

# VLSI Design

Programme course

12 credits

VLSI-konstruktion, CDIO

TSEK06

Valid from: 2021 Spring semester

**Determined by**

Board of Studies for Electrical Engineering,  
Physics and Mathematics

**Date determined**

2020-09-29

## Main field of study

Electrical Engineering

## Course level

Second cycle

## Advancement level

A1X

## Course offered for

- Master's Programme in Electronics Engineering
- Computer Science and Engineering, M Sc in Engineering
- Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering - International, M Sc in Engineering
- Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering, M Sc in Engineering

## Specific information

The Entrepreneurship part overlap with other CDIO courses and cannot be included more than once in a degree.

Exchange students may apply for the course after arrival to LiTH but before it starts. The Faculty coordinators for exchange studies must be contacted before applying.

## Prerequisites

Good knowledge in fundamentals of electronics, digital technique, MOS transistors and CMOS technology, digital and analog integrated circuits. The following courses cover most of the above knowledge: Introduction to VLSI Design (TSTE86), advanced VLSI Design (TSEK36), and Analog and Discrete-Time Integrated Circuits (TSTE80)

## Intended learning outcomes

This course is intended to give knowledge and experience in design and fabrication of CMOS VLSI chips. This includes:

1. Deep insight in physical design of VLSI chips.

2. Knowledge and experience of using professional CAD tools for design, simulation, layout, and verification of VLSI chips.
3. Design of a 'real' and functional chip, starting from the idea and behavioral modeling to detailed circuit design at transistor level, circuit layout, and final verifications.
4. Complete the project using a systematic and professional approach required by industry to run large and complex VLSI projects:
  - Organize a project group, make project plan, and divide the task efficiently among the group members.
  - Promote teamwork, create a dynamic and functional group, and actively monitor the progress of the project.
  - Apply the knowledge from previous courses, search for supplementary knowledge and material, take the initiative, and find creative solutions.
  - Meet the project milestones and the final deadline, document the project, and show the progress by written reports and oral presentations.

A purpose for the course is also for the students to acquire knowledge and abilities within the general area of entrepreneurship, with particular focus on business planning for new ventures. After the course, students should be able to:

- account for models that describe what it takes for a new venture to have a stable basis for further development and to assess the level of development of ventures using such models; and
- account for the information and analyses needed to evaluate a development project from a business point of view and have the ability to collect and analyse relevant information for the purpose.

## Course content

Labs include: a small project-example intending to demonstrate a full custom (handwork) and an automated VLSI design flow as well as introducing major CAD tools to be used throughout the design projects.

Design project includes: Team building, project planning, project management, pre-study of the project, architectural exploration, behavioral modeling and verifications, logic and transistor-level design and circuit simulations, circuit layout, layout verifications, tape out, and the final project documentation.

Lectures support the project moments including: Course description, introduction to VLSI design methodology, project description, advanced circuit and layout techniques, interconnect interface circuits, on-chip power delivery, clock distribution, synchronization techniques, IO drivers, and pads, testability and reliability considerations, and other related topics.

## Teaching and working methods

Lectures, labs and the chip design project, where the task is: Design, simulation, and fabrication-ready layout of VLSI functional blocks on a chip in 0.35 $\mu$ m CMOS Technology.

The core of the course is the project, which will be selected and carried out by a group of 4-to-8 students in an independent manner. The complete chip-design should be ready by the end of Vt2, and a written report should be handed to a supervisor (one for a design team). The chips can be fabricated provided the design is accepted and the students declare to attend the course Evaluation of an Integrated Circuit.

The course runs over the entire spring semester.

## Examination

PRA1	Project Work	U, G	7.5 credits
LAB1	Laboratory Work	U, G	1.5 credits
UPG1	Entrepreneurship Assignments	U, G	3 credits

Grades are given as 'Fail' or 'Pass'.

## Grades

Two grade scale, older version, U, G

## Other information

Supplementary courses: Evaluation of an Integrated circuit.

### About teaching and examination language

The teaching language is presented in the Overview tab for each course. The examination language relates to the teaching language as follows:

- If teaching language is Swedish, the course as a whole or in large parts, is taught in Swedish. Please note that although teaching language is Swedish, parts of the course could be given in English. Examination language is Swedish.
- If teaching language is Swedish/English, the course as a whole will be taught in English if students without prior knowledge of the Swedish language participate. Examination language is Swedish or English (depending on teaching language).
- If teaching language is English, the course as a whole is taught in English. Examination language is English.

### Other

The course is conducted in a manner where both men's and women's experience and

knowledge are made visible and developed.

The planning and implementation of a course should correspond to the course syllabus. The course evaluation should therefore be conducted with the course syllabus as a starting point.

## Department

Institutionen för systemteknik

## Director of Studies or equivalent

Mikael Olofsson

## Examiner

Atila Alvandpour

## Course website and other links

<http://www.isy.liu.se/en/edu/kurs/TSEK06/>

## Education components

Preliminary scheduled hours: 60 h

Recommended self-study hours: 260 h

## Course literature

Jan M. Rabaey, Anantha Chandrakasan, Borivoje Nikolic, "Digital Integrated Circuits", Prentice Hall, Second Edition (International edition), ISBN 0-13-120764-4 Kompendium om projektmodellen LIPS (köps på Bokakademin).

# Common rules

## Course syllabus

A syllabus must be established for each course. The syllabus specifies the aim and contents of the course, and the prior knowledge that a student must have in order to be able to benefit from the course.

## Timetabling

Courses are timetabled after a decision has been made for this course concerning its assignment to a timetable module.

## Interrupting a course

The vice-chancellor's decision concerning regulations for registration, deregistration and reporting results (Dnr LiU-2015-01241) states that interruptions in study are to be recorded in Ladok. Thus, all students who do not participate in a course for which they have registered must record the interruption, such that the registration on the course can be removed. Deregistration from a course is carried out using a web-based form: <https://www.lith.liu.se/for-studenter/kurskomplettering?f=en>.

## Cancelled courses

Courses with few participants (fewer than 10) may be cancelled or organised in a manner that differs from that stated in the course syllabus. The Dean is to deliberate and decide whether a course is to be cancelled or changed from the course syllabus.

## Guidelines relating to examinations and examiners

For details, see Guidelines for education and examination for first-cycle and second-cycle education at Linköping University, Dnr LiU-2019-00920 (<http://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/917592>).

An examiner must be employed as a teacher at LiU according to the LiU Regulations for Appointments, Dnr LiU-2017-03931

(<https://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/622784>). For courses in second-cycle, the following teachers can be appointed as examiner: Professor (including Adjunct and Visiting Professor), Associate Professor (including Adjunct), Senior Lecturer (including Adjunct and Visiting Senior Lecturer), Research Fellow, or Postdoc. For courses in first-cycle, Assistant Lecturer (including Adjunct and Visiting Assistant Lecturer) can also be appointed as examiner in addition to those listed for second-cycle courses. In exceptional cases, a Part-time Lecturer can also be appointed as an examiner at both first- and second cycle, see Delegation of authority for the Board of Faculty of Science and Engineering.

## Forms of examination

### Principles for examination

Written and oral examinations and digital and computer-based examinations are held at least three times a year: once immediately after the end of the course, once in August, and once (usually) in one of the re-examination periods. Examinations held at other times are to follow a decision of the board of studies.

Principles for examination scheduling for courses that follow the study periods:

- courses given in VT1 are examined for the first time in March, with re-examination in June and August
- courses given in VT2 are examined for the first time in May, with re-examination in August and October
- courses given in HT1 are examined for the first time in October, with re-examination in January and August
- courses given in HT2 are examined for the first time in January, with re-examination in March and in August.

The examination schedule is based on the structure of timetable modules, but there may be deviations from this, mainly in the case of courses that are studied and examined for several programmes and in lower grades (i.e. 1 and 2).

Examinations for courses that the board of studies has decided are to be held in alternate years are held three times during the school year in which the course is given according to the principles stated above.

Examinations for courses that are cancelled or rescheduled such that they are not given in one or several years are held three times during the year that immediately

follows the course, with examination scheduling that corresponds to the scheduling that was in force before the course was cancelled or rescheduled.

When a course is given for the last time, the regular examination and two re-examinations will be offered. Thereafter, examinations are phased out by offering three examinations during the following academic year at the same times as the examinations in any substitute course. If there is no substitute course, three examinations will be offered during re-examination periods during the following academic year. Other examination times are decided by the board of studies. In all cases above, the examination is also offered one more time during the academic year after the following, unless the board of studies decides otherwise.

If a course is given during several periods of the year (for programmes, or on different occasions for different programmes) the board or boards of studies determine together the scheduling and frequency of re-examination occasions.

## **Retakes of other forms of examination**

Regulations concerning retakes of other forms of examination than written examinations and digital and computer-based examinations are given in the LiU guidelines for examinations and examiners,  
<http://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/917592>.

## **Registration for examination**

Until January 31 2021, the following applies according to previous guidelines: In order to take an written, digital or computer-based examination student must register in advance at the Student Portal during the registration period, which opens 30 days before the date of the examination and closes 10 days before it. Candidates are informed of the location of the examination by email, four days in advance. Students who have not registered for an examination run the risk of being refused admittance to the examination, if space is not available.

From February 1 2021, new guidelines applies for registration for written, digital or computer-based examination, Dnr LiU-2020-02033  
(<https://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/622682>).

Symbols used in the examination registration system:

\*\* denotes that the examination is being given for the penultimate time.



\* denotes that the examination is being given for the last time.

## Code of conduct for students during examinations

Details are given in a decision in the university's rule book:  
<http://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/622682>.

## Retakes for higher grade

Students at the Institute of Technology at LiU have the right to retake written examinations and digital and computer-based examinations in an attempt to achieve a higher grade. This is valid for all examination components with code "TEN", "DIT" and "DAT". The same right may not be exercised for other examination components, unless otherwise specified in the course syllabus.

A retake is not possible on courses that are included in an issued degree diploma.

## Grades

The grades that are preferably to be used are Fail (U), Pass (3), Pass not without distinction (4) and Pass with distinction (5).

- Grades U, 3, 4, 5 are to be awarded for courses that have written or digital examinations.
- Grades Fail (U) and Pass (G) may be awarded for courses with a large degree of practical components such as laboratory work, project work and group work.
- Grades Fail (U) and Pass (G) are to be used for degree projects and other independent work.

## Examination components

The following examination components and associated module codes are used at the Faculty of Science and Engineering:

- Grades U, 3, 4, 5 are to be awarded for written examinations (TEN) and digital examinations (DIT).
- Examination components for which the grades Fail (U) and Pass (G) may be awarded are laboratory work (LAB), project work (PRA), preparatory written examination (KTR), digital preparatory written examination (DIK),

oral examination (MUN), computer-based examination (DAT), home assignment (HEM), and assignment (UPG).

- Students receive grades either Fail (U) or Pass (G) for other examination components in which the examination criteria are satisfied principally through active attendance such as tutorial group (BAS) or examination item (MOM).
- Grades Fail (U) and Pass (G) are to be used for the examination components Opposition (OPPO) and Attendance at thesis presentation (AUSK) (i.e. part of the degree project).

In general, the following applies:

- Mandatory course components must be scored and given a module code.
- Examination components that are not scored, cannot be mandatory. Hence, it is voluntary to participate in these examinations, and the voluntariness must be clearly stated. Additionally, if there are any associated conditions to the examination component, these must be clearly stated as well.
- For courses with more than one examination component with grades U,3,4,5, it shall be clearly stated how the final grade is weighted.

For mandatory components, the following applies: If special circumstances prevail, and if it is possible with consideration of the nature of the compulsory component, the examiner may decide to replace the compulsory component with another equivalent component. (In accordance with the LiU Guidelines for education and examination for first-cycle and second-cycle education at Linköping University, <http://stydokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/917592>).

For written examinations, the following applies: If the LiU coordinator for students with disabilities has granted a student the right to an adapted examination for a written examination in an examination hall, the student has the right to it. If the coordinator has instead recommended for the student an adapted examination or alternative form of examination, the examiner may grant this if the examiner assesses that it is possible, based on consideration of the course objectives. (In accordance with the LiU Guidelines for education and examination for first-cycle and second-cycle education at Linköping University, <http://stydokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/917592>).

## **Reporting of examination results**

The examination results for a student are reported at the relevant department.

## Plagiarism

For examinations that involve the writing of reports, in cases in which it can be assumed that the student has had access to other sources (such as during project work, writing essays, etc.), the material submitted must be prepared in accordance with principles for acceptable practice when referring to sources (references or quotations for which the source is specified) when the text, images, ideas, data, etc. of other people are used. It is also to be made clear whether the author has reused his or her own text, images, ideas, data, etc. from previous examinations, such as degree projects, project reports, etc. (this is sometimes known as “self-plagiarism”).

A failure to specify such sources may be regarded as attempted deception during examination.

## Attempts to cheat

In the event of a suspected attempt by a student to cheat during an examination, or when study performance is to be assessed as specified in Chapter 10 of the Higher Education Ordinance, the examiner is to report this to the disciplinary board of the university. Possible consequences for the student are suspension from study and a formal warning. More information is available at <https://www.student.liu.se/studenttjanster/lagar-regler-rattigheter?l=en>.

## Regulations (apply to LiU in its entirety)

The university is a government agency whose operations are regulated by legislation and ordinances, which include the Higher Education Act and the Higher Education Ordinance. In addition to legislation and ordinances, operations are subject to several policy documents. The Linköping University rule book collects currently valid decisions of a regulatory nature taken by the university board, the vice-chancellor and faculty/department boards.

LiU’s rule book for education at first-cycle and second-cycle levels is available at [http://stydokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/Innehall/Utbildning\\_pa\\_grund-\\_och\\_avancerad\\_niva](http://stydokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/Innehall/Utbildning_pa_grund-_och_avancerad_niva).