

## Chapter 2

# Boolean Arithmetic

These slides support chapter 2 of the book

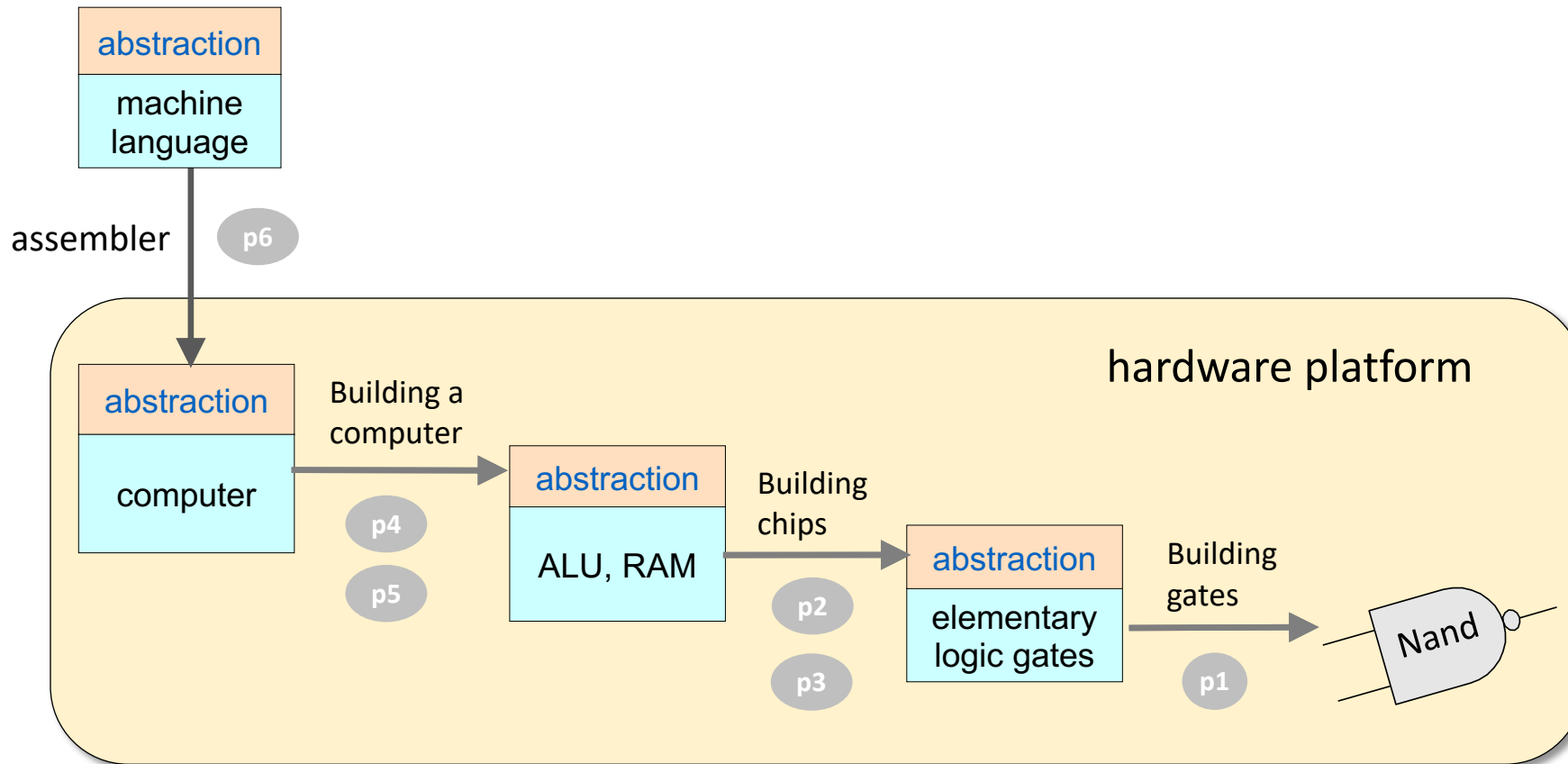
*The Elements of Computing Systems*

(1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions)

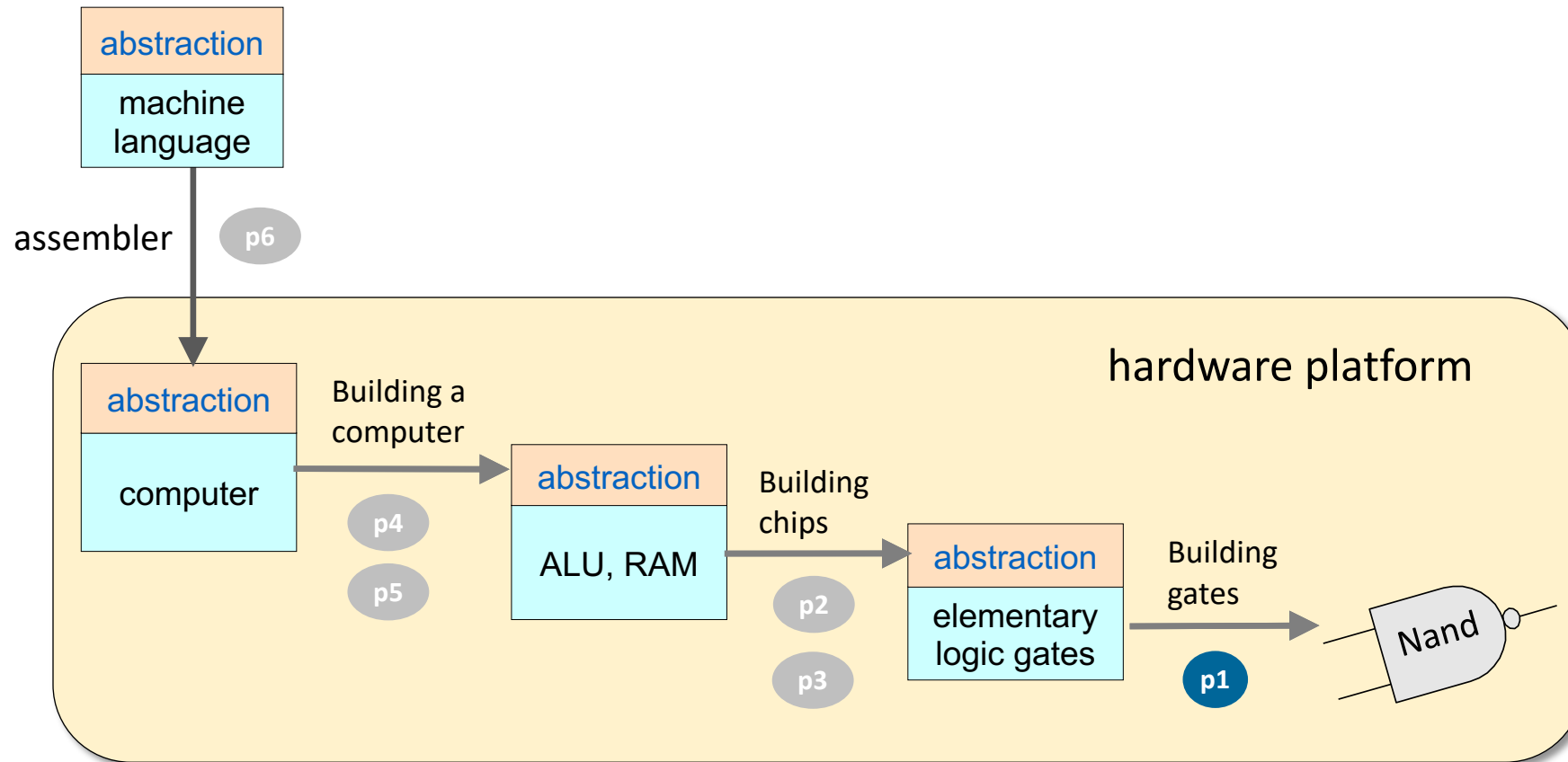
By Noam Nisan and Shimon Schocken

MIT Press

# Nand to Tetris Roadmap: Hardware



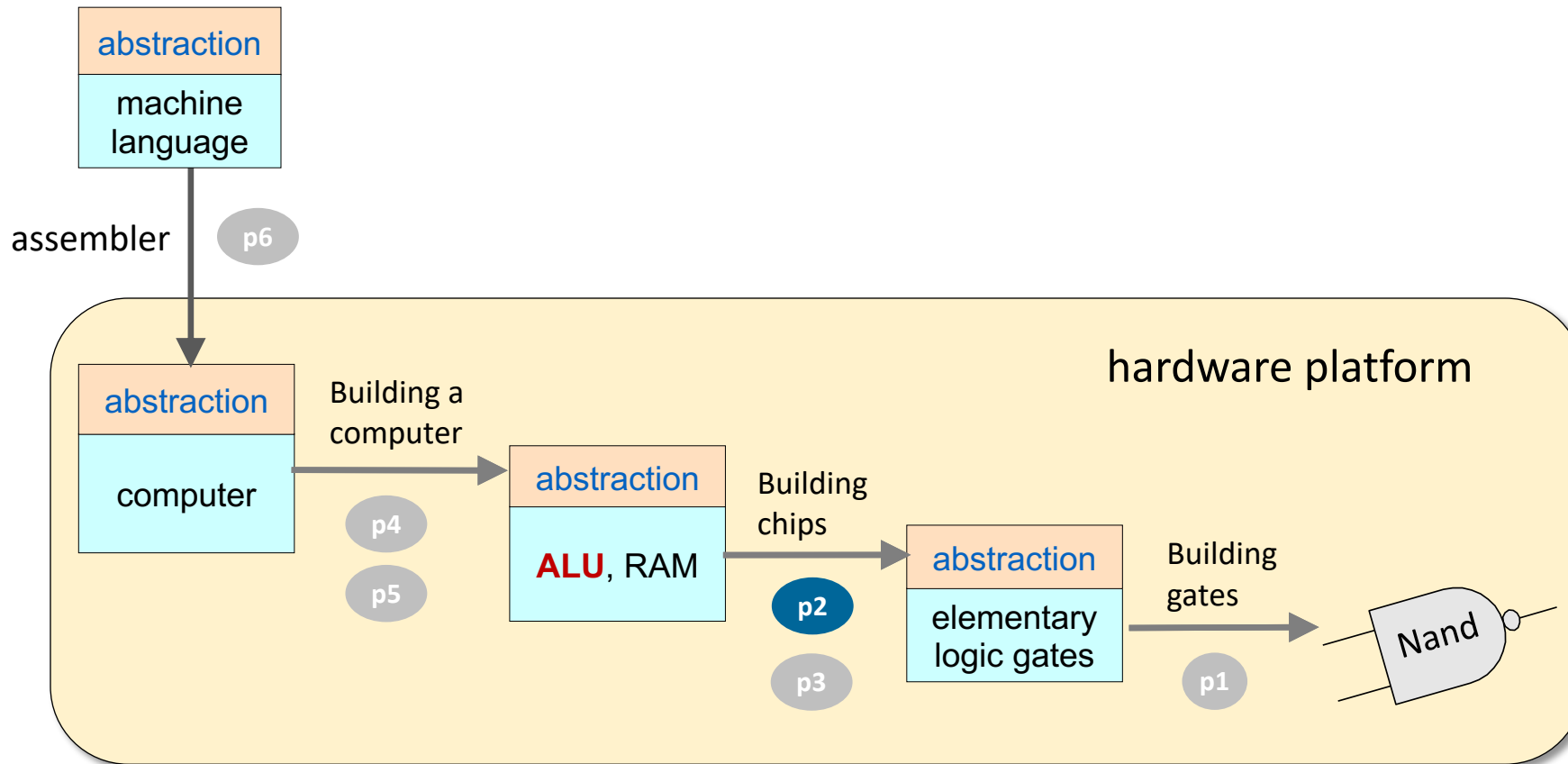
# Nand to Tetris Roadmap: Hardware



## Project 1

Build 15 elementary logic gates

# Nand to Tetris Roadmap: Hardware

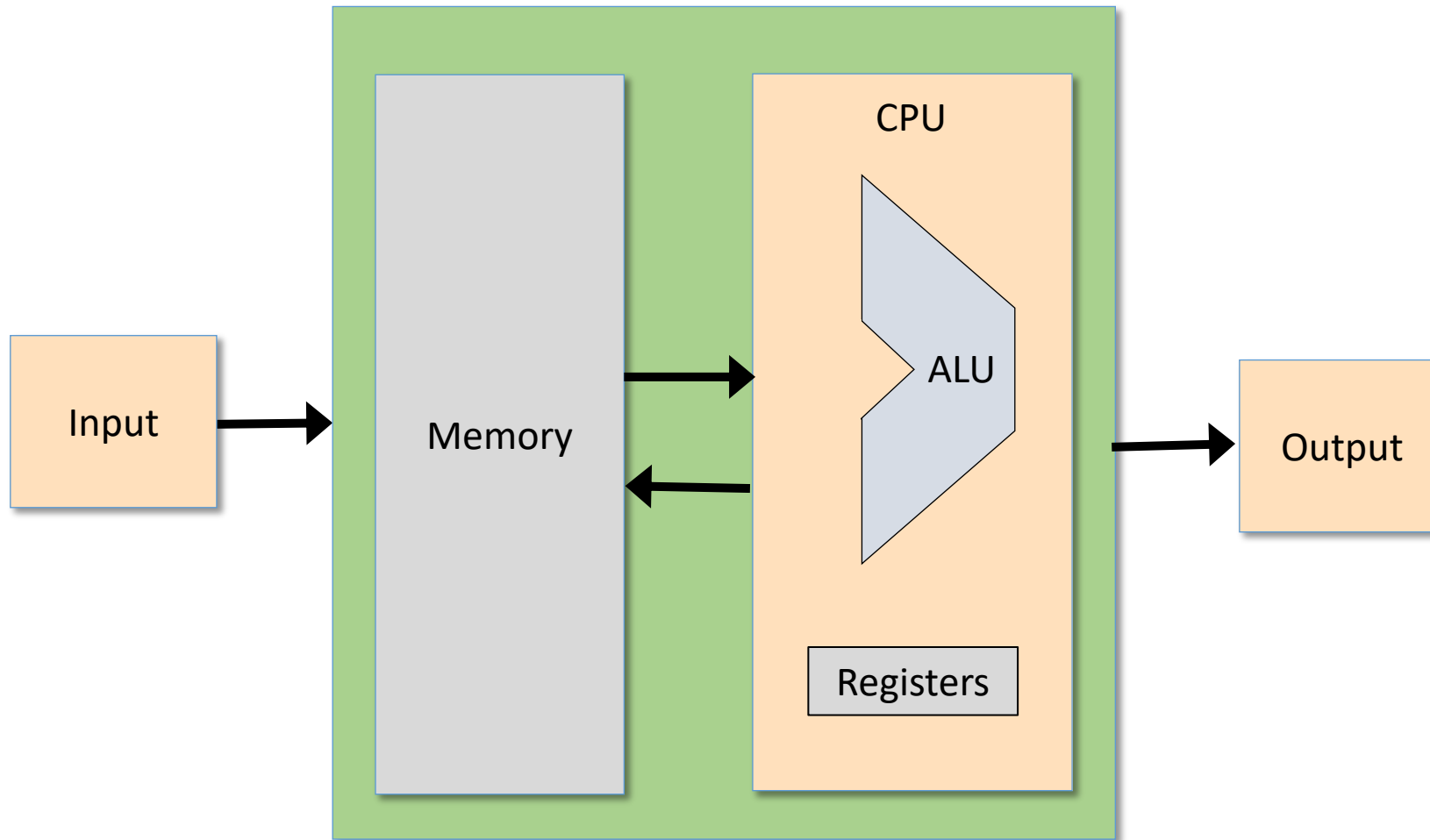


## Project 2

Building chips that do arithmetic,  
ending up with an ALU

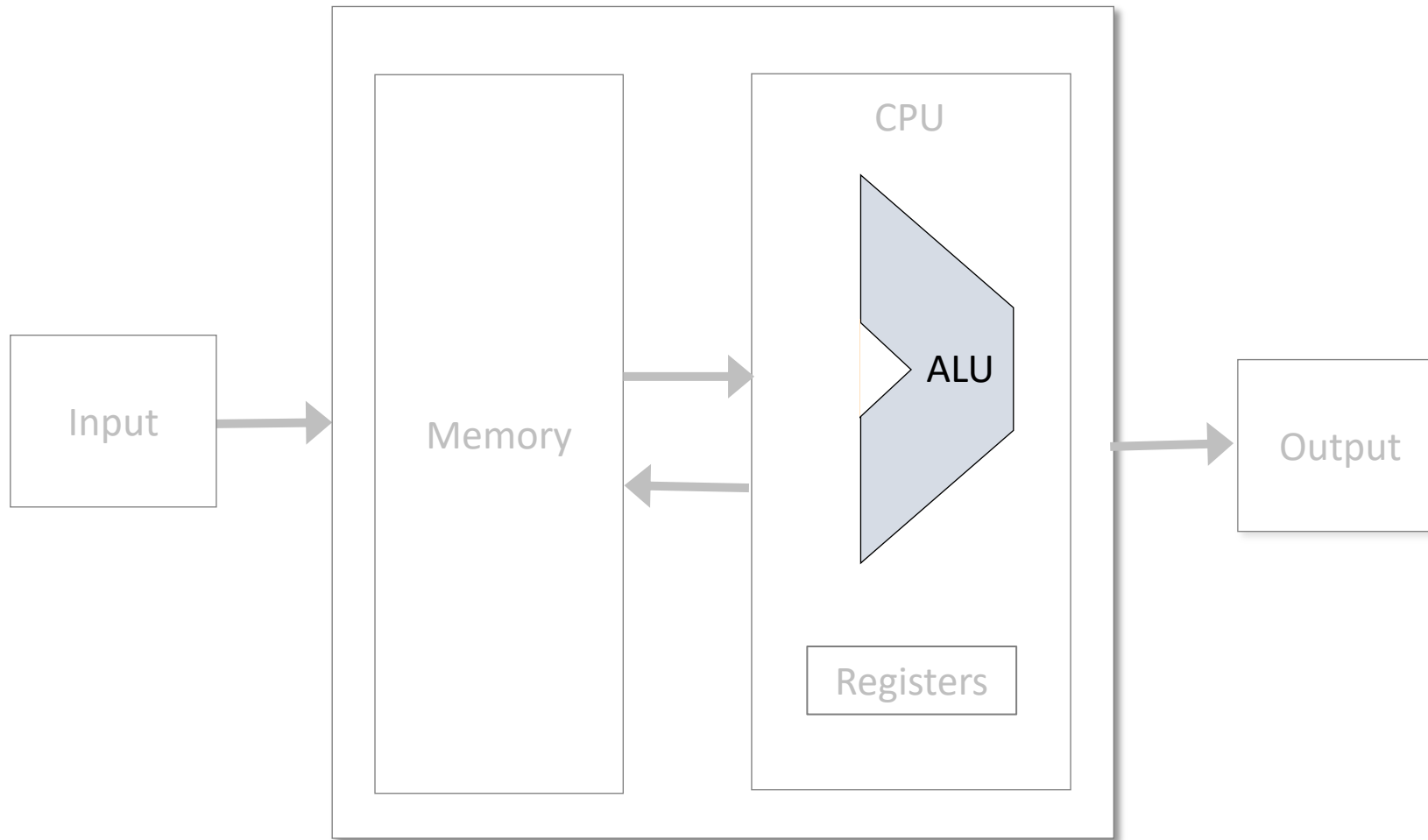
# Computer system

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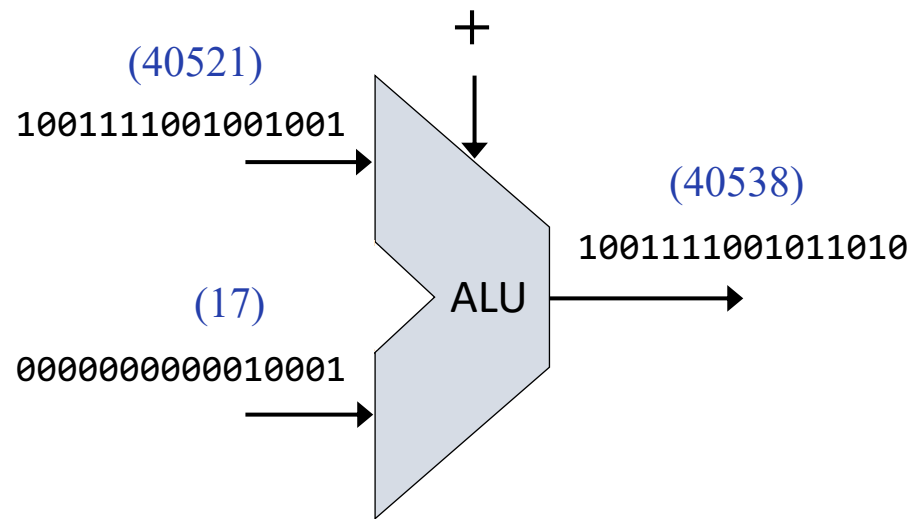
# Computer system

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# Arithmetic Logical Unit

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The ALU computes a given function on two given  $n$ -bit values, and outputs an  $n$ -bit value

## ALU functions ( $f$ )

- Arithmetic:  $x + y$ ,  $x - y$ ,  $x + 1$ ,  $x - 1$ , ...
- Logical:  $x \& y$ ,  $x | y$ ,  $!x$ , ...

## Challenges

- Use 0's and 1's for representing numbers
- Use logic gates for realizing arithmetic functions.

# Chapter 2: Boolean Arithmetic

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## Theory

- Representing numbers
- Binary numbers
- Boolean arithmetic
- Signed numbers

## Practice

- Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)
- Project 2: Chips
- Project 2: Guidelines



# Chapter 2: Boolean Arithmetic

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## Theory

### Representing numbers

- Binary numbers
- Boolean arithmetic
- Signed numbers

## Practice

- Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)
- Project 2: Chips
- Project 2: Guidelines

# Representation

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*This is not a pipe*  
(by René Magritte)

# Representation

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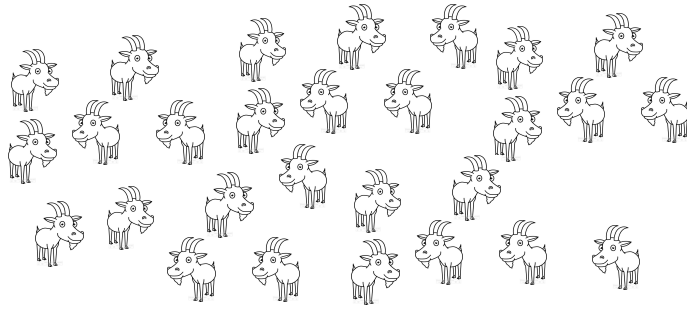
17

*This is not seventeen.*

Rather, it's an agreed-upon code (*numeral*)  
that represents the number seventeen.


# A brief history of numeral systems

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Twenty seven  
goats

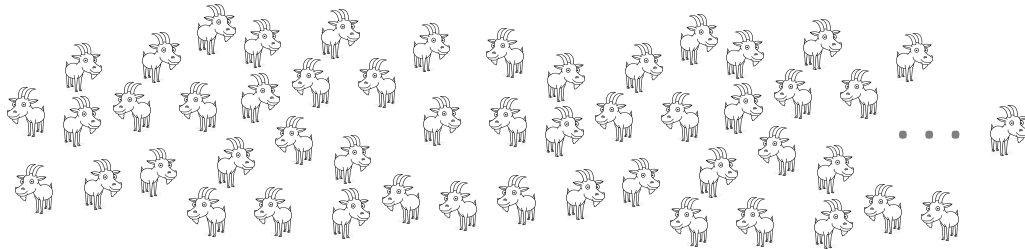
Unary: 

Egyptian: 

Roman: XXVII


# A brief history of numeral systems

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Six thousands,  
five hundreds,  
and seven goats

Unary: 

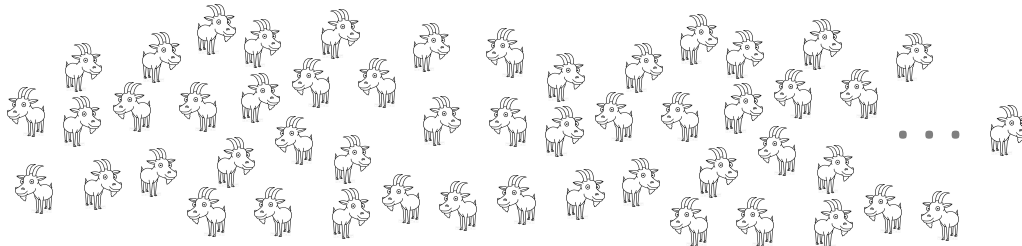
Egyptian: 

Roman: MMMMMMMDVII

## Old numeral systems:

- Don't scale
- Cumbersome arithmetic
- Used until about 1000 years ago
- Blocked the progress of Algebra (and commerce, science, technology)

# Positional numeral system



Six thousands,  
five hundreds,  
and seven goats

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} d_i \cdot 10^i = 6 \cdot 10^3 + 5 \cdot 10^2 + 0 \cdot 10^1 + 7 \cdot 10^0 = 6507$$

The diagram shows the expansion of the numeral 6507. Above the digits 6, 5, 0, and 7 are the powers of 10: 3, 2, 1, and 0 respectively. Lines connect each digit to its corresponding power of 10 in the equation below.

Where  $n$  is the number of digits in the numeral, and  $d_i$  is the digit in position  $i$

## Positional representation

- *Digits*: A fixed set of symbols, including 0
- *Base*: The number of symbols
- *Numeral*: An ordered sequence of digits
- *Value*: The digit in position  $i$  (counting from right to left, and starting at 0) encodes how many copies of  $base^i$  are added to the value.

A most important innovation, brought to the West from the East around 1200

The method mentions no specific base.

# Chapter 2: Boolean Arithmetic

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## Theory



Representing numbers



Binary numbers

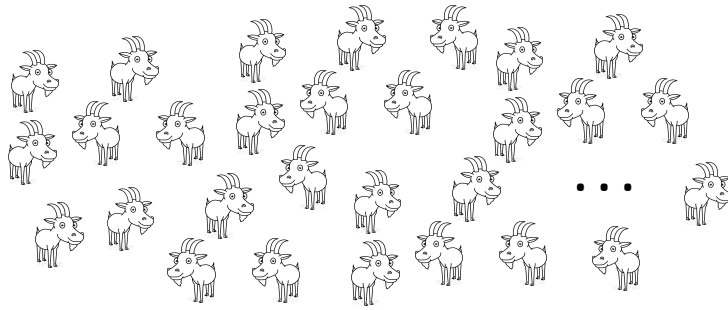
- Boolean arithmetic
- Representing signed numbers

## Practice

- Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)
- Project 2: Chips
- Project 2: Guidelines

# Positional number system

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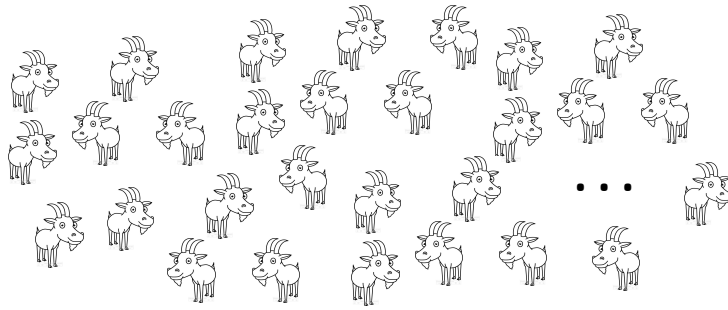
Seven thousands  
and fifty three  
goats

3 2 1 0  
7 0 5 3<sub>10</sub>

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} d_i \cdot 10^i = 7 \cdot 10^3 + 0 \cdot 10^2 + 5 \cdot 10^1 + 3 \cdot 10^0 = 7053$$



# Positional number system



Seven thousands  
and fifty three  
goats

Decimal (base 10) system:  
Human friendly

3 2 1 0  
7 0 5 3<sub>10</sub>

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} d_i \cdot 10^i = 7 \cdot 10^3 + 0 \cdot 10^2 + 5 \cdot 10^1 + 3 \cdot 10^0 = 7053$$

Binary (base 2) system:  
Computer friendly

12 11 10      ...      3 2 1 0  
1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 1<sub>2</sub>

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} d_i \cdot 2^i = 1 \cdot 2^{12} + 1 \cdot 2^{11} + 0 \cdot 2^{10} + \dots + 1 \cdot 2^0 = 7053$$

# Binary and decimal systems

---

<u>Binary</u>	<u>Decimal</u>
0	0
1	1
1 0	2
1 1	3
1 0 0	4
1 0 1	5
1 1 0	6
1 1 1	7
1 0 0 0	8
1 0 0 1	9
1 0 1 0	10
1 0 1 1	11
1 1 0 0	12
1 1 0 1	13
...	...

Humans are used to enter and view numbers in base 10;

Computers represent and process numbers in base 2;

Therefore, we need efficient algorithms for converting from one base to the other.

# Decimal ↔ binary conversions

---

Powers of 2: (aids in calculations)

$$2^0 = 1$$

$$2^1 = 2$$

$$2^2 = 4$$

$$2^3 = 8$$

$$2^4 = 16$$

$$2^5 = 32$$

$$2^6 = 64$$

$$2^7 = 128$$

$$2^8 = 256$$

$$2^9 = 512$$

$$2^{10} = 1024$$

...

Binary to decimal:

$$\text{decimal } (\overset{5}{1}\overset{4}{1}\overset{3}{0}\overset{2}{1}\overset{1}{0}\overset{0}{1}_2) = 2^5 + 2^4 + 2^2 + 2^0 = 53_{10}$$

Decimal to binary:

$$\text{binary } (53_{10}) = 2^5 + 2^4 + 2^2 + 2^0 = \overset{5}{1}\overset{4}{1}\overset{3}{0}\overset{2}{1}\overset{1}{0}\overset{0}{1}_2$$

Algorithm: What is the largest power of 2 that “fits into” 53? It’s  $32 = 2^5$ . We still have to handle  $53 - 32$ , so, what is the largest power of 2 that fits into 21? It’s  $16 = 2^4$ , and so on.

Practice:

$$\text{decimal } (1011010_2) = ?$$

$$\text{binary } (523_{10}) = ?$$

# Decimal ↔ binary conversions

---

Powers of 2: (aids in calculations)

$$2^0 = 1$$

$$2^1 = 2$$

$$2^2 = 4$$

$$2^3 = 8$$

$$2^4 = 16$$

$$2^5 = 32$$

$$2^6 = 64$$

$$2^7 = 128$$

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$$2^9 = 512$$

$$2^{10} = 1024$$

...

Binary to decimal:

$$\text{decimal } (\overset{5}{1}\overset{4}{1}\overset{3}{0}\overset{2}{1}\overset{1}{0}\overset{0}{1}_2) = 2^5 + 2^4 + 2^2 + 2^0 = 53_{10}$$

Decimal to binary:

$$\text{binary } (53_{10}) = 2^5 + 2^4 + 2^2 + 2^0 = \overset{5}{1}\overset{4}{1}\overset{3}{0}\overset{2}{1}\overset{1}{0}\overset{0}{1}_2$$

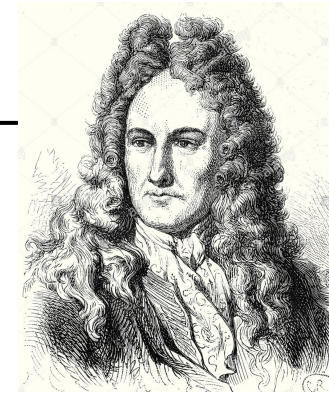
Algorithm: What is the largest power of 2 that “fits into” 53? It’s  $32 = 2^5$ . We still have to handle  $53 - 32$ , so, what is the largest power of 2 that fits into 21? It’s  $16 = 2^4$ , and so on.

Practice:

$$\text{decimal } (1011010_2) = 90_{10}$$

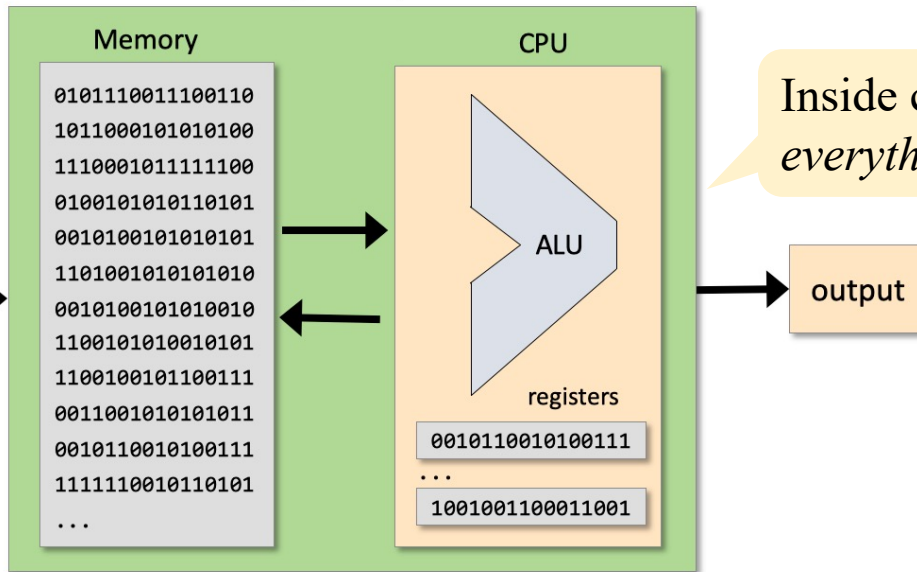
$$\text{binary } (523_{10}) = 1000001011_2$$

# The binary system



G.W. Leibnitz  
(1646 – 1716)

Worshipped  
binary numbers



Binary numerals are easy to:

- Compare      □ Store
- Add           □ Transmit
- Subtract      □ Verify
- Multiply      □ Correct
- Divide        □ Compress
- ...            □ ...



# Chapter 2: Boolean Arithmetic

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## Theory

✓ Representing numbers

✓ Binary numbers

➡ Boolean arithmetic

- Signed numbers

## Practice

• Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)

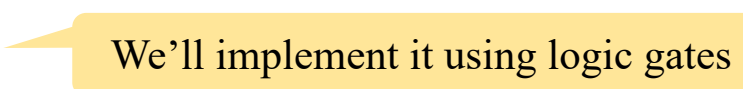
• Project 2: Chips

• Project 2: Guidelines

# Boolean arithmetic

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We have to figure out efficient ways to perform, *on binary numbers*:

➡ Addition  We'll implement it using logic gates

- Subtraction  We'll get it for free

- Multiplication  Based on addition

- Division

*Addition* is the foundation of all arithmetic operations.

# Addition

---

$$\begin{array}{rcccc} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ + & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ & & & 1 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array}$$

Binary addition

$$\begin{array}{rcccc} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ + & 7 & 8 & 7 & 5 \\ & & 5 & 6 & 2 \\ \hline 8 & 4 & 3 & 7 \end{array}$$

Decimal addition



# Addition

---

Computers represent integers using a fixed number of bits, sometimes called “word size”. For example, let’s assume  $n = 4$ :

$$\begin{array}{r} 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \\ + \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \end{array}$$

Binary addition

$$\begin{array}{r} 0 \ 0 \ 1 \\ + \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array} \end{array}$$

Another example

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcolor{red}{1} \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \\ + \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \hline \textcolor{red}{1} \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \end{array}$$

**Overflow**

## Handling overflow

- Our decision: Ignore it
- As we will soon see, ignoring the overflow bit is not a bug, it’s a feature.

# Addition

---

Word size  $n = 16, 32, 64, \dots$

+

0	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
0	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
0	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
0	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1

Same  
addition  
algorithm  
for any  $n$

## Hardware implementation

We'll build an *Adder* chip that implements this addition algorithm,

Using the chips built in project 1.

How? Later.

## Teaching Note

In Nand to Tetris we always separate *abstraction* from *implementation*

First we present the abstraction, leaving the implementation to a later stage in the lecture.

# Chapter 2: Boolean Arithmetic

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## Theory

- ✓ Representing numbers
- ✓ Binary numbers
- ✓ Boolean arithmetic (addition)



Signed numbers

$(x + y, -x + y, x + -y, -x + -y)$

## Practice

- Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)
- Project 2: Chips
- Project 2: Guidelines

# Signed integers

---

- Positive
- 0
- Negative

In most programming languages, the short, int, and long data types use 16, 32, and 64 bits for representing signed integers

Arithmetic operations on signed integers ( $x \text{ op } y$ ,  $-x \text{ op } y$ ,  $x \text{ op } -y$ ,  $-x \text{ op } -y$ , where  $\text{op} = \{+, -, *, /\}$ ) are by far what computers do most of the time

Therefore ...

Efficient algorithms for handling arithmetic operations on signed integers hold the key to building efficient computers.

Teaching Note: All the algorithms presented in this course can be implemented efficiently in either hardware or software.

# Signed integers

---

code( $x$ )	$x$
0000	0
0001	1
0010	2
0011	3
0100	4
0101	5
0110	6
0111	7
1000	8
1001	9
1010	10
1011	11
1100	12
1101	13
1110	14
1111	15

This particular example: word size is  $n = 4$

In general,  $n$  bits allow representing all the unsigned integers  $0 \dots 2^n - 1$

What about negative numbers?

We can use half of the code space for representing positive numbers, and the other half for negatives.

# Signed integers

code(x)	x
0000	0
0001	1
0010	2
0011	3
0100	4
0101	5
0110	6
0111	7
1000	8
1001	9
1010	10
1011	11
1100	12
1101	13
1110	14
1111	15

## Representation:

Left-most bit (MSB): Represents the sign, +/-

Remaining bits: Represent a positive integer

## Issues

- $-0$ : Huh?
- $code(x) + code(-x) \neq code(0)$
- The codes are not monotonically increasing
- more complications.

# Two's complement

---

code( $x$ )	$x$
0000	0
0001	1
0010	2
0011	3
0100	4
0101	5
0110	6
0111	7
1000	-8
1001	-7
1010	-6
1011	-5
1100	-4
1101	-3
1110	-2
1111	-1

## The representation

- Assumption: Word size =  $n$  bits
- The “two’s complement” of  $x$  is defined to be  $2^n - x$
- The negative of  $x$  is coded by the two’s complement of  $x$

## From decimal to binary:

if  $x \geq 0$  return *binary*( $x$ )

else return *binary*( $2^n - x$ )

## From binary to decimal:

if MSB = 0 return *decimal*(*bits*)

else return “-” and then ( $2^n - \text{decimal}(\text{bits})$ )

# Two's complement: Addition

code(x)	x		Compute $x + y$ where $x$ and $y$ are signed
0000	0	0	Algorithm: Regular addition, modulo $2^n$
0001	1	1	
0010	2	2	
0011	3	3	
0100	4	4	$\begin{array}{r} + 6 \\ -2 \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} + 6 \\ \underline{14} \end{array}$ $20 \% 16 = 4 \text{ codes } 4$
0101	5	5	
0110	6	6	
0111	7	7	
1000	8	-8	$\begin{array}{r} + 3 \\ -5 \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} + 3 \\ \underline{11} \end{array}$ $14 \% 16 = 14 \text{ codes } -2$
1001	9	-7	
1010	10	-6	
1011	11	-5	
1100	12	-4	$\begin{array}{r} + -2 \\ + -5 \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} + 14 \\ \underline{11} \end{array}$ $25 \% 16 = 9 \text{ codes } -7$
1101	13	-3	
1110	14	-2	
1111	15	-1	



# Two's complement: Addition

code(x)	x
0000	0
0001	1
0010	2
0011	3
0100	4
0101	5
0110	6
0111	7
1000	-8
1001	-7
1010	-6
1011	-5
1100	-4
1101	-3
1110	-2
1111	-1

Compute  $x + y$  where  $x$  and  $y$  are signed

Algorithm: Regular addition, modulo  $2^n$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 + 6 \\
 -2 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{r}
 + 6 \\
 14 \\
 \hline
 20 \% 16 = 4 \text{ codes } 4
 \end{array}$$

Practice:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 + 4 \\
 -7 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}
 = ?$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 + -2 \\
 -4 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}
 = ?$$

# Two's complement: Addition

code(x)	x		Compute $x + y$ where $x$ and $y$ are signed
0000	0	0	Algorithm: Regular addition, modulo $2^n$
0001	1	1	
0010	2	2	
0011	3	3	$\begin{array}{r} + 6 \\ -2 \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} + 6 \\ 14 \end{array}$
0100	4	4	$20 \% 16 = 4 \text{ codes } 4$
0101	5	5	
0110	6	6	Practice:
0111	7	7	
1000	8	-8	
1001	9	-7	$\begin{array}{r} + 4 \\ -7 \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} + 4 \\ 9 \end{array}$
1010	10	-6	$13 \% 16 = 13 \text{ codes } -3$
1011	11	-5	
1100	12	-4	
1101	13	-3	$\begin{array}{r} -2 \\ + -4 \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} 14 \\ + 12 \end{array}$
1110	14	-2	$26 \% 16 = 10 \text{ codes } -6$
1111	15	-1	

# Two's complement: Addition

code(x)	x	
0000	0	0
0001	1	1
0010	2	2
0011	3	3
0100	4	4
0101	5	5
0110	6	6
0111	7	7
1000	8	-8
1001	9	-7
1010	10	-6
1011	11	-5
1100	12	-4
1101	13	-3
1110	14	-2
1111	15	-1

At the binary level (same algorithm):

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 & + 6 & \\
 & - 2 & \\
 \hline
 & = + & \\
 & & 0110 \\
 & & 1110 \\
 \hline
 & & \cancel{1}0100 \text{ codes } 4
 \end{array}$$

Ignoring the overflow bit  
is the binary equivalent of  
modulo  $2^n$

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 & + 3 & \\
 & - 5 & \\
 \hline
 & = + & \\
 & & 0011 \\
 & & 1011 \\
 \hline
 & & 1110 \text{ codes } -2
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 & - 2 & \\
 & + - 5 & \\
 \hline
 & = + & \\
 & & 1110 \\
 & & 1011 \\
 \hline
 & & \cancel{1}1001 \text{ codes } -7
 \end{array}$$

# Two's complement: Addition

code(x)	x
0000	0
0001	1
0010	2
0011	3
0100	4
0101	5
0110	6
0111	7
1000	8
1001	9
1010	10
1011	11
1100	12
1101	13
1110	14
1111	15

At the binary level (same algorithm):

$$\begin{array}{r}
 6 \\
 + \\
 -2 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{r}
 0110 \\
 + \\
 1110 \\
 \hline
 10100
 \end{array}
 \text{ codes } 4$$

More examples:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 5 \\
 + \\
 7 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{r}
 0101 \\
 + \\
 0111 \\
 \hline
 1100
 \end{array}
 \text{ codes } -4 \quad 5 + 7 = -4 \quad ???$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 -7 \\
 + \\
 -3 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{r}
 1001 \\
 + \\
 1101 \\
 \hline
 10110
 \end{array}
 \text{ codes } 6 \quad -7 + -3 = 6 \quad ???$$

## Overflow detection

When you add up two positives (negatives) and get a negative (positive) result, you know that you have overflow

# Two's complement: Subtraction

---

code( $x$ )	$x$
0000	0
0001	1
0010	2
0011	3
0100	4
0101	5
0110	6
0111	7
1000	8
1001	9
1010	10
1011	11
1100	12
1101	13
1110	14
1111	15

Compute  $x - y$  where  $x$  and  $y$  are signed

- $x - y$  is the same as  $x + (-y)$
- So... convert  $y$  and add up the two values  
(we already know how to add up signed numbers)

But ... How to convert a number (efficiently)?

# Two's complement: Sign conversion

---

code(x)	x
0000	0
0001	1
0010	2
0011	3
0100	4
0101	5
0110	6
0111	7
1000	8
1001	9
1010	10
1011	11
1100	12
1101	13
1110	14
1111	15

Compute  $-x$  from  $x$

Insight:  $code(-x) = (2^n - x) = 1 + (2^n - 1) - x$   
 $= 1 + (1111) - x$   
 $= 1 + flippedBits(x)$

Algorithm: To convert  $bbb...b$ :

Flip all the bits and add 1 to the result

Example: Convert 0010 (2)

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1101 \text{ (flipped)} \\
 + \quad 1 \\
 \hline
 1110 \text{ (-2)}
 \end{array}$$

# Two's complement: Sign conversion

---

code(x)	x
0000	0
0001	1
0010	2
0011	3
0100	4
0101	5
0110	6
0111	7
1000	8
1001	9
1010	10
1011	11
1100	12
1101	13
1110	14
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Compute  $-x$  from  $x$

Insight:  $code(-x) = (2^n - x) = 1 + (2^n - 1) - x$   
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 $= 1 + flippedBits(x)$

Algorithm: To convert  $bbb...b$ :

Flip all the bits and add 1 to the result

Practice: Convert 1010 ( $-6$ )

# Two's complement: Sign conversion

---

code(x)	x
0000	0
0001	1
0010	2
0011	3
0100	4
0101	5
0110	6
0111	7
1000	8
1001	9
1010	10
1011	11
1100	12
1101	13
1110	14
1111	15

Compute  $-x$  from  $x$

Insight:  $code(-x) = (2^n - x) = 1 + (2^n - 1) - x$   
 $= 1 + (1111) - x$   
 $= 1 + flippedBits(x)$

Algorithm: To convert  $bbb...b$ :

Flip all the bits and add 1 to the result

Practice: Convert 1010 ( $-6$ )

$$\begin{array}{r}
 0101 \text{ (flipped)} \\
 + \quad 1 \\
 \hline
 0110 \text{ (6)}
 \end{array}$$

But... How to compute  $x + 1$  (*efficiently*)?



# Two's complement: Add 1

---

code( $x$ )	$x$	
0000	0	<u>Compute <math>x + 1</math></u> (efficiently)
0001	1	Given $bbb...b$ , compute $bbb...b + 1$
0010	2	
0011	3	<u>Algorithm:</u> Flip bits from right to left,
0100	4	stop when the flipped bit becomes 1
0101	5	
0110	6	<u>Example:</u> Compute $0101 + 1$ ( $5 + 1$ )
0111	7	$0110$ ( $6$ )
1000	8	
1001	9	
1010	10	<u>Practice:</u> Compute $0110 + 1$ ( $6 + 1$ )
1011	11	Compute $0011 + 1$ ( $3 + 1$ )
1100	12	
1101	13	Compute $1000 + 1$ ( $-8 + 1$ )
1110	14	Compute $1011 + 1$ ( $-5 + 1$ )
1111	15	

# Two's complement: Recap

---

code(x)	x	Observations
0000	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The method represents all the integers in the range <math>-2^{n-1}, \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, 2^{n-1} - 1</math></li><li><math>code(x) + code(-x) = code(0)</math></li><li>The codes are monotonically increasing</li><li>Arithmetic on signed integers is the same as arithmetic on unsigned integers</li><li>Simple! Elegant! Powerful!</li></ul>
0001	1	
0010	2	
0011	3	
0100	4	
0101	5	
0110	6	
0111	7	
1000	8	<u>Implications for hardware designers</u> Arithmetic on signed integers can be implemented using <i>the same hardware</i> used for handling arithmetic of unsigned integers
1001	9	
1010	10	
1011	11	
1100	12	
1101	13	
1110	14	
1111	15	

# Chapter 2: Boolean Arithmetic

---

## Theory

- Representing numbers
- Binary numbers
- Boolean arithmetic
- Signed numbers



## Practice

- Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)
- Project 2: Chips
- Project 2: Guidelines

# Chapter 2: Boolean Arithmetic

---

## Theory

- Representing numbers
- Binary numbers
- Boolean arithmetic
- Signed numbers

## Practice

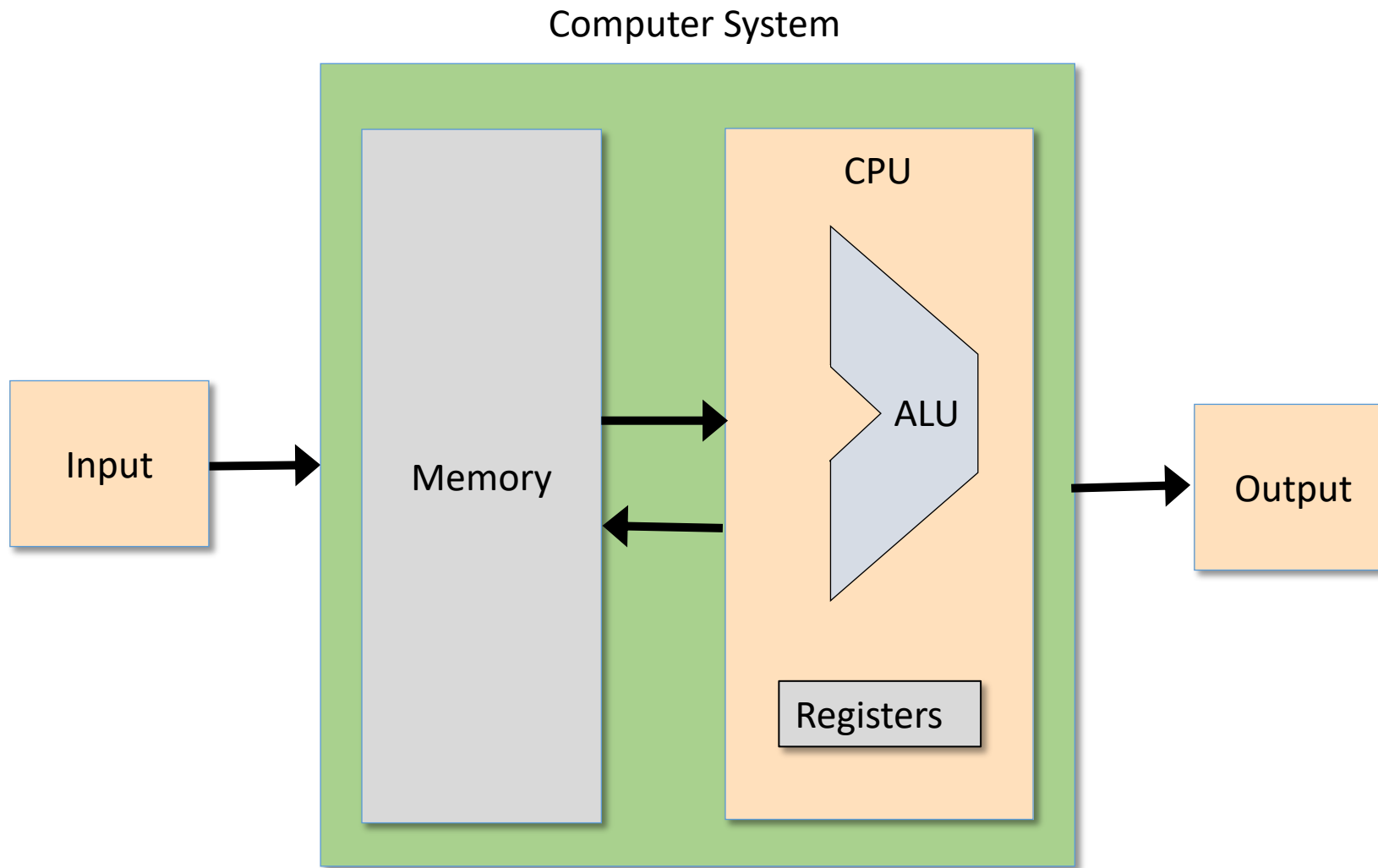


Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)

- Project 2: Chips
- Project 2: Guidelines

# Von Neumann Architecture

---

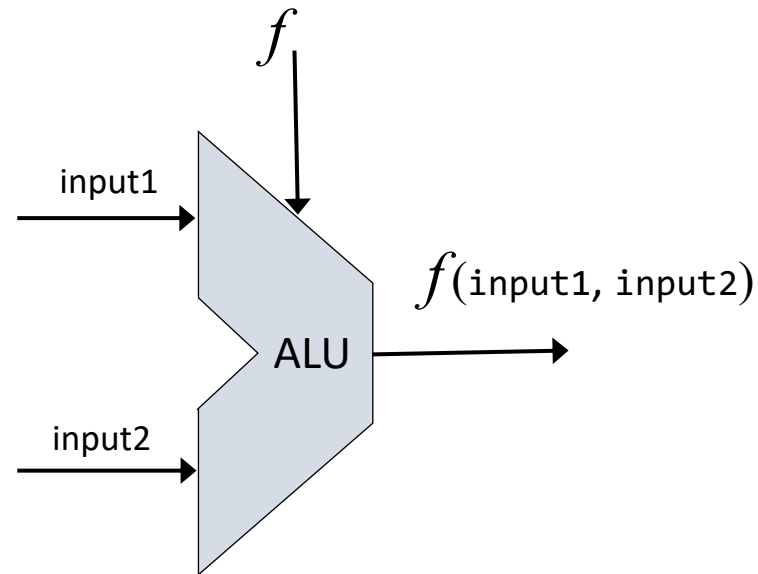


# The Arithmetic Logical Unit

---

The ALU computes a given function on its two given data inputs, and outputs the result

$f$ : one out of a family of pre-defined arithmetic functions (*add, subtract, multiply...*) and logical functions (*And, Or, Xor, ...*)



Design issue: Which functions should the ALU perform?

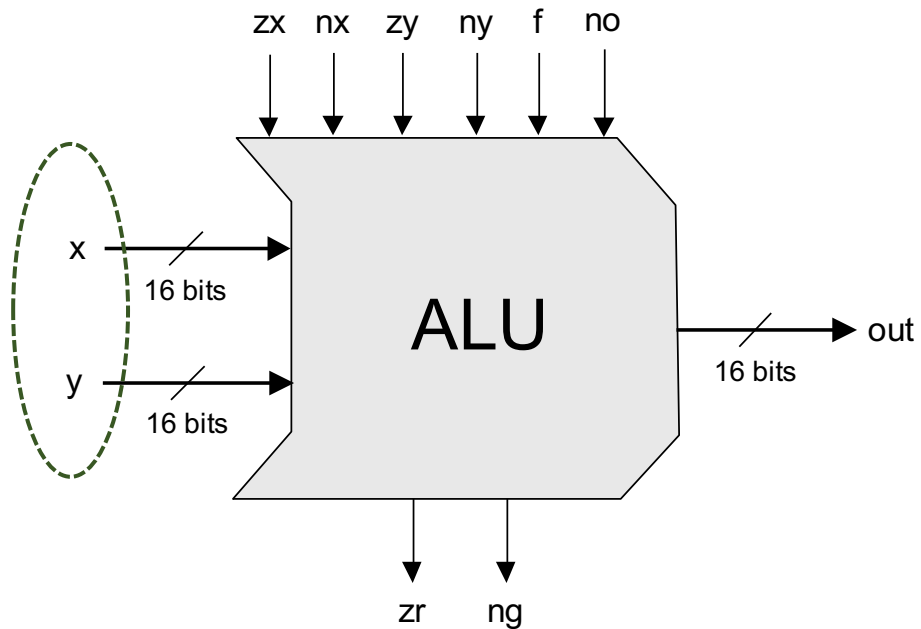
A hardware / software tradeoff: Any function not implemented by the ALU can be implemented later in system software

- Hardware implementations: Faster, and more expensive
- Software implementations: Slower, less expensive

# The Hack ALU

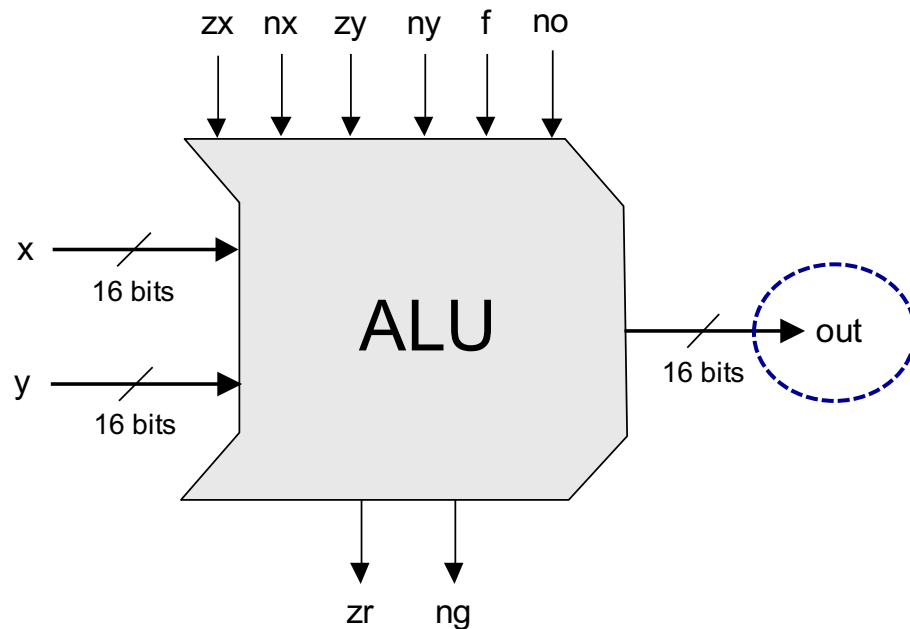
---

- Operates on two 16-bit, two's complement values



# The Hack ALU

- Operates on two 16-bit, two's complement values
- Outputs a 16-bit, two's complement value



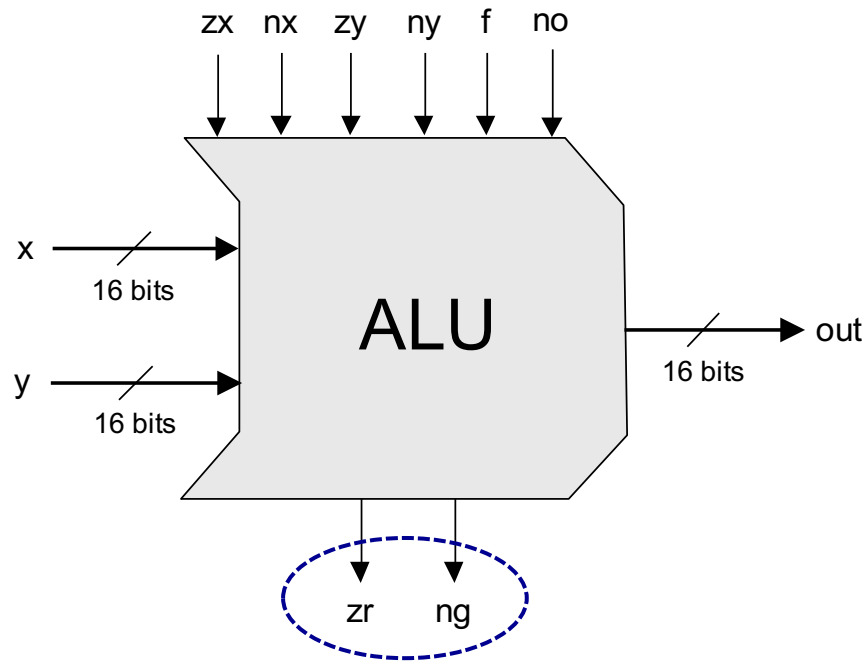
out

0
1
-1
x
y
!x
!y
-x
-y
x+1
y+1
x-1
y-1
x+y
x-y
y-x
x&y
x y



# The Hack ALU

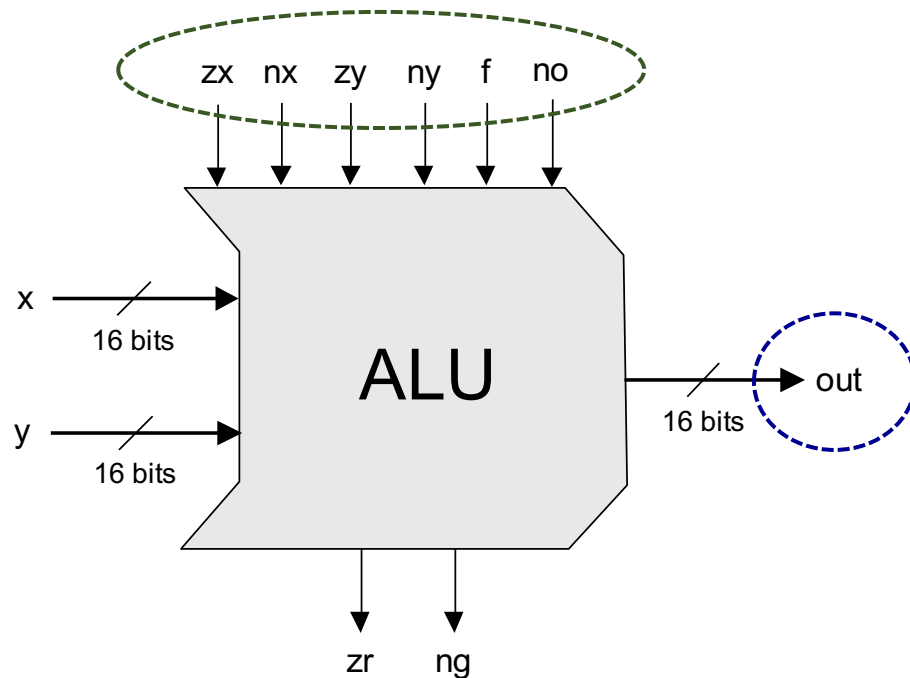
- Operates on two 16-bit, two's complement values
- Outputs a 16-bit, two's complement value
- Also outputs two 1-bit values (later)



out
$0$
$1$
$-1$
$x$
$y$
$!x$
$!y$
$-x$
$-y$
$x+1$
$y+1$
$x-1$
$y-1$
$x+y$
$x-y$
$y-x$
$x\&y$
$x y$

# The Hack ALU

- Operates on two 16-bit, two's complement values
- Outputs a 16-bit, two's complement value
- Also outputs two 1-bit values (later)
- Which function to compute is set by six 1-bit inputs

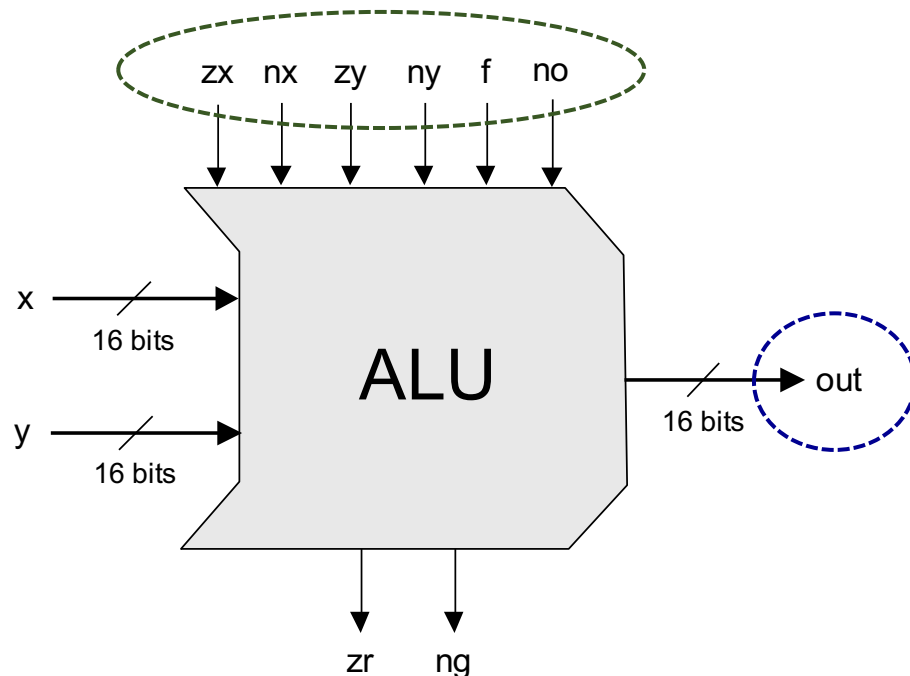


out
0
1
-1
x
y
!x
!y
-x
-y
x+1
y+1
x-1
y-1
x+y
x-y
y-x
x&y
x y

# The Hack ALU

To cause the ALU to compute a function:

Set the control bits to one of the binary combinations listed in the table.

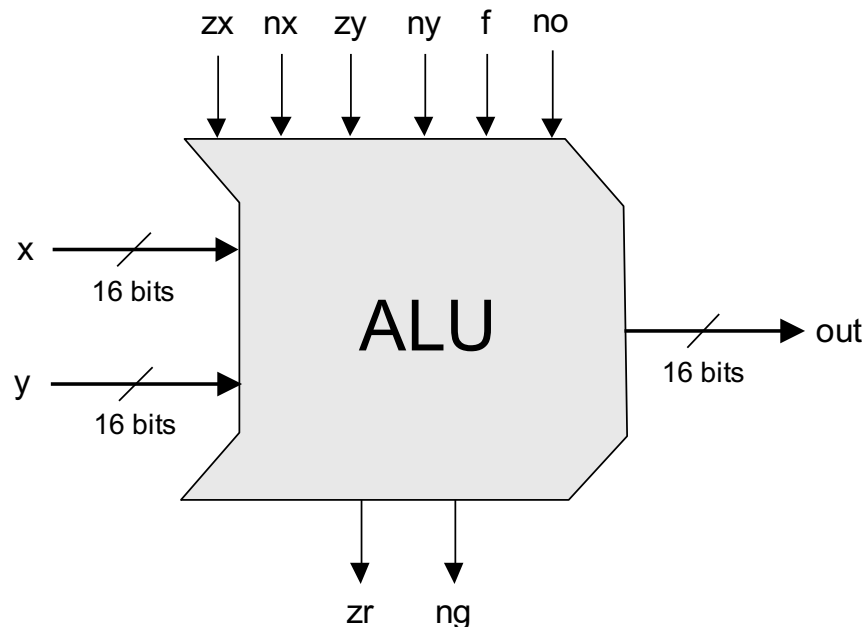


control bits						
zx	nx	zy	ny	f	no	out
1	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	0	1	0	-1
0	0	1	1	0	0	<i>x</i>
1	1	0	0	0	0	<i>y</i>
0	0	1	1	0	1	! <i>x</i>
1	1	0	0	0	1	! <i>y</i>
0	0	1	1	1	1	- <i>x</i>
1	1	0	0	1	1	- <i>y</i>
0	1	1	1	1	1	<i>x</i> +1
1	1	0	1	1	1	<i>y</i> +1
0	0	1	1	1	0	<i>x</i> -1
1	1	0	0	1	0	<i>y</i> -1
0	0	0	0	1	0	<i>x</i> + <i>y</i>
0	1	0	0	1	1	<i>x</i> - <i>y</i>
0	0	0	1	1	1	<i>y</i> - <i>x</i>
0	0	0	0	0	0	<i>x</i> & <i>y</i>
0	1	0	1	0	1	<i>x</i>   <i>y</i>

# The Hack ALU in action: Compute $y-x$

To cause the ALU to compute a function:

Set the control bits to one of the binary combinations listed in the table.



control bits						
$zx$	$nx$	$zy$	$ny$	$f$	$no$	out
1	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	0	1	0	-1
0	0	1	1	0	0	$x$
1	1	0	0	0	0	$y$
0	0	1	1	0	1	$!x$
1	1	0	0	0	1	$!y$
0	0	1	1	1	1	$-x$
1	1	0	0	1	1	$-y$
0	1	1	1	1	1	$x+1$
1	1	0	1	1	1	$y+1$
0	0	1	1	1	0	$x-1$
1	1	0	0	1	0	$y-1$
0	0	0	0	1	0	$x+y$
0	1	0	0	1	1	$x-y$
0	0	0	1	1	1	$y-x$
0	0	0	0	0	0	$x \& y$
0	1	0	1	0	1	$x   y$

# The Hack ALU in action: Compute $y-x$

2. Evaluate the chip logic

Load  
tools/builtInChips/ALU.hdl

Input		Output pins	
Name	Value	Name	Value
zy	0	out[16]	-10
ny	1	zr	0
f	1	ng	1
no	1		

3. Inspect the ALU outputs

1. Set the ALU's inputs and control bits to some test values  
(000111 codes "output  $y-x$ ")

Built-in ALU implementation

The built-in ALU implementation has GUI side-effects

ALU

D Input : 30

M/A Input : 20

ALU output : -10

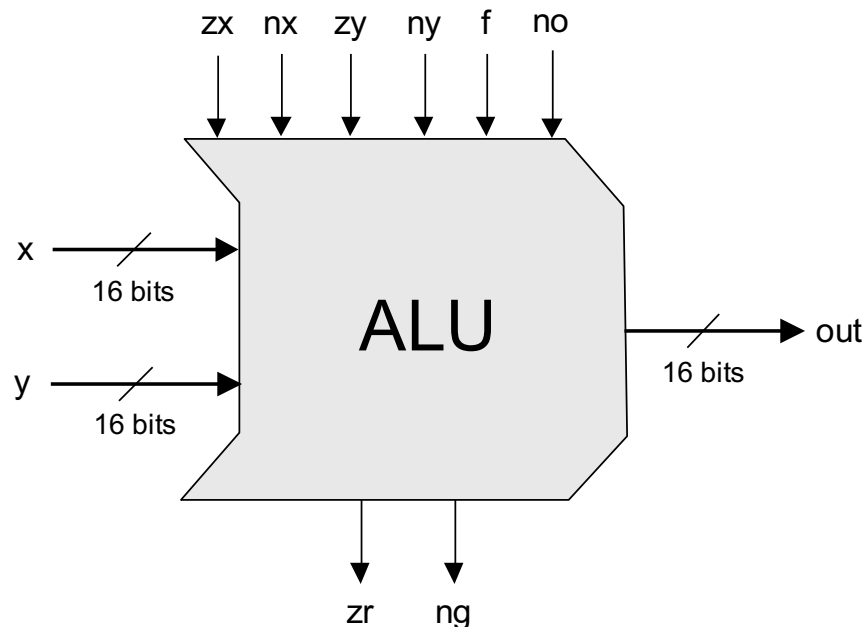
```
HDL
// This file is part of the material for
// "The Elements of Computing Systems"
// MIT Press. Book site: www.nand2tetris.org
// File name: tools/builtIn/ALU.hdl

/**
 * The ALU. Computes a pre-defined operation
 * where x and y are two 16-bit integers
 * by a set of 6 control bits defined by
 * the ALU operation code.
 * The ALU operation can be described as:
 * if zx=1 set x = 0
 * if nx=1 set x = !x
 * if zy=1 set y = 0
 * if ny=1 set y = !y
 */
```

# The Hack ALU in action: Compute $x \& y$

To cause the ALU to compute a function:

Set the control bits to one of the binary combinations listed in the table.



control bits						
$zx$	$nx$	$zy$	$ny$	$f$	$no$	out
1	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	0	1	0	-1
0	0	1	1	0	0	$x$
1	1	0	0	0	0	$y$
0	0	1	1	0	1	$!x$
1	1	0	0	0	1	$!y$
0	0	1	1	1	1	$-x$
1	1	0	0	1	1	$-y$
0	1	1	1	1	1	$x+1$
1	1	0	1	1	1	$y+1$
0	0	1	1	1	0	$x-1$
1	1	0	0	1	0	$y-1$
0	0	0	0	1	0	$x+y$
0	1	0	0	1	1	$x-y$
0	0	0	1	1	1	$y-x$
0	0	0	0	0	0	$x \& y$
0	1	0	1	0	1	$x   y$

# The Hack ALU in action: Compute $x \& y$

The screenshot shows the Hack ALU simulator interface. The top menu bar includes File, View, Run, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with icons for running, pausing, and stepping through the program, along with a slider for animation speed (Slow to Fast) and dropdowns for Format (Binary, Hex, Dec) and View (Screen, Program flow).

The main window is divided into several sections:

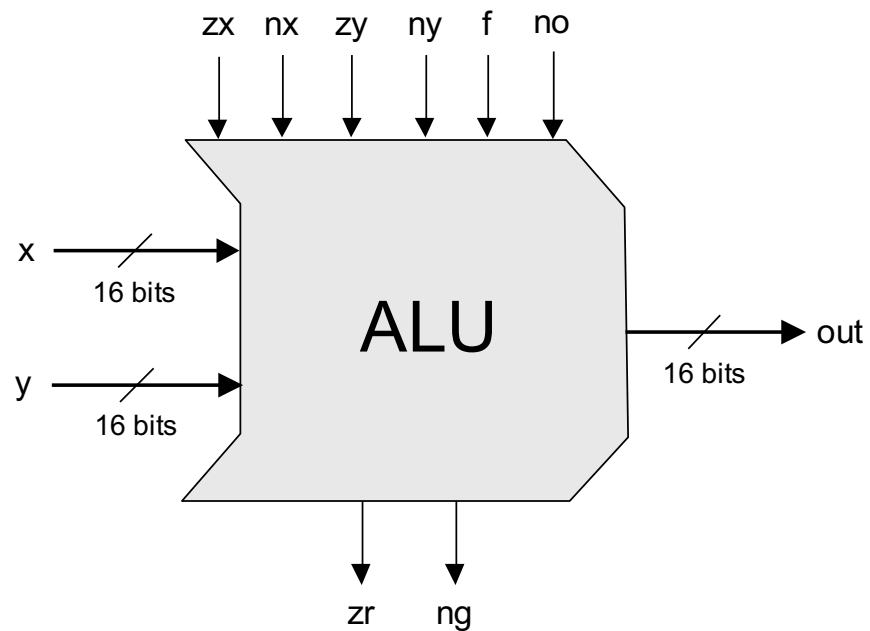
- Chip Name:** ALU
- Time:** 0
- Input pins:** A table with columns Name and Value. The values for x[16] and y[16] are circled in blue. The control bits (zx, nx, zy, ny, f, no) are all 0.
- Output pins:** A table with columns Name and Value. The value for out[16] is circled in blue. The status bits (zr, ng) are both 0.
- HDL:** A text area containing Verilog code for the ALU. The code is commented to show the logic for computing  $x \& y$  based on the control bits.
- Logic Diagram:** A green trapezoidal block labeled 'D&M' (Data and Memory) with two inputs: 'D Input' (value -5242) and 'M/A Input' (value 6253). The output is 'ALU output' (value 2052).

Yellow callout boxes provide additional context:

- Set to binary I/O format:** Points to the Format dropdown menu.
- Inspect the ALU outputs:** Points to the Output pins table.
- Set the ALU's inputs and control bits to some test values (000000 codes "compute x&y"):** Points to the Input pins table.

# The Hack ALU operation

pre-setting the x input		pre-setting the y input		selecting between computing + or &	post-setting the output	Resulting ALU output
zx	nx	zy	ny	f	no	out
if zx then x=0	if nx then x=!x	if zy then y=0	if ny then y=!y	if f then out=x+y else out=x&y	if no then out=!out	out(x,y)=





# The Hack ALU operation

pre-setting the x input		pre-setting the y input		selecting between computing + or &	post-setting the output	Resulting ALU output
zx	nx	zy	ny	f	no	out
if zx then x=0	if nx then x=!x	if zy then y=0	if ny then y=!y	if f then out=x+y else out=x&y	if no then out=!out	out(x,y)=
1	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	0	1	0	-1
0	0	1	1	0	0	x
1	1	0	0	0	0	y
0	0	1	1	0	1	!x
1	1	0	0	0	1	!y
0	0	1	1	1	1	-x
1	1	0	0	1	1	-y
0	1	1	1	1	1	x+1
1	1	0	1	1	1	y+1
0	0	1	1	1	0	x-1
1	1	0	0	1	0	y-1
0	0	0	0	1	0	x+y
0	1	0	0	1	1	x-y
0	0	0	1	1	1	y-x
0	0	0	0	0	0	x&y
0	1	0	1	0	1	x y

# The Hack ALU operation: Compute !x

pre-setting the x input		pre-setting the y input		selecting between computing + or &	post-setting the output	Resulting ALU output
zx	nx	zy	ny	f	no	out
if zx then x=0	if nx then x=!x	if zy then y=0	if ny then y=!y	if f then out=x+y else out=x&y	if no then out=!out	out(x,y)=
1	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	0	1	0	-1
0	0	1	1	0	0	x
1	1	0	0	0	0	y
0	0	1	1	0	1	!x
1	1	0	0	0	1	!y
0	0	0	0	0	1	-x
1	1	0	0	0	1	-y
0	1	0	0	0	1	x+1
1	1	0	0	0	1	y+1
0	0	0	0	0	1	x-1
1	1	0	0	0	1	y-1
0	0	0	0	0	1	x+y
0	1	0	0	0	1	x-y
0	0	0	0	0	1	y-x
0	0	0	0	0	1	x&y
0	1	0	0	0	1	x y

Example: compute !x

x:        1 1 0 0

y:        1 0 1 1 (irrelevant)

Following pre-setting:

x:        1 1 0 0

y:        1 1 1 1

Computation and post-setting:

x&y:      1 1 0 0

!(x&y):   0 0 1 1 (!x)

# The Hack ALU operation: Compute $y-x$

pre-setting the x input		pre-setting the y input		selecting between computing + or &	post-setting the output	Resulting ALU output
zx	nx	zy	ny	f	no	out
if zx then x=0	if nx then x=!x	if zy then y=0	if ny then y=!y	if f then out=x+y else out=x&y	if no then out=!out	out(x,y)=
1	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	1	1	1	0
1	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	0	1	1	0	1
0	0	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	0	0	1	0	1
0	0	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	0	1	1	x-y
0	0	0	1	1	1	y-x
0	0	0	0	0	0	x&y
0	1	0	1	0	1	x y

Example: compute  $y-x$

x:        0 0 1 0 (2)

y:        0 1 1 1 (7)

Following pre-setting:

x:        0 0 1 0

y:        1 0 0 0

Computation and post-setting:

x+y:      1 0 1 0

!(x+y): 0 1 0 1 (5)

# The Hack ALU operation: Compute $x|y$

pre-setting the x input		pre-setting the y input		selecting between computing + or &	post-setting the output	Resulting ALU output
zx	nx	zy	ny	f	no	out
if zx then x=0	if nx then x=!x	if zy then y=0	if ny then y=!y	if f then out=x+y else out=x&y	if no then out=!out	out(x,y)=
1	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1					-1
0	0					x
1	1					y
0	0					!x
1	1					!y
0	0					-x
1	1					-y
0	1					x+1
1	1					y+1
0	0					x-1
1	1					y-1
0	0					x+y
0	1	0	0	1	1	x-y
0	0	0	1	1	1	y-x
0	0	0	0	0	0	x&y
0	1	0	1	0	1	$x y$

Example: compute  $x|y$

x:        0 1 0 1

y:        0 0 1 1

Following pre-setting:

x:        1 0 1 0

y:        1 1 0 0

Computation and post-setting:

x&y:      1 0 0 0

!(x&y):   0 1 1 1

Practice:

See if you get

0 1 1 1 (bitwise Or)

# The Hack ALU operation: Compute $y-1$

pre-setting the x input		pre-setting the y input		selecting between computing + or &	post-setting the output	Resulting ALU output
zx	nx	zy	ny	f	no	out
if zx then x=0	if nx then x=!x	if zy then y=0	if ny then y=!y	if f then out=x+y else out=x&y	if no then out=!out	
1	0	1	0	1	0	
1	1	1	1	1	1	
1	1	1	0	1	0	
0	0	1	1	0	0	
1	1	0	0	0	0	
0	0	1	1	0	1	
1	1	0	0	0	1	
0	0	1	1	1	1	
1	1	0	0	1	1	
0	1	1	1	1	1	
1	1	0	1	1	1	y+1
0	0	1	1	1	0	x-1
1	1	0	0	1	0	y-1
0	0	0	0	1	0	x+y
0	1	0	0	1	1	x-y
0	0	0	1	1	1	y-x
0	0	0	0	0	0	x&y
0	1	0	1	0	1	x y

## Example: compute $y-1$

x: 0 1 0 1 (irrelevant)

y: 0 1 1 0 (6)

Following pre-setting:

x: 1 1 1 1

y: 0 1 1 0

Computation and post-setting:

x+y: 0 1 0 1

x+y: 0 1 0 1 (5)

Practice:

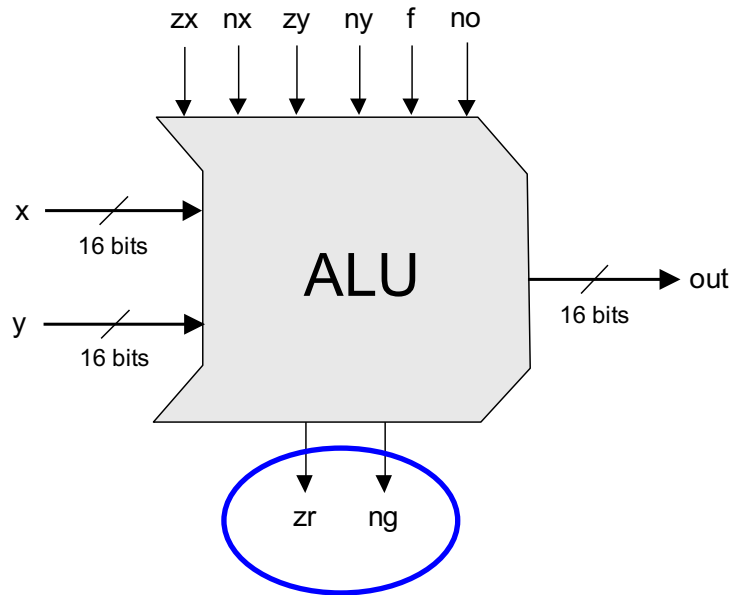
See if you get

0 1 0 1 (5)

# The Hack ALU operation

---

One more detail:



if (out == 0) then zr = 1, else zr = 0

if (out < 0) then ng = 1, else ng = 0

The zr and ng output bits will come into play when we'll build the complete CPU architecture, later in the course.

# Chapter 2: Boolean Arithmetic

---

## Theory

- Representing numbers
- Binary numbers
- Boolean arithmetic
- Signed numbers

## Practice



Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)



Project 2: Chips

- Project 2: Guidelines

# Project 2

---

Given: All the chips built in Project 1

Goal: Build the chips:

- HalfAdder
- FullAdder
- Add16
- Inc16
- ALU



# Half Adder

---



a	b	sum	carry
0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1

HalfAdder.hdl

```
/** Computes the sum of two bits. */  
CHIP HalfAdder {  
    IN a, b;  
    OUT sum, carry;  
    PARTS:  
        // Put your code here:  
}
```

## Implementation tip

Can be built from two  
gates built in project 1.

# Full Adder



a	b	c	sum	carry
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

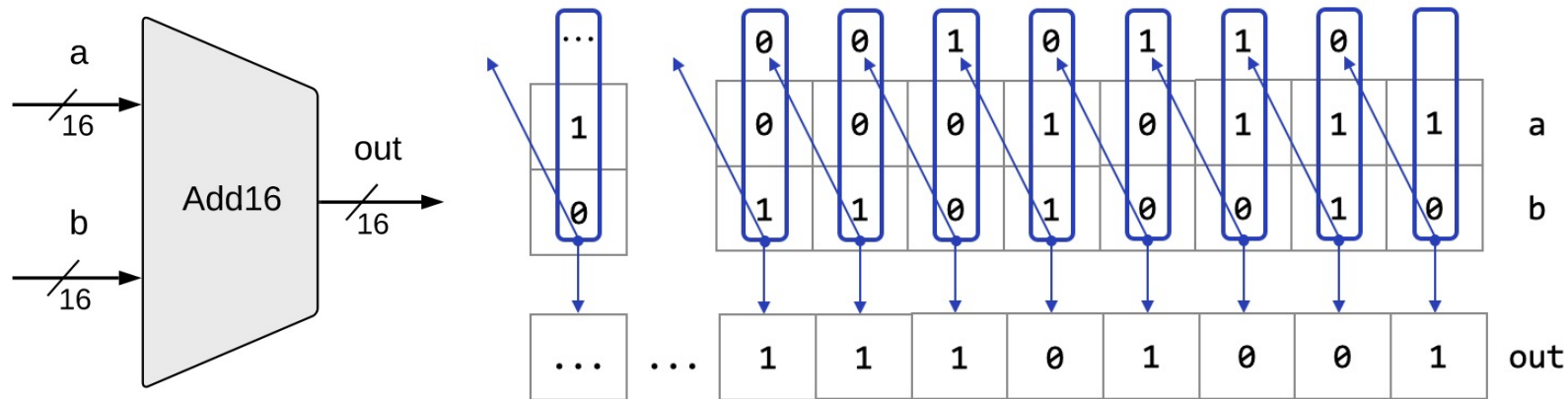
FullAdder.hdl

```
/** Computes the sum of three bits. */  
CHIP FullAdder {  
    IN a, b, c;  
    OUT sum, carry;  
    PARTS:  
        // Put your code here:  
}
```

## Implementation tip

Can be built from two  
half-adders.

# 16-bit adder



Add16.hdl

```
/* Adds two 16-bit, two's-complement values.
   The most-significant carry bit is ignored. */
CHIP Add16 {
    IN a[16], b[16];
    OUT out[16];

    PARTS:
        // Put your code here:
}
```

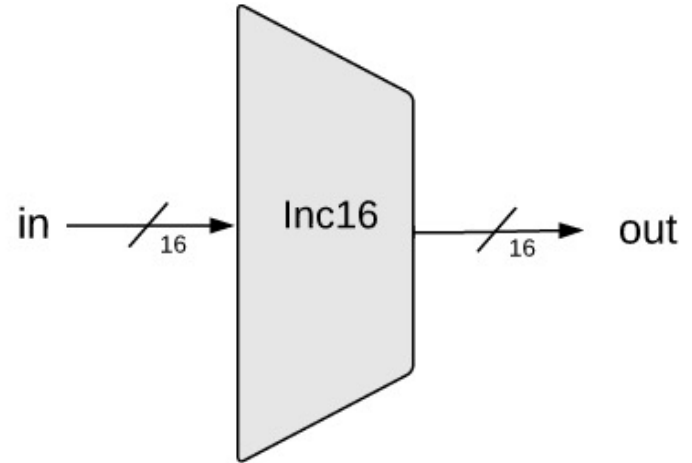
- The bitwise additions are done in parallel
- The carry propagation is sequential
- Yet... it works fine, as is.  
How? Stay tuned for chapter 3.

## Implementation note

If you need to set a pin  $x$  to 0 (or 1) in HDL,  
use:  $x = \text{false}$  (or  $x = \text{true}$ )

# 16-bit incrementor

---

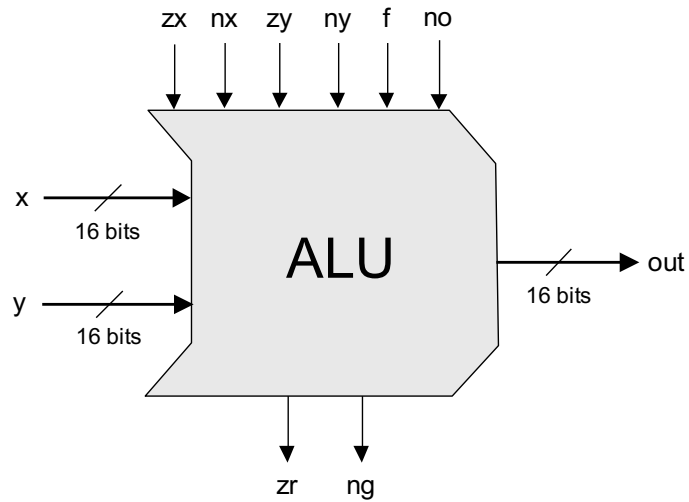


Inc16.hdl

```
/** Outputs in + 1. */  
CHIP Inc16 {  
    IN in[16];  
    OUT out[16];  
    PARTS:  
    // Put your code here:  
}
```

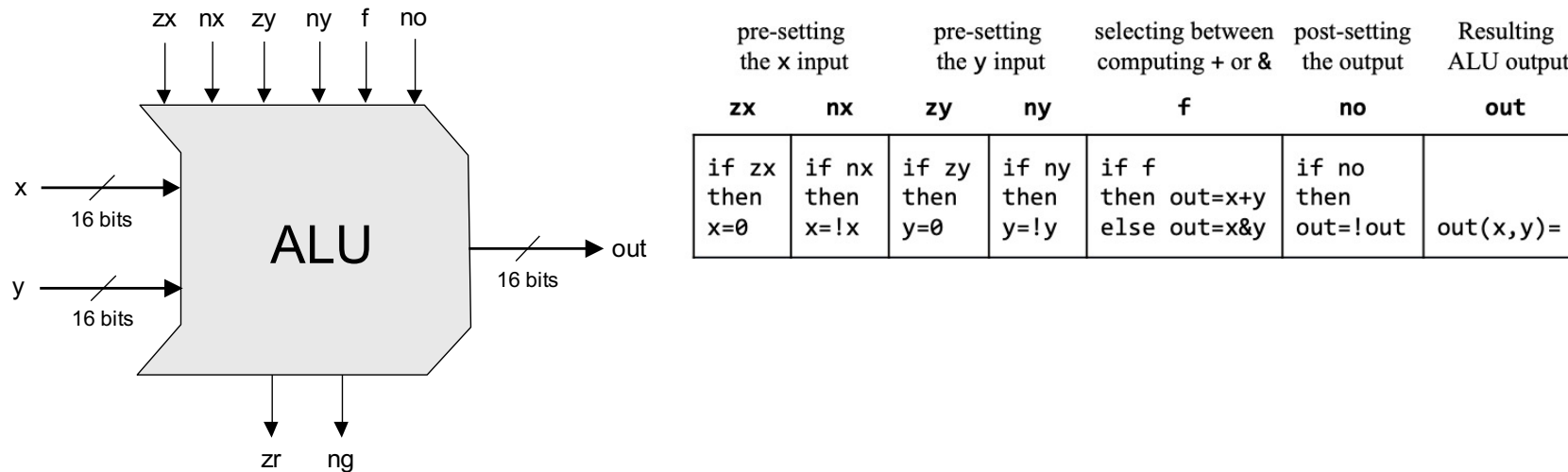
Implementation:  
Simple.

# ALU



pre-setting the x input		pre-setting the y input		selecting between computing + or &	post-setting the output	Resulting ALU output
zx	nx	zy	ny	f	no	out
if zx then x=0	if nx then x=!x	if zy then y=0	if ny then y=!y	if f then out=x+y else out=x&y	if no then out=!out	out(x,y)=
1	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	0	1	0	-1
0	0	1	1	0	0	x
1	1	0	0	0	0	y
0	0	1	1	0	1	!x
1	1	0	0	0	1	!y
0	0	1	1	1	1	-x
1	1	0	0	1	1	-y
0	1	1	1	1	1	x+1
1	1	0	1	1	1	y+1
0	0	1	1	1	0	x-1
1	1	0	0	1	0	y-1
0	0	0	0	1	0	x+y
0	1	0	0	1	1	x-y
0	0	0	1	1	1	y-x
0	0	0	0	0	0	x&y
0	1	0	1	0	1	x y

# ALU



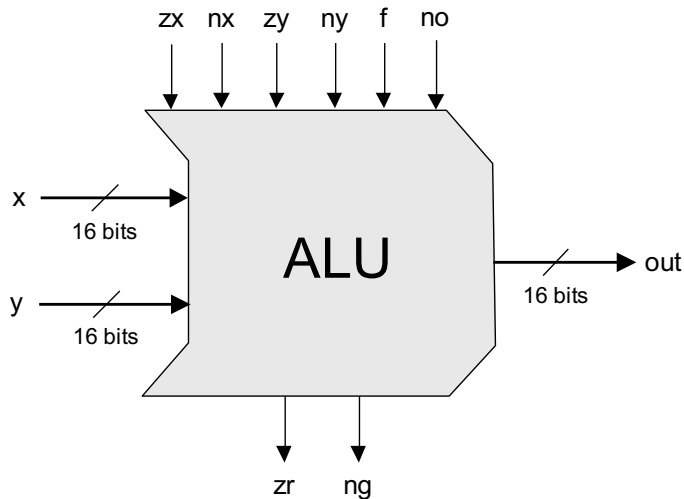
ALU.hdl

```

/** The ALU */
// Manipulates the x and y inputs as follows:
// if (zx == 1) sets x = 0           // 16-bit true
// if (nx == 1) sets x = !x         // 16-bit Not
// if (zy == 1) sets y = 0           // 16-bit true
// if (ny == 1) sets y = !y         // 16-bit Not
// if (f == 1) sets out = x + y     // 2's-complement addition
// if (f == 0) sets out = x & y     // 16-bit And
// if (no == 1) sets out = !out     // 16-bit Not
// if (out == 0) sets zr = 1        // 1-bit true
// if (out < 0) sets ng = 1         // 1-bit true
...

```

# ALU



ALU.hdl

```
/** The ALU */
// Manipulates the x and y inputs as follows:
// if (zx == 1) sets x = 0           // 16-bit true
// if (nx == 1) sets x = !x         // 16-bit Not
// if (zy == 1) sets y = 0           // 16-bit true
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// if (f == 1) sets out = x + y     // 2's-complement addition
// if (f == 0) sets out = x & y     // 16-bit And
// if (no == 1) sets out = !out      // 16-bit Not
// if (out == 0) sets zr = 1         // 1-bit true
// if (out < 0) sets ng = 1          // 1-bit true
...
```

## Implementation tips

We need logic for:

- Implementing “if bit == 0/1” conditions
- Setting a 16-bit value to 0000000000000000
- Setting a 16-bit value to 1111111111111111
- Negating a 16-bit value (bitwise)
- Computing Add and or on two 16-bit values

## Implementation strategy

- Start by building an ALU that computes out
- Next, extend it to also compute zr and ng.

# Relevant bus tips

Using multi-bit truth / false constants:

...

// Suppose that x, y, z are 8-bit bus-pins:

```
chipPart(..., x=true, y=false, z[0..2]=true, z[6..7]=true);
```

...

We can assign values to sub-buses

	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
x:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
y:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
z:	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1

Unassigned bits are set to 0



# Relevant bus tips

---

Sub-bussing:

- We can assign  $n$ -bit values to sub-buses, for any  $n$
- We can create  $n$ -bit bus pins, for any  $n$

```
/* 16-bit adder */
```

```
CHIP Add16 {  
  IN a[16], b[16];  
  OUT out[16];  
  
  PARTS:  
  ...  
}
```

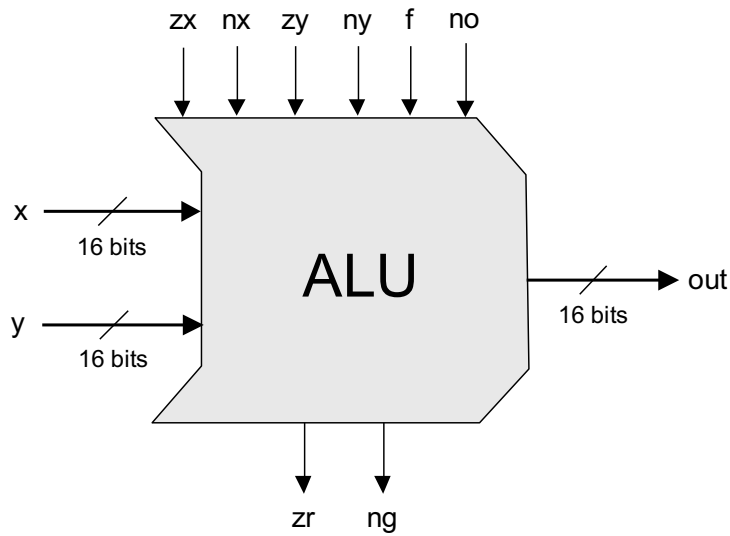
```
CHIP Foo {  
  IN x[8], y[8], z[16]  
  OUT out[16]  
  PARTS  
  ...  
  Add16 (a[0..7]=x, a[8..15]=y, b=z, out=...);  
  ...  
  Add16 (a=..., b=..., out[0..3]=t1, out[4..15]=t2);  
  ...  
}
```

Another example of assigning  
a multi-bit value to a sub-bus

Creating an  $n$ -bit bus (internal pin)

# ALU: Recap

---



The Hack ALU is:

- Simple
- Elegant

“Simplicity is the  
ultimate sophistication.”  
— Leonardo da Vinci

# Chapter 2: Boolean Arithmetic

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## Theory

- Representing numbers
- Binary numbers
- Boolean arithmetic
- Signed numbers

## Practice



Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)



Project 2: Chips



Project 2: Guidelines

# Project 2


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Given: All the chips built in Project 1

Goal: Build the chips:

- HalfAdder
- FullAdder
- Add16
- Inc16
- ALU

From NAND to Tetris  
Building a Modern Computer From First Principles  
[www.nand2tetris.org](http://www.nand2tetris.org)



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## Project 2: Combinational Chips

### Background

The centerpiece of the computer's architecture is the *CPU*, or *Central Processing Unit*, and the centerpiece of the CPU is the *ALU*, or *Arithmetic-Logic Unit*. In this project you will gradually build a set of chips, culminating in the construction of the *ALU* chip of the *Hack* computer. All the chips built in this project are standard, except for the *ALU* itself, which differs from one computer architecture to another.

### Objective

Build all the chips described in Chapter 2 (see list below), leading up to an *Arithmetic Logic Unit* - the Hack computer's *ALU*. The only building blocks that you can use are the chips described in chapter 1 and the chips that you will gradually build in this project.

### Chips

Chip (HDL)	Description	Test script	Compare file
HalfAdder	Half Adder	HalfAdder.tst	HalfAdder.cmp
FullAdder	Full Adder	FullAdder.tst	FullAdder.cmp
Add16	16-bit Adder	Add16.tst	Add16.cmp
Inc16	16-bit incrementer	Inc16.tst	Inc16.cmp
ALU	Arithmetic Logic Unit	ALU.tst	ALU.cmp

# Resources

---

Project 2 folder (.hdl, .tst, .cmp files): `nand2tetris/projects/02`

## Tools

- Text editor (for completing the given .hdl stub-files)
- Hardware simulator: `nand2tetris/tools`

## Guides

- [Hardware Simulator Tutorial](#)
- [HDL Guide](#)
- [Hack Chip Set API](#)

# Chip interfaces: [Hack chip set API](#)

Open the API in a window, and copy-paste chip signatures into your HDL code, as needed

```
Add16 (a= ,b= ,out= );
ALU (x= ,y= ,zx= ,nx= ,zy= ,ny= ,f= ,no= ,out= ,zr= ,ng= );
And16 (a= ,b= ,out= );
And (a= ,b= ,out= );
Aregister (in= ,load= ,out= );
Bit (in= ,load= ,out= );
CPU (inM= ,instruction= ,reset= ,outM= ,writeM= ,address= );
DFF (in= ,out= );
DMux4Way (in= ,sel= ,a= ,b= ,c= ,d= );
DMux8Way (in= ,sel= ,a= ,b= ,c= ,d= ,e= ,f= ,g= ,h= );
Dmux (in= ,sel= ,a= ,b= );
Dregister (in= ,load= ,out= );
FullAdder (a= ,b= ,c= ,sum= ,carry= );
HalfAdder (a= ,b= ,sum= , carry= );
Inc16 (in= ,out= );
Keyboard (out= );
Memory (in= ,load= ,address= ,out= );
Mux16 (a= ,b= ,sel= ,out= );
Mux4Way16 (a= ,b= ,c= ,d= ,sel= ,out= );
Mux8Way16 (a= ,b= ,c= ,d= ,e= ,f= ,g= ,h= ,sel= ,out= );
```

```
Mux8Way (a= ,b= ,c= ,d= ,e= ,f= ,g= ,h= ,sel= ,out= );
Mux (a= ,b= ,sel= ,out= );
Nand (a= ,b= ,out= );
Not16 (in= ,out= );
Not (in= ,out= );
Or16 (a= ,b= ,out= );
Or8Way (in= ,out= );
Or (a= ,b= ,out= );
PC (in= ,load= ,inc= ,reset= ,out= );
PCLoadLogic (cinstr= ,j1= ,j2= ,j3= ,load= ,inc= );
RAM16K (in= ,load= ,address= ,out= );
RAM4K (in= ,load= ,address= ,out= );
RAM512 (in= ,load= ,address= ,out= );
RAM64 (in= ,load= ,address= ,out= );
RAM8 (in= ,load= ,address= ,out= );
Register (in= ,load= ,out= );
ROM32K (address= ,out= );
Screen (in= ,load= ,address= ,out= );
Xor (a= ,b= ,out= );
```

# Best practice advice

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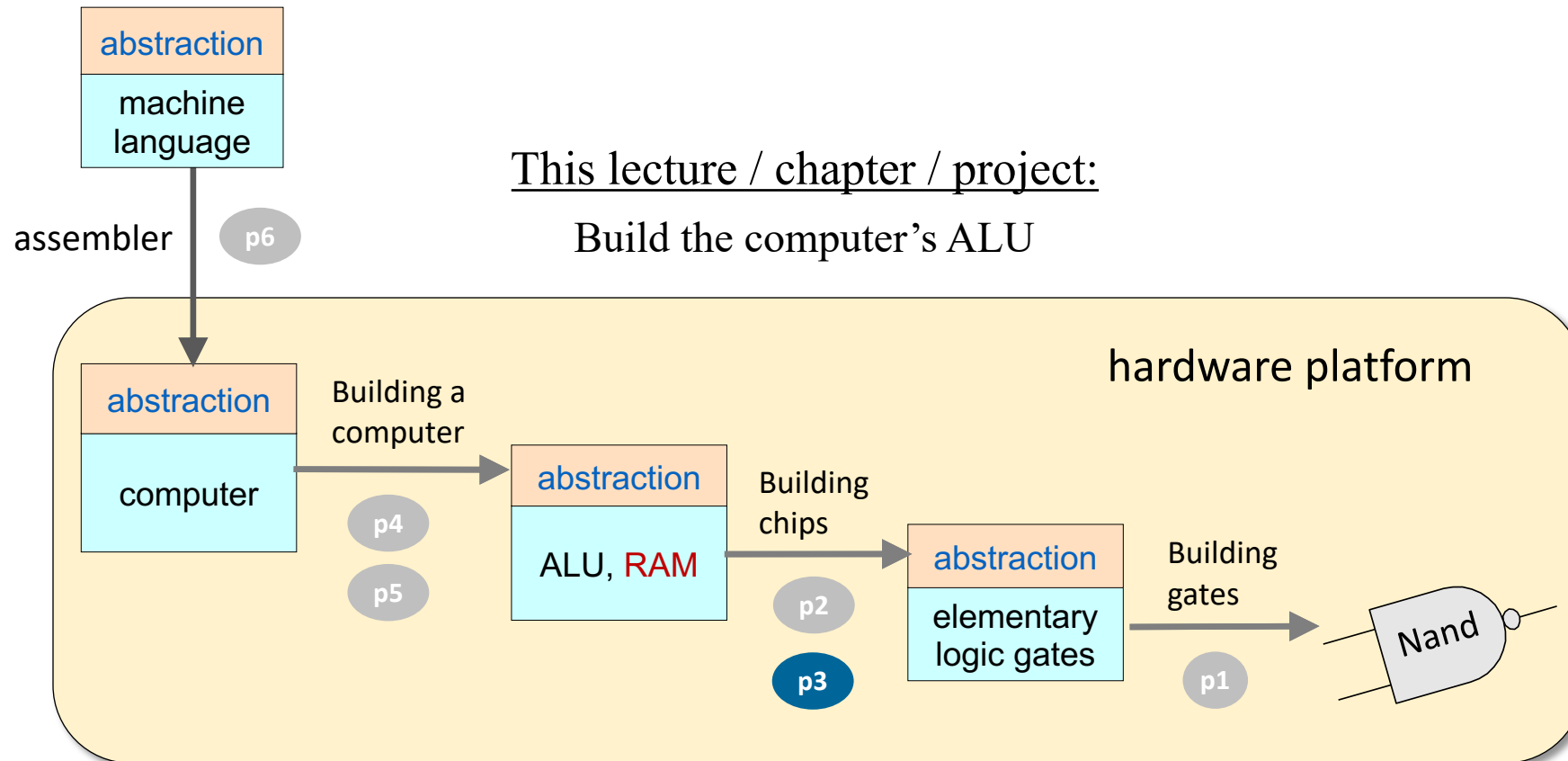
- Implement the chips in the order in which they appear in the project guidelines
- If you don't implement some chips, you can still use their built-in implementations
- No need for “helper chips”: Implement / use only the chips we specified
- In each chip definition, strive to use as few chip-parts as possible
- You will have to use chips implemented in Project 1;  
For efficiency and consistency's sake, use their built-in versions, rather than your own HDL implementations.

That's It!

Go Do Project 2!



# What's next?



Next lecture / chapter / project:  
Build the computer's RAM