

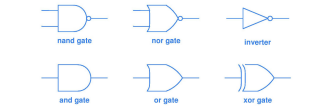
Logic Basics

Ohm's Law: $R = \frac{U}{I}$
U = electrical potential (volts, V) R = resistance (ohms, ω) I = current, voltage drop (amps, A)

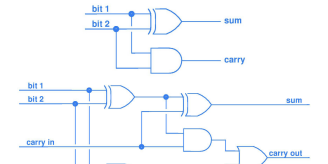
Transistors
MOSFETs have 4 components: Source, Gate, Drain, and Base
PNP/NMOS: Is on when gate is positive. No circle.
NPN/PMOS: Is on when gate is negative. Has circle.
Generally, transistors are used to pull the output to either a positive voltage, or a zero voltage (1 or 0, on or off). If output is not pulled to one of these, the output is floating and is indeterminate in voltage.



Logic Circuits
Symbols (bottom have 2 inputs)



Adders
Left: Half-adder. Right: Full-adder.

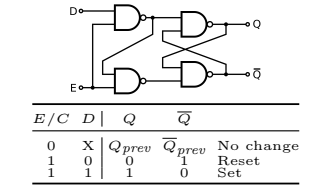


Unlike half-adders, full-adders can receive carry-in bits. To add more bits, chain multiple full-adders together. If final carry at end is 1, there's an overflow error.

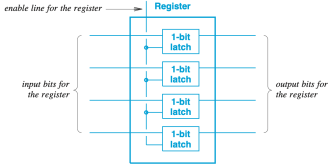
Latches & Flip-flops

Flip-flop Every time the input switches from 0 to 1, the output switches to the opposite.

Gated D-latch



- Q - The stored bit
- D - Data/bit to write to Q
- E - The Enabler (Must be 1 to enable writing, otherwise nothing changes)
- Operate on the principle of propagation delay.
- Stacking many of them can be used to create a register:



Counters

For each transition from low to high, the counter increments the binary output by 1. (Counting the transition from high to low does the same thing, but the lecture used rising-edge counters).

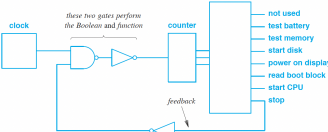
Propagation Delay

The rate at which a transistor switches. Typical 100 ps (picoseconds) Clock Frequency: = 1 / f

Decoders

Take in an n-bit number, and turn on one of 2^n outputs.

Feedback Loops



- Counter increments each time the clock changes from 0 to 1
- Decoder moves to the next instruction each time
- Stop sends a signal back to the and gate which stops counter

Multiplexer / Demultiplexer

Multiplexer turns n signals into a single signal. Chooses which signal to let through. Demultiplexer turns a single signal into n signals. The single signal chooses which signal to output.

Software vs Hardware Design

Unlike software, which uses iteration, hardware uses replication. The advantages of replication are increased elegance, higher speed, and increased reliability. Hardware also uses gate minimization, abstraction and power optimization.

Fixed & Programmable Logic

Fixed logic circuits: Pre-determined function. Programmable logic: FPGAs (reprogrammable, but still a significant cost to switching functions). Stored program and re-programmable circuits: Your computer right now.

Data Encoding

1 Byte = 8 bits. 1 Byte encodes a character, integer, or pointer. 1 Word is n bytes, determined by the architecture.

Converting between bases

Base 10 to Base N Divide decimal # by # of new base. Take remainder as rightmost digit. Divide quotient of previous divide by new base. Repeat until quotient is zero. Base N to Base 10 Take each column position of each digit, zero indexed, as n. For each column, do c * b^n, where c is the value of the column, and b is the base value in base 10.

Important bases table

Hex	Bin	Dec	Hex	Bin	Dec
0	0000	0	8	1000	8
1	0001	1	9	1001	9
2	0010	2	A	1010	10
3	0011	3	B	1011	11
4	0100	4	C	1100	12
5	0101	5	D	1101	13
6	0110	6	E	1110	14
7	0111	7	F	1111	15

Important Bytes Table

1 Bit	8 Bits
1 KBit = 10^3 bits	1 byte = 2^3 bits
1 MBit = 10^6 bits	1 Kb = 2^10 bytes
1 MBit = 10^9 bits	1 Mb = 2^20 bytes
	1 Gb = 2^30 bytes

Fraction to Binary

- Let x be the decimal part of our fraction.
- Let b be our binary output.
- Multiply x by 2.
- If x >= 1, subtract 1 from x and append 1 to b.
- If x < 1, append 0 to b.
- Goto step 3 until x! = 0.

Signed Integers

- Two's complement: Flip all bits, add 1. Range is -(2^n-1), +(2^n-1 - 1)
- Sign-magnitude: First bit is sign, rest is magnitude. Range is -(2^n-1 - 1), +(2^n-1 - 1).
- One's complement: Flip all bits. Eg, +6 is 0110, so to get -6 go from 0110 -> 1001 -> 1010. This has 2 zero, positive and negative zero. Range is -(2^n-1 - 1), +(2^n-1 - 1).

Cast from Ints

from smaller into to bigger ints sign-magnitude: Copy the MSB to the bigger ints MSB. Then take the remaining bits and fill them from the right to left.
one's complement and two's complement: Copy the Lowest order bits (the bits except the sign defining bit) and copy them to the other ints lowest order bits.
Take the MSB and make all the remaining bits in the new int the MSB.

IEEE-754 Floats

Can represent values from 2^-126 to 2^127 which is 10^-38 to 10^38 in decimal. If double precision is used then the range is 2^-1022 to 2^1023 which is 10^-308 to 10^308 in decimal. Separated into sign, exponent, and mantissa. Entire float is represented in binary, and the exponent is biased by 2^b-1 - 1, where b is the number of exponent bits. Leading 1 is dropped from mantissa. To calculate from IEEE, do 1.(m2) x 2^(e2). (Convert out of base 2 first). Range is approximately 2(-(2^b)+2, 2^2^b-1, where b is the bits dedicated to the exponent, minus 1.



Special Values

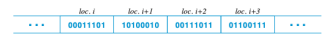
Exponent	Mantissa	Value
all 1s	all 0s	±∞
all 1s	not all 0s	NaN
all 0s	not all 0s	denormalized
all 0s	all 0s	±0

Binary-coded decimals

Instead of representing decimals using a float, use an arbitrarily long string of bytes, usually as binary ints. Efficiency can be improved using packed BCDs, by putting 2 ints in one byte (each digit occupying a nibble). 0x2D is used by the textbook to represent a negative, placed at the end of the BCD. For a packed BCD, drop the 2.

Endianess

Endian: The way in which words(group of bytes) are stored in memory. Big Endian: Most significant byte first. Little Endian: Least significant byte first. Little endian is the most common method of storing data in memory.



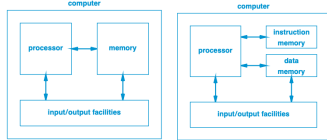
Types of architecture

Von Neumann architecture (left):

- Single memory block which contains both instructions and data.
- Offers complete flexibility: at any time, owner can change how much of the memory is devoted to programs and how much to data.
- More popular.
- Allows dynamically allocating memory between instructions and data.

Harvard architecture (right):

- 2 separate memory. One is used for instruction, one is used for data.
- Inflexible, as you cannot use part of the instructional memory to store data and vise versa.
- Less popular. Sometimes used in small embedded systems.



Von Neumann Bottleneck

On computers running Von Neumann Architecture, time spent accessing memory can limit performance. To avoid the bottleneck, designs are chosen where operands are moved to registers instead of system memory.

Types of processors

A processor is a digital device that can perform a computation involving multiple steps.

Categories based on logic:

- Fixed logic: Function fixed in hardware, performs a single task
- Selectable logic: Choose one of several fixed functions.
- Parametrizable logic: Accepts a set of parameters that control the computation of fixed functions.
- Programmable logic: list of instructions provided at runtime (you can code them)

Categories based on Complexity:

- Co-processors: Dedicated function. Usually performs a single task at high speed. Used in -> Floating point accelerator. Fixed/Selectable logic.
- Microcontrollers: Direct hardware control. Used in -> Elevator doors. Programmable logic.
- Embedded System Processors: real-time OS, dedicated hardware. usually more powerful than microcontrollers. Used in -> smart phone Programmable logic.
- General-purpose Processors: compatible for multiple systems. Used in -> CPU in a PC. Programmable logic.

Parts of a processor

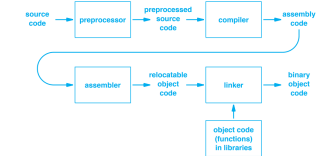
- Controller: Responsible for program execution. Steps through the program and coordinates the actions of all other units.
- Arithmetic logic unit: Performs all computational tasks. Performs one operation at a time according to controller.
- Local storage (registers): Hold data values such as operands for arithmetic operations and the result.
- Internal connections: Transfers data values between units, like from local storage to the ALU. AKA data paths/Bus/Control lines
- External interface: Handles all communication between the processor and the rest of the computer system.

Fetch execute cycle

There is an instruction pointer which moves through the program performing every step. The cycle never ends while the system is running.

- Fetch the next instruction
- Decode the instruction and fetch operands from registers
- Perform the arithmetic operation specified by the opcode
- Perform memory read or write, if needed
- Store the result back to the registers
- Go to next instruction, Repeat forever.

Program Translation



- Preprocessor: Expands macros, producing modified source program.
- Compiler: Translates it to assembly.
- Assembler: Translates it to relocatable object code which contains references to external library functions.
- Linker: Replaces external function references with its code.

CISC vs RISC

- CISC: Each instruction performs a complex operation
- Instructions may take multiple clock cycles
- Fewer instruction calls
- RISC: Each instruction performs a simple operation
- Instructions all take the same number of clock cycles
- Many instruction calls needed
- Allows for pipelining, as each part of the instruction takes the same amount of time

Pipelines

Allow for more than one instruction to be "processed" at the same time. Generally 5 stages:

- Fetch next instruction
- decode & fetch operands
- perform arithmetic operation
- read or write memory
- store result

Pipeline Stalls

- Also known as hazards. 3 main types:
 - Data Hazards: Waiting for data from an earlier instruction. Can be dealt with using data forwarding (allowing data to be used before it exits the pipeline), re-arranging instruction order.
 - Control Hazards: Incorrect instruction is in the pipeline. Occurs during jump instructions/branching. Jumps are not executed until the fifth stage, so instructions directly after are fetched inside the pipeline. Can be dealt with using conditional branch prediction, flushing pipeline if prediction is wrong.
 - Structural Hazards: Resource conflict (usually from external source) (eg somebody else is accessing the same register bank). Can be dealt with by loading data in parallel, eg using multiple banks.

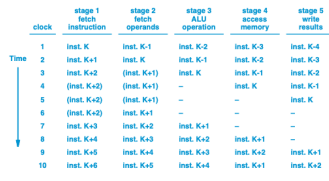


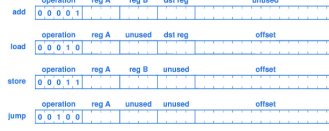
Figure 5.5 Illustration of a pipeline stall. Instruction K-1 cannot proceed until an operand from instruction K becomes available.

Branching

Moving the instruction pointer to a different location in program. Can be either absolute branch, or relative branch. Branch prediction can be used to try to run code from a branch before the processor has the data needed to evaluate it, speeding up runtime.

Instruction Sets

- Generally has the following parts: Operation number, registers, offset.
- Opcode (operation code): Specifies the operation to be performed.
- Registers: Specifies the operands and the destination.
- Offset: Think of it like array indexes. Can be a signed integer to move backwards.



Design choices

Encoding length

Variable-length encoding can improve instruction density, but fixed-length instructions are simpler to implement in hardware, and are thus more performant. Unused bits are ignored by the instruction. Offsets are used to encode immediate values (generally used for jumping).

Number of Operands

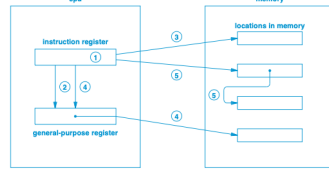
- Zero operands: Stack architecture, using push and pop. All operands are implicit.
- One operand: Implicit destination (usually a special accumulator register)
- Two operands: Specified destination, but unary operations (eg add rA, rB #rA+rB)
- Three operands: Specified destination, binary operations

TL;DR, more operands = more flexible instructions, but more space taken up by operands

Implicit vs Explicit Encoding

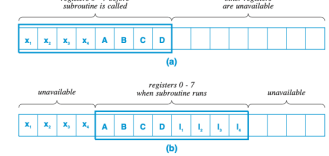
- Implicit Encoding: Operand types are always the same for a given opcode. Different opcodes are used for different types.
- Explicit Encoding: Operand field specifies what type of operands are being provided.

Operand Addressing Modes



Subroutines and Register Windows

When calling a subroutine, a window viewing the registers will shift between addresses, making some registers of them inaccessible, some new registers available, and keeping some between both calls. This allows for values to be passed to and from the subroutine, while keeping some values separated.



Register Banks

- Allows parallel access within same clock cycle -> efficiency
- Some operations require operands from banks
- Register bank conflicts

Register Conflicts

Accessing 2 registers from the same bank simultaneously causes a register conflict. Best case, it causes a stall in the pipeline. Worst case, it causes the system to crash.

Solution

- reassign
- moving registers
- insert an instruction to copy values to the opposite register.

