Computer system architecture
Chapt 4. Register transfer & Microoperations

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Rm: 416

REGISTER TRANSFER AND MICROOPERATIONS

- Register Transfer Language
- Register Transfer
- Bus and Memory Transfers
- Arithmetic Microoperations
- Logic Microoperations
- Shift Microoperations
- Arithmetic Logic Shift Unit

SIMPLE DIGITAL SYSTEMS

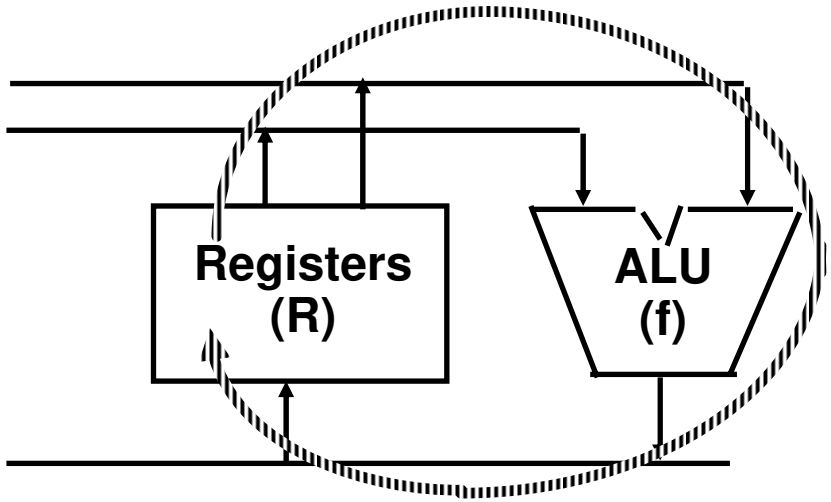
- Combinational and sequential circuits (learned in Chapters 1 and 2) can be used to create simple digital systems.
- These are the low-level building blocks of a digital computer.
- Simple digital systems are frequently characterized in terms of
  - the registers they contain, and
  - the operations that they perform.
  - the control that initiates the sequence of microoperations
- Typically,
  - What operations are performed on the data in the registers
  - What information is passed between registers

MICROOPERATIONS (1)

- The operations on the data in registers are called microoperations.
- The functions built into registers are examples of microoperations
  - Shift
  - Load
  - Clear
  - Increment
  - …

MICROOPERATION (2)

An elementary operation performed (during one clock pulse), on the information stored in one or more registers



1 clock cycle

$R \leftarrow f(R, R)$

f: shift, load, clear, increment, add, subtract, complement, and, or, xor, …

REGISTER TRANSFER LANGUAGE

- Rather than specifying a digital system in words, a specific notation is used, *register transfer language*
- For any function of the computer, the register transfer language can be used to describe the (sequence of) microoperations
- Register transfer language
  - A symbolic language
  - A convenient tool for describing the internal organization of digital computers
  - Can also be used to facilitate the design process of digital systems.

DESIGNATION OF REGISTERS

- Registers are designated by capital letters, sometimes followed by numbers (e.g., A, R13, IR)
- Often the names indicate function:
  - MAR - memory address register
  - PC - program counter
  - IR - instruction register

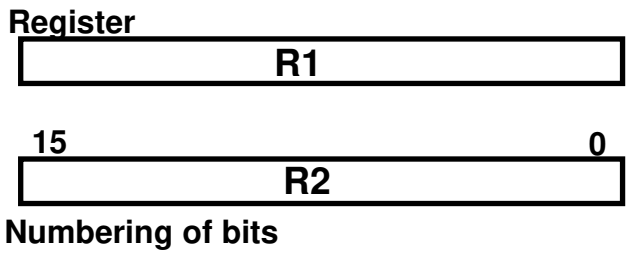
- Registers and their contents can be viewed and represented in *various ways*
  - A register can be viewed as a single entity:

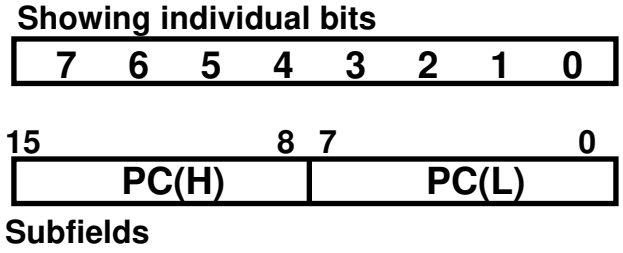
  - Registers may also be represented showing the bits of data they contain

DESIGNATION OF REGISTERS

- Designation of a register
  - a register
  - portion of a register
  - a bit of a register

- Common ways of drawing the block diagram of a register





REGISTER TRANSFER

- Copying the contents of one register to another is a register transfer

- A register transfer is indicated as

  $R2 \leftarrow R1$

  - In this case the contents of register R2 are copied (loaded) from register R1
  - A simultaneous transfer of all bits from the source R1 to the destination register R2, during one clock pulse
  - Note that this is a non-destructive; i.e. the contents of R1 are not altered by copying (loading) them to R2

REGISTER TRANSFER

- A register transfer such as

  R3 ← R5

  Implies that the digital system has

  - the data lines from the source register (R5) to the destination register (R3)
  - Parallel load in the destination register (R3)
  - Control lines to perform the action

CONTROL FUNCTIONS

- Often actions need to only occur if a certain condition is true
- This is similar to an "if" statement in a programming language
- In digital systems, this is often done via a *control signal*, called a *control function*
  - If the signal is 1, the action takes place
- This is represented as:

P: R2 ← R1

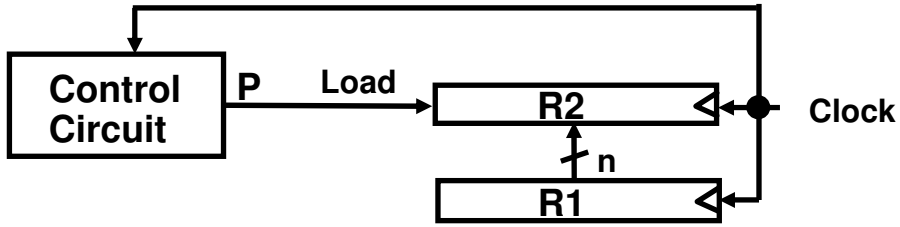
Which means "if P = 1, then load the contents of register R1 into register R2", i.e., if (P = 1) then (R2 ← R1)

HARDWARE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTROLLED TRANSFERS

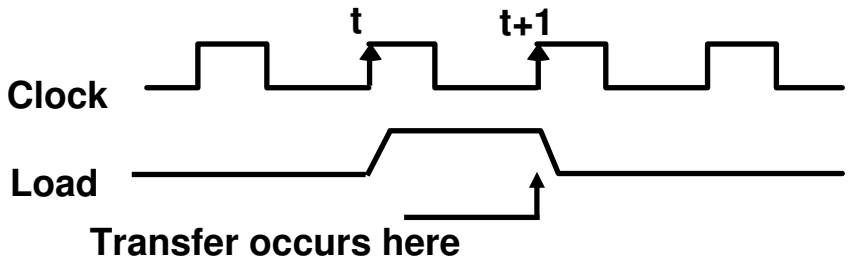
Implementation of controlled transfer

P: R2 ← R1

Block diagram



Timing diagram



- The same clock controls the circuits that generate the control function and the destination register
- Registers are assumed to use *positive-edge-triggered* flip-flops

SIMULTANEOUS OPERATIONS

- If two or more operations are to occur simultaneously, they are separated with commas

  P: R3 ← R5, MAR ← IR

- Here, if the control function P = 1, load the contents of R5 into R3, and at the same time (clock), load the contents of register IR into register MAR

BASIC SYMBOLS FOR REGISTER TRANSFERS

Symbols	Description	Examples
Capital letters & numerals	Denotes a register	MAR, R2
Parentheses ()	Denotes a part of a register	R2(0-7), R2(L)
Arrow ←	Denotes transfer of information	R2 ← R1
Colon :	Denotes termination of control function	P:
Comma ,	Separates two micro-operations	A ← B, B ← A

CONNECTING REGISTRS

- In a digital system with many registers, it is impractical to have data and control lines to directly allow each register to be loaded with the contents of every possible other registers

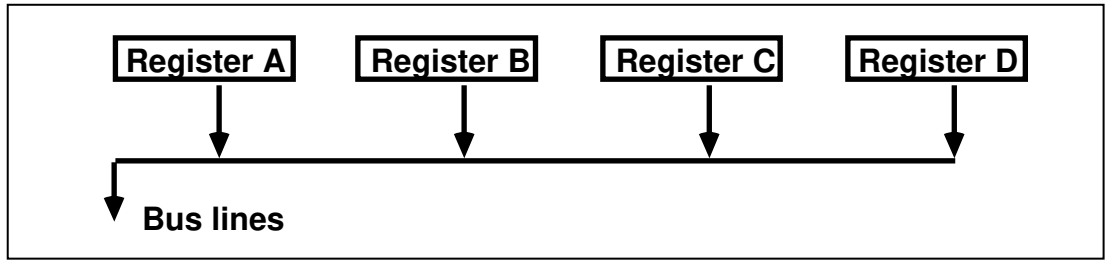
- To completely connect n registers → n(n-1) lines
- $O(n^2)$ cost
  - This is not a realistic approach to use in a large digital system

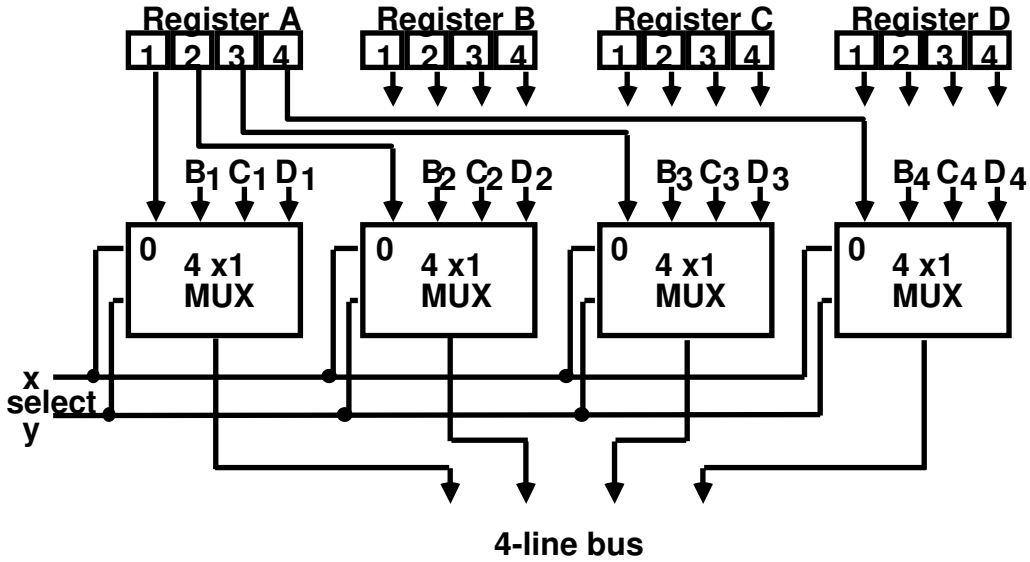
- Instead, take a different approach
- Have one centralized set of circuits for data transfer – the bus
- Have control circuits to select which register is the source, and which is the destination

BUS AND BUS TRANSFER

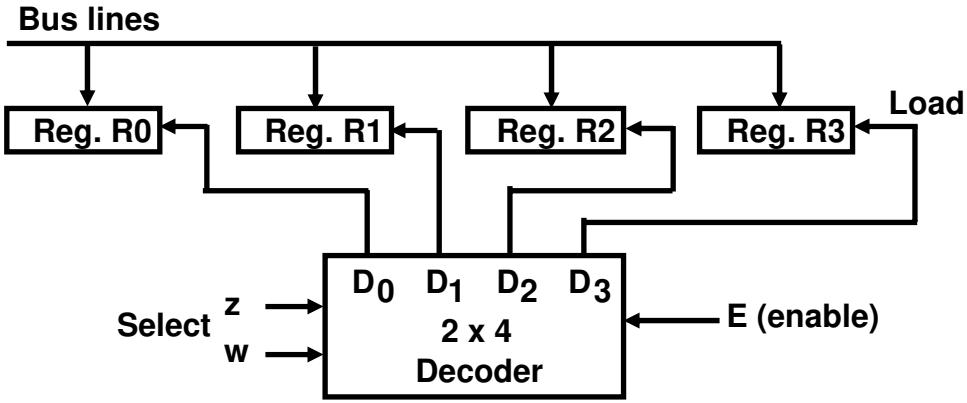
Bus is a path(of a group of wires) over which information is transferred, from any of several sources to any of several destinations.

From a register to bus: BUS ← R





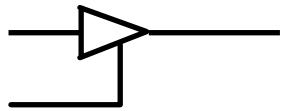
TRANSFER FROM BUS TO A DESTINATION REGISTER



Three-State Bus Buffers

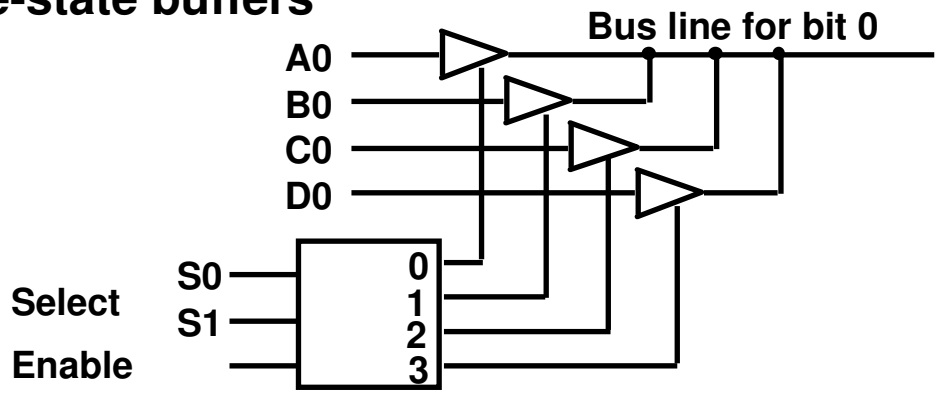
Normal input A

Control input C



Output Y=A if C=1
High-impedence if C=0

Bus line with three-state buffers



BUS TRANSFER IN RTL

- Depending on whether the bus is to be mentioned explicitly or not, register transfer can be indicated as either

$$R2 \leftarrow R1$$

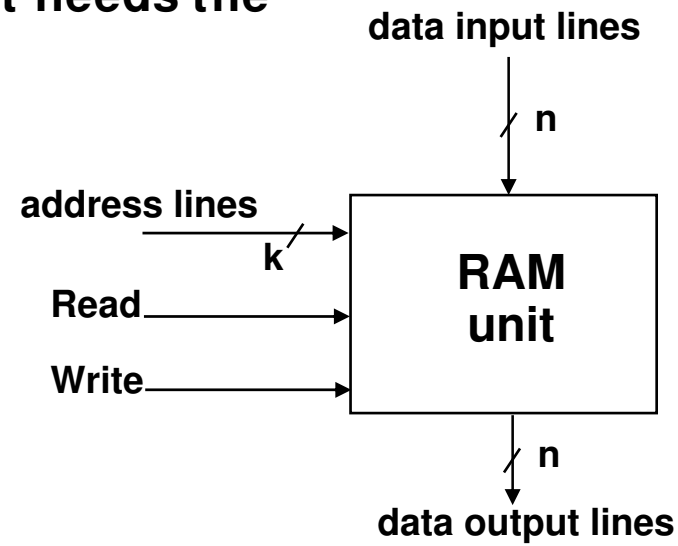
or

$$BUS \leftarrow R1,\ R2 \leftarrow BUS$$

- In the former case the bus is implicit, but in the latter, it is explicitly indicated

MEMORY (RAM)

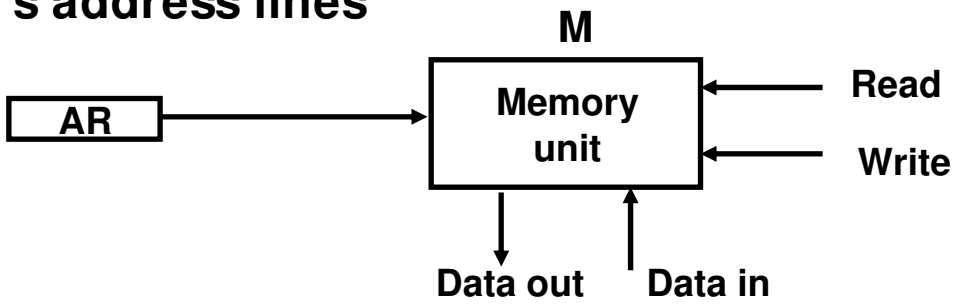
- Memory (RAM) can be thought as a sequential circuits containing some number of registers
- These registers hold the *words* of memory
- Each of the r registers is indicated by an *address*
- These addresses range from 0 to r-1
- Each register (word) can hold n bits of data
- Assume the RAM contains r = 2k words. It needs the following
  - n data input lines
  - n data output lines
  - k address lines
  - A Read control line
  - A Write control line



MEMORY TRANSFER

- Collectively, the memory is viewed at the register level as a device, M.
- Since it contains multiple locations, we must specify which address in memory we will be using
- This is done by indexing memory references

- Memory is usually accessed in computer systems by putting the desired address in a special register, the *Memory Address Register* (*MAR*, or *AR*)
- When memory is accessed, the contents of the MAR get sent to the memory unit's address lines



MEMORY READ

- To read a value from a location in memory and load it into a register, the register transfer language notation looks like this:

  $R1 \leftarrow M[MAR]$

- This causes the following to occur
  - The contents of the MAR get sent to the memory address lines
  - A Read (= 1) gets sent to the memory unit
  - The contents of the specified address are put on the memory's output data lines
  - These get sent over the bus to be loaded into register R1

MEMORY WRITE

- To write a value from a register to a location in memory looks like this in register transfer language:

$$M[MAR] \leftarrow R1$$

- This causes the following to occur
  - The contents of the MAR get sent to the memory address lines
  - A Write (= 1) gets sent to the memory unit
  - The values in register R1 get sent over the bus to the data input lines of the memory
  - The values get loaded into the specified address in the memory

SUMMARY OF R. TRANSFER MICROOPERATIONS

A ← B	Transfer content of reg. B into reg. A
AR ← DR(AD)	Transfer content of AD portion of reg. DR into reg. AR
A ← constant	Transfer a binary constant into reg. A
ABUS ← R1,	Transfer content of R1 into bus A and, at the same time,
R2 ← ABUS	transfer content of bus A into R2
AR	Address register
DR	Data register
M[R]	Memory word specified by reg. R
M	Equivalent to M[AR]
DR ← M	Memory *read* operation: transfers content of memory word specified by AR into DR
M ← DR	Memory *write* operation: transfers content of DR into memory word specified by AR

MICROOPERATIONS

- **Computer system microoperations are of four types:**

  - **Register transfer microoperations**
  - **Arithmetic microoperations**
  - **Logic microoperations**
  - **Shift microoperations**

ARITHMETIC MICROOPERATIONS

- The basic arithmetic microoperations are
  - Addition
  - Subtraction
  - Increment
  - Decrement

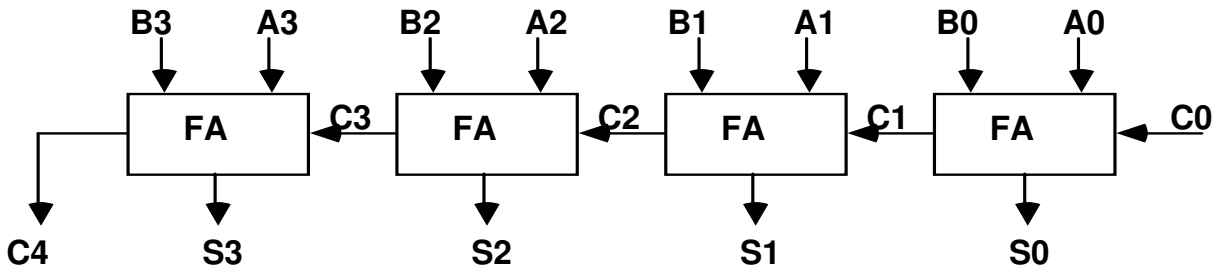
- The additional arithmetic microoperations are
  - Add with carry
  - Subtract with borrow
  - Transfer/ Load
  - etc. …

Summary of Typical Arithmetic Micro-Operations

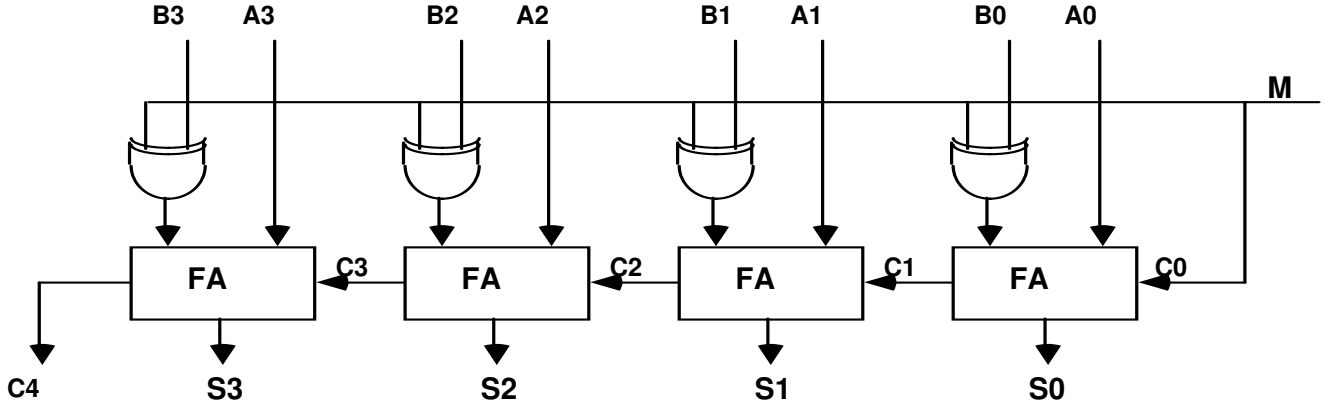
R3 ← R1 + R2	Contents of R1 plus R2 transferred to R3
R3 ← R1 - R2	Contents of R1 minus R2 transferred to R3
R2 ← R2'	Complement the contents of R2
R2 ← R2'+ 1	2's complement the contents of R2 (negate)
R3 ← R1 + R2'+ 1	subtraction
R1 ← R1 + 1	Increment
R1 ← R1 - 1	Decrement

BINARY ADDER / SUBTRACTOR / INCREMENTER

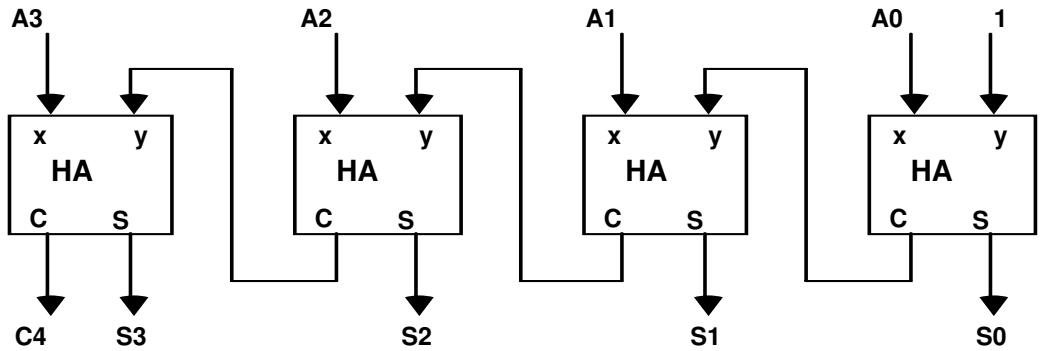
Binary Adder



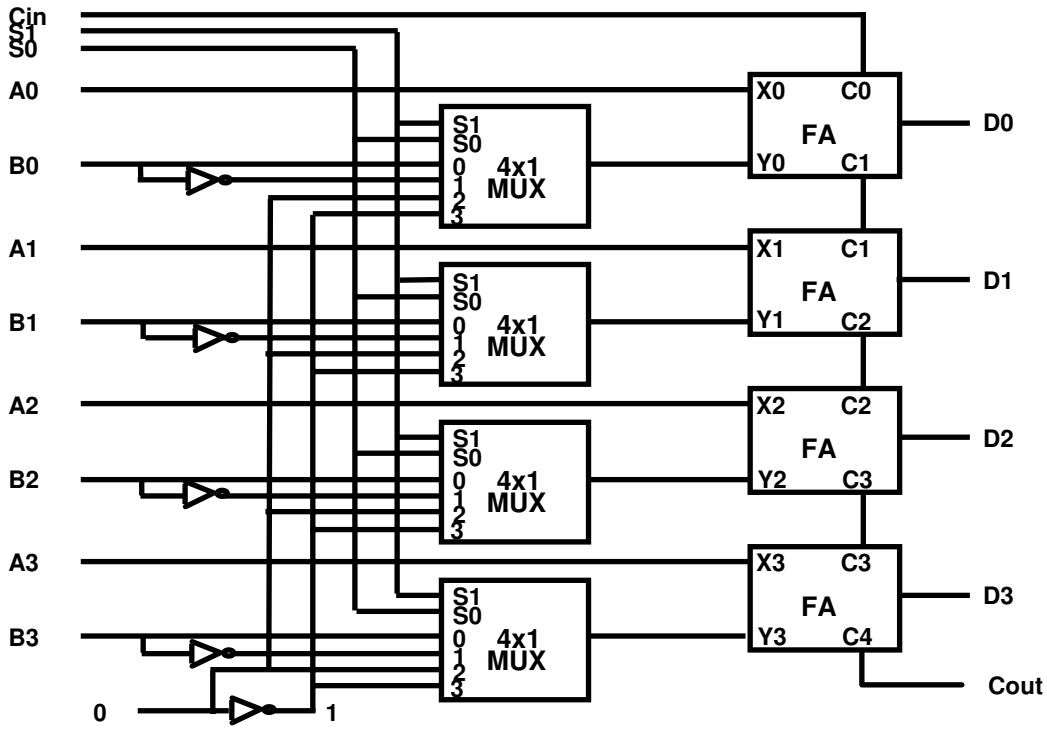
Binary Adder-Subtractor



Binary Incrementer

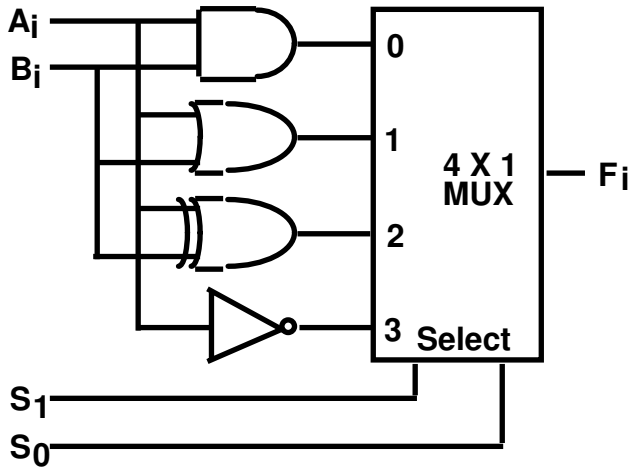


ARITHMETIC CIRCUIT



S1	S0	Cin	Y	Output	Microoperation
0	0	0	B	D = A + B	Add
0	0	1	B	D = A + B + 1	Add with carry
0	1	0	B'	D = A + B'	Subtract with borrow
0	1	1	B'	D = A + B'+ 1	Subtract
1	0	0	0	D = A	Transfer A
1	0	1	0	D = A + 1	Increment A
1	1	0	1	D = A - 1	Decrement A
1	1	1	1	D = A	Transfer A

LOGI C MI CROOPERATI ONS



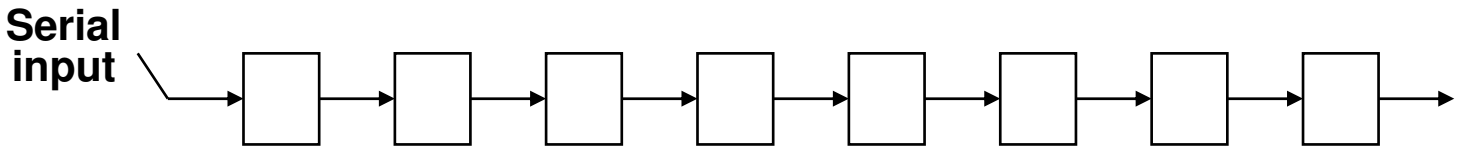
Function table

S_1	S_0	Output	μ-operation
0	0	F = A ∧ B	AND
0	1	F = A ∨ B	OR
1	0	F = A ⊕ B	XOR
1	1	F = A'	Complement

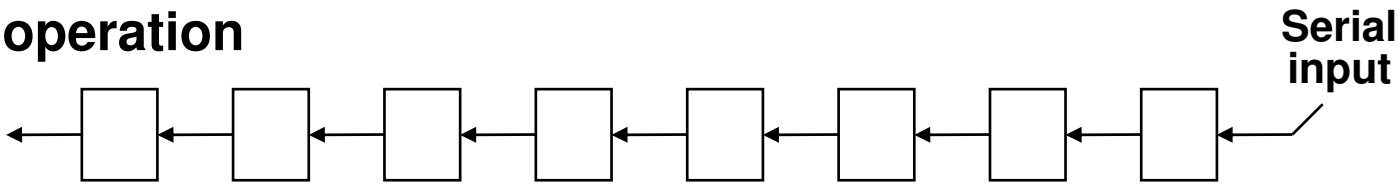
SHIFT MICROOPERATIONS

- There are three types of shifts
  - *Logical shift*
  - *Circular shift*
  - *Arithmetic shift*
- What differentiates them is the information that goes into the serial input

• A right shift operation

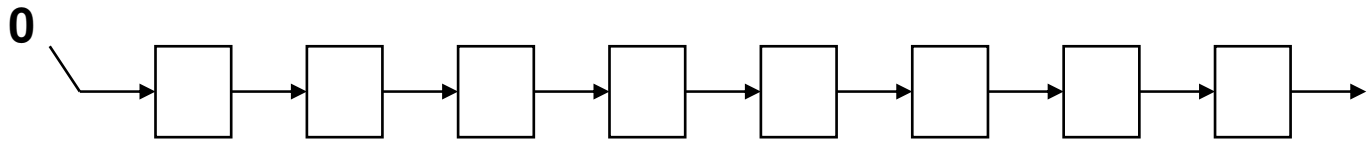


• A left shift operation

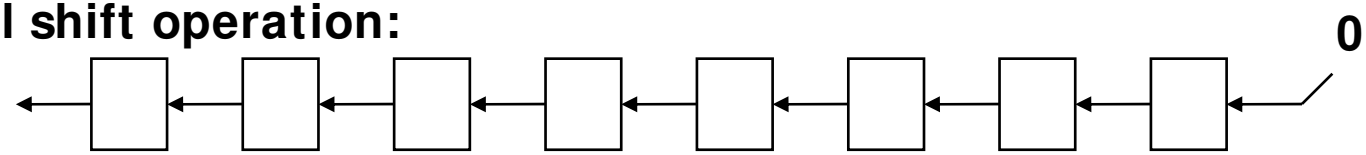


LOGICAL SHIFT

- In a logical shift the serial input to the shift is a 0.
- A right logical shift operation:



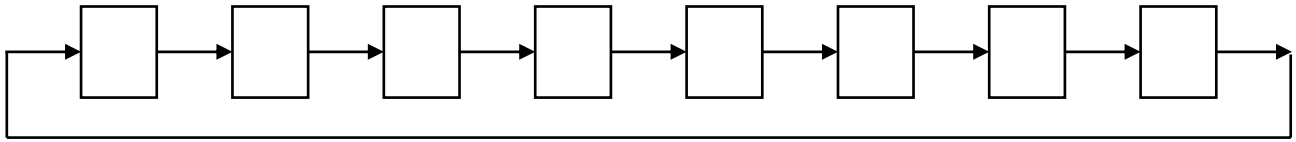
- A left logical shift operation:



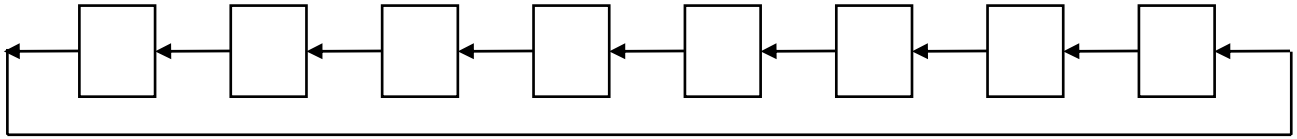
- In a Register Transfer Language, the following notation is used
  - *shl* for a logical shift left
  - *shr* for a logical shift right
  - Examples:
    - ✓ R2 ← *shr* R2
    - ✓ R3 ← *shl* R3

CIRCULAR SHIFT

- In a circular shift the serial input is the bit that is shifted out of the other end of the register.
- A right circular shift operation:



- A left circular shift operation:

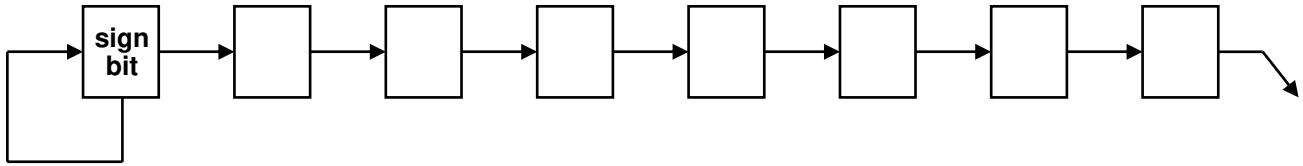


- In a RTL, the following notation is used
  - *cil* for a circular shift left
  - *cir* for a circular shift right
  - Examples:
    - ✓ R2 ← *cir* R2
    - ✓ R3 ← *cil* R3

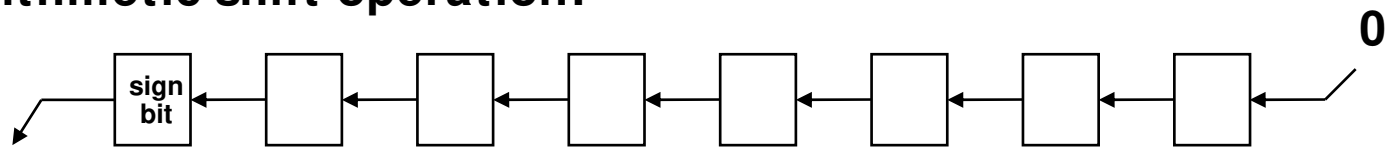
ARITHMETIC SHIFT

- An arithmetic shift is meant for signed binary numbers (integer)
- An arithmetic left shift multiplies a signed number by two
- An arithmetic right shift divides a signed number by two
- The main distinction of an arithmetic shift is that it must keep the sign of the number the same as it performs the multiplication or division

- A right arithmetic shift operation:

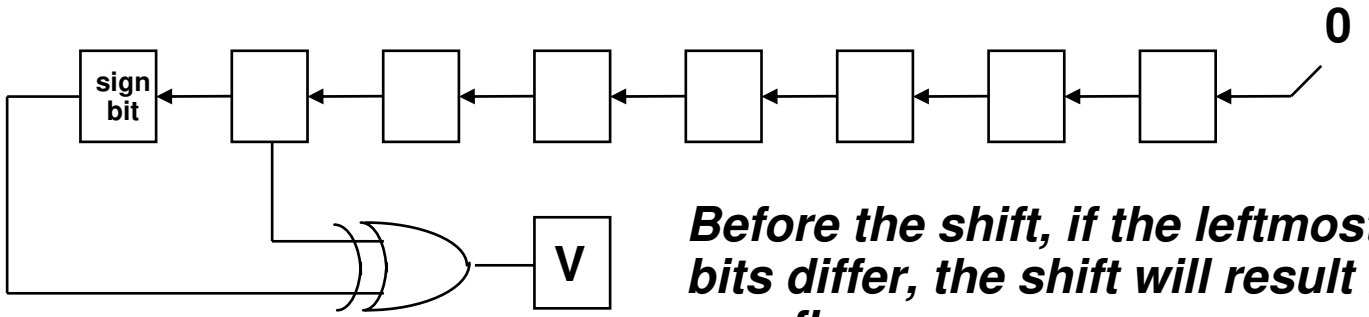


- A left arithmetic shift operation:



ARITHMETIC SHIFT

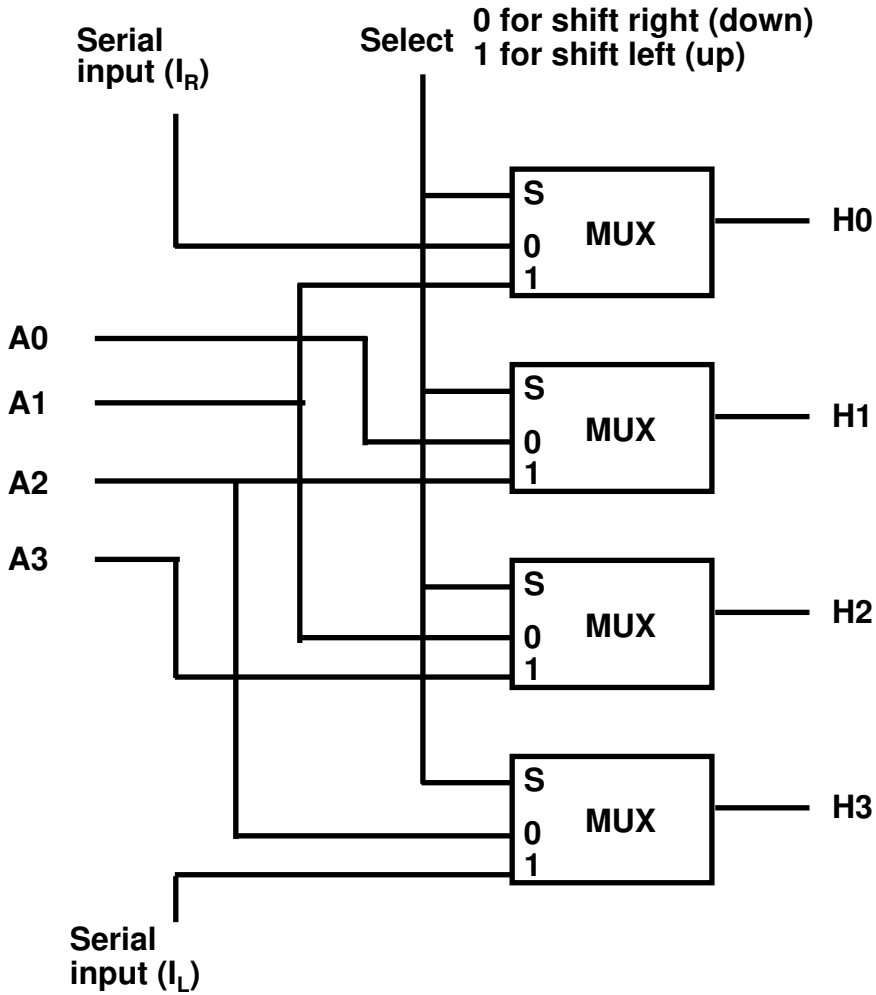
- An left arithmetic shift operation must be checked for the overflow



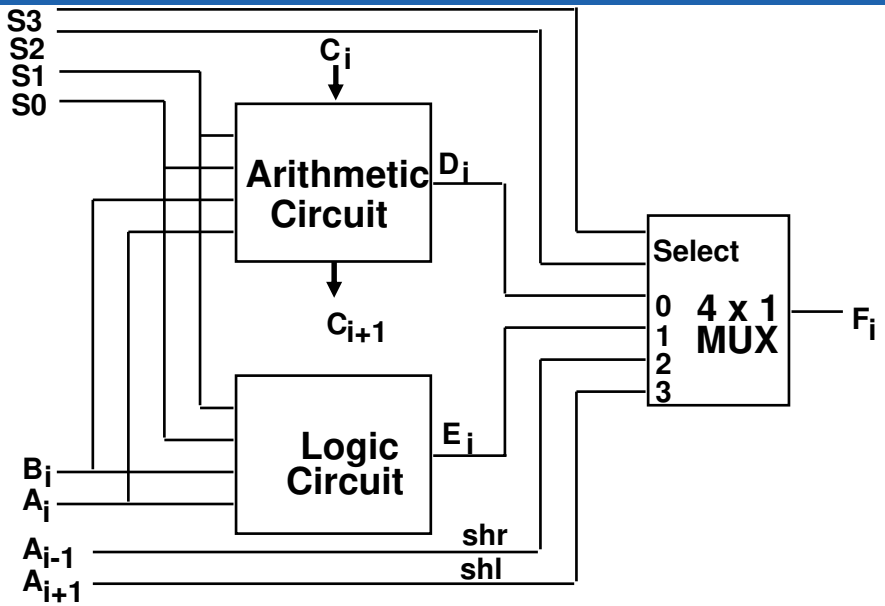
Before the shift, if the leftmost two bits differ, the shift will result in an overflow

- In a RTL, the following notation is used
  - *ashl* for an arithmetic shift left
  - *ashr* for an arithmetic shift right
  - Examples:
    - ✓ R2 ← *ashr* R2
    - ✓ R3 ← *ashl* R3

HARDWARE IMPLEMENTATION OF SHIFT MICROOPERATIONS



ARITHMETIC LOGIC SHIFT UNIT



S3	S2	S1	S0	Cin	Operation	Function
0	0	0	0	0	F = A	Transfer A
0	0	0	0	1	F = A + 1	Increment A
0	0	0	1	0	F = A + B	Addition
0	0	0	1	1	F = A + B + 1	Add with carry
0	0	1	0	0	F = A + B'	Subtract with borrow
0	0	1	0	1	F = A + B'+ 1	Subtraction
0	0	1	1	0	F = A - 1	Decrement A
0	0	1	1	1	F = A	TransferA
0	1	0	0	X	F = A $\wedge$ B	AND
0	1	0	1	X	F = A $\vee$ B	OR
0	1	1	0	X	F = A $\oplus$ B	XOR
0	1	1	1	X	F = A'	Complement A
1	0	X	X	X	F = shr A	Shift right A into F
1	1	X	X	X	F = shl A	Shift left A into F