



Design of a Switch-Level Analog model for Verilog

September 25, 2008

Tom Sheffler
Rambus Inc.

Verilog Review

- **A variety of logic evaluation mechanisms**

- **Gates, UDPs**

- **Behavioral**

- **Switch-Level**



(signal flow)



(network)

- **State**

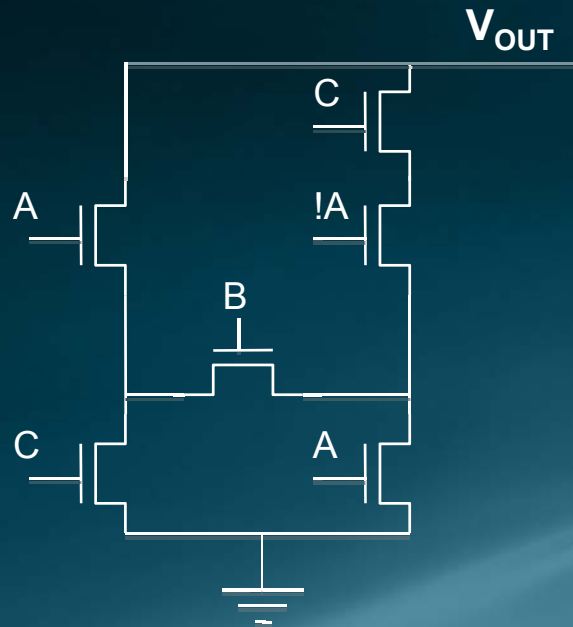
- **Stored in registers**

- **Wires/Nets**

- **Resolve values (signal flow)**

- **Connect nodes (network) / Store Charge (triereg)**

A switch-level logic network



Previous Analog extensions

- Previous Analog event-driven Extensions
 - “analog wires”
 - “real number” modeling (wreal)
- Both are signal-flow
- *Coercing Kirchoff networks into signal-flow can introduce errors*

Idea: Extend Switch-Level

- **Value Domain**
 - Logic \Rightarrow Reals
- **Components**
 - Switches \Rightarrow Pseudo-Linear (2-terminal) devices
- **Time Domain**
 - Discrete time: Verilog Event queue
- **Keep fundamental notions of switch-level**
 - Subnetwork-based
 - Relaxation algorithm \Rightarrow solve linear system
 - X-values

Talk Roadmap

- **Explain modeling components and simulation algorithm.**
- **Explain a mixed-signal subsystem.**
- **Show a way to model subsystem, suitable for detecting D/A boundary errors.**
- **Discuss implementation and performance.**

Register Controlled Resistor



```
wire w1, w2;  
real rval;  
  
initial begin  
    rval = 100; // ohms  
    $resistor(w1, w2, rval);  
end
```

- Register defines magnitude
- Wires name nodes

Register-Controlled Current Source



```
wire w1, w2;  
real cval;  
  
initial begin  
    cval = 0.1;  
    $csrc(w1, w2, cval);  
end
```

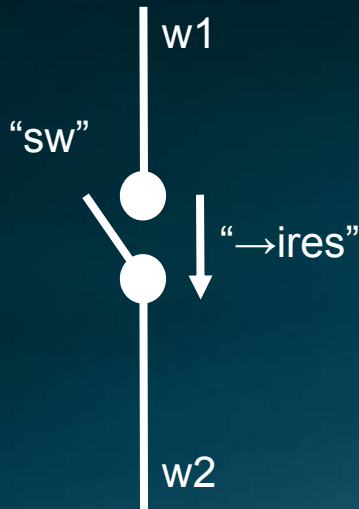

Register-Controlled Voltage Source



```
wire w1, w2;  
real vval;  
real ires;  
  
initial begin  
    vval = 2.0;  
    $vsrc(w1, w2, vval, ires);  
end
```

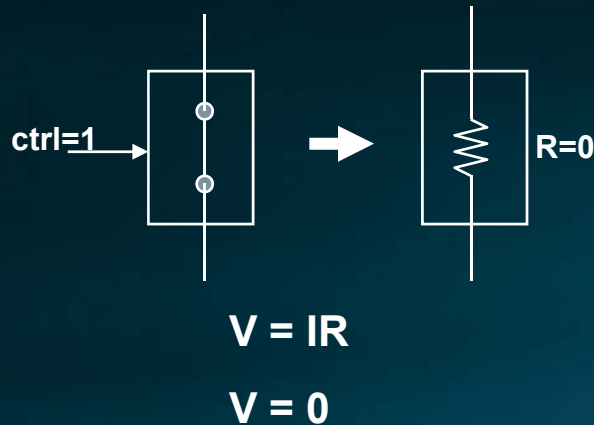
- Register defines magnitude
- Register accepts output

Register-Controlled Switch

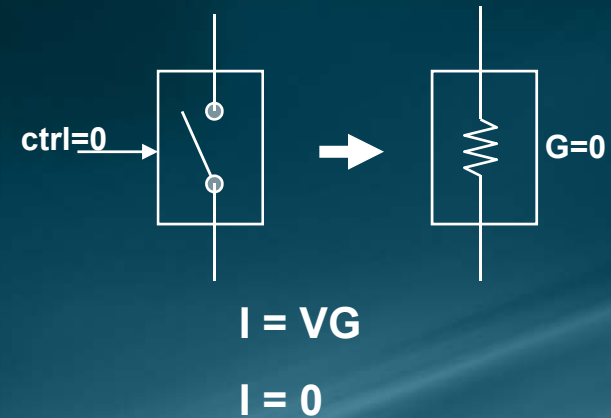


```
wire w1, w2;  
integer sw  
real ires;  
  
initial begin  
    sw = 0; // off  
    $switch(w1, w2, sw, ires);  
end
```

Modeling a Switch



- A constraint on voltage, no constraint on I



- A constraint on current, no constraint on V

Voltage into a Register



```
wire w1;  
real volts;  
  
initial begin  
    $vprobe(w1, volts);  
end
```

Simulation Algorithm

- **Start-of-Simulation**
 - **Resolve wire names referenced to “node” objects.**
 - Use VPI to traverse database hierarchy.
 - **Build subnetworks.**
 - Connected-components of electrical elements.
 - **Build matrices using modified nodal analysis.**
- **On Value Change**
 - Update matrix of subnetwork affected.
 - Schedule matrix solve and new output values of subnetwork at end-of-timestep.

A note about explicit Subnetworks

- Gives useful event semantics.
- Potential for “fast” simulation.
 - Solution of each subnetwork should be fast.
 - Good for multirate, multiphase designs.
 - Subnetwork evaluation comparable to UDP?
- Basis for X values and X propagation
 - Pessimistic: If any inputs to a subnetwork are X, then outputs are X.
 - Less pessimistic algorithms may be useful, too.



A Verification Example

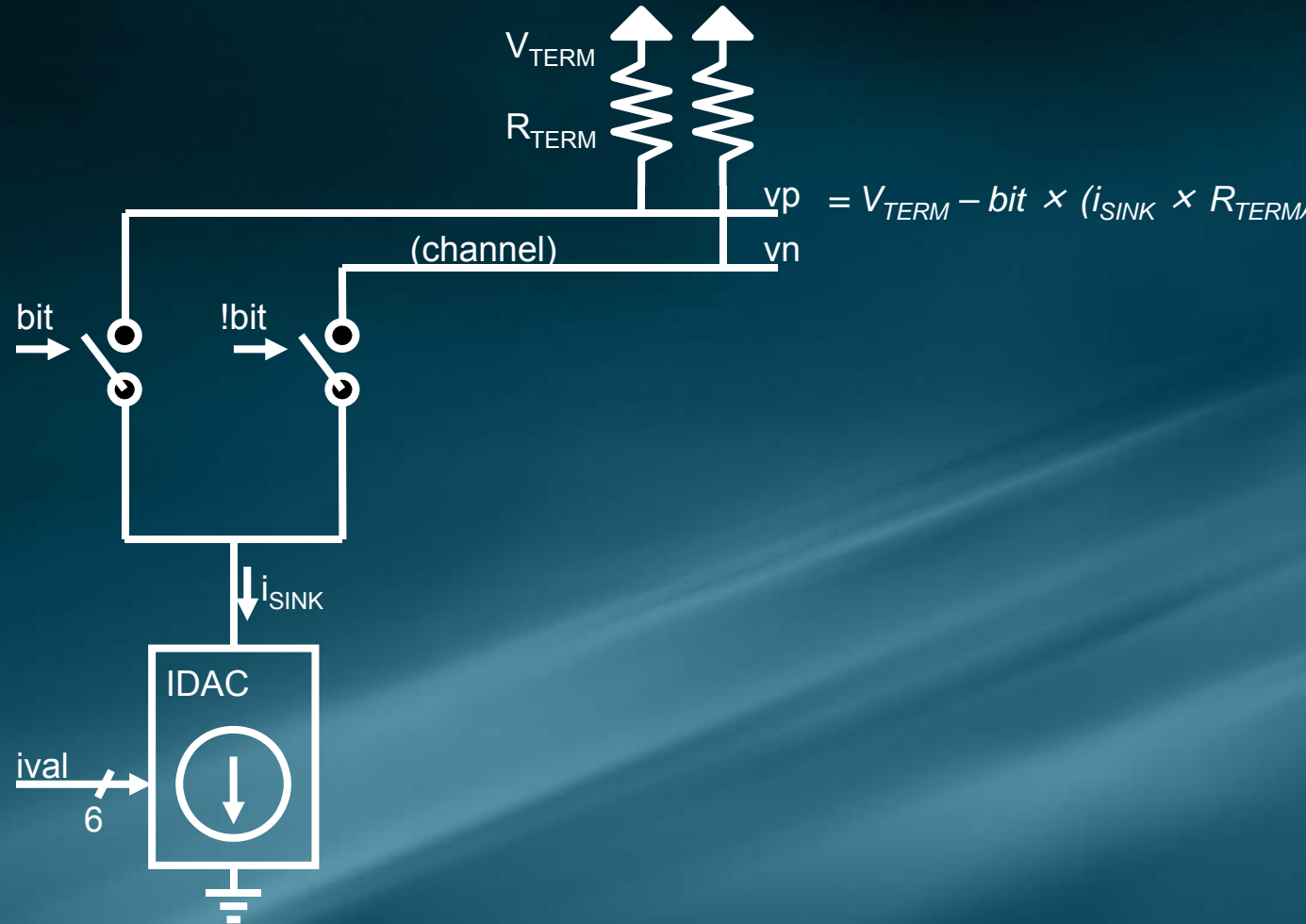
The Problem

- **Equalization:**
 - implements equation
$$\text{out}_i = \alpha_0 x_i + \alpha_1 x_{i-1} + \alpha_2 x_{i-2}$$
 - $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2$ – programmed by registers (real values)
 - x_i – data bit to be sent this cycle (0 or 1)
 - addition implemented by current summing
- **Verification Question:** can we check the implementation of this equation in the context of its system?

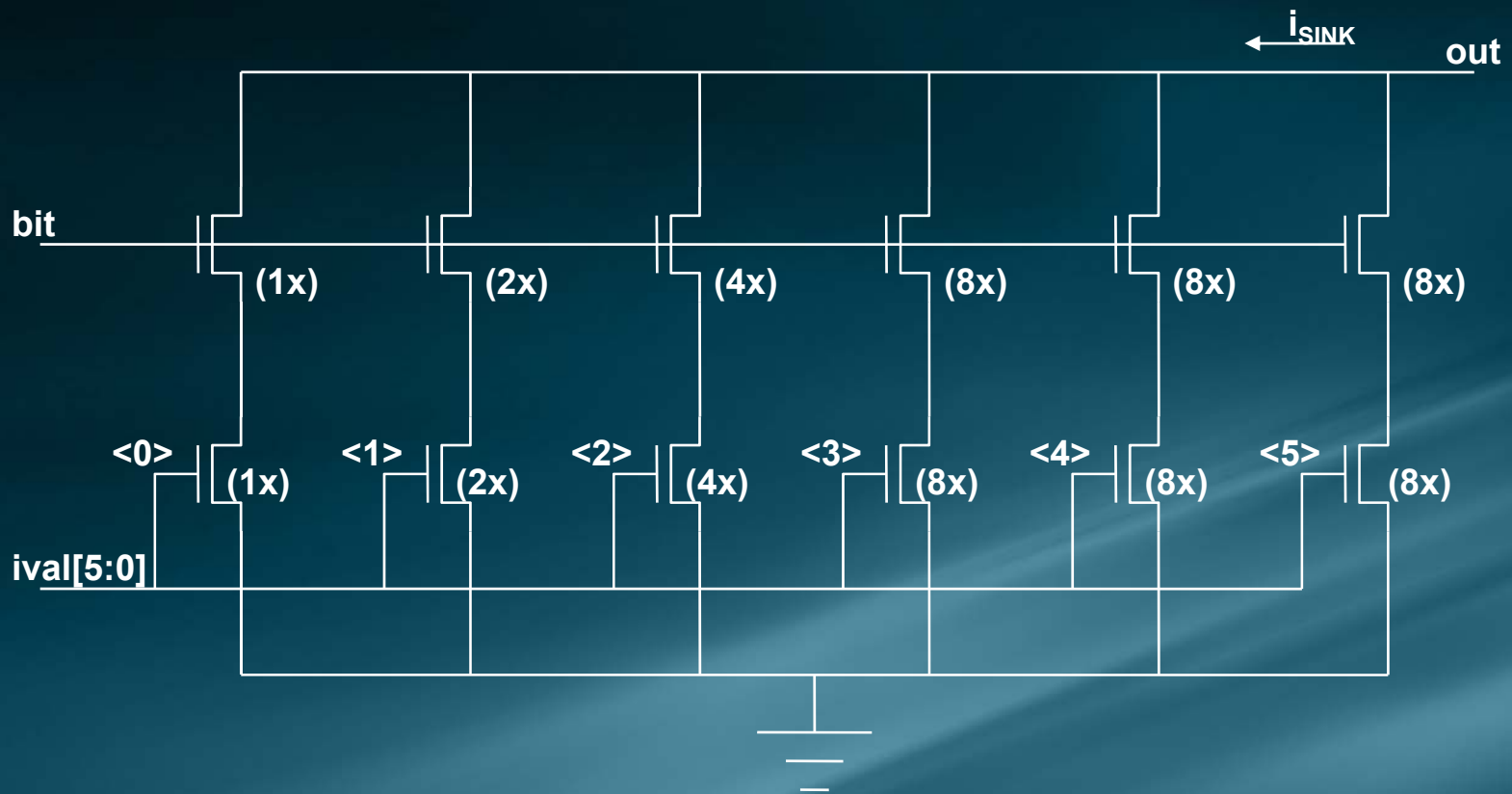
Errors we are looking for

- Are the α registers connected up to their associated circuits correctly? (bus swaps, bit inversions)
- Is the map from register value to α value as intended? (encoding/decoding mismatch, control bit to Xstr leg mapping)
- What is the reset value of these components? [not examined in this presentation]
- Are the interconnections of digital and analog components as intended? (connectivity to device pins)

Differential Output Driver

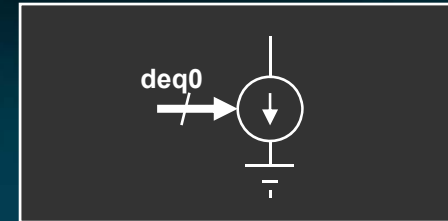


IDAC Schematic



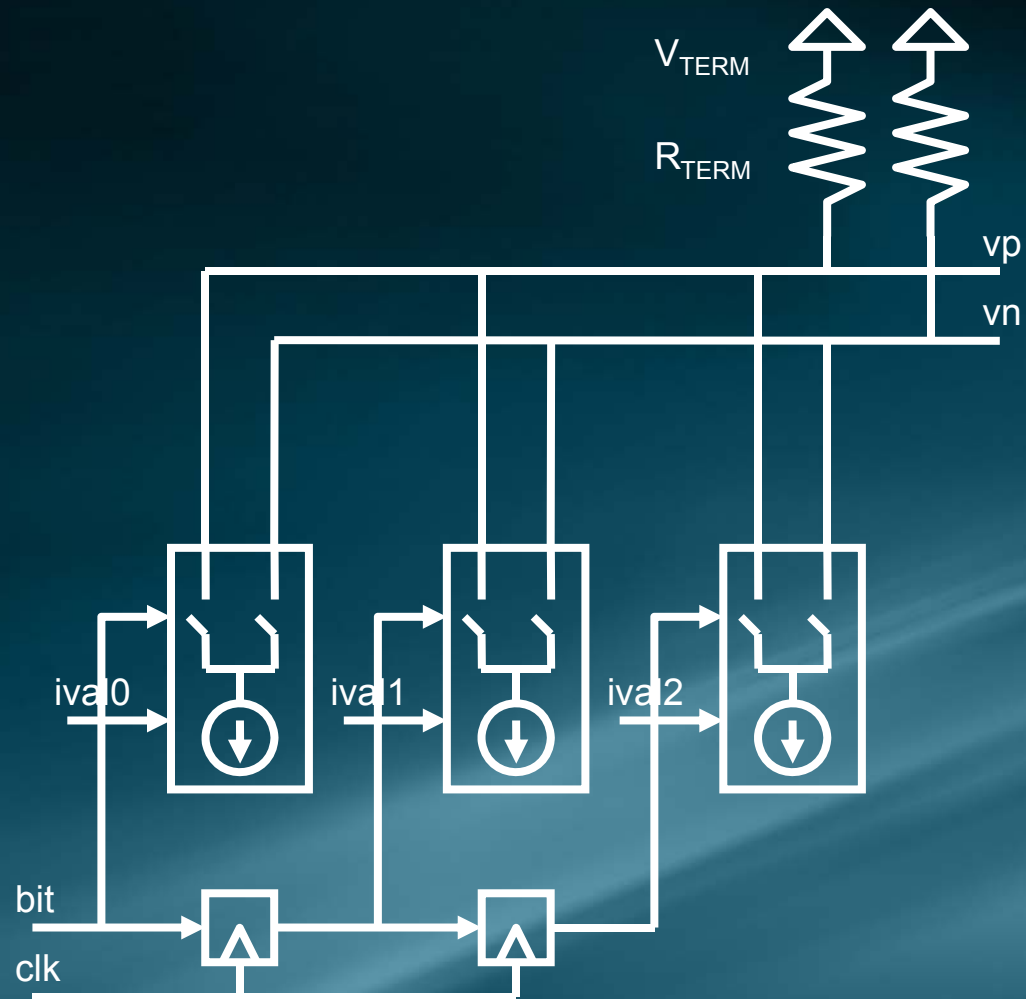
Behavioral Verilog modeling the iDAC

```
module idac0 (t1, code);  
  
    inout t1;  
    input [3:0] code;  
  
    real ival; initial ival=0.0;  
    integer    status;  
  
    initial  
        $csrc(t1, top.GND, ival);  
  
    always @(code) begin  
        case (code)  
            4'b0000: ival = 0.01;  
            4'b0001: ival = 0.02;  
            4'b0010: ival = 0.03;  
            4'b0011: ival = 0.04;  
            ...  
            ...  
            4'b1110: ival = 0.15;  
            4'b1111: ival = 0.16;  
        endcase  
    end  
  
endmodule // idac0
```



- induce a current with value “ival”
- Designer’s record of his understanding of decoding implemented by the analog block.
- A place to record
 - ones complement
 - twos complement
 - thermometer bits
 - illegal encodings

Three-Stage Output Driver with Equalization



Test Setup for each Pin

Figure 129 DQ_TX_EQ0 Register

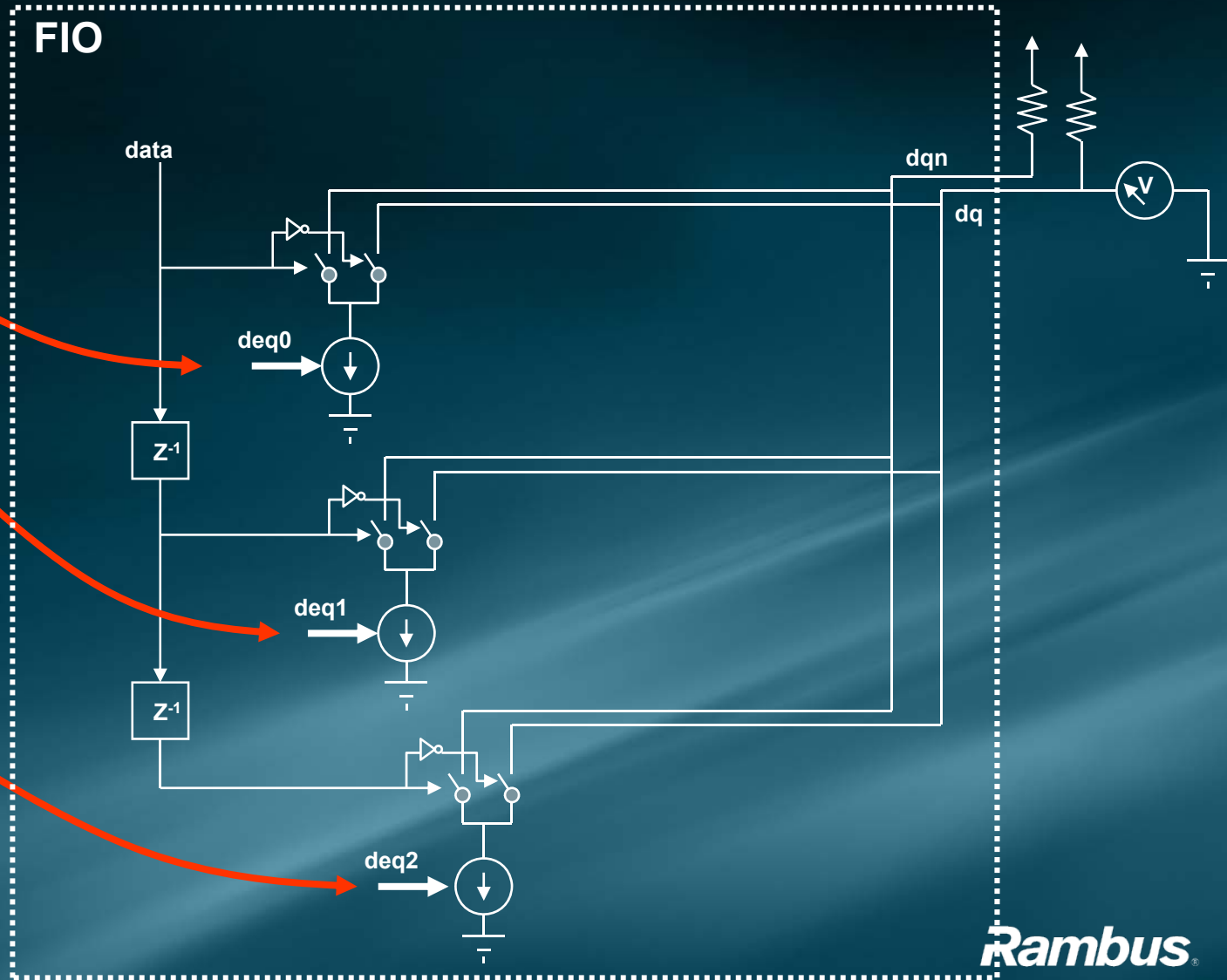
Addr: DQb-1-DQp-1100

	RW	Res
0		
1	RW	TE
2		
3		
4	RW	Q
5		
6	RW	TE
7		
8		

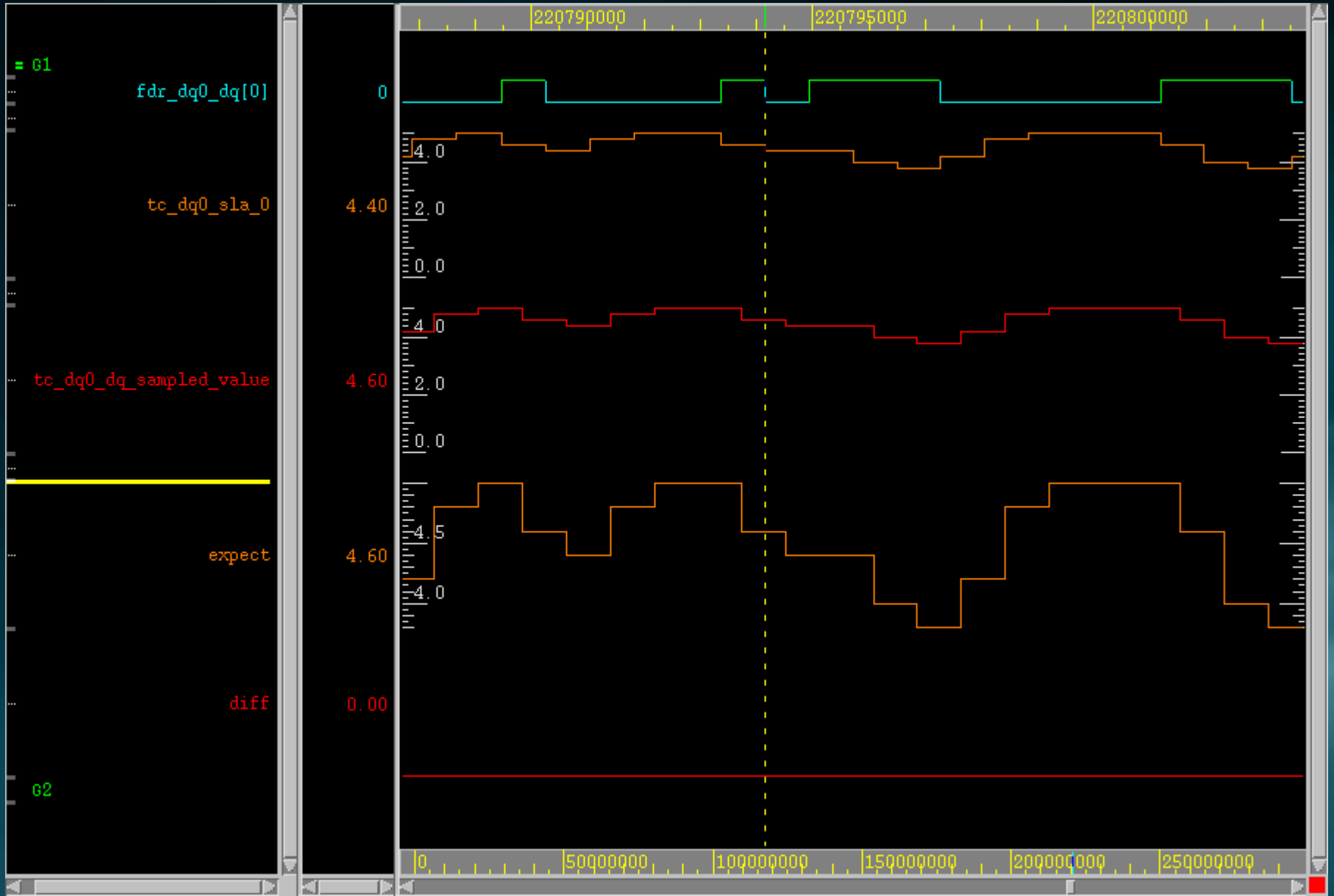
Figure 130 DQ_TX_EQ1 Register

Addr: DQb-1-DQp-1101

	RW	Res
0		
1	RW	TE
2		
3		



Verification of RTL w/ 3-stage Equalizer



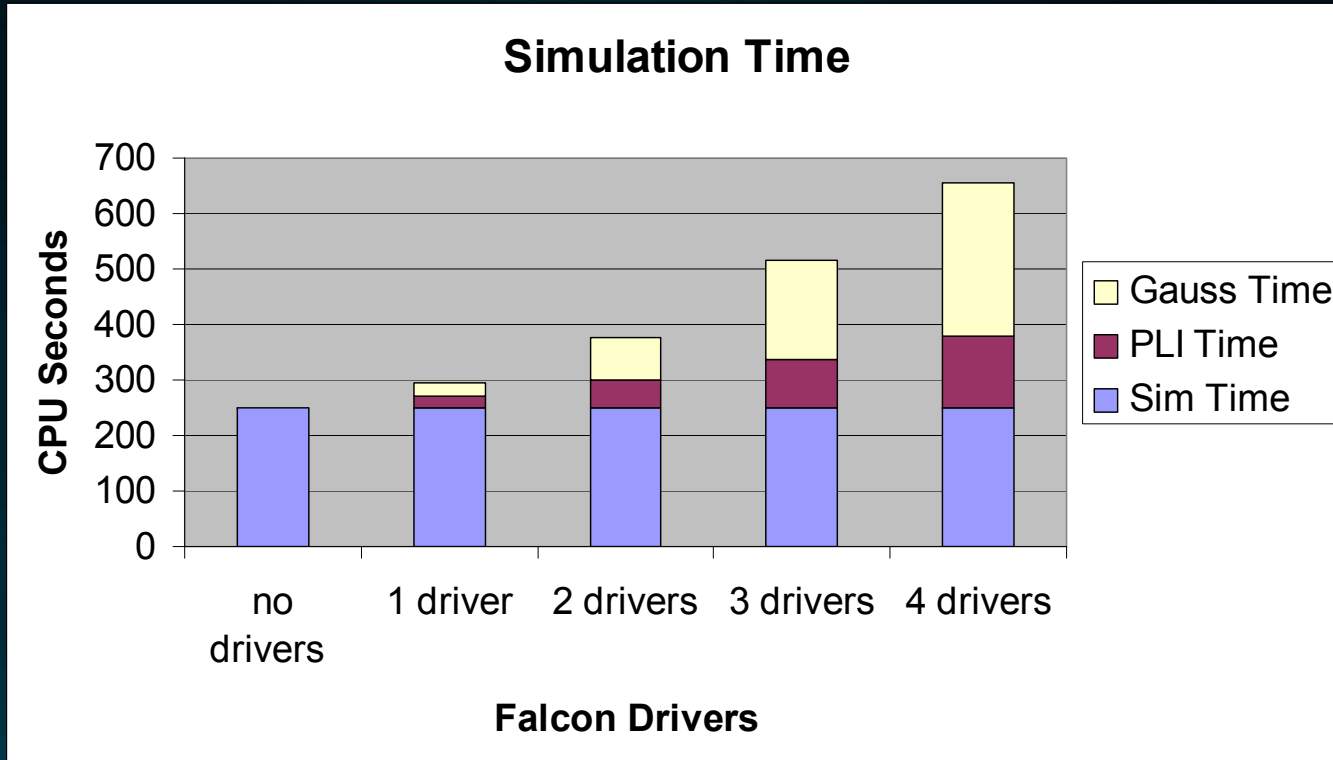
Run Times

- **Test: ber_short1**
 - **user: 251 secs**

- **With “analog”**
 - **36 three-stage output drivers**
 - **432 devices, 182 nets, 36 subnetworks**
 - **32,000 data transitions**
 - **1.3M 13x13 matrix solves**
 - **9.9M switch toggles**

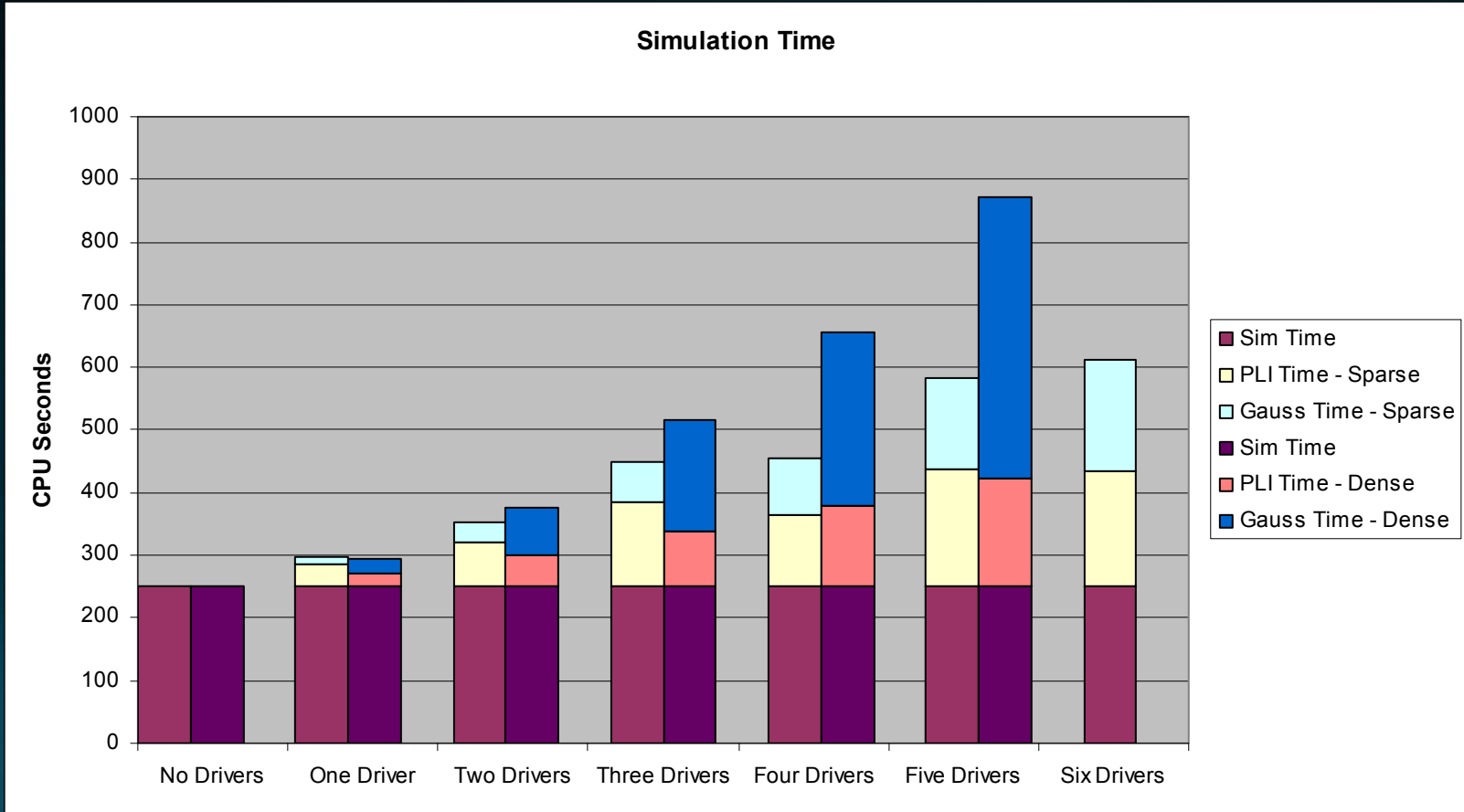
 - **user: 664 secs (Gauss: 254 secs)**

Where is the time spent?



	no drivers	1 driver	2 drivers	3 drivers	4 drivers
devices	0	216	345	432	540
order	0	7 (x36)	10 (x36)	13 (x36)	16 (x36)
switch toggles	0	1.1M	2.2M	3.4M	4.7M
solves	0	573K	852K	998K	1.0M

Comparing Dense and Sparse



Summary

- **Have shown an extension to Verilog useful for**
 - **output drivers**
 - **regulated supplies**
 - **bias networks**
- **System level modeling and verification requires functional abstraction of analog blocks.**
 - **Compatible with logic designers, verifiers.**
 - **Vision: automate the functional abstraction step.**
- **Functional abstraction of other types of analog blocks?**



Backup

Modeling

- **Basic Model Requirement**
 - Analog output values reflect digital control.
 - Analog value can be checked.
- **Event-Driven**
 - Transition phenomena are of little interest when checking steady-state values.
- **Building blocks for digitally controlled electrical networks.**

Behavioral Verilog modeling driver

```
module driver0 (dq, dqn, tdata, code);
  inout dq;
  inout dqn;

  input tdata;
  input [3:0] code;

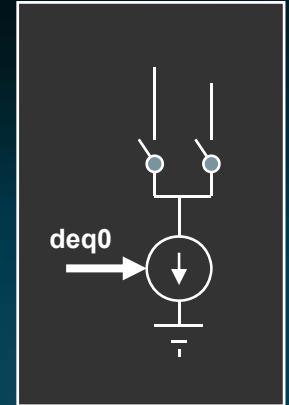
  wire      node;          // internal node
  integer   dqsw; initial dqsw = 0;
  integer   dqnsw; initial dqnsw = 1;

  initial begin
    // Instantiate the switches (procedurally)
    $switch(dq, node, dqsw);
    $switch(dqn, node, dqnsw);
  end

  // Instantiate the DAC (declaratively)
  idac0 i_idac0 (node, code);

  // Connect 'tdata' to the switch
  always @(tdata)
    dqsw = tdata;

  // A behavioral 'inverter'
  always @(dqsw)
    dqnsw = !dqsw;
endmodule
```



Instantiate three drivers

```
driver0 i_driver0 (dq, dqn, tx_ena_io ? tdata_out : 1'b0, tx_eq[3:0]);  
driver0 i_driver1 (dq, dqn, tx_ena_io ? tdata1 : 1'b0, tx_eq[8:5]);  
driver0 i_driver2 (dq, dqn, tx_ena_io ? tdata2 : 1'b0, tx_eq[19:16]);
```



- Implementation of register map is tied to observable “analog” output values

The checker

```
real tc_dq0_sla_0;

initial
  $vprobe(tc_dq0_dq[0], tc_dq0_sla_0);

always @(negedge top.i_falcon_clkgen.dq_sample_clock) begin

  // sample the current real value
  x0 = tc_dq0_sla_0;

  // collect up history of the bit values
  b2 = b1;
  b1 = b0;
  b0 = tc_dq0_dq[0];

  // compute the expect - fixed coefficient values here
  expect = 5.0 - ((b0 * 0.4) + (b1 * 0.6) + (b2 * 0.2));
  diff = expect - x0;

end
```


Error Detect – Bus Inversion to tap 0

tx_eq[3:0] vs tx_eq[0:3]

