## DIGITAL SYSTEMS

## I Real world systems and processes

A. Mostly continuous (at the macroscopic level): time, acceleration, chemical reactions
B. Sometimes discrete: quantum states, mass (\# of atoms)
C. Mathematics to represent physical systems is continuous (calculus)
D. Mathematics for number theory, counting, approximating physical systems can be discrete

## II Representation of continuous information

A. Continuous-represented analogously as a value of a continuously variable parameter

1. position of a needle on a meter
2. rotational angle of a gear
3. amount of water in a vessel
4. electric charge on a capacitor
B. Discrete-digitized as a set of discrete values corresponding to a finite number of states
5. digital clock
6. painted pickets
7. on/off, as a switch

## III Representation of continuous processes

A. Analogous to the process itself

1. Great Brass Brain-a geared machine to simulate the tides
2. Slide rule-an instrument which does multiplication by adding lengths which correspond to the logarithms of numbers.
3. Differential analyzer (von Neumann)—variable-size friction wheels to simulate the behavior of differential equations
4. Electronic analog computers-circuitry connected to simulate differential equations
5. Phonograph record-wiggles in grooves to represent sound oscillations
6. Electric clocks
7. Mercury thermometers
B. Discretized to represent the process
8. Finite difference formulations
9. Digital clocks
10. Music CD's

## IV Manipulation

A. Analog

1. adding the length-equivalents of logarithms to obtain a multiply e.g., a slide-rule
2. adjusting the volume on a stereo
3. sliding a weight on a balance-beam scale
4. adding charge to an electrical capacitor
B. Discrete
5. counting-push-button counters
6. digital operations-mechanical calculators
7. switching-open/closing relays
8. logic circuits-true/false determination

## V Analog vs. Discrete

Note: "Digital" is a form of representation for discrete
A. Analog

1. infinitely variable--information density high
2. limited resolution--to what resolution can you read a meter?
3. irrecoverable data degradation--sandpaper a vinyl record
B. Discrete/Digital
4. limited states--information density low
e.g., one decimal digit can represent only one of ten values
5. arbitrary resolution--keep adding states (or digits)
6. mostly recoverable data degradation, e.g., if information is encoded as painted/not-painted pickets, repainting can perfectly restore data

## VI Digital systems

A. decimal--not so good, because there are few 10-state devices that could be used to store information fingers. . .?
B. binary --excellent for hardware; lots of 2-state devices:
switches, lights, magnetics
--poor for communication: 2-state devices require many digits to represent values with reasonable resolution --excellent for logic systems whose states are true and false
C. octal --base 8: used to conveniently represent binary data; almost as efficient as decimal
D. hexadecimal--base 16: more efficient than decimal; more practical than octal because of binary digit groupings in computers

## VII Binary logic and arithmetic

A. Background

1. George Boole(1854) linked arithmetic, logic, and binary number systems by showing how a binary system could be used to simplify complex logic problems
2. Claude Shannon(1938) demonstrated that any logic problem could be represented by a system of series and parallel switches; and that binary addition could be done with electric switches
3. Two branches of binary logic systems
a) Combinatorial-in which the output depends only on the present state of the inputs
b) Sequential-in which the output may depend on a previous state of the inputs, e.g., the "flip-flop" circuit
B. Logic operations and truth tables
4. Logic gates:

C. Uses
5. Logic problems: e.g., George is elected chairman only if he gets a majority of the three votes

A B C L
$\begin{array}{llll}0 & 0 & 0 & 0\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}0 & 0 & 1 & 0\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}0 & 1 & 0 & 0\end{array}$

| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | $A^{*} B^{*} C^{\prime}+A^{*} B^{\prime *} \mathrm{C}+\mathrm{A}^{\prime *} \mathrm{~B}^{*} \mathrm{C}+\mathrm{A}^{*} \mathrm{~B}^{*} \mathrm{C}=$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $A^{*} B^{*}\left(C^{\prime}+C\right)+B^{*} C^{*}\left(A^{\prime}+A\right)+A^{*} C^{*}\left(B^{\prime}+B\right)=$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

$\begin{array}{lllll}1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & A * B+B * C+A * C=L\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}1 & 1 & 0 & 1\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}1 & 1 & 1 & 1\end{array}$

2. Binary arithmetic: e.g., adding two binary digits

A B R C

| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

$A * B=C$
$(\mathrm{A}+\mathrm{B})^{*}(\mathrm{~A} * \mathrm{~B})^{\prime}=\mathrm{R}$
$\begin{array}{llll}1 & 0 & 1 & 0\end{array}$

3. Control systems: e.g., car will start only if doors are locked, seat belts are on, key is turned

D S K I

| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | $D^{*}$ S*K $=$ I |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |



