Chapter 4

Combinational Logic

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Logic circuits for digital systems may be combinational or sequential. A combinational circuit consists of logic gates whose outputs at any time are determined from only the present combination of inputs. A combinational circuit performs an operation that can be specified logically by a set of Boolean functions. In contrast, sequential circuits employ storage elements in addition to logic gates. Their outputs are a function of the inputs and the state of the storage elements. Because the state of the storage elements is a function of previous inputs, the outputs of a sequential circuit depend not only on present values of inputs, but also on past inputs, and the circuit behavior must be specified by a time sequence of inputs and internal states. Sequential circuits are the building blocks of digital systems and are discussed in Chapters 5 and 8.

4.2 COMBINATIONAL CIRCUITS

A combinational circuit consists of an interconnection of logic gates. Combinational logic gates react to the values of the signals at their inputs and produce the value of the output signal, transforming binary information from the given input data to a required output data. A block diagram of a combinational circuit is shown in Fig. 4.1. The n input binary variables come from an external source; the m output variables are produced by the internal combinational logic circuit and go to an external destination. Each input and output variable exists physically as an analog signal whose values are interpreted to be a binary signal that represents logic 1 and logic 0. (*Note*: Logic simulators show only 0's and 1's, not the actual analog signals.) In many applications, the source and

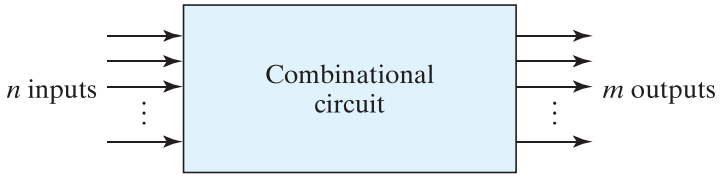


FIGURE 4.1
Block diagram of combinational circuit

destination are storage registers. If the registers are included with the combinational gates, then the total circuit must be considered to be a sequential circuit.

For n input variables, there are 2^n possible combinations of the binary inputs. For each possible input combination, there is one possible value for each output variable. Thus, a combinational circuit can be specified with a truth table that lists the output values for each combination of input variables. A combinational circuit also can be described by m Boolean functions, one for each output variable. Each output function is expressed in terms of the n input variables.

In Chapter 1, we learned about binary numbers and binary codes that represent discrete quantities of information. The binary variables are represented physically by electric voltages or some other type of signal. The signals can be manipulated in digital logic gates to perform required functions. In Chapter 2, we introduced Boolean algebra as a way to express logic functions algebraically. In Chapter 3, we learned how to simplify Boolean functions to achieve economical (simpler) gate implementations. The purpose of the current chapter is to use the knowledge acquired in previous chapters to formulate systematic analysis and design procedures for combinational circuits. The solution of some typical examples will provide a useful catalog of elementary functions that are important for the understanding of digital systems. We'll address three tasks: (1) Analyze the behavior of a given logic circuit, (2) synthesize a circuit that will have a given behavior, and (3) write hardware description language (HDL) models for some common circuits.

There are several combinational circuits that are employed extensively in the design of digital systems. These circuits are available in integrated circuits and are classified as standard components. They perform specific digital functions commonly needed in the design of digital systems. In this chapter, we introduce the most important standard combinational circuits, such as adders, subtractors, comparators, decoders, encoders, and multiplexers. These components are available in integrated circuits as medium-scale integration (MSI) circuits. They are also used as *standard cells* in complex very large-scale integrated (VLSI) circuits such as application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs). The standard cell functions are interconnected within the VLSI circuit in the same way that they are used in multiple-IC MSI design.

4.3 ANALYSIS PROCEDURE

The analysis of a combinational circuit requires that we determine the function that the circuit implements. This task starts with a given logic diagram and culminates with a set of Boolean functions, a truth table, or, possibly, an explanation of the circuit operation.

If the logic diagram to be analyzed is accompanied by a function name or an explanation of what it is assumed to accomplish, then the analysis problem reduces to a verification of the stated function. The analysis can be performed manually by finding the Boolean functions or truth table or by using a computer simulation program.

The first step in the analysis is to make sure that the given circuit is combinational and not sequential. **The diagram of a combinational circuit has logic gates with no feedback paths** or **memory elements.** A feedback path is a connection from the output of one gate to the input of a second gate whose output forms part of the input to the first gate. Feedback paths in a digital circuit define a sequential circuit and must be analyzed by special methods and will not be considered here.

Once the logic diagram is verified to be that of a combinational circuit, one can proceed to obtain the output Boolean functions or the truth table. If the function of the circuit is under investigation, then it is necessary to interpret the operation of the circuit from the derived Boolean functions or truth table. The success of such an investigation is enhanced if one has previous experience and familiarity with a wide variety of digital circuits.

To obtain the output Boolean functions from a logic diagram, we proceed as follows:

1. Label all gate outputs that are a function of input variables with arbitrary symbols—but with meaningful names. Determine the Boolean functions for each gate output.
2. Label the gates that are a function of input variables and previously labeled gates with other arbitrary symbols. Find the Boolean functions for these gates.
3. Repeat the process outlined in step 2 until the outputs of the circuit are obtained.
4. By repeated substitution of previously defined functions, obtain the output Boolean functions in terms of input variables.

The analysis of the combinational circuit of Fig. 4.2 illustrates the proposed procedure. We note that the circuit has three binary inputs—A, B, and C—and two binary outputs—F_1 and F_2. The outputs of various gates are labeled with intermediate symbols. The outputs of gates that are a function only of input variables are T_1 and T_2. Output F_2 can easily be derived from the input variables. The Boolean functions for these three outputs are

$$F_2 = AB + AC + BC$$
$$T_1 = A + B + C$$
$$T_2 = ABC$$

Next, we consider outputs of gates that are a function of already defined symbols:

$$T_3 = F'_2 T_1$$
$$F_1 = T_3 + T_2$$

To obtain F_1 as a function of A, B, and C, we form a series of substitutions as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &= T_3 + T_2 = F'_2 T_1 + ABC = (AB + AC + BC)'(A + B + C) + ABC \\ &= (A' + B')(A' + C')(B' + C')(A + B + C) + ABC \\ &= (A' + B'C')(AB' + AC' + BC' + B'C) + ABC \\ &= A'BC' + A'B'C + AB'C' + ABC \end{aligned}$$

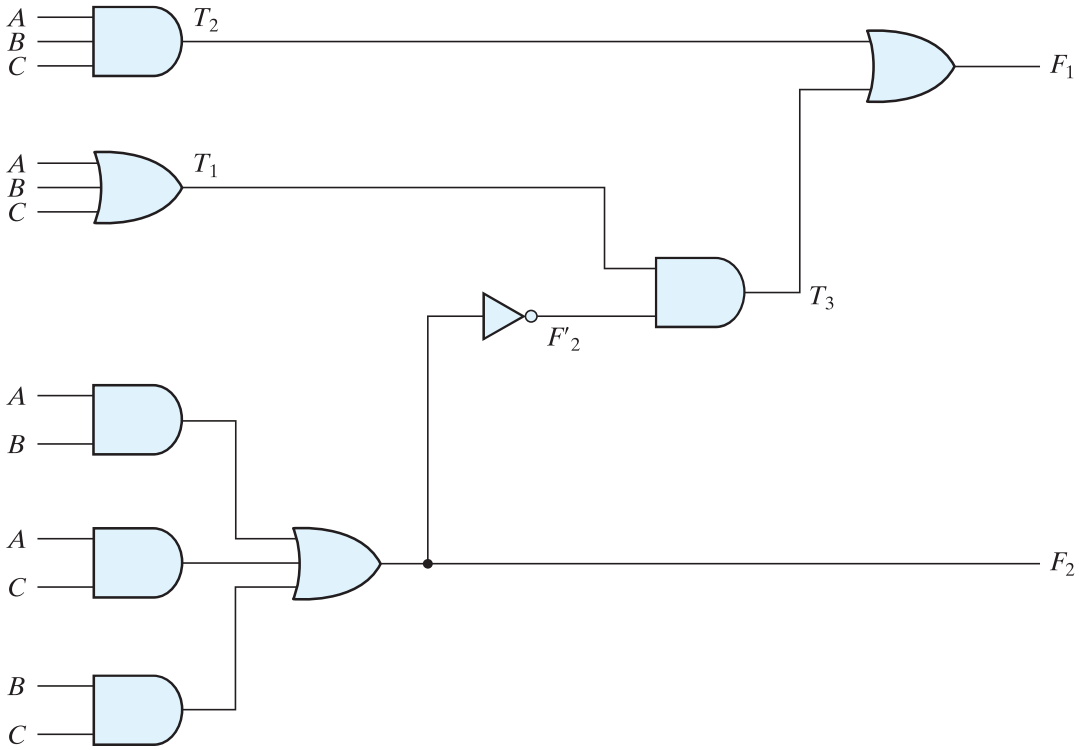


FIGURE 4.2
Logic diagram for analysis example

If we want to pursue the investigation and determine the information transformation task achieved by this circuit, we can draw the circuit from the derived Boolean expressions and try to recognize a familiar operation. The Boolean functions for F_1 and F_2 implement a circuit discussed in Section 4.5. Merely finding a Boolean representation of a circuit doesn't provide insight into its behavior, but in this example we will observe that the Boolean equations and truth table for F_1 and F_2 match those describing the functionality of what we call a full adder.

The derivation of the truth table for a circuit is a straightforward process once the output Boolean functions are known. To obtain the truth table directly from the logic diagram without going through the derivations of the Boolean functions, we proceed as follows:

1. Determine the number of input variables in the circuit. For n inputs, form the 2^n possible input combinations and list the binary numbers from 0 to $(2^n - 1)$ in a table.
2. Label the outputs of selected gates with arbitrary symbols.
3. Obtain the truth table for the outputs of those gates which are a function of the input variables only.
4. Proceed to obtain the truth table for the outputs of those gates which are a function of previously defined values until the columns for all outputs are determined.

Table 4.1
Truth Table for the Logic Diagram of Fig. 4.2

A	B	C	F_2	F_2'	T_1	T_2	T_3	F_1
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1

This process is illustrated with the circuit of Fig. 4.2. In Table 4.1, we form the eight possible combinations for the three input variables. The truth table for F_2 is determined directly from the values of A, B, and C, with F_2 equal to 1 for any combination that has two or three inputs equal to 1. The truth table for F_2' is the complement of F_2. The truth tables for T_1 and T_2 are the OR and AND functions of the input variables, respectively. The values for T_3 are derived from T_1 and F_2': T_3 is equal to 1 when both T_1 and F_2' are equal to 1, and T_3 is equal to 0 otherwise. Finally, F_1 is equal to 1 for those combinations in which either T_2 or T_3 or both are equal to 1. Inspection of the truth table combinations for A, B, C, F_1, and F_2 shows that it is identical to the truth table of the full adder given in Section 4.5 for x, y, z, S, and C, respectively.

Another way of analyzing a combinational circuit is by means of logic simulation. This is not practical, however, because the number of input patterns that might be needed to generate meaningful outputs could be very large. But simulation has a very practical application in verifying that the functionality of a circuit actually matches its specification. In Section 4.12, we demonstrate the logic simulation and verification of the circuit of Fig. 4.2, using Verilog HDL.

4.4 DESIGN PROCEDURE

The design of combinational circuits starts from the specification of the design objective and culminates in a logic circuit diagram or a set of Boolean functions from which the logic diagram can be obtained. The procedure involves the following steps:

1. From the specifications of the circuit, determine the required number of inputs and outputs and assign a symbol to each.
2. Derive the truth table that defines the required relationship between inputs and outputs.

3. Obtain the simplified Boolean functions for each output as a function of the input variables.
4. Draw the logic diagram and verify the correctness of the design (manually or by simulation).

A truth table for a combinational circuit consists of input columns and output columns. The input columns are obtained from the 2^n binary numbers for the n input variables. The binary values for the outputs are determined from the stated specifications. The output functions specified in the truth table give the exact definition of the combinational circuit. It is important that the verbal specifications be interpreted correctly in the truth table, as they are often incomplete, and any wrong interpretation may result in an incorrect truth table.

The output binary functions listed in the truth table are simplified by any available method, such as algebraic manipulation, the map method, or a computer-based simplification program. Frequently, there is a variety of simplified expressions from which to choose. In a particular application, certain criteria will serve as a guide in the process of choosing an implementation. A practical design must consider such constraints as the number of gates, number of inputs to a gate, propagation time of the signal through the gates, number of interconnections, limitations of the driving capability of each gate (i.e., the number of gates to which the output of the circuit may be connected), and various other criteria that must be taken into consideration when designing integrated circuits. Since the importance of each constraint is dictated by the particular application, it is difficult to make a general statement about what constitutes an acceptable implementation. In most cases, the simplification begins by satisfying an elementary objective, such as producing the simplified Boolean functions in a standard form. Then the simplification proceeds with further steps to meet other performance criteria.

Code Conversion Example

The availability of a large variety of codes for the same discrete elements of information results in the use of different codes by different digital systems. It is sometimes necessary to use the output of one system as the input to another. A conversion circuit must be inserted between the two systems if each uses different codes for the same information. Thus, a code converter is a circuit that makes the two systems compatible even though each uses a different binary code.

To convert from binary code A to binary code B, the input lines must supply the bit combination of elements as specified by code A and the output lines must generate the corresponding bit combination of code B. A combinational circuit performs this transformation by means of logic gates. The design procedure will be illustrated by an example that converts binary coded decimal (BCD) to the excess-3 code for the decimal digits.

The bit combinations assigned to the BCD and excess-3 codes are listed in Table 1.5 (Section 1.7). Since each code uses four bits to represent a decimal digit, there must

Table 4.2
Truth Table for Code Conversion Example

Input BCD				Output Excess-3 Code			
A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*w*	*x*	*y*	*z*
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0

be four input variables and four output variables. We designate the four input binary variables by the symbols *A, B, C,* and *D,* and the four output variables by *w, x, y*, and *z*. The truth table relating the input and output variables is shown in Table 4.2. The bit combinations for the inputs and their corresponding outputs are obtained directly from Section 1.7. Note that four binary variables may have 16 bit combinations, but only 10 are listed in the truth table. The six bit combinations not listed for the input variables are don't-care combinations. These values have no meaning in BCD and we assume that they will never occur in actual operation of the circuit. Therefore, we are at liberty to assign to the output variables either a 1 or a 0, whichever gives a simpler circuit.

The maps in Fig. 4.3 are plotted to obtain simplified Boolean functions for the outputs. Each one of the four maps represents one of the four outputs of the circuit as a function of the four input variables. The 1's marked inside the squares are obtained from the minterms that make the output equal to 1. The 1's are obtained from the truth table by going over the output columns one at a time. For example, the column under output z has five 1's; therefore, the map for z has five 1's, each being in a square corresponding to the minterm that makes z equal to 1. The six don't-care minterms 10 through 15 are marked with an X. One possible way to simplify the functions into sum-of-products form is listed under the map of each variable. (See Chapter 3.)

A two-level logic diagram for each output may be obtained directly from the Boolean expressions derived from the maps. There are various other possibilities for a logic diagram that implements this circuit. The expressions obtained in Fig. 4.3 may be manipulated algebraically for the purpose of using common gates for two or more outputs. This manipulation, shown next, illustrates the flexibility obtained with multiple-output systems when

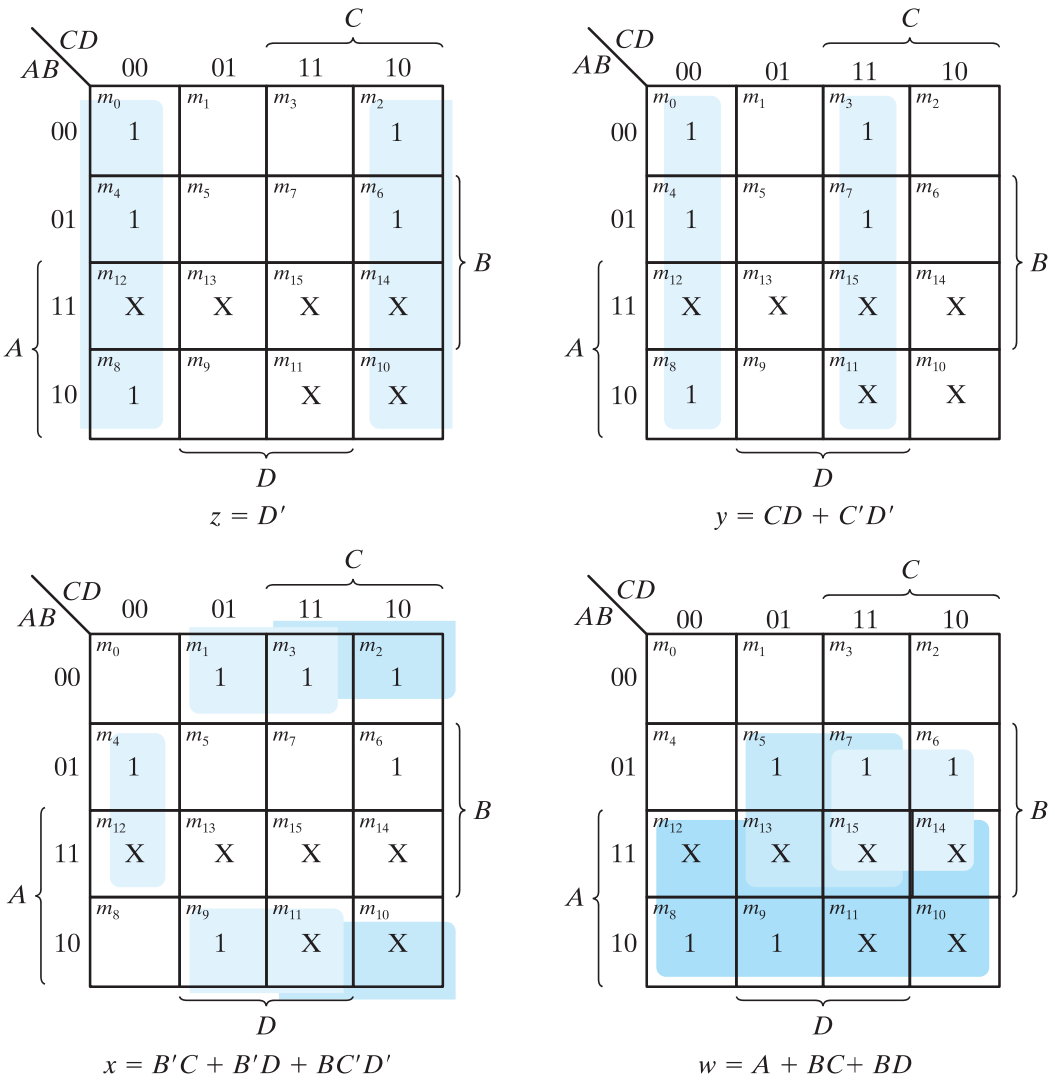


FIGURE 4.3
Maps for BCD-to-excess-3 code converter

implemented with three or more levels of gates:

$$z = D'$$
$$y = CD + C'D' = CD + (C + D)'$$
$$x = B'C + B'D + BC'D' = B'(C + D) + BC'D'$$
$$= B'(C + D) + B(C + D)'$$
$$w = A + BC + BD = A + B(C + D)$$

The logic diagram that implements these expressions is shown in Fig. 4.4. Note that the OR gate whose output is $C + D$ has been used to implement partially each of three outputs.

Not counting input inverters, the implementation in sum-of-products form requires seven AND gates and three OR gates. The implementation of Fig. 4.4 requires four AND gates, four OR gates, and one inverter. If only the normal inputs are available, the first

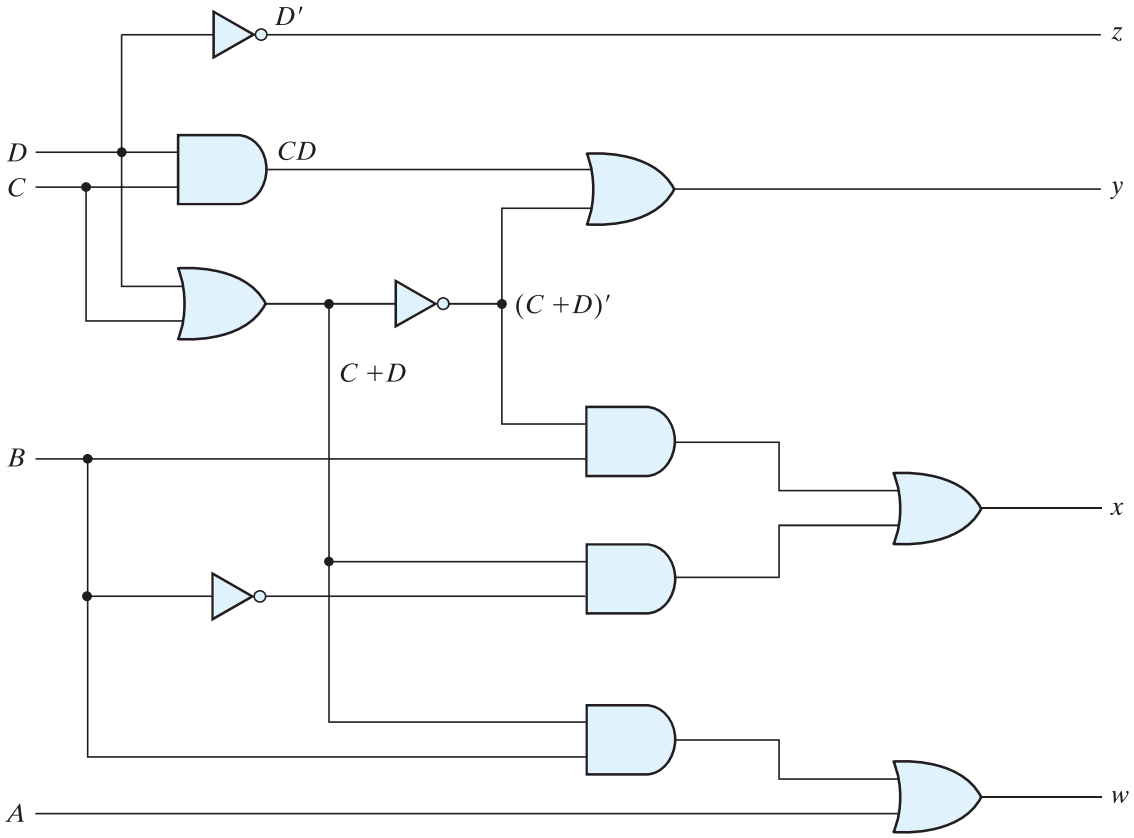


FIGURE 4.4
Logic diagram for BCD-to-excess-3 code converter

implementation will require inverters for variables B, C, and D, and the second implementation will require inverters for variables B and D. Thus, the three-level logic circuit requires fewer gates, all of which in turn require no more than two inputs.

4.5 BINARY ADDER–SUBTRACTOR

Digital computers perform a variety of information-processing tasks. Among the functions encountered are the various arithmetic operations. The most basic arithmetic operation is the addition of two binary digits. This simple addition consists of four possible elementary operations: $0 + 0 = 0, 0 + 1 = 1, 1 + 0 = 1$, and $1 + 1 = 10$. The first three operations produce a sum of one digit, but when both augend and addend bits are equal to 1, the binary sum consists of two digits. The higher significant bit of this result is called a *carry*. When the augend and addend numbers contain more significant digits, the carry obtained from the addition of two bits is added to the next higher order pair of significant bits. A combinational circuit that performs the addition of two bits is called a *half adder*. One that performs the addition of three bits (two significant bits and a previous carry) is a *full adder*. The names of the circuits stem from the fact that two half adders can be employed to implement a full adder.

A binary adder–subtractor is a combinational circuit that performs the arithmetic operations of addition and subtraction with binary numbers. We will develop this circuit by means of a hierarchical design. The half adder design is carried out first, from which we develop the full adder. Connecting n full adders in cascade produces a binary adder for two n-bit numbers. The subtraction circuit is included in a complementing circuit.

Half Adder

From the verbal explanation of a half adder, we find that this circuit needs two binary inputs and two binary outputs. The input variables designate the augend and addend bits; the output variables produce the sum and carry. We assign symbols x and y to the two inputs and S (for sum) and C (for carry) to the outputs. The truth table for the half adder is listed in Table 4.3. The C output is 1 only when both inputs are 1. The S output represents the least significant bit of the sum.

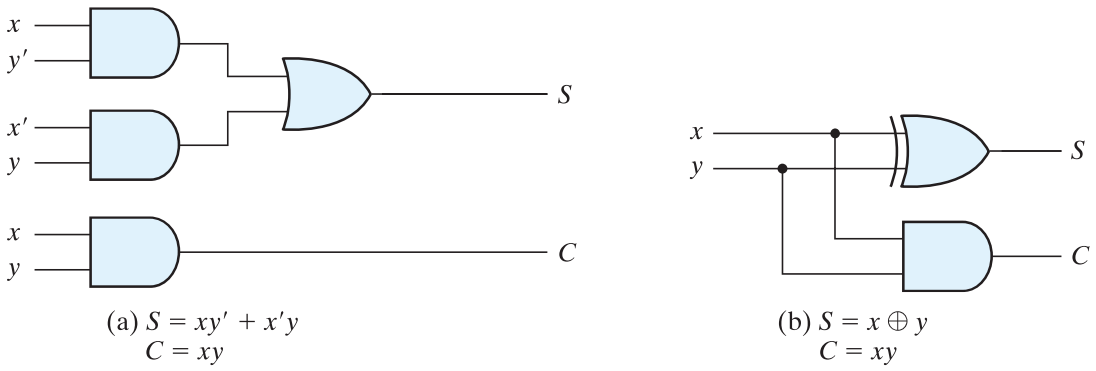
The simplified Boolean functions for the two outputs can be obtained directly from the truth table. The simplified sum-of-products expressions are

$$S = x'y + xy'$$
$$C = xy$$

The logic diagram of the half adder implemented in sum of products is shown in Fig. 4.5(a). It can be also implemented with an exclusive-OR and an AND gate as shown in Fig. 4.5(b). This form is used to show that two half adders can be used to construct a full adder.

Table 4.3
Half Adder

x	y	C	S
0	0	0	0
0	1	0	1
1	0	0	1
1	1	1	0



(a) $S = xy' + x'y$
$C = xy$

(b) $S = x \oplus y$
$C = xy$

FIGURE 4.5
Implementation of half adder

Full Adder

Addition of n-bit binary numbers requires the use of a full adder, and the process of addition proceeds on a bit-by-bit basis, right to left, beginning with the least significant bit. After the least significant bit, addition at each position adds not only the respective bits of the words, but must also consider a possible carry bit from addition at the previous position.

A full adder is a combinational circuit that forms the arithmetic sum of three bits. It consists of three inputs and two outputs. Two of the input variables, denoted by x and y, represent the two significant bits to be added. The third input, z, represents the carry from the previous lower significant position. Two outputs are necessary because the arithmetic sum of three binary digits ranges in value from 0 to 3, and binary representation of 2 or 3 needs two bits. The two outputs are designated by the symbols S for sum and C for carry. The binary variable S gives the value of the least significant bit of the sum. The binary variable C gives the output carry formed by adding the input carry and the bits of the words. The truth table of the full adder is listed in Table 4.4. The eight rows under the input variables designate all possible combinations of the three variables. The output variables are determined from the arithmetic sum of the input bits. When all input bits are 0, the output is 0. The S output is equal to 1 when only one input is equal to 1 or when all three inputs are equal to 1. The C output has a carry of 1 if two or three inputs are equal to 1.

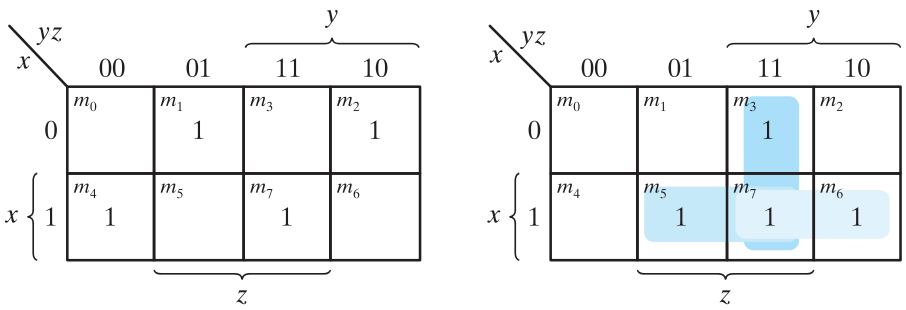
The input and output bits of the combinational circuit have different interpretations at various stages of the problem. On the one hand, physically, the binary signals of the inputs are considered binary digits to be added arithmetically to form a two-digit sum at the output. On the other hand, the same binary values are considered as variables of Boolean functions when expressed in the truth table or when the circuit is implemented with logic gates. The maps for the outputs of the full adder are shown in Fig. 4.6. The simplified expressions are

$$S = x'y'z + x'yz' + xy'z' + xyz$$
$$C = xy + xz + yz$$

The logic diagram for the full adder implemented in sum-of-products form is shown in Fig. 4.7. It can also be implemented with two half adders and one OR gate, as shown

Table 4.4
Full Adder

x	y	z	C	S
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	1
0	1	0	0	1
0	1	1	1	0
1	0	0	0	1
1	0	1	1	0
1	1	0	1	0
1	1	1	1	1



(a) $S = x'y'z + x'yz' + xy'z' + xyz$ (b) $C = xy + xz + yz$

FIGURE 4.6
K-Maps for full adder

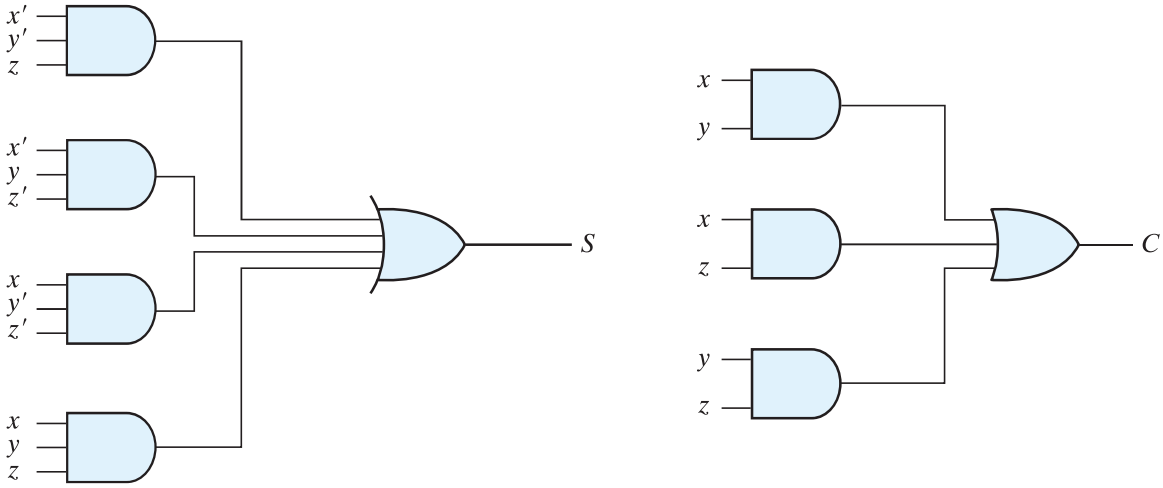


FIGURE 4.7
Implementation of full adder in sum-of-products form

in Fig. 4.8. The S output from the second half adder is the exclusive-OR of z and the output of the first half adder, giving

$$\begin{aligned} S &= z \oplus (x \oplus y) \\ &= z'(xy' + x'y) + z(xy' + x'y)' \\ &= z'(xy' + x'y) + z(xy + x'y') \\ &= xy'z' + x'yz' + xyz + x'y'z \end{aligned}$$

The carry output is

$$C = z(xy' + x'y) + xy = xy'z + x'yz + xy$$

Binary Adder

A binary adder is a digital circuit that produces the arithmetic sum of two binary numbers. It can be constructed with full adders connected in cascade, with the output carry from each full adder connected to the input carry of the next full adder in the chain.

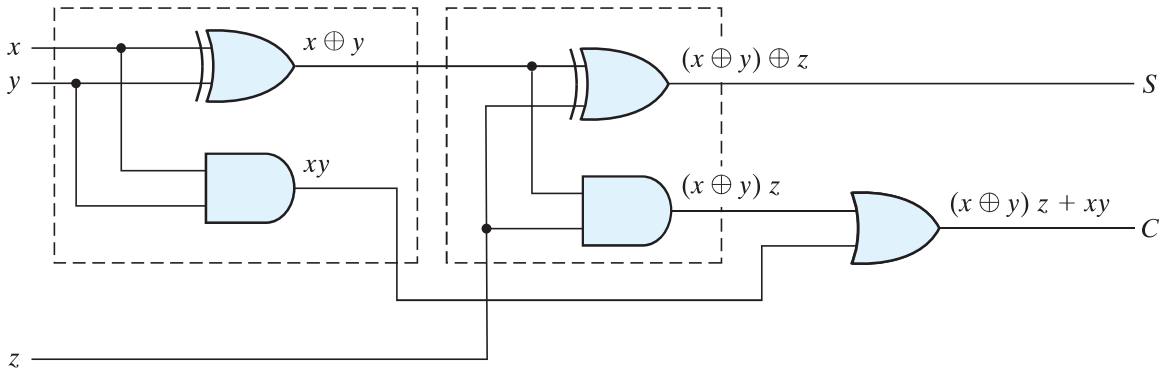


FIGURE 4.8
Implementation of full adder with two half adders and an OR gate

Addition of n-bit numbers requires a chain of n full adders or a chain of one-half adder and $n-1$ full adders. In the former case, the input carry to the least significant position is fixed at 0. Figure 4.9 shows the interconnection of four full-adder (FA) circuits to provide a four-bit binary ripple carry adder. The augend bits of A and the addend bits of B are designated by subscript numbers from right to left, with subscript 0 denoting the least significant bit. The carries are connected in a chain through the full adders. The input carry to the adder is C_0, and it ripples through the full adders to the output carry C_4. The S outputs generate the required sum bits. An n-bit adder requires n full adders, with each output carry connected to the input carry of the next higher order full adder.

To demonstrate with a specific example, consider the two binary numbers $A = 1011$ and $B = 0011$. Their sum $S = 1110$ is formed with the four-bit adder as follows:

Subscript *i*:	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**	
Input carry	0	1	1	0	C_i
Augend	1	0	1	1	A_i
Addend	0	0	1	1	B_i
Sum	1	1	1	0	S_i
Output carry	0	0	1	1	C_{i+1}

The bits are added with full adders, starting from the least significant position (subscript 0), to form the sum bit and carry bit. The input carry C_0 in the least significant position must be 0. The value of C_{i+1} in a given significant position is the output carry of the full adder. This value is transferred into the input carry of the full adder that adds the bits one higher significant position to the left. The sum bits are thus generated starting from the rightmost position and are available as soon as the corresponding previous carry bit is generated. All the carries must be generated for the correct sum bits to appear at the outputs.

The four-bit adder is a typical example of a standard component. It can be used in many applications involving arithmetic operations. Observe that the design of this circuit

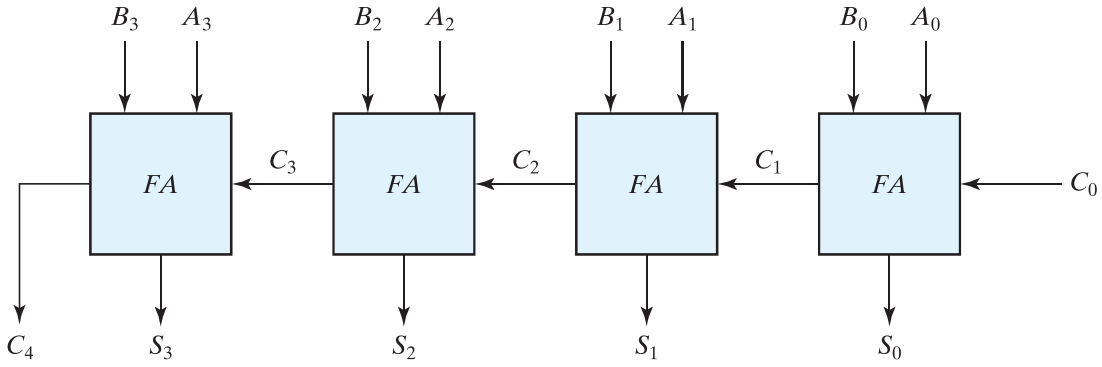


FIGURE 4.9
Four-bit adder

by the classical method would require a truth table with $2^9 = 512$ entries, since there are nine inputs to the circuit. By using an iterative method of cascading a standard function, it is possible to obtain a simple and straightforward implementation.

Carry Propagation

The addition of two binary numbers in parallel implies that all the bits of the augend and addend are available for computation at the same time. As in any combinational circuit, the signal must propagate through the gates before the correct output sum is available in the output terminals. The total propagation time is equal to the propagation delay of a typical gate, times the number of gate levels in the circuit. The longest propagation delay time in an adder is the time it takes the carry to propagate through the full adders. Since each bit of the sum output depends on the value of the input carry, the value of S_i at any given stage in the adder will be in its steady-state final value only after the input carry to that stage has been propagated. In this regard, consider output S_3 in Fig. 4.9. Inputs A_3 and B_3 are available as soon as input signals are applied to the adder. However, input carry C_3 does not settle to its final value until C_2 is available from the previous stage. Similarly, C_2 has to wait for C_1 and so on down to C_0. Thus, only after the carry propagates and ripples through all stages will the last output S_3 and carry C_4 settle to their final correct value.

The number of gate levels for the carry propagation can be found from the circuit of the full adder. The circuit is redrawn with different labels in Fig. 4.10 for convenience. The input and output variables use the subscript i to denote a typical stage of the adder. The signals at P_i and G_i settle to their steady-state values after they propagate through their respective gates. These two signals are common to all half adders and depend on only the input augend and addend bits. The signal from the input carry C_i to the output carry C_{i+1} propagates through an AND gate and an OR gate, which constitute two gate levels. If there are four full adders in the adder, the output carry C_4 would have $2 \times 4 = 8$ gate levels from C_0 to C_4. For an n-bit adder, there are $2n$ gate levels for the carry to propagate from input to output.

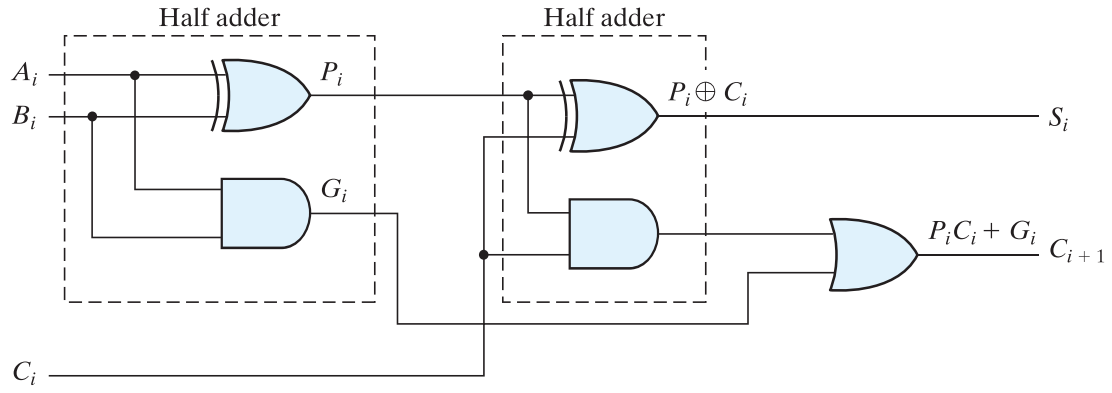


FIGURE 4.10
Full adder with *P* and *G* shown

The carry propagation time is an important attribute of the adder because it limits the speed with which two numbers are added. Although the adder—or, for that matter, any combinational circuit—will always have some value at its output terminals, the outputs will not be correct unless the signals are given enough time to propagate through the gates connected from the inputs to the outputs. Since all other arithmetic operations are implemented by successive additions, the time consumed during the addition process is critical. An obvious solution for reducing the carry propagation delay time is to employ faster gates with reduced delays. However, physical circuits have a limit to their capability. Another solution is to increase the complexity of the equipment in such a way that the carry delay time is reduced. There are several techniques for reducing the carry propagation time in a parallel adder. The most widely used technique employs the principle of *carry lookahead logic*.

Consider the circuit of the full adder shown in Fig. 4.10. If we define two new binary variables

$$P_i = A_i \oplus B_i$$
$$G_i = A_i B_i$$

the output sum and carry can respectively be expressed as

$$S_i = P_i \oplus C_i$$
$$C_{i+1} = G_i + P_i C_i$$

G_i is called a *carry generate*, and it produces a carry of 1 when both A_i and B_i are 1, regardless of the input carry C_i. P_i is called a *carry propagate*, because it determines whether a carry into stage i will propagate into stage $i + 1$ (i.e., whether an assertion of C_i will propagate to an assertion of C_{i+1}).

We now write the Boolean functions for the carry outputs of each stage and substitute the value of each C_i from the previous equations:

$$C_0 = \text{input carry}$$
$$C_1 = G_0 + P_0 C_0$$

$$C_2 = G_1 + P_1C_1 = G_1 + P_1(G_0 + P_0C_0) = G_1 + P_1G_0 + P_1P_0C_0$$
$$C_3 = G_2 + P_2C_2 = G_2 + P_2G_1 + P_2P_1G_0 = P_2P_1P_0C_0$$

Since the Boolean function for each output carry is expressed in sum-of-products form, each function can be implemented with one level of AND gates followed by an OR gate (or by a two-level NAND). The three Boolean functions for C_1, C_2, and C_3 are implemented in the carry lookahead generator shown in Fig. 4.11. Note that this circuit can add in less time because C_3 does not have to wait for C_2 and C_1 to propagate; in fact, C_3 is propagated at the same time as C_1 and C_2. This gain in speed of operation is achieved at the expense of additional complexity (hardware).

The construction of a four-bit adder with a carry lookahead scheme is shown in Fig. 4.12. Each sum output requires two exclusive-OR gates. The output of the first exclusive-OR gate generates the P_i variable, and the AND gate generates the G_i variable. The carries are propagated through the carry lookahead generator (similar to that in Fig. 4.11) and applied as inputs to the second exclusive-OR gate. All output carries are generated after

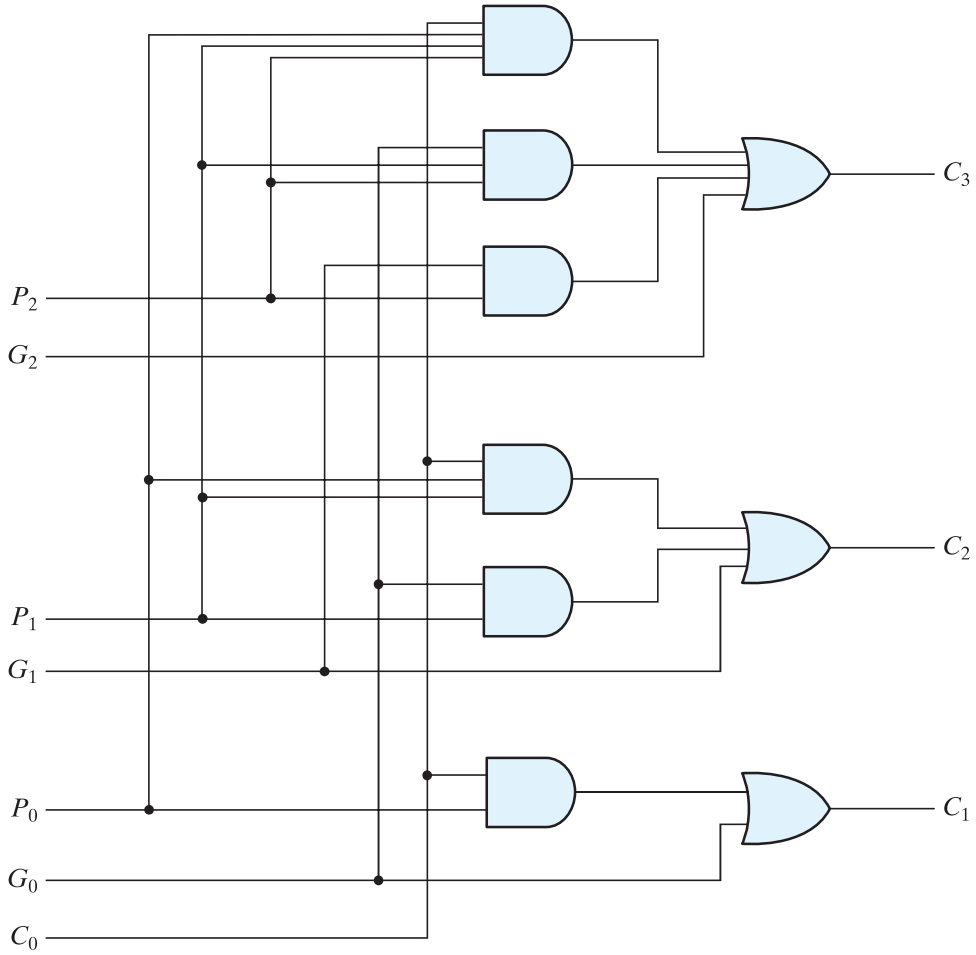


FIGURE 4.11
Logic diagram of carry lookahead generator

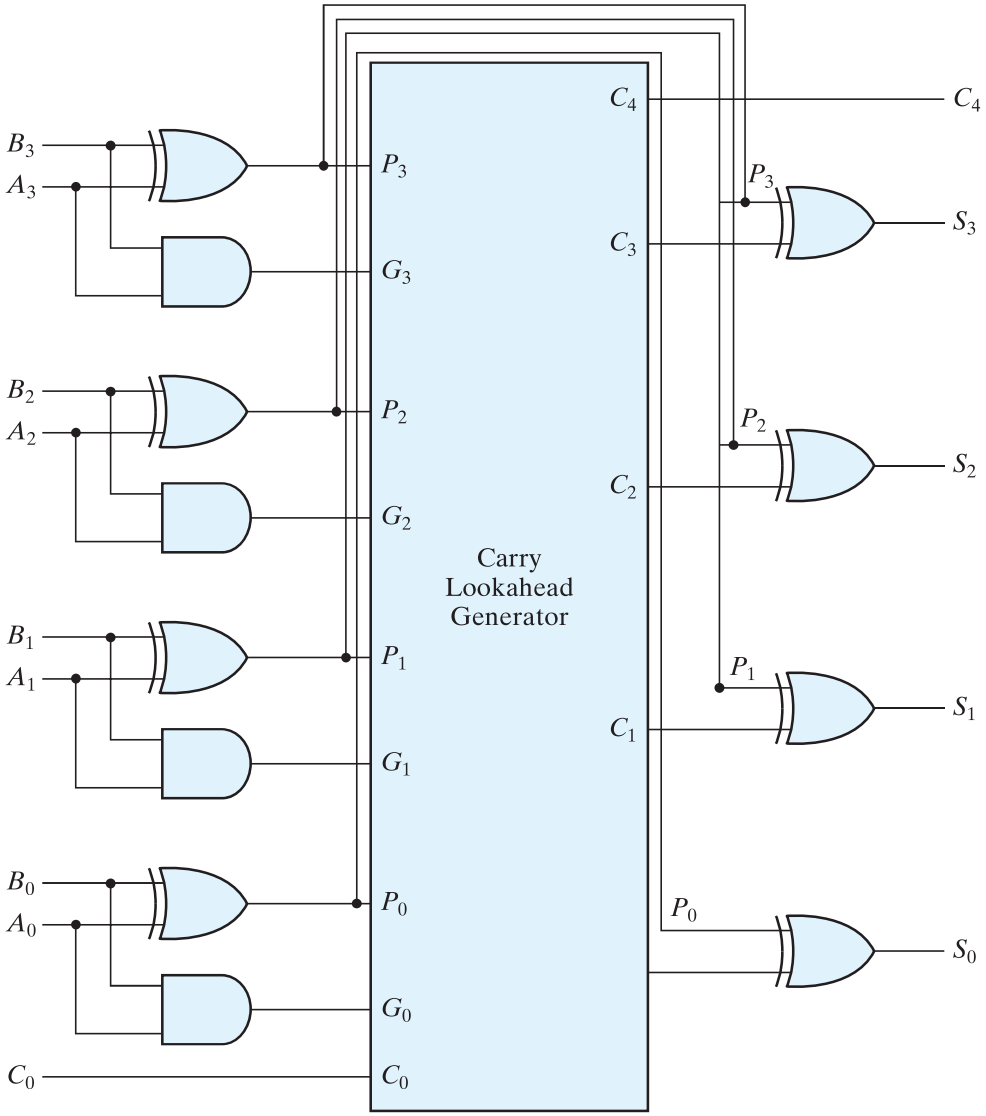


FIGURE 4.12
Four-bit adder with carry lookahead

a delay through two levels of gates. Thus, outputs S_1 through S_3 have equal propagation delay times. The two-level circuit for the output carry C_4 is not shown. This circuit can easily be derived by the equation-substitution method.

Binary Subtractor

The subtraction of unsigned binary numbers can be done most conveniently by means of complements, as discussed in Section 1.5. Remember that the subtraction $A - B$ can be done by taking the 2's complement of B and adding it to A. The 2's complement can be obtained by taking the 1's complement and adding 1 to the least significant pair of bits. The 1's complement can be implemented with inverters, and a 1 can be added to the sum through the input carry.

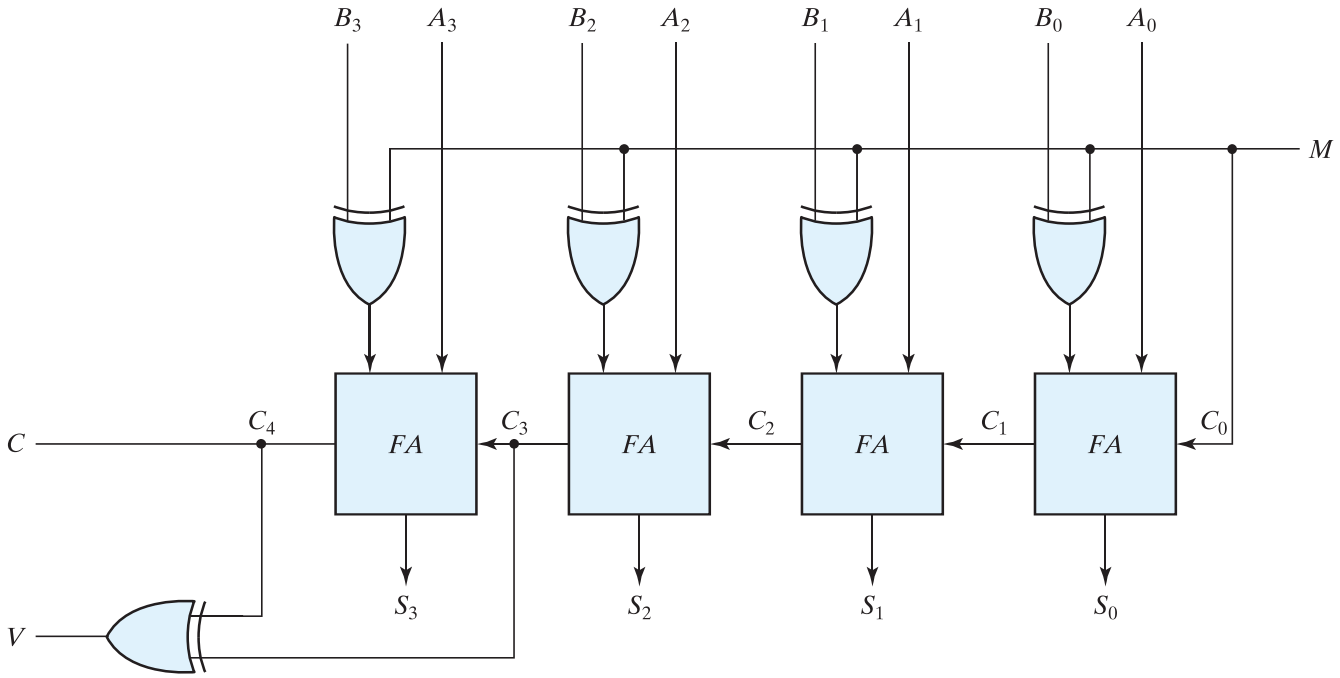


FIGURE 4.13
Four-bit adder–subtractor (with overflow detection)

The circuit for subtracting $A - B$ consists of an adder with inverters placed between each data input B and the corresponding input of the full adder. The input carry C_0 must be equal to 1 when subtraction is performed. The operation thus performed becomes A, plus the 1's complement of B, plus 1. This is equal to A plus the 2's complement of B. For unsigned numbers, that gives $A - B$ if $A \geq B$ or the 2's complement of $(B - A)$ if $A < B$. For signed numbers, the result is $A - B$, provided that there is no overflow. (See Section 1.6.)

The addition and subtraction operations can be combined into one circuit with one common binary adder by including an exclusive-OR gate with each full adder. A four-bit adder–subtractor circuit is shown in Fig. 4.13. The mode input M controls the operation. When $M = 0$, the circuit is an adder, and when $M = 1$, the circuit becomes a subtractor. Each exclusive-OR gate receives input M and one of the inputs of B. When $M = 0$, we have $B \oplus 0 = B$. The full adders receive the value of B, the input carry is 0, and the circuit performs A plus B. When $M = 1$, we have $B \oplus 1 = B'$ and $C_0 = 1$. The B inputs are all complemented and a 1 is added through the input carry. The circuit performs the operation A plus the 2's complement of B. (The exclusive-OR with output V is for detecting an overflow.)

It is worth noting that binary numbers in the signed-complement system are added and subtracted by the same basic addition and subtraction rules as are unsigned numbers. Therefore, computers need only one common hardware circuit to handle both types of arithmetic. The user or programmer must interpret the results of such addition or subtraction differently, depending on whether it is assumed that the numbers are signed or unsigned.

Overflow

When two numbers with n digits each are added and the sum is a number occupying $n + 1$ digits, we say that an overflow occurred. This is true for binary or decimal numbers, signed or unsigned. When the addition is performed with paper and pencil, an overflow is not a problem, since there is no limit by the width of the page to write down the sum. Overflow is a problem in digital computers because the number of bits that hold the number is finite and a result that contains $n + 1$ bits cannot be accommodated by an n-bit word. For this reason, many computers detect the occurrence of an overflow, and when it occurs, a corresponding flip-flop is set that can then be checked by the user.

The detection of an overflow after the addition of two binary numbers depends on whether the numbers are considered to be signed or unsigned. When two unsigned numbers are added, an overflow is detected from the end carry out of the most significant position. In the case of signed numbers, two details are important: the leftmost bit always represents the sign, and negative numbers are in 2's-complement form. When two signed numbers are added, the sign bit is treated as part of the number and the end carry does not indicate an overflow.

An overflow cannot occur after an addition if one number is positive and the other is negative, since adding a positive number to a negative number produces a result whose magnitude is smaller than the larger of the two original numbers. An overflow may occur if the two numbers added are both positive or both negative. To see how this can happen, consider the following example: Two signed binary numbers, +70 and +80, are stored in two eight-bit registers. The range of numbers that each register can accommodate is from binary +127 to binary −128. Since the sum of the two numbers is +150, it exceeds the capacity of an eight-bit register. This is also true for −70 and −80. The two additions in binary are shown next, together with the last two carries:

carries:	0 1	carries:	1 0
+70	0 1000110	−70	1 0111010
+80	0 1010000	−80	1 0110000
+150	1 0010110	−150	0 1101010

Note that the eight-bit result that should have been positive has a negative sign bit (i.e., the eighth bit) and the eight-bit result that should have been negative has a positive sign bit. If, however, the carry out of the sign bit position is taken as the sign bit of the result, then the nine-bit answer so obtained will be correct. But since the answer cannot be accommodated within eight bits, we say that an overflow has occurred.

An overflow condition can be detected by observing the carry into the sign bit position and the carry out of the sign bit position. If these two carries are not equal, an overflow has occurred. This is indicated in the examples in which the two carries are explicitly shown. If the two carries are applied to an exclusive-OR gate, an overflow is detected when the output of the gate is equal to 1. For this method to work correctly, the 2's complement of a negative number must be computed by taking the 1's complement and adding 1. This takes care of the condition when the maximum negative number is complemented.

The binary adder–subtractor circuit with outputs C and V is shown in Fig. 4.13. If the two binary numbers are considered to be unsigned, then the C bit detects a carry after addition or a borrow after subtraction. If the numbers are considered to be signed, then the V bit detects an overflow. If $V = 0$ after an addition or subtraction, then no overflow occurred and the n-bit result is correct. If $V = 1$, then the result of the operation contains $n + 1$ bits, but only the rightmost n bits of the number fit in the space available, so an overflow has occurred. The $(n + 1)$ th bit is the actual sign and has been shifted out of position.

4.6 DECIMAL ADDER

Computers or calculators that perform arithmetic operations directly in the decimal number system represent decimal numbers in binary coded form. An adder for such a computer must employ arithmetic circuits that accept coded decimal numbers and present results in the same code. For binary addition, it is sufficient to consider a pair of significant bits together with a previous carry. A decimal adder requires a minimum of nine inputs and five outputs, since four bits are required to code each decimal digit and the circuit must have an input and output carry. There is a wide variety of possible decimal adder circuits, depending upon the code used to represent the decimal digits. Here we examine a decimal adder for the BCD code. (See Section 1.7.)

BCD Adder

Consider the arithmetic addition of two decimal digits in BCD, together with an input carry from a previous stage. Since each input digit does not exceed 9, the output sum cannot be greater than $9 + 9 + 1 = 19$, the 1 in the sum being an input carry. Suppose we apply two BCD digits to a four-bit binary adder. The adder will form the sum in *binary* and produce a result that ranges from 0 through 19. These binary numbers are listed in Table 4.5 and are labeled by symbols K, Z_8, Z_4, Z_2, and Z_1. K is the carry, and the subscripts under the letter Z represent the weights 8, 4, 2, and 1 that can be assigned to the four bits in the BCD code. The columns under the binary sum list the binary value that appears in the outputs of the four-bit binary adder. The output sum of two decimal digits must be represented in BCD and should appear in the form listed in the columns under "BCD Sum." The problem is to find a rule by which the binary sum is converted to the correct BCD digit representation of the number in the BCD sum.

In examining the contents of the table, it becomes apparent that when the binary sum is equal to or less than 1001, the corresponding BCD number is identical, and therefore no conversion is needed. When the binary sum is greater than 1001, we obtain an invalid BCD representation. The addition of binary 6 (0110) to the binary sum converts it to the correct BCD representation and also produces an output carry as required.

Table 4.5
Derivation of BCD Adder

Binary Sum					BCD Sum					Decimal
K	Z_8	Z_4	Z_2	Z_1	C	S_8	S_4	S_2	S_1	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	5
0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	6
0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	7
0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	9
0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	11
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	12
0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	13
0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	14
0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	15
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	16
1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	17
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	18
1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	19

The logic circuit that detects the necessary correction can be derived from the entries in the table. It is obvious that a correction is needed when the binary sum has an output carry $K = 1$. The other six combinations from 1010 through 1111 that need a correction have a 1 in position Z_8. To distinguish them from binary 1000 and 1001, which also have a 1 in position Z_8, we specify further that either Z_4 or Z_2 must have a 1. The condition for a correction and an output carry can be expressed by the Boolean function

$$C = K + Z_8Z_4 + Z_8Z_2$$

When $C = 1$, it is necessary to add 0110 to the binary sum and provide an output carry for the next stage.

A BCD adder that adds two BCD digits and produces a sum digit in BCD is shown in Fig. 4.14. The two decimal digits, together with the input carry, are first added in the top four-bit adder to produce the binary sum. When the output carry is equal to 0, nothing is added to the binary sum. When it is equal to 1, binary 0110 is added to the binary sum through the bottom four-bit adder. The output carry generated from the bottom

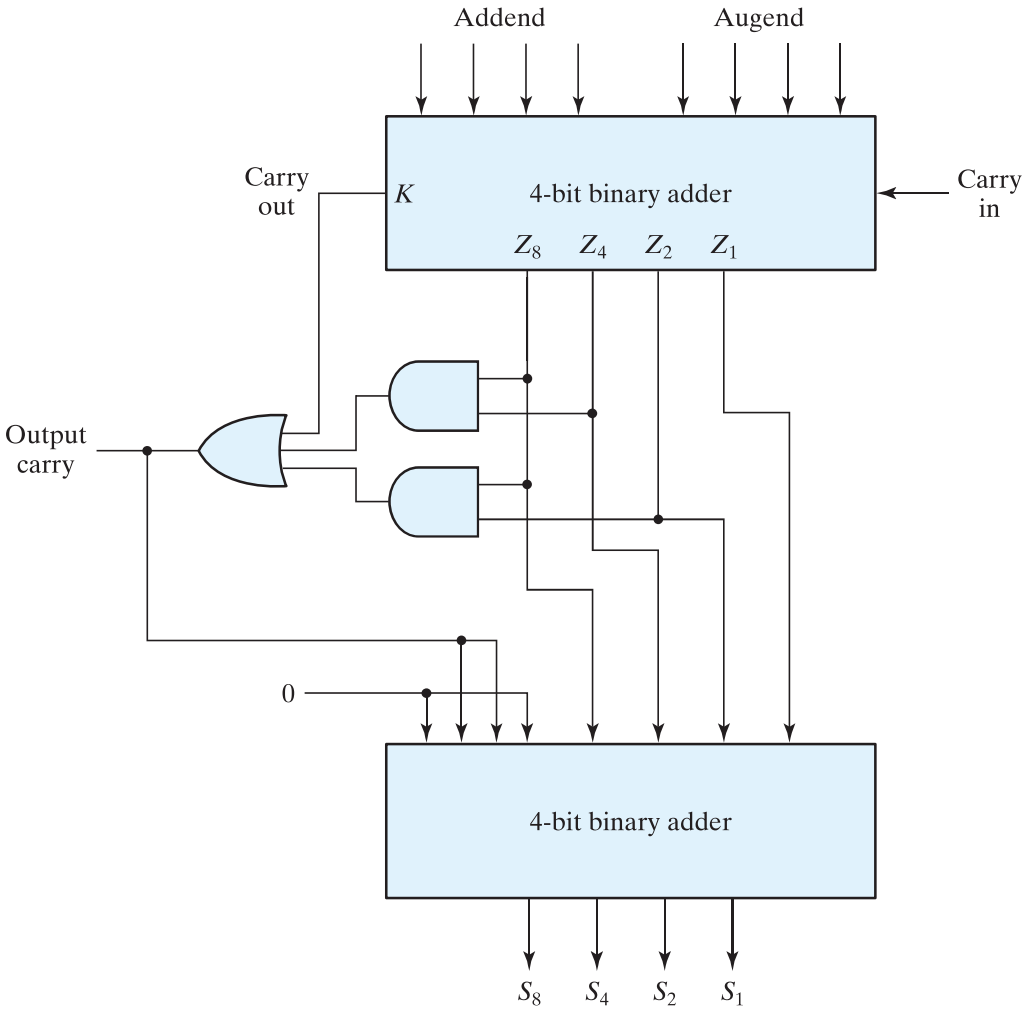


FIGURE 4.14
Block diagram of a BCD adder

adder can be ignored, since it supplies information already available at the output carry terminal. A decimal parallel adder that adds n decimal digits needs n BCD adder stages. The output carry from one stage must be connected to the input carry of the next higher order stage.

4.7 BINARY MULTIPLIER

Multiplication of binary numbers is performed in the same way as multiplication of decimal numbers. The multiplicand is multiplied by each bit of the multiplier, starting from the least significant bit. Each such multiplication forms a partial product. Successive partial products are shifted one position to the left. The final product is obtained from the sum of the partial products.

To see how a binary multiplier can be implemented with a combinational circuit, consider the multiplication of two 2-bit numbers as shown in Fig. 4.15. The multiplicand

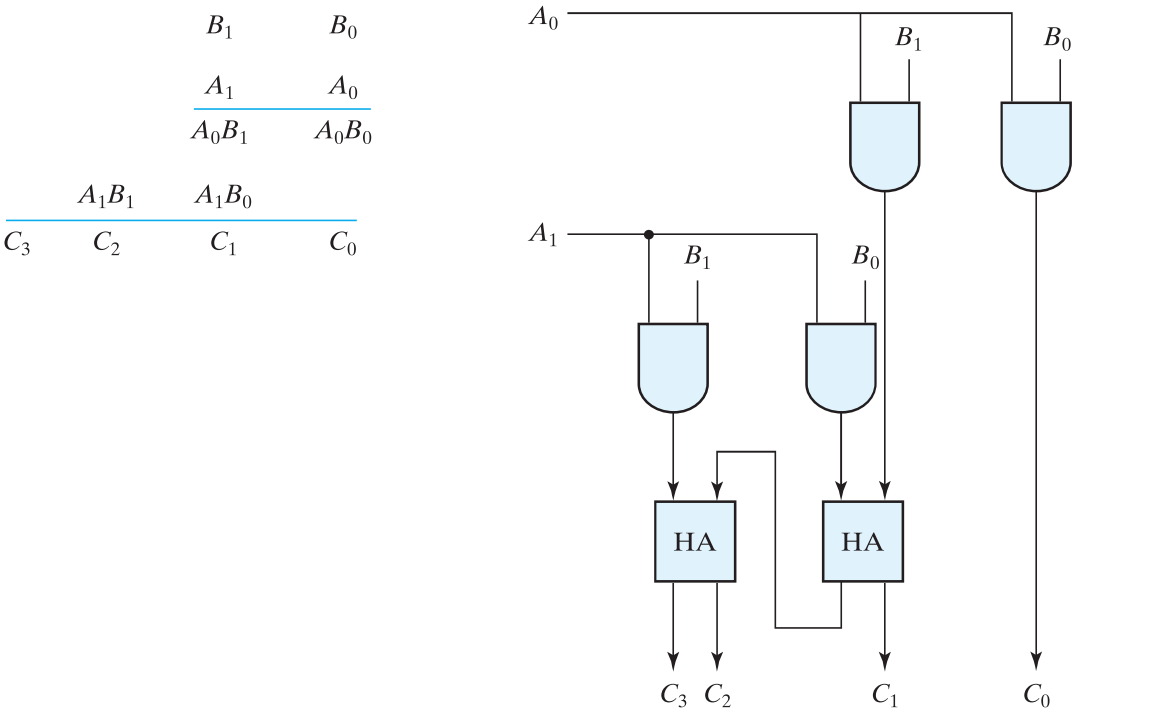


FIGURE 4.15
Two-bit by two-bit binary multiplier

bits are B_1 and B_0, the multiplier bits are A_1 and A_0, and the product is $C_3C_2C_1C_0$. The first partial product is formed by multiplying B_1B_0 by A_0. The multiplication of two bits such as A_0 and B_0 produces a 1 if both bits are 1; otherwise, it produces a 0. This is identical to an AND operation. Therefore, the partial product can be implemented with AND gates as shown in the diagram. The second partial product is formed by multiplying B_1B_0 by A_1 and shifting one position to the left. The two partial products are added with two half-adder (HA) circuits. Usually, there are more bits in the partial products and it is necessary to use full adders to produce the sum of the partial products. Note that the least significant bit of the product does not have to go through an adder, since it is formed by the output of the first AND gate.

A combinational circuit binary multiplier with more bits can be constructed in a similar fashion. A bit of the multiplier is ANDed with each bit of the multiplicand in as many levels as there are bits in the multiplier. The binary output in each level of AND gates is added with the partial product of the previous level to form a new partial product. The last level produces the product. For J multiplier bits and K multiplicand bits, we need $(J \times K)$ AND gates and $(J - 1)$ K-bit adders to produce a product of $(J + K)$ bits.

As a second example, consider a multiplier circuit that multiplies a binary number represented by four bits by a number represented by three bits. Let the multiplicand be represented by $B_3B_2B_1B_0$ and the multiplier by $A_2A_1A_0$. Since $K = 4$ and $J = 3$, we need 12 AND gates and two 4-bit adders to produce a product of seven bits. The logic diagram of the multiplier is shown in Fig. 4.16.

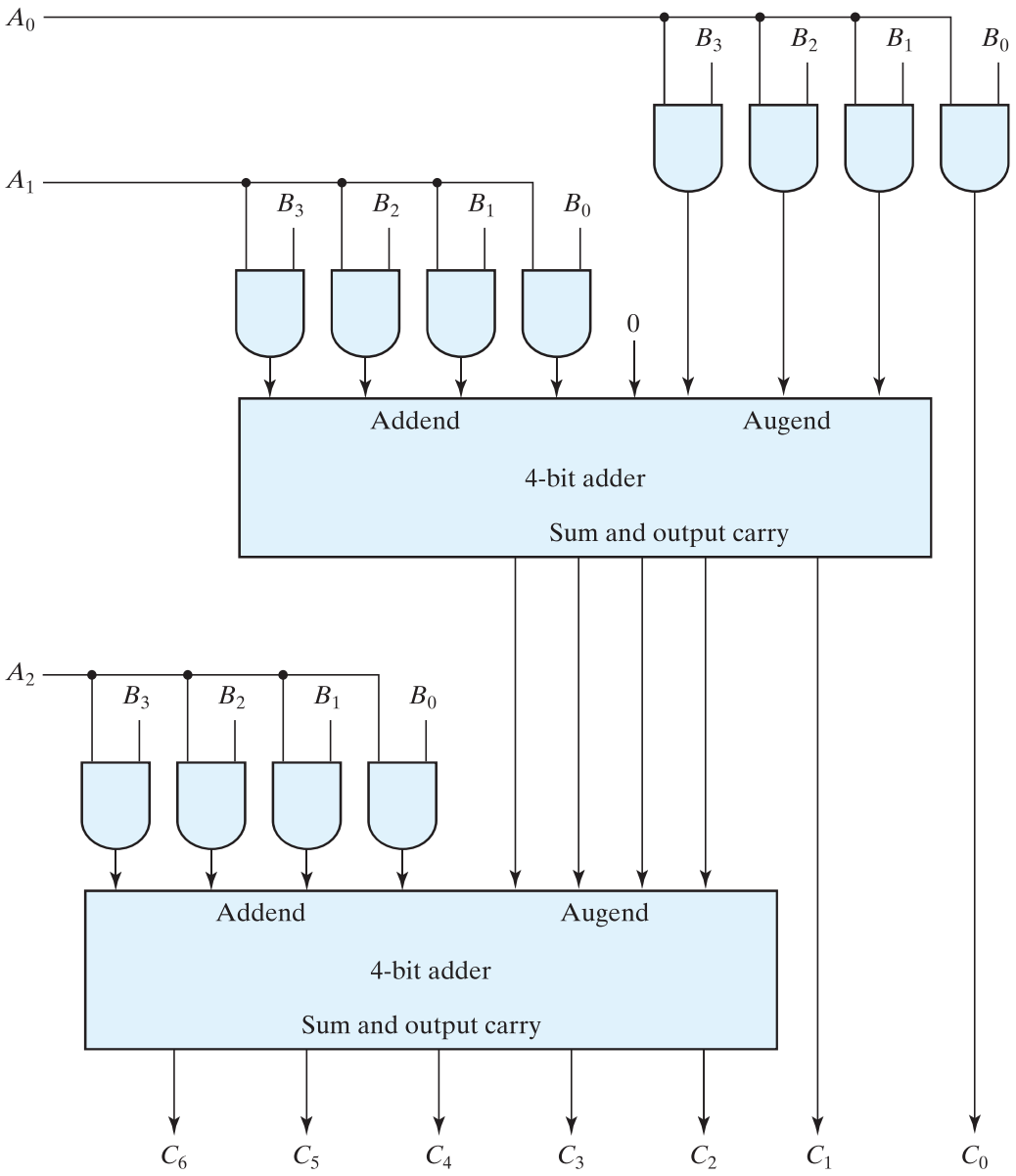


FIGURE 4.16
Four-bit by three-bit binary multiplier

4.8 MAGNITUDE COMPARATOR

The comparison of two numbers is an operation that determines whether one number is greater than, less than, or equal to the other number. A *magnitude comparator* is a combinational circuit that compares two numbers A and B and determines their relative magnitudes. The outcome of the comparison is specified by three binary variables that indicate whether $A > B$, $A = B$, or $A < B$.

On the one hand, the circuit for comparing two n-bit numbers has 2^{2n} entries in the truth table and becomes too cumbersome, even with $n = 3$. On the other hand, as one

may suspect, a comparator circuit possesses a certain amount of regularity. Digital functions that possess an inherent well-defined regularity can usually be designed by means of an algorithm—a procedure which specifies a finite set of steps that, if followed, give the solution to a problem. We illustrate this method here by deriving an algorithm for the design of a four-bit magnitude comparator.

The algorithm is a direct application of the procedure a person uses to compare the relative magnitudes of two numbers. Consider two numbers, A and B, with four digits each. Write the coefficients of the numbers in descending order of significance:

$$A = A_3\, A_2\, A_1\, A_0$$
$$B = B_3\, B_2\, B_1\, B_0$$

Each subscripted letter represents one of the digits in the number. The two numbers are equal if all pairs of significant digits are equal: $A_3 = B_3$, $A_2 = B_2$, $A_1 = B_1$, and $A_0 = B_0$. When the numbers are binary, the digits are either 1 or 0, and the equality of each pair of bits can be expressed logically with an exclusive-NOR function as

$$x_i = A_i B_i + A_i' B_i' \quad \text{for } i = 0, 1, 2, 3$$

where $x_i = 1$ only if the pair of bits in position i are equal (i.e., if both are 1 or both are 0).

The equality of the two numbers A and B is displayed in a combinational circuit by an output binary variable that we designate by the symbol $(A = B)$. This binary variable is equal to 1 if the input numbers, A and B, are equal, and is equal to 0 otherwise. For equality to exist, all x_i variables must be equal to 1, a condition that dictates an AND operation of all variables:

$$(A = B) = x_3 x_2 x_1 x_0$$

The *binary* variable $(A = B)$ is equal to 1 only if all pairs of digits of the two numbers are equal.

To determine whether A is greater or less than B, we inspect the relative magnitudes of pairs of significant digits, starting from the most significant position. If the two digits of a pair are equal, we compare the next lower significant pair of digits. The comparison continues until a pair of unequal digits is reached. If the corresponding digit of A is 1 and that of B is 0, we conclude that $A > B$. If the corresponding digit of A is 0 and that of B is 1, we have $A < B$. The sequential comparison can be expressed logically by the two Boolean functions

$$(A > B) = A_3 B_3' + x_3 A_2 B_2' + x_3 x_2 A_1 B_1' + x_3 x_2 x_1 A_0 B_0'$$
$$(A < B) = A_3' B_3 + x_3 A_2' B_2 + x_3 x_2 A_1' B_1' + x_3 x_2 x_1 A' n_0 B_0'$$

The symbols $(A > B)$ and $(A < B)$ are *binary* output variables that are equal to 1 when $A > B$ and $A < B$, respectively.

The gate implementation of the three output variables just derived is simpler than it seems because it involves a certain amount of repetition. The unequal outputs can use the same gates that are needed to generate the equal output. The logic diagram of the four-bit magnitude comparator is shown in Fig. 4.17. The four x outputs are generated

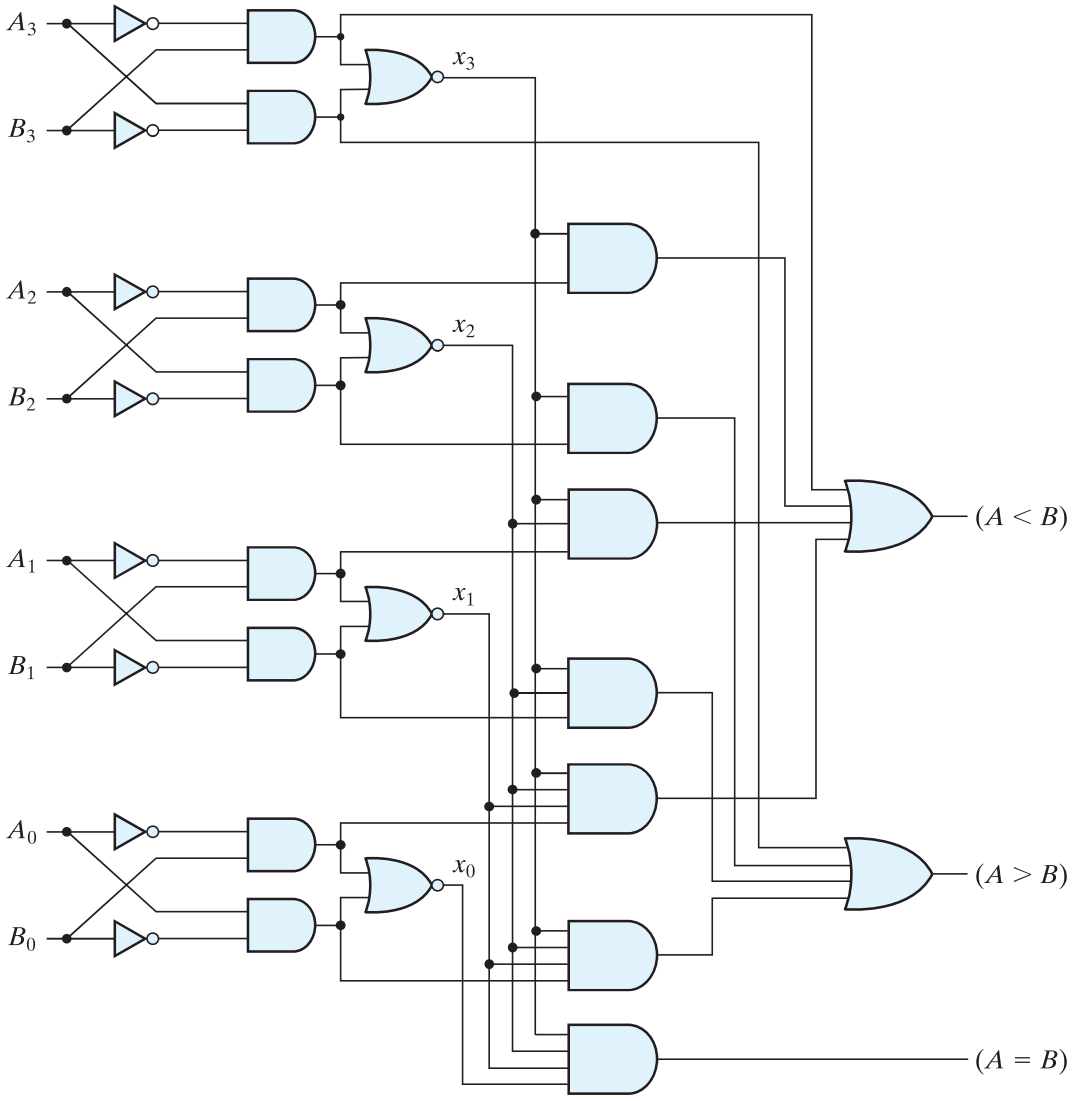


FIGURE 4.17
Four-bit magnitude comparator

with exclusive-NOR circuits and are applied to an AND gate to give the output binary variable $(A = B)$. The other two outputs use the x variables to generate the Boolean functions listed previously. This is a multilevel implementation and has a regular pattern. The procedure for obtaining magnitude comparator circuits for binary numbers with more than four bits is obvious from this example.

4.9 DECODERS

Discrete quantities of information are represented in digital systems by binary codes. A binary code of n bits is capable of representing up to 2^n distinct elements of coded information. A *decoder* is a combinational circuit that converts binary information from

n input lines to a maximum of 2^n unique output lines. If the n-bit coded information has unused combinations, the decoder may have fewer than 2^n outputs.

The decoders presented here are called n-to-m-line decoders, where $m \leq 2^n$. Their purpose is to generate the 2^n (or fewer) minterms of n input variables. Each combination of inputs will assert a unique output. The name *decoder* is also used in conjunction with other code converters, such as a BCD-to-seven-segment decoder.

As an example, consider the three-to-eight-line decoder circuit of Fig. 4.18. The three inputs are decoded into eight outputs, each representing one of the minterms of the three input variables. The three inverters provide the complement of the inputs, and each one of the eight AND gates generates one of the minterms. A particular application of this decoder is binary-to-octal conversion. The input variables represent a binary number, and the outputs represent the eight digits of a number in the octal number system. However, a three-to-eight-line decoder can be used for decoding *any* three-bit code to provide eight outputs, one for each element of the code.

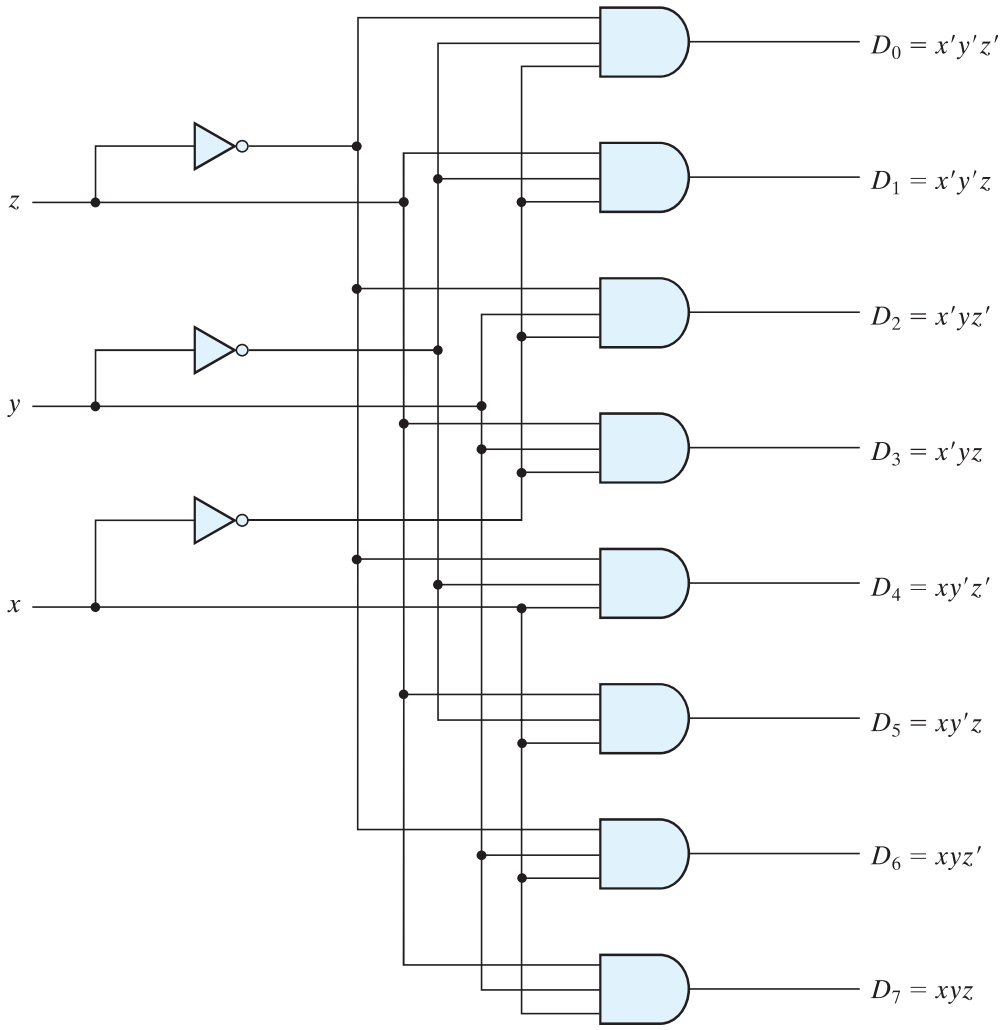


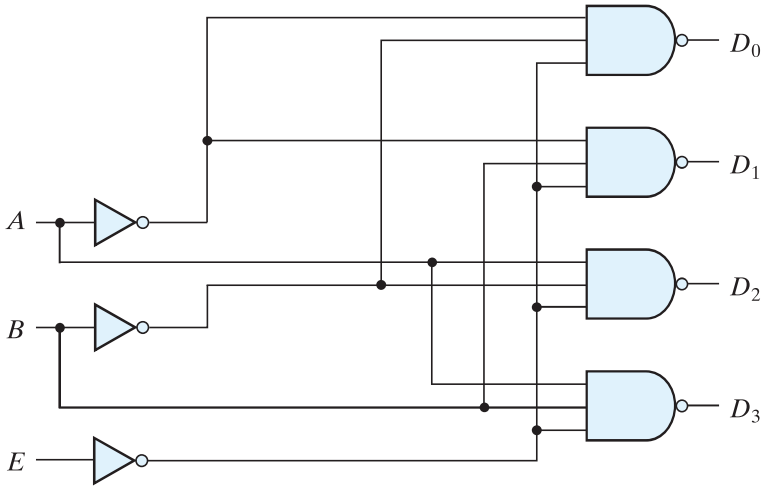
FIGURE 4.18
Three-to-eight-line decoder

Table 4.6
Truth Table of a Three-to-Eight-Line Decoder

Inputs			Outputs							
x	*y*	*z*	D_0	D_1	D_2	D_3	D_4	D_5	D_6	D_7
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

The operation of the decoder may be clarified by the truth table listed in Table 4.6. For each possible input combination, there are seven outputs that are equal to 0 and only one that is equal to 1. The output whose value is equal to 1 represents the minterm equivalent of the binary number currently available in the input lines.

Some decoders are constructed with NAND gates. Since a NAND gate produces the AND operation with an inverted output, it becomes more economical to generate the decoder minterms in their complemented form. Furthermore, decoders include one or more *enable* inputs to control the circuit operation. A two-to-four-line decoder with an enable input constructed with NAND gates is shown in Fig. 4.19. The circuit operates with complemented outputs and a complement enable input. The decoder is enabled when E is equal to 0 (i.e., active-low enable). As indicated by the truth table, only one



(a) Logic diagram

E	A	B	D_0	D_1	D_2	D_3
1	X	X	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	1	1	1
0	0	1	1	0	1	1
0	1	0	1	1	0	1
0	1	1	1	1	1	1

(b) Truth table

FIGURE 4.19
Two-to-four-line decoder with enable input

output can be equal to 0 at any given time; all other outputs are equal to 1. The output whose value is equal to 0 represents the minterm selected by inputs A and B. The circuit is disabled when E is equal to 1, regardless of the values of the other two inputs. When the circuit is disabled, none of the outputs are equal to 0 and none of the minterms are selected. In general, a decoder may operate with complemented or uncomplemented outputs. The enable input may be activated with a 0 or with a 1 signal. Some decoders have two or more enable inputs that must satisfy a given logic condition in order to enable the circuit.

A decoder with enable input can function as a *demultiplexer*—a circuit that receives information from a single line and directs it to one of 2^n possible output lines. The selection of a specific output is controlled by the bit combination of n selection lines. The decoder of Fig. 4.19 can function as a one-to-four-line demultiplexer when E is taken as a data input line and A and B are taken as the selection inputs. The single input variable E has a path to all four outputs, but the input information is directed to only one of the output lines, as specified by the binary combination of the two selection lines A and B. This feature can be verified from the truth table of the circuit. For example, if the selection lines $AB = 10$, output D_2 will be the same as the input value E, while all other outputs are maintained at 1. Because decoder and demultiplexer operations are obtained from the same circuit, a decoder with an enable input is referred to as a *decoder–demultiplexer*.

Decoders with enable inputs can be connected together to form a larger decoder circuit. Figure 4.20 shows two 3-to-8-line decoders with enable inputs connected to form a 4-to-16-line decoder. When $w = 0$, the top decoder is enabled and the other is disabled. The bottom decoder outputs are all 0's, and the top eight outputs generate minterms 0000 to 0111. When $w = 1$, the enable conditions are reversed: The bottom decoder outputs generate minterms 1000 to 1111, while the outputs of the top decoder are all 0's. This example demonstrates the usefulness of enable inputs in decoders and other

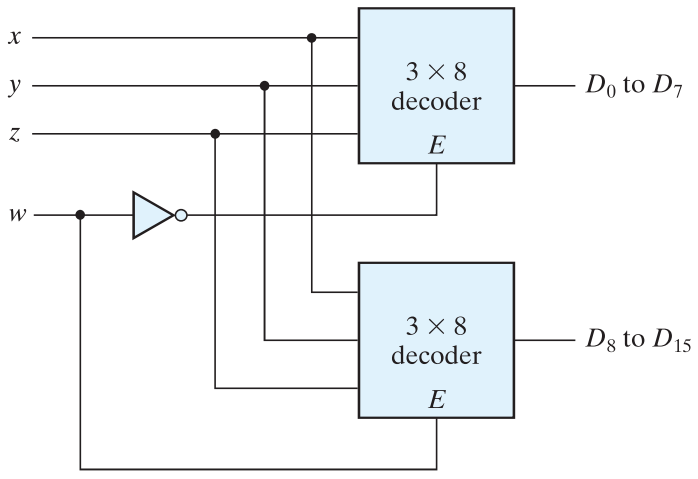


FIGURE 4.20
4 × 16 decoder constructed with two 3 × 8 decoders

combinational logic components. In general, enable inputs are a convenient feature for interconnecting two or more standard components for the purpose of combining them into a similar function with more inputs and outputs.

Combinational Logic Implementation

A decoder provides the 2^n minterms of n input variables. Each asserted output of the decoder is associated with a unique pattern of input bits. Since any Boolean function can be expressed in sum-of-minterms form, a decoder that generates the minterms of the function, together with an external OR gate that forms their logical sum, provides a hardware implementation of the function. In this way, any combinational circuit with n inputs and m outputs can be implemented with an n-to-2^n-line decoder and m OR gates.

The procedure for implementing a combinational circuit by means of a decoder and OR gates requires that the Boolean function for the circuit be expressed as a sum of minterms. A decoder is then chosen that generates all the minterms of the input variables. The inputs to each OR gate are selected from the decoder outputs according to the list of minterms of each function. This procedure will be illustrated by an example that implements a full-adder circuit.

From the truth table of the full adder (see Table 4.4), we obtain the functions for the combinational circuit in sum-of-minterms form:

$$S(x, y, z) = \Sigma(1, 2, 4, 7)$$

$$C(x, y, z) = \Sigma(3, 5, 6, 7)$$

Since there are three inputs and a total of eight minterms, we need a three-to-eight-line decoder. The implementation is shown in Fig. 4.21. The decoder generates the eight minterms for x, y, and z. The OR gate for output S forms the logical sum of minterms 1, 2, 4, and 7. The OR gate for output C forms the logical sum of minterms 3, 5, 6, and 7.

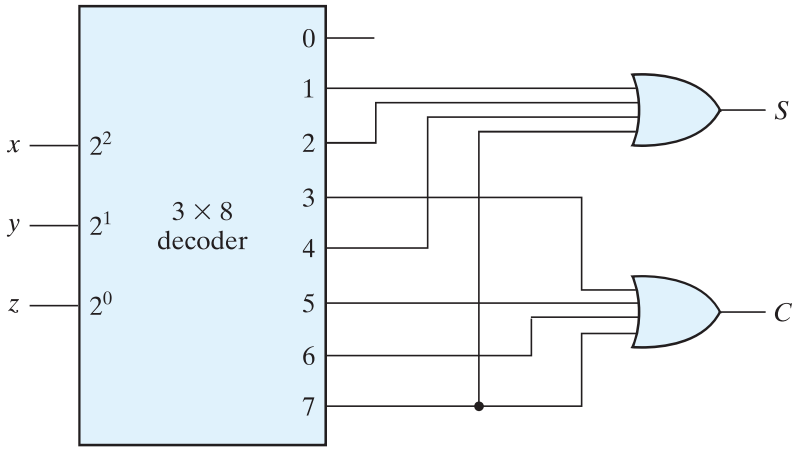


FIGURE 4.21
Implementation of a full adder with a decoder

A function with a long list of minterms requires an OR gate with a large number of inputs. A function having a list of k minterms can be expressed in its complemented form F' with $2^n - k$ minterms. If the number of minterms in the function is greater than $2^n/2$, then F' can be expressed with fewer minterms. In such a case, it is advantageous to use a NOR gate to sum the minterms of F'. The output of the NOR gate complements this sum and generates the normal output F. If NAND gates are used for the decoder, as in Fig. 4.19, then the external gates must be NAND gates instead of OR gates. This is because a two-level NAND gate circuit implements a sum-of-minterms function and is equivalent to a two-level AND–OR circuit.

4.10 ENCODERS

An encoder is a digital circuit that performs the inverse operation of a decoder. An encoder has 2^n (or fewer) input lines and n output lines. The output lines, as an aggregate, generate the binary code corresponding to the input value. An example of an encoder is the octal-to-binary encoder whose truth table is given in Table 4.7. It has eight inputs (one for each of the octal digits) and three outputs that generate the corresponding binary number. It is assumed that only one input has a value of 1 at any given time.

The encoder can be implemented with OR gates whose inputs are determined directly from the truth table. Output z is equal to 1 when the input octal digit is 1, 3, 5, or 7. Output y is 1 for octal digits 2, 3, 6, or 7, and output x is 1 for digits 4, 5, 6, or 7. These conditions can be expressed by the following Boolean output functions:

$$z = D_1 + D_3 + D_5 + D_7$$
$$y = D_2 + D_3 + D_6 + D_7$$
$$x = D_4 + D_5 + D_6 + D_7$$

The encoder can be implemented with three OR gates.

Table 4.7
Truth Table of an Octal-to-Binary Encoder

Inputs								Outputs		
D_0	D_1	D_2	D_3	D_4	D_5	D_6	D_7	x	y	z
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1

The encoder defined in Table 4.7 has the limitation that only one input can be active at any given time. If two inputs are active simultaneously, the output produces an undefined combination. For example, if D_3 and D_6 are 1 simultaneously, the output of the encoder will be 111 because all three outputs are equal to 1. The output 111 does not represent either binary 3 or binary 6. To resolve this ambiguity, encoder circuits must establish an input priority to ensure that only one input is encoded. If we establish a higher priority for inputs with higher subscript numbers, and if both D_3 and D_6 are 1 at the same time, the output will be 110 because D_6 has higher priority than D_3.

Another ambiguity in the octal-to-binary encoder is that an output with all 0's is generated when all the inputs are 0; but this output is the same as when D_0 is equal to 1. The discrepancy can be resolved by providing one more output to indicate whether at least one input is equal to 1.

Priority Encoder

A priority encoder is an encoder circuit that includes the priority function. The operation of the priority encoder is such that if two or more inputs are equal to 1 at the same time, the input having the highest priority will take precedence. The truth table of a four-input priority encoder is given in Table 4.8. In addition to the two outputs x and y, the circuit has a third output designated by V; this is a *valid* bit indicator that is set to 1 when one or more inputs are equal to 1. If all inputs are 0, there is no valid input and V is equal to 0. The other two outputs are not inspected when V equals 0 and are specified as don't-care conditions. Note that whereas X's in output columns represent don't-care conditions, the X's in the input columns are useful for representing a truth table in condensed form. Instead of listing all 16 minterms of four variables, the truth table uses an X to represent either 1 or 0. For example, X100 represents the two minterms 0100 and 1100.

According to Table 4.8, the higher the subscript number, the higher the priority of the input. Input D_3 has the highest priority, so, regardless of the values of the other inputs, when this input is 1, the output for xy is 11 (binary 3). D_2 has the next priority level. The output is 10 if $D_2 = 1$, provided that $D_3 = 0$, regardless of the values of the other two lower priority inputs. The output for D_1 is generated only if higher priority inputs are 0, and so on down the priority levels.

Table 4.8
Truth Table of a Priority Encoder

Inputs				Outputs		
D_0	D_1	D_2	D_3	x	y	V
0	0	0	0	X	X	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	1
X	1	0	0	0	1	1
X	X	1	0	1	0	1
X	X	X	1	1	1	1

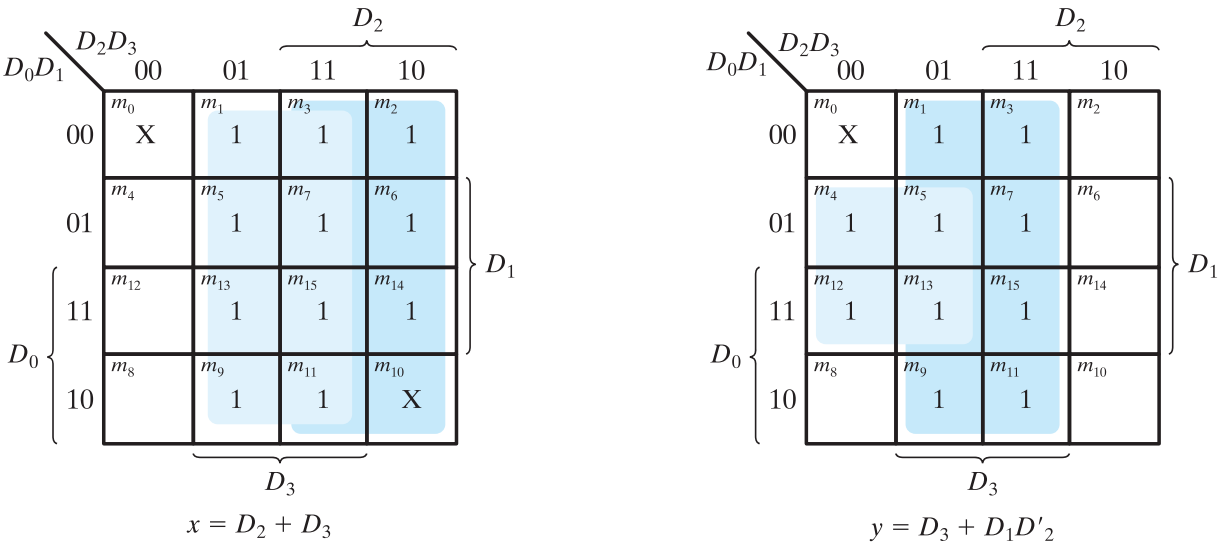


FIGURE 4.22
Maps for a priority encoder

The maps for simplifying outputs x and y are shown in Fig. 4.22. The minterms for the two functions are derived from Table 4.8. Although the table has only five rows, when each X in a row is replaced first by 0 and then by 1, we obtain all 16 possible input combinations. For example, the fourth row in the table, with inputs XX10, represents the four minterms 0010, 0110, 1010, and 1110. The simplified Boolean expressions for the priority encoder are obtained from the maps. The condition for output V is an OR function of all the input variables. The priority encoder is implemented in Fig. 4.23 according to the following Boolean functions:

$$x = D_2 + D_3$$
$$y = D_3 + D_1 D'_2$$
$$V = D_0 + D_1 + D_2 + D_3$$

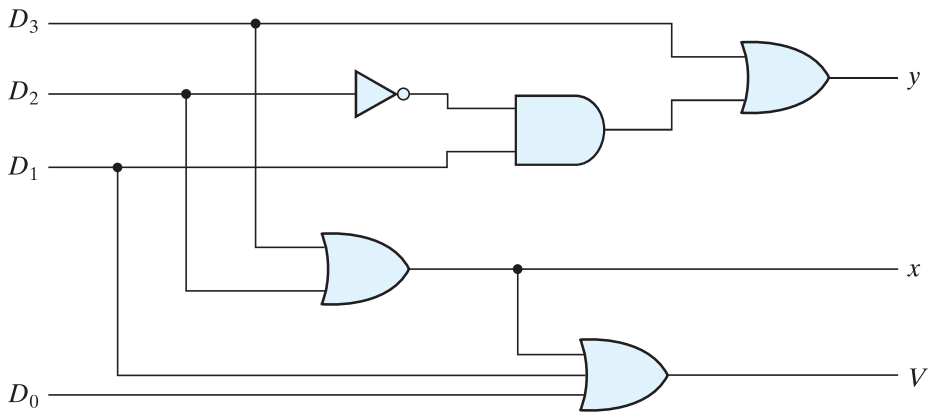


FIGURE 4.23
Four-input priority encoder

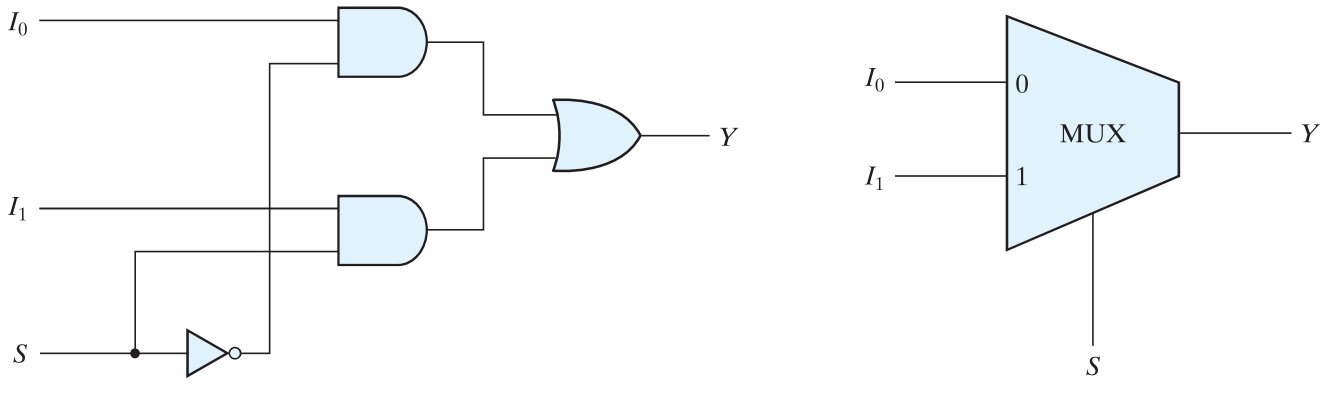
4.11 MULTIPLEXERS

A multiplexer is a combinational circuit that selects binary information from one of many input lines and directs it to a single output line. The selection of a particular input line is controlled by a set of selection lines. Normally, there are 2^n input lines and n selection lines whose bit combinations determine which input is selected.

A two-to-one-line multiplexer connects one of two 1-bit sources to a common destination, as shown in Fig. 4.24. The circuit has two data input lines, one output line, and one selection line S. When $S = 0$, the upper AND gate is enabled and I_0 has a path to the output. When $S = 1$, the lower AND gate is enabled and I_1 has a path to the output. The multiplexer acts like an electronic switch that selects one of two sources. The block diagram of a multiplexer is sometimes depicted by a wedge-shaped symbol, as shown in Fig. 4.24(b). It suggests visually how a selected one of multiple data sources is directed into a single destination. The multiplexer is often labeled "MUX" in block diagrams.

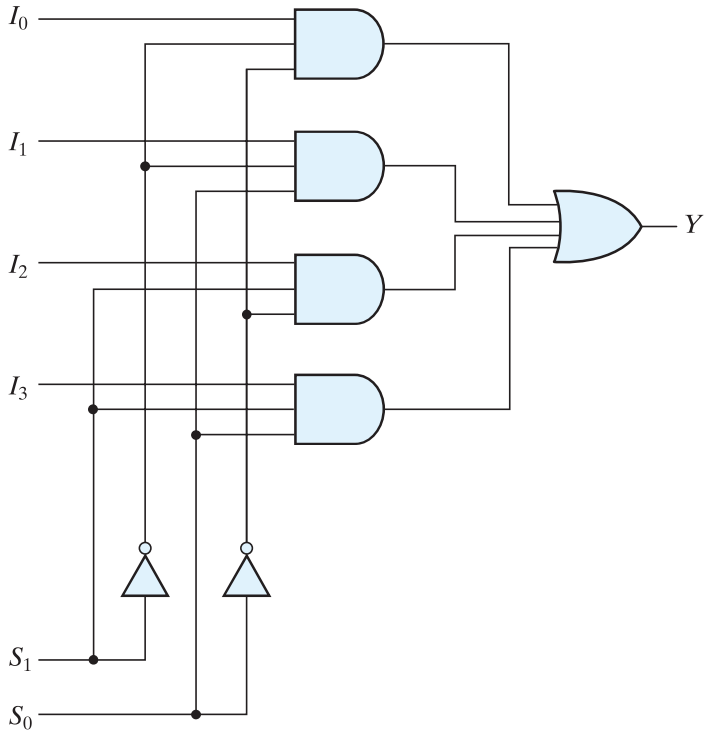
A four-to-one-line multiplexer is shown in Fig. 4.25. Each of the four inputs, I_0 through I_3, is applied to one input of an AND gate. Selection lines S_1 and S_0 are decoded to select a particular AND gate. The outputs of the AND gates are applied to a single OR gate that provides the one-line output. The function table lists the input that is passed to the output for each combination of the binary selection values. To demonstrate the operation of the circuit, consider the case when $S_1S_0 = 10$. The AND gate associated with input I_2 has two of its inputs equal to 1 and the third input connected to I_2. The other three AND gates have at least one input equal to 0, which makes their outputs equal to 0. The output of the OR gate is now equal to the value of I_2, providing a path from the selected input to the output. A multiplexer is also called a *data selector*, since it selects one of many inputs and steers the binary information to the output line.

The AND gates and inverters in the multiplexer resemble a decoder circuit, and indeed, they decode the selection input lines. In general, a 2^n-to-1-line multiplexer is constructed from an n-to-2^n decoder by adding 2^n input lines to it, one to each AND gate. The outputs of the AND gates are applied to a single OR gate. The size of a multiplexer is specified by



(a) Logic diagram (b) Block diagram

FIGURE 4.24
Two-to-one-line multiplexer



(a) Logic diagram

S_1	S_0	Y
0	0	I_0
0	1	I_1
1	0	I_2
1	1	I_3

(b) Function table

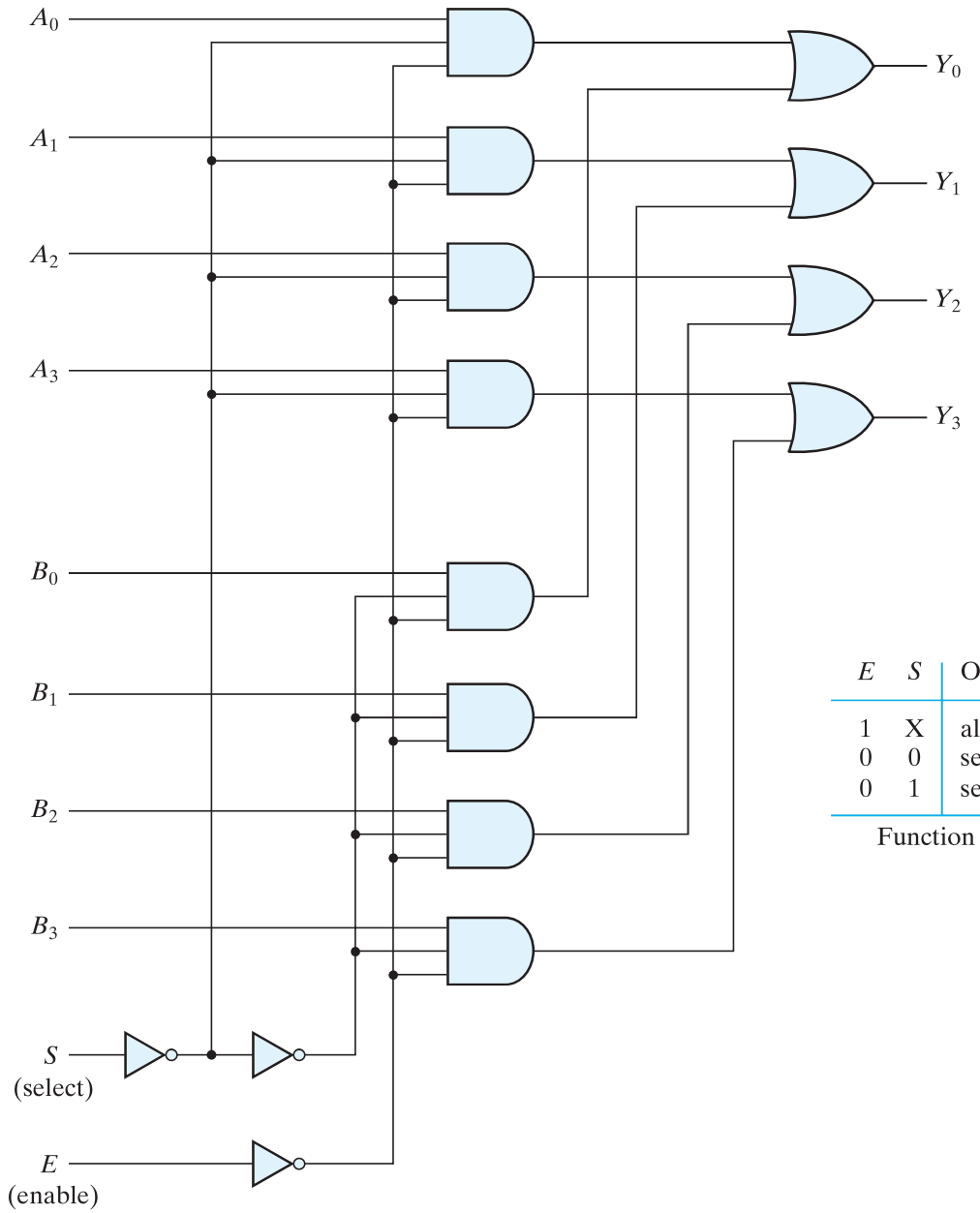
FIGURE 4.25
Four-to-one-line multiplexer

the number 2^n of its data input lines and the single output line. The n selection lines are implied from the 2^n data lines. As in decoders, multiplexers may have an enable input to control the operation of the unit. When the enable input is in the inactive state, the outputs are disabled, and when it is in the active state, the circuit functions as a normal multiplexer.

Multiplexer circuits can be combined with common selection inputs to provide multiple-bit selection logic. As an illustration, a quadruple 2-to-1-line multiplexer is shown in Fig. 4.26. The circuit has four multiplexers, each capable of selecting one of two input lines. Output Y_0 can be selected to come from either input A_0 or input B_0. Similarly, output Y_1 may have the value of A_1 or B_1, and so on. Input selection line S selects one of the lines in each of the four multiplexers. The enable input E must be active (i.e., asserted) for normal operation. Although the circuit contains four 2-to-1-line multiplexers, we are more likely to view it as a circuit that selects one of two 4-bit sets of data lines. As shown in the function table, the unit is enabled when $E = 0$. Then, if $S = 0$, the four A inputs have a path to the four outputs. If, by contrast, $S = 1$, the four B inputs are applied to the outputs. The outputs have all 0's when $E = 1$, regardless of the value of S.

Boolean Function Implementation

In Section 4.9, it was shown that a decoder can be used to implement Boolean functions by employing external OR gates. An examination of the logic diagram of a multiplexer reveals that it is essentially a decoder that includes the OR gate within the unit. The



E	S	Output Y
1	X	all 0's
0	0	select A
0	1	select B

Function table

FIGURE 4.26
Quadruple two-to-one-line multiplexer

minterms of a function are generated in a multiplexer by the circuit associated with the selection inputs. The individual minterms can be selected by the data inputs, thereby providing a method of implementing a Boolean function of n variables with a multiplexer that has n selection inputs and 2^n data inputs, one for each minterm.

We will now show a more efficient method for implementing a Boolean function of n variables with a multiplexer that has $n - 1$ selection inputs. The first $n - 1$ variables of the function are connected to the selection inputs of the multiplexer. The remaining single variable of the function is used for the data inputs. If the single variable is denoted

by z, each data input of the multiplexer will be z, z', 1, or 0. To demonstrate this procedure, consider the Boolean function

$$F(x, y, z) = \Sigma(1, 2, 6, 7)$$

This function of three variables can be implemented with a four-to-one-line multiplexer as shown in Fig. 4.27. The two variables x and y are applied to the selection lines in that order; x is connected to the S_1 input and y to the S_0 input. The values for the data input lines are determined from the truth table of the function. When $xy = 00$, output F is equal to z because $F = 0$ when $z = 0$ and $F = 1$ when $z = 1$. This requires that variable z be applied to data input 0. The operation of the multiplexer is such that when $xy = 00$, data input 0 has a path to the output, and that makes F equal to z. In a similar fashion, we can determine the required input to data lines 1, 2, and 3 from the value of F when $xy = 01, 10$, and 11, respectively. This particular example shows all four possibilities that can be obtained for the data inputs.

The general procedure for implementing any Boolean function of n variables with a multiplexer with $n - 1$ selection inputs and 2^{n-1} data inputs follows from the previous example. To begin with, Boolean function is listed in a truth table. Then first $n - 1$ variables in the table are applied to the selection inputs of the multiplexer. For each combination of the selection variables, we evaluate the output as a function of the last variable. This function can be 0, 1, the variable, or the complement of the variable. These values are then applied to the data inputs in the proper order.

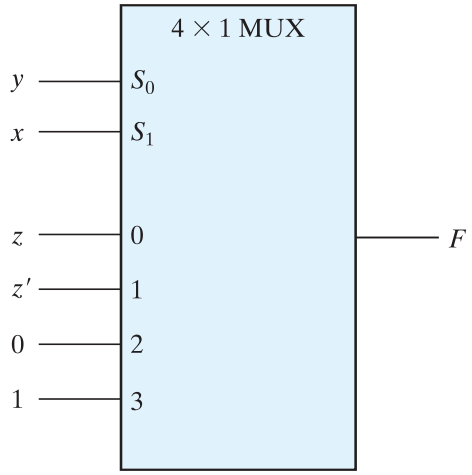
As a second example, consider the implementation of the Boolean function

$$F(A, B, C, D) = \Sigma(1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)$$

This function is implemented with a multiplexer with three selection inputs as shown in Fig. 4.28. Note that the first variable A must be connected to selection input S_2 so that A, B, and C correspond to selection inputs S_2, S_1, and S_0, respectively. The values for the

x	y	z	F	
0	0	0	0	$F = z$
0	0	1	1	
0	1	0	1	$F = z'$
0	1	1	0	
1	0	0	0	$F = 0$
1	0	1	0	
1	1	0	1	$F = 1$
1	1	1	1	

(a) Truth table



(b) Multiplexer implementation

FIGURE 4.27
Implementing a Boolean function with a multiplexer

A	B	C	D	F	
0	0	0	0	0	$F = D$
0	0	0	1	1	
0	0	1	0	0	$F = D$
0	0	1	1	1	
0	1	0	0	1	$F = D'$
0	1	0	1	0	
0	1	1	0	0	$F = 0$
0	1	1	1	0	
1	0	0	0	0	$F = 0$
1	0	0	1	0	
1	0	1	0	0	$F = D$
1	0	1	1	1	
1	1	0	0	1	$F = 1$
1	1	0	1	1	
1	1	1	0	1	$F = 1$
1	1	1	1	1	

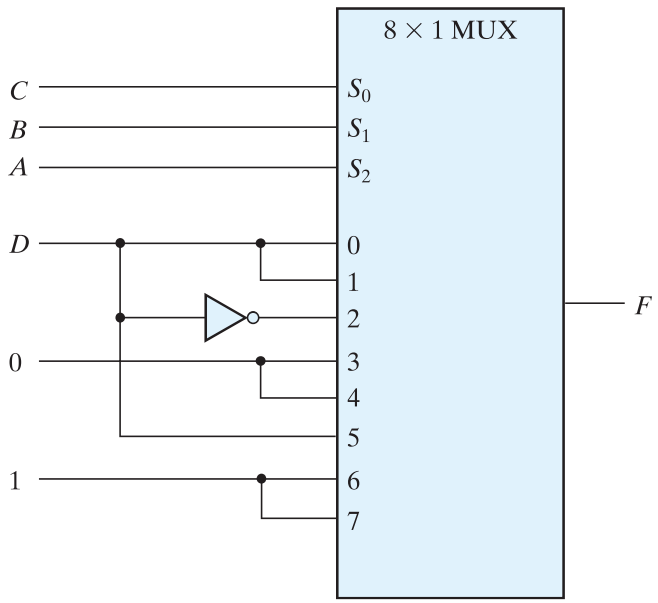


FIGURE 4.28
Implementing a four-input function with a multiplexer

data inputs are determined from the truth table listed in the figure. The corresponding data line number is determined from the binary combination of ABC. For example, the table shows that when $ABC = 101$, $F = D$, so the input variable D is applied to data input 5. The binary constants 0 and 1 correspond to two fixed signal values. When integrated circuits are used, logic 0 corresponds to signal ground and logic 1 is equivalent to the power signal, depending on the technology (e.g., 3 V).

Three-State Gates

A multiplexer can be constructed with three-state gates—digital circuits that exhibit three states. Two of the states are signals equivalent to logic 1 and logic 0 as in a conventional gate. The third state is a *high-impedance* state in which (1) the logic behaves like an open circuit, which means that the output appears to be disconnected, (2) the circuit has no logic significance, and (3) the circuit connected to the output of the three-state gate is not affected by the inputs to the gate. Three-state gates may perform any conventional logic, such as AND or NAND. However, the one most commonly used is the buffer gate.

The graphic symbol for a three-state buffer gate is shown in Fig. 4.29. It is distinguished from a normal buffer by an input control line entering the bottom of the symbol. The buffer has a normal input, an output, and a control input that determines the state of the output. When the control input is equal to 1, the output is enabled and the gate behaves like a conventional buffer, with the output equal to the normal input. When the control