Memory & Programmable Logic

Logic and Digital System Design - CS 303

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Memory Unit

- A device
  - to which binary information is transferred for storage and
  - from which information is available when needed for processing
- When data processing takes place
  - information from the memory is transferred to selected register in the processing unit
  - Intermediate and final results obtained in the processing unit are transferred back to the memory for storage

Memory Unit

- Used to communicate with an input/output device
  - binary information received from an input device is stored in memory
  - information transferred to an output device is taken from memory
- A collection of cells capable of storing a large quantity of binary information
- Two types
  - RAM (random-access memory)
  - ROM (read-only memory)

Classification

- RAM
  - Accepts new information for storage (write operation)
  - We can read stored information (read operation)
  - Perform both read and write operation
- ROM
  - only performs read operation
  - existing information cannot be modified
  - a.k.a. programmable logic device
  - Programming the device
    - specifying the binary information and storing it within the programmable device

Programmable Logic Devices

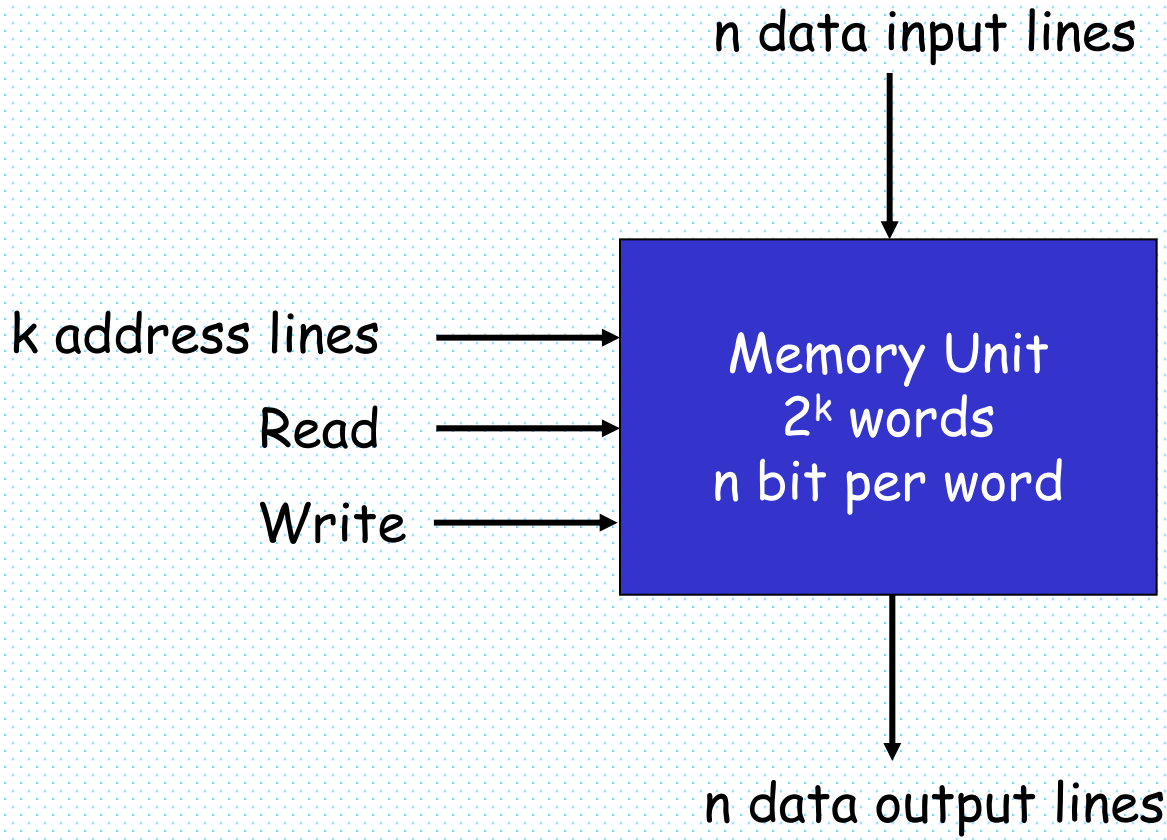
- PLD
  - ROM is one example
  - Programmable Logic Array (PLA)
  - Programmable Array Logic (PAL)
  - Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA)
- PLD is
  - an integrated circuit (IC) with internal logic gates
  - Interconnection between the gates can be programmed through fuses
  - At the beginning they are all intact
  - By programming we remove some of them, while keeping the others

Random Access Memory (RAM)

- RAM
- The reason for the name
  - The time it takes to transfer information to or from any desired random location is always the same.
- Word
  - groups of bits in which a memory unit stores information
  - At one time, memory move in and out of the storage a word of information
  - 8 bit – byte
  - 16 bit
  - 32 bit
  - Capacity is usually given in number of bytes

Memory Unit

- Block diagram

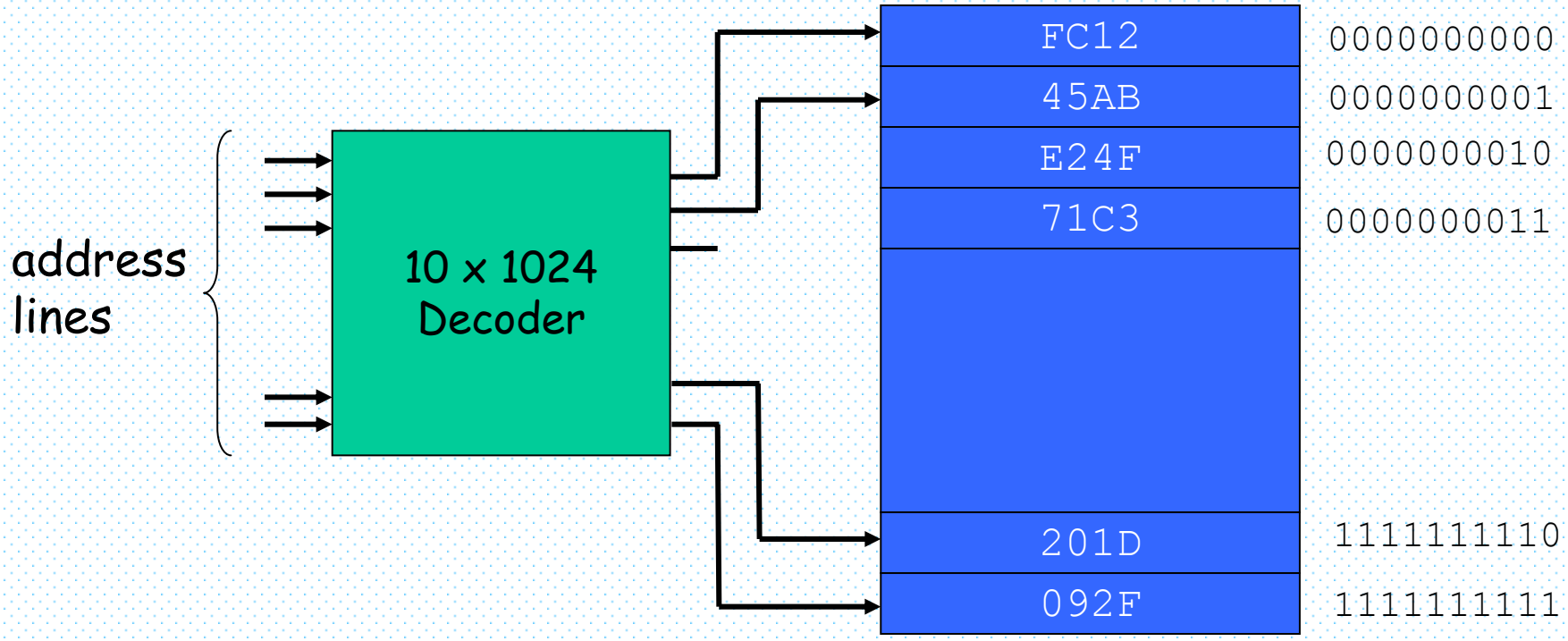


Specification

- A memory unit is specified by
  1. the number of words it contains
  2. number of bits in each word
- Each word in memory is assigned an identification number
  - address
  - 0 to 2^k-1
- Selection
  - selection process to read and write a word is done by applying k-bit address to the address lines
  - A decoder accepts the address and selects the specified word in the memory

Memory Map and Address Selection

- 1 K x 16 Memory



$1\ K = 2^{10}$ $1\ M = 2^{20}$ $1\ G = 2^{30}$ $1\ T = 2^{40}$

Write and Read Operations

- Write
  - transfer in
- Read
  - transfer out
- Steps for write operation
  1. Apply the binary address of the desired word to the address lines
  2. Apply the data bits that must be stored in memory to the (data) input lines
  3. Activate the "write" input

Read Operation

- Steps
  1. Apply the binary address of the desired word to the address lines
  2. Activate the "read" input
  - The desired word will appear on the (data) output lines
  - reading does no affect the content of the word

Control Inputs to Memory Chip

- Commercial memory components usually provide a "memory enable" (or "chip select") control input
- memory enable is used to activate a particular memory chip in a multi-chip implementation of a large memory

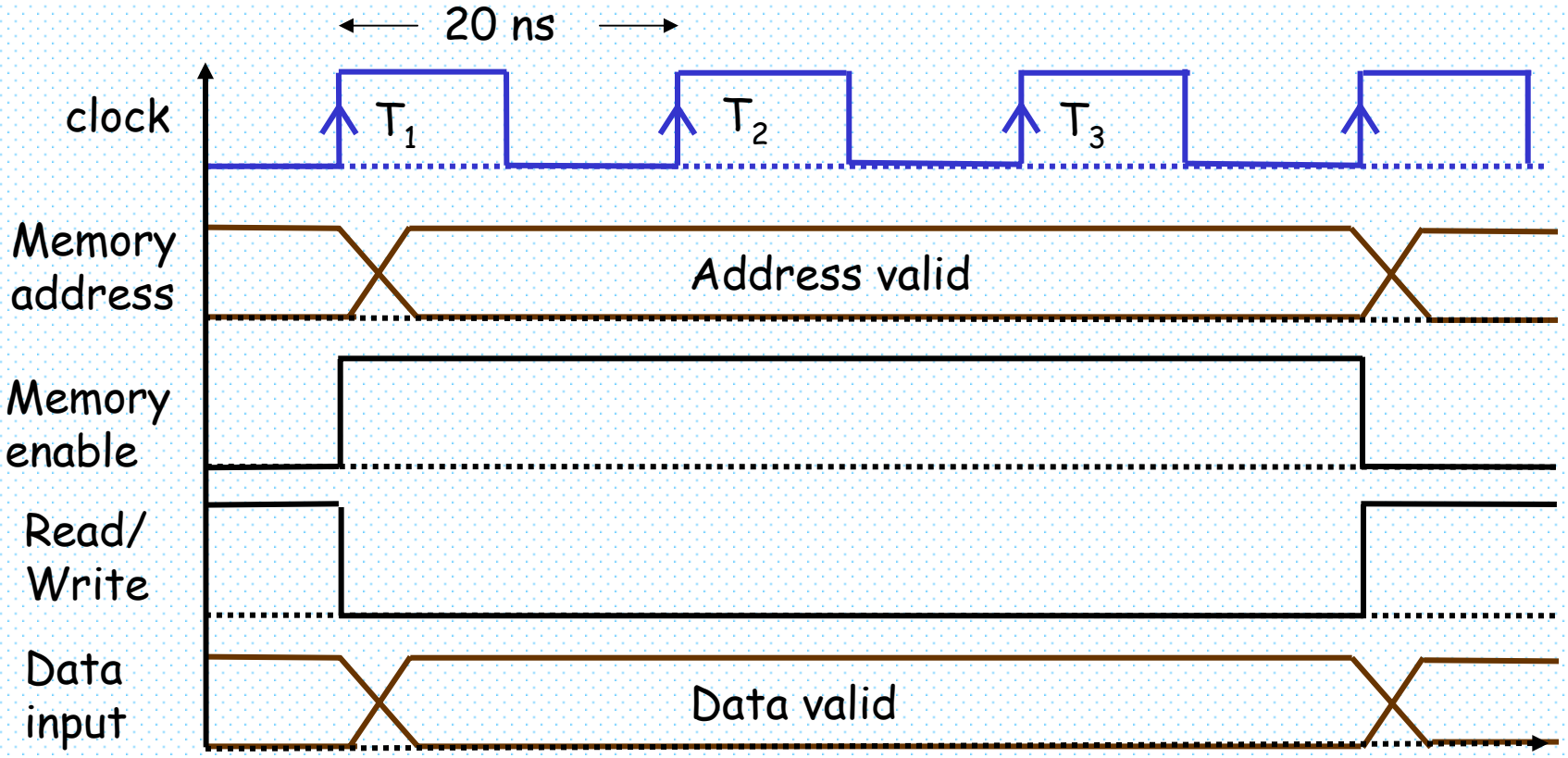
Memory Enable	Read/Write	Memory Operation
0	X	None
1	0	write
1	1	read

Timing

- Memory does not use an internal clock
  - operation of a memory unit is controlled by an external device (e.g. CPU) that has its own clock
  - It only reacts to the "read" and "write" control inputs
- Access time
  - the time required to select a word and read it
- Cycle time
  - the time required to complete a write operation

Write Cycle

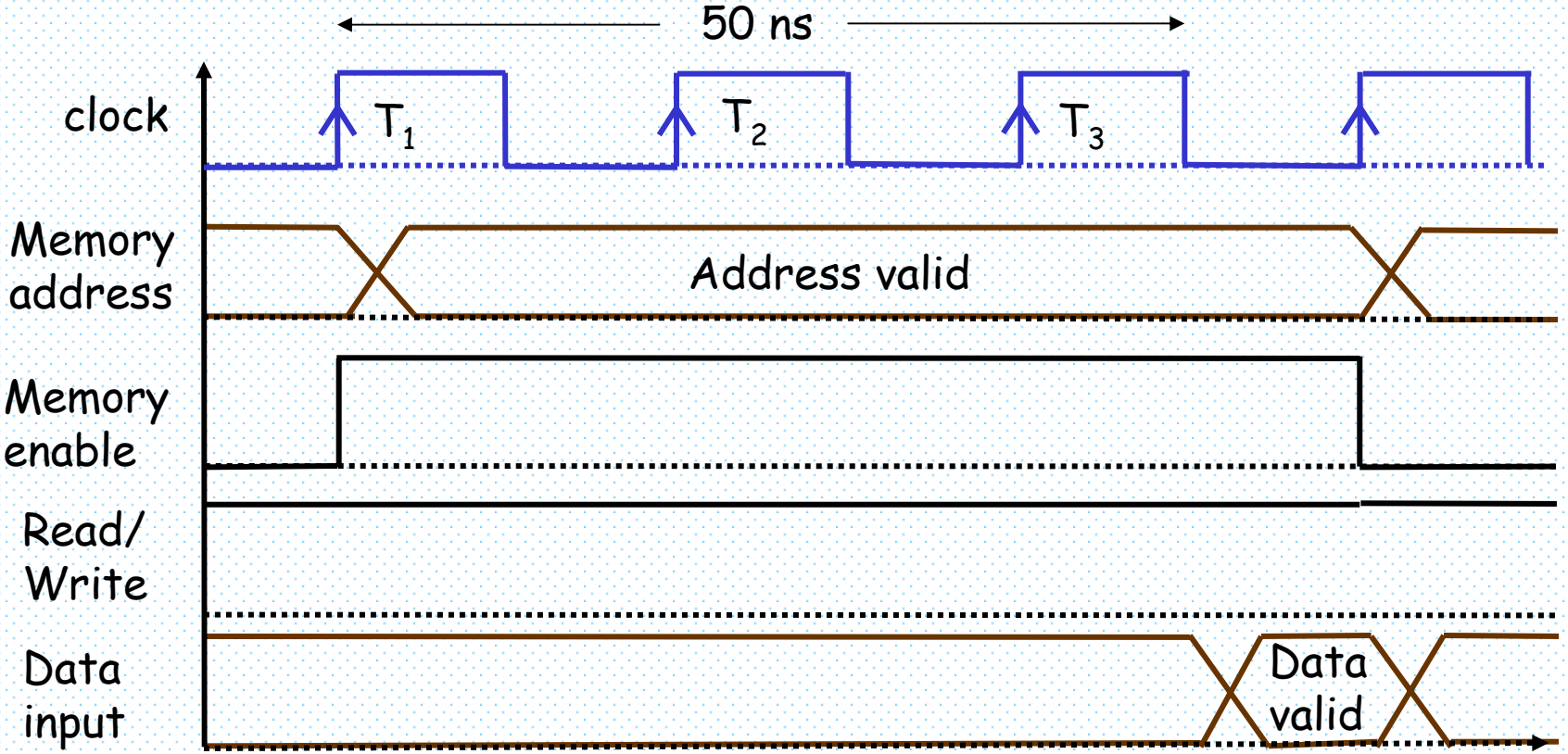
- CPU clock: 50 Mhz
- Cycle time: 50 ns



- CPU must devote three clock cycles for each write operation

Read Cycle

- CPU clock: 50 Mhz
- Access time: 50 ns



The desired word appears at output after 50 ns memory enable is activated

Types of Memory - 1

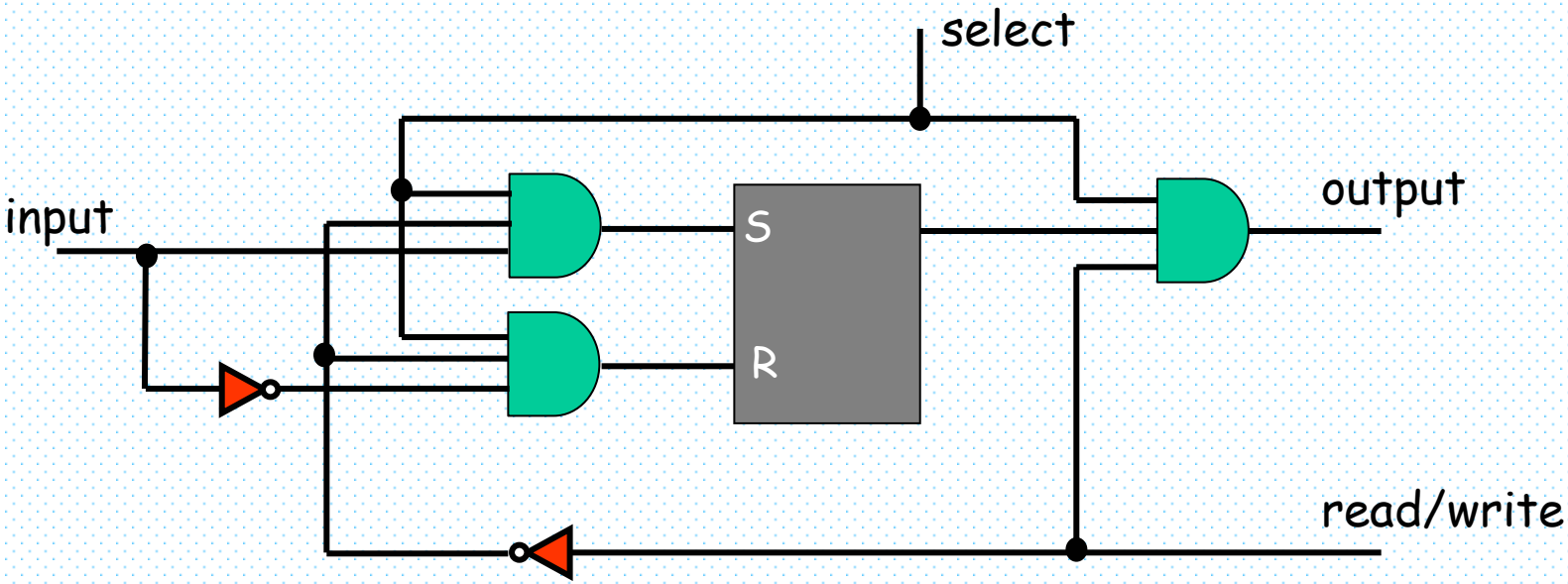
- RAM
  - access time is always the same no matter where the desired data is actually located
- Sequential-access memory
  - Access time is variable
  - Magnetic disks, tapes
- RAM
  - SRAM (static RAM)
    - latches, stores information as long as power is on
  - DRAM (dynamic RAM)
    - information is stored as charge on a capacitor
    - refreshing is necessary due to discharge

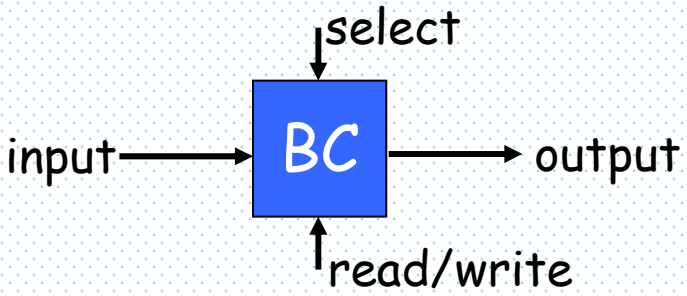
Types of Memory - 2

- Volatile memory
  - When the power is turned off, the stored information is lost
  - RAM
- Nonvolatile memory
  - retains the stored information after removal of power
  - magnetic disks
    - data is represented as the direction of magnetization
  - ROM
    - programs needed to start a computer is kept in ROM

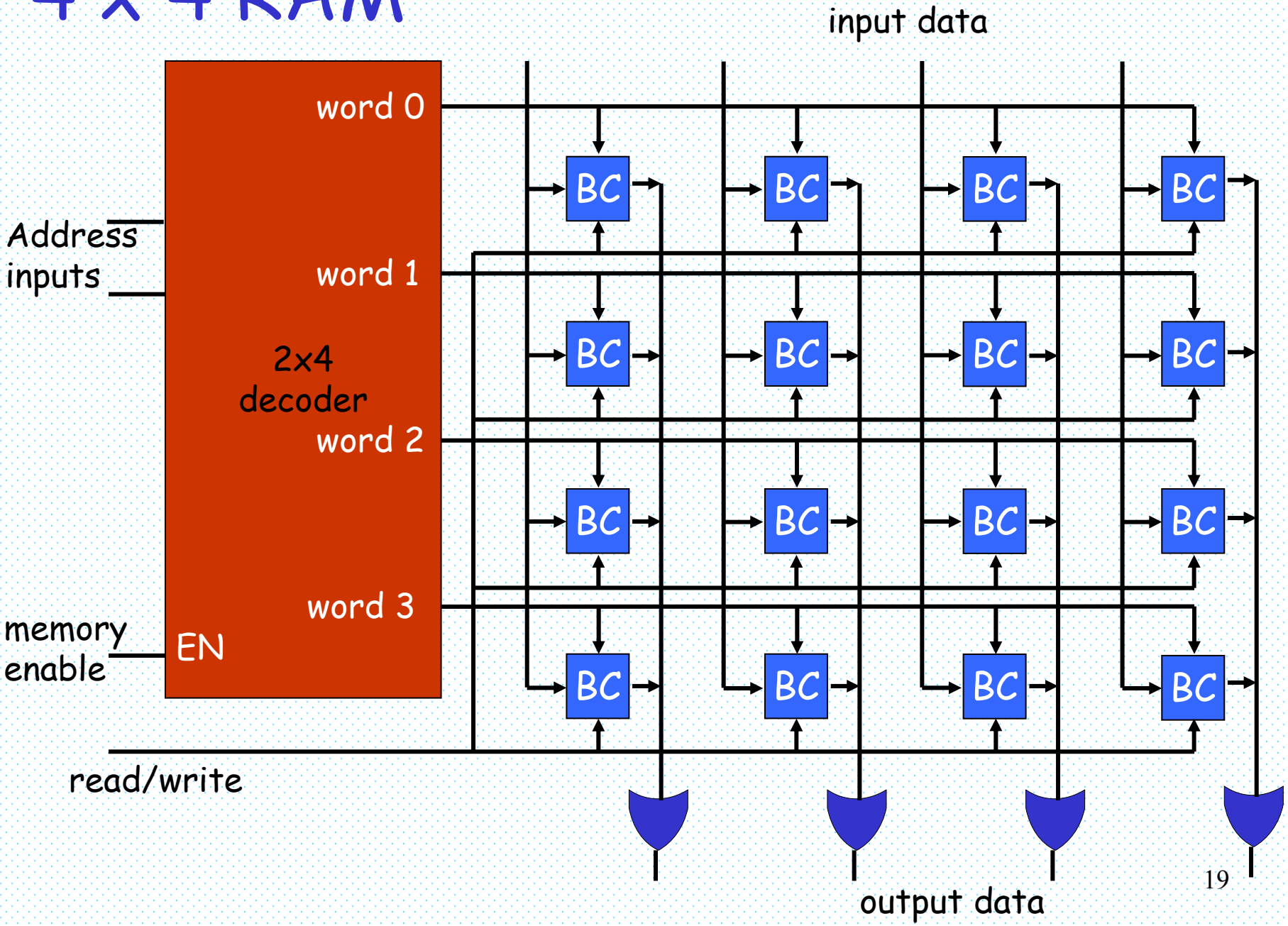
Memory Cell

- Equivalent logic of a memory cells for storing one bit of information



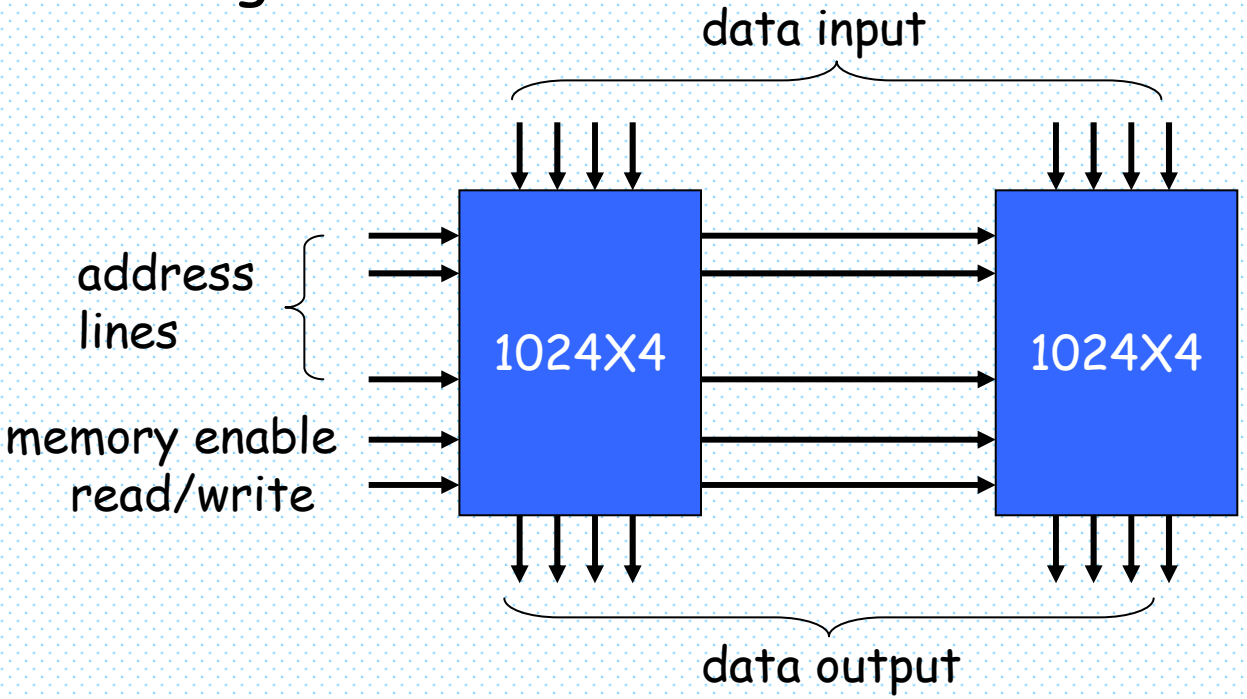


4 x 4 RAM

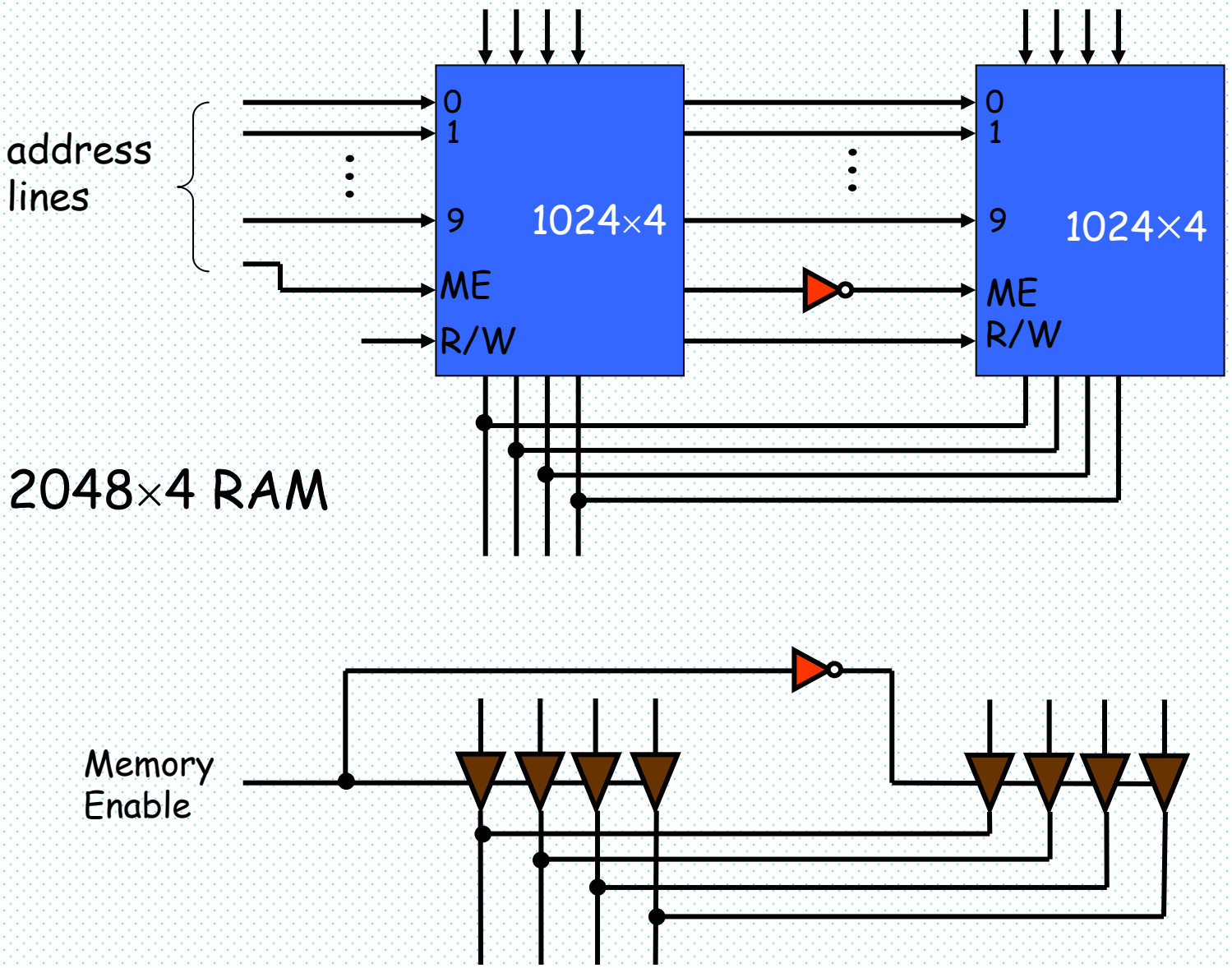

input data
word 0
word 1
word 2
word 3
2x4
decoder
Address
inputs
memory
enable
EN
read/write
BC
output data

Commercial RAMs

- Physical construction
  - Capacity of thousands of words
  - each word may range from 1 to 64 bits
- Example:
  - We have 1024×4 memory chips
  - Logical construction: 1024×8



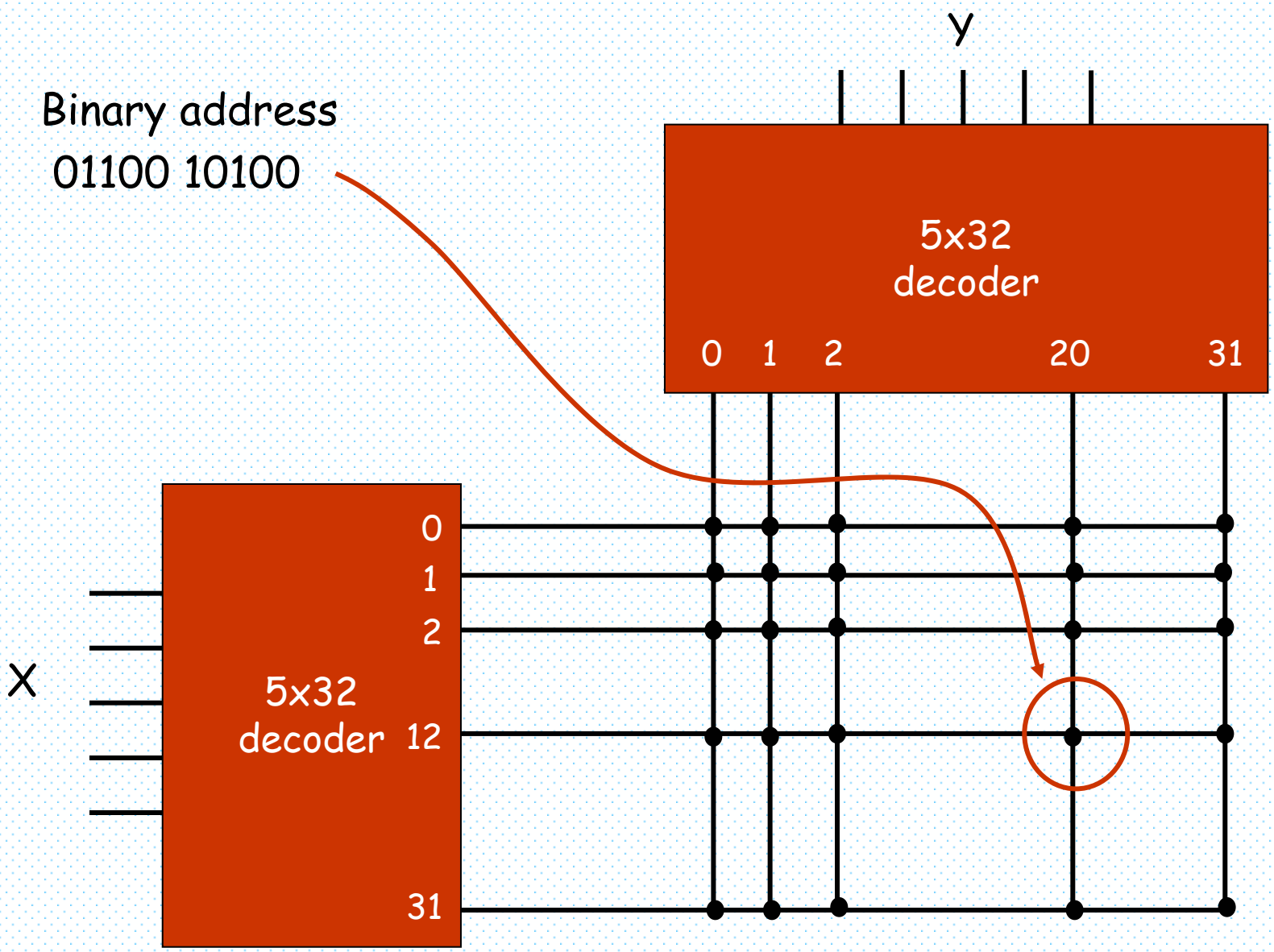
Combining Memories



Coincident Decoding

- A memory with 2^k words requires a $k \times 2^k$ decoder
- $k \times 2^k$ decoder requires 2^k AND gates with k inputs per gate
- There are ways to reduce the total number of gates and number of inputs per gate
- Two dimensional selection scheme
  - Arrange the memory words in an array that is close as possible to square
  - Use two k/2-input decoders instead of one k-input decoder.
    - One decoder performs the row selection
    - The other does the column selection

Example: Coincident Decoding

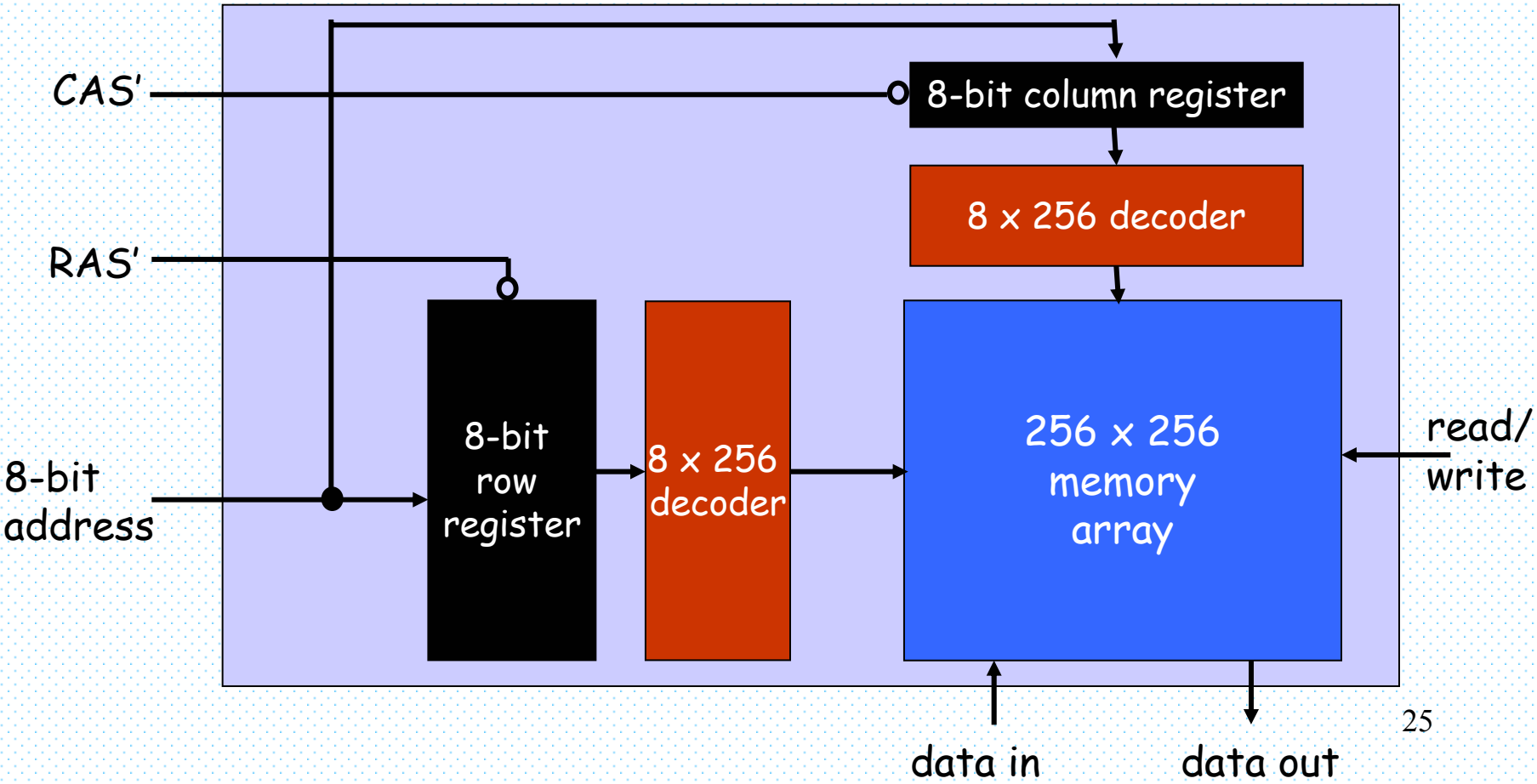


DRAMs

- SRAM memory is expensive
  - One cell typically contains six transistors
  - Usually used for internal registers in CPU and for caches
- DRAM is much less expensive
  - One MOS transistor and a capacitor
  - Four times the density of SRAM in a given chip area
  - cost per bit storage is three to four times less than SRAM
  - low power requirement
  - Perfect technology for large memories such as main memory
  - Most DRAMs have a 1-bit word size

DRAMs and Address Multiplexing

- In order to reduce number of pins on a memory chip, the same pins are used for both row and column addresses
- Example: 64K DRAM



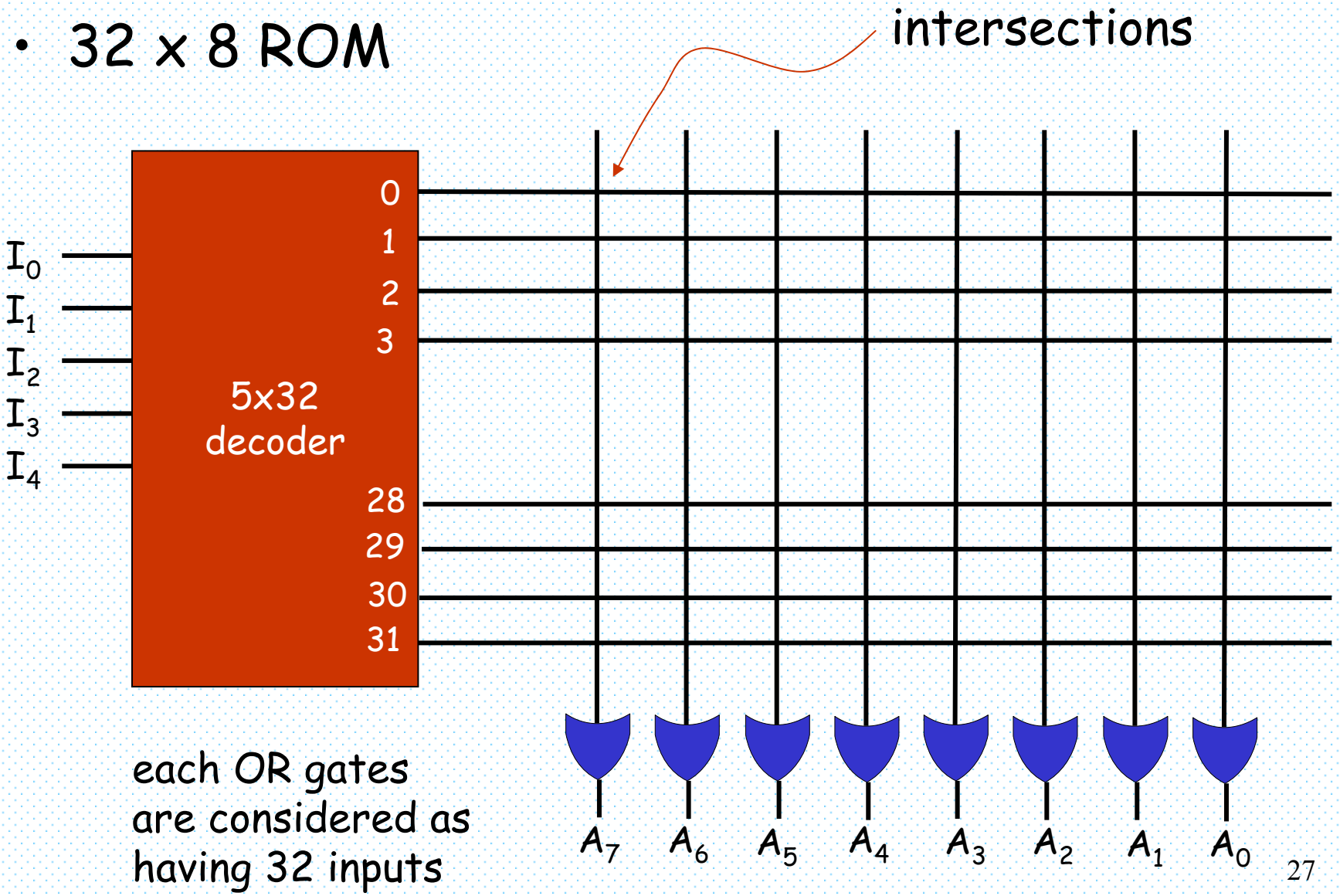
Read-Only Memory

- ROM
  - memory device in which permanent binary information is stored
  - Binary information must be specified by the designer
  - It then is embedded in the unit to form the required interconnection pattern
  - nonvolatile
- Block diagram

  - no data inputs
  - enable inputs
  - three-state outputs

Example: ROM

- 32 x 8 ROM



each OR gates are considered as having 32 inputs

Example: ROM

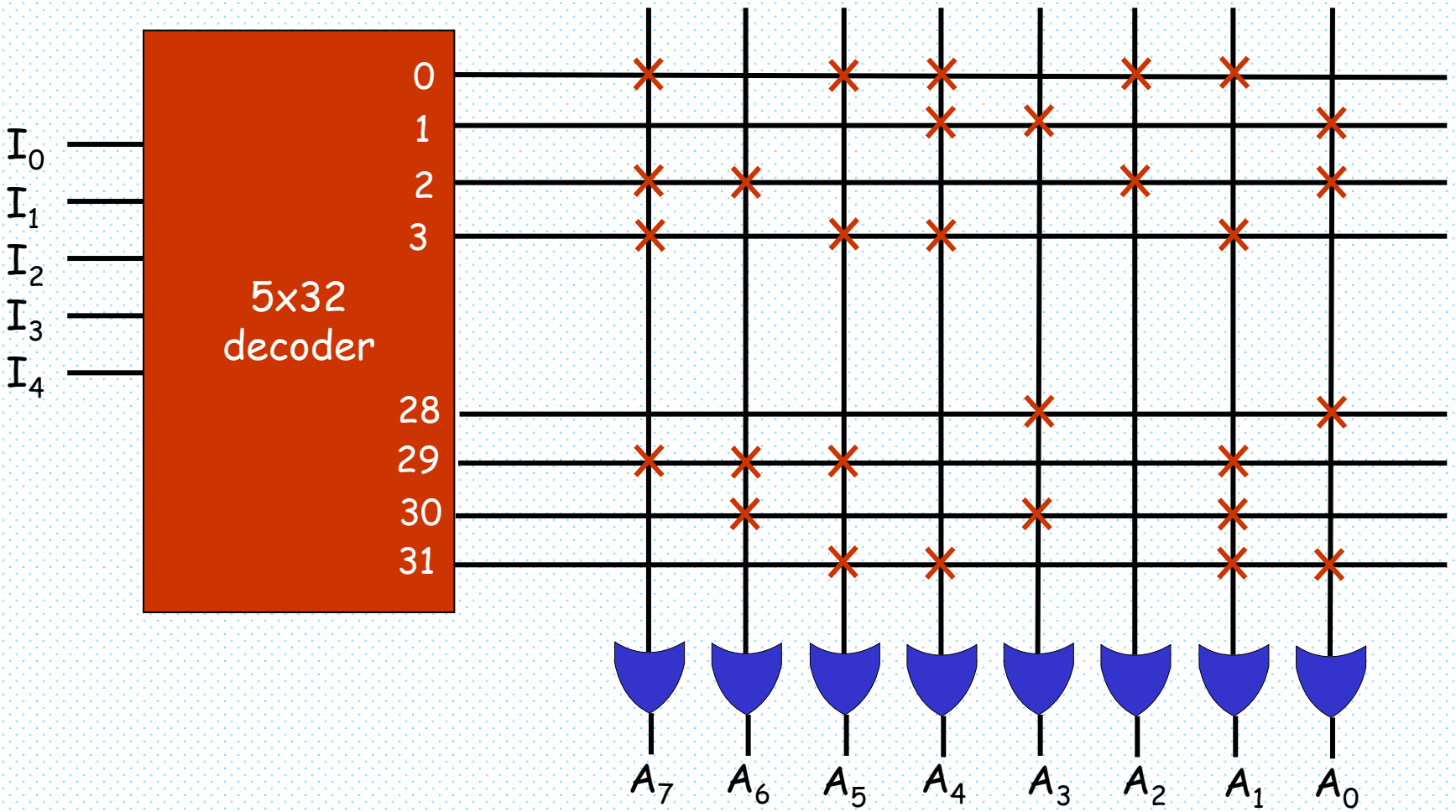
- Number of connections
  - 32×8 ROM has $32 \times 8 = 256$ internal connections
- In general
  - $2^k \times n$ ROM will have $k \times 2^k$ decoder and n OR gates
  - Each OR gate has 2^k inputs
  - OR gate inputs are connected to each of the output of the decoder
- These intersections are programmable
  - these intersections are initially closed (connected to the input of OR gate)
  - A fuse is used to connect two lines
  - During programming, some of these fuses are blown by applying high voltage.

Programming ROM

- Internal storage in specified by a truth table
- Example:

Inputs					Outputs							
I_4	I_3	I_2	I_1	I_0	A_7	A_6	A_5	A_4	A_3	A_2	A_1	A_0
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1

Programming ROM



Combinational Circuit Design with ROM

- Formerly,
  - we have shown that a $k \times 2^k$ decoder generates 2^k minterms of k input variables
- Furthermore,
  - by inserting OR gates to sum these minterms, we were able to realize any desired combinational circuit.
- A ROM is essentially a device that includes both the decoder and the OR gates within a single device.
  - first interpretation: a memory unit that contains a fixed pattern of stored words

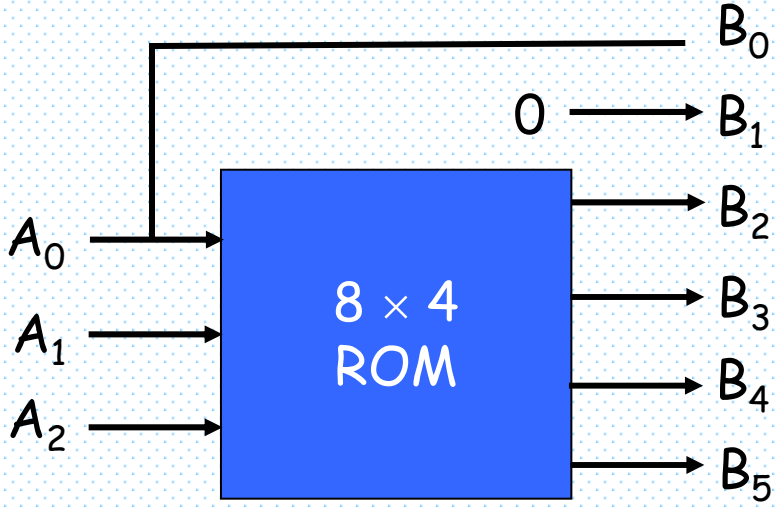
Combinational Circuit Design with ROM

- ROM (cont.)
  - Second interpretation: a programmable device that can realize any combinational circuit
- Example: Truth table

Inputs			Outputs					
A_2	A_1	A_0	B_5	B_4	B_3	B_2	B_1	B_0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1

Example: Design with ROM

- Observations:
  - $B_0 = A_0$ and $B_1 = 0$
  - 8×4 ROM would suffice



A_2	A_1	A_0	B_5	B_4	B_3	B_2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	0	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	0
1	0	0	0	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	1	1	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1	0	0

ROM Truth Table

Types of ROM - 1

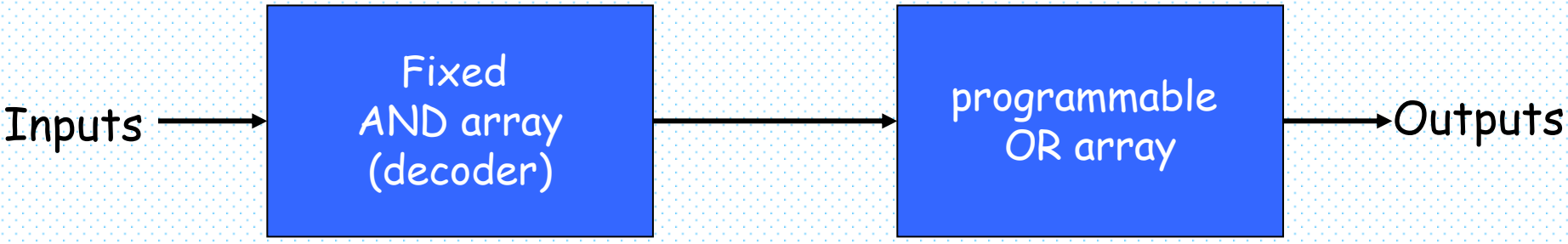
- Programming can be done in different ways
  - Mask programming:
    - customer provides the truth table
    - manufacturer generates the mask for the truth table
    - Can be costly, since generating a custom mask is charged to the customer.
    - economical only if a large quantity of the same ROM configuration is to be ordered.
  - Field Programmable
    - Programmable ROM (PROM):
    - Customer can program the ROM by blowing fuses by applying high voltage through a special pin
    - Special instrument called PROM programmer is needed.

Types of ROM - 2

- Programming ROM and PROMs is irreversible.
- Erasable PROM (EPROM)
  - can be programmed repeatedly.
  - EPROM is placed under a special ultra-violet light for a given period of time
  - At the end, the former program is erased
  - After erasure, EPROM becomes ready for another programming
- Electronically erasable PROM (EEPROM or E^2PROM)

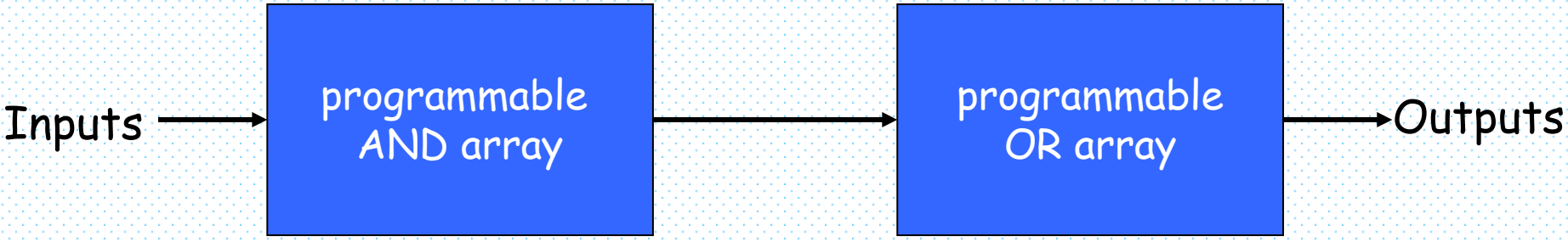
Programmable Logic Devices

- EPROM is an example of combinational programmable logic device (PLD)
- Configuration of PROM

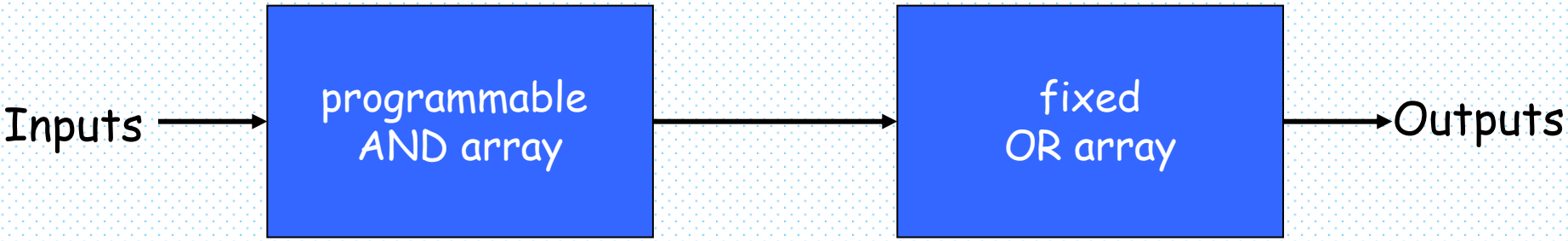


Other PLDs

- Two other types



Programmable Logic Array (PLA)



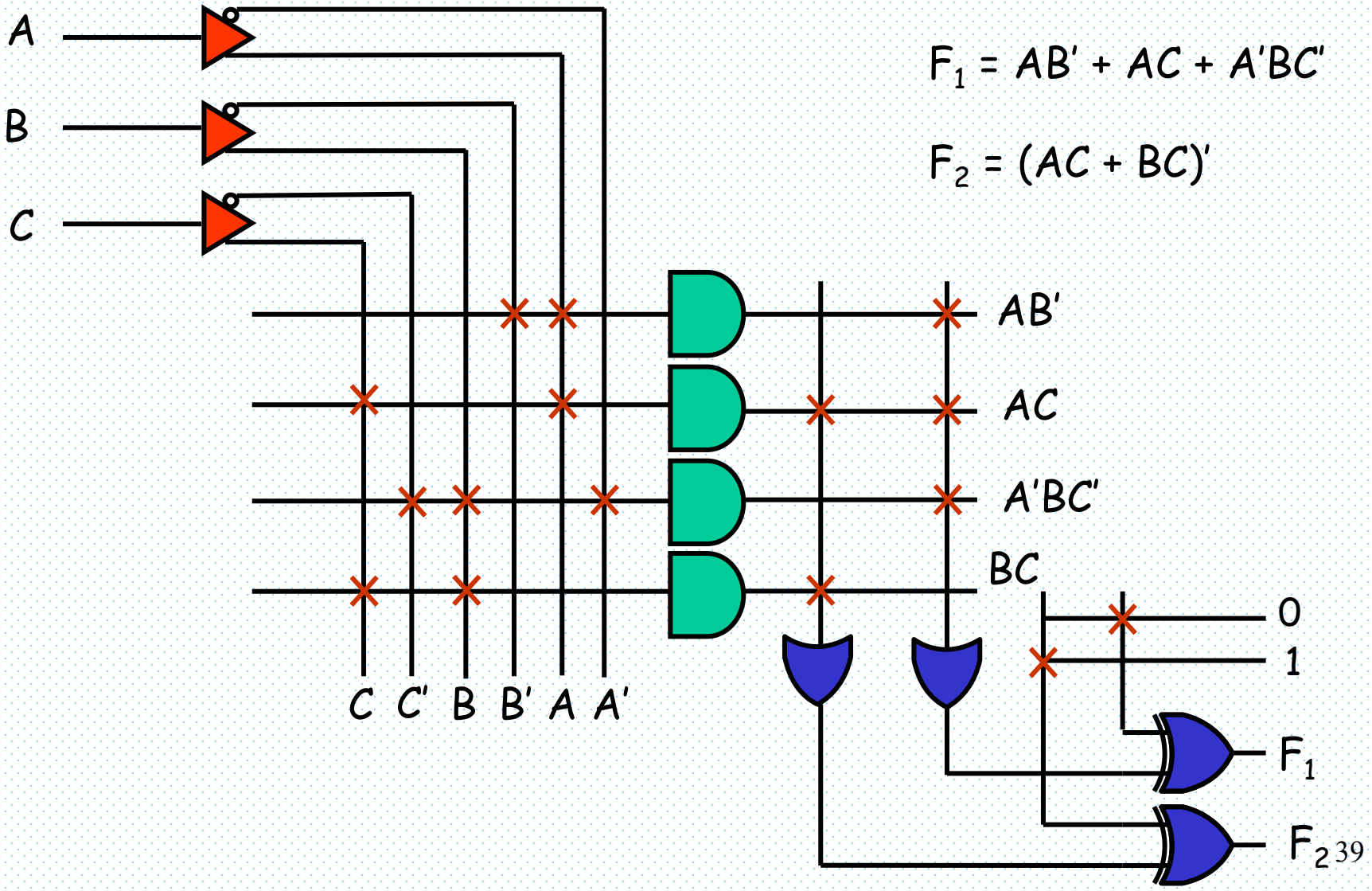
Programmable Array Logic (PAL)

Programmable Logic Array (PLA)

- Similar to PROM
- However, PLA does not generate all the minterms
- Decoder is replaced by an array of AND gates
  - can be programmed to generate *any* product term of input variables
- The product terms are then connected to OR gates
  - that provide the sum of product

Programmable Logic Array (PLA)

- Example: 3 inputs, 4 product terms and 2 outputs



PLA Programming Table

$F_1 = AB' + AC + A'BC'$

$F_2 = (AC + BC)'$

					Outputs	
		Inputs			(T)	(C)
	Product Term	A	B	C	F_1	F_2
AB'	1	1	0	-	1	-
AC	2	1	-	1	1	1
BC	3	-	1	1	-	1
A'BC'	4	0	1	0	1	-

Size of PLA

- Specified by
  - number of inputs, number of product, number of outputs
- A typical IC PLA
  - 16 inputs, 48 product terms, and 8 outputs
- n input, k product terms, m output PLA has
  - k AND gates, m OR gates, m XOR gates
  - $2n \times k$ connections between input and the AND array
  - $k \times m$ connections between the AND and OR arrays
  - 2m connections associated with XOR gates

Programming PLA

- Optimization
  - number of literals in a product term is not important
  - both the true and complement of each function should be simplified to see which one requires fewer number of product terms
  - When implementing more than one function, functions must be optimized together in order to share more product terms

Example: Programming PLA

- Two functions
  - $F_1(A, B, C) = \Sigma(0, 1, 2, 4)$
  - $F_2(A, B, C) = \Sigma(0, 5, 6, 7)$

A \ BC	00	01	11	10
0	1	1	0	1
1	1	0	0	0

$F_1 = A'B' + A'C' + B'C'$

$F_1 = (AB + AC + BC)'$

A \ BC	00	01	11	10
0	1	0	0	0
1	0	1	1	1

$F_2 = AB + AC + A'B'C'$

$F_2 = (A'C + A'B + AB'C')'$

Example: Programming PLA

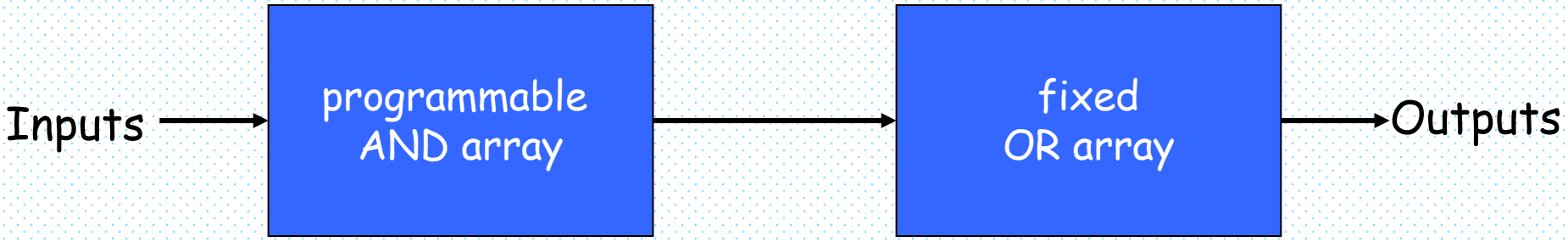
- PLA programming table

  $F_1 = (AB + AC + BC)'$

  $F_2 = AB + AC + A'B'C'$

					Outputs	
		Inputs			(C)	(T)
	Product Term	A	B	C	F_1	F_2
AB	1	1	1	-	1	1
AC	2	1	-	1	1	1
BC	3	-	1	1	1	-
A'B'C'	4	0	0	0	-	1

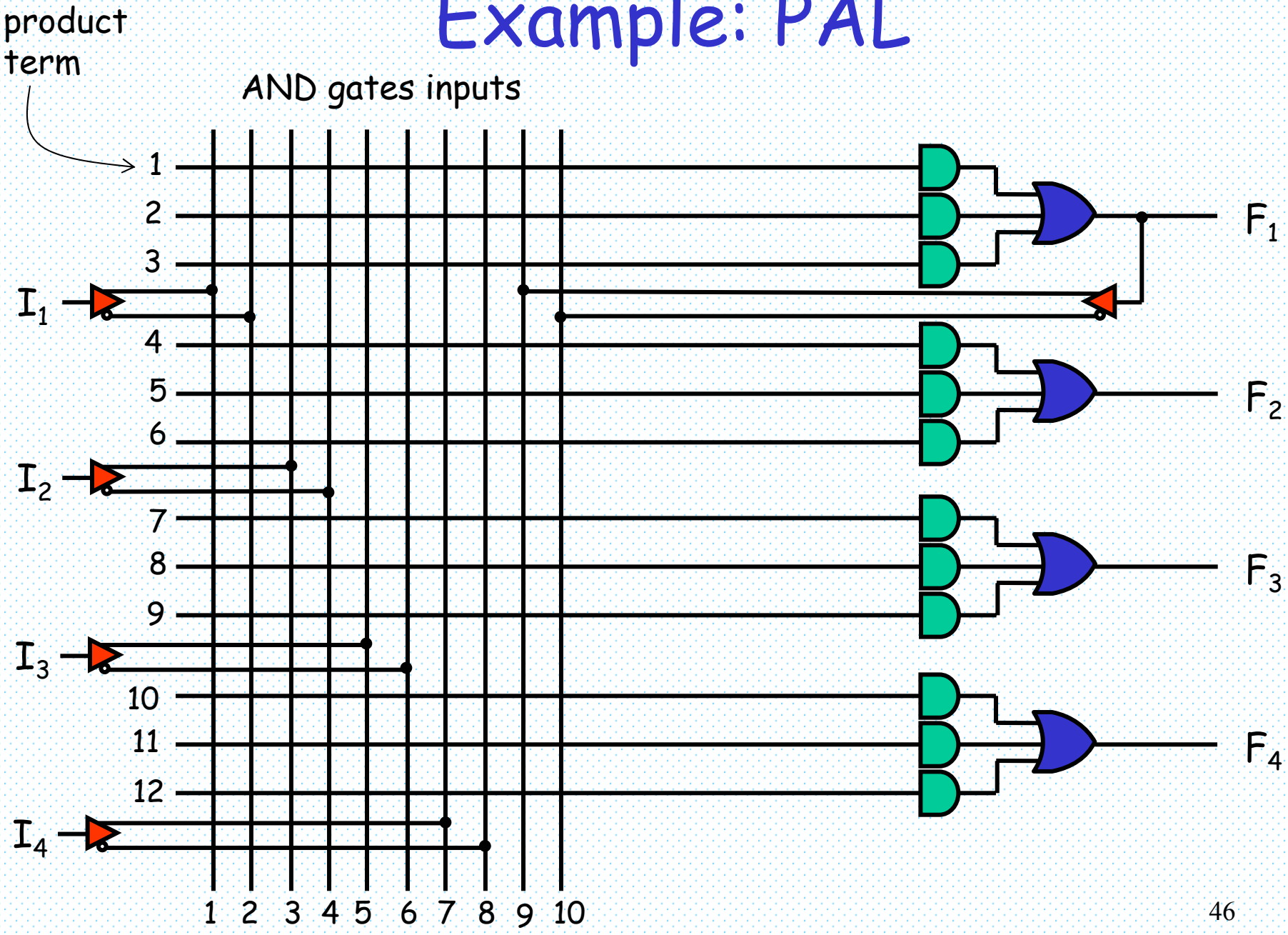
Programmable Array Logic (PAL)



Programmable Array Logic (PAL)

- Easier to program than PLA
- But, not as flexible
- A typical PAL
  - 8 inputs, 8 outputs, 8-wide AND-OR array

Example: PAL


product term
AND gates inputs
1
2
3
I1
4
5
6
I2
7
8
9
I3
10
11
12
I4
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
F1
F2
F3
F4

Design with PAL

- Each Boolean function must be simplified to fit into each section.
- Product terms cannot be shared among OR gates
  - Each function can be simplified by itself without regard to common product terms
- The number of product terms in each section is fixed
  - If the number of product terms is too many, we may use two sections to implement it.

Example: Design with PAL

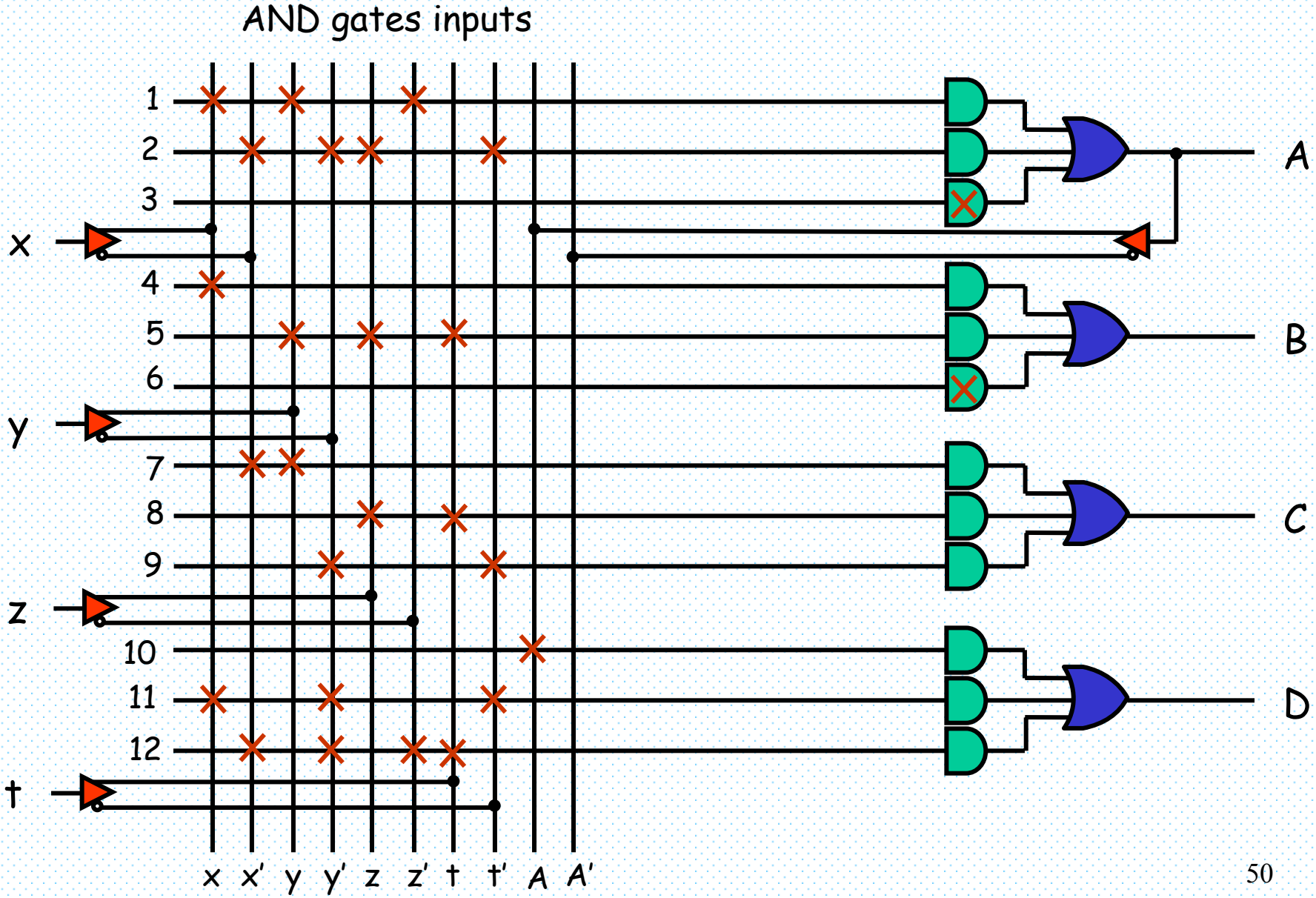
- Four functions
  - $A(x, y, z, t) = \Sigma\,(2, 12, 13)$
  - $B(x, y, z, t) = \Sigma\,(7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)$
  - $C(x, y, z, t) = \Sigma\,(0, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15)$
  - $D(x, y, z, t) = \Sigma\,(1, 2, 8, 12, 13)$
- First step is to simplify four functions separately
  - $A = xyz' + x'y'zt'$
  - $B = x + yzt$
  - $C = x'y + zt + y't'$
  - $D = xyz' + x'y'zt' + xy't' + x'y'z't$

Example: Design with PAL

- D = A + xy't' + x'y'z't

Product Term	AND Inputs					Outputs
	x	y	z	t	A	
1	1	1	0	-	-	A = xyz' + x'y'zt'
2	0	0	1	0	-	
3	-	-	-	-	-	
4	1	-	-	-	-	B = x + yzt
5	-	1	1	1	-	
6	-	-	-	-	-	
7	0	1	-	-	-	C = x'y + zt + y't'
8	-	-	1	1	-	
9	-	0	-	0	-	
10	-	-	-	-	1	D = A + xy't' + x'y'z't
11	1	0	-	0	-	
12	0	0	0	1	-	

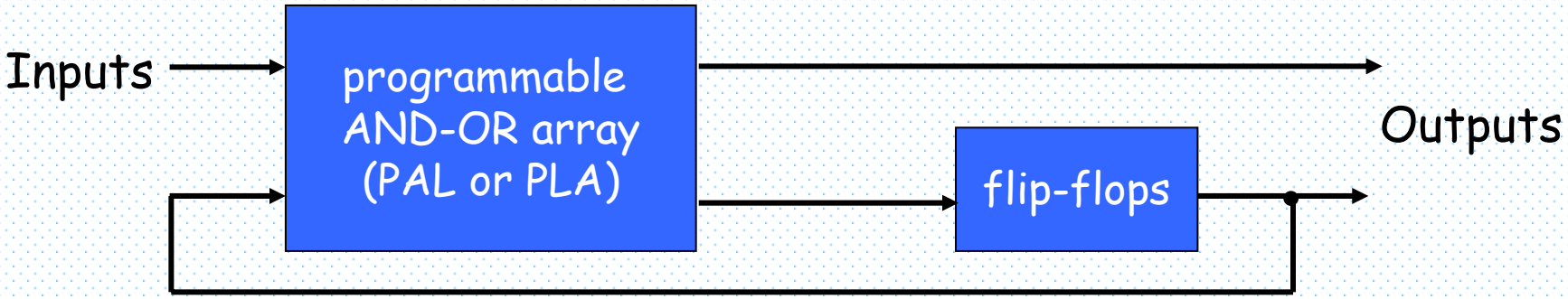
Example: Design with PAL



Sequential Programmable Devices

- So far, we have seen PLD that can realize only combinational circuits
- However, digital systems are designed using both combinational circuits (gates) and flip-flops.
  - With PLDs, we need to use external flip-flops to realize sequential circuit functions.
- Different types
  1. Sequential (or simple) programmable logic device (SPLD)
  2. Complex programmable logic device (CPLD)
  3. Field programmable gate array (FPGA)

SPLD

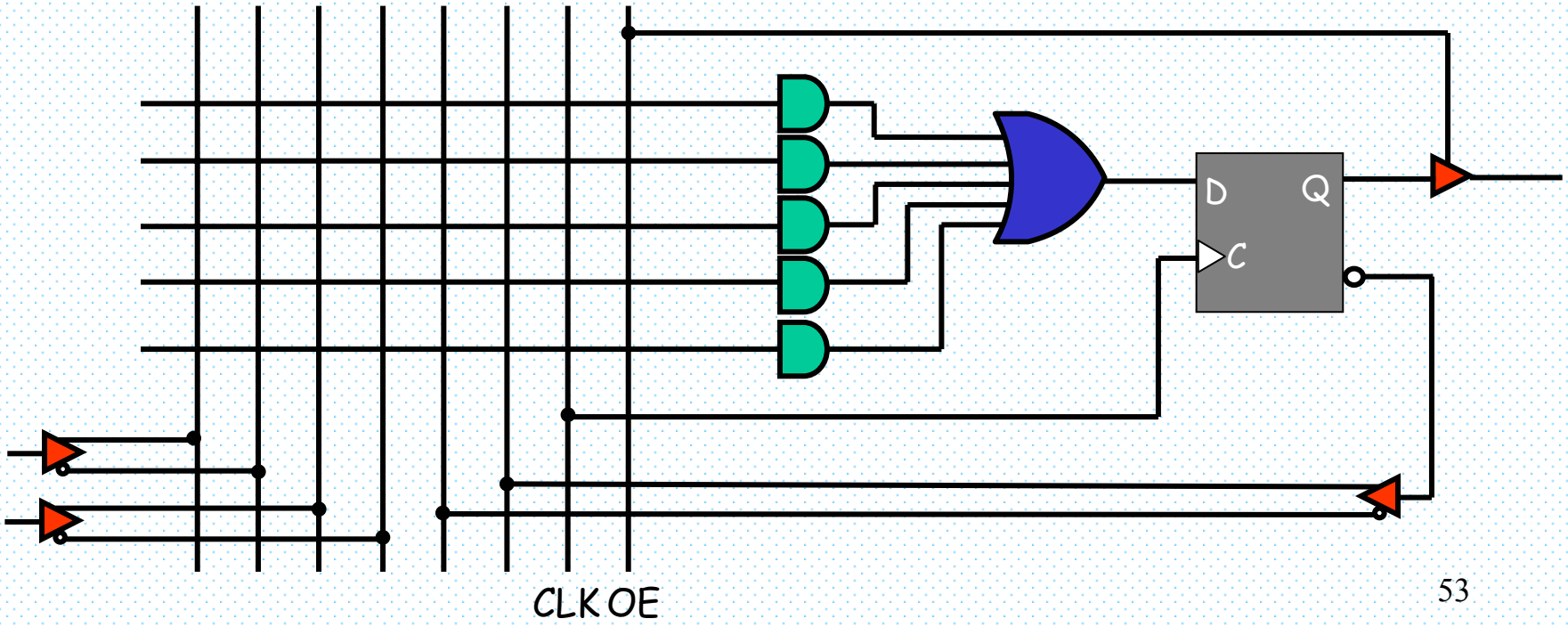


Sequential Programmable Logic Device (SPLD)

- Additional programmable connections are available to include flip-flop outputs in the product terms formed with AND array.
- Flip-flops may be of the D or the JK type

SPLD Macrocell

- SPLD is usually PAL + D flip-flops
- Each section in SPLD is called macrocell.
- A macrocell
  - sum-of-products combinational logic + optional flip-flop
  - 8-10 macrocells in one IC package

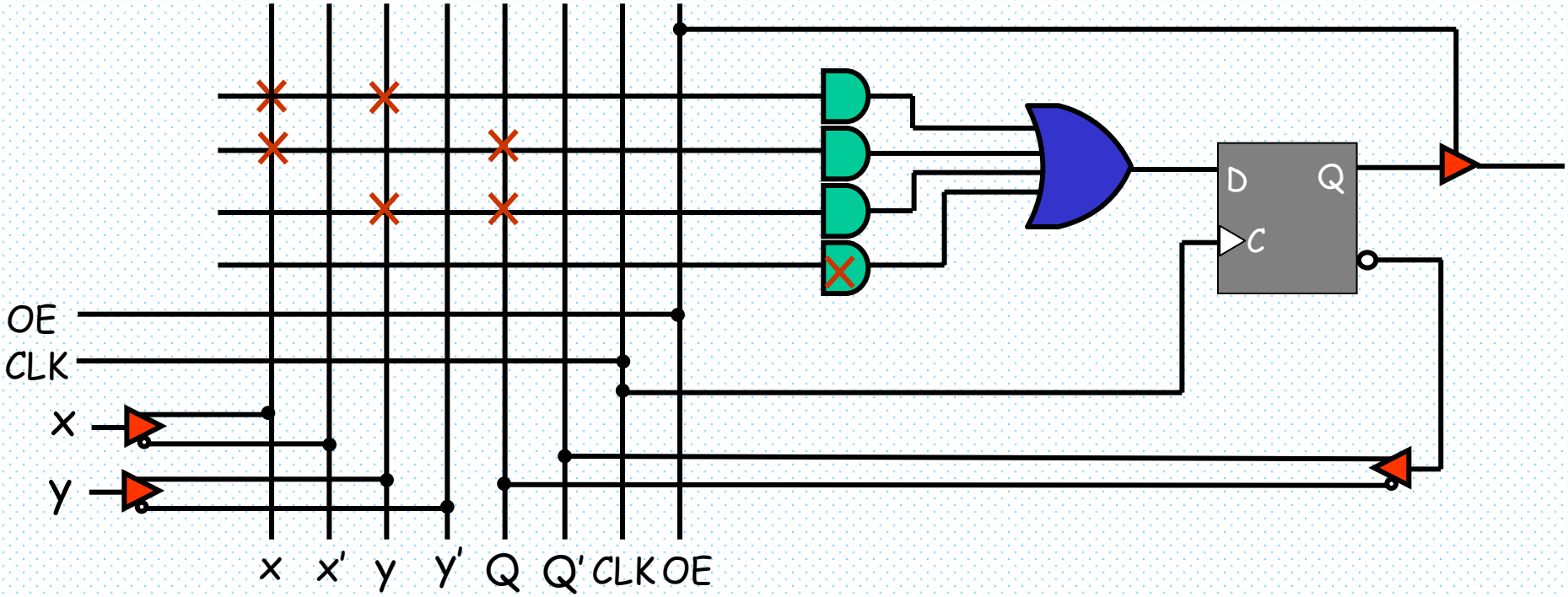


Additional SPLD Functionalities

- Additional SPLD Functionalities
  - Bypass circuitry for the flip-flop
  - selection of clock edge polarity
  - XOR gate for selection of true or complement of output
- Example: serial adder
  - Flip-flop input equation:
    - $D = Q(t+1) = xy + xQ + yQ$
  - Output equation:
    - $S = x \oplus y \oplus Q$
    - $S = x'y'Q + x'yQ' + xyQ + xy'Q'$

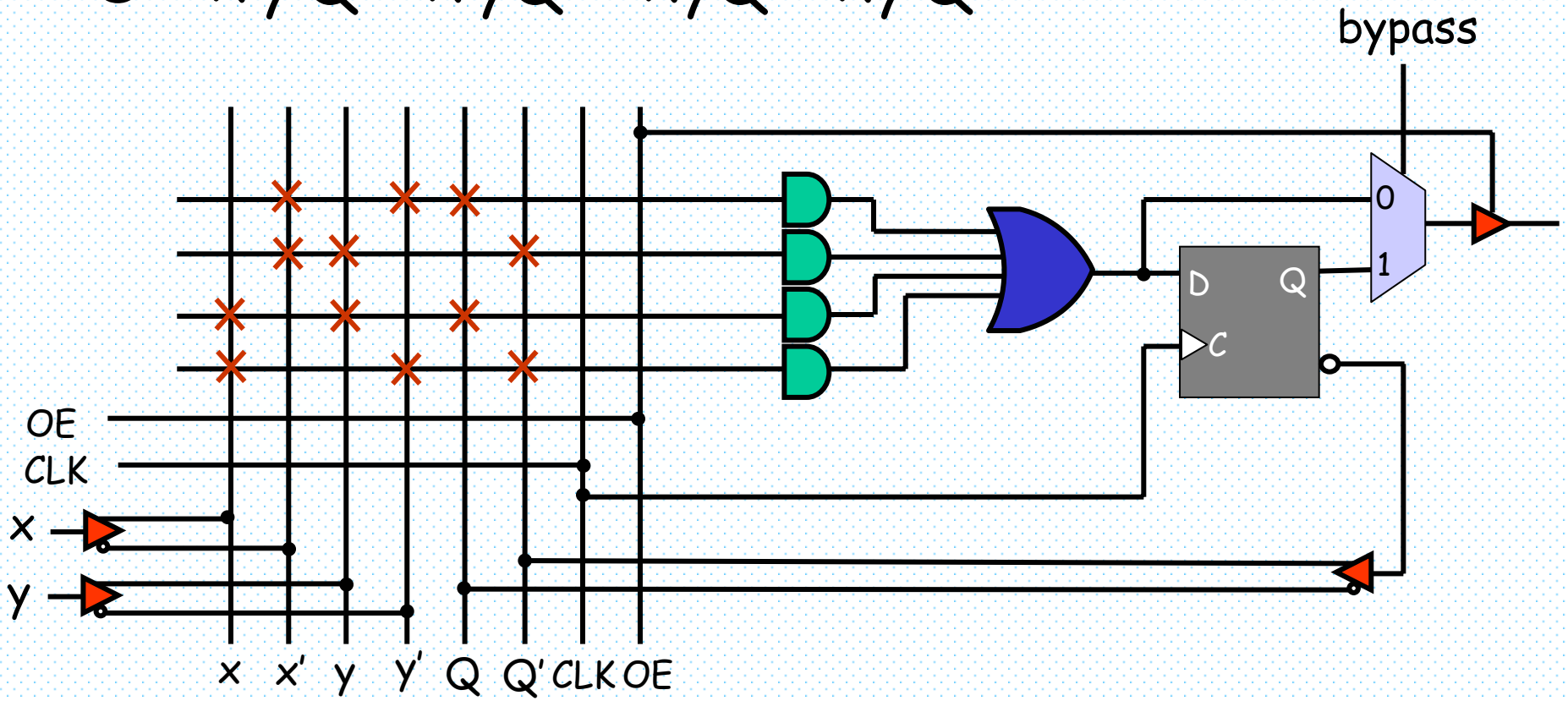
Example: Serial Adder with SPLD

$Q(t+1) = xy + xQ + yQ$

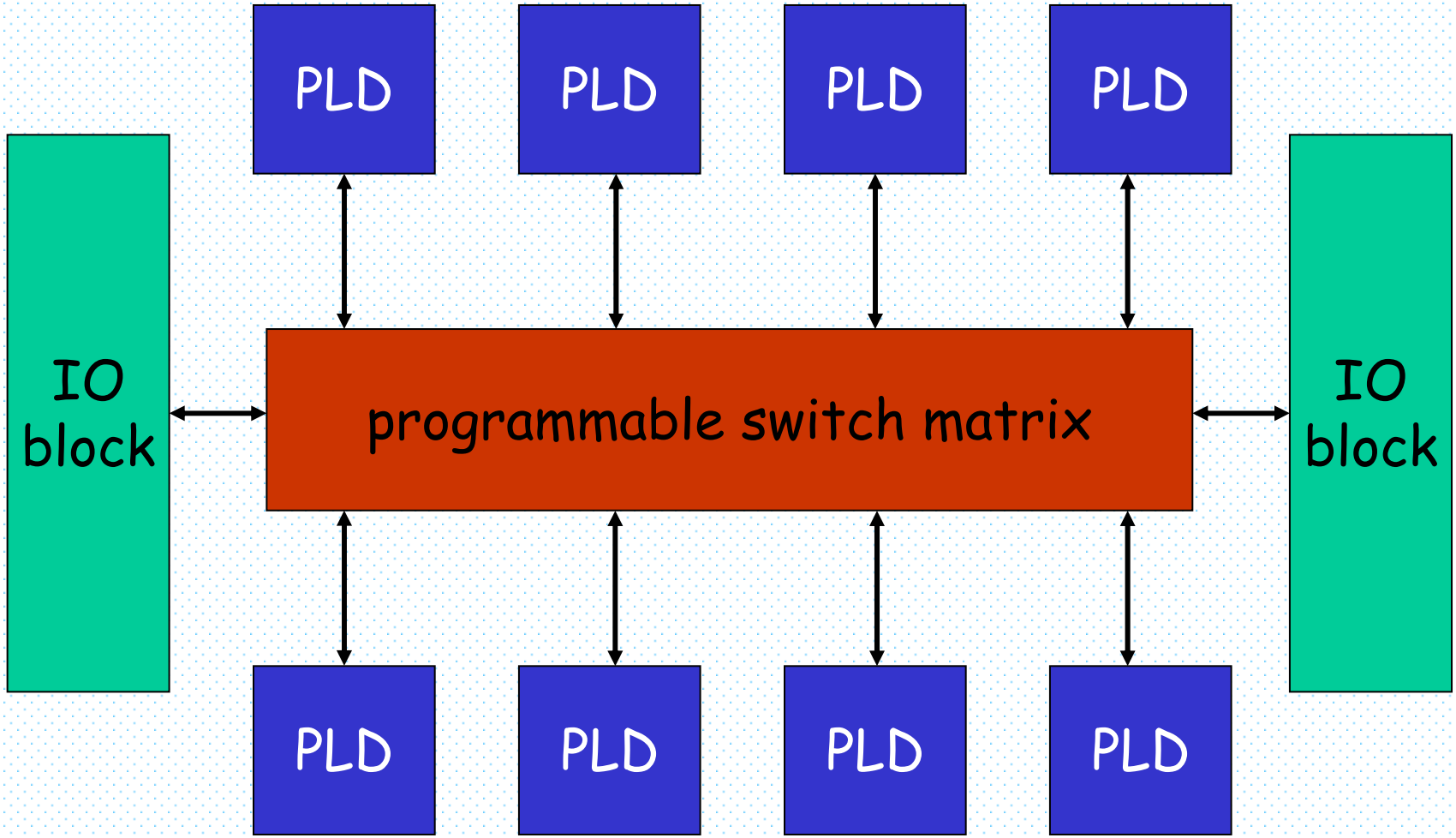


Example: Serial Adder with SPLD

- S = x'y'Q + x'yQ' + xyQ + xy'Q'



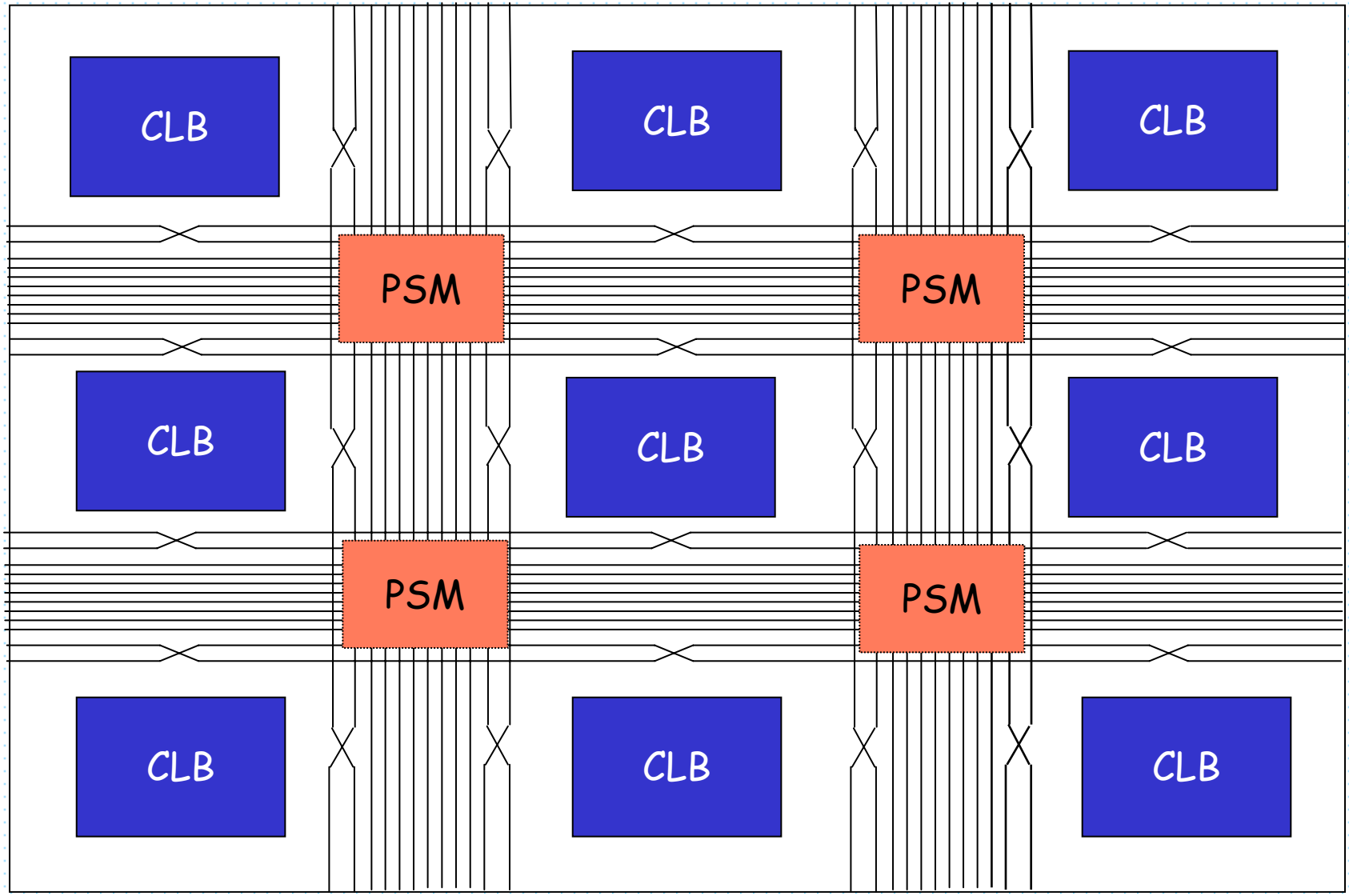
Complex Programmable Logic Device



FPGA

- Field programmable gate array
  - FPGA is a VLSI circuit
  - Field programmable means user can program it in his own location
  - Gate array consists of a pattern of gates fabricated in an area of silicon
    - pattern of gates are repeated many (thousand) times
  - one thousand to hundreds of thousands of gates are fabricated within a single IC chip

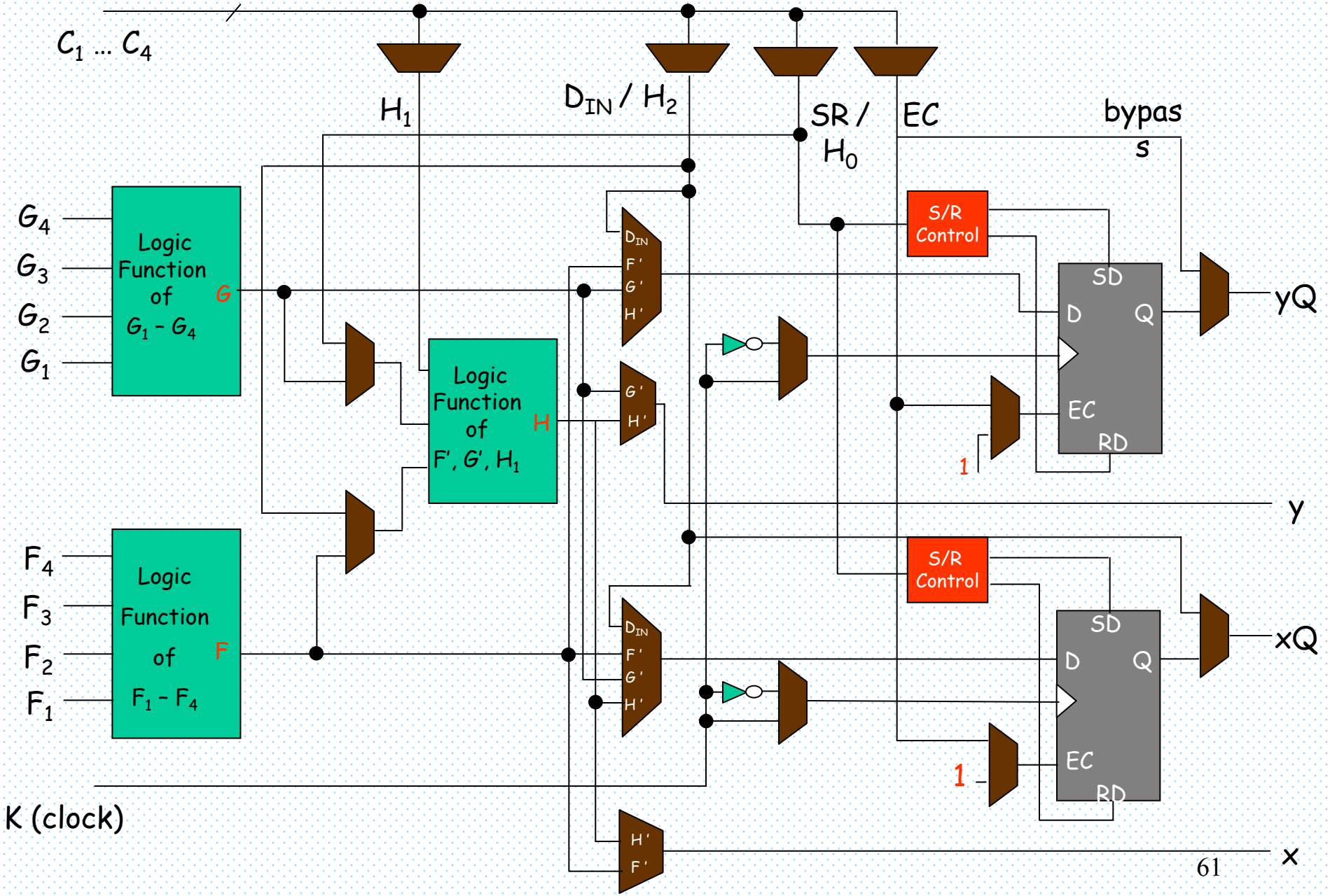
Basics of FPGA



Basics of FPGA

- A typical FPGA consists of an array of hundreds or thousands of configurable logic blocks (CLB)
  - CLBs are connected to each other via programmable interconnections
- CLBs are surrounded by I/O blocks for basic communication with outside world.
- CLBs consists of look-up tables, multiplexers, gates, and flip flops
- look-up table
  - is a truth table stored in a SRAM
  - provides the combinational circuit functions for the logic block.
  - It is like a ROM implemented as SRAM

Xilinx XC 4000 CLB



Xilinx XC 4000 CLB

- Main components in XC 4000 CLB
  - Two 16 × 1 RAM blocks
  - One 8 × 1 RAM block
    - RAM can be used as LUT to implement combinational logic through truth tables
  - Two edge-triggered D flip-flops
    - Can also be configured as latches
  - Several multiplexers to configure the interconnection within the CLB.

LUTs in FPGA

- Using three function generators F, G, and H
  - A single CLB can implement any Boolean function of five variables and some functions of up to nine variables
  - It has nine logic inputs: F_1, F_2, F_3, F_4, G_1, G_2, G_3, G_4, and H_1.
  - General form of Boolean function of five variables: $H = F(F_1, F_2, F_3, F_4)\cdot H_1' + G(F_1, F_2, F_3, F_4)\cdot H_1$
- In some 4000 CLBs, LUTs can be configured as memory block
  - One 32×1 module
  - Dual ported 16×1 memory module

Design with Programmable Devices

- Requires CAD tools
- Entry tools
  - For entering a design
  - schematic entry package
  - Hardware description languages (HDL)
    - VHDL, Verilog, ABEL,
- Synthesis tools
  - allocate
  - configure
  - connect logic blocks