# Part I: Computer arithmetic and logic



George Boole (1815–1864)



Claude Shannon (1916–2001)

# Why are computers binary?

Computers are electronic devices whose `language' is based on electrical signals; the simplest signals are on and off. So the alphabet of this language has only two symbols 1 and 0 known as **binary digits** or **bits**.

**Computer words** consist of a fixed number of bits, which

depends on the processor design and computer architecture, usually 64 or 32.

Example:

32-bit word

 $1000000 \ \overline{01010000} \ 10001010 \ \overline{00000011}$ 

Binary words can encode and store numbers of different type, computer instructions, texts in natural languages, etc. We start with the numbers.

George Boole (in 'The Laws of Thought' 1854) invented Boolean algebra,

an algebra of two values, which is the basis for all modern computer arithmetic.

Claude Shannon (in his MSc thesis) designed electrical switching circuits and showed how they could solve all problems that Boolean algebra could solve. This has become a fundamental concept that underlies all electronic digital computers. FoC-I (episode 1,1) 2



# Numbers

are abstract mathematical objects used for counting and measuring. There are several types of numbers:



How can we represent all of these numbers in computers?

- Computer words are **binary** (no problem: binary can encode everything)
- Computer words are finite, usually of 32 or 64 bits

(can lead—actually has already led—to disaster)

## Numeral systems

A numeral is a symbol or group of symbols that represents a number

 Unary:
 numeral
 ||||||
 means
 7
 - Roman numerals

 Decimal:
 numeral
 456
 means
  $(4 \times 10^2) + (5 \times 10^1) + (6 \times 10^0)$  

 numeral
 101<sub>10</sub>
 means
  $(1 \times 10^2) + (0 \times 10^1) + (1 \times 10^0)$  

 Binary:
 numeral
 101<sub>2</sub>
 means
  $(1 \times 2^2) + (0 \times 2^1) + (1 \times 2^0)$ ,

 i.e., decimal 5
 i.e., decimal 5
 i.e., decimal 5

A 32-bit binary word  $a_{31}a_{30}\ldots a_1a_0$  means the number

 $a_{31} imes 2^{31} + a_{30} imes 2^{30} + \dots + a_1 imes 2^1 + a_0 imes 2^0$ 

FoC-I (episode 1.1)

# Converting decimal numbers to binaries: divide by 2

Rule:divide repeatedly by 2, keeping track of the remainders as you goExample:covert  $123_{10}$  to binary

$(123 = 61 \times 2 + 1)$	remainder $= 1$	123/2 = 61
	remainder $= 1$	61/2=30
	remainder $= 0$	30/2=15
	remainder $= 1$	15/2 = 7
	remainder $= 1$	7/2 = 3
	remainder $= 1$	3/2 = 1
	remainder $= 1$	1/2=0

The result is read from the last remainder **upwards**:

$$123_{10} = 1111011_2$$

why does it work?

#### 'Important' binary numbers: powers of 2

'Important' decimal numbers are  $10 = 10^1$ ,  $100 = 10^2$ ,  $1000 = 10^3$ , ...

	DECIMAL	BINARY	
	0	0	¢
	1	1	
	2	10	2 <sup>1</sup>
	3	11	
	4	100	2 <sup>2</sup>
	5	101	
	6	110	
	7	111	
	8	1000	2 <sup>3</sup>
	9	1001	
$10^{1}$	10	1010	
	11	1011	
	12	1100	
	13	1101	
	14	1110	
	15	1111	
	16	10000	2⁴
	17	10001	
	18	10010	
	19	10011	
	20	10100	

# Binary addition and subtraction (for unsigned numbers)

The four basic rules for adding binary digits are as follows:

0 + 0 = 0	sum of $0$ with a carry of $0$
0+1 = 1	sum of $f 1$ with a carry of $f 0$
1 + 0 = 1	sum of $f 1$ with a carry of $f 0$
1+1=10	sum of $0$ with a carry of $1$

#### **Example:**

Carry Carry	Carry
-------------	-------

1	0	0	0
+	1	0	1
	0	1	1
1	1	1	

Formulate four rules for subtracting bits (0 - 1 = 1 with a borrow of 1)

What about multiplication? (multiplication in binary is exactly as it is in decimal)

# Negative numbers: sign-magnitude representation

How to represent negative integer numbers?

<u>Obvious idea:</u> treat the most significant (left-most) bit in the word as a sign: if it is 0, the number is **positive**; if the left-most bit is 1, the number is **negative**; the remaining 31 bits contain the **magnitude** of the integer

#### **Example:**

 $+18_{10} = 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 1\ 0010_2$ 

 $-18_{10} \; = \; {\color{red}1000\; 0000\; 0000\; 0000\; 0000\; 0000\; 0001\; 0010_2}$ 

This representation was used in early machines, but several shortcomings have been revealed

- Awkward arithmetic: 18 + (-18) = 0
- Two zeros: +0 and -0

• • • •

# Sign-magnitude representation



#### Ones' complement representation: invert the bits

 $+18_{10} = 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0001\ 0010_2$ 

(invert the bits of +18)

still two zeros: +0 and -0(used in some computers until the late 1980s) still a little bit awkward arithmetic: compute 3 + (-1) as an exercise FoC-I (episode 1.2)

# Two's complement representation

- The most significant bit represents the sign, as before
- The positive numbers are also represented as before

$$0a_{30}\ldots a_0$$
 means  $0 imes 2^{31}+a_{30} imes 2^{30}+\cdots+a_1 imes 2+a_0$ 

• To represent a negative number, take its **complement** to  $2^{31}$ : more precisely,

$$1a_{30}\ldots a_0$$
 means  $-1 imes 2^{31}+a_{30} imes 2^{30}+\cdots+a_1 imes 2+a_0$ 

$0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0$	= 0 <sub>10</sub>
$0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0001_2 =$	= 1 <sub>10</sub>
$0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0010_2 =$	= 2 <sub>10</sub>
$0111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1101_2\ =$	$= 2, 147, 483, 645_{10}$
$0111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1110_2\ =$	$= 2, 147, 483, 646_{10}$
0111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 111	$= 2, 147, 483, 647_{10}$
$1000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 2 =$	$= -2, 147, 483, 648_{10}$
$1000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0001_2 =$	$= -2, 147, 483, 647_{10}$
$1000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0010_2 =$	$= -2, 147, 483, 646_{10}$
1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1101	- 0
111111111111111111111111111111111111	$= - a_{10}$
1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 11	$= -2_{10}$
11111 11111 11111 11111 11111 11111 1111	$= -1_{10}$

#### Two's complement representation (cont.)



John von Neumann suggested use of two's complements in computers in the 1940s

# Two's complement arithmetic: negation

$a_{31}a_{3}$	$_0 \ldots a_1 a_0$	represents	$-a_{31} imes 2^{31}+a_{30}$	$1 imes 2^{30}+\dots+a_1 imes 2+a_0$
Rules for	forming r	egation $-N$	of an integer $N$	(in two's complement notation)
• Take	the Boole	an negation (	of each bit of the i That is, set	nteger ( <b>including the sign bit</b> ) each 1 to 0 and each 0 to 1.
• Trea	ting the re	sult as an uns	igned binary integ	er, add 1.
Example	• 1: Negat	$e 2_{10} = 00$	00 0000 0000 0000	$0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0010_2$
Invert th	e bits	1111 1111 1	.111 1111 1111 111	$.1\ 1111\ 1101_2$
and add	1:	+		$1_2$
		1111 1111 1	.111 1111 1111 111	$.1\ 1111\ 1110_2\ (=-2_{10})$
Example	2: Negat	e $-2_{10} =$	1111 1111 1111 11	$11\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1110_2$
Invert th	e bits	0000 0000 0	000 0000 0000 000	$00\ 0000\ 0001_2$
and add	d 1:	+		$1_2$
		0000 0000 0	000 0000 0000 000	$00\ 0000\ 0010_2\ (=2_{10})$

• Negate 0. Any problem? <u>Overflow;</u> but is the result correct?

#### Two's complement addition and subtraction

• Subtraction is achieved using addition x - y = x + (-y):

to subtract y from x , negate y and add the result to x

Addition is the same as the addition of unsigned numbers on page 7

The result of addition can be **larger** than can be held in a 32 bit word. This situation is called **overflow**.

• Detecting overflow: if two numbers are added, and they are both positive or both negative, then overflow occurs if the result has the opposite sign

**Examples of overflow:** assume that we deal with 4 bit words only

 $\begin{array}{rll} 0101_2 &= 5_{10} & 1001_2 &= -7_{10} \\ + & \underbrace{0100_2 &= 4_{10}} \\ \hline 1001_2 &= -7_{10} \end{array} & \begin{array}{r} 1001_2 &= -7_{10} \\ + & 1010_2 &= -6_{10} \\ \hline \hline 0011_2 &= 3_{10} \end{array} & \begin{array}{r} \text{overflow} \end{array}$ 

When adding numbers with different signs, overflow cannot occur. Why?

# Scientific notation

The two's complement representation allowed us to deal with the integer numbers in the interval between  $-2^{31}$  and  $+2^{31}-1$ 

- What if we need larger numbers (say, in astronomy)?
- How to deal with small fractions (say, in nuclear physics)?

'Scientific' notation:  $976,000,000,000,000 = 9.76 \times 10^{14}$ 

in the UK: standard form  $0.000000000000976 = 9.76 imes 10^{-14}$ 

We dynamically slide the decimal point to a convenient location and use the exponent of 10 to keep track of that decimal point

Any given number can be written in the form  $a \times 10^{b}$  in many ways; e.g.,

$$350 = 3.5 \times 10^2 = 35 \times 10^1 = 350 \times 10^0$$

In normalised scientific notation, exponent *b* is chosen such that  $1 \le |a| < 10$ Using binary numeral system instead of decimal, we can represent any real non-zero number in the form  $a \times 2^E$  with  $1 \le |a| < 2$ , or  $(-1)^S \times (1+F) \times 2^E$ ,  $0 \le F < 1$  S = 0, 1 is the sign

#### **Binary fractions**

A binary number  $a_n a_{n-1} \dots a_1 a_0 \dots a_{-n} \dots a_{-m}$  has the following meaning:

 $a_n \times 2^n + a_{n-1} \times 2^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 \times 2^1 + a_0 \times 2^0 + a_{-1} \times 2^{-1} + \dots + a_{-m} \times 2^{-m}$ 

 $\textbf{16.625_{10}} = 1 \times 10^{1} + 6 \times 10^{0} + 6 \times 10^{-1} + 2 \times 10^{-2} + 5 \times 10^{-3}$ 

 $= 1 \times 2^4 + 0 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 0 \times 2^0 + 1 \times 2^{-1} + 0 \times 2^{-2} + 1 \times 2^{-3}$ 

 $= 10000.101_{2}$ 

$$0.1_2 = 1/2 = 0.5_{10}$$
  $0.01_2 = 1/4 = 0.25_{10}$   $0.001_2 = 1/8 = 0.125_{10}$ 

To convert a decimal number with both integer and fractional parts, convert each part separately and combine the answers (integer conversion is on page 5)

**Example:** convert 0.6875<sub>10</sub> to binary

Rule: multiply by 2 keeping track of the resulting integer and fractional part

0.6875  imes 2 = 1.3750	integer = $1$
0.3750  imes 2 = 0.7500	integer $= 0$

 $0.7500 \times 2 = 1.5000$  integer = 1

0.5000 imes 2 = 1.0000

integer = 1

The result is read from the first integer downwards :

 $0.6875_{10} = 0.1011_2$ 

# IEEE 754 floating-point standard

Every real number different from 0 can be represented in the form

 $(-1)^S imes (1+F) imes 2^E$ ,  $0\leq F<1$ 

- S is the sign (0 for positive and 1 for negative)
- F is the fraction  $(0 \le F < 1)$
- *E* is the **exponent** (determining the actual location of the binary point)

The size of *E* and *F* may vary: a fixed word size means that one must take a bit from one to add a bit to the other. There existing compromises are:

Single precision floating-point format: 8 bits for E and 23 bits for F



# IEEE 754 floating-point standard (cont.)

If we number the bits of the fraction F from left to right  $b_1, b_2, \ldots, b_n$ (where n = 23 or n = 52), then the IEEE 754 standard gives us the number

 $(-1)^S imes (1 + b_1 imes 2^{-1} + b_2 imes 2^{-2} + b_3 imes 2^{-3} + \dots + b_n imes 2^{-n}) imes 2^E$ 

• How to represent *E*? We need both **positive** and **negative** exponents.

Biased notation: fix  $Bias = 127_{10} = 2^7 - 1 = 0111\ 1111_2$  for single precision  $Bias = 1023_{10} = 2^{10} - 1 = 011\ 1111\ 1111_2$  for double precision

 $Exponent_b = E + Bias$   $E = Exponent_b - Bias$ 

where  $Exponent_b$ , biased exponent, is the number stored in the exponent field **Examples**:

• An exponent of -1 is represented by the bit pattern of the value

 $-1 + 127_{10} = 0111 \ 1110_2$  (single precision)

• An exponent of +1 is represented by the bit pattern of the value

 $1 + 127_{10} = 1000\ 0000_2$  (single precision)

## **Biased representation**

**Biased representation** (aka offset binary representation) is a coding scheme where all-0 is the minimal negative value and all-1 the maximal positive value

decimal number	biased representation
(E)	$(Exponent_b = E + 127)$
-127	0000 0000
-126	0000 0001
-1	01111110
0	01111111
+1	1000 0000
+128	1111 1111

NB. There are some special numbers (say all-0 and all-1 exponents)

# IEEE 754 floating-point standard (cont.)

The range of single precision numbers is then from as small as

 $\pm 1.0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 000_2\times 2^{-126}$ 

to as large as

#### $\pm 1.1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 2\times 2^{127}$



- 0 is represented as both 0000...0000(+0) and 1000...0000(-0)
- not all numbers in the intervals between  $-(1-2^{-24}) \times 2^{128}$  and  $-0.5 \times 2^{-127}$ and between  $0.5 \times 2^{-127}$  and  $(1-2^{-24}) \times 2^{128}$  are represented (why?)

## Example: floating point representation

Show the IEEE 754 binary representation of the number  $-0.75_{10}$  in single and double precision

$$-0.75_{10} = -(3/4)_{10} = -(3/2^2)_{10} = -11_2/2_{10}^2 = -0.11_2 = = -0.11_2 \times 2^0 = -1.1_2 \times 2^{-1}$$

The general representation is

$$(-1)^S imes (1 + Fraction) imes 2^E$$

In our case: S = -1, Fraction = 0.1, E = -1,  $Exponent_b = -1 + 127 = 126$ 

The single precision binary representation of  $-0.75_{10}$  is therefore

• What is the double precision representation?

# Example: converting binary to decimal floating point

What decimal number is represented?



The sign bit is 1, the exponent field contains  $10000001_2 = 129_{10} = Exponent_b$ , and the fraction field contains  $0.01_2 = 1 \times 2^{-2} = \frac{1}{4} = 0.25$ 

$$\begin{array}{l} (-1)^{S} \times (1 + Fraction) \times 2^{Exponent_{b} - Bias} \ = \ (-1)^{1} \times (1 + 0.25) \times 2^{129 - 127} \ = \\ \ = \ -1 \times 1.25 \times 2^{2} \ = \ -1.25 \times 4 \ = \ -5 \end{array}$$

# How do computers add, subtract etc.?

# Logic

Logic is the formal systematic study of the principles of valid inference and correct reasoning

Are the following inferences (or arguments) valid?

- If it is raining then I take an umbrella
- It is raining
- Therefore I take an umbrella

- If it is raining then I take an umbrella
- It is not raining
- Therefore I don't take an umbrella

What does it mean for one sentence to **follow logically** from certain others?

The sentences above are declarative sentences, or propositions,

which one can, in principle, argue as being true or false

Boolean algebra (or Boolean logic) is a logical calculus of truth values, developed by George Boole in the 1840s

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# Elements of Boolean logic

Basic assumption: every proposition can either be true or false (but not both)

#### **Examples**:

- (A) Donald Trump is the current president of the United States of America.
- (B) Joe Biden is the current president of the United States of America.
- (C) Extraterrestrial life does not exist (even though we don't know whether it's true or false)

NB: Questions/exclamations, paradoxical statements like *`this proposition is false'* are **not** propositions.

#### **Propositional connectives:**

- not (negation) denoted by $\neg$ (! in C++/Java)Is  $\neg A$  true?and (conjunction) denoted by $\land$ (&& in C++/Java)Is  $A \land B$  true?or (disjunction) denoted by $\lor$ (|| in C++/Java)Is  $A \lor B$  true?
- if ... then ... (implication) denoted by  $\rightarrow$  ls  $A \rightarrow C$  true?
- ? Are there any other propositional connectives?

**Complex propositions (formulas):**  $(\neg A) \rightarrow (B \lor C)$ ,  $((\neg B) \land (\neg \neg C)) \rightarrow \neg A$ , etc.

#### Semantics: truth-tables

Notation: 1 for `true', 0 for `false'

 $A, B, C, A_1, B_1, \ldots$  for atomic (in a given context) propositions a.k.a. propositional variables

 $A \lor B$ ,  $(\neg A) \rightarrow (A_1 \land \neg B_2),...$  for complex propositions a.k.a. **propositional** or **Boolean formulas** 



for 
$$\land$$
,  $\lor$ ,  $\rightarrow$  and  $\neg$ :

$\boldsymbol{A}$	$\boldsymbol{B}$	$A \wedge B$	$A \lor B$	A  ightarrow B	eg A
0	0	0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	0
<b>1</b>	1	1	1	1	0
	1	1		1	
`if the Moon is made of green cheese, then $2 \times 2 = 7'$					

is true

so the proposition

# Explaining 'implication'

One possible 'explanation' of the truth-table for the implication  $\rightarrow$  is as follows: The following statement is known to be true for **every** natural number *n*:

If n is divisible by 4, then n is divisible by 2.

So the following instances of this general statement must be true as well:

If 8 is divisible by 4, then 8 is divisible by $f 2$	$(1 \rightarrow 1) = 1$
If 7 is divisible by $4$ , then 7 is divisible by $2$	(0  ightarrow 0) = 1
If 2 is divisible by 4, then 2 is divisible by 2	(0  ightarrow 1) = 1

And of course, `if 8 is divisible by 4, then 7 is divisible by 2' is false  $(1 \rightarrow 0) = 0$ 

(also: analyse the wrong inference on page 23)

This interpretation of logical connectives is a **mathematical abstraction**. Under such abstractions, meaningless sentences may become sensible, and the other way round. There are different interpretations of logic connectives, e.g., with three or more truth-values.

# Truth-tables for Boolean formulas

Exercise: construct the truth-table for the formula  $(\neg A) \lor B$ 

by first computing the truth-values for  $\neg A$  and then for  $(\neg A) \lor B$ 

$\boldsymbol{A}$	B	$ (\neg A$	$) \lor B$
0	0	1 0	1 0
0	1	1 0	11
1	0	0 1	0 0
1	1	0 1	1 1

Note that this truth-table (the column under the main connective  $\lor$ )

is the same as the truth-table for A 
ightarrow B

```
So we can say that (\neg A) \lor B is equivalent to A \to B
```

**Exercise** Brown, Jones and Smith are suspected of income tax evasion.

They testify under oath as follows:

- <u>Brown:</u> Jones is guilty and Smith is innocent.
- <u>Jones:</u> If Brown is guilty, then so is Smith.
- <u>Smith:</u> I'm innocent, but at least one of the others is guilty.

Assuming everyone's testimony is true, who is innocent and who is guilty? FoC-I (episode 1.4) 27

#### **Solution**

BG stands for `Brown is guilty', JG for `Jones is guilty' and SG for `Smith is guilty'

– Brown says:  $JG \land \neg SG$  Jones says:  $BG \to SG$  Smith says:  $\neg SG \land (BG \lor JG)$ 

BG	JG	SG	$JG \wedge \neg SG$	$BG \to SG$	$ eg SG \wedge (BG \lor JG)$
0	0	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	1	0
0	1	0	1	1	1
0	1	1	0	1	0
1	0	0	0	0	1
1	0	1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1	0	1
1	1	1	0	1	0

The only case where all of the statements are true: BG = 0, JG = 1, SG = 0

This problem can be solved in a more direct way. From the first statement we can infer that Jones is guilty and Smith is innocent. From the second statement, it follows that if Smith is not guilty then Brown is not guilty. Therefore we can infer that Brown is innocent.

# Formalising English sentences

**Exercise:** Translate the following English sentences to propositional logic:

- (1) If I am not playing tennis, I am watching tennis.
- (2) If I am not watching tennis, I am reading about tennis.
- (3) I cannot do more than one of these activities at the same time.

**Solution:** First we choose our propositional variables.

(NB: they must denote propositions! say T: `playing tennis' is no good)

- T: `I am playing tennis'
- W: `I am watching tennis'
- **R**: `I am reading about tennis'

Then we can formalise the above English sentences as follows:

(1)  $\neg T \rightarrow W$ 

(2)  $\neg W \rightarrow R$ 

$$(3) \qquad \neg (T \land W) \land \neg (T \land R) \land \neg (W \land R)$$

or  $(T \land \neg W \land \neg R) \lor (\neg T \land W \land \neg R) \lor (\neg T \land \neg W \land R) \lor (\neg T \land \neg W \land \neg R)$ 

# Logically correct arguments in propositional logic

An **argument** is a sequence of propositions:



An argument is logically correct if

in every 'situation' that makes all the premises true, the conclusion is true as well

a situation = a row in the truth table for  $p_1, \ldots, p_n, q$ 

= a possible assignment for the propositional variables in  $p_1,\ldots,p_n,q$ 

# $\begin{array}{c} p_1 \\ p_2 \\ \dots \\ p_n \\ \hline q \end{array}$

is logically correct iff the formula  $(p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \dots \wedge p_n) o q$  is always true

a formula that is always true is called a tautology

# Logically correct argument: an example

lf I am not playing tennis, I am watching tennis	eg T  o W	
If I am not watching tennis, I am reading about tennis	eg W  o R	<b>3</b> premises
l cannot do more than one of these activities at the same time	$ eg (T \wedge W) \wedge  eg (T \wedge R) \wedge  eg (W \wedge R)$	
lherefore,		,
I am watching tennis	W con	clusion

In every situation that makes all the premises true, the conclusion is true as well:

T	W	R	$\neg T \rightarrow W$	eg W  o R	$egin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	W
1	1	1	1	1	0	1
1	1	0	1	1	0	1
1	0	1	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	1	0
0	1	1	1	1	0	1
0	1	0	1	1	1	1
0	0	1	0	1	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	1	0
FoC-I	conclusion 31					

# Incorrect argument: a simple example

If you solve every exercise in the textbook, then you will get an A.  $S \to A$ You did not solve every exercise in the textbook.  $\neg S$ 

Therefore \_\_\_\_

You won't get an A.

 $\neg A$ 

#### Incorrect argument: It is not the case that

`in every situation that makes all the premises true, the conclusion is true as well.'

So, to show that an argument is incorrect, it is enough to find one situation where

- all premises are true,
- but the conclusion is false.

$oldsymbol{S}$	A	S  ightarrow A	eg S	$\neg A$
1	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	0	1
0	1	1	1	0
0	0	1	1	1

If such a situation **doesn't exist** the argument is **correct** 

**Example:** The argument 'if A and  $\neg A$ , then B' is correct for any A and B FoC-I (episode 1.5)

# **Boolean logic in computers**

In the world of computers, **0** and **1** are called **bits** (for binary digit)

- 0 is represented by the lower voltage level (LOW), say, 0V 0.1V
- 1 is represented by the higher voltage level (HIGH), say, 0.9V 1.1V

All computer circuits consist of hundreds of millions of interconnected primitive elements called **gates**, which correspond to the basic logic connectives:







Since the 1990s, logic gates are made of transistors

(semiconductor devices used to amplify and switch electric signals)

# **Example: Boolean circuit**



• Represent the circuit as a **Boolean equation** 

$$C \;=\; (A \lor B) \land \neg (A \land B)$$

Construct the truth-table  $(A \lor B) \land \neg (A \land B)$  $\boldsymbol{B}$  $\boldsymbol{A}$  $1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0$ 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 

The circuit, the truth-table and the formula  $(A \lor B) \land \neg(A \land B)$  represent the Boolean function known as exclusive or and denoted by XOR, or  $A \oplus B$ 

# Boolean functions of one argument

(intuitive explanation of `function': https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Function\_(mathematics))



draw a Boolean circuit for this function

#### Boolean functions of two arguments



 $A \leftrightarrow B$  — equivalence (if and only if, or iff), equivalent to  $(A \rightarrow B) \land (B \rightarrow A)$ 

NAND gate B

) –  $C = A \mid B = \neg (A \land B)$  Scheffer stroke

NOR gate

- $B \longrightarrow C = A \downarrow B = \neg (A \lor B)$  Pierce arrow
- What functions are missing here?
- What is the number of Boolean functions of two arguments?

# Important questions

There are very many Boolean functions:  $2^{2^n}$  distinct functions of n variables For example, there are  $2^{2^5} = 4,294,967,296$  functions with 5 inputs

We don't know a priori which of them are required in computer architecture

• Is it possible to fix some, relatively simple set(s) of Boolean functions (gates), using which one can build **all** other Boolean functions?

We have already seen that the same Boolean functions can be realised in different ways using different gates.

Of course we need smallest possible circuits (formulas)...

- How to build `optimal' Boolean circuits (formulas)?
- How to simplify Boolean circuits (formulas)?
- What basic gates to choose?

We consider some aspects of these problems.

# Example: the majority function

Suppose we want to realise, using only the AND, OR and NOT gates,

the majority function  $\mu(A,B,C)$  whose output takes the same value

as the **majority** of inputs:

$\boldsymbol{A}$	B	$C \mid$	$\mu(A,B,C)$	
0	0	0	0	Each triple of truth-values for $A, B, C$ on the left-hand
0	0	1	0	side of the table for which $\mu(A,B,C) = 1$ can be
0	1	0	0	represented as conjunctions in the following way:
0	1	1	1	0 1 1 is represented by $\neg A \land B \land C$
1	0	0	0	it equals 1 if and only if $A = 0$ $B = 1$ $C = 1$
1	0	1	1	1 = 0, D = 1, C = 1
1	1	0	1	1 0 1 is represented by $A \wedge \neg B \wedge C$
1	1	1	1	it equals 1 if and only if $A=1,\ B=0,\ C=1$
				etc.

The function  $\mu(A,B,C)$  can then be realised as a disjunction of

the resulting four conjunctions:

 $(\neg A \land B \land C) \lor (A \land \neg B \land C) \lor (A \land B \land \neg C) \lor (A \land B \land C)$ 

such formulas are said to be in disjunctive normal form

# Example: the majority function (cont.)

• Use the formula above to construct a Boolean circuit for  $\mu(A,B,C)$ 



Consider, for instance, the formula

 $(A \wedge B) \lor (B \wedge C) \lor (A \wedge C)$ 

- Does it define the same function? (Construct the truth-table)
- Is the corresponding circuit simpler?
- Can you simplify it?

what about the formula  $(A \land (B \lor C)) \lor (B \land C)$ ?

FoC-I (episode 1.6)



## Universal sets of Boolean functions

The method shown on page 38 can be used to represent **any Boolean function** by means of a formula with the connectives  $\neg$ ,  $\land$  and  $\lor$ 

if there is no 1 among the function values then this function is  $\mathbf{0}$ ,

which can be represented as  $A \wedge \neg A$ 

We say that  $\{\neg, \land, \lor\}$  is a **universal** set of Boolean connectives/functions or a functionally complete set

- Are there other universal sets of Boolean formulas?
- Can simplifications like those on page 39 be done in a systematic way?

Boolean formulas  $\varphi$ ,  $\psi$  are called **equivalent** if their truth-tables are identical. In this case we write  $\varphi \equiv \psi$ . (Greek letters  $\varphi$ ,  $\psi$ ,  $\chi$  are often used to denote formulas)

(Greek leners  $\varphi, \psi, \chi$  are often used to denote formulas)

As equivalent formulas  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  determine the same Boolean function, we can use either of them to construct Boolean circuits

## Useful equivalences

 $\neg(\varphi \wedge \psi) \equiv \neg \varphi \vee \neg \psi$ ( $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are arbitrary (De Morgan laws)  $\neg(\varphi \lor \psi) \equiv \neg \varphi \land \neg \psi$ **Boolean formulas**)  $\neg \neg \varphi \equiv \varphi$  (the law of double negation)  $\neg \varphi \lor \varphi \equiv 1$  (the law of the excluded middle, 'to be or not to be')  $\neg \varphi \wedge \varphi \equiv 0$  (the law of contradiction)  $\varphi \land (\psi \lor \chi) \equiv (\varphi \land \psi) \lor (\varphi \land \chi)$  (distributivity of  $\land$  over  $\lor$ )  $\varphi \lor (\psi \land \chi) \equiv (\varphi \lor \psi) \land (\varphi \lor \chi)$  (distributivity of  $\lor$  over  $\land$ )  $\varphi \wedge 1 \equiv \varphi, \quad \varphi \wedge 0 \equiv 0, \quad \varphi \vee 1 \equiv 1, \quad \varphi \vee 0 \equiv \varphi, \quad \varphi \wedge \varphi \equiv \varphi, \quad \varphi \vee \varphi \equiv \varphi$ It follows, for instance, that  $\varphi \lor \psi \equiv \neg((\neg \varphi) \land (\neg \psi))$  $\varphi \wedge \psi \equiv \neg((\neg \varphi) \vee (\neg \psi))$ Thus, we can express  $\lor$  by means of  $\neg$  and  $\land$ ;

likewise,  $\wedge$  can be expressed by means of  $\neg$  and  $\vee$ 

So both  $\{\neg, \land\}$  and  $\{\neg, \lor\}$  are universal (e.g.,  $\varphi \to \psi \equiv \neg \varphi \lor \psi$ ) FoC-I (episode 1.7) (a)

#### How to show equivalence: method 1

$$A \lor (A \land B) \equiv (A \land 1) \lor (A \land B)$$

$$\equiv (A \land (B \lor \neg B)) \lor (A \land B)$$

$$\equiv (A \land B) \lor (A \land \neg B) \lor (A \land B)$$

 $\equiv \quad (A \land B) \lor (A \land B) \lor (A \land \neg B)$ 

$$\equiv (A \wedge B) \lor (A \wedge \neg B)$$

$$\equiv A \land (B \lor \neg B)$$

$$\equiv A \wedge 1$$

$$\equiv A$$

Thus, 
$$A \lor (A \land B) \equiv A$$

#### How to show equivalence: method 2

**Exercise 1:** Show that  $P \oplus Q \equiv (P \lor Q) \land \neg (P \land Q)$ 

Solution:

Ρ	Q	$P\oplus Q$	Ρ	Q	$P \lor Q$	$P \wedge Q$	$ eg (P \wedge Q)$	$(P \lor Q) \land \neg (P \land Q)$
1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

**Exercise 2:** Show that  $P \leftrightarrow Q \equiv (P \land Q) \lor (\neg P \land \neg Q)$ 

Solution:	$\boldsymbol{P}$	Q	$P \leftrightarrow Q$	P	Q	$P \wedge Q$	$\neg P$	$\neg Q$	$ eg P \land  eg Q$	$(P \wedge Q) \vee (\neg P \wedge \neg Q)$
	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1

# Other universal sets of Boolean functions

#### NAND is universal

To prove this, it is enough to show that, using NAND, we can express

both NOT and AND:

• 
$$\neg A \equiv (A \mid A) \equiv \neg (A \land A) \equiv \neg A$$
, because  $A \land A \equiv A$ 

• 
$$A \wedge B \equiv (A \mid B) \mid (A \mid B)$$
 why?

#### NOR is universal Exercise

 $\{1, \oplus, \wedge\}$  is universal (recall that  $\oplus$  is XOR)

•  $\neg A \equiv (A \oplus 1)$ 

# The SAT problem

A Boolean formula  $\varphi(A_1, \ldots, A_n)$  with propositional variables  $A_1, \ldots, A_n$  is satisfiable if there is an assignment of the truth-values 0 and 1 to the variables  $A_1, \ldots, A_n$  under which  $\varphi$  evaluates to 1

Problem: design an algorithm that, given an arbitrary formula  $\varphi(A_1, \ldots, A_n)$ , returns YES if this formula is satisfiable and NO otherwise

Solution: construct the truth-table for  $\varphi(A_1,\ldots,A_n)$  and check whether it contains 1 in the column for  $\varphi$ 

How complex is this algorithm? there are  $2^n$  rows in the truth-table

If n = 1000, checking every one of the  $2^{1000}$  possible combinations of truth values of the variables cannot be done by a computer in even trillions of years

There is no known algorithm that *efficiently* solves SAT (for any given  $\varphi$ ). It is generally believed that no such algorithm exists; yet this belief has not been proven mathematically, and resolving the question of whether SAT has a polynomial-time algorithm is equivalent to the **P versus NP** problem, which is a famous open problem in the theory of computing.

# Arithmetic and logic unit (ALU)

The **ALU** is the part of computer that performs arithmetic and logical operations. It is the workhorse of the CPU because it carries out all the calculations.

The hardware required to build an ALU is the basic gates: AND, OR and NOT We use these gates to construct a 32-bit adder for integers Such an adder can be created by connecting 32 1-bit adders

Inputs and outputs of a single-bit adder:

- two inputs for the operands (the bits we want to add), say, A and B;
- a single-bit output for the sum;
- a second output to pass on the carry CarryOut
- a third input is CarryIn the CarryOut from the previous adder



# Designing a single-bit adder

We begin by giving precise input and output specifications (truth-table)

$\boldsymbol{A}$	B	CarryIn	CarryOut	Sum	Comments
0	0	0	0	0	$0 + 0 + 0 = 00_2$
0	0	1	0	1	$0+0+1=01_2$
0	1	0	0	1	$0+1+0=01_2$
0	1	1	1	0	$0+1+1=10_2$
1	0	0	0	1	$1+0+0=01_2$
<b>1</b>	0	1	1	0	$1+0+1=10_2$
1	1	0	1	0	$1+1+0=10_2$
<b>1</b>	1	1	1	1	$1+1+1=11_2$

Then we turn this truth-table into logical equations:

 $CarryOut = (\neg A \land B \land CarryIn) \lor (A \land \neg B \land CarryIn) \lor (A \land B \land \neg CarryIn) \lor (A \land B \land CarryIn) \lor (A \land B \land CarryIn)$ 

can be simplified to (remember the majority function?)  $CarryOut = (B \land CarryIn) \lor (A \land CarryIn) \lor (A \land B)$ and  $Sum = (A \land \neg B \land \neg CarryIn) \lor (\neg A \land B \land \neg CarryIn) \lor$   $(\neg A \land \neg B \land CarryIn) \lor (A \land B \land CarryIn)$ FoC-I (episode 1.8)

#### Boolean circuits for the 1-bit adder



# Boolean circuit for the 1-bit adder (cont.)

Check that the following circuit with XOR gates realises the same functions *CarryOut* and *Sum* 



# 32-bit adder

Adding  $A = a_{31}a_{30} \dots a_2a_1a_0$  and  $B = b_{31}b_{30} \dots b_2b_1b_0$ 



- *CarryIn* in the least significant adder is supposed to be 0
- What happens if we set this CarryIn to 1 instead of 0?

#### 32-bit adder and subtractor

Control bit C:

- C = 0: Add A + B (because  $b_i \oplus 0 = b_i$ )
- C = 1: Subtract A B (because  $b_i \oplus 1 = \neg b_i$ )



FoC-I (episode 1.8)