

lab 1

Build an 8-bit ALU with Logisim

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1 Objective

The objective of the lab is to build an ALU from basic logic elements, using the *logisim* tool.

This lab is split in 3 parts:

- build a very basic 1-bit full adder, using only logic gates;
- from this adder, construct a 8-bit basic adder;
- build an ALU that can add, subtract and perform some basic logical operations, and outputs a status of the operation.

A sequential 8x8 hardware multiplier is eventually implemented using the adder and shift registers.

2 Logisim Evolution

2.1 Installation of Logisim Evolution

The original version of Logisim is no longer maintained, and several *forks* have appeared. We will use *Logisim Evolution*¹. A pre-compiled version for GNU/Linux, MacOS or Windows can be found on <https://github.com/logisim-evolution/logisim-evolution/releases>.

2.2 Basic operation

Logisim is a logic system simulator. The basic help for the different elements is well documented in Help -> User's guide.

To launch a simulation, you must first click on 'simulate', see Figure 1.

¹<https://github.com/logisim-evolution/logisim-evolution>

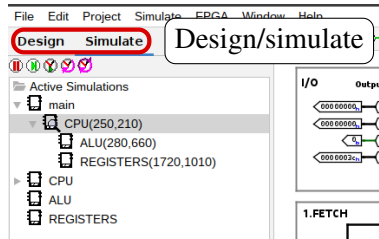


Figure 1: Choice between design and simulation

3 Adder

3.1 1-bit adder

A full adder has in addition to its 2 inputs a and b , the management of the carry (both input and output), as in Fig. 2.

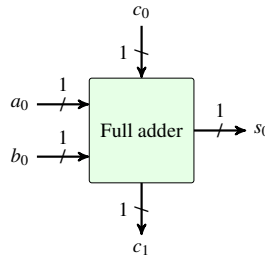
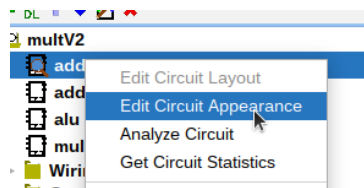


Figure 2: 1-bit full adder. c_i is the carry

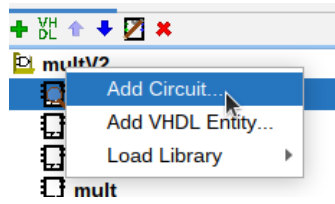
- ▷ give the truth table of the 1-bit full adder;
- ▷ give the 2 equations of the outputs s_0 and c_1 ;

With logisim, draw the schematic of these 2 signals. You may use the operators in the *gates* section. The input/outputs should be defined in wiring->Pin.

You can define the external appearance of your model:



Then, you can rename your current circuit, and add another one:



- ▷ test your solution with different inputs. On the *main* circuit, connect the inputs to wiring->Constant values, and outputs to Wiring->Probe.

Note that your test should consider the 1-bit adder as a black box!

3.2 8-bit Ripple-Carry adder

Using this 1-bit adder component, we now create a 8-bit adder component, as in Fig. 3: the output carry c_{i+1} of the 1-bit adder A_i is connected to the input carry of A_{i+1} .

We will have to use a 8-bits input pin (Wiring->Pin) and a splitter to change a 8-bit bus into 8 1-bits wires (Wiring->Splitter).

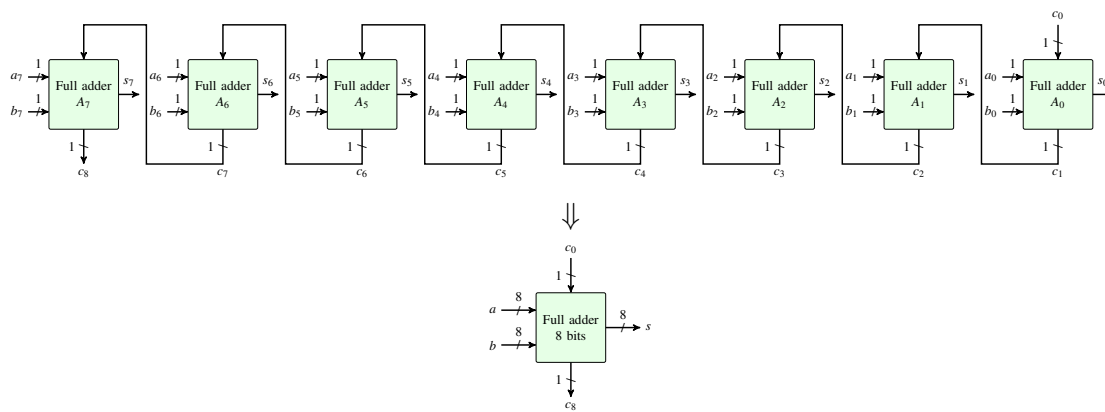
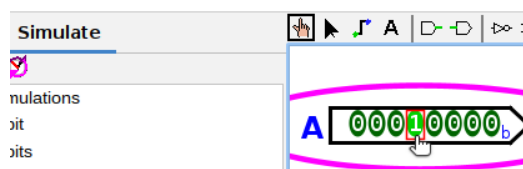


Figure 3: 8-bit full adder. c_i is the carry

Note: instead of long wires, you can use a *tunnel* (Wiring->Tunnel) to make a wire connection between 2 tunnels with the same name.

- ▷ implement the 8-bits adder;
- ▷ You can test your application, in *simulate* mode, using the *hand* icon. You just need to click on the ports:



4 ALU

Most of the ALU is the adder, and we add some logic functions (AND, OR, ...). All these functions are performed simultaneously, and a multiplexer before the output selects the appropriate operation.

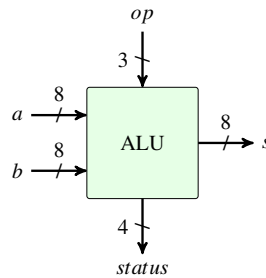


Figure 4: 8-bit ALU.

op is a 3-bits input signal that selects the operation:

0. addition
1. subtraction
2. and
3. or
4. not: $\sim a$
5. xor
6. shift left²: $a \ll b$
7. shift right: $a \gg b$

status is a 4-bits output signal that gives the common status of an ALU:

0. Negative
1. Zero
2. oVerflow: the result is not correct with signed numbers, *i.e.* the sum of 2 positive numbers is a negative number.
3. Carry: the result is not correct with unsigned numbers: this is the 9th bit of an operation.

Notes:

- the subtraction may use the adder and use the properties of the two's complement : $-b = \sim b + 1$.
- you can use Arithmetic->Shifter and multiplexers in Plexers. For the Shifter, note that the shift value should be a 3-bits bus only (that allows a 2³-bits shift).
- ▷ Implement the different operations, with the output status.

²Most modern processor implements a multi-bit shift, but the Microchip AVR for instance does not!

4.1 Basic extension: Multiplier

The *arithmetic shift right* perform a shift with a sign extension: If the value is negative, then the bits added at left are 1 instead of 0.

▷ Add Arithmetic shift right operation (instead of not)

5 One step further... a multiplier!

The multiplier works in the same way as in the decimal way learnt at school, with the calculation of partial products:

456	1001	(B)
X 123	X 0101	(A)
-----	-----	
1368	1001	
912.	0000.	
456..	1001..	
-----	0000...	
56088	-----	
	0101101	

We implement here an hardware multiplier (Fig. 5) as a sequential operator which adds either B or 0 to the product (a partial product) and performs shifts at each step. If A and B require n bits, then the product is a $2n$ bits value.

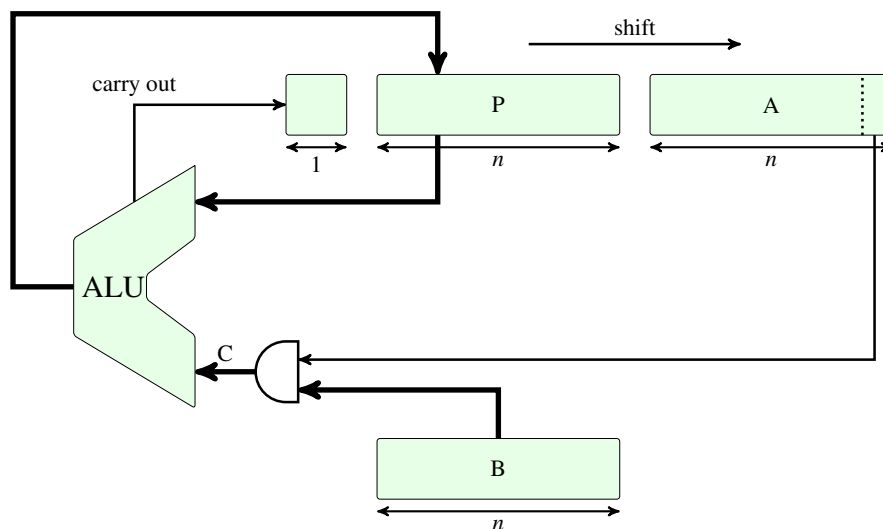


Figure 5: Multiplier

- P is set initially to 0

- for each step (n steps):
 - if the lsb of A is 1, then B is added to P. The sum is placed back in P.
 - P and A are shifted right, with the carry-out of the sum being moved into the MSB of P, the LSB of P moved to the MSB of A, and the LSB of A shifted out.

After n steps, the products appears in register P and A, with A holding the low order bits.

The circuit is sequential and needs to perform shifts and adds one after the other. We can use for the registers A, P, B and the carry-out a shift register as defined in Fig. 7:

- If `load` is set when there is a rising edge on `clk`, then S is copied into P
- If `shift` is set when there is a rising edge on `clk`, then the content of P is shifted: new input bit on the left blue wire (MSB), output bit on the red wire at right (LSB)
- At each time, the value of the register can be read (signal P).
- The value of the register can be updated during simulation using the 'hand' tool and a click on a value.

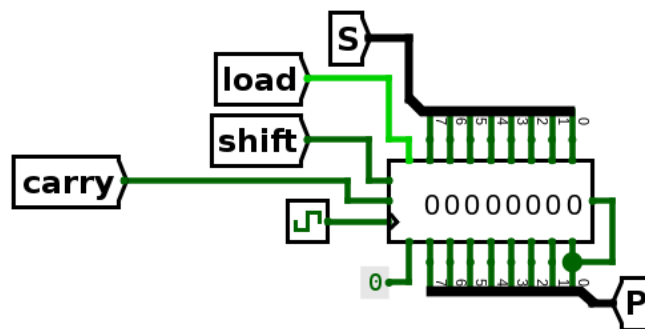


Figure 6: Shift register

To generate the clocks `load` and `shift`, we use a simple frequency divider with a flip-flop:

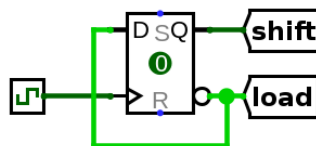


Figure 7: clocks `shift` and `load` generation using a flip-flop