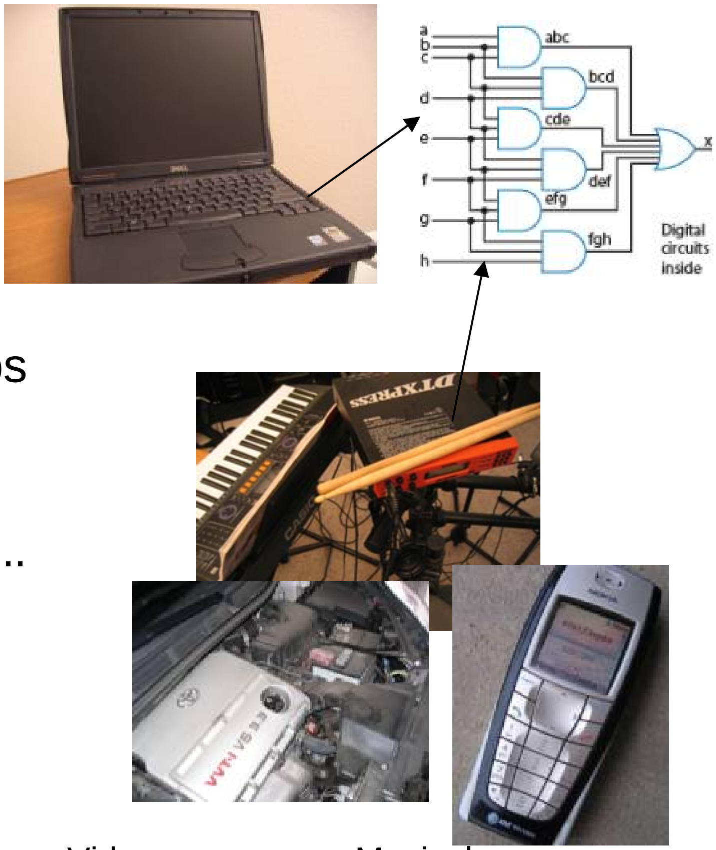
Digital Design

Chapter 1: Introduction

Why Study Digital Design?

- Look "under the hood" of computers
  - Solid understanding --> confidence, insight, even better programmer when aware of hardware resource issues
- Electronic devices becoming digital
  - Enabled by shrinking and more capable chips
  - Enables:
    - Better devices: Better sound recorders, cameras, cars, cell phones, medical devices,...
    - New devices: Video games, PDAs, ...
  - Known as "embedded systems"
    - Thousands of new devices every year
    - Designers needed: Potential career direction



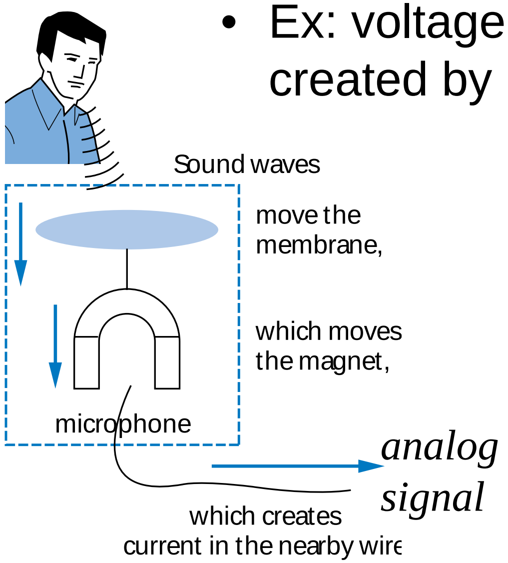
Satellites
Portable music players
Cell phones
DVD players
Cameras
Video recorders
TVs
Musical instruments
???

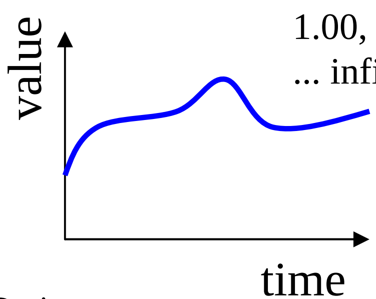
1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007

- Years shown above indicate when digital version began to *dominate*
  - (*Not* the first year that a digital version appeared)

What Does "Digital" Mean?

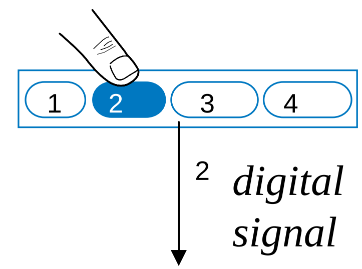
- Analog signal
  - Inifinite possible values
    - Ex: voltage on a wire created by microphone

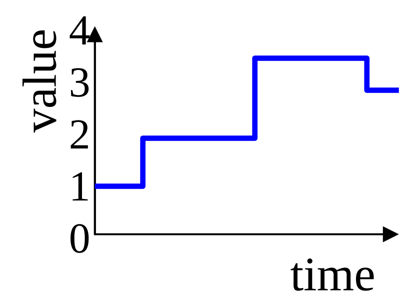




Possible values:
1.00, 1.01, 2.0000009,
... infinite possibilities

- Digital signal
  - Finite possible values
    - Ex: button pressed on a keypad

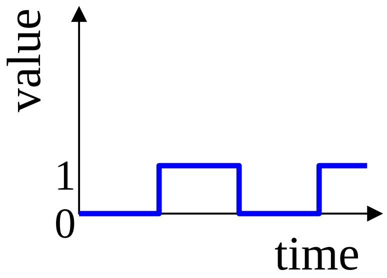




Possible values:
0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.
That's it.

Digital Signals with Only Two Values: Binary

- ***Binary*** digital signal -- only *two* possible values
  - Typically represented as **0** and **1**
  - One *b*inary dig*it* is a ***bit***
  - We'll only consider *binary* digital signals
  - Binary is popular because
    - Transistors, the basic digital electric component, operate using *two* voltages (more in Chpt. 2)
    - Storing/transmitting one of *two* values is easier than three or more (e.g., loud beep or quiet beep, reflection or no reflection)

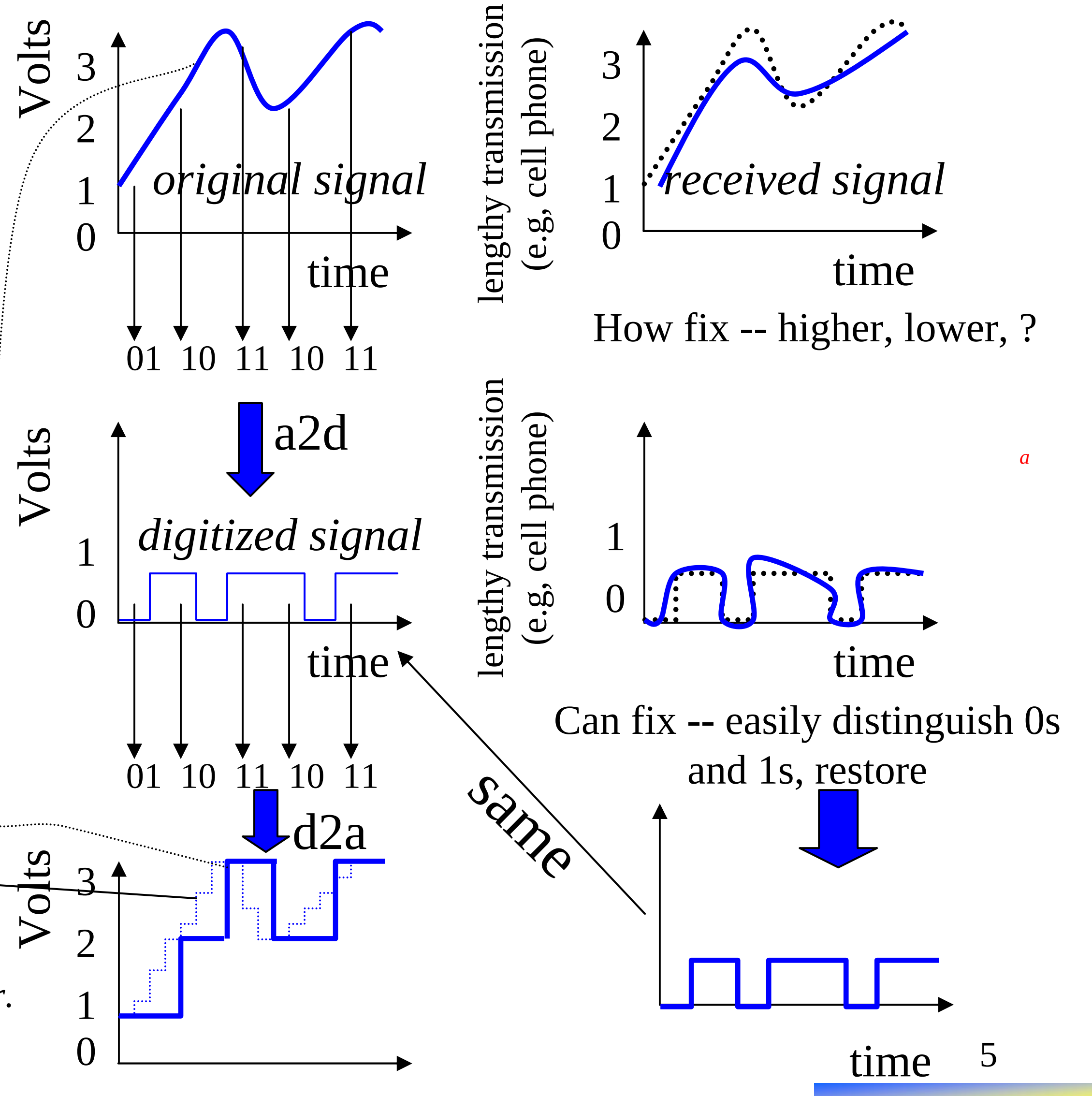


Example of Digitization Benefit

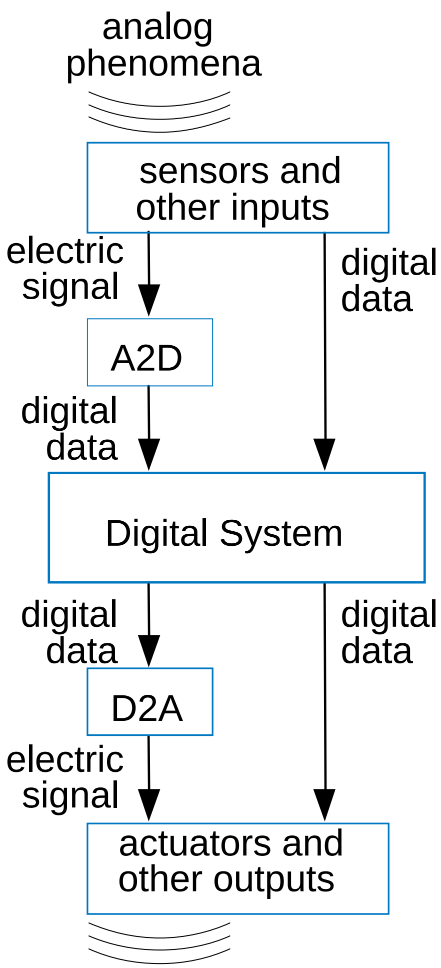
- Analog signal (e.g., audio) may lose quality
  - Voltage levels not saved/copied/transmitted perfectly
- Digitized version enables near-perfect save/cpy/trn.
  - “Sample” voltage at particular rate, save sample using bit encoding
  - Voltage levels still not kept perfectly
  - But we can distinguish 0s from 1s

Let bit encoding be:
1 V: “01”
2 V: “10”
3 V: “11”

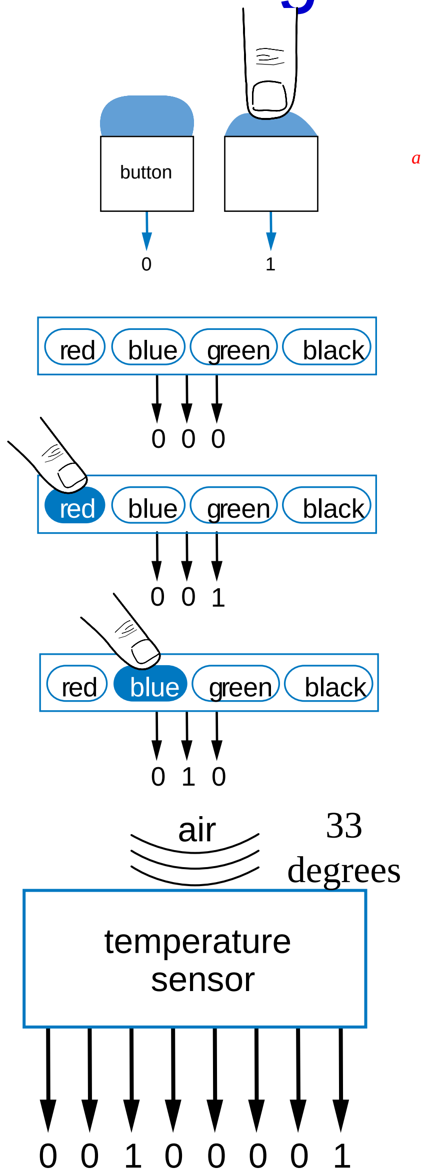
Digitized signal not perfect re-creation, but higher sampling rate and more bits per encoding brings closer.



How Do We Encode Data as Binary for Our Digital System?



- Some inputs inherently binary
  - Button: not pressed (0), pressed (1)
- Some inputs inherently digital
  - Just need encoding in binary
  - e.g., multi-button input: encode red=001, blue=010, ...
- Some inputs analog
  - Need analog-to-digital conversion
  - As done in earlier slide -- sample and encode with bits



How to Encode Text: ASCII, Unicode

- ASCII: 7- (or 8-) bit encoding of each letter, number, or symbol
- Unicode: Increasingly popular 16-bit bit encoding
  - Encodes characters from various world languages

Symbol	Encoding
R	1010010
S	1010011
T	1010100
L	1001100
N	1001110
E	1000101
0	0110000
.	0101110
<tab>	0001001

Symbol	Encoding
r	1110010
s	1110011
t	1110100
l	1101100
n	1101110
e	1100101
9	0111001
!	0100001
<space>	0100000

Question:
What does this ASCII bit sequence represent?
1010010 1000101 1010011 1010100

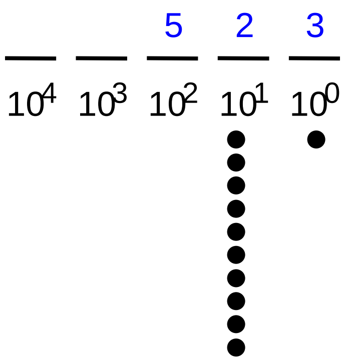
R E S T

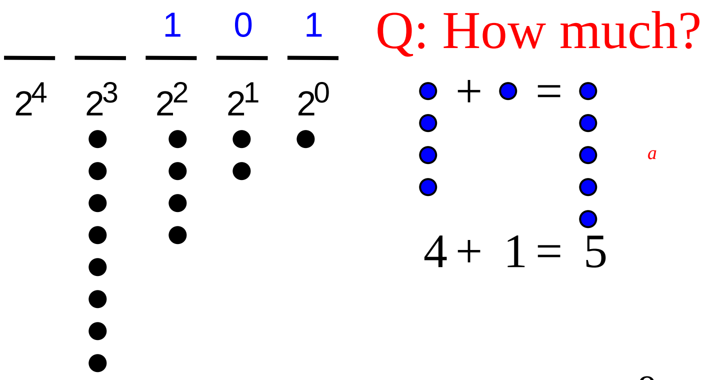
a

Note: small red "a" (a) in a slide indicates animation

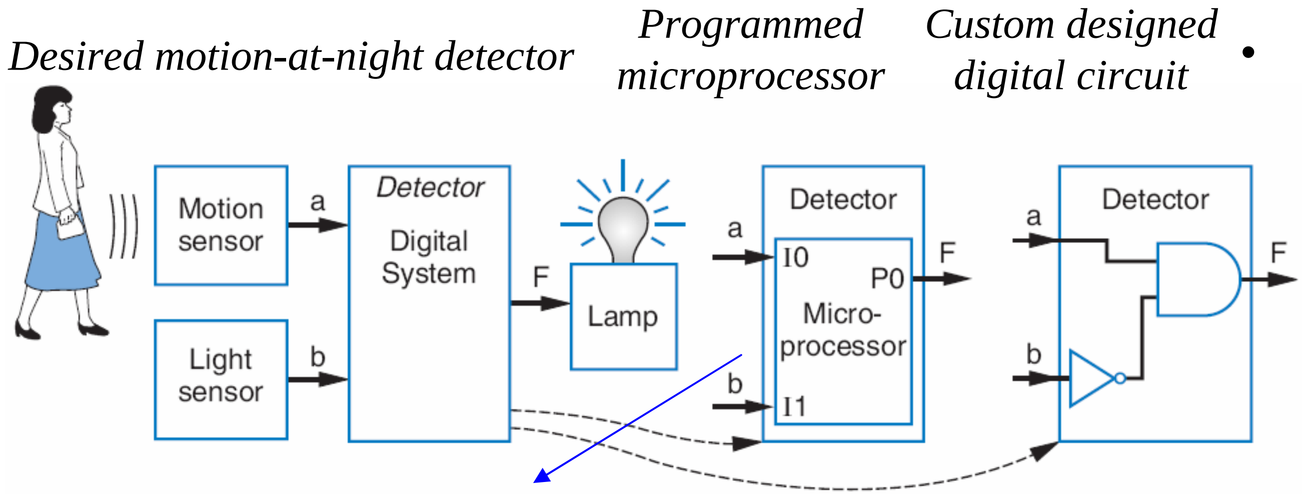
How to Encode Numbers: Binary Numbers

- Each position represents a quantity; symbol in position means how many of that quantity
  - Base ten (***decimal***)
    - Ten symbols: 0, 1, 2, ..., 8, and 9
    - More than 9 -- next position
      - So each position power of 10
    - Nothing special about base 10 -- used because we have 10 fingers
  - Base two (***binary***)
    - Two symbols: 0 and 1
    - More than 1 -- next position
      - So each position power of 2

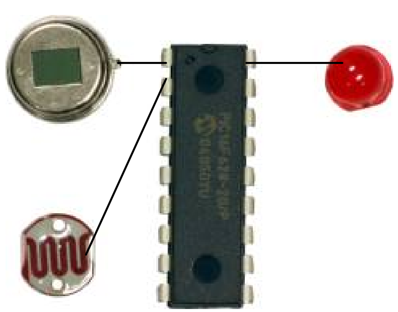


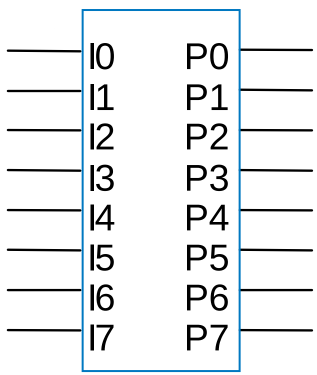


Implementing Digital Systems: Programming Microprocessors Vs. Designing Digital Circuits

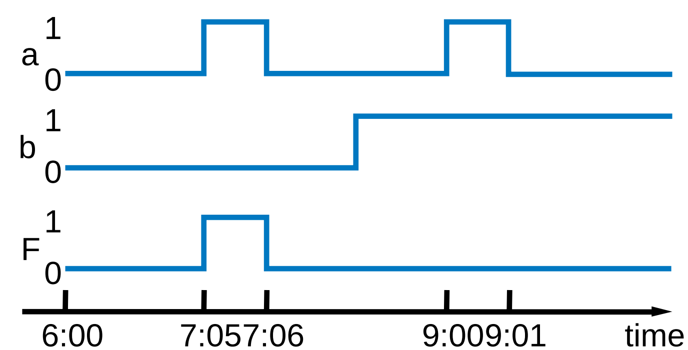


- Microprocessors a common choice to implement a digital system
  - Easy to program
  - Cheap (as low as $1)
  - Available now






```
void main()
{
  while (1) {
    P0 = I0 && !I1;
    // F = a and !b,
  }
}
```



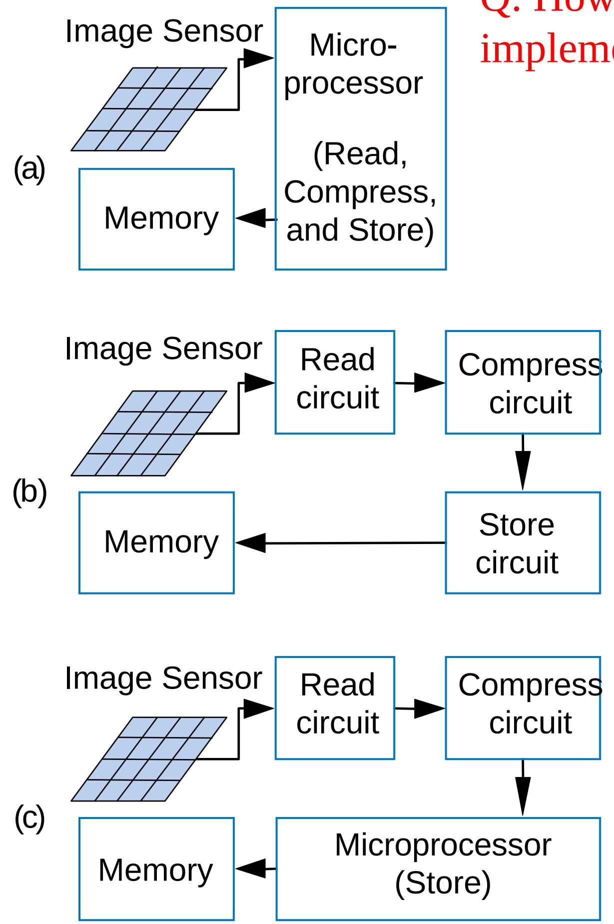
Digital Design: When Microprocessors Aren't Good Enough

- With microprocessors so easy, cheap, and available, why design a digital circuit?
  - Microprocessor may be too slow
  - Or too big, power hungry, or costly

Sample digital camera task execution times (in seconds) on a microprocessor versus a digital circuit:

Task	Microprocessor	Custom Digital Circuit
Read	5	0.1
Compress	8	0.5
Store	1	0.8

Q: How long for each implementation option?



5+8+11
=24 sec

.1+.5+.8
=1.4 sec

.1+.5+1
=1.6 sec

Good compromise

Chapter Summary

- Digital systems surround us
  - Inside computers
  - Inside huge variety of other electronic devices (embedded systems)
- Digital systems use 0s and 1s
  - Encoding analog signals to digital can provide many benefits
    - e.g., audio -- higher-quality storage/transmission, compression, etc.
  - Encoding integers as 0s and 1s: Binary numbers
- Microprocessors (themselves digital) can implement many digital systems easily and inexpensively
  - But often not good enough -- need custom digital circuits