

Canonical forms

Canonical forms are standardized ways to express Boolean functions, making it easier to build and simplify circuits. The 2 main types are Sum of Products (SOP) and Product of Sums (POS), which describe when a circuit should output a 1 or a 0.

SOP expressions are built from minterms, which represent truth table rows where the output is 1, while POS expressions are built from maxterms, which represent rows where the output is 0.

Sum of Products:

- SOP uses minterms
- Look at rows where $f=1$ in the truth table
- Each 1 becomes an ANDed term ($A'B'C$)
- OR all AND terms together

For example, if $F=1$ at ($A=0, B=1, C=0$), the minterm is $A'BC'$

Product of Sums:

- POS uses maxterms
- Look at rows where $F=0$ in the truth table
- Each 0 becomes an ORed term ($A+B'+C$)
- AND all the OR terms together

For example, if $F=0$ at ($A=1, B=0, C=1$), the maxterm is $A'+B+C'$