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Reconfigurable Computing Systems Based On Fpga: Advantages and Prospects

Natalya Boiko
ORCID 0000-0002-7524-729X
Department of Media Engineering and Information Radio Electronic Systems
Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics
Kharkiv, Ukraine
natalia.boiko@nure.ua

Anton Sierikov
ORCID 0000-0002-3917-2008
Department of Media Engineering and Information Radio Electronic Systems
Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics
Kharkiv, Ukraine
anton.sierikov1@nure.ua

Abstract— This paper examines the features of reconfigurable computing systems based on Field-Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs). The principles of their operation, key advantages over traditional processor architectures, and promising application areas are analyzed. Particular attention is paid to the use of FPGA technology in artificial intelligence systems, digital signal processing, and high-performance computing.

Keywords: FPGA, reconfigurable computing, embedded systems, hardware acceleration, parallel computing, digital systems.

I. Introduction

The rapid development of information technologies is accompanied by increasing demands for computational performance, energy efficiency, and flexibility of computing systems. Traditional processor architectures are often unable to provide the required level of performance for resource-intensive tasks such as big data processing, machine learning, digital signal processing, and computer vision.

One of the most promising approaches to addressing these challenges is the use of reconfigurable computing systems based on Field-Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs). These systems combine the high performance of specialized hardware with the flexibility of software-configurable architectures.

Unlike conventional processors, whose architecture remains fixed after manufacturing, FPGA devices can be reconfigured to implement different hardware structures depending on the application requirements. This capability allows developers to optimize system performance and energy consumption for specific computational tasks.

II. Features of Reconfigurable Computing

Reconfigurable computing is an approach in which hardware resources can be dynamically adapted to execute specific algorithms more efficiently. Instead of relying on a general-purpose instruction set, FPGA-based systems create dedicated hardware architectures tailored to particular applications.

A typical FPGA consists of:

- Programmable logic blocks;
- Configurable interconnection networks;
- Embedded memory blocks;
- Digital Signal Processing (DSP) units;
- Input/output interface modules.

By configuring these resources, designers can create custom digital circuits optimized for a given task. This approach enables a high degree of parallelism, which significantly improves performance compared to sequential execution on traditional CPUs.

An important characteristic of reconfigurable systems is their ability to modify hardware functionality without replacing physical components. This flexibility makes FPGA-based solutions suitable for a wide variety of applications.

III. Advantages of FPGA-Based Systems

The use of FPGA technology provides several significant advantages.

The first major advantage is parallel processing capability. While traditional processors execute instructions sequentially, FPGA devices can perform numerous operations simultaneously. This feature is particularly beneficial in signal processing, image processing, and scientific computing applications.

Another advantage is architectural flexibility. Developers can create custom hardware accelerators specifically designed for individual algorithms, achieving higher efficiency than general-purpose computing platforms.

Energy efficiency is also a critical benefit. FPGA-based systems often provide better performance-per-watt ratios than CPUs and, in some applications, even outperform graphics processing units (GPUs).

Additional advantages include:

- Reprogrammability;

- Real-time processing capability;
- High reliability;
- Scalability of hardware architectures;
- Long operational lifespan.

These characteristics make FPGA technology attractive for industrial automation, telecommunications, aerospace systems, and defense applications.

IV. Applications of Reconfigurable Computing Systems

One of the primary application areas of FPGA technology is digital signal processing (DSP). FPGA devices are widely used to implement digital filters, Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) algorithms, data compression systems, and communication protocols.

In telecommunications, FPGA-based solutions provide high-speed packet processing, traffic management, and support for modern communication standards such as 5G networks.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning represent another rapidly growing application domain. Neural network inference requires extensive matrix operations and parallel computations. FPGA accelerators can significantly improve the performance and energy efficiency of these operations compared to traditional processor-based implementations.

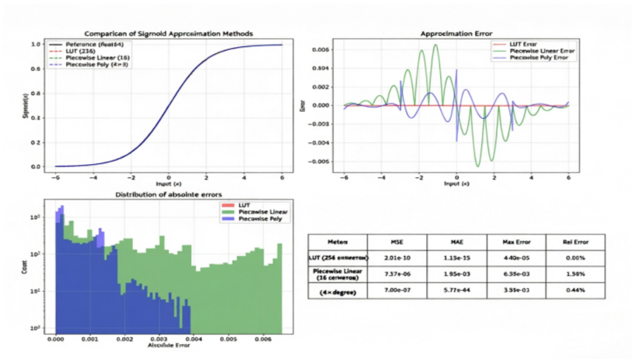

Fig. 1: Comparative analysis of sigmoid function approximation methods.

Computer vision systems also benefit from FPGA technology. Applications such as object recognition, video analytics, autonomous vehicles, and robotics require real-time image processing capabilities that can be efficiently implemented using reconfigurable hardware.

In addition, FPGA devices are increasingly deployed in data centers and cloud computing infrastructures. Major technology companies utilize FPGA accelerators to enhance the performance of search engines, database systems, network services, and AI workloads.

V. Future Prospects of FPGA Technology

Current trends in FPGA development focus on increasing computational performance, reducing power consumption, and simplifying the development process.

One of the most important directions is the introduction of High-Level Synthesis (HLS) tools, which enable hardware development using high-level programming languages such as C++, OpenCL, and Python. This approach significantly reduces development complexity and expands the range of specialists capable of working with FPGA technologies.

Another promising trend is the integration of FPGA devices with artificial intelligence platforms. Modern FPGA manufacturers actively develop specialized architectures optimized for neural network acceleration and machine learning applications.

The growth of cloud computing also contributes to the wider adoption of FPGA technology. Cloud service providers increasingly offer FPGA resources as a service, enabling users to access hardware acceleration without purchasing specialized equipment.

Future developments are expected to include adaptive computing platforms capable of dynamically reconfiguring hardware resources according to workload requirements. Such systems may play a key role in next-generation high-performance computing, Internet of Things (IoT) infrastructures, and cyber-physical systems.

VI. Conclusions

Reconfigurable computing systems based on FPGA technology represent a promising direction in the development of modern computing architectures. They combine high performance, flexibility, and energy efficiency, making them suitable for a wide range of applications.

The main advantages of FPGA devices include customizable hardware architectures, extensive parallel processing capabilities, and the ability to adapt system functionality to specific computational tasks. As high-level development tools continue to evolve and FPGA integration with artificial intelligence technologies expands, reconfigurable computing is expected to play an increasingly important role in both scientific research and industrial applications.

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