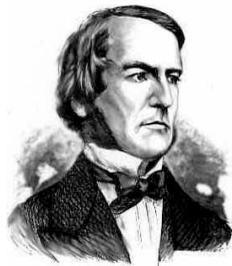
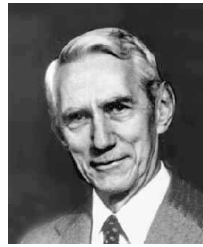


## 6. Combinational Circuits



George Boole (1815 - 1864)



Claude Shannon (1916 - 2001)

## Building Blocks

Q. What is a digital system?

A. Digital: signals are 0 or 1.

← analog: signals vary continuously

Q. Why digital systems?

A. Accurate, reliable, fast, cheap.

Basic abstractions.

- On, off.
- Wire: propagates on/off value.
- Switch: controls propagation of on/off values through wires.

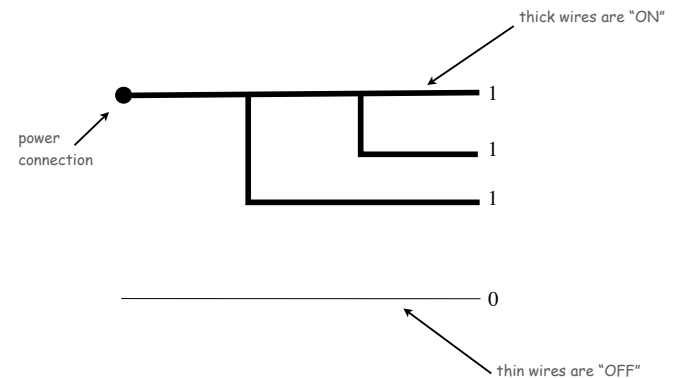
Applications. Cell phone, iPod, antilock brakes, **microprocessors**, ...



## Wires

Wires.

- ON (1): connected to power.
- OFF (0): not connected to power.
- If a wire is connected to a wire that is on, that wire is also on.
- Typical drawing convention: "flow" from top, left to bottom, right.



## Controlled Switch

### Controlled switch.

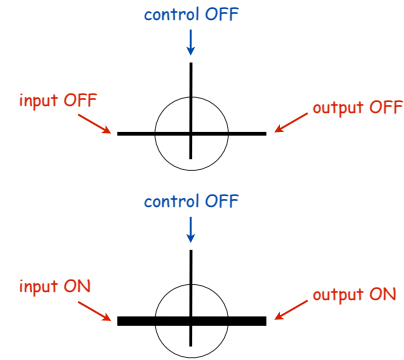
- 3 connections: input, output, control.

5

## Controlled Switch

### Controlled switch.

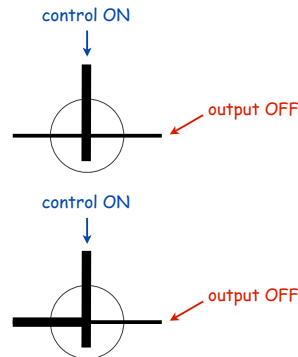
- 3 connections: input, output, control.
- control OFF: output is **connected** to input



## Controlled Switch

### Controlled switch.

- 3 connections: input, output, control.
- control ON: output is **disconnected** from input

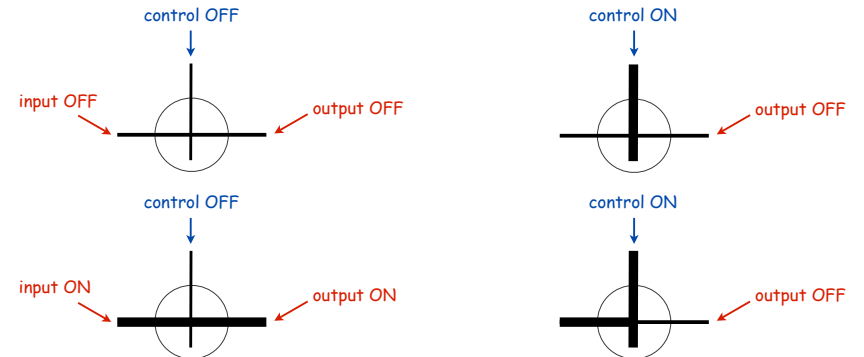


7

## Controlled Switch

### Controlled switch.

- 3 connections: input, output, control.
- control OFF: output is **connected** to input
- control ON: output is **disconnected** from input



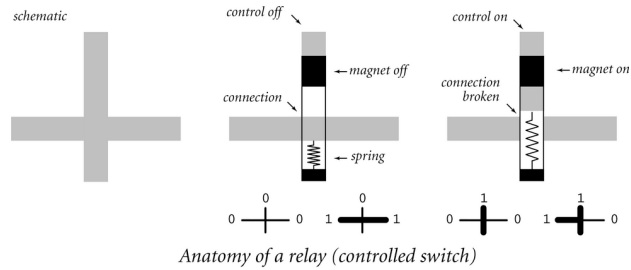
idealized model of "pass transistors" found in real integrated circuits

8

## Implementing a Controlled Switch

### Relay implementation.

- 3 connections: input, output, control.
- Magnetic force pulls on a contact that cuts electrical flow.



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## First Level of Abstraction

### Separates physical world from logical world.

- we assume that switches operate as specified
- that is the only assumption
- physical realization of switch is irrelevant to design

### Physical realization dictates performance

- size
- speed
- power

New technology **immediately** gives new computer.

Better switch? Better computer.

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## Controlled Switches: A First Level of Abstraction

### Some amusing attempts to prove the point:

Technology	"Information"	Switch
pneumatic	air pressure	
fluid	water pressure	
relay	electric potential	

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## Controlled Switches: A First Level of Abstraction

### Real-world examples that prove the point:

technology	switch
relay	
vacuum tube	
transistor	
"pass transistor" in integrated circuit	
atom-thick transistor	

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# Controlled Switches: A First Level of Abstraction ?

# Circuit Anatomy

VLSI = Very Large Scale Integration

Technology:

Deposit materials on substrate.

Key property:

Crossing lines are controlled switches.

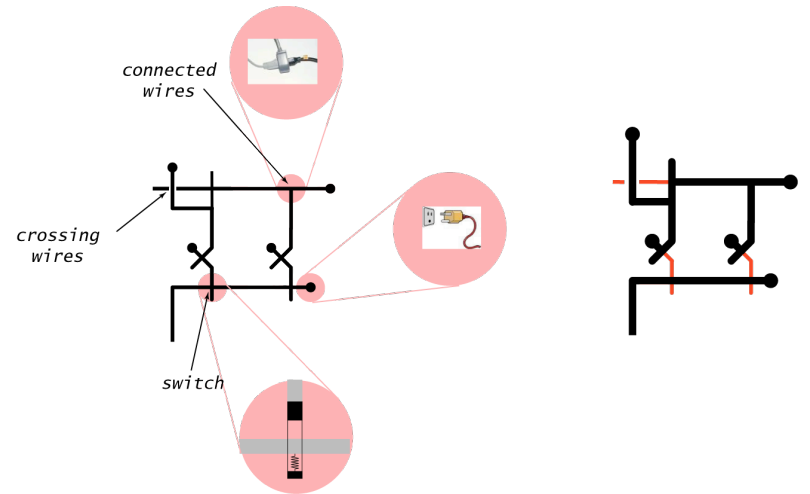
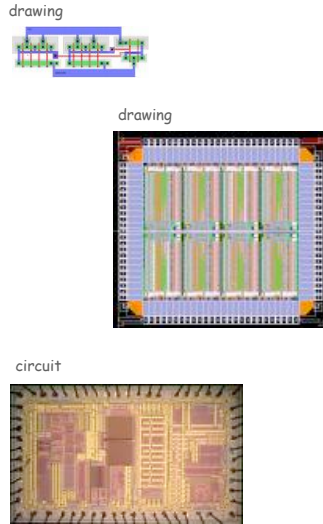
Key challenge in physical world:

Fabricating physical circuits with billions of controlled switches

Key challenge in "abstract" world:

Understanding behavior of circuits with billions of controlled switches

Bottom line: Circuit = Drawing (!)

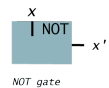


need more "levels of abstraction" to understand circuit behavior

## Second Level of Abstraction: Logic Gates

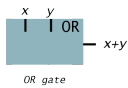
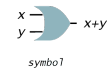
**NOT = x'**

x	NOT
0	1
1	0



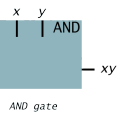
**OR = x+y**

x	y	OR
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1



**AND = xy**

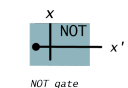
x	y	AND
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1



## Second Level of Abstraction: Logic Gates

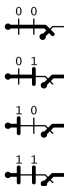
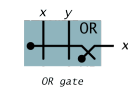
**NOT = x'**

x	NOT
0	1
1	0



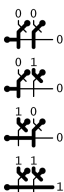
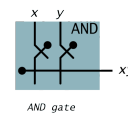
**OR = x+y**

x	y	OR
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1



**AND = xy**

x	y	AND
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

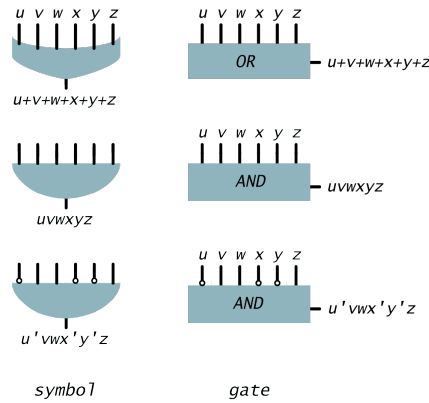


implementations with switches

## Multiway Gates

### Multiway gates.

- OR: 1 if any input is 1; 0 otherwise.
- AND: 1 if all inputs are 1; 0 otherwise.
- Generalized: negate some inputs.

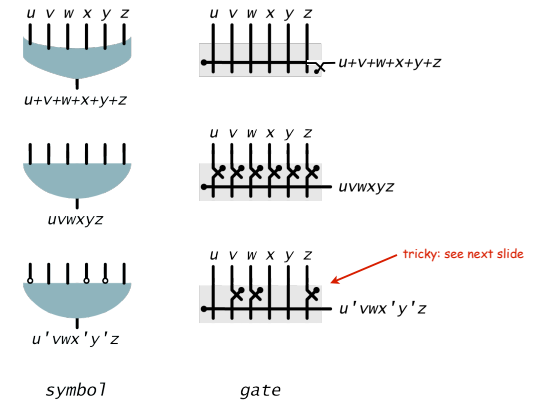


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## Multiway Gates

### Multiway gates.

- OR: 1 if any input is 1; 0 otherwise.
- AND: 1 if all inputs are 1; 0 otherwise.
- Generalized: negate some inputs.



18

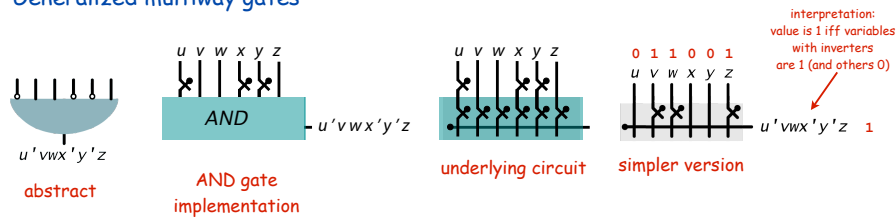
## Building blocks (summary)

### Wires

### Controlled switches

### Gates

### Generalized multiway gates



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## Boolean Algebra

# Boolean Algebra

## History.

- Developed by Boole to solve mathematical logic problems (1847).
- Shannon master's thesis applied it to digital circuits (1937).

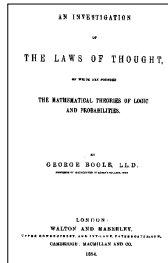
← "possibly the most important, and also the most famous, master's thesis of the [20th] century" — Howard Gardner

## Boolean algebra.

- Boolean variable: value is 0 or 1.
- Boolean function: function whose inputs and outputs are 0, 1.

## Relationship to circuits.

- Boolean variable: signal.
- Boolean function: circuit.



# Boole Orders Lunch



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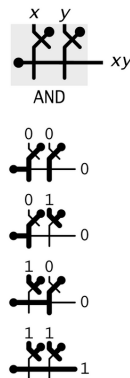
# Truth Table

## Truth table.

- Systematic method to describe Boolean function.
- One row for each possible input combination.
- $n$  inputs  $\Rightarrow 2^n$  rows.

$x$	$y$	$xy$
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

AND truth table



# Truth Table for Functions of 2 Variables

## Truth table.

- 16 Boolean functions of 2 variables.

← every 4-bit value represents one

$x$	$y$	ZERO	AND	$x$	$y$	XOR	OR
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1

truth table for all Boolean functions of 2 variables

$x$	$y$	NOR	EQ	$y'$	$x'$	NAND	ONE
0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1

truth table for all Boolean functions of 2 variables

## Truth Table for Functions of 3 Variables

### Truth table.

- 16 Boolean functions of 2 variables.
- 256 Boolean functions of 3 variables.
- $2^{(2^n)}$  Boolean functions of  $n$  variables!

- ← every 4-bit value represents one
- ← every 8-bit value represents one
- ← every  $2^n$ -bit value represents one

x	y	z	AND	OR	MAJ	ODD
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	1
0	1	0	0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0	1	0	1
1	0	1	0	1	1	0
1	1	0	0	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1

some functions of 3 variables

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## Universality of AND, OR, NOT

**Fact.** Any Boolean function can be expressed using *AND, OR, NOT*.

- $\{AND, OR, NOT\}$  are **universal**.
- Ex:  $XOR(x, y) = xy' + x'y$ .

notation	meaning
$x'$	<i>NOT</i> x
$x y$	x <i>AND</i> y
$x + y$	x <i>OR</i> y

Expressing XOR Using AND, OR, NOT

x	y	$x'$	$y'$	$x'y$	$xy'$	$x'y + xy'$	x XOR y
0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Exercise.** Show  $\{AND, NOT\}$ ,  $\{OR, NOT\}$ ,  $\{NAND\}$  are universal.

**Hint.** DeMorgan's law:  $(x' y')' = x + y$ .

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## Sum-of-Products

**Sum-of-products.** Systematic procedure for representing a Boolean function using *AND, OR, NOT*.

- Form *AND* term for each 1 in Boolean function.
- *OR* terms together.

↑  
proves that  $\{AND, OR, NOT\}$   
are universal

x	y	z	MAJ	$x'y'z$	$xy'z$	$xyz'$	$xyz$	$x'y'z + xy'z + xyz' + xyz$
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1

expressing MAJ using sum-of-products

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## Translate Boolean Formula to Boolean Circuit

**Sum-of-products.** XOR.

$$XOR = x'y + xy'$$

x	y	XOR
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

Truth table



Circuit

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## Translate Boolean Formula to Boolean Circuit

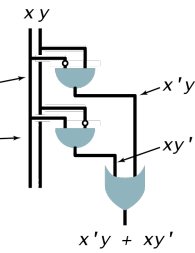
Sum-of-products. *XOR*.

Key transformation from abstract to real circuit

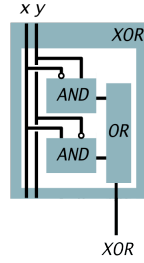
$$XOR = x'y + xy'$$

x	y	XOR
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

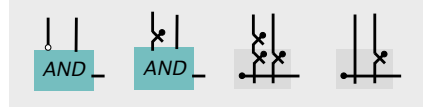
Truth table



Abstract circuit



Circuit



## Translate Boolean Formula to Boolean Circuit

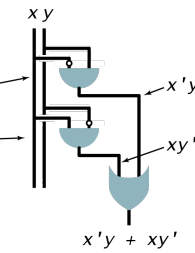
Example 1. *XOR*.

Key transformation from abstract to real circuit

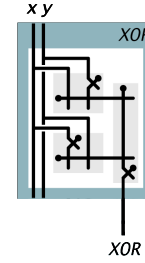
$$XOR = x'y + xy'$$

x	y	XOR
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

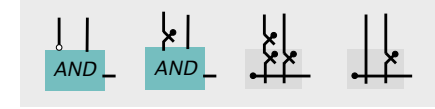
Truth table



Abstract circuit



Circuit



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## Translate Boolean Formula to Boolean Circuit

Example 2. Majority.

$$MAJ = x'yz + xy'z + xyz' + xyz$$

x	y	z	MAJ
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

Truth table



Circuit

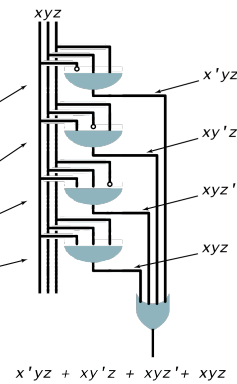
## Translate Boolean Formula to Boolean Circuit

Example 2. Majority.

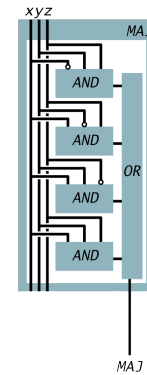
$$MAJ = x'yz + xy'z + xyz' + xyz$$

x	y	z	MAJ
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

Truth table



Abstract circuit



Circuit

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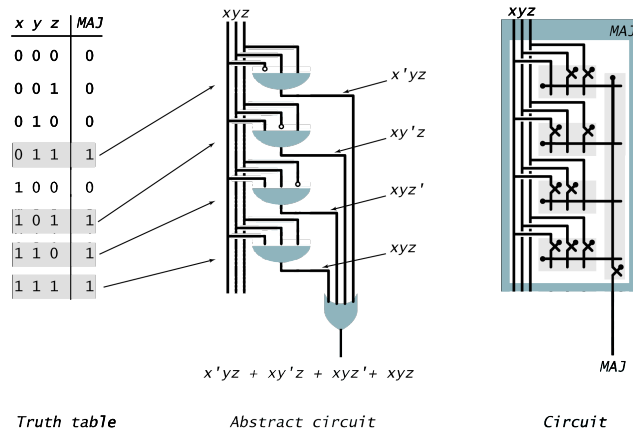
32



## Translate Boolean Formula to Boolean Circuit

### Example 2. Majority.

$$MAJ = x'yz + xy'z + xyz' + xyz$$

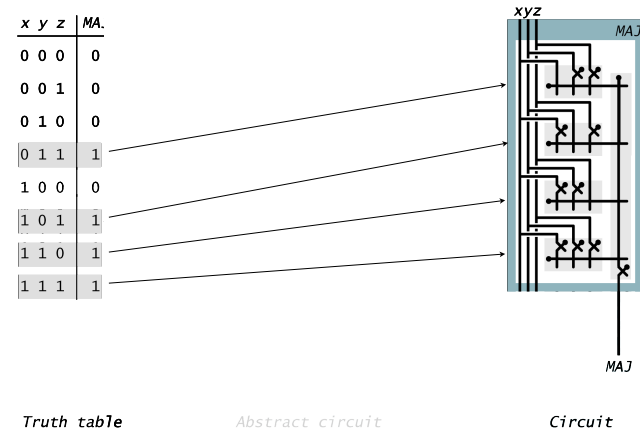


33

## Translate Boolean Formula to Boolean Circuit

### Example 2. Majority.

$$MAJ = x'yz + xy'z + xyz' + xyz$$



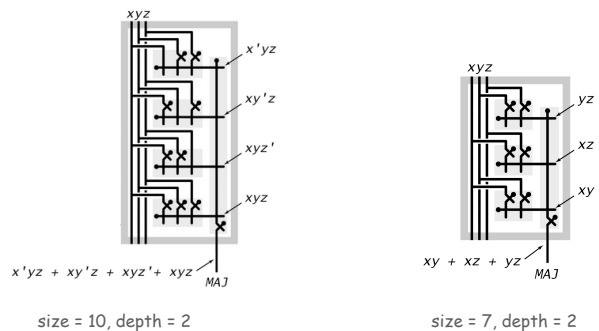
34

## Simplification Using Boolean Algebra

Many possible circuits for each Boolean function.

- Sum-of-products not necessarily optimal in:
  - number of switches (space)
  - depth of circuit (time)

Ex.  $MAJ(x, y, z) = x'yz + xy'z + xyz' + xyz = xy + yz + xz$ .



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## Combinational Circuit Design: Summary

Problem: Compute the value of a boolean function

Ingredients.

- AND gates.
- OR gates.
- NOT gates.
- Wire.

Instructions.

- Step 1: represent input and output signals with Boolean variables.
- Step 2: construct truth table to carry out computation.
- Step 3: derive (simplified) Boolean expression using sum-of products.
- Step 4: transform Boolean expression into circuit.

Bottom line (profound idea):

It is easy to design a circuit to compute ANY boolean function.

Caveat (stay tuned): Circuit might be huge.

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## Translate Boolean Formula to Boolean Circuit

### Example 3. Odd parity

- 1 if odd number of inputs are 1.
- 0 otherwise.

$x$	$y$	$z$	$ODD$	$x'y'z$	$x'y'z'$	$xy'z'$	$xyz$	$x'y'z + x'y'z' + xy'z' + xyz$
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1

Expressing  $ODD$  using sum-of-products

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## Translate Boolean Formula to Boolean Circuit

### Example 3. Odd parity

- 1 if odd number of inputs are 1.
- 0 otherwise.

$$MAJ = x'yz + xy'z + xyz' + xyz$$

$$ODD = x'y'z + x'y'z' + xy'z' + xyz$$

$x$	$y$	$z$	$MAJ$
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1



$x$	$y$	$z$	$ODD$
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1



38

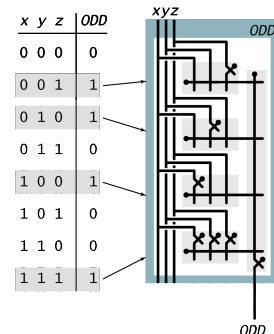
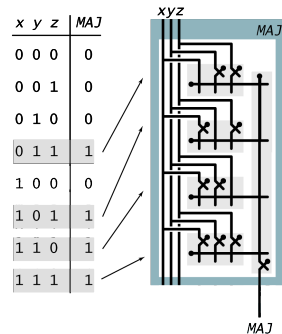
## Translate Boolean Formula to Boolean Circuit

### Example 3. Odd parity

- 1 if odd number of inputs are 1.
- 0 otherwise.

$$MAJ = x'yz + xy'z + xyz' + xyz$$

$$ODD = x'y'z + x'y'z' + xy'z' + xyz$$



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## Adder Circuit

## Let's Make an Adder Circuit

Goal.  $x + y = z$  for 4-bit integers.

- We build 4-bit adder: 9 inputs, 4 outputs.
- Each output bit is a **boolean function** of the inputs.
- Standard method applies.

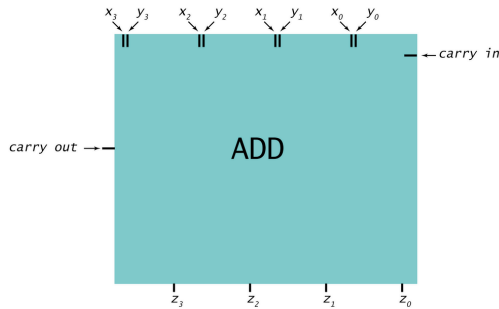
same idea scales to 64-bit adder in your computer

1	1	1	0	
2	4	8	7	
+	3	5	7	9
<hr/>				
6	0	6	6	

1	1	0	0	
0	0	1	0	
+	0	1	1	1
<hr/>				
1	0	0	1	

	$x_3$	$x_2$	$x_1$	$x_0$
+	$y_3$	$y_2$	$y_1$	$y_0$
<hr/>				
	$z_3$	$z_2$	$z_1$	$z_0$

Step 1. Represent input and output in binary.



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## Let's Make an Adder Circuit

Goal.  $x + y = z$  for 4-bit integers.

Step 2. [first attempt]

- Build truth table.

$c_{out}$	$x_3$	$x_2$	$x_1$	$x_0$
+	$y_3$	$y_2$	$y_1$	$y_0$
<hr/>				
	$z_3$	$z_2$	$z_1$	$z_0$

4-bit adder truth table

$c_0$	$x_3$	$x_2$	$x_1$	$x_0$	$y_3$	$y_2$	$y_1$	$y_0$	$z_3$	$z_2$	$z_1$	$z_0$
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

$2^{8+1} = 512$  rows!

Q. Why is this a bad idea?

A. 128-bit adder:  $2^{256+1}$  rows  $\gg$  # electrons in universe!

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## Let's Make an Adder Circuit

Goal.  $x + y = z$  for 4-bit integers.

Step 2. Do one bit at a time!

- Build truth table for carry bit.
- Build truth table for summand bit.

$c_{out}$	$c_3$	$c_2$	$c_1$	$c_0 = 0$
	$x_3$	$x_2$	$x_1$	$x_0$
+	$y_3$	$y_2$	$y_1$	$y_0$
<hr/>				
	$z_3$	$z_2$	$z_1$	$z_0$

carry bit

$x_i$	$y_i$	$c_i$	$c_{i+1}$
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

summand bit

$x_i$	$y_i$	$c_i$	$z_i$
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1

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## Let's Make an Adder Circuit

Goal.  $x + y = z$  for 4-bit integers.

Step 3. A surprise!

- carry bit is **majority function**
- summand bit is **odd parity function**.

$c_{out}$	$c_3$	$c_2$	$c_1$	$c_0 = 0$
	$x_3$	$x_2$	$x_1$	$x_0$
+	$y_3$	$y_2$	$y_1$	$y_0$
<hr/>				
	$z_3$	$z_2$	$z_1$	$z_0$

carry bit

$x_i$	$y_i$	$c_i$	$c_{i+1}$	MAJ
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0
0	1	0	0	0
0	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	1	1
1	1	0	1	1
1	1	1	1	1

summand bit

$x_i$	$y_i$	$c_i$	$z_i$	ODD
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1	1
0	1	0	1	1
0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	0
1	1	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1

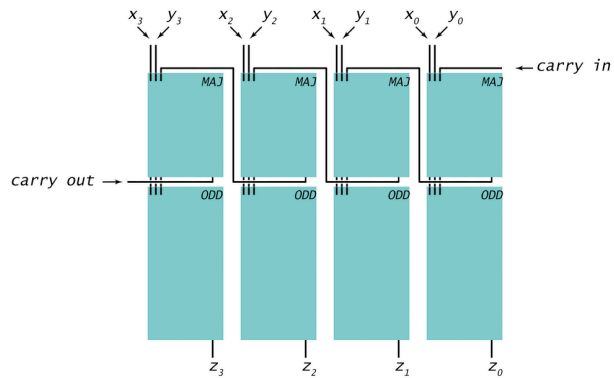
44

## Let's Make an Adder Circuit

Goal.  $x + y = z$  for 4-bit integers.

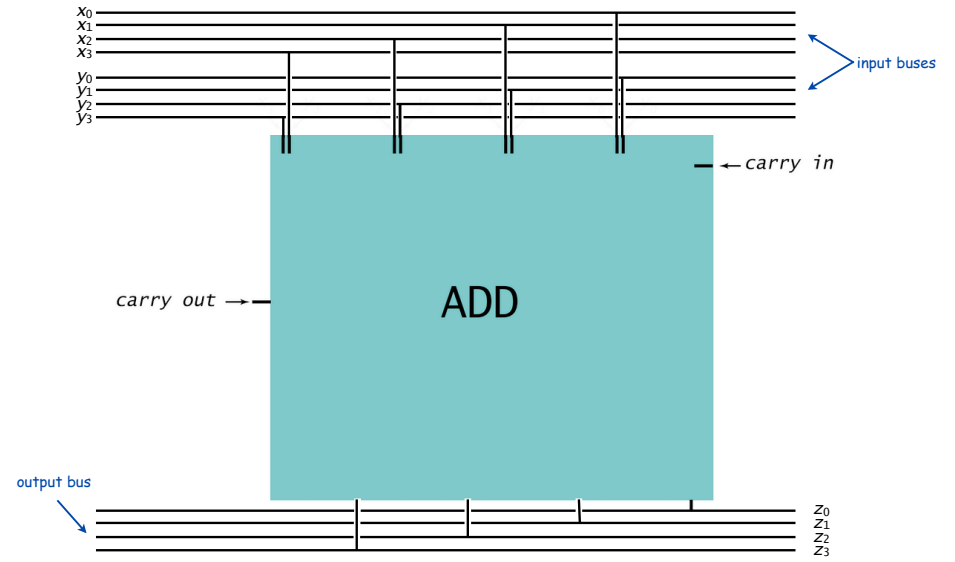
### Step 4.

- Transform Boolean expression into circuit (use known components!).
- Chain together 1-bit adders.
- That's it!



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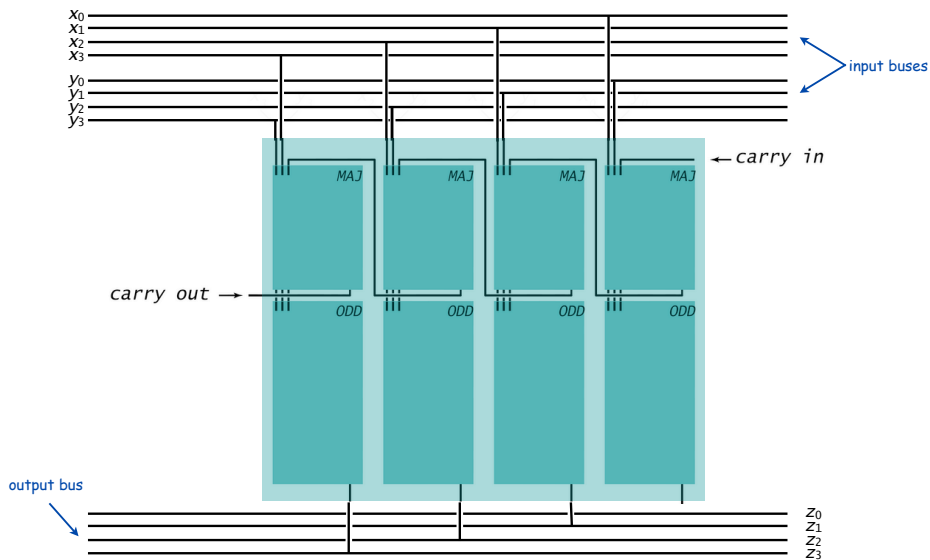
## Adder: Interface



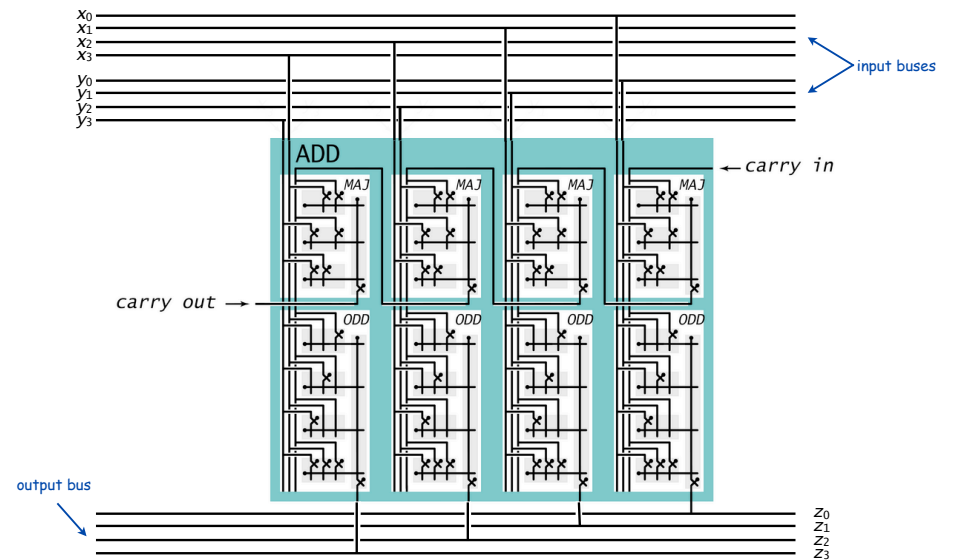
A bus is a group of wires that connect (carry data values) to other components.

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## Adder: Component Level View

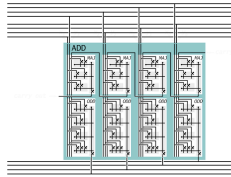


## Adder: Switch Level View

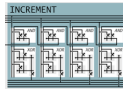


## Useful Combinational Circuits

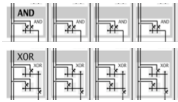
Adder



Incrementer (easy, add 0001)

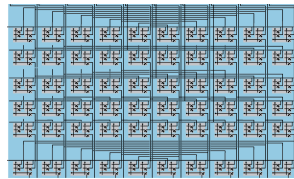


Bitwise AND, XOR (easy)



Decoder [next slide]

Shifter (clever, but we'll skip details)



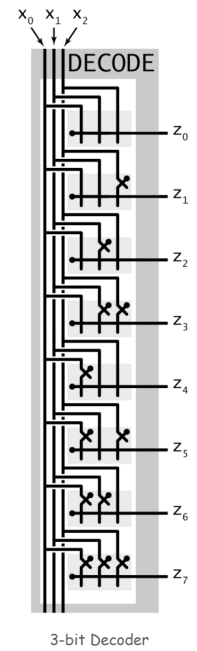
Multiplexer [next lecture]

## Decoder

Decoder. [n-bit]

- n address inputs,  $2^n$  data outputs.
- Addressed output bit is 1; others are 0.
- Compact implementation of n Boolean functions

$x_0$	$x_1$	$x_2$	$z_0$	$z_1$	$z_2$	$z_3$	$z_4$	$z_5$	$z_6$	$z_7$
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1



3-bit Decoder

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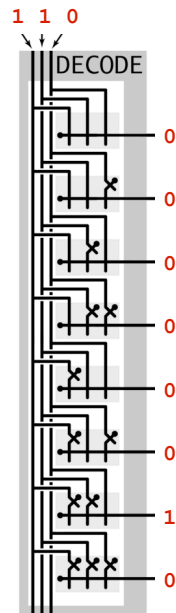
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## Decoder

Decoder. [n-bit]

- n address inputs,  $2^n$  data outputs.
- Addressed output bit is 1; others are 0.
- Compact implementation of n Boolean functions

$x_0$	$x_1$	$x_2$	$z_0$	$z_1$	$z_2$	$z_3$	$z_4$	$z_5$	$z_6$	$z_7$
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1



3-bit Decoder

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## Decoder application: Your computer's ALU!

ALU: Arithmetic and Logic Unit

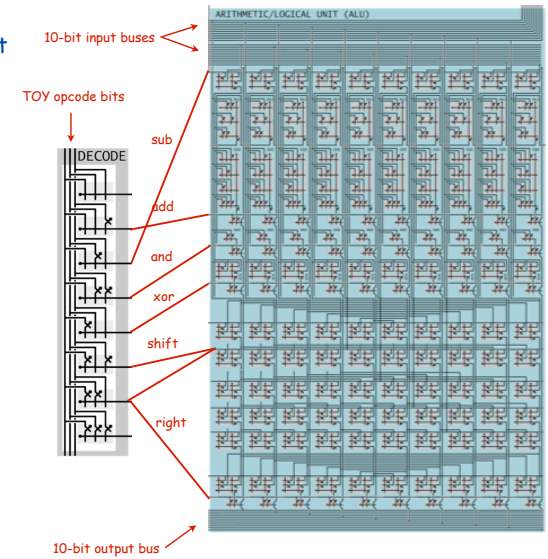
- implements instructions
- input, output connects to registers via buses

Ex: TOY-Lite (10 bit words)

- 1: add
- 2: subtract
- 3: and
- 4: xor
- 5: shift left
- 6: shift right

Details:

- All circuits compute their result.
- Decoder lines AND all results.
- "one-hot" OR collects answer.



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## Summary

Lessons for software design apply to hardware design!

- Interface describes behavior of circuit.
- Implementation gives details of how to build it.

Layers of abstraction apply with a vengeance!

- On/off.
- Controlled switch. [relay, transistor]
- Gates. [AND, OR, NOT]
- Boolean circuit. [MAJ, ODD]
- Adder.
- Shifter.
- Arithmetic logic unit.
- ...
- TOY machine (stay tuned).
- Your computer.

