## Arithmetic and Memory

#### Dov Kruger

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Rutgers University

October 20, 2025







### How do Computers do Arithmetic?

- This module describes how computers crunch numbers
- By the end you will be able to
  - Build a ripple carry adder
  - Calculate gate delays to know how long circuit takes
  - Design a faster carry look-ahead adder
  - Understand how multiplication works on a computer
  - Identify optimizations for multiplication and division (shift)
  - Learn what a flip-flop is and how it stores bits
  - Learn how to address memory





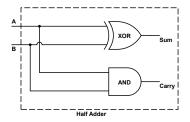
# Terminology

- ALU: Arithmetic Logic Unit
- LSB: Least Significant Bit
- MSB: Most Significant Bit
- Overflow: When the result of an operation is too large to be represented in the available bits



#### Half Adder

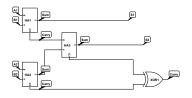
- Half Adder: Adds two bits and outputs the sum and carry
- Inputs: A, B
- Outputs: Sum, Carry





#### Full Adder

- Full Adder: Adds two bits and outputs the sum and carry
- Inputs: A, B, Carry
- Outputs: Sum, Carry
- Count the gate delays: 2
- 74LS gate delays typically 10ns
- modern gates in a CPU 10-20ps?





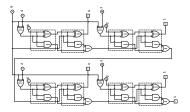
## Ripple Carry Adder

• Ripple Carry Adder: Adds two numbers using full adders

Inputs: A[3:0], B[3:0]

• Outputs: Sum[3:0], Carry

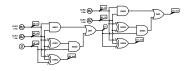
Count the gate delays: 4





## Carry Look-Ahead Adder

- Carry Look-Ahead Adder: Adds 4 bits and calculates the carry
- Inputs: A[3:0], B[3:0], Carry
- Outputs: Sum[3:0], Carry
- Count the gate delays: 2





#### When does Addition Overflow?

When the result is too large to be represented in the available bits Unsigned

•

- Example: 1111 + 0001 = 0000 (overflow)
- $\bullet$  Example: 0111 + 0001 = 1000 (no overflow)

### Signed

•

- $\bullet$  Example: 0111 + 0001 = 1000 (-8, overflow)
- $\bullet$  Example: 0011 + 0011 = 0110 (6, no overflow)





## Multiplication

- Multiplication is repeated addition and shifting
- Long Multiplication example

64

986

\* 157

6902

49300

986000

• Then add the results



### Multiplication in Binary

Notice: multiplying two n-bit numbers produces a 2n-bit number!

```
01000001 (65)

x 00110001 (49)

01000001 (This is 65 shifted by 0)

010000010000 (This is 65 shifted by 4)

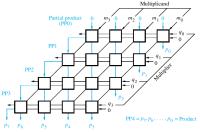
0100000100000 (This is 65 shifted by 5)

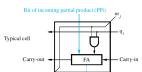
000011001110001
```



# Multiplication Implemented as a loop

- Using a clock, early computers would repeatedly add and shift
- for n-bit multiplication, takes n clock cycles
- For CPUs without a multiply, it's a program
- ullet Doing it in hardware in a single operation requires  $n^2$  additions
- Faster than doing it in a loop, but still much slower than addition







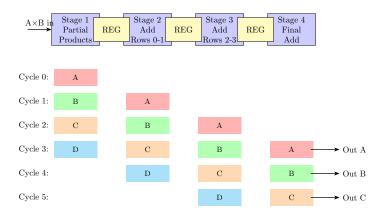
# **Pipelining**

- Since multiplication is much slower than addition, can we go faster?
- For a single multiplication, not this way
- But if we have many numbers, we can make the multiplier even slower, but pipeline the circuit
- Example: AMD 7700X CPU can
  - latency: It takes 4 clock cycles to get the answer
  - multiply 1 number every clock
  - Two multiplier units, so it can do 2 multiplies every clock





## Pipelining Multiplication



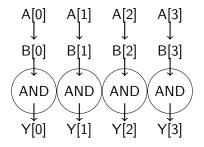


### 4-bit Example ALU Operations

- All operations shown are typical of computer ALUs
- Each operation completes in a single clock cycle
- 4-bit examples generalize to 8, 16, 32, 64+ bits
- Operations include: logic, shifts, rotates, bit masking



#### **ALU: Bitwise AND**

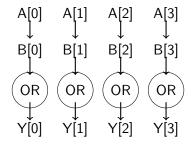


Example: 1010 AND 1100 = 1000





#### ALU: Bitwise OR

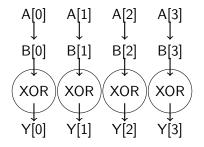


Example:  $1010 \, \text{OR} \, 1100 = 1110$ 





#### ALU: Bitwise XOR

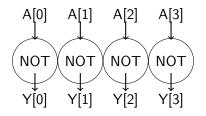


Example: 1010 XOR 1100 = 0110





#### **ALU: Bitwise NOT**

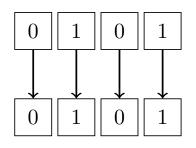


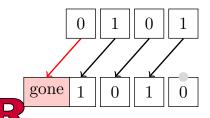
Example: NOT 1010 = 0101



### ALU: Logical Shift Left

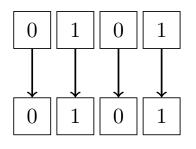
Shifting left by n bits is equivalent to multiplying by  $2^n$ 

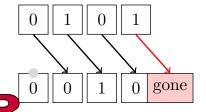




## ALU: Logical Shift Right

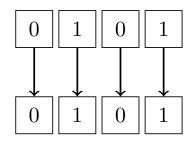
Shifting right by n bits is equivalent to dividing by  $2^n$ 

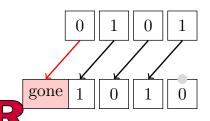




#### ALU: Arithmetic Shift Left

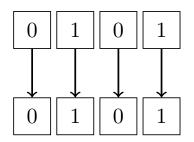
Shifting left by  $\boldsymbol{n}$  bits is equivalent to multiplying by  $2^{\boldsymbol{n}}$ 



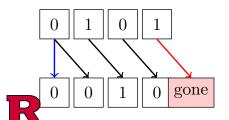


### ALU: Arithmetic Shift Right

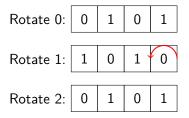
Shifting right by n bits is equivalent to dividing by  $2^n$  Sign bit is



preserved (sign extension).



#### ALU: Rotate Left



MSB wraps around to LSB. No bits lost.

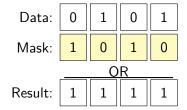


# ALU: Rotate Right



### Bit Masking: Set Bits with OR

Set specific bits to 1 using OR with a mask.

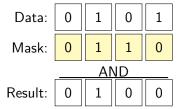


Mask 1 bits force to 1; 0 bits pass through unchanged.



### Bit Masking: Clear Bits with AND

Clear specific bits to 0 using AND with inverted mask.

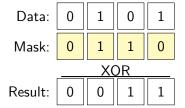


Mask 0 bits force output to 0; 1 bits pass through.



### Bit Masking: Toggle Bits with XOR

Toggle specific bits using XOR with mask.



Mask 1 bits flip the corresponding data bit; 0 bits leave unchanged.



### Bit Masking: Testing bits

To test if a bit is set, AND with 1 in that position



### Bit Masking: Testing multiple Bits

To test if one of n bits are set, AND with 1 in those positions Example: Test if any of the bits marked x are set

10001xxxx010100010 000001111000000000

First AND. All the rest of the bits turn to 0 if the number is not zero, then at least one of the bits is set



## ALU Status Flags

- **Z** (**Zero**): Set if result = 0 • Example: 0101 XOR 0101 = 0000  $\Rightarrow$  Z=1
- N (Negative): Set if MSB = 1 (signed interpretation)
  - Example:  $1010 \Rightarrow N=1 (= -6 \text{ in 4-bit signed})$
- V (Overflow): Set if signed operation overflows
  - Example: 0111 + 0001 =  $1000 \Rightarrow V=1 (7+1=-8 \text{ wrong!})$
- C (Carry): Set if unsigned operation carries out
  - ullet Example: 1111 + 0001 = 0000 with carry  $\Rightarrow$  C=1





#### How Does the ALU Work?

- Each circuit is a simple function of the inputs
- Combining them is a multiplexer
- We have to ignore all functions that aren't selected
- Two ways to do this
  - AND output with an enable signal for each function
  - Use a tri-state buffer to disable every function except the selected one



# Simple Example: ALU Combining Two functions

#### Very simple ALU:

- OP = 0, A AND B
- OP = 1, A OR B



# Simple ALU Using Tri-State Buffers



## Latches, Flipflops and Registers

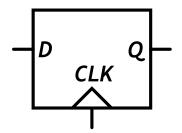
- Latches are level-triggered memory elements
- Flipflops are edge-triggered memory elements
- A D-type flipflop is the fundamental building block of memory
- Registers are collections of flipflops
- Registers are used to store data
- Registers are used to store instructions
- Registers are used to store addresses





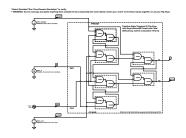
# D Type Flipflop

- D Type Flipflop: Stores a bit
- Inputs: D, Clock
- Outputs: Q
- Every time the clock ticks, data is stored





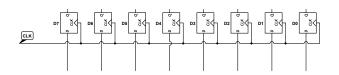
## D Type Flipflop Implementation





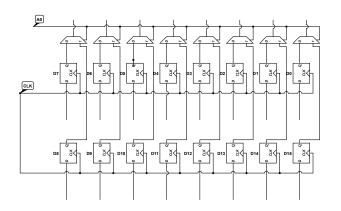
## Building a Register

- Fastest computer memory is an array of flipflops
- Here is an 8-bit register



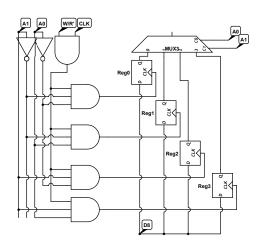


# Simplified Addressing Read Example: 1 bit





# Simplified Addressing Write: 1 bit





## Simulating Registers in Verilog

- First approach is a case statement
- However, this will get unwieldy many registers

```
module register(
   input [1:0] addr,
   input [7:0] data,
   input write,
   output [7:0] out
);
```



# Simulating Registers in Verilog

```
reg [7:0] a, b, c, d
always @(posedge clk) begin
    if (write) begin
        case (addr)
            2'b00: a \le data;
             2'b01: b \le data:
             2'b10: c \le data:
            2'b11: d \le data:
        endcase
    end
    case (address)
        2'b00: out = a:
        2'b01: out = b:
        2'b10: out = c:
        2'b11: out = d:
    endcase
```



end

□ ▶ ◆□ ▶ ◆ ■ ▶ ◆ ■ ▶ ■ ♥ Q ○ 41/17

# Arrays in Verilog

• Arrays are ordered lists of variables

```
integer x; // one 32-bit integer integer y[10]; // 10 integers, from y[0] to y[9 integer z[3:0]; // 4 integers, from z[0] to z[3 reg [7:0] r[3:0]; // 4 8-bit registers, r[0] to
```



# Register File using Arrays

```
module register_file(
    input [1:0] addr,
    input [7:0] data,
    input write,
    input clk,
    output [7:0] out
    reg [7:0] registers [3:0];
    always @(posedge clk) begin
        if (write) begin
             registers [addr] <= data;
        end
        out <= registers[addr];
    end
endmodule
```