

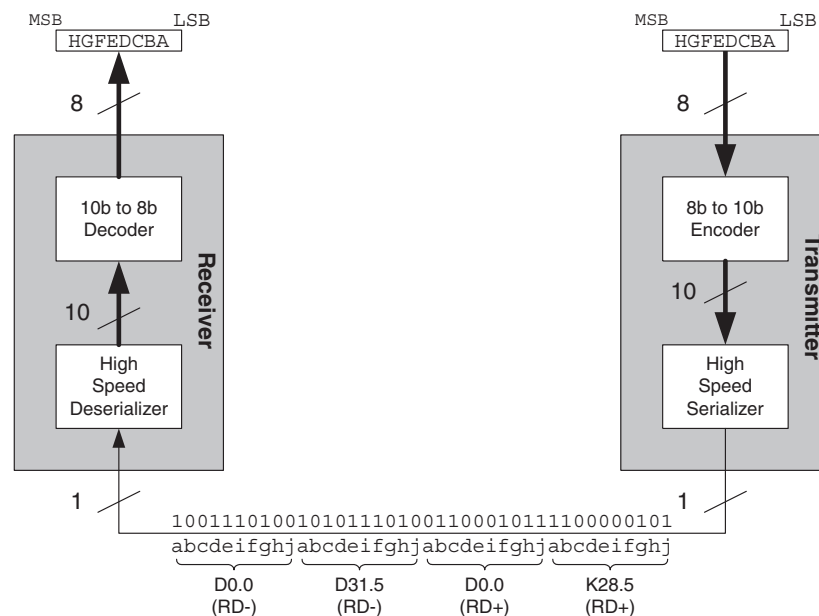
Introduction

Many serial data transmission standards utilize 8b/10b encoding to ensure sufficient data transitions for clock recovery. This reference design describes an encoder/decoder suitable for performing 8b/10b encoding/decoding within Lattice programmable logic devices. Several generic CPLD and FPGA implementations are shown with this reference design.

Features

- 8b to 10b encoder and 10b to 8b decoder
- Previous octet disparity input and current disparity output
- Output to indicate when invalid control character is requested to be encoded
- Output to indicate when invalid data/control character is received
- Running disparity checking
- Conform to 8b/10b specified in IEEE 802.3z and ANSI X3.230-1994

Figure 1. The 8b/10b Encoder/Decoder in a System



Functional Description

The 8b/10b coding scheme was initially proposed by Albert X. Widmer and Peter A. Franaszek of IBM Corporation in 1983. This coding scheme is used for high-speed serial data transmission. The encoder on the transmitter side maps the 8-bit parallel data input to 10-bit output. This 10-bit output is then loaded in and shifted out through a high-speed Serializer (Parallel-in Serial-out 10-bit Shift Register). The serial data stream will be transmitted through the transmission media to the receiver. The high-speed Deserializer (Serial-in Parallel-out 10-bit Shift Register) on the receiver side converts the received serial data stream from serial to parallel. The decoder will then re-map the 10-bit data back to the original 8-bit data. When the 8b/10b coding scheme is employed, the serial data stream is DC-balanced and has a maximum run-length without transitions of 5. These characteristics aid in the recovery of the clock and data at the receiver. Figure 1 shows the 8b/10b encoder/decoder usage in a communication system.

DC Balance and Run Length

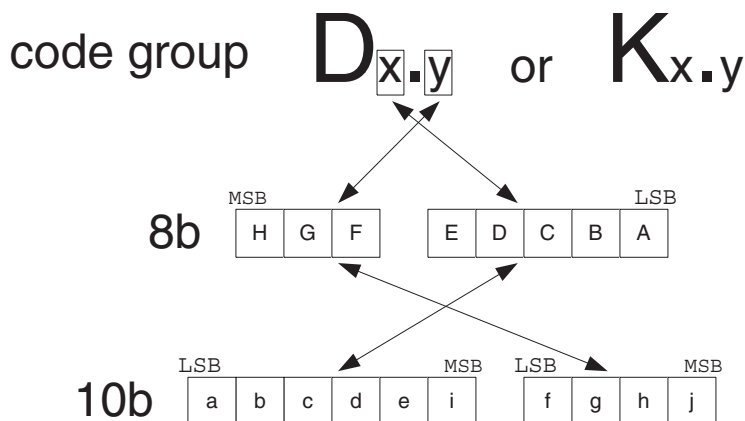
A DC-balanced serial data stream means that it has the same number of 0's and 1's for a given length of data stream. DC-balance is important for certain media as it avoids a charge being built up in the media.

The run-length is defined as the maximum numbers of contiguous 0's or 1's in the serial data stream. A small run-length data stream provides data transitions within a small length of data. Data transitions are essential for clock recovery. The PLL of the CDR generates a phase-adjustable output clock from the reference clock input. Transitions on the serial data stream provide the transmission clock phase information to the PLL and allow the PLL to recover the transmission clock with the correct phase. Note that the reference clock input is always necessary for the CDR. The serial data stream embeds the phase of the transmission clock, not the clock itself. This reference clock comes from the receiver system, not the transmitter system.

8b/10b Code Mapping

The 8b/10b encoder converts 8-bit code groups into 10-bit codes. The code groups include 256 data characters named $D_{x.y}$ and 12 control characters named $K_{x.y}$.

Figure 2. The 8b/10b Coding Scheme



The coding scheme breaks the original 8-bit data into two blocks, 3 most significant bits (y) and 5 least significant bits (x). From the most significant bit to the least significant bit, they are named as H, G, F and E, D, C, B, A. The 3-bit block is encoded into 4 bits named j, h, g, f. The 5-bit block is encoded into 6 bits named i, e, d, c, b, a. As seen in Figure 2, the 4-bit and 6-bit blocks are then combined into a 10-bit encoded value.

Disparity

In order to create a DC-balanced data stream, the concept of disparity is employed to balance the number of 0's and 1's. The disparity of a block is calculated by the number of 1's minus the number of 0's. The value of a block that has a zero disparity is called disparity neutral.

If both the 4-bit and 6-bit blocks are disparity neutral, a combined 10-bit encoded data will be disparity neutral as well. This will create a perfect DC-balanced code. However, this is not possible. Because only 6 out of the 16 possible values of the 4-bit block are disparity neutral, they are not enough for encoding the 8 values of the 3-bit block. Likewise, only 20 values of the 6-bit block are disparity neutral and they are not enough for encoding the 32 values of the 5-bit block. Because both the 4-bit and 6-bit blocks have an even number of bits, the disparity is not possible to be +1 or -1. Therefore, the values with a disparity of +2 and -2 are also used in the 8b/10b coding scheme.

Table 1 and Table 2 are the values that are used for the 3-bit to 4-bit encoding and the 5-bit to 6-bit encoding respectively. Concatenating the 4-bit and 6-bit blocks together generates the 10-bit encoded value. Note that some of the encoded values in Table 1 and Table 2 have two possible values, one with a disparity value of +2 and the other with a disparity value of -2. The 8b/10b coding scheme was designed to combine the values of the 4-bit and 6-bit blocks perfectly so that the worst case disparity value of the 10-bit code group will be at most +2 or -2. For

example, the 4-bit encoded values with disparity value+2 will not be combined with the 6-bit encoded values with disparity value +2 because this will create a 10-bit value with disparity value +4.

Table 1. 3-Bit to 4-Bit Encoding Values

3b Decimal	3b Binary (HGF)	4b Binary (fghi)
0	000	0100 or 1011
1	001	1001
2	010	0101
3	011	0011 or 1100
4	100	0010 or 1101
5	101	1010
6	110	0110
7	111	0001 or 1110 or 1000 or 0111

Table 2. 5-Bit to 6-Bit Encoding Values

5b Decimal	5b Binary (EDCBA)	6b Binary (abcdei)
0	00000	100111 or 011000
1	00001	011101 or 100010
2	00010	101101 or 010010
3	00011	110001
4	00100	110101 or 001010
5	00101	101001
6	00110	011001
7	00111	111000 or 000111
8	01000	111001 or 000110
9	01001	100101
10	01010	010101
11	01011	110100
12	01100	001101
13	01101	101100
14	01110	011100
15	01111	010111 or 101000
16	10000	011011 or 100100
17	10001	100011
18	10010	010011
19	10011	110010
20	10100	001011
21	10101	101010
22	10110	011010
23	10111	111010 or 000101
24	11000	110011 or 001100
25	11001	100110
26	11010	010110
27	11011	110110 or 001001
28	11100	001110
29	11101	101110 or 010001
30	11110	011110 or 100001
31	11111	101011 or 010100

Running Disparity

Since the worst disparity of the 10-bit encoded data value is either +2 or -2, it is still possible that more 10-bit encoded data values with +2 (or -2) disparity are transmitted through the serial data stream. In this case, the data stream will no longer be DC-balanced. In order to maintain a DC-balance data stream, each code group will be converted to one of the two possible values as seen in the RD- and RD+ columns of the Table 3. The RD- disparity will be either +2 or 0 (disparity neutral) and the RD+ disparity will be either -2 or 0. The encoder will pick one of the two values based on the calculation of current Running Disparity.

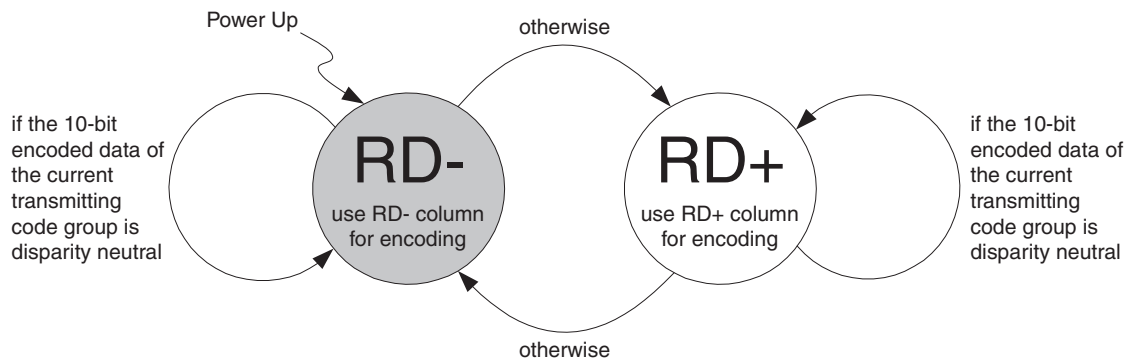
Table 3. Portion of the 8b/10b Encoding/Decoding Mapping Table

Code Group	kin/ kout	8-bit data		10-bit data (RD-)		10-bit data (RD+)		Code Group	kin/ kout	8-bit data		10-bit data (RD-)		10-bit data (RD+)	
		HGF	EDCBA	abcdei	fghj	abcdei	fghj			HGF	EDCBA	abcdei	fghj	abcdei	fghj
D0.0	0	000	00000	100111	0100	011000	1011	D0.1	0	001	00000	100111	1001	011000	1001
D1.0	0	000	00001	011101	0100	100010	1011	D1.1	0	001	00001	011101	1001	100010	1001
D2.0	0	000	00010	101101	0100	010010	1011	D2.1	0	001	00010	101101	1001	010010	1001
D3.0	0	000	00011	110001	1011	110001	0100	D3.1	0	001	00011	110001	1001	110001	1001
:								:							
D31.0	0	000	11111	101011	0100	010100	1011	D31.1	0	001	11111	101011	1001	010100	1001
D0.2	0	010	00000	100111	0101	011000	0101	D0.3	0	011	00000	100111	0011	011000	1100
D1.2	0	010	00001	011101	0101	100010	0101	D1.3	0	011	00001	011101	0011	100010	1100
D2.2	0	010	00010	101101	0101	010010	0101	D2.3	0	011	00010	101101	0011	010010	1100
D3.2	0	010	00011	110001	0101	110001	0101	D3.3	0	011	00011	110001	1100	110001	0011
:								:							
D31.2	0	010	11111	101011	0101	010100	0101	D31.3	0	011	11111	101011	0011	010100	1100
D0.4	0	100	00000	100111	0010	011000	1101	D0.5	0	101	00000	100111	1010	011000	1010
D1.4	0	100	00001	011101	0010	100010	1101	D1.5	0	101	00001	011101	1010	100010	1010
D2.4	0	100	00010	101101	0010	010010	1101	D2.5	0	101	00010	101101	1010	010010	1010
D3.4	0	100	00011	110001	1101	110001	0010	D3.5	0	101	00011	110001	1010	110001	1010
:								:							
D31.4	0	100	11111	101011	0010	010100	1101	D31.5	0	101	11111	101011	1010	010100	1010
D0.6	0	110	00000	100111	0110	011000	0110	D0.7	0	111	00000	100111	0001	011000	1110
D1.6	0	110	00001	011101	0110	100010	0110	D1.7	0	111	00001	011101	0001	100010	1110
D2.6	0	110	00010	101101	0110	010010	0110	D2.7	0	111	00010	101101	0001	010010	1110
D3.6	0	110	00011	110001	0110	110001	0110	D3.7	0	111	00011	110001	1110	110001	0001
:								:							
D31.6	0	110	11111	101011	0110	010100	0110	D31.7	0	111	11111	101011	0001	010100	1110
K28.0	1	000	11100	001111	0100	110000	1011								
K28.1	1	001	11100	001111	1001	110000	0110								
K28.2	1	010	11100	001111	0101	110000	1010								
K28.3	1	011	11100	001111	0011	110000	1100								
K28.4	1	100	11100	001111	0010	110000	1101								
K28.5	1	101	11100	001111	1010	110000	0101								
K28.6	1	110	11100	001111	0110	110000	1001								
K28.7	1	111	11100	001111	1000	110000	0111								
K23.7	1	111	10111	111010	1000	000101	0111								
K27.7	1	111	11011	110110	1000	001001	0111								
K29.7	1	111	11101	101110	1000	010001	0111								
K30.7	1	111	11110	011110	1000	100001	0111								

The transmitter assumes a negative Running Disparity (RD-) at start up. When an 8-bit data is encoding, the encoder will use the RD- column for encoding. If the 10-bit data been encoded is disparity neutral, the Running Disparity will not be changed and the RD- column will still be used. Otherwise, the Running Disparity will be changed and the RD+ column will be used instead. Similarly, if the current Running Disparity is positive (RD+) and a disparity neutral 10-bit data is encoded, the Running Disparity will still be RD+. Otherwise, it will be changed from RD+

back to RD- and the RD- column will be used again. The state diagram in Figure 3 describes how the current Running Disparity is calculated.

Figure 3. Running Disparity State Machine



Encoder and Decoder Pin Descriptions

The 8b/10b encoder and 10b/8b decoder are implemented in HDL language. These designs can be combined to create a full duplex channel. The pin descriptions of the designs are shown in the following tables.

Table 4. Encoder Pin Descriptions

Name	Type	Description
clk	I	Encoder Clock. This pin is the main clock of the encoder. All registered inputs and outputs of the encoder are based on the rising of this clock.
reset_n	I	Master Reset. This low active asynchronous reset will reset all internal registers of the encoder to their initial states.
datain_8b_[7:0]	I	8-bit Data Input. This is the 8-bit raw data to be encoded.
kin	I	Character Type Control. This high active signal indicates that the 8-bit data on datain_8b bus is going to be encoded to a control character instead of a data character.
rdispin	I	Running Disparity Input. This pin provides to the encoder the running disparity before the encoding of current 8-bit data on datain_8b bus.
dataout_10b_[9:0]	O	10-bit Data Output. This is the 10-bit encoder output.
rdispout	O	Running Disparity Output. This is the running disparity of the present dataout_10b bus.
k_err	O	Invalid Control Character Requested. This high active signal indicates that a invalid control character is requested.

Table 5. Decoder Pin Descriptions

Name	Type	Description
clk	I	Decoder Clock. This pin is the main clock of the decoder. All registered inputs and outputs of the decoder are based on the rising of this clock.
reset_n	I	Master Reset. This low active asynchronous reset will reset all internal registers of the decoder to their initial states.
datain_10b_[9:0]	I	10-bit Data Input. This is the 10-bit raw data to be decoded.
rdispin	I	Running Disparity Input. This pin provides to the decoder the running disparity before the decoding of current 10-bit data on datain_10b bus.
dataout_8b_[7:0]	O	8-bit Data Output. This is the 8-bit decoder output.
kout	O	Character Type Output. This high active signal indicates that the 8-bit data on dataout_8b bus is a control character instead of a data character.
rdispout	O	Running Disparity Output. This is the running disparity of the present dataout_8b bus.
disp_err	O	Disparity Error. This high active signal indicates that a running disparity error has occurred.
code_err	O	Invalid Code Group Error. This high active signal indicates that an invalid 10-bit code group has been received.

Block Diagrams and Implementation Guidelines

The block diagrams of the encoder and decoder are shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5. Notice that the encoder contains a clock latency of 2 and the decoder contains a clock latency of 3. The clock latency allows the throughput to be increased. All signals in the designs are based on the rising edge of the main clock. Once the data inputs are provided and the setup/hold times are satisfied, the data inputs will be sampled at the rising edge of the clock. As seen in Figure 6, the data outputs will be available after another one or two rising edges and a clock-to-output delay.

For both the encoder and decoder designs, the rdispout output should be connected back to the rdispin input. Except clk, reset_n, and rdispin, the other inputs are pipelined to generate the outputs. However, since the running disparity of the data currently being transmitted is required for the encoding of the following data, the rdispin-to-rdispout loopback path can only contain one register level and cannot be pipelined.

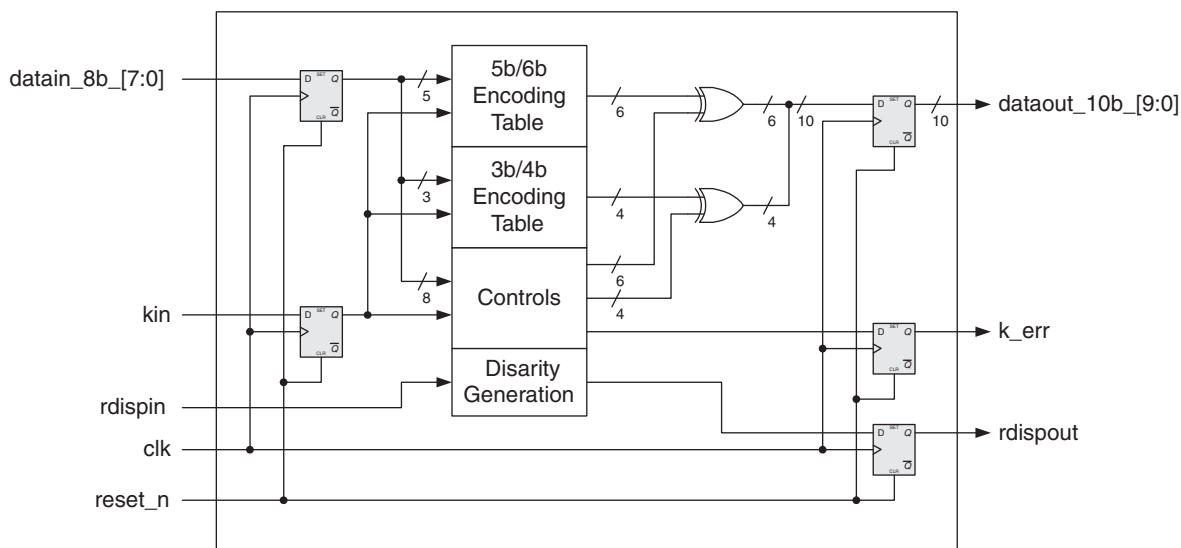
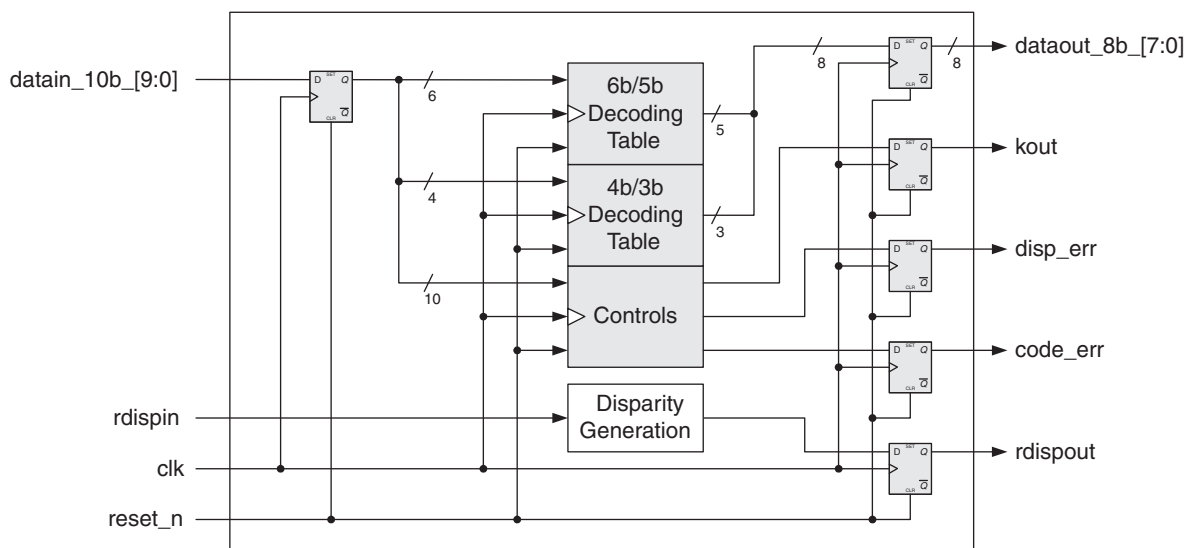
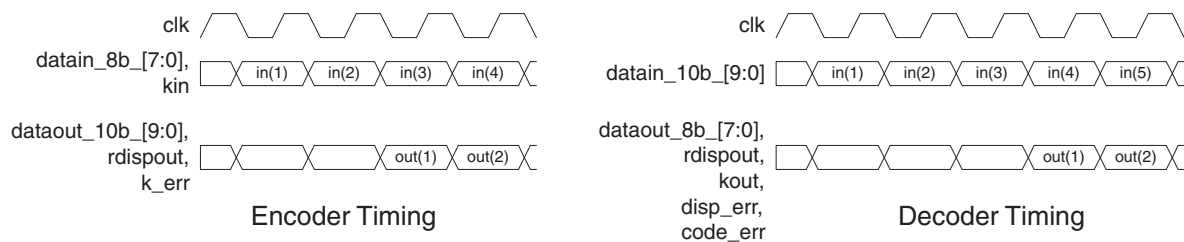
Figure 4. Encoder Block Diagram

Figure 5. Decoder Block Diagram**Figure 6. Timing Diagrams**

Encoder and Decoder Behavior

This 8b/10b encoder/decoder is fully tested to cover all possible cases. The encoder will generate the correctly encoded 10-bit codes based on the kin, datain_8b[7:0], and rdispin inputs. The total number of combination cases is $2 \times 256 \times 2 = 1024$. In these 1024 cases, only $(256 + 12) \times 2 = 536$ cases are valid and the k_err will be generated for the rest of the 488 cases. The decoder will convert 10-bit codes into 8-bit outputs. The code_err will be generated for all invalid 10-bit codes the decoder received. However, in some cases even though the received 10-bit input data is one of the 536 valid codes, the disp_err will be generated if the running disparity rule is violated. The behavior of all possible input combinations of the 8b/10b encoder/decoder is shown in Table 6 and Table 7.

Table 6. 8b/10b Encoder Behavior

Inputs			Outputs		
kin	datain_8b_[7:0]	rdispin	dataout_10b_[9:0]	rdispout	k_err
0	Any of the 256 Dx.y 8-bit Data Characters	0	10-bit dataout from the (RD-) column of the corresponding Dx.y row in Table 3	0, If dataout has 5 one's 1, If dataout has 6 one's	0
		1	10-bit dataout from the (RD+) column of the corresponding Dx.y row in Table 3	0, If dataout has 4 one's 1, If dataout has 5 one's	
1	Any of the 12 Kx.y 8-bit Control Characters	0	10-bit dataout from the (RD-) column of the corresponding Kx.y row in Table 3	0, If dataout has 5 one's 1, If dataout has 6 one's	
		1	10-bit dataout from the (RD+) column of the corresponding Kx.y row in Table 3	0, If dataout has 4 one's 1, If dataout has 5 one's	
	Other undefined 244 Kx.y 8-bit Control Characters	0	10-bit dataout from the (RD-) column of the corresponding Dx.y row in Table 3	0, If dataout has 5 one's 1, If dataout has 6 one's	1
		1	10-bit dataout from the (RD+) column of the corresponding Dx.y row in Table 3	0, If dataout has 4 one's 1, If dataout has 5 one's	

Table 7. 10b/8b Decoder Behavior

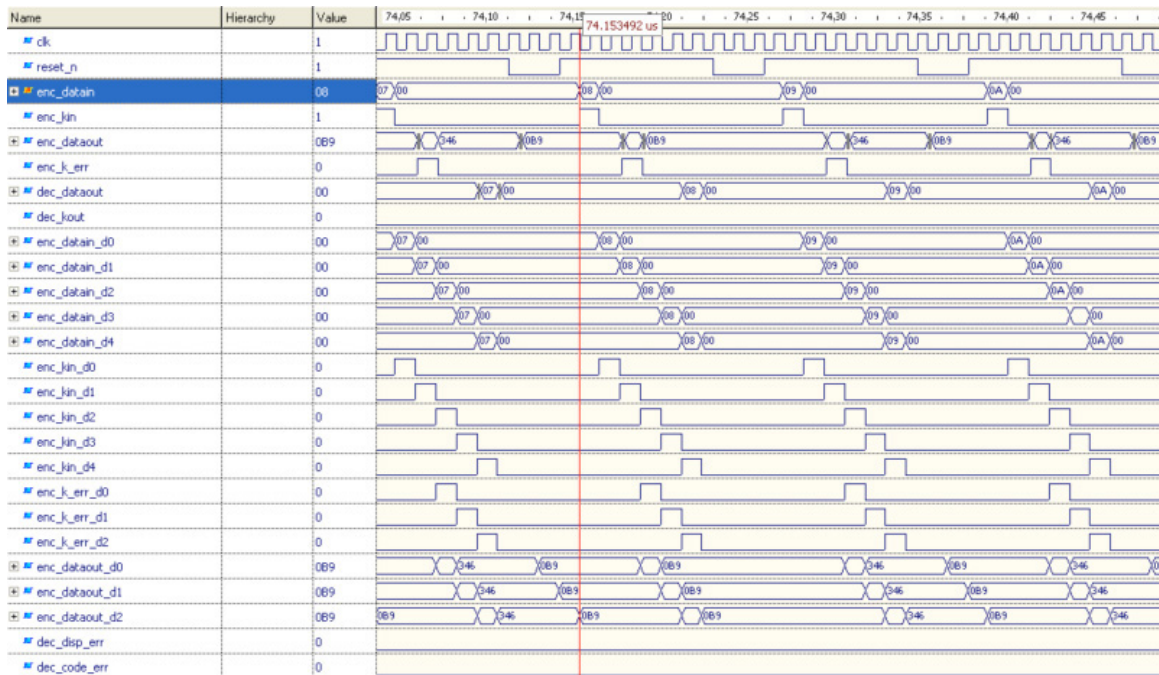
Inputs		Outputs				
datain_10b_[9:0]	rdispin	code_err	disp_err	kout	dataout_8b_[7:0]	rdispout
Any 10-bit data from either the (RD-) or (RD+) column of the Dx.y rows in Table 3	0	0	0, if data is from (RD-) column 1, if data is from (RD+) column	0	Corresponding 8-bit Data	0, If dataout has 5 one's 1, If dataout has 6 one's
	1		0, if data is from (RD+) column 1, if data is from (RD-) column			0, If dataout has 4 one's 1, If dataout has 5 one's
Any 10-bit data from either the (RD-) or (RD+) column of the Kx.y rows in Table 3	0		0, if data is from (RD-) column 1, if data is from (RD+) column	1		0, If dataout has 5 one's 1, If dataout has 6 one's
	1		0, if data is from (RD+) column 1, if data is from (RD-) column			0, If dataout has 4 one's 1, If dataout has 5 one's
Others	0	1	X	X	X	0, If rdispin is 0 1, If rdispin is 1
	1					

Note: X means that the outputs may be 0 or 1 and should be ignored because of the code_err.

HDL Simulation and Verification

Figure 7 shows the timing simulation of the 8b/10b encoder/decoder implemented in a LC4128V-5T100C device. After reset, D3.7 (RD-), D0.6 (RD+), D0.0 (RD-), D0.0 (RD-), ..., are transmitted.

Figure 7. Timing Simulation Diagrams



Implementation

This design is implemented in Verilog and VHDL. When using this design in a different device, density, speed, or grade, performance and utilization may vary. Default settings are used during the fitting of the design.

Table 8. Performance and Resource Utilization

Device Family	Language	Speed Grade	Utilization ¹	f _{MAX} (MHz)	I/Os	Architecture Resources
MachXO2™ ²	Verilog	-6	184 LUT4	100	43	N/A
	VHDL	-6	184 LUT4	100	43	N/A
MachXO™ ³	Verilog	-3	152 LUTs	100	43	N/A
	VHDL	-3	152 LUTs	100	43	N/A
LatticeECP3™ ⁴	Verilog	-7	184 LUT4	200	43	N/A
	VHDL	-7	184 LUT4	200	43	N/A
LatticeECP2M™ ⁵	Verilog	-6	184 LUT4	200	43	N/A
	VHDL	-6	184 LUT4	200	43	N/A
LatticeECP™ ⁶	Verilog	-5	184 LUTs	100	43	N/A
	VHDL	-5	184 LUTs	100	43	N/A
LatticeXP2™ ⁷	Verilog	-5	184 LUTs	100	43	N/A
	VHDL	-5	184 LUTs	100	43	N/A
ispMACH® 4000 ⁸	Verilog	-3 (ns)	74 Macrocells	90	43	N/A
	VHDL	-3 (ns)	74 Macrocells	90	43	N/A

1. Utilization is the total resources used for the Encoder and Decoder. The Encoder occupies about 30% of the total resource used.

2. Performance and utilization characteristics are generated using LCMXO2-1200HC-6MG132C with Lattice Diamond™ 1.2 design software.

3. Performance and utilization characteristics are generated using LCMXO1200C-3T100C with Lattice Diamond 1.2 design software.

4. Performance and utilization characteristics are generated using LFE3-150EA-7FN1156C with Lattice Diamond 1.2 design software.

5. Performance and utilization characteristics are generated using LFE2M-50E-6F672C with Lattice Diamond 1.2 design software.

6. Performance and utilization characteristics are generated using LFECP-6E-5T144C with Lattice Diamond 1.2 design software.

7. Performance and utilization characteristics are generated using LFXP2-5E-5M132C with Lattice Diamond 1.2 design software.

8. Performance and utilization characteristics are generated using LC4256B-3T100C with ispLEVER® Classic 1.3 design software.

Technical Support Assistance

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Revision History

Date	Version	Change Summary
November 2002	01.0	Initial release.
June 2010	01.1	Updated for LatticeXP2, LatticeECP and MachXO device support.
		Updated Timing Simulation diagram.
April 2011	01.2	Added support for LatticeECP2M and LatticeECP3 device families.
		Added support for Lattice Diamond design software.
		Removed ispXPLD® 5000MX from Implementation table.