Scaleable and Recursive Chien Search Architecture for BCH codes Decoding

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ABSTRACT

The Chien search is a crucial arithmetic operation for the error correction codes and the number of roots involved in binary BCH codes and RS codes decoding. Several efficient modified Chien search algorithm architectures have been proposed. However, there require large circuit space, thus increasing the cost of the decoder. This would be a drawback when designing circuits in systems requiring low cost and low power consumption. However, some cost saving can be attained by compromised speed, as in portable devices and many embedded systems. This study proposes a scalable and recursive $\sigma_i \times X^2 + \sigma_j$, which is the core circuit module of Chien search operation. A scalable and recursive Chien search can thus be obtained based on the proposed architecture. Embedded system engineers may specify a target Chien search operation with appropriate scaling circuits.

Keywords: chien search architecture, recursive, scaleable, BCH codes

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1. INTRODUCTIONS

The original applications of BCH codes [2, 3] were restricted to binary codes of length 2^m-1 for some integer m. These were extended later by Gorenstein and Zieler (1961) [4] to the nonbinary codes with symbols from Galois field GF(q). BCH codes have found a wide range of applications mainly in modern communication systems, ranging from digital electronic storage devices to the wireless mobiles, such as: Bluetooth [5], Advanced Mobile Phone System (AMPS) [6], etc. The decoding procedure is an important topic for BCH codes. The first decoding algorithm for binary BCH codes was devised by Peterson in 1960 [3]. Since then, Peterson's algorithm has been refined by Berlekamp [7, 8], Massey [9, 10], Chien [1], Forney[11], and many others. The most efficient decoding algorithm and error correction algorithm for binary BCH codes was Berlekamp-Massey algorithm (BMA) that finds the error locator polynomial and Chien search algorithm that used for error correction codes and the number of roots involved.

In this paper we shall reorganize the error-location polynomial to find the roots based on Chien search algorithm and present a scalable and recursive Chien search circuit scheme. This paper is structured as follows: we first give a brief review of the BCH codes decoding by a example in the next section. The subsequent section then describes the conventional Chien search (CCS) scheme and explains the proposed the scalable and recursive Chien search (SRCS) scheme. Simulation results over AWGN channels and comparisons are illustrated and discussed in Section 4. Finally, conclusions are made in Section 5.

2: BCH DECODING

Now, we concentrate on the BCH decoding. Since 1960, the first decoding algorithm for binary BCH codes was devised. Then, more and more research for its decoding was explored. This decoding scheme [12] is shown in Fig. 1.

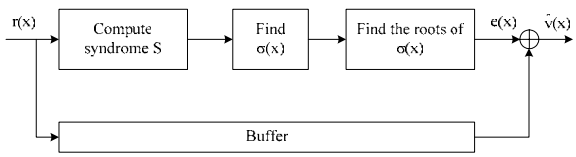

Fig. 1 The binary BCH codes decoding scheme.

In the scheme, S represents the syndrome corresponding to received polynomial r(x), σ(x) is a error-location polynomial, e(x) is a error polynomial, and $\hat{v}(x)$ is a decoding codeword. Finally, we describe the decoding scheme[13] as following:

Step1. Compute the syndrome S from the received r(x), $\boldsymbol{S} = (S_1, S_2, ..., S_{2t})$ (2-1)

where $S_i = r(\alpha^i)$ $1 \le i \le 2t$, and t = $\lfloor d_{\min} - 1 \rfloor / 2$ is the error-correcting capability, and α is a primitive element of GF(2^m).

Step2. Determine the error-location polynomial σ(x) from the syndrome components S_1, S_2, …, S_{2t}. We usually compute σ(x) by following three algorithms: (1). Berlekamp-Massey algorithm (BMA), (2). Euclidean algorithm(EA), or (3). Peterson-Gorenstein-Zieler algorithm(PGZ).

$$\sigma(x) \triangleq (1+\beta_1 x)(1+\beta_2 x)\cdots(1+\beta_v x) = \sigma_0 + \sigma_1 x + \sigma_2 x^2 + \cdots + \sigma_v x^v, \quad v \le t \qquad (2\text{-}2)$$

where $\beta_l = \alpha^{j_l}$, $1 \le l \le \upsilon$, υ : *error numbers*

Step3. Determine the error-location numbers $\beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_\upsilon$ by finding the roots of σ(x), and correct errors in r(x). The algorithm of finding the roots of σ(x) is called Chien's searching algorithm. $\hat{v}(x) = r(x) + e(x)$, where + is a XOR operation in GF(2).

Next, we describe an instance to explain the BCH codes decoding procedure. Considering the BCH (15, 5, 7) code has triple-error-correcting (t = 3) capability over GF(2^4). Its corresponding the generator polynomial $g(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + x^4 + x^5 + x^8 + x^{10}$. Assume the message polynomial $u(x) = x + x^2 + x^4$, and code polynomial $v(x) = x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^8 + x^{11} + x^{12} + x^{14}$. if we received a polynomial $r(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^6 + x^8 + x^{11} + x^{14}$, then comparing the v(x) and r(x) found out three errors on 1、x^6 and x^{12} positions.

Step1: Compute the syndrome S from the received r(x).

$\boldsymbol{S} = (S_1, S_2, ..., S_6)$, where

$S_1 = \bar{r}(\alpha) = 1 + \alpha^6 + \alpha^{12} = \alpha$

$S_2 = S_1^2 = \alpha^2$

$S_3 = \bar{r}(\alpha^3) = 1 + \alpha^3 + \alpha^6 = \alpha^8$

$S_4 = S_2^2 = \alpha^4$

$S_5 = \bar{r}(\alpha^5) = 1 + 1 + 1 = 1$

$S_6 = S_3^2 = \alpha$

Step2: Determine the error-location polynomial σ(x), we use the PGZ algorithm to calculate it. Assume the error pattern polynomial e(x) have ν errors and occurs on $x^{j_1}, x^{j_2}..., x^{j_\upsilon}$, e(x) = $x^{j_1} + x^{j_2} + ... + x^{j_\upsilon}$, and $S_i = r(\alpha^i) = v(\alpha^i) + e(\alpha^i) = e(\alpha^i)$, we know the

$$S_1 = \alpha^{j_1} + \alpha^{j_2} + ... + \alpha^{j_\upsilon}$$
$$S_2 = (\alpha^{j_1})^2 + (\alpha^{j_2})^2 + ... + (\alpha^{j_\upsilon})^2$$
$$S_3 = (\alpha^{j_1})^3 + (\alpha^{j_2})^3 + ... + (\alpha^{j_\upsilon})^3$$
$$\vdots$$
$$S_{2t} = (\alpha^{j_1})^{2t} + (\alpha^{j_2})^{2t} + ... + (\alpha^{j_\upsilon})^{2t}$$

Let $\beta_l = \alpha^{j_l}$, we can find

$$S_1 = \beta_1 + \beta_2 + ... + \beta_\upsilon$$
$$S_2 = (\beta_1)^2 + (\beta_2)^2 + ... + (\beta_\upsilon)^2$$
$$S_3 = (\beta_1)^3 + (\beta_2)^3 + ... + (\beta_\upsilon)^3 \qquad (1)$$
$$\vdots$$
$$S_{2t} = (\beta_1)^{2t} + (\beta_2)^{2t} + ... + (\beta_\upsilon)^{2t}$$

Define an Error Location Polynomial σ(x)

$$\sigma(x) \triangleq (1+\beta_1 x)(1+\beta_2 x)\cdots(1+\beta_v x) \triangleq \sigma_0 + \sigma_1 x + \sigma_2 x^2 + \cdots + \sigma_v x^v$$

Then, we can get

$$\sigma_0 = 1$$
$$\sigma_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{\upsilon} \beta_i = \beta_1 + \beta_2 + ... + \beta_\upsilon$$
$$\sigma_2 = \sum_{i<j} \beta_i \beta_j = \beta_1\beta_2 + \beta_1\beta_3 + ... + \beta_{\upsilon-1}\beta_\upsilon \qquad (2)$$
$$\vdots$$
$$\sigma_\upsilon = \prod_{i=1}^{\upsilon} \beta_i = \beta_1\beta_2...\beta_\upsilon$$

From the two simultaneous Equations (1) and (2), Newton Identity can be obtained

$$S_1 + \sigma_1 = 0$$
$$S_2 + \sigma_1 S_1 + 2\sigma_2 = 0$$
$$S_3 + \sigma_1 S_2 + \sigma_2 S_1 + 3\sigma_3 = 0$$
$$\vdots$$
$$S_\upsilon + \sigma_1 S_{\upsilon-1} + ... + \sigma_{\upsilon-1} S_1 + \upsilon\sigma_\upsilon = 0$$
$$S_{\upsilon+1} + \sigma_1 S_\upsilon + \sigma_2 S_{\upsilon-1} + ... + \sigma_\upsilon S_1 = 0$$
$$S_{2t} + \sigma_1 S_{2t-1} + \sigma_2 S_{2t-2} + ... + \sigma_\upsilon S_{2t-\upsilon} = 0$$

Because that $i\sigma_i = \begin{cases} 0 & i : even \\ \sigma_i & i : odd \end{cases}$, and $S_{2j} = S_j^{\,2}$.

Newton Identity can be reduced likes as follow:

$$S_1 + \sigma_1 = 0$$
$$S_3 + \sigma_1 S_2 + \sigma_2 S_1 + \sigma_3 = 0$$
$$S_5 + \sigma_1 S_4 + \sigma_2 S_3 + \sigma_3 S_2 + \sigma_4 S_1 + \sigma_5 = 0$$
$$\vdots$$
$$S_{2t-1} + \sigma_1 S_{2t-2} + \sigma_2 S_{2t-3} + ... + \sigma_t S_{t-1} = 0$$

We applied the PGZ method to solve Newton Identity.

$$A\sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ S_2 & S_1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ S_4 & S_3 & S_2 & S_1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ S_{2t-4} & S_{2t-5} & S_{2t-6} & S_{2t-7} & \cdots & S_{t-2} & S_{t-3} \\ S_{2t-2} & S_{2t-3} & S_{2t-4} & S_{2t-5} & \cdots & S_t & S_{t-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 \\ \sigma_2 \\ \sigma_3 \\ \sigma_4 \\ \vdots \\ \sigma_{t-1} \\ \sigma_t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} S_1 \\ S_3 \\ S_5 \\ S_7 \\ \vdots \\ S_{2t-3} \\ S_{2t-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

When the errors occurs fewer, the answer can be obtained easily.

One error occur:

$$\sigma_1 = S_1$$

Two errors occur:

$$\sigma_1 = S_1$$

$$\sigma_2 = \frac{S_3 + S_1^3}{S_1}$$

Three errors occur:

$$\sigma_1 = S_1$$

$$\sigma_2 = \frac{S_1^2 S_3 + S_5}{S_1^3 + S_3}$$

$$\sigma_3 = (S_1^3 + S_3) + S_1\sigma_2$$

Four errors occur:

$$\sigma_1 = S_1$$

$$\sigma_2 = \frac{S_1(S_1^7 + S_7) + S_3(S_1^5 + S_5)}{S_1(S_1^5 + S_5) + S_3(S_1^2 + S_3)}$$

$$\sigma_3 = (S_1^3 + S_3) + S_1\sigma_2$$

$$\sigma_4 = \frac{(S_1^2 S_3 + S_5) + (S_1^3 + S_3)\sigma_2}{S_1}$$

Finally, we can find there are three errors occurred in received polynomial r(x). So, we use the formula to obtain the error locations.

$$\sigma_1 = \alpha$$

$$\sigma_2 = \frac{\alpha^2\alpha^8 + 1}{\alpha^3 + \alpha^8} = \alpha^7$$

$$\sigma_3 = (\alpha^3 + \alpha^8) + \alpha\alpha^7 = \alpha^3$$

Thus, we get error-location polynomial σ(x)

$$\sigma(x) = 1 + \alpha x + \alpha^7 x^2 + \alpha^3 x^3$$

Step3: Use Chien search algorithm to find root of σ(x). We find that

$$\sigma(1) = 1 + \alpha * 1 + \alpha^7 * 1^2 + \alpha^3 * 1^3 = 0$$

$$\sigma(\alpha^3) = 1 + \alpha * \alpha^3 + \alpha^7 * (\alpha^3)^2 + \alpha^3 * (\alpha^3)^3 = 0$$

$$\sigma(\alpha^9) = 1 + \alpha * \alpha^9 + \alpha^7 * (\alpha^9)^2 + \alpha^3 * (\alpha^9)^3 = 0$$

roots of the σ(x) are $1,\ \alpha^3 = \alpha^{-12},\ \alpha^9 = \alpha^{-6}$.

Then, the decoding codeword is

$$\hat{v}(x) = e(x) + r(x) = x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^8 + x^{11} + x^{12} + x^{14}$$

3: CHIEN SEARCH

It's a way to find the root of error-location polynomial, if we get the error-location polynomial from decoding algorithm i.e., PGZ, EA, or BMA. Then we can use the Chien search algorithm to find all root of this polynomial and correcting error codes, Equation (3-1) shows the definition of error-location polynomial

$$\sigma(x) \triangleq \prod_{l=1}^{v}(1 + \beta_l x) = 1 + \sigma_1 x + \sigma_2 x^2 + \cdots + \sigma_v x^v \quad (3\text{-}1)$$

, and because all nonzero element β in GF(2^m) can be expressed in $1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \cdots, \alpha^{2^m-2}$,so we will put the elements $1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \cdots, \alpha^{2^m-2}$ into the Equation (3-1), if $\sigma(\alpha^j) = 0,\ \text{for } j = 0 \cdots 2^m - 2,$ then α^j the root of σ(x). Further, we find $(\alpha^j)^{-1}$ that is error location, and we use it to correct error bits. Fig. 2 shows the classical Chien search circuit. It is implemented by Equation (3-1).

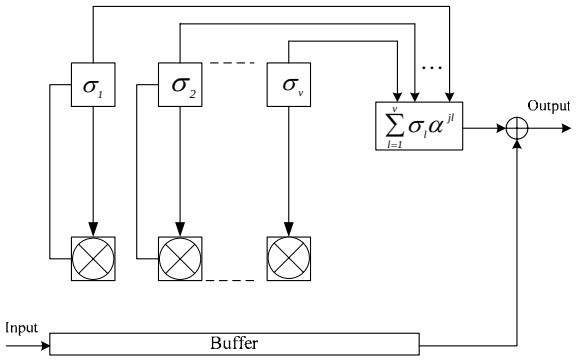

Fig. 2 The conventional Chien search circuit.

3.1 SCALABLE AND RECURSIVE CHIEN SEARCH

In this paper, we proposed a scalable and recursive Chien search architecture for computing the error correction cods and the number of roots involved. Because by the conventional Chien search circuit, it will increase it's area in hardware and compute complexity depends on m. So we proposed a new scheme to improve the conventional Chien search, we define this circuit name as "Scalable and Recursive Chien Search" (SRCS), it can use a regular circuit to find all root of the error-location polynomial σ(x). First we divide the Equation (3-1) into two term: even-term and odd-term. There are applied the Horner's rules to substitute the error-location polynomial. Then, we can reorganize the original Chien search circuit

to form a recursive structure as following.

$$\sigma(x) \triangleq \prod_{l=1}^{v}(1+\alpha^{jl}x) = 1+\sigma_1 x+\sigma_2 x^2+\cdots+\sigma_v x^v$$
$$= (\cdots(\sigma_v x^2+\sigma_{v-2})x^2\cdots\sigma_1)x +$$
$$(\cdots(\sigma_{v-1}x^2+\sigma_{v-3})x^2\cdots\sigma_2)x^2 +$$
$$1$$
$$= (\text{odd-term}) + (\text{even-term}) + 1 \qquad (3.2)$$

So according the Equation (3-2) we can design a core circuit module that can attain a recursive unit: $\sigma_i \times X^2 + \sigma_j$, defines as a process element (P.E.) as shown in Fig. 3, for we initial j=2, only for σ_i i=1 we use j=1.

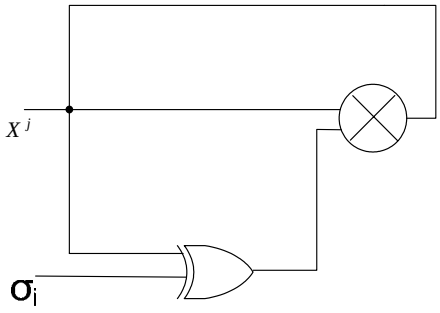

Fig. 3 A recursive core unit: P.E.

The overall Chien search can implement to a scaleable and recursive architecture by using three P.E. units and shown in Fig. 4. If using this circuit we only have to use $2/(2^m - 2)$ area than conventional Chien Search and it can compute all roots of this σ(x) by recursive form.

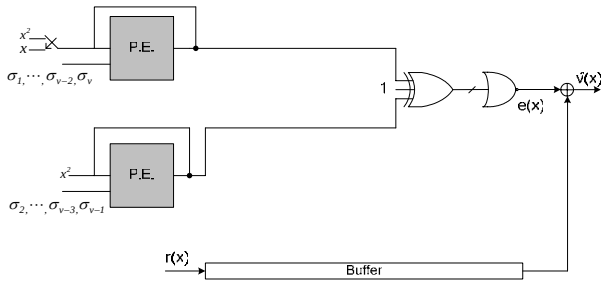

Fig. 4 Scalable and recursive Chien Search circuit.

In Fig. 4, upper is odd-term operations and lower is even-term operations , they are independent, so they can increase twice times process speed than only using one structure, but only increase a little area in VLSI implementation. Following the scheme we can get an algorithm for SRCS architecture.

Step1: we divide the σ(x) into odd and even term

Step2:

odd term: $(\cdots(\sigma_v x^2+\sigma_{v-2})x^2\cdots\sigma_1)x$

even term: $(\cdots(\sigma_{v-1}x^2+\sigma_{v-3})x^2\cdots\sigma_2)x^2$

Step3: we add this two term by XOR.

where, variables $\sigma_v,\cdots,\sigma_1$ from finding σ(x) decoding algorithm, and $x \in \{\alpha^0,\alpha^1\cdots\alpha^{2^m-2}\}$ in GF(2^m).

4. SIMULATION RESULTS

In this section, we conduct a series of experiments to evaluate the effectiveness of the recursive Chien search algorithm we proposed for BCH codes decoding. In this simulation, a data codeword of 15 bits is considered and 100,000 blocks are transmitted. The BCH coding parameters (n, k, d_{min}) is equal to (15, 5, 7), i.e., the code has tripe error-correcting capability. The overall code rate is 1/3. The coded bits are modulated using binary phase shift keying (BPSK) and white Gaussian noise with a double-sided power spectral density of No/2 is added to the modulated signal. Decoding used the PGZ algorithm to find out the error-location polynomial. Error locations and correcting error bits are determined the classical Chien search and the proposed scalable and recursive Chien search circuit scheme.

The results of the simulation are shown in Fig. 5. Comparing the results CCS and SRCS is no coding gain sacrificing. It proved our proposed SRCS scheme is effectiveness.

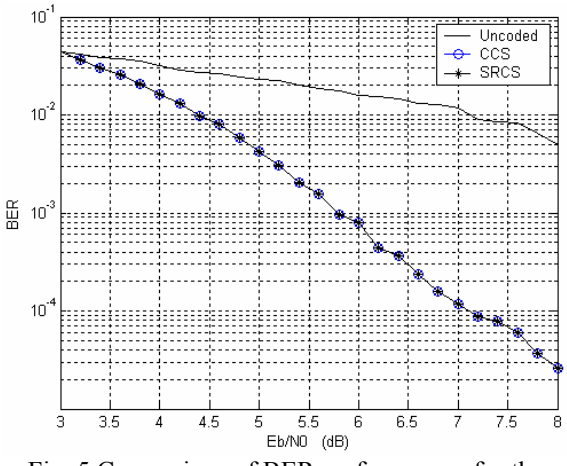

Fig. 5 Comparison of BER performances for the "Uncoded" case, the "CCS" case and the "SRCS" case.

5: CONCLUSION

In this paper, A scalable and recursive Chien search can thus be obtained based on the proposed architecture. The idea of our approach is application of Horner's rules and proposed a scalable and recursive $\sigma_i \times X^2 + \sigma_j$ as a

core circuit module of Chien search operation. It has been shown by simulations that the CCS and SRCS have the same performance coding gain in BER. But, our proposed SRCS circuit is more regular and saving-area 2/t than the CCS circuit. Embedded system engineers may specify a target Chien search operation with appropriate scaling-t circuits. Furthermore, this structure can be applied to nonbinary BCH decoding.

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