

# Digital Design

## Chapter 3: Sequential Logic Design -- Controllers

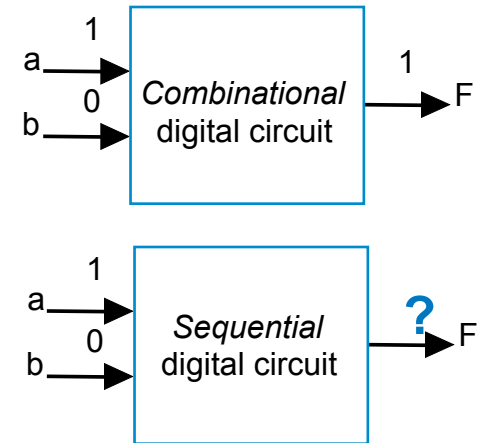
Slides to accompany the textbook *Digital Design, with RTL Design, VHDL, and Verilog*, 2nd Edition,  
by Frank Vahid, John Wiley and Sons Publishers, 2010.  
<http://www.ddvahid.com>

Copyright © 2010 Frank Vahid

Instructors of courses requiring Vahid's *Digital Design* textbook (published by John Wiley and Sons) have permission to modify and use these slides for customary course-related activities, subject to keeping this copyright notice in place and unmodified. These slides may be posted as unanimated pdf versions on publicly-accessible course websites.. PowerPoint source (or pdf with animations) may not be posted to publicly-accessible websites, but may be posted for students on internal protected sites or distributed directly to students by other electronic means. Instructors may make printouts of the slides available to students for a reasonable photocopying charge, without incurring royalties. Any other use requires explicit permission. Instructors may obtain PowerPoint source or obtain special use permissions from Wiley – see <http://www.ddvahid.com> for information.

# Introduction

- Sequential circuit
  - Output depends not just on present inputs (as in combinational circuit), but on past sequence of inputs
    - Stores bits, also known as having “state”
  - Simple example: a circuit that counts up in binary
- This chapter will:
  - Design a new building block, a **flip-flop**, to store one bit
  - Combine flip-flops to build multi-bit storage – **register**
  - Describe sequential behavior with **finite state machines**
  - Convert a finite state machine to a **controller** – sequential circuit with a register and combinational logic



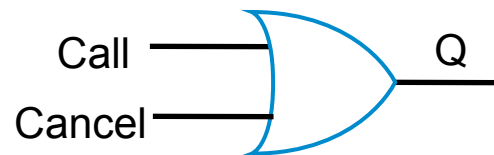
*Must know  
sequence of past  
inputs to know  
output*



# Storing One Bit – Flip-Flops

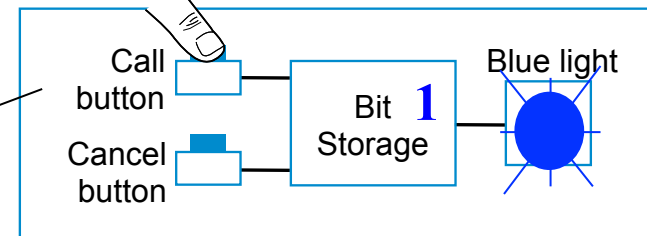
## Example Requiring Bit Storage

- Flight attendant call button
  - Press call: light turns on
    - **Stays on** after button released
  - Press cancel: light turns off
    - Stays off after button released
  - Logic gate circuit to implement this?

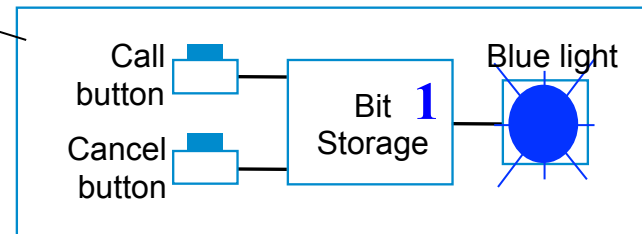


Doesn't work.  $Q=1$  when  $Call=1$ , but doesn't stay 1 when  $Call$  returns to 0

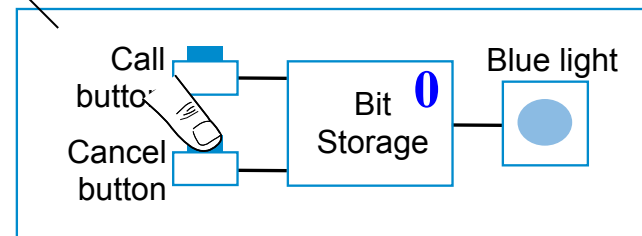
*Need some form of "feedback" in the circuit*



1. Call button pressed – light turns on



2. Call button released – light **stays on**

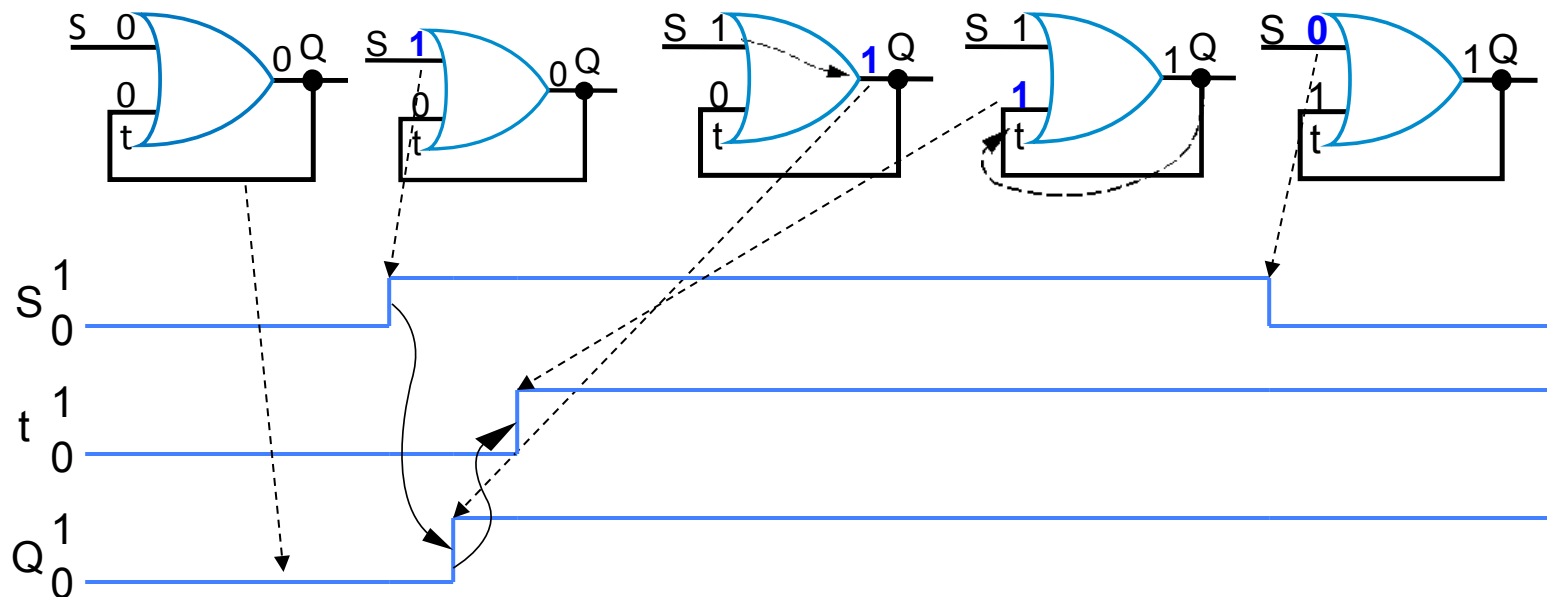
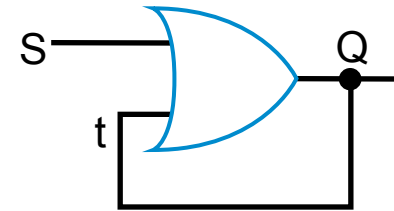


3. Cancel button pressed – light turns off



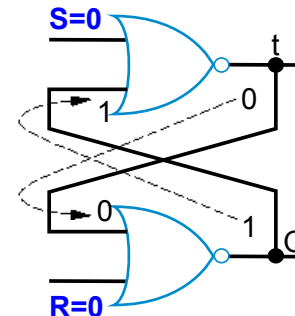
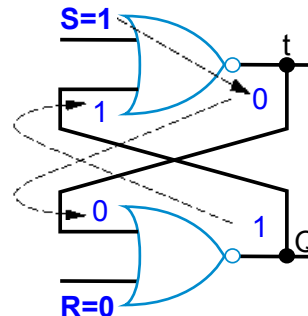
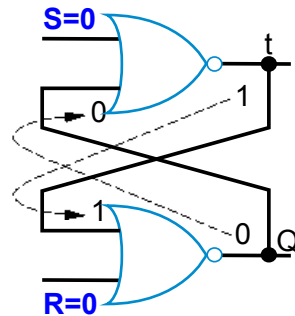
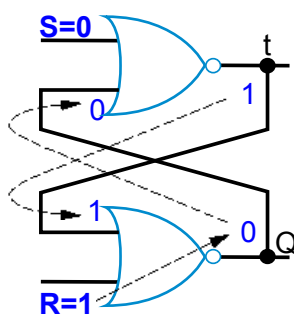
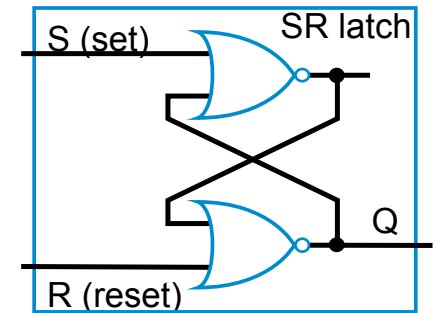
# First attempt at Bit Storage

- Need some sort of feedback
  - Does circuit on the right do what we want?
    - No: Once Q becomes 1 (when S=1), Q stays 1 forever – no value of S can bring Q back to 0

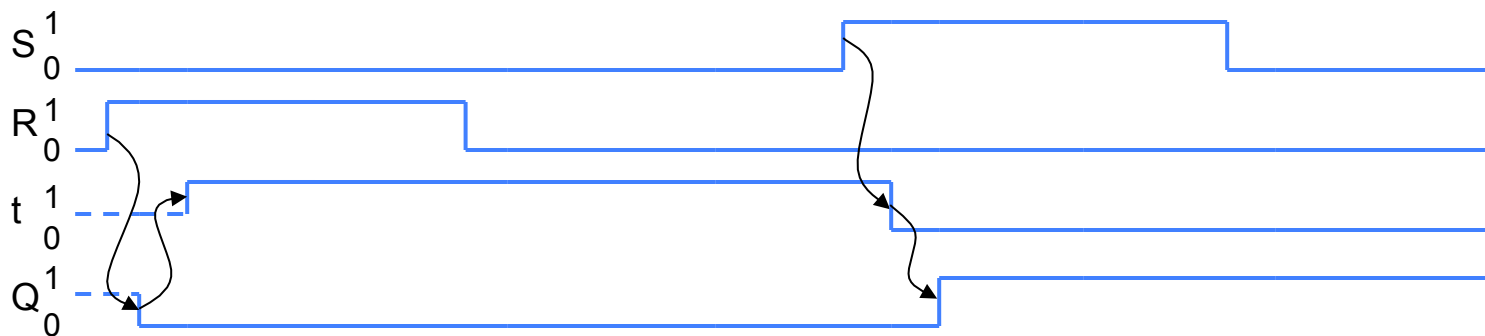
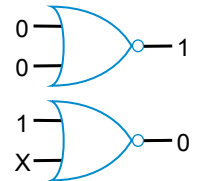


# Bit Storage Using an SR Latch

- Does the circuit to the right, with cross-coupled NOR gates, do what we want?
  - Yes! How did someone come up with that circuit? Maybe just trial and error, a bit of insight...

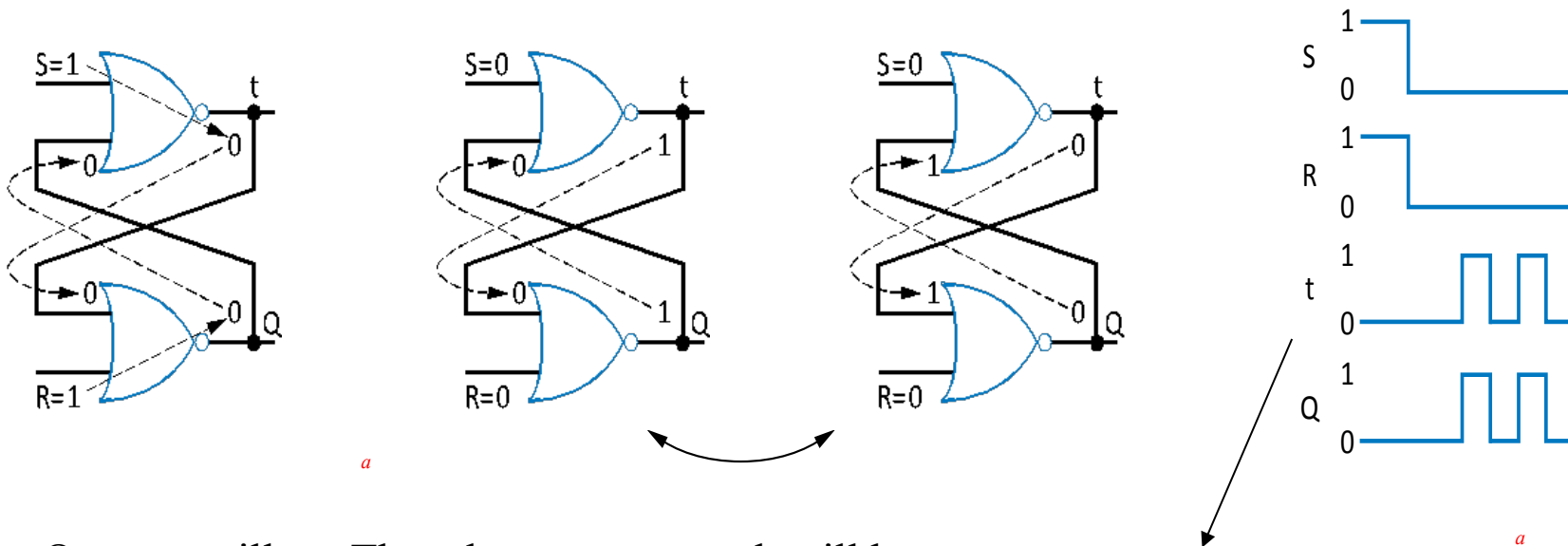


Recall NOR...



# Problem with SR Latch

- Problem
  - If  $S=1$  and  $R=1$  simultaneously, we don't know what value  $Q$  will take

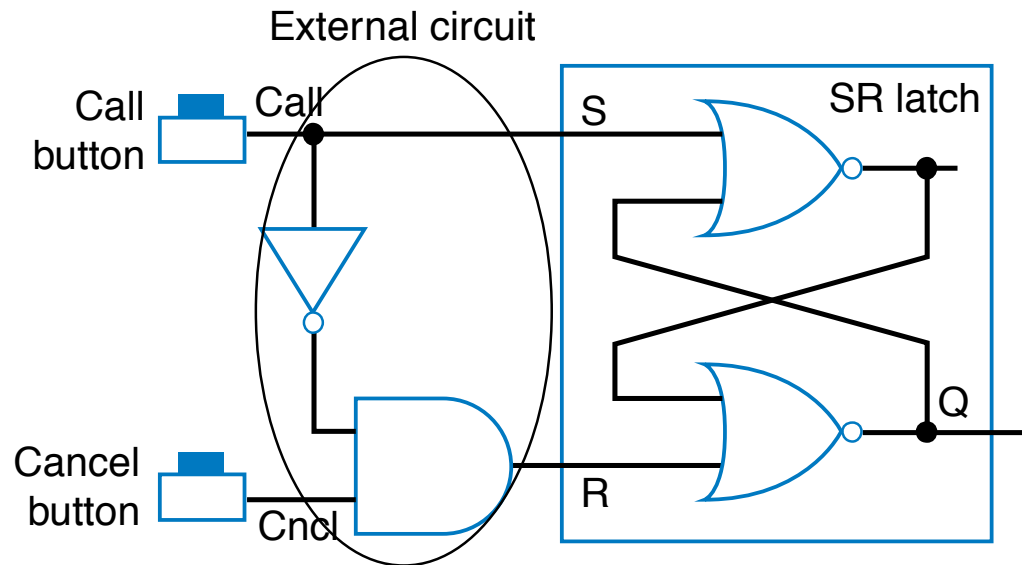


$Q$  may oscillate. Then, because one path will be slightly longer than the other,  $Q$  will eventually settle to 1 or 0 – but we don't know which. Known as a *race condition*.

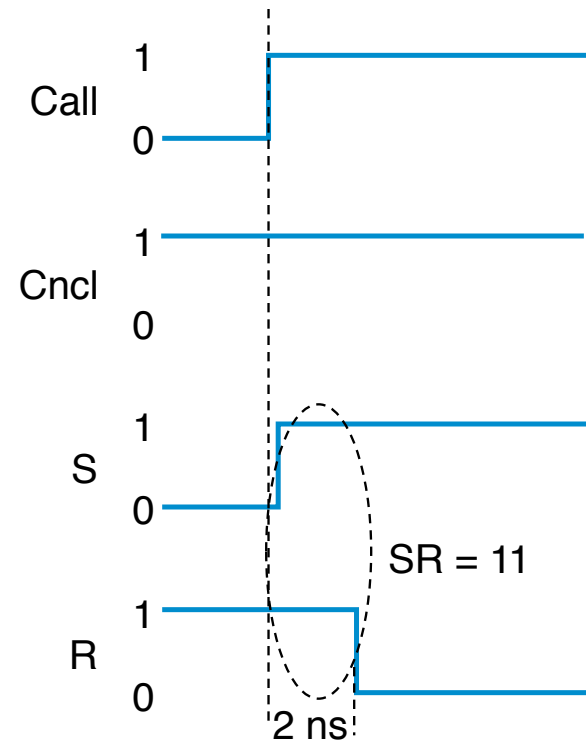


# Problem with SR Latch

- Designer might try to avoid problem using external circuit
  - Circuit should prevent SR from ever being 11
  - But 11 can occur due to different path delays

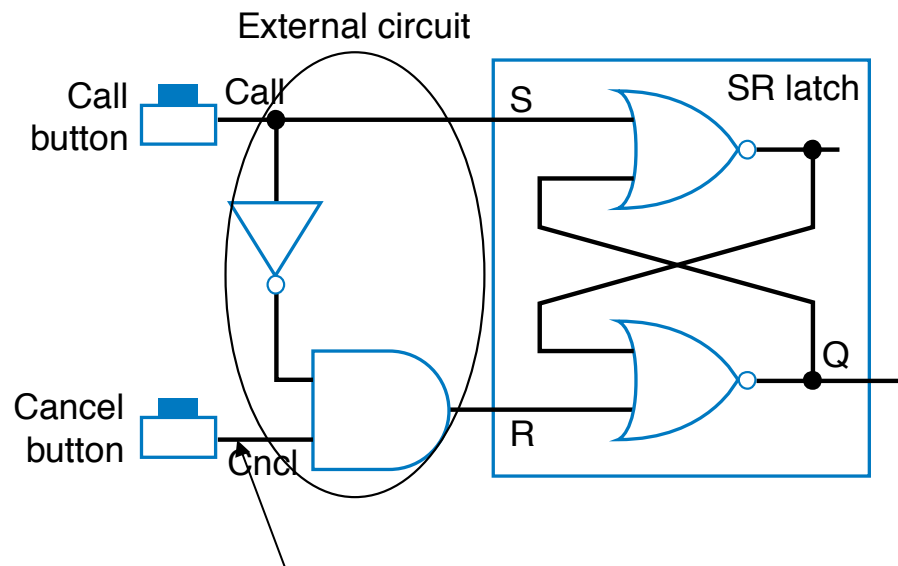


Assume 1 ns delay per gate. The longer path from Call to R than from Call to S causes  $SR=11$  for short time – could be long enough to cause oscillation

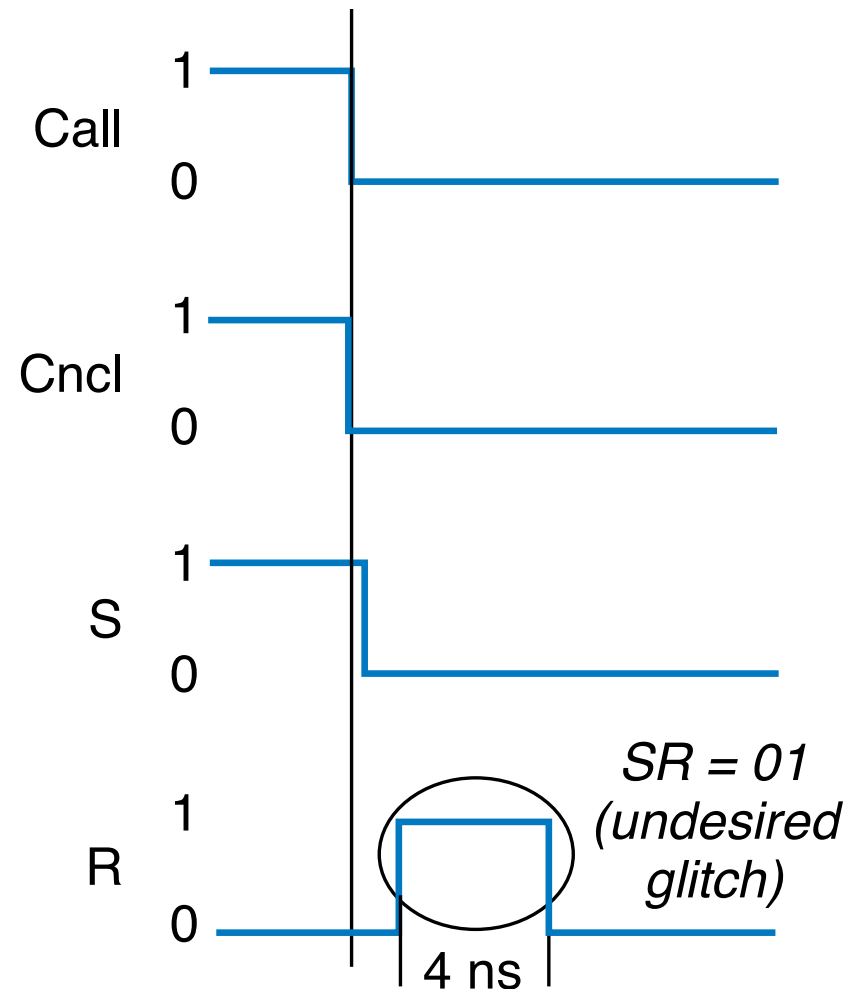


# Problem with SR Latch

- Glitch can also cause undesired set or reset



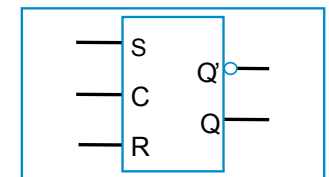
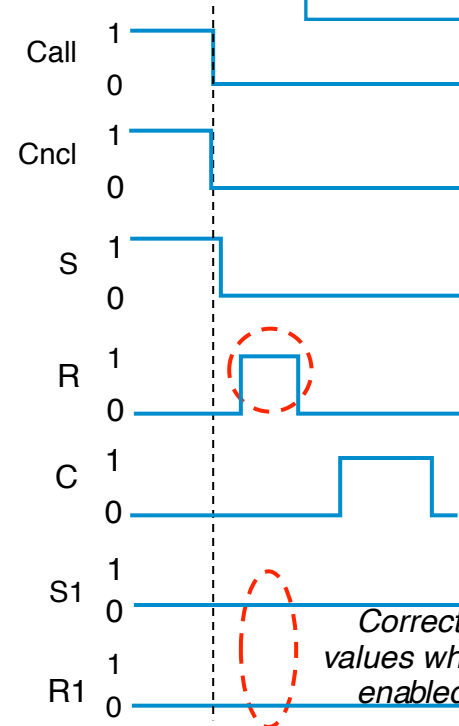
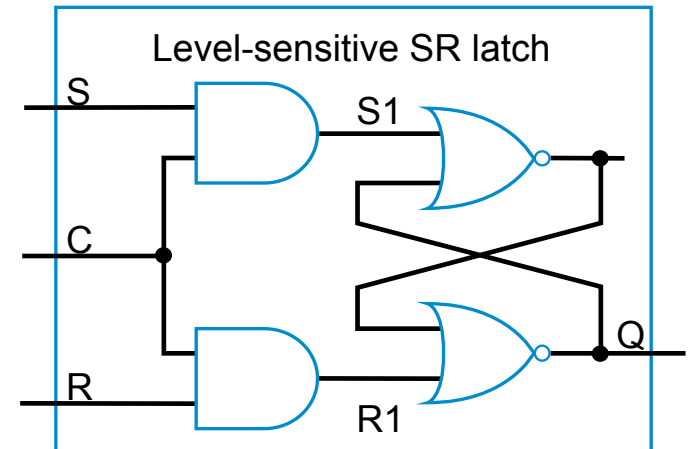
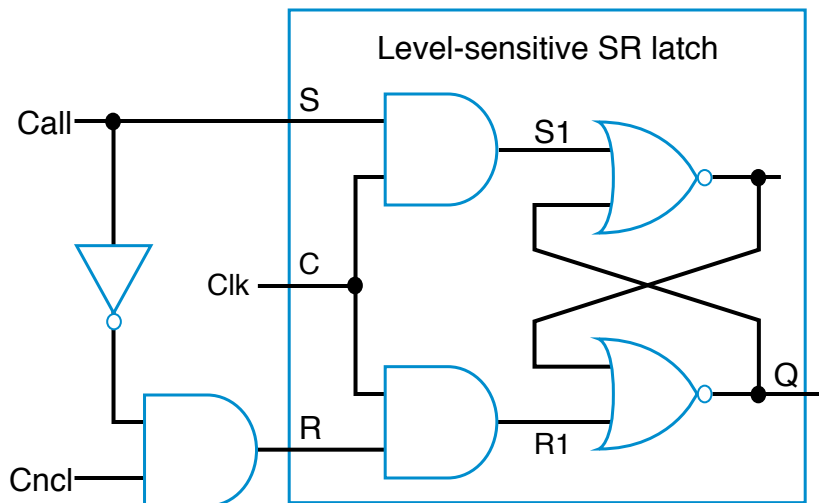
*Suppose this wire has 4 ns delay*





# Solution: Level-Sensitive SR Latch

- Add enable input “C”
- Only let S and R change when C=0
  - Ensure circuit in front of SR never sets  $SR=11$ , except briefly due to path delays
    - Set C=1 after time for S and R to be stable
    - When C becomes 1, the stable S and R value passes through the two AND gates to the SR latch’s S1 R1 inputs.



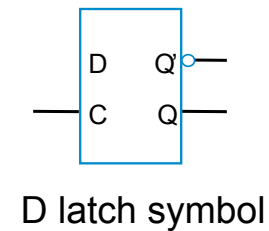
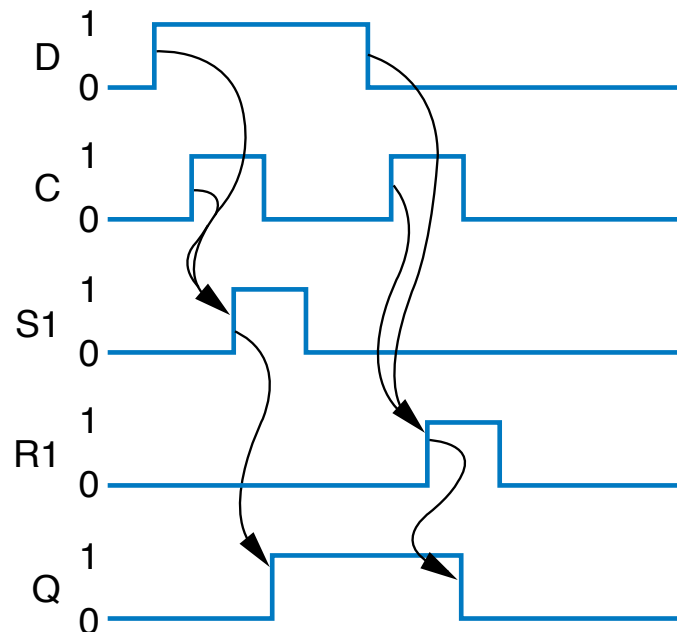
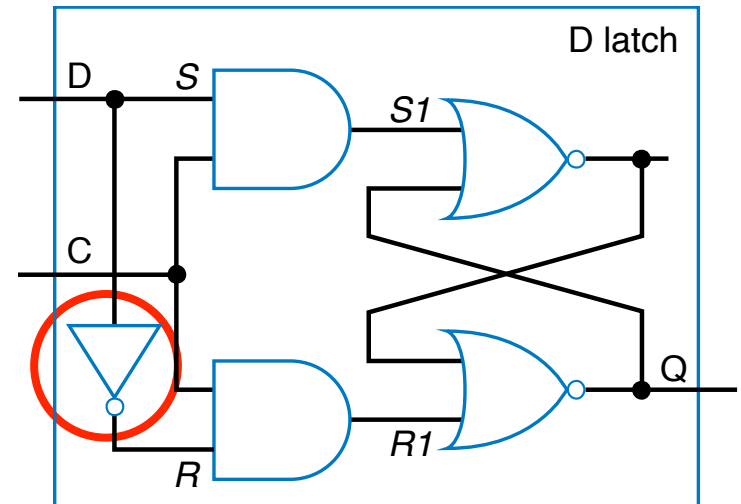
Level-sensitive SR latch symbol

*Glitch on R (or S) doesn't affect R1 (or S1)*



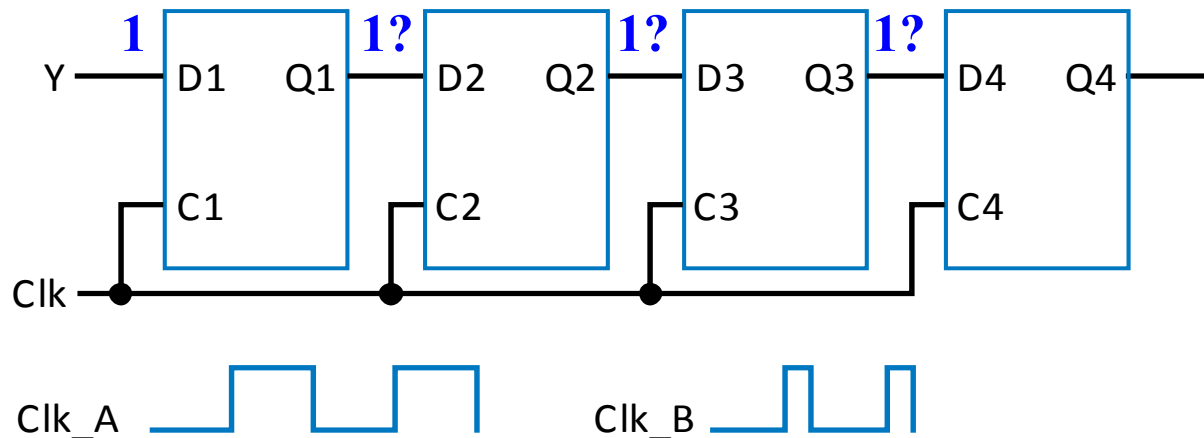
# Level-Sensitive D Latch

- SR latch requires careful design to ensure  $SR=11$  never occurs
- D latch relieves designer of that burden
  - Inserted inverter ensures R always opposite of S

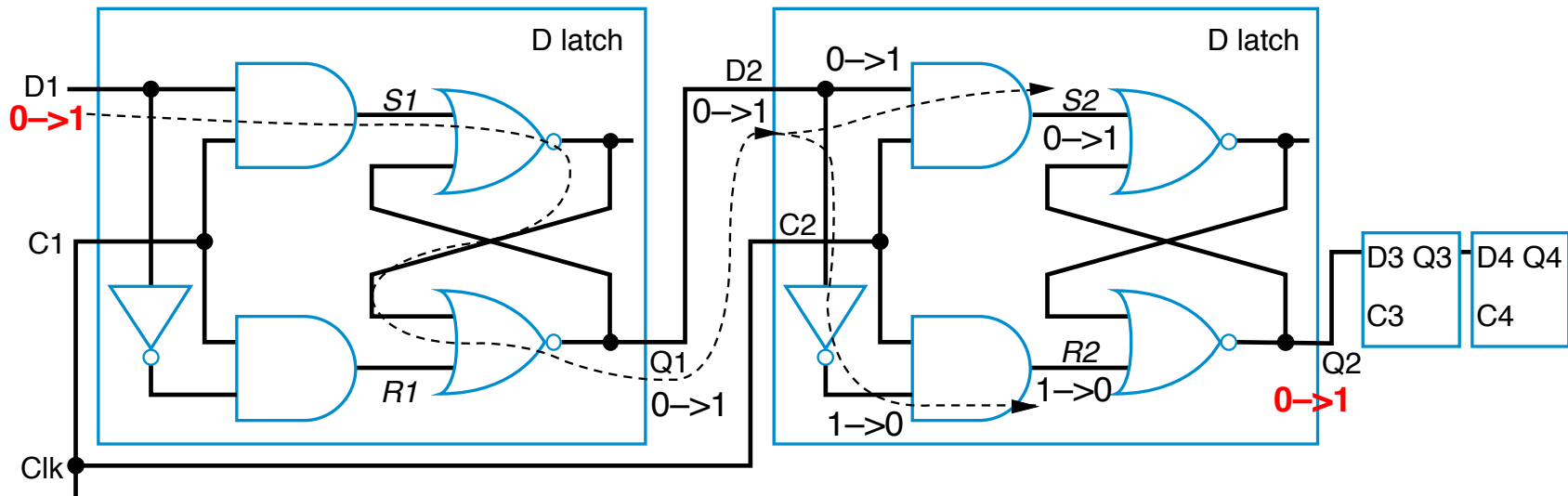


# Problem with Level-Sensitive D Latch

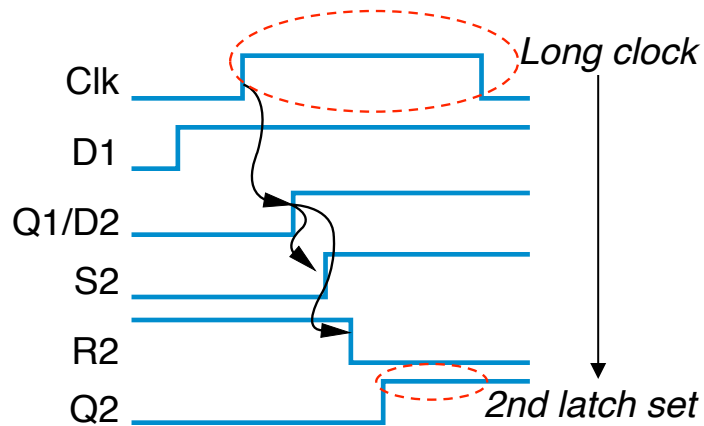
- D latch still has problem (as does SR latch)
  - When  $C=1$ , through how many latches will a signal travel?
  - Depends on how long  $C=1$ 
    - Clk\_A – signal may travel through multiple latches
    - Clk\_B – signal may travel through fewer latches



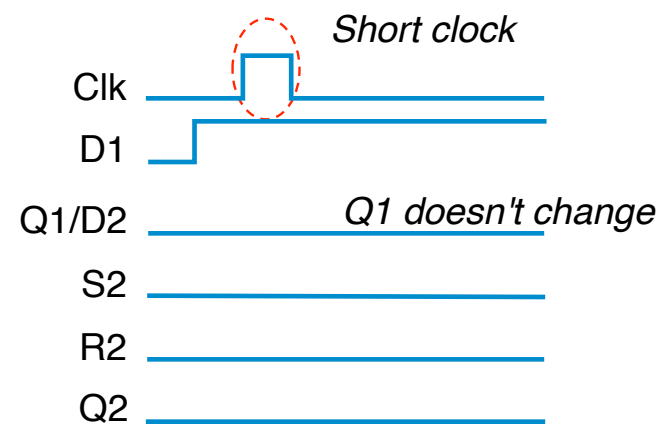
# Problem with Level-Sensitive D Latch



(a)



(b)

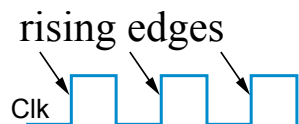


(c)

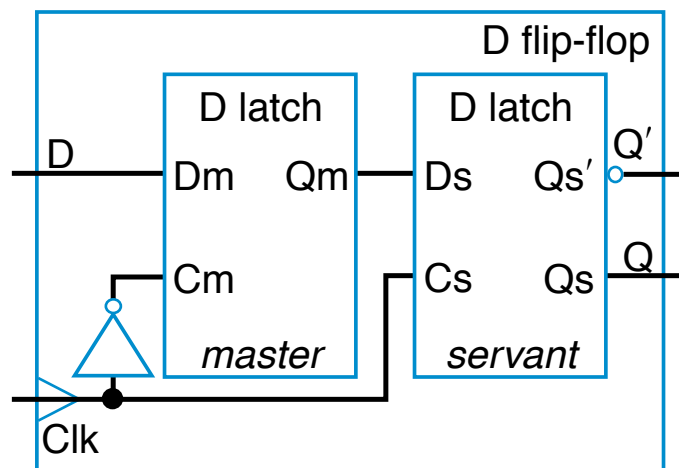


# D Flip-Flop

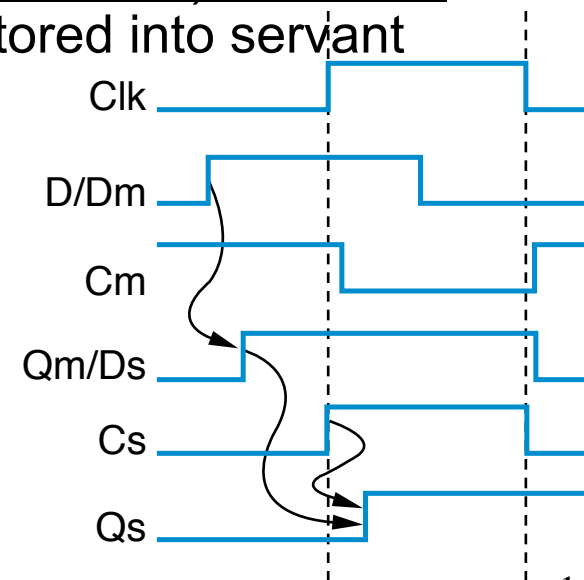
Can we design bit storage that only stores a value on the rising edge of a clock signal?



- **Flip-flop:** Bit storage that stores on clock edge
- One design – master-servant
  - Clk = 0 – master enabled, loads D, appears at Qm. Servant disabled.
  - Clk = 1 – Master disabled, Qm stays same. Servant latch enabled, loads Qm, appears at Qs.
  - Thus, value at D (and hence at Qm) when Clk changes from 0 to 1 gets stored into servant

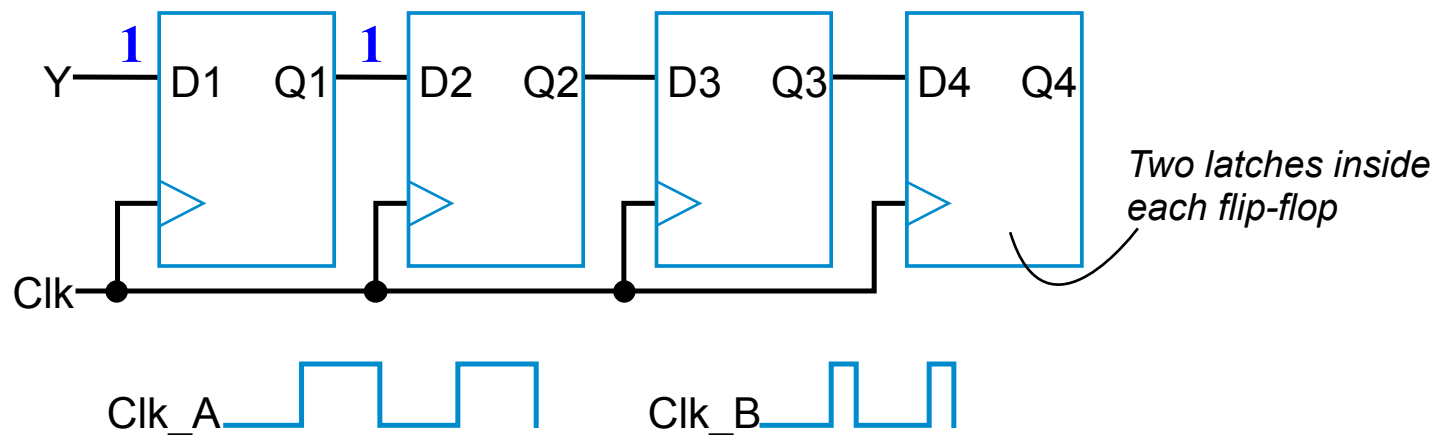


Note:  
Hundreds  
of different  
flip-flop  
designs  
exist



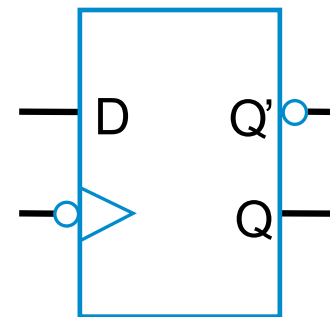
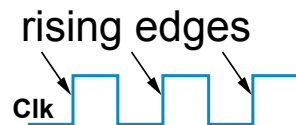
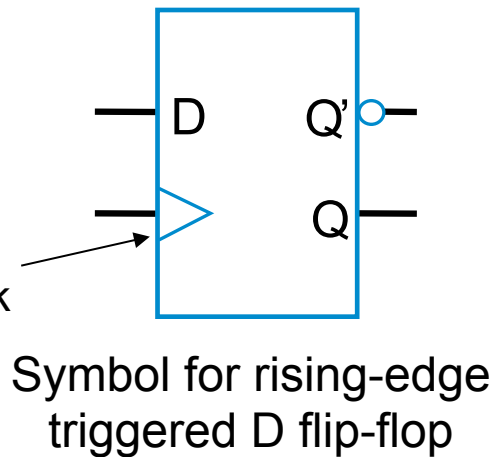
# D Flip-Flop

- Solves problem of not knowing through how many latches a signal travels when  $C=1$ 
  - In figure below, signal travels through exactly one flip-flop, for Clk\_A or Clk\_B
  - Why? Because on *rising edge* of Clk, all four flip-flops are loaded simultaneously – then all four no longer pay attention to their input, until the next rising edge. Doesn't matter how long Clk is 1.



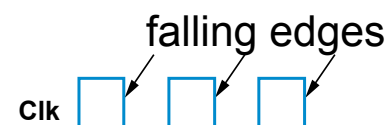
# D Flip-Flop

The triangle means edge-triggered clock input



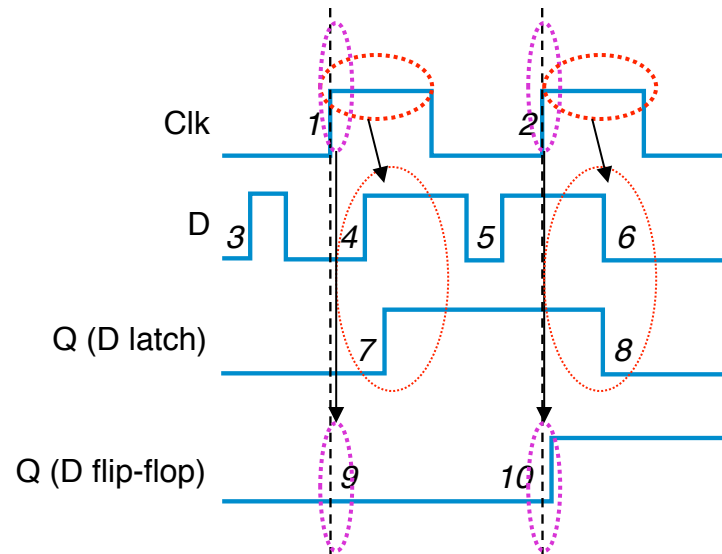
*Internal design: Just invert servant clock rather than master*

Symbol for falling-edge triggered D flip-flop



# D Latch vs. D Flip-Flop

- Latch is level-sensitive
  - Stores D when C=1
- Flip-flop is edge triggered
  - Stores D when C changes from 0 to 1
- Saying “level-sensitive latch” or “edge-triggered flip-flop” is redundant
- Comparing behavior of latch and flip-flop:



*Latch follows D  
while Clk is 1*

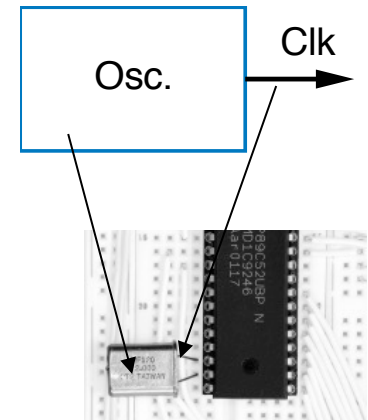
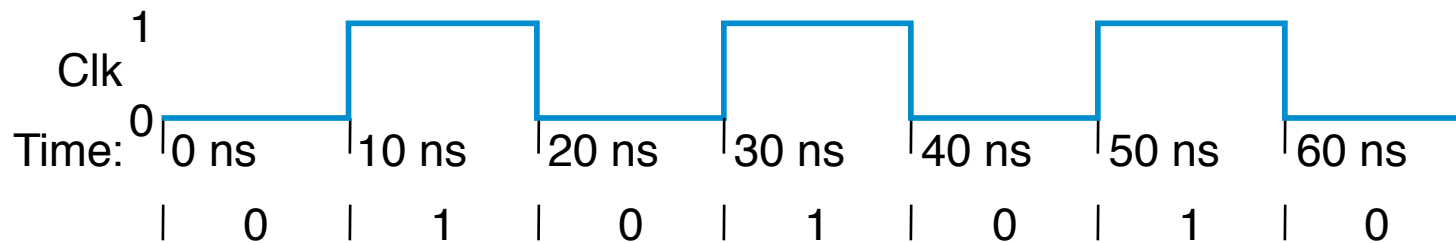
*Flip-flop only loads D  
during Clk rising edge*





# Clock Signal

- Flip-flop Clk inputs typically connect to one clock signal
  - Coming from an oscillator component
  - Generates periodic pulsing signal
    - Below: "Period" = 20 ns, "Frequency" =  $1/20 \text{ ns} = 50 \text{ MHz}$
    - "Cycle" is duration of 1 period (20 ns); below shows 3.5 cycles

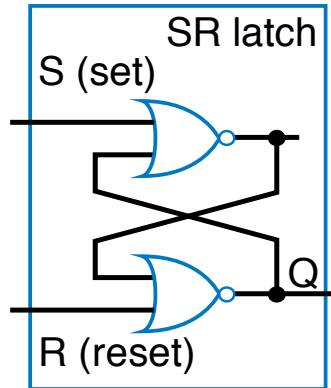


Period/Freq shortcut: Remember  $1 \text{ ns} \rightarrow 1 \text{ GHz}$

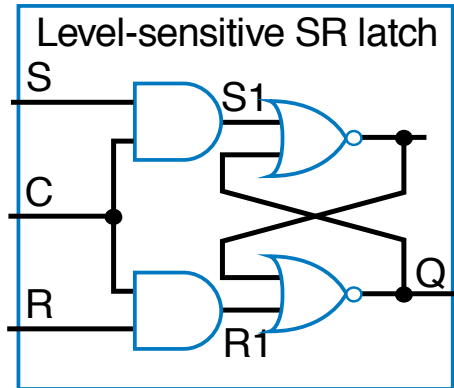
Freq.	Period
100 GHz	0.01 ns
10 GHz	0.1 ns
<b>1 GHz</b>	<b>1 ns</b>
100 MHz	10 ns
10 MHz	100 ns



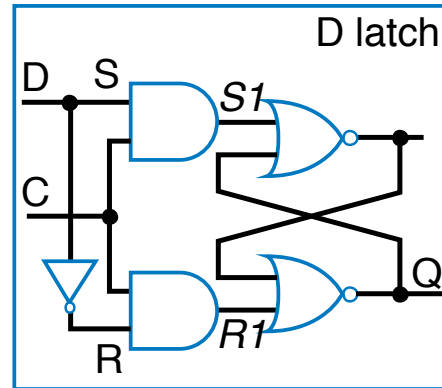
# Bit Storage Summary



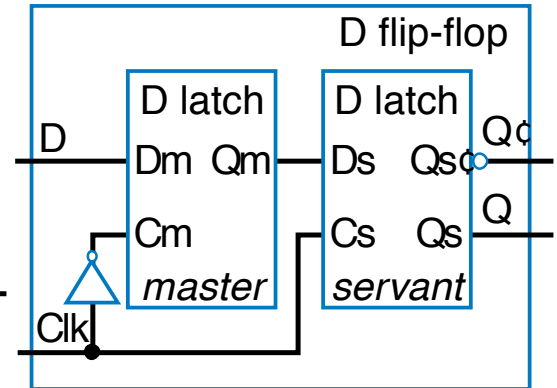
*Feature:*  $S=1$  sets  $Q$  to 1,  $R=1$  resets  $Q$  to 0.  
*Problem:*  $SR=11$  yields undefined  $Q$ , other glitches may set/reset inadvertently.



*Feature:*  $S$  and  $R$  only have effect when  $C=1$ . An external circuit can prevent  $SR=11$  when  $C=1$ .  
*Problem:* avoiding  $SR=11$  can be a burden.



*Feature:*  $SR$  can't be 11.  
*Problem:*  $C=1$  for too long will propagate new values through too many latches; for too short may not result in the bit being stored.



*Feature:* Only loads  $D$  value present at rising clock edge, so values can't propagate to other flip-flops during same clock cycle. *Tradeoff:* uses more gates internally, and requires more external gates than  $SR$ — but transistors today are more plentiful and cheaper.

- We considered increasingly better bit storage until we arrived at the robust D flip-flop bit storage



# Flight-Attendant Call Button Using D Flip-Flop

- D flip-flop will store bit
- Inputs are Call, Cancel, and present value of D flip-flop, Q
- Truth table shown below

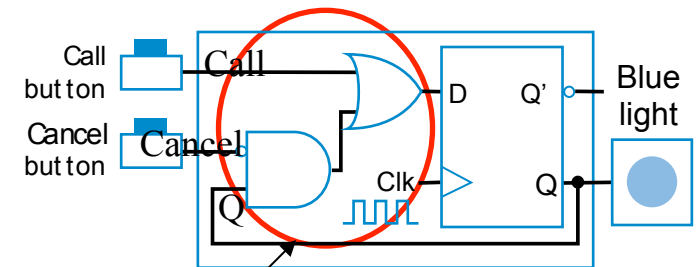
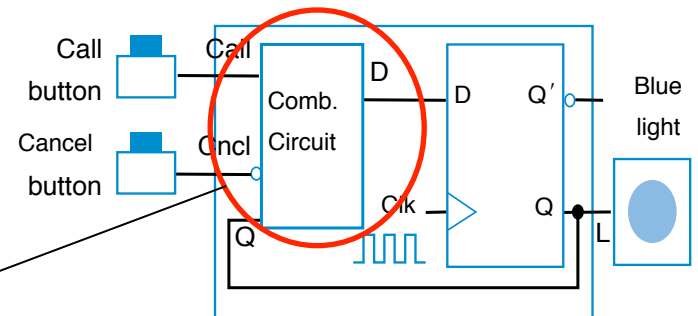
Call	Cancel	Q	D
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

<sup>a</sup> Preserve value: if  
Q=0, make D=0; if  
Q=1, make D=1

Cancel -- make  
D=0

Call -- make D=1

Let's give priority  
to Call -- make  
D=1

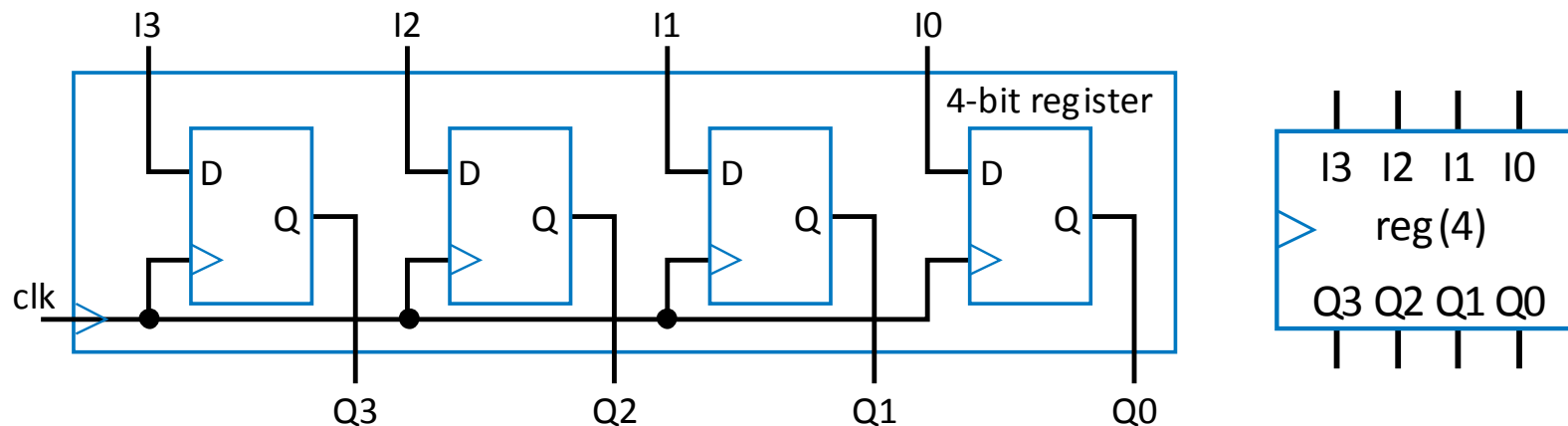


Circuit derived from truth table,  
using Chapter 2 combinational  
logic design process



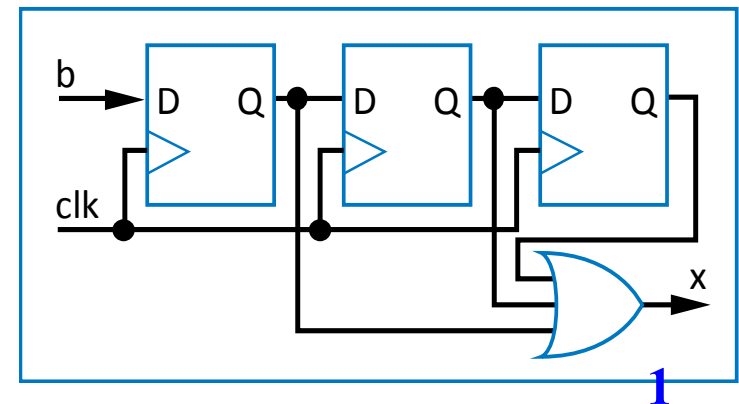
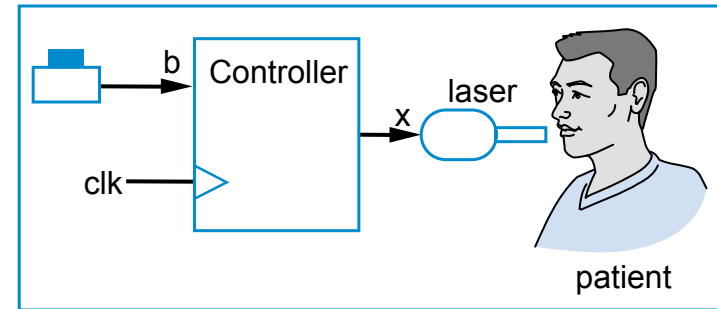
# Basic Register

- Typically, we store multi-bit items
  - e.g., storing a 4-bit binary number
- **Register**: multiple flip-flops sharing clock signal
  - From this point, we'll use registers for bit storage
    - No need to think of latches or flip-flops
    - But now you know what's inside a register



# Finite-State Machines (FSMs) and Controllers

- Want sequential circuit with particular behavior over time
- Example: Laser timer
  - Pushing button causes  $x=1$  for exactly 3 clock cycles
    - Precisely-timed laser pulse
  - How? Let's try three flip-flops
    - $b=1$  gets stored in first D flip-flop
    - Then 2nd flip-flop on next cycle, then 3rd flip-flop on next
    - OR the three flip-flop outputs, so  $x$  should be 1 for three cycles



Bad job – what if button pressed a second time during those 3 cycles?



# Need a Better Way to Design Sequential Circuits

- Also bad because of ad hoc design process
  - How create other sequential circuits?
- Need
  - A way to capture desired sequential behavior
  - A way to convert such behavior to a sequential circuit

*Like we had for  
designing  
combinational  
circuits*

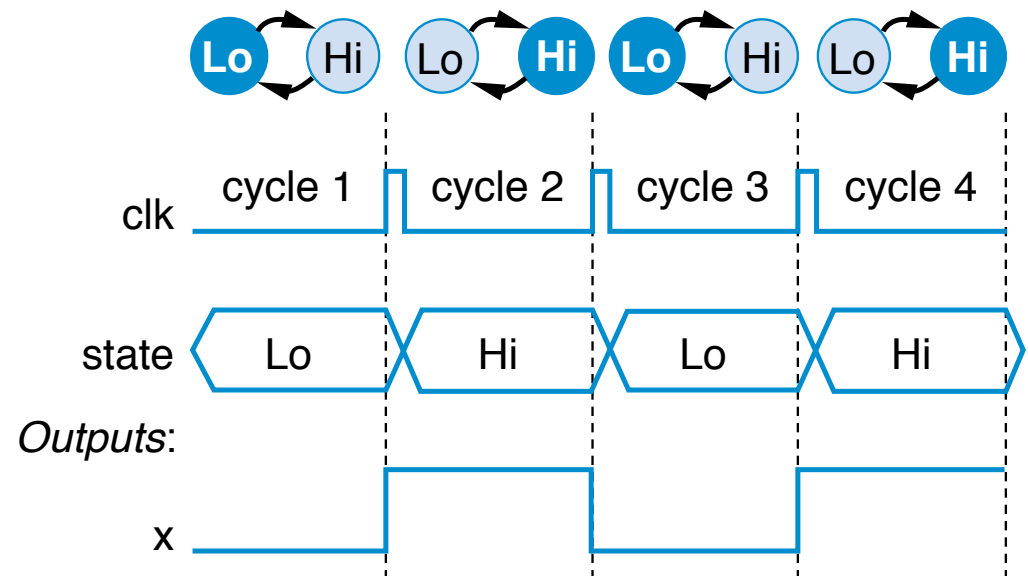
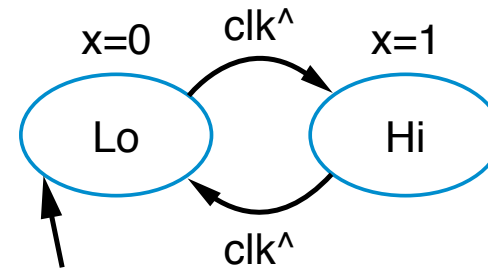
Step	Description
Step 1: Capture behavior <b>Capture</b> the function	Create a truth table or equations, <b>whichever is most natural for the given problem</b> , to describe the desired behavior of each output of the combinational logic.
Step 2: Convert to circuit 2A: <b>Create</b> equations 2B: <b>Implement</b> as a gate-based circuit	<p>This substep is only necessary if you captured the function using a truth table instead of equations. Create an equation for each output by ORing all the minterms for that output. Simplify the equations if desired.</p> <p>For each output, create a circuit corresponding to the output's equation. (Sharing gates among multiple outputs is OK optionally.)</p>



# Capturing Sequential Circuit Behavior as FSM

- Finite-State Machine (FSM)
  - Describes desired behavior of sequential circuit
    - Akin to Boolean equations for combinational behavior
- List states, and transitions among states
  - Example: Toggle  $x$  every clock cycle
  - Two states: “Lo” ( $x=0$ ), and “Hi” ( $x=1$ )
  - Transition from Lo to Hi, or Hi to Lo, on rising clock edge ( $\text{clk}^\wedge$ )
  - Arrow points to initial state (when circuit first starts)

Outputs:  $x$

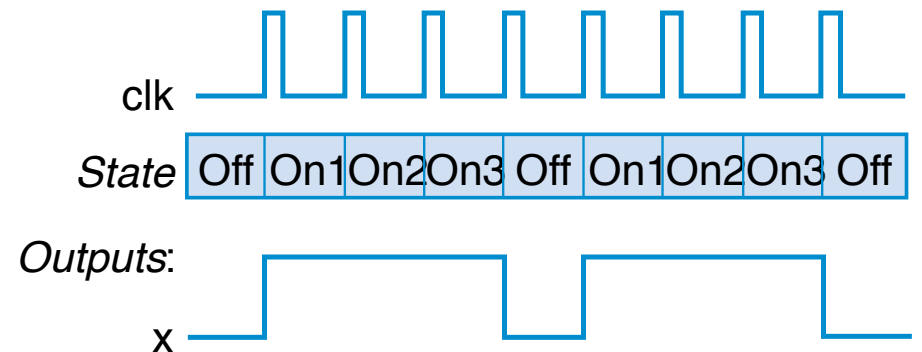
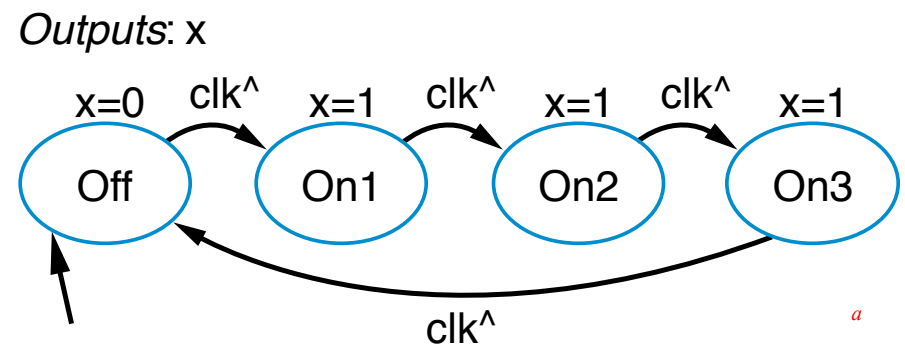


*Depicting multi-bit or other info in a timing diagram*



# FSM Example: Three Cycles High System

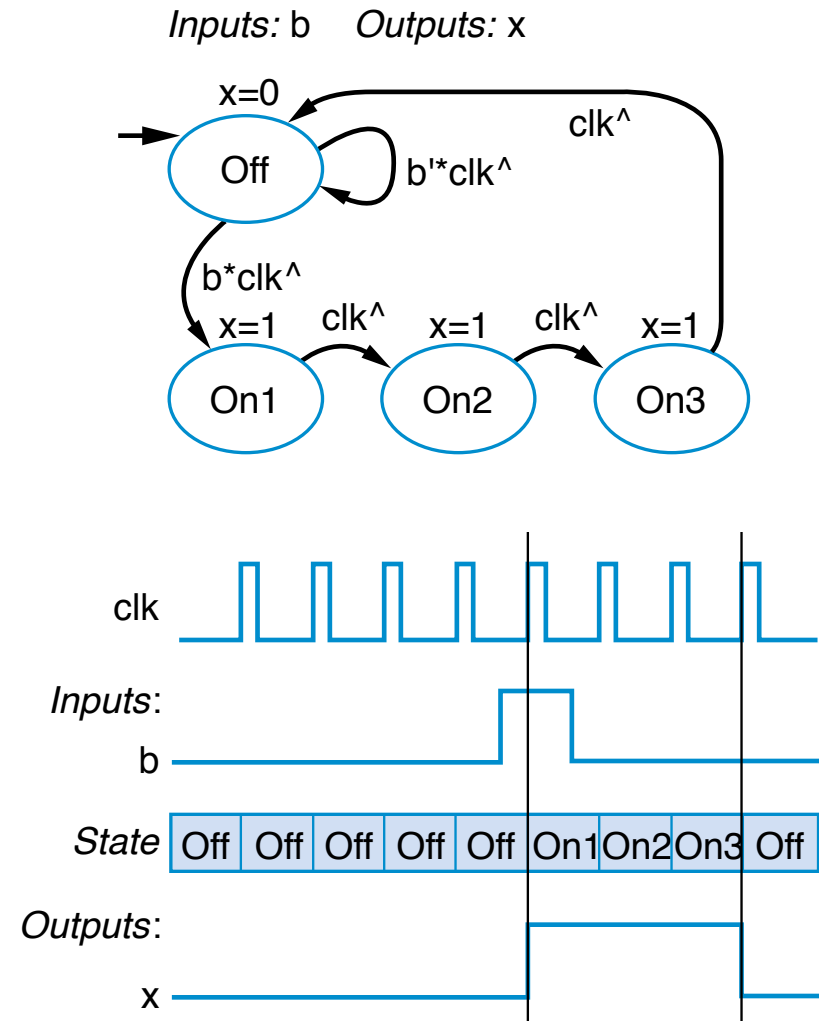
- Want 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1, ...
  - For one clock cycle each
- Capture as FSM
  - Four states: 0, first 1, second 1, third 1
  - Transition on rising clock edge to next state





# Three-Cycles High System with Button Input

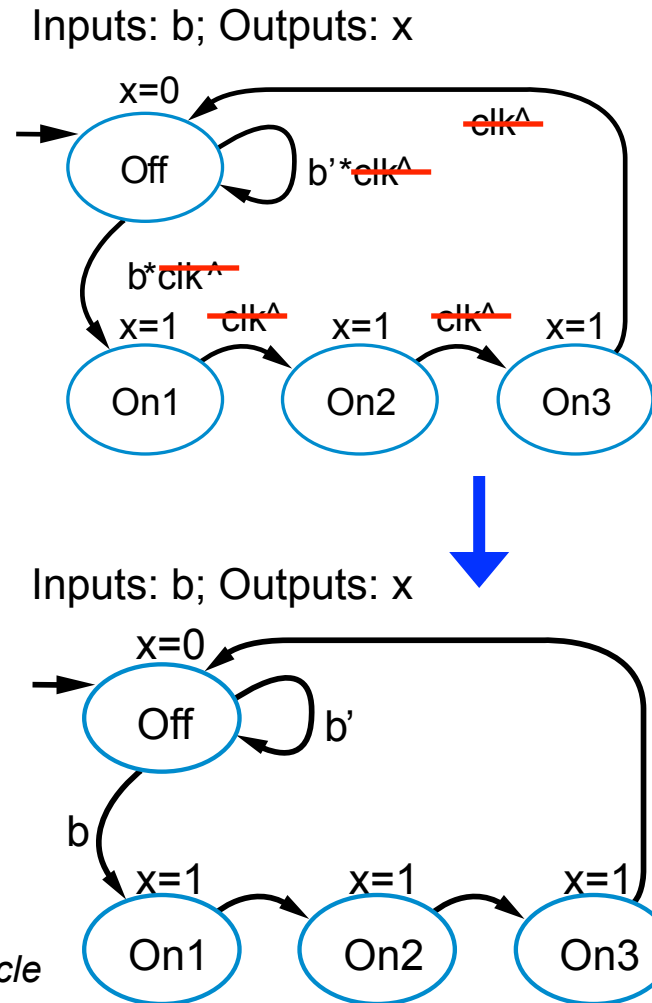
- Four states
- Wait in “Off” while  $b$  is 0 ( $b' \cdot \text{clk}^\wedge$ )
- When  $b$  is 1 ( $b \cdot \text{clk}^\wedge$ ), transition to On1
  - Sets  $x=1$
  - Next two clock edges, transition to On2, then On3
- So  $x=1$  for three cycles after button pressed



# FSM Simplification: Rising Clock Edges Implicit

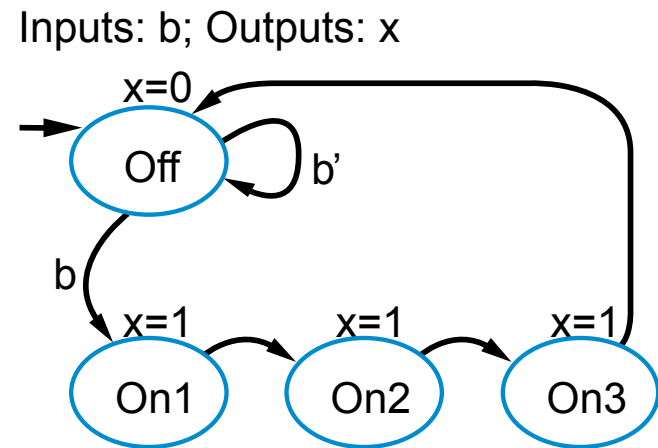
- Every edge ANDed with rising clock edge
- What if we wanted a transition *without* a rising edge
  - We don't consider such asynchronous FSMs – less common, and advanced topic
  - Only consider **synchronous** FSMs – rising edge on *every* transition

*Note: Transition with no associated condition thus transitions to next state on next clock cycle*



# FSM Definition

- FSM consists of
  - Set of states
    - Ex: {Off, On1, On2, On3}
  - Set of inputs, set of outputs
    - Ex: Inputs: {b}, Outputs: {x}
  - Initial state
    - Ex: “Off”
  - Set of transitions
    - Each with condition
    - Describes next states
    - Ex: Has 5 transitions
  - Set of actions
    - Sets outputs in each state
    - Ex:  $x=0$ ,  $x=1$ ,  $x=1$ , and  $x=1$



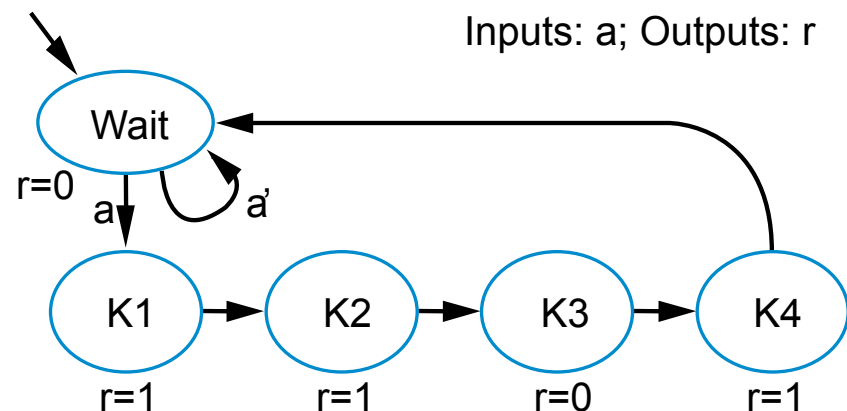
We often draw FSM graphically, known as **state diagram**

Can also use table (state table), or textual languages



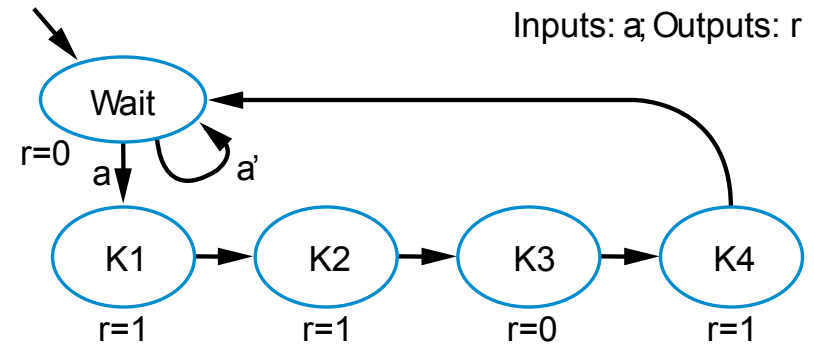
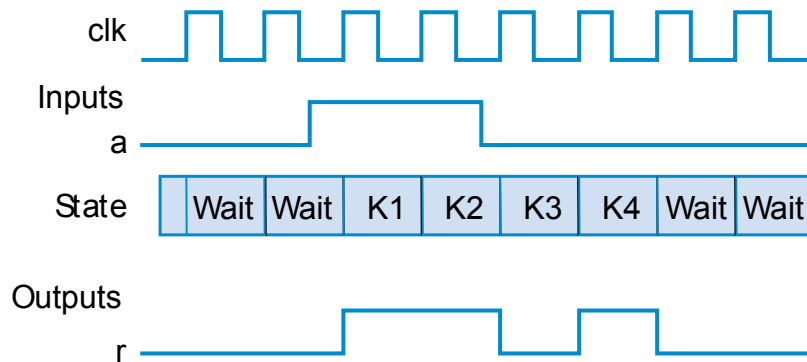
# FSM Example: Secure Car Key

- Many new car keys include tiny computer chip
  - When key turned, car's computer (under engine hood) requests identifier from key
  - Key transmits identifier
    - Else, computer doesn't start car
- FSM
  - Wait until computer requests ID ( $a=1$ )
  - Transmit ID (in this case, 1 1 0 1)

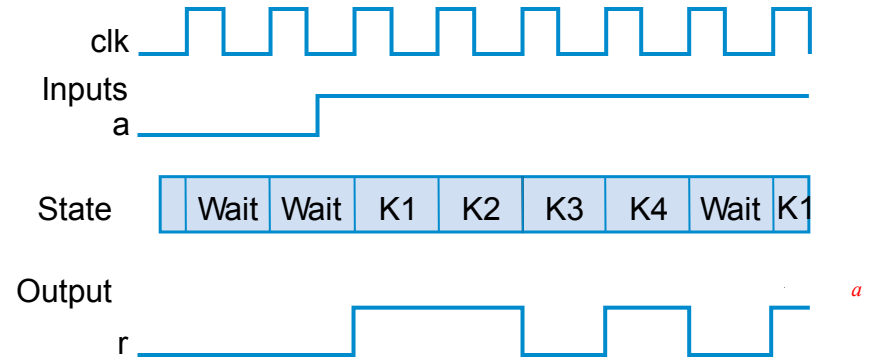


# FSM Example: Secure Car Key (cont.)

- Nice feature of FSM
  - Can evaluate output behavior for different input sequence
  - Timing diagrams show states and output values for different input waveforms

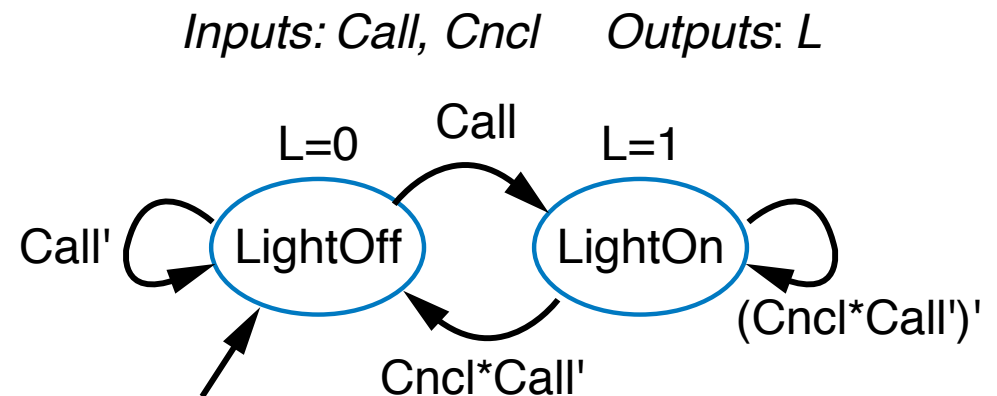
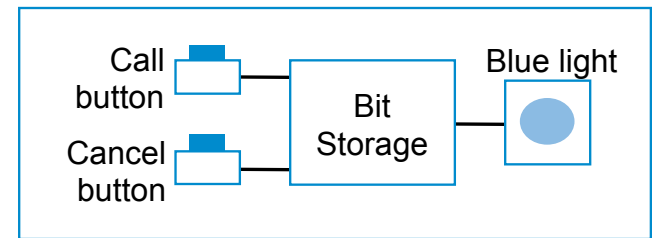


**Q: Determine states and  $r$  value for given input waveform:**



## Ex: Earlier Flight-Attendant Call Button

- Previously built using SR latch, then D flip-flop
- Capture desired bit storage behavior using FSM instead
  - Clear and precise description of desired behavior
  - We'll later convert to a circuit



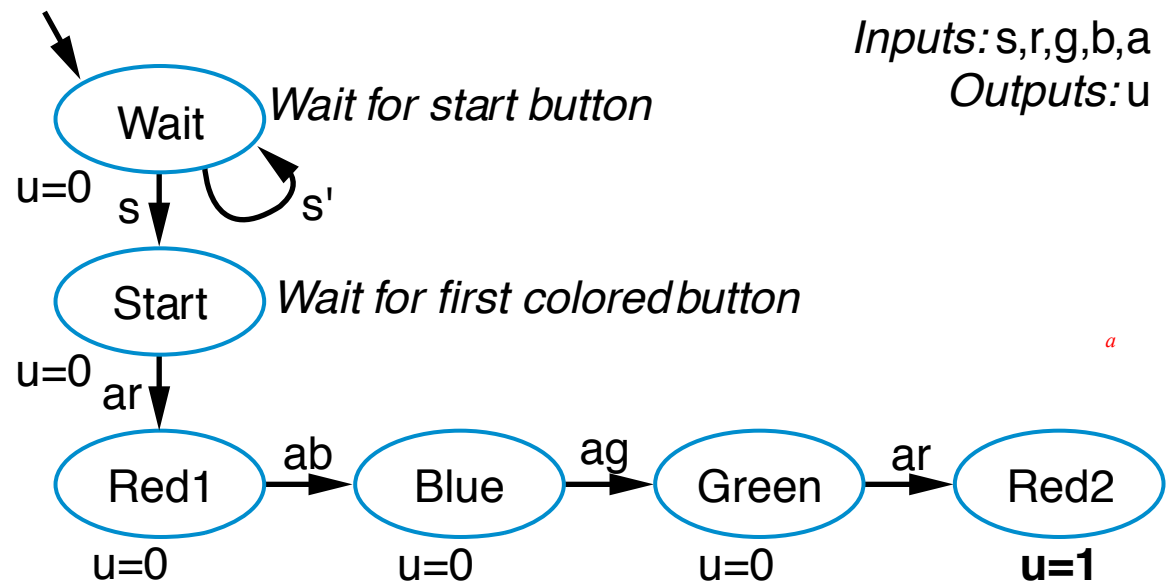
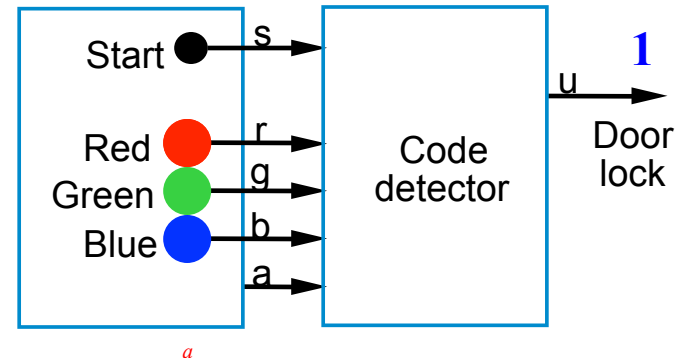
# How To Capture Desired Behavior as FSM

- *List states*
  - Give meaningful names, show initial state
  - Optionally add some transitions if they help
- *Create transitions*
  - For each state, define all possible transitions leaving that state.
- *Refine the FSM*
  - Execute the FSM mentally and make any needed improvements.



# FSM Capture Example: Code Detector

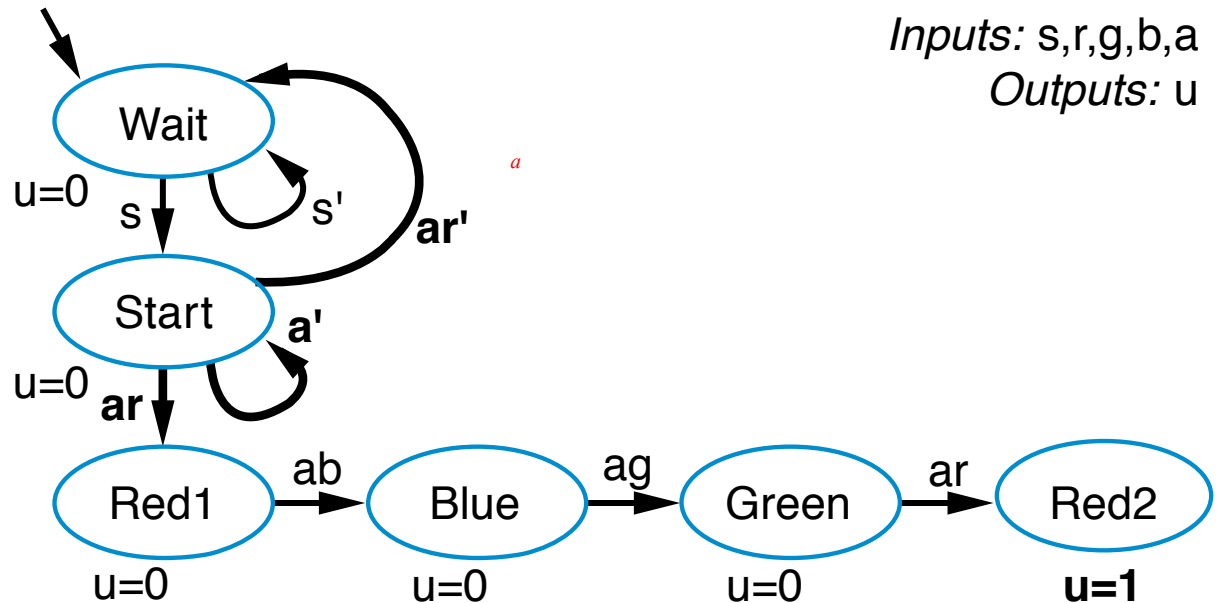
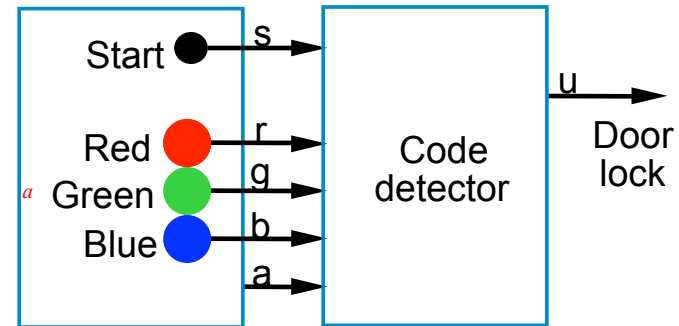
- Unlock door ( $u=1$ ) only when buttons pressed in sequence:
  - start, then red, blue, green, red
- Input from each button:  $s, r, g, b$ 
  - Also, output  $a$  indicates that some colored button pressed
- Capture as FSM
  - **List states**
    - Some transitions included





# FSM Capture Example: Code Detector

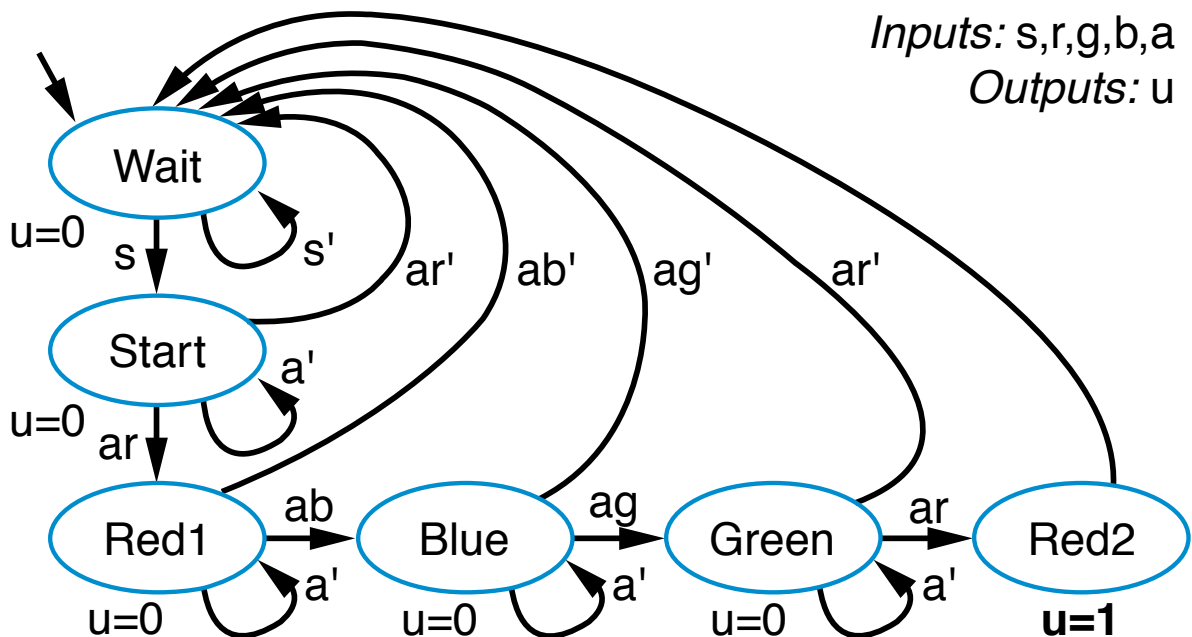
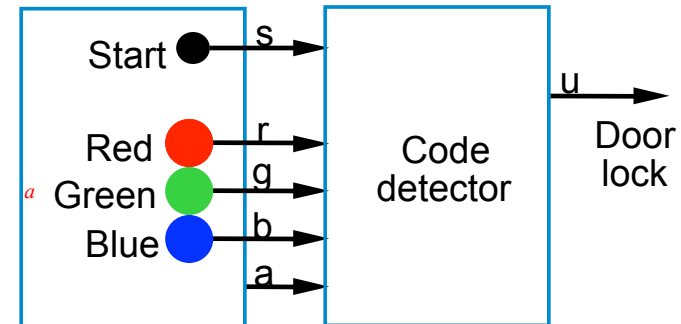
- Capture as FSM
  - *List states*
  - **Create transitions**



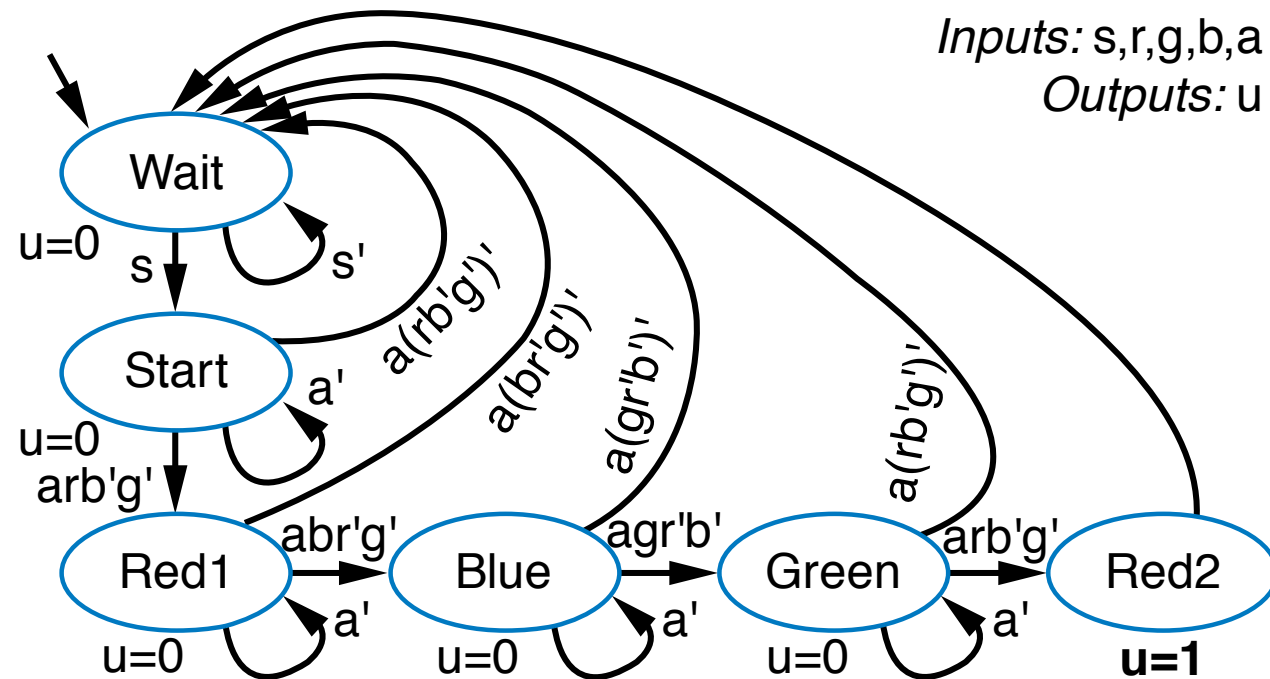
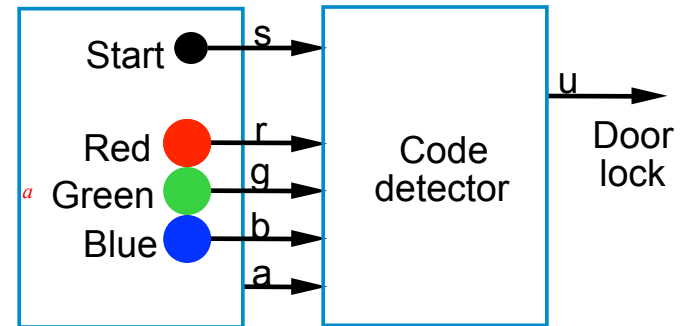
# FSM Capture Example: Code Detector

- Capture as FSM

- *List states*
- *Create transitions*
  - Repeat for remaining states
- Refine FSM
  - Mentally execute
  - Works for normal sequence
  - Check unusual cases
  - All colored buttons pressed
    - Door opens!
    - Change conditions: other buttons NOT pressed also



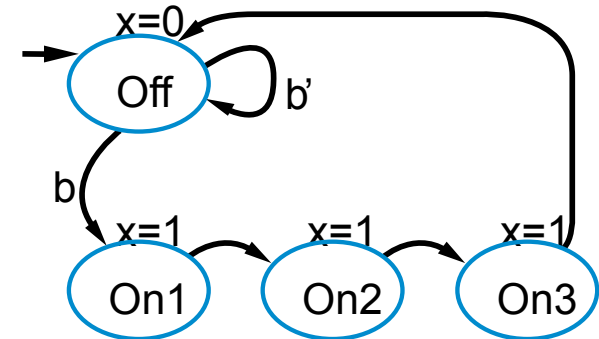
# FSM Capture Example: Code Detector



# Controller Design

## Laser timer FSM

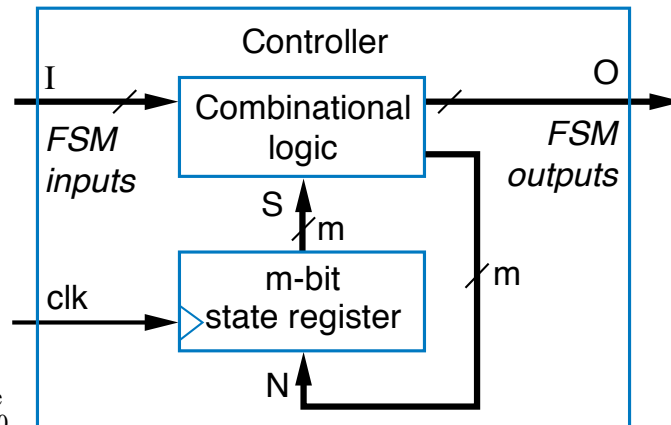
Inputs: b; Outputs: x



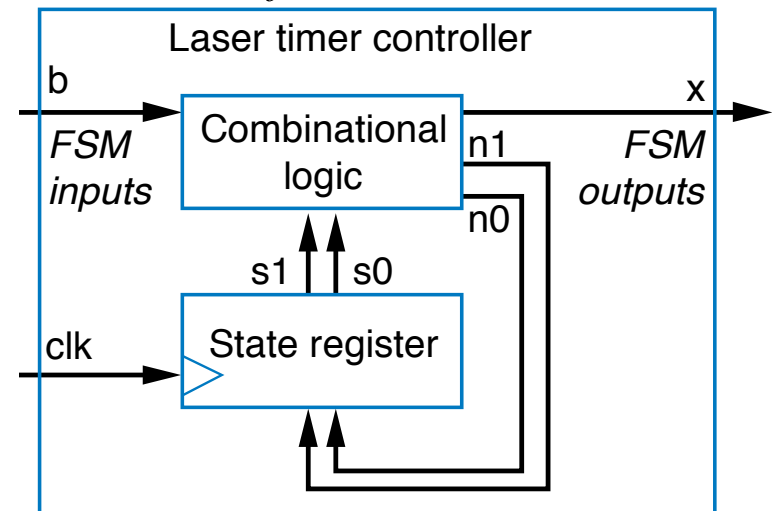
- Converting FSM to sequential circuit
  - Circuit called *controller*
  - Standard controller architecture
    - State register stores encoding of current state
      - e.g., Off:00, On1:01, On2:10, On3:11
    - Combinational logic computes outputs and next state from inputs and current state
    - Rising clock edge takes controller to next state

General form

a



## Controller for laser timer FSM



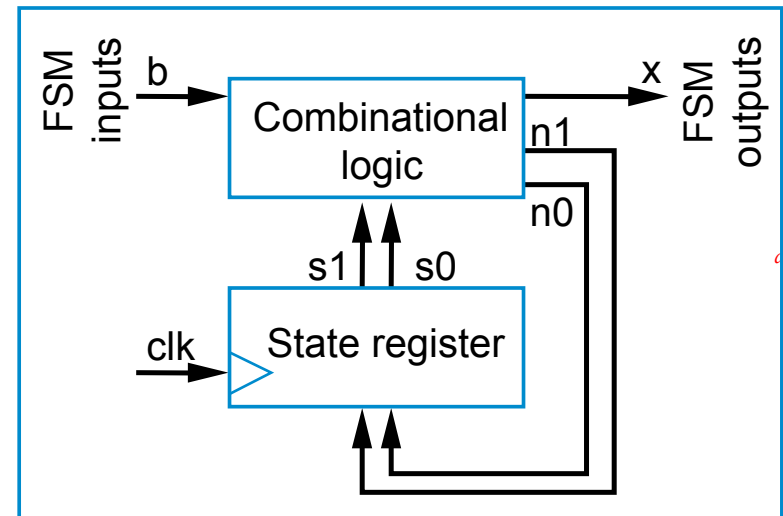
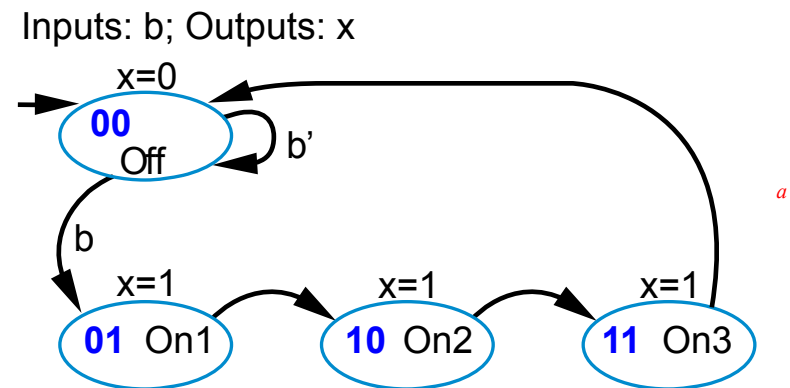
# Controller Design Process

Step	Description
Step 1: Capture behavior	<b>Capture</b> the FSM Create an FSM that describes the desired behavior of the controller.
Step 2: Convert to circuit	2A: <b>Set up</b> architecture Use state register of appropriate width and combinational logic. The logic's inputs are the state register bits and the FSM inputs; outputs are next state bits and the FSM outputs.
	2B: <b>Encode</b> the states Assign unique binary number (encoding) to each state. Usually use fewest bits, assign encoding to each state by counting up in binary.
	2C: <b>Fill in</b> the truth table Translate FSM to truth table for combinational logic such that the logic will generate the outputs and next state signals for the given FSM. Ordering the inputs with state bits first makes the correspondence between the table and the FSM clear.
	2D: <b>Implement</b> combinational logic Implement the combinational logic using any method.



# Controller Design: Laser Timer Example

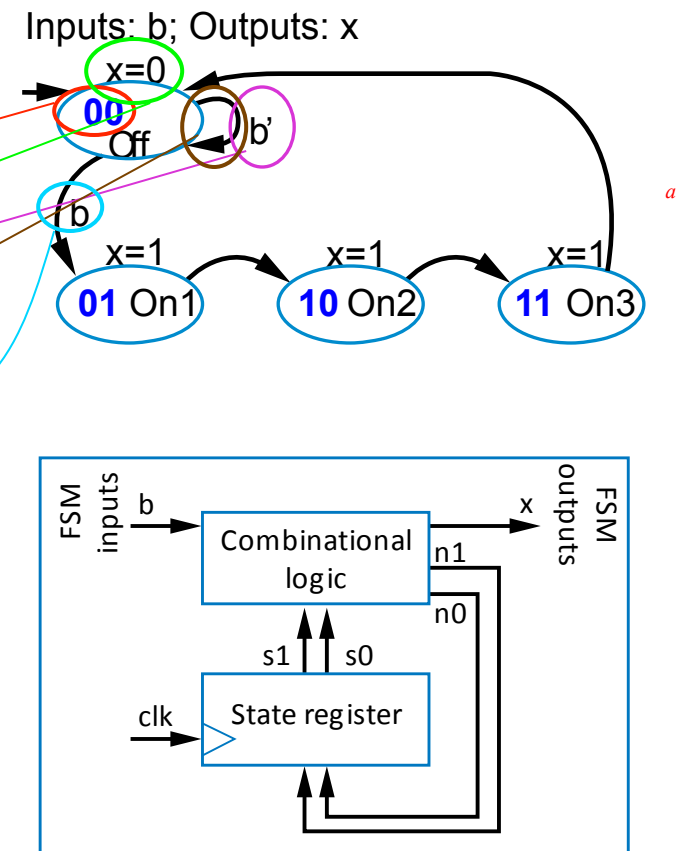
- Step 1: Capture the FSM
  - Already done
- Step 2A: Set up architecture
  - 2-bit state register (for 4 states)
  - Input b, output x
  - Next state signals n1, n0
- Step 2B: Encode the states
  - Any encoding with each state unique will work



# Controller Design: Laser Timer Example (cont)

- Step 2C: Fill in truth table

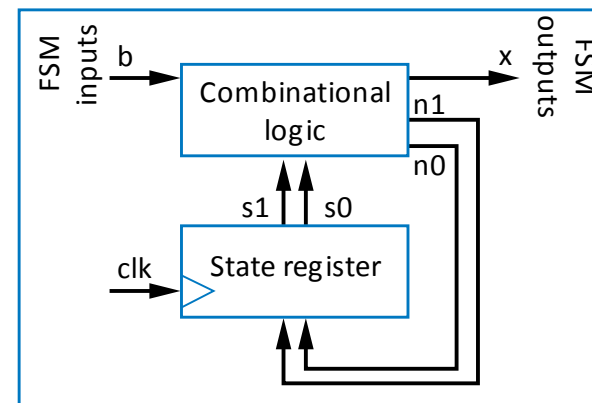
	Inputs			Outputs		
	s1	s0	b	x	n1	n0
<i>Off</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	1	0	0	1
<i>On1</i>	0	1	0	1	1	0
	0	1	1	1	1	0
<i>On2</i>	1	0	0	1	1	1
	1	0	1	1	1	1
<i>On3</i>	1	1	0	1	0	0
	1	1	1	1	0	0



# Controller Design: Laser Timer Example (cont)

- Step 2D: Implement combinational logic

	Inputs			Outputs		
	s1	s0	b	x	n1	n0
<i>Off</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	1	0	0	1
<i>On1</i>	0	1	0	1	1	0
	0	1	1	1	1	0
<i>On2</i>	1	0	0	1	1	1
	1	0	1	1	1	1
<i>On3</i>	1	1	0	1	0	0
	1	1	1	1	0	0



$$x = s1 + s0 \text{ (note that } x=1 \text{ if } s1=1 \text{ or } s0=1\text{)}$$

$$n1 = s1's0b' + s1's0b + s1s0'b' + s1s0'b$$

$$n1 = s1's0 + s1s0'$$

$$n0 = s1's0'b + s1s0'b' + s1s0'b$$

$$n0 = s1's0'b + s1s0'$$

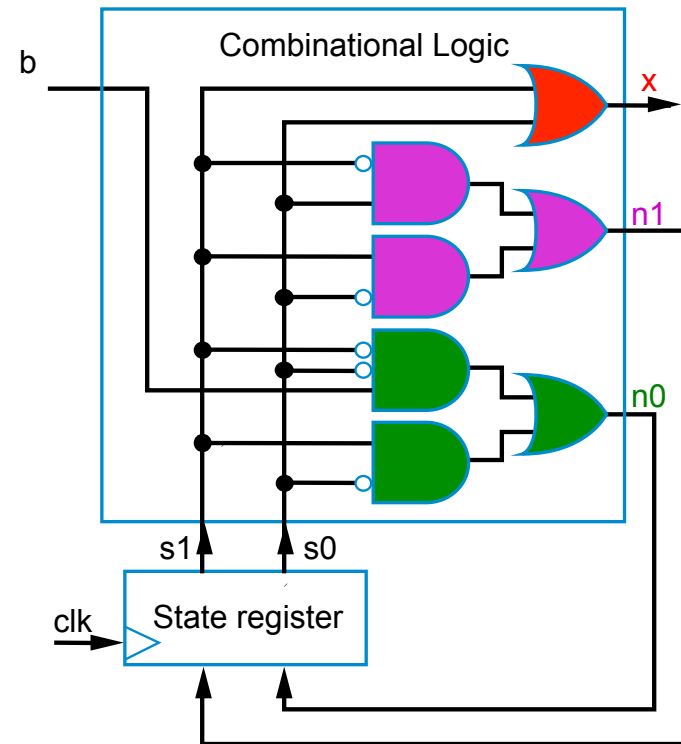




# Controller Design: Laser Timer Example (cont)

- Step 2D: Implement combinational logic (cont)

	Inputs			Outputs		
	s1	s0	b	x	n1	n0
<i>Off</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	1	0	0	1
<i>On1</i>	0	1	0	1	1	0
	0	1	1	1	1	0
<i>On2</i>	1	0	0	1	1	1
	1	0	1	1	1	1
<i>On3</i>	1	1	0	1	0	0
	1	1	1	1	0	0



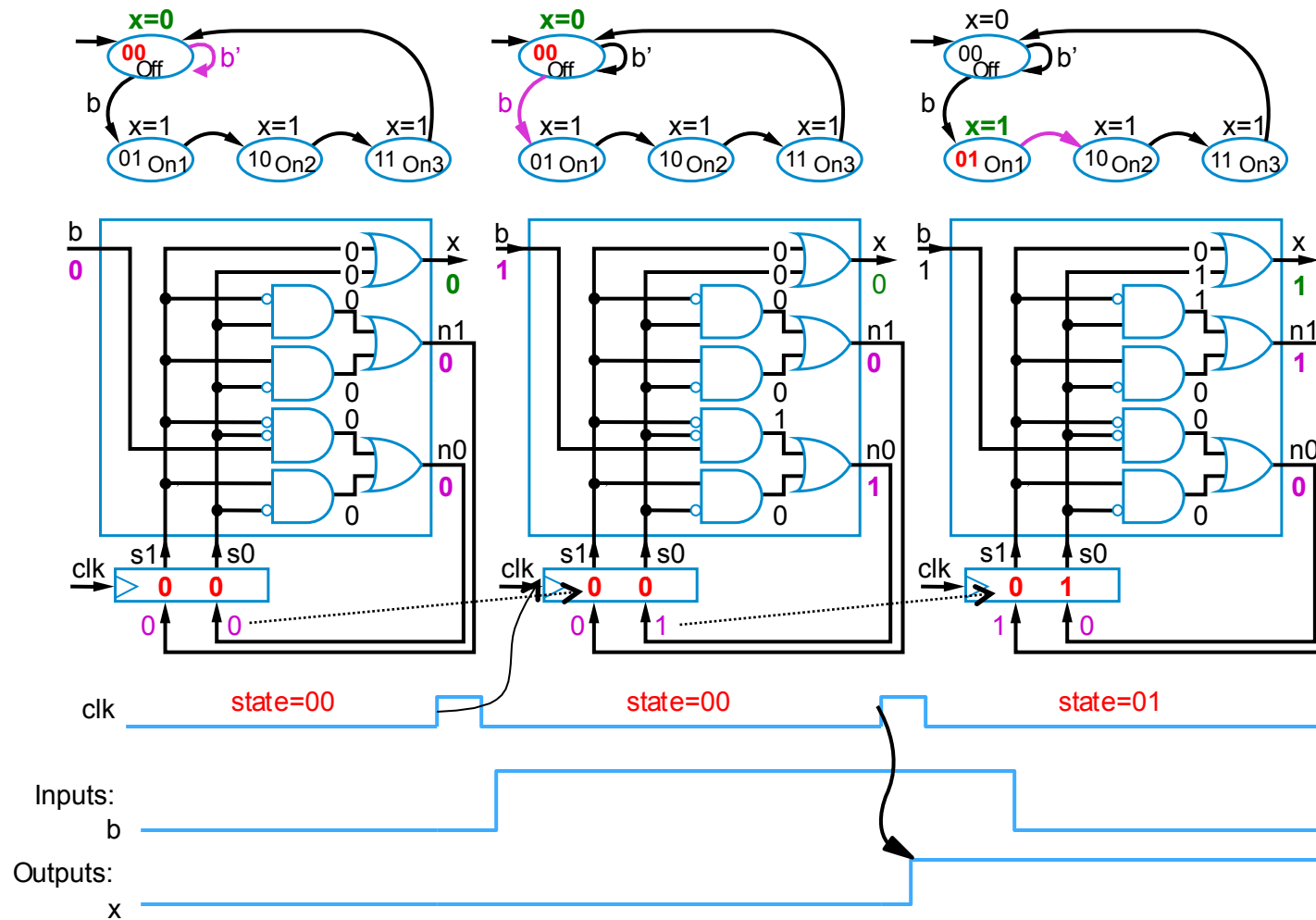
$$x = s1 + s0$$

$$n1 = s1's0 + s1s0'$$

$$n0 = s1's0'b + s1s0'$$

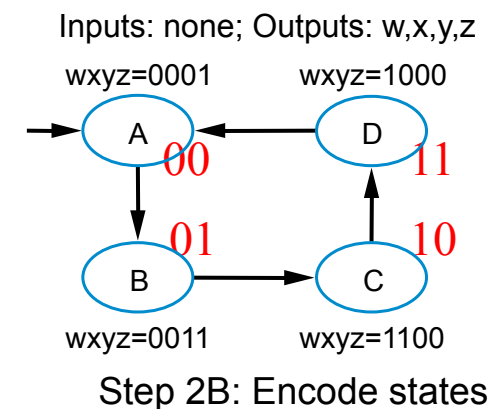
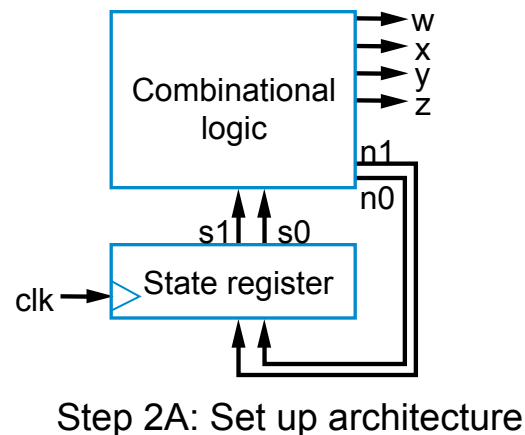
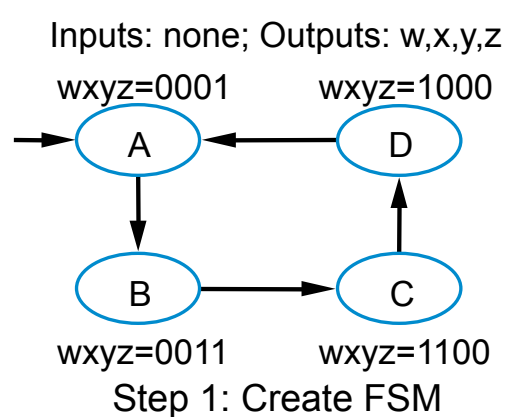


# Understanding the Controller's Behavior



# Controller Example: Sequence Generator

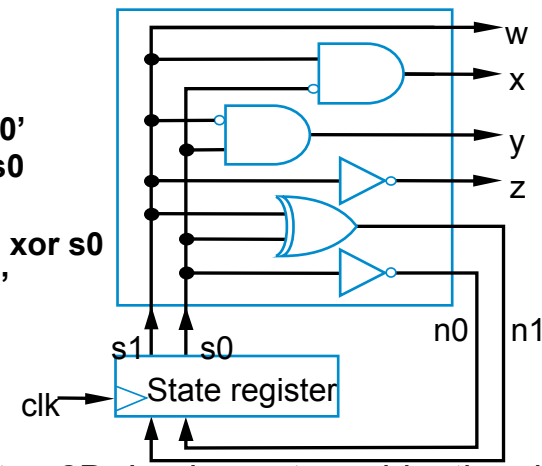
- Want generate sequence 0001, 0011, 1100, 1000, (repeat)
  - Each value for one clock cycle
  - Common, e.g., to create pattern in 4 lights, or control magnets of a “stepper motor”



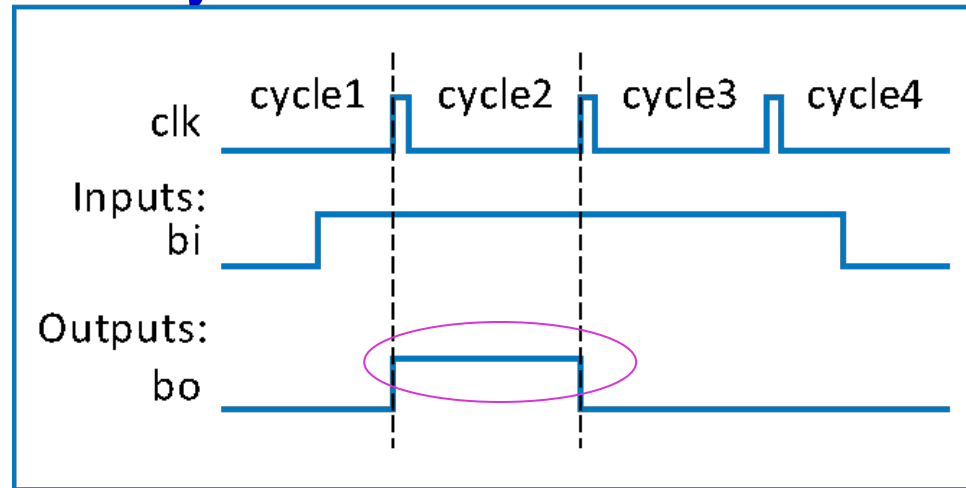
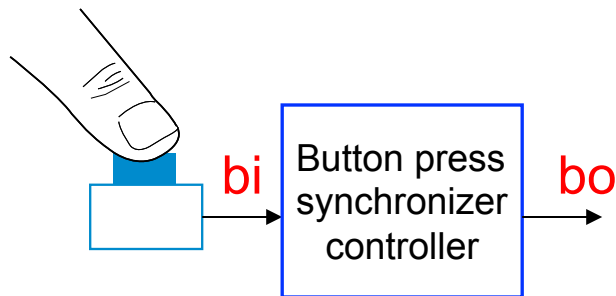
	Inputs		Outputs					
	s1	s0	w	x	y	z	n1	n0
A	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
B	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
C	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
D	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

Step 2C: Fill in truth table

$$\begin{aligned}
 w &= s1 \\
 x &= s1s0' \\
 y &= s1's0 \\
 z &= s1' \\
 n1 &= s1 \text{ xor } s0 \\
 n0 &= s0'
 \end{aligned}$$



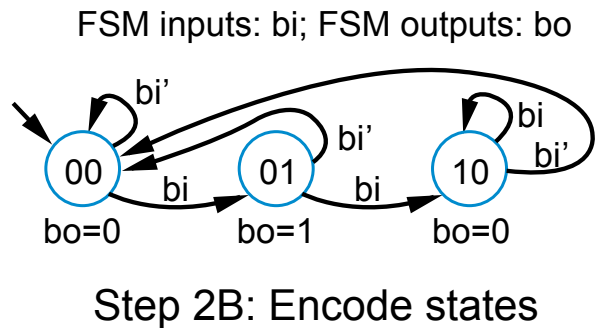
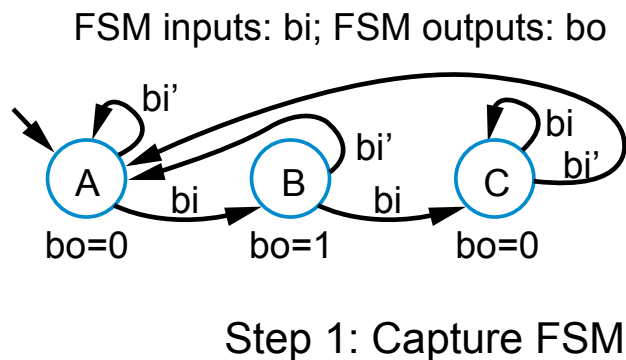
# Controller Example: Button Press Synchronizer



- Want simple sequential circuit that converts button press to single cycle duration, regardless of length of time that button was actually pressed
  - We assumed such an ideal button press signal in earlier example, like the button in the laser timer controller

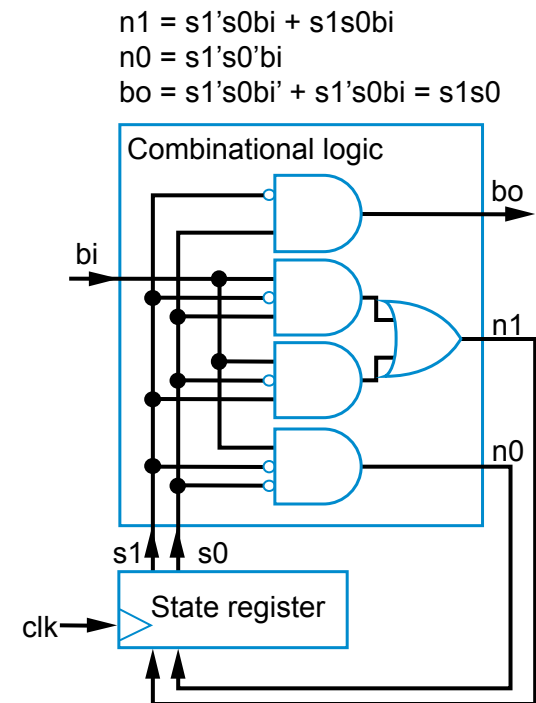
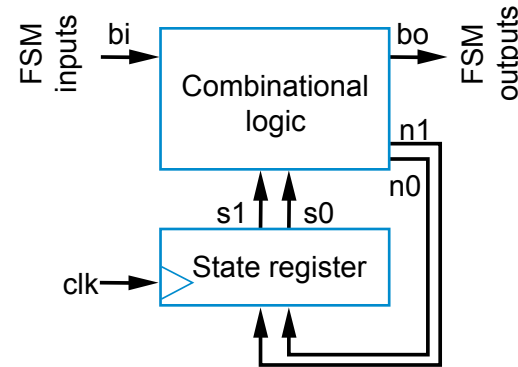


# Controller Example: Button Press Synchronizer (cont)

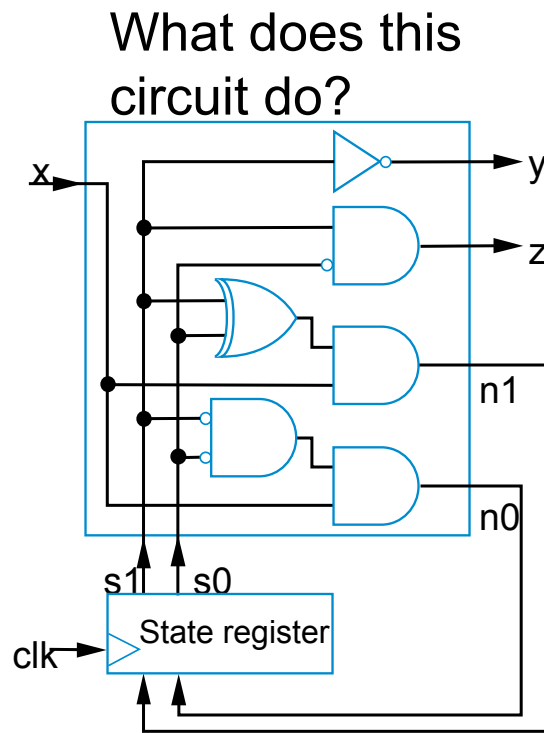


	Combinational logic Inputs			Outputs		
	s1	s0	bi	n1	n0	bo
A	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	1	0	1	0
B	0	1	0	0	0	1
	0	1	1	1	0	1
C	1	0	0	0	0	0
	1	0	1	1	0	0
unused	1	1	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	0	0	0

Step 2C: Fill in truth table



# Converting a Circuit to FSM (Reverse Engineering)



**Work backwards**

2D: Circuit to eqns

$$y = s1'$$

$$z = s1s0'$$

$$n1 = (s1 \text{ xor } s0)x$$

$$n0 = (s1' * s0')x$$

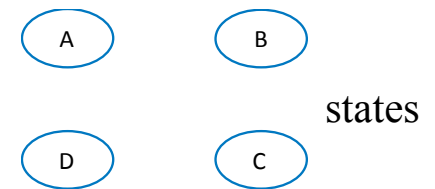
2C: Truth table

	Inputs			Outputs			
	s1	s0	x	n1	n0	y	z
A	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
B	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
C	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
D	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	0	0	0	0

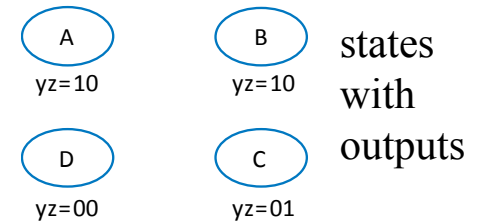
2B: (Un)encode states

Pick any state names you want

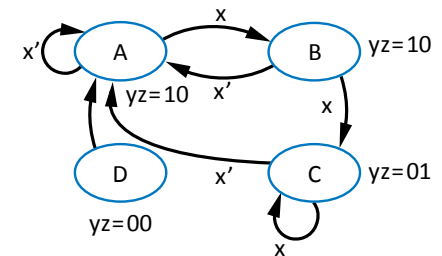
Step 1: FSM (get from table)



Outputs: y, z



Inputs: x; Outputs: y, z

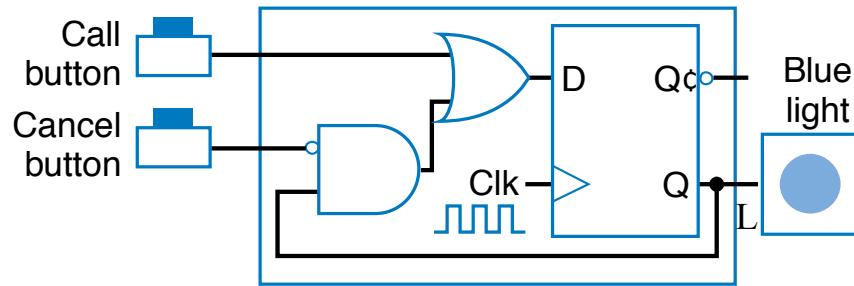


states with outputs and transitions

2A: Set up arch – already done



# Reverse Engin. the D-flip-flop Flight Atten. Call Button



2C:  
Truth  
table

Inputs			Outputs	
Q	Call	Cncl	D	L
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0
Light Off	0	1	0	0
	0	1	1	0
Light On	1	0	1	1
	1	0	0	1
	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1

2B:  
(Un)encode  
states

2D: Circuit to eqns

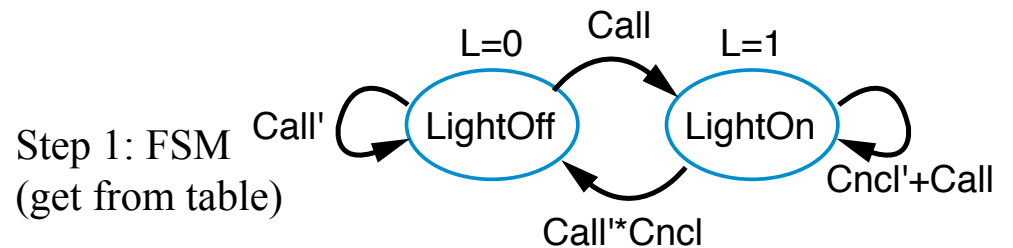
$$L = Q$$

$$D = \text{Cncl}'Q + \text{Call (next state)}$$

2A: Set up  
arch (nothing  
to do)

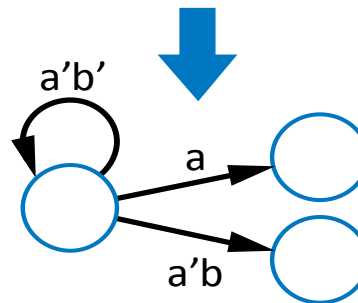
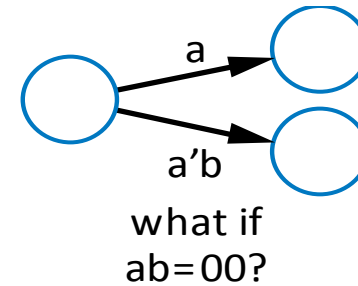
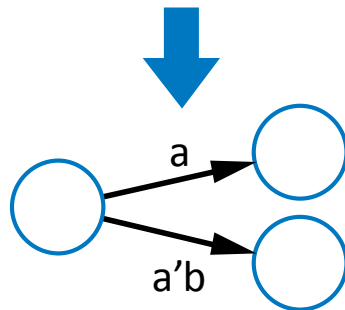
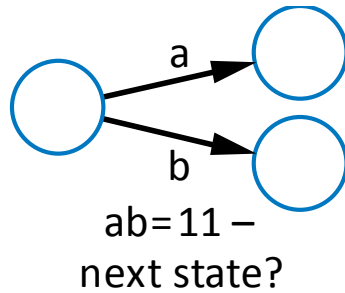
*Don't let the way the circuit is drawn  
confuse you; the combinational logic is  
everything outside the register*

Inputs: Call, Cncl    Outputs: L



# Common Mistakes when Capturing FSMs

- Non-exclusive transitions
- Incomplete transitions

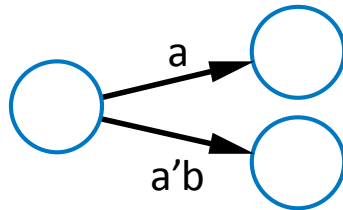




# Verifying Correct Transition Properties

- Can verify using Boolean algebra

- Only one condition true: AND of each condition pair (for transitions leaving a state) should equal 0  $\rightarrow$  proves pair can never simultaneously be true
- One condition true: OR of all conditions of transitions leaving a state) should equal 1  $\rightarrow$  proves at least one condition must be true
- Example



## Answer:

$$\begin{aligned} & a * a'b \\ &= (a * a') * b \\ &= 0 * b \\ &= 0 \\ & \text{OK!} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & a + a'b \\ &= a*(1+b) + a'b \\ &= a + ab + a'b \\ &= a + (a+a')b \\ &= a + b \end{aligned}$$

Fails! Might not be 1 (i.e.,  $a=0$ ,  $b=0$ )

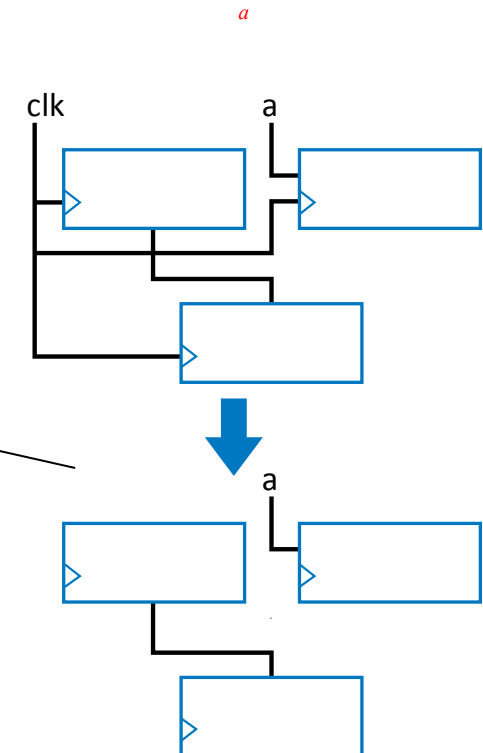
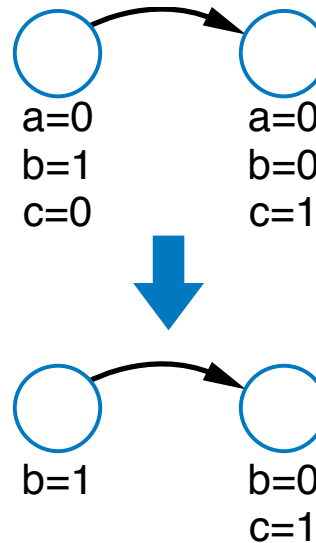
Q: For shown transitions, prove whether:

- \* Only one condition true (AND of each pair is always 0)
- \* One condition true (OR of all transitions is always 1)



# Simplifying Notations

- FSMs
  - Assume unassigned output implicitly assigned 0
- Sequential circuits
  - Assume unconnected clock inputs connected to same external clock



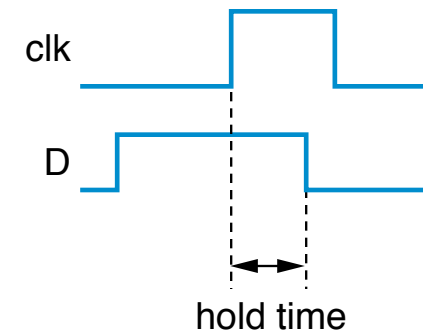
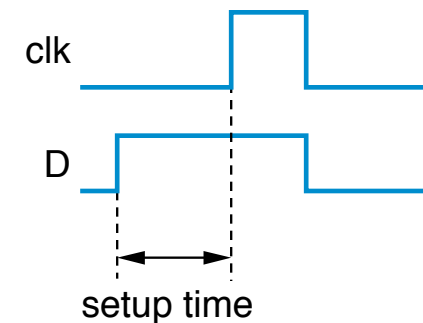
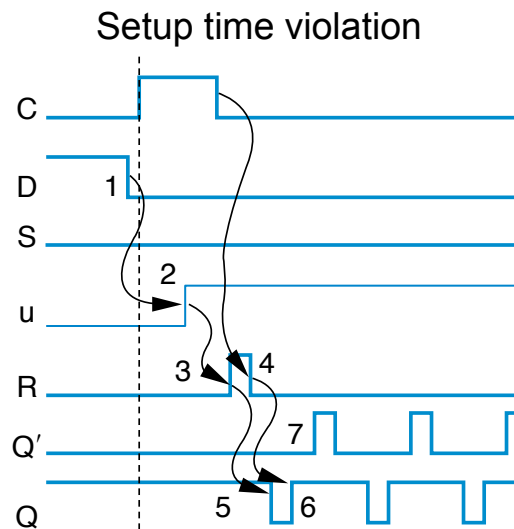
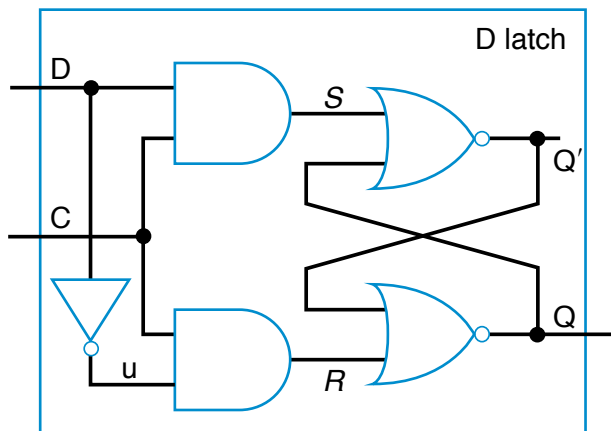
# Mathematical Formalisms

- Two formalisms to capture behavior thus far
  - Boolean equations for combinational circuit design
  - FSMs for sequential circuit design
- Not *necessary*
  - But tremendously *beneficial*
    - Structured methodology
    - Correct circuits
    - Automated design, automated verification, many more advantages



## More on Flip-Flops and Controllers

- Non-ideal flip-flop behavior
  - Can't change flip-flop input too close to clock edge
  - Setup time: time D must be stable *before* edge
    - Else, stable value not present at internal latch
  - Hold time: time D must be held stable *after* edge
    - Else, new value doesn't have time to loop around and stabilize in internal latch

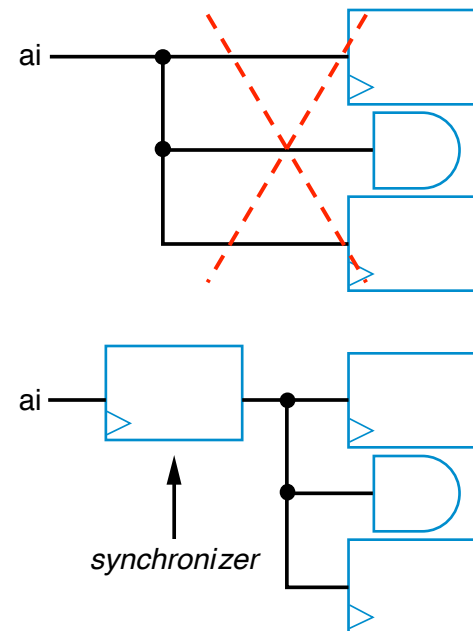
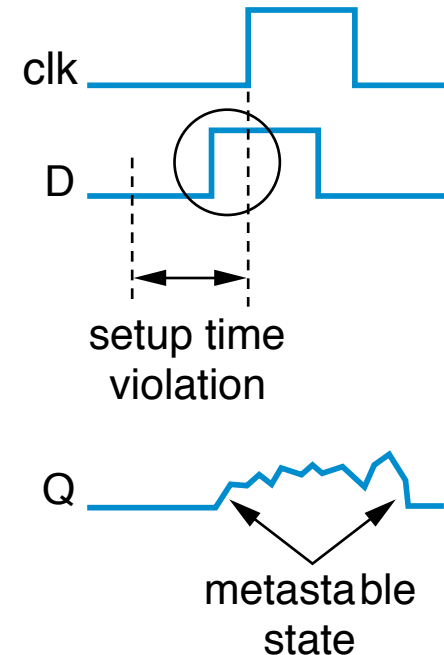


Leads to oscillation!



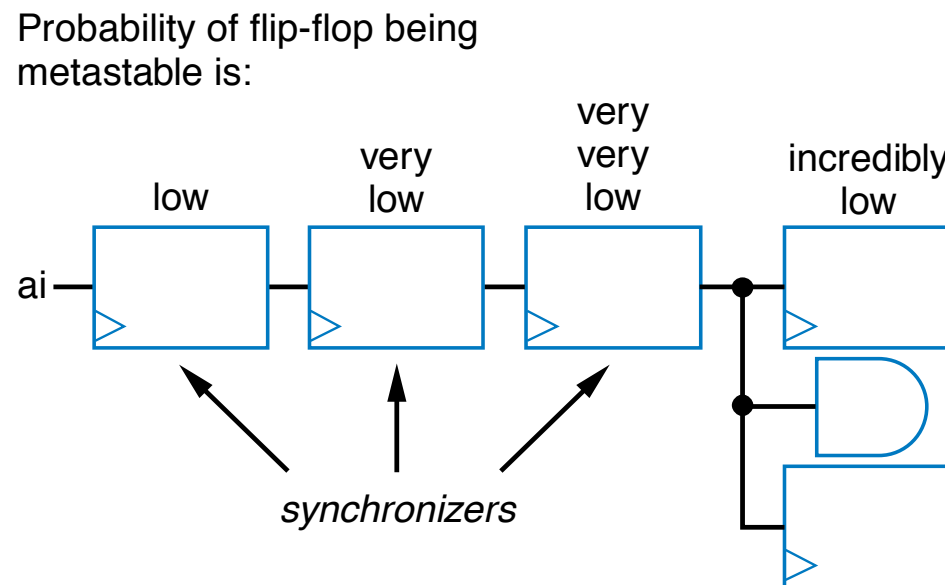
# Metastability

- Violating setup/hold time can lead to bad situation
  - **Metastable** state: Any flip-flop state other than stable 1 or 0
    - Eventually settles to either, but we don't know which
  - For internal circuits, we can make sure to observe setup time
  - But what if input is from external (asynchronous) source, e.g., button press?
- Partial solution
  - Insert synchronizer flip-flop for asynchronous input
    - Special flip-flop with very small setup/hold time



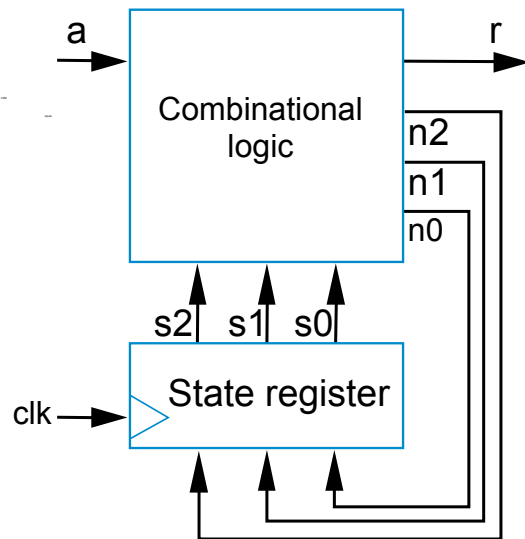
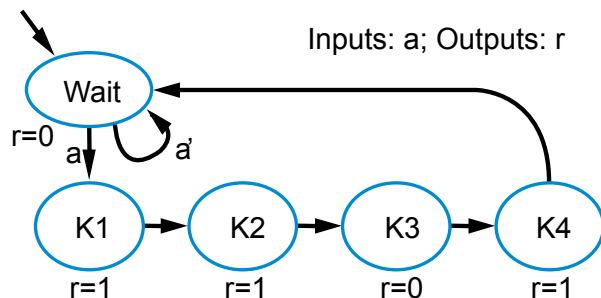
# Metastability

- Synchronizer flip-flop doesn't completely prevent metastability
  - But reduces probability of metastability in dozens/hundreds of internal flip-flops storing important values
  - Adding more synchronizer flip-flops further reduces probability
    - First ff likely stable before next clock; second ff very unlikely to have setup time violated
  - Drawback: Change on input is delayed to internal flip-flops
    - By three clock cycles in below circuit

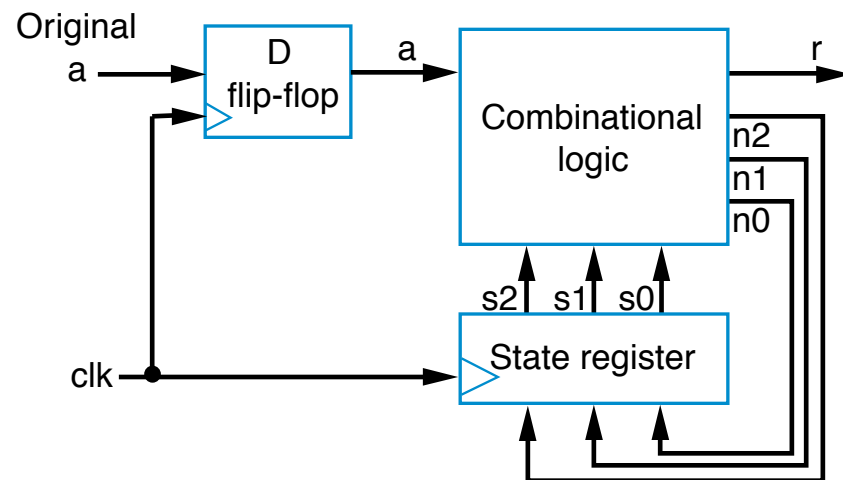


# Example of Reducing Metastability Probability

- Recall earlier secure car key controller

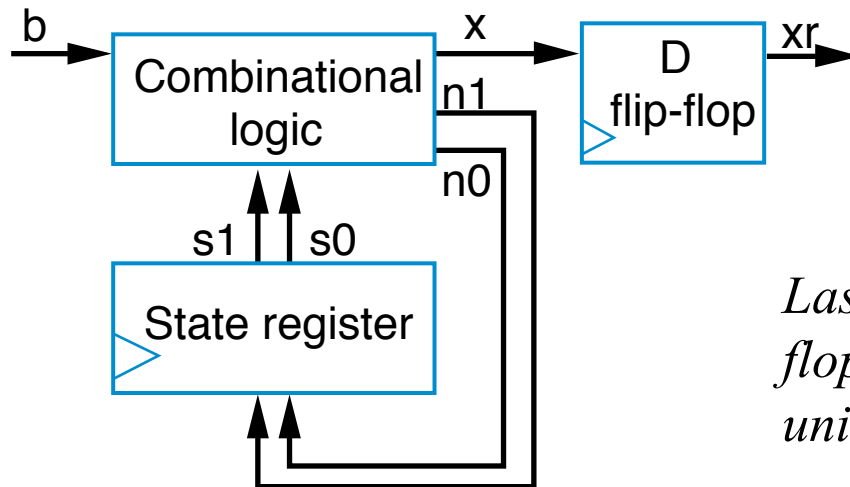


Adding synchronizer flip-flop reduces metastability probability in state register, at expense of 1 cycle delay



# Glitching

- Glitch: Temporary values on outputs that appear soon after input changes, before stable new output values
- Designer must determine whether glitching outputs may pose a problem
  - If so, may consider adding flip-flops to outputs
    - Delays output by one clock cycle, but may be OK
    - Called *registered* output



*Laser timer controller with flip-flop to prevent glitches on x from unintentionally turning on laser*

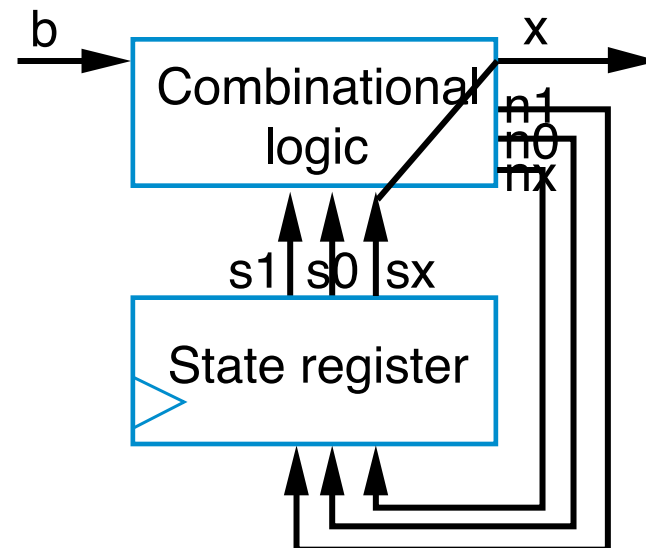
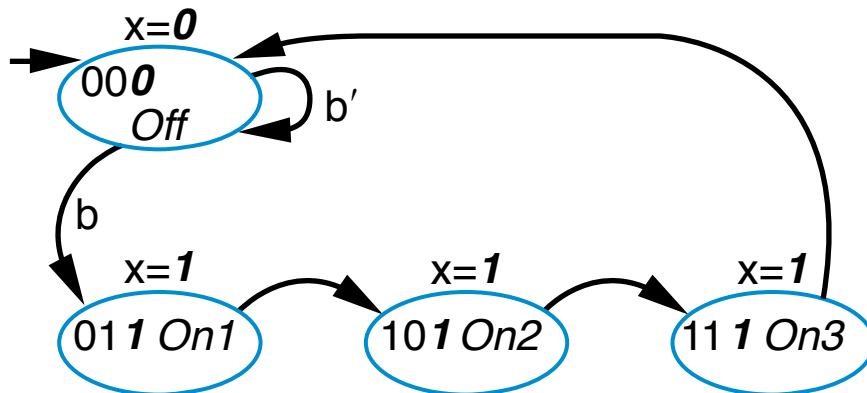




# Glitching

- Alternative registered output approach, avoid 1 cycle delay:
  - Add extra state register bit for each output
  - Connect output directly to its bit
  - No logic between state register flip-flop and output, hence no glitches

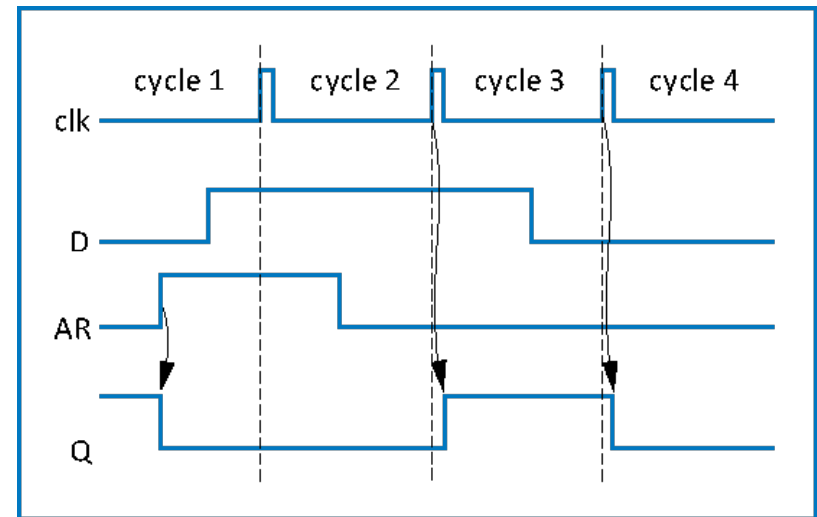
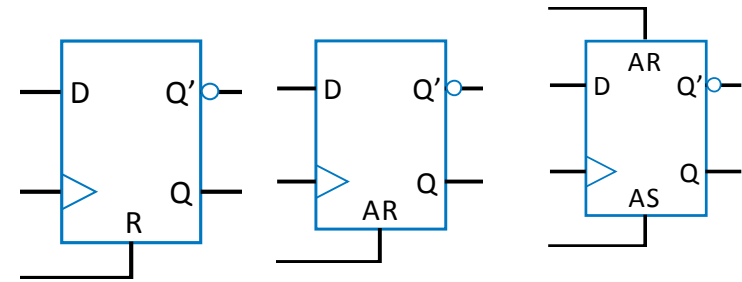
Inputs:  $b$     Outputs:  $x$



*But, uses more flip-flops, plus more logic to compute next state*

# Flip-Flop Set and Reset Inputs

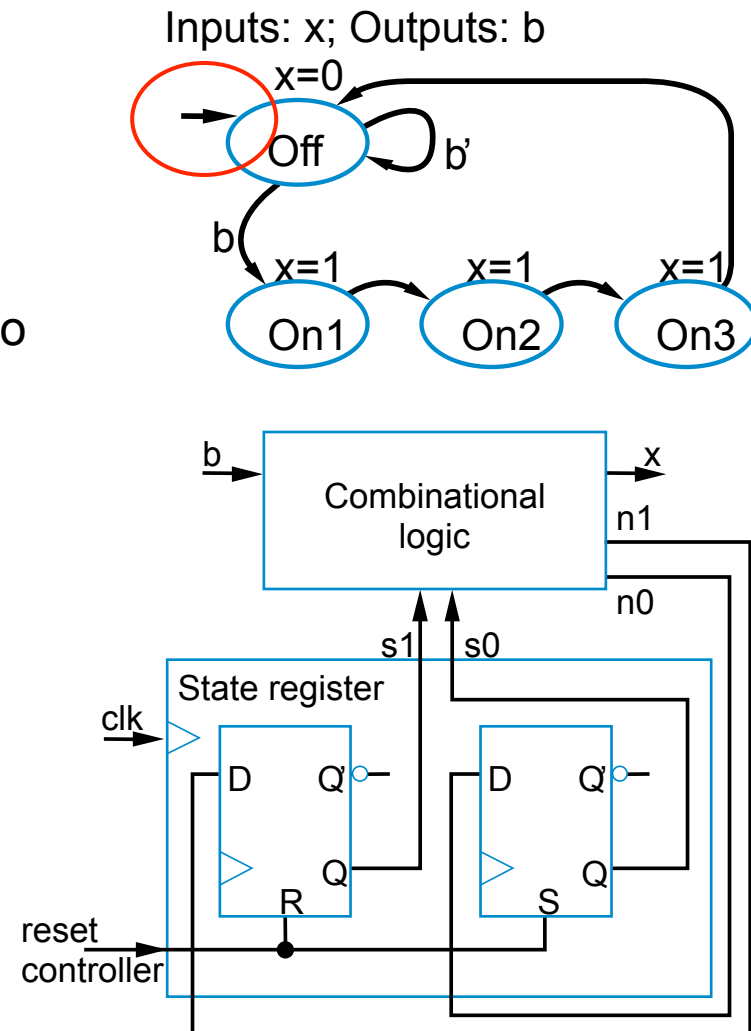
- Some flip-flops have additional reset/set inputs
  - Synchronous
    - Synch. reset: Clears Q to 0 on next clock edge
    - Synch. set: Sets Q to 1 on next clock edge
    - Have priority over D input
  - Asynchronous
    - Asynch. reset: Clear Q to 0, independently of clock
      - Example timing diagram shown
    - Asynch. set: set Q to 1, indep. of clock



# Initial State of a Controller

- All our FSMs had initial state
  - But our sequential circuits did not
  - Can accomplish using flip-flops with reset/set inputs
    - Shown circuit initializes flip-flops to 01
  - Designer must ensure reset-controller input is 1 during power up of circuit
    - By electronic circuit design

*Controller with reset to initial state 01 (assuming state Off was encoded as 01).*



# Chapter Summary

- Sequential circuits
  - Have state
- Created robust bit-storage device: D flip-flop
  - Put several together to build register, which we used to store state
- Defined FSM model to capture sequential behavior
  - Using mathematical models – Boolean equations for combinational circuit, and FSMs for sequential circuits – is important
- Defined Capture/Convert process for sequential circuit design
  - Converted FSM to standard controller architecture
- So now we know how to build the class of sequential circuits known as controllers

