# On Evolution of Relatively Large Combinational Logic Circuits 

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#### Abstract

Evolvable hardware (EHW) [1] is a technique introduced to automatically design circuits where the circuit configuration is carried out by evolutionary algorithms. One of the main difficulties in using EHW to solve real-world problems is the scalability. Until now, several strategies have been proposed to avoid this problem, but none of them completely tackle the issue. In this paper three different methods for evolving the most complex circuits have been tested for their scalability. These methods are Bi-directional incremental evolution (SO-BIE) [2]; generalised disjunction decomposition (GD-BIE) [3] and evolutionary strategies (ES) with dynamic mutation rate [4]. In order to achieve the generalised conclusions the chosen approaches were tested using multipliers, traditionally used in EHW, but also logic circuits taken from MCNC [5] benchmark library and randomly generated circuits. The analysis of the approaches demonstrated that PLA-based ES is capable of evolving logic circuits of up to 12 inputs. The use of SO-BIE allows the generation of fully functional circuits of 14 inputs and GD-BIE is estimated to be able to evolve circuits of 21 inputs.


## 1. Introduction

Evolvable hardware (EHW) [1] is a technique introduced to automatically design circuits, where the circuit configuration is under the control of an evolutionary algorithm (EA) [6]. Initially, evolvable hardware was introduced to be applied to real-world applications, but to date no relatively large applications have been developed. This is mainly due to the fact that EHW is not scalable to larger problems [1], [7], [8], [9]. Let us focus on the investigation of scalability issues applied to the design of combinational logic circuits. The existing EHW systems introduced to
evolve combinational logic circuits are generally not scalable by the following factors:

- the length of chromosome representation of logic circuits [10]
- the number of input-output combinations in the truth table
- The computational complexity of EA [2].

The length of the chromosome depends on the number of logic gates used and the connectivity between logic gates. The number of input-output combinations increases exponentially with the increase of the number of inputs in the evolved logic circuit.

The computational complexity of evolutionary algorithms appears mainly due to "stalling" effect that emerges in evolutionary processes for complex problems. Recently these issues have been tackled predominately in two directions: the improvement of evolutionary processes and the development of multievolutionary processes using the principles of problem decomposition. Previously, the performance of EHW on the evolution of 3-bit multiplier has been studied. Both PLA-based and FPGA-based circuits have been considered. For example, the 3-bit multiplier containing 26 logic gates has been evolved for FPGA structure after $3,000,000$ generations using gate-level EHW approach [11]. Function-level EHW was first introduced by Higuchi et al. in [12] and further extended in [13] which the reduction of the number of generations required to evolve successfully the 3-bit multiplier to 30 generations. Although the proposed approach allowed the significant reduction of the number of generations required to obtain fully functional solution, the evolvability of logic circuits with a higher number of inputs remained to be the actual issue. For example, the analysis of the complexity of evolved logic circuits revealed that the most complex multiplier currently evolved is the 4 digit multiplier (8 inputs; 8 outputs) [14]. This circuit was evolved by using the logic gates as building blocks for

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FPGA target structure. The introduction of the dynamic mutation rate allowed the improvement of the achieved results by evolving 12 -input 8 -output logic circuits from MCNC benchmark library [5]. This circuit was generated for AND-OR PLA structure. Unfortunately it is difficult to compare the evolution of PLA- and FPGA-based logic circuits due to the fact that FPGAbased circuits have larger search space. Therefore they are more difficult to evolve. The main drawback of the last approach is that the dynamic mutation is specifically designed based on the behaviour of PLAbased logic circuits during the evolutionary process. Therefore, it is not applicable for the evolution of FPGA-based logic circuits. Based on decomposition strategies, several approaches to overcoming scalability problem have been introduced such as: divide-andconquer [15]; bi-directional incremental evolution (SOBIE) [2] and the generalised disjunction decomposition, a new decomposition strategy for evolvable hardware introduced by the author in [3]. Regarding the divide and conquer method, so called increased incremental evolution [16] has been introduced to reduce the search space. This method has been demonstrated complete evolve of logic circuits of 10 inputs (5-bit multiplier) introducing partioned training vector and partioned training set [17]. However a significant weakness is also present, that is the difficulties in defining the fitness function for the initial stages of the evolution, which makes it less suitable for completely automatic systems. SO-BIE evolution is a completely automatic system which does not require any knowledge from the designer and is not scalable to really large circuits due to the limitations of EHW-oriented output and Shannon decompositions [2]. The first attempt to use this approach in EHW was achieved by the evolution of 7 -inputs 10 outputs logic function from MCNC benchmark and has been further improved by introduction a new assembling techniques [18]. Furthermore, the introduction of generalized disjunction decomposition into SO-BIE improved design and optimization of logic circuits to 16 inputs 1 output. The drawback is the imposition to the system to use multiplexers. In this paper bi-directional incremental evolution, the "generalised disjunction decomposition" and ES with variable mutation rate are evaluated in an attempt to establish the advantages and disadvantages of each of them.

This paper is organized as follow: the next section gives a brief description of these three methods together with the evolutionary algorithms, chromosomes structures and fitness functions used. Section 3 gives the experimental results, followed by the conclusions.

## 2. Extrinsic EHW approaches

Bi-directional incremental evolution, applied to design of combinational logic circuits, combines the evolutionary processes carried out by extrinsic EHW with EHW-oriented circuit decomposition that identifies the sub-tasks to be evolved. Let us consider the main features of BIE with Shannon and output decompositions (SO-BIE), extended BIE with generalised disjunction decomposition (GD-BIE) and ES with dynamic mutation rates applied to the evolution of combinational logic circuits. Each circuit and sub-circuit, defined by decomposition, is consequently evolved using extrinsic EHW.

### 2.1 Extrinsic EHW

In this section the evolutionary algorithm used to evolve logic circuits, together with the fitness function and chromosome representations are presented.
2.1.1 Evolutionary algorithm. The evolutionary algorithm used is the ( $1+\lambda$ ) rudimentary evolutionary strategy with cell and circuit geometry mutation, where $\lambda$ represents the population size [19], [20]. Once the fitness function of each individual is calculated, the fittest individual is selected and duplicated for the population of the next generation and it is brought up to date by using both cell and circuit geometry mutation operators.
2.1.2 Encoding. The chromosome encoding used takes into account the aspects of any combinational logic network: cell functionality and inter-connectivity of the cells between the inputs and outputs of the circuit. In our approach the logic circuit is presented as a rectangular array of logic gates. Each logic cell in this array is uncommitted and can be removed from the network if it is redundant. All the logic functions are chosen from the set of AND, OR, XOR, NOT and multiplexer. The chromosome is represented by a 3 level structure: geometry, circuit and gate. At the first level the global characteristics of the circuit are defined: the internal connectivity and the number of rows and columns of the rectangular array. At the second level the array of cells is created and the circuit's outputs are determined. The third level represents the structures of each cell in the circuit [19].
2.1.3 Dynamic fitness function. The fitness function evaluates the evolved circuits in terms of their functionality. In our experiment a dynamic fitness function has been considered. It has two main criteria:
first design and second, once the circuit is fully functional evolved, optimization which leads to reduced numbers of active logic gates used in the circuit configuration. The dynamic fitness function f is calculated as:

$$
f= \begin{cases}f_{1} & f<100  \tag{1}\\ \text { circuit design } \\ f_{1}+f_{2} & f \geq 100 \quad \text { circuit optimization }\end{cases}
$$

where $f_{1}$ is a design criterion that defines the percentage of correct bits in the evolved circuit, $f_{2}$ is the optimization criterion for the optimization stage.

The fitness function for the functionality of the evolved circuit $f_{1}$, or so called design criterion is calculated as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
f_{1}=\frac{100}{m \cdot p} \sum_{f_{c}}^{2^{n-1}} \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} 2^{i-1} \cdot\left|y_{i}-d_{i}\right| \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $m$ and $n$ are the number of outputs and the number of inputs of the given logic function, respectively; $p$ is the number of input-output combinations; $y_{i}$ is the $\mathrm{i}^{\text {th }}$ digit of the output combination produced by the evaluation of the circuit, $d_{i}$ is the desired output for the fitness case $\mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{c}} .\left|y_{i}-d_{i}\right|$ is the absolute difference between the actual and the required outputs. The fitness function for the optimization stage is calculated as:

$$
\begin{equation*}
f_{2}=\left(N_{\lg }-N_{a \lg }\right) \cdot N_{p \lg } \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $N_{\mathrm{lg}}$ is the total number of logic gates, $N_{\mathrm{plg}}$ is the number of primitive logic gates and $N_{\text {alg }}$ is the number of active logic gates.

### 2.2 Bi-directional incremental evolution

Bi-directional incremental evolution [2] operates by gradually decomposing a complex system into a series of simpler ones when the evolution does not bring any improvement in terms of fitness function value, see Figure 1. These simpler blocks are evolved separately, and then merged together once completely developed. If, during the evolution of each single subsystem, the stalling effect occurs again, the single sub-circuits will be decomposed another time, until all the sub-circuits are simple enough to be evolved. The systems are decomposed by using Shannon and output decomposition [2].


Figure 1. Bi-directional Incremental Evolution (BIE) approach

As can be seen the evolution is in both sides: firstly towards modularization (having simpler and smaller logic circuits) and secondly towards an optimized system, by assembling the simpler sub-circuits together. For example, the output decomposition guarantees that each sub-system is synthesized separately and is completely independent. In the case of functional decomposition, the corresponding outputs generated for various input combinations in different sub-systems have to be connected together using onecontrol multiplexer. Analysis of experimental results show that it is reasonable to assemble the subsystems decomposed by functional decomposition first and then the sub-systems separated using output decomposition [18].

### 2.3 Generalised disjunction decomposition

The "generalised disjunction decomposition" proposed in [3] is based on the statement that:

- the number of generations required to completely evolve logic circuits is mainly dependant on the number of inputs instead of the number of outputs, which is shown in [3].
- The decomposition of a complex system into smaller ones in BIE is done by using output decomposition.
So, supposing that a complex system F with $n$ inputs and $m$ outputs, see Figure 2, requires numerous generations to be evolved. This could be decomposed into two sub-systems as reported in Figure 3; where the subsystem $G$ with $r$ inputs and $s$ outputs represents the evolvable part of the newly created system. The number of input-output combinations is:

$$
\begin{equation*}
q=2^{r} \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

and the number of output is:

$$
\begin{equation*}
s=m \cdot 2^{n-r} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

The sub-system H with ( $s+n-r$ ) inputs and $m$ outputs represents the fixed part of the circuit that is mainly generated using multiplexers. This part does not participate in the evolutionary process.

The structure of this sub-circuit depends on the number of used inputs and outputs. By using this decomposition strategy the number of generations required to evolve the circuits is much smaller; furthermore this method allows the evolution of larger circuits [3]. This sub-system G, which has fewer inputs and more outputs than the original ones, can be evolved using either the traditional EHW approach or any other scalable approach such as divide-and-conquer, bidirectional incremental evolution, etc.


Figure 2. General description of a system with $n$ inputs and $m$ outputs (a); truth table of the system (b), where $p$ is equal to all the possible input-output combinations.


Figure 3. Generalized disjunction decomposition of the initial logic circuit. (a) Schemata $r$ and $g$ refer to the number of inputs and outputs respectively. (b) Truth table of the evolved part of the proposed sub-system

The complexity of the evolutionary process will depend on the type of method used.

### 2.4 Evolving PLA structures using ES with dynamic mutation rate

This approach is based on the idea of evolving logic circuits using a dynamic mutation rate that adapts to the evolved circuit structure [4]. This technique uses evolutionary strategy with uniform mutation, roulette wheel selection and binary chromosome representation to generate the AND-OR PLA structure. The mutation rate is changed according how good the evolved solutions are. The chromosome encodes the structure of Programmable Logic Array (PLA) by describing the connections between lines in AND and OR planes. Therefore, the PLA structure is encoded using 2 arrays of genes as shown in Figure 4.

The chromosome is composed of three genes: connection genes in AND plane, input line genes in AND plane and connection in OR plane. The evolutionary process is divided into 2 sub-processes, where different fitness functions are activated. The functionality of the evolved logic function is used during the PLA design process. The number of product lines in the PLA structure is minimized during the PLA optimization process.

Dynamic fitness function similar to one introduced earlier in the extrinsic EHW approach, is used to evaluate the quality of the evolved circuits. The difference is that the quality of the evolved fully functional circuits is defined by the number of product lines actually used in the obtained solution.


Figure 4. The chromosome encoding of a PLA structure

## 3. Experimental results

Evolvable hardware and Digital Logic Design are two competitive areas that have the common goal: to design of logic circuits. Evolvable hardware attempts to introduce completely automated circuit design processes in contrast to traditional Digital Logic Design where even today the human intervention plays a vital role in the design of logic circuits. Although both areas have the same goal, the algorithms proposed in these two areas are analyzed using different libraries. For example, the approaches proposed in the area of Digital Logic Design are validated using MCNC benchmark library [5], [21] in contrast to Evolvable hardware, where validation is mainly based on the evolution of multipliers with different complexity and randomly generated logic circuits [8][11][15]. Through our experimental work we have attempted to merge a validation process used in Evolvable Hardware and Digital Logic Design. Therefore, the evolvability of logic circuits randomly generated, as well as circuits taken from MCNC benchmark library and multipliers of different complexity are analyzed. This provides an indication on how EHW-based approaches perform in general for the evolution of combinational logic circuits. In this work, only the logic circuits given on complete set of input-output combinations have been considered. For example a 3-bit multiplier has 6 inputs and 6 outputs and it is described with 64 input-output combinations. Similarly a 6-bit multiplier contains 12 inputs and 12 outputs and it is described by 4096 inputoutput combinations. The presented results are obtained based on the analysis of the truth table of completely specified switching functions. The aim of these experiments is to illustrate:

- the maximum possible size of evolvable logic circuits for each method discussed earlier;
- the performance of methods discussed earlier during optimization process;
The experiments have been carried out separately for methods evolved FPGA- and PLA-based circuits.


### 3.1 Experimental results: BIE and generalized disjunction decomposition

In this section the experimental results obtained with the use of BIE and the generalised disjunction decomposition are presented. The initial data used for those experiments are given in Table 1. The system used for evolving circuits with SO-BIE is shown in Figure 1, while the schema shown in Figure 5 is used for the generalized disjunction decomposition.

Table 1. Initial data for the experiments carried out using BIE and the generalized disjunction decomposition

| Evolutionary algorithm | $(1+\lambda)$ rudimentary ES |
| :--- | :--- |
| Population size | 5 |
| Number of Generations | 500000 |
| Number of runs for each <br> experiments | $\geq 100$ |
| Elitism is applied | 0.05 |
| Cell mutation rate | 0.05 |
| Geometry Mutation Rate | 2000 generations without <br> any improvement in fitness <br> function |
| Termination criteria for <br> evolutionary process |  |



Figure 5. System used for evolving logic circuits
The experimental results obtained by using BIE and the generalised disjunction decomposition are shown in Table 2. In that table all the characteristics of the circuit are given. For example, by looking at the logic circuit 9 sym.pla, it has 9 inputs, 1 output and 512 input-output combinations. Then, the number of generations (average out of 100 experiments and "best solution") required to evolve the logic circuits, is reported. The next two columns give the average and best time (values are expressed in seconds) for each experiment. The next two columns provide the value of fitness function for the final optimized solutions. The last three columns give information on the circuit layout used to evolve the logic circuits, such as number of rows, columns and level's back [22]. For each circuit different results are given, this is because two different methodologies are used.

For the circuits 9 sym it can be observed that it is evolved using BIE (first row, 9 input and 1 output) and the generalised disjunction decomposition (second and third rows respectively with 6 input and 8 outputs and 4 inputs and 32 outputs).

Table 2. Experimental results from SO-BIE and generalized disjunction decomposition (GD-BIE), where in, out and $p$ are the number of inputs, outputs and products (input-output combinations) in the given logic function. Each logic circuit (except for Mult6) has been evolved 100 times with a success rate of $100 \%$. The last three columns give dimension size: number of rows (R), columns (C) and level back (L) [22] of the circuit layout used during simulations

| Info circuit |  |  |  |  | Experimental results |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Number of generations performed |  | Total time spent per each experiment in seconds |  | Final fitness function |  | Circuit layout parameter: |  |  |
| name | method | in | out | p | average | best | average | est | average | best | R | C | L |
| Randomly generated logic circuits |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-5 | SO-BIE | 6 | 5 | 64 | 40,425 | 26,381 | 1,194 | 624 | 15,658 | 25,088 | 3 | 80 | 80 |
|  | GD-BIE | 4 | 20 | 16 | 16,121 | 9,446 | 410 | 257 | 13,815 | 17,931 |  |  |  |
| 6-4 | SO-BIE | 6 | 4 | 64 | 30,095 | 14,587 | 1,099 | 442 | 11,866 | 20,456 | 3 | 80 | 80 |
|  | GD-BIE | 4 | 16 | 16 | 10,507 | 6,744 | 321 | 159 | 23,937 | 34,030 |  |  |  |
| 6-3 | SO-BIE | 6 | 3 | 64 | 30,754 | 16,099 | 366 | 229 | 3,498 | 6,404 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
|  | GD-BIE | 4 | 12 | 16 | 8,251 | 4,489 | 129 | 64 | 7,458 | 10,972 |  |  |  |
| 6-2 | SO-BIE | 6 | 2 | 64 | 12,886 | 4,160 | 289 | 94 | 1,598 | 3,486 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
|  | GD-BIE | 4 | 8 | 16 | 3,500 | 564 | 54 | 12 | 2,152 | 5,614 |  |  |  |
| 6-1 | SO-BIE | 6 | 1 | 64 | 10,784 | 4,406 | 136 | 59 | 1,483 | 3,887 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
|  | GD-BIE | 3 | 8 | 8 | 3,684 | 1,575 | 62 | 25 | 3,049 | 5,102 |  |  |  |
| Logic circuits taken from MCNC benchmark library |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| majority | SO-BIE | 5 | 1 | 32 | 1,323 | 17 | 17 | 0.5 | 608 | 1,385 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
|  | GD-BIE | 3 | 4 | 8 | 237 | 19 | 8 | 1 | 1,139 | 1,957 |  |  |  |
| 9sym | SO-BIE | 9 | 1 | 512 | 67,041 | 44,261 | 2,852 | 2,204 | 15,976 | 32,790 | 3 | 80 | 80 |
|  | GD-BIE | 6 | 8 | 64 | 28,741 | 13,771 | 745 | 412 | 15,971 | 26,448 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 4 | 32 | 16 | 10,142 | 5,540 | 323 | 185 | 28,034 | 39,128 |  |  |  |
| add2_7 | SO-BIE | 7 | 4 | 128 | 28,121 | 10,535 | 269 | 112 | 3,036 | 5,268 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
|  | GD-BIE | 5 | 16 | 32 | 11,665 | 4,358 | 90 | 29 | 7,465 | 14,190 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 4 | 32 | 16 | 7,448 | 4,541 | 52 | 32 | 13,248 | 20,455 |  |  |  |
| 5xp1 | SO-BIE | 7 | 10 | 128 | 43,643 | 22,623 | 1,878 | 1,003 | 16,994 | 30,008 | 3 | 80 | 80 |
|  | GD-BIE | 5 | 40 | 32 | 24,560 | 13,116 | 884 | 518 | 51,659 | 77,001 |  |  |  |
| addm4 | SO-BIE | 9 | 8 | 512 | 168,053 | 127,206 | 10,713 | 8,039 | 40,847 | 68,204 | 3 | 80 | 80 |
|  | GD-BIE | 7 | 32 | 128 | 132,414 | 103,563 | 4,908 | 3,753 | 73,027 | 94,339 |  |  |  |
| col4 | SO-BIE | 14 | 1 | 16,384 | 184,476 | 150,838 | 70,877 | 64,222 | 5,024 | 7,531 | 3 | 80 | 80 |
|  | GD-BIE | 10 | 16 | 10,24 | 50,733 | 14,139 | 6,240 | 3,479 | 13,179 | 33,075 |  |  |  |
| con1 | SO-BIE | 7 | 2 | 128 | 6,584 | 2,177 | 286 | 126 | 3,015 | 8,881 | 3 | 80 | 80 |
|  | GD-BIE | 5 | 8 | 32 | 7,092 | 2,307 | 212 | 79 | 10,036 | 17,760 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 3 | 32 | 8 | 4,893 | 2,553 | 136 | 71 | 22,358 | 30,441 |  |  |  |
| rd84 | SO-BIE | 8 | 4 | 256 | 87,752 | 58,640 | 781 | 568 | 13,571 | 24,545 | 3 | 80 | 80 |
|  | GD-BIE | 6 | 16 | 64 | 56,764 | 35,698 | 410 | 256 | 16,473 | 22,388 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 5 | 32 | 32 | 38,533 | 15,808 | 250 | 126 | 23,701 | 35,104 |  |  |  |
| t841 | SO-BIE | 16 | 1 | 65,536 | Not evolved |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | GD-BIE | 9 | 128 | 512 | 597,469 | 463,396 | 20,250 | 13,482 | 396,399 | 445,554 | 4 | 100 | 100 |
| Multiplier circuits |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mult3 | SO-BIE | 6 | 6 | 64 | 21,948 | 9,030 | 288 | 126 | 4,279 | 2,373 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
|  | GD-BIE | 4 | 24 | 16 | 9,156 | 4,434 | 123 | 67 | 8,820 | 14,219 |  |  |  |
| Mult4 | SO-BIE | 8 | 8 | 256 | 146,663 | 117,495 | 1,718 | 1,468 | 13,019 | 20,592 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
|  | GD-BIE | 6 | 32 | 64 | 87,411 | 70,999 | 1,040 | 594 | 23,554 | 30,926 |  |  |  |
| Mult5 | SO-BIE | 10 | 10 | 1,024 | 740,164 | 685,372 | 16,033 | 15,338 | 48,786 | 52,860 | 3 | 80 | 80 |
|  | GD-BIE | 8 | 40 | 256 | 506,347 | 482,789 | 24,088 | 17,458 | 152,372 | 171,368 |  |  |  |
| Mult6 | SO-BIE | 12 | 12 | 4,096 | 2,582,678 | 2,582,678 | 190,450 | 190,450 | 537,322 | 537,322 | 3 | 80 | 80 |

Based on the results found, one may conclude that the main advantages of using the generalized disjunction decomposition are:

- a smaller amount of generations are required during evolution
- a better values of fitness functions are achieved, therefore the circuits are better optimized
- it solves the tasks quicker than by using BIE

All the circuits (except of the multiplier 6x6, which has been evolved only once, because of the high computational time required) have been evolved 100 times with an achievement rate of $100 \%$.

### 3.2 Experimental results: ES with dynamic mutation rate

In this section the results obtained with the use of the evolutionary strategy with variable mutation rate are presented. In Table 3 the initial data together with the experimental results are shown. In that table $I_{\text {max }}$ is the initial given number of products lines in PLA; $N^{\text {max }}$ refers to the maximum number of generations given for each evolutionary process: PLA design and optimization; $N^{\text {design }}$ and $N^{\text {opt }}$ are the average number of generations for design and optimization processes, respectively; $I^{\text {design }}$ and $I^{\text {opt }}$ are the average number of product lines in PLA obtained after the completion of
design and optimization processes respectively; $I^{\text {best_design }}$ and $I^{\text {best_opt }}$ are the minimum number of product lines over 100 runs obtained for design and optimization processes respectively. $I^{i m p}$ gives the value in percentage of improvements in terms of fitness function. The experimental results have been obtained based on the analysis of 100 runs for each logic function, except of the circuits with the number of inputs higher than 10 . Those functions have been evolved 5 times each. This is because the computational requirements needed to complete the evolution are too high for a desktop PC. It should be observed that this method was not able to evolve logic circuits with 14 inputs and higher, so the most difficult task solved was the 6 -digit multiplier. In several cases, no significant improvement during optimization process has been noticed, see Table 3 last column (which gives the improvements in terms of fitness function during optimization). This can be explained by the use of a low number of generations during the evolutionary process.

## 4 Conclusion

In this paper a comparison of evolving logic circuits using three different methodologies has been presented. The performance of these three different techniques has been tested on the evolution of logic circuits taken from different sources: some of them were randomly generated, others were taken from MCNC benchmark and others describe the behaviour of multipliers of different complexities. The experimental results show that, the generalised disjunction decomposition used together with BIE:

- requires fewer of generations
- the evolved circuits are better optimized
- speeds up the evolutionary algorithm
- gives the possibility to completely evolve circuits of 16 inputs (which means 65536 input-output combinations), which is the biggest logic circuits completely evolved until now, by using a desktop PC.
The most complex logic circuit evolved for SO-BIE has 14 -inputs. This may indicate the current limitations of SO-BIE. Since the evolution of evolvable part in GD-BIE is carried out by SO-BIE, the limitations implied to SO-BIE also are implied to GD-BIE. Therefore, GD-BIE can successfully perform evolution while the evolvable part of the circuit G remains no more complex than 14 -inputs. Considering that currently we have managed to reduce the number of inputs in the evolvable part by 7, than one can predict that the most complex logic circuit that GD-BIE is capable to evolve should have no more than 21 input. ES, with a dynamic mutation rate, performs far better when compared with a BIE-based approach. This is because the statistical method evolves logic circuits using the AND and OR planes, which are simpler than the FPGA based logic circuits evolved with the BIE approach. The largest circuit evolved with this method is a 6 -digit multiplier. The method was not able to evolve more complex circuits. Both approaches discussed in the paper have demonstrated the capability to evolve more complex logic functions than the ones reported earlier. The analysis of experimental results demonstrated that there is a potential for improvements in these algorithms.

Table 3. Experimental results obtained by making use of statistical model

| Name | in | out | p | Experimental results |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Initial parameters |  | Success rate (\%) | PLA design |  |  | PLA optimization |  |  | $I^{\text {imp }}$ |
|  |  |  |  | $I_{\text {max }}$ | $N^{\text {max }}$ |  | $N^{\text {design }}$ | $I^{\text {design }}$ | $I^{\text {best_design }}$ | $N^{\text {opt }}$ | $I^{\text {opt }}$ | $I^{\text {best_opt }}$ |  |
| Logic circuits randomly generated |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-5 | 6 | 5 | 64 | 64 | 10,000 | 12 | 1232.4 | 63.7 | 62 | 10,000 | 62.8 | 59 | 1.4 |
| 6-4 | 6 | 4 | 64 | 64 | 10,000 | 61 | 101.6 | 61.9 | 56 | 10,000 | 56.8 | 50 | 8.2 |
| 6-3 | 6 | 3 | 64 | 64 | 10,000 | 100 | 5.7 | 57. | 47 | 10,000 | 47.4 | 40 | 16.8 |
| 6-2 | 6 | 2 | 64 | 64 | 10,000 | 100 | 2.7 | 48.9 | 34 | 10,000 | 30.9 | 26 | 36.8 |
| 6-1 | 6 | 1 | 64 | 64 | 10,000 | 100 | 1.7 | 37.5 | 23 | 10,000 | 21.5 | 18 | 42.7 |
| Logic circuits taken from MCNC benchmark |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Majority | 5 | 1 | 32 | 32 | 10,000 | 100 | 1.3 | 24.7 | 15 | 10,000 | 12.3 | 8 | 50.2 |
| con1 | 7 | 2 | 128 | 96 | 10,000 | 100 | 5.5 | 86.7 | 60 | 10,000 | 60.9 | 49 | 29.8 |
| Add2_7 | 7 | 4 | 128 | 128 | 10,000 | 100 | 10.8 | 117 | 96 | 10,000 | 101.2 | 91 | 13.5 |
| 5xp1 | 7 | 10 | 128 | 128 | 10,000 | 62 | 108.3 | 127.7 | 126 | 10,000 | 124.2 | 118 | 2.8 |
| rd84 | 8 | 4 | 256 | 256 | 10,000 | 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 9sym | 9 | 1 | 512 | 512 | 10,000 | 100 | 8.5 | 301.0 | 252 | 10,000 | 253.8 | 239 | 15.7 |
| addm4 | 9 | 8 | 512 | 384 | 10,000 | 89 | 30.8 | 379.6 | 365 | 10,000 | 369.4 | 350 | 2.7 |
| alu1 | 12 | 8 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 10,000 | 100 | 16.6 | 3506.0 | 3417 | 10,000 | 3,203.2 | 3,169 | 8.6 |
| col4 | 14 | 1 | 16,384 | 16,384 | 10,000 | 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| rd84 | 16 | 1 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 10,000 | 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Multiplier circuits |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mult3 | 6 | 6 | 64 | 64 | 10,000 | 100 | 7.1 | 56.9 | 47 | 10,000 | 49.4 | 42 | 13.2 |
| Mult4 | 8 | 8 | 256 | 256 | 10,000 | 100 | 15.5 | 240.1 | 222 | 10,000 | 225.1 | 210 | 6.2 |
| Mult5 | 10 | 10 | 512 | 512 | 10,000 | 100 | 26.4 | 990.5 | 954 | 10,000 | 965.7 | 936 | 2.5 |
| Mult6 | 12 | 12 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 10,000 | 100 | 53.0 | 3997.2 | 3991 | 10,000 | 3,983.2 | 3,979 | 0.4 |

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