

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Problem 1 (15 Points)

- Three fundamental terms used in this course are *fault*, *error*, and *failure*. In one to three sentences, clearly distinguish these terms from each other.
- What is the difference between a *permanent fault*, an *intermittent fault*, and a *transient fault* in term of fault duration?
- Comment on the following statement with justification. Single faults can cause multiple bit errors and multiple faults can cause single error.
- Comment on the following statement with justification. A fault-tolerant system necessarily has a high reliability.
- Define the following: *reliability*, *availability*, *safety*, and *performability*. Does a system with a high availability necessarily have a high reliability?

Problem 2 (15 Points)

Design a one-bit 5MR voter using basic gates.

Problem 3 (20 Points)

A cyclic code is to be based on the Generator polynomial  $X^8 + X^6 + X^5 + X^3 + 1$ . Show the logic diagram for the code encoder.

- Generate a codeword for the input data 10101.
- Using logic gates, design an appropriate encoder and decoder the given cyclic code.

Problem 4 (20 Points)

A 2M X 16 memory system is design using 1 M X 4 chips. Assume chip failure modes are single-bit cell (50%), single-row all-0's (20%), single-column all-0's (20%), and whole-chip all-0's (10%). Also, assume 0 and 1 values are equally likely. Compare and comment on relative performance (single-error-detection coverage) and overhead of the following approaches.

- Bit per chip
- Bit per multiple chips
- Duplication
- Single precision checksum (one sum for the entire memory).

Problem 5 (10 Points)

- Draw a block diagram showing the overall structure of a reconfigurable NMR system (i.e. N-modular redundancy with spares) based on hybrid redundancy. Briefly explain how the system tolerates fault.
- Compare and contrast hybrid redundancy with active redundancy scheme. Discuss the main advantages and disadvantages of the two methods.

Problem 6 (15 Points)

Consider a random-access memory that has a word format  $X_7 X_6 X_5 X_4 X_3 X_2 X_1 X_0$  of size 8 bits. We want to use Hamming code to correct any single bit in this memory.

- Show the circuitry that generates the syndrome.
- Determine the error-free syndrome as well as resulting syndrome for each single-bit error in  $X_7 X_6 X_5 X_4 X_3 X_2 X_1 X_0$ .
- Explain how you would modify the scheme in order to obtain a single error correction / double error detection code.

Problem 7 (15 Points)

Transform the circuit with the function  $F = A\bar{B} + C$  into a self-dual circuit with the additional input D.

Problem 8 (20 Points)

In class we discussed that residue-3 code can be calculated using successive module-3 additions. Based on this technique, how do you obtain residue-7 check bits of  $X_7 X_6 X_5 X_4 X_3 X_2 X_1 X_0$ ? What is the theoretical base for this easy encoding process. Hint: use the weights of bit groups.

Problem 9 (20 Points)

Using the combinatorial model, determine the reliability of a simplex, TMR, and 5MR systems as a function of reliability of a simplex system,  $R(t)$ . You may assume a fault-free voter. Plot the reliability of the three systems versus  $R(t)$  and comment on their relative reliabilities.

Problem 10 (20 Points)

Using Markov model, determine both discrete and continuous-time solution for the reliability of a TMR system with  $\lambda$  failure rate and  $\mu$  repair rate. You may assume that the system initially is fault free.

Due October 23, 2002