## **Transistors and Logic**



- 1) The digital contract
- 2) Encoding bits with voltages
- 3) Processing bits with transistors
- 4) Gates
- 5) Large fanout gates
- 6) Truth-table SOP Realizations
  - ) Multiplexer Logic

### Where Are We?

#### Things we know so far -

- 1) Computers process information  $\mathcal{L}$
- 2) Information is measured in bits
- 3) Data can be represented as groups of bits
- 4) Computer instructions are encoded as bits
- 5) Computer instructions are just data
- 6) We, humans, don't want to deal with bits... So we invent ASSEMBLY Language even that is too low-level so we invent COMPILERs, and they are too rigid so ...



#### But, what PROCESSES all these bits?

## A Substrate for Computation

We can build devices for processing and representing bits using almost any physical phenomenon



# Using Electromagnetic Phenomena

Things like: voltages phase currents frequency

For today let's discuss using voltages to encode information. Voltage pros:

easy generation, detection voltage changes can be very fast lots of engineering knowledge Voltage cons:

> easily affected by environment DC connectivity required? R & C effects slow things down



#### **Representing Information with Voltage**

Representation of each point (x, y) on a B&W Picture:

0 volts:	BLACK
1 volt:	WHITE
0.37 volts:	37% Gray
etc.	

Representation of a picture: Scan points in some prescribed raster order... generate voltage waveform



How much information at each point?

#### Information Processing = Computation

First, let's introduce some processing blocks:









## Let's build a system!



output

# Why Did Our System Fail?

Why doesn't reality match theory?

- 1. COPY Operator doesn't work right
- 2. INVERSION Operator doesn't work right
- 3. Theory is imperfect
- 4. Reality is imperfect
- 5. Our system architecture stinks



#### ANSWER: all of the above!

Noise and inaccuracy are inevitable; we can't reliably reproduce infinite information-- we must design our system to tolerate some amount of error if it is to process information reliably.

# The Key to System Design

A SYSTEM is a structure that is guaranteed to exhibit a specified behavior, assuming all of its components obey their specified behaviors.



How is this achieved?Contracts

Every system component will have clear obligations and responsibilities. If these are maintained we have every right to expect the system to behave as planned. If contracts are violated all bets are off.

# The Digital Panacea ...

Why DIGITAL?

... because it keeps the contracts SIMPLE!



## The Digital Abstraction



Keep in mind, the world is not digital, we engineer it to behave that way. We must use real physical phenomena to implement digital designs!

# A Digital Processing Element

- A combinational device is a circuit element that has
  - one or more digital inputs
  - one or more digital outputs

Static Discipline

- a functional specification that details the value of each output for every possible combination of valid input values
- a timing specification consisting (at minimum) of an upper bound t<sub>pd</sub> on the required time for the device to compute the specified output values from an arbitrary set of stable, valid input values



# A Combinational Digital System



- A system of interconnected elements is combinational if
  - each circuit element is combinational
  - every input is connected to exactly one output or directly to a source of O's or 1's
  - the circuit contains no directed cycles
    No feedback (yet!)
- But, in order to realize digital processing elements we have one more requirement!

# Noise Margins

Key idea:
 Don't allow "O" to be mistaken for a "1" or vice versa

- Use the same "uniform representation convention", for every component in our digital system
- To implement devices with high reliability, we outlaw "close calls" via a representation convention which forbids a range of voltages between "O" and "1".



Notion of "VALID" and "INVALID" logic levels

# **Digital Processing Elements**

Some digital processing elements occur so frequently that we give them special names and symbols



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In honor of the richest man in the world we will henceforth refer to digital processing elements as "GATES"

#### From What Do We Make Digital Devices?

- Recall the common thread between all digital systems mentioned in Lecture 3...
- A controllable switch is the common link of all computing technologies
- How do you control voltages with a switch?
- By creating and opening paths between higher and lower potentials



#### N-Channel Field-Effect Transistors (NFETs)



#### P-Channel Field-Effect Transistors (PFETs)



## Finally... Using Transistors to Build Logic Gates!





# **Complementary Pullups and Pulldowns**

This is what the "C" \_\_\_\_\_ in CMOS stands for! \_\_\_\_\_

We design components with *complementary* pullup and pulldown logic (i.e., the pulldown should be "on" when the pullup is "off" and vice versa).

pullup	pulldown	F(A <sub>1</sub> ,,An)
on	off	driven "1"
off	on	driven "O"
on	on	driven "X"
off	off	no connection
		· /

Since there's plenty of capacitance on output nodes, so when the output becomes disconnected it tends to "remember" its previous voltage- at least for a while. The "memory" is the load capacitor's charge. Leakage currents will cause eventual decay of the charge (that's why DRAMs need to be refreshed!).



## A Two Input Logic Gate



What function does this gate compute?

A	B	C
0	0	
0	1	
1	0	
1	1	

#### Here's Another ...



What function does this gate compute?

A	B	C
0	0	
0	1	
1	0	
1	1	

# General CMOS Gate Recipe

Step 1. Figure out pulldown network that does what you want (i.e the set of conditions where the output is 'O') e.g., F = A\*(B+C)

Step 2. Walk the hierarchy replacing nfets with pfets, series subnets with parallel subnets, and parallel subnets with series subnets

Step 3. Combine pfet pullup network from Step 2 with nfet pulldown network from Step 1 to form fully -complementary CMOS gate.







But isn't it hard to wire it all up?

#### **One Last Exercise**



#### **One Last Exercise**

Lets construct a gate to compute:

$$F = \overline{A + BC} = NOT(OR(A, AND(B, C)))$$

Α	В	С	F
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	0

Step 1: The pull-down network Step 2: The complementary pull-up <sup>B</sup> network Step 3: Combine and Verify



OBSERVATION: CMOS gates tend to be inverting! Precisely, one or more "O" inputs are necessary to generate a "1" output, and one or more "1" inputs are necessary to generate a "O" output. Why?



# Now We're Ready to Design Stuff!

We need to start somewhere -- usually it's the functional specification



see a table, or formula than parse a logic puzzle. The fact is, any combinational function can be expressed as a table.

These "truth tables" are a concise description of the combinational system's function. Conversely, any computation performed by a combinational system can expressed as a truth table.



## Where Do We Start?

We have a bag of gates.



... a systematic approach for designing logic

# A Slight Diversion

Are we sure we have all the gates we need?



Hum... all of these have 2-inputs (no surprise)

... 2 inputs have 4 permutations, giving  $2^2$  output cases How many permutations of 4 outputs are there? <u> $2^4$ </u>

Generalizing, there are  $2^{N}$ , N-input gates!

## There Are Only So Many Gates



Do we need all of these gates? Nope. After all, we describe them all using AND, OR, and NOT.

#### We Can Make Most Gates Out of Others



How many different gates do we really need?

#### One Will Do!

NANDs and NORs are universal



Ah!, but what if we want more than 2-inputs

### Stupid Gate Tricks

Suppose we have some 2-input XOR gates:

$$\stackrel{A}{=} \longrightarrow \stackrel{C}{\longrightarrow} \stackrel{T}{=} \mathbf{1}$$



And we want an N-input XOR:



output = 1 iff number of 1s input is ODD ("PARITY")

 $t_{pd} = O(\underline{N}) - WORST CASE.$ 

Can we compute N-input XOR faster?

#### I Think That I Shall Never See a Gate Lovely as a ...



Question: Can EVERY N-Input Boolean function be implemented as a tree of 2-input gates?

# Here's a Design Approach

Truth Table

С	В	Α	У
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

-it's systematic! -it works! -it's easy! -we get to go home! 1) Write out our functional spec as a truth table

2) Write down a Boolean expression for every '1' in the output

$$Y = \overline{CB}A + \overline{C}BA + CB\overline{A} + CBA$$

3) Wire up the gates, call it a day, and go home!

This approach will always give us logic expressions in a particular form: SUM-OF-PRODUCTS

## Straightforward Synthesis

We can implement SUM-OF-PRODUCTS with just three levels of logic.

INVERTERS/AND/OR





### More Useful Gate Structures



AOI and OAI structures can be realized using a single CMOS gate. However, their function is equivalent to 3 levels of logic.

## An Interesting 3-Input Gate

Based on C, select the A or B input to be copied to the output Y. Truth Table



### **MUX** Shortcuts

A 4-input Mux (implemented as a tree)





 $A_{O}$ Yo B<sub>0</sub> A 0  $-Y_1$ B₁ A<sub>2-</sub> 0  $-Y_2$ B<sub>2</sub> А<sub>3-</sub> 0 -Y<sub>3</sub> B<sub>3</sub> 9

A 4-bit wide Mux



#### Mux Logic Synthesis



# Small Improvements

We can also apply certain optimizations to MUX Logic



interesting going on in those MUXa

There's something