

Lecture 25 – Memory architecture 1

Dr. Aftab M. Hussain,
Assistant Professor, PATRIOT Lab, CVEST

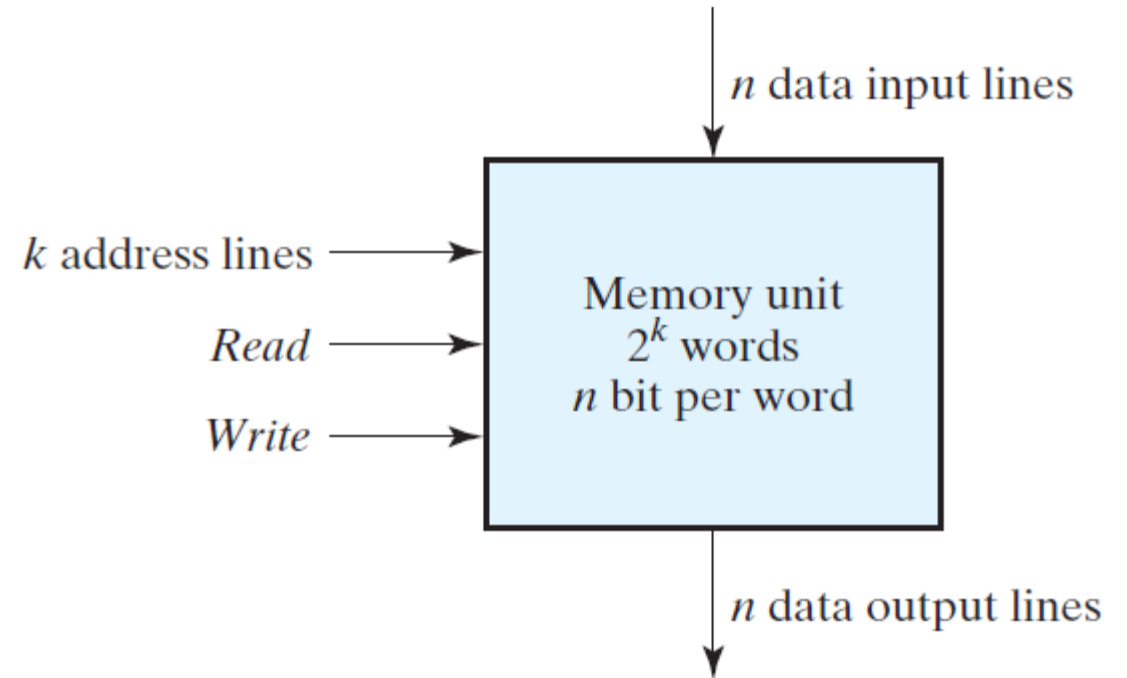
Chapter 7

Random Access Memory (RAM)

- A memory unit is a collection of storage cells, together with associated circuits needed to transfer information into and out of a device
- The architecture of memory is such that information can be selectively retrieved from any of its internal locations
- The time it takes to transfer information to or from any desired random location is always the same—hence the name *random-access memory*, abbreviated RAM
- In contrast, the time required to retrieve information that is stored on magnetic tape depends on the location of the data
- A memory unit stores binary information in groups of bits called *words*
- A word in memory is an entity of bits that move in and out of storage as a unit
- Most computer memories use words that are multiples of 8 bits in length
- The capacity of a memory unit is usually stated as the total number of bytes that the unit can store

Random Access Memory (RAM)

- Communication between memory and its environment is achieved through data input and output lines, address selection lines, and control lines that specify the direction of transfer
- The n data input lines provide the information to be stored in memory, and the n data output lines supply the information coming out of memory
- The k address lines specify the particular word chosen among the many available
- The two control inputs specify the direction of transfer desired: The *Write* input causes binary data to be transferred into the memory, and the *Read* input causes binary data to be transferred out of memory
- The address lines select one particular word



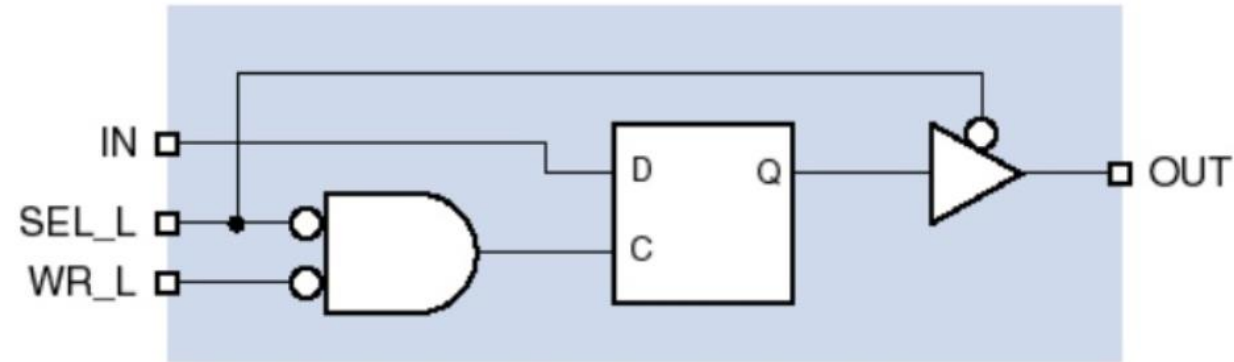
Random Access Memory (RAM)

- Consider, for example, a memory unit with a capacity of 1K words of 16 bits each
- Since $1K = 1,024 = 2^{10}$ and 16 bits constitute two bytes, we can say that the memory can accommodate $2,048 = 2Kb$
- The words are recognized by their decimal address from 0 to 1,023
- The equivalent binary address consists of 10 bits
- A word in memory is selected by its binary address
- When a word is read or written, the memory operates on all 16 bits as a single unit

Memory address		Memory content
Binary	Decimal	
0000000000	0	1011010101011101
0000000001	1	1010101110001001
0000000010	2	0000110101000110
	⋮	⋮
1111111101	1021	1001110100010100
1111111110	1022	0000110100011110
1111111111	1023	1101111000100101

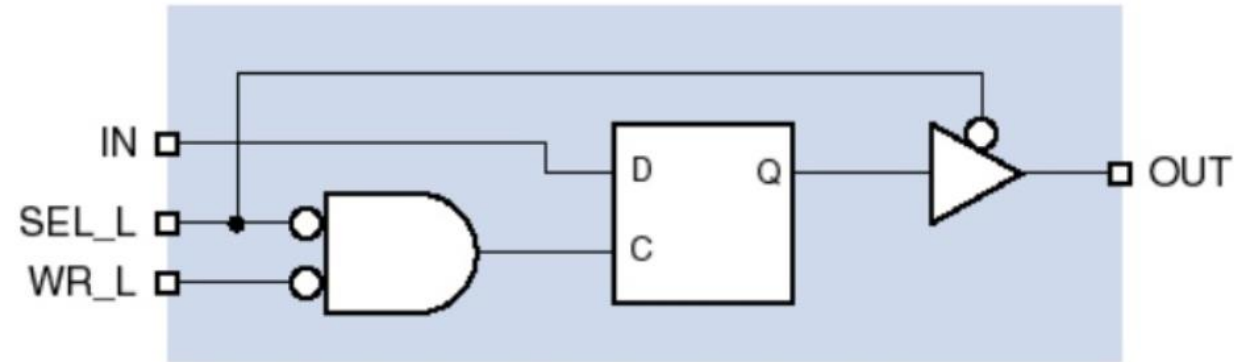
Random Access Memory (RAM) – internal structure

- The internal construction of a RAM of m words and n bits per word consists of $m * n$ binary storage cells and associated decoding circuits for selecting individual words
- The binary storage cell (SR latch) is the basic building block of a memory unit
- The storage part of the cell is modeled by an SR latch with associated gates to form a D latch
- *Note that this is not a D flip-flop*



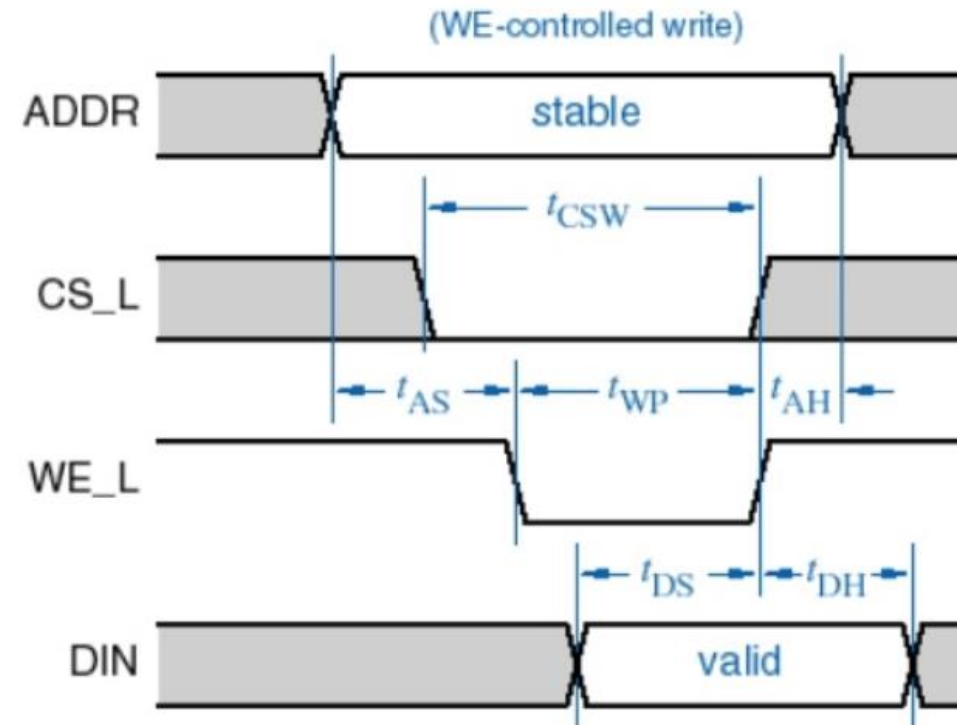
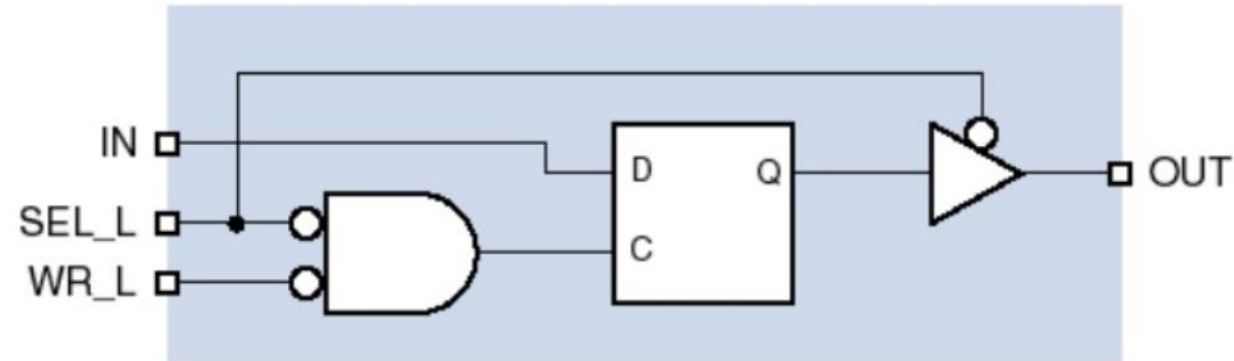
Write and Read operations

- The two operations that RAM can perform are the write and read operations
- The write signal specifies a transfer-in operation and the read signal specifies a transfer-out operation
- On accepting one of these control signals, the internal circuits inside the memory provide the desired operation



Write and Read operations

- The steps that must be taken for the purpose of transferring a new word to be stored into memory are as follows:
 1. Apply the binary address of the desired word to the address lines.
 2. Activate the *write* input.
 3. Apply the data bits that must be stored in memory to the data input lines.
- The memory unit will then take the bits from the input data lines and store them in the word specified by the address lines

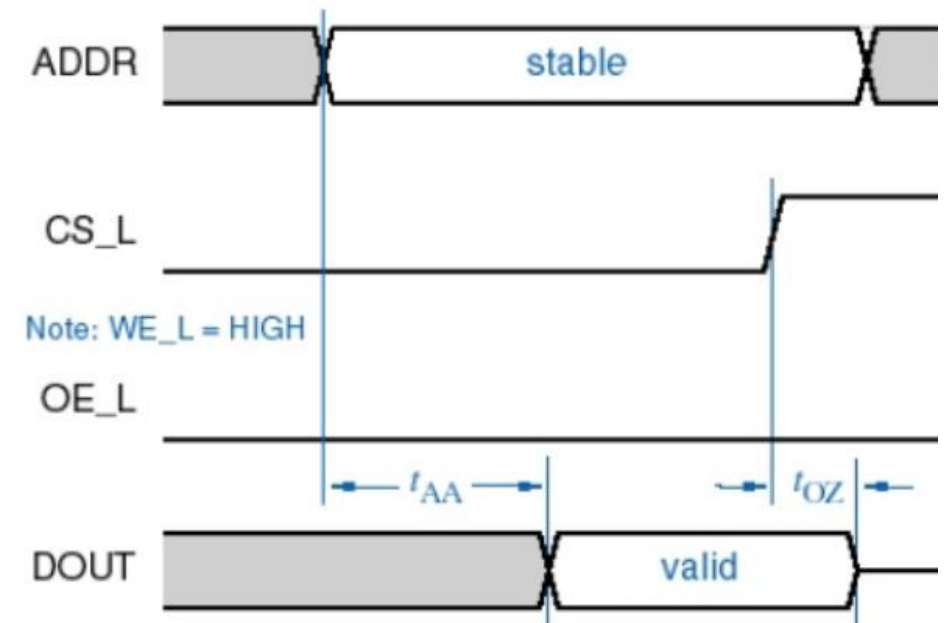
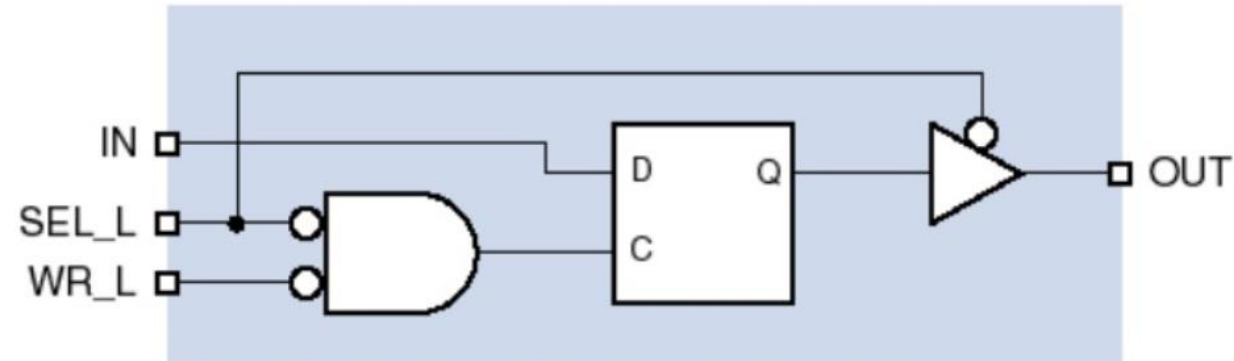


Write and Read operations

- The steps that must be taken for the purpose of transferring a stored word out of memory are as follows:

1. Apply the binary address of the desired word to the address lines

- The data shows up on the output lines after a certain delay from the application of the stable address (selecting the word)



Memory design

- The design of a memory will consist of a decoder circuit to select a particular “word line” based on the address
- The write enable, chip select and other inputs are common to all the latches
- The “bit line” determines what the bit at a particular position in the word will be

