



# A Video Controller

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# A Video Controller for an FPGA

## Project specification:

- Flexible video controller
- Driven by C from the Microblaze  
Not interesting otherwise
- Only uses on-chip RAM

Specifically, we won't use the SRAM or SDRAM. Makes it easier to use it in projects that use other peripherals.

# On-Chip RAM

Assume we have an XC2S300E-6PQ208C FPGA (slightly different than what is on the Digilent board).

From the Xilinx “Spartan-II 1.8V FPGA Family” data sheet, we find

Device	CLB array	CLBs	Distributed RAM Bits	Block RAM Bits
XC2S300E	32 × 48	1536	98 304	64K

Distributed RAM uses the LUTs and is awkward.

Block RAM is dual-ported.

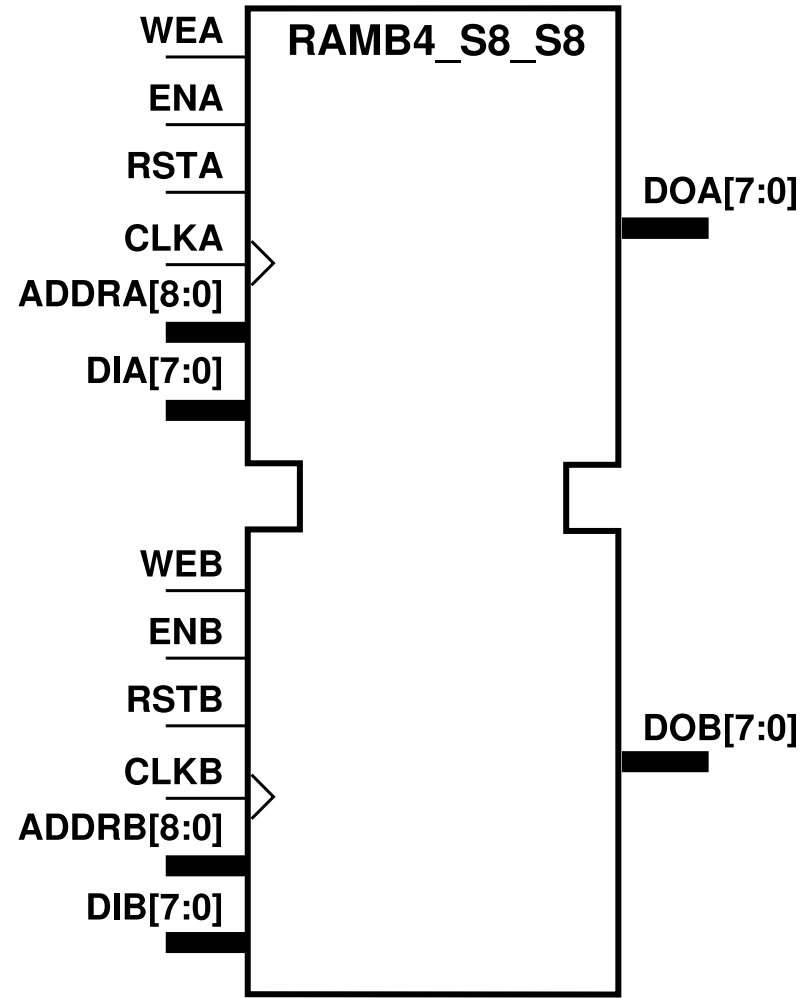
We have at most 8K bytes.

# Block RAM Configuration

From the Xilinx  
“Spartan-IIE 1.8V FPGA  
Family: Functional  
Description” datasheet,  
Block RAMs are 4096  
bits each.

The XC2S300E has 16  
such blocks.

Many different  
configurations. We like  
the byte-wide one:  
 $512 \times 8$ .



# Dual-Ported RAM

The dual-ported nature is very convenient.

Two truly independent input/output ports that do not have to be synchronized.

We will use one port for the video controller, the other for the processor.

# Memory Usage

VGA is  $640 \times 480 = 307\,200$  pixels

Even at one bit per pixel, this requires  
 $307\,200 \div 1024 = 300\text{K bits} = 37.5\text{K bytes}$

Too much for on-chip RAM; we only have 8K max.

# Memory Usage

How about a text-only display?

$80 \times 24$  is typical.

$640 \div 80 = 8$  pixels horizontally/character

$480 \div 24 = 20$  pixels vertically/character

A bit too vertical.  $8 \times 16$  is more typical.

$480 \div 16 = 30$  lines

$80 \times 30 = 2400$  characters

Over 2K (2048).  $2400 = 2048 + 352$

Will fit in 2.5K = 2560

# Font

How about the font?

For  $8 \times 16$  characters, the 96 basic ASCII characters take

$$16 \times 96 = 1536 = 1.5\text{K}$$



# Memory Map

Memory is our most valuable resource. We've decided to allocate it as follows:

2.5K for a  $80 \times 30$  character array

1.5K for a 96-character  $8 \times 16$  font

That is half (4K) of the 8K on-chip memory.  
Reasonable.

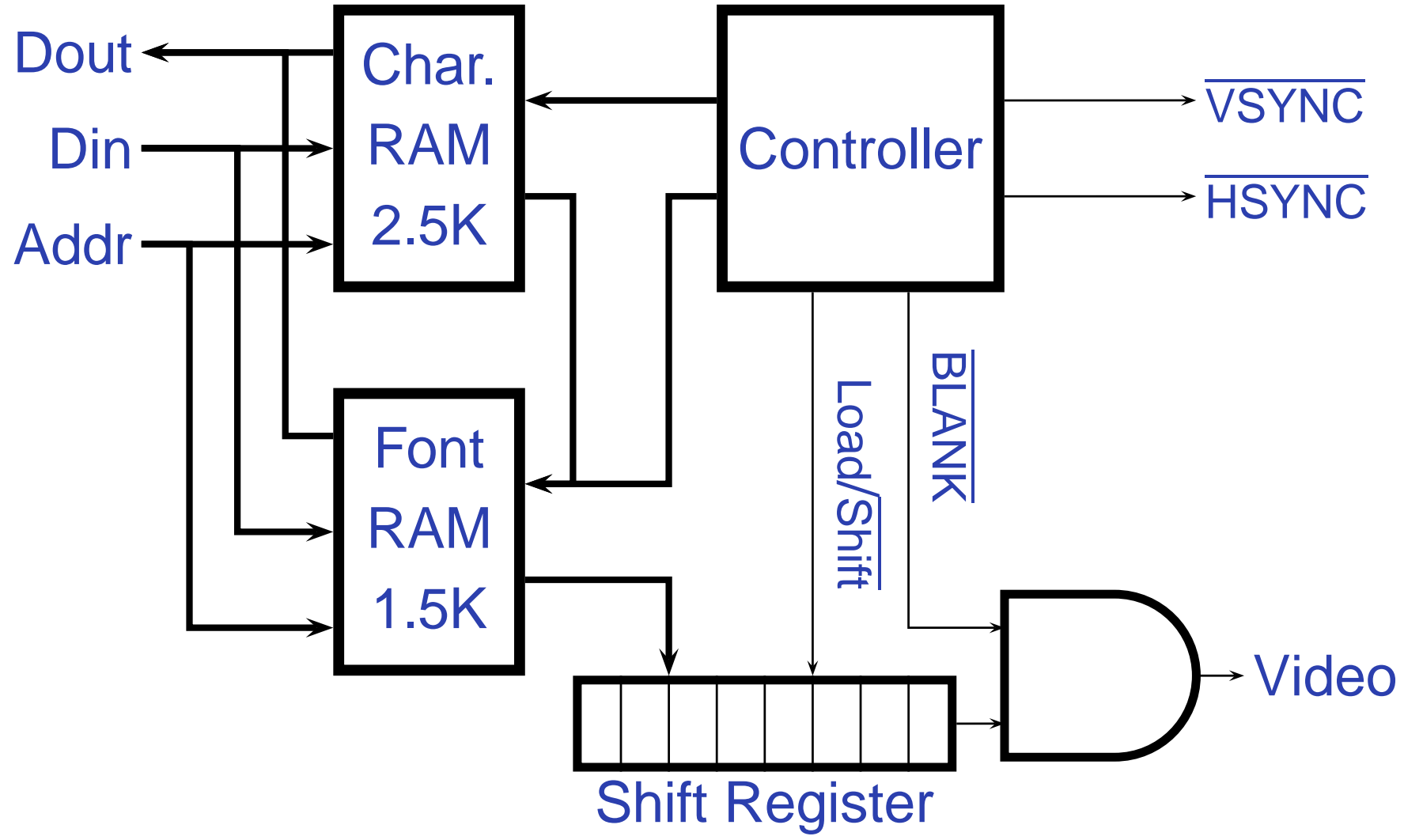
Also nice because we can use standard IBM console fonts.

# Aside

That  $640 \times 480$  exactly fits an  $80 \times 30$   
 $8 \times 16$  font is no accident. Historically,

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Font</b>	<b>Display</b>
CGA (1981)	$640 \times 200$	$8 \times 8$	$80 \times 25$
EGA (1984)	$640 \times 350$	$8 \times 14$	$80 \times 25$
EGA (1984)	$640 \times 350$	$8 \times 8$	$80 \times 43$
VGA (1987)	$640 \times 400$	$8 \times 16$	$80 \times 25$
VGA (1987)	$640 \times 400$	$8 \times 14$	$80 \times 28$
VGA (1987)	$640 \times 400$	$8 \times 8$	$80 \times 50$
VGA (1987)	$640 \times 480$	$8 \times 16$	$80 \times 30$
VGA (1987)	$640 \times 480$	$8 \times 14$	$80 \times 34$
VGA (1987)	$640 \times 480$	$8 \times 8$	$80 \times 60$

# Microarchitecture



# Timing

It is reasonable to assume the shift register, AND gate, and controller will operate at full speed.

But how fast is the RAM?

In the “Spartan-II 1.5V FPGA Family: DC and Switching Characteristics” datasheet:

Symbol	Description	Min	Max
$T_{BCKO}$	CLK to DOUT	0.6ns	3.5ns
$T_{BACK}/T_{BCKA}$	Setup/hold on ADDR	1.1ns/0	-
$T_{BPWH}$	Clock pulse width high	1.5ns	-
$T_{BPWL}$	Clock pulse width low	1.5ns	-

# Timing

Maximum clock frequency:  $1 / 3\text{ns} = 333 \text{ MHz}$

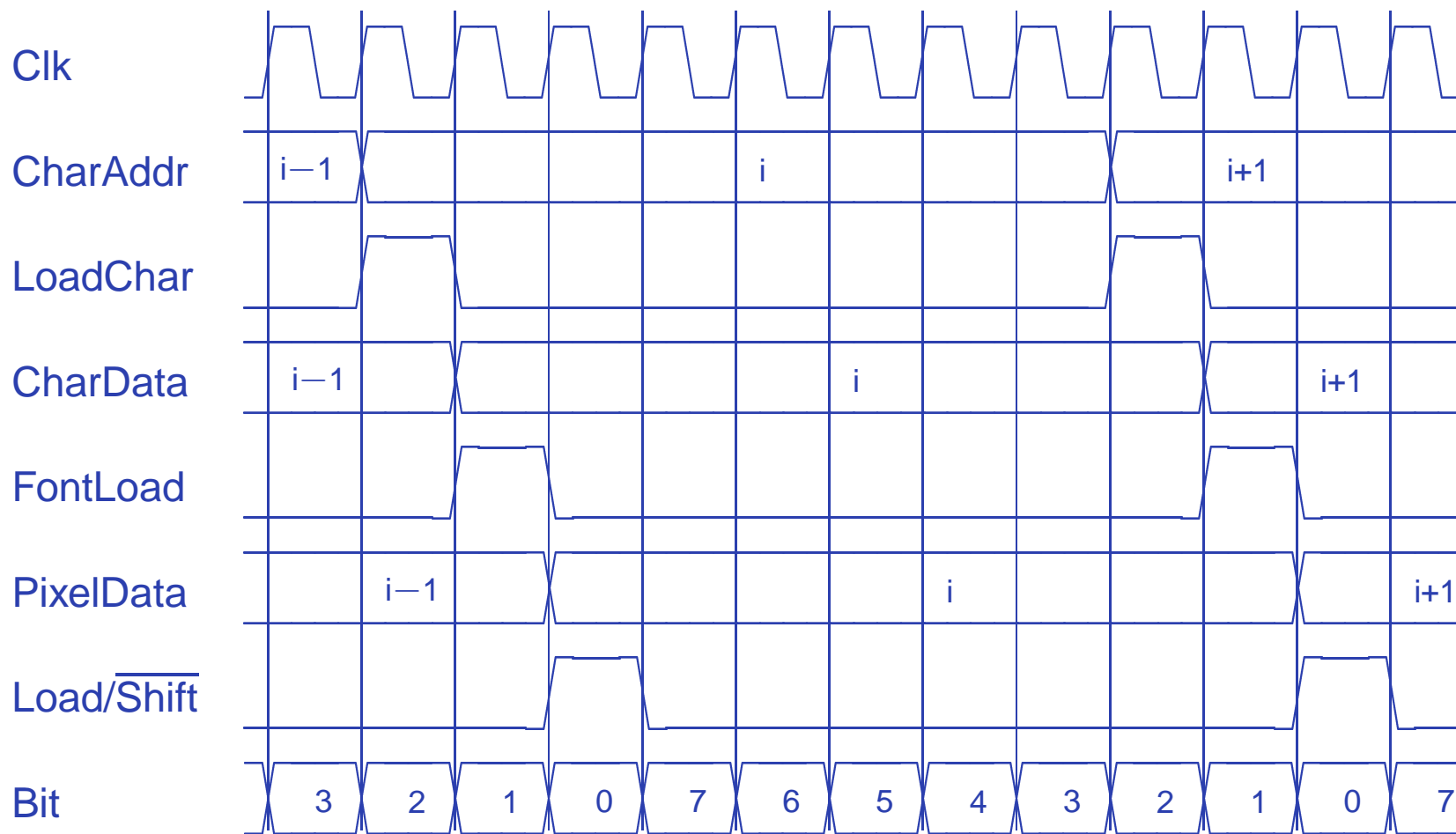
Highest data rate:  $1 / 3.5\text{ns} = 285 \text{ MHz}$

VGA dot clock is 25 MHz

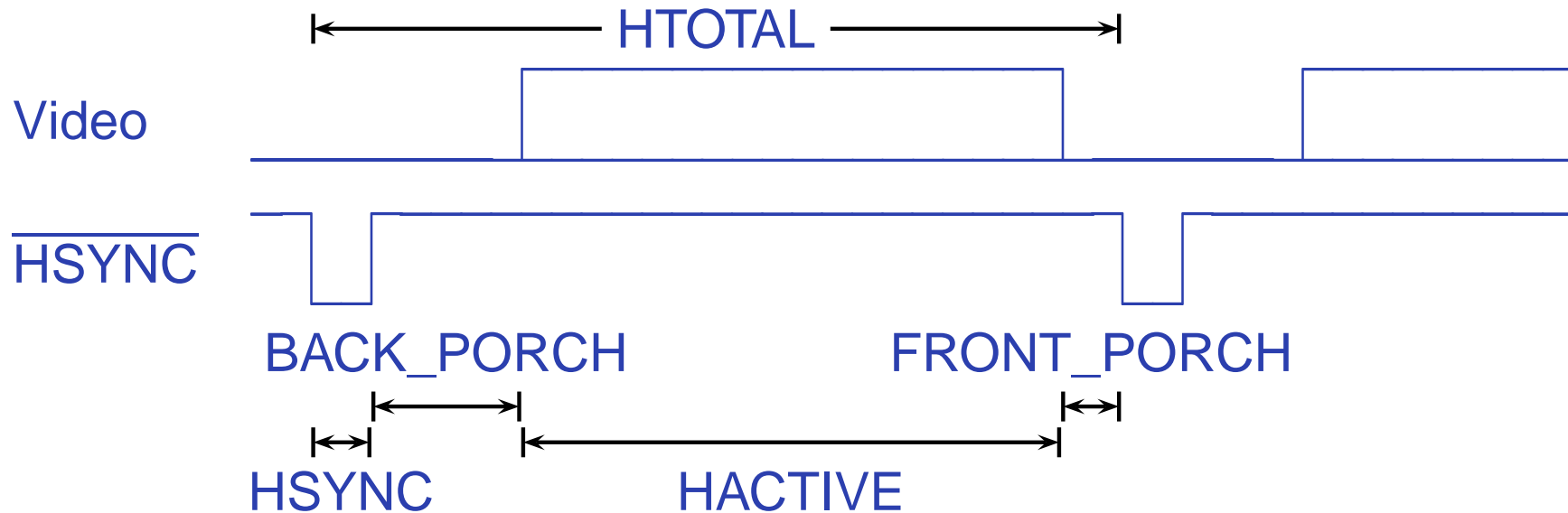
The RAM is much, much faster than we need.

We can assume data from the RAM appears “quickly” after the clock.

# Pixel-Level Timing



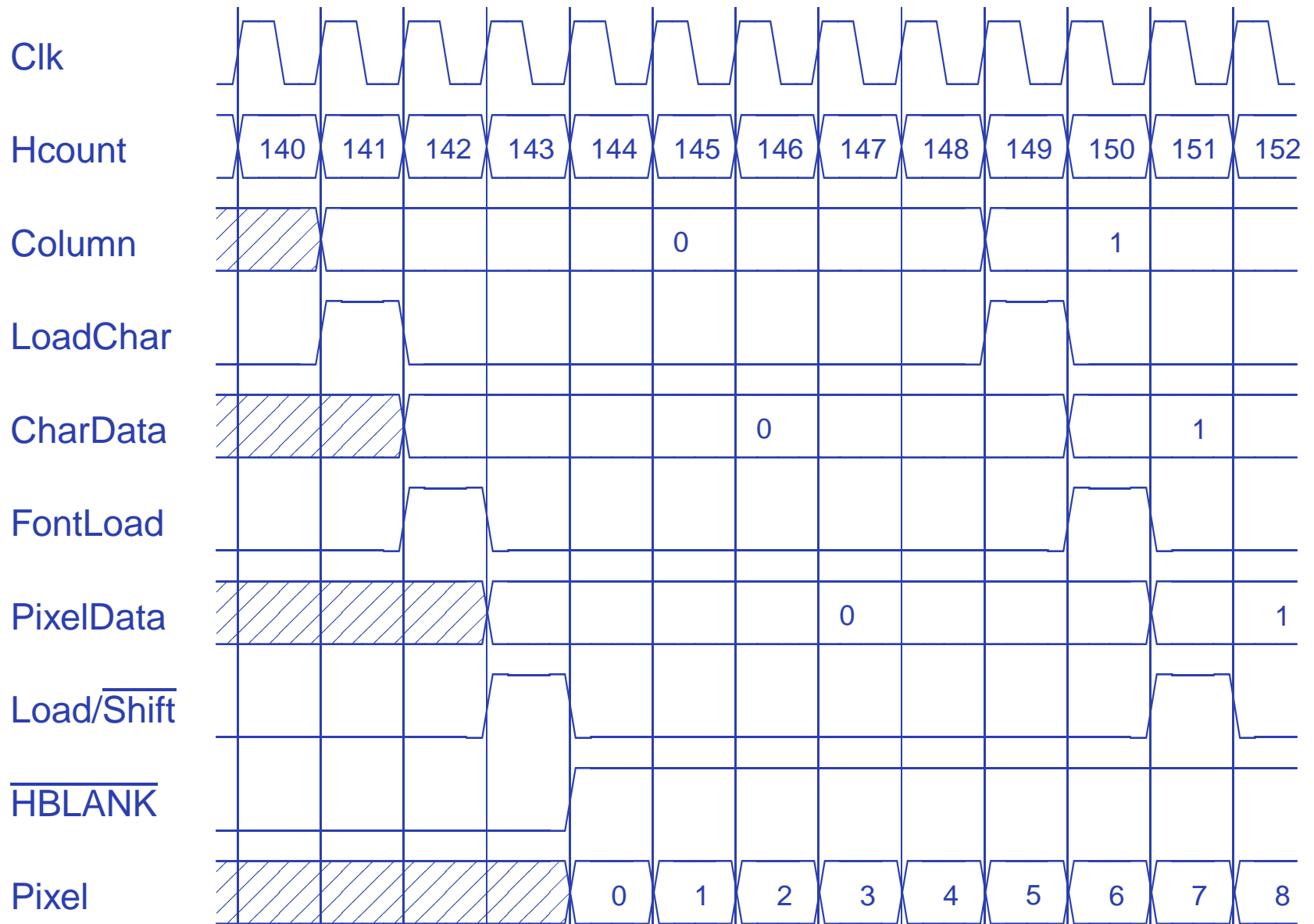
# Horizontal Timing



For a 25.175 MHz pixel clock,

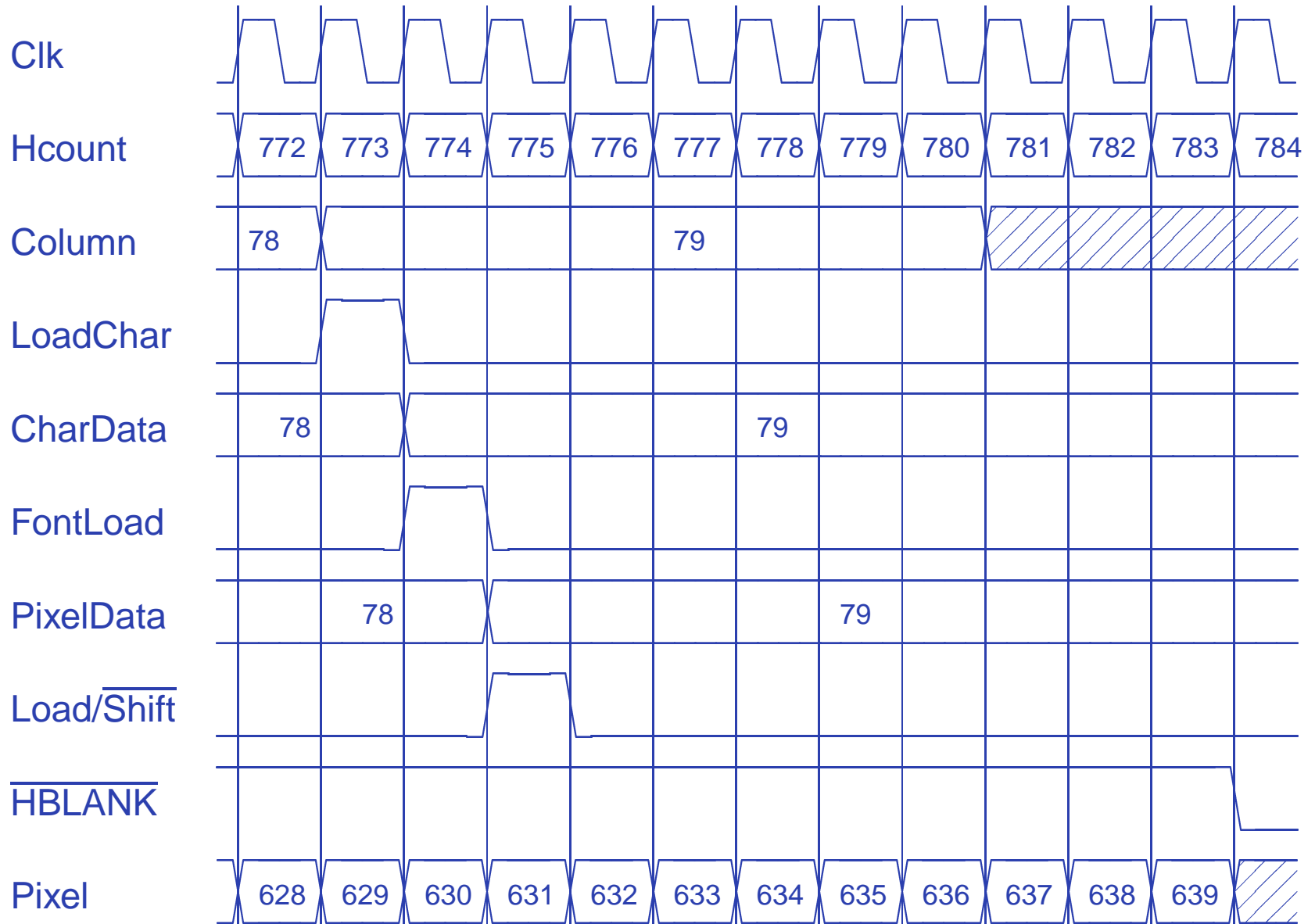
HSYNC	96 pixels
BACK_PORCH	48
HACTIVE	640
FRONT_PORCH	16
<hr/>	
HTOTAL	800

# Start-of-line Detail

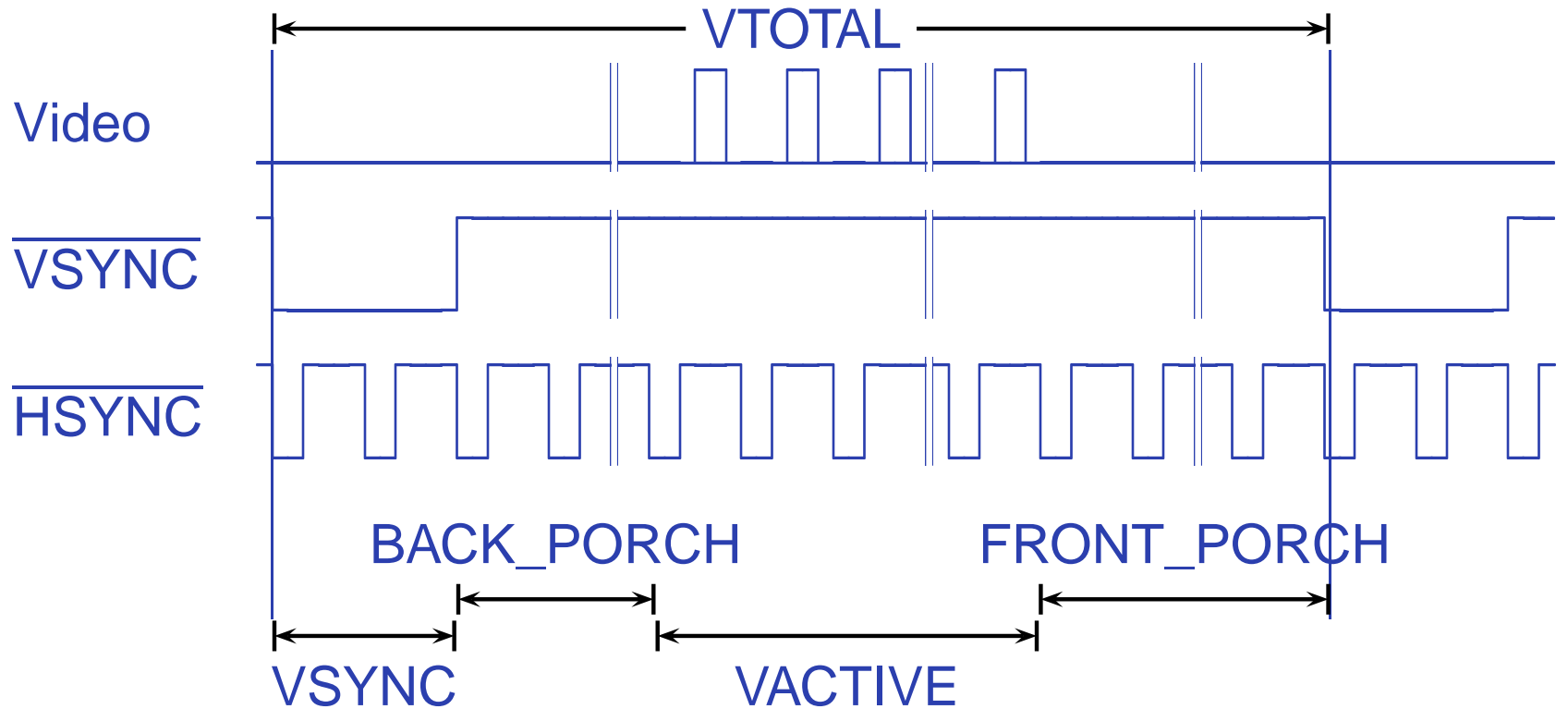




# End-of-line detail



# Vertical Timing



VSYNC	2 lines
BACK_PORCH	33
VACTIVE	480
FRONT_PORCH	10
<hr/>	
VTOTAL	525

# Character Addresses

line	character address, row				
0	0,0	1,0	...	78,0	79,0
1	0,1	1,1	...	78,1	79,1
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
14	0,14	1,14	...	78,14	79,14
15	0,15	1,15	...	78,15	79,15
16	80,0	81,0	...	158,0	159,0
17	80,1	81,1	...	158,1	159,1
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
31	80,15	81,15	...	158,15	159,15
32	160,0	161,0	...	238,0	239,0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
464	2320,0	2321,0	...	2398,0	2399,0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
479	2320,15	2321,15	...	2398,15	2399,15

# Horizontal Signals

Signal	Description
Pixel_Clock	25 MHz from system clock.
Hcount[9:0]	Horizontal position (0–799)
VideoData	Pixel data from shift register
LoadNShift	Shift register control. 143, 151, ... 775
FontData[7:0]	Byte from font RAM.
FontLoad	Load byte from font RAM. 142, 150, ..., 774
FontAddr[3:0]	Character row address (0–15)
FontAddr[10:4]	Character number (0–95) from char. RAM
LoadChar	Load from char. RAM. 141, 149, ..., 773
CharAddr[11:0]	Character address: column plus row $\times$ 80
Column[6:0]	Column (0–79) = (Hcount – 141) $\div$ 8
HBLANK_N	Horizontal blanking. Off 144–783
HSYNC_N	Horizontal Synchronization. 0–95

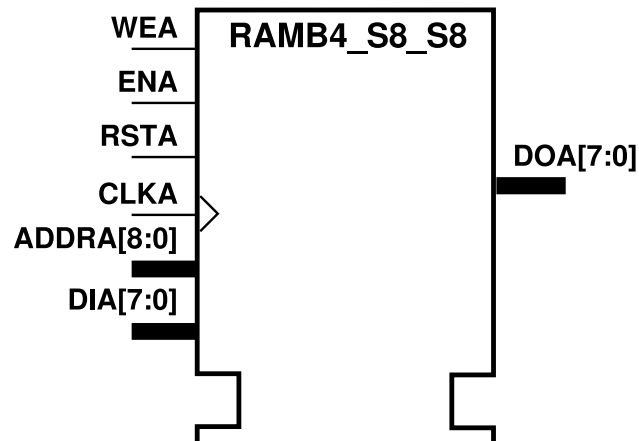
# Vertical Signals

Signal	Description
Vcount[9:0]	Vertical position (0–524)
Row[4:0]	Row number (0–29) = $(Vcount - 35) \div 16$
VBLANK_N	Vertical blanking. Off lines 35–514
VSYNC_N	Vertical Synchronization. Lines 0 and 1

# Interface to the RAMB4\_S8\_S8

From the Xilinx libraries guide:

EN	RST	WE	CLK	ADDR	DI	DO	Operation
0	-	-	-	-	-	DO	No-op
1	1	0	↑	-	-	0	Reset DO
1	1	1	↑	addr	data	0	Write
1	0	0	↑	addr	-	[addr]	Read
1	0	1	↑	addr	data	data	Write-through



# The video RAM interface

Both the character and font RAMs are read-only, so we will use

---

Signal	Value
EN	1 for read, 0 for hold
RST	0
WE	0
ADDR	read address
DI	0 (unused)

---

# The OPB Interface

On-chip Peripheral Bus. Part of IBM's CoreConnect bus architecture. A lower-speed bus for peripherals such as our video controller.

## Inputs

OPB\_Clk →  
OPB\_Rst →  
OPB\_ABus →  
OPB\_BE →  
OPB\_DBus →  
OPB\_RNW →  
OPB\_select →  
OPB\_seqAddr →

## Outputs

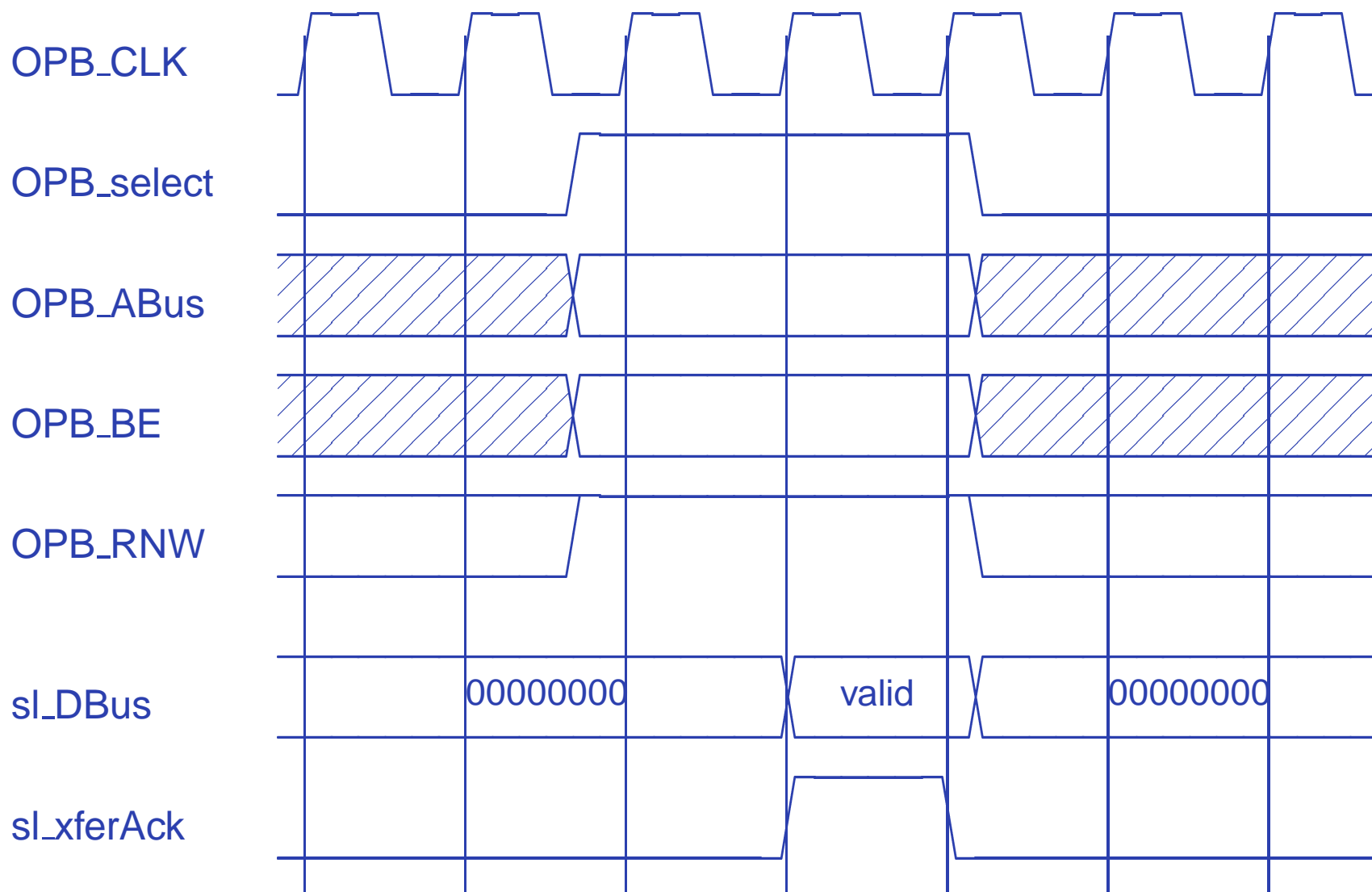
← sl\_DBus  
← sl\_xferAck  
← sl\_retry  
← sl\_toutSup  
← sl\_errAck



# OPB Signals

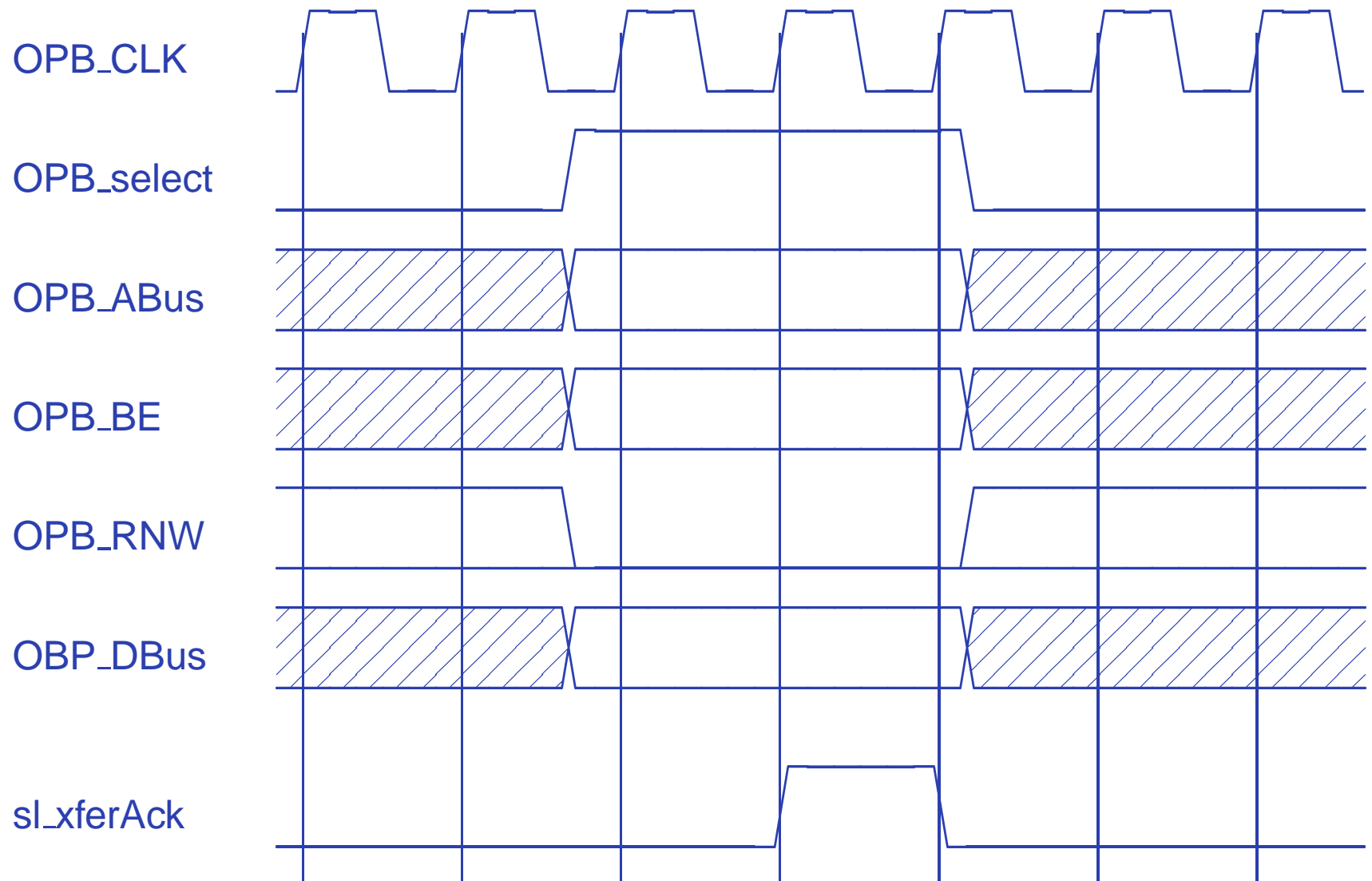
OPB_Clk	Bus clock: master synchronization
OPB_Rst	Global asynchronous reset
OPB_ABus[31:0]	Address
OPB_BE[3:0]	Byte enable
OPB_DBus	Data to slave
OPB_RNW	1=read from slave, 0=write to slave
OPB_select	Transfer in progress
OPB_seqAddr	Next sequential address pending (unused)
sl_DBus	Data from slave. Must be 0 when inactive
sl_xferAck	Transfer acknowledge. OPB_select→0
sl_retry	Request master to retry operation (=0)
sl_toutSup	Suppress slave time-out (=0)
sl_errAck	Signal a transfer error occurred (=0)

# Typical OPB Read Cycle Timing

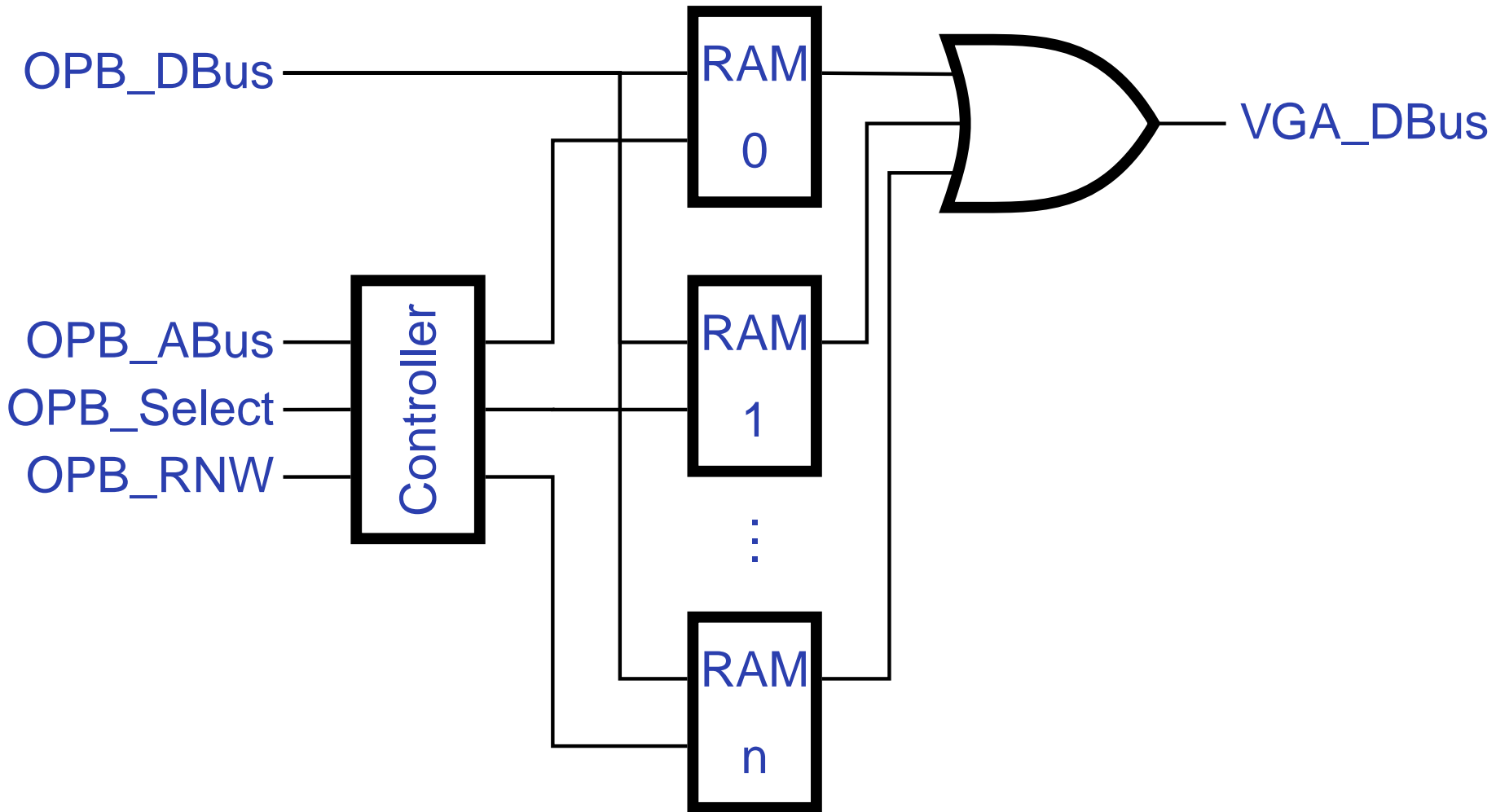


OPB signals arrive late; DBus and xferAck needed early.

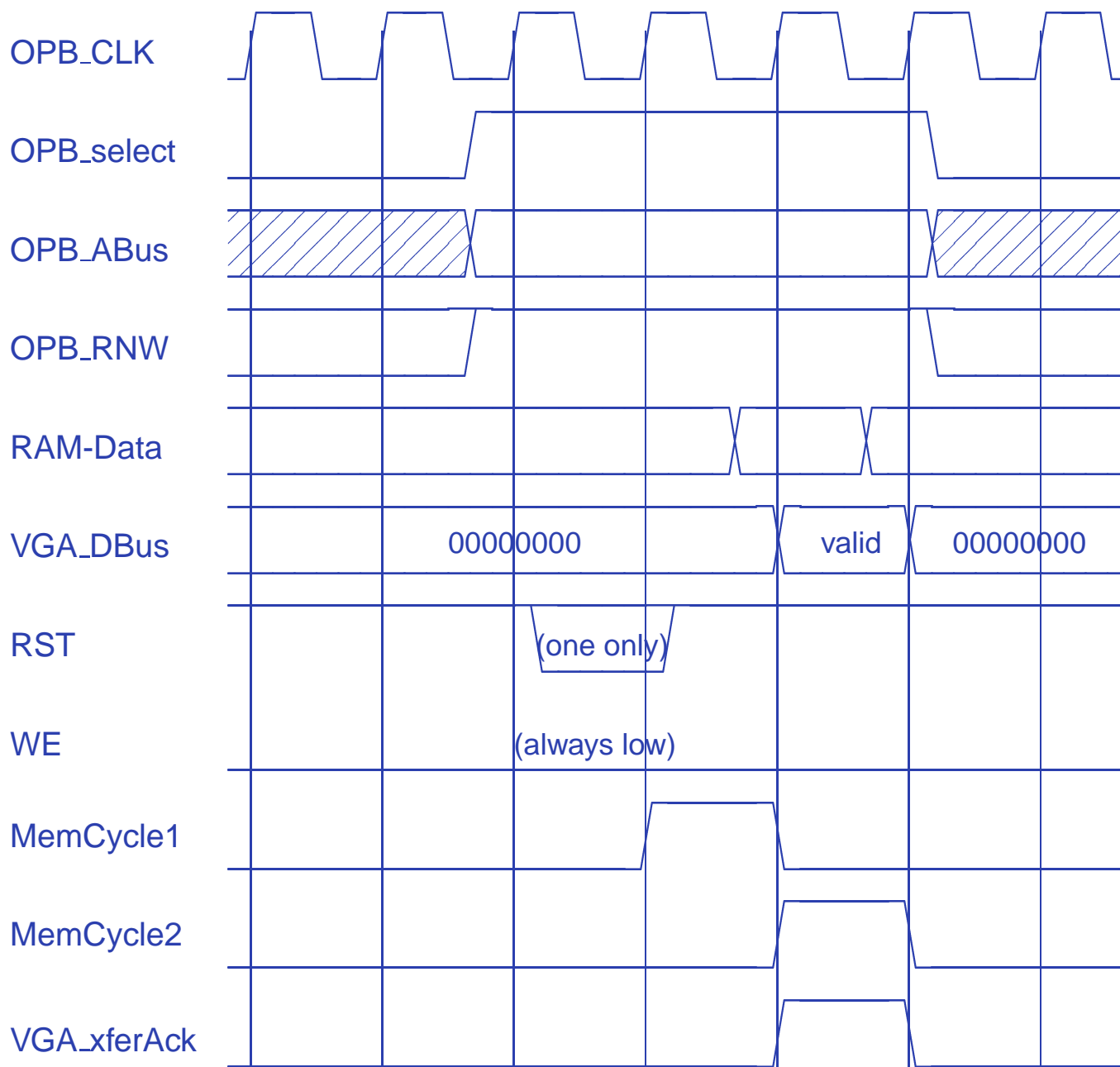
# Typical OPB Write Cycle Timing



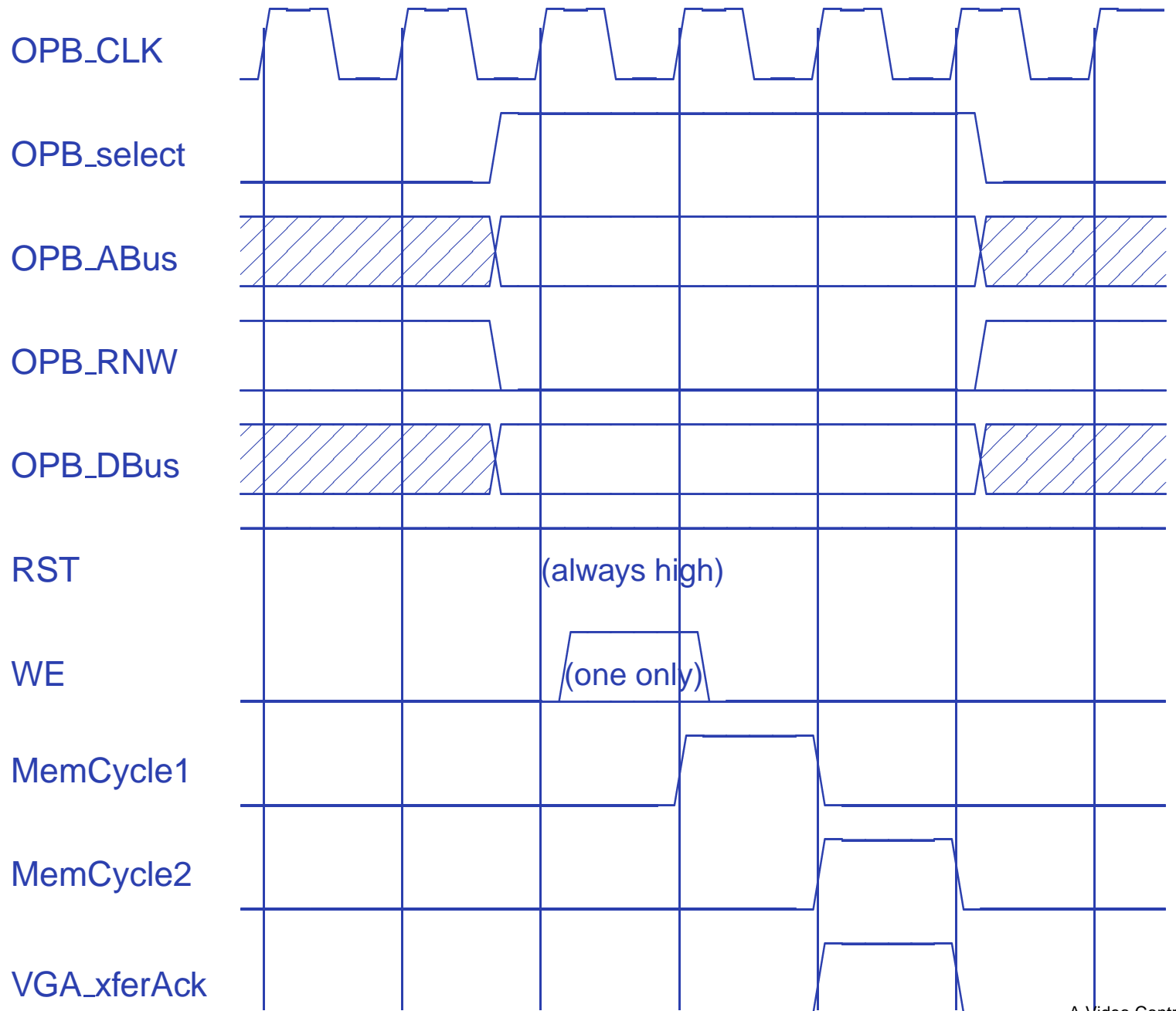
# OPB interface block diagram



# OPB-RAM Read Timing



# OPB-RAM Write Timing



# VHDL: Entity generics

```
library ieee;
use ieee.std_logic_1164.all;
use ieee.std_logic_arith.all;
use ieee.std_logic_unsigned.all;

entity opb_xsb300e_vga is
  generic (
    C_OPB_AWIDTH : integer := 32;
    C_OPB_DWIDTH : integer := 32;
    C_BASEADDR   : std_logic_vector(31 downto 0)
                 := X"FEFF1000";
    C_HIGHADDR   : std_logic_vector(31 downto 0)
                 := X"FEFF1FFF"
  );
```

# VHDL: OPB Ports

```
port (  
  OPB_Clk          : in std_logic;  
  OPB_Rst          : in std_logic;  
  
  -- OPB signals  
  OPB_ABus         : in std_logic_vector(31 downto 0);  
  OPB_BE           : in std_logic_vector(3  downto 0);  
  OPB_DBus         : in std_logic_vector(31 downto 0);  
  OPB_RNW          : in std_logic;  
  OPB_select       : in std_logic;  
  OPB_seqAddr      : in std_logic;  
  
  VGA_DBus         : out std_logic_vector(31 downto 0);  
  VGA_errAck       : out std_logic;  
  VGA_retry        : out std_logic;  
  VGA_toutSup      : out std_logic;  
  VGA_xferAck      : out std_logic;
```



# VHDL: Video ports

```
-- Video signals
Pixel_Clock : in std_logic;    -- 25 MHz
VIDOUT_RED   : out std_logic;
VIDOUT_GREEN : out std_logic;
VIDOUT_BLUE  : out std_logic;
VIDOUT_HSYNC : out std_logic;
VIDOUT_VSYNC : out std_logic
);

end opb_xsb300e_vga;
```

# VHDL: Architecture constants

architecture Behavioral of opb\_xsb300e\_vga is

```
constant BASEADDR
    : std_logic_vector(31 downto 0)
    := X"FEFF1000";

-- Video parameters

constant HTOTAL : integer := 800;
constant HSYNC  : integer := 96;
constant HBACK_PORCH : integer := 48;
constant HACTIVE : integer := 640;
constant HFRONT_PORCH : integer := 16;

constant VTOTAL : integer := 525;
constant VSYNC  : integer := 2;
constant VBACK_PORCH : integer := 33;
constant VACTIVE : integer := 480;
constant VFRONT_PORCH : integer := 10;
```

# VHDL: OPB signals

```
-- Latched input signals from the OPB
signal ABus : std_logic_vector (31 downto 0);
signal DBus : std_logic_vector (31 downto 0);
signal RNW  : std_logic;
signal select_delayed : std_logic;

-- Latched output data for the OPB
signal DBus_out : std_logic_vector (31 downto 0);

-- Signals for the OPB-mapped RAM controller
signal ChipSelect : std_logic;
signal MemCycle1, MemCycle2 : std_logic;
signal RamPageAddress
      : std_logic_vector(2 downto 0);
signal RamSelect : std_logic_vector (7 downto 0);
signal RST, WE : std_logic_vector (7 downto 0);
signal DOUT0, DOUT1, DOUT2, DOUT3,
      DOUT4, DOUT5, DOUT6, DOUT7,
      : std_logic_vector(7 downto 0);
signal ReadData : std_logic_vector(7 downto 0);
```

# VHDL: Video signals 1

```
-- Master horizontal and vertical video counters
signal Hcount : std_logic_vector(9 downto 0);
signal Vcount : std_logic_vector(9 downto 0);
signal HBLANK_N, VBLANK_N : std_logic;
signal EndOfLine, EndOfField : std_logic;

-- Addresses and control for character RAM
signal LoadChar : std_logic;
signal CharRow, CharColumn
    : std_logic_vector(9 downto 0);
signal Column : std_logic_vector(6 downto 0);
signal Row : std_logic_vector(4 downto 0);
signal CharAddr : std_logic_vector(11 downto 0);
signal CharRamPage : std_logic_vector(2 downto 0);
signal CharRamSelect_N
    : std_logic_vector(4 downto 0);
signal DOUTB0, DOUTB1, DOUTB2, DOUTB3, DOUTB4
    : std_logic_vector(7 downto 0);
```

# VHDL: Video signals 2

```
-- Addresses and control for font RAM
signal FontLoad : std_logic;
signal FontAddr : std_logic_vector(10 downto 0);
signal FontRamPage : std_logic_vector(1 downto 0)
signal FontRamSelect_N
    : std_logic_vector(2 downto 0);
signal DOUTB5, DOUTB6, DOUTB7
    : std_logic_vector(7 downto 0);

-- Shift register control, inputs, and data
signal LoadNShift : std_logic;
signal FontData : std_logic_vector(7 downto 0);
signal ShiftData : std_logic_vector(7 downto 0);
signal VideoData : std_logic;
```

# VHDL: BRAM component

```
-- 512 X 8 dual-ported Xilinx block RAM
component RAMB4_S8_S8
  port (
    DOA      : out std_logic_vector (7 downto 0);
    ADDRA    : in  std_logic_vector (8 downto 0);
    CLKA     : in  std_logic;
    DIA      : in  std_logic_vector (7 downto 0);
    ENA      : in  std_logic;
    RSTA     : in  std_logic;
    WEA      : in  std_logic;
    DOB      : out std_logic_vector (7 downto 0);
    ADDR_B   : in  std_logic_vector (8 downto 0);
    CLKB     : in  std_logic;
    DIB      : in  std_logic_vector (7 downto 0);
    ENB      : in  std_logic;
    RSTB     : in  std_logic;
    WEB      : in  std_logic);
end component;
```

```
-- Attributes that control the initial values
-- loaded into block RAMs
attribute INIT_00 : string;
```

# VHDL: BRAM initialization

```
-- Standard IBM 8x16 console font from the Linux kernel
attribute INIT_00 of RAMB4_S8_S8_5 : label is
  "000000001818001818183c3c3c18000000000000000000000000"
attribute INIT_01 of RAMB4_S8_S8_5 : label is
  "000000006c6cfe6c6c6cfe6c6c000000000000000000000000"
attribute INIT_02 of RAMB4_S8_S8_5 : label is
  "0000000086c66030180cc6c2000000000000010107cd61"
attribute INIT_03 of RAMB4_S8_S8_5 : label is
  "000000000000000000000000030181818000000000076ccc"
attribute INIT_04 of RAMB4_S8_S8_5 : label is
  "0000000030180c0c0c0c0c0c183000000000000000000c183"
attribute INIT_05 of RAMB4_S8_S8_5 : label is
  "00000000000018187e181800000000000000000000000006"
attribute INIT_06 of RAMB4_S8_S8_5 : label is
  "000000000000000000fe000000000000000000000003018181"
attribute INIT_07 of RAMB4_S8_S8_5 : label is
  "0000000000c06030180c06000000000000000000000018180"
attribute INIT_08 of RAMB4_S8_S8_5 : label is
  "000000007e181818181818783818000000000000007cc6e"
attribute INIT_09 of RAMB4_S8_S8_5 : label is
  "000000007cc60606063c0606c67c000000000000000000000fec60"

```

# VHDL: Character BRAM instances

```
begin -- body of architecture

    RAMB4_S8_S8_0 : RAMB4_S8_S8
        port map (
            DOA      => DOUT0 ,
            ADDRA    => ABus(8 downto 0) ,
            CLKA     => OPB_Clk ,
            DIA      => DBus(7 downto 0) ,
            ENA      => '1' ,
            RSTA     => RST(0) ,
            WEA      => WE(0) ,
            DOB      => DOUTB0 ,
            ADDR_B   => CharAddr(8 downto 0) ,
            CLKB     => Pixel_Clock ,
            DIB      => X"00" ,
            ENB      => '1' ,
            RSTB     => CharRamSelect_N(0) ,
            WEB      => '0' );

-- Four more like this
```



# VHDL: Font BRAM instances

```
RAMB4_S8_S8_5 : RAMB4_S8_S8
port map (
    DOA    => DOUT5,
    ADDRA  => ABus(8 downto 0),
    CLKA   => OPB_Clk,
    DIA    => DBus(7 downto 0),
    ENA    => '1',
    RSTA   => RST(5),
    WEA    => WE(5),
    DOB    => DOUTB5,
    ADDRB  => FontAddr(8 downto 0),
    CLKB   => Pixel_Clock,
    DIB    => X"00",
    ENB    => '1',
    RSTB   => FontRamSelect_N(0),
    WEB    => '0');
```

-- Two more like this

# VHDL: OPB inputs

```
-- OPB-RAM controller

-- Unused OPB control signals
VGA_errAck    <= '0';
VGA_retry     <= '0';
VGA_toutSup   <= '0';

-- Latch late-arriving OPB signals
LatchOPB: process (OPB_Clk, OPB_Rst)
begin
    if OPB_Rst = '1' then
        ABus <= ( others => '0' );
        DBus <= ( others => '0' );
        RNW  <= '1';
        select_delayed <= '0';
    elsif OPB_Clk'event and OPB_Clk = '1' then
        ABus <= OPB_ABus;
        DBus <= OPB_DBus;
        RNW  <= OPB_RNW;
        select_delayed <= OPB_Select;
    end if;
end process;
```

# VHDL: Chip select, page decode

```
ChipSelect <=
  '1' when select_delayed = '1' and
        (ABus(31 downto 12) =
         BASEADDR(31 downto 12)) and
        MemCycle1 = '0' and MemCycle2 = '0' else
  '0' ;
```

```
RamPageAddress <= ABus(11 downto 9) ;
```

```
RamSelect <=
  "00000001" when RamPageAddress = "000" else
  "00000010" when RamPageAddress = "001" else
  "00000100" when RamPageAddress = "010" else
  "00001000" when RamPageAddress = "011" else
  "00010000" when RamPageAddress = "100" else
  "00100000" when RamPageAddress = "101" else
  "01000000" when RamPageAddress = "110" else
  "10000000" when RamPageAddress = "111" else
  "00000000" ;
```

# VHDL: FSM, BRAM control

```
MemCycleFSM : process(OPB_Clk, OPB_Rst)
begin
    if OPB_Rst = '1' then
        MemCycle1 <= '0';
        MemCycle2 <= '0';
    elsif OPB_Clk'event and OPB_Clk = '1' then
        MemCycle2 <= MemCycle1;
        MemCycle1 <= ChipSelect;
    end if;
end process MemCycleFSM;

VGA_xferAck <= MemCycle2; -- OPB output

WE <= RamSelect when ChipSelect = '1' and
    RNW = '0' and OPB_Rst = '0'
    else "00000000";

RST <= not RamSelect when ChipSelect = '1' and
    RNW = '1' and OPB_Rst = '0'
    else "11111111";
```

# VHDL: OPB output

```
ReadData <=
    DOUT0 or DOUT1 or DOUT2 or DOUT3 or
    DOUT4 or DOUT5 or DOUT6 or DOUT7
    when MemCycle1 = '1'
    else "00000000";

GenDOut: process (OPB_Clk, OPB_Rst)
begin
    if OPB_Rst = '1' then
        DBus_out <= ( others => '0' );
    elsif OPB_Clk'event and OPB_Clk = '1' then
        DBus_out <= ReadData & ReadData &
                    ReadData & ReadData;
    end if;
end process GenDOut;

VGA_DBus <= DBus_out;
```

# VHDL: Video HCounter

```
-- Video controller

HCounter : process (Pixel_Clock, OPB_Rst)
begin
    if OPB_Rst = '1' then
        Hcount <= (others => '0');
    elsif Pixel_Clock'event and Pixel_Clock = '1' then
        if EndOfLine = '1' then
            Hcount <= (others => '0');
        else
            Hcount <= Hcount + 1;
        end if;
    end if;
end process HCounter;

EndOfLine <=
    '1' when Hcount = HTOTAL - 1 else '0';
```

# VHDL: Video VCounter

```
VCounter: process (Pixel_Clock, OPB_Rst)
begin
    if OPB_Rst = '1' then
        Vcount <= (others => '0');
    elsif Pixel_Clock'event and Pixel_Clock = '1' then
        if EndOfLine = '1' then
            if EndOfField = '1' then
                Vcount <= (others => '0');
            else
                Vcount <= Vcount + 1;
            end if;
        end if;
    end if;
end process VCounter;
```

```
EndOfField <=
    '1' when Vcount = VTOTAL - 1 else '0';
```

# VHDL: Hsync

```
HSyncGen : process (Pixel_Clock, OPB_Rst)
begin
    if OPB_Rst = '1' then
        VIDOUT_HSYNC <= '0';
    elsif Pixel_Clock'event and Pixel_Clock = '1' then
        if EndOfLine = '1' then
            VIDOUT_HSYNC <= '1';
        elsif Hcount = HSYNC - 1 then
            VIDOUT_HSYNC <= '0';
        end if;
    end if;
end process HSyncGen;
```



# VHDL: HBlank

```
HBlankGen : process (Pixel_Clock, OPB_Rst)
begin
    if OPB_Rst = '1' then
        HBLANK_N <= '0';
    elsif Pixel_Clock'event and Pixel_Clock = '1' then
        if Hcount = HSYNC + HBACK_PORCH - 1 then
            HBLANK_N <= '1';
        elsif Hcount = HSYNC + HBACK_PORCH +
            HACTIVE - 1 then
            HBLANK_N <= '0';
        end if;
    end if;
end process HBlankGen;
```

# VHDL: VSync

```
VSyncGen : process (Pixel_Clock, OPB_Rst)
begin
    if OPB_Rst = '1' then
        VIDOUT_VSYNC <= '0';
    elsif Pixel_Clock'event and Pixel_Clock = '1' then
        if EndOfLine = '1' then
            if EndOfField = '1' then
                VIDOUT_VSYNC <= '1';
            elsif VCount = VSYNC - 1 then
                VIDOUT_VSYNC <= '0';
            end if;
        end if;
    end if;
end process VSyncGen;
```

# VHDL: VBlank

```
VBlankGen : process (Pixel_Clock, OPB_Rst)
begin
  if OPB_Rst = '1' then
    VBLANK_N <= '0';
  elsif Pixel_Clock'event and Pixel_Clock = '1' then
    if EndOfLine = '1' then
      if Vcount = VSYNC + VBACK_PORCH - 1 then
        VBLANK_N <= '1';
      elsif VCount = VSYNC + VBACK_PORCH +
        VACTIVE - 1 then
        VBLANK_N <= '0';
      end if;
    end if;
  end if;
end process VBlankGen;
```

# VHDL: Video Timing, addresses

```
LoadChar    <=
    '1' when Hcount(2 downto 0) = X"5" else '0';
FontLoad    <=
    '1' when Hcount(2 downto 0) = X"6" else '0';
LoadNShift  <=
    '1' when Hcount(2 downto 0) = X"7" else '0';

CharColumn  <= Hcount - HSYNC - HBACK_PORCH + 4;
Column      <= CharColumn(9 downto 3);
CharRow     <= Vcount - VSYNC - VBACK_PORCH;
Row         <= CharRow(8 downto 4);

-- Character address = Column + Row * 80
CharAddr    <= Column +
    ("0" & Row(4 downto 0) & "000000")
    ("000" & Row(4 downto 0) & "0000");
```

# VHDL: character RAM I/O

```
CharRamPage <= CharAddr(11 downto 9);
CharRamSelect_N <=
    "11110" when CharRamPage = "000" else
    "11101" when CharRamPage = "001" else
    "11011" when CharRamPage = "010" else
    "10111" when CharRamPage = "011" else
    "01111" when CharRamPage = "100" else
    "11111";

FontAddr(10 downto 4) <=
    (DOUTB0(6 downto 0) or DOUTB1(6 downto 0) or
     DOUTB2(6 downto 0) or DOUTB3(6 downto 0) or
     DOUTB4(6 downto 0));
FontAddr(3 downto 0) <= CharRow(3 downto 0);
```

# VHDL: Font RAM I/O

```
FontRamPage <= FontAddr(10 downto 9);
FontRamSelect_N <=
    "110" when FontRamPage = "00" else
    "110" when FontRamPage = "01" else
    "101" when FontRamPage = "10" else
    "011" when FontRamPage = "11" else
    "111";

FontData <= DOUTB5 or DOUTB6 or DOUTB7;
```

# VHDL: Shift Register

```
ShiftRegister: process (Pixel_Clock, OPB_Rst)
begin
    if OPB_Rst = '1' then
        ShiftData <= X"00";
    elsif Pixel_Clock'event and Pixel_Clock = '1' then
        if LoadNShift = '1' then
            ShiftData <= FontData;
        else
            ShiftData <= ShiftData(6 downto 0) & '0';
        end if;
    end if;
end process ShiftRegister;

VideoData <= ShiftData(7);
```

# VHDL: DAC output

```
VideoOut: process (Pixel_Clock, OPB_Rst)
begin
    if OPB_Rst = '1' then
        VIDOUT_RED    <= '0';
        VIDOUT_BLUE   <= '0';
        VIDOUT_GREEN  <= '0';
    elsif Pixel_Clock'event and Pixel_Clock = '1'
        if VideoData = '1' and HBLANK_N = '1' and V
            VIDOUT_RED    <= '1';
            VIDOUT_GREEN  <= '1';
            VIDOUT_BLUE   <= '1';
        else
            VIDOUT_RED    <= '0';
            VIDOUT_GREEN  <= '0';
            VIDOUT_BLUE   <= '0';
        end if;
    end if;
end process VideoOut;

end Behavioral; -- end of architecture
```



# The Punchline

This video controller is not quite right for the Spartan-3 chip on the Digilent boards.

Our boards have an XC3S400, which has 32K of on-chip RAM, not 8K. The block RAMs are similar, but are 4K each, not 512 bytes.

What is presented here works, but is wasting memory resources.

A better design would use only 3 of the Spartan-3 block RAMS, not 8.