

Table 6.3
Function Table for the Register of Fig. 6.7

Mode Control		Register Operation
s_1	s_0	
0	0	No change
0	1	Shift right
1	0	Shift left
1	1	Parallel load

When $s_1s_0 = 01$, terminal 1 of the multiplexer inputs has a path to the D inputs of the flip-flops. This causes a shift-right operation, with the serial input transferred into flip-flop A_3 . When $s_1s_0 = 10$, a shift-left operation results, with the other serial input going into flip-flop A_0 . Finally, when $s_1s_0 = 11$, the binary information on the parallel input lines is transferred into the register simultaneously during the next clock edge. Note that data enters *MSB_in* for a shift-right operation and enters *LSB_in* for a shift-left operation. *Clear_b* is an active-low signal that clears all of the flip-flops.

Shift registers are often used to interface digital systems situated remotely from each other. For example, suppose it is necessary to transmit an n -bit quantity between two points. If the distance is far, it will be expensive to use n lines to transmit the n bits in parallel. It is more economical to use a single line and transmit the information serially, one bit at a time. The transmitter accepts the n -bit data in parallel into a shift register and then transmits the data serially along the common line. The receiver accepts the data serially into a shift register. When all n bits are received, they can be taken from the outputs of the register in parallel. Thus, the transmitter performs a parallel-to-serial conversion of data and the receiver does a serial-to-parallel conversion.

6.3 RIPPLE COUNTERS

A register that goes through a prescribed sequence of states upon the application of input pulses is called a *counter*. The input pulses may be clock pulses, or they may originate from some external source and may occur at a fixed interval of time or at random. The sequence of states may follow the binary number sequence or any other sequence of states. A counter that follows the binary number sequence is called a *binary counter*. An n -bit binary counter consists of n flip-flops and can count in binary from 0 through $2^n - 1$.

Counters are available in two categories: ripple counters and synchronous counters. In a ripple counter, a flip-flop output transition serves as a source for triggering other flip-flops. In other words, the C input of some or all flip-flops are triggered, not by the common clock pulses, but rather by the transition that occurs in other flip-flop outputs. In a synchronous counter, the C inputs of all flip-flops receive the common clock. Synchronous counters are presented in the next two sections. Here, we present the binary and BCD ripple counters and explain their operation.

Binary Ripple Counter

A binary ripple counter consists of a series connection of complementing flip-flops, with the output of each flip-flop connected to the C input of the next higher order flip-flop. The flip-flop holding the least significant bit receives the incoming count pulses. A complementing flip-flop can be obtained from a JK flip-flop with the J and K inputs tied together or from a T flip-flop. A third possibility is to use a D flip-flop with the complement output connected to the D input. In this way, the D input is always the complement of the present state, and the next clock pulse will cause the flip-flop to complement. The logic diagram of two 4-bit binary ripple counters is shown in Fig. 6.8. The counter is constructed with complementing flip-flops of the T type in part (a) and D type in part (b). The output of each flip-flop is connected to the C input of the next flip-flop in sequence. The flip-flop holding the least significant bit receives the incoming count pulses. The T inputs of all the flip-flops in (a) are connected to a permanent logic 1, making each flip-flop complement if the signal in its C input goes through a negative transition. The bubble in front of the dynamic indicator symbol next to C indicates that the flip-flops respond to the negative-edge transition of the input. The negative transition occurs when the output of the previous flip-flop to which C is connected goes from 1 to 0.

To understand the operation of the four-bit binary ripple counter, refer to the first nine binary numbers listed in Table 6.4. The count starts with binary 0 and increments by 1 with each count pulse input. After the count of 15, the counter goes back to 0 to repeat the count. The least significant bit, A_0 , is complemented with each count pulse input. Every time that A_0 goes from 1 to 0, it complements A_1 . Every time that A_1 goes from 1 to 0, it complements A_2 . Every time that A_2 goes from 1 to 0, it complements A_3 , and so on for any other higher order bits of a ripple counter. For example, consider the transition from count 0011 to 0100. A_0 is complemented with the count pulse. Since A_0 goes from 1 to 0, it triggers A_1 and complements it. As a result, A_1 goes from 1 to 0, which in turn complements A_2 , changing it from 0 to 1. A_2 does not trigger A_3 , because A_2 produces a positive transition and the flip-flop responds only to negative transitions. Thus, the count from 0011 to 0100 is achieved by changing the bits one at a time, so the

Table 6.4
Binary Count Sequence

A_3	A_2	A_1	A_0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0

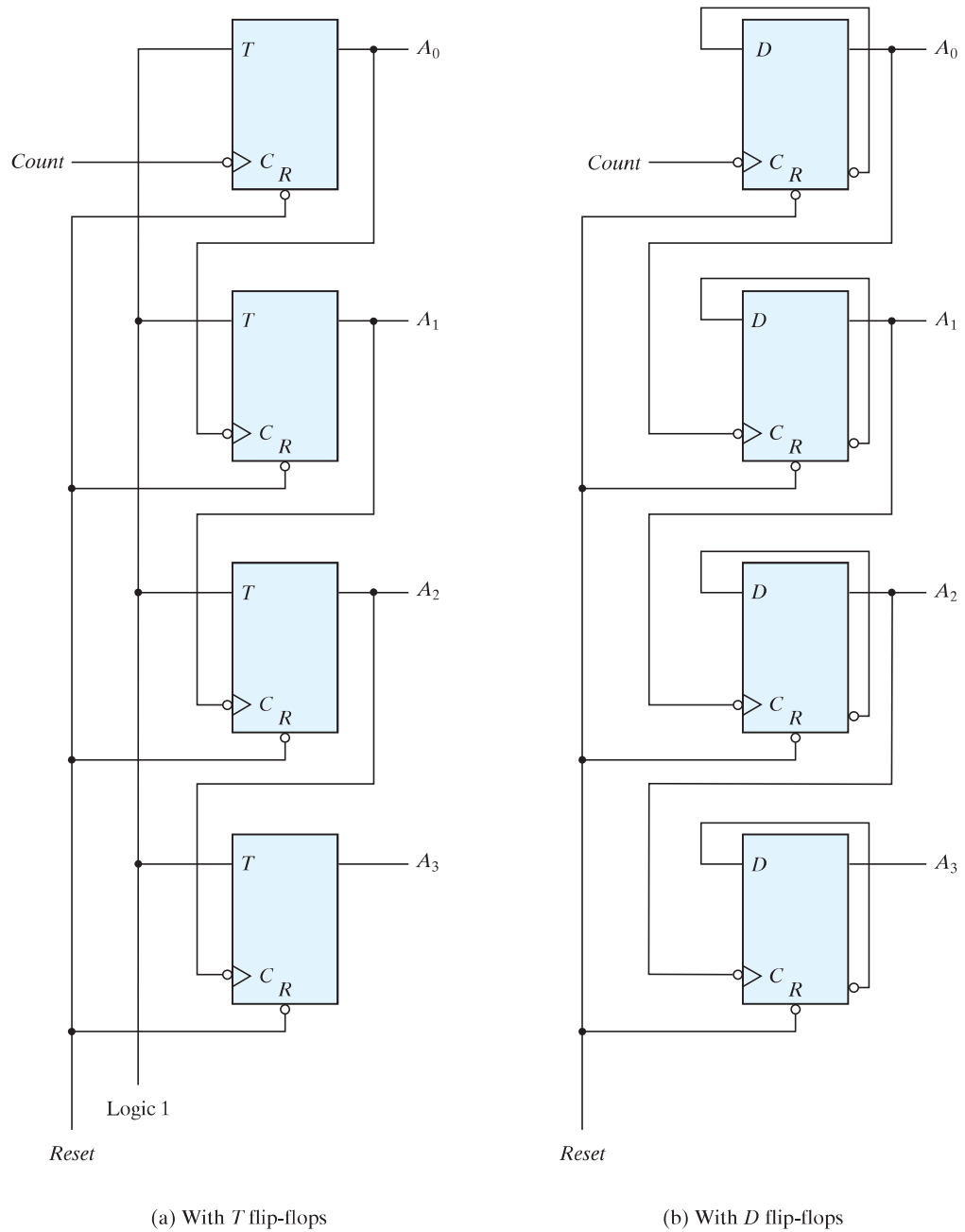


FIGURE 6.8
Four-bit binary ripple counter

count goes from 0011 to 0010, then to 0000, and finally to 0100. The flip-flops change one at a time in succession, and the signal propagates through the counter in a ripple fashion from one stage to the next.

A binary counter with a reverse count is called a *binary countdown counter*. In a countdown counter, the binary count is decremented by 1 with every input count pulse. The count of a four-bit countdown counter starts from binary 15 and continues to binary counts 14, 13, 12, . . . , 0 and then back to 15. A list of the count sequence of a binary countdown counter shows that the least significant bit is complemented with every count pulse. Any other bit in the sequence is complemented if its previous least significant bit goes from 0 to 1. Therefore, the diagram of a binary countdown counter looks the same as the binary ripple counter in Fig. 6.8, provided that all flip-flops trigger on the positive edge of the clock. (The bubble in the C inputs must be absent.) If negative-edge-triggered flip-flops are used, then the C input of each flip-flop must be connected to the complemented output of the previous flip-flop. Then, when the true output goes from 0 to 1, the complement will go from 1 to 0 and complement the next flip-flop as required.

BCD Ripple Counter

A decimal counter follows a sequence of 10 states and returns to 0 after the count of 9. Such a counter must have at least four flip-flops to represent each decimal digit, since a decimal digit is represented by a binary code with at least four bits. The sequence of states in a decimal counter is dictated by the binary code used to represent a decimal digit. If BCD is used, the sequence of states is as shown in the state diagram of Fig. 6.9. A decimal counter is similar to a binary counter, except that the state after 1001 (the code for decimal digit 9) is 0000 (the code for decimal digit 0).

The logic diagram of a BCD ripple counter using JK flip-flops is shown in Fig. 6.10. The four outputs are designated by the letter symbol Q , with a numeric subscript equal to the binary weight of the corresponding bit in the BCD code. Note that the output of Q_1 is applied to the C inputs of both Q_2 and Q_8 and the output of Q_2 is applied to the C input of Q_4 . The J and K inputs are connected either to a permanent 1 signal or to outputs of other flip-flops.

A ripple counter is an asynchronous sequential circuit. Signals that affect the flip-flop transition depend on the way they change from 1 to 0. The operation of the counter can

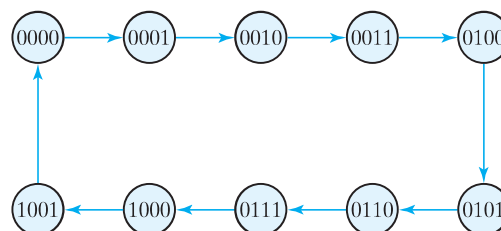


FIGURE 6.9
State diagram of a decimal BCD counter

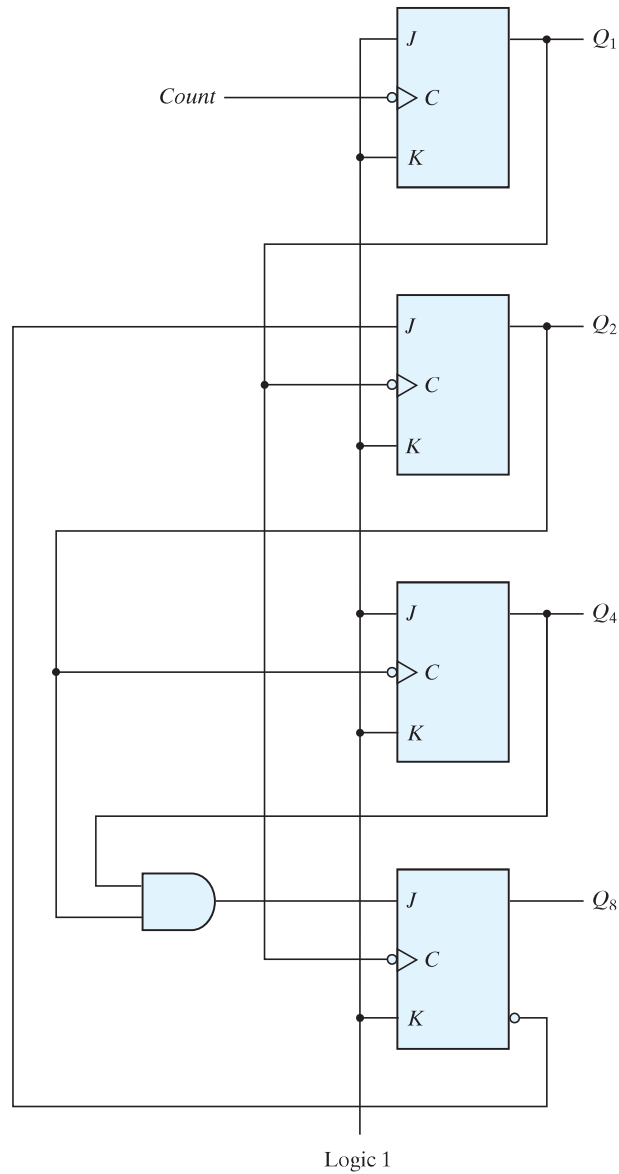


FIGURE 6.10
BCD ripple counter

be explained by a list of conditions for flip-flop transitions. These conditions are derived from the logic diagram and from knowledge of how a JK flip-flop operates. Remember that when the C input goes from 1 to 0, the flip-flop is set if $J = 1$, is cleared if $K = 1$, is complemented if $J = K = 1$, and is left unchanged if $J = K = 0$.

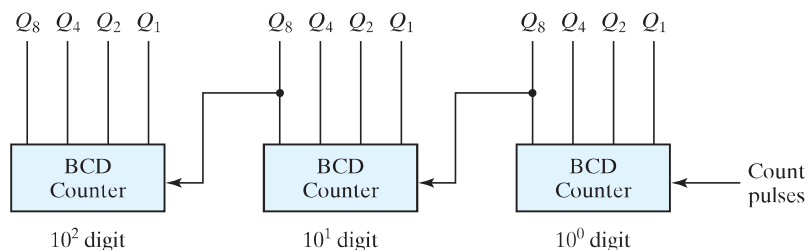


FIGURE 6.11
Block diagram of a three-decade decimal BCD counter

To verify that these conditions result in the sequence required by a BCD ripple counter, it is necessary to verify that the flip-flop transitions indeed follow a sequence of states as specified by the state diagram of Fig. 6.9. Q_1 changes state after each clock pulse. Q_2 complements every time Q_1 goes from 1 to 0, as long as $Q_8 = 0$. When Q_8 becomes 1, Q_2 remains at 0. Q_4 complements every time Q_2 goes from 1 to 0. Q_8 remains at 0 as long as Q_2 or Q_4 is 0. When both Q_2 and Q_4 become 1, Q_8 complements when Q_1 goes from 1 to 0. Q_8 is cleared on the next transition of Q_1 .

The BCD counter of Fig. 6.10 is a *decade* counter, since it counts from 0 to 9. To count in decimal from 0 to 99, we need a two-decade counter. To count from 0 to 999, we need a three-decade counter. Multiple decade counters can be constructed by connecting BCD counters in cascade, one for each decade. A three-decade counter is shown in Fig. 6.11. The inputs to the second and third decades come from Q_8 of the previous decade. When Q_8 in one decade goes from 1 to 0, it triggers the count for the next higher order decade while its own decade goes from 9 to 0.

6.4 SYNCHRONOUS COUNTERS

Synchronous counters are different from ripple counters in that clock pulses are applied to the inputs of all flip-flops. A common clock triggers all flip-flops simultaneously, rather than one at a time in succession as in a ripple counter. The decision whether a flip-flop is to be complemented is determined from the values of the data inputs, such as T or J and K at the time of the clock edge. If $T = 0$ or $J = K = 0$, the flip-flop does not change state. If $T = 1$ or $J = K = 1$, the flip-flop complements.

The design procedure for synchronous counters was presented in Section 5.8, and the design of a three-bit binary counter was carried out in conjunction with Fig. 5.31. In this section, we present some typical synchronous counters and explain their operation.

Binary Counter

The design of a synchronous binary counter is so simple that there is no need to go through a sequential logic design process. In a synchronous binary counter, the flip-flop in the least significant position is complemented with every pulse. A *flip-flop in any other*