HARDWARE DESCRIPTION LANGUAGES

Chapter 4

***Digital Design and Computer Architecture*, 2nd Edition**

David Money Harris and Sarah L. Harris

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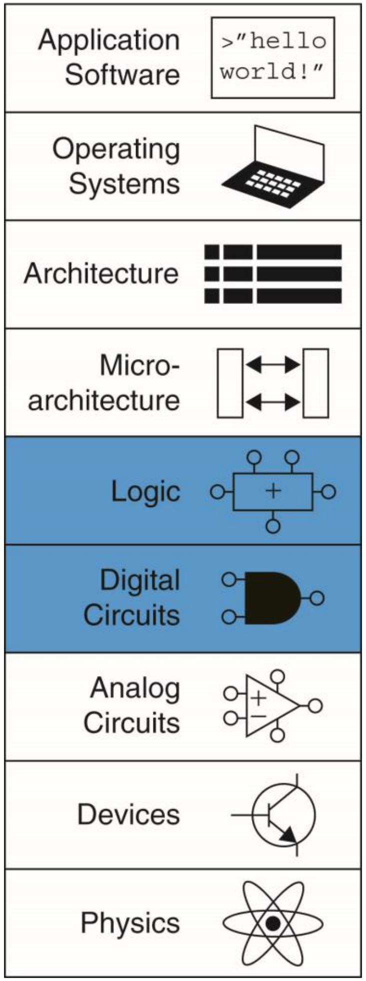
Chapter 4 :: Topics

- **Introduction**
- **Combinational Logic**
- **Structural Modeling**
- **Sequential Logic**
- **More Combinational Logic**
- **Finite State Machines**
- **Parameterized Modules**
- **Testbenches**



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Introduction

- Hardware description language (HDL):
  - specifies logic function only
  - Computer-aided design (CAD) tool produces or *synthesizes* the optimized gates
- Most commercial designs built using HDLs
- Two leading HDLs:
  - **SystemVerilog**
    - developed in 1984 by Gateway Design Automation
    - IEEE standard (1364) in 1995
    - Extended in 2005 (IEEE STD 1800-2009)
  - **VHDL 2008**
    - Developed in 1981 by the Department of Defense
    - IEEE standard (1076) in 1987
    - Updated in 2008 (IEEE STD 1076-2008)

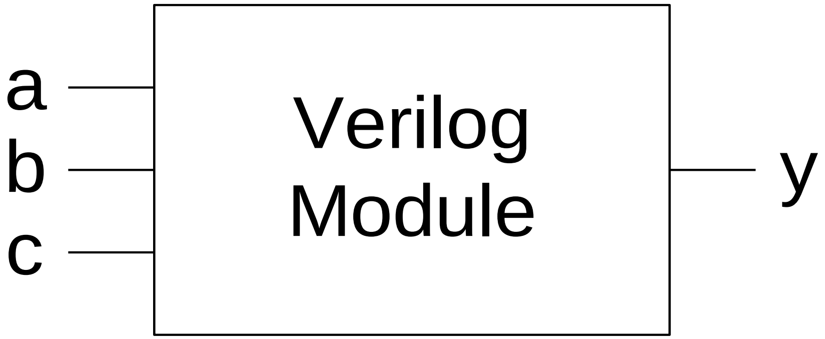
HDL to Gates

- **Simulation**
  - Inputs applied to circuit
  - Outputs checked for correctness
  - Millions of dollars saved by debugging in simulation instead of hardware
- **Synthesis**
  - Transforms HDL code into a *netlist* describing the hardware (i.e., a list of gates and the wires connecting them)

IMPORTANT:

When using an HDL, think of the **hardware** the HDL should produce

SystemVerilog Modules



Two types of Modules:

- **Behavioral:** describe what a module does
- **Structural:** describe how it is built from simpler modules

Behavioral SystemVerilog

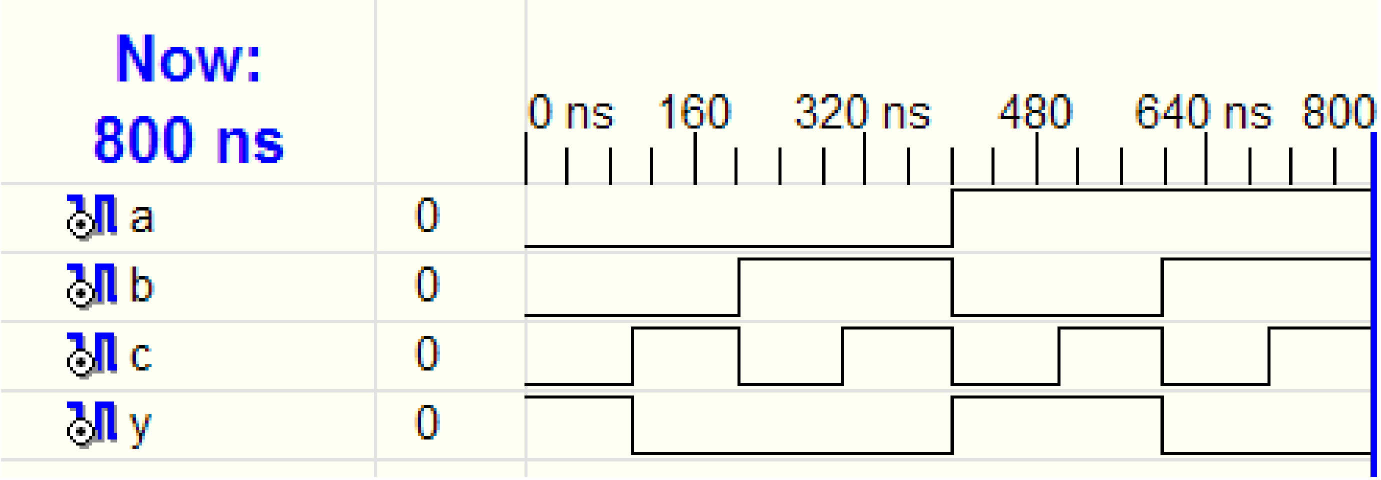
SystemVerilog:

```
module example(input  logic a, b, c,
               output logic y);
  assign y = ~a & ~b & ~c | a & ~b & ~c | a & ~b &  c;
endmodule
```

HDL Simulation

SystemVerilog:

```
module example(input  logic a, b, c,
               output logic y);
  assign y = ~a & ~b & ~c | a & ~b & ~c | a & ~b &  c;
endmodule
```

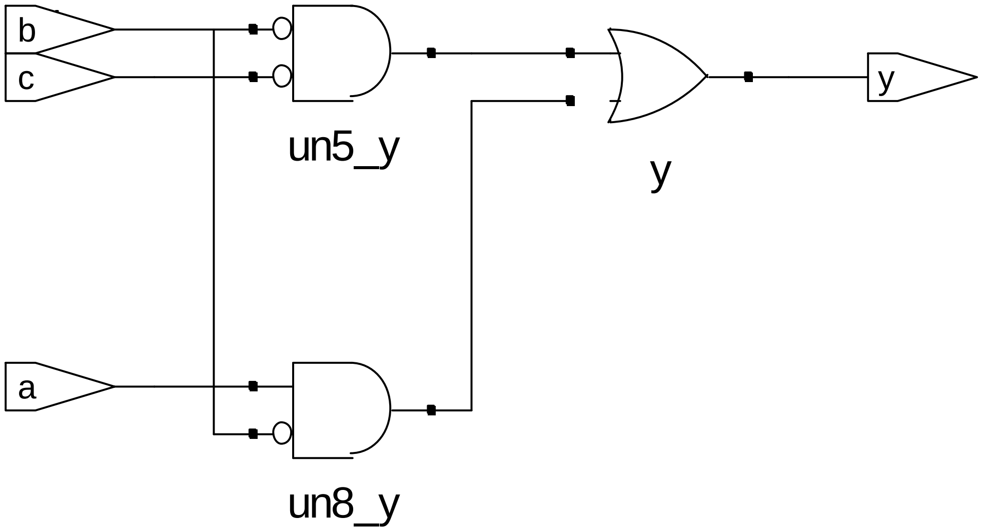


HDL Synthesis

SystemVerilog:

```
module example(input  logic a, b, c,
                      output logic y);
  assign y = ~a & ~b & ~c | a & ~b & ~c | a & ~b &  c;
endmodule
```

Synthesis:



SystemVerilog Syntax

- Case sensitive
  - **Example:** `reset` and `Reset` are not the same signal.
- No names that start with numbers
  - **Example:** `2mux` is an invalid name
- Whitespace ignored
- Comments:
  - `// single line comment`

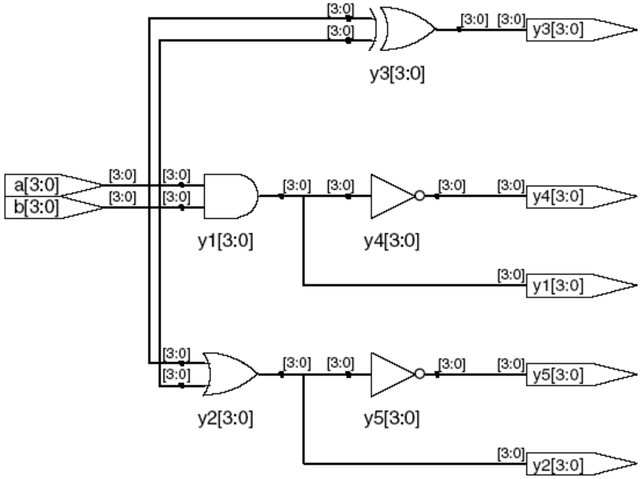
  -
    ```
    /* multiline
         comment */
    ```

Structural Modeling - Hierarchy

```
module and3(input  logic a, b, c,
            output logic y);
  assign y = a & b & c;
endmodule


module inv(input  logic a,
           output logic y);
  assign y = ~a;
endmodule


module nand3(input  logic a, b, c
             output logic y);
  logic n1;                   // internal signal

  and3 andgate(a, b, c, n1);  // instance of and3
  inv  inverter(n1, y);       // instance of inverter
endmodule
```

Bitwise Operators

```
module gates(input  logic [3:0]  a, b,
             output logic [3:0] y1, y2, y3, y4, y5);
   /* Five different two-input logic
      gates acting on 4 bit busses */
   assign y1 = a & b;    // AND
   assign y2 = a | b;    // OR
   assign y3 = a ^ b;    // XOR
   assign y4 = ~(a & b); // NAND
   assign y5 = ~(a | b); // NOR
endmodule
```

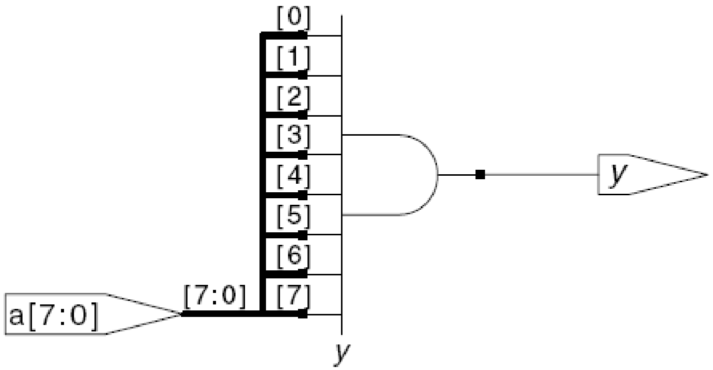


// single line comment

/*…*/ multiline comment

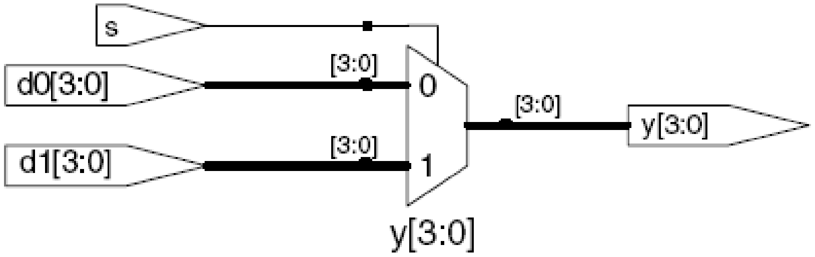
Reduction Operators

```
module and8(input  logic [7:0] a,
            output logic       y);
   assign y = &a;
   // &a is much easier to write than
   // assign y = a[7] & a[6] & a[5] & a[4] &
   //            a[3] & a[2] & a[1] & a[0];
endmodule
```



Conditional Assignment

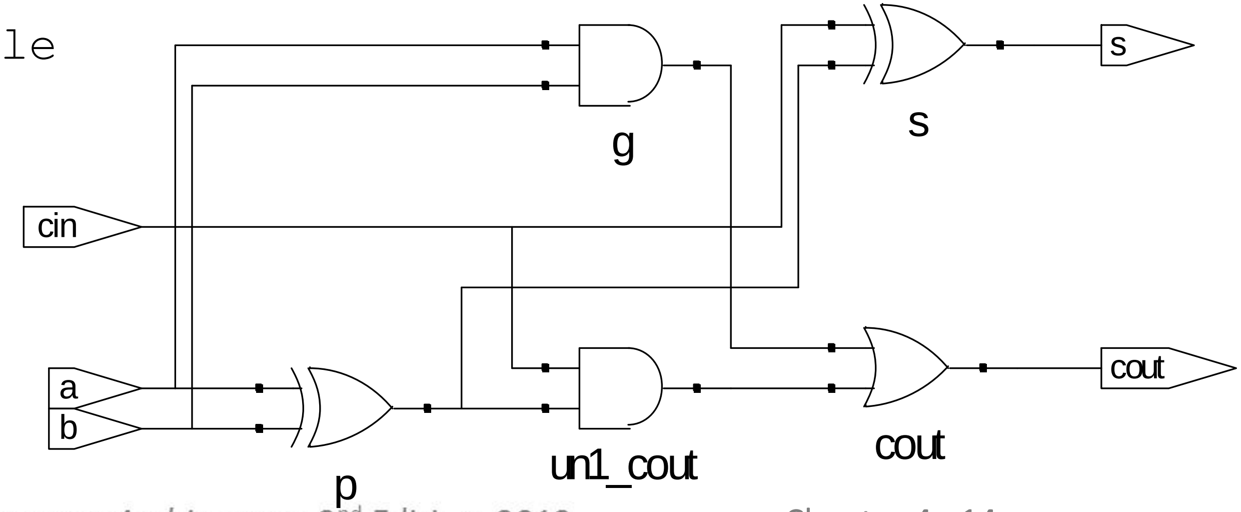
```
module mux2(input  logic [3:0] d0, d1,
            input  logic       s,
            output logic [3:0] y);
   assign y = s ? d1 : d0;
endmodule
```



`? :`   is also called a *ternary operator* because it operates on 3 inputs: `s`, `d1`, and `d0`.

Internal Variables

```
module fulladder(input  logic a, b, cin,
                 output logic s, cout);
  logic p, g;   // internal nodes

  assign p = a ^ b;
  assign g = a & b;

  assign s = p ^ cin;
  assign cout = g | (p & cin);
endmodule
```



Precedence

Order of operations

Highest	~	NOT
	*, /, %	mult, div, mod
	+, -	add,sub
	<<, >>	shift
	<<<, >>>	arithmetic shift
	<, <=, >, >=	comparison
	==, !=	equal, not equal
	&, ~&	AND, NAND
	^, ~^	XOR, XNOR
	|, ~|	OR, NOR
Lowest	?:	ternary operator

Numbers

Format: N'Bvalue

N = number of bits, **B** = base

N'B is optional but recommended (default is decimal)

Number	# Bits	Base	Decimal Equivalent	Stored
3'b101	3	binary	5	101
'b11	unsized	binary	3	00…0011
8'b11	8	binary	3	00000011
8'b1010_1011	8	binary	171	10101011
3'd6	3	decimal	6	110
6'o42	6	octal	34	100010
8'hAB	8	hexadecimal	171	10101011
42	Unsized	decimal	42	00…0101010

Bit Manipulations: Example 1

```
assign y = {a[2:1], {3{b[0]}}, a[0], 6'b100_010};
```

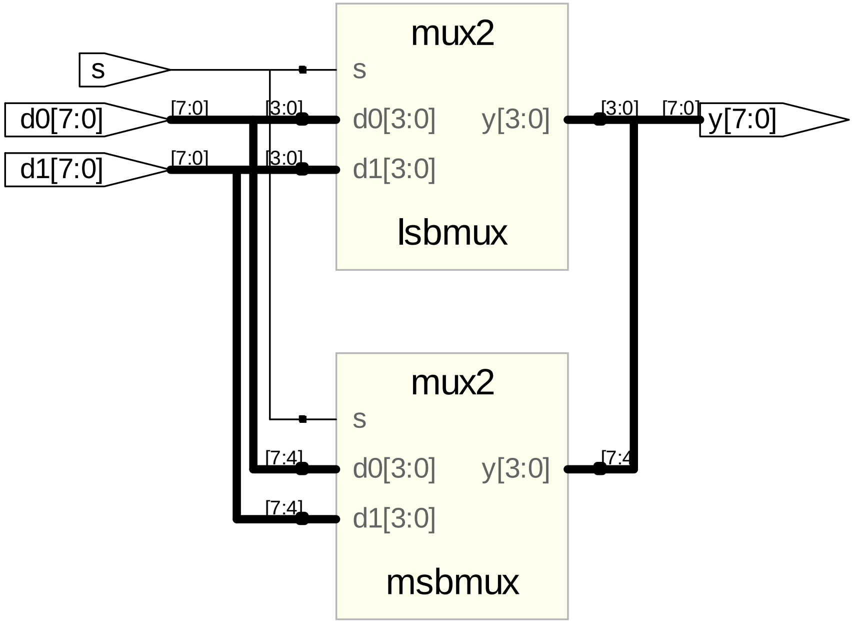
```
// if y is a 12-bit signal, the above statement produces:
y = a[2] a[1] b[0] b[0] b[0] a[0] 1 0 0 0 1 0
```

```
// underscores (_) are used for formatting only to make
   it easier to read. SystemVerilog ignores them.
```

Bit Manipulations: Example 2

SystemVerilog:

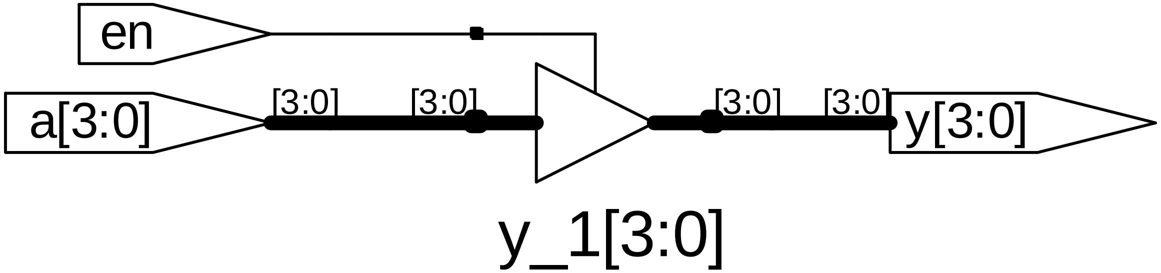
```
module mux2_8(input  logic [7:0] d0, d1,
              input  logic       s,
              output logic [7:0] y);

  mux2 lsbmux(d0[3:0], d1[3:0], s, y[3:0]);
  mux2 msbmux(d0[7:4], d1[7:4], s, y[7:4]);
endmodule
```



Z: Floating Output

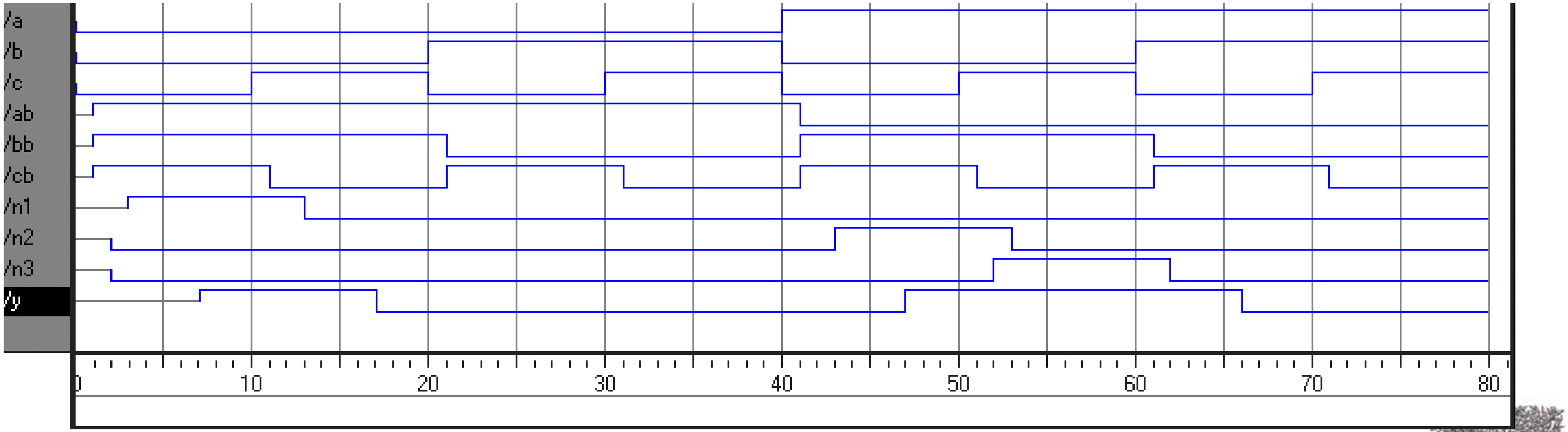
SystemVerilog:

```
module tristate(input  logic [3:0] a,
                input  logic       en,
                output logic [3:0] y);
   assign y = en ? a : 4'bz;
endmodule
```



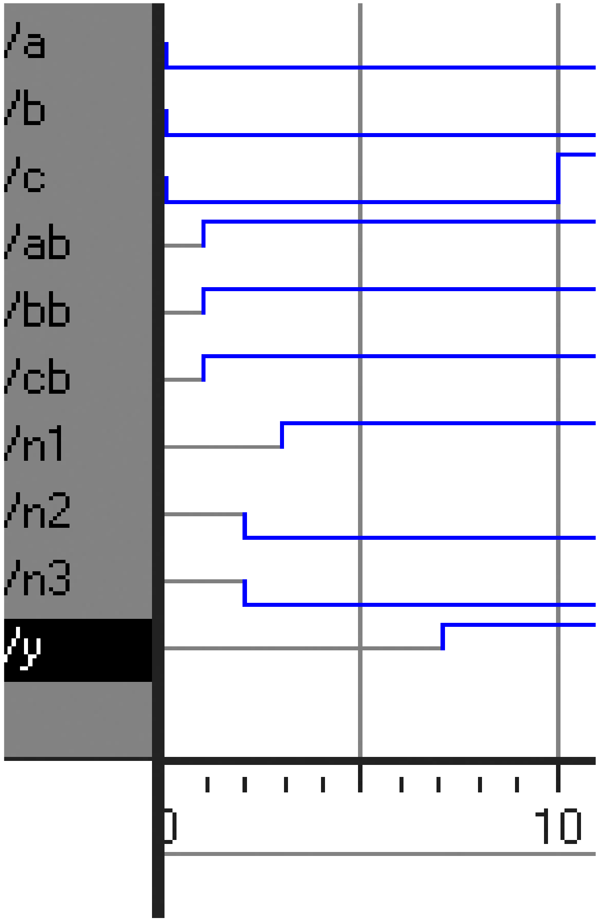
Delays

```
module example(input  logic a, b, c,
               output logic y);
  logic ab, bb, cb, n1, n2, n3;
  assign #1 {ab, bb, cb} = ~{a, b, c};
  assign #2 n1 = ab & bb & cb;
  assign #2 n2 = a & bb & cb;
  assign #2 n3 = a & bb & c;
  assign #4 y = n1 | n2 | n3;
endmodule
```



Delays

```
module example(input  logic a, b, c,
               output logic y);
  logic ab, bb, cb, n1, n2, n3;
  assign #1 {ab, bb, cb} =
                ~{a, b, c};
  assign #2 n1 = ab & bb & cb;
  assign #2 n2 = a & bb & cb;
  assign #2 n3 = a & bb & c;
  assign #4 y = n1 | n2 | n3;
endmodule
```



Sequential Logic

- SystemVerilog uses **Idioms** to describe latches, flip-flops and FSMs
- Other coding styles may simulate correctly but produce incorrect hardware

Always Statement

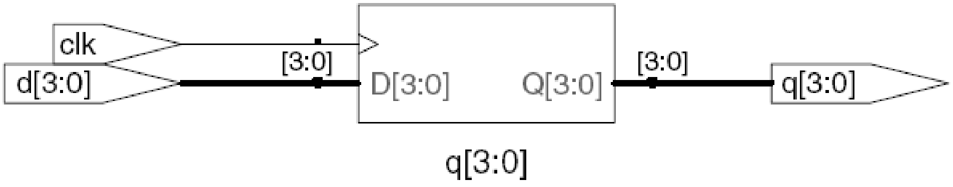
General Structure:

```
always @(sensitivity list)
  statement;
```

Whenever the event in `sensitivity list` occurs, `statement` is executed

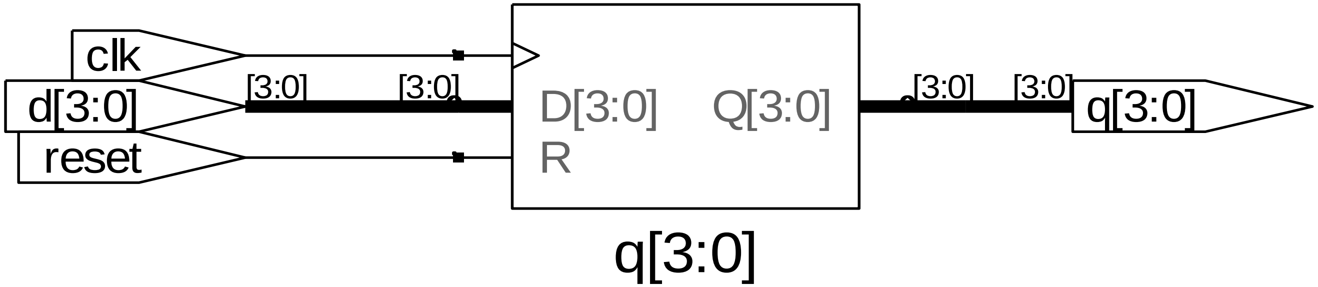
D Flip-Flop

```
module flop(input  logic       clk,
            input  logic [3:0] d,
            output logic [3:0] q);

  always_ff @(posedge clk)
    q <= d;                     // pronounced “q gets d”

endmodule
```



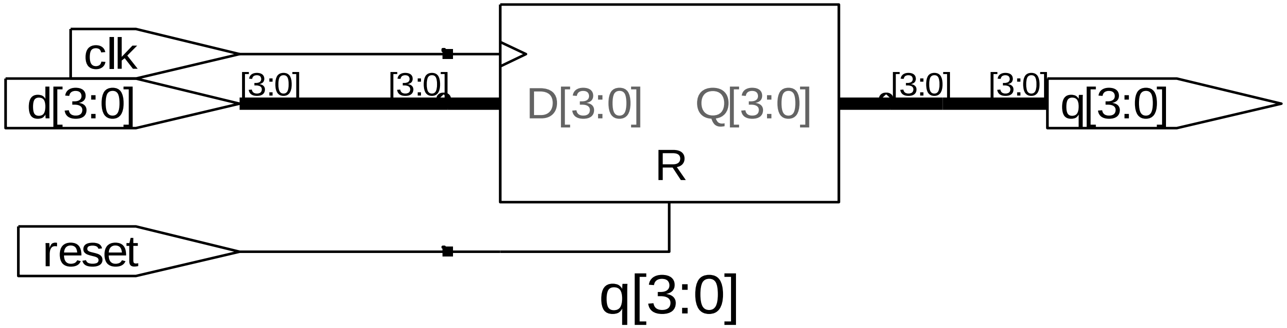
Resettable D Flip-Flop

```
module flopr(input  logic       clk,
             input  logic       reset,
             input  logic [3:0] d,
             output logic [3:0] q);

  // synchronous reset
  always_ff @(posedge clk)
    if (reset) q <= 4'b0;
    else       q <= d;

endmodule
```



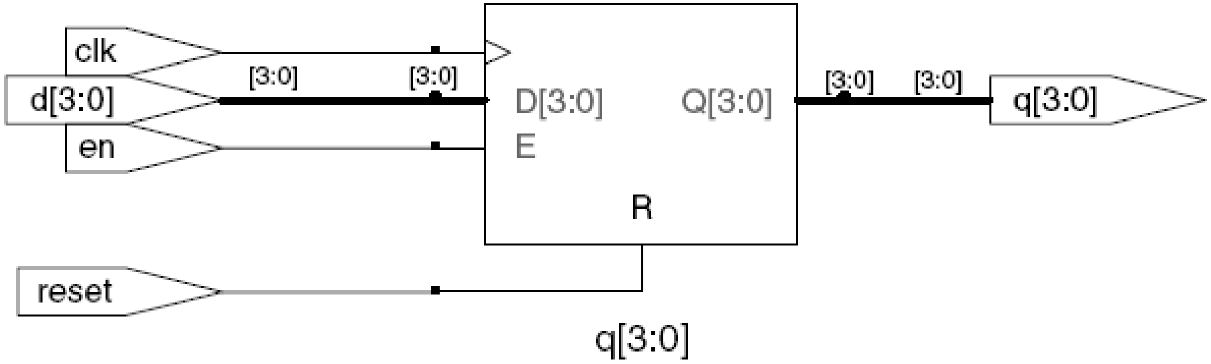
Resettable D Flip-Flop

```
module flopr(input  logic       clk,
             input  logic       reset,
             input  logic [3:0] d,
             output logic [3:0] q);

  // asynchronous reset
  always_ff @(posedge clk, posedge reset)
    if (reset) q <= 4'b0;
    else       q <= d;

endmodule
```



D Flip-Flop with Enable

```
module flopren(input  logic       clk,
               input  logic       reset,
               input  logic       en,
               input  logic [3:0] d,
               output logic [3:0] q);

  // asynchronous reset and enable
  always_ff @(posedge clk, posedge reset)
    if      (reset) q <= 4'b0;
    else if (en)    q <= d;

endmodule
```



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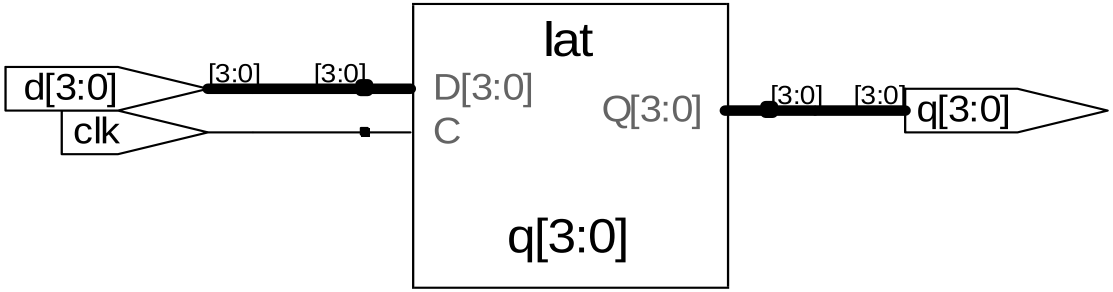
Latch

```
module latch(input  logic       clk,
             input  logic [3:0] d,
             output logic [3:0] q);

  always_latch
    if (clk) q <= d;

endmodule
```



Warning: We don’t use latches in this text. But you might write code that inadvertently implies a latch. Check synthesized hardware – if it has latches in it, there’s an error.

Other Behavioral Statements

- Statements that must be inside `always` statements:
  - `if/else`
  - `case, casez`

Combinational Logic using always

```
// combinational logic using an always statement
module gates(input  logic [3:0] a, b,
             output logic [3:0] y1, y2, y3, y4, y5);
  always_comb        // need begin/end because there is
    begin            // more than one statement in always
      y1 = a & b;    // AND
      y2 = a | b;    // OR
      y3 = a ^ b;    // XOR
      y4 = ~(a & b); // NAND
      y5 = ~(a | b); // NOR
    end
endmodule
```

This hardware could be described with assign statements using fewer lines of code, so it's better to use assign statements in this case.

Combinational Logic using case

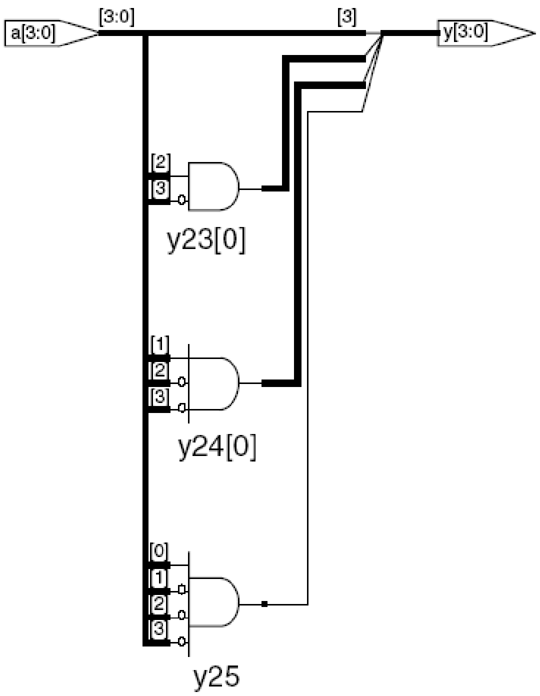
```
module sevenseg(input  logic [3:0] data,
                output logic [6:0] segments);
  always_comb
    case (data)
      //                     abc_defg
      0: segments =       7'b111_1110;
      1: segments =       7'b011_0000;
      2: segments =       7'b110_1101;
      3: segments =       7'b111_1001;
      4: segments =       7'b011_0011;
      5: segments =       7'b101_1011;
      6: segments =       7'b101_1111;
      7: segments =       7'b111_0000;
      8: segments =       7'b111_1111;
      9: segments =       7'b111_0011;
      default: segments = 7'b000_0000; // required
    endcase
endmodule
```

Combinational Logic using `case`

- `case` statement implies combinational logic **only if** all possible input combinations described
- Remember to use **`default`** statement

Combinational Logic using casez

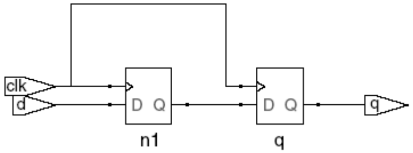
```
module priority_casez(input  logic [3:0] a,
                      output logic [3:0] y);
  always_comb
    casez(a)
      4'b1???: y = 4'b1000;  // ? = don’t care
      4'b01??: y = 4'b0100;
      4'b001?: y = 4'b0010;
      4'b0001: y = 4'b0001;
      default: y = 4'b0000;
     endcase
endmodule
```



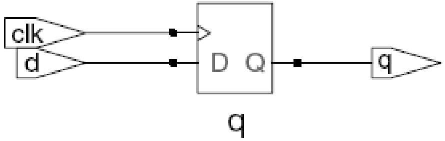
Blocking vs. Nonblocking Assignment

- <= is **nonblocking** assignment
  - Occurs simultaneously with others
- = is **blocking** assignment
  - Occurs in order it appears in file

```
// Good synchronizer using 
// nonblocking assignments
module syncgood(input  logic clk,
                input  logic d,
                output logic q);
  logic n1;
  always_ff @(posedge clk)
    begin
      n1 <= d;  // nonblocking
      q  <= n1; // nonblocking
    end
endmodule
```



```
// Bad synchronizer using 
// blocking assignments
module syncbad(input logic  clk,
               input  logic d,
               output logic q);
  logic n1;
  always_ff @(posedge clk)
    begin
      n1  = d;  // blocking
      q   = n1; // blocking
    end
endmodule
```



Rules for Signal Assignment

- **Synchronous sequential logic:** use **`always_ff @(posedge clk)`** and nonblocking assignments (**`<=`**)

```
      always_ff @ (posedge clk)
        q <= d; // nonblocking
```

- **Simple combinational logic:** use continuous assignments (**`assign`**…)

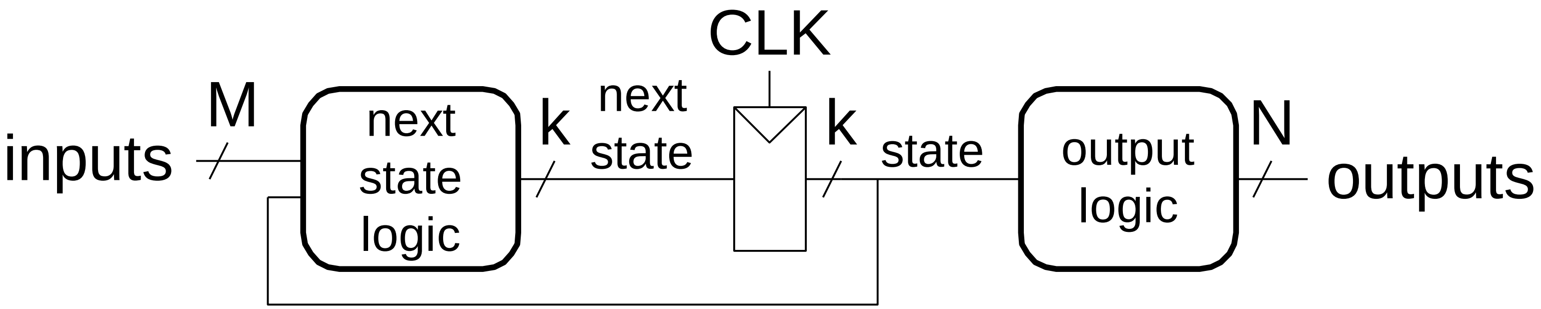
```
      assign y = a & b;
```

- **More complicated combinational logic:** use **`always_comb`** and blocking assignments (**`=`**)

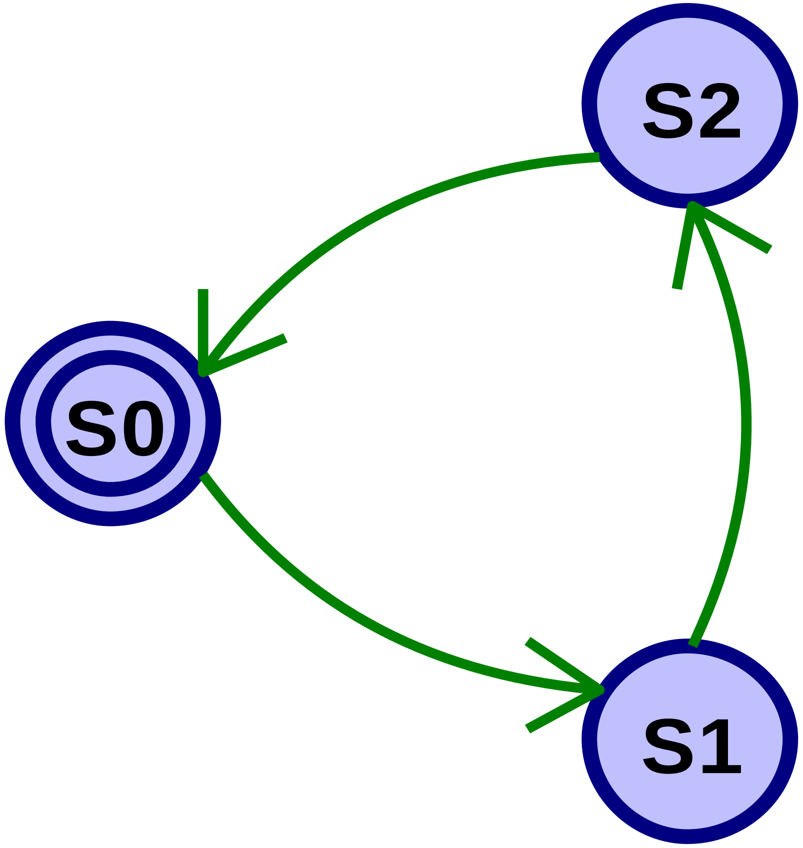
- Assign a signal in **only one** `always` statement or continuous assignment statement.

Finite State Machines (FSMs)

- **Three blocks:**
  - next state logic
  - state register
  - output logic



FSM Example: Divide by 3



The double circle indicates the reset state

FSM in SystemVerilog

```
module divideby3FSM (input  logic clk,
                     input  logic reset,
                     output logic q);
   typedef enum logic [1:0] {S0, S1, S2} statetype;
   statetype [1:0] state, nextstate;

   // state register
   always_ff @ (posedge clk, posedge reset)
      if (reset) state <= S0;
      else       state <= nextstate;

   // next state logic
   always_comb
      case (state)
         S0:      nextstate = S1;
         S1:      nextstate = S2;
         S2:      nextstate = S0;
         default: nextstate = S0;
      endcase

   // output logic
   assign q = (state == S0);
endmodule
```

Parameterized Modules

2:1 mux:

```
module mux2
  #(parameter width = 8)   // name and default value
   (input  logic [width-1:0] d0, d1,
    input  logic             s,
    output logic [width-1:0] y);
  assign y = s ? d1 : d0;
endmodule
```

Instance with 8-bit bus width (uses default):

```
  mux2 mux1(d0, d1, s, out);
```

Instance with 12-bit bus width:

```
   mux2 #(12) lowmux(d0, d1, s, out);
```

Testbenches

- HDL that tests another module: *device under test* (dut)
- Not synthesizeable
- Types:
  - Simple
  - Self-checking
  - Self-checking with testvectors

Testbench Example

- Write SystemVerilog code to implement the following function in hardware:

$$y = \bar{b}\bar{c} + a\bar{b}$$

- Name the module `sillyfunction`

Testbench Example

- Write SystemVerilog code to implement the following function in hardware:

$$y = \overline{b}\,\overline{c} + a\overline{b}$$

```
module sillyfunction(input  logic a, b, c,
                     output logic y);
  assign y = ~b & ~c | a & ~b;
endmodule
```

Simple Testbench

```
module testbench1();
  logic a, b, c;
  logic y;
  // instantiate device under test
  sillyfunction dut(a, b, c, y);
  // apply inputs one at a time
  initial begin
    a = 0; b = 0; c = 0; #10;
    c = 1; #10;
    b = 1; c = 0; #10;
    c = 1; #10;
    a = 1; b = 0; c = 0; #10;
    c = 1; #10;
    b = 1; c = 0; #10;
    c = 1; #10;
  end
endmodule
```

Self-checking Testbench

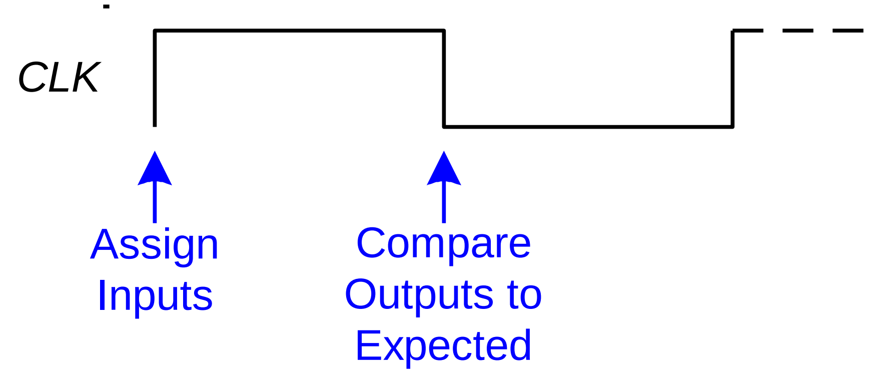
```
module testbench2();
  logic  a, b, c;
  logic y;
  sillyfunction dut(a, b, c, y);  // instantiate dut
  initial begin // apply inputs, check results one at a time
    a = 0; b = 0; c = 0; #10;
    if (y !== 1) $display("000 failed.");
    c = 1; #10;
    if (y !== 0) $display("001 failed.");
    b = 1; c = 0; #10;
    if (y !== 0) $display("010 failed.");
    c = 1; #10;
    if (y !== 0) $display("011 failed.");
    a = 1; b = 0; c = 0; #10;
    if (y !== 1) $display("100 failed.");
    c = 1; #10;
    if (y !== 1) $display("101 failed.");
    b = 1; c = 0; #10;
    if (y !== 0) $display("110 failed.");
    c = 1; #10;
    if (y !== 0) $display("111 failed.");
  end
endmodule
```

Testbench with Testvectors

- Testvector file: inputs and expected outputs
- Testbench:
  1. Generate clock for assigning inputs, reading outputs
  2. Read testvectors file into array
  3. Assign inputs, expected outputs
  4. Compare outputs with expected outputs and report errors

Testbench with Testvectors

- Testbench clock:
  - assign inputs (on rising edge)
  - compare outputs with expected outputs (on falling edge).



- Testbench clock also used as clock for synchronous sequential circuits

Testvectors File

- File: `example.tv`
- contains vectors of abc_yexpected

```
000_1
001_0
010_0
011_0
100_1
101_1
110_0
111_0
```

1. Generate Clock

```
module testbench3();
  logic          clk, reset;
  logic          a, b, c, yexpected;
  logic          y;
  logic [31:0] vectornum, errors;    // bookkeeping variables
  logic [3:0]  testvectors[10000:0]; // array of testvectors

  // instantiate device under test
  sillyfunction dut(a, b, c, y);

  // generate clock
  always     // no sensitivity list, so it always executes
    begin
      clk = 1; #5; clk = 0; #5;
    end
```

2. Read Testvectors into Array

```
// at start of test, load vectors and pulse reset

initial
   begin
     $readmemb("example.tv", testvectors);
     vectornum = 0; errors = 0;
     reset = 1; #27; reset = 0;
   end
```

```
// Note: $readmemh reads testvector files written in
// hexadecimal
```

3. Assign Inputs & Expected Outputs

```
// apply test vectors on rising edge of clk
always @(posedge clk)
  begin
    #1; {a, b, c, yexpected} = testvectors[vectornum];
  end
```

4. Compare with Expected Outputs

```
// check results on falling edge of clk
   always @(negedge clk)
    if (~reset) begin // skip during reset
      if (y !== yexpected) begin
        $display("Error: inputs = %b", {a, b, c});
        $display("  outputs = %b (%b expected)",y,yexpected);
        errors = errors + 1;
      end

// Note: to print in hexadecimal, use %h. For example,
//       $display(“Error: inputs = %h”, {a, b, c});
```

4. Compare with Expected Outputs

```
// increment array index and read next testvector
      vectornum = vectornum + 1;
      if (testvectors[vectornum] === 4'bx) begin
          $display("%d tests completed with %d errors",
                vectornum, errors);
        $finish;
      end
    end
endmodule
```

```
// === and !== can compare values that are 1, 0, x, or z.
```