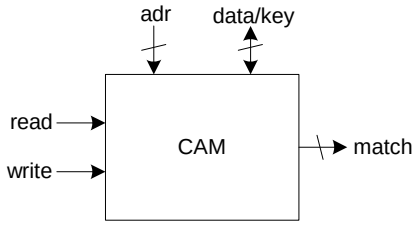
17. CAMs, ROMs, PLAs

- Last module:
  - Transistor IV review
  - Non-ideal transistor behavior
  - Process and environmental variations
- This module
  - Content-Addressable Memories
  - Read-Only Memories
  - Programmable Logic Arrays

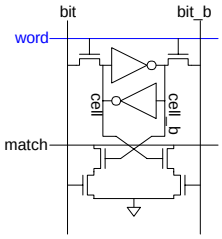
CAMs

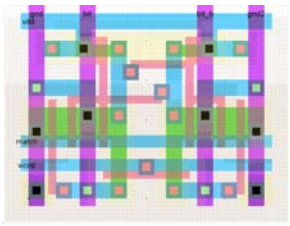
- Extension of ordinary memory (e.g. SRAM)
  - Read and write memory as usual
  - Also *match* to see which words contain a *key*



10T CAM Cell

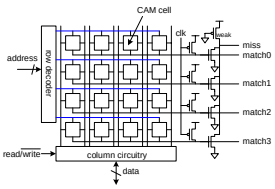
- Add four match transistors to 6T SRAM
  - 56 x 43 λ unit cell





CAM Cell Operation

- Read and write like ordinary SRAM
- For matching:
  - Leave wordline low
  - Precharge matchlines
  - Place key on bitlines
  - Matchlines evaluate
- Miss line
  - Pseudo-nMOS NOR of match lines
  - Goes high if no words match



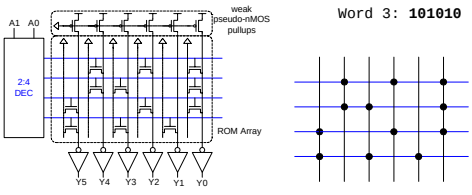
Read-Only Memories

- Read-Only Memories are nonvolatile
  - Retain their contents when power is removed
- Mask-programmed ROMs use one transistor per bit
  - Presence or absence determines 1 or 0

ROM Example

- 4-word x 6-bit ROM
  - Represented with dot diagram
  - Dots indicate 1's in ROM

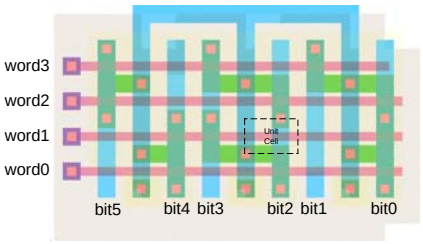
```
Word 0: 010101
Word 1: 011001
Word 2: 100101
Word 3: 101010
```



Looks like 6 4-input pseudo-nMOS NORs

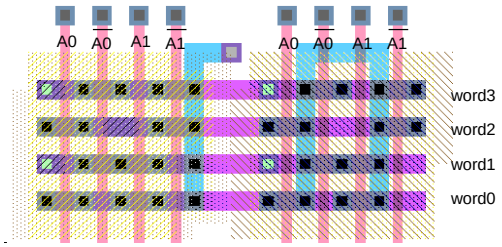
ROM Array Layout

- Unit cell is 12 x 8 λ (about 1/10 size of SRAM)

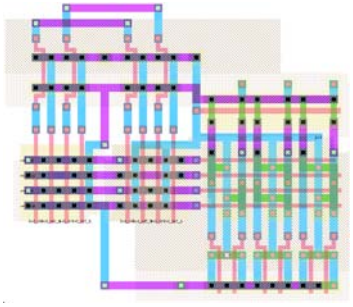


Row Decoders

- ROM row decoders must pitch-match with ROM
  - Only a single track per word!

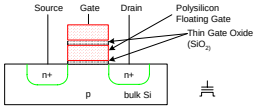


Complete ROM Layout



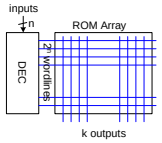
PROMs and EPROMs

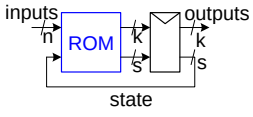
- Programmable ROMs
  - Build array with transistors at every site
  - Burn out fuses to disable unwanted transistors
- Electrically Programmable ROMs
  - Use floating gate to turn off unwanted transistors
  - EPROM, EEPROM, Flash



Building Logic with ROMs

- ROM as lookup table containing truth table
  - n inputs, k outputs requires 2^n words x k bits
  - Changing function is easy – reprogram ROM
- Finite State Machine
  - n inputs, k outputs, s bits of state
  - Build with 2^{n+s} x (k+s) bit ROM and (k+s) bit reg





Example: RoboAnt

Let's build an Ant

Sensors: Antennae
(L,R) – 1 when in contact

Actuators: Legs
Forward step F
Ten degree turns TL, TR

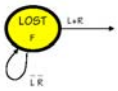
Goal: make our ant smart enough to get out of a maze

Strategy: keep right antenna on wall

(RoboAnt adapted from MIT 6.004 2002 OpenCourseWare by Ward and Terman)

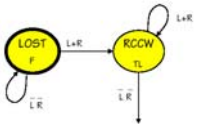
Lost in space

- Action: go forward until we hit something
  - Initial state



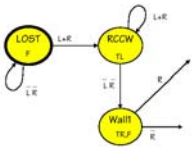
Bonk!!!

- Action: turn left (rotate counterclockwise)
  - Until we don't touch anymore



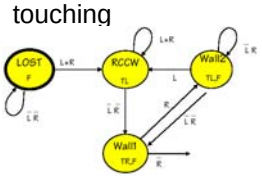
A little to the right

- Action: step forward and turn right a little
  - Looking for wall

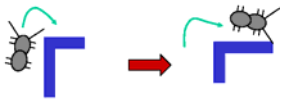


Then a little to the right

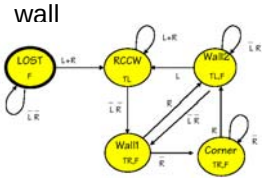
- Action: step and turn left a little, until not touching



Whoops – a corner!

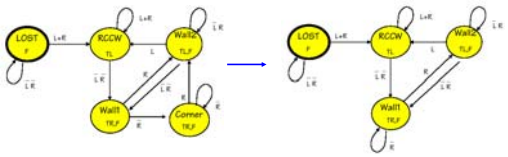


- Action: step and turn right until hitting next wall



Simplification

- Merge equivalent states where possible

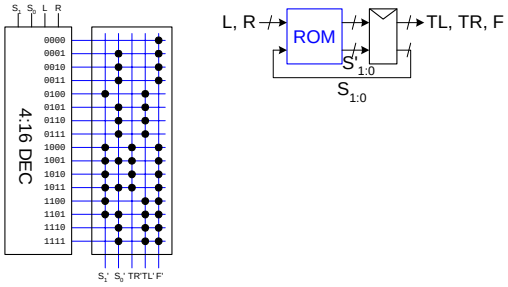


State Transition Table

	Current state $S_{1:0}$	Inputs L	Inputs R	Next state $S_{1:0}'$	Output values TR	Output values TL	Output values F
Lost	00	0	0	00	0	0	1
	00	1	X	01	0	0	1
	00	0	1	01	0	0	1
RCCW	01	1	X	01	0	1	0
	01	0	1	01	0	1	0
	01	0	0	10	0	1	0
Wall1	10	X	0	10	1	0	1
	10	X	1	11	1	0	1
Wall2	11	1	X	01	0	1	1
	11	0	0	10	0	1	1
	11	0	1	11	0	1	1

ROM Implementation

- 16-word x 5 bit ROM

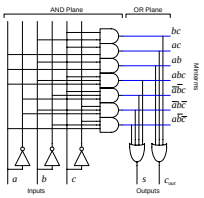


PLAs

- A *Programmable Logic Array* performs any function in sum-of-products form.
- *Literals*: inputs & complements
- *Products / Minterms*: AND of literals
- *Outputs*: OR of Minterms
- Example: Full Adder

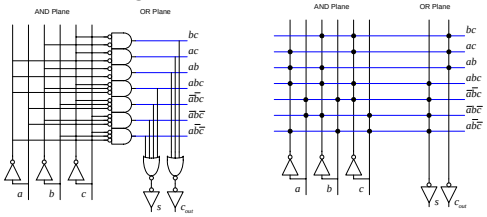
$$s = a\bar{b}\bar{c} + \bar{a}b\bar{c} + \bar{a}\bar{b}c + abc$$

$$c_{out} = ab + bc + ac$$

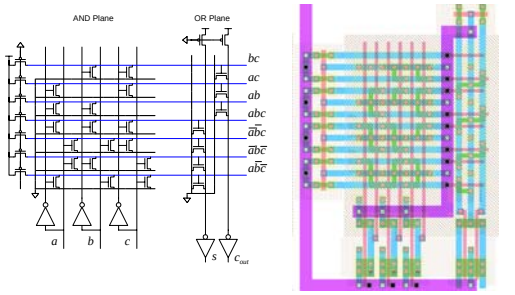


NOR-NOR PLAs

- ANDs and ORs not very efficient in CMOS
- Dynamic or Pseudo-nMOS NORs very efficient
- Use DeMorgan's Law to convert to all NORs



PLA Schematic & Layout



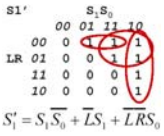
PLAs vs. ROMs

- The OR plane of the PLA is like the ROM array
- The AND plane of the PLA is like the ROM decoder
- PLAs are more flexible than ROMs
  - No need to have 2^n rows for n inputs
  - Only generate the minterms that are needed
  - Take advantage of logic simplification

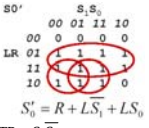
Example: RoboAnt PLA

- Convert state transition table to logic

$S_{1:0}$	L	R	$S_{1:0}'$	TR	TL	F
00	0	0	00	0	0	1
00	1	X	01	0	0	1
00	0	1	01	0	0	1
01	1	X	01	0	1	0
01	0	1	01	0	1	0
01	0	0	10	0	1	0
10	X	0	10	1	0	1
10	X	1	11	1	0	1
11	1	X	01	0	1	1
11	0	0	10	0	1	1
11	0	1	11	0	1	1



$$S_1' = S_1\overline{S_0} + \overline{L}S_1 + \overline{L}RS_0$$



$$S_0' = R + L\overline{S_1} + LS_0$$

$$TR = S_1\overline{S_0}$$

$$TL = S_0$$

$$F = S_1 + \overline{S_0}$$

RoboAnt Dot Diagram

$$S1' = S_1\overline{S_0} + \overline{L}S_1 + \overline{L}RS_0$$

$$S0' = R + L\overline{S_1} + LS_0$$

$$TR = S_1\overline{S_0}$$

$$TL = S_0$$

$$F = S_1 + \overline{S_0}$$