# Low Power and Area-Efficient Carry Select Adder

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*Abstract— Carry Select Adder (CSLA) is one of the fastest adders used in many data-processing processors to perform fast arithmetic functions. From the structure of the CSLA, it is clear that there is scope for reducing the area and power consumption in the CSLA. This work uses a simple and efficient gate-level modification to significantly reduce the area and power of the CSLA. Based on this modification 8-, 16-, 32-, and 64-b square-root CSLA (SQRT CSLA) architecture have been developed and compared with the regular SQRT CSLA architecture. The proposed design has reduced area and power as compared with the regular SQRT CSLA with only a slight increase in the delay. This work evaluates the performance of the proposed designs in terms of delay, area, power, and their products by hand with logical effort and through custom design and layout in 0.18-m CMOS process technology. The results analysis shows that the proposed CSLA structure is better than the regular SQRT CSLA.*

*Keywords—Application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), area efficient, CSLA, low power.*

## I.  INTRODUCTION

Design of area and power efficient high speed data path logic systems are one of the most substantial areas of research in VLSI system design. In digital adders, the speed of addition is limited by the time required to propagate a carry through the adder. The sum for each bit position in an elementary adder is generated sequentially only after the previous bit position has been summed and a carry propagated into the next position.

The CLSA is used in many computational systems to alleviate the problem of carry progpagation delay by independently generating multiple carries and then select a carry to generate the sum [1]. However, the CSLA is not area efficient because it uses multiple pairs of Ripple Carry Adders (RCA) to generate partial sum and carry by considering carry input and then the final sum and carry are selected by the multiplexers(mux).

The basic idea of this work is to use Binary to Excess-1 converted (BEC) instead of RCA with in the regular CSLA to achieve lower area and power consumption [2]-[4]. The main advantage of this BEC logic comes from the lesser number of logic gates than the bit Full Adder (FA) structure. The details of the BEC logic are discussed in Section III.

This brief is structured as follows. Section II deals with the delay and area evaluation methodology of the basic adder blocks. Section III presents the detailed structure and the function of the BEC logic.

The SQRT CSLA has been chosen for comparison with the

proposed design as it has a more balanced delay, and requires lower power and area [5], [6]. The delay and area evaluation methodology of the regular and modified SQRT CSLA are presented in Sections IV and V, respectively. The ASIC implementation details and results are analyzed in Section VI. Finally, the work is concluded in Section VII.
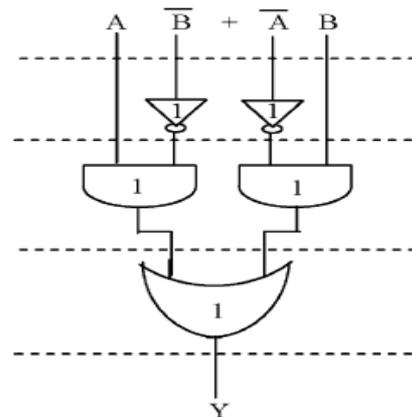


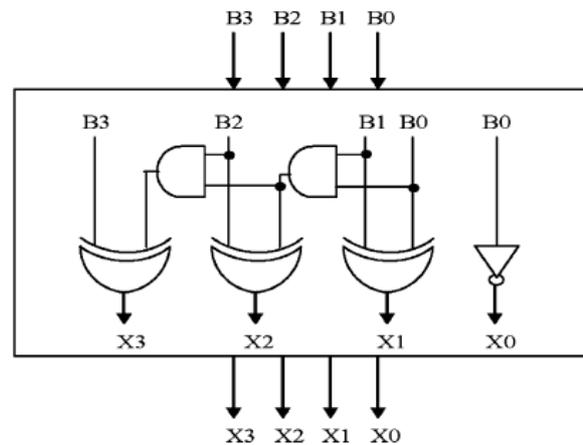Fig.1 Delay and area evaluation using XOR gate
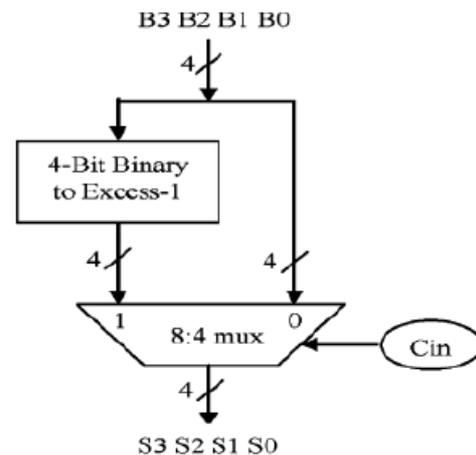


Fig. 2.4-b BEC.



Fig. 3.  4-b BEC with 8:4 mux.

## II. DELAY AND AREA EVALUATION METHODOLOGY OF THE BASIC

The AND, OR, and Inverter (AOI) implementation of an XOR gate is shown in Fig. 1. The gates between the dotted lines are performing the operations in parallel and the numeric representation of each gate indicates the delay contributed by that gate. The delay and area evaluation methodology considers all gates to be made up of AND, OR, and Inverter, each having delay equal to 1 unit and area equal to 1 unit. We then add up the number of gates in the longest path of a logic block that contributes to the maximum delay. The area evaluation is done by counting the total number of AOI gates required for each logic block. Based on this approach, the CSLA adder blocks of 2:1 mux, Half Adder (HA), and FA are evaluated and listed in Table I.
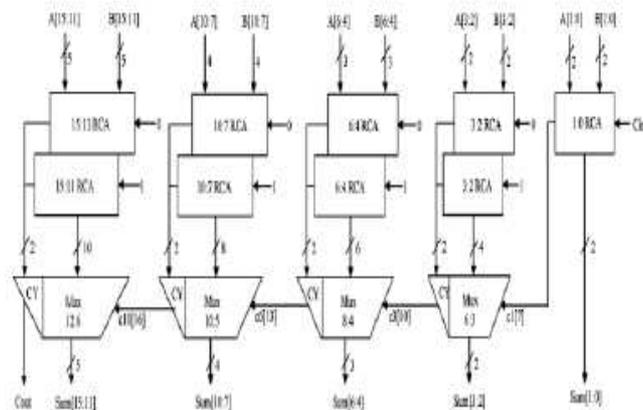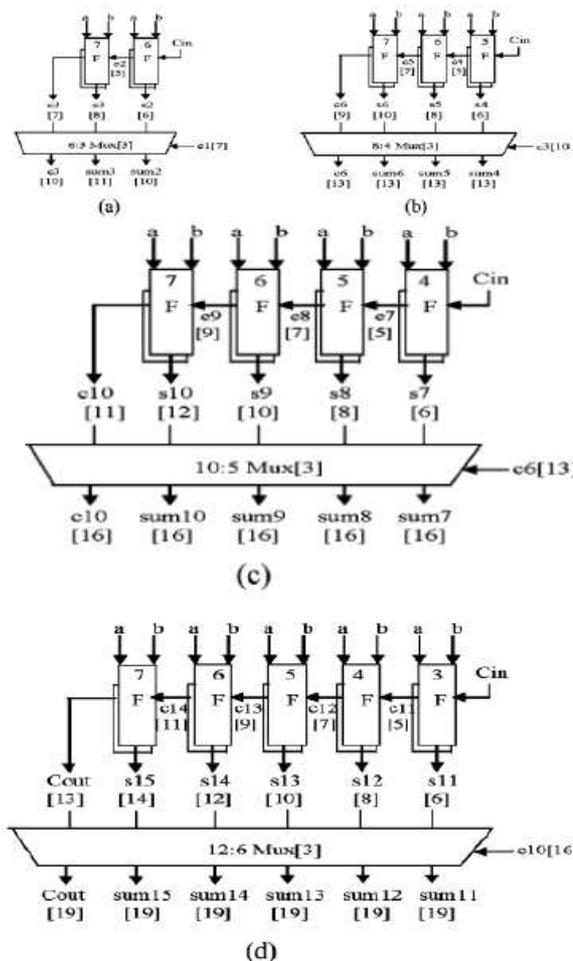


Fig. 4. Regular 16-b SQRT CSLA.

**TABLE I**
DELAY AND AREA COUNT OF THE BASIC BLOCKS OF CSLA

| Adder blocks | Delay | Area |
|---|---|---|
| XOR | 3 | 5 |
| 2:1 Mux | 3 | 4 |
| Half adder | 3 | 6 |
| Full adder | 6 | 13 |

## III. BEC

As stated above the main idea of this work is to use BEC instead of the RCA with $C_{in}=1$ in order to reduce the area and power consumption of the regular CSLA. To replace the n bit RCA, an n+1 bit BEC is required. A structure and the function table of a 4 bit BEC are show in Fig.2 and Table II respectively.

Fir.3 illustrates how the basic function of the CSLA is obtained by using 4-bit BEC together with the mux. One input of the 8:4 mux gets as it input( B3, B2, B1, and B0) and another input of the mux is the BEC output. This produces the two possible partial results in parallel and the mux is used to select either the BEC output or the direct inputs according to the control signal Cin. The importance of the BEC logic stems from the large silicon area reduction when the CSLA with large number of bits are designed. The Boolean expressions of the 4-bit BEC is listed as (note the functional symbols NOT, & XOR)



## IV. DELAY AND AREA EVALUATION METHODOLOGY OF REGULAR 16-B SQRT CSLA

The structure of the 16-b regular SQRT CSLA is shown in Fig. 4. It has five groups of different size RCA. The delay and area evaluation of each group are shown in Fig. 5, in which the numerals within specify the delay values, e.g., sum2 requires 10 gate delays. The steps leading to the evaluation are as follows. 1) The group2 [see Fig. 5(a)] has two sets of 2-b RCA. Based on the consideration of delay values of Table I, the arrival time of selection input of 6:3 mux is earlier than and later than. Thus,is summation of and 2) Except for group2, the arrival time of mux selection input is always greater than the arrival time of data outputs from the RCA's. Thus, the delay of group3 to group5 is determined, respectively as follows: 3) The one set of 2-b RCA in group2 has 2 FA for and the other set has 1 FA and 1 HA for . Based on the area count of Table I, the total number of gate counts in group2 is determined as follows:

$$\text{Gate count} = 43\,(\text{FA} + \text{HA} + \text{Mux} + \text{BEC})$$
$$\text{FA} = 13(1*13)$$
$$\text{HA} = 6(1*6)$$
$$\text{AND} = 1$$
$$\text{NOT} = 1$$
$$\text{XOR} = 10(2*5)$$
$$\text{Mux} = 12(3*4).$$

4) Similarly, the estimated maximum delay and area of the other groups in the regular SQRT CSLA are evaluated and listed.

## V. DELAY AND AREA EVALUATION METHODOLOGY OF MODIFIED 16-B SQRT CSLA

The structure of the proposed 16-b SQRT CSLA using BEC for RCA with  to optimize the area and power is shown in Fig. 6. We again split the structure into five groups. The delay and area estimation 4)Similarly, the estimated maximum delay and area of the other groups of the modified SQRT CSLA are evaluated and listed in Table IV. Comparing Tables III and IV, it is clear that the proposed modified SQRT CSLA saves 113 gate areas than the regular SQRT CSLA, with only 11 increases in gate delays. To further evaluate the performance, we have resorted to ASIC implementation and simulation.

## VI. ASIC IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

The design proposed in this paper has been developed using Ver-ilog-HDL and synthesized in Cadence RTL compiler using typical libraries of TSMC 0.18 um technology. The synthesized Verilog netlist and their respective design constraints file (SDC) are imported to Cadence SoC Encounter and are used to generate automated layout from standard cells and placement and routing [7]. parasitic extraction is per-formed using Encounter's Native RC extraction tool and the extracted parasitic *RC* (SPEF format) is back annotated to Common Timing Engine in Encounter platform for static timing analysis. For each word size of the adder, the same value changed dump (VCD) file is generated for all possible input conditions and imported the same to Cadence Encounter Power Analysis to perform the power simulations.
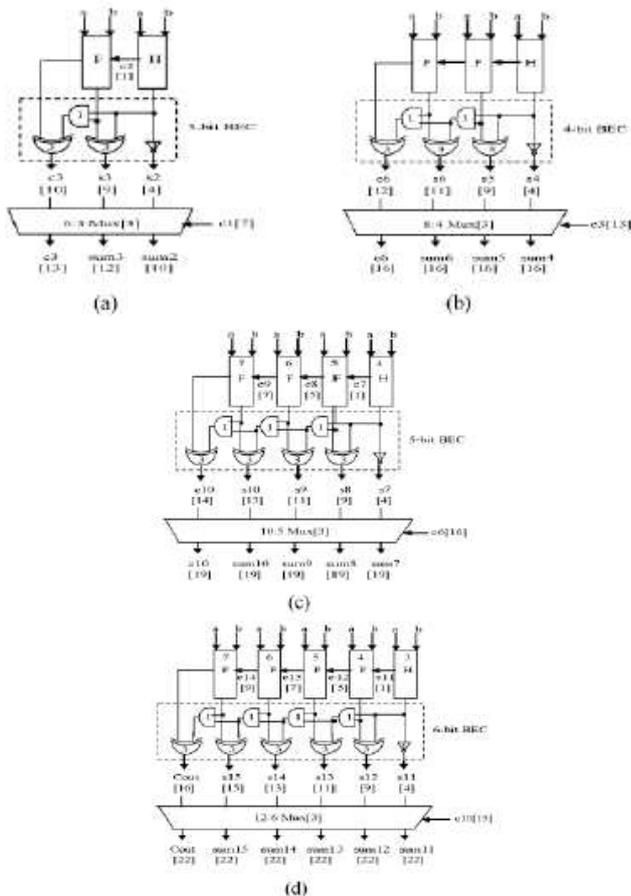


Fig. 7. Delay and area evaluation of modified SQRT CSLA: (a) group2, (b) group3, (c) group4, and (d) group5. H is a Half Adder.

**TABLE IV**
**DELAY AND AREA COUNT OF MODIFIED SQRT CSLA**

| Group | Delay | Area |
|---|---|---|
| Group2 | 13 | 43 |
| Group3 | 16 | 61 |
| Group4 | 19 | 84 |
| Group5 | 22 | 107 |

The similar design flow is followed for both the regular and modified SQRTCSLA. Table V exhibits the simulation results of both the CSLA structures in terms of delay, area and power. The area indicates the total cell area of the design and the total power is sum of the leakage power, internal power and switching power. The percentage reduction in the cell area, total power, power-delay product and the area–delay product as function of the bit size are shown in Fig. 8(a). Also plotted is the percentage
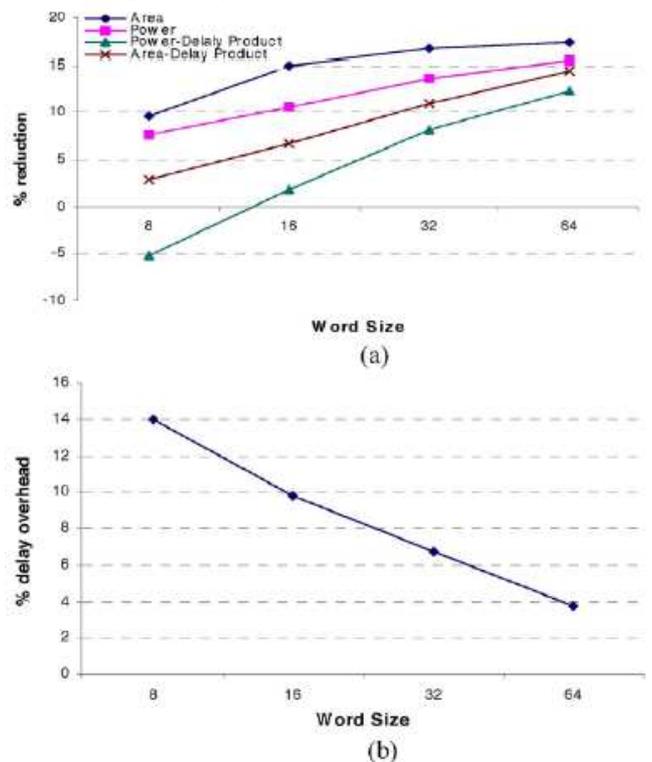


Fig. 8. (a) Percentage reduction in the cell area, total power, power–delay product, and area–delay product. (b) Percentage of delay overhead.

delay overhead in Fig. 8(b). It is clear that the area of the 8-, 16-, 32-,and 64-b proposed SQRT CSLA is reduced by 9.7%, 15%, 16.7%, and 17.4%, respectively. The total power consumed shows a similar trend of increasing reduction in power consumption 7.6%, 10.56%, 13.63%, and 15.46 % with the bit size. Interestingly, the delay overhead also exhibits a similarly decreasing trend with bit size. The delay overhead for the 8, 16, and 32-b is 14%, 9.8%, and 6.7% respectively, whereas for the 64-b it reduces to only 3.76%. The power–delay product of the proposed 8-b is higher than that of the regular SQRT CSLA by 5.2% and the area-delay product is lower by 2.9%. However, the power-delay product of the proposed 16-b SQRT CSLA reduces by 1.76% and for the 32-b and 64-b by as much as 8.18%, and 12.28%

respectively. Similarly the area-delay product of the proposed design for 16-, 32-, and 64-b is also reduced by 6.7%, 11%, and 14.4% respectively

## VII. CONCLUSION

A simple approach is proposed in this paper to reduce the area and power of SQRT CSLA architecture. The reduced number of gates of this work offers the great advantage in the reduction of area and also the total power. The compared results show that the modified SQRT CSLA has a slightly larger delay (only 3.76%), but the area and power of the 64-b modified SQRT CSLA are significantly reduced by 17.4% and 15.4% respectively. The power-delay product and also the area-delay product of the proposed design show a decrease for 16-, 32-, and 64-b sizes which indicates the success of the method and not a mere tradeoff of delay for power and area. The modified CSLA architecture is therefore, low area, low power, simple and efficient for VLSI hardware implementation. It would be interesting to test the design of the modified 128-b SQRT CSLA.

TABLE V
COMPARISON OF THE REGULAR AND MODIFIED SQRT CSLA

| Word Size | Adder | Delay (ns) | Area ($um^2$) | Power (uW) | | | Power-Delay Product($10^{-15}$) | Area-Delay Product($10^{-21}$) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Leakage Power | Switching power | Total power* | | |
| 8-bit | Regular CSLA | 1.719 | 991 | 0.007 | 101.9 | 203.9 | 350.5 | 1703.5 |
| | Modified CSLA | 1.958 | 895 | 0.006 | 94.2 | 188.4 | 368.8 | 1752.4 |
| 16-bit | Regular CSLA | 2.775 | 2272 | 0.017 | 263.7 | 527.5 | 1463.8 | 6304.8 |
| | Modified CSLA | 3.048 | 1929 | 0.013 | 235.9 | 471.8 | 1438.0 | 5879.6 |
| 32-bit | Regular CSLA | 5.137 | 4783 | 0.036 | 563.6 | 1127.3 | 5790.9 | 24570.2 |
| | Modified CSLA | 5.482 | 3985 | 0.027 | 484.9 | 969.9 | 5316.9 | 21845.7 |
| 64-bit | Regular CSLA | 9.174 | 9916 | 0.075 | 1212.4 | 2425.0 | 22246.9 | 90969.3 |
| | Modified CSLA | 9.519 | 8183 | 0.057 | 1025.0 | 2050.1 | 19514.9 | 77893.9 |

*Total power = leakage power + Internal power + Switching power

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