



# Digital Design

## Chapter 1: Introduction

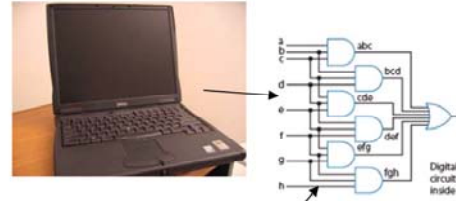
Slides to accompany the textbook *Digital Design*, First Edition,  
by Frank Vahid, John Wiley and Sons Publishers, 2007.  
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## Why Study Digital Design?

- Look “under the hood” of computers
  - Solid understanding --> confidence, insight, even better programmer when aware of hardware resource issues
  
- Electronic devices becoming digital
  - Enabled by shrinking and more capable chips
  - Enables:
    - Better devices: Better sound recorders, cameras, cars, cell phones, medical devices,...
    - New devices: Video games, PDAs, ...
  - Known as “embedded systems”
    - Thousands of new devices every year
    - Designers needed: Potential career direction



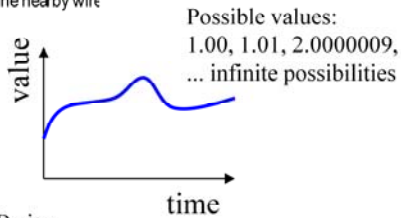
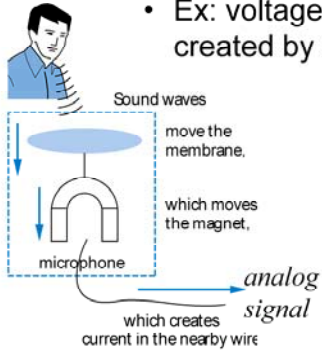
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## What Does "Digital" Mean?

- Analog signal

- Infinite possible values

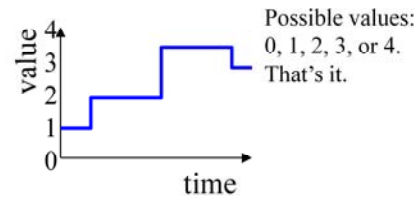
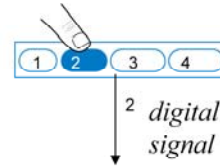
- Ex: voltage on a wire created by microphone



- Digital signal

- Finite possible values

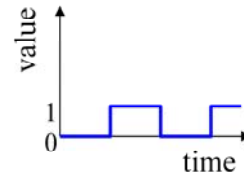
- Ex: button pressed on a keypad



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## Digital Signals with Only Two Values: Binary

- **Binary** digital signal -- only *two* possible values
  - Typically represented as **0** and **1**
  - One *binary digit* is a **bit**
  - We'll only consider *binary* digital signals
  - Binary is popular because
    - Transistors, the basic digital electric component, operate using *two* voltages (more in Chpt. 2)
    - Storing/transmitting one of *two* values is easier than three or more (e.g., loud beep or quiet beep, reflection or no reflection)



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# Example of Digitization Benefit

- Analog signal (e.g., audio) may lose quality
  - Voltage levels not saved/copied/transmitted perfectly
- Digitized version enables near-perfect save/cpy/trn.
  - "Sample" voltage at particular rate, save sample using bit encoding
  - Voltage levels still not kept perfectly
  - But we can distinguish 0s from 1s

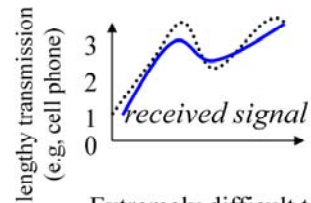
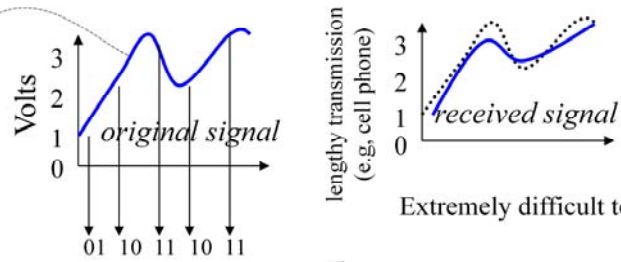
Let bit encoding be:

- 1 V: "01"
- 2 V: "10"
- 3 V: "11"

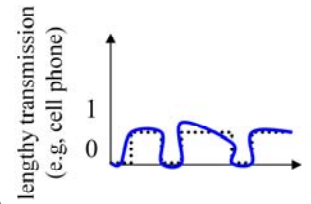
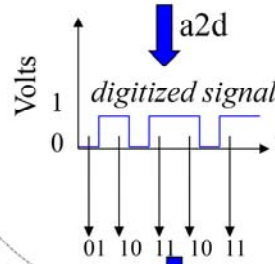
*Digitized signal not perfect re-creation, but higher sampling rate and more bits per encoding brings closer.*



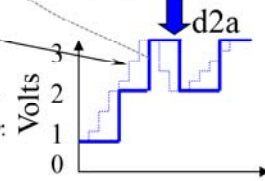
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Extremely difficult to fix



Can fix -- easily distinguish 0s and 1s, restore



same

## Digitized Audio: Compression Benefit

- Digitized audio can be compressed
  - e.g., MP3s
  - A CD can hold about 20 songs uncompressed, but about 200 compressed
- Compression also done on digitized pictures (jpeg), movies (mpeg), and more
- Digitization has many other benefits too

Example compression scheme:

00 --> 0000000000

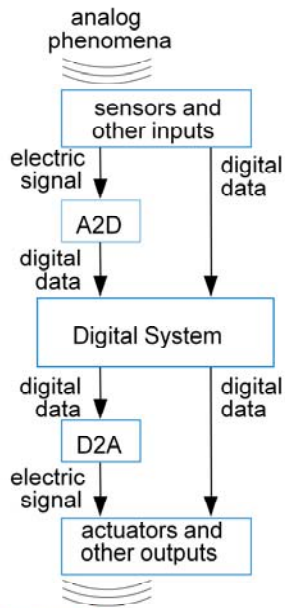
01 --> 1111111111

1X --> X

0000000000 0000000000 000001111 1111111111  
                  ↓          ↓          ↓          ↓  
                  00 00 1000001111 01

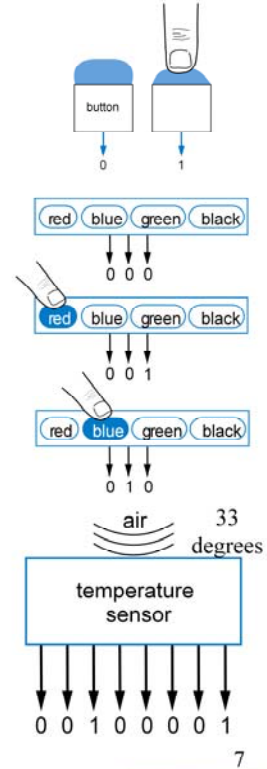


# How Do We Encode Data as Binary for Our Digital System?



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- Some inputs inherently binary
  - Button: not pressed (0), pressed (1)
- Some inputs inherently digital
  - Just need encoding in binary
  - e.g., multi-button input: encode red=001, blue=010, ...
- Some inputs analog
  - Need analog-to-digital conversion
  - As done in earlier slide -- sample and encode with bits



## How to Encode Text: ASCII, Unicode

- ASCII: 7- (or 8-) bit encoding of each letter, number, or symbol
- Unicode: Increasingly popular 16-bit bit encoding
  - Encodes characters from various world languages

| Symbol | Encoding | Symbol  | Encoding |
|--------|----------|---------|----------|
| R      | 1010010  | r       | 1110010  |
| S      | 1010011  | s       | 1110011  |
| T      | 1010100  | t       | 1110100  |
| L      | 1001100  | l       | 1101100  |
| N      | 1001110  | n       | 1101110  |
| E      | 1000101  | e       | 1100101  |
| 0      | 0110000  | 9       | 0111001  |
| .      | 0101110  | !       | 0100001  |
| <tab>  | 0001001  | <space> | 0100000  |

Question:

What does this ASCII bit sequence represent?

1010010 1000101 1010011 1010100

REST

- <http://www.asciitable.com>



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Note: small red "a" (a) in a slide indicates animation ← 8

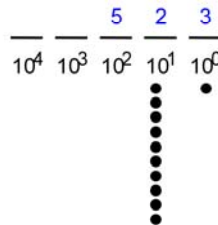


# How to Encode Numbers: Binary Numbers

- Each position represents a quantity; symbol in position means how many of that quantity

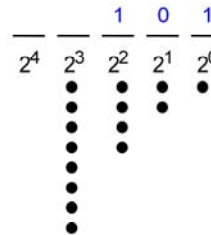
- Base ten (*decimal*)

- Ten symbols: 0, 1, 2, ..., 8, and 9
- More than 9 -- next position
  - So each position power of 10
- Nothing special about base 10 -- used because we have 10 fingers

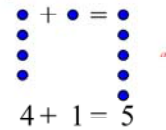


- Base two (*binary*)

- Two symbols: 0 and 1
- More than 1 -- next position
  - So each position power of 2



Q: How much?



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# How to Encode Numbers: Binary Numbers

- Working with binary numbers

- In base ten, helps to know powers of 10

- one, ten, hundred, thousand, ten thousand, ...

- In base two, helps to know powers of 2

- one, two, four, eight, sixteen, thirty two, sixty four, one hundred twenty eight

- (Note: unlike base ten, we don't have common names, like "thousand," for each position in base ten -- so we use the base ten name)

- Q: count up by powers of two

|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| $2^9$ | $2^8$ | $2^7$ | $2^6$ | $2^5$ | $2^4$ | $2^3$ | $2^2$ | $2^1$ | $2^0$ |
| 512   | 256   | 128   | 64    | 32    | 16    | 8     | 4     | 2     | 1     |

512 256 128 64 32 16 8 4 2 1 ..



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## Converting from Decimal to Binary Numbers: Subtraction Method (Easy for Humans)

- Get the binary weights to add up to the decimal quantity
  - Work from left to right
  - (Right to left – may fill in 1s that shouldn't have been there – try it).
- To make the job easier (especially for big numbers), we can just subtract a selected binary weight from the (remaining) quantity
  - Then, we have a new remaining quantity, and we start again (from the present binary position)
  - Stop when remaining quantity is 0

Desired decimal number: **17**

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{\phantom{0}} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \\ 32 \ 16 \ 8 \ 4 \ 2 \ 1 \\ \underline{0} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \\ 32 \ 16 \ 8 \ 4 \ 2 \ 1 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} = 32 \\ \text{too much} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{0} \ \underline{1} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \\ 32 \ 16 \ 8 \ 4 \ 2 \ 1 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} = 16 \ (17-16=1) \\ \text{ok, keep going} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{0} \ \underline{1} \ \underline{0} \ \underline{0} \ \underline{0} \ \underline{\phantom{0}} \\ 32 \ 16 \ 8 \ 4 \ 2 \ 1 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} = 8, 4, 2 \\ \text{too much} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{0} \ \underline{0} \ \underline{1} \ \underline{0} \ \underline{0} \ \underline{1} \\ 32 \ 16 \ 8 \ 4 \ 2 \ 1 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} = 1-1=0 \\ \text{DONE} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{0} \ \underline{1} \ \underline{0} \ \underline{0} \ \underline{0} \ \underline{1} \\ 32 \ 16 \ 8 \ 4 \ 2 \ 1 \end{array} \quad \text{answer}$$



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## Converting from Decimal to Binary Numbers: Subtraction Method Example

- Q: Convert the number "29" from decimal to binary

A: Remaining quantity

29

Binary Number

$\frac{0}{32} \frac{0}{16} \frac{0}{8} \frac{0}{4} \frac{0}{2} \frac{0}{1}$

$\frac{29}{-16}$   
13

$\frac{0}{32} \frac{1}{16} \frac{0}{8} \frac{0}{4} \frac{0}{2} \frac{0}{1}$

$\frac{13}{-8}$   
5

$\frac{0}{32} \frac{1}{16} \frac{1}{8} \frac{0}{4} \frac{0}{2} \frac{0}{1}$   
*8 is more than 7, can't use*

$\frac{5}{-4}$   
1

$\frac{0}{32} \frac{1}{16} \frac{1}{8} \frac{1}{4} \frac{0}{2} \frac{0}{1}$

$\frac{1}{-1}$   
0

$\frac{0}{32} \frac{1}{16} \frac{1}{8} \frac{1}{4} \frac{0}{2} \frac{1}{1}$

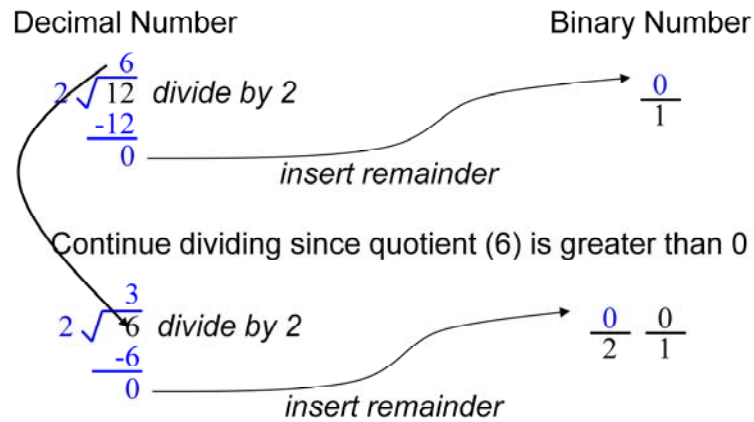
→ Done! 23 in decimal is 10111 in binary.



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## Converting from Decimal to Binary Numbers: Division Method (Good for Computers)

- Divide decimal number by 2 and insert remainder into new binary number.
  - Continue dividing quotient by 2 until the quotient is 0.
- Example: Convert decimal number 12 to binary



Continue dividing since quotient (3) is greater than 0



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## Converting from Decimal to Binary Numbers: Division Method (Good for Computers)

- Example: Convert decimal number 12 to binary (continued)

| Decimal Number  | Binary Number                         |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| $\begin{array}{r} 2 \overline{) 12} \\ \underline{-2} \\ 0 \end{array}$ <p><i>divide by 2</i></p> <p>1</p> <p><i>insert remainder</i></p> | $\frac{1}{4} \frac{0}{2} \frac{0}{1}$ |

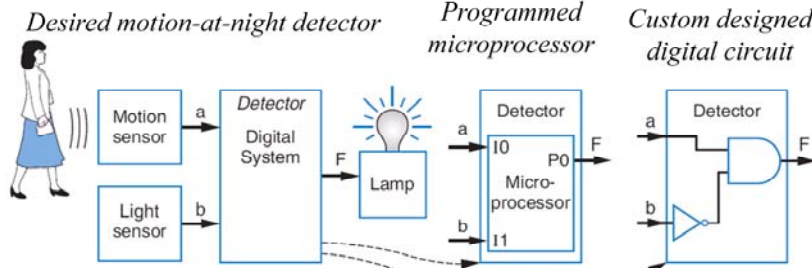
Continue dividing since quotient (1) is greater than 0

|  |   |
|--|---|
| $\begin{array}{r} 2 \overline{) 6} \\ \underline{-6} \\ 0 \end{array}$ <p><i>divide by 2</i></p> <p>1</p> <p><i>insert remainder</i></p> | $\frac{1}{8} \frac{1}{4} \frac{0}{2} \frac{0}{1}$ |
|--|---|

Since quotient is 0, we can conclude that 12 is 1100 in binary



# Implementing Digital Systems: Programming Microprocessors Vs. Designing Digital Circuits



- Microprocessors a common choice to implement a digital system
  - Easy to program
  - Cheap (as low as \$1)
  - Available now

```

void main()
{
  while (1) {
    P0 = I0 && !I1;
    // F = a and !b,
  }
}
                    
```

# Digital Design: When Microprocessors Aren't Good Enough

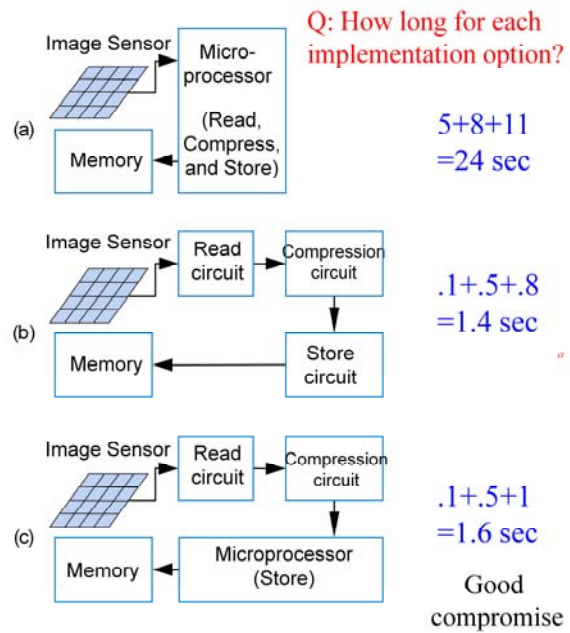
- With microprocessors so easy, cheap, and available, why design a digital circuit?
  - Microprocessor may be too slow
  - Or too big, power hungry, or costly

Sample digital camera task execution times (in seconds) on a microprocessor versus a digital circuit:

| Task     | Microprocessor | Custom Digital Circuit |
|----------|----------------|------------------------|
| Read     | 5              | 0.1                    |
| Compress | 8              | 0.5                    |
| Store    | 1              | 0.8                    |



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## Chapter Summary

- Digital systems surround us
  - Inside computers
  - Inside huge variety of other electronic devices (embedded systems)
- Digital systems use 0s and 1s
  - Encoding analog signals to digital can provide many benefits
    - e.g., audio -- higher-quality storage/transmission, compression, etc.
  - Encoding integers as 0s and 1s: Binary numbers
- Microprocessors (themselves digital) can implement many digital systems easily and inexpensively
  - But often not good enough -- need custom digital circuits

