High Performance Reconfigurable Computing for Science and Engineering Applications

by

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Abstract

This thesis investigates the feasibility of using reconfigurable computers for scientific applications. We review recent developments in reconfigurable high performance computing. We then present designs and implementation details of various scientific applications that we developed for the SRC-6 reconfigurable computer. We present performance measurements and analysis of the results obtained.

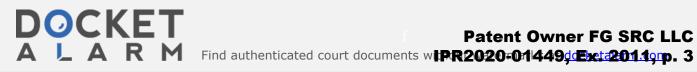
We chose a selection of applications from bioinformatics, physics and financial mathematics, including automatic docking of molecular models into electron density maps, lattice gas fluid dynamics simulations, edge detection in images and Monte Carlo options pricing simulations.

We conclude that reconfigurable computing is a maturing field that may provide considerable benefit to scientific applications in the future. At present the performance gains offered by reconfigurable computers are not sufficient to justify the expense of the systems, and the software development environment lacks the language features and library support that application developers require so that they can focus on developing correct software rather than on software infrastructure.

Contents

1	Introduction			1	
	1.1	Background			
	1.2	Objectives			
		1.2.1	Investigate the State-of-the-art in Reconfigurable Com-		
			puting	3	
		1.2.2	Implement Scientific Computing Algorithms on Recon-		
			figurable Computers	4	
		1.2.3	Analyze the Performance of Scientific Applications on		
			Reconfigurable Computers	4	
		1.2.4	Provide Guidance on the Methodology for Developing		
			Software for Reconfigurable Computers	4	
	1.3	Motivation for Problems Studied			
	1.4	Thesis	Outline and Summary	6	
2	An	An Introduction to Reconfigurable Computing 1			
	2.1	Recon	figurable Computing Hardware	11	
		2.1.1	Where do reconfigurable computers get their speed from?	12	
	2.2	Recon	figurable Computing Software	13	
	2.3	Measuring Performance in Reconfigurable Computing Systems 1			
	2.4	Conclu	ısion	15	
3	Monte Carlo Methods on Reconfigurable Computers				
	3.1	Monte	Carlo Methods	16	
	3.2	Monte	Carlo Estimation of π	17	





		3.2.1	Implementation of a Parallel Pseudorandom Number					
			Generator	19				
		3.2.2	Design and Implementation of the Monte Carlo π Es-					
			timator	25				
		3.2.3	Performance Results	29				
	3.3	Monte	e Carlo Options Pricing	32				
		3.3.1	Pricing Asian Options with Monte Carlo	33				
		3.3.2	Generating Normal Random Variables	36				
		3.3.3	Design and Implementation	37				
		3.3.4	Performance Results	43				
	3.4	Concl	usion	45				
4	Cellular Automata Simulations on Reconfigurable Comput-							
	ers			48				
	4.1	An In	troduction to Cellular Automata	49				
		4.1.1	One-dimensional Cellular Automata	49				
		4.1.2	Two-dimensional Cellular Automata	51				
	4.2	Conwa	ay's Game of Life	52				
		4.2.1	Design and Implementation	53				
		4.2.2	Performance Results	71				
	4.3	Fluid	Dynamics Simulations using the Lattice Gas Method	73				
		4.3.1	Design and Implementation	75				
		4.3.2	Performance Results	79				
	4.4	Concl	usion	79				
5	Image Processing – Edge Detection on Reconfigurable Com-							
	put	ers		81				
	5.1	An In	troduction to the Sobel Edge Detection Algorithm	81				
	5.2	Edge	Detection on a Reconfigurable Computer	84				
		5.2.1	Design and Implementation	84				
		5.2.2	Results	88				
	5.3	Concl	usion	90				



6	Aut	omatic	Macromolecular Docking on Reconfigurable Com-				
	puters						
	6.1 Macromolecular Docking using Global Correlation						
		6.1.1	Design and Implementation	94			
		6.1.2	Results	96			
	6.2	Conclusion					
7	Con	Conclusion					
	7.1	Result	s	99			
	7.2	Analys	sis	99			
A Monte Carlo Methods							
	A.1	iew of Monte Carlo Methods	101				
		A.1.1	An Early Monte Carlo Algorithm	101			
		A.1.2	Numerical Integration using Monte Carlo Methods $$	102			
		A.1.3	Monte Carlo, Beyond Simple Integration	104			
	A.2	${ m A.2~~A~Review~of~Parallel~Pseudorandom~Number~Generation}$					
		A.2.1	Generating Random Numbers on Deterministic Com-				
			puters	106			
		A.2.2	Parallel Pseudorandom Number Generation \dots	108			
		A.2.3	Assessing the Quality of Pseudorandom Number Se-				
			quences	110			
В	The SRC-6 Reconfigurable Computer 114						



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