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COMBINED ARCHITECTURE OF GENETIC DATA AND SIMULATED ANNEALING

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Abstract—This paper discusses novel dedicated hardwarearchitecture for hybrid optimization based on Genetic algorithm (GA) and Simulated Annealing (SA). The proposed architecture achieves high speed processing. Moreover, it achieves the searching not only globally, but also locally. To keep general purpose, self-control processing by a handshake system is introduced. By adopting the handshake system, the proposed architecture can be applied to various combinatorial optimization problems by only changing an encoder, a decoder, and an evaluation circuit. Furthermore, the proposed architecture realizes flexibility for many genetic operations on GA. In order to evaluate the proposed architecture, we conduct two kinds of experiments. One is an experiment which applies the proposed architecture to TSP, and the other is an experiment which applies it to VLSI floor planning. These experiment results prove that the proposed architecture achieves high speed processing, while keeping the quality of the solutions.

Keywords - Genetic algorithm, Simulated annealing, dedicated hardware, General-purpose properties

I. Introduction

Genetic Algorithm (GA)[1] was proposed by Holland as an algorithm for probabilistic search, learning, and optimization, and is based in part on the mechanism of biological evolution and Darwin's theory of evolution. This algorithm is a powerful search tool, particularly when applied for combinatorial optimization problems[2]-[7]. However, the implementation of an efficient GA often faces two major problems, on one side, the premature convergence to local optima and on the other the requirements for the GA search of long times in order to reach an optimal or a good suboptimal solution.

In order to prevent the premature convergence, the coupling of GA and one point search algorithm (local search algorithm), such as Simulated Annealing (SA)[8]-[11], to form hybrid GA can be advantageous. SA repeatedly generates succeeding solutions using the local search procedure. Some of them are accepted and some will be rejected, according to a predefined acceptance rule. The acceptance rule is motivated by an analogy with annealing processes in metallurgy as shown in Fig.1 (a).On the other hand, GA repeatedly propagates generations for a large population by applying three operators, which consist of selection, crossover and mutation as shown in Fig.1 (b). Therefore, GA requires the long computational time. The dedicated hardware for genetic algorithm processing is an important in order to reduce processing time.

In this paper, we propose the new dedicated hardware architecture for hybrid optimization based on GA and SA. It achieves the searching not only globally, but also locally. To keep general purpose, self-control processing by a handshake system is introduced. By adopting the handshake system, the proposed hardware can be applied to various combinatorial optimization problems by only

changing an encoder, a decoder, and an evaluation circuit. Furthermore, the proposed hardware realizes flexibility for many genetic operations on GA. In order to evaluate the proposed hardware, we conduct two kinds of experiments. One is an experiment that applies the proposed hardware to TSP, and the other is an experiment that applies it to VLSI floor planning. These experiment results prove that the proposed hardware achieves high speed processing, while keeping the quality of solutions.

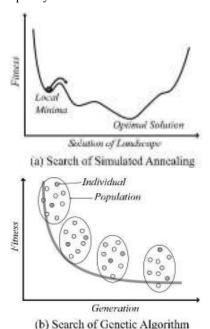


Fig.1 One point search and population based search

II. Preliminaries

A. Traveling Salesman Problem and coding

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Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP)[12],[13] is one of the most basic combinatorial optimization problems. Regarding TSP, given a set of *n* cities and the travel cost between each pair of cities (usually distance), the salesman is to visit each once, and finally return to the start city. Therefore, a solution is an order of visiting the cities. Fig.2 shows an example of coding in TSP.

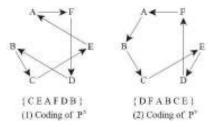


Fig.2 Example of coding in TSP

Here, if one-point crossover and multi-point crossover are adopted in this coding, it generates many lethal genes. Fig.3 shows an example of the one-point crossover procedure and the offspring generated by the crossover.

In relation to one offspring (C^X) , genes of "C" and "E" are overlapped, and conversely genes of "D" and "F" are lacked in this example. The overlap and lack indicate lethal genes. The other offspring (C^Y) is also the lethal genes as well as C^X . In case of C^Y , genes of "D" and "F" are overlapped, and conversely genes of "C" and "E" are lacked. Therefore, several crossover operators were proposed in order to prevent generating lethal genes.

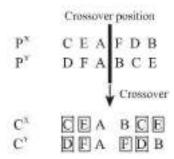


Fig.3 Example of one-point crossover

Grefenstette*et al.* [14] proposed a coding technique using a visiting city list which is created as preprocessing. An individual is represented by an order of a list instead of city name. Fig.4 shows an example of an encode procedure of Grefenstette's approach, before crossover operation. And then, Fig.5 shows an example of one-point crossover using the encoded chromosomes. Thus, it can prevent generating lethal genes if one-point crossover and multipoint crossover are adopted. A decode procedure also requires after crossover operation. Fig.6 shows an example of the decode procedure.

The acceptance rule is motivated by an analogy with annealing processes in metallurgy as shown in Fig.1 (a).On

the other hand, GA repeatedly propagates generations for a large population by applying three operators, which consist of selection, crossover and mutation as shown in Fig.1 (b). Therefore, GA requires the long computational time. The dedicated hardware for genetic algorithm processing is an important in order to reduce processing time. Regarding TSP, given a set of n cities and the travel cost between each pair of cities (usually distance), the salesman is to visit each once, and finally return to the start city. Therefore, a solution is an order of visiting the cities. Fig.2 shows an example of coding in TSP.

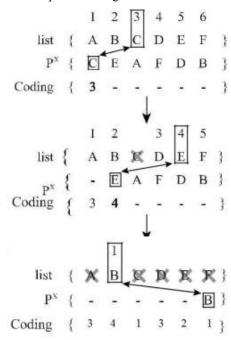


Fig.4 Example of preprocessing of Grefenstette's approach



Fig.5 Example of one-point crossover using encoded chromosomes

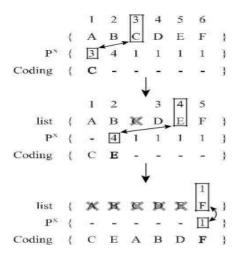


Fig.6 Example of decode procedure

B.VLSI floorplanning problem

Floorplanning[3],[15] is a generalization of the placement problem in VLSI building block layout, and it determines the coarse placement for the given set of modules. The objective of floorplanning is that (1) no modules overlap, (2) the packing area and interconnection costs are minimized. The sequence pair [15] was proposed as a representation method of floorplanning, achieving a measure success.

A sequence pair is an ordered pair of Γ + and Γ -, where each of Γ + and Γ - is a permutation of the names of given n blocks. Fig.7 shows a floorplan and a relative position of each block of one. Given (Γ +, Γ -), one the optimal packing under the constraint can be obtained by applying the well known "longest path algorithm" for vertex weighted directed acyclic graphs (horizontal and vertical constraint graph) as shown in Fig.8.

C. Previous work

Examples of dedicated GA hardware to reduce processing time have been reported by Scott *et al.*[16], Graham *etal.*[17], and Imai *et al.*[18]. Scott *et al.* developed ahardware-based GA and demonstrated its superiority to software in speed and solution quality. Imai *et al.* proposed a processor element constituting parallel GA, and achieved the parallelism due to the number effect.

However, most of these previous works deal with small-scaled problems and limit to some fixed genetic operations. Thus, no studies have been performed to develop a dedicated hardware to realize hybrid searches that combine GA with SA.

III. Architecture Methodology

The proposed hardware has several merits: (1) hybrid optimization of GA and SA, (2) realization of high general-purpose properties, (3) introduction of a hardware-oriented hybrid algorithm, and (4) adoption of an architecture combining GA and SA.

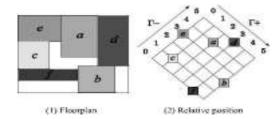


Fig.7 Example of a floorplan and a relative position

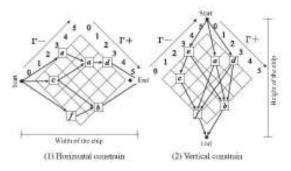


Fig.8 Examples of constrain graphs

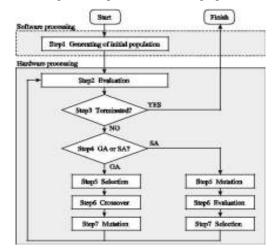


Fig.9 Processing flow of the proposed hardware

VII. Experiment And Discussion

To evaluate the proposed hardware, we applied it to TSP problem and VLSI floorplanning problem. The proposed hardware has been designed by Verilog-HDL and synthesized by the SynplicitySynplify. The clock frequency of the proposed hardware is set up with 20 MHz. Table.1 shows the gate size. EBS indicates memory blocks of FPGA in Table.1.

We simulate the performance of the proposed hardware with the number of steps and compare it with software

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processing. The experimental data of TSP problem is TSP.LIB benchmark data (eil51:51 cities), and that of VLSI floorplanning is original data(50 blocks).

The software processing was implemented in the C language and run on a Linux PC. The clock frequency of the Linux PC is 2.4GHz. In these experiments, both the software processing and the hardware processing run until the 2000th loops in SA and the 2000th generation in GA.

Table.2 shows the comparison results. In TSP problem, the proposed hardware improved the speed of 22% in comparison with software processing. Moreover, in VLSI floorplanning problem, it achieved seven times speed-up compared with software processing. The clock frequency is 20MHz for a limit of FPGA in this research. However, the proposed hardware is speeded up more, if it is implemented on LSI (Large Scale Integration).

VIII. Conclusion

In this paper, we proposed the new hardware architecture for hybrid optimization based on Genetic Algorithm and Simulated Annealing. The hybrid optimization of GA and SA in the proposed hardware achieved searching not only globally but also locally. To keep general purpose, the proposed hardware realized flexibility for many genetic operations on GA. Moreover, the gate size of the proposed hardware was reduced by adopting the combine architecture of GA and as SA. Simulation results proved that the proposed hardware achieved high speed processing as compared with software processing.

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