

Evolutionary Multi-Level Circuit Synthesis in Given Design Style

Overview

SOURCE	<i>Life as Darwin theory of random mutation under selective pressure</i>
SURPRIZE	<i>Utilization for circuit design</i>
APPROACH	<i>Partition of search space + target design style + Information measures</i>
BENEFIT	<i>Clever algorithms for circuit design + massive parallelism</i>

Darwin Theory (1859)



Eyes, hands, brain,.... -
all of which share
characteristics of
species: they are the
products of the
*random mutations and
genetic mixing of
evolution*

J. Holland (1975)

... idea was to construct a search algorithm modeled on the concepts of natural selection in the biological sciences. The result is a direct random search procedure called *genetic algorithm*

Definition. Genetic algorithm is a stochastic search algorithm basing on natural evolution process.

PROBLEM

- How can “creativity” be automated?
- Are engineers necessary to new technology?

RESEARCH

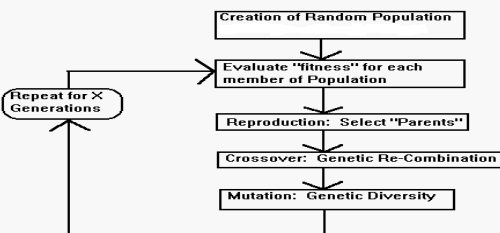
- Biologically inspired evolutionary design process
- Automation of Logic Synthesis and Logic Minimization
- “Computer Designed Computers”



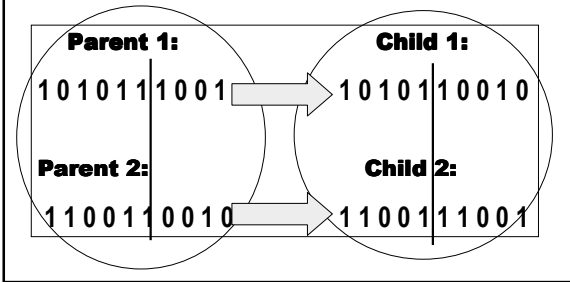
Artificial Genetic Evolution

Basic Process of:

- Genetic Algorithms
- Genetic Programming



Fragment of genetic mixing of evolution in *Holland's* interpretation



Advantages

- *Widely applicable, also in cases where no (good) problem specific techniques are available*
- *Can be run interactively (online parameter adjustment)*

- *No presumptions with respect to the problem space*
- *Low development costs, i.e. costs to adapt to new problem spaces*
- *The solutions have straightforward interpretation*

- *No solid theoretical basis (yet)*

- *Parameter turning is largely based on trial and error*

Disadvantages

- *Often computationally expensive*
- *No guarantee for finding optimal solutions within a finite amount of time (true for all global optimization methods)*

Terminology

Population (set of circuits)

Individual (circuit)

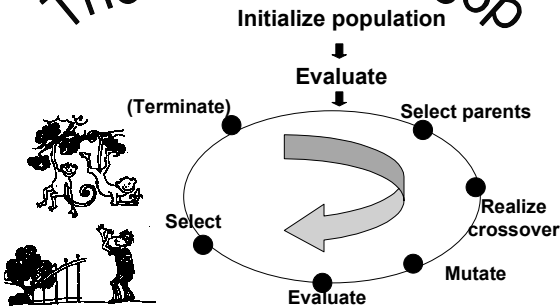
Fitness function (contains all information about the evolving circuit)

Gene (type of gate, inputs and outputs, etc)

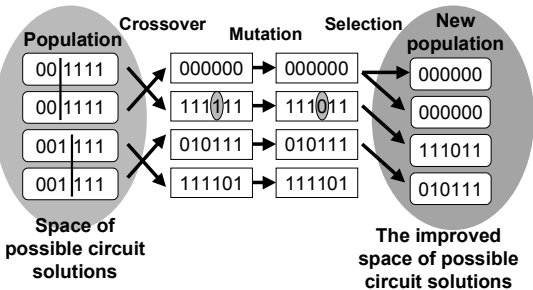
Chromosome (coded circuit)

Probabilistic operators: Crossover, Mutation and Selection

The Evolution loop



Mechanism of genetic algorithm



Definition. *Fitness function* is a kind of objective, or cost, function which contains **all information*** about the problem.

In biology, fitness is the number of offsprings that survive to reproduction.

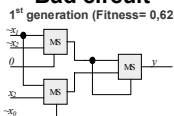
In genetic algorithm, one must map objective function to a fitness function

** in our case - all information about the evolving logical network*

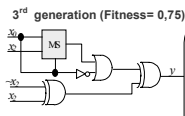
Example

Fitness evaluation

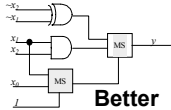
Bad circuit



Better circuit

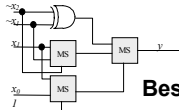


17th generation (Fitness= 0,875)



Better

31st generation (Fitness= 1)



Best circuit

31st generation is the correct circuit



Three probabilistic operators, **crossover**, **mutation** and **selection**, ensure that the best individuals of population will survive, and their **information content*** is preserved and combined to generate even better offspring

Simple crossover

The crossover operator aims to make a better individual by replacing a part of an individual with a better part of another individual, i.e. combining *valuable information* of the individuals (parents)



Mutation

The mutation operator changes certain bit(s) in an individual.



This operator aims to escape from search space from which individuals cannot escape by means of only crossover operator, i.e. this operator introduces *new information* into the evolutionary process.

Example. The string 000110 becomes 001110 if mutation occurs at the third bit

Selection

The selection operator chooses good individuals in a population according to their fitness values and the given selection strategy.



This operator aims to increase better individuals in the population while maintaining certain diversity.

Example. The elitism strategy chooses the restricted set of elite individuals

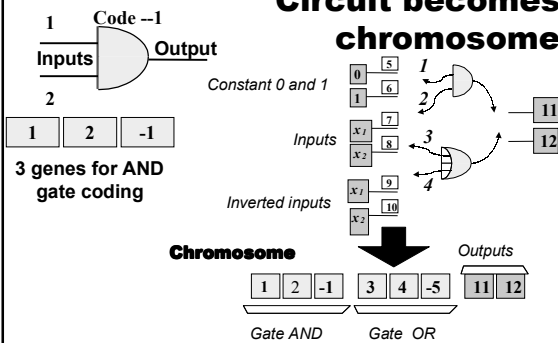
Crossover+Mutation+Selection = Continuous improvement



The genetic algorithm tries to improve the fitness of the population by combining *information* * contained in high fitness chromosomes

The biggest difficulty of using genetic algorithms is the time which may sometimes be painfully long

Circuit becomes chromosome



Example Genetic Algorithm REPRODUCTION - Selection of Parent Strings

Bit Strings	Population	Fitness	Tournament Selection	New Generation (Winners)
1	10011	300	string 4 vs. 2	string 2
2	00011	300	string 2 vs. 3	string 3
3	11100	400	string 1 vs. 5	string 5
4	10010	200	string 3 vs. 4	string 3
5	11110	600	string 4 vs. 1	string 1

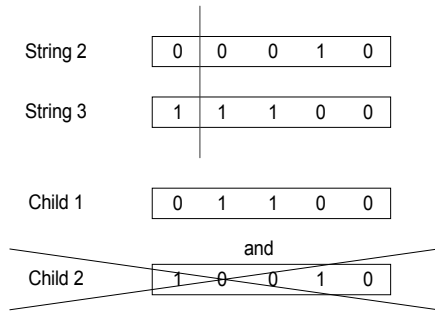
Total Fitness = 1800
Average Fitness = 360

CROSSOVER - Genetic Recombination forming Offspring

New Generation (Offspring)	String Population	Chosen Mate	Mate String	Crossover Bit Site	Resulting String	Fitness of Result
string 2	00010	string 3	11100	4	01100	400
string 3	11100	string 4	10010	1	11100	400
string 5	11110	string 5	11110	4	11110	600
string 3	11100	string 4	10010	3	11010	200
string 1	10011	string 4	10010	2	10010	200

Total Fitness (after Crossover) = 1800
Average Fitness (after Crossover) = 360

Example Genetic Algorithm Crossover Detail:



Example Genetic Algorithm

MUTATION - Genetic Diversity Factor in Offspring

Crossover Population	Result Fitness	Mutation String	Gen=1 Population	Fitness
01100	400	xxxxx	01100	400
11100	400	xxxxx	11100	400
11110	600	xxxxx	11110	600
10010	200	xx1xx	10110	600
10010	200	xxxxx	10010	200

Total Fitness (after Mutation Operation) = 2200

Average Fitness (after Mutation Operation) = 440

Comparison:

Original Total Fitness = 1800

Original Average Fitness = 360

SCHEMA THEOREM: Success Theory of GA

Schemata Propagation in Reproduction

Schemata	Pattern	Bit Strings	Population	Schemata Membership	Tournament Selection	Winners	Schemata Membership
Schema A	10**	1	10011	Schema A, D	string 4 vs. 2	string 2	Schema B, D
Schema B	000**	2	00011	Schema B, D	string 2 vs. 3	string 3	Schema C, E
Schema C	*11*0	3	11100	Schema C, E	string 1 vs. 5	string 5	Schema C, E
Schema D	*001*	4	10010	Schema A, D	string 3 vs. 4	string 3	Schema C, E
Schema E	11***	5	11110	Schema C, E	string 4 vs. 1	string 1	Schema A, D

SCHEMA THEOREM: Success Theory of GA

Schemata Propagation in Crossover

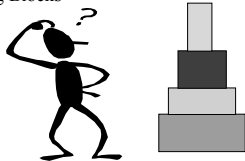
Case	Reproduction Population	Schema Membership	Mate String	Cross Site	Result String	Schema Membership	Result Fitness
1	00011	Schema A, D	11100	4	01100	Schema C	400
2	11100	Schema C, E	10010	1	11100	Schema C, E	400
3	11110	Schema C, E	11110	4	11110	Schema C, E	600
4	11100	Schema C, E	10010	3	11010	Schema E	200
5	10011	Schema A, D	10010	2	10010	Schema A, D	200

Schemata Propagation in Mutation

Case	Crossover Population	Schema Membership	Result Fitness	Mutation String	Gen=1 Population	Schema Membership	Fitness
1	01100	Schema C	400	xxxxx	01100	Schema C	400
2	11100	Schema C, E	400	xxxxx	11100	Schema C, E	400
3	11110	Schema C, E	600	xxxxx	11110	Schema C, E	600

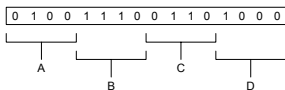
How Genetic Algorithms Work...

Schema (patterns) contain information about solutions!!
Through the genetic operators, the population's schemata collection changes and becomes more refined toward better solutions.
Goldberg: "Short, low-order, and highly fit schemata are sampled, recombined, and resampled to form strings of potentially higher fitness"... "Building Blocks"



Summary of GA Basic Mechanics

Applies an artificial evolutionary process to evolving problem parameters directly
Parameters are represented by a "flat" bit string, which is a direct encode/decode of variable fields



Uses standard Genetic Operators of Reproduction, Crossover, and Mutation



Genetic Programming (GP)

Extension of GA

- Data Structures (software)
- Functions (mathematical & logical operators)
- Variables (terminals)
- Develops New Algorithms Automatically

Standard Genetic Operators: **Reproduction, Crossover, & Mutation**

Bit Strings represent “Trees” (data structures) of different sizes

Most GP research develops new LISP Code

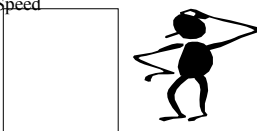
Other Research in Evolutionary Logic Design...

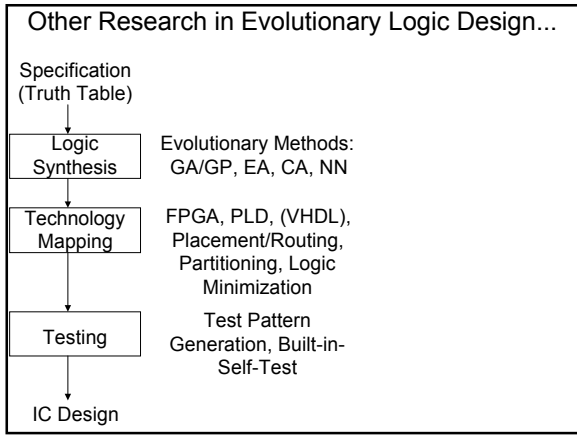
- Evolutionary Algorithms for Computer Aided Design of Integrated Circuits
- “Evolvable Hardware” (EHW) = Evolutionary Computation + Software-Reconfigurable Device (FPGA, etc.)
 - Online vs. Offline evolution of design
 - Bottom-up design approach vs. conventional top-down design



Other Research in Evolutionary Logic Design...

- Motivation: Gate-count, Complexity, Time-to-Market, Manpower, \$\$, ...
- CAD Applications: Synthesis, Placement & Routing, Testing
 - 2-level AND-OR logic synthesis with <90 variables, now well solved with conventional CAD Packages/Techniques/Tools
- Performance Evaluation: Quality and Speed





Current Research in Evolutionary Logic Design...

- **JAPAN**
 - Robotic Control/Navigation: T. Higuchi, et al., ETL
 - Pattern Recognition Systems; Data Compression: M. Iwata, et al., ETL
 - Hardware Evolution at Function Level; Adaptive Equalization of Digital Communication Channels; On-line Adaptive Neural Networks: M. Murakawa, et al., U. of Tokyo
 - ATM Cell Scheduling by Function Level EHW: W. Liu, et al., NEDO
 - Adaptive Architecture Methodology with Hardware Description Language: H. Hemmi, et al., ATR
 - CAM (Artificial) BRAIN (evolve NN w/GA): H. de Garis, et al., ATR
- **U.K.**
 - Robotic Control; Tone Discriminator: A. Thompson, et al., U. of Sussex
 - Evolving Robot Morphology: H. Lund, U. of Edinburgh

Current Research in Evolutionary Logic Design...

- **SWITZERLAND**
 - Self-Reproduction & Repair of Hardware: D. Mange, et al., Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne
 - Phylogenetic, Ontogenetic and Epigenetic (POE) Model; "Firefly Machine" for on-line CA: M. Sipper, et al., Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne
 - "Bio-dule" (Artificial Cell) Embryonic Electronics, Self-structuring VLSI, Fault Tolerant Hardware: P. Marchal, et al., Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique
- **GERMANY**
 - Test Pattern Generation; Learning Heuristics; FPRM Logic Logic Minimization: R. Drechsler, et al., U. of Freiburg
 - VLSI Routing: N. Gockel, et al., U. of Freiburg
- **U.S.A.**
 - Analog Circuit Design: J. Koza, et al., Stanford University

Growing Digital Circuits



In the Pacific Northwest (Portland, Oregon, USA), we live in the “Silicon Forest” and now we can grow a “forest” in the silicon.

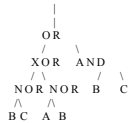
GP Logic Synthesis

This research applies GP to Logic Synthesis

Given: Truth table

Problem: Evolve a logic expression which specifies or “covers” the i/o’s of the truth table

Output



$(OR (XOR (NOR B C)(NOR A B))(AND B C))$ or $[(B + C) @ !(A + B)] + (BC)$

Genetic Programming Code

Public Domain

General Evolutionary Workhorse

Reproduction, Crossover, & Mutation

Originally written for “Artificial Ant” and Lawnmower Problems

Extensive Modification/Customization for Logic Synthesis Problem

Allows Other Researchers to Duplicate Results

Available via anonymous ftp to: [ftp.cc.utexas.edu](ftp://ftp.cc.utexas.edu/pub/genetic-programming/code) in the pub/genetic-programming/code directory

Written by: Adam Fraser, Ph.D. Student, Dept. of Electronic & Electrical Engineering, Cybernetics Research Institute, University of Salford, Salford, U.K.

Comparison Example: Conventional Vs. GP Synthesized Logic

Conventional Logic - SOP Form
 $f(a,b,c,d) = \Sigma(0,4,5,7,8,9,13,15)$



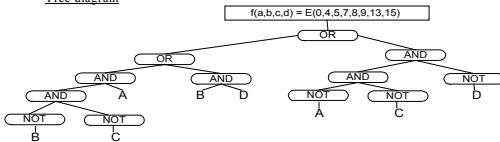
K-map for $f(a,b,c,d) = \Sigma(0,4,5,7,8,9,13,15)$

AB \ CD	00	01	11	10
00	1			
01	1	1	1	
11		1	1	
10	1	1		

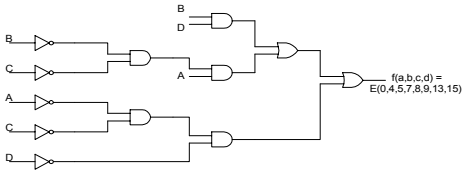
$$F = a'c'd' + bd + ab'c'$$

Conventional Logic Design - SOP Form

Tree diagram



Schematic diagram (2-input gates)



GP Synthesized Logic

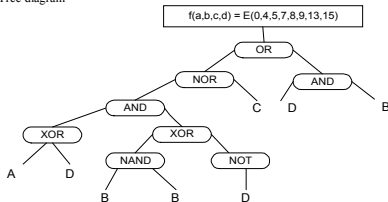
$$f(a,b,c,d) = \Sigma(0,4,5,7,8,9,13,15)$$

Synthesized Equation:

$$((\text{or}(\text{and_term_D term_B})(\text{nor}(\text{and}(\text{xor term_A term_D})(\text{xor}(\text{nand term_B term_B})(\text{not term_D}))))\text{term_C}))$$

Fitness : 1584
 Structural Complexity : 26

Tree diagram



GP Synthesized Logic

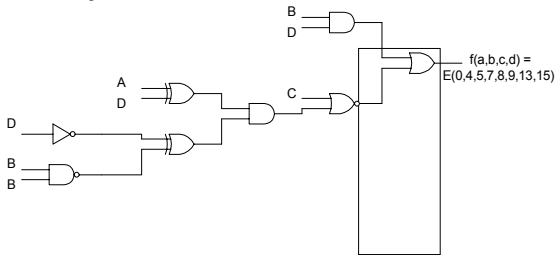
$$f(a,b,c,d) = \Sigma(0,4,5,7,8,9,13,15)$$

Synthesized Equation:

((or (and term_D term_B) (nor (and (xor term_A term_D) (xor (nand term_B term_B) (not term_D))) term_C)))
 Fitness : 1584
 Structural Complexity : 16

GP Synthesized Logic

Schematic diagram



Unconventional Design = unusual choice of gates

Logic Synthesis Experiments

Types of Logic Gates

Population Sizes

Mutation Probability Rates

Objective:	To determine optimum general parameters for GP-Logic Synthesis problems.
Terminal Set:	4 Variables: A,B,C,D; 5 Variables: A,B,C,D,E; 6 Variables: A,B,C,D,E,F; 7 Variables: A,B,C,D,E,F,G
Population Size:	1000-5000
Mutation Prob. Rate:	0, 1/10000, 1/1000, 1/100, 1/10, 1
Function Set: (all are 2-input gates, except the 1-input NOT gate)	Case 1: and, or, not Case 2: nand, not Case 3: and, or, not, nand Case 4: and, or, not, nand, nor Case 5: and, nor Case 6: and, or, not, xor Case 7: and, or, not, xor, nand, nor Case 8: nand
Fitness Measure:	=100 points for each correct truth-table output, -1 point for each logic gate and terminal in solution (for optimization of size)
Criterion:	Goal: to achieve fitness as close as possible to 2 ⁿ Perfect fitness is (2 ⁿ) - number of gates or terminals, (where n is the number of input variables)
Termination:	50 generations



Empirical Experimental Results

4 Variable Functions

Test 1: $f(a,b,c,d) = \Sigma(0,4,5,7,8,9,13,15)$

Test 2: $f(a,b,c,d) = \Sigma(4,6,7,15)$

5 Variable Functions

Test 3: $f(a,b,c,d,e) = \Sigma(5,6,9,10)$

Test 4: $f(a,b,c,d,e) = \Sigma(1,2,6,7,9,13,14,15,17,22,23,25,29,30,31)$

6 Variable Functions

Test 5: $f(a,b,c,d,e,f) = \Sigma(1,7,11,21,30)$

Test 6: $f(a,b,c,d,e,f) = \Sigma(10,12,14,20,21,22,25,33,36,45,55)$

7 Variable Functions

Test 7: $f(a,b,c,d,e,f,g) = \Sigma(20,28,52,60)$

Test 8: $f(a,b,c,d,e,f,g) = \Sigma(20,28,38,39,52,60,102,103,127)$

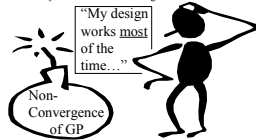
Empirical Experimental Results

Types of Logic Gates

Population Size:	1000
Mutation Prob. Rate:	1/1000
Function Set: (all are 2-input gates, except the 1-input NOT)	Case 1: and, or, not Case 2: rand, not Case 3: and, or, not, rand Case 4: and, or, not, rand, nor Case 5: and, nor Case 6: and, or, not, xor Case 7: and, or, not, xor, rand, nor Case 8: rand
Fitness Measure:	+10 for each correct minterm -1 for each logic gate/terminal
Criterion:	Fitness is $(2^n - \text{gates/terminals}) * 100$ Where n is the number of input variables
Termination:	50 generations

Test	Correct/Total Minterms	Cover	Gates/Terms in Function Logic Gates Case:								
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	16/16	100.0%	X	X	X	X	19	19	29	16	X
2	16/16	100.0%	11	18	12	15	13	10	10	19	
3	32/32	100.0%	27	X	29	X	X	18	9	X	
4	31/32	96.9%	X	17	17	20	X	14	13	X	
5	62/64	96.9%	X	X	X	X	X	116	87		
6	59/64	90.8%	X	X	23	X	X	26	X	X	
7	128/128	100.0%	X	X	10	X	X	13	X		
8	126/128	98.4%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	63	

*61/64 minterms correct
X = Only best function coverage results listed in table.



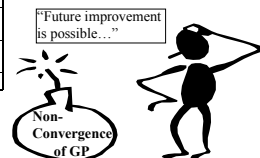
Empirical Experimental Results

Population Size

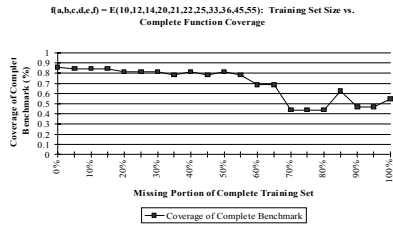
Population Size:	1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000
Mutation Prob. Rate:	1/1000
Function Set: (all are 2-input gates, except the 1-input NOT)	and, or, not, xor, rand, nor
Fitness Measure:	+100 for each correct minterm -1 for each logic gate/terminal
Criterion:	Fitness is $(2^n - \text{gates/terminals}) * 100$ Where n is the number of input variables
Termination:	50 generations

Test	Correct/Total Minterms	Cover	Population Sizes:				
			1000	2000	3000	4000	5000
4	32/32	100.0%	X	X	31	30	13
5	62/64	96.9%	X	X	18	19	X
6	59/64	92.2%	X	X	X	X	27
8	124/128	96.9%	X	X	X	X	21

X = Only best coverage results listed in table



Empirical Experimental Results



Result Summary

Types of Logic Gates:

- Large Gate Selection (AND, OR, NOT, XOR, NAND, NOR)
- The universal gate NAND (alone), sometimes showed good results



Population Sizes:

- Improved coverage with larger populations
- Theorized that larger populations increase the total pool of genetic diversity, increasing available traits and characteristics
- But, larger populations slow the rate of evolution, by increasing necessary computations

Mutation Rates:

- Small mutation rates usually introduce an appropriate amount of diversity not already available in the population
- Mutation Rates must be moderate:
 - Too small: no diversity available as the evolutionary process converges
 - Too big: unbounded diversity creates a chaotic environment

Result Summary

Don't Care versus Function Coverage:

- Observed that only small training sets are necessary for function recognition
- Experimental Results: All tests conducted showed >80% function coverage achieved with training sets missing <80%, 90%, and 55% of their complete truth tables (9Sym, Majority, and "Test 6" 6-variable function).
- Results may be biased by the amount of "pattern-ness" present in the test functions, but natural functions usually contain a high degree of pattern.
- Need more experimental data.

Gate-Level Synthesis - Scalability

- Necessary to understand and perfect research in early stage, with small circuit designs, i.e. GP non-convergence problem
- Larger circuit designs will naturally require "gate modules", i.e. (Adder, Multiplexor, etc.)



Future GP-Logic Synthesis Research...

Use Circuit Modules (Adders, Comparators, Multiplexors, etc.) as “functions”, (Automatically Defined Functions)

Create Custom Gate Modules

Apply research to larger functions/designs and Standard Benchmarks

System Design - Computer Architectures

Reduce Synthesis Error!

Goal: 100% Synthesized Function Design Coverage

Future Design Tool



New approach

Problem and motivation

The search time depends considerably on the size of the hypothesis space.

A large hypothesis space makes it difficult to find the optimal circuit in a reasonable time (*Sometimes run time for evolving simple network requires dozens of hours*)

Task formulation

Synthesize a logical network in a given design style without *no special software* to implement a design style.

Idea !!!

Let us try to *partition circuit search space* and seek circuit solution in each subspace

Decomposed 2-bit adder

Good news: We can partition circuit search space

Bad news: We need multiplexer

2-bit adder was evolved independently as two sub-circuits C_0 and C_1 . To merge these “pieces” we need a multiplexer - MUX

concept

of scanning window

The space of possible circuit solutions

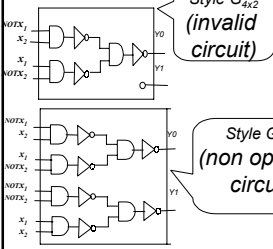
Scanning window over given design style

Example. G_{5x4} over the library of cells $L=\{AND,OR\}$ can be considered as “a guide” to design M -level, $M \in \{2,3,4,5\}$, networks under different scenarios

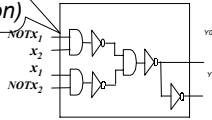
Benefit

Scenario of evolutionary design

Scenario 1



Scenario 2



x_1, x_2, y_0, y_1
 0 0 0 1
 0 1 1 0
 1 0 1 0
 1 1 0 1

Over library
={AND, NOT}

Experiment

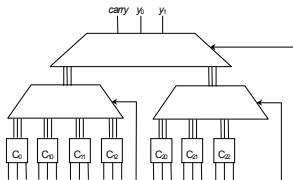
EvoDesign against SIS (gate/time)

Test	EvoDesign	SIS [Berkeley,1994]
sao2	165 / 120 sec	203 / 0.15 sec
rd53	16 / 57sec	34 / 0.1 sec
life	34 / 41 sec	138 / 0.2 sec
misex1	61 / 49 sec	155 / 0.4 sec
Total	276 / 267 sec	530 / 0.85 sec

Run time is terrible !!!

EFFECT 2 times ↑

Generalization for 3-valued 2-digit multiplier



sub-circuits - 7
 # gates - 73
 # MUX - 3
 Run time: 249 min

EvoDesign for synthesis ternary and quaternary 2-digit multipliers

Test	Gate	Time
2mult-3	73 gates +3 MUXs	249 min
2mult-4	220 gates+5 MUXs	148 min

Observation. When parallel and independent processing of network space, the different target design styles can be used for each subspace

Experiment

Quaternary circuits (gate/time)

Test	Direct	Parallel
monks1tr	6 / 3 hours	7 / 0.3 hours
monks1te	5 / 4 hours	7 / 1,6 hours
monks3tr	-	18 / 6,1 hours

The maximal time for processing of one subspace

Concept

of target design style

-] Library of cells $L=\{AND, OR, EXOR, NOT, NAND, NOR\}$
-] Number of levels
-] Permissible interconnections between cells,
-] Types of gate in each level

EvoDesign against Sasao method

Design style: END-OR-EXOR 3-level network with a single-output EXOR-gate

Sasao method **EvoDesign algorithm**

(i) Population size - 60 (ii) Maximal number of generations - 10^4
 (iii) Crossover - 0.7 (iv) Level back - 3 (v) Tournament selection and discriminator is 2 and 90%

Idea of massively parallel circuit design

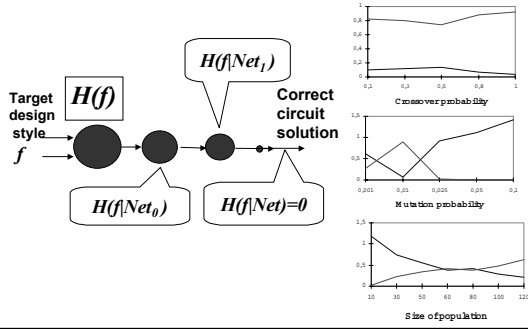
Assumption. Each subspace R of network solutions can be searched independently and simultaneously with a different windows G and target design style

Benefit: massive parallelism

Idea !!!

If genetic information processing is to extract valuable information from genetic information, let us use Shannon information theory to measure evolutionary process of circuit design

Evolutionary circuit design and information streams



Entropy of fitness function

Definition. Entropy based fitness function is the conditional entropy of a target function f given current function Net

$$H(f|Net) = - p_{00} \cdot \log_2(p_{00}/p_0) - p_{10} \cdot \log_2(p_{10}/p_0) - p_{01} \cdot \log_2(p_{01}/p_1) - p_{11} \cdot \log_2(p_{11}/p_1)$$

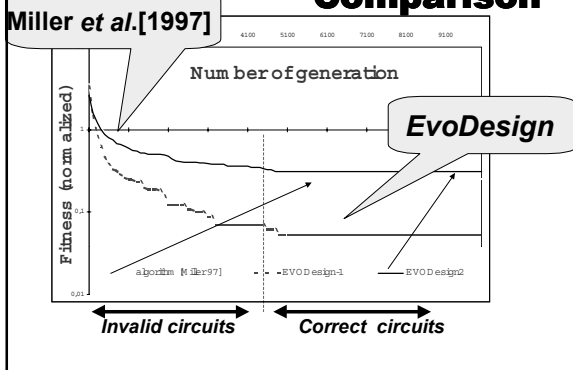
Example 2-digit ternary adder:

0th generation $H(f|Net_0) = 1.585$;

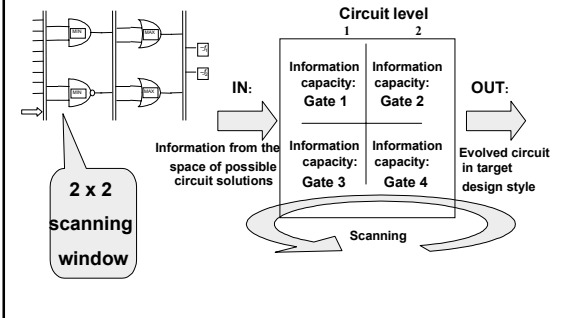
380th generation $H(f|Net_{380}) = 0.853$;

12610th generation $H(f|Net_{12610}) = 0$;

Comparison



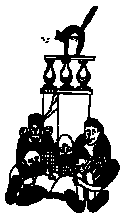
Information capacity of scanning window



Concluding Remarks

- An extension of the evolutionary multi-level network synthesis due to parallel (and flexible) window-based scanning of the subspaces of possible network solutions with target design style
- Evolutionary network design becomes more attractive, if the concept of a *given design style* is realized.
 - In this case designer really becomes an expert and needs *no special software*.
- B-decomposition of the network search space is more preferable, because it *does not require any multiplexers* to merge a network from subnetworks.

Non solved problem



- Can evolutionary computation be of practical interest for CAD Community?
- In which applications evolutionary computation can be an efficient support of traditional techniques?

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