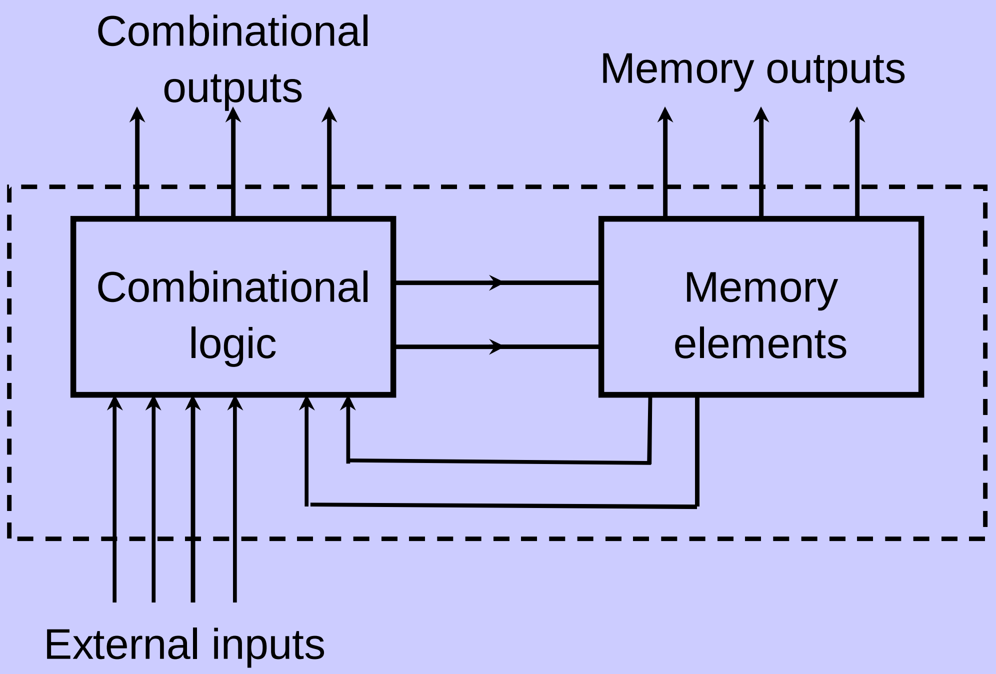
Sequential Logic
Latches & Flip-flops

Introduction

- A **sequential circuit** consists of a *feedback path*, and employs some *memory elements*.



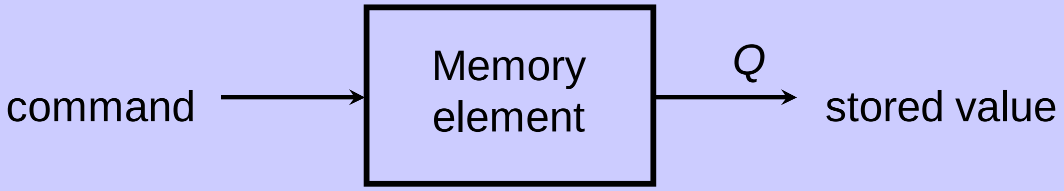
Sequential circuit = Combinational logic + Memory Elements

Introduction

- There are two types of sequential circuits:
  - *synchronous*: outputs change only at specific time
  - *asynchronous*: outputs change at any time
- *Multivibrator*: a class of sequential circuits. They can be:
  - *bistable* (2 stable states)
  - *monostable* or *one-shot* (1 stable state)
  - *astable* (no stable state)
- Bistable logic devices: *latches* and *flip-flops*.
- Latches and flip-flops differ in the method used for changing their state.

Memory Elements

- **Memory element**: a device which can remember value indefinitely, or change value on command from its inputs.



- Characteristic table:

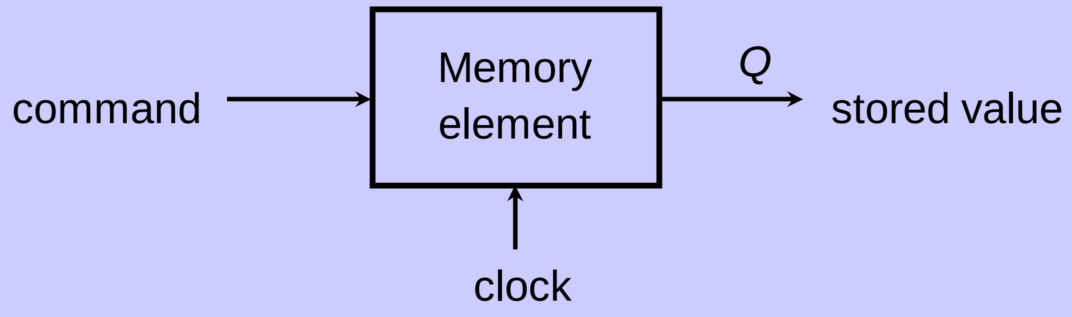
Command (at time *t*)	*Q(t)*	*Q(t+1)*
Set	X	1
Reset	X	0
Memorise / No Change	0	0
	1	1

Q(t): current state

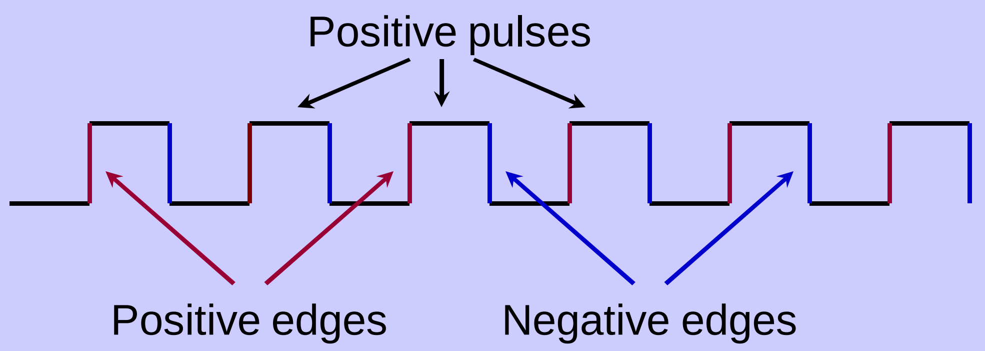
Q(t+1) or Q^+: next state

Memory Elements

- Memory element with clock. Flip-flops are memory elements that change state on clock signals.



- Clock is usually a square wave.



Memory Elements

- Two types of triggering/activation:
  - pulse-triggered
  - edge-triggered
- Pulse-triggered
  - latches
  - ON = 1, OFF = 0
- Edge-triggered
  - flip-flops
  - positive edge-triggered (ON = from 0 to 1; OFF = other time)
  - negative edge-triggered (ON = from 1 to 0; OFF = other time)

S-R Latch

- *Complementary* outputs: *Q* and *Q'*.
- When *Q* is HIGH, the latch is in *SET* state.
- When *Q* is LOW, the latch is in *RESET* state.
- For *active-HIGH input* S-R latch (also known as NOR gate latch),

  R=HIGH (and *S*=LOW) a RESET state

  S=HIGH (and *R*=LOW) a SET state

  both inputs LOW a no change

  both inputs HIGH a *Q* and *Q'* both LOW (invalid)!

S-R Latch

- For *active-LOW input* S-R latch (also known as NAND gate latch),

  R'=LOW (and *S'*=HIGH) a RESET state

  S'=LOW (and *R'*=HIGH) a SET state

  both inputs HIGH a no change

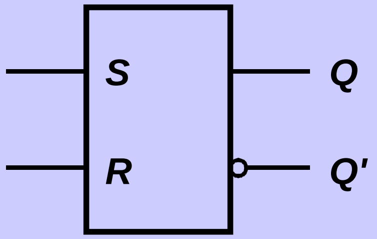
  both inputs LOW a *Q* and *Q'* both HIGH (invalid)!

- Drawback of S-R latch: invalid condition exists and must be avoided.

S-R Latch

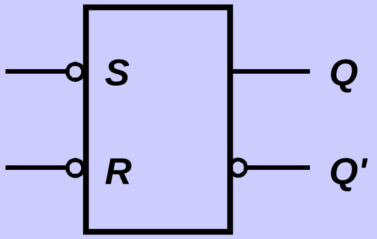
- Characteristics table for active-high input S-R latch:

S	*R*	*Q*	*Q'*	
0	0	NC	NC	No change. Latch remained in present state.
1	0	1	0	Latch SET.
0	1	0	1	Latch RESET.
1	1	0	0	Invalid condition.



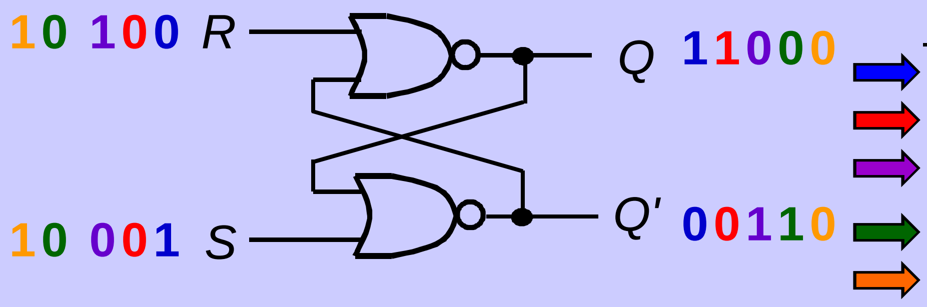
- Characteristics table for active-low input S'-R' latch:

S'	*R'*	*Q*	*Q'*	
1	1	NC	NC	No change. Latch remained in present state.
0	1	1	0	Latch SET.
1	0	0	1	Latch RESET.
0	0	1	1	Invalid condition.



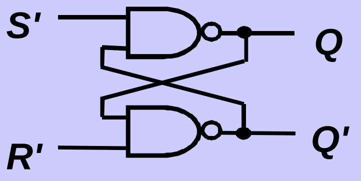
S-R Latch

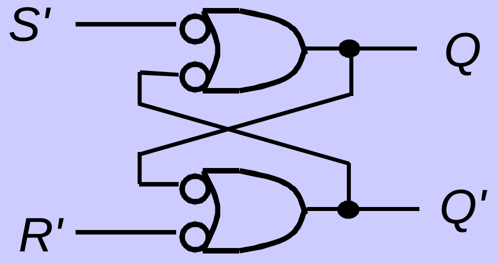
- Active-HIGH input S-R latch



S	*R*	*Q*	*Q′*	
1	0	1	0	initial
0	0	1	0	(afer *S*=1, *R*=0)
0	1	0	1	
0	0	0	1	(after *S*=0, *R*=1)
1	1	0	0	invalid!

- Active-LOW input S-R latch

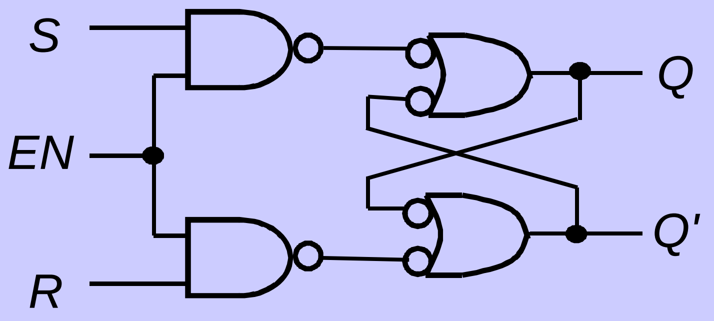


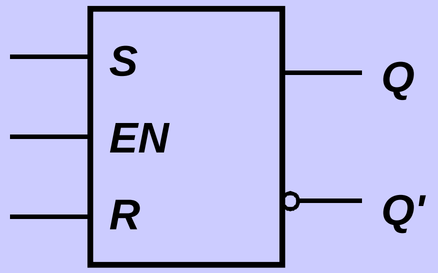


S′	*R′*	*Q*	*Q′*	
1	0	0	1	initial
1	1	0	1	(afer *S′*=1, *R′*=0)
0	1	1	0	
1	1	1	0	(after *S′*=0, *R′*=1)
0	0	1	1	invalid!

Gated S-R Latch

- S-R latch + *enable input* (*EN*) and 2 NAND gates → *gated S-R latch*.





Gated S-R Latch

- Outputs change (if necessary) only when *EN* is HIGH.
- Under what condition does the invalid state occur?
- Characteristic table:

***EN*=1**

Q(t)	*S*	*R*	*Q(t+1)*
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	indeterminate
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	indeterminate

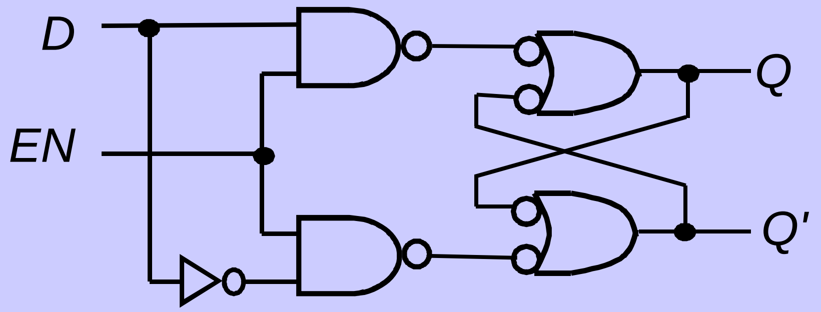
S	*R*	*Q(t+1)*	
0	0	*Q(t)*	No change
0	1	0	Reset
1	0	1	Set
1	1	indeterminate	

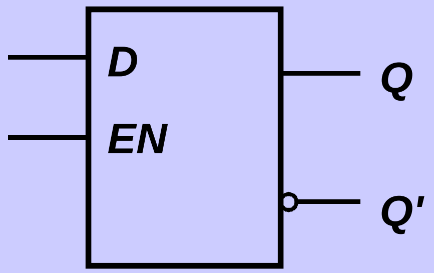
$Q(t+1) = S + R'.Q$

$S.R = 0$

Gated D Latch

- Make *R* input equal to *S'* → *gated D latch.*
- *D* latch eliminates the undesirable condition of invalid state in the *S-R* latch.





Gated D Latch

- When *EN* is HIGH,
  - *D*=HIGH → latch is SET
  - *D*=LOW → latch is RESET
- Hence when *EN* is HIGH, *Q* 'follows' the *D* (data) input.
- Characteristic table:

EN	*D*	*Q(t+1)*	
1	0	0	Reset
1	1	1	Set
0	X	*Q(t)*	No change

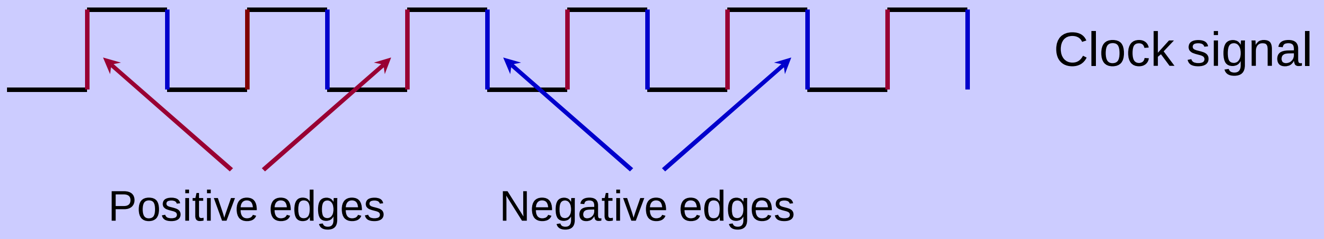
When *EN*=1, *Q(t+1)* = *D*

Latch Circuits: Not Suitable

- Latch circuits are not suitable in synchronous logic circuits.
- When the enable signal is active, the excitation inputs are gated directly to the output Q. Thus, any change in the excitation input immediately causes a change in the latch output.
- The problem is solved by using a special timing control signal called a *clock* to restrict the times at which the states of the memory elements may change.
- This leads us to the edge-triggered memory elements called *flip-flops*.

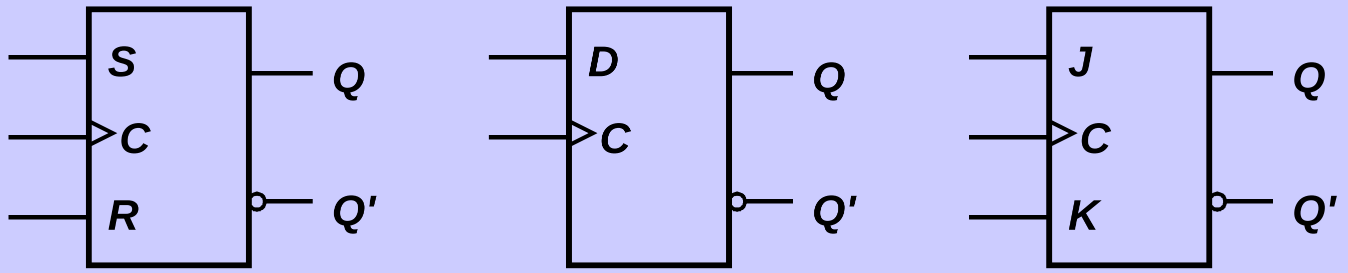
Edge-Triggered Flip-flops

- *Flip-flops*: synchronous bistable devices
- Output changes state at a specified point on a triggering input called the *clock*.
- Change state either at the *positive edge* (rising edge) or at the *negative edge* (*falling edge*) of the clock signal.

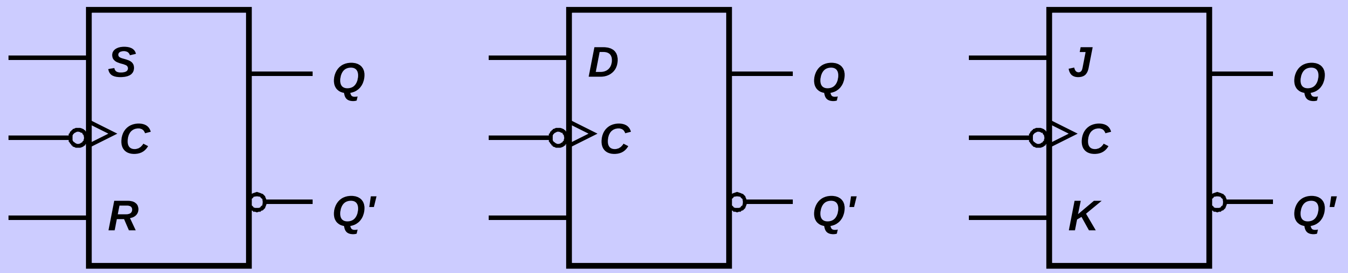


Edge-Triggered Flip-flops

- S-R, D and J-K edge-triggered flip-flops. Note the “>” symbol at the clock input.



Positive edge-triggered flip-flops



Negative edge-triggered flip-flops

S-R Flip-flop

- S-R flip-flop: on the triggering edge of the clock pulse,
  - *S*=HIGH (and *R*=LOW) a SET state
  - *R*=HIGH (and *S*=LOW) a RESET state
  - both inputs LOW a no change
  - both inputs HIGH a invalid
- Characteristic table of positive edge-triggered S-R flip-flop:

S	*R*	*CLK*	*Q(t+1)*	**Comments**
0	**0**	**X**	***Q(t)***	**No change**
0	**1**	↑	**0**	**Reset**
1	**0**	↑	**1**	**Set**
1	**1**	↑	**?**	**Invalid**

X = irrelevant ("don't care")

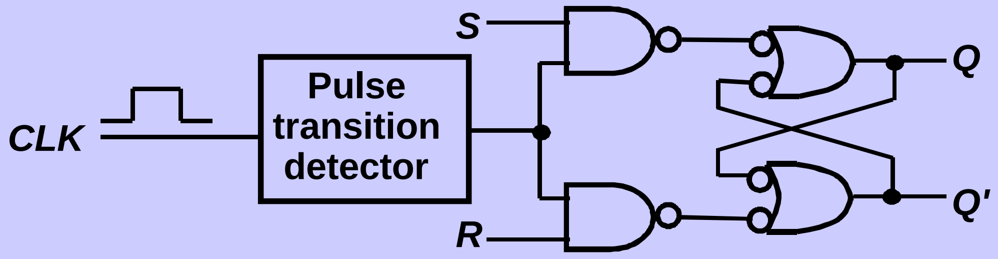
↑ = clock transition LOW to HIGH

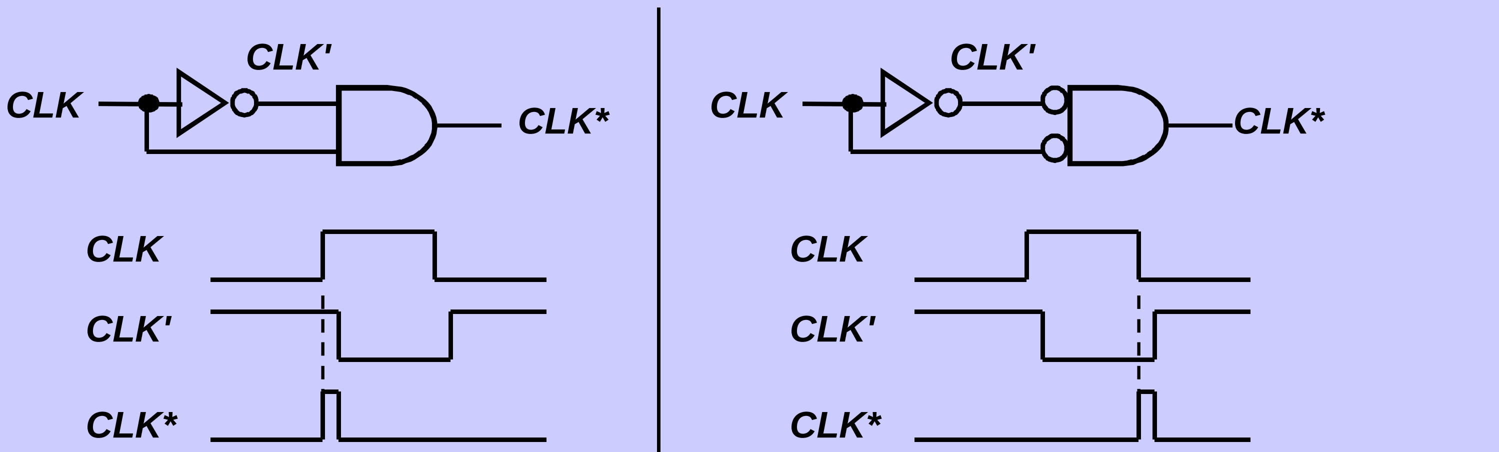
S-R Flip-flop

- It comprises 3 parts:
  - a basic *NAND latch*
  - a *pulse-steering* circuit
  - a *pulse transition detector* (or *edge detector*) circuit
- The pulse transition detector detects a rising (or falling) edge and produces a very *short-duration spike*.

S-R Flip-flop

The pulse transition detector.



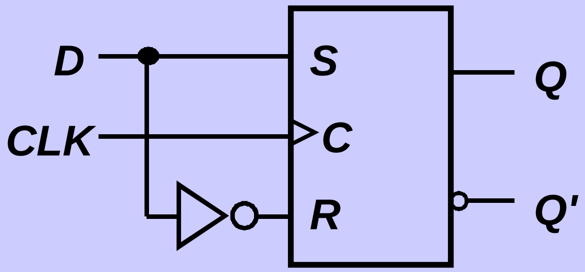


Positive-going transition (rising edge)

Negative-going transition (falling edge)

D Flip-flop

- D flip-flop: single input *D* (data)
  - *D*=HIGH a SET state
  - *D*=LOW a RESET state
- *Q* follows *D* at the clock edge.
- Convert S-R flip-flop into a D flip-flop: add an inverter.



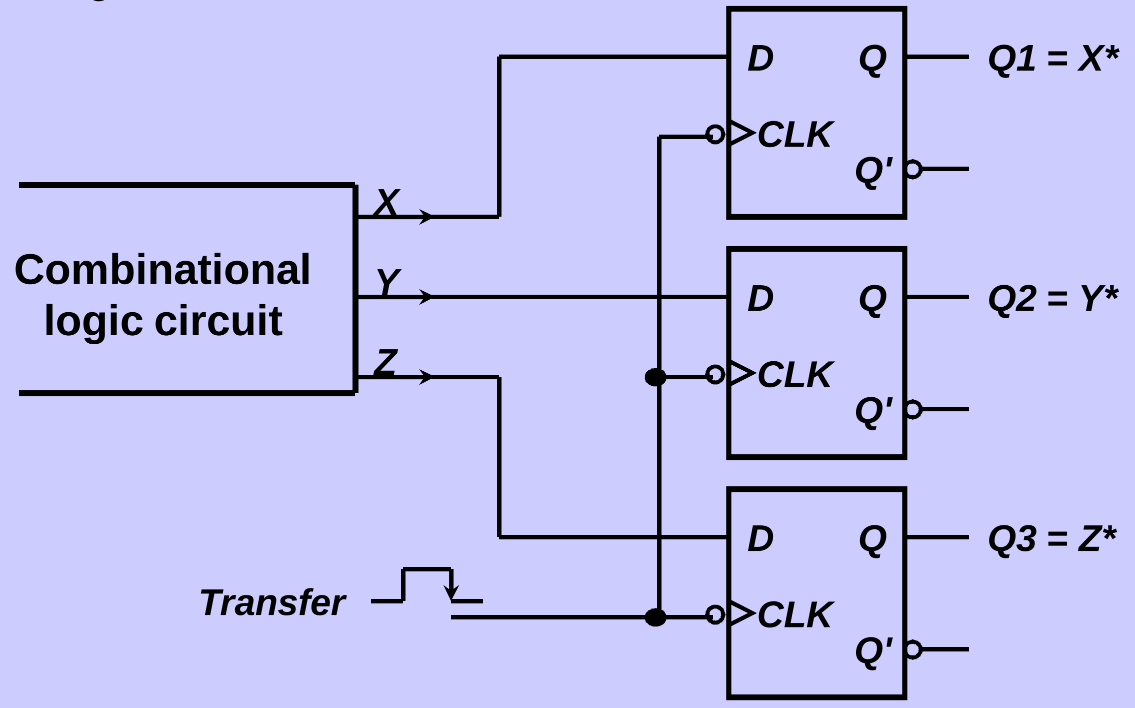
A positive edge-triggered D flip-flop formed with an S-R flip-flop.

D	*CLK*	*Q(t+1)*	Comments
1	↑	1	Set
0	↑	0	Reset

↑ = clock transition LOW to HIGH

D Flip-flop

- Application: *Parallel data transfer*.
  To transfer logic-circuit outputs X, Y, Z to flip-flops Q_1, Q_2 and Q_3 for storage.



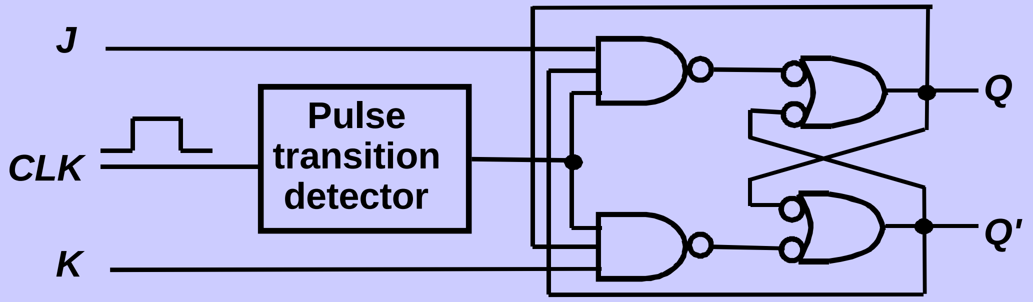
*** After occurrence of negative-going transition**

J-K Flip-flop

- J-K flip-flop: Q and Q' are fed back to the pulse-steering NAND gates.
- No invalid state.
- Include a *toggle* state.
  - *J*=HIGH (and *K*=LOW) a SET state
  - *K*=HIGH (and *J*=LOW) a RESET state
  - both inputs LOW a no change
  - both inputs HIGH a toggle

J-K Flip-flop

- J-K flip-flop.



- Characteristic table.

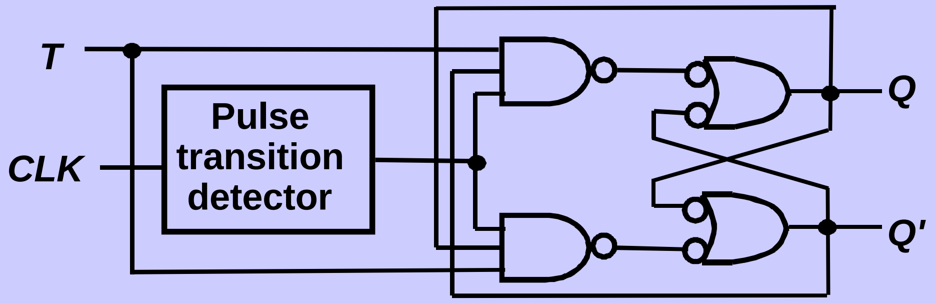
J	K	CLK	Q(t+1)	Comments
0	0	↑	*Q(t)*	No change
0	1	↑	0	Reset
1	0	↑	1	Set
1	1	↑	*Q(t)'*	Toggle

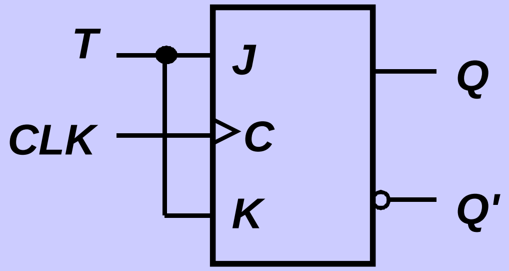
$$Q(t+1) = J.Q' + K'.Q$$

Q	J	K	Q(t+1)
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	0

T Flip-flop

- T flip-flop: single-input version of the J-K flip flop, formed by tying both inputs together.





- Characteristic table.

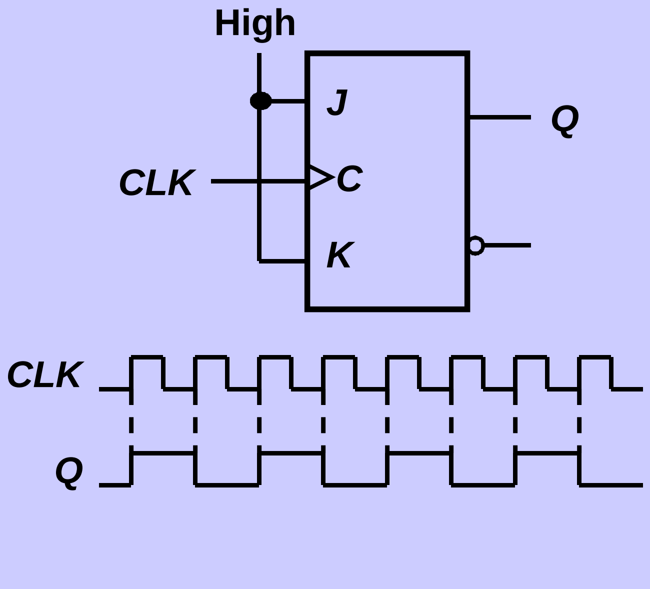
T	CLK	Q(t+1)	Comments
0	↑	$Q(t)$	No change
1	↑	$Q(t)'$	Toggle

Q	T	Q(t+1)
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

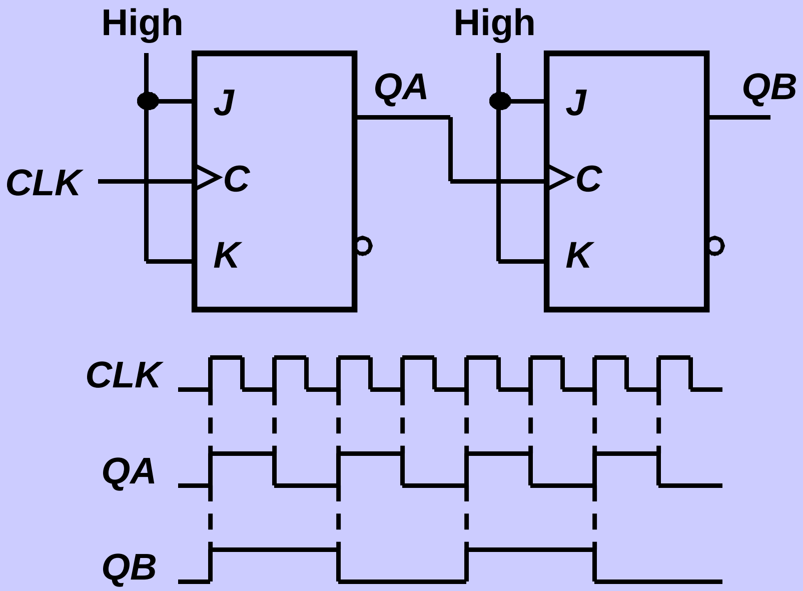
$$Q(t+1) = T.Q' + T'.Q$$

T Flip-flop

- Application: *Frequency division*.



Divide clock frequency by 2.



Divide clock frequency by 4.

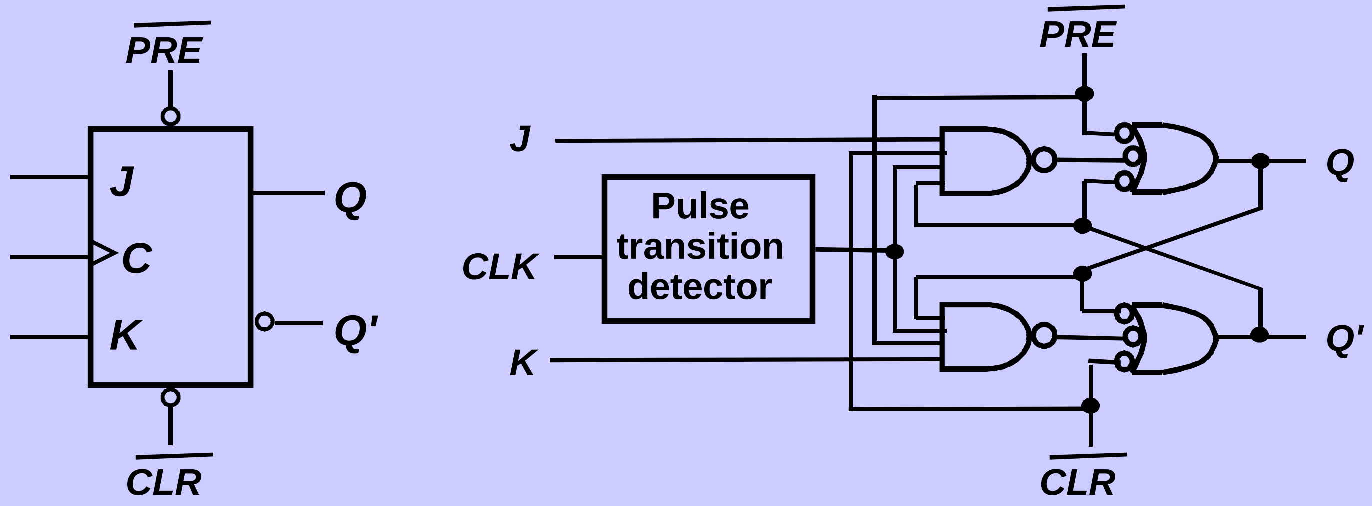
- Application: *Counter* (to be covered in Lecture 13.)

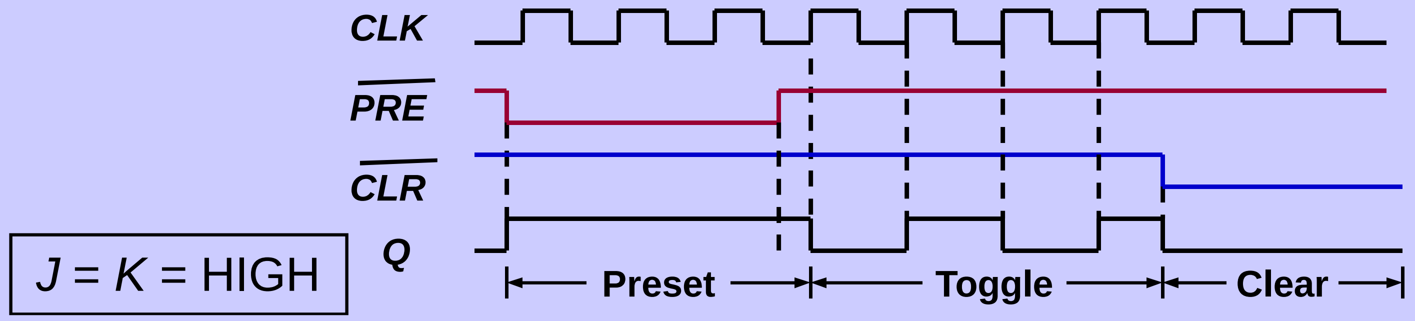
Asynchronous Inputs

- S-R, D and J-K inputs are synchronous inputs, as data on these inputs are transferred to the flip-flop's output only on the triggered edge of the clock pulse.
- Asynchronous inputs affect the state of the flip-flop independent of the clock; example: *preset* (*PRE*) and *clear* (*CLR*) [or *direct set* (*SD*) and *direct reset* (*RD*)]
- When *PRE*=HIGH, *Q* is immediately set to HIGH.
- When *CLR*=HIGH, *Q* is immediately cleared to LOW.
- Flip-flop in normal operation mode when both *PRE* and *CLR* are LOW.

Asynchronous Inputs

- A J-K flip-flop with active-LOW preset and clear inputs.





Assignment

Q.1 Remember the Characteristic table of all Flip flops.

Q. 2 Explain SR Latch ?