

For a given region and pages to erase we have to find the optimal use of erase functions and which sectors to erase

Definitions:

- layout: list of regions
- region: flashrom virtual start and size of the chip
- wp / writeprotect: locked regions of the flash -- cant do anything as the erase functions will fail anyway there
- page: read / write specific
- block / sector: smallest unit of a erase function
- homogeneous erase layout: all erase blocks of a function have the same size (eg W25P16 in flashchips.c)
- non homogeneous erase layout: all erase blocks in a layout might not be of same size (eg AMD AM29F002BB in flashchips.c)

Scenarios:

- Erase the whole flashchip
- Write new content to the whole flashchip
- Erase a region of the flashchip
- Write new content to a region of the flash chip
- Update parts of the existing content of the flashchip
- Update parts of the existing content of the flashchip in a region

Last scenario is the most general case ie writing an algorithm which efficiently handles this case would perform good for all the other cases as well

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|____region_to_be_erased_____||wp|
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X X XXXXXXXX ...	read write pages
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+	
4K 4K 4K 4K 4K 4K 4K 4K 4K 4K 4K 4K 4K	... erase_fn_0
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+	
16K 16K 16K	... erase_fn_1
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+	
32K 32K	... erase_fn_3
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+	
256K	... erase_fn_n
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+	
0x0	... 0xffff...

In the above depiction

| -all the pages

X - pages that actually need erasing



