

# Layout Driven Logic Synthesis for FPGAs

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## Abstract

In this paper, we propose a layout driven synthesis approach for Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs). The approach attempts to identify alternative wires and alternative functions for wires that cannot be routed due to the limited routing resources in FPGA. The alternative wires (in the logic level) that can be routed through less congested areas substitute the unroutable wires without changing the circuit's functionality. Allowing the logic blocks to have alternative functions also increases the flexibility of routing. The redundancy addition and removal techniques are used to identify such alternative wires. Experimental results are presented to demonstrate the usefulness of this approach. For a set of randomly selected benchmark circuits, on the average, 30%-50% of wires have alternative wires. These results indicate that the routing flexibility can be substantially increased by considering these alternative wires. Our prototype system successfully completed the routing for two AT&T designs that cannot be handled by an FPGA router alone. The proposed synthesis technique can also be applied to standard cell and gate array designs to reduce the routing area.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Field programmable gate array (FPGA) consists of an array of identical logic blocks and routing resources. In a Table Look Up (TLU) architecture, each logic block can implement any  $m$ -input Boolean function.

The traditional design flow for FPGAs consists of four steps. In the first step, a logic optimizer performs technology independent optimization on a circuit. Then, a technology mapper [1] [4] [6] maps the circuit onto logic blocks to minimize the number of lookup tables used. Placement and routing then follow. During the physical design process, the logic information of the circuit is no longer used. Only the topology, typically represented as a graph, is retained. Because of the limited routing resources available in FPGAs, routing may fail in the congested area, even though there are routing resources available in the non-congested area. When the routing fails, there are no systematic ways to introduce incremental changes and complete the routing. To make an unroutable circuit routable, a user may change the placement by swapping or duplicating some logic blocks to alter the topology of the circuit. Such changes, however, lead to unpredictable results and quite often it is not clear how to alter the design. In this paper, we propose a layout driven synthesis technique that performs incremental transformations on the logic level (without changing the circuit's functionality) to improve the routability of the FPGA. According to the information fed back from the routing tool, the wiring topology is altered appropriately to complete the routing.

Our synthesis method looks for *alternative wires* for each wire that cannot be routed. The alternative wires of a target wire are wires which can replace the target wire without changing the circuit's functionality.

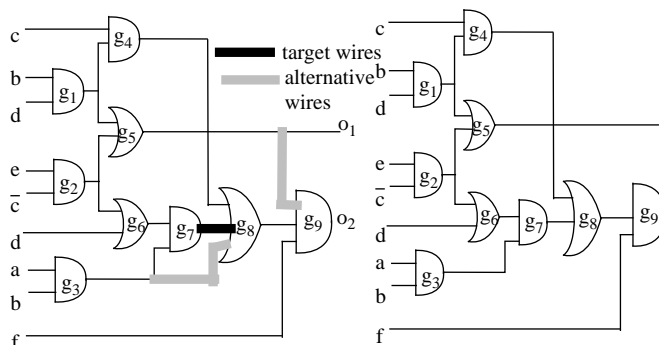


Fig. 1: Example of alternative wires

Fig. 2: Example of redundant wire

For example, in the circuit depicted in Figure 1 (from [2]), we can remove wire  $g_7 \rightarrow g_8$  by simultaneously adding wires  $g_3 \rightarrow g_8$  and  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$ . In our technique, we also allow adding gates and/or changing the functions of logic blocks in the circuit when removing critical wires. Note that for table-lookup FPGAs, adding a gate or a wire inside a lookup table can be done by simply changing the truth table of the lookup table.

The use of alternative wires to replace unroutable wires gives routing an additional flexibility. A closer integration of this technique with routing can dramatically improve the routability of FPGAs. We assign a higher priority to wires that do not have alternatives and instruct the router to route high priority wires first. If routing cannot be completed, the unrouted wires are more likely to have alternative wires. The router then interacts with the synthesis program to obtain their alternatives. If any of such alternatives can be routed through a non-congested area, that alternative will be used and routed. The process continues until all unrouted wires are replaced by their routable alternatives.

This alternative-wire technique has other applications as well. Consider Figure 3. After placement, the routing length of wires can be estimated. If an estimated long wire (target wire  $t$  in Fig. 3) has a shorter alternative wire in logic domain (wire  $a$  in Fig. 3), the long wire can be replaced by the short wire to improve both area and performance. Based on the same principle, we can apply this technique for timing optimization, as already pointed out in [2]. For another example consider Fig. 4. A circuit shown there, is partitioned and placed on two chips. The interconnection wires between chips typi-

cally cause long propagation delay. If an interconnection wire between chips has alternative wires all within chips, it may be replaced by them to reduce the critical path delay. Yet another application is shown in Fig. 5. After partitioning a circuit, suppose the pin constraint of a chip is violated. If an interconnection wire has an alternative wire inside a chip, we may reduce the number of interconnection wires by using its (internal) alternative wires. All the above applications explore the alternatives in logic domain to improve results in physical design. Note that, in addition to FPGAs, the technique can be applied to standard cell and gate array designs as well.

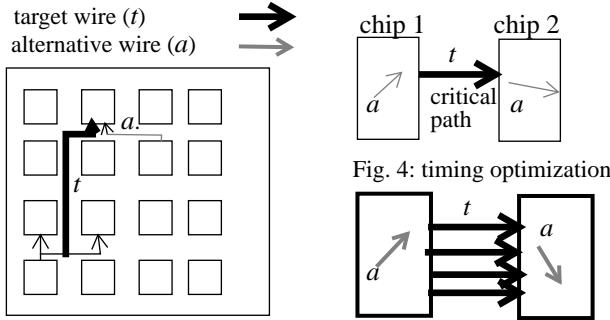


Fig. 3: wire length reduction Fig. 5: partitioning improvement

We have developed an efficient method to find alternative wires of a target wire. The method is an extension from the redundancy addition and removal techniques [2][3]. Two experiments were performed to demonstrate the usefulness of this technique. In the first experiment, our goal was to find the percentage of wires that have alternative wires. We first mapped several randomly selected MCNC benchmarks and industry examples to 5-input lookup tables. For each wire in the circuit, we checked if there exist alternative wires. We say that a wire has a *triple-wire* alternatives if it can be replaced with 3 or fewer wires. The experiment showed that 30%-50% of wires have triple-wire alternatives. In the second experiment, we linked our synthesis tool to the AT&T ORCA [8] router. Two circuits with unroutable wires were tried and were successfully routed using our technique.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews the redundancy identification technique that forms a core of our method. Section 3 details the proposed method of finding alternative wires of a target wire. Section 4 discusses the alternative function for a target wire. Section 5 describes the algorithm for the integrated synthesis and routing process. Section 6 shows some experimental results and conclusion follows in Section 7.

## 2 Redundancy Identification Based on Mandatory Assignments

The alternative wires, when added to the circuit, make the target wire redundant. In a combinational circuit, a wire is redundant if and only if the corresponding stuck-at fault is untestable. We will review the idea in [3] that identifies redundancies using the concept of mandatory assignments.

**Definition:** The *absolute dominators* (dominators)[5] of a wire  $W$  is a set of gates  $G$  such that all paths from wire  $W$  to any primary output have to pass through all gates in  $G$ . For example, the dominators of  $g_1 \rightarrow g_4$  in Fig. 2 are  $g_4$ ,  $g_8$ , and  $g_9$ .

**Definition:** A gate is in the *transitive fanin*(fanout) of a wire, if there is a path from the gate to the wire (from the wire to the gate).

Consider the absolute dominators of a wire  $W$ . Let *side inputs* of a dominator be its inputs not in the transitive fanout of the wire  $W$ . To generate a test for a stuck-at fault at wire  $W$ , all side inputs of the wire  $W$ 's dominators must be assigned their "non-controlling" values. The non-controlling value is 1 for AND(NAND) gate and 0 for OR(NOR) gate. For example, in Fig. 2, to test wire  $(g_1 \rightarrow g_4)$  s-a-1, we must assign 1 to  $c$ , 0 to  $g_7$ , and 1 to  $f$ .

When testing a wire stuck-at fault, the mandatory assignments are the value assignments required for a test to exist and must be satisfied by any test vector. Given a stuck-at fault  $f$ , we compute the set of mandatory assignments[3] SMA( $f$ ) that can be computed via implication [5][7] and recursive learning [9]. If the mandatory assignments of a stuck-at fault test cannot be consistently justified, the fault is untestable and therefore, the wire is redundant.

For example, we like to know whether wire  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$  can be added in Fig. 2. We need to know whether  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$  s-a-1 is testable. The mandatory assignments for  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$  s-a-1 are  $g_5=0$ ,  $g_8=1$ ,  $f=1$ ,  $g_1=0$ ,  $g_2=0$ ,  $g_4=0$ ,  $g_7=1$ ,  $g_6=1$ ,  $g_3=1$ ,  $a=1$ ,  $b=1$ ,  $d=1$ , and  $g_1=1$ . Because the mandatory assignment of gate  $g_1$  cannot be consistently justified, the  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$  s-a-1 fault is untestable and therefore wire  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$  is a redundant wire.

## 3 The Alternative Wires of a Target Wire

A wire to be removed is referred to as the target wire. The corresponding stuck-at fault is called the target fault. In this section, we will show a method of adding alternative wires to make a target wire redundant. Basically, this method will find and add redundant wires to cause inconsistent mandatory assignment for the target fault. The idea is originally proposed in [3]. However, the objective in [3] was to minimize the number of connections in a multi-level Boolean circuit while our objective is to remove unroutable wires. Therefore, we allow adding several wires (gates) to replace one unroutable wire. Besides, we include new circuit transformations to remove a target wire.

### 3.1 Single-Wire Alternative

We say that a wire  $w_j$  is a single-wire alternative of a target wire if  $w_j$  can replace the target wire. This section describes a procedure that finds single-wire alternatives of a target wire.

This procedure consists of three steps. In the first step, we calculate the SMA of the target wire stuck-at-fault. Then, we identify a set of candidate connection wires to be added. Each candidate connection when added to the circuit will cause the SMA to become inconsistent and thus make the target wire

redundant. However, adding such a candidate connection may change the circuit's behavior. Therefore, we need to check whether the candidate connection is redundant or not. If a candidate connection is redundant, we conclude that the candidate connection is an alternative wire for the target wire. The following example illustrates the process of finding single-wire alternatives.

**Example:** Consider the circuit in Fig. 2. Let  $g_1 \rightarrow g_4$  be the target wire to remove. First, we compute the SMA( $g_1 \rightarrow g_4$  stuck at 1). We have  $SMA = \{c=1, g_1=0, g_5=0, g_2=0, f=1\}$ . Note that  $g_5$  is outside the transitive fanins and transitive fanouts of the target wire and has a mandatory value 0. If we connect  $g_5$  to  $g_9$ , a dominator, it will cause inconsistency in mandatory assignment for  $g_5$ . This is because if the new wire  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$  is added,  $g_5$  becomes a side input of the dominator  $g_9$ . It requires a non-controlling value 1 at  $g_5$  to propagate the fault effect of the target fault to outputs. This additional requirement causes conflict in the SMA. The process, thus, suggests wire  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$  as a candidate connection. Finally, we check whether  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$  is redundant by examining the consistency of the SMA for the s-a-1 fault at wire  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$ . The SMA of this fault is inconsistent and therefore, wire  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$  is an alternative wire for wire  $g_1 \rightarrow g_4$ .

Given a target wire, Fig. 6 shows four different types of candidate connections to be added to make the target wire redundant. The dotted wires in Fig. 6 are the candidate connections. We say a wire  $w$  is a fault propagating wire if there is a path from the target wire to the wire  $w$ .

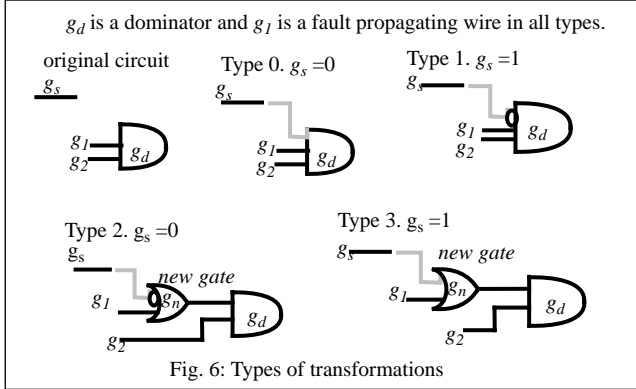


Fig. 6: Types of transformations

All candidate connections ( $g_s g_d$ ), in Fig. 6, use the same principle described as follows. The source gate  $g_s$  has a mandatory assignment. The destination gate  $g_d$  is a dominator. After making any transformation shown in Fig 6., the SMA of the target wire becomes inconsistent. Type 0 and Type 1 in Fig. 6, add a wire from  $g_s$  to the dominator  $g_d$ . Type 2 and Type 3 add a new gate  $g_n$  to which all fault propagating wires previously connected to  $g_d$  are reconnected to  $g_n$  and connect a wire from  $g_s$  to  $g_n$ . For example, in Type 2, let  $g_1$  be a fault propagating wire. Because  $g_d$  is a dominator, the new added gate  $g_n$  is also a dominator. Since  $g_s$  is a side input to the dominator  $g_n$ ,  $g_s$  must be assigned a non-controlling value 1 which causes a conflict with the original mandatory value 0. We can also derive similar transformations when the dominator is an OR gate.

Fig. 7 shows the pseudo code for finding all single-wire alternatives of a target wire. For each candidate connection ( $g_s \rightarrow g_d$ ), we consider all types of circuit transformations suggested in Fig. 6.

```

single_wire_alternative(wire, stuck_type) {
  compute_SMA(wire, stuck_type);
  for (each gate  $g_i$  in the circuit) {
    if ( $g_i$  has mandatory assignment) insert  $g_i$  into the source_array.
    if ( $g_i$  is a dominator) insert  $g_i$  into the destination_array.
  }
  for (each  $g_s$  in the source_array) {
    for (each  $g_d$  in the destination_array) {
      add_wire_gate( $g_s, g_d, type\_0or1$ );
      if (verify_redundant( $g_s, g_d, type\_0or1$ )) return ( $g_s, g_d, type\_0or1$ );
      rm_wire_gate( $g_s, g_d, type\_0or1$ );
      add_wire_gate( $g_s, g_d, type\_2or3$ );

      if (verify_redundant( $g_s, g_d, type\_2or3$ )) return ( $g_s, g_d, type\_2or3$ );
      rm_wire_gate( $g_s, g_d, type\_2or3$ );
    }
  }
}

```

Fig. 7: Pseudo code for finding single-wire alternative

### 3.2 Multiple-Wire Alternatives

If none of the candidate connections is redundant, there are no single-wire alternatives for the target wire. In this section, we describe a method to add several wires (gates) to remove a target wire.

Fig. 8 shows the search process for a multiple-wire alternative of a target wire. Let wire  $w_r$  be the wire to be removed. Suppose there are 6 candidate connections,  $w_0, \dots, w_5$ , suggested by the procedure of Fig. 7 (searching for single-wire alternatives) and no candidate connection is redundant. Each candidate connection wire is then considered as a new target wire. In our example, we consider wire  $w_3$  as a new target wire. The same procedure of finding single-wire alternative is applied now for  $w_3$ . Let wire  $w_6, w_7, w_8$  and  $w_9$  be the new candidate connections for adding  $w_3$ . If wire  $w_6$  is a redundant wire, we conclude that we can add wire  $w_6$  so that wire  $w_3$  can be added to the circuit without changing the circuit functionality. Finally, we add wire  $w_3$  and wire  $w_6$  in the circuit and verify whether  $w_r$  is still a redundant wire. The reason that the removal of  $w_r$  needs additional verification is explained as follows.

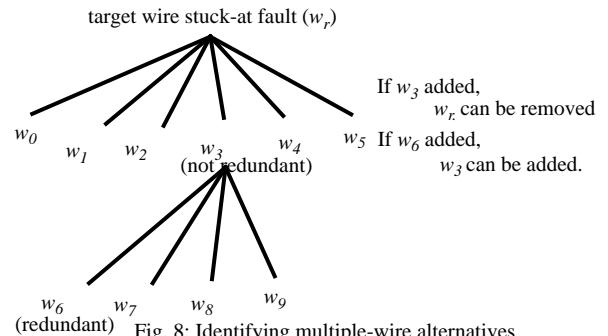


Fig. 8: Identifying multiple-wire alternatives

In searching for the single-wire alternatives, we know that the addition of wire  $w_3$  guarantees the removal of wire  $w_r$  and the addition of wire  $w_6$  guarantees the addition of wire  $w_3$ . However, the addition of both wire  $w_3$  and  $w_6$  does not neces-

sarily guarantee the removal of  $w_r$ , although most of the time it is the case. For example, in Fig. 1, the removal of  $g_7 \rightarrow g_8$ , suggests the addition of  $g_3 \rightarrow g_8$ . The addition of  $g_3 \rightarrow g_8$  suggests the addition of  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$ . Because  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$  is a redundant wire, we can add  $g_5 \rightarrow g_9$  and, thus, add  $g_3 \rightarrow g_8$  to the circuit. Finally, we find  $g_7 \rightarrow g_8$  is a redundant wire so it can be removed.

#### 4 Using alternative functions of look-up tables to remove a target wire.

We now show how to apply the alternative wire technique for lookup table architecture based FPGAs. One way is to decompose a mapped FPGA into primitive gates and use the technique described in the previous section to replace unroutable wires. However, for lookup table based FPGAs, the technique can be further generalized by considering *alternative functions* of an unroutable wire. The generalized technique directly operates on the lookup table level without decomposing the mapped LUT into primitive gates.

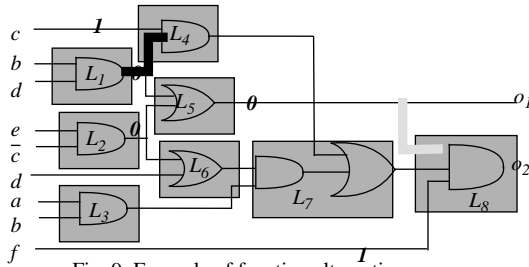


Fig. 9: Example of function alternative

#### 4.1 Alternative functions of lookup tables

A  $k$ -input lookup table can realize any of  $2^{2^k}$  Boolean functions. By replacing the Boolean function of a LUT by another one among these  $2^{2^k}$  functions, some wires may become redundant.

Let  $L_o$  be a lookup table in a circuit and  $f_{L_o}(X)$  be its Boolean function where  $X$  are the inputs of  $L_o$ . We denote the cardinality of  $X$  as  $|X|$ . Therefore,  $|X| \leq k$ . We say  $f'_{L_o}(X)$  is a *valid* function if (1) replacing  $f_{L_o}(X)$  with  $f'_{L_o}(X)$  does not change the functionality of the circuit and (2)  $|X'| \leq k$ . Given a target wire  $w$  to be removed, our objective is to find a valid function of some lookup table such that  $w$  becomes redundant. We call such a valid function an *alternative function* of the target wire  $w$ .

Similarly to the procedure of finding alternative wires, the process of finding alternative functions consists of three steps. In the first step, we calculate the SMA of the target wire stuck-at fault. In the second step, a set of candidate functions is generated. The procedure guarantees that each of these candidate functions makes the target wire redundant. Finally, we check whether these candidate functions are valid. Consider the circuit in Fig. 9 where each box represents a LUT. Let  $L_1 \rightarrow L_4$  be the target wire. First we calculate the SMA of  $L_1 \rightarrow L_4$  s-a-1. In the second step, we find  $f'_{L_8}(L_5, L_7, f) = L_5 \cdot L_7 \cdot f$  (the original function is  $f_{L_8}(L_5, L_7, f) = f \cdot L_7$ ) is a candidate function (how this candidate function is derived will be explained in the fol-

lowing paragraphs). Finally, we verify that this candidate function is valid and, therefore, it is an alternative function for  $L_1 \rightarrow L_4$ . We call the new input to the lookup table  $L_8$ ,  $L_5$ , an *extra-input* of the alternative function.

In the second step of finding candidate functions, we only consider absolute dominators of the target wire. The function of the dominator's lookup table will be considered for changing if (1) the dominator has any unused input, or if (2) the dominator has no unused inputs but it has an input with a mandatory assignment. When the dominator has any unused input, we connect to it a wire, an extra-input, which has a mandatory assignment. In the example of Fig. 9,  $L_8$  is one of the dominators and the extra-input  $L_5$  has a mandatory value 0. The procedure for deriving the candidate functions is based upon the following procedure.

After calculating the SMA of the target wire, suppose the LUT  $L_i$  is a dominator and a wire  $w_x$  is one of  $L_i$ 's inputs which has a mandatory value  $v$ . Among those inputs to  $L_i$ , some inputs denoted  $X_j$  are in the transitive fanout of the target wire. Note that  $w_x$  is an input variable in  $L_i$ . We define a candidate function  $f'_{L_i}$  by specifying the output of each input vector as follows. Given an input vector, when the  $w_x$  variable is  $v$ , we set  $f'_{L_i} = f_{L_i}$  and when  $w_x$  is  $\bar{v}$ ,  $f'_{L_i}$  is chosen to be any function independent of  $X_j$ . If there is no input wire of  $L_i$  with mandatory assignment, the new function  $f'_{L_i}$  will be created by connecting a wire with mandatory assignment to an unused input.

**Lemma:** If we replace  $f_{L_i}$  with  $f'_{L_i}$ , a candidate function from the above procedure, the SMA of the target wire stuck-at-fault is inconsistent.

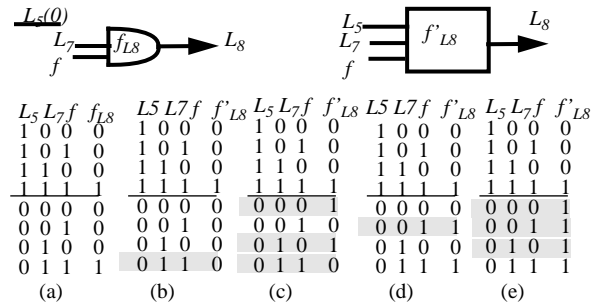


Fig. 10: The inconsistency between old function and candidate function must be don't cares.

Continuing the example from Fig. 9, Fig. 10 illustrates the lemma. Suppose  $L_8$  implements an AND function in Fig 10a and for the given target fault,  $L_5$  has a mandatory value 0. We assume the target wire is in the transitive fanin of  $L_7$ . There are 4 candidate functions as shown in Fig 10(b,c,d,e). Each of the four functions is the same as the original function ( $L_7 \cdot f$ ) when  $L_5 = 1$  and is independent of  $L_7$  (which is in the fault propagating path) when  $L_5 = 0$ .

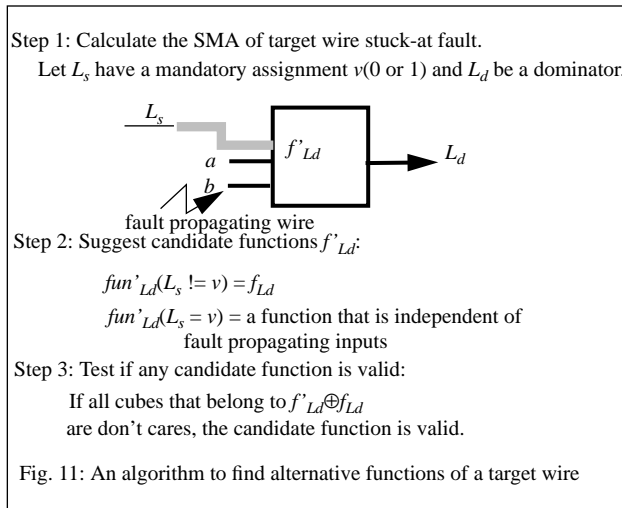
After obtaining these 4 candidate Boolean functions, we need to check whether they are valid. First, we compare the old function with each of candidate functions. For example, in Fig. 10, the discrepancy between the original function (a) and

function (b) occurs in the minterm  $(L_5, L_7, f) = (0, 1, 1)$  as highlighted in Fig 10(b). In order to maintain the circuit's functionality, the minterm  $(0, 1, 1)$  must be a "don't care" for the circuit, i.e.  $f_{L_8}(0, 1, 1)$  can be assigned to either 0 or 1 and the function of the circuit does not change. We show how to check whether some minterm is a don't care in the following procedure.

Suppose we try to verify whether  $(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$  is a don't care cube in a function  $f_{L_m}(L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n)$ . We set the mandatory assignment of  $L_i$  to the corresponding  $v_i$ . Considering the example in Fig. 9, to verify cube  $(L_5, L_7, f) = (0, 0, 1)$  in  $L_8$  is a don't care, we set  $L_5=0, L_7=0, f=1$  to be their mandatory assignments. Then, we calculate the SMA as described in section 2.

**Lemma:** If the SMA cannot be consistently justified by the above procedure, the cube  $(l_1, l_2, \dots, l_n)$  in  $f_{L_m}(L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n)$  is a don't care in the circuit.

The overall algorithm for finding an alternative function of a target wire is summarized in Fig.11.



## 4.2 Decomposition into gates

To apply the approach described in Section 3 to lookup table architecture, we can simply decompose each lookup table into AND, NAND, OR and NOR gates. After decomposition, we have two kinds of wires in the circuit. An *external* wire connects two lookup tables. An *internal* wire is inside a lookup table. For an external target wire, we can obtain a set of multiple-wire alternatives using the approach described earlier. In the following, we discuss the *cost* of an alternative wire.

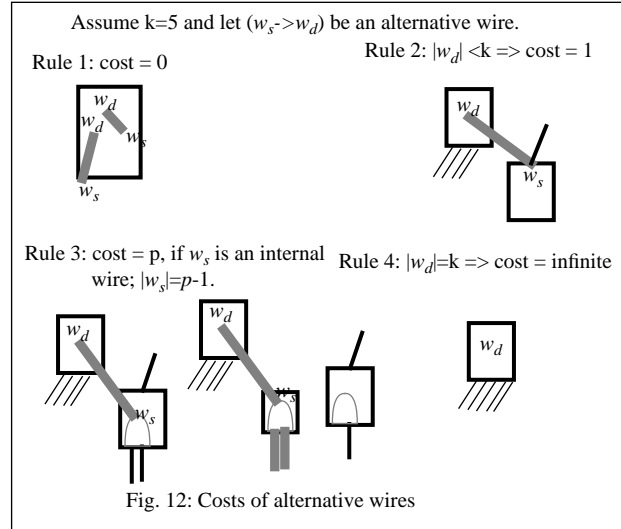
Let each alternative wire be expressed as  $(w_s, w_d)$  where each of  $w_s$  and  $w_d$  represents a gate. We assign a cost to an alternative wire based on the following rules. These rules try to calculate the number of external wires added on the circuit (Fig. 12 illustrates these rules):

- Rule 1: cost =0, if  $w_s$  and  $w_d$  are both inside the same lookup table.

- Rule 2: cost =1, if the lookup table of  $w_d$  has less than  $k$  inputs and  $w_s$  is an output of another lookup table.

- Rule 3: cost =  $p$ , if the lookup table of  $w_d$  has less than  $k$  inputs and  $w_s$  is inside a lookup table. Since  $w_s$  is not the output of a lookup table, we need to create a new  $(p-1)$  input lookup table to duplicate the function that creates  $w_s$ .

- Rule 4: cost = infinite, if the lookup table containing  $w_d$  has  $k$  inputs and  $w_s$  is in another lookup table. Note that we may use Shannon decomposition to create 3 new 5-input lookup tables but we choose not to consider this substitution[6].



## 5 Integration of routing and synthesis

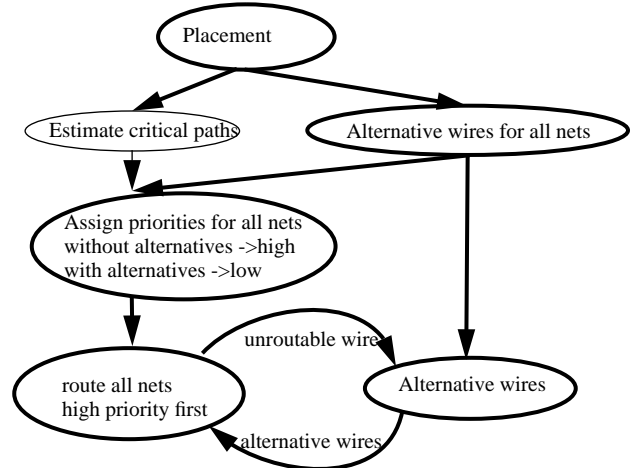


Fig. 13: The flow of layout driven synthesis

In previous sections, we have presented a synthesis technique to find the alternative wires of a target wire. To fully utilize the alternative wire technique, we precompute the wire alternative information and pass it to the routing tool before routing starts. According to the wire alternative information and timing information (obtained from other tools), a router sets a priority for each wire. Then, it routes the wires in such

an order that wires without alternatives and/or in timing critical paths are routed first. This arrangement makes unroutable wires more likely to have alternatives. If a wire cannot be routed and it has alternatives, the router tries to route those alternatives one-by-one. If all alternative wires of an unroutable wire can not be routed, we also try ripping up some wires around the congested area. Figure 13 shows the flow of the layout driven synthesis process.

## 6 Experimental Results

We have performed two sets of experiments to demonstrate usefulness of the above approach. The first experiment is to obtain the percentage of wires having alternatives in a circuit. In this experiment, we assume a 5-input lookup table architecture. A circuit is optimized to 5 input lookup tables first. For MCNC examples, we used the SIS script [6]. For industry examples, we used AT&T ORCA [8] technology mapper. Then, we decomposed each lookup table into AND, OR gate circuit as described in Section 4.2. For each external wire (connecting two lookup tables), we search for multiple-wire alternatives. In Table 1, the second column shows the number of external wires in a circuit. The third column shows the number of external wires that have single-wire alternatives. The number in parenthesis shows the total number of alternatives for single-wire alternatives. The fourth column shows the number of wires that have triple-wire alternatives and the number in parenthesis shows the total number of triple-wire alternatives. The cost of an alternative wire is defined in Section 4.2. The fifth and sixth columns show CPU time running on a SPARC 10.

In our second experiment, we linked our synthesis technique with AT&T ORCA router. Two unroutable circuits were studied. The first circuit had 169 5-input lookup tables and 738 external wires. Among these external wires, we found that 121 wires had single-wire alternatives and 201 wires had triple-wire alternatives. If we run the router using the timing-driven option, the router failed to connect 4 wires. We applied our technique to this circuit and successfully completed the routing. The second circuit had 495 5-input lookup tables and 1980 external wires. Totally 1115 wires had single-wire alternatives and 2001 wires had triple-wire alternatives. There was one unroutable wire in the original design. By replacing the wire by its single-wire alternative, the routing was successfully completed.

## 7 Conclusion

Due to the limited routing resources in FPGAs, completion of routing for all wires may not be possible for some FPGA designs, if we are not allowed to change the logic structures. In this paper, we proposed a layout driven synthesis approach that can efficiently identify the alternative wires and/or alternative functions for those unroutable wires. If the alternative wires can be routed through a less congested area, the probability of successful routing will be increased. Our experimental results demonstrate the usefulness of the proposed technique.

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Circuit	# of wires	1-w alt.	3-w alt	cpu 1-w (sec)	cpu 3-w (sec)
f51m	136	25(48)	63(625)	68.1	1222.0
frg1	171	39(102)	85(439)	75.5	1151.2
apex6	854	139(321)	336(953)	348	4434.9
apex7	233	41(72)	75(305)	82.9	563.2
b9	193	28(37)	97(559)	29.0	244.4
misex1	47	8(28)	28(234)	3.0	40.4
mis2	122	53(84)	77(305)	43.0	218.9
rd73	63	3(4)	20(267)	8.7	386.5
sao2	220	57(157)	154(1802)	184.7	2405.8
x2	58	19(39)	38(193)	4.9	26.7
example2	376	60(221)	106(868)	345.1	2892.8
x4	34	5(9)	10(26)	0.8	6.5
industry 1	617	82(278)	238(3025)	81.7	997.9
industry 2	1011	113(324)	322(5574)	165.1	10991.4
industry 3	375	18(39)	141(2129)	20.1	837.0
industry 4	448	61(255)	178(7259)	61.1	2504.3
industry 5	486	61(328)	190(1721)	50.5	1287.6

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