ESE535: Electronic Design Automation

Day 2: January 23, 2008
Covering

Problem

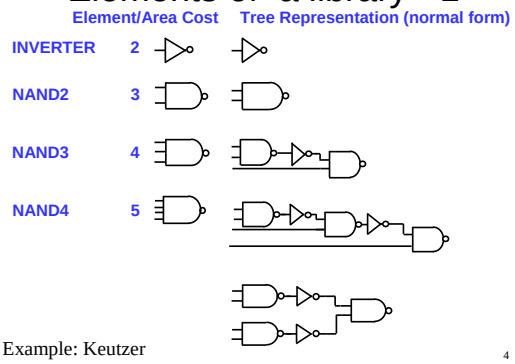
- Implement a "gate-level" netlist in terms of some library of primitives
- General
  - easy to change technology
  - easy to experiment with library requirements
    - Evaluate benefits of new cells…
    - Evaluate architecture with different primitives

Input

- netlist
- library

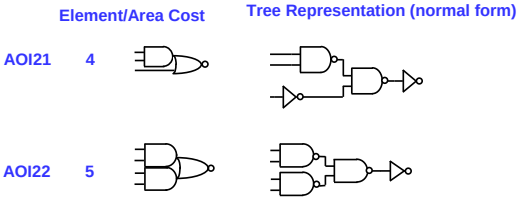
- represent both in normal form:
  - nand gate
  - inverters

Elements of a library - 1

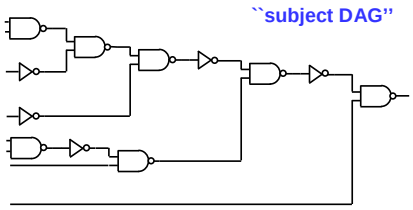


Example: Keutzer

Elements of a library - 2

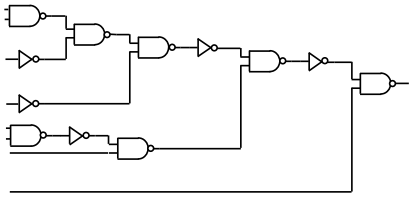


Input Circuit Netlist

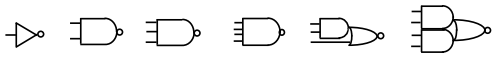


Problem statement

Find an ``optimal'' (in area, delay, power) mapping of this circuit (DAG)



into this library

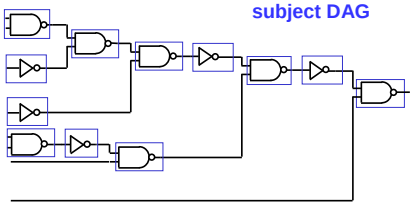


Why covering now?

- Nice/simple cost model
- problem can be solved well
  - somewhat clever solution
- general/powerful technique
- show off special cases
  - harder/easier cases
- show off things that make hard
- show off bounding

What's the problem? Trivial Covering

subject DAG



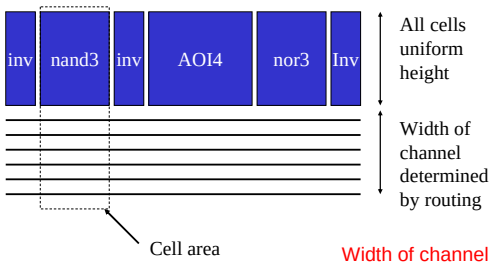
7 NAND2 (3) = 21
5 INV (2) = 10
Area cost 31

Cost Models

Cost Model: Area

- **Assume:** Area in gates
- or, at least, can pick an area/gate
  - so proportional to gates
- *e.g.*
  - Standard Cell design
  - Standard Cell/route over cell
  - gate array

Standard Cell Area

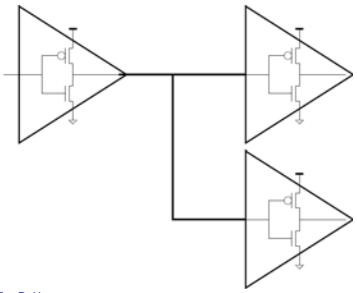


Width of channel fairly constant?

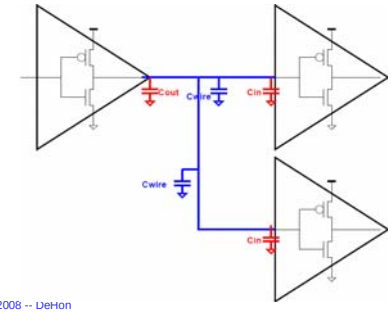
Cost Model: Delay

- Delay in gates
  - at least assignable to gates
    - Twire << Tgate
    - Twire ~=constant
  - delay exclusively/predominantly in gates
    - Gates have Cout, Cin
    - lump capacitance for output drive
    - delay ~ Tgate + fanout×Cin
    - Cwire << Cin
    - or Cwire can lump with Cout/Tgate

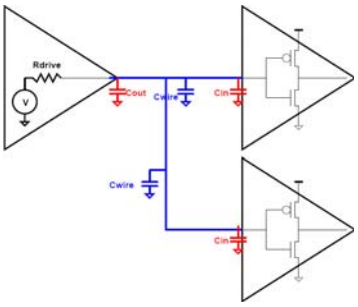
Logic Delay



Parasitic Capacitances



Delay of Net



Cost Model: Delay

- Delay in gates
  - at least assignable to gates
    - Twire << Tgate
    - Twire ~=constant
  - delay exclusively/predominantly in gates
    - Gates have Cout, Cin
    - lump capacitance for output drive
    - delay ~ Tgate + fanout×Cin
    - Cwire << Cin
    - or Cwire can lump with Cout/Tgate

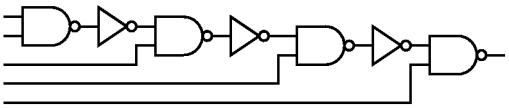
Cost Models

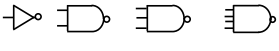
- Why do I show you models?
  - not clear there's one "right" model
  - changes over time
  - you're going to encounter many different kinds of problems
  - want you to see formulations so can critique and develop own
  - simple cost models make problems tractable
    - are surprisingly adequate
  - simple, at least, help bound solutions
  - may be wrong today…need to rethink

Approaches

Greedy work?

- Greedy = pick next locally "best" choice

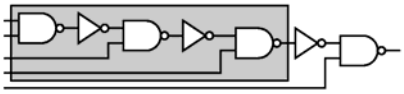




2 3 4 6

Greedy In→Out

6



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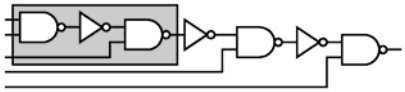

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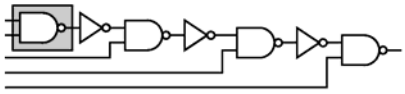
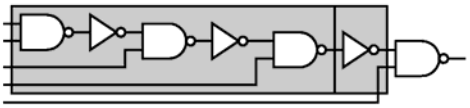


Greedy In→Out

8



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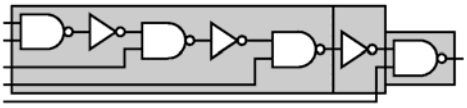
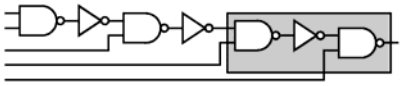


Greedy Out→In



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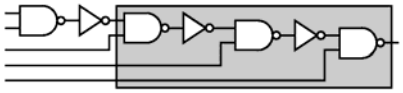

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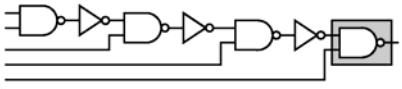
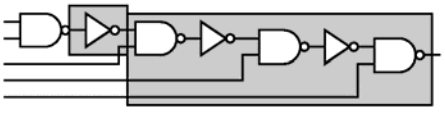


2

Greedy Out→In



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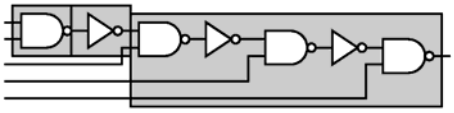
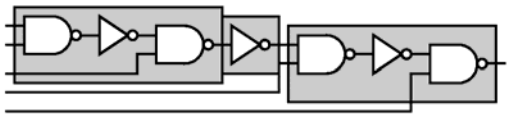


11

But…



4 2 4 = 10

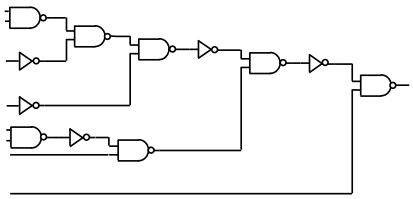
Greedy Problem

- What happens in the future (elsewhere in circuit) will determine what should be done at this point in the circuit.
- Can't just pick best thing for now and be done.

Brute force?

- Pick a node (output)
- Consider
  - all possible gates which may cover that node
  - branch on all inputs after cover
  - pick least cost node

Pick a Node



Brute force?

- Pick a node (output)
- Consider
  - all possible gates which may cover that node
  - recurse on all inputs after cover
  - pick least cost node
- Explore all possible covers
  - can find optimum

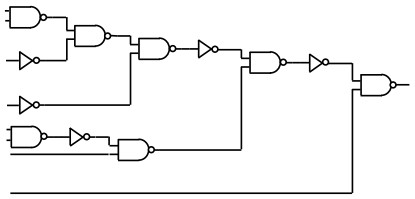
Analyze brute force?

- Time?

$$T_{brute}(node) = \sum_{i=0}^{\text{max pattern}} \left(T_{match}(P_i) + \sum_{j=0}^{\text{max in}} (T_{brute}(\text{in } j)) \right)$$

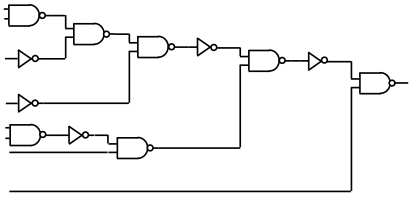
- Say P patterns, constant time to match each
  - (if patterns long could be > O(1))
- P-way branch at each node…
- …exponential
  - $O((P)^{depth})$

Structure inherent in problem to exploit?



Structure inherent in problem to exploit?

- There are only N unique nodes to cover!



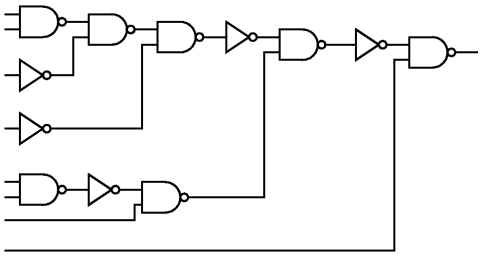
Structure

- **If** subtree solutions do not depend on what happens outside of its subtree
  - separate tree
  - farther up tree
- Should only have to look at N nodes.
- Time(N) = N*P*T(match)
  - w/ P fixed/bounded ➔ linear in N
  - w/ cleverness work isn't P*T(match) at every node

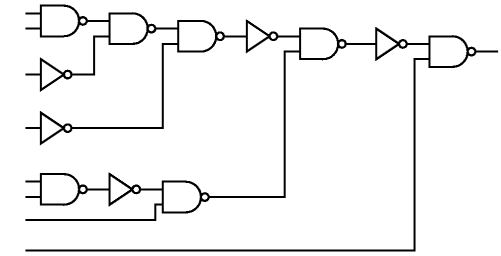
Idea Re-iterated

- Work from inputs
- Optimal solution to subproblem is contained in optimal, global solution
- Find optimal cover for each node
- Optimal cover:
  - examine all gates at this node
  - look at cost of gate and its inputs
  - pick least

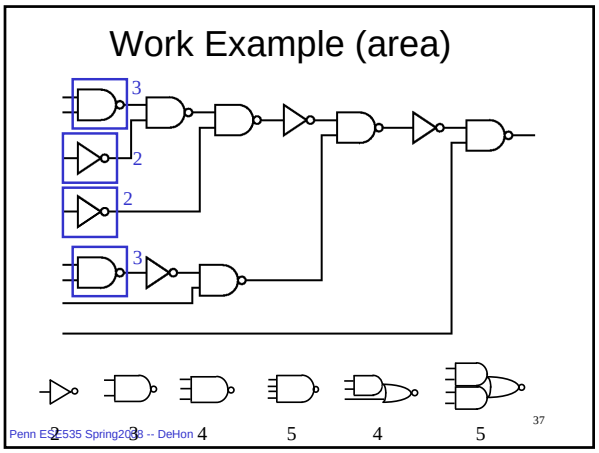
Work front-to-back



Work Example (area)



2 3 4 5 4 5


Work Example (area)
3
2
2
3
2
3
4
5
4
5
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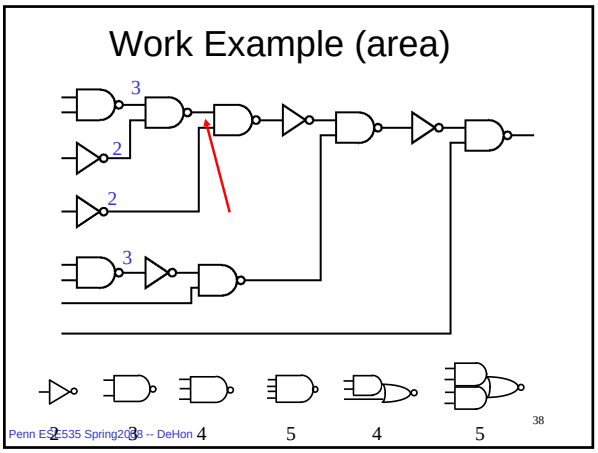
37


Work Example (area)
3
2
2
3
2
3
4
5
4
5
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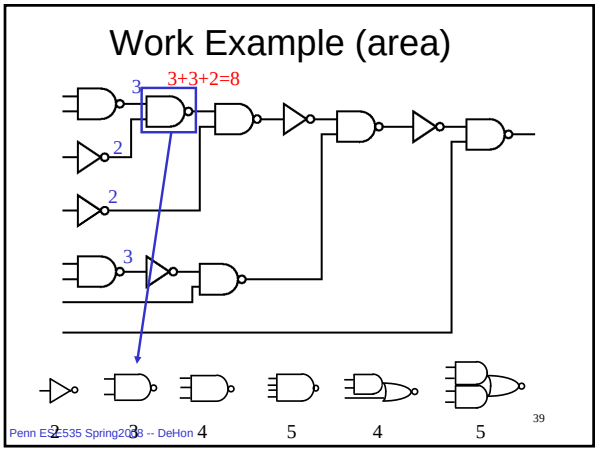
38


Work Example (area)
3+3+2=8
3
2
2
3
2
3
4
5
4
5
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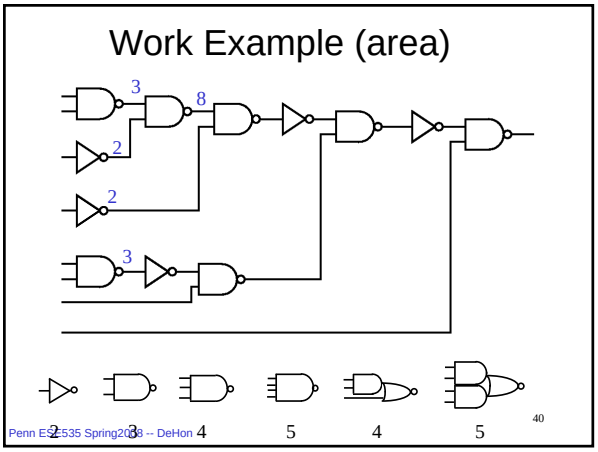
39


Work Example (area)
3
8
2
2
3
2
3
4
5
4
5
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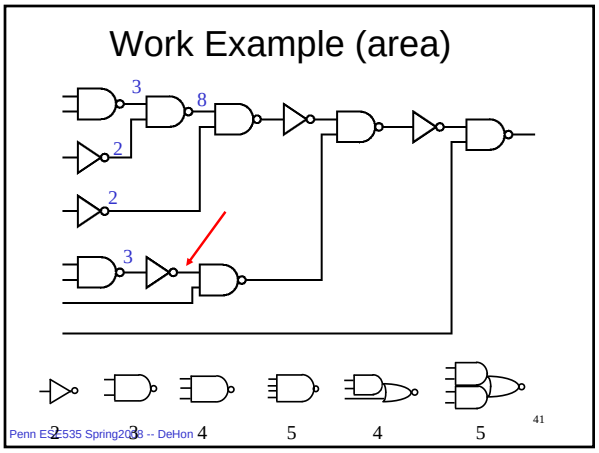
40


Work Example (area)
3
8
2
2
3
2
3
4
5
4
5
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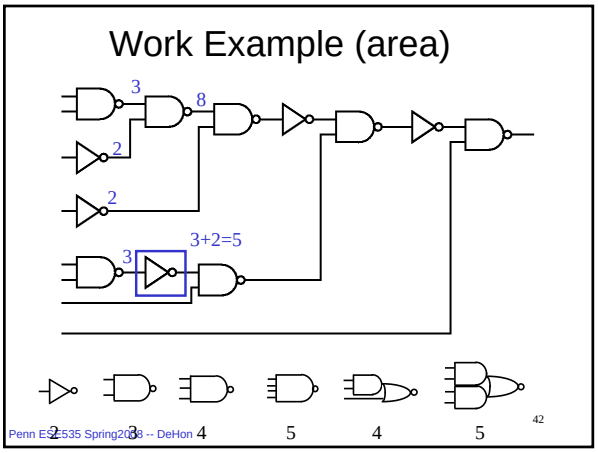
41


Work Example (area)
3
8
2
2
3+2=5
3
2
3
4
5
4
5
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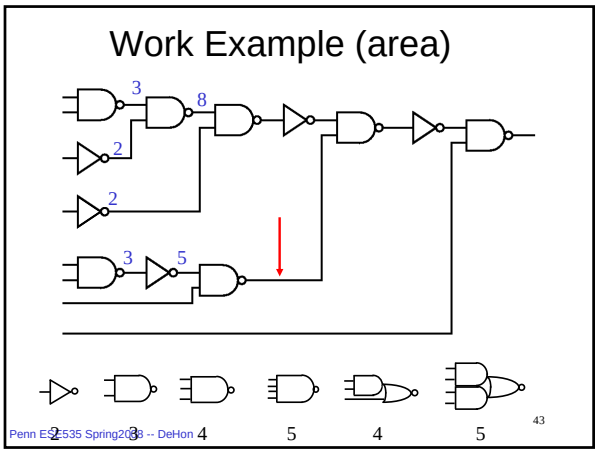
42


Work Example (area)
3
8
2
2
3
5
2
3
4
5
4
5
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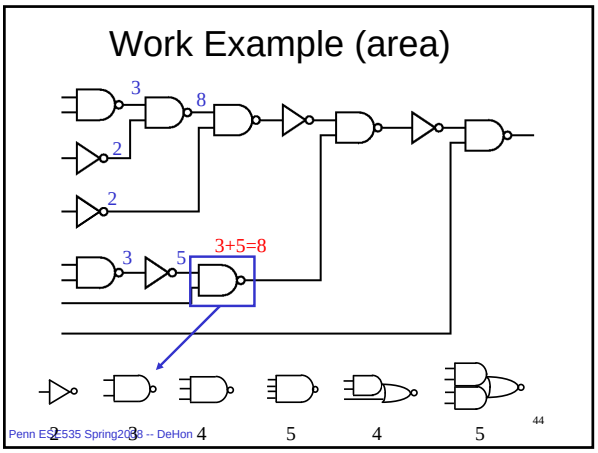
43


Work Example (area)
3
8
2
2
3
5
3+5=8
2
3
4
5
4
5
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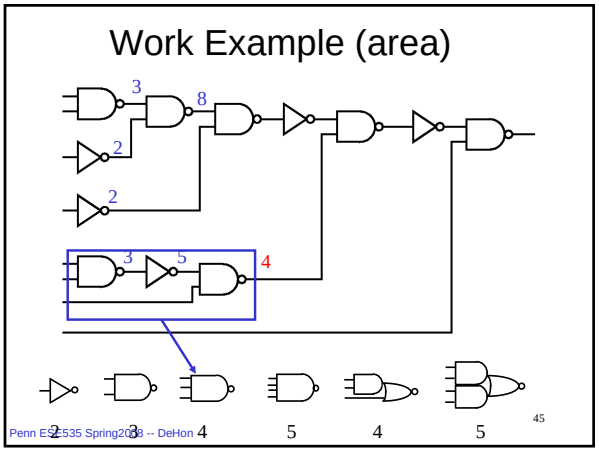
44


Work Example (area)
3
8
2
2
3
5
4
2
3
4
5
4
5
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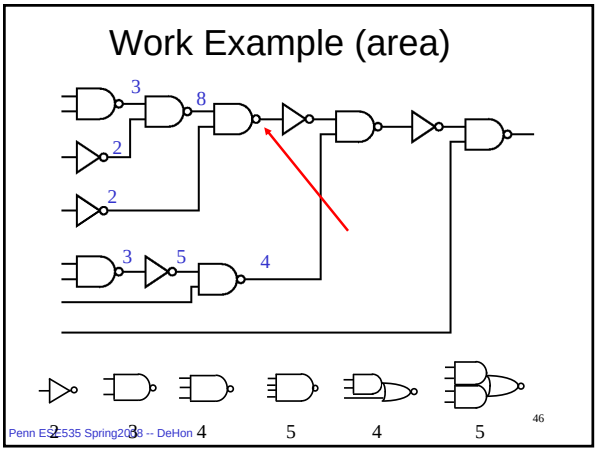
45


Work Example (area)
3
8
2
2
3
5
4
2
3
4
5
4
5
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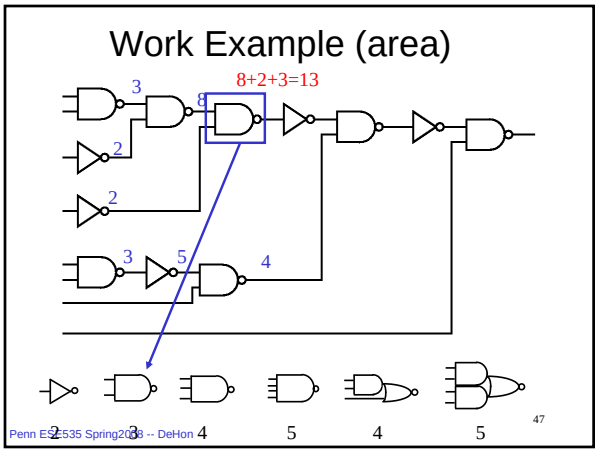
46


Work Example (area)
8+2+3=13
3
8
2
2
3
5
4
2
3
4
5
4
5
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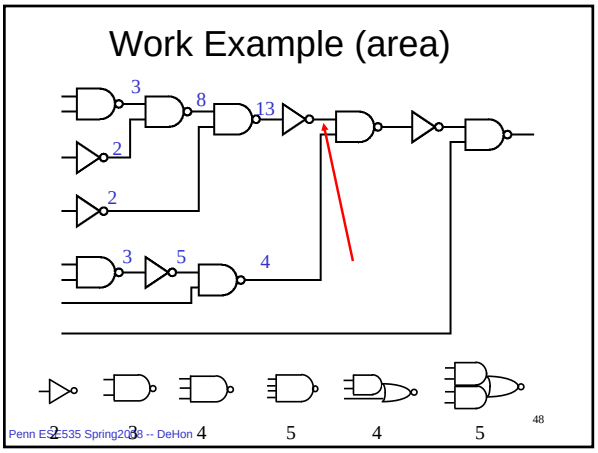
47


Work Example (area)
3
8
13
2
2
3
5
4
2
3
4
5
4
5
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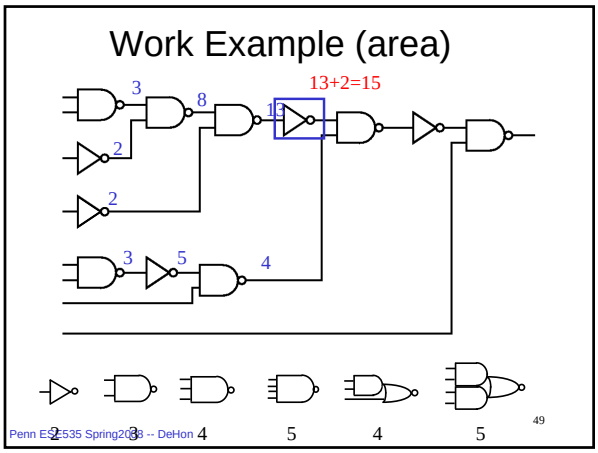
48


Work Example (area)
13+2=15
3
8
13
2
2
3
5
4
2
3
4
5
4
5
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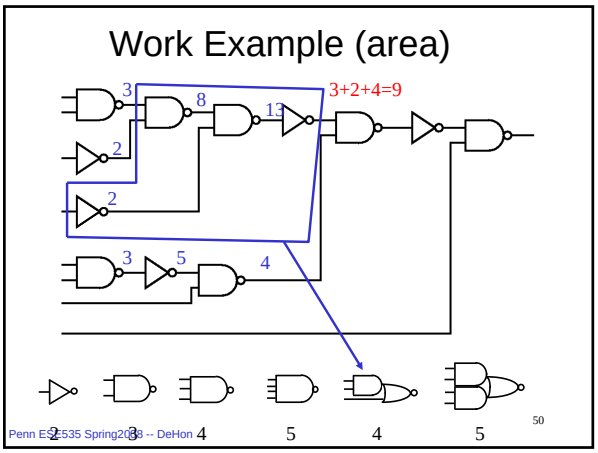
49


Work Example (area)
3+2+4=9
3
8
13
2
2
3
5
4
2
3
4
5
4
5
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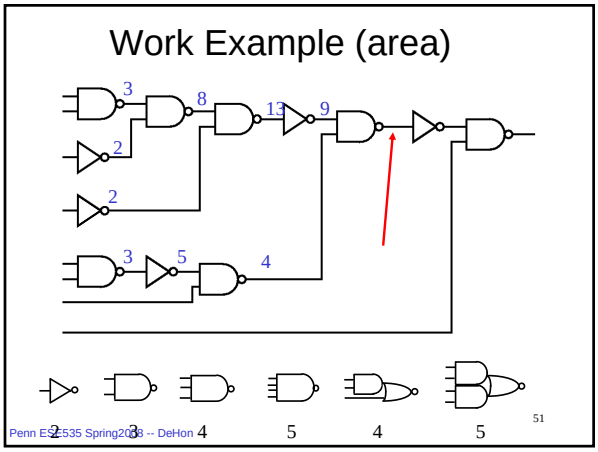
50


Work Example (area)
3
8
13
9
2
2
3
5
4
2
3
4
5
4
5
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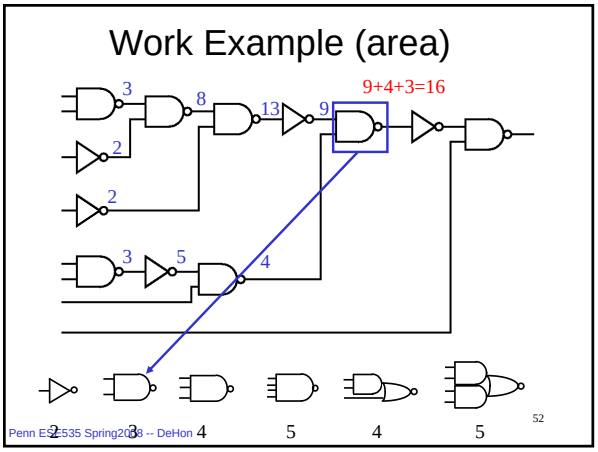
51


Work Example (area)
9+4+3=16
3
8
13
9
2
2
3
5
4
2
3
4
5
4
5
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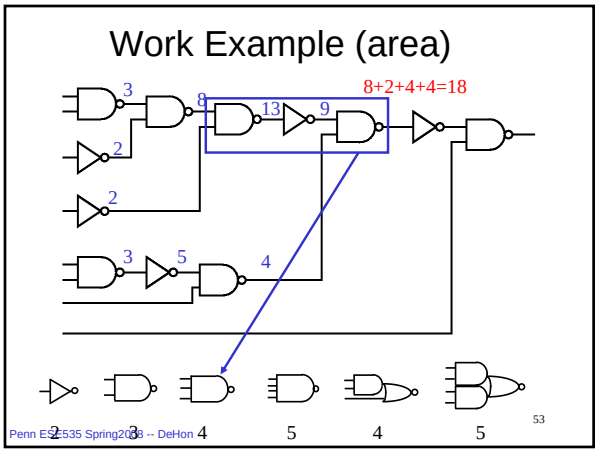
52


Work Example (area)
8+2+4+4=18
3
8
13
9
2
2
3
5
4
2
3
4
5
4
5
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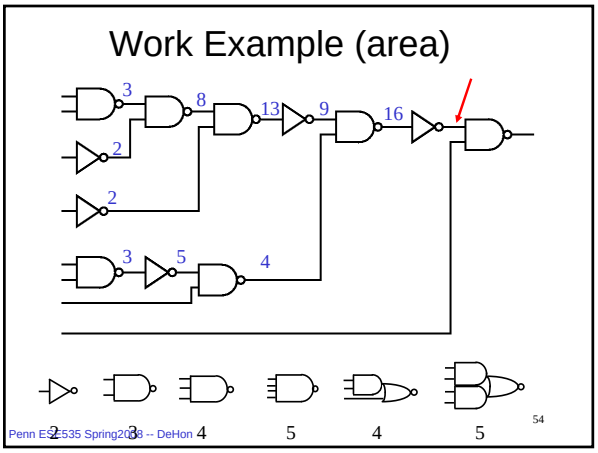
Work Example (area)
3
8
13
9
16
2
2
3
5
4
2
3
4
5
4
5
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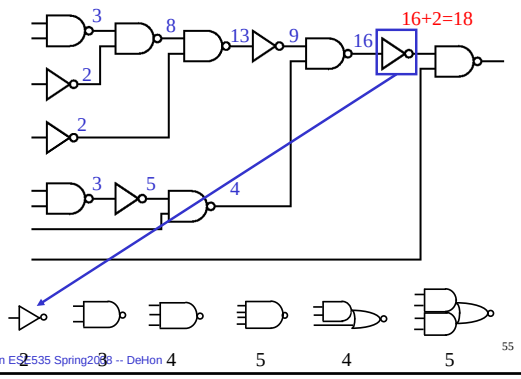
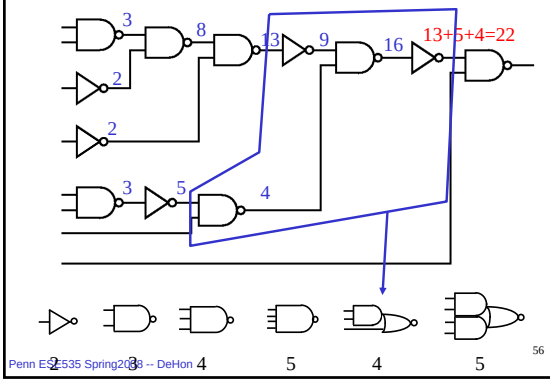
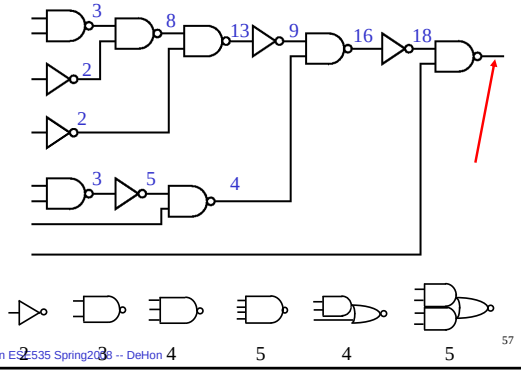
Work Example (area)



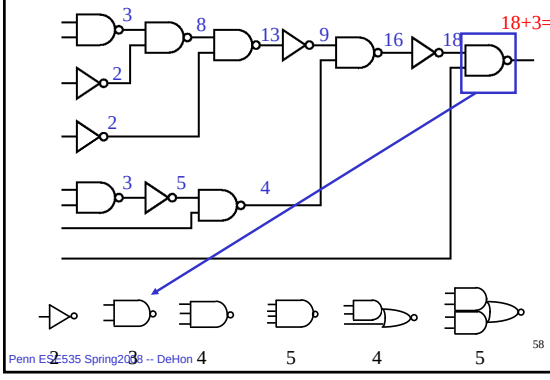
Work Example (area)



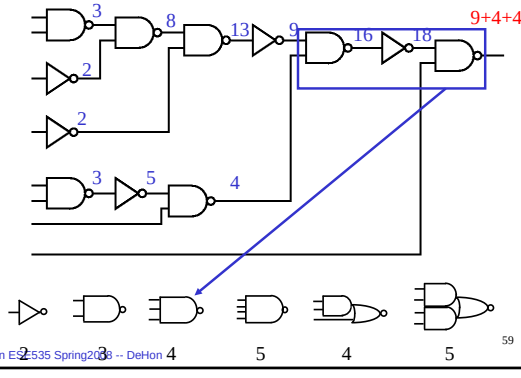
Work Example (area)



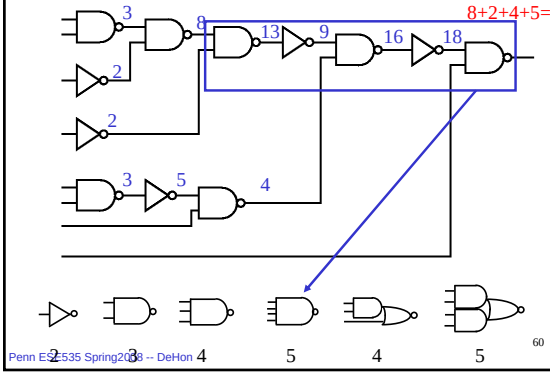
Work Example (area)



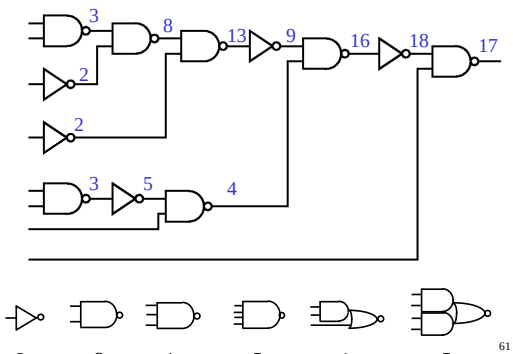
Work Example (area)



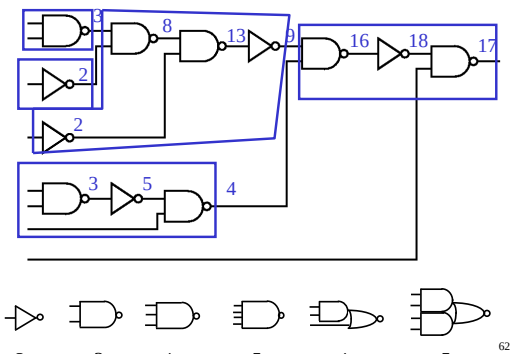
Work Example (area)



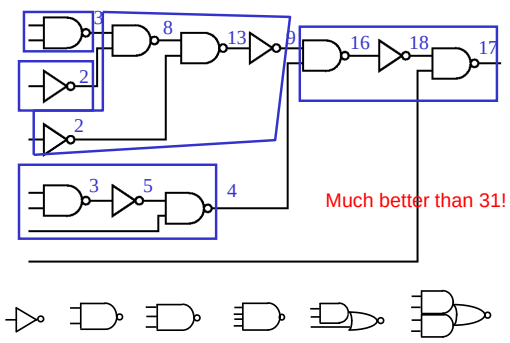
Work Example (area)



Optimal Cover



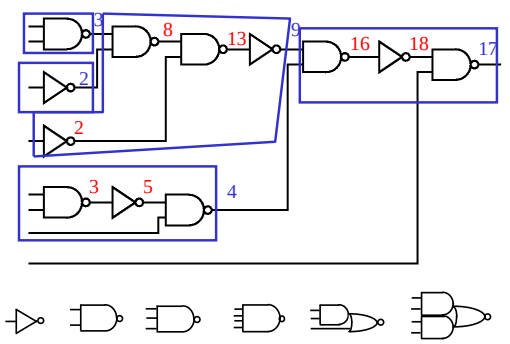
Optimal Cover



Note

- There are nodes we cover which will **not** appear in final solution.

"Unused" Nodes

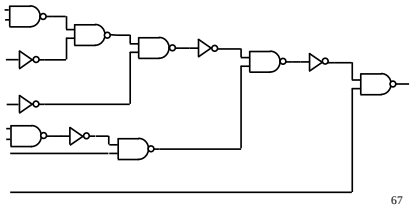


Dynamic Programming Solution

- Solution described is general instance of dynamic programming
- Require:
  - optimal solution to subproblems is optimal solution to whole problem
  - (all optimal solutions equally good)
  - divide-and-conquer gets same (finite/small) number of subproblems
- Same technique used for instruction selection

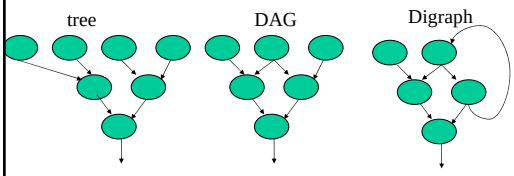
Delay

- Similar
  - Cost(node) = Delay(gate)+Max(Delay(input))



DAG

- DAG = Directed Acyclic Graph
  - Distinguish from tree (tree ⊂ DAG)
  - Distinguish from cyclic Graph
  - DAG ⊂ Directed Graph (digraph)

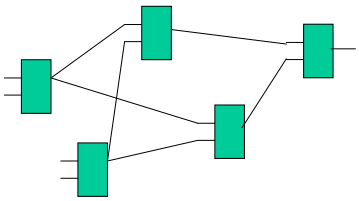


Trees vs. DAGs

- Optimal for trees
  - why?
    - Area
    - Delay

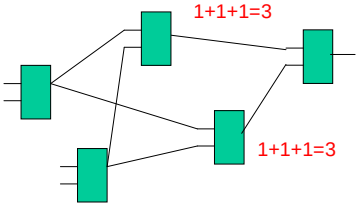
Not optimal for DAGs

- Why?



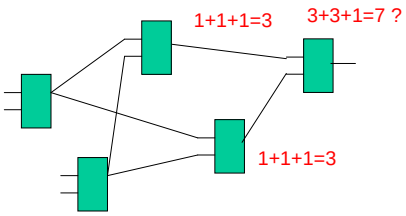
Not optimal for DAGs

- Why?



Not optimal for DAGs

- Why?

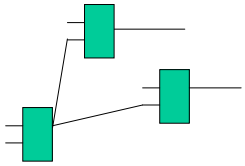


Not Optimal for DAGs (area)

- Cost(N) = Cost(gate) + Σ Cost(input nodes)
- think of sets
- cost is magnitude of set union
- **Problem**: minimum cost (magnitude) solution isn't necessarily the best pick
  - get interaction between subproblems
  - subproblem optimum not global...

Not Optimal for DAGs

- Delay:
  - in fanout model, depends on problem you haven't already solved (delay of node depends on number of uses)



What do people do?

- Cut DAGs at fanout nodes
- optimally solve resulting trees
- Area
  - guarantees covered once
    - get accurate costs in covering trees, made "premature" assignment of nodes to trees
- Delay
  - know where fanout is

Bounding

- Tree solution give bounds (esp. for delay)
  - single path, optimal covering for delay
  - (also make tree by replicating nodes at fanout points)
- no fanout cost give bounds
  - know you can't do better
- delay bounds useful, too
  - know what you're giving up for area
  - when delay matters

(Multiple Objectives?)

- Like to say, get delay, then area
  - won't get minimum area for that delay
  - algorithm only keep best delay
  - …but best delay on off critical path piece not matter
    - …could have accepted more delay there
  - don't know if on critical path while building subtree
  - (iterate, keep multiple solutions)

Many more details...

- Implement well
- Combine criteria
  - (touch on some later)
- …see literature
  - (put some refs on web)

Admin

- Reminder: Reading for Monday
  - Flowmap → classic FPGA-mapping paper
  - (will mail pointers this afternoon)
- Assignment 1 out today

Big Ideas

- simple cost models
- problem formulation
- identifying structure in the problem
- special structure
- characteristics that make problems hard
- bounding solutions