MODULE – 3

VHDL, LATCHES AND FLIP-FLOPS

INTROIDUCTION TO VHDL

The acronym VHDL stands for VHSIC-HDL (Very High Speed Integrated Circuit-Hardware Description Language). *VHDL* is a hardware description language that is used to describe the behavior and structure of digital systems. *VHDL* is a general-purpose hardware description language which can be used to describe and simulate the operation of a wide variety of digital systems, ranging in complexity from a few gates to an interconnection of many complex integrated circuits.

VHDL was originally developed to allow a uniform method for specifying digital systems. The VHDL language became an IEEE standard in 1987, and it is widely used in industry. IEEE published a revised VHDL standard in 1993.

VHDL can describe a digital system at several different levels—behavioral, data flow, and structural. For example,

- A binary adder could be described at the *behavioral* level in terms of its function of adding two binary numbers, without giving any implementation details.
- The same adder could be described at the *data flow* level by giving the logic equations for the adder.
- Finally, the adder could be described at the *structural* level by specifying the interconnections of the gates which make up the adder.

VHDL DESCRIPTION OF COMBINATIONAL CIRCUITS:

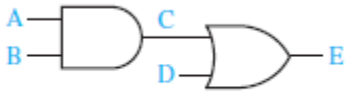
In VHDL, a signal assignment statement has the form: `signal_name <= expression [after delay];`

The expression is evaluated when the statement is executed, and the signal on the left side is scheduled to change after delay. The square brackets indicate that after delay is optional. If after delay is omitted, then the signal is scheduled to be updated after a *delta delay,* Δ (infinitesimal delay). A VHDL *signal* is used to describe a signal in a physical system. The VHDL language also includes *variables* similar to variables in programming languages.

In general, VHDL is *not case sensitive*, that is, capital and lower case letters are treated the same by the compiler and the simulator. Signal names and other VHDL identifiers may contain letters, numbers, and the underscore character (_). An identifier must start with a letter, and it cannot end with an underscore. Thus, C123 and ab_23 are legal identifiers, but 1ABC and ABC_ are not. Every VHDL statement must be terminated with a semicolon. Spaces, tabs, and carriage returns are treated in the same way. This means that a VHDL statement can be continued over several lines, or several statements can be placed on one line. In a line of VHDL code, anything following a double dash (--) is treated as a comment. Words such

as *and*, *or*, and *after* are reserved words (or keywords) which have a special meaning to the VHDL compiler.

The gate circuit of the following Figure has five signals: A, B, C, D, and E. The symbol " <= " is the *signal assignment operator* which indicates that the value computed on the right-hand side is assigned to the signal on the left side.



Dataflow Description: The two assignment statements (given below) give a dataflow description of the above circuit, where it is assumed that each gate has a 5-ns propagation delay. When these statements are simulated, the first statement will be evaluated any time A or B changes, and the second statement will be evaluated any time C or D changes. Suppose that initially A = 1, and B = C = D = E = 0; and if B changes to 1 at time 0, C will change to 1 at time = 5 ns. Then, E will change to 1 at time = 10 ns.

*C <= A **and** B **after** 5 ns;*

*E <= C **or** D **after** 5 ns;*

VHDL signal assignment statements (as given above) are *concurrent statements*. The VHDL simulator monitors the right side of each concurrent statement, and any time a signal changes, the expression on the right side is immediately re-evaluated. The new value is assigned to the signal on the left side after an appropriate delay. This is exactly the way the hardware works. Any time a gate input changes, the gate output is recomputed by the hardware, and the output changes after the gate delay. Unlike a sequential program, the order of the above concurrent statements is unimportant.

Behavioral Description: A behavioral description of the above circuit shown is

*E <= D **or** (A **and** B);*

Parentheses are used to specify the order of operator execution.

Structural Description: The above circuit shown can also be described using structural VHDL code. To do so requires that a two-input AND-gate component and a two-input OR-gate component be declared and defined.

Components may be declared and defined either in a library or within the architecture part of the VHDL code. Instantiation statements are used to specify how components are connected. Each copy of a component requires a separate instantiation statement to specify how it is connected to other components and to the port inputs and outputs. An instantiation statement is a concurrent statement that executes

anytime one of the input signals in its port map changes. The circuit shown is described by instantiating the AND gate and the OR gate as follows:

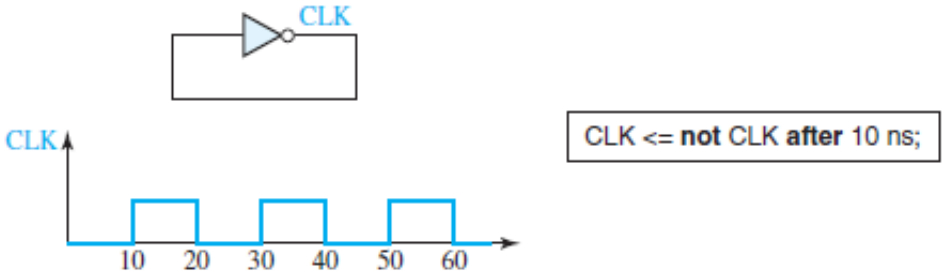
Gate1: AND2 ***port map*** *(A, B, D);*

Gate2: OR2 ***port map*** *(C, D, E);*

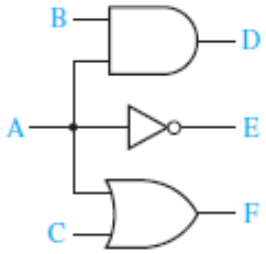
The port map for Gate1 connects A and B to the AND-gate inputs, and it connects D to the AND-gate output. Since an *instantiation statement* is concurrent, whenever A or B changes, these changes go to the Gate1 inputs, and then the component computes a new value of D. Similarly, the second statement passes changes in C or D to the Gate 2 inputs, and then the component computes a new value of E. This is exactly how the real hardware works. (The order in which the instantiation statements appear is irrelevant).

Instantiating a component is different than calling a function in a computer program. A function returns a new value whenever it is called, but an instantiated component computes a new output value whenever its input changes.

The following Figure shows an inverter with the output connected back to the input. If the output is '0', then this '0' feeds back to the input and the inverter output changes to '1' after the inverter delay, assumed to be 10 ns. Then, the '1' feeds back to the input, and the output changes to '0' after the inverter delay. The signal CLK will continue to oscillate between '0' and '1', as shown in the waveform. The corresponding concurrent VHDL statement will produce the same result. If CLK is initialized to '0', the statement executes and CLK changes to '1' after 10 ns. Because CLK has changed, the statement executes again, and CLK will change back to '0' after another 10 ns. This process will continue indefinitely.



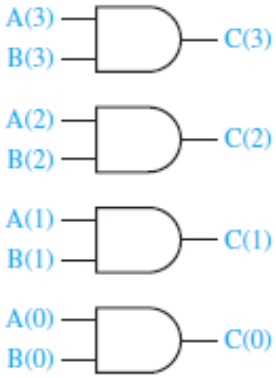
The following Figure shows three gates that have the signal A as a common input and the corresponding VHDL code. The three concurrent statements execute simultaneously whenever A changes, just as the three gates start processing the signal change at the same time. However, if the gates have different delays, the gate outputs can change at different times. If the gates have delays of 2 ns, 1 ns, and 3 ns, respectively, and A changes at time 5 ns, then the gate outputs D, E, and F can change at times 7 ns, 6 ns, and 8 ns, respectively. However, if no delays were specified, then D, E, and F would all be updated at time 5 + Δ.




```
-- when A changes, these concurrent
-- statements all execute at the same time
D <= A and B after 2 ns;
E <= not A after 1 ns;
F <= A or C after 3 ns;
```

In these examples, every signal is of type bit, which means it can have a value of '0' or '1'. (Bit values in VHDL are enclosed in single quotes to distinguish them from integer values). In digital design, we often need to perform the same operation on a group of signals. A one-dimensional array of bit signals is referred to as a bit-vector. If a 4-bit vector named B has an index range 0 through 3, then the four elements of the bit-vector are designated B(0), B(1), B(2), and B(3). The statement B <= "0110", assigns '0' to B(0), '1' to B(1), '1' to B(2), and '0' to B(3).

The following Figure shows an array of four AND gates. The inputs are represented by bit-vectors A and B, and the outputs by bit-vector C. Although we can write four VHDL statements to represent the four gates, it is much more efficient to write a single VHDL statement that performs the **and** operation on the bit-vectors A and B. When applied to bit-vectors, the **and** operator performs the **and** operation on corresponding pairs of elements.




```
-- the hard way
C(3) <= A(3) and B(3);
C(2) <= A(2) and B(2);
C(1) <= A(1) and B(1);
C(0) <= A(0) and B(0);
```

```
-- the easy way
C <= A and B;
```

Inertial delay model: Signal assignment statements containing "after delay" create what is called an inertial delay model. Consider a device with an inertial delay of D time units. If an input change to the device will cause its output to change, then the output changes D time units later. However, this is not what happens if the device receives two input changes within a period of D time units and both input changes should cause the output to change. In this case the device output does not change in response to either input change.

Example: consider the signal assignment *C <= A **and** B **after** 10 ns;*

Assume A and B are initially 1, and A changes to 0 at 15 ns, to 1 at 30 ns, and to 0 at 35 ns. Then C changes to 1 at 10 ns and to 0 at 25 ns, but C does not change in response to the A changes at 30 ns and 35 ns; because these two changes occurred less than 10 ns apart.

A device with an inertial delay of D time units filters out output changes that would occur in less than or equal to D time units.

Ideal (Transport) delay: VHDL can also model devices with an ideal (transport) delay. Output changes caused by input changes to a device exhibiting an ideal (transport) delay of D time units are delayed by D time units, and the output changes occur even if they occur within D time units. The VHDL signal assignment statement that models ideal (transport) delay is

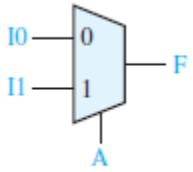
```
signal_name <= transport expression after delay
```

Example: consider the signal assignment *C <= **transport** A **and** B **after** 10 ns;*

Assume A and B are initially 1 and A changes to 0 at 15 ns, to 1 at 30 ns, and to 0 at 35 ns. Then C changes to 1 at 10 ns, to 0 at 25 ns, to 1 at 40 ns, and to 0 at 45 ns. Note that the last two changes are separated by just 5 ns.

VHDL MODELS FOR MULTIPLEXERS:

The following Figure shows a 2-to-1 multiplexer (MUX) with two data inputs and one control input.



The MUX output is $F = A' I_0 + A I_1$. The corresponding VHDL statement is

F <= (**not** A **and** I0) **or** (A **and** I1);

Alternatively, we can represent the MUX by a conditional signal assignment statement,

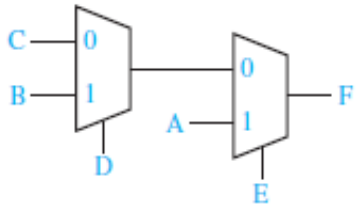
F <= I0 **when** A = '0' **else** I1;

This statement executes whenever A, I0, or I1 changes. The MUX output is I0 when A = '0', and else it is I1. In the conditional statement, I0, I1, and F can either be bits or bit-vectors.

The general form of a conditional signal assignment statement is

```
signal_name <= expression1 when condition1
               else expression2 when condition2
               [else expressionN];
```

The following Figure shows how two cascaded MUXes can be represented by a conditional signal assignment statement. The output MUX selects A when E = '1'; or else it selects the output of the first MUX, which is B when D = '1', or else it is C.




```
F <= A when E = '1'
     else B when D = '1'
     else C;
```

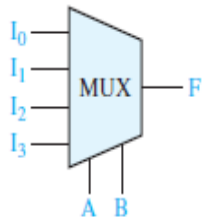
The following Figure shows a 4-to-1 MUX with four data inputs and two control inputs, A and B. The control inputs select which one of the data inputs is transmitted to the output. The logic equation for the 4-to-1 MUX is $F = A'B'I_0 + A'BI_1 + AB'I_2 + ABI_3$.

One way to model the MUX is with the VHDL statement

*F <= (**not** A **and not** B **and** I0) **or** (**not** A **and** B **and** I1) **or***

*(A **and not** B **and** I2) **or** (A **and** B **and** I3);*

Another way to model the 4-to-1 MUX is to use a conditional assignment statement (given in Figure below):




```
sel <= A&B;
-- selected signal assignment statement
with sel select
  F <= I0 when "00",
       I1 when "01",
       I2 when "10",
       I3 when "11";
```

```
F <= I0 when A = '0' and B = '0'
  else I1 when A = '0' and B = '1'
  else I2 when A = '1' and B = '0'
  else I3;
```

The expression A&B means A concatenated with B, that is, the two bits A and B are merged together to form a 2-bit vector. This bit vector is tested, and the appropriate MUX input is selected. For example, if A = '1' and B = '0', A&B = "10" and I2 is selected.

Instead of concatenating A and B, we could use a more complex condition also (as given in above Figure).

A third way to model the MUX is to use a selected signal assignment statement; we first set Sel equal to A&B. The value of Sel then selects the MUX input that is assigned to F.

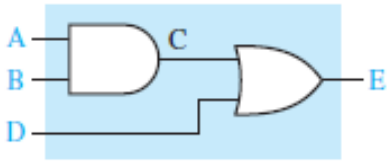
The general form of a selected signal assignment statement is

```
with expression_s select
    signal_s <= expression1 [after delay-time] when choice1,
                expression2 [after delay-time] when choice2,
                . . .
                [expression_n [after delay-time] when others];
```

First, expression_s is evaluated. If it equals choice1, signal_s is set equal to expression1; if it equals choice2, signal_s is set equal to expression2; etc. If all possible choices for the value of expression_s are given, the last line should be omitted; otherwise, the last line is required. When it is present, if expression_s is not equal to any of the enumerated choices, signal_s is set equal to expression_n. The signal_s is updated after the specified delay-time, or after if the "after delay-time" is omitted.

VHDL MODULES:

To write a complete VHDL module, we must declare all of the input and output signals using an entity declaration, and then specify the internal operation of the module using an architecture declaration. As an example, consider the following Figure.

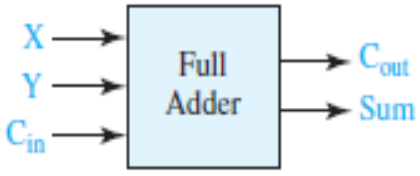



```
entity two_gates is
    port (A,B,D: in bit; E: out bit);
end two_gates;
architecture gates of two_gates is
    signal C: bit;
begin
    C <= A and B; -- concurrent
    E <= C or D; -- statements
end gates;
```


When we describe a system in VHDL, we must specify an entity and architecture at the top level. The entity declaration gives the name "two_gates" to the module. The port declaration specifies the inputs and outputs to the module. A, B, and D are input signals of type bit, and E is an output signal of type bit. The architecture is named "gates". The signal C is declared within the architecture because it is an internal signal. The two concurrent statements that describe the gates are placed between the keywords begin and end.

Example: *To write the entity and architecture for a full adder module.*

The entity specifies the inputs and outputs of the adder module, as shown in the following Figure. The port declaration specifies that X, Y and Cin are input signals of type bit, and that Cout and Sum are output signals of type bit.




```
entity FullAdder is
    port (X,Y,Cin: in bit;          -- Inputs
          Cout, Sum: out bit);  -- Outputs
end FullAdder;
```

The operation of the full adder is specified by an architecture declaration:

VHDL Modules

To write a complete VHDL module, we must declare all of the input and output signals using an **entity** declaration, and then specify the internal operation of the module using an **architecture** declaration.
The two concurrent statements that describe the gates are placed between the keywords **begin** and **end**.

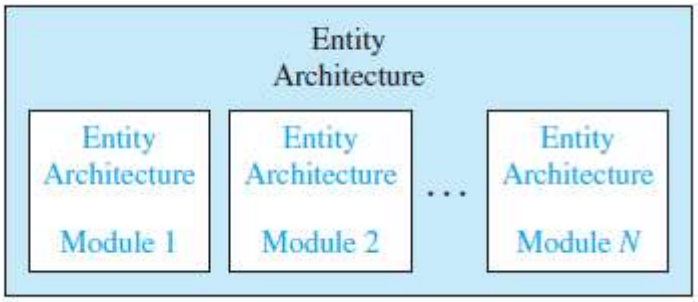
When we describe a system in VHDL, we must specify an entity and an architecture at the top level, and also specify an entity and architecture for each of the component modules that are part of the system. Each entity declaration includes a list of interface signals that can be used to connect to other
modules or to the outside world. We will use entity declarations of the form:

entity entity-name **is**
[**port**(interface-signal-declaration);]
end [**entity**] [entity-name];

The items enclosed in square brackets are optional. The interface-signal-declaration normally has the following form:

list-of-interface-signals: mode type [: _ initial-value]
{; list-of-interface-signals: mode type [: _ initial-value]};

FIGURE 10-9
VHDL Program Structure



The curly brackets indicate zero or more repetitions of the enclosed clause. Input signals are of mode **in**, output signals are of mode **out**, and bi-directional signals are of mode **inout.**

Associated with each entity is one or more architecture declarations of the form

architecture architecture-name **of** entity-name **is**
[declarations]
begin
architecture body
end [**architecture**] [architecture-name];

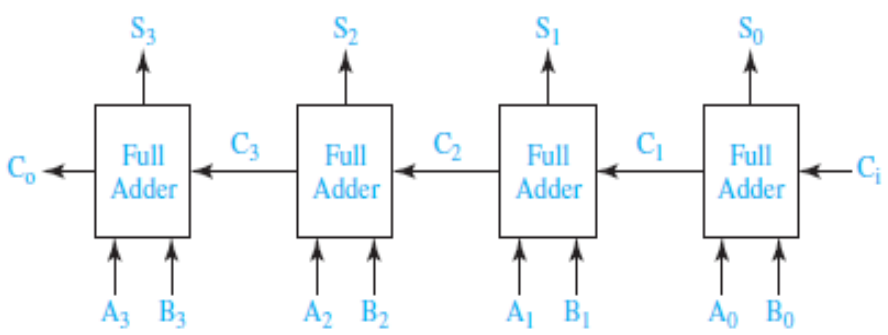
In the declarations section, we can declare signals and components that are used within the architecture. The architecture body contains statements that describe the operation of the module.

```
architecture Equations of FullAdder is
begin          -- concurrent assignment statements
    Sum <= X xor Y xor Cin after 10 ns;
    Cout <= (X and Y) or (X and Cin) or (Y and Cin) after 10 ns;
end Equations;
```

In this example, the architecture name (Equations) is arbitrary, but the entity name (FullAdder) must match the name used in the associated entity declaration.

The VHDL assignment statements for Sum and Cout represent the logic equations for the full adder. Several other architectural descriptions such as a truth table or an interconnection of gates could have been used instead. In the Cout equation, parentheses are required around (X and Y) because VHDL does not specify an order of precedence for the logic operators.

Four-Bit Full Adder: The FullAdder module defined above can be used as a component in a system which consists of four full adders connected to form a 4-bit binary adder (see the following Figure).



First declare the 4-bit adder as an entity (see the following Figure). Since, the inputs and the sum output are four bits wide, declare them as bit_vectors which are dimensioned 3 downto 0.

Next, specify the FullAdder as a component within the architecture of Adder4 (see the following Figure). The component specification is very similar to the entity declaration for the full adder, and the input and output port signals correspond to those declared for the full adder. Following the component statement, declare a 3-bit internal carry signal C.

In the body of the architecture, create several instances of the FullAdder component. Each copy of FullAdder has a name (such as FA0) and a port map.

The signal names following the port map correspond one-to-one with the signals in the component port. Thus, A(0), B(0), and Ci correspond to the inputs X, Y, and Cin, respectively. C(1) and S(0) correspond to the Cout and Sum outputs.

Note that the order of the signals in the port map must be the same as the order of the signals in the port of the component declaration.

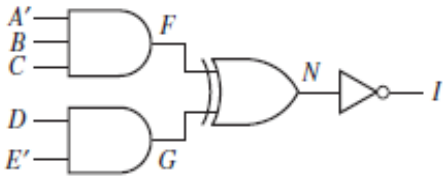
```
entity Adder4 is
    port (A, B: in bit_vector(3 downto 0); Ci: in bit;    -- Inputs
          S: out bit_vector(3 downto 0); Co: out bit);    -- Outputs
end Adder4;
architecture Structure of Adder4 is
component FullAdder
    port (X, Y, Cin: in bit;    -- Inputs
          Cout, Sum: out bit);    -- Outputs
end component;
signal C: bit_vector(3 downto 1);
begin    -- instantiate four copies of the FullAdder
    FA0: FullAdder port map (A(0), B(0), Ci, C(1), S(0));
    FA1: FullAdder port map (A(1), B(1), C(1), C(2), S(1));
    FA2: FullAdder port map (A(2), B(2), C(2), C(3), S(2));
    FA3: FullAdder port map (A(3), B(3), C(3), Co, S(3));
end Structure;
```

Homework:

1] Write VHDL statements that represent the following circuit:

a) Write a statement for each gate.

b) Write one statement for the whole circuit.



2] Draw the circuit represented by the following VHDL statements:

*F <= E **and** I;*

*I <= G **or** H;*

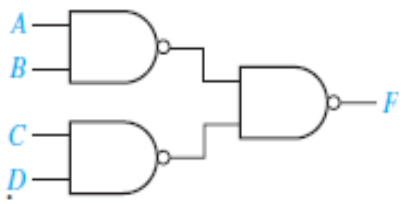
*G <= A **and** B;*

*H <= **not** C **and** D;*

3] Write

a) a complete VHDL module for a two-input NAND gate with 4-ns delay.

b) Write a complete VHDL module for the following circuit that uses the NAND gate module of Part (a) as a component.



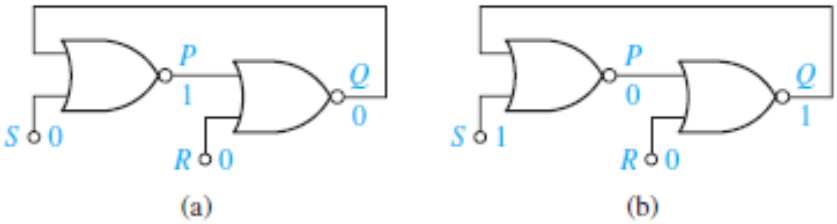
ANALOG AND DIGITAL ELECTRONICS

LATCHES & FLIP-FLOPS

Sequential switching circuits have the property that the output depends not only on the present input but also on the past sequence of inputs. In effect, these circuits must be able to "remember" something about the past history of the inputs in order to produce the present output. Latches and flip-flops are commonly used memory devices in sequential circuits. Basically, latches and flip-flops are memory devices which can assume one of two stable output states and which have one or more inputs that can cause the output state to change.

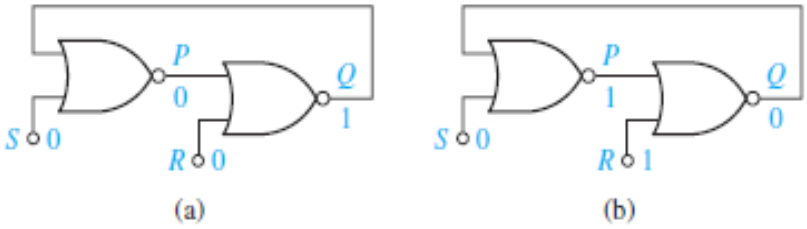
SET RESET LATCH:

A simple latch can be constructed by introducing feedback into a NOR-gate circuit, as given in the following Figure (a). As indicated, if the inputs are S = R = 0, the circuit can assume a stable state with Q = 0 and P = 1.



(a) S = 0 & R = 0: A stable condition of the circuit because P = 1 feeds into the second gate forcing the output to be Q = 0, and Q = 0 feeds into the first gate allowing its output to be 1.

(b) S = 1 & R = 0: An unstable condition or state of the circuit because both the inputs and output of the second gate are 0; therefore Q will change to 1, leading to the stable state.



(a) S = 0 & R = 0: The circuit will not change state because Q = 1 feeds back into the first gate, causing P to remain 0.

Note that the inputs are again S = 0 & R = 0, but the outputs are different than those with which we started. Thus, the circuit has two different stable states for a given set of inputs.

(b) S = 0 & R = 1: Q will become 0 and P will then change back to 1.

An input S = 1 *set*s the output to Q = 1, and an input R = 1 *reset*s the output to Q = 0.The circuit is commonly referred to as a *set-reset (S-R) latch* (restriction that R and S cannot be 1 simultaneously).

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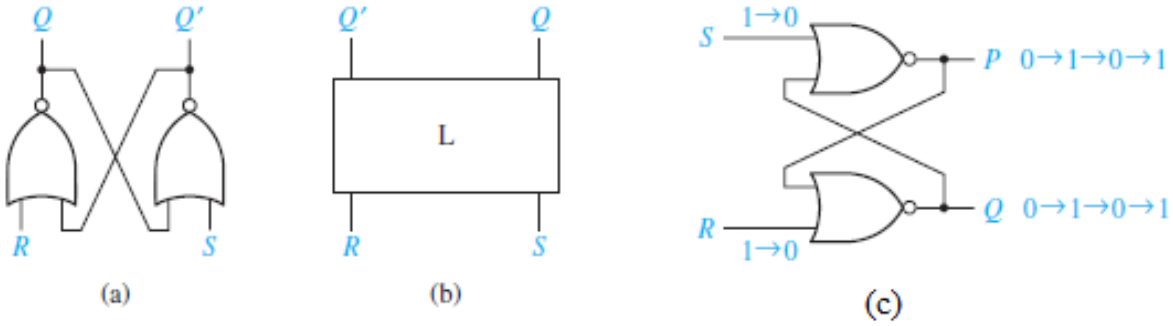
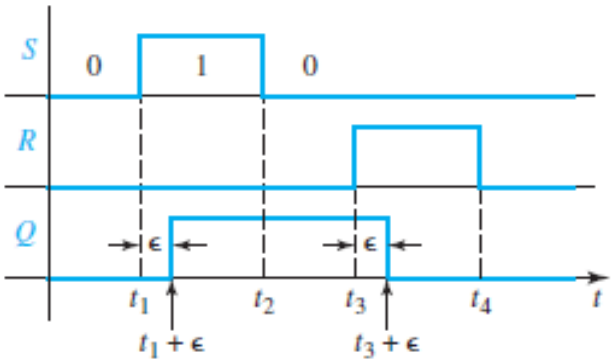
This circuit is said to have memory because its output depends not only on the present inputs, but also on the past sequence of inputs. If we restrict the inputs so that R = S = 1 is not allowed, the stable states of the outputs P and Q are always complements, that is, $P = Q'$. To emphasize the symmetry between the operation of the two gates, the circuit is often drawn in cross-coupled form, as shown in the following Figure (a).



If S = R = 1, the latch will not operate properly, as shown in above Figure (c). Note that, when S and R are both l, P and Q are both 0. Therefore, P is not equal to Q', and this violates a basic rule of latch operation.

The following Figure shows a timing diagram for the S-R latch. Note that when S changes to 1 at time t_l, Q changes to 1 a short time (ε - response time or delay time of latch) later. At time t2, when S changes back to 0, Q does not change. At time t3, R changes to 1, and Q changes back to 0 a short time (ε) later. The duration of the S (or R) input pulse must normally be at least as great as ε in order for a change in the state of Q to occur.



When discussing latches and flip-flops, we use the term present state to denote the state of the Q output of the latch or flip-flop at the time any input signal changes, and the term next state to denote the state of the Q output after the latch or flip-flop has reacted to the input change and stabilized. If we let $Q(t)$ represent the present state and $Q(t + \varepsilon)$ represent the next state, an equation for $Q(t + \varepsilon)$ can be obtained from the circuit by conceptually breaking the feedback loop at Q and considering $Q(t)$ as an input and $Q(t + \varepsilon)$ as the output. Then for the S-R latch;

$$Q(t+\epsilon) = R(t)'[S(t) + Q(t)] = R(t)'S(t) + R(t)'Q(t) \quad \text{or} \quad Q^+ = R'S + R'Q$$

The equation for output P is;

$$P(t) = S(t)'Q(t)' \quad \text{or} \quad P = S'Q'$$

These equations are mapped in the next-state and output tables as given in the following Table. The stable states of the latch are circled. Note that for all stable states, P = Q except when S = R = 1. Making S = R = 1, a don't-care combination allows simplifying the next-state equation.

Present State Q	Next State Q^+ SR 00	SR 01	SR 11	SR 10	Present Output P SR 00	SR 01	SR 11	SR 10
0	⓪	⓪	⓪	1	1	1	0	0
1	①	0	0	①	0	0	0	0

$$Q^+ = S + R'Q$$

RQ \ S	0	1
00	0	1
01	1	1
11	0	X
10	0	X

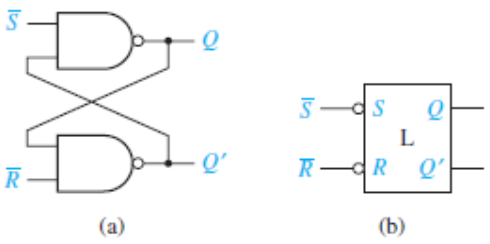
(a) Q^+ map

S	R	Q	Q^+	
0	0	0	0	
0	0	1	1	
0	1	0	0	
0	1	1	0	
1	0	0	1	
1	0	1	1	
1	1	0	–	Inputs not allowed
1	1	1	–	

(b) Truth table

An equation that expresses the next state of a latch in terms of its present state and inputs will be referred to as a *next-state equation*, or ***characteristic equation***.

An alternative form of the S-R latch uses NAND gates, as shown in the following Figure.



(a) (b)

$\overline{S}$-$\overline{R}$ Latch

$\overline{S}$	$\overline{R}$	Q	Q^+	
1	1	0	0	
1	1	1	1	
1	0	0	0	
1	0	1	0	
0	1	0	1	
0	1	1	1	
0	0	0	–	Inputs not allowed
0	0	1	–	

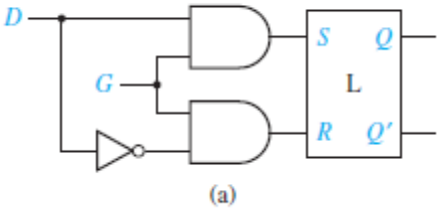
(c)

Applications of S-R Latch: S-R latch is often used as a component in more complex latches and flip-flops and in asynchronous systems. Another useful application of the S-R latch is for *debouncing switches*. When a mechanical switch is opened or closed, the switch contacts tend to vibrate or bounce open and closed several times before settling down to their final position. This produces a noisy transition, and this noise can interfere with the proper operation of a logic circuit. The input to the switch in the following Figure is connected to a logic 1 (+ V). The pull-down resistors connected to contacts *a* and *b* assure that when the switch is between *a* and *b* the latch inputs S and R will always be at a logic *0*, and the latch output will not change state. The timing diagram shows what happens when the switch is flipped from *a* to *b*. As the switch leaves *a*, bounces occur at the R input; when the switch reaches *b*, bounces occur at the S input. After the switch reaches *b*, the first time S becomes 1, after a short delay the latch switches to the Q = 1 state and remains there. Thus Q is free of all bounces even though the switch contacts bounce.

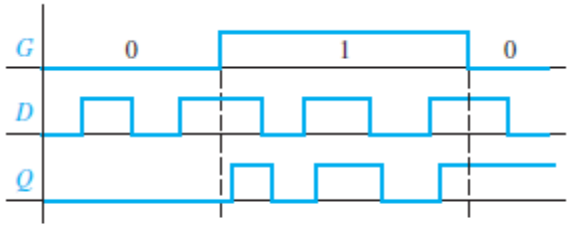
GATED D LATCH:

A gated D latch (given in Figure below) has two inputs—a data input (D) and a gate input (G). The D latch can be constructed from an S-R latch and gates. When G = 0, S = R = 0, so Q does not change. When G = 1 and D = 1, S = 1 and R = 0, so Q is set to 1. When G = 1 and D = 0, S = 0 and R = 1, so Q is reset to 0.

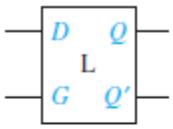
In other words, when G = 1, the Q output follows the D input, and when G = 0, the Q output holds the last value of D (no state change). This type of latch is also referred to as a transparent latch because when G = 1, the Q output is the same as the D input. From the truth table, the characteristic equation for the latch is $Q^+ = G'Q + GD$.



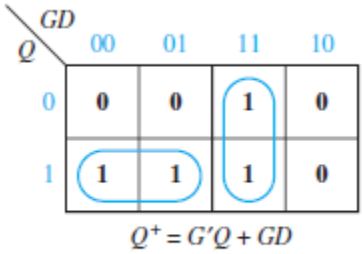
(a)



(b)



G D Q	Q^+
0 0 0	0
0 0 1	1
0 1 0	0
0 1 1	1
1 0 0	0
1 0 1	0
1 1 0	1
1 1 1	1



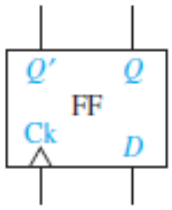
$Q^+ = G'Q + GD$

EDGE-TRIGGERED D FLIP-FLOP:

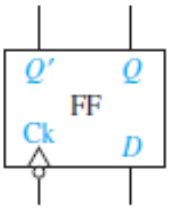
A D flip-flop has two inputs, D (data) and Ck (clock). The small arrowhead on the flip-flop symbol identifies the clock input. Unlike the D latch, the flip-flop output changes only in response to the clock, not to a change in D.

- If the output can change in response to a 0 to 1 transition on the clock input, we say that the flip-flop is triggered on the *rising edge* (or *positive edge*) of the clock.
- If the output can change in response to a 1 to 0 transition on the clock input, we say that the flip-flop is triggered on the *falling edge* (or *negative edge*) of the clock.
- An inversion bubble on the clock input indicates a falling-edge trigger (Figure (b)), and no bubble indicates a rising-edge trigger (Figure (a)).

- The term *active edge* refers to the clock edge (rising or falling) that triggers the flip-flop state change.



(a) Rising-edge trigger



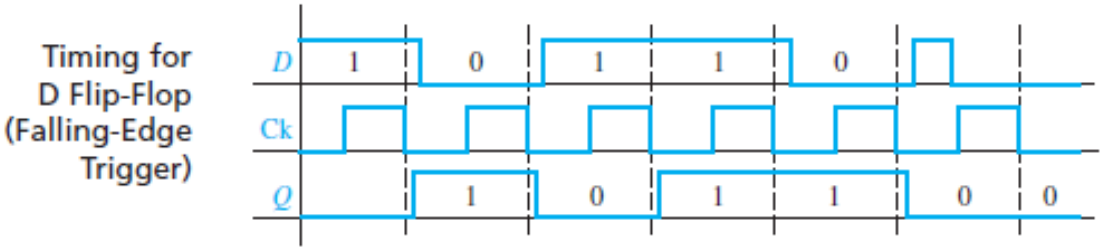
(b) Falling-edge trigger

D	Q	Q^+
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	1
1	1	1

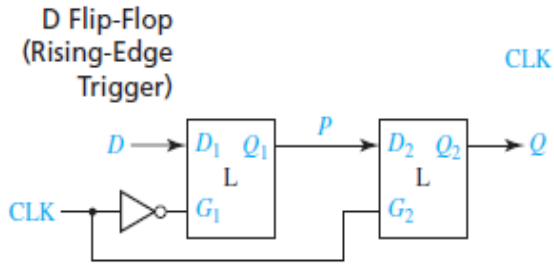
(c) Truth table

$Q^+ = D$

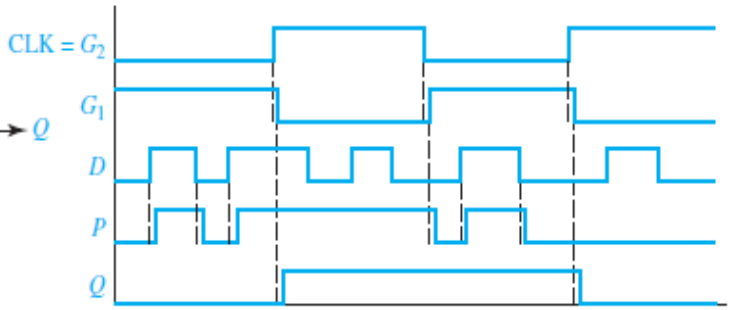
Since, the Q output of the flip-flop is the same as the D input, except that the output changes are delayed until after the active edge of the clock pulse, as illustrated in the following.



A rising-edge-triggered D flip-flop can be constructed from two gated D latches and an inverter, as shown in Figure the following Figure (a). The timing diagram is shown in Figure (b).



(a) Construction from two gated D latches



(b) Timing analysis

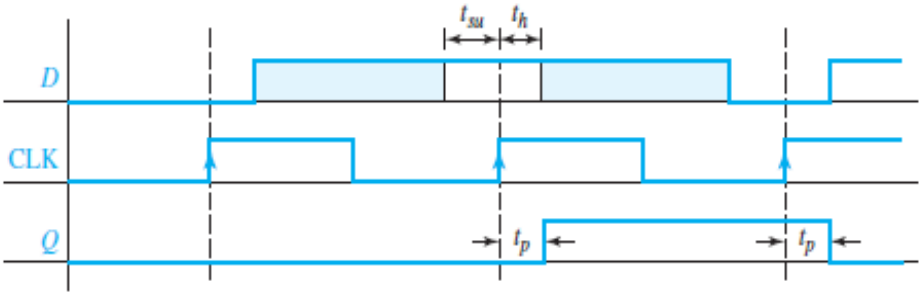
When CLK = 0, G1 = 1, and the first latch is transparent so that the P output follows the D input. Because G2 = 0, the second latch holds the current value of Q. When CLK changes to 1, G1 changes to 0, and the current value of D is stored in the first latch. Because G2 = 1, the value of P flows through the second latch to the Q output. When CLK changes back to 0, the second latch takes on the value of P and holds it and, then, the first latch starts following the D input again. If the first latch starts following the D input before the second latch takes on the value of P, the flip-flop will not function properly. Therefore, the circuit designers must pay careful attention to timing issues when designing edge-triggered flip-flops. With this circuit, output state changes occur only following the rising edge of the clock. The value of D at the time of the rising edge of the clock determines the value of Q, and any extra changes in D that occur between rising clock edges have no effect on Q.

A flip-flop changes state only on the active edge of the clock, the propagation delay of a flip-flop is the time between the active edge of the clock and the resulting change in the output. However, there are also timing issues associated with the D input.

To function properly, the D input to an edge-triggered flip-flop must be held at a constant value for a period of time before and after the active edge of the clock. If D changes at the same time as the active edge, the behavior is unpredictable.

The amount of time that the D input must be stable before the active edge is called the ***setup time*** (t_{su}), and the amount of time that the D input must hold the same value after the active edge is the ***hold time*** (t_h). The times at which D is allowed to change during the clock cycle are shaded in the timing diagram of the following Figure.

Setup and Hold Times for an Edge-Triggered D Flip-Flop

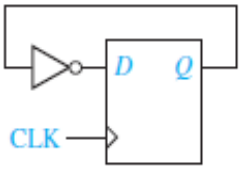


The *propagation delay* (t_p) from the time the clock changes until the Q output changes is also indicated in the above Figure.

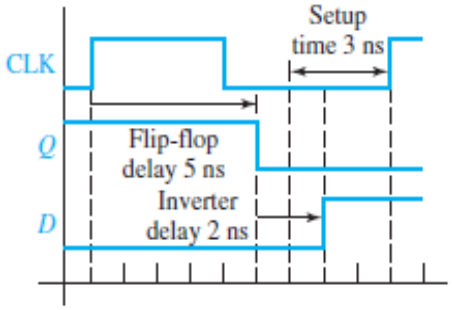
Using these timing parameters, we can determine the minimum clock period for a circuit which will not violate the timing constraints. Consider the circuit of following Figure (a). Suppose the inverter has a propagation delay of 2 ns, and suppose the flip-flop has a propagation delay of 5 ns and a setup time of 3 ns. (The hold time does not affect this calculation). Suppose, as in following Figure (b), that the clock period is 9 ns, i.e., 9 ns is the time between successive active edges (rising edges for this figure). Then, 5 ns after a clock edge, the flip-flop output will change, and 2 ns after that, the output of the inverter will change. Therefore, the input to the flip-flop will change 7 ns after the rising edge, which is 2 ns before the next rising edge. But the setup time of the flip-flop requires that the input be stable 3 ns before the rising edge; therefore, the flip-flop may not take on the correct value.

Suppose instead that the clock period were 15 ns, as in following Figure (c). Again, the input to the flip-flop will change 7 ns after the rising edge. However, because the clock is slower, this is 8 ns before the next rising edge. Therefore, the flip-flop will work properly. Note in Figure (c) that there is 5 ns of extra time between the time the D input is correct and the time when it must be correct for the setup time to be satisfied. Therefore, we can use a shorter clock period, and have less extra time, or no extra time. Figure (d) shows that 10 ns is the minimum clock period which will work for this circuit.

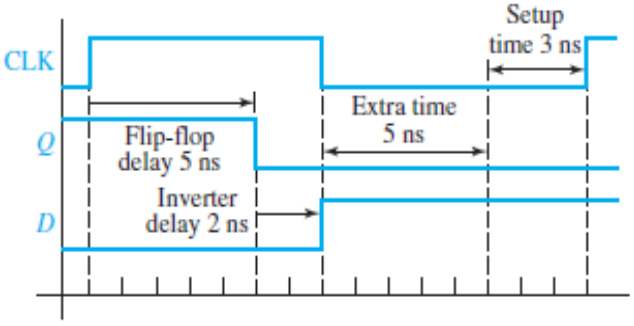
Determination of Minimum Clock Period



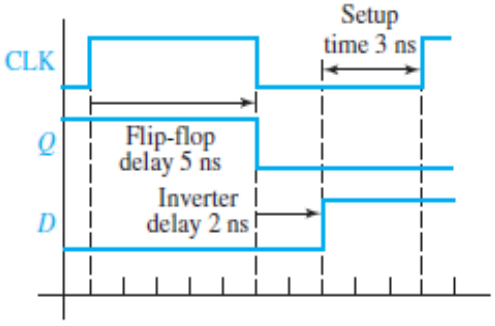
(a) Simple flip-flop circuit



(b) Setup time not satisfied



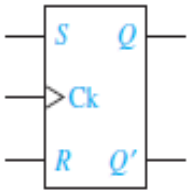
(c) Setup time satisfied



(d) Minimum clock period

S-R FLIP-FLOP:

An S-R flip-flop (following Figure) is similar to an S-R latch in that S = 1 sets the Q output to 1, and R = 1 resets the Q output to 0. The essential difference is that the flip-flop has a clock input, and the Q output can change only after an active clock edge.



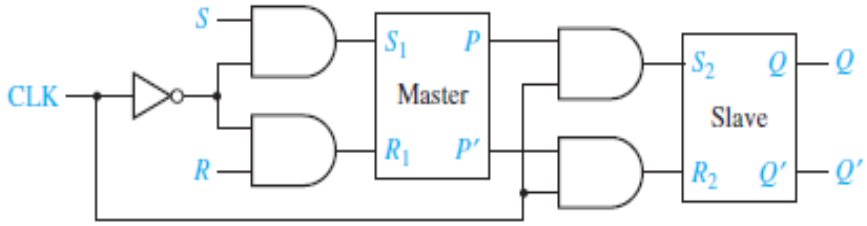
Operation summary:

$S = R = 0$	No state change
$S = 1, R = 0$	Set Q to 1 (after active Ck edge)
$S = 0, R = 1$	Reset Q to 0 (after active Ck edge)
$S = R = 1$	Not allowed

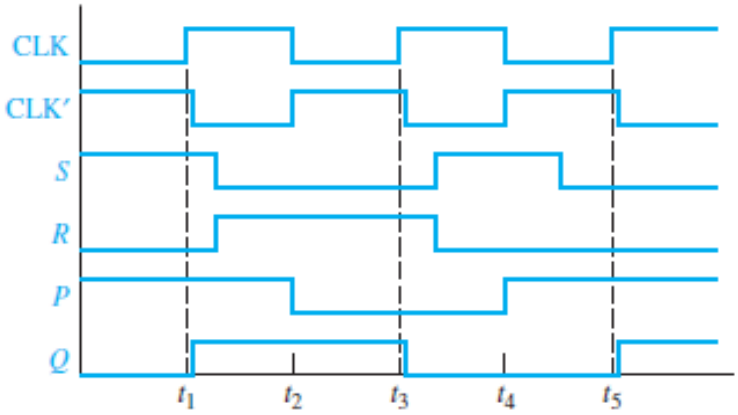
The truth table and characteristic equation for the flip-flop are the same as for the latch, but the interpretation of Q^+ is different. For the latch, Q^+ is the value of Q after the propagation delay through the latch, while for the flip-flop, Q^+ is the value that Q assumes after the active clock edge.

The following Figure (a) shows an S-R flip-flop constructed from two S-R latches and gates. This flip-flop changes state after the rising edge of the clock. The circuit is often referred to as a master-slave flip-flop. When CLK = 0, the S and R inputs set the outputs of the master latch to the appropriate value while the slave latch holds the previous value of Q. When the clock changes from 0 to 1, the value of P is held in the master latch and this value is transferred to the slave latch. The master latch holds the value of P while CLK = 1, and, hence, Q does not change. When the clock changes from 1 to 0, the Q value is

latched in the slave, and the master can process new inputs. Figure (b) shows the timing diagram. Initially, S = 1 and Q changes to 1 at t1. Then R = 1 and Q changes to 0 at t3.



(a) Implementation with two latches



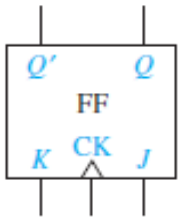
(b) Timing analysis

For a rising-edge-triggered flip-flop, the value of the inputs is sensed at the rising edge of the clock, and the inputs can change while the clock is low. For the master-slave flip-flop, if the inputs change while the clock is low, the flip-flop output may be incorrect. For example, (in above Figure (b)), at t4, S = 1 and R = 0, so P changes to 1. Then S changes to 0 at t5, but P does not change, so at t5, Q changes to 1 after the rising edge of CLK. However, at t5, S = R = 0, so the state of Q should not change. We can solve this problem if we only allow the S and R inputs to change while the clock is high.

J-K FLIP-FLOP:

The J-K flip-flop (shown in the following Figure) is an extended version of the S-R flip-flop. The J-K flip-flop has three inputs—J, K, and the clock (CLK). The J input corresponds to S, and K corresponds to R. That is, if J = 1 and K = 0, the flip-flop output is set to Q = 1 after the active clock edge; and if K = 1 and J = 0, the flip-flop output is reset to Q = 0 after the active edge.

Unlike the S-R flip-flop, a 1 input may be applied simultaneously to J and K, in which case the flip-flop changes state after the active clock edge. When J = K = 1, the active edge will cause Q to change from 0 to 1, or from 1 to 0. The next-state table and characteristic equation for the J-K flip-flop are given in Figure (b).

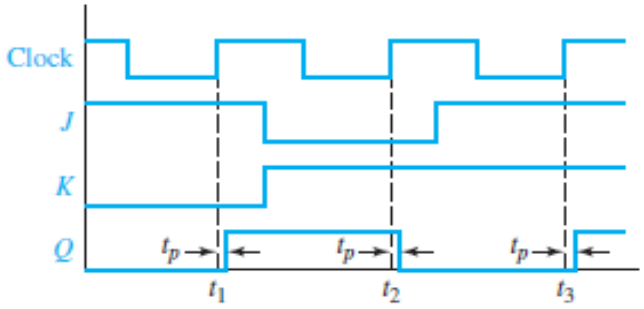


(a) J-K flip-flop

J	K	Q	Q^+
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	0

$$Q^+ = JQ' + K'Q$$

(b) Truth table and characteristic equation



(c) J-K flip-flop timing

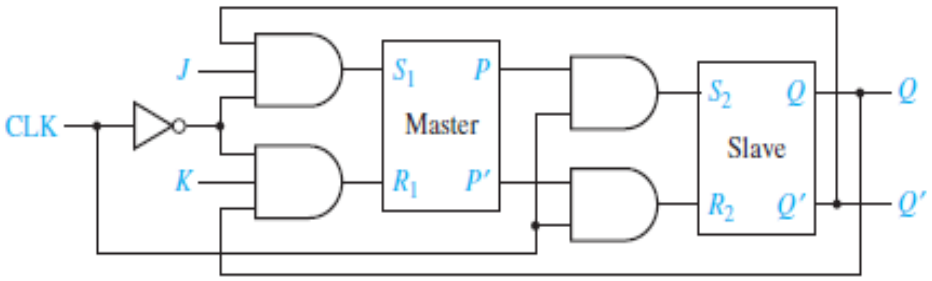
Figure (c) shows the timing for a J-K flip-flop. This flip-flop changes state a short time (t_p) after the rising edge of the clock pulse, provided that J and K have appropriate values.

If J = 1 and K = 0 when Clock = 0, Q will be set to 1 following the rising edge. If K = 1 and J = 0 when Clock = 0, Q will be set to 0 after the rising edge.

Similarly, if J = K = 1, Q will change state after the rising edge. Referring to Figure 11-20(c), because Q = 0, J = l, and K = 0 before the first rising clock edge, Q changes to 1 at t1.

Because Q = 1, J = 0, and K = 1 before the second rising clock edge, Q changes to 0 at t2. Because Q = 0, J = 1, and K = 1 before the third rising clock edge, Q changes to 1 at t3.

One way to realize the J-K flip-flop is with two S-R latches connected in a master-slave arrangement, as shown in the following Figure.



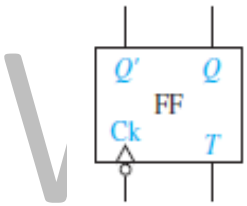
This is the same circuit as for the S-R master-slave flip-flop; except S and R have been replaced with J and K, and the Q and Q outputs are feeding back into the input gates. Because $S = JQ'Clk'$ and $R = K'QClk'$, only one of S and R inputs to the first latch can be 1 at any given time. If Q = 0 and J = 1, then S = 1 and R = 0, regardless of the value of K. If Q = 1 and K = 1, then S = 0 and R = 1, regardless of the value of J.

T FLIP-FLOP:

The T flip-flop, also called the toggle flip-flop, is frequently used in building counters. Most CPLDs and FPGAs can be programmed to implement T flip-flops.

The T flip-flop (shown in the following Figure (a)) has a T input and a clock input. When T = 1 the flip-flop changes state after the active edge of the clock. When T = 0, no state change occurs.

The next-state table and characteristic equation for the T flip-flop are given in Figure (b). The characteristic equation states that the next state of the flip-flop (Q^+) will be 1 iff the present state (Q) is 1 and T = 0 or the present state is 0 and T = 1.



(a)

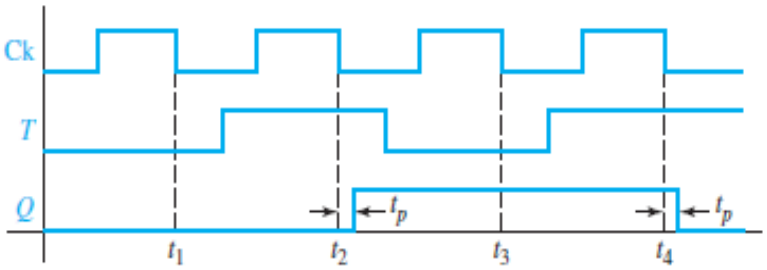
T Q	Q^+
0 0	0
0 1	1
1 0	1
1 1	0

(b)

$$Q^+ = T'Q + TQ' = T \oplus Q$$

The following Figure shows a timing diagram for the T flip-flop. At times t2 and t4 the T input is 1 and the flip-flop state (Q) changes a short time (t_p) after the falling edge of the clock pulse. At times tl and t3 the T input is 0, and the clock edge does not cause a change of state.

Timing Diagram for T Flip-Flop (Falling-Edge Trigger)



One way to implement a T flip-flop is to connect the J and K inputs of a J-K flip-flop together, as shown in the following Figure (a). Substituting T for J and K in the J-K characteristic equation gives;

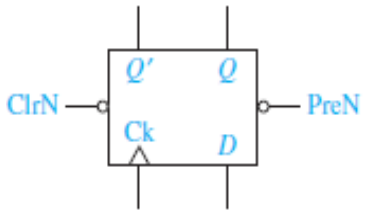
$$Q^+ = JQ' + K'Q = TQ' + T'Q$$

which is the characteristic equation for the T flip-flop. Another way to realize a T flip-flop is with a D flip-flop and an exclusive-OR gate [Figure (b)]. The D input is Q ⊕ T, so $Q^+ = Q \oplus TQ' + T'Q$, which is the characteristic equation for the T flip-flop.

FLIP-FLOPS WITH ADDITIONAL INPUTS:

Flip-flops often have additional inputs which can be used to set the flip-flops to an initial state independent of the clock. The following Figure shows a D flip-flop with *clear* and *preset* inputs. The small circles (inversion symbols) on these inputs indicate that a logic 0 (rather than a 1) is required to clear or set the flip-flop. This type of input is often referred to as *active-low* because a low voltage or logic 0 will activate the clear or preset function. We will use the notation *ClrN* or *PreN* to indicate active-low clear and preset inputs. Thus, a logic 0 applied to *ClrN* will reset the flip-flop to Q = 0, and a 0 applied to *PreN* will set the flip-flop to Q = 1.

These inputs override the clock and D inputs. That is, a 0 applied to the ClrN will reset the flip-flop regardless of the values of D and the clock. *ClrN* and *PreN* are often referred to as *asynchronous* clear and preset inputs because their operation does not depend on the clock.



(a)

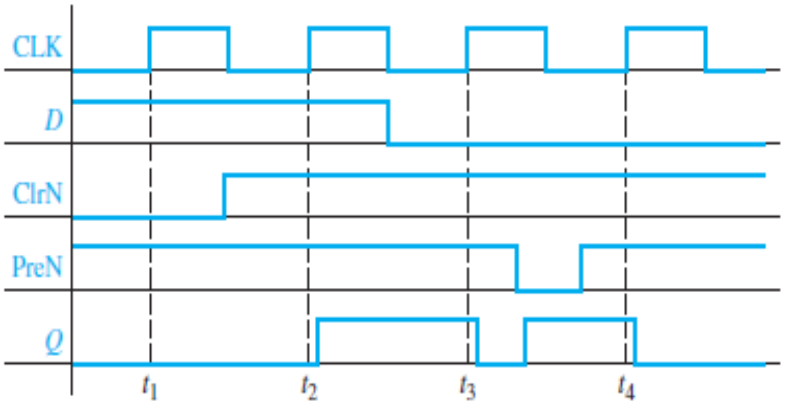
Ck	D	PreN	ClrN	Q^+
x	x	0	0	(not allowed)
x	x	0	1	1
x	x	1	0	0
↑	0	1	1	0
↑	1	1	1	1
0,1,↓	x	1	1	Q (no change)

(b)

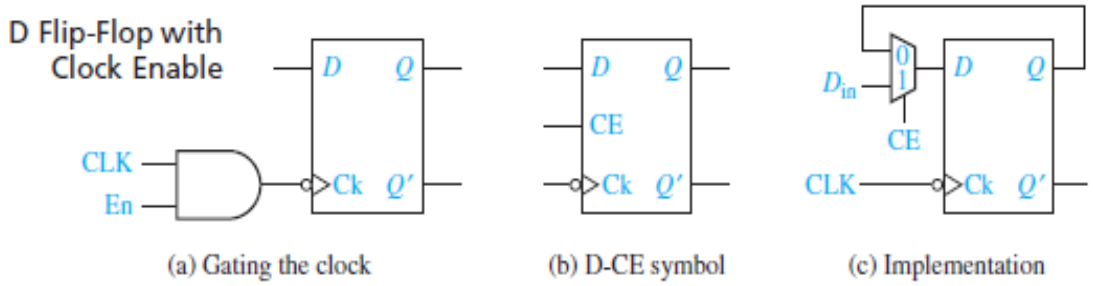
The above table (Figure (b)) summarizes the flip-flop operation. In the table, *c* indicates a rising clock edge, and *X* is a don't-care. The last row of the table indicates that if Clk is held at 0, held at 1, or has a falling edge, Q does not change.

The following Figure illustrates the operation of the *clear* and *preset* inputs. At t1, *ClrN* = 0 holds the Q output at 0, so the rising edge of the clock is ignored. At t2 and t3, normal state changes occur because *ClrN* and *PreN* are both 1. Then, Q is set to 1 by *PreN* = 0, but Q is cleared at t4 by the rising edge of the clock because D = 0 at that time.

Timing Diagram for D Flip-Flop with Asynchronous Clear and Preset



In synchronous digital systems, the flip-flops are usually driven by a common clock so that all state changes occur at the same time in response to the same clock edge. When designing such systems, we frequently encounter situations where we want some flip-flops to hold existing data even though the data input to the flip-flops may be changing. One way to do this is to gate the clock, as shown in the following Figure (a).



(a) Gating the clock (b) D-CE symbol (c) Implementation

When *En = 0*, the clock input to the flip-flop is 0, and Q does not change. This method has two potential problems. First, gate delays may cause the clock to arrive at some flip-flops at different times than at other flip-flops, resulting in a loss of synchronization. Second, if *En* changes at the wrong time, the flip-flop may trigger due to the change in *En* instead of due to the change in the clock, again resulting in loss of synchronization. Rather than gating the clock, a better way is to use a flip-flop with a *clock enable* (*CE*). Such flip-flops are commonly used in CPLDs and FPGAs.

Figure (b) shows a D flip-flop with a clock enable, which we will call a *D-CE* flip-flop. When *CE = 0*, the clock is disabled and no state change occurs, so $Q^+ = Q$. When *CE = 1*, the flip-flop acts like a normal D flip-flop, so $Q^+ = D$. Therefore, the characteristic equation is $Q^+ = Q \cdot CE' + D \cdot CE$. The *D-CE* flip-flop is easily implemented using a D flip-flop and a multiplexer (Figure (c)). For this circuit, the MUX output is $Q^+ = D + Q \cdot CE + Din \cdot CE$. Since, there is no gate in the clock line; this cannot cause a synchronization problem.

Characteristic Equations of Flip-Flop:

The *characteristics equations* of flip-flops are useful in analyzing circuits made of them. Here, next output, Q_{n+1}, is expressed as a function of present output Q_n and the input to the flip-flops. Karnaugh map can be used to get the optimized expression.

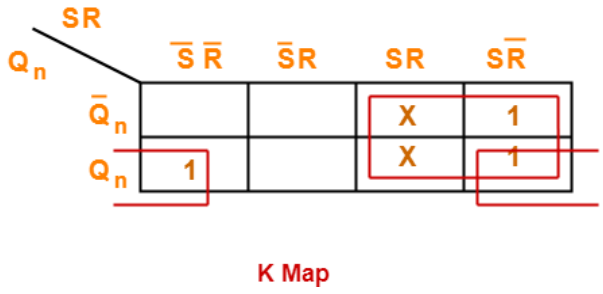
S	R	Q^+
0	0	Q
0	1	0
1	0	1
1	1	?

D	Q	Q^+
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	1
1	1	1

J	K	Q^+
0	0	Q
0	1	0
1	0	1
1	1	$\bar{Q}$

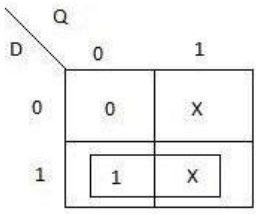
T	Q	Q^+
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

SR Flip-Flop:

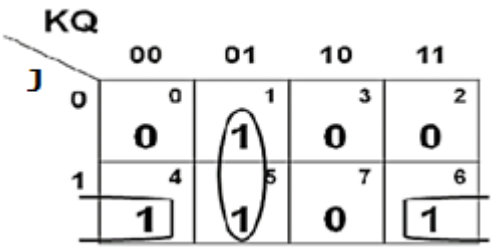


K Map

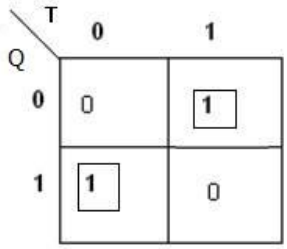
D Flip-Flop:



JK Flip-Flop:



T Flip-Flop:



Characteristic Equations of SR, D, JK & T Flip-Flops

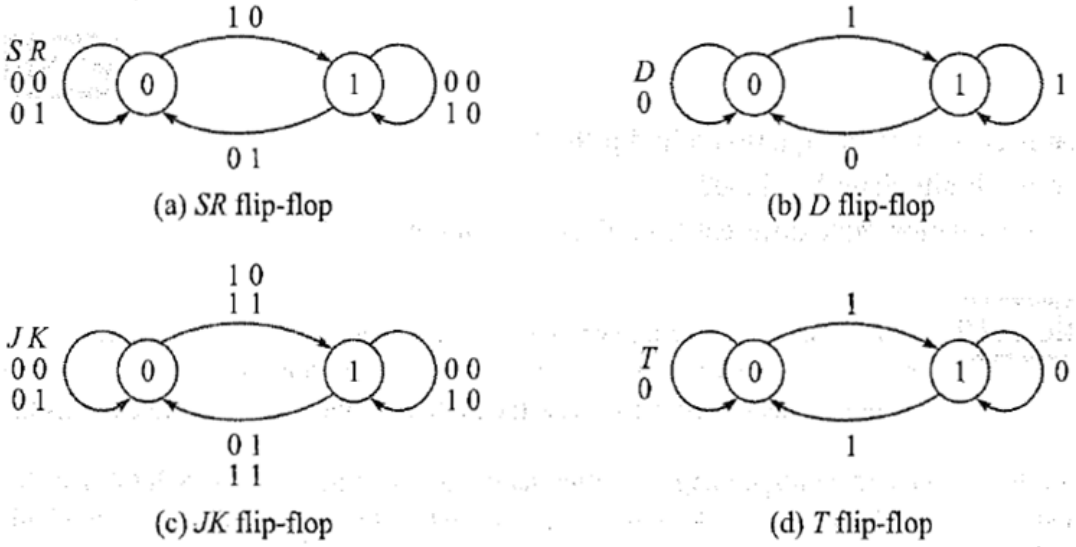
The characteristic equations for the latches and flip-flops discussed so far are:

$$Q^+ = S + R'Q \ (SR = 0) \qquad \text{(S-R latch or flip-flop)}$$
$$Q^+ = GD + G'Q \qquad \text{(gated D latch)}$$
$$Q^+ = D \qquad \text{(D flip-flop)}$$

$$Q^+ = D{\cdot}CE + Q{\cdot}CE' \qquad \text{(D-CE flip-flop)}$$
$$Q^+ = JQ' + K'Q \qquad \text{(J-K flip-flop)}$$
$$Q^+ = T \oplus Q = TQ' + T'Q \qquad \text{(T flip-flop)}$$

Flip-Flops as Finite State Machine:

In a sequential logic circuit, the value of all memory elements at a given time defines the *state* of that circuit at that time. *Finite State Machine (FSM)* concept offers a better alternative to truth table in understanding progress of sequential logic with time.



State transition diagram of (a) *SR* flip-flop, (b) *D* flip-flop, (c) *JK* flip-flop, (d) *T* flip-flop

State Transition Diagrams of SR, D, JK & T Flip-Flops

Flip-Flop Excitation Table:

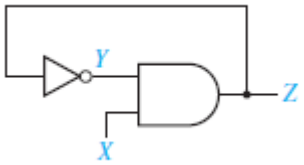
In synthesis or design problem, excitation tables are very useful. *Excitation table* of a flip-flop is looking at its truth table in a reverse way; here, flip-flop output is presented as a dependent function of transition $Q \rightarrow Q_{n+1}$ and comes later in the table.

$Q \rightarrow Q_{n+1}$		S	R	J	K	D	T
0	0	0	x	0	x	0	0
0	1	1	0	1	x	1	1
1	0	0	1	x	1	0	1
1	1	x	0	x	0	1	0

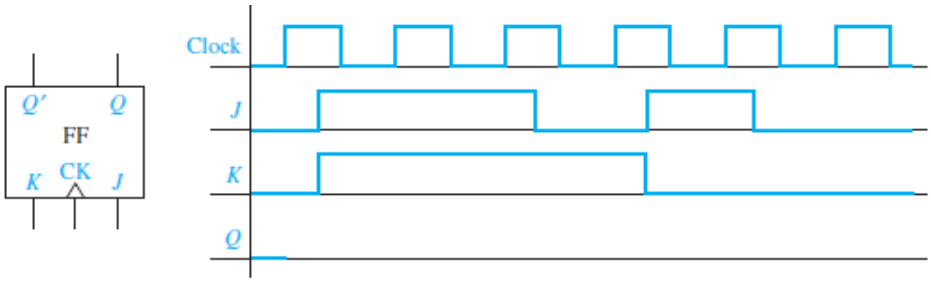
Excitation Table of Flip-Flops

Homework:

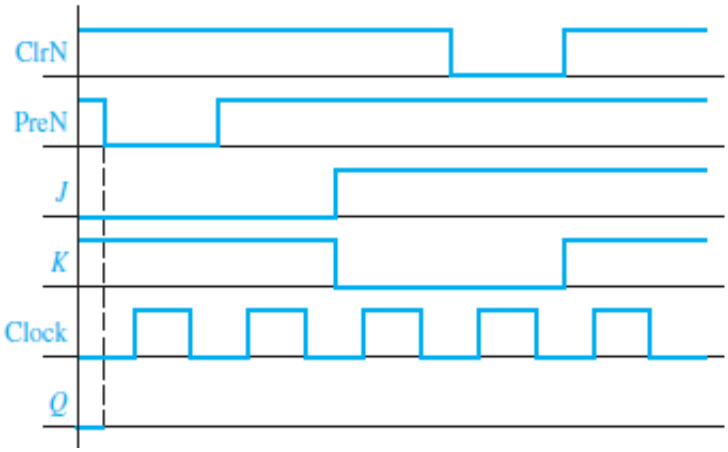
1] Assume that the inverter in the given circuit has a propagation delay of 5 ns and the AND gate has a propagation delay of 10 ns. Draw a timing diagram for the circuit showing X, Y, and Z. Assume that X is initially 0, Y is initially 1, after 10 ns X becomes 1 for 80 ns, and then X is 0 again.



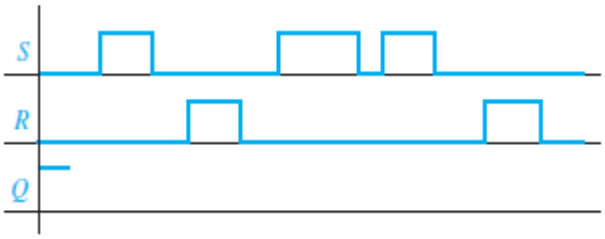
2] Complete the following timing diagram for the flip-flop:



3] Complete the following timing diagram for a J-K flip-flop with a falling-edge trigger and asynchronous ClrN and PreN inputs.



4] Complete the following timing diagram for an S-R latch. Assume Q begins at 1.



5] Convert by adding external gates: (a) a D flip-flop to a J-K flip-flop; (b) a T flip-flop to a D flip-flop; (c) a T flip-flop to a D flip-flop with clock enable.