

Low Power Design

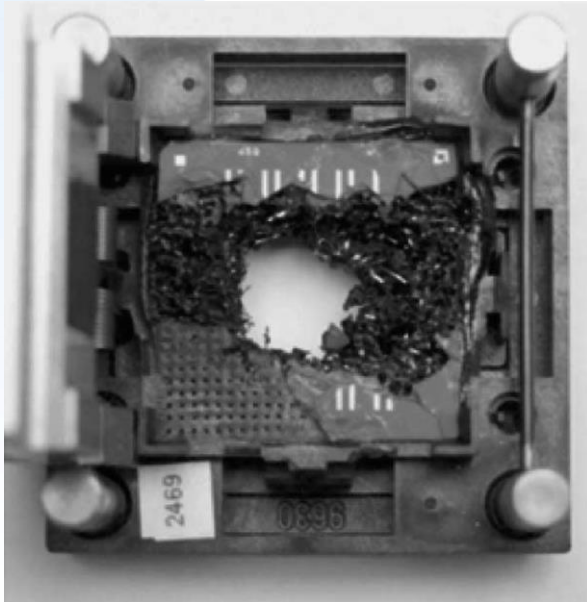
The background of the slide features a large, semi-transparent seal of National Yang-Ming University (NYCU). The seal is circular with a gear-like outer edge. Inside, it depicts a central emblem with a book and a torch, surrounded by the university's name in Chinese and English, and the founding year 1896.

NYCU-EE IC LAB Fall-2023

Lecturer: Hsien-Chi Peng

Why Low Power?

- **Power \uparrow \rightarrow Temperature \uparrow \rightarrow Safety \downarrow**
- **May lead to permanent damage to the chip**
- **Portable device require low power**



Outline

✓ Power Dissipation

- Static Power Dissipation
- Dynamic Power Dissipation

✓ Low Power Design Introduction

✓ Static Power Reduction

- Multi-Threshold Voltage

✓ Dynamic Power Reduction

- Multi-Voltage
- Power Gating
- RTL and Architecture Design Techniques
- Clock gating

✓ Reference



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Power Dissipation

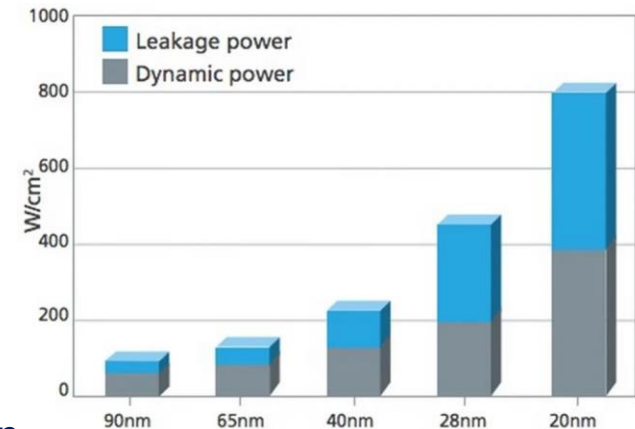
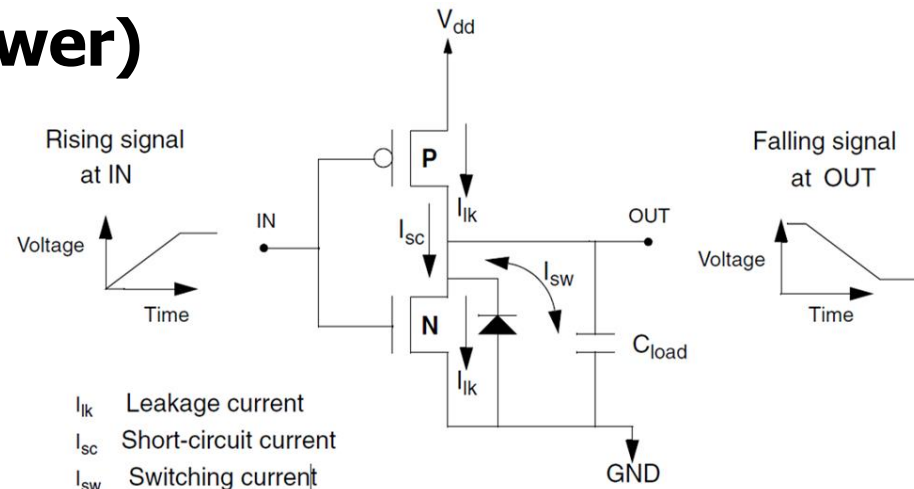
✓ $P_{\text{total}} = P_{\text{static}} + P_{\text{dynamic}}$

✓ **Static power (leakage power)**

- $P_{\text{static}} = I_{\text{leakage}} * V_{\text{dd}}$
 - I_{leakage} : leakage current
- Sub-threshold current
- Reverse leakage current
- Gate Leakage current

✓ **Dynamic power**

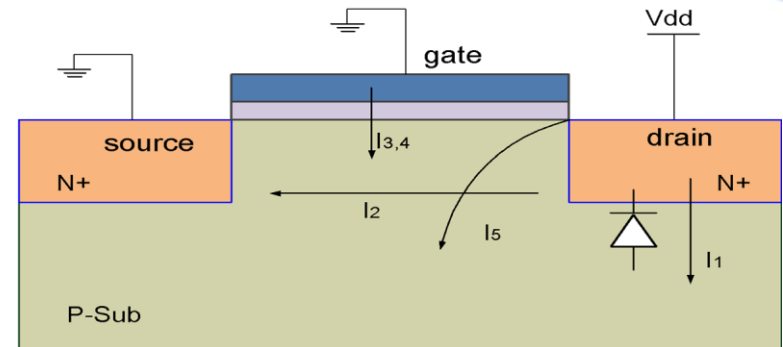
- $P_{\text{dynamic}} = p_t * (P_{\text{sw}} + P_{\text{sc}})$
 - p_t : Switching Probability of one clock cycle
- Switching power (P_{sw})
 - Charging and discharging parasitic capacitance
- Short circuit power (P_{sc})
 - Direct path between Vdd and GND when switching



Static Power Dissipation

✓ Caused by leakage current

- **Sub-threshold current (I_2)**
 - Dominate the leakage current
 - Increase with temperature
- **Reverse leakage current (I_1)**
 - Happen when device is reverse biased
 - Increase with temperature
- **Gate Leakage current (I_3)**
 - Increase with Vdd



I1-Reverse Bias p-n Junction Leakage
I2-Sub Threshold/ Weak Inversion Current
I3-Gate Leakage, Tunneling Current through Oxide
I4-Gate Current due to hot carrier Injection
I5-Gate Induced Drain Leakage(GIDL)

✓ How to minimize static power?

- Reduce voltage supply (**Process dependent**)
- In general: the leakage current can't be changed if process and cells are decided

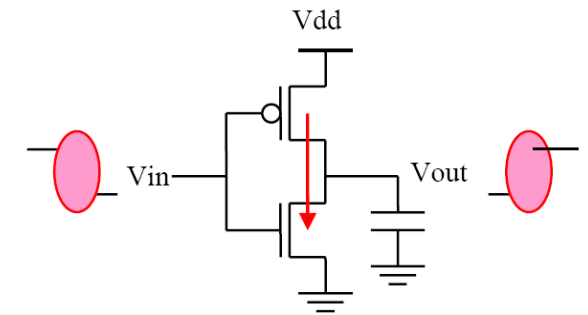
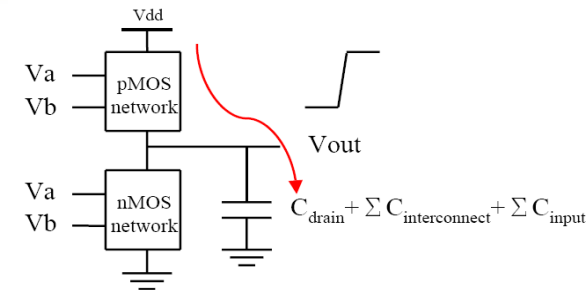
Dynamic Power Dissipation

✓ $P_{\text{dynamic}} = p_t * (P_{\text{sw}} + P_{\text{sc}})$

- p_t : Switching Probability
- P_{sw} : Switching Power
 - $P_{\text{sw}} = C_L * V_{\text{dd}}^2 * f_p$
 - Charge and discharge the loading capacitive
- P_{sc} : Short circuit power
 - Both NMOS and PMOS are turned on

✓ **How to minimize dynamic power?**

- Reduce V_{dd} (*process dependent*) \square P_{sw} & P_{sc}
- Reduce parasitic capacitance \square P_{sw}
- Reduce the overlap time of PMOS and NMOS turn-on time, i.e., keep the input signal rise/fall time the same \square P_{sc}
- Reduce unnecessary switching activities \square p_t
 - Gated clock (Turn off unused circuits)
 - Register retiming



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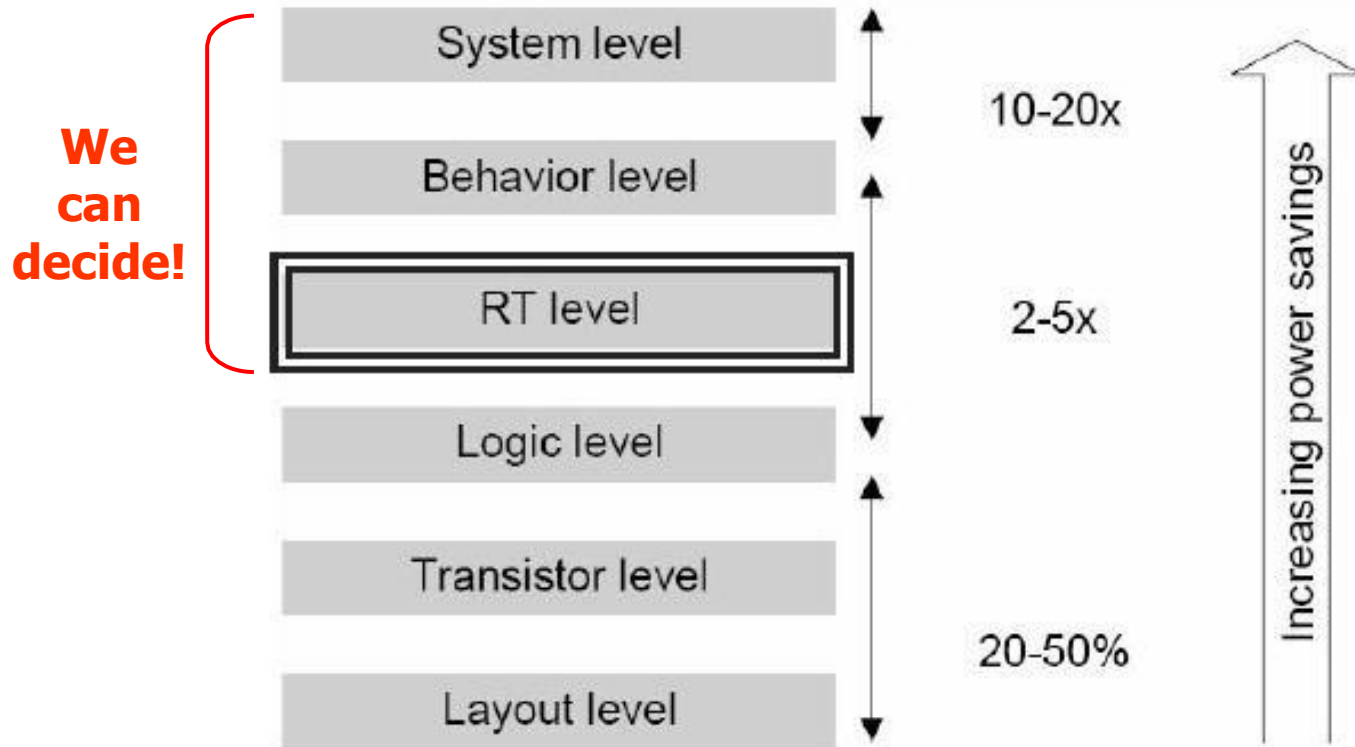
- Multi-Voltage
- Power Gating
- RTL and Architecture Design Techniques
- Clock gating

✓ Reference



Low Power Design Methodologies

✓ Where to reduce?



REF: H. Mizas, D. Soudris, S. Theoharis, G. Theodoridis, A. Thanailakis, and C.E. Goutis, "Structure of the Low-Power Design Flow, " 25/6/1998.

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- **Multi-Threshold Voltage**

✓ Dynamic Power Reduction

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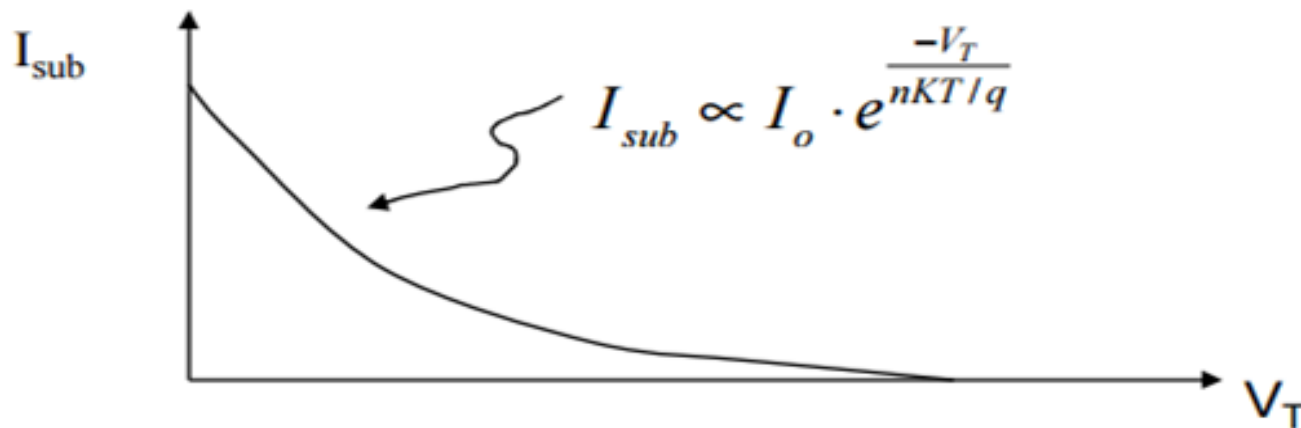


Multi-Threshold Voltage (Multi-Vt)

✓ Current of MOS

$$I_{sub} = I_s \cdot e^{\frac{q(V_{GS} - V_T - V_{offset})}{nKT}} (1 - e^{\frac{-qV_{DS}}{KT}})$$

$$P_{static} \approx I_{sub} V_{DD}$$



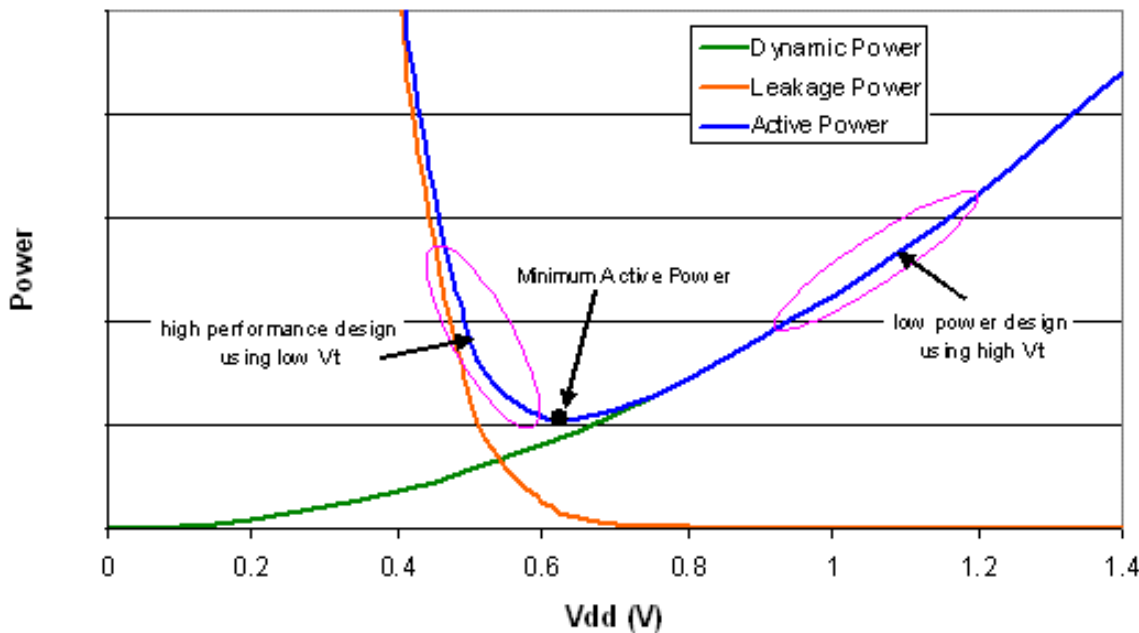
$V_T \downarrow, I_{sub} \uparrow, I_{ds} \uparrow, \text{speed} \uparrow, \text{delay} \downarrow$

Vt Scaling

✓ As V_t decrease, sub-threshold leakage increases

- Approaching 10% in 0.18 μm technology
- $V_t \downarrow$, $I_{\text{DS_sub}} \uparrow$, $I_{\text{D(SAT)}} \uparrow$

Active Power vs Vdd at Constant Frequency



The x-axis represents the supply voltage required maintain the device at a fixed frequency, while allowing the threshold voltage to vary to meet the fixed frequency specification.

Ref: <http://www.design-reuse.com/articles/20296/power-management-leakage-control-process-compensation.html>

Vt Scaling

- ✓ When **Power** is a concern: **High Vt** logic gate
- ✓ When **Delay** is a concern: **Low Vt** logic gate

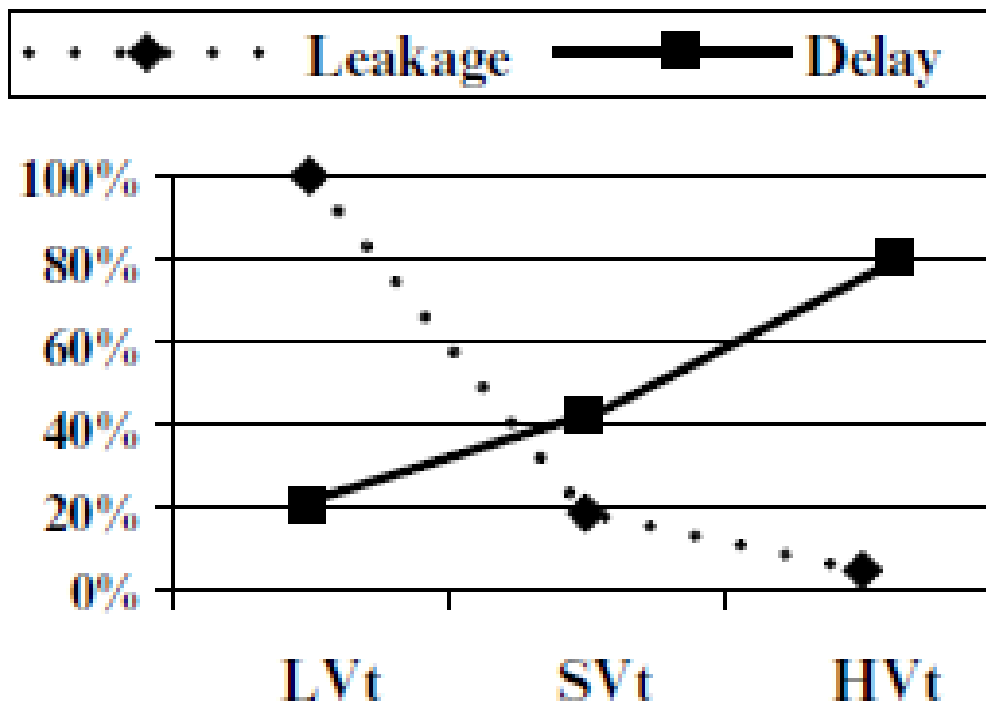


Figure 2-5 Leakage vs. Delay for a 90nm Library

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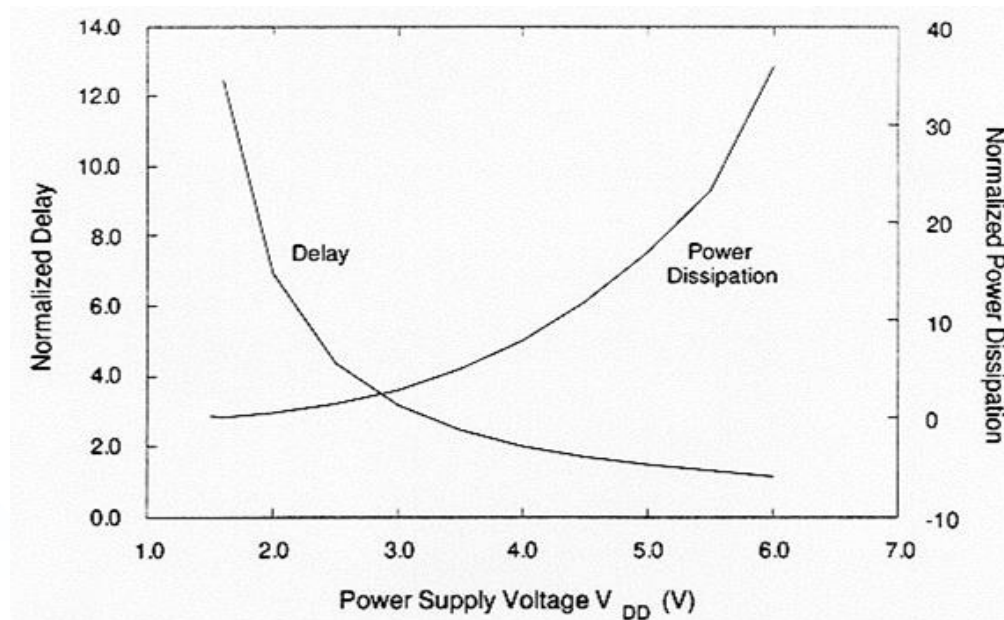


Multi-Voltage

✓ Dynamic Power

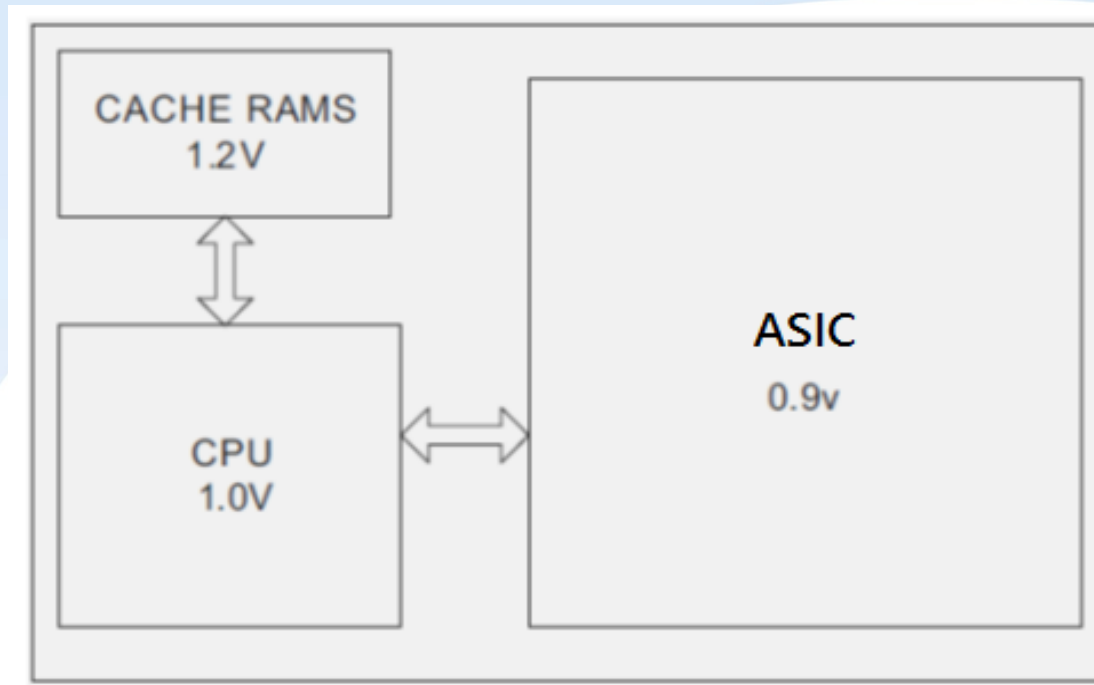
$$P_{dyn} = \underbrace{(C_{eff} \cdot V_{dd}^2 \cdot f_{clock})}_{\text{Switching power}} + \underbrace{(t_{sc} \cdot V_{dd} \cdot I_{peak} \cdot f_{clock})}_{\text{Short circuit power}}$$

- Reducing the Vdd is the most straight forward way to reduce the power
- However, decreasing Vdd would cause the circuit delay increasing



*CMOS example

Multi-Voltage Example



- The cache RAMS are run at the highest voltage because they are on the critical timing path.
- The CPU is run at a high voltage because its performance determines system performance.
- The rest of the chip can run at a lower voltage still without impacting overall system performance.

Multi-Voltage Strategies

✓ Static Voltage Scaling (SVS)

- Different blocks or subsystems are given different, fixed supply voltages

✓ Multi-level Voltage Scaling (MVS)

- A block or subsystem is switched between two or more voltage levels
- Only a few, fixed, discrete levels are supported for different operating modes

✓ Dynamic Voltage and Frequency Scaling (DVFS)

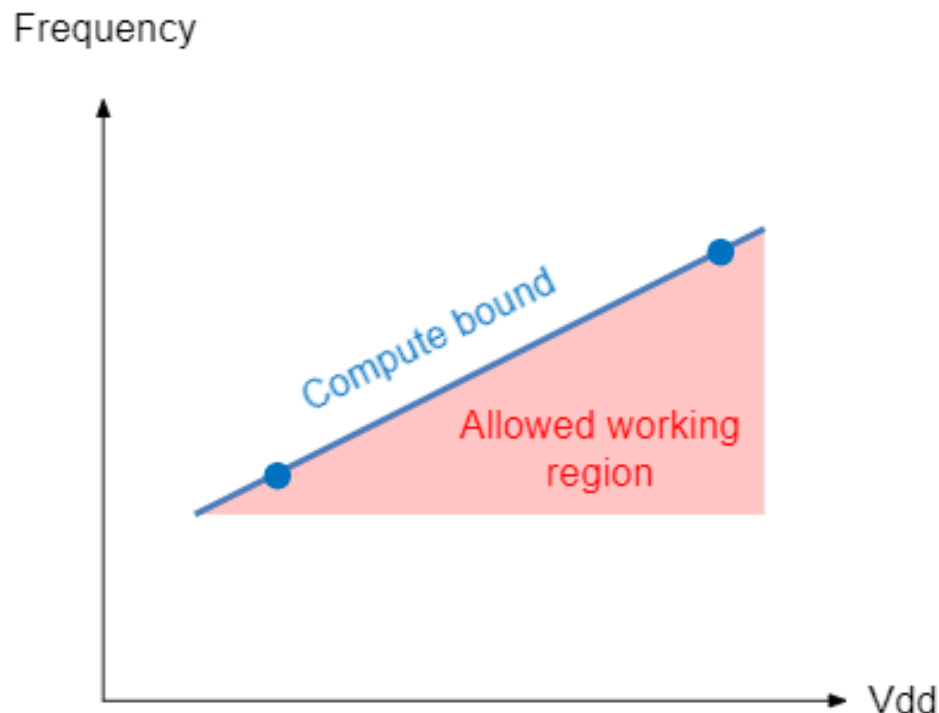
- An extension of MVS where a larger number of voltage levels are dynamically switched to follow changing workloads



Multi-Voltage Strategies

✓ Dynamic Voltage and Frequency Scaling (DVFS)

- **Compute bound in DVFS**
- Chips can only work at the region below compute bound
- DVFS must adjust Vdd first before raising frequency, and drop frequency first before turning down Vdd



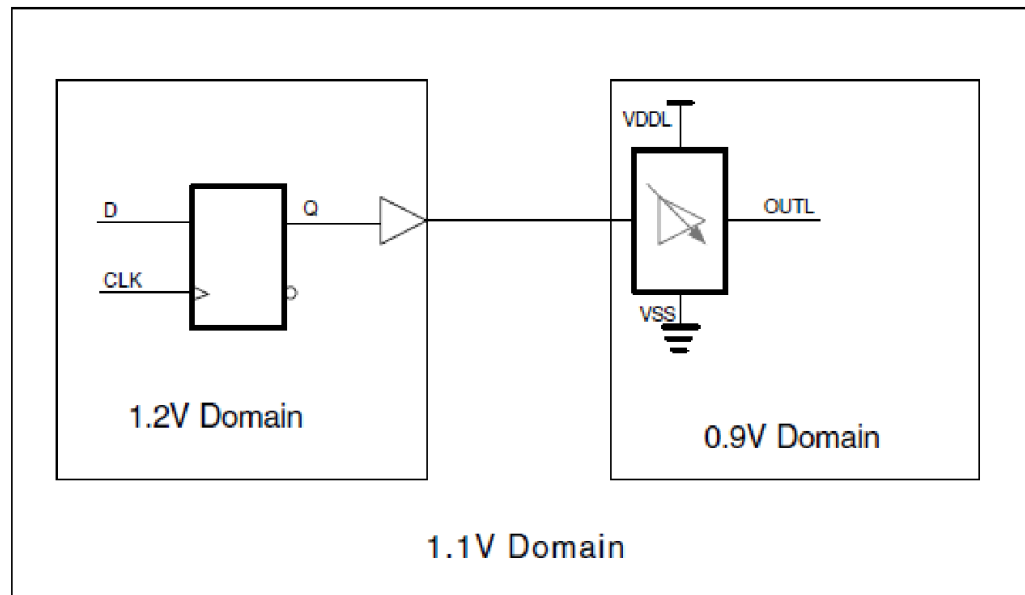
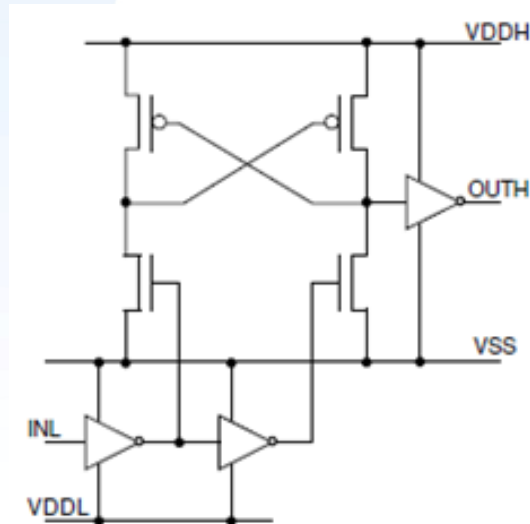
Level Shifter

✓ Connecting 2 power domains at different voltage levels can cause design issues

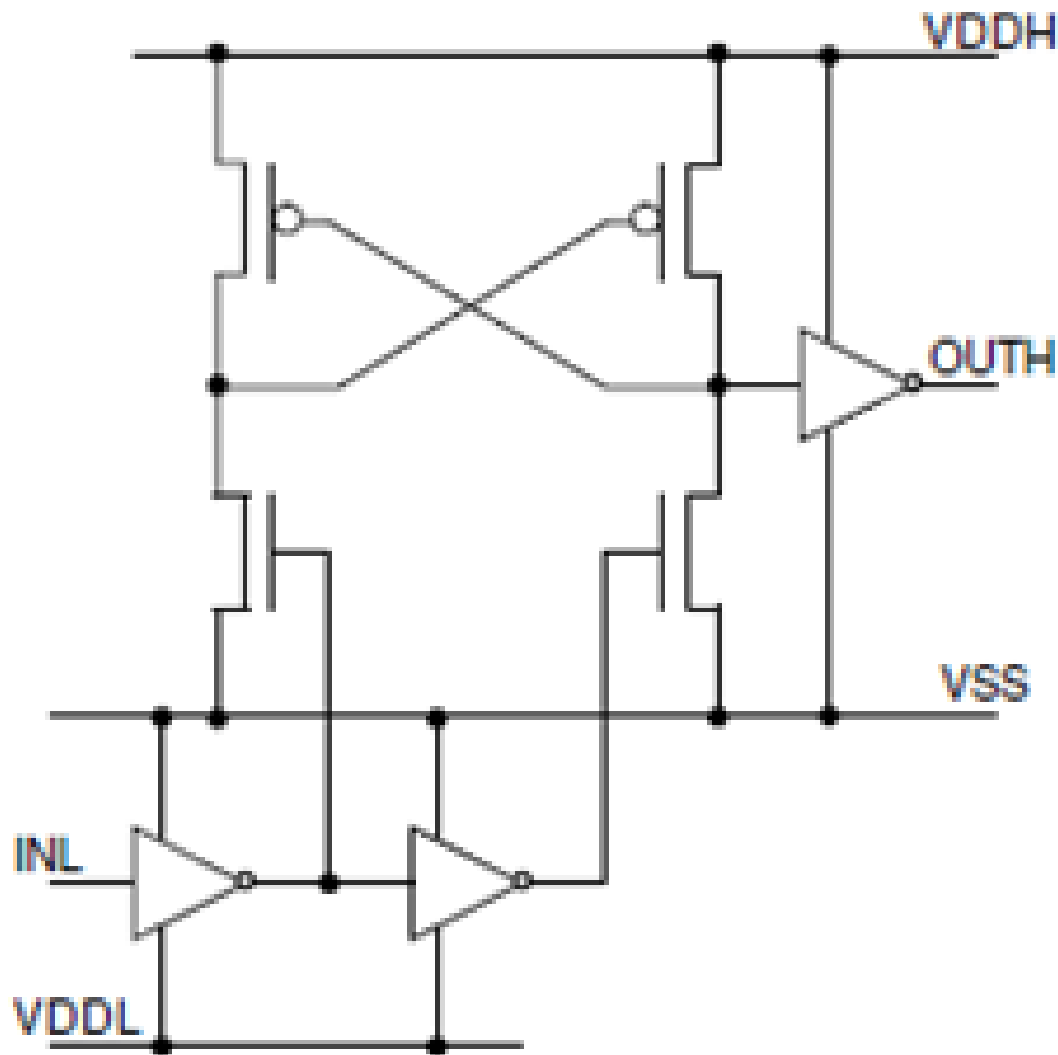
- Timing inaccuracy
- Signals are not propagated

✓ A level shifter is required

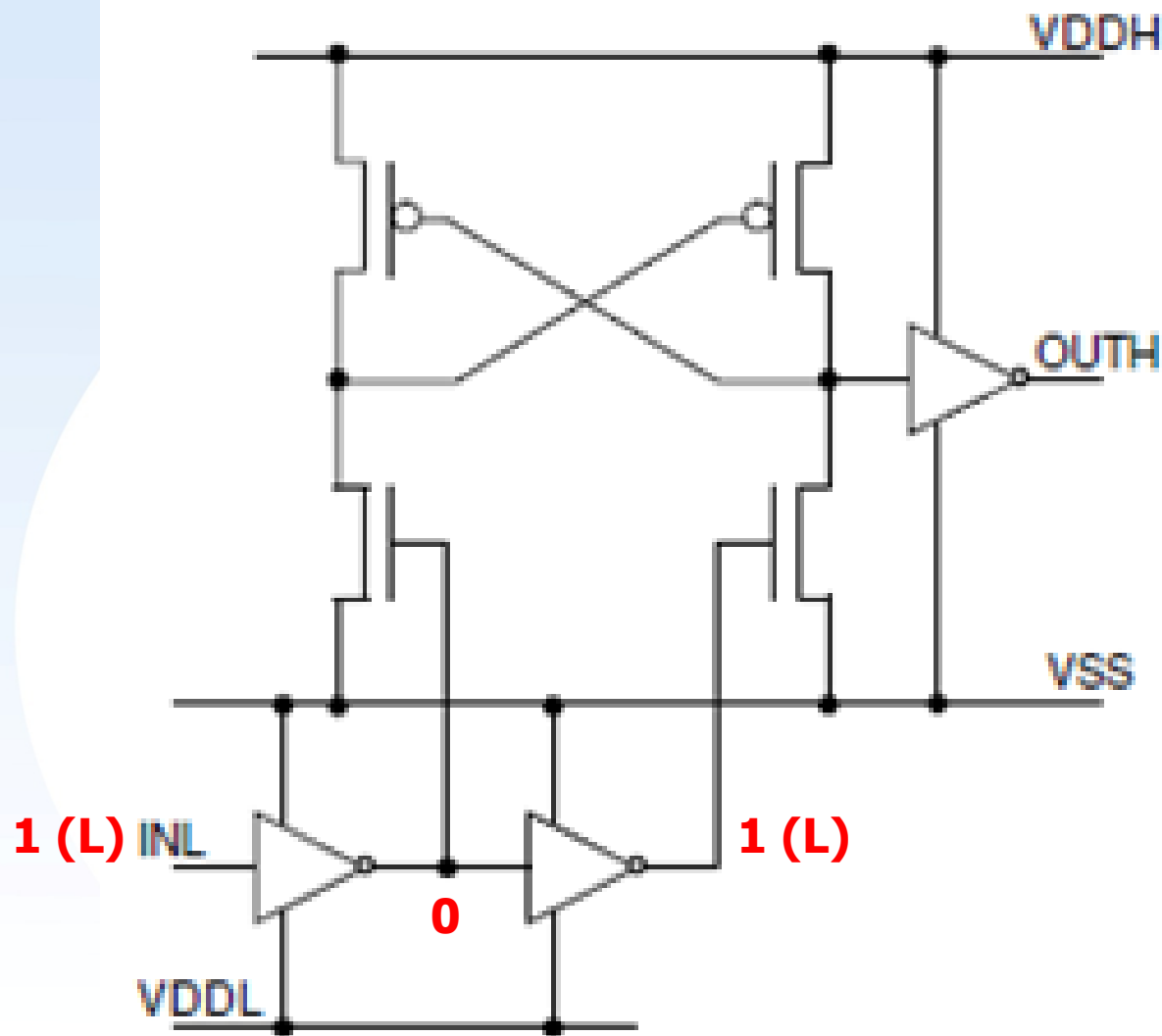
- High to low
- Low to High



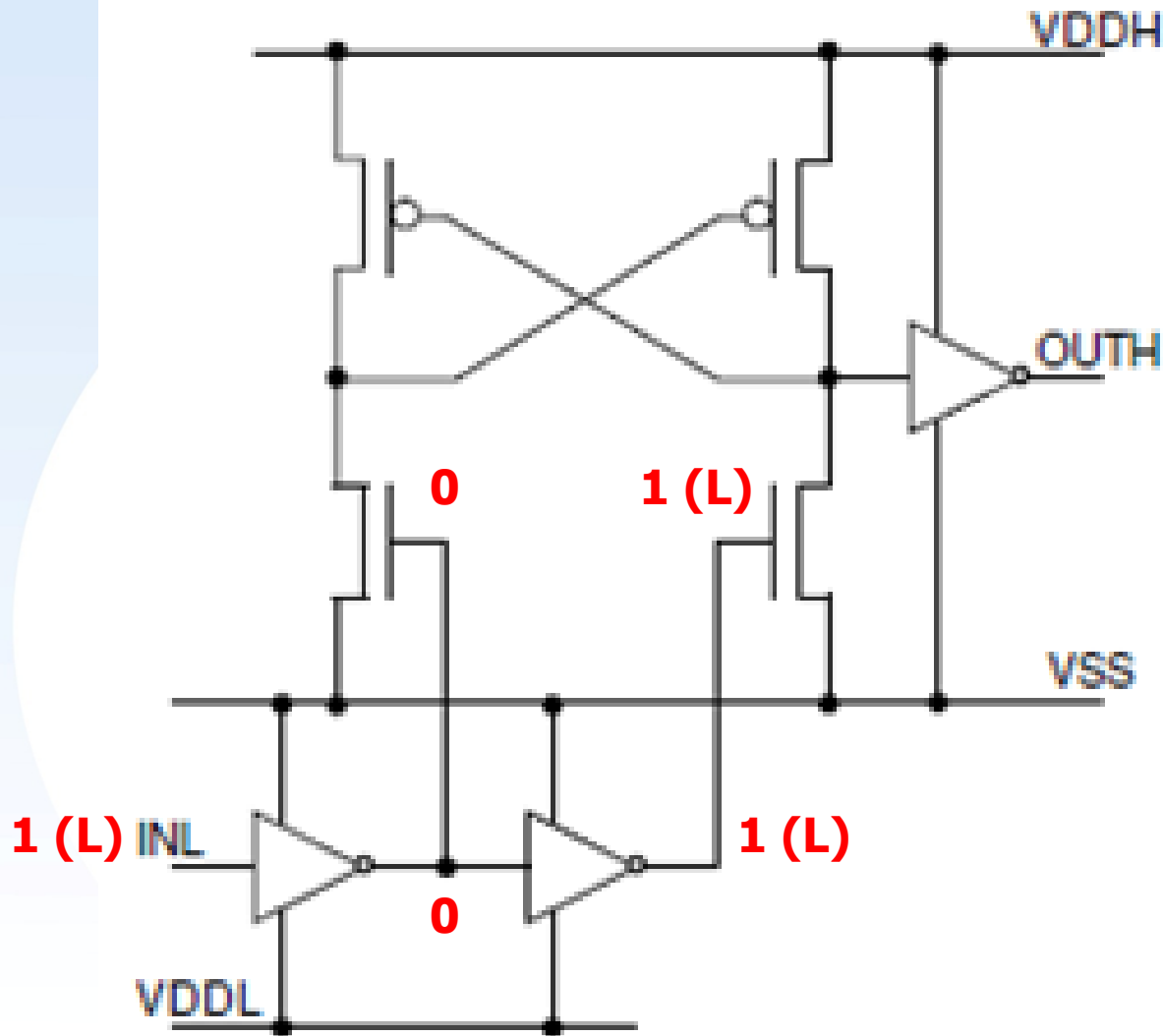
Level Shifter



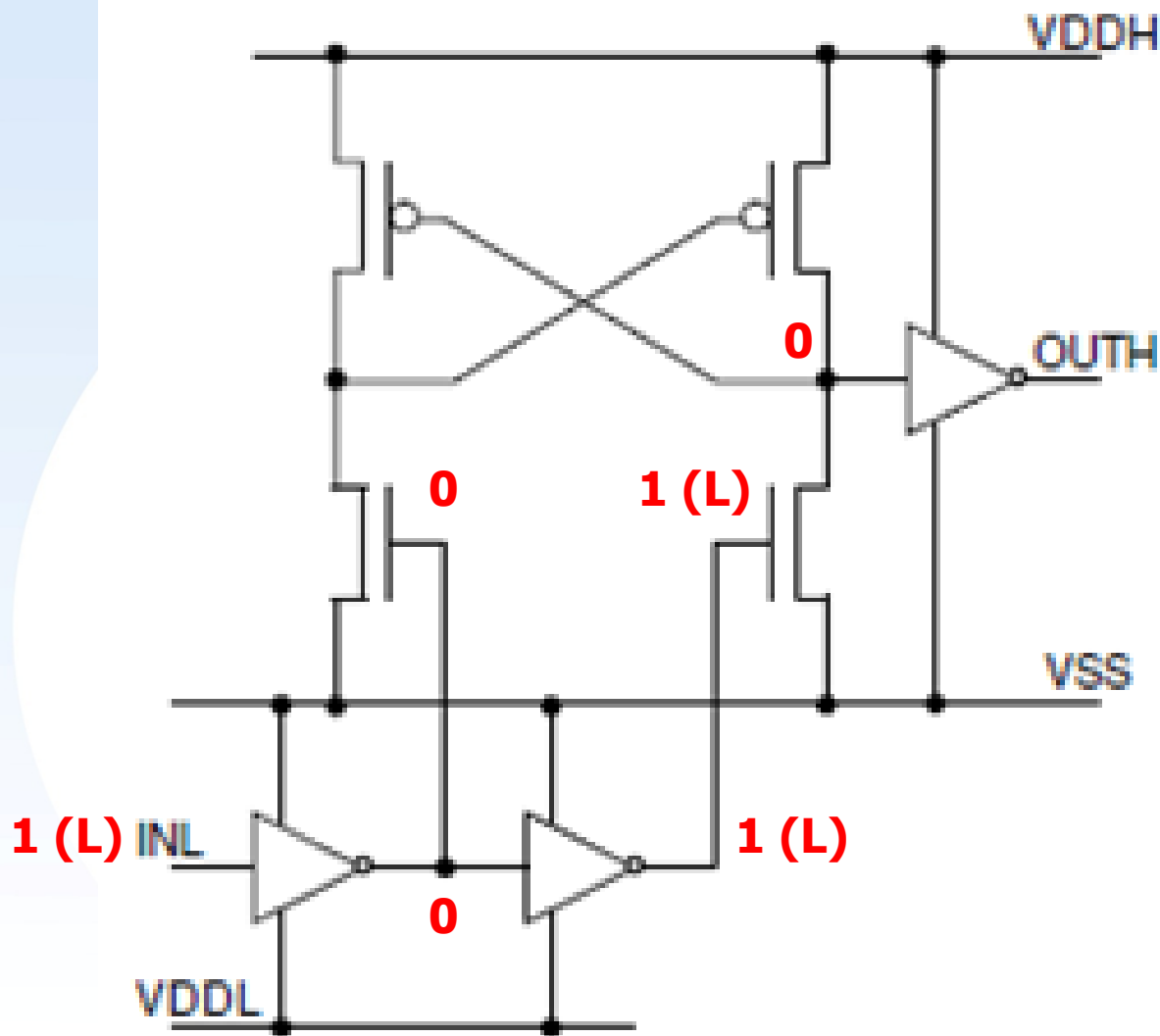
Level Shifter



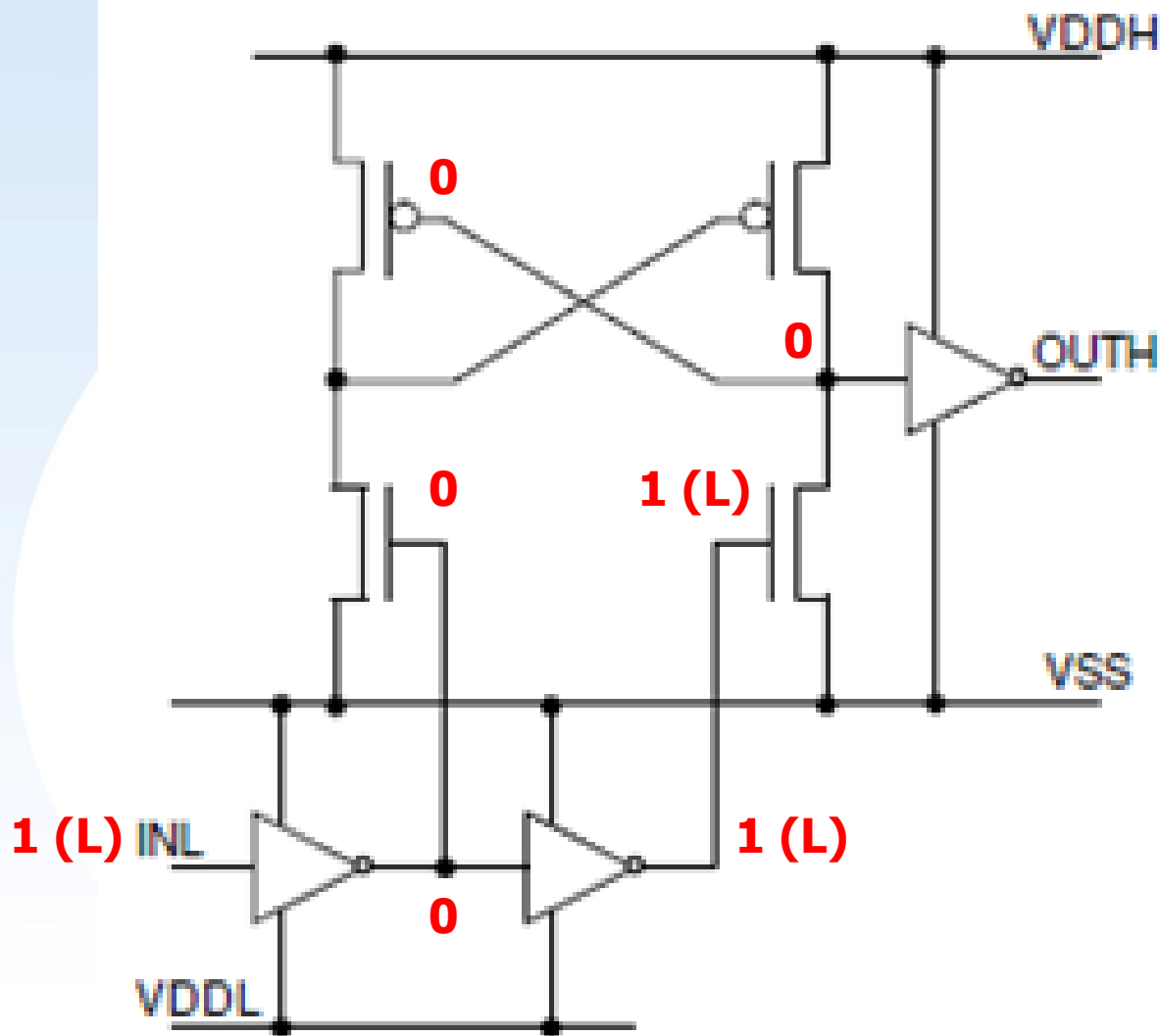
Level Shifter



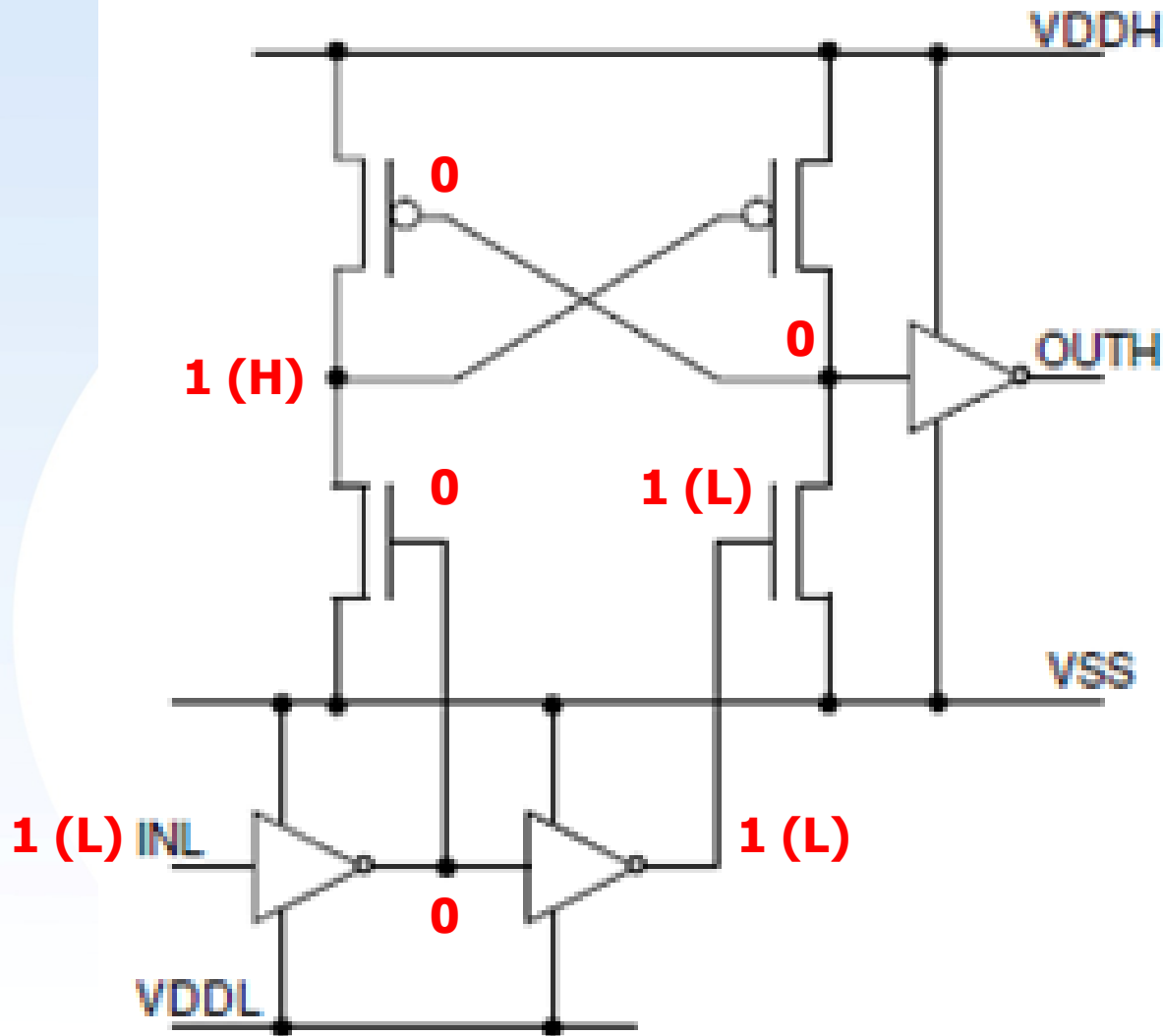
Level Shifter



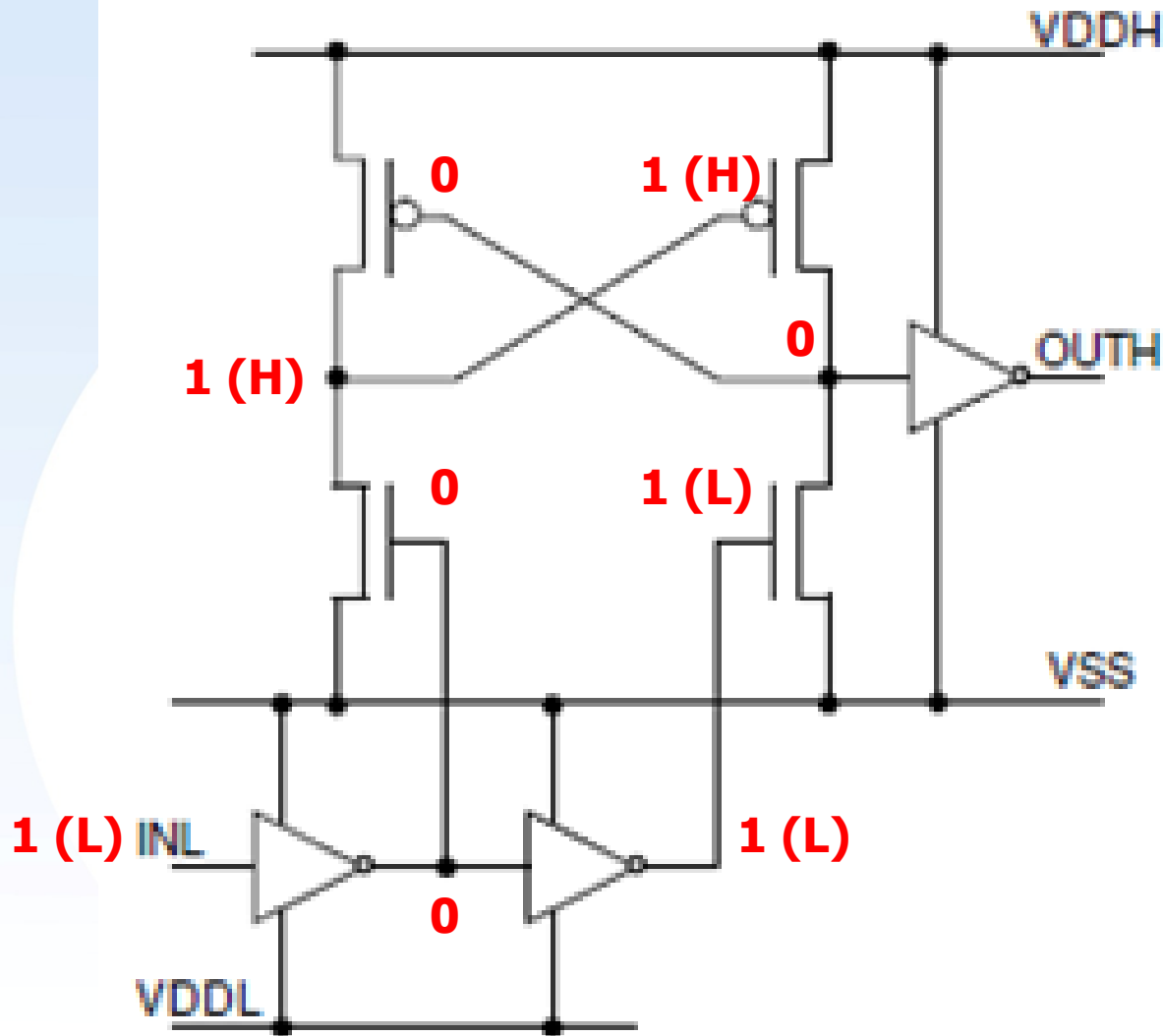
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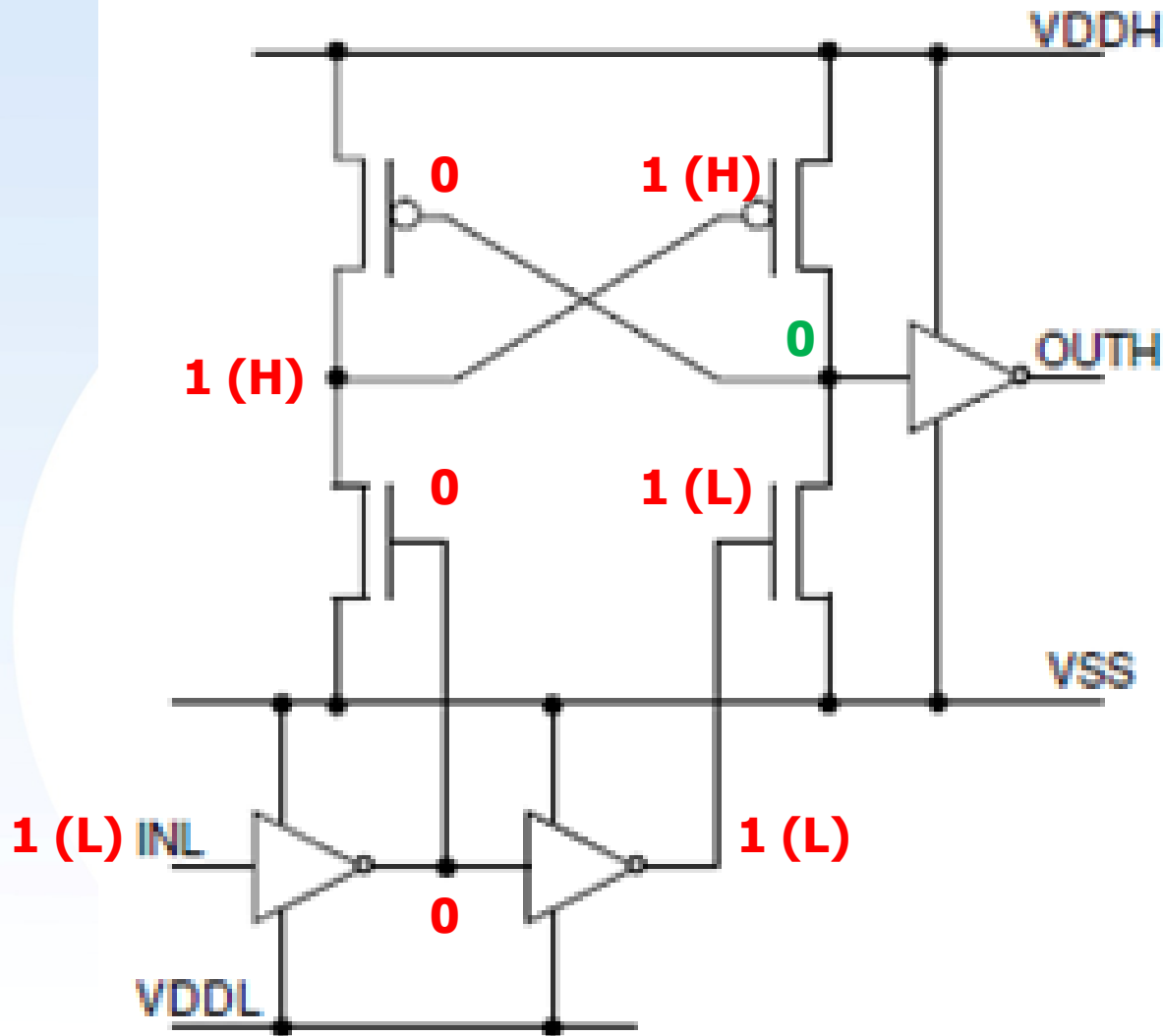
Level Shifter



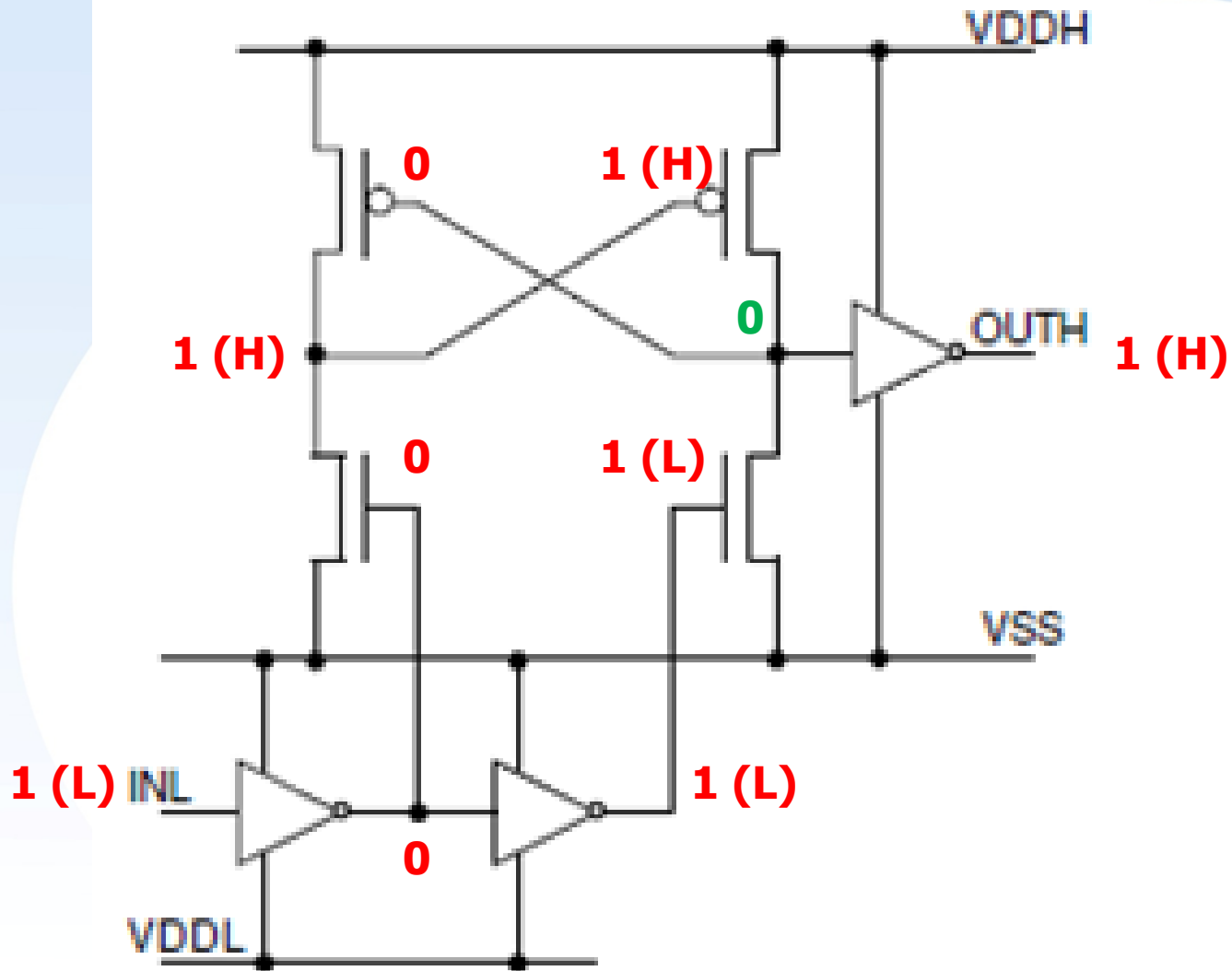
Level Shifter



Level Shifter



Level Shifter



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✓ Reference



Power Gating

- ✓ The basic idea of power gating is to provide two power mode:
 - A **low power mode** and an **active mode**
- ✓ The goal is to switch between these mode to maximize power savings while minimizing the impact to performance
- ✓ Sleep mode (low power mode): shut down power to block of logic

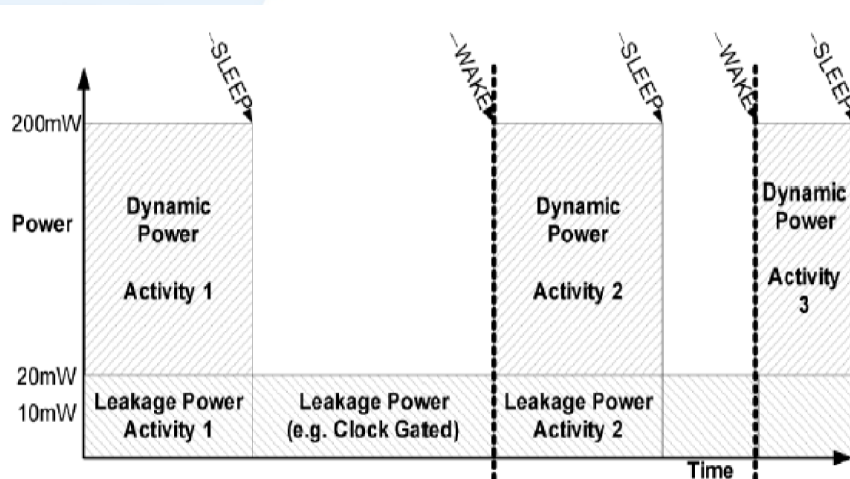


Figure 4-1 Activity Profile with No Power Gating

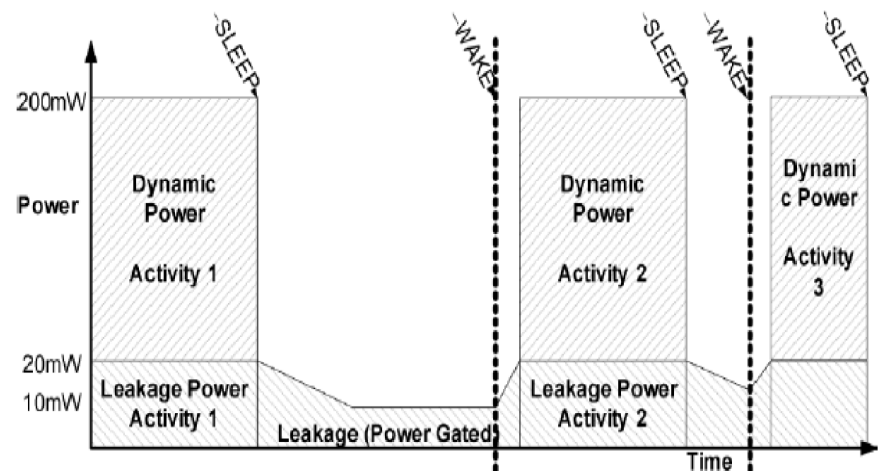
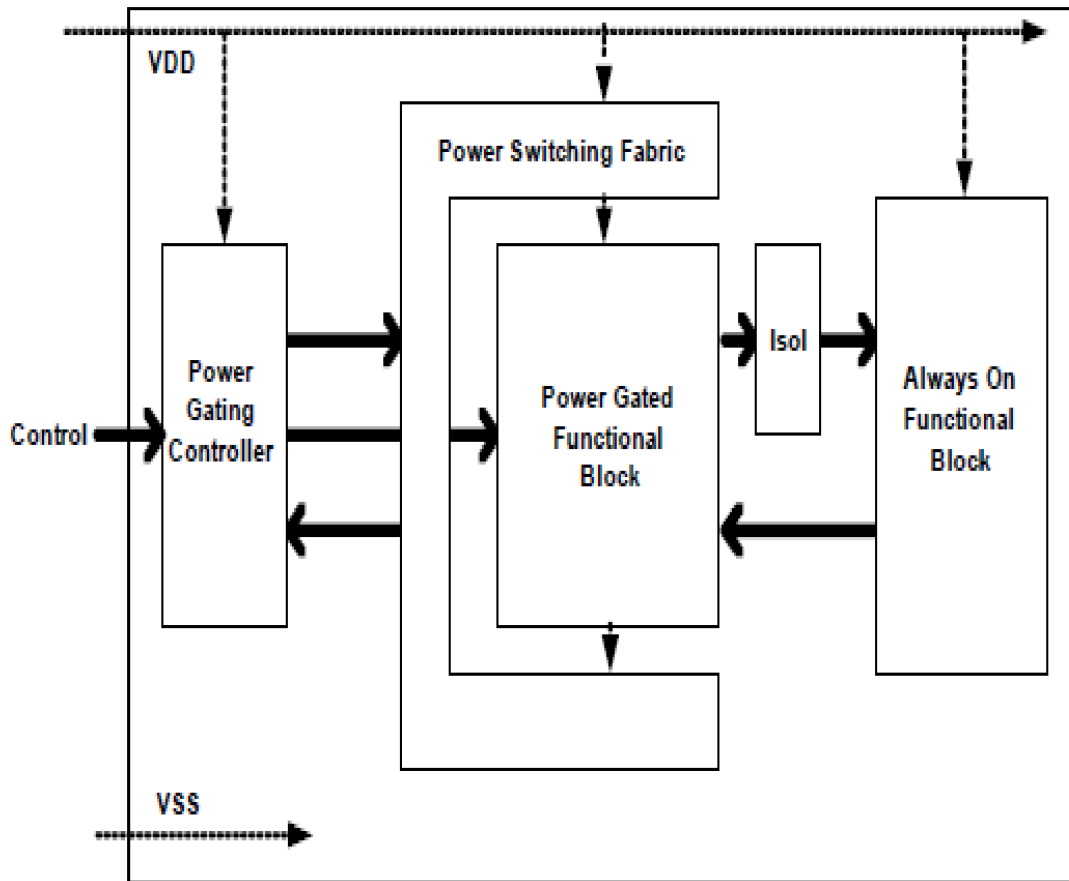
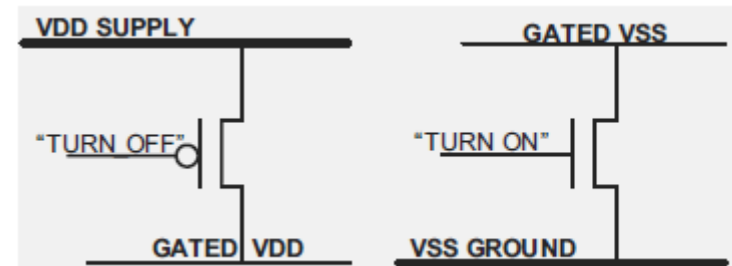


Figure 4-3 Realistic Profile with Power Gating

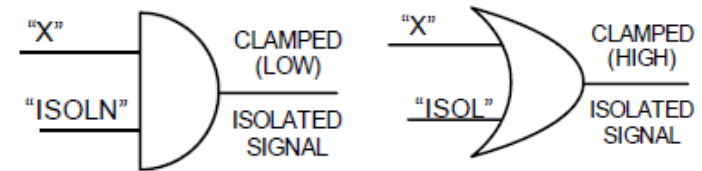
Power Gating Example



Power switching fabric



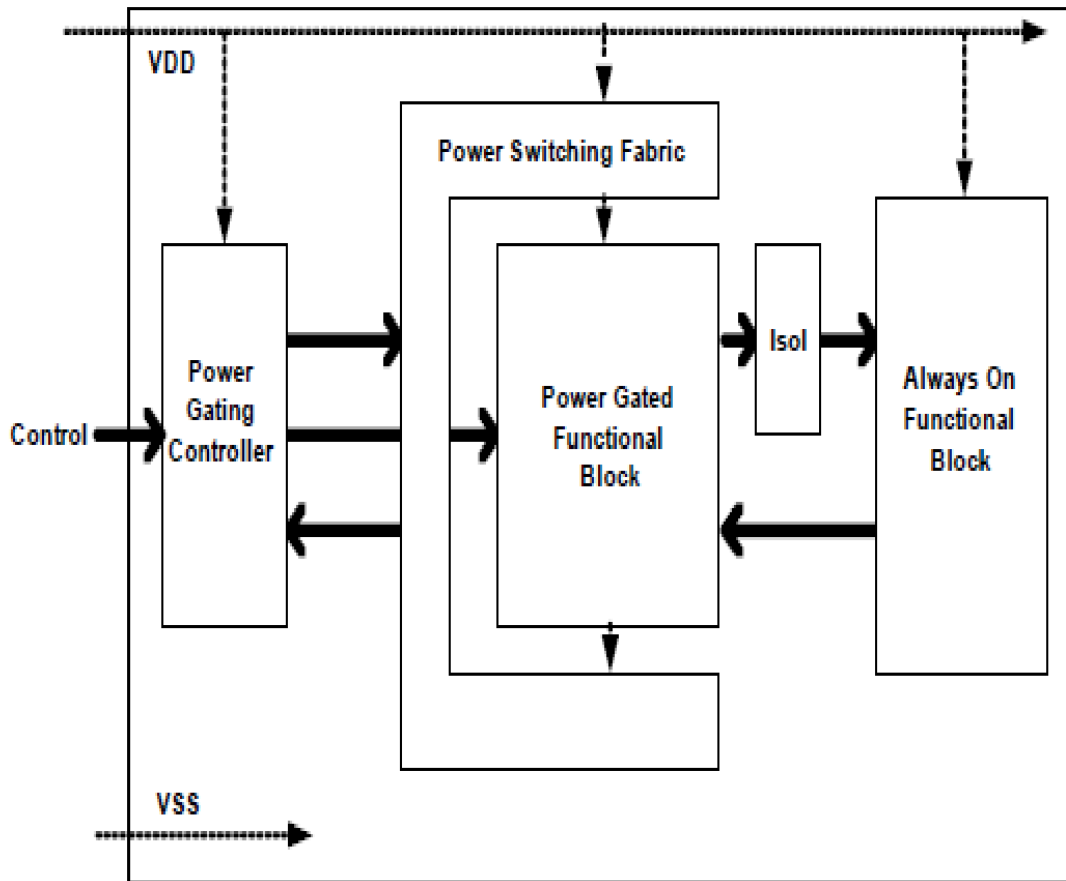
Isolation



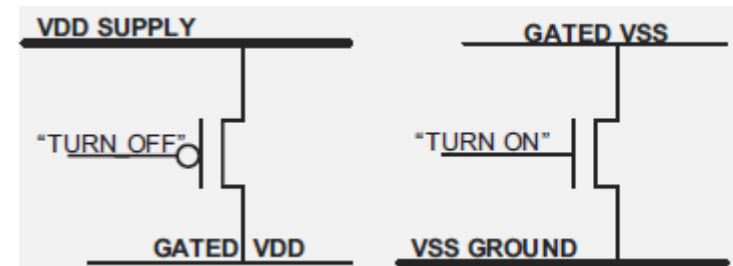
	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	1

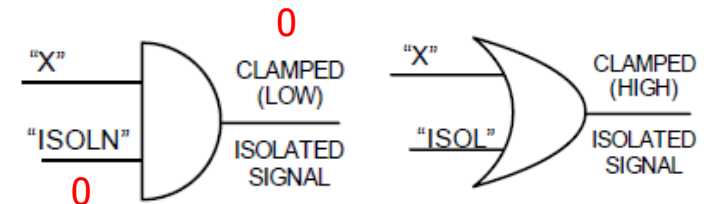
Power Gating Example



Power switching fabric



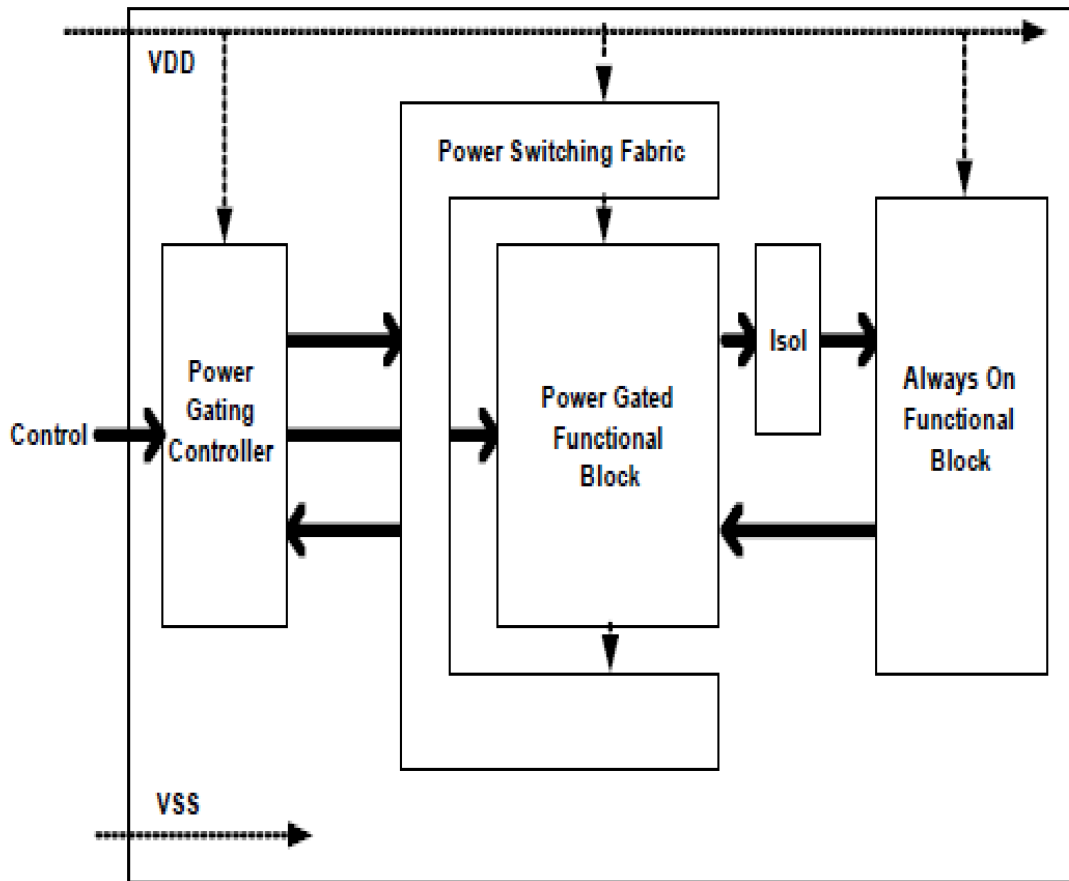
Isolation Low Clamped Isolated Signal



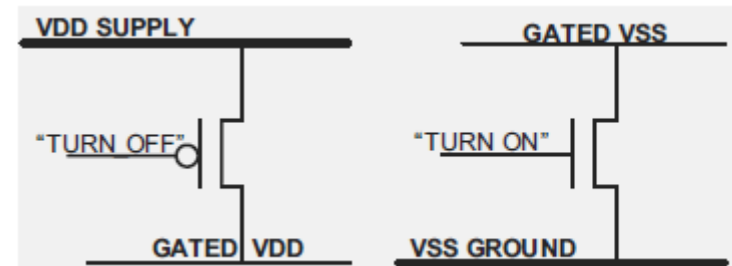
	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	1

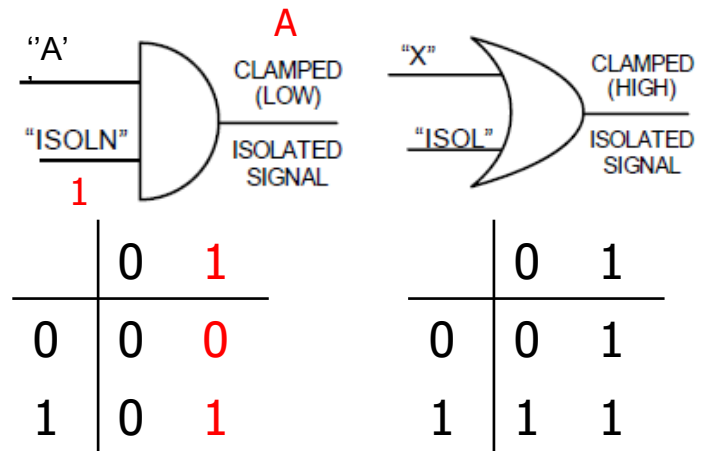
Power Gating Example



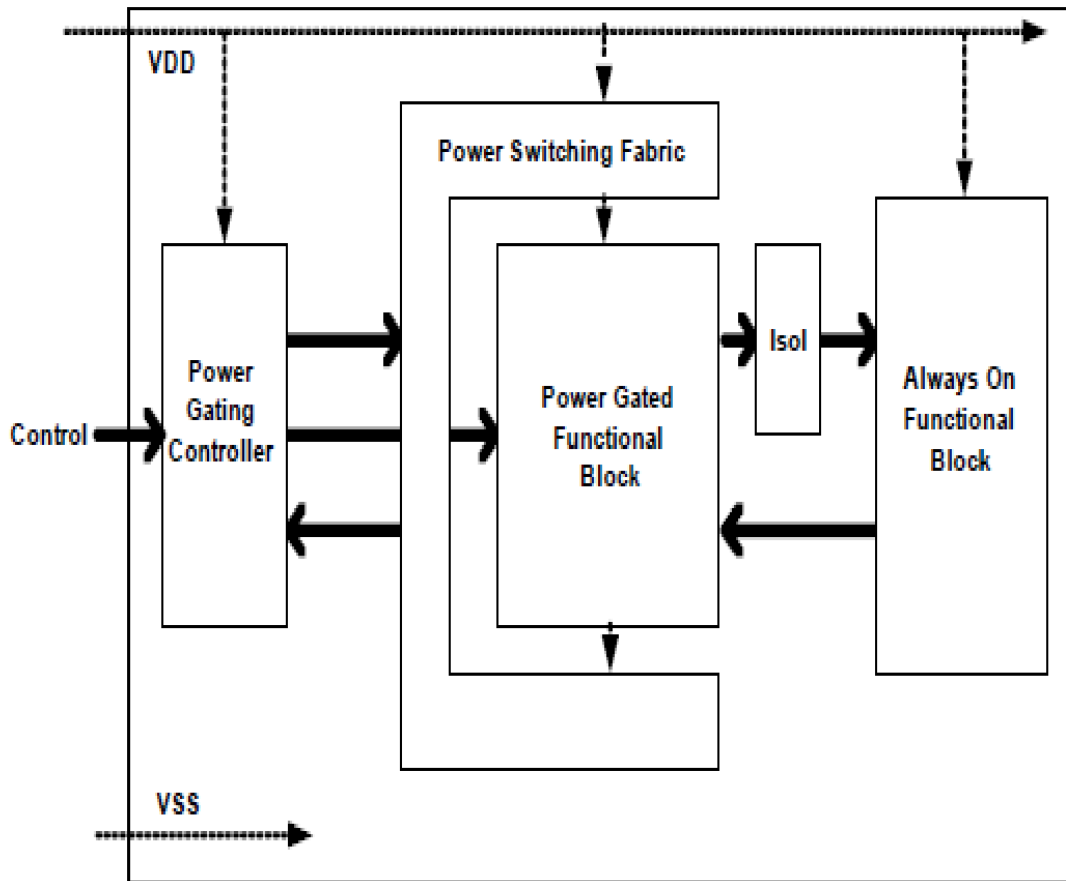
Power switching fabric



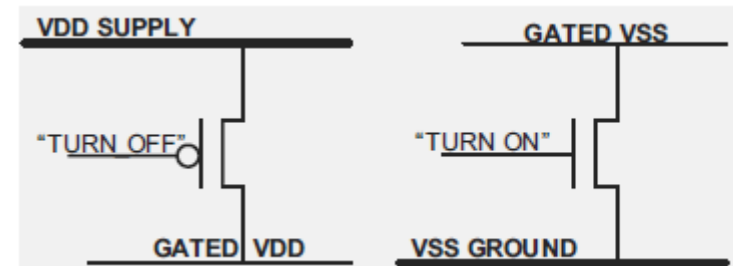
Isolation



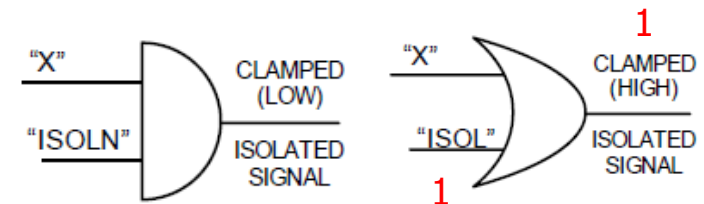
Power Gating Example



Power switching fabric



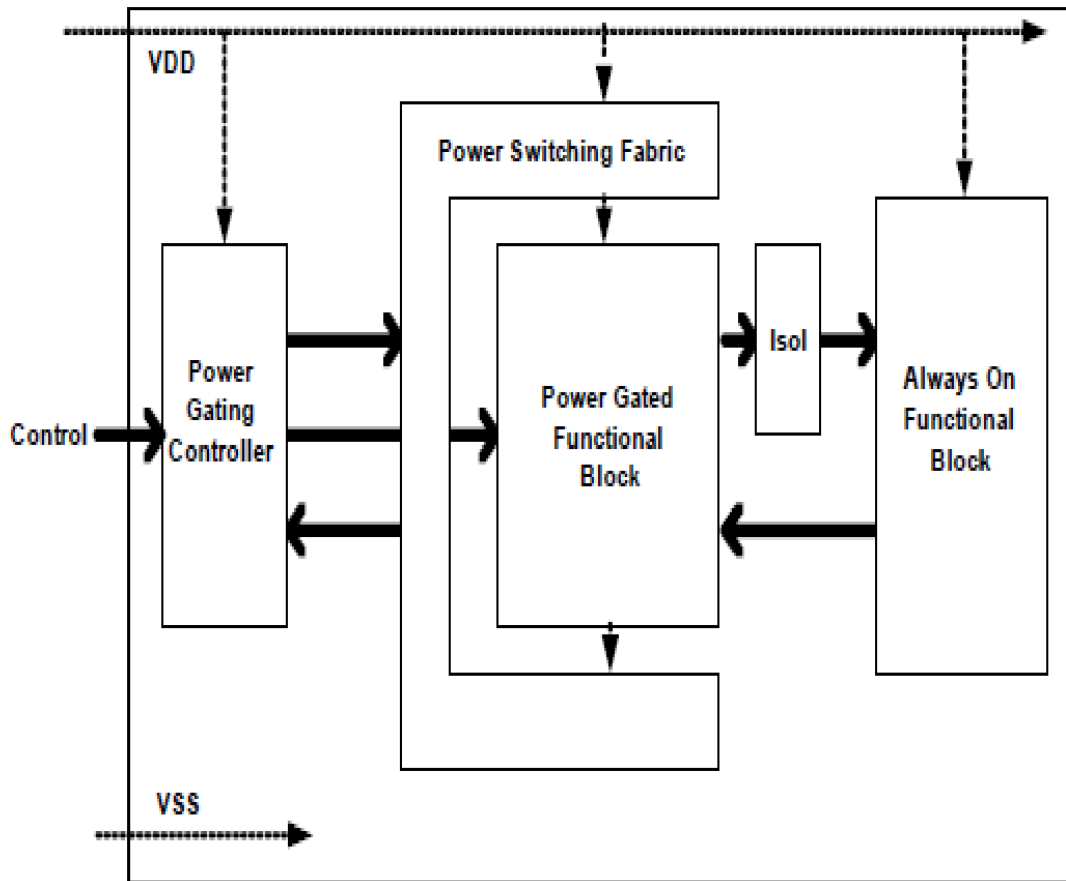
Isolation



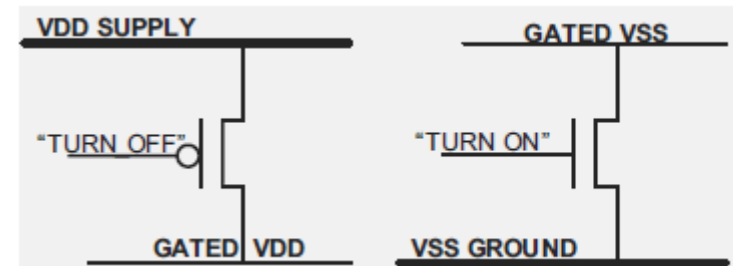
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1	0	1

	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	1

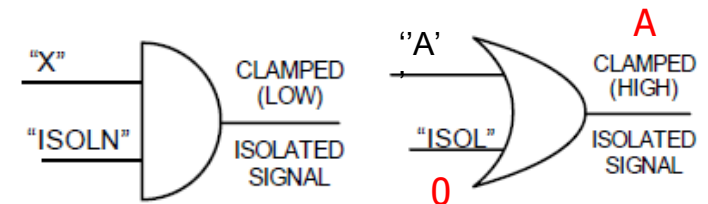
Power Gating Example



Power switching fabric



Isolation

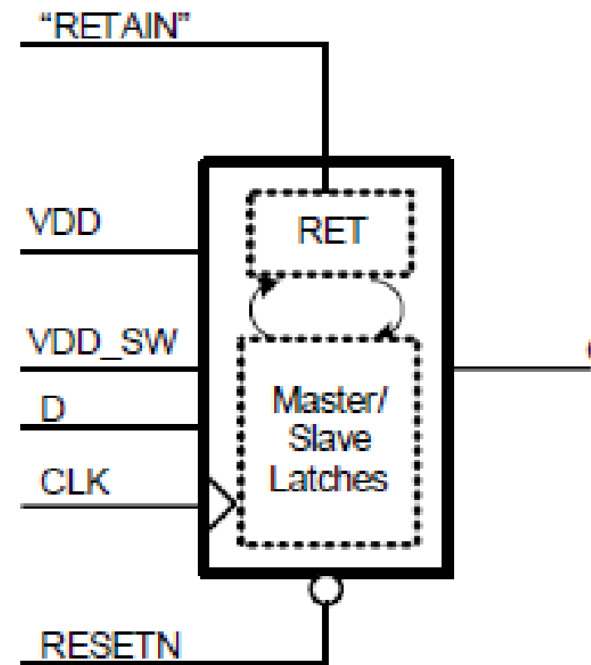
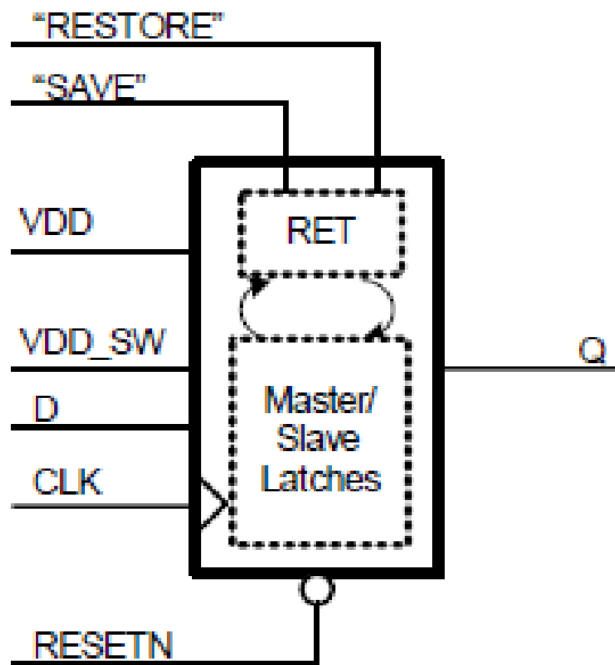


	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

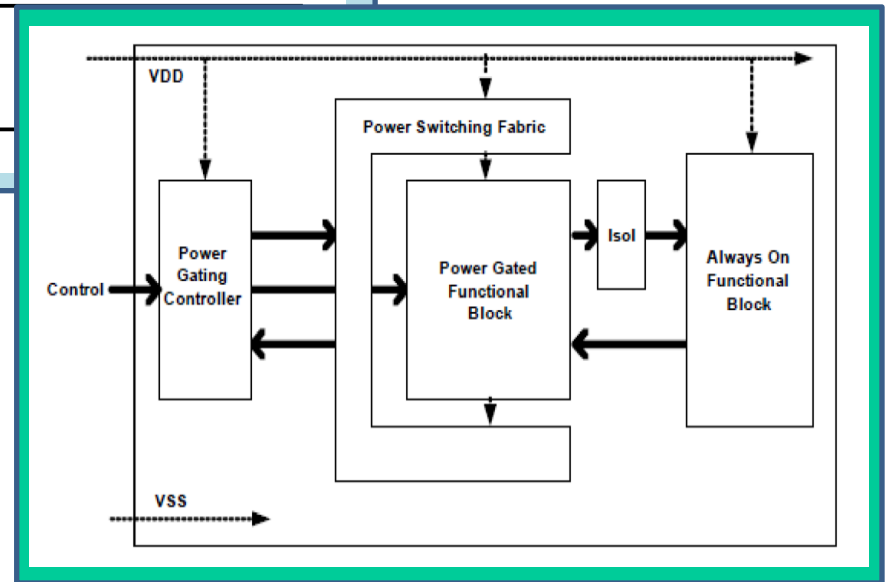
	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	1

Retention registers

- ✓ States of some registers in shut-down mode need to be preserved
- ✓ Retention registers can **store data while in shut-down mode**



- ✓ **Power gating needs a control circuit to schedule the whole procedure**



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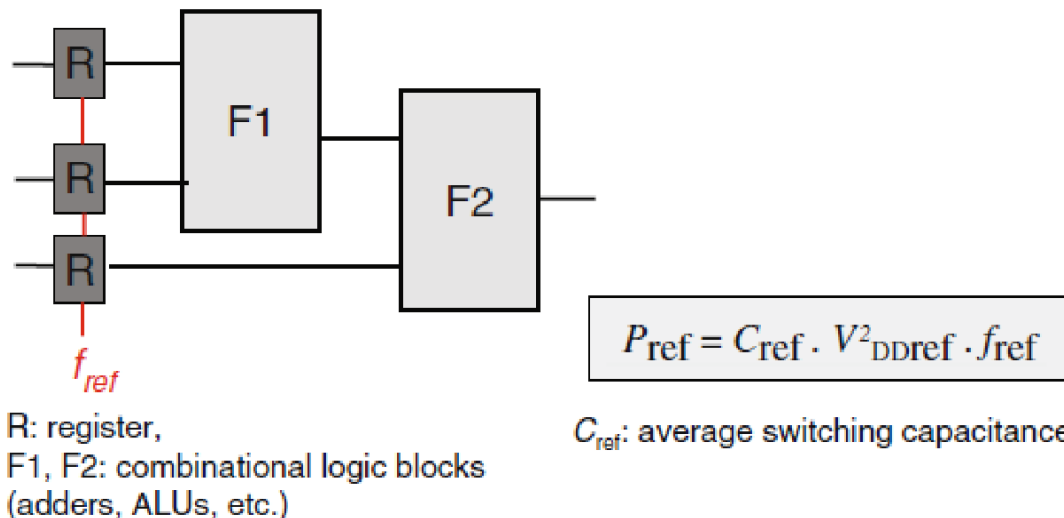
Architecture Trade-offs: Power / Frequency / Area

✓ Dynamic Power

$$P_{dyn} = \underbrace{(C_{eff} \cdot V_{dd}^2 \cdot f_{clock})}_{\text{Switching power}} + \underbrace{(t_{sc} \cdot V_{dd} \cdot I_{peak} \cdot f_{clock})}_{\text{Short circuit power}}$$

✓ Trade-off clock frequency for area to reduce power

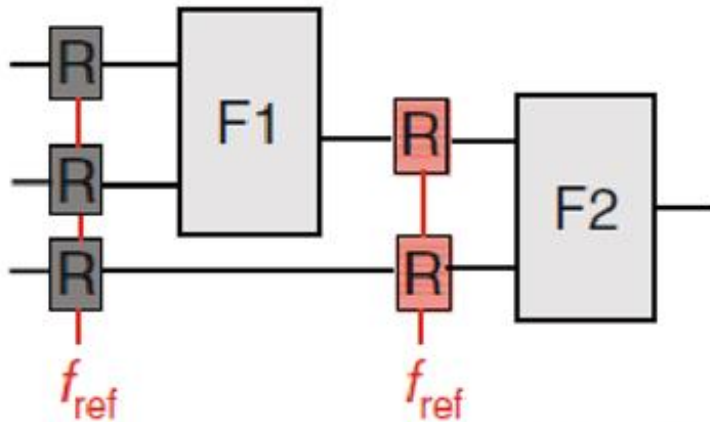
Consider the following reference design



[A. Chandrakasan, JSSC'92]

Pipeline

✓ Area ↑, Vdd ↓



$$\begin{aligned} f_{\text{pipe}} &= f_{\text{ref}} \\ V_{\text{DDpipe}} &= \varepsilon_{\text{pipe}} \cdot V_{\text{DDref}} \\ C_{\text{pipe}} &= (1 + \text{ov}_{\text{pipe}}) \cdot C_{\text{ref}} \end{aligned}$$

$$P_{\text{pipe}} = \varepsilon_{\text{pipe}}^2 \cdot (1 + \text{ov}_{\text{pipe}}) \cdot P_{\text{ref}}$$

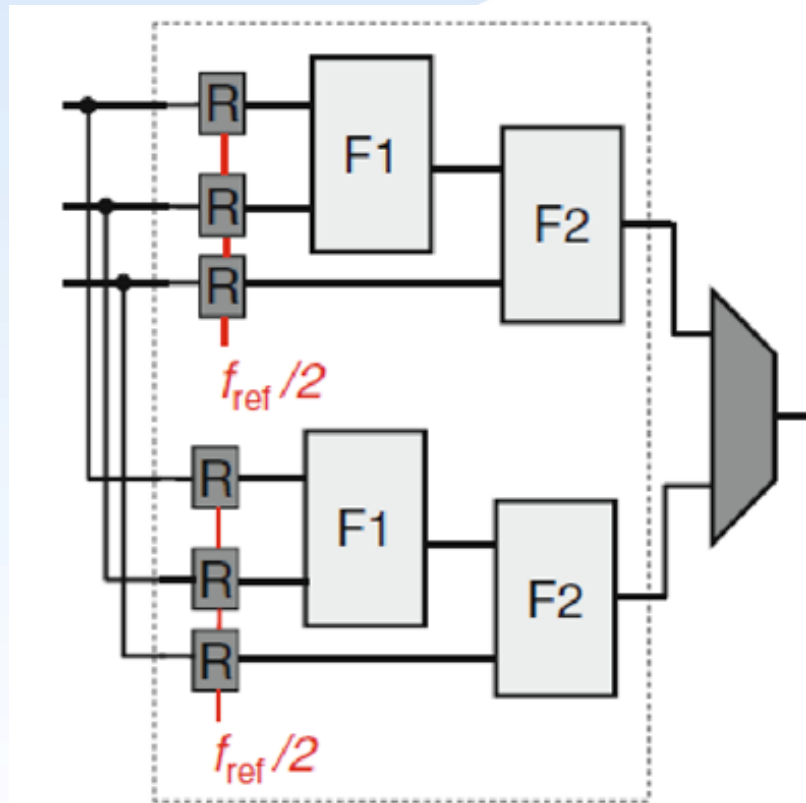
Shallower logic reduces required supply voltage
(this example assumes equal V_{DD} for par / pipe designs)

Assuming $\text{ov}_{\text{pipe}} = 10\%$

$$P_{\text{pipe}} = 0.66^2 \cdot 1.1 \cdot P_{\text{ref}} = 0.48 P_{\text{ref}}$$

Parallel

✓ Area↑, Frequency↑, Vdd↓



$$f_{par} = f_{ref}/2$$

$$V_{DD\ par} = \epsilon_{par} \cdot V_{DD\ ref}$$

$$C_{par} = (2 + ov_{par}) \cdot C_{ref}$$

Almost cancels

$$P_{par} = \epsilon_{par}^2 \cdot \left(\frac{2 + ov_{par}}{2} \right) \cdot P_{ref}$$

Assuming
 $ov_{par} = 15\%$

$$P_{par} = 0.66^2 \cdot \frac{2.15}{2} \cdot P_{ref} = 0.47 P_{ref}$$

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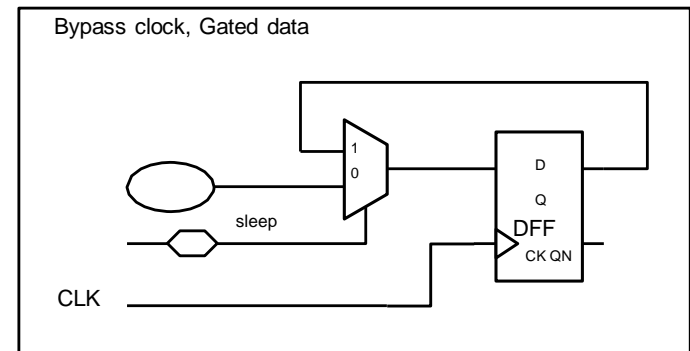
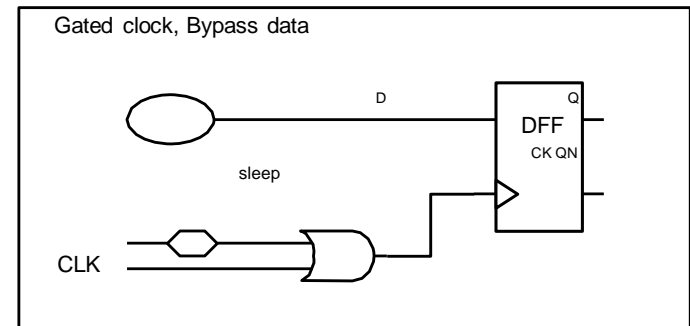
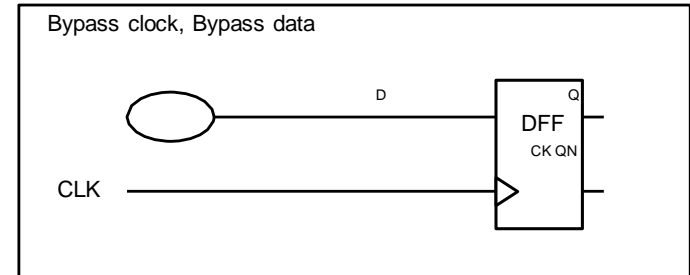
Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ Why do we proceed clock gating

- Reduce the power consumption of registers by **turn off the un-used registers**
- Reduce the clock switching power

✓ Methods

- Gated clock, Bypass data
- Bypass clock, Gated data

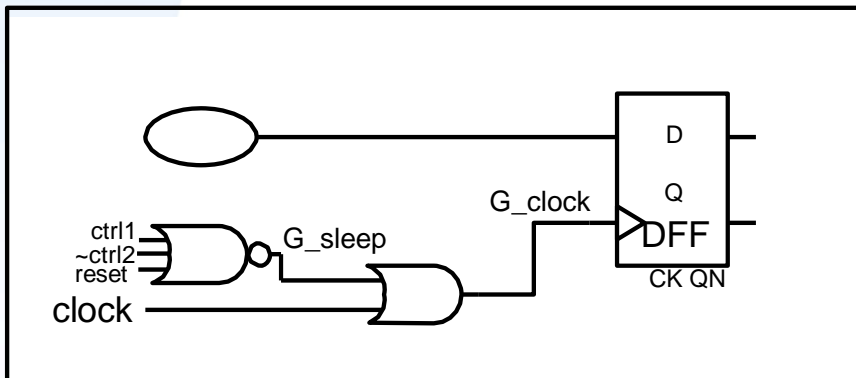


Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ Gated clock, Bypass data

- For a design on ASIC, we do clock gating to reduce the power consumption
- Notice that the gated condition should be chosen carefully

Gated clock, Bypass data



```
ifdef SUPPORT_POWER_DOWN
    wire G_clock;
    wire G_sleep = ~( reset | ctrl1 | (~ctrl2) );
    GATED_OR GATED_G (
        .CLOCK( clock ),
        .SLEEP_CTRL( G_sleep ), // gated clock
        .CLOCK_GATED( G_clock )
    );
else
    wire G_clock = clock;
endif

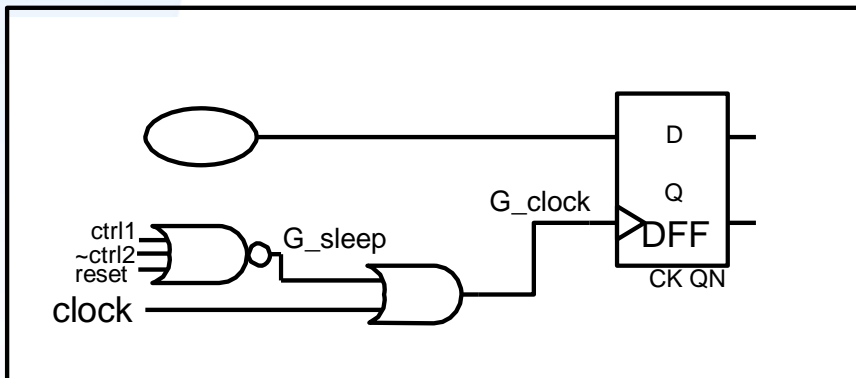
always@(posedge G_clock) begin
    // bypass data
    if (reset) begin
        ..... end
    else if (ctrl1) begin
        ..... end
    else if (~ctrl2) begin
        ..... end
    end
```

Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ Gated clock, Bypass data

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Gated clock, Bypass data



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else
    wire G_clock = clock;
endif

always@(posedge G_clock) begin
    // bypass data
    if (reset) begin
        ..... end
    else if (ctrl1) begin
        ..... end
    else if (~ctrl2) begin
        ..... end
    end
```

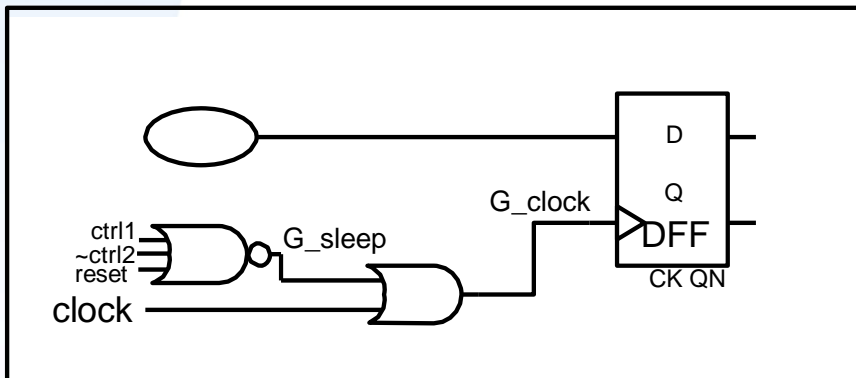
G_sleep = 1
G_clock = 1
Clock gated !!

Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ Gated clock, Bypass data

- For a design on ASIC, we do clock gating to reduce the power consumption
- Notice that the gated condition should be chosen carefully

Gated clock, Bypass data



```
ifdef SUPPORT_POWER_DOWN
    wire G_clock;
    wire G_sleep = ~( reset | ctrl1 | (~ctrl2) );
    GATED_OR GATED_G (
        .CLOCK( clock ),
        .SLEEP_CTRL( G_sleep ), // gated clock
        .CLOCK_GATED( G_clock )
    );
else
    wire G_clock = clock;
endif

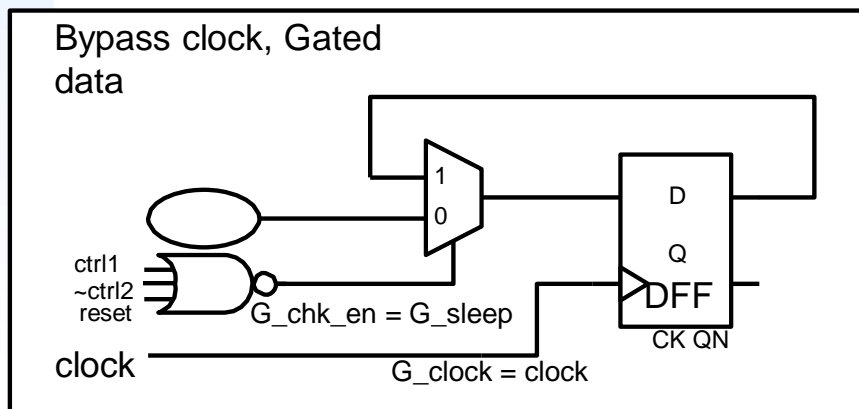
always@(posedge G_clock) begin
    // bypass data
    if (reset) begin
        ..... end
    else if (ctrl1) begin
        ..... end
    else if (~ctrl2) begin
        ..... end
    end
```

*G_sleep = 0
G_clock = clock
Clock bypass !!*

Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ Bypass clock, Gated data

- For a design on FPGA, the clock tree is pre-generated. It is difficult to implement dynamic gated clock scheme. Thus we do **data gating to minimize signal switching**.
- In order to logic equivalent with dynamic gated clock design, the data gating condition should be same with dynamic gated clock condition.



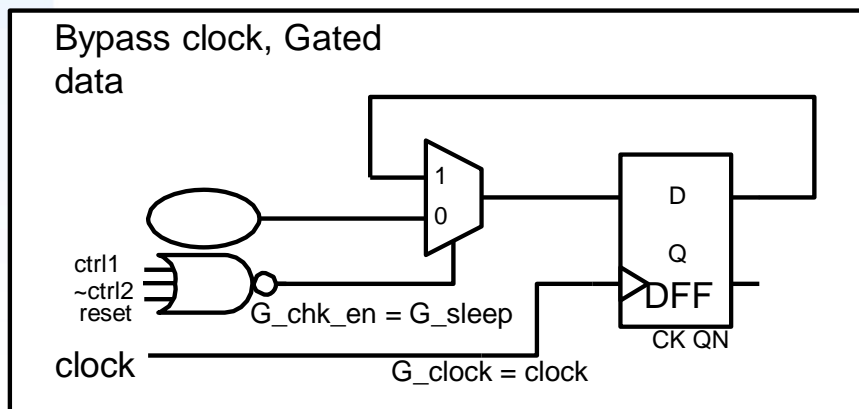
```
`ifdef SUPPORT_POWER_DOWN
    wire G_clock;
    wire G_sleep = ~( reset | ctrl1 | (~ctrl2)
    );
    wire G_chk_en = G_sleep;
    GATED_OR GATED_G (
        .CLOCK( clock ),
        .SLEEP_CTRL( 1'b0 ) // bypass clock
        .CLOCK_GATED(G_clock)
    );
`else
    wire G_clock = clock;
`endif

always@(posedge G_clock) begin // gated data
    if ( !G_chk_en) begin
        if (reset) begin
            ..... end
        else if (ctrl1) begin
            ..... end
        else if (~ctrl2) begin
            ..... end
        end
    end
end
```

Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ Bypass clock, Gated data

- For a design on FPGA, the clock tree is pre-generated. It is difficult to implement dynamic gated clock scheme. Thus we do **data gating to minimize signal switching**.
- In order to logic equivalent with dynamic gated clock design, the data gating condition should be same with dynamic gated clock condition.



```
`ifdef SUPPORT_POWER_DOWN
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    );
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    GATED_OR GATED_G (
        .CLOCK( clock ),
        .SLEEP_CTRL( 1'b0 ) // bypass clock
        .CLOCK_GATED(G_clock)
    );
`else
    wire G_clock = clock;
`endif

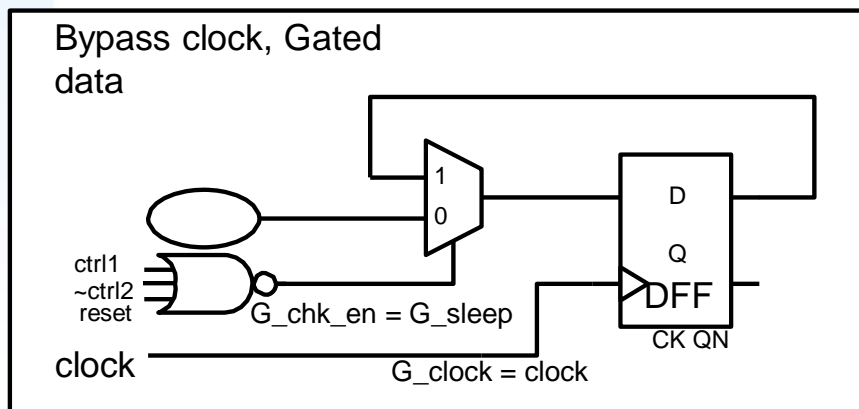
always@(posedge G_clock) begin // gated data
    if ( !G_chk_en) begin
        if (reset) begin
            ..... end
        else if (ctrl1) begin
            ..... end
        else if (~ctrl2) begin
            ..... end
        end
    end
end
```

G_sleep = 1
G_chg_en = 1
Data gated !!

Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ Bypass clock, Gated data

- For a design on FPGA, the clock tree is pre-generated. It is difficult to implement dynamic gated clock scheme. Thus we do **data gating to minimize signal switching**.
- In order to logic equivalent with dynamic gated clock design, the data gating condition should be same with dynamic gated clock condition.



```
`ifdef SUPPORT_POWER_DOWN
  wire G_clock;
  wire G_sleep = ~( reset | ctrl1 | (~ctrl2)
);
  wire G_chk_en = G_sleep;
  GATED_OR GATED_G (
    .CLOCK( clock ),
    .SLEEP_CTRL( 1'b0 ) // bypass clock
    .CLOCK_GATED(G_clock)
  );
`else
  wire G_clock = clock;
`endif

always@(posedge G_clock) begin // gated data
  if ( !G_chk_en) begin
    if (reset) begin
      ..... end
    else if (ctrl1) begin
      ..... end
    else if (~ctrl2) begin
      ..... end
  end
end
```

G_sleep = 0
G_chg_en = 0
Data bypass !!

Dynamic Clock Gating Example

set_dont_touch \$clock_gating_module_name

GATED_OR.v

```
1 module GATED_OR(  
2     // Input signals  
3     CLOCK,  
4     SLEEP_CTRL,  
5     RST_N,  
6     // Output signals  
7     CLOCK_GATED  
8 );  
9 //-----  
10 // INPUT AND OUTPUT DECLARATION  
11 //-----  
12 input    CLOCK, SLEEP_CTRL, RST_N;  
13 output   CLOCK_GATED;  
14  
15  
16 //-----  
17 // WIRE AND REG DECLARATION  
18 //-----  
19 reg latch_or_sleep;  
20  
21  
22 //-----  
23 // CLOCK GATING IMPLEMENTATION  
24 //-----  
25 always@(*) begin  
26     if (!RST_N)  
27         latch_or_sleep = 'd0;  
28     else if (CLOCK)  
29         latch_or_sleep = SLEEP_CTRL;  
30 end  
31  
32 assign CLOCK_GATED = CLOCK | latch_or_sleep;  
33  
34 endmodule
```

clk_syn.tcl

```
#=====
```

```
# Global Parameters
```

```
#=====
```

```
set DESIGN "IDC"
```

```
set clock_gating_module_name "GATED_OR"
```

```
set CLK_period 12.0
```

```
#=====
```

```
# Read RTL Code
```

```
#=====
```

```
set hdlin_auto_save_templates TRUE
```

```
read verilog {./Netlist/$clock_gating_module_name\_SYN.v}
```

```
set_dont_touch $clock_gating_module_name
```

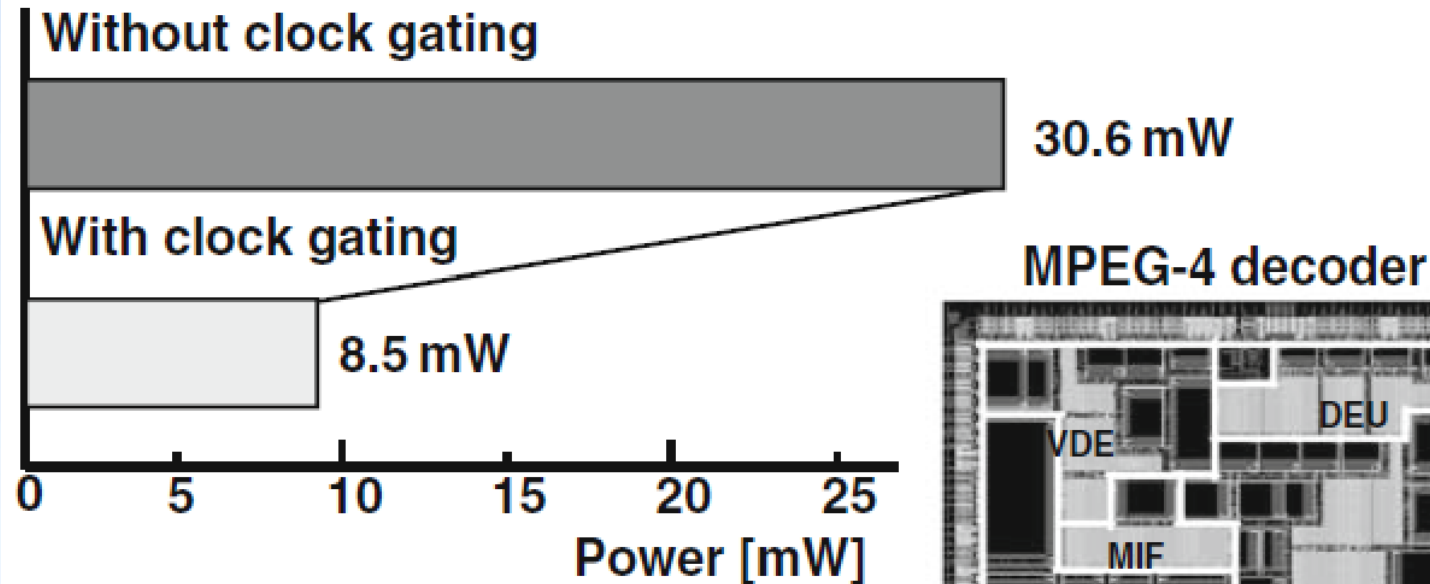
```
read_sverilog {$DESIGN\.v}
```

```
current_design $DESIGN
```

```
link > Report/$DESIGN\.link
```

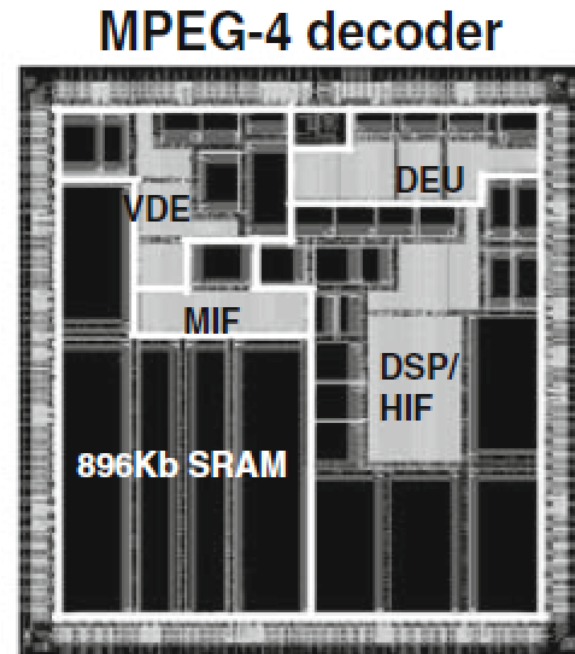


Clock Gating Efficiently Reduces Power



90% of FFs clock-gated.

70% power reduction by clock gating alone.

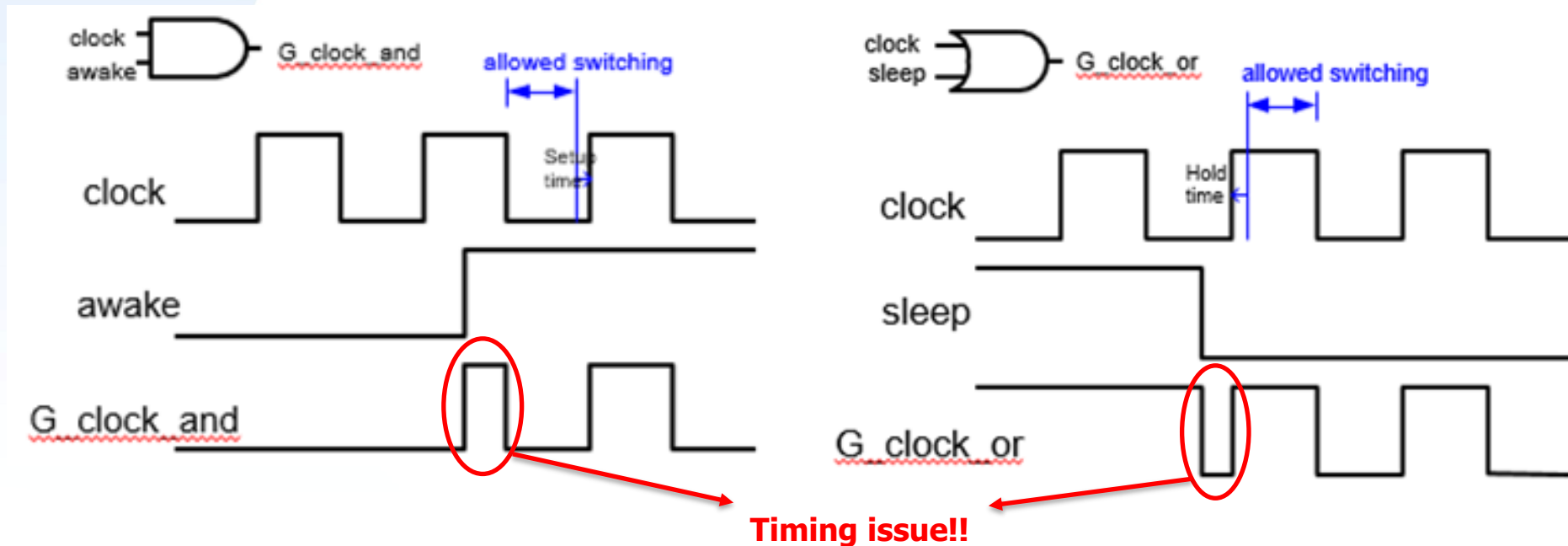


[Ref: M. Ohashi, ISSCC'02]

© IEEE 2002

Dynamic Clock Gating

- ✓ Clock gating can be implemented by **either AND-gating or OR-gating**
- ✓ The control signal can only change in specific half cycle
 - For clock rising edge trigger registers design
 - For **AND** gate, the allow switching cycle is clock at **low period**
 - For **OR** gate, the allow switching cycle is clock at **high period**

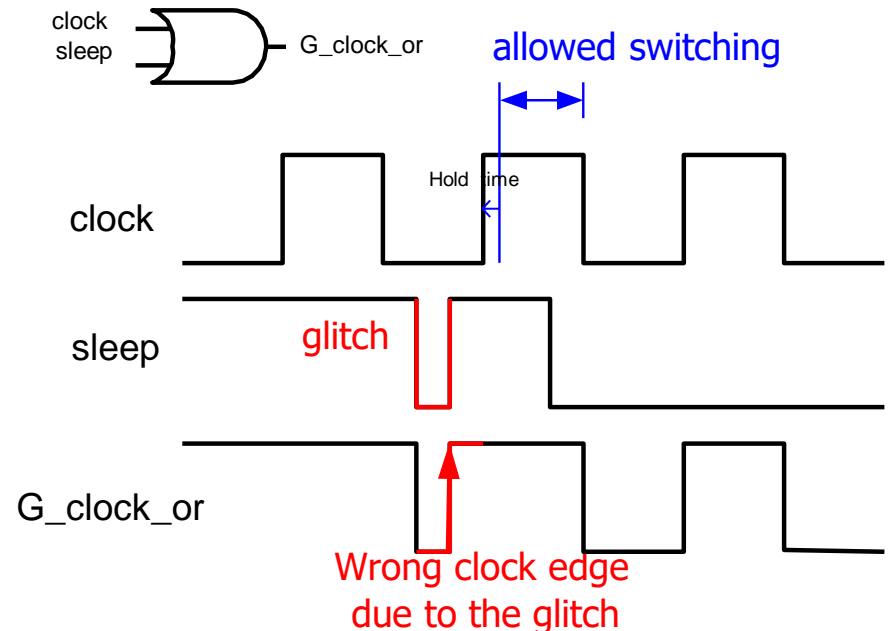
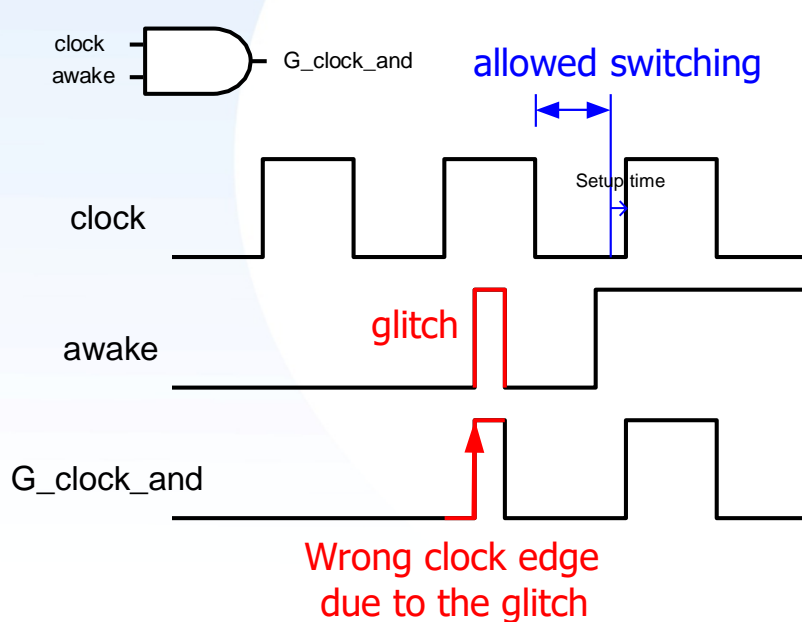


Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ Clock gating can be implemented by **either AND-gating or OR-gating**

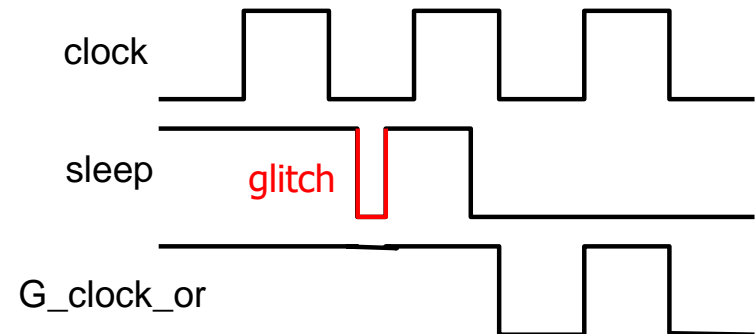
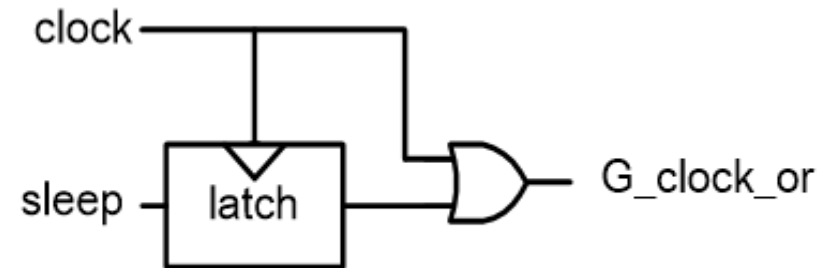
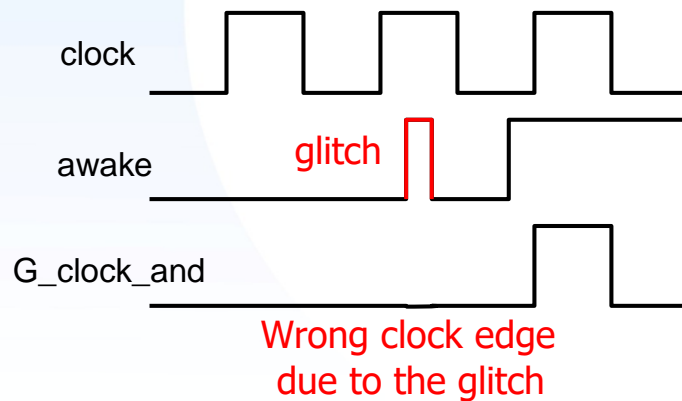
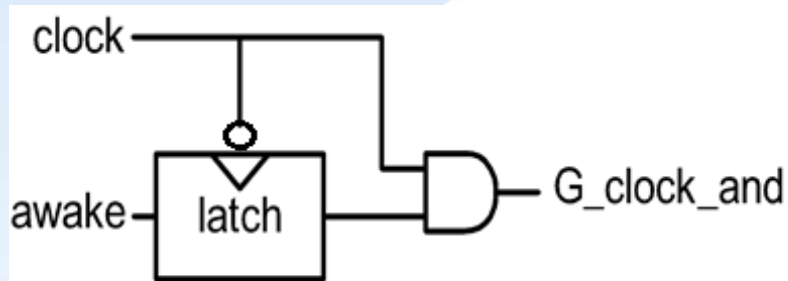
✓ The control signal can only change in specific half cycle

- For clock rising edge trigger registers design
 - For **AND** gate, the allow switching cycle is clock at **low period**
 - For **OR** gate, the allow switching cycle is clock at **high period**



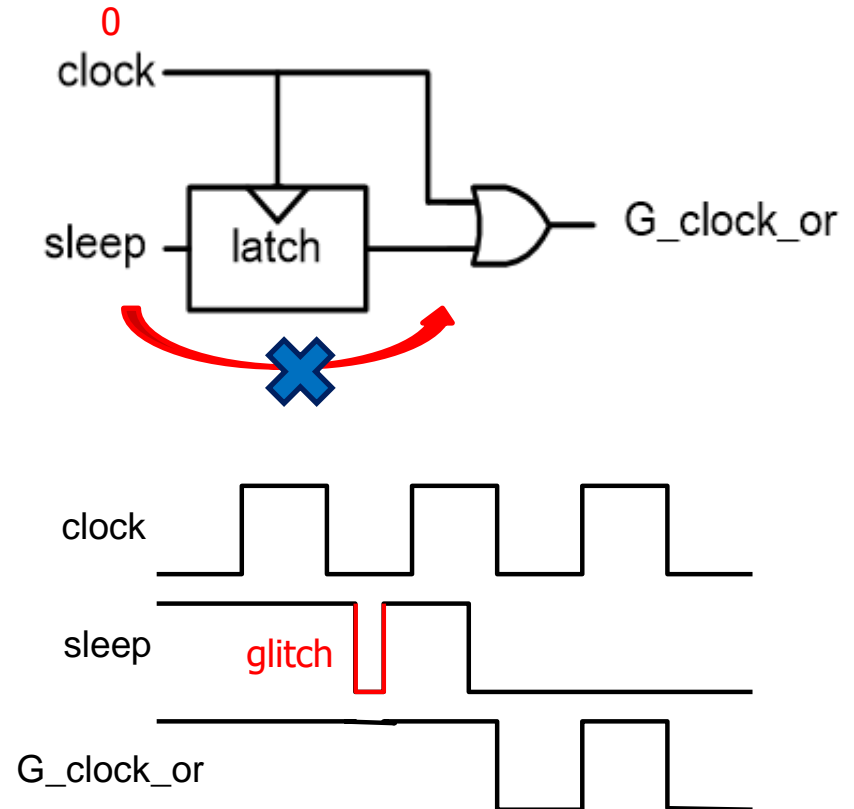
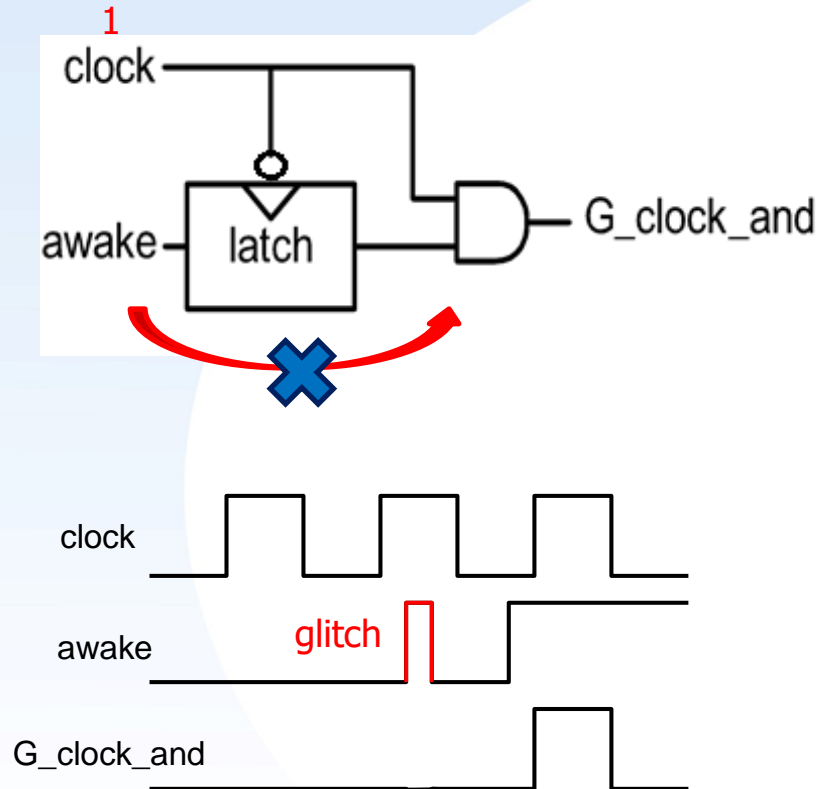
Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ The method of avoid glitch



Dynamic Clock Gating

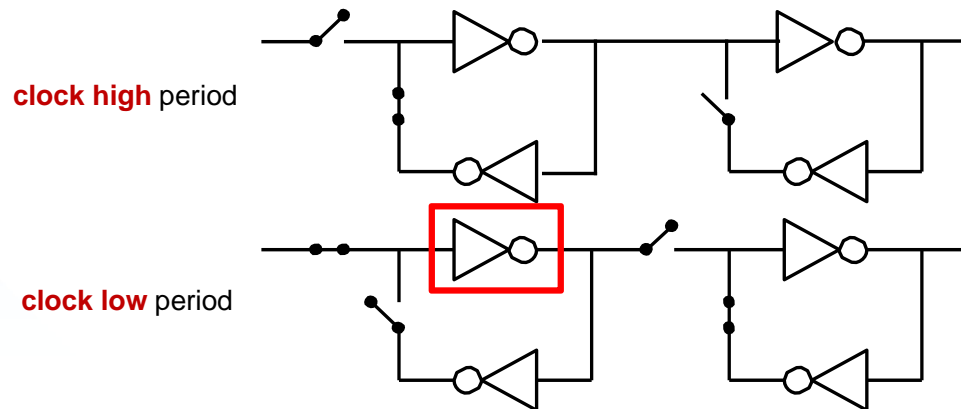
✓ The method of avoid glitch



Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ OR-gating is better

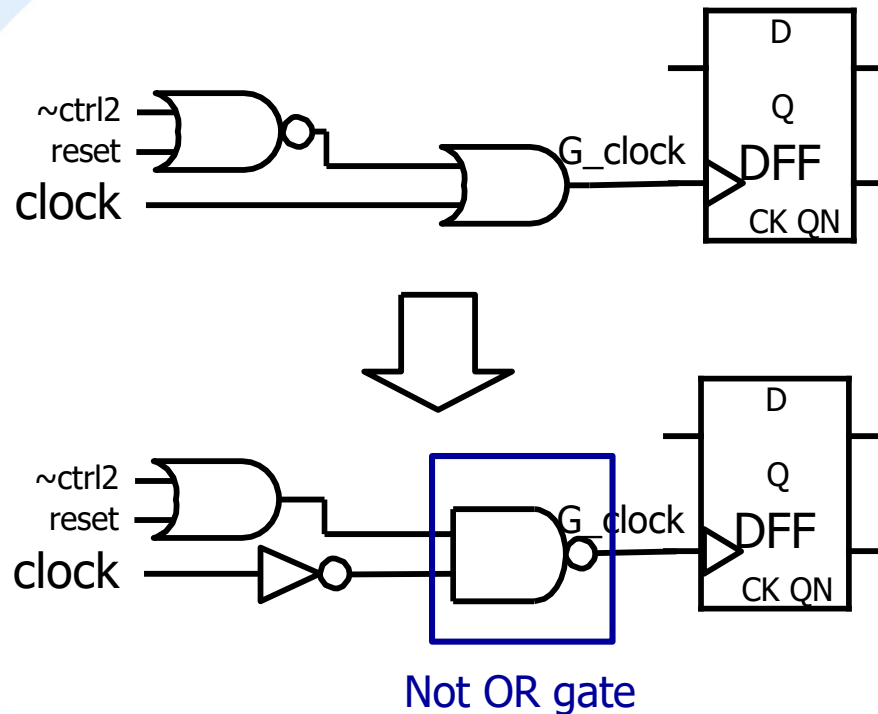
- **OR-gating consumes less power** than AND-gating
 - For OR-gating, the gated clock is tied at high when the register is turned off
 - No matter data is toggling, the first latch circuits will not be toggled
 - For AND-gating, the gated clock is tied at low when the register is turned off
 - The **first latch circuits** will consume power as data input is switching
- The gating control signals should be generated from clock rising edge
- Flip-flops → stable gating the clock as clock high period
 - Consistent with original clock rising edge trigger registers design
 - It is easier for timing control and analysis



Dynamic Clock Gating

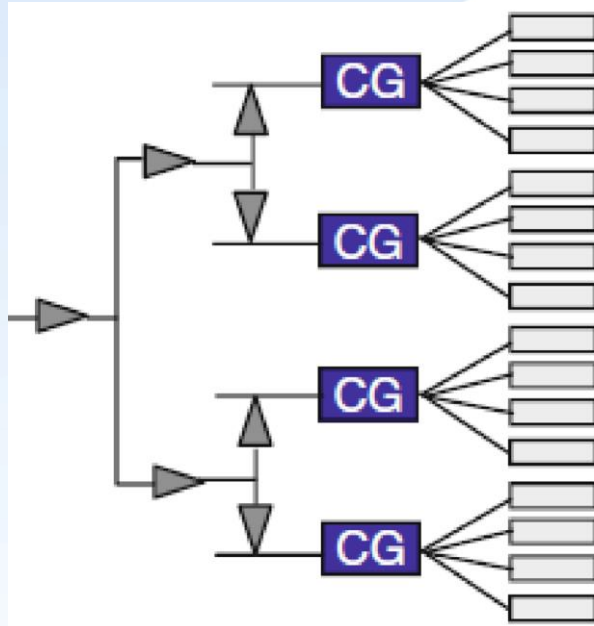
✓ Notes

- Writing OR gate in a single module can prevent the OR gate from being optimized with other logics during the synthesis

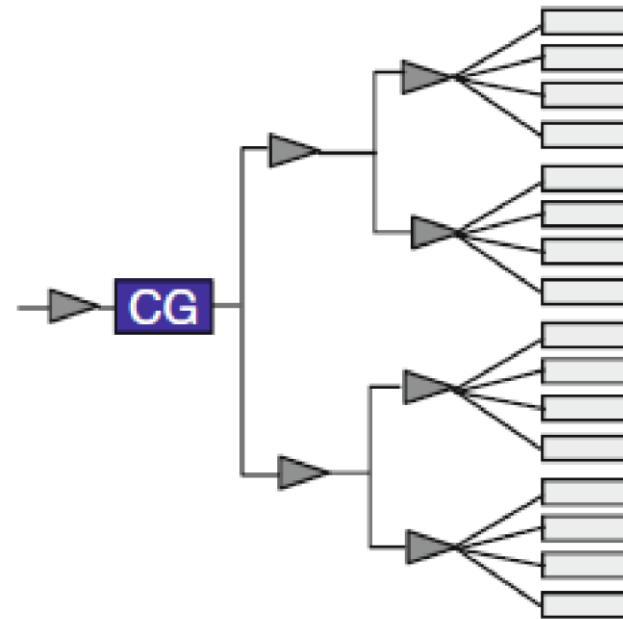


Clock Gating

✓ Power Saving



✓ Simpler skew management, less area



- Keep the gates close to the registers. This allows for a fine-grain control on what to turn off and when. It comes at the expense of a more complex skew control and extra area.
- Move the gating devices higher up in the tree, which has the added advantage that the clock distribution network of the sub-tree is turn off. Modules cannot be turn off as often

Reference

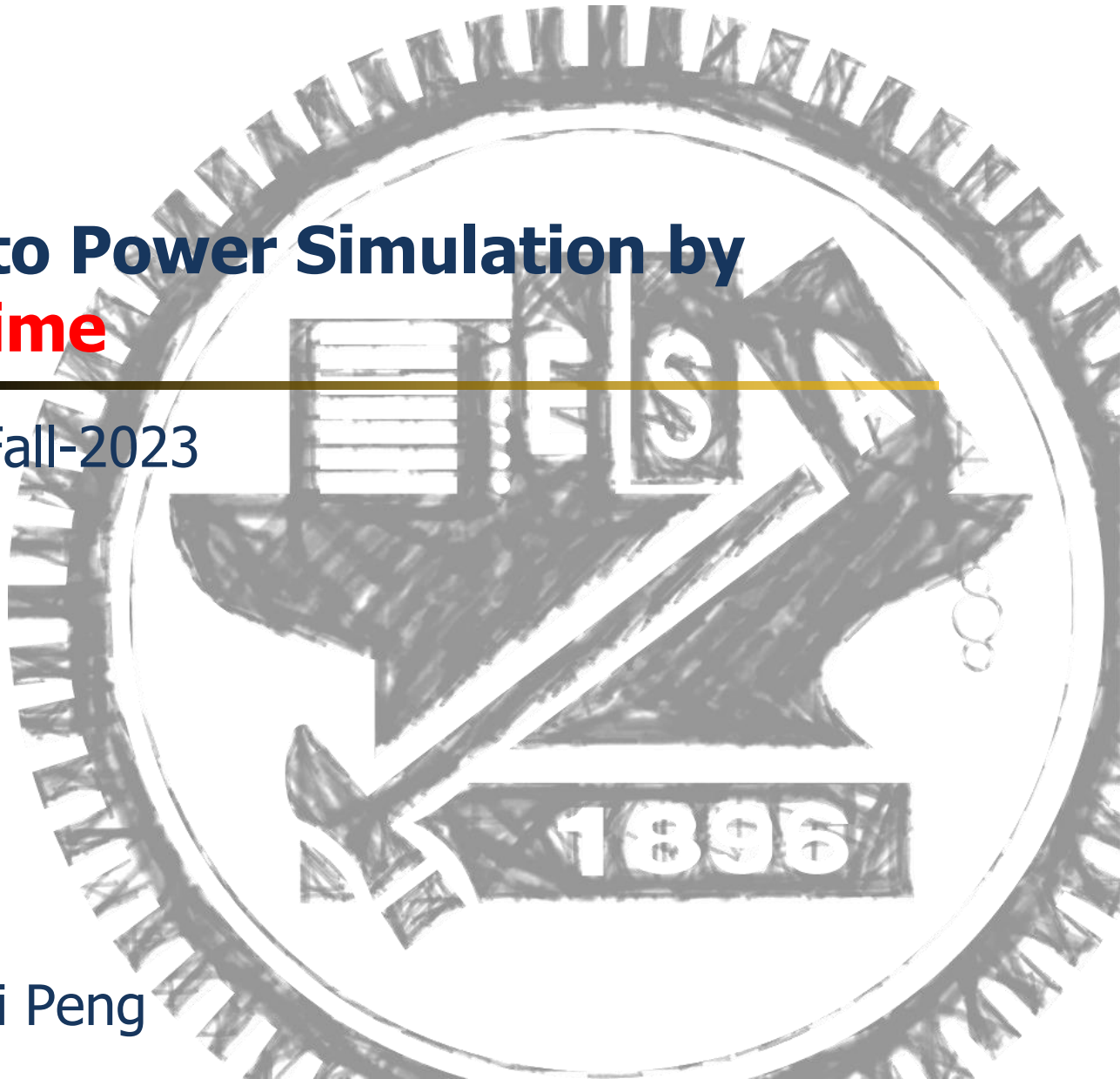
- ✓ **Prof. S.J. Jou, "Low-Power Digital-IC", The lecture note of DIC, 2014.**
- ✓ **S. S. Wang, "Logic Synthesis with Design Compiler", The lecture of CIC course training, August 2008.**
- ✓ **M. Keating, D. Flynn, R. Aitken, A. Gibbons, K. shi, "Low Power Methodology Manual".**
- ✓ **Arman Vassighi, Manoj Sachdev, "Thermal Runaway in Integrated Circuits" , June 2006.**



Introduction to Power Simulation by Using **PrimeTime**

NYCU-EE IC LAB Fall-2023

Lecturer: Hsien-Chi Peng



Outline

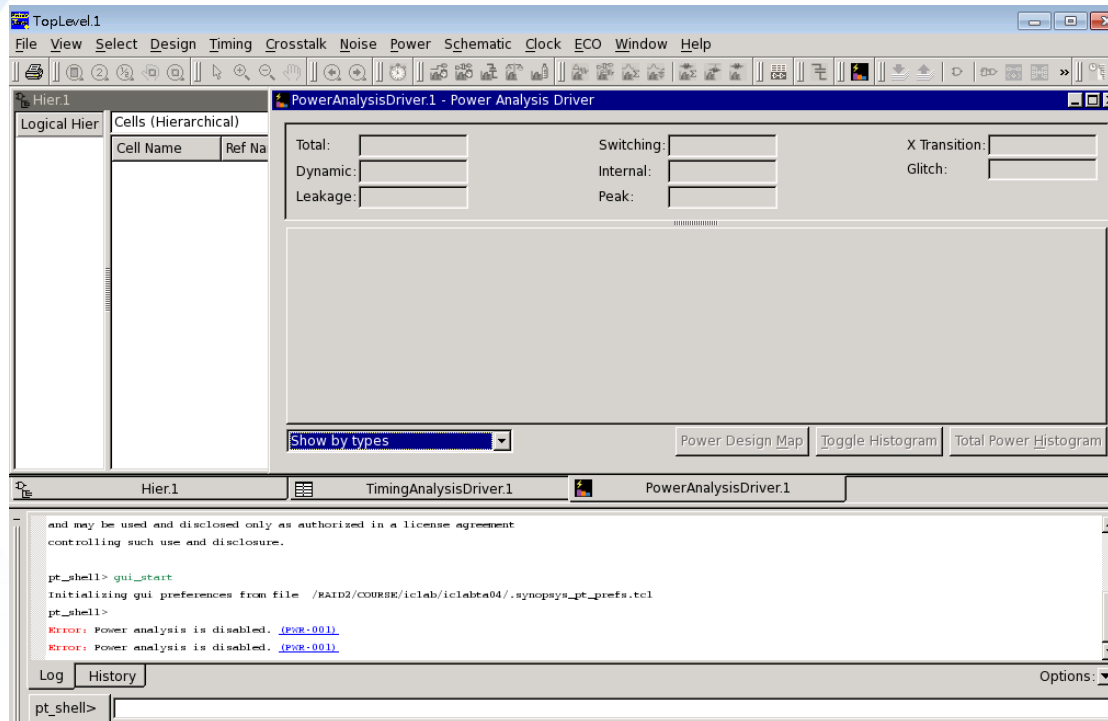
- ✓ **Start PrimeTime**
- ✓ **Simulation Flow of PrimeTime**
 - **Phase 1 – relative file preparation**
 - **Phase 2 – power analysis**
- ✓ **Reports Analysis**
- ✓ **A Power Analysis Script Example**

Start Prime Time

✓ Interfaces of PrimeTime

- **Command-line interface**
 - `pt_shell`
- **Graphical user interface**
 - `pt_shell -gui`

`pt_shell>`



Start PrimeTime

✓ PrimeTime supports command in tcl mode

- Tcl: tool command language (tcl) has a straightforward syntax

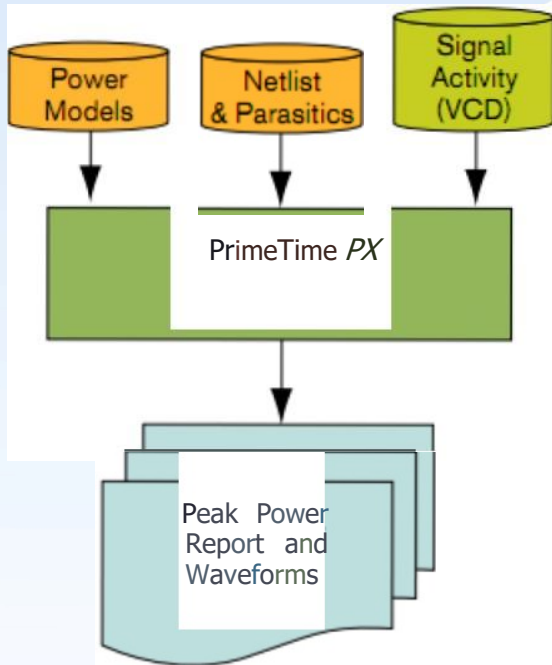
✓ Start using PrimeTime

- Start pt_shell (the PrimeTime command-line interface)
 - Command : `pt_shell`
- Start PrimeTime graphical user interface (GUI)
 - Command : `pt_shell -gui`
- Run scripts in pt_shell gui
 - Command : `source filename.tcl`
- Get command help
 - Command : `man command_name`
- Exit PrimeTime
 - Command : `exit`

Simulation Flow

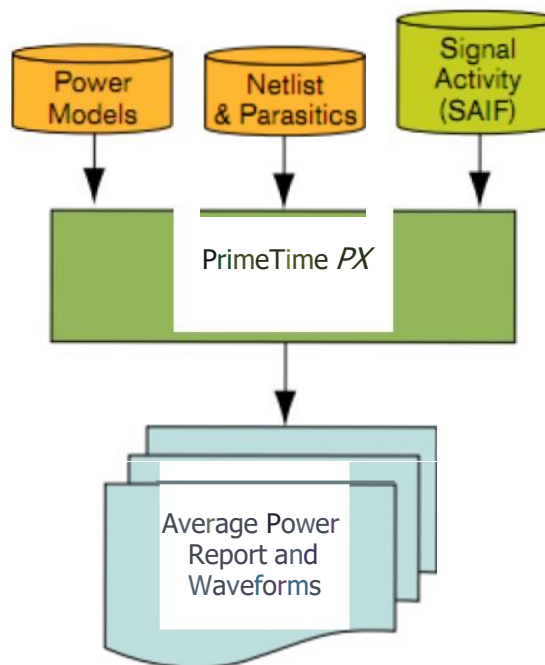
Value Change Dump

VCD Flow



Switching Activity Interchange Format

SAIF Flow



Vector-free Flow

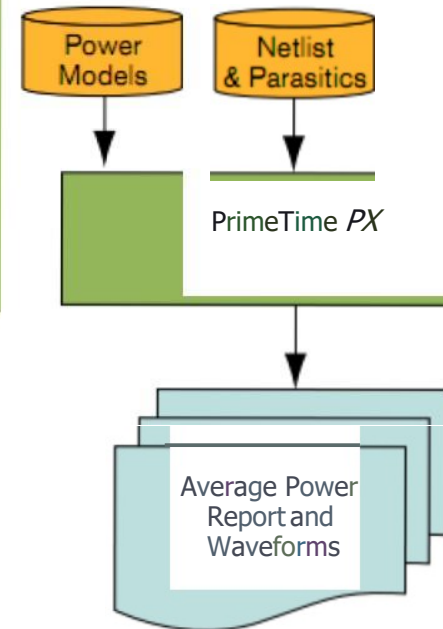


Figure 4: Power Analysis Flows.

VCD file : Contains value changes of a signal.
i.e. at what times signals changes their values.

SAIF file : contains toggle counts and time information like how much time a signal was in 1 state, 0 state , x state.
It contains cumulative information of vcd.

Ref: http://www.researchgate.net/post/Whats_the_difference_between_a_SAIF_and_VCD_file_used_to_evaluate_power_consumption



Simulation Flow

✓ PrimeTime simulation flow contains two phases

- **Phase 1 – relative file preparation**
 - Technology library
 - Gate-level netlist
 - Switching activity file (Value change Dumpfile or FSDB file)
 - Synopsys design constraint (SDC file)
 - Standard delay format (SDF file)
 - Parasitic file (after APR) (RSPF, SPEF, or DSPF file)
- **Phase 2 – power analysis**
 - Specify search path and link libraries
 - Read design and link design
 - Read switching activity file
 - Set transition time and annotate parasitic
 - Generate power report

Simulation Flow: Phase 1

✓ Phase 1 – relative file preparation

- **Technology library**

- The file contains library cells, which has timing, power and characterization information
- Internal and leakage power are in the library
- The library used for power analysis should be the same with the library used for synthesis
- The technology libraries are provided by foundry, and are specified in the startup file.

Simulation Flow: Phase 2

✓ Phase 2 – power analysis

- **Specify search path**

- Search path is a list of directories for PrimeTime to read design and library files
- Command: `set search_path {absolute_path or relative_path}`
 - ◆ Example: `set search_path {. ./ library ./source_code}`

- **Specify link library**

- The `link_library` variable specifies where and in what order PrimeTime looks for design files and library files for linking the design
- Command: `set link_library {* library_name}`
 - ◆ Using an asterisk(*) to make PrimeTime search for designs in memory
 - ◆ Example: `set link_library {* slow.db}`

Simulation Flow: Phase 2

- **Read design**

- The design for power analysis must be a structural, fully mapped gate-level netlist
- The netlist cannot contain any high-level constructs
- Command: `read_verilog file_names`
 - ◆ Example: `read_Verilog CHIP.v`

- **Set current design**

- Before link design, specify the current design first
- Command: `current_design design_name`
 - ◆ Example: `current_design YOUR_DESIGN`

- **Link design**

- Resolve references in a design
- Command: `link_design [design_name]`
 - ◆ `design_name`: specify design name to be linked (Default is current design)
 - ◆ Example: `link_design`

Simulation Flow: Phase 2

- **Read switching activity file**

- The switching activity information used for power calculation is in the VCD or FSDB format generated and dumped out from the simulation
- Command: `read_vcd [-strip_path strip] file_name`
 - ◆ `[-strip_path strip]`: specifies a path prefix that is to be stripped from all the object names read from the VCD file or FSDB file
 - ◆ PrimeTime will transform FSDB file into VCD file automatically
 - ◆ Example : if the VCD or FSDB file is generated from module TESTBED and the instance name of the design is I_YOUR_DESIGN
 - → `read_vcd -strip_path TESTBED/I_YOUR_DESIGN CHIP.vcd`

- **Read design constraint file**

- It is unnecessary to re-specify design constraints. Designer can simply include the SDC file generated during synthesis
- Command: `read_sdc [-syntax_only] file_name`
 - ◆ `[-syntax_only]`: only process the syntax check of SDC file
 - ◆ Example : `read_sdc CHIP.sdc`

Simulation Flow: Phase 2

- **Annotate delay information**

- Designer can include the delay information generated during synthesis
- Command: `read_sdf [-load_delay net | cell] [-syntax_only] file_name`
 - ◆ `[-load_delay net | cell]`: indicate whether load delays are included in net delays
 - ◆ or in cell delays
 - ◆ `[-syntax_only]`: only process the syntax check of SDC file
 - ◆ Example : `read_sdf -load_delay net CHIP.sdf`

- **Read design constraint file**

- PrimeTime uses the transition time defined at each input port to calculate the cell power consumption and transition times for the following logic stages
- Command : `set_input_transition transition_time port_list`
 - ◆ Example : `set_input_transition 0.1 [all_inputs]`

Simulation Flow: Phase 2

- **Generate power waveforms**

- To save the power values over time, designer can make PrimeTime stores the power for every event within a given time interval in a waveform file.
- Command : `set_power_analysis_options -waveform_interval [-format fsdb | out] [-file file_prefix]`
 - ◆ `waveform_interval`: specify the sampling interval for power calculation (unit : ns)
 - ◆ `[-file file_prefix]`: set the prefix for the output files (default : PrimeTime)
 - ◆ `[-format fsdb | out]`: specify the waveform format
 - » `fsdb`: PrimeTime default value, can be viewed by nWave
 - » `out`: PrimeTime will output a text .out file
 - » `rpt`: PrimeTime does not output waveform, but display peak power in .rpt file
 - ◆ Example: `set_power_analysis_options -waveform_interval 1 -waveform_format out -waveform_output vcd`

Will create file “vcd.out”



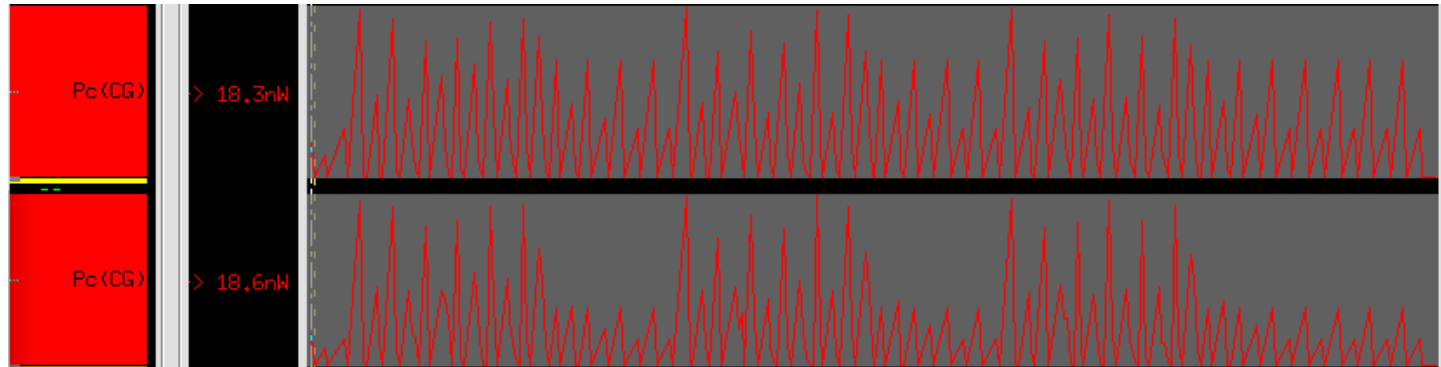
Simulation Flow: Phase 2

- **Generate power waveforms**

- To save the power values over time, designer can make PrimeTime stores the power for every event within a given time interval in a waveform file.
- Command : `set_power_analysis_options -waveform_interval [-file file_prefix] [-format fsdb | out]`

◆ -waveform_output fsdb example

w/o clock gating



w/ clock gating

Simulation Flow: Phase 2

- **Generate default power reports**

- PrimeTime can generate a wide range of reports that provide information about the power consumption
- Command: `report_power [-file file_prefix] [-leaf] [-nosplit] [-sortby [power | toggle | name]]`
 - ◆ [-leaf]: reports power for leaf instances
 - ◆ [-sortby [power | toggle | name]]: sort the instances in the .rpt file
 - » Power: sort by power values
 - » Toggle: sort by toggle counts
 - » Name sort by name
 - ◆ [-nosplit]: to prevent line-splitting or section-breaking
 - ◆ Example: `report_power -file CHIP -sortby power -leaf`

Reports Analysis

✓ Default power report analysis

Power Group	Internal Power	Switching Power	Leakage Power	Total Power	(%)	Attrs
clock_network	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	(0.00%)	
register	2.213e-03	4.254e-05	1.126e-06	2.257e-03	(81.94%)	i
combinational	3.232e-04	1.713e-04	2.802e-06	4.973e-04	(18.06%)	
sequential	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	(0.00%)	
memory	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	(0.00%)	
io_pad	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	(0.00%)	
black_box	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	(0.00%)	

Net Switching Power	=	2.139e-04	(7.77%)			
Cell Internal Power	=	2.536e-03	(92.09%)			
Cell Leakage Power	=	3.928e-06	(0.14%)			
Intrinsic Leakage	=	3.928e-06				
Gate Leakage	=	0.0000				

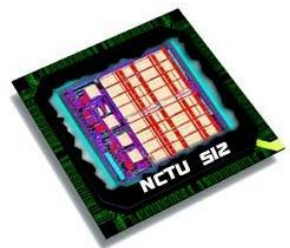
Total Power	=	2.754e-03	(100.00%)			

X Transition Power	=	2.613e-06				
Glitching Power	=	0.0000				

Peak Power	=	0.0247				
Peak Time	=	114120				

Appendix A

Dynamic Clock Gating For Different Syntheses



Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ A general design Verilog coding

- **For ASIC synthesis**
 - **`define FPGA_SYN 0**
 - **Bypass data, gated clock**
- **For FPGA synthesis**
 - **`define FPGA_SYN 1**
 - **Gated data, bypass clock**

```
ifdef SUPPORT_POWER_DOWN wire
    G_clock;
    wire G_sleep = ~( reset | ctrl1 | (~ctrl2) );
    wire G_gated = G_sleep & ~( `FPGA_SYN );
    wire G_chk_en = ( `FPGA_SYN == 0 )? 1'b0 : G_sleep;
    GATED_OR GATED_G (
        .CLOCK( clock ),
        .SLEEP_CTRL( G_gated ),
        .CLOCK_GATED( G_clock )
    );
`else
    wire G_clock = clock; wire
    G_chk_en = 0;
`endif

always@(posedge G_clock) begin
    if ( !G_chk_en) begin
        if (reset) begin
            ..... end
        else if (ctrl1) begin
            ..... end
        else if (~ctrl2) begin
            ..... end
        end
    end
end end
```

Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ A general design Verilog coding

- **For ASIC synthesis**
 - **`define FPGA_SYN 0**
 - **Bypass data, gated clock**
- **For FPGA synthesis**
 - **`define FPGA_SYN 1**
 - **Gated data, bypass clock**

```
ifdef SUPPORT_POWER_DOWN wire
    G_clock;
    wire G_sleep = ~( reset | ctrl1 | (~ctrl2) );
    wire G_gated = G_sleep & ~( `FPGA_SYN );
    wire G_chk_en = ( `FPGA_SYN == 0 )? 1'b0 : G_sleep;
    GATED_OR GATED_G (
        .CLOCK( clock ),
        .SLEEP_CTRL( G_gated ),
        .CLOCK_GATED( G_clock )
    );
`else
    wire G_clock = clock; wire
    G_chk_en = 0;
`endif

always@(posedge G_clock) begin
    if ( !G_chk_en ) begin
        if (reset) begin
            ..... end
        else if (ctrl1) begin
            ..... end
        else if (~ctrl2) begin
            ..... end
        end
    end
end end
```

FPGA_SYN = 0
G_chk_en = 0
Data bypass !!

Dynamic Clock Gating

✓ A general design Verilog coding

- **For ASIC synthesis**
 - **`define FPGA_SYN 0**
 - **Bypass data, gated clock**
- **For FPGA synthesis**
 - **`define FPGA_SYN 1**
 - **Gated data, bypass clock**

```
ifdef SUPPORT_POWER_DOWN wire
  G_clock;
  wire G_sleep = ~( reset | ctrl1 | (~ctrl2) );
  wire G_gated = G_sleep & ~( `FPGA_SYN );
  wire G_chk_en = ( `FPGA_SYN == 0 )? 1'b0 : G_sleep;
  GATED_OR GATED_G (
    .CLOCK( clock ),
    .SLEEP_CTRL( G_gated ),
    .CLOCK_GATED( G_clock )
  );
else
  wire G_clock = clock; wire
  G_chk_en = 0;
endif

always@(posedge G_clock) begin
  if ( !G_chk_en ) begin
    if (reset) begin
      ..... end
    else if (ctrl1) begin
      ..... end
    else if (~ctrl2) begin
      ..... end
    end
  end
end end
```

FPGA_SYN = 0
G_chk_en = 0
Data bypass !!
G_gated = G_sleep
if G_sleep = 1
G_clock = 1
Clock gated !!

Revision History

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