

Chapter 9 Asynchronous Sequential Logic

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Chapter 9 Asynchronous Sequential Logic

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9.1 Introduction

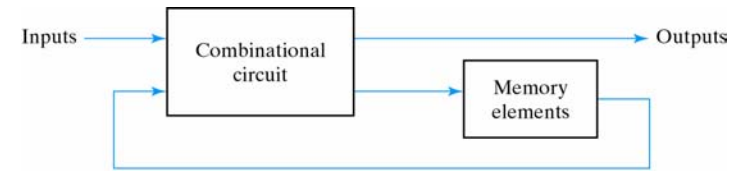
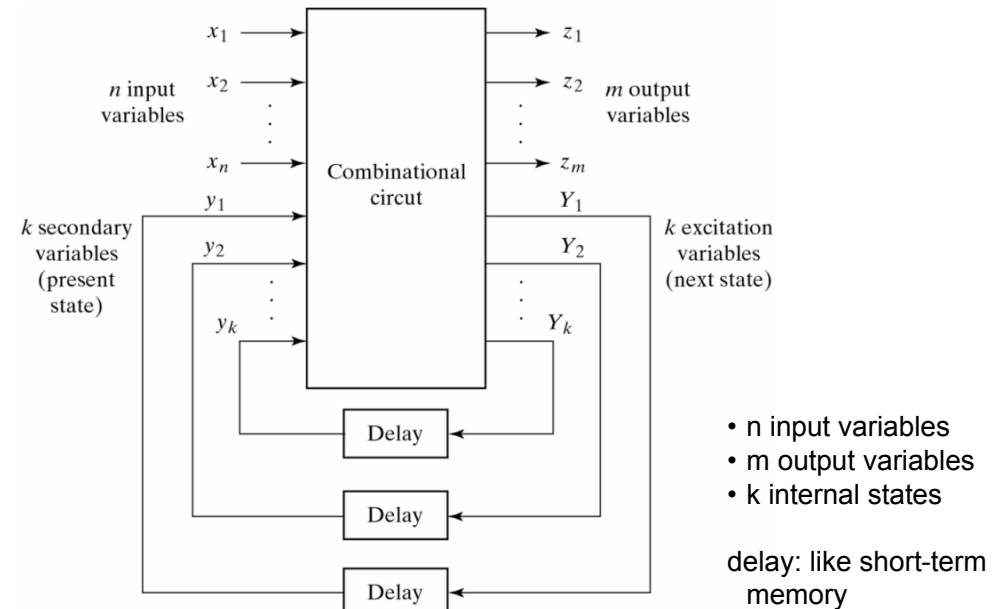


Fig. 5-1 Block Diagram of Sequential Circuit

Two major types of sequential circuits: depending on timing of their signals

- **Asynchronous sequential circuits**
 - The transition happens at **any** instant of time
 - Do not use clock pulses. Change of internal state occurs when there is a change in input variables
 - Instability problem: may become unstable at times
 - Storage elements work as time-delay device
 - May be regarded as a combinational circuit with feedback
- **Synchronous sequential circuits**
 - The transition happens at **discrete** instants of time
 - The circuit responds only to pulses on particular inputs
 - Storage elements are affected only with the arrival of each pulse

Block Diagram of an Asynchronous Sequential Circuit



- n input variables
- m output variables
- k internal states

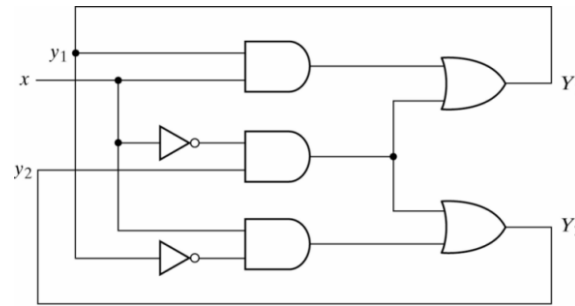
delay: like short-term memory

Asynchronous Sequential Circuits

- Timing Problems
 - synchronous circuit: eliminated by triggering all flip-flops with the pulse edge
 - asynchronous circuit: change immediately after input changes
- Asynchronous Sequential Circuits
 - no clock pulse
 - difficult to design
 - delay elements: the propagation delay
 - must attain a stable state before the input is changed to a new value
- DO NOT use asynchronous sequential circuits unless it is absolutely necessary
 - e.g., in you exam

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Figure 9-2 Asynchronous Sequential Circuit Example



1. Excitation variables as outputs and secondary variables as inputs
 $Y_1 = xy_1 + x'y_2$
 $Y_2 = xy_1' + x'y_2$
2. Plot functions in a map
3. Combine all maps into a **transition table**
 - stable state: $y=y_1y_2$ (circled)
4. Complete the state table
 - check if unstable states will reach a stable state finally

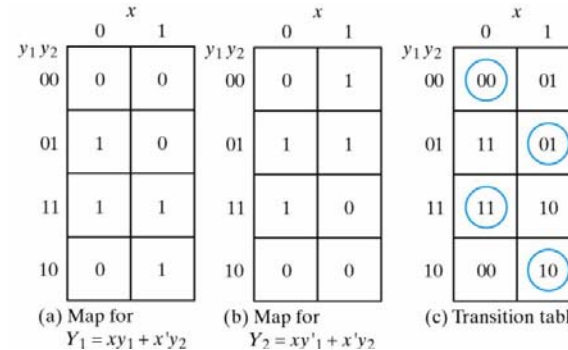


Table 9-1
State Table for the Circuit of Fig.9-2

Present State	Next State	
	x = 0	x = 1
0 0	0 0	0 1
0 1	1 1	0 1
1 1	1 1	1 0
1 0	0 0	1 0

9-2 Analysis Procedure

- The procedure
 1. Determine all feedback loops
 2. Assign Y_i 's (excitation variables), y_i 's (secondary variables)
 3. Derive the **Boolean functions** of all Y_i 's
 4. Plot each Y function in a **map**
 - the y variables for the rows
 - the external variable for the columns
 5. Combine all the maps into one **transition table**
 - showing the value of $Y=Y_1Y_2...Y_k$ inside each square
 6. Circle the stable states and derive the **state table**
 - those values of Y that are equal to $y=y_1y_2...y_k$ in the same row

Asynchronous sequential circuit (vs. sequential circuit)

- Total state of the circuit: combine internal state with input value
 - eg. Figure 9-3(c) has 4 stable total states: $y_1y_2x=000, 011, 110,$ and $101,$ and 4 unstable total states: $001, 010, 111,$ and 100
- There usually is at least one stable state in each row

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Flow Table

- A flow table
 - a state transition table with its internal state being symbolized with letters
 - Figure 9-4(a) is called a **primitive flow table** because it has only one stable state in each row
 - Figure 9-4(b): two states, a and b; two inputs, x_1 and x_2 ; and one output, z

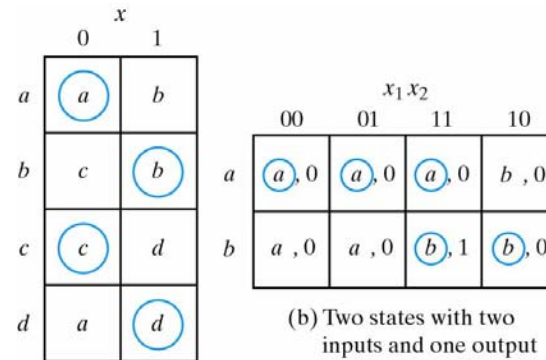


Figure 9-4(b)

- If $x_1=0$, the circuit is in state a
- If x_1 goes to 1 while x_2 is 0, the circuit goes to b
- With inputs $x_1x_2=11$, it may be in either in state a or state b, and output 0 or 1, respectively
- Maintain in state b if the inputs change from 10 to 11 and maintain in state a if the inputs changes from 01 to 11

(a) Four states with one input

Figure 9-4. Examples of Flow Tables

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Derivation of a Circuit Specified by Flow Table

- state assignment \Rightarrow state equation \Rightarrow logic diagram

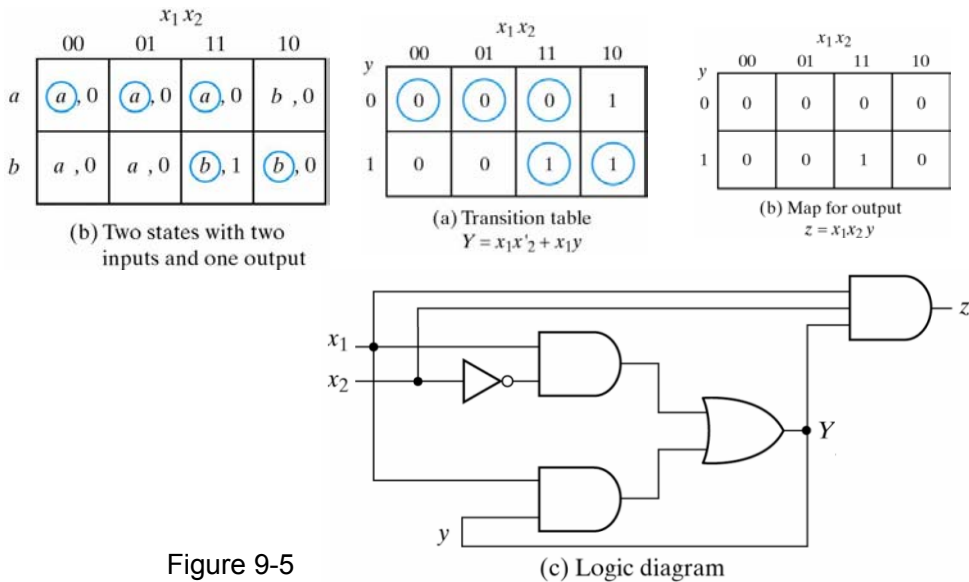
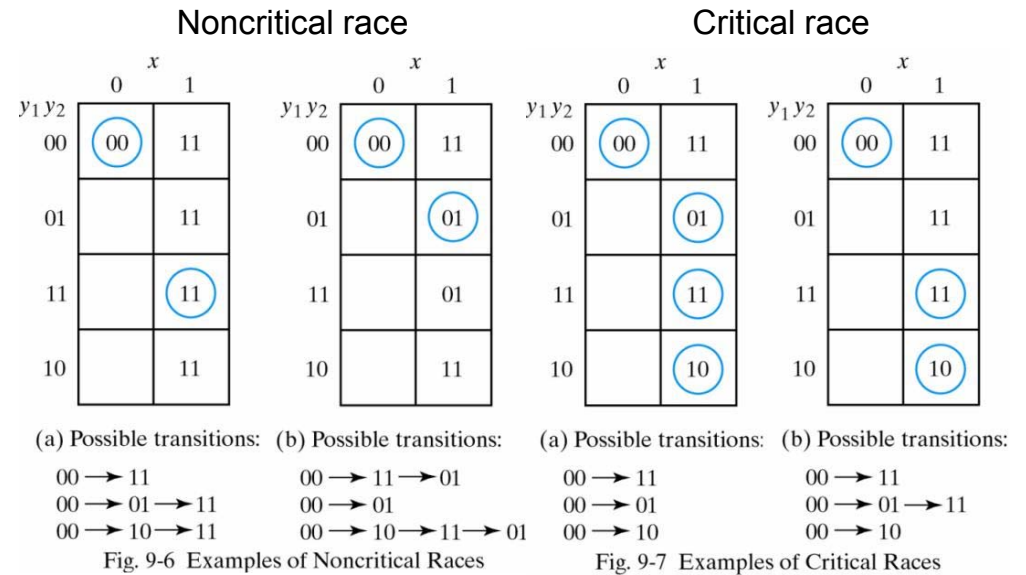


Figure 9-5

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Example of Race Conditions



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Race Conditions

- Race condition
 - occur when two or more binary state variables change value in response to a change in an input variable
 - When unequal delays are encountered, a race condition may cause the state variables to change in an unpredictable manner
 - y_1, y_2, \dots, y_i may change in unpredictable manner in response to a change in x_i
- $00 \rightarrow 11$
 - $00 \rightarrow 10 \rightarrow 11$ or $00 \rightarrow 01 \rightarrow 11$
- a noncritical race
 - if they reach the same final state
 - otherwise, a **critical race**: end up in two or more different stable states

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Figure 9-8 Examples of Cycles

- Races may be avoided
 - race-free assignment: only 1 state can change at any one time (Section 9-6)
 - Directing the circuit through inserting intermediate unstable states with a unique state-variable change
- A cycle: When a circuit goes through a unique sequence of unstable states

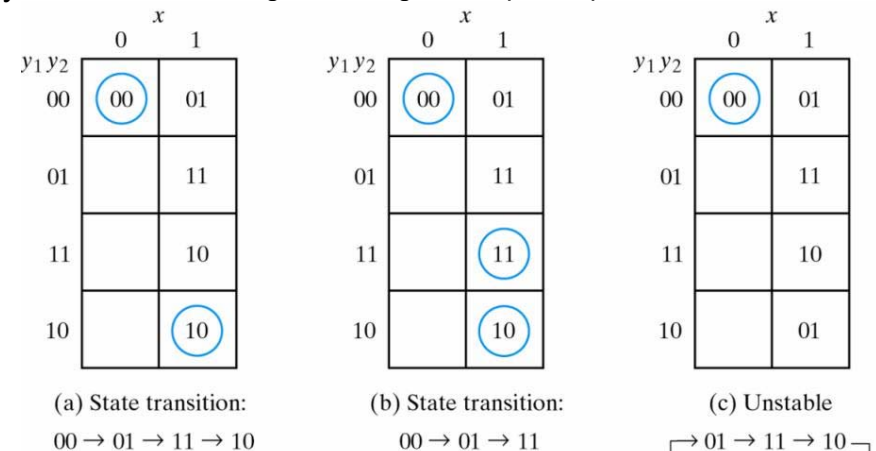


Fig. 9-8 Examples of Cycles

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Stability Considerations

- An unstable condition will cause the circuit to oscillate between unstable state
 - Care must be taken to ensure that the circuit does not become unstable
 - a square waveform generator?

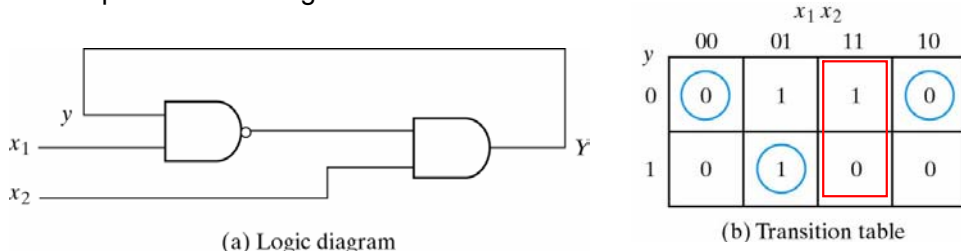


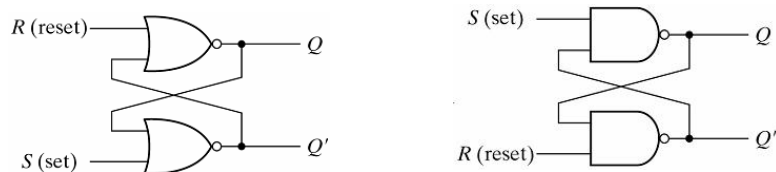
Fig. 9-9 Example of an Unstable Circuit

- Column 11 has no stable states: with input $x_1 x_2$ fixed at 11, the values of Y and y are never the same
 - State variable alternates between 0 and 1 indefinitely as long as input=11
- If each gate has a propagation delay of 5 ns, Y will be 0 for 10 ns and 1 for next 10 ns, resulting a square-wave waveform with 20 ns period, or 50MHz

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9-3 Circuits with Latches

- Asynchronous sequential circuits
 - were known and used before synchronous design
- SR Latch
 - the use of SR latches in asynchronous circuits produces a more orderly pattern
 - the memory elements clearly visible
 - reduce the circuit complexity
 - two cross-coupled NOR gates or NAND gates



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SR Latch with Two Cross-coupled NOR Gates

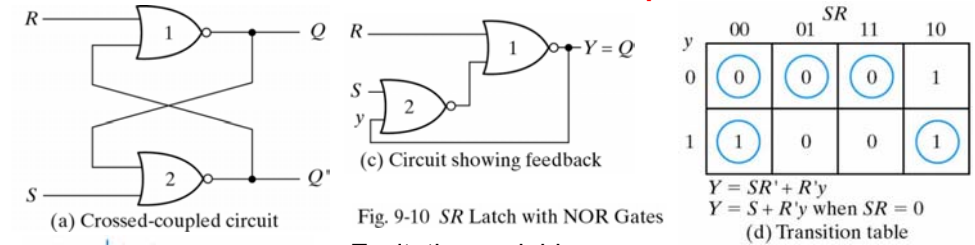


Fig. 9-10 SR Latch with NOR Gates

- Excitation variable:
 - $Y = ((S+y)' + R)' = (S+y)R' = SR' + R'y$
- Derive the state transition table
 - With $SR=10$, output $Q=Y=1$
 - changing S to 0 $\Rightarrow Q$ remains 1
 - With $SR=01$, output $Q=Y=0$
 - changing R to 0 $\Rightarrow Q$ remains 0
 - With $SR=11$, $Q=Q'=0$
 - violate Q and Q' are the complement of each other
 - an unpredictable result when $SR: 11 \rightarrow 00$
 - if S goes to 0 first, Q remains 0
 - if R goes to 0 first, Q goes to 1
- To analyze a circuit with an SR latch, first check the condition $SR=0$ holds at all times
- Then use the reduced excitation function $Y=S+R'y$ to analyze the circuit
- If both S and R can be 1 at the same time, use the original excitation function

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S'R' Latch with NAND Gates

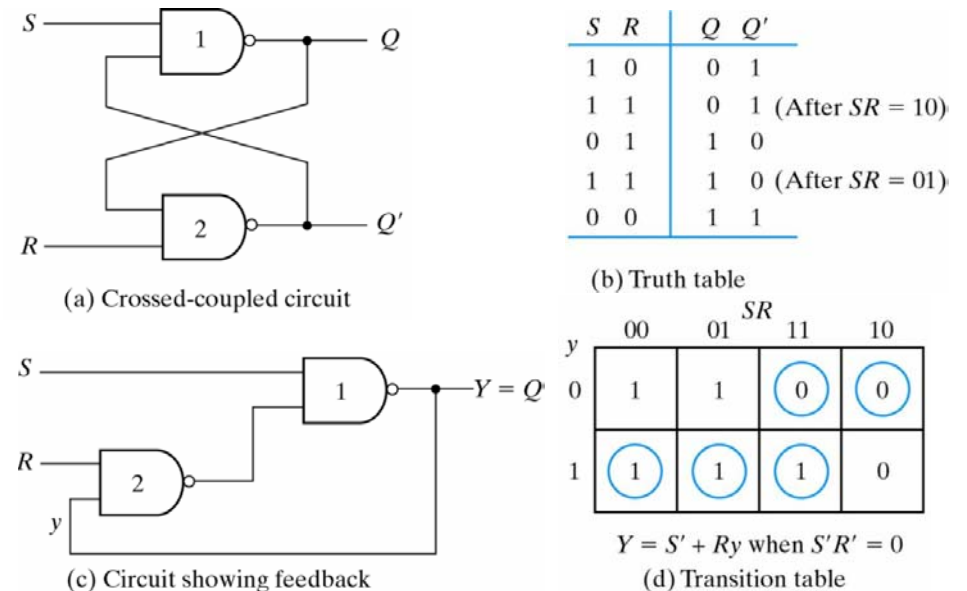
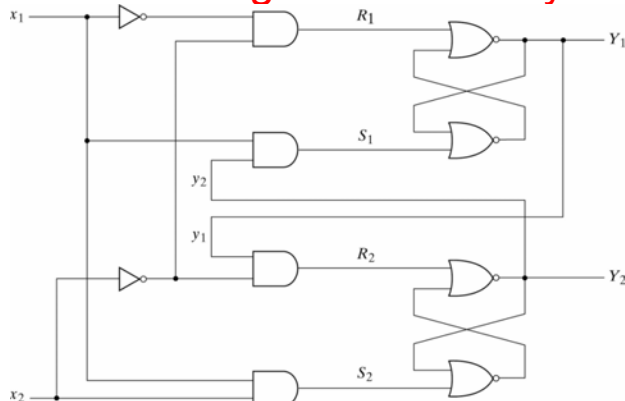


Figure 9-11

Excitation variable: $Y = [S(Ry)]' = S' + Ry$

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Figure 9-12 Analysis Example



- First obtain S and R inputs
 $S_1 = x_1 y_2$ $S_2 = x_1 x_2$
 $R_1 = x_1' x_2'$ $R_2 = x_2' y_1$
- Check if $SR=0$ is satisfied
 $S_1 R_1 = x_1 y_2 x_1' x_2' = 0$
 $S_2 R_2 = x_1 x_2 x_2' y_1 = 0$

$y_1 y_2$	$x_1 x_2$			
	00	01	11	10
00	00	00	01	00
01	01	01	11	11
11	00	11	11	10
10	00	10	11	10

- Derive the excitation functions (by $Y=S+R'y$)
 $Y_1 = S_1 + R_1' y_1 = x_1 y_2 + (x_1 + x_2) y_1 = x_1 y_2 + x_1 y_1 + x_2 y_1$
 $Y_2 = S_2 + R_2' y_2 = x_1 x_2 + (x_2 + y_1') y_2 = x_1 x_2 + x_2 y_2 + y_1' y_2$
- Derive the transition table

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Latch Excitation Table

- excitation table: lists the required inputs S and R for each of the possible transitions from y to Y
- To find the values of S and R during the design/implementation process

y	SR			
	00	01	11	10
0	0	0	0	1
1	1	0	0	1

$$Y = SR' + R'y$$

$$Y = S + R'y \text{ when } SR = 0$$

Fig. 9-10 (d) Transition table

y	Y	S	R
0	0	0	X
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1
1	1	X	0

(b) Latch excitation table

Fig. 9-14

Derived from the latch transition table of Fig. 9-10(d)

- Remove the unstable condition $SR=11$
- i.e. to change from $y=0$ to $Y=0$, SR can be either 00 or 01 \Rightarrow S must be 0

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Procedure for analyzing an asynchronous sequential circuit with SR latches

Logic circuit \Rightarrow transition table/map

1. Label each latch output with Y_i and its external feedback path (if any) with y_i for $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$
2. Derive the Boolean functions for S_i and R_i inputs in each latch
3. Check whether $SR=0$ for each NOR latch or whether $S'R'=0$ for each NAND latch
 - If not satisfied, it's possible that the circuit may not operate properly
4. Evaluate $Y=S+R'y$ for each NOR latch or $Y=S'+Ry$ for each NAND latch
5. Construct a map with the y's representing the rows and the x inputs representing the columns
6. Plot the value of $Y=Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_k$ in the map
7. Circle all stable states where $Y=y$. The resulting map is then the transition table

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Implementation Example

Transition table \Rightarrow Logic circuit

y	$x_1 x_2$			
	00	01	11	10
0	0	0	0	1
1	0	0	1	1

(a) Transition table

$$Y = x_1 x_2' + x_1 y$$

y	Y	S	R
0	0	0	X
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1
1	1	X	0

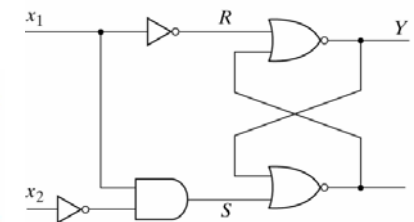
(b) Latch excitation table

y	$x_1 x_2$			
	00	01	11	10
0	0	0	0	1
1	0	0	X	X

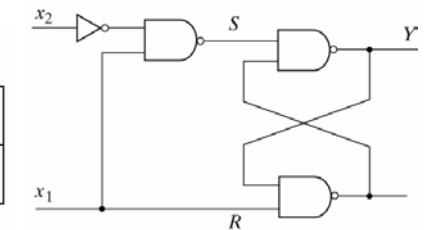
(c) Map for $S = x_1 x_2'$

y	$x_1 x_2$			
	00	01	11	10
0	X	X	X	0
1	1	1	0	0

(d) Map for $R = x_1'$



(e) Circuit with NOR latch



(f) Circuit with NAND latch

- Derive (c) and (d) from (a) by referencing (b)
- Use the complemented values for S and R of NOR latch to derive the circuit for NAND latch: $S = (x_1 x_2)'$ and $R = x_1$

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Procedure for implementing a circuit with SR latches from a given transition table

- Given a transition table that specifies the excitation function $Y = Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_k$, derive a pair of maps for S_i and R_i
- Derive the simplified Boolean functions for each S_i and R_i
 - DO NOT make S_i and R_i equal to 1 in the same minterm square
- Draw the logic diagram
 - for NAND latches, use the complemented values of those S_i and R_i

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9-4 Design Procedure

- Start from the statement of problem and culminate in a logic diagram

Example: Design specifications

- a gated latch
- two inputs, G (gate) and D (data)
- one output, Q
 - $G = 1$: Q follows D
 - $G = 0$: Q remains unchanged

- 1st step: derive transition table and flow table
 - no simultaneous transitions of two variables
 - state a: after inputs DG=01
 - state b: after inputs DG=11
 - only one stable state in each row

Table 9-2 Gated-Latch Total States

State	Inputs		Output	Comments
	D	G	Q	
a	0	1	0	$D = Q$ because $G = 1$ DG=01
b	1	1	1	$D = Q$ because $G = 1$ DG=11
c	0	0	0	After state a or d
d	1	0	0	After state c
e	1	0	1	After state b or f
f	0	0	1	After state e

DG	00	01	11	10
a		a, 0		-, -
b	-, -		b, 1	
c	c, 0		-, -	
d		-, -		d, 0
e		-, -		e, 1
f	f, 1		-, -	

DG	00	01	11	10
a	c, -	a, 0	b, -	-, -
b	-, -	a, -	b, 1	e, -
c	c, 0	a, -	-, -	d, -
d	c, -	-, -	b, -	d, 0
e	f, -	-, -	b, -	e, 1
f	f, 1	a, -	-, -	e, -

Fig. 9-16 Primitive Flow Table

Debounce Circuit

- Mechanical switch: as input signal
- Debounce circuit
 - remove the series of pulses that result from a contact bounce and produce a single smooth transition of the binary signal

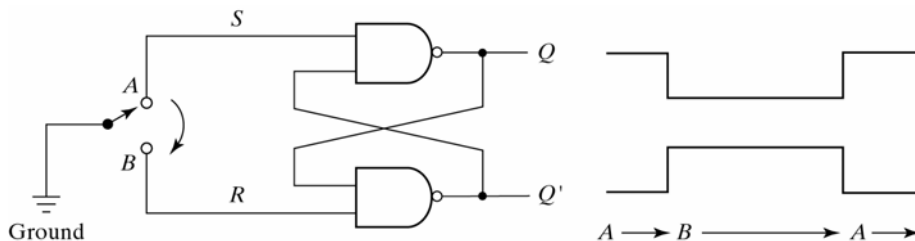


Fig. 9-15 Debounce Circuit

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Reduction of the Primitive Flow Table

- Two or more rows in the primitive flow table can be merged if there are non-conflicting states and outputs in each of columns (formal procedure is given in next section)
 - Primitive flow table is separated into two parts of three rows each

	DG			
	00	01	11	10
a	c, -	a, 0	b, -	-, -
c	c, 0	a, -	-, -	d, -
d	c, -	-, -	b, -	d, 0

	DG			
	00	01	11	10
b	-, -	a, -	b, 1	e, -
e	f, -	-, -	b, -	e, 1
f	f, 1	a, -	-, -	e, -

(a) States that are candidates for merging

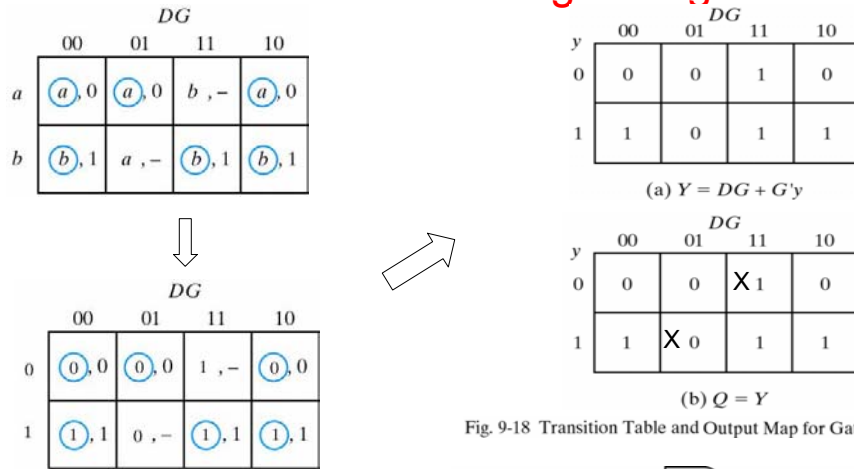
	DG			
	00	01	11	10
a, c, d	c, 0	a, 0	b, -	d, 0
b, e, f	f, 1	a, -	b, 1	e, 1

	DG			
	00	01	11	10
a	a, 0	a, 0	b, -	a, 0
b	b, 1	a, -	b, 1	b, 1

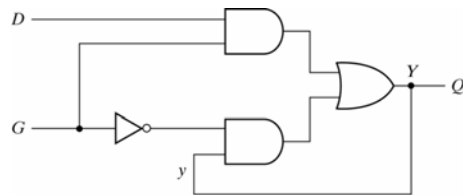
(b) Reduced table (two alternatives)

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Transition Table and Logic Diagram



- State assignment
 - discussed in details in Sec. 9-6
 - a:0, b:1
 - Assign don't care: X=1 for y=0 and X=0 for y=1 $\Rightarrow Q=Y$



Assign Outputs to Unstable States

- the unstable states have unspecified output values
- no momentary false outputs occur when circuit switches between stable states
 - 0 \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow 0 : assign 0 if the transient state between two 0 stable states
 - 1 \rightarrow 1 \Rightarrow 1 : assign 1 if the transient state between two 1 stable states
 - 0 \rightarrow 1, 1 \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow don't care: assign don't care if the transient state between two different stable states

	DG	
	00	01
a	a, 0	b, -
b	c, -	b, 0
c	c, 1	d, -
d	a, -	d, 1

0	0
X	0
1	1
X	1

(a) Flow table

(b) Output assignment

Fig. 9-21 Assigning Output Values to Unstable States

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SR Latch Implementation

	DG			
y	00	01	11	10
0	0	0	1	0
1	1	0	1	1

Fig. 9-18(a) $Y = DG + G'y$

	DG			
y	00	01	11	10
0	0	0	1	0
1	X	0	X	X

$$S = DG$$

	DG			
y	00	01	11	10
0	X	X	0	X
1	0	1	0	0

$$R = D'G$$

(a) Maps for S and R

Use the procedure outlined in Sec. 9-3

- Obtain $S=DG$ and $R=D'G$ from Fig.9-18(a) by referencing the latch excitation table

y	Y	S	R
0	0	0	X
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1
1	1	X	0

Latch excitation table

- Draw the circuit with SR latch

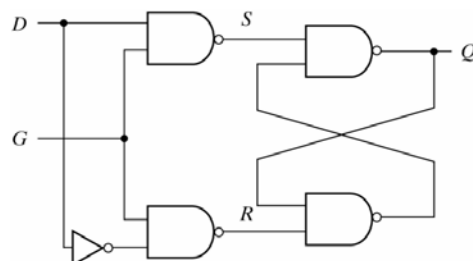


FIG. 9-20 Circuit with SR Latch

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Summary of Design Procedure

0. **Problem definition:** state the design specifications
1. **Interpretation:** Obtain a *primitive flow table* from the given design specifications (Section 9-4; most difficult)
2. **State reduction:** reduce flow table by merging rows in primitive flow table (Section 9-5; *implication table*, *merger diagram*)
 - Reduce *equivalent states* and *compatible states*
3. **State assignment:** assign binary state variables to each row of the reduced flow table to obtain the *transition table*
 - Eliminates any possible critical races (Section 9-6)
4. **Output assignment:** assign output values to the dashes associated with the unstable states to obtain the *output maps*
5. **Simplification:** Simplify the Boolean functions of the excitation and output variables and draw the *logic diagram*
 - can be drawn using SR latches (Section 9-3)

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9-5 Reduction of State and Flow Tables

- Reduction of state and flow tables
 - Equivalent states
 - Compatible states: there are unspecified states/outputs
- Equivalent states: for each input, two states
 - give exactly the same output and
 - go to the same next states or to equivalent next states
- Demonstrate
 - (a,b) are equivalent if (c,d) are equivalent
 - (a,b) *imply* (c,d)
 - (c,d) *imply* (a,b)
 - both pairs are equivalent

Table 9-3 State Table to Demonstrate Equivalent States

Present State	Next State		Output	
	x = 0	x = 1	x = 0	x = 1
a	c	b	0	1
b	d	a	0	1
c	a	d	1	0
d	b	d	1	0

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Equivalent and Reduced States

- Equivalent states
 - (a,b)
 - (d,e), (d,g), (e,g) \Rightarrow (d,e,g)
- Reduced states
 - (a,b), (c), (d,e,g), (f)
- State table

Table 9-4 State Table to Be Reduced

Present State	Next State		Output	
	x = 0	x = 1	x = 0	x = 1
a	d	x a	0	0
b	e	a	0	0
c	g	f	0	1
d	a	d	1	0
e	a	d	1	0
f	c	b	0	0
g	a	e	1	0

Table 9-5 Reduced State Table

Present State	Next State		Output	
	x = 0	x = 1	x = 0	x = 1
a	d	a	0	0
c	d	f	0	1
d	a	d	1	0
f	c	a	0	0

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Implication Table

Table 9-4 State Table to Be Reduced

Present State	Next State		Output	
	x = 0	x = 1	x = 0	x = 1
a	d	x a	0	0
b	e	a	0	0
c	g	f	0	1
d	a	d	1	0
e	a	d	1	0
f	c	b	0	0
g	a	e	1	0

check each pair of states for possible equivalence

(2) For same outputs, mark 'v' for pairs with same next states, or enter next states to be checked

b	d, e					
c	x	x				
d	x	x	x			
e	x	x	x	✓		
f	a, b	c, e	a, b	x	x	x
g	x	x	x	d, e	d, e	x
	a	b	c	d	e	f

(3) Make successive passes to determine equivalences of remaining pairs

(d,e) implied by (a,b), (d,g) and (e,g)

b	d, e ✓					
c	x	x				
d	x	x	x			
e	x	x	x	✓		
f	a, b	c, e	a, b	x	x	x
g	x	x	x	d, e ✓	d, e ✓	x
	a	b	c	d	e	f

Fig. 9-22 Implication Table

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Merging of the Flow Table

- Consider the don't-care conditions
 - combinations of inputs or input sequences may never occur
- **compatible**: two incompletely specified states that can be combined, even not equivalent
 - for each possible input:
 - they have the same output whenever specified and
 - their next states are compatible whenever they are specified
- Procedure for finding a suitable group of compatibles for merging a flow table
 1. determine all **compatible pairs** by using the **implication table**
 2. find the **maximal compatibles** using a **merger diagram**
 3. find a **minimal collection** of compatibles that cover all the states and is closed

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Step 1 of 3. Find Compatible Pairs

	00	01	11	10
a	c, -	a , 0	b, -	-, -
b	-, -	a, -	b , 1	e, -
c	c , 0	a, -	-, -	d, -
d	c, -	-, -	b, -	d , 0
e	f, -	-, -	b, -	e , 1
f	f , 1	a, -	-, -	e, -

(a) Primitive flow table

Fig. 9-23 Flow and Implication Tables

Compatible pairs: (a,b) (a,c) (a,d) (b,e) (b,f) (c,d) (e,f)

(1) Check if compatible, or enter next states to be checked

b	✓				
c	✓	d, e			
d	✓	d, e	✓		
e	c, f	✓	d, e c, f	×	
f	c, f	✓	×	d, e c, f	✓

(2) Make successive passes to determine compatibility of remaining pairs (no implied states)

b	✓				
c	✓	d, e ×			
d	✓	d, e ×	✓		
e	c, f ×	✓	d, e × c, f ×	×	
f	c, f ×	✓	×	d, e × c, f ×	✓

(b) Implication table

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Step 3 of 3. Closed Covering Condition

• **Closed covering**: the set of chosen compatibles must *cover all the states* and must *be closed*

- closed: no implied states or the implied states are included within the set
- implied states: entered in the checked square of the implication table

• Figure 9-23 / Figure 9-24(a) Example

- Compatible pairs: (a,b) (a,c) (a,d) (b,e) (b,f) (c,d) (e,f)
- Maximal compatibles: (a,b) (a,c,d) (b,e,f)
- no implied states
- Chosen set: (a,c,d) (b,e,f)
 - all six states are included: covering all states
 - no implied states: closed

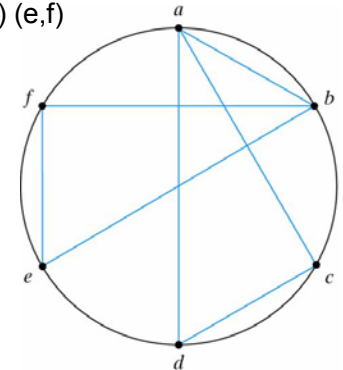


Fig. 9-24 (a) Maximal compatible: (a, b), (a, c, d) (b, e, f)

Fig. 9-17 (b) Reduced table (two alternatives)

	00	01	11	10
a, c, d	c , 0	a , 0	b, -	d , 0
b, e, f	f , 1	a, -	b , 1	e , 1

Fig. 9-17 (b) Reduced table (two alternatives)

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Step 2 of 3. Find Maximal Compatibles

Maximal compatibles: a group of compatibles that contains all the possible combinations of compatible states

merger diagram

- an isolated dot: a state that is not compatible to any other state

- a line: a compatible pair

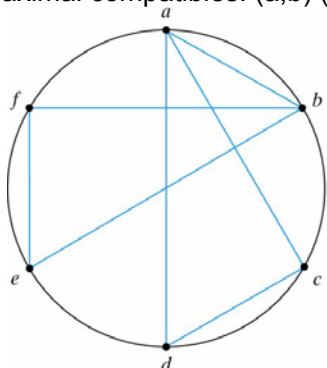
- a triangle: a compatible with three states

- an n-state compatible: an n-sided polygon with *all its diagonals connected*

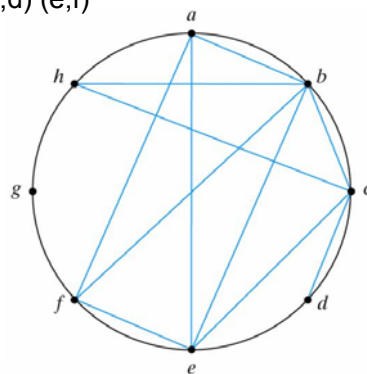
Figure 9-23 Example

• Compatible pairs: (a,b) (a,c) (a,d) (b,e) (b,f) (c,d) (e,f)

• Maximal compatibles: (a,b) (a,c,d) (b,e,f)



(a) Maximal compatible: (a, b), (a, c, d) (b, e, f)



(b) Maximal compatible:

(a, b, e, f) (b, c, h) (c, d) (g) (c, e)

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Closed and Unclosed

• Figure 9-25 Example (given (a) implication table)

- compatible pairs (a,b) (a,d) (b,c) (c,d) (c,e) (d,e)

- maximal compatibles (a,b) (a,d) (b,c) (c,d,e)

• Case I - chosen compatibles: (a,b) (c,d,e)

- cover all the states

- not closed: (b,c), implied by (a,b), not included

• Case II - chosen compatibles: (a,d) (b,c) (c,d,e)

- cover all the states

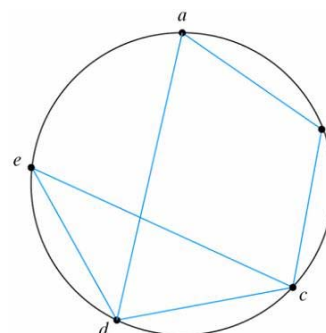
- closed: implied states (b,c) (d,e) (a,d) included

- the same state can be repeated more than once

(a) Implication table

b	b, c ✓			
c	×	d, e ✓		
d	b, c ✓	×	a, d ✓	
e	×	×	✓	b, c ✓

(a) Implication table



(b) Merger diagram

Compatibles	(a, b)	(a, d)	(b, c)	(c, d, e)
Implied states	(b, c)	(b, c)	(d, e)	(a, d) (b, c)

(c) Closure table

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9-6 Race-Free State Assignment

- **Race-free**: avoiding critical races
 - Only one variable changes at any given time
 - may allow noncritical race
- **Adjacent assignment**
 - Condition: binary values of states between which transitions occur only differ in one variable
 - tedious process: test and verify each possible transition between two stable states
 - m variables required for a flow table with n rows: $2^m \geq n$
 - No critical race for assigning a single variable to a flow table with two rows
- **Transition diagram**: pictorial representation of all required transitions between rows
 - Try to find only one binary variable changes during each state transition
 - If critical races exist, add extra rows to obtain race-free assignment
- Two methods for race-free state assignment
 - *shared-row method*
 - *multiple-row method*

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Flow Table with an Extra Row

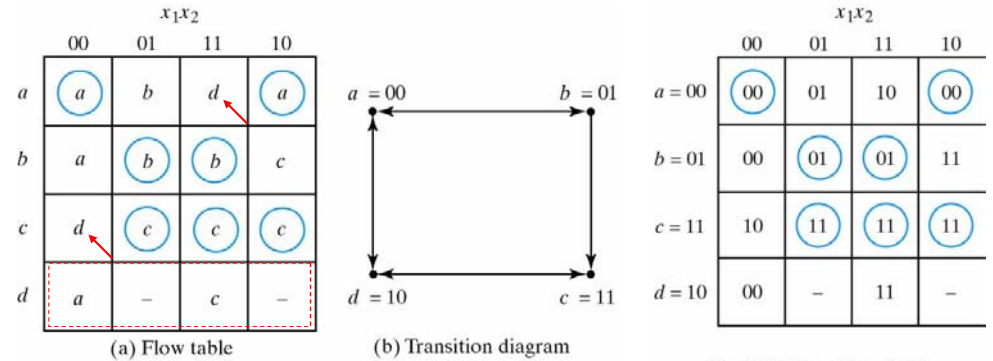


Fig. 9-27 Flow Table with an Extra Row

Fig. 9-28 Transition Table

- An extra row labeled d is added
 - critical-race transition $a \rightarrow c$ becomes $a=00 \rightarrow d=10 \rightarrow c=11$
 - noncritical-race transition $c \rightarrow a$ becomes $c=11 \rightarrow d=10 \rightarrow a=00$
 - no stable state in row d: two dashes represent unspecified states that
 - can be considered don't-care conditions
 - must not be $d=10$, or becomes stable state

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Three-Row Flow-Table Example

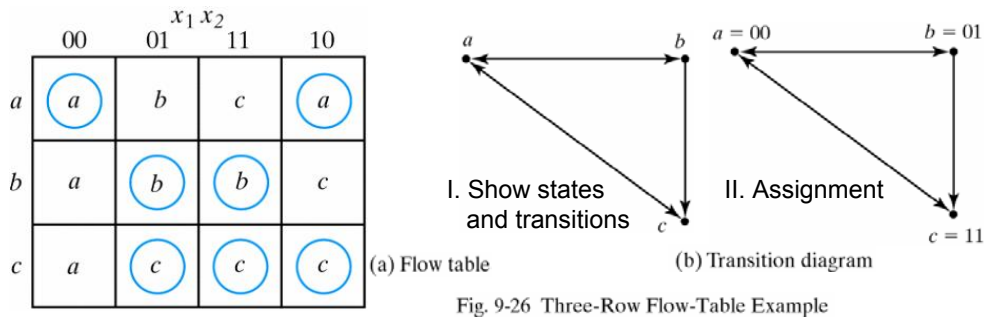


Fig. 9-26 Three-Row Flow-Table Example

1. Derive the transition diagram from the flow table
 - Uni-directed line: one-way transition
 - Bi-directed line: two-way transition
 2. State assignment: assign $a=00$, $b=01$, $c=11$
 - critical race: transition $a \rightarrow c$
 - noncritical race: transition $c \rightarrow a$
- Race-free assignment: add an extra row to the flow table to avoid the critical race

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Four-Row Flow-table Example

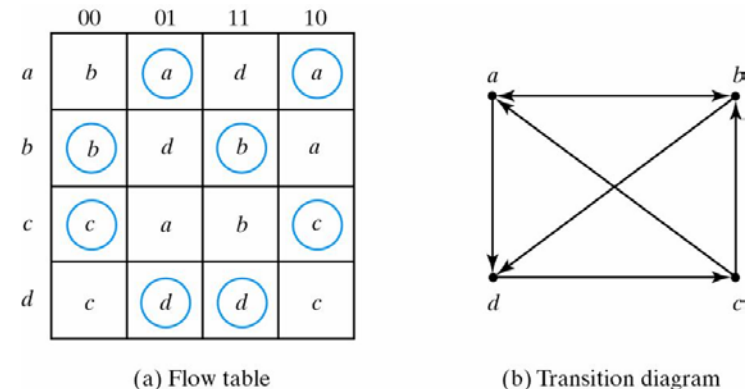


Fig. 9-29 Four-Row Flow-Table Example

Figure 9-29 Example: 4 states/rows

- Require a minimum of two state variables
- Diagonal transitions $c \rightarrow a$ and $b \rightarrow d$ make adjacent assignment impossible
- Therefore, at least 3 binary state variables are needed

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Assignment for Four-Row Flow Table

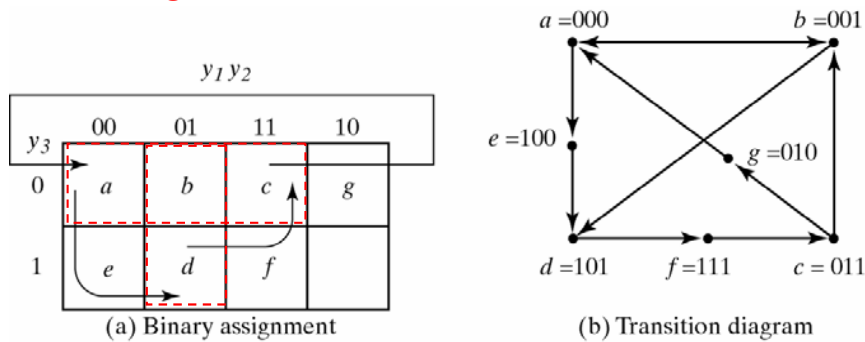


Fig. 9-30 Choosing Extra Rows for the Flow Table

- Figure 9-30: assignment for the 4-row flow table
 - Original states: a, b, c and d
 - Extra states: e, f and g
- Expanded to a seven-row table that is free of critical races
 - $a \rightarrow d \Rightarrow a \rightarrow e \rightarrow d$
 - $d \rightarrow c \Rightarrow d \rightarrow f \rightarrow c$
 - $c \rightarrow a \Rightarrow c \rightarrow g \rightarrow a$
- It is suitable for any four-row flow table

Multiple-Row Method

- Methods for race-free assignment
 - shared-row method: adding extra rows
 - multiple-row method: multiple equivalent states for each state
 - less efficient but easier to apply
- Multiple-row method for 4-row flow table
 - original state a is replaced by a1 and a2
 - each original state is adjacent to three states

	00	01	11	10
a	b	a	d	a
b	b	d	b	a
c	c	a	b	c
d	c	d	d	c

Fig. 9-29 (a) Flow table

	00	01	11	10
0	a ₁	b ₁	c ₁	d ₁
1	c ₂	d ₂	a ₂	b ₂

Fig. 9-32 (a) Binary assignment

	00	01	11	10
000 = a ₁	b ₁	a ₁	d ₁	a ₁
111 = a ₂	b ₂	a ₂	d ₂	a ₂
001 = b ₁	b ₁	d ₂	b ₁	a ₁
110 = b ₂	b ₂	d ₁	b ₂	a ₂
011 = c ₁	c ₁	a ₂	b ₁	c ₁
100 = c ₂	c ₂	a ₁	b ₂	c ₂
010 = d ₁	c ₁	d ₁	d ₁	c ₁
101 = d ₂	c ₂	d ₂	d ₂	c ₂

Fig. 9-32 (b) Flow table

State Assignment to Modified Flow Table

	00	01	11	10
a	b	a	d	a
b	b	d	b	a
c	c	a	b	c
d	c	d	d	c

Fig. 9-29 (a) Flow table

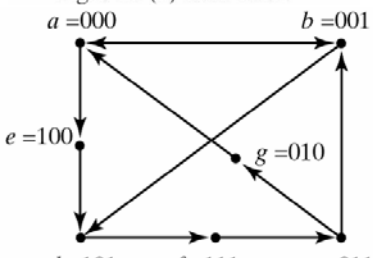


Fig. 9-30 (b) Transition diagram



	00	01	11	10
000 = a	b	a	e	a
001 = b	b	d	b	a
011 = c	c	g	b	c
010 = g	-	a	-	-
110 = -	-	-	-	-
111 = f	c	-	-	c
101 = d	f	d	d	f
100 = e	-	-	d	-

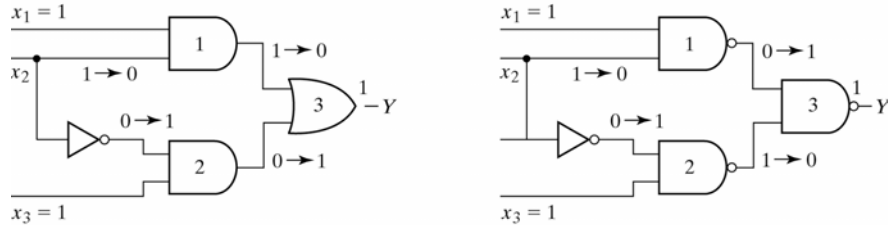
Fig. 9-31 State Assignment to Modified Flow Table

9-7 Hazards

- In the design of asynchronous sequential circuit, the circuit
 - must be operated in fundamental mode with *only one input changing at any time*, and
 - must be free of critical races
- Hazards: unwanted switching transients at the output
 - because different paths exhibit different propagation delays
 - May cause the circuit to malfunction
 - in combinational circuits: may cause temporary false-output value
 - in asynchronous sequential circuits: may result in a transition to a wrong stable state
 - Need to check for possible hazards and determine whether causing improper operations

Hazards in Combinational Circuits

- hazard: a condition where a single variable change produces a momentary output change when no output change should occur

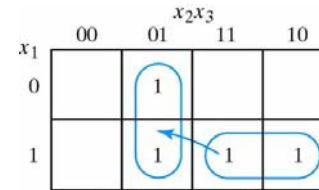


(a) AND-OR circuit Fig. 9-33 Circuits with Hazards (b) NAND circuit

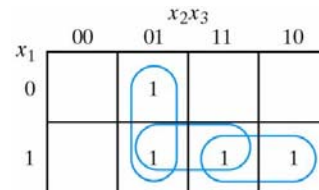
- Assume all inputs are initially set to 1
 - gate1 = 1, gate2 = 0 \Rightarrow gate3 = 1
- Consider a change of x_2 from 1 to 0
 - gate1 = 0, gate2 = 1 \Rightarrow gate3 = 1
- Hazard: inverter delay may cause gate1=0 to change before gate2=1
 - gate1 = 0, gate2 = 0 \Rightarrow gate3 = 0
 - **momentary gate3=1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 1!**

Hazard-Free Circuit

- The remedy: enclose the two minterms in question with another product term
 - the circuit moves from one product term to another
 - additional redundant gate
- General solution: cover any two minterms with a product term common to path



(a) $Y = x_1x_2 + x'_2x_3$



(b) $Y = x_1x_2 + x'_2x_3 + x_1x_3$

Fig. 9-35 Maps Demonstrating a Hazard and its Removal

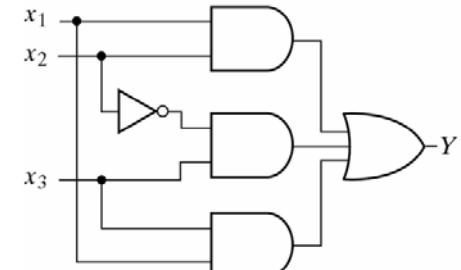


Fig. 9-36 Hazard-Free Circuit

Types of Hazards



Fig. 9-34 Types of Hazards

change three or more when 0 \rightarrow 1 or 1 \rightarrow 0

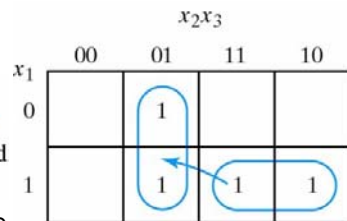
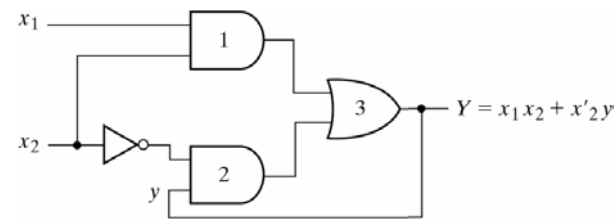


Fig. 9-35(a) $Y = x_1x_2 + x'_2x_3$ (both product terms have x_2)

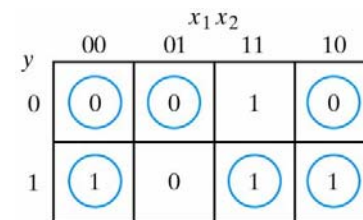
- Whenever the circuit must move from one product term to another, there is a possibility of a momentary interval when neither term is equal to 1, giving rise to an undesirable 0 output
- Detected by inspecting the map: the change of input results in different product term covering the two minterms
 - minterm 111 in gate 1 and minterm 101 in gate 2
- When a circuit is implemented in sum of products (AND-OR or NAND gates), the removal of static 1-hazard guarantees that no static 0-hazards or dynamic hazards will occur
 - If the momentary input causes the OR output to change from 0 to 1, the output will maintain at 1 after the propagation

Hazards in Sequential Circuits

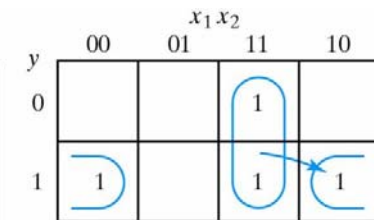
In general, no problem for synchronous design, but a momentary incorrect signal fed back in asynchronous sequential circuit may cause the circuit to go to the wrong stable state



(a) Logic diagram



(b) Transition table



(c) Map for Y

Fig. 9-37 Hazard in an Asynchronous Sequential Circuit

Figure 9-37 Example:

- state $yx_1x_2=111$ and input $x_2 1\rightarrow 0$
- next state should be 110
- hazard: output Y may go to 0 momentarily
- feeds back to gate 2 before x'_2 enter gate 2
- the circuit will switch to incorrect stable state 010

Implementation with SR latches

Asynchronous sequential circuits with SR latches

- A third input to the gate from the complemented side of the latch Q' avoids static hazards (maintained at 1 or 0)
 - a momentary 0 signal at the S or R inputs of NOR latch has no effect
 - a momentary 1 signal at the S or R inputs of NAND latch has no effect

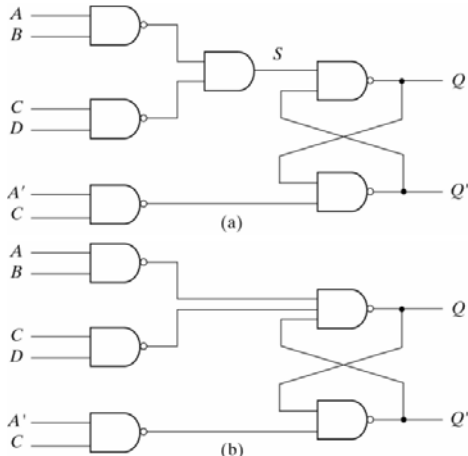


Figure 9-38 Example:

- Consider a NAND SR latch
 - $S = AB + CD$ and $R = A'C$
 - complement the inputs for NAND
 - $S = (AB + CD)' = (AB)'(CD)'$
 - $R = (A'C)'$
- shown in Fig. 9-38(a)

- Boolean function for output Q
 - $Q = (Q'S)' = [Q'(AB)'(CD)']$
 - generated in Fig. 9-38(b) with 2-levels of NAND gates

Fig. 9-38 Latch Implementation

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9-8 Design Example

Summary of design procedure

1. Problem definition: state the design specifications
2. Interpretation: derive the primitive flow table (Section 9-4)
 - total states: depend on # of input variables and # of secondary variables
3. State reduction: reduce the flow table by merging the rows (Section 9-5)
 - Reduce equivalent states and compatible states by using implication table and merger diagram to meet the closed covering condition
4. Race-free state assignment (Section 9-6)
 - adjacent assignment with transition diagram to avoid critical races
 - shared-row method and multiple-row method
5. Obtain the transition table and output map
 - Simplify the Boolean functions of the excitation and output variables
6. Obtain the logic diagram using SR latches (Section 9-3)

Example: design a negative-edge-triggered T flip-flop

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Essential Hazards

- Essential Hazards: due to unequal delays along two or more paths that originate from the *same input*
 - Another type of hazard may occur in asynchronous sequential circuits
 - Static or dynamic hazards are resulted from delays of different inputs
 - It cannot be corrected by adding redundant gates
 - Solution: adjust the amount of delay in the affected path
 - the delay of feedback loops > delays of other signals that originate from the input terminals
 - Tends to be specialized

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1. Design Specifications

Design a negative-edge-triggered T flip-flop

- Variables
 - Two inputs, T (toggle) and C (clock), and
 - one output, Q
- Functions
 - Output state is complemented if
 - $T=1$ and
 - the clock C changes from 1 to 0 (negative-edge triggering)
 - Otherwise, output Q remains unchanged
 - under any other input condition

Note that this circuit can be used as a flip-flop in clocked sequential circuits, the internal design of the flip-flop is an asynchronous problem

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2. Primitive Flow Table

Table 9-6 Specification of Total States

State	Inputs		Output	Comments
	T	C	Q	
a	1	1	0	Initial output is 0
b	1	0	1	After state a
c	1	1	1	Initial output is 1
d	1	0	0	After state c
e	0	0	0	After state d or f
f	0	1	0	After state e or a
g	0	0	1	After states b or h
h	0	1	1	After states g or c

	TC					TC			
	00	01	11	10		00	01	11	10
a	-,-		(a, 0)		a	-,-	f,-	(a, 0)	b,-
b		-,-		(b, 1)	b	g,-	-,-	c,-	(b, 1)
c	-,-		(c, 1)		c	-,-	h,-	(c, 1)	d,-
d		-,-		(d, 0)	d	e,-	-,-	a,-	(d, 0)
e	(e, 0)		-,-		e	(e, 0)	f,-	-,-	d,-
f		(f, 0)		-,-	f	e,-	(f, 0)	a,-	-,-
g	(g, 1)		-,-		g	(g, 1)	h,-	-,-	b,-
h		(h, 1)		-,-	h	g,-	(h, 1)	c,-	-,-

Fig. 9-39 Primitive Flow Table

- Differ by one variable and
- a,c: T=1, C=↑ ⇒ Q=initial values
- b,d: T=1, C=↓ ⇒ Q=Q'
- e,f,g,h: T=0 ⇒ Q=unchanged

- Fill in one square in each row belonging to the stable state
- Enter dashes in those squares whose input differs by two variables from the input corresponding to the stable state
- Unstable conditions are determined by utilizing Table 9-6

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Merging of the Flow Table (cont.)

Derive the reduced flow table (Fig. 9-42)

- Compatible pairs: (a,f) (b,g) (b,h) (c,h) (d,e) (d,f) (e,f) (g,h)
- Maximal compatible set (a,f) (b,g,h) (c,h) (d,e,f)
 - covering all states
 - (states h and f are repeated)
 - closed: no implied states

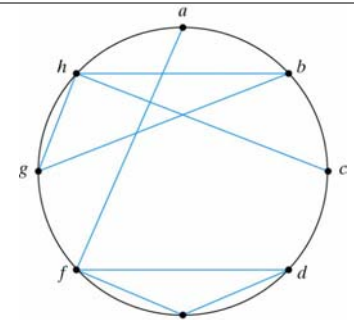


Fig. 9-41 Merger Diagram

	TC					TC			
	00	01	11	10		00	01	11	10
a	-,-	f,-	(a, 0)	b,-	a	d,-	(a, 0)	(a, 0)	(b,-)
b	g,-	-,-	c,-	(b, 1)	b	(b, 1)	(b, 1)	c,-	(b, 1)
c	-,-	h,-	(c, 1)	d,-	c	b,-	(c, 1)	(c, 1)	d,-
d	e,-	-,-	a,-	(d, 0)	d	(d, 0)	(d, 0)	a,-	(d, 0)
e	(e, 0)	f,-	-,-	d,-	e	(e, 0)	(f, 0)	a,-	(d, 0)
f	e,-	(f, 0)	a,-	-,-	f	(g, 1)	(h, 1)	c,-	(b, 1)
g	(g, 1)	h,-	-,-	b,-	g	(g, 1)	(h, 1)	(c, 1)	d,-
h	g,-	(h, 1)	c,-	-,-	h	(e, 0)	(f, 0)	a,-	(d, 0)

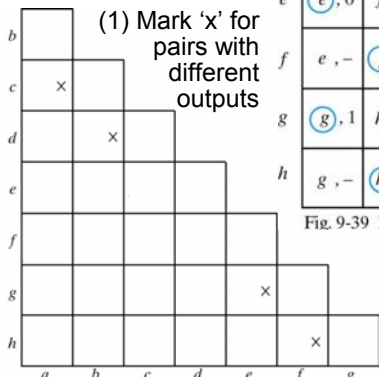
Fig. 9-39 Primitive Flow Table

Fig. 9-42 Reduced Flow Table

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3. Merging of the Flow Table

- Derive Fig. 9-40 implication table from Fig. 9-39 flow table
- Compatible pairs: (a,f) (b,g) (b,h) (c,h) (d,e) (d,f) (e,f) (g,h)
- no implied states



	TC					TC			
	00	01	11	10		00	01	11	10
a	-,-	f,-	(a, 0)	b,-	a	d,-	(a, 0)	(a, 0)	(b,-)
b	g,-	-,-	c,-	(b, 1)	b	(b, 1)	(b, 1)	c,-	(b, 1)
c	-,-	h,-	(c, 1)	d,-	c	b,-	(c, 1)	(c, 1)	d,-
d	e,-	-,-	a,-	(d, 0)	d	(d, 0)	(d, 0)	a,-	(d, 0)
e	(e, 0)	f,-	-,-	d,-	e	(e, 0)	(f, 0)	a,-	(d, 0)
f	e,-	(f, 0)	a,-	-,-	f	(g, 1)	(h, 1)	c,-	(b, 1)
g	(g, 1)	h,-	-,-	b,-	g	(g, 1)	(h, 1)	(c, 1)	d,-
h	g,-	(h, 1)	c,-	-,-	h	(e, 0)	(f, 0)	a,-	(d, 0)

Fig. 9-39 Primitive Flow Table

	(2) mark 'v' for pairs with same next states, or enter next states to be checked						
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
a							
b	x						
c		x					
d			x				
e				x			
f					x		
g						x	
h							x

- Make successive passes to determine equivalences of remaining pairs

Fig. 9-40 Implication Table

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4. Race-free State Assignment

	TC			
	00	01	11	10
a	d,-	(a, 0)	(a, 0)	(b,-)
b	(b, 1)	(b, 1)	c,-	(b, 1)
c	b,-	(c, 1)	(c, 1)	d,-
d	(d, 0)	(d, 0)	a,-	(d, 0)

Fig. 9-42(b) Reduced Flow Table

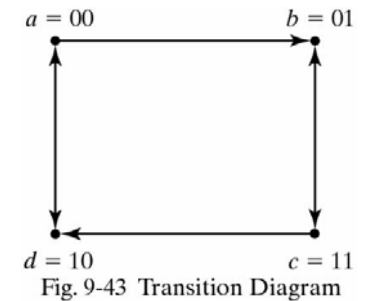


Fig. 9-43 Transition Diagram

- Draw transition diagram Fig. 9-43 from the reduced flow table
- four stable states
- no diagonal lines
- Find the race-free state assignment by adjacent assignment
- a=00, b=01, c=11, d=10

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5. Obtain the Transition Table and Output Map

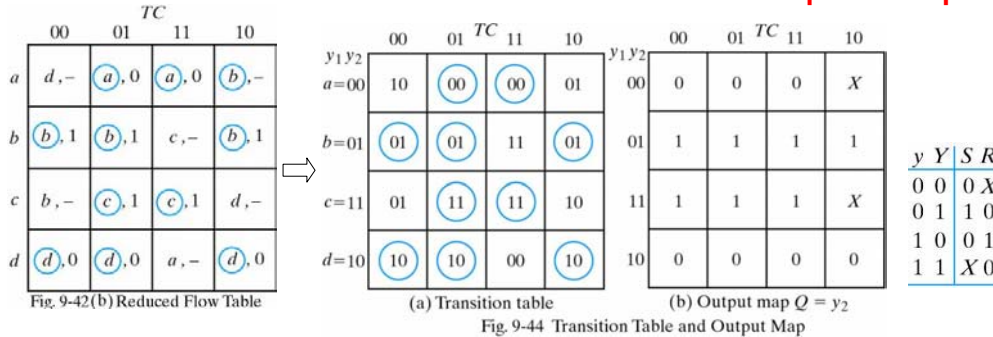
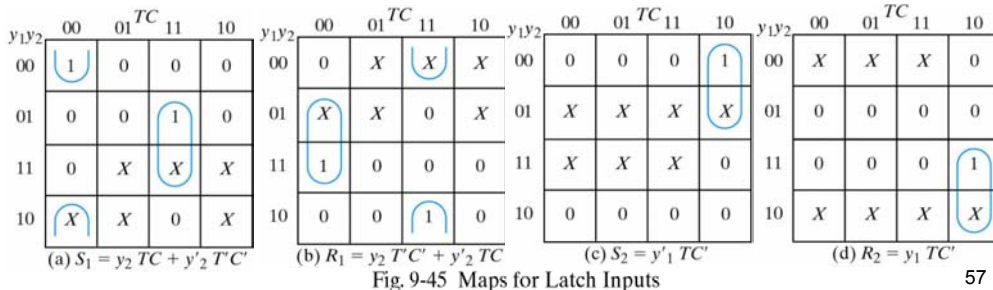


Fig. 9-14(b) Latch excitation table



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Summary

Chapter 9 Asynchronous Sequential Logic

9-1 Introduction

9-2 Analysis Procedure

9-3 Circuits With Latches

9-4 Design Procedure

9-5 Reduction of State and Flow Tables

9-6 Race-Free State Assignment

9-7 Hazards

9-8 Design Example

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6. Obtain the Logic Diagram Using SR Latch

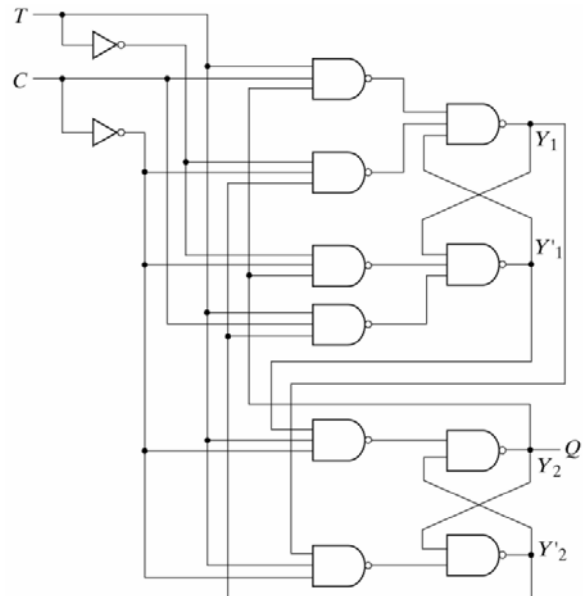


Fig. 9-46 Logic Diagram of Negative-Edge-Triggered T Flip-Flop

- Two state variables, Y_1 and Y_2 , and one output, Q
 - two SR latches, one for each state variable
- Use two NAND latches with two or three inputs in each gate

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