EECS 42 Introduction to Electronics for Computer Science
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Lecture 19: Logic Transients
Handout of Wed Lecture.
A) Quiz
B) Worst Case CMOS Delay
C) Delay in CMOS Cascade
http://inst.EECS.Berkeley.EDU/~ee42/

Switched Equivalent Resistance Values
The resistor values depend on the properties of silicon, geometrical layout, design style and technology node.
- n-type silicon has a carrier mobility that is 2 to 3 times higher than p-type.
- The resistance is inversely proportional to the gate width/length in the geometrical layout.
- Design styles may restrict all NMOS and PMOS to be of a predetermined fixed size.
- The current per unit width of the gate increases nearly inversely with the linewidth.

For convenience in EE 42 we assume \( R_n = R_p = 10 \, k\Omega \)

CMOS Logic Gate: Example Inputs

A = 0
B = 1
C = 1

PMOS A conducts; B and C Open
Output is High

Logic is Complementary and produces \( F = 0 \)

Logic Gate Propagation Delay: Initial State
The initial state depends on the old (previous) inputs.
The equivalent resistance of the pull-down or pull-up network for the transient phase depends on the new (present) input state.

Example: A = 0, B = 0, C = 0 for a long time.
These inputs provided a path to \( V_{DD} \) for a long time and the capacitor has precharged up to \( V_{OUT} = 5V \).
Logic Gate Propagation Delay: Transient

At $t=0$, B and C switch from low to high ($V_{DD}$) and A remains low.

This breaks the path from $V_{OUT}$ to $V_{DD}$ and opens a path from $V_{OUT}$ to GND.

$C_{OUT}$ discharges through the pull-down resistance of gates B and C in series.

$\Delta t = 0.69(R_{DB} + R_{DC})C_{OUT}$

$\Delta t = 0.69(20\,\Omega)(50\,fF) = 690\,\text{ps}$

The propagation delay is two times longer than that for the inverter!

Data Synchronization problem

- Combinatorial logic gates can give incorrect answers prematurely and may take several gate propagation delays produce an answer.
- Clocks (signals as to when to proceed) and latches (which capture and hold the correct outputs) can provide synchronization.

Logic Gate: Worst Case Scenarios

What combination of previous and present logic inputs will make the Pull-Up the fastest?

What combination of previous and present logic inputs will make the Pull-Up the slowest?

What combination of previous and present logic inputs will make the Pull-Down the fastest?

What combination of previous and present logic inputs will make the Pull-Down the slowest?

Latch Controlled by a Clock

An inverter with clocked devices in series can form a latch.

When the clock $\phi$ is high its complement $\bar{\phi}$ is low and the inverter operates.

To synchronize the data the clock remains low until the data is correct at all locations on the chip. When the clock goes high the inverse of the data is passed.

Logic Gate Cascade

To avoid large resistance due to many gates in series, logic functions with 4 or more inputs are usually made from cascading two or more 2-4 input blocks.

The four independent input are A1, B1, A2 and C2.

A2 high discharges gate 2 without even waiting for the output of gate 1.

C2 high and A2 low makes gate 2 wait for Gate 1 output.

Latch Work Best In Pairs

The first stage operates while the clock is low and inverts and amplifies the arriving signal and charges or discharges $C_{L1}$.

The second stage operates while the clock is high and inverts the signal on $C_{L1}$ to charge or discharge $C_{L2}$ and downstream logic gate inputs.