A Fault Dependent Test Generation Method for State-Observable FSMs to Increase Defect Coverage under the Test Length Constraint*

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SUMMARY
Since scan testing is not based on the function of the circuit, but rather the structure, it is considered to be both a form of over testing and under testing. Moreover, it is important to test VLSIs using the given function. Since the functional specifications are described explicitly in the FSMs, high test quality is expected by performing logical fault testing and timing fault testing. This paper proposes a fault-dependent test generation method to detect specified fault models completely and to increase defect coverage as much as possible under the test length constraint. We present experimental results for MCNC’91 benchmark circuits to evaluate bridging fault coverage, transition fault coverage, and statistical delay quality level and to show the effectiveness of the proposed test generation method compared with a stuck-at fault-dependent test generation method.

key words: state-observable FSMs, logical fault testing, timing fault testing, fault sensitization coverage, n-detection

1. Introduction

In recent years, very large scale integrated circuit (VLSI) testing has become increasingly important because of the rapidly increasing number of gates on VLSIs and the growing complexity of VLSIs due to advances in semiconductor technology. Currently, scan testing for the stuck-at fault model [1], [2] is one of the most popular test methods for VLSIs. However, it has been reported that scan testing for the stuck-at fault model may not detect defective VLSIs [3], and that delay testing and at-speed functional testing can effectively improve test quality [4]. Scan testing is based on the structure of the circuit rather than its function and the test pattern can be generated with this method. During scan testing, the states of the circuits are turned into invalid states [5] by the shift operation during the testing in order to detect faults. Invalid states occur when test patterns contain values for the state register that cannot be stored as state transitions after the reset state. Due to this, scan testing is considered as form of over testing, hence, yield loss of VLSIs may occur. Moreover, this testing method detects faults through the process of shifting-in test vectors, operating on normal mode for the combinational circuit part, and shifting-out. Thus, faults are not detected by performing sequential operations of the circuits. With this, scan testing is also considered as a form of under testing. Therefore, the test quality deteriorates and outflow of defective VLSIs into the market may occur.

VLSI design methodologies using hardware description languages have been adopted to reduce VLSI design time. VLSIs are designed at the Register Transfer Level (RTL), and RTL circuits consist of a data path part and a controller part. The data path contains hardware element (e.g., registers, multiplexers, and operational modules) and signal lines. The controller, on the other hand, is represented by a finite state machine (FSM). The controller and the data path are interconnected by internal signals: control signals and status signals. A non-scan-based Design For Testability (DFT) method of the data path part is proposed in [6], whereas a non-scan-based DFT method for the controller part is proposed in [5]. At-speed testing is possible and test patterns for a stuck-at fault model are completely generated using non-scan-based DFT methods. In [5], [6], both control signals from the controller and status signals from the data path were assumed to be directly controllable from primary inputs and observable at primary outputs. As mentioned above, if at-speed functional testing and/or delay testing are applied to VLSIs with a non-scan-based DFT, the test quality can be further improved. As for the FSM, which is the controller part of an RTL circuit, the circuit specification is described explicitly. Thus, high test quality is expected by performing a logical fault testing and a timing fault testing under the constraints of the circuit specifications.

In consideration of these tests, a fault-independent one-pattern test generation method and a fault-independent two-pattern test generation method that enable complete logical fault testing and timing fault testing have been proposed [7], [8]. However, when the number of state transitions increases, the test length drastically increases. It is necessary to detect a specified fault model (e.g. stuck-at fault) completely and to detect main fault models such as bridging fault, transition fault, and path delay fault as much as possible for state-observable FSMs. An n-detection test generation method (FSOD) used to increase the fault sensitization coverage [9] comparatively detected many bridging faults and transition faults.

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This paper proposes a fault-dependent test generation method to detect specified fault models completely and to increase defect coverage as much as possible under test length constraint. This paper also proposes weighted state transition coverage as a measure of test quality.

This paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, the definition of state-observable FSMs is given. In Sect. 3, the detection conditions of main fault models and an n-detection test generation method to increase defect coverage are described. In Sect. 4, a fault-dependent test generation method for state-observable FSMs is proposed, and experimental results for MCNC’91 FSM benchmarks [10] with many state transitions are discussed in Sect. 5. Finally, Sect. 6 concludes the paper and discusses future research possibilities.

2. State-Observable FSMs

Definition 1 (State-observable FSMs):
When an initial state can be identified by observing an output sequence without being dependent on the input sequence, the FSM is said to be state-observable. More specifically, when an initial state can be identified by observing an output sequence of length \( k \), the FSM is said to be \( k \)-state-observable.

Figure 1 shows an example of an FSM. In this figure, ST0 through ST5 and T0 through T11 show the states and the input values, respectively, of the state transitions (the value of each primary input \( \{0, 1, X\} \), where \( X \) denotes don’t care). DFT transforms an FSM to a one-state observable FSM by making the outputs of the status registers in the FSM observable. In this paper, a one-state observable FSM is hereinafter referred to simply as a state observable FSM. A synchronous sequential circuit is synthesized from the FSM by logic synthesis. Figure 2 shows the logic circuit model that corresponds to the FSM after logic synthesis. Since the pseudo primary inputs (PPI), which are the outputs of the status registers, are observable in this figure, the PPIs connect with the primary output. Thus, multiplexers are added on the PPI and are connected to the primary outputs of the data path in order to reduce the overhead of primary output pins [11]. Here, PI, PO, SR, PPI, PPO, and R denote the primary inputs, primary outputs, status registers, pseudo primary inputs (outputs of the status registers), pseudo primary outputs (inputs of the status registers), and a reset input, respectively.

In testing state-observable FSMs, the PI value is applied to a state-observable FSM, the resulting PO values are observed, the state is then transferred from the current state to the next state, and the resulting PPI values are observed. A series of these procedures is referred to as a test for state-observable FSMs.

Example 1: In Fig. 1, T0 is applied to state ST0 on the state-observable FSM and the state is transferred from ST0 to ST1. T1 is then applied, and the state is transferred from ST1 to ST2. Next, the test for the state-observable FSM is explained in detail. R is activated and the values of the status registers are initialized to ST0 in the first cycle. In the second cycle, T0 is applied and the values of the POs for (PI, PPI) = (T0, ST0) are observed just before the rising edge of the clock. Here, (PI, PPI) indicates that the value of PI is applied to the PPI value (state) for the state-observable FSM. Moreover, the PPI value is observed after the rising edge of the clock. Thus, it is verified that the state is successfully transferred from ST0 to ST1. In the third cycle, T1 is applied and the PO values for (PI, PPI) = (T1, ST1), which are observed just before the rising edge of the clock. The resulting PPI value is observed after the rising edge of the clock. Thus, it is verified that the state is successfully transferred from ST1 to ST2.

The FSM has both a completely specified FSM [14], in which the next state and the output are specified for all of the inputs of each state, and an incompletely specified FSM [11], in which the next state and the output are not specified for all of the inputs of each state. In this paper, state transitions in the incompletely specified FSMs that are not specified are assumed to be the same as either of the state transitions that are specified.

3. Detection Conditions for Each Fault Model

First, an n-detection test generation method to increase fault sensitization coverage [9] is explained. Next, detection conditions for the main fault models such as bridging faults [2], and transition faults [4] are described.
3.1 An n-Detection Test Generation Method to Increase Fault Sensitization Coverage

**Definition 2 (Fault Sensitization Coverage):**

Fault sensitization coverage for fault \( f \) is defined as the ratio of the number of signal lines sensitized by test set \( T \) to the number of all signal lines that are reachable from \( f \). Here, sensitized signal lines for \( f \) are lines on the fault propagation path at the time that \( f \) is detected. Fault sensitization coverage for the whole circuit is expressed by the average value of fault sensitization coverage for all faults. The equations to solve fault sensitization coverage for \( f \) and the whole circuit are expressed as follows.

- \( \text{senf} \): Fault sensitization coverage for fault \( f \)
  \[
  \text{senf} = \frac{\text{Number of sensitized signal lines}}{\left\{ \text{Number of the signal lines} \right\} \times 100} \quad (1)
  \]

- \( \text{SEN} \): Fault sensitization coverage for the whole circuit
  \[
  \text{SEN} = \frac{\sum \text{senf}}{\text{Number of faults}} \quad (2)
  \]

An n-detection test generation method to increase fault sensitization coverage, FSOD, can be used for stuck-at faults to increase fault sensitization coverage based on the following strategies.

1. For each fault, FSOD generates \( n \) test patterns that sensitize different fault propagation paths and detect faults.
2. FSOD selects a D-frontier [1], [2] to sensitize long fault propagation path segments.

3.2 Detection of Bridging Faults

A bridging fault is a fault model that expresses a short between signal lines. Bridging faults are classified into AND type and OR type based on failure behavior. It is necessary to generate a test pattern that detects a stuck-at 0 (1) fault for one signal line and sets 0 (1) to the other signal line in order to detect an AND (OR) type bridging fault. In this paper, U model [12] is used. Both an AND type and an OR type must be detected for the detection of a U model of the bridging fault. A bridging fault may be detectable only when it sensitizes a specific path. Therefore, if test patterns are generated so that many paths are sensitized as much as possible, bridging fault coverage is increased. Since FSOD sensitizes many fault propagation paths by increasing fault sensitization coverage, it is considered that the generated test patterns achieve high bridging fault coverage.

3.3 Detection of Transition Faults

A transition fault model assumes that a delay fault affects only one signal line in the circuit. There are two transition faults associated with each signal line: a slow-to-rise fault and a slow-to-fall fault. It is assumed that in the fault-free circuit each signal line has some nominal delay. Delay faults result in an increase of this delay. Under the transition fault model, the extra delay caused by the delay fault is assumed to be large enough to prevent the transition from reaching any primary output at the time of observation. In other words, the transition fault can be observed independent of whether the transition propagates through a long or short path to any primary output. To detect a transition fault, it is necessary to apply a test pattern pair, \( V = (v1, v2) \). For testing a slow-to-rise fault (a slow-to-fall fault), the first pattern, \( v1 \), initializes the fault site to 0 (1), and the second pattern, \( v2 \), is a test pattern for stuck-at-0 (1) fault at the fault site. It is considered that FSOD can detect a small size of delay fault because it sensitizes a long fault propagation path to increase fault sensitization coverage. Because FSOD also generates n-detection test patterns, transition probability of fault sites between the first pattern and the second pattern is high. Then, the probability of transition fault detection is considered to increase.

4. Fault Dependent Test Generation Method for State-Observable FSMs

This method generates a test sequence by generating an FSM test generation graph from state-observable FSMs and searching for a path. We propose weighted one-state transition coverage and weighted two-state transition coverage as measures of test quality for logical fault testing and timing fault testing, respectively, for the generated test sequence.

4.1 FSM Test Generation Graph

**Definition 3 (FSM test generation graph):**

Given an FSM \( M \) and a set \( T \) of test patterns generated by FSOD, an FSM test generation graph is defined as a directed graph \( G = (V, E, s, d, t, wt_v, wt_e) \) that has the following properties.

1. Each vertex \( v \) in \( V \) corresponds to a state transition of \( M \).
2. \( s: V \rightarrow A \) defines a source state of each state transition for \( M \) corresponding to a vertex \( v \), where \( A \) denotes a set of \( m \)-bit state assignment code words and \( m \) is the number of state assignment variables or the size of the state register;
3. \( d: V \rightarrow A \) defines a destination state of each state transition for \( M \) corresponding to a vertex \( v \);
4. \( t: V \rightarrow B \) defines an input value of each state transition for \( M \) corresponding to a vertex \( v \), where \( B \) denotes a set of \( n \)-bit primary input vectors and \( n \) is the number of primary inputs;
5. There is an edge \((u, v)\) in \( E \) if \( d(u) = s(v) \);
6. \( wt_v: V \rightarrow \{0, 1\} \) where \( wt_v(v) = 1 \) if \((s(v), t(v))\) is equivalent to a test pattern generated by FSOD and \( wt_v(v) = 0 \) otherwise;
7. \( wt_e: E \rightarrow Z \) where \( Z \) is the set of all integers, \( wt_e((v1, v2)) \) is the Hamming distance between
The quality of logical fault testing is considered to increase by executing test patterns generated by FSOD. Therefore, the weight $w_t$ is assigned to the vertex. The transition between the first pattern and the second pattern must occur at a fault site in order to increase the quality of transition fault testing. It has been reported that when the number of transitions at primary inputs is large, the number of transition at the internal signal lines is also large [13]. Thus, when the Hamming distance between the first pattern and the second pattern is large, the probability that the transition occurs becomes high. Therefore, the probability for the detection of transition faults becomes high.

Example 2: Figure 3 shows the state-observable FSM. Figure 4 shows the FSM test generation graph of Fig. 3. The two test patterns, $(P1, P2, PI) = (1, 0, 0)$ and $(P1, P2, PI) = (1, 0, 1)$, are generated for the combinational circuit after logic synthesis using the FSOD. In Fig. 4, a state assignment code of the source state (label s), a state assignment code of the destination state (label d), and the input value in each vertex corresponding to a state transition are assigned. Moreover, the weight $w_t$ is assigned to each vertex and the weight $w_t$ is assigned to each edge. In Fig. 4, triangles indicate the values of $w_t$, and the squares indicate the values of $w_t$. Each vertex is expressed as $(s, d, t)$. The edge $(00, 01, 0, (01, 10, 1))$ means that the state 00 transfers to the state 01 with input 0 and the state 01 transfers to the state 10 with input 1. Since the test pattern generated by FSOD, $(P1, P2, PI) = (1, 0, 0)$, corresponds to the vertex $(10, 10, 0)$, the $w_t$ is 1. Similarly, since the test pattern generated by FSOD, $(P1, P2, PI) = (1, 0, 1)$, corresponds to the vertex $(10, 00, 1)$, the $w_t$ is 1. In other vertices, $w_t$s are 0. The weight of the edge, $w_t(01, 10, 1), (10, 10, 0)$ is assigned 3 which is the Hamming distance between $[s, t] = [10, 0]$ of $(10, 10, 0)$ and $[s, t] = [01, 1]$ of $(01, 10, 1)$. The weight of the edge, $w_t((00, 01, 1), (10, 10, 0))$ is assigned 2 which is the Hamming distance between $[s, t] = [10, 0]$ of $(10, 10, 0)$ and $[s, t] = [00, 1]$ of $(00, 10, 0)$. The weight of the edge, $w_t((00, 10, 1), (10, 10, 0))$ is assigned 0 which is the Hamming distance between $[s, t] = [10, 0]$ of $(10, 10, 0)$ and $[s, t] = [10, 1]$ of $(10, 10, 0)$. Likewise, the weight of the edge, $w_t((01, 10, 1), (10, 00, 1))$ is assigned 1 which is the Hamming distance between $[s, t] = [10, 1]$ of $(10, 00, 1)$ and $[s, t] = [00, 1]$ of $(00, 10, 1)$. The weight of the edge, $w_t((01, 10, 1), (10, 00, 1))$ is assigned 2 which is the Hamming distance between $[s, t] = [10, 1]$ of $(10, 00, 1)$ and $[s, t] = [01, 1]$ of $(01, 10, 1)$. The weight of the edge, $w_t((10, 10, 0), (10, 00, 1))$ is assigned 1 which is the Hamming distance between $[s, t] = [10, 1]$ of $(10, 00, 1)$ and $[s, t] = [10, 0]$ of $(10, 10, 0)$. In the other edges, $w_t$s are 0.

### 4.2 Weighted State Transition Coverage

The two types of weighted state transition coverage are defined as follows.

**Definition 4 (Weighted one-state transition coverage):**

The Weighted one-state transition coverage is expressed in Eq. (3) and is used as the measure of the test quality for logical fault testing.

$$
\text{Weighted one-state transition coverage} = \frac{\text{Sum of weights of vertices covered by test sequence}}{\text{Sum of weights for all vertices}} \times 100(\%) \tag{3}
$$

**Definition 5 (Weighted two-state transition coverage):**

The Weighted two-state transition coverage is expressed in Eq. (4) and is used as the measure of the test quality for timing fault testing.

$$
\text{Weighted two-state transition coverage} = \sum_v \max \left\{ \text{The weight of input edges for each vertex } v \text{ which covered by test sequence} \right\} \times 100(\%) \tag{4}
$$

Weighted one-state transition coverage is calculated using the weights assigned to vertices while weighted two-state transition coverage is obtained using the weights assigned to edges in an FSM test generation graph. Since an n-detection test generation method (FSOD) has been reported to detect many bridging faults and transition faults [9], it can be said that the two types of weighted state transition coverage increase as the ratio of test patterns of FSOD covered by the test sequence generated for FSMs increases.

The following problem is formulated for the test generation for state-observable FSMs under test length constraint.
**Problem Formulation:**

**Input:**
- a state-observable FSM.
- a test set that can detect all detectable stuck-at faults on valid states.
- a test set generated by the FSOD.

**Constraint:** test length

**Output:** a test sequence for the state-observable FSM such that all detectable stuck-at faults on valid states are detected.

**Optimization:**

1. maximization of weighted one-state transition coverage
2. maximization of weighted two-state transition coverage

The valid states are assigned to PPI values as constraints. FSOD is performed for the combinational circuit part to generate the test patterns. Then, an FSM test generation graph is generated, and the given stuck-at fault test pattern set are assigned to the corresponding vertices on the FSM test generation graph. Next, the test patterns generated by the FSOD are assigned to the corresponding vertices on the FSM test generation graph. Finally, paths are searched from the FSM test generation graph such that all of the edges on which stuck-at fault tests are assigned are traversed at least once. The traversal passes along vertices such that as many test patterns generated by the FSOD are assigned as possible, so as to increase the weighted one-state transition coverage. The traversal also passes along the edges with the largest possible weight, in order to increase the weighted two-state transition coverage. If all stuck-at fault test patterns do not cover vertices under test constraint, the problem is not given any solution since it is not the focus of this work.

4.3 Strategy of Test Generation

The procedure of test generation is as follows. Reset states are first set to current states.

**STEP1**
From the current state of an FSM test generation graph, a $k$-state transition search is done and all of the paths are extracted. $k$ is a parameter with a positive integer value.

**STEP2**
One path is selected by using the heuristic algorithm applied to all of the paths, and it is added to the test sequence.

**STEP3**
To reduce test length, a transition to selected path is limited as it is not needed.

**STEP4**
If the test sequence does not abide with the given test length constraint, start again from **STEP1**. The final state of the selected path is set to its current state.

The heuristic algorithm is explained as follows. In the early stage of test generation, the probability of having uncovered vertices at which stuck-at test patterns are assigned is high in $k$ state transition paths because the number of uncovered vertices is large. In this case, the state transition path is selected by the following priority of heuristics: 3, 4, 5, 1, and 2. If multiple paths are selected by the highest priority heuristic, the next priority heuristic is applied to these selected paths. The same process continues until only one path is selected. If there are multiple paths that satisfy the last order heuristic, a path is arbitrary selected from the multiple paths. When the number of uncovered vertices, at which stuck-at test patterns are assigned, is small, the probability that the patterns appear in the $k$ state transition path is low. If the number of uncovered vertices, at which stuck-at test patterns are assigned, is 0 repeatedly $m$ times, the state transitions path is selected by the priority of heuristics: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The same process described above is done until only one path is selected. Here, $k$ and $m$ are parameters with positive integer values.

**Heuristic 1**
For complete stuck-at fault detection, the algorithm preferentially selects a path that includes many uncovered vertices where stuck-at fault test patterns are assigned.

**Heuristic 2**
To reduce test length, the algorithm preferentially selects a path such that the distance from the current state to uncovered vertices, where stuck-at test patterns are assigned, is short. The algorithm can transfer at next $k$-state transition search efficiently to uncovered vertices where stuck-at fault test patterns are assigned.

**Heuristic 3**
To increase the quality of logical fault testing, the algorithm preferentially selects a path such that the total sum of $wt_v$ is large. As a result, the weighted one-state transition coverage becomes high.

**Heuristic 4**
To reduce test length, the algorithm preferentially selects a path such that the distance from the current state to uncovered vertices, where test patterns generated by FSOD are assigned, is short. The algorithm can transfer at next $k$-state transition search efficiently to uncovered vertices where test patterns generated by FSOD are assigned.

**Heuristic 5**
In order to increase the quality of timing fault testing, the
algorithm preferentially selects a path such that the total sum of $w_t$ is large. As a result, the weighted two-state transition coverage becomes high.

**Example 3:** Given the stuck-at test patterns, $(P_{PI1}, P_{PI2}, PI) = (0, 1, 0)$, and $(P_{PI1}, P_{PI2}, PI) = (0, 1, 1)$, Fig. 5 shows the FSM test generation graph of Fig. 3. FSOD generates the test patterns, $(P_{PI1}, P_{PI2}, PI) = (1, 0, 0)$, and $(P_{PI1}, P_{PI2}, PI) = (1, 0, 1)$. In Fig. 5, the vertices indicated by dashed lines are vertices where stuck-at test patterns are assigned. When the test sequence $(0, 1, 0, 1)$ is generated from the reset state, the weighted one-state transition coverage is 100% (2/2) whereas the weighted two-state transition coverage is 80% $(3 + 1)/(3 + 2) = 4/5$.

### 5. Experimental Results

The test generation method was implemented and applied to MCNC'91 benchmark circuits [10]. The characteristics of MCNC'91 benchmark circuits are shown in Table 1. In this table, Circuit, #Node, #PI, #PO, #Reg, and #Edge denote the circuit name of the FSM, the number of states, the number of primary inputs, the number of primary outputs, the number of status registers and the number of state transitions, respectively. In these experiments, the FSMS were made state observable through DFT, and three test generations were performed for state-observable FSMS.

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Table 2 shows the experimental results of fault-independent one-pattern test generation method (1a) [7], [8] and the fault-dependent one-pattern test generation method (1b) [7], [8].

Table 3 presents the experimental results of the proposed method when the value of $m$ was set to three, and the test length constraint was set to the same test length as 1b. This algorithm detects stuck-at faults completely. The value $m$ is a parameter for switching timing in the algorithm shown in the heuristic priority rules.

Table 4 shows the experimental results of the proposed method when test length constraint was set to 300, 500, 800, and 1300. The circuits indicated by the “*” symbol in the table are the ones in which stuck-at fault could not be detected completely by the test lengths of 300, 500, 800 and 1300. The value $k$ was set to 3 in all experiments. Moreover, the value of $n$-detection for FSOD was set to 5. We also changed the value of $n$ to see the effect and the trend was the same as the case of $n = 5$ in the experiments.

Table 5 shows the experimental results of the proposed method when specified fault models are set to stuck-at fault and transition fault, and test length constraint was set to 3000. The circuits indicated by the “*” symbol in the table are ones for which stuck-at fault and transition fault could not be detected completely by the test lengths of 3000. We also changed the value of $n$ to see the effect and the trend was the same as the case of $n = 5$ in the experiments.

### Table 1

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In Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5, Circuit, TL, and CPU time denote the circuit name of the FSM, the test length, and the time for the test generation, respectively. SFC, BFC, TFC, W1STC, W2STC, and SDQL denote the stuck-at fault coverage, the bridging fault coverage, the transition fault coverage, the weighted one-state transition coverage, the weighted two-state transition coverage, and the statistical delay quality level [14] that evaluated with statistical delay quality model, respectively. Each logical fault testing targets only faults that can be detected on valid states [7]. Each timing fault testing targets only faults that can be detected on the transition between valid states [7], [8]. We assumed that in non-feedback bridging faults between two signal lines in circuit, U model [12] is used as the condition for detection. Using this, the bridging fault is recognized only when both the AND-type bridging fault and the OR-type bridging fault between two signal lines are detected.

First, the experimental results of the proposed method are considered when the test length constraint was set to same test length as 1b. Stuck-at faults can be completely tested. The weighted one-state transition coverage increased by an average of 16.69%, and the weighted two-state transition coverage increased by an average of 19.89% with the same test length compared to the fault-dependent one-pattern testing method for the stuck-at fault model. Bridging fault coverage increased by an average of 0.12%, transition fault coverage increased by an average of 10.30%, and SDQL decreased by an average of 329 ppm. In particular, for kirkman, the weighted one-state transition coverage increased by 30.04%, bridging fault coverage increased by 0.56%. For styr, the weighted two-state transition coverage increased by 16.76%, transition fault coverage increased by 31.90%, SDQL decreased by 1100 ppm, and the quality of the timing fault testing was improved. As observed, the proposed test generation method resulted to

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an increase in the weighted state transition coverage and fault coverage for each fault models as compared with the fault-dependent one-pattern test generation method, using the same test length. The proposed method is also effective in detecting delay faults of small size because the values of SDQL are smaller compared to those of the fault-dependent one-pattern test generation method. Therefore, we conclude that the proposed method is better than the fault-dependent one-pattern test generation method.

Next, the experimental results are considered for the proposed test generation with test length constraints. Stuck-at fault can be completely tested and the test length is greatly reduced compared with the fault-independent one-pattern test generation method. Moreover, high fault coverage for bridging fault and transition fault can be obtained. In particular, for s386, when test length constraint was set to 500, the weighted two-state transition coverage increased by 10.99%, the transition coverage increased by 5.17%, SDQL decreased by 85 ppm, and the quality of the timing fault testing was improved. With these, we can see the comparison between the proposed test generation method and the fault-independent one-pattern test generation. The proposed method drastically reduced the test length and it is effective in detecting delay faults of small sizes because the values of SDQL are smaller than those of the fault-independent one-pattern test generation method. As for a transition fault, the proposed method increased fault coverage using a realistic test length.

Next, the experimental results are considered for the proposed method when specified fault models are set to stuck-at fault and transition fault. Stuck-at fault and transition fault can be completely tested and the test length was greatly reduced as compared with the fault-independent one-pattern test generation method. Moreover, high fault coverage for a bridging fault can be obtained. In particular, for pma, when test length constraint was set to 3000, the weighted two-state transition coverage increased by 1.88%, the transition coverage increased by 11.53%, SDQL decreased by 339 ppm, and the quality of the timing fault testing improved.

6. Conclusion

This paper proposed a test generation method to detect specified fault models completely and to increase defect coverage as much as possible under the test length constraint. Weighted state transition coverage as a measure of test quality is also presented. The proposed test generation method was evaluated for MCNC ‘91 benchmark circuit and the following conclusions were obtained.

(1) The proposed test generation method increased the test quality of logical fault testing and the timing fault testing compared with the fault-dependent one-pattern test generation method.

(2) The proposed test generation method greatly reduced the test length compared with the fault-independent one-pattern test generation method and the quality of both the logical fault testing and the timing fault testing were comparatively high.

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References

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