On Properties of Kleene TDDs

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Abstract—Three types of ternary decision diagrams (TDDs) are considered: AND-TDDs, EXOR-TDDs, and Kleene-TDDs. Kleene-TDDs are useful for logic simulation in the presence of unknown inputs. Let \( N(BDD : f) \), \( N(\text{AND-TDD} : f) \), and \( N(\text{EXOR-TDD} : f) \) be the number of non-terminal nodes in the BDD, the AND-TDD, and the EXOR-TDD for \( f \), respectively. Let \( N(\text{Kleene-TDD} : f) \) be the number of non-terminal nodes in the Kleene-TDD for \( f \), where \( F \) is the Kleenean ternary function corresponding to \( f \). Then \( N(BDD : f) \leq N(\text{AND-TDD} : f) \). For parity functions, \( N(BDD : f) = N(\text{AND-TDD} : f) = N(\text{EXOR-TDD} : f) = N(\text{Kleene-TDD} : f) \). For unate functions, \( N(BDD : f) = N(\text{AND-TDD} : f) \). The sizes of Kleene-TDDs are \( O(3^n/n) \), and \( O(n^3) \) for arbitrary functions, and symmetric functions, respectively. There exist 2-variable functions, where Kleene-TDDs require \( O(n) \) nodes with the best order, while \( O(3^n) \) nodes in the worst order.

I. INTRODUCTION

Various methods exist for representing logic functions. A truth table is the most straightforward method. Another method is a sum-of-products expression (SOP). Binary Decision Diagrams (BDDs)[2] are commonly used in logic synthesis[8, 9], since they can represent complex functions with many variables. Recently, Ternary Decision Diagrams (TDDs) have been developed as an alternative representation of logic functions[10]. TDDs are similar to BDDs, except that each non-terminal node has three children. Some TDDs have terminals other than constant 0 and 1. In this paper, we consider three types of TDDs: AND-TDDs, EXOR-TDDs, and Kleene-TDDs. AND-TDDs represent the sets of the implicants implicitly[11]. They can treat functions for which the conventional cube-based method[4] fails. EXOR-TDDs are useful to minimize AND-EXOR logic expressions[12]. The TDD presented by Jennings (hereafter, we will call it Kleene-TDD) is useful to evaluate logical functions in the presence of unknown inputs[5].

In this paper, we will show some properties of Kleene-TDDs.

II. EVALUATION OF LOGIC FUNCTIONS IN THE PRESENCE OF UNKNOWN INPUTS

Let \( B = \{0, 1\} \). An \( n \)-variable switching function \( f \) represents the mapping: \( f : B^n \rightarrow B \). Let \( a = (a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n) \) be a binary vector, where \( a_i \in B \). We often have to evaluate the value \( f(a) \) for \( a \), where some \( a_i \) are unknown[1]. When we do logic simulation for sequential circuits, we have to consider such inputs. In this section, we will review the method to evaluate \( f \) in the presence of unknown inputs.

Let \( T = \{0, 1, u\} \), where \( u \) is the truth value showing an unknown input. Let \( \alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_n) \) be a ternary vector, where \( \alpha_i \in T \). If \( \alpha_i \) is either 0 or 1 for all \( i \), then \( \alpha \in B^n \). In this case \( f(\alpha) \) is either 0 or 1. If \( \alpha_i = u \)

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
\chi & 0 & 1 & u & 0 & 1 & u & 0 & 1 & u & 0 & 1 & u \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & u & u & 0 & 0 & 1 & u \\
1 & 0 & 1 & u & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & u & u & u \\
u & 0 & u & u & u & u & u & u & u & u & u & u \\
\end{array}
\]

Fig. 2.1. Ternary AND, OR, NOT, EXOR, and Alignment operations

for some \( i \), then \( \alpha \in T^n - B^n \). In this case, for some \( \alpha \), \( f(\alpha) \) is either 0 or 1, but for other \( \alpha \), \( f(\alpha) \) cannot be determined. Therefore, it is convenient to introduce a three-valued logic function, \( F : T^n \rightarrow T \), which is derived from \( f \). Note that \( f \) uniquely defines \( F \).

Definition 2.1 Let \( \alpha \in T^n \). A(\( \alpha \)) denotes the set of all the binary vectors that are obtained by replacing all \( u \) with 0 or 1.

Let \( k \) be the number of \( u \)'s in \( \alpha \), then the set \( A(\alpha) \) consists of \( 2^k \) binary vectors.

Definition 2.2 Let \( f \) be a two-valued logic function, and \( \alpha \in T^n \).

\[
f(\alpha) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } f(\alpha) = 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } f(\alpha) = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } f(\alpha) = 0,1 \end{cases}
\]

Example 2.1 Consider the expression \( f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1 \oplus x_2 \oplus x_3 \). For the inputs \( \alpha_1 = (0, 0, u) \), \( \alpha_2 = (1, u, 1) \), and \( \alpha_3 = (1, u, u) \), \( F(\alpha_1) \), \( F(\alpha_2) \), and \( F(\alpha_3) \) are derived as follows:

\[
f(\alpha_1) = (f(0,0,0), f(0,0,1)) = (0),
f(\alpha_2) = (f(1,0,1), f(1,1,1)) = (1), \quad \text{and}
f(\alpha_3) = (f(1,0,0), f(1,0,1), f(1,1,0), f(1,1,1)) = (0,1).
\]

Thus, by Definition 2.2, we have

\[
F(\alpha_1) = 0, \quad F(\alpha_2) = 1, \quad \text{and} \quad F(\alpha_3) = u.
\]

When we do gate-level logic simulation, we extend binary operations to ternary logic as shown in Fig. 2.1. This is the Kleenean strong ternary logic[6]. In this case, signals are evaluated from the primary inputs to the primary outputs by using Fig. 2.1.

Example 2.2 Fig. 2.2 shows an AND-OR network that realizes the expression in Example 2.1. When we evaluate the output \( f \) for the input \( \alpha_2 = (1, u, 1) \) by using a naive method, we have the output \( u \) as shown in Fig. 2.2. However, Example 2.1 shows that

\[
F(\alpha_2) = 1.
\]

Thus, the naive method does not always produce accurate results.

Several methods exist to evaluate output values according to Definition 2.2: including representations using SOPs, using BDDs[3], and using Kleene_TDDs[5].
III. BDDs AND TDDs

In this section, we will give formal definitions for BDDs and TDDs.

**Definition 3.1** A BDD is a rooted, directed graph with node set $V$ containing two types of nodes:
A non-terminal node $v$ has as attributes an argument index $\text{index}(v) \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$, and two children $\text{low}(v), \text{high}(v) \in V$. A terminal node $v$ has as attribute a value $\text{value}(v) \in B$.

For any non-terminal node $v$, if $\text{low}(v)$ is also non-terminal, then $\text{index}(v) < \text{index}(\text{low}(v))$. Similarly, if $\text{high}(v)$ is also non-terminal, then $\text{index}(v) < \text{index}(\text{high}(v))$. The correspondence between BDDs and Boolean functions is defined as follows:

For a terminal node $v$:
- If $\text{value}(v) = 1$, then $f_v = 1$.
- If $\text{value}(v) = 0$, then $f_v = 0$.

For a non-terminal node $v$:
- Let $X = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \ldots, x_n)$.
- If $\text{index}(v) = i$, then $f_v$ is a function such that
  $f_v(x_1, \ldots, x_n) = \overline{x_i} \cdot f_{\text{low}(v)}(X) \vee x_i \cdot f_{\text{high}(v)}(X)$.

Note that the root node represents the function $f$ itself.

**Definition 3.2** A BDD is a Reduced Ordered Binary Decision Diagram (ROBDD) if it contains no node $v$ with $\text{low}(v) = \text{high}(v)$, and if it does not contain distinct nodes $v_0$ and $v_2$ such that the subgraph rooted by $v_0$ and $v_2$ are equivalent.

**Example 3.1** Fig. 3.1(a) shows the ROBDD for the function in Example 2.1. The number 0(1) attached to each edge incident to $u$ denotes $\text{low}(u)$ ($\text{high}(u)$).

TDDs are similar to BDDs, except that each non-terminal node $v$ has three children, $\text{low}(v)$, $\text{high}(v)$, and $\text{middle}(v)$.

**Definition 3.3** A TDD is a rooted, directed graph with node set $V$ containing two types of nodes:
A non-terminal node $v$ has as attributes an argument index $\text{index}(v) \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$, and three children $\text{low}(v)$, $\text{high}(v)$, and $\text{middle}(v) \in V$. A terminal node $v$ has as attribute a value $\text{value}(v) \in T$. For any non-terminal node $v$, if $\text{low}(v)$ is also non-terminal, then $\text{index}(v) < \text{index}(\text{low}(v))$. Similarly, if $\text{high}(v)$ is non-terminal, then $\text{index}(v) < \text{index}(\text{high}(v))$. Also, if $\text{middle}(v)$ is non-terminal, then $\text{index}(v) < \text{index}(\text{middle}(v))$.

**Definition 3.4** A TDD is a Reduced Ordered Ternary Decision Diagram (ROTDD) if it contains no node $v$ with $\text{low}(v) = \text{high}(v)$, and if it does not contain distinct nodes $v_0$ and $v_2$ such that the subgraph rooted by $v_0$ and $v_2$ are equivalent.

Different assignments of operations to the third child produce different TDDs.

**Definition 3.5** Fig. 2.1 shows the ternary operation alignment. Let $a, b \in T$.

$$a \odot b = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } a = b \\ u & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The correspondence between AND.TDD (EXOR.TDD, Kleene.TDD) and a function $f$ is defined as follows:
- For terminal node $v$:
  - If $\text{value}(v) = 1$, then $f_v = 1$.
  - If $\text{value}(v) = 0$, then $f_v = 0$.
- For non-terminal node $v$:
  - Let $X = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \ldots, x_n)$.
  - If $\text{index}(v) = i$, then $f_v$ is a function such that
    $$f_v(x_1, \ldots, x_n) = \overline{x_i} \cdot f_{\text{low}(v)}(X) \vee x_i \cdot f_{\text{high}(v)}(X).$$

TDDs are similar to BDDs, except that each non-terminal node $v$ has three children, $\text{low}(v)$, $\text{high}(v)$, and $\text{middle}(v)$.

**Example 3.2** Fig. 3.1 shows the AND.TDD, the EXOR.TDD, and the Kleene.TDD for $f$ and $F$ in Example 2.1. By expanding the ROBDD in (a), we have the complete binary decision tree (b). In Fig. 3.1(c), the new edge at the root node is generated, and the subgraph is created by using the AND operation to derive the AND.TDD. In other words, $f_{99}$ is obtained as the AND of $f_{99}$ and $f_{10}$. When EXOR is used to generate the middle child, we have an EXOR.TDD. When Alignment is used to generate the middle child, we have a Kleene.TDD. Here, 0, 1, and 2 attached to each node denote $\text{low}(v)$, $\text{high}(v)$, and $\text{middle}(v)$, respectively. For each subsequent node, create the third node recursively down to the leaves, and we have the complete ternary decision tree shown in (d). By eliminating all the redundant nodes, and sharing all the equivalent sub-graphs, we obtain an AND.TDD, an EXOR.TDD, and a Kleene.TDD as shown in (e), (f), and (g), respectively.

AND.TDDs represent the set of implicans implicitly[11]. EXOR.TDDs are useful to minimize AND-EXOR expressions[12]. Kleene.TDDs are useful to evaluate logic functions in the presence of unknown inputs[5].

**Example 3.3** We can evaluate $F(\alpha)$ in Example 2.1 by using the Kleene.TDD in Fig. 3.1(g). $F(\alpha)$ is obtained by tracing the edges from the root node to a terminal node according to the value of $\alpha$. When the input is $\alpha = (0, 0, u)$, trace the edges, 0, 0, and 2, and reach the terminal node 0. Thus, we have $F(0, 0, u) = 0$. Similarly, when the input is $\alpha = (1, u, u)$, trace the edge, 1, 2, 1, and reach the terminal node 1. Thus, $F(1, u) = 1$. When the input is $\alpha = (u, u, u)$, by tracing 1, 2, 2, and reach the terminal node $u$. Thus, we have $F(1, u, u) = u$.  

IV. COMPLEXITIES OF TDDs

Definition 4.1 Let \( N(\text{BDD} : f) \), \( N(\text{AND-TDD} : f) \), and \( N(\text{EXOR-TDD} : f) \) be the number of non-terminal nodes in the BDD, the AND-TDD, and the EXOR-TDD for \( f \), respectively. Let \( N(\text{Kleene-TDD} : f) \) be the number of non-terminal nodes in the Kleene-TDD for \( f \).

Theorem 4.1
\[
N(\text{BDD} : f) \leq N(\text{AND-TDD} : f), \quad N(\text{BDD} : f) \leq N(\text{EXOR-TDD} : f), \quad \text{and} \quad N(\text{BDD} : f) \leq N(\text{Kleene-TDD} : f).
\]

Theorem 4.2
\[
N(\text{AND-TDD} : f) \leq N(\text{Kleene-TDD} : f).
\]

Theorem 4.3 Let \( f \) be a parity function. Then, we have
\[
N(\text{BDD} : f) = N(\text{AND-TDD} : f) = N(\text{EXOR-TDD} : f) = N(\text{Kleene-TDD} : f).
\]

Theorem 4.4 Let \( f \) be a unate function. Then,
\[
N(\text{BDD} : f) = N(\text{AND-TDD} : f).
\]

The number of nodes in a complete ternary decision tree for an \( n \)-variable function is:
\[
1 + 3^1 + 3^2 + \ldots + 3^n = (3^{n+1} - 1)/2.
\]
However, in a reduced TDD, only one sub-graph is realized for each sub-function. Thus, the number of nodes can be reduced.

We can state the following:

Lemma 4.1 All the functions of \( k \) or fewer variables can be represented by a Kleene-TDD with at most \( 3^k \) nodes.

Theorem 4.5 An arbitrary \( n \)-variable function can be represented by a Kleene-TDD with at most
\[
\min_{k=1}^{n} \left( \frac{3^k+1}{2} + 3^{n-k} \right)
\]

nodes.

Corollary 4.1 An arbitrary \( n \)-variable function can be represented by a Kleene-TDD with \( O(3^n/n) \) nodes.

Theorem 4.6 An arbitrary symmetric function of \( n \) variables can be represented by a Kleene-TDD with \( O(n^3) \) nodes.

Theorem 4.7
\[
N(\text{BDD} : f) = N(\text{BDD} : f), \quad N(\text{EXOR-TDD} : f) = N(\text{EXOR-TDD} : f), \quad N(\text{Kleene-TDD} : f) = N(\text{Kleene-TDD} : f).
\]

However, in general,
\[
N(\text{AND-TDD} : f) \neq N(\text{AND-TDD} : f).
\]

V. EXPERIMENTS AND OBSERVATION

A. Sizes of TDDs

We developed TDD algorithms, and generated TDDs for various benchmark functions. Multiple-output functions are represented by shared BDDs and shared TDDs.

Table 5.1 compares the number of non-terminal nodes in BDDs, AND-TDDs, EXOR-TDDs, and Kleene-TDDs.

From this table, we observe the following:

1. Except for \( \text{bd4}, \text{rd84}, \text{t481}, \text{xor5}, \) and \( \text{z5xp1} \), \( N(\text{AND-TDD} : f) < N(\text{EXOR-TDD} : f) \) holds.
2. TDDs are considerably larger than corresponding BDDs.

3. \( \text{xor5} \) is a parity function. Thus,
\[
N(\text{BDD} : f) = N(\text{AND-TDD} : f) = N(\text{EXOR-TDD} : f) = N(\text{Kleene-TDD} : f).
\]

Table 5.2 shows the sizes of Kleene-TDDs for randomly generated functions. We can observe that the sizes of Kleene-TDDs are \( O(3^n/n) \) for \( n \)-variable randomly generated functions.

Table 5.2 also shows the sizes of Kleene-TDDs for the Achilles' heel function:
\[
f = x_1 \lor x_2 \lor \ldots \lor x_n.
\]

The size is \( O(3^n) \) when the variable order is \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \), while \( 5n - 2 \) when the variable order is \( x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2, \ldots, x_n, y_n \). This shows that the sizes of TDDs greatly depend on the variable ordering.

### Table 5.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>n=2</th>
<th>n=3</th>
<th>n=4</th>
<th>n=5</th>
<th>n=6</th>
<th>n=7</th>
<th>n=8</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>\text{bd4}</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>1320</td>
<td>3960</td>
<td>11880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\text{rd84}</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>1320</td>
<td>3960</td>
<td>11880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\text{t481}</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>1320</td>
<td>3960</td>
<td>11880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\text{xor5}</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>1320</td>
<td>3960</td>
<td>11880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sizes of Kleene-TDDs for ( n )-variable randomly generated functions and Achilles' heel functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( n )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B. Dependency on the number of true minterms

We generated pseudo-random logic functions of \( n = 14 \) variables for different number of true minterms \( s (0 < s < 2^n) \) and counted numbers of nodes in BDDs and TDDs. Fig. 5.1(a) shows the numbers of BDD nodes for different \( s \). As shown in Theorem 4.7, the graph is symmetric with respect to \( s = 2^n/2 \). Also, the number of nodes takes its maximum when \( s = 2^n/2 \). Fig. 5.1(b) shows the number of TDD nodes. As shown in Theorem 4.7 the graphs for EXOR-TDDs and Kleene-TDDs are symmetric with respect to \( s = 2^n/2 \). However, the graph for AND-TDDs is asymmetric. Surprisingly, the number of
nodes in KleeneTDDs takes its maximum for two values of s, and takes its local minimum for s = 2^{n-1}. This is quite different from the case of BDDs.

C. CPU time

Although KleeneTDDs are greater than BDDs, KleeneTDD-based logic simulation are more efficient than BDD-based one.

In logic simulation for design verification, expected outputs for networks are 1 or 0, rather than u. For a given logic function, input vectors can be generated as follows:

- To verify the ON set.
  Let F be an irredundant sum-of-products expression (ISOP) for f. For each product p_j of F, we have a corresponding input vector a such that f(a) = 1 as follows:
  \[ \alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_n), \]
  \[ \alpha_i = \begin{cases} 0 : p_j \text{ contains the literal } \bar{x}_i, \\ 1 : p_j \text{ contains the literal } x_i, \\ u : \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \]

- To verify the OFF set.
  Let \( \bar{F} \) be an ISOP for \( \bar{f} \).
  For each product q_j of \( \bar{F} \), we have a corresponding input vector a such that \( f(a) = 0 \) as follows:
  \[ \beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_n), \]
  \[ \beta_i = \begin{cases} 0 : q_j \text{ contains the literal } \bar{x}_i, \\ 1 : q_j \text{ contains the literal } x_i, \\ u : \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \]

Note that the total number of input vectors is equal to the sum of products in F and \( \bar{F} \).

Fig. 5.2 compares simulation time for adders (adr6~adr12) for the vectors generated in the above method. This figure shows that KleeneTDD-based simulation is faster than BDD based one.

D. Observation

The facts in 5.B can be interpreted as follows:

1. In AND.TDDs, 1-paths correspond to the implicants of f. The average number of implicants of n-variable functions with s true minterms is given by [7].

\[ G(n, s) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} 2^{n-k} \binom{n}{k} \frac{(w-w_k)^k}{w^k} \]

where \( w = 2^n \), and \( w_k = 2^k \).

Fig. 5.2. Comparison of CPU time for adr6~12.

G(n, s) takes its maximum when s is near to \( 2^n \). Suppose that the number of nodes in the TDD is monotonic increasing with the number of paths. Then the graph for AND.TDD has similar shape as the graph for G(n, s).

2. In a Kleene.TDD, 1-paths correspond to the implicants of f, and 0-paths correspond to the implicants of \( \bar{f} \). Thus, a Kleene.TDD denotes implicants of f and \( \bar{f} \) at the same time. The average number of implicants for f and \( \bar{f} \) is given by

\[ G(n, s) + G(n, 2^n - s) \]

Thus, the shape of the graph is symmetric with respect to s = \( 2^{n-1} \), and the graph takes its maximum for two values of s.

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