Decoders Wilfrid Laurier University

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Introduction 7 Segment Decoder

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• A decoder usually converts one type of input pattern into a corresponding output pattern.

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• A decoder usually converts one type of input pattern into a corresponding output pattern.

In principle, virtually any combinational logic circuit could be thought of as some kind of "decoder".

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Here's a generic decoder.

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• A **7 segment display** uses 7 LEDs in the shape of the number 8 to show any digit from 0 to 9, depending on which segments are lit.

BCD to 7 segment conversion is a good example of the use of a decoder.



Here's a BCD to 7 segment decoder, shown with a 7 segment display.

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Operation for the input number 1

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Operation for the input number 2

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Operation for the input number 3

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Operation for the input number 7

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For a BCD to 7 segment decoder, hexadecimal inputs from A to F are not valid, so the behaviour in this example has not been specified.

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There may be additional inputs on a decoder such as this to do things like turn all of the segments on or off for testing purposes.