Embedded DfT Instrumentation: Design, Access, Retargeting and Case Studies

Larsson, Erik; Keim, Martin

Published in: [Host publication title missing]

DOI: 10.1109/VTS.2013.6548930

2013

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

• Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
• You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
• You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.
Abstract:
As semiconductor technologies enables highly advanced an complex integrated circuits (ICs), there is an increasing need to have more embedded design-for-test (DfT) instruments for test, debug, diagnosis, configuration, monitoring, etc. As these instruments are to be used not only at chip-level but also at board-level and system-level, a key challenge is how to access these instruments from chip terminals in a low-cost, non-intrusive, standardized, flexible and scalable manner. The well-adopted IEEE 1149.1 (Joint Test Action Group (JTAG)) standard offers low-cost, non-intrusive and standardized access but lacks flexibility and scalability, which is addressed by the on-going IEEE P1687 (Internal JTAG (IJTAG)) standardization initiative. We will discuss the need of embedded instrumentation, the shortcomings of IEEE 1149.1, the features and challenges of IEEE P1687, as well as cases studies on the usage of IEEE P1687.

Index Terms: IEEE P1687, IJTAG, IEEE 1149.1, embedded instruments

Introduction:
Due to the constant increase in complexity and a decrease in feature sizes of integrated circuit (IC) designs, there is need of on-chip (embedded) instruments for test, debug, diagnosis, configuration, and monitoring. These is obviously a need of an access method for these instruments. It is desirable that the access method has low-cost in terms of added silicon, is non-intrusive such that it does not impact the regular functionality, and is standardized to ease integration of instruments from various vendors and to ease access of instruments in the final IC. It is also desirable that the access method is flexible such that instruments can be accessed in an arbitrary manner and scalable such that a high number of instruments can be added without a too high overhead penalty.

The IEEE Standard 1149.1 (a.k.a. JTAG (Joint Test Action Group)) [1], originally intended for board test, has proved to be useful in ad hoc access to on-chip infrastructure [2]. However, there is a lack of flexibility and scalability.

The IEEE P1687 standard proposal [2], [3], [4], [5], [6] aims to address the need of standardization, by describing a flexible data transport infrastructure (called network) to interface JTAG to the chip internal instruments. P1687 has therefore received the informal name of Internal JTAG (IJTAG). When ratified, IEEE P1687 will specify methods for access and control of embedded instruments [3]. An instrument refers to any device that could be included in the JTAG scan-path. Examples of instruments include embedded sensors, internal scan-chains and IEEE standard 1500 wrapped cores. P1687 is characterized by a hardware component called Segment Insertion Bit (SIB). The use of SIBs makes it possible to create a multitude of different networks for the same set of instruments, and to have the benefit of flexibility in scheduling the
access to those instruments. To setup the scan-path, P1687 proposes to transport SIB control data together with instrument data on a single wire (the JTAG scan-path), and this will affect overall access time (OAT).

The work on IEEE P1687 is on-going and not yet ratified, and only a few studies have considered it [4], [7], [8], [9], [10]. We will discuss and compare JTAG and IJTAG from a hardware perspective, and elaborate on challenges related to the introduced flexibility and scalability.

References: