

Implementing an I2**C Bus Controller in a CoolRunner™ CPLD**

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Summary This document details the VHDL implementation of an I²C controller in a Xilinx CoolRunner[™] 128 macrocell CPLD. CoolRunner CPLDs are the lowest power CPLDs available and thus are the perfect target device for an I^2C controller. The VHDL code described in this document can be obtained by contacting Xilinx Technical Support.

Introduction The I²C bus is a popular serial, two-wire interface used in many systems because of its low overhead. The two-wire interface minimizes interconnections so ICs have fewer pins, and the number of traces required on printed circuit boards is reduced. Capable of 100 KHz operation, each device connected to the bus is software addressable by a unique address with a simple Master/Slave protocol.

> The CoolRunner I^2C Controller design contains an asynchronous microcontroller (μ C) interface and provides 1^2C Master/Slave capability. It is intended to be used with a microcontroller (μ C) or microprocessor (μP) as shown in [Figure 1](#page-0-0).

Figure 1: CoolRunner I2C Bus Controller

I²C Background

This section will describe the main protocol of the I²C bus. For more details and timing diagrams, please refer to the I^2C specification.

The I^2C bus consists of two wires, serial data (SDA) and serial clock (SCL), which carry information between the devices connected to the bus. The number of devices connected to the same bus is limited only by a maximum bus capacitance of 400 pF. Both the SDA and SCL lines are bidirectional lines, connected to a positive supply voltage via a pull-up resistor. When the bus is free, both lines are High. The output stages of devices connected to the bus must have an open-drain or open-collector in order to perform the wired-AND function.

Each device on the bus has a unique address and can operate as either a transmitter or receiver. In addition, devices can also be configured as Masters or Slaves. A Master is the device which initiates a data transfer on the bus and generates the clock signals to permit that transfer. Any other device that is being addressed is considered a Slave. The I²C protocol

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defines an arbitration procedure that insures that if more than one Master simultaneously tries to control the bus, only one is allowed to do so and the message is not corrupted. The arbitration and clock synchronization procedures defined in the $I²C$ specification are supported by the CoolRunner I²C Controller.

Data transfers on the I²C bus are initiated with a START condition and are terminated with a STOP condition. Normal data on the SDA line must be stable during the High period of the clock. The High or Low state of the data line can only change when SCL is Low. The START condition is a unique case and is defined by a High-to-Low transition on the SDA line while SCL is High. Likewise, the STOP condition is a unique case and is defined by a Low-to-High transition on the SDA line while SCL is High. The definitions of data, START, and STOP insure that the START and STOP conditions will never be confused as data. This is shown in [Figure 2](#page-1-0).

Figure 2: Data Transfer on the I2C Bus

Each data packet on the 1^2C bus consists of eight bits of data followed by an acknowledge bit so one complete data byte transfer requires nine clock pulses. Data is transferred with the most significant bit first (MSB). The transmitter releases the SDA line during the acknowledge bit and the receiver of the data transfer must drive the SDA line low during the acknowledge bit to acknowledge receipt of the data. If a Slave-receiver does not drive the SDA line Low during the acknowledge bit, this indicates that the Slave-receiver was unable to accept the data and the Master can then generate a STOP condition to abort the transfer. If the Master-receiver does not generate an acknowledge, this indicates to the Slave-transmitter that this byte was the last byte of the transfer.

Standard communication on the bus between a Master and a Slave is composed of four parts: START, Slave address, data transfer, and STOP. The I²C protocol defines a data transfer format for both 7-bit and 10-bit addressing. The implementation of the 1^2C controller in the Xilinx CoolRunner CPLD supports the seven-bit address format. After the START condition, a Slave address is sent. This address is seven bits long followed by an eighth-bit which is the read/write bit. A "1" indicates a request for data (read) and a "0" indicates a data transmission (write). Only the Slave with the calling address that matches the address transmitted by the Master responds by sending back an acknowledge bit by pulling the SDA line Low on the ninth clock.

Once successful Slave addressing is achieved, the data transfer can proceed byte-by-byte as specified by the read/write bit. The Master can terminate the communication by generating a STOP signal to free the bus. However, the Master may generate a START signal without generating a STOP signal first. This is called a repeated START.

CoolRunner I2C Controller

The CoolRunner CPLD implementation of the $I²C$ Controller supports the following features:

- Microcontroller interface
- Master or Slave operation
- Multi-master operation
- Software selectable acknowledge bit
- Arbitration lost interrupt with automatic mode switching from Master to Slave
- Calling address identification interrupt with automatic mode switching from Master to Slave
- START and STOP signal generation/detection
- Repeated START signal generation
- Acknowledge bit generation/detection
- Bus busy detection
- 100 KHz operation

Signal Descriptions

The I/O signals of the CoolRunner I²C controller are described in [Table 1.](#page-2-0) Pin numbers have not been assigned to this design, this can be done to meet the system requirements of the designer.

Table 1: CoolRunner I2C Controller Signal Description

Block Diagram The block diagram of the CoolRunner I²C Controller, shown in [Figure 3](#page-3-0) was broken into two major blocks, the μ C interface and the l^2C interface.

Figure 3: CoolRunner I2C Controller

µ**C Interface Logic**

The μ C interface for the I^2C controller design supports an asynchronous byte-wide bus protocol. This protocol is the method in which the μ C reads and writes the registers in the design and is shown in [Figure 4](#page-4-1).

Figure 4: µ**C Read/Write Protocol**

Address Decode/Bus Interface Logic

The μ C bus protocol is implemented in the CoolRunner I^2C Controller in the state machine shown in [Figure 5.](#page-4-0)

Figure 5: µ**C Bus Interface State Machine**

In the first cycle, the μ C places the address on the address bus, sets the read/write line to the correct state, and asserts address strobe (AS) and data strobe (DS). Address strobe indicates that the address present on the address bus is valid. If this is a write cycle, the μ C also places the data on the data bus and DS indicates that valid data is present on the data bus. If this is a read cycle, the μ C tri-states the data bus and DS indicates that the CoolRunner I^2C Controller can place data on the data bus.

Upon the assertion of AS, the CoolRunner I²C Controller transitions to the ADDR state to decode the address and determine if it is the device being addressed. The enables for the internal registers are set in this state. If the CoolRunner $I²C$ Controller is being addressed and DS is asserted, the CoolRunner I²C controller progresses to the DATA_TRS state. If this is a read cycle, the requested data is placed on the bus and if this is a write cycle, the data from the data bus is latched in the addressed register. The CoolRunner $I²C$ Controller automatically progresses to the ASSERT_DTACK state and asserts DTACK indicating that the data requested is ready if a read cycle or that the data has been received if a write cycle.

Upon the assertion of DTACK, the μ C either removes data from the bus if this is a write cycle, or latches the data present on the bus if this is a read cycle. The read/write line is set to read and AS and DS are negated to indicate that the data transfer is complete. The negation of AS and DS causes the CoolRunner $I²C$ Controller to negate DTACK and transition to the IDLE state.

CoolRunner I2C Controller Registers

The base address used for address decoding is set in the VHDL code via the constant BASE_ADDRESS. The base address is the upper 16 bits of the address bus. The lower address bits determine which register is being accessed.

The registers supported in the CoolRunner l^2C Controller are described in the [Table 2.](#page-5-0) The μC interface logic of the CoolRunner $1²C$ Controller handles the reading and writing of these registers by the μ C and supplies and/or retrieves these bits to/from the I^2C interface logic.

Address	Register	Description
MBASE + \$141	MADR	I ² C Address Register
$MBASE + 145	MBCR	I ² C Control Register
MBASE + \$147	MBSR	I ² C Status Register
MBASE + \$149	MBDR	I ² C Data I/O Register

Table 2: I2C Controller Registers

Address Register (MADR)

This field contains the specific Slave address to be used by the $I²C$ Controller. This register is read/write. ([Table 3\)](#page-5-1)

Table 3: Address Register Bits

Control Register (MBCR)

This register contains the bits to configure the $I²C$ controller. [\(Table 4](#page-6-0))

Table 4: Control Register Bits

Status Register (MBSR)

This register contains the status of the $I²C$ controller. This status register is read-only with the exception of the MIF and MAL bits, which are software clearable. All bits are cleared upon reset except the MCF and RXAK bits. ([Table 5\)](#page-7-0)

Data Register (MBDR)

This register contains data to/from the $I²C$ bus. Physically, this register is implemented by two byte-wide registers at the same address, one for the $1²C$ transmit data and one for the $1²C$ received data. This eliminates any possible contention between the μ C and the CoolRunner I^2C Controller. Since these registers are at the same address they appear as the same register to the µC and will continue to be described as such. In transmit mode, data written into this register is output on the I²C bus, in receive mode, this register contains the data received from the $I²C$ bus. Note that in receive mode, it is assumed that the μ C will be able to read this register during the next 1^2C transfer. The received 1^2C data is placed in this register after each complete transfer, the $I²C$ interface logic does not wait for an indication from the μ C that this register has been read before proceeding with the next transfer. [\(Table 6](#page-8-0))

Table 6: I2C Data Register Bit

I 2C Interface Logic

The I²C bus interface logic consists of several different processes as seen in [Figure 3.](#page-3-0) Control bits from the µC interface registers determine the behavior of these processes.

Arbitration

Arbitration of the I^2C bus is lost in the following circumstances:

- The SDA signal is sampled as a "0" when the Master outputs a "1" during an address or data transmit cycle
- The SDA signal is sampled as a "0" when the Master outputs a "1" during the acknowledge bit of a data receive cycle
- A start cycle is attempted when the bus is busy
- A repeated start cycle is requested in Slave mode
- A STOP condition is detected when the Master did not request it

If the CoolRunner I^2C Controller is in Master mode, the outgoing SDA signal is compared with the incoming SDA signal to determine if control of the bus has been lost. The SDA signal is checked only when SCL is High during all cycles of the data transfer except for acknowledge cycles to insure that START and STOP conditions are not generated at the wrong time. If the outgoing SDA signal and the incoming SDA signals differ, then arbitration is lost and the MAL bit is set. At this point, the CoolRunner I²C Controller switches to Slave mode and resets the MSTA bit.

The CoolRunner I²C design will not generate a START condition while the bus is busy, however, the MAL bit will be set if the μ C requests a START or repeated START while the bus is busy. The MAL bit is also set if a STOP condition is detected when this Master did not generate it.

If arbitration is lost during a byte transfer, SCL continues to be generated until the byte transfer is complete.

START/STOP Detection

This process monitors the SDA and SCL signals on the I²C bus for START and STOP conditions. When a START condition is detected, the Bus Busy bit is set. This bit stays set until a STOP condition is detected. The signals, DETECT_START and DETECT_STOP are generated by this process for use by other processes in the logic. Note that this logic detects the START and STOP conditions even when the CoolRunner $I²C$ Controller is the generator of these conditions.

Generation of SCL, SDA, START and STOP Conditions

This process generates the SCL and SDA signals output on the I^2C bus when in Master mode. The clock frequency of the SCL signal is ~100 KHz and is determined by dividing down the input clock. The number of input clock cycles required for generation of a 100 KHz SCL signal is set by the constant CNT 100 KHZ and is currently calculated for a system clock of 1.832 MHz. This constant can easily be modified by a designer based on the clock available in the target system. Likewise, the constants START_HOLD and DATA_HOLD contain the number of system clock cycles required to meet the $I²C$ requirements on hold time for the SDA lines after generating a START condition and after outputting data.

The state machine that generates SCL and SDA when in Master mode is shown in [Figure 6](#page-9-0). Note that SCL and SDA are held at the default levels if the bus is busy. This state machine generates the controls for the system clock counter.

The internal SDA signal output from this design is either the SDA signal generated by this state machine for START and STOP conditions or the data from the MBDR register when the CoolRunner I²C Controller is in transmit mode. Note that both SCL and SDA are open-collector outputs, therefore, they are only driven to a "0". When a "1" is to be output on these signals, the CoolRunner I²C Controller tri-states their output buffers. The logic in the design will set internal SDA and SCL signals to "1" or "0". These internal signals actually control the output enable of the tri-state buffer for these outputs.

In the IDLE state, SCL and SDA are tri-stated, allowing any Master to control the bus. Once a request has entered to generate a start condition, the CoolRunner l^2C Controller is in Master mode, and the bus is not busy, the state machine transitions to the START state.

The START state holds SCL High, but drives SDA Low to generate a START condition. The system clock counter is started and the state machine stays in this state until the required hold time is met. At this point, the next state is SCL_LOW_EDGE.

The SCL_LOW_EDGE state simply creates a falling edge on SCL and resets the system clock counter. On the next clock edge, the state machine moves to state SCL_LOW. In this state, the SCL line is held Low and the system clock counter begins counting. If the REP_START signal is asserted then the SDA signal will be set High, if the GEN_STOP signal is asserted, SDA will be set Low.

When the SCL low time has been reached, the state machine will transition to the IDLE state if arbitration has been lost and the byte transfer is complete to insure that SCL continues until the end of the transfer. Otherwise the next state is the SCL_HI_EDGE state.

The SCL_HI_EDGE state generates a rising edge on SCL by setting SCL to "1". Note, however, that the state machine will not transition to the SCL_HI state until the sampled SCL signal is also High to obey the clock synchronization protocol of the $I²C$ specification. Clock synchronization is performed using the wired-AND connection of the SCL line. The SCL line will be held Low by the device with the longest low period. Devices with shorter low periods enter a high wait state until all devices have released the SCL line and it goes High. Therefore the SCL_HI_EDGE state operates as the high wait state as the SCL clock is synchronized.

The SCL_HI state then starts the system clock counter to count the high time for the SCL signal. If a repeated START or a STOP condition has been requested, the state machine will transition to the appropriate state after half of the SCL high time so that the SDA line can transition as required. If neither of these conditions has been requested, then the state machine transitions to the SCL_LOW_EDGE state when the SCL high time has been achieved.

I 2C Interface Main State Machine

The main state machine for the $I²C$ Interface logic is shown in [Figure 7.](#page-11-0) This state machine is the same for both Slave and Master modes. In each state, the mode is checked to determine the proper output values and next state conditions. This allows for immediate switching from Master to Slave mode if arbitration is lost or if the CoolRunner I²C Controller is addressed as a Slave.

Figure 7: I2C Interface Main State Machine

This state machine utilizes and controls a counter that counts the I^2C bits that have been received. This count is stored in the signal BIT_CNT. This state machine also controls two shift registers, one that stores the I^2C header that has been received and another that stores the I^2C data that has been received or is to be transmitted.

Note: This state machine and the associated counters and shift registers are clocked on the falling edge of the incoming SCL clock. If the load is heavy on the SCL line, the rise time of the SCL signal may be very slow which can cause susceptibility to noise for some systems. This can be particularly dangerous on a clock signal. The designer is strongly encouraged to investigate the signal integrity of the SCL line and if necessary, use external buffers for the SCL signal.

When a START signal has been detected, the state machine transitions from the IDLE state to the HEADER state. The START signal detection circuit monitors the incoming SDA and SCL lines to detect the START condition. The START condition can be generated by the CoolRunner ²C controller or another Master - either source will transition the state machine to the HEADER state.

The HEADER state is the state where the I^2C header is transmitted on the I^2C bus from the MBDR register if in Master mode. In this state, the incoming 1^2C data is captured in the 1^2C Header shift register. In Master mode, the I^2C Header shift register will contain the data that was just transmitted by this design. When all eight bits of the I^2C header have been shifted in, the state machine transitions to the ACK_HEADER state.

In the ACK HEADER state, the CoolRunner I^2C design samples the SDA line if in Master mode to determine whether the addressed I^2C Slave acknowledged the header. If the addressed Slave does not acknowledge the header, the state machine will transition to the STOP state which signals the SCL/START/STOP generator to generate a STOP. If the addressed Slave has acknowledged the address, then the LSB of the $1²C$ header is used to determine if this is a transmit or receive operation and the state machine transitions to the appropriate state to either receive data, RCV_DATA, or to transmit data, XMIT_DATA.

The I^2C Header shift register is constantly compared with the I^2C address set in the MADR register. If these values match in the ACK_HEADER state, the CoolRunner I²C Controller has been addressed as a Slave and the mode immediately switches to Slave mode. The MAAS bit is then set in the MBSR status register. The SDA line will be driven as set in the TXAK register to acknowledge the header to the current 1^2C bus Master. Again, the LSB of the 1^2C header is used to determine the direction of the data transfer and the appropriate state is chosen.

The RCV DATA state shifts the incoming I^2C data into the I²C shift register for transfer to the µC. When the whole data byte has been received, the state machine transitions to the ACK_DATA state and the value of the TXAK register is output on the SDA line to acknowledge the data transfer. Note that in Master mode, the indication that the Slave has transmitted the required number of data bytes is to not acknowledge the last byte of data. The μ C must negate the TXAK bit to prohibit the ACK of the last data byte. The state machine exits this pair of states when a STOP condition has been detected, otherwise, the transition between these two states continues. In Master mode, the μ C requests a STOP condition by negating the MSTA bit.

The XMIT_DATA state shifts the data from the I^2C data register to the SDA line. When the entire byte has been output, the state machine transitions to the GET_ACK_DATA state. If an acknowledge is received, the state machine goes back to the XMIT_DATA to transmit the next byte of data. This pattern continues until either a STOP condition is detected, or an acknowledge is not received for a data byte.

Note that the data transfer states of this state machine assume that the μ C can keep up with the rate at which data is received or transmitted. If interrupts are enabled, an interrupt is generated at the completion of each byte transfer. The MCF bit is set as well providing the same indication. Data is transferred to/from the I^2C data register to/from the μC data register during the acknowledge cycle of the data transfer. The state machine does not wait for an indication that the µC has read the received data or that new data has been written for transmission. The designer should be aware of the effective data rate of the μ C to insure that this is not an issue.

The STOP state signals the SCL/START/STOP generator to generate a STOP condition if the CoolRunner 1^2C design is in Master mode. The next state is always the IDLE state and the 1^2C activity is completed.

Operational Flow Diagrams

The flow of the interface between the μ C and the CoolRunner I²C Controller is detailed in the following flow charts. These flow charts are meant to be a guide for utilizing the CoolRunner I^2C Controller in a μ C system.

Initialization

Before the CoolRunner I²C Controller can be utilized, certain bits and registers must be initialized as shown in [Figure 8.](#page-13-0)

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Master Transmit/Receive

The flow charts for transmitting data and receiving data while I^2C bus Master are shown in [Figure 9](#page-14-0) and [Figure 10](#page-15-0). The major difference between transmitting and receiving is the additional step in the Master Receive flow chart of turning off the acknowledge bit on the second to last data word.

Figure 9: Master Transmit Flow Chart

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Figure 10: Master Receive Flow Chart

Slave Flow Chart

The flow chart for receiving or transmitting data in Slave mode is shown in [Figure 11.](#page-16-0) If in receive mode, the first read from the MBDR register is a dummy read because data has not yet been received. Since the CoolRunner I²C Controller is in Slave mode, the only way to know that the transaction is complete is to check that the bus is busy and that the Addressed as Slave bit is still set.

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Figure 11: Slave/Transmitter Flow Chart

CoolRunner Implementation The design of the CoolRunner I^2C Controller was implemented in VHDL and synthesized using Exemplar Galileo V4.2.2. The EDIF file generated by Exemplar was imported into XPLA Professional for compilation and fitting into a CoolRunner CPLD. The design was targeted to a 3V, 128 macrocell, enhanced clocking CoolRunner CPLD in a 100-pin TQFP package (XCR3128A-7VQC). **Notes**:1. Since the system clock frequency was 1.832 MHz, the speed of the design was not critical and any speed grade part could have been used. 2. The I^2C SCL line is used as a clock input into the CoolRunner I^2C Controller. If there are many loads on the $I²C$ bus, the rise time of the SCL line can be quite slow. The CoolRunner

CPLD for this design requires a rise time no greater than 100 nS, therefore, the designer is strongly encouraged to examine the characteristics of the SCL signal in the $I²C$ system. If the rise time of the I^2C signals are greater than 100 ns, external buffers can be used between the actual I²C bus connections and the CoolRunner CPLD.

The XPLA Professional compiler and fitter properties were set as shown in [Figure 12.](#page-17-0) Pin assignments were not set on the CoolRunner I²C Controller design prior to compiling and fitting the design.

Figure 12: XPLA Professional Compiler/Fitter Properties

Due to the complexity of the CoolRunner $I²C$ design, the fan-in parameters for the compiler (synthesis) and fitter had to be adjusted as shown in [Figure 13.](#page-18-0) Adjusting the Synthesis fan-in instructs the compiler as to how many signals are allowed as fan-in to each equation. Reducing this number to 16 forced the compiler to create some internal nodes and therefore reduced the total fan-in required for each logic block. The Fitter fan-in was increased to utilize additional hardware routing resources to each logic block present in a CoolRunner CPLD. This menu can be opened by typing Ctrl-Alt-Z while in the XPLA Professional GUI.

Figure 13: Adjusting Compiler and Fitter Fan-in

Design Verification

The XPLA Professional software package outputs a timing VHDL model of the fitted design. This post-fit VHDL was simulated with the original VHDL test benches to insure design functionality. Also, the CoolRunner $I²C$ Controller design was simulated with an independently generated VHDL model of an $1²C$ Slave design to verify that the interface specifications were implemented correctly. Please note that all verification of this design has been done through simulations.

Revision History

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