

[Courseware \(/courses/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/1T2014/courseware\)](/courses/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/1T2014/courseware)

[Course Info \(/courses/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/1T2014/info\)](/courses/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/1T2014/info)

[Discussion \(/courses/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/1T2014/discussion/forum\)](/courses/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/1T2014/discussion/forum)

[Progress \(/courses/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/1T2014/progress\)](/courses/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/1T2014/progress)

[Questions \(/courses/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/1T2014/a3da417940af4ec49a9c02b3eae3460b/\)](/courses/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/1T2014/a3da417940af4ec49a9c02b3eae3460b/)

[Syllabus \(/courses/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/1T2014/a827a8b3cc204927b6efaa49580170d1/\)](/courses/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/1T2014/a827a8b3cc204927b6efaa49580170d1/)

Figure 4.11 shows an 8-bit adder formed by cascading eight binary full adders. Similarly, we build a 32-bit adder by cascading 32 binary full adders together. The carry into the 32-bit adder is zero, and the carry out will be saved in the carry bit.

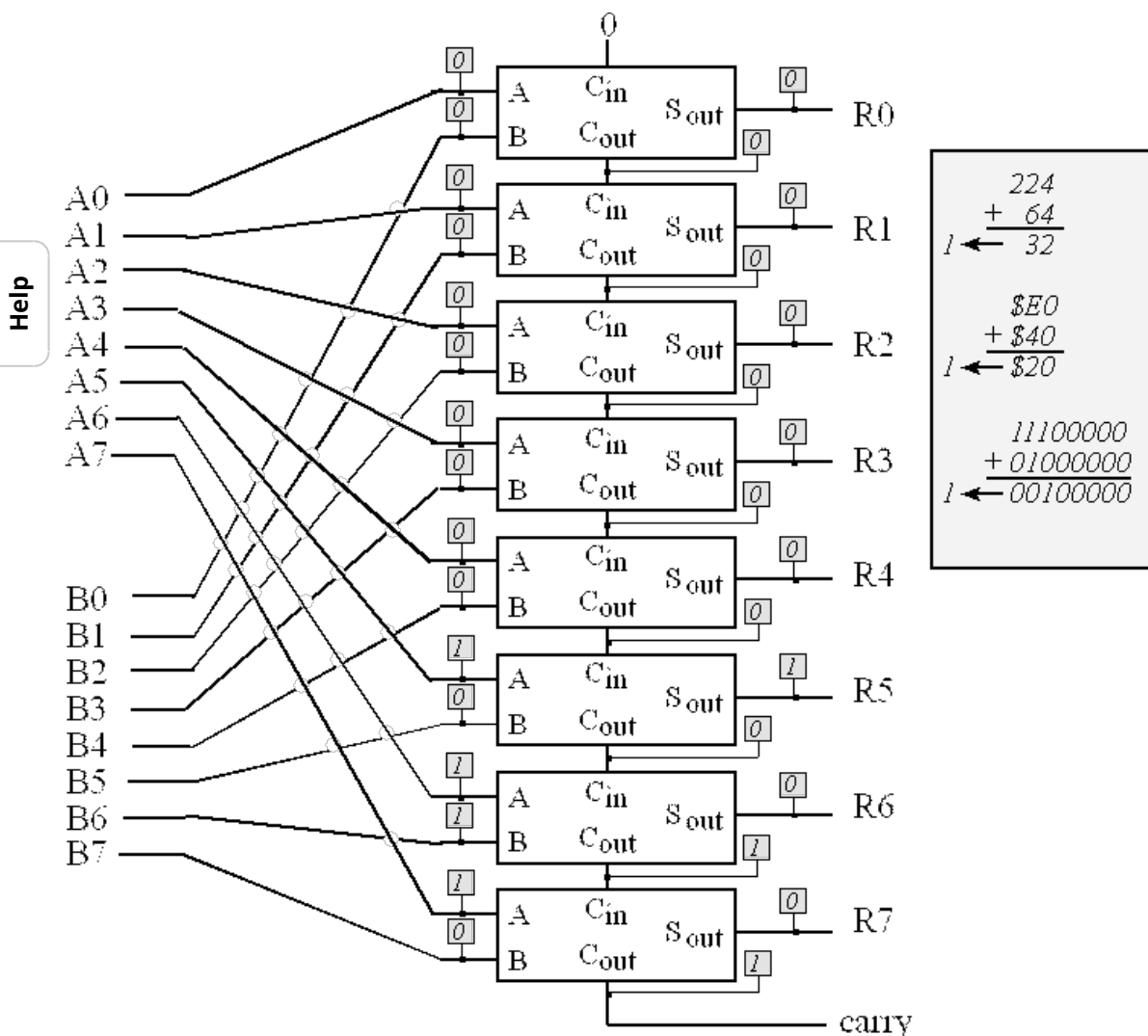


Figure 4.11. We make an 8-bit adder cascading eight binary full adders.

For an 8-bit unsigned number, there are only 256 possible values, which are 0 to 255. When we add two 8-bit numbers the sum can be any number from 0 to 510, which is a 9-bit number. The 9-bit result in Figure 4.11 exists as the 8 bits

We can think of 8-bit unsigned numbers as positions along a circle, like a clock. There is a discontinuity in the clock at the 0|255 interface; everywhere else adjacent numbers differ by ± 1 . If we add two unsigned numbers, we start at the position of the first number a move in a clockwise direction the number of steps equal to the second number. If $96+64$ is performed in 8-bit unsigned precision, the correct result of 160 is obtained. In this case, the carry bit will be 0 signifying the answer is correct. On the other hand, if $224+64$ is performed in 8-bit unsigned precision, the incorrect result of 32 is obtained. In this case, the carry bit will be 1, signifying the answer is wrong.

CHECKPOINT 4.9

If A has the value 100 (0x64) and B has the value 50 (0x32), what will be the value of the output (R7-R0) of the circuit in Figure 4.11? Also what will the carry signal be?

Hide Answer

$100+50=150$ with no overflow, so carry=0.

CHECKPOINT 4.10

If A has the value 255 (0xFF) and B has the value 2 (0x02), what will be the value of the output (R7-R0) of the circuit in Figure 4.11? Also what will the carry signal be?

Hide Answer

$255+2=257$, so there is overflow. The result will be 0x01 and the carry=1.

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