7.2 A 1-BIT MEMORY CELL

The basic digital memory circuit is known as FLIP-FLOP. It has two stable states which are known as the *1 state* and the *0 state*. It can be obtained by using NAND or NOR gates. We shall be systematically developing a FLIP-FLOP circuit starting from the fundamental circuit shown in Fig. 7.3. It consists of two inverters G_1 and G_2 (NAND gates used as inverters). The output of G_1 is connected to the input of G_2 (A_2) and the output of G_2 is connected to the input of G_1 (A_1).

Let us assume the output of G_1 to be $Q = 1$, which is also the input of G_2($A_2 = 1$). Therefore, the output of G_2 will be $\bar{Q} = 0$, which makes $A_1 = 0$ and consequently $Q = 1$ which confirms our assumption.

In a similar manner, it can be demonstrated that if $Q = 0$, then $\bar{Q} = 1$ and this is also consistent with the circuit connections.

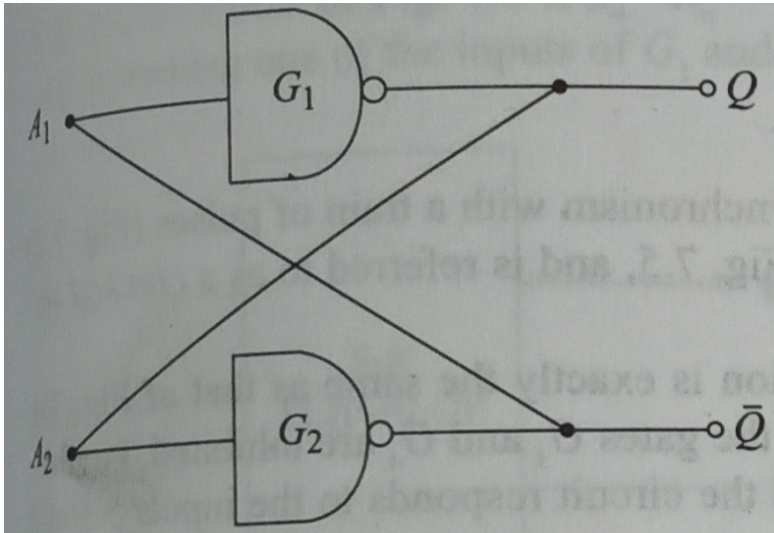

Fig. 7.3 ***Cross-coupled Inverters as a Memory Element***

1. The outputs Q and $\bar{Q}$ are always complementary.
2. The circuit has two stable states; in one of the stable state $Q = 1$ which is referred to as the 1 state (*or set state*) whereas in the other stable state $Q = 0$ which is referred to as the 0 state (*or reset state*).
3. If the circuit is in 1 state, it continues to remain in this state and similarly if it is in 0 state, it continues to remain in this state. This property of the circuit is referred to as *memory*, i.e. it can store 1-bit of digital information.

Since this information is locked or latched in this circuit, therefore, this circuit is also referred to as a *latch*.

In the latch of Fig. 7.3, there is no way of entering the desired digital information to be stored in it. In fact, when the power is switched on, the circuit switches to one of the stable states ($Q = 1$ or 0) and it is not possible to predict the state. If we replace the inverters G_1 and G_2 with 2-input NAND gates, the other input