Logic and Computer Design Fundamentals

Chapter 2 – Combinational Logic Circuits

Part 1 – Gate Circuits and Boolean Equations

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Overview

- Part 1 Gate Circuits and Boolean Equations
 - Binary Logic and Gates
 - Boolean Algebra
 - Standard Forms
- Part 2 Circuit Optimization
 - Two-Level Optimization
 - Map Manipulation
 - Practical Optimization (Espresso)
 - Multi-Level Circuit Optimization
- Part 3 Additional Gates and Circuits
 - Other Gate Types
 - Exclusive-OR Operator and Gates
 - High-Impedance Outputs

Binary Logic and Gates

- Binary variables take on one of two values.
- Logical operators operate on binary values and binary variables.
- Basic logical operators are the <u>logic functions</u> AND, OR and NOT.
- Logic gates implement logic functions.
- Boolean Algebra: a useful mathematical system for specifying and transforming logic functions.
- We study Boolean algebra as a foundation for designing and analyzing digital systems!

Binary Variables

- Recall that the two binary values have different names:
 - True/False
 - On/Off
 - Yes/No
 - **1/0**
- We use 1 and 0 to denote the two values.
- Variable identifier examples:
 - A, B, y, z, or X_1 for now
 - RESET, START IT, or ADD1 later

Logical Operations

- The three basic logical operations are:
 - AND
 - OR
 - NOT
- AND is denoted by a dot (·).
- OR is denoted by a plus (+).
- NOT is denoted by an overbar (¯), a single quote mark (') after, or (~) before the variable.

Notation Examples

Examples:

- $Y = A \cdot B$ is read "Y is equal to A AND B."
- z = x + y is read "z is equal to x OR y."
- X = A is read "X is equal to NOT A."
- Note: The statement:

1 + 1 = 2 (read "one <u>plus</u> one equals two")

is not the same as

1 + 1 = 1 (read "1 or 1 equals 1").

Operator Definitions

Operations are defined on the values"0" and "1" for each operator:

$$0 \cdot 0 = 0$$

$$0 \cdot 1 = 0$$

$$1 \cdot 0 = 0$$

$$1 \cdot 1 = 1$$

$$0 + 0 = 0$$

$$0 + 1 = 1$$

$$1 + 0 = 1$$

$$1 + 1 = 1$$

$$\overline{0} = 1$$

$$\overline{1} = 0$$

Truth Tables

- Truth table a tabular listing of the values of a function for all possible combinations of values on its arguments
- Example: Truth tables for the basic logic operations:

AND			
X	Y	$Z = X \cdot Y$	
0	0	0	
0	1	0	
1	0	0	
1	1	1	

OR				
X	Y	Z = X+Y		
0	0	0		
0	1	1		
1	0	1		
1	1	1		

NOT			
X	$Z = \overline{X}$		
0	1		
1	0		

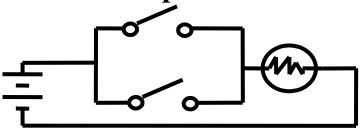
Logic Function Implementation

- Using Switches
 - For inputs:
 - logic 1 is <u>switch closed</u>
 - logic 0 is switch open
 - For outputs:

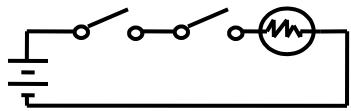
that:

- logic 1 is <u>light on</u>
- logic 0 is <u>light off</u>.
- NOT uses a switch such
 - logic 1 is switch open
 - logic 0 is switch closed

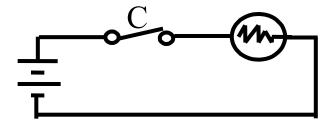
Switches in parallel => OR



Switches in series => AND

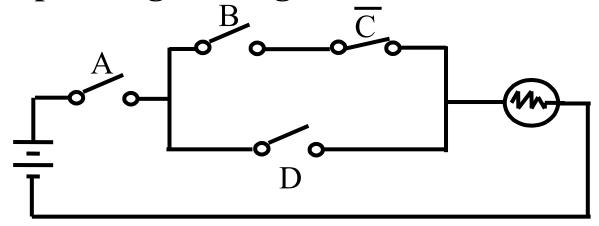


Normally-closed switch => NOT



Logic Function Implementation (Continued)

Example: Logic Using Switches



• Light is on (L = 1) for

$$L(A, B, C, D) =$$

and off (L = 0), otherwise.

 Useful model for relay circuits and for CMOS gate circuits, the foundation of current digital logic technology

Logic Gates

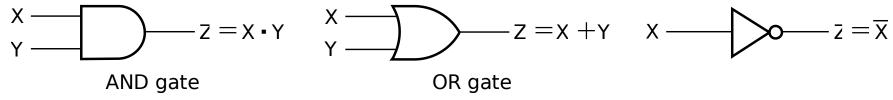




- In the earliest computers, switches were opened and closed by magnetic fields produced by energizing coils in *relays*. The switches in turn opened and closed the current paths.
- Later, vacuum tubes that open and close current paths electronically replaced relays.
- Today, transistors are used as electronic switches that open and close current paths.
- Optional: Chapter 6 Part 1: The Design Space

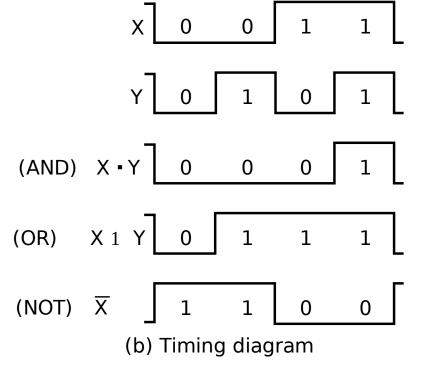
Logic Gate Symbols and Behavior

Logic gates have special symbols:



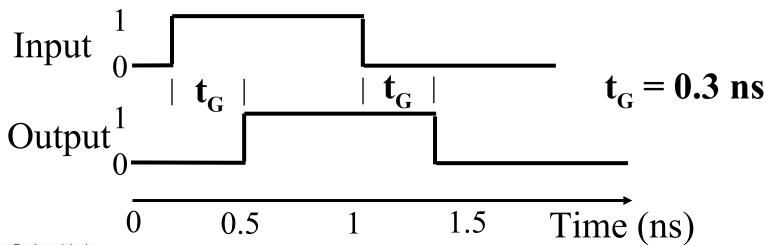
(a) Graphic symbols

And waveform behavior in time as follows:



Gate Delay

- In actual physical gates, if one or more input changes causes the output to change, the output change does not occur instantaneously.
- The delay between an input change(s) and the resulting output change is the *gate delay* denoted by t_c :



Logic Diagrams and Expressions

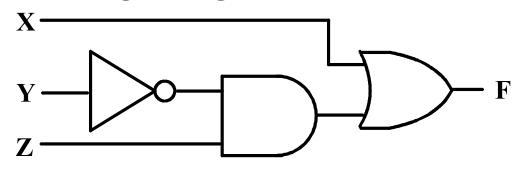
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l rii	th	ା ବ	n	Δ
1 I U	LII	1 a	W	

Truth rabic				
XYZ	$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{X} + \overline{\mathbf{Y}} \cdot \mathbf{Z}$			
000	0			
001	1			
010	0			
011	0			
100	1			
101	1			
110	1			
111	1			

Equation

$$F = X + \overline{Y} Z$$

Logic Diagram



- Boolean equations, truth tables and logic diagrams describe the same function!
- Truth tables are unique; expressions and logic diagrams are not. This gives flexibility in implementing functions.

Boolean Algebra

■ An algebraic structure defined on a set of at least two elements, B, together with three binary operators (denoted +, ·, and _) that satisfies the following basic identities:

$$1. X + 0 = X$$

3.
$$X+1=1$$

$$5. X + X = X$$

$$7. \quad X + \overline{X} = 1$$

9.
$$\mathbf{\bar{X}} = \mathbf{X}$$

$$10. \quad X + Y = Y + X$$

12.
$$(X + Y) + Z = X + (Y + Z)$$

14.
$$X(Y+Z) = XY+XZ$$

16.
$$\overline{X+Y} = \overline{X} \cdot \overline{Y}$$

$$2. X \cdot 1 = X$$

4.
$$X \cdot 0 = 0$$

6.
$$X \cdot X = X$$

8.
$$X \cdot \overline{X} = 0$$

11.
$$XY = YX$$

13.
$$(XY)Z = X(YZ)$$

15.
$$X + YZ = (X + Y)(X + Z)$$

17.
$$X \cdot Y = X + Y$$

Some Properties of Identities & the Algebra

- If the meaning is unambiguous, we leave out the symbol "."
- The identities above are organized into pairs. These pairs have names as follows:
 - 1-4 Existence of 0 and 1 5-6 Idempotence
 - 7-8 Existence of complement 9 Involution
 - 10-11 Commutative Laws 12-13 Associative Laws
 - 14-15 Distributive Laws 16-17 DeMorgan's Laws
- The <u>dual</u> of an algebraic expression is obtained by interchanging + and · and interchanging 0's and 1's.
- The identities appear in <u>dual</u> pairs. When there is only one identity on a line the identity is <u>self-dual</u>, i. e., the dual expression = the original expression.

Some Properties of Identities & the Algebra (Continued)

- Unless it happens to be self-dual, the dual of an expression does not equal the expression itself.
- Example: $F = (A + \overline{C}) \cdot B + 0$ dual $F = (A \cdot \overline{C} + B) \cdot 1 = A \cdot \overline{C} + B$
- Example: $G = X \cdot Y + (\overline{W} + \overline{Z})$ dual G =
- Example: $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{C}$ dual $\mathbf{H} =$
- Are any of these functions self-dual?

Some Properties of Identities & the Algebra (Continued)

- There can be more that 2 elements in B, i. e., elements other than 1 and 0. What are some common useful Boolean algebras with more than 2 elements?
 - 1. Algebra of Sets
 - 2. Algebra of n-bit binary vectors
- If B contains only 1 and 0, then B is called the switching algebra which is the algebra we use most often.

Boolean Operator Precedence

- The order of evaluation in a Boolean expression is:
 - 1. Parentheses
 - 2. NOT
 - 3. AND
 - 4. OR
- Consequence: Parentheses appear around OR expressions
- Example: $F = A(B + C)(C + \overline{D})$

Example 1: Boolean Algebraic Proof

- A + A·B = A (Absorption Theorem)
 Proof Steps Justification (identity or theorem)
 A + A·B
 A · 1 + A · B X = X · 1
 A · (1 + B) X · Y + X · Z = X · (Y + Z) (Distributive Law)
 A · 1 1 + X = 1
 A X · 1 = X
- Our primary reason for doing proofs is to learn:
 - Careful and efficient use of the identities and theorems of Boolean algebra, and
 - How to choose the appropriate identity or theorem to apply to make forward progress, irrespective of the application.

Example 2: Boolean Algebraic Proofs

Example 3: Boolean Algebraic Proofs

$$(\overline{X+Y})Z + X\overline{Y} = \overline{Y}(X+Z)$$
Proof Steps
or theorem)
$$(\overline{X+Y})Z + X\overline{Y}$$

Useful Theorems

$$x \cdot y + \overline{x} \cdot y = y (x + y)(\overline{x} + y) = y$$
 Minimization

$$x + x \cdot y = x$$
 $x \cdot (x + y) = x$ Absorption

•
$$x + \overline{x} \cdot y = x + y \quad x \cdot (\overline{x} + y) = x \cdot y$$
 Simplification

x.
$$y + \overline{x} \cdot z + y \cdot z = x \cdot y + \overline{x} \cdot z$$
 Consensus
 $(x + y) \cdot (\overline{x} + z) \cdot (y + z) = (x + y) \cdot (\overline{x} + z)$

$$\overline{x+y} = \overline{x} \cdot \overline{y}$$
 $\overline{x \cdot y} = \overline{x} + \overline{y}$ DeMorgan's Laws

Proof of Simplification

$$x \cdot y + \overline{x} \cdot y = y$$
 $(x + y)(x + y) = y$

Proof of DeMorgan's Laws

$$\overline{\mathbf{x}} + \overline{\mathbf{y}} = \overline{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{y}}$$

$$\overline{\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}$$

Boolean Function Evaluation

$$F1 = xy\overline{z}$$

$$F2 = x + \overline{y}z$$

$$F3 = \overline{x}\overline{y}z + \overline{x}yz + x\overline{y}$$

$$F4 = x\overline{y} + \overline{x}z$$

X	y	Z	F 1	F2	F3	F4
0	0	0	0	0		
0	0	1	0	1		
0	1	0	0	0		
0	1	1	0	0		
1	0	0	0	1		
1	0	1	0	1		
1	1	0	1	1		
1	1	1	0	1		

Expression Simplification

- An application of Boolean algebra
- Simplify to contain the smallest number of <u>literals</u> (complemented and uncomplemented variables):

$$AB + \overline{A}CD + \overline{A}BD + \overline{A}C\overline{D} + ABCD$$

$$= AB + ABCD + \overline{A}CD + \overline{A}C\overline{D} + \overline{A}BD$$

$$= AB + AB(CD) + AC(D+D) + ABD$$

$$= AB + AC + \overline{A}BD = B(A + \overline{A}D) + \overline{A}C$$

$$= B (A + D) + \overline{A} C 5 literals$$

Complementing Functions

- Use DeMorgan's Theorem to complement a function:
 - 1. Interchange AND and OR operators
 - 2. Complement each constant value and literal
- Example: Complement $F = \overline{x}y\overline{z} + x\overline{y}\overline{z}$ $\overline{F} = (x + \overline{y} + z)(\overline{x} + y + z)$
- Example: Complement $G = (\overline{a} + bc)\overline{d} + e$ $\overline{G} =$

Overview – Canonical Forms

- What are Canonical Forms?
- Minterms and Maxterms
- Index Representation of Minterms and Maxterms
- Sum-of-Minterm (SOM) Representations
- Product-of-Maxterm (POM) Representations
- Representation of Complements of Functions
- Conversions between Representations

Canonical Forms

- It is useful to specify Boolean functions in a form that:
 - Allows comparison for equality.
 - Has a correspondence to the truth tables
- Canonical Forms in common usage:
 - Sum of Minterms (SOM)
 - Product of Maxterms (POM)

Minterms

- Minterms are AND terms with every variable present in either true or complemented form.
- Given that each binary variable may appear normal (e.g., x) or complemented (e.g., \overline{x}), there are 2^n minterms for n variables.
- **Example:** Two variables (X and Y)produce $2 \times 2 = 4$ combinations:

XY (both normal)

XY(X normal, Y complemented)

XY (X complemented, Y normal)

XY (both complemented)

Thus there are <u>four minterms</u> of two variables.

Maxterms

- Maxterms are OR terms with every variable in true or complemented form.
- Given that each binary variable may appear normal (e.g., x) or complemented (e.g., \overline{x}), there are 2^n maxterms for n variables.
- **Example:** Two variables (X and Y) produce $2 \times 2 = 4$ combinations:

X + Y (both normal)

X + Y (x normal, y complemented)

X + Y (x complemented, y normal)

 $\overline{\mathbf{X}} + \overline{\mathbf{Y}}$ (both complemented)

Maxterms and Minterms

Examples: Two variable minterms and maxterms.

Index	Minterm	Maxterm
0	$\overline{\mathbf{x}}\overline{\mathbf{y}}$	x + y
1	$\overline{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{y}$	$x + \overline{y}$
2	x y	$\overline{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{y}$
3	хy	$\overline{\mathbf{x}} + \overline{\mathbf{y}}$

The index above is important for describing which variables in the terms are true and which are complemented.

Standard Order

- Minterms and maxterms are designated with a subscript
- The subscript is a number, corresponding to a binary pattern
- The bits in the pattern represent the complemented or normal state of each variable listed in a standard order.
- All variables will be present in a minterm or maxterm and will be listed in the <u>same order</u> (usually alphabetically)
- Example: For variables a, b, c:
 - Maxterms: $(a + b + \bar{c})$, (a + b + c)
 - Terms: (b + a + c), $a \bar{c} b$, and (c + b + a) are NOT in standard order.
 - Minterms: $a\bar{b}c$, abc, $\bar{a}b\bar{c}$
 - Terms: (a + c), b c, and (a + b) do not contain all variables

Purpose of the Index

The <u>index</u> for the minterm or maxterm, expressed as a binary number, is used to determine whether the variable is shown in the true form or complemented form.

For Minterms:

- "1" means the variable is "Not Complemented" and
- "0" means the variable is "Complemented".

For Maxterms:

- "0" means the variable is "Not Complemented" and
- "1" means the variable is "Complemented".

Index Example in Three Variables

- Example: (for three variables)
- Assume the variables are called X, Y, and Z.
- The standard order is X, then Y, then Z.
- The Index 0 (base 10) = 000 (base 2) for three variables). All three variables are complemented for minterm 0 (\overline{X} , \overline{Y} , \overline{Z}) and no variables are complemented for Maxterm 0 (X,Y,Z).
 - Minterm 0, called m₀ is XYZ.
 - Maxterm 0, called M_0 is (X + Y + Z).
 - Minterm 6 ?
 - Maxterm 6 ?

Index Examples – Four Variables

i	Pattern	$\underline{m_i}$	$\mathbf{M_i}$
0	0000	abcd	a+b+c+d
1	0001	abcd	?
3	0011	?	a+b+c+d
5	0101	abcd	$a+\overline{b}+c+\overline{d}$
7	0111	?	$a+\overline{b}+\overline{c}+\overline{d}$
10	1010	$a\overline{b}c\overline{d}$	$\bar{a} + b + \bar{c} + d$
13	1101	abcd	?
15	1111	a b c d	$\overline{a} + \overline{b} + \overline{c} + \overline{d}$

Minterm and Maxterm Relationship

- Review: DeMorgan's Theorem $\overline{x \cdot y} = \overline{x} + \overline{y}$ and $\overline{x + y} = \overline{x} \cdot \overline{y}$
- Two-variable example: $M_2 = x + y$ and $m_2 = x \cdot y$ Thus M_2 is the complement of m_2 and vice-versa.
- Since DeMorgan's Theorem holds for n variables, the above holds for terms of n variables
- giving: $\mathbf{M}_{i} = \mathbf{\overline{M}}_{and} \quad \mathbf{m}_{i} = \mathbf{\overline{M}}_{i}$

Thus M_i is the complement of m_i.

Function Tables for Both

Minterms of2 variables

x y	m_0	\mathbf{m}_1	m_2	m ₃
0 0	1	0	0	0
01	0	1	0	0
10	0	0	1	0
11	0	0	0	1

Maxterms of 2 variables

ху	M_0	M_1	M_2	M_3
0 0	0	1	1	1
0 1	1	0	1	1
10	1	1	0	1
11	1	1	1	0

Each column in the maxterm function table is the complement of the column in the minterm function table since M_i is the complement of m_i.

Observations

- In the function tables:
 - Each minterm has one and only one 1 present in the 2^n terms (a minimum of 1s). All other entries are 0.
 - Each <u>max</u>term has one and only one 0 present in the 2ⁿ terms All other entries are 1 (a <u>max</u>imum of 1s).
- We can implement any function by "ORing" the minterms corresponding to "1" entries in the function table. These are called the minterms of the function.
- We can implement any function by "ANDing" the maxterms corresponding to "0" entries in the function table. These are called the maxterms of the function.
- This gives us two <u>canonical forms</u>:
 - Sum of Minterms (SOM)
 - Product of Maxterms (POM)

for stating any Boolean function.

Minterm Function Example

Example: Find $F_1 = m_1 + m_4 + m_7$

Minterm Function Example

- $F(A, B, C, D, E) = m_2 + m_9 + m_{17} + m_{23}$
- F(A, B, C, D, E) =

Maxterm Function Example

Example: Implement F1 in maxterms:

$$\begin{split} F_1 &= M_0 \cdot M_2 \cdot M_3 \cdot M_5 \cdot M_6 \\ F_1 &= (x+y+z) \cdot (x+\overline{y}+z) \cdot (x+\overline{y}+\overline{z}) \\ \cdot (\overline{x}+y+\overline{z}) \cdot (\overline{x}+\overline{y}+z) \\ & \underline{x} \, \underline{y} \, \underline{z} \, \underline{i} \, M_0 \cdot M_2 \cdot M_3 \cdot M_5 \cdot M_6 = F1 \\ \hline 000 \, 0 \, 0 \, 0 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 = 0 \\ 001 \, 1 \, 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 = 1 \\ 010 \, 2 \, 1 \cdot 0 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 = 0 \\ 011 \, 3 \, 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 0 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 = 0 \\ 100 \, 4 \, 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 = 1 \\ 101 \, 5 \, 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 = 0 \\ 110 \, 6 \, 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 = 0 \\ 111 \, 7 \, 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 = 1 \end{split}$$

Maxterm Function Example

- $F(A,B,C,D) = M_3 \cdot M_8 \cdot M_{11} \cdot M_{14}$
- F(A, B,C,D) =

Canonical Sum of Minterms

- Any Boolean function can be expressed as a Sum of Minterms.
 - For the function table, the <u>minterms</u> used are the terms corresponding to the 1's
 - For expressions, <u>expand</u> all terms first to explicitly list all minterms. Do this by "ANDing" any term missing a variable v with a term $(v + \overline{v})$.
- Example: Implement $f = x + \overline{x} \overline{y}$ as a sum of minterms.

First expand terms: $f = x(y + \overline{y}) + \overline{x} \overline{y}$ Then distribute terms: $f = xy + x\overline{y} + \overline{x} \overline{y}$

Express as sum of minterms: $f = m_3 + m_2 + m_0$

Another SOM Example

- Example: F = A + BC
- There are three variables, A, B, and C which we take to be the standard order.
- Expanding the terms with missing variables:

- Collect terms (removing all but one of duplicate terms):
- Express as SOM:

Shorthand SOM Form

From the previous example, we started with:

$$F = A + BC$$

We ended up with:

$$F = m_1 + m_4 + m_5 + m_6 + m_7$$

This can be denoted in the formal shorthand:

$$F(A,B,C) = \sum_{m} (1,4,5,6,7)$$

Note that we explicitly show the standard variables in order and drop the "m" designators.

Canonical Product of Maxterms

- Any Boolean Function can be expressed as a <u>Product of Maxterms (POM)</u>.
 - For the function table, the maxterms used are the terms corresponding to the 0's.
 - For an expression, expand all terms first to explicitly list all maxterms. Do this by first applying the second distributive law, "ORing" terms missing variable v with a term equal to v and then applying the distributive law again.
- Example: Convert to product of maxterms:

$$f(x,y,z) = x + x y$$

Apply the distributive law:

$$x + \overline{x} \overline{y} = (x + \overline{x})(x + \overline{y}) = 1 \cdot (x + \overline{y}) = x + \overline{y}$$

Add missing variable z:

$$x + \overline{y} + \overline{z} \cdot \overline{z} = (x + \overline{y} + z) (x + \overline{y} + \overline{z})$$

Express as POM: $f = M_2 \cdot M_3$

Another POM Example

Convert to Product of Maxterms:

$$f(A,B,C) = A\overline{C} + BC + \overline{A}\overline{B}$$

Use $x + y = (x+y) \cdot (x+z)$ with x = (AC + BC), y = A, and z = B to get:

$$f = (A\overline{C} + BC + \overline{A})(A\overline{C} + BC + \overline{B})$$

• Then use $x + \overline{x}y = x + y$ to get:

$$f = (\overline{C} + BC + \overline{A})(A\overline{C} + C + \overline{B})$$

and a second time to get:

$$f = (\overline{C} + B + \overline{A})(A + C + \overline{B})$$

Rearrange to standard order,

$$f = (A + B + C)(A + B + C)$$
 to give $f = M_5 \cdot M_2$

Function Complements

- The complement of a function expressed as a sum of minterms is constructed by selecting the minterms missing in the sum-of-minterms canonical forms.
- Alternatively, the complement of a function expressed by a Sum of Minterms form is simply the Product of Maxterms with the same indices.
- Example: Given $F(x, y, z) = \Sigma_m(1,3,5,7)$ $\overline{F}(x, y, z) = \Sigma_m(0,2,4,6)$ $\overline{F}(x, y, z) = \Pi_M(1,3,5,7)$

Conversion Between Forms

- To convert between sum-of-minterms and product-of-maxterms form (or vice-versa) we follow these steps:
 - Find the function complement by swapping terms in the list with terms not in the list.
 - Change from products to sums, or vice versa.
- Example: Given F as before:
- Form the Complement: $F(x,y,z) = \sum_{m} (1,3,5,7)$
- Then use the other form with the same indices this forms the complement again, giving the other form of the original function: $\overline{F}(x,y,z) = \Sigma_m(0,2,4,6)$

$$F(x,y,z) = \Pi_M(0,2,4,6)$$

Standard Forms

- Standard Sum-of-Products (SOP) form: equations are written as an OR of AND terms
- Standard Product-of-Sums (POS) form: equations are written as an AND of OR terms
- Examples:
 - SOP: $ABC+\overline{A}\overline{B}C+B$
 - POS: $(A+B)\cdot (A+\overline{B}+\overline{C})\cdot C$
- These "mixed" forms are neither SOP nor POS
 - $\bullet (A B + C) (A + C)$
 - \bullet ABC + AC(A + B)

Standard Sum-of-Products (SOP)

- A sum of minterms form for *n* variables can be written down directly from a truth table.
 - Implementation of this form is a two-level network of gates such that:
 - The first level consists of n-input AND gates, and
 - The second level is a single OR gate (with fewer than 2^n inputs).
- This form often can be simplified so that the corresponding circuit is simpler.

Standard Sum-of-Products (SOP)

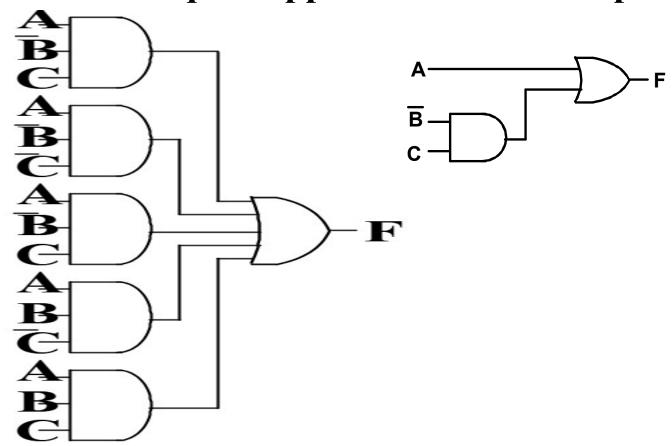
- A Simplification Example:
- $F(A,B,C) = \Sigma m(1,4,5,6,7)$
- Writing the minterm expression: $F = \overline{A} \overline{B} C + A \overline{B} \overline{C} + A \overline{B} C + ABC + ABC$
- Simplifying:

$$\mathbf{F} =$$

 Simplified F contains 3 literals compared to 15 in minterm F

AND/OR Two-level Implementation of SOP Expression

The two implementations for F are shown below – it is quite apparent which is simpler!



SOP and **POS** Observations

- The previous examples show that:
 - Canonical Forms (Sum-of-minterms, Product-of-Maxterms), or other standard forms (SOP, POS) differ in complexity
 - Boolean algebra can be used to manipulate equations into simpler forms.
 - Simpler equations lead to simpler two-level implementations
- Questions:
 - How can we attain a "simplest" expression?
 - Is there only one minimum cost circuit?
 - The next part will deal with these issues.

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