

CHAPTER ONE

Digital Logic Circuits

IN THIS CHAPTER

- 1-1 Digital Computers
- 1-2 Logic Gates
- 1-3 Boolean Algebra
- 1-4 Map Simplification
- 1-5 Combinational Circuits
- 1-6 Flip-Flops
- 1-7 Sequential Circuits

1-1 Digital Computers

The digital computer is a digital system that performs various computational tasks. The word *digital* implies that the information in the computer is represented by variables that take a limited number of discrete values. These values are processed internally by components that can maintain a limited number of discrete states. The decimal digits 0, 1, 2, . . . , 9, for example, provide 10 discrete values. The first electronic digital computers, developed in the late 1940s, were used primarily for numerical computations. In this case the discrete elements are the digits. From this application the term *digital computer* has emerged. In practice, digital computers function more reliably if only two states are used. Because of the physical restriction of components, and because human logic tends to be binary (i.e., true-or-false, yes-or-no statements), digital components that are constrained to take discrete values are further constrained to take only two values and are said to be *binary*.

Digital computers use the binary number system, which has two digits: 0 and 1. A binary digit is called a *bit*. Information is represented in digital computers in groups of bits. By using various coding techniques, groups of bits can be made to represent not only binary numbers but also other discrete symbols, such as decimal digits or letters of the alphabet. By judicious use of binary arrangements and by using various coding techniques, the groups of bits are used to develop complete sets of instructions for performing various types of computations.

In contrast to the common decimal numbers that employ the base 10 system, binary numbers use a base 2 system with two digits: 0 and 1. The decimal equivalent of a binary number can be found by expanding it into a power series with a base of 2. For example, the binary number 1001011 represents a quantity that can be converted to a decimal number by multiplying each bit by the base 2 raised to an integer power as follows:

$$1 \times 2^6 + 0 \times 2^5 + 0 \times 2^4 + 1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0 = 75$$

The seven bits 1001011 represent a binary number whose decimal equivalent is 75. However, this same group of seven bits represents the letter K when used in conjunction with a binary code for the letters of the alphabet. It may also represent a control code for specifying some decision logic in a particular digital computer. In other words, groups of bits in a digital computer are used to represent many different things. This is similar to the concept that the same letters of an alphabet are used to construct different languages, such as English and French.

A computer system is sometimes subdivided into two functional entities: hardware and software. The hardware of the computer consists of all the electronic components and electromechanical devices that comprise the physical entity of the device. Computer software consists of the instructions and data that the computer manipulates to perform various data-processing tasks. A sequence of instructions for the computer is called a *program*. The data that are manipulated by the program constitute the *data base*.

A computer system is composed of its hardware and the system software available for its use. The system software of a computer consists of a collection of programs whose purpose is to make more effective use of the computer. The programs included in a systems software package are referred to as the *operating system*. They are distinguished from application programs written by the user for the purpose of solving particular problems. For example, a high-level language program written by a user to solve particular data-processing needs is an application program, but the compiler that translates the high-level language program to machine language is a system program. The customer who buys a computer system would need, in addition to the hardware, any available software needed for effective operation of the computer. The system software is an indispensable part of a total computer system. Its function is to compensate for the differences that exist between user needs and the capability of the hardware.

The hardware of the computer is usually divided into three major parts, as shown in Fig. 1-1. The central processing unit (CPU) contains an arithmetic and logic unit for manipulating data, a number of registers for storing data, and control circuits for fetching and executing instructions. The memory of a computer contains storage for instructions and data. It is called a random-access memory (RAM) because the CPU can access any location in memory at random and retrieve the binary information within a fixed interval of time. The input and

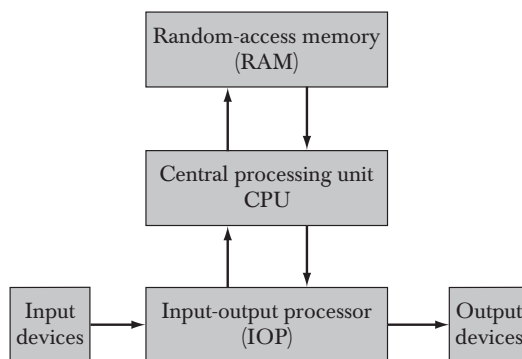


Figure 1-1 Block diagram of a digital computer.

output processor (IOP) contains electronic circuits for communicating and controlling the transfer of information between the computer and the outside world. The input and output devices connected to the computer include keyboards, printers, terminals, magnetic disk drives, and other communication devices.

This book provides the basic knowledge necessary to understand the hardware operations of a computer system. The subject is sometimes considered from three different points of view, depending on the interest of the investigator. When dealing with computer hardware it is customary to distinguish between what is referred to as computer organization, computer design, and computer architecture.

computer organization

Computer organization is concerned with the way the hardware components operate and the way they are connected together to form the computer system. The various components are assumed to be in place and the task is to investigate the organizational structure to verify that the computer parts operate as intended.

computer design

Computer design is concerned with the hardware design of the computer. Once the computer specifications are formulated, it is the task of the designer to develop hardware for the system. Computer design is concerned with the determination of what hardware should be used and how the parts should be connected. This aspect of computer hardware is sometimes referred to as *computer implementation*.

computer architecture

Computer architecture is concerned with the structure and behavior of the computer as seen by the user. It includes the information, formats, the instruction set, and techniques for addressing memory. The architectural design of a computer system is concerned with the specifications of the various functional modules, such as processors and memories, and structuring them together into a computer system.

Two basic types of computer architectures are von Neumann architecture and Harvard architecture. von Neumann architecture describes a general framework, or structure, that a computer's hardware, programming, and data should follow. Although other structures for computing have been devised and implemented, the vast majority of computers in use today operate according to the von