Unfolding

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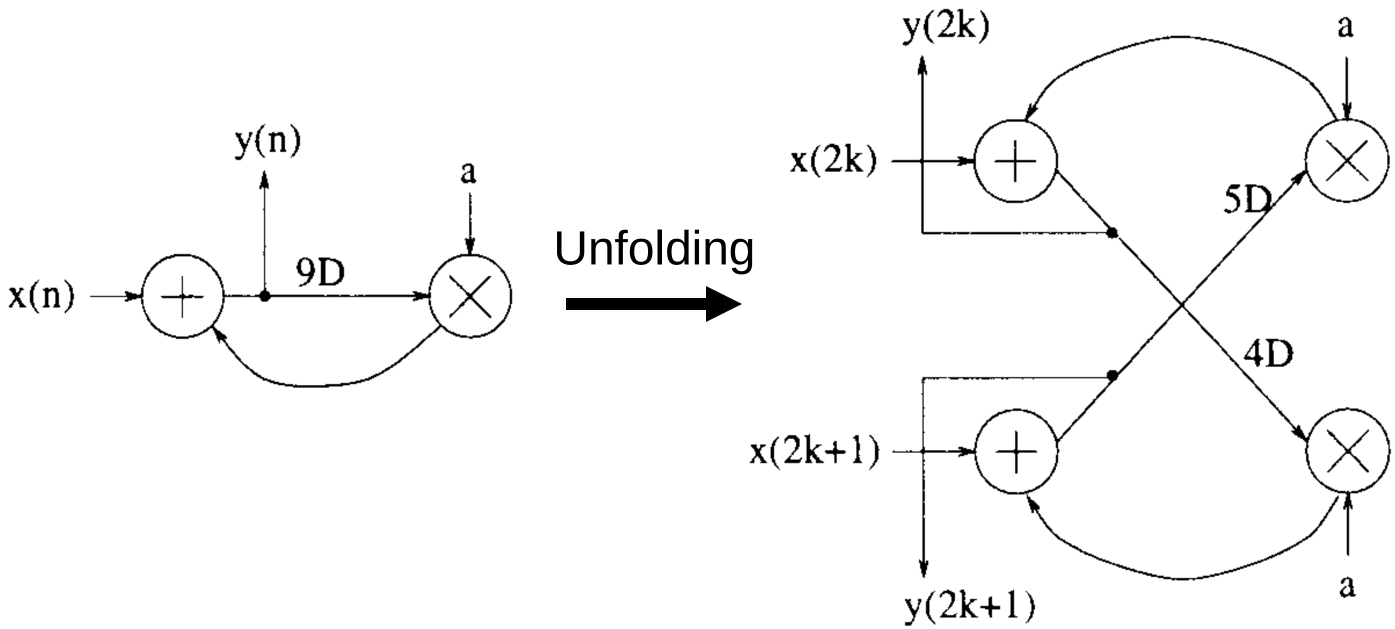
Introduction (1/4)

- **Unfolding** is a transformation technique that can be applied to a DSP program to create a new program describing more than one iterations of the original program
- Unfolding factor J: J consecutive iterations
- Also called as loop unrolling

Introduction (2/4)

- For the DSP algorithm
  - $y(n)=ay(n-9)+x(n)$
- Replace n with 2k and 2k+1
  - $y(2k)=ay(2k-9)+x(2k)$
  - $y(2k+1)=ay(2k-8)+x(2k+1)$
- It is an unfolded algorithm with J=2!

Introduction (3/4)



- Note that, in unfolded systems, each delay is J-slow

Introduction (4/4)

- Applications of unfolding
  - To reveal hidden concurrent so that the program can be scheduled to a smaller iteration period
  - To design parallel architecture

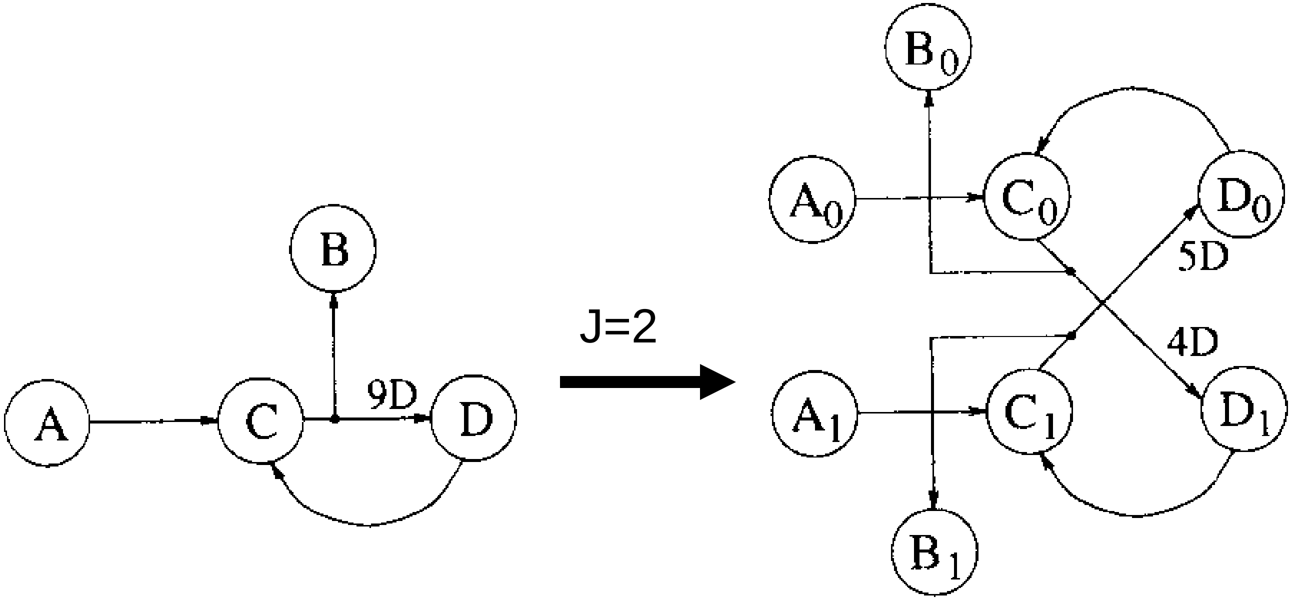
Algorithm for Unfolding

- In the J-unfolded DFG
  - For each node U in the origin DFG, there are J nodes with the same function as U
  - For each edge in the original DFG, there are J edges

Algorithm for Unfolding

- For each node U in the original DFG, draw the J nodes U_0, U_1, …, U_{J-1}
- For each edge U→V with w delays in the original DFG, draw the J edges $U_i \rightarrow V_{(i+w)\%J}$ with $\left\lfloor \frac{i+w}{J} \right\rfloor$ delays for i=0, 1, …, J-1

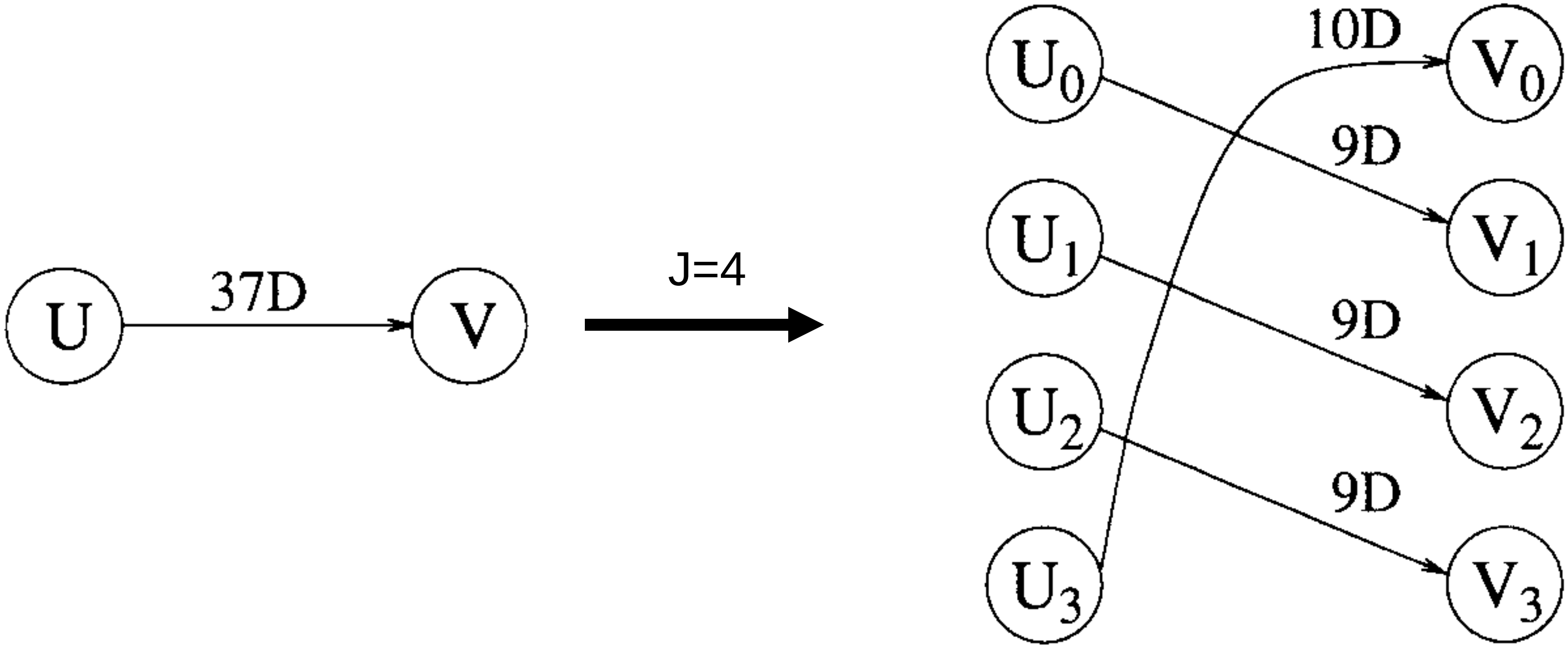
Example 1 of Unfolding



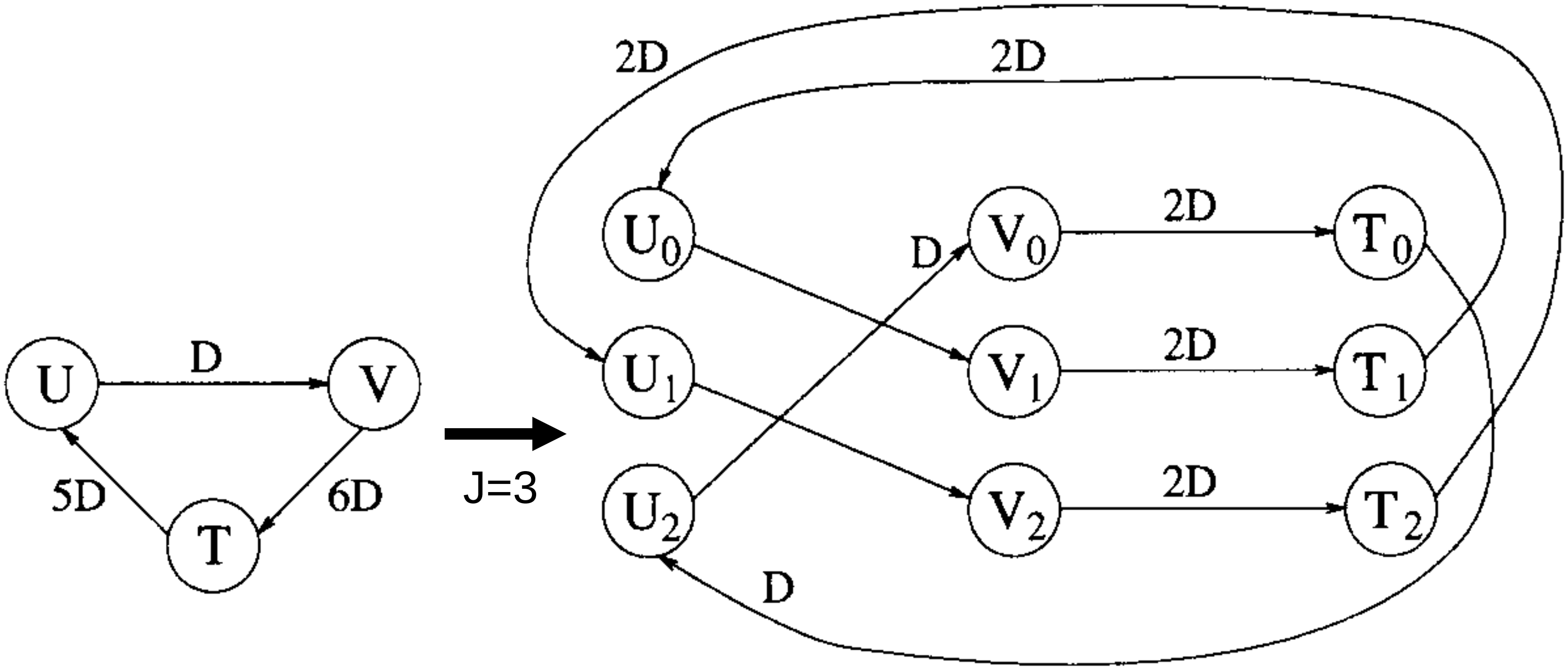
$$C_0 \rightarrow D_{(0+9)\%2} \text{ with } \left\lfloor \frac{0+9}{2} \right\rfloor \text{delays}$$

$$C_1 \rightarrow D_{(1+9)\%2} \text{ with } \left\lfloor \frac{1+9}{2} \right\rfloor \text{delays}$$

Example 2 of Unfolding



Example 3 of Unfolding



Proof of the Unfolding Algorithm (1/2)

- Unfolding preserve precedence constraints of a DSP program
- For $U_i \rightarrow V_{(i+w)\%J}$ with $\left\lfloor \frac{i+w}{J} \right\rfloor$ delays

output of U_i in the k-th iteration will be connected to $V_{(i+w)\%J}$ in the (k+ $\left\lfloor \frac{i+w}{J} \right\rfloor$)-th iteration

- In the original DFG, it corresponds to:

output of U in the (Jk+i)-th iteration will be connected to V in the $(J(k+\left\lfloor \frac{i+w}{J} \right\rfloor)+(i+w)\%J)$-th iteration

Proof of the Unfolding Algorithm (2/2)

$$J\left(k+\left\lfloor\frac{i+w}{J}\right\rfloor\right)+(i+w)\,\%J-(Jk+i)$$

$$=\left(J\left\lfloor\frac{i+w}{J}\right\rfloor+(i+w)\,\%J\right)-i$$

$$=(i+w)-i=w$$

- So the precedence constraints are preserved correctly

Properties of Unfolding (1/5)

- Unfolding preserves the number of delays in a DFG

$$\left\lfloor \frac{w}{J} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{w+1}{J} \right\rfloor + \cdots + \left\lfloor \frac{w+J-1}{J} \right\rfloor = w$$

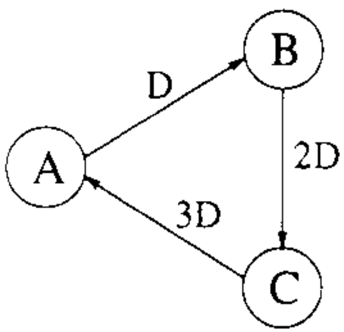
Properties of Unfolding (2/5)

- J-unfolding of a loop l with w_l delays in the original DFG leads to gcd(w_l, J) loops in the unfolded DFG, and each of these gcd(w_l, J) loops contains w_l/gcd(w_l, J) delays and J/gcd(w_l, J) copies of each node that appears in l

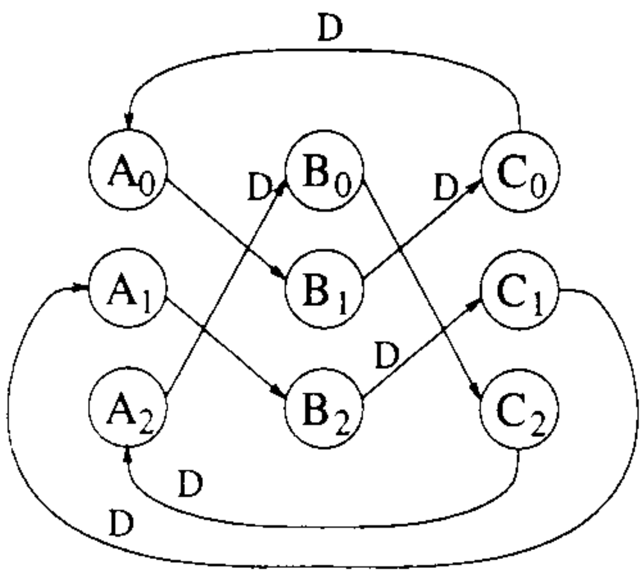
Properties of Unfolding (3/5)

- For a loop in origin loop A→A traversed p times with w_l delay elements
- In the unfolded DFG: $A_i \rightarrow A_{(i+pw_l)\%J}$
- This path form a loop if $i = (i + pw_l)\%J$

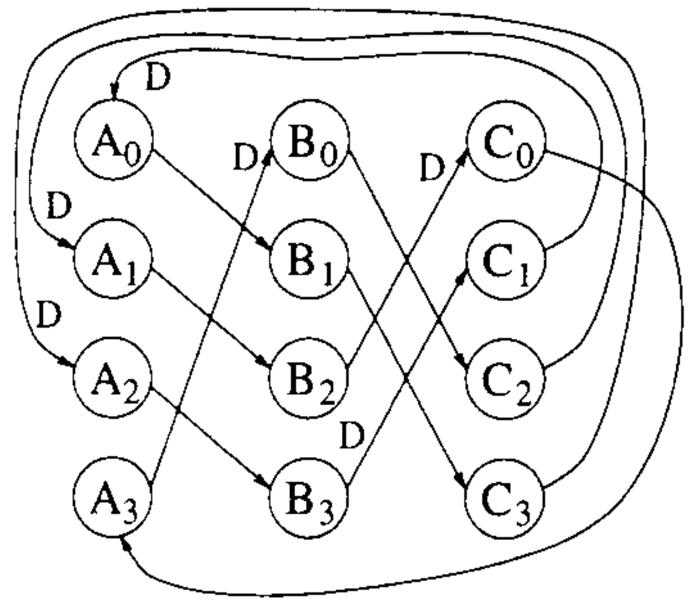
Properties of Unfolding (4/5)



Origin DFG
w_l=6



J=3
For a loop, i=(i+6p)%3
p=1
Loop: A→B→C→A
Consists of 3 loops



J=4
For a loop, i=(i+6p)%4
p=2
Loop: A→B→C→A→B→C→A
Consists of 2 loops

Properties of Unfolding (5/5)

- Unfolding a DFG with iteration bound T_∞ results in a J-unfolded DFG with iteration bound JT_∞

Retiming with Unfolding (1/2)

- Consider a path with w delays in the original DFG. J-unfolding of this path leads to (J-w) paths with no delays and w paths with 1 delay each, when w<J
- Any path in the original DFG containing J or more delays leads to J paths with 1 or more delays in each path. Therefore, a path in the original DFG with J or more delays cannot create a critical path in the J-unfolded DFG

Retiming with Unfolding (2/2)

- The critical path of the unfolded DFG can be c if there exists a path in the original DFG with computation time c and less than J delay elements

- If $D(U,V)>=c$, $W_r(U,V)=W(U,V)+r(V)-r(U)>=J$
- $w(e)+r(V)-r(U)>=0$

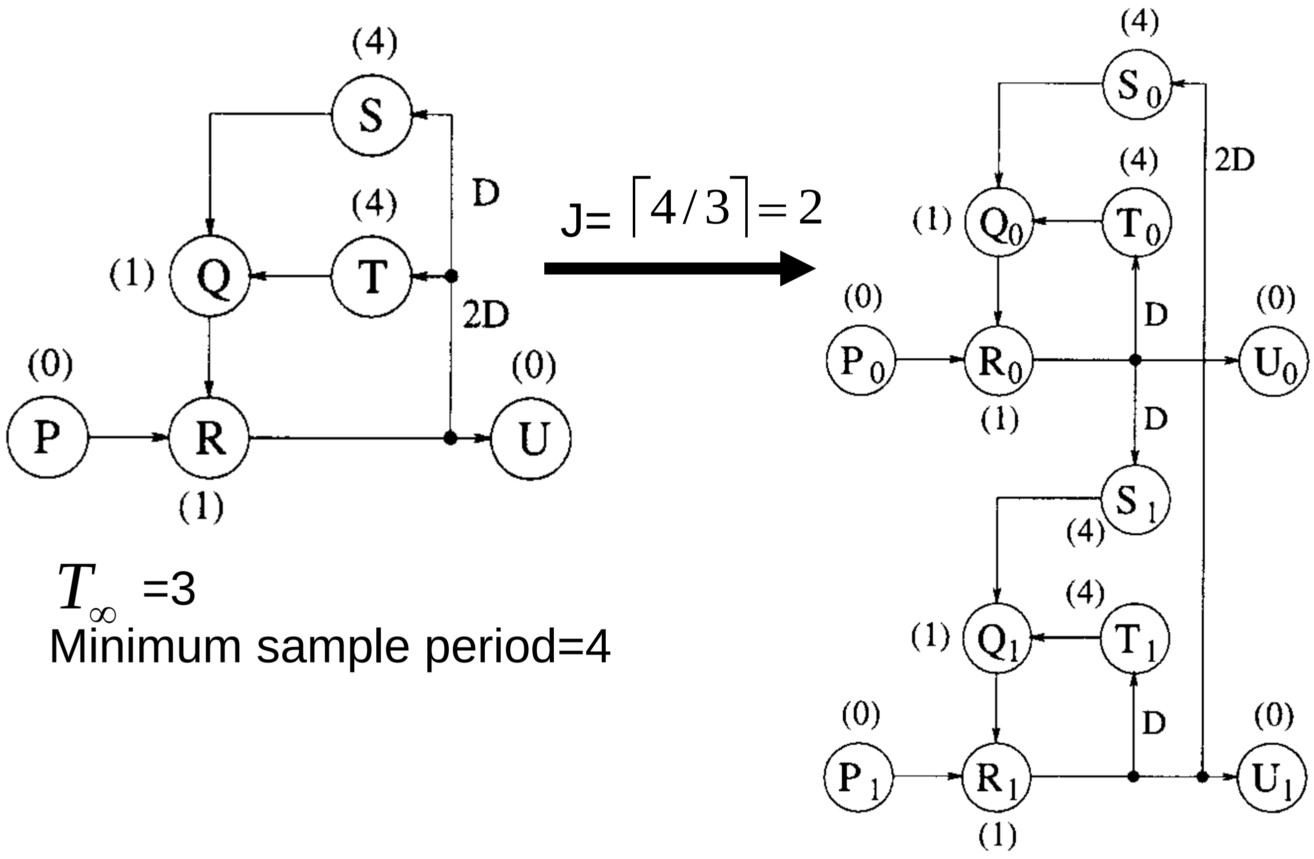
Applications of Unfolding

- Sample period reduction
- Parallel processing
  - Word-level parallel processing
  - Bit-level parallel processing

Sample Period Reduction (1/5)

- In some cases, the DSP program cannot be implemented with iteration period equal to the iteration bound ➔ use unfolding
- First case: there is a node in the DFG that has computation time greater than T_∞
  - If t_U is greater than the iteration bound, then $\lceil t_U / T_\infty \rceil$-unfolding should be used

Sample Period Reduction (2/5)



T_∞ =3

Minimum sample period=4

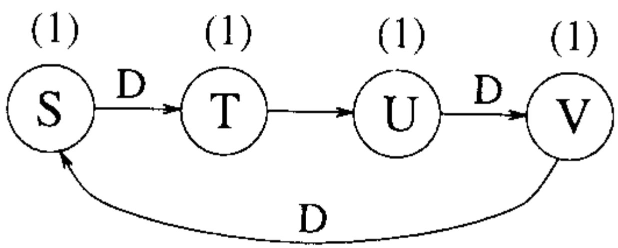
T_∞=6

Minimum sample period=6/2

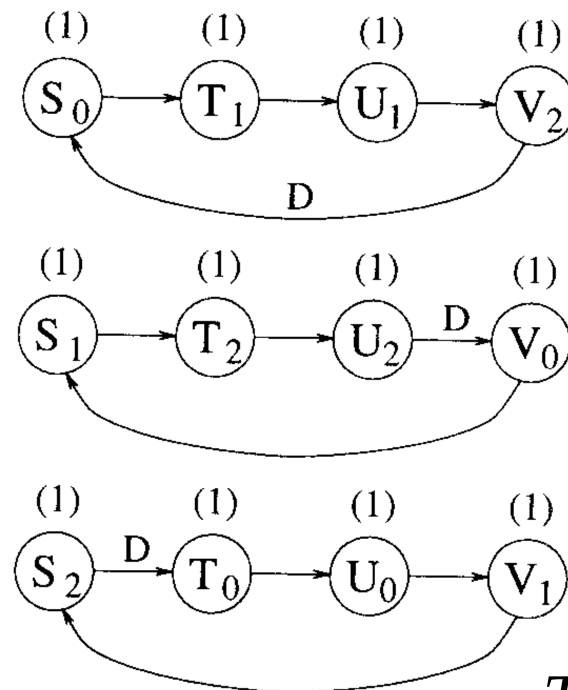
Sample Period Reduction (3/5)

- Second case: the iteration bound is not an integer
  - If a critical loop bound is of the form t_l/w_l, where t_l and w_l are mutually coprime, then w_l-unfolding should be used

Sample Period Reduction (4/5)



J=3 →



T_∞ =4/3
Minimum sample period=2

T_∞=4
Minimum sample period=4/3

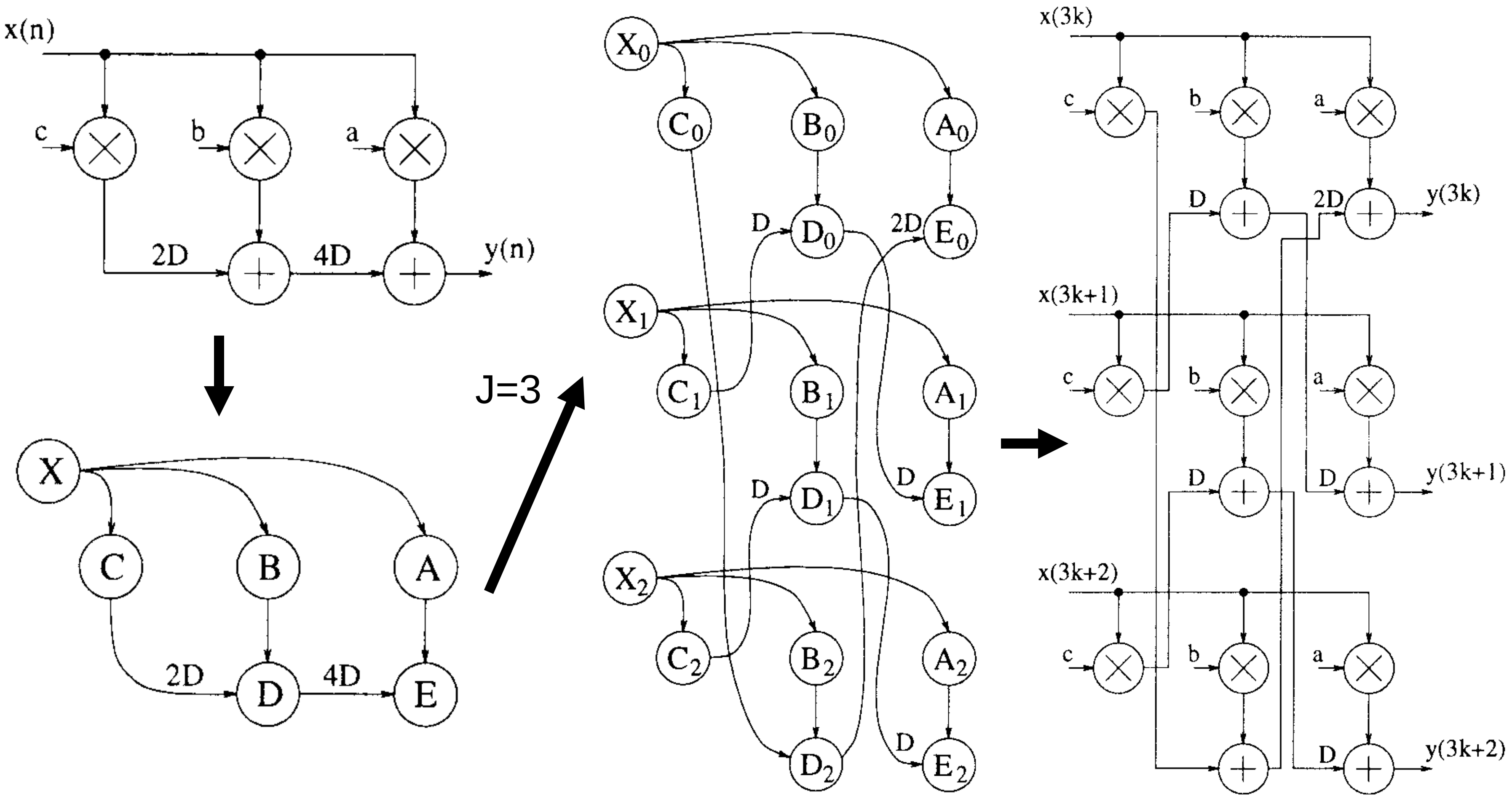
Sample Period Reduction (5/5)

- For both cases, where the longest node computation time is larger than the iteration bound T_∞, and T_∞ is not an integer
  - J is the minimum value such that JT_∞ is an integer and is greater than or equal to the longest node computation time

Word-Level Parallel Processing (1/2)

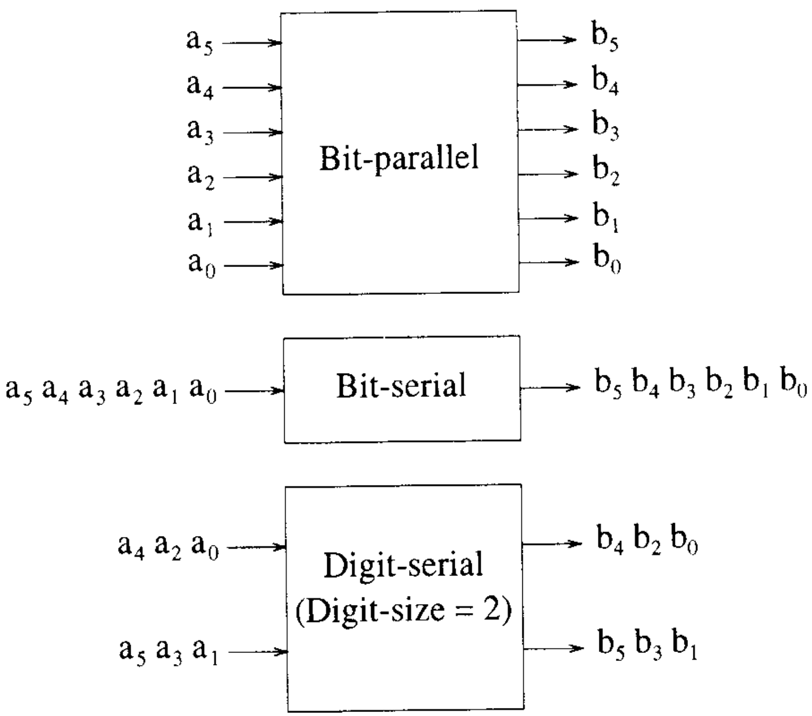
- The unfolding technique can be used to design a word-parallel architecture from a word-serial architecture
  - Unfolding a word-serial architecture by J creates a word-parallel architecture that processes J words per clock cycle
  - Parallel processing

Word-Level Parallel Processing (2/2)



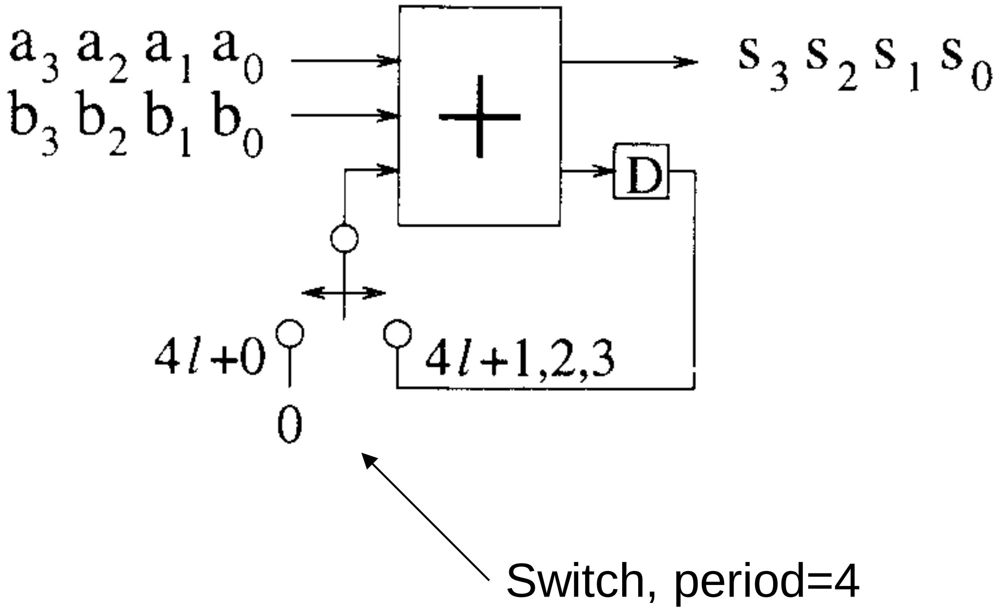
Bit-Level Parallel Processing (1/6)

- Bit-parallel and bit-serial architecture can be derived from bit-serial architectures using the unfolding transformation
  - Bit-serial
  - Bit-parallel: word-length W
  - Digit-serial: N digits



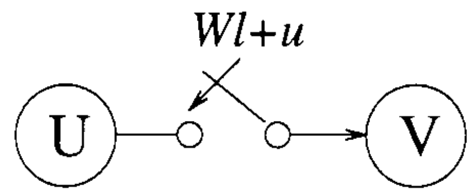
Bit-Level Parallel Processing (2/6)

- Bit-serial adder for W=4



Bit-Level Parallel Processing (3/6)

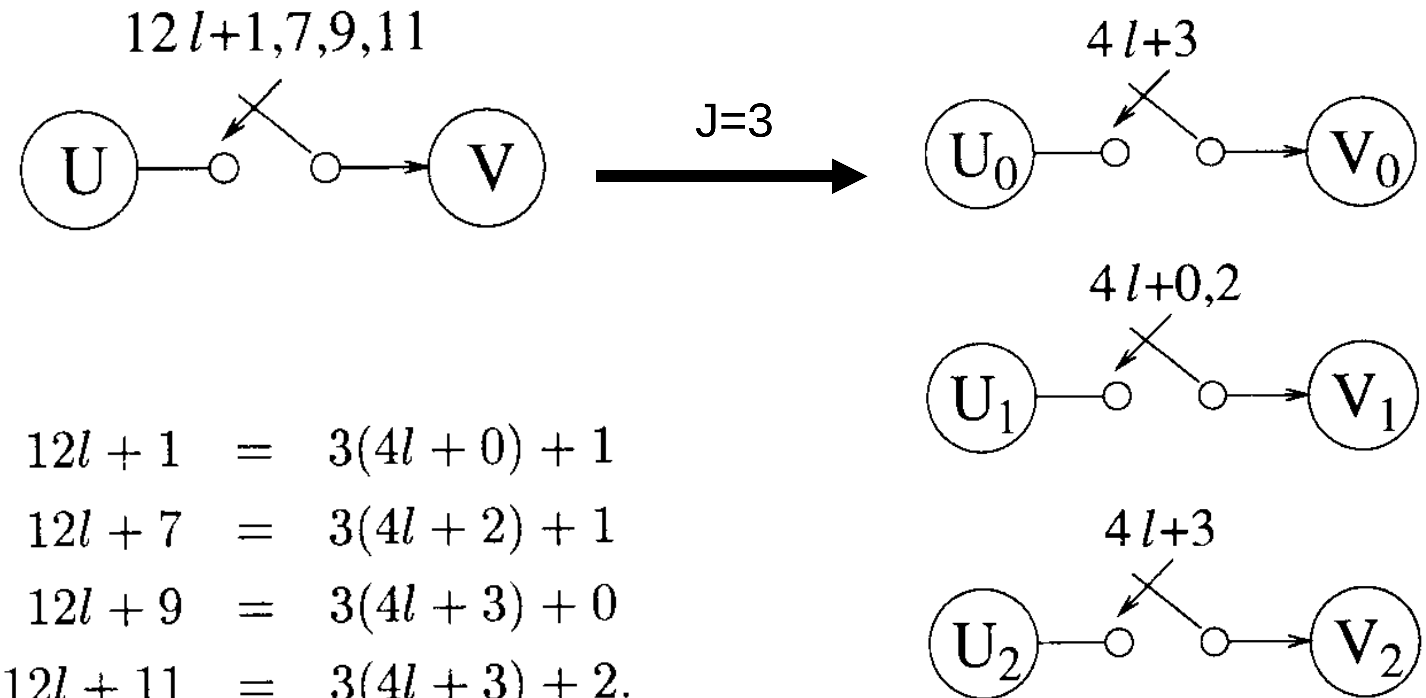
- Unfolding the switch
  - Assume W=W'J
  - Assume all edges have no delays
  - Write the switch instance as



$$Wl + u = J\left(W'l + \left\lfloor \frac{u}{J} \right\rfloor\right) + (u\%J).$$

  - Draw an edge with no delays in the unfolded graph from the node $U_{u\%J}$ to the node $V_{u\%J}$, which is switched at time instance $\left(W'l + \left\lfloor \frac{u}{J} \right\rfloor\right)$

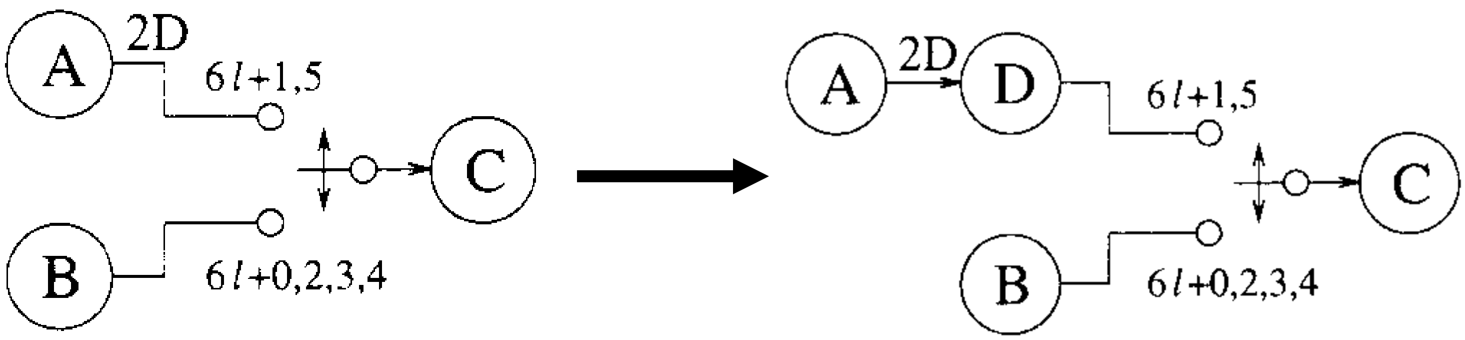
Bit-Level Parallel Processing (4/6)



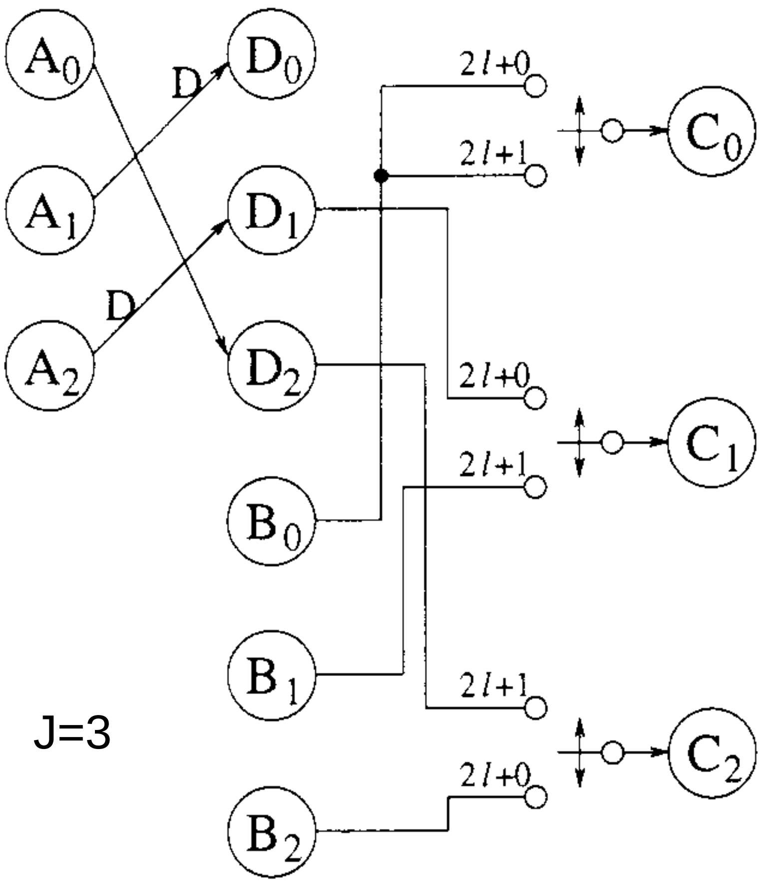
$$
\begin{aligned}
12l + 1 &= 3(4l + 0) + 1 \\
12l + 7 &= 3(4l + 2) + 1 \\
12l + 9 &= 3(4l + 3) + 0 \\
12l + 11 &= 3(4l + 3) + 2.
\end{aligned}
$$

Bit-Level Parallel Processing (5/6)

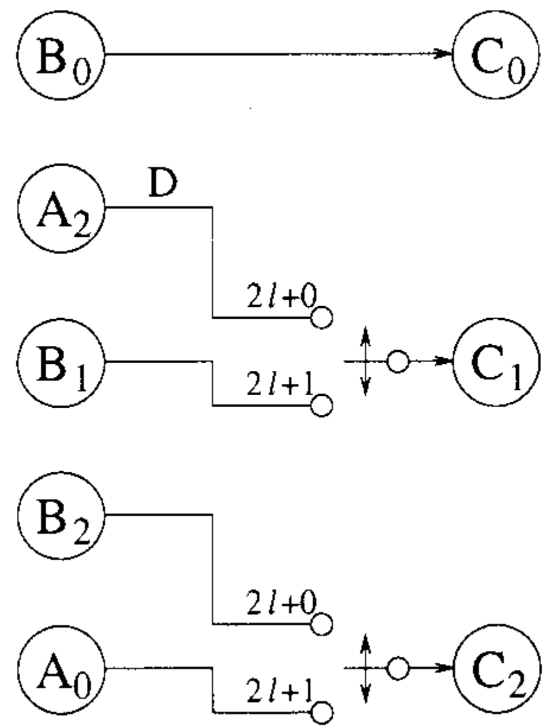
- For edges with delays
  - Add dummy nodes



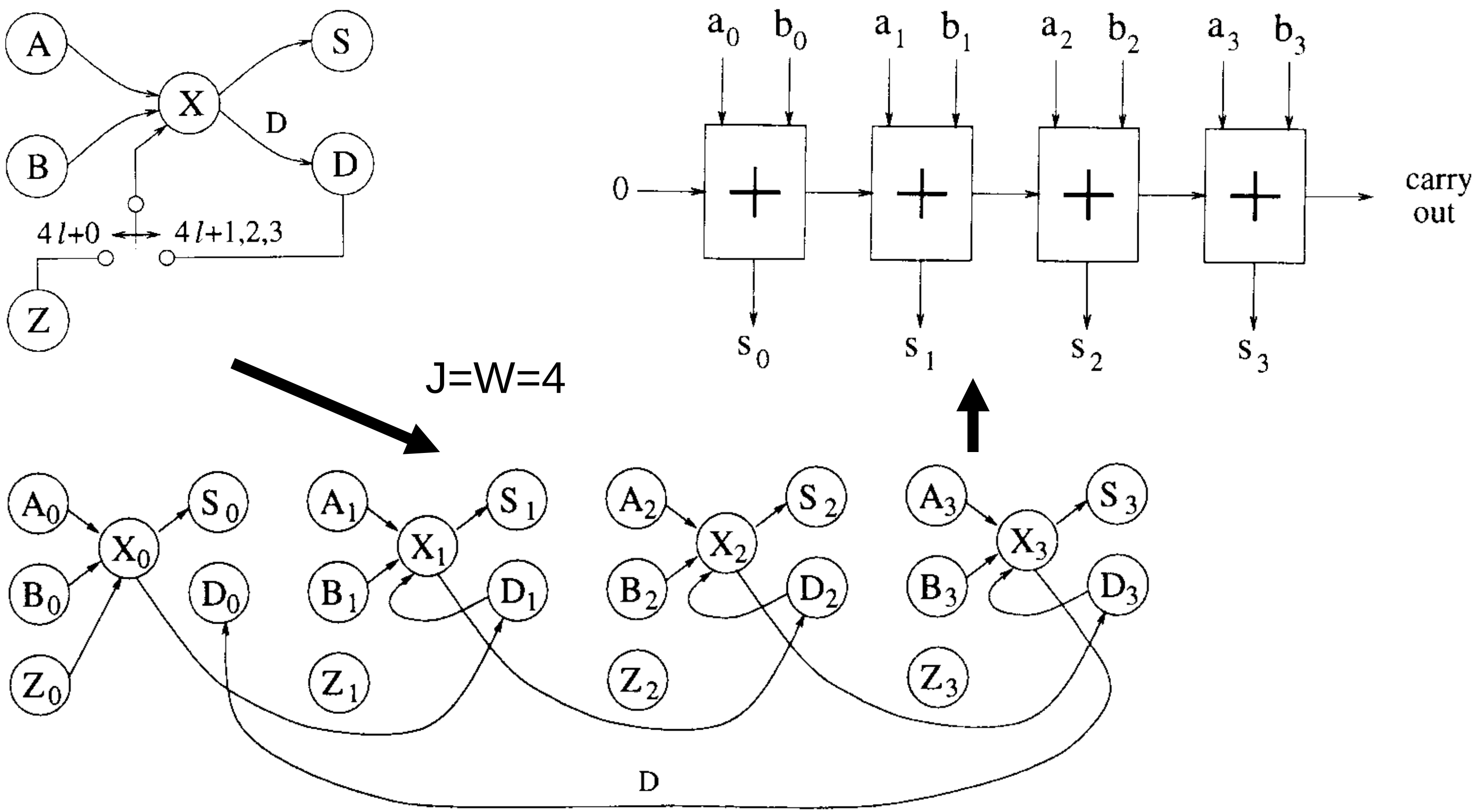
Bit-Level Parallel Processing (6/6)



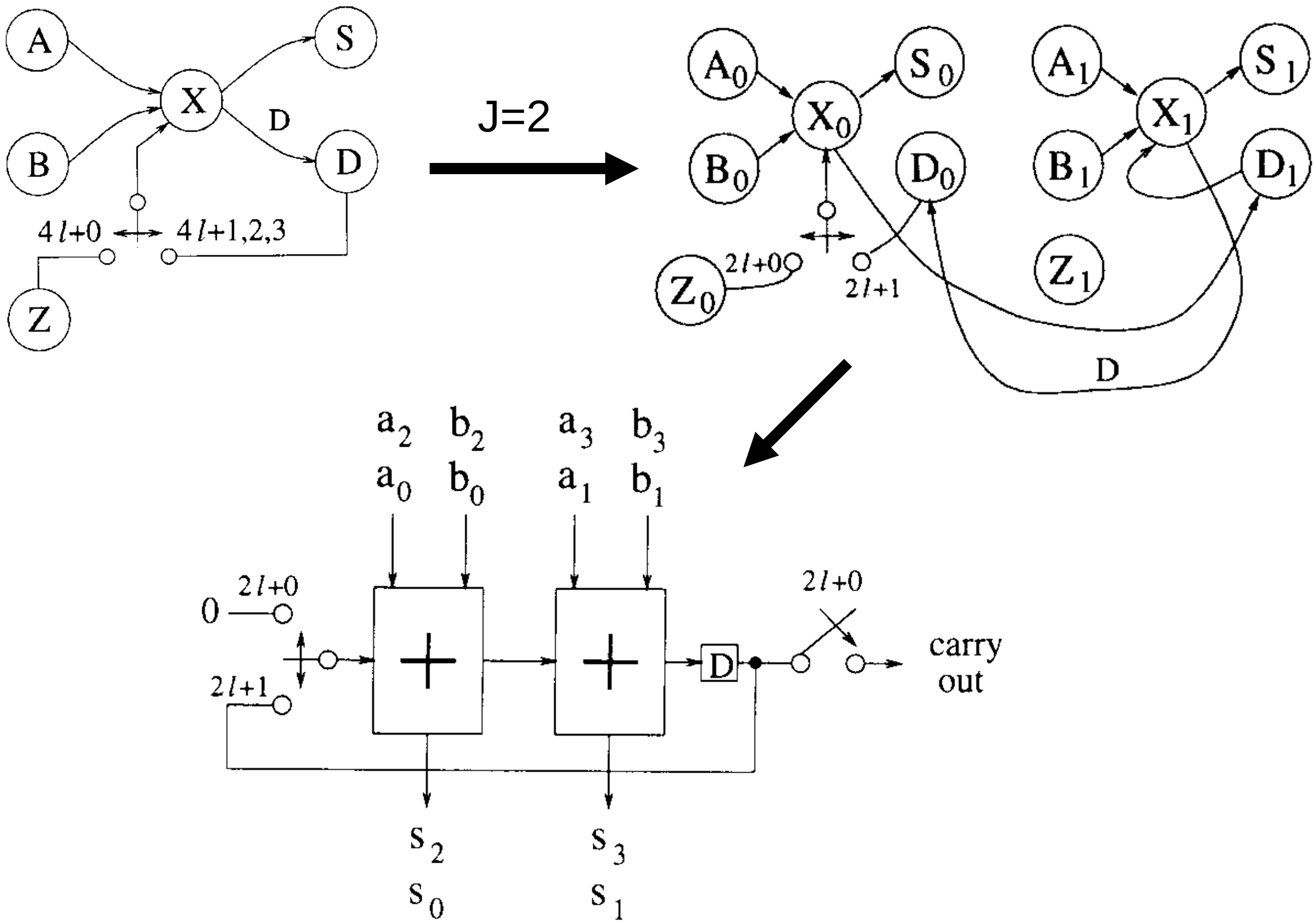
Remove dummy and dead nodes



Bit-Parallel Adder



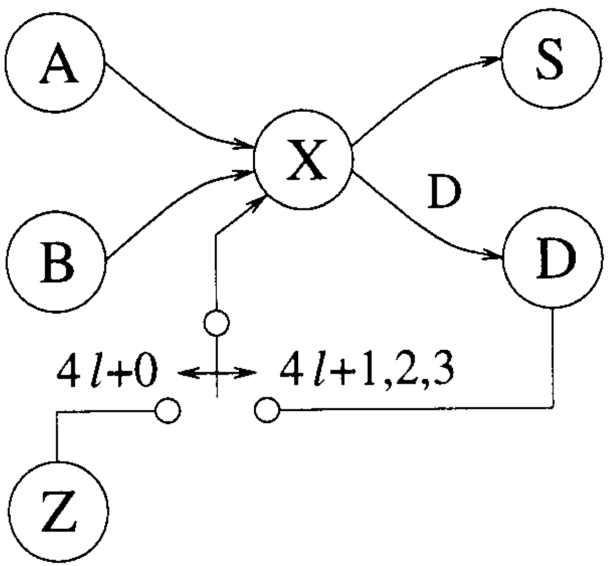
Digit-Serial Adder (1/4)



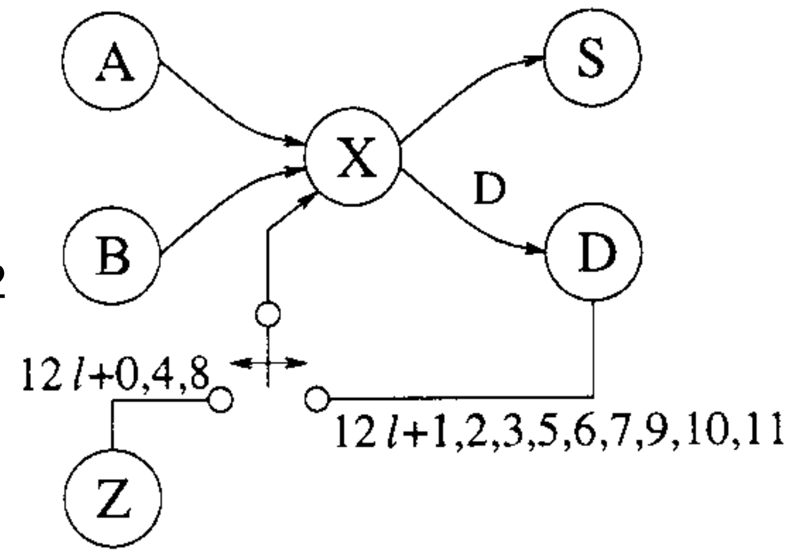
Digit-Serial Adder (2/4)

- If W is not a multiple of the unfolding factor J
  - L=lcm{W,J}
  - Replace the period of the switch W as L

Digit-Serial Adder (3/4)



J=3
W=4
L=lcm{3,4}=12



Digit-Serial Adder (4/4)