

RCU2 testing and design

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Abstract

Contents

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	How to test	2
1.2	About this work	2
2	ALICE experiment	4
2.1	The Time Projection Chamber TPC	6
2.2	The TPC Front End electronics FEE	6
2.2.1	Front End Card FEC	7
2.2.2	Readout Control Unit RCU	8
2.2.3	RCU2	8
3	Radiation and Radiation effect on Semiconductor devices	11
3.1	Interaction of Radiation With Matter	11
3.2	Charge particle and their Interaction with Matters	12
3.2.1	Stopping Power	12
3.2.2	Specific Stopping Power	13
3.2.3	Linear Energy Transfer LET	14

3.3	Neutral particle and their Interaction with Matter	15
3.3.1	Neutrons	15
3.3.2	Photons	15
3.4	Radiation Effects on Semiconductor Devices	15
3.4.1	Single Events Effects SEE	16
3.4.2	Accumulative Effects	18
3.4.3	The TPC radiation environment	20
4	Preparations for Testing	21
4.1	Test methodology	21
4.2	The Tested Components	22
4.2.1	TPS51200	22
4.2.2	MIC69302WU	23
4.2.3	SN74AVCB164245	24
4.2.4	SN74AVC2T245	26
4.2.5	QS3VH257	26
4.2.6	SY89831U	27
4.2.7	ADN2814 and MAX3748	28
4.2.8	INA210	31
4.2.9	TLV3011	31
4.2.10	All the test boards	32
4.3	Software	34

4.4	SmartFusion2	34
4.4.1	SRAM test	35
4.4.2	Test of the Logical element	36
4.4.3	Single Event Latchup and PLL	37
4.4.4	Configuration and Monitoring	38
4.5	Equipment used for testing	39
4.5.1	SRAM detector	40
4.5.2	Scintillator counter	41
4.5.3	X-Y-positioning system	42
5	Irradiation test setup	43
5.1	Irradiation on Oslo Cyclotron Laboratory (OCL)	43
5.1.1	About OCL	43
5.1.2	Experiment setup and equipment	44
5.1.3	Preparation and characterization of the beam	46
5.1.4	What was tested at OCL	47
5.2	Irradiation at The Svedberg Laboratory (TSL)	48
5.2.1	About TSL	48
5.2.2	Beam setup procedure	48
5.2.3	What was tested at TSL	49
6	Calculations and Results from Radiation Tests	50

6.1	Calculation of dose	50
6.1.1	Definitions	51
6.1.2	Calculating dose using LET	51
6.1.3	Calculating dose using FLUKA simulations	53
6.1.4	Comparison of LET and FLUKA	54
6.2	Results from OCL	56
6.2.1	Calibration process	56
6.2.2	Test results PCB boards	58
6.2.3	Test results SF2	66
6.3	Results from TSL	70
6.3.1	SF2 radiation test	70
6.3.2	Other test at TSL	71
7	Conclusion	72
Appendix A Some Appendix		73
A.1	Beam setup data	73
A.2	Radiation results	73

CERN	European Council for Nuclear Research
ALICE	A Large Ion Collider Experiment
OCL	Oslo Cyclotron Laboratory
DUT	Device Under Test
RCU	Readout Control Unit
LHC	Large Hadron Collider
FEE	Front End Electronic
FEC	Front End Card
FPGA	Field Programmable Gate Array
SEE	Single Even Effect
SEU	Single Event Upset
SET	Single Event Transient
SEL	Single Event Latchup
IC	Integrated Circuit
PCB	Printed Circuit Board
LVDS	Low-Voltage Differential Signaling
DAQ	Data Acquisition
SF2	SmartFusion2
CML	Current-Mode Logic
TPC	Time Projection Chamber
LVPECL	Low Voltage Positive Emitter Coupled Logic
SRAM	Static Random Access Memory
TID	Total Ionizing Dose
ADC	Analog to Digital Converter
LET	Linear Energy Transfer
SoC	System On a Chip
CMOS	Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor
DCS	Control System board

SIU	Source Interface Unit
TSL	The Svedberg Laboratory
MSS	Microcontroller SubSystem
WSR	Windowed Shift Register

Chapter 1

Introduction

At CERN (European Council for Nuclear Research) in Switzerland there are being conducted experiment on fundamental structure of the universe. This is done by accelerating particles up to a energy of 4 TeV per proton, and then collide with other particles on the same energy level. The largest accelerator is called Large Hadron Collider (LHC), and is the largest particle accelerator ever built, installed in a 27 km long tunnel. Particles are accelerated in both direction in the LHC. When the particles has reached high enough energy, particles from opposite direction are made to crash at 4 experiment areas, one of these is called ALICE (A Large Ion Collider Experiment). A Large Ion Collider Experiment (ALICE) is built to study a matter known as Quark-gluons plasma [1], which will be generated under collisions of heavy ions. ALICE consist of several sub-detector with different functionality. Time Projection Chamber (TPC) is one of these, and is the main tracking detector placed closes to the beam-line, see section 2. Under a collision high particles will be generated, and will also pose a risk to the electronics used. It is therefore of highest importance to test everything that are planed to be used in the experiment for radiation.

One of the main boards used in the TPC detector is the Readout Control Unit (RCU). Now there has been decided that a new RCU shall be made, namely the RCU2. Because of the radiation level in the LHC, every active component used in the design of the RCU2 has to be tested for radiation to be sure that it won't fail when it is installed in the TPC detector.

1.1 How to test

The radiation tests done through this work is mainly test for accumulative effects. Accumulative effects are effects caused by the total radiation of a component, and are measured by the functionality and power consumption of the component, see section 3.4.2 for more information.

Previous research has been done on the radiation level in ALICE [2] and [15], and are used to decide if the tested components can be used or not.

Test for Single Event Effects (SEEs) like Single Event Upset (SEU), Single Event Transient (SET) and Single Event Latchup (SEL) on a Microsemi SmartFusion2 (SF2) System On a Chip (SoC) Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) have also been performed.

1.2 About this work

I started working on the RCU2-project in the autumn of 2013. Already before I started working, the design and the schematic layout for the RCU2 was basically finished. In the design process components that was already tested or are proven to be radiation hard was used when possible, but such components weren't always available. So my work in the project has been to do irradiation tests on components for the RCU2 design which didn't have any record of being radiation tested before.

The Integrated Circuits (ICs) which I have tested consist of: SoC FPGA, power regulators, bus transceivers, limiting amplifier, multiplexer/demultiplexer, buffer, comparator and Current Shunt Monitor. In order to investigate the radiation tolerance of these circuits, I had to first acquire good knowledge of radiation induced effect that may occur in such devices. I also needed to study these components to be able to find a reasonable test methodology. Further, I had to familiarize myself with CAD tools such as *expedition PCB* and *DXdesigner* and programming and developing environments like Libero and labVIEW in order to develop a sufficient hardware and software based test setup for the components.

The RCU2's main FPGA the microsemi SF2, has been the main focus through this work. That is because this component will be hard to replace, and a functional failure on this one, may set the whole RCU2 out of function. The radiation effects that was tested on for SF2 are, SRAM blocks for SEU, logic elements for SEU and SET, and in general SEL. These effects can be read about in section 3.4.1.

The irradiation test was executed in four periods, three times at OCL with a

proton beam of 28 MeV and 25 MeV where all components have been tested, and one time at TSL with a proton beam of 180 MeV, where only the SF2 SoC FPGA was tested. A SF2 starter-kit was used when designing test for this IC, and test code was written in VHDL and C. To be able to detect SEL the current on the FPGA had to be measured. Therefore a current measurement board was made for that task.

To summarize, this work has been consisting of practical work like making Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs), writing test code in VHDL, making labVIEW programs and making test codes in C. It has also consisting on getting the necessary knowledge of the components tested, learning to program in VHDL and C, as well as learning to use the tools and programs for the different tasks.

Chapter 2

ALICE experiment

Since 1954 physicists at European Council for Nuclear Research (CERN) have studied the nucleus and its structure to find the fundamental structure of the universe. CERN is the world largest research center for nuclear and particle physics, and has a total of 21 member state. One of the biggest attraction at CERN is the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), that is a circular particle accelerator placed in a 27 km long tunnel around 100 meter beneath ground level. This is the last accelerator in a chain of up to 7 (depending on which particle to accelerate), see picture 2.0.1, where the particles gradually accelerate to higher and higher energies, up to their maximum energy of 4 TeV and speed close to the speed of light. When particles has reached this energy level accelerated particles from opposite direction are made to collide inside 4 different experiment areas, where one of these is called A Large Ion Collider Experiment (ALICE), see figure 2.0.2.

The ALICE detector is a heavy ion detector. Its main purpose is to study a state of matter called quark-gluon plasma which will be generated when heavy ions collides. Under the collisions a temperature 100 000 times higher than the temperature of the sun is generated. There is then high enough energy to split the protons and neutrons, and achieve a plasma of unbound quarks and gluons, and that is called quark-gluon plasma.

All ordinary matter in today's universe is made up of atoms. Each atom contains a nucleus composed of protons and neutrons (except hydrogen, which has no neutrons), surrounded by a cloud of electrons. Protons and neutrons are in turn made of quarks bound together by other particles called gluons. No quark has ever been observed in isolation: the quarks, as well as the gluons, seem to be bound permanently together and confined inside composite particles, such as protons and neutrons.

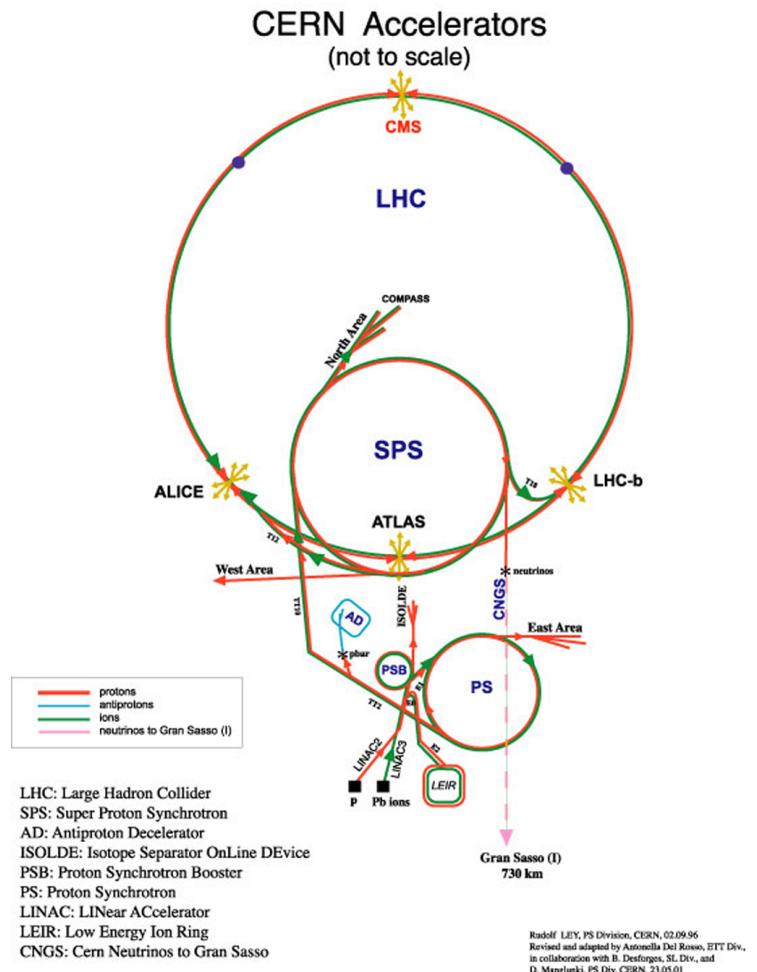


Figure 2.0.1: CERN accelerators [3]

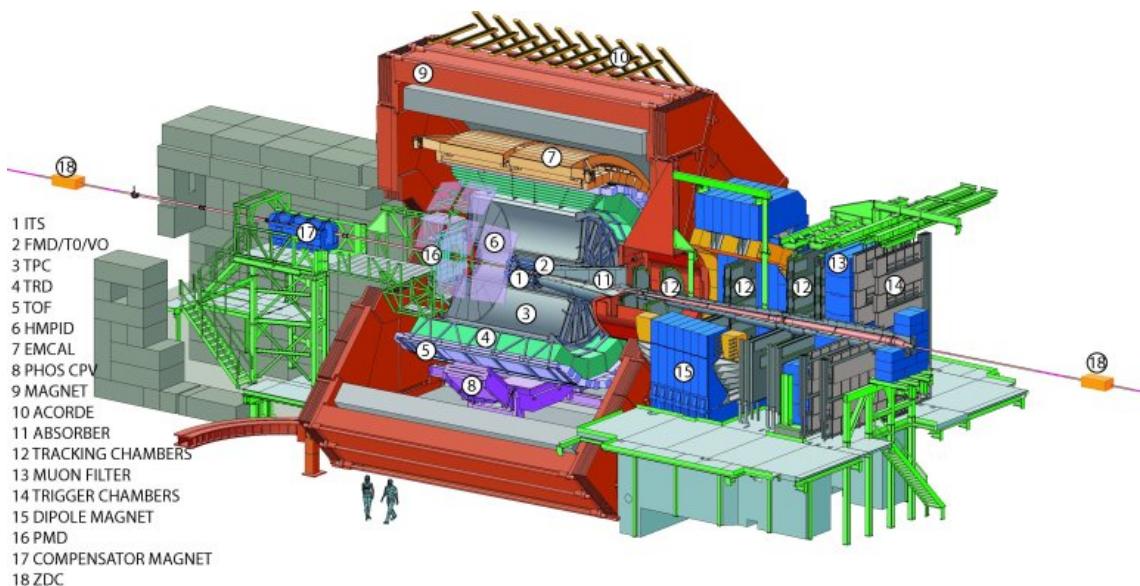


Figure 2.0.2: Layout of the ALICE experiment [4]

2.1 The Time Projection Chamber TPC

The ALICE detector comprises several sub-detectors, where one of these is the Time Projection Chamber (TPC). The TPC is the main tracking detector of ALICE. The function of TPC are tracking particles, measure the charged particles momentum and identification of particles. A drawing of the TPC can be seen in figure 2.1.1. The TPC detector has a cylindrical shape, with a inner radius of 85 cm and outer radius of 250 cm, and has an overall length of 510 cm. The detector is made up of a large cylindrical field cage, filled with 88 m^3 of 90% Ne gas and 10% CO_2 gas. A high voltage electrode is placed in the center of the detector, dividing the TPC into two drift regions, and making a electric field between electrode and the two end plates. When a charged particle is generated inside the detector, the gas inside the cage will be ionized. The free electrons and the ions will then drift in the electric field between the high voltage electrode and the two end plates. At the end-plates we find the Readout Chamber which are divided into 18 trapezoidal sectors, where each sector is again divided into the inner and outer chamber. In the readout chamber, there are a total of 560 000 readout pads.

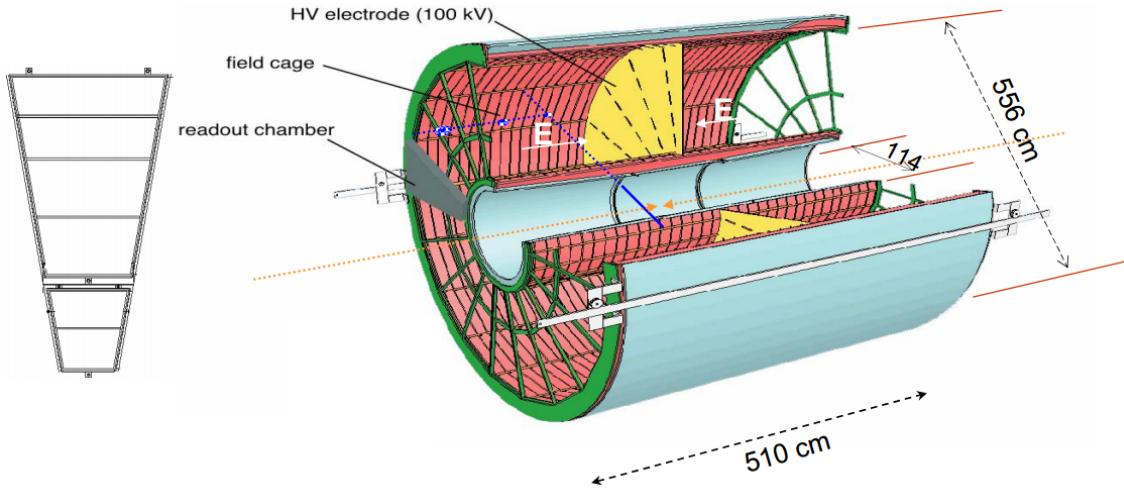


Figure 2.1.1: Layout of the TPC [4]

2.2 The TPC Front End electronics FEE

Each of the 36 sections (2×18) are also divided into 6 readout partitions, that is 2 in the inner chamber and 4 in the outer chamber. There are a total of 216 RCU connected to a total of 4356 Front End Card (FEC) which is connected to all of the 560 000 readout pads, and all together this sums up the Front End Electronic (FEE), see figure 2.2.1. In short, the task of the FEE is to read out the charge received at the readout pads, process it and send useful data to a computer.

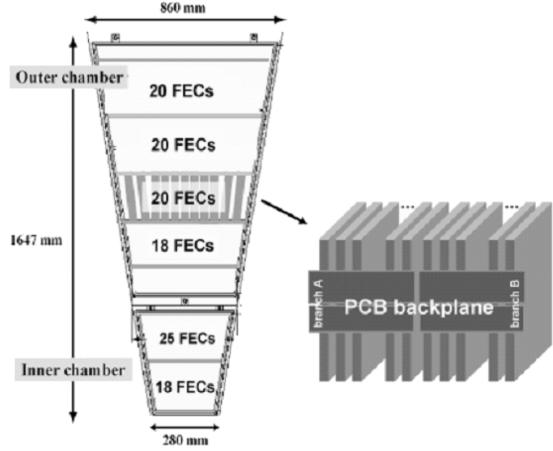


Figure 2.2.1: A TPC sector. Showing how FEC is placed [5]

2.2.1 Front End Card FEC

A current signal given by one of the pads, is sent into a Front End Card (FEC) which consist of three basic functional units, see block diagram in figure 2.2.2. The first unit is a charge sensitive amplifier/shaper called PASA, the second unit is a 10-bit 10 MHz low-power Analog to Digital Converter (ADC). The last unit is a digital circuit that perform the baseline subtraction, tail cancellation, zero-suppression¹, formatting and buffering. The ADC and the digital unit together constitute the so called ALTRO chip. There are 16 PASA chips and 16 ALTRO chips on the FEC, the PASA chip is connected to 16 readout pads each, which gives a total of 128 readout pads for each FEC.

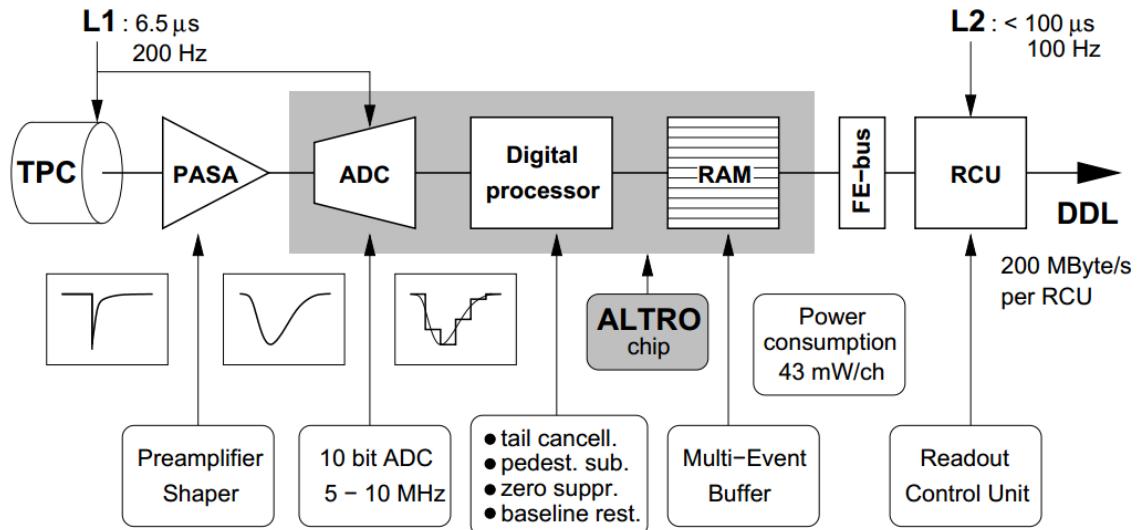


Figure 2.2.2: Block diagram of the Front End Card [4]

¹Zero Compressions means that signal bellow a given threshold will be filtered away.

2.2.2 Readout Control Unit RCU

One Readout Control Unit (RCU) is connected to one row of FECs (up to 25 pieces), through a backplane², see figure 2.2.1. The RCU task is to control all of the Front End Electronic (FEE) all the way from the readout pads through the FECs, and out to a Data Acquisition (DAQ) System. The RCU consist of three separated boards which are the Motherboard board, the Control System board (DCS) board and the Source Interface Unit (SIU) board. Most of the RCU functions is controlled by the Xilinx Virtex-II Pro FPGA. This FPGA are controlling the readout process of the TPC detector. It is also responsible for moving data from the FECs to the Source Interface Unit (SIU) board, where data is transmitted via a optical link to the Data Acquisition system, where data is stored and is made accessible for analysis.

The Xilinx Virtex-II Pro is a Static Random Access Memory (SRAM) based FPGA. SRAM cells are vulnerable for Single Event Upsets (SEUs), see section 3.4.1. Therefore a flash based FPGA, Actel ProASIC is used to monitor the SRAM memory and reprogram/reconfigure if an error occurs.

The DCS board is basically an embedded computer running Linux. This board is connected through a Ethernet link to a computer on the outside of the ALICE detector. Through it, we are even able to upgrade and reprogram the FPGAs of the RCU. So even though the hardware is inaccessible after it has been mounted in the TPC, the SIUs boards gives some kind of flexibility. In addition, it has an optical interface, receiving the clock and trigger information from the Timing, Trigger and Control system, also called TTC.

2.2.3 RCU2

Why upgrade RCU

LHC is currently shut down for maintenance and preparation for even higher energies. This period, called Long Shutdown 1 (LS1), lasts until end of 2014. The present TPC readout electronics will be a limiting factor with the foreseen readout rate for the next run period (run2). The bus between RCU and FECs is not able to read all data for high occupancy events, like Pb-Pb collisions. In addition stability issues related to SEU on the SRAM based FPGA have been observed with the present setup. 9 % of the run time had to be stopped because of errors in the TPC readout electronics.

²A backplane is a PCB board, that connects Front End Cards to a Readout Control Unit. This is used instead of cables to get a more stability, and to keep things in place.

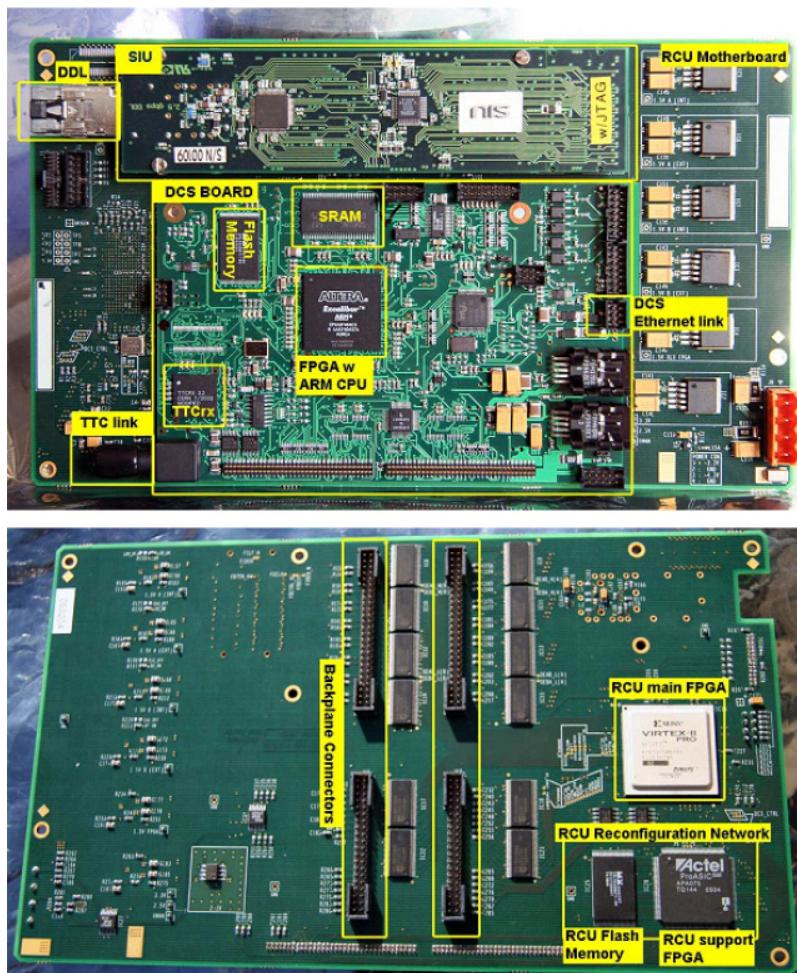


Figure 2.2.3: The Readout Control Unit top side and bottom side [5]

The new Readout Control Unit, the RCU2

The main challenge with making the RCU2 was to develop a solution that gives the needed performance improvement, and at the same time was feasible within the limited time-frame. Therefore some of the old infrastructure has to be reused, like cables for Ethernet, Trigger and power and the cooling envelops.

The main difference between the RCU2 and RCU1 is that the main FPGA, the Xilinx Virtex-II Pro, has been replaced by a Microsemi SmartFusion2 (SF2) System On a Chip (SoC) FPGA M2S050-FG896. This is a flash-based³ FPGA which has SEU immune configuration memory, as well as several other radiation tolerance measures implemented [6]. It also comes with a Microcontroller Subsystem which is based on a hardcore ARM Cortex-M3 microcontroller. On Microcontroller Subsystem we are able to build a Linux system, which replace the functionality of the Control System board (DCS)-card. The ProASIC was also not need as a reconfiguration FPGA anymore, but will still be used as a radiation monitor, this part of the RCU2 is now called RadMon, and consist of a ProASIC and SRAM chips. Another issue encountered in the design was that the TTCrx chip that was used for handling the clock and trigger signal on RCU1 was out of stuck and obsolete. This is being replaced by a optical receiver and a limiting amplifier. The limiting amplifier has been tested in this thesis, see section 4.2.7.

One of the limits with the old setup was that the bus between RCU and FECs was to slow. This was fixed by dividing the readout into 4 sections instead of 2, which effectively doubled the readout speed. Therefore all of the backplanes had to be redesigned and replaced.

³Flash-based FPGA means that configuration registers is saved in flash memory cells. Compared to SRAM-based FPGA where configuration is saved in SRAM cells, flash-based FPGA is much more tolerant against radiation.

Chapter 3

Radiation and Radiation effect on Semiconductor devices

Radiation and radiation effects are a known challenge when designing electronics which are going to be used at CERN. There is therefore of highest importance to know about these effect, how they effect the electronics, how much damage they can cause and how we can protect and prevent the radiation effect to do damage.

This chapter is based on references [7], [8], [9], [10] and [11] if not otherwise stated.

3.1 Interaction of Radiation With Matter

Radiation is defined as a process which energy in the form of energetic particles or electromagnetic waves is transmitted through a medium or space. Radiation is normally divided into two categories, that is *Charged radiation* and *Neutral radiation*.

Charged radiation consist of charged particles like protons(p), alpha(α) and beta(β) particles and heavier ions. Neutral radiation consist of neutral particles like neutrons(n) and photons from gamma(γ) and X-rays. Particles which interact with a material will deposit some or all of its energy in the interaction, and can either interact with atoms, electrons, nucleus or the particles inside a nuclei. How much energy is deposited and which of these a particle will interact with is depended on the energy, mass, the charge of the particle and what material it interacts with. One of the main difference between charged particle and neutral particle is that charged particles will be effected by the Coulomb force, that is the attraction or repulsion of

particles or objects because of their electric charge. In the next sections we will look more closely on how a charged particle and neutral particle interact with matters.

3.2 Charge particle and their Interaction with Matters

When a charged particle with high speed is passing through a material it will experience multiple elastic and inelastic collisions with the atoms in the material, resulting in slowing down or stopping the particle. When a particle collide with a atom there are several process that can contribute to the loss of energy. They are:

- Inelastic scattering towards atomic electrons
 - Excitation and ionization
- Elastic scattering towards atomic electrons
 - Ramsauer Effect
- Inelastic scattering towards Nuclei
 - Nuclear reaction
- Elastic scattering towards Nuclei
 - Rutherford/Nuclear scattering
- Other processes
 - Bremsstrahlung and Cherenkov radiation

Which of these that contributes to most of the loss of energy is depended on the initial energy, velocity, mass and charge of the particle as well as the properties of the material it collides with. For example, for heavy charge particles(protons or heavier ions), inelastic collisions with the atomic electrons in a material will contribute to most to the energy loss of the particle. A common expression for these processes is called "stopping power".

3.2.1 Stopping Power

If we have a particle with a given energy passing into to a material, where dE is the mean energy that the particle losses by traveling through a path segment, dx ,

of the material. Then $-\frac{dE}{dx}$ is the stopping power or also called the "rate" of energy loss for the particle. The stopping power depends on the type and energy of the radiation and on the properties of the material it passes.

The classical expression that describe the stopping power is the *Bethe Bloch formula*, and is written as you can see in equation 3.1.

$$S = -\frac{dE}{dx} = \frac{n_A Z_A Z^2 e^4}{4\pi\epsilon_0 m_e V^2} \left[\ln\left(\frac{2m_e v^2}{I}\right) - \ln\left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right) - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right] \quad (3.1)$$

n_A	Number of atoms per unit volume
Z_A	Average atomic number of the material
Z	Atomic number of particle
e	Electron charge
c	Speed of light
ϵ_0	Vacuum Permittivity
m_e	Electron rest mass
v	Particle velocity
I	Effective material ionization potential

3.2.2 Specific Stopping Power

Another way of looking at stopping power, is by looking at energy loss as function of mass per area 3.2. Here $\xi = \rho x$ and ρ is the density of the material. The extension for specific stopping power is normally given as $[\frac{\text{MeVcm}^2}{\text{g}}]$

$$S = -\frac{dE}{d\xi} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dE}{dx} \quad (3.2)$$

From this formula we see that if we are considering two different particles with the same velocity, the only factor that changes is Z^2 . Therefore heavier particles will experience larger energy loss in a material then lighter ones. In figure 3.2.1 we can see specific energy loss for different particles in air. We can see that the value of $\frac{dE}{dx}$ for different types of particles approaches a near-constant broad minimum value at energies above several hundred MeV, where their velocity approaches the velocity of light.

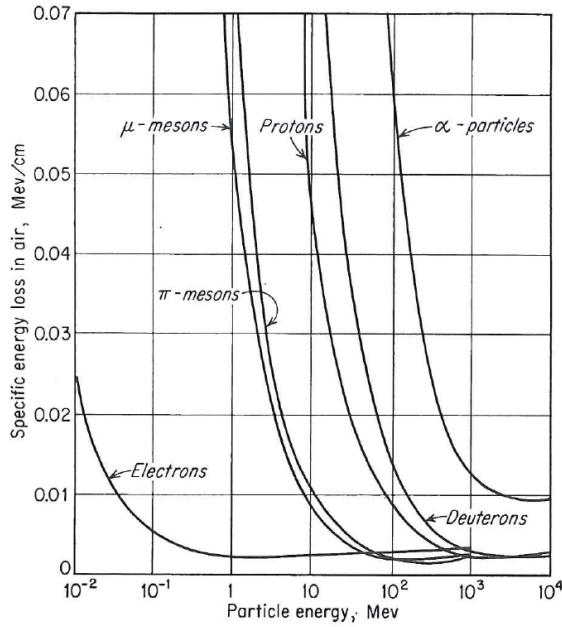


Figure 3.2.1: Variation of the specific energy loss in air versus energy of the charge particles shown

At low particles energies, where charge exchange between the particles and absorber becomes important, the Bethe Bloch formula begins to fail. That is because the positively charged particles will then tend to pick up electrons from the absorber, which effectively reduce its charge and consequently linear energy loss, and will at the end become a neutral atom.

3.2.3 Linear Energy Transfer LET

Linear Energy Transfer (LET) is closely related to stopping power of a particle, but instead of focusing on energy loss of the particle, LET focuses on the energy that is deposited in a local volume. For low energies, LET is often said to be equal to the stopping power, even though the particle energy that turn into photons may escape the local area. For higher energies, small particles like ionized electrons can escape the local volume. The local volume is defined by yourself, and can be everything from part of a molecule to a hole organ. One alternate definition of LET can be seen in equation 3.3

$$L_{\Delta} = \left(-\frac{dE}{dx} \right)_{\Delta} \quad (3.3)$$

where Δ is the upper energy limit for the secondary electrons included in the calculations. If Δ is set to ∞ , all secondary electrons are included in the calculations,

making LET the same as stopping power.

3.3 Neutral particle and their Interaction with Matter

3.3.1 Neutrons

Neutrons are subatomic structure that are present in most atomic nuclei. Neutrons carry no charge and can therefore not interact with matter by means of the coulomb force, which dominates the energy loss mechanisms for charged particles. Neutrons can also penetrate several centimeters into matters without any type of interactions, making neutrons hard to detect. When neutrons undergo a interaction, it is with the nucleus of the absorbing material. This can result in total disappearance of the neutron resulting in one or more secondary radiations, or change of the direction of the neutron. The secondary process of neutrons can largely ionizing.

3.3.2 Photons

Photons may appear from gamma rays or X-rays. Photons has as neutrons no charge, and are therefore not effected by the coulomb force, additionally photons has no rest mass and travel in constant speed of light. The energy of a photon is given in the formula $E = hf$ where f is the frequency of the particle and h is the Planck's constant. There are three main process where a photon may react with matters, they are:

- Photo electric effects
- Compton scattering
- Pair production

3.4 Radiation Effects on Semiconductor Devices

Semiconductor devices planned to used in a radiation environment are likely to be effected by the radiation in some way. If not taking properly into account, the radiation effects may damage or even destroy the electronics. Therefore

there is of highest importance to know about how irradiation can effect the semiconductor devices. We normally divide radiation effects in two groups that is *Singel Events effects* and *Accumulative Effects*.

3.4.1 Single Events Effects SEE

Single Event Effects are due to the energy deposited by one single particle in the electronic device. Therefore, they can happen in an moment, and their probability is expressed in terms of cross-section [12]. This effects has been an increasing problem as the manufacture process are getting smaller and smaller, making circuits more weak for radiation. In the next sections we will look into three SEEs, that is Single Event Latchup (SEL), Single Event Transient (SET) and Single Event Upset (SEU).

Single Event Latchup SEL

A Single Event Latchup (SEL) is phenomena where a low resistance path between power and ground is formed, normally resulting in burned traces, which means reduced performance or destruction of the chip. Therefore it is of highest importance to know about this effect, to know how to counter or to protect from latches in design phase. In a Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) process a SEL can occur when a ionized particle penetrate the silicon in a transistor causing a charge to turn ON the parasitic bipolar transistors formed by the substrate, well, and the diffusion. This will result in a low resistance path between power and ground, and a high current will flow. If a SEL has occurred, power to the chip needs to be turned off immediately, before the high current flowing from power to ground will burn interconnections and permanently set the chip out of function.

How a latchup may occur can be understood by looking at a CMOS inverter, see figure 3.4.1. From figure 3.4.1(a) you can see a resistor formed in the well and substrate, and a parasitic bipolar npn-transistor and pnp-transistor formed inside the inverter. An equivalent circuit can be seen in figure 3.4.1(b). Originally both of the bipolar transistors are turned off, and no current flows through the transistors. A latchup can be triggered if a ionizing particle flows into the substrate creating a transient current that can set V_{sub} high, causing npn-transistor to turn ON. If the npn-transistor turns ON, then current will flow trough R_{well} causing V_{well} to go low, and setting pnp-transistor ON. When the pnp-transistor turns ON current will flow through R_{sub} , causing V_{sub} to rise, and we have created a positive feedback, causing high current to flow from power to ground.

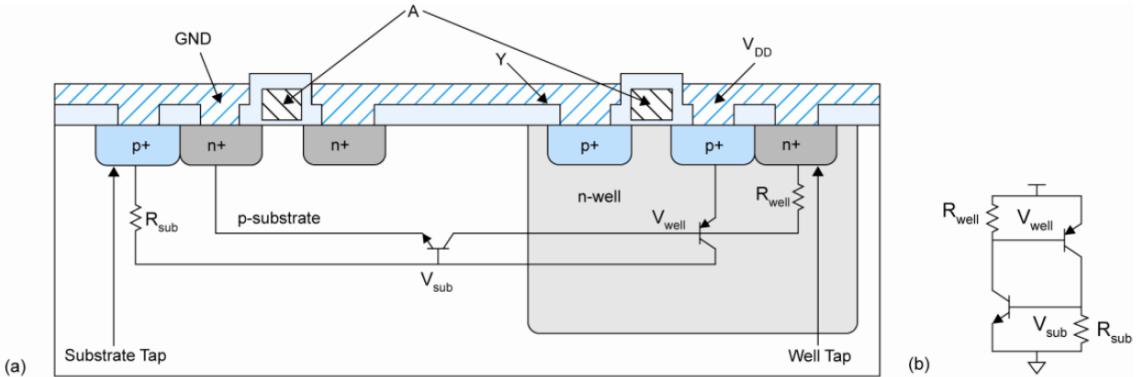


Figure 3.4.1: (a) A CMOS inverter with parasitic bipolar transistors (b) A model of the parasitic circuit

Single Event Transient SET

Single Event Transient (SET) is a transient pulse of current in a logical path of a circuit. A SET is caused by an ionizing particle leaving a transient current close or on a sensitive circuit node. This current can cause a change of value on that node for a short time, and if this value is clocked in on a register, we will have an unwanted change of value and that is called a SEU. If this value is not clocked out or saved in some way, the current peak will just flat out, and nothing will happen. A way to detect SET could be to make a shift register made up of a known number of register and a known input data. By checking the output and compare with the known value, you can detect if a SET has occurred.

Single Event Upset SEU

Single Event Upset (SEU) is change of state in a logical element, caused by radiation. This phenomena can often be seen in memory cells or registers, where data is stored. A SEU is a "Soft error", which means that it is a non-destructive type of error. By resetting or overwriting after an SEU has occurred, the error will disappear.

For better understanding of SEU we can look at a six transistor SRAM cell, see figure 3.4.2. If we say that $Q = '0'$ and $Q_b = '1'$, so there is a value '0' written to the cell. Then a high energetic neutron strikes into the drain of transistor D_2 and hits a silicon atom. This cause shattering of the atom into charged fragments (ions) that travels through the substrate. These ions leaves a trail of electron-hole pairs, see figure 3.4.3(a). When the resultant ionization track traverses or comes close to the depletion region, carriers (electrons) are rapidly collected by the electric field creating a large current transient (SET) at that node, causing voltage drop at the node Q_b . If this voltage drop is high enough, transistor P1 will be opened up, and transistor D1 will be closed, causing Q to go towards '1' which again causing P2 to

close and D2 to open up causes Q_b to be discharged through D2, and set to '0'. Then the SRAM cell has changed value from '0' to '1', and we have a SEU.

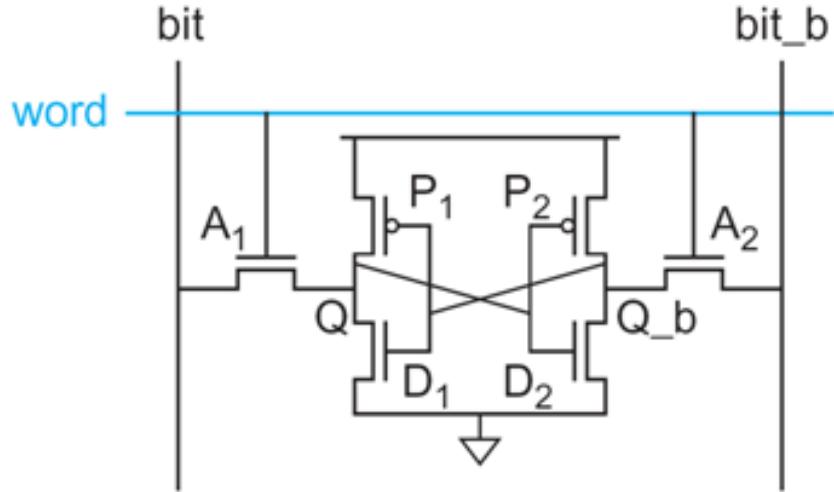


Figure 3.4.2: Six transistor SRAM Cell



Figure 3.4.3: (a) Electron hole pairs generated (b) Carrier are drawn towards the depletion region causing a current jump (c) Additional charge is collected on a more long time scale (hundreds of nanoseconds) [10]

3.4.2 Accumulative Effects

Accumulative effects are energy deposition caused by radiation for the whole lifespan of a circuit [12] and [13]. Accumulative effects are measured by the functionality of a device, and power consumption. Some circuits are weak for accumulative effects, and will stop working only after a small dose of radiation, but others device may not even have any effect after a severe dose of radiation. When a chip stops working, we say that it has reached its tolerance level. When we talk about accumulative effects we normally divide into two groups, that is displacement damage, which is a non-ionizing effect, and Total Ionizing Dose (TID) which is a ionizing effect.

Total Ionization Dose TID

Total Ionizing Dose (TID) is measurement of the dose, that is the energy, deposited in a circuit by radiation in the form of ionization energy. The unit used are Gray (Gy) or rad. The relation between those two can be seen in equation 3.4.

$$1\text{Gy} = 100\text{rad} \quad (3.4)$$

The heart of TID effects is the energy deposition in the silicon dioxide. When ionizing particles penetrates into a transistor, electron-hole pairs will be created. Most of the pairs will recombine shortly after they are generated, but some do not completely recombine because of the electric field. Electrons, with high mobility, can easily leave the oxide, but holes have lower mobility and can be trapped in their point of generation in the oxide. The trapped holes cause a negative threshold voltage shift in the MOS transistor, and if enough holes are trapped, it can result in a transistor which is permanently ON. This phenomena can be seen in figure 3.4.4.

A effect of the total ionized dose in a CMOS circuits, could be increase in current. This could be due to threshold change in the transistors. For example if look at an inverter. A inverter consist of only a PMOS and a NMOS, if threshold decreases, time where both transistors are on will increase, leading to increase of current. A other reason for current increase are current leakage between drain and source because of the trapped holes.

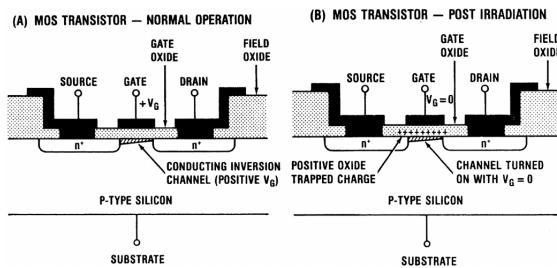


Figure 3.4.4: Layout of a MOS transistor. (A) shows normal operation and (B) shows the transistor after irradiation.

Displacement Damage

Displacement Damage is a non-ionizing effect mostly induced by low energetic particles colliding with and breaking atoms out of the initial lattice structure of a material. This can affect the functionality of the device. CMOS circuits are normally considered immune to this effect. Displacement damage is not measured in any unit, but it is expressed in terms of the particle fluence, in particles/cm².

3.4.3 The TPC radiation environment

The radiation in the LHC is dominated by high energetic neutrons and protons, mostly neutrons with a estimated fluence of $(0.6 - 1.1) \times 10^{11}$ *neutrons/cm²*. Therefore it would be preferable to test our electronics with a neutron beam, but since there are few labs who can produce a neutron beam compared to proton beam most of the electronics is only tested at OCL with a proton beam. There has been done experiment that compares SEU induced by neutrons and protons [14], and the result shows that it is possible to use a proton beam instead of proton beam with small deviations. By comparing a Proton beam with a neutron beam of 21MeV we see that we get 10-25% less SEU cross section for a proton beam compared to a neutron beam. If we increase the energy to 88MeV then we get close to none deviations.

The dose that we could expect for a 10 year period in the ALICE detector is estimated to be approximately 0.6 kRad from Pb-Pb collisions that will be run 1 month a year and a little higher for p-p collisions that will be run 10 months a year [15] and [5]. Therefore we could expect a dose of 1-2 kRad during the time it will be used at CERN.

Chapter 4

Preparations for Testing

Testing Integrated Circuits (ICs) is a thing that has been done before when it comes to the design of electronics that are going to be installed in the LHC at CERN. Much of the work presented in this thesis is based on experience from previous thesis [16] [5] [17] [18].

4.1 Test methodology

The IC that was tested through this thesis are: TPS51200, MIC69302WU, SN74AVCB164245, SN74AVC2T245, QS3VH257, SY89831, ADN2814, MAX3748, INA210, TLV3011 and SF2 M2S050-FG896. What each of these are, and how these was tested will be discussed in the following sections.

For each of the different IC, except SF2, a simple Printed Circuit Board (PCB) was made as a platform to be able to send in input data and take out the outputs. one or two connectors was placed on the different PCBs and connected to USB-DAQ (Data Acquisition) boards from National Instruments. These gave us the possibility to control the inputs of each IC and monitor the outputs. A small resistor was placed in series with the power input. By measuring volage drop over this resistor we could calculate the current using *Ohms law* ($I = U/R$).

We wanted to have two PCB for each of the IC that were going to be tested. That was to have more test data on each IC, and as a precaution if one of the boards wouldn't work.

There may be some difference between two boards made for the same chip, that is because the first board made may have some modification on the PCB, to make

it work. When the second board was made, error or mis functions was fixed in the design before a new board was made. The second version was tested first, in case we didn't have time to test both of the versions. Later in this thesis the second boards that were made are marked with ₁ and the first boards were marked with ₂. Two of the ICs (ADN2814 and MAX3748) was only made one version of, since we didn't have any spare IC at the time to make a new PCB. All of the test PCBs had a mark on the back indicating the center of the IC, this was used to pinpoint the center during the tests.

To supply and measure everything on the test boards, Data Acquisition (DAQ) devices from National Instruments were used. The DAQ devices we used are called USB-6009, USB-6008 and USB-6501. USB-6009 was used as the main one, and the other were used when needed more digital or analog inputs or outputs. USB-6009 has 8 single-ended analog input (AI) channels, 2 analog output (AO) channels and 12 digital input/output (DIO) channels, and also a 2.5 V reference and 5.0 V output. The analog outputs has a limit of 5 mA, but some of the ICs that were tested required more than that. For these cases the 5 V output, that can deliver current up to 200 mA, and a voltage regulator to 3.3 V was used, see section 4.2.2. More information on the DAQs can be seen in the reference [19].

4.2 The Tested Components

4.2.1 TPS51200

This is a adjustable power regulator from Texas Instruments. It is special designed for DDR RAMs, it can be used for DDR, DDR2, DDR3 and DDR4 applications. On the RCU2, this is going to be used to supply a DDR3 RAM with 0.75 V.

In figure 4.2.1 you can see a schematic layout of the PCB for TPS51200. The PCB was designed after a recommended setup for DDR3 application from the datasheet [20]. Input voltage was set to 3.3 V. Voltage over resistor R1 (See figure 4.2.1) was measured and used to calculate current consumption. Output voltage was also monitored.

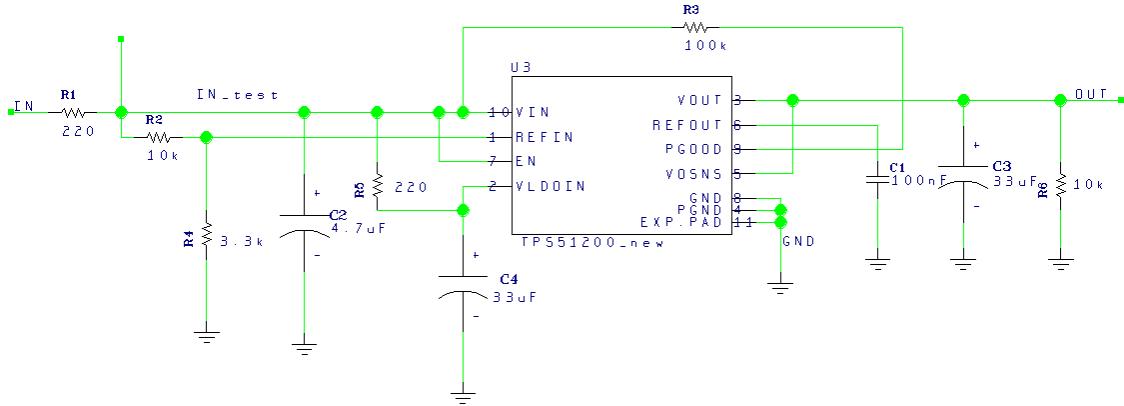


Figure 4.2.1: Schematic for the TPS51200 test board

4.2.2 MIC69302WU

This is a ultra low dropout¹ adjustable power regulator from Micrel Incorporation. It is in a family of high current, low voltage regulators, and can deliver a current of up to 3 A. On the RCU2 this is going to be used to regulate a 3.3 V signal to 1.2 V and power everything that requires 1.2 V on the board.

This is a adjustable regulator, which means that by changing R1 and R2(see figure 4.2.2) you can adjust the output voltage, see equation 4.1. For the two test boards that was made we used a input voltage of 3.3 V. Voltage over resistor R?(See figure 4.2.2) was measured and used to calculate current consumption. Output voltage was also monitored. We used 10 kΩ for both R1 and R2 which gave us 1 V on the output.

A third PCB was made with this IC. This was used to supply 3.3V to the PCB that requires more than 5 mA which is the maximum the analog outputs the DAQ form National Instruments can deliver. This was design with resistor values of $R? = 20 \Omega$, $R1 = 5.6k \Omega$ and $R2 = 1k \Omega$, which gives us 3.3 V output. This PCB was used to supply SY89831U, ADN2814 and MAX3748

$$V_{out} = 0.5 \times \left(\frac{R1}{R2} + 1 \right) \quad (4.1)$$

¹Low dropout means that voltage on the output can be close up to the input. For MIC69302WU low dropout means that $V_{IN} - V_{OUT}$ can be as low as 500 mV

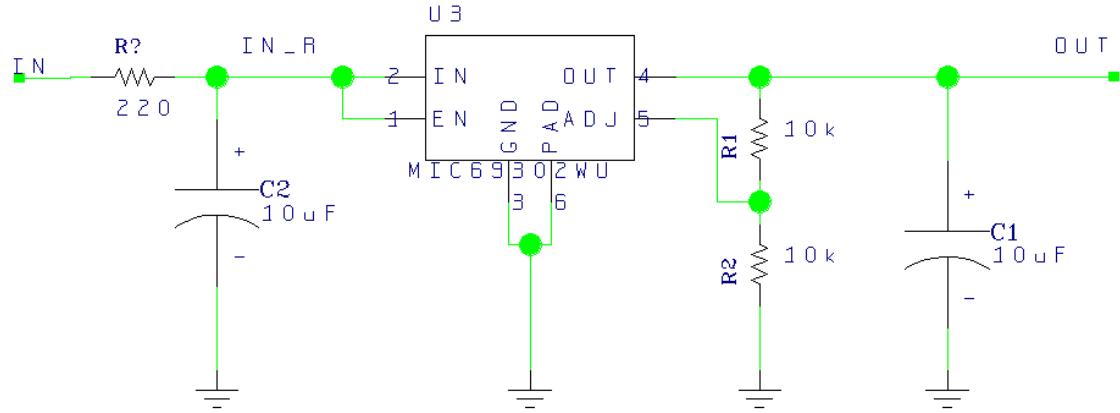


Figure 4.2.2: Schematic for the MIC69302WU test board

4.2.3 SN74AVCB164245

This is a 16-bit noninverting bus transceiver, with configurable voltage. Used for level shifting for digital signals. An application example could be to convert a 16-bit digital signal of 1.5 V to a 16-bit signal of 3.3 V. Direction of the signal is decided by DIR1 and DIR2. The input and output high value can be set to anything between 1.4 and 3.6 V, the low value is set to be 0 V.

For the test board the supply voltages(VCCA and VCCB, see figure 4.2.3) was both set to 3.3 V to make it more simple to test. Voltage over resistor R1 (See figure 4.2.3) was measured and used to calculate current consumption. To make sure that the circuit didn't drag current through the inputs on the chip we used a pMOS transistor that was connected as seen in figure 4.2.3. This made the current for the inputs come from the supply pin, and not from the digital signal IN. The outputs was measured digitally.

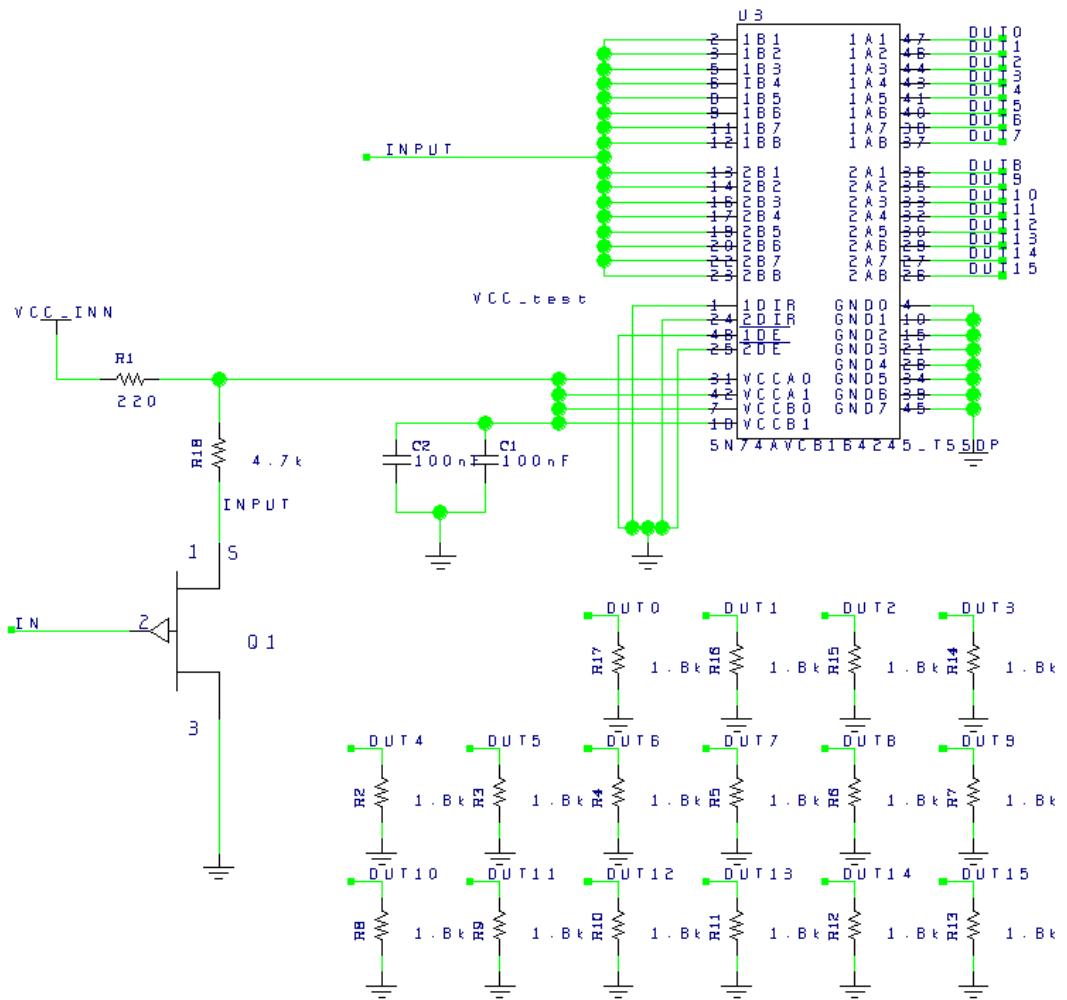


Figure 4.2.3: Schematic for the SN74AVCB164245 test board

4.2.4 SN74AVC2T245

This is a dual-bit noninverting bus transceiver, with configurable voltage. It has the same function as SN74AVCB164245, but this only has two inputs. The input and output high value can be set to anything between 1.4 and 3.6 V, the low value is set to be 0 V. Direction of the signal is decided by DIR1 and DIR2

As for SN74AVCB164245 a 3.3 V supply was used for both VCCA and VCCB, see figure 4.2.4. Voltage over resistor R1(See figure 4.2.4) was measured and used to calculate current consumption. The output signals was monitored digitally.

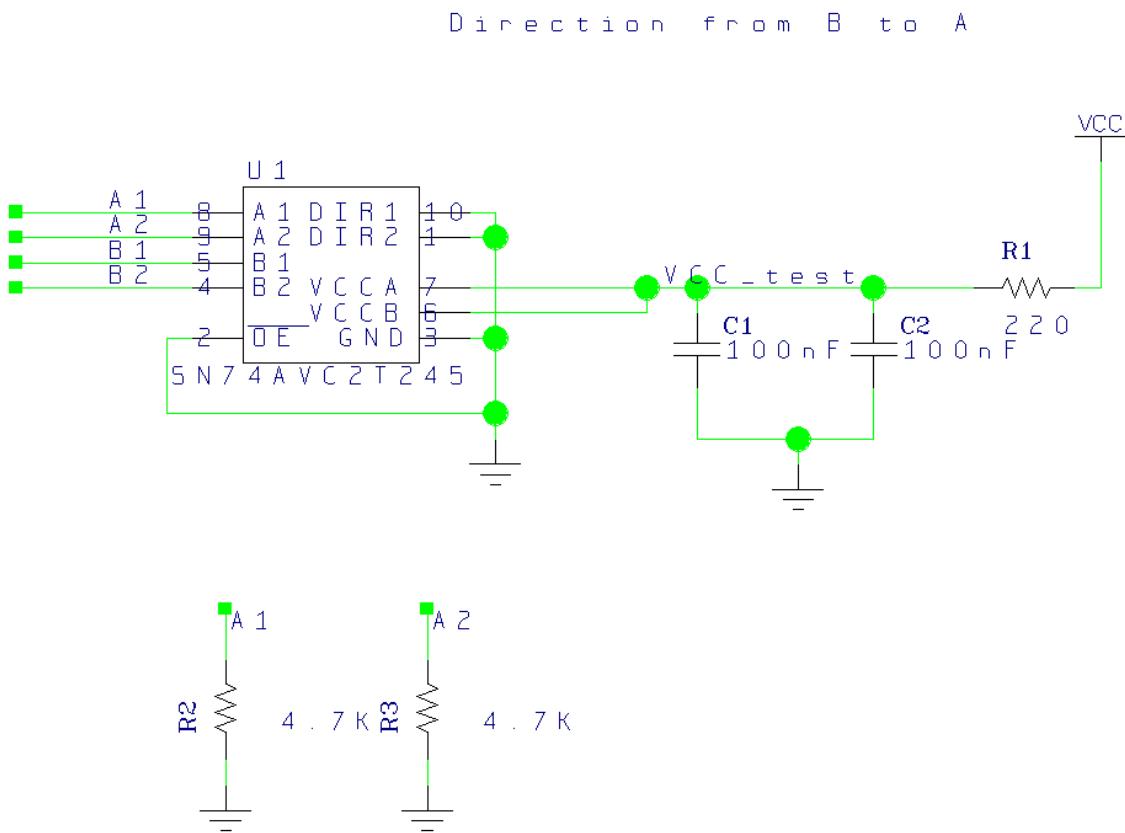


Figure 4.2.4: Schematic for the SN74AVC2T245 test board

4.2.5 QS3VH257

This IC consist of four 2 to 1 multiplexer/demultiplexer. It has high bandwidth, up to 500 Mhz, low ON resistance and high OFF resistance.

Supply voltage was set to 3.3 V. Voltage over resistor R1(See figure 4.2.4) was measured and used to calculate current consumption. For the Select input a analog

output signal was used. The input signals was set digitally, and the outputs was measured digitally.

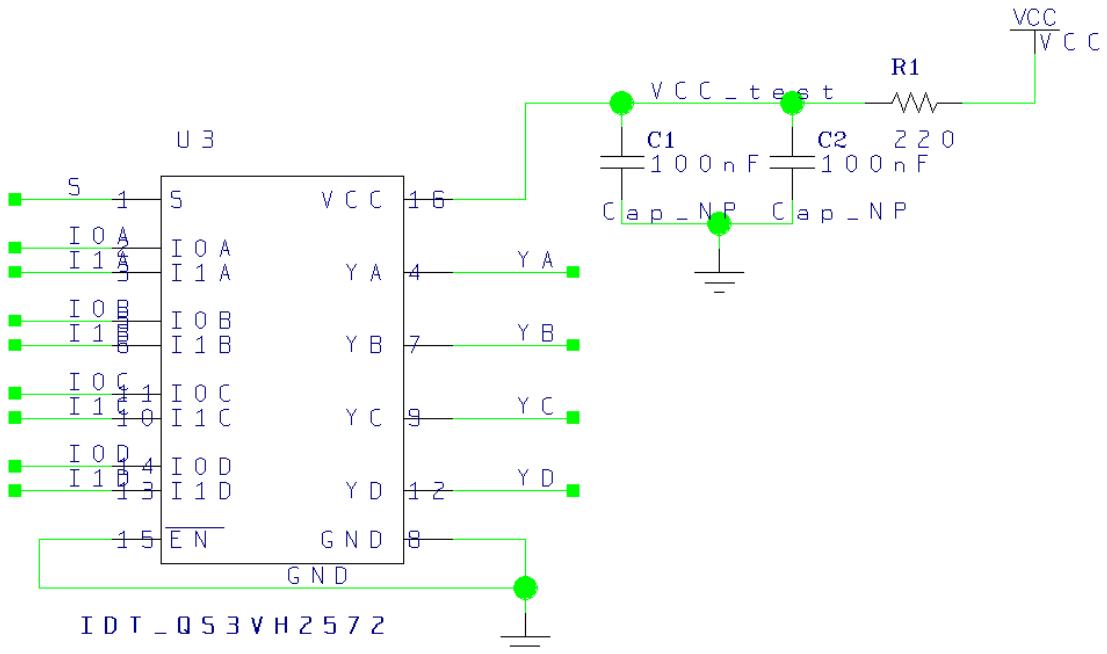


Figure 4.2.5: Schematic for the QS3VH257 test board

4.2.6 SY89831U

This is a high speed, 2GHz differential Low Voltage Positive Emitter Coupled Logic (LVPECL) 1 to 4 fanout buffer optimized for ultra-low skew applications.

The input signal to this IC is differential. The DAQ device we were using doesn't have a differential output signal, so here we had to use a little trick to make it work. We used two single-ended output signal that was set to the opposite of the other, and every 100 ms the values switch, so that when IN+ was 3.3 V IN- was 0 V, and when IN+ was 0 V IN- was 3.3 V. The outputs was measured by the analog inputs of DAQ USB-6501.

This IC requires a large current typically around 60 mA, and we could therefore not use the analog outputs. So we had to use the modified version of the MIC69302WU PCB, that will supply us with a 3.3 V signal up to a current of 200 mA. Current consumption was measured over the input resistor of the MIC69302WU PCB.

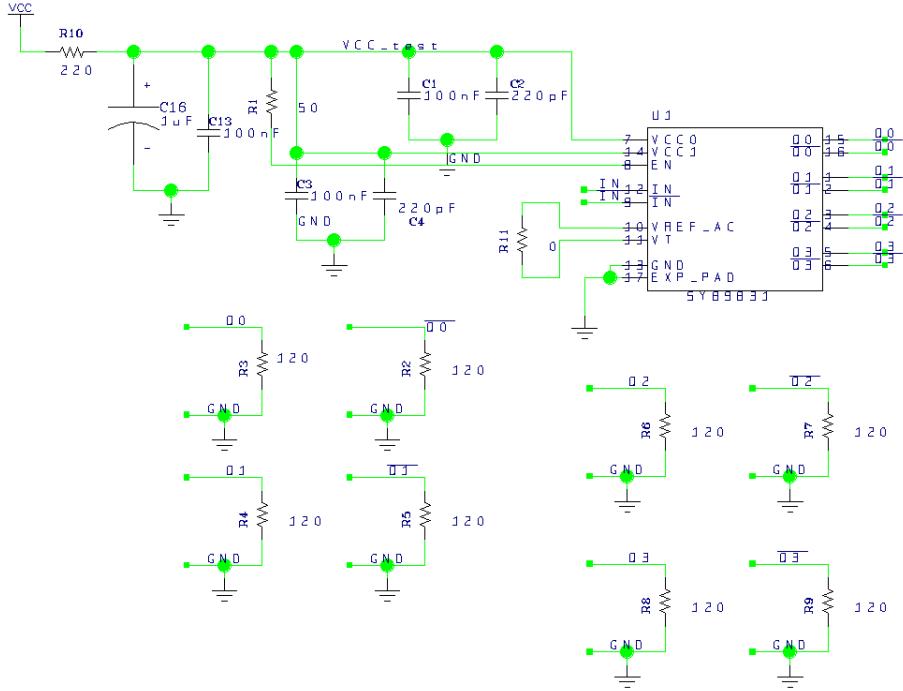


Figure 4.2.6: Schematic for the SY89831U test board

4.2.7 ADN2814 and MAX3748

These two boards are used for the same purpose, and the one of them that performs best will be chosen to be used on the RCU2. ADN2814 is a clock and data recovery IC with integrated limiting amplifier. Works in rate of 10 Mb/s to 675 Mb/s. Gives out a Low-Voltage Differential Signaling (LVDS) clock and data signal. MAX3748 is a limiting amplifier. Works in rate of 155 Mb/s to 4.25 Gb/s. Gives out a Current-Mode Logic (CML) data output signal.

On the RCU2, these boards are supposed to be used to make a stable signal out of a not so stable signal coming from a optical receiver. The signal which is sent into the receiver is a Manchester-decoded signal consisting of clock and data. The clock signal are going to be used as a global clock signal for all of the RCU2s, so that all of the RCU2 are synchronized. The data signal is a trigger signal which in short tells the RCU2 when it is going to do a measurement and when to send data out.

There are a few differences between the two ICs. MAX3748 comes in a smaller package and uses less power and works in higher rates, but it doesn't have a clock and data recovery function as as ADN2814 has. For MAX3748, we will need to do the clock and data recovery function in the main SF2 FPGA, using some of the FPGA logic. The clock and data recovery function in ADN2814, is actually clock recovery and data re-timing, that means that the output data is actually the same as input data, except that it is in LVDS format. This means that we have to use

FPGA logic to recover data, but since we have the clock signal, it is easier to decode and extract the data signal.

To be able to make a good test for these two, we used a SF2 starter-kit. The SF2 FPGA on the starter-kit were used to encode a clock and data signal into a differential Manchester signal that where transmitted to the two circuits. The manchester signal was used as a input for the two circuits, and a LVDS clock and Machester signal was sent back from the ADN chip, and a CML Manchester signal were sent back from the MAX-chip to the starter-kit. The Manchester signal coming back had to be decoded back to clock and data, this was done in the SF2 FPGA. To be able to check if the returning data is equal the original, the original data signal had to be delayed, since sending data out, through a IC and back contribute to some delay. The original data was delayed by sending it through a few D-latches, until the two data signals had the same phase. Then we could start comparing, this were done through a XOR-function, triggered by a 80 Mhz clock. Every time the XOR function goes high, that is when the compared data is not equal, a counter will be incremented.

The recovered clock from the ADN chip are 160 Mhz, which is a fairly high frequency. To be able to compare two clocks of 160 Mhz, we introduced a third clock signal of 160 Mhz, with a phase shift of 90° from the two others. This clock signal was used to trigger a XOR-function checking the two clock signals. If they are unequal a counter will be incremented.

The counter values were accessed by the internal microcontroller on the SF2 chip. From the microcontroller the counter values were constantly transmitted out through a UART-port, which is connected to the USB-plug on the kit. The USB-plug is connected to a computer where a labVIEW program was running ready to receive data. The received data is exhibited for a viewer, and data is saved in a text file. The labVIEW program also monitors the current consumption of the IC.

Both of these components required allot of current to function correctly, so the modified MIC69302WU in combination with the 5 V on the USB-DAQ was used. This gave us a supply voltage of 3.3 V and a current limit of 200 mA.

The decoding process of the mancheseter signal returned both clock and data, but since these are related, only data was checked.

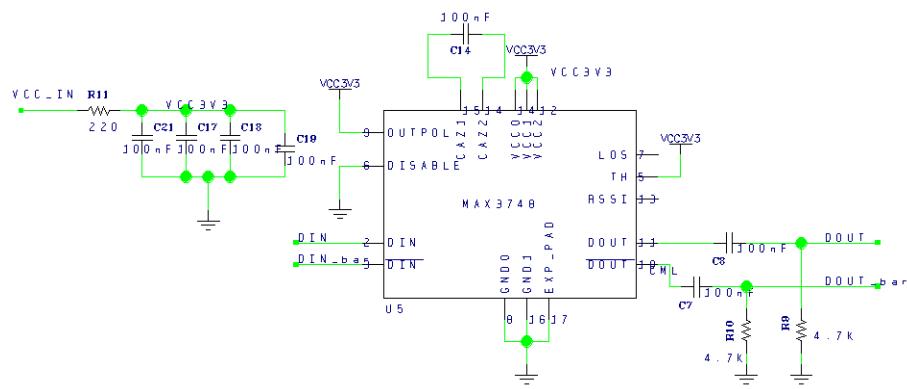


Figure 4.2.7: Schematic for the MAX3748 test board

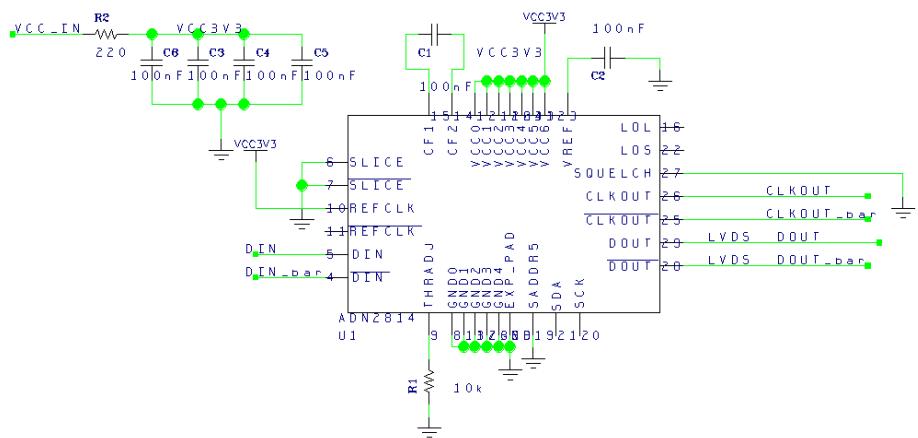


Figure 4.2.8: Schematic for the ADN2814 test board

4.2.8 INA210

INA210 is a so called Current-Shunt Monitor, that is a IC that is used to amplify small current signal into higher voltage signal. This is done by sending the signal that you want to measure current of, over a small resistor, typical smaller than 1 Ohm. Then a voltage will be formed over this resistor and will be amplified through the IC. This IC comes in a family of 5 with different amplifications, the one we are using has an amplification of 200 V/V.

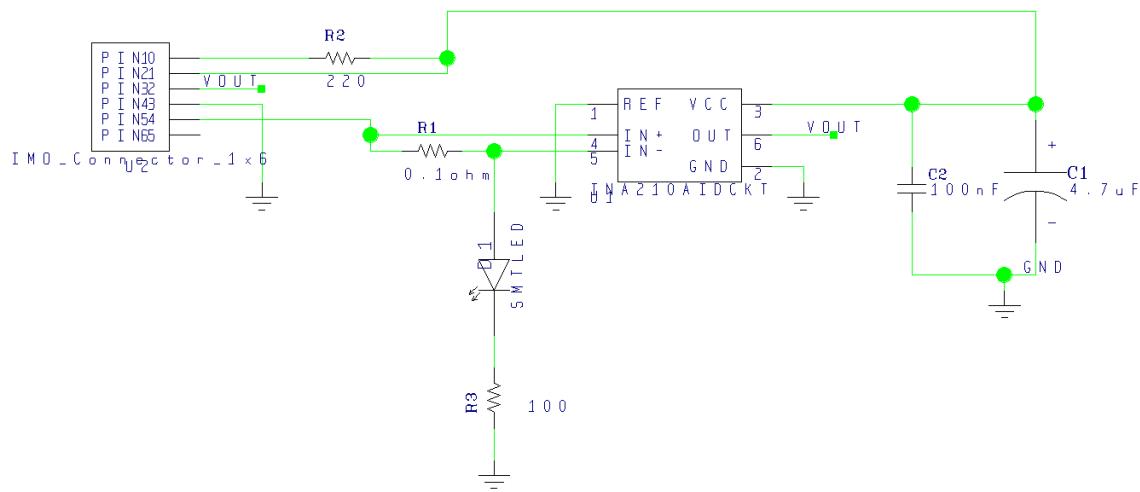


Figure 4.2.9: Schematic for the INA210 test board

4.2.9 TLV3011

This is a comparator with a built in voltage reference of 1.242 V. It supports low supply voltage from 1.8 V to 5.5 V, and has a open-drain output with fast response time. A 10 kOhm resistor is needed as pull-up on the output.

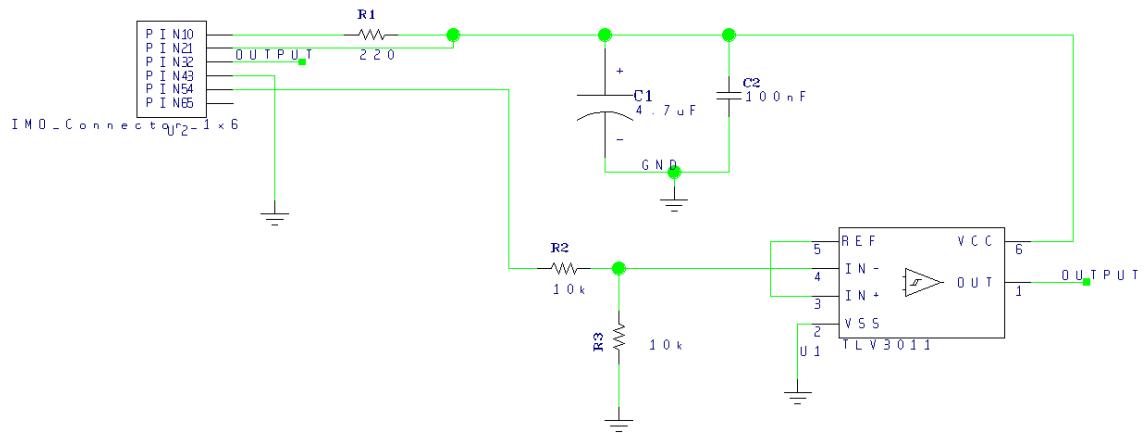


Figure 4.2.10: Schematic for the TLV3011 test board

4.2.10 All the test boards

In figure 4.2.11, 4.2.12 and 4.2.13 pictures of the different PCB boards.

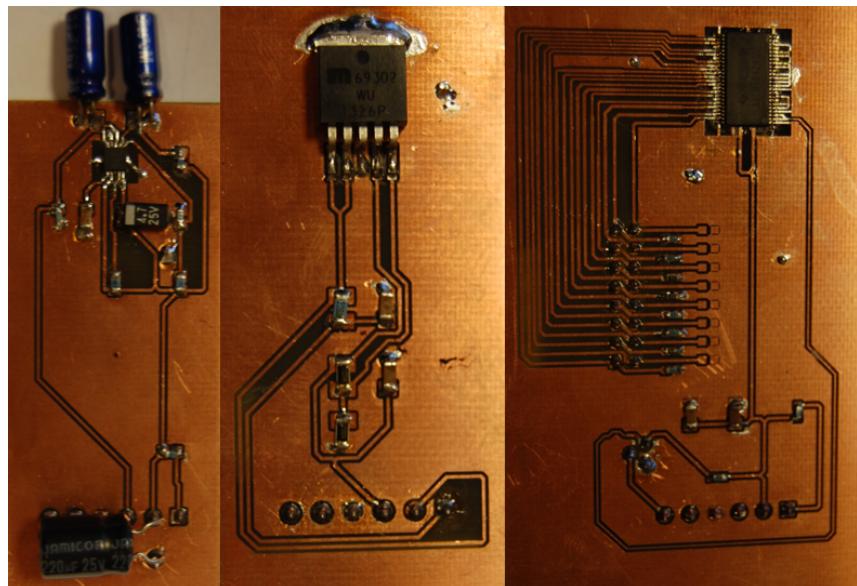


Figure 4.2.11: Picture of PCB boards, from left we have, TPS51200, MIC69302WU and SN74AVCB164245

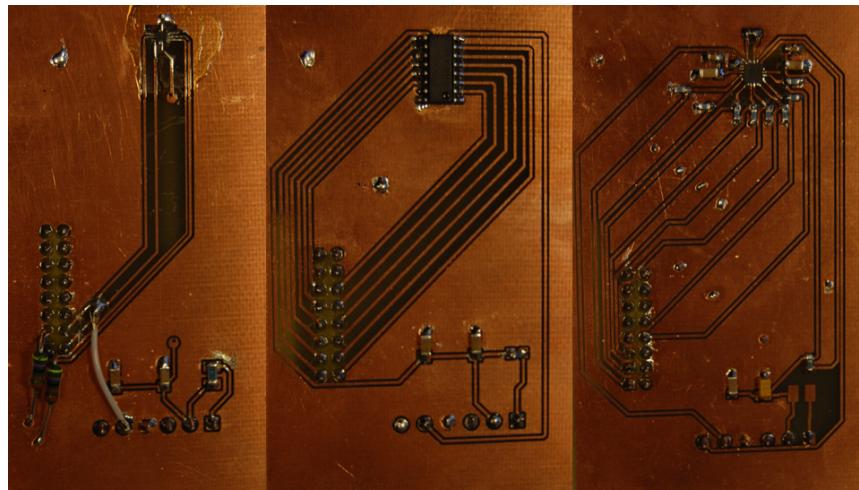


Figure 4.2.12: Picture of PCB boards, from left we have, SN74AVC2T245, QS3VH257 and SY89831U

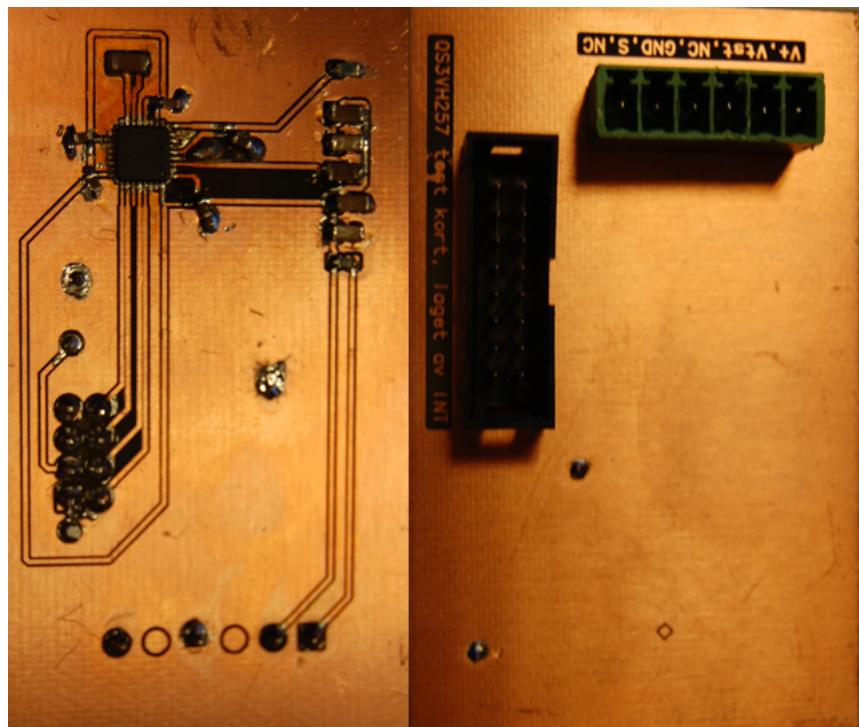


Figure 4.2.13: Picture of PCB boards, from left we have, ADN2814, MAX3748. plus back-side of QS3VH257, you can see the mark at the top indicating the center of the IC

4.3 Software

For each of the different test board, a simple labVIEW program was made specially designed to supply and monitor a specific IC under radiation. In these program time from start, current consumption and the status of the output signal (or the output voltage for the regulators) can be measured and monitored. Data is constantly saved in a text file on disk.

In figure 4.3.1 you can see an example of a labVIEW program used for SN74AVC2T245.



Figure 4.3.1: LabVIEW program for SN74AVC2T245

4.4 SmartFusion2

SmartFusion2 (SF2) SoC FPGA integrate a flash-based FPGA, a Microcontroller SubSystem (MSS), which consist of a microcontroller, a ARM Cortex-M3 processor, PLLs, bus communication through APB and AHB bus, communication protocols like Ethernet, UART, SPI and I^2C , and much more. It is also said to have immune configuration memory, as well as several other radiation tolerance measures implemented. We are going to use the package M2S050-FG896, with a FPGA of 56 340 logic elements, 6 PLLs, 1314 kb SRAM, 8 SERDES² lanes, and 377 user I/O.

²Serilizer/Deserilizer (SERDES) convert data between serial data and parallel interfaces in both direction

Everything one the SF2 that are going to be used in the design has to be tested in some way, unless it has been tested before, or are proven to be radiation intolerant. There are four things that we tested. That is the internal SRAM blocks, the logical element, the PLLs and Single Event Latchup (SEL). How these will be tested will be discussed in the following sections. Other functionality was also tested like Ethernet, SERDES and Clock and data recovery, etc., but these test will not be discussed in this thesis.

4.4.1 SRAM test

SRAM cells are as discussed in section 3.4.1, sensitive for radiation. It is important to know how well these work in high radiation areas, so we can know how reliable these are when used. The SRAM blocks on the SF2 are divided up into 72 micro SRAM blocks with a size of 64 x 18 bits, and 69 Large SRAM blocks with a size of 1024 x 18 bits. Both micro SRAM blocks and large SRAM blocks are so called two port SRAM, which means that we can access two addresses at the same time.

The way the SRAM memory was tested is divided into 3 state in a state machine, this can be seen in block diagram in figure 4.4.1. The first state is a reset state, where all values are set to its nominal value. That means all counter is set to 0, write address is set to 0, read address 1, and write data is set to 1010...1010. Read address is always set be one higher then read address.

The next state is a initial state where all addresses are written to. Write data is switched opposite every address increment, so the written data is switched between 1010...1010 and 0101...0101 every other address. When the last bit is written to, the first bit is read.

The last state is a state where all of the addresses are written, read and compared through a endless loop. The data written to a address is always opposite of the previous value on that address, that is to prevent having stuck bits. The state machine will stay in this state until a reset is pushed or power is shut down.

The SEU counter value for both the micro SRAM and the Large SRAM, as well as number of cycles through all addresses is saved in registers and sent to the Microcontroller SubSystem (MSS). These register is saved with Triple Module Redundancy (TMR), that means that the values are saved in three registers, and the majority of these is used. How the data is monitored and checked is discussed in section 4.4.4.

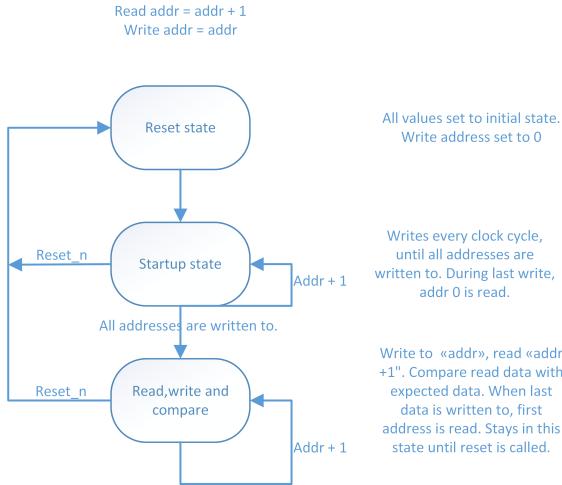


Figure 4.4.1: Flow chart for test procedure of SRAM

4.4.2 Test of the Logical element

A logical element consist of a 4 input Look-Up Table⁴ and a separate flip-flop which can be used independently from the Look-Up Table. That means that we have 56 340 flip-flops and 56 340 Look-Up Tables available for our design. When a logical element is exposed to radiation, a Single Event Transient (SET) can occur all over the chip. If this happens in the logical element or in the interconnections between logical element, the transient current will normally just be there for a small amount of time, and then it will flat out, causing no error or bit flip in the chip. But if this transient current hits a sensitive node as the input to a flip-flop, or a node that may lead to a change of value at the input, and the input is then clocked out to the output, we would have a unwanted bit change or a so called Single Event Upset (SEU).

The way we tested the logical element is based on [21], which has done a study on how to test FPGAs in a good manner. A good overview of the design can be seen in figure 4.4.2. The idea is to make a long serial chain of flip-flops, otherwise referred to as a shift-register, where a transient can be picked up and make a SEU. By adding a even number of inverters in between each flip-flop we increase the area where an transient can occur, without changing the logic. A known pattern is added to the input of the shift-register, this can be change depending on how advanced you want to be, but typical pattern could be even other '1' and '0'. To be able to operate at high speed, we are using something called Windowed Shift Register (WSR), which takes out the last n-bit of the shift register, and sends it out in parallel, with a frequency n times lower than the original frequency. To check the outputs for errors, the WSR bits will be sent through the I/O-pins to another SF2 starter kit, hereafter referred to as the monitoring board, where data is checked

⁴An n-bit Look-Up Table can encode any n-bit Boolean function by modeling such functions as truth tables

for errors. To be able to synchronize the two board, a reset signal and shift enable signal will be sent from the monitoring board to the test board, and a WSR enable signal will be sent from the test board to the monitoring board.

We made generic of all the variables like number of shift-register chains, numbers inverters in between each flip-flop, numbers of bits taken out in the WSR output and the length of the shift-registers. Typical value used is respectively 4,4,4 and 2000.

We wanted to be able to change the clock frequency without reprogramming the FPGA, to see how the frequency effects the number of upset detected. Clock Conditioning Circuit (CCC) which consist of a PLL, multiplexers and divider circuit, are used to configure clock signals on the SF2. The CCC can be configured through a register, so the frequency can be changed without reprogramming the FPGA.

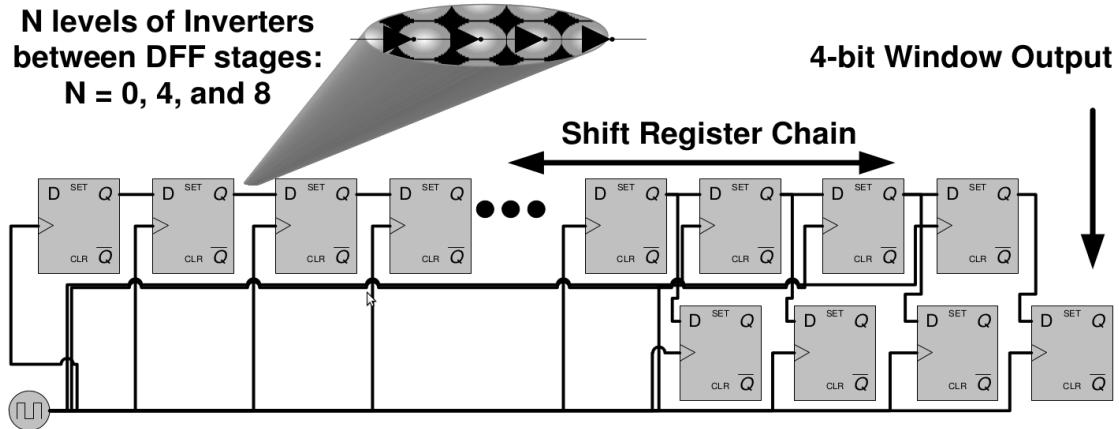


Figure 4.4.2: Flow chart for test procedure of SRAM

4.4.3 Single Event Latchup and PLL

A Single Event Transient (SET) is a short circuit between power and ground. If that happens on any spot on the chip, an increase in the supply current can be detected. So the way a SET will be checked, is by constantly checking for increase in current consumption on the chip. A SET will normally destroy a chip, if not counted by shutting power off immediately after the latch has occurred. That is why a separated PCB was made to measure the current, and to be able to shut down the board if a latch is detected. See section 4.4.4 for more information on the board.

The PLLs on the SF2 has a lock signal which goes high if the PLL is in sync with the input. To check if we have a reliable clock signal, the lock signal was sent to a I/O pin and over to the monitoring board, where the lock signal was constantly checked for a falling edge.

4.4.4 Configuration and Monitoring

To avoid using too many starter-kit and to save time when we were going to test, we implemented all tests into a single project. The test board was communicating with a computer through a serial port, a current measurement board was connected with wires to measure current, and another starter-kit (monitoring board) was connected to the GPIO pins to be able to control and check the Logical element design. More detail of the different test programs and boards used to test the SF2 is discussed in the following sections.

Microcontroller SubSystem and labVIEW

The Microcontroller SubSystem is used to make a two way communication between the SF2 chip and a computer. On the SF2 starter-kits there is a serial communication from a USB-connector to a UART port on the SF2s microcontroller SubSystem. Values like the SEU counter and cycle counter which is saved in register in the FPGA are sent to the microcontroller SubSystem through APB bus. A C-code was written to the microcontroller, which in short sets up the UART communication and constantly sends SEU counter and cycle counter values through through UART, and checks for received data. The received data is used to determine the frequency. On the computer a labVIEW program was written to receive the data, and show the newest values for a user. Through this program you are also able to select some specific frequencies, by use of pushbuttons in the program, by pushing a button a request to change frequency is sent to the microcontroller. When the microcontroller receives the request, it access the register controlling the *Clock Conditioning Circuit*, and changes to the frequency, by accessing the clock divider.

Monitoring board

As said in section 4.4.2 a second starter-kit, called monitoring board, was used to be able to monitor and control the *Logical element test design*. On the monitoring board there is a linux system running. A VHDL code is built on the FPGA which takes inn wsr data and wsr enable from the test board and sends out reset, shift enable and pattern. All of the output data is controlled and input data is monitored through APB bus to the linux system. The wsr enable signal tells us when a new data is sent from the test board, when this signal goes high, the wsr data signals is clocked in a register on the monitoring board. The wsr data is then compared with the correct value, and if an error has occurred, a counter will be incremented. The counter value is read in the Linux system.

Current measurement board

To measure the current into the SmartFusion2 starter-kit, a PCB was made with a microcontroller, serial to USB converter (FTDI chip), some debugging LEDs, power switch, and all the necessary electronics to make all this work together. The microcontroller used is a Texas Instruments MSP430AFE253. That is a 16-bit microcontroller with internal 24-bit ADC. It has an internal frequency of up to 12 MHz, and support high frequency crystal up to 16 Mhz. Two types of serial communication interface are available, that is USART and SPI. Since the microcontroller only has a 16-bit architecture, only 16-bit of the ADC is accessible at a time. The microcontroller has 3 differential ADC inputs, which means three different currents can be measured. A current is measured by adding a small resistor of known value in series of the signal you want to measure current of, and by measuring voltage over the resistor you can calculate the current, by using ohms law ($I = \frac{U}{R}$)

To measure current for the SF2 starter-kit a small resistor of 0.1 Ohm was placed in series with the 1.2 V supply voltage, and a 0.16 Ohm resistor for the 3.3 V supply voltage. The voltage over these resistor was measured with the ADC, and the ADC data was sent over USART port to the serial to USB converter, and further to a computer. On the computer a labVIEW program was set up to receive data through the serial port, and when data is received, the ADC value and the known resistor value is used to calculate the current. The current value is constantly saved and exposed for a viewer.

The 3.3 V regulator on the SF2-starter kit has a enable signal, where a pull-up resistor to 5 V is placed, one of the outputs on the microcontroller is connected to this pin. If the current on one of the supply voltages goes over a certain threshold, the bit on the microcontroller is set to go low, resulting in turning the 3.3 V regulator on the SF2-starter kit off. The 3.3 V is used to power all other regulators, so by turning this regulator off, the whole starter-kit turns off.

Schematic, PCB layout and instructions on how to use this board can be found in appendix

4.5 Equipment used for testing

Under a radiation test, some equipment are needed. In the following sections some of the equipment used under a radiation test are presented.

4.5.1 SRAM detector

The SRAM detector boards are made by Arild Velure, as part of his master thesis [18]. It is a SRAM-based radiation detector. By checking SRAM chips for SEU, we can find the fluence³ of the beam.

The SRAM detector is a PCB with a flash-based FPGA, four 16 Mbit Cypress SRAM chips, connectors and supporting electronics. The board can be connected to a computer through a Opal Kelly XEM3001 board, which converts RS485 signal from the FPGA to USB. A labVIEW program has been built specially for this board. From this program we are able to reset data, do some basic settings, and monitor data. The program also constantly saves data onto the disk. The board also has an optical input for scintillator counts, so we could use this board as a scintillator counter as well.

In figure 4.5.1 you can see how the labVIEW program looked like. From here we can monitor SEU on all the 4 SRAM chips, see scintillator counts, reset counters, see time from start as well as other things. SRAM1-10 as you can see on the left side, is different SRAM-board, the board we used was SRAM6.

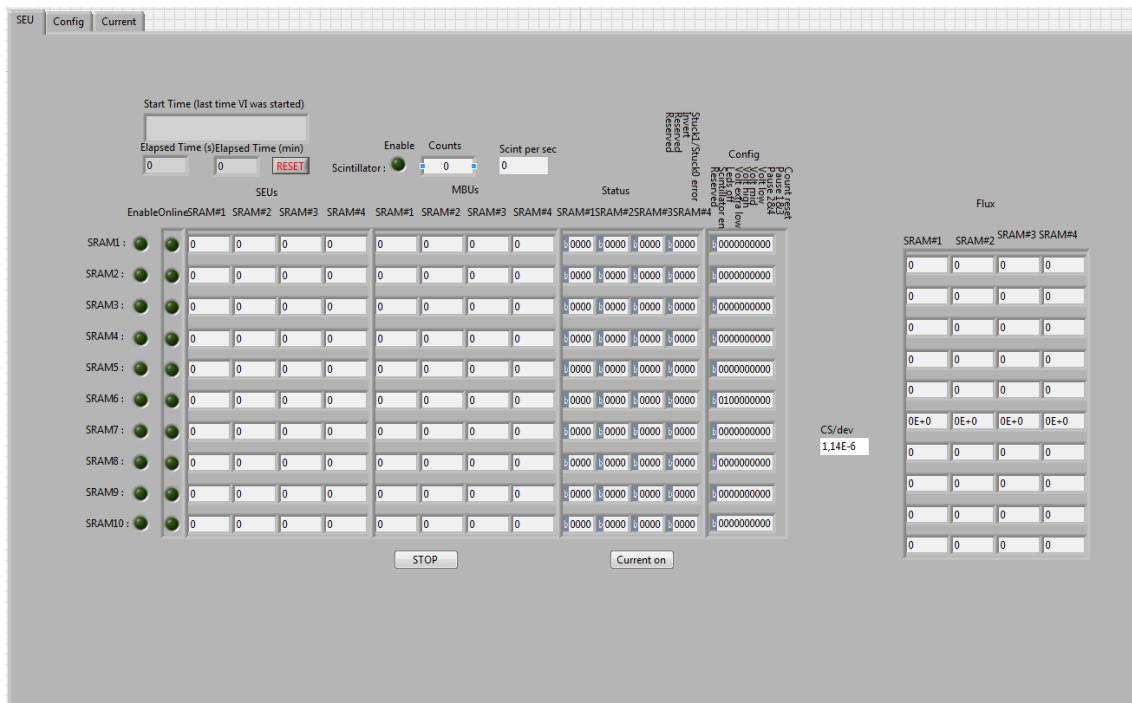


Figure 4.5.1: LabVIEW program for the SRAM

The approach for detecting an Single Event Upset (SEU) on the SRAM is rather straight forward, as can be seen in the flow diagram of figure 4.5.2. There is an

³Fluence is the total number of particles that intersect a unit area in a specific time interval of interest, and has units of *particle/cm²* (number of particles per meter squared)

initial startup phase where a known pattern is written to all the addresses in the SRAM. When the startup phase is done, the value from the first address is read and compared with the correct value, and if one or more of the bits are not equal a SEU has occurred, and a counter will be incremented for each bit at the address which has suffered a upset. After the read, a new value is then written back to the address and the system moves on to the next address. A checkerboard pattern of alternating ones and zeros, is used when writing to the SRAM. To check for stuck bits, the bit pattern is inverted for every cycle through all addresses.

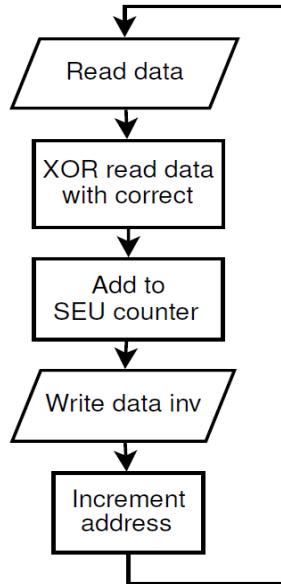


Figure 4.5.2: Flowchart for SEU detection

The cross section (the probability that a incoming particle will induce an SEU) is known, and is found to be to be $1.14 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^2$ [18] for protons. by measuring SEU under radiation, we are able to calculate the fluence of the beam, since the cross section is known.

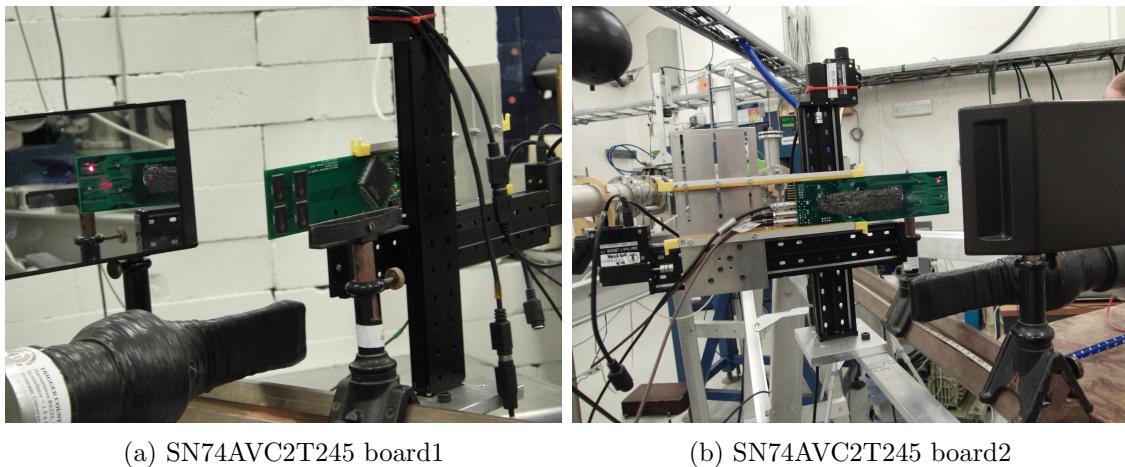
4.5.2 Scintillator counter

A scintillator is a material that emits light when it is exposed to ionizing radiation [7]. A scintillator can be used as a stand alone equipment, but then only to detect that there are radiation, by seeing that it lights up. To get a more accurate measurement, we will need a PhotoMultiplier Tube (PM-tube), which has the ability to converts light pulses to current pulses by an electron avalanche process. The current pulses can be detected by a edge counter, which count every falling or rising edge of a signal.

4.5.3 X-Y-positioning system

The X-Y-positioning system is a displacement system where things (for example a PCB) can be mounted and be moved up, down and sideways in a small area controlled by a computer. Communication is done through a serial port and a labVIEW program is used to control the system.

This was used when doing the beam profile as discussed in chapter 5.1.3. In figure 4.5.3 you can see a picture of the front and back of the X-Y-positioning system, with the SRAM detector mounted.



(a) SN74AVC2T245 board1

(b) SN74AVC2T245 board2

Figure 4.5.3: X-Y-positioning system upfront and behind, with SRAM-board mounted

Chapter 5

Irradiation test setup

Irradiation test for the RCU2 electronics which was discussed in the previous chapter, was executed at two facilities, that is Oslo Cyclotron Laboratory (OCL) and The Svedberg Laboratory (TSL). This chapter will give a brief introduction to the two facilities, and explain how we prepared ourself for test and the setup used.

Purpose of tests

The purpose of testing the RCU2 electronics for radiation is to see if the tested IC are able to survive in a radiation hard environment as we will find in the TPC, see section 1.1. To test the limit for each of the ICs, the ICs was irradiated until a error was detected, current consumption drastically increased or the IC received a much higher dose than was required without error.

5.1 Irradiation on OCL

5.1.1 About OCL

Oslo cyclotron Laboratory is located at the Department of physics at the University of Oslo, and was opened in 1978. The cyclotron is of the type MC-35 and was made by Scanditronix AB from Sweden. This is the only accelerator in Norway for ionized particles used in basic research. The cyclotron can accelerate protons, deuteron, 3He and 4He , with energies and intensities as seen in the table 5.1 bellow. A drawing of the lab can be seen in figure 5.1.1. The laboratory is divided in tree; the control room, the inner experimental hall and the outer experimental hall. The

cyclotron is placed in the inner hall, and a beam is sent through pipes to the outer hall. There is vacuum inside the cyclotron and the pipes, so that you should not suffer energy loss from collision with air molecules. With magnet you are able to regulate the beam to your desired pipe exit. There are also several cups put on the pipeline which makes it possible to block the beam. These can be used to stop the beam during an experiment, so you are able to go into the experimental area and do changes on your setup. When the cyclotron is running and the beam is on, you are not allowed to enter the inner experimental area.

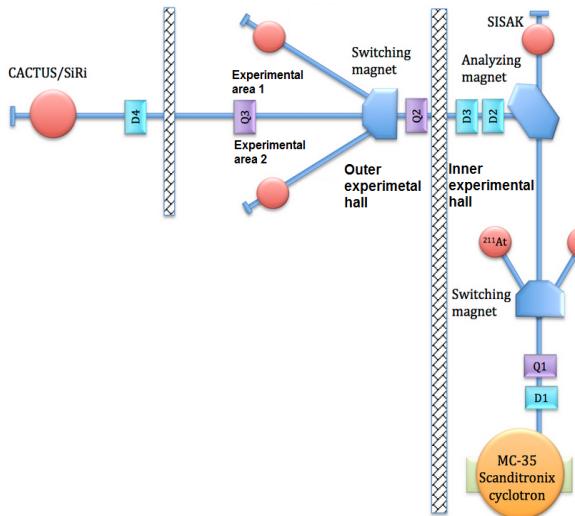


Figure 5.1.1: Out-lay of the OCL

Ionized beam particle type	Energy(MeV)	Intensity(μA)
Proton	2-35	100
Deuteron	4-18	100
^3He	6-47	50
^4He	8-35	50

Table 5.1: Ionized beam particle data table

5.1.2 Experiment setup and equipment

The experiment setup was placed in the outer experimental hall in experimental area 2. The experimental setup as well as the equipment used can be found in the figure and table bellow. The equipment was kept in close to the same height around 140-150cm. Beam exit was in a height of 141.5cm.

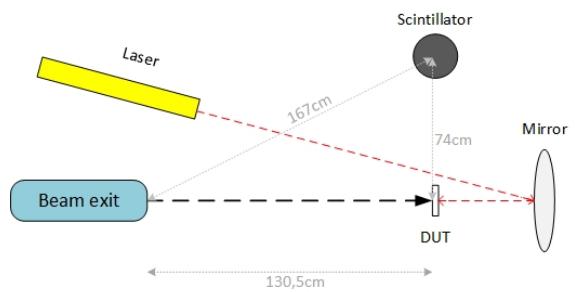


Figure 5.1.2: Experimental setup seen from above

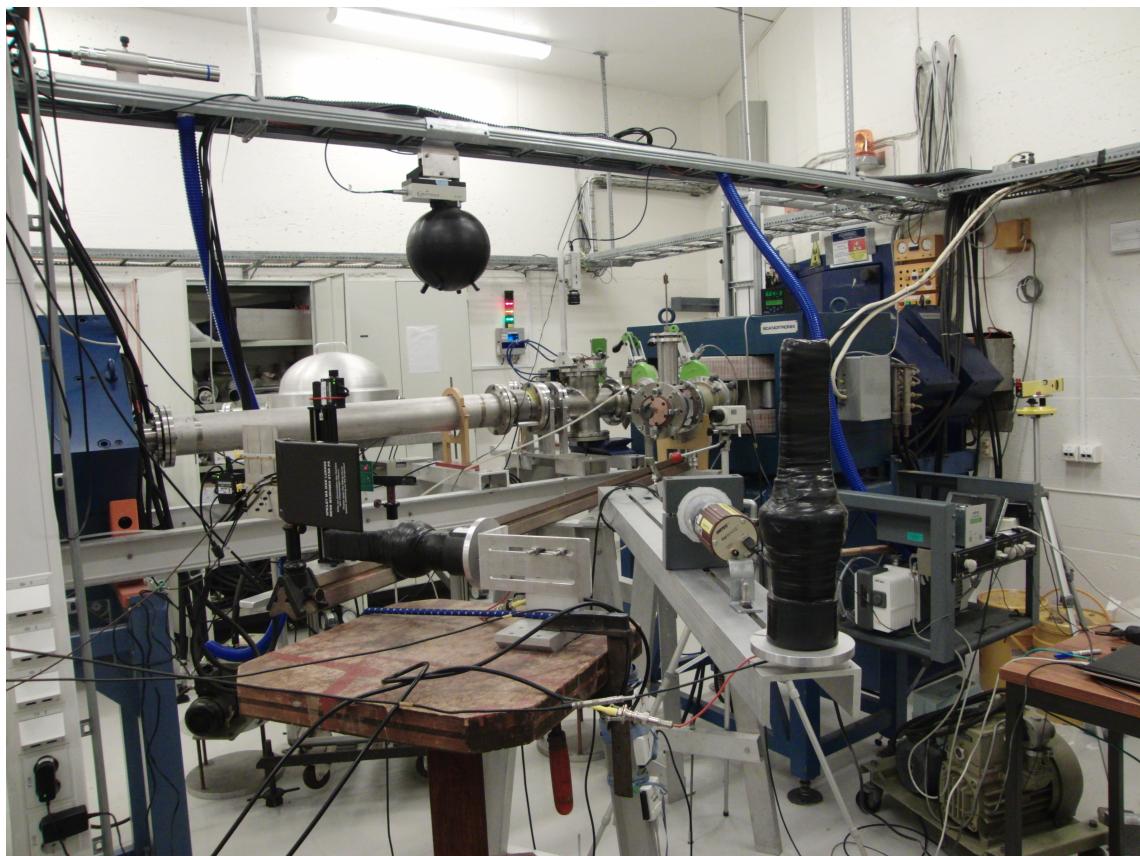


Figure 5.1.3: Picture of the experimental area

Equipment	Explanation
Scintillator	A plastic scintillator with photomultiplier. Was used to measure relative radiation. We had two of these, one that was placed right under Device Under Test (DUT) and one that was placed 75cm away from DUT.
High voltage regulator	Voltage for the photomultiplier. 800V was used.
The test boards	TPS51200, MIC69302WU, SN74AVCB164245, SN74AVC2T245, QS3VH257, SY89831U, ADN2814, MAX3748, INA210 and TLV3011.
SRAM detector	A PCB board with 4 SRAM cells that was used to characterise the beam and to measure scintillator counts
SF2 starter kit	A starter kit board with the SmartFusion2 (SF2) SoC FPGA.
Computer	A VNC server was set up on a computer inside the experimental hall, this made us able to control the experiment from the control room. The computer was running all the necessary software to control and monitor the experiment.
USB DAQ	Data acquisition board form National Instruments(NI). Used to establish analog and digital connection to the test boards and send data to the computer.
Radiation film	A film that reacts when irradiated. Used to identify the beam.
leveled laser	Was used to pinpoint the center of the beam.
Mirror	Used to reflect the laser beam to the backside of the test boards.
XY-positioning system	Connected to the computer so we can change the position of the test boards from a computer

Table 5.2: Equipment used in the experiment

5.1.3 Preparation and characterization of the beam

Before we could start testing of the PCB, the cyclotron had to be made ready for a proton beam and the magnet controlling the direction had to be put in the right position to get the beam out in experiment area 2.

Beam setup

When we were ready to start the beam test, we had to start with characterization of the beam. The first thing to do is to get an understanding of the beam, and see that it hits around the area that we expect. This was done by using radiation

films that turns black when exposed to radiation. One of these was placed right in front of the beam exit and one in front of Device Under Test (DUT) area. This was done to see how the beam spread out, and to get a feeling of where the beam center was. A more precise calibration was done by the use of the SRAM detector and the scintillator. By measuring the relation between scintillator counts on the scintillator which was in a locked position and SEU on the SRAM that was connected to the XY-position system (which made the SRAM freely to move), we were able to find a more precise position of the beam center by seeing which position gave us highest SEU counts compared to scintillator counts. When the beam center is found and everything works as it should, the laser was placed in a position so that the laser beam points to where we had found center of the beam to be. After that we could replace the SRAM board with the PCB that we were going to test. This had to be done every day at startup, before we could start the actual tests.

We were able to control the intensity(Current) of the beam freely from the control room inside the limitation of the beam (for protons that is up to 100 μA), but we kept us in the area between 100 pA to a few nA. This way the radiation dose to the test boards can be controlled. The beam intensity could be measured by putting a Faraday Cup(FC) in front of the beam. But the FC had to be removed when tests were running, since it will block the beam.

We were running 3 labVIEW programs at all time through the experiment, one for controlling the XY-position system, one for the SRAM board(to measure SEU and scintillator counts when calibrating and to get scintillator counts during the tests) and one program for each of the test boards. The SRAM and test board programs were constantly saving data on the disk.

5.1.4 What was tested at OCL

We had beam time in three periods at OCL, that is 13.11.13 – 15.11.13, 28.11.13 – 29.11.13 and 08.04.14 – 11.04.14. The boards that where tested the first time are: *TPS51200₁*, *MIC69302WU₁*, *SN74AVCB164245₁*, *SN74AVC2T245₁*, *QS3VH257₁* and *SY89831U₁*, tested in that order. The second time, we started with two limiting amplifier IC, since these hadn't been tested before. So the order the PCB was tested the second period was: *ADN2814*, *MAX3748*, *SY89831U₂*, *TPS51200₂*, *MIC69302WU₂*, *SN74AVCB164245₂*, *SN74AVC2T245₂* and *QS3VH257₂*. The third time at OCl, the focus was mainly the SF2 SoC FPGA, but *INA210₁*, *INA210₂*, *TLV3011₁* and *TLV3011₂* was also tested.

5.2 Irradiation at The Svedberg Laboratory (TSL)

The main difference between OCL and TSL, is that TSL are able to produce beam of much higher energies. TSL is a much more professional facility in the way, that there are more people working there ready to help, and we don't need any calibration before we can start radiation test. We can simply show up and expose what we want to expose, and data like fluence and exposed time, are given to use, making it easy for us to calculate the dose and flux.

5.2.1 About TSL

TSL is an accelerator facility belonging to University of Uppsala in Sweden, [22]. It is mainly used for proton therapy on cancer patient by Uppsala University Hospital, but is also used for medical research and radiation testing of electronics. The heart of the installation is a Gustav Werner cyclotron that delivers a beam of charged particles in energies up to 192 MeV. The particles that can be produced are everything from protons to highly charged xenon ions. There are several extraction points from the cyclotron, which is controlled from the *control room*. The experiment area for electronics testing, is the the *blue hall*, here there are two user areas, one for protons, and one for neutrons and heavier ions, see figure 5.2.1.

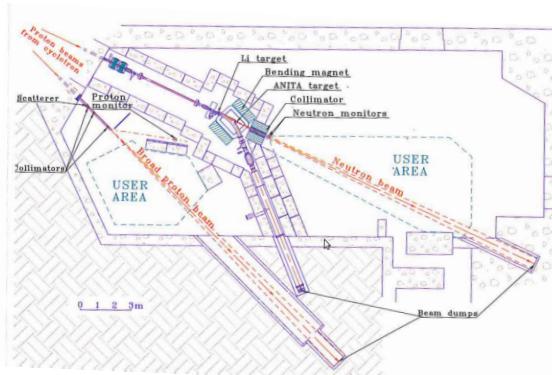


Figure 5.2.1: Layout of the Blue hall

5.2.2 Beam setup procedure

At TSL we didn't have to get a beam characterization as we did at OCL. In the Blue hall there is a permanently setup with detectors and a well defined beam line. We only needed to place our test equipment in the blue hall at a given extraction point, and start the test. The center of the beam was found by lasers places in looked

positions around the hall, one for horizontal direction and one for vertical direction. The head of the laser was movable, so we could point the laser beams towards our test board. A computer which was remotely controlled through network connection was placed in the hall. This computer was used as a connection point to our test boards. We sat in a room called *countingroom*, where we could turn the beam on and off as we desired. There were also a machine in the countingroom, which was connected to detectors in the blue hall telling us the fluence (number of protons per cm^2 in total) and exposed time. The fluence can be used to calculate the flux and dose. The energy of the proton beam we got was 180 MeV.



Figure 5.2.2: Setup in the blue hall. Here the RCU2 is mounted, ready for test

5.2.3 What was tested at TSL

A week before we arrived at TSL, we got the first two prototypes of the RCU2. That means that we had a limited time to make test code for all of the different parts of the board.

The focus of the visit to TSL was the SF2 SoC FPGA, but we also tested a optical receiver and a data link which are supposed to be used to send data out from the RCU2. We brought with us two RCU2s and a total of 7 starter-kits, where 3 of these was with a smaller package, M2S050-FG484, and the rest was engineering samples versions of M2S050-FG896, which is the one used on RCU2. For the test discussed in section 4.4, we only used the SF2 starter-kits to test, since the test only involves internal parts of the SF2 SoC FPGA. Two of the starter-kits with the smaller package was tested M2S050-FG484, and one with engineering sample M2S050ES-T-FG896. When the RCU2 cards was irradiation, things like SERDES (data link), trigger, clock and data recovery (CDR) and PLL was tested, which will not be discussed throughly in this work, but a short summary will be given. Current was measured on both the SF2 starter-kits and RCU2 boards when they were irradiated to check for latchups.

Chapter 6

Calculations and Results from Radiation Tests

This chapter will explain how the collected data after a radiation test at OCL was used to calculate flux and dose. And results from both irradiation tests at OCL and TSL will be presented.

After a irradiation test at OCL, the collected data consist of the exposed time, scintillator counts, current consumption and output data of the DUT. From the calibration before radiation test, we got the relation between scintillator counts and SEU on the SRAM detector. From earlier tests with the SRAM detector the cross section for a incoming proton to induce a SEU is known. These data is used to calculate our way to the received dose for each of the different IC. The next section will explain the calculation process.

6.1 Calculation of dose

Two ways to calculate dose will be discussed in this section, that is manually using energy loss and LET, see section 3.2, and using simulation data from a program named FLUKA. Which of these gives us the most reliable result will be discussed at the end of this section.

6.1.1 Definitions

Absorbed radiation dose has the unit of energy/mass and the SI-unit is gray (Gy), which is 1 Joule of energy absorbed in a kilogram of matter[J/Kg] 6.1. Another unit which is often used when it comes to radiation of electronics is Rad, which is short for "Radiation absorbed dose". The relation between Rad and Gy can be seen in 6.2.

$$1\text{Gy} = 1 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{kg}} \quad (6.1)$$

$$1\text{Rad} = 0.01\text{Gy} = 0.01 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{kg}} = 10^{-5} \frac{\text{J}}{\text{g}} \quad (6.2)$$

The particle energy is normally expressed in electronvolt (eV) or Megaelectronvolt (MeV). One electronvolt is defined as the amount of kinetic energy gained by a single unbound electron when it accelerates through an electric potential of one Volt, thereof eV. Its value is $e = 1.602 \times 10^{-19}\text{C}$ which is the electric charge, multiplied with one Volt, which equals $1.602 \times 10^{-19}\text{eV}$ or $1.602 \times 10^{-19}\text{J}$.

$$1\text{MeV} = 10^6\text{eV} = 10^6 \cdot 1.602 \times 10^{-19}\text{J} = 1.602 \times 10^{-13}\text{J} \quad (6.3)$$

6.1.2 Calculating dose using LET

As explained i section 3.2.3, LET is energy deposited in a material through ionization when a particle crosses the material. LET is equal the energy loss a particle suffer by crossing a material, which means that we can use the bethe bloch formula that is expressed in equation 3.1. By looking at the total LET for a IC, we are able to calculate our way to the dose. The energy loss of a particle is highly energy dependent, but for short distances it can be assumed to be constant without getting too much error.

Two energies was used when exposing components at OCL, The first time we had a proton beam with a energy of 28 MeV, the two other times we had a beam of 25 MeV. DUT was placed 130 cm from beam exit, which means that the protons will suffer some energy loss in the air between beam-exit and DUT. To make the work easier for us, a energy loss calculator program [23] was used to calculate the *energy loss* for a 28 MeV and a 25 MeV proton beam in air, we get respectively $17.516 \frac{\text{MeVcm}^2}{\text{g}}$ and $19.201 \frac{\text{MeVcm}^2}{\text{g}}$. By multiplying with the density of air which is

$\rho_{air} = 0.001275 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{cm}^3}$, we get $22.3 \frac{\text{keV}}{\text{cm}}$ and $24.5 \frac{\text{keV}}{\text{cm}}$. This means that the energy of the protons when they collide into DUT are:

$$E_{proton1} = 28 - (130\text{cm} \times 22.3 \frac{\text{keV}}{\text{cm}}) \approx 25\text{MeV} \quad (6.4)$$

$$E_{proton2} = 25 - (130\text{cm} \times 24.5 \frac{\text{keV}}{\text{cm}}) \approx 22\text{MeV} \quad (6.5)$$

By using the same energy loss calculator we get that the energy loss in silicon (which a IC mostly consist of), are:

$$-\frac{dE}{dx}(25\text{MeV}) = 17.1 \frac{\text{MeV}\text{cm}^2}{\text{g}} \quad (6.6)$$

$$-\frac{dE}{dx}(22\text{MeV}) = 18.9 \frac{\text{MeV}\text{cm}^2}{\text{g}} \quad (6.7)$$

If we look at a single proton entering a silicon material, the energy deposited by that single proton can be expressed as,

$$\Delta E_{proton} = -\frac{dE}{dx} \cdot \Delta x \cdot \rho_{Si} \quad (6.8)$$

where Δx is the length segment a proton particle penetrates into the material, and ρ_{Si} is the density of silicon.

$$\rho_{Si} = 2.33 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{cm}^3} \quad (6.9)$$

To get the total energy deposited in the IC, we have to multiply the energy of a single proton with the fluence and the area of the IC. Fluence is the total flux over a given time, expressed in $[\frac{n}{\text{cm}^2}]$. The total energy is then:

$$\Delta E_{total} = \Delta E_{proton} \cdot \Phi \cdot A_{Si} = -\frac{dE}{dx} \cdot \Delta x \cdot \rho_{Si} \cdot fluence \cdot A_{Si} \quad (6.10)$$

Now we know the total energy depleted in a IC, which is exposed to a proton beam, and can start calculating the dose. Dose is energy per mass, as said in section 6.1.1. That means that the absorbed Dose in silicon can be expressed as,

$$Dose(Si) = \frac{-\frac{dE}{dx} \cdot \Delta x \cdot \rho_{Si} \cdot \Phi \cdot A}{m_{Si}} \quad (6.11)$$

where m_{Si} is the mass of silicon.

m_{Si} can be expressed in terms of silicon density, see equation 6.9, multiplied with the volume (V_{Si}), which is Area (A_{Si}) times thickness (d_{Si}). Assuming that the protons enters the silicon in a straight line, the path segment Δx is equal the thickness, which then gives us,

$$Dose(Si) = \frac{-\frac{dE}{dx} \cdot \Delta x \cdot \rho_{Si} \cdot \Phi \cdot A}{\rho_{Si} \cdot A_{Si} \cdot d_{Si}} = -\frac{dE}{dx} \cdot fluence = \left[\frac{MeV}{g} \right] \quad (6.12)$$

To get the dose in Rad instead of $\frac{MeV}{g}$, we have to multiply with the converting factor given in equation 6.3 and divide on the factor given in equation 6.2, this gives us:

$$Dose[Rad(Si)] = \frac{1.602 \cdot 10^{-13} \cdot -\frac{dE}{dx} \cdot fluence}{10^{-5}} = 1.602 \cdot 10^{-8} \cdot -\frac{dE}{dx} \cdot fluence \quad (6.13)$$

6.1.3 Calculating dose using FLUKA simulations

The program FLUKA can be used to simulate particles with a user given energy in whatever material you want. We simulated a proton beam with energy of 28 MeV and 25 MeV in air, and set our DUT-position 130 cm away from beam exit. The results can be seen in table 6.1.

As said in the introduction to this chapter, the known values after a radiation test are, exposed time, scintillator counts, current consumption, output data of the DUT and cross section from the SRAM detector.

The procedure to calculate the dose are first to find the proton fluence. This is found by first converting from scintillator counts to SEU, by multiplying with

Energy at beam exit	28 MeV	25 MeV
Dose/primary particle at DUT[Gy]	4.08E-10	2.94E-10
Primary particles at Beam exit	1	1
Primary particles at DUT	0.1331	8.57E-2
Beam intensity reduction at DUT	7.51	11.67

Table 6.1: FLUKA simulation with 28MeV proton beam

converting factor, and divide on the cross section. The converting factor was found as explained in section 5.1.3 and the results can be found in appendix A.1. The cross section is a known value. Fluence can then be found as seen in equation 6.14 and the flux as in equation 6.15.

$$Fluence_{DUT} = \frac{SEU}{CS} \quad (6.14)$$

$$Flux = \frac{Fluence}{time} \quad (6.15)$$

Now we can take use of the FLUKA simulation results. The simulation results tells us how many protons will hit DUT when one proton will be sent out from the beam exit, and what dose this will give the DUT. By using the calculated Fluence for DUT, found in equation 6.14, we can find the fluence at beam exit by dividing on *primary particles at DUT* from the simulation results, see equation 6.16. Then we can use *dose per primary particle at DUT* from the result and multiply with the Fluence at beam exit, which gives us the dose in gray for the DUT, see equation 6.17. By multiplying with 100 we get the dose in Rad.

$$Fluence_{BE} = \frac{fluence_{DUT}}{primary_{particlesDUT}} \quad (6.16)$$

$$Dose_{DUT}[Gy] = Fluence_{BE} \times \frac{Dose}{primary_{particleatDUT}} \quad (6.17)$$

6.1.4 Comparison of LET and FLUKA

To compare LET calculations with FLuka simulation we need an example. If we look at the test result for radiation of MAX3748:

time	2472
proton energy Beam exit	25 MeV
scintillator counts	3109238
scintillator counts to SEU SRAM	0.473
Cross section	1.14E-6

Table 6.2: Results after radiation of MAX3748

Both of the methods to calculate dose requires the fluence. The fluence is given by scintillator counts, conversion value from scintillator counts to SEU on SRAM, and cross section, see equation 6.14. For MAX3748 the fluence is

$$Fluence_{MAX3748} = \frac{3109238 \cdot 0.473}{1.14 \cdot 10^{-6}} = 1.29 \cdot 10^{12} \quad (6.18)$$

Calculations using LET

To calculate the dose using LET, just follow the steps as given in section 6.1.2. We start by calculating the energy when entering the integrated circuit 130 cm away from beam exit. This is found in equation 6.4 to be 22 MeV. LET or energy loss for a 22 MeV proton particle in silicon, is calculated in equation 6.5 to be 17.1 MeV.

Fluence is found in equation 6.18. By using equation 6.13 we get the total dose in Rad to be:

$$Dose[Rad(Si)] = 1.602 \cdot 10^{-8} \cdot 17.1 \cdot 1.29 \cdot 10^{-2} = 353.4kRad \quad (6.19)$$

Calculations using FLUKA simulations

Calculating using FLUKA simulation is a easy process. First calculate Fluence at Beam exit, from equation 6.16. And use that value to calculate the dose as seen in equation 6.17.

$$Fluence_{BE} = \frac{1.29 \cdot 10^{12}}{0.0857} = 1.51 \cdot 10^{13} \quad (6.20)$$

$$DoseDUT[Gy] = 1.51 \cdot 10^{13} \cdot 2.94 \cdot 10^{-10} = 4425.4Gy = 442.54kRad \quad (6.21)$$

Discussion

We can see that the FLUKA results give 20 % higher dose than with calculation using LET. That means for lower doses, the deviation will be much smaller. For example for ADN2814, the calculated does using LET is 85.6 kRad and simulation results gives us 107.1 kRad.

when calculating LET for a given IC we calculated with constant energy drop through the air before colliding with the IC and through the IC. In reality energy loss will increase as the energy decreases, this means that the calculated dose is a little smaller than the actual dose.

When it comes to FLUKA simulation, we don't really have control of what is calculated and which values are used. But the program is used for advance simulations for people at CERN and all over the world, and is a acknowledged program.

Which of these calculations gives us the most reliable calculation, can be discussed. There are a small error from approximation using LET. But then again, since we know about these approximations, we know that the energy should be a little higher than the calculated value. And can be sure that the calculated dose is at least not higher than the actual dose. From the FLUKA simulations we don't really know how the program calculates, it may be very accurate or it could do approximations as well. Data given to the program from the user, can also be incorrect and cause some error, even though this is not likely to happen.

There may also be other sources of errors, like that the proton beam given at the lab (it may differ from 25 MeV which it is said to be), and the conversion factor found in the beam setup. Nevertheless, the dose calculations doesn't need to be totally accurate, we only need to know the dose level, and then both of the methods are good enough. The dose values used further in this work are from FLUKA simulation, that is because this method was easiest to use.

6.2 Results from OCL

6.2.1 Calibration process

As explained in chapter 5.1.3, we had to start by finding the center of the beam. The laser was first placed in a position pointing a what thought to be center. Then we placed a film in front of the beam exit and DUT area. By seeing how the film

looked like after irradiated, we got a felling of where the center was. A example of two films from the beam exit and DUT area can be seen in figure 6.2.1.

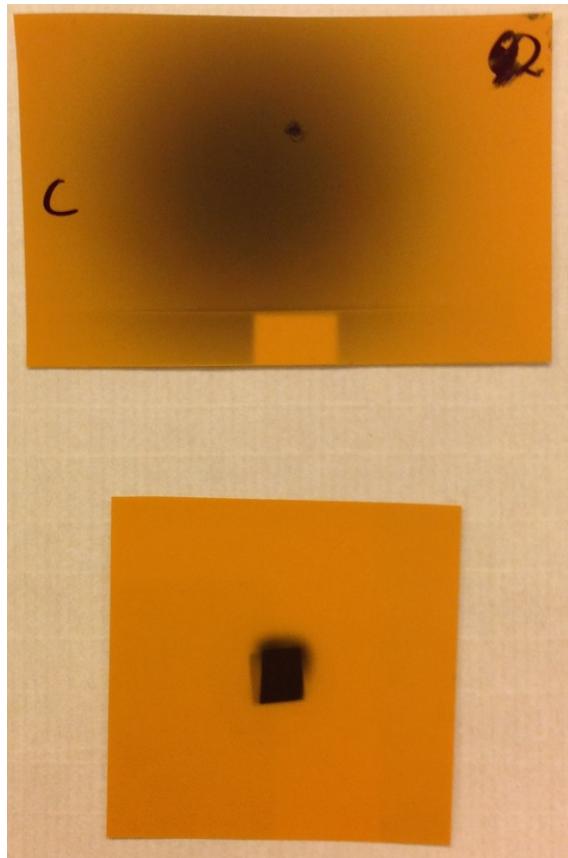


Figure 6.2.1: Example of radiation films after radiation, DUT area (top) and bream exit (button). Where the laser where pointing is marked with a dot.

Now we had a feeling of where center is compared to where the laser was pointing. The SRAM detector was placed with one of the SRAM chips at where the laser was pointing. This position was called position zero $(x,y) = (0,0)$. From irradiated films, we knew approximately how much we had to move to be in center of the beam. In table 6.3 you can see the results from our calibration 15.11.2013. You can see that position $x = -2,5$ cm and $y = -1$ cm gives highest relation between SEU and scintillator counts. A total of 4 tests in that position was done and the average value gives us 0,0948. Beam setup data from all other days at OCL can be found in appendix A. When we irradiated the different PCBs, we didn't have SEU data, but we had scintillator counts, the relation value was used to convert from scintillator counts to SEU. We wanted to have the SEU value, because the cross section for a SEU on the SRAM detector is known. The cross section is the probability that an incoming particle will induce an SEU, and the value can be found in equation 6.22. From cross section we can calculated the fluence of the beam.

$$CS = 1,14e - 6 \quad (6.22)$$

Calibration test nr.:	x	y	Scint rel	SEU(SRAM)	SEU(SRAM)/sc
1	-0,8	-1	27798	1463	5,26E-02
2	-1,3	-1	17721	1239	6,99E-02
3	-1,8	-1	12904	1203	9,32E-02
4	-2,3	-1	13361	1276	9,55E-02
5	-2,8	-1	12786	1238	9,68E-02
6	-3,3	-1	12342	1156	9,37E-02
7	-2,5	-1	11696	1223	1,05E-01
8	-2,5	-1,5	11027	1075	9,75E-02
9	-2,5	-2	11835	1063	8,98E-02
10	-2,5	-0,5	15593	1540	9,88E-02
11	-2,5	0	12620	1034	8,19E-02
12	-2,5	-1	65280	5999	9,19E-02
13	-2,5	-1	52752	4803	9,10E-02
14	-2,5	-1	57229	5250	9,17E-02

Table 6.3: Calibration tests 15.11.2013

6.2.2 Test results PCB boards

In this section the result from irradiation test at OCL will be presented and discussed. Test of all the PCBs will be presented first, followed by a presentation of the SF2 test. The result is presented after type, meaning that two PCBs containing the same IC will be presented together. The purpose of these test has been to check for radiation tolerance. The focus has therefore been to check the output data/voltage and current compared with the received dose.

An overview of the test can be found at the end of this section, with the total exposed time, the total irradiated dose and error status.

TPS51200

This was the first component that was tested for radiation, we started therefore out with a very low intensity, to be sure that everything worked as it should. The intensity was increased for the later tests. Two PCBs of this type was supposed to be tested, but only one of these worked when we were at OCL.

In figure 6.2.2 you can see the input current and output voltage versus the received dose in kRad. The total exposed dose for this board is 42.8 kRad, and it still worked as it should, with only small increase in current. Normally we would irradiate until we would see some more irradiation effects, but since no errors occurred until 40 kRad, it was no point in exposing anymore.

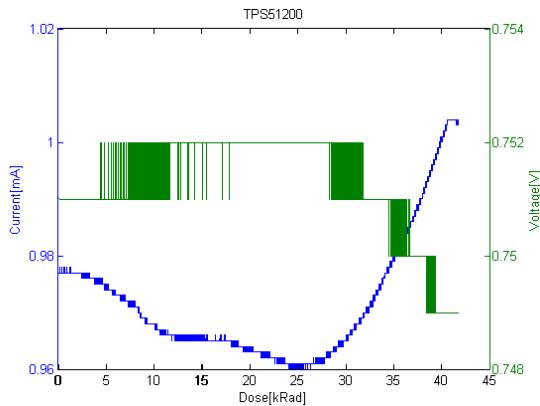


Figure 6.2.2: TPS51200 - Current/Voltage vs Dose

MIC69302WU

During the test of the first board we increased the intensity of the beam quite drastically at the end of the irradiation, this can be seen from the flux graph, in figure A.2.1.

This IC had an unexpected reaction to irradiation. You can see from both of the graphs that the current is decreasing and voltage is increasing, normally we would expect the opposite, or at least that the current would increase, see section 3.4.2. As seen from the graph in figure 6.2.3 it starts quite early to decrease in current, but it also stabilize after a while. The output voltage is mostly stable, there were a increase of 2% on both of the tests, and that with a dose of 150 and 350 kRad.

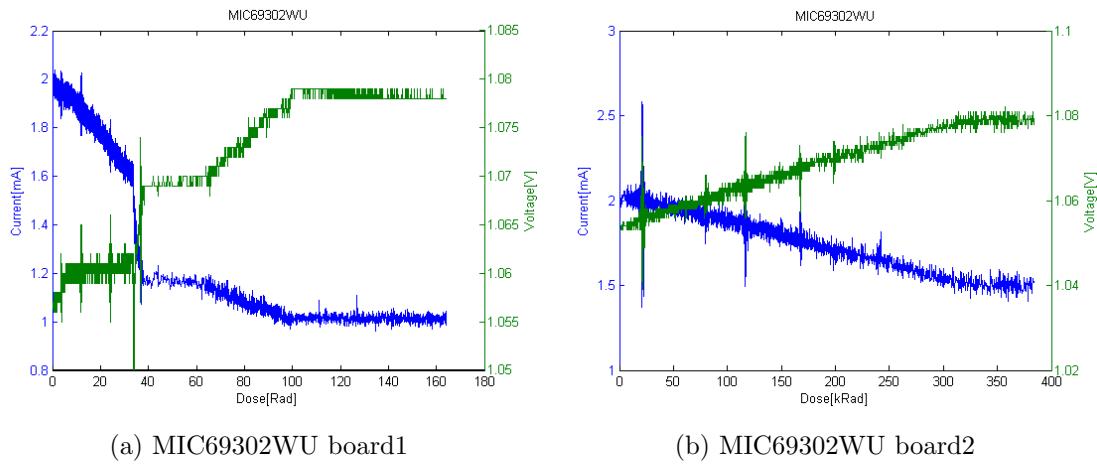


Figure 6.2.3: MIC69302WU - Current/Voltage vs Dose

SN74AVCB164245

For both of the test no error were detected on the output data. Current versus dose can be seen in the graphs in figure 6.2.4a and 6.2.4b. The second board were exposed to a much higher dose, therefore we can see much more effects on the current for this board. The reason for the “jumps” in current is because the output is constantly changing from on to off, with a gap of 4 seconds. Not any effects are detected before a radiation dose of approx 40kRad.

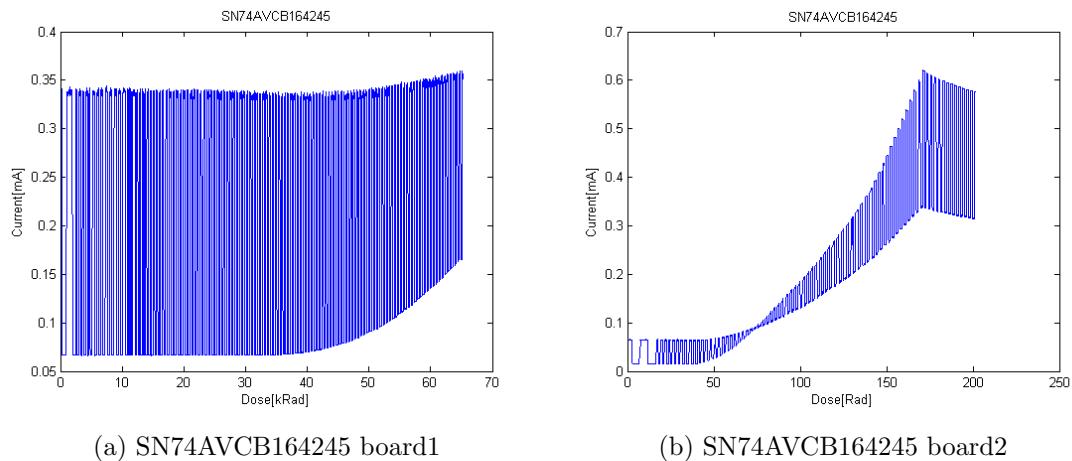


Figure 6.2.4: SN74AVC2T245 - Current vs Dose

SN74AVC2T245

On the first radiation test of this board something didn't work as it should. After 740 s and a dose of 98 Rad the chips output was stuck at '1'. The reason for this is unknown, I fear that the IC was defected before we started the radiation test, since it gives a totally different current characteristics than test board nr. 2. The input was switching from high to low every 4 second explaining the constantly change in current. If we look at the test results from board 2, the current goes unchanged up to 40 kRad, and no errors were detected at all.

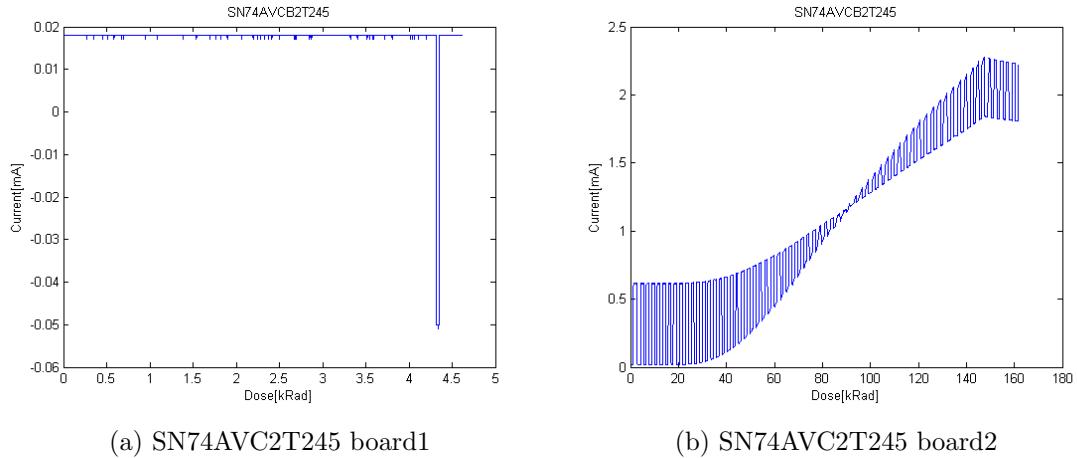


Figure 6.2.5: SN74AVC2T245 - Current vs Dose

QS3VH257

For both of the boards no errors on the output data were detected through the whole irradiation test. The current graphs can be seen in figure 6.2.6a and 6.2.6b. We see a small increase in current before 30 kRad, after that it starting increasing in a more rapid speed.

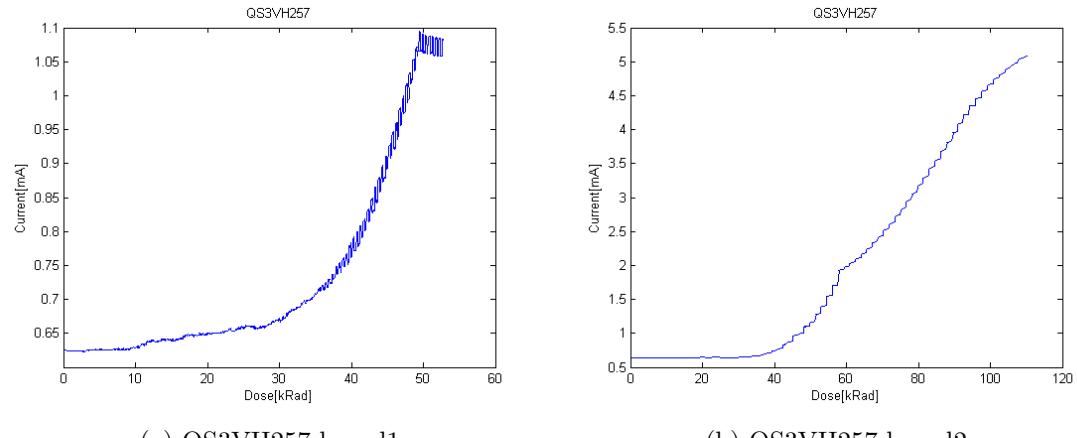


Figure 6.2.6: OS3VH257 Current vs Dose

SV89831

For test of these board we required to use the modified MIC69302WU as described in section 4.2.2, because of the high current consumption. The output data was correct through both of the tests, the current characterization can be seen in 6.2.7a and 6.2.7b. This board is quite temperature dependent, a small increase in temperature, can increase or decrease current by hundreds of μ A. The small increase in current we

can see on both of the boards, may also be temperature difference. It is nevertheless very small.

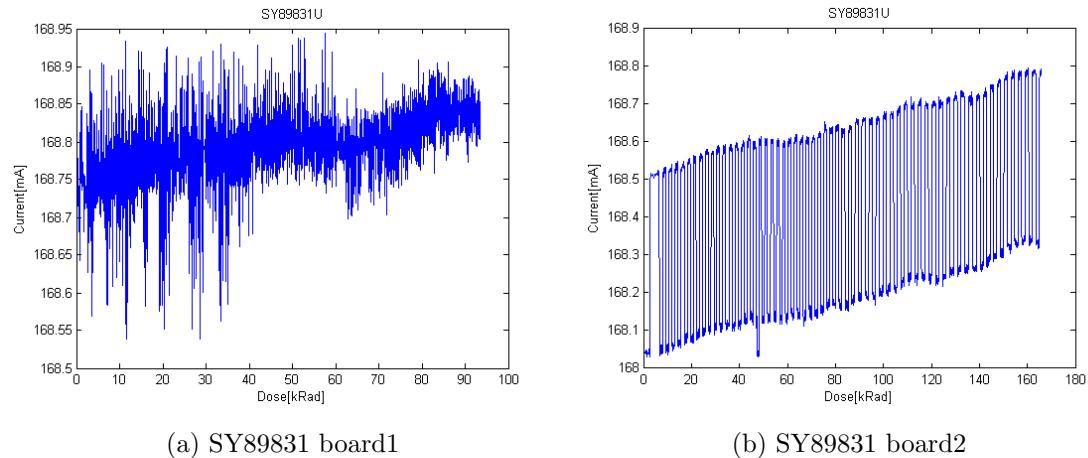


Figure 6.2.7: SY89831 - Current vs Dose

ADN2814

As mentioned in 4.2.7, we needed a SF2 starter-kit and the modified MIC69302WU board with a 3.3 V output voltage to test and supply this IC.

The current didn't change before a dose of 200 kRad had been received, but we got a clock error at a dose of ≈ 11 kRad, and a data error after a dose of ≈ 8 kRad, see figure 6.2.8 and 6.2.9.

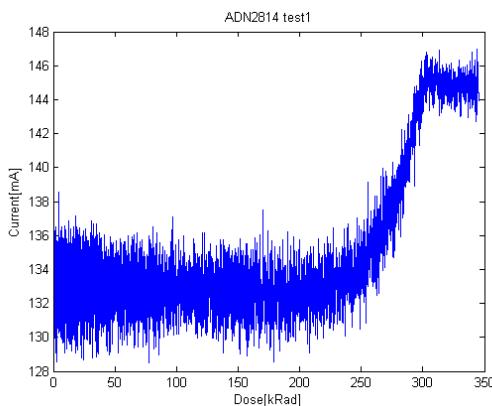


Figure 6.2.8: ADN2814 - Current vs Dose

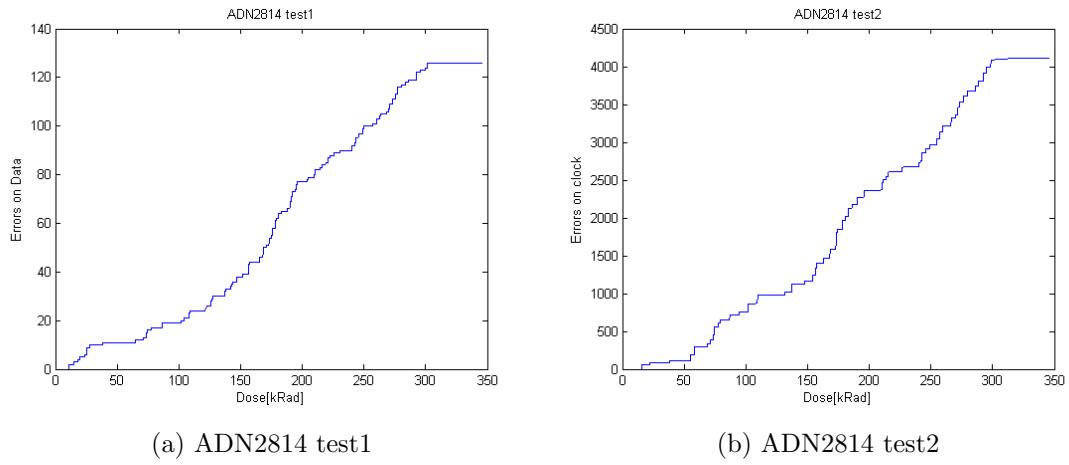


Figure 6.2.9: ADN2814 - Relative errors vs Dose

MAX3748

Also here the solution using SF2 and the modified MIC69302WU board was used to test and supply this IC.

After a dose of over 400 kRad no error were detected on the data signal, and current consumption was stable through the hole irradiation process.

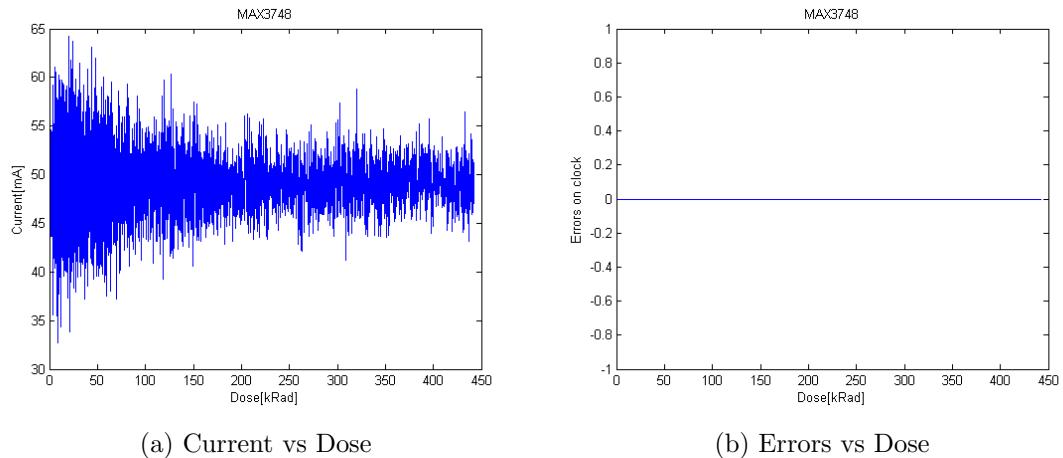


Figure 6.2.10: MAX3748

Summary of the results

In table 6.4 and 6.5 you can see how long each ICs has been exposed too radiation, the dose they have been received and if an error occurred during the irradiation. A returning effect from radiation was that current consumption started increasing with the received dose, the exception was MIC69302WU which actually decreased

and to then stabilized after a while, which I have really no good explanation for. Some of the test didn't go as expected, like $TPS51200_2$ and $SN74AVC2T245_1$, and that is why we tried to at least have two boards which was tested. So that if one of them didn't work, we would at least have a test on that component that will give us some useful results. And that is what we also expected from what we knew about accumulative effects.

Device	Exposed time[s]	Dose[Rad]	Error
$TPS51200_1$	2065	41800	No
$MIC69302WU_1$	2240	164000	No
$SN74AVCB164245_1$	967	65200	No
$SN74AVC2T245_1$	860	4600	Yes
$QS3VH257_1$	795	52800	No
$SY89831_1$	1251	93500	No

Table 6.4: Tests at OCL 15.nov 2013

Device	Exposed time[s]	Dose[Rad]	Error
$ADN2814_run1$	1273	20200	Yes
$ADN2814_run2$	2286	324900	Yes
$MAX3748$	2384	442200	No
$TPS51200_2$	-*	-*	-*
$MIC69302WU_2$	1385	383800	No
$SN74AVCB164245_2$	526	201400	No
$SN74AVC2T245_2$	478	161600	No
$QS3VH257_2$	264	110300	No
$SY89831U_2$	921	165800	No

*The board wouldn't work at test time

Table 6.5: Tests at OCL 27-28.nov 2013

Device	Exposed time[s]	Dose[Rad]	Error
$INA210_1$	1084	220,9	No
$INA210_2$	1661	174,9	No
$TLV3011_1$	742	120,1	No
$TLV3011_2$	1074	149,1	No

Table 6.6: Tests at OCL 08-11.April 2014

Discussion of the result

We had access to OCL in three periods; 13.11.13-15.11.13, 28.11.13-29.11.13 and 08.04.14-11.04.14, but most of the testing was done 15.11.13, 28.11.13 and 11.04.14. The other days was used to get familiar with the instruments and equipment that was being used, to prepare the setup and setting up the beam.

There are almost impossible to get the same beam two days at a row. Each day of testing is therefore different from each other. And that is also why we had to do calibration each day at start-up.

The interesting thing when determining if a IC tolerant towards radiation is the dose. In run2, it has been calculated that the total dose in the TPC is 1-2 kRad. This is the absolute limit a IC have to survive, and a safe margin on at least 3 times should be used. We also have to take account that when radiating at OCL, we have been using proton beam on less than 30 MeV, in the TPC detector in ALICE, we can receive protons and neutrons in the energy level of higher than 1 GeV, which may cause other effects that we have seen in our test at OCL. It is therefore important to have a good margin on the dose.

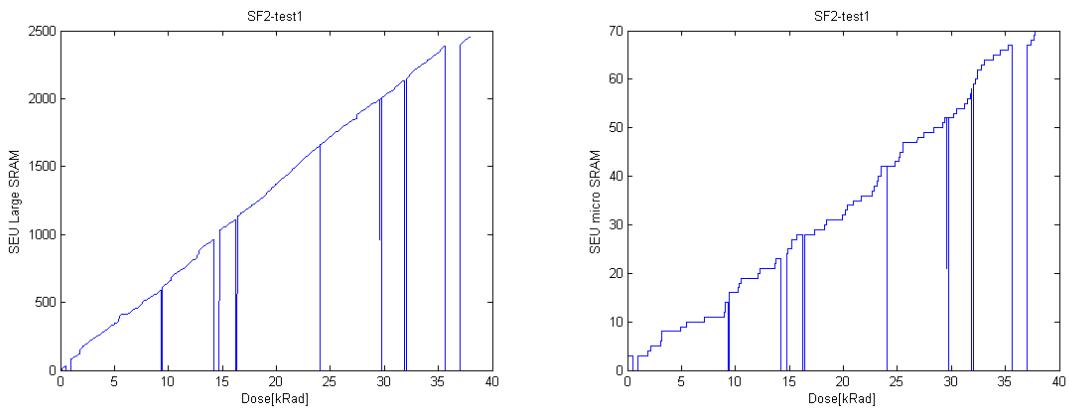
For the test of SN74AVCB164245, SN74AVC2T245 and QS3VH257 the output signals were only measured digitally by a USB-DAQ, that means that we really don't know if the voltage level shifted because of the received dose. The input low level is from -0.3 V to 0.8 V and the input high level is from 2.0 to 5.8, which means that we could actually have a large swing on the output, without being detected. But then again, changes on the output can normally be referred back to current consumption, as we see on both TPS51200 and MIC69302WU, and we didn't see any increase in current before a dose of 30-40 kRad.

6.2.3 Test results SF2

In this subsection the results from radiation test on the SF2 M2S050ES chip will be presented. The different parts which where tested will be presented for them self, and we will have a discussion on the total result at the end. Only one starter kit was tested, but the beam was turned off some times during the test. After a dose of approximately 37 kRad we got a very high increase in current, probably caused by a latchup. We did a power cycle of the board, and the current went back to a normal level. The test result presented are divided into before and after the power shut down, hereafter called run1 and run2. The shift register design, made for testing of the logical element, see section 4.4.2, where only run after the power shutdown. After a dose of ≈ 8 kRad after the shut down, the current increased again. We tried to another power cycle, but this time it was permanently. The total dose after radiation was ≈ 45 kRad.

SRAM

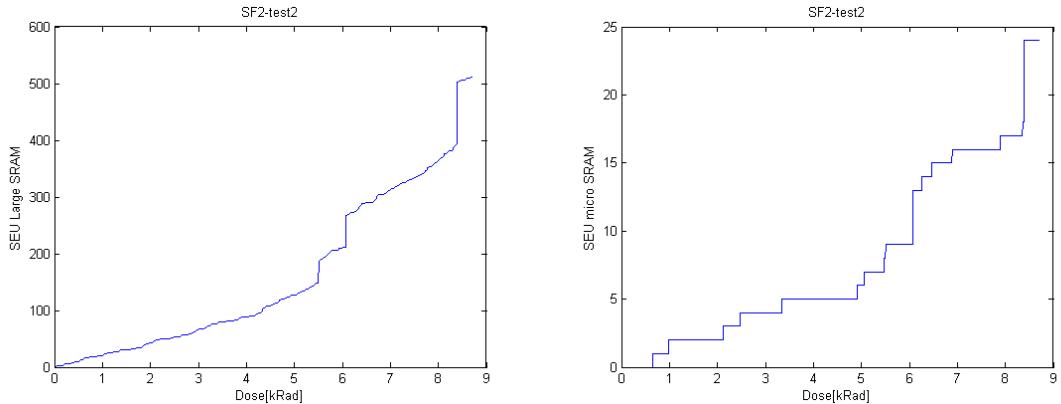
The purpose of the SRAM test is to see how reliable the SRAM memory is. In figure 6.2.11 and 6.2.12 you can Single event upset on large SRAM and micro SRAM versus dose. During the test, we had some problems with the Microcontroller SubSystem (MSS), which stopped working in periods. This was fixed by restarting the MSS, but then we had a short period of lost data. This can be seen as drops in the SEUs and cycles counter, and small fall in current, see appendix A.2.



(a) SEU on Large SRAM versus Dose in kRad (b) SEU on micro SRAM versus Dose in kRad

Figure 6.2.11: LSRAM and micro SRAM test results before shutdown

Slightly after a dose of 35 kRad, we can see a gap where we have no increase in upset on neither of the large SRAM or the micro SRAM. The flux is stable and the cycles counter is not changing as well in that period, see appendix A.2. This suggest that something is not working in the FPGA. I would think that clock signal



(a) SEU on Large SRAM versus Dose in kRad (b) SEU on micro SRAM versus Dose in kRad

Figure 6.2.12: Large SRAM and micro SRAM test results after shutdown

is gone, maybe because one of the PLL stop. We got two PLLs errors in that period, supporting that theory, see 6.8

We can see that for run1, the SEUs on the large SRAM is increasing quite linear, this means that a cross section can be found. The SEUs on the micro SRAM get a stepwise increase in SEUs, which doesn't look so linear. There is much fewer memory bits in the micro SRAM compared to the large SRAM, in total there are 9,5 times more large SRAM bits than micro SRAM. To get a more precise calculation on cross section for the micro SRAM, we should have runned with a much higher intensity.

To get as much precise calculation as possible for the cross section, we should check over the period which is most linear. Therefore the cross section for the large SRAM are being calculated from the period in between 17 and 24 kRad on run1. The corresponding fluence for the start and endpoint is respectively $5.0026E - 10$ and $6.994E - 10$, and the total SEUs for that period are 513. The equation to calculate the cross section can be taken from equation 6.14, giving us,

$$CS_{LSRAM} = \frac{SEUs}{FluenceDUT} = \frac{513}{1.99e10} = 0,000000026 = 2.6 * 10^{-10} \quad (6.23)$$

Cross section for micro SRAM in the same period, is

$$CS_{uSRAM} = \frac{SEUs}{FluenceDUT} = \frac{14}{1.99e10} = 0,000000026 = 7.0 * 10^{-10} \quad (6.24)$$

A maybe more interesting term to look at, is cross section per bit. We used a

total of $16384 * 38 = 622592$ large SRAM bit and $2048 * 32 = 65536$ micro SRAM bit. This gives us,

$$CS_{LSRAM} = \frac{2.6 * 10^{-8}}{622592} = 4.18 * 10^{-14} \quad (6.25)$$

$$CS_{uSRAM} = \frac{7.0 * 10^{-10}}{65536} = 1.07 * 10^{-14} \quad (6.26)$$

Logic element

For run1 we didn't manage to turn on the shift register design, because of some errors in the test code. This was solved before run2.

On run two, we ran 4 shift register chains with shift register length of 2000, with 4 inverters in between each register and 4 windowed shift register. The frequency used was 40 Mhz. In table 6.7, you find the results from run2.

We detected 5 shift register errors in total over a dose of 8 kRad. That was something like we would expected. But one of the point with this test, were to see if we could distinguish between upset or transient on the tracks, by changing on the frequency. Now we only run on a 40Mhz, meaning we can't say anything if it was upset in registers, or transient on the track we see. But we got at least a feeling on how often we would see an error on the shift register with the settings used.

SEU in the shift registers	Exposed time[s]	Dose[kRad]
1	320	2.95
2	357	3.53
3	358	3.54
4	417	4.46
5	620	7.81
*	620	7.28

*Lots of shift register errors followed after this

Table 6.7: Shift register errors in run2

PLL and Latchup

Graphs of current versus dose can be found in appendix A.2. We received much less latchups than expected. From Microsemi, we had heard roomers of a problem with micro latchup in the Cortex SRAM memory, which would increase current with a 50-100 mA, but wasn't destructive. We didn't detect any micro latchups during our test, but we got two rather big latchup, which more than doubled the current, from around 270 mA to around 730 mA on the 1.2 V power source during run1 and in run2 we went from 400 mA to around 850 mA on the 1.2 V power source. The nominal current for run2 was a little higher since the shift register design was also running.

In table 6.8 and 6.9 you can see the result from the PLL test. A noticeable things is that the first lock loss already occurred after a dose of 0,7 kRad. The The PLL that was monitored was driven by another PLL. Thus, assuming that if the first PLL loses its lock signal and thus clock, the second PLL will also loose its lock signal. We got a total of 23 PLL lock loss, giving us 11.5 loss per PLL.

PLL lock loss	Exposed time[s]	Dose[kRad]
1	88	0.7
2	166	1.3
3	304	2.3
4	473	3.6
5	523	4.0
6	663	5.0
7	2363	18.7
8	2440	19.3
9	2720	21.5
10	2938	23.1
11	2938	23.1
12	3306	26.0
13	3600	28.4
14	3633	28.6
15	4125	32.6
16	4575	36.1
17	4546	36.1
18	4624	36.5

PLL errors	Exposed time[s]	Dose[kRad]
1	301	2.68
2	372	3.76
3	541	5.50
4	576	7.08
5	589	7.28

Table 6.9: Time and dose for the PLL errors run2

Table 6.8: Time and dose for the PLL errors run1

Discussion on the results

6.3 Results from TSL

In this section the results form the irradiation test at TSL will be presented. The focus has been on the SF2 test, but other other test will also be presented and discussed.

A total of two RCU2s and 3 SF2 starter-kit were exposed to radiation. When we radiated the RCU2, we tested SERDES communication, Clock and data recovery, latchup and trigger interface.

6.3.1 SF2 radiation test

Two starter kit with the SF2 M2S050-FG484 were tested, and one starter-kit with the SF2 M2S050ES-FG896 (engineering sample). The SF2 M2S050-FG484 is the same Soc FPGA which we are going to use on the RCU2, only with smaller package. Therefore we preferred testing our code on these instead of the engineering sample version, which may have some early design errors. The things that were tested on the starter-kits with smaller package are SRAM, PLL, Logic element and latchup, as discussed in section 4.4. When testing the M2S050ES-FG896, the focus was only to see for how long we could program the device with increasing dose.

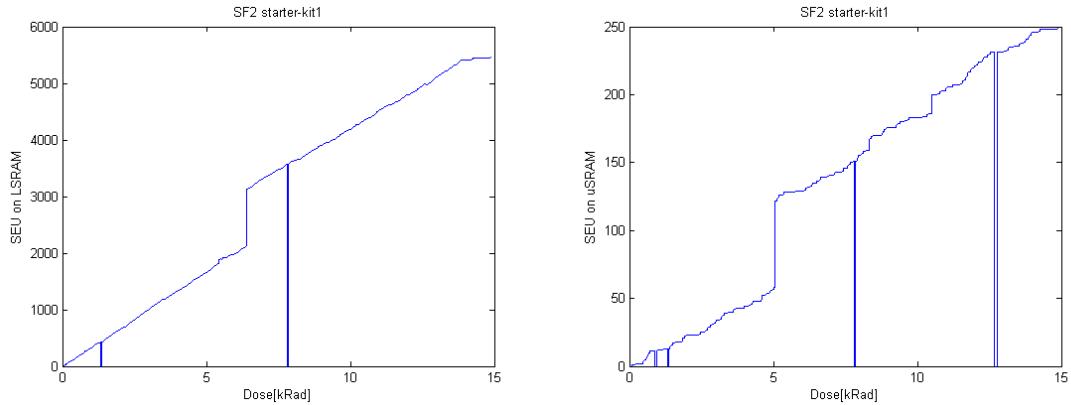
Some improvements has been done to the the test since radiation at OCL. We have added two more PLL lock signals signal to monitor, which didn't got measured in OCL. And we found a more effective way to measure current. We used a , which is a ADC with I_2C communication protocol and an internal voltage reference. The SF2 have I_2C communication protocol, which means that we could use the monitoring board to control and receive data from the ADC-chip. So we didn't need the current measurement board anymore, making the setup, a little easier. The monitoring board were also connected to the enable pin of the 3.3 V voltage regulator on the test board, making it possible to turn on and off the test board at will.

PLL and latchup

To measure current

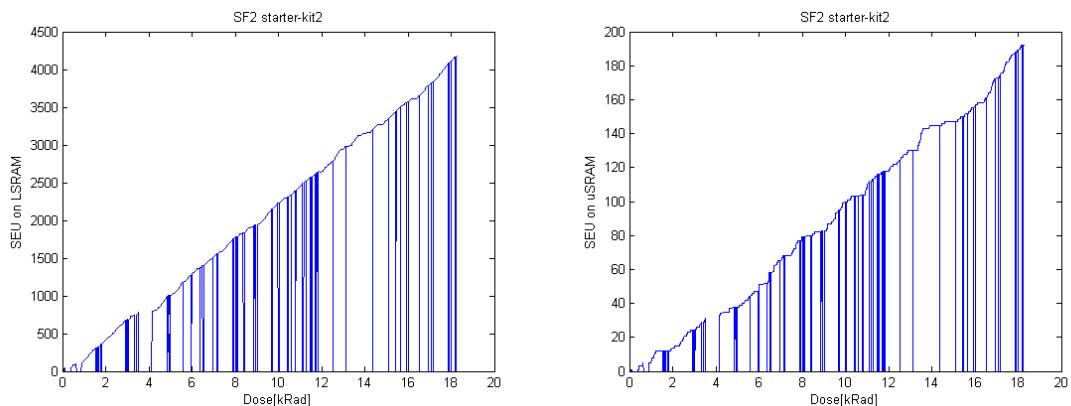
SRAM

In figure 6.3.1 and 6.3.2 you can see the results from radiation of the two SF2 M2S050-FG484.



(a) SEU on Large SRAM versus Dose in kRad (b) SEU on micro SRAM versus Dose in kRad

Figure 6.3.1: Large SRAM and micro SRAM test results after shutdown



(a) SEU on Large SRAM versus Dose in kRad (b) SEU on micro SRAM versus Dose in kRad

Figure 6.3.2: Large SRAM and micro SRAM test results after shutdown

Logic element

Programming limit test

6.3.2 Other test at TSL

WE will also here

Chapter 7

Conclusion

Appendix A

Some Appendix

A.1 Beam setup data

A.2 Radiation results

In figure *A.2.1*, *A.2.2* and *A.2.3* you can see graphs of flux vs time for the different test boards. The reason the graphs don't go as linear as one would expect, is that the beam sometimes stopped and had to restarted, and that we increased and decreased the intensities as we wanted.

Calibration test nr.:	x	y	Scint rel	SEU(SRAM)	SEU(SRAM)/sc
1	0	0	23813	1971	8.28E-02
2	0	-0.5	37930	3867	1.02E-01
3	0	-1	27527	2817	1.02E-01
4	0	-1.5	34413	3360	9.76E-02
5	0	-2	32713	2763	8.45E-02
6	0.5	0	38753	2709	6.99E-02
7	-0.5	0	23420	2483	1.06E-01
8	-1	0	20611	2232	1.08E-01
9	-1.5	0	21014	2410	1.15E-01
10	-1.5	0	20676	2260	1.09E-01
11	-2	0	35787	3776	1.06E-01
12	-2.5	0	27847	2512	9.02E-02

Table A.1: Calibration tests 14.11.2013

Calibration test nr.:	x	y	Scint rel	SEU(SRAM)	SEU(SRAM)/ sc
1	-0.8	-1	27798	1463	5.26E-02
2	-1.3	-1	17721	1239	6.99E-02
3	-1.8	-1	12904	1203	9.32E-02
4	-2.3	-1	13361	1276	9.55E-02
5	-2.8	-1	12786	1238	9.68E-02
6	-3.3	-1	12342	1156	9.37E-02
7	-2.5	-1	11696	1223	1.05E-01
8	-2.5	-1.5	11027	1075	9.75E-02
9	-2.5	-2	11835	1063	8.98E-02
10	-2.5	-0.5	15593	1540	9.88E-02
11	-2.5	0	12620	1034	8.19E-02
12	-2.5	-1	65280	5999	9.19E-02
13	-2.5	-1	52752	4803	9.10E-02
14	-2.5	-1	57229	5250	9.17E-02

Table A.2: Calibration tests 15.11.2013

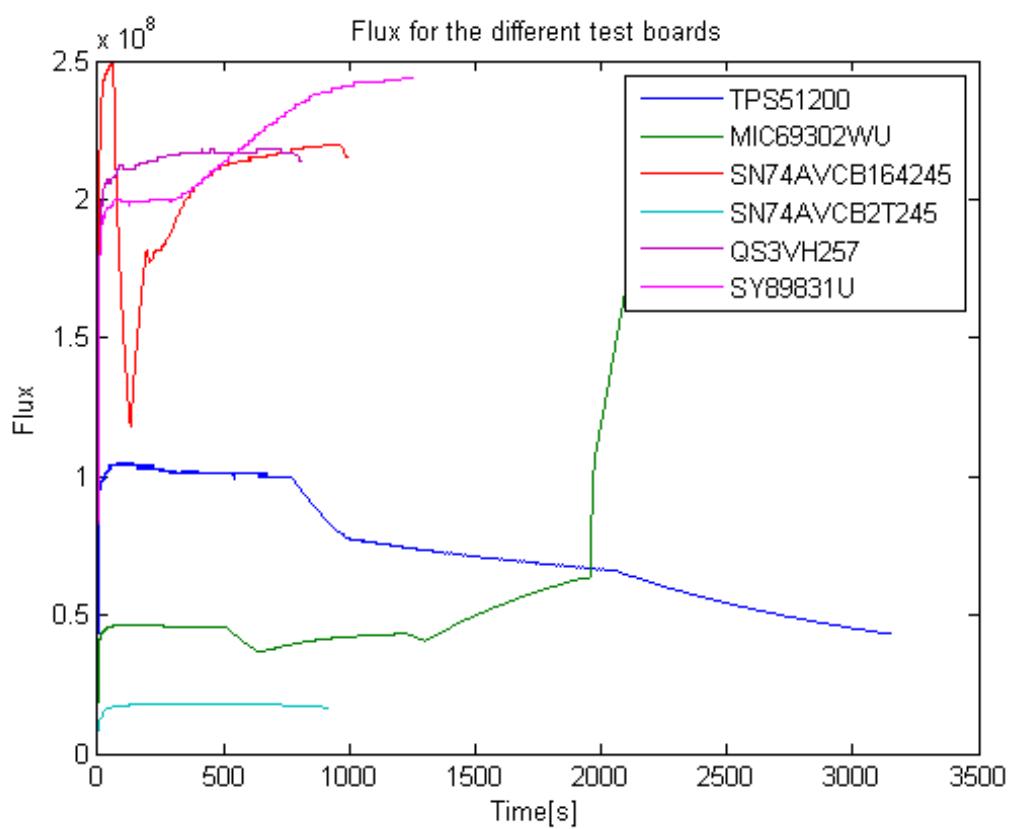


Figure A.2.1: flux for each component radiated 15.11.2013

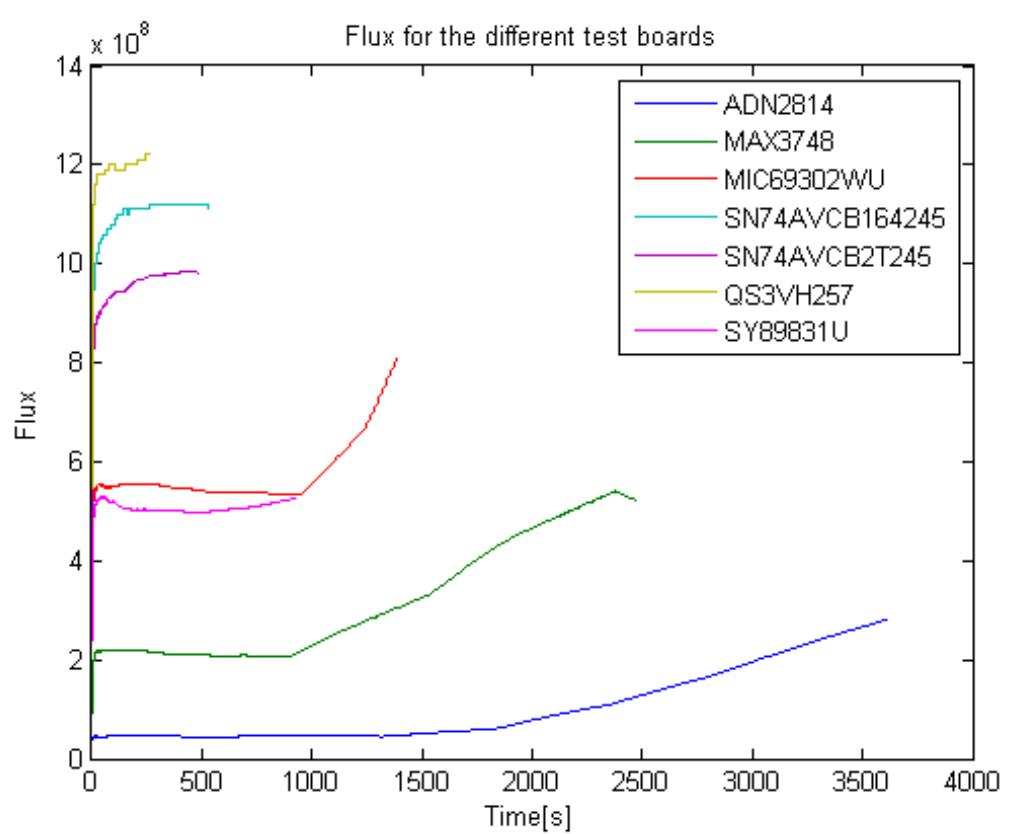


Figure A.2.2: flux for each component radiated 28.11.2013

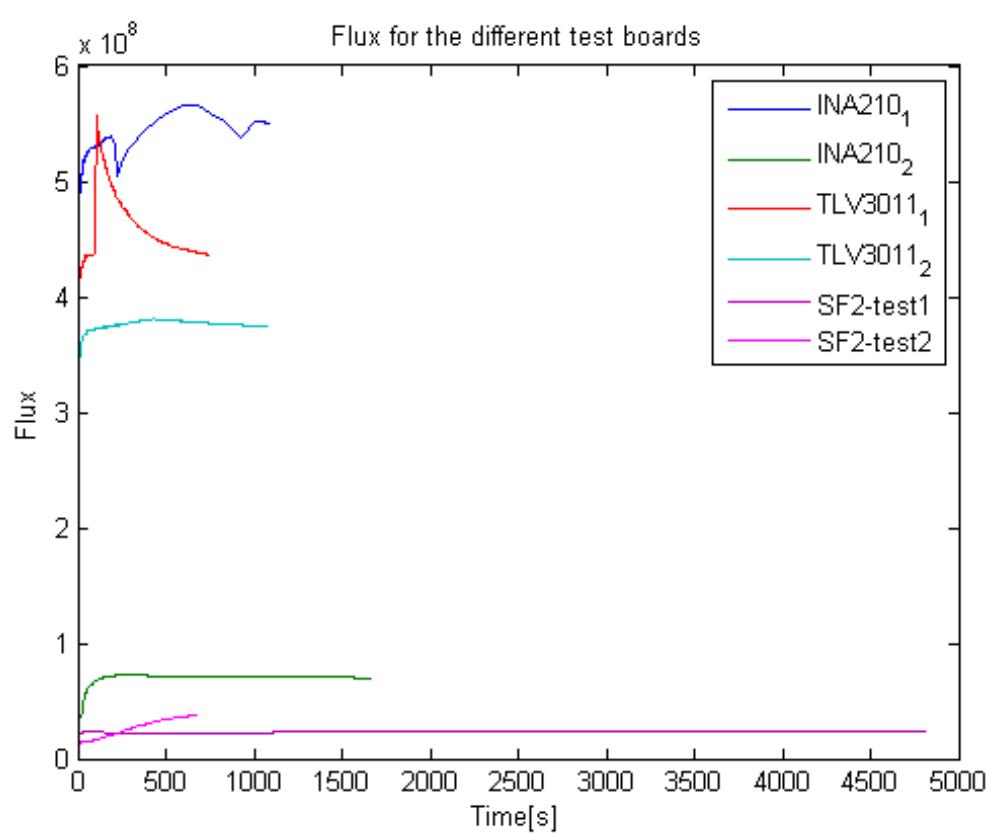


Figure A.2.3: flux for each component radiated 09.04.2014

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