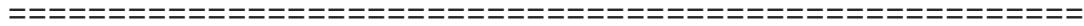


Călin BÎRĂ



# Digital Electronics by Example

When Hardware greets Hardware

## Preface

This book is an educational book and provides examples and exercises for the students in 2<sup>nd</sup> year of bachelor's degree path, regarding the Digital Electronics topic.

Chapter one provides an introduction into analog and digital signals and systems and is similar to the introduction in [1]

Chapter two starts with exercises regarding 0-loop circuits.

Chapter two and three are an introduction into basic digital and analog components, while chapter four is a discussion regarding complexity. Finally, chapter five is a walkthrough on design and implementation of a few mixed-signal systems used in real-life. This book uses a lot of pictures, and instead of citing each of them with their source, I opted to create a table of figures, where I give credit where credit is due.

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## List of Acronyms

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| AACS    | Advanced Access Content System   |
| AC      | Alternative Current  |
| ACK     | Acknowledge  |
| ADC     | Analog to digital converter  |
| AES     | Advanced Encryption Standard   |
| AGM     | Absorbent Glass Mat  |
| AMD     | Advanced Micro Devices   |
| ANSI    | American National Standards Institute  |
| ARPA    | Advanced Research Projects Agency  |
| ARPANET | Advanced Research Projects Agency Network  |
| ASIC    | Application Specific Integrated Circuit  |
| BIOS    | Basic Input-Output System  |
| BJT     | Bipolar Junction Transistor  |
| BOD     | Brown-out detect   |
| CBC     | Cipher Block Chaining  |
| CD      | Compact Disk   |
| CDIP    | Ceramic Dual Inline Package  |
| CERN    | Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire / European Council for Nuclear Research |
| CFB     | Cipher Feedback Mode   |
| CMOS    | Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor  |
| COBOL   | Common Business-Oriented Language  |
| CPHA    | Clock Phase  |
| CPOL    | Clock Polarity   |
| CPU     | Central Processing Unit  |
| CRT     | Cathode-Ray Tube   |
| CS      | Chip Select  |
| CSNET   | Computer Science Network   |
| CTFT    | Continuous Time Fourier Transform  |
| CTR     | Counter  |
| CUDA    | Compute Unified Device Architecture  |
| CV      | Computer Vision  |
| DAC     | Digital to Analog Converter  |
| DC      | Direct Current   |
| DDR     | Double Data Rate   |
| DES     | Data Encryption Standard   |
| DHCP    | Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol  |
| DIP     | Dual In-line Package   |
| DNA     | Deoxyribonucleic Acid  |
| DNS     | Domain Name Service  |



## [Digital] Electronics by Example: When Hardware Greets Software

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| DRAM   | Dynamic Random Access Memory                                    |
| DUT    | Device Under Test   |
| EB     | Exabyte   |
| ECB    | Electronic Code Book  |
| ECC    | Error Correction Code   |
| EMES   | Engineering of Modern Electric Systems                          |
| FET    | Field-Effect Transistor   |
| FIFO   | First-In First-Out  |
| FIPS   | Federal Information Processing Standard                         |
| FM     | Frequency Modulation  |
| FTP    | File Transfer Protocol  |
| GB     | Gigabyte  |
| GHz    | Gigahertz   |
| GND    | Ground  |
| GP     | General Purpose   |
| GPIO   | General Purpose Input/Output                                    |
| GPU    | Graphical Processing Unit                                       |
| GUI    | Graphical User Interface  |
| HD     | High Definition   |
| HDD    | Hard Disk Drive   |
| HDL    | Hardware Description Language                                   |
| HTML   | Hypertext Markup Language                                       |
| I2C    | Inter-integrated circuit  |
| IC     | Integrated circuit  |
| ICPSC  | International Conference on Signal Processing and Communication |
| IDE    | Integrated development environment                              |
| IEC    | International Electrotechnical Commission                       |
| IEEE   | Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers               |
| IR     | Infrared  |
| ISO    | International Organization for Standardization                  |
| JBOD   | Just a Bunch of Disks   |
| JEDEC  | Joint Electron Device Engineering Council                       |
| JS     | JavaScript  |
| KB     | Kilobyte  |
| kHz    | Kilohertz   |
| LED    | Light-emitting diode  |
| LIDAR  | Light Detection and Ranging                                     |
| LSB    | Least Significant Bit/Byte                                      |
| MATLAB | Matrix Laboratory   |
| MB     | Megabyte  |
| MCU    | Microcontroller Unit  |

## [Digital] Electronics by Example: When Hardware Greets Software

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| MHz     | Megahertz                                      |
| MIL-STD | Military Standard                              |
| MIT     | Massachusetts Institute of Technology          |
| MOhm    | Megohm   |
| MOS     | Metal-Oxide Semiconductor                      |
| MSB     | Most Significant Bit/Byte                      |
| MW      | Megawatt                                       |
| NACK    | Not Acknowledge                                |
| NAND    | Not AND  |
| NIST    | National Institute of Standards and Technology |
| NO      | Normal Open                                    |
| NOM     | Nominal  |
| NOR     | Not OR   |
| NP      | Non-polynomial                                 |
| NSF     | National Science Foundation                    |
| NTC     | Negative Temperature Coefficient               |
| NTP     | Network Time Protocol                          |
| NVM     | Non-Volatile Memory                            |
| OFB     | Output Feedback Mode                           |
| OOK     | On/Off Keying                                  |
| OP      | Operation                                      |
| OSI     | Open Systems Interconnection Model             |
| OTP     | One Time Password                              |
| OUT     | Output   |
| PB      | Petabyte                                       |
| PC      | Personal Computer                              |
| PCB     | Printed Circuit Board                          |
| PCBC    | Propagating or Plaintext Cipher-Block Chaining |
| PCI     | Peripheral Component Interconnect              |
| PDIP    | Plastic Dual Inline Package                    |
| PHP     | PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor                    |
| PIR     | Passive Infrared                               |
| PN      | Part Number                                    |
| PTC     | Positive Temperature Coefficient               |
| PTP     | Picture Transfer Protocol                      |
| QSPI    | Quad SPI                                       |
| R,G,B   | Red, Green, Blue                               |
| RADAR   | Radio Detection and Ranging                    |
| RAID    | Redundant Array of Independent Disks           |
| RAM     | Random Access Memory                           |
| RC      | Remote Control                                 |

## [Digital] Electronics by Example: When Hardware Greet Software

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| RDS(on) | Resistance from drain to source, when in on state |
| RF      | Radio Frequency                                   |
| RFC     | Request for Comments                              |
| RFID    | Radio Frequency Identification                    |
| RGB     | Red Green Blue                                    |
| RH      | Relative humidity                                 |
| RMS     | Root Means Square                                 |
| RNA     | Ribonucleic Acid                                  |
| RSA     | Rivest-Shamir-Adleman (Encryption)                |
| RX      | Receiver or reception                             |
| SAR     | Successive approximative register                 |
| SATA    | Serial Advanced Technology Attachment             |
| SCK     | Serial Clock                                      |
| SCL     | Serial Clock                                      |
| SCR     | Silicon controlled rectifier                      |
| SD      | Secure Digital                                    |
| SDA     | Serial Data                                       |
| SDRAM   | Synchronous Dynamic Random Access Memory          |
| SFTP    | Secure File Transfer Protocol                     |
| SMD     | Surface Mount Device                              |
| SNTP    | Simple Network Time Protocol                      |
| SOIC    | Small Outline Integrated Circuit                  |
| SPDT    | Single Pole Double Throw                          |
| SPI     | Serial Peripheral Interface                       |
| SPST    | Single Pole Single Throw                          |
| SQL     | Structured Query Language                         |
| SRAM    | Static Random Access Memory                       |
| SS      | Slave Select                                      |
| SSD     | Solid State Drive                                 |
| SSH     | Secure Shell                                      |
| STFT    | Short Term Fourier Transform                      |
| TB      | Terabyte  |
| TCP     | Transmission Control Protocol                     |
| TCR     | Temperature Coefficient of Resistance             |
| TDP     | Thermal Design Power                              |
| THT     | Through Hole Technology                           |
| TIOBE   | The Importance Of Being Earnest                   |
| TTL     | Transistor-to-transistor logic                    |
| TV      | Television  |
| TVS     | Transient Voltage Suppressors                     |
| TWI     | Two Wire Interface                                |

## [Digital] Electronics by Example: When Hardware Greets Software

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| TX    | Transmitter / Transmission                              |
| UART  | Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter             |
| UDIMM | Unbuffered Dual In-Line Memory Module                   |
| UDP   | User Datagram Protocol                                  |
| UHF   | Ultra-High Frequencies                                  |
| URL   | Uniform Resource Locator                                |
| US    | United States   |
| USA   | United States of America                                |
| USART | Universal Synchronous/Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter |
| USB   | Universal Serial Bus                                    |
| UV    | Ultraviolet   |
| V     | Volt  |
| VHDL  | VHSIC Hardware Description Language                     |
| VHF   | Very High Frequency                                     |
| VI    | Input Voltage   |
| VIH   | Input Voltage (high, minimum)                           |
| VIL   | Input Voltage (low, maximum)                            |
| VO    | Output Voltage  |
| VOH   | Output Voltage (high, minimum)                          |
| VOL   | Output Voltage (low, maximum)                           |
| WAN   | Wide-Area Network                                       |
| WDT   | Watchdog Timer  |
| WWW   | World-Wide Web  |
| XOR   | Exclusive OR  |
| YB    | Yottabyte   |
| ZB    | Zettabyte   |

# 1. Brief Introduction to Digital Circuits and Programming

This chapter is similar to the first chapter in [1] and presents an introduction into digital signals and systems. There are advantages of converting analog signals into digital signals and back, otherwise one would not go through the trouble and cost of the conversion. These reasons will be highlighted at the end of this chapter.

## 1.1 Analog signals

All the studied systems in high-school's physics classes were composed from analog equipment/devices (voltage supplies, current supplies, resistors, capacitors, inductors, lightbulbs etc.). They are circuits where, for example, the voltage varies continuously within some limits. A default system is an analog audio amplifier, which takes an analogue audio signal, amplifies it (keeps the shape, but delivers more power from the supply) and sends it to the speakers. Analogue signals are hard to store and process, so lately, digital signals are used increasingly.

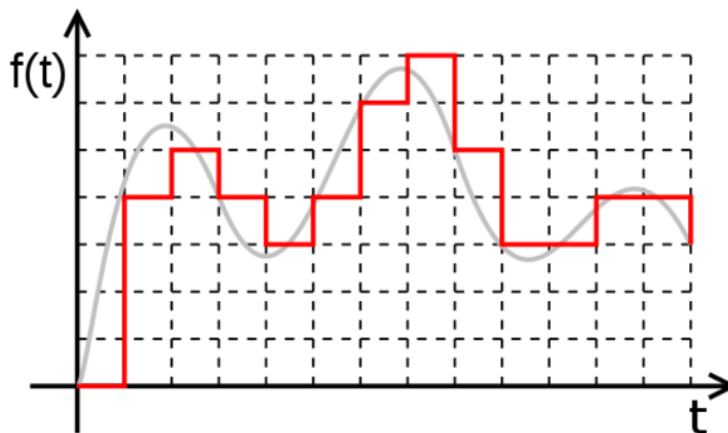


Figure 1. A digital signal (as a result of both sampling and quantization processes)

## 1.2 Digital signals

A digital signal is a signal which is discrete (as opposed to continuous) in both time and value. To create a time-discrete signal, one samples a continuous one. To create a value-discrete signal, one quantizes a continuous one.

The number of samples taken in a unit of time is called sampling rate (e.g., 44100 Hz == samples per second, CD-quality). The number of bits (0 or 1 symbols) required to express

the amplitude is linked directly to the number of quantization steps (e.g., 16-bit for 2 to the power of 16 = 65536 steps, in the case of CD-audio quality)

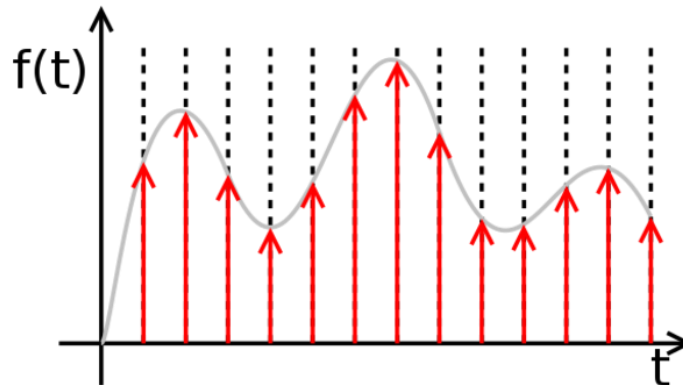


Figure 2. A time-sampled signal (as a result of sampling process)

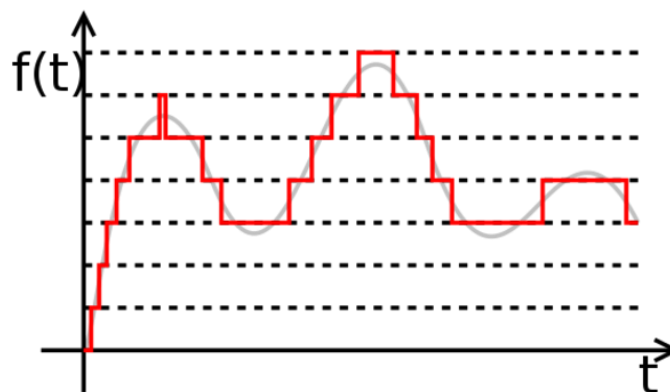


Figure 3. A value-sampled signal (as a result of quantization process)

Digital signals are used because their expression uses numbers, which allows easy storage, copying (without loss) and processing. Immunity to noise can be obtained using mathematical instruments like error-detection and error-recovery processes. In addition, the quality (how similar it looks to the source analogue signal) can be chosen as a compromise. The more quantization steps we use (e.g. infinite) the more accurate the value is to the source signal's value: however, these systems are usually used for the comfort of human life, so the trade-off will take into consideration human hearing or human sight etc. which will not push the quantization step too high (e.g. audio signals are good enough when using 64k steps, that is 16-bits per sample; video signals are good enough when colors are represented with 256 steps of Red, Green and Blue, therefore 3x 8-bits are enough for a pixel) Regarding the recovery of a continuous signal from the time-sampled signal, we have the sampling theorem which demonstrates that we can fully recover the original, as long as the sampling

rate is at least twice the maximum frequency contained in the original signal. For example, if one wants to recover up to 22 kHz audio signals (more than what the common human ear can hear), one should use 44 kHz sampling rate.

### 1.3 Digit, number, and radix

A radix-10 number uses a dictionary of 10 symbols (the ten digits) to express any number. For example, number 123 is made of  $1 * 100 + 2 * 10 + 3$ . The radix of 10 is not the only known radix but is the most used by humans (arguably because we have ten fingers and can count easily using them). However, to use radix of 10, one must distinguish between 10 different symbols (0-9). Digital electronics use radix of 2 because it is easier to distinguish between only two symbols, therefore it is easier to store information in this form. The trade-offs that same number expressed in radix of 10 is around 3.5 times shorter than a radix of 2. For example, 9 is expressed in radix 2 with the sequence 1001, the number 127 is 1111111 etc. The symbols available for the radix of 2 are 0 and 1, and they are called Binary digits, in short bits. Using 2 digits we can express numbers from 0 to 99 (that is, 100 different numbers). Using 2 bits we can express numbers from 0 to 3 (that is, 4 different numbers). Most common radices are 2 (binary), 8 (octal), 16 (hex), 10 (dec) and 256. We will mark numbers in radix 2, as prefixed with 0b e.g.: 0b1001 is number 9 in radix 10. The hexadecimal number will be prefixed with 0x e.g.: 0x10 is 16 in radix 10.

*Table 1. Multiples of bits / bytes according to JEDEC [2]. IEC 80000-13 standard changes the name for the power of two, by inserting a "bi" in the name: Kibibyte, Mebibyte, Gibibyte.*

| Memory Unit (JEDEC)      | Memory unit (IEC) | Description         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Bit                      | Bit               | Binary Digit 1 or 0 |
| Kbit                     | Kibibit           | 1024 bits           |
| Mbit                     | Mebibit           | 1024 Kbits          |
| Byte                     | Byte              | 8 bits              |
| KiloByte(KB)             | KibiByte (KiB)    | 1024 Bytes          |
| MegaByte(MB)             | MebiByte (MiB)    | 1024 KB             |
| GigaByte(GB)             | GibiByte (GiB)    | 1024 MB             |
| TeraByte(TB)             | TebiByte (TiB)    | 1024 GB             |
| PetaByte(PB)             | PebiByte (PiB)    | 1024 TB             |
| HexaByte or exaByte (EB) | ExbiByte (EiB)    | 1024 PB             |
| ZettaByte (ZB)           | ZebiByte (ZiB)    | 1024 EB             |
| YottaByte (YB)           | YobiByte (YiB)    | 1024 ZB             |

## 1.4 Digital systems

Digital systems are designed to store and process and exchange information in digital form. They are found in a wide range of applications, including process control, communication systems, digital instruments, and consumer products. These systems/circuits may be classified by the number of *appropriate* loops enclosed within [4]; more loops will mean more autonomy, therefore *smarter* circuits.

0 - loop circuits: contain only combinational circuits (logic gates)

1 - loop circuits: the memory circuits, with behavioral autonomy in their own internal states; they are mainly used for *storing*

2 - loops circuits: the automata, with the behavioral autonomy in their own state space, performing mainly the function of *sequencing*

3 - loops circuits: the processors, with the autonomy in interpreting their own internal states; they perform the function of *controlling*

4 - loops circuits: the computers, which interpret autonomously the programs according to the internal *data*

n-loop circuits: systems in which the information is interpenetrated with the physical structures involved in processing it; the distinction between *data* and *programs* is surpassed and the main novelty is the *self-organizing* behavior.

Any k-loop circuit can do everything any k-1 loop circuit can do.

While 0 – loop circuits (combinational logic circuits) are quite easy to grasp as they are very simple in structure and behavior, the more evolved circuits, containing sequential circuits (with the clock signal driving them) are the ones used to handle complexity.

Some common 0-loop circuits are: logic gates, multiplexers (sends the selected digital input to the output), demultiplexers (send the input to the selected output), decoders (sends logic 1 to the selected output), adders, subtractors, ALUs (arithmetical-logical units), equality comparators, magnitude comparators etc.

Some common sequential circuits are flip-flops (FFs), registers, counters/timers, and FSMs.



## 1.5 The advantages of using digital systems

The world is analog, therefore, interacting with it, using digital systems, implies conversion between analog to digital and back.

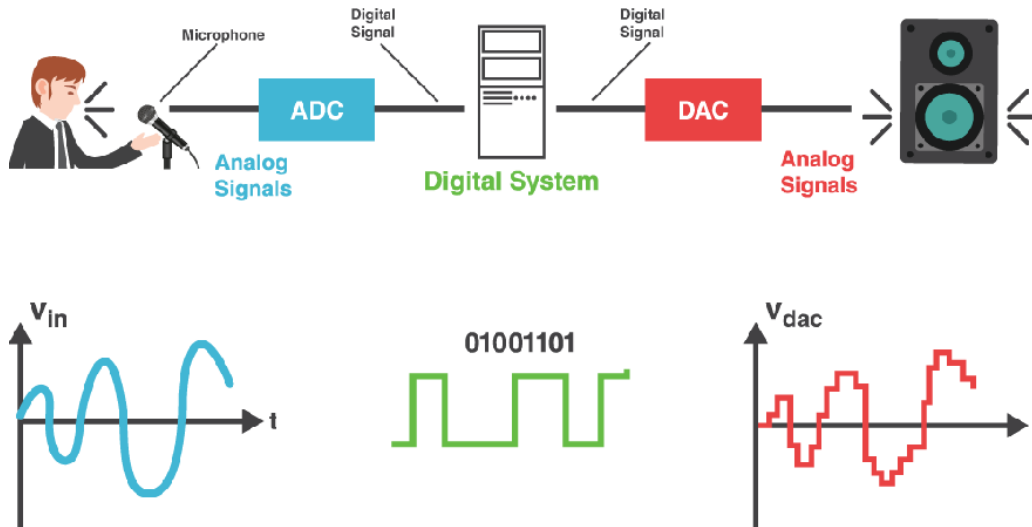


Figure 4. Analog to digital conversion, digital processing and digital to analog conversion example

The main advantages of using a digital system:

- Error correction: math (using numbers) can help a lot to find errors and correct them
- Noise tolerance: copy of a copy may be digitally identical, whereas copy of a copy in analog storage is never the same. Keeping numbers in base2, allows maximum noise immunity as the digital system only has to discriminate between the two possible different symbols. In analog,
- Compression: crunching numbers is possible when
- Modularity: data transfers between digital modules, imply that data processing in a digital system is modular, therefore, there is a high chance of reusability in both hardware modules and software modules. Modular is good as it allows divide-et-impera method of problem-solving.
- Encryption: it is easy to scramble and obfuscate data in other data
- Repeaters: low-cost repeaters and they only have to amplify two symbols accurately (the noise of the repeater can be high)
- Compromise of space & compute power: it can be done in the field, not in the factory. Digital systems are easily configurable to save space and power with acceptable compromises on quality

## 2. The FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array)

The FPGA is an semiconductor device based on a matrix of reconfigurable logic blocks (CLBs) as seen in Figure 5. The advantage of this device is that it can be reconfigured to emulate any digital circuit of a certain complexity, in the field (not in the factory!). The interconnection can relay signals coming from any direction to signals going towards any direction. The I/O cells allow signals to travel between the FPGA and outer world.

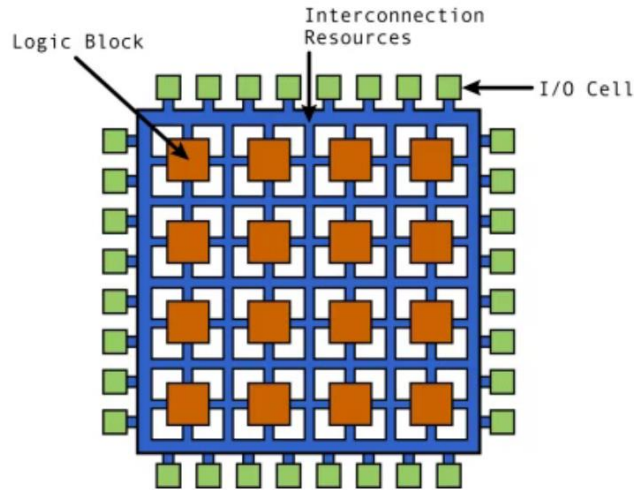


Figure 5. Generic FPGA Architecture Overview

An example of a configurable logic block (CLB) is exemplified below, in Figure 6.

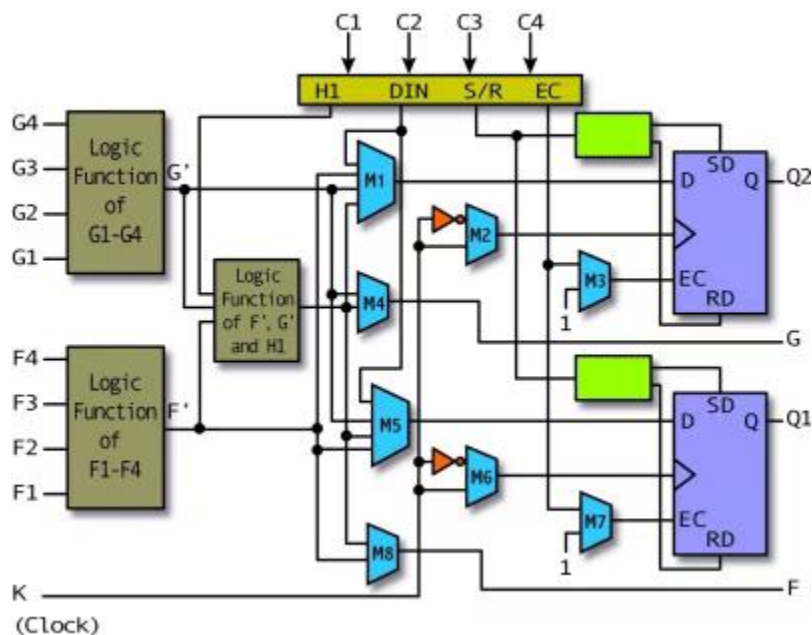


Figure 6. Xilinx CLB. Blue blocks are multiplexers, violet blocks are FFs and dark-green blocks are LUTs (look-up tables)

The software tools first convert code into RTL (register-transfer level, a design abstraction which models the synchronous circuit into flow of digital signals between registers and the logical operations performed on them), then from RTL into gates (during synthesis), and then it infers what resources of the FPGA should it use and how to link them in the physical FPGA device (during implementation). The implementation step is where it matters what specific FPGA chip will be used.

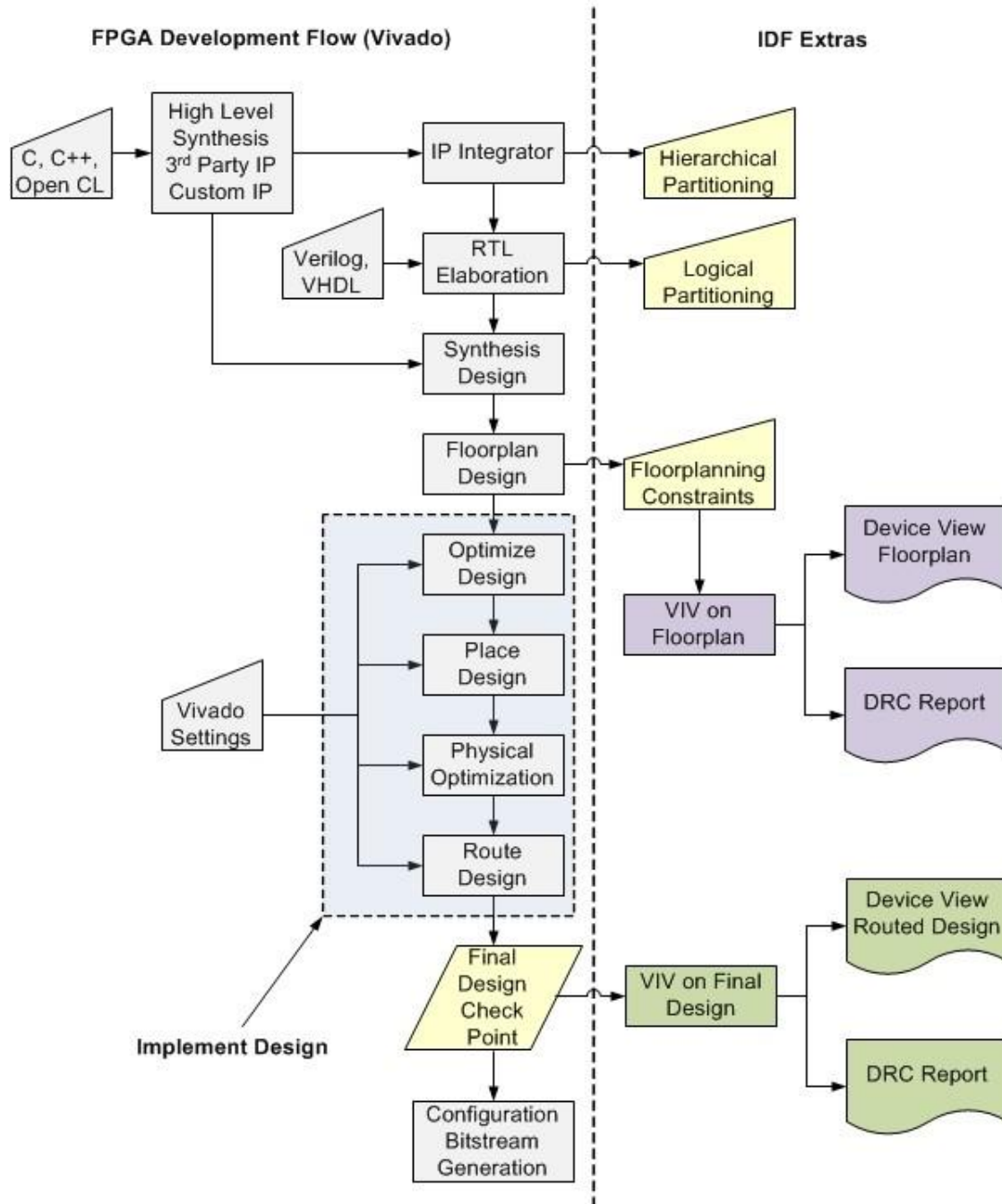


Figure 7. FPGA development flow

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Below, there is an FPGA board we will use further, to exemplify digital circuits.

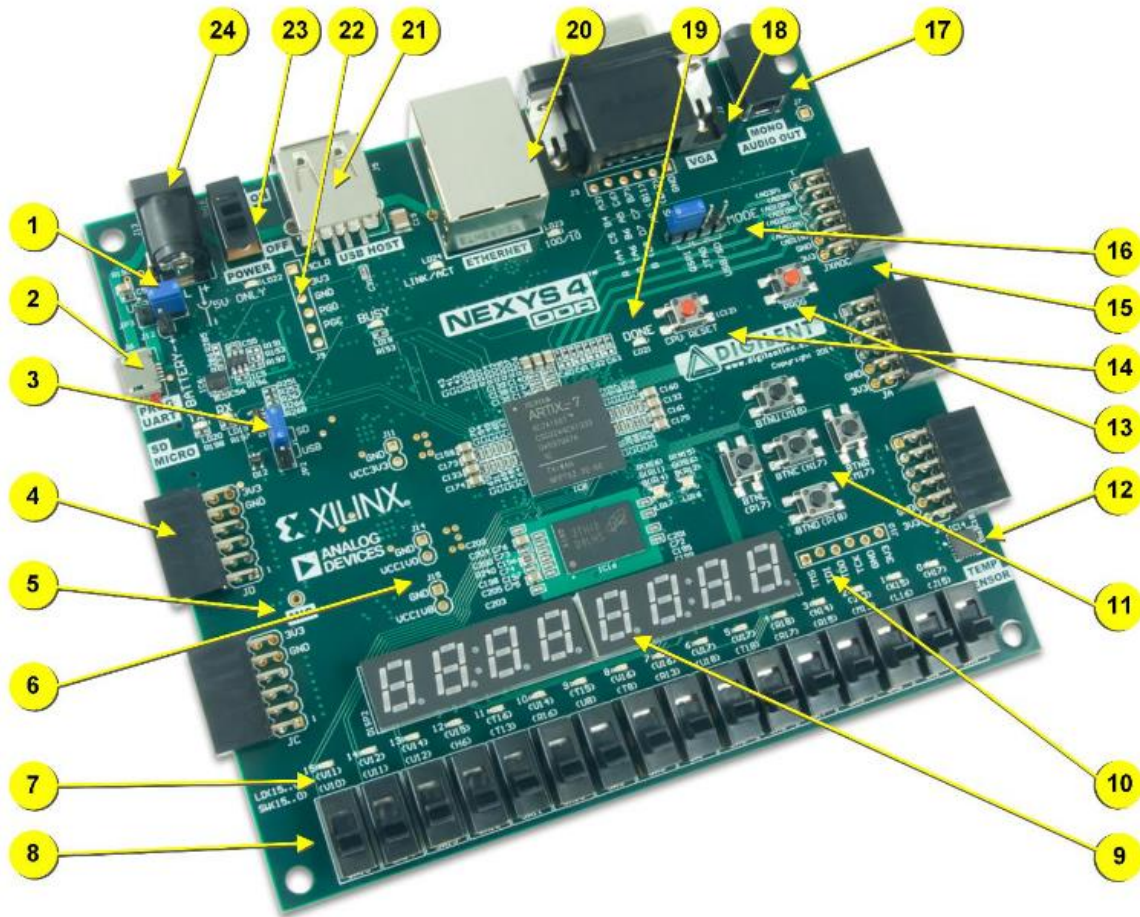


Figure 8. The Nexys 4 DDR FPGA board

| Callout | Component Description                    | Callout | Component Description                |
|---------|--|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 1       | Power select jumper and battery header   | 13      | FPGA configuration reset button      |
| 2       | Shared UART/ JTAG USB port               | 14      | CPU reset button (for soft cores)    |
| 3       | External configuration jumper (SD / USB) | 15      | Analog signal Pmod port (XADC)       |
| 4       | Pmod port(s)                             | 16      | Programming mode jumper              |
| 5       | Microphone                               | 17      | Audio connector                      |
| 6       | Power supply test point(s)               | 18      | VGA connector                        |
| 7       | LEDs (16)                                | 19      | FPGA programming done LED            |
| 8       | Slide switches                           | 20      | Ethernet connector                   |
| 9       | Eight digit 7-seg display                | 21      | USB host connector                   |
| 10      | JTAG port for (optional) external cable  | 22      | PIC24 programming port (factory use) |
| 11      | Five pushbuttons                         | 23      | Power switch                         |
| 12      | Temperature sensor                       | 24      | Power jack                           |

Figure 9. Nexys 4 DDR board features

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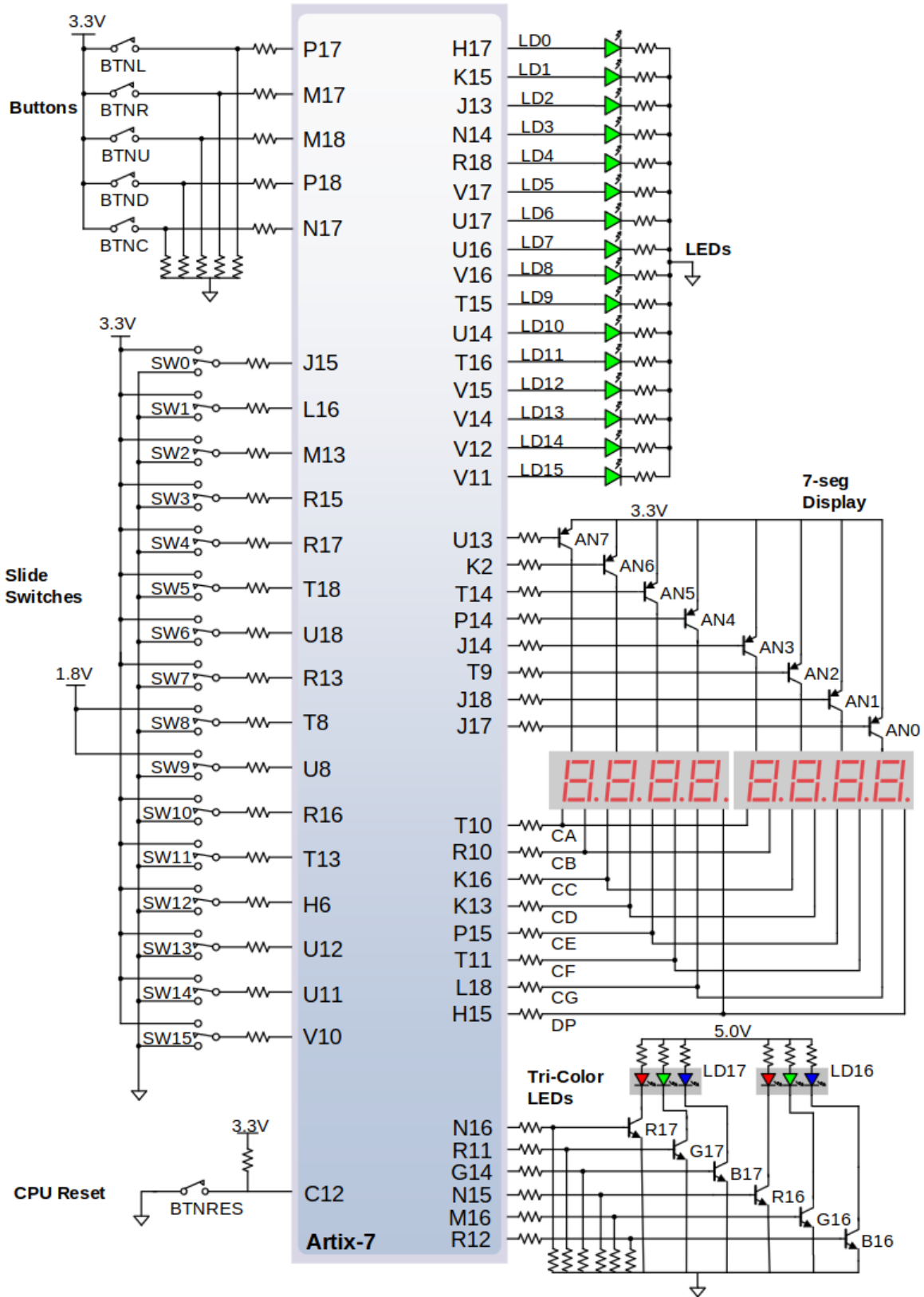


Figure 10. GPIO devices on the Nexys4 DDR FPGA board



## 2. Zero-loop systems

### 2.1 Prerequisites

#### 2.1.1 Binary and Boolean Logic

Boolean algebra is a branch of algebra, where the values of the variables are truth values (true and false) usually coded as 1 and 0 and uses logical operators such as AND (conjunction), OR (disjunction), NOT (negation). It was introduced by English mathematician George Boole in the book “The Mathematical Analysis of Logic” in 1847.

A logical operation is a function of two variables and may be expressed using a truth table as below:

*Table 2. A (general) logic operation’s truth table*

| A     | B     | OP (A, B) |
|-------|-------|-----------|
| FALSE | FALSE | ?         |
| FALSE | TRUE  | ??        |
| TRUE  | FALSE | ???       |
| TRUE  | TRUE  | ????      |

There are 16 dual-input single-output logical operations, 3 of which are most used (hence named). The 16 number comes from the output: there are 4 bits of 0 or 1 (one for every combination of A and B), therefore, there are 16 different output configurations => 16 different gates. Their truth table is as below:

*Table 3. Truth tables for AND, OR and NOT operations*

| A     | B     | A and B | A or B | Not A |
|-------|-------|---------|--------|-------|
| FALSE | FALSE | FALSE   | FALSE  | TRUE  |
| FALSE | TRUE  | FALSE   | TRUE   | TRUE  |
| TRUE  | FALSE | FALSE   | TRUE   | FALSE |
| TRUE  | TRUE  | TRUE    | TRUE   | FALSE |

*Table 4. Truth tables for AND, OR and NOT operations (seen as 1-bit operations)*

| A | B | A and B | A or B | Not A |
|---|---|---------|--------|-------|
| 0 | 0 | 0       | 0      | 1     |
| 0 | 1 | 0       | 1      | 1     |
| 1 | 0 | 0       | 1      | 0     |
| 1 | 1 | 1       | 1      | 0     |

## 2.1.2 Digital Gates

The electronic circuits used to implement Boolean logic are the logical gates. Nowadays, all gates are made of transistors (a semiconductor device used to amplify or switch electrical signals and power). For example, the NOT gate is made of two CMOS transistors (a p-channel and n-channel MOS transistor), as seen in Figure 4 below.

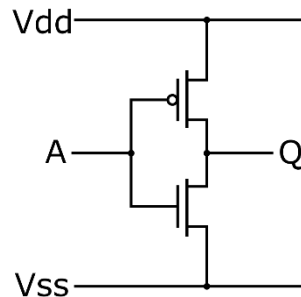


Figure 11. NOT gate (“inverter”) made of one pMOS (top) and one nMOS (bottom) transistor.

Vdd is usually at least 1.8V over Vss, and Vss is usually ground. When A is “low,” pMOS transistor conducts current and draws Q close to Vdd (“high”) whereas nMOS is not conducting. When A is “high” level, nMOS conducts and ties Q to the Vss level (“low”).

Engineers use the symbols of such gates, in logic schematics; these symbols, are ratified by international standards as seen in Figure 5.

| ANSI Symbol | IEC Symbol | NAME |
|-------------|------------|------|
|             |            | AND  |
|             |            | OR   |
|             |            | NAND |
|             |            | NOR  |
|             |            | XOR  |
|             |            | XNOR |
|             |            | NOT  |

Figure 12. ANSI / IEC [5] (right) and MIL-STD-806B [6] (left) symbols foremost common 7/16 dual-input logic gates (elementary), with their names.

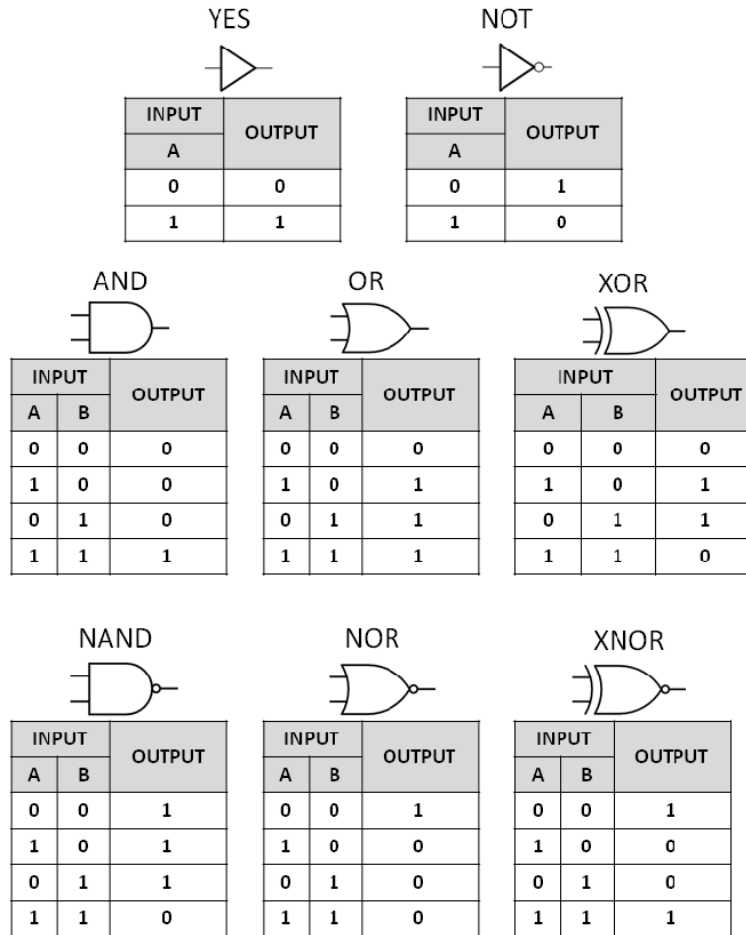


Figure 13. The truth tables for the most commonly used logic gates.

All the 2-input gates are called elementary (or basic) gates. Similarly, for all circuits that are expressed in an iterative or recursive way, the very first instance is called “elementary”.

### 2.1.3 Complexity in digital circuits

A complex circuit is a circuit that has spatial complexity (structure) or behavior complexity or a combination of the two.

To express spatial complexity, two metrics are used:

- the **SIZE (S)** of the circuit (the number of elementary gates)
- the **DEPTH (D)** of the circuit (the largest number of elementary gates passed through, when the signal goes from any input to any output)

An elementary gate (2-input, 1-output) has the  $S = 1$  and  $D = 1$ .



### 2.1.4 Complexity classes

A more in-depth talk on complexity for algorithms may be found in [491], below is an extract of how complexity applies to circuits. Complexity is usually expressed as Big-O notation. The complexity of a function  $f$  is decided by finding another function  $g$ , which asymptotically bounds the  $f$  function.

Mathematically, this is expressed as: if  $f(n)$  has the same complexity as  $g(n)$ , then from  $n = k$  onwards, the  $c * g(n) \geq f(n)$ , where  $k$  is a point  $< \infty$  and  $c$  is a constant

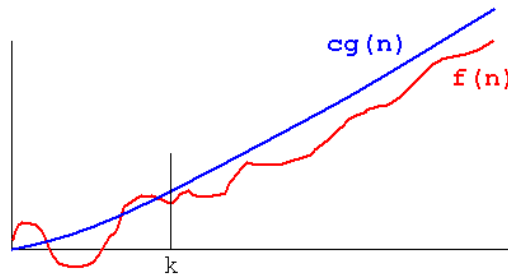


Figure 14. Representing a  $g(n)$  function which asymptotically bound  $f(n)$  function.

To learn more about Big-Oh, Big-Theta and Big-Omega and their small variants, see [99]. A list of common complexity classes is listed below.  $O(1)$  means constant time, and is the best one can hope for: the algorithm runtime will not increase with data increase, the circuit will not increase its size no matter the number of inputs etc.

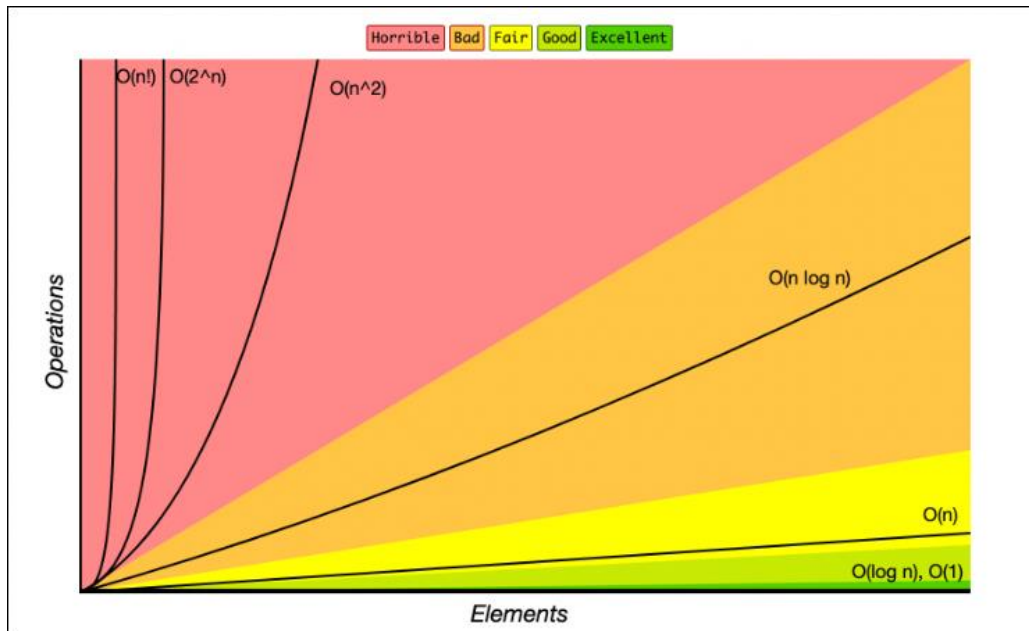


Figure 15. The  $O$ -notation complexity increases with the number of elements processed.  $O(1)$  and  $O(\log n)$  are usually excellent complexities,  $O(n)$  is fair, and  $O(n * \log n)$  is usually considered almost decent in algorithms and circuits

To better understand the complexity difference between  $O(\log N)$  and  $O(N)$  we propose the next game: one thinks at a number from 0 to 100. Assuming another one tries to guess the number, with hints of “my number is higher” or “my number is lower”:

- in  $O(N)$  algorithm (brute forcing all values) one will guess in at most 100 steps
- whereas in  $O(\log N)$  algorithm, same task will take at most 7 steps (assuming  $\log_2$ ).

This is not very impressive, but as one goes further (towards infinity), the advantage will become obvious. Assume the same game, but with numbers from 0 to 4 billion:

- in  $O(N)$  algorithm it will take at most 4 billion steps
- whereas in  $O(\log N)$  it will take at most 32 steps!

This is the power of the logarithm: it goes to infinity with  $N$  going to infinity, but much slower.

To better understand how this applies to circuits, imagine an  $N$ -input AND gate, implemented with  $N-1$  elementary gates, arranged in  $\log N$  layers as below:

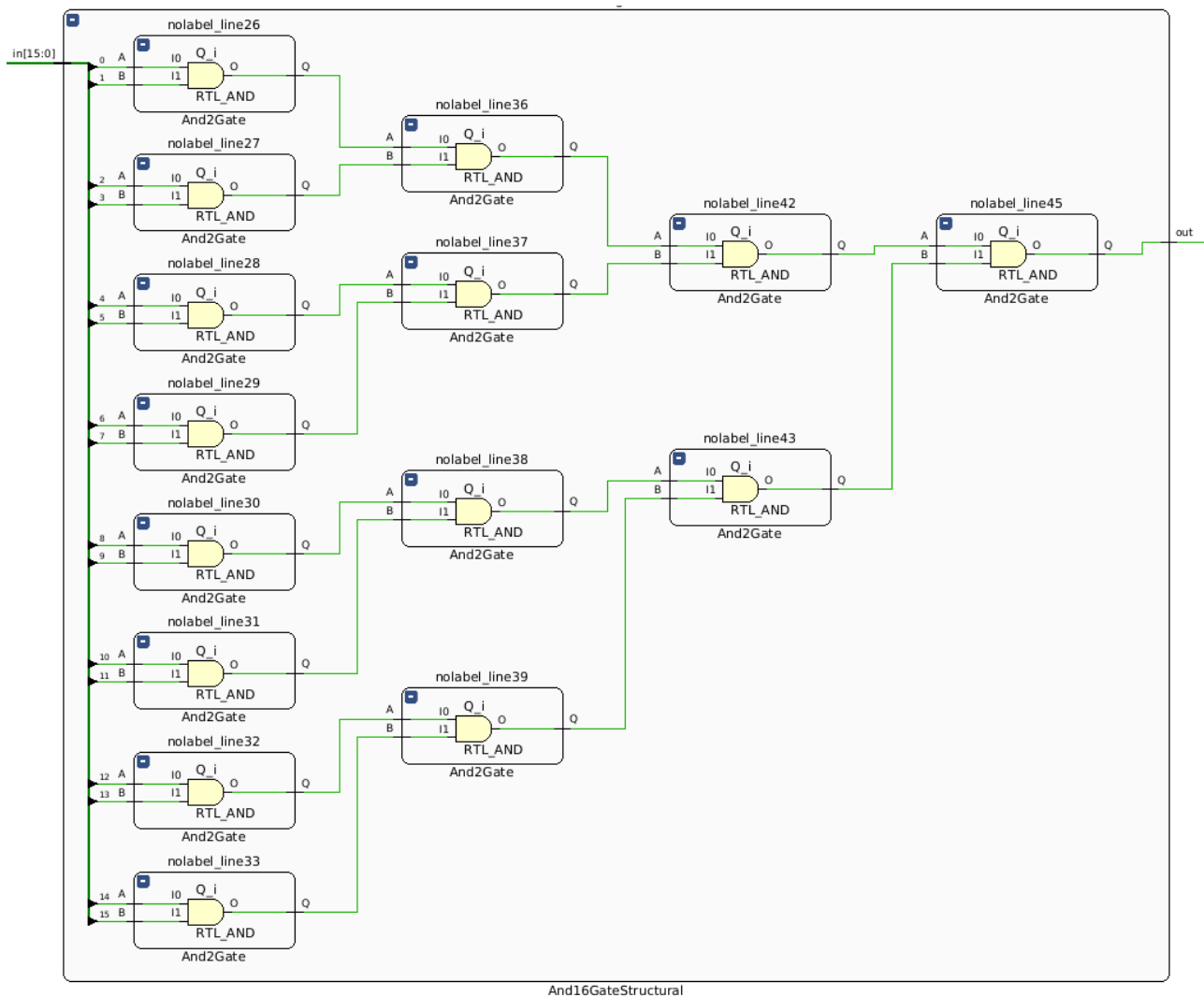


Figure 16. A 16-input AND gate built from 2-input AND gates.

## 2.1.4 Verilog syntax

S. Winberg and J. Taylor [8] summarized the most important syntax features of Verilog language in their cheat sheet:

### Comments

```
// One-liner
/* Multiple
   lines */
```

### Numeric Constants

```
// The 8-bit decimal number 106:
8'b_0110_1010 // Binary
8'o_152       // Octal
8'd_106       // Decimal
8'h_6A        // Hexadecimal
"j"           // ASCII

78'bZ         // 78-bit high-impedance
```

Too short constants are padded with zeros on the left. Too long constants are truncated from the left.

### Nets and Variables

```
wire [3:0]w; // Assign outside always blocks
reg [1:7]r; // Assign inside always blocks
reg [7:0]mem[31:0];
```

```
integer j; // Compile-time variable
genvar k; // Generate variable
```

### Parameters

```
parameter N = 8;
localparam State = 2'd3;
```

### Assignments

```
assign Output = A * B;
assign {C, D} = {D[5:2], C[1:9], E};
```

### Operators

```
// These are in order of precedence...
// Select
A[N] A[N:M]
// Reduction
&A ~&A |A ~|A ^A ~^A
// Compliment
!A ~A
// Unary
+A -A
// Concatenate
{A, ..., B}
// Replicate
{N{A}}
// Arithmetic
A*B A/B A%B
A+B A-B
// Shift
A<<B A>>B
// Relational
A>B A<B A>=B A<=B
A==B A!=B
// Bit-wise
A&B
A^B A^^B
A|B
// Logical
A&&B
A||B
// Conditional
A ? B : C
```

### Module

```
module MyModule
#(parameter N = 8) // Optional parameter
(input Reset, Clk,
 output [N-1:0]Output);
// Module implementation
endmodule
```

### Module Instantiation

```
// Override default parameter: setting N = 13
MyModule #(13) MyModule1(Reset, Clk, Result);
```

Figure 17. Verilog syntax cheat sheet (1/2)

## Case

```

always @(*) begin
  case(Mux)
    2'd0: A = 8'd9;
    2'd1,
    2'd3: A = 8'd103;
    2'd2: A = 8'd2;
    default::;
  endcase
end

```

```

always @(*) begin
  casex(Decoded)
    4'b1xxx: Encoded = 2'd0;
    4'b01xx: Encoded = 2'd1;
    4'b001x: Encoded = 2'd2;
    4'b0001: Encoded = 2'd3;
    default: Encoded = 2'd0;
  endcase
end

```

## Synchronous

```

always @(posedge Clk) begin
  if(Reset) B <= 0;
  else      B <= B + 1'b1;
end

```

## Loop

```

always @(*) begin
  Count = 0;
  for(j = 0; j < 8; j = j+1)
    Count = Count + Input[j];
end

```

## Function

```

function [6:0]F;
  input [3:0]A;
  input [2:0]B;
  begin
    F = {A+1'b1, B+2'd2};
  end
endfunction

```

## Generate

```

genvar j;
wire [12:0]Output[19:0];

generate
  for(j = 0; j < 20; j = j+1)
  begin: Gen_Modules
    MyModule #(13) MyModule_Instance(
      Reset, Clk,
      Output[j]
    );
  end
endgenerate

```

## State Machine

```

reg [1:0]State;
localparam Start = 2'b00;
localparam Idle  = 2'b01;
localparam Work  = 2'b11;
localparam Done  = 2'b10;

reg tReset;

always @(posedge Clk) begin
  tReset <= Reset;

  if(tReset) begin
    State <= Start;
  end else begin
    case(State)
      Start: begin
        State <= Idle;
      end
      Idle: begin
        State <= Work;
      end
      Work: begin
        State <= Done;
      end
      Done: begin
        State <= Idle;
      end
      default::;
    endcase
  end
end

```

Figure 18. Verilog syntax cheat sheet (2/2)



## Process blocks

```
process (SENSITIVITY) is
begin
  -- if/case/print go here
end process;
```

## If sensitivity includes:

all↓ → Combinational logic      Specify all signals by name prior to VHDL 2008  
 clk↑ → Flip-flop / register  
 clk↑ + data↓ → Latch  
 Nothing → Testbench (repeated evaluation)  
 Something else → Bad things you probably didn't want

## Reporting stuff

```
assert CONDITION report "MESSAGE" severity error;      Print message if condition is false
```

```
report "MESSAGE" severity error;      Severity can be NOTE, WARNING, ERROR, FATAL  

                                         "FATAL" ends the simulation
```

```
report "A is " & to_string(a);      Use image function prior to VHDL 2008
```

```
report "A in hex is " & to_hstring(a);  

    concatenation      conversion to string
```

## Writing to files (or stdout)

```
variable BUF : line;      Declare buffer in process block
```

```
write(BUF, string("MESSAGE"));      Append message to buffer
```

```
writeline(output, BUF);      Write buffer to stdout (like report, but just the text)
```

```
file RESULTS : text;      Declare file handle in process block
```

```
file_open(RESULTS, "FILENAME", WRITE_MODE);
```

```
writeline(RESULTS, BUF);
```

## If/else

```
if CONDITION then
  SIGNAL <= VALUE1;
elsif OTHER_CONDITION then
  SIGNAL <= VALUE2;      Note spelling of "elsif"!
else
  SIGNAL <= VALUE3;
end if;
```

## Case

```
case INPUT_SIGNAL is
  when VALUE1 => OPERATION1;
  when VALUE2 => OPERATION2;
  when others => DEFAULT;
end case;
```

## Sequential logic

```
process (CLOCK) is
begin
  if rising_edge(CLOCK) then
    -- Clocked assignments go here
  end if;
end process;
```

## For loop

```
for INDEXVAR in MIN to MAX loop
  -- loop body here
end loop;
```

To count down:

```
for INDEXVAR in MAX downto MIN loop
```

## Enumerated types

```
type TYPENAME is (VAL1, VAL2, VAL3);
signal NAME : TYPENAME;      Just like any other type
```

Figure 20. VHDL cheat sheet (2/2)

To express the AND gate behavior in Figure 21 one has to write in Verilog the code or VHDL code below.

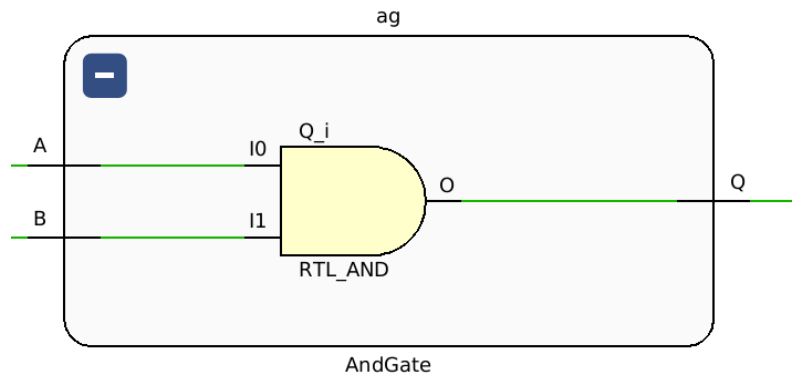


Figure 21. 2-input AND gate

```
module AndGate(input A, input B, output Q);  
  
    assign Q = A & B;  
  
endmodule
```

Figure 22. Verilog code (dataflow) for a 2-input AND gate

```
library IEEE;  
use IEEE.std_logic_1164.all;  
  
-- Entity declaration  
entity andGate is  
    port(A : in std_logic;    -- AND gate input  
         B : in std_logic;    -- AND gate input  
         Q : out std_logic);  -- AND gate output  
end andGate;  
  
-- Dataflow Modelling Style  
-- Architecture definition  
architecture andLogic of andGate is  
begin  
    Q <= A AND B;  
end andLogic;
```

Figure 23. Verilog code (dataflow) for a 2-input AND gate

## 2.4 Theory & Exercises

### 2.4.1 Multiple-input gates

Using only elementary (2-input) gates, create a 4-input AND gate. Write code in both dataflow and structural manner. Describe the circuit in both in Verilog and VHDL language.

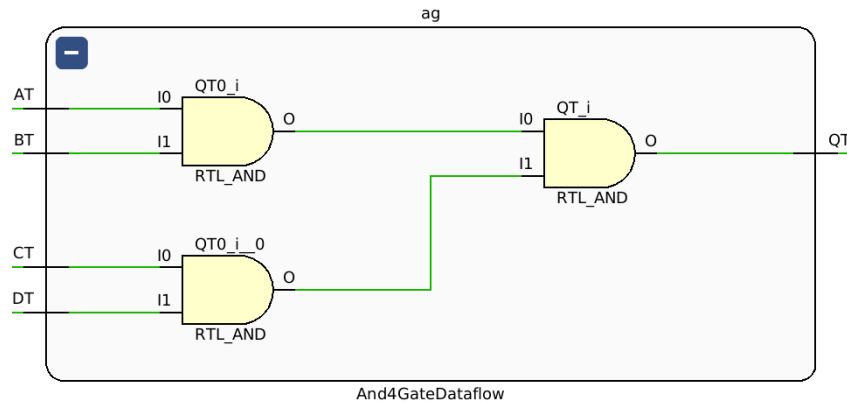


Figure 24. 4-input AND gate from 2-input AND gates (dataflow)

```
module And4GateDataflow(input AT, input BT, input CT, input DT, output QT);
    assign QT = AT & BT & CT & DT;
endmodule
```

Figure 25. Verilog description for 4-input AND (dataflow)

```
library IEEE;
use IEEE.STD_LOGIC_1164.ALL;

entity And4Gate is
    Port ( AT : in STD_LOGIC;
          BT : in STD_LOGIC;
          CT : in STD_LOGIC;
          DT : in STD_LOGIC;
          QT : out STD_LOGIC);
end And4Gate;

architecture and4Logic of And4Gate is
begin
    QT <= AT AND BT AND CT AND DT;
end and4Logic;
```

Figure 26. VHDL description for 4-input AND (dataflow)



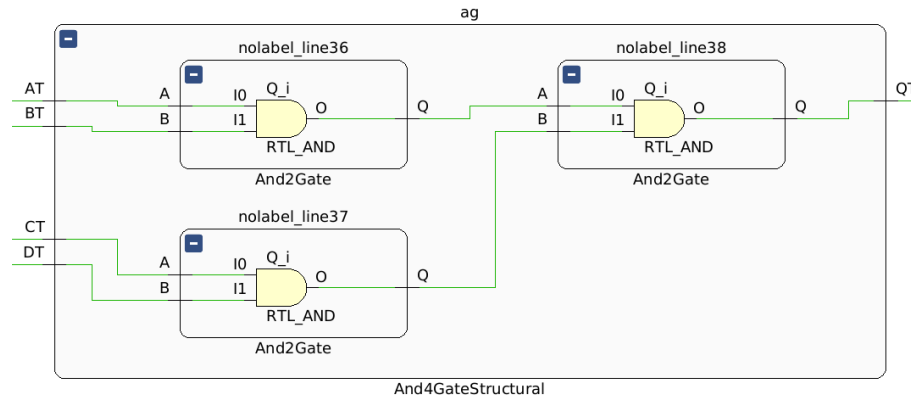


Figure 27. 4-input AND gate from 2-input AND gates (structural)

```
module And2Gate(input A, input B, output Q);
    assign Q = A & B;
endmodule
```

```
module And4GateStructural(input AT, input BT, input CT, input DT, output QT);
    wire ABT;
    wire CDT;
    And2Gate(.A(AT), .B(BT), .Q(ABT));
    And2Gate(.A(CT), .B(DT), .Q(CDT));
    And2Gate(.A(ABT), .B(CDT), .Q(QT));
endmodule
```

Figure 28. Verilog description of 4-input AND gate from 2-input AND gates (structural)

A few notes here: assuming  $N$  is power of 2, the amount of elementary gates for an  $N$ -input AND or OR gate is a having  $\log_2 N$  layers each with half of the number of gates or previous layer. For example, an 16-input AND gate requires 4 layers having the  $N-1$  gates, distributed as follows:

- Layer 1: 8 elementary gates (all 16 inputs go into the inputs of the first layer)
- Layer 2: 4 elementary gates
- Layer 3: 2 elementary gates
- Layer 4: 1 elementary gate (which gives the output of the circuit)

Therefore, the SIZE of the circuit is  $O(N)$ , and the DEPTH of the circuit is  $O(\log N)$

```

library IEEE;
use IEEE.STD_LOGIC_1164.ALL;

entity And4Gate is
  Port ( AT : in STD_LOGIC;
        BT : in STD_LOGIC;
        CT : in STD_LOGIC;
        DT : in STD_LOGIC;
        QT : out STD_LOGIC);
end And4Gate;

architecture and4LogicStructural of And4Gate is
  component And2Gate
  port(A, B: in std_logic;
       Q: out std_logic);
  end component;
  signal and1_to_and3: std_logic;
  signal and2_to_and3: std_logic;

begin

  and1: And2Gate port map(AT, BT, and1_to_and3);
  and2: And2Gate port map(CT, DT, and2_to_and3);
  and3: And2Gate port map(and1_to_and3, and2_to_and3, QT);

```

Figure 29. VHDL description of 4-input AND gate from 2-input AND gates (structural)

## 2.4.2 Elementary multiplexer

A multiplexer is a circuit that outputs one of its inputs, depending on the selection. The elementary multiplexer is drawn as follows:

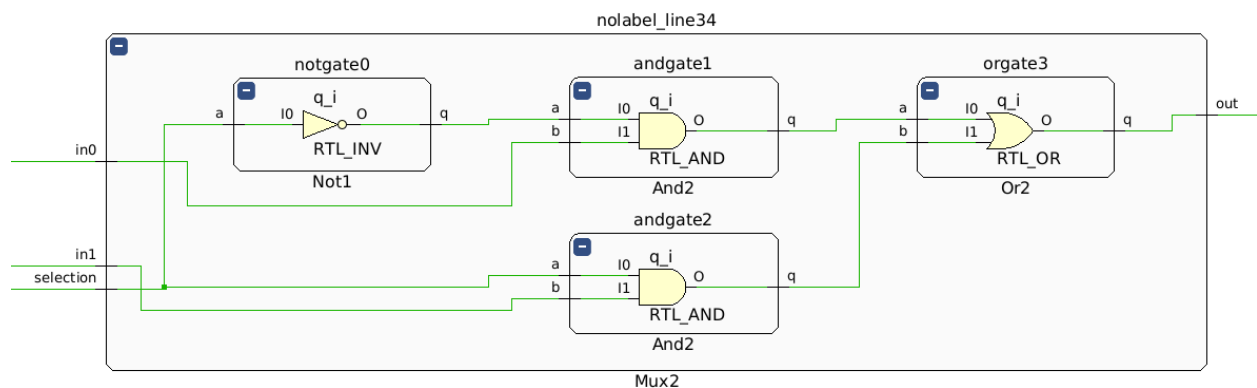


Figure 30. MUX2 implemented with one NOT, two AND, one OR gate(s)

The implementation post-synthesis is done with one LUT, as shown in the

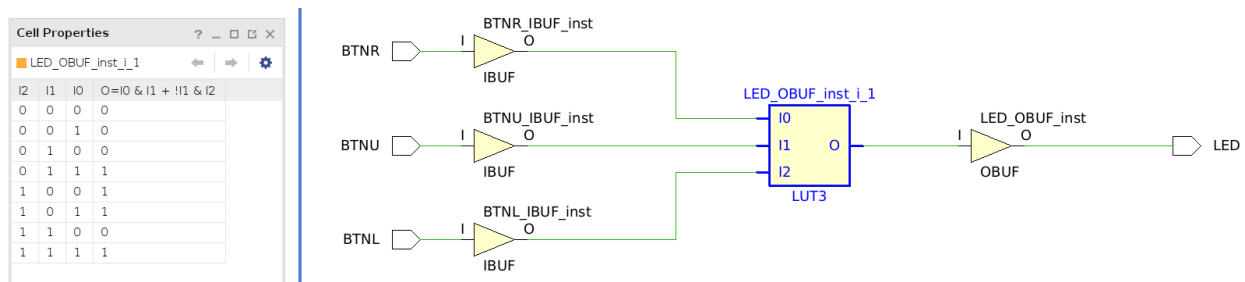


Figure 31. LUT-based implementation of elementary mux, in FPGA

```
module And2(output q, input a, input b);
    assign q = a & b;
endmodule
```

```
module Or2(output q, input a, input b);
    assign q = a | b;
endmodule
```

```
module Not1(output q, input a);
    assign q = ~a;
endmodule
```

```
module Mux2(output out, input selection, input in0, input in1);
    //assign out = (in0*!selection) | in1*selection;
    //assign out = (selection == 0) ? in0 : in1;

    //structural:
    wire notselection;
    wire w1;
    wire w2;

    Not1 notgate0(.q(notselection), .a(selection));
    And2 andgate1(.q(w1), .a(notselection), .b(in0));
    And2 andgate2(.q(w2), .a(selection), .b(in1));
    Or2 orgate3(.q(out), .a(w1), .b(w2));
endmodule
```

Figure 32. Verilog description of an elementary MUX

## [Digital] Electronics by Example: When Hardware Greets Software

```
library IEEE;
use IEEE.STD_LOGIC_1164.ALL;

entity Mux2 is
  Port(in0,in1,sel: in STD_LOGIC;
        outp : out STD_LOGIC);
end Mux2;

architecture Mux2a of Mux2 is
  component And2
  port(a,b: in STD_LOGIC;
        q: out STD_LOGIC);
  end component;

  component Or2
  port(a,b: in STD_LOGIC;
        q: out STD_LOGIC);
  end component;

  component Not1
  port(a: in STD_LOGIC;
        q: out STD_LOGIC);
  end component;

  signal w1: STD_LOGIC;
  signal w2: STD_LOGIC;
  signal nsel: STD_LOGIC;

  begin
    andgate1: And2 port map(a => in0, b => nsel, q => w1);
    andgate2: And2 port map(a => in1, b => sel, q => w2);
    notgate3: Not1 port map(a => sel, q => nsel);
    orgate4: Or2 port map(a => w1, b => w2, q => outp);

  end Mux2a;
```

Figure 33. VHDL description of an elementary MUX

Exercise: Using elementary MUX (2-input, 1-selection), describe a 4-input MUX. All data is 1-bit wide.

Solution: A hierarchical implementation will be made, with layered MUXes: first layer will have 2x MUXes, and the next layer just 1.

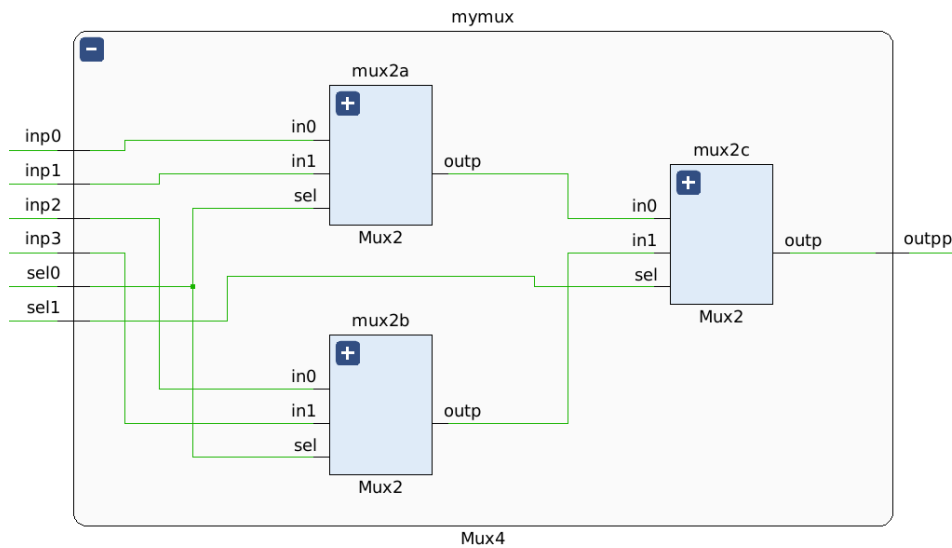


Figure 34. Block schematic for MUX4 made of 3x MUX2

As one may see, the number of layers is  $\log_2 N \Rightarrow$  depth is  $O(\log N)$ , and the number of elementary circuits is  $N-1 \Rightarrow$  size is  $O(N)$ .

## [Digital] Electronics by Example: When Hardware Greets Software

```
library IEEE;
use IEEE.STD_LOGIC_1164.ALL;

entity Mux4 is
  Port(inp0, inp1, inp2, inp3: in STD_LOGIC;
       sel0,sel1: in STD_LOGIC;
       outpp : out STD_LOGIC);
end Mux4;

architecture Mux4a of Mux4 is
  component Mux2
  port(in0, in1: in STD_LOGIC;
       sel: in STD_LOGIC;
       outp: out STD_LOGIC);
  end component;

  signal wa: STD_LOGIC;
  signal wb: STD_LOGIC;

begin
  mux2a: Mux2 port map(inp0 => inp0, in1 => inp1, sel => sel0, outp => wa);
  mux2b: Mux2 port map(inp0 => inp2, in1 => inp3, sel => sel0, outp => wb);
  mux2c: Mux2 port map(inp0 => wa, in1 => wb, sel => sel1, outp => outpp);
end;
```

*Figure 35. VHDL description of MUX4 made of MUX2 circuits*

Using only elementary .... Describe the circuit in both in Verilog and VHDL language.



## 3. One-loop systems

Memory unit of 1 bit...

## 4. Two-loop systems (automata)

### 4.1 Prerequisites

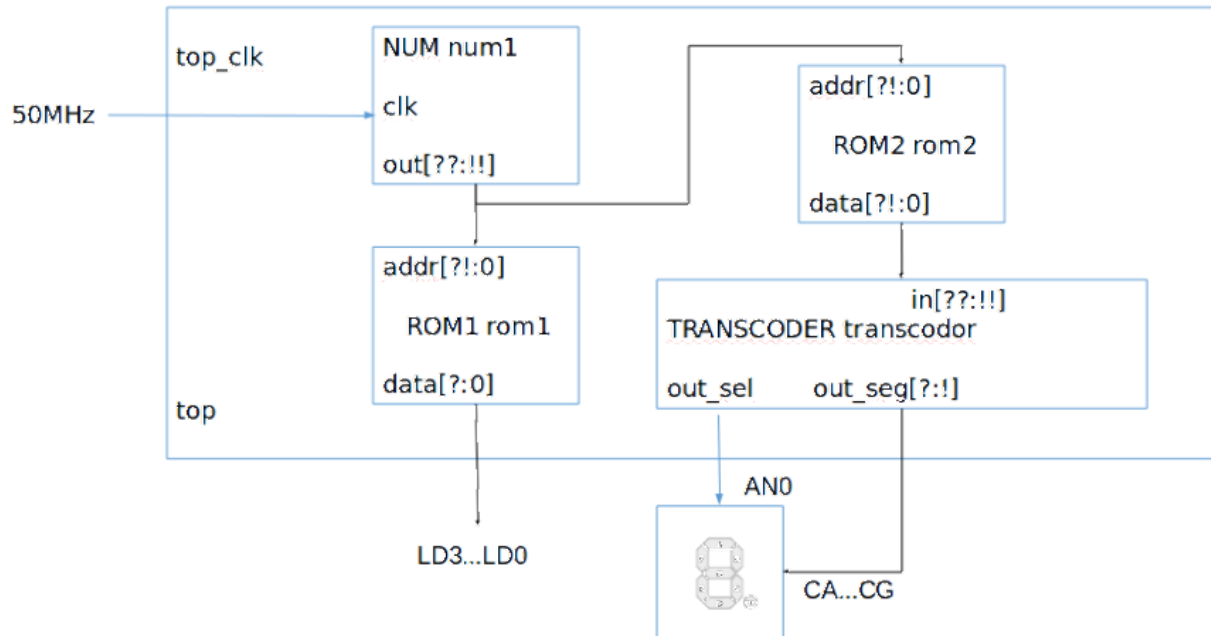
### 4.2 Theory

### 4.3 TODO: other exercises

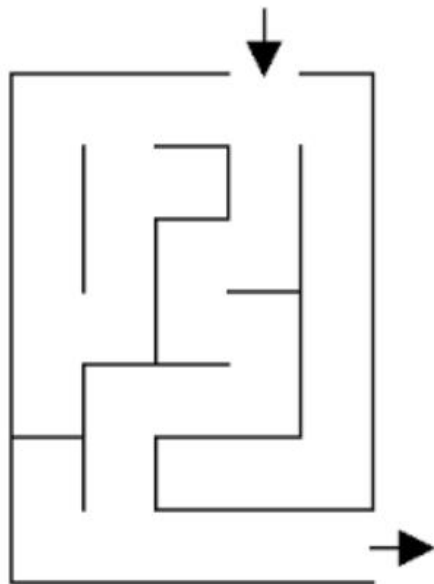
Famous Chip & Dale squirrels want to go to Beautiful Almond Trees. For this, Chip hired you to design and implement an electronic map, for Dale, with the following block schematic:



# [Digital] Electronics by Example: When Hardware Greets Software



The map is as follows:



## [Digital] Electronics by Example: When Hardware Greets Software

To walk through the maze, the squirrel should go: 3 steps forward, 1 step to the right, 1 step to the left...

ROM1 memory contains data regarding the direction where the squirrel should go:

1 = Forward, 2 = Backwards, 4 = Left, 8 = Right

ROM2 memory contains data regarding how many steps the squirrel go in that direction

lesirea out a numaratorului, isi schimba valoarea la fiecare FIX 1 secunda (veverita isi poate schimba directia doar 1 data pe secunda)

Your task is to write Verilog code for the electronic map.

Punctaj (din 50 de puncte): 6 + 7 + 7 + 4 p, 12p pentru top, 10p pentru "design" si 4p coding style.

Numaratorul de timp NUM (6p):

(1p) numaratorul are dimensiunea minima necesara a registrului de stare interna

(1p) numaratorul are dimensiunea minima necesara a registrului de iesire

(1p) registrul de stare interna se incrementeaza in ritmul corespunzator

(1p) registrul de iesire se incrementeaza in ritmul corespunzator (1 secunda)

(1p) conditia de numarare este corecta

(1p) modulul verilog are denumirea ceruta (NUM)

Memoria de tip ROM1 (7p):

(1p) are numarul minim de adrese / locatii, numele cerut al intrarii

(1p) are numarul minim de biti de iesire, numele cerut al iesirii

(1p) conditia de citire e corecta

(Xp) memoria are continutul corect in proportie de X\*25%, (X e maxim 4)

Memoria de tip ROM2 (7p)

(1p) are numarul minim de adrese / locatii, numele cerut al intrarii

(1p) are numarul minim de biti de iesire, numele cerut al iesirii

(1p) conditia de citire e corecta

(Xp) memoria are continutul corect in proportie de X\*25%, (X e maxim 4)

Transcodorul de tip TRANSCODER (4p)

(1p) in are dimensiunea, tipul corect, numele cerut

(1p) out\_sel are dimensiunea si tipul corect, numele cerut

(2p) out\_seg are dimensiunea si tipul corect, numele cerut

top (12p):

(1p) memoria ROM1 este instantiata corect (tip, nume semnale)

(1p) memoria ROM2 este instantiata corect (tip, nume semnale)

(1p) numaratorul este instantiat corect (tip, nume semnale)

(1p) transcodorul este instantiat corect (tip, nume semnale)

(1p) legaturile NUM-ROM1 sunt corecte

(1p) legaturile NUM-ROM2 sunt corecte

(1p) legaturile ROM2-TRANSCODER sunt corecte

(1p) top\_clk se leaga corect in modulul de top

(1p) ROM1 se leaga corect in exterior

(1p) TRANSCODER se leaga corect in exterior (top: out\_sel)

(2p) TRANSCODER se leaga corect in exterior (top: out\_seg)

design (10p):

(3p) design-ul este complet (ca numar / tip de componente) si nu are erori de sintaxa / sinteza / implementare

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(3p) design-ul functioneaza pe FPGA asa cum s-a cerut (intre stari trec fix. X milisekunde si starile se succed in ordinea ceruta)

(1p) corespondenta semnalului de ceas <> pin e corecta

(1p) corespondenta biti de iesire <> pini e corecta (selectie digit)

(2p) corespondenta biti de iesire <> pini e corecta (segmente)

coding\_style(4p): codul este usor de citit (indentat si spatat similar cu exercitiul din laborator5)



Timp de efectiv de lucru: 50 de minute. SUBIECT\_5\_FARA\_RAM

Extraterestrii din sistemul solar luminat de Betelgeuse, au fost de acord sa ne imprumute un generator ZPM. Drept multumire, oamenii au decis sa tina o serata pentru a le delecta "ochiurechea" (ochiurechea este un organ de simt al extraterestrilor, care transforma impulsurile luminoase in semnale electrice interpretate de creierul lor ca "sunete")

Este minisunea ta, sa reproduci o parte din Simfonia a 9-a pentru ochiurechile extraterestrilor. La sfarsitul melodiei, se poate introduce o pauza (niciun led aprins) convenabil de lunga apoi se repeta melodia.

Obs1.

- pentru a produce sunetul A, trebuie aprins LD0
- pentru a produce sunetul B, trebuie aprins LD0 si LD1
- pentru a produce sunetul C, trebuie aprins LD0, LD1, LD2
- pentru a produce sunetul D, trebuie aprinse LD0, LD1, LD2, LD3
- si tot asa.

Obs2. Durata notelor se considera:

- "2 T" pentru notele care arata ca prima nota E (cea mai din stanga)
- "3 T" pentru nota E cu punct (ultima nota E)
- "1 T" pentru notele care arata ca penultima nota D
- "4 T" pentru notele care arata ca ultima nota D (cea mai din dreapta)

unde 1 T inseamna FIX 1 secunda.

Obs3. Se considera echivalenta o nota de 4 T cu 2 de 2 T sau 4 de 1 T.

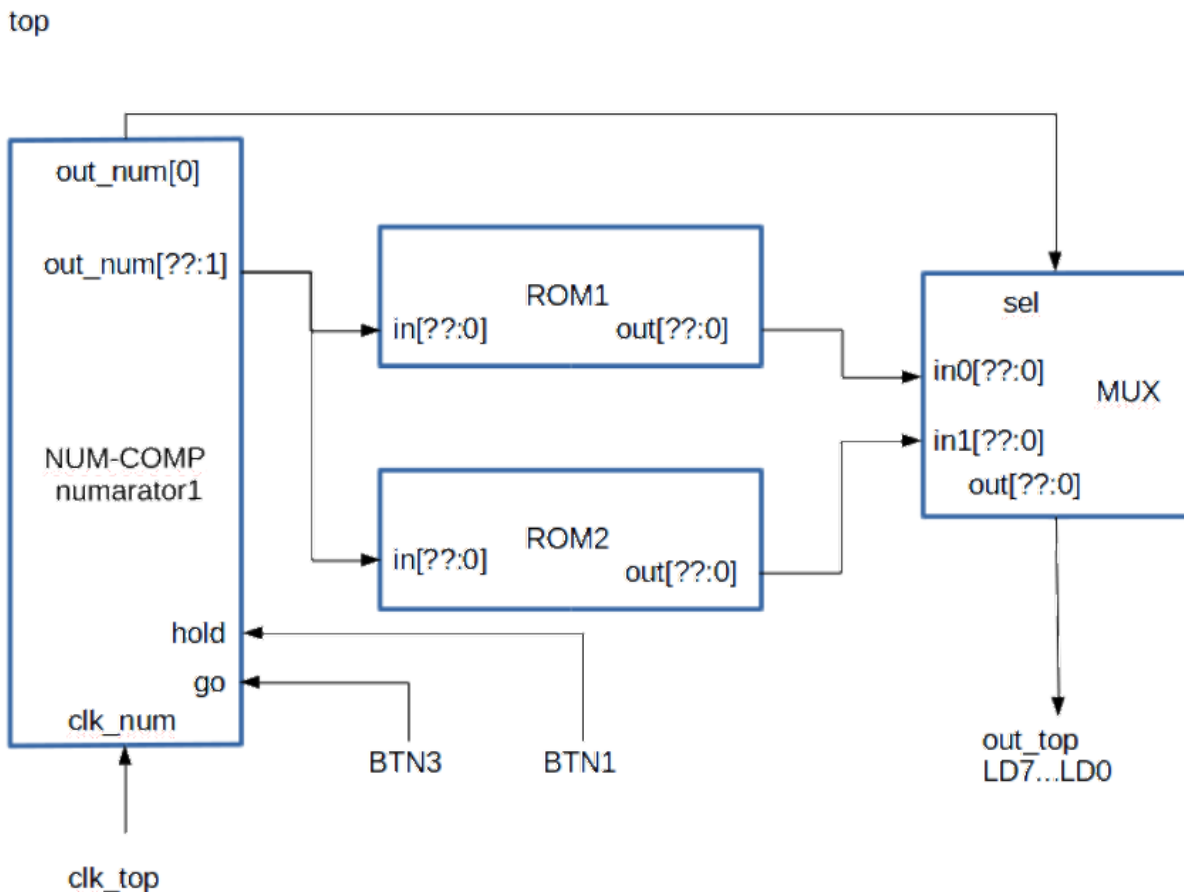
Obs4.

Numaratorul NUM-COMP:

- contine doua registre:
    - unul pentru starea interna (care se incrementeaza la fiecare perioada de ceas)
    - unul pentru iesire "out\_num" (care se incrementeaza cand registrul de stare interna a numarat o secunda)
  - la fiecare incrementare a iesirii, registrul de stare interna se duce in 0
  - NUM-COMP numara cand "go" este 1
  - NUM-COMP isi mentine valoarea cand "hold" este 1 si "go" este 0
- "ROM1" este o memorie de tip ROM de dimensiune corespunzatoare (minima)  
"ROM2" este o memorie de tip ROM de dimensiune corespunzatoare (minima)  
"MUX" este un multiplexor

Ceasul din sistem este ceasul generat de oscilatorul de 50 MHz de pe placa cu FPGA.

Implementati in Verilog modulele din circuitul din figura, RESPECTAND numele semnalelor si ale modulelor / instanțelor



Tim de efectiv de lucru: 90 de minute. SUBIECT\_3\_FARA\_RAM

"Predator" vrea sa ajute METROREX sa construiasca o linie metrou pana la Aeroportul "Henri Coanda". In acest scop, vrea sa doneze regiei, un ceas cu timer care la terminarea timpului indicat, spulbera roca dura din drumul liniei de metrou.

Indicatorul de timp de pe ceas afiseaza initial toate segmentele aprinse; el apoi marcheaza trecerea

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timpului prin stingerea a cate unuia din segmente aprinse, la fiecare FIX 500 milisecunde

La momentul T=0: 7 segmente aprinse

La momentul T=1: 6 segmente aprinse

La momentul T=2: 5 segmente aprinse

La momentul T=3: 4 segmente aprinse

La momentul T=4: 3 segmente aprinse

La momentul T=5: 2 segmente aprinse

La momentul T=6: 1 segment aprins

La momentul T=7: 0 segmente aprinse

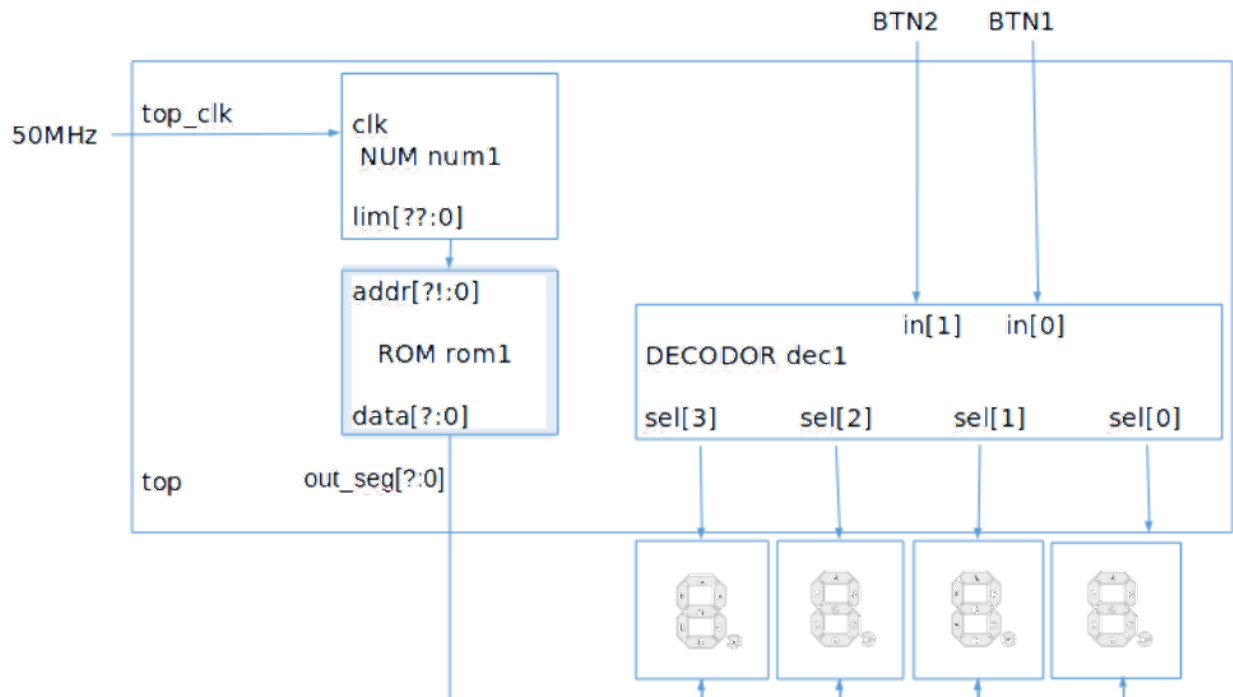
"num1" este un numarator de tip NUM care numara in sus, din 1 in 1.

"rom1" este o memorie de tip ROM de dimensiune minima.

"dec1" este un decodor care produce mereu un singur bit de 0 pe iesire (arata care 1 digit este aprins, restul de 3 fiind stinsi)

Ceasul din sistem este ceasul generat de oscilatorul de 50 MHz de pe placa cu FPGA.

Implementati in Verilog modulele din circuitul din figura, RESPECTAND numele semnalelor si ale modulelor / instanțelor



Punctaj (din 50 de puncte): 6 + 9 + 3 + 12p pentru top, 16p pentru "design" si 4p coding style.

Detaliu punctaj:

numarator1 (6p):

(1p) numaratorul are dimensiunea minima necesara

(1p) iesirea numaratorului are dimensiunea corecta

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(3p) iesirea numaratorului se schimba exact in ritmul specificat (timp)

(1p) iesirea numaratorului se schimba in maniera necesara (valori)

rom1 (9p):

(1p) conditia de citire a memoriei este corecta

(1p) dimensiunea memoriei e corecta (numar adrese)

(1p) dimensiunea iesirii memoriei e corecta

(1p) continutul memoriei este corespunzator

(1p) intrarile sunt declarate ca intrari

(1p) iesirile sunt declarate ca iesiri

(3p) memoria e implementata corect si complet

dec1 (3p):

(1p) conditia de decodare este corecta

(2p) decodorul e implementata corect si complet

top (12 p):

(2p) memoria rom1 este instantiata corect (denumire, tip, dimensiune)

(2p) numaratorul num1 este instantiat corect (denumire, tip, dimensiune)

(2p) decodorul dec1 este instantiat corect (denumire, tip, dimensiune)

(2p) toate legaturile rom1 sunt corecte (denumire, tip, dimensiune)

(2p) toate legaturile dec1 sunt corecte (denumire, tip, dimensiune)

(2p) toate legaturile din exterior se duc spre blocurile corecte (denumire, tip, dimensiune)

design (16p):

(5p) design-ul este complet (ca numar / tip de componente) si nu are erori de sintaxa

(6p) design-ul functioneaza pe FPGA asa cum s-a cerut (intre stari trec fix. 500 milisecunde si starile se succed in ordinea ceruta)

(1p) corespondenta semnalului de ceas <> pin e corecta

(2p) corespondenta butoane <> pini e corecta

(2p) corespondenta biti de iesire <> pini e corecta

coding\_style(4p)

(4p) codul este usor de citit (indentat si spatiat similar cu exercitiul din laborator5)

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