

A Proposed Implementation of an 8 Bit ALU Bit Slice

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High Level Description:

Our decided implementation of the bit slice for this 8 bit ALU attempted to target minimizing the energy delay product while keeping the overall design as intuitive and readable as possible. Our decided upon implementation was a reasonably modular slice comprised of a combination of simpler gates with varying numbers of inputs. Our solution to minimizing the energy product delay of the whole slice was to limit the number of transistors used in the circuit. However, in some cases extra transistors were added simply to either:

(a) Keep the design more readable / maintainable.

or

(b) Allow a particular component of the circuit to be self-restoring.

These tradeoffs were determined as acceptable since they would simplify some of the development process moving forward and would ensure that we did not experience any unexpected signal degradation.

Using this approach, we began constructing some basic gates at the transistor level. The most basic gates constructed were the following:

- Inverter
- 2-input NAND
- 3-input NAND
- 2-input NOR
- 3-input XOR
- Transmission Gate
- 2-input MUX

- 8-input MUX
- 2-output DEMUX

All other components of the circuit were more or less assembled from these basic building blocks. These included:

- 2-input AND
- 3-input AND
- 2-input OR
- Logical Shift (left or right)
- Adder

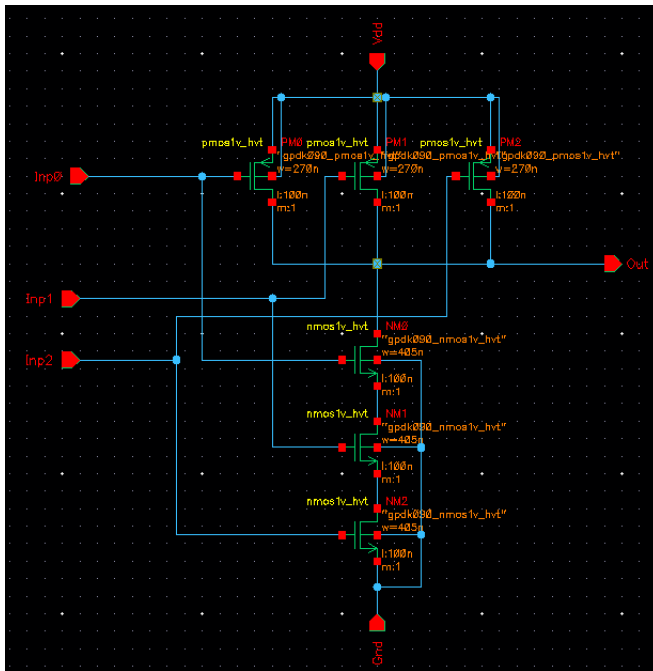
Finally, using these higher level building blocks, we constructed the "Master" high level schematic to serve as our control for the overall slice. Using our master schematic as the control and the components as the actual operations of the ALU, we constructed our overall single bit slice.

More Detailed Breakdowns:

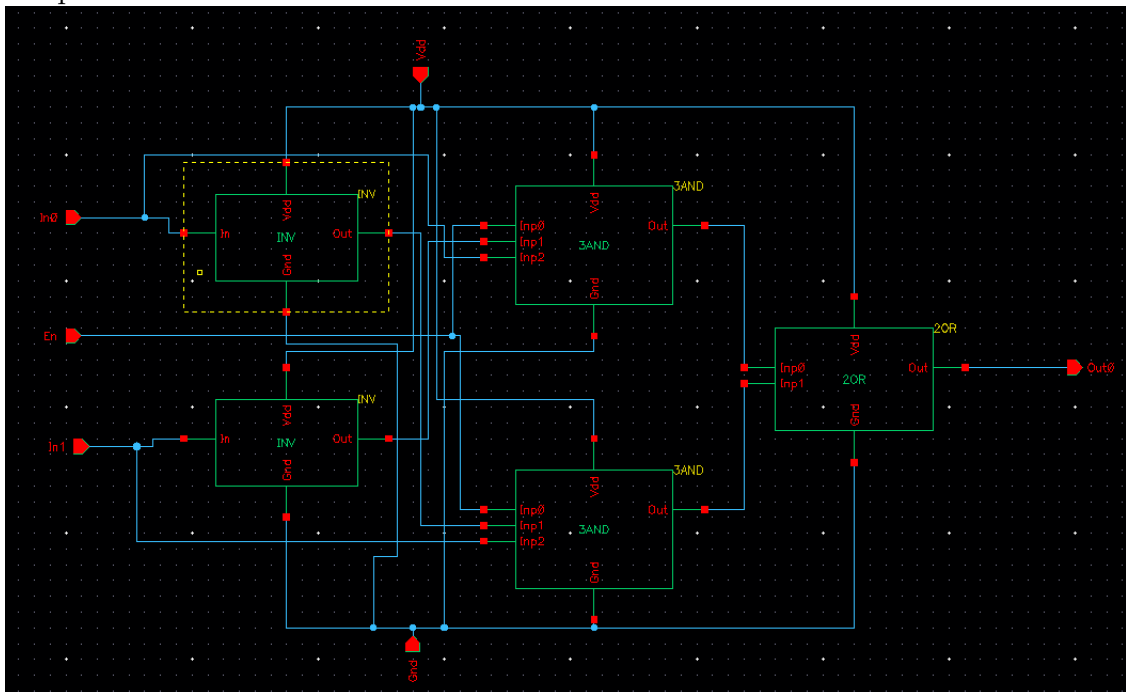
OR-NOR-AND etc. Implementation and Uses:

Each of these gates was constructed using a static CMOS layout, with the PMOS pull-up network being complementary to the NMOS pull-down network. Each gate was driven by its own voltage supply and was connected to ground to ensure that it could drive itself and not be dependent on the input. Some of these gates were used as final outputs of the ALU, while others were used to build more complex modules or serve as control blocks. The transistors were sized such that both the pull-up and the pull-down network both resulted in an ultimate unity resistance, using a base unit of 3λ . For reference, see some samples below:

3-input and:



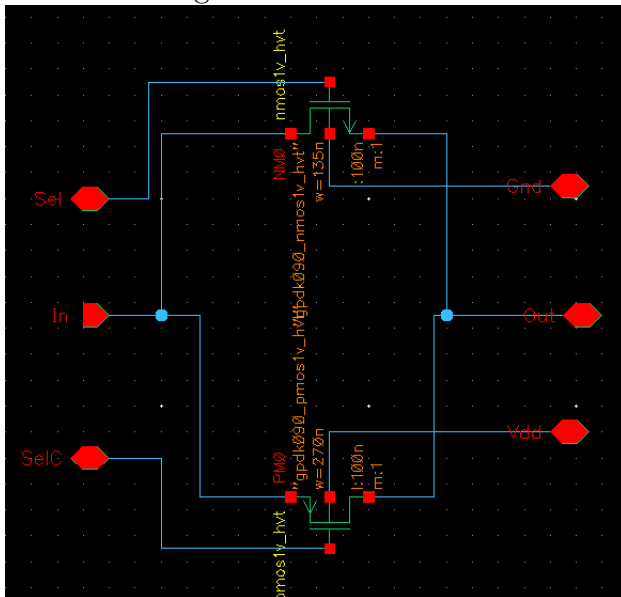
3-input xor:



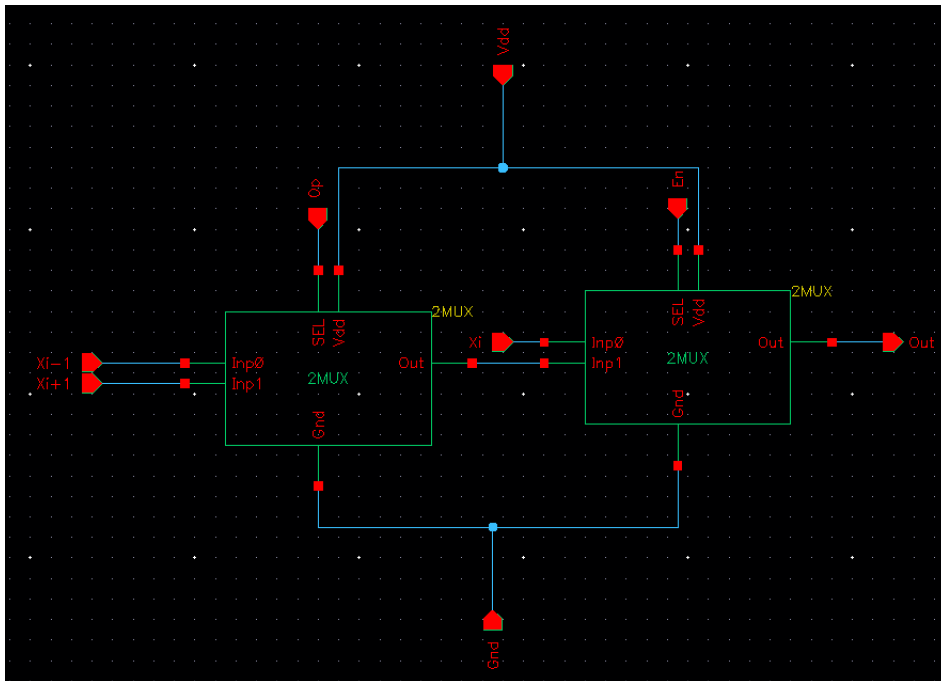
MUX / DEMUX Implementation and Uses:

The primary building blocks for each of these gates were transmission gates, with each T-Gate having a 3λ NMOS and a 6λ PMOS. These gates primarily served as control logic for the circuit (our master schematic heavily relies on DEMUX gates), allowing us to handle multiple input modules and granting us the ability to selectively activate only certain portions of the ALU during any particular OpCode in order to minimize power consumption. They also served very crucial roles in allowing us to compress the left and right shift modules into one by cleverly mapping the input and easily implement the clear operation. The implementation of these gates are pictured below:

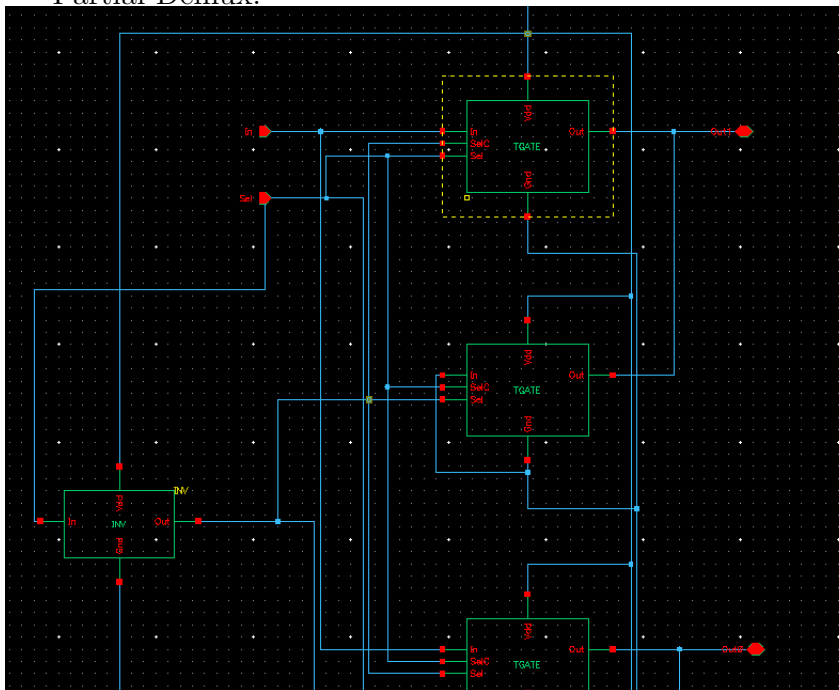
Transmission gate:



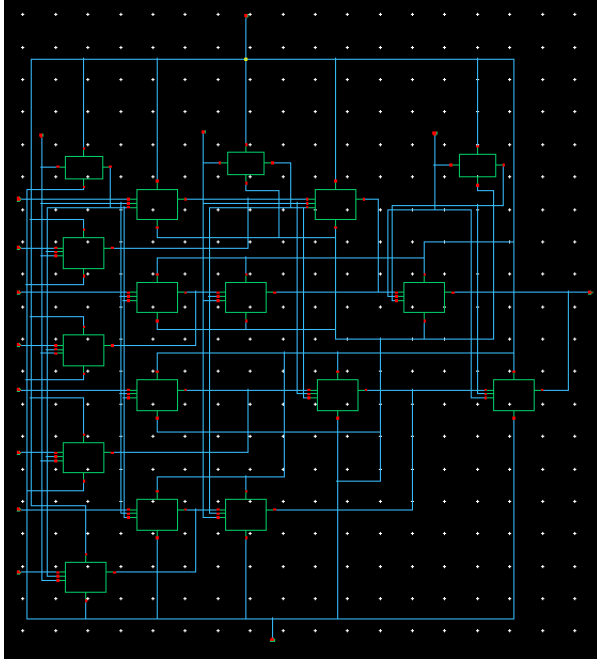
Shifter:



Partial Demux:

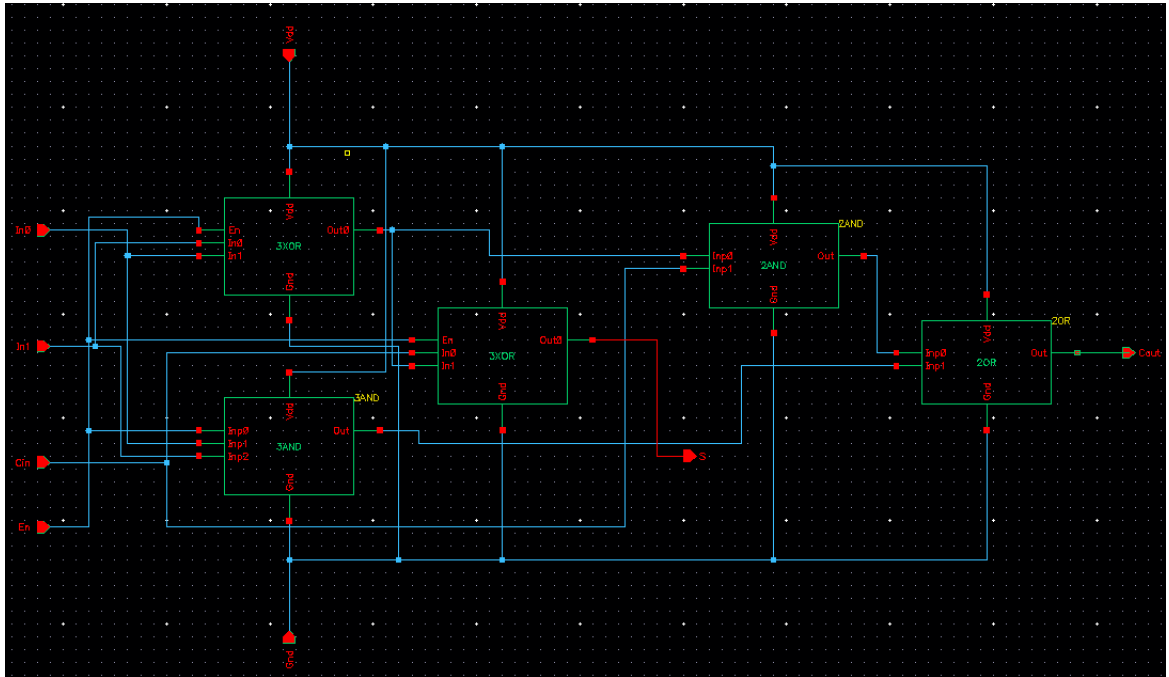


A final large 8-input MUX was then used to serve as the final channel to the ultimate output bit for the slice. Though each OpCode is 4 bits in length, we managed to come up with an interesting mapping such that only the 3 least significant bits are used:



Adder Implementation:

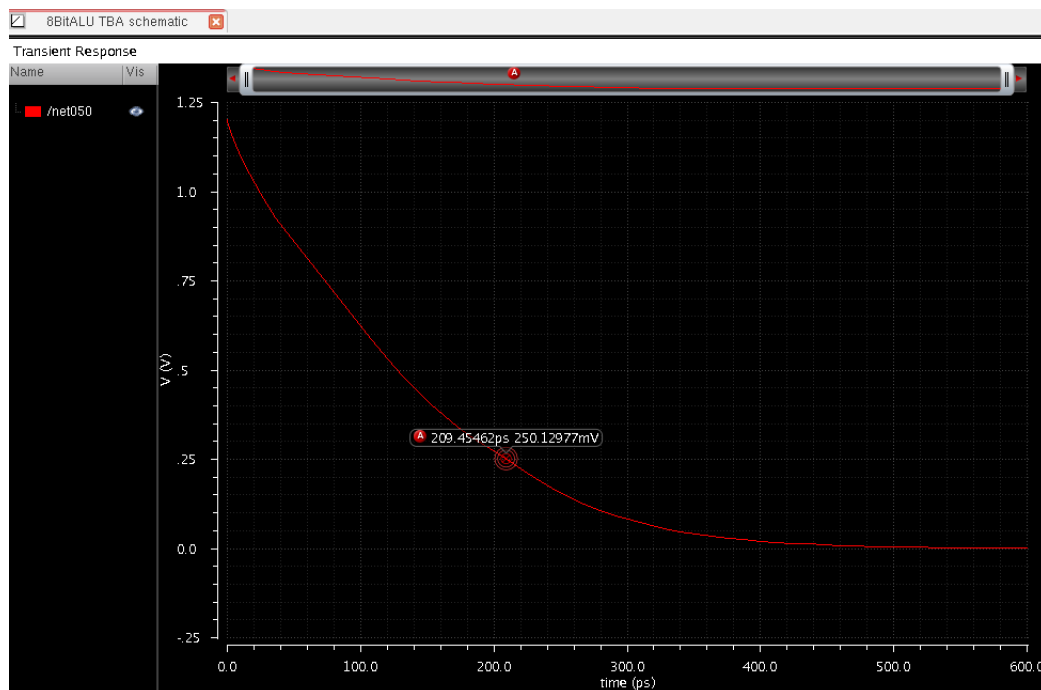
We chose to go with a Carry Look-Ahead adder implementation using a combination of AND, OR, and XOR gates, as shown below:



The Look-Ahead implementation would allow for the parallel computation of the Carry-Out and Sum quantities, which would allow us to quickly send the carry-out number on the look-ahead bus for other bit slices to absorb. In this regard, we would be significantly reducing the delay of the adder module and a reasonable amount of power consumption as well. This minimization is further supported by the fact that the adder does not even activate unless the enable bit is activated (controlled via a combination of DEMUX gates). Future iterations of the project may include changing this implementation, but for now the attempt seemed good enough to suffice.

Ending Remarks:

All components were tested individually for correct functionality before being incorporated into other blocks of the circuit.



This demonstrates the delay from the Bitwise AND path in the ALU. While not the worst delay path in the ALU, it does a reasonable approximation that of the work that must be done, since it travels along the farthest path, alongside the adder instructions. The propagation delay here is about 209 ps.

After trying a variety of OpCodes, we found that the slice worked as far as functionality is concerned. For this stage of the project, this was a reasonable testament of our progress and hard work.

Next Steps:

In addition to doing the full transistor layout, we may also decide to revise our designs. Since our circuit is modular, this would be reasonably simple to do. We have also not looked into one operation in particular - loading X into memory. For this reason, one particular input pin of the 8-input MUX has been left dangling. It will be connected to the loaded bit value of X after this block has been implemented.