Chapter 5 - Process Design Kit (PDK)

Course authors (Git file)



- What is a PDK?
- Open-Source PDK and GitHub
- 3 Content of the PDK ihp-sg13g2
- File formats
- Ruleset documents



Section 1

What is a PDK?



Wikipedia definition

A process design kit (PDK) is a set of files used within the semiconductor industry to model a fabrication process for the design tools used to design an integrated circuit. The PDK is created by the foundry defining a certain technology variation for their processes. . . .

... The designers use the PDK to design, simulate, draw and verify the design before handing the design back to the foundry to produce chips. The data in the PDK is specific to the foundry's process variation and is chosen early in the design process, influenced by the market requirements for the chip. An accurate PDK will increase the chances of first-pass successful silicon.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Process_design_kit



Open-source viewpoint

- Semicondutcor industry started to integrate open-soruce.
- Open-source PDKs created by Semiconductor Fabs were a "missing link" between:
 - Open-source EDA tools a(RTL-to-GDS) and
 - Microchip production (GDS-to-Chip)
- Since there is open-source PDKs, the growth of the open-source ecosystem is measurable.
- Many of the tools have been the classical "one-person maintainted" open-source projects. It is getting better.



In the context of this course

The PDK (ihp-sg13g2) integrates seemless (to the user) into the OpenROAD flow scripts toolchain.

We have seen reference points from the tools onto the PDK in:

- the configuration files
- the structure of the design directories
- some Variables



Naming

PDKs are refered to as:

- Process design kits
- Process node
- Technology node
- Technology



Section 2

Open-Source PDK and GitHub



Difference from closed source

With publishing a PDK under a open-source license, the development from there on becomes a worldwide visible joint effort. The number of contributors and authors of the PDK can only increase from here on.



Collaborative workflow in GitHub

Some of the main principles of open-source are the permissions to use, study, change and re-distribute the published code and data according to the license. This leads to a open collaboration in which everyone can participate.

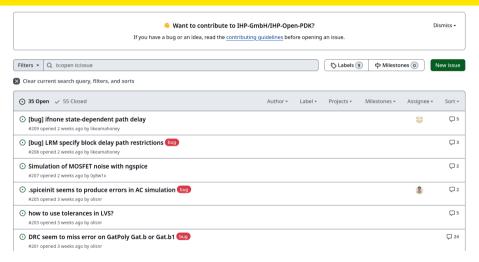
GitHub enables a workflow that was designed and build with these principles and opportunities in mind. A good starting point to explore the open collaboration in the IHP PDK are

- Issues (open and closed)
- Pull requests (open and closed)

The topics and discussions that you can read and study there will draw a picture of how the process of open collaboration works for the PDK.



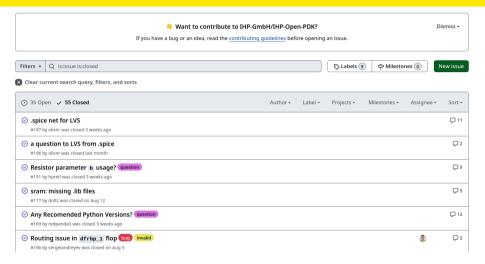
Issues openss





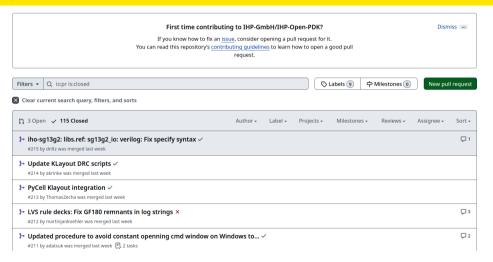


Issues closed





Pull requests closed





License file

The IHp open-source PDK is published with an Apache 2.0 license:

https://github.com/IHP-GmbH/IHP-Open-PDK/blob/main/LICENSE

Apache 2.0 is a permissive open-source license. Read more about different open-source licenses here:

https://choosealicense.com/licenses/

Tip:

Know about the permissions, conditions and limitations of the licenses you are using for your projects!



Section 3

Content of the PDK ihp-sg13g2



The README

The Readme file in the PDKs repository is the starting point for information about the content of the PDK.

https://github.com/IHP-GmbH/IHP-Open-PDK/blob/main/README.md

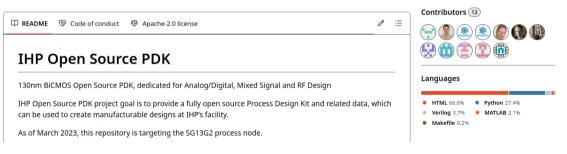


Figure 4: Readme



Project roadmap

A GANTT chart of the roadmap for the open-source PDK is available under this weblink. It shows the projects timeline (2022 - 2026):

https://github.com/IHP-GmbH/IHP-Open-PDK/blob/main/ihp-sg13g2/libs.doc/roadmap/open_PDK_gantt.png



Figure 5: Gantt chart



Cells in the PDK

There are four different sets of cells (or devices) in the PDK:

- Base cellset with limited set of standard logic cells
 - CDL, GDSII, LEF, Tech LEF
 - Liberty, SPICE Netlist, Verilog
- IO cellset
 - GDSII, LEF, Liberty (dummy), SPICE Netlist
- SRAM cellset
 - CDL, GDSII, LEF, Liberty, Verilog
- Primitive devices
 - GDSII



Other data in the PDK

- KLayout tool data:
 - layer property and tech files
 - DRC rules (minimal set)
 - PyCells
 - initial version of the wrapper API
 - sample cells
- Pcells (for reference only) libs.tech/pycell
- MOS/HBT/Passive device models for ngspice/Xyce
- xschem: primitive device symbols, settings and testbenches
- OpenEMS: tutorials, scripts, documentation
- SG13G2 Process specification & Layout Rules
- MOS/HBT Measurements in MDM format
- Project Roadmap Gantt chart



Standard cell library

ToDo:

- Where in the RTl-to-GDS is the cell library needed?
- Design to cells to GDS and Tapeout
- Naming of the cells



A single cell from the library

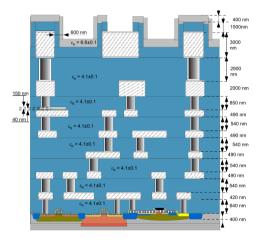
ToDo:

- Pick one cell
- Pictures of the layers of the cell
 - Klayout
 - 3D Rederings?
- Schematic of the cell



Layer stack

IHP sg13g2 Layers in a picture.





Layerr table from Stefffen

ToDo: Add Steffens layer table here



Picture of a cell

ToDo: Insert the 3d rendering of a IHP cell from Tinytapeout. Try to match the layers



Section 4

File formats



Cell AO21: VERILOG HDL language

```
// type: AO21
       timescale 1ns/10ps
       celldefine
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
      module sg13g2 a21o 1 (X, A1, A2, B1);
          output X:
          input A1, A2, B1;
           // Function
           wire int fwire 0:
           and (int fwire 0, A1, A2);
           or (X, int fwire 0, B1);
           // Timing
           specify
                (A1 => X) = 0;
               (A2 => X) = 0:
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
               if (A1 == 1'b1 & A2 == 1'b0)
                    (B1 => X) = 0:
                if (A1 == 1'b0 & A2 == 1'b1)
                    (B1 => X) = 0:
               ifnone (B1 \Rightarrow X) = 0:
           endspecify
      endmodule
       endcelldefine
```

Cell AO21: SPICE Netlist

```
* Library name: sg13g2 stdcell
     * Cell name: sg13g2 a21o 1
     * View name: schematic
     * Inherited view list: spectre cmos sch cmos.sch schematic veriloga ahdl
 5
6
7
      pspice dspf
     .subckt sg13g2 a21o 1 A1 A2 B1 VDD VSS X
     XNO net1 A1 net2 VSS sg13 lv nmos w=640.00n l=130.00n ng=1 ad=0 as=0 pd=0 ps=0 m=1
    XN1 net2 A2 VSS VSS sg13 lv nmos w=640.00n l=130.00n ng=1 ad=0 as=0 pd=0 ps=0 m=1
    XN2 net1 B1 VSS VSS sg13 lv nmos w=640.00n l=130.00n ng=1 ad=0 as=0 pd=0 ps=0 m=1
10
    XN3 X net1 VSS VSS sg13 lv nmos w=740.00n l=130.00n ng=1 ad=0 as=0 pd=0 ps=0 m=1
11
    XPO net1 B1 net3 VDD sg13 lv pmos w=1.000u l=130.00n ng=1 ad=0 as=0 pd=0 ps=0 m=1
12
    XP1 net3 A1 VDD VDD sg13 lv pmos w=1.000u l=130.00n ng=1 ad=0 as=0 pd=0 ps=0 m=1
13
    XP2 net3 A2 VDD VDD sg13_lv_pmos w=1.000u l=130.00n ng=1 ad=0 as=0 pd=0 ps=0 m=1
14
    XP3 X net1 VDD VDD sg13 lv pmos w=1.12u l=130.00n ng=1 ad=0 as=0 pd=0 ps=0 m=1
15
     ends
16
     * End of subcircuit definition.
```



Cell AO21: Circuit design language

```
Library Name: sg13g2 stdcell
     * Cell Name: sg13g2 a21o 1
     * View Name:
                     schematic
5
6
7
8
     .SUBCKT sg13g2 a21o 1 A1 A2 B1 VDD VSS X
     *. PININFO A1: I A2: I B1: I X:O VDD: B VSS: B
    MNO net1 A1 net2 VSS sg13 lv nmos m=1 w=640.00n l=130.00n ng=1
10
    MN1 net2 A2 VSS VSS sg13 lv nmos m=1 w=640.00n l=130.00n ng=1
11
    MN2 net1 B1 VSS VSS sg13 lv nmos m=1 w=640.00n l=130.00n ng=1
12
    MN3 X net1 VSS VSS sg13 ly nmos m=1 w=740.00n l=130.00n ng=1
13
    MPO net1 B1 net3 VDD sg13 ly pmos m=1 w=1.000u l=130.00n ng=1
    MP1 net3 A1 VDD VDD sg13 lv pmos m=1 w=1.000u l=130.00n ng=1
15
    MP2 net3 A2 VDD VDD sg13 lv pmos m=1 w=1.000u l=130.00n ng=1
16
    MP3 X net1 VDD VDD sg13 ly pmos m=1 w=1.12u l=130.00n ng=1
17
     . ENDS
```



Section 5

Ruleset documents



Layout rules document

https://github.com/IHP-GmbH/IHP-Open-PDK/tree/main/ihp-sg13g2/libs.doc/doc



Figure 7: Layour rules document



Process specification document

https://github.com/IHP-GmbH/IHP-Open-PDK/tree/main/ihp-sg13g2/libs.doc/doc



Figure 8: Process specification

