Defining Clock Groups

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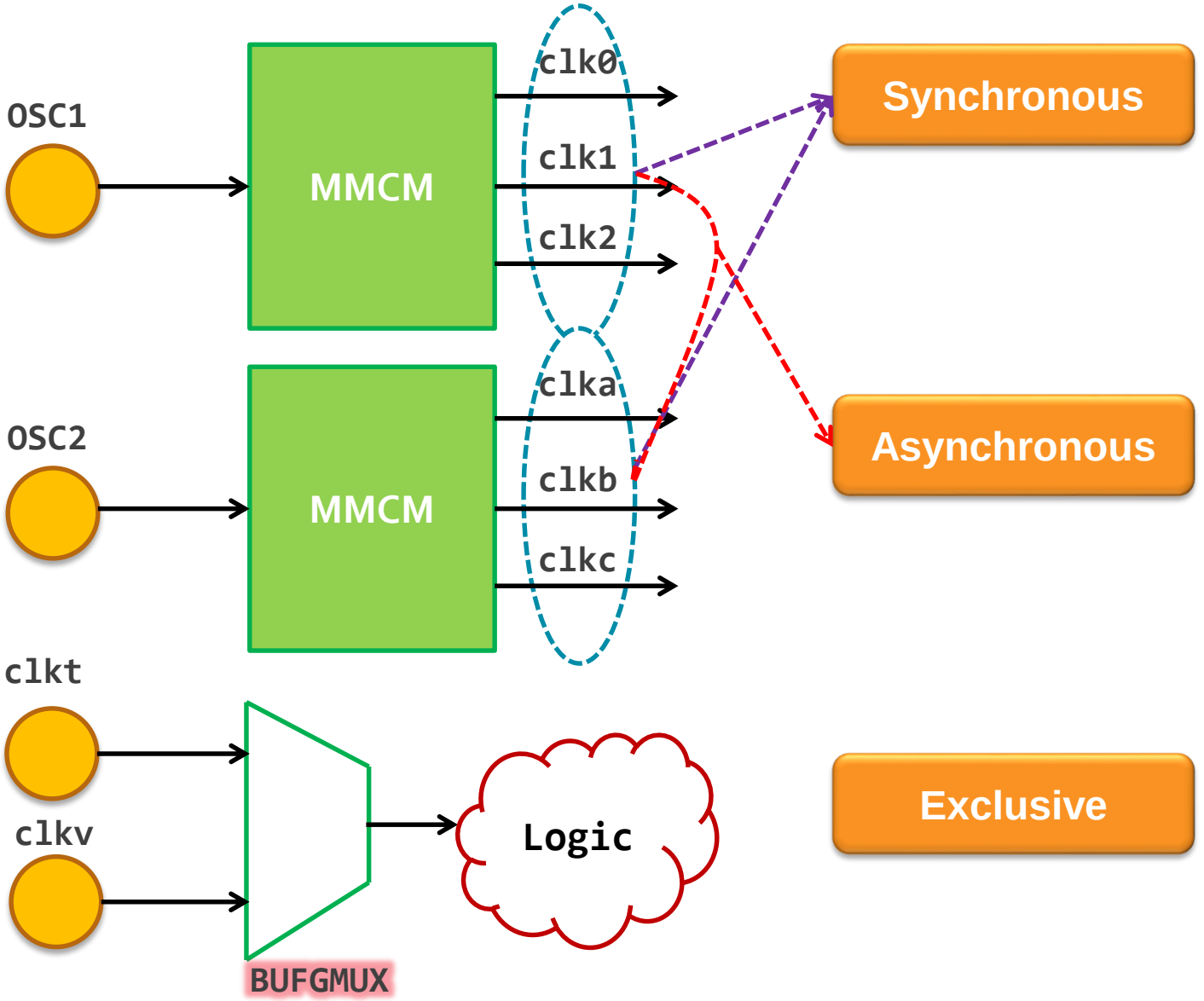
Clock Interactions

- **Synchronous**
  - Two clocks have a fixed phase relationship
    - They share common circuitry (common node)
    - They share the same primary clock (same initial phase)
- **Asynchronous**
  - Two clocks do not have a fixed phase relationship
    - They do not share any common circuitry in the design and do not have a common primary clock
    - They do not have a common period within 1000 cycles (unexpandable) and the timing engine cannot properly time them together
- **Exclusive**
  - Two clocks propagate on a same clock tree and reach the same sequential cell clock pins but cannot physically be active at the same time
  - Logically exclusive
    - Two clocks are defined on different source roots
  - Physically exclusive
    - Two clocks are defined on the same source root by "create_clock -add"

Clock Interactions Examples

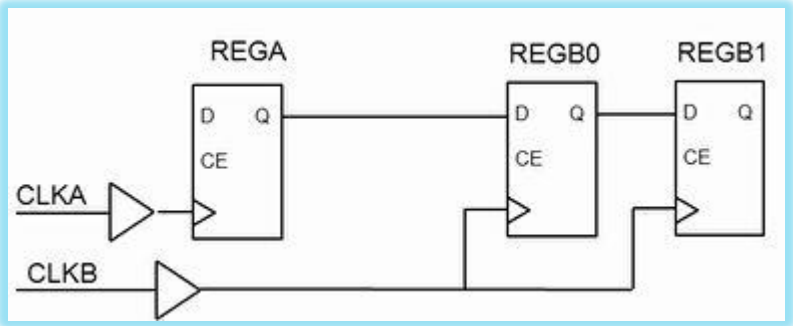


Clock Group Constraint Types

- set_clock_groups [-name *arg*] [-logically_exclusive] [-physically_exclusive] [-asynchronous] [-group *args*] [-quiet] [-verbose]
- Use set_clock_groups to create clock exception constraint
  - `set_clock_groups -asynchronous`
  - `set_clock_groups -logically_exclusive`
  - `set_clock_groups -physically_exclusive`

Asynchronous Clock Groups

- Use `set_clock_groups -asynchronous` to efficiently constrain such clocks

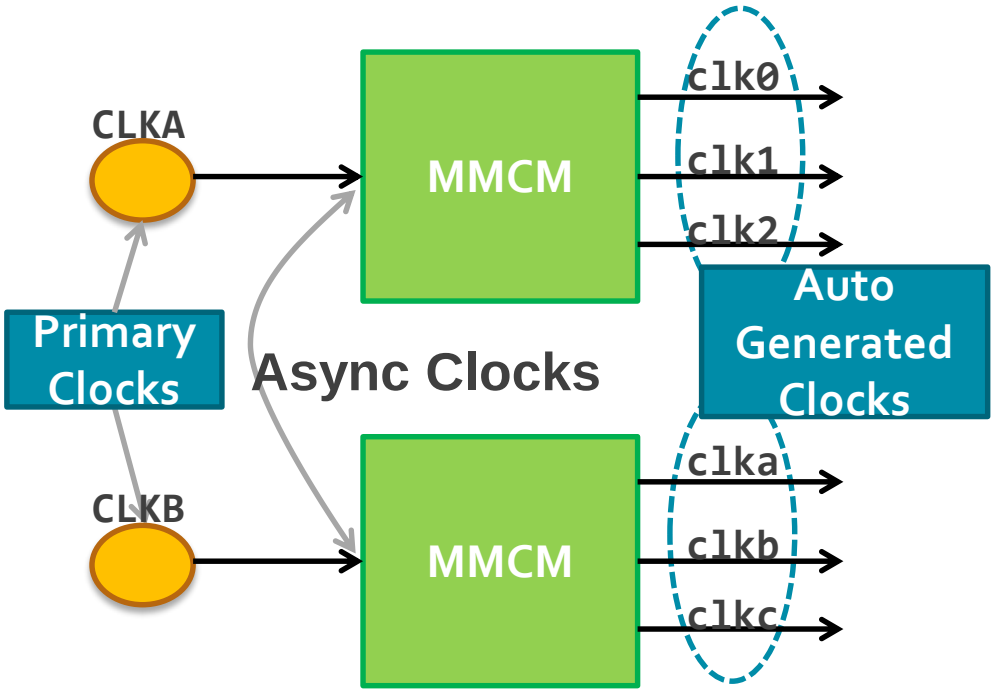


- *CLKA,CLKB can be from different ports*
- *Or different MMCM*

```
create_clock -name CLKA -period 10.0 [get_ports CLKA]
create_clock -name CLKB -period 5.0 [get_ports CLKB]
set_clock_groups -async -group CLKA -group CLKB
```

```
set_false_path -from [get_clocks CLKA] -to [get_clocks CLKB]
set_false_path -from [get_clocks CLKB] -to [get_clocks CLKA]
```

Asynchronous Clock Groups



***BEWARE**: This overrides any `set_max_delay` constraints!*

```
create_clock -name CLKA -period 10.0 [get_ports CLKA]
create_clock -name CLKB -period 5.0 [get_ports CLKB]
set_clock_groups -async \
-group [get_clocks -include_generated_clocks CLKA] \
-group [get_clocks -include_generated_clocks CLKB]
```

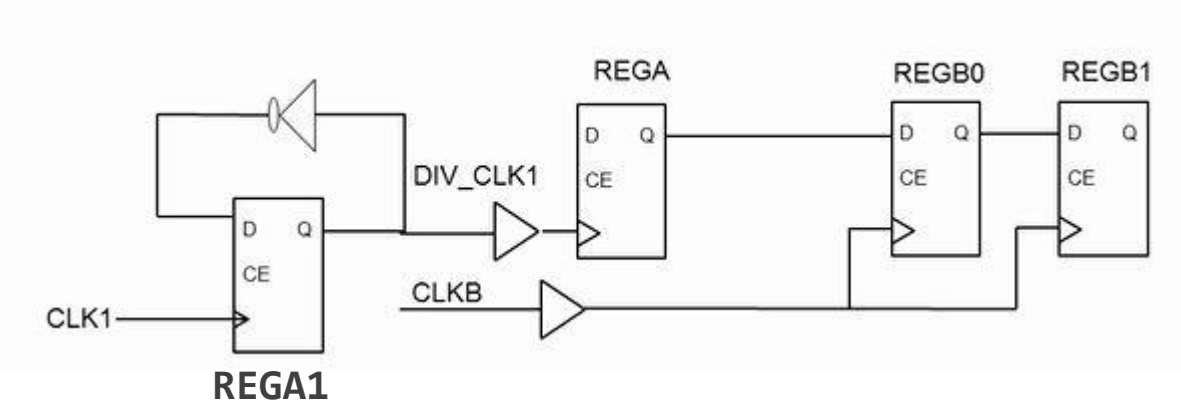
Asynchronous Clock Groups

- **Example:**
  - The clocks `clk50 and clk100` are synchronous to each other
  - The clocks `clk33 and clk66` are synchronous to each other
  - The clocks `clk50 and clk100` are asynchronous to the clocks `clk33 and clk66`
- **The constraint for the clock groups would be:**

```
set_clock_groups -async \
 -group {clk50 clk100} -group {clk33 clk66}
```

Asynchronous Clock Groups

- In the below figure
  - The clocks CLK1 and DIV_CLK1 are synchronous to each other
  - The clocks CLK1 and DIV_CLK1 are asynchronous to CLKB



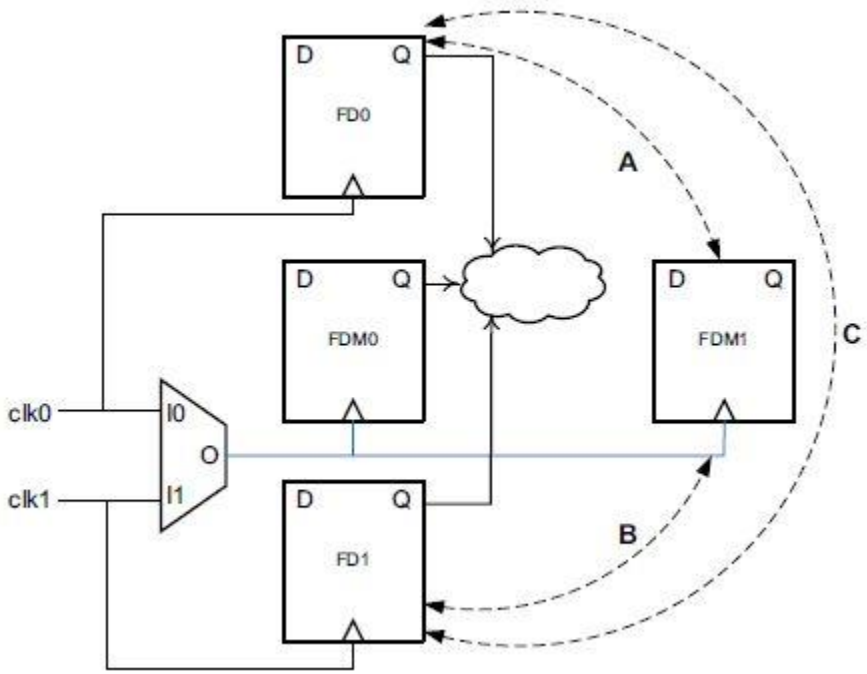
- Solution

```
create_generated_clock -name DIV_CLK1 –source \
[get_pins REGA1/C] -divide_by 2 [get_pins REGA1/Q]
set_clock_groups –async –group {CLK1 DIV_CLK1} –group {CLKB}
```

Logically Exclusive Clock Groups

- **Guideline**
  - Logically exclusive clocks shouldn't interact outside the MUX
  - Logically exclusive clocks are defined on different source roots

Logically Exclusive Clock Groups



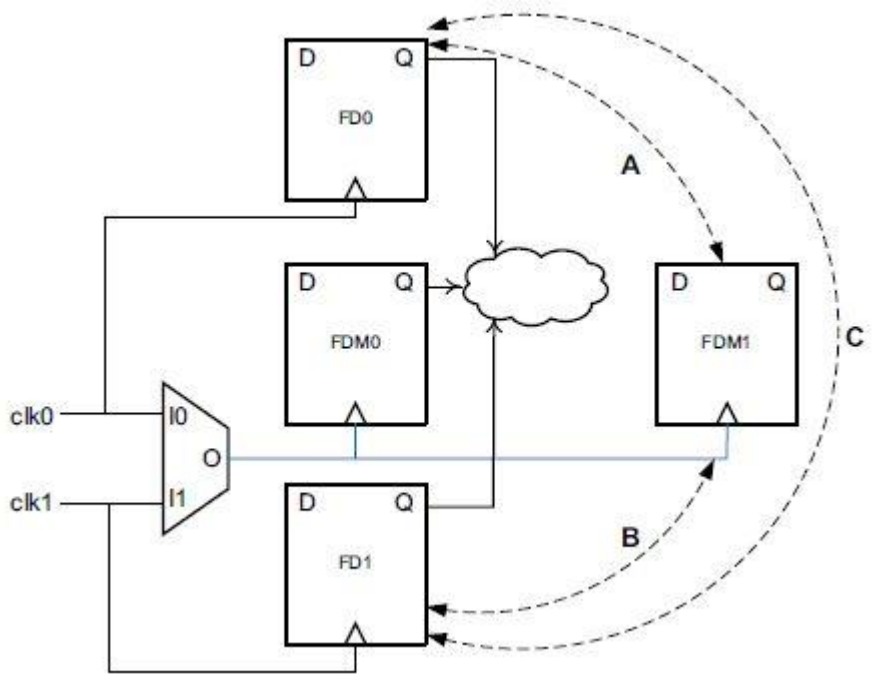
- Case in which the paths A, B, and C do not exist

```
set_clock_groups -logically_exclusive -group clk0 -group clk1
```

Logically Exclusive Clock Groups

- Case in which only

  the paths A or B or C exist




```
create_generated_clock -name clk0mux -divide_by 1 \
-source [get_pins mux/I0] [get_pins mux/O]
create_generated_clock -name clk1mux -divide_by 1 \
-add -master_clock clk1 -source [get_pins mux/I1] [get_pins mux/O]
set_clock_groups -physically_exclusive \
-group clk0mux -group clk1mux
```

Physically Exclusive Clock Groups

- **Guideline**
  - Physically clocks cannot physically exist at the same time
  - Physically clocks are defined on the same source root

Physically Exclusive Clock Groups

- **The FPGA you are implementing must go on two different versions of PCB boards. To ease the FPGA version management, the requirement is to have a single bitfile for both boards. The only difference between the boards is that the wbClk has a different frequency depending on the configuration:**
- **Configuration A:**
  - wbClk is a 100MHz clock
  - bftClk is a 200MHz clock
  - All CDCs between these clock domains can be treated as asynchronous
- **Configuration B:**
  - wbClk is a 150MHz clock
  - bftClk is a 200MHz clock
  - All CDCs between these clock domains can be treated as asynchronous

Solutions

```
create_clock -name wbClk_A -period 10.0 [get_ports wbClk]
create_clock -name wbClk_B -period 6.667 [get_ports wbClk] -add
create_clock -name bftClk -period 5.0 [get_ports bftClk]
set_clock_groups -physically_exclusive -name two_clk_grps \
-group wbClk_A -group wbClk_B
set_clock_groups -async -name my_async_clks \
-group [get_clocks “wbClk_A wbClk_B”] -group bftClk
```

Things to Keep in Mind…

- **Say you have 10 clocks in your design (clk1, clk2, …, clk10)**
  - Let us assume that clocks clk1, clk2 and clk3 are synchronous and you create the following constraint
  - `set_clock_groups -async -group {clk1 clk2 clk3}`
  - The clocks clk1, clk2 and clk3 are synchronous with each other but are asynchronous to all other clocks in the design
  - The other clocks (clocks clk4, clk5…) are analyzed as synchronous to each other
- **The above constraint is the same as**
  - `set_clock_groups -async -group {clk1 clk2 clk3} -group {clk4 clk5 ...clk10}`
- **User generated clocks are not automatically grouped in the same group as the master!**
  - In the above example if clk1_gen is a user generated clock of clk1 they you'd need to add the clk1_gen to the same group as clk1
  - `set_clock_groups -async -group {clk1 clk1_gen clk2 clk3}`