Research Article

A Novel Megastable Oscillator with a Strange Structure of Coexisting Attractors: Design, Analysis, and FPGA Implementation

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Megastable chaotic systems are somehow the newest in the family of special chaotic systems. In this paper, a new megastable two-dimensional system is proposed. In this system, coexisting attractors are in some islands, interestingly covered by megalimit cycles. The introduced two-dimensional system has no defined equilibrium point. However, it seems that the origin plays the role of an unstable equilibrium point. Therefore, the attractors are determined as hidden attractors. Adding a forcing term to the system, we can obtain chaotic solutions and coexisting strange attractors. Moreover, the effect of three different values of the forcing term’s amplitude is studied. The dynamical properties of the designed system are investigated using attractor plots, bifurcation diagrams, and Lyapunov Exponents diagram. Phase portraits of the novel megastable oscillator are presented by FPGA design. Xilinx system generator block diagrams of the proposed system and trigonometric functions are also presented.

1. Introduction

Finding new special chaotic systems or, more specifically, new systems with special and unique dynamical characteristics has been an active area of research since about 30 years ago. First, Sprott has introduced some elegant quadratic three-dimensional chaotic systems [1]. Then, people have tried to find the simplest cases of special chaotic systems [2]. For example, chaotic systems with many wings have been designed [3], simplest jerk systems have been introduced [4], elegant hyperchaotic systems have been found [5, 6], circulant chaotic systems have been constructed [7], and symmetric chaotic flows have been investigated [8, 9].

One crucial point about dynamical systems is the role of equilibria in them. It was believed that the strange attractors and unstable equilibrium points have a strong relationship. More particularly, unstable equilibrium points were supposed to be the clue for strange attractors. However, finding dissipative chaotic systems with no equilibria was an exciting discovery which challenged that confidence [10]. Also, chaotic systems with stable equilibria changed many conventional beliefs about the reason for the creation of strange attractors [11]. Systems
with lines, curves, and surfaces of equilibria came one after another and shed more light on many unknown points in the field. Nevertheless, calculating system’s equilibrium points is the first basic step of analyzing its dynamics.

Multistability is an important phenomenon in dynamical systems [12], which is a kind of double-edged sword feature. While it can cause unwanted shifts in a system’s dynamic, it can provide extra flexibility, e.g., for the control aims. Sometimes the number of coexisting attractors in a multistable system becomes infinite. In such a scenario, if those infinite attractors are uncountable, the system is called extreme multistable [13–15]. Initial conditions play the role of bifurcation parameters in such systems. However, when those infinite attractors are countable, the system is called megastable. The term “megastable” was first used in [16]. Megastable chaotic systems are somehow the newest in the family of special chaotic systems [16]. In summary, the main difference between a megastable system and an extreme multistable system is in the countability of the system’s coexisting attractors. In both terms, the number of coexisting attractors is limitless. Many interesting configurations of coexisting attractors have been reported in megastable systems [17].

Hidden and self-excited are types of attractors. Many research studies have focused on categorizing dynamical attractors based on them [18–20]. A self-excited attractor can be detected easily by observing an unstable equilibrium point in the attractor’s basin of attraction. However, an attractor with no equilibrium point inside its basin of attraction is called hidden [21].

The analysis of the dynamics of a dynamical system needs some powerful tools to provide primary information about the system behaviors in different conditions. In this way, obtaining the bifurcation diagram is considered as one of the primary steps of analyzing system’s dynamics. Another popular tool for analyzing the dynamics of a system is the Lyapunov Exponents spectrum (LE diagram). LE is simply a quantitative measure that can prove the presence of chaos in a dynamical system [2].

Chaotic systems have many engineering applications. They can be used in image encryption [22], communication [23], circuits [24], robots [25], and so on [26]. Field programmable gate array (FPGA) implementation of nonlinear systems plays a vital role in realizing a system using targeted hardware. In fact, FPGAs are a kind of chips or gate arrays that are easy to program. Engineering applications of FPGA are wired and wireless communication, industrial and medical systems, military, and aerospace. FPGAs are cost-effective depending on their families, such as Spartan, Kintex, and Virtex. Many researchers have shown interest in FPGA implementation of chaotic systems. They have performed the software-hardware interface by implementing chaotic systems in FPGA [27].

In this paper, a new two-dimensional megastable system is proposed. The sections of this paper are arranged as follows. The new proposed two-dimensional system is introduced in Section 2. Moreover, the dynamical properties are explained in that section. Next, Section 3 describes the FPGA implementation of the proposed system. The conclusion of the paper is presented in Section 4.

2. A New Megastable Chaotic Oscillator

Consider System (1), which is a two-dimensional nonlinear autonomous oscillator,

\[ \dot{x} = -0.1y + x \frac{\cos(r)}{r}, \]
\[ \dot{y} = \sin(0.1x) + y \frac{\cos(r)}{r}, \]
\[ r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}. \] (1)

System (1) is symmetric around the origin because the equations are invariant under the transformation \((x, y) \rightarrow (-x, -y)\).

System (1) has no equilibrium points since no points can be found to solve the equations \(-0.1y + x (\cos(r)/r) = 0 \) and \(\sin(0.1x) + y (\cos(r)/r) = 0\). However, the origin \((0, 0)\) mimics an unstable equilibrium. This system is megastable since it has infinite countable coexisting attractors (here, limit cycles).

Figure 1 is a plot of coexisting limit cycles in System (1) resulted from random initial conditions distributed around the \(x\)-axis. The formation of these attractors is noticeable. We can see islands of attractors consisting of 3, 4, and 5 limit cycles. Surprisingly 11 islands are enclosed by a huge limit cycle. Due to the attractors’ isolated configuration, the phrase “islands of attractors” can be used for such systems attractors. Figure 1 includes both transient and final states of the trajectories to show the areas of islands more significantly.

By introducing a periodic external force in the first equation of System (1), the following forced oscillator is achieved:

\[ \dot{x} = -0.1y + x \frac{\cos(r)}{r} + A \sin(\omega t), \]
\[ \dot{y} = \sin(0.1x) + y \frac{\cos(r)}{r}, \] (2)
\[ r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}. \]

It is primarily desired to find chaos in System (2). Many sets of \((A, \omega)\) may result in chaos. By trial and error, \(\omega = 0.6\) is chosen, and \(A\) is considered as the bifurcation parameter. However, an infinite number of coexisting attractors are detected. Each attractor can go through different dynamical regimes during the change in the bifurcation parameter. Thus, two attractors (one around the origin and the other around the point \((60, 0)\)) are selected, and their occurring bifurcations are tracked to show such a difference.

Figure 2 shows the bifurcation diagram and LEs diagram versus \(A\) for the nearest attractor around the origin resulted from the constant initial conditions \((0.1, 0)\). It is seen that the dynamical solution starts from an attracting torus (one negative and two zero LEs). After observing limit cycles (two negative and one zero LEs), chaos occurs (one positive LE). Then, the dynamic alternates between chaos and limit cycles.
Figure 3 shows the bifurcation diagram and LEs diagram versus \( A \) for the nearest attractor around the point \((60, 0)\) resulted from the constant initial conditions \((60, 0)\). It is seen that the dynamical solutions are different from the previous attractor. It starts from a limit cycle and continues with it, encountering narrow areas of chaotic attractor. It occasionally has an attracting torus in larger values of the parameter. It should be mentioned that the LEs represented in Figures 2 and 3 are plotted and calculated using the Wolf algorithm [28] with the run time of 2000. Moreover, these two bifurcation diagrams and LEs diagrams can help comprehend the system behaviors in two different initial conditions. Furthermore, the local maxima of the time-series of variable \( y \) (\( y_{\text{max}} \), which are the peaks of the time-series of \( y \)) are considered for plotting the bifurcation diagrams of the proposed system.

Figure 4 shows coexisting attractors for different values of the amplitude of the forcing term. While the system can have different types of attractors (limit cycle, torus, and strange attractor) simultaneously, increasing the amplitude makes them become closer and even overlap with each other.

3. FPGA Implementation of Novel Megastable Oscillator

FPGAs are gate arrays that are programmable, and they can be designed to meet a special need. FPGAs are also cost-efficient, and they are simple to design, implement, and fast prototyping. Some of the recent pieces of the literature on FPGA design had attracted many researchers, such as variable-order fractional operator [29], hardware implementation of the multistable chaotic jerk system [30], FPGA implementation of self-excited and hidden chaotic systems [31], the discrete memristor chaotic system realized using hardware [32], and digital implementation of the memristive chaotic circuit [33]. Development of the nonlinear system on an FPGA using VHDL or VERILOG hardware description language is very work-intensive. It is easy to design the system using the Xilinx system generator rather than writing test benches for the VHDL or Verilog HDL programming. In a Simulink library browser, a separate Xilinx block set toolbox is readily available to design the system in the Xilinx system generator platform. Simulink diagrams of Systems (1) and (2) are shown in Figures 5 and 6 using Xilinx system generator software. Basic blocks such as adder, subtractor, multiplier, divider, constant multiplier, and square root are used to design the proposed system in FPGA. All Xilinx block sets are different from MATLAB Simulink blocks with the Xilinx logo in them. Additional blocks are created to represent trigonometric functions present in the proposed system. By applying the Taylor series (equations (3) and (4)), trigonometric functions are implemented using the readily available (XSG) Xilinx System Generator block sets, which is shown in Figure 7 (sine function) and Figure 8 (cosine function). All these blocks used to design the proposed
The system are configured according to the IEEE754 standard, and the step size $\delta = 0.01$ is set. Integrator blocks of the state equations are designed using Forward Euler’s Method, and the mathematical equation to design integrators is expressed in equation (5). A set of discretized system equations are stated in equations (6) and (7).

$$\sin(r) = \frac{r^3}{3!} + \frac{r^5}{5!} - \frac{r^7}{7!} + \frac{r^9}{9!} - \frac{r^{11}}{11!} + \frac{r^{13}}{13!} - \cdots,$$

$$\cos(r) = 1 - \frac{r^2}{2!} + \frac{r^4}{4!} - \frac{r^6}{6!} + \frac{r^8}{8!} - \frac{r^{10}}{10!} + \frac{r^{12}}{12!} - \cdots,$$

$$k_{n+1} = k_n + h f(k_{n-1}),$$
Figure 5: Xilinx system generator (XSG) Simulink diagram of System (1). It is another representation of the proposed system in autonomous form.

Figure 6: Xilinx system generator (XSG) Simulink diagram of System (2) with $\omega = 0.6$ and amplitude $A = 2$. It is another representation of the proposed system in nonautonomous form.
Figure 7: Taylor series of sine function implemented using (XSG) Xilinx system generator toolbox. It is discretized implementation of sine function based on equation (3).

Figure 8: Taylor series of cosine function implemented using (XSG) Xilinx system generator toolbox. It is discretized implementation of cosine function based on equation (4).

Figure 9: Continued.
Figure 9: Phase portraits in the plane \((x, y)\) for System (1) illustrating megastability obtained by considering random initial conditions distributed around the \(x\)-axis. For all initial conditions, the final state represents a limit cycle.

Figure 10: Phase portrait in the plane \((x, y)\) for System (2) illustrating megastability obtained by considering random initial conditions distributed around the \(x\)-axis. The frequency of the forcing term is \(\omega = 0.6\), and the amplitude \(A = 2\). Adding a forcing term can make the system exhibit various dynamics.
Figure 11: Phase portrait in the plane \((x, y)\) for System (2) illustrating megastability obtained by considering random initial conditions distributed around the x-axis. The frequency of the forcing term is \(\omega = 0.6\), and the amplitude \(A = 4.3\). Adding a forcing term can make the system exhibit various dynamics.

Figure 12: Continued.
A system generator token is an important block that is dragged from the Xilinx block set library, which has information about the system generator model, through which it is possible to interface with the Vivado design tool to create an RTL design of the system. The phase planes of the proposed System (1) are shown in Figure 9, and the phase planes of System (2) are shown in Figures 10–12, which are obtained while running the system generator by changing initial conditions distributed around the x-axis.

4. Conclusion

A megastable system, the newest in the family of special chaotic systems, was designed and proposed. It was two-dimensional flow coexisting attractors in some islands, interestingly covered by megalimit cycles. No equilibrium point was found for the proposed two-dimensional system. However, the origin (0, 0) acted like an unstable point. Adding a forcing term to the proposed system, chaotic solutions and coexisting strange attractors were obtained. Different behaviors were observed by altering the amplitude of the forcing term. Since the system was found to have no equilibrium point, the attractors were considered in the category of hidden attractors. The dynamical properties of this new system were investigated utilizing some tools such as attractor plots, bifurcation diagrams, and LEs diagrams. Two bifurcation and LEs diagrams were plotted to show the effect of initial conditions in the system’s behaviors and dynamics. Phase portraits of the novel megastable oscillator were presented by FPGA design. Xilinx system generator block diagrams of the proposed system and trigonometric functions were also presented. The proposed system is a low-dimensional system with the ability to exhibit chaos by adding a forcing term. So, it can be used in some applications, such as a random number generator or image encrypting as future works.

Data Availability

All the numerical simulation parameters are mentioned in the respective text part, and there are no additional data requirements for the simulation results.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.
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