Parallel Adders

1. Introduction

The saying goes that if you can count, you can control. Addition is a fundamental operation for any digital system, digital signal processing or control system. A fast and accurate operation of a digital system is greatly influenced by the performance of the resident adders. Adders are also very important component in digital systems because of their extensive use in other basic digital operations such as subtraction, multiplication and division. Hence, improving performance of the digital adder would greatly advance the execution of binary operations inside a circuit compromised of such blocks. The performance of a digital circuit block is gauged by analyzing its power dissipation, layout area and its operating speed.

2. Types of Adders

In this lecture we will review the implementation technique of several types of adders and study their characteristics and performance. These are

- **Ripple carry adder**, or carry propagate adder,

- **Carry look-ahead adder**

- **Carry skip adder**,

- **Manchester chain adder**,

- **Carry select adders**

- **Pre-Fix Adders**

- **Multi-operand adder**

- **Carry save Adder**

- **Pipelined parallel adder**

For the same length of binary number, each of the above adders has different performance in terms of Delay, Area, and Power. All designs are assumed to be CMOS static circuits and they are viewed from architectural point of view.

3. Basic Adder Unit

The most basic arithmetic operation is the addition of two binary digits, i.e. *bits*. A combinational circuit that adds two bits, according the scheme outlined below, is called a half adder. A full adder is one that adds three bits, the third produced from a previous addition operation. One way of implementing a full adder is to utilizes two half adders in its implementation. The full adder is the basic unit of addition employed in all the adders studied here

3.1 Half Adder

A half adder is used to add two binary digits together, **A** and **B**. It produces **S**, the sum of A and B, and the corresponding carry out **Co**. Although by itself, a half adder is not extremely useful, it can be used as a building block for larger adding circuits (FA). One possible implementation is using two AND gates, two inverters, and an OR gate instead of a XOR gate as shown in Fig. 1.
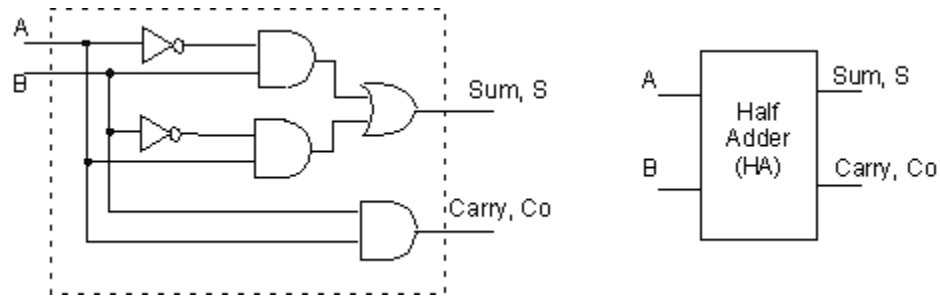
Figure.1: Half-Adder logic and block diagrams

Table 3.1: Half-Adder truth table

A	B	S	C_o
0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1

```
Augend       A
  Addend     B
---------------------
  Sum        C
```

Boolean Equations:

$S = A \oplus B = A'B + AB'$

$C_o = AB$

3.2 Full Adder

A full adder is a combinational circuit that performs the arithmetic sum of three bits: A, B and a carry in, C, from a previous addition, Fig. 2a. Also, as in the case of the half adder, the full adder produces the corresponding sum, S, and a carry out C_o. As mentioned previously a full adder maybe designed by two half adders in series as shown below in Figure 2b.

The sum of A and B are fed to a second half adder, which then adds it to the carry in C (from a previous addition operation) to generate the final sum S. The carry out, C_o, is the result of an OR operation taken from the carry outs of both half adders. There are a variety of adders in the literature both at the gate level and transistor level each giving different performances
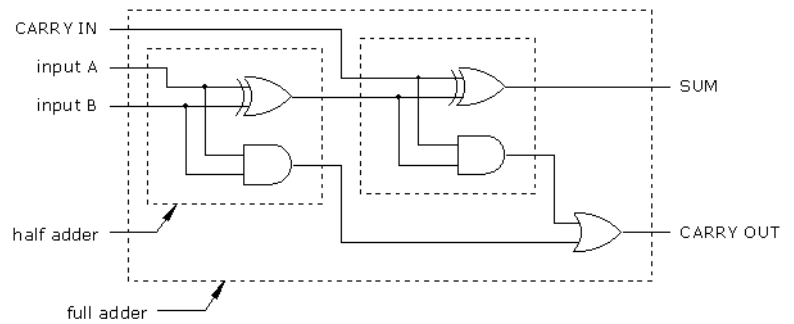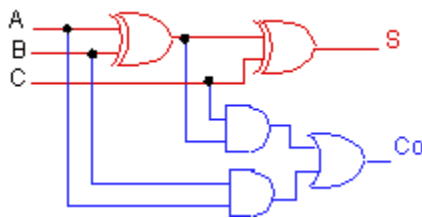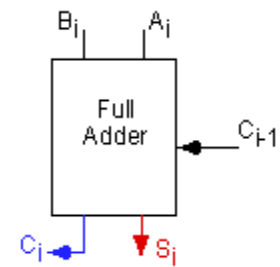
Boolean Equations:

$S = C \oplus (A \oplus B)$

$C_o = AB + C(A \oplus B)$

Table 2: FA Truth Table

A	B	C	S	Co
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1
1	0	0	1	0
1	0	1	0	1
1	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1

Figure 2a: Full adder

Full adder constructed from 2b Half Adders

4. Parallel Adders

Parallel adders are digital circuits that compute the addition of variable binary strings of equivalent or different size in parallel. The schematic diagram of a parallel adder is shown below in Fig. 3.
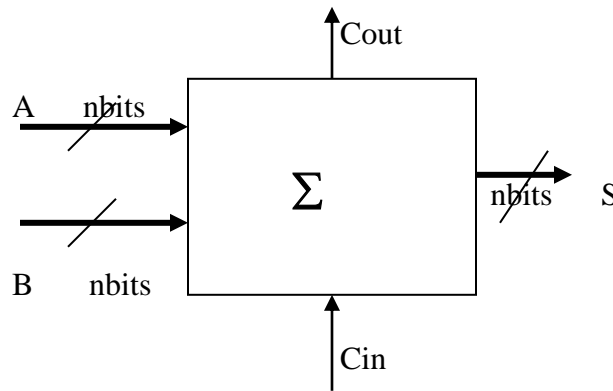
Fig. 3 Parallel Adder

4.1 Ripple-Carry adder

The ripple carry adder is constructed by cascading full adders (FA) blocks in series. One full adder is responsible for the addition of two binary digits at any stage of the ripple carry. The carryout of one stage is fed directly to the carry-in of the next stage.

A number of full adders may be added to the ripple carry adder or ripple carry adders of different sizes may be cascaded in order to accommodate binary vector strings of larger sizes. For an n-bit parallel adder, it requires n computational elements (FA). Figure 4 shows an example of a parallel adder: a 4-bit ripple-carry adder. It is composed of four full adders. The augend's bits of x are added to the addend bits of y respectfully of their binary position. Each bit

addition creates a sum and a carry out. The carry out is then transmitted to the carry in of the next higher-order bit. The final result creates a sum of four bits plus a carry out (c_4).
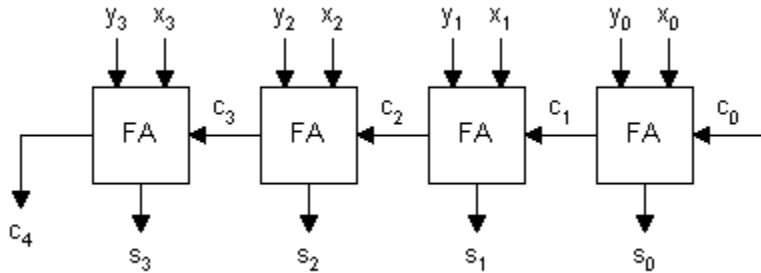

Figure 4: Parallel Adder: 4-bit Ripple-Carry Adder Block Diagram

Even though this is a simple adder and can be used to add unrestricted bit length numbers, it is however not very efficient when large bit numbers are used.

One of the most serious drawbacks of this adder is that the delay increases linearly with the bit length. As mentioned before, each full adder has to wait for the carry out of the previous stage to output steady-state result. Therefore even if the adder has a value at its output terminal, it has to wait for the propagation of the carry before the output reaches a correct value as shown in Fig. 5. Taking again the example in figure 4, the addition of x_4 and y_4 cannot reach steady state until c_4 becomes available. In turn, c_4 has to wait for c_3, and so on down to c_1. If one full adder takes T_{fa} seconds to complete its operation, the final result will reach its steady-state value only after $4.T_{fa}$ seconds. Its area is n A_{fa}

A (very) small improvement in area consumption can be achieved if it is known in advance that the first carry in (c_0) will always be zero. (If so, the first full adder can be replace by a half adder). In general, assuming all gates have the same delay and area of NAND-2 denoted by Tgate and Agate then this circuit has 3n T_{gate} delay and $5nA_{gate}$. n is the number of full adders.

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(One must be aware that in Static CMOs, this assumption is not true). Gate delays depend on intrinsic delay + fanin delay+fanout delay
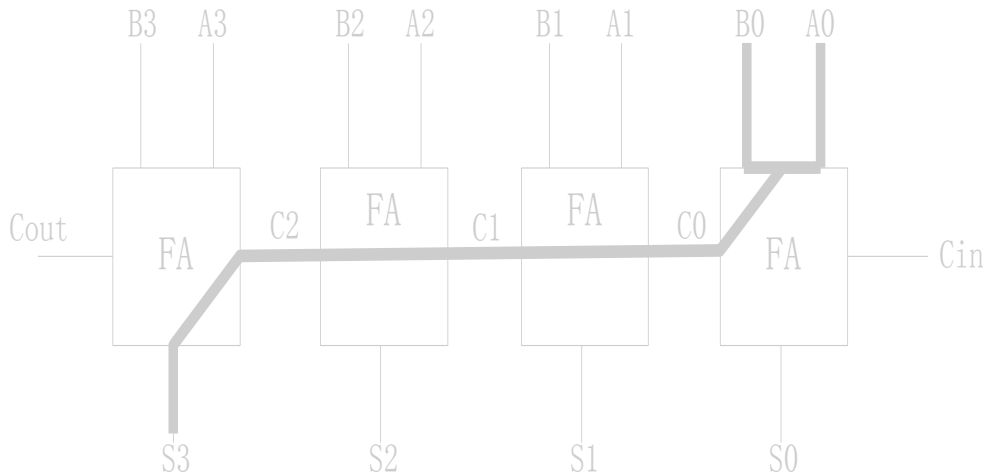

Figure 5: Carry Propagation in Carry Ripple Adder

Generally speaking, the worst-case delay of the RCA is when a carry signal transition ripples through all stages of adder chain from the least significant bit to the most significant bit, which is approximated by:

$$t = (n - 1)t_c + t_s$$

where tc is the delay through the carry stage of a full adder, and ts is the delay to compute the sum of the last stage. The delay of ripple carry adder is linearly proportional to n, the number of bits, therefore the performance of the RCA is limited when n grows bigger. The advantages of the RCA are lower power consumption as well as a compact layout giving smaller chip area.

To design a larger adder ripple carry adders are cascaded. An example of 37 bit carry propagate adder is shown in Fig. 6
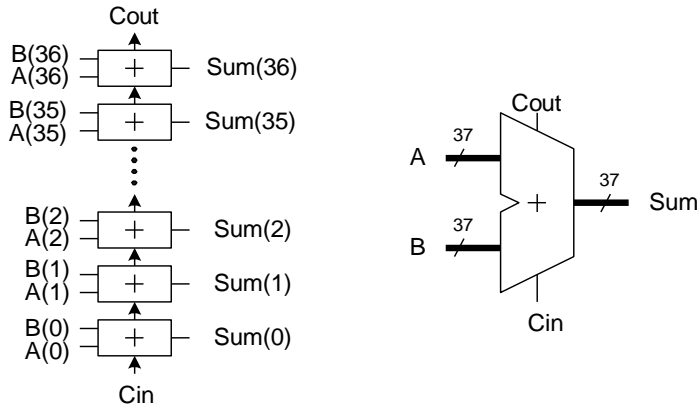
Figure 6: The structure and schematic diagram of a 37-bit Adder

As of today standards, it is a common philosophy that area can be traded off in order to achieve higher speed. This will be shown in the next sections by presenting alternative methods that are based on pre-determining the carry signal of a number of stages based only on the input vales.

4.2 Carry-Skip Adder

A carry-skip adder consists of a simple ripple carry-adder with a special speed up carry chain called a **skip chain**. This chain defines the distribution of ripple carry blocks, which compose the skip adder.

Carry Skip Mechanics

The addition of two binary digits at stage i, where i ≠ 0, of the ripple carry adder depends on the carry in, C_i , which in reality is the carry out, C_{i-1}, of the previous stage. Therefore, in order to calculate the sum and the carry out, C_{i+1} , of stage i, it is imperative that the carry in, C_i, be known in advance. It is interesting to note that in some cases C_{i+1} can be calculated without knowledge of C_i.

Boolean Equations of a Full Adder:

$$P_i = A_i \oplus B_i \qquad \text{Equ. 1} \qquad \text{--carry propagate of i}^{th}\text{ stage}$$
$$S_i = P_i \oplus C_i \qquad \text{Equ. 2} \qquad \text{--sum of i}^{th}\text{ stage}$$
$$C_{i+1} = A_iB_i + P_iC_i \qquad \text{Equ. 3} \qquad \text{--carry out of i}^{th}\text{ stage}$$

Supposing that $A_i = B_i$, then P_i in equation 1 would become zero (equation 4). This would make C_{i+1} to depend only on the inputs A_i and B_i, without needing to know the value of C_i.

$$A_i = B_i \rightarrow P_i = 0 \qquad \text{Equ. 4} \qquad \text{--from \#Equation 1}$$

$$\text{If } A_i = B_i = 0 \rightarrow C_{i+1} = A_iB_i = 0 \qquad \text{--from equation 3}$$
$$\text{If } A_i = B_i = 1 \rightarrow C_{i+1} = A_iB_i = 1 \qquad \text{--from equation 3}$$

Therefore, if Equation 4 is true then the carry out, C_{i+1}, will be one if $A_i = B_i = 1$ or zero if $A_i = B_i = 0$. Hence we can compute the carry out at any stage of the addition provided equation 4 holds. These findings would enable us to build an adder whose average time of computation would be proportional to the longest chains of zeros and of different digits of A and B. Alternatively, given two binary strings of numbers, such as the example below, it is very likely that we may encounter large chains of consecutive bits (block 2) where $A_i \neq B_i$. In order to deal with this scenario we must reanalyze equation 3 carefully.

$$A_i \neq B_i \rightarrow P_i = 1 \qquad \text{Equ. 5} \qquad \text{--from Equation 1}$$

$$\text{If } A_i \neq B_i \rightarrow C_{i+1} = C_i \qquad \text{--from Equation 3}$$

In the case of comparing two bits of opposite value, the carry out at that particular stage, will simply be equivalent to the carry in. Hence we can simply propagate the carry to the next stage without having to wait for the sum to be calculated.

Two Random Bit Strings:

A	10100	01011	10100	01011
B	01101	10100	01010	01100
	block 3	block 2	block 1	block 0

In order to take advantage of the last property, we can design an adder that is divided into blocks, as shown in Fig. 7, where a special purpose circuit can compare the two binary strings inside each block and determine if they are equal or not. In the latter case the carry entering the block will simply be propagated to the next block and if this is the case all the carry inputs to the bit positions in that block are all either 0's or 1's depending on the carry in into the block. Should only one pair of bits (A_i and B_i) inside a block be equal then the carry skip mechanism would be unable to skip the block. In the extreme case, although still likely, that there exist one such case, where $A_i = B_i$, in each block, then no block is skipped but a carry would be generated in each block instead.

Carry Skip Chain

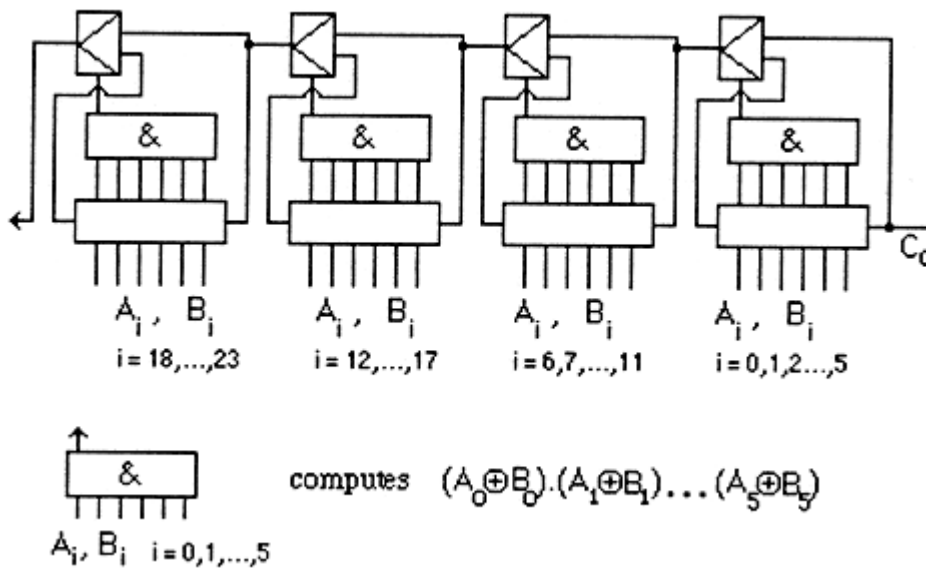In summary the **carry skip chain** mechanism (Figure 7) works as follows:

Figure 7: Carry skip chain mechanism

Two strings of binary numbers to be added are divided into blocks of equal length. In each cell within a block both bits are compared for un-equivalence. This is done by Exclusive ORing each individual cell (parallel operation and already present in the full adder) producing a comparison

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string. Next the comparison string is ANDed within itself in a domino fashion. This process ensures that the comparison of each and all cells was indeed unequal and we can therefore proceed to propagate the carry to the next block. A MUX is responsible for selecting a **generated carry** or a **propagated** (previous) **carry** with its selection line being the output of the comparison circuit just described. If for each cell in the block $A_i \neq B_i$ then we say that a carry can skip over the block otherwise if $A_i = B_i$ we shall say that the carry must be generated in the block.

When studying carry skip adders the main purpose is to find a configuration of blocks that minimizes the longest life of a carry, i.e. from the time of its generation to the time of the generation of the next carry. Many models have been suggested: the first with blocks of equal size and the second with blocks of different sizes according to some heuristic.
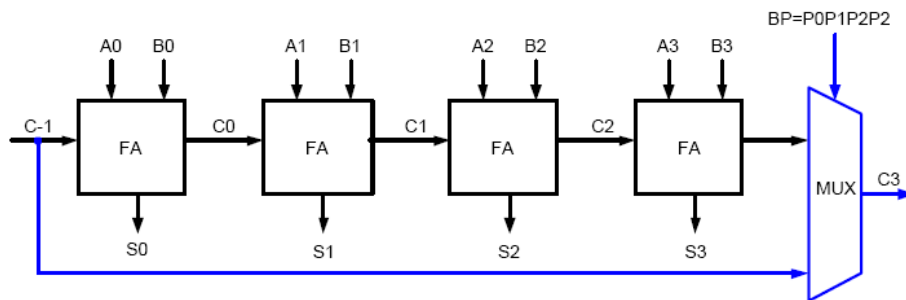
Carry Bypass Circuit Architecture

The delay of n-bit adder based on m-bit blocks of Carry Bypass Adder, CBA rippled together can be given by:

$$t = t_{setup} + m t_{carry} + (n/m - 1)t_{carry} + t_{sum} \qquad (7)$$

n is the adder length and m is the length of the blocksComparing to the RCA, the CBA has slightly improved speed for wider-bit adders (still linear to n), but with higher active capacitance and the area overhead because of the extra bypass circuit.

4.3 Carry look-ahead adder

As seen in the ripple-carry adder, its limiting factor is the time it takes to propagate the carry. The carry look-ahead adder solves this problem by calculating the carry signals in advance, based on the input signals. The result is a reduced carry propagation time.

To be able to understand how the carry look-ahead adder works, we have to manipulate the Boolean expression dealing with the full adder. The Propagate P and generate G in a full-adder, is given as:

$$P_i = A_i \oplus B_i \qquad \text{Carry propagate}$$
$$G_i = A_i B_i \qquad \text{Carry generate}$$

Notice that both propagate and generate signals depend only on the input bits and thus will be valid after one gate delay.

The new expressions for the output sum and the carryout are given by:

$$S_i = P_i \oplus C_{i-1}$$
$$C_{i+1} = G_i + P_i C_i$$

These equations show that a carry signal will be generated in two cases:

1) if both bits A_i and B_i are 1

2) if either A_i or B_i is 1 and the carry-in C_i is 1.

Let's apply these equations for a 4-bit adder:

$$C_1 = G_0 + P_0C_0$$
$$C_2 = G_1 + P_1C_1 = G_1 + P_1(G_0 + P_0C_0) = G_1 + P_1G_0 + P_1P_0C_0$$
$$C_3 = G_2 + P_2C_2 = G_2 + P_2G_1 + P_2P_1G_0 + P_2P_1P_0C_0$$
$$C_4 = G_3 + P_3C_3 = G_3 + P_3G_2 + P_3P_2G_1 + P_3P_2P_1G_0 + P_3P_2P_1P_0C_0$$

These expressions show that C2, C3 and C4 do not depend on its previous carry-in. Therefore C_4 does not need to wait for C_3 to propagate. As soon as C_0 is computed, C_4 can reach steady state. The same is also true for C_2 and C_3

The general expression is

$$C_{i+1} = Gi + PiG_{i-1} + PiP_{i-1}G_{i-2} + \ldots\ldots P_iP_{i-1}\ldots P_2P_1G_0 + PiP_{i-1} \ldots P_1P_0C_0.$$

This is a two level Circuit. In CMOS however the delay of the function is nonlinerly dependent on its fan in. Therefore large fanin gates are not practical.

Carry look-ahead adder's structure can be divided into three parts: the propagate/generate generator Fig.8, the sum generator Fig. 9 and the carry generator Fig. 10.
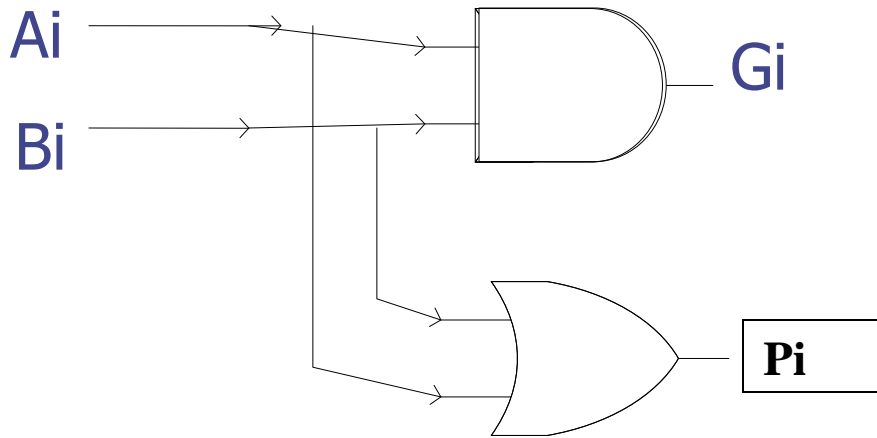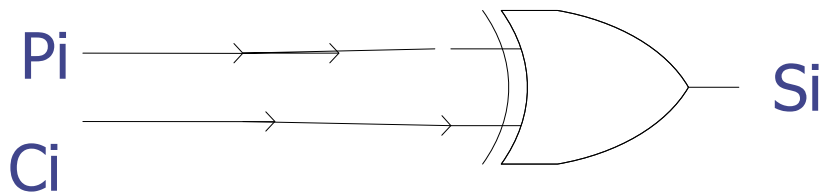
Fig. 8 Propagate /Generate generator

Figure 9: Sum Generator

Figure 11 shows the carry generator needed to add four bits numbers. To make the carry generator from 4 bits to n bits, we need only add AND gates and inputs for the OR gate. The largest AND gate in the carry section has always n+1 inputs and the number of AND gates requirements is n. Therefore the design of a 16 bits adder needs the last carry generator section to have 16 AND gates, where the biggest AND gate has 17 inputs. Also the OR gate in this section needs 17 inputs.
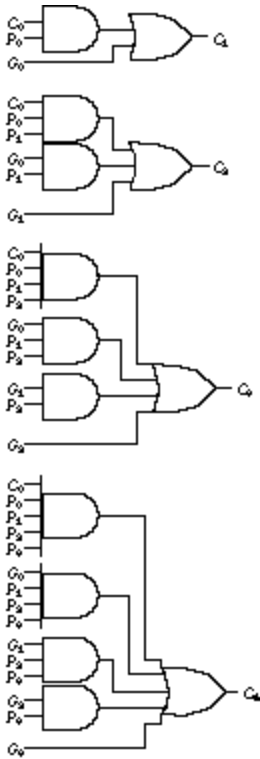
Fig. 10 Look-Ahead Carry generator

The size and fan-in of the gates needed to implement the Carry-Look-ahead adder is usually limited to four, so 4-bit Carry-Look ahead adder is designed as a block. The 4-bit Carry Look Ahead adder block diagram is shown in Fig. 11. The delay of such circuit is 4 levels of logic.
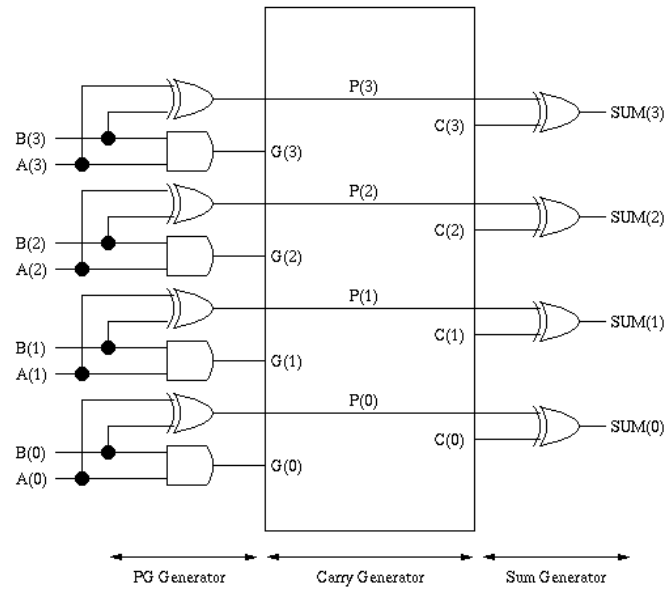
Fig. 8   +   Fig. 9   +   Fig. 10

Figure 11: 4-bit Carry Look Ahead Adder

In practice, it is not possible to use the CLA to realize constant delay for the wider-bit adders since there will be a substantial loading capacitance, and hence larger delay and larger power consumption. The CLA has the fastest growing area and power requirements with respect to the bit size. Speed also will drop with increase in bit size. So other techniques may be used.
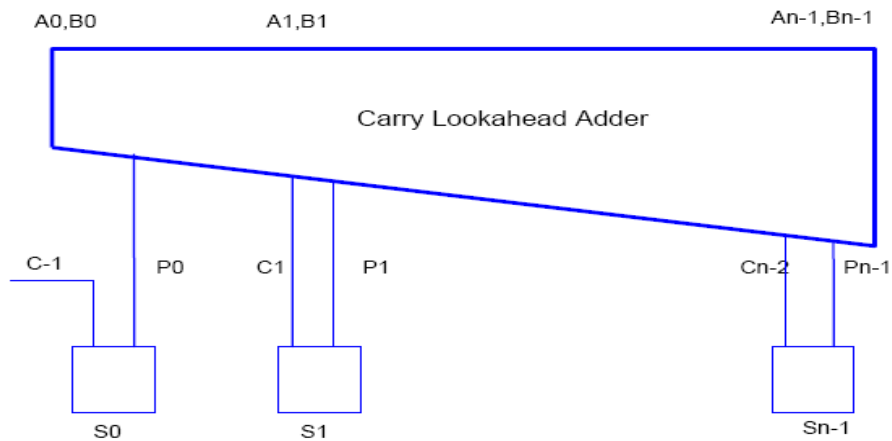
CLA architecture

For example a 32-bit Carry-Look ahead adder can be built by using 8 cascaded 4-bit Carry-Look ahead adders (Ripple through between the blocks).

Hierarchical Look Ahead Adder

As n increases, the block size has to be limited as well as ripple through delay accumulates. It is no longer practical to use standard look-ahead method. Instead a two level carry look-ahead adder is used. In this design, the first level of CLAs generates the sums as well as second level generate and propagate signals. These signals then are fed to the 2nd level CLA with carryout of each level to produce the carryout signal. Fig. 26 shows an example of such an adder

4.4 Carry-Select Adder

The concept of the carry-select adder is to compute alternative results in parallel and subsequently selecting the correct result with single or multiple stage hierarchical techniques [8]. In order to enhance its speed performance, the carry-select adder increases its area requirements. In carry-select adders both sum and carry bits are calculated for the two alternatives: input carry "0" and "1". Once the carry-in is delivered, the correct computation is chosen (using a MUX) to produce the desired output. Therefore instead of waiting for the carry-in to calculate the sum, the sum is correctly output as soon as the carry-in gets there. The time taken to compute the sum is

then avoided which results in a good improvement in speed. This concept is illustrated in Fig. 12.
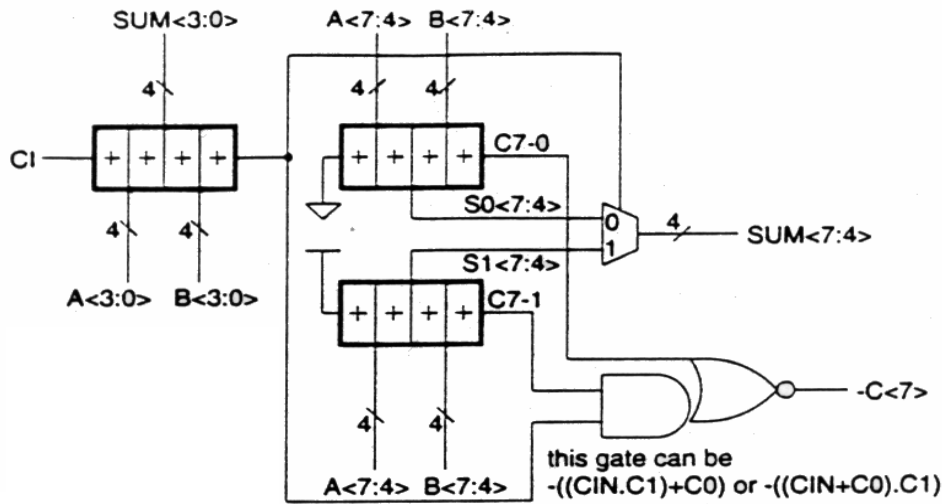

Figure 12: 4-bit carry-select

Carry-select adders can be divided into equal or unequal sections. Fig. 12 shows the implementation of an 8 bits carry-select adder with 4-bit sections. For each section, shown in Fig. 13, the calculation of two sums is accomplished using two 4-bit ripple-carry adders. One of these adders is fed with a 0 as carry-in whereas the other is fed a 1. Then using a multiplexer, depending on the real carryout of the previous section, the correct sum is chosen. Similarly, the carryout of the section is computed twice and chosen depending of the carryout of the previous section. The concept can be expanded to any length for example a 16-bits carry-select adder can be composed of four sections each section is shown in Fig. 13. Each of these sections is composed of two 4-bits ripple-carry adders. This is referred as linear expansion.

The delay of n-bit carry select adder based on an m-bit CLA blocks can be given by the following equation when using constant carry number blocks

$$T = t_{seup} + m \, t_{carry} + (n/m) \, t_{tmux} + t_{sum}$$

And by the following equation when using successively incremented carry number blocks respectively.

$$T = t_{seup} + m \, t_{carry} + (2n)^{1/2} \, t_{tmux} + t_{sum}$$
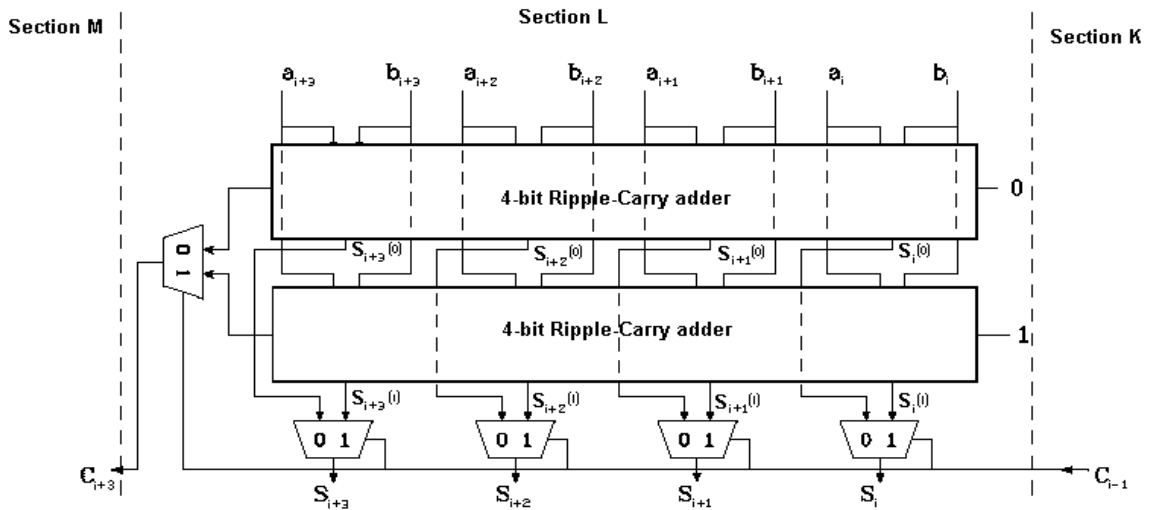
Figure 13: One section of a larger Carry Select Adder

Other methods which gives more optimum results is to apportion the adder non-linearly. For example to design a 32 bit Carry-Select Adder one can use 6 stages of adders with sizes: 4, 4, 5, 6, 7, 6 = 32 bits. Each stage computes a partial sum; Ripple adders can be used for stage adders. Fig. 14 below shows 32-bit carry select adder design.
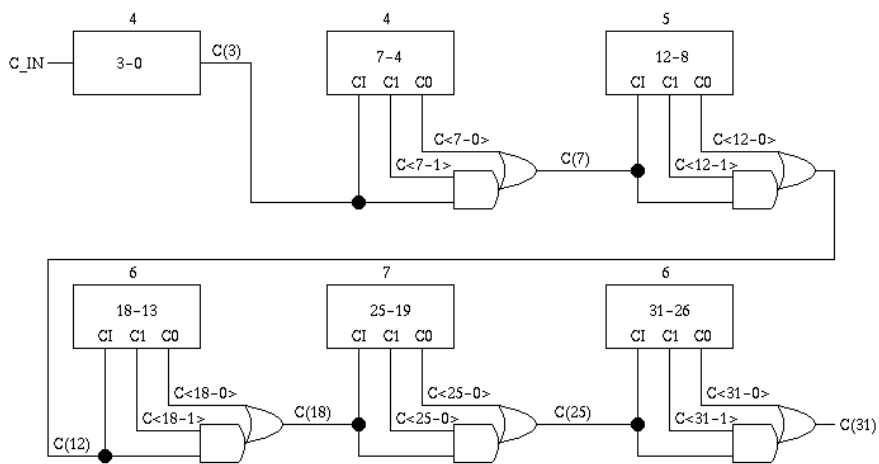

Figure 14: A 32 bit non-linear Carry Select adder

5. Enhancements

In this section we present two kinds of enhancements that can be applied to adders. The first one is called pipelining and is presented here giving an example. The second method of enhancement is the use of the Manchester carry chain adder which is based on the notion that calculates the carryout with as little knowledge of the carry in. The ripple-carry adder introduced in section 4.1 will be implemented again using these techniques.

5.1 Pipelined parallel adder

Pipelining a design means to insert registers into each stage of the design. Therefore, if a design has K-stages, K registers have to be inserted from an input to an output. One register will be added for each stage of the circuit.

First, let see how to go from a combinatorial design into a pipelined design. Figure 15 shows a combinatorial circuit composed of three nodes. By inserting a register for each stage from an input to an output, the pipelined design of Figure 16 is obtained.
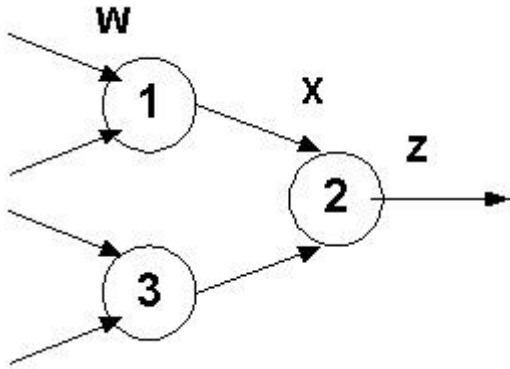
Figure 15: Combinatorial design
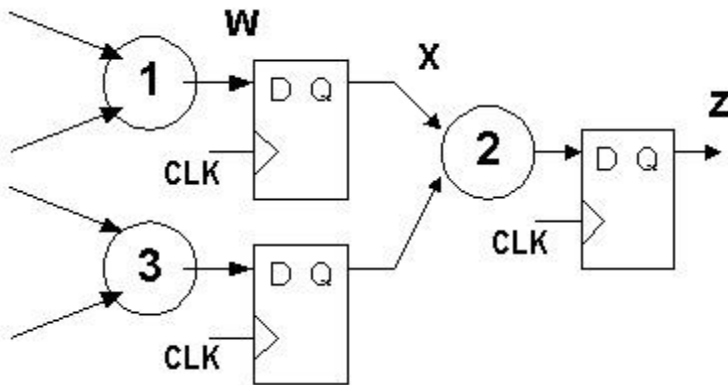
Figure 16: Pipelined design

Pipelining a design will increase its throughput. The trade-off of this improvement is the use of registers and latency. As a combinatorial design gets complicated, additional registers must be added to keep the intermediate computational results within the same clock cycles.

If pipelining is to be useful, however, we must be faced with the need to perform a long sequence of essentially similar tasks. Moreover, these three points has to be present:

- The basic function is repeatedly executed..

- The basic function must be divisible into independent *stages* having minimal overlap with each other.

- The stages must be of similar complexity.

Parallel adders respect these notions. Therefore let's convert a parallel adder into a pipelined parallel adder. Recall the 4-bit parallel adder. Figure 17 shows its 4-bit pipelined parallel adder counterpart.

This adder works as follows: At each clock cycle a new input is applied to the circuit. Therefore, because of the registers, it takes three clock cycles to get the first result. The waiting between the first input and the first output is called the latency of the circuit. This circuit has a latency of three clock cycles. Then, after each clock cycle, a new result is obtained at the output. This is called the throughput. The throughput of this circuit is one clock cycle plus T_{co} (the time from one clock cycle to the output of a register).

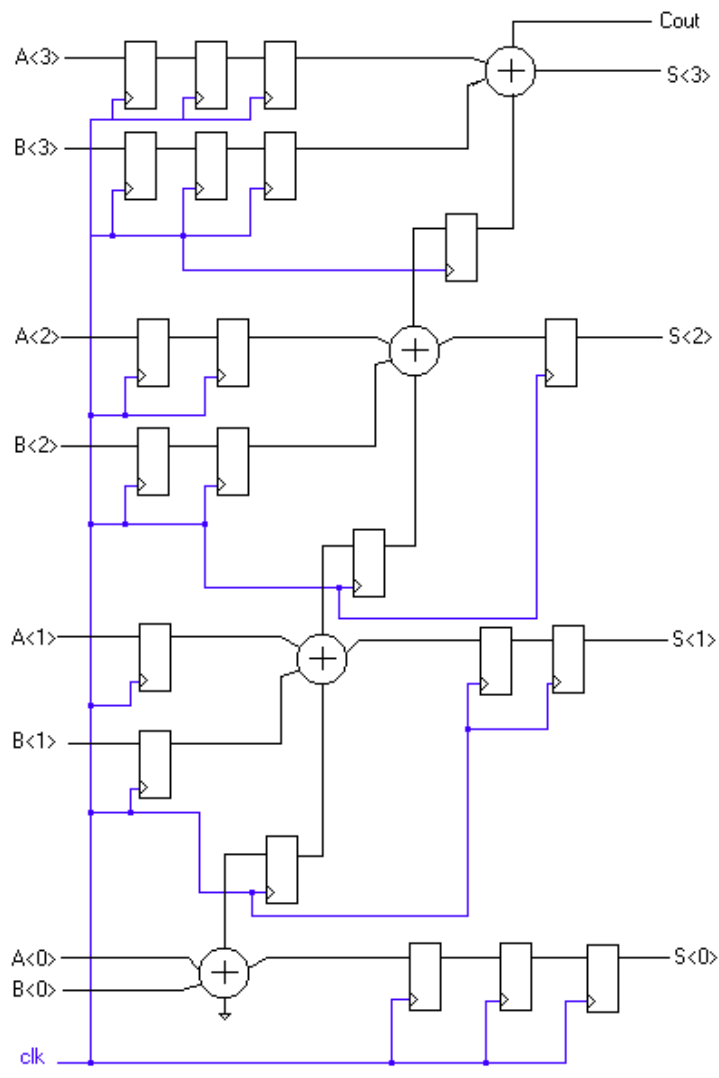The added complexity of such a pipelined adder pays off if long sequences of numbers are being added.

Figure 17: Pipelined parallel adder

5.2 Manchester Adder

The propagation time, when calculating the sum of two binary strings A and B using any generic parallel adder, can be speed up significantly if we utilize a **Manchester cell** in the design of that particular adder. Alternatively one may choose to perform the addition using any of the two flavours of **Manchester adders** described later in this section.

Generation and Propagation

Here we provide a brief summary of the underlying mechanics behind the decision to propagate or generate a carry out (refer to *carry skip mechanics* for a thorough explanation).

Boolean Equations:

$$\textbf{5.1)} \quad G_i = A_i\, B_i \qquad \text{--carry generate of i}^{th} \text{ stage}$$
$$\textbf{5.2)} \quad P_i = A_i \oplus B_i \qquad \text{--carry propagate of i}^{th} \text{ stage}$$
$$\textbf{5.3)} \quad S_i = P_i \oplus C_i \qquad \text{--sum of i}^{th} \text{ stage}$$
$$\textbf{5.4)} \quad C_{i+1} = G_i + P_i C_i \qquad \text{--carry out of i}^{th} \text{ stage}$$

The condition for a carry generate (generation of a new carry) to occur at any stage of the addition is $A_i = B_i$ making the carry out, C_{i+1}, depends solely on G_i (i.e. $C_{i+1} = G_i$ --from equation 4). A carry propagate, on the other hand, has the requirement that $A_i \neq B_i$, hence producing $C_{i+1} = C_i$ from equation 5.4. Figure 18, 19 and 20 describe three possible transistor level implementations for a single carry propagate cell as known as a **Manchester cell** (all of these versions implement equation 4 listed above with as little transistors as possible without compromising speed and performance).
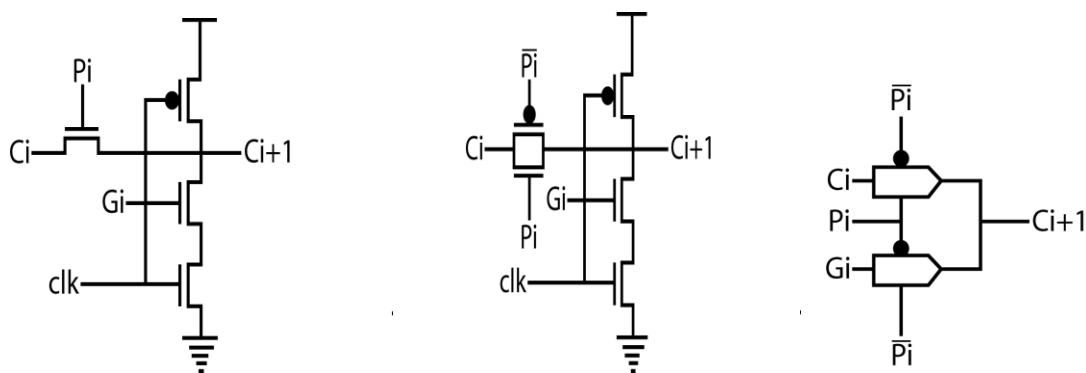
Figure 18: Dynamic Stage   Figure 19: Static Stage   Figure 20: MUX Stage

The Adder

A **Manchester carry adder** consists of cascaded stages of Manchester propagation cells, shown above. The optimum amount of cascaded stages may be calculated for a technology by simulation. For a 16 bit adder example a 4-bit adder made up of four static stage cells, shown in figure 21, is chosen in order to reduce the number of series-propagate transistors, which greatly improves speed. In the case of a four-bit adder, the maximum number of transistors that are in series with the gate, when all propagate signals and C_i is true, is only five.
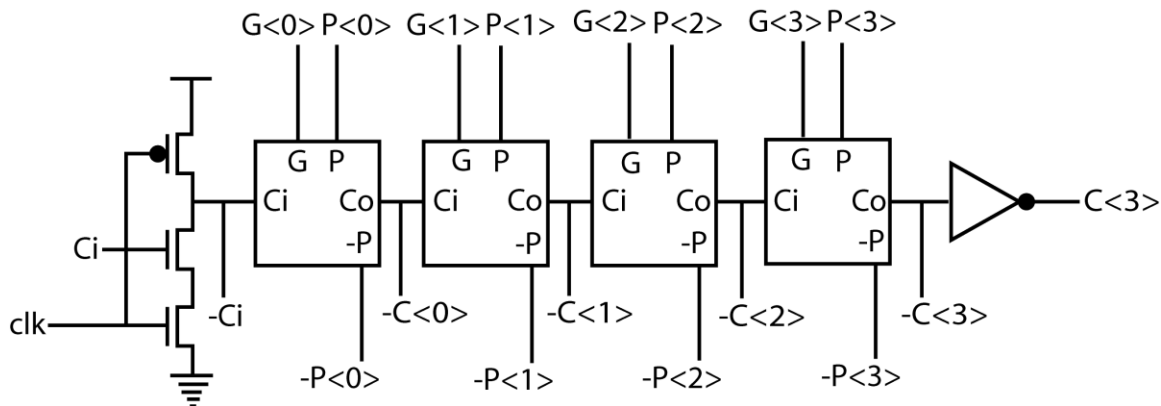
Figure 21: 4-bit Manchester carry section
In addition to the cascaded **Manchester** propagation cells the adder requires carry propagation and carry generation logic, also called a PG generator shown in Figure 22. Finally to complete

the design four XNOR blocks each of which produces the SUM at each particular stage is required.
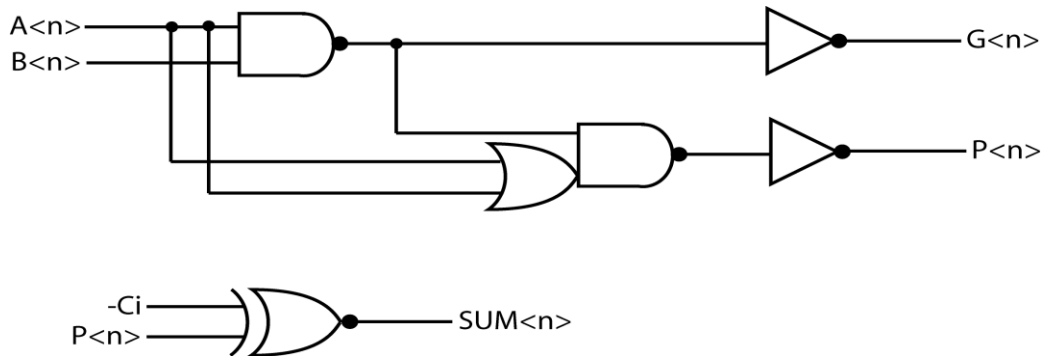
Figure 22: PG Logic and SUM Logic

To further reduce the worst-case propagation time of the **Manchester carry adder** in the case where $A_i \neq B_i$, for all i, an additional bypass circuit is introduced in order to bypass the four stages. The circuit is illustrated in Figure 23.
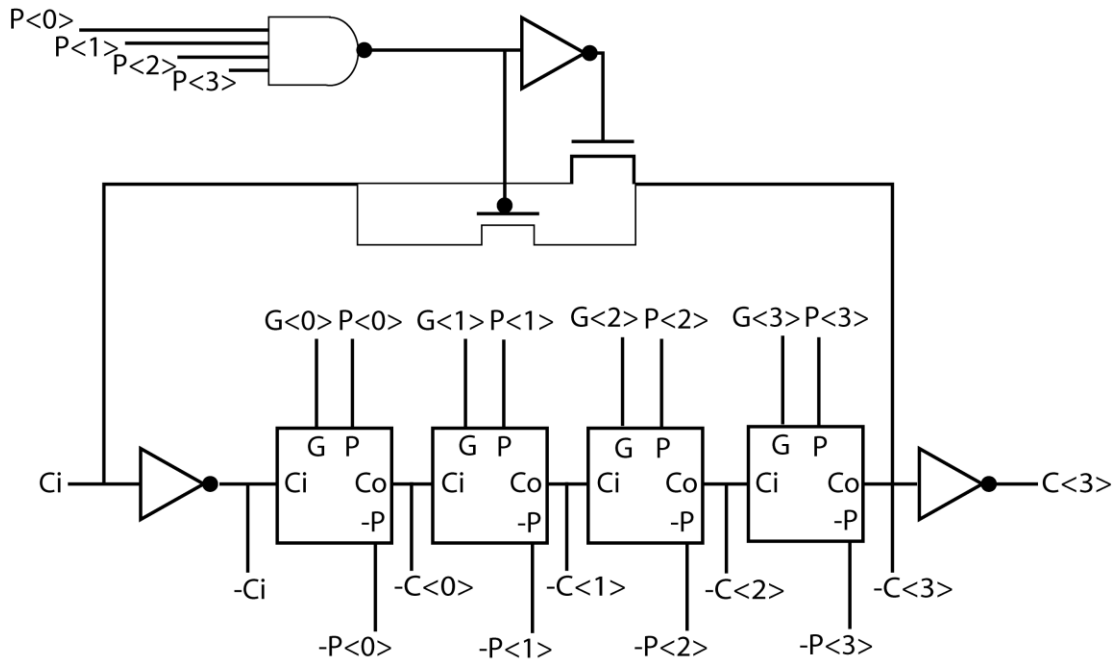
Figure 23: Manchester Carry adder with Carry bypass

Other **Manchester adders'** implementations are possible. One such adder is based on MUXes called a conflict free Manchester Adder. Although this version reduces even further the propagation time of the adder, it still embodies the core of a Manchester adder whose ultimate goal is to achieve the reduction of the worst-case time propagation by employing a Manchester cell.

Figure 24: The Configuration of the Manchester Adder/Subtractor

A Manchester Adder can be constructed by designing a cell and cascading it as shown in the Figures below.

Fig 24a Manchester Adder Cell
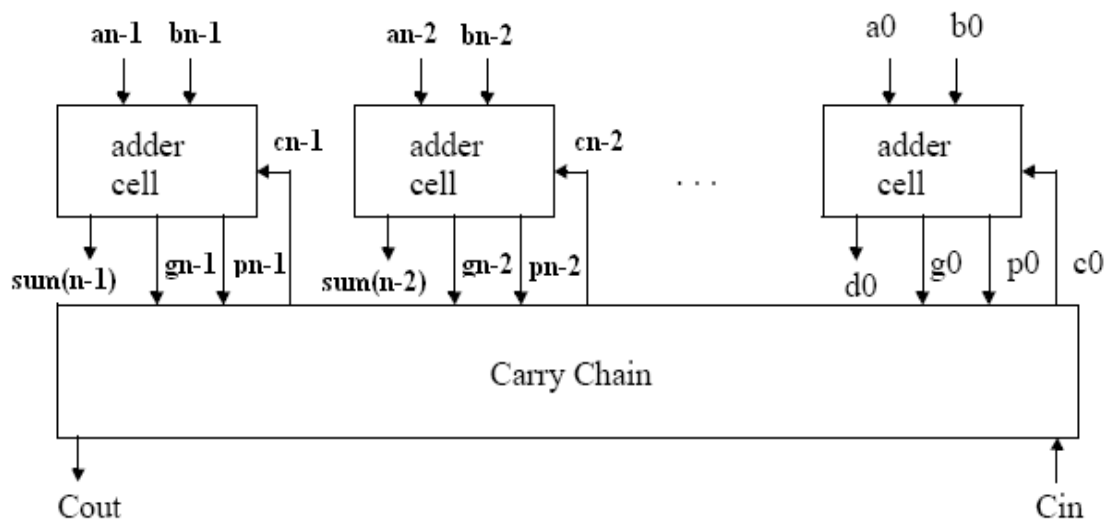
Fig. 24b **Block diagram of Manchester carry chain adder**

6. Experiments

To be able to compare these adders experiments were conducted by 2 students (Jonathan Rajotte and Jessee I Rodrigez). They Synthesized various 16-bit adders. The results obtained from Xilinx mapping concerning area requirements, operating speed and power consumption are illustrated in Table 3 and Table 4.
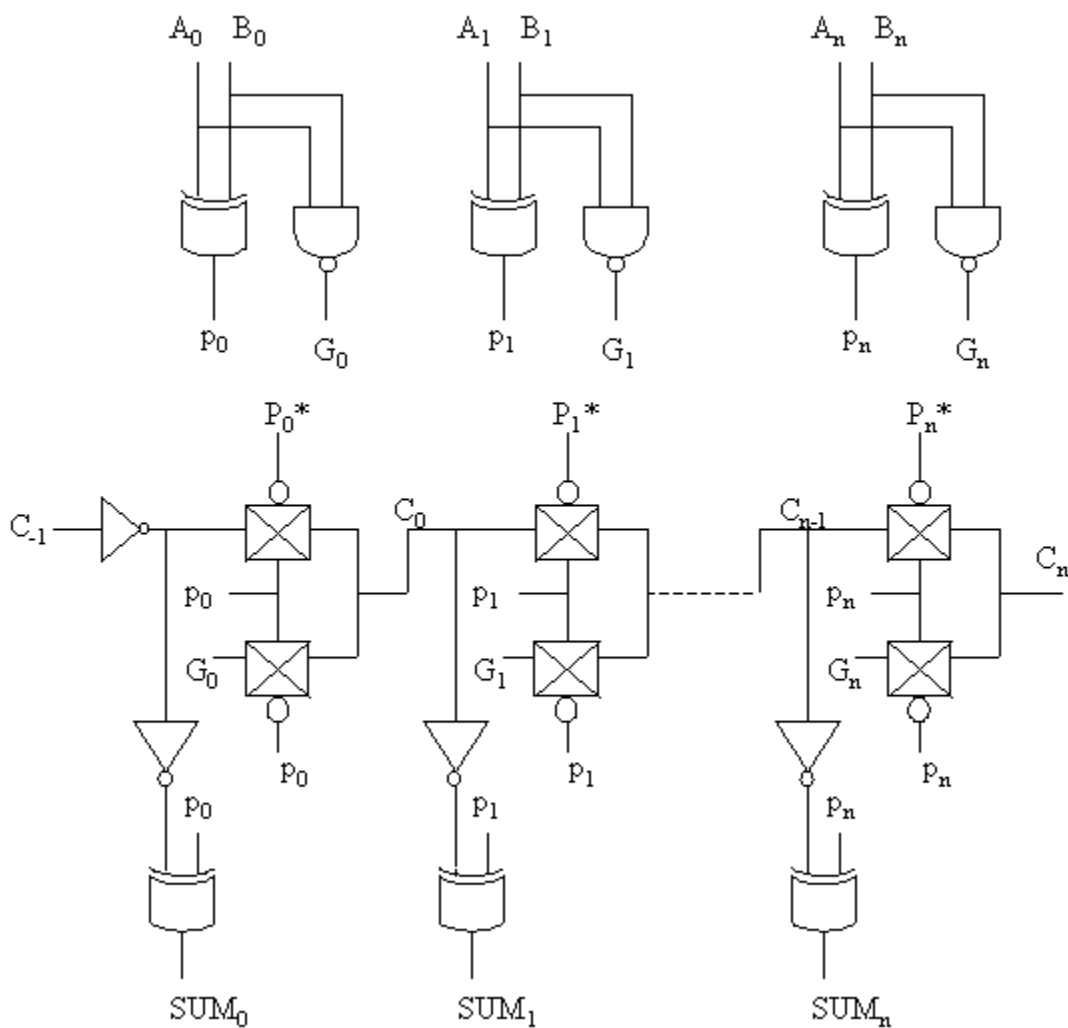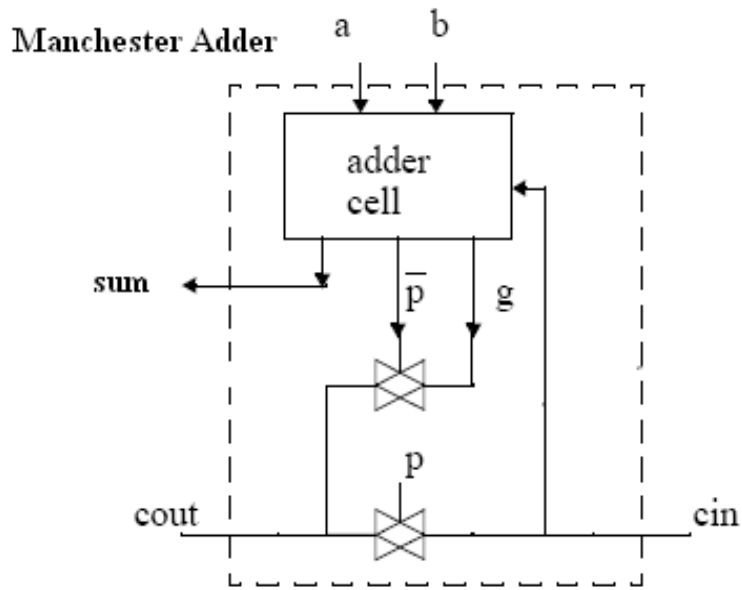
In order to compile the VHDL code equivalent of the adders above, the IEEE **ieee.std_logic_1164.*** was utilize. The code can be found in appendix A. Design downloads onto the **FPGA** boards, using Synopsis, was performed in accordance with the Xilinx **xio_4000e-3** and **xprim_4000e-3** libraries.

Adder	Number of CLBs	Delay (ns)	Area	Power Consumption (W)
Ripple-Carry	16	212.79	40.00	1.7318
Carry Look-Ahead	34	143.69	51.00	1.9668
Carry-Select	44	102.74	108.00	3.3595

Table 3: Results

From Table.3 we can see that the Carry-Select Adder has the best value for the parameters: Delay, Power and their AD, ADP. Especially, the delay is 81.86% less than the Ripple Carry Adder and Carry Look-ahead Adder,

7. Carry Save Adder:

In many cases we need to add several operands together, carry save adders are ideal for this type of addition

A carry save adder consists of a ladder of stand alone full adders, and carries out a number of partial additions. The principal idea is that the carry has a higher power of 2 and thus is routed to the next column. Doing additions with Carry save adder saves time and logic.
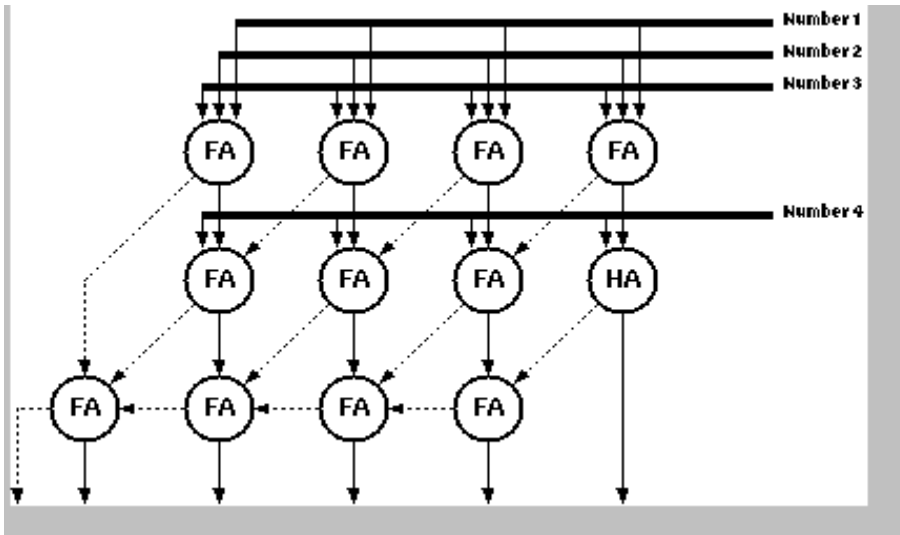

Figure 25: Carry Save Adderfor as four bit number

In this method, for the first 3 numbers a row of full adders are used. Then a row of full adders is added for each additional number. The final results, in the form of two numbers SUM and CARRY, are then summed up with a carry propagate adder or any other adder. An example of 4 numbers addition is shown in Fig. 25.

Large adders design

Large adders require a special design. Most standard adders are modified in a way or other to be able to use them for larger designs. For example Carry Look Ahead adders are modified as hierarchical 2 level circuits. This is because as n increases, the block size has to be limited as well as ripple through delay accumulates. It is no longer practical to use standard look-ahead method. The hierarchical CLA has two levels. In this design, the first level of CLAs generates the sums as well as the second level 'generate and propagate signals. These signals then are fed to the 2nd level CLA with carryout of each level to produce the carryout signal. Each Block CLA has a special design. For more details one can refer to:

"Principles of CMOS VLSI Design" by: N. Weste and K. Eshraghian   or

"Fundamentals of Digital Logic with VHDL" by: Brown and Verasenic. (see references). These references have a section on large adder designs.

Assume that you want to design a 32 bit CLA adder. One way is to divide the adder into four 8-bit CLA with carry ripple between them. Other method would be to design a 2- level hierarchical adder as shown below.
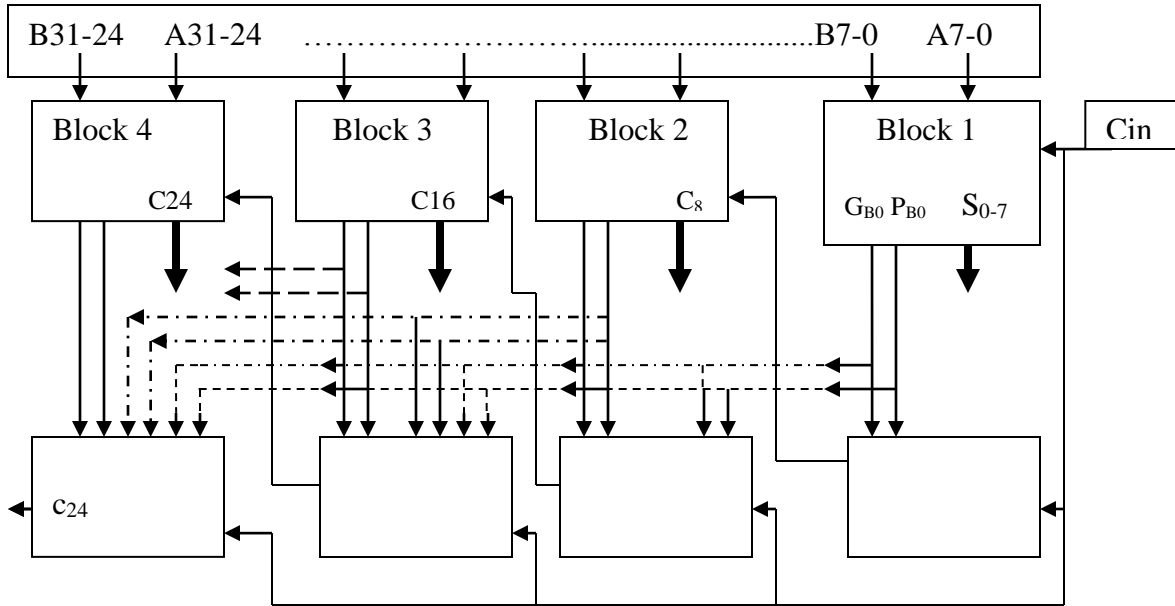
In the above diagram

$P_{B0} = P_7 P_6 P_5 P_4 P_3 P2 P_1 P_0$

And

$G_{Bo} = g_7 + p_7 g_6 + p_7 P_6 G_5 + \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots P_7 P_6 P_5 P_4 P_3 P_2 P_1 G_0$

Other carrys then can be obtained using CLA methodology as

$c_8 = G_{B0} + P_{B0} c_{in}$

$c_{16} = G_{B1} + P_{B1} c_8$

$c_{24} = G_{B2} + P_{B2} c_{16}$

$c_{32} = G_{B3} + P_{B3} c_{24}$

Another method is to use a Block CLA, without going into details an example a large 53 bit CLA

is shown in Fig 26.
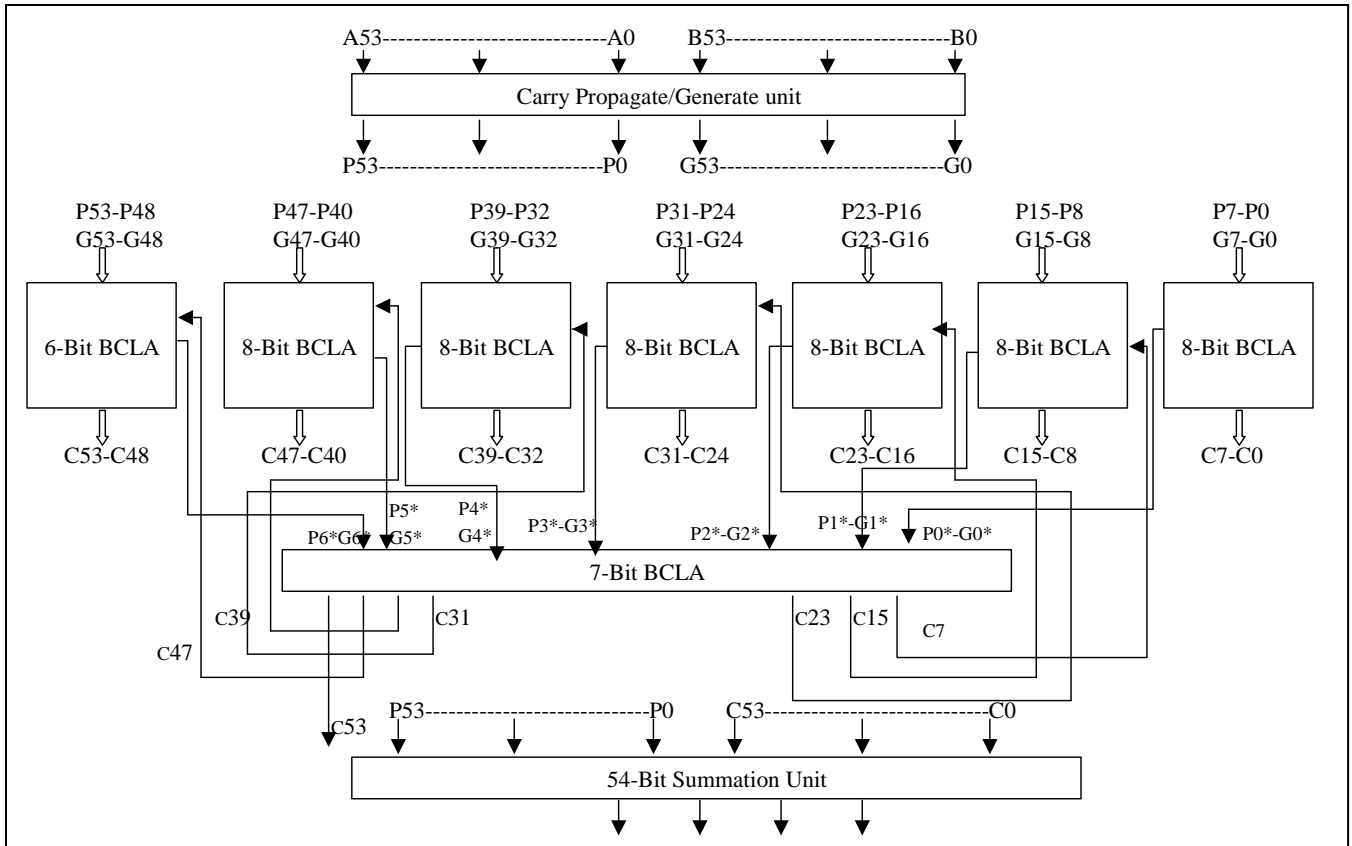
Fig. 26, A 53 bit Carry Look Ahead adder

8. What type of adder is to be used?

Comparing the performance metrics for the 16-bit adders implemented on Xilinx FPGA board, using Synopsys synthesis tools, the trade offs becomes apparent. As can be seen there exist an inverse relationship between time delays, operating speed, and circuit area, in this case the number of CLBs (measure of the area). The ripple carry adder, the most basic of flavours, is at the one extreme of this spectrum with the least amount of CLBs but the highest delay. The carry select adder on the other hand, is at the opposite corner since it has the lowest delay (half that of the ripple carry's) but with a larger area required to compensate for this time gain. Finally, the carry look-ahead is middle ground. Power dissipation, for this case study, is in direct proportion to the number of CLBs.

For more information on different adders, please see Appendix 3.

Appendix 3 Some Comparisons of 64 bit adders

- ■ For this comparison Synopsys tools were used to perform logic synthesis.
- ■ The implemented VHDL codes for all the 64-bit adders are translated into net list files.
- ■ The virtex2 series library, XC2V250-4_avg, is used in those 64-bit adders synthesis and targeting because the area and the propagation delay are suitable for these adders.
- ■ After synthesizing, the related power consumption, area, and propagation delay are reported.

Synthesis result parameter comparison listings:

Primitive Component	Delay (ns)	Area	Power (W)	AT	AT^2	PD
4-bit carry ripple adder	72.1	160	0.875	11536	831745	63.058
8-bit carry ripple adder	72.1	160	0.875	11536	831745	63.058
16-bit carry ripple adder	72.1	160	0.875	11536	831745	63.058
4-bit carry look-ahead adder	93.54	288	1.049	26939	2519922	98.123
8-bit carry look-ahead adder	118.9	302	1.163	35908	4269437	138.25
16-bit carry look-ahead adder	124.3	310	1.176	38533	4789651	146.14
two-level 8-bit carry look-ahead adder	31.57	434	1.348	13701	432552	42.56
4-bit carry select adder	24.72	422.5	1.635	10444	258180	40.42
8-bit carry select adder	20.48	394.5	1.575	8079	165465	32.27
16-bit carry select adder	26	356.5	1.479	9269	240994	38.459
Nonlinear Carry select adder	17.94	412	1.626	7391	132599	29.183
4-bit Manchester adder	27.58	256	1.086	7060	194728	29.943
8-bit Manchester adder	27.58	256	1.086	7060	194728	29.943
16-bit Manchester adder	27.58	256	1.086	7060	194728	29.943
16-bit Ladner-Fischer prefix adder	24.79	326	1.23	8081	200341	30.491
16-bit Brent-Kung prefix adder	26.94	290	1.15	7812	210471	30.981
16-bit Han-Carlson prefix adder	25.43	326	1.276	8290	210819	32.443
16-bit Kogge-Stone prefix adder	25.59	428	1.555	10952	280274	39.78
64-bit Kogge-Stone adder	11.97	611	1.919	7313	87544	22.97

By, Chen,Kungching—M. Eng. Project 2005_

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Appendix A:
VHDL Code of various adders

A.1 Ripple-Carry Adder

The ripple carry adder is made of only one entity called ripple_carry.

ripple_carry

```
library IEEE;
use ieee.std_logic_1164.all;

entity ripple_carry is
     port( A, B    : in std_logic_vector( 15 downto 0);
           C_in    : in std_logic;
           S       : out std_logic_vector( 15 downto 0);
           C_out   : out std_logic);
end ripple_carry;

architecture RTL of ripple_carry is

begin

process(A, B, C_in)

     variable tempC     : std_logic_vector( 16 downto 0 );
     variable P         : std_logic_vector( 15 downto 0 );
     variable G         : std_logic_vector( 15 downto 0 );

     begin

     tempC(0) := C_in;

     for i in 0 to 15 loop
          P(i):=A(i) xor B(i);
          G(i):=A(i) and B(i);

          S(i)<= P(i) xor tempC(i);
          tempC(i+1):=G(i) or (tempC(i) and P(i));
     end loop;

     C_out <= tempC(16);
```

```
end process;


end;
```

A.2 Carry-select Adder

The carry-select has been implemented using structural VHDL. It uses 4 components
carry_select4 which in turn each of them use two components ripple_carry4.

ripple_carry4

```
library IEEE;
use ieee.std_logic_1164.all;

entity ripple_carry4 is
      port( e, f    : in std_logic_vector( 3 downto 0);
            carry_in   : in std_logic;
            S       : out std_logic_vector( 3 downto 0);
            carry_out  : out std_logic);
end ripple_carry4;

architecture RTL of ripple_carry4 is

begin

process(e, f, carry_in)

      variable tempC     : std_logic_vector( 4 downto 0 );
      variable P         : std_logic_vector( 3 downto 0 );
      variable G         : std_logic_vector( 3 downto 0 );

      begin

      tempC(0) := carry_in;

      for i in 0 to 3 loop
            P(i):=e(i) xor f(i);
            G(i):=e(i) and f(i);

            S(i)<= P(i) xor tempC(i);
            tempC(i+1):=G(i) or (tempC(i) and P(i));
      end loop;
      carry_out <= tempC(4);

end process;
end;
```

carry_select4

```vhdl
library IEEE;
use ieee.std_logic_1164.all;

entity carry_select4 is
      port( c, d    : in std_logic_vector( 3 downto 0);
            C_input   : in std_logic;
            Result    : out std_logic_vector( 3 downto 0);
            C_output  : out std_logic);
end carry_select4;

architecture RTL of carry_select4 is

component ripple_carry4

port(           e, f    : in std_logic_vector( 3 downto 0);
            carry_in   : in std_logic;
            S         : out std_logic_vector( 3 downto 0);
            carry_out  : out std_logic);

end component;

For S0: ripple_carry4 Use entity work.ripple_carry4(RTL);
For S1: ripple_carry4 Use entity work.ripple_carry4(RTL);

signal SUM0, SUM1    : std_logic_vector( 3 downto 0 );
signal carry0, carry1 : std_logic;
signal zero, one     : std_logic;

begin

zero<='0';
one<='1';

S0: ripple_carry4 port map( e=>c, f=>d, carry_in=>zero, S=>SUM0,
carry_out=>carry0 );
S1: ripple_carry4 port map( e=>c, f=>d, carry_in=>one, S=>SUM1,
carry_out=>carry1 );

Result<=SUM0 when C_input='0' else
     SUM1 when C_input='1' else
     "ZZZZ";

C_output<= (C_input and carry1) or carry0;

end;
```

carry_select16

```vhdl
library IEEE;
use ieee.std_logic_1164.all;

entity carry_select16 is
```

```vhdl
        port( A, B    : in std_logic_vector( 15 downto 0);
              C_in    : in std_logic;
              SUM     : out std_logic_vector( 15 downto 0);
              C_out   : out std_logic);
end carry_select16;

architecture RTL of carry_select16 is

component carry_select4

port( c, d    : in std_logic_vector( 3 downto 0);
      C_input   : in std_logic;
      Result    : out std_logic_vector( 3 downto 0);
      C_output  : out std_logic);

end component;

For S0: carry_select4 Use entity work.carry_select4(RTL);
For S1: carry_select4 Use entity work.carry_select4(RTL);
For S2: carry_select4 Use entity work.carry_select4(RTL);
For S3: carry_select4 Use entity work.carry_select4(RTL);


signal tempc1, tempc2, tempc3 : std_logic;


begin

S0: carry_select4 port map( c=>A ( 3 downto 0 ), d =>B ( 3 downto 0 ),
C_input=>C_in, Result=>SUM ( 3 downto 0 ), C_output=>tempc1 );
S1: carry_select4 port map( c=>A ( 7 downto 4 ), d =>B ( 7 downto 4 ),
C_input=>tempc1, Result=>SUM ( 7 downto 4 ), C_output=>tempc2 );
S2: carry_select4 port map( c=>A ( 11 downto 8 ), d =>B ( 11 downto 8 ),
C_input=>tempc2, Result=>SUM ( 11 downto 8 ), C_output=>tempc3 );
S3: carry_select4 port map( c=>A ( 15 downto 12 ), d =>B ( 15 downto 12 ),
C_input=>tempc3, Result=>SUM ( 15 downto 12 ), C_output=>C_out );

end;
```

A.3 Carry Look-Ahead Adder

The carry look-ahead adder has been implemented using structural VHDL. It uses two components: half_adder and carry_generator.

half_adder

```
library IEEE;
use ieee.std_logic_1164.all;

entity half_adder is
      port( A, B : in std_logic_vector( 16 downto 1 );
              P, G : out std_logic_vector( 16 downto 1 ) );
end half_adder;

architecture RTL of half_adder is

begin

P <= A xor B;
G <= A and B;

end;
```

carry_generator

```
library IEEE;
use ieee.std_logic_1164.all;

entity carry_generator is
      port( P , G : in std_logic_vector(16 downto 1);
            C1    : in std_logic;
            C     : out std_logic_vector(17 downto 1));
end carry_generator;

architecture RTL of carry_generator is
begin

      process(P, G, C1)

      variable tempC   : std_logic_vector(17 downto 1);

      begin
            tempC(1) := C1;
            for i in 1 to 16 loop
                  tempC(i+1) := G(i) or (P(i) and tempC(i));
            end loop;
      C <= tempC;
      end process;

end;
```

Look_Ahead_Adder

```
library IEEE;
use ieee.std_logic_1164.all;


entity Look_Ahead_Adder is

port( A, B : in std_logic_vector( 16 downto 1 );
  carry_in : in std_logic;
 carry_out : out std_logic;
         S :  out std_logic_vector( 16 downto 1 ) );

end Look_Ahead_Adder;

architecture RTL of Look_Ahead_Adder is

component carry_generator

 port(   P , G : in std_logic_vector(16 downto 1);
               C1    : in std_logic;
               C     : out std_logic_vector(17 downto 1));
end component;

component half_adder

 port( A, B : in std_logic_vector( 16 downto 1 );
             P, G : out std_logic_vector( 16 downto 1) );

end component;

For CG: carry_generator Use entity work.carry_generator(RTL);
For HA: half_adder Use entity work.half_adder(RTL);

signal tempG, tempP : std_logic_vector( 16 downto 1 );
signal tempC : std_logic_vector( 17 downto 1 );

begin

HA: half_adder port map( A=>A, B=>B, P =>tempP, G=>tempG );
CG: carry_generator port map( P=>tempP, G=>tempG, C1=>carry_in, C=>tempC );
S <= tempC( 16 downto 1 ) xor tempP;
carry_out <= tempC(17);


end;
```

1. About Carries

The production of the bit s_i $(0 \le i \le n-1)$ in the addition $S = X + Y$ can be decomposed into the following two steps, as illustrated in Figure 1.
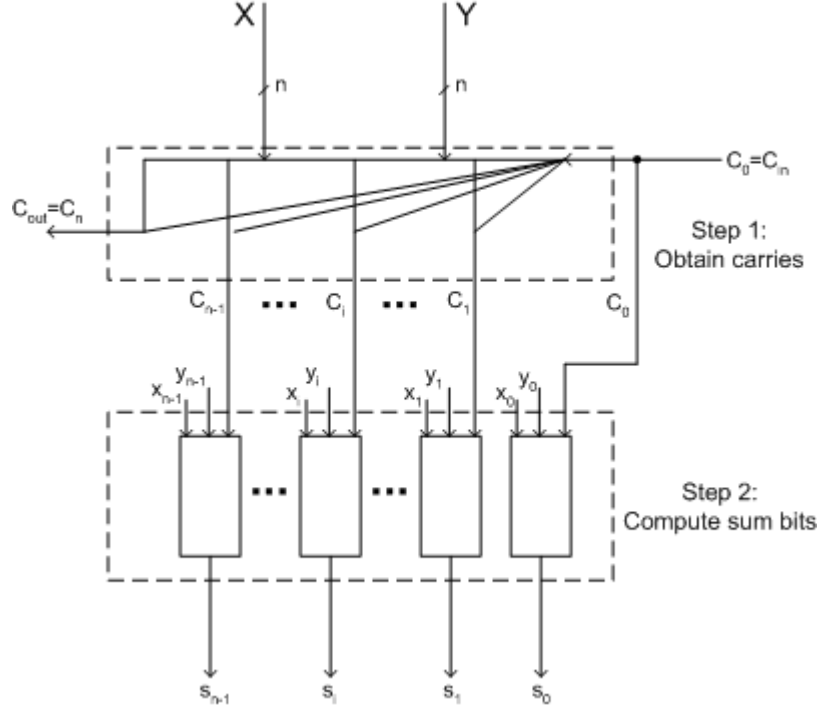

Figure 1   Steps in addition

The carry c_i represents the influence of bits x_j and y_j for $j<i$ on s_i. That is

$$c_i = F(x_{i-1},..., x_0, y_{i-1},..., y_0, c_{in})$$

Consequently, the main objective of all methods for reducing the time of addition for conventional representation is to speed up the process for obtaining all carries.

At position i of the addition, consider the relation between the carry-out (c_{i+1}) and the carry-in (c_i). The determination of the particular case depends only on the local variables x_i and y_i and can be performed in parallel (for all i) by the following switching expressions:

Case Propagate: $p_i = x_i \oplus y_i$

Case Generate: $g_i = x_i y_i$

Case Kill: $k_i = \overline{(x_i + y_i)}$

Consequently, the carry-out of position i can be expressed in terms of the carry-in to that position as

$$c_{i+1} = g_i + p_i c_i = x_i y_i + (x_i \oplus y_i) c_i \qquad (1)$$

From the identity $g_i + p_i c_i = g_i + (g_i + p_i) c_i$ and naming $p_i + g_i = a_i$, we get an alternative expression for the carry-out $c_{i+1} = g_i + a_i c_i \qquad (2)$

Considering a group of bits, expression (1) and (2) can be generalized by replacing the bit-generate g_i, the bit-propagate p_i, and the bit-alive a_i with the corresponding group variables. That is,

$$c_{j+1} = g_{(j,i)} + p_{(j,i)}c_i = g_{(j,i)} + a_{(j,i)}c_i \qquad (3)$$

By making i=0 in the expression (3), we obtain $c_{j+1} = g_{(j,0)} + p_{(j,0)}c_0 = g_{(j,0)} + a_{(j,0)}c_0$

That is, to compute c_{j+1} it is sufficient to compute the pair $(g_{(j,0)}, p_{(j,0)})$ or the pair $(g_{(j,0)}, a_{(j,0)})$.
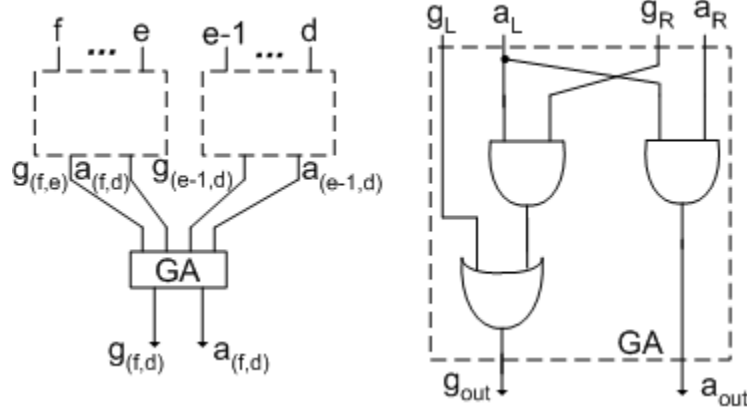
Figure 2   Computing $(g_{(f,d)}, a_{(f,d)})$

Moreover, as shown in Figure 2, the computation of the variables for the range of bits (f,d) can use the values of these variables for the sub-ranges (f,e) and (e-1,d), with d<e<f. Specifically, from the definitions we obtain the following switching expressions:

$$g_{(f,d)} = g_{(f,e)} + p_{(f,e)}g_{(e-1,d)} = g_{(f,e)} + a_{(f,e)}g_{(e-1,d)}$$

$$a_{(f,d)} = a_{(f,e)}a_{(e-1,d)}$$

$$p_{(f,d)} = p_{(f,e)}p_{(e-1,d)}$$

2. Prefix Adder

The prefix adder is a structure that is based on considering the carry computation as a prefix computation. In general, a prefix combinational network of n inputs $x_0, x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n-1}$ uses the associative (arbitrary) operator • to produce the vector of outputs described by

$$z_i = x_i \bullet x_{i-1} \bullet \ldots \bullet x_1 \bullet x_0$$

As indicated above, for the carry computation we have

$$z_i = (g_{(i,0)}, a_{(i,0)}), \qquad x_i = (g_i, a_i)$$

and the operator (implemented by a cell, shown in Figure 3) has as input two pairs of bits (g_L, g_R) and (a_L, a_R) and as output one pair (g_{out}, a_{out}). It is described by the switching expressions

$$g_{out} = g_L + a_L g_R$$

$$a_{out} = a_L a_R$$

where as before, g and $a = \bar{k}$ correspond to generate and to alive signals, respectively.

With this cell, a variety of networks are used to produce the carries. They are all based on the fact that carry ci corresponds to the generate signal spanning the bit positions (-1) to i-1. We call this generate signal $g_{(i-1,-1)}$ so that $c_i = g_{(i-1,-1)}$ where $(g_{-1}, a_{-1}) = (c_0, c_0)$.

A prefix adder is then an interconnection of the above-mentioned cells to produce $g_{(i-1,-1)}$ for all i. These carries are then used to obtain the sum bits as $s_i = p_i \oplus c_i$.

To obtain the carries the cells are connected in a recursive manner to produce the **g** signals that span an increasing number of bits. That is, beginning with the variables **g** and **a** of each bit, the first level of modules produces **g** and **a** for groups of two bits, the second level for groups of four bits, and so on. In general, if the right input spans the bits [right2,right1] and the left input spans the bits [left2,left1] with $right_2 + 1 \geq left_1$ then the output spans the bits [left2,right1] as illustrated in Figure 3. For instance, for right=[5,2] and left=[8,4], the output spans the bits [8,2].
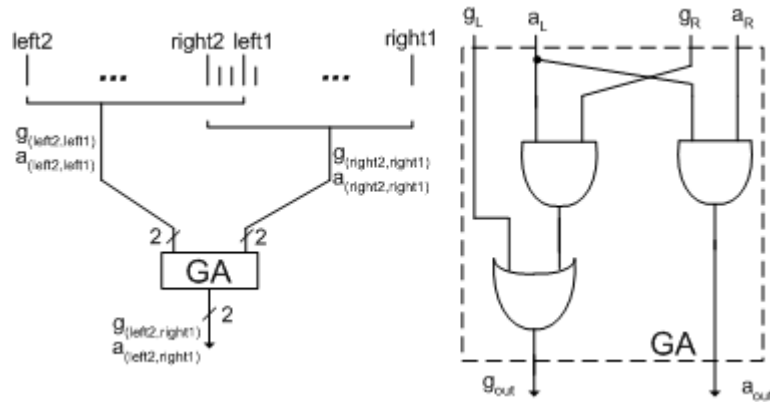

Figure 3 Composition of spans in computing (g,a) signals

An array of cells for an 8-bit adder is shown in Figure 4. The outputs of the cells are labeled with a pair of integers corresponding to the initial and the final bit that is spanned by the output. Because each level produces a doubling of bits spanned, for n power-of-two, the number of the levels is $L = \log_2(n) + 1$ where the additional level is due to the carry-in c_0. In the figure for eight bits there are four levels. Although c_0 causes the additional level it does not increase the overall delay because the computation of c_8 is in parallel to the calculation of the sum bits. The expression for the delay is

$$T_{PA} = t_{a,g} + \log_2(n) t_{cell} + t_{XOR}$$

Since each level (except the last) has n/2 cells, the number of cells is

$$N = (n/2) \log_2 n + 1$$

(not including the gates to produce g_i and a_i nor the XOR gates).

Since the cells are simple, their delay and area are small, resulting in an effective implementation. The main disadvantage of this implementation is the large fan-out of some cells as well as the long interconnection wires. For example, in the 8-bit adder there is a cell with internal fan-out of four, so that in general for an adder of n bits that maximum fan-out is n/2+1 where n/2 is the fan-out of the carry tree and the additional 1goes to XOR gate. The large fan-out and long inter-connections produce an increase in the delay, which can be reduced by including buffers. However, the delay of these buffers might still be significant. In such a case, the large fan-out can be eliminated by two approaches, or a combination of both:

1. Increasing the number of levels
2. Increasing the number of cells
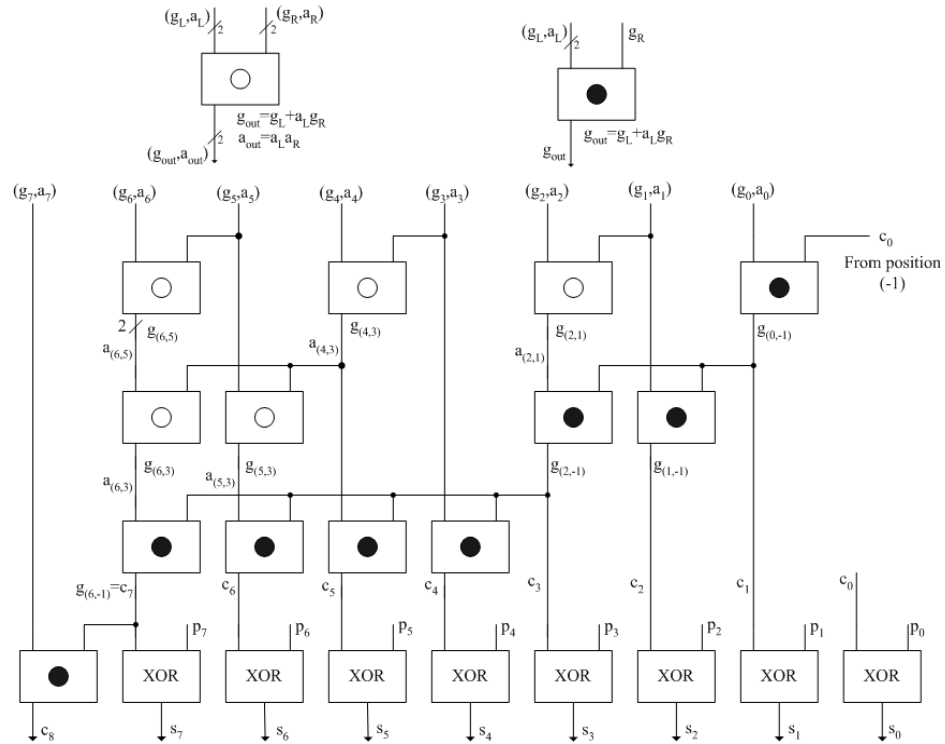
Figure 4 8-bit prefix adder (Modules to obtain p_i, g_i and a_i signals not shown.)

2.1 Increasing the Number of Levels

The fan-out can be reduced by increasing the number of levels, as shown in Figure 5. This is achieved by reducing the parallelism in the determination of the carries. The resulting number of levels in the limit (carry tree fan-out=2) is $L = 2\log_2(n-1) + 1$ where the last 1 corresponds again to the stage with one cell, due to c_0. The number of cells is the same as for the basic scheme.
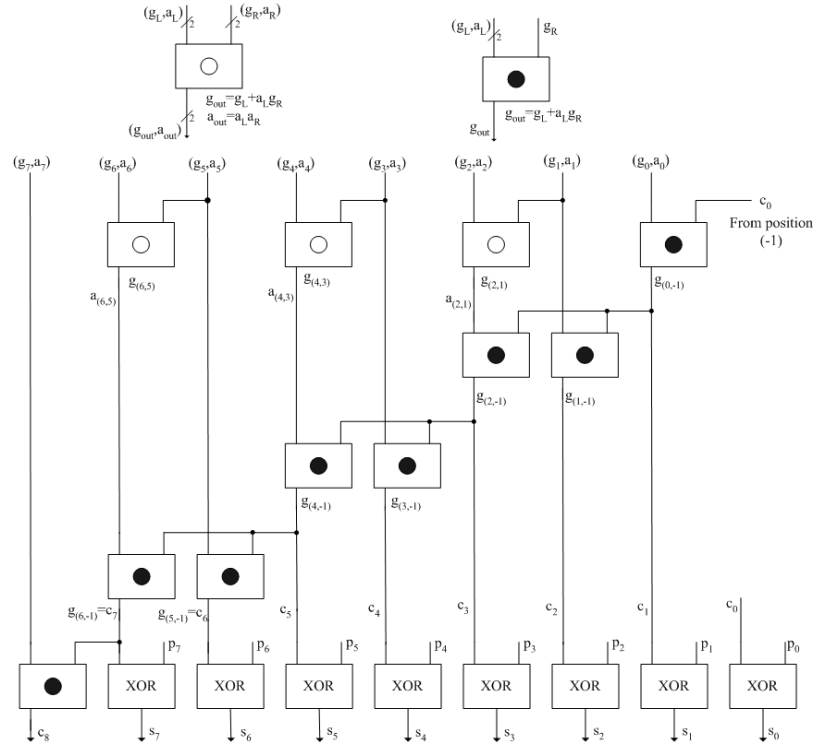
Figure 5   8-bit prefix adder with maximum fan-out of three and five levels

2.2 Increasing the Number of Cells

The maximum fan-out is reduced to two (without increasing the number of levels) by the structure shown in Figure 6. This structure is constructed as follows:

- Level 1 is formed of cells having as inputs neighboring bits. So, groups are formed with bits c_0 and 0, with bits 0 and 1, with bits 1 and 2, and so on. Consequently, for n bits   there are n cells.
- Level 2 combines outputs of cells of level 1 whose indexes differ by 2. That is, c_0 and 1, 0 and 2, and so on. There are n-1 cells at this level.
- Level 3 combines outputs of cells of level 2 whose indexes differ by 4. That is, c_0 and 3, 0 and 4, and so on. There are n-3 cells.
- In general, level k combines outputs of level (k-1) whose indexes differ by 2^{k-1}. It has $n-(2^{k-1}-1)$ cells.

As in the basic scheme there are $\log_2(n)+1$ levels. As can be seen, the fan-out of all cells is two and the connections are regular. The number of cells is

$$N = n+(n-1)+(n-3)+(n-7)+...+(n-(n/2-1))+1$$

$$= (n)(\log_2 n - 1) + \log_2 n + 2$$

The number of cells of this scheme is about twice that of the basic scheme. If the number of cells is too high, it is possible to use an intermediate scheme, which has an intermediate maximum fan-out as well as an intermediate number of cells.
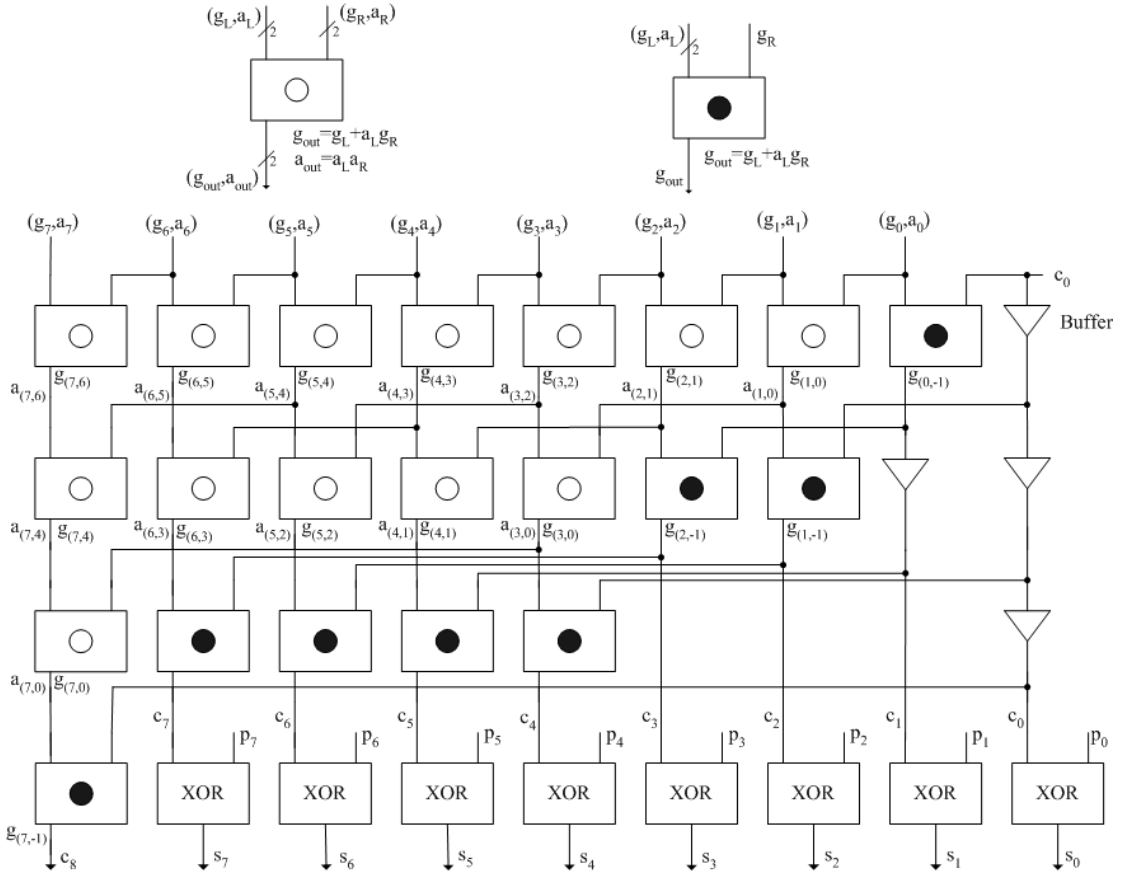
Figure 6   8-bit prefix adder with minimum number of levels and fan-out of two

2.3 Some Parallel Prefix Adder Carry Tree Structures

As discussed above, the production of the carries in the prefix adder can be designed in many different ways. Some general graphs are list below.
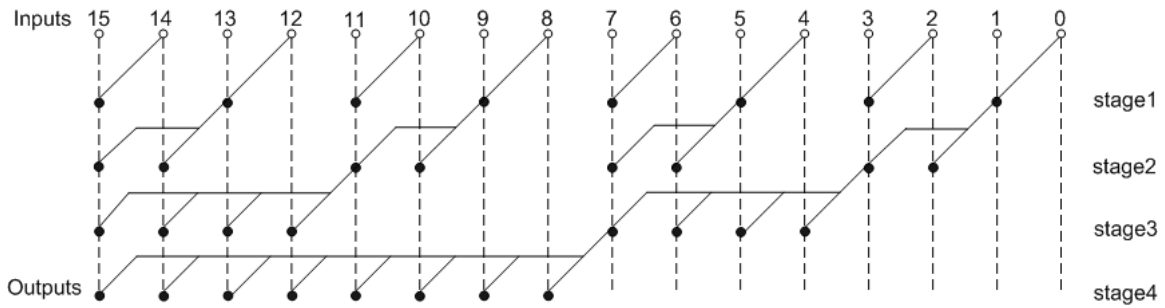
(1) Ladner-Fischer Parallel Prefix Graph

Figure 7 The Ladner-Fischer parallel prefix graph

Carry stages: $\log_2 n$; The number of cells: $(n/2)\log_2 n$; Maximum fan-out: $n/2$ (large fan-out, long wiring)
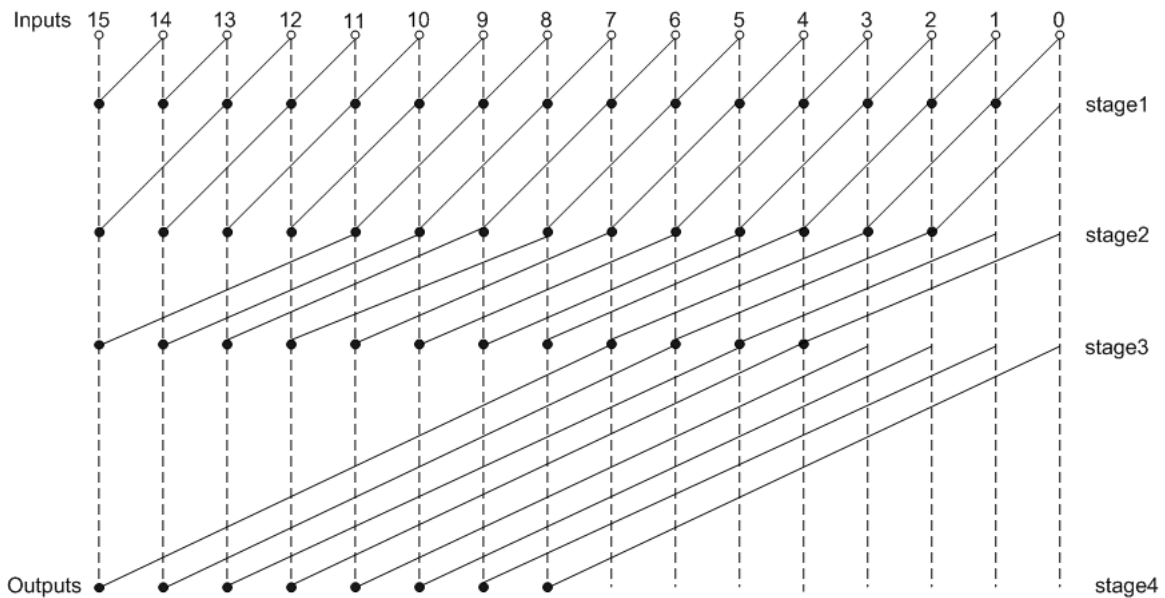
(2) The Kogge-Stone parallel prefix graph

Figure 8   The Kogge-Stone parallel prefix graph

Carry stages: $\log_2 n$; The number of cells: $n(\log_2 n - 1) + 1$; Maximum fan-out: 2 (extra wiring)
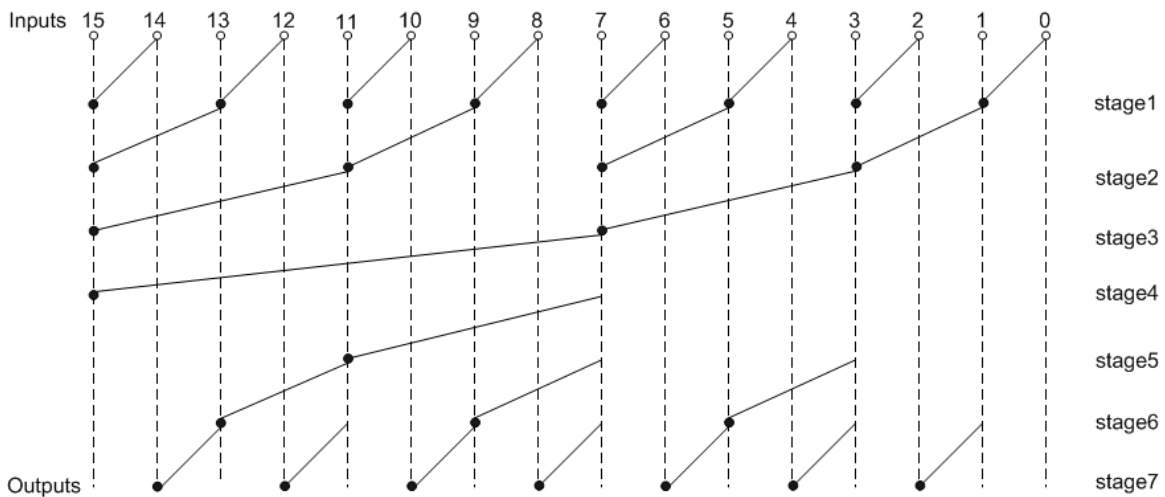
(3) The Brent-Kung parallel prefix graph

Figure 9   The Brent-Kung parallel prefix graph

Carry stages: $2\log_2 n - 1$; The number of cells: $2(n-1) - \log_2 n$; Maximum fan-out: 2

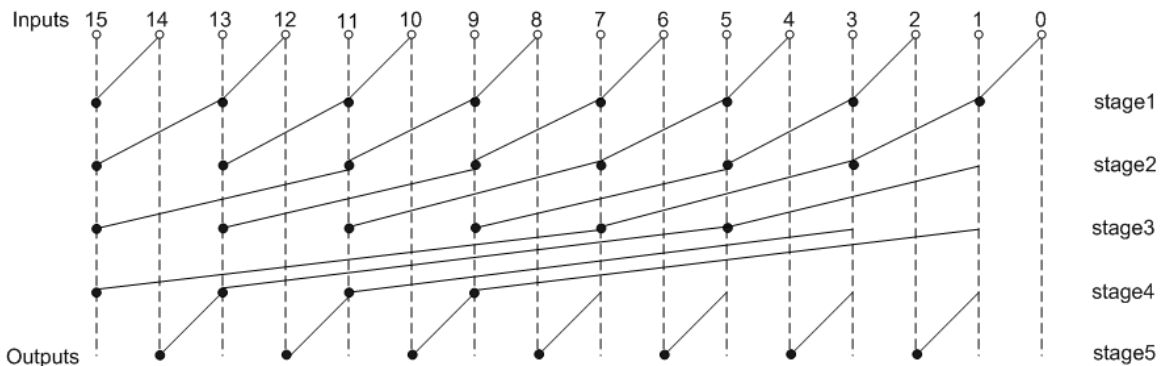## (4) The Han-Carlson parallel prefix graph

Figure 10   The Han-Carlson parallel prefix graph

Carry stages: $\log_2 n + 1$; Maximum fan-out: 2

       The Han-Carlson structure is a hybrid design combining stages from the Brent-Kung and Kogge-Stone structures. The middle stages resemble the Kogge-Stone structure and the first and the final stages use the Brent-Kung structure. Comparing to the KS structure, it reduces the wiring and gates but has one more stage.

3. References

[1] M.D. Ercegovac and T. Lang, "*Digital Arithmetic.*" San Francisco: Morgan Daufmann, 2004. ISBN 1-55860-798-6
[2] Israel Koren, "*Computer Arithmetic Algorithms.*" Pub A K Peters, 2002. ISBN 1-56881-160-8

__Appendix 3 Some Comparisons__

- *Synopsys tools are used to perform logic synthesis.*
- *the implemented VHDL codes for all the 64-bit adders are translated into net list files.*
- *The virtex2 series library, XC2V250-4_avg, is used in those 64-bit adders synthesis and targeting because the area and the propagation delay is suitable for these adders.*
- *After synthesizing, the related power consumption, area, and propagation delay are reported.*
- *From the synthesis, the related FPGA layout schematic is reported.*

Synthesis result parameter comparison listings:

Primitive Component	Delay (ns)	Area	Power (W)	AT	AT^2	PD
4-bit carry ripple adder	72.1	160	0.8745784	11536	831745.6	63.058
8-bit carry ripple adder	72.1	160	0.8745784	11536	831745.6	63.058
16-bit carry ripple adder	72.1	160	0.8745784	11536	831745.6	63.058
4-bit carry look-ahead adder	93.54	288	1.049	26939.52	2519922	98.12346
8-bit carry look-ahead adder	118.9	302	1.1627	35907.8	4269437	138.25
16-bit carry look-ahead adder	124.3	310	1.1757	38533	4789651	146.14
two-level 8-bit carry look-ahead adder	31.57	434	1.348	13701.38	432552	42.56
4-bit carry select adder	24.72	422.5	1.6351	10444.2	258180	40.42
8-bit carry select adder	20.48	394.5	1.5757	8079.36	165465	32.27
16-bit carry select adder	26	356.5	1.4792	9269	240994	38.4592
Nonlinear Carry select adder	17.94	412	1.6267	7391.28	132599	29.183
4-bit Manchester adder	27.58	256	1.0857	7060.48	194728	29.9436
8-bit Manchester adder	27.58	256	1.0857	7060.48	194728	29.9436
16-bit Manchester adder	27.58	256	1.0857	7060.48	194728	29.9436
16-bit Ladner-Fischer prefix adder	24.79	326	1.23	8081.54	200341	30.4917
16-bit Brent-Kung prefix adder	26.94	290	1.15	7812.6	210471	30.981
16-bit Han-Carlson prefix adder	25.43	326	1.2758	8290.18	210819	32.4436
16-bit Kogge-Stone prefix adder	25.59	428	1.5546	10952.52	280274	39.78
64-bit Kogge-Stone adder	11.97	611	1.919	7313.67	87544	22.97

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