11. Using Cyclone Devices in Multiple-Voltage Systems

C51011-1.3

Introduction

To meet the demand for higher system speed in data communications, semiconductor vendors use increasingly advanced processing technologies requiring lower operating voltages. As a result, printed circuit boards (PCBs) often incorporate devices conforming to one of several voltage level I/O standards, such as 3.3-V, 2.5-V, 1.8-V and 1.5-V. A mixture of components with various voltage level I/O standards on a single PCB is inevitable.

In order to accommodate this mixture of devices on a single PCB, a device that can act as a bridge or interface between these devices is needed. The Cyclone® device family's MultiVolt™ I/O operation capability meets the increasing demand for compatibility with devices of different voltages. MultiVolt I/O operation separates the power supply voltage from the output voltage, enabling Cyclone devices to interoperate with other devices using different voltage levels on the same PCB.

In addition to MultiVolt I/O operation, this chapter discusses several other features that allow you to use Cyclone devices in multiple-voltage systems without damaging the device or the system, including:

- Hot-Socketing—add and remove Cyclone devices to and from a powered-up system without affecting the device or system operation
- Power-Up Sequence flexibility—Cyclone devices can accommodate any possible power-up sequence
- Power-On Reset—Cyclone devices maintain a reset state until voltage is within operating range

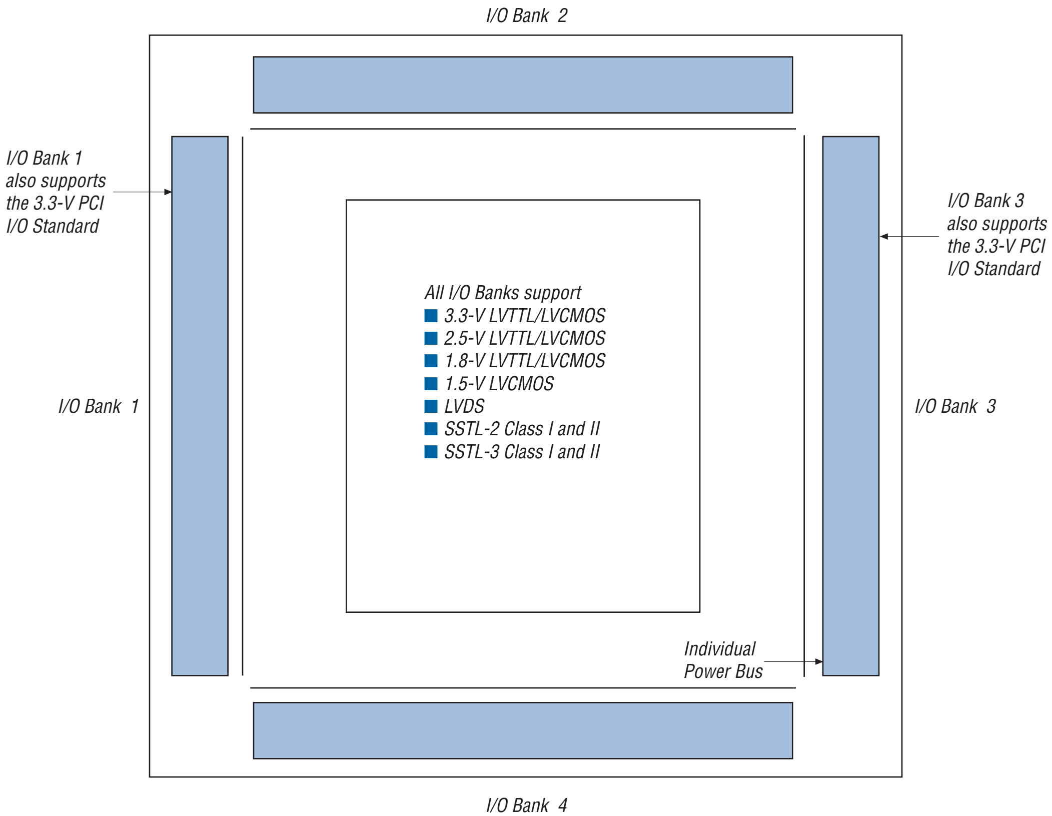
I/O Standards

The I/O buffer of a Cyclone device is programmable and supports a wide range of I/O voltage standards. Each I/O bank in a Cyclone device can be programmed to comply with a different I/O standard. All I/O banks can be configured with the following I/O standards:

- 3.3-V LVTTL/LVCMOS
- 2.5-V LVTTL/LVCMOS
- 1.8-V LVTTL/LVCMOS
- 1.5-V LVCMOS
- LVDS
- SSTL-2 Class I and II
- SSTL-3 Class I and II

I/O banks 1 and 3 also include 3.3-V PCI I/O standard interface capability. See Figure 11–1.

Figure 11–1. I/O Standards Supported by Cyclone Devices *Notes (1), (2), (3)*



Notes to Figure 11–1

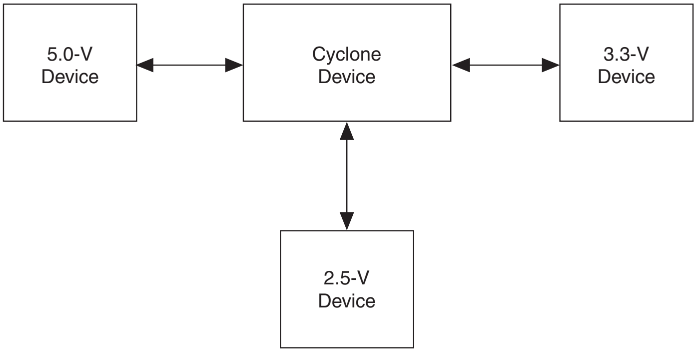
(1) Figure 1 is a top view of the silicon die.
(2) Figure 1 is a graphical representation only. Refer to the pin list and the Quartus® II software for exact pin locations.
(3) The EP1C3 device in the 100-pin thin quad flat pack (TQFP) package does not have support for a PLL LVDS input or an external clock output.

MultiVolt I/O Operation

Cyclone devices include MultiVolt I/O operation capability, allowing the core and I/O blocks of the device to be powered-up with separate supply voltages. The VCCINT pins supply power to the device core and the VCCIO pins supply power the device's I/O buffers.

☞ Supply all device `VCCIO` pins that have MultiVolt I/O capability at the same voltage level (e.g., 3.3-V, 2.5-V, 1.8-V, or 1.5-V). See Figure 11–2.

Figure 11–2. Implementing a Multiple-Voltage System with a Cyclone Device



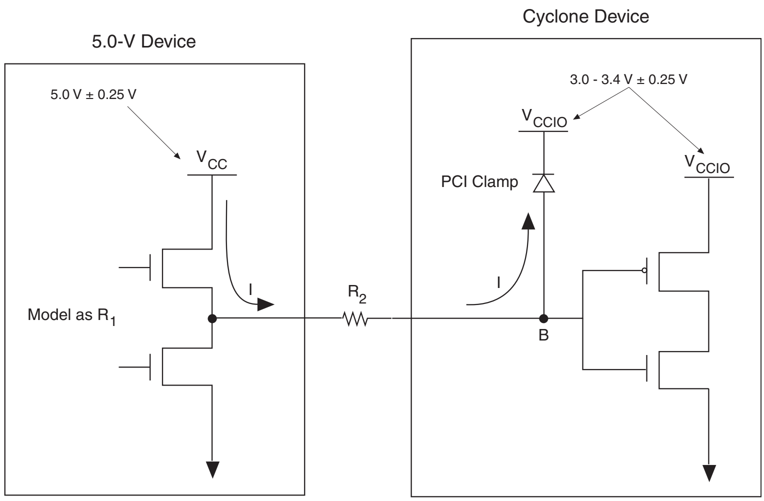
5.0-V Device Compatibility

A Cyclone device may not correctly interoperate with a 5.0-V device if the output of the Cyclone device is connected directly to the input of the 5.0-V device. If V_{OUT} of the Cyclone device is greater than V_{CCIO}, the PMOS pull-up transistor still conducts if the pin is driving high, preventing an external pull-up resistor from pulling the signal to 5.0-V.

A Cyclone device can drive a 5.0-V LVTTL device by connecting the `VCCIO` pins of the Cyclone device to 3.3 V. This is because the output high voltage (V_{OH}) of a 3.3-V interface meets the minimum high-level voltage of 2.4-V of a 5.0-V LVTTL device. (A Cyclone device cannot drive a 5.0-V LVCMOS device.)

Because the Cyclone devices are 3.3-V, 64- and 32-bit, 66- and 33-MHz PCI compliant the input circuitry accepts a maximum high-level input voltage (V_{IH}) of 4.1-V. To drive a Cyclone device with a 5.0-V device, you must connect a resistor (R_2) between the Cyclone device and the 5.0-V device. See Figure 11–3.

Figure 11–3. Driving a Cyclone Device with a 5.0-Volt Device

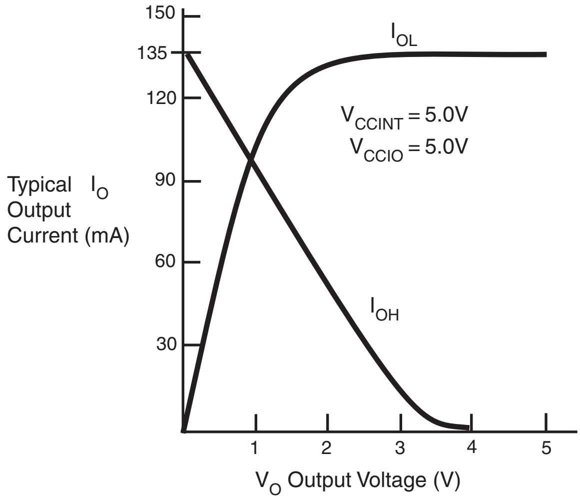


If V_{CCIO} is between 3.0-V and 3.6-V and the PCI clamping diode (not available on EP1C3 devices) is enabled, the voltage at point B in Figure 11–3 is 4.3-V or less. To limit large current draw from the 5.0-V device, R_2 should be small enough for a fast signal rise time and large enough so that it does not violate the high-level output current (I_{OH}) specifications of the devices driving the trace. The PCI clamping diode in the Cyclone device can support 25mA of current.

To compute the required value of R_2, first calculate the model of the pull-up transistors on the 5.0-V device. This output resistor (R_1) can be modeled by dividing the 5.0-V device supply voltage (V_{CC}) by the I_{OH}: $R_1 = V_{CC}/I_{OH}$.

Figure 11–4 shows an example of typical output drive characteristics of a 5.0-V device.

Figure 11–4. Output Drive Characteristics of a 5.0-V Device



As shown above, $R_1 = 5.0\text{-V} / 135\text{ mA}$.

The values usually shown in data sheets reflect typical operating conditions. Subtract 20% from the data sheet value for guard band. This subtraction applied to the above example gives R_1 a value of 30 Ω

R_2 should be selected to not violate the driving device's IOH specification. For example, if the above device has a maximum IOH of 8 mA, given the PCI clamping diode, $V_{IN} = V_{CCIO} + 0.7\text{-V} = 3.7\text{-V}$. Given that the maximum supply load of a 5.0-V device (V_{CC}) will be 5.25-V, the value of R_2 can be calculated as follows:

$$R_2 = \frac{(5.25\text{V} - 3.7\text{ V}) - (8\text{ mA} \times 30\ \Omega)}{8\text{ mA}} = 164\ \Omega$$

This analysis assumes worst-case conditions. If your system will not see a wide variation in voltage-supply levels, you can adjust these calculations accordingly.

Because 5.0-V device tolerance in Cyclone devices requires use of the PCI clamp (not available on EP1C3 devices), and this clamp is activated during configuration, 5.0-V signals may not be driven into the device until it is configured.

Hot-Socketing

Hot-socketing, also known as hot-swapping, refers to inserting or removing a board or device into or out of a system board while system power is on. For a system to support hot-socketing, plug-in or removal of the subsystem or device must not damage the system or interrupt system operation.

All devices in the Cyclone family are designed to support hot-socketing without special design requirements. The following features have been implemented in Cyclone devices to facilitate hot-socketing:

- Devices can be driven before power-up with no damage to the device.
- I/O pins remain tri-stated during power-up.
- Signal pins do not drive the V_{CCIO} or V_{CCINT} power supplies.

☞ Because 5.0-V tolerance in Cyclone devices require the use of the PCI clamping diode, and the clamping diode is only available after configuration has finished, be careful not to connect 5.0-V signals to the device.

Devices Can Be Driven before Power-Up

The device I/O pins, dedicated input pins, and dedicated clock pins of Cyclone devices can be driven before or during power-up without damaging the devices.

I/O Pins Remain Tri-Stated during Power-Up

A device that does not support hot-socketing may interrupt system operation or cause contention by driving out before or during power-up. For Cyclone devices, I/O pins are tri-stated before and during power-up and configuration, and will not drive out.

Signal Pins Do Not Drive the V_{CCIO} or V_{CCINT} Power Supplies

A device that does not support hot-socketing will short power supplies together when powered-up through its signal pins. This irregular power-up can damage both the driving and driven devices and can disrupt card power-up.

In Cyclone devices, there is no current path from I/O pins, dedicated input pins, or dedicated clock pins to the `VCCIO` or `VCCINT` pins before or during power-up. A Cyclone device may be inserted into (or removed from) a powered-up system board without damaging or interfering with system-board operation. When hot-socketing, Cyclone devices have a minimal effect on the signal integrity of the backplane.

> ☞ The maximum DC current when hot-socketing Cyclone devices is less than 300 µA, whereas the maximum AC current during hot-socketing is less than 8 mA for a period of 10ns or less.

During hot-socketing, the signal pins of a device may be connected and driven by the active system before the power supply can provide current to the device V_{CC} and ground planes. Known as latch-up, this condition can cause parasitic diodes to turn on within the device, causing the device to consume a large amount of current, and possibly causing electrical damage. This operation can also cause parasitic diodes to turn on inside of the driven device. Cyclone devices are immune to latch-up when hot-socketing.

Power-Up Sequence

Because Cyclone devices can be used in a multi-voltage environment, they are designed to tolerate any possible power-up sequence. Either V_{CCINT} or V_{CCIO} can initially supply power to the device, and 3.3-V, 2.5-V, 1.8-V, or 1.5-V input signals can drive the devices without special precautions before V_{CCINT} or V_{CCIO} is applied. Cyclone devices can operate with a V_{CCIO} voltage level that is higher than the V_{CCINT} level. You can also change the V_{CCIO} supply voltage while the board is powered-up. However, you must ensure that the V_{CCINT} and V_{CCIO} power supplies stay within the correct device operating conditions.

When V_{CCIO} and V_{CCINT} are supplied from different power sources to a Cyclone device, a delay between V_{CCIO} and V_{CCINT} may occur. Normal operation does not occur until both power supplies are in their recommended operating range. When V_{CCINT} is powered-up, the IEEE Std. 1149.1 Joint Test Action Group (JTAG) circuitry is active. If `TMS` and `TCK` are connected to V_{CCIO} and V_{CCIO} is not powered-up, the JTAG signals are left floating. Thus, any transition on `TCK` can cause the state machine to transition to an unknown JTAG state, leading to incorrect operation when V_{CCIO} is finally powered-up. To disable the JTAG state during the power-up sequence, `TCK` should be pulled low to ensure that an inadvertent rising edge does not occur on `TCK`.

Power-On Reset

When designing a circuit, it is important to consider system state at power-up. Cyclone devices maintain a reset state during power-up. When power is applied to a Cyclone device, a power-on-reset event occurs if V_{CC} reaches the recommended operating range within a certain period of time (specified as a maximum V_{CC} rise time). A POR event does not occur if these conditions are not met because slower rise times can cause incorrect device initialization and functional failure. The V_{CCIO} level of the I/O banks that contains configuration pins must also reach an acceptable level to trigger POR event.

If V_{CCINT} does not remain in the specified operating range, operation is not assured until V_{CCINT} re-enters the range.

Conclusion

PCBs often contain a mix of 5.0-V, 3.3-V, 2.5-V, 1.8-V, and 1.5-V devices. The Cyclone device family's MultiVolt I/O operation capability allows you to incorporate newer-generation devices with devices of varying voltage levels. This capability also enables the device core to run at its core voltage, V_{CCINT}, while maintaining I/O pin compatibility with other logic levels. Altera has taken further steps to make system design easier by designing devices that allow V_{CCINT} and V_{CCIO} to power-up in any sequence and by incorporating support for hot-socketing.

Document Revision History

Table 11–1 shows the revision history for this chapter.

Table 11–1. Document Revision History

Date and Document Version	Changes Made	Summary of Changes
May 2008 v1.3	Minor textual and style changes.	—
January 2007 v1.2	Updated "Power-On Reset" section.	—
October 2003 v1.1	Added 64-bit PCI support information.	—
May 2003 v1.0	Added document to Cyclone Device Handbook.	—