

Report on

Dual Clock Asynchronous FIFO

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Introduction: The dual clock asynchronous FIFO is a critical component in digital systems, enabling data transfer between two clock domains with different frequencies. This report presents the design principles and operation of a dual clock asynchronous FIFO, addressing the challenges of clock domain crossing. The design incorporates dual synchronizers to ensure reliable data transfer and prevent metastability issues during asynchronous data exchanges.

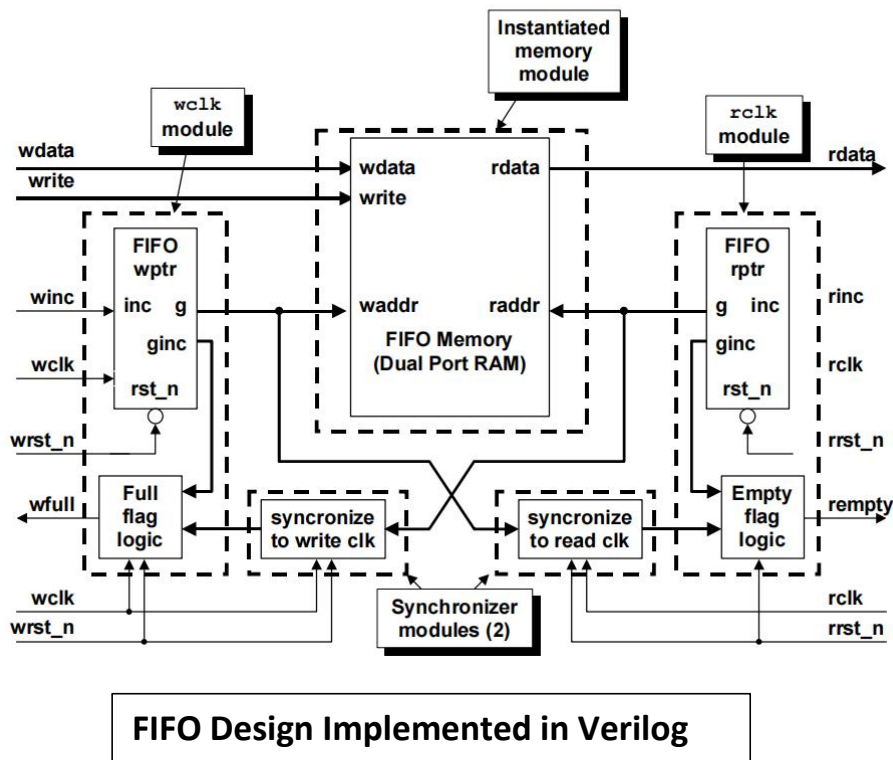
Purpose and Motivation: The primary purpose of this design is to establish a reliable data transfer mechanism between two clock domains with distinct frequencies. The motivation behind this project lies in the need to prevent metastability issues and ensure data integrity during asynchronous data exchanges.

Dual Clock Asynchronous FIFO Architecture: The dual clock asynchronous FIFO comprises two main sections: the write (producer) side and the read (consumer) side. Each section operates with its independent clock signal, referred to as Clock Write (**wclk**) and Clock Read (**rclk**), respectively. Key components include:

- Write pointer (**wptr**) and read pointer (**rptr**) for tracking data positions within the FIFO.
- Data input (**wdata**) and data output (**rdata**) ports for seamless data transfer.
- Status signals indicating FIFO full (**wfull**) and FIFO empty (**rempty**) conditions.
- Control signals for enabling write (**winc**) and read (**rinc**) operations.

FIFO Operation: The dual clock asynchronous FIFO operates as follows:

- The producer side (using **wclk**) writes data into the FIFO when it is not full, controlled by the WE signal.
- The consumer side (using **rclk**) reads data from the FIFO when it is not empty, controlled by the RE signal.
- The write pointer increments upon data writing, and the read pointer increments upon data reading to maintain orderly data flow.
- Status signals (**wfull** and **rempty**) update based on the FIFO's occupancy level.



Synchronization Techniques:

Asynchronous FIFO's require synchronization techniques to handle data transfer between clock domains. Some commonly used methods include:

- **Gray Code:** Implementing Gray code counters to prevent metastability during pointer synchronization.
- **Gray-to-Binary Conversion:** Converting Gray code pointers to binary format for proper read and write operations.
- **Handshaking:** Utilizing handshaking protocols between clock domains to ensure data integrity.

In this design, dual synchronizers are implemented to handle data synchronization in which Gray- Code technique is implemented.

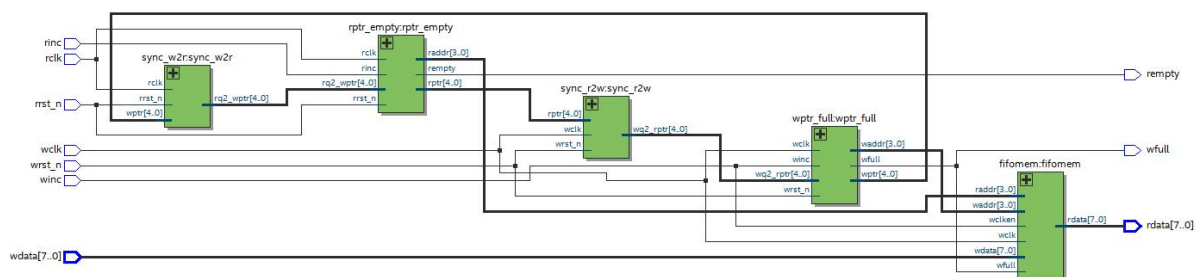
Advantages of Dual Clock Asynchronous FIFO with Dual Synchronizers:

- Facilitates data transfer between clock domains with different frequencies.
- Prevents metastability issues through the implementation of dual synchronizers.
- Ensures reliable and orderly data transfer without data loss.

Conclusion: The design of a dual clock asynchronous FIFO with dual synchronizers is crucial for seamless data transfer in digital systems with multiple clock domains. By incorporating dual synchronizers at the input and output ports, this FIFO design guarantees data integrity and efficient data exchange between clock domains operating at different frequencies. Engineers must carefully analyze system requirements and clock relationships during the design and implementation of a dual clock asynchronous FIFO with dual synchronizers to achieve optimal performance and reliability.

Results:

RTL View of FIFO-



Output Waveform with different test cases:



References/Sources used for the work :

1. https://www.sunburst-design.com/papers/CummingsSNUG2002SJ_FIFO1.pdf
2. <https://asic-soc.blogspot.com/2007/12/new-asynchronous-fifo-design.html>
3. ChatGPT