Bandwidth of crossbars for general reference model

H.-K. Chang and S.-M. Yuan

The bandwidth of crossbar multiprocessor systems is analysed for the general memory reference model. Previous solutions are restricted to several specified models: uniform memory reference, favourite memory reference, and hot-spot. The presented analysis includes these as special cases.

Introduction: In a tightly coupled multiprocessor system, processors are connected via an interconnection network (IN) to memory modules so that the memory modules are shared by all processors. The readers are referred to [5] for a survey of INs.

Fig. 1 shows an M × N crossbar connecting M processors and N memory modules. A crossbar provides the capacity for all memory modules to be accessed simultaneously provided the requested memory modules are distinct. A memory conflict occurs when two or more processors attempt to access the same memory module. The bandwidth, which is defined as the expected number of requests accepted per unit time [5], is an important metric with which to estimate the performance of an IN.

Analyses of the bandwidth of crossbars for three specified reference models have appeared in the literature. They are the uniform memory reference [6], favourite memory reference [3] and hot-spot [1, 2, 8]. In [4], a survey was reported. In this Letter we analyse the bandwidth of crossbars for the general reference model.

Assumptions and notation: The analysis of this Letter is based on the following assumptions:

(i) The crossbar operates in a synchronous mode, i.e. a process can generate a request, if any, at the beginning of a memory cycle.

(ii) Requests from different processors are mutually independent.

(iii) When two or more requests are intended for the same memory modules, only one of the requests is accepted, and the others are rejected.

(iv) The requests which are rejected are discarded, i.e. the requests generated at successive cycles are independent.

Note that this Letter does not make any assumption of the memory reference model. Let P, and M, denote processor i and memory module j, respectively. 1 ≤ i ≤ M, 1 ≤ j ≤ N. The memory reference model is defined by a matrix Q = [q,], where q, is the probability that a request from P, is intended for M, and

\[ \sum_{j=1}^{N} q_{ij} = 1 \]

The probability that P, makes a request at the beginning of each memory cycle is r, 0 ≤ r, ≤ 1. Thus the probability that P, makes a request to M, at the beginning of any memory cycle is rQ.

Bandwidth analysis: For 1 ≤ j ≤ N, let X,, be a binary random variable such that X, = 1 denotes the event that M, receives one or more requests from the processors; then X, = 0 denotes the event that no request from any processor is sent to M,.

The expected value of X,, E(X,), is

\[ E(X,) = Pr(X, = 1) = 1 - Pr(X, = 0) = 1 - \prod_{j=1}^{M} (1 - rQ_{j}) \tag{1} \]

The bandwidth of the crossbar is the expected value of \( X_1 + \ldots + X_N \). According to assumption (ii), \( X_1, \ldots, X_N \) are independent random variables. Thus, the bandwidth of the crossbar, BW, is

\[ BW = E \left( \sum_{j=1}^{N} X_j \right) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} E(X_j) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \left( 1 - \prod_{i=1}^{M} (1 - rQ_{ij}) \right) \tag{2} \]

Comparisons: Eqn. 2 is compared with previous works including: the uniform reference model [6], favourite memory reference [3], and hot memory [2, 4].
The general reference model. Previous analyses are special cases of which is consistent with eqn. 3 in [6].

... which is identical to eqn. 4 in [6].

(b) Favourite memory: For an $N \times N$ crossbar, Bhuyan [3] proposed a model that $P_i$ communicates more often with $M_i$. Formally, in this model, $r = r_i = m_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq N$, and $q_i = (1 - m_i)/N$ for all $1 \leq i \leq N, j \neq i$. Then

$$BW = N \left( 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{m_i}{N} \right)^{N-1} \right)$$

which is identical to eqn. 4 in [3].

(c) Hot memory: Hot memory (hot spot contention) was first introduced by Pieter and Norton [7]. Without loss of generality, for an $N \times N$ crossbar, we assume $M_i$ in the hot memory. It was assumed in [2,8] that a fraction $h$ of all references are aimed at $M_i$ (hot memory) and the remaining fraction $1 - h$ of references is distributed uniformly over all $N$ memory modules. In this model, $r = r_i = h + (1 - h)/N$, for all $1 \leq i \leq N$ and $q_i = (1 - h)/N$, for all $1 \leq i \leq N, j \neq i$. Then

$$BW = N \left( 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{h}{N} \right)^{N-1} \right)$$

which is identical with the comment in [2].

In summary, this Letter analyses the bandwidth of crossbars for the general reference model. Previous analyses are special cases of our solution.

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H.-K. Chang and S.-M. Yuan (Department of Computer and Information Science, National Chi Nan University, 1001 Ta Hsueh Road, Huilu 30050, Taiwan)

References

Transmission of planar, cylindrical and spherical multiple dielectric layer systems
E.-X. Ping

**Indexing terms:** Electromagnetic waves, Wave transmission

The transmission of planar, cylindrical and spherical waves has been studied for single dielectric layer, resonant tunnelling and multiple period Bragg reflector systems. Interesting features originating from the geometry are found in the cylindrical and spherical systems and their applications are discussed.

A classical example of electromagnetic wave propagation is the transmission and the reflection of waves through single and multiple dielectric layer systems with planar geometry. Applications of these systems include the well known Fabry-Perot interferometer, Bragg reflectors, antireflection coating and various filters. A quantum analogue of this wave propagation phenomenon, resonant tunnelling, was discovered in semiconductor materials [1] and has lead to many applications in high speed electronics [2,3]. The systems that have been studied so far consist mostly of planar layers because they are easy to fabricate. Systems with curved surfaces have been studied recently by Ping et al. [4] for the semiconductor double-barrier quantum well resonant tunnelling system with cylindrical and spherical geometries. Interesting features originating from the different geometries have been revealed. They also demonstrated that to see the new features, the structure ought to be very small, imposing difficulties in the physical realisation. We present an analogous study for the propagation of the electromagnetic waves in single and multiple layer systems with planar, cylindrical and spherical geometry.

![Fig. 1 Schematic diagram for multiple dielectric layer system with planar, cylindrical and spherical geometries and corresponding travelling waves in these structures](image)

Reflector index and thickness are $n_i$ to $n_i$ and $d_i$ to $d_i$, respectively, radius of inner cylinder and sphere is $R$.

The structure to be studied is depicted in Fig. 1, in which the geometrical parameters are also shown. The sources of the waves are the remote source for the plane wave, an electric line source for the cylindrical wave and a point source for the spherical wave, respectively. The quantities necessary for determining the transmittance coefficients are obtained by the standard transfer matrix approach

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} M_1 & M_2 & \cdots & M_N \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_1 & T_2 & \cdots & T_N \end{bmatrix}$$

with $M(n)$ being the transfer matrix for the nth layer, which relates to $e^n$, $h^{n-1}(h)$ and $h^{n-1}(l)$, the plane, cylindrical and spherical waves, respectively. In the following, we assume that the layers are isotropic and the dimensions of the layers are measured by a unit wavelength $\lambda_0$. Other than specified, the medium is assumed to be air ($\epsilon = 1$).

Fig. 2 is the transmission spectra of a single layer $(n = 2)$ embedded in air as a function of the wave vector with planar, cylindrical and spherical geometries. The thickness of the layer is $\lambda_0/4\theta$ and the inner radius of the cylinder and sphere is $\lambda_0$. As seen from Fig. 2, the transmission spectra for these geometries are very similar to each other for large wave vectors (high frequencies), which is expected because the cylindrical and spherical waves...