

ECE/CS 250

Computer Architecture

Fall 2021

Basics of Logic Design: Boolean Algebra, Logic Gates, and the ALU (Combinational Logic)

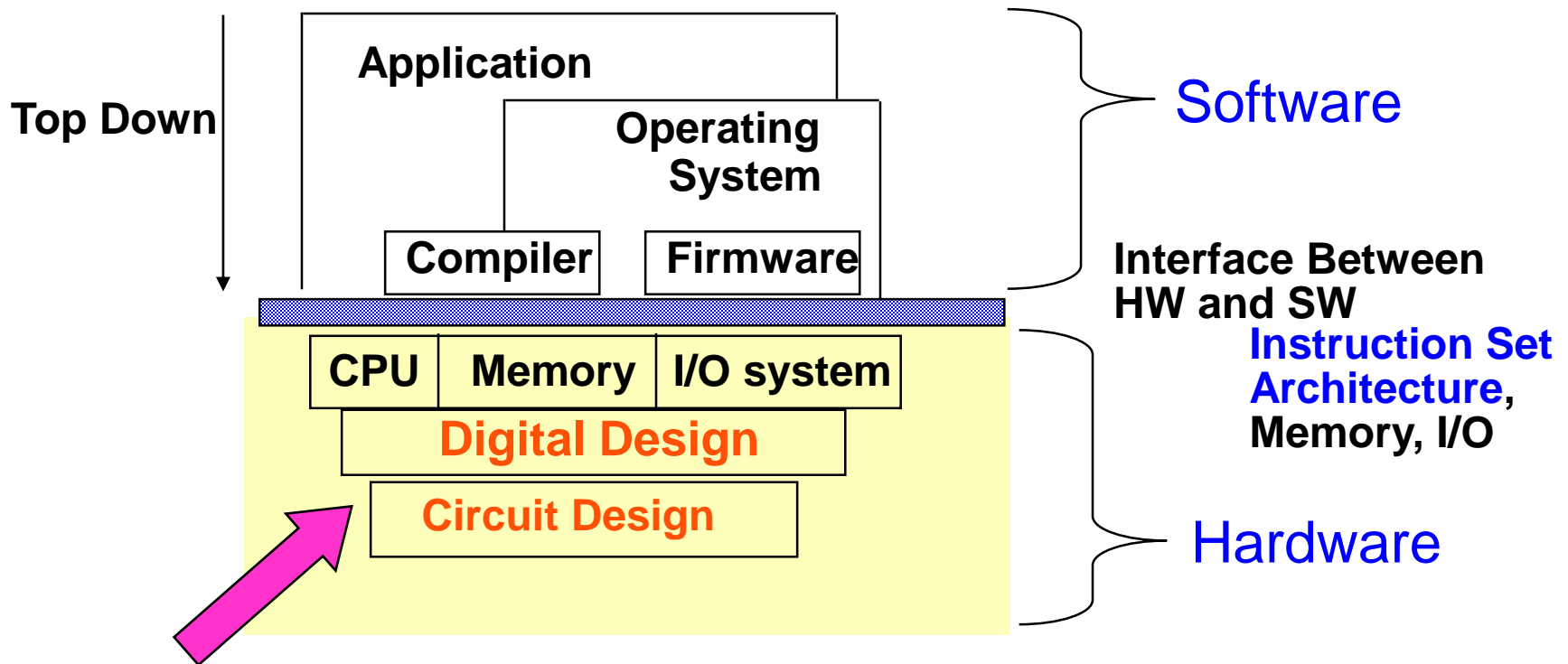
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Slides are derived from work by
Daniel J. Sorin (Duke), Alvy Lebeck (Duke), and Drew Hilton (Duke)

Reading

- Appendix B (parts 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10)
- This material is covered in MUCH greater depth in ECE/CS 350 – please take ECE/CS 350 if you want to learn enough digital design to build your own processor

What We've Done, Where We're Going



(Almost) Bottom UP to CPU

Computer = Machine That Manipulates Bits

- Everything is in binary (bunches of 0s and 1s)
 - Instructions, numbers, memory locations, etc.
- Computer is a machine that operates on bits
 - Executing instructions → operating on bits
- Computers physically made of **transistors**
 - Electrically controlled switches
- We can use transistors to build logic
 - E.g., if this bit is a 0 and that bit is a 1, then set some other bit to be a 1
 - E.g., if the first 5 bits of the instruction are 10010 then set this other bit to 1 (to tell the adder to subtract instead of add)

How Many Transistors Are We Talking About?

Pentium III

- Processor Core 9.5 Million Transistors
- Total: 28 Million Transistors

Pentium 4

- Total: 42 Million Transistors

Core2 Duo (two processor cores)

- Total: 290 Million Transistors

Core2 Duo Extreme (4 processor cores, 8MB cache)

- Total: 590 Million Transistors

Core i7 with 6-cores

- Total: 2.27 Billion Transistors

How do they design such a thing? Carefully!

Abstraction!

- Use of **abstraction** (key to design of any large system)
 - Put a few (2-8) transistors into a **logic gate** (or, and, xor, ...)
 - **Combine gates into logical functions** (add, select,....)
 - Combine adders, shifters, etc., together into modules
 - Units with well-defined interfaces for large tasks: e.g., decode
 - Combine a dozen of those into a core...
 - Stick 4 cores on a chip...

Boolean Algebra

- First step to logic: Boolean Algebra
 - Manipulation of True / False (1/0)
 - After all: everything is just 1s and 0s
- Given inputs (variables): A, B, C, P, Q...
 - Compute outputs using logical operators, such as:
- NOT: $\neg A$ ($= \sim A = \bar{A}$)
- AND: $A \& B$ ($= A \cdot B = A * B = AB = A \wedge B$) = `A&&B` in C/C++
- OR: $A \mid B$ ($= A + B = A \vee B$) = `A || B` in C/C++
- XOR: $A \hat{\ } B$ ($= A \oplus B$)
- NAND, NOR, XNOR, Etc.

Truth Tables

- Can represent as **truth table**: shows outputs for all inputs

a	NOT (a)
0	1
1	0

a	b	AND (a, b)
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

a	b	OR (a, b)
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1

a	b	XOR (a, b)
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

a	b	XNOR (a, b)
0	0	1
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

a	b	NOR (a, b)
0	0	1
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	0

Any Inputs, Any Outputs

- Can have any # of inputs, any # of outputs
- Can have arbitrary functions:

a	b	c	f_1	f_2
0	0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1	1
0	1	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	0
1	0	1	1	0
1	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1

Let's Write a Truth Table for a Function...

- Example:
(A & B) | !C

Start with Empty TT

Column Per Input

Column Per Output

A	B	C	Output

Let's write a Truth Table for a function...

- Example:
(A & B) | !C

Start with Empty TT

Column Per Input

Column Per Output

Fill in Inputs

Counting in Binary

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	

Let's write a Truth Table for a function...

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Fill in Inputs

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0	0	1	

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Counting in Binary

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	
0	0	1	
0	1	0	
0	1	1	
1	0	0	
1	0	1	
1	1	0	
1	1	1	

Let's write a Truth Table for a function...

- Example:
(A & B) | !C

Start with Empty TT

Column Per Input

Column Per Output

Fill in Inputs

Counting in Binary

Compute Output

$$(0 \& 0) \mid !0 = 0 \mid 1 = 1$$

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	
0	1	0	
0	1	1	
1	0	0	
1	0	1	
1	1	0	
1	1	1	

Let's write a Truth Table for a function...

- Example:
(A & B) | !C

Start with Empty TT

Column Per Input

Column Per Output

Fill in Inputs

Counting in Binary

Compute Output

$(0 \& 0) | !1 = 0 | 0 = 0$

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	
0	1	1	
1	0	0	
1	0	1	
1	1	0	
1	1	1	

Let's write a Truth Table for a function...

- Example:
(A & B) | !C

Start with Empty TT

Column Per Input

Column Per Output

Fill in Inputs

Counting in Binary

Compute Output

$(0 \& 1) \mid !0 = 0 \mid 1 = 1$

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	
1	0	0	
1	0	1	
1	1	0	
1	1	1	

Let's write a Truth Table for a function...

- Example:
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Column Per Input

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Fill in Inputs

Counting in Binary

Compute Output

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0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1



Logisim example
basic_logic.circ : example1

Suppose I turn it around...

- Given a Truth Table, find the formula?

Hmmm..

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

Suppose I turn it around...

- Given a Truth Table, find the formula?

Hmmm ...

Could write down every "true" case

Then OR together:

$(\neg A \ \& \ \neg B \ \& \ \neg C) \ |$

$(\neg A \ \& \ \neg B \ \& \ C) \ |$

$(\neg A \ \& \ B \ \& \ \neg C) \ |$

$(A \ \& \ B \ \& \ \neg C) \ |$

$(A \ \& \ B \ \& \ C)$

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
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$(A \ \& \ B \ \& \ \neg C) \ |$

$(A \ \& \ B \ \& \ C)$

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
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$(A \ \& \ B \ \& \ \neg C) \ |$

$(A \ \& \ B \ \& \ C)$

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

Suppose I turn it around...

- This approach: “sum of products”
 - Works every time
 - Result is right...
 - But really ugly

(!A & !B & !C) |

(!A & !B & C) |

(!A & B & !C) |

(A & B & !C) |

(A & B & C)

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

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(!A & !B & !C) |

(!A & !B & C) |

(!A & B & !C) |

(A & B & !C) |

(A & B & C)

Could just be (A & B) here ?

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

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(!A & !B & C) |

(!A & B & !C) |

(A&B)

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

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(!A & !B & C) |

(!A & B & !C) |

(A&B)

Could just be (!A & !B) here

A	B	C	Output
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0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

Suppose I turn it around...

- This approach: “sum of products”
 - Works every time
 - Result is right...
 - But really ugly

$(\neg A \ \& \ \neg B) \ |$
 $(\neg A \ \& \ B \ \& \ \neg C) \ |$
 $(A \ \& \ B)$

Could just be $(\neg A \ \& \ \neg B)$ here

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

Suppose I turn it around...

- This approach: "sum of products"
 - Works every time
 - Result is right...
 - But really ugly

$(\neg A \ \& \ \neg B) \ |$
 $(\neg A \ \& \ B \ \& \ \neg C) \ |$
 $(A \ \& \ B)$

Looks nicer...

Can we do better?

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

Just did some of these by intuition.. but

- Somewhat intuitive approach to simplifying
- This is **math**, so there are formal rules
 - Just like “regular” algebra

Boolean Function Simplification

- Boolean expressions can be simplified by using the following rules (bitwise logical):

- $A \ \& \ A = A$

$$A \ | \ A = A$$

- $A \ \& \ 0 = 0$

$$A \ | \ 0 = A$$

- $A \ \& \ 1 = A$

$$A \ | \ 1 = 1$$

- $A \ \& \ !A = 0$

$$A \ | \ !A = 1$$

- $!!A = A$

- $\&$ and $|$ are both commutative and associative

- $\&$ and $|$ can be distributed: $A \ \& \ (B \ | \ C) = (A \ \& \ B) \ | \ (A \ \& \ C)$

- $\&$ and $|$ can be subsumed: $A \ | \ (A \ \& \ B) = A$

DeMorgan's Laws

- Two (less obvious) Laws of Boolean Algebra:
 - Let's push negations inside, flipping & and |

$$\neg (A \ \& \ B) = (\neg A) \ | \ (\neg B)$$

$$\neg (A \ | \ B) = (\neg A) \ \& \ (\neg B)$$

- You should try this at home – build truth tables for both the left and right sides and see that they're the same

Summary of all Boolean axioms



Name	AND form	OR form
Identity law	$1 \& A = A$	$0 \mid A = A$
Null law	$0 \& A = 0$	$1 \mid A = 1$
Idempotent law	$A \& A = A$	$A \mid A = A$
Inverse law	$A \& !A = 0$	$A \mid !A = 1$
Commutative law	$A \& B = B \& A$	$A \mid B = B \mid A$
Associative law	$(A \& B) \& C = A \& (B \& C)$	$(A \mid B) \mid C = A \mid (B \mid C)$
Distributive law	$A \mid (B \& C) = (A \mid B) \& (A \mid C)$	$A \& (B \mid C) = (A \& B) \mid (A \& C)$
Absorption law	$A \& (A \mid B) = A$	$A \mid (A \& B) = A$
De Morgan's law	$!(A \& B) = !A \mid !B$	$!(A \mid B) = !A \& !B$
Double negation law	$!!A = A$	

Simplification Example:

$\neg (\neg A \mid \neg (A \& (B \mid C)))$

DeMorgan's

$\neg \neg A \& \neg \neg (A \& (B \mid C))$

Double Negation Elimination

$A \& (A \& (B \mid C))$

Associativity of &

$(A \& A) \& (B \mid C)$

$A \& A = A$

$A \& (B \mid C)$

You try this:

Come up with a formula for this Truth Table

Simplify as much as possible

Sum of Products:

$(\neg A \ \& \ \neg B \ \& \ \neg C) \ |$

$(\neg A \ \& \ B \ \& \ \neg C) \ |$

$(A \ \& \ \neg B \ \& \ C) \ |$

$(A \ \& \ B \ \& \ C)$

Simplify this part

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1

You try this:

Simplify:

$$(!A \ \& \ !B \ \& \ !C) \ | \ (!A \ \& \ B \ \& \ !C)$$

Regroup (associative/commutative):

$$((!A \ \& \ !C) \ \& \ !B) \ | \ ((!A \ \& \ !C) \ \& \ B)$$

Un-distribute (factor):

$$(!A \ \& \ !C) \ \& \ (!B \ | \ B)$$

OR identities:

$$(!A \ \& \ !C) \ \& \ \text{true} \ = \ (!A \ \& \ !C)$$

You try this:

Come up with a formula for this Truth Table
Simplify as much as possible

Sum of Products: Result of simplifying

($\neg A$ & $\neg C$) |

(A & $\neg B$ & C) |

(A & B & C)

You can simplify this part in the same way...

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1

You try this:

Come up with a formula for this Truth Table

Simplify as much as possible

Sum of Products:

$(\neg A \ \& \ \neg C)$ |

$(A \ \& \ C)$

A	B	C	Output
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1

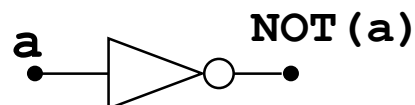
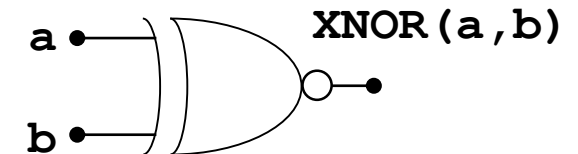
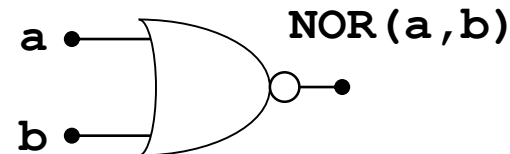
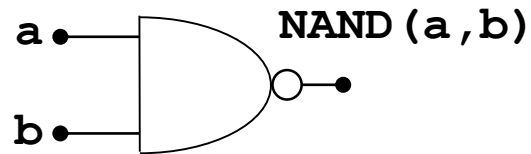
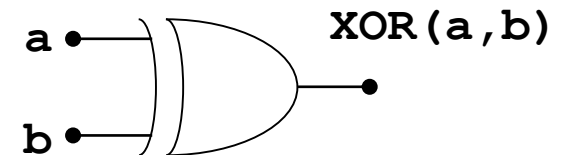
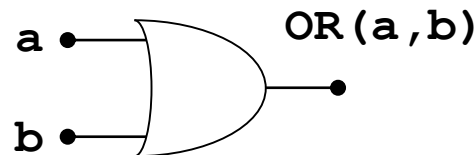
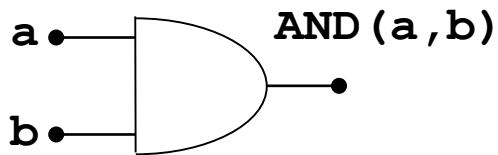
 **Logisim example**
basic_logic.circ : example4

Applying the Theory

- Lots of good theory
- Can reason about complex Boolean expressions
- But why is this useful?

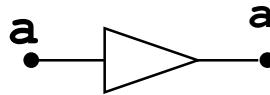
Boolean Gates

- **Gates** are electronic devices that implement simple Boolean functions (building blocks of hardware)

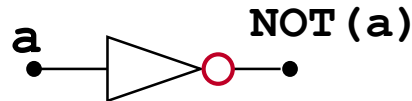


Guide to Remembering your Gates

- This one looks like it just points its input where to go
 - It just produces its input as its output
 - Called a buffer



- A circle always means negate (invert)

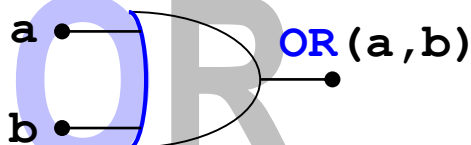


Circle = NOT

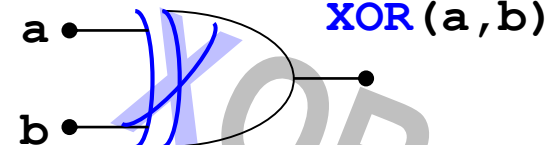
Guide to Remembering your Gates



Straight like an A

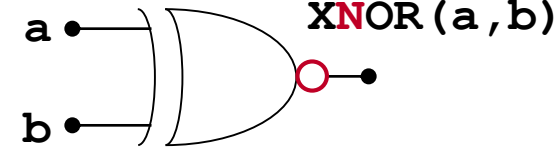
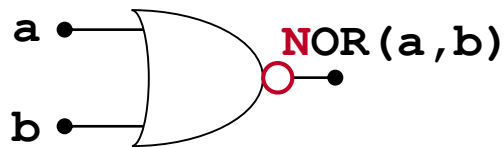
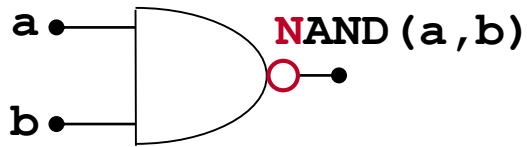


Curved, like an O

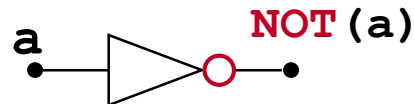


XOR looks like OR (curved line), but has two lines (like an X does)

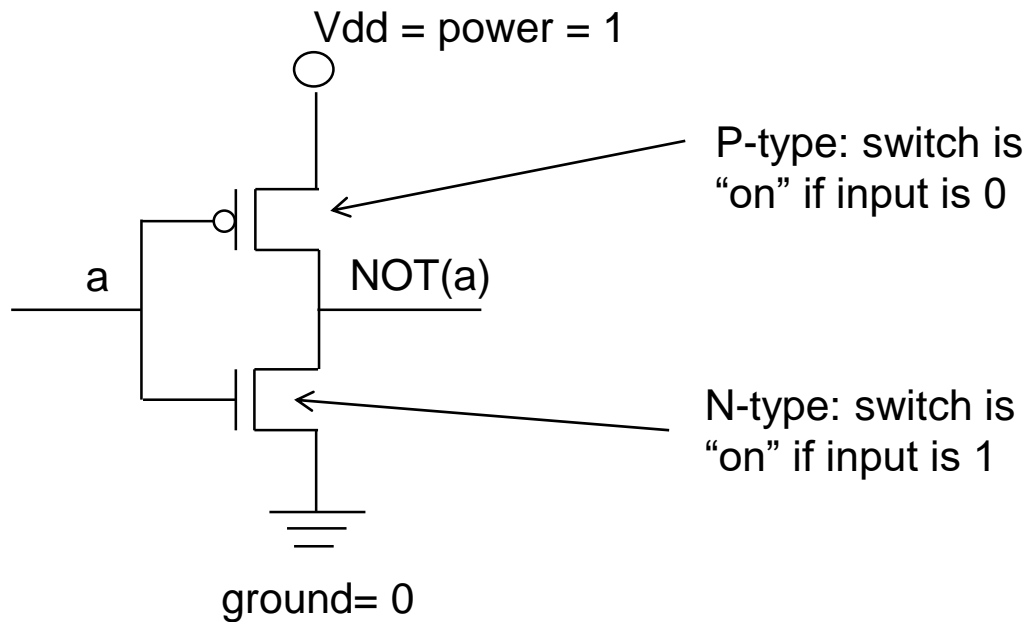
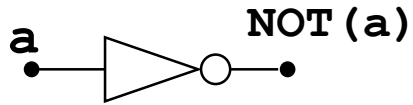
Circle means NOT



(XNOR is 1-bit "equals" by the way)



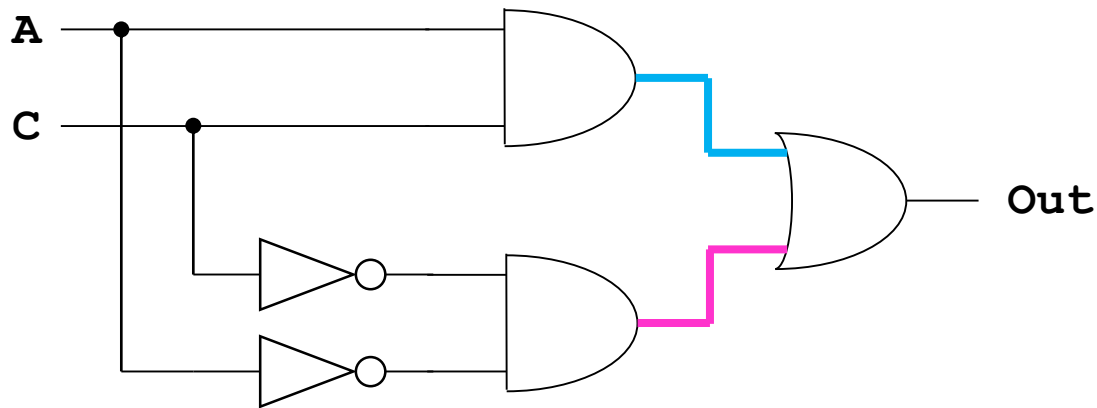
Brief Interlude: Building An Inverter




Boolean Functions, Gates and Circuits

- Circuits are made from a network of gates.

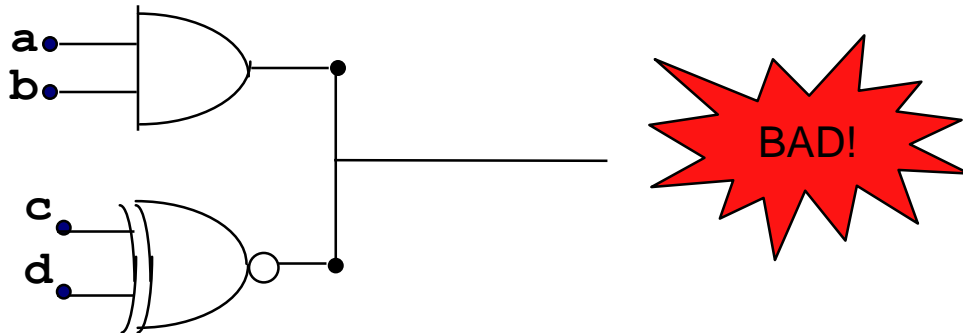
$$(!A \ \& \ !C) \ | \ (A \ \& \ C)$$



 **Logisim example**
basic_logic.circ : example5

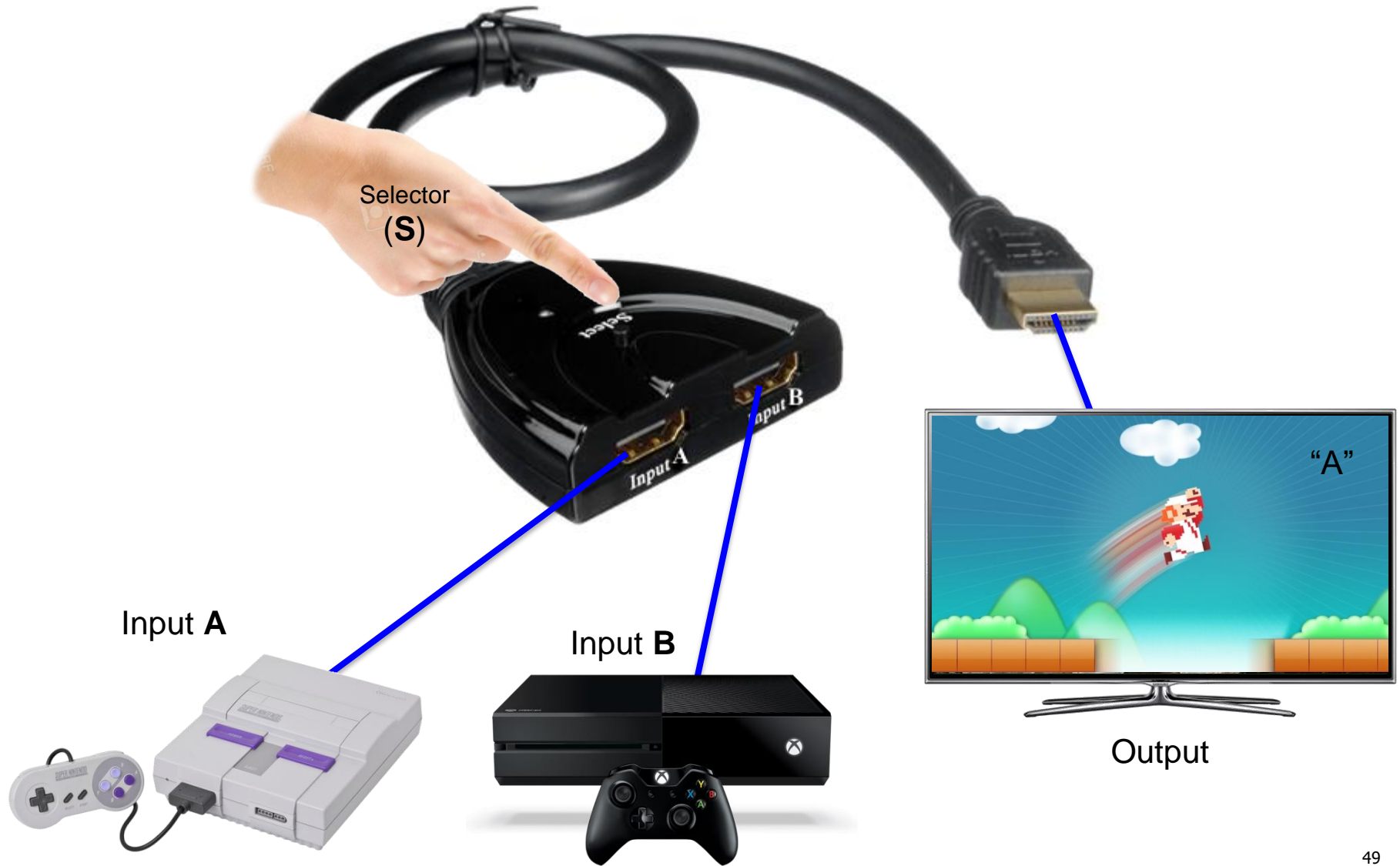
A few more words about gates

- Gates have inputs and outputs
 - If you try to hook up two outputs, bad things happen (your processor catches fire)

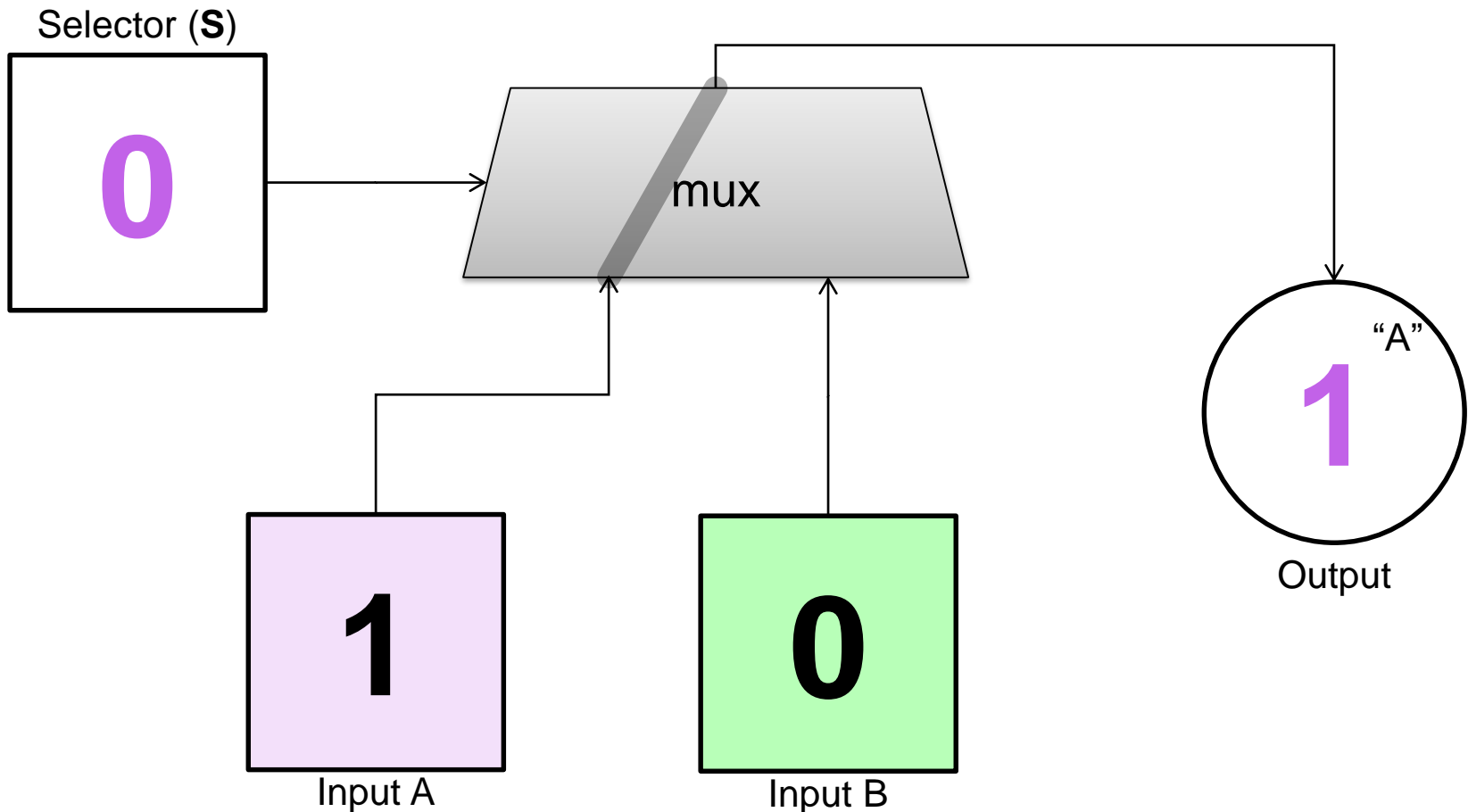


- If you don't hook up an input, it behaves kind of randomly (also not good, but not set-your-chip-on-fire bad)

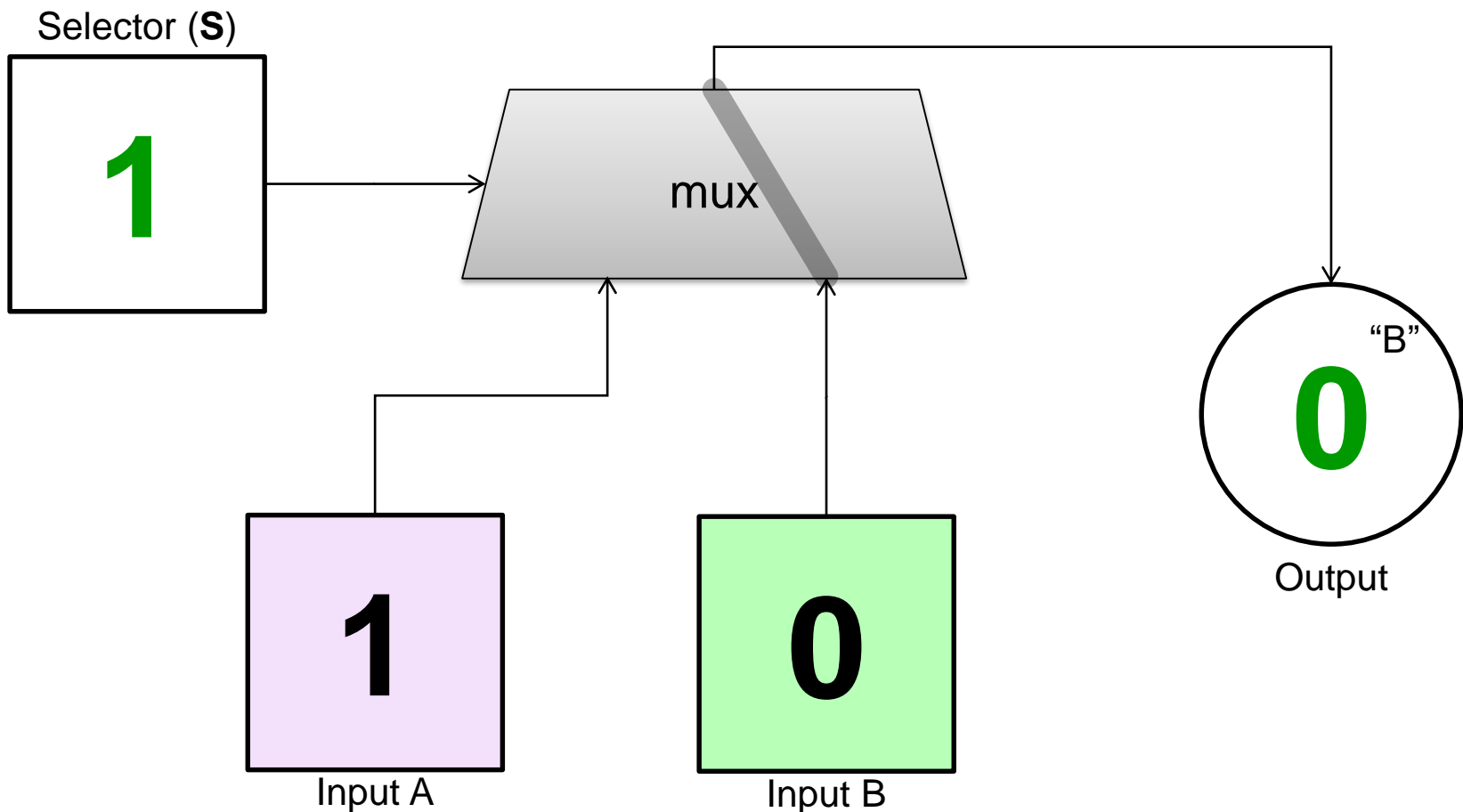
Introducing the Multiplexer (“mux”)



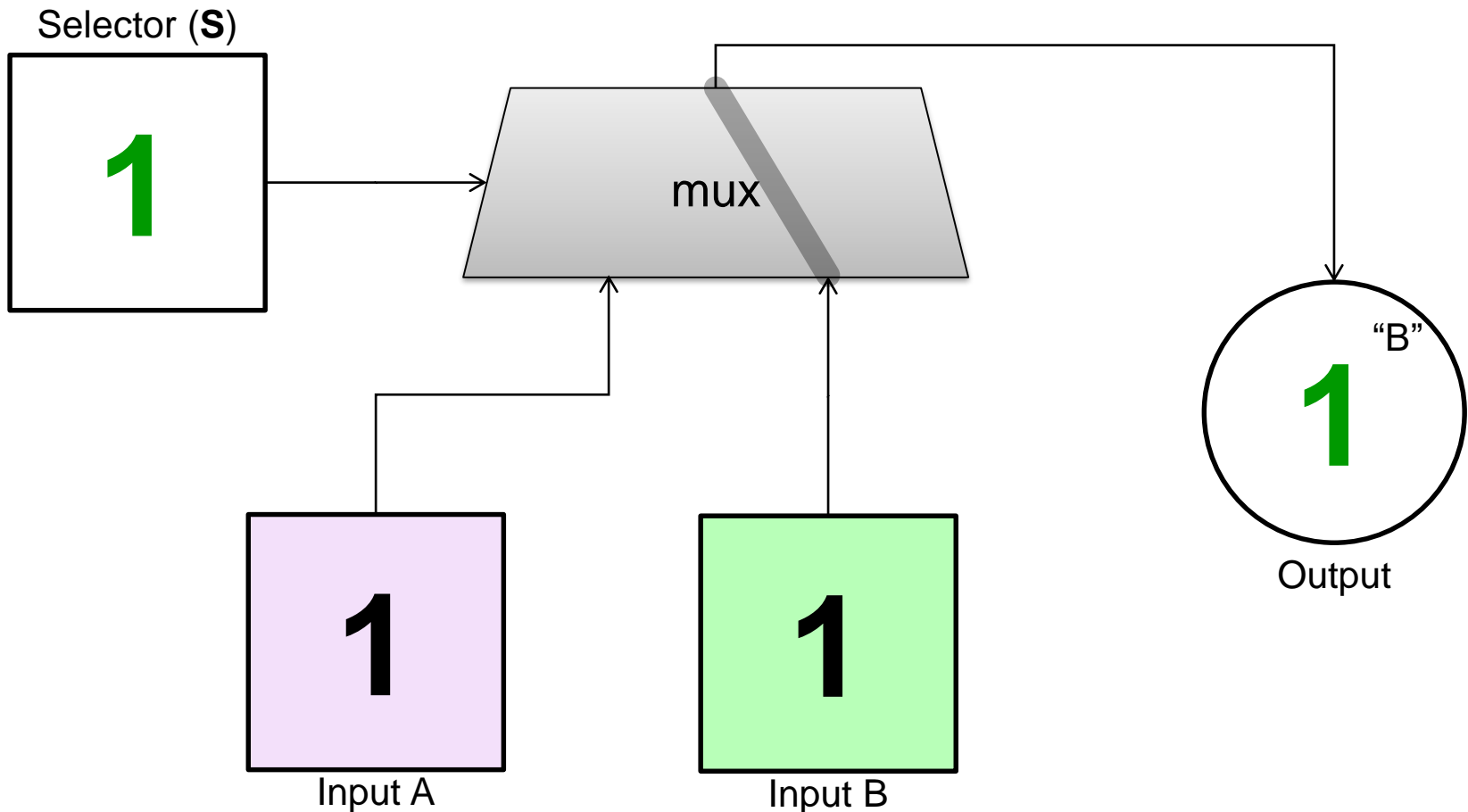
Introducing the Multiplexer ("mux")



Introducing the Multiplexer ("mux")



Introducing the Multiplexer ("mux")



Let's Make a Useful Circuit

- Pick between 2 inputs (called 2-to-1 MUX)
 - Short for multiplexor

- What might we do first?

- Make a truth table?

- S is selector:

- S=0, pick A

- S=1, pick B

- Next: sum-of-products

$(\neg A \ \& \ B \ \& \ S) \ |$

$(A \ \& \ \neg B \ \& \ \neg S) \ |$

$(A \ \& \ B \ \& \ \neg S) \ |$

$(A \ \& \ B \ \& \ S)$

- Simplify

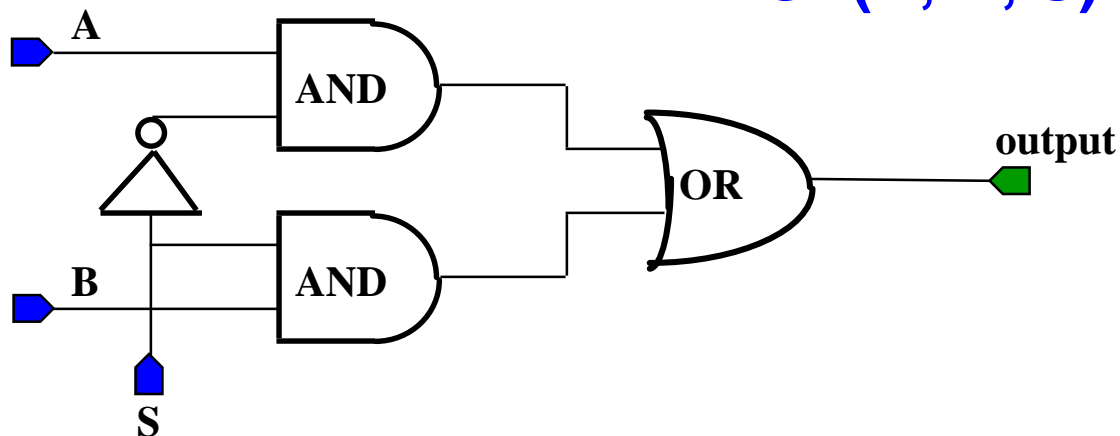
$(A \ \& \ \neg S) \ | \ (B \ \& \ S)$

A	B	S	Output
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

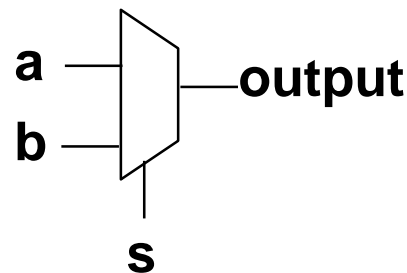
Circuit Example: 2x1 MUX

Draw it in gates:

$$\text{MUX}(A, B, S) = (A \& !S) \mid (B \& S)$$

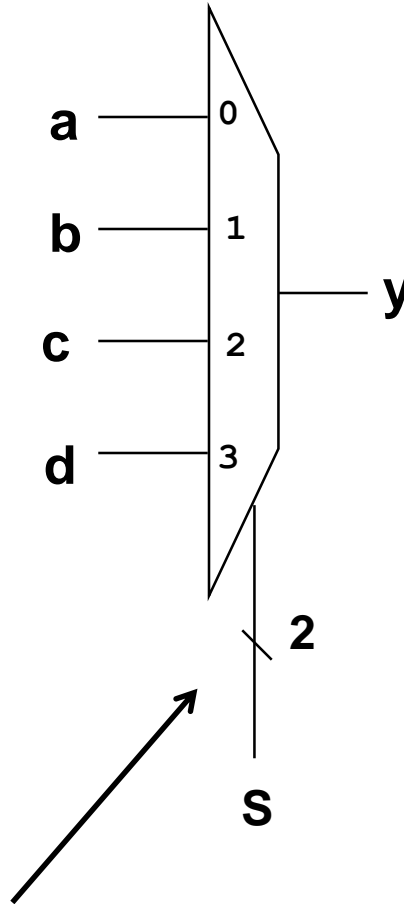
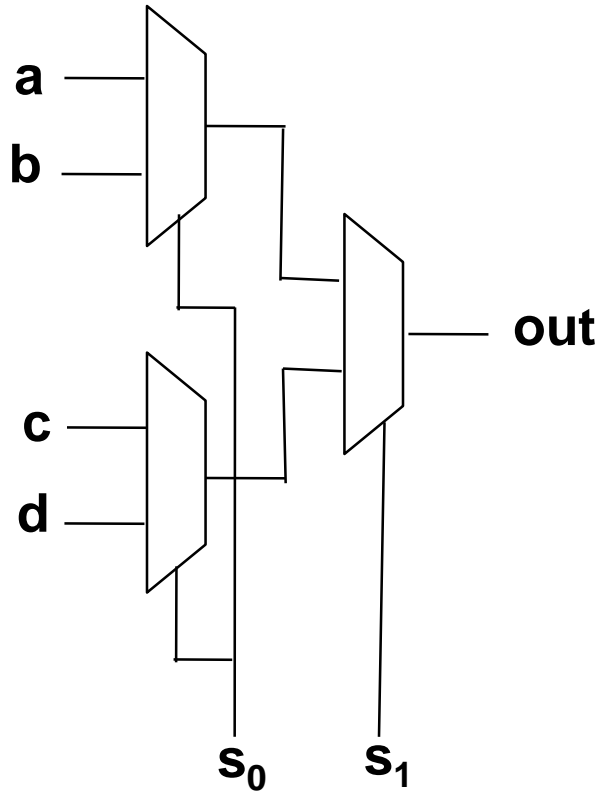


So common, we give it
its own symbol:



 **Logisim example**
basic_logic.circ : mux-2x1

Example 4x1 MUX



The / 2 on the wire means “2 bits”

Arithmetic and Logical Operations in ISA

- What operations are there?
- How do we implement them?
 - Consider a 1-bit Adder

Designing a 1-bit adder

- What boolean function describes the **low bit**?
 - XOR
- What boolean function describes the **high bit**?
 - AND

$$0 + 0 = 00$$

$$0 + 1 = 01$$

$$1 + 0 = 01$$

$$1 + 1 = 10$$

Designing a 1-bit adder

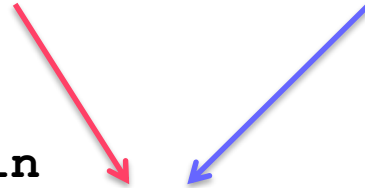
- Remember how we did binary addition:
 - Add the **two bits**
 - Do we have a **carry-in** for this bit?
 - Do we have to **carry-out** to the next bit?

$$\begin{array}{r} 01101100 \\ 01101101 \\ +00101100 \\ \hline 10011001 \end{array}$$

Designing a 1-bit adder

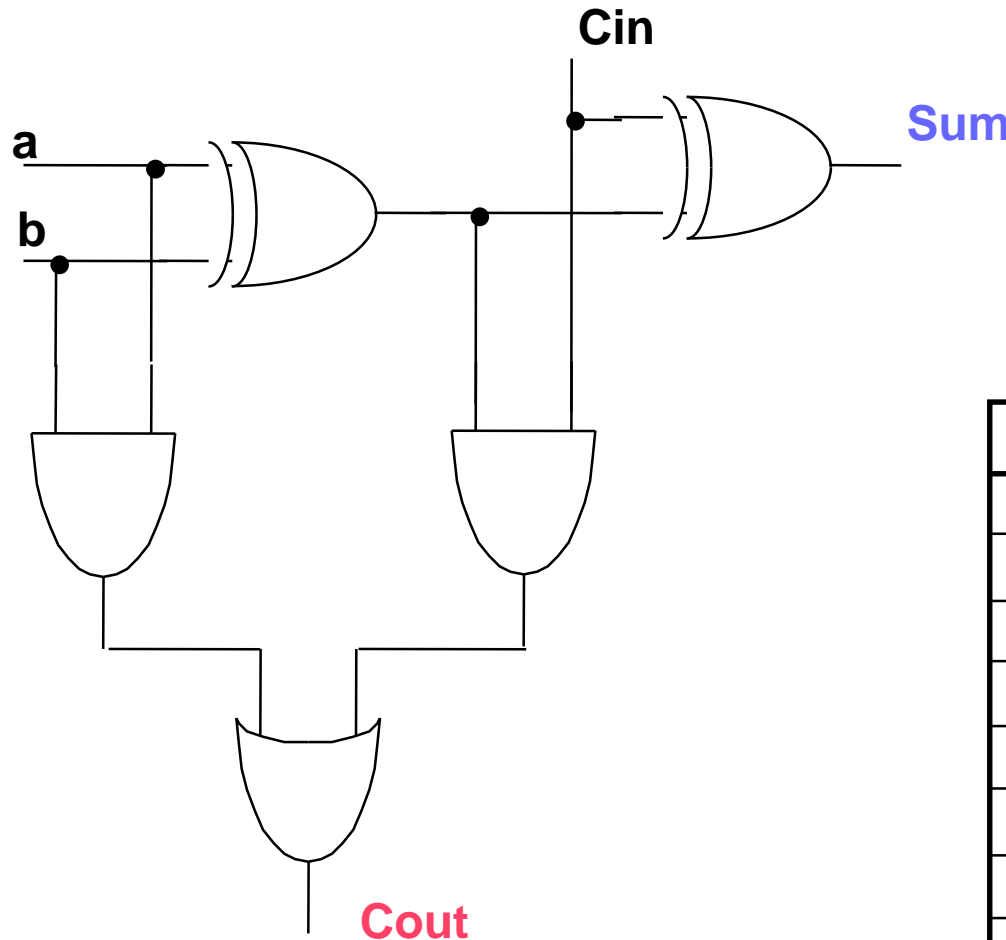
- So we'll need to add three bits (including carry-in)
- Two-bit output is the **carry-out** and the **sum**

a	b	C _{in}	=	
0	+	0	+	0 = 00
0	+	0	+	1 = 01
0	+	1	+	0 = 01
0	+	1	+	1 = 10
1	+	0	+	0 = 01
1	+	0	+	1 = 10
1	+	1	+	0 = 10
1	+	1	+	1 = 11



Turn into expression,
simplify,
circuit-ify,
yadda yadda yadda...

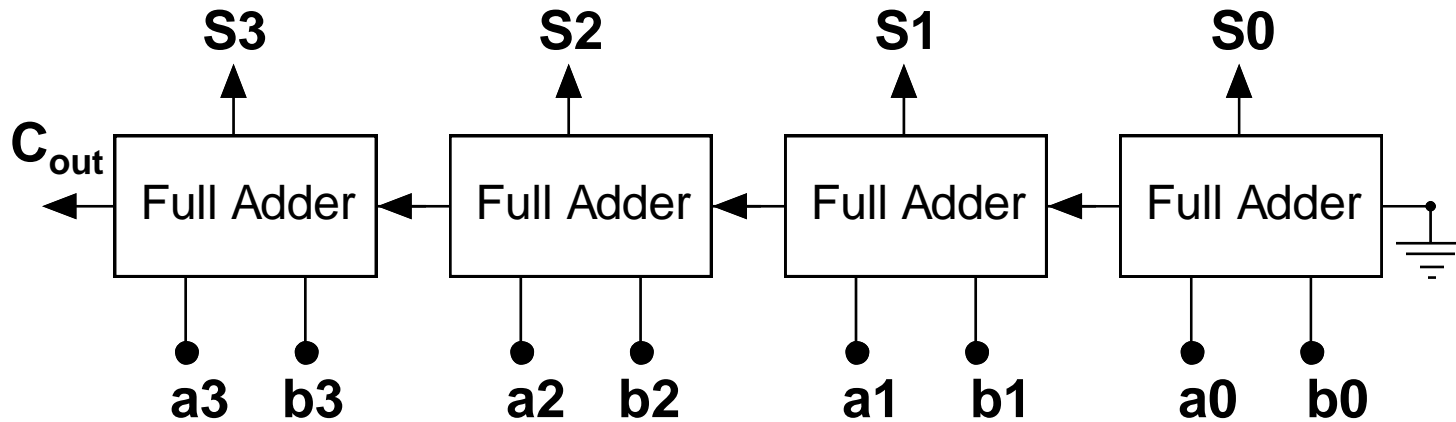
A 1-bit Full Adder



$$\begin{array}{r} 01101100 \\ +00101100 \\ \hline 10011001 \end{array}$$

a	b	C_{in}	Sum	C_{out}
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1
1	0	0	1	0
1	0	1	0	1
1	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1

Example: 4-bit adder



Subtraction

- How do we perform integer subtraction?
- What is the hardware?
 - Recall: hardware was why 2's complement was good idea
- Remember: Subtraction is just addition

$$X - Y =$$

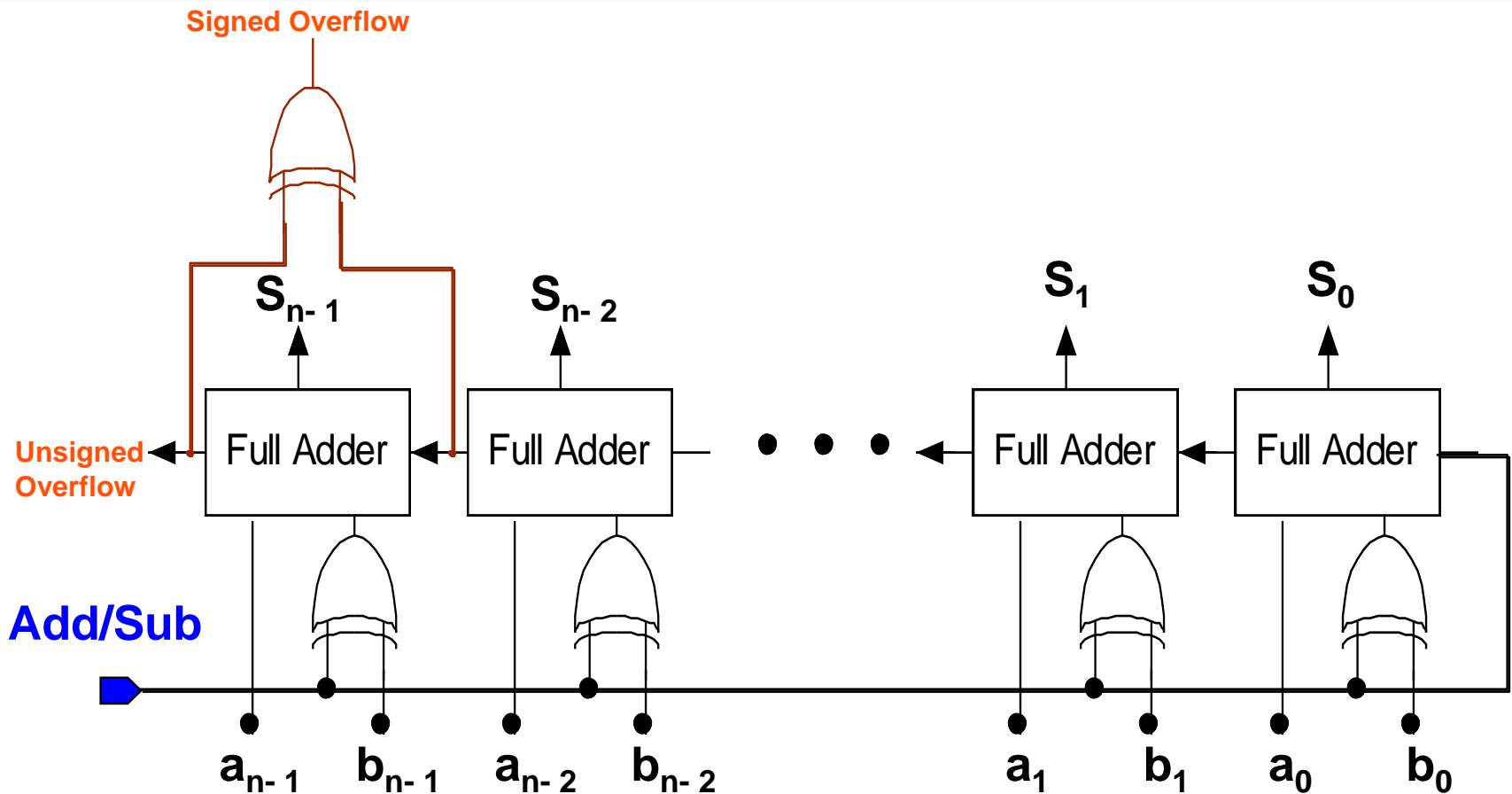
$$X + (-Y) =$$

$$X + (\sim Y + 1)$$

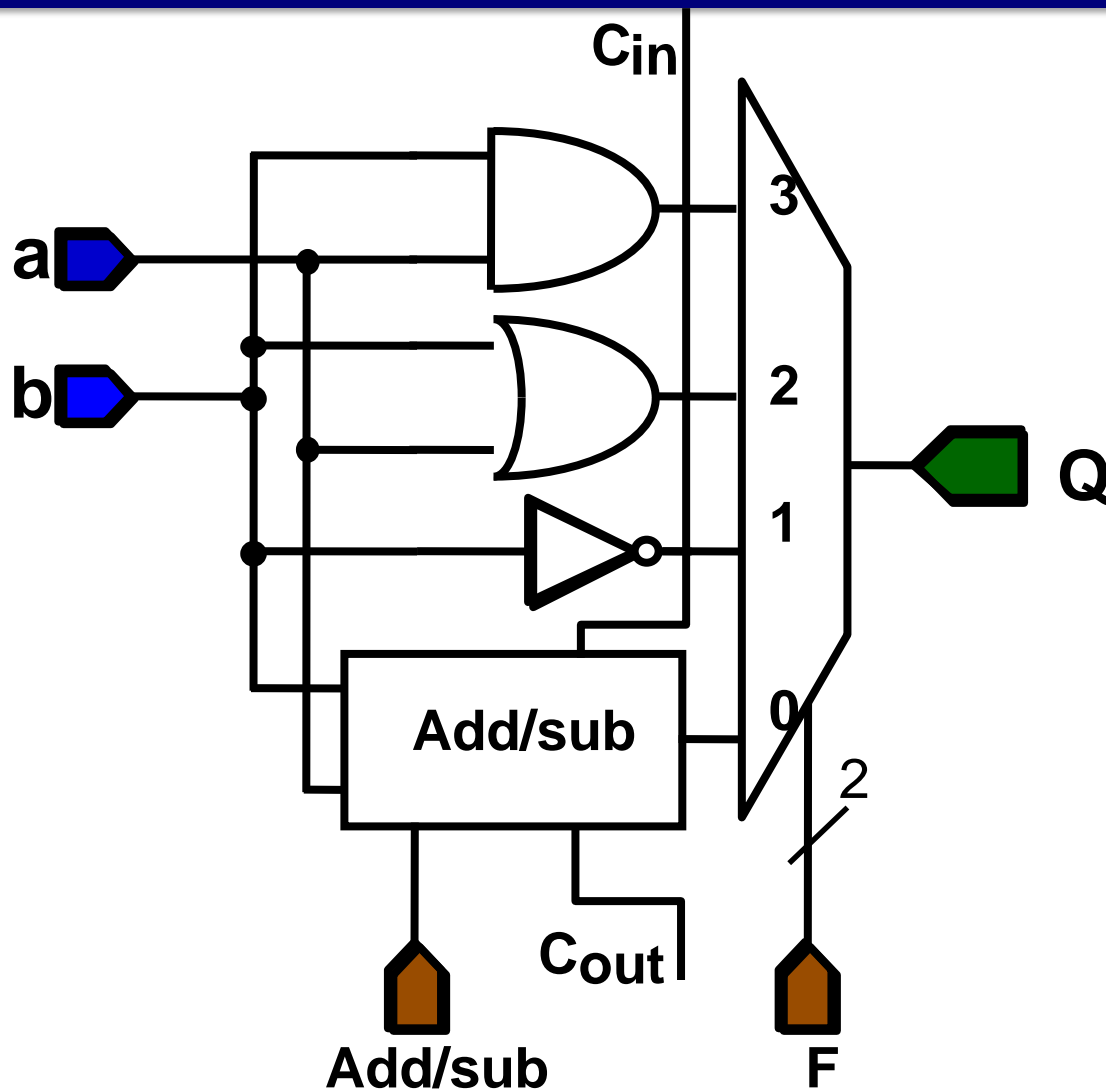
Overflow

- We can detect **unsigned overflow** by looking at CO
- How would we detect **signed overflow**?
 - If adding positive numbers and result "is" negative
 - If adding negative numbers and result "is" positive
 - At most significant bit of adder, check if CI \neq CO
 - Can check with XOR gate

Add/Subtract With Overflow Detection

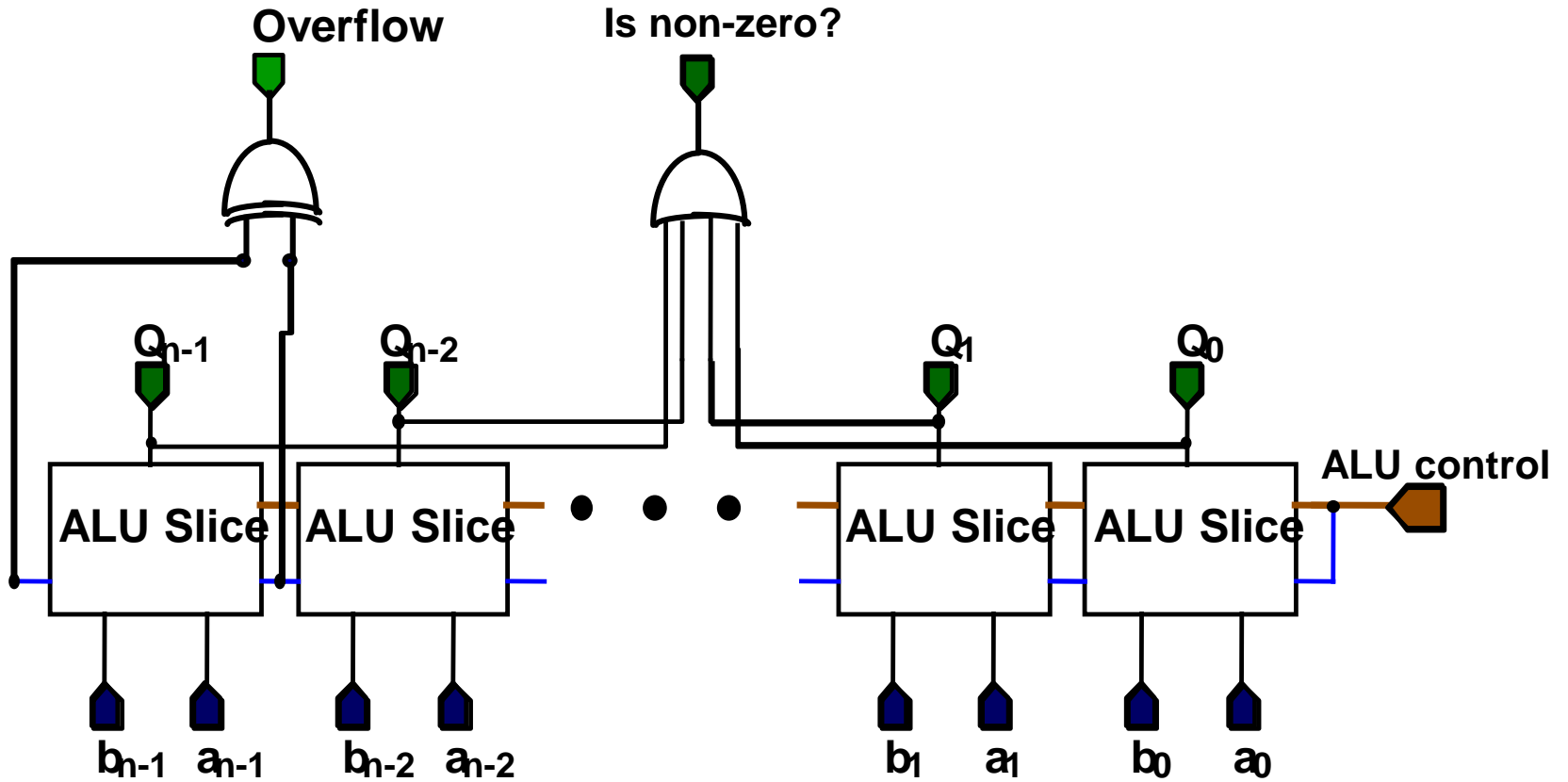


ALU Slice



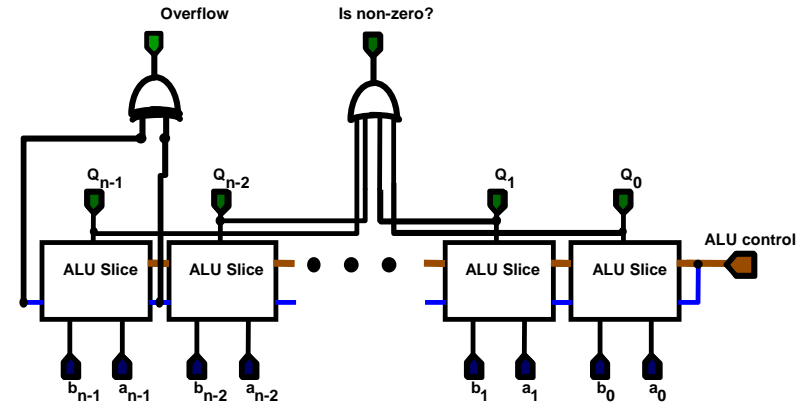
A	F	Q
0	0	$a + b$
1	0	$a - b$
-	1	NOT <i>b</i>
-	2	<i>a</i> OR <i>b</i>
-	3	<i>a</i> AND <i>b</i>

The ALU

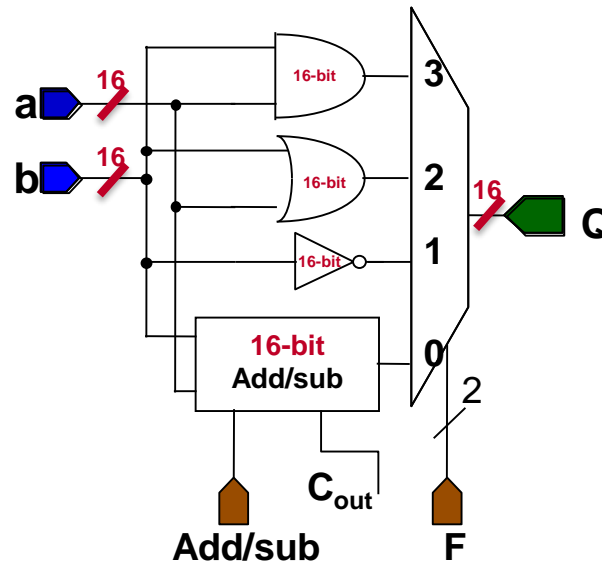


Alternate ALU design

- Previous design did ALU stuff for each bit, then chained them.



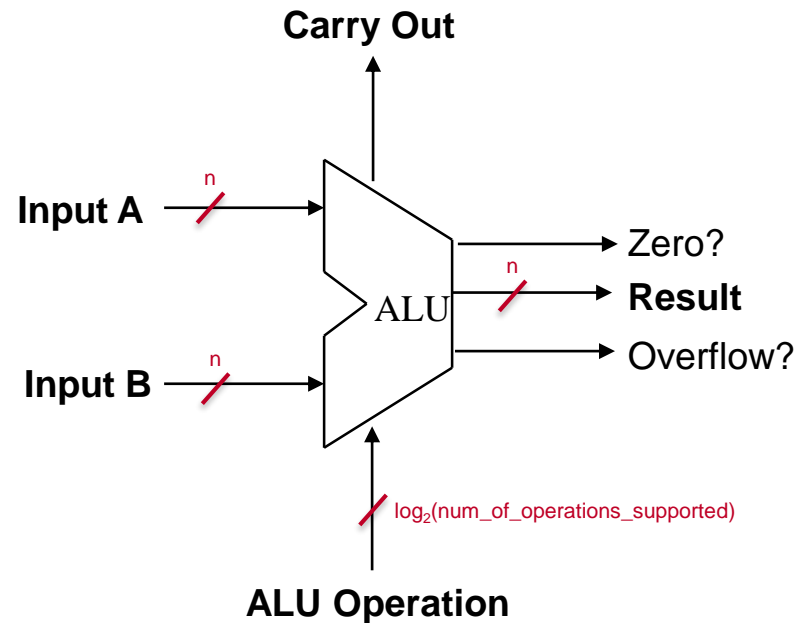
- Can also do each word-size operation and mux the resulting words.



Abstraction: The ALU

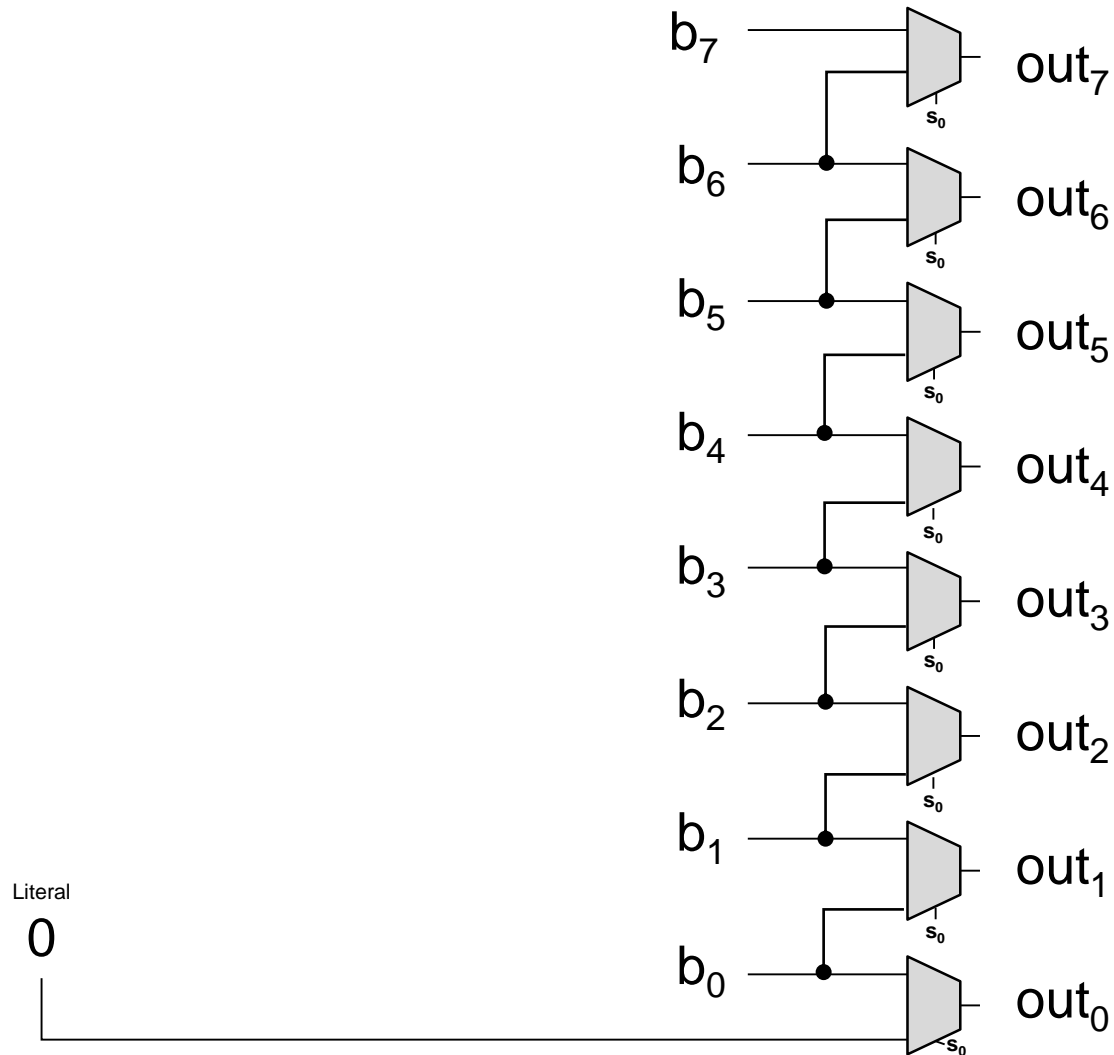
- General structure
- Two operand inputs
- Control inputs

- We can build circuits for
 - Multiplication
 - Division
 - They are more complex



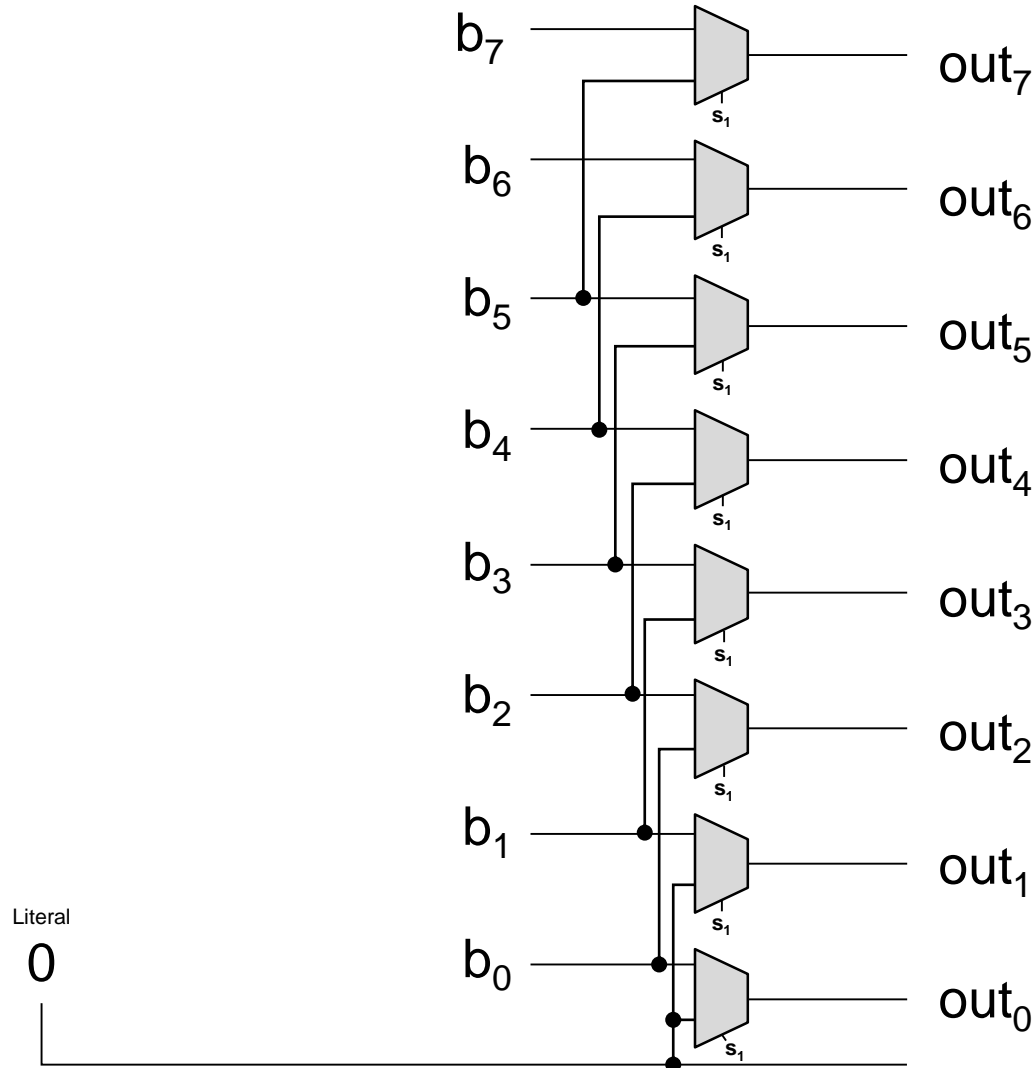
Building a bit shifter

- Simpler problem: A shift-by-**one** circuit, all controlled by the same 1 bit input (s_0)



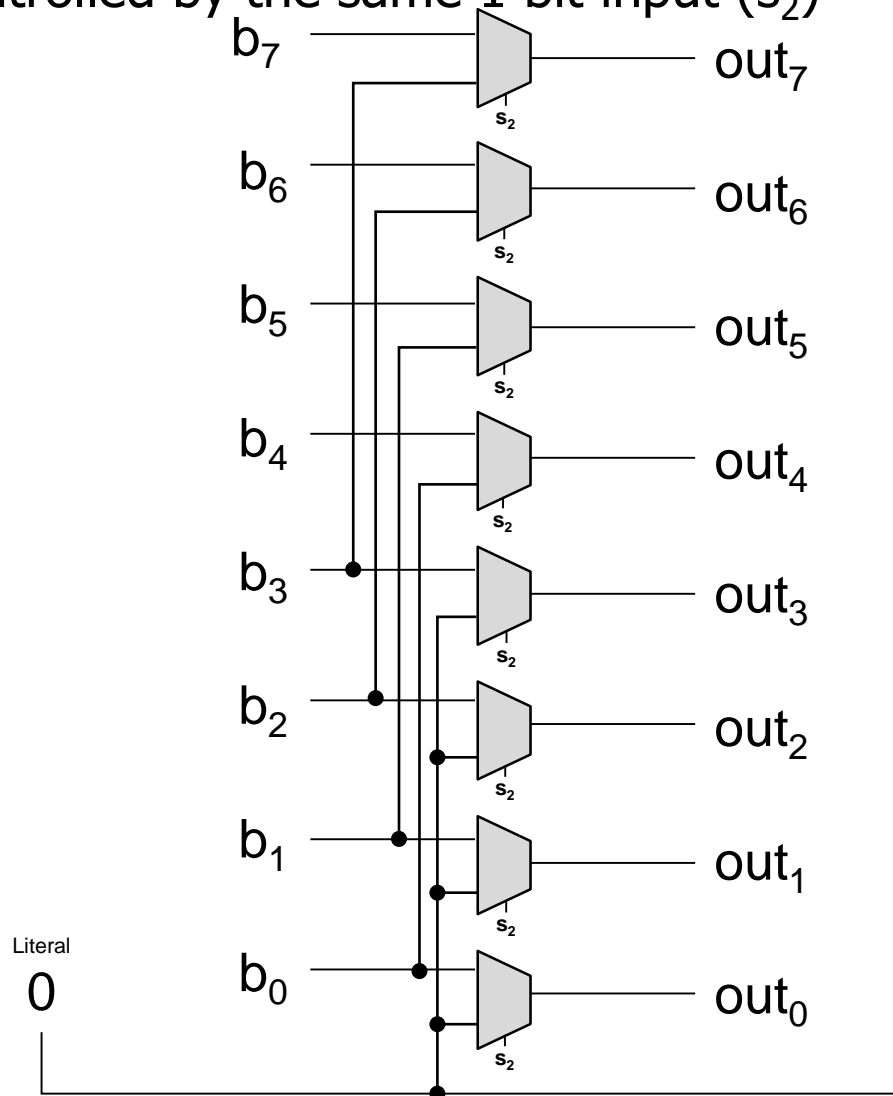
Building a bit shifter

- Simpler problem: A shift-by-two circuit, all controlled by the same 1 bit input (s_1)



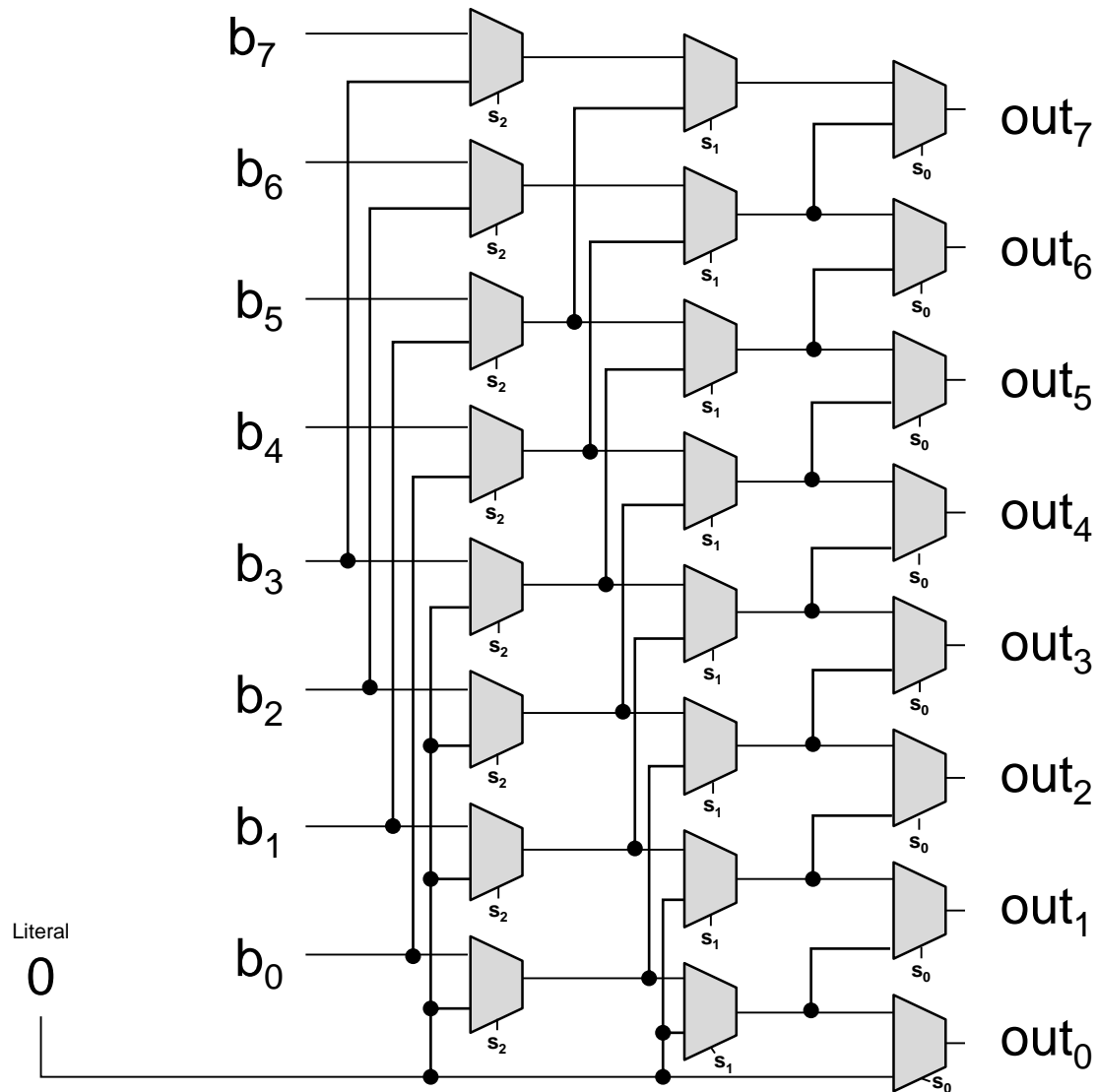
Building a bit shifter

- Simpler problem: A shift-by-**four** circuit, all controlled by the same 1 bit input (s_2)



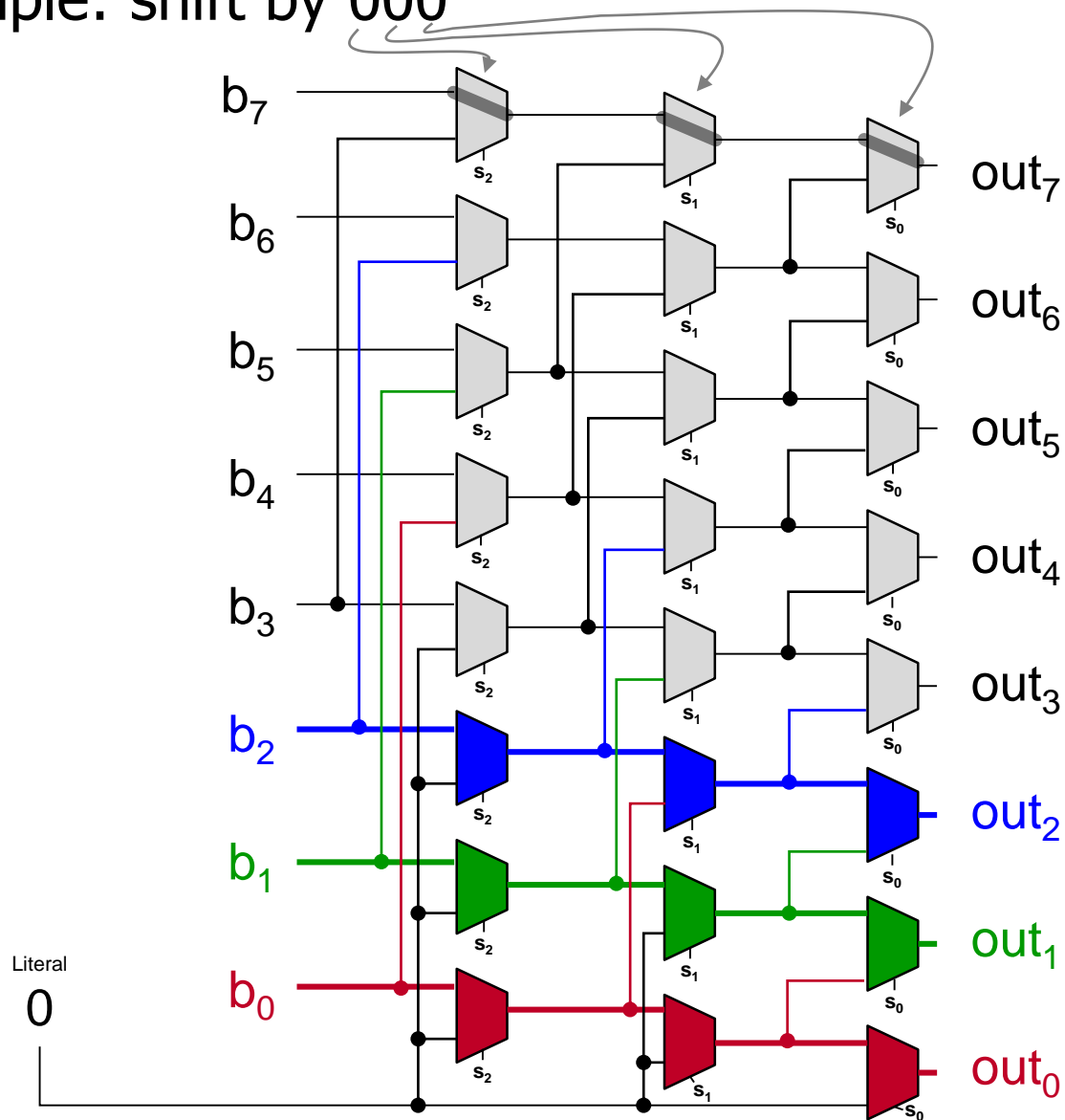
Now shifted by 3-bit number

- Full problem: stick them all together, controlled by 3-bit value $s_{2:0}$



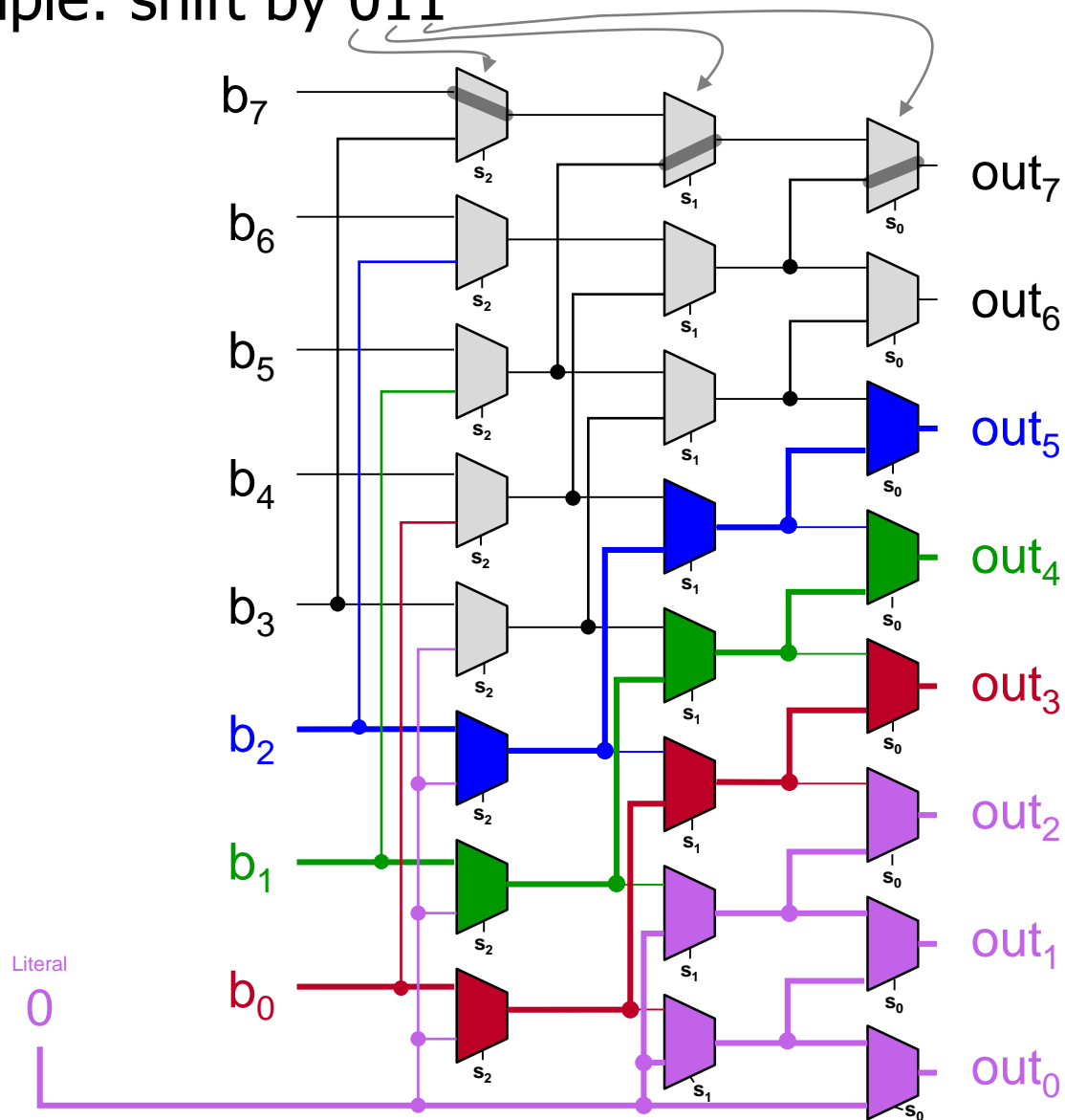
Now shifted by 3-bit number

- Example: shift by 000



Now shifted by 3-bit number

- Example: shift by 011



Summary

- Boolean Algebra & functions
- Logic gates (AND, OR, NOT, etc)
- Multiplexors
- Adder
- Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)
- Bit shifting