

Photo: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universe>

HW 4 due this Friday, Feb 20 (10:00pm)

Midterm 1 next Tuesday

Quiz 5?

Scope: reg. exp., DFA, NFA

## Class 10: Universal Circuits

University of Virginia  
CS3120: DMT2

<https://weikailin.github.io/cs3120-toc>

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# Universal Circuits

## Plan

Textbook [TCS] Section 3 and 4

[https://introtcs.org/public/lec\\_03\\_computation.htm](https://introtcs.org/public/lec_03_computation.htm)

Circuits and universal

# Module 2: Circuits

# A simple model of computation

Based on Boolean logical ‘gates’:

**OR(a, b): outputs 1 iff a=1 or b=1**

**AND(a, b): outputs 1 iff a=1 and b=1**

**NOT(b): outputs 1 iff b=0**

Output 0  
otherwise

# Write some “programs”

$$\text{NAND}(a, b) = \text{NOT}(\text{AND}(a, b))$$

a	b	NAND
0	0	1
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

$$\text{XOR}(a, b) = \text{AND}(\text{OR}(a, b), \text{NAND}(a, b))$$

a	b	XOR
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

# A formal programming language

**AON Straightline** programs

**Python-like language**

**Define functions that take Boolean inputs**

**Use AND/OR/NOT within**

**Assign results of AND/OR/NOT to variables**

**The result of variables can be used later as inputs**

**Return some of the obtained result(s) as output**

# More things to program

1-bit addition,  $\text{ADD}(a, b) \doteq c = \text{OR}(a, b)$

$d = \text{AND}(a, b)$

$c = \text{NOT}(d)$

$\text{return} = \text{AND}(c, e)$

1-bit addition with carry,  $\text{ADD}(a, b)$  outputs  $(c, d)$

$\text{carry} = \text{AND}(a, b)$

$\text{Return} (\text{carry}, \text{AND}(c, e))$

# Towards Algorithms

Example: “median”

**Median is 1 if at least half of inputs are 1**

Math definition of MED on 3 inputs:  $\text{MED}(a_1, a_2, a_3)$

# Computing MED using And/Or/Not

$$\not\models P_1 = \text{AND}(a_1, a_2)$$

$$P_2 = \text{AND}(a_2, a_3)$$

$$P_3 = \text{AND}(a_3, a_1)$$

$$O_1 = \text{OR}(P_1, P_2)$$

$$O_2 = \text{OR}(O_1, P_3)$$

return  $O_2$

# NAND Straightline Programs

Like AON straightline programs

Difference: we can only use NAND

AND using NAND

OR      ...    -

NOT     : - —

NOT(a) :

return NAND(a, ~~a~~)

YES

AND(a, b) :

c = NAND(a, b)

ret NOT(c)

# NAND Straightline = AON Straightline

## AON to NAND

$$x = \text{NAND}(a, b)$$

*Becomes*

$$\text{temp} = \text{AND}(a, b)$$

$$x = \text{NOT}(\text{temp})$$

## NAND to AON

$$x = \text{NOT}(a)$$

*Becomes*

$$x = \text{NAND}(a, a)$$

$$x = \text{AND}(a, b)$$

*Becomes*

$$\text{temp} = \text{NAND}(a, b)$$

$$x = \text{NAND}(\text{temp}, \text{temp})$$

$$x = \text{OR}(a, b)$$

*Becomes*

$$t1 = \text{NAND}(a, a)$$

$$t2 = \text{NAND}(b, b)$$

$$x = \text{NAND}(t1, t2)$$

# NAND Straightline = AON Straightline

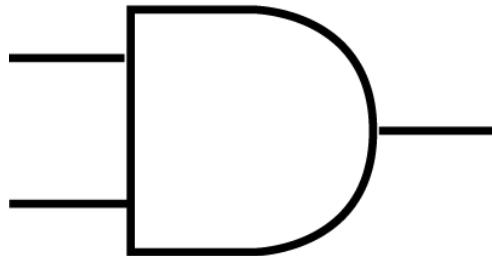
What could be benefits of each of them?

# num of gates

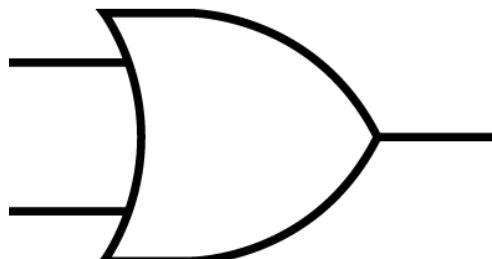
# Circuits

# Another approach: Boolean Circuits

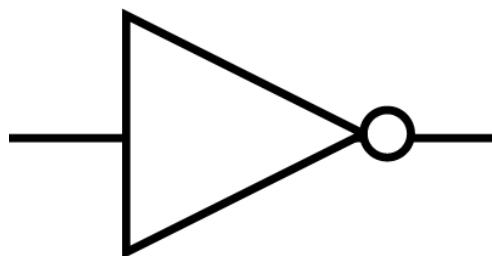
AND



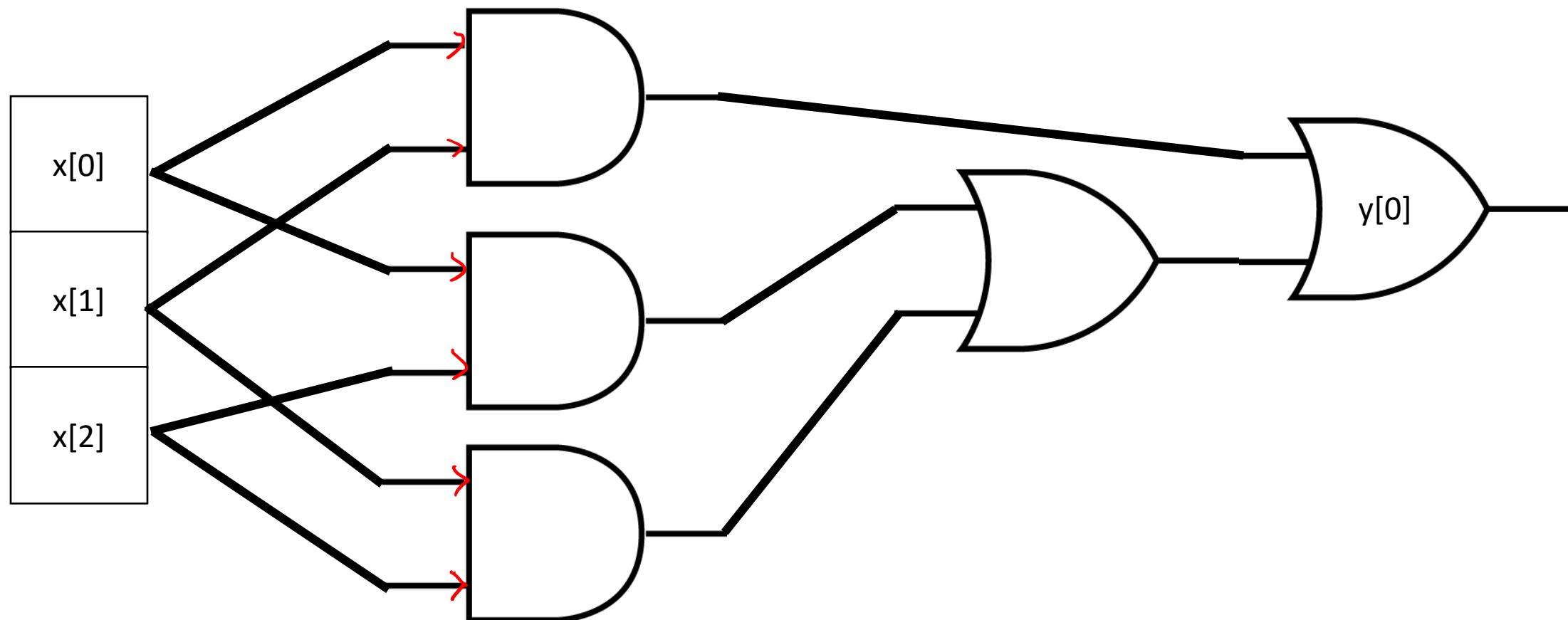
OR



NOT



# Median with Boolean Circuits



# Formal Definition of Boolean Circuits

A Boolean circuit with  $n$  inputs,  $m$  outputs, and  $s$  gates is a *directed acyclic graph*

Exactly  $n$  nodes have no in-neighbors (these are **inputs**,  
label them  $x[0], \dots, x[n-1]$ )

All remaining  $s$  nodes have a label **AND**, **OR**, **NOT**. AND and  
OR gates have two in-neighbors, NOT gates have one in-  
neighbor

Exactly  $m$  gates are denoted as outputs (label them  $y[0], \dots,$   
 $y[m-1]$ )

# Computing with a Boolean Circuit

Assign gates into *layers* such that gate  $x$  appears before gate  $y$  whenever  $x$  has an outgoing edge that's an incoming edge of  $y$

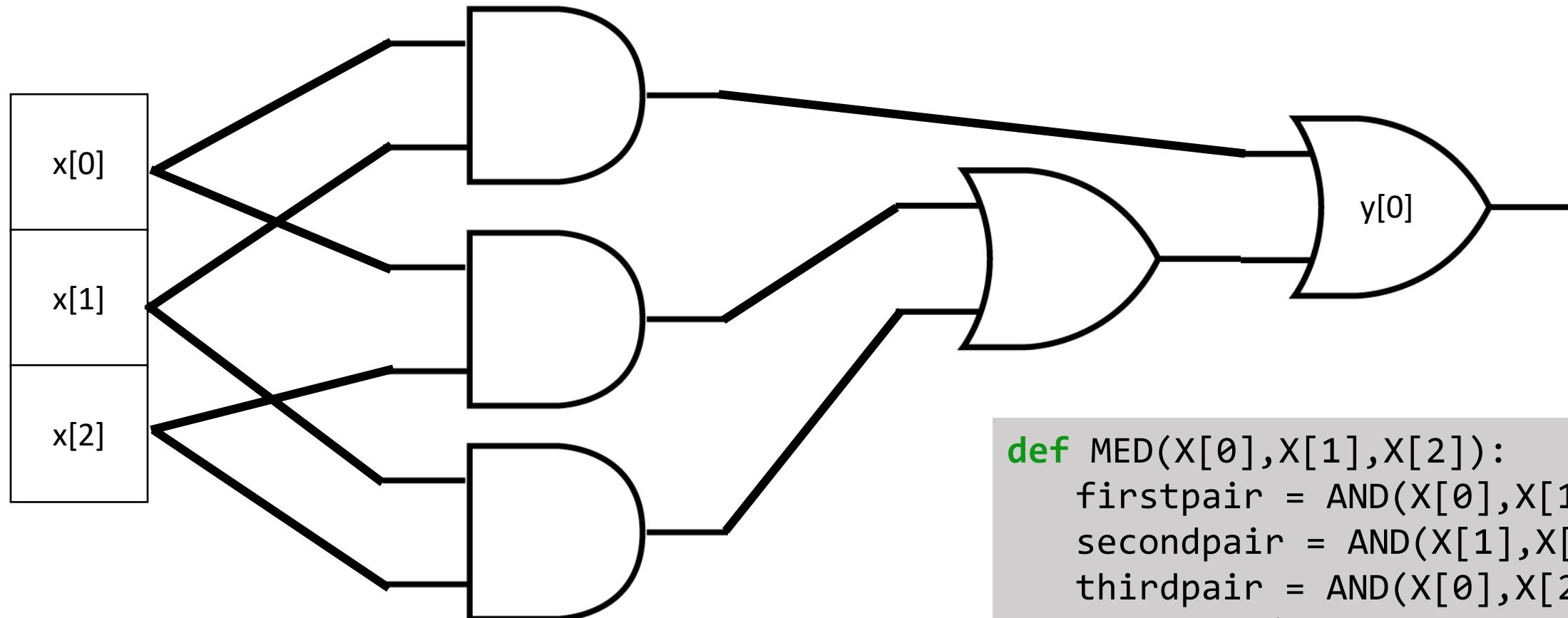
For each input node  $x[i]$ , assign its value to be bit  $i$  in the input

For each gate (considered in order of layers), assign as its value the result of its labelled operation applied to its in-neighbor(s)

The result is the bit-string given by the values of the output gates

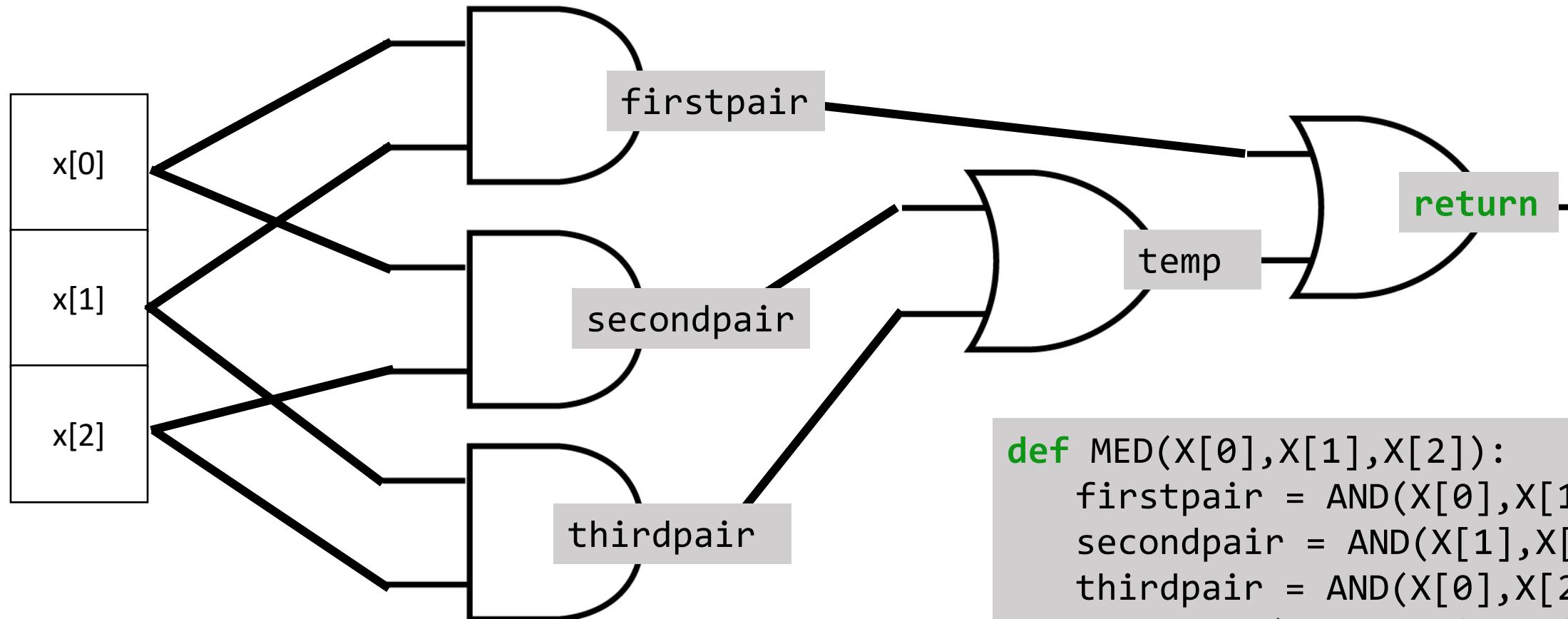
# Median with Boolean Circuits

→ AON straightline program



```
def MED(X[0],X[1],X[2]):  
    firstpair = AND(X[0],X[1])  
    secondpair = AND(X[1],X[2])  
    thirdpair = AND(X[0],X[2])  
    temp = OR(secondpair,thirdpair)  
    return OR(firstpair,temp)
```

# Median with Boolean Circuits → AON straightline program



```
def MED(X[0],X[1],X[2]):  
    firstpair = AND(X[0],X[1])  
    secondpair = AND(X[1],X[2])  
    thirdpair = AND(X[0],X[2])  
    temp = OR(secondpair,thirdpair)  
    return OR(firstpair,temp)
```

# **Circuits equivalent to AON Straightline**

How do we show this?

**Show how to convert any circuit to an AON straightline  
that computes the same function**

**Show how to convert any AON straightline to a circuit  
that computes the same function**

# Circuit to Straightline (saw an example)

Circuit inputs are straightline inputs already

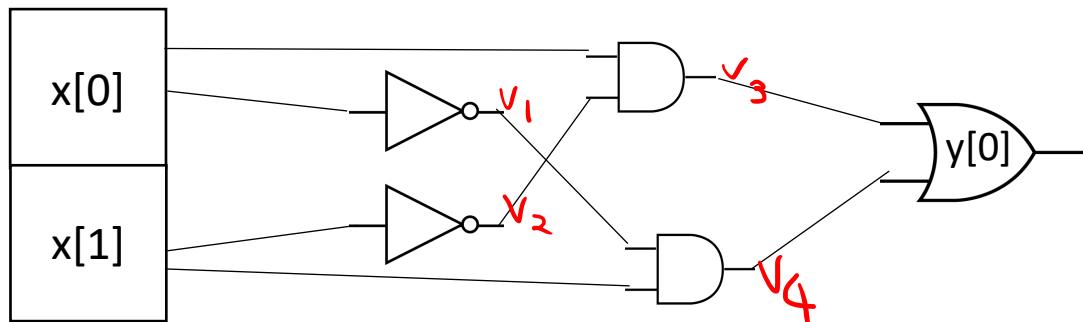
Each gate gets a variable

Value of that variable is result of applying the operation of that gate to the variables of the in-neighbors

Output is variable values of the output gates

# Another example: XOR

Circuit



0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

Program

$\text{let } (x_0, x_1)$   
 $v_1 = \text{NOT}(x_0)$   
 $v_2 = \text{NOT}(x_1)$   
 $v_3 = \text{AND}(x_0, v_2)$   
 $v_4 = \text{AND}(x_1, v_1)$   
ret  $\text{OR}(v_3, v_4)$

# AON-Straightline to Circuit

Straightline inputs become circuit inputs

Each variable becomes a gate

The type of gate is given by the RHS of the assignment  
in the AON program

The in-neighbors of the gate are the gates represented  
by the operand variables

The output gates are the ones represented by return  
variables

# Observations (2<sup>nd</sup> one as important)

Everything function computable by a circuit is also computable by a straightline program (and vice-versa)

Every function computable by a straightline program with  $s$  variables is computable by a circuit with  $s$  gates (and the converse)

# Universality

# What does it mean for a Gate Set to be *Universal*?

Theorem 3.12 (**NAND** is a **universal** operation)

For every Boolean circuit  $C$  of  $s$  gates, there exists a NAND circuit  $C'$  of at most  $3s$  gates that computes the same function as  $C$ .

**Definition 3.20 (General straight-line programs)**

Let  $\mathcal{F} = \{f_0, \dots, f_{t-1}\}$  be a finite collection of Boolean functions, such that  $f_i : \{0, 1\}^{k_i} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  for some  $k_i \in \mathbb{N}$ . An  $\mathcal{F}$  program is a sequence of lines, each of which assigns to some variable the result of applying some  $f_i \in \mathcal{F}$  to  $k_i$  other variables. As above, we use  $x[i]$  and  $y[j]$  to denote the input and output variables.

We say that  $\mathcal{F}$  is a **universal** set of operations (also known as a **universal** gate set) if there exists a  $\mathcal{F}$  program to compute the function *NAND*.

**(Informal) Definition.** We say a computation model is *universal* if for **any** finite function  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^m$ , there is an “instance” of the model that computes  $f$ .

Theorem:  
AON circuits is universal.

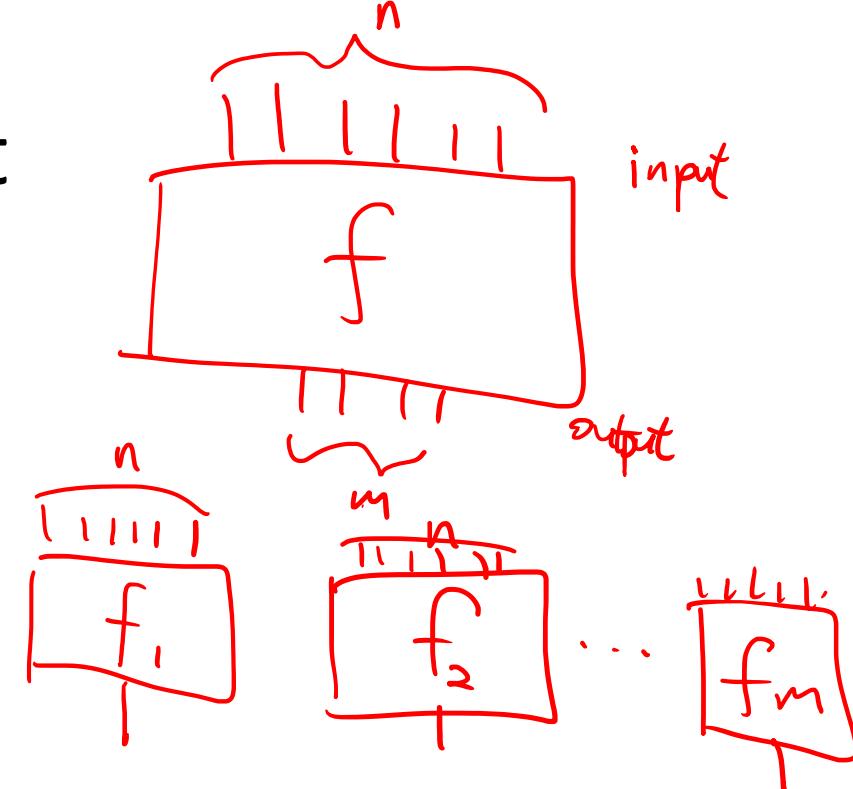
Corollary:  
NAND is universal.

**Goal: Compute  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^m$**

Let  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m$  be functions such that

$$f_i: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

$f_i(x)$  is the  $i$ th bit of  $f(x)$



# Goal: Compute $f: \underline{\{0,1\}^n} \rightarrow \{0,1\}$

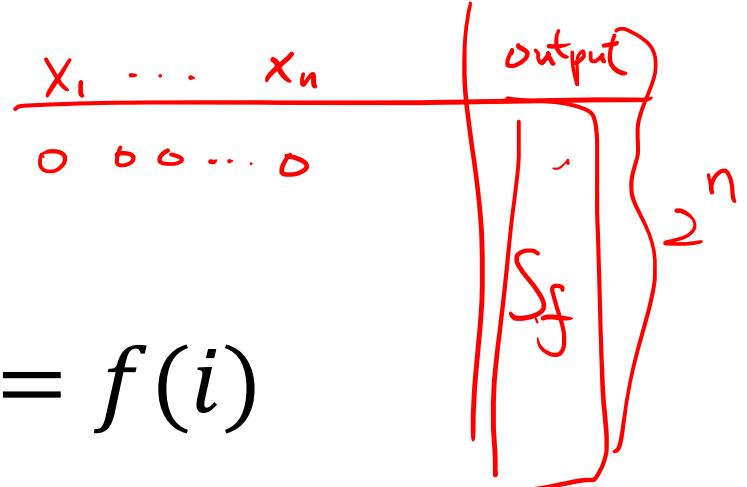
(Also called “Boolean” functions)

Represent  $f$  as a string  $s_f$ :

$$s_f = b_0 b_1 \dots b_{2^n - 1}, \quad b_i = f(i)$$

We have  $f(i) = s_f[i]$

$\underset{n\text{-bit}}{\text{number in } \mathbb{N}}$   $[2^n] = \{0, 1 \dots, 2^n - 1\}$



Can we implement “array” using AON gates?

Want: LOOKUP( $s, i$ ) outputs  $s[i]$

# Array: $\text{LOOKUP}_k(s, i)$

$k: 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$s: 2^k$ -bit string,  $s = b_0 b_1 \dots b_{2^k - 1}$

$i: k$ -bit string, representing  $0, 1, \dots, 2^k - 1$

$\text{LOOKUP}_k(s, i)$  outputs  $s[i] = b_i$

$k$  determines  $\text{len}(s)$  and  $\text{len}(i)$   
No need comma as input

# Tool: IF(cond, a, b)

Output a if cond = 1

Output b if cond = 0

AON circuit  
implements IF

cond	a	b	IF(cond, a, b)
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

# Circuit: LOOKUP<sub>1</sub>(s, i)

k: 1,2,3,...

s =  $b_0 b_1 \dots b_{2^k-1}$

i represent 0, 1, ...,  $2^k - 1$

outputs s[i] =  $b_i$

$$\text{LOOKUP}_1(s, \underbrace{i}_{\frac{2^1}{1}}) = \text{LOOKUP}_1(\underline{b_0 b_1}, i)$$

return IF(i,  $b_1$ ,  $b_0$ )

input of f      f itself

$$1(a) \\ = \text{OR}(a, \text{NOT}(a))$$

$k: 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$s = b_0 b_1 \dots b_{2^k - 1}$

$i$  represent  $0, 1, \dots, 2^k - 1$

outputs  $s[i] = b_i$

# Circuit: $\text{LOOKUP}_2(s, i)$

$$\text{LOOKUP}_2(s, \underline{i}) = \text{LOOKUP}_2(\underline{\underline{b_0 b_1 b_2 b_3}}_s, \underline{\underline{i}}_{= \underline{i_1} \underline{i_2}})$$

IF ( $\underline{i_1}$ ,  $\text{LOOKUP}_1 (\underline{\underline{b_2 b_3}}, \underline{i_2})$ ,  
 $\text{LOOKUP}_1 (\underline{b_0 b_1}, \underline{i_2})$ )

# Circuit: $\text{LOOKUP}_k(s, i)$

$k: 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$s = b_0 b_1 \dots b_{2^k - 1}$

$i$  represent  $0, 1, \dots, 2^k - 1$

outputs  $s[i] = b_i$

$$\text{LOOKUP}_k(s, i) = \text{LOOKUP}_k(b_0 b_1 \dots b_{2^k - 1}, i)$$

Recurse!

# Circuit: $\text{LOOKUP}_k(s, i)$

$k: 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$s = b_0 b_1 \dots b_{2^k - 1}$

$i$  represent  $0, 1, \dots, 2^k - 1$

outputs  $s[i] = b_i$

$\text{LOOKUP}_k(s, i)$ :

$\text{first\_half} = \text{LOOKUP}_{k-1}(s[0:2^{k-1}], i[1:k])$

$\text{second\_half} = \text{LOOKUP}_{k-1}(s[2^{k-1}:2^k], i[1:k])$

**return**  $\text{IF}(i[0], \text{second\_half}, \text{first\_half})$

in 10 gates of A/O/N

$\text{Size}(\text{LOOKUP}_k) = O(2^k)$

$S(k) = 2S(k-1) + O(1)$

~~$S(1) = O(1)$~~

Theorem:

AON circuit is universal.

$S(1) = 10$

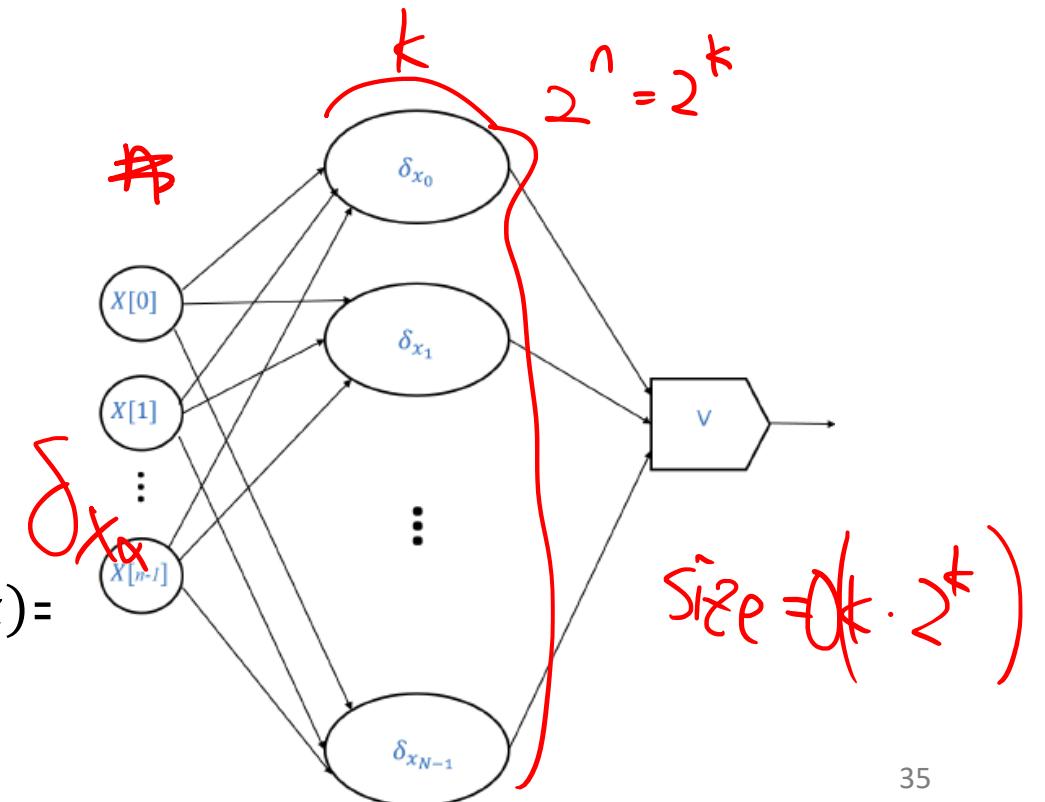
# A simpler proof of universality of {AND,OR,NOT}

For  $\alpha \in \{0,1\}^n$ , the delta function  $\delta_\alpha(X) = 1$  iff  $x = \alpha$

Function  $\delta_\alpha(X)$  can be computed by a circuit of size  $O(n)$

To implement function  $f$ ,  
we use the following approach:

$$f(X) = \bigvee_{\alpha \in \{0,1\}^n, f(\alpha)=1} \delta_\alpha$$



**(Informal) Definition.** We say a computation model is *universal* if for **any** finite function  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^m$ , there is an “instance” of the model that computes  $f$ .

## Why do we want Universal Models?

**Definition:** We say that a gate set  $\mathcal{G}$  is a *universal set of operations* (also known as a universal gate set) if there exists a  $\mathcal{G}$  program to compute the function NAND.

(Textbook, Definition 3.20)



# Plan

**Midterm 1 review**  
**Non-universal gates**  
**Circuit size hierarchy**

[TCS] Textbook, Section 3 to 4

- [https://introtcs.org/public/lec\\_03\\_computation.html](https://introtcs.org/public/lec_03_computation.html)

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Quiz 5    ~~next Mon~~    Sun