Algorithm a61 Microarchitecture Document

logo.png

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This document provides functional information for the a61 Algorithmic Memory® core.

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Algorithm A61 Microarchitecture

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| Contents |

[1. Functional Overview 1](#_Toc385371829)

[2. Interface description 2](#_Toc385371830)

[3. Algos.txt 3](#_Toc385371831)

[4. Block level description 4](#_Toc385371832)

[5. Key Parameters 5](#_Toc385371833)

[6. Formal 6](#_Toc385371834)

[7. Revision Change Log 7](#_Toc385371835)

# Functional Overview

The 1r1w\_a61 IP provides true1R1W (2 port) functionality. It is built using bulk of pseudo two port memories (1R1W) and a small amount of 2 port memoires (1R1W). Given the bulk of this IP is built on pseudo 2 port memories the area and power footprint of this IP is smaller than a traditional 2 port memory. The pseudo two port memory is mainly used to store the data. A spare memory stores any clash of data.The two port memory stores the internal state needed by the IP logic.

This IP is implemented as mapping table algorithm. A two port memory stores the mapping table. It uses eDRAM for the bulk of data storage.

# Interface description

The algo\_top’s main interfaces include the clking ports; the read and write ports, which talk to the primary interface; the t1 ports which talk to the single port (T1) memories; the t2 ports which talk to the spare (T2) memory and t3 ports to talk to two port (T3) memories.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pin | Pin Type | Description | Notes |
| Clock and Initialization | | | |
| clk | Input | Clock | Clock input pin |
| rst | Input | Reset | Reset pin |
| refr | Input | Refresh | Signal to the controller that eDRAM can be refreshed in this cycle. Only needed when IP uses eDRAM. (Optional) |
| ready | Output | Ready | Assertion implies memory core ready for functional operation |
| Read Ports | | | |
| rd\_adr | Input | Read Address | Address bits (width N bits) to denote up to 2N addresses;  N is parameter. Same value for all ports |
| read | Input | Read Valid | Denotes that a Read command is valid |
| rd\_dout | Output | Read Data | Data (width W) associated with a read address;  W is parameter. Same value for all ports |
| rd\_vld | Output | Read Data Valid | Denotes valid read data |
| rd\_serr rd\_derr | Output | Read Error | Denotes read data error. Data on *dout* pins is invalid |
| rd\_padr | Output | Physical Address | Physical Address (width P bits) associated with the read. Parameter P depends on the physical address space of the memory core |
| Write Ports | | | |
| wr\_adr | Input | Write Address | Address bits (width N bits). Parameter N is the same as that used for Read address. |
| write | Input | Write Valid | Denotes that a write command is valid |
| din | Input | Write Data | Data (width W bits) associated with a write command; Parameter W is same that for Read data. |
| **T1 Ports** | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| t1\_writeA | Output | Write Valid | Denotes that the write command is valid for T1 memories |
| t1\_bankA | Output | Bank Address | Bank address (width logN) |
| t1\_addrA | Output | Row Address | Address bits (width M bits.) Address for write command. |
| t1\_bwA | Output | Bit write enable | Bit wise enabling of data |
| t1\_dinA | Output | Write data | Write data Input to T1 memories |
| t1\_dwsnA | Output | Data word select negative | More granular control on power of eDRAMs |
| t1\_readB | Output | Read Valid | Denotes that the read command is valid for T1 memories |
| t1\_bankB |  |  |  |
| t1\_addrB | Output | Address | Address bits (width N bits.) Address for both read and write command for the single port memory |
| t1\_doutB | Input | Read data | Data associated with a read address; from T1 memories |
| t1\_dwsnB | Output | Data word select negative | More granular control on power of eDRAMs |
| t1\_refrC | Output | Refresh | Refresh signal for dram |
| t1\_bankC | Output | Bank identifier | Indicates which bank does the refresh signal belongs to |
| **T2 Ports** | | | |
| t2\_writeA | Output | Write Valid | Denotes that the write command is valid for the respective T2 memory. |
| t2\_addrA | Output | Write Address | Address bits for write command |
| t2\_dinA | Output | Write data | Write Data input to T2 memories |
| t2\_bwA | Output | Bit write enable | Bit wise enable for write data |
| t2\_readB | Output | Read Valid | Denotes that the read command is valid for the respective t3 memory |
| t2\_addrB | Output | Address | Address bits for read command |
| t2\_doutB | Input | Read data | Data associated with the read address |

# Algos.txt

The memogen software uses this file to evaluate and estimate the best-fit memories for the given algo.

*# 1R1W\_MT\_DRAMT without SRAM remainder*

*1R1W\_A61(f, w, b) [MT,PSEUDO]*

*vars : n \_\_ bank\_count(2, MAX\_NB+1)*

*b' \_\_ bits(b)*

*formulae : w' = ceil(w,n-1)*

*w'' = w' \* n*

*p = MT\_BITS(n-1)*

*macros:*

*type1(BASE) : 1 \* 1R1W1p(f, w'', b', n)*

*type2 : 2 \* 1R1W(f, w', p)*

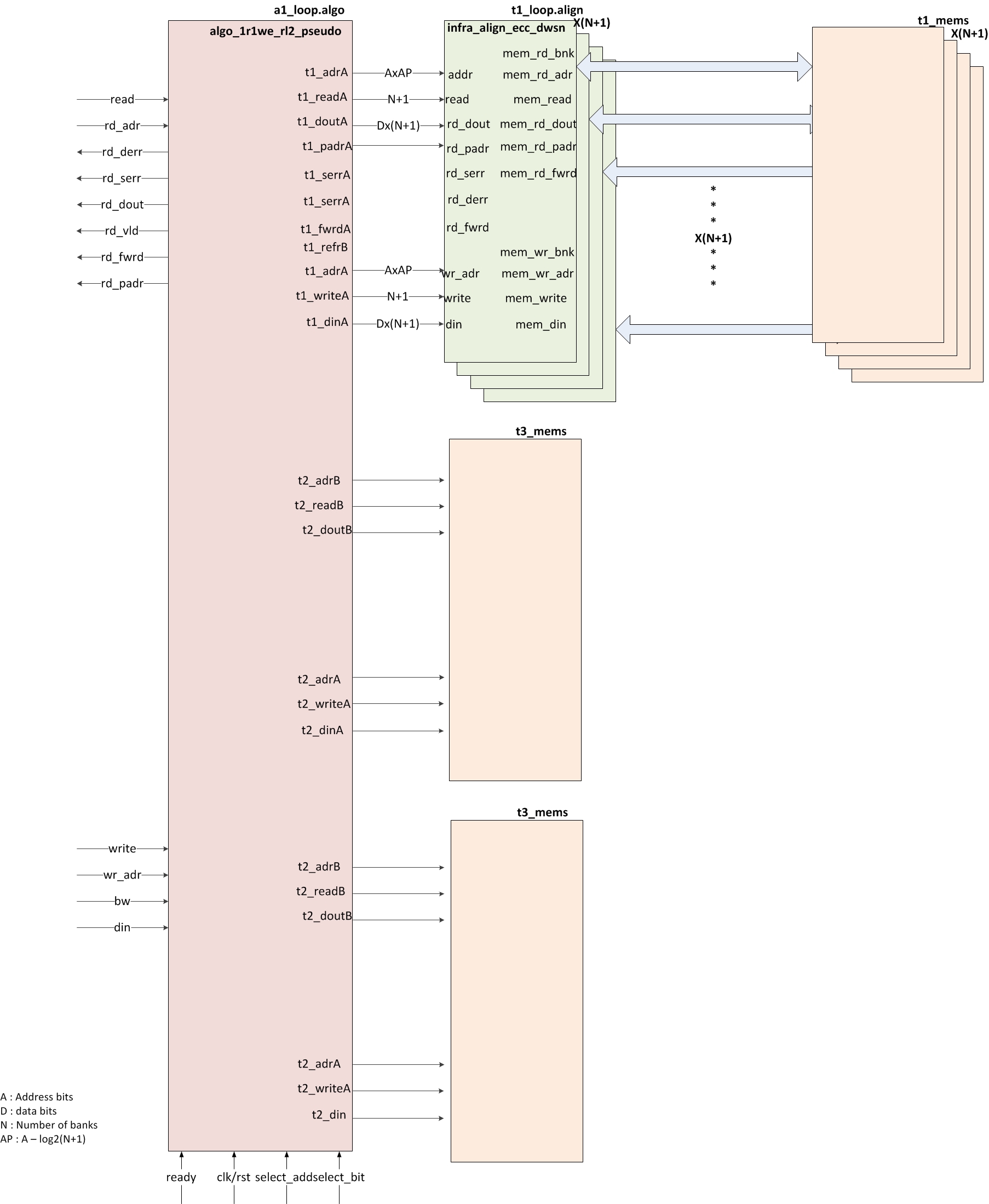
The above algorithmic description defines the characteristics (frequency, depth and width) of the memory macros used for 1r1w\_a61. There are two types of memories in the IP that memogen software has to pick – type 1 (T1) and type2 (T2). The software uses the process information, user-defined parameters and the algorithmic description to decide which memories will best suit the requirements.

* **T1 Memory:** This memory is the bulk of the memory used in the 1r1w\_a61 and is used for the primary data storage. The depth of the memory is equal to the depth of required memory plus an extra bank for storing the data which has a clash with the read access. The width is equal to the width of the IP. In 1r1w\_a61 1RW (single port memory) is used as physical memory for T1 memory.
  + f – target frequency of T1 memory. This parameter is user defined.
  + n – is the optimal number of T1 macros or number of banks, in which the complete memory depth/capacity will be split +1 more to be used as a spare bank. This parameter is optimized based on the physical library.
  + ws – The optimal depth of the T1 memory macros. For IP sizes which are non-power-of-two the tool can optimize the area using different size T1 macros. This parameter is optimized based on the physical library.
  + b’ – data width of the IP. This parameter is user defined.
* **T2 Memory:** This memory is called Mapping table and is used to store mapping data for each bank. Since reads are given higher priority, whenever there is a clash between read and write to the same bank, that data will be written into another bank. Mapping table has n+1 locations for each row. Each location indicates which bank does this data belong to. It has two 2-port memories, one for read access check and other for write access check.
  + f – target frequency of T1 memory. This parameter is user defined.
  + w’ – The maximum depth of the T1 memory macros. For IP sizes which are non-power-of-two the tool can optimize the area using different size T1 macros. w’ would be the depth of the deepest t1 macro used. This parameter is optimized based on the physical library.
  + b’ – data width of the IP. This parameter is user defined.
  + p – contains (no of banks)+1 \* (log of (no of banks)+1) bits to access.

# Block level description

An algo\_1r1w\_mt\_pseudo\_top instantiates:

1. For a1\_loop (algo): This loop consists of algo\_1r1w\_mt\_pseudo which instantiates – core\_mrnrwpw\_1rw\_mt and mux. The core consists of the bulk of the algorithm and the mux translates the data from the logical p-interfaces and s-interfaces to physical T1/T2 interfaces. The core flops the primary inputs depending on the FLOPIN parameter and dispatches read commands to T1 and T2 memories. If a write was scheduled to the same T1 bank as a read then read gets the priority, and the write gets sent to the spare memory, and a mapping info will be written to the mapping table.
2. For t1\_loop (t1 memories): This loop consists of an instance of infra\_align\_ecc\_pseudo and infra\_refr\_2stage. This module talks to the T1 memories and the spare memory.
3. For t2\_loop (tw memories) : This loop consists of an instance of infra\_align\_ecc\_1r1w and an instance of infra\_stack\_1r1w. This module talks to the T2 memories which contain the mapping table.



**Figure1: Block diagram for Algo\_top**

# Key Parameters

The 1r1w\_a121 algo uses the following key parameters:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Parameter** | **Description** | **Software Controlled** | **Hadware controlled** |
| WIDTH | Data width of the IP; It defines width of the data bus | <To be filled> | <To be filled> |
| NUMADDR | Depth of memory IP; Total address space for the IP |  |  |
| NUMVROW | Number of Virtual Rows; Number of rows in the T1 bank |  |  |
| NUMVBNK | Number of Virtual Banks; Number of T1 banks |  |  |
| BITPADR | Number of bits sufficient for all the banks in the design (T1 and T2 banks), used for physical address interface |  |  |
| NUMWRDS | Align Parameter |  |  |
| NUMSROW | Number of rows for select address; Select address is used for formal verification convergence |  |  |
| NUMWBNK | T2 packing parameter. Internally: T1 Number of banks per stack |  |  |
| SRAM\_DELAY | Delay to access T1 banks |  |  |
| DRAM\_DELAY | Delay to access T2 banks |  |  |
| FLOPIN | Controls the flopping option on input command signals. |  |  |
| FLOPOUT | Controls the flopping option on output signals. |  |  |
| FLOPCMD | Controls the option to flop the command to memory. |  |  |
| FLOPMEM | Controls the flopping option of data from memory. |  |  |
| ECCBITS | Controls the ECC bits in the state memory |  |  |

# Formal

The Cadence’s formal tool (ifv) is run using the frun.sh script which takes run\_ifv as it’s input. It is run under run\_sample/ifv/<cut> directory. It pulls tcl scripts from the tree and runs all the formal proofs. To run a specific proof, frun.sh can be run with –r <check> option. And to run in gui mode, a –gui option may be used.

Following are the primary design constraints and the assertions for the 1r1w\_a61 algo:

Primary design constraints:

Leaf nodes/assertions to prove:

*des.algo\_top.assume\_select\_addr\_range*

*des.algo\_top.assume\_select\_addr\_stable*

*des.algo\_top.assume\_select\_bit\_range*

*des.algo\_top.assume\_select\_bit\_stable*

*des.algo\_top.a1\_loop.algo.assume\_select\_addr\_range*

*des.algo\_top.a1\_loop.algo.assume\_select\_addr\_stable*

*des.algo\_top.a1\_loop.algo.assume\_select\_bit\_range*

*des.algo\_top.a1\_loop.algo.assume\_select\_bit\_stable*

Leaf nodes/assertions to prove:

*des.algo\_top.a1\_loop.algo.ip\_top\_sva.assert\_dout\_check*

*des.algo\_top.a1\_loop.algo.ip\_top\_sva.assert\_fwrd\_check*

*des.algo\_top.a1\_loop.algo.ip\_top\_sva.assert\_padr\_check*

*des.algo\_top.a1\_loop.algo.ip\_top\_sva.assert\_derr\_check*

**Memoir ip**

FAKEMEM

FAKEMEM

FAKEMEM

FAKEMEM

FAKEMEM

FAKEMEM

FAKEMEM

FAKEMEM

1RW SRAM

1R1W SRAM

Logic Cone

1R1W SRAM

Logic Cone

Logic Cone

Read Data Bus (dout)

dout check

FAKEMEM

Golden Reference Model

Assertion

Write path

Read path

Write Data Bus

The diagram above shows the logical view of how the IP is verified formally. The complete IP is sliced into several logic cones. Each cone has a corresponding golden memory model (fakemem). When a write request is launched at the input of any logic cone, it gets captured in the golden memory. On a read, we compare the read data returned by the logic cone with golden memory. The read check happens on the interface of the cone of logic. This check is captured in the form of an SVA assertion or a property. Formal verification when run, will try to prove or break these assertions. The assertions cover the complete code, including the logic inside each cone and all the interfaces between the cones.

The diagram below zooms into one of the logical cones. It shows a simplified golden memory model and a simplified code for a read dout assertion. The formal tool exhaustively toggles all the (primary) input pins, complying with the constraints, to try and break the assertions.

rd\_dout

rd\_addr, read

wr\_adr, bw, din

Logic cone 1

FAKEMEM

dout check assertion

for logic cone 1

Golden Memory for

Logic cone 1

Logic cone 2

FAKEMEM

Golden Memory for

Logic cone 2

***assert rd\_dout\_check: assert property (@(posedge clk) disable iff (rst) (read && (rd\_adr == select\_addr)) |-> ##(MEM\_DEL) (fakememinv || (rd\_dout[select\_bit] == fakemem)));***

***reg fakememinv;  
reg fakemem;  
always @(posedge clk)  
  if (rst)  
    fakememinv <= 1'b1;  
  else if (write && (wr\_adr == select\_addr) ) begin  
    fakememinv <= 1'b0;  
    fakemem <= din[select\_bit];  
  end***

To evaluate the formal coverage of the design, we have a post processing flow developed inhouse. The fchkr.sh script retrieves all the checks in the design. Then it parses all the logfiles to make sure that all the assertions are (formally) proven to give us a 100% coverage of our design. It prints out the constraints, asssertions and proven assertion for each run.

Several design for verification techniques have been used to guarantee that formal tool is able to converge proofs completely on the IPs. The simple semantic of memory IPs (i.e. read data to an address should be the last data written to that address) have also been a key in the formal results we achieve for the IP. The goal of the techniques mentioned above is to reduce the state space both temporally and spacially. We use these to help the formal tool converge the properties exhaustively.

# Dynamic Simulation

The dynamic simulations are run for the following scenarios:

1. Reset checks
2. Boundary and capacity checks
3. Checking that the assumptions of formal.

A dynamic simulation testbench gets automatically generated with the cut. A dynamic simulation can be run by simply going to run\_sample/ directory and running the ./run script.

# Revision Change Log

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Version | Date of Release | Notes |
| V1.0 | Apr 16 2014 | Initial Release. |

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