

## **UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REAL DATA FAST FOURIER TRANSFORM PROCESSOR ON FIELD PROGRAMMABLE GATES ARRAY

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Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

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## DEDICATIONS

To my parents,

The source of kindliness and love,

I wish I can be your pride.

To my brothers and sisters,

My continuous support and joy.

To my fiancée,

C.

Whose love is a source of inspiration and encouragement.

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Science

## DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REAL DATA FAST FOURIER TRANSFORM PROCESSOR ON FIELD PROGRAMMABLE GATES ARRAY

By

#### MOHAMMED KASSIM AHMED

#### July 2015

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The Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) is an efficient method to achieve the Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) with less number of operations. FFT utilizes the symmetry property in the DFT to calculate the output. For input length of N=2m, FFT requires only  $Nlog_2N$  multiplications instead of the N<sup>2</sup> multiplications needed for the DFT.

Although FFT is mostly used to transform complex values into frequency domain, but still there are cases where the FFT inputs are only real values. In such cases, the transform will unnecessarily use higher power and area to calculate the output.

In order to calculate the DFT efficiently, various FFT algorithms and architectures have been presented. So far, different approaches of achieving FFT for real-valued inputs has been discussed and implemented. However, to the best of author's knowledge, no work has been found so far making direct experimental comparison between these approaches. Therefore, and for accurate comparison, this study aims to investigate the most common algorithms of RFFT on the same device and resources used. In this work, the memorybased FFT processor, based on radix-4 FFT algorithm is implemented on Cyclone II Field Programmable Gates Array (FPGA). In order to program the FPGA, Verilog Hardware Description Language (Verilog HDL) is used. The radix-4 FFT algorithm will be implemented for 64 and 256 points using both 8-bit and 16-bit input width. The results are compared and analyzed in terms of output accuracy and power consumption.

Two main RFFT approaches are discussed in this work. The Butterfly approach is mainly based on cancelling the unnecessary operations while maintaining the same FFT size. The Formula approach, on the other hand, uses a half size complex FFT to perform the full size RFFT. The results show that for 64-points, the Butterfly approach requires 82.95% of the power required by the complex FFT. Similarly, the Formula approach required 83.63% to perform the FFT which is nearly equal to the power required by the butterfly approach. For 256-points, in contrast, the results show that the Formula approach requires only 72.1% of the power required by the complex FFT. This is notably

fewer than the 76.62% required by the Butterfly approach. Additionally, the results show that the 8-bit input data width saves a lot of power with a slightly higher error rate compared to the 16-bit width. Therefore, unless high output accuracy is essential, the 8-bit can be efficiently adopted for FFT input.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master Sains

## REKA BENTUK DAN IMPLEMENTASI JELMAAN FOURIER PANTAS DATA NYATA ATAS TATASUSUNAN LOGIK BOLEH ATURCARA MEDAN

Oleh

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Jelmaaan Fourier pantas (FFT) adalah satu kaedah yang cekap untuk mengira jelmaan Fourier diskret (DFT) dengan jumlah operasi yang lebih kecil. FFT menggunakan ciri kesimetrian dalam FFT untuk mengira keluaran. Bagi masukan dengan panjang N = 2m, FFT hanya memerlukan  $Nlog_2N$  pendaraban-pendaraban manakala DFT memerlukan  $N^2$  pendaraban-pendaraban.

Walaupun sebahagian besar FFT diperlukan untuk menjelmakan nilai-nilai kompleks ke dalam domain frekuensi, tetapi masih terdapat kes-kes di mana masukan FFT adalah nilai-nilai nyata sahaja. Dalam kes-kes tersebut, penjelmaan berkenaan akan menggunakan lebih kuasa yang tidak perlu untuk mengira keluaran.

Dalam usaha untuk mengira DFT secara cekap, pelbagai algoritma dan senibina FFT telah dibentangkan. Setakat ini, pendekatan-pendekatan untuk mengira FFT bagi masukan-masukan nyata telah dibincangkan dan dilaksanakan. Walau bagaimapun, sepanjang pengetahuan terbaik penulis, tiada penyelidikan yang dijumpai setakat ini yang membuat pembandingan ujikaji secara langsung di antara pendekatan-pendekatan tersebut. Oleh yang demikian, untuk perbandingan yang tepat, kajian ini bertujuan untuk menyelidik algorithma-algorithma yang paling biasa bagi RFFT atas peranti dan sumber-sumber yang sama digunakan. Dalam kajian ini, pemproses FFT berasakan ingatan, berdasarkan radiks-4 dilaksanakan atas Cyclone II tatasusunan logic boleh aturcara medan (FPGA). Bagi tujuan memprogram FPGA, bahasa perihalan perkakasan verilog (verilog HDL) telah digunakan. Algorithma untuk radiks-4 FFT akan dilaksanakan bagi 64 dan 256 titik menggunakan kedua-dua masukan 8-bit dan 16-bit lebar. Keputusan-keputusan dianalisa dan dibanding dari segi ketepatan keluaran dan penggunaan kuasa.

 $\bigcirc$ 

Dua pendekatan RFFT yang utama dibincangkan dalam kajian ini. Pendekatan kupukupu adalah berdasarkan kepada keutamaan pembatalan operasi-operasi yang tidak perlu sementara mengekalkan saiz FFT. Pendekatan formula, menggunakan separuh saiz FFT kompleks untuk melaksanakan RFFT saiz penuh. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa 64titik FFT, pendekatan kupu-kupu memerlukan 82.95% daripada kuasa yang diperlukan oleh FFT kompleks. Begitu juga, pendekatan formula memerlukan 83.63% untuk melaksanakan FFT, di mana ianya hampir sama dengan kuasa yang diperlukan oleh pendekatan kupu-kupu. Bagi 256-titik, keputusan-keputusan menunjukkan sebaliknya bahawa pendekatan formula hanya memerlukan 72.1% daripada kuasa yang diperlukan oleh FFT kompleks. Ianya jelas kurang daripada 76.62% yang diperlukan oleh pendekatan kupu-kupu. Tambahan pula, keputusan-keputusan menunjukkan masukan 8-bit lebar menjimatkan banyak kuasa dengan kadar ralat yang lebih tinggi sedikit berbanding dengan masukan 16-bit lebar. Oleh yang demikian, jika bukan ketepatan keluaran adalah lebih utama, masukan 8-bit lebar boleh diterima pakai untuk masukan FFT yang berkesan.



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASIC CPU DET	Application-Specific Integrated Circuit Central Processing Unit
DFI DIF	Discrete Fourier Transform Decimation In Frequency
DIT	Decimation In Time
DSP	Digital Signal Processing
FFT	Fast Fourier Transform
FPGA	Field Programmable Gates Array
FSM	Finite State Machine
RFFT	Real Fast Fourier Transform



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## **CHAPTER 1**

## INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Nowadays, one of the most significant operations in digital signal processing (DSP) is the Discrete Fourier transform (DFT). Due to the effectiveness of the convolutional property, the DFT is frequently used in linear filtering which exists in a wide range of applications, for instance, quantum mechanics (Walker, 1996), noise reduction (Krasny and Oraintara, 1998), and image reconstruction (Jain, 1989). However, even the finite length DFT signal requires a relatively unaffordable computations in order to be completed. Particularly, for an input signal of length N, its DFT direct calculation will need N<sup>2</sup> complex multiplications. However, Cooley and Tukey proposed the fast Fourier transform (FFT), which will calculate the DFT effectively with only N\*log<sub>2</sub>N operations (Cooley and Tukey, 1965). It is one of the widely used algorithms in digital signal processing (He and Torkelson, 1998; Oppenheim et al., 1989). Since the FFT reemergence in 1965, a lot of researches and developments have been made to extend and enhance Cooley and Tukey's original contribution.

Along with that, there has been an increasing interest in the computation of FFT for real valued signals (RFFT). Since virtually most of the physical signals are real. The real valued signals are of major significance in real-time signal processing. It plays an important role in different fields such as communication systems, biomedical applications, sensors and radar signal processing. Having the conjugate symmetry will cause a large number of unneeded operations. This property could be used to reduce the dissipated power and the system.

On the other hand, due to the rapid growth of FPGA technology, it is widely used in the DSP field nowadays. It has a flexible architecture that can be reconfigured according to user's project requirements to proficiently calculate definite algorithms. Its high capacity and performance along with the low cost makes it the perfect choice for FFT processors.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

In order to implement an efficient FFT processor on FPGA, the design must be simple yet satisfactory. Simpler systems will obviously utilize less hardware resources and consume less power. To achieve a simple and sufficient design, both FFT algorithm and architecture must be designed competently.

To improve the FFT algorithm for real inputs, several searches have been done. The most recent ones where done by (Ayinala and Parhi, 2013; Ayinala et al., 2013; Glittas and Lakshminarayanan, 2014; Salehi et al., 2013; Zode et al., 2014).

So far, many approaches were presented by researchers to achieve the FFT of real data. Among these approaches, there are two main approaches that were recently used by researchers. The first approach is based on eliminating the redundant calculations and calculating half of the output values since the other half of values are the complex conjugates of the first half (Chu and George, 1999). The second approach relies on calculating an N-point real-valued FFT using N/2-point complex FFT, with only few extra operations to retain the N length output. Therefore, it is necessary to implement both approaches on the FPGA and compare them with the results of the complex FFT processor. These comparison results can be used to decide the suitable approach which offers the most efficient processor.

Similarly, improvements on the FFT architecture are also necessary for an efficient processor. Additionally, choosing a suitable word-length for both data and twiddle factors is one of the most important steps in the FFT processor design. A trade-off between the accuracy and power must be done and decided by the designer.

## **1.3** Objectives of the research

The aim of this research is to design an efficient FFT processor for real-valued inputs. To achieve this aim, the following steps are intended:

- 1- To assess the RFFT algorithms and choose the most powerful one by implementing the complex FFT and the real FFTs on FPGA.
- 2- To identify a suitable trade-off between input word-length, output accuracy, and power dissipation by designing FFT for 8-bit and 16-bit input word length.

## 1.4 Research scope

This research aims to design RFFT processors of the most commonly used RFFT algorithms. No new algorithms are proposed, but the current algorithms are compared and implemented on FPGA. The FFT is designed based on Radix 4 algorithm for both 64 and 256 points. Two systems were designed using 8-bit and 16-bit input word-length. While 16-bit word length is used for twiddle factors.

The processor speed is set to the maximum of the Altera DE2C70 FPGA frequency which is 50 MHz. No external clocks are used, so the FPGA PLLs are not utilized. The Accuracy of the system is measured from the hardware implementation for real results. While the power is measured using Altera PowerPlay power analyzer tool.

#### 1.5 **Research scope**

This thesis is basically divided into five chapters:

Chapter 1: This chapter involves general background to the field of the research. Then it explains the problem statement and the research objectives to solve the research problem. Finally, the scope of the work is discussed in this chapter.

Chapter 2: This chapter presents a literature review to the previous researches related to the field of the study. It will discuss the FFT algorithm and FFT architecture. The RFFT is also discussed in details with some information about FPGAs.

Chapter 3: This chapter discusses the methodology used to reach the research objectives. It starts with designing the FFT processor. After that, the FFT algorithms are being validated and implemented on the processor for different N-point values. Finally, the FFT output values are verified to decide if the system is working properly.

Chapter 4: This chapter will discuss the results and findings of the research work.

Chapter 5: This chapter will conclude the research work and some future works are suggested.



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