

## Test Time Reduction by Pattern Oriented Programming

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## Abstract

This paper represents test time reduction method using pattern oriented programming (POP). POP means the pattern is the center of the test, it controls instrument setups, it performs measurements and all this is done with timing and accuracy typically associated with digital patterns.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Depending on your device type, what it's being compared to, and how the test program was written, we have seen some "huge" test time improvements. Obviously, the improvement will vary, later in the presentation we touch how to assess how applicable POP is to your device and the kind of improvement you could see.

POP benefit is like blow.

- 1) Test Time
- 2) Complete Test Integration in Pattern
- 3) Measurement Stability
- 4) Production Maintenance

The pattern is where you efficiently setup multiple instruments at the same time across multiple sites. It's where you precisely control the timing between a setup opcode and a measurement. It's where you start on the next test while the instruments moves the captured data to embedded DSP's to perform analysis while the pattern continues to execute (perform the next test). It's where one set of patgen's performs one sequence of instruments while another set performs a different set of instructions to concurrently test different sections of the DUT.

## II. TECHNICAL BACKGROUND

In past only digital and AC instruments could be

controlled from the pattern. Now most instrument can be be setup (Pset's) and controlled (opcodes) from the pattern

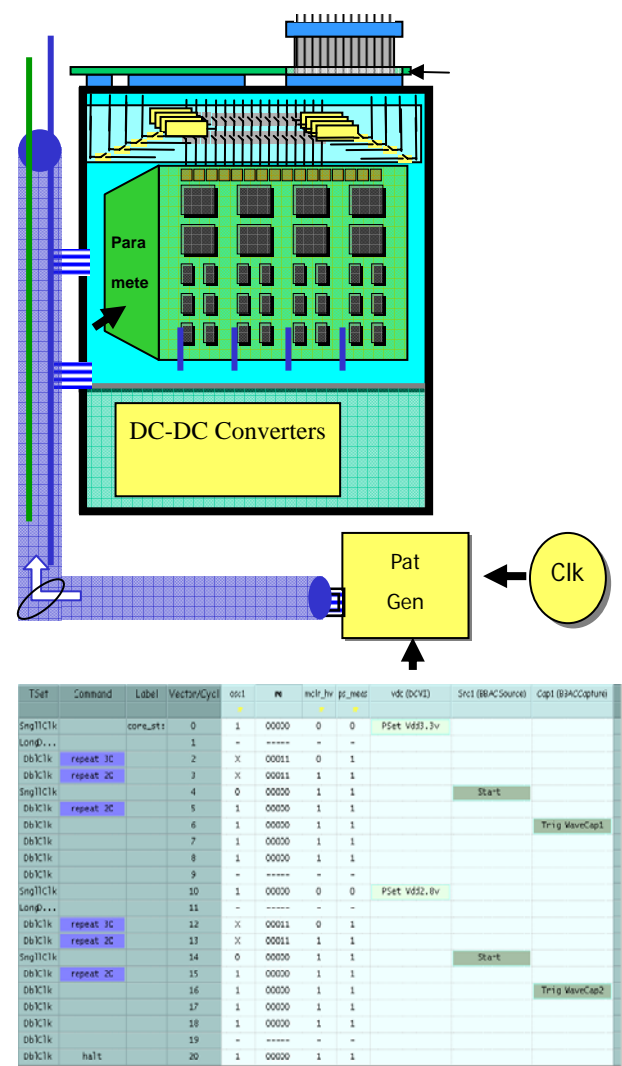


Fig.1. Pattern Control and Setup Instrument

Now let's look at real example of a controlling an instrument from the pattern using pset's and opcodes.

Voltage Regulator example of a POP test. The pattern shown performs a series of tests on the regulator by applying test conditions initially via Psets and measuring the output's response via Strobe opcode. The scope shot on left hand shows the input waveform to the DUT.

- 1) PSET VIN\_MAX / Gate On
- 2) Strobe VOUT
- 3) PSET VIN\_MIN
- 4) Strobe VOUT
- 5) PSET VIN\_NOM
- 6) Strobe VOUT     Min load on VOUT
- 7) Strobe VOUT     Max load on VOUT
- 8) Strobe VOUT     Nom load on VOUT
- 9) Start PSRR Waveform Source

Vector	TSet	Command	Label	VR_VIN (DCV)	VR_VOUT (DCV)	Comment
2	vr_ts_1us		Pset vin_max			Set VIN to max spec
3	vr_ts_1us	repeat 6	Gate_On			Gate on VIN
4	vr_ts_1us					wait 1ms
5	vr_ts_1us	repeat 1000	Enable_Alarm		Pset vreg_load_half_irated	Enable nom current load on VOUT
6	vr_ts_1us	repeat 6				
7	vr_ts_1us		Gate_On			Gate on VOUT
8	vr_ts_1us	repeat 2000				wait 2ms
9	vr_ts_1us		Strobe		Strobe	strobe results
10	vr_ts_1us	repeat 10				
11	vr_ts_1us		Pset vin_min			Set VIN to min spec
12	vr_ts_1us	repeat 1000				wait 1ms
13	vr_ts_1us		Strobe		Strobe	strobe results
14	vr_ts_1us	repeat 10				
15	vr_ts_1us		Pset vin_nom			Set VIN to nom spec
16	vr_ts_1us	repeat 1000				
17	vr_ts_1us		Strobe		Strobe	strobe results
18	vr_ts_1us	repeat 10				
19	vr_ts_1us		Pset vreg_load_min_irated			Set VOUT load to min
20	vr_ts_1us	repeat 1000				wait 1ms
21	vr_ts_1us		Strobe		Strobe	strobe results
22	vr_ts_1us	repeat 10				
23	vr_ts_1us		Pset vreg_load_full_irated			Set VOUT load to full
24	vr_ts_1us	repeat 1000				wait 1ms
25	vr_ts_1us		Strobe		Strobe	strobe results
26	vr_ts_1us	repeat 1000				

Fig.2. Pattern Example for POP

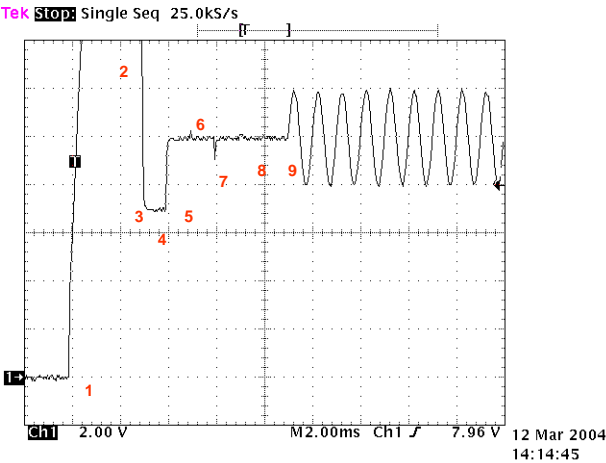


Fig.3. Capture Wave Form by Oscilloscope

Vector	TSet	Label	Command	(sbst, sbdt, pon_res)
8	tset_1		set_loopA 79	10 X -
9	-		repeat 3000	10 X -
10	-			10 X -
11	tset_1	thrsh_loop:		10 X H
12	-		pipe_minus 0, ign	10 X X
13	-		if (fail) jump found_thrsh, ign	10 X -
14	-			10 X -
15	tset_1		repeat 1000	10 X -
16	-		end_loopA thrsh_loop	10 X -
17	-	found_thrsh:	clr_cond_flags (fail)	10 X -
18	-		repeat 5	10 X -
19	-			10 X -
20	-		repeat 50	10 X -
21	-			10 X -

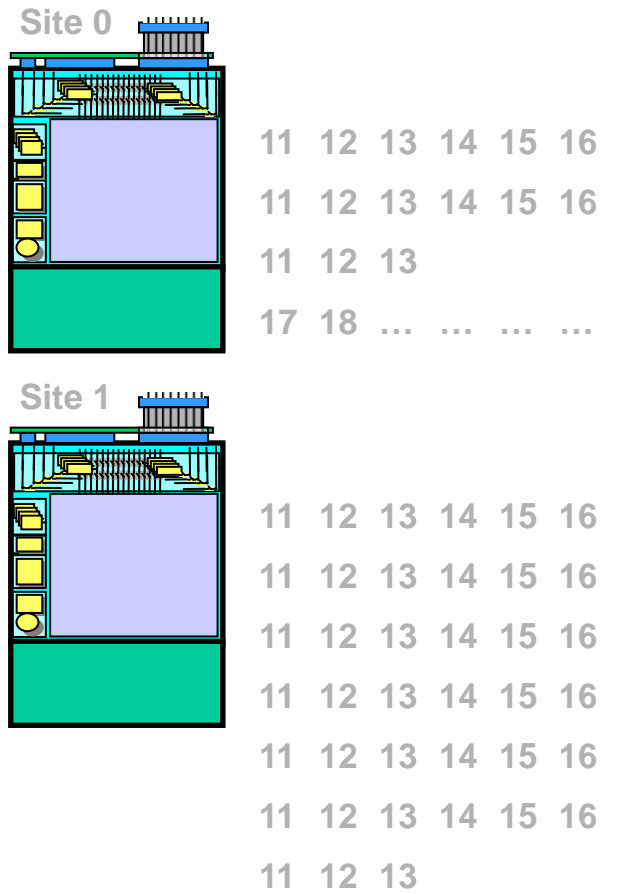


Fig.4. Pattern Threading

Since each board has it's own patgen you can support applications like pattern threading where you want to run the same pattern on every site but need the flexibility of each site responding differently to conditional branching. The example above shows how site 0 requires 3 times thru the loop before meeting the jump condition while site 1 requires 6 times thru the loop. Obviously, the key requirement for this to work is that site can NOT share any boards (i.e. patgens), said another way channels from instrument can only go to a single site.

SOC/MCM devices have multiple independent cores capable of being tested at the same time the exact manner in which they operate in the end application.

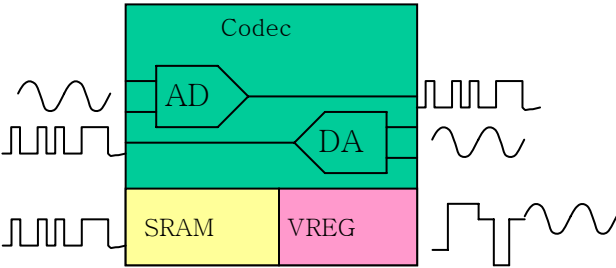


Fig.5. Several Core Inside Device

Conventional Testing does tests in a sequential manner. First one test is performed, then another, etc.

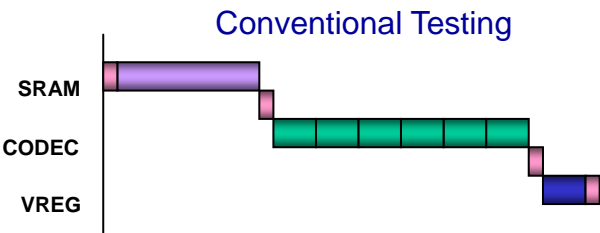


Fig.6. Conventional Testing

In Concurrent Testing, tests are run in parallel within the same device. The elapsed time to run all tests is the time required to run the longest test.

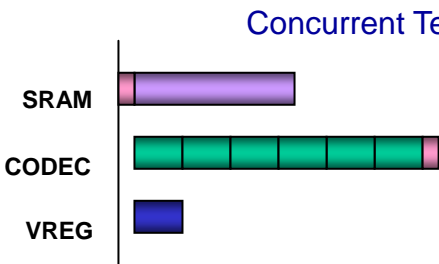


Fig.7. Concurrent Testing

Next picture demonstrate Background DSP and IIM. The key point is that while the pattern is executing data is moved from the instrument (IIM) to the DSP for processing, and this can happen multiple times in a pattern.

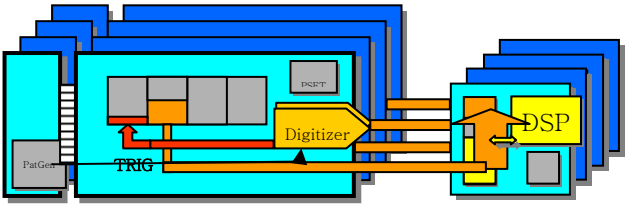


Fig.8. Background DSP & IIM

### III. EXAMPLES

Just to state it one more time. POP stands for Pattern Oriented Programming. POP tests are pattern based instead of code based. This is important be POP is a key enabler for making effective use of Flex’s architectural features/benefits.

To help make this a little more concrete we’re going to review two applications that use POP, give a basic overview of the tests and the benefits derived from using POP.

	Test Time
Non POP	4.0 S
POP	0.5 S

Table.1 Test Time Comparison between POP and Non-POP

by Automotive Engine Control Device

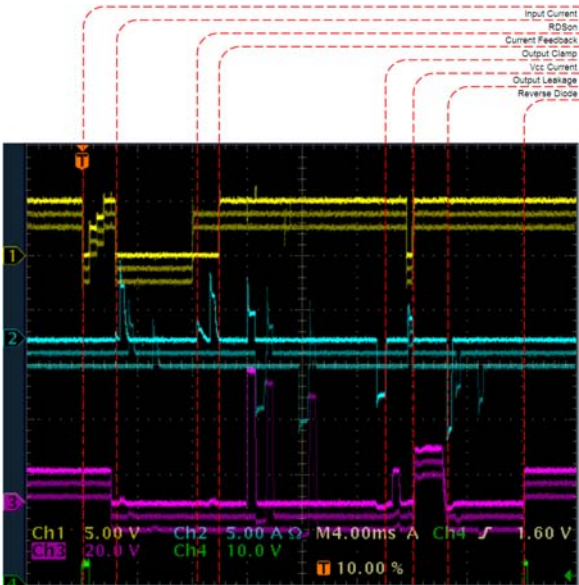


Fig.9. Capture Wave Form by Oscilloscope with Automotive Engine Control Device

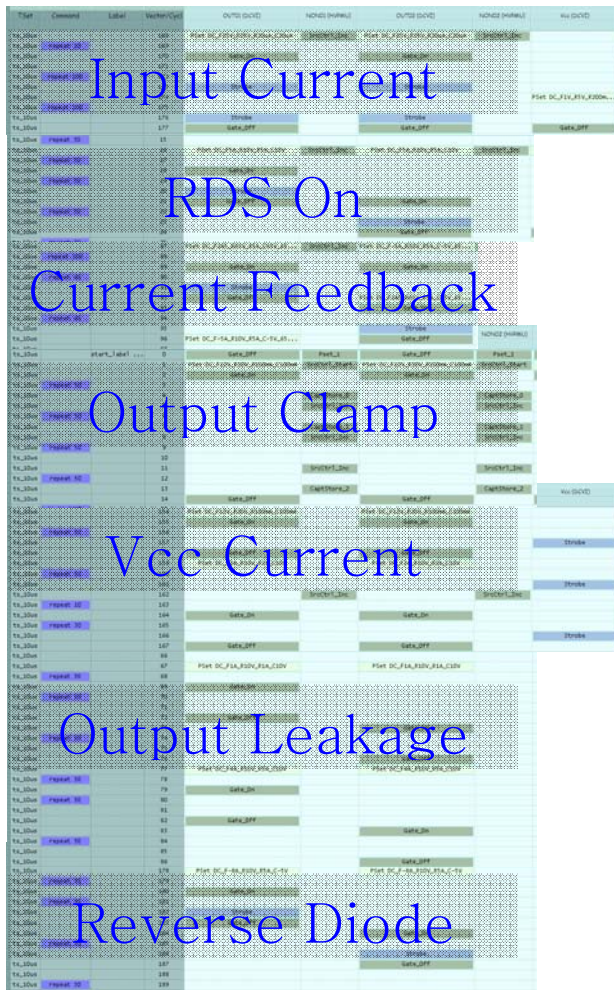


Fig.10. Pattern Example of POP with Automotive Engine  
Control Device

	Test Time
Non POP	3.4 S
POP	1.9 S

Table.2 Test Time Comparison between POP and Non-POP  
by BaseBand Processor for GSM Cell Phones

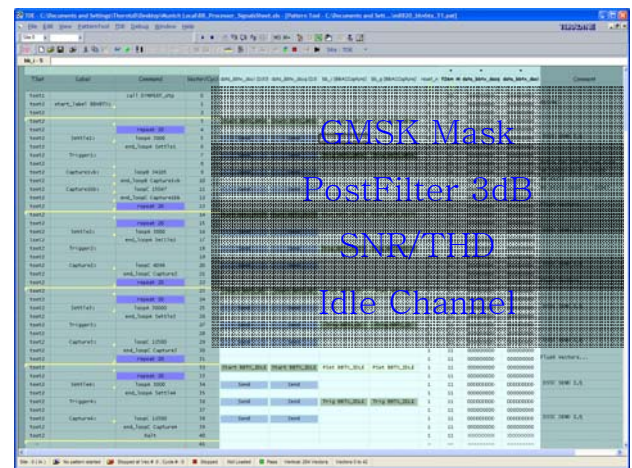


Fig.11. Pattern Example of POP with BaseBand Processor  
for GSM Cell Phones

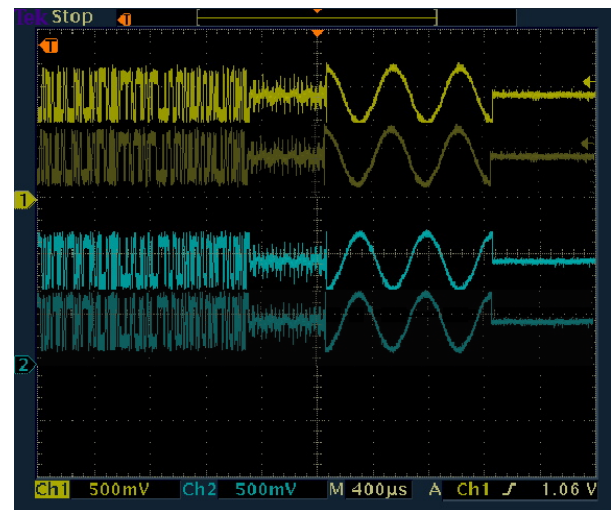


Fig.12. Capture Wave Form by Oscilloscope with BaseBand  
Processor for GSM Cell Phones

#### IV. CONCLUSION

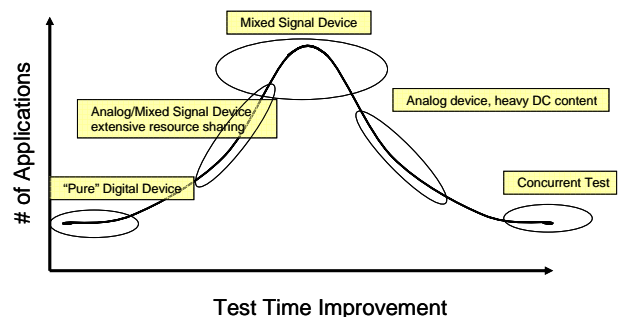


Fig.13. Test Time Improvement by a Kind of  
Devices

You will see very little test time improvement if you simply take an existing program and convert it line

for line. Effective POP programming requires you to step back and understand the tests and the DUT and how to best apply the instrumentation features. This understanding allows you to apply pin conditions in parallel and group tests that use the same connection and basic conditions within a single pattern.

These are just examples, obviously results for individual devices will vary depending on a number of factors. The idea of this slide is just to talk about the key points that affect the effectiveness of POP and how they vary from one device type to the next.

It take a couple of tests from a working test program and convert them to use POP. It will give you some idea of the benefits that can be derived from POP and get your feet wet with some of the development issues and challenges.

If you have a new effort staring soon, or just started, and you have spent time to review the DUT, test list and system configuration, and it looks like POP could be applied more fully. Then start from scratch with POP in mind – or even coherent POP. Frankly, we're still at an early stage in POP and we expect to learn as much from you as you'll learn from us.

## REFERENCES

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- [3] High Performance Testing with the FLEX Pattern Control Architecture by J Rowe (TUG 2004)
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- [5] PSets and Signals A Match Made in Heaven by Dan Thornton (TUG 2004)