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# CEG5010: The CORDIC Algorithm

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## Introduction

- COordinate Rotation Digital Computer
- Efficient method to compute  $\sin$ ,  $\cos$ ,  $\tan$ ,  $\sin^{-1}$ ,  $\cos^{-1}$ ,  $\tan^{-1}$ , multiplication, division,  $\sqrt{\quad}$ ,  $\sinh$ ,  $\cosh$ ,  $\tanh$ 
  - Only uses shifts, additions and a very small lookup table

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## Rotations

Rotating [x y] by  $\phi$

$$x' = x \cos(\phi) - y \sin(\phi)$$

$$y' = y \cos(\phi) + x \sin(\phi).$$

Rearranging

$$x' = \cos(\phi)(x - y \tan(\phi))$$

$$y' = \cos(\phi)(y + x \tan(\phi)).$$

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## Key idea

$$x' = \cos(\phi)(x - y \tan(\phi))$$

$$y' = \cos(\phi)(y + x \tan(\phi)).$$

Can compute rotation  $\phi$  in steps where each step is of size

$$\tan(\phi) = \pm 2^{-i}.$$

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## Iterative rotations

$$\begin{aligned}x_{i+1} &= K_i(x_i - (y_i d_i 2^{-i})) \\ y_{i+1} &= K_i(y_i + (x_i d_i 2^{-i})).\end{aligned}$$

where  $d_i = \pm 1$  and  $K_i = \cos(\tan^{-1} 2^{-i})$

Choose  $d_i$  so that after  $n$  iterations the rotated angle is  $\phi$

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## $K_i$ values

$$\cos(\tan^{-1} 2^{-i}) = 1/\sqrt{(1 + 2^{-2i})}.$$

$$K = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1 + 2^{-2i})}},$$

As  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $K \rightarrow 0.6073$  (constant factor which needs to be corrected for)

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## $d_i$ decision (rotation mode)

$Z_i$  is introduced to keep track of the angle that has been rotated ( $z_0 = \phi$ )

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - (y_i d_i 2^{-i})$$

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + (x_i d_i 2^{-i})$$

$$z_{i+1} = z_i - d_i \tan^{-1}(2^{-i})$$

$$d_i = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } z_i < 0 \\ +1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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## After n iterations

$$x_n = \frac{1}{K} (x_0 \cos(z_0) - y_0 \sin(z_0))$$

$$y_n = \frac{1}{K} (y_0 \cos(z_0) + x_0 \sin(z_0))$$

$$z_n \approx 0.$$

Question: What is the procedure to compute sin and cos?

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## $d_i$ decision (vectoring mode)

$$d_i = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } y_i < 0 \\ -1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$x_n = \frac{1}{K} \sqrt{(x_0^2 + y_0^2)}$$

$$y_n \approx 0$$

$$z_n = z_0 + \tan^{-1}(y_0/x_0).$$

- $y_n$  minimized use to compute  $\tan^{-1}$  and magnitude

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## Linear functions instead of trig

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - 0(y_i d_i 2^{-i}) = x_i$$

$$y_{i+1} = y_i + (x_i d_i 2^{-i})$$

$$z_{i+1} = z_i - d_i 2^{-i}$$

$$d_i = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } z_i < 0 \\ +1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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## After n iterations

$$x_n = x_0$$

$$y_n = y_0 + x_0 z_0$$

$$z_n = 0,$$

No need for  $K_n$  correction.

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## Division

$$d_i = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } y_i < 0 \\ -1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$x_n = x_0$$

$$y_n = y_0$$

$$z_n = z_0 - y_0/x_0.$$

No need for  $K_n$  correction.

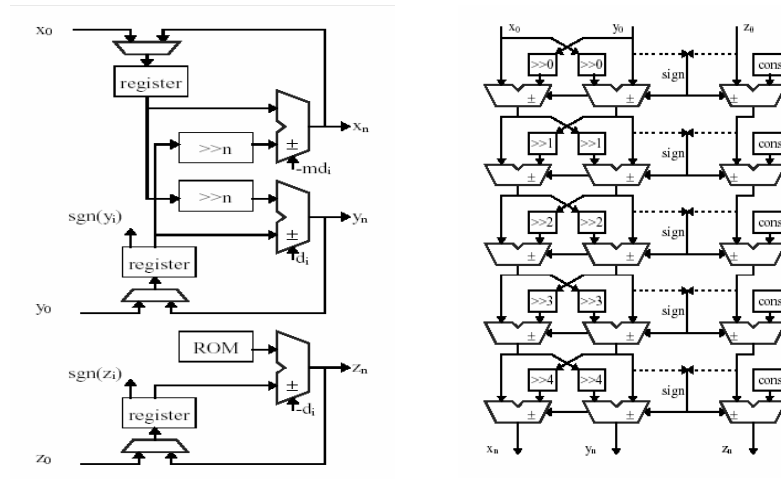
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## Hyperbolic functions

- Similarly, can get cosh and sinh using  $\tanh^{-1}$  instead of  $\tan^{-1}$
- Can also get  $\ln$  and  $\exp$  easily

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## Andraka's iterative and unrolled cordic structure



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## Implementation

- Can develop generalized cordic processors which can compute many different functions using similar hardware
- Implementations can be bit serial and/or pipelined as well

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## Precision

- Need  $n$  iterations for  $n$  bits
- Converges for  $-99.7 \leq z \leq 99.7$  (sum of all the angles  $\tan^{-1}(2^{-i})$ ,  $i = 0 \dots n$ )
  - must convert to this range first

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## Exercise

- Calculate  $\sqrt{2}/K$  using the CORDIC algorithm (4 iterations)
- Hint: use vectoring mode

$$\text{atan}(2^{**}(-0)) = 0.785398$$

$$\text{atan}(2^{**}(-1)) = 0.463648$$

$$\text{atan}(2^{**}(-2)) = 0.244979$$

$$\text{atan}(2^{**}(-3)) = 0.124355$$

$$\text{atan}(2^{**}(-4)) = 0.062419$$

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## Conclusion

- CORDIC algorithms are an efficient method to compute many different functions
- Low area, high speed
- Used in calculators, DSPs, math coprocessors and supercomputers.

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## References

- Ray Andraka, “A survey of CORDIC algorithms for FPGAs”, FPGA '98. Proceedings of the 1998 ACM/SIGDA sixth international symposium on Field programmable gate arrays, Feb. 22-24, 1998, Monterey, CA. pp191-200 (<http://www.andraka.com/cordic.htm>)