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Construction and Design Estimation of an Elliptic Curve Cryptograph Hardware

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1 Background and Purpose

This paper proposes a design for elliptic curve cryptograph hardware and estimates its performance. Elliptic curve cryptography is one of the public key cryptography as well as RSA. Elliptic curve cryptography has a shorter key length than RSA's key and on the condition of same safety its cryptographic operation by software is faster than RSA. However elliptic curve cryptography is not fast enough.

Cryptographic technique is important to maintain secure communication. Public key cryptography is suitable for communication among the general public as Internet, since the cryptosystem does not restrict participant of the system.

2 Elliptic curve cryptography

An elliptic curve E is a cubic curve that is represented as $E : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$ (Weierstrass form) or $By^2 = x^3 + Ax^2 + x$ (Montgomery form) and so on. Let p is a prime number and F_p is a finite field has p elements. The set

$$E(F_p) = \{(x, y) \in F_p : x \text{ and } y \text{ satisfy the elliptic curve equation}\} \cup \{\mathcal{O}\},$$

is called F_p rational point set of E , where \mathcal{O} is a special point at infinity. $E(F_p)$ has a group structure which zero element is \mathcal{O} . We define the element $P + Q$ on $E(F_p)$ from any two elements P and Q on $E(F_p)$. We write tP for t summands of P .

We know the fact that finding an integer t from two elements of $E(F_p)$, P and tP , is difficult. Elliptic curve cryptography is based on this difficulty.

In an elliptic curve cryptosystem, $E(F_p)$ and a base point B on $E(F_p)$ are disclosed to the public. The cryptosystem participant selects a integer s at random and calculates $P_k = sB$. The person releases P_k as public key and conceals s as secret key.

A ciphertext of message m to the person who discloses P_k is $(C_1, c_2) = (rB, x(rP_k \oplus m))$, where r is a random number, $X(rP_k)$ is x -coordinate of rP_k and \oplus is bit-wise exclusive or operation. The decryption is calculation $x(sC_1) \oplus c_2$.

This paper propose two remainder algorithms with a prime p which satisfies $p = 2^n - k$, $k^2 < 2^n$ and $k > 0$. These algorithm are suitable for hardware implementation. We use these algorithms to accelerate elliptic curve cryptography operation.

Calculating tP from an element of $E(F_p)$, P , and an integer t is main operation of elliptic curve cryptography. We use the addition formula for $P + Q$ and the duplication formula for $2P$ to calculate tP from P . We reduce divisions on F_p to multiplications since $x/y = x \cdot y^{p-2}$ on F_p .

These formulas consist of four arithmetic operations on F_p . For we calculate addition, subtraction and multiplication on F_p , we operate them normally and take the remainder of them with p .

Weierstrass form of elliptic curves is general and popular form of them. But because of computational complexity, the cryptograph hardware uses Montgomery form rather than Weierstrass form.

3 Increase in efficiency of cryptographic operation

Division on F_p is high cost operation since we must operate many multiplication to calculate $x/y = x \cdot y^{p-2}$. Two divisions a/b and c/d can be calculated as $a/b = ad(bd)^{-1}$, $c/d = bc(bd)^{-1}$, then we calculate only one division $(bd)^{-1}$. Adopting this method make the computational complexity

of the cryptographic operation reduce about 8%.

We define a new operation $ecc(X_0, X_1, X_2, X_3, i, j)$ as follows

1. $Y_0 = X_0 + X_1, Y_1 = X_2 - X_3,$

2. Return $Y_i \cdot Y_j$ and $Y_1,$

for $X_0, X_1, X_2, X_3 \in F_p, i, j \in \{0, 1\}$. We only use ecc to operate elliptic curve cryptographic operation and ecc make the operation control be easy.

4 Instruction set

The instruction form for the cryptograph hardware consists of *opcode*, *operand0*, *operand1*, *operand2*, *next address*. Operand0 and 1 specifies addresses of data used by operation ecc . The hardware selects operand0 if a value is 0 and selects operand1 if it is 1. Opcode2 contains an initial value of a counter or a jump address. Next address is an instruction address of next clock.

The instruction length is 80 bits and it consists of 882 words in the case of the cryptographic hardware is pipelined with 14 steps.

5 Outline of cryptograph hardware

The Cryptograph hardware consists ecc functional unit, an output control unit, two queues, a memory and other control units. Output control unit decides whether ecc 's result needs exclusive or operation with other data or not, and operates the operation if it needs. We do not need instructions to control this output control unit. Two queues, Queue1 and Queue2, save input data temporarily to control timing of them. Queue1 sends data to ecc functional unit and Queue2 to the output control unit. The memory saves an halfway value of cryptograph operation. Each control unit uses opcodes to control the cryptographic hardware. The cryptograph hardware needs about 300K gates, a 70K-bit RAM and a 90K-bit ROM.

6 Design of cryptograph hardware

The *ecc* functional unit consists of F_p adder, F_p subtractor and F_p multiplier. Further F_p adder consists of a 162-bit normal adder and a remainder functional unit. F_p subtractor and F_p multiplier also consist of a 162-bit normal subtractor or multiplier and a remainder functional unit. These remainder functional unit use algorithms proposed in this paper to calculate. The author adopts a carry-lookaheder adder as the 162-bit adder to make the cryptograph hardware has high-speed. the 162-bit subtractor's sutructure is like the 162-bit adder's structure.

The author adopts a Wallace tree multiplier as the 162-bit multiplier. Wallace tree multipliers' CSA part has a little logic depth. Logic depth of 162 bit Wallace tree multiplier's CSA part is 36. Wallace tree multiplier's layout is complicated in general. This paper considers how a Wallace tree multiplier's layout is simple.

Components of the cryptograph hardware except *ecc* functional unit have simple structure.

7 Peformance estimation

The author uses SFL to write the cryptograph hardware and uses PARTHENON to measure its performance and its scale.