

Terminus based Training Manual for Digital Electronics

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Logical Reality:

A Terminus based Training Manual For Digital Electronics

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TTL of Transistor Transistor Logic is a very widely used and popular member of the digital logic family. In TTL standard, any voltage that is greater than or equal to 2.4v is a digital HIGH signal. Any voltage that is less than or equal to 0.4v is a digital LOW signal. Voltages between the 0.4v and 2.4v are not used in digital electronics and is known as metastable. These voltage levels are same for both input and output.



Note that the voltage range for HIGH is 2.4v to 5v. 5v is the maximum voltage that can be applied to the gate input using TTL logic standard. Voltages greater than 5v will permanently damage the logic gate and the digital circuit. Although there are logic family members that can take voltages up to 20v, the modern trend is to minimize the voltage levels for both signal and power. Devices with lower voltage levels consumes less power than their higher voltage counterpart.

Both the input and output of any digital component is digital as well. As mentioned earlier, both input and output of digital components are expressed in terms of HIGH or LOW instead of voltage level. The voltage level of HIGH and LOW are referred to as "Digital State" or just "State". So when anyone say that certain digital component input is LOW and output is HIGH, what they mean is that the digital component's input state is LOW and output state is HIGH.

As explained before, digital electronics always show the result in term of "Positive result" or "Negative result" i.e. Yes or No. A positive result is shown by HIGH state. A negative result is shown by LOW state. So in a sense, digital systems are like a pass-fail system. The system takes in input(s), process the input(s) using the predefined rules and if the input passes the rules, the output is HIGH or positive, showing a pass. Else the output is LOW or negative, showing a fail. In digital systems, there is no maybe or in-between. Note that, all digital electronics components or devices has an inherent predefined rules that it uses to process the inputs and provide the proper output.

To determine if the output of any digital circuit is HIGH or LOW, we can use a simple LED (Light Emitting Diode). As LED work only when the applied voltage is greater than its forward voltage, we can use it to determine if the signal is HIGH or LOW. Typical forward voltage of LED is 1.2v - 1.8v and TTL output



I • Logic Gates

Logic gates are the fundamental building blocks of digital electronics. According to dictionary, "Gate" means "a barrier that can allow or stop anything from going in or out of a specific area". And "Logic" means "reasoning based on certain set of rules". Following these literal meanings, Logic Gates are supposed to be barriers that are operated (opened or closed) following some specific set of rules. In reality, that is exactly what happens. Logic gates are electronic devices that opens and closes based on given set of rules. Signals go in to the logic gates through the input. If the signals can satisfy the predefined set of rules or condition, the signals can come out of the gate output. Sometimes signals are modified when they are in the logic IC/chip and the output signal is different to what went in.

The set of rules are predefined. There are seven different fundamental digital logic gates, each with its own set of predefined rules (the rules of fundamental logic gates cannot be changed). These logic gates can be combined to make any other logical gates and logic circuits that you can think of. By the way, logic circuits are a type of digital circuit that can perform logical operations based on the predefined rules. Logic gates are always shown in the schematic by specific symbols. Each gate has its own unique symbol. There are seven different types of logic gates. Of these 7 types, 5 are unique logic gates. The rest 2 are called "Universal gates". Universal gates are also unique but they have special property. All universal gates can be used to make any of the 5 fundamental logic gates but not the other way around.

Logic gates always comes in IC form. You can never buy a single logic gate. Each logic gate IC contains several logic gates. Generally, one IC contain multiple gates of same type however, there are some IC that has multiple types of gates in one IC/chip (ICs are also referred to as chip). The gates are briefly described in the list below. These gates are very simple to begin with and so there is not much to describe anyway. Anyhow, all these gates take in input, process it based on predefined rule and give the result on output. The predefined rules are different for each gates. All input and output are described in terms of state.





Terminus Intro

Before jumping into the experiments, it would be appropriate to learn what Terminus is and how it is suppose to work. The details are unfolded as we advance through the literature and the experiments, but for now, a brief introduction

Terminus is a device that enables its user to generate a broad spectrum of user-definable signals for designing their own circuits or debugging/testing any other devices/ systems. For maximum efficiency, Terminus uses a Linux like Command Line Interface (CLI). A computer has to be used to access and modify all features and parameters of the Terminus respectively. The commands are given by the user from the terminal program running in the computer.

All control, configure and operating commands must come from a computer via a serial port. The serial port used here is based on RS-232 (built into the MCU). The host computer can connect either using the serial Port (older computers have serial port built in) or by using a USB-UART Bridge. Terminus uses third party open source Terminal program for computer. The terminal programs are available free of cost. However, the user can use any other terminal program as long as the program(s) are within the operating specifications and requirements of the Terminus.





Arcon Interface is a propitiatory Command Line Interface (CLI), designed and coded by Arbiter Electrotech. Arcon Interface allows the host device to receive commands and transmit data to the connecting computer using RS-232 based Serial Port of the computer and the UART of the microcontroller. The CLI is embedded within the firmware and is an integral part of the product itself. The backbone of Terminus is the Arcon Interface. Every single command and notification is processed and generated by the Arcon Interface. Arcon Interface is optimized to be highly efficient and is used in several products developed by Arbiter Electrotech.

Experiment - 1

Experiment 1 is the first experiment of this literature. This experiment will demonstrate the basic working principle of digital logic. However, before starting experiments with the logic gates, it is important to know some basic and fundamental concepts relating to hardware. An engineer must know how to power the DUT/SUT, how to apply test signals on the DUT/SUT and the meaning of the output signals. For your information, DUT means "Device Under Test "and SUT means "System Under Test".

We will start with the simplest logic gate, The NOT gate or Inverter. NOT gates have one input and one output. The output is always inverse or 2's compliment of the input. Schematic of the circuit is shown below. Note that there are three circuits with only difference on the input. The circuit (i) shows how NOT gate is connected without any input circuit. The circuit (ii) shows the convenient method of testing by connecting a button. The circuit (iii) makes use of the Terminus.



Connecting an IC to Power Rail

- All logic gates are sold in IC form
- Each IC contains several single type of logic gates
- Logic gates must be powered before they can be used
- Powering up the IC will power up all the gates within the IC
- The voltage of the power rail must not exceed 5 volts
- To identify pin number of logic gates, physical markings are placed on the IC/chip
- First pin on the Left side of the Notch is pin 1, also first pin on the beside the dot is pin 1
- All IC have either the Notch or Dot or both
- Generally the two diagonal pins are assigned as power input e.g. pin 7 for GND and pin 14 for VCC but some manufacturers may not follow this convention



Components:

- a. One CD4069 IC (NOT gate)
- **b.** One $10K\Omega$ Resistor, One $2.2K\Omega$ Resistor
- **c. One** LED (any color)
- d. One tap switch

Steps:

- 1) Set up the circuit No (ii) using schematic above. The schematic shows a single gate connected to GND via a resistor. From the NOT gate pinout seen earlier, it is seen that the input of the NOT gate is at Pin 1 and output is at Pin 2. So, the LED is connected to Pin 2 via the resistor and the input signal goes to the Pin 1 via the $10K\Omega$ resistor.
- 2) Connect the Terminus power to the breadboard power rails
- **3)** Currently, it is connected to GND via a 10K resistor, and therefore, the NOT gate input is LOW and the output LED is glowing.
- 4) Push the tap switch to feed the input side a digital HIGH by connecting it to VCC. Observe the LED. The LED should stop glowing.
- 5) Next, release the switch and feed the input side a digital LOW by connecting it to GND and observe the LED. The LED should be glowing.

Automated Test (Optional)			
Terminus can be used to show the properties of the NOT gate. Using the oscillato function, the test would be fully automated. Follow the steps below.			
 Steps: 1. Connect the NOT gate (circuit iii) input to Terminus Oscillator output (OSC) 2. In the terminal, write the following command, one line at a time to start the oscillator 			
<i>Note:</i> Brackets [] are used to show the command and the key press event [Enter] means enter/return button on the keyboard needs to be pushed once The commands are to be typed in without the brackets (refer to user manual for details)			
Command:			
>> [osc] [Enter] - Start the oscillator			
>> [1] [Enter] — Set oscillator frequency to 1HZ			
>> [dty] [Enter] - Set oscillator duty cycle			
>> [50] [Enter] — Set oscillator duty cycle to 50%			
>> [;] [Enter] - Run the oscillator			
Continue Oscillator until the experiment is complete			
>> [osc] [Enter] — Stop the oscillator when the experiment is complete			

To explain what happened in the experiment, we need to use the truth table (see the schematic). We are using a NOT gate. Now see the steps that we have just used in the experiment. Notice that, we started off the experiment with the input of the NOT gate connected to the GND rail. The voltage of ground rail (GND) is zero volts (0v). 0 volts meets the standard set for logic LOW. As the input of the NOT gate is logic LOW, the output is inverted i.e. output is HIGH. For logic LOW, there should be approximately 0 volts on the output of the gate and so the LED doesn't glow.

Next we connected the input of the NOT gate to positive voltage rail (VCC). The voltage of the ground voltage rail is approx. +5v. Voltage equal or greater than 2.4v meets the requirement for logic HIGH. Again, for input of logic HIGH, the output is inverted to logic LOW. For logic LOW, there is approx. 5 volts on the output of the gate and so the LED starts glowing.

Connecting a LED to the output of the logic gate is a great way to determine the output state. However, there is a drawback to this technique. If the digital signal is LOW, the LED stays OFF, and the LED is ON if the digital state is HIGH. But if the input is at metastable state, the LED maybe ON, which is false positive. A LED will light up as long as the input voltage is greater than its forward voltage. Therefore, LED lights up for both digital HIGH and metastable state. To determine the digital state properly, a Logic Probe is used (schematic is given on the DIY Projects chapter).



Simulation examples demonstrates how the Micro-Cap can be used to simulate circuits. Step by step instruction is provided. Reader only need to follow them in perfect order. Engineering or any other branch of science requires a lot of time and effort to be invested in experimentation. Its is important for an engineer to have the ability to learn by himself/herself. Learning own your own is a great way to master a craft. It should be noted that the objective of this literature is not to makes the reader a master of digital electronics. In fact no one can make anyone else a master at anything. It is the reader who has to invest time and effort to master digital electronics. This literature will guide the reader and introduce them to ideas and existing techniques. Therefore, only this chapter is provided with the instructions to use the simulator. Later chapters will not include step by step instructions. The name of the simulation file is given. In the file name of the parts, the location of the parts and the analysis type will be included. The readers have to open the file in Micro-Cap and either run the analysis or make the circuit themselves from the list of the components. It is expected that the reader will try and learn by themselves. However, the experiments involving physical components will have the step by step instruction.

Simulation Example – 1

For the very first simulation, we start with something very simple. We start by simulating a NOT gate. The simulation models and steps are shown below. Follow them perfectly and you will be presented with a waveform of the simulation. The intended circuit and the final result is shown below. The most interesting thing about these simulations is that power supply is not needed i.e. the simulation assumes the devices are powered.



For this simulation, detailed step by step instruction is provided. The simulation process requires manipulation of some parameters. The details of these parameters and the dialogue that holds them are shown after the step instructions.

Chapter – 5 Optimization of Digital Circuits

Optimization is a core part of design engineering. Optimization can make the system faster, more efficient and less power consuming. On the financial side, optimization can reduce the manufacturing cost, make the product smaller which reduces weight and lower manufacturing cost. Smaller and lighter products are also easier to store and are less expensive to transport.

Karnaugh Map

Karnaugh Map or K map is a very simple optimization process for digital electronic circuits. K map is possible only for Boolean expressions. To get a k map for a specific digital system, first the Boolean expression for the system is generated. The Boolean expression is then standardized by expressing it as SOP or POS. The standard SOP or POS is then plotted in to the K map to get the optimum Boolean expression. Generally, the circuit gets significantly smaller and less complex after K map optimization. The circuit is optimized as K mapping can reduce the number of logic gates used in the design. It is possible to get K map from either the Boolean expression or directly from the truth table.



Experiment - 19

Sim file: SR-latch.cir

The basic theory of SR-latch is demonstrated in this experiment. This experiment show all the functionality of a SR-latch along with its drawbacks. The pattern generator generates different stimuli to stimulate the SR inputs with different combination of states.



Components:

- **a. One** CD4011 IC (NAND gate)
- **b.** One CD4001 IC (NOR gate)
- c. Two 2.2KΩ Resistor
- d. Two LED (any color)

Steps:

- 1) Construct the circuit (*i*) as shown in the schematic
- 2) Connect the circuit with Terminus and Power ON
- 3) Start Pattern Generator in the Terminus and Load the program (see below in <u>Automated Test</u>)
- 4) Run the pattern generator and observe and note the output as different pattern are sweeping the circuit input
- 5) At the end of the experiment, compare the noted values with the theory and the truth table
- 6) Repeat the experiment with circuit (*ii*)

Automated Test – Gated Set Reset Latch			
Terminus can be used to show the properties of the Gated SR Latch. Using the Pattern Generator function, the test would be fully automated.			
 Steps: 1. Connect the Gated Latch circuit to the Terminus Parallel output as shown in the schematic 2. In the terminal, write the following command 			
<i>Note:</i> Brackets [] are used to show the command and the key press event [Enter] means enter/return button on the keyboard needs to be pushed once The commands are to be typed in without the brackets (refer to user manual for details)			
Command:			
>> [pat] [Enter] — Start the Pattern Generator			
>> [imp] [Enter] — Set oscillator frequency to 1HZ			
Import pattern, Pattern name: Gated_SR_latch_test.txt			
>> [sho] [Enter] — Show the imported pattern			
>> [trg] [Enter] — Set trigger to external (default is Auto)			
>> [trd] [Enter] — Set trigger delay			
>> [1500] [Enter] —Set trigger delay to 1500ms (1.5 seconds)			
>> [;] [Enter] – Run the pattern generator			
>> [;] [Enter] – Run the pattern generator, next pattern			
Continue Pattern step until Terminal says Completed			

The experiment is also conducted by passing different combinations of states into the inputs of the Gated SR latch. You will notice that Gated SR Latch has all the disadvantages of a SR Latch. Gated SR Latch also may go to the invalid state when both S & R inputs are identical. Only advantage of a Gated SR latch is that it can be used to disable the latch temporarily when needed by setting the Gate input to LOW (0). The gate input can enable or disable the latch using the same AND gate based enable/disable circuit, explained earlier in the mux and demux experiments.

If the circuit are assembled correctly and everything goes as it is supposed to, you will see the frequency divided by 2 in the circuit (*i*). The frequency division can be observed using only your eyes.

For both circuit, the frequency of the oscillator is first set to 1 HZ. In circuit (ii.), the frequency is divided by 2. That means, for every two blink of the oscillator LED, the circuit LED blink once showing that the circuit output signal has half the frequency of the oscillator. For circuit (ii.), the division is four times. The circuit output blink once for four blinks of the oscillator LED.

For higher frequencies, the LED of the circuit output will not blink as frequently as the oscillator LED. This shown the signal frequency coming out of the circuit is lower than the oscillator frequency.

You can repeat the experiment adding more stages. Frequency division is an important part of designing frequency counters. In the early days of electronics, frequency counter was used to make digital clocks.

Experiment - 26

The IC used in this experiment is a general purpose Parallel In Serial Out (PIPO) shift register, and is specifically designed to act as an input port. This experiment will make use of Terminus completely. Terminus has built-in functionality that allows us to demonstrate the working principle of the IC easily. The data input signals are applied on the IC inputs. Terminus will shift in the input data and show then on the terminal.



Components:

a. One 74LS165 IC (PISO)

Steps:

- 1) Construct the circuit as shown in the schematic
- 2) Connect the circuit with Terminus and Power ON (see below in <u>Automated Test</u>)



The Byte Generator is also used in this experiment. This IC is literally the opposite of the device used in the last experiment. This IC takes in input from its parallel pins and propagates them serially.

The Byte Generator is used to place a user defined 8-bit data on the Terminus parallel port. The parallel port of Terminus is used to write an 8 bit data to the shift register parallel inputs. The sci command causes the Terminus to generate 8 clock pulses. With every clock pulse, the clock pulse shift out the 8 bit parallel data as a stream of 8 bit serial data. The **S1_cont** input pin of the Terminus captures the serial data and store it in its own memory. As the shift register is 8 bit, only 8 clock pulses are generated by the Terminus. Each clock pulse shifts out one bit of data into the Terminus serial input port (**S1_cont**). At the end of 8 clock pulses, the entire 8-bit data is stored in to the Terminus memory and is shown on the terminal display.