

Novel Optimized Designs for QCA Serial Adders

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Abstract—Quantum-dot Cellular Automata (QCA) is a new and efficient technology to implement logic Gates and digital circuits at the nanoscale range. In comparison with the conventional CMOS technology, QCA has many attractive features such as: low-power, extremely dense and high speed structures. Adders are the most important part of an arithmetic logic unit (ALU). In this paper, four optimized designs of QCA serial adders are presented. One of the proposed designs is optimized in terms of the number of cells, area and delay without any wire crossing methods. Also, two new designs of QCA serial adders and a QCA layout equivalent to the internal circuit of TM4006 IC are presented. QCADesigner software is used to simulate the proposed designs. Finally, the proposed QCA designs are compared with the previous QCA, CNTFET-based and CMOS technologies.

Index Terms—Quantum-dot cellular automata, QCA cell, Serial adder, QCADesigner, D flip-flop.

I. INTRODUCTION

According to the Moore's law, every eighteen months, the number of transistors built on a chip doubles, which has been persisted as a law in electronic industry for more than fifty years [1-3]. Recently, current CMOS technology reaches to its physical limitations and faces challenging problems such as high power consumption and difficulties in feature size reduction. Thus, many researches have been conducted to find various technologies in order to replace the conventional CMOS technology. QCA is a new nanotechnology to implement logic circuits. Low power consumption and high processing speed are the advantages of this technology and it is possible to replace VLSI technology with QCA technology [4, 5]. In QCA, the QCA cells are used to implement logic circuits [6]. Adders are the most important part of an arithmetic logic unit (ALU). Several studies have been reported about adders [7-11] and QCA serial adders [12-14]. Three designs of QCA serial adders have been presented in the previous studies [12-14]. These designs have been implemented using coplanar crossing method and have not been optimized in terms of cell count, occupied area and input to output delay. In this paper, three new designs and one optimized design of QCA Serial adder are presented. The first design, which

is implemented using a full adder and a D flip-flop without any wire crossing methods, is optimized in terms of cell count, area and delay. Also, two new designs of QCA serial adder are introduced, which are implemented using full adder, D flip-flop, shift register and JK flip-flop. The last design is the QCA implementation of the internal circuit of TM4006 IC. The rest of this paper is organized as follows: Section II introduces the QCA technology. In Section III, the proposed QCA serial adders are presented. The simulation results and comparisons are shown in Section IV. Finally, Section V concludes the paper.

II. INTRODUCTION TO QCA

QCA technology first introduced by Lent in 1994 [4]. In this section, the basis of QCA, its main logic Gates and clocking of QCA circuits are described.

A. QCA Cell

QCA is based on the QCA cell. The QCA cell is composed of one square with 4 quantum dots and two free electrons as shown in Fig.1 [15-17]. As a result of columbic interaction between the free electrons, they will tend to occupy diagonally opposite into the dots in only two possible states. These two possible states are denoted as the cell polarization $P=+1$ to represent logic "1" and $P=-1$ to represent logic "0" as shown in Fig.1. All logic circuits can be implemented in QCA technology using the inverter Gate, majority Gate and wires [18].

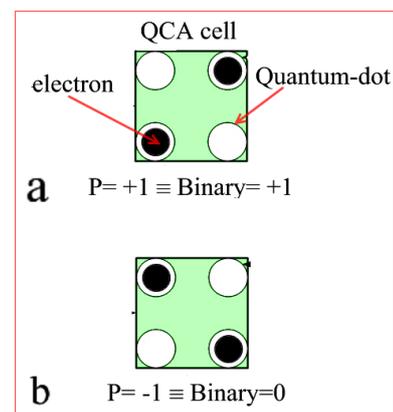


Fig.1. QCA cell (a) Logic "1" (b) Logic "0".

B. QCA wire

Wire is used in order to transfer data. Due to electrostatic interaction between the adjacent QCA cells, binary data can be transferred from input to output. There are two types of wires in QCA: binary wire (90 degree wire) and inverter chain (45 degree wire) as shown in Fig.2.

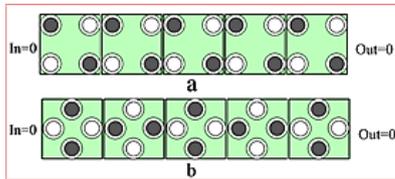


Fig.2. QCA (a) binary wire, (b) inverter chain.

C. QCA wire-crossing

In QCA, there are two types of crossovers (wire-crossing) i.e. overlapping of wires: coplanar and multilayer crossovers as shown in Fig.3. Coplanar crossover uses single layer and two wire types (binary wire and inverter chain), but the multilayer crossover uses binary wire and more than one layer of cells.

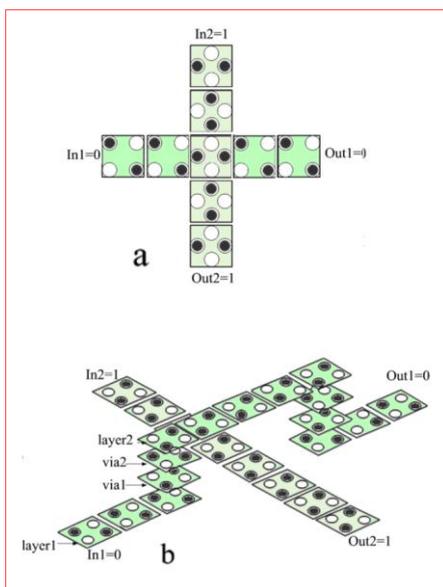


Fig.3. (a) Coplanar crossing, (b) multilayer crossing.

D. Majority Gate

This Gate is composed of five QCA cells (three inputs and one output cells). The majority Gate produces the following function at its output:

$$F = M(A, B, C) = A.B + A.C + B.C \quad (1)$$

Where A, B and C are the inputs and F is the output of the majority Gate. According to the output equation, if at least two inputs have a specific logic level then the output follows them. In Fig.4 the QCA layout, circuit diagram and simulation results of the majority Gate using QCADesigner are shown.

E. AND and OR Gates

Using the majority Gate, AND and OR Gates can be realized. If one input of a 3-input majority Gate is set to logic “0”, the majority Gate behaves like an AND Gate. If one input is set to logic “1”, the majority Gate behaves like an OR Gate. In Fig.5 and Fig.6, the QCA layout, circuit diagram and simulation results of these AND and OR Gates are shown.

F. Inverter Gate

The inverter or NOT Gate is shown in Fig.7, where its input is inverted due to the different polarizations, which are misaligned between the corners of the cells. Inverter Gate has different designs. In Fig.7, the QCA layout, circuit diagram and simulation results of some possible implementations of QCA inverter Gate are shown.

G. QCA clocking

The clock signal in QCA technology is different from the clock signal in CMOS technology. In QCA, clock signal is used to control and synchronize QCA circuits and also to provide the necessary power to run the circuit. There are four clock signals in QCA technology and each clock signal is composed of four phases (Switch, Hold, Relax and Release) [19, 20]. In QCADesigner software, clock signals are shown in the different colors [21] (Green color for Clock 0, violet color for Clock 1, blue color for Clock 2 and white color for Clock 3). Fig.8 shows the QCA clock signals.

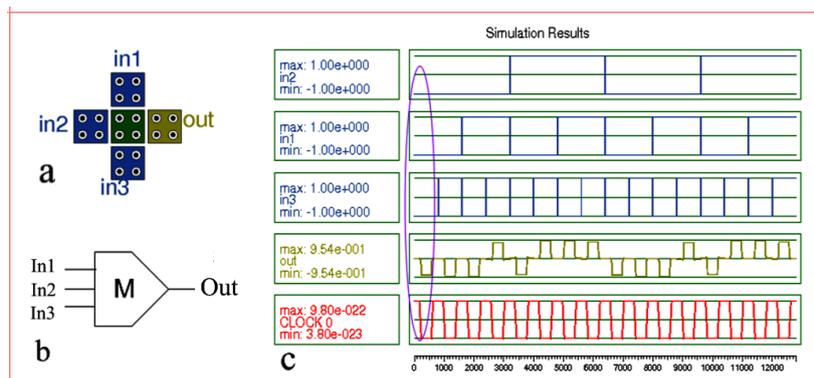


Fig.4. Majority Gate (a) QCA layout (b) circuit diagram (c) simulation results.

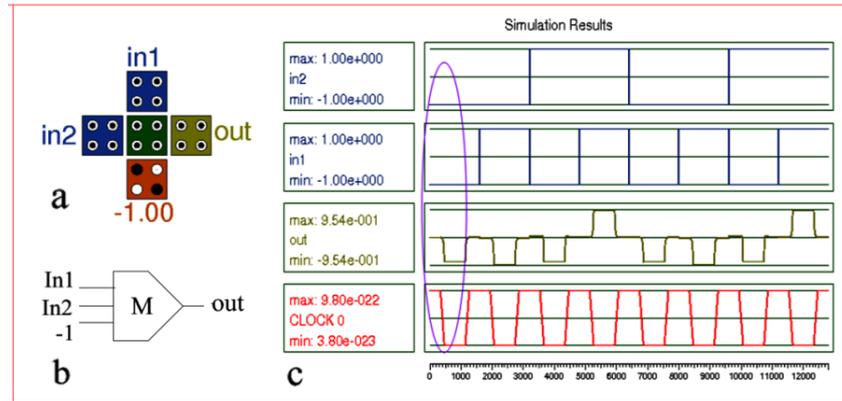


Fig.5. AND Gate (a) QCA layout (b) circuit diagram (c) simulation results.

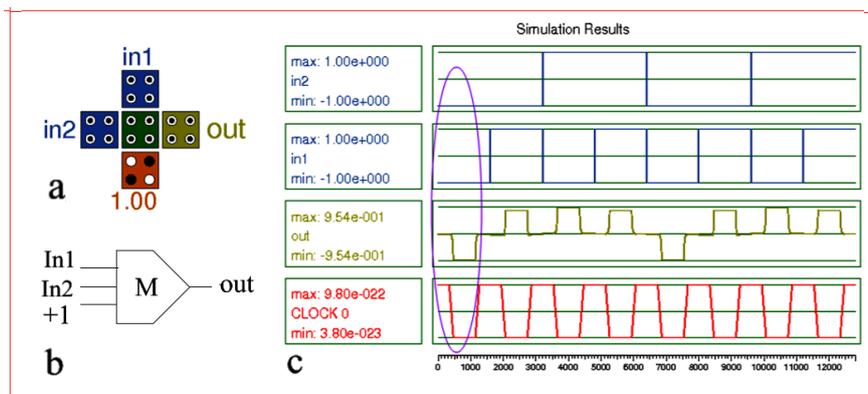


Fig.6. OR Gate (a) QCA layout (b) circuit diagram (c) simulation results.

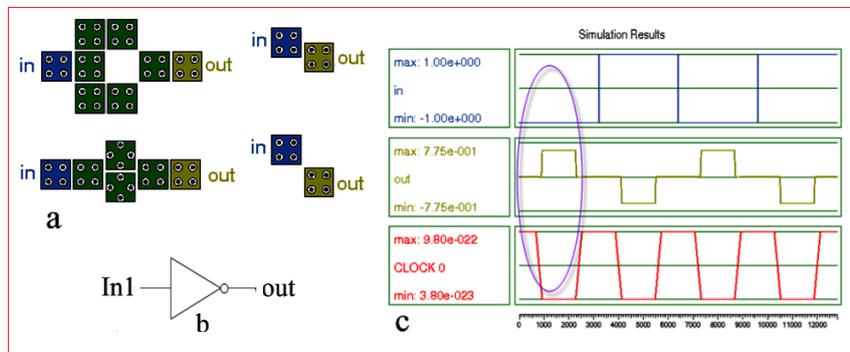


Fig.7. Inverter Gate (a) QCA layouts (b) circuit diagram (c) simulation results.

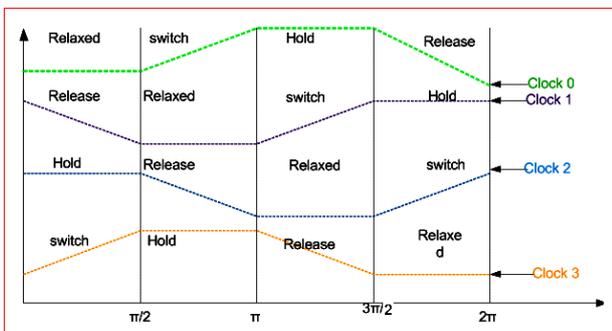


Fig.8. QCA clocking.

III. PROPOSED QCA SERIAL ADDERS

In this section we present three new designs and one optimized design of QCA serial adders. QCADesigner software is used to design and simulate the proposed layouts.

A. The first proposed design

This serial adder is composed of one full adder and one D flip-flop. A D flip-flop can be implemented by a QCA wire with four clock signals [22]. In order to design a D

flip-flop circuit in VLSI technology, distinct clock signal (CLK) must be used. In QCA, each cell can has a different clock signal so in QCA unlike VLSI technology there is no need to have a separate input as CLK. Fig.9 shows the circuit diagram and QCA layout of a D flip-flop. Also, in order to implement QCA full adder, three majority Gates and two inverters are applied [23]. In Fig.10 the circuit diagram and QCA layout of a full adder are shown. In the first serial adder, carrier output signal is connected to the input of D flip-flop, and then the output of D flip-flop is used as one of the inputs of full adder. The QCA layout of this serial adder and its circuit diagram are shown in Fig.11. This design are implemented with 48 cells and the delay from the input to the output is four clock phases and its approximated area is $0.03 \mu m^2$. In addition, this circuit has been implemented without any wire-crossing methods.

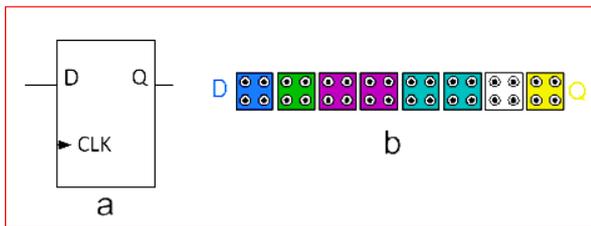


Fig.9. QCA D flip-flop (a) circuit diagram (b) layout.

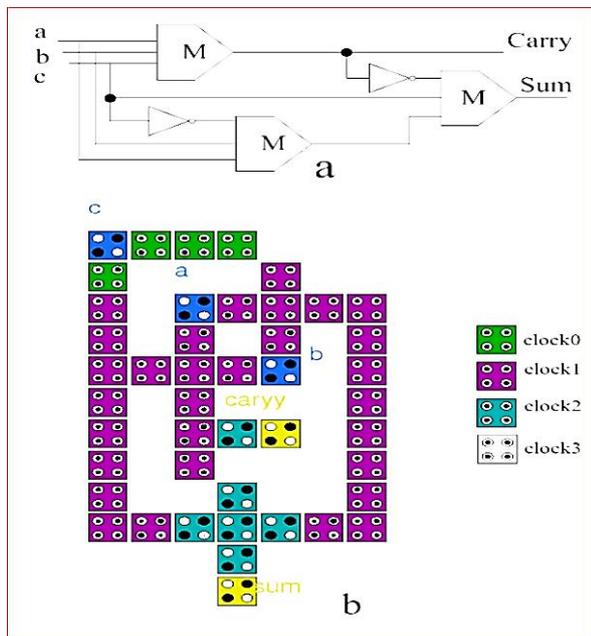


Fig.10. QCA full adder (a) circuit diagram (b) Layout.

B. The second proposed design

This is a new design of QCA serial adder, which is composed of two shift registers, one full adder and one D flip-flop. A shift register can be implemented by a D flip flop [22]. Fig.12 shows the circuit diagram of a 4-bit shift register, its QCA layout and its simulation results using QCADesigner software. The circuit diagram and QCA layout of the second proposed QCA serial adder are shown in Fig.13 [24]. In this circuit, the outputs of shift

register 1, shift register 2 and D flip-flop are connected to Z, Q and X inputs, respectively (the inputs of full adder). The output signal “sum” is connected to the shift register 1 as a serial input, and the output signal “carry” is connected to the input of D flip-flop. The clocking in CMOS technology is different from QCA, so to implement this circuit in QCA, the clock signal and displacement control can be removed from the circuit. This serial adder is implemented using 218 QCA cells. The delay is twenty clock phases from the input to the output and its approximated area is $0.206 \mu m^2$. Also, it is implemented in two layers.

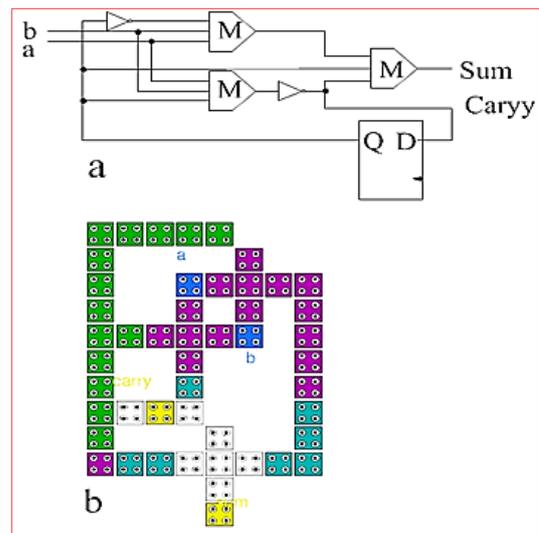


Fig.11. The first proposed QCA serial adder (a) circuit diagram (b) layout.

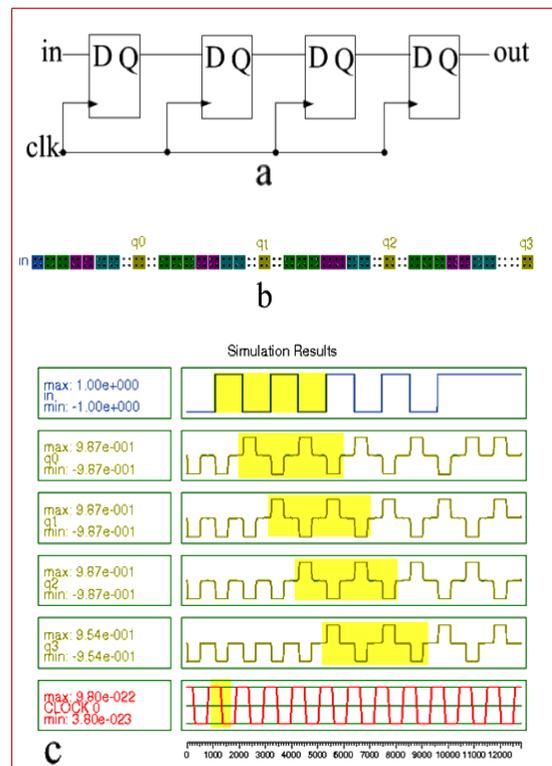


Fig.12. 4-bit shift register (a) circuit diagram (b) QCA layout (c) simulation results.

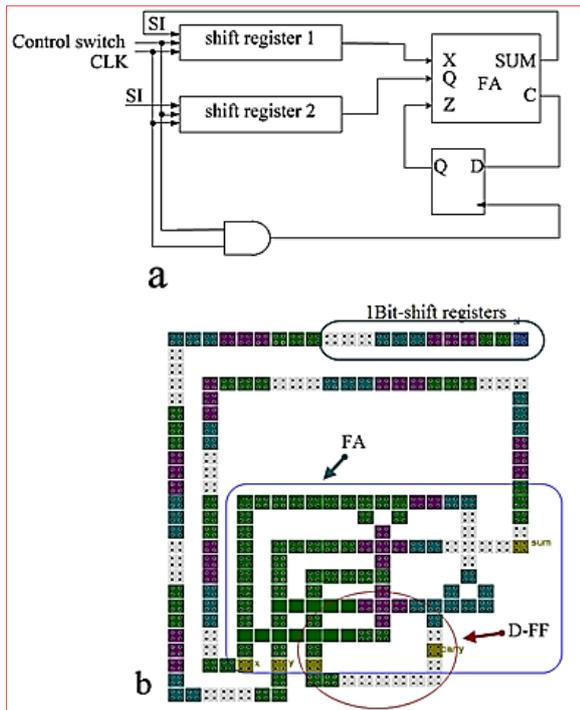


Fig.13. The second proposed QCA serial adder (a) circuit diagram (b) layout.

C. The third proposed design

This circuit is almost similar to the previous designs. In this design, XOR Gate and JK flip-flop are used instead

of the full adder and D flip-flop in the previous design, respectively [24]. The circuit diagrams and QCA layouts of XOR Gate and JK flip-flop are shown in Fig.14 and Fig.15, respectively [22, 25]. Fig.16 shows the circuit diagram and QCA layout of the third proposed QCA serial adder. This QCA layout is implemented using 420 cells in two layers. Its approximated area is $0.487 \mu m^2$, also the input to output delay is 28 clock phases.

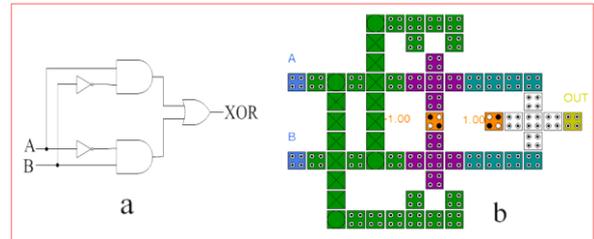


Fig.14. XOR Gate (a) block diagram (b) QCA layout.

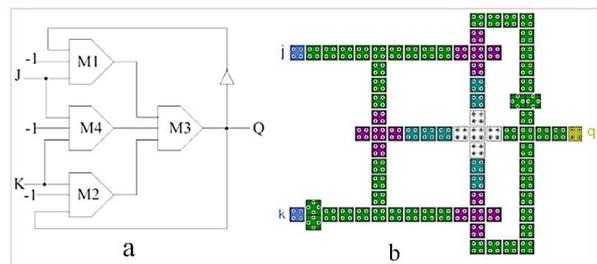


Fig.15. JK flip-flop (a) block diagram (b) QCA layout.

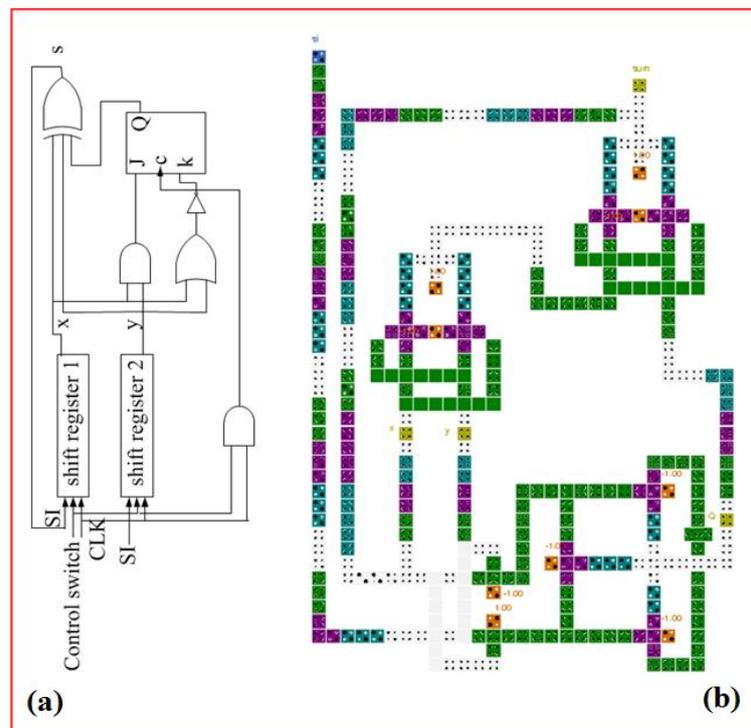


Fig.16. The third proposed QCA serial adder (a) circuit diagram (b) layout.

D. The fourth proposed design

This design is based on the internal circuit of Tm4006 IC. Tm4006 is a serial adder integration circuit. The

internal structure of TM4006 IC is shown in Fig.17a. This circuit composed of XOR, OR, AND and NOT Gates and D flip-flop. The inputs are C_{b-1} , A, B, C_b and the output is sum. The carry signal C_b is connected to the

input of D flip-flop and the output of D flip-flop is connected to the input C_{b-1} . If n_{sub} is logical "1", the circuit works as an adder, and if n_{sub} is logical "0", the circuit works as a subtractor. The QCA layout of this serial adder is shown in Fig.17b. This layout is implemented using 638 QCA cells in three layers and its approximated area is $0.75 \mu m^2$. Also, its input to output delay is 12 clock phases.

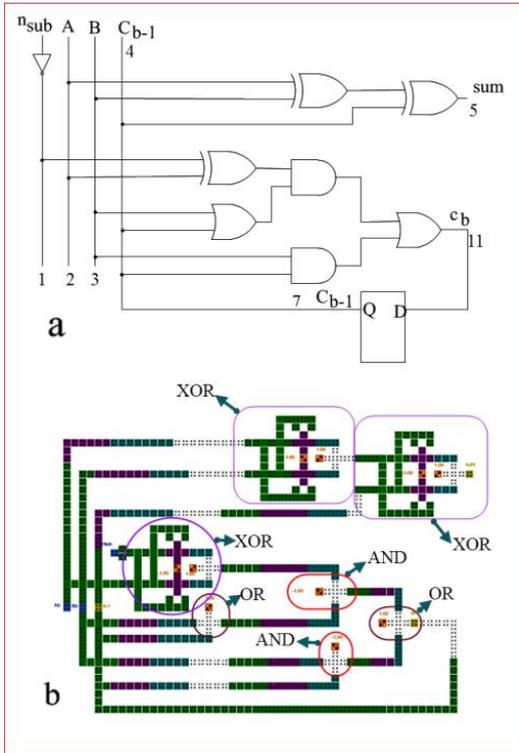


Fig.17. The fourth proposed QCA serial adder (a) circuit diagram (b) layout.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To evaluate the functionality of the proposed designs, we have simulated them by QCADesigner software 2.03 [21]. This tool makes the design, layout and simulation of QCA circuits easier and faster by supplying powerful CAD characteristics. The default parameters of the both engines of QCADesigner (bi-stable and coherence-vector simulation engines) were used and same results were achieved, which indicate the correctness of the proposed designs. The input and output waveforms for the proposed designs shown in Fig.11, Fig.13, Fig.16 and Fig.17 are shown in Fig.18, Fig.19, Fig.20 and Fig.21, respectively. These figures are obtained using the following parameters in the Bistable approximation engine [21]: Number of samples 128000, Convergence tolerance 0.001, Radius of effect 65nm, Relative permittivity 12.9, Clock high $9.8e-22J$, Clock low $3.8e-23J$, Clock amplitude factor 2, Layer separation 11.5nm, Maximum iterations per sample 100 and randomize simulation order. Also, cells are assumed to have a width and height of 18 nm and quantum dots have 5 nm

diameter. The comparison between the proposed QCA serial adders and the previous works in terms of wire-

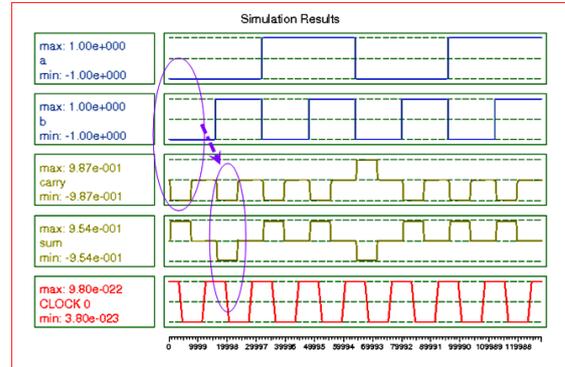


Fig.18. Simulation results of the first proposed QCA serial Adder.

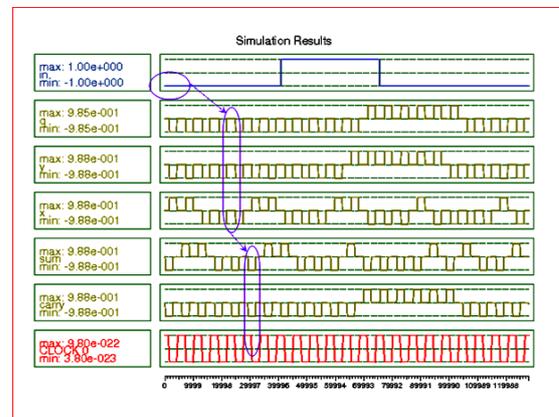


Fig.19. Simulation results of the second proposed QCA serial Adder.

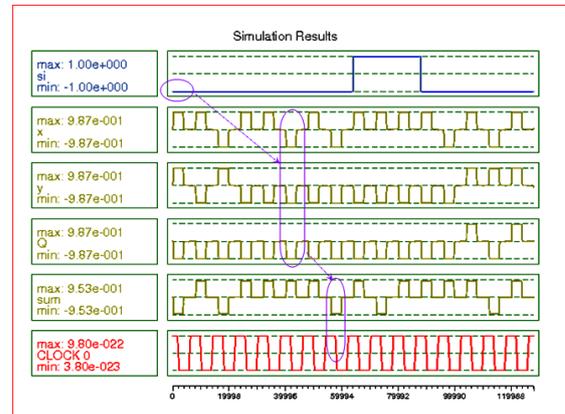


Fig.20. Simulation results of the third proposed QCA serial Adder

crossing types, cell count, area and delay is shown in Table 1. As shown in Table 1, the previous layouts in [12-14] have been designed using the coplanar crossover scheme. In comparison with [12], the important improvements for the first proposed design shown in Fig.11 are 69% and 52% in the area and cell count, respectively. Where, the important improvement (II) is obtained by the following equation [26]:

$$II = (1 - \frac{x}{y}) \times 100 \tag{2}$$

Where x and y stand for the measured objects (area or cell count) for our designs and the previous works, respectively.

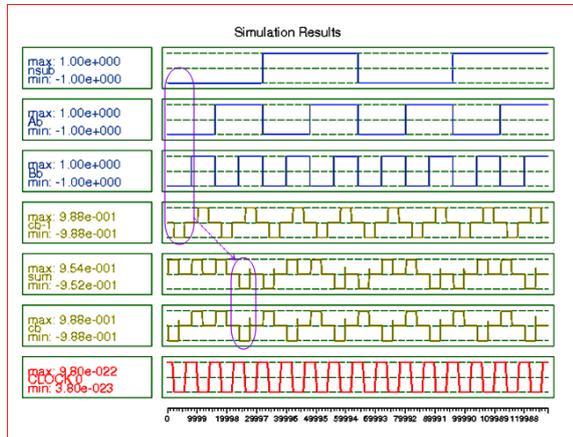


Fig.21. Simulation results of the fourth proposed QCA serial Adder.

Also, in comparison with the previous work presented in [13], the important improvements are 95% in area and 88% in cells count. In comparison with [14], the important improvements are 84% in the area and 69% in cells count. In addition, our best design is implemented without any wire-crossing methods, which is an important advantage over the previous works. Moreover, in the best proposed design, the input to output delay is four clock phases, which is faster than the previous designs. Also, we have compared our best QCA design with the previous CMOS implementations. Fig.22 shows an equivalent CMOS layout of the proposed serial adder shown in Fig.11. This layout is implemented with 45nm

CMOS technology and its approximated area is $12.8 \mu\text{m}^2$, which is 427 times bigger than the QCA layout shown in Fig.11. Table 2 shows the comparison between our QCA designs with the previous CNTFET-based designs. As it can be seen from Table 2, the QCA design has 14×10^8 times less than than the 32nm CNTFET-based ternary serial adder presented in [27] in power consumption and also, its occupied area is 114 times smaller. Also, in comparison with the CNTFET-based ternary Full adder presented in [28], our best QCA design is more than 166 times faster. Also, it has power consumption approximately 11×10^8 times less than [29]. From these results, it is clear that the QCA designs are more efficient in terms of area, power and delay in comparison with the other technologies. The obtained results show that the proposed QCA serial adders work satisfactorily and produce the required results. The implementation of these designs may lead to the efficient use of complex circuits in the various applications, which may be a future technical advancement of this work.

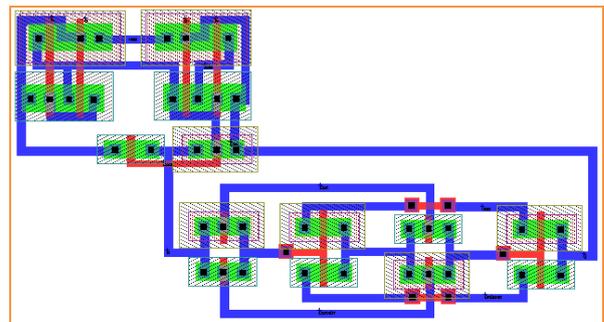


Fig.22. An equivalent CMOS layout of the proposed serial adder shown in Fig.11.

Table 1. Comparison with the previous works.

Reference	Type of crossing	Cell count	Approximated area (μm^2)	Delay (Clock phases)
[12]	Coplanar	101	0.097	8
[13]	Coplanar	410	0.576	6
[14]	Coplanar	155	0.187	5
Fig.11	Without any wire-crossing methods	48	0.03	4
Fig.13	Two-layer	218	0.207	20
Fig.16	Two-layer	404	0.487	24
Fig.17	Three-layer	638	1.068	12

Table 2. Comparison with CMOS Technology.

Serial adders	Delay (ps)	Power (μW)	Approximated area (μm^2)
32 nm CNTFET-based ternary serial adder [27]	200.17	28.49	-----
CNTFET-based ternary Full adder [28]	292.43	22.44	-----
CNTFET-based ternary Full adder [29]	307.01	24.64	-----
QCA serial adder (Fig.11)	1.75	0.00000002	0.03

V. CONCLUSIONS

Quantum-dot cellular automata as an advanced nanotechnology can be a suitable replacement for complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor technology due to its merits such as extra low-power, extremely dense and high speed structures. In this paper, four designs of QCA serial adder introduced, which are very suitable to design QCA circuits. To evaluate the proposed designs, we simulated them by QCADesigner software. Our designs are optimized in terms of cell count, area and delay. The most important advantage of the best proposed design was its implementation without any wires-crossing methods. We also compared the proposed QCA designs with the previous CMOS and CNTFET-based technologies. The results showed that our QCA designs are more efficient in terms of area and power.

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