC Architecture

A typical SoC consists of:

- A microcontroller, microprocessor or digital signal processor core-multiprocessor SoCs ([MPSoC](#)) having more than one processor core
- memory blocks including a selection of ROM, RAM, EEPROM AND Flash Memory.
- timing sources including Oscillators and PLLs.
- peripherals including Counter-timers, real-time timers and power -on_reset generators
- external interfaces including industry standards such as USB, Firewire, Ethernet.
- analog interfaces including ADCs and DACs
- A [bus](#) – either proprietary or industry-standard such as the [AMBA](#) bus from [ARM Holdings](#) – connects these blocks. [DMA](#) controllers route data directly between external interfaces and memory, bypassing the processor core and thereby increasing the data throughput of the SoC.

SoC DESIGN FLOW

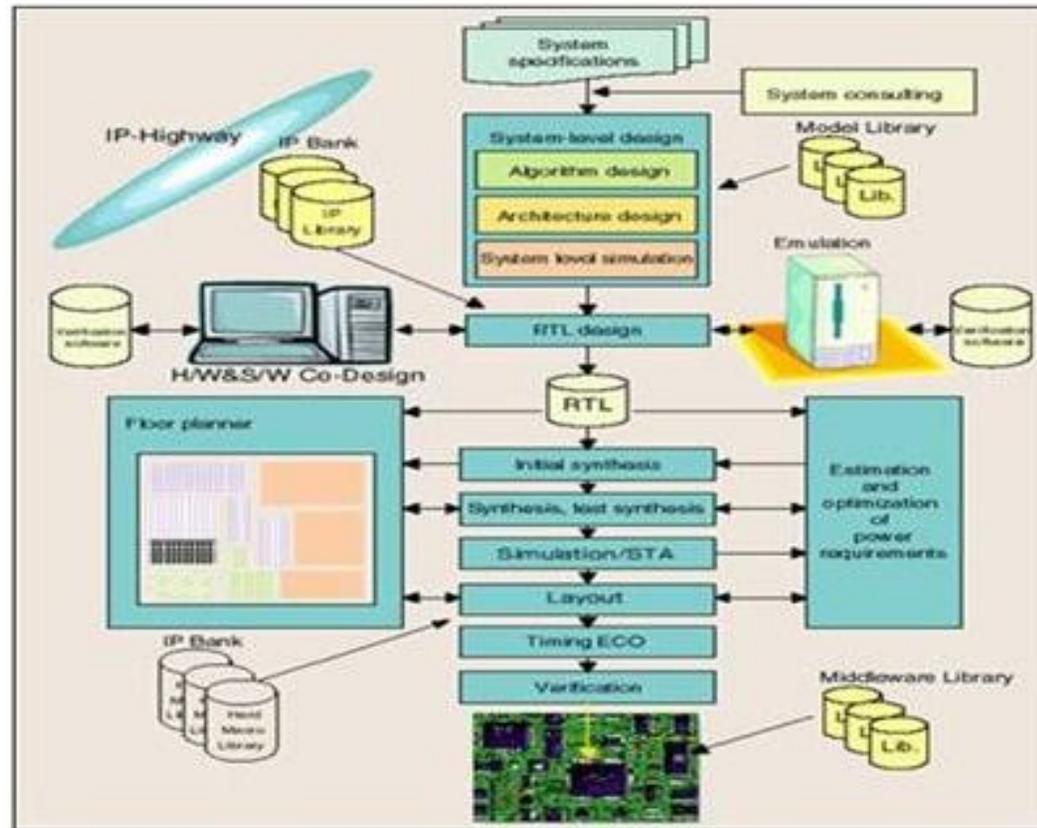
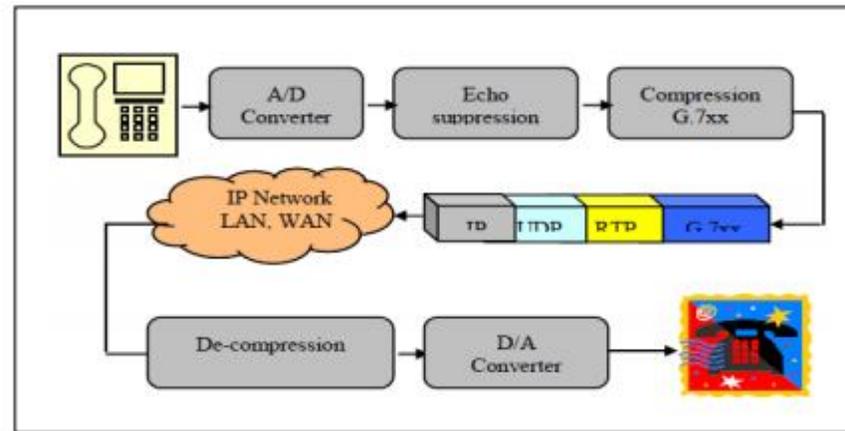


Figure : System-on-a-Chip Design Flow

VOICE OVER IP SOC

- A gateway VoIP SOC is a device used for functions such as Vcoders,echo cancellation,data/fax modems, and VoIP protocols.Currently there are number of these devices available from several vendors;typically these devices differ from each other by the type of functions and voice-processing algorithms they support.

VOICE OVER IP SOC



The human voice initially generates an analog signal. This signal is converted into a bit stream by an Analog/Digital (A/D) converter and then submitted to a multiple compression process.

The Voice frames are integrated into a voice packet. First RTP (Real time protocol) packet with a 12 address byte header is created. Then an 8-byte UDP packet with the source and destination address is added.

VOICE OVER IP SOC

- Finally, a 20 byte IP header containing source and destination gateway IP address is added. The packet is sent through the internet where routers and switches examine the destination address.
- When the destination receives the packet, the packet goes through the reverse process for playback.
- A minimal VoIP implementation requires two functionalities. First, it should be able to connect to other VoIP phones and, second, voice data should be carried by the Internet. The first requirement is fulfilled by using signaling. The second one is achieved by using speech coding algorithms.

External Memory Controller

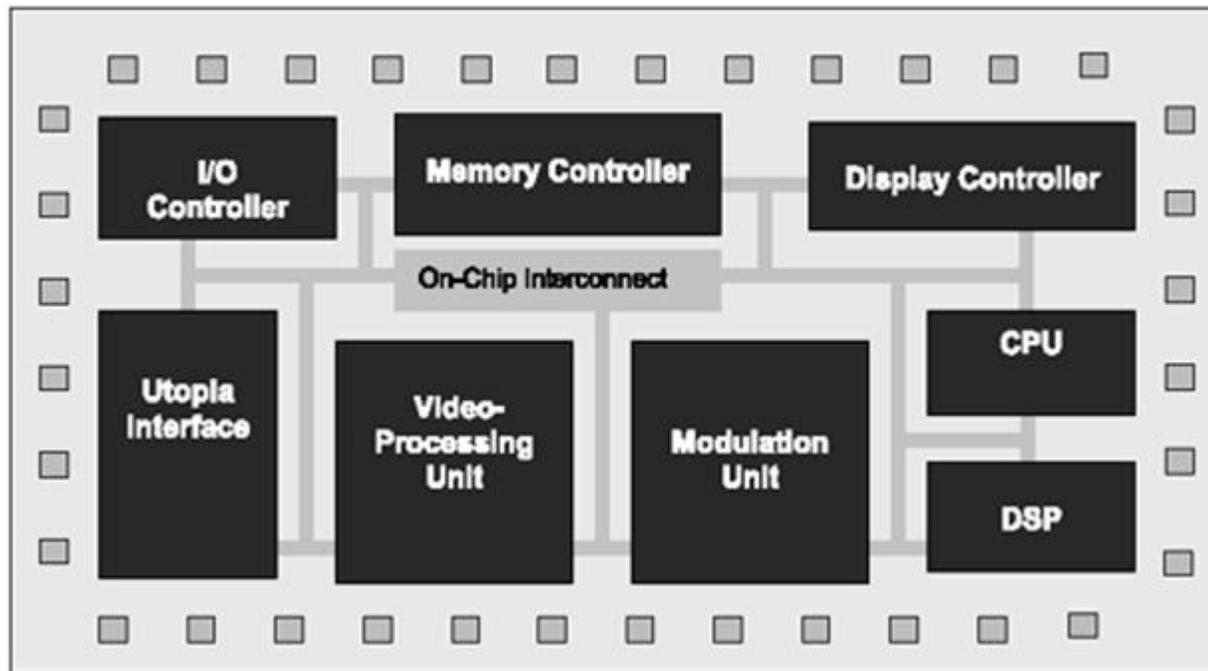
The external memory controller supports industry-standard inexpensive fast memory such as SDRAM. This memory is used to store code and data for processing elements within the SOC. Depending on the actual SOC architecture and fabrication process, the memory interface could require support for one 32-bit SDRAM module, two 16-bit modules operating at up to 133MHz.

Flash Memory Interface

A standard parallel flash port for access to boot programs, configuration data, and programs is available and accessible upon system reset.

Set-Top-Box-SOC

Set-Top-Box SOC



Set-Top –Box-SOC

- Video processing unit (MPEG-2 codec)
- Digital signal processing (DSP) for AC3 audio processing
- CPU for control and transport of streams
- Modulation unit such as quadrature phase shift keying (QPSK) for satellite and quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM) for cable inputs
- Utopia for cable modem interface
- Memory controller such as SDRAM controller
- I/O controller
- Display controller

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

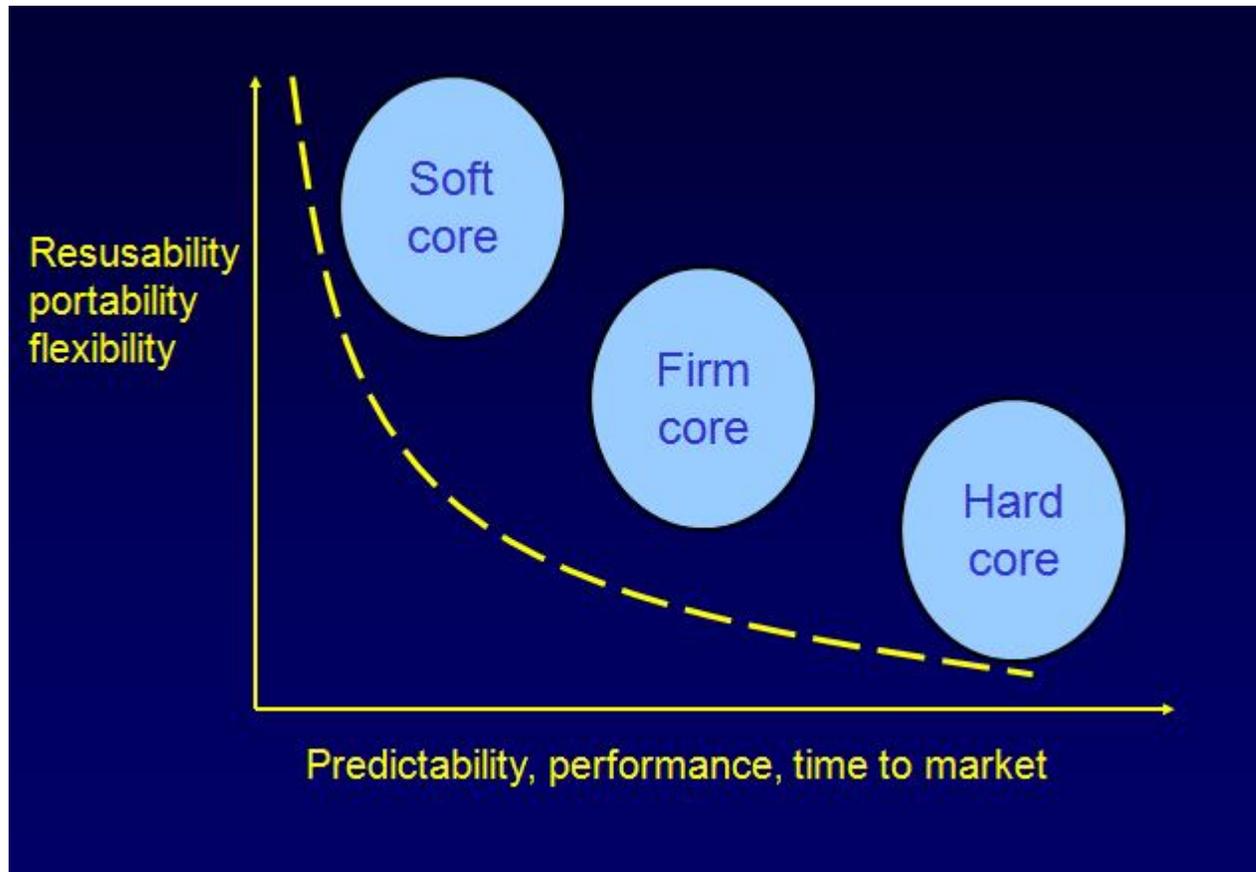
- Utilizing the predesigned modules enables:
 - to avoid reinventing the wheel for every new product,
 - to accelerate the development of new products,
 - to assemble various blocks of a large ASIC/SoC quite rapidly,
 - to reduce the possibility of failure based on design and verification of a block for the first time.
- These predesigned modules are commonly called Intellectual Property (IP) cores or Virtual Components (VC).

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CATEGORIES

IP cores are classified into three distinct categories:

- Hard IP cores consist of hard layouts using particular physical design libraries and are delivered in masked-level designed blocks (GDSII format). The integration of hard IP cores is quite simple, but hard cores are technology dependent and provide minimum flexibility and portability in reconfiguration and integration.
- Soft IP cores are delivered as RTL VHDL/Verilog code to provide functional descriptions of IPs. These cores offer maximum flexibility and reconfigurability to match the requirements of a specific design application, but they must be synthesized, optimized, and verified by their user before integration into designs.
- Firm IP cores bring the best of both worlds and balance the high performance and optimization properties of hard IPs with the flexibility of soft IPs. These cores are delivered in form of targeted netlists to specific physical libraries after going through synthesis without performing the physical layout.

Trade-offs among soft, hard and firm cores



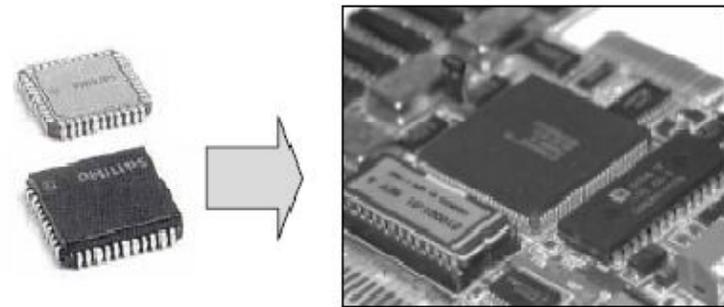
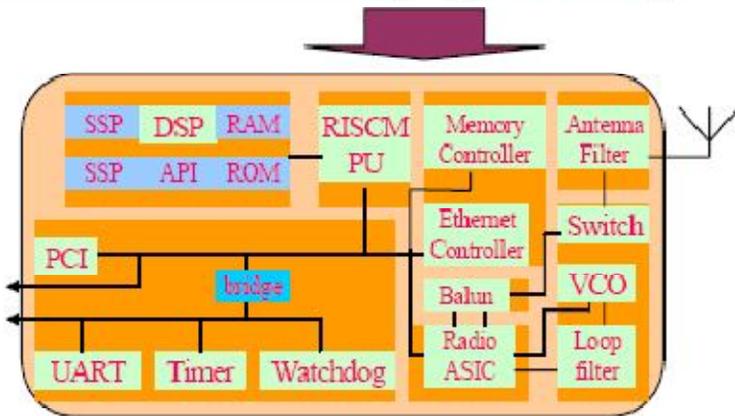
Comparison of different IP formats

IP Format	Representation	Optimization	Technology	Reusability
Hard	GDSII	Very High	Technology Dependent	Low
Soft	RTL	Low	Technology Independent	Very High
Firm	Target Netlist	High	Technology Generic	High

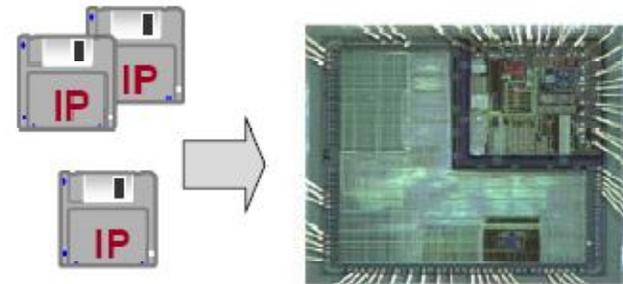
Example of IPs

Category	Intellectual Property
Processor	ARM7, ARM9, and ARM10, ARC
Application-Specific DSP	ADPCM, CELP, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, Turbo Code, Viterbi, Reed Solomon, AES
Mixed Signal	ADCs, DACs, Audio Codecs, PLLs, OpAmps, Analog MUX
I/Os	PCI, USB, 1394, 1284, E-IDE, IRDA
Miscellaneous	UARTs, DRAM Controller, Timers, Interrupt Controller, DMA Controller, SDRAM Controller, Flash Controller, Ethernet 10/100 MAC

IP Reuse and IP based SOC Design



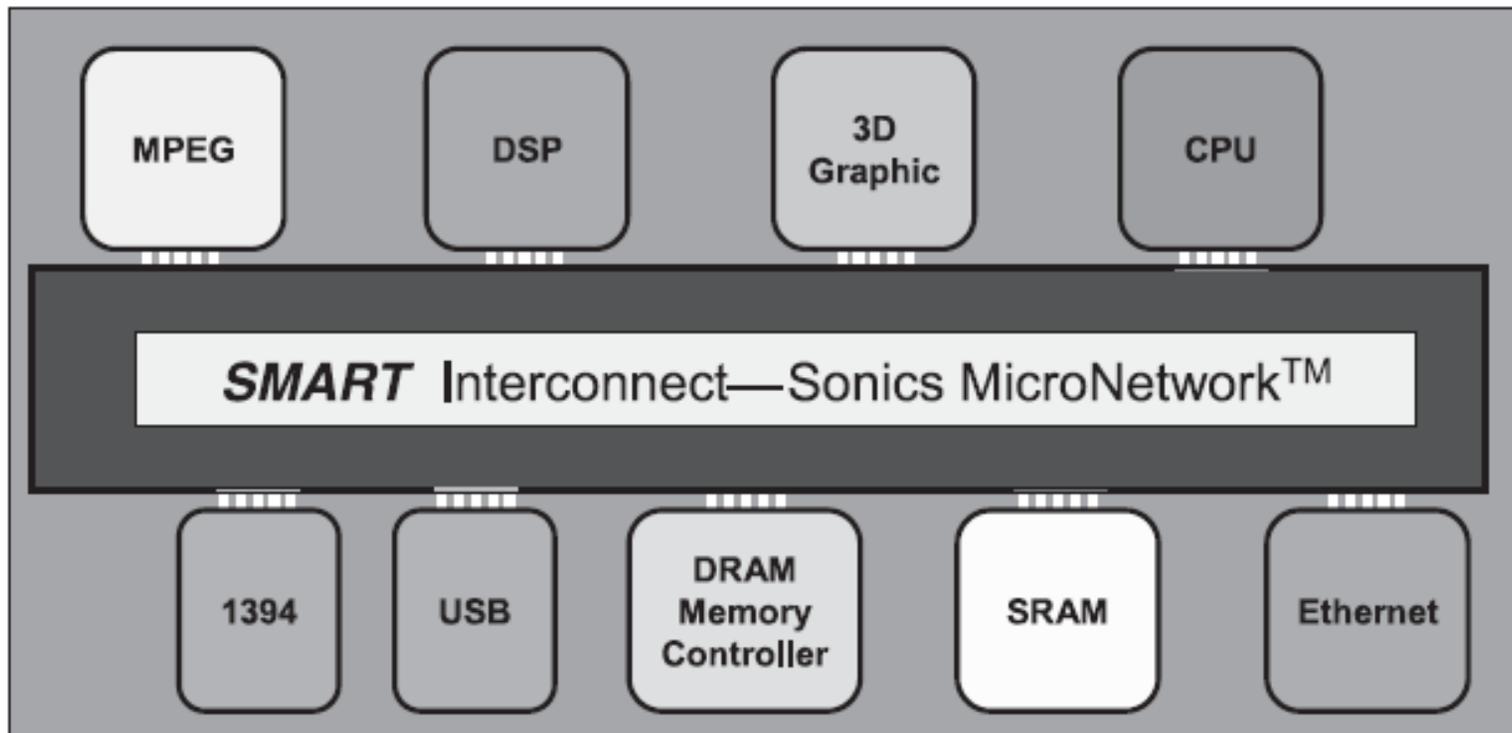
Yesterday/Today: Real Components



Bluetooth 

Today/Future: Virtual Components

Sonics' SiliconBackplane MicroNetwork Used in SOC Design Architecture



Silicon BackPlane

- Silicon backplane uses a standard core interface known as the open protocol (OCP), Which delivers the first openly licensed, core centric protocol. The OCP defines a comprehensive, bus – independent, high performance, and configurable interface between IP cores and on-chip communication subsystems. OCP is a functional superset of Virtual socket Interface(VSI) Alliance virtual-component –interface(VCI) specification ,and enable SOC designers and semiconductor IP developers to prepare their cores for plug-and –play integration using Sonics’ Silicon Backplane.

Advantages of Silicon BackPlane

- When compared to traditional CPU bus On chip interconnect such as Sonics Silicon back plane has following advantages.

Higher Efficiency

Flexible Configuration

Guaranteed Bandwidth and latency

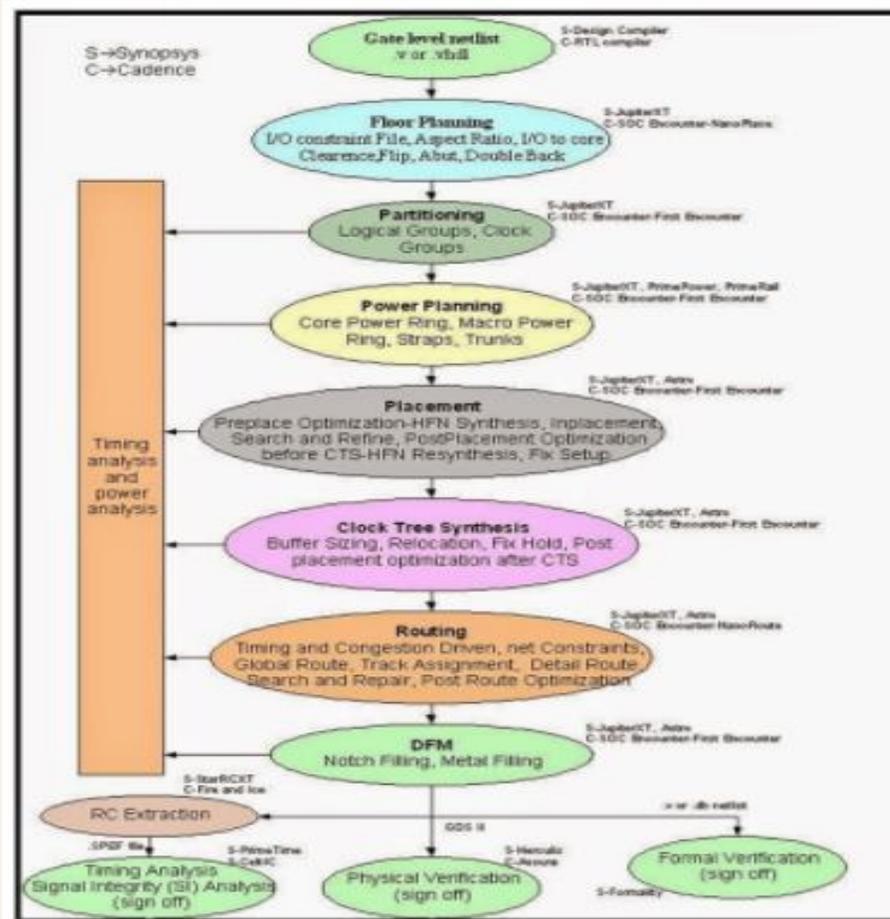
Integrated arbitration

UNIT V

PHYSICAL AND LOW POWER DESIGN

Overview Of Physical Design Flow

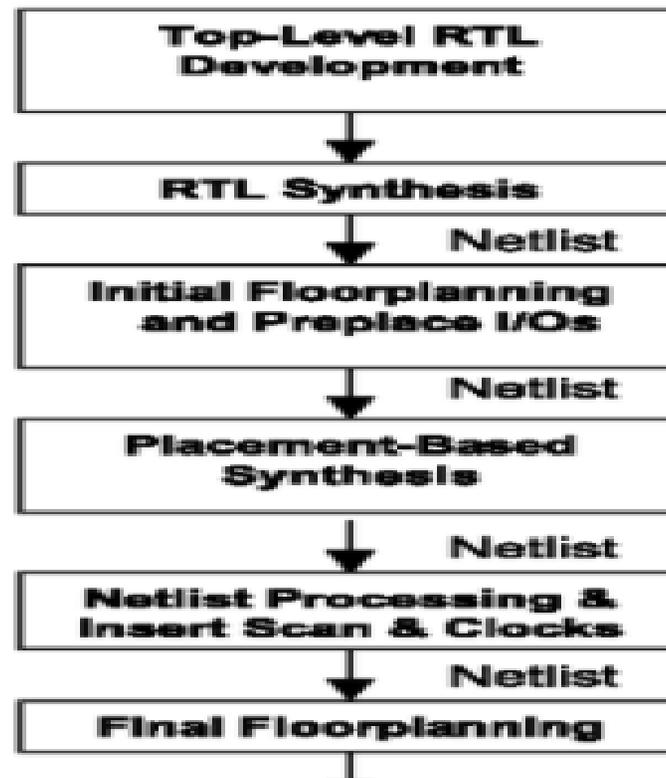
Physical Design Flow



Physical Design Flow

Tips and guideline for physical design

1.Placement based synthesis



Placement Based Synthesis

- Placement is performed in four optimization phases:
 1. **Ire-placement optimization**
 2. **In placement optimization**
 3. **Post Placement Optimization (PPO) before clock tree synthesis (CTS)**
 4. **PPO after CTS.**

Pre-placement Optimization optimizes the netlist before placement, HFNs are collapsed. It can also downsize the cells.

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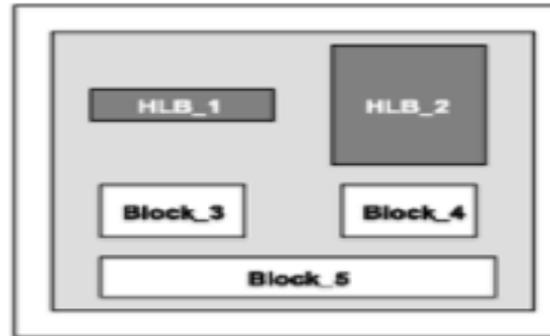
Placement Based Synthesis

- **In-placement optimization** re-optimizes the logic based on VR. This can perform cell sizing, cell moving, cell bypassing, net splitting, gate duplication, buffer insertion, area recovery. Optimization performs iteration of setup fixing, incremental timing and congestion driven placement.

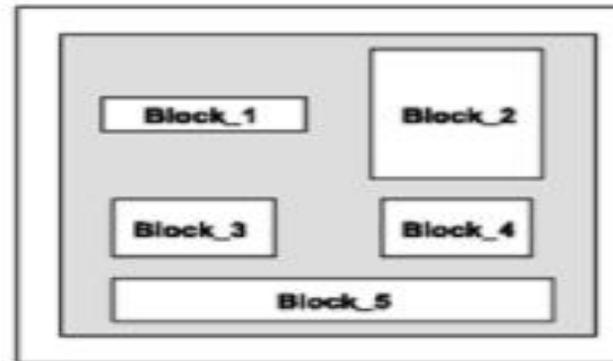
Post placement optimization before CTS performs netlist optimization with ideal clocks. It can fix setup, hold, max trans/cap violations. It can do placement optimization based on global routing. It re does HFN synthesis.

Post placement optimization after CTS optimizes timing with propagated clock. It tries to preserve clock skew

Logical and Physical Hierarchy

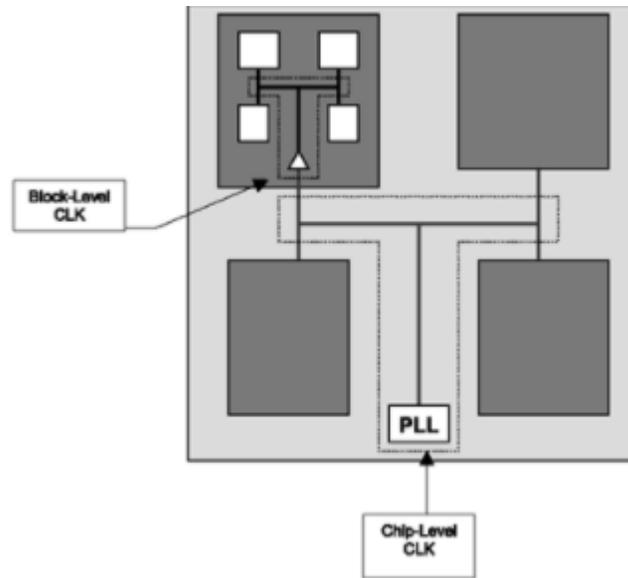


Physical Hierarchy

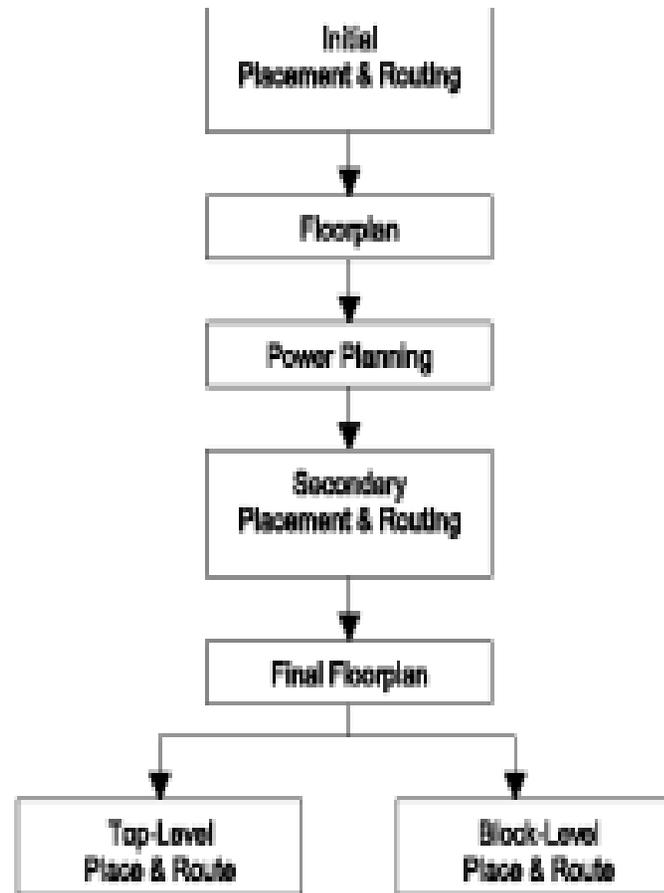


Logical Hierarchy

Clock Design – Two Level Clock Design Tree



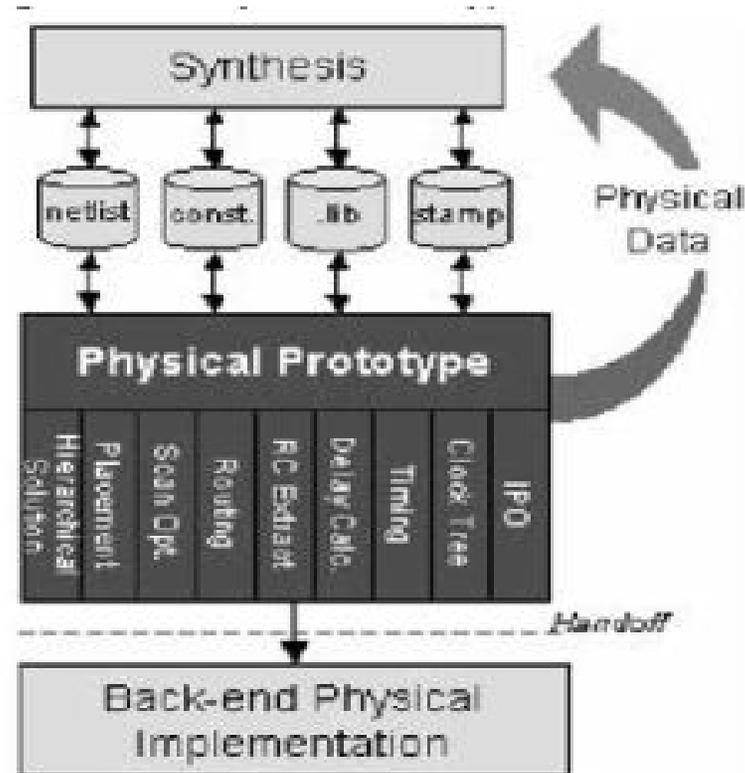
Multiple Placements and Routing



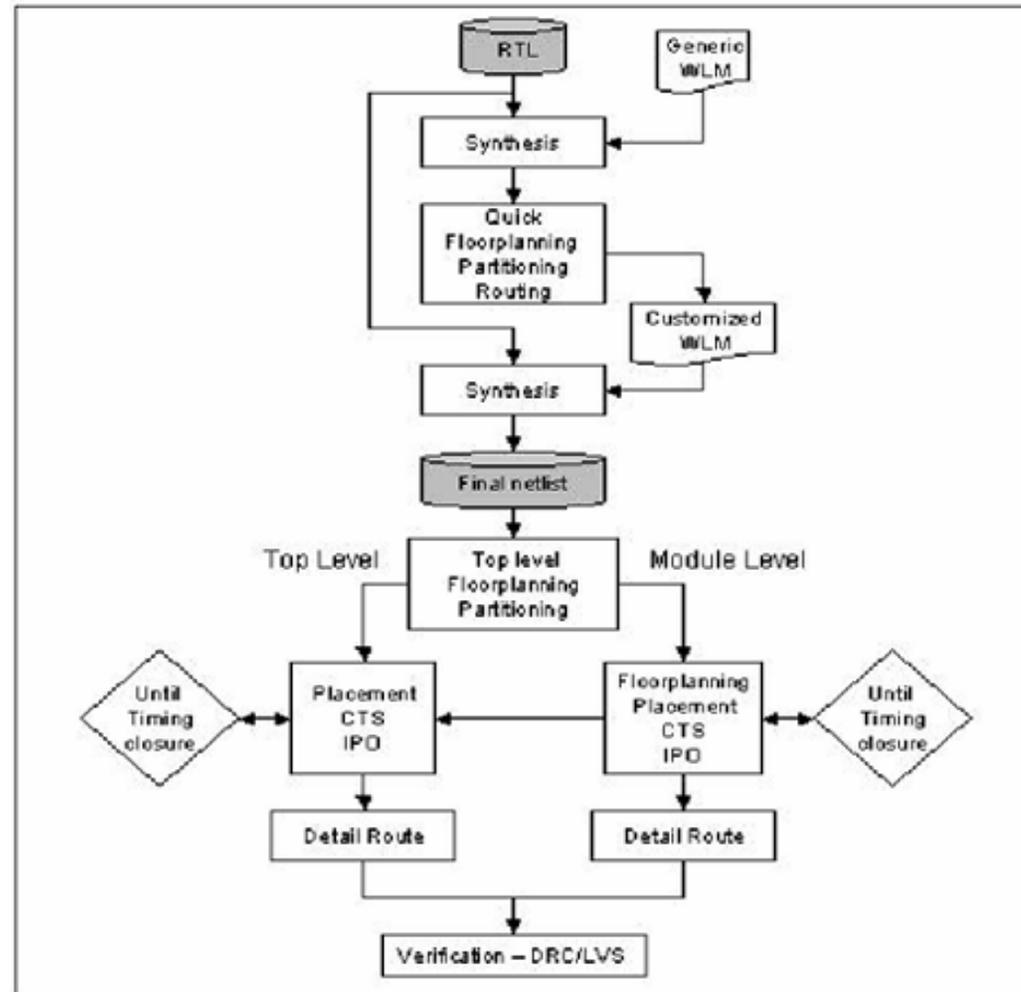
Modern physical design techniques-

- In the age of deep submicron design, where 10+ million gates of logic have to fit on a single device running at 250+ MHz, traditional physical-design techniques are not capable of handling these new challenges. The problems with the traditional physical-design techniques can be summarized as follows :
- Timing closure is either unachievable or takes too long to finish.
- Too many iterations between front end and back end for each design.
- Unroutable designs for the target die size .
- As the device geometries shrink to 0.11 micron and beyond, new tools, techniques, and methodologies are needed to overcome the problems we face with traditional approaches.

Silicon Virtual Prototyping- Prototype Environment

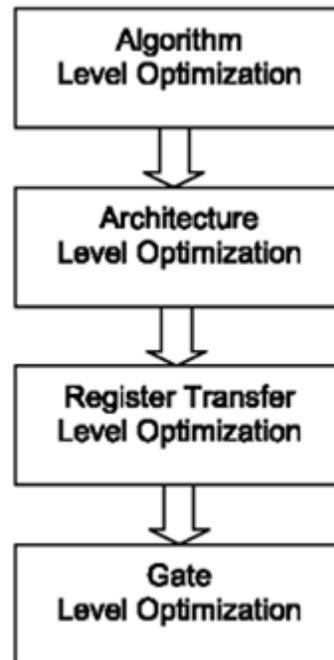


Design Flow for Silicon Virtual Prototyping



Low power Design Techniques and Methodologies

Levels of Design power optimization



Low power Design Techniques and Methodologies

- Low-power techniques vary depending on the level of the design targeted, ranging from semiconductor technology to the higher levels of abstraction. These abstraction levels are classified as algorithm, architecture, RTL, gate, and transistor levels.
- Higher levels of design abstraction shown in provide larger amounts of power reduction for chip designs. In higher levels of abstraction, such as algorithm level, designers have a greater degree

Low Power Design Techniques

RESEARCH EFFECTS IN LOW POWER DESIGN

Reduce the Active Load:

- Minimize the circuits.
- Use more efficient Design.
- Charge Recycling
- More efficient layout

Technology Scaling:

- Threshold should scale.
- Leakage should be reduced.
- Dynamic Voltagescaling.

Low Power Design Techniques

Reduce Switching activity:

- Conditional Clock.
- Conditional Precharge.
- Switching-off inactive blocks.
- Conditional Execution.

Run it Slower:

- Use Parallelism.
- Less pipeline stag

LOW-POWER DESIGN TOOLS

- Numerous EDA tools are available to help IC designers achieve low-power designs. These tools are classified into two main categories:
- Power-analysis and power-estimation tools
- Power-optimization tools
- Power-estimation tools estimate the power of a specific design by identifying its high power consuming modules at early stages of the design. These tools give IC designers the ability to make high-level design decisions to reduce power or leave the design untouched based on a set of specific power constraints.
- Power-optimization tools come into play after the decision is made by IC designers to reduce the power.

Low power Design tool Characteristics

□ Accurate model

- ⇒ Include both output load (C) and input slope (S)
- ⇒ Nonlinear equation $f=k_0+k_1*C+k_2*C^2+k_3*S+k_4*C*S$
- ⇒ Variable domain stratification, different sets of coefficients for different strata
- ⇒ Default sensitization method is pin-to-pin, can be extended to pattern-dependent by customization

□ Fast model

- ⇒ Small equation form
- ⇒ Can be customized to full table-lookup library

□ Easy library maintenance

- ⇒ Manage the libraries through Graphic User Interface
- ⇒ Generalized data base enables data reuse

TIPS AND GUIDELINES FOR LOW-POWER DESIGN

- The most effective power-optimization techniques are the higher level ones. These are algorithmic and architectural optimization techniques.
- Use low-power process and libraries. There are low-power standard cell libraries for 0.18 μm such as Xemics Coolib. (Refer to reference 16 for more information.) The low-power libraries should be used in conjunction with a low-power process that is available from most ASIC vendors.
- Decrease the dynamic power by reducing all of the terms in the fundamental equation of power:

Low power Design tools

- **Analysis tools :**
 - ⇒ **Simulation based techniques provide the best accuracy**
 - ⇒ **Transistor level power estimation is mature; a satisfactory gate and RT level simulation engine is needed**
 - ⇒ **Probability-based techniques are good for relative accuracy analysis and to guide the synthesis engine**
- **Optimization Tools:**
 - ⇒ **Gate level optimization / re-mapping provides 20-40% power reduction**
 - ⇒ **Behavioral and RTL power synthesis provides 40-60% power reduction**
 - ⇒ **System-level optimization provides 2-5 X power reduction**
- **Power analysis, tradeoffs and optimizations for design levels higher than RTL are not mature**

Low Power EDA Tools

POWERTHEATER

.PowerTheater is a comprehensive set of power tools that create maximum power efficiency for SOC designs at the architectural level, RTL level, and gate level. This family of full-chip power tools can be used throughout the IC design process.

- PowerTheater products (PowerTheater Analyst and PowerTheater Designer) analyze, display, and help the user to reduce the power for the whole chip and each individual module. These tools interface directly with Verilog and VHDL simulators to capture behavioral and gate-level simulation activity.

Key Features

- SOC RTL power analysis
- Flexible and easy-to-use RTL power optimization
- Handles clock, memory, data-path control logic, etc

Low Power EDA Tools

POWERTHEATER ANALYST

- PowerTheater Analyst, built with proven Watt Watcher technology, represents a superior alternative to tedious and error-prone manual methods, such as spreadsheet analysis, as well as gate- and transistor-level methods which require the design to be synthesized in pieces and then simulated at very detailed levels of abstraction.

Low Power EDA Tools

POWERTHEATER ANALYST

- Using this capability at both RT and gate level, designers can perform detailed power analysis for the entire chip or any set of sub-blocks, including memory, I/O, logic, and clock trees.
- Peak and time-based power is reported on a user-defined time interval, down to the Verilog or VHDL simulation resolution. PowerTheater Analyst addresses issues such as power bus Sizing, electromigration, and reliability

Low Power EDA Tools

POWERTHEATER DESIGNER

- The Power Theater Designer product uses Watt Watcher's proven RTL estimation technology to build a detailed, quantitative map of the power in the design.
- Power Theater Designer then invokes a suite of patent-pending agents called Watt Bots that automatically measure the impact of many potential power-saving architectural changes. Each Watt Bot is designed to identify a specific type of power reduction opportunity.
- The suite of Watt Bots covers all major types of circuitry in the design, including control, data path, I/O, memory, and clocks. For each opportunity identified, Power Theater Designer proposes specific RTL design modifications and quantifies the power savings that would result, together with certain potential trade-offs.