

EEM16/CSM51A (Fall 2017)

Logic Design of Digital Systems

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Problem set 1
assigned Monday Oct. 9, 2017
due 4pm Monday Oct. 16, 2017
Show all work.

Instructions

This homework is to be done individually. You may consult with others to share thoughts and ideas, but all of your submitted work must be yours alone. Be sure to indicate with whom you've collaborated and in what manner.

You may use any tools or refer to published papers, books, or course notes. You're allowed to make use of online tools such as Logisim, WolframAlpha, etc., provided you properly cite them in the space below.

You must submit all pages in this file based on the procedure below. Because of the grading methodology, you may find it easier to print the document and write out your solutions in the space provided in this problem set. You may alternately opt to digitally enter your solutions into the form entries then download or print the filled PDF.

Answers written on sheets other than the provided space will not be looked at or graded. Please write clearly and neatly - if we cannot easily decipher what you have written, you will get zero credit.

Submission procedure

You need to submit your solution online at Gradescope:

<https://gradescope.com/>

Please see the following guide from Gradescope for submitting homework. You will need to upload a PDF and mark where each question is answered.

http://gradescope-static-assets.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/help/submitting_hw_guide.pdf

Collaborators

Identify with whom you've collaborated and in what manner, if any.

Online resources

Identify which online tools you've used, if any.

1 The genetic code (Number systems)

The blueprints for life are stored in DNA molecules, which are made up of strings of monomer building blocks. There are 4 distinct monomers, known as nucleotides: adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), and thymine (T). DNA is used to encode peptides and proteins, which are made up of strings of amino acid monomers. There are 20 distinct amino acids coded for by DNA. We can consider both DNA and protein as discrete (why?) signals.

1.1 What if engineers wrote bio textbooks?

What is the minimum number of bits necessary to uniquely label ...

1.1(a). ... a single DNA nucleotide?

1.1(b). ... a single amino acid?

1.2 A number of codons

We can consider DNA nucleotides as symbols in a base-4 number system.

1.2(a). How many nucleotides do you need to uniquely label a single amino acid?

1.2(b). How many labels of this length (known as codons) can you assign to each amino acid equally?

1.3 What size are your genes?

Oxytocin is a neuropeptide responsible for a number of psychological effects, including feelings of love, trust, fear, anxiety, and bonding. It is made of 9 amino acids.

1.3(a). Using a labeling system as described in 1.2, how many nucleotides would be necessary to label Oxytocin?

1.3(b). If we translated that base-4 representation to a numerical value, how many decimal digits would be needed to write the numerical value for Oxytocin?

1.3(c). If instead we used the amino acids directly as a base-20 numbering system, how many decimal digits would be necessary to write out the numerical value for Oxytocin?

Use this page for more work on Problem 1.

2 October events (Boolean algebra)

Consider the month of October, 2017. It has 31 days (1-31), each with 24 hours (0-23 à la military time). We can represent each by 5 bit numbers $d = d_4d_3d_2d_1d_0$, $h = h_4h_3h_2h_1h_0$ respectively; we will create systems taking these 10 bits as inputs.

2.1 When is this pset due?

- 2.1(a). What is the 10 bit input $d_4d_3d_2d_1d_0h_4h_3h_2h_1h_0$ corresponding to the date and time when this pset is due?
- 2.1(b). Write the boolean expression of the 10 input bits that is true only when the input represents the day and time when this pset is due, and is false otherwise.
- 2.1(c). Is this a minterm or a maxterm of the system? Why?

2.2 Is it the weekend yet?

- 2.2(a). Taking just the 5 bit date input, write the function that is true if and only if the corresponding date is a weekend day as a boolean expression in some canonical normal form.
- 2.2(b). Which normal form did you use, and why?

2.3 Does this even make sense?

- 2.3(a). Not all sets of 10 input bits correspond to a valid date and/or time. Write the function—using minterm or maxterm shorthand—that returns true if the 10 bit input is valid, and false otherwise.
- 2.3(b). Find the simplest boolean expression for this function. *Hint: this will not be a canonical normal form, and will contain only 7 literals along with a number of operators.*
- 2.3(c). Write the dual of this expression.

2.4 Don't care.

If we specify a set of valid inputs for our system, we can choose what value our function assigns to invalid inputs (“don’t care” values) whichever way we would like in order to simplify our boolean expressions.

- 2.4(a). If we assume that our 5 bit input will represent a valid hour, come up with a simple boolean expression (using no more than 3 literals) that returns true if the hour is a valid afternoon hour and false if it is a valid morning hour.
- 2.4(b). If instead we specify that the function must also be false for invalid hours, does the boolean expression change? If so, what is the new expression?
- 2.4(c). Draw this function using only NOR gates.

Use this page for more work on Problem 2.

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3 Your turn

It's often said that you don't truly understand a subject until you can teach it. What was a topic that you struggled with so far in this class? Write and solve a pset problem that sheds light on this particular topic.

Use this page for more any more work that you may need to show. Clearly identify which problem it is for.