

Subject Name Solutions

4353206 – Winter 2024

Semester 1 Study Material

Detailed Solutions and Explanations

Question 1(a) [3 marks]

Draw all symbols for enhancement and depletion type MOSFET.

Solution

Diagram:

1	Enhancement Type NMOS:	Enhancement Type PMOS:
2		
3	D	D
4		
5	G ---+-- S	G ---+-- S
6		
7	B	B
8	(No channel exists without gate voltage)	(No channel exists without gate voltage)
9		
1	Depletion Type NMOS:	Depletion Type PMOS:
2		
3	D	D
4		
5	G ---+==== S	G ---+==== S
6		
7	B	B
8	(Channel exists even without gate voltage)	(Channel exists even without gate voltage)
9		

- **Enhancement MOSFET:** Normal connection line between source and drain
- **Depletion MOSFET:** Thick solid line indicating existing channel
- **Arrow direction:** Points inward for NMOS, outward for PMOS

Mnemonic

“Enhancement Needs voltage, Depletion has Default channel”

Question 1(b) [4 marks]

Define: 1) Hierarchy 2) Regularity

Solution

Term	Definition	Application
Hierarchy	Top-down design approach where complex systems are broken into smaller, manageable modules	Used in VLSI design flow from system level to transistor level
Regularity	Design technique using repeated identical structures to reduce complexity	Memory arrays, processor datapaths use regular structures

- **Hierarchy benefits:** Easier design verification, modular testing, team collaboration
- **Regularity advantages:** Reduced design time, better yield, simplified layout
- **Design flow:** System → *Behavioral* → *RTL* → *Gate* → *Layout*
- **Regular structures:** ROM arrays, cache memories, ALU blocks

Mnemonic

“Hierarchy Helps organize, Regularity Reduces complexity”

Question 1(c) [7 marks]

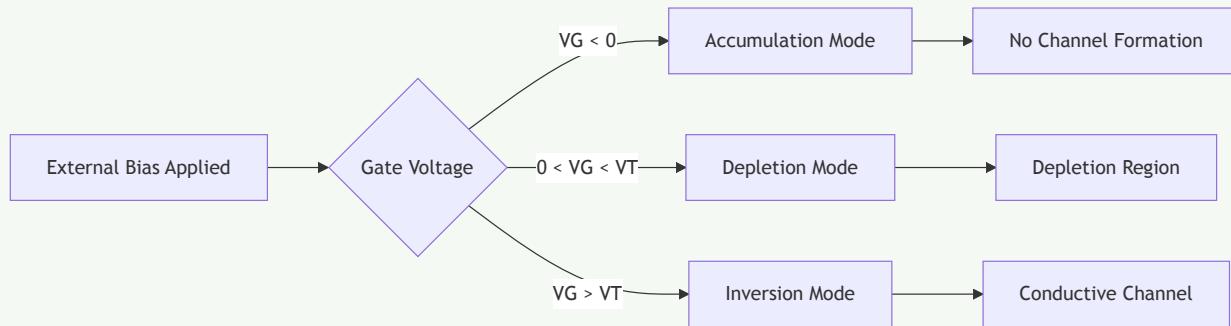
Explain MOS under external bias.

Solution

Table 1: MOS Bias Conditions

Bias Condition	Gate Voltage	Channel Formation	Current Flow
Accumulation	$VG < 0$ (NMOS)	Majority carriers accumulate	No channel
Depletion	$0 < VG < VT$	Depletion region forms	Minimal current
Inversion	$VG > VT$	Minority carriers form channel	Channel conducts

Diagram:



- **Band bending:** External voltage bends energy bands at oxide-silicon interface
- **Threshold voltage:** Minimum gate voltage needed for channel formation
- **Surface potential:** Controls carrier concentration at silicon surface
- **Capacitance variation:** Changes with bias conditions

Mnemonic

“Accumulation Attracts, Depletion Depletes, Inversion Inverts carriers”

Question 1(c) OR [7 marks]

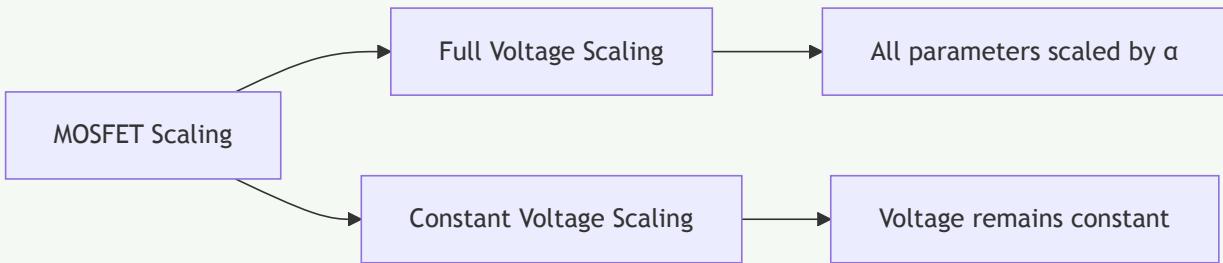
What is the need for scaling? Explain types of scaling with its effect.

Solution

Need for Scaling:

Parameter	Benefit	Impact
Area reduction	More transistors per chip	Higher integration density
Speed increase	Reduced delays	Better performance
Power reduction	Lower power consumption	Portable devices
Cost reduction	Cheaper per function	Market competitiveness

Types of Scaling:



- **Full voltage scaling:** Length, width, voltage all scaled by factor
- **Constant voltage scaling:** Dimensions scaled, voltage unchanged
- **Power density:** Remains constant in full scaling, increases in constant voltage
- **Electric field:** Maintained in full scaling

Mnemonic

“Scaling Saves Space, Speed, and Spending”

Question 2(a) [3 marks]

Write short note on FPGA.

Solution

Table 2: FPGA Characteristics

Feature	Description	Advantage
Field Programmable	Configurable after manufacturing	Flexibility in design
Gate Array	Array of logic blocks	Parallel processing
Reconfigurable	Can be reprogrammed	Prototype development

- **Applications:** Digital signal processing, embedded systems, prototyping
- **Architecture:** CLBs (Configurable Logic Blocks) connected by routing matrix
- **Programming:** SRAM-based configuration memory
- **Vendors:** Xilinx, Altera (Intel), Microsemi

Mnemonic

“FPGA: Flexible Programming for Gate Arrays”

Question 2(b) [4 marks]

Compare semi-custom and full custom design methodologies.

Solution

Parameter	Semi-Custom	Full Custom
Design Time	Shorter (weeks)	Longer (months)
Cost	Lower development cost	Higher development cost
Performance	Moderate performance	Highest performance
Area Efficiency	Less efficient	Most efficient
Applications	ASICs, moderate volume	Microprocessors, high volume
Design Effort	Standard cells used	Every transistor designed

- **Semi-custom:** Uses pre-designed standard cells and gate arrays
- **Full custom:** Complete transistor-level design optimization
- **Trade-offs:** Time vs performance, cost vs efficiency
- **Market fit:** Semi-custom for most applications, full custom for specialized needs

Mnemonic

“Semi-custom is Standard, Full custom is Finest”

Question 2(c) [7 marks]

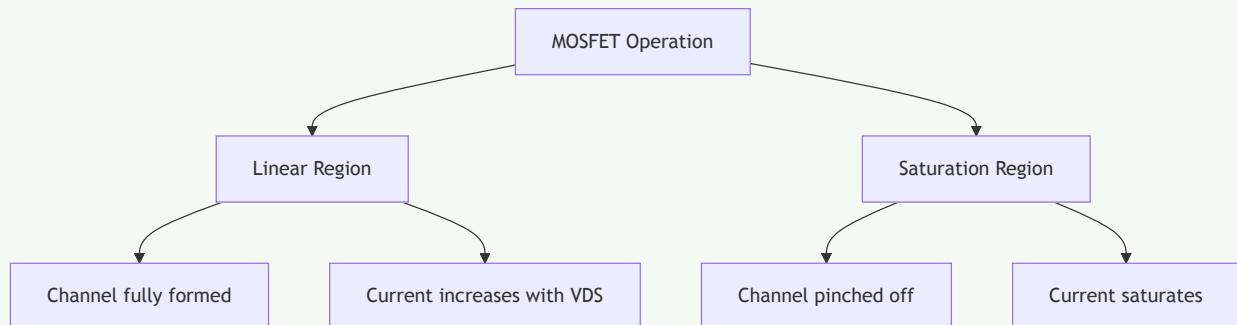
Explain MOSFET operation for 1) $0 < V_{DS} < V_{DSAT}$ 2) $V_{DS} = V_{DSAT}$ 3) $V_{DS} > V_{DSAT}$

Solution

Operating Regions:

Region	Condition	Channel	Current Behavior
Linear	$0 < V_{DS} < V_{DSAT}$	Uniform channel	$I_D \propto V_{DS}$
Saturation onset	$V_{DS} = V_{DSAT}$	Pinch-off begins	Maximum linear current
Saturation	$V_{DS} > V_{DSAT}$	Pinched channel	I_D constant

Diagram:



- **Linear region:** Channel acts as voltage-controlled resistor
- **Saturation region:** Current controlled by gate voltage only
- **V_{DSAT} calculation:** $V_{DSAT} = V_{GS} - V_T$
- **Current equations:** Different mathematical models for each region

Mnemonic

“Linear Likes V_{DS} , Saturation Says no more”

Question 2(a) OR [3 marks]

Explain standard cell-based design.

Solution

Table 3: Standard Cell Design

Component	Description	Benefit
Standard Cells	Pre-designed logic gates	Faster design
Cell Library	Collection of characterized cells	Predictable performance
Place & Route	Automated layout generation	Reduced design time

- **Process:** Logic synthesis → Placement → Routing → Verification
- **Cell types:** Basic gates, flip-flops, latches, complex functions
- **Automation:** EDA tools handle physical implementation
- **Quality:** Balanced performance, area, and power

Mnemonic

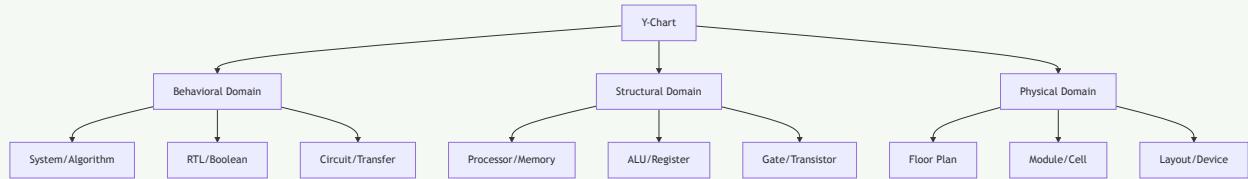
“Standard Cells Speed up Synthesis”

Question 2(b) OR [4 marks]

Draw and explain Y-chart.

Solution

Diagram:



Domain	Description	Examples
Behavioral	What system does	Algorithms, RTL code
Structural	How system is built	Gates, modules, processors
Physical	Physical implementation	Layout, floorplan, masks

- **Design flow:** Move from outer ring (system) to inner ring (device)
- **Abstraction levels:** Each ring represents different detail level
- **Domain interaction:** Can move between domains at same abstraction
- **VLSI design:** Covers all three domains and abstraction levels

Mnemonic

“Y-chart: behaVior, Structure, PhYsical”

Question 2(c) OR [7 marks]

Explain gradual channel approximation for MOSFET current-voltage characteristics.

Solution

Assumptions:

Assumption	Description	Justification
Gradual channel	Channel length » channel depth	Long channel devices
1D analysis	Current flows only in x-direction	Simplifies mathematics
Drift current	Neglect diffusion current	High field conditions
Charge sheet	Mobile charge in thin sheet	Small inversion layer

Current Derivation:

- Drain current: $ID = n \text{Cox} (W/L) [(VGS - VT)VDS - VDS^2/2]$
- Linear region: When $VDS < VGS - VT$
- Saturation: When $VDS \geq VGS - VT, ID = nCox(W/2L)(VGS - VT)^2$
- Channel charge: Varies linearly from source to drain

Limitations:

- Short channel effects: Gradual approximation breaks down
- Velocity saturation: High field effects not included
- 2D effects: Ignored in simple model

Mnemonic

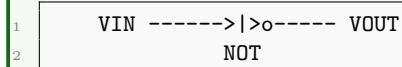
“Gradual change Gives simple Gain equations”

Question 3(a) [3 marks]

Draw symbol and write truth table of ideal inverter. Draw and explain VTC of ideal inverter.

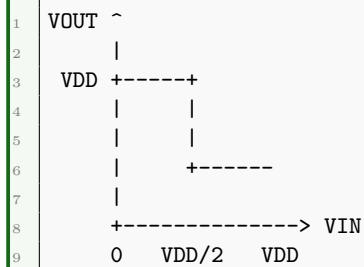
Solution

Symbol and Truth Table:



VIN	VOUT
0	1
1	0

VTC (Voltage Transfer Characteristic):



- Ideal characteristics: Sharp transition at $VDD/2$
- Noise margins: $NMH = NML = VDD/2$
- Gain: Infinite at switching point
- Power consumption: Zero static power

Mnemonic

“Ideal Inverter: Infinite gain, Instant switching”

Question 3(b) [4 marks]

Explain generalized inverter circuit with its VTC.

Solution

Circuit Configuration:

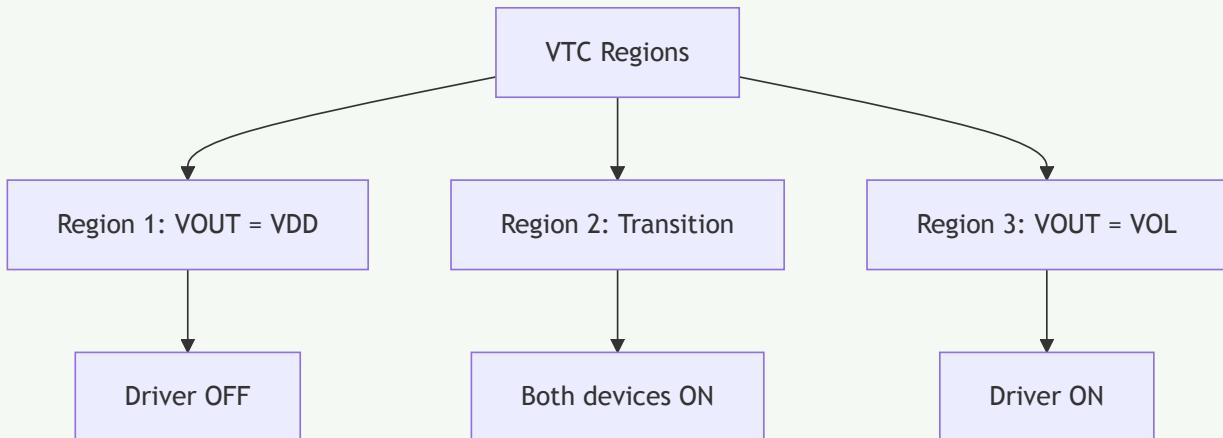
Component	Function	Characteristics
Driver transistor	Pull-down device	Controls switching

Load device
Supply voltage

Pull-up element
Power source

Provides high output
Determines logic levels

VTC Regions:



- **Load line analysis:** Intersection of driver and load characteristics
- **Switching threshold:** Determined by device sizing ratio
- **Noise margins:** Depend on transition sharpness
- **Power dissipation:** Static current during transition

Mnemonic

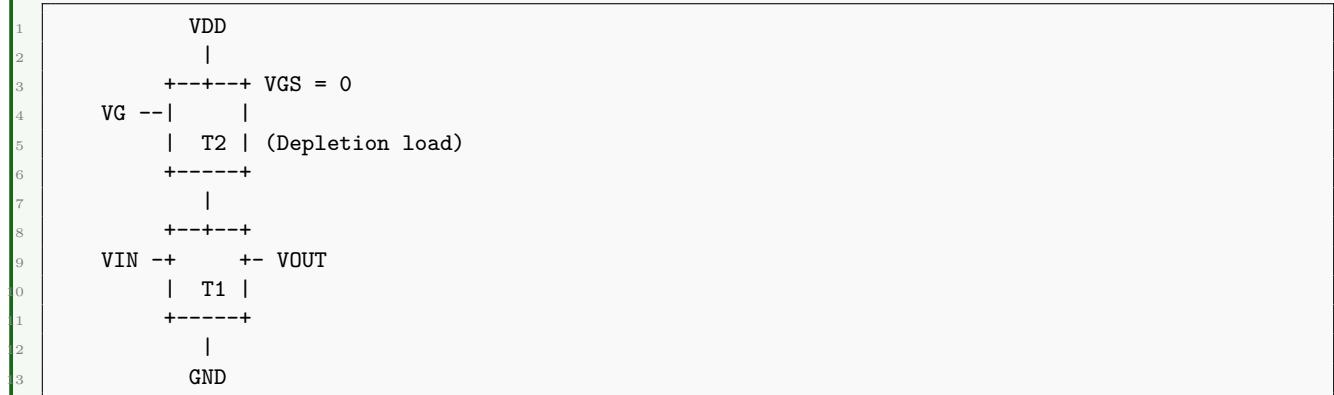
“Generalized design: Driver pulls Down, Load lifts Up”

Question 3(c) [7 marks]

Describe depletion load nMOS inverter with its circuit, operating region and VTC.

Solution

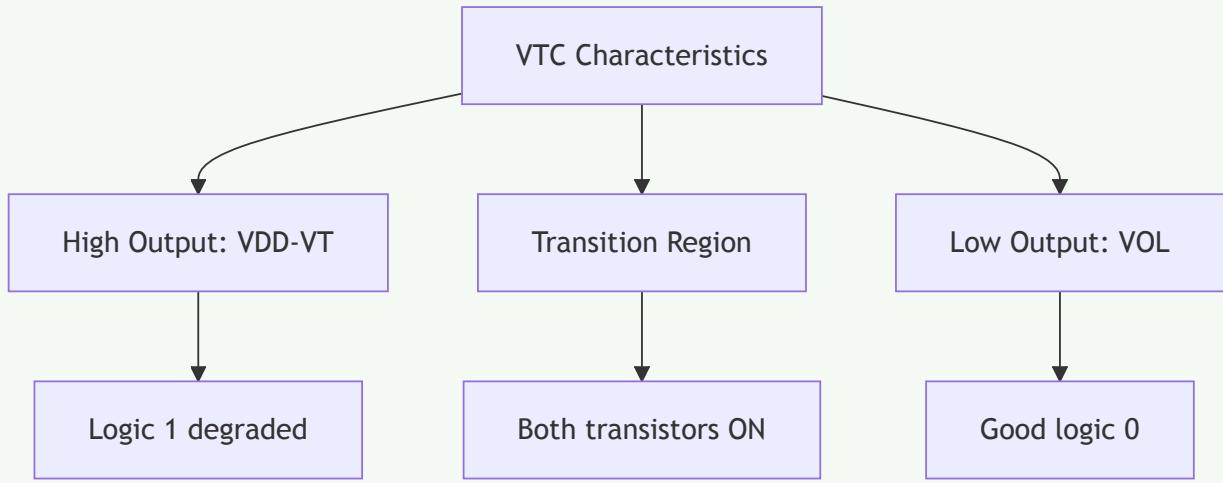
Circuit Diagram:



Operating Regions:

Input State	T1 State	T2 State	Output
VIN = 0	OFF	ON (depletion)	$V_{OUT} = V_{DD} - V_T$
VIN = VDD	ON	ON (resistive)	$V_{OUT} = V_{OL}$

VTC Analysis:



- **Advantages:** Simple fabrication, good drive capability
- **Disadvantages:** Degraded high output, static power consumption
- **Applications:** Early NMOS logic families
- **Design considerations:** Width ratio affects switching point

Mnemonic

“Depletion Device Delivers Decent drive”

Question 3(a) OR [3 marks]

Explain noise margin.

Solution

Definition and Parameters:

Parameter	Description	Formula
NMH	High noise margin	$NMH = VOH - VIH$
NML	Low noise margin	$NML = VIL - VOL$
VOH	Output high voltage	Minimum high output
VOL	Output low voltage	Maximum low output
VIH	Input high threshold	Minimum input high
VIL	Input low threshold	Maximum input low

- **Significance:** Measure of circuit's immunity to noise
- **Design goal:** Maximize both NMH and NML
- **Trade-offs:** Noise margin vs speed vs power
- **Applications:** Critical in digital system design

Mnemonic

“Noise Margins Maintain signal integrity”

Question 3(b) OR [4 marks]

Explain resistive load inverter.

Solution

Circuit and Analysis:

Component	Function	Characteristics
NMOS transistor	Switching device	Variable resistance
Load resistor	Pull-up element	Fixed resistance R_L
Power supply	Voltage source	Provides VDD

Operating Principle:

- **High input:** Transistor ON, $V_{OUT} = ID \times R_L (low)$
- **Low input:** Transistor OFF, $V_{OUT} = VDD$ (high)
- **Current path:** Always through resistor when output low
- **Power consumption:** Static power = VDD^2 / R_L

Advantages and Disadvantages:

- **Simple design:** Easy to understand and implement
- **Poor performance:** High static power, slow switching
- **Limited use:** Mainly for understanding concepts

Mnemonic

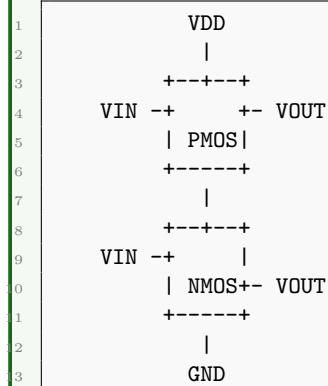
“Resistor Restricts current, Reduces performance”

Question 3(c) OR [7 marks]

Explain CMOS inverter with its VTC.

Solution

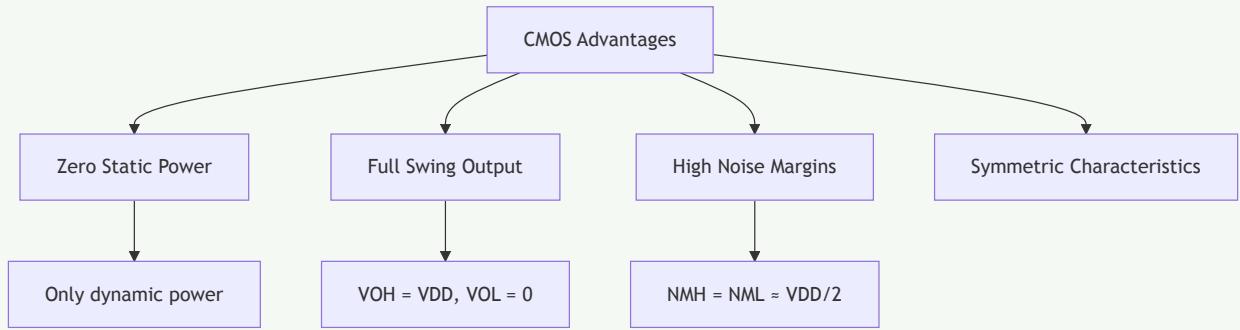
Circuit Configuration:



VTC Regions:

Region	Input Range	PMOS State	NMOS State	Output
1	$V_{IN} < V_{TN}$	ON	OFF	VDD
2	$V_{TN} < V_{IN} < VDD/2$	ON	ON	Transition
3	$VDD/2 < V_{IN} < VDD+V_{TP}$	ON	ON	Transition
4	$V_{IN} > VDD+V_{TP}$	OFF	ON	0

Key Characteristics:



- **Complementary operation:** Only one transistor conducts in steady state
- **Switching point:** Determined by PMOS/NMOS ratio
- **Power efficiency:** Minimal static power consumption
- **Noise immunity:** Excellent noise margins

Mnemonic

“CMOS: Complementary for Complete performance”

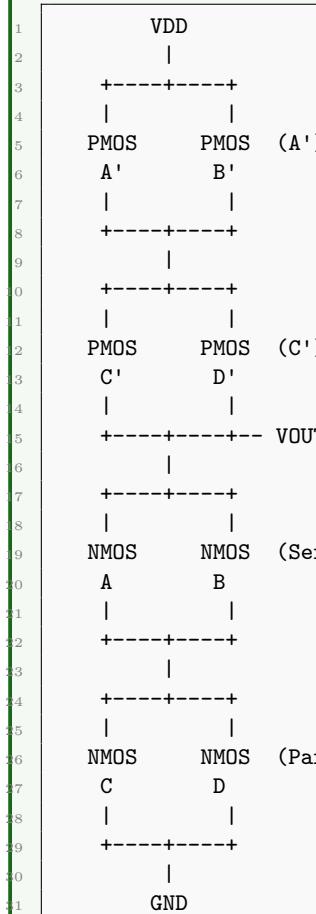
Question 4(a) [3 marks]

Draw AOI with CMOS implementation.

Solution

AOI (AND-OR-INVERT) Logic: $Y = (AB + CD)'$

CMOS Implementation:



- **Pull-up network:** PMOS transistors in series-parallel
- **Pull-down network:** NMOS transistors in parallel-series

- **Duality:** Pull-up and pull-down are complements

Mnemonic

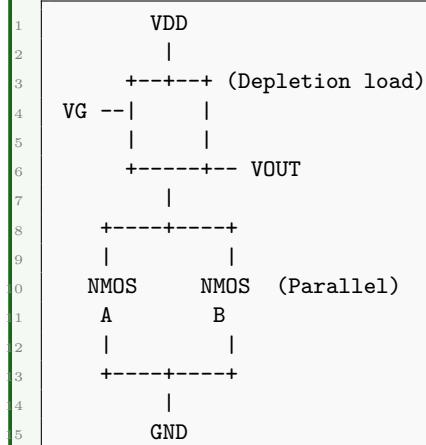
“AOI: AND-OR then Invert”

Question 4(b) [4 marks]

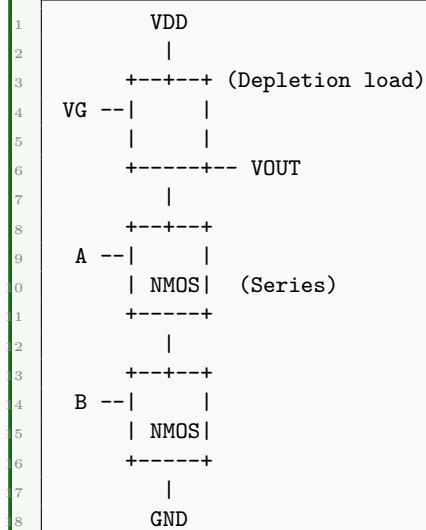
Implement two input NOR and NAND gate using depletion load nMOS.

Solution

NOR Gate:



NAND Gate:



Truth Tables:

A	B	NOR	NAND
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
1	0	0	1
1	1	0	0

Mnemonic

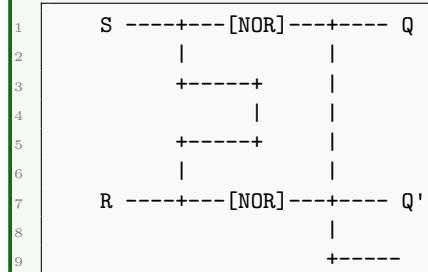
“NOR needs None high, NAND Needs All high to be low”

Question 4(c) [7 marks]

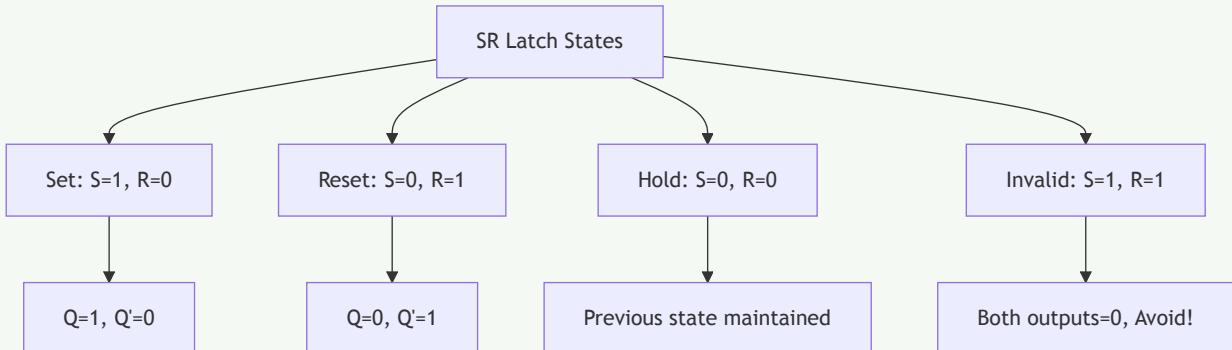
Implement CMOS SR latch using NOR2 and NAND2 gates.

Solution

SR Latch using NOR Gates:



CMOS NOR Gate Implementation:



State Table:

S	R	Q(n+1)	Q'(n+1)	Action
0	0	Q(n)	Q'(n)	Hold
0	1	0	1	Reset
1	0	1	0	Set
1	1	0	0	Invalid

- **Cross-coupled structure:** Output of each gate feeds other's input
- **Bistable operation:** Two stable states (Set and Reset)
- **Memory element:** Stores one bit of information
- **Clock independence:** Asynchronous operation

Mnemonic

“SR latch: Set-Reset with cross-coupled gates”

Question 4(a) OR [3 marks]

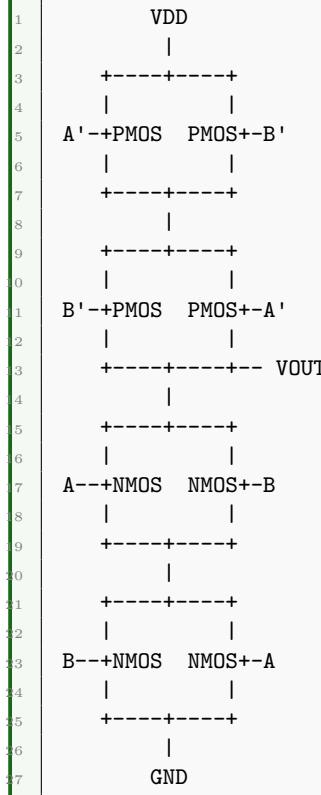
Implement XOR function using CMOS.

Solution

XOR Truth Table:

A	B	Y = A
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

CMOS XOR Implementation:



- Function: $Y = AB' + A'B$
- Transistor count: 8 transistors (4 PMOS + 4 NMOS)
- Alternative: Transmission gate implementation

Mnemonic

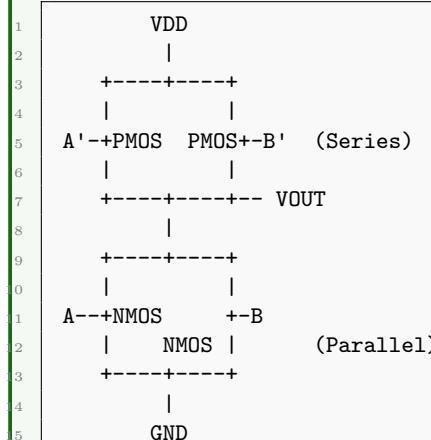
“XOR: eXclusive OR, different inputs give 1”

Question 4(b) OR [4 marks]

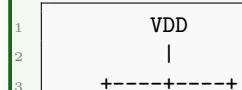
Implement two input NOR and NAND gate using CMOS.

Solution

CMOS NOR Gate:



CMOS NAND Gate:



```

4 |           |
5 A'--+PMOS      +-B'  (Parallel)
6 |    PMOS |
7 +----+-----+ VOUT
8 |
9 +----+
10 |    |
11 A---NMOS  NMOS---B (Series)
12 |    |
13 +----+
14 |    |
15 GND

```

Design Rules:

Gate	Pull-up Network	Pull-down Network
NAND	PMOS in parallel	NMOS in series
NOR	PMOS in series	NMOS in parallel

Mnemonic

“NAND: Not AND, NOR: Not OR - complement the networks”

Question 4(c) OR [7 marks]

Implement $Y = [PQ + R(S+T)]'$ Boolean equation using depletion load nMOS and CMOS.

Solution

Boolean Analysis:

- Function: $Y = [PQ + R(S+T)]'$
- Expanded: $Y = [PQ + RS + RT]'$
- De Morgan: $Y = (PQ)' \cdot (RS)' \cdot (RT)'$
- Final: $Y = (P'+Q') \cdot (R'+S') \cdot (R'+T')$

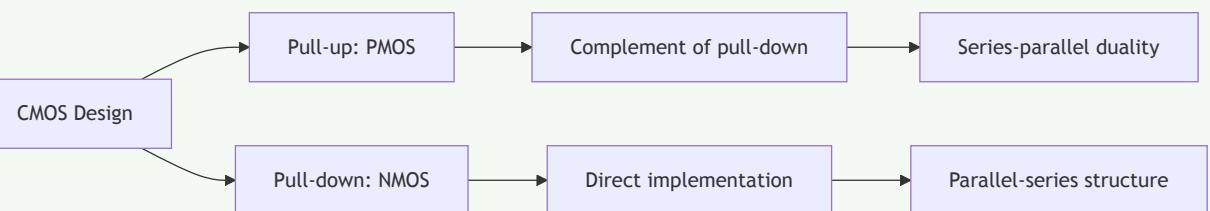
nMOS Implementation:

```

1   VDD
2   |
3   +----+ (Depletion load)
4   |   |
5   +----+ VOUT
6   |
7 P---NMOS---+
8   |
9 Q---NMOS---+
10  |
11  +- (PQ branch)
12  |
13 R---NMOS---+
14  |
15  +----+
16  |   |
17 S---NMOS  NMOS---T
18  |   |
19  +----+
20  |
21 GND

```

CMOS Implementation:



- **nMOS characteristics:** Simple but with static power
- **CMOS advantages:** No static power, full swing
- **Complexity:** 7 transistors for nMOS, 14 for CMOS
- **Performance:** CMOS faster and more efficient

Mnemonic

“Boolean to Circuit: nMOS simple, CMOS Complete”

Question 5(a) [3 marks]

Explain design styles used in Verilog.

Solution

Verilog Design Styles:

Style	Description	Application
Gate Level	Using primitive gates	Low-level hardware modeling
Data Flow	Using assign statements	Combinational logic
Behavioral	Using always blocks	Sequential and complex logic
Mixed	Combination of styles	Complete system design

- **Gate level:** and, or, not, nand, nor primitives
- **Data flow:** Continuous assignments with operators
- **Behavioral:** Procedural assignments in always blocks
- **Hierarchy:** Modules can use different styles

Mnemonic

“Gate-Data-Behavior: Three ways to Model”

Question 5(b) [4 marks]

Write Verilog program for full adder using behavioral modeling.

Solution

```

1 module full_adder_behavioral (
2     input wire a, b, cin,
3     output reg sum, cout
4 );
5
6 always @(*) begin
7     case ({a, b, cin})
8         3'b000: {cout, sum} = 2'b00;
9         3'b001: {cout, sum} = 2'b01;
0         3'b010: {cout, sum} = 2'b01;
1         3'b011: {cout, sum} = 2'b10;
2         3'b100: {cout, sum} = 2'b01;
3         3'b101: {cout, sum} = 2'b10;
4         3'b110: {cout, sum} = 2'b10;

```

```

5      3'b111: {cout, sum} = 2'b11;
6      default: {cout, sum} = 2'b00;
7      endcase
8  end
9
10 endmodule

```

Key Features:

- **Always block:** Behavioral modeling construct
- **Case statement:** Truth table implementation
- **Concatenation:** {cout, sum} for combined output
- **Sensitivity list:** @(*) for combinational logic

Mnemonic

“Behavioral uses Always with Case statements”

Question 5(c) [7 marks]

Describe the function of CASE statement. Write Verilog code of 3x8 decoder using CASE statement.

Solution

CASE Statement Function:

Feature	Description	Usage
Multi-way branch	Selects one of many alternatives	Like switch in C
Pattern matching	Compares expression with constants	Exact bit matching
Priority encoding	First match wins	Top-down evaluation
Default clause	Handles unspecified cases	Prevents latches

3x8 Decoder Verilog Code:

```
1 module decoder_3x8 (
2     input wire [2:0] select,
3     input wire enable,
4     output reg [7:0] out
5 );
6
7 always @(*) begin
8     if (enable) begin
9         case (select)
10             3'b000: out = 8'b00000001;
11             3'b001: out = 8'b00000010;
12             3'b010: out = 8'b00000100;
13             3'b011: out = 8'b00001000;
14             3'b100: out = 8'b00010000;
15             3'b101: out = 8'b00100000;
16             3'b110: out = 8'b01000000;
17             3'b111: out = 8'b10000000;
18             default: out = 8'b00000000;
19         endcase
20     end else begin
21         out = 8'b00000000;
22     end
23 end
24
25 endmodule
```

CASE Statement Features:

- **Exact matching:** All bits must match exactly
- **Parallel evaluation:** Hardware implementation is parallel
- **Complete specification:** All possible input combinations covered
- **Default clause:** Prevents unintended latches in synthesis

Mnemonic

“CASE Compares All Specified Exactly”

Question 5(a) OR [3 marks]

Write Verilog code to implement 2:1 multiplexer.

Solution

```
1 module mux_2to1 (
2     input wire a, b, sel,
3     output wire y
4 );
5
6 assign y = sel ? b : a;
7
8 endmodule
```

Alternative Implementations:

Style	Code	Use Case
Data Flow	assign y = sel ? b : a;	Simple logic
Gate Level	Uses and, or, not gates	Teaching purposes
Behavioral	always block with if-else	Complex conditions

- **Conditional operator:** `? :` provides multiplexer function
- **Continuous assignment:** assign for combinational logic
- **Synthesis:** Tools convert to gate-level implementation

Mnemonic

“MUX: sel ? b : a - select between inputs”

Question 5(b) OR [4 marks]

Write Verilog program for D flip-flop using behavioral modeling.

Solution

```
1 module d_flipflop (
2     input wire clk, reset, d,
3     output reg q, qbar
4 );
5
6     always @(posedge clk or posedge reset) begin
7         if (reset) begin
8             q <= 1'b0;
9             qbar <= 1'b1;
10        end else begin
11            q <= d;
12            qbar <= ~d;
13        end
14    end
15
16 endmodule
```

Key Features:

Element	Function	Syntax
posedge clk	Rising edge trigger	Clock synchronization
posedge reset	Asynchronous reset	Immediate reset action
Non-blocking	\leq operator	Sequential logic
Complementary	$qbar = \sim q$	True flip-flop behavior

- **Edge sensitivity:** Responds only to clock edges
- **Asynchronous reset:** Reset takes precedence over clock
- **Sequential logic:** Uses non-blocking assignments
- **State storage:** Maintains data between clock cycles

Mnemonic

“D Flip-flop: Data follows Clock with Reset”

Question 5(c) OR [7 marks]

Explain testbench in brief. Write Verilog code to implement 4-bit down counter.

Solution

Testbench Overview:

Component	Purpose	Implementation
Stimulus generation	Provide test inputs	Clock, reset, control signals
Response monitoring	Check outputs	Compare with expected values
Coverage analysis	Verify completeness	All states and transitions
Debugging support	Identify issues	Waveform analysis

4-bit Down Counter:

```
1 module down_counter_4bit (
2     input wire clk, reset, enable,
3     output reg [3:0] count
4 );
5
6 always @(posedge clk or posedge reset) begin
7     if (reset) begin
8         count <= 4'b1111; // Start from maximum value
9     end else if (enable) begin
10         if (count == 4'b0000)
11             count <= 4'b1111; // Wrap around
12         else
13             count <= count - 1; // Decrement
14     end
15 end
16
17 endmodule
18
19
20 // Testbench for down counter
21 module tb_down_counter;
22     reg clk, reset, enable;
23     wire [3:0] count;
24
25     down_counter_4bit dut (
26         .clk(clk),
27         .reset(reset),
28         .enable(enable),
29         .count(count)
30     );
31
32     // Clock generation
33     always #5 clk = ~clk;
34
35     initial begin
36         clk = 0;
37         reset = 1;
38         enable = 0;
39
40         #10 reset = 0;
41         #10 enable = 1;
42
43         #200 $finish;
44     end
45
46     // Monitor outputs
47     initial begin
48         $monitor("Time=%0t, Reset=%b, Enable=%b, Count=%b",
49                  $time, reset, enable, count);
50     end
51
52 endmodule
```

Testbench Components:

- **Clock generation:** Continuous clock using always block
- **Stimulus:** Reset and enable signal control
- **Monitoring:** \$monitor for continuous output display
- **Simulation control:** \$finish to end simulation

Counter Features:

- **Down counting:** Decrements from 15 to 0
- **Wrap around:** Returns to 15 after reaching 0
- **Enable control:** Counting only when enabled
- **Synchronous operation:** All changes on clock edge

Mnemonic

“Testbench Tests with Clock, Stimulus, and Monitor”