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Single Event Effects in Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) Devices: Update 2020

Melanie Berg[1]

Melanie.D.Berg@NASA.gov; Melanie.Berg@SSAIHQ.com

Michael Campola[2], Hak Kim[1], Anthony Phan[1]

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2. NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

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Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
1MB	1 Megabit
3D	Three Dimensional
3DIC	Three Dimensional Integrated Circuits
ACE	Absolute Contacting Encoder
AHB	Advanced high performance bus
ADC	Analog to Digital Converter
AEC	Automotive Electronics Council
AES	Advanced Encryption Standard
AMD	Advanced Micro Devices Incorporated
AMS	Agile Mixed Signal
ARM	Acorn Reduced Instruction Set Computer Machine
AXI	Advanced extensible interface
BGA	Ball Grid Array
BRAM	Block Random Access Memory
BTMR	Block triple modular redundancy
CAN	Controller Area Network
CBRAM	Conductive Bridging Random Access Memory
CCC	RTG4 clock conditioning circuit
CCI	Correct Coding Initiative
CGA	Column Grid Array
CMOS	Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor
CN	Xilinx ceramic flip-chip (CF and CN) packages are ceramic column grid array (CCGA) packages
COTS	Commercial Off The Shelf
CRC	Cyclic Redundancy Check
CRÈME	Cosmic Ray Effects on Micro Electronics
CRÈME MC	Cosmic Ray Effects on Micro Electronics Monte Carlo
CSE	Crypto Security Engineer
CU	Control Unit
DC	Direct current
DCU	Distributed Control Unit
DDR	Double Data Rate (DDR3 = Generation 3; DDR4 = Generation 4)
DFF	Flip-flop
DMM	Digital Multimeter
DMA	Direct Memory Access
DSP	Digital Signal Processing
DSPI	Dynamic Signal Processing Instrument
DTMR	Distributed triple modular redundancy
Dual Ch.	Dual Channel
DUT	Device under test
ECC	Error-Correcting Code
EDAC	Error detection and correction
EEE	Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical
EMAC	Equipment Monitor And Control
EMIB	Multi-die Interconnect Bridge
EPCS	Extended physical coding layer
ESA	European Space Agency
eTimers	Event Timers
ETW	Electronics Technology Workshop
FCCU	Fluidized Catalytic Cracking Unit
FeRAM	Ferroelectric Random Access Memory
FinFET	Fin Field Effect Transistor
FIR	Finite impulse response filter
FMC	FPGA Mezzanine Card
FPGA	Field Programmable Gate Array
FPU	Floating Point Unit
FY	Fiscal Year
Gb	Gigabit
Gbps	Gigabit per second
GCR	Galactic Cosmic Ray
GEO	geostationary equatorial orbit
GIC	Global Industry Classification
GOMACTech	Government Microcircuit Applications and Critical Technology Conference
GPIO	General purpose input/output
GPIB	General purpose interface bus
GPU	Graphics Processing Unit
GR	Global Route
GRC	NASA Glenn Research Center
GSFC	Goddard Space Flight Center

Acronym	Definition
GTH/GTY/GTX	Transceiver Type
GTMR	Global TMR
HALT	Highly Accelerated Life Test
HAST	Highly Accelerated Stress Test
HBM	High Bandwidth Memory
HDIO	High Density Digital Input/Output
HDR	High-Dynamic-Range
HiREV	High Reliability Virtual Electronics Center
HKMG	high-k metal gate
HMC	Hybrid Memory Cube
HPIO	High Performance Input/Output
HPS	High Pressure Sodium
HSTL	High speed transceiver logic
I/F	interface
I/O	input/output
I2C	Inter-Integrated Circuit
i2MOS	Microsemi second generation of Rad-Hard MOSFET
IC	Integrated Circuit
I-Cache	independent cache
JFAC	Joint Federated Assurance Center
JPEG	Joint Photographic Experts Group
JTAG	Joint Test Action Group (FPGAs use JTAG to provide access to their programming debug/emulation functions)
KB	Kilobyte
L2 Cache	independent caches organized as a hierarchy (L1, L2, etc.)
LCDT	NEPP low cost digital tester
LEO	Low Earth Orbit
LET	Linear energy transfer
L-mem	Long-Memory
LP	Low Power
LUT	Look-up table
LVCMOS	Low-voltage Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor
LVDS	Low-Voltage Differential Signaling
LVTTL	Low –voltage transistor-transistor logic
LTMR	Local triple modular redundancy
LW HPS	Lightwatt High Pressure Sodium
M/L BIST	Memory/Logic Built-In Self-Test
Mil-STD	Military standard
MAPLD	Military Aerospace Programmable Logic Device
MFTF	Mean fluence to failure
µPROM	Micro programmable read-only memory
µSRAM	Micro SRAM
Mil/Aero	Military/Aerospace
MIPI	Mobile Industry Processor Interface
MMC	MultiMediaCard
MOSFET	Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor Field-Effect Transistor
MP	Microprocessor
MP	Multiport
MPFE	Multiport Front-End
MPSoC	Multiprocessor System on a chip
MPU	Microprocessor Unit
Msg	message
MTTF	Mean time to failure
NAND	Negated AND or NOT AND
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NEPP	NASA Electronic Parts and Packaging
NOR	Not OR logic gate
NV(M)	Non-volatile (memory)
OCM	On-chip RAM
OSC-TMR-PLL	Embedded triple modular redundant phase locked loop
OSC	Oscillator
OSD	Office of the Secretary of Defense
PC	Personal Computer
PCB	Printed Circuit Board

Acronym	Definition
PCIe	Peripheral Component Interconnect Express
PCIe Gen2	Peripheral Component Interconnect Express Generation 2
Pconfiguration	SEU cross-section of configuration
Pfunctional_logic	SEU cross-section of functional logic
PHY	Physical layer
PLL	Phase Locked Loop
PLOL	Phase Locked Loop loss of lock
PMA	Physical Medium Attachment
POR	Power on reset
PPM	Parts per million
Proc.	Processing
PS-GTR	High Speed Bus Interface
PSEFI	SEU cross-section from single event functional interrupts
Psystem	System SEU cross-section
QDR	quad data rate
QFN	Quad Flat Pack No Lead
QML	Qualified manufactures list
QSPI	Serial Quad Input/Output
RC	Resistor capacitor
R&M	Reliability and Maintainability
RAM	Random Access Memory
ReRAM	Resistive Random Access Memory
RGB	Red, Green, and Blue
RH	Radiation Hardened
RT	Radiation Tolerant
RTD	Representative tactical design
RTG4FCCC_0	RTG4 Phase lock loop Core
SATA	Serial Advanced Technology Attachment
SCU	Secondary Control Unit
SD	Secure Digital
SD/eMMC	Secure Digital embedded MultiMediaCard
SD-HC	Secure Digital High Capacity
SDM	Spatial-Division-Multiplexing
SEE	Single Event Effect
SEF	Single event failure
SEFI	Single Event Functional Interrupt
SEL	Single event latchup
SERDES	Serializer/deserializer
SET	Single event transient
SEU	Single event upset
Si	Silicon
SK Hynix	SK Hynix Semiconductor Company
SMDs	Selected Item Descriptions
SMMU	System Memory Management Unit
SOA	Safe Operating Area
SOC	Systems on a Chip
SPI	Serial Peripheral Interface
sRIO	Serio Rapid I/O
SSTL	Sub series terminated logic
TBD	To Be Determined
Temp	Temperature
THD+N	Total Harmonic Distortion Plus Noise
TMR	Triple Modular Redundancy
T-Sensor	Temperature-Sensor
TSMC	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company
UART	Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter
UltraRAM	Ultra Random Access Memory
USB	Universal Serial Bus
VNAND	Vertical NAND
WDT	Watchdog Timer
WSR	Windowed shift register
XAUI	Extended 10 Gigabit Media Independent Interface
XGXS	10 Gigabit Ethernet Extended Sublayer
XGMII	10 Gigabit Media Independent Interface)

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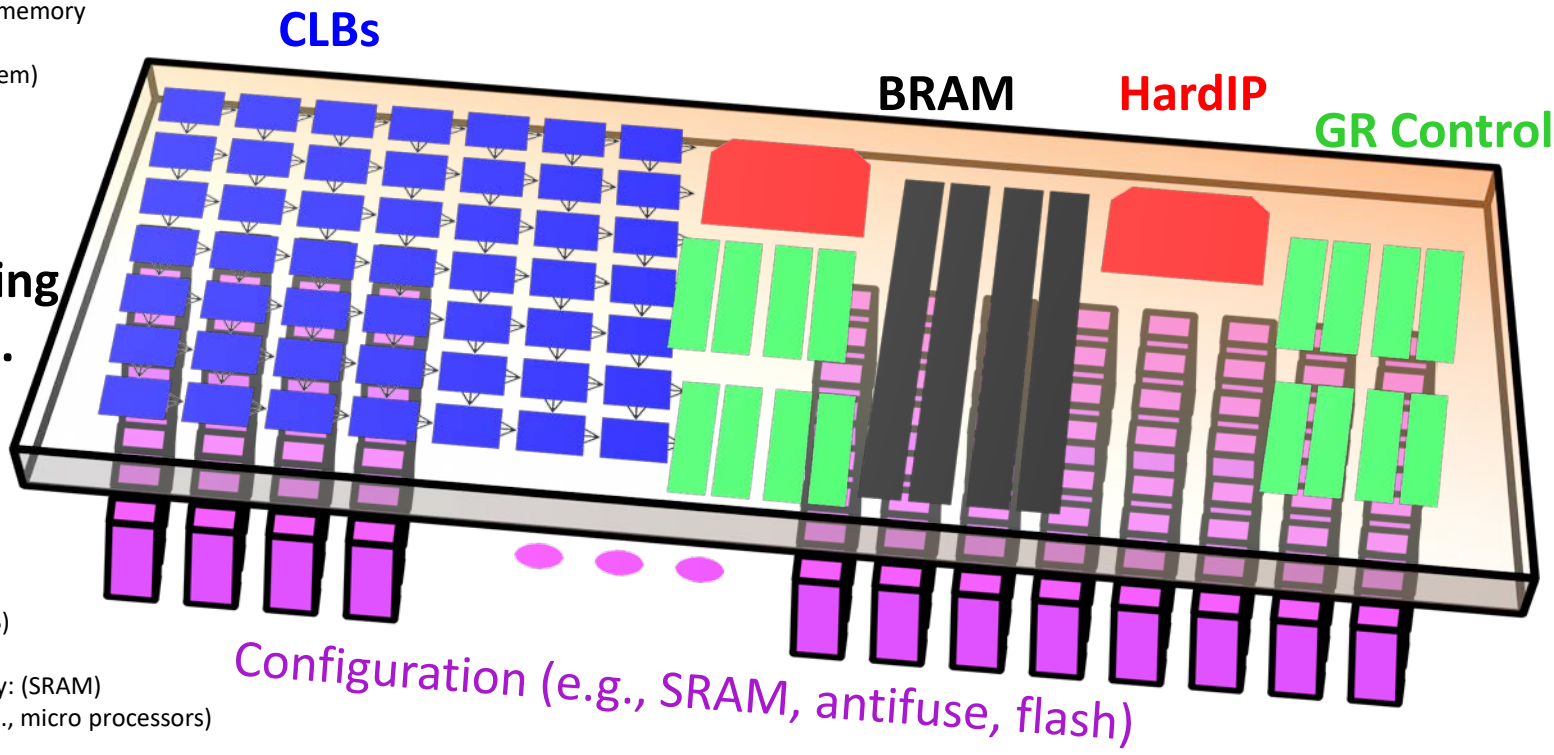
FPGA: Field programmable gate array
SEE: single event effects

Agenda

- FPGA and SEE Test Methodology Overview
- Xilinx Kintex-UltraScale SEE Test and Analysis
- Microsemi PolarFire SEE Test and Analysis
- SEE Data Analysis Methodology (SRAM-based FPGA)
- Future work

FPGA SEU Cross-section Model

BRAM: Block random access memory
SEU: single event upset
SEF: single event failure (system)
σ: cross-section



Configurable logic block: (CLB)
Global Route: GR
Static random access memory: (SRAM)
Intellectual property: (IP); e.g., micro processors)
Analog circuits

Cross-sections for a mapped design/system (σ_{SEF}) are a function of the FPGA's internal elements and the mapped design's topology.

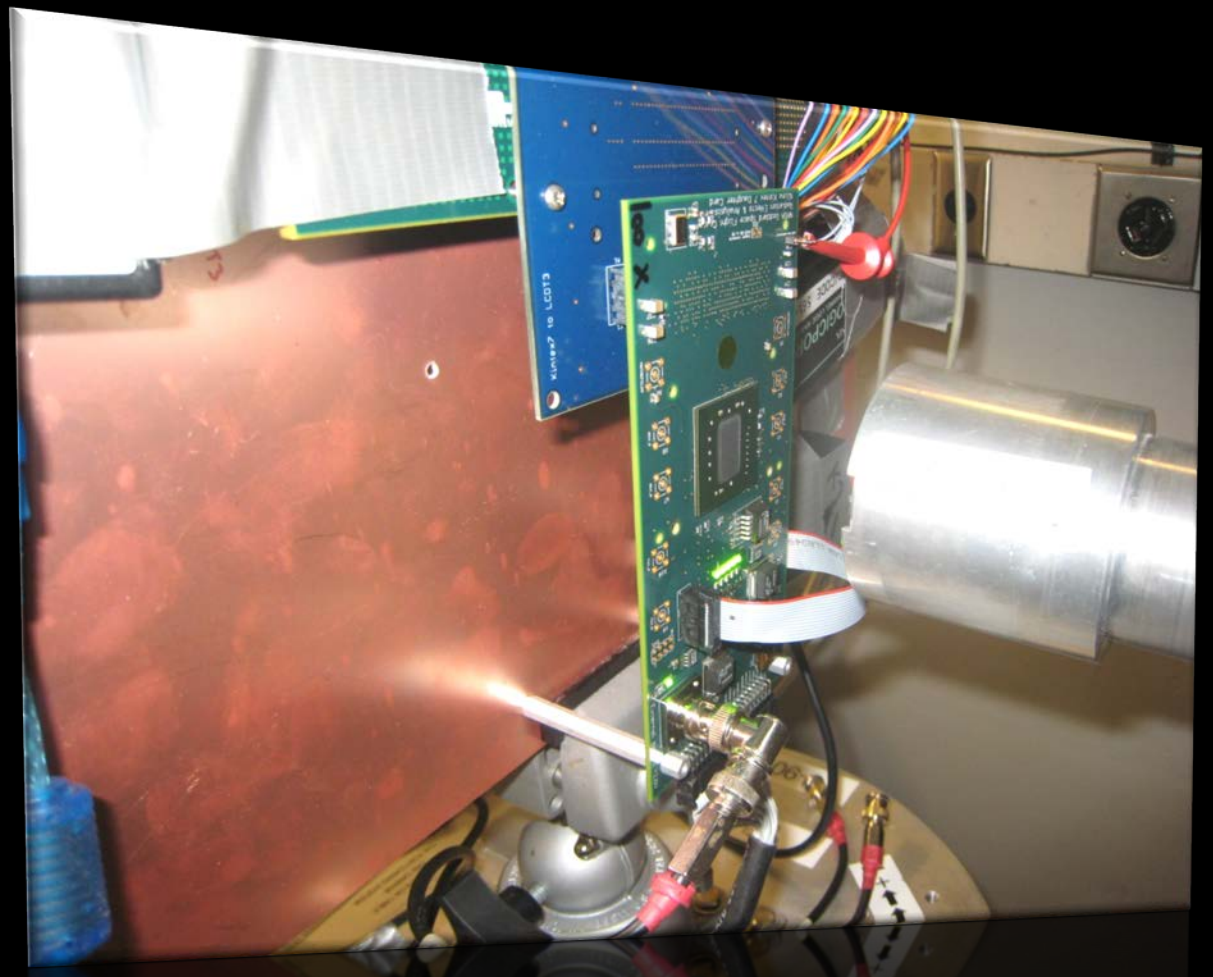
$$\sigma_{SEF} = f\left(\sigma_{configuration}, \sigma_{BRAM}, \sigma_{functionalLogic}, \sigma_{HiddenLogic}\right)$$

Dominant mechanisms of failure will drive σ_{SEF}

SEF and Dominant Mechanisms of Failure

- **Distinction is made between SEU/SEF test methodologies, functional testing, and reliability/TID studies.**
- **The mechanisms of failure, their impact, and metrics differ:**
  - **SEU/SEF:** Upon random-event particle ionization…how often does something happen; mean-time-to-failure; mean-fluence-to-failure; probabilities; statistics. Flat portion of reliability-bathtub curve.
  - **Functional:** Based on a potential design flaw… Does the system operate as expected? No correlation to how long it takes to find a failure or how often – the importance is to find any failure.
  - **Reliability/TID:** degradation… right-side rising portion of bathtub curve.
- **SEF cross-sections depend on the FPGA type and the user-mapped design's dominant mechanisms of failure. Yet some studies tend to focus on mechanisms that have negligible impact.**
- **SEE dominant mechanisms of failure drive the following:**
  - **Test methodology (test fixture, stimulus, monitors, and capture)**
  - **Data results (cross-sections) … no need to concentrate on items that have negligible contributions.**
  - **Error rate/ Survivability prediction**

SRAM-based FPGA Single Event Effects (SEE) Study: Xilinx Kintex-Ultrascale (XCKU040-1LFFVA1156I)



Xilinx Kintex-UltraScale Study Objectives

SEU: single event upset
σ_{SEU}: SEU Cross-section
SEFI: single event functional interrupt
DUT: device under test
SEL: single event latch-up
SET: single event transient

- **This is an independent investigation that evaluates the single event destructive and transient susceptibility of the the Xilinx Kintex-UltraScale device.**
- **Design/Device susceptibility is determined by monitoring the DUT for SET and SEU induced faults by exposing the DUT to a heavy ion beam.**
- **Potential SEL is checked throughout heavy-ion testing by monitoring device current.**
- **FPGA part# XCKU040-1LFFVA1156I.**

$$\sigma_{SEF} = f\left(\sigma_{configuration}, \sigma_{BRAM}, \sigma_{functionalLogic}, \sigma_{HiddenLogic}\right)$$

system σ_{SEU}

Configuration — *Block RAM* — *Functional logic* — *SEFI*

σ_{SEU} σ_{SEU} σ_{SEU} σ_{SEU}

NEPP performs independently driven studies to determine various device/system susceptibilities as they pertain to NASA programs.

Collaboration and Test Campaigns

This study is divided in two phases (if any, additional phases will be community driven/funded):

- **Phase I: Generic component study:**
  - **Collaboration: NEPP, Xilinx, and Space R^2 LLC**
  - **Tests performed: 11/2019 LBNL**
  - **Additional Data: gathered from a prior NEPP Kintex-UltraScale test campaign 03/2017 TAMU**
  - **Completed: test report submitted (December 2019)**
- **Phase II: Advanced component/system study:**
  - **Collaboration: NEPP, Xilinx, Aerospace, and Space R^2 LLC**
  - **New structures/tasks:**
    - **Scrubbing (32-bit 50 MHz)**
    - **Xilinx Microblaze processor**
    - **Multi-transceiver (GTX) lanes**
    - **Triple modular redundancy (TMR)**
  - **Will begin shortly after government opening.**

Impact to Community: Kintex-UltraScale

COTS: commercial off the shelf

- **Entry into the aerospace market with COTS expectation (KU060)*.**
- **Fabricated on a high-k metal gate (HKMG) TSMC 20 nm planar HPL (high performance low power) process.**
- **I/O interfaces are robust and meet the space community's needs.**
- **Previous studies show no SEL.**
- **There are no embedded mitigation circuits in the user fabric. However, higher gate-count affords the user to insert mitigation.**
- **There is no embedded processor. However, the user can embed a soft-core.**

Data Transfer Is Key for Our New System Applications: Kintex-UltraScale Transceivers (GTH and GTY … GTX)

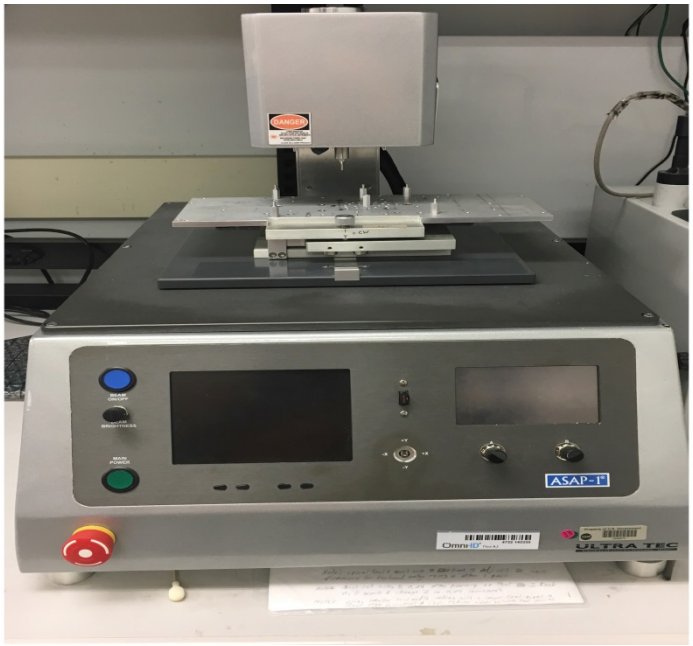
Type	GTH	GTY
Quantity	16-64	0-32
Maximum Data Rate	16.3Gb/s	16.3Gb/s
Minimum Data Rate	0.5Gb/s	0.5Gb/s

Actual designated device (by Xilinx) is the KU060. KU040 was the device under test (DUT) for this investigation. Both devices are from the same Xilinx product family (same process) and have the same geometry (20 nm). It is agreed upon and understood by the SEE community that data obtained by one device applies to the other.

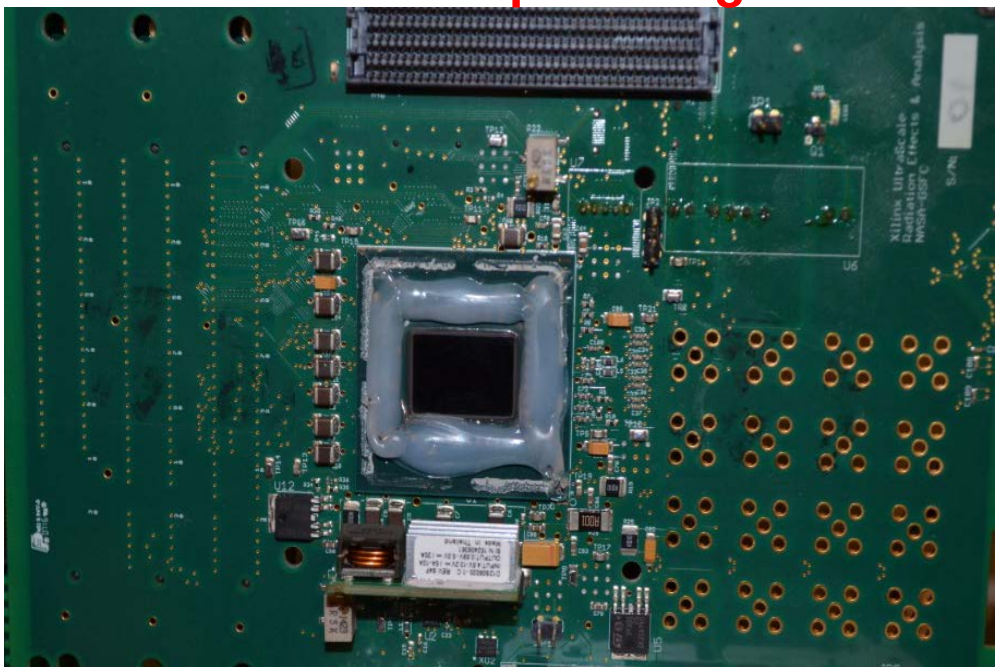
DUT Preparation for Heavy-Ion SEE Testing

- NEPP populated three custom-made daughter boards with XCKU040-1LFFVA1156I (DUT) devices.
- The DUTs were thinned using mechanical etching via an Ultra Tec ASAP-1 device preparation system.
- The parts were successfully thinned to 90 um – 100 um.

Ultra Tec ASAP-1



NEPP custom developed daughter card



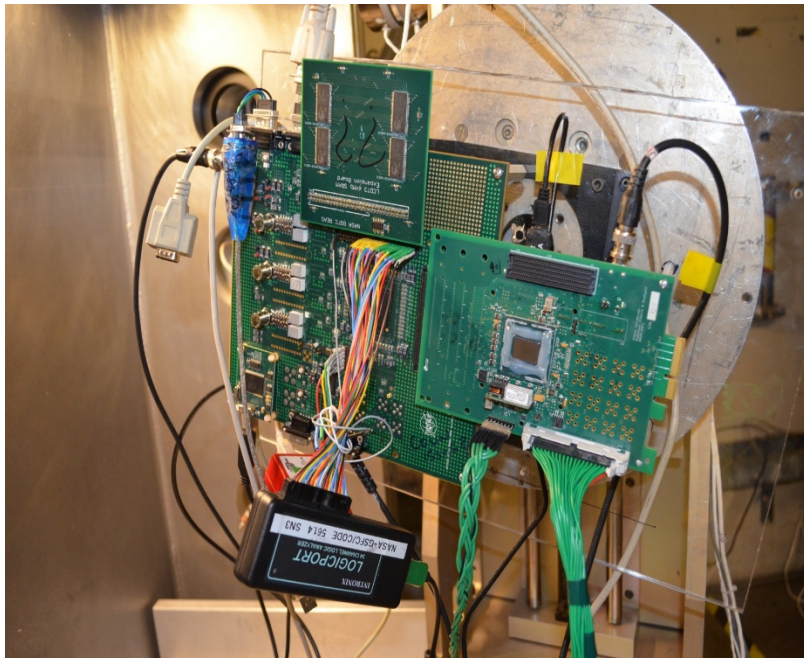
Test System: LCDT and DUT (KU040)

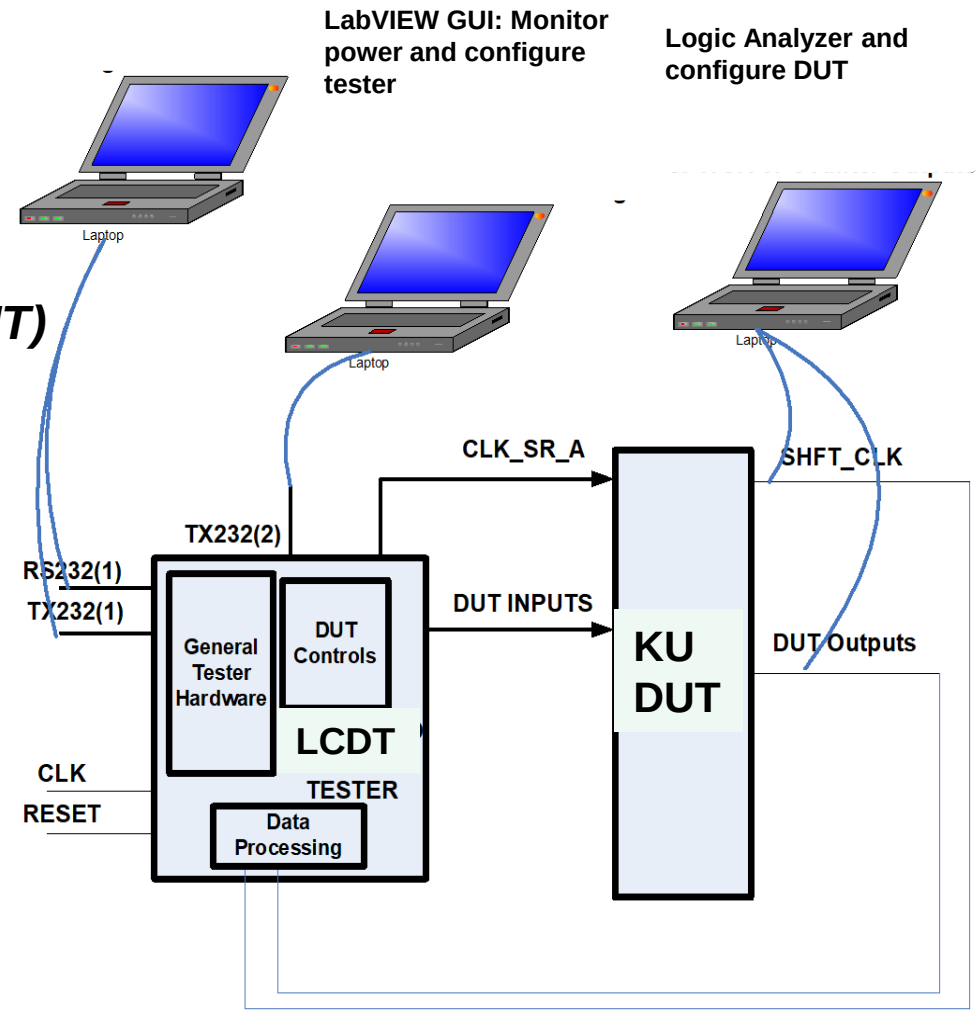
LCDT: low cost digital tester
GUI: Graphical User Interface
CLK, CLK_SR_A, SHFT_CLK: clocks

RS232, TX232: universal asynchronous receiver-transmitter (UART)

LCDT3: NEPP custom developed Motherboard tester

LCDT3 connected to daughterboard (DUT)





Heavy-Ion Test Facilities and Test Conditions

- **Flux:** 1.0x10^2 to 1.0x10^5 particles/cm^2/s
- **Fluence:** All tests were run to 1 x 10^7 particles/cm^2 or until destructive or functional events occurred.
- **Test Temperature:** Room Temperature.

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)

Ion	Energy (MeV/Nucleon)	Effective LET(MeV·cm^2/mg)0°
N	16	1.16
O	16	1.54
Si	16	2.39
Si	16	4.35
Ar	16	7.27
V	16	10.9

Texas A&M (TAMU)

Ion	Energy (MeV/Nucleon)	LET (MeV*cm^2/mg) 0°	LET (MeV*cm^2/mg) 60 °
He	25	0.07	0.14
N	25	0.9	0.18
Ne	25	1.8	3.6
Ar	25	5.5	11.0
Kr	25	19.8	40.0

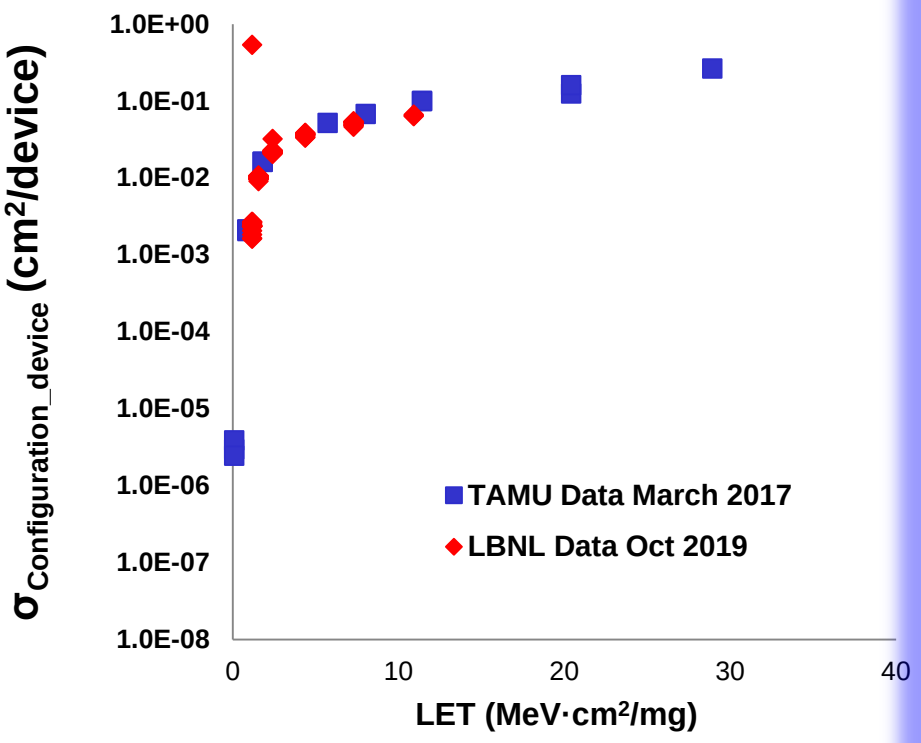
Summary: Phase I DUT Test Structures

Generic Component Study

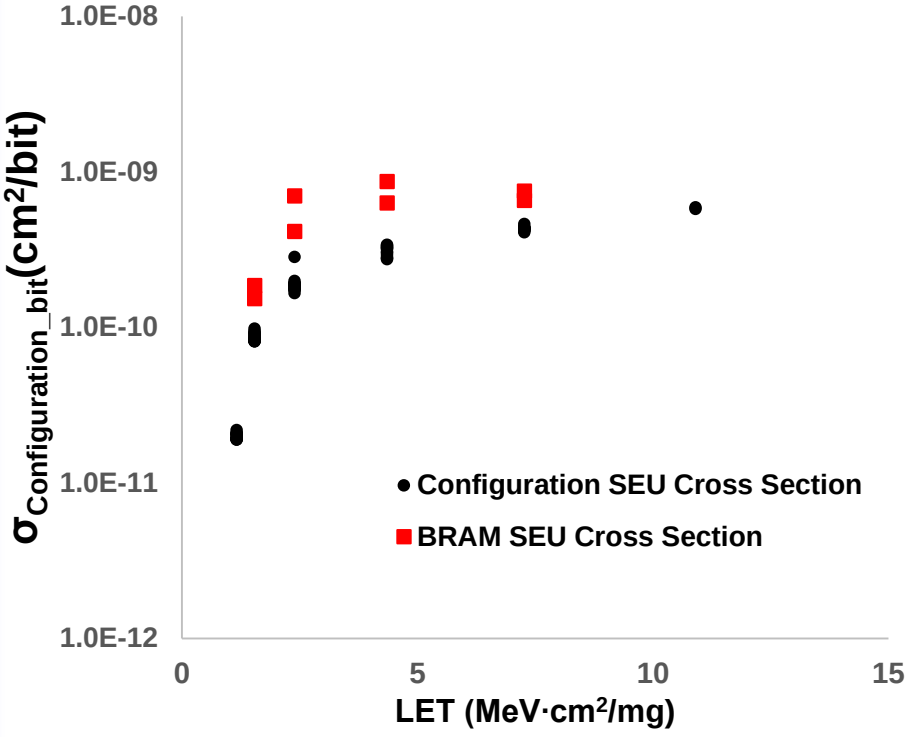
Test Structure	Frequency Range
Configuration	N/A
BRAM	50 MHz
Shift Registers (WSR)	100 MHz
Counter Arrays	50 MHz
DSP Blocks (FIR)	100 MHz
GTX (Aurora single lane)	3.125 GHz

Xilinx Kintex-UltraScale Configuration and BRAM SEU Data

Configuration SEU cross-sections Across Device



Configuration and BRAM SEU cross-sections per bit



Note1: TAMU and LBNL data correlate.

Note2: Graphs have different scales.

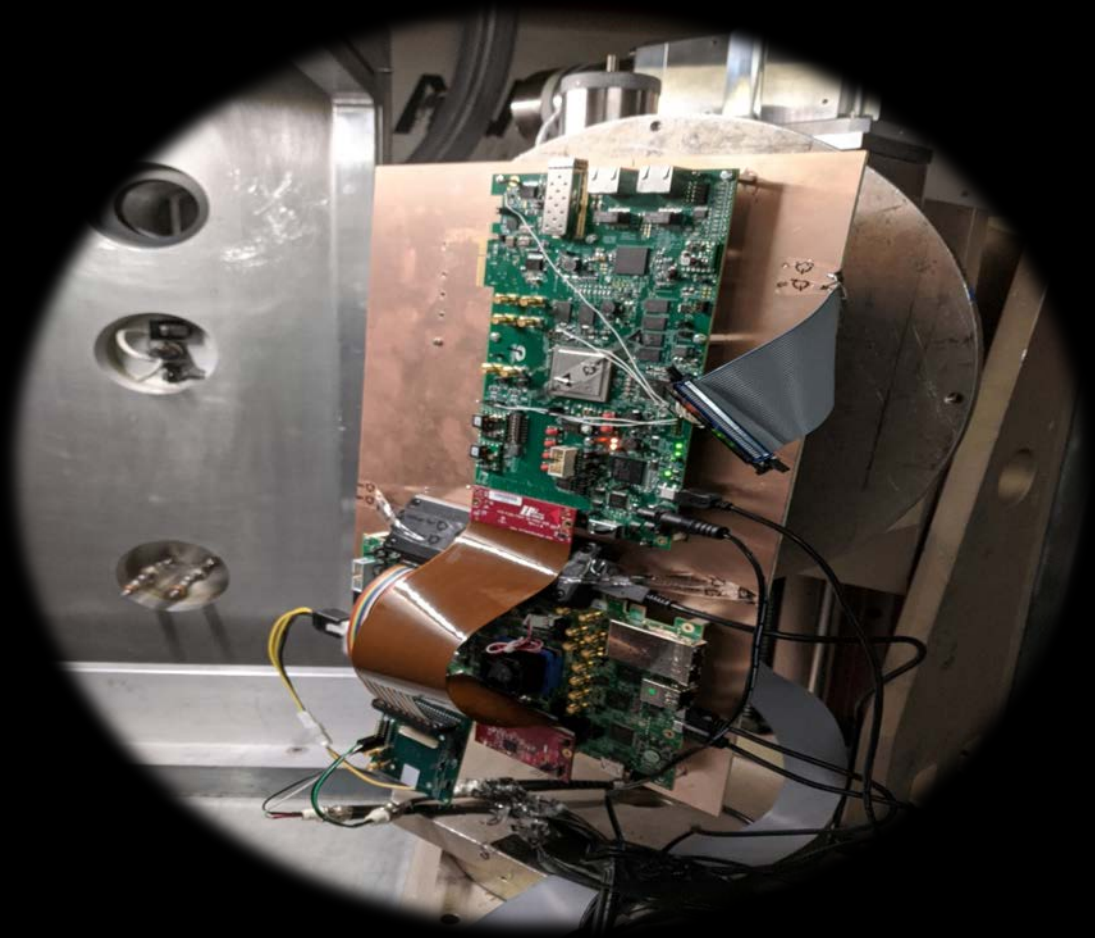
Note 3: Left graph: across device… right graph: normalized per bit.

Additional Kintex-UltraScale data will be shown in a following section.

Kintex-UltraScale SEL

- SEL was monitored for every test.
- Current monitoring is performed by tapping into on-board current sensing resistors.
- No SEL detected < 40 MeVcm^2/mg

SONOS FPGA Single Event Effects (SEE) Study: Microsemi PolarFire ® (MPF300TS-1FCG1152I)



Microsemi PolarFire Study Objectives

- This is an independent investigation that evaluates the single event destructive and transient susceptibility of the Microsemi PolarFire FPGA device.
- Design/Device susceptibility is determined by monitoring the DUT for Single Event Transient (SET) and Single Event Upset (SEU) induced faults by exposing the DUT to a heavy ion beam.
- Potential Single Event Latch-up (SEL) is checked throughout heavy-ion testing by monitoring device current.
- FPGA part# MPF300TS-1FCG1152I.

$$\sigma_{SEF} = f\left(\sigma_{configuration}, \sigma_{BRAM}, \sigma_{functionalLogic}, \sigma_{HiddenLogic}\right)$$

system σ_{SEU} | *Configuration* σ_{SEU} | *Block RAM* σ_{SEU} | *Functional logic* σ_{SEU} | *SEFI* σ_{SEU}

SONOS configuration is not expected to have bit flips. However, pass/fail configuration readbacks were performed after each experiment.

Collaboration and Test Campaigns

This study is divided in multiple phases:

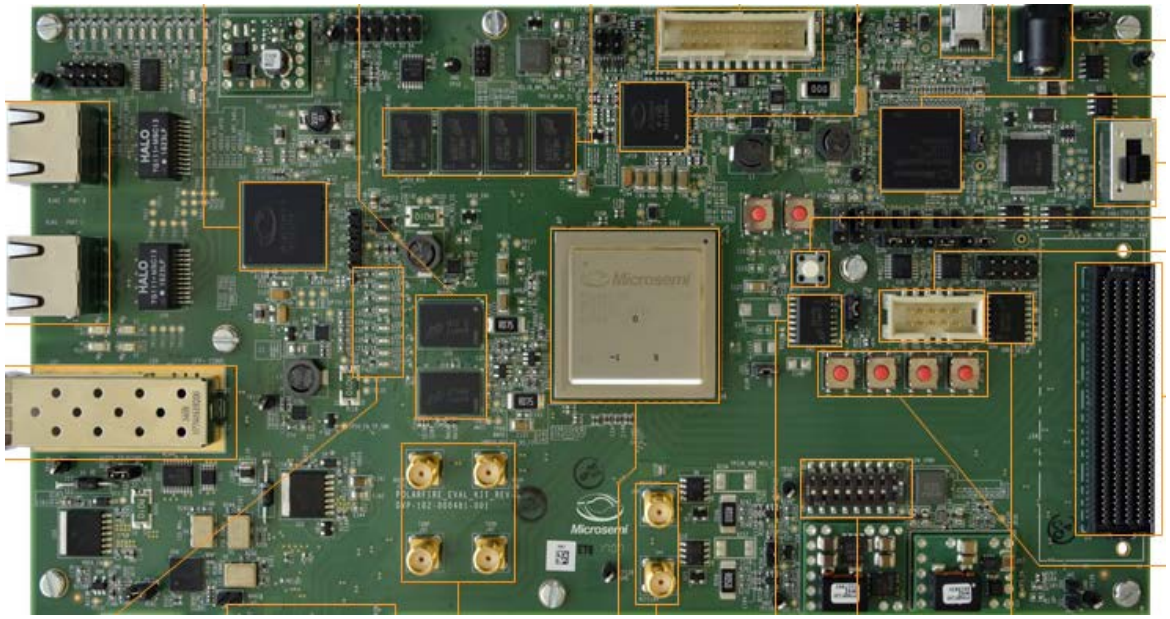
- **Phase I: Generic component study**
  - **Collaboration: NEPP, Microsemi, Trusted & Assured Microelectronics Program**
  - **Tests performed: 11/2019 LBNL**
  - **Completed and test report submitted (December 2019)**
- **Phase II: Fill out SEE cross-sections**
  - **Collaboration: NEPP, Microsemi, Trusted & Assured Microelectronics Program**
  - **Same test structures as Phase I (generic components)**
- **Phase III: TBD**
  - **Collaboration: NEPP, Microsemi, and ???**
  - **New structures/tasks: TBD**

Impact to Community: Microsemi PolarFire ®

- SONOS non-volatile (NV) technology on a 28 nm technology node. Innately hardened configuration.
- Reconfigurable FPGA with SEU immune configuration.
- User fabric logic (flip-flops, combinatorial logic, global routes) are not hardened. However, increase in logic gates allows for user inserted mitigation (e.g., TMR and watchdogs).
- Cost advantage over SRAM-based FPGAs and previous generation Microsemi FPGAs using floating gate NV technology (65nm and older).
- Trust related embedded structures:
  - Physically unclonable function (PUF)
  - Secure eNVM ® (non-volatile memory security feature)
  - Tamper detectors and counter measures
- Up to 24 multi-protocol low power serial I/O: 250Mbps – 12.5 Gbps Transceiver lanes

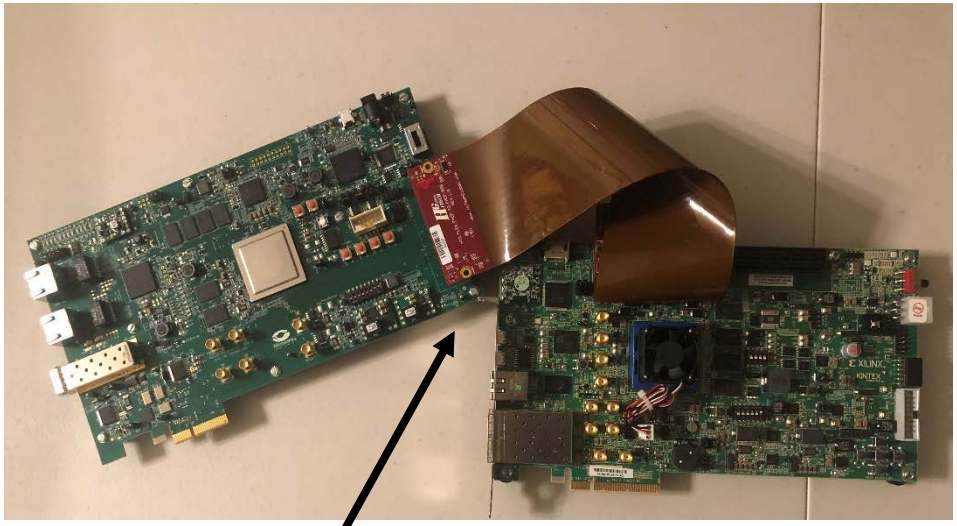
DUT Preparation for Heavy-Ion SEE Testing

- NEPP acquired two evaluation-boards (MPF300-EVAL-KIT) populated with MPF300TS-1FCG1152I PolarFire® devices.
- The DUTs were thinned using mechanical etching via an Ultra Tec ASAP-1 device preparation system.
- The parts were successfully thinned to roughly 100 um.



NEPP use of an evaluation board as a daughterboard instead of developing custom daughter card.

Test Setup: New Motherboard Tester

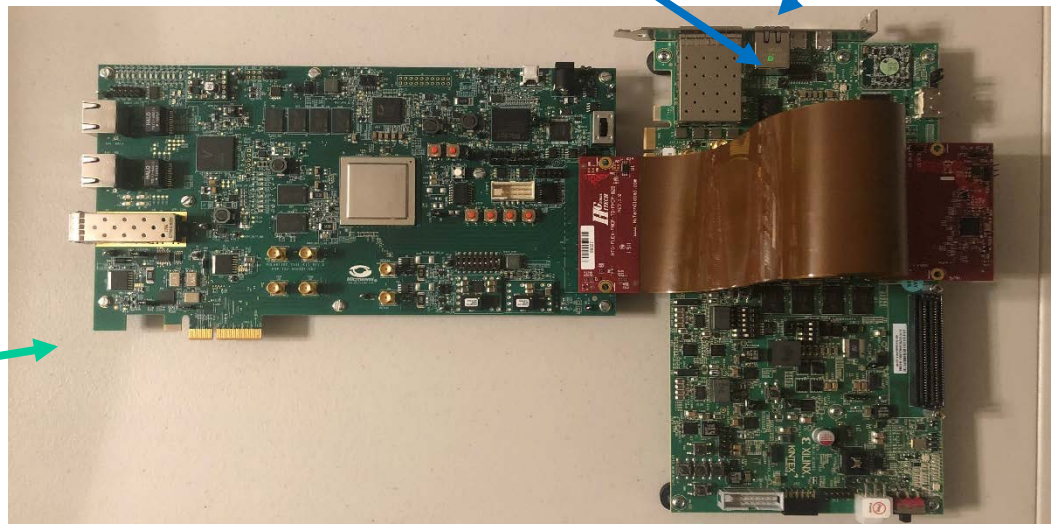


NEPP is now using evaluation boards as Motherboards (testers). LCDT replacement

Motherboard: development of ethernet capability

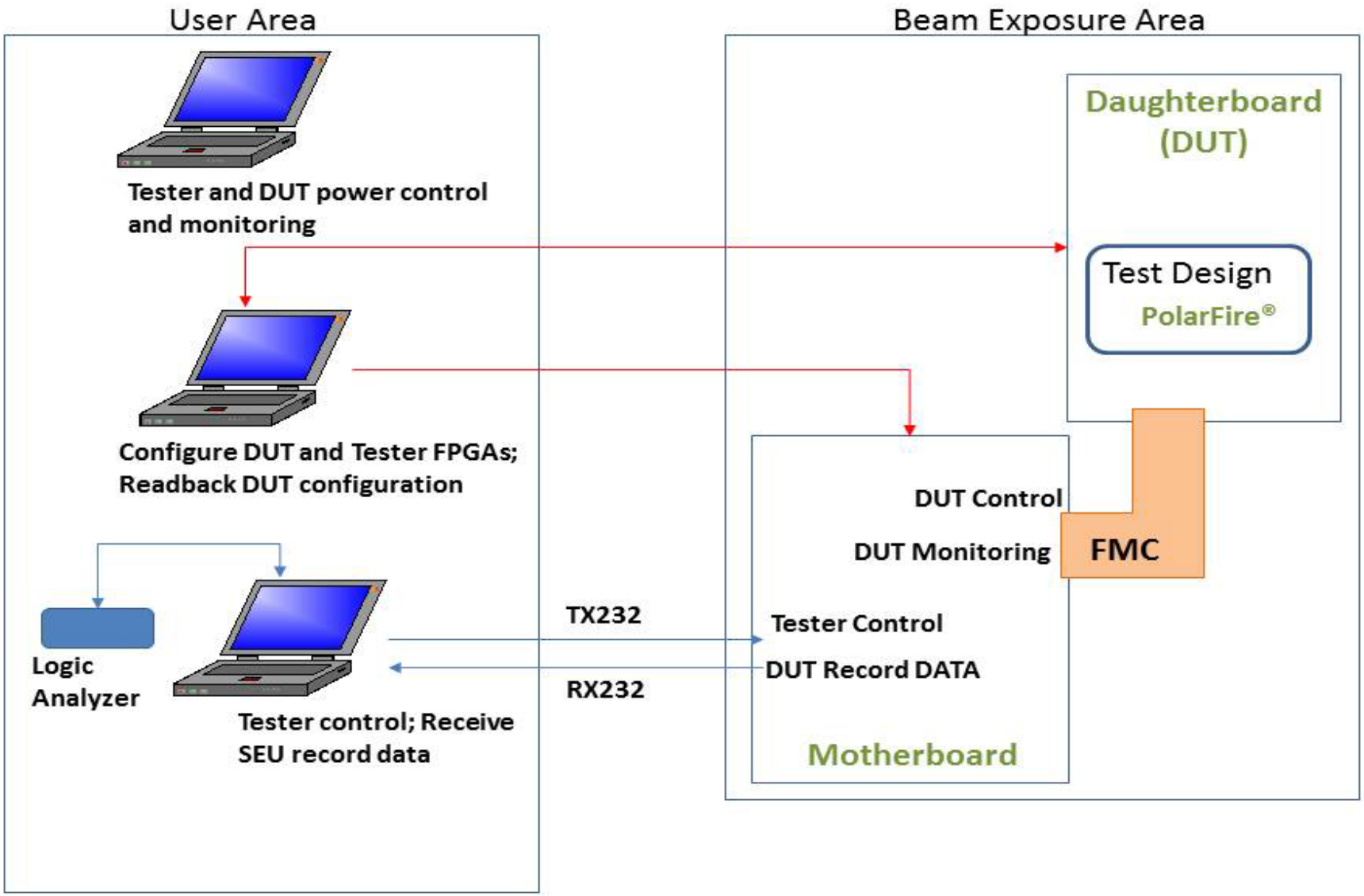
Motherboard

Flexible FPGA Mezzanine Card (FMC)



Daughterboard

Test System: At Heavy-Ion Facility



Summary: Phase I DUT Test Structures

Generic Component Study

Test Structure	Frequency Range
Configuration	N/A
BRAM	50 MHz
Shift Registers (WSR)	100 MHz
Counter Arrays	50 MHz
DSP Blocks (FIR)	100 MHz

Heavy-Ion Test Facility and Test Conditions

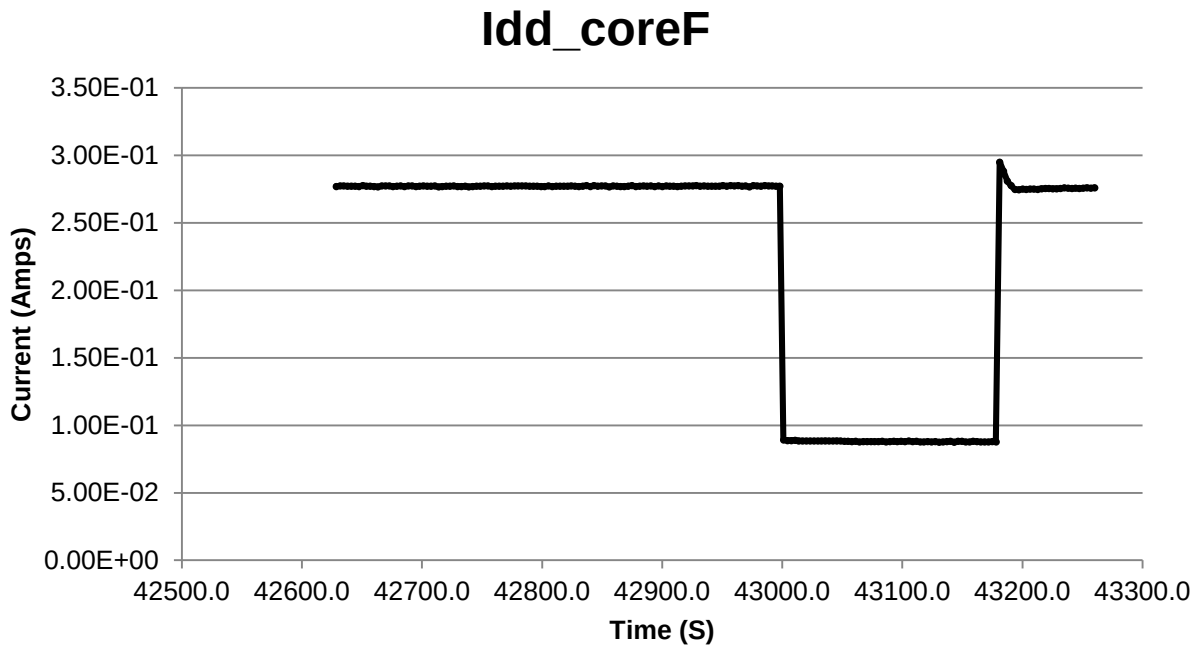
- **Facility:** Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories 88 inch Cyclotron, 16 MeV/amu tune.
- **Flux:** $1.0x10^3$ to $1.0x10^5$ particles/cm^2/s
- **Fluence:** All tests were run to 1 x 10^7 particles/cm^2 or until destructive or functional events occurred.
- **Test Temperature:** Room Temperature.
- **Power Supply Voltage:** V_{cc} = 1.2V; V_{IO} = 2.5V

We lost a significant amount of test time because of California wild-fires.

Linear energy transfer (LET)

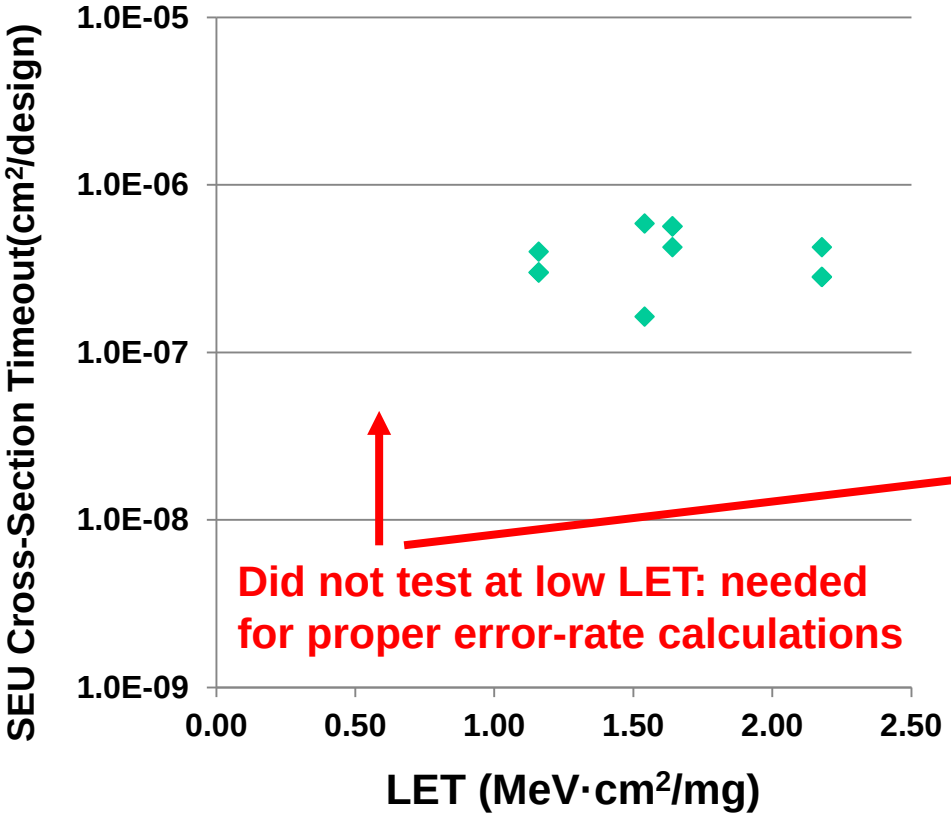
Ion	Energy (MeV/Nucleon)	Effective LET(MeV·cm^2/mg)0°
N	16	1.16
O	16	1.54
Ne	16	2.39

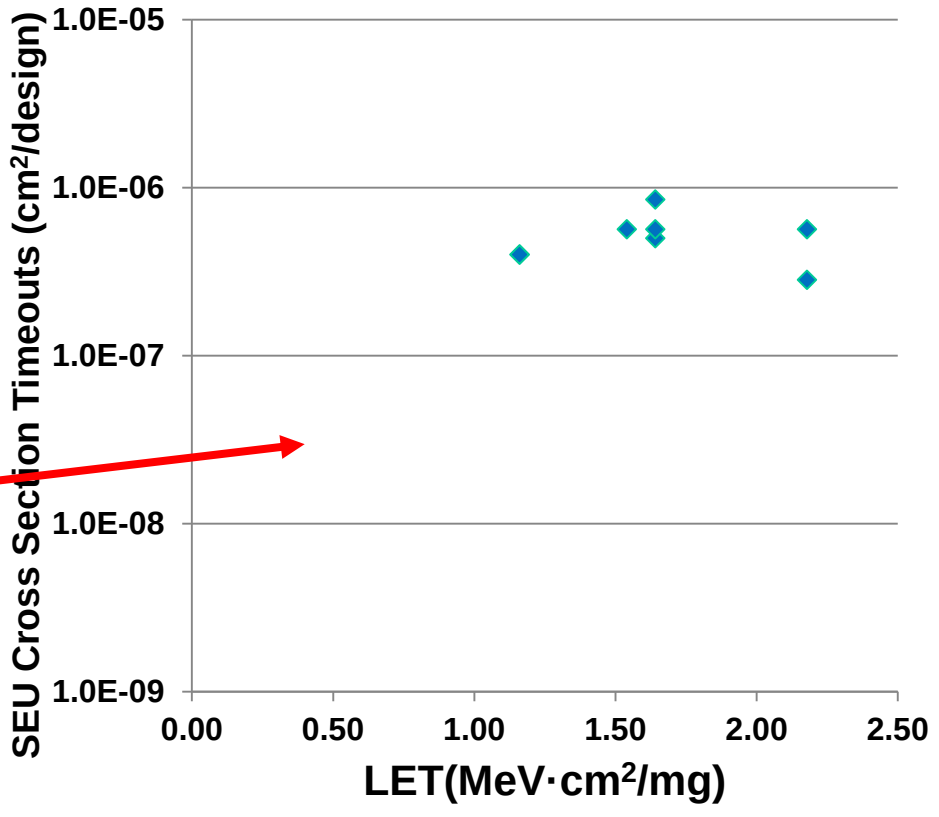
PolarFire ® SEFI: Current-Drop Anomaly



- Every experiment (if run with enough particle fluence) experienced a current drop; however all but one (1) test had a current drop lasting for 1.7 ms.
- Shown: drop lasted for 177s – cleared on its own. Only observed during one test at a LET = 1.0 MeVcm^2/mg.
- Most current measurement systems are not setup to detect a 1.7 ms drop. We were able to catch the event due to the various means of active/real-time data capture during test.

PolarFire ® SEFI: Current-Drop (Timeout*) Cross-Sections





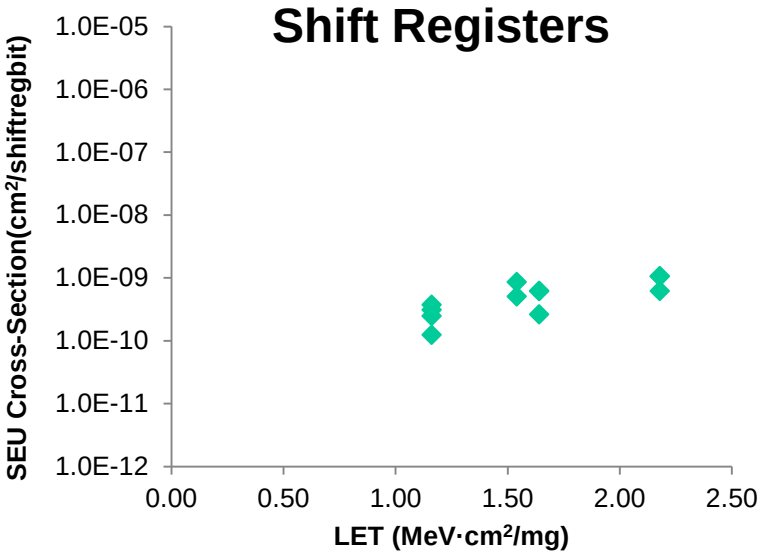
*1.7 ms current-drop event could not be observed via normal current measurement apparatus. However, the current event could be observed by DUT-operation timeouts.

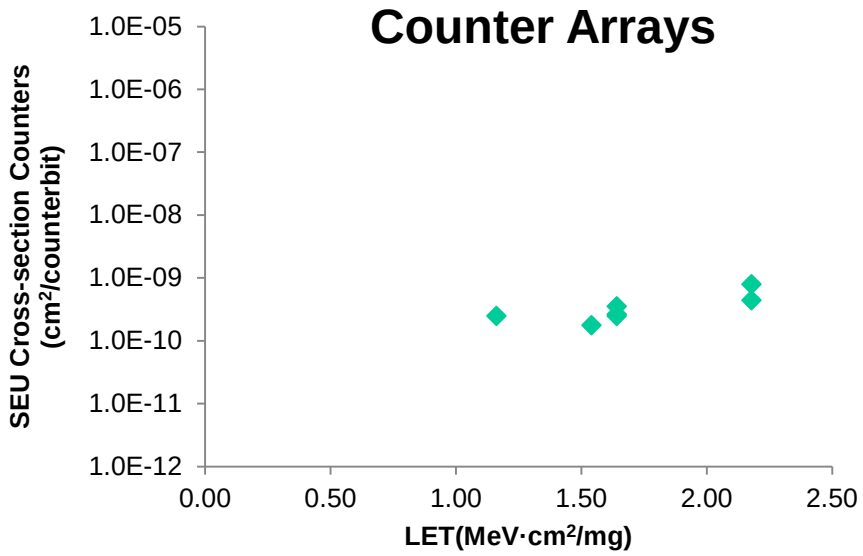
Data across designs correlate … Events are not design dependent; Mechanism of failure is embedded in device.

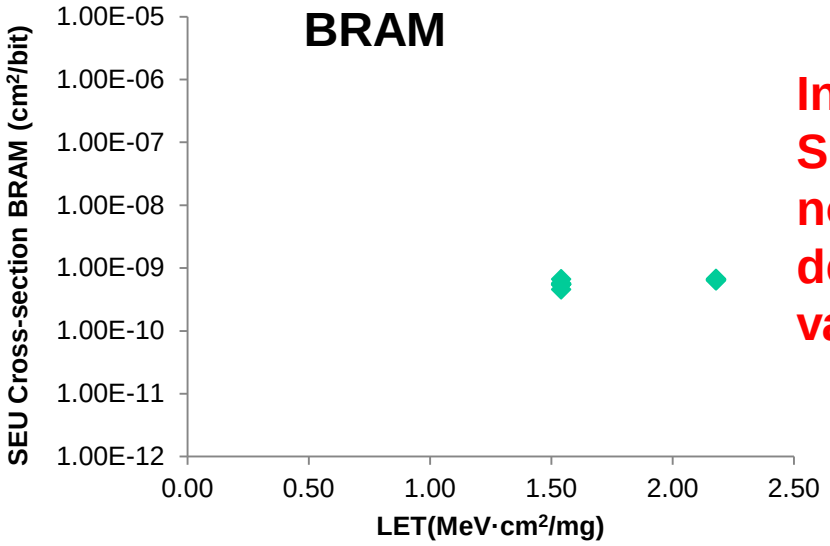
PolarFire ® SEFI: Current Drop Anomaly: Additional Information

- Normal operational current was marked at approximately 2.75 A; The core-current dropped below 100 mA during anomalous event.
- The current drop was always recoverable.
- The current drop lasted for approximately 1.7 *ms* except for one event which lasted for approximately 177*s*.
  - Note that the event shown on the previous slide is not the 1.7 *ms* event; alternatively it is the 177 *s* event.
  - Difference in current-drop duration is generally in the order of microseconds.
- The current drop is significant enough to stop operation (timeout).
- A reset is required after the current drop (state-space is lost during the event).
- No configuration is lost after a current drop (read-back passes with no SEUs).
- The current drop occurred for every test at every LET (that was used during the first-look study).
- **Lower LET values are required to achieve a more accurate reliability/survivability calculation per environment.**
- **Microsemi is aware of the anomaly and is working to identify responsible circuitry.**

Microsemi PolarFire ® SEU Data







Interesting note: per bit SEU cross-sections do not seem to be design dependent at low LET values.

PolarFire® SEL

- SEL was monitored for every test.
- Current monitoring is performed by tapping into on-board current sensing resistors.
- No SEL detected < 40 MeVcm^2/mg

Microsemi PolarFire ® Additional SEE Testing

- **Lower LET experiments are necessary in order to characterize the current-drop onset and to predict error-rates.**
  - **Requires TAMU heavy-ion tests (LETs can go as low as 0.07 MeVcm^2/mg).**
- **Higher LET experiments are necessary in order to fill out the SEU cross-section curve; and to find saturation.**
- **NEPP will investigate:**
  - **More complex embedded components**
  - **Test-as-you-fly (representative tactical designs (RTD)).**

Data Handling and Survivability/Error Rate Prediction Techniques

At the end of the day… the professional industry gathers SEE data for SEF and survivability/error-rate prediction.

What do we do with all this data?

Survivability for Mission Critical Applications: Problem Statement

For SEF analysis, common practice is to use simple test structures that focus on discrete components:

- Data are extrapolated into survivability calculators.
- Generic SEU data are used across all designs.
- Assumption: the need for testing is reduced.
- However, the fidelity of generic SEU data extrapolation to tactical designs is questionable.

Better to use representative tactical designs (RTD) for SEU analysis:

- Data are a better fit for characterizing tactical behavior.
- However, requires SEU testing for every design!

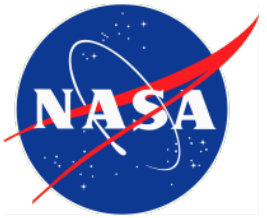
How do we provide SEU data for survivability calculations of tactical systems; while reducing the need to test every design? Generic testing versus Test-As-You-Fly.

RTD Definition and Considerations

- RTD Definition: Test design that approximates the tactical (target) design.
- When we cannot test tactical, we test RTD.
- Considerations for when to develop RTD for SEE testing:
  - Tactical is not available to test.
  - SEE designs require an increase in observation points.
  - Test fixtures can limit I/O, stimulus capability, and capture capability.
  - SEE experiments require the test system to force the DUT into desired states (increases test coverage and assists in validating dominant mechanisms of failure).

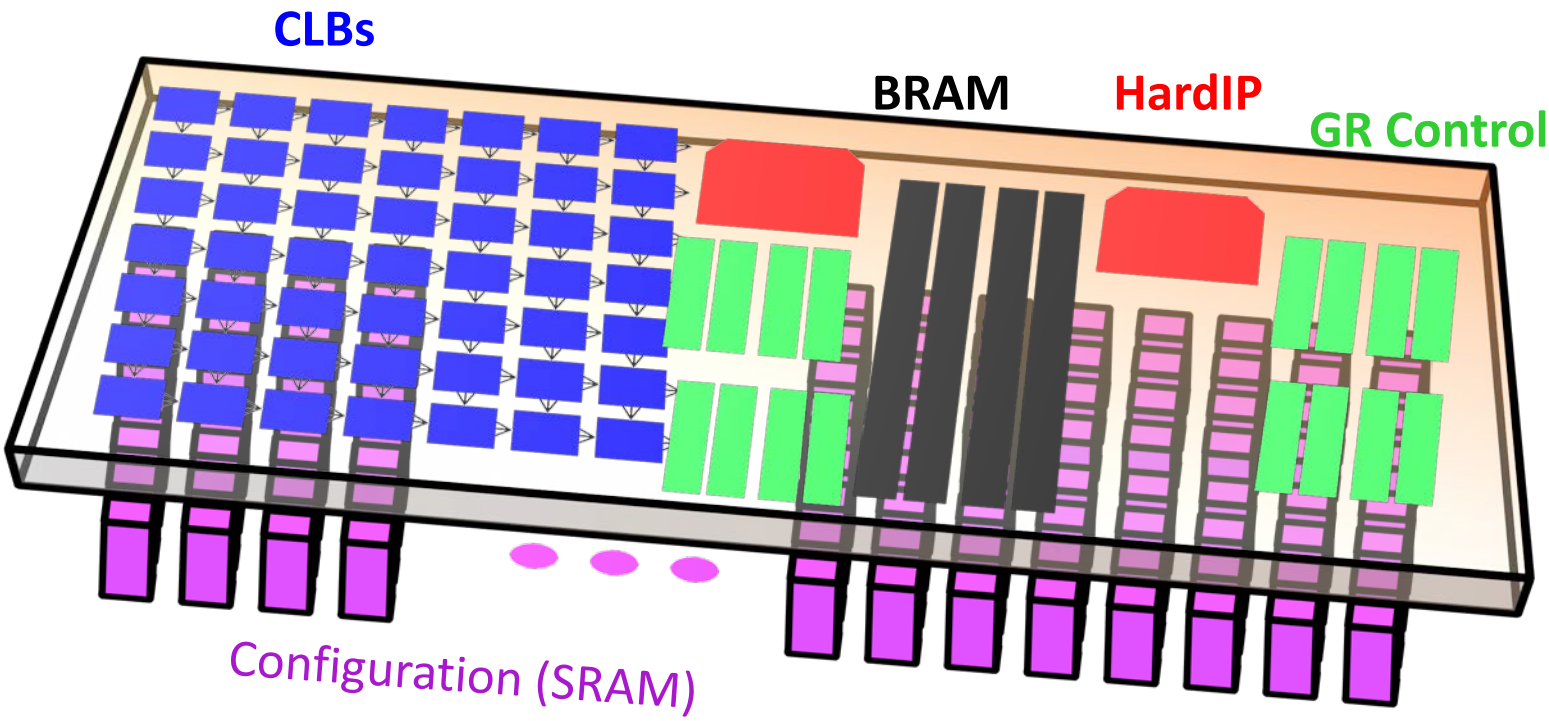
The test-as-you-fly methodology requires complex test systems with an abundance of observation and reporting mechanisms. Requires more than simple heartbeat monitoring.

NEPP FPGA Device Investigations: Generic SEE Data versus RTD/MFTF SEE Data



- Data presented in earlier slides are component level/generic.
- NEPP will always perform a component level investigation on FPGAs:
  - First look
  - Flush out
  - General idea if mitigation will be required
  - Important information for the community
- As FPGA devices become more complex extrapolation from simple component structures to RTD is not an appropriate method for tactical characterization.
- Test-as-you-fly is not new for NEPP. NEPP performs test-as-you-fly (RTD/MFTF) FPGA SEE investigations for mission (program-specific experiments).

A Closer Look Into SRAM-Based FPGA Devices

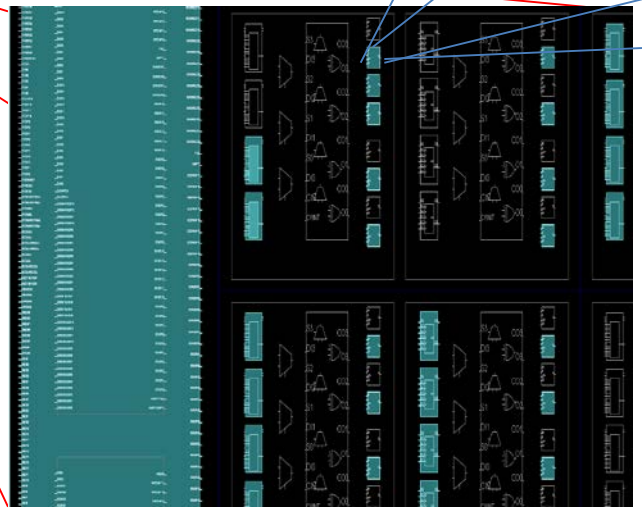


$$\sigma_{SEF} = f\left(\sigma_{configuration}, \sigma_{BRAM}, \sigma_{functionalLogic}, \sigma_{HiddenLogic}\right)$$

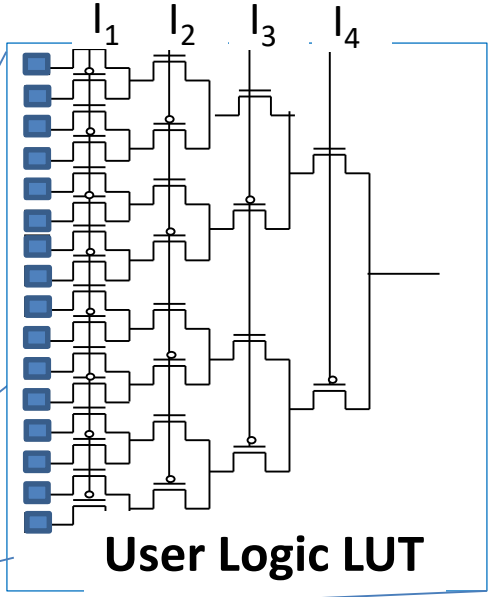
Keep in mind: dominant mechanisms of failure drive σ_{SEF}; and are unique to the FPGA type.

Embedded View of Mapped Logic

FPGA configuration and user logic are different types of embedded components.



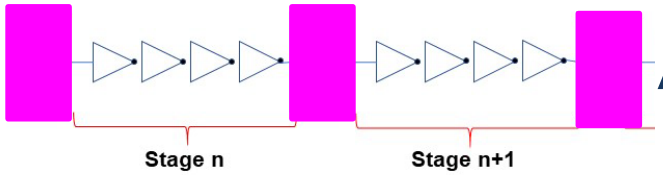
Configuration



Designs only map into a portion of the configuration and only use a portion of the user fabric logic gates.

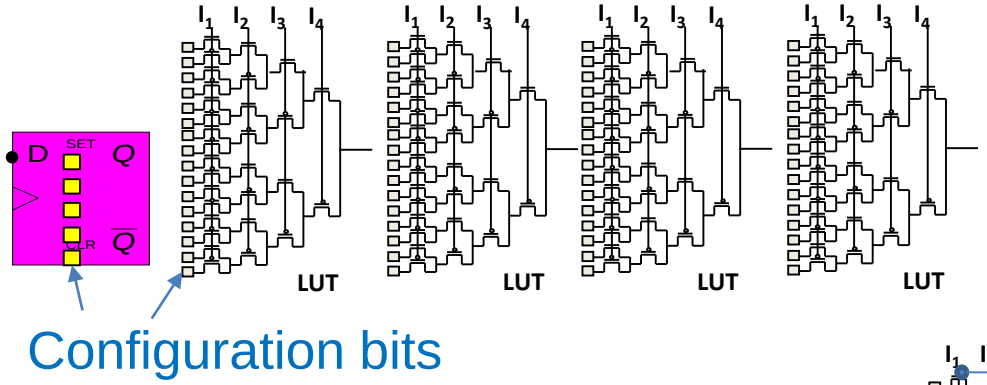
Modern FPGAs have 100's of millions of configuration bits and 100's of thousands of logic cells.

Why Extrapolation Does not work with Generic Test Structures: Example Shift Register



ASIC implementation

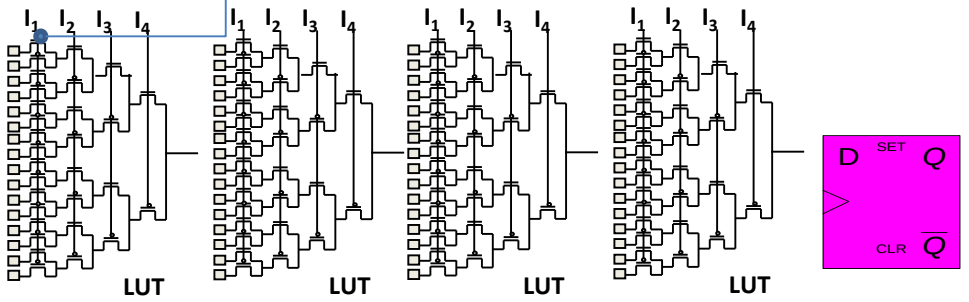
User logic: Lookup Table (LUT)



Configuration bits

User logic: Flip-Flop(DFF)

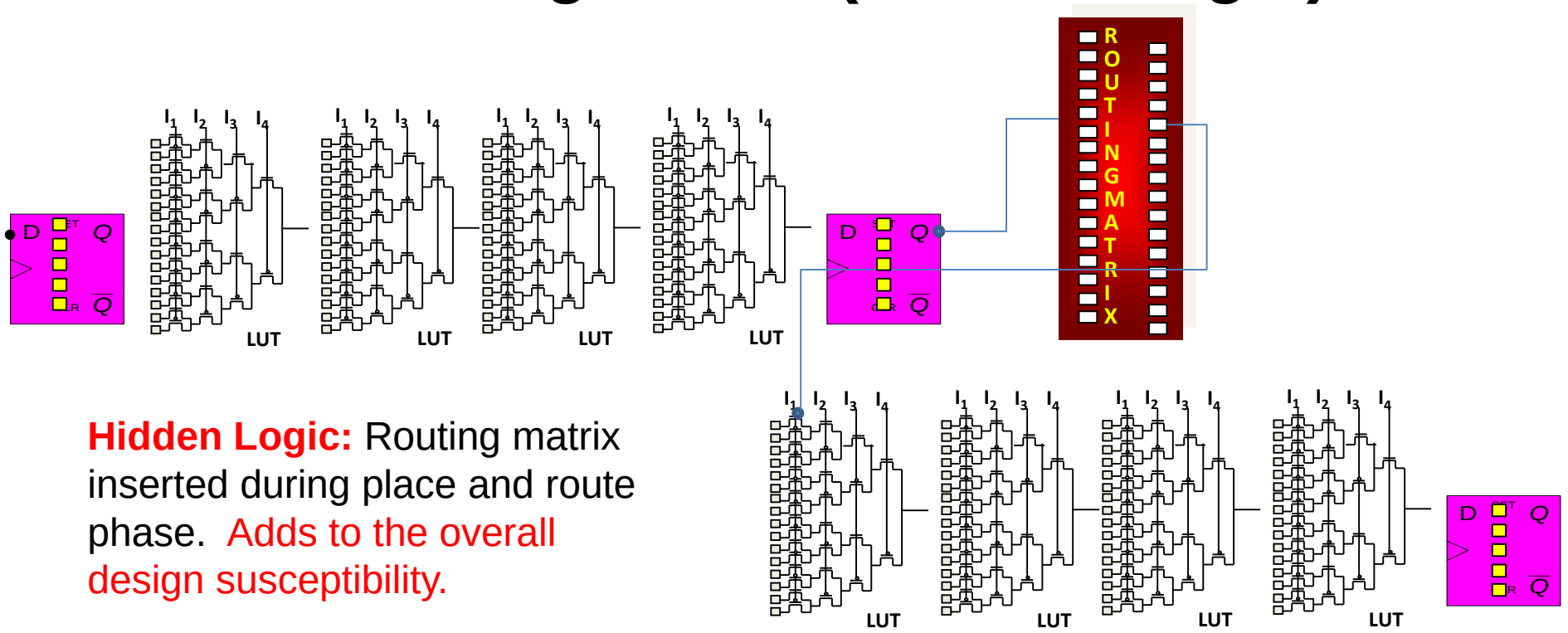
LUTs and DFFs are contained in configuration logic blocks (CLBs)



Generic Xilinx Implementation
(LUT can differ by family)

With an SRAM-based FPGA, each design uses more logic than assumed. Makes extrapolation of SEU data (from simple test structures to tactical designs) unreliable.

Closer Look: Shift Register with Manufacturer Inserted Routing Matrix (Hidden Logic)



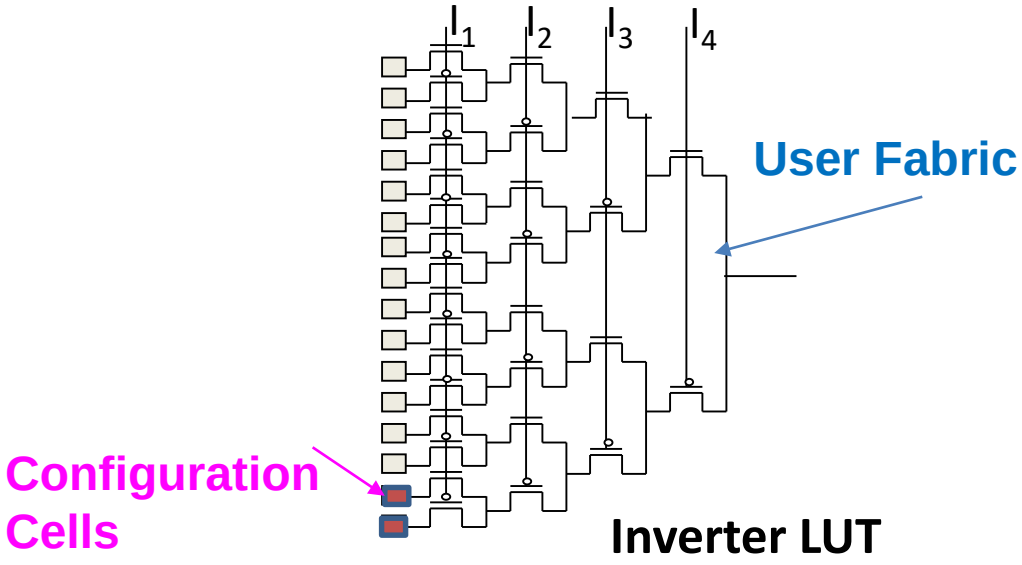
Hidden Logic: Routing matrix inserted during place and route phase. Adds to the overall design susceptibility.

Simple test structures will not capture the impact of a tactical design's hidden logic (data are not extrapolatable). Hence the drive towards testing RTD structures.

Configuration, Mask, and Essential Bits

Design mapping into user fabric logic cells is defined by configuration bit settings.

- **Configuration bits: Total number of configuration cells… (fixed per each FPGA type)**
- **Essential bits: number of configuration cells used by the design mapping (calculated by the manufacturer upon user directive… design and device dependent).**



SEU Cross-Sections

- Cross-section Categorization:
  - Across all configuration cells (device)
  - Per configuration cell (device-bit)
  - Across essential-bits (Design + device)
  - Design specific

Generally, configuration cross-sections are readily available from generic device investigations.

$$\sigma(LET)_{configuration\_Device} = \frac{\#errors}{\#Particles/cm^2}$$

$$\sigma(LET)_{configuration\_bit} = \frac{\#errors}{\left(\#\frac{Particles}{cm^2}\right)*(\#\mathrm{un}maskedconfigurationBits)}$$

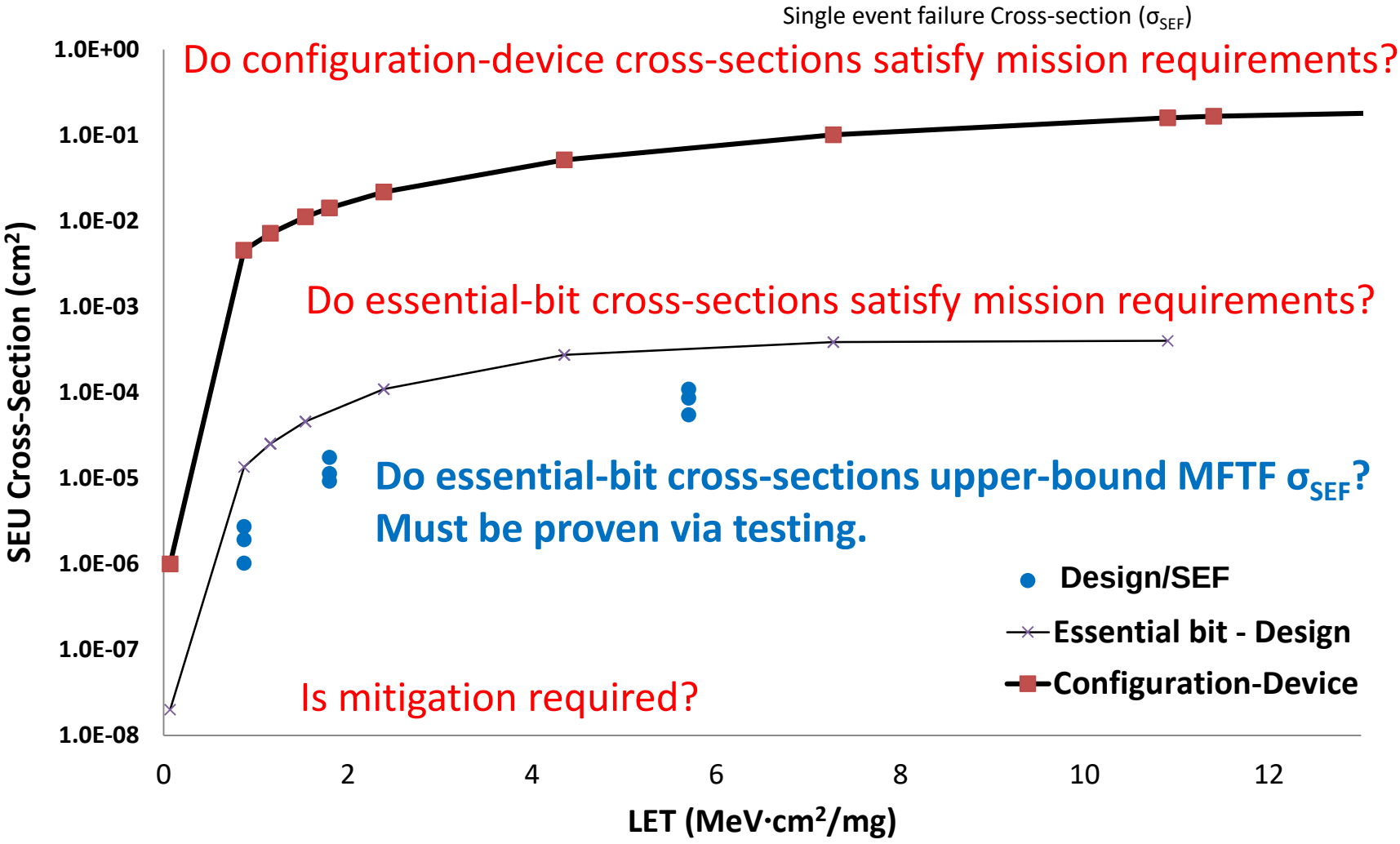
$$\sigma(LET)_{\mathrm{Essential}\_bit} = Essential\_bits \times \sigma(LET)_{configuration\_bit}$$

$$\sigma(LET)_{SEF} = \mathbf{1}/\mathrm{MFTF} = \mathbf{1}/((FailureTime - BeamStartTime)*\mathrm{AverageFlux})$$

Which cross-sections do we use for survivability analysis?

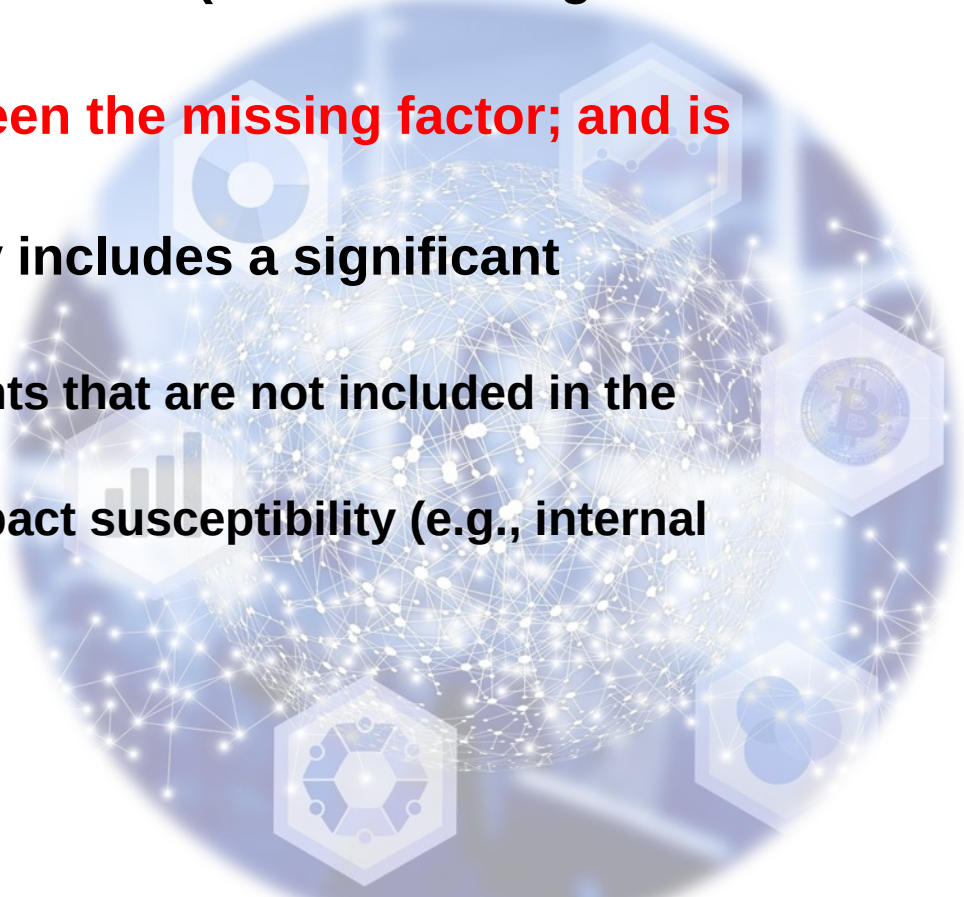
Must consider mission requirements.

If Upper-bounds Satisfy Mission Reliability/Survivability Requirements, Then No Mitigation is Required.



Prove It Before You Use It

- Using $\sigma(LET)_{\text{Essential\_bit}}$ as upper-bounds is not a new concept.
- However, $\sigma(LET)_{\text{Essential\_bit}}$ should only be used if it is known/proven to be an upper-bound (or close enough depending on criticality).
- The proof of bounding has been the missing factor; and is now necessary.
- Why now? Device complexity includes a significant amount of hidden logic.
  - Hidden logic have components that are not included in the essential bit count.
  - It has shown (in flight) to impact susceptibility (e.g., internal scrubbers).



Roles and Contributions to Current and Future FPGA SEE Studies

- **NEPP (with collaborating organizations) and the manufacturer can provide generic SEE data.**
- **Programs will be responsible for sponsoring test-as-you-fly studies.**
  - **Expectations: generic data/information are a foundation for test-as-you-fly campaign development.**
  - **Programs should participate in RTD/DUT test design development.**

Reach out if interested in collaborating

Xilinx SEU Test and Analysis: What Can the Manufacturer and NEPP Provide?

Front-end Proof of Concept

$$\sigma(LET)_{\text{Essential\_bit}} = Essential\_bits \times \sigma(LET)_{configuration\_bit}$$

- Perform generic (first look) component studies (well understood process).
- It is understood that providing DFF, CLB, and LUT generic test data is not enough. They are not extrapolatable to tactical designs.
- **What should follow? Prove (for a variety of design complexities) $\sigma(LET)_{\text{Essential\_bit}}$ is an upper-bound to $\sigma(LET)_{SEF}$.**

Manufacturer/NEPP provide generic data: configuration, BRAM, and embedded logic cross-sections.

Manufacturer/NEPP perform a variety of tests (benchmarks) to compare $\sigma(LET)_{\text{Essential\_bit}}$ to $\sigma(LET)_{\text{SEF}}$.

Manufacturer/NEPP perform additional testing to investigate potential SEFIs and other device SEE susceptibilities (global routes and SEL).

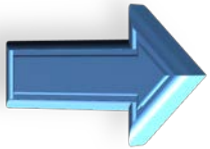
Still somewhat generic – but can answer several questions for users and alleviate the need for testing.

Xilinx SEU Test and Analysis: What Does The End-User Do with The Data?

Application of Concept

Intellectual property (IP)

- If $\sigma(LET)_{\text{Essential\_bit}}$ proves to be a satisfactory upper-bound, the $\sigma(LET)_{configuration\_bit}$ data multiplied by the of the tactical design's essential-bit count can be used by development teams for survivability analysis.
- Examples of hidden logic not covered by essential bit counts that can impact susceptibility:
  - Mixed-signal circuitry (e.g. ADC or other hidden analog circuits), global-routes, and other hidden logic structures (embedded IP cores).

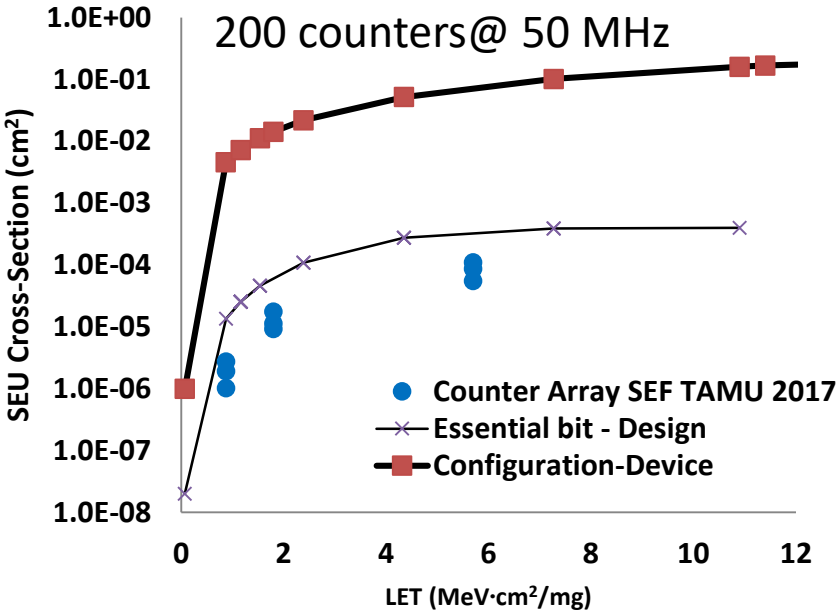


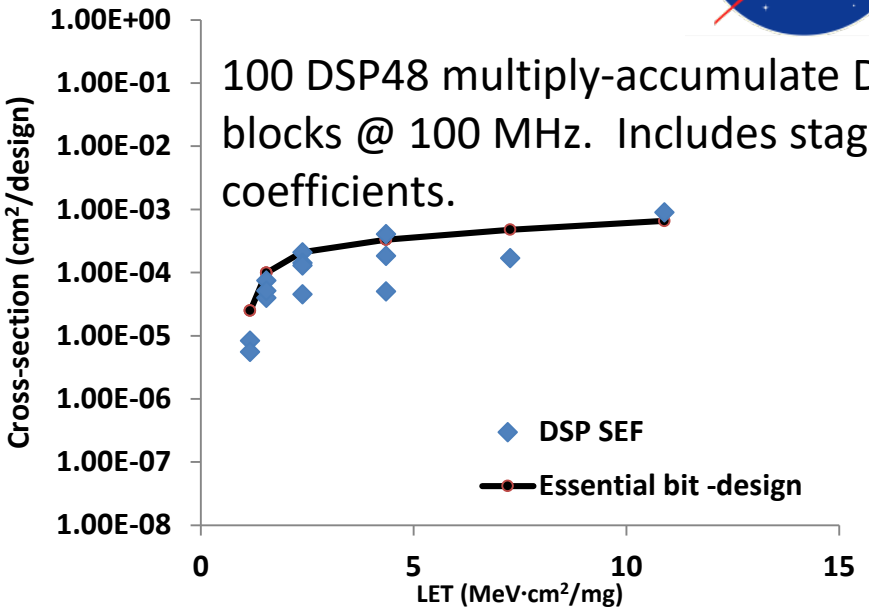
Compare your design to manufacturer benchmark designs. Use $\sigma(LET)_{\text{Essential\_bit}}$ for survivability calculations if $\sigma(LET)_{\text{Essential\_bit}} > \sigma(LET)_{\text{SEF}}$

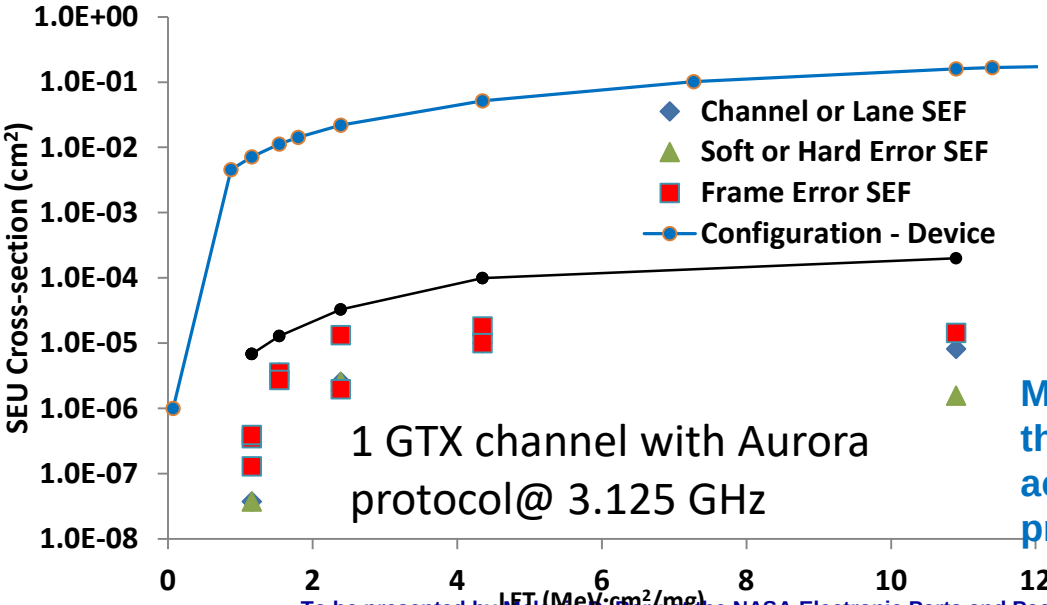
If manufacturer data show anomalies or your tactical design has untested complexities, additional RTD testing will be needed.

The end-user should not piecemeal small grained components (e.g., CLBs) for survivability analysis because of hidden logic and topological non-linearities.

Kintex-UltraScale SEU Cross-Sections







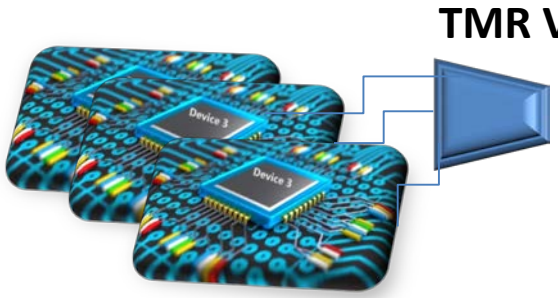
$\sigma_{essential\_bit} > \sigma_{SEF}$

Implies $\sigma_{Essential\_bit}$ can be used to predict survivability (non-mitigated design).

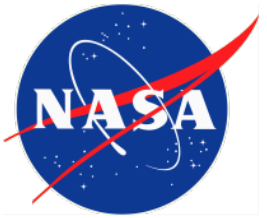
More testing will be performed to investigate if there are SEFIs and if upper-bound holds across complex designs (e.g., embedded processors); and higher LET.

Mitigation Analysis

- If the survivability analysis proves the design implementation does not satisfy mission requirements, user-inserted mitigation might be necessary.
  - This will change the design and its essential-bit count.
  - Essential-bit upper-bounds cannot be used to measure the survivability of applications with embedded mitigation.
    - Mitigation requires additional logic
    - Additional logic will increase the essential-bit count and consequently increase the estimated σ_{SEF}.
  - **RTD-MFTF testing is required to measure the efficacy of the inserted mitigation. Can't assume mitigation performs as expected.**
  - Requires the development team to perform SEU testing.
- Should analyze the design with-mitigation and without-mitigation (when possible)… used as another metric for the fidelity of the inserted mitigation.



Summary: Data Handling and Survivability/Error Rate Prediction Techniques



- Purpose of the work is to improve SEU data-handling for survivability analysis.
- Generic SEU data obtained from testing simple structures (e.g., shift registers) are no longer adequate (on their own) for SEU characterization of FPGA designs. However provide good information for a first look analysis.
- An approach is presented that combines investigating simple and complex (test-as-you-fly) test structures:
  - Investigates the efficacy of using configuration SEU data with design specific information for survivability analysis ($\sigma(LET)_{\text{Essential\_bit}}$).
  - Goal is to reduce the necessity of performing SEU testing on every design; by use of upper-bounding.
  - Use of $\sigma(LET)_{\text{Essential\_bit}}$ as a bound must be validated.
  - MFTF testing of complex structures is required to validate the approach (per SRAM-based FPGA family of devices).
- Xilinx Kintex-UltraScale data are presented:
  - Data suggest that essential-bit SEU cross-sections might be a reliable data-set for survivability analysis.
  - Additional testing is required and will be performed… yet initial results are promising.
  - Eventually, this approach can reduce the need for testing by the end-user.
- If mitigation is required, $\sigma(LET)_{\text{SEF}}$ RTD-MFTF testing is required to be performed/orchestrated by the end-user.

Survivability/Error-rate Prediction and Other FPGAs

- **Intel SRAM-based FPGAs**
  - Configuration susceptibility cannot be directly measured. However, BRAM susceptibility can be measured.
  - Essential bit counts are not provided by the manufacturer.
  - At this point, The RTD/MFTF method is the most reliable (only) means for SEE characterization.
- **Microsemi Flash and SONOS**
  - Configuration is SEE immune.
  - Microsemi's new line of FPGA devices might not contain embedded TMR (check before you use).
  - Device complexity has grown such that RTD/MFTF testing should be performed.
- **Mitigation in any device:**
  - RTD/MFTF testing is a must.

NEPP Future Work
SEE in FPGA Devices

Potentially In the Works…

- Investigation of Lattice 28 nm CrossLink-NX (FD-SOI) SRAM-based FPGA
  - Proton
  - TID
- Further SEE investigation of 28 nm NV-based PolarFire ®
  - Proton
  - Heavy-ion
  - Test-as-you-fly
- Xilinx SRAM-based MPSoC 16nm FinFET ruggedized (and non-ruggedized) package
  - Proton
  - Heavy-ion
  - Test-as-you-fly (NASA-specific)
- Intel SRAM-based Stratix-10 SoC 14 nm FinFET
  - Proton
  - Heavy-ion
  - Test-as-you-fly
- Xilinx SRAM-based Kintex-Ultrascale 20 nm
  - Will be driven by The Aerospace Corporation (David Meshel)
  - Heavy-ion
  - Test-as-you-fly

Thank You
Questions?

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