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# Low Power Approach for Fir Filter Using Modified Booth Multiprecision Multiplier

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**Abstract**— This paper presents an efficient approach to the design of low power reconfigurable finite impulse response (FIR) filter. The approach is well suited when the filter order is fixed and not changed for particular applications, and efficient trade-off between power savings and filter performance can be made using the proposed architecture. Generally, FIR filter exhibits more computational power consumption because of the multiplier unit. The proposed FIR filter dynamically changes the precision of multiplication with respect to the information available in the input data using Amplitude Detection (AD) block. Modified Booth Multi-Precision (MBMP) Multiplier is designed to accommodate low power and multiprecision operation. Also, reducing the computational complexity of multiplier unit tend to reduce the total power consumption of FIR filter. Simulation results show that the proposed approach achieves significant power savings without seriously compromising the filter performance.

**Keywords**— Finite Impulse Response (FIR), Amplitude Detection (AD), Modified Booth Multi-Precision (MBMP), Computational complexity, Power consumption

## I. INTRODUCTION

The growth of mobile computing and portable multimedia applications has increased the demand for low power digital signal processing (DSP) systems. One of the most widely used operations performed in DSP is finite impulse response (FIR) filtering [1]. The input-output relationship of the linear time invariant (LTI) FIR filter can be expressed as the following equation:

$$y(n) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} c_k x(n-k) \quad (1)$$

Where N represents the length of FIR filter,  $c_k$  the  $k^{\text{th}}$  coefficient, and  $x(n-k)$  the input data at time instant  $n-k$ . In many applications, in order to achieve high spectral containment and/or noise attenuation, FIR filters with fairly large number of taps are necessary. Nowadays, many finite impulse response (FIR) filter designs aimed at either high speed or reduced power consumption are developed. Many previous efforts for reducing power consumption of FIR filter generally focus on the optimization of the filter coefficients while maintaining a fixed filter order [2]–[4]. In that approaches, FIR filter structures are simplified to add and shift operations, and minimizing the number of additions/subtractions is one of the main goals of the research. However, one of the drawbacks encountered in those approaches is that once the filter architecture is decided, the coefficients cannot be changed; therefore, those techniques are not applicable to the FIR filter with programmable coefficients [1].

In [5], filter order varies according to the stop-band energy of the input signal. However, the approach suffers from slow filter-order adaptation time due to energy computations in the feedback mechanism. Previous studies in [6] show that sorting both the data samples and filter coefficients before the convolution operation has a desirable energy-quality characteristic of FIR filter. However, the overhead associated with the real-time sorting of incoming samples is too large. Reconfigurable FIR filter architectures are previously proposed for low power implementations [7]–[9] or to realize various frequency responses using a single filter [10]. In this paper, we propose a simple yet efficient low power reconfigurable FIR filter architecture, where the precision of multiplication dynamically changes with respect to the information available in the input data using Amplitude Detection (AD) block. In other words, when the data sample (8 bit) multiplied to the coefficient (32 bit) is so small, the multiplication operation can be simply reduced to 8 bit x 32 bit multiplication.

The primary goal of this work is to reduce the dynamic power of the FIR filter, and the main contributions are summarized as follows. 1) A new reconfigurable FIR filter architecture with real-time input monitoring circuits is presented. Since the basic filter structure is not changed, it is applicable to the FIR filter with programmable coefficients or adaptive filters. 2) We provide mathematical analysis of the power saving and filter performance degradation on the proposed approach. The analysis is

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verified using experimental results, and it can be used as a guideline to design low power reconfigurable filters. The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section II, the basic idea of the proposed reconfigurable filter is described. Section III presents the MBMP multiplier architecture. Section IV discuss on the FIR filter simulation results and performance improvements. Section V deal with the conclusion part.

### II. RECONFIGURABLE FIR FILTER

As shown in Fig. 1, FIR filtering operation performs the weighted summations of input sequences, called as convolution sum, which are frequently used to implement the frequency selective low-pass, high-pass, or band-pass filters [1]. Generally, the amount of computation and the corresponding power consumption of FIR filter are directly proportional to the filter order and high computational effort of multiplier. If we can dynamically change the precision of multipliers, significant power savings can be achieved.

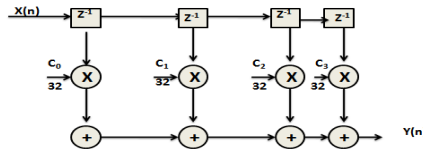


Fig. 1 Architecture of the direct form FIR filter

Fig. 1 shows the direct form of FIR filter in which the output is obtained by performing the concurrent multiplications of individual delayed signals and respective filter coefficients, followed by accumulation of all the products. Fig.2 shows the proposed direct form FIR architecture.

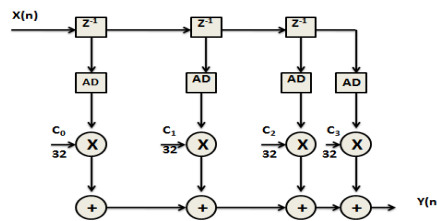


Fig. 2 Architecture of the Proposed FIR filter

The proposed architecture follows the direct form implementation which includes 4 tap delays and Amplitude Detector (AD) block. Precision of multiplication varies from 32 bit to 8 bit based on the information available in the input data. Because of the decreased delay elements, the order of filter is reduced to 3 and power consumption is reduced due to the lower precision multiplication. In the fixed point arithmetic of FIR filter, full operand bit widths of the multiplier outputs is not generally used. In other words, as shown in Fig. 2, when the bit-widths of data inputs and coefficients are 32, the multiplier generates 64-bit outputs. However, considering the circuit area of the following multipliers, the LSBs of input data are usually truncated or rounded off, (e.g., 8, 16 or 24 bits are used) which incurs quantization errors. If we can carefully select the input and coefficient amplitudes such that the multiplication of those two numbers is as small as the quantization error, filter performance degradation can be made negligible.

#### A. Amplitude Detector Block

In order to monitor the amplitudes of input samples and change the right multiplication operations, amplitude detector (AD) in Fig. 4 is used. When the absolute value of  $x(n)$  is smaller than the threshold  $x_{th}$ , the output of AD is set to “1”. The design of AD is dependent on the input threshold  $x_{th}$ , where the fan-in’s of AND and OR gate are decided by  $x_{th}$ . A single amplitude detector block consists of three small AD blocks named as AD1, AD2 and AD3. AD block is made up of AND, OR and XNOR gates. AD1 block is set to 1 when the input data contains 0’s in the first 24 bit of MSB and it takes care of producing valid information part (8 bit LSB) to the multiplier block.

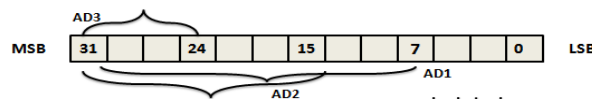


Fig. 3 Amplitude detector with AD1, AD2 and AD3

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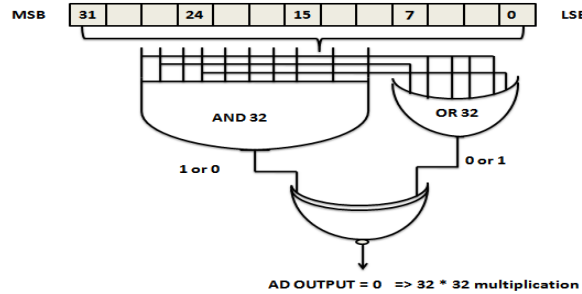


Fig. 4 Architecture Amplitude Detector

AD2 block is responsible to detect the input data contains 0's in the first 16 bit of MSB and it takes care of 16 bit multiplication. Similarly, AD3 block is set to 1 when the input data contains 0's in the first 8 bit of MSB and it takes care of producing valid information part (24 bit LSB) to the multiplier block.

### III. MBMP MULTIPLIER

The proposed MBMP multiplier system (Fig. 1) comprises five different modules that are as follows:

The MBMP multiplier.

The input operands scheduler (IOS) whose function is to select the input data stream which is helpful to perform an appropriate multiplication operation as per the application requirement.

The frequency scaling unit is to generate the required operating frequency of the multiplier.

The voltage scaling unit (VSU) implemented using a razor based voltage dithering technique. Its function is to dynamically generate the supply voltage so as to minimize power consumption;

The dynamic voltage/frequency management unit (VFMU) that receives the user requirements (e.g., throughput). It sends control signals to the VSU and FSU to generate the required power supply voltage and clock for the MBMP multiplier.

The modified booth multiplier produces  $N/2$  partial products, each of which depends on bits of the multiplier. In this paper, we are aiming to build up a booth encoding for multiprecision multiplier. Modified booth encoding allows higher radix parallel operation. Fig.6 illustrates the architecture of modified booth 8 bit multiplier. The 16 bit product output is obtained from two 8 operands namely multiplicand (MD) and multiplier (MR).The architecture comprises four parts: 1) Booth encoder, 2) 2's complement generator, 3) Partial product generator, 4) Adder. Booth encoder is responsible to make three bit blocks of 8 bit multiplier starting from MSB to LSB. Hence, partial products are chosen by considering a pair of bits along with the most significant bit (MSB) from the previous pair.

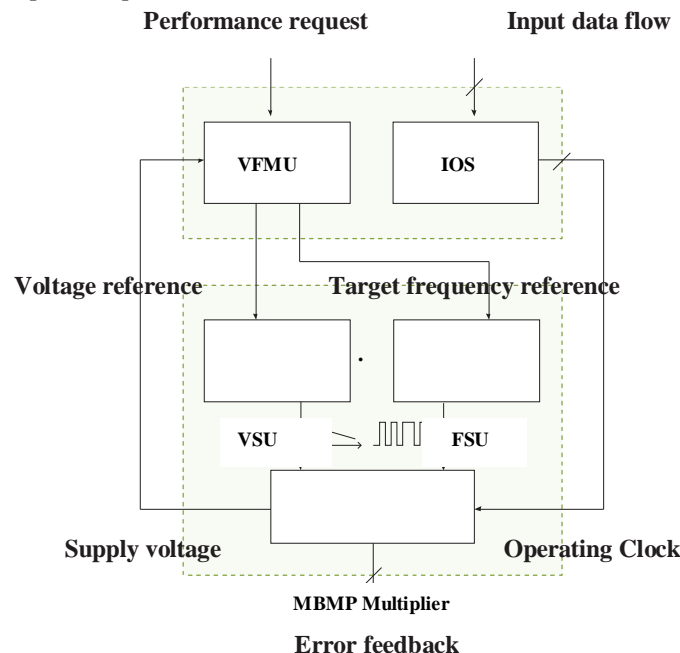


Fig. 5. Overall multiplier system architecture.

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If the MSB for the previous pair is true, multiplicand bit must be added to the current partial product. If the MSB of the current pair is true, the current partial product is selected to be negative and the next partial product is incremented. Since it is a 8 bit(N) multiplier, totally four partial products (N/2) have been generated. to be negative and the next partial product is incremented.

Since it is a 8 bit (N) multiplier, totally four partial products (N/2) have been generated. The final 16 bit output is obtained by adding the partial products using adders. Table 1 shows how the partial products are generated by taking the 2's complement of the multiplicand (possibly left-shifted by one column).

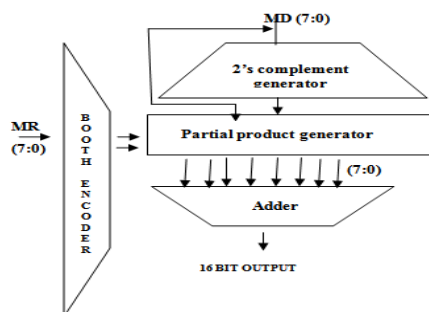


Fig. 6 Modified Booth 8 bit multiplier architecture.

The multiprecision concept is illustrated in Fig. 7. The 3 bit mode control indicates whether to perform a 32 or 16 or 8 bit multiplication. Depending on the selection mode the 32 bit input stream is given among the PEs (Processing Element) to perform the computation [1]. Fig. 3 shows how three 16 bit PEs are used to implement a 32 x 32 bit multiplier. Whenever the full precision (32x 32 bit) is not done, the supply voltage and clock frequency can be scaled down according to the actual workload. We define X and Y as the 2n-bits wide multiplicand and multiplier, respectively.

TABLE I  
 MODIFIED BOOTH ENCODING TABLE

Multiplier bits block			Partial Products	Action to be done
0	0	0	0	Do nothing
0	0	1	1* MD	Multiply 1 with Multiplicand
0	1	0	1* MD	Multiply 1 with Multiplicand
0	1	1	2* MD	Left shift Multiplicand once
1	0	0	-2* MD	Subtract & Left shift multiplicand once
1	0	1	-1* MD	Subtract Multiplicand
1	1	0	-1* MD	Subtract Multiplicand
1	1	1	0	Do nothing

$X_H, Y_H$  are their respective  $n$  most significant bits whereas  $X_L, Y_L$  are their respective  $n$  least significant bits.  $X_L Y_L, X_H Y_L, X_L Y_H$  and  $X_H Y_H$  is the crosswise products. The product of X and Y can be expressed as follows:

$$P = (X_H Y_H) 2^{2n} + (X_H Y_L + X_L Y_H) 2^n + X_L Y_L \quad (1)$$

where  $X_H Y_L + X_L Y_H$  reconfigurable multiplier can be built using adders and four  $n$  bit x  $n$  bit multipliers to compute  $X_H Y_H, X_L Y_L, X_L Y_H$  and  $X_H Y_L$ . However, this would result in overheads of silicon area and power. So, we can define that,

$$X' = X_H + X_L \quad (2)$$

$$Y' = Y_H + Y_L \quad (3)$$

then (1) could be rewritten as follows:

$$P = (X_H Y_H) 2^{2n} + (X' Y' - X_H Y_H - X_L Y_H - X_L Y_L) 2^n + X_L Y_L \quad (4)$$

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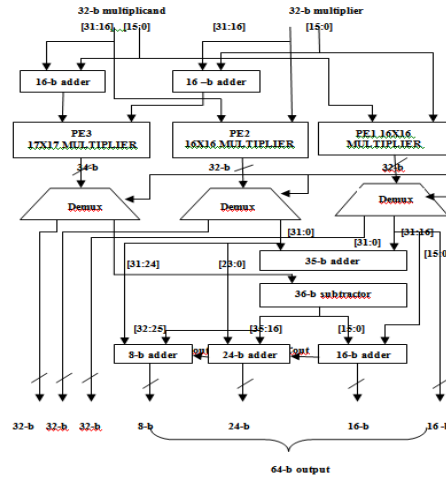


Fig. 7 Three PEs combined to form 32 x 32 bit multiplier.

Comparing (1), (4), we have removed one  $n \times n$  bit multiplier (for calculating  $X_H F_E$  or  $X_E F_H$ ) and one  $2n$ -bit adder (for calculating  $X_H F_E + X_E F_H$ ). The two adders are replaced with two  $n$ -bit adders and two  $(2n+2)$  bit subtractor. We actually need two  $16 \times 16$  multipliers (for calculating  $X_H F_H$  and  $X_E F_E$ ) and 1  $17 \times 17$  bit multiplier (for calculating  $X' F'$ ).

### IV. SIMULATION RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fig.8 shows the simulation results of FIR filter in which  $8 \times 32$  bit multiplication is done to produce the 64 bit output. Based on the amplitude detection block “AD1” or “AD2” or “AD3”, MBMP multiplier will perform 8 bit or 16 bit or 24 bit or 32 bit computation respectively. The voltage and frequency are consumed as per the current workload. In Fig.8,  $8 \times 32$  bit multiplication operation is performed in parallel manner as the given amplitude detection is “AD1”. In case of  $8 \times 32$  bit multiplication, the frequency and voltage are scaled down to 12.5 MHz and 0.95 V from the total operating frequency 50 MHz and supply voltages. Hence the power consumption for  $8 \times 32$  bit multiplication is 52 mW which is an optimum value. The required simulation has been carried out using ISIM Simulator and the functional verification performed.

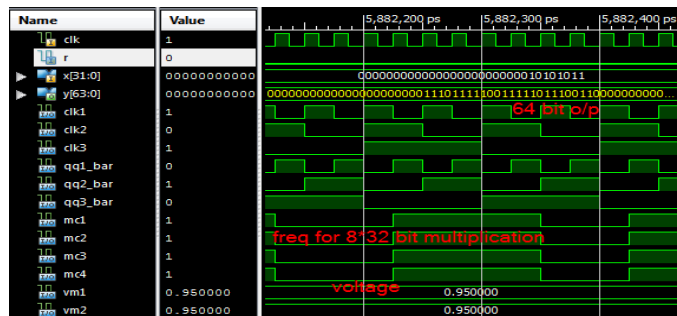


Fig. 8 Simulation result of FIR filter with 8 x 32 bit multiplier

Fig.9 illustrates the simulation result of FIR filter which  $16 \times 32$  multiplication operation is performed to produce the output. The  $16 \times 32$  bit multiplication requires 25 MHz frequency and 1.15 V for its operation.

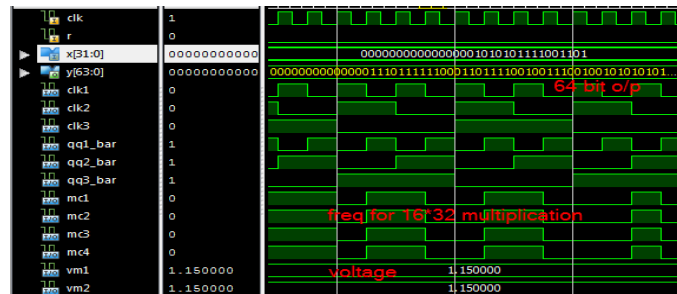


Fig.9 Simulation result of FIR filter with 16 x 32 bit multiplier

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Fig.10 shows the simulation results of FIR filter in which 24\*32 bit multiplication is done to produce the 64 bit output. Based on the amplitude detection block AD3, MBMP multiplier will perform 24 bit \* 32 bit computation respectively. The voltage and frequency are consumed as per the current workload.

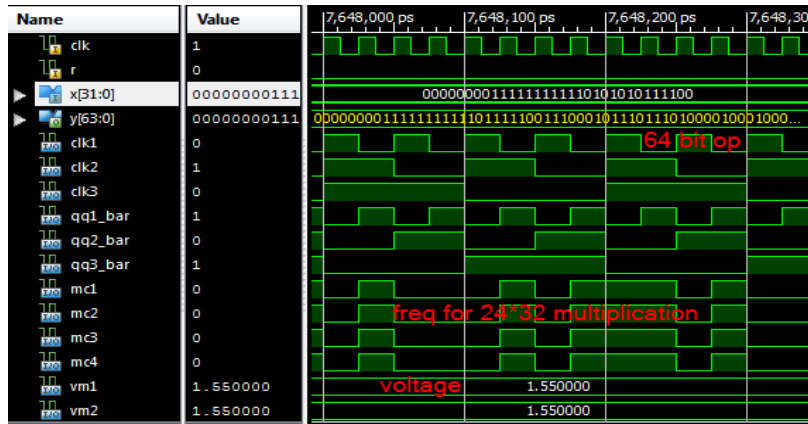


Fig.10 Simulation result of FIR filter with 24 x 32 bit multiplier

Fig.11 shows the output waveform of modified booth 32 \* 32 multiplier in which 64 bit product output is obtained. Frequency of 100MHz and 1.95 V are required for 32 bit multiplication.

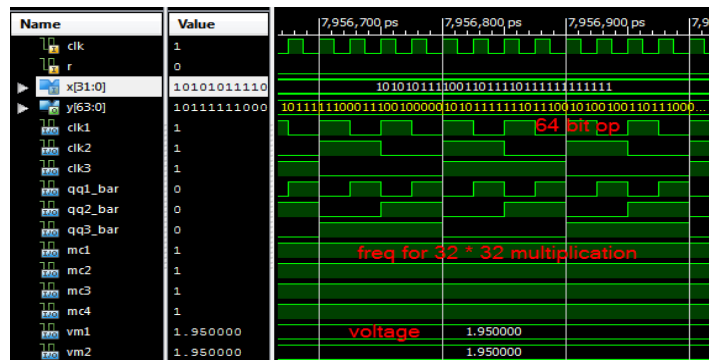


Fig. 11 Simulation result of FIR filter with 32 x 32 bit multiplier

The performance of FIR filter is discussed in Table 2. The analysis is done with respect to the power and frequency consumption of 8 bit, 16 bit, 24 bit and 32 bit multiplication operation. From Table 2, the 32 bit multiplier consumes 60mW power with optimum frequency 100 MHz. Similarly the power & frequency consumption of FIR filter based on 16 bit and 8 bit multipliers are shown in the table 2. Table III illustrates the total area consumed by different precision multipliers in terms of number of slices and LUTs. Also, delay (ns) values are given for 8, 16, 24 and 32 bit multiplier.

TABLE II

POWER & FREQUENCY COMPARISON OF FIR FILTER WITH DIFFERENT PRECISION MULTIPLIERS

FIR filter with various Multiplier Schemes	Frequency (MHz)	Power Consumption (mW)
8 *32 Multiplier	12.5	52
16 *32 Multiplier	25.0	55
24 *32 Multiplier	50.0	57
32 * 32 Multiplier	100.0	60

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TABLE III

AREA AND DELAY COMPARISON OF FIR FILTER WITH MULTIPRECISION MULTIPLIERS

FIR filter with various Multiplier Schemes	Area		Delay (ns)
	in Slices	in LUTs	
8 * 32 Multiplier	101	186	32.052
16 * 32 Multiplier	523	938	99.748
24 * 32 Multiplier	745	1025	249.345
32 * 32 Multiplier	1643	3079	396.713

### V. CONCLUSION

We proposed a novel FIR filter architecture featuring with low power consumption compared with conventional direct form FIR filter counterpart. When integrating this MBMP multiplier architecture with a DVS, DFS approach and a novel operands scheduler, run time adaptation to the actual workload can be achieved. Also it can operate at the minimum supply voltage and minimum frequency level while meeting the throughput requirements. It is to be concluded that the proposed FIR filter with MBMP multiplier performs better in terms of area, delay and power consumption.

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