

HardCopy® IV devices use HCells to implement the digital signal processing (DSP) block functions of Stratix® IV devices, and support all Stratix IV DSP operational modes. Implementing DSP functions using HCells allows the HardCopy IV device core fabric to be used efficiently and offers significant static power savings compared with Stratix IV prototype devices.

Stratix IV devices have dedicated high-performance DSP blocks that are distributed throughout the core fabric. These hard-wired DSP blocks are ideal for applications such as high performance computing (HPC), video compression/decompression, and voice over internet protocol (VoIP). Such applications typically require a large number of mathematical computations. Stratix IV DSP blocks consist of a combination of dedicated elements that perform multiplication, addition, subtraction, accumulation, summation, and dynamic shift operations.


In HardCopy IV devices, these DSP functions are constructed using HCells instead of dedicated DSP blocks. HCells allow HardCopy IV devices to have the same functionality as Stratix IV DSP blocks. In addition, DSP blocks implemented with HCells provide significant static power savings because only the HCells needed to implement the functions are used.

This chapter contains the following sections:

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- “DSP Operational Mode and Feature Support” on page 3–3

## DSP Function Implementation

A Stratix IV DSP block consists of an input register bank, multiplier adders, pipeline register bank, second-stage adders/accumulator, round and saturation units, and second adder register and output register bank. In HardCopy IV devices, HCells make up the device logic fabric. HCells are a collection of logic transistors that are connected together to provide the same DSP functions as the Stratix IV DSP blocks. HCells are also used to implement the Stratix IV adaptive logic module (ALM) and logic array block (LAB) functions in the HardCopy IV devices.

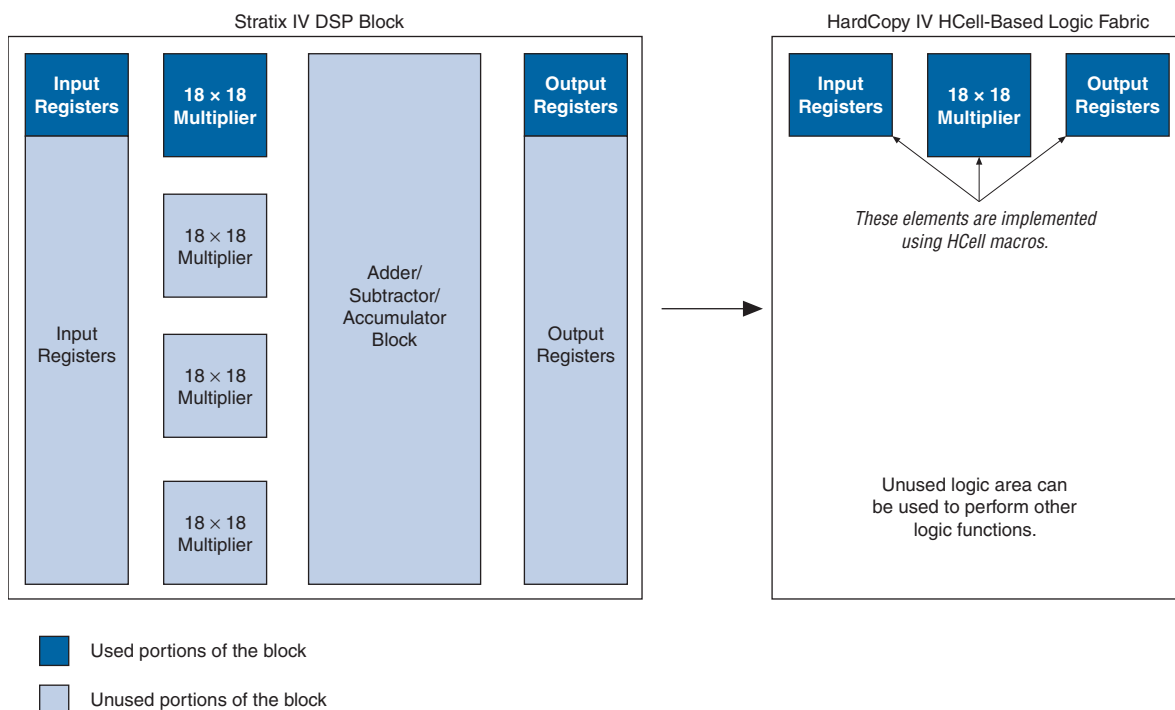
 For more information about ALM, LAB, and memory logic array block (MLAB) implementation in HardCopy IV devices, refer to the *Logic Array Block and Adaptive Logic Module Implementation in HardCopy IV Devices* chapter.

The Quartus® II software uses a library of pre-characterized HCell macros (HCMs) to place Stratix IV DSP configurations into the HardCopy IV HCell-based logic fabric. An HCM defines how a group of HCells are connected together. Based on design requirements, the Quartus II software chooses the appropriate DSP HCell macros to implement the DSP functionality. In HardCopy IV devices, HCell macros implement Stratix IV DSP block functionality with area efficiency and performance on par with the dedicated DSP blocks in Stratix IV devices.

Only HCells that are required to implement the design's DSP functions are enabled. HCells not needed for DSP functions can be used for ALM configurations, which results in efficient logic usage. In addition to area management, the placement of these HCell macros allows for optimized routing and performance.

An example of efficient logic area usage is evident when comparing the  $18 \times 18$  independent multiplier implementation in Stratix IV devices using the dedicated DSP block versus the implementation in HardCopy IV devices using HCells. If the Stratix IV DSP function only calls for one  $18 \times 18$  multiplier, the other three  $18 \times 18$  multipliers and the DSP block's adder output block are not used, as shown in Figure 3-1. In HardCopy IV devices, the HCell-based logic fabric that is not used for DSP functions can be used to implement other combinational logic, adder, register, and MLAB functions.

**Figure 3-1. Stratix IV DSP Block versus HardCopy IV HCell  $18 \times 18$ -Bit Independent Multiplier Implementation**



## DSP Operational Mode and Feature Support

HardCopy IV devices support all Stratix IV DSP configurations ( $9 \times 9$ ,  $12 \times 12$ ,  $18 \times 18$ , and  $36 \times 36$  multipliers) and all Stratix IV DSP block features, such as dynamic sign controls, dynamic addition/subtraction, dynamic rounding and saturation, and dynamic input shift registers.

HardCopy IV devices use DSP HCell macros to implement all five operational modes of the Stratix IV DSP block:

- Independent Multiplier ( $9 \times 9$ ,  $12 \times 12$ ,  $18 \times 18$ ,  $36 \times 36$ )
- Two-Multiplier Adder
- Four-Multiplier Adder
- Multiply Accumulate
- Shift

 For more information about Stratix IV DSP blocks, refer to the *DSP Blocks in Stratix IV Devices* chapter in volume 1 of the *Stratix IV Device Handbook*.

Depending on the Stratix IV DSP configurations, the Quartus II software partitions the DSP function into a combination of DSP HCell macros for the HardCopy IV devices. This optimizes the DSP function and allows the core fabric to be used more efficiently.

## Document Revision History

Table 3-1 shows the revision history for this document.

**Table 3-1. Document Revision History**

Date	Version	Changes
January 2011	1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Maintenance release—used new document template.</li><li>■ Minor text edits.</li></ul>
December 2008	1.0	Initial release.

