Combinational Logic Design Process

1. Understand the Problem
   what is the circuit supposed to do?
   write down inputs (data, control) and outputs
   draw block diagram or other picture

2. Formulate the Problem in terms of a truth table or other suitable design representation
   truth table, Boolean Algebra, Verilog, etc.

3. Choose Implementation Target

4. Follow Implementation Procedure
   K-maps, Boolean algebra, Quartus synthesis
Process Line Control Example

Statement of the Problem

- Rods of varying length (+/-10%) travel on conveyor belt
- Mechanical arm pushes rods within spec (+/-5%) to one side
- Second arm pushes rods too long to other side
- Rods too short stay on belt

- 3 light barriers (light source + photocell) as sensors
- Design combinational logic to activate the arms

Understanding the Problem

- Inputs are three sensors, outputs are two arm control signals
- Assume sensor reads "1" when tripped, "0" otherwise
- Call sensors A, B, C
- Draw a picture!
Where to place the light sensors A, B, and C to distinguish among the three cases?

Assume that A detects the leading edge of the rod on the conveyor.
Process Line Control Example (cont.)

A to B distance place apart at specification - 5%
A to C distance placed apart at specification +5%
## Process Line Control Example (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Accept</th>
<th>Long</th>
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Logical Function Unit

Create a unit that can compute the AND, OR, or XOR of two inputs A and B, based upon control lines C0 and C1.

Similar to the main computation unit in a Microprocessor
Logical Function Unit (cont.)

- Implementation:
Debugging Complex Circuits

- Complex circuits require careful debugging
  - Rip up and retry?
- Ex. Debug a 9-input odd parity circuit
  - True if an odd number of inputs are true

```
A  B 3-Parity Out
  C
```

```
A  B 3-Parity Out
  C
```

```
A  B 3-Parity Out
  C
```

```
A  B 3-Parity Out
  C
```
Debugging Complex Circuits (cont.)

A
B 3-Parity Out
C

A
B
C
Out
Debugging Approach

- Test all behaviors.
  - All combinations of inputs for small circuits, subcircuits.

- Identify any incorrect behaviors.

- Examine inputs and outputs to find earliest place where value is wrong.
  - Typically, trace backwards from bad outputs, forward from inputs.
  - Look at values at intermediate points in circuit.

- DO NOT RIP UP, DEBUG!