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低功率系統晶片設計的智慧型整體架構(2/3)

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摘要

在本年度的計畫當中，我們提出了一個結合基因演算法(genetic algorithm)與模擬退火法(simulated annealing algorithm)的專用演算法，用以解決高階雙電壓排程(high-level dual-voltage scheduling)的問題。高階排程問題所指的是指定資料流程圖中每個運算節點的電壓層次(從固定且已知的電壓層次中選擇)，以便於在有限的運算時間下能夠減低平均功率消耗。在計畫中，我們不只考慮供應電壓(supply voltage, V_{dd})，我們也同時考慮臨界電壓(threshold voltage, V_{th})。實驗的結果顯示，使用我們所提出的方法與盡早排程演算法(ASAP scheduling algorithm)相比，我們可以減少 46.1% 的功率消耗，伴隨著 12% 的延遲增加。

關鍵詞：低功率、高階合成、雙臨界電壓、雙供應電壓。

Abstract

In this project, we present a special algorithm which combines genetic algorithm and simulated annealing algorithm to solve the high-level dual-voltage scheduling problem. The scheduling problem refers to the assignment of a voltage level (selected from a fixed and known number of voltage levels) to each operation in a data flow graph so as to minimize the average power consumption under a given computation time constraint. In this project, not only the supply voltage (V_{dd}) but also the threshold voltage (V_{th}) are both considered to deal with the low power scheduling problem. Experimental results illustrate 46.1% power reduction on average compared with the ASAP (as soon as possible) scheduling algorithm with 12% delay overhead.

Keywords: *Low power, high level synthesis, dual threshold voltages, and dual supply voltages.*

目錄

中文摘要.....	I
英文摘要.....	II
1 Introduction.....	1
2 Simulated annealing and genetic algorithm.....	3
3 The proposed GASA scheduling algorithm.....	5
3.1 Problem formulation	5
3.2 Data flow of GASA	6
3.3 Dual Vdd/Vth library	8
3.4 Individual and chromosome representation	9
3.5 GASA operations and parameters	10
3.5.1 Mutation operation	10
3.5.2 Crossover operation	10
3.5.3 Population size	10
3.5.4 Cooling procedure.....	11
3.5.5 Mutation rate	11
3.5.6 Temperature.....	11
3.6 GASA algorithm.....	12
3.7 Example of GASA scheduling.....	13
4 Experimentation Result	15
5 Conclusion	19
參考文獻.....	20
計畫成果自評(含學術成果發表).....	22
附錄一、國際合作計畫出國人員心得報告	24

1. Introduction

In recent years, the power consumption of a chip has become a very important issue, especially for SoC design. It is obvious that in the next decade low power design would be a big challenge for the IC design companies [1]. Among lots of design methods, the most effective way to reduce power consumption is to lower the supply voltage (V_{dd}) of a circuit, since the relationship between the supply voltage and the total power consumption can be obtained from the equation:

$$\begin{aligned} Power_{total} &= P_{dynamic} + P_{short-circuit} + P_{static} \\ &= \alpha C_L V_{dd}^2 f_{clk} + \tau \alpha (V_{dd} - 2V_T)^3 f_{clk} + V_{dd} I_{leak} \end{aligned}$$

where $P_{dynamic}$ is the dynamic power, $P_{short-circuit}$ is the short-circuit power, P_{static} is the static power, α is the switching activity, C is the total capacitance, V_{dd} is the supply voltage, f_{clk} is the operating frequency, τ is the time when short-circuit occurs, V_T is the threshold voltage and I_{leak} is the leakage current. Reducing the supply voltage, however, increases the circuit delay. One of the solutions is to use dual or multiple supply voltages to decrease power without losing performance.

The multiple or dual V_{dd} design technique is used on every level of low power circuit design, such as behavioral level [2]-[7] and gate level [8]. Most of the methods in this research area supply higher voltage to the critical path components, and lower one to the non-critical path components, so that the total power dissipation can be reduced and the system still meets the performance constraint. The concept of assigning low voltage to non-critical path components is to take advantage of slack time, which is the time difference of a task between its earliest start time and its latest start time. In [4], three algorithmic transformations (loop shrinking, retiming, and unfolding) are used to earn the task mobility to achieve low power goal. Reference [7] uses Lagrange multiplier method and

reference [5] uses dynamic programming to find the optimal solution of multiple-voltage scheduling under both resource and latency constraints.

Taking only the supply voltage into account, however, is not enough. In deep sub-micron design, the leakage power consumption is also a very important issue [9]. In [10] and [11], the authors use dual threshold voltages (V_{th}) technique to tackle with the leakage power optimization problem. Although the leakage power is greatly reduced, the problem of high total power consumption may still remain. Hence, some papers proposed the design method of using dual V_{dd} and dual V_{th} at the same time on gate level [12] and circuit level [13] to further reduce power dissipation. Only few attempts have so far been made at high level synthesis with dual V_{dd} and dual V_{th} .

The work presented in this project focuses on high level power optimization. We address the problem of scheduling a data flow graph (DFG), for the case when the resources operate at dual supply voltages and dual threshold voltages. An algorithm which combines genetic algorithm with simulated annealing is used to assign the voltage for each node of the DFG. The contributions of this project are 1) take both dynamic power and static power consumption into account; 2) a novel application of *genetic algorithm based simulated annealing algorithm* is used in high level synthesis.

2. Simulated annealing and genetic algorithm

The goal of high level synthesis is to map the high level descriptions to hardware structures that meet the design constraints such as area, latency, and power consumption. The simulated annealing (SA) and genetic algorithm (GA) are available in the high level synthesis.

Simulated annealing [14], SA in short, is an optimization technique which is naturally motivated by the process of annealing. Simulated annealing starts with a high temperature T . By applying a *neighborhood* operation, a current state i (with energy E_i) may change to the state j (with energy E_j), when $E_j < E_i$. If $E_j > E_i$, the state i is replaced by the state j with probability $e^{(E_i - E_j)/T}$. The process is repeated with a new state, and a lower temperature comes from the cooling function until the temperature is smaller than the termination temperature T_f .

The genetic algorithm (GA) is a method which explores the design space to find a local optimal solution. The basic idea of GA comes from the Darwin's "*The Origin of Species*". Darwin's theory claimed that the evolution of species consists of four steps: crossover, mutation, natural selection, and survival of the fitness. These four steps are also the main steps of genetic algorithm. Fig. 1 shows the simple flowchart of genetic algorithm. The first step of genetic algorithm is to generate initial population. Then, through crossover and mutation operations, new population is created from its parents. The crossover operation exchanges the individuals' genes to produce the offspring, and the mutation operation makes difference on individual's genes. The next step of GA is to choose favorable individuals. Finally, stopping criteria will be checked to determine whether or not the next loop will be executed. The detailed treatment can be found in [15].

Both of the above algorithms can be used to solve the optimization problem.

Generally, the process of simulated annealing is hard to parallelize, but the genetic algorithm is a naturally parallel algorithm. However, the genetic algorithm is hard to converge to a good result. The proposed GASA (Genetic Algorithm based Simulated Annealing) algorithm inherits strengths from both GA and SA, and gets rid of the disadvantages of them. The GASA can be easily implemented in parallel. By parallelizing the algorithm, several machines can execute in parallel to speed up the computing time. Besides, the design space can be explored by performing neighborhood operation from SA.

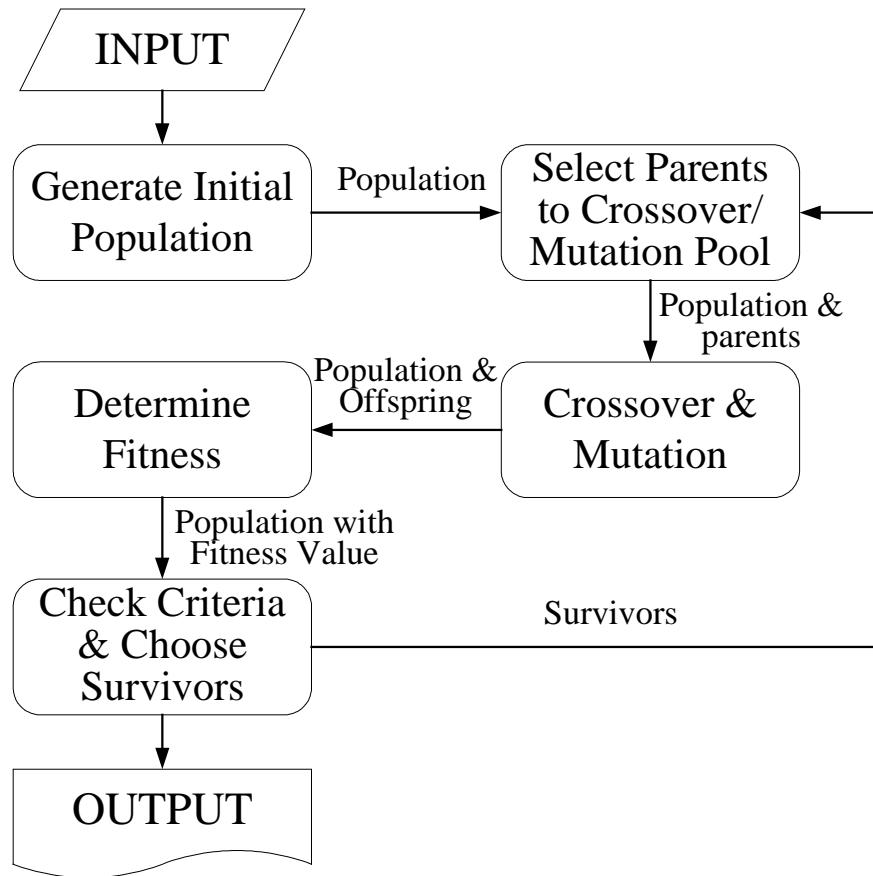


Fig. 1. Flowchart of the simple genetic algorithm.

3. The proposed GASA scheduling algorithm

In this section, our GASA (Genetic Algorithm based Simulated Annealing) scheduling method is presented. First, we describe the problem of high level synthesis. Then, we introduce the data flow of the GASA algorithm. Third, we talk about the dual Vdd and dual Vth library. And fourth, the chromosome representation and some GASA operations and parameters are introduced in detail. Finally, the GASA algorithm and an example of the GASA scheduling are illustrated.

3. 1. Problem Formulation

When given two supply voltages (V_{dd_H} , V_{dd_L}), two threshold voltages (V_{th_H} , V_{th_L}), and a CDFG $G = \langle V, E \rangle$, which consist of k nodes (n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k), we define the power consumption of the operation node n_a which operates with supply voltage V_{dd_i} and threshold voltage V_{th_j} , as $P_{V_{dd_i}, V_{th_j}}(n_a)$, and its delay time as $D_{V_{dd_i}, V_{th_j}}(n_a)$. Now, we define the total power consumption of a given CDFG G as

$$TP = \sum_{\forall n_a \in G} P_{V_{dd_i}, V_{th_j}}(n_a) , \text{ where } V_{dd_i} \in \{V_{dd_H}, V_{dd_L}\}, \text{ and } V_{th_j} \in \{V_{th_H}, V_{th_L}\}$$

and the total delay time as

$$TD = \sum_{\forall n_b \in \text{critical path of } G} D_{V_{dd_i}, V_{th_j}}(n_b) , \text{ where } V_{dd_i} \in \{V_{dd_H}, V_{dd_L}\}, \text{ and } V_{th_j} \in \{V_{th_H}, V_{th_L}\}$$

Accordingly, we may further define the total power consumption of a given CDFG after ASAP (As Soon As Possible) scheduling as TP_{ASAP} and the delay as TD_{ASAP} and the same for TP_{GASA} and TD_{GASA} . Intuitively, the power saving should

be as large as possible, and the delay overhead should be as small as possible.

Therefore, we define the gain of using GASA as

$$Gain = \frac{TP_{ASAP} - TP_{GASA}}{TD_{GASA} - TD_{ASAP}}$$

where TP_{ASAP} - TP_{GASA} is the power saving and TD_{GASA} - TD_{ASAP} is the delay overhead compared with ASAP scheduling. The goal of this project is to maximize the *Gain* value.

3. 2. Data flow of GASA

The GASA algorithm runs with several simulated annealing processes in parallel. The *mutation* operation in GA is analogical to the *neighborhood* operation in SA, and *crossover* operation represents the role of recombining independent solutions. Before we come to the GASA flow, one term must be defined first.

Definition: A *Boltzmann trial* is defined as a competition between states i and j , and the probability of state i wins the competition is $1/(1+e^{(E_i-E_j)/T})$. Here, e is the natural constant, and E_i and E_j denote as the energy of state i and state j respectively. T represents the temperature in the SA algorithm.

By the definition, the energy E_i and E_j represent the power-delay products of the scheduling results. If the power-delay product of state i is smaller than that of state j , then we define $E_i < E_j$. What should be noted is that if temperature T is large enough, then the next state j will be accepted even the energy of j is larger than the energy of i . By using the *Boltzmann trial*, the SA *uphill* operation can be presented in our scheduling algorithm.

The data flow of the GASA algorithm is shown in Fig. 2. In this flow, the inputs are the CDFG (Control/Data Flow Graph) and some parameters. The main scheduler assigns different Vdd and Vth to each node in the CDFG. Thus, a library which consists of several dual Vdd / Vth components is necessary to the scheduler. At the beginning of the scheduler, it brings out the first generation, and generates many individuals. Then, it randomly selects two individuals as the parents, and performs the *crossover* and *mutation* operations to generate two children. After that, the scheduler evaluates the power and delay of two parents and two children, and decides the *Boltzmann trial* winner by Definition 1. If the temperature cools down to the T_f (terminated temperature), it will output the trial winner, else it will continue the GASA loop.

In our scheduling algorithm, we try to recombine the results of each individual rather than just randomly generate a new individual. By combining the results of each individual, we can improve the convergence speed. The recombining phase will select two parents from the selection pool and produce two children. The two children may have some essential parts of genes that make the fitness of the children better or worse than that of their parents. Here, the “essential” parts of genes represent those nodes belonging to the critical paths, or reducing large amount of power if we choose another Vdd or Vth.

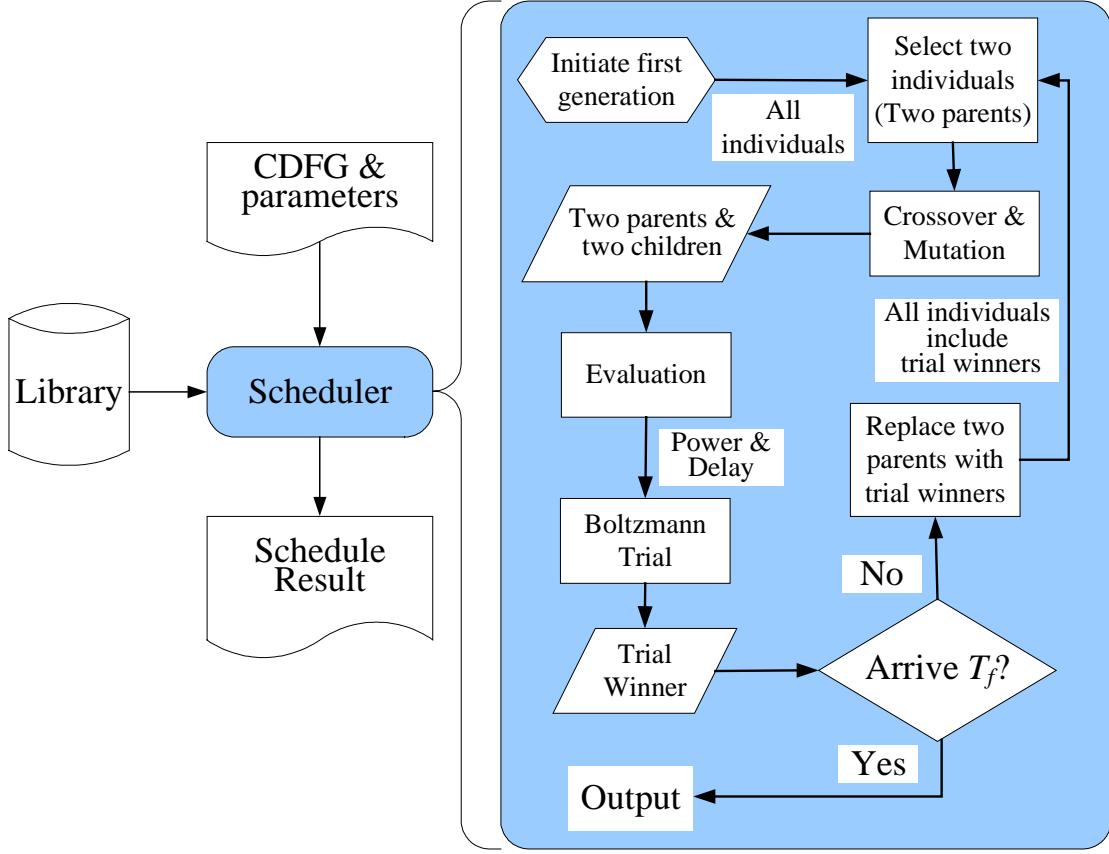


Fig. 2. The GASA scheduling algorithm flowchart.

3. 3. Dual V_{dd} / V_{th} library

An essential component of the GASA algorithm is the cell library, in which each cell has four instance types, as shown in Table 1. Table 1 shows the power and delay of a 4-bit multiplier and a 4-bit adder with different V_{dd} and V_{th} . Here V_{dd_H} represents a cell with high supply voltage. Similarly, V_{th_L} means a cell with low threshold voltage. In order to simplify the calculation, the delay of each instance type is set as the number of control cycles rather than the actual delay time.

Table 1. A technology library with dual V_{dd} and dual V_{th}

adder	V_{dd_H}/V_{th_H}	V_{dd_H}/V_{th_L}	V_{dd_L}/V_{th_H}	V_{dd_L}/V_{th_L}
Power	24.8	167.7	60.8	81.2
Delay	9	9	13	12
multiplier	V_{dd_H}/V_{th_H}	V_{dd_H}/V_{th_L}	V_{dd_L}/V_{th_H}	V_{dd_L}/V_{th_L}
Power	561.6	754.7	273.5	365.3
Delay	18	17	25	24

Table 2. Chromosome representation

One individual				
	n_1	n_2		n_k
Relative CS	0	1		1
Instance (V_{dd}/V_{th})	L/H	H/L		L/L

3. 4. Individual and Chromosome Representation

A suitable chromosome representation is needed to represent the individual in the GASA scheduling algorithm, since it affects the running time of the algorithm. The chromosome representation must include the information of supply voltage, threshold voltage and control cycles. Table 2 shows the chromosome representation in our GASA algorithm. In Table 2, n_i denotes the i^{th} node in the data flow graph, the *relative cs* of n_i shows the number of control steps between the starting control step of n_i and the maximum occupied control step of all preceding nodes of n_i . The *instance* records what kind of resources allocated to this operation; *H* indicates the high voltage and *L* indicates the low voltage. By checking the *instance* field of one node, we can look up the power consumption, area cost, and delay information from the library. Each column in the table represents a *chromosome*. If there are k nodes in the CDFG, this individual needs k chromosomes to represent itself.

3. 5. GASA Operations and Parameters

1.5.1 Mutation operation

While performing the mutation operation on one individual, we will choose some chromosomes to mutate their values by a specific mutation rate. For example, if there are k nodes in one individual, and the mutation rate is P_m . We will choose $k \times P_m$ chromosomes to mutate, while randomly changing the genes (Relative CS and instance). Through *mutation* operation, some variants of one individual can be produced to explore the neighbors of the current position in design space. Later we shall give a discussion on the mutation rate P_m .

1.5.2 Crossover operation

Crossover is a kind of recombination operation. Fig. 3 shows an example of the crossover operation. In the GASA scheduling, we adopt *one point crossover* operation which will exchange the right half part of two individuals to each other. We also adopt *uniform crossover* operation which randomly exchanges some chromosomes of two parents.

1.5.3 Population size

The population size is one of the major control parameters of the GASA. Generally, the larger of the population size, the better result we can obtain. However, the larger size of the population also requires the larger amount of memory and takes the longer operation time.

1.5.4 Cooling procedure

The cooling procedure in our GASA scheduling is to multiply the current temperature by a cooling constant CC ($0 < CC < 1$). If CC is set to a large value, the temperature would reduce slowly and it would produce large generations. In generally, the population size and the cooling constant both affect the optimization gain and the computing time. The designer should tune both parameters to meet the design constraints.

1.5.5 Mutation rate

The value of mutation rate will affect the *difference* between parents and children. If the mutation rate is too large, some *good* chromosomes will be annihilated. If the mutation rate is too small, the resemblance between parents and children will be too close. Therefore, it will result in a local minimal solution. In our algorithm, we set the mutation rate as 20%. A larger mutation rate is set if the result seems to fall in a local minimal value.

1.5.6 Temperature

The last two parameters are the starting temperature T_s and terminating temperature T_f . We set the terminating temperature as 0.1. The starting temperature T_s is set by the mathematical method. $T_s = \frac{E_j - E_i}{-\ln(\frac{1}{k} - 1)}$, where E_j and E_i is the initial energy of state i and j , and k is the probability of E_i larger than E_j . The starting temperature influences the convergence speed and the accepting rate of the parent individuals at the beginning of the optimization process.

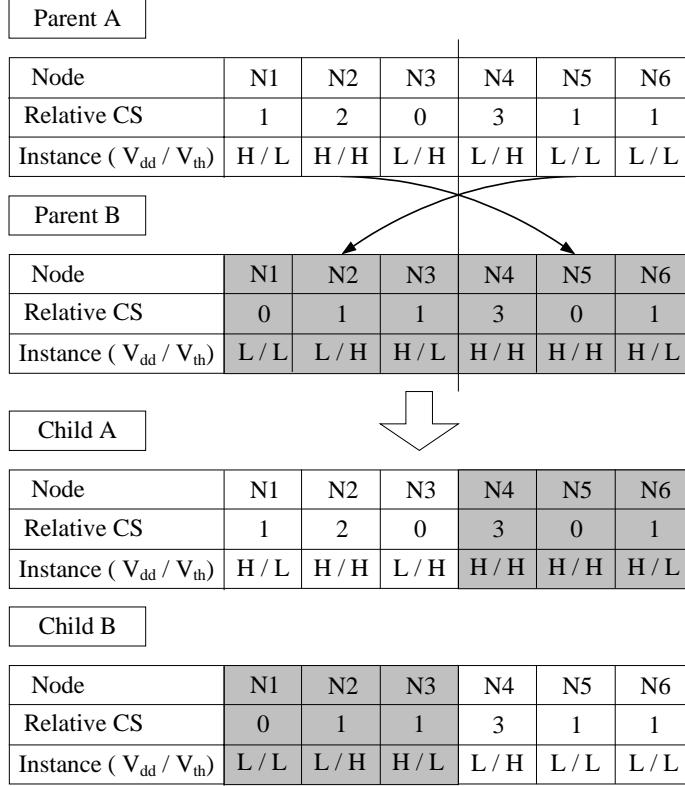


Fig. 3. An example of one point crossover operation.

3. 6. GASA Algorithm

Fig. 4 shows the GA-based simulated annealing algorithm. In this algorithm, the convergence rate is controlled by temperature T and the cooling constant CC . In line 1, the initial temperature T is set to a sufficiently high value, so that uphill probability will be greater than 50%. From the code segment of line 3 to line 12 in Fig. 4, the *while* loop performs the temperature control of SA. The inner loop (from line 4 to line 10) represents the *neighborhood* operation of SA. Through the *neighborhood* operation, the solution space can be explored. In line 7, the *Boltzmann trial* is used to decide whether the uphill operation should be accepted or not. The time complexity of the segment from line 4 to line 10 is $O(\frac{n}{2})$, where n is the number of individuals. The time complexity of the outer *while* loop is

$O(\frac{T-T_f}{CC})$. Thus, the total time complexity of the GASA algorithm is $O(\frac{T-T_f}{CC} \times \frac{n}{2})$.

```

1: Set  $T$  as a sufficiently high value;
2: Generate initial population randomly;
3: while  $T > T_f$  do
4:   for  $i=0$ ;  $i < n/2$ ;  $i++$  do
5:     Select two individuals as parents from the population randomly;
6:     Generate two children using the crossover operator;
7:     Perform mutation operation;
8:     Perform a Boltzmann trials between children and parents;
9:     Overwrite the parents with the trial winners;
10:    end for
11:     $T = T \times CC$ ; // cooling procedure
12:  endwhile
13: Output trial winner;
```

Fig. 4. Genetic algorithm based simulated annealing algorithm.

3. 7. Example of GASA Scheduling

Suppose we have a library which consists of several components. Each component was implemented with four different kinds of the Vdd / Vth combination, as shown in Table 1. The input file is the DFG, as shown in Fig. 5.(a). At the beginning, each node is assigned with different Vdd and Vth. After several loops, the scheduling result was shown in Fig. 5.(c), and the Vdd / Vth assignment was shown in Fig. 5.(b). Note that the different instances used in the scheduling process influence the final delay and the power consumption of whole design.

The goal of GASA is to maximize the *Gain* value of a system according to the cost function. Through our genetic algorithm based simulated annealing approach, the nearly optimal solution can be achieved in a tolerable processing time.

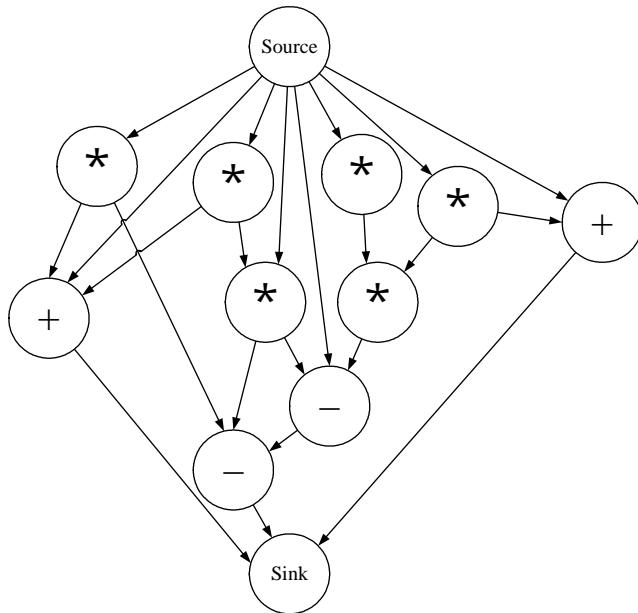


Fig. 5 (a)

Node	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Instance (Vdd/Vth)	L/H	L/H	L/H	L/H	L/H	L/H	L/L	L/H	H/H	H/H

Fig. 5 (b)

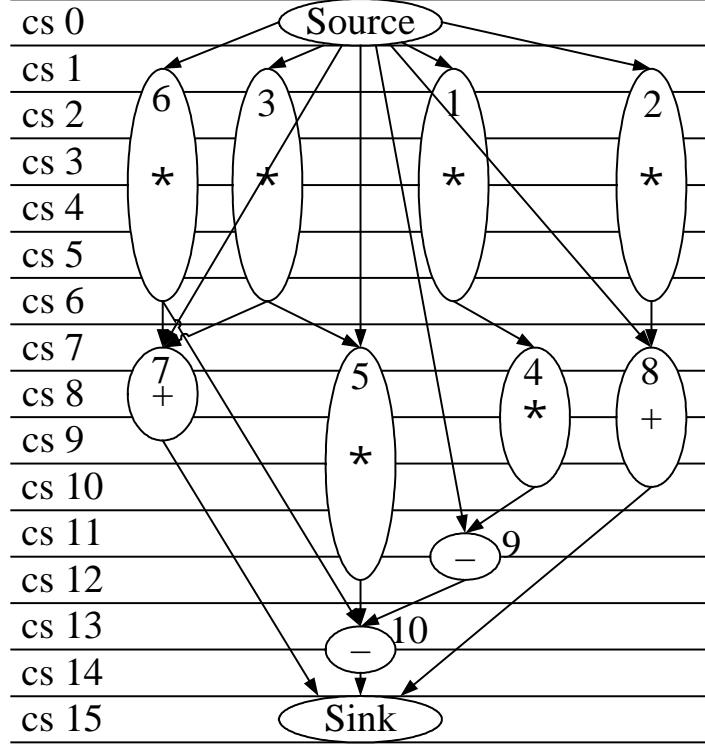


Fig. 5. (c)

Fig. 5. An example of GASA scheduling. (a) Original DFG. (b) Vdd/Vth of each node. (c) Scheduling result.

4. Experimental Result

To show the effectiveness of our method, we compare the power consumption and delay overhead among three scheduling algorithms. The first is the ASAP (As Soon As Possible) scheduling method. The second is the dual Vdd only scheduling method, and the third is the proposed dual Vdd and dual Vth scheduling method. A dual Vdd/Vth library, as shown in Table 1, which contains three components (multiplier, adder, and multiplexer), is used for low power scheduling. In this library, each component was designed by TSMC 0.18 μ m process. The V_{dd_H} was 1.8 V, V_{dd_L} was 1.26 V, V_{th_H} was 0.558 V, and V_{th_L} was 0.458 V.

The experimental result is shown in Table 3. Six CDFG benchmarks are used to examine the scheduling algorithms. It is clearly that the proposed dual Vdd/Vth can obtain the best power-delay product, and it also shows the proposed method can obtain about 46.1% power saving and 12.3% delay overhead compared with the ASAP scheduling method. Fig. 6 shows the comparison of power saving and delay overhead between ASAP scheduling and dual Vdd/Vth scheduling methods. In this figure, the solid lines represent the dual Vdd/Vth scheduling relative to the ASAP method.

We also show the convergence result of *diffeq* benchmark. Fig. 7.(a) and (b) are the power and delay convergence result by using dual Vdd only scheduling method. Fig. 7.(c) and (d) indicate the power and delay convergence result by using dual Vdd and dual Vth scheduling method.

The experimental result shows that we can get further power reduction when using a dual Vdd and dual Vth library with limited delay overhead. It means that the proposed method has a tradeoff between power consumption and delay. In this algorithm, most controlling parameters can be set automatically to reduce the designers' loading. More constraints can be added to this algorithm such as area constraints, and the additional penalty so that it can provide more flexible design space.

Table 3. Experimental result.

Bench-mark	ASAP scheduling			Dual Vdd scheduling			Dual Vdd/Vth scheduling		
	Power	Delay	Power× Delay	Power	Delay	Power× Delay	Power	Delay	Power× Delay
diffeq	5199.4	54	280767.6	3079.0	62	190898	2300.2	64	147212.8
fir11	9979.5	109	1087765.5	435.7	130	706641	5797.9	112	649364.8
dct	16436.8	72	1183449.6	10941.0	83	908103	9332	84	78388
iir7	13669.3	144	1968379.2	8519.8	158	1346128.4	7656.9	156	1194476.4
wdf7	17023.8	125	2127975	10576.0	150	1586400	948.1	150	1422765
nc	28177.3	135	3803935.5	17834.9	151	2693069.9	14814.2	145	2148059

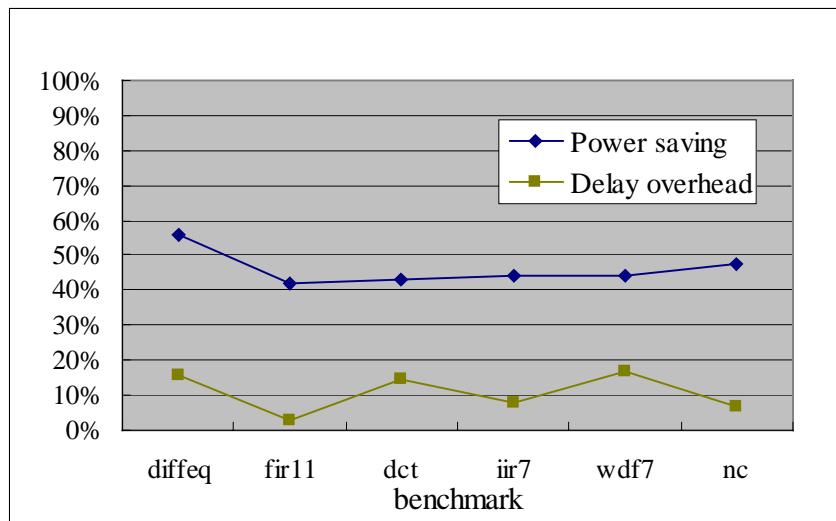


Fig. 6. A comparison of power saving and delay overhead between ASAP scheduling and dual Vdd/Vth scheduling

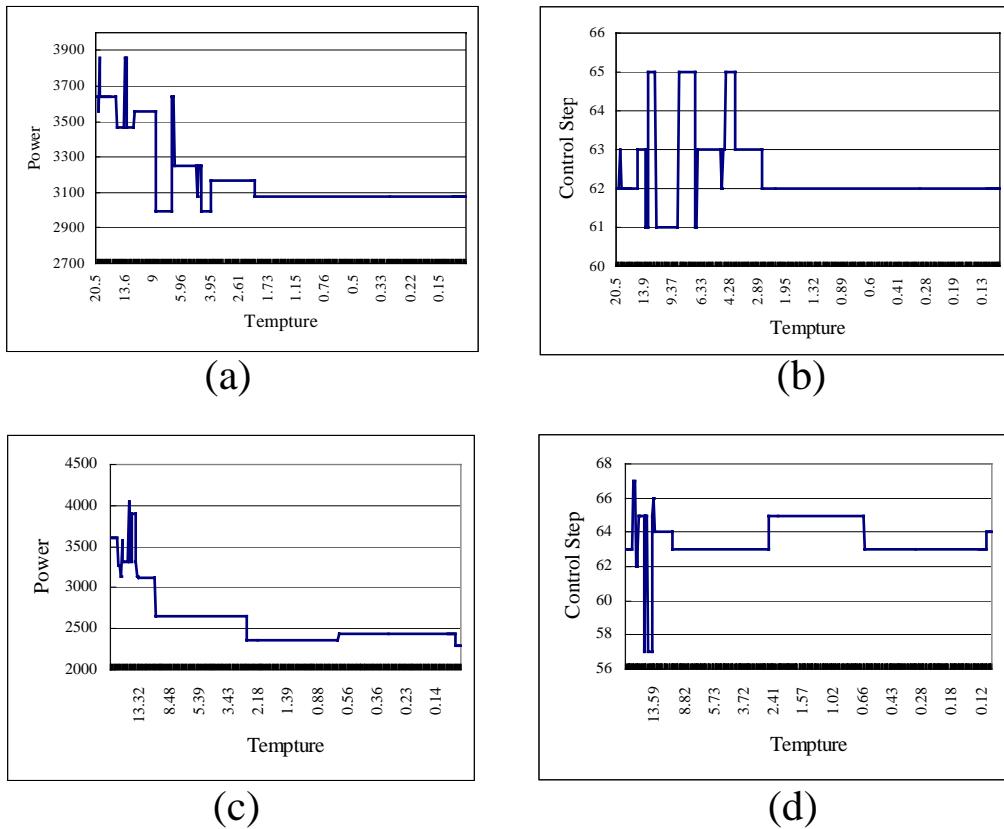


Fig. 7 Convergence result of diffeq benchmark. (a) power result with dual Vdd.
 (b) delay result with dual Vdd. (c) power result with dual Vdd/Vth.
 (d) delay result with dual Vdd/Vth

5. Conclusion

In this project, a dual Vdd / Vth scheduling method is proposed for low power high level synthesis. In the proposed method, the dynamic and static power consumption are considered simultaneously. By using the GASA (genetic algorithm based simulated annealing) algorithm, each node in the CDFG (Control Data Flow Graph) is assigned with either a high or low Vdd / Vth to achieve the low power goal and to control the computing time. The experimental result shows that our method is feasible. The contribution of this project is that the GASA method can be used on multiple Vdd / Vth scheduling and takes both power and performance into account at the same time.

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計畫成果自評

I. 原訂計畫目標：

第二年計畫的研究核心在於設計出一種新的低功率電路設計方法，並利用這種方法來解決大型電路設計上的功率消耗問題。利用此方法將可滿足部分奈米製程之設計。此外，我們將藉由資訊理論與人工智慧演算法，配合第一年計畫所提出之低功率元件模組，建立一個有效的設計資料庫。

II. 研究內容與原計畫相符程度

完全符合。

III. 預期目標達成情況與綜合自評

在本年度的計畫中，我們提出了一個在高層次(high-level)設計低功率電路的新方法。此方法結合基因演算法(Genetic Algorithm)與模擬退火法(Simulated Annealing)將高層次的資料控制流程圖(CDFG)中的元件重新予以排程。元件的選擇係利用雙重供應電壓(Dual supply voltage)與雙重臨界電壓(Dual threshold voltage)來達到節省功率消耗的目的。於高層次進行低功率方法設計的主要優點在於處理大型電路時，較能掌控整體系統，並且獲得較多的消耗功率改善。面對大型系統，往較高層次方向設計電路儼然將成為未來之趨勢。此外，在實驗環境中，我們雖利用台灣積體電路股份有限公司的 $0.18 \mu m$ 製程來進行模擬，但若將排程時的元件資料庫更新為奈米製程之元件，本方法亦可被利用，且將更能得到顯著之成果，因此，本方法與預期目標中之滿足部分奈米製程設計完全相符。本項計畫在台大資工系賴飛鴻教授的帶領與督導下，研究進行的進度與原先計畫的進度完全一致，而研究成果更發表於國際知名的期刊及會議上，顯見本計畫之執行相當成功。

IV. 學術成果發表

- (1) Kun-Lin Tsai, Szu-Wei Chang, Feipei Lai, and Shang-Jang Ruan, “A Low Power Scheduling Method using Dual V_{dd} and Dual V_{th} ,” in Proc. of *IEEE International Symposium on Circuits and Systems*, May 2005. (第二年計畫研究成果)
- (2) Kun-Lin Tsai, Shang-Jang Ruan, Li-Wei Chen, Feipei Lai, and Edwin Naroska, “Low Power Dynamic Bus Encoding for Deep Sub-micron Design,” in Proc. of *The 3rd International IEEE Northeast Workshop on Circuit & System*, June 2005. (第一年研究計畫成果)
- (3) Kun-Lin Tsai, Szu-Wei Chang, Shang-Jang Ruan, and Hsiu-Hui Lee, “Low Power Scheduling with Dual Supply Voltages and Dual Threshold Voltages,” submitted to *IEICE Trans. on Fundamentals of Electronics, Communications and Computer Sciences*. (第二年研究計畫成果)

附錄(一) 國際合作計畫出國人員心得報告

說明：

本計畫執行人員預計於 94 年 7 月前往加拿大進行訪問，出國人員之心得報告俟完成交流訪問後，於申請出國經費時一併繳交。

預定出訪人員：

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