



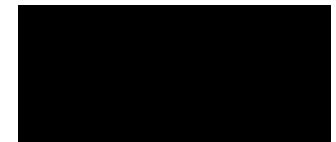
Timing Diagrams for Accellera Standard OVL V2.1

assert_<checker> modules

Mike Turpin / ARM
15th September 2007

Contents

- Introduction to OVL
 - Types of OVL
 - OVL Release History & Major Changes
 - pre-Accellera Apr 2003
 - v1.0 May 2005
 - v1.1, v1.1a, b Aug 2005
 - v1.5 Dec 2005
 - v1.6 Mar 2006
 - v1.7 July 2006
 - v1.8 Oct 2006
 - V2.0 Jun 2007 (Beta in April)
 - V2.1 Sep 2007
- Introduction to Timing Diagrams
 - Timing Diagram Syntax & Semantics
 - Timing Diagram Template
- Assert Timing Diagrams (alphabetical order)

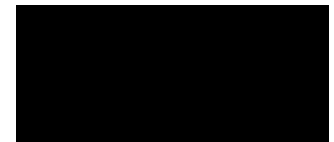


Types of OVL Assertion

Combinatorial Assertions

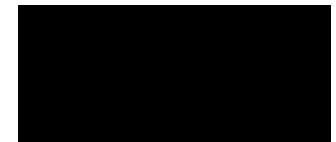
- `assert_proposition, assert_never_unknown_async`

$SM \square \square (J, v8CiIj, -J(q, 6CnIj6-v)) Jgble-l$



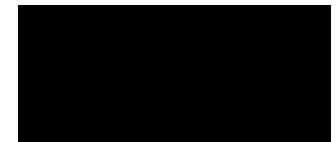
OVL Release History and Major Changes

- pre-Accellera, April 2003
 - Verilog updated in April, but VHDL still October 2002
- v1.0, May 2005
 - Changed:
 - assert_change (window can no longer finish before num_cks-1 cycles)
 - assert_fifo_index (property_type removed from functionality)
 - assert_time/unchange (RESET_ON_NEW_START corner case)
- v1.1, July 2005
 - New: assert_never_unknown
 - Changed:
 - assert_implication: antecedent_expr typo fixed
 - assert_change: window length fixed to num_cks
- v1.1a, August 2005
 - Fixed: assert_width
- v1.1b, August 2005 (minor updates to doc)



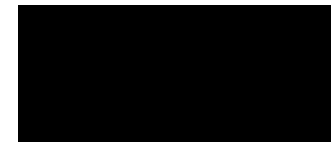
OVL Release History and Major Changes

- v1.5, December 2005
 - New:
 - Preliminary PSL support
 - `OVL_IGNORE property_type
 - Fixed: assert_always_on_edge (startup delayed by 1 cycle)
- v1.6, March 2006
 - New: assert_never_unknown_async
- v1.7, July 2006
 - Consistent X Semantics & Coverage Levels
 - PSL support
- v1.8, Oct 2006
 - Bug fixes



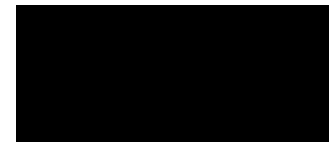
OVL Release History and Major Changes

- v2.0-Beta, April 2007
 - ovl_<checker> modules (not documented here)
 - enable input & fire output (tied low in beta)
 - clock_edge, reset_polarity & gating_type parameters
 - 17 new ovl_<checker> modules (in SVA)
 - Preliminary VHDL release (10 checkers)
 - Bug fixes
- v2.0, June 2007
 - fire output implemented in top-10 Verilog OVLs
 - Also implemented in VHDL checkers
 - Still tied low in SVA & PSL versions
 - `OVL_ASSERT_2STATE & `OVL_ASSUME_2STATE
 - property_type values for local X-checking disable
 - Bug fixes



OVL Release History and Major Changes (page 4 of 4)

- v2.1, Sept 2007
 - Bug fixes

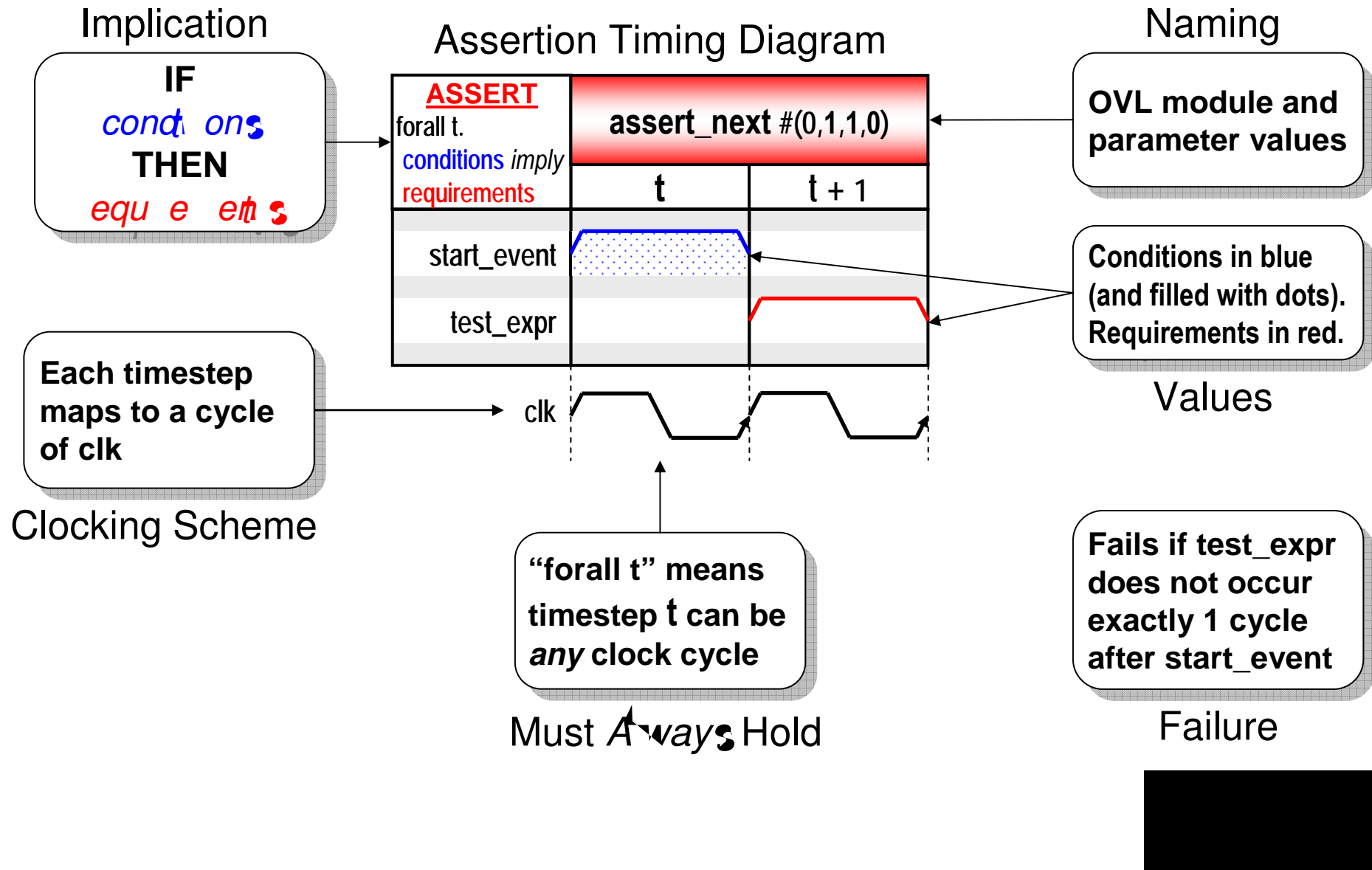




Introduction to Timing Diagrams

- Timing Diagram Syntax & Semantics
- Timing Diagram Template

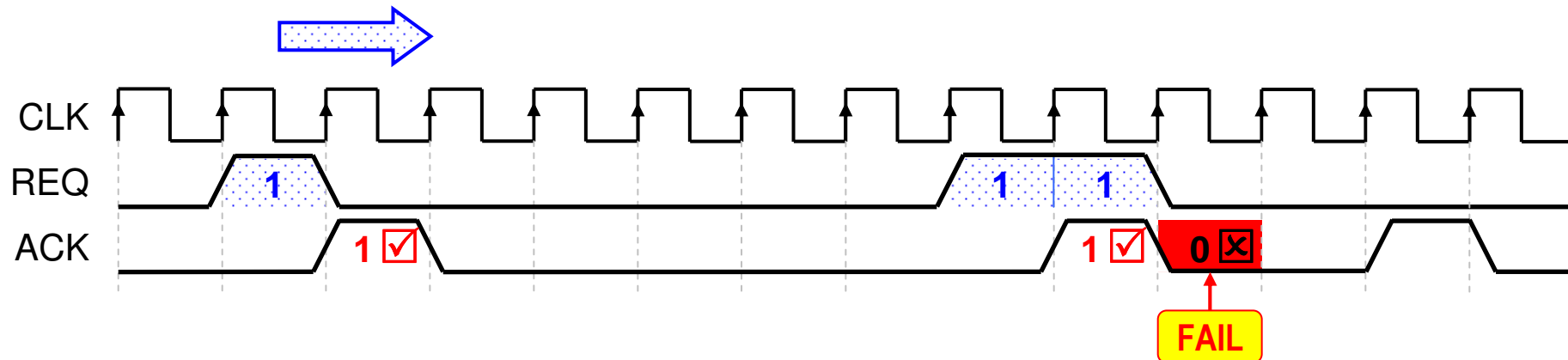
Introduction: OVL Timing Diagram



Introduction: Verification of Assertion

| ASSERT | assert_next #(0,1,1,0) | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| forall t. conditions imply requirements | t | t + 1 |
| start_event(REQ) | | |
| test_expr(ACK) | | |

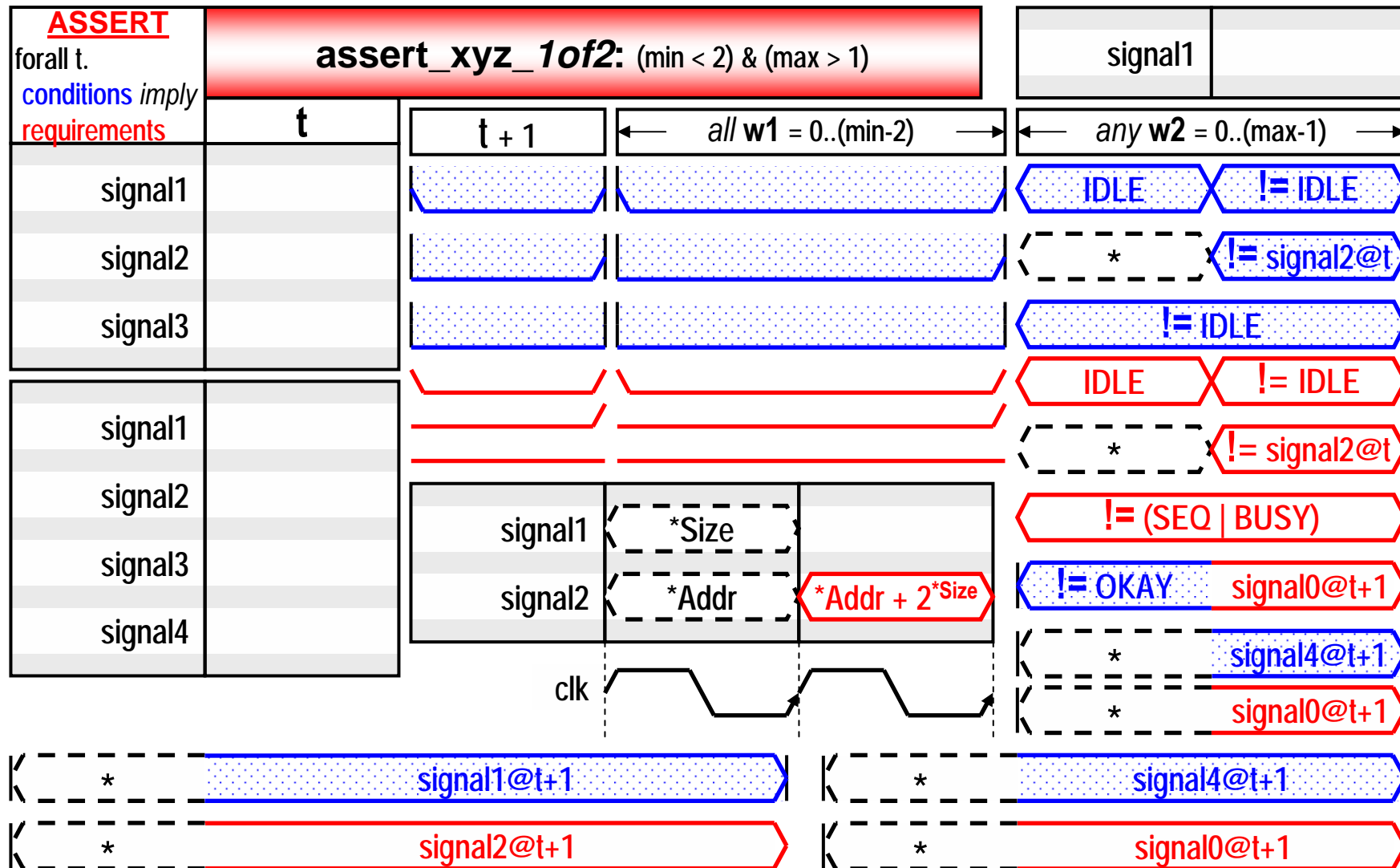
Imagine *sliding* the timing diagram, pipeline style, over each simulation cycle ...
... if all **conditions** match, then all **requirements** must hold.

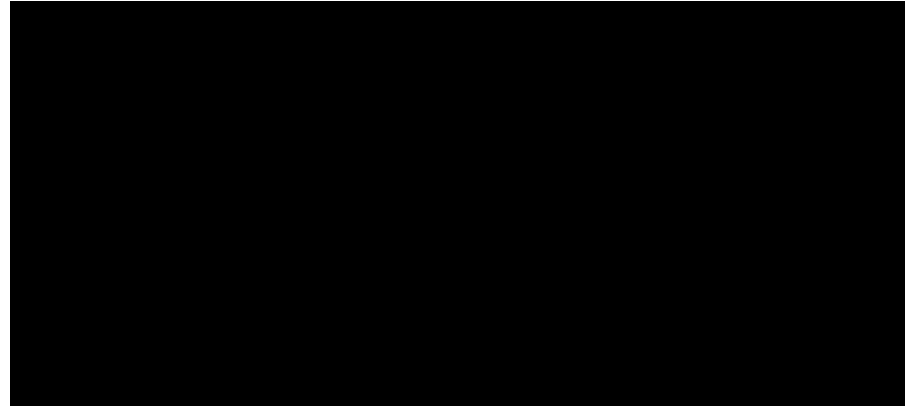


Simulation *might* show this failure, but only if stimulus covers back-to-back REQs.

Formal Verification would never pass this, and should show the failure with a short debug trace.

Template





Assert Timing Diagrams

33 assert_<checker> modules

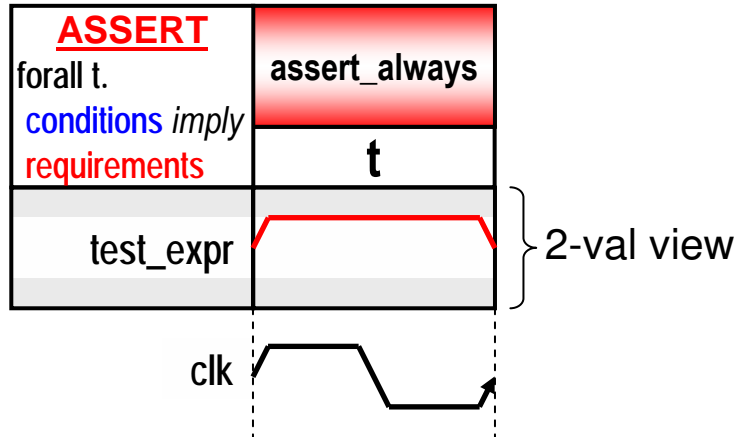
does not include ovl_<checker> modules

assert_always

```
 #(severity_level, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
 ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)
```

test_expr must always hold

Single-Cycle



assert_always will
also pass if you
fail if test_expr is X

Can disable failure
on X/Z via:

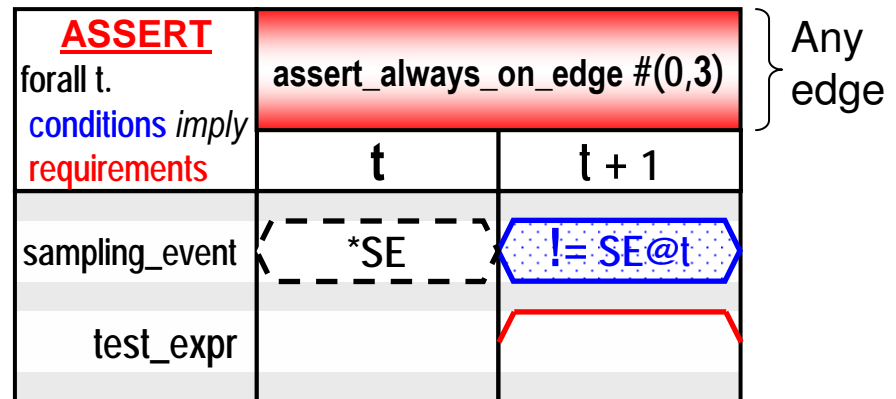
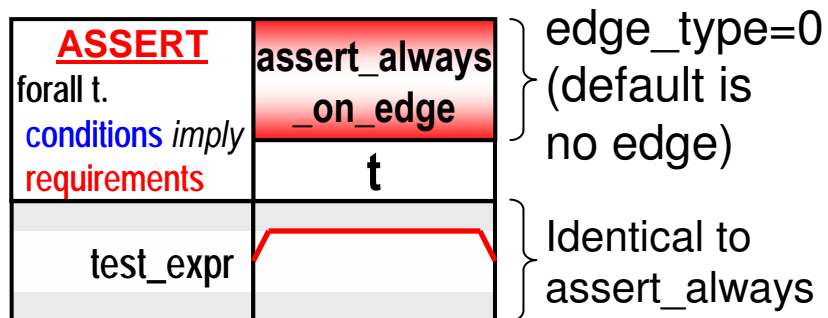
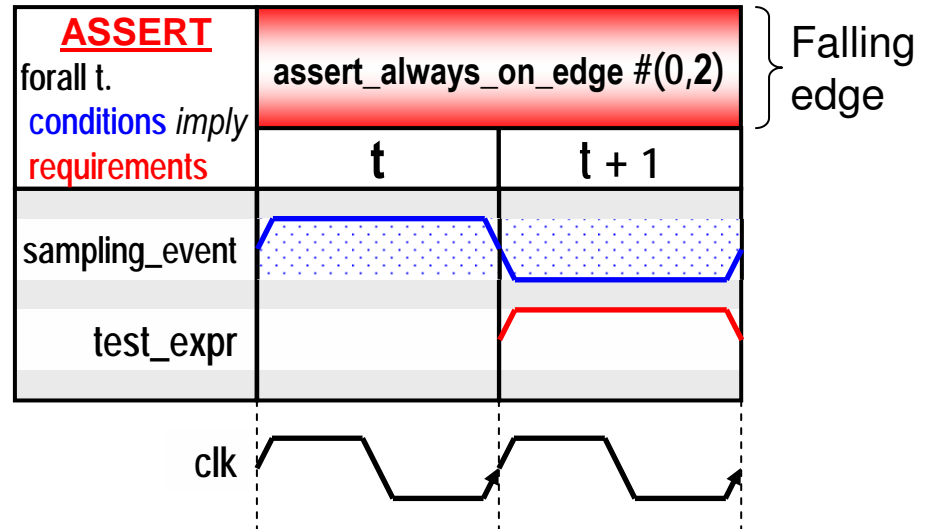
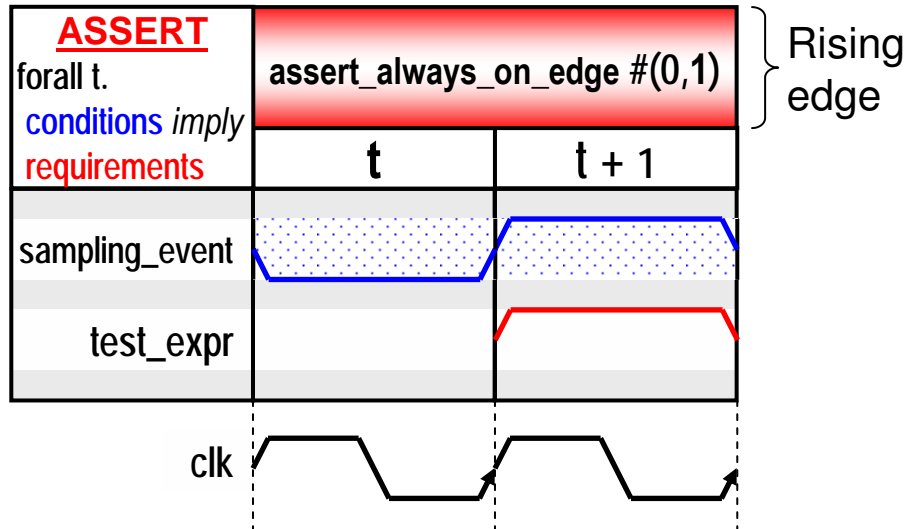
global: OVL_XCHECK_OFF
local: OVL_ASSERT_2STATE

assert_always_on_edge

```
#(severity_level, edge_type, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, sampling_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr is true immediately following the edge specified by the edge_type parameter

2-Cycles



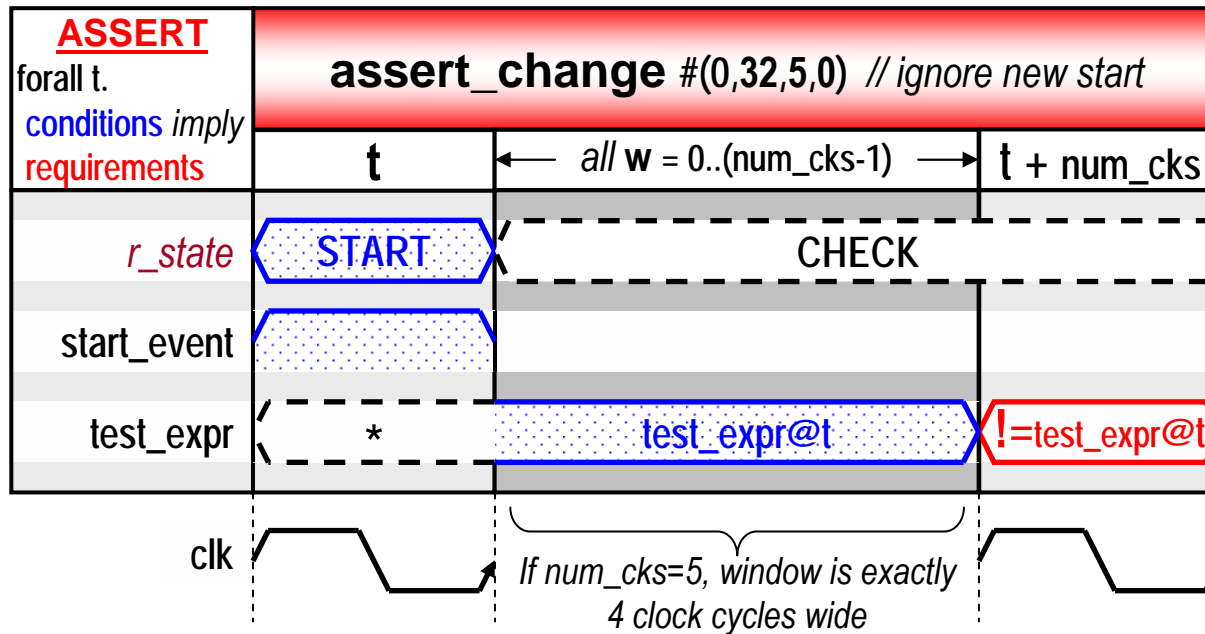
assert_change

(page 1 of 3)

```
#(severity_level, width, num_cks, action_on_new_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr must change within num_cks cycles of start_event

n-Cycles



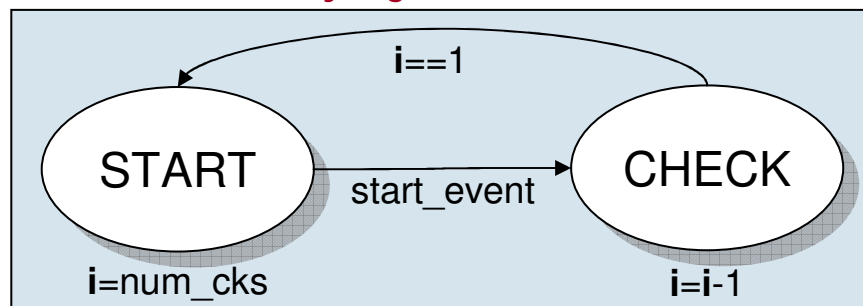
num_cks=5
action_on_new_start=0
(OVL_IGNORE_NEW_START)

Will pass if test_expr changes at any cycle:
t+1, t+2, ..., t+num_cks
Fails if test_expr is stable for all num_cks cycles.

Differs to April 2003

From OVL version 1.0 the check window spans the entire num_cks-1 cycles (even if it finishes early).

r_state (auxiliary logic)



Auxiliary logic necessary, to ignore new start. Checking only begins after start_event is true and r_state==START.

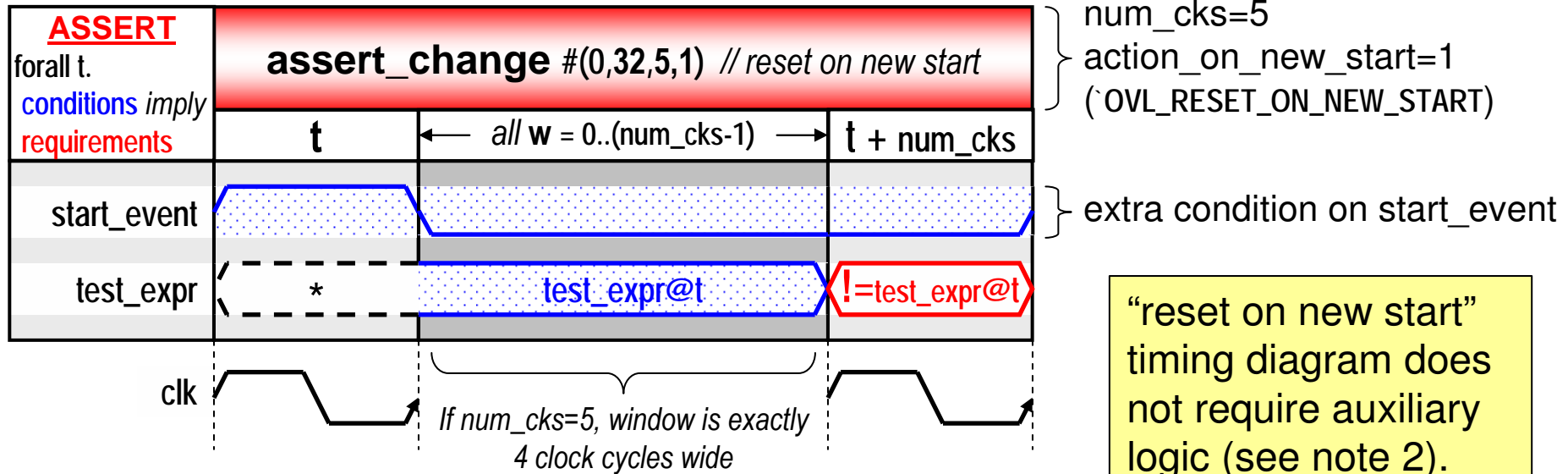
assert_change

(page 2 of 3)

```
#(severity_level, width, num_cks, action_on_new_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr must change within num_cks cycles of start_event

n-Cycles



Differs to April 2003

From OVL version 1.0 the
check window spans the
entire num_cks-1 cycles.

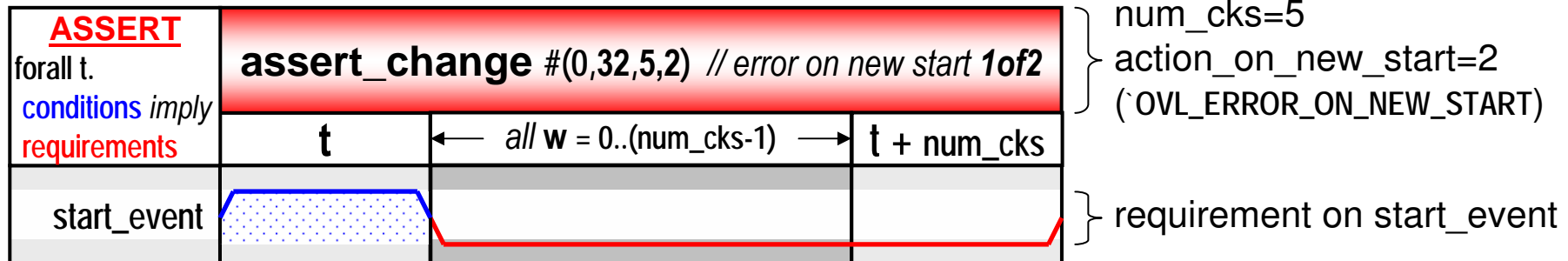
assert_change

(page 3 of 3)

```
#(severity_level, width, num_cks, action_on_new_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr must change within num_cks cycles of start_event

n-Cycles

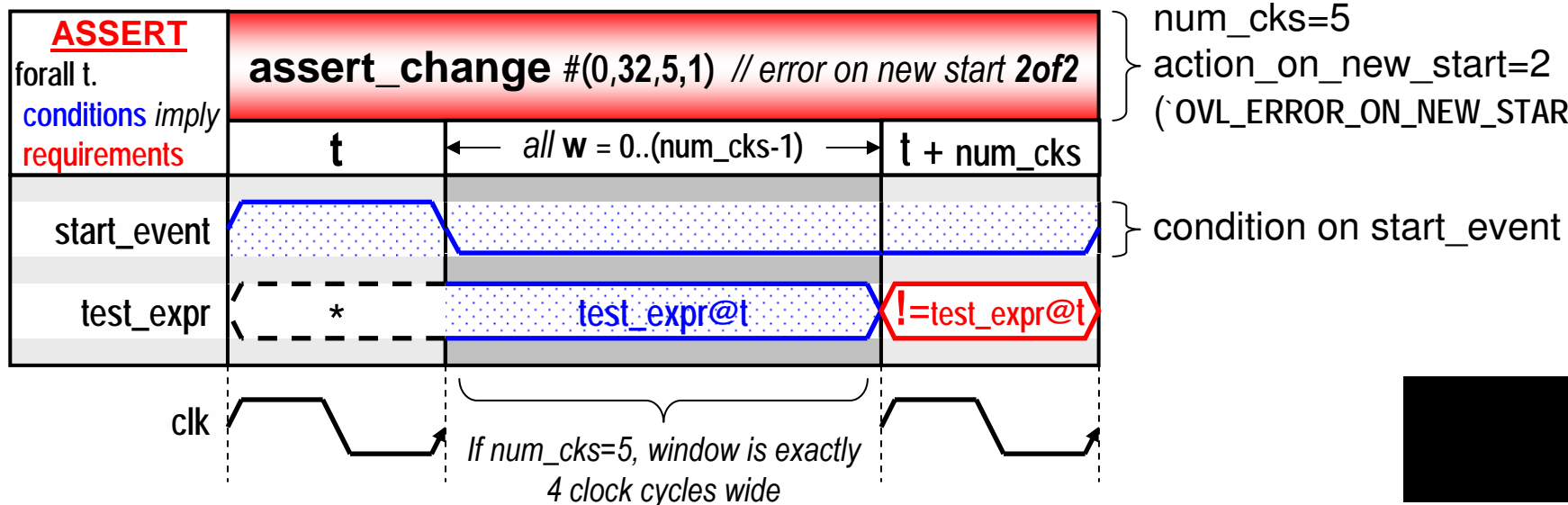


+

“error on new start”
requires **two timing diagrams**, with 2nd
being the same as
“reset on new start”

Differs to April 2003

From OVL version 1.0 the
check window spans the
entire num_cks-1 cycles.



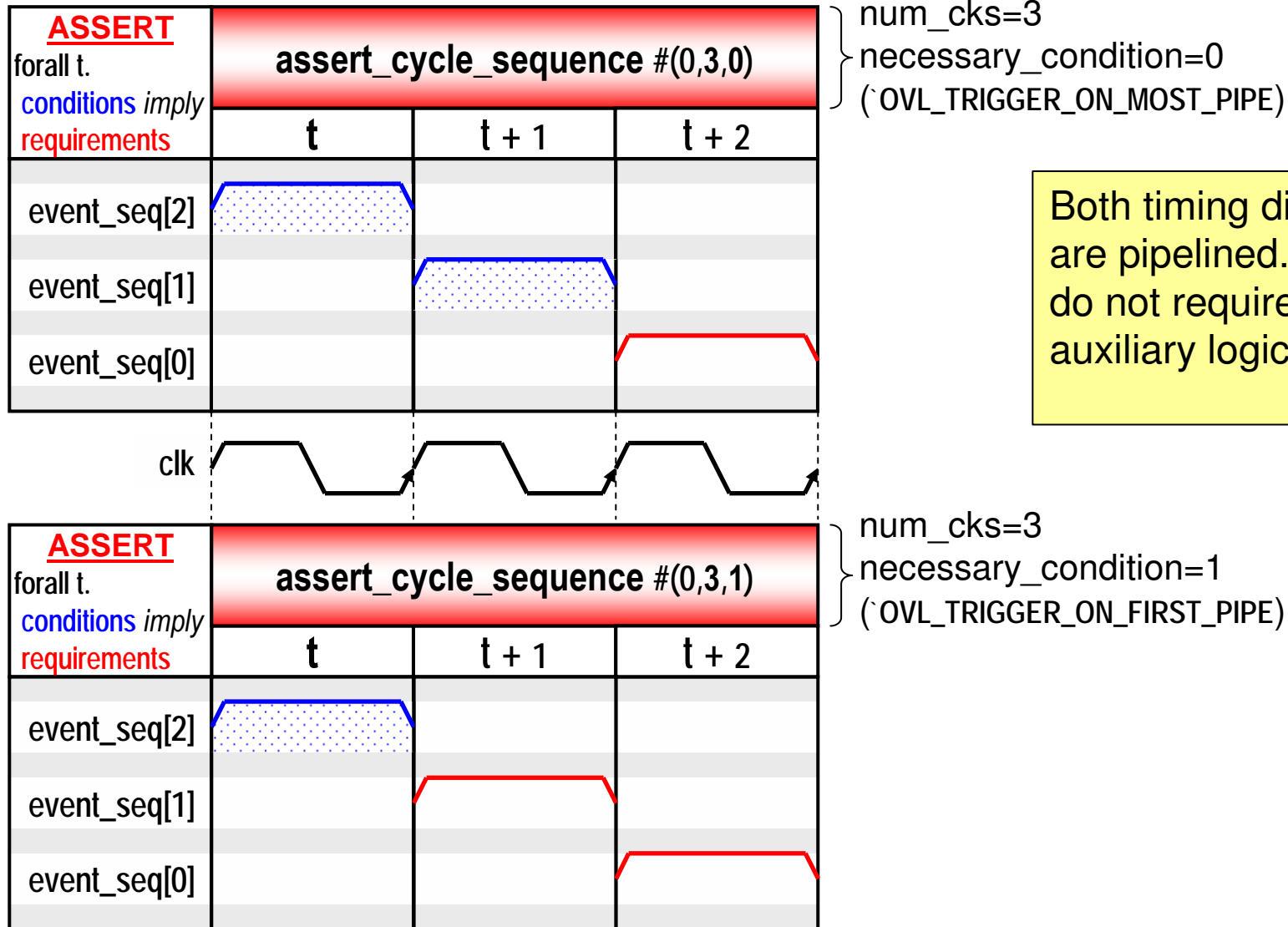
assert_cycle_sequence

```
#(severity_level, num_cks, necessary_condition, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
ul (clk, reset_n, event_sequence)
```

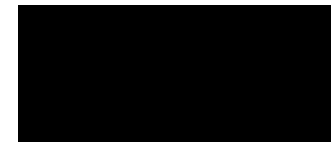
(page 1 of 2)

If the initial sequence holds, the final sequence must also hold (final is 1-cycle or N-1 cycles)

n-Cycles



Both timing diagrams are pipelined. They do not require any auxiliary logic.



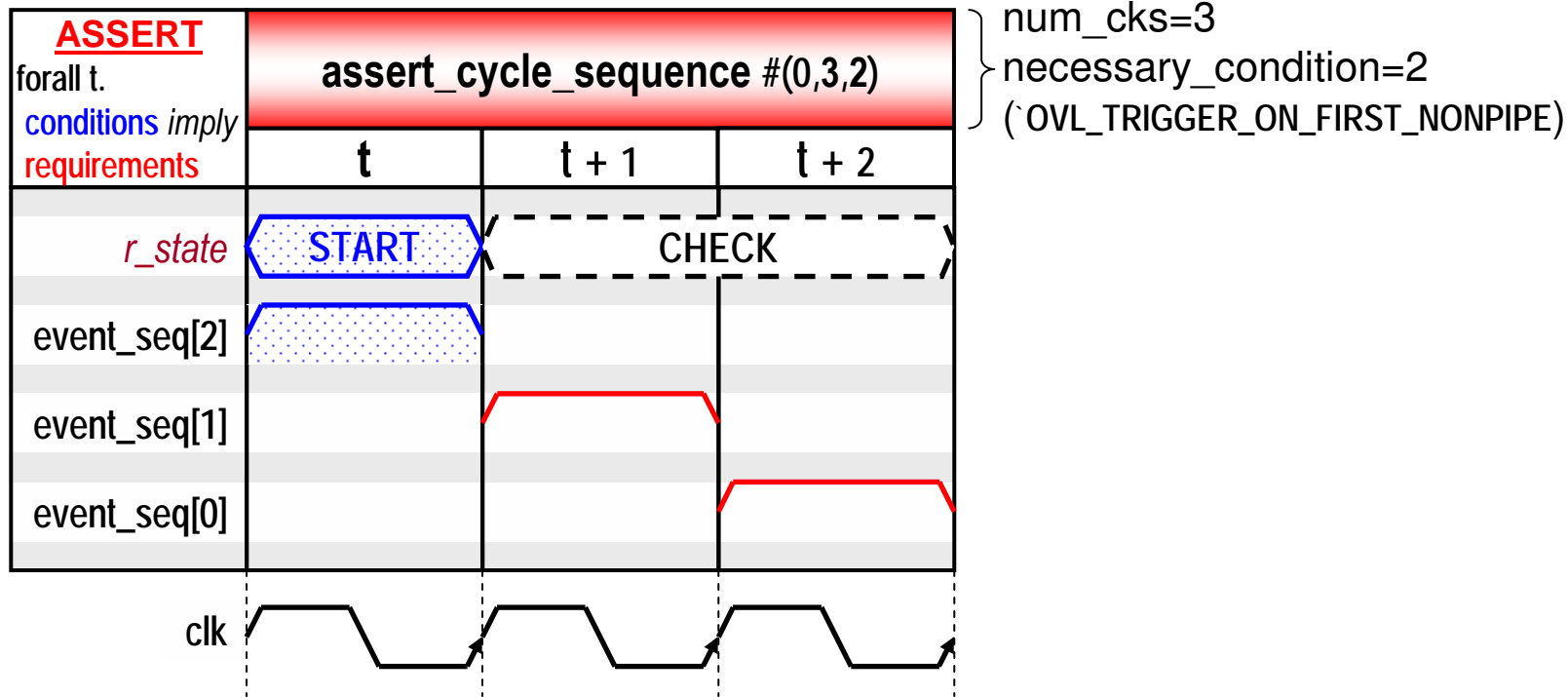
assert_cycle_sequence

```
#(severity_level, num_cks, necessary_condition, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, event_sequence)
```

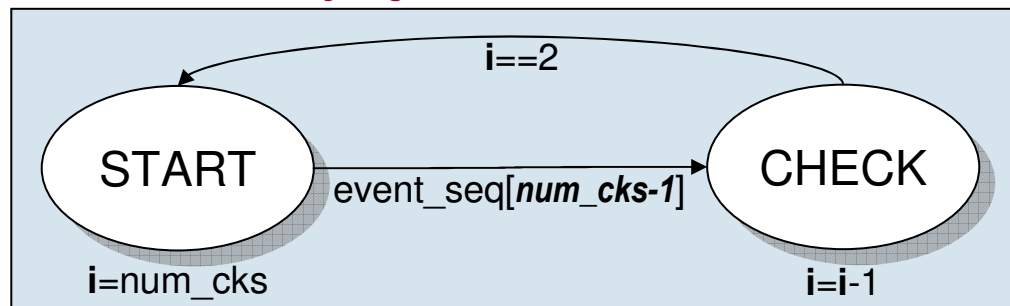
(page 2 of 2)

If the initial sequence holds, the final sequence must also hold (final is 1-cycle or N-1 cycles)

n-Cycles



r_state (auxiliary logic)



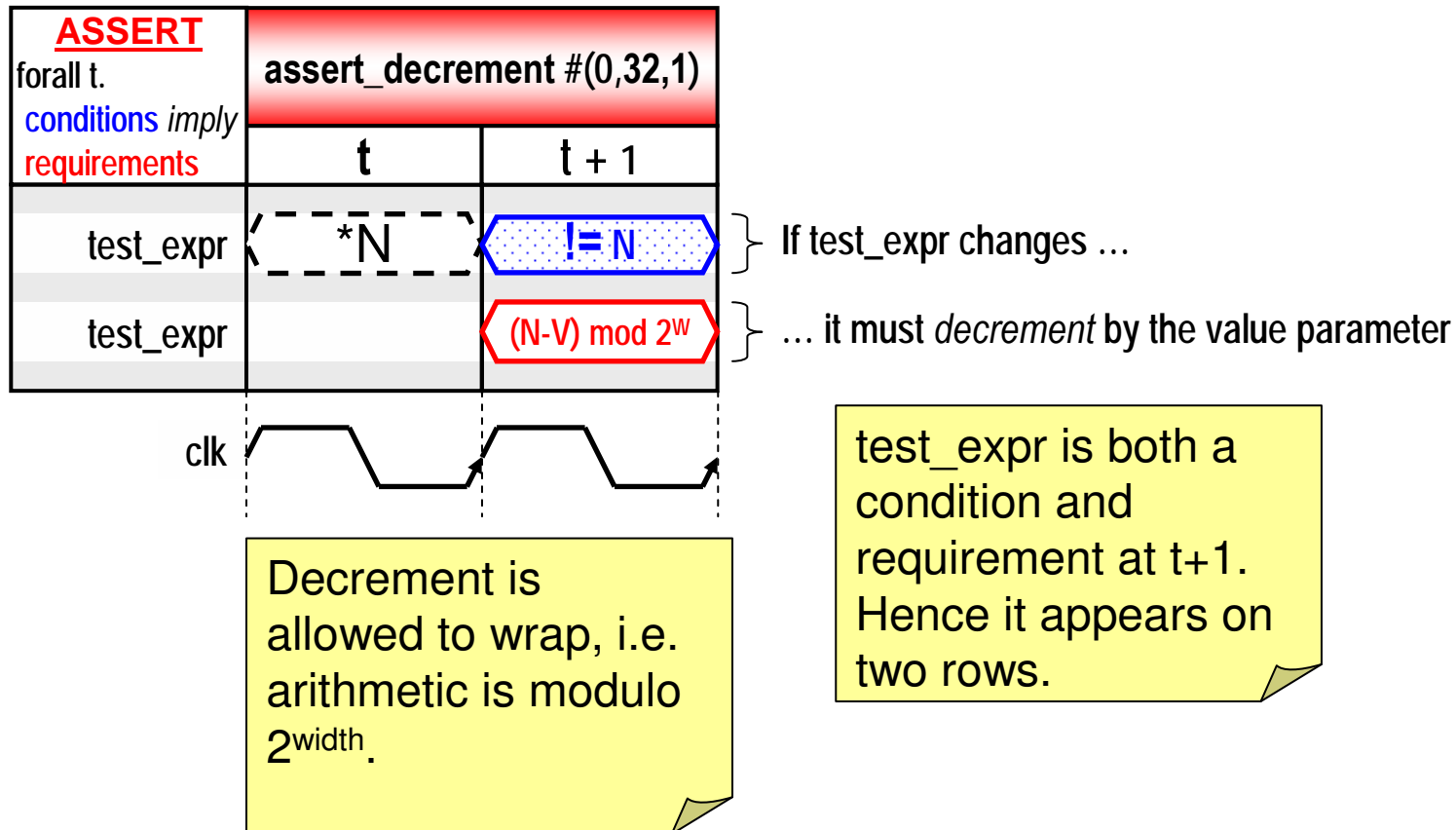
Need auxiliary logic, to *no e* subsequent **event_seq[num_cks-1]** when non-pipelined.

assert_decrement

```
 #(severity_level, width, value, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
 ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)
```

If `test_expr` changes, it must decrement by the `value` parameter (modulo 2^{width})

2-Cycles

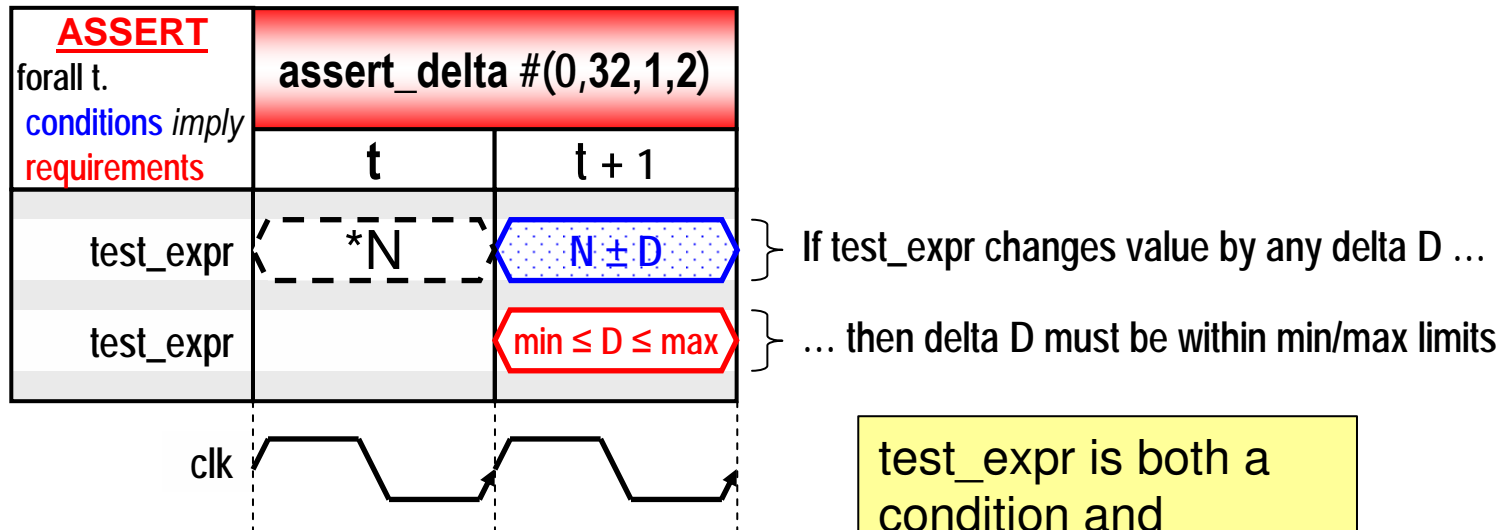


assert_delta

```
#(severity_level, width, min, max, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)
```

If `test_expr` changes, the delta must be $\geq \text{min}$ and $\leq \text{max}$

2-Cycles



test_expr is both a
condition and
requirement at t+1.
Hence it appears on
two rows.

assert_even_parity

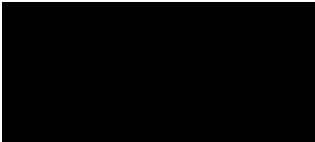
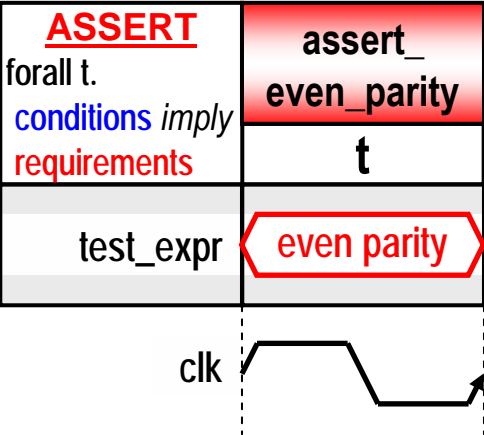
```

#(severity_level, width, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)

```

test_expr must have an even parity, i.e. an even number of bits asserted.

Single-Cycle

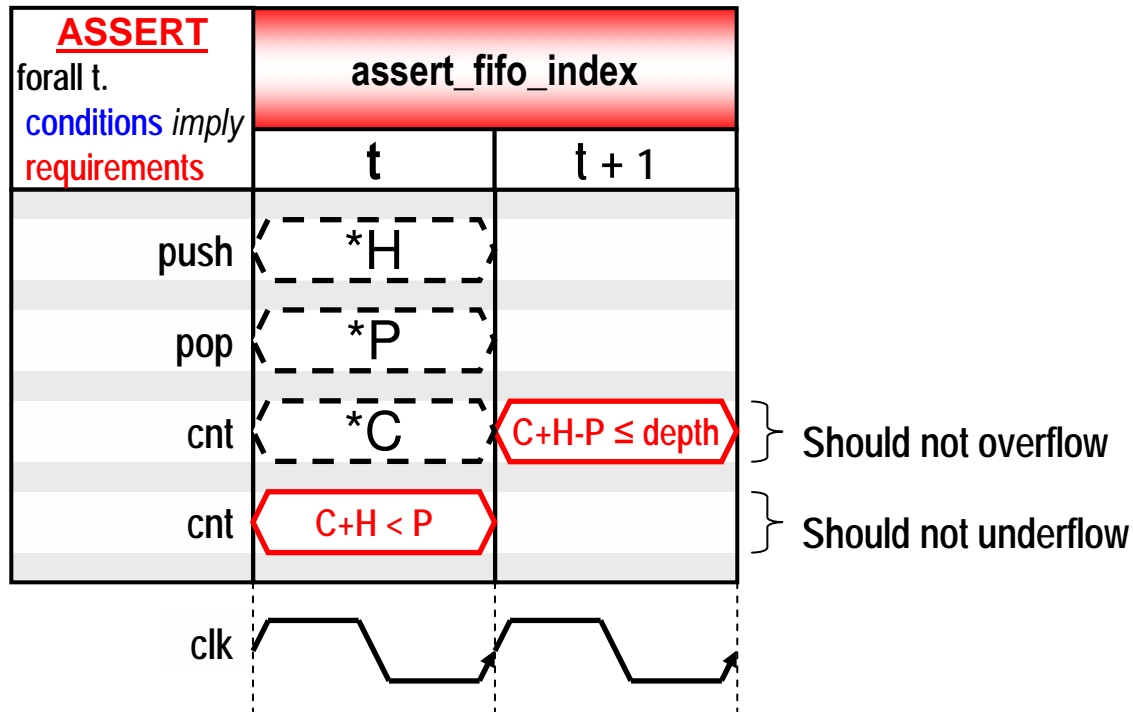


assert_fifo_index

```
#(severity_level, depth, push_width, pop_width, property_type, msg, coverage_level, simultaneous_push_pop)
ul (clk, reset_n, push, pop)
```

FIFO pointers should never overflow or underflow.

2-Cycles



Differs to April 2003

From OVL version 1.0 the property_type parameter does not affect the functionality.

The counter "cnt" changes by a (push-pop) delta every cycle.

If simultaneous_push_pop is low, there is an additional check to ensure that push and pop are not both >1

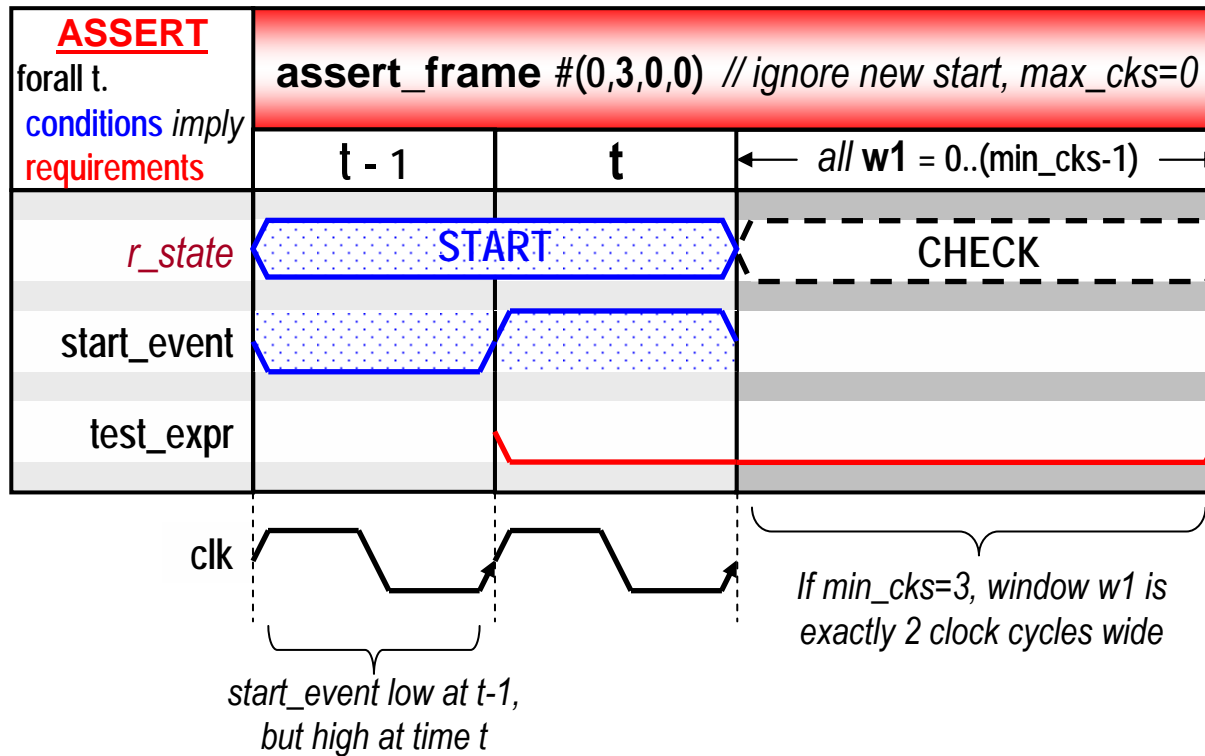
assert_frame

(page 1 of 5)

```
#(severity_level, min_cks, max_cks, action_on_new_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr must not hold before min_cks cycles, but must hold at least once by max_cks.

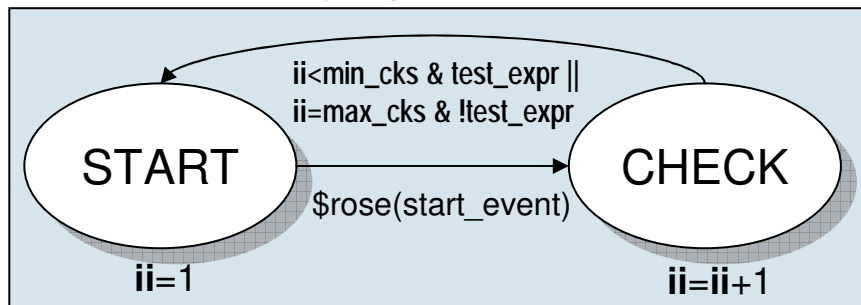
n-Cycles



min_cks>0, max_cks=0
action_on_new_start=0
(OVL_IGNORE_NEW_START)

Shows min_cks>0 and max_cks=0 (no upper limit). Only checks that test_expr stays low up until t+(min_cks-1).

r_state (auxiliary logic)



Auxiliary logic necessary, to ignore new rising edge on start_event. The \$rose syntax indicates high now but low in previous cycle.

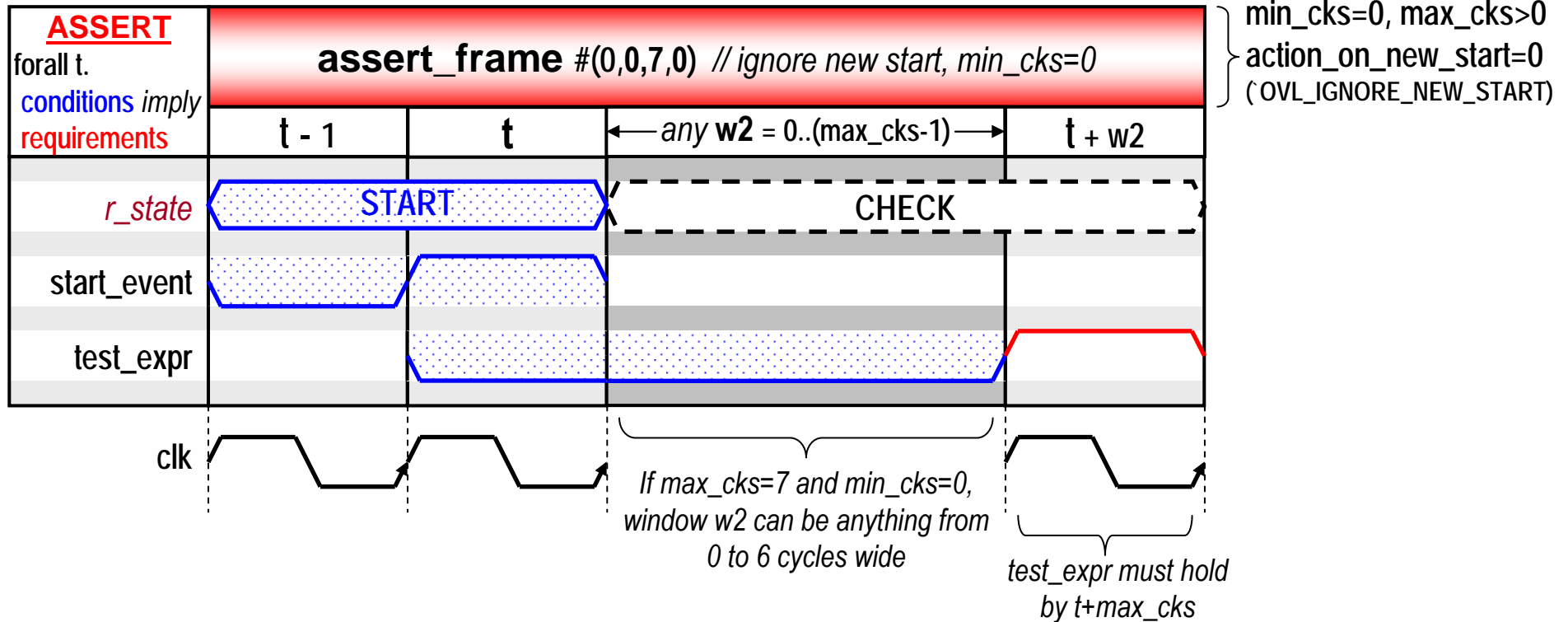
assert_frame

(page 2 of 5)

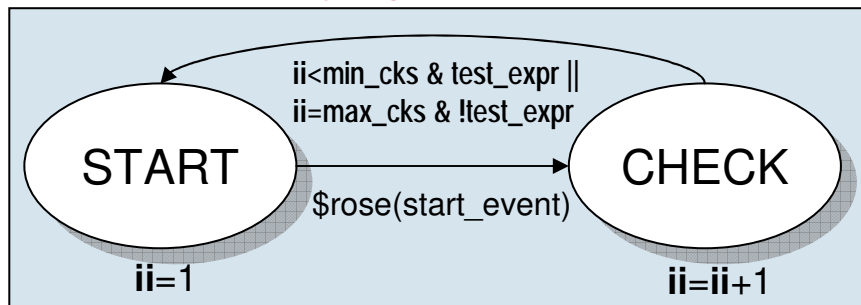
```
#(severity_level, min_cks, max_cks, action_on_new_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr must not hold before min_cks cycles, but must hold at least once by max_cks.

n-Cycles



r_state (auxiliary logic)



Important to have
test_expr@t==1'b0
condition. Avoids extra
checking if test_expr
already holds at time t.

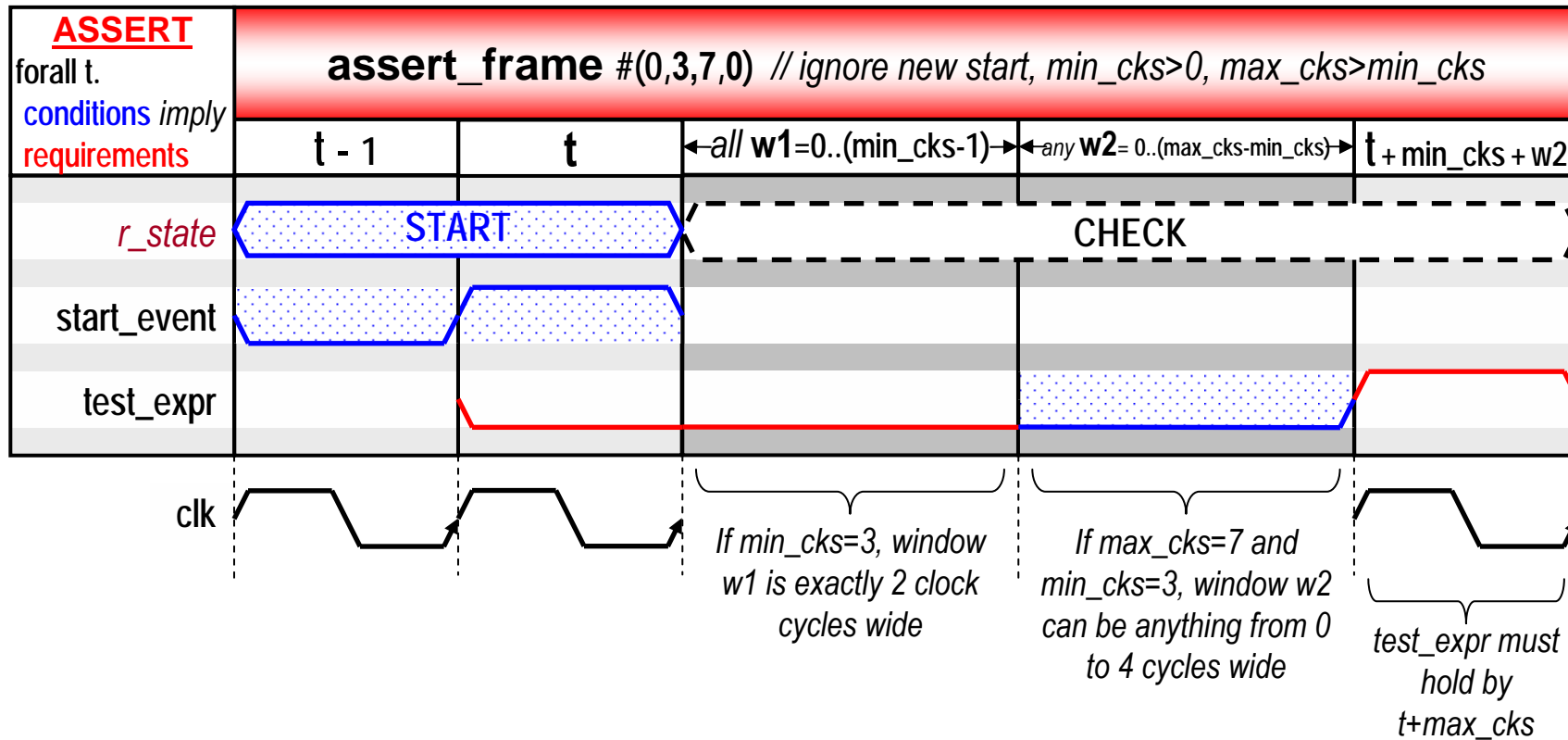
assert_frame

(page 3 of 5)

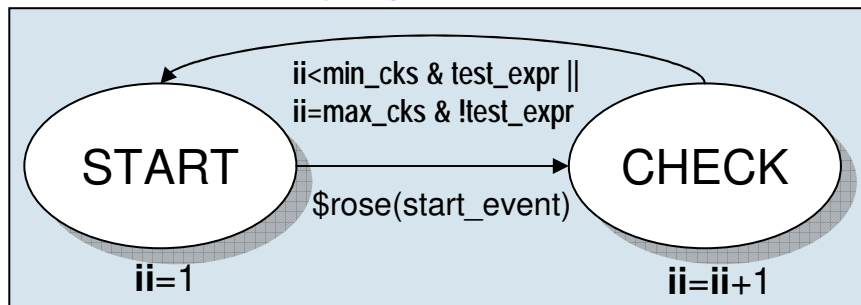
```
#(severity_level, min_cks, max_cks, action_on_new_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr must not hold before min_cks cycles, but must hold at least once by max_cks.

n-Cycles



r_state (auxiliary logic)



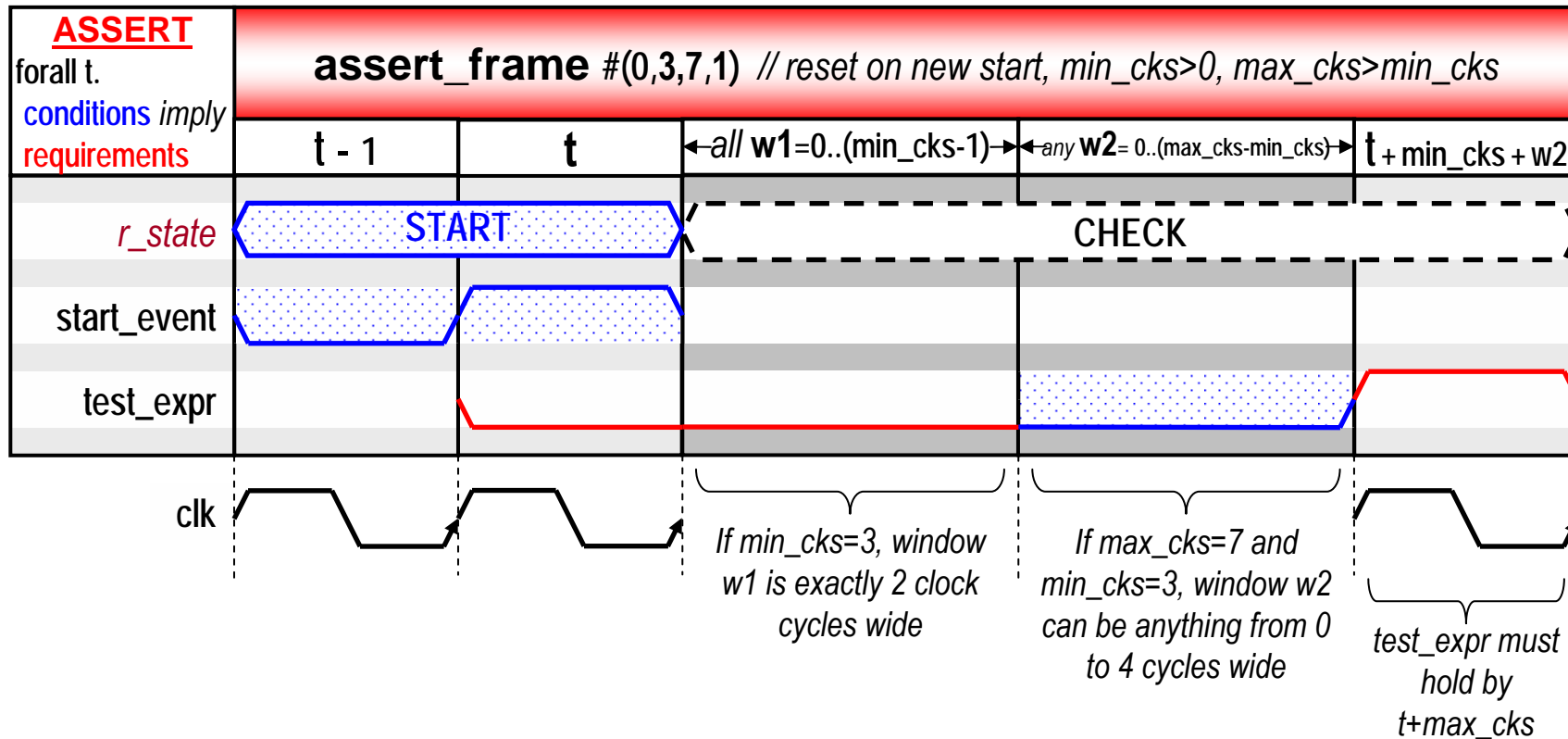
assert_frame

(page 4 of 5)

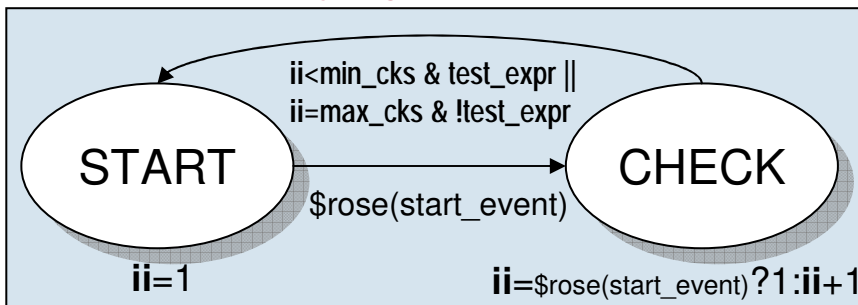
```
#(severity_level, min_cks, max_cks, action_on_new_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr must not hold before min_cks cycles, but must hold at least once by max_cks.

n-Cycles



r_state (auxiliary logic)



Auxiliary logic also necessary for "reset on new start", but counter resets to 1 on new rising edge of start_event.

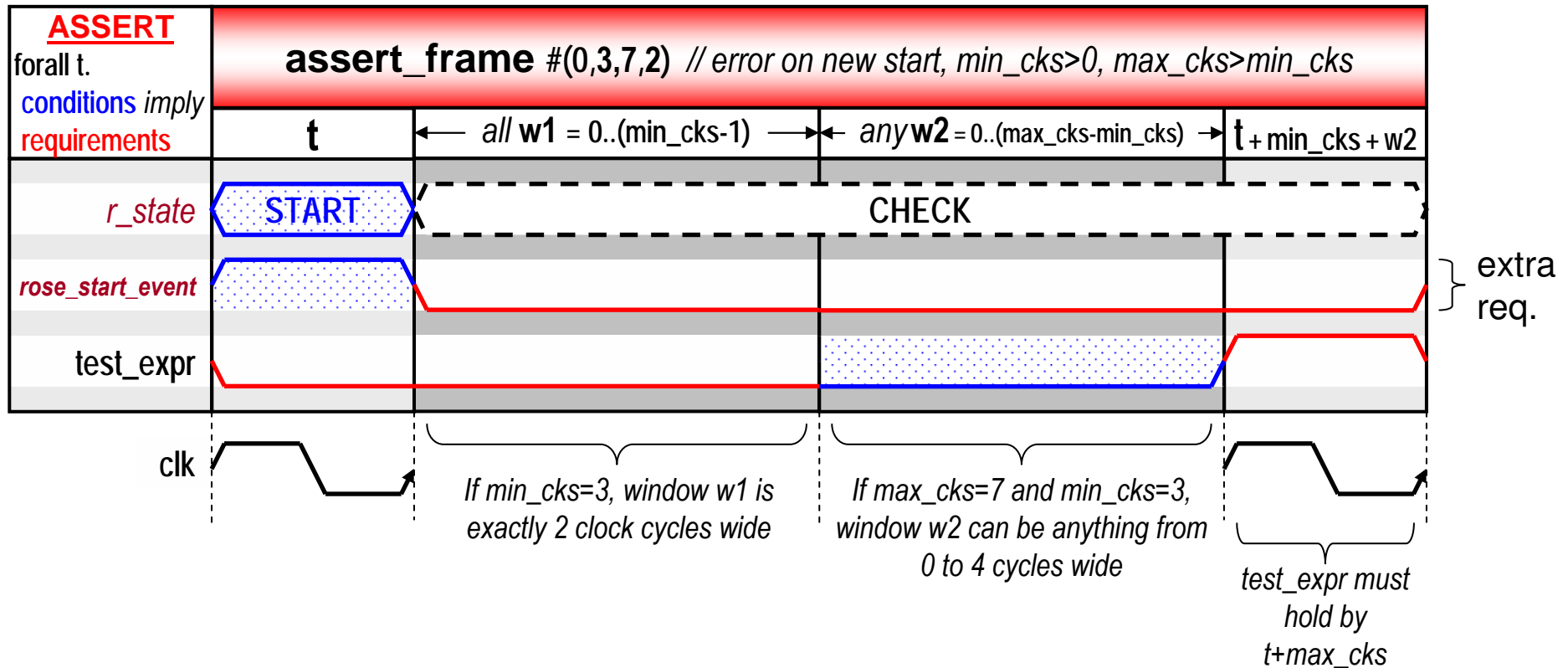
assert_frame

(page 5 of 5)

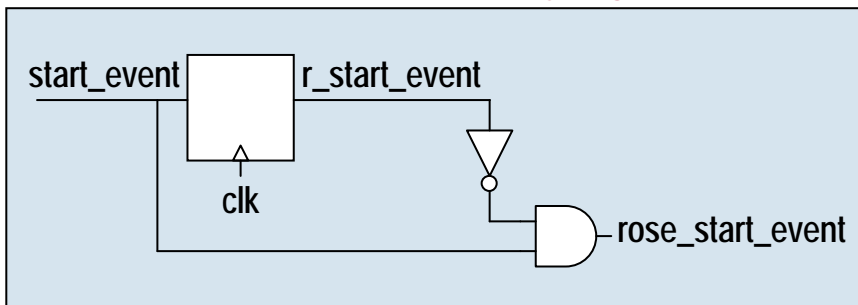
```
#(severity_level, min_cks, max_cks, action_on_new_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr must not hold before min_cks cycles, but must hold at least once by max_cks.

n-Cycles



rose_start_event (auxiliary logic)



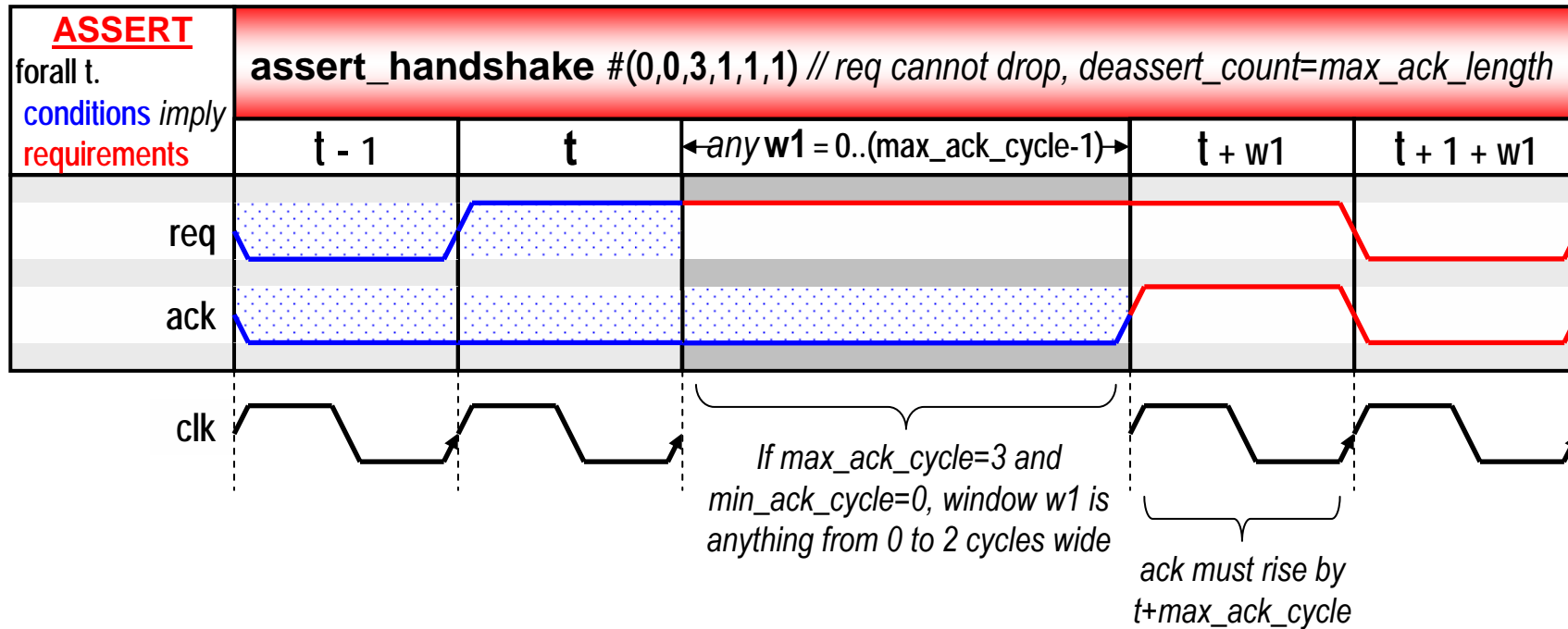
“error on new start”
has an additional
requirement from t+1
(no new rising edge
on start_event).

assert_handshake

```
#(severity_level, min_ack_cycle, max_ack_cycle, req_drop, deassert_count, max_ack_length,
  property_type, msg, coverage_level) ul (clk, reset_n, req, ack)
```

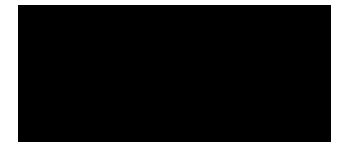
req and ack must follow the specified handshaking protocol

n-Cycles



assert_handshake is highly configurable. This timing diagram shows the most common usage.

Consider splitting up more complex uses into multiple OVL (simplifies formal property checking).

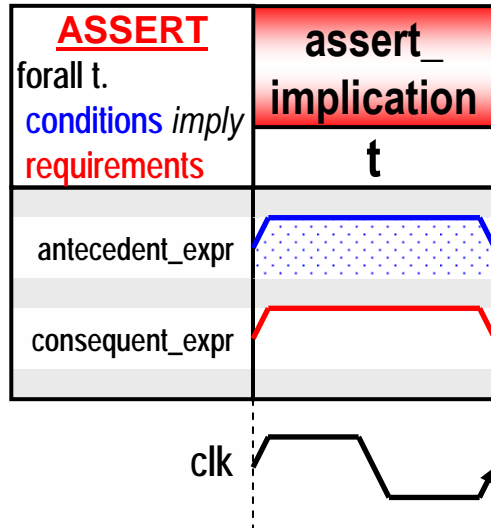


assert_implication

```
#(severity_level, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, antecedent_expr, consequent_expr)
```

If antecedent_expr holds then consequent_expr must hold in the same cycle

Single-Cycle



Assertion will only fail if consequent_expr is low when antecedent_expr holds.

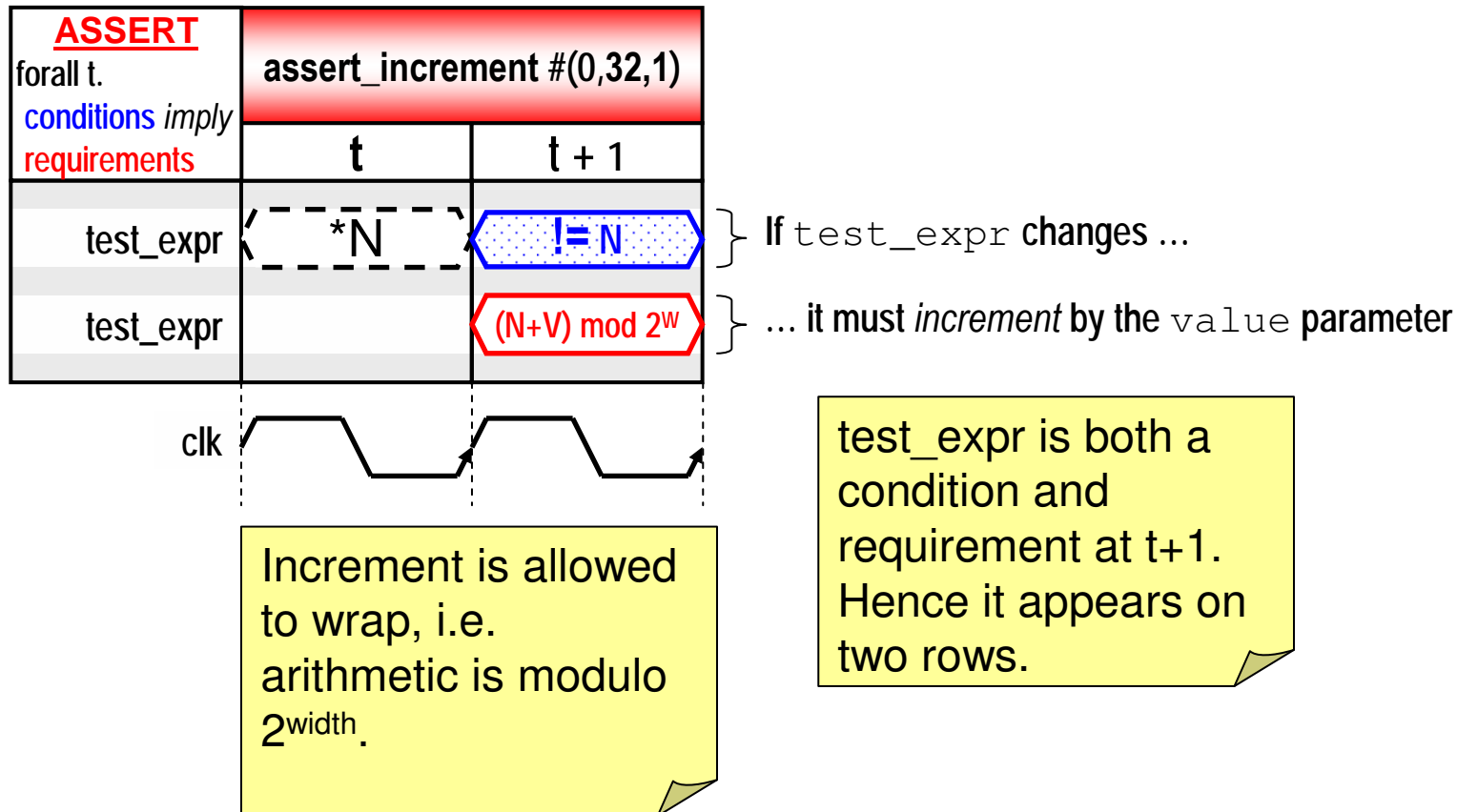
Assertion will trivially pass if conditions do not occur i.e. if antecedent_expr=0.

assert_increment

```
 #(severity_level, width, value, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
 ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)
```

If `test_expr` changes, it must increment by the `value` parameter (modulo 2^{width})

2-Cycles

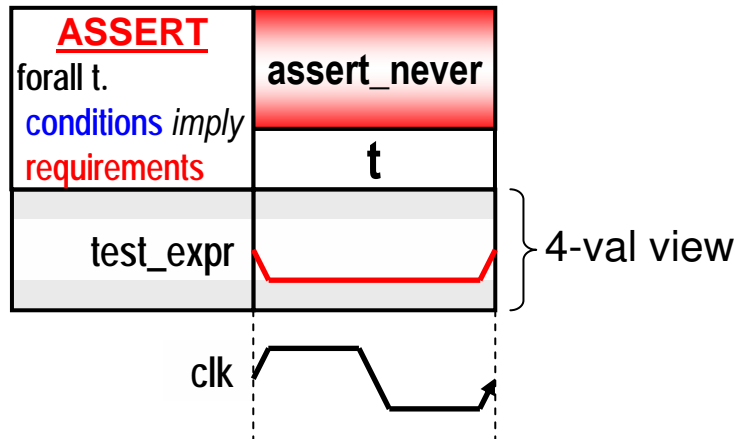


assert_never

```
#(severity_level, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)
```

test_expr must never hold

Single-Cycle



assert_never will
also pass if
fail if test_expr is X

Can disable failure
on X/Z via:

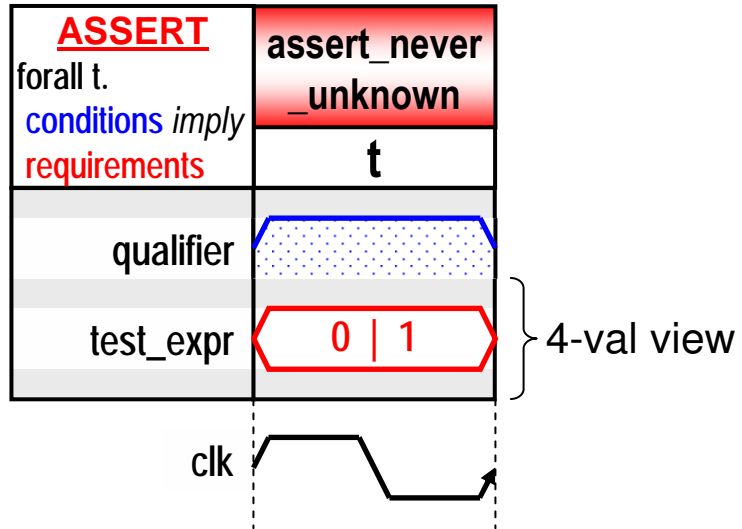
global: OVL_XCHECK_OFF
local: OVL_ASSERT_2STATE

assert_never_unknown

```
#(severity_level, width, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
ul (clk, reset_n, qualifier, test_expr)
```

test_expr must never be at an unknown value, just boolean 0 or 1.

Single-Cycle



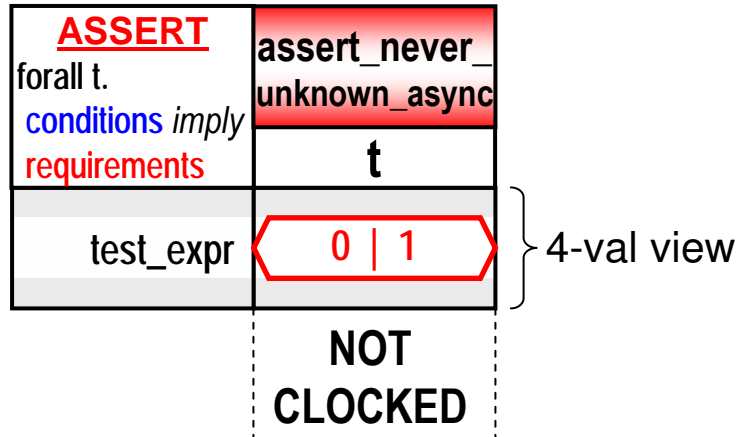
This is an explicit
X-checking assertion

assert_never_unknown_async

```
 #(severity_level, width, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
 ul (reset_n, test_expr)
```

test_expr must never go to an unknown value asynchronously (must stay boolean 0 or 1).

Combinatorial



This is the asynchronous version of the clocked assert_never_unknown.

Does not have a *qua fe* input (unlike the synchronous version)

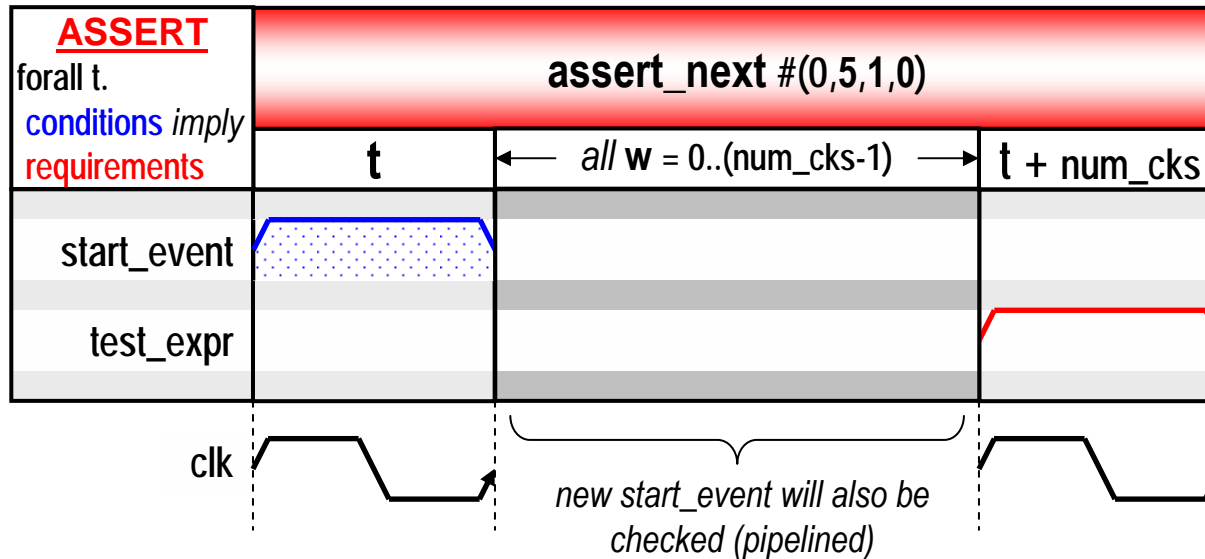
assert_next

(page 1 of 2)

```
#(severity_level, num_cks, check_overlapping, check_missing_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

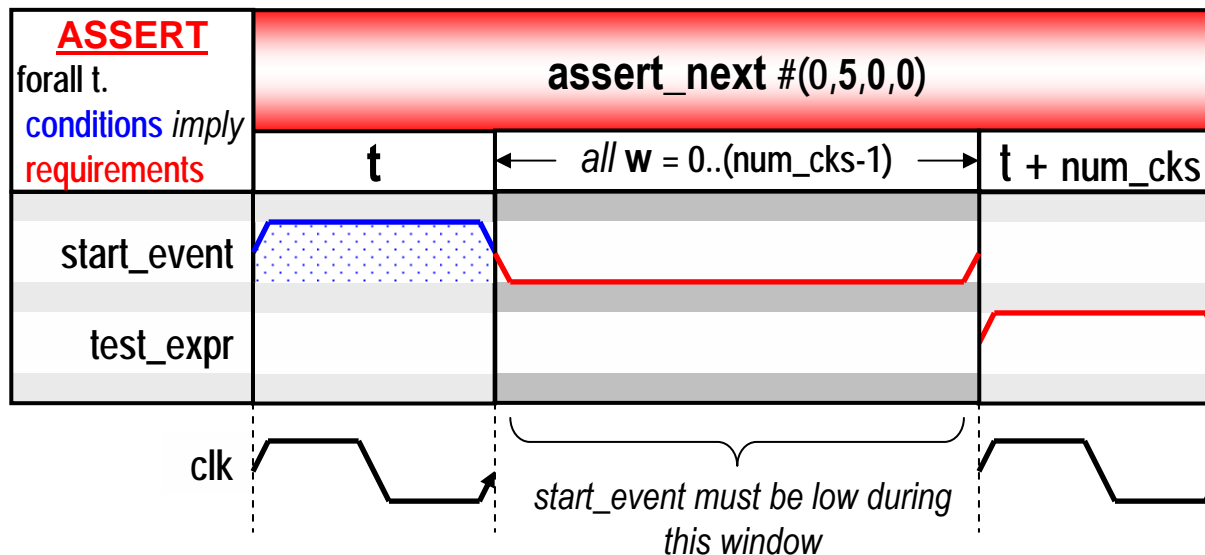
test_expr must hold num_cks cycles after start_event holds

N Cycles



check_overlapping=1
check_missing_start=0

check_overlapping=1 is a pipelined check, e.g. new start_event@t+1 checks test_expr@t+1+num_cks



check_overlapping=0
check_missing_start=0

check_overlapping=0 only allows start_event every num_cks cycles. When num_cks=1, behaviour is same as default config

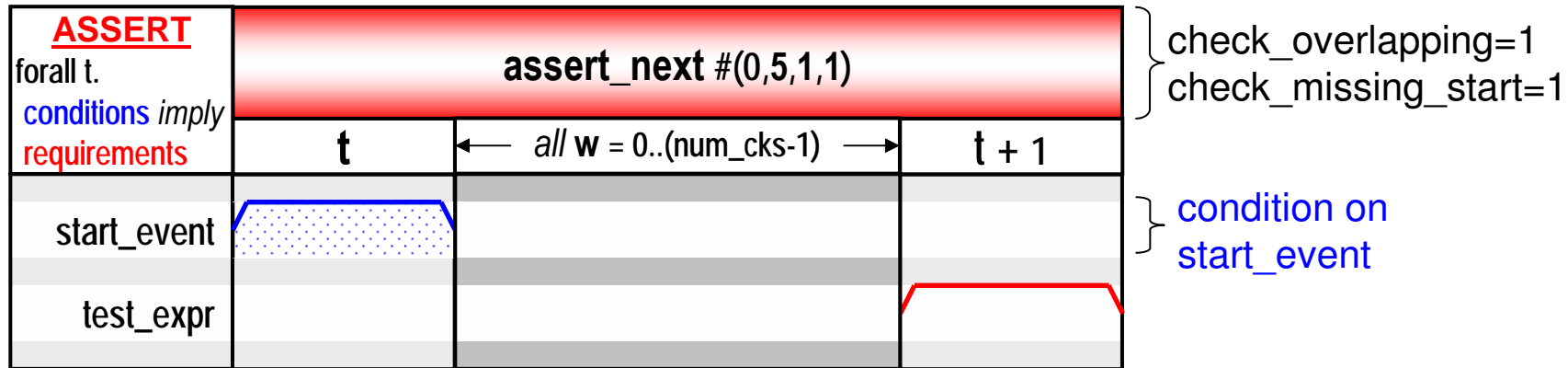
assert_next

(page 2 of 2)

```
#(severity_level, num_cks, check_overlapping, check_missing_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

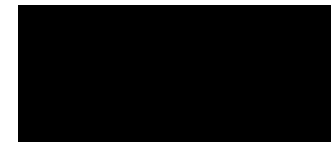
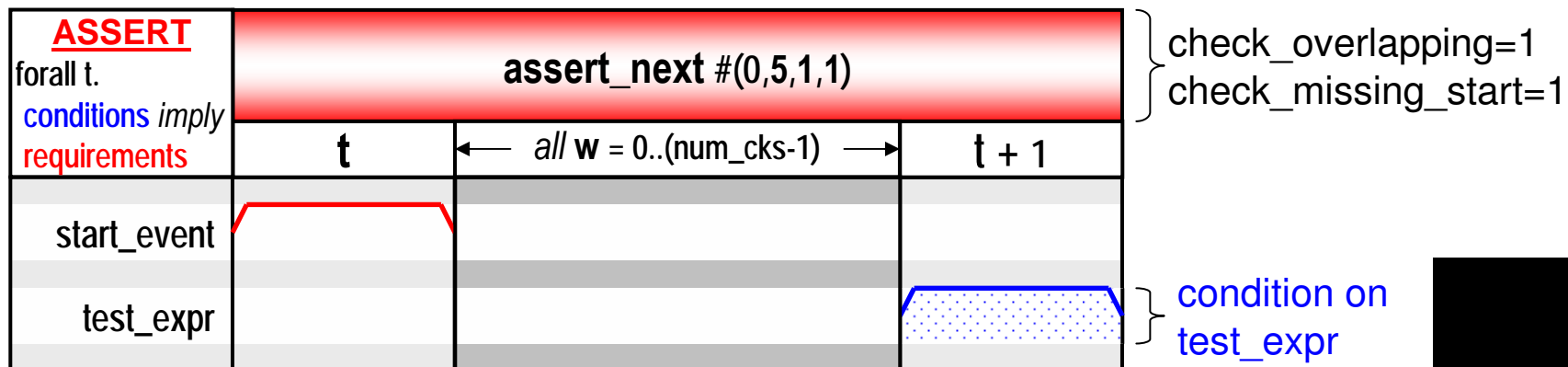
test_expr must hold num_cks cycles after start_event holds

N Cycles



+

“check missing start” requires **two timing diagrams**, which together form an *f-and-on y-f* check.

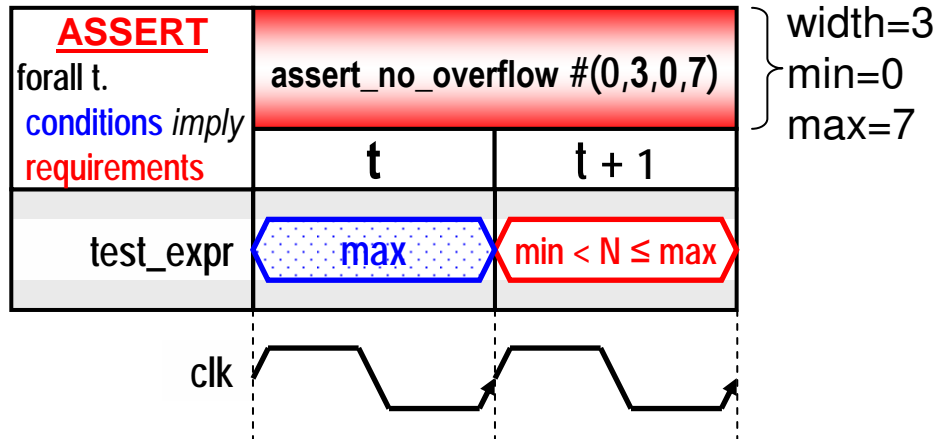


assert_no_overflow

```
 #(severity_level, width, min, max, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
 ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)
```

If test_expr is at max, in the next cycle test_expr must be $> \text{min}$ and $\leq \text{max}$

2-Cycles



Example can check that a 3-bit pointer cannot do a wrapping increment from 7 back to 0.

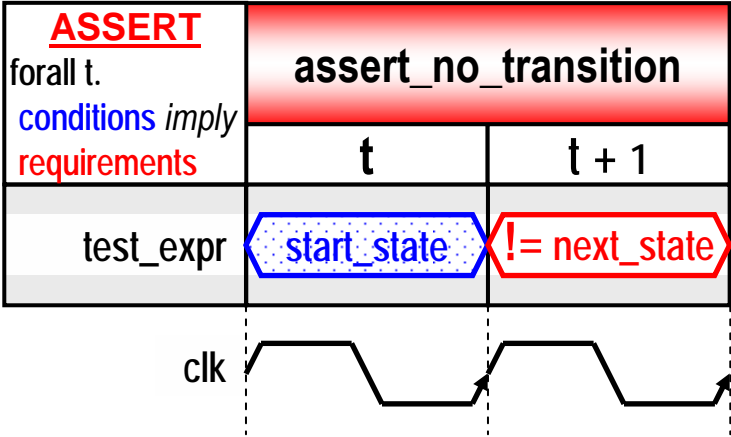
The min and max values do not need to span the full range of test_expr.

assert_no_transition

```
 #(severity_level, width, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
 ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr, start_state, next_state)
```

2-Cycles

If test_expr equals start_state, then test_expr must not change to next_state

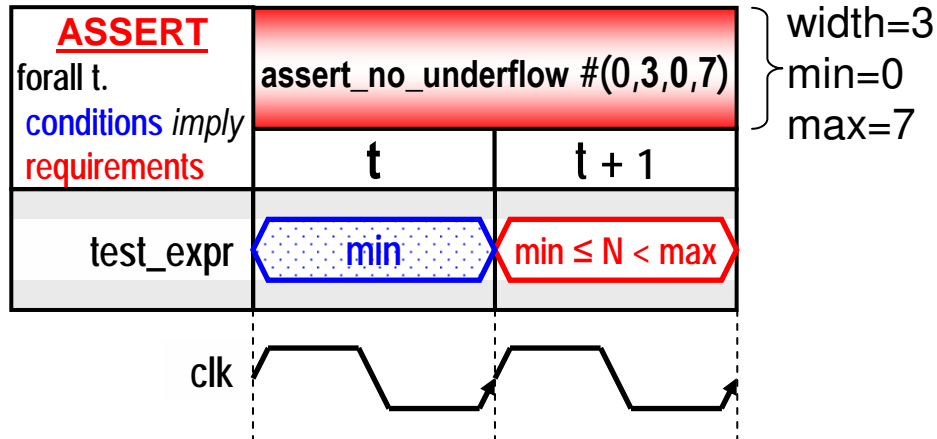


assert_no_underflow

```
 #(severity_level, width, min, max, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
 ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)
```

If test_expr is at min, in the next cycle test_expr must be \geq min and $<$ max

2-Cycles



Example can check that a 3-bit pointer cannot do a wrapping decrement from 0 to 7.

The min and max values do not need to span the full range of test_expr.

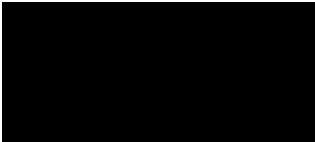
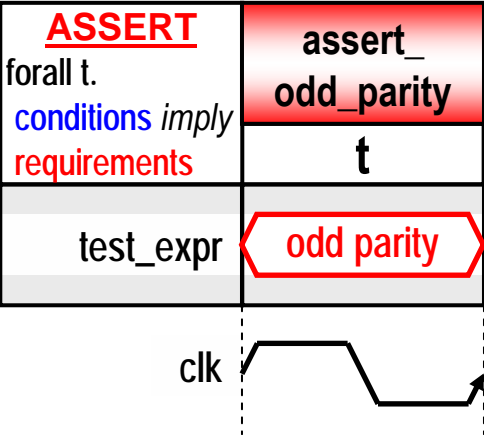
assert_odd_parity

```

#(severity_level, width, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)

```

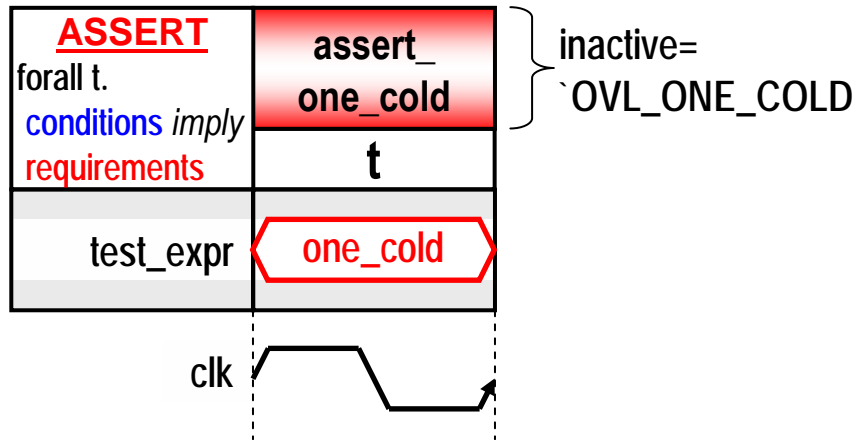
test_expr must have an odd parity, i.e. an odd number of bits asserted. Single-Cycle



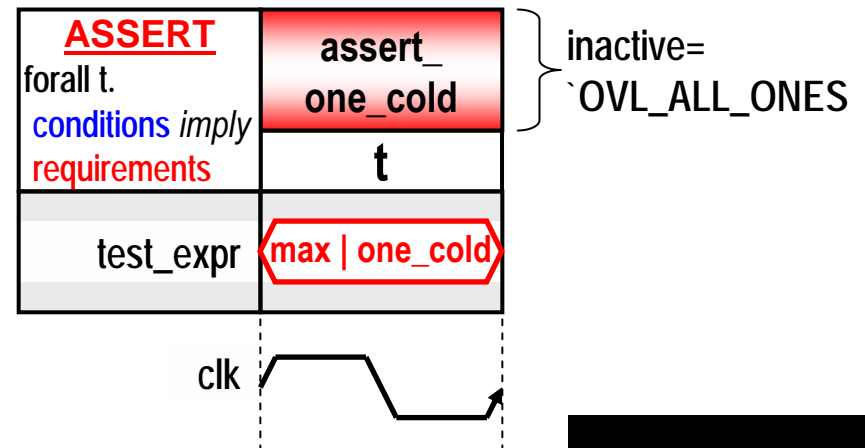
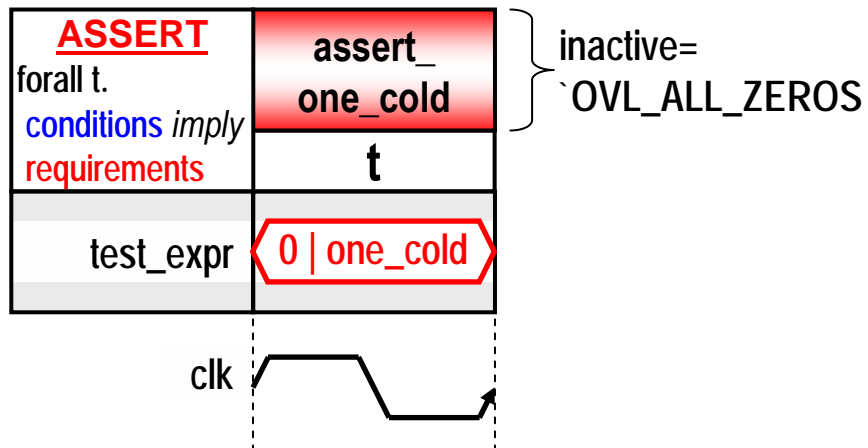
assert_one_cold

```
 #(severity_level, width, inactive, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
 ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)
```

test_expr must be one-cold, i.e. exactly one bit set low



Unlike one_hot and



assert_one_hot

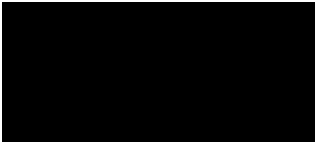
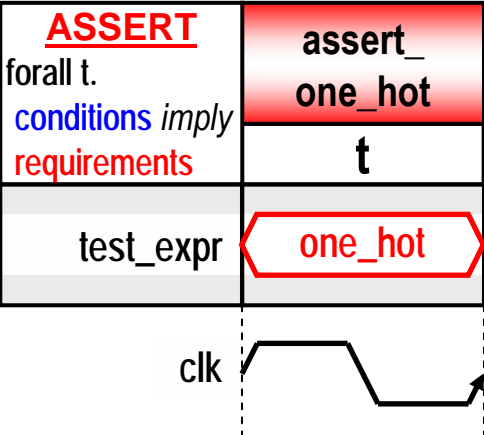
```

#(severity_level, width, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)

```

test_expr must be one-hot, i.e. exactly one bit set high

Single-Cycle

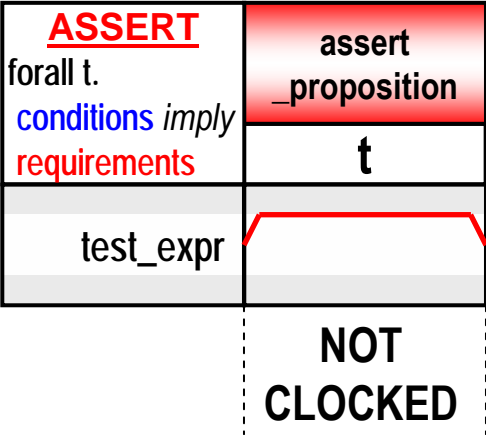


assert_proposition

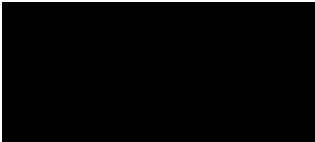
```
#(severity_level, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (reset_n, test_expr)
```

test_expr must hold asynchronously (not just at a clock edge)

Combinatorial



This is an asynchronous version of the clocked assert_always

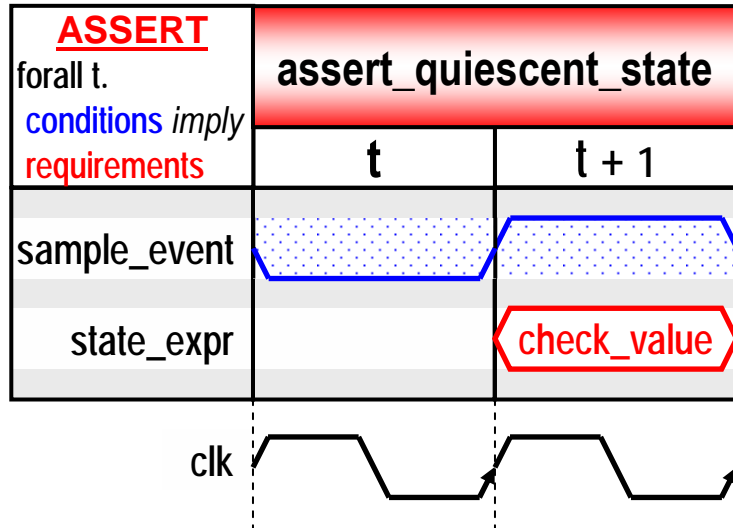


assert_quiescent_state

```
 #(severity_level, width, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
 ul (clk, reset_n, state_expr, check_value, sample_event)
```

state_expr must equal check_value on a rising edge of sample_event

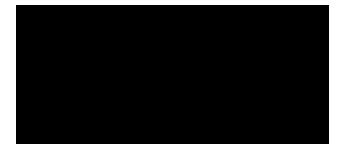
2-Cycles



Can also be checked
on rising edge of:
`OVL_END_OF_SIMULATION
Used for extra check
at simulation end.

Can *not* trigger at
end of simulation by
setting sample_event
to 1'b0 and defining:
`OVL_END_OF_SIMULATION

| |
|--------------|
| assert_range |
| t |

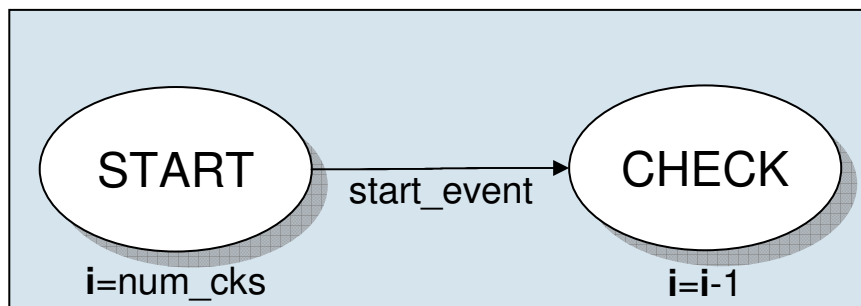
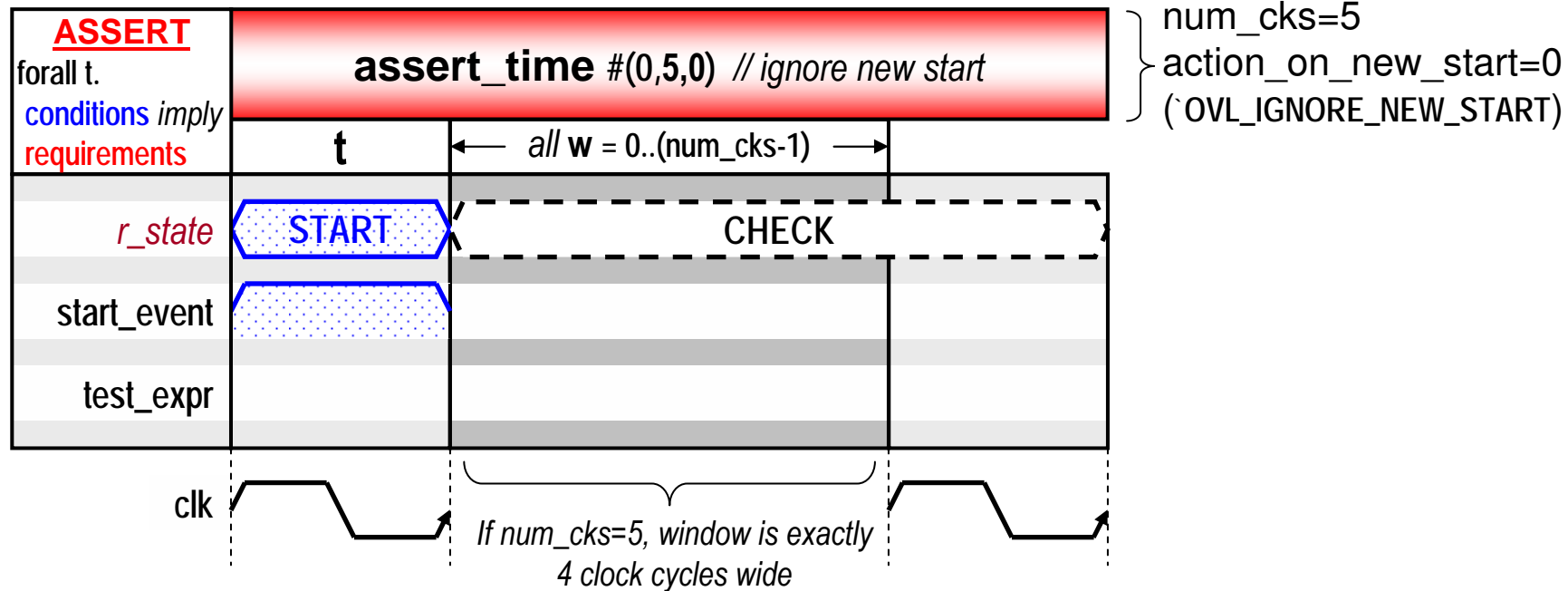


assert_time

(page 1 of 2)

```
#(severity_level, num_cks, action_on_new_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr must hold for num_cks cycles after start_event



Auxiliary logic necessary,
to ignore new start.
Checking only begins
after start_event is true
and r_state==START.

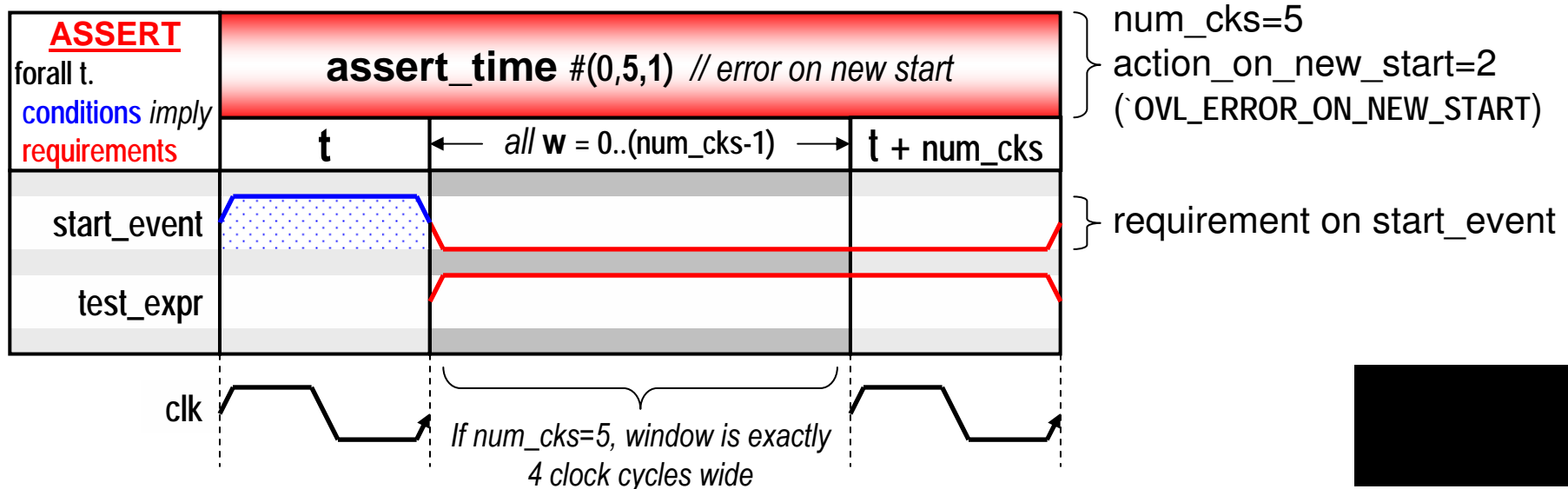
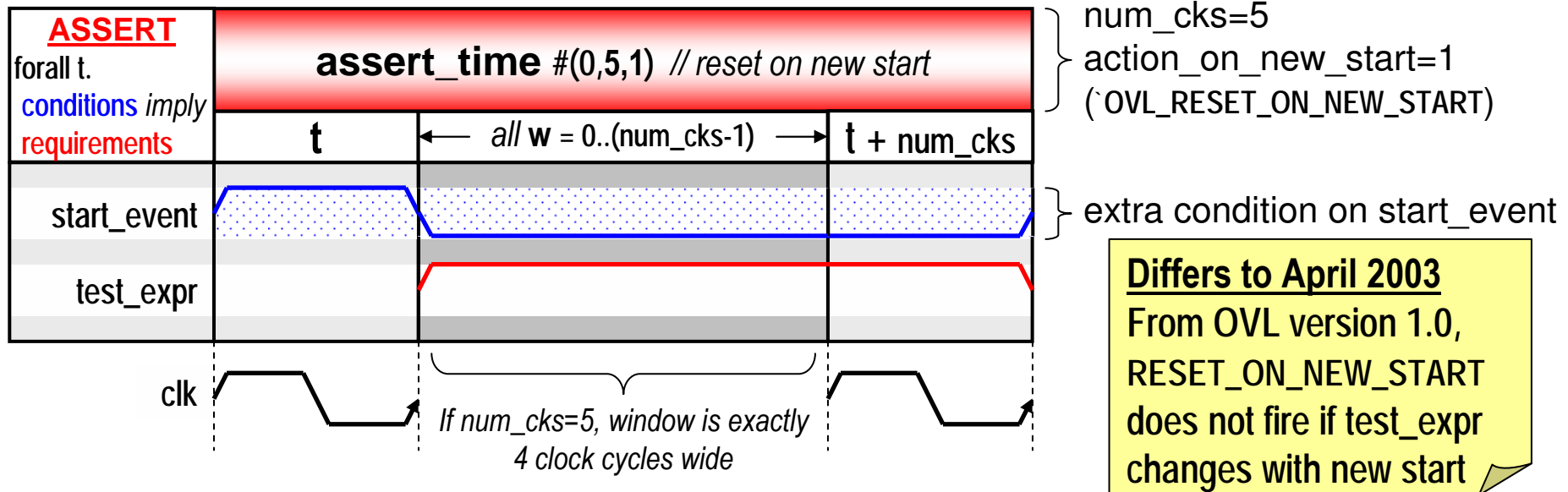
assert_time

(page 2 of 2)

```
#(severity_level, num_cks, action_on_new_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr must hold for num_cks cycles after start_event

n-Cycles

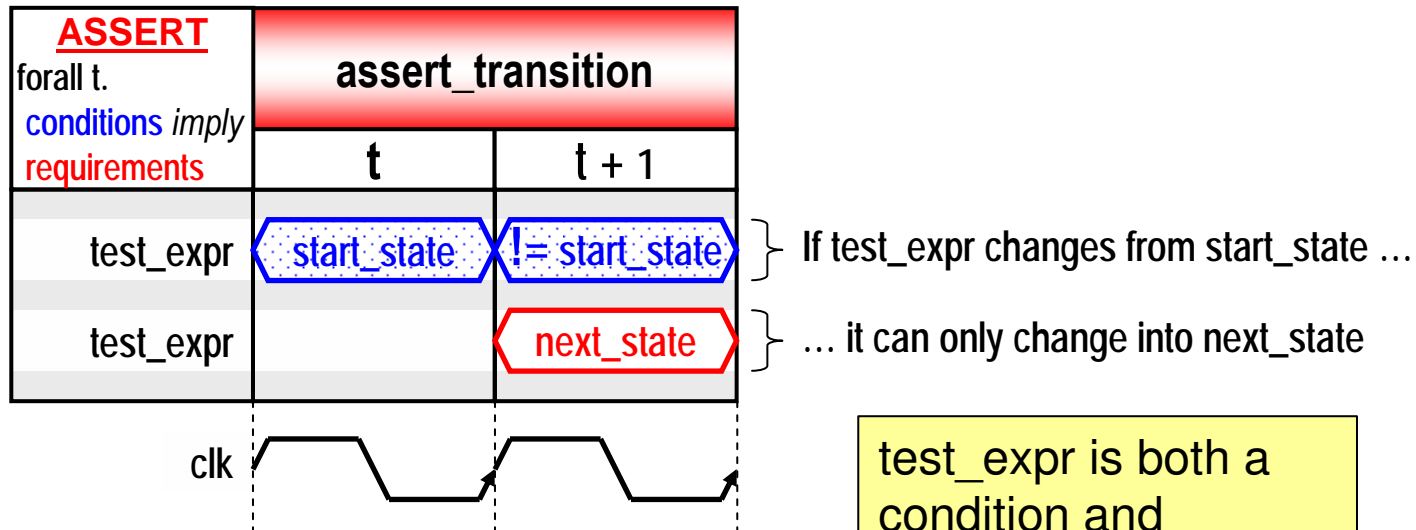


assert_transition

```
#(severity_level, width, property_type, msg, coverage_level)  
ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr, start_state, next_state)
```

If `test_expr` changes from `start_state`, then it can only change to `next_state`

2-Cycles



test_expr can remain in start_state (in which case the condition at t+1 does not hold).

test_expr is both a condition and requirement at t+1. Hence it appears on two rows.

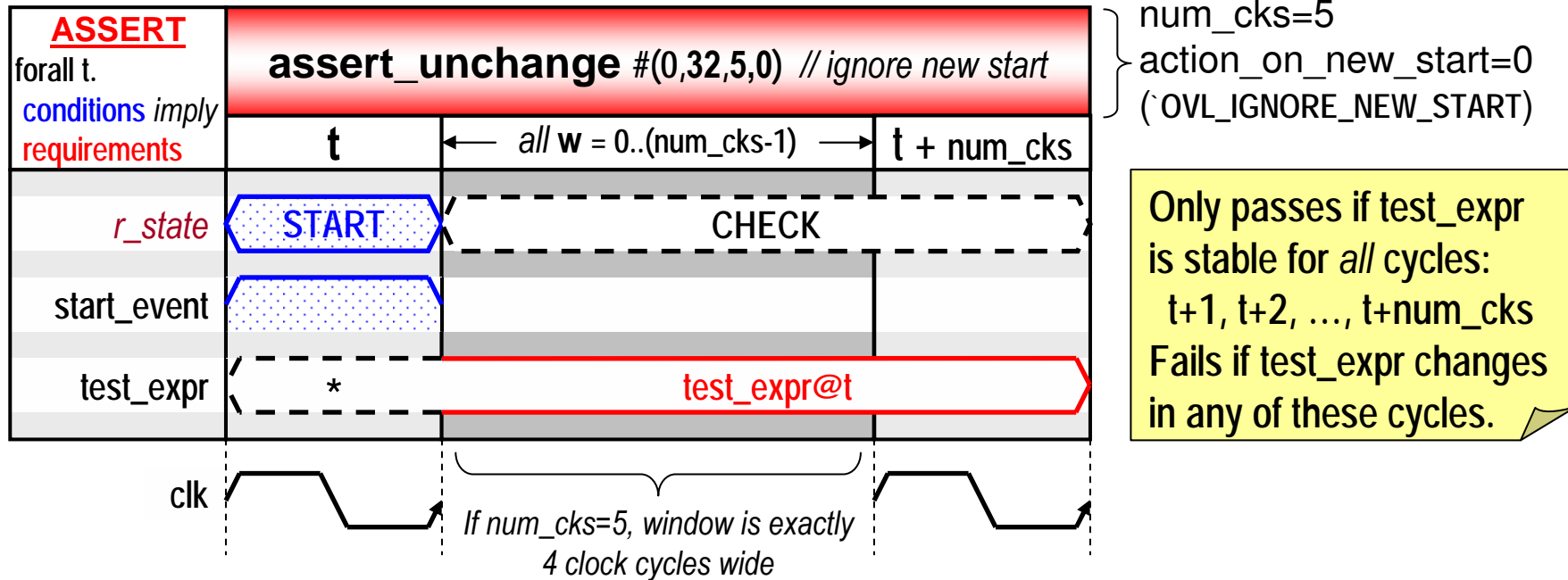
assert_unchange

(page 1 of 3)

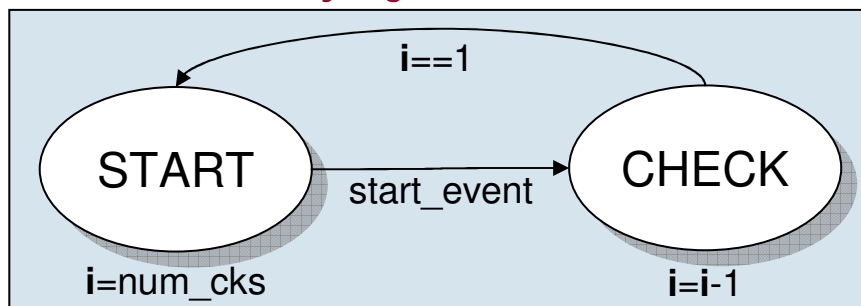
```
#(severity_level, width, num_cks, action_on_new_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr must not change within num_cks cycles of start_event

n-Cycles



r_state (auxiliary logic)



Need auxiliary logic to be able to ignore new start. Checking only begins after start_event is true and r_state==START.

(page 2 of 3)

n-Cycles

ASSERT

forall t.
 conditions imply
 requirements

assert_unchange #(0,32,5,1) // reset on new start

t ← all w = 0..(num_cks-1) → t + num_cks

start_event

test_expr

clk

If num_cks=5, window is exactly 4 clock cycles wide

- extra condition on start_event

Differs to April 2003

From OVL version 1.0,
RESET_ON_NEW_START
does not fire if test_expr
changes with new start

ASSERT
 forall t.
 conditions imply
 requirements

assert_unchange #(0,32,5,1) // error on new start

t ← all w = 0..(num_cks-1) → t + num_cks

start_event

test_expr

clk

If num_cks=5, window is exactly 4 clock cycles wide

```
num_cks=5
> action_on_new_start=2
(OVL_ERROR_ON_NEW_START)
```

- requirement on start_event

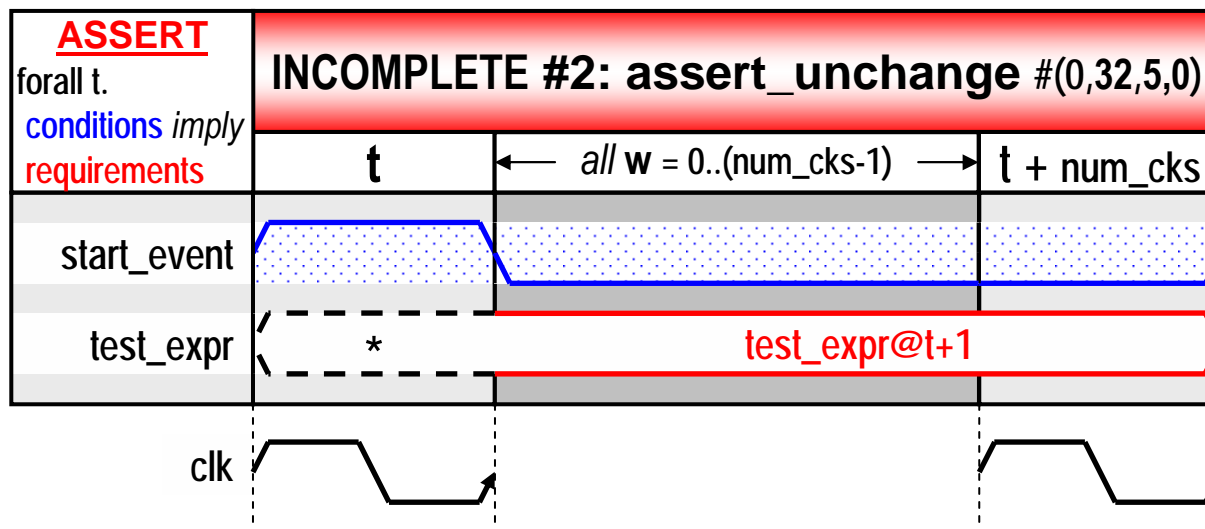
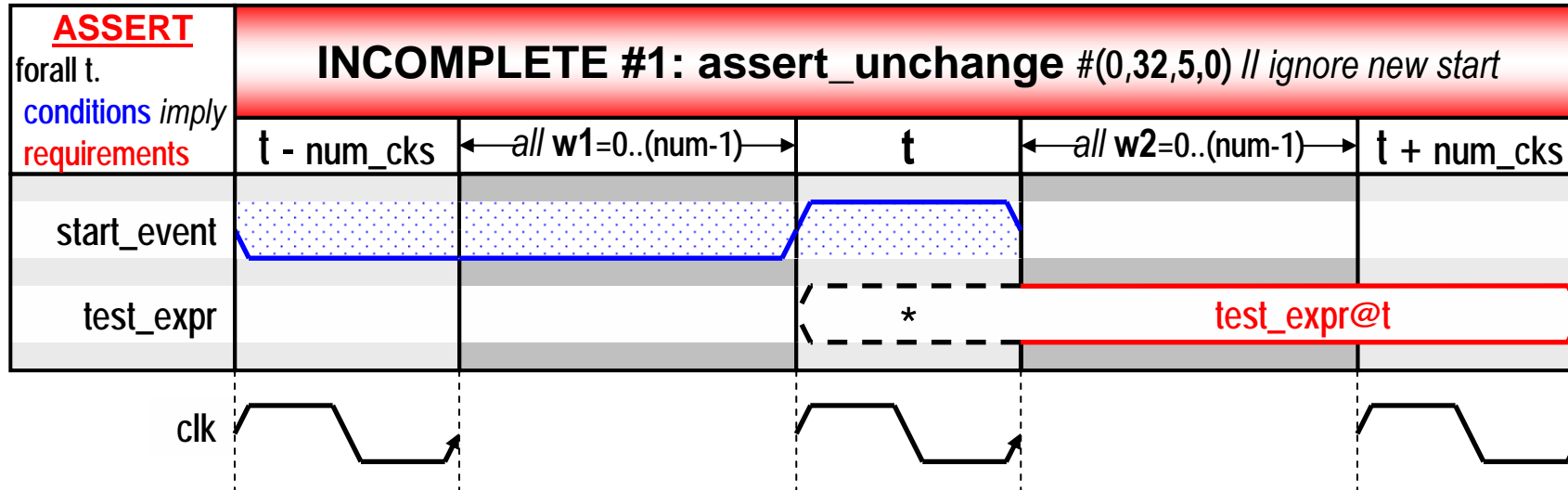
assert_unchange

(page 3 of 3)

```
#(severity_level, width, num_cks, action_on_new_start, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr)
```

test_expr must not change within num_cks cycles of start_event

n-Cycles



Both timing diagrams are incomplete for "ignore new start", as start_event=0 will mask some errors!

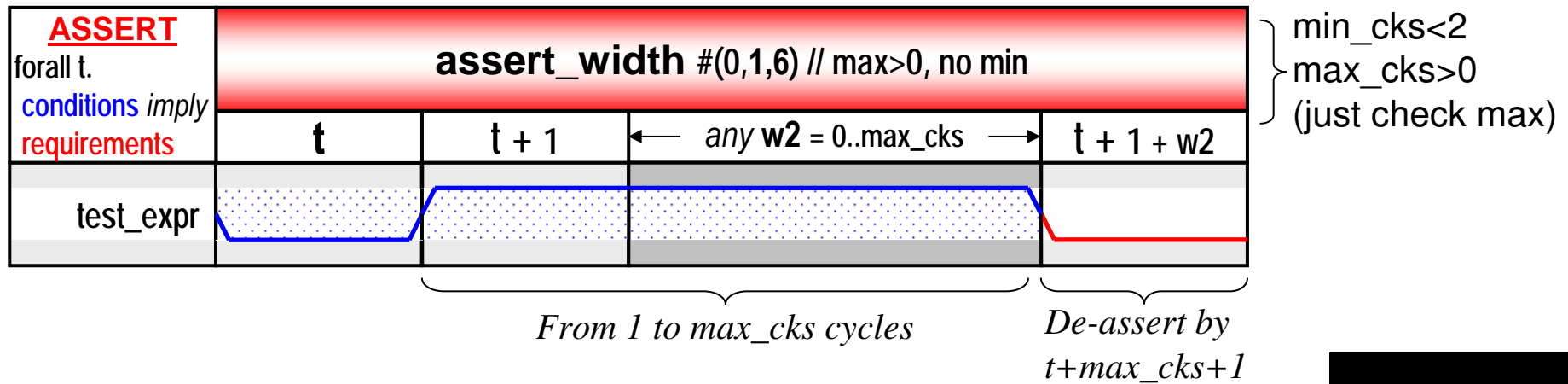
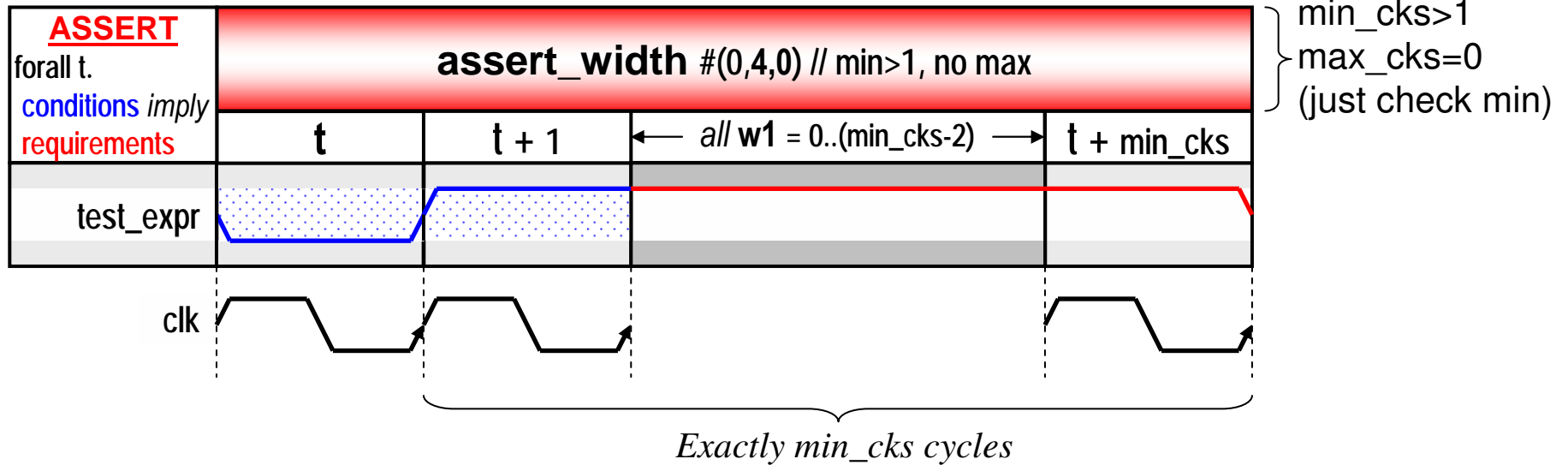
assert_width

(page 1 of 2)

```
#(severity_level, min_cks, max_cks, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)
```

test_expr must hold for between min_cks and max_cks cycles

n-Cycles



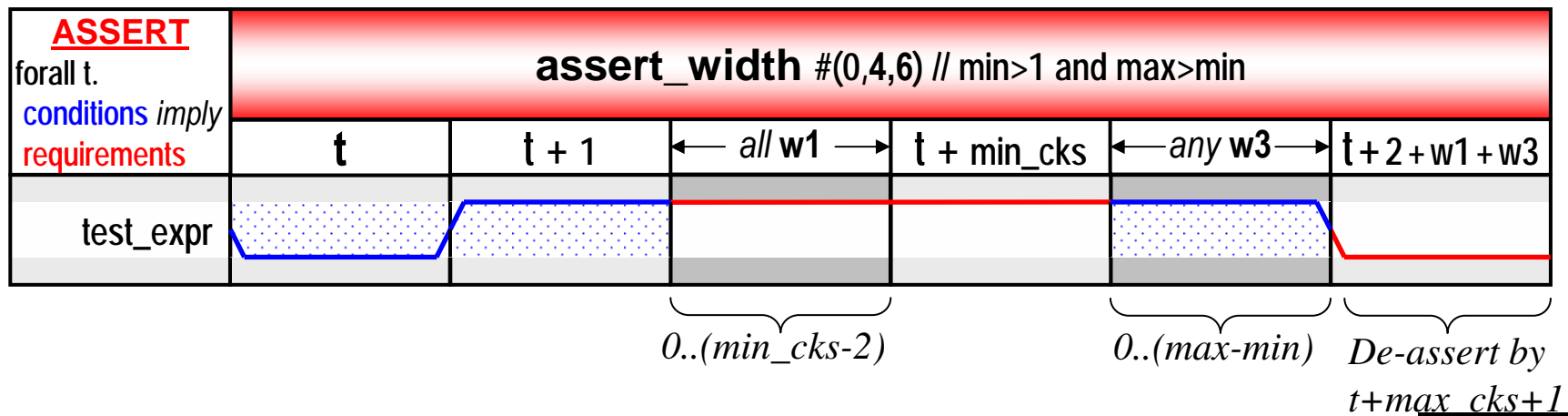
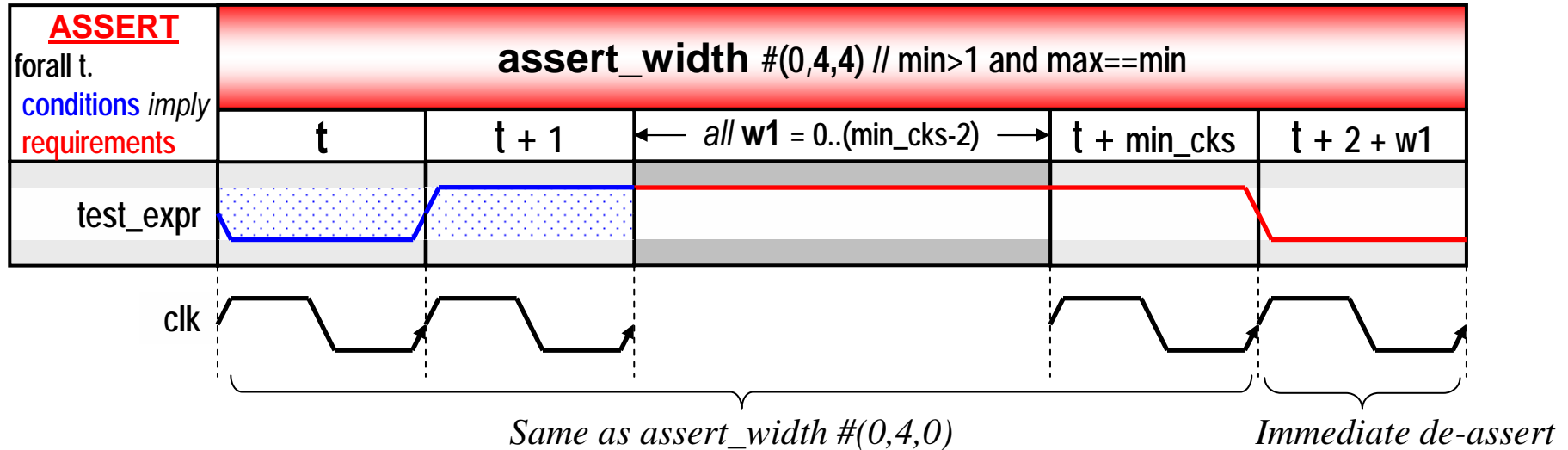
assert_width

(page 2 of 2)

```
#(severity_level, min_cks, max_cks, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)
```

test_expr must hold for between min_cks and max_cks cycles

n-Cycles

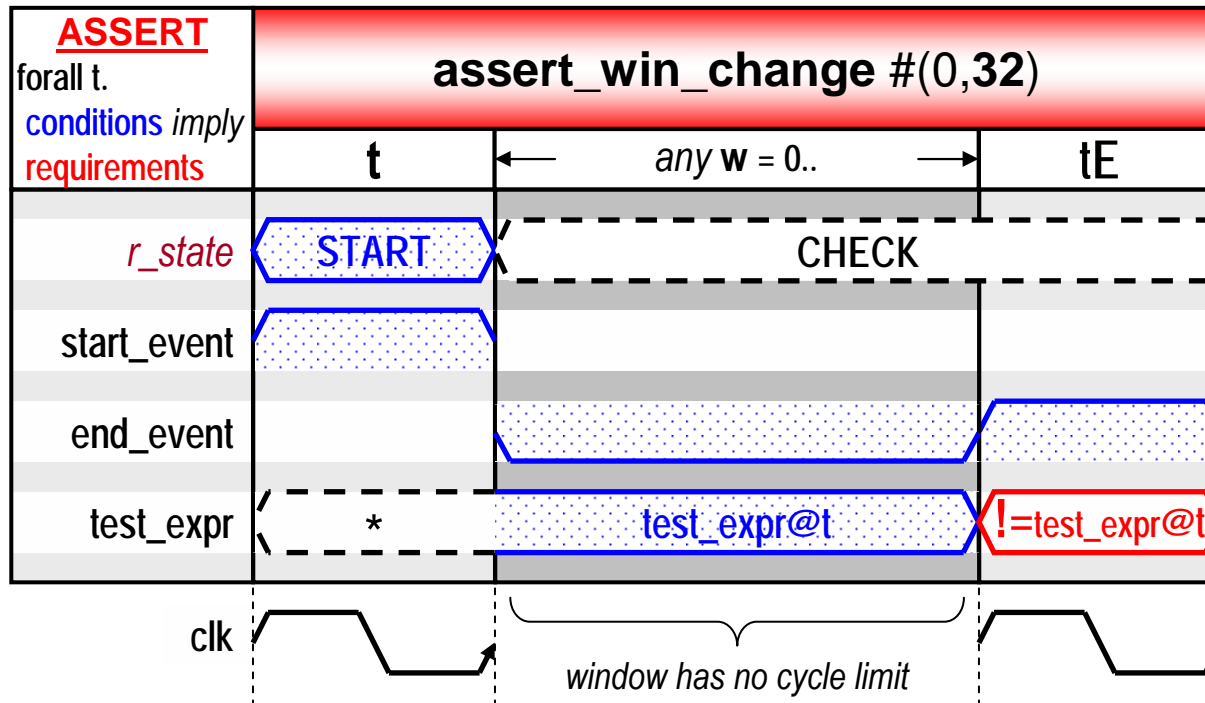


assert_win_change

```
#(severity_level, width, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr, end_event)
```

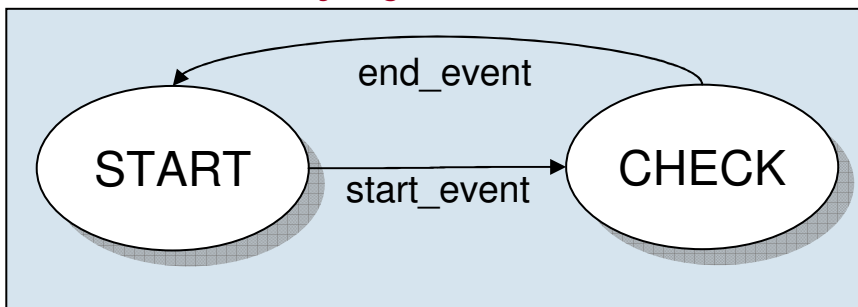
test_expr must change between start_event and end_event

Event-bound



Will pass if test_expr changes at any cycle during window: $t+1, \dots$
Fails if test_expr is stable for all cycles after start.

r_state (auxiliary logic)



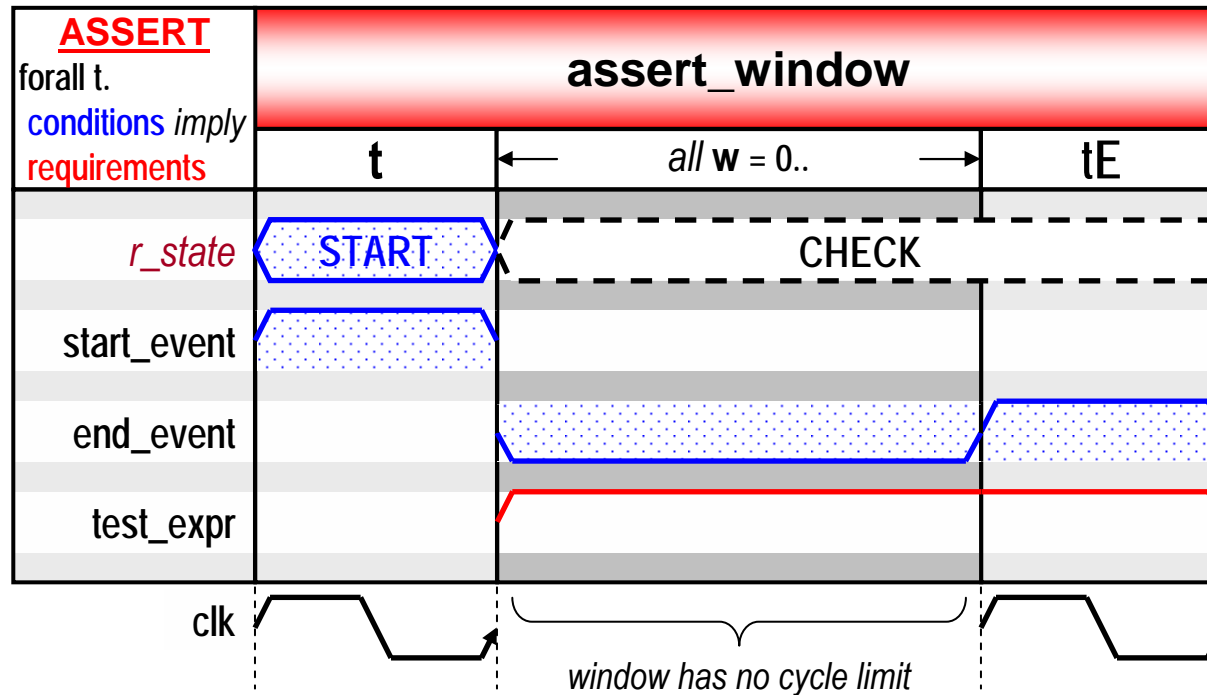
Auxiliary logic necessary, to ignore new start. Checking only begins after start_event is true and $r_state == START$.

assert_window

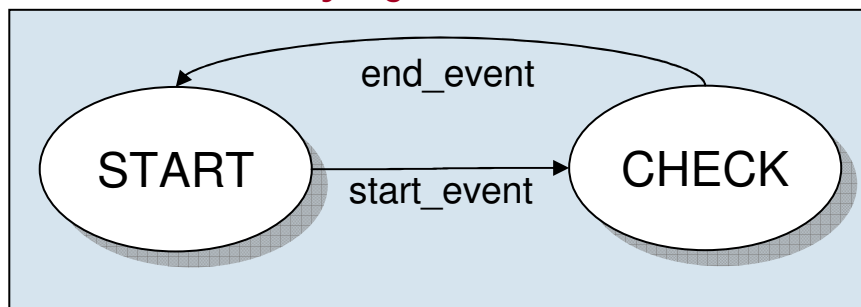
```
#(severity_level, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
u1 (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr, end_event)
```

`test_expr` must hold after the `start_event` and up to (and including) the `end_event`

Event-bound



r_state (auxiliary logic)



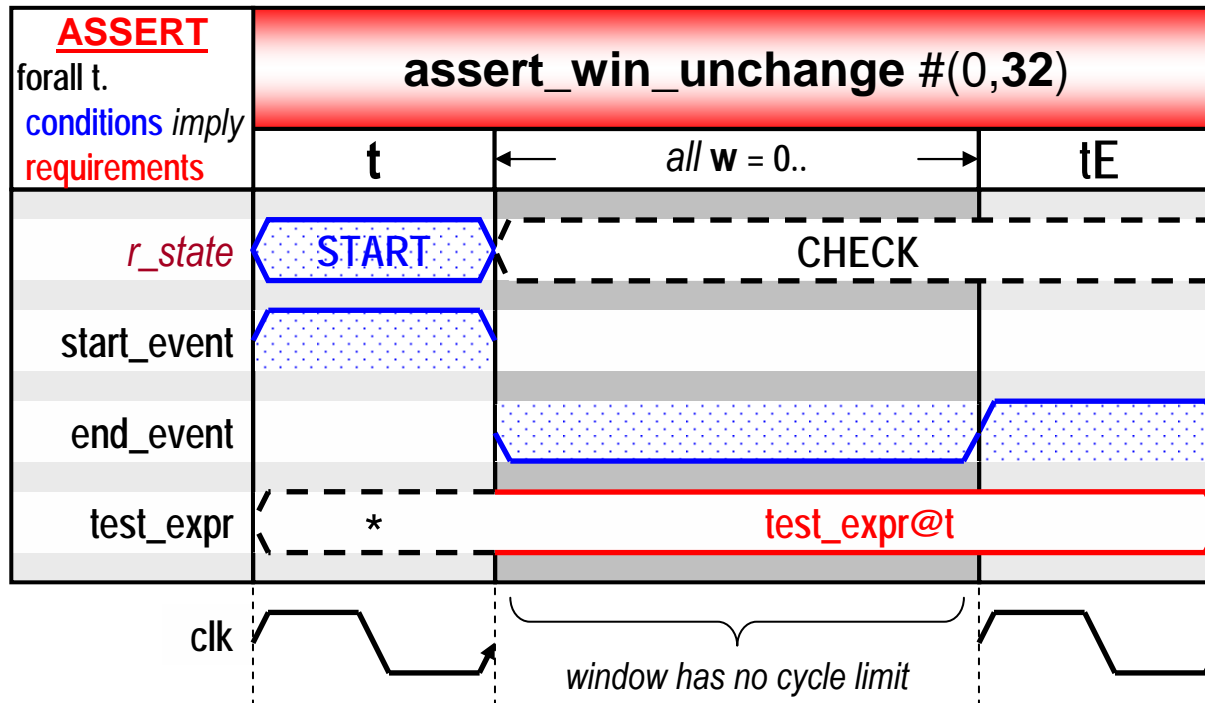
Auxiliary logic necessary,
to *ignore* new start.
Checking only begins
after start_event is true
and r_state==START.

assert_win_unchange

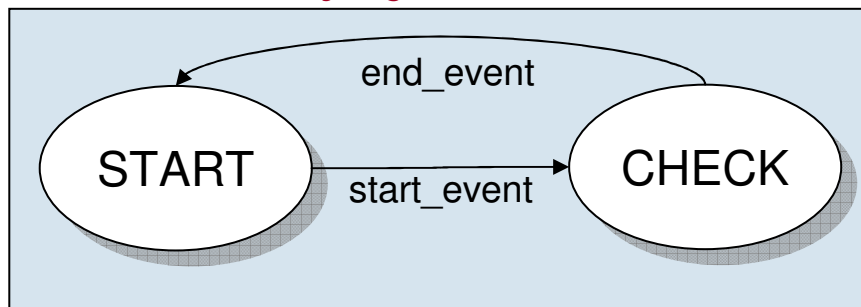
```
#(severity_level, width, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, start_event, test_expr, end_event)
```

test_expr must not change between start_event and end_event

Event-bound



r_state (auxiliary logic)



Auxiliary logic necessary,
to ignore new start.
Checking only begins
after start_event is true
and `r_state==START`.

assert_zero_one_hot

```

#(severity_level, width, property_type, msg, coverage_level)
ul (clk, reset_n, test_expr)

```

test_expr must be one-hot or zero, i.e. at most one bit set high

Single-Cycle

