

## UNIT 5

### Karnaugh Maps

***This chapter includes:***

- 5.1 Minimum Form of Switching Functions
- 5.2 Two- and Three- Variable Karnaugh Maps
- 5.3 Four-Variable Karnaugh Maps
- 5.4 Determination of Minimum Expressions  
Using Essential Prime Implicants
- 5.5 Five-Variable Karnaugh Maps
- 5.6 Other Uses of Karnaugh Maps
- 5.7 Other Forms of Karnaugh Maps

# Learning Objectives

1. Given a function (completely or incompletely specified) of three to five variables, plot it on a Karnaugh map. The function may be given in minterm, maxterm, or algebraic form.
2. Determine the essential prime implicants of a function from a map.
3. Obtain the minimum sum-of-products or minimum product-of-sums form of a function from the map.
4. Determine all of the prime implicants of a function from a map.
5. Understand the relation between operations performed using the map and the corresponding algebraic operations.

# Minimum Form of Switching Functions

## Minimum Sum-of-Products:

- ❖ A **minimum sum-of-products** expression for a function is defined as a sum of product terms which (a) has a minimum number of terms and (b) of all those expressions which have the same minimum number of terms, has a minimum number of literals.
- ❖ It corresponds directly to a minimum two-level gate circuit which has a minimum number of gates and gate inputs.

# Minimum Form of Switching Functions

## How to Find a Minimum Sum-of-Products Given a Minterm Expansion:

1. Combine terms by using the uniting theorem  $XY + XY' = X$ . *Do this repeatedly* to eliminate as many literals as possible. A given term may be used more than once because  $X + X = X$ .
2. Eliminate redundant terms by using the consensus theorem or other theorems.

# Minimum Form of Switching Functions

## Minimum Product-of-Sums:

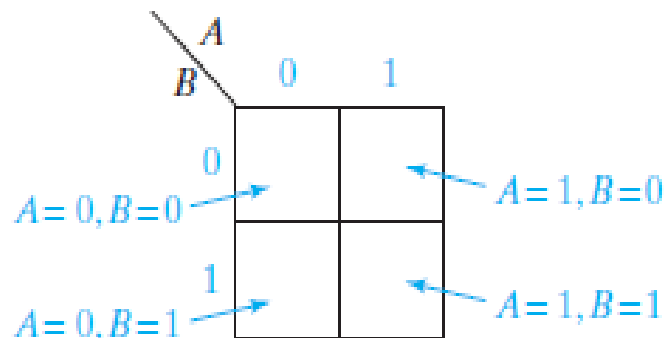
- ❖ A **minimum product-of-sums** expression for a function is defined as a product of sum terms which (a) has a minimum number of terms and (b) of all those expressions which have the same minimum number of terms, has a minimum number of literals.
- ❖ Given a maxterm expansion, the minimum product of sums can often be obtained by a procedure similar to that used in the minimum sum-of-products case, except that the uniting theorem  $(X + Y)(X + Y') = X$  is used to combine terms.

# Two- and Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Karnaugh Maps:

- ❖ A **Karnaugh map** is a systematic way of simplifying switching functions and lead directly to minimum cost two-level circuits composed of AND and OR gates.
- ❖ It specifies the value of the function for every combination of values of the independent variables.

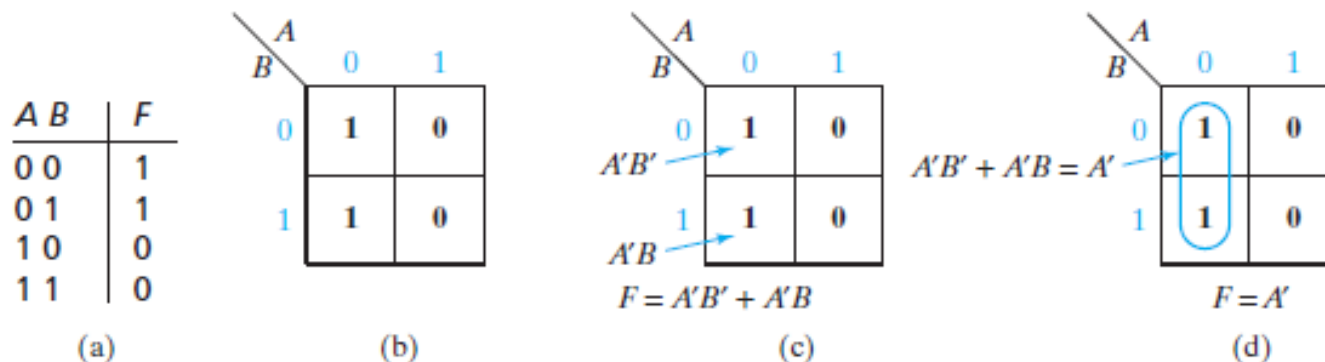
Two variable K-map →



# Two- and Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Two Variable Karnaugh Maps:

- ❖ Note that the value of  $F$  for  $A = B = 0$  is plotted in the upper left square, and the other map entries are plotted in a similar way in the figure below (Figure 5-1 in book).
- ❖ Each 1 on the map corresponds to a minterm of  $F$ . For example, a 1 in square 01 indicates that  $AB$  is a minterm.
- ❖ Minterms in adjacent squares of the map can be combined since they differ in only one variable.





# Two- and Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps:

- ❖ A three-variable Karnaugh map can be plotted in a similar way to the two-variable map.
- ❖ The value of one variable,  $A$ , is listed on the top and the values of the other two,  $B$  and  $C$ , are listed on the side

$A$	$B$	$C$	$F$
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	0

(a)

		$A$	
		0	1
$BC$	00	0	1
	01	0	0
	11	1	0
	10	1	1
		$F$	

$ABC = 001, F = 0$

$ABC = 110, F = 1$

(b)

# Two- and Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Locations of Minterms on a Karnaugh Map:

❖ Minterms in adjacent squares of the map differ in only one variable and therefore can be combined using the uniting theorem  $XY + XY' = X$ .

**FIGURE 5-3**  
Location of  
Minterms on a  
Three-Variable  
Karnaugh Map  
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(a) Binary notation

		<i>a</i>	
		<i>bc</i>	
		0	1
00	000	100	100 is adjacent to 110
01	001	101	
11	011	111	
10	010	110	

Diagram (a) shows a 2x4 grid of minterms in binary notation. The columns are labeled 'a' (0, 1) and the rows are labeled 'bc' (00, 01, 11, 10). The minterms are: 000, 100, 001, 101, 011, 111, 010, 110. Blue arrows indicate adjacencies: vertical arrows between 000 and 001, 001 and 011, 011 and 010, and 100 and 101; a horizontal arrow between 011 and 111; and a wrap-around arrow from 100 to 110. A text label '100 is adjacent to 110' points to the wrap-around arrow.

(b) Decimal notation

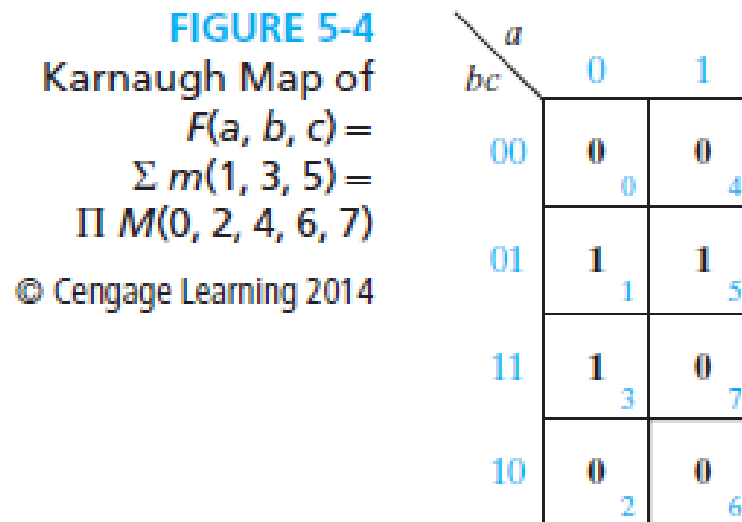
		<i>a</i>	
		<i>bc</i>	
		0	1
00	0	4	
01	1	5	
11	3	7	
10	2	6	

Diagram (b) shows the same 2x4 grid of minterms in decimal notation. The columns are labeled 'a' (0, 1) and the rows are labeled 'bc' (00, 01, 11, 10). The minterms are: 0, 4, 1, 5, 3, 7, 2, 6.

# Two- and Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Mapping Minterm and Maxterm Expressions on Karnaugh Maps:

- ❖ Given the minterm or maxterm expansion of a function, it can be mapped on a Karnaugh map as follows:

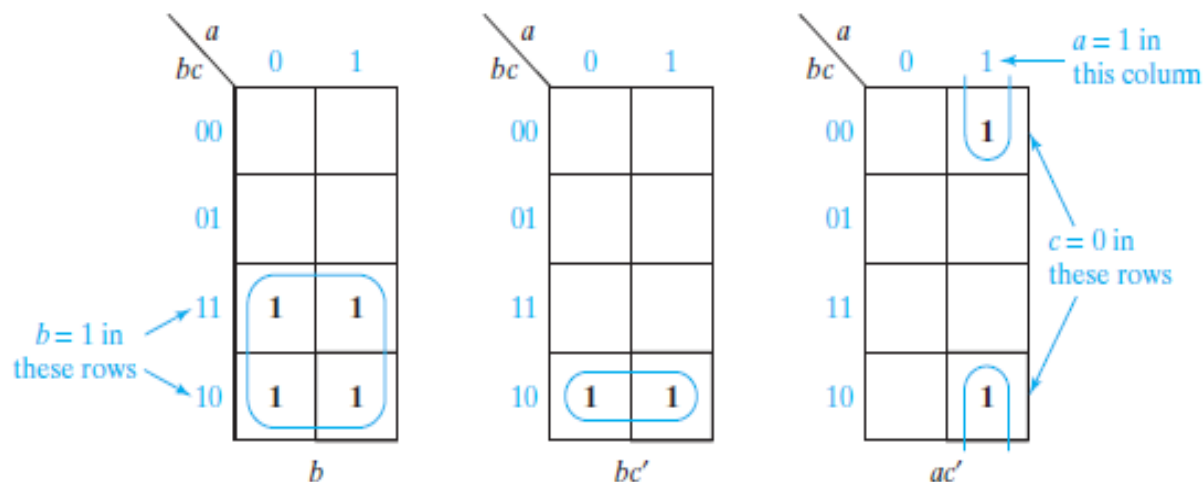


# Two- and Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Plotting Product Terms:

To plot the term  $b$ , 1's are entered in the four squares of the map where  $b = 1$  as shown below:

**FIGURE 5-5**  
Karnaugh Maps for  
Product Terms  
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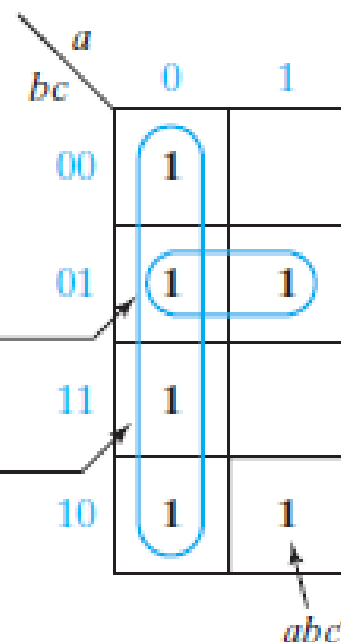


# Two- and Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Plotting A Karnaugh Map using an Expression in Algebraic form:

❖ Given  $f(a,b,c)=abc'+b'c+a'$ , we would plot the map:

1. The term  $abc'$  is 1 when  $a = 1$  and  $bc = 10$ , so we place a 1 in the square which corresponds to the  $a = 1$  column and the  $bc = 10$  row of the map.
2. The term  $b'c$  is 1 when  $bc = 01$ , so we place 1's in both squares of the  $bc = 01$  row of the map.
3. The term  $a'$  is 1 when  $a = 0$ , so we place 1's in all the squares of the  $a = 0$  column of the map.  
(Note: Since there already is a 1 in the  $abc = 001$  square, we do not have to place a second 1 there because  $x + x = x$ .)



# Two- and Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Simplifying Expressions:

**FIGURE 5-6**  
Simplification of  
a Three-Variable  
Function

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$a$	$bc$	
	0	1
00		
01	1	1
11	1	
10		

$$F = \sum m(1, 3, 5)$$

(a) Plot of minterms

$a$	$bc$	
	0	1
00		
01	1	1
11	1	
10		

$$T_1 = a'b'c + a'bc = a'c$$

$$T_2 = a'b'c + ab'c = b'c$$

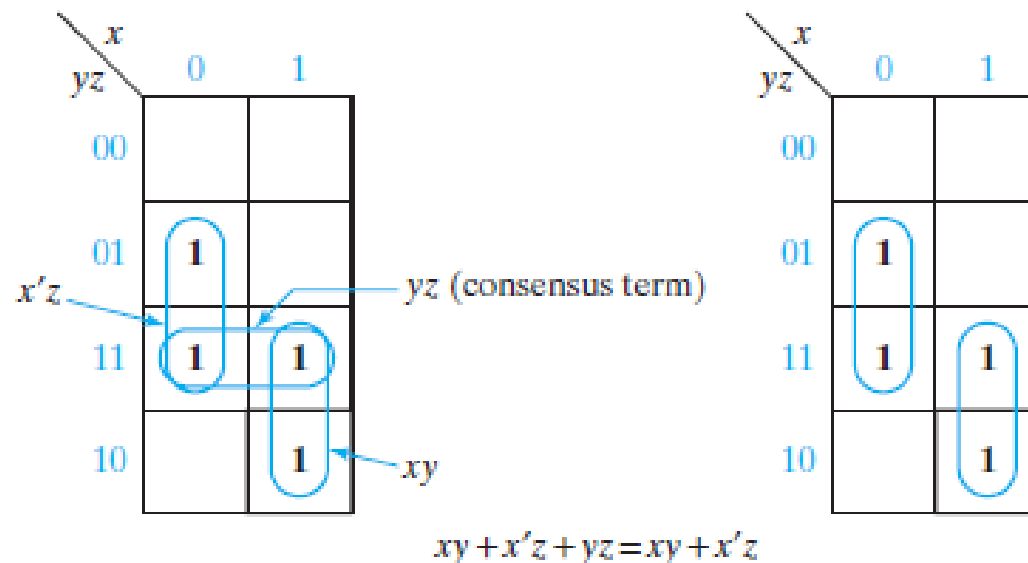
$$F = a'c + b'c$$

(b) Simplified form of  $F$

# Two- and Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Consensus Theorem in Karnaugh Maps:

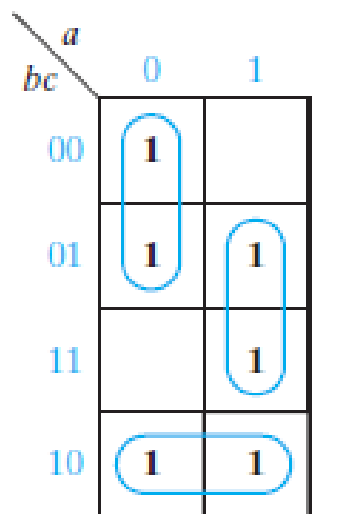
**FIGURE 5-8**  
Karnaugh Maps  
that Illustrate the  
Consensus Theorem  
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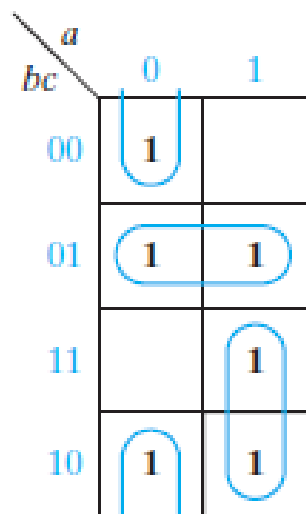
# Two- and Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

If a function has two or more minimum sum-of-products forms, all of these forms can be determined from a map. Figure 5-9 shows the two minimum solutions for  $F = \sum m(0, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7)$ .

**FIGURE 5-9**  
Function with Two  
Minimum Forms  
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$$F = a'b' + bc' + ac$$



$$F = a'c' + b'c + ab$$



# Four-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Location of terms on a Four-Variable K-map:

**FIGURE 5-10**  
Location  
of Minterms on  
Four-Variable  
Karnaugh Map  
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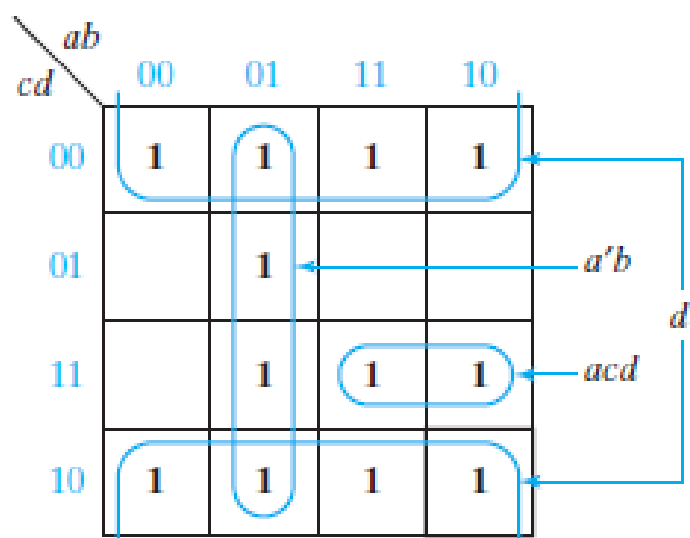
		<i>AB</i>			
		00	01	11	10
<i>CD</i>	00	0	4	12	8
	01	1	5	13	9
	11	3	7	15	11
	10	2	6	14	10

# Four-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Plotting functions on a Four-Variable Karnaugh Map:

- ❖ This is accomplished in the same way as for two- or three-variable Karnaugh maps.
- ❖ "1"s are plotted for whichever values of the variables would result in the expression yielding "1".

**FIGURE 5-11**  
Plot of  
 $acd + a'b + d'$   
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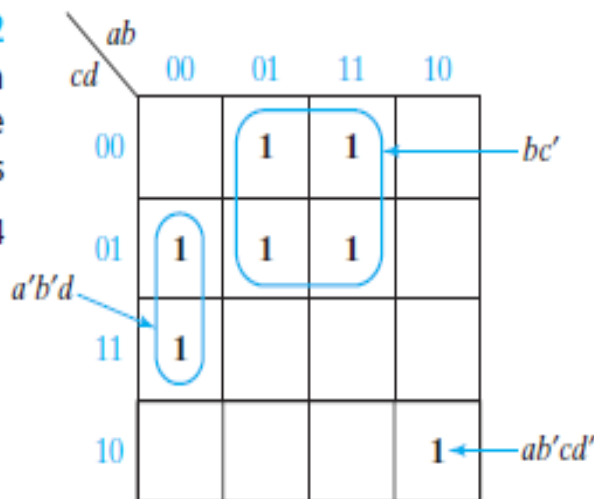


# Four-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Simplifying Expressions in Four-Variable Karnaugh Maps:

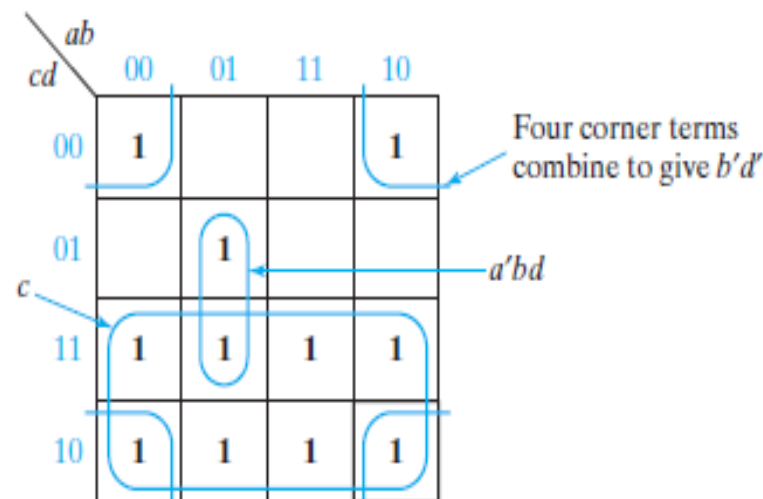
**FIGURE 5-12**  
Simplification  
of Four-Variable  
Functions

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$$f_1 = \sum m(1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13) \\ = bc' + a'b'd + ab'cd'$$

(a)



$$f_2 = \sum m(0, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15) \\ = c + b'd' + a'bd$$

(b)

# Four-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Expressions with “don’t cares”:

- ❖ “Don’t cares” are noted as X’s in Karnaugh maps. See below:

**FIGURE 5-13**  
Simplification of  
an Incompletely  
Specified Function  
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<i>ab</i> <i>cd</i>					
		00	01	11	10
00				X	
01		1	1	X	1
11		1	1		
10			X		

$$\begin{aligned}
 f &= \sum m(1, 3, 5, 7, 9) + \sum d(6, 12, 13) \\
 &= a'd + c'd
 \end{aligned}$$

# Four-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## From SOP to POS form using Karnaugh Maps:'

- ❖ For the function specified below as  $f$ , the process of finding the product-of-sums from the sum-of-products is shown.

$$f = x'z' + wyz + w'y'z' + x'y$$

First, the 1's of  $f$  are plotted in Figure 5-14. Then, from the 0's,

$$f' = y'z + wxz' + w'xy$$

and the minimum product of sums for  $f$  is

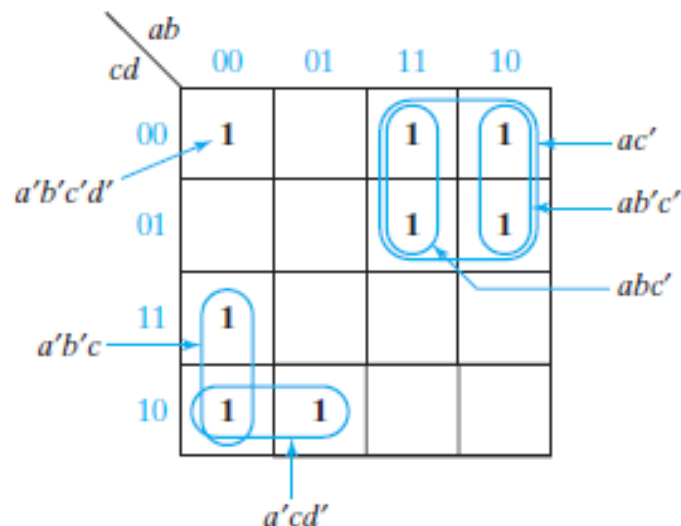
$$f = (y + z')(w' + x' + z)(w + x' + y')$$

wx \ yz	00	01	11	10
00	1	1	0	1
01	0	0	0	0
11	1	0	1	1
10	1	0	0	1

# Determination of Minimum Expressions Using Essential Prime Implicants

## Prime Implicants:

❖ A product term implicant is called a **prime implicant** if it cannot be combined with another term to eliminate a variable.



❑  $a'b'c$ ,  $a'cd'$ , and  $ac'$  are prime implicants

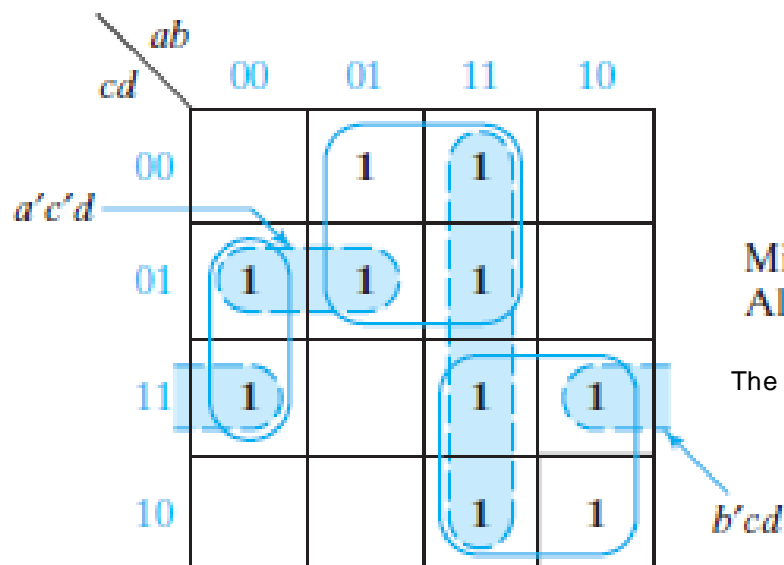
❑  $a'b'c'd'$ ,  $abc'$ , and  $ab'c'$  are not prime implicants

A sum-of-products expression containing a term which is not a prime implicant cannot be minimum.

# Determination of Minimum Expressions Using Essential Prime Implicants

## Determination of All Prime Implicants:

The minimum solution may not include all prime implicants, as shown below:



Minimum solution:  $F = a'b'd + bc' + ac$

All prime implicants:  $a'b'd, bc', ac, a'c'd, ab, b'cd$

The minimum solution consists only of prime implicants, but not all prime implicants

# Determination of Minimum Expressions Using Essential Prime Implicants

## Essential Prime Implicants:

- ❖ If a minterm is covered by only one prime implicant, that prime implicant is said to be **essential**, and it must be included in the minimum sum of products.
- ❖ In order to find a minimum sum of products from a map, we should first loop all of the essential prime implicants.



# Determination of Minimum Expressions Using Essential Prime Implicants

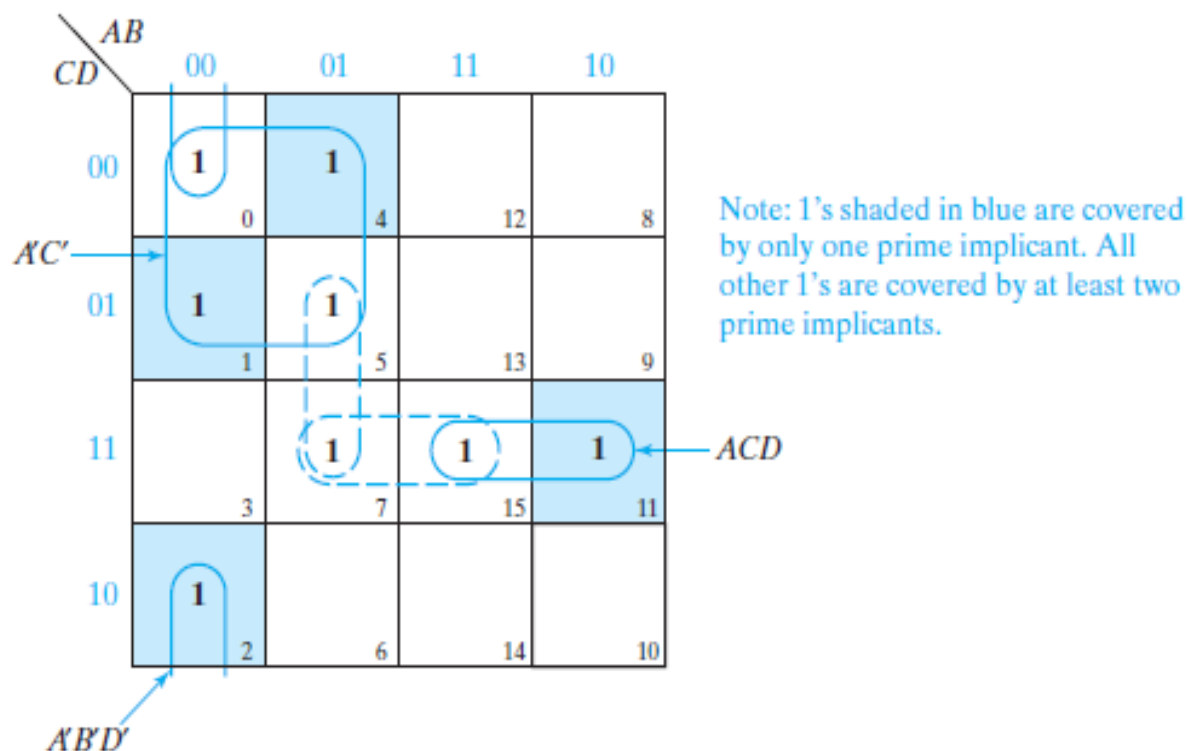
## Finding Essential Prime Implicants:

- ❖ Sometimes essential prime implicants can be found by inspection.
- ❖ Other times, we must look at all squares adjacent to that minterm. If the given minterm and all of the 1's adjacent to it are covered by a single term, then that term is an *essential prime implicant*.
- ❖ If all of the 1's adjacent to a given minterm are *not covered by a single term*, then we cannot say whether these prime implicants are essential or not without checking the other minterms.
- ❖ See figure on next page.

# Determination of Minimum Expressions Using Essential Prime Implicants

FIGURE 5-18

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<sup>1</sup>This statement is proved in Appendix D.

# Determination of Minimum Expressions Using Essential Prime Implicants

## **Procedure to Obtain a Minimum Sum of Products from a Karnaugh Map:**

1. Choose a minterm (a 1) which has not yet been covered.
2. Find all 1's and X's adjacent to that minterm.  
(Check the *n adjacent squares on an n-variable map.*)
3. If a single term covers the minterm and all of the adjacent 1's and X's, then that term is an essential prime implicant, so select that term. (Note that "don't-care" terms are treated like 1's in steps 2 and 3 but not in step 1.)

# Determination of Minimum Expressions Using Essential Prime Implicants

## **Procedure (continued):**

4. Repeat steps 1, 2, and 3 until all essential prime implicants have been chosen.
5. Find a minimum set of prime implicants which cover the remaining 1's on the map. If there is more than one such set, choose a set with a minimum number of literals.

See figure 5-19 in book for a flowchart of this procedure (pg 148).

# Five-Variable Karnaugh Maps

## Five-Variable Karnaugh Maps:

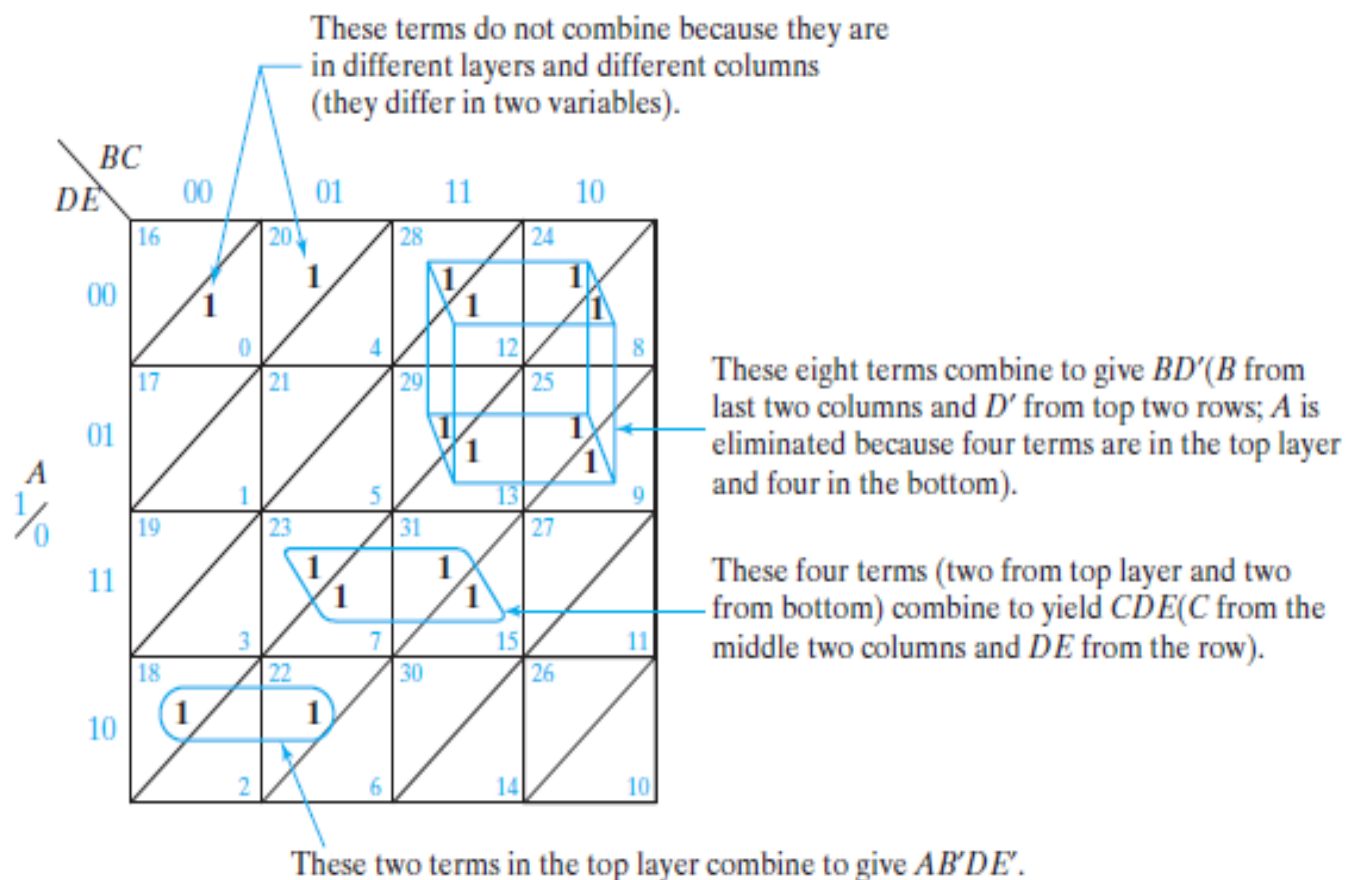
- ❖ A five-variable map can be constructed in three dimensions by placing one four-variable map on top of a second one.
- ❖ Terms in the bottom layer are numbered 0 through 15 and corresponding terms in the top layer are numbered 16 through 31, so that terms in the bottom layer contain  $A'$  *and those in the top layer contain  $A$ .*
- ❖ *To represent* the map in two dimensions, we will divide each square in a four-variable map by a diagonal line and place terms in the bottom layer below the line and terms in the top layer above the line (Figure 5-21).

# Five-Variable Karnaugh Maps

**FIGURE 5-21**

**A Five-Variable Karnaugh Map**

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# Five-Variable Karnaugh Maps

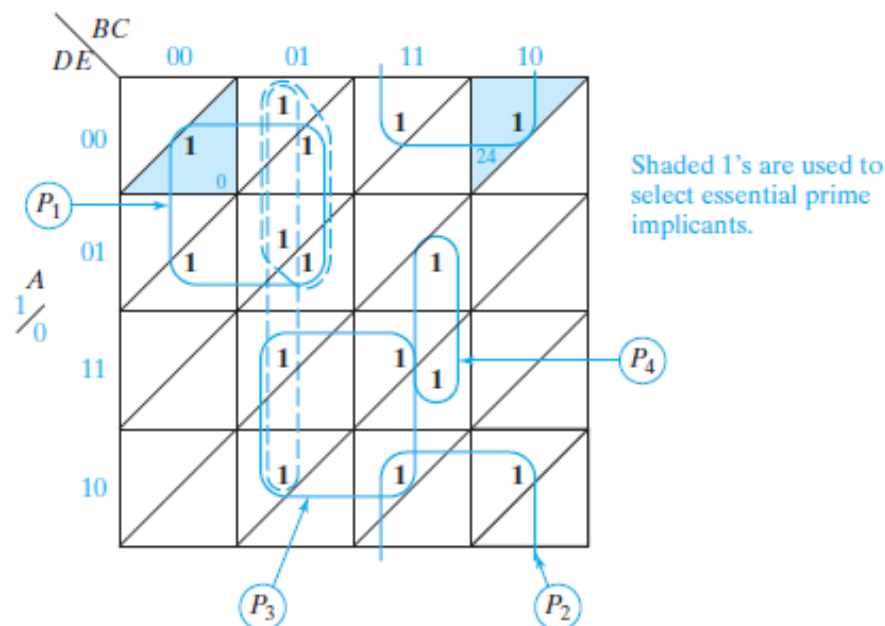
## Example of Five-Variable Karnaugh Map:

Figure 5-23 is a map of

$$F(A, B, C, D, E) = \Sigma m(0, 1, 4, 5, 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31)$$

FIGURE 5-23

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# Other Uses of Karnaugh Maps

## Other Uses:

- ❖ We can prove that two functions are equal by plotting them on maps and showing that they have the same Karnaugh map.
- ❖ We can perform the AND operation (or the OR operation) on two functions by ANDing (or ORing) the 1's and 0's which appear in corresponding positions on their maps.
- ❖ A Karnaugh map can facilitate factoring an expression.
- ❖ When simplifying a function algebraically, the Karnaugh map can be used as a guide in determining what steps to take (see pages 152-153).



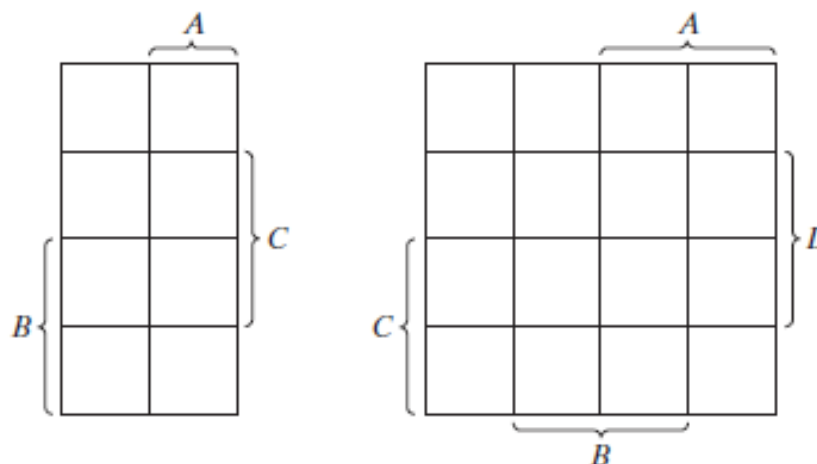
# Other Forms of Karnaugh Maps

## Veitch Diagrams:

Instead of labeling the sides of a Karnaugh map with 0's and 1's, some people prefer to use the labeling shown in Figure 5-27.

For the half of the map labeled  $A$ ,  $A=1$ ; and for the other half,  $A=0$ .

**FIGURE 5-27**  
Veitch Diagrams  
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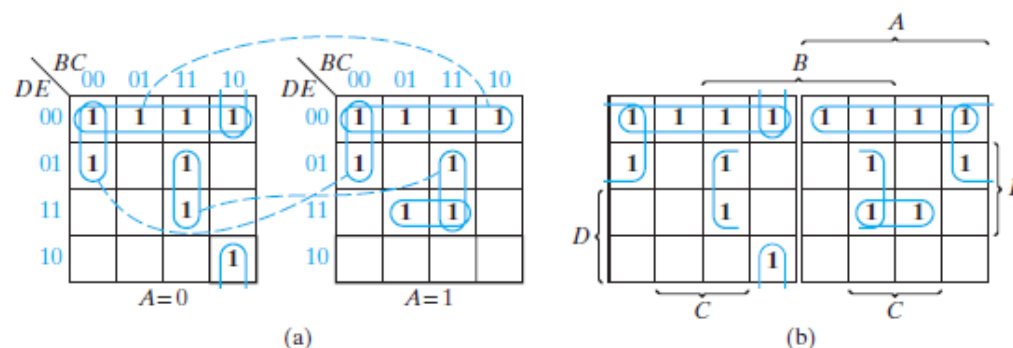


# Other Forms of Karnaugh Maps

## Other forms of Five-Variable Karnaugh Maps:

- ❖ One form simply consists of two four-variable maps side-by-side as in Figure 5-28(a).
- ❖ Figure 5-28(b) shows *mirror image map*, in which the first and eighth columns are “adjacent” as are second and seventh columns, third and sixth columns, and fourth and fifth columns.

**FIGURE 5-28**  
Other Forms of  
Five-Variable  
Karnaugh Maps  
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$$F = D'E' + B'C'D' + BCE + A'BC'E' + ACDE$$