

Comments by the reviewers and the GOLD designers answers - May 4, 2011

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By Sam, on the requirements:

1 Concept and use

If this is to be a test bench for the TP, GOLD should also be able to function as a data source for other connected subsystems, including CTP and ROD.

-----> yes

2.2 USB connectivity for pre-configuration access

Why is this on the backplane in Zone 2? Would we ever expect to have USB on the backplane in a "real" environment?

Proposal: front-panel USB access from laptop

-----> added a note on pre-configuration access. Needs to be discussed separately wrt future L1Calo modules, I would suggest. I might try and start a discussion on that soon.

2.3 Clock pair

Do you mean TTC/GBT?

-----> yes

2.5.2 Signal duplication at CML level

Is there a possibility to rearrange the distribution of duplicated signals to the different FPGAs? (Here I am thinking about testing quadrant/global architectures with full backplane readout vs. single-FPGA global merging with reduced-bandwidth CMM++ output)

-----> yes. opto mezzanine board will be cheap and rather passive (apart from fanout chips) allow for several daughter versions during GOLD lifetime

2.6 FMC sockets

2.12 Where do the LXT electrical outputs go?

-----> front panel 12 pairs, LVDS, via clock daughter. note: connectivity shared with other potential use of differential pairs on clock daughter. In case DAQ/ROI links would fail to operate with MGTs, two of these pairs would be taken for that purpose, using de-serialisation in fabric/IOB rather than MGTs

Do the FMC sockets also need to provide power to the input mezzanine modules, or are there other arrangements for this?

----->yes, they do

2.17, 2.18 Two independent pairs of MGT and GCK clock trees

Are these two independent clock trees are generated on-board from the single "clock" pair in Zone 2? (I see this is answered in 2.19)

----->yes

2.23 Location of external connectivity? (Might be answered later)

It would be nice if we can connect an LVDS cable that could be brought to a DSS or the CTP.

-----> yes. connector type to be chosen later as "final" clock daughter is produced

3 ATCA compliance

3.6 DAQ/ROI issues

The TP will almost certainly need to be able to read out data correctly to the existing RODs, if only for the R&D phase. So we need to be fully compatible, meaning a 40.00 MHz crystal clock should be brought to the FPGA that produces the Glink-compatible outputs.

So I see that a 40.08 MHz crystal clock is already connected to E-U65. If there is space I would also like a 40.00 MHz crystal added there as well (or keep the option to swap the 40.08 MHz crystal with another one)

----->yes

By Yuri:

on the requirements:

<http://www.staff.uni-mainz.de/uschaefe/browsable/L1Calo/GOLD/GoldURD1.htm>

The following use cases apply to CMM++ and I've tried to formulate a possible requirements (relevant to CMM++) to the GOLD for these use cases:

4. Test bench for topological algorithms

- Demonstrate upgraded L1Calo data processing in a single TP module in a single FPGA
- Demonstrate upgraded L1Calo data processing in multiple TP modules (in single FPFAs)

6. Optical data sink for L1Calo modules

- Demonstrate suitable parallel fiber modules and transceiver chipsets
- Demonstrate data synchronization from multiple data sources

7. Optical data source for purpose of self-test and stand-alone link tests

- Demonstrate electrical data replication in FPGA and optical distribution
- Demonstrate passive optical data regrouping

-----> I would think that this is not immediate requirements on the capabilities of the hardware to be built. It is rather an expansion of the use cases. The tests that will actually be performed on this piece of hardware are not in the scope of the review. But we will happily expand the use cases by these ones. I would believe that the current requirements and specifications describe a system that actually allows for above use cases.
further clarification: 2nd line of 4. seems to refer to data sharing between TP modules. This will be possible by optical splitters for the LXT based sub-system, and by sharing electrical backplane signals for the HXT sub-system.

Specification:

<http://www.staff.uni-mainz.de/uschaeffe/browsable/L1Calo/GOLD/GOLDspecs1.htm>

1.2.1 Real-time data path

The module incorporates two distinct processing schemes. One is based on currently available FPGAs (XC6VLXT series); the other one tries to make use of FPGAs (XC6VHXT)...

>>> How FPGA can define the processing scheme? I didn't find two mentioned schemes description...

>>> Are they local-global and all-in-one schemes?

-----> symmetric vs. hierarchical (input processors plus main processor)

Figure 1 shows a conceptual drawing of the GOLD (main components only). The processors are labelled A to D for the input processors, M for the main processor,... More detailed diagrams are shown in section 3.

>>> Where is M on the Fig.1? Didn't find it in section 3 either...

-----> the labels are inconsistent in text and drawings. Corrected.

1.2.1.1 Input processing

As the number of electrical input channels may be higher than the number of optical inputs, the electrical signals are routed from the o/e converters into CML fan-outs, and then onto the mezzanine connectors. This will allow for evaluation of electrical duplication schemes that future algorithms will require.

>>> In order to run algorithms in several FPGAs on the same TP module?

-----> yes, algorithms might require some data sharing

Such a concept allows for several instances of a topological processor to be run with different signal routing, optimized for the respective algorithms.

>>> Would it be easier to route signals inside FPGA rather than on different flavors of the mezzanine modules?

-----> for a processor with more than a single FPGA we'd have to care about data routing at PCB level, unless cross bar switches were used

1.2.1.2 Main processor

This theoretical limit cannot probably be reached, since a fraction of lanes might be required for control purposes, as the main processor dubs as a module controller. Bandwidth can be increased when larger, foot print compatible FPGAs are mounted on the PCB.

>>> Will foot print compatible FPGA have the same number of IO? How then the bandwidth can be increased?

-----> XC6VLX550T has in fact an additional 120 lines parallel I/O wrt LX240. However, that statement has been removed meanwhile, since the main purpose of foot print compatible devices is maximisation of MGT input aggregate bandwidth.

>>> It looks like the local-global partitioning with small FPGA artificially creates bandwidth limitations...

-----> unfortunately yes. For the prototype/production module we'd have to decide what number of inputs we really need. The less the input bandwidth is divided up in individual chips the better.

1.2.3.1 Pre-configuration access

The microcontroller is interfaced to the FPGAs via JTAG protocol. The microcontroller design is fully compatible to the Xilinx platform USB solution.

>>> Therefore you can just directly connect the Xilinx platform cable USB to the JTAG port (without the microcontroller on a mezzanine module)?

-----> yes. Using a passive mezzanine. We'd equip future modules with direct USB access, if the scheme works, unless someone comes up with a better approach. We would not want to buy a separate Xilinx USB box for every module manufactured though.

1.3 Opto module

At a later stage opto modules with higher input link counts and higher optical fibre densities will be built, targeted at setups for system level tests with CMM++ modules.

>>> Comment: for the CMM++ tests a sink with six 12-channel opto receivers and source with six 12-channel opto transmitters may be required

-----> The previous should not pose any problem. We have currently got mounting space for 5 MTP/MPO connectors, and 24-way connectors seem to be rather common by now, therefore no problems expected when connecting 72 fibres. That number of fibres would actually just fit a single MTP/MPO if the glossy paper tells the truth. Though, that's just the input lines. Please note that the GOLD is mainly a demonstrator for data concentrator purposes many-in, few-out. The optical output from the input processors is intended for self test only (see use cases). Just as you would probably use the CMM++ inputs in conjunction with the CMM++ outputs for self tests.

1.5 HXT processor

The HXT devices suffer from a split bit rate range of up to 6.5 Gb/s for the slower MGTs, and a non-overlapping 10Gb/s only for the faster transceivers on the same chip.

>>> Is it a real problem?

-----> probably, since you need to know beforehand what signals to route where. Flexibility lost. Whether this is considered a serious issue is up to the reader. It is definitely inconvenient.

The HXT subsystem is not within the scope of this specifications document

>>> Does it mean that there will be no HXT based version of GOLD?

-----> Remains to be seen. Comparing the currently known projections for V6H and V7 one might possibly not be bothered to dig into V6H. If we were to go for V6H we would definitely give the current GOLD 1.0 a try, but would then possibly have (to have) a further iteration on that. GOLD has grown beyond what one would probably want to have on a topo processor module and we'd rather shrink it a bit in complexity on the way towards topo prototype and production.

By Ian :

Requirements

Section 1, paragraph 2:

I think the term "demonstrator-for-everything" is misleading. I think GOLD is better described as a multi-purpose demonstrator or a module intended to demonstrate technologies used potentially throughout the trigger.

-----> accepted

Section 1, use case 9:

I don't think this "others" clause adds any information. I'd rather see potential uses named explicitly or not mentioned at all.

-----> well, that was just a placeholder for what we might have forgotten about. Since noone asked for additional uses we can just as well remove that.

Section 2, requirement 19.1:

I'm concerned that this requirement could be interpreted as GOLD providing an interface for the TTC or the GBT, when I think you intend to provide an interface for the TTC and GBT. To clarify this, and as these clock schemes are quite different, I'd like to see this requirement split into two, one for the TTC and one for the GBT.

-----> what we meant to say is, that for a given module version just one of the options will be available. We will have a clock mezzanine module with an interface to the TTCrx system, and we will at a later stage have a mezzanine with a GBT interface.

Section 2:

Should there be a requirement to provide access to the System ACE micro-controller interface?

-----> We do in fact plan to attach the SystemACE micro controller interface to the Main processor via a CPLD. Therefore nothing speaks against adding a requirement on that.

Specification

Section 1.1:

To clarify, I think you should say explicitly it is the Phase-1 upgrade scenario you are describing here.

-----> accepted

Section 1.2, paragraph 1:

Rather than describe GOLD as a demonstrator for the "topological processor and other future L1Calo modules", I think it is truer to say it demonstrates technologies that potentially could be used throughout L1Calo.

-----> we could well change the wording that way.

Section 1.2.3.3:

This is not really an issue for the demonstrator, where I can put up with it, but in future I'd be happier if the monitoring interface wasn't implemented in the main FPGA. It looks too much like a single point of failure.

-----> accepted. In fact, in case someone were planning to implement something similar to the current Fujitsu CAN scheme for future L1Calo modules, we would happily take such a solution on board. We just want to avoid descending into that ourselves. On future clock mezzanines for the current GOLD we might well add such circuitry.

Section 1.4:

I infer the use of the GBT here, incoming via the SFPs; should it be mentioned explicitly? It would also be nice if the L1A, incoming from the TTCdec, was mentioned explicitly. I can't visualise how the TTCdec is connected mechanically to GOLD and the clock module, but perhaps that's just my problem.

-----> we could well mention the GBT here. It isn't actually clear to the GOLDers whether we can expect anything GBTish during GOLD lifetime. I believe that somewhere we are saying that we are providing a sub-set of the TTC data. We should perhaps mention a few signals there, including L1A. As for the TTCdec-on-GOLD we thought we could possibly hide that from the reviewers ;-). We were originally concerned about the space taken and therefore assumed to actually have it on some external module with a cable connection to the front panel. Though by now we rather envisage the following scenario: Initially just the upper half of GOLD will be assembled with FPGAs due to unavailability of HXT devices. Therefore there is plenty of space for a large clock mezzanine. At a later stage we would rather experiment with optically supplied LHC clock/data, be it GBT (if available) or some GBTish home grown scheme.

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The documents have already been updated to reflect Sam's and Yuri's comments. Ian's comments will be dealt with at a later date.