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# 7<sup>th</sup> IEEE EAST-WEST DESIGN & TEST SYMPOSIUM (EWDTS 2009)

Moscow, Russia, September 18-21, 2009

The main target of the **IEEE East-West Design & Test Symposium** (EWDTS) is to exchange experiences between scientists and technologies of Eastern and Western Europe, as well as North America and other parts of the world, in the field of design, design automation and test of electronic circuits and systems. The symposium is typically held in countries around the Black Sea, the Baltic Sea and Central Asia region. We cordially invite you to participate and submit your contribution(s) to EWDTS'09 which covers (but is not limited to) the following topics:

- Analog, Mixed-Signal and RF Test
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- Real Time Embedded Systems
- Reliability of Digital Systems
- Scan-Based Techniques
- Self-Repair and Reconfigurable Architectures
- System Level Modeling, Simulation & Test Generation
- System-in-Package and 3D Design & Test
- Using UML for Embedded System Specification
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- Wireless and RFID Systems Synthesis
- Digital Satellite Television
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# Algebra-Logical Repair Method for FPGA Logic Blocks

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# Abstract

An algebra-logical repair method for FPGA functional logic blocks on the basis of solving the coverage problem is proposed. It is focused on implementation into Infrastructure IP for system-on-a chip and system-in-package. A method is designed for providing the operability of FPGA blocks and digital system as a whole. It enables to obtain exact and optimal solution associated with the minimum number of spares needed to repair the FPGA logic components with multiple faults.

# **1. Introduction**

At present there are many scientific publications, which cover SoC/SiP testing, diagnosis and repair problems [1-16, 19-20]. The testing and repair problem for the digital system logic components has a special place, because repair of faulty logic blocks is technologically complicated problem. Existing solutions, which are proposed in published works, can be divided on the following groups:

1. Duplication of logic elements or chip regions to double hardware realization of functionality. When faulty element is detected switching to faultless component by means of a multiplexer is carried out [4]. The FPGA models, proposed by Xilinx, can be applied for repair of Altera FPGA components. At repair the main unit of measure is row or column.

2. Application of genetic algorithms for diagnosis and repair on the basis of off-line FPGA reconfiguration not using external control devices [5]. The fault diagnosis reliability is 99%, repair time is 36 msec instead of 660 sec, required for standard configuration of a project.

3. Time-critical FPGA repairing by means of replacement of local CLBs by redundant spares is proposed in [6,7]. In critically important applications the acceptable integration level for CLB replacement is about 1000 logic blocks.

The repair technologies for digital system logic, implemented on-chip FPGA, are based on existence or introduction of LUT redundancy after place and route procedure execution. Physical faults, which appear in

the process of fabrication or operation, become apparent as logical or temporary failure and result in malfunction of a digital system. Faults are tied not only to the gates or LUT components but also to a specified location on a chip. The idea of digital system repairing comes to the removal of a fault element by means of repeated place and route executing after diagnosis. At that two repair technologies are possible: 1) Blockage of a defective area by means of developing the control scripts for long time place and route procedure. But it is not always acceptable for real time digital systems. The approach is oriented to remove the defective areas of any multiplicity. Blockage of the defective areas by means of repeated place and route executing results in repair of a digital system. 2) Place and route executing for repairing of real time digital systems can result in disastrous effects. The technological approach is necessary that allows repairing of the digital system functionality for milliseconds. required for reprogramming FPGA by new bitstream to remove defective areas from chip functionality. The approach is based on preliminary generation of all possible bitstreams for blocking future defective areas by means of their logical relocation to the redundant nonfunctional chip area. The larger a spare area the less a number of bitstreams, which can be generated a priori. Concerning multiple faults, not covered by a spare area, it is necessary to segment a digital project by its decomposition on disjoin parts, which have their own Place and Route maps. In this case a digital system that has n spare segments for n distributed faults can be repaired. The total chip area consists of (n+m) equal parts.

The research objective is to develop a repair method for FPGA logic blocks on the basis of using the redundant chip area.

Problems: 1) Development of an algebra-logical repair method for logic blocks of a digital system on basis of FPGA. 2) Development of a method for logic blocks matrix traversal to cover FPGA faulty components by spare tiles. 3) Analysis of practical results and future research.

# 2. Algebra-logical repair method for FPGA blocks

The exact repair method for FPGA logic blocks by means of spares is represented. It enables to obtain quasi-optimal solution of coverage problem for faulty cells set by minimum quantity of spares. The method focuses on the implementation of digital system-in-package functionality to the Infrastructure IP. The objective function is minimization of FPGA spares S<sup>t</sup>, needed for the repair of faulty blocks in the SiP operation by means of synthesis the disjunctive normal form of fault coverage and subsequent selection of a minimum conjunctive term  $(S_1^t, S_2^t, ..., S_i^t, ..., S_{m_t}^t) \in S^t$ 

that answers the constraints on the number of spares  $m_t \leq p$ , which enter into the logical product:

$$\begin{split} & Z = \min_{t=l,n} \! \! \left( \! \left| S^t \right| \right) \! \right|_{m_t \leq p}, \, S \! = \! (S^1 \lor S^2 \lor ... \lor S^t \lor ... \lor S^n); \; S^* \! = \! \{ \! S_1, \! S_2, ..., \! S_j, ..., \! S_p \}. \end{split}$$

FPGA functionality model is represented by a matrix of logic blocks operating by rows and columns of the structure  $M = |M_{ij}|$ . In the process of designing the matrix attached to a spare, consisting of rows and columns, which can be readdressed in the process of structure reconfiguration, when faults are detected.

A model of determining the minimum number of spares (rows and columns), covering all detected faults in a matrix of FPGA logic blocks, comes to the following items:

1. Making a coverage table for detected faulty FPGA blocks by spare rows and columns. To achieve the goal a topological model of testing results for FPGA functionality is considered in the form of matrix, coordinates of which identify detected faults (faultless and faulty blocks):

$$\mathbf{M} = \left| \mathbf{M}_{ij} \right|, \mathbf{M}_{ij} = \begin{cases} \mathbf{1} \leftarrow \mathbf{T} \oplus \mathbf{f} = \mathbf{1}; \\ \mathbf{0} \leftarrow \mathbf{T} \oplus \mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}. \end{cases}$$
(1)

Here the matrix coordinate is equal to 1 if modulo 2 sum of faultless behaviour for the block f and real test response give 1 value, which corresponds to the defect in a block. After FPGA testing and fixation of all faulty blocks the construction of faults coverage table  $Y = |Y_{ij}|, i = \overline{1, n}; j = \overline{1, m}$  is performed. Here columns correspond to a fault set ("1" coordinates), fixed in the matrix M (|M| = m), rows are numbers of columns and rows of FPGA blocks matrix, which cover faults, indicated in columns:

$$Y = \left| Y_{ij} \right|, Y_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 \leftarrow C_i(R_i) \cap F_j \neq \emptyset; \\ 0 \leftarrow C_i(R_i) \cap F_j = \emptyset. \end{cases}$$
(2)

Operating by rows and columns, which contain faults, we can find an optimal solution in the form of fault coverage in the metrics of faulty rows and columns. Then the trivial reassignment procedure is carried out for faulty rows and columns, which replaced by faultless FPGA spare components.

To improve the solution of coverage task onedimensional vector, concatenated from two sequences C and R by power n = p + q, is used instead of twodimensional metrics components:

$$X = C^*R = (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_i, \dots, C_p)^*(R_1, R_2, \dots, R_j, \dots, R_q) =$$
  
=  $X^c * X^r = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_i, \dots, X_p, X_{p+1}, X_{p+2}, \dots, X_{p+1}, \dots, X_{p+q}).$  (3)

At that there is one-to-one correspondence between elements of initial sets (C, R) and resultant vector X that is established in the first column of Y matrix. Transformation  $X = C^*R$  is carried out for ease of consideration and subsequent construction the disjunctive normal form in the frame of uniformity in the variables, which form the Boolean function. If given procedure is not performed, a function will be defined by variables of two types, which consist rows and columns of a memory matrix.

2. CNF forming by analytic, complete and exact solution of the coverage task. After the forming of a coverage matrix that contains zero and unit coordinates, the synthesis of coverage analytic form by writing CNF for unit coordinates of matrix columns is carried out. A number of conjunctive terms is equal to quantity of table columns, and the length of a disjunctive term is equal to quantity of "1" in the column:

$$Y = \bigwedge_{j=1}^{m} (Y_{pj} \vee Y_{qj})_{\{Y_{pj}, Y_{qj}\}=1} = \bigwedge_{j=1}^{m} (X_{pj} \vee X_{qj}).$$
(4)

Last expression shows that every column identifies two variants of fault coverage – rows and columns. So a column has only two coordinates, which have unit value, and numbers of logical products is equal to total quantity of faults m, detected in FPGA matrix.

3. Transformation of CNF to DNF enables to obtain all solutions of the coverage task. For this it is necessary to apply the logical product operation and minimization rules to the conjunctive normal form to get disjunctive normal form:

$$Y = \bigvee_{j=1}^{w} (k_1^j X_1 \wedge k_2^j X_2 \wedge ... \wedge k_i^j X_i \wedge ... \wedge k_n^j X_n), k_i^j = \{0,1\}.$$
(5)

The generalize DNF is represented here; a number of terms is equal to  $w = 2^n$ , n – numbers of rows in the set (C,R) or quantity of variables X in the matrix Y. All possible solutions (fault coverages by spares) are written by the set of row identifiers for a coverage table. If  $k_i^j$  at  $X_i$  is equal to zero,  $X_i$  is changed to an insignificant variable.

4. Choose the minimum and exact solutions of the coverage task. The procedure involves the determination of minimum length conjunctive terms by Quine in the DNF. Its subsequent transformation to the rows and columns of a memory matrix on basis of earlier correspondence enables to write the minimum coverage (or a set of them) by two-dimensional row and column metrics that satisfies the constraints of the objective function on spare quantity.

5. Realization of reassignment procedure for faulty rows and columns by similar faultless components of FPGA spare.

Example. Fulfills the repair process for FPGA matrix to determine the minimum quantity of spares, covering all faults. The matrix with faults and spares, highlighted by black color [19,20], is shown in Fig. 1.



#### Figure 1. FPGA with faults and spares

The matrix has a spare for diagnosis and repair of faulty cells that is two rows and five columns. According to item 1 of the model for determining the minimum quantity of spares, covering all detected faults of a memory matrix, a coverage table for 10 faults

 $F = (F_{2,2}, F_{2,5}, F_{2,8}, F_{4,3}, F_{5,5}, F_{5,8}, F_{7,2}, F_{8,5}, F_{9,3}, F_{9,7})$  and eleven rows is formed:



Power or the number of rows in the table is determined by concatenation of columns C and rows R, which are in the one-to-one correspondence with the vector of variables X:

 $C^*R = (C_2, C_3, C_5, C_7, C_8)^*(R_2, R_4, R_5, R_7, R_8, R_9) \approx (7)$ 

 $\approx X = (X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, X_{11}).$ 

Construction of CNF is performed by a coverage table by means of writing the terms for unit values of columns:

$$Y = (X_1 \lor X_6)(X_3 \lor X_6)(X_5 \lor X_6)(X_2 \lor X_7)(X_3 \lor X_8) \&$$

$$\& (X_5 \lor X_8)(X_1 \lor X_9)(X_3 \lor X_{10})(X_2 \lor X_{11})(X_4 \lor X_{11}).$$
(8)

Getting of disjunctive normal form is based on the Boolean algebra identities, which allows performing the logical multiplication all ten multiplicands and the subsequent minimization of DNF terms by applying the operator  $ab \lor a\overline{b} = a$ , absorption axioms and removing the same terms.

The final result is:  $Y = X_{1}X_{2}X_{3}X_{4}X_{5} \lor X_{2}X_{3}X_{4}X_{5}X_{6}X_{9} \lor X_{1}X_{2}X_{3}X_{4}X_{6}X_{8} \lor \\
\lor X_{2}X_{3}X_{4}X_{6}X_{8}X_{9} \lor X_{1}X_{2}X_{4}X_{6}X_{8}X_{10} \lor X_{2}X_{4}X_{6}X_{8}X_{9}X_{10} \lor \\
\lor X_{1}X_{4}X_{6}X_{7}X_{8}X_{10}X_{11} \lor X_{1}X_{2}X_{3}X_{5}X_{11} \lor X_{2}X_{3}X_{5}X_{6}X_{9}X_{11} \lor \\
\lor X_{1}X_{2}X_{3}X_{6}X_{8}X_{11} \lor X_{2}X_{3}X_{5}X_{8}X_{9}X_{11} \lor X_{1}X_{2}X_{6}X_{8}X_{10}X_{11} \lor \\
\lor X_{2}X_{6}X_{8}X_{9}X_{10}X_{11} \lor X_{1}X_{3}X_{5}X_{7}X_{11} \lor X_{3}X_{5}X_{6}X_{7}X_{9}X_{11} \lor \\
\lor X_{1}X_{3}X_{6}X_{7}X_{8}X_{11} \lor X_{3}X_{6}X_{7}X_{8}X_{9}X_{11} \lor X_{1}X_{6}X_{7}X_{8}X_{10}X_{11} \lor \\
\lor X_{6}X_{7}X_{8}X_{9}X_{10}X_{11}.$ (9)

The choice of minimum length terms with 5 variables in given case determines a set of minimal solutions:

 $Y = X_1 X_2 X_3 X_4 X_5 \vee X_1 X_2 X_3 X_5 X_{11} \vee X_1 X_3 X_5 X_7 X_{11} (10)$ 

Transformation of the function to the coverage that contains variables in the form of FPGA rows and columns enables to represent the terms as follows:

 $Y = C_2 C_3 C_5 C_7 C_8 \vee C_2 C_3 C_5 C_8 R_9 \vee C_2 C_5 C_8 R_4 R_9.$ (11)

All minimum solutions satisfy the requirements on quantity of spares, determined by numbers:

$$\left(\left|\mathbf{C}^{\mathbf{r}}\right| \le 5\right) \& \left(\left|\mathbf{R}^{\mathbf{r}}\right| \le 2\right).$$

The subsequent repair technology for faulty FPGA blocks is electrical reprogramming of an address decoder for FPGA column or row. Concerning FPGA shown in Fig. 1 the readdressing of columns with faulty logic blocks to spare columns is realized, for instance, in compliance with first term of (11) that defines the relation:

Faulty column	2	3	5	7	8
Spare column	11	12	13	14	15

The computational complexity of an algebra-logical repair method for solving of the coverage task [17,20] is determined by the following expression:

$$Q = 2^{|F|} + |C + R| \times 2^{|F|}, \qquad (12)$$

where  $2^{|F|}$  – costs related to the synthesis of DNF by means of logical multiplication of two-component disjunctions, the number of which is equal to the quantity of faulty blocks (the fault coordinate is determined by a row or column number);  $|C + R| \times 2^{|F|}$ is upper limit of computational cost needed to minimize the DNE on limiting set of variables that is

minimize the DNF on limiting set of variables that is equal to total quantity of rows and columns |C + R|.

In the worst case, when the coordinates of all faulty blocks are not correlated by rows and columns (unique), for instance, diagonal faults, computational complexity of the matrix method becomes dependent on the number of faulty cells only, and its analytic form is transformed to the following expression:

$$Q = 2^{|F|} + |C + R| \times 2^{|F|} |_{|C + R| \le 2 \times |F|} =$$
  
= 2<sup>|F|</sup> + 2 × |F| × 2<sup>|F|</sup> = 2<sup>|F|</sup> × (1 + 2 × |F|). (13)

If to use the numbers of faults m instead of the power of a fault set the previous expression is represented in simpler form:

$$Q = 2^{m} \times (1 + 2 \times m) = 2^{m} (2m + 1).$$
(14)

According to the Functional Intellectual Property, an algebra-logical repair method for FPGA logic blocks on the basis of solving the coverage task is implemented into a chip as one of Infrastructure IP components that is designed for support of FPGA blocks and SoC availability.

## **3.** Conclusion

Algebra-logical repair method for FPGA logic blocks on the basis of solving the coverage task is focused on the implementation into a chip as one of Infrastructure IP components. It is designed to repair the FPGA blocks and SiP as a whole.

The method enables to obtain exact and optimal solution associated with the minimum number of spare blocks needed to repair the FPGA logic components with multiple faults.

The technological solutions represented in the survey and proposed methods for diagnosis and repairing of digital system-on-a-chip and system-in-package correlates well with the analytical market research of electronics in 2009 and is formulated in the form of Gartner's Top 10 Strategic Technologies for 2009: 1) Virtualization. 2) Cloud Computing. 3) Servers – Beyond Blades. 4) Web-Oriented Architectures. 5) Enterprise Mashups. 6) Specialized Systems. 7) Social Software and Social Networking. 8) Unified Communications. 9) Business Intelligence. 10) Green IT [http://www.gartner.com/].

As well, the Gartner's Top 10 correlates well with the analytical research of Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), represented as 7 tendencies: 1) New media. Internet has become a full-fledged framework for creating and using audio, video and text content in a planetary scale. 2) Social software. Social networks attract millions of users, using the common interests. 3) Enhanced Reality. Gradually, but persistently it enters our lives. Virtual reality, where images of the users travel through the virtual worlds, it becomes practical in finding suitable products, services, products without their prior purchase. 4) Transparency of information. It will let you see yourself and the world with a given degree of detail by means of sensors and internet-cameras placed in the office, and throughout the world. The other side of the coin is how to hide and preserve personal space. 5) Wireless innovations. They allow running any application on any device, anywhere in the world. Here we should expect the appearance of conflict related to division of frequencies between the telecommunications operators, radio and television, cable and satellite companies, Internet service providers. It is expected to the integrate solution of the problem on the basis of wireless technologies with mobile Internet-services. 6) New hardware and software platforms. Level of virtualization is increased. The number of applications which function on the same computer under different operating systems is growing exponentially. «Cloud computations», when a consumer pays for the use of computer infrastructure and applications to providers, stored client data on your own servers, significantly alter the entire calculation structure. Prospects of nanotechnology6 molecular, quantum and optical computing become more realistic. Instead of silicon chips lighter and smaller elements: the atoms, DNA, spins of electrons and light will work. 7) Intelligent world. Semantic and networking technologies allow computing devices to interpret the information on the algorithms of natural intelligence, whether text, voice, image, or life situations. Computers will be to teach, give advices, make predictions based on information received from the environment and the individual person. Self-learning semantic retrieval applications is developed in the Internet [http://www.pcweek.ru/].

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