

SignalTap Embedded Logic Analyzer

Stratix® GX devices feature the SignalTap® embedded logic analyzer, which monitors design operation over a period of time through the IEEE Std. 1149.1 (JTAG) circuitry. You can analyze internal logic at speed without bringing internal signals to the I/O pins. This feature is particularly important for advanced packages, such as FineLine BGA® packages, because it can be difficult to add a connection to a pin during the debugging process after a board is designed and manufactured.

Configuration

The logic, circuitry, and interconnects in the Stratix GX architecture are configured with CMOS SRAM elements. Stratix GX devices are reconfigurable and are 100% tested prior to shipment. As a result, you do not have to generate test vectors for fault coverage purposes, and can instead focus on simulation and design verification. In addition, you do not need to manage inventories of different ASIC designs. Stratix GX devices can be configured on the board for the specific functionality required.

Stratix GX devices are configured at system power-up with data stored in an Altera serial configuration device or provided by a system controller. Altera offers in-system programmability (ISP)-capable configuration devices that configure Stratix GX devices via a serial data stream. Stratix GX devices can be configured in under 100 ms using 8-bit parallel data at 100 MHz. The Stratix GX device's optimized interface allows microprocessors to configure it serially or in parallel, and synchronously or asynchronously. The interface also enables microprocessors to treat Stratix GX devices as memory and configure them by writing to a virtual memory location, making reconfiguration easy. After a Stratix GX device has been configured, it can be reconfigured in-circuit by resetting the device and loading new data. Real-time changes can be made during system operation, enabling innovative reconfigurable computing applications.

Operating Modes

The Stratix GX architecture uses SRAM configuration elements that require configuration data to be loaded each time the circuit powers up. The process of physically loading the SRAM data into the device is called configuration. During initialization, which occurs immediately after configuration, the device resets registers, enables I/O pins, and begins to operate as a logic device. The I/O pins are tri-stated during power up,

and before and during configuration. Together, the configuration and initialization processes are called command mode. Normal device operation is called user mode.

A built-in weak pull-up resistor pulls all user I/O pins to V_{CCIO} before and during device configuration.

SRAM configuration elements allow Stratix GX devices to be reconfigured in-circuit by loading new configuration data into the device. With real-time reconfiguration, the device is forced into command mode with a device pin. The configuration process loads different configuration data, reinitializes the device, and resumes user-mode operation. You can perform in-field upgrades by distributing new configuration files either within the system or remotely.

Configuration Schemes

You can load the configuration data for a Stratix GX device with one of five configuration schemes (see [Table 5–1](#)), chosen on the basis of the target application. You can use a configuration device, intelligent controller, or the JTAG port to configure a Stratix GX device. A configuration device can automatically configure a Stratix GX device at system power-up.

You can configure multiple Stratix GX devices in any of five configuration schemes by connecting the configuration enable (nCE) and configuration enable output ($nCEO$) pins on each device.

Configuration Scheme	Data Source
Configuration device	Enhanced or EPC2 configuration device
Passive serial (PS)	ByteBlasterMV™ or MasterBlaster™ download cable or serial data source
Passive parallel asynchronous (PPA)	Parallel data source
Fast passive parallel	Parallel data source
JTAG	MasterBlaster or ByteBlasterMV download cable or a microprocessor with a Jam or JBC file (.jam or .jbc)

Partial Reconfiguration

The enhanced PLLs within the Stratix GX device family support partial reconfiguration of their multiply, divide, and time delay settings without reconfiguring the entire device. You can use either serial data from the logic array or regular I/O pins to program the PLL's counter settings in a serial chain. This option provides considerable flexibility for frequency synthesis, allowing real-time variation of the PLL frequency and delay. The rest of the device is functional while reconfiguring the PLL. See the *Stratix GX Architecture* chapter of the *Stratix GX Device Handbook, Volume 1* for more information on Stratix GX PLLs.

Remote Update Configuration Modes

Stratix GX devices also support remote configuration using an Altera enhanced configuration device (for example, EPC16, EPC8, and EPC4 devices) with page mode selection. Factory configuration data is stored in the default page of the configuration device. This is the default configuration which contains the design required to control remote updates and handle or recover from errors. You write the factory configuration once into the flash memory or configuration device. Remote update data can update any of the remaining pages of the configuration device. If there is an error or corruption in a remote update configuration, the configuration device reverts back to the factory configuration information.

There are two remote configuration modes: remote and local configuration. You can use the remote update configuration mode for all three configuration modes: serial, parallel synchronous, and parallel asynchronous. Configuration devices (for example, EPC16 devices) only support serial and parallel synchronous modes. Asynchronous parallel mode allows remote updates when an intelligent host is used to configure the Stratix GX device. This host must support page mode settings similar to an EPC16 device.

Remote Update Mode

When the Stratix GX device is first powered-up in remote update programming mode, it loads the configuration located at page address 000. The factory configuration should always be located at page address 000, and should never be remotely updated. The factory configuration contains the required logic to perform the following operations:

- Determine the page address/load location for the next application's configuration data
- Recover from a previous configuration error

- Receive new configuration data and write it into the configuration device

The factory configuration is the default and takes control if an error occurs while loading the application configuration.

While in the factory configuration, the factory-configuration logic performs the following operations:

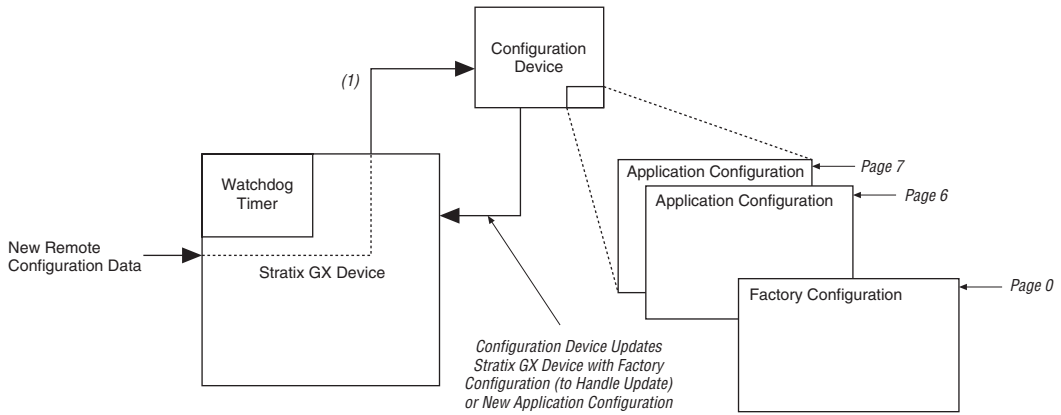
- Loads a remote update-control register to determine the page address of the new application configuration
- Determines whether to enable a user watchdog timer for the application configuration
- Determines what the watchdog timer setting should be if it is enabled

The user watchdog timer is a counter that must be continually reset within a specific amount of time in the user mode of an application configuration to ensure that valid configuration occurred during a remote update. Only valid application configurations designed for remote update can reset the user watchdog timer in user mode. If a valid application configuration does not reset the user watchdog timer in a specific amount of time, the timer updates a status register and loads the factory configuration. The user watchdog timer is automatically disabled for factory configurations.

If an error occurs in loading the application configuration, the configuration logic writes a status register to specify the cause of the reconfiguration. Once this occurs, the Stratix GX device automatically loads the factory configuration, which reads the status register and determines the reason for reconfiguration. Based on the reason, the factory configuration takes appropriate steps and writes the remote update control register to specify the next application configuration page to be loaded.

When the Stratix GX device successfully loads the application configuration, it enters into user mode. The Stratix GX device then executes the main application of the user. Intellectual property (IP), such as a Nios® embedded processor, can help the Stratix GX device determine when remote update is coming. The Nios embedded processor or user logic receives incoming data, writes it to the configuration device, and loads the factory configuration. The factory configuration reads the remote update status register and determine the valid application configuration to load. [Figure 5–1](#) shows the Stratix GX remote update. [Figure 5–2](#) shows the transition diagram for remote update mode.

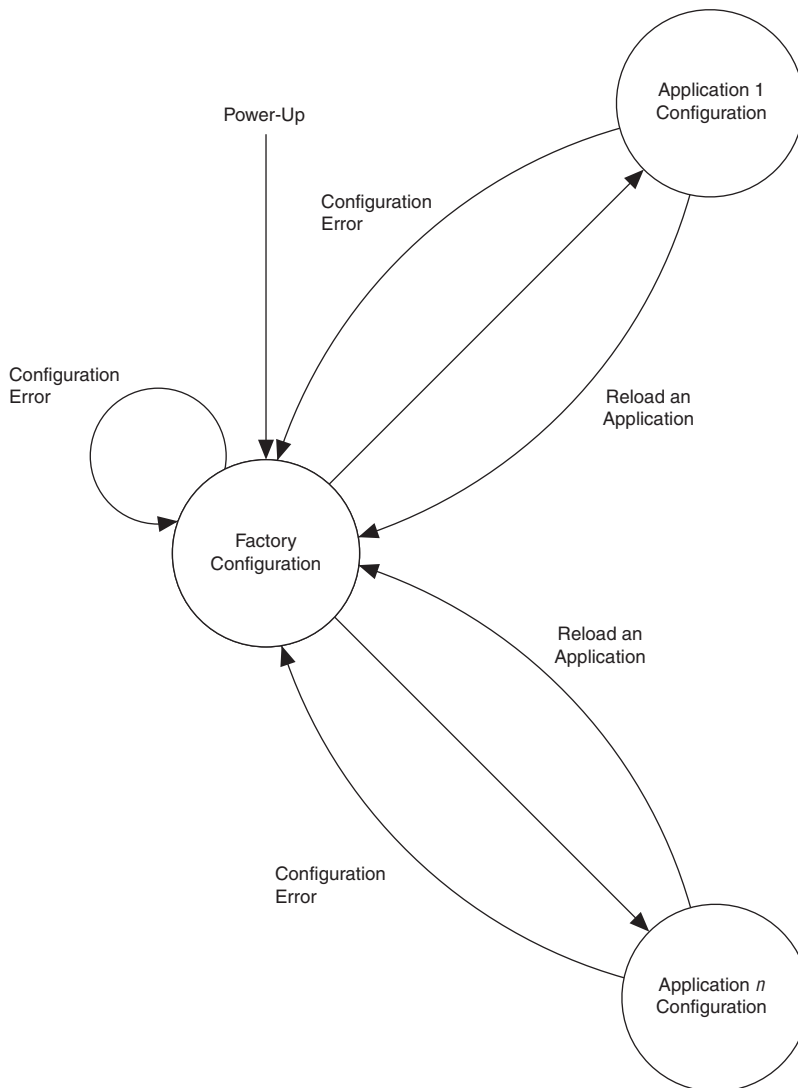
Figure 5–1. Stratix GX Device Remote Update



Note to Figure 5–1:

- (1) When the Stratix GX device is configured with the factory configuration, it can handle update data from EPC16, EPC8, or EPC4 configuration device pages and point to the next page in the configuration device.

Figure 5–2. Remote Update Transition Diagram *Notes (1), (2)*



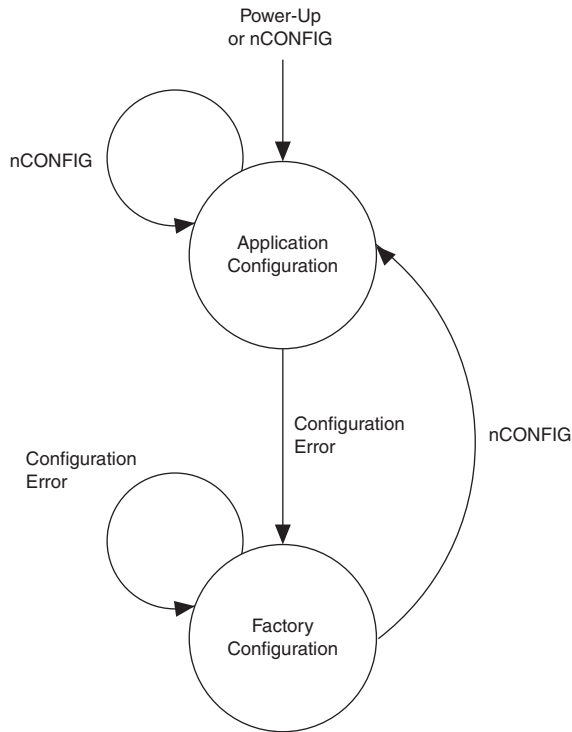
Notes to Figure 5–2:

- (1) Remote update of application configuration is controlled by a Nios embedded processor or user logic programmed in the factory or application configurations.
- (2) Up to seven pages can be specified allowing up to seven different configuration applications.

Local Update Mode

Local update mode is a simplified version of the remote update. This feature is intended for simple systems that need to load a single application configuration immediately upon power-up without loading the factory configuration first. Local update designs have only one application configuration to load, so it does not require a factory configuration to determine which application configuration to use. Figure 5-3 shows the transition diagram for local update mode.

Figure 5-3. Local Update Transition Diagram



Stratix GX Automated Single Event Upset (SEU) Detection

Stratix GX devices offer on-chip circuitry for automated checking of single event upset (SEU) detection. Some applications that require the device to operate error free at high elevations or in close proximity to earth's North or South Pole require periodic checks to ensure continued data integrity. The error detection cyclic redundancy code (CRC) feature controlled by the **Device & Pin Options** dialog box in the Quartus II software uses a 32-bit CRC circuit to ensure data reliability and is one of the best options for mitigating SEU.

You can implement the error detection CRC feature with existing circuitry in Stratix GX devices, eliminating the need for external logic. For Stratix GX devices, the CRC is computed by Quartus II and downloaded into the device as a part of the configuration bit stream. The `CRC_ERROR` pin reports a soft error when configuration SRAM data is corrupted, triggering device reconfiguration.

Custom-Built Circuitry

Dedicated circuitry is built into Stratix GX devices to perform error detection automatically. This error detection circuitry constantly checks for errors in the configuration SRAM cells while the device is in user mode. You can monitor one external pin for the error and use it to trigger a reconfiguration cycle. You can select the desired time between checks by adjusting a built-in clock divider.

Software Interface

In the Quartus II software version 4.1 and later, you can turn on the automated error detection CRC feature in the **Device & Pin Options** dialog box. This dialog box allows you to enable the feature and set the internal frequency of the CRC between 400 kHz to 100 MHz. This controls the rate that the CRC circuitry verifies the internal configuration SRAM bits in the FPGA device.

For more information on CRC, refer to *AN 357: Error Detection Using CRC in Altera FPGA Devices*.

Temperature-Sensing Diode

Stratix GX devices include a diode-connected transistor for use as a temperature sensor in power management. This diode is used with an external digital thermometer device such as a MAX1617A or MAX1619 from MAXIM Integrated Products. These devices steer bias current through the Stratix GX diode, measuring forward voltage and converting this reading to temperature in the form of an 8-bit signed number (7 bits plus sign). The external device's output represents the package temperature of the Stratix GX device and can be used for intelligent power management.

The diode requires two pins (`tempdiodep` and `tempdiode_n`) on the Stratix GX device to connect to the external temperature-sensing device, as shown in [Figure 5-4](#). The temperature-sensing diode is a passive element and therefore can be used before the Stratix GX device is powered.

Figure 5–4. External Temperature-Sensing Diode

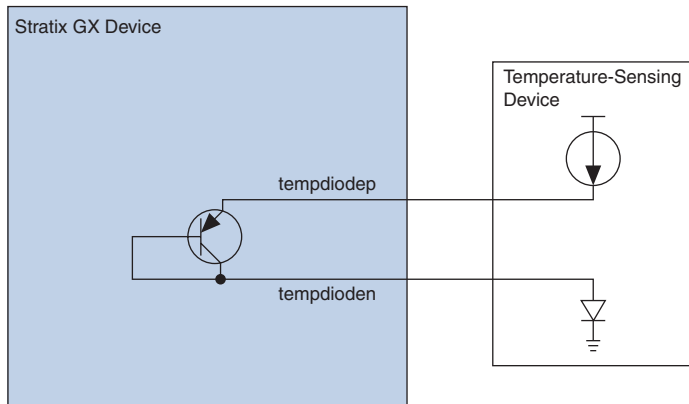


Table 5–2 shows the specifications for bias voltage and current of the Stratix GX temperature-sensing diode.

Table 5–2. Temperature-Sensing Diode Electrical Characteristics

Parameter	Minimum	Typical	Maximum	Units
I_{BIAS} high	80	100	120	μA
I_{BIAS} low	8	10	12	μA
$V_{BP} - V_{BN}$	0.3		0.9	V
V_{BN}		0.7		V
Series resistance			3	W

The temperature-sensing diode works for the entire operating range shown in Figure 5–5.

Figure 5–5. Temperature Versus Temperature-Sensing Diode Voltage

