



# An Essential Tree Architecture for Finding First Two Minima Values and Index

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**ABSTRACT:** An Essential tree architecture for finding the primary two minima as well as the index of the first minimum, which is essential in the design of a low-density parity check decoder based on the min–sum algorithm. The proposed architecture reduces the number of comparators by reusing the intermediate comparison results computed for the first minimum in order to collect the candidates of the second minimum. As a result, the proposed tree architecture improves the area–time complexity remarkably.

**KEYWORDS:** Area-efficient design, digital integrated circuits, low-density parity-check (LDPC) codes, minimum value generation, tree structure.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Due to the powerful error-correcting capability, low density parity-check (LDPC) codes have widely been applied to wireless communication systems, personal area networks, and solid-state drives. To eliminate the complicated hyperbolic computations required in the sum–product decoding algorithm, recent LDPC decoders are implemented based on the min–sum (MS) decoding algorithm. In the MS algorithm, the check-node (CN) operation computes the first two minima and the index of the first minimum among many variable-to-check messages given as inputs. Generally, the hardware block that finds the first two minima, which is called a searching module (SM), can be implemented by employing the balanced tree structure. The number of inputs to be compared in selecting the first two minima is increasing to achieve strong and long LDPC codes. For example, a recent SM developed for storage applications deals with more than 100 inputs. The hardware complexity of such a complex SM takes a significant portion in the overall complexity of an LDPC decoder. Moreover, the area taken by multiple SMs becomes more considerable in a high-throughput decoder, as massive CN operations are performed in parallel to increase the decoding throughput.

## II. EXISTING SYSTEM

The LDPC DECODING ALGORITHMS Decoding of LDPC codes can be two types: hard decision decoding and soft decision decoding. 1) Hard Decision Decoding For each bit, compute the checks for those checks that are influenced. If the number of nonzero checks exceeds some threshold (say, the majority of the checks are nonzero), then the bit is determined to be incorrect. The erroneous bit is flipped, and correction continues. This simple scheme is capable of correcting more than one error. Suppose that is in error and that other bits influencing its checks are also in error. Arrange the Tanner graph with as a root considering no cycle in the graph. In Fig. 1, suppose the bits in the shaded boxes are in error. The bits that connect to the checks connected to the root node are said to be in tier 1. The bits that connect to the checks from the first tier are said to be in tier 2. Then, decode by proceeding from the “leaves” of the tree (the top of the figure). By the time decoding on is reached, other erroneous bits may have been corrected. Thus, bits and checks which are not directly connected to can still influence. For the implementation of the above algorithm we require two minima values and an index in the initialization state.

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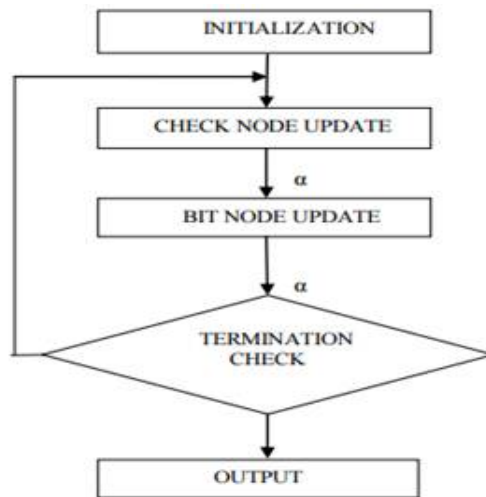


Fig:1. Flowchart for min-sum algorithm.

Hence a searching module is required in searching the first two minima values and an index. Hence we have many searching modules like tree based and sorting based as discussed below. The algorithm and flowchart for min-sum algorithm is as shown in fig.

For a given set of  $k$   $w$ -bit inputs,  $X = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}\}$ , the SM for  $k$  inputs produces three outputs: 1) the first minimum value  $MIN_1 = \min\{X\}$ , 2) the second minimum value,  $MIN_2 = \min\{X - \{MIN_1\}\}$ , and 3) the index of the first minimum  $IDX$ , which is  $i$  if  $x_i$  is  $MIN_1$ . Two 2-input primitive units, C1M1 and C1M2, are widely used to realize an SM. As shown in Fig. 2, the C1M1 unit that selects the smaller value from two inputs consists of one comparator and one  $w$ -bit 2-to-1 multiplexor. On the other hand, the C1M2 unit is made of one comparator and two  $w$ -bit 2-to-1 multiplexors to determine both the larger and smaller values, as depicted in Fig. 3. For the sake of simplicity, we focus in this brief on the generation of  $MIN_1$  and  $MIN_2$ , as  $IDX$  can be obtained using the results of comparisons performed for  $MIN_1$  [11]. In addition, let the number of inputs  $k$  be a power of 2, i.e.,  $k = 2^m$ . When  $k$  is not a power of 2, such an SM can be achieved by pruning some leaf nodes of the balanced SM built with  $2^m$  inputs where  $2^m > k$ , as described.

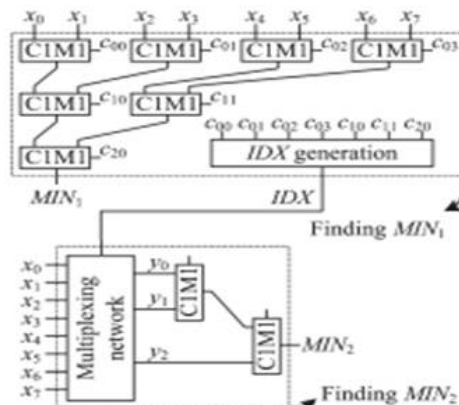


Fig:2. Sorting based Searching module designed for the 8-inputs

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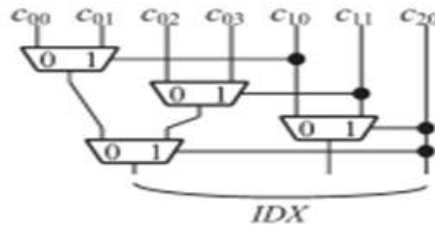


Fig.3. Detailed structure of generating the index of the first minimum

Fig.3 depicts the conventional sorting-based SM, referred to as SMsort, dealing with eight inputs. The overall process consists of two steps: 1) finding MIN1 with the binary tree structure and 2) selecting MIN2 by means of the multiplexing network controlled by IDX. As shown in Fig.3, IDX can simply be generated from the comparison results, where  $c_{ij}$  represents the  $j$ th comparison result at the  $i$ th step of the binary tree. The multiplexing network generates a candidate set of MIN2,  $Y = \{y_0, y_1, y_2\}$ , by employing three 8-to-1 multiplexors. After choosing three candidates, two C1M1 units are used to determine MIN2. As a result, the SMsort necessitates nine comparators, three 8-to-1 multiplexors, and nine 2-to-1 multiplexors to process eight inputs and furthermore suffers from the long critical delay caused by the serially connected structure. Due to the miscellaneous control at the multiplexing network, the critical delay of SMsort is slightly larger than  $5TC + 5TM_2 + TM_8$ , where TC,  $TM_2$ , and  $TM_8$  stand for the delay of a comparator, a 2-to-1 multiplexor, and an 8-to-1 multiplexor, respectively. For a high-speed realization, the tree-based SM architecture, referred to as SMtree, was proposed in the SMtree designed for eight inputs is exemplified in Fig.4, where the processing times for MIN1 and MIN2 are almost the same as they are both based on the hierarchical tree structure. To calculate exact MIN2 in each subtree, however, SMtree requires more comparators than SMsort. Three C1M1 units and one 2-to-1 multiplexor are additionally used to combine two subtrees, but the serially connected block required for finding MIN2 in SMsort is removed so that the critical delay of SMtree is reduced to  $3TC + 5TM_2$ . A faster tree-based SM, denoted as SMradix, was achieved by adopting the mixed-radix scheme]. However, realizing the high-radix computation increases comparators and multiplexors drastically.

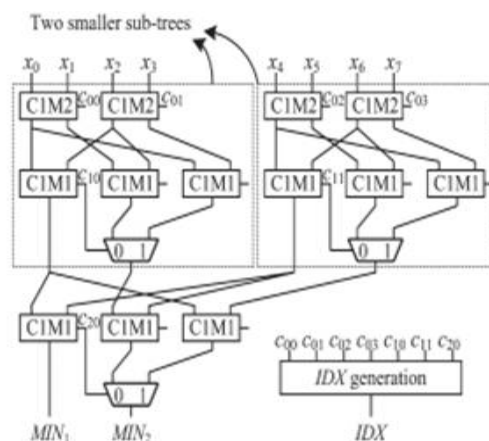


Fig.4. Tree based searching module for 8-inputs

As the hardware complexity of a comparator is considerable, the previous tree-based SM cannot be cost effective when the number of inputs is not small, particularly for recent strong LDPC codes targeting a row degree of more than 100. Hence, it is necessary to develop a new SM that can reduce comparators while keeping the critical delay less than that of SMsort.

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## III. IMPLEMENTED SYSTEM

It is possible to reduce the number of comparators needed for the second minimum by reusing the comparison results performed for the first minimum. In the proposed architecture, a candidate set  $Y$  for  $MIN_2$  is first constructed by using the prior comparison results, and then a comparison network is additionally constructed to select  $MIN_2$ . This two-step approach is conceptually similar to SSort, but the second step is much faster in the proposed architecture. As previously discussed, SSort requires complex multiplexing networks to construct the candidate set and thus suffers from the long critical delay resulting from  $k$ -to-1 multiplexors. To eliminate the complex  $k$ -to-1 multiplexors, the proposed architecture introduces a basic unit, i.e.,  $PRO_k$ , which produces the first minimum of  $k$  inputs and  $m$  ( $= \log_2 k$ ) candidates for the second minimum, as depicted in Fig. 5(a). Similar to SMtree, a  $PRO_k$  unit can be recursively designed with two smaller  $PRO_{k/2}$  units, as shown in Fig. 5(b).

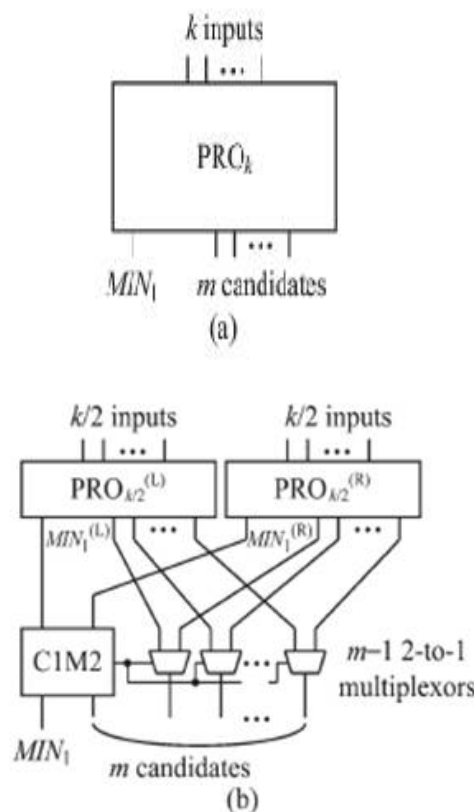


Fig:5. a) Proposed  $PRO_k$  unit, b) Its recursive structure.

The first minimum of  $k$  inputs, i.e.,  $MIN_1$ , is simply selected by comparing two minima, i.e.,  $MIN_1^{(L)}$  and  $MIN_1^{(R)}$ , produced in  $PRO_{k/2}^{(L)}$  and  $PRO_{k/2}^{(R)}$  units, respectively. Depending on the comparison result of the  $C1M2$ , the  $PRO_k$  decides  $m-1$  candidates for the second minimum by selecting either the candidate set of  $PRO_{k/2}^{(L)}$  or that of  $PRO_{k/2}^{(R)}$ . If  $MIN_1^{(L)}$  is smaller than  $MIN_1^{(R)}$ , all the  $m-1$  candidates of  $PRO_{k/2}^{(R)}$  cannot be the second minimum, because  $MIN_1^{(R)}$  is the smallest value among the  $2m-1$  inputs on the right side. Therefore,  $m$  candidates for the second minimum are simply formed by including one of  $MIN_1^{(L)}$  and  $MIN_1^{(R)}$  to the  $m-1$  candidates selected by the result of the  $C1M2$ , as shown in Fig. 5(b). In short, a  $PRO_k$  unit can be realized with two  $PRO_{k/2}$  units, one comparator and  $m+1$  2-to-1 multiplexors. It is apparent that a  $PRO_2$  unit.

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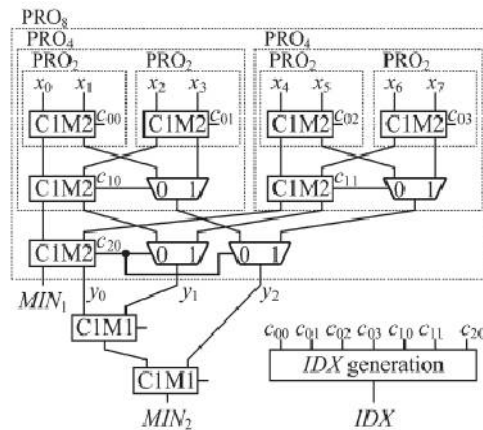


Fig.6. Proposed searching module for eight inputs.

Table 1: Comparison for searching modules for  $2^m$  inputs

Architecture		Sorting-based [9]	Tree-based [11]	Proposed
Number of components	Comparators	$2^{m+m-2}$	$2^{m+1}-3$	$2^{m+m-2}$
	2-to1 Multiplexors	$2^{m+m-2}$	$3 \cdot 2^m - 4$	$3 \cdot 2^m - 4$
	$2^m$ -to-1 Multiplexors	$m$	0	0
Critical delay		$(m + \lceil \log_2 m \rceil)T_C + T_{M1} + (m + \lceil \log_2 m \rceil)T_{M2}$	$mT_C + (2m-1)T_{M2}$	$(m + \lceil \log_2 m \rceil)T_C + (m + 1 + \lceil \log_2 m \rceil)T_{M2}$

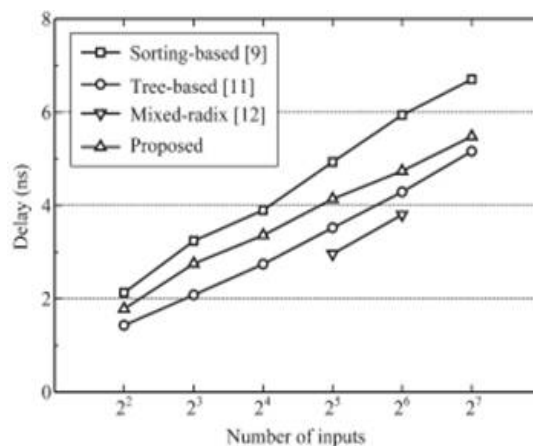


Fig.7. Critical delay of searching modules for a range of inputs.



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Processing two inputs is identical to the C1M2 unit shown in Fig. 5(b). The major point of the PROk is that the candidate set for the second minimum is constructed in parallel with the searching for the first minimum. After finding the first minimum, another tree structure that can be built with  $m - 1$  C1M1 units is used to find MIN2 among  $m$  candidates. Fig. 6 shows how the proposed SM, referred to as SMpro, is constructed to process eight inputs, where a PRO8 unit is followed by a tree structure composed of two C1M1 units to find MIN2 among the three candidates produced in the PRO8 unit. The SMpro in Fig. 6 requires 9 comparators and 20 2-to-1 multiplexors to process eight inputs, whereas the SMtree in Fig. 4 necessitates 13 comparators and 20 2-to-1 multiplexors for the same number of inputs. The critical delay of SMpro is  $5TC + 5TM2$ , which is much smaller than that of SMSort. Table I compares the hardware complexities and critical delays of three different SM architectures, where the number of inputs is assumed to be a power of 2,  $k = 2m$ . As there are  $m$  final candidates for MIN2, SMSort and SMpro require  $2m + m - 2$  comparators in determining two minima, which is much smaller than that of SMtree.

As the proposed architecture completely removes the  $2m$ -to-1 multiplexors that are table 1 comparisons of searching modules for  $2m$  inputs Fig. 7. Critical delay of searching modules for a range of inputs. inevitable in SMSort, the critical delay of SMpro is much smaller than that of SMSort. Note that the delay of SMpro is quite comparable with that of SMtree, as indicated in Table I. As the number of inputs increases, in addition, the proposed structure becomes more area efficient. If the number of inputs is increased to 64, for example, the proposed architecture eliminates 40% comparators of SMtree, remarkably reducing the hardware complexity.

## IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

For fair comparison, four types of SMs with a computational bit width of 8 bits are designed and synthesized in a 130-nm CMOS process: the sorting-based one, the tree-based one, the mixed-radix one, and the proposed one. Fig. 8 illustrates how the critical delays of the four SMs are affected by the number of inputs. Note that the critical delay of SMSort is always larger than those of the other SMs due to the complex  $2m$ -to-1 multiplexing networks. As the proposed structure requires additional comparison steps to find the second minimum among  $m$  candidates, the delay of SMpro is between those of the previous sorting- and tree-based SMs. The tree-based architectures described in are attractive in terms of computational delay, but they necessitate a significant amount of hardware complexity. The proposed architecture leads to an area-efficient SM, as indicated in Fig. 9. When  $m$  is 6, which corresponds to 64 inputs, SMpro saves 34%, 33%, and 68% area over SMSort, SMtree, and SMradix, respectively. As a result, the proposed SM improves the AT complexity remarkably, as shown in Fig. 10. When  $m$  is 7, for example, the AT complexity of SMtree is 43% larger than that of SMpro.

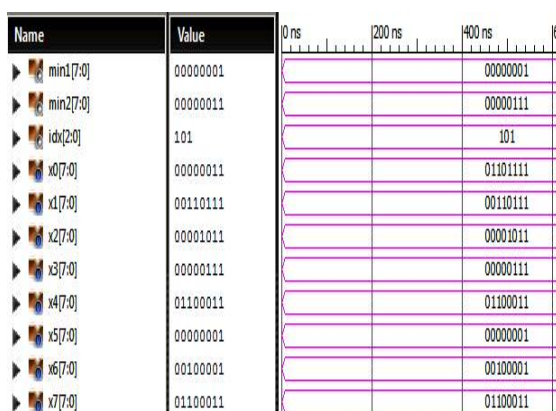


Fig:8. Simulations results of 8-bit Tree-based searching module.

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Fig:9. Simulations results of 8-bit Proposed searching module.

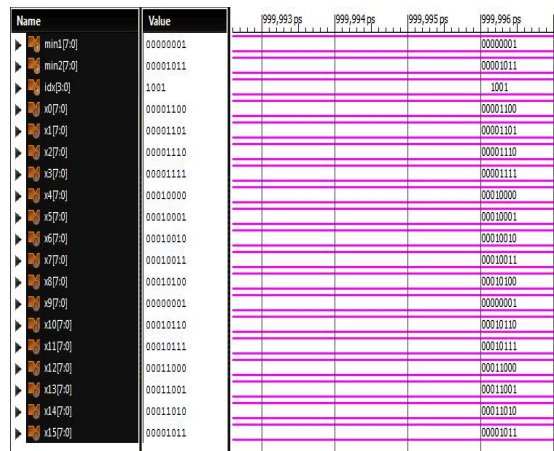


Fig:10. Simulations results of 16-bit Proposed searching module.

### Comparisons of Architectures Searching modules:

Architectures	No.of comparators	Cells&IO's
TBSM	13	379+83=462
Proposed 8-bit	9	311+83=394
Proposed 16-bit	18	649+148=797

### ADVANTAGES

- The detector has exponentially increased computing complexity with constellation size and number.
- It reducing the computational complexity.
- It reduces the number of comparators.



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## APPLICATIONS

- Mobile applications.
- Computer and cybernetics applications.
- Industrial applications.

## V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

### CONCLUSION

We have presented a novel tree structure that finds the first two minima among many inputs. In the proposed structure, the candidates of the second minimum are collected by utilizing the results of comparisons performed for the first minimum. Hence, the proposed structure minimizes the number of comparators, leading to a low-complexity realization. In addition, the second minimum is selected from the candidates by carrying out a few comparison steps. As the proposed structure eliminates the large-sized multiplexing networks, it improves the AT complexity significantly compared to those of the previous state-of-the-art SMS.

### FUTURE SCOPE

More feasible structures can be designed using less comparators and multiplexers and may also be implemented for high bit length. In the future structure, the second minimum is selected from the candidates by carrying out a few comparison steps. As the proposed structure eliminates the large-sized multiplexing networks, it improves the AT complexity significantly compared to those of the previous state-of-the-art SMS.

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