

occurs, the test generator sets the feedback set to the unknown state,  $Q = \overline{Q} = X$ . Gentest [72] produced the following result on a SUN Sparc 2 workstation:

```
Primary inputs = 2
Primary outputs = 3
State elements = 0
Total Faults = 23
test generation time = 33 ms
fault simulation time = 16 ms
total vectors = 4
detected faults = 15
untestable faults = 8
undetected faults = 0
0 untestable faults were potentially detected
0 undetected faults were potentially detected
faults tried = 12
time limit per fault = 0.8 ms
fault coverage = 65.2%
```

The four test vectors, corresponding outputs, and eight untestable faults are shown in Figure 8.20. We make several observations:

- Not all faults identified as untestable are really untestable. They are really untestable by a single-vector test, which is a limitation of the combinational model. For example, the *s-a-0* fault on the *Q* input of the OR gate *A* is testable by two vectors,  $(S,R) = (1,0), (0,0)$ . Still, there are several faults that are either not detectable even by multiple vector tests, or can only be detected potentially or as race faults. A generally low fault coverage is quite typical of asynchronous circuits.
- Fortunately, the generated test sequence does not cause a race condition in the fault-free circuit, which is a requirement for useful tests but is not imposed by the test generator. For example, if we generate tests with the fault list ordered as “*C s-a-0*” followed by “*s-a-0* on *S* input of *A*,” then the two tests  $S = R = 0$  and  $S = R = 1$ , applied in that order, will produce a race in the NOR latch in the fault-free circuit. If the asynchronous logic is embedded in a sequential circuit, the ordering of vectors cannot be arbitrarily changed. Such race conditions should be found by a simulator and the vectors causing them should be discarded or modified. Alternatively, the test generator should recognize the race producing sequences and generate alternative tests.

Asynchronous circuits continue to be difficult to test. Tools and techniques are only adequate for small circuits. The typical situation often encountered involves large synchronous circuits with a small amount of asynchronous circuitry embedded in the combinational logic. In addition, tests for faults in the clock circuitry require asynchronous techniques. The major difficulty of finding good tests for asynchronous circuits arises due to the inadequate treatment of delays. Analysis of races