Asynchronous Counters
Lecture 3

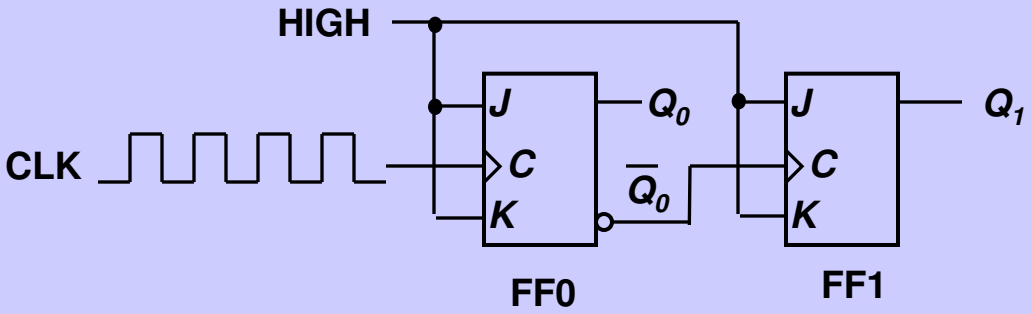
Dronacharya Group of Institutions

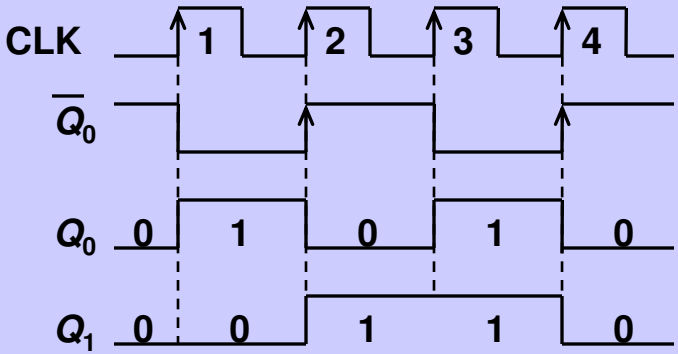
Asynchronous (Ripple) Counters

- Asynchronous counters: the flip-flops do not change states at exactly the same time as they do not have a common clock pulse.
- Also known as ripple counters, as the input clock pulse "ripples" through the counter – cumulative delay is a drawback.
- *n* flip-flops $\rightarrow$ a MOD (modulus) 2^n counter. (Note: A MOD-*x* counter cycles through *x* states.)
- Output of the last flip-flop (MSB) divides the input clock frequency by the MOD number of the counter, hence a counter is also a *frequency divider*.

Asynchronous (Ripple) Counters

- Example: 2-bit ripple binary counter.
- Output of one flip-flop is connected to the clock input of the next more-significant flip-flop.



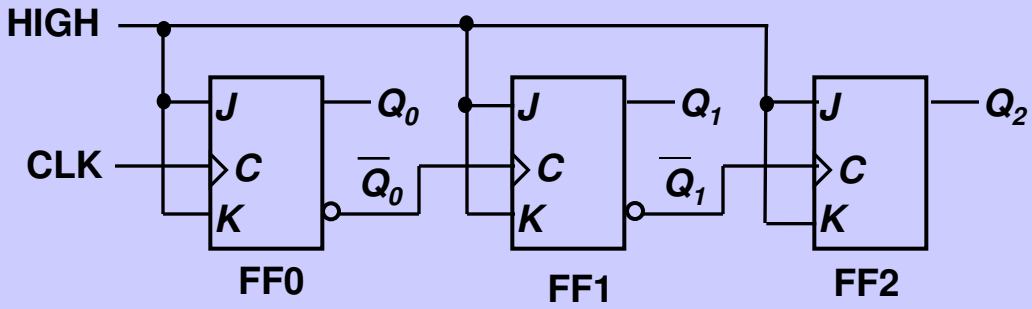


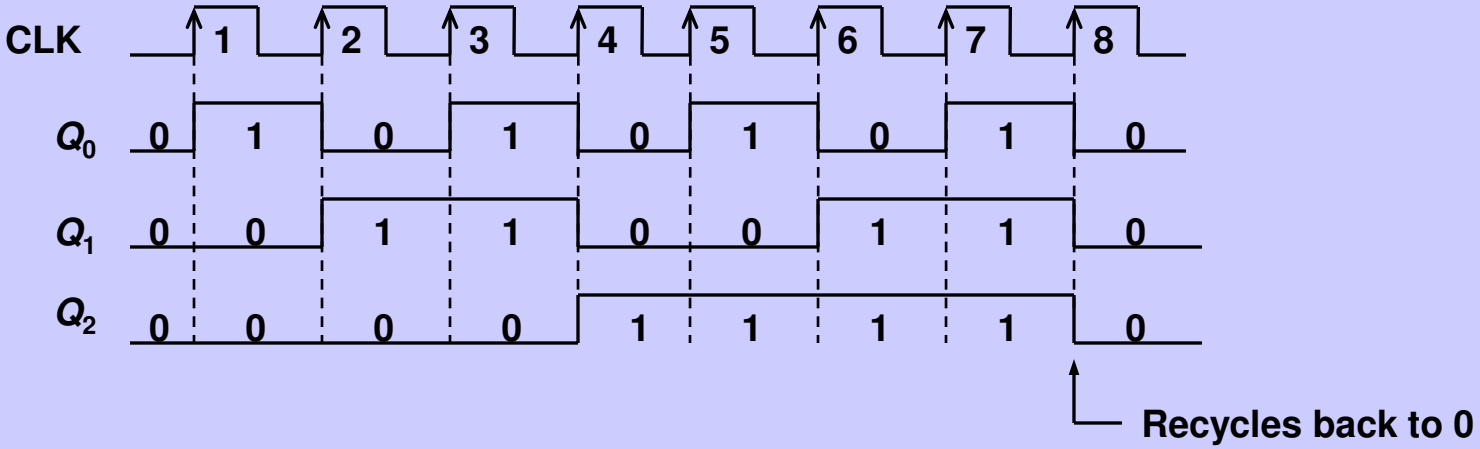
Timing diagram

$00 \rightarrow 01 \rightarrow 10 \rightarrow 11 \rightarrow 00$ ...

Asynchronous (Ripple) Counters

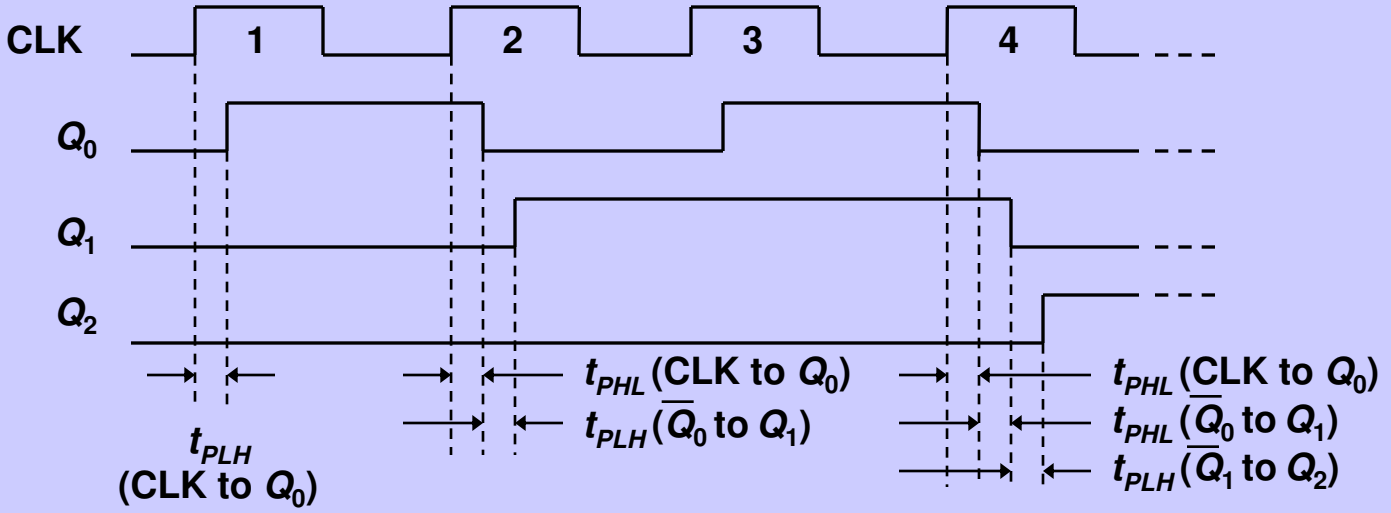
- Example: 3-bit ripple binary counter.





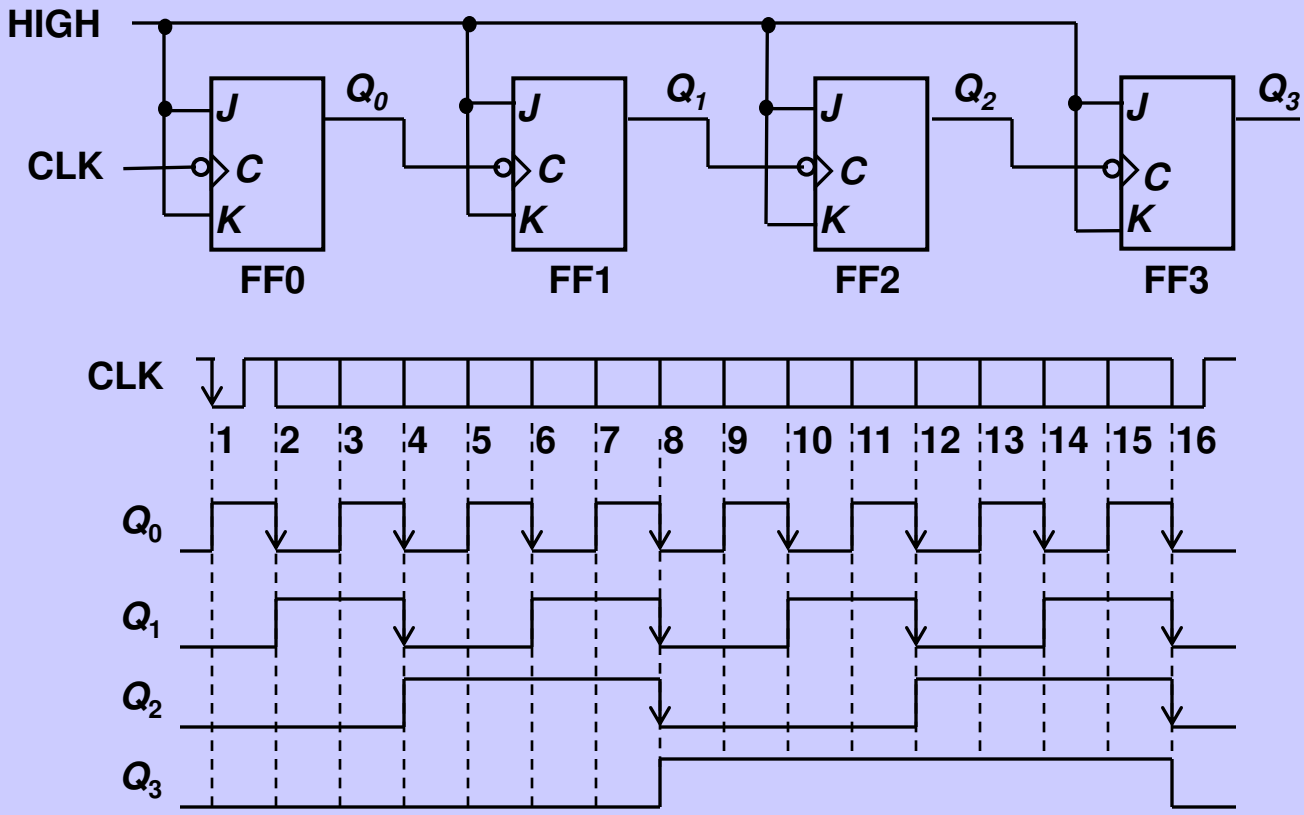
Asynchronous (Ripple) Counters

- Propagation delays in an asynchronous (ripple-clocked) binary counter.
- If the accumulated delay is greater than the clock pulse, some counter states may be misrepresented!



Asynchronous (Ripple) Counters

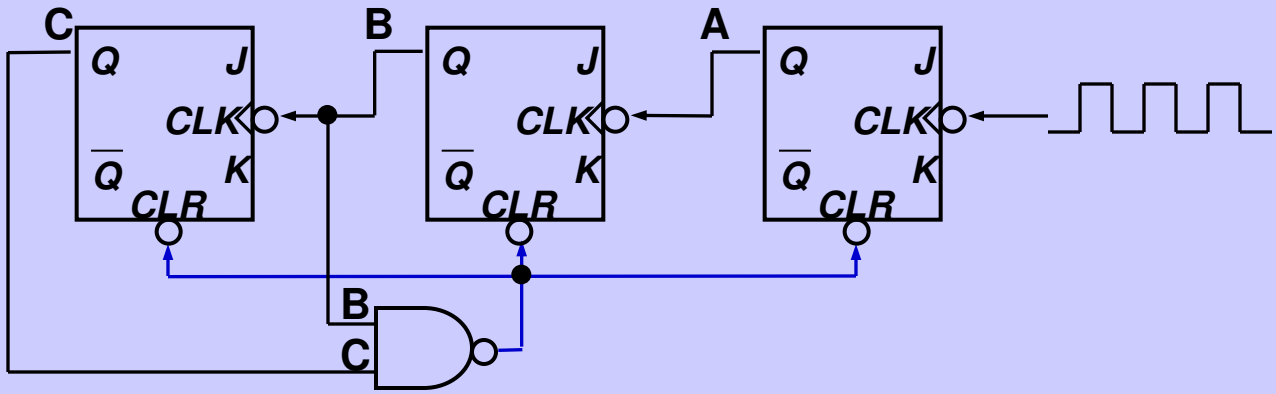
- Example: 4-bit ripple binary counter (negative-edge triggered).



Asyn. Counters with MOD no. < 2^n

- States may be skipped resulting in a truncated sequence.
- Technique: force counter to *recycle before going through all of the states* in the binary sequence.
- Example: Given the following circuit, determine the counting sequence (and hence the modulus no.)

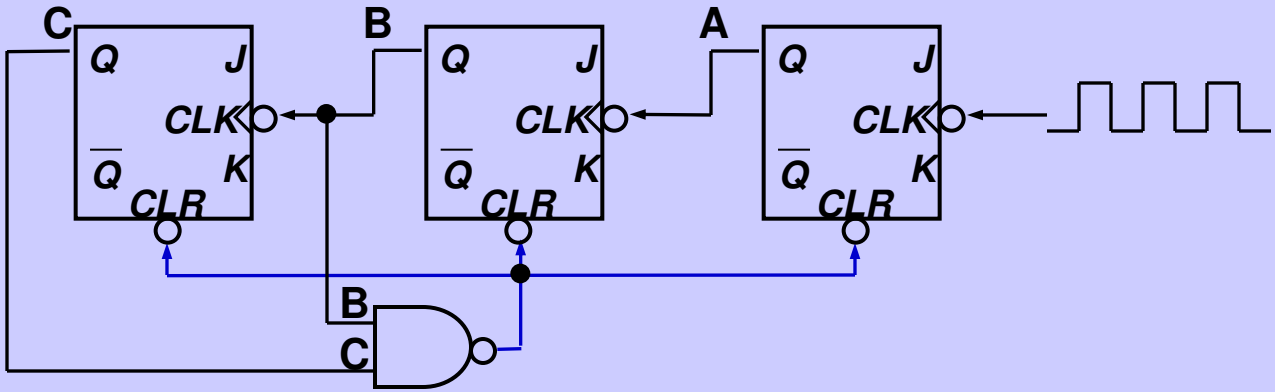
All *J*, *K* inputs are 1 (HIGH).

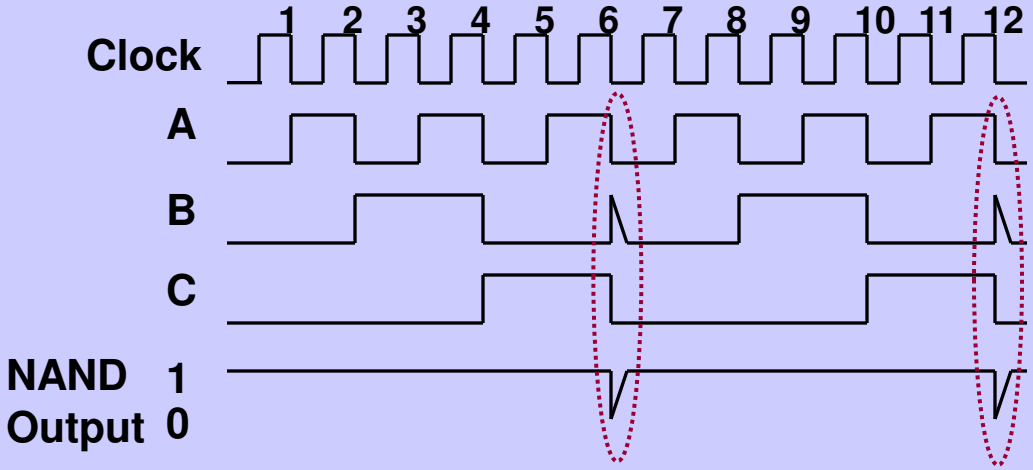


Asyn. Counters with MOD no. < 2^n

- Example (cont'd):

All *J*, *K* inputs are 1 (HIGH).

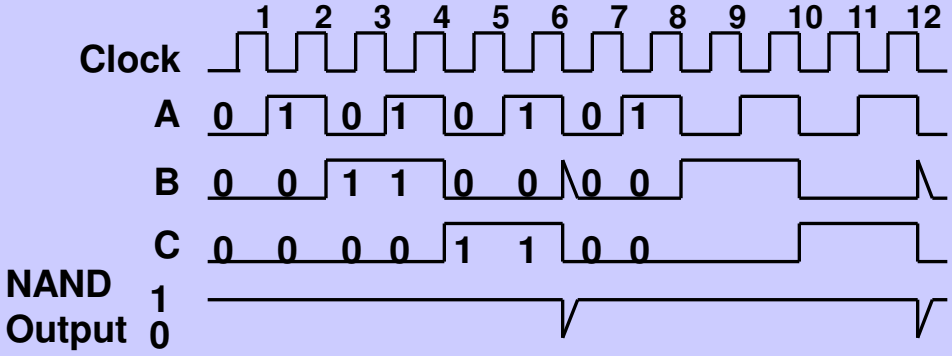


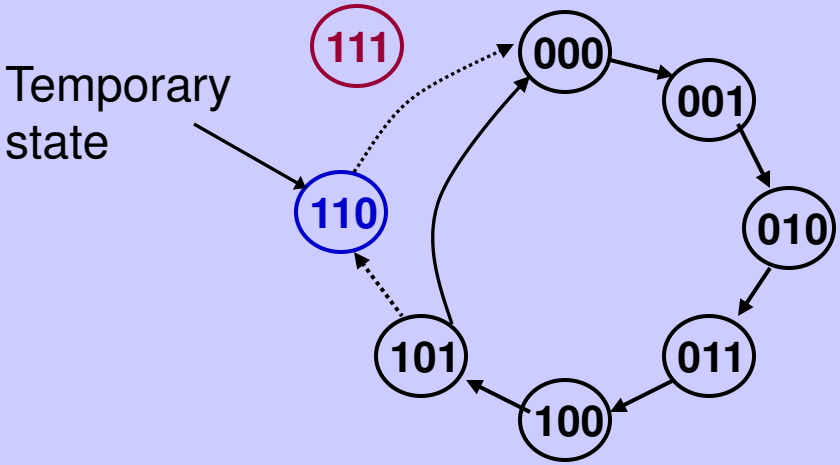


MOD-6 counter produced by clearing (a MOD-8 binary counter) when count of six (110) occurs.

Asyn. Counters with MOD no. < 2^n

- Example (cont'd): Counting sequence of circuit (in CBA order).

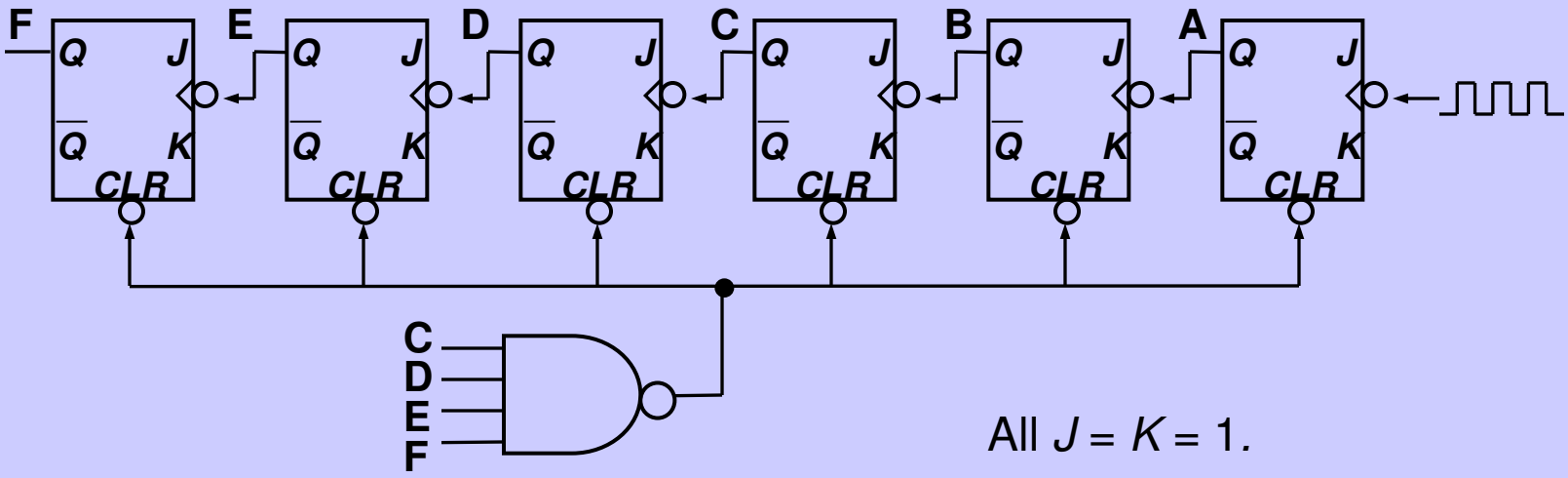




Counter is a MOD-6 counter.

Asyn. Counters with MOD no. < 2^n

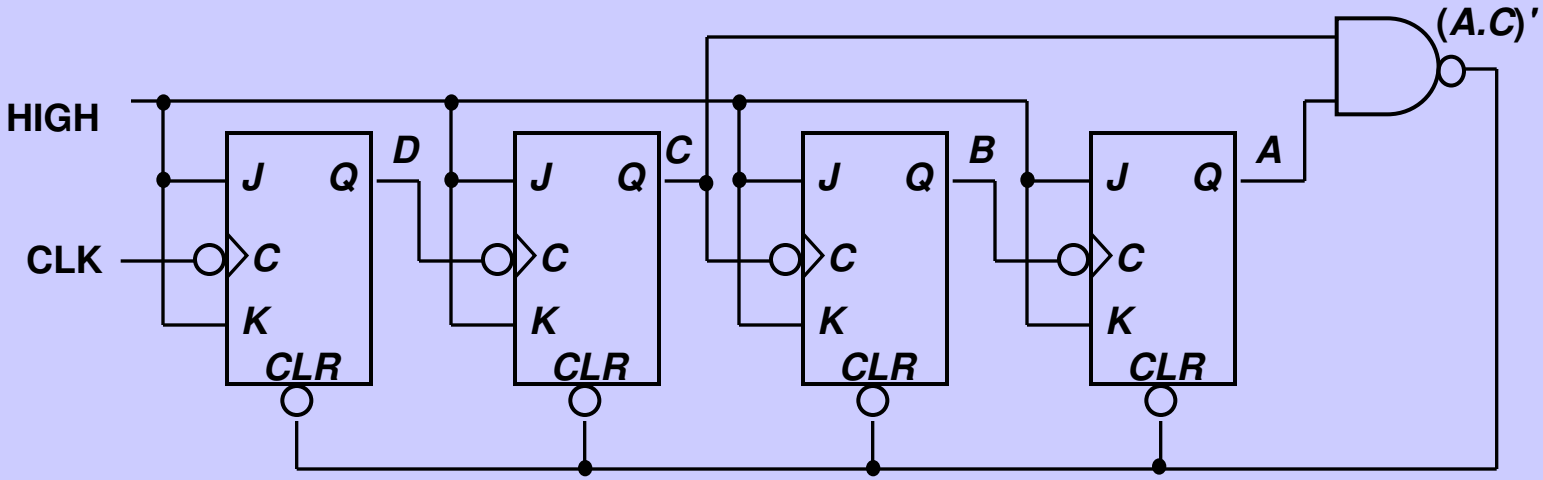
- *Exercise:* How to construct an asynchronous MOD-5 counter? MOD-7 counter? MOD-12 counter?
- *Question:* The following is a MOD-? counter?



All $J = K = 1$.

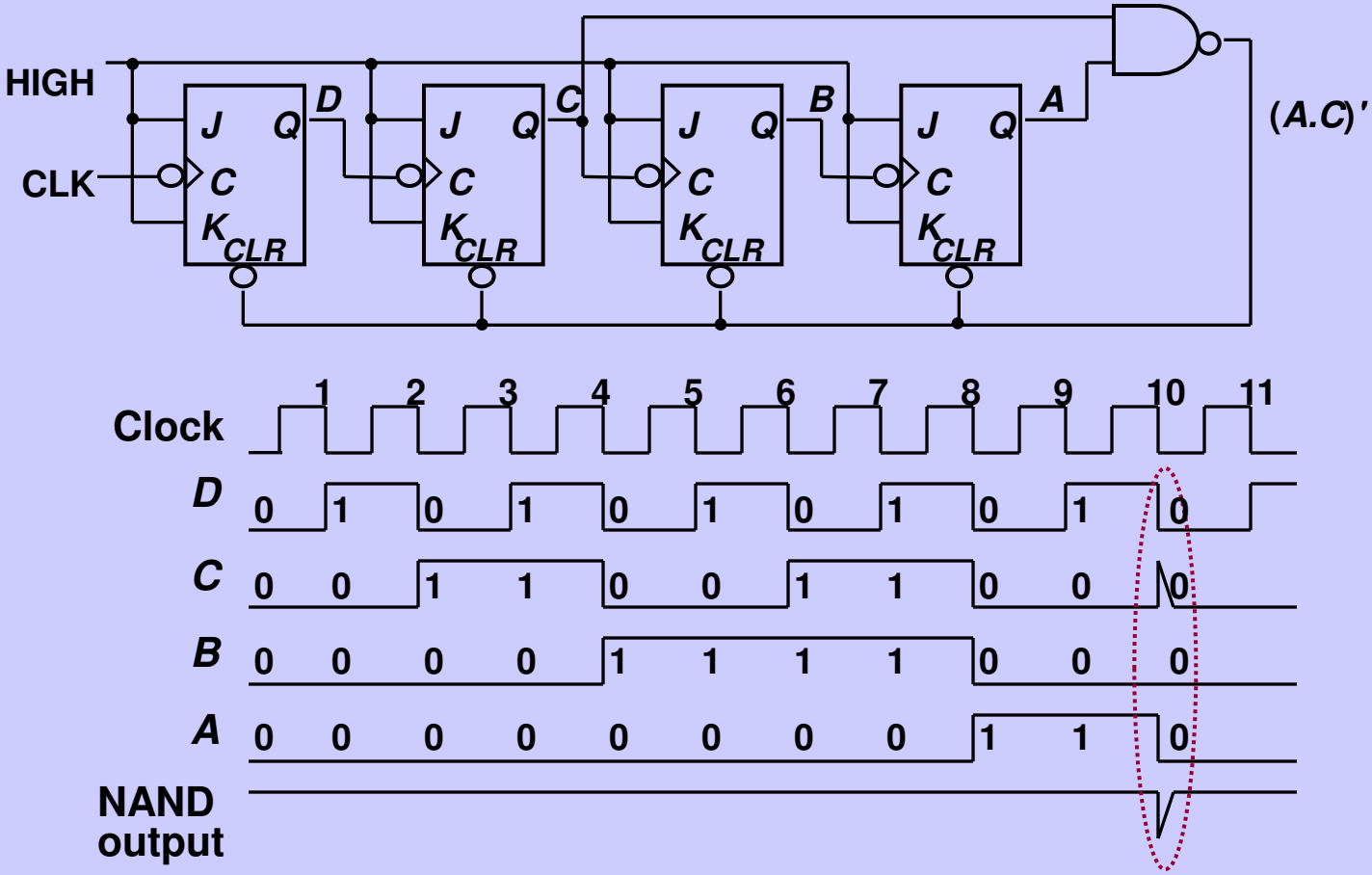
Asyn. Counters with MOD no. < 2^n

- Decade counters (or BCD counters) are counters with 10 states (modulus-10) in their sequence. They are commonly used in daily life (e.g.: utility meters, odometers, etc.).
- Design an asynchronous decade counter.



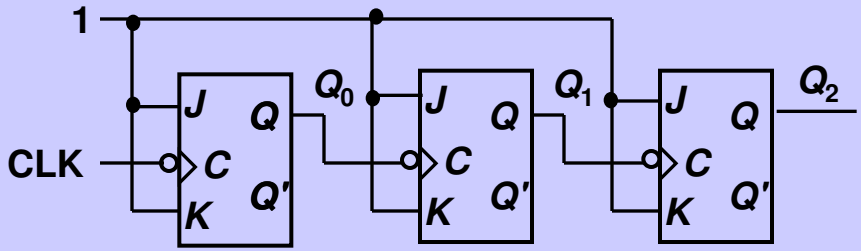
Asyn. Counters with MOD no. < 2^n

- Asynchronous decade/BCD counter (cont'd).

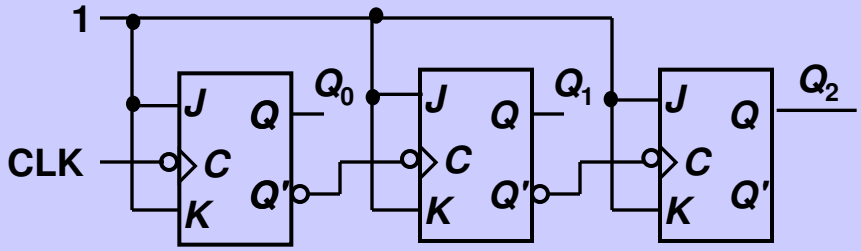


Asynchronous Down Counters

- So far we are dealing with *up counters*. *Down counters*, on the other hand, count downward from a maximum value to zero, and repeat.
- Example: A 3-bit binary (MOD-2^3) down counter.



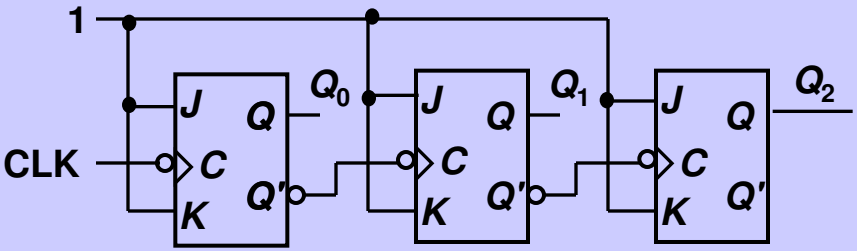
3-bit binary up counter

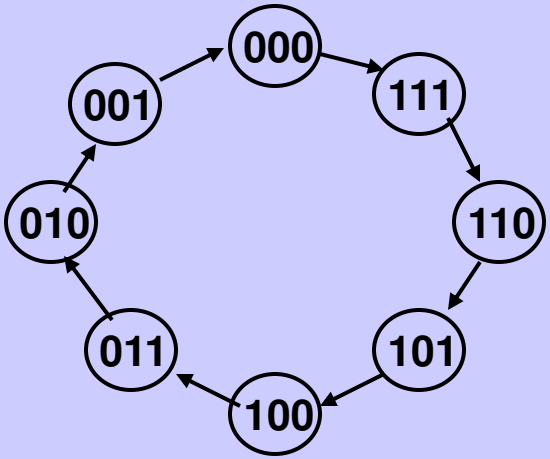


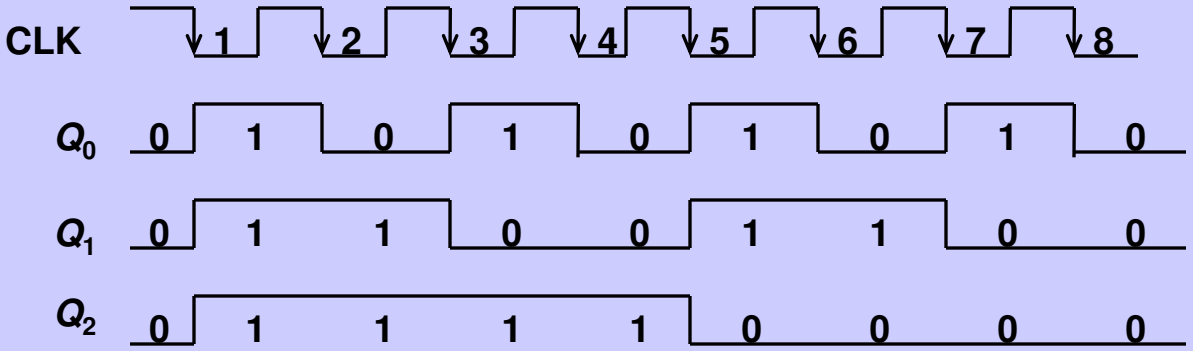
3-bit binary down counter

Asynchronous Down Counters

- Example: A 3-bit binary (MOD-8) down counter.

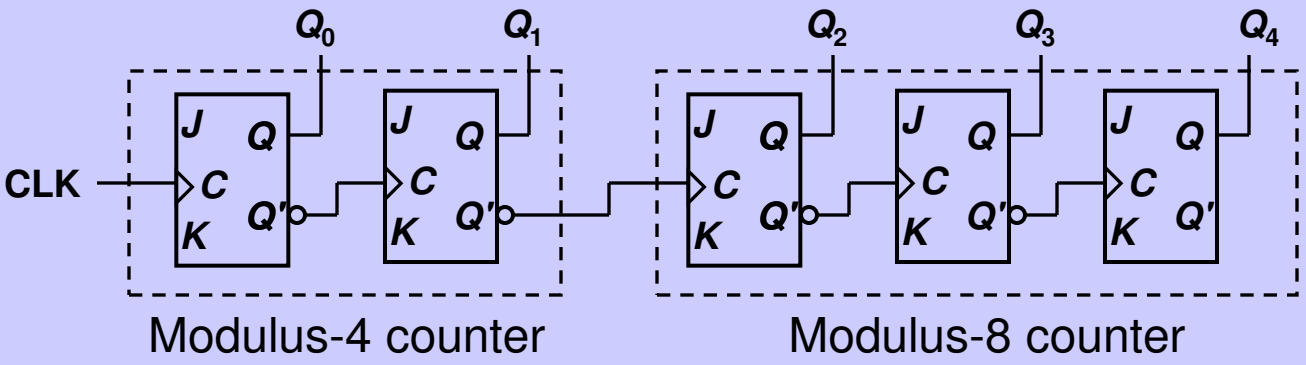






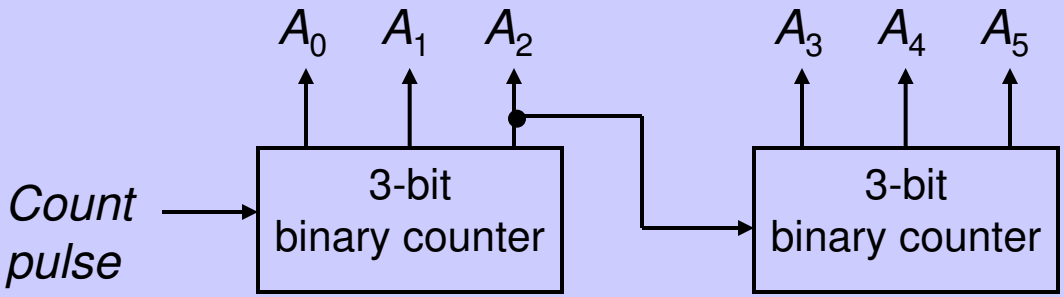
Cascading Asynchronous Counters

- Larger asynchronous (ripple) counter can be constructed by cascading smaller ripple counters.
- Connect last-stage output of one counter to the clock input of next counter so as to achieve higher-modulus operation.
- Example: A modulus-32 ripple counter constructed from a modulus-4 counter and a modulus-8 counter.



Cascading Asynchronous Counters

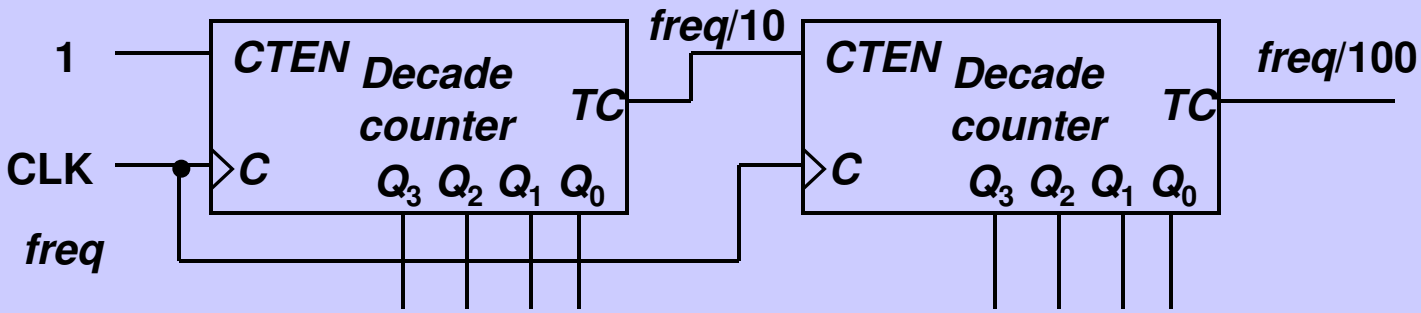
- Example: A 6-bit binary counter (counts from 0 to 63) constructed from two 3-bit counters.



A_5	A_4	A_3	A_2	A_1	A_0
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	:	:	:
0	0	0	1	1	1
0	0	**1**	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	1
:	:	:	:	:	:

Cascading Asynchronous Counters

- If counter is a not a binary counter, requires additional output.
- Example: A modulus-100 counter using two decade counters.



TC **= 1 when counter recycles to 0000**