

RFID BASED BOOK TRACKING IN LIBRARIES: USING BICAM

¹Sree L Devan, ²Deepa V S, ³Ayoob Khan T E

¹MTech Student College of Engineering Chengannur,

^{2,3}Associate Professor College of Engineering Chengannur,

Abstract - Content-addressable memory (CAM) is a special kind of search engine which is used for high speed search engine in hardware. CAM provides output typically in one clock cycle. When we consider the cost there have some disadvantages like high latency, low storage density, and low architectural scalability. In field- programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), are used in many applications. The main advantage is that it does not have hard IPs for CAM. These architectures are targeted for Ternary CAMs. Modern FPGAs are enriched with logical resources. Logic-based high performance BiCAM architecture (LH-CAM) using Xilinx FPGA. The proposed CAM is composed of CAM words and comparators. A sample of LH-CAM of size 16 × 8 is implemented on Xilinx Spartan 3 FPGA.

Key Words: Binary CAM, FPGA, higher performance, logic-based CAM, RAM-based CAM.

1 INTRODUCTION

Content-addressable memory (CAM) is a special kind of memory which is used for high speed search engine for hardware, search input data against the stored data typically in one clock cycle. In random- access memory (RAM), the search is based on contents rather than on an address. CAM has two types, based on its storing and searching ability–binary CAM (BiCAM) and ternary CAM (TCAM). BiCAM is for exact matching which stores and searches two states–0 and 1, but in TCAM, it stores and searches three states–0, 1, and don't care state. TCAM is used for partial matching. In this paper we will be discussing about BiCAM.

BiCAMs are designed in application-specific integrated circuits (ASIC) and it offer high speed comparison. So they are used in several applications like data encryption, cache tags, fire-walls, and Ethernet address lookup. BiCAM is composed of CAM cells arranged in a 2D array. Each cell has a static RAM cell as well as compactor. In addition to bit-lines and word-lines, CAM has search-lines (SLs) and match-lines (MLs) to support in cell comparison. MLs are fed to an encoder, which provides the matched address. A simple block diagram of BiCAM is shown in fig 1.

The input to the system is the search word. The search word is broadcast on the search lines. Match lines indicates if there were a match between the search and stored word. Encoder specifies the match location. If multiple matches occur the priority encoder selects the first match.

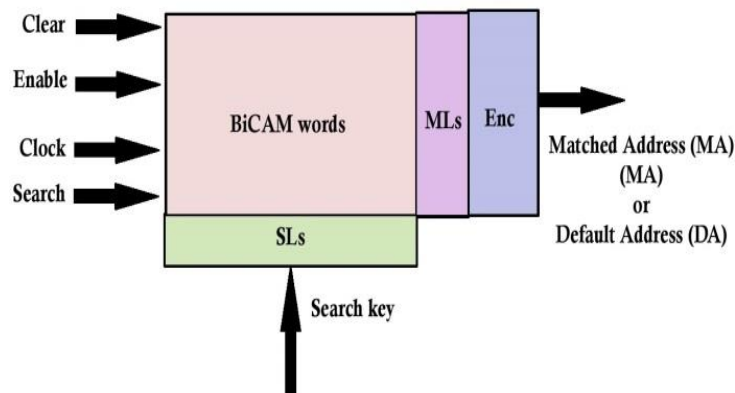


Fig.1. Block diagram of BiCAM. (ML: Match-line, SL: Search-line, Enc: Encoder).

2 PRIOR WORK BASED ON RAM-BASED CAM

In the CAM presented in [3] works only if CAM words are ascendingly ordered. If there is any increase by a single bit in the CAM word then the memory need to be increased. If the CAM is of size 512×36 , which cannot implemented in FPGA. RAM based CAM in [8] have some disadvantages that is the CAM technology, partitioning method is complex and also it takes longer time for the searching. Because of the traditional CAM these RAM based CAM are not implemented in FPGA. Some CAM is implemented in FPGA but they are slow and have speed of only 50 MHz. Hash based CAMs in [2] and [3] have some drawbacks that it have collision and bucket overflow. Hash based CAM uses the pre-processing method and mapping method which it makes the CAM more time consuming. Rehashing is expensive if it is implemented in hardware. For a typical RAM based CAM consumes several clock cycles, non-deterministic throughput and inefficient memory usage. In SRL 16E-based CAM consumes 16 clock cycles for the write operation which is very slow. Search latency for Xilinx CAM is lengthy and the data mapping is also time consuming it slows the table formation. RAM based CAM are typically for TCAMs and can also be used for BiCAMs. BiCAM will not reduce the memory resources when compared with TCAMs.

3 LOGIC-BASED HIGHER PERFORMANCE BINARY CONTENT ADDRESSABLE MEMORY

The architecture of the binary content addressable memory is shown in Fig 2. It consists of 2D array of CAM cells. These 2D arrays are called the logic cells (LCs). Each logic cell is of one bit which contains one bit storage and one bit comparator. The RTL for single logic cell is shown in fig 3.2. For the storage D flip-flop is used and for the comparator XNOR is used. LCs in the same row is connected to the Match line (ML). LCs connected to the same ML is defined as or grouped as C-bit vector. Where C represents the total number of bits in a CAM word. The MLs are equal to the MLs in the traditional CAM. MLs are connected to the encoder (Enc). Enc is used to encode the input and gives the Matched Address (MA) as the output otherwise is gives the Default Address (DA). BiCAM is used for the exact matching so if there is any mismatch in single bit it will give the DA as the output.

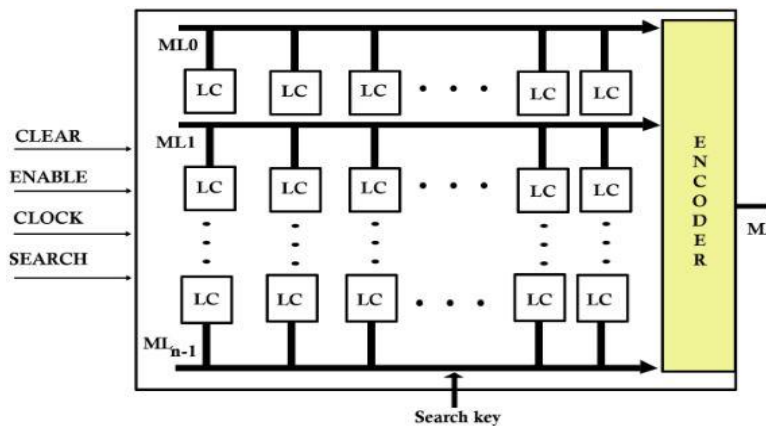


Fig 2 LH: CAM Block diagram.

The search key is given as the input and the output is the MA or DA. In this single logic cell the “v” denotes the stored word and the “c” denotes the search key to the CAM. The block diagram for the single logic cell is given in the Fig 4.

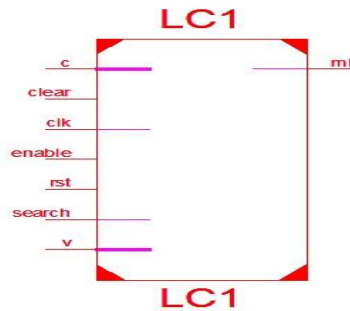


Fig 3 RTL of single logic cell.

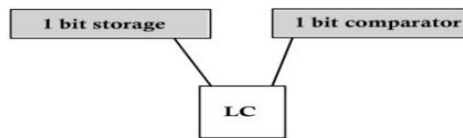


Fig 4 Single block diagram for LC.

A) Mapping operation

Here the portioning and pre-processing is not needed. It is much simpler and straight forward. The mapping algorithm is shown in Fig 5. This algorithm shows the mapping of a conventional CAM table to LH-CAM table. If the CAM word is of 36 bits then a 36 bit vector of FFs is required to hold the 36 bit CAM word. Example for the mapping operation is given in Table 1. From the table CW_0 is mapped to V_0 , CW_1 to V_1 ,... CW_{n-1} is mapped to V_{n-1} . Updating BiCAM means adding or deleting the CAM word. Updating complexity of LH-CAM is $O(1)$ when comparing with the previous work.

Algorithm 1 Mapping algorithm

- 1: Input: A typical BiCAM table
- 2: Output: The LH-CAM table
- 3: **for** $I \leftarrow 0$ to $N - 1$ **do**
- 4: Map CAM_i of a typical BiCAM to V_i of the LH-CAM
- 5: **end for**

Fig 5 Algorithm for mapping operation[1]

Table 1 Example for the mapping operation from BiCAM to LH-CAM[1].

Address	MLs	Typical BiCAM		The LH-CAM	
		CAM Words		Storage vectors	
0	ML_0	CAM_0	000101	V_0	000101
1	ML_1	CAM_1	000111	V_1	000111
2	ML_2	CAM_2	001111	V_2	001111
3	ML_3	CAM_3	100101	V_3	100101

B) Searching Operation

The algorithm for searching operation for the LH CAM is shown in Fig 6. The input to the CAM is search key. Search key simultaneously compared with all the stored CAM words or vectors V_i where $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n-1$. The output will be a MA. These are accessed in parallel the time complexity for searching is $O(1)$. Each logic cell has its own comparator. Search key and stored CAM words are compared by bit by bit basis. When the search key is fully matched the ML will be high. If there is any mismatch in a single bit; the match line becomes low. In the case of match MA is sent to output otherwise DA is sent to output.

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Algorithm 2 Searching algorithm
1: Input: C-bit search key
2: Output: Matching address (MA) / default address (DA)
3: Search vectors  $V_i$  concurrently,  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots,$  and  $N - 1$ 
4: if Search key matches any  $V_i$  then
5:     Match occurs and MA is sent to output
6: else
7:     Mismatch occurs and DA is sent to output
8: end if
    
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Fig 6 Algorithm for searching operation[1]

C) Result and Performance Evaluation.

The BiCAM is coded in Verilog HDL. The simulation tool used is Xilinx ISE design suit 14.2. The output for the given BiCAM is shown in the Fig 7.

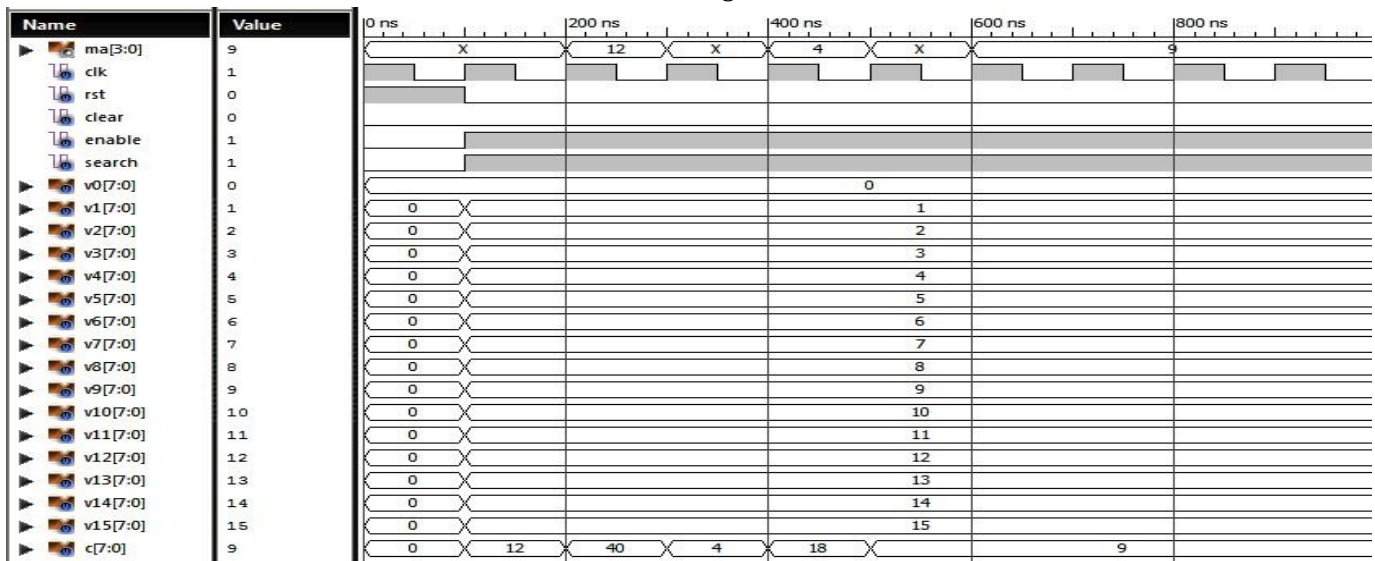


Fig 7 Simulation result for the BiCAM

The output figure shows the behavior of a BiCAM. The search bit is defined as “c” and the stored words in the CAM are denoted as “v” each of them is of 8 bit. The output is defined as “ma”. When the search key (c) is given to the CAM then the output is given out from the encoder. For example from the given waveform; initially all are set to zero and the reset pin is set low. Then the search key $c = 12$ is given, the CAM searches for the given input to each and every stored words. If any words match the ML will be high and the other ML will become low. Here the given search key 12 matches to the stored word then the output gives the location of the stored word. For the mismatch case; here the given search key is 40 which is not in the stored word so the output will be default.

4 PROPOSED SYSTEM

A) Architecture

The basic architecture for the system is given in the Fig 8. RFID reader and card is used to read the book code. The specified code is given to each and every book and each code is unique. The RFID reads the input and given to the decoder. Decoder helps to decode the value and gives the input to the BiCAM and the process inside the CAM is same as in [1]. If the book code is matched then the book location is given out through the encoder. When the book is not available it shows the non-availability of the book. The main advantage of this system is that; it is time consuming for searching the book. The disadvantage is the librarian should arrange the book according to the specified location. The search latency is one clock cycle.

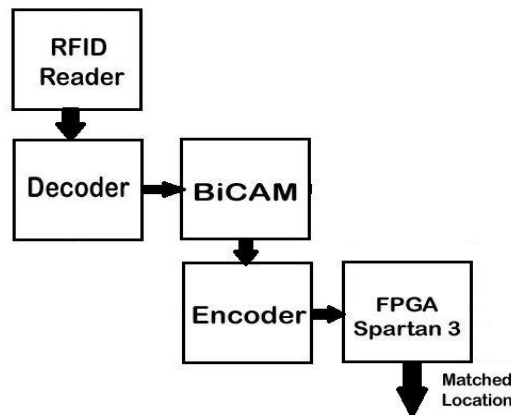


Fig 8 Basic block diagram of the proposed system

The system is successfully implemented on Xilinx Spartan 6 device xc6slx9 with -2 speed. The system arrangement is give in Fig 9. The RFID module is connected to the FPGA kit. The ground pin in the RFID is connected to the FPGA ground. The transmitter pin in RFID is connected to the receiver pin in the FPGA. The 5V supply is given to the RFID module. The card value is stored in the BiCAM. Decoder is used to converts a binary information from an n coded input to a maximum of 2^n unique outputs. Decoders are widely used in several applications like demultiplexing, seven segment display and memory address decoding. Serial in parallel out shift register (SIPO) is used to convert the data from serial format to the parallel format. Encoder is reverse to the decoder which converts 2^n input to an n output. Here the priority encoder is used. According to the priority the output is given out. The flow chart for the process is shown in Fig 10.

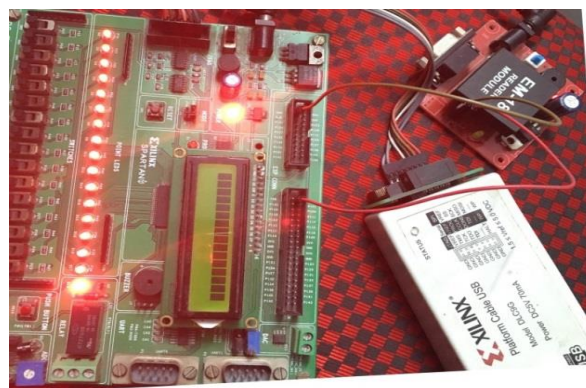


Fig 9 Implementation setup.

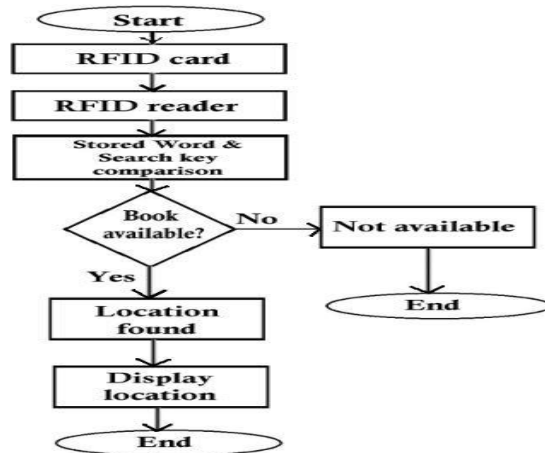


Fig 10 Flow Chart for the proposed system.

Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter (UART) is used to transmit and receive the data. The transmitting UART converts the parallel data to a serial to the receiving UART. In order to receive the data correctly the transmitter and receiver must agree on the baud rate. The baud rate is the rate at which the data are transmitted to the receiver. Here the baud rate is 9600 bps. The FPGA continuously samples the line. FPGA knows whether the input is coming because it sees the line transition from high to low. First transition indicates the start bit; if the start bit is found the FPGA waits for the half of a bit period, to sample the line.

B) Performance Evaluation Result.

The code is simulated using Xilinx ISE Design Suit 14.2 and the waveform is obtained. The output is shown in the Fig 11. When the input 11 is given as the book code. The 11 is stored in the location one. So the output is given out after two clock cycle. So the searching latency is 2 clock cycle. The 0 is not stored in the BiCAM then it shows the default address. When the book is out of stock then the hit signal become high; which indicates that the book is not available.

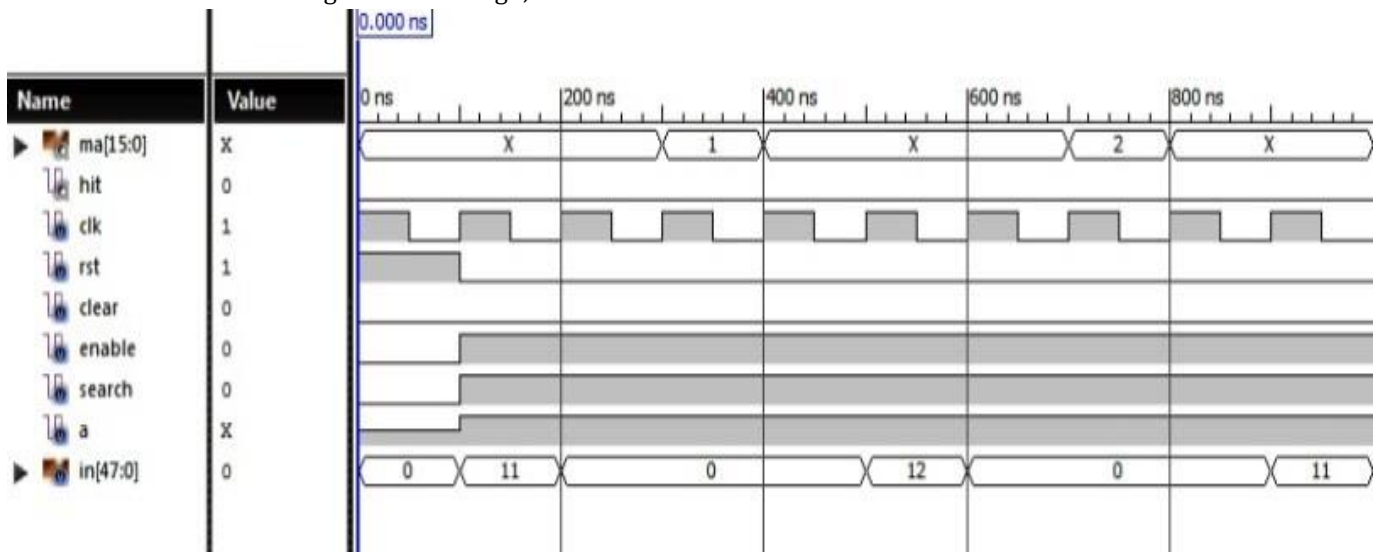


Fig 11. output waveform of the proposed system

5 CONCLUSION

The conventional BiCAM becomes more complex and slower because of the extra capacitive MLs and SLs. By this the throughput is limited by lengthy clock cycle Where for the proposed BiCAM is consist of faster vector and flexible registers. The throughput is higher. FPGA has architectural support so that it is successfully implemented. If multiple vectors are accessed in parallel to provided enough I/Os which increases the writing operation faster. If enough I/Os are available on FPGA then multiple CAM words can be mapped simultaneously. Performance evaluation shows that storage is efficient, updating the BiCAM is simpler, and preprocessing is not needed. This BiCAM is used for tracking the books in libraries so that the students or others can easily access the book. It is time consuming. The only disadvantage is that the book should be kept in the correct place. The searching and updating complexity is $O(1)$.

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