

Implementation of Optimal Investment Problem on a Linear Systolic Array

T. Z. Mirković, D. Ć. Dolićanin, I. Ž. Milovanović, E. I. Milovanović

Abstract: One of the main problems in operational research is the problem of optimal investments. This paper describes a procedure for synthesis a linear systolic array that implements the algorithm for solving a problem of optimal investments. The performances of the obtained array, including execution time, number of processing elements, speed-up and efficiency are then discussed.

Keywords: Systolic arrays, optimal investments problem

1 Introduction

One of the main problems in operational research is the problem of optimal investments. The goal is to determine the distribution of a budget of n units of money to m , $m \leq n$, investment programs and achieve maximum benefit. For each investment program the benefit is known in advance if quantity of i , $0 \leq i \leq n$, units of money is invested in it. The benefits are defined by the corresponding rectangular matrix $M = (a_{ri})_{m \times n+1}$, of nonnegative numbers. The element a_{ri} denotes the benefit achieved by the r -th investment program if $i - 1$ units of money is invested in it. Solving problem of optimal investment can be expressed as a transformation of matrix $M = (a_{ri})_{m \times n+1}$ into matrix $\bar{M} = (\bar{a}_{ri})_{m \times n+1}$, whose last row represents the solution of a given problem. This transformation can be described as [1]:

$$\bar{a}_{r,n+2-i} = \max_k \{a_{r,k}, \bar{a}_{r-1,n+3-k-1}\} \quad (1)$$

for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, n+1$, $k = 1, 2, \dots, n+2-i$ and $r = 2, 3, \dots, m$. The initial values are $\bar{a}_{1i} \equiv a_{1i}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n+1$.

Computational tasks can be conceptually classified into two families: compute-bound computations and I/O-bound computations [2]. For example, matrix multiplication represents compute bound computation. On the other hand, adding two matrices is I/O-bound

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task. A problem of optimal investments falls into the category of compute-bound tasks. Speeding-up a compute-bound computations can often be accomplished in a relatively simple and inexpensive manner, that is by the systolic approach, without increasing I/O requirements. Systolic arrays (SA) are high-performance, special purpose architectures typically used to meet specific application requirements or to off-load computations that are especially taxing to general purpose computers. The major features of adopting SA for special purpose processing architectures are: simple and regular design, concurrency, near-neighbour communication and balancing computations with the I/O. A systolic system is a network of processing elements (PEs) that rhythmically compute and pass data through the system. Once a data item is brought from the memory, it can be used effectively in each PE as it passes while being "pumped" from cell to cell along the array.

2 Synthesis of the basic systolic array

The first step in systolic array synthesis is constructing a systolic algorithm for a given problem [3]-[6]. Therefore we have to construct The systolic algorithm for the computations defined by (1).

The computations in (1) are identical with respect to r , and are repeated $m-1$ times. Therefore we will describe the synthesis of a bidirectional SA for some fixed r . Without affecting the generality we take $r = 2$. We will denote this array as the basic one. Having this in mind and in order to simplify the denotation, we introduce the following indication

$$\bar{a}_{2,n+2-i} = c_{n+2-i}, \quad \bar{a}_{1,n+3-i-k} = b_{n+3-i-k}, \quad a_{2,k} = a_k,$$

for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, n+1$, and $k = 1, 2, \dots, n+2-i$. Now, we can rewrite (1), for $r=2$, in the form of recurrence relation

$$c_{n+2-i}^{(k)} = \max_k \{c_{n+2-i}^{(k-1)}, a_k + b_{n+3-i-k}\} \quad (2)$$

where $c_{n+2-i}^{(0)} \equiv 0$, for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, n+1$.

The corresponding systolic algorithm has the following form

Algorithm_1

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for  $k := 1$  to  $n+1$  do
  for  $i := 1$  to  $k$  do
     $a(i, 1, k) := a(i, 0, k)$ ;
     $b(i, 1, k) := b(i-1, 1, k)$ ;
     $c(i, 1, k) := \max\{c(i, 1, k-1), a(i, 1, k) + b(i, 1, k)\}$ 
  endfor $\{i, k\}$ .

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The computational structure of the above algorithm is determined by the inner computation space

$$P_{int} = \{(i, 1, k) \mid 1 \leq i \leq k, 1 \leq k \leq n+1\} \quad (3)$$

where data are used or computed, and a dependency matrix which consists of a set of constant dependency vectors

$$D = [\vec{e}_b^3 \quad \vec{e}_a^3 \quad \vec{e}_c^3] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

each of them representing a data dependency corresponding to the one of the variables b, a and c , respectively.

The space of initial computations of Algorithm_1, $P_{in} = \{P_{in}(a) \cup P_{in}(b) \cup P_{in}(c)\}$ is defined as follows

$$\begin{aligned} P_{in}(a) &= \{(i, 0, k) \mid 1 \leq i \leq k, 1 \leq k \leq n+1\} \\ P_{in}(b) &= \{(0, 1, k) \mid 1 \leq k \leq n+1\} \\ P_{in}(c) &= \{(i, 1, k) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n+1\} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

The bidirectional SA that implements Algorithm_1 is obtained by projecting computational structure of the algorithm (D, P_{int}) along the projection vector $\vec{\mu} = [1 \ 0 \ 1]^T$ (see for example [5]-[7]). Such the array is not optimal with respect to the number of processing elements (PE) for a given problem size. In order to optimize the array, we have to accommodate both the inner computation space P_{int} and the space of initial computations P_{in} to the projection direction $\vec{\mu}$. This is achieved by mapping $H = (F, G)$ (see for example [7]-[9]) which maps P_{int} into P_{int}^* , i.e.

$$P_{int} \xrightarrow{T} P_{int}^*$$

The mapping H is defined as

$$[u \ 1 \ v]^T = F \cdot [i \ 1 \ k]^T + G = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} i \\ 1 \\ k \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} i \\ 1 \\ k+i-1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ and $k = 1, 2, \dots, n+1$. Here $[i \ 1 \ k]^T$ is an index point in the space P_{int} , while $[u \ 1 \ v]^T$ is an index point in the accommodated space P_{int}^* . Similarly, the space of initial computations P_{in} is mapped into P_{in}^* . For the index points in P_{in}^* we introduce the following periodicity

$$a(i, 0, k+n+1) \equiv a(i, 0, k), \quad b(0, 1, k+n+1) \equiv b(0, 1, k), \quad c(i, 1, k+n+1) \equiv c(i, 1, k).$$

Now, the bidirectional SA that implements Algorithm_1 is obtained by mapping computational structure (P_{int}^*, D) using transformation matrix $S_{2 \times 3}$ (see for example [5]), i.e.

$$S : (P_{int}^*, D) \rightarrow (\bar{P}_{int}, \Delta)$$

where \bar{P}_{int} determines the (x, y) positions of the processing elements in the obtained array, while Δ defines communication links between the PEs and the direction of data flow. Matrix

S is called a valid transformation matrix and it is determined for each allowable projection direction separately. The matrix S is not uniquely defined for a given projection direction. More about the criteria for determining valid transformation matrices one can find in [12]. One of the possible transformation matrices for the direction $\vec{\mu} = [1 \ 0 \ 1]^T$ is

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The (x, y) positions of the PEs in the obtained SA and data schedule at the beginning of the computation are given by the following formulas:

$$\begin{aligned} PE &\mapsto \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} k-1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ a(i, 0, i+k-1) &\mapsto \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}_a = \begin{bmatrix} k-1 \\ 3-2i-k \end{bmatrix} + w\bar{n} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ b(i, 1, i+k-1) &\mapsto \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}_b = \begin{bmatrix} 2i+2k-3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + w\bar{n} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ c(i, 1, i+k-1) &\mapsto \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}_c = \begin{bmatrix} 1-2i \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + w\bar{n} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ and $k = 1, 2, \dots, n+1$, where

$$\bar{n} = \begin{cases} n+, & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ n, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

while w is greater of the integers from the set $\{0, 1\}$ that satisfies the condition

$$-2(i-1) + w\bar{n} < 0, \quad \text{if } i = 1 \Rightarrow w = 0.$$

The communication links between the PEs and the directions of data flow are determined from

$$\Delta = S \cdot D = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{e}_b^2 & \vec{e}_a^2 & \vec{e}_c^2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The bidirectional SA and data schedule at the beginning of the computation for $n=3$ are presented in Fig. 1. The structure of the PE is shown in Fig. 2. It is a cell which consists of two latches, L_B and L_C, an adder and a comparator.

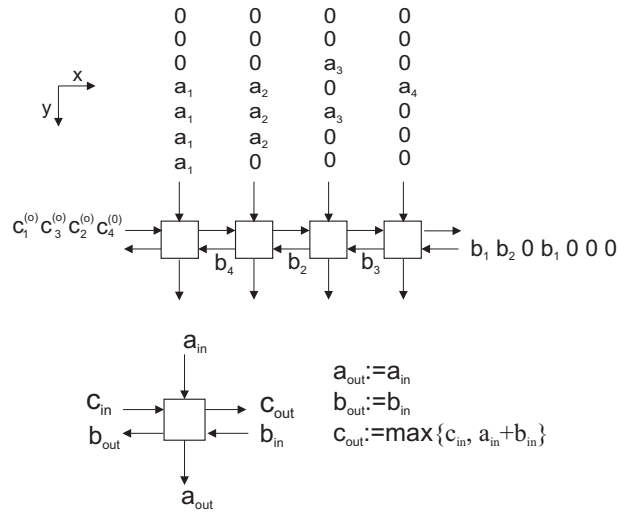


Fig. 1. The bidirectional systolic array and data schedule at the beginning of the computation, for $n = 3$

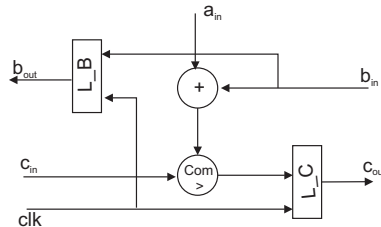


Fig. 2. The structure of the processing element

3 Performances of the basic SA

Various performance parameters can be used to measure the features of the synthesized SA. Here we will use: running (or execution time), number of processing elements, speed-up and efficiency.

The running time, T_{tot} , of the systolic algorithm includes: T_{in} , time required for the data elements to enter the PE where the first computation takes place; T_{exe} , time required to execute all the computations; T_{out} , time required for data elements to exit the array from the PE where the last computation finishes, i.e.

$$T_{tot} = T_{in} + T_{exe} + T_{out}.$$

In our case we have

$$T_{in} = n, \quad T_{exe} = n + 1, \quad T_{out} = n,$$

which means that the total running time for computing one row of matrix $\vec{M} = (\vec{a}_{ri})$, $1 \leq r \leq m$, $2 \leq i \leq n + 1$ is $T_{tot} = 3n + 1$. Since this computation is repeated $m - 1$ times the time needed to compute all rows of matrix \vec{M} is equal to

$$T_t = (m - 1)(3n + 1).$$

The number of processing elements in the obtained SA is

$$\Omega = n + 1.$$

It is an optimal number of PEs for a given problem size. This can be concluded from the fact that computing of element $\bar{a}_{r,n+1}$, for each r , requires $n + 1$ calculations of the type $\max\{c, a + b\}$.

If T_1 is the execution time of Algorithm_1 on a uniprocessor system, then the speed-up of the systolic array is defined as

$$S_n = \frac{T_1}{T_t}.$$

In our case we have

$$T_1 = \frac{(m-1)(n+1)(n+2)}{2},$$

so,

$$S_n = \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2(3n+1)} \approx O\left(\frac{n}{6}\right).$$

The efficiency of the systolic array is defined as

$$E_n = \frac{S_n}{\Omega}.$$

In our case we have

$$E_n = \frac{n+2}{2(3n+1)} \approx O\left(\frac{1}{6}\right).$$

4 Conclusion

The solution of optimal investment problem has been discussed in this paper. To speed-up the computation a special purpose parallel architecture, namely linear systolic array, was synthesized. The obtained array is optimal with respect to a problem size.

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