

Gates and Circuits (Part A) By Nell Dale & John Lewis





- Identify the basic gates and describe the behavior of each
- Describe how gates are implemented using transistors
- Combine basic gates into circuits



- A **gate** is a device that performs a basic operation on electrical signals
- Gates are combined into circuits to perform more complicated tasks

Computers and Electricity

- There are three different, but equally powerful, notational methods for describing the behavior of gates and circuits
 - Boolean expressions
 - logic diagrams
 - truth tables



 Boolean algebra: expressions in this algebraic notation are an elegant and powerful way to demonstrate the activity of electrical circuits

Computers and Electricity

- Logic diagram: a graphical representation of a circuit
 - Each type of gate is represented by a specific graphical symbol
- **Truth table:** defines the function of a gate by listing all possible input combinations that the gate could encounter, and the corresponding output



 A NOT gate accepts one input value and produces one output value



Figure 4.1 Various representations of a NOT gate



- By definition, if the input value for a NOT gate is 0, the output value is 1, and if the input value is 1, the output is 0
- A NOT gate is sometimes referred to as an *inverter* because it inverts the input value

AND Gate

- An AND gate accepts two input signals
- If the two input values for an AND gate are both 1, the output is 1; otherwise, the output is 0



Various representations of an AND gate



 If the two input values are both 0, the output value is 0; otherwise, the output is 1



Various representations of a OR gate

XOR Gate

- XOR, or exclusive OR, gate
 - An XOR gate produces 0 if its two inputs are the same, and a 1 otherwise
 - Note the difference between the XOR gate and the OR gate; they differ only in one input situation
 - When both input signals are 1, the OR gate produces a 1 and the XOR produces a 0





Various representations of an XOR gate

NAND and NOR Gates

 The NAND and NOR gates are essentially the opposite of the AND and OR gates, respectively

Various representations of a NAND gate

Various representations of a NOR gate





Review of Gate Processing

- A NOT gate inverts its single input value
- An AND gate produces 1 if both input values are 1
- An OR gate produces 1 if one or the other or both input values are 1

Review of Gate Processing (cont.)

- An XOR gate produces 1 if one or the other (but not both) input values are 1
- A NAND gate produces the opposite results of an AND gate
- A NOR gate produces the opposite results of an OR gate

Gates with More Inputs

- Gates can be designed to accept three or more input values
- A three-input AND gate, for example, produces an output of 1 only if all input values are 1



Constructing Gates

- A transistor is a device that acts, depending on the voltage level of an input signal, either as a wire that conducts electricity or as a resistor that blocks the flow of electricity
 - A transistor has no moving parts, yet acts like a switch
 - It is made of a semiconductor material, which is neither a particularly good conductor of electricity, such as copper, nor a particularly good insulator, such as rubber

Constructing Gates



The connections of a transistor

- A transistor has three terminals
 - A source
 - A base
 - An emitter, typically connected to a ground wire
- If the electrical signal is grounded, it is allowed to flow through an alternative route to the ground (literally) where it can do no harm



 It turns out that, because the way a transistor works, the easiest gates to create are the NOT, NAND, and NOR gates



Constructing gates using transistors