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Integrated Combinational Circuits As Building Blocks

In combinational logic design, there are several common structures (such as adders, multiplexers, decoders) that are used regularly as building blocks in larger systems.

Instead of designing every complex function with basic logic gates, using these common structures makes the design simpler.

Their level of functionality often matches a designer's level of thinking when partitioning the large problem into smaller chunks. (As functions in programming.)

These structures are manufactured and sold as integrated circuits (ICs).

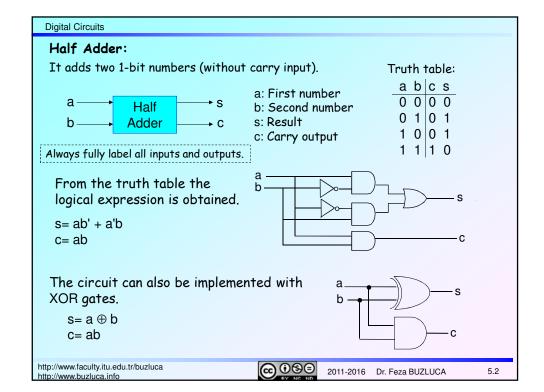
Generations of ICs according to integration scale factors:

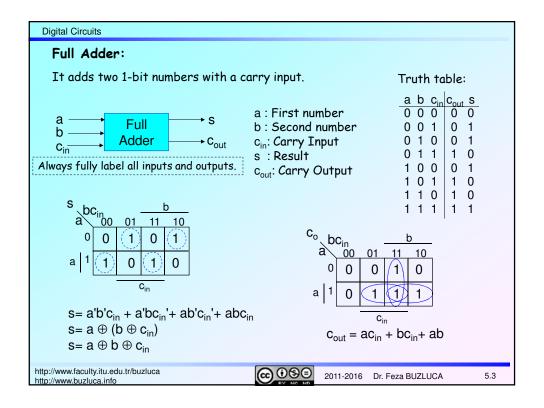
- Small-Scale Integration (SSI): These digital circuits contain transistors numbering in the tens and provide a few logic gates.
- · Medium-Scale Integration (MSI): They contain hundreds (up to 1000) of transistors. Adders, decoders.
- Large-Scale Integration (LSI): Tens of thousands of transistors per chip. First memory and microprocessor chips
- Very Large-Scale Integration (VLSI): Hundreds of thousands of transistors in the early 1980s, and continues beyond several billion transistors as of 2009.
- Ultra-large-scale integration (ULSI): More than 1 million transistors.

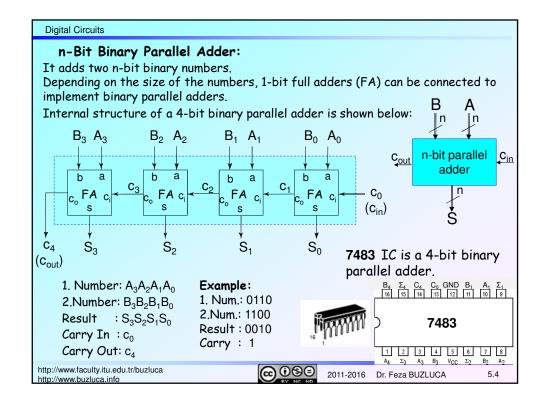
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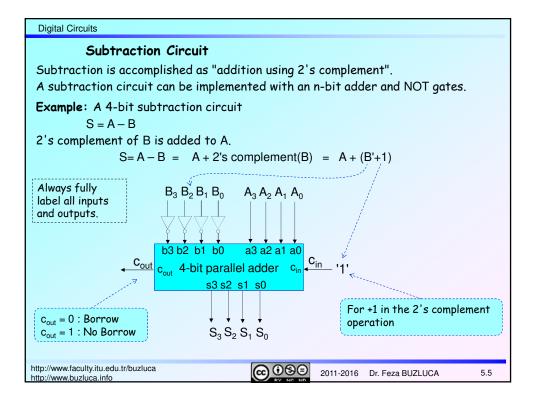


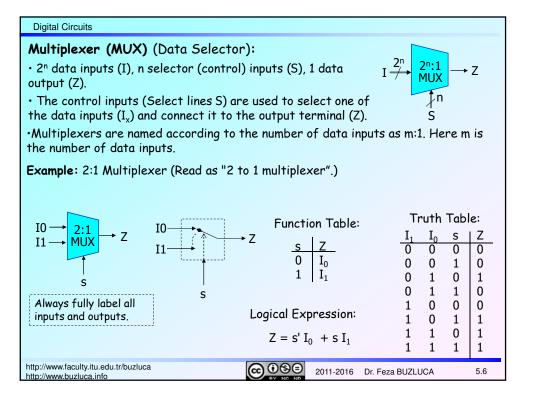
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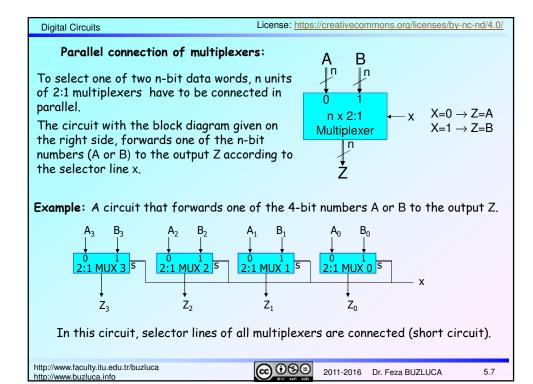


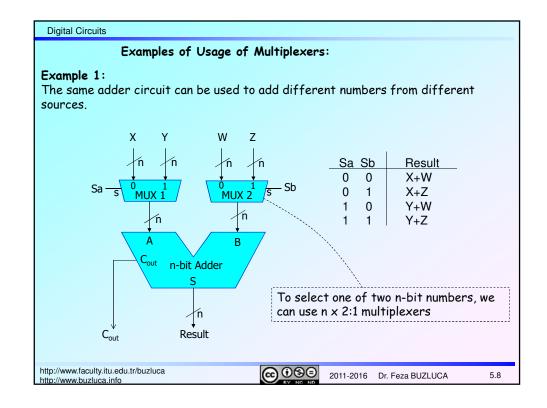


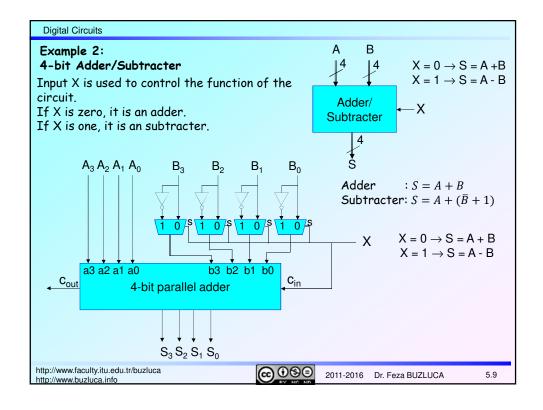


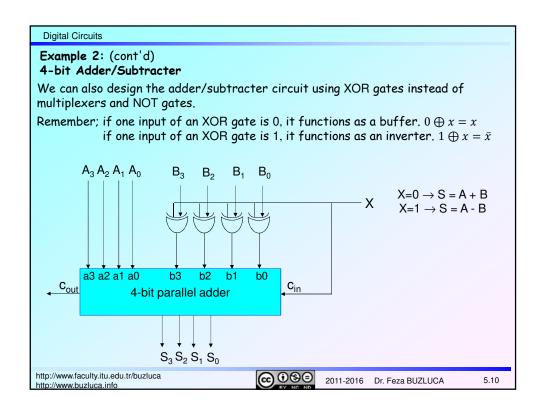


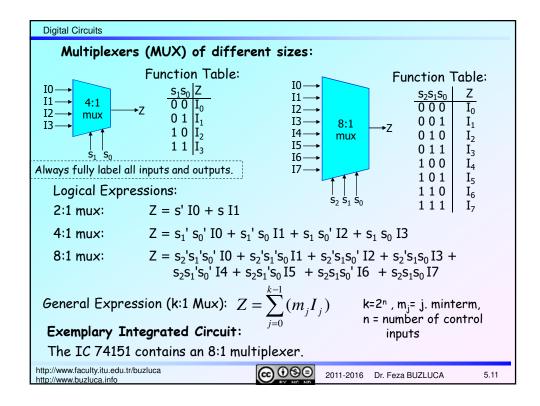


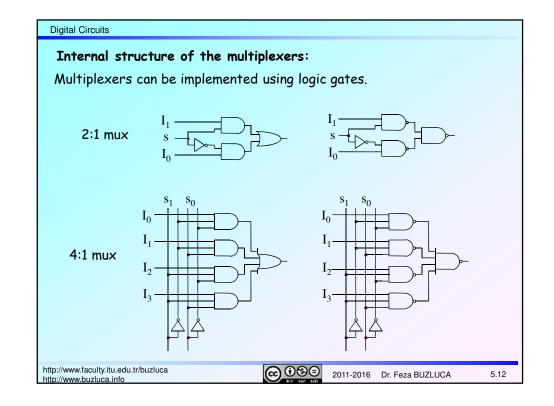


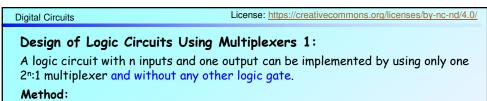




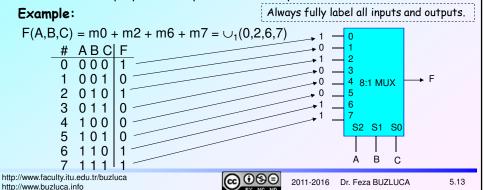








- The n inputs of the function (circuit) to be implemented are connected to the n selector lines of the multiplexer.
- Since each binary value of selector lines corresponds to an input combination , by considering the truth table of the function constant values ("0" or "1") are connected to the proper data inputs of the multiplexer.



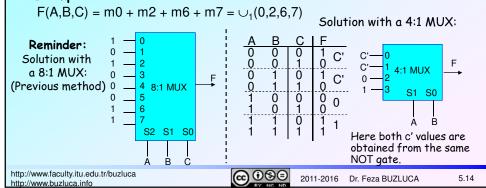
Design of Logic Circuits Using Multiplexers 2:

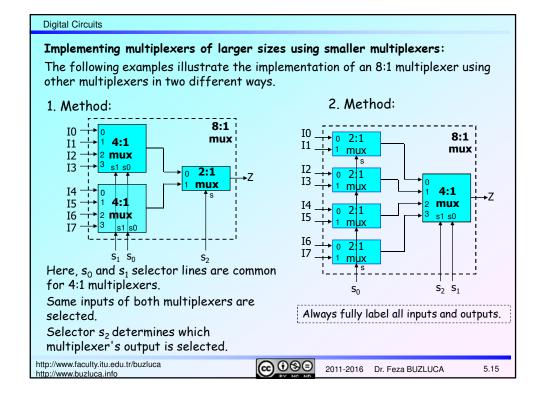
A logic circuit with n inputs and one output can be implemented by using only one 2^{n-1} :1 multiplexer and in addition with a NOT gate.

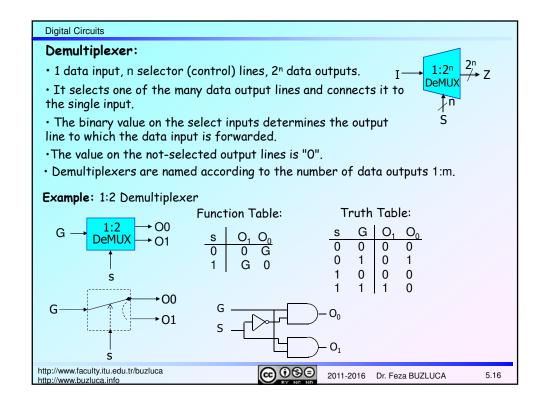
Method:

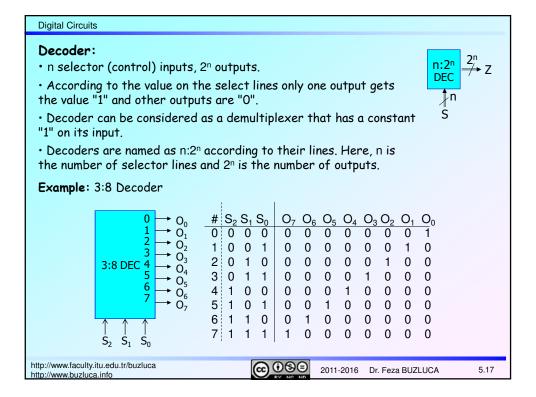
- n-1 inputs (variables) of the function are connected to the n-1 select lines of the multiplexer.
- The remaining variable or its complement is connected according to the truth table to the data inputs of the multiplexer.

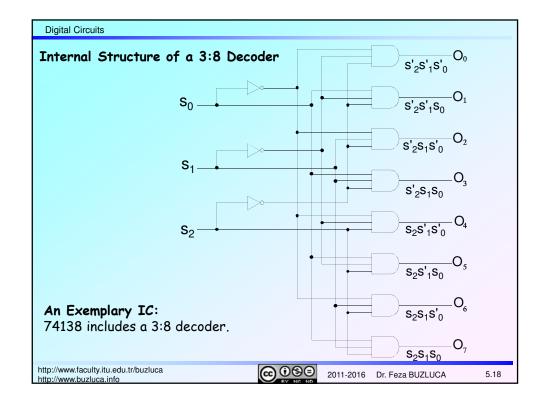
Example:











Design of Logic Circuits Using Decoders:

Each possible input to the decoder can be considered as a minterm.

A decoder can be viewed as a "minterm generator", because each output is "1" only when a particular minterm evaluates to "1" (Slide 5.18).

Remember that any logical expression can be represented as the sum (OR) of minterms, so it follows that we can implement any logical expression by ORing the related output(s) of a decoder.

Method:

A general logic circuit with n inputs and m outputs can be implemented by using only one n:2ⁿ decoder and in addition with OR gates.

- \cdot n inputs (variables) of the function are connected to the n select lines of the decoder.
- · Each output of a decoder corresponds to a minterm.
- The outputs of the decoder, which correspond to the minterms of the function are added by using an OR gate.

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Digital Circuits

Example:

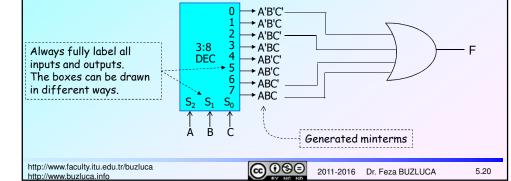
Implement the given function F(A,B,C) using a decoder and one OR gate.

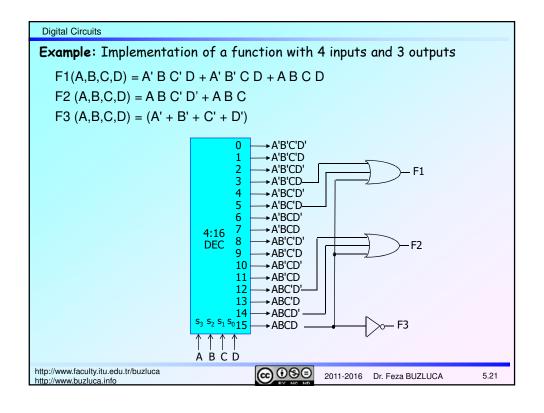
$$F(A,B,C) = \bigcup_{1}(0,2,6,7)$$

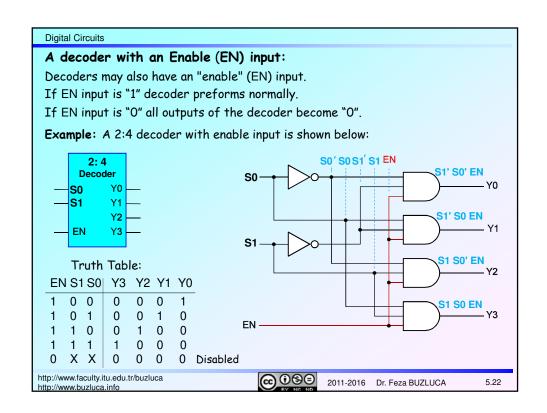
Solution:

As the function F(A,B,C) has three inputs, we need a 3-to-8 decoder.

$$F(A,B,C) = \bigcup_1(0,2,6,7) = m0 + m2 + m6 + m7 = \overline{A}\overline{B}\overline{C} + \overline{A}B\overline{C} + AB\overline{C} + AB\overline{C}$$







An example of the usage of the decoders:

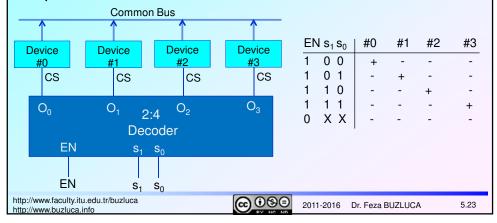
In some systems it is required that only one unit (device) in a group is active at a certain instant in time. For example, memory modules connected to a common bus.

In other words, two devices cannot be active at the same time.

These type of devices have «chip select» (CS) inputs, which are used to activate or deactivate them.

Decoders can be used to select the active unit.

Example: A decoder that controls 4 devices, which are connected to common bus



Digital Circuits

Programmable Logic Device (PLD)

Today, complicated digital circuits are implemented using programmable logic devices.

These devices are integrated circuits that include many reconfigurable logic gates. (From several hundreds to several millions).

Some PLDs also include memory units (flip-flops).

The designer can reconfigure the connections between logical gates in the PLD by using a programming language and a programming device.

It is possible to implement complicated digital circuits with only one IC (PLD).

There are different kinds of PLDs:

- Programmable Logic Array PLA
- Programmable Array Logic PAL®
- · Generic Array Logic GAL
- · Complex PLD CPLD
- Field-Programmable Gate Array FPGA

PAL is a registered trademark of Lattice Semiconductor Corp.

Programming of PLDs:

In early versions of PLDs (PLA, PAL) bipolar transistors were used (See Chapter 9).

They have fuses on the connection points between gates, which provide reconfiguration (programming) of devices.

In these devices fuses can be blown only once; therefore they are called one-time programmable (OTP).

Todays devices (GAL, CPLD, FPGA) are made of CMOS transistors and they consist memory units for programming.

They can be erased and reprogrammed many times.

To program PLDs various Hardware Description Languages (HDL) and programing devices are used.

Some examples of HDLs:

PALASM

ABEL

Verilog

VHDL (Very high speed integrated circuits HDL)

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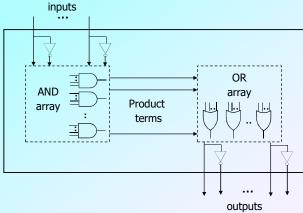
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Digital Circuits

Programmable Logic Array - PLA

It includes AND (product) units in the input layer and OR (sum) units in the output layer.

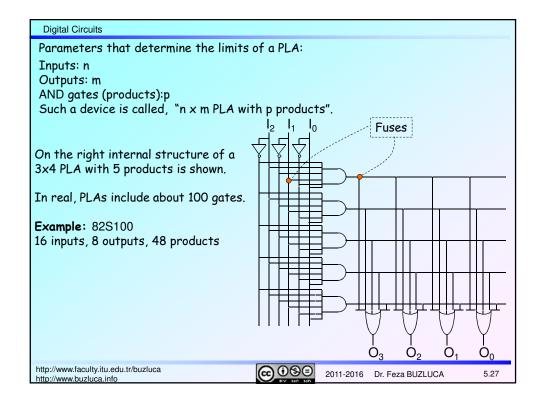


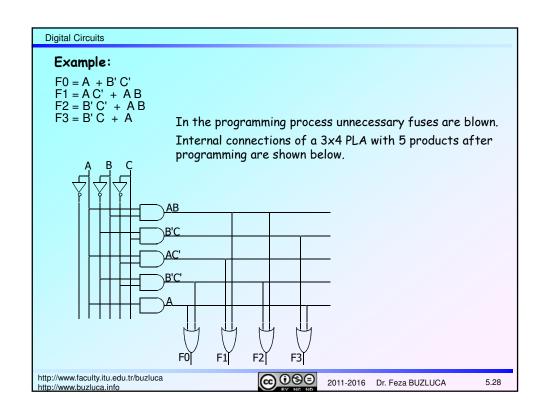
Both AND, OR arrays are flexible programmable.

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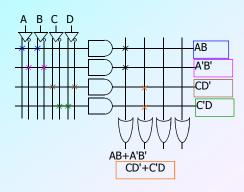


Simple Representation:

For the sake of simplicity all connections in a PLA are not shown.

Instead, we put an 'X' on the connection points which are connected to the inputs of gates.

Example:



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Digital Circuits

Programmable Array Logic - PAL

Inputs of AND gates can be flexible programed as in PLAs.

But inputs of OR gates are fixed. To each OR gate only outputs of certain AND gates can be connected.

For example to the inputs of the first OR gate only outputs of the first two AND gates can be connected.

PALs can be easily programmed, they are cheaper than PLAs and they can contain more gates.

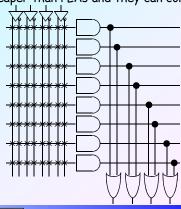
PALs were introduced by the company Monolithic Memories, Inc. (MMI).

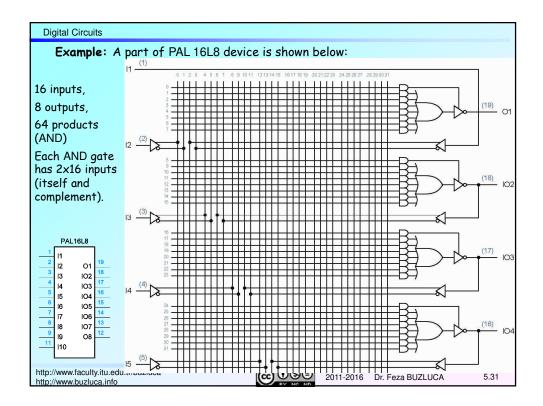
MMI obtained a registered trademark on the term PAL for use in "Programmable Semiconductor Logic Circuits".

The trademark is currently held by Lattice Semiconductor Corporation.

MMI, was acquired by Advanced Micro Devices (AMD).

Programmable logic division of AMD (Vantis) was then acquired by Lattice Semiconductor.





Generic Array Logic - GAL

Its logical properties are similar to PAL.

It is made of CMOS transistors. It can be many times erased and programmed.

It is introduced by Lattice Semiconductor.

Example: GAL16V8

Complex PLD - CPLD

It is an IC that contains several PLDs (macro cell).

Each internal PLD (macro cell) has GAL properties.

A typical CPLD may include from thousand to ten thousand gates.

Internal structures of macro cells and connections between them can be programmed.

Example: Atmel ATF1500

32 input/output + 4 inputs

32 PLDs (macro cell).

Field-Programmable Gate Array - FPGA

They contain many logical blocks and interconnections between these blocks.

Can be erased and programmed many times.

Number of logical gates is between several thousands and several millions.

Can be used to implement complex digital circuits (for example special purpose microprocessors).

Compared to CPLDs FPGAs are more flexible and they can implement more complicated circuits.

But their delay cost is higher.

Example: Atmel AT6010

204 input/output 30000 gates

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