

Synthesis

Objectives

After completing this module, you will be able to:

- Elaborate a design and perform analysis
- Make basic timing constraints with the Constraints viewer
- Use the check timing report to verify constraint coverage of your design
- Build useful design reports that will help you avoid the most common design mistakes and assure design success
- Use the clock_interaction report to verify constraint coverage on datapaths between clock domains



Outline

- ▶ Elaboration
- Synthesis
- Basic Timing Constraints
- Synthesis Reports
- Summary



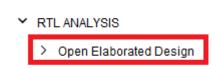
Elaboration

- Elaboration is the RTL optimization to an FPGA technology
- Vivado IDE allows designers to import and manage RTL sources
 - Verilog, System Verilog, VHDL, NGC, or testbenches
- Create and modify sources with the RTL Editor
 - Cross-selection between all the views
- Sources view
 - Hierarchy view: Display the modules in the design by hierarchy
 - Libraries view: Display sources by category



Elaboration and Analysis

- In an RTL based design, elaboration is the first step
- Click on Open Elaborated Design under RTL Analysis to
 - Compile the RTL source files
 - Load the RTL netlist for interactive analysis
- You can check RTL structure, syntax, and logic definitions
- Analysis and reporting capabilities include:
 - RTL compilation validation and syntax checking
 - Netlist and schematic exploration
 - Design rule checks
 - Early I/O pin planning using an RTL port list
 - Ability to select an object in one view and cross probe to the object in other views, including instantiations and logic definitions within the RTL source files





Analysis of an Elaborated Design

- Three options available after opening an Elaborated Design
 - Report DRC
 - Runs DRC on the design
 - Report Noise
 - Checks the SSO on the design based on a XDC file
 - Schematic
 - Opens the schematic

- RTL ANALYSIS
 - ∨ Open Elaborated Design
 - Report Methodology

Report DRC

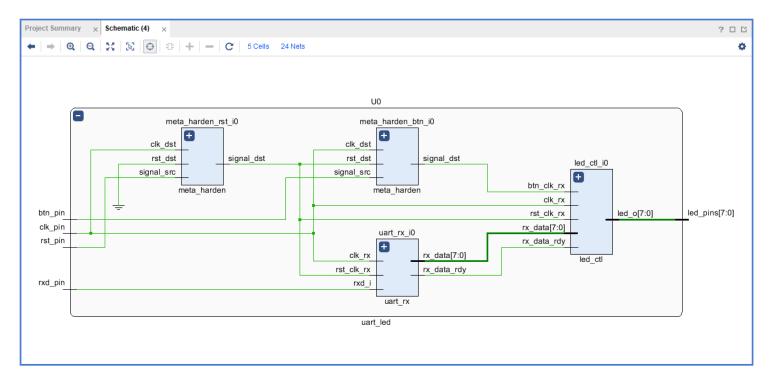
Report Noise

⅓ Schematic



Schematic View of an Elaborated Design

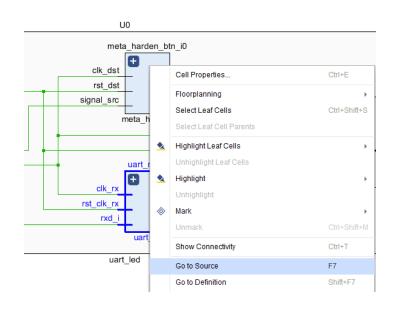
- When Schematic is clicked under the Elaborated Design, the schematic is opened showing the hierarchical blocks
 - Note that no I/O buffers are inferred at this stage
 - Each block opens up to reveal underlying logic and sub-modules in the hierarchy
 - Closest representation to the actual coded design





Cross Probing

Select an object in the schematic, right-click, and select Go To Source to view where the object is defined in the source file





```
× Device × Schematic × uart_led.v ×
                                                        ? 🗆 🖸
C:/vivado_tutorial/lab2/lab2.srcs/sources_1/imports/lab2/uart_led.v
          81 🖨
         . CLOCK_RATE (CLOCK_RATE)
83
         . BAUD_RATE
                     (BAUD_RATE)
84
                    (clk_pin),
         .rst_clk_rx (rst_clk_rx),
88
                    (rxd_pin),
         .rxd_i
89
         .rxd_clk_rx (),
90
91
         .rx_data_rdy (rx_data_rdy),
92
         .rx_data
                   (rx_data),
93
         .frm_err
94 🖒
95
       led_ctl led_ctl_i0 (
         .rst_clk_rx (rst_clk_rx),
99
100
                    (rx_data),
101
         .rx_data_rdy (rx_data_rdy)
102
                    (led_pins)
103 🖨
104
105 🖒 endmodule
106
```

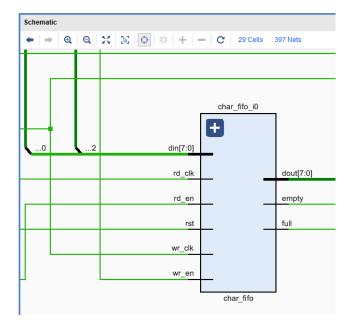


Synthesis



Synthesis: Logic Optimization and Mapping to Device Primitives

- Synthesis of an RTL design
 - Optimizes the gate-level design
 - Maps the netlist to Xilinx primitives
 - Sometimes called technology mapping
- The figure shows a generic FIFO behavioral component mapped to the dedicated FIFO hardware in a 7-Series FPGA

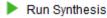




Vivado IDE Synthesis

- Applicable only for RTL (HDL) design flows
 - EDIF is black boxed and linked after synthesis
- Synthesis tool uses XDC constraints to drive synthesis optimization
 - XDC file must exist
- Timing constraints considerations
 - Design must first be synthesized without timing constraints for constraints editor usage
 - Constraints Wizard is available after synthesis to define rudimentary timing constraints
- Synthesis settings provide access to additional options
- Note the changes in the Flow Navigator when the synthesized design has been opened
 - Set Up Debug allows for integration of debug feature





→ Open Synthesized Design

Constraints Wizard

Edit Timing Constraints

- ₩ Set Up Debug
- Teport Timing Summary

Report Clock Networks

Report Clock Interaction

Report Methodology

Report DRC

Report Noise

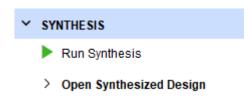
Report Utilization

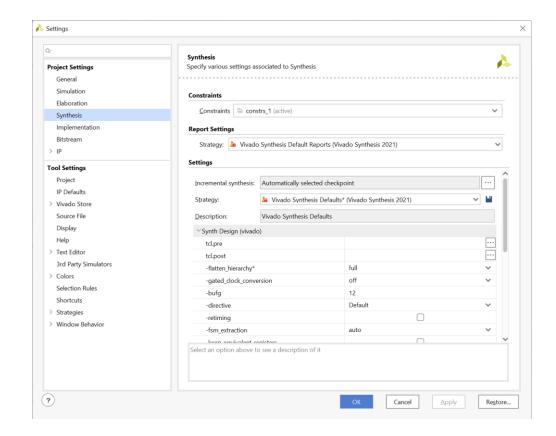
Report Power

⅓ Schematic



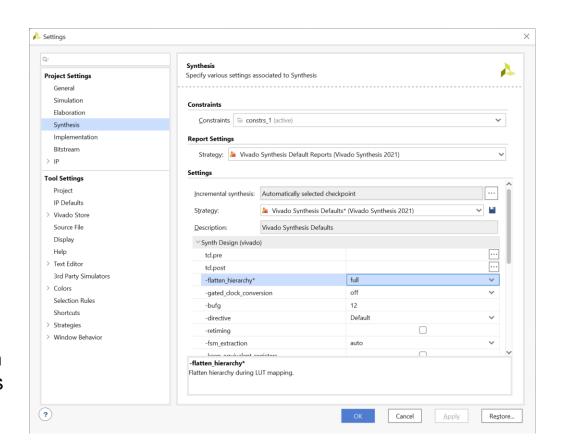
- Synthesis Settings brings up Project Settings dialog box
 - Central location for all project settings
- Select the Default Constraint Set as the active constraint set. Two types of the design constraints
 - Physical constraints define pin placement, and absolute, or relative, placement of cells such as block RAMs, LUTs, Flip-Flops, and device configuration settings.
 - Timing constraints, written in industry standard SDC, define the frequency requirements for the design. Without timing constraints, the Vivado Design Suite optimizes the design solely for wire length and placement congestion.





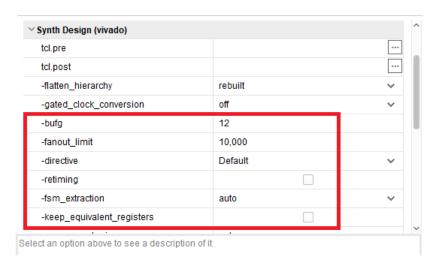


- The tcl.pre and tcl.post options are hooks for Tcl files that run immediately before and after synthesis
- flatten_hierarchy: Determines how synthesis controls hierarchy
 - none: Do not flatten the hierarchy.
 - Maintains the exact same hierarchy as the original RTL
 - full: Fully flatten the hierarchy leaving only the top level
 - rebuilt: Flatten the hierarchy, perform synthesis, and then rebuild the hierarchy based on the original RTL
 - Allows the QoR benefit of cross-boundary optimizations, with a final hierarchy that is similar to the RTL for ease of analysis
- gated_clock_conversion: Turns on and off the synthesis tools ability to convert clock_logic with enables





- bufg: Controls how many BUFGs the tool infers in the design
 - This option is used when other BUFGs in netlists are not visible to the synthesis process
- fsm_extraction: Encode the state machine in a specific encoding type: one_hot, sequential, johnson, gray, or auto
- keep_equivalent_registers: Prevents registers with the same input logic from being merged
- resource_sharing: Sets the sharing of arithmetic operators between different signals
 - The values are auto, on and off





- control_set_opt_threshold: Sets the threshold for clock enable optimization to the lower number of control sets
- no_lc: When checked, this option turns off LUT combining
- shreg_min_size: Is the threshold for inference of SRLs
 - This sets the number of sequential elements that would result in the inference of an SRL for fixed delay chains (static SRL)
- max_bram: Limits the number of BRAM allowed in the design
 - 1 default lets the tool pick as many BRAM as it can, limited by number of BRAMs in device
- max_dsp: Similar in concept to max_bram, except this applies to DSPs
- ▶ To see explanation of each option, click on the name of each option to highlight it

| ptions | |
|----------------------------|------|
| -control_set_opt_threshold | auto |
| -no_lc | |
| -no_srlextract | |
| -shreg_min_size | 3 |
| -max_bram | -1 |
| -max_uram | -1 |
| -max_dsp | -1 |
| -max_bram_cascade_height | -1 |
| -max_uram_cascade_height | -1 |
| -cascade_dsp | auto |
| -assert | |
| H O-E | |



Synthesis RTL Attributes Supported

| Attribute | Description |
|-------------------|--|
| translate_off/_on | Tells the tool to ignore blocks of code |
| full_case | Tells that all possible case values are specified |
| parallel_case | Case statement should be built as a parallel structure |
| keep | Tells tool to keep the signal the attribute is placed on |
| keep_hierarchy | Used to prevent optimizations along the hierarchy boundaries |
| buffer_type | Tells tool what buffer type to use on an input |
| max_fanout | Tells the tool the limits for fanout on registers and signals |
| ram_style | Tells the tool how to infer memory |
| rom_style | Tells the tool how to infer ROM memory |
| use_dsp | Tells the tool how to deal synthesis arithmetic structures |
| black_box | Turns a whole level of hierarchy off and enables synthesis to create a black box for that module/entity |
| gated_clock | Allows the conversion of gated clocks; must be enabled |
| shreg_extract | Tells the tool on whether to infer structures |
| iob | Not a synthesis attribute but is passed to the implementation tool indicating if a register should be in IOB |



Synthesis RTL Attributes Supported, cont'd...

| Attribute | Description |
|-------------------|--|
| async_reg | Tells the tool that a register can receive asynchronous data at D input |
| srl_style | Specifies how SRL is inferred in design |
| clock_buffer_type | Specifies a buffer other than the (default) BUFG for synthesis |
| dont_touch | Similar to KEEP attribute, use in place of KEEP. Attribute is forward-annotated to place & route |
| fsm_encoding | Specifies a specific FSM encoding scheme: one_hot, sequential, johnson, gray, auto (default), none |
| fsm_safe_state | Place on state machine state registers, used to define a safe state in the machine |
| IOB | Not a synthesis attribute, used by Vivado implementation. Specifies if a register is packed into IOB |
| io_buffer_type | Instructs the tool to not automatically infer I/O buffers for a specific top-level port. |
| MARK_DEBUG | Specifies that a net to be marked for debug. |



Attributes Example in RTL

- No support for timing constraints embedded in RTL
- Example of KEEP attribute

```
VHDL

signal sig1 : std_logic;
attribute KEEP : string;
attribute KEEP of sig1 : signal is "true";
sig1 <= in1 and in2;
out1 <= sig1 and in3;

Verilog

(* KEEP = "true" *) wire sig1;
assign sig1 = in1 & in2;
assign out1 = sig1 & in3; // without the attribute sig1 will be optimized away if it not
// being used anywhere else in the model
```



Attributes Example in RTL

Attributes do not work with Verilog 2001 module syntax

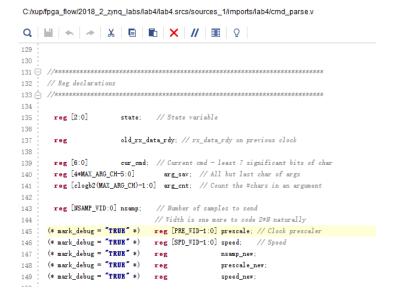
```
Does Not Work
module top ((* buffer_type = "none" *) input sys_clock,
                        input sys_reset,
       (* buffer_type = "none" *) input serDataIn,
Works
module top ( sys_clock,
          sys_reset,
          serDataln,
(* buffer_type = "none" *) input sys_clock;
                input sys_reset;
(* buffer_type = "none" *) input serDataIn;
```

Mark_Debug RTL Attribute

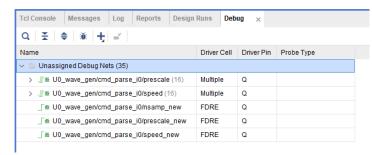
MARK_DEBUG support with Vivado synthesis

- Tag signals in HDL
- Corresponding nets preserved in netlist (DONT_TOUCH behavior)
- Tagged nets appear in the logic analyzer Unassigned nets view
- XDC and elaborated design netlist support available
- You can also mark nets after synthesis

Apply attribute in HDL



After Synthesis





Basic Timing Constraints



Basic Timing Constraints

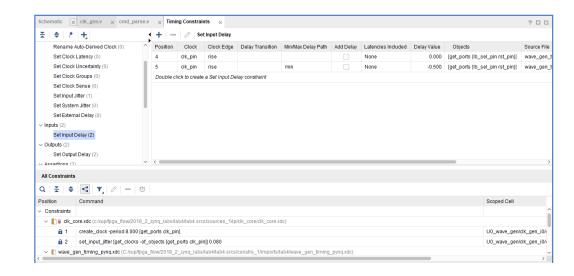
▶ There are three basic timing constraints applicable to a sequential machine

- Period
 - Paths between synchronous elements clocked by the reference clock net
 - Synchronous elements include flip-flops, latches, synchronous RAM, and DSP slices
 - Use create clock to create the constraint
- Input Delay
 - Paths between input pin and synchronous elements
 - Use set input delay to create the constraint
- Output delay
 - Paths between synchronous elements and output pin
 - Use set_output_delay to create the constraint
- More about this in the module on Xilinx Design Constraints



Constraints Viewer

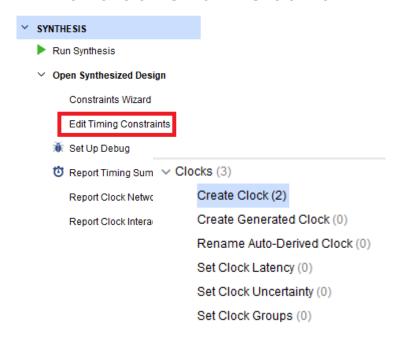
- Constraints Viewer allows you to see/edit the timing constraints contents of the XDC file
 - All timing constraints are supported with the GUI
 - Right-clicking the constraint in the Create window allows you to modify/delete an existing constraint
 - Select a different constraint by clicking it in the All Constraints window
 - To create a different constraint, select the type from the GUI
- After constraint entry is completed, constraints must be "saved" to have them stored in the XDC
 - Changes will be written into the specified Target XDC only

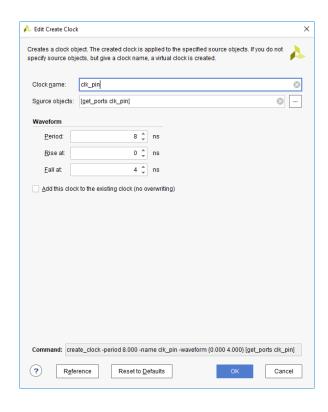


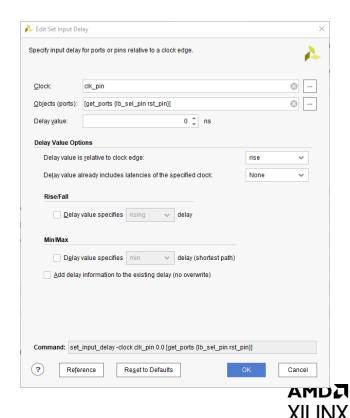


Creating Basic Timing Constraints in Vivado IDE

- Run Synthesis
- Open the synthesized design
- Invoke constraints editor







Creating Basic Timing Constraints using Tcl

Period constraint using create_clock

- create_clock –period 10 [get_ports clk_pin]
- create_clock –period 10 –waveform {0.000 5.000} –name clk [get_ports clk_pin]

> set_input_delay

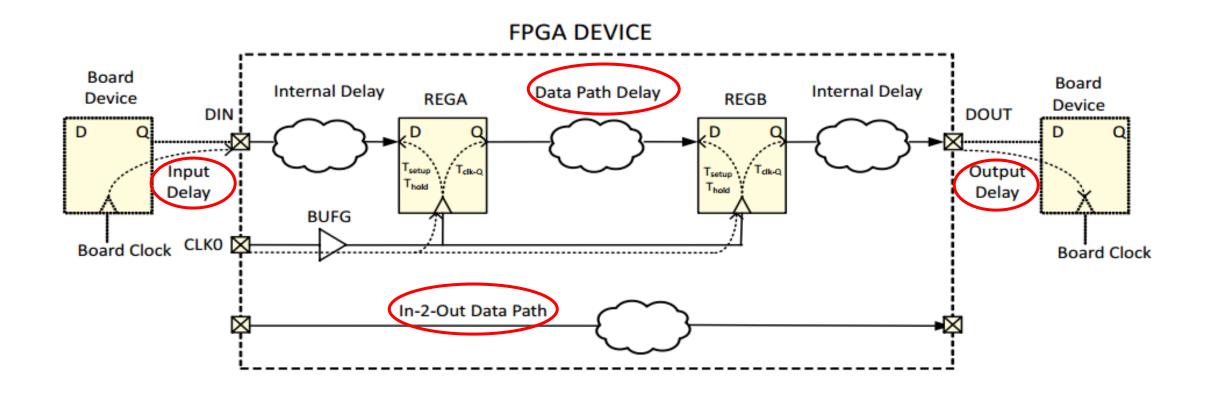
- The input delay external to FPGA
- set_input_delay -clock clk_pin 2.000 [all_inputs]
- set_input_delay -clock clk_pin 3.000 [get_ports in1]
- set_input_delay -clock clk_pin 2 [get_ports l_msn*]

> set_output_delay

- The output delay external to FPGA
- set_output_delay -clock clk_pin -2 [all_output]
- set_output_delay -clock [get_clocks clk_pin] -2 [get_ports out1]



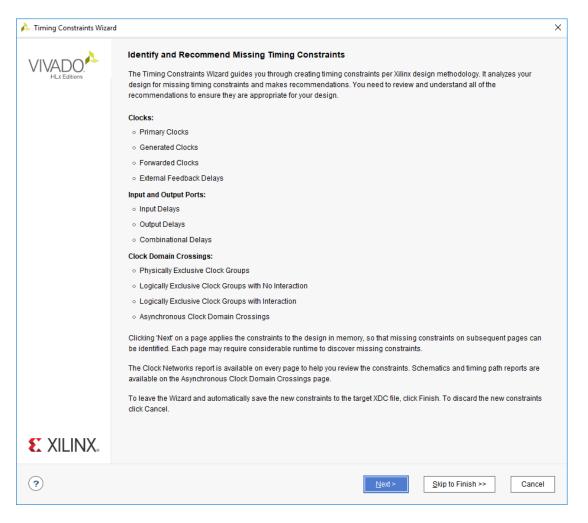
Timing Paths Example





Constraints Wizard

- Allows Vivado to suggest timing constraints missing from the design
 - Recommended flow for an initially unconstrained design
 - User can ignore the recommended constraints
 - Option to deselect constraints at every stage of the wizard
 - Opens the Timing Constraints Editor with recommended constraints
 - User needs to consciously add the constraints to the target XDC file
 - A great alternative to using the Timing Constraints Editor in Vivado
 - User can still use the editor to add constraints



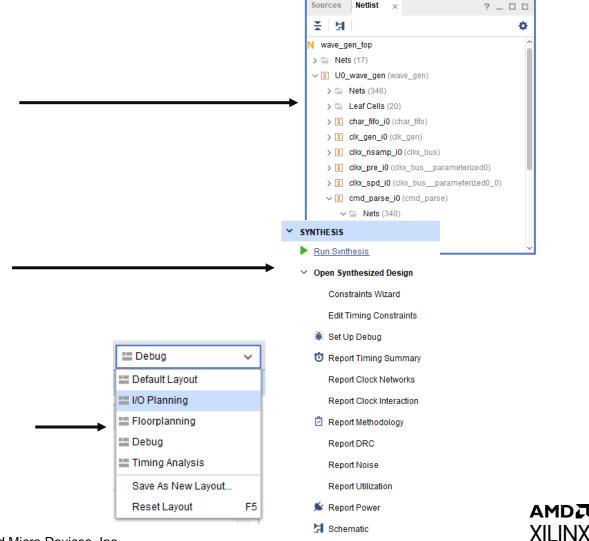


Synthesis Reports



After Synthesis

- In the Synthesized Design view:
 - Sources tab does not change
 - RTL Netlist tab (Elaborated Design) changes to Netlist (Synthesized Design)
 - However, the Flow Navigator now includes:
 - Constraints Wizard, Edit Timing Constraints, Set Up Debug, Report Timing Summary, Report Clock Networks, Report Clock Interaction, Report DRC, Report Noise, Report Utilization, Report Power, **Schematic**
 - Views can be selected by purpose
 - All timing information is only an estimate (until implementation has completed)
 - Setup debug tool



Sources

Netlist

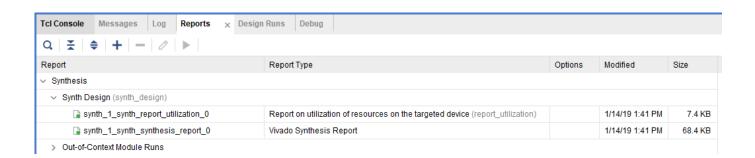
Synthesized Design

- Accessed through the Flow Navigator by selecting Open Synthesized Design
- Representation of the design after synthesis
 - Interconnected netlist of hierarchical and BELs
 - Instances of modules/entities
 - BELs
 - LUTs, flip-flops, carry chain elements, wide MUXes
 - Block RAMs, DSP cells
 - Clocking elements (BUFG, BUFR, MMCM, ...)
 - I/O elements (IBUF, OBUF, I/O flip-flops)
- Object names are the same as names in the elaborated netlist when possible



Synthesis Reports

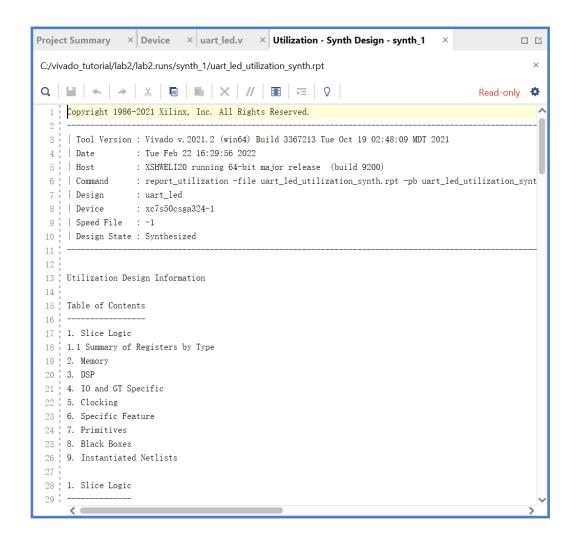
- While the Flow Navigator points to the most important reports, the Reports tab contains several other useful reports
 - Vivado Synthesis Report shows
 - HDL files synthesized, synthesis progress, timing constraints read, and RTL primitives from the RTL design
 - Timing optimization goals, technology mapping, removed pins/ports, and final cell usage (technology-mapped cell usage)
 - Utilization Report shows
 - Technology-mapped cell usage in an easy-to-read tabular format





Synthesis Utilization Report

 Reports slice logic, memory, DSP slice, IO, clocking, and other resources used by the design





Commands Available After Synthesis

- Flow Navigator is optimized to provide quick access to the options most frequently used after synthesis
 - Constraints Wizard: Already mentioned
 - Edit Timing Constraints: Launch the timing constraints tab
 - Set Up Debug: Launch the view for marking nets for debug
 - Report Timing Summary: Generate a default timing report
 - Report Clock Networks: Generates a clock tree for the design
 - Report Clock Interaction: Verifies constraint coverage on paths between clock domains
 - Report DRC: Performs design rule check on the entire design
 - Report Noise: Performs an SSO analysis of output and bidirectional pins in the design
 - Report Utilization: Generates a graphical version of the Utilization Report
 - Report Power: Detailed power analysis reports
 - Schematic: Opens the Schematic viewer





Open Synthesized Design

Constraints Wizard

Edit Timing Constraints

- Set Up Debug
- Teport Timing Summary

Report Clock Networks

Report Clock Interaction

Report Methodology

Report DRC

Report Noise

Report Utilization

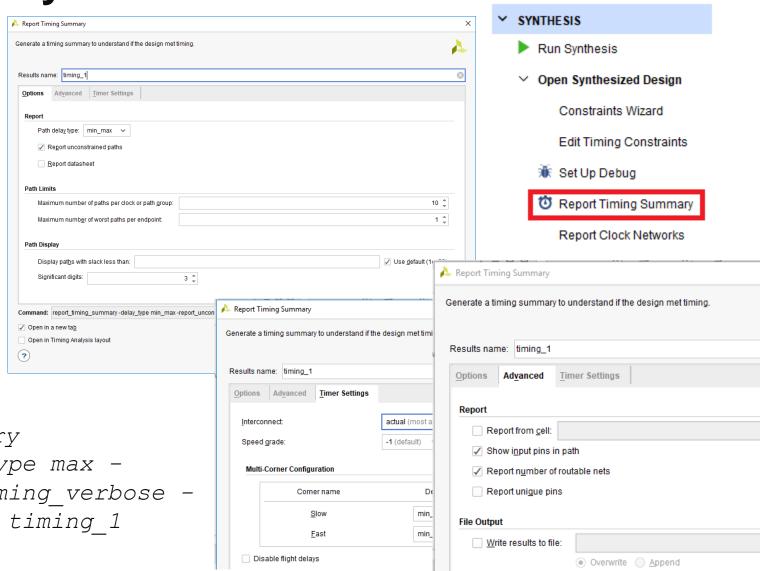
Report Power



Report Timing Summary

- Vivado IDE
- Options tab
 - Maximum number of paths
- Advanced tab
 - Write to a file
- Timer Settings
 - Interconnect delay can be ignored
 - Flight delays can be disabled

Tcl command: report_timing_summary report_timing_summary -delay_type max - report_unconstrained -check_timing_verbose - max_paths 10 -input_pins -name timing_1





Report Timing Summary

Design Timing Summary

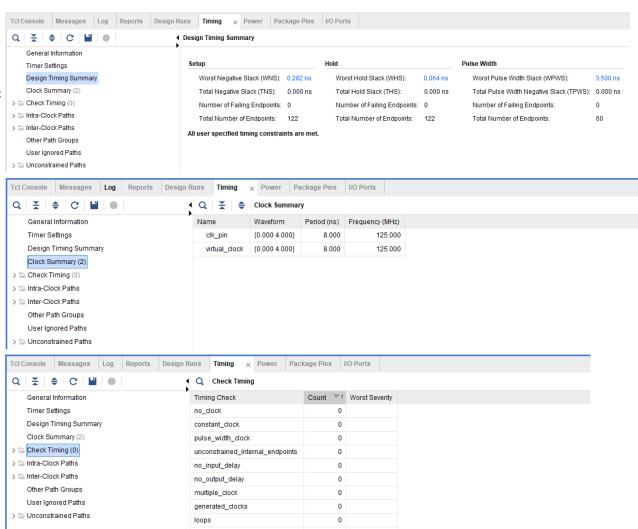
WNS, TNS, total number of endpoints are of interest

Clock Summary

- Primary and derived clocks

Check Timing

Number of unconstrained internal endpoints



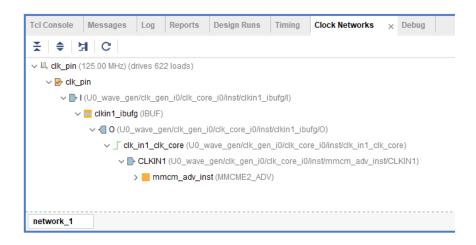


Report Clock Networks

- To generate a report on the clock networks in a design, use the tcl command
 - report clock networks
 - Creates a tree view of all the logical clock trees found in the design, annotated with existing and missing clock definitions on the roots of these trees

Vivado IDE







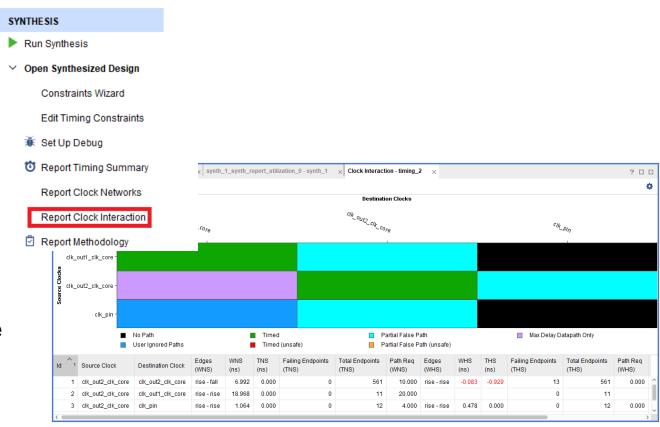
Report Clock Interaction

Use Tcl command

report_clock_interaction significant_digits 3 -name timing 1

Reports paths on inter-clock domain paths and unclocked registers

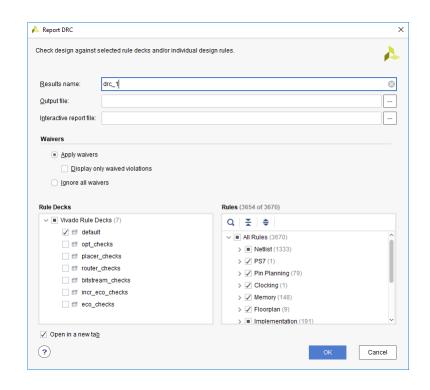
- Uses an inter-clock path matrix to show clock relationships and group paths
- Tells if timing is asynchronous and if paths are constrained (green)
- Uses the worst-slack value for each clock grouping

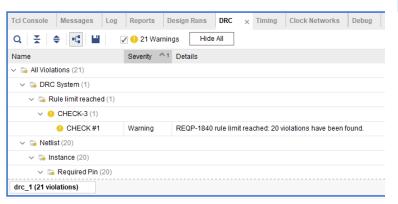


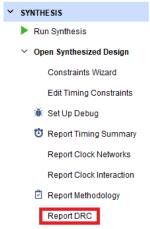


Report DRC

- Use Tcl command
 - report_drc -name drc_1
- DRCs performed early in the design flow allow for correction before a full implementation
 - Objects listed in violations are crossselectable with HDL sources
 - Can select which DRCs to run, or run all
 - This check is more thorough than the I/O DRC checks that occur during pin planning
 - Any problems will open a DRC window at the bottom of the GUI
 - Run implementation for the final sign-off DRC









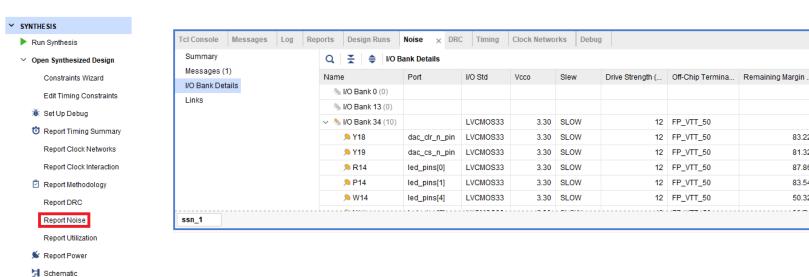
Report Noise

Use Tcl command

report ssn -name ssn 1

Performs a SSN analysis of the planned I/O layout

- This report is looking to gauge the number of pins, I/O standard, and drive strength on a bank-by-bank basis
 - Banks that exceed what is recommended will be flagged in the Summary tab
 - SSN analysis can only be done on output and bidirectional ports





83.22

81.32

87.86

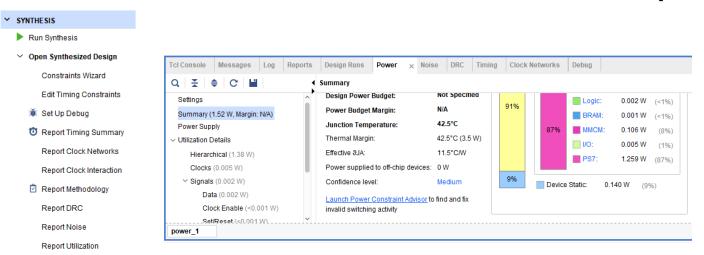
83.54

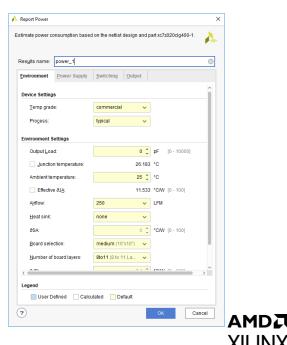
50.32

Report Power

- Use Tcl command
 - report_power -results {power_1}
- Accurate power and thermal analysis
- Power estimates at every stage after synthesis

- Perform what-if analysis by varying switching activity
- Extensive debug capabilities through cross-probing
- Exports data to XPE



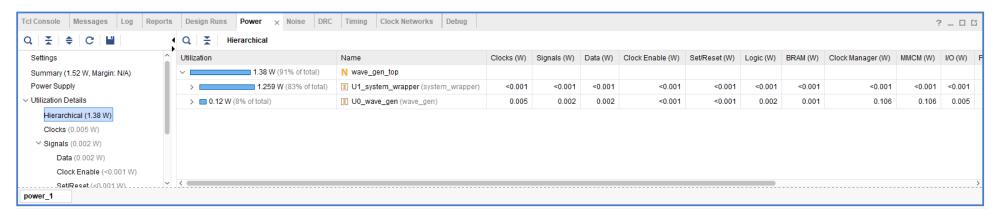


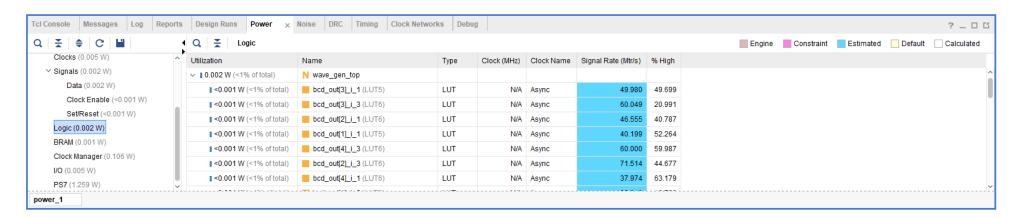
Report Power

Schematic

Power Utilization Details

Select different resource types to see more details







Summary



Summary

- Elaborated design allows early drc checks, noise analysis, and cross-probing between the source file and the generated hierarchical design
- ▶ Synthesis performs logic optimization and technology mapping to Xilinx primitives
- Vivado IDE supports VHDL, Verilog, and SystemVerilog
- Vivado IDE supports the use of Xilinx Design Constraint (XDC) syntax, which is used to drive synthesis design optimization
- check_timing report is used to verify that a design has been sufficiently constrained by the designer
- Vivado IDE includes numerous reporting mechanisms for the designer to improve performance, avoid common design mistakes, and get the most out of the FPGA



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Thank You

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