DIGITAL LOGIC

Chapter 5 part1:
Latches and Flip-flops

2024 Fall

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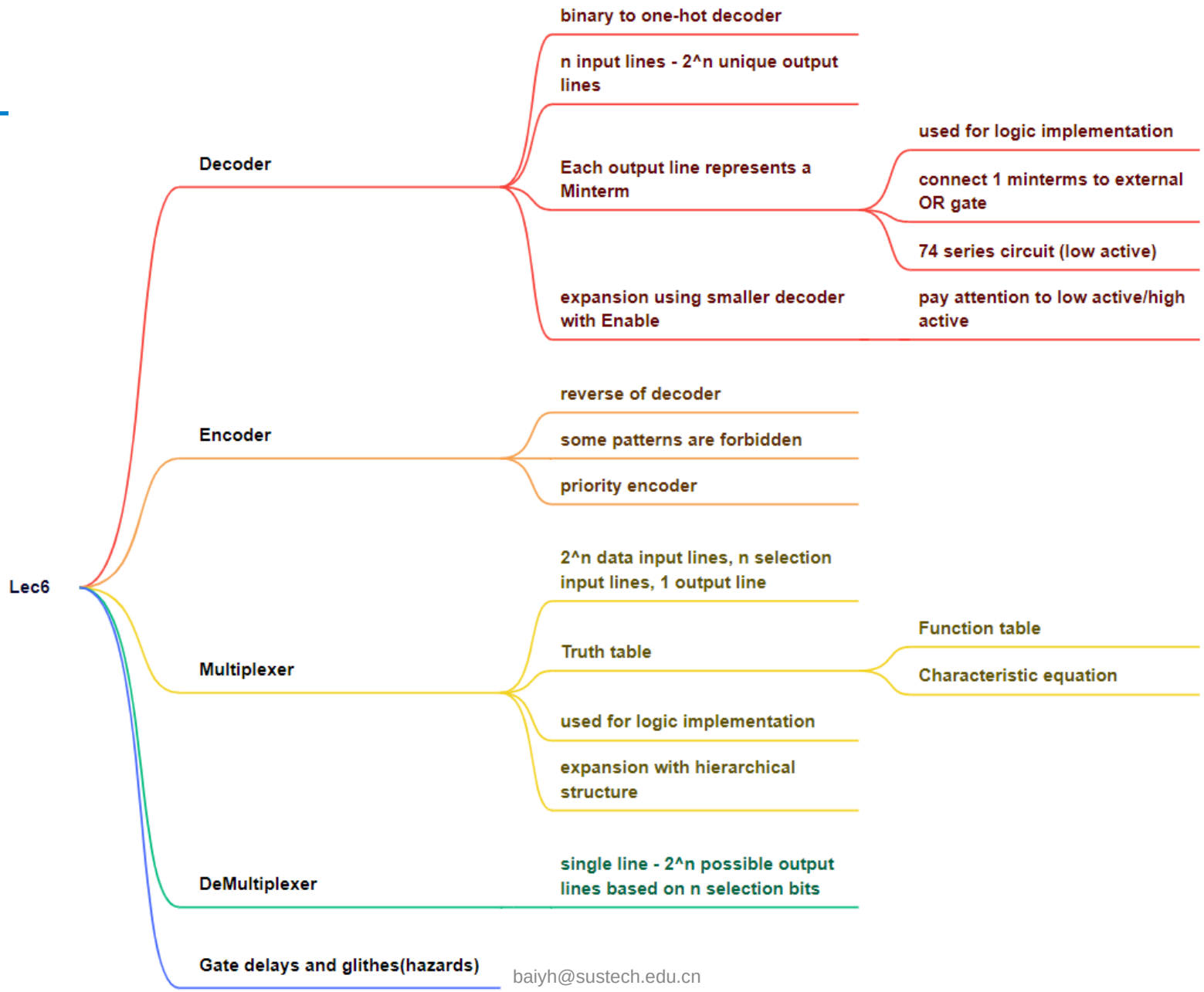
Today's Agenda

- Recap
- Context
  - Latches
  - Flip-Flops
- Reading: Textbook, Chapter 5.1-5.4

Recap



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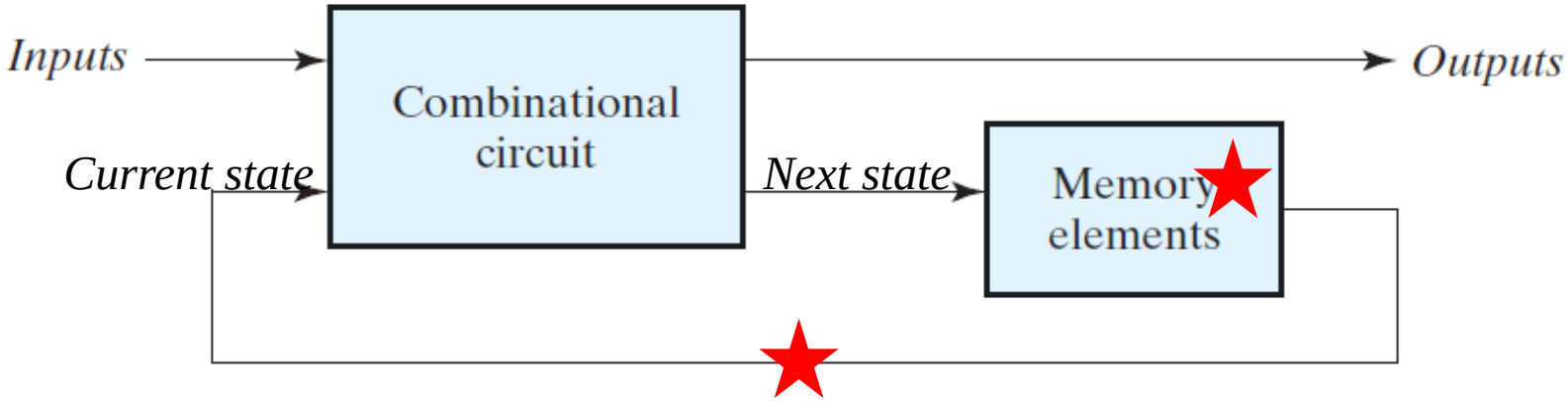
Sequential Circuits

- A sequential circuit consists of a combinational circuit to which storage elements are connected to form a feedback path.
  - The binary information stored in the memory elements at any given time defines the state of the sequential circuit.
  - (inputs, current state) => (outputs, next state)– The behavior is specified by a time sequence of inputs and internal states.

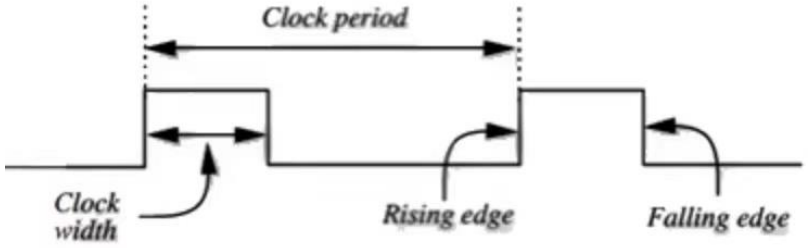


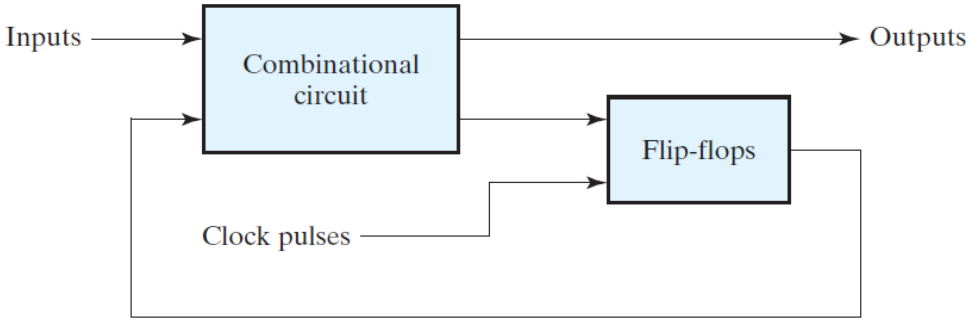
Synchronous vs. Asynchronous Sequential Circuits

- Sequential circuits are broadly classified into two main categories depending on the timing of their signals.
  - **Synchronous sequential circuit** (同步时序电路): A system whose behavior can be defined from the knowledge of its signals at discrete instants of time.
  - **Asynchronous sequential circuit** (异步时序电路): A system whose behavior depends upon input signals at any instant of time and the order in which the inputs change.
- Asynchronous circuit properties
  - Commonly used storage devices are time-delay devices, and the propagation delay of the logic gates (time-delay devices) provides the required storage.
  - Can be viewed as combinational circuit with feedback–May unstable at times

Synchronous Sequential Circuits

- Synchronization usually is achieved by a timing device: clock generator.
  - The outputs are affected only with the application of a clock pulse.
- Clock generator generates a periodic train of clock pulses distributed throughout the system to trigger the memory elements





(a) Block diagram

(b) Timing diagram of clock pulses

Storage Elements

- Some definitions:
  - State: all the information about a circuit necessary to explain its future behavior
  - Latches and flip-flops: state elements that store one bit of state
    - SR Latch (SR锁存器)
    - D Latch (D锁存器)
    - D Flip-flop (DFF, D触发器)

Outline

- **Latches**
- FlipFlops

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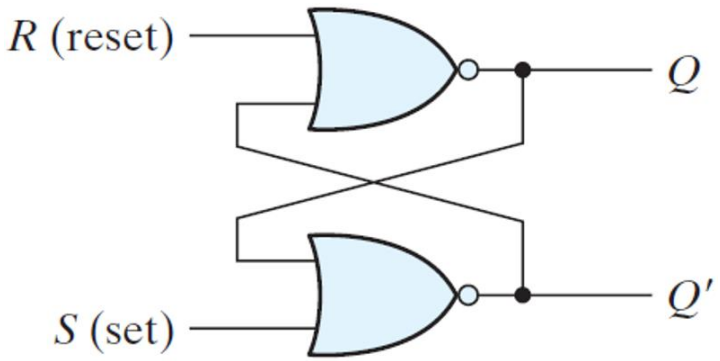
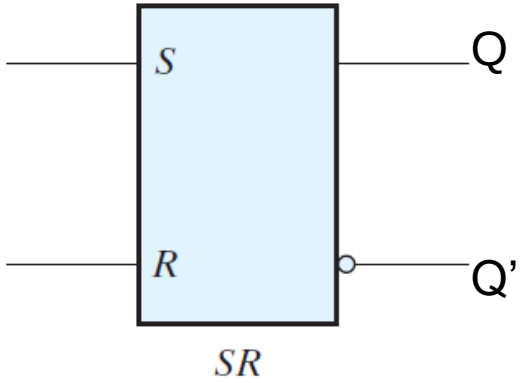
SR (Set/Reset) Latch

- Latch is an asynchronous sequential circuit (state changes whenever inputs change).
- SR latch is a basic memory element which can store one bit of information
  - Consists of two cross-coupled NOR gates or two cross-coupled NAND gates
  - Two input signals: set (S)/reset(R)
  - Two output signals: Q/Q’
  - Two useful states: set state (Q=1,Q’=0)/reset state(Q=0,Q’=1)



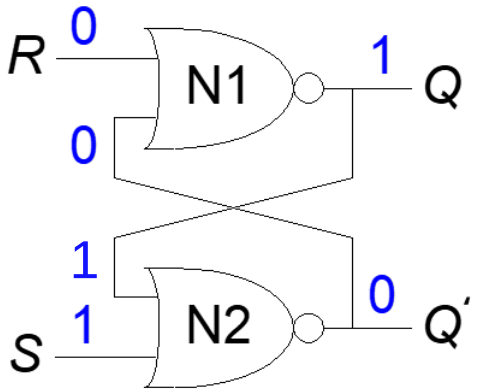


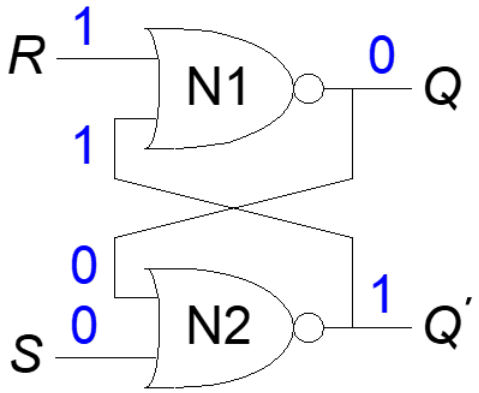
Basic SR Latch with NOR Gate

- Consider the four possible cases:
  1. S = 1, R = 0
  2. S = 0, R = 1
  3. S = 0, R = 0
  4. S = 1, R = 1

- 1. S = 1, R = 0:
  - then Q = 1 and Q’ = 0
  - Set the output

- 2. S = 0, R = 1:
  - then Q = 0 and Q’ = 1
  - Reset the output





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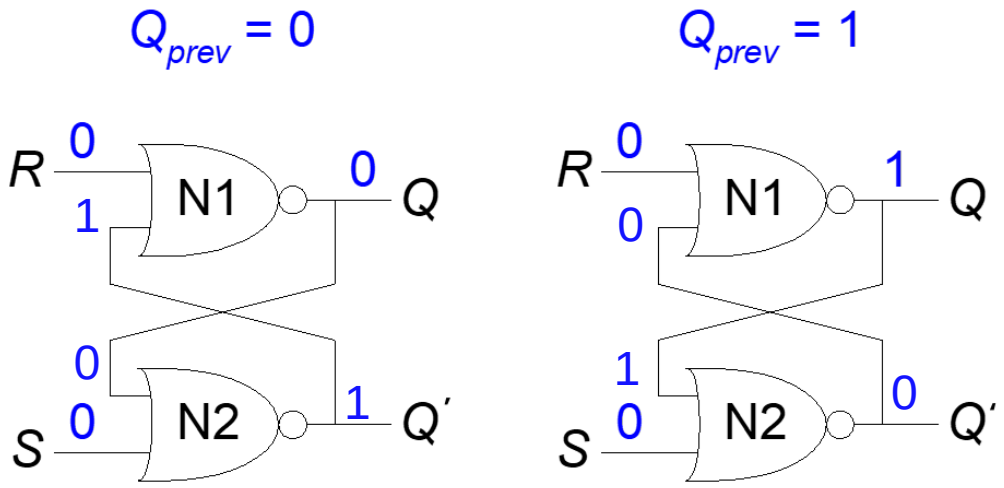
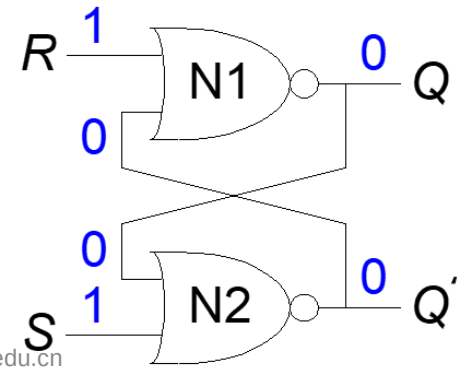
Basic SR Latch with NOR Gate

- Consider the four possible cases:
  1. S = 1, R = 0
  2. S = 0, R = 1
  3. S = 0, R = 0
  4. S = 1, R = 1

- 3. S = 0, R = 0:
  - then Q = Q_{prev}
  - Memory!

- 4. S = 1, R = 1:
  - then Q = 0 and Q’ = 0
  - Invalid State!
  - Q' ≠ NOT Q





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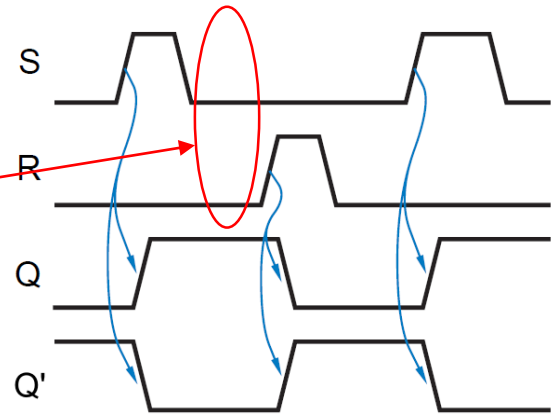
Function Table of SR Latch

- SR Latch's functionality:
  - S is active → Set
  - R is active → Reset
  - S,R are inactive → Memory
  - S,R are active → Forbidden

(S,R) must go back to (0,0) before any other change to avoid the occurrence of the undefined state



S	R	Q	Q'	
0	0	last Q	last Q'	no change
0	1	0	1	reset state
1	0	1	0	set state
1	1	0	0	forbidden

Function table

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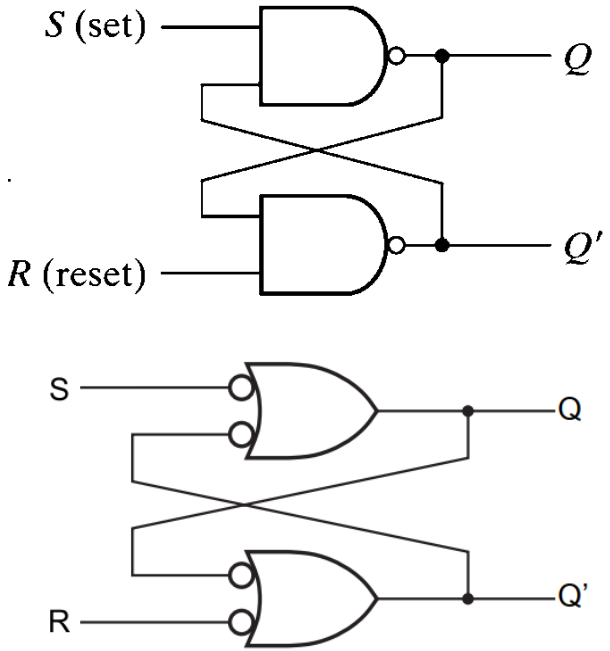
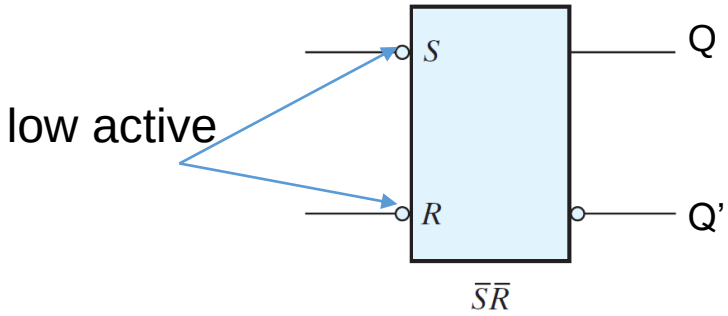
S'R' Latch with NAND Gates

- **Low Active** Set/Reset inputs
  - S is active → Set
  - R is active→ Reset
  - S,R are inactive → Memory
  - S,R are active → Forbidden



S	R	Q	Q'	
0	0	1	1	forbidden
0	1	1	0	set state
1	0	0	1	reset state
1	1	last Q	last Q'	no change



graphic symbol or S'R' Latch

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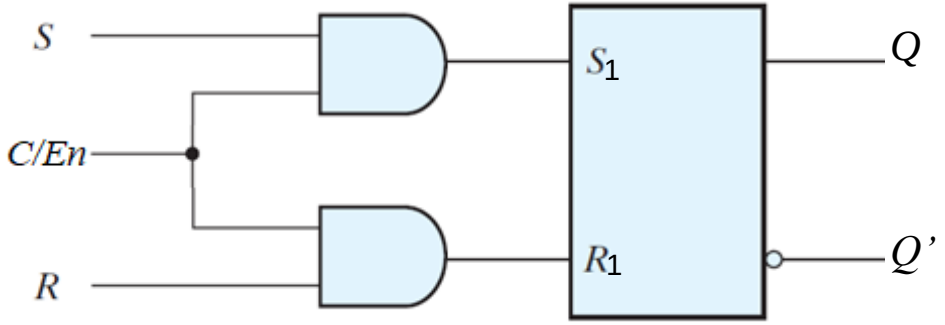
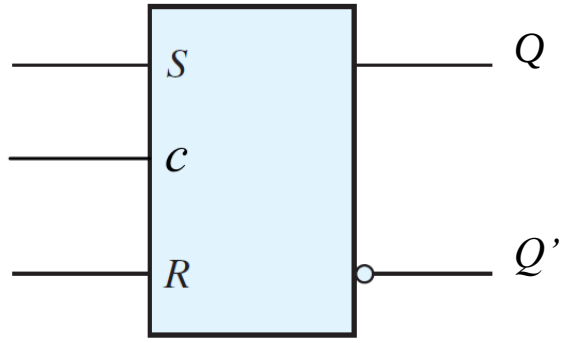
Clocked SR Latch

- Use Clock (or En) to enable/disable the SR latch
  - C=0, no change (disabled)
  - C=1, operates as normal SR latch (enabled)
- Level sensitive SR Latch
  - However, undefined state when C = S= R = 1
- Question:
  - draw the detailed logic diagram of SR latch
  - if AND gate is changed to NAND, how about the SR latch?

C	S	R	Q	Q'	
0	X	X	last Q	last Q'	no change
1	0	0	last Q	last Q'	no change
1	0	1	0	1	reset state
1	1	0	1	0	set state
1	1	1	0	0	forbidden



logic diagram



graphic symbol

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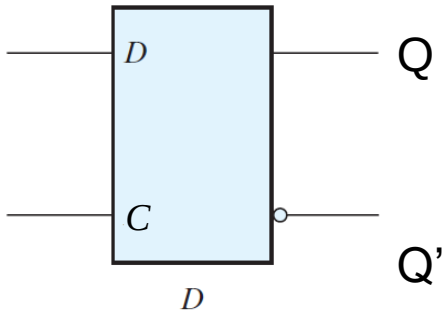
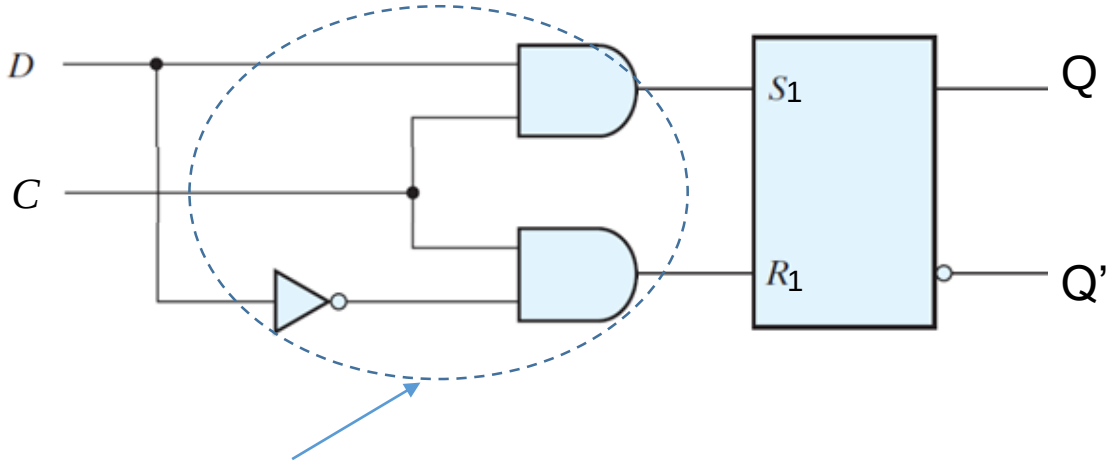
D Latch

- D latch's inputs: Clk(En), D (only one data input)
  - Clk(En): controls when the output changes
  - D (the data input): controls what the output changes to
  - Constructed from a gated SR latch by connecting the D input to S input and D' to R.
  - Avoiding undesirable condition (S=R=1)



D Latch symbols



This make sure
S and R differs

C	D	Q	Q'	
0	X	last Q	last Q'	no change
1	0	0	1	Q follows D
1	1	1	0	Q follows D

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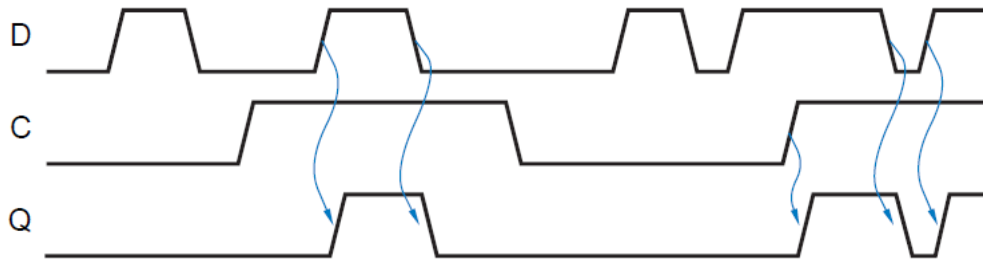
D Latch

- D latch is also called Transparent Latch
- Level sensitive D Latch
  - When CLK = 1,
    - D passes through to Q (transparent)
  - When CLK = 0,
    - Q holds its previous value (opaque)
  - Can avoid invalid case when
    - Q' ≠ NOT Q

C	D	Q	Q'	
0	X	last Q	last Q'	no change
1	0	0	1	Q follows D
1	1	1	0	Q follows D



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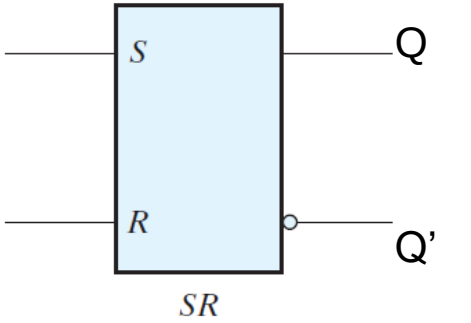
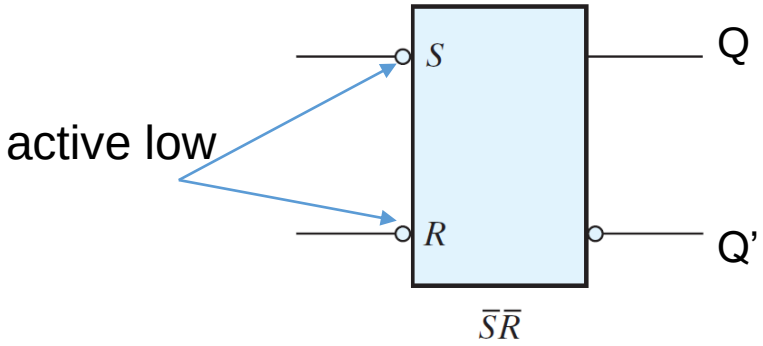
Latch Summary

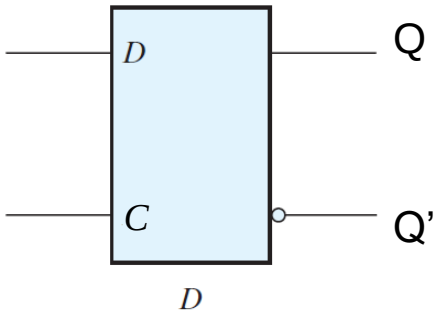
- SR Latch with NOR gate (SR)
  - Set: Make the output 1
    (S = 1, R = 0, Q = 1)
  - Reset: Make the output 0
    (S = 0, R = 1, Q = 0)
  - Memory: S=R=0



- S'R' Latch with NAND gate (S'R')
  - Set: Make the output 1
    (S = 0, R = 1, Q = 1)
  - Reset: Make the output 0
    (S = 1, R = 0, Q = 0)
  - Memory: S=R=1



- D Latch (D)
  - Make D passes through to Q



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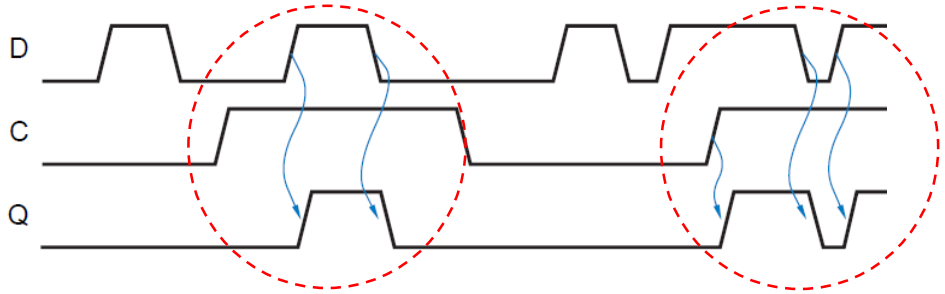
Latches Pros and Cons

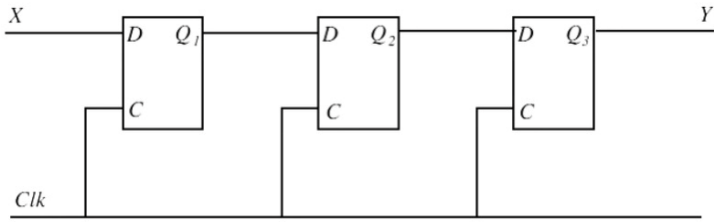
- A latch is enabled whenever C=1. (level-sensitive)
  - At any point during C=1, any input changes will propagate to the output (with some small delay)



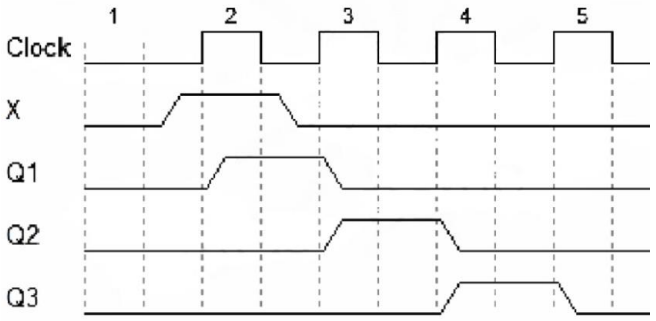
- Pros
  - Useful for level-sensitive applications
  - Latches are faster because they have fewer gates and less delay.
  - Latches are simpler which means they require less hardware to implement and consume less power.

Latches Pros and Cons

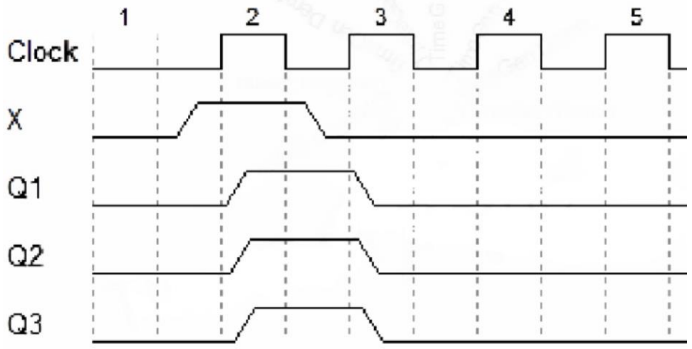
- A latch is enabled whenever C=1. (level-sensitive)
  - At any point during C=1, any input changes will propagate to the output (with some small delay)
- Cons
  - Difficult to retain value
  - Causing erroneous shifting



Unable to shift Q_2 and Q_3 with clock cycles delay



expected



real

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Outline

- Latches
- **FlipFlops**

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Flip-Flops (FF)

- Latch or Flip-Flop(FF) state changes by a control input.
  - The event is called trigger.
- A Flip-Flop is a more advanced storage element, typically constructed using two D latches or more complex circuitry.
- Example: D Flip Flop
  - Inputs: CLK, D
  - For a Positive-edge triggered D Flip Flop:
  - Samples D on rising edge of CLK
    - When CLK rises from 0 to 1, D passes through to Q
    - Otherwise, Q holds its previous value
  - Q changes only on rising edge of CLK

Trigger

- Trigger
  - The state of a latch or flip-flop is switched by a change of the control input
- Level sensitive (level-triggered) (latches)
  - The state transition starts as soon as the clock is during logic 1 (positive level-sensitive) or logic 0 (negative level-sensitive) level
- Edge-triggered (flip-flops)
  - The state transition starts only at positive (positive edge-triggered) or negative edge (negative edge-triggered) of the clock signal

(a) Response to positive level

(b) Positive-edge response

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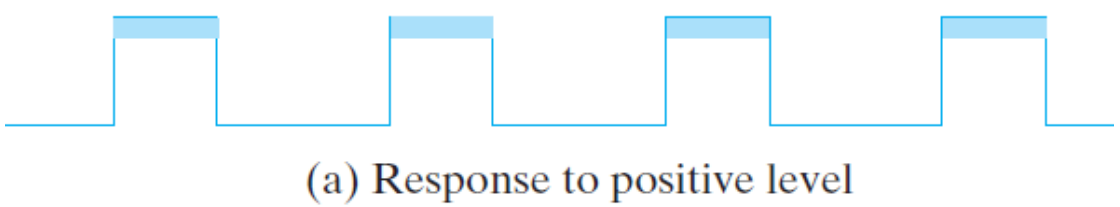
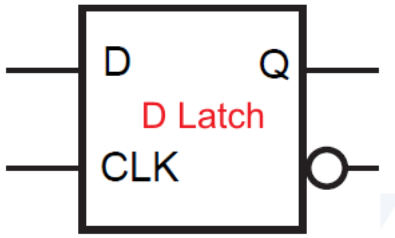
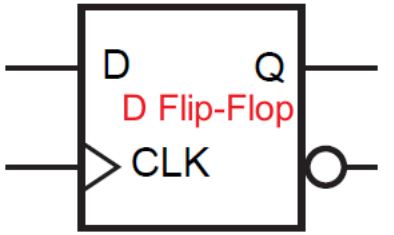
Level-Sensitive vs. Edge-Triggered

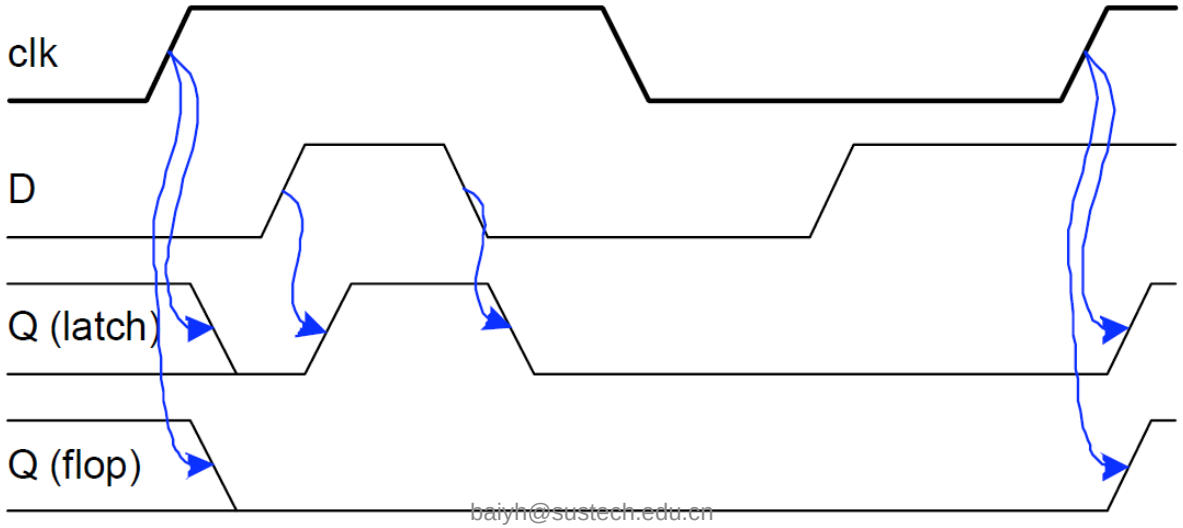


(a) Response to positive level



(b) Positive-edge response





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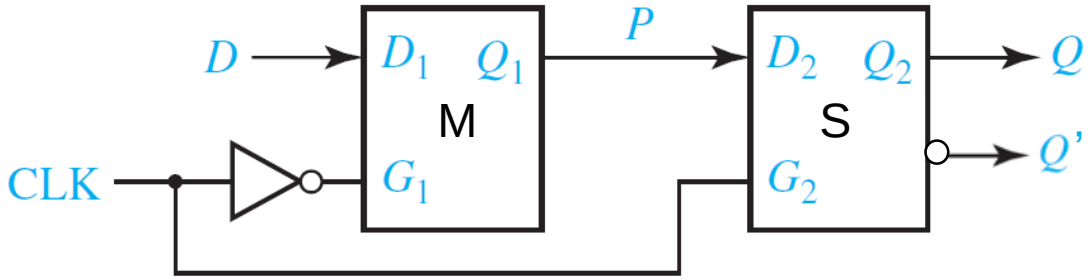
DFF Structure

- A D flip-flop is formed by two separate latches
  - A master D latch (negative level sensitive)
  - A slave D latch (positive level sensitive)
- Positive-edge-triggered D flip-flop
  - When CLK = 0
    - master is transparent
    - slave is opaque
    - D passes through to Y
  - When CLK = 1
    - master is opaque
    - slave is transparent
    - Y passes through to Q
  - Thus, on the rising edge of the clock (CLK rises from 0→1)
    - D passes through to Q



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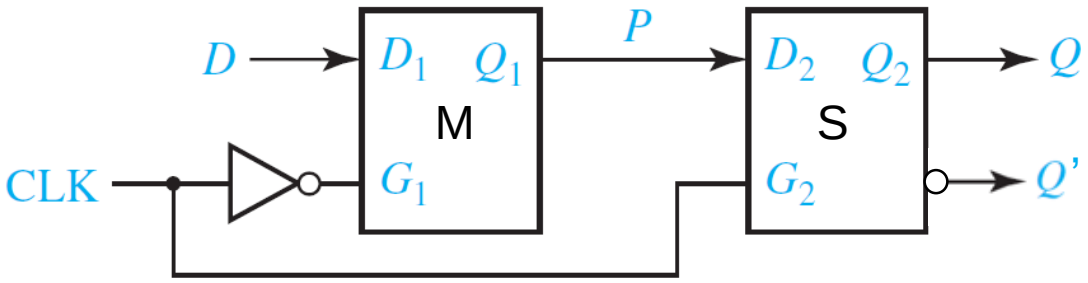
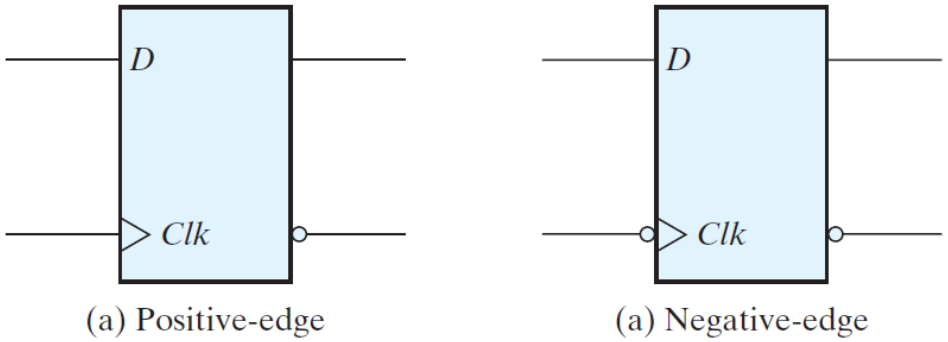
Function Table of DFF

- Function table



C	D	Q	Q'	
0	X	last Q	last Q'	no change
1	X	last Q	last Q'	no change
↑	0	0	1	Q follows D
↑	1	1	0	Q follows D



D Flip-Flop Symbols

Question: How to design Negative-edge-triggered flip-flop (refer to textbook)

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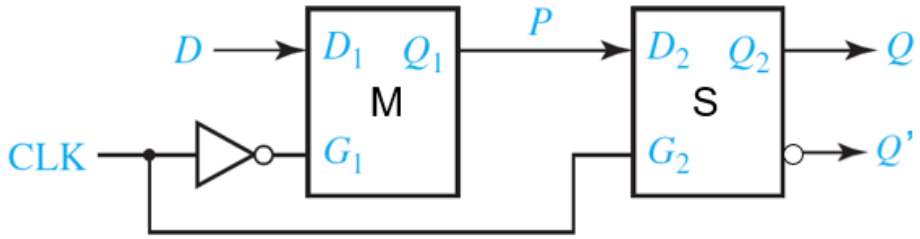
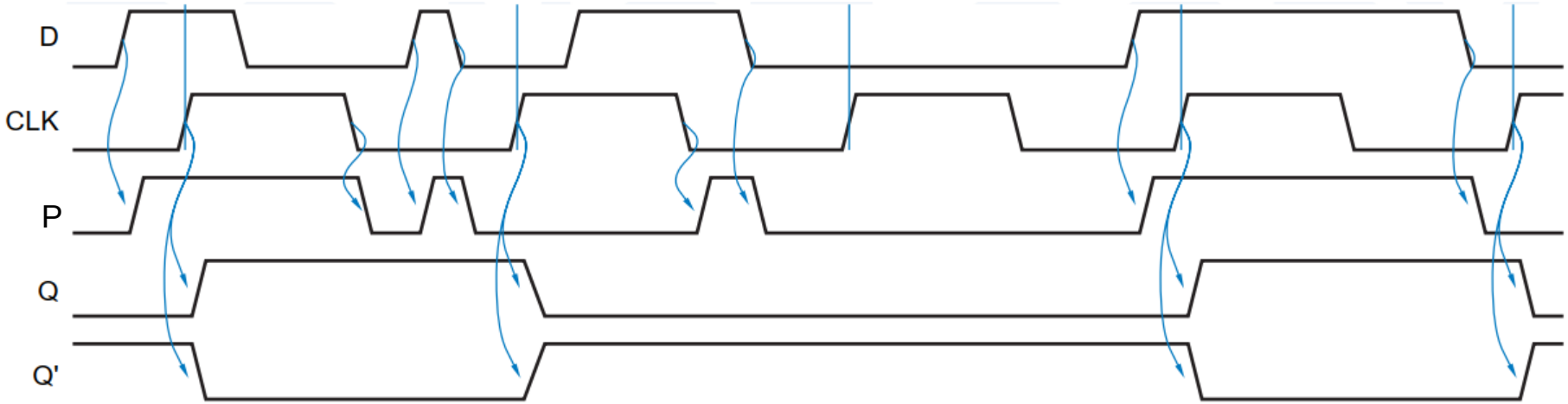
Timing Graph of DFF

- Positive-edge-triggered DFF
  - Q stays stable between two rising edges of the clock signal



C	D	Q	Q'	
0	X	last Q	last Q'	no change
1	X	last Q	last Q'	no change
↑	0	0	1	Q follows D
↑	1	1	0	Q follows D



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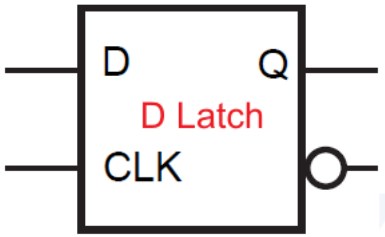
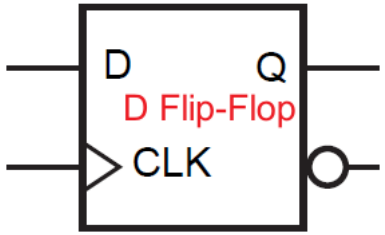
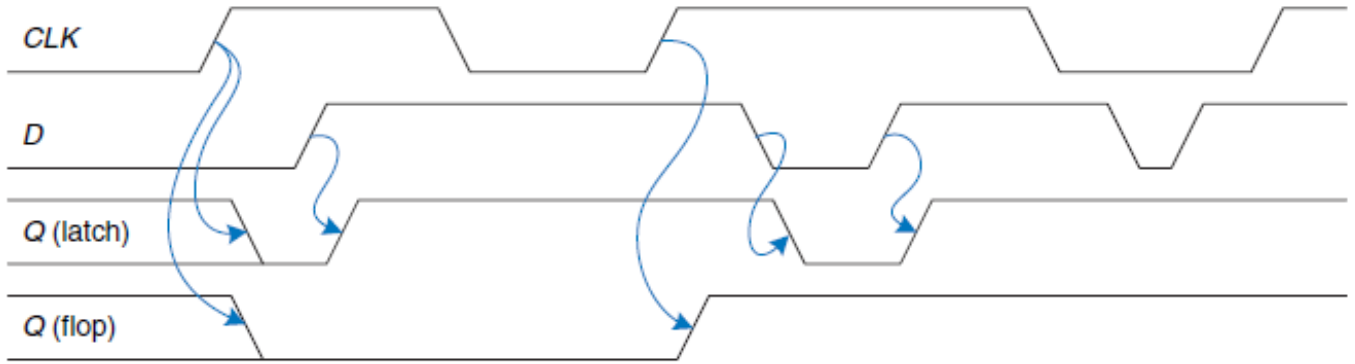
Flip-flop and Latch Comparison

- Apply the D and CLK inputs to a D latch and a D flip-flop, determine the output, Q, of each device.

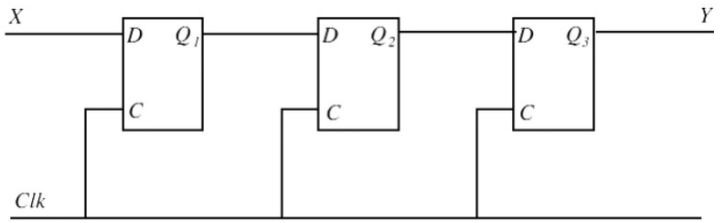




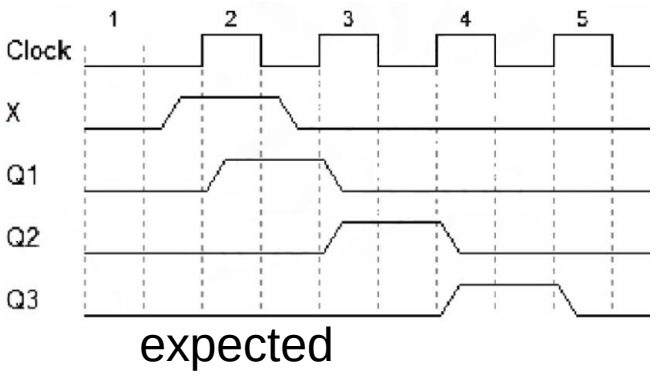


Shifting

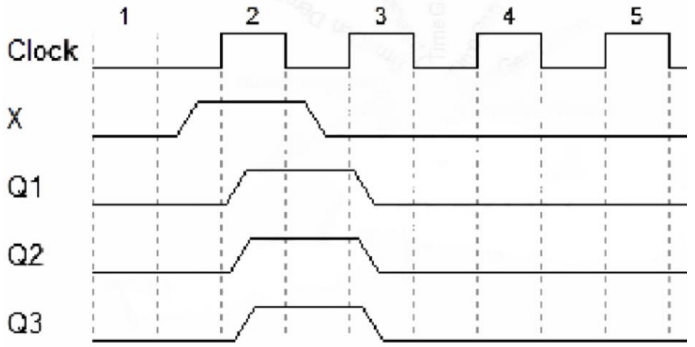
- Remember we wanted to shift input with clock cycles delay, but latches didn't work out



Unable to shift Q_2 and Q_3 with clock cycles delay

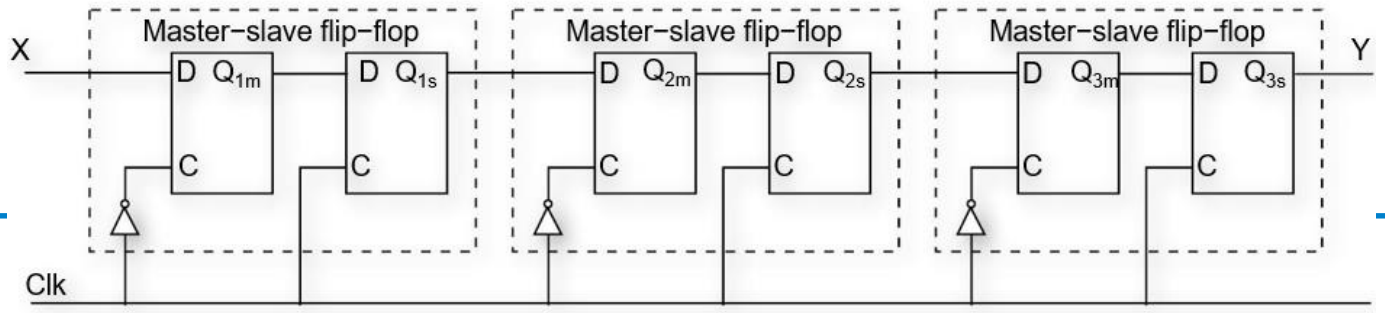


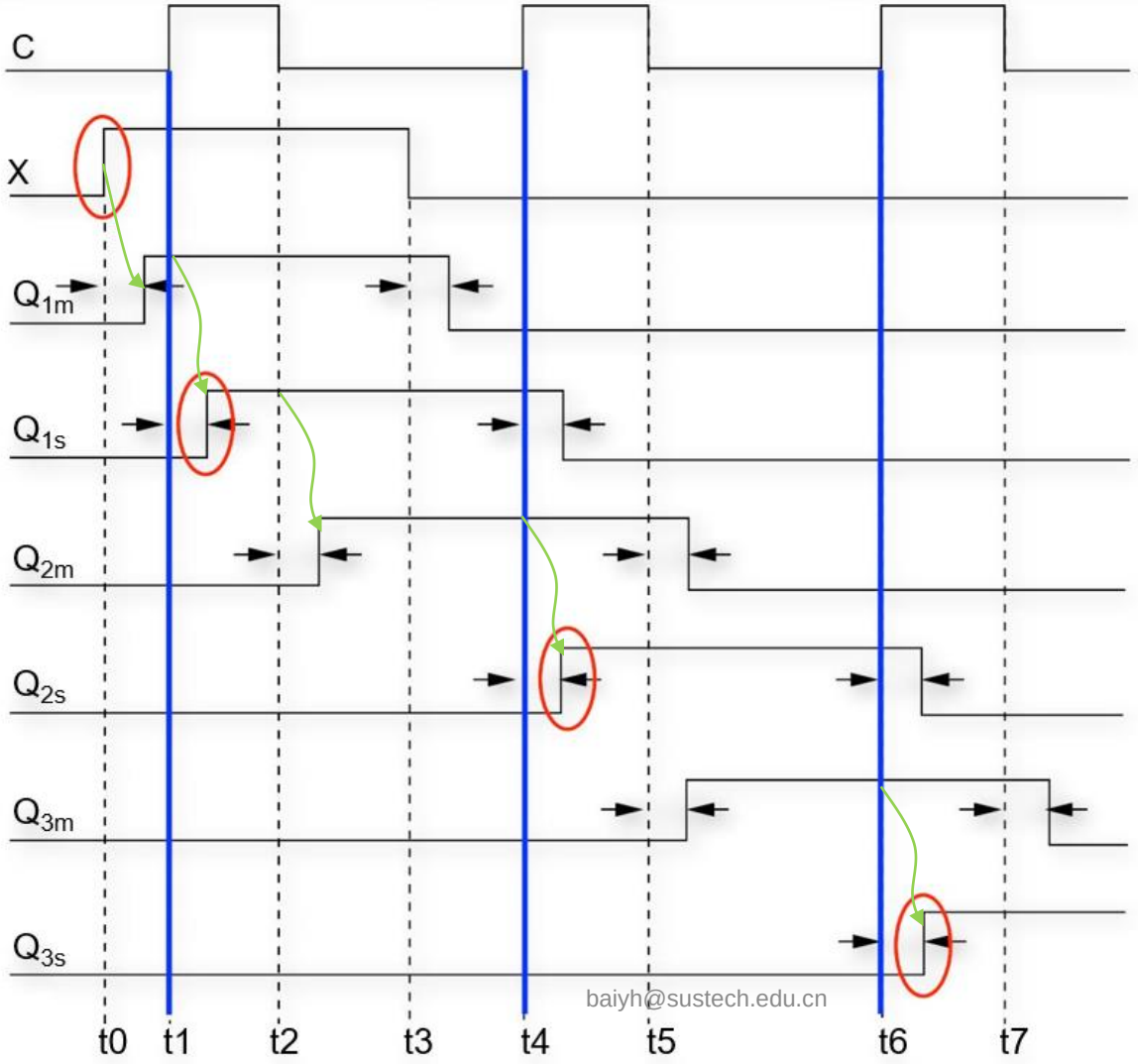
expected



real

- Now we can use FlipFlops (see next page's timing graph)





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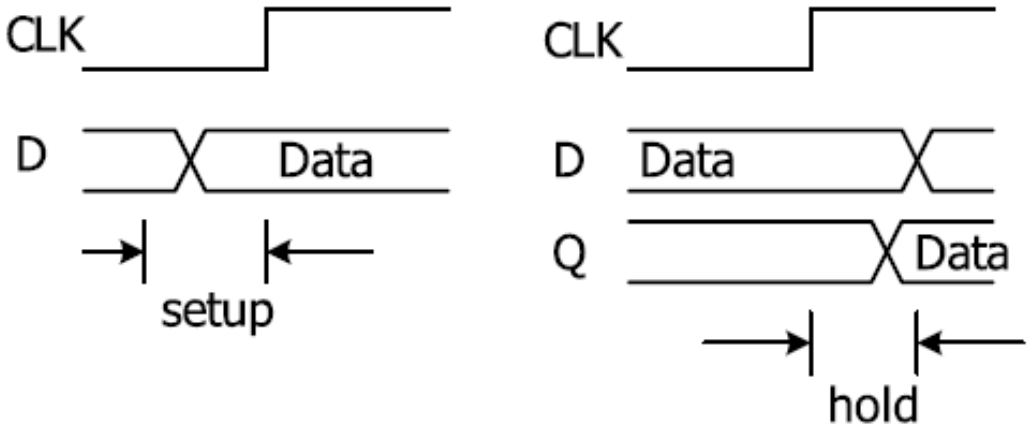
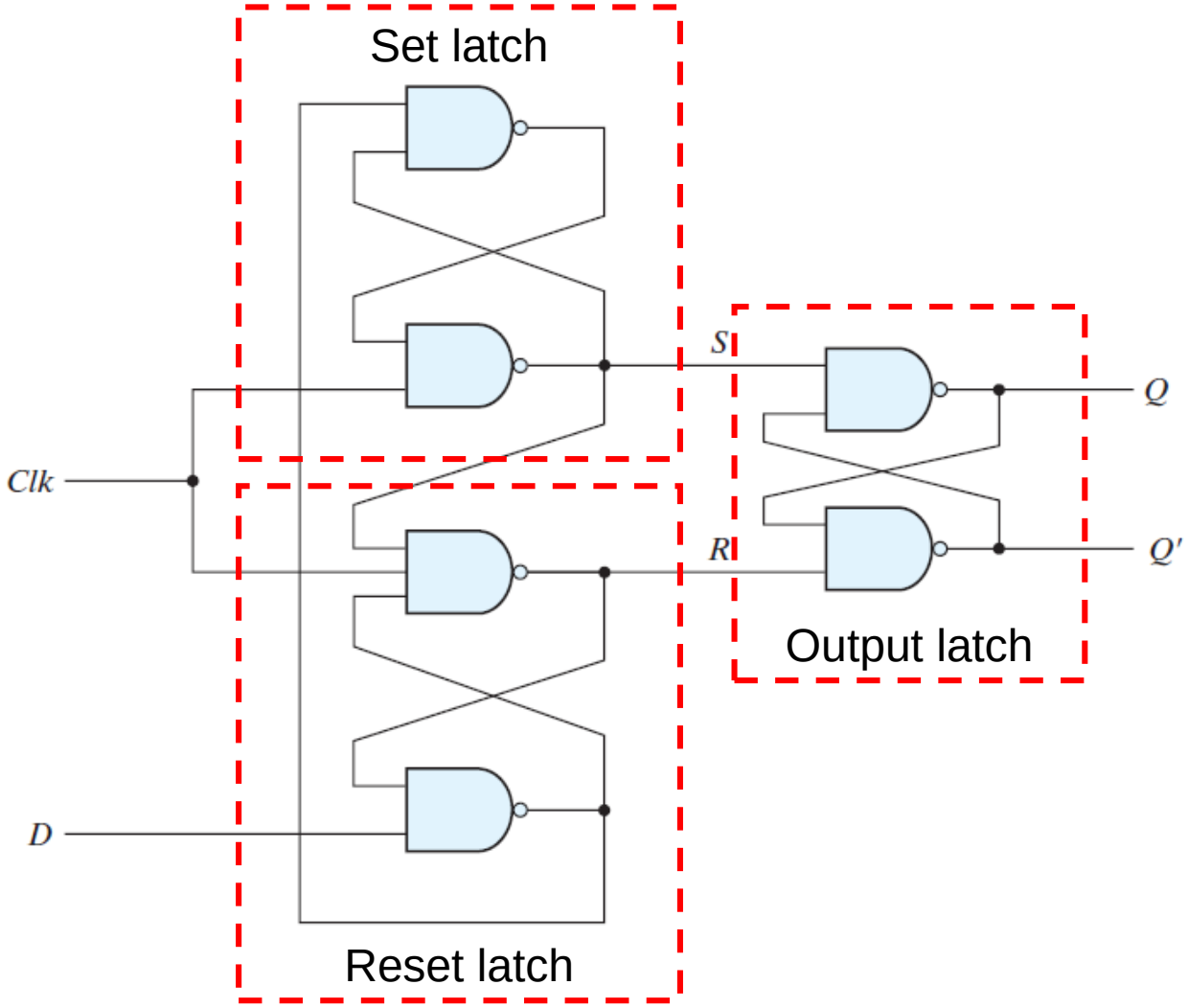
Setup Time/Hold Time in DFF

- Setup time
  - D input must be maintained at a constant value prior to the application of the positive Clk pulse
- Hold time
  - Data input must not change after the application of the positive Clk pulse



DFF with three SR Latches



Positive-edge-triggered D flip-flop

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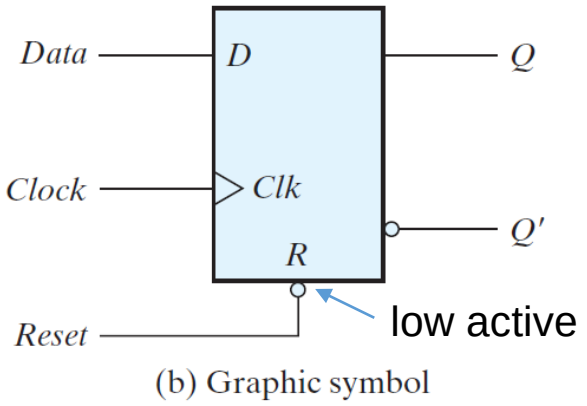
DFF with Asynchronous Reset

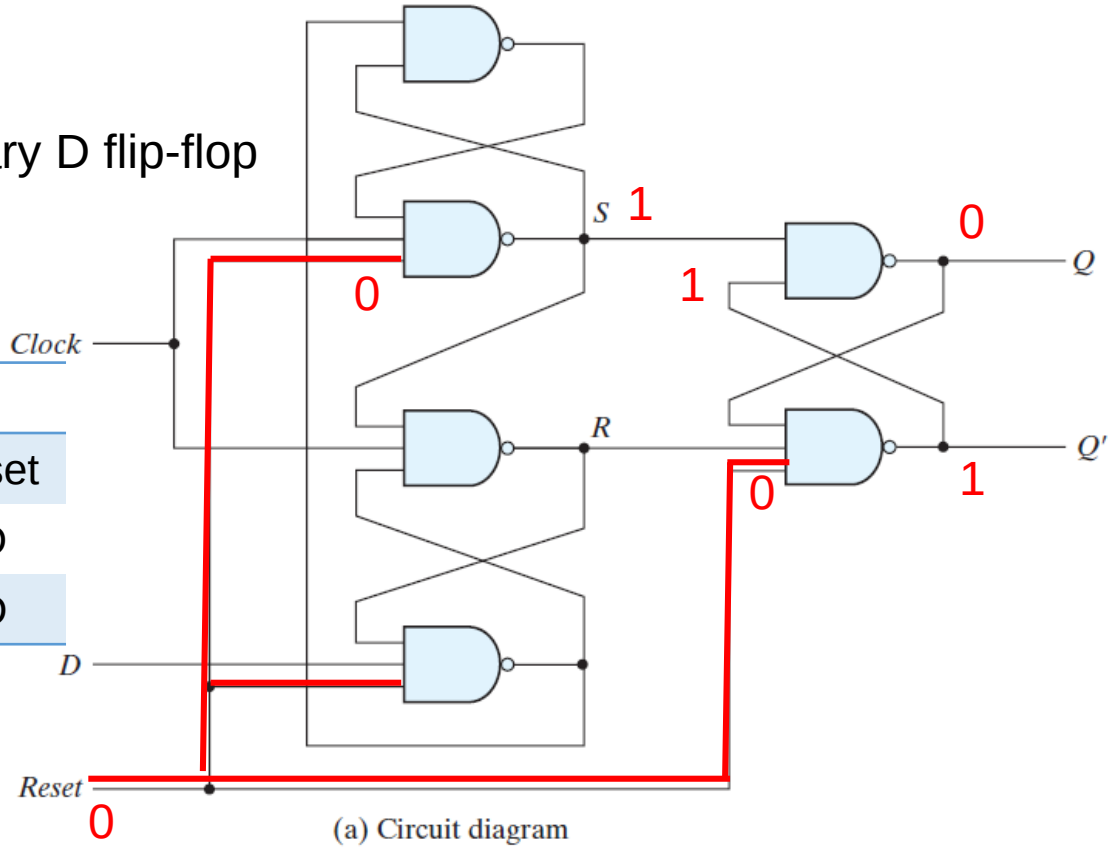
- Active low reset
  - Reset = 0: Q is forced to 0
  - Reset = 1: flip-flop behaves as ordinary D flip-flop

Function table

R	C	D	Q	Q'	
0	X	X	0	1	power on reset
1	↑	0	0	1	Q follows D
1	↑	1	1	0	Q follows D



(b) Graphic symbol



(a) Circuit diagram

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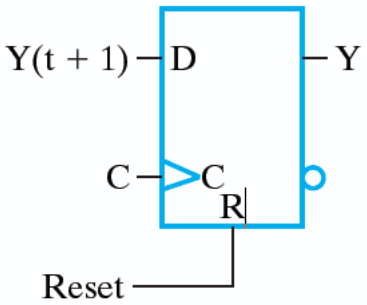
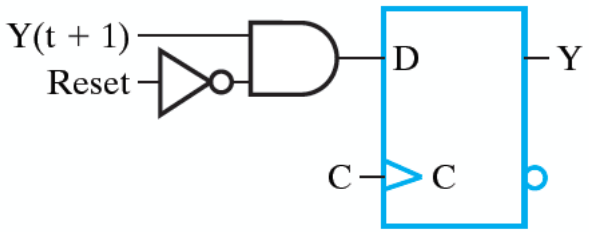
DFF with Reset

- The state of FFs are unknown when power is on. A direct input can force the FFs to a known state before the system starts.
  - E.g. when Reset = 1, FF's output is forced to 0
- Synchronous vs. asynchronous resettable Flip Flop
  - Asynchronous: resets immediately when Reset = 1
  - Synchronous: resets at the clock edge only



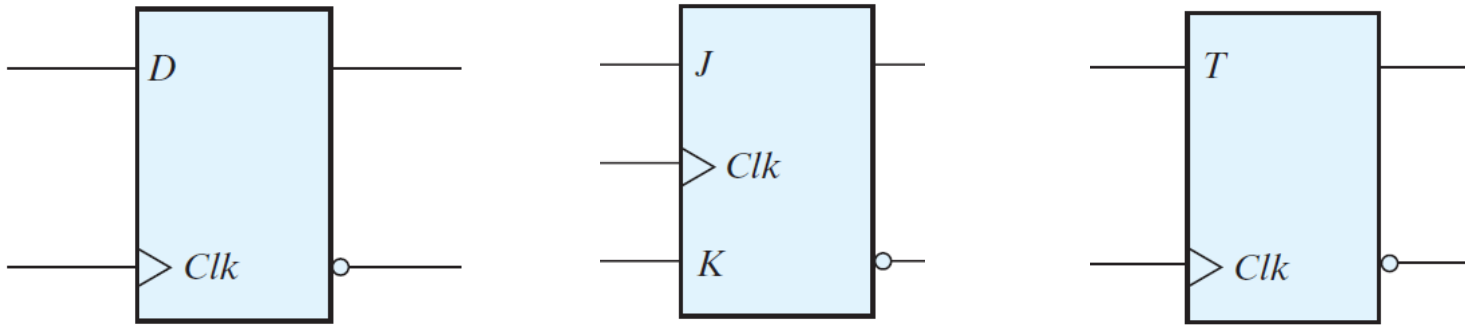
(a) Asynchronous Reset



(b) Synchronous Reset

Types of Flip-Flops

- Flip-flops are more suitable for synchronous sequential circuits and are often used as the basic memory elements, since they only respond to a transition on a clock input.
- Other types of flip-flops can be constructed by using the DFF and external logic.
- Major FFs
  - D(data), JK, T (toggle) FFs
  - Assume only positive-edge-triggered FFs, block diagram are as follow



Characteristic Table

- **Characteristic table:** describe the behavior of a flip-flop based on its input and current state Q(t) just before the rising edge of the clock, and the resulting next state Q(t+1) after the clock transition.

Function table

Clk	D	Q	Q'	
0	X	last Q	last Q'	no change
1	X	last Q	last Q'	no change
↑	0	0	1	Q follows D
↑	1	1	0	Q follows D

Characteristic table of DFF

D* Flip-Flop *Characteristic table

D	*Q*(*t* + 1)	
0	0	Reset
1	1	Set

- **Characteristic equation:** derived from the characteristic table
  - e.g. Characteristic equation of DFF: $Q_{t+1} = D$

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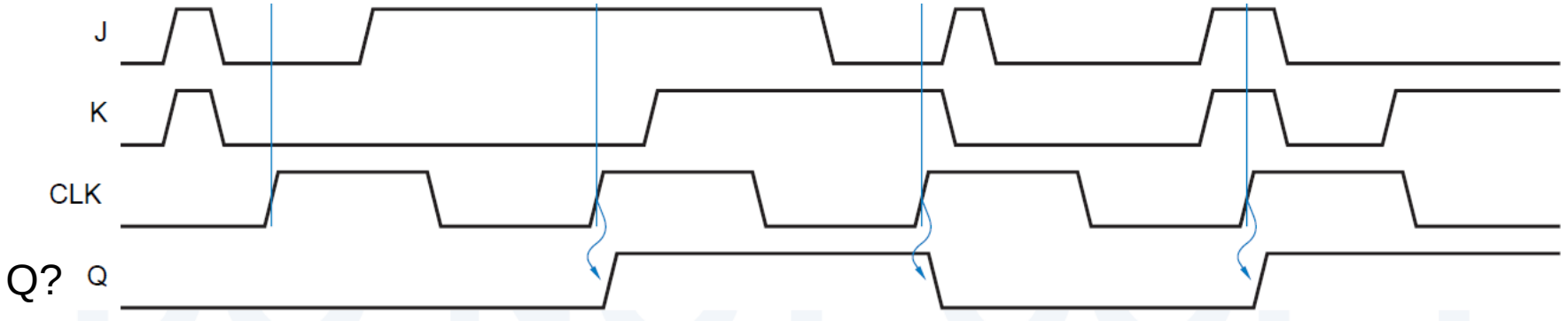
J-K Flip-Flop

- e.g. Positive edge-triggered JKFF
  - **At rising edge** of clock
    - J = K = 0, Q is unchanged
    - J = K = 1, Q toggles
    - J = 1, K = 0, Q is set to 1
    - J = 0, K = 1, Q is reset to 0
  - At level of clock
    - Q is unchanged

Function Table

Clk	J	K	Q	Q’
0	x	x	last Q	last Q’
1	x	x	last Q	last Q’
↑	0	0	last Q	last Q’
↑	0	1	0	1
↑	1	0	1	0
↑	1	1	last Q’	last Q



- Characteristic equation of JKFF?

J-K Flip-Flop

Characteristic table

JK Flip-Flop

J	K	Q(t + 1)	
0	0	$Q(t)$	No change
0	1	0	Reset
1	0	1	Set
1	1	$Q'(t)$	Complement

1. Derive the Truth table

J	K	Q(t)	Q(t+1)
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	0

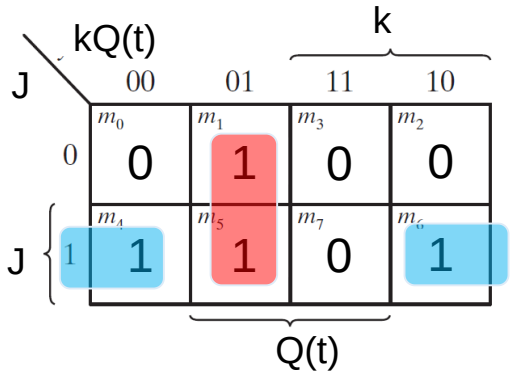
Characteristic equation of JKFF

Q(t+1) = JQ(t)' + K'Q(t)

- **2a. Algebraically**:

Q(t+1)
= J'K'Q(t) + J'K•0 + JK'•1 + JKQ(t)'
= J'K'Q(t) + JK' + JKQ(t)'
= J'K'Q(t) + JK'Q(t) + JK'Q(t)' + JKQ(t)'
= JQ(t)' + K'Q(t)

- **2b. K-Map**



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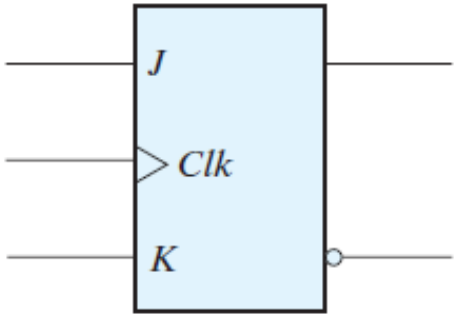
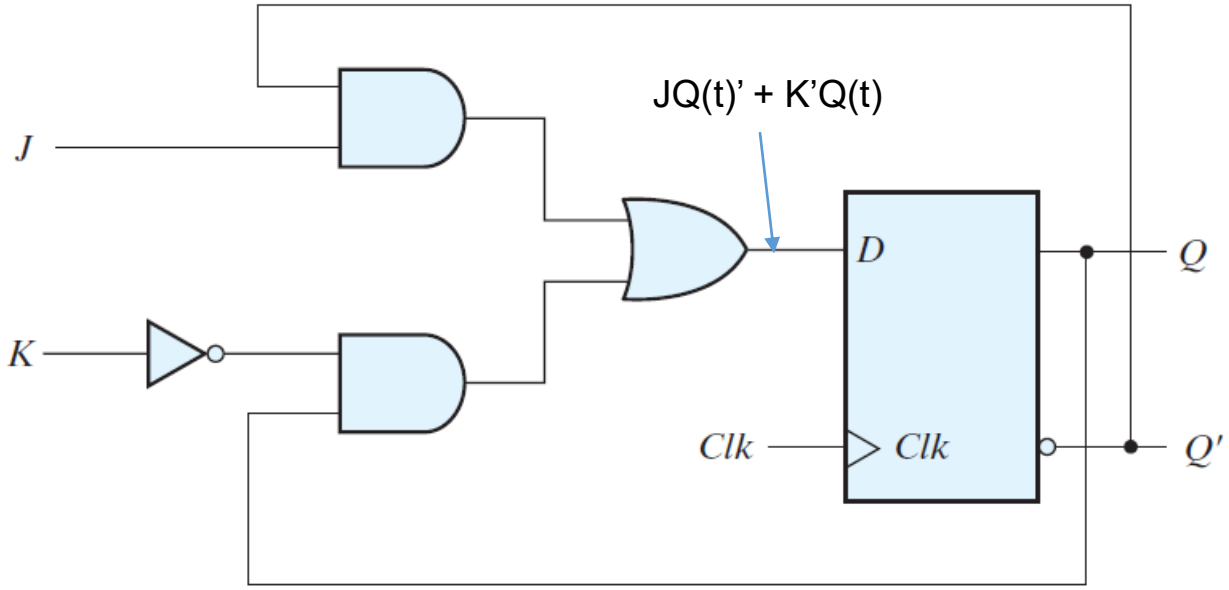
J-K Flip-Flop

- Graphic symbol

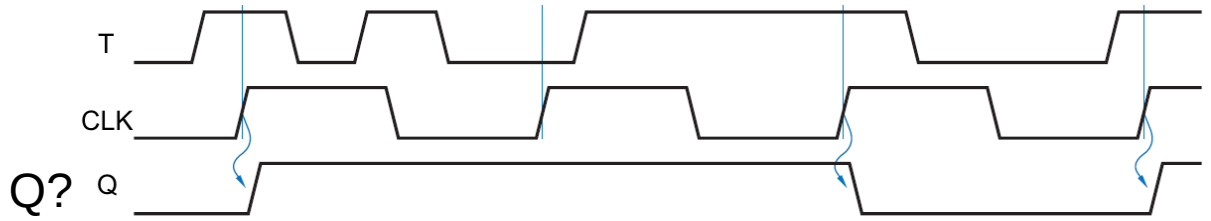


- can be implemented using DFF
  - Because in DFF, Q_{t+1} = D
  - Thus, according to JKFF's characteristic equation, Q(t+1) = JQ(t)' + K'Q(t) , we can derive D = JQ(t)' + K'Q(t)



T Flip-Flop

- T: Toggle
  - T = 0, a clock edge does not change the output.
  - T = 1, a clock edge complements the output.
  - useful for designing binary counters.



T* Flip-Flop *characteristic table

T	*Q*(*t* + 1)	
0	$Q(t)$	No change
1	$Q'(t)$	Complement

T	Q(t)	Q(t+1)
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

Characteristic equation of TFF

$$Q(t+1) = T'Q(t) + TQ(t)'$$
$$= T \oplus Q(t)$$

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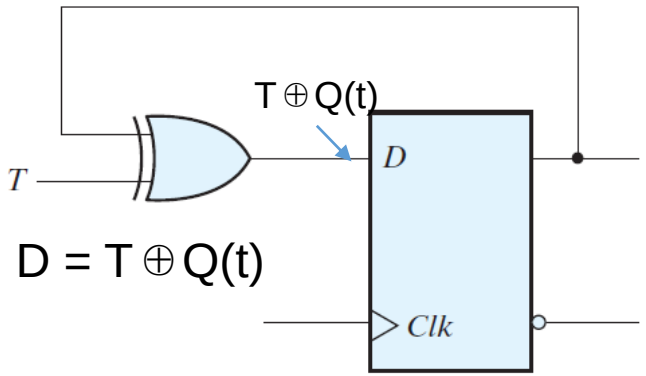
T Flip-Flop

- Graphic symbol
  - can be implemented using DFF or JKFF

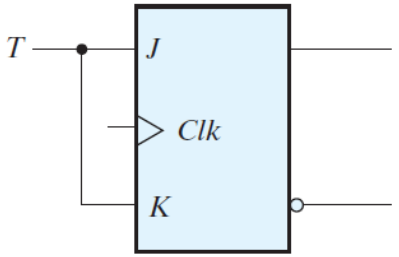
Characteristic equation of TFF

$$Q(t+1) = T'Q(t) + TQ(t)'$$
$$= T \oplus Q(t)$$



By considering D = T ⊕ Q(t)

From *D* flip-flop



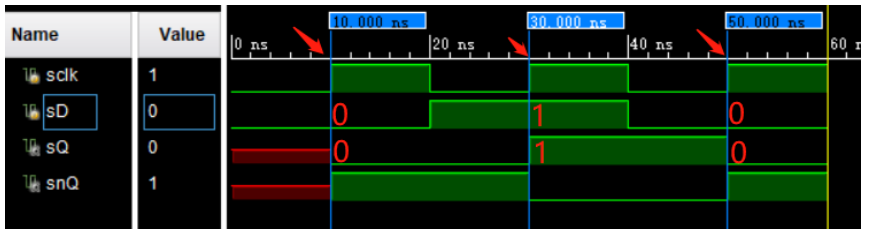
From *JK* flip-flop

Q(t+1) = JQ(t)' + K'Q(t)
By considering J = K = T

Summary

- Sequential circuit
- Latch: level sensitive
  - Analysis: function table, truth table, timing graph
  - SR latch, S'R' latch, D latch
- Flipflop: edge sensitive
  - Analysis: characteristic table(clock automatically incorporated), truth table, characteristic equation
  - DFF, JKFF, TFF
- Gate delay: Setup/hold time in FlipFlop
  - The delays exist, we should always be aware of that.
  - We could just draw realistic timing graph during exercise.

a DFF's timing graph



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