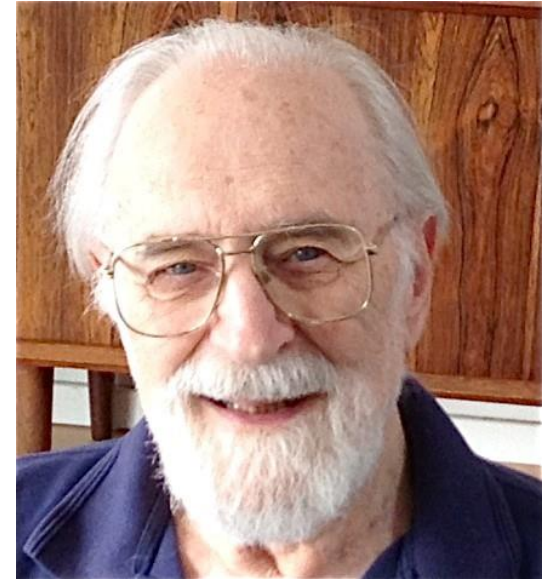


Karnaugh Maps

Dr. Maurice Karnaugh

Maurice Karnaugh

- Born in October 4, 1924 in New York
- Studied mathematics and physics at City College of New York (1944~1948)
- Transferred to Yale University to complete his B.Sc. (1949), M. Sc. (1950), and Ph.D. (1952) in Physics
- Worked at Bell Labs (1952~1966), [developing the Karnaugh map \(1954\)](#)
- Worked at IBM's Federal Systems Division (1966~1970)
- Held an adjunct position at New York University Tandon School of Engineering (1980~1999)
- IEEE Fellow (1976)
- Famous for Karnaugh map, PCM encoding, magnetic logic circuits and coding, etc.



Maurice Karnaugh (1924~)

Contents

1. Minimum Form of Switching Functions
2. Two- and Three- Variable Karnaugh Maps
3. Four-Variable Karnaugh Maps
4. Determination of Minimum Expressions Using Essential Prime Implicants
5. Five-Variable Karnaugh Maps
6. Other Uses of Karnaugh Maps
7. Other Forms of Karnaugh Maps

Objectives

- 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.
- Determine the essential prime implicants of a function from a map.
- Obtain the minimum sum-of-products or minimum product-of-sums form of a function from the map.
- Determine all of the prime implicants of a function from a map.
- Understand the relation between operations performed using the map and the corresponding algebraic operations.

Minimum Forms 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.

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

- 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 $X + X = X$.
- Eliminate redundant terms by using the consensus theorem or other theorems.

Minimum Forms of Switching Functions

Definition:

- Implicant
 - ✓ Any single 1 or any group of 1's which can be combined together on a map of the function F represents a product term which is called an *implicant* of F .
- Prime Implicant
 - ✓ A product term implicant is called a *prime implicant* if it cannot be combined with another term to eliminate a variable.
- Essential Prime Implicant
 - ✓ 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.
- Minimum sum-of-products form of the function F can be represented as
 - ✓ $F = \text{Essential Prime Implicant(s)} + \text{Prime Implicant(s)}$

Minimum Forms of Switching Functions

Example 1: Find a minimum sum-of-products expression for

$$F(a, b, c) = \Sigma m(0, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7)$$

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

← Implicants

$$= a'b' + \boxed{b'c} + bc' + ab$$

← Prime Implicants

None of the terms in the above expression can be eliminated by consensus. However, combining terms in a different way leads directly to a minimum sum of products:

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

$$= a'b' + bc' + ac$$

(5-2)

Minterm Expansion
Uniting Theorem
 $XY' + XY = X$

If the uniting theorem is applied to all possible pairs of minterms, six two-literal products are obtained: $a'b'$, $a'c'$, $b'c$, bc' , ac , ab . Then, the consensus theorem can be applied to obtain a second minimal solution:

$$a'c' + b'c + ab \quad (5-3)$$

<i>a</i> <i>bc</i>	0	1
	00	1
	01	1
	11	1
	10	1

$$F = a'b' + bc' + ac$$

<i>a</i> <i>bc</i>	0	1
	00	1
	01	1
	11	1
	10	1

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

Minimum Forms 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.

Example 2:

Maxterm Expansion

Uniting Theorem

$$(X + Y)(X + Y') = X$$

Implicate

Example

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (A + B' + C + D')(A + B' + C' + D')(A + B' + C' + D)(A' + B' + C' + D)(A + B + C' + D)(A' + B + C' + D) \\
 & \quad \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{matrix} \\
 & = (A + B' + D') \quad (A + B' + C') \quad (B' + C' + D) \quad (B + C' + D) \\
 & = (A + B' + D') \quad (A + B' + C') \quad (C' + D) \\
 & = (A + B' + D')(C' + D) \quad \text{eliminate by consensus (5.4)}
 \end{aligned}$$

Prime Implicate

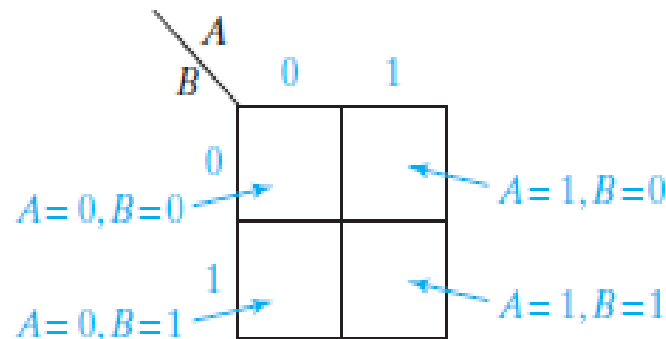
Essential Prime Implicate

		AB			
CD	00	00	01	11	10
	00				
	01		0	$(A + B' + D')$	
	11		0		
	10	0	0	0	0
		$(C' + D)$			

Two or Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

Karnaugh Maps:

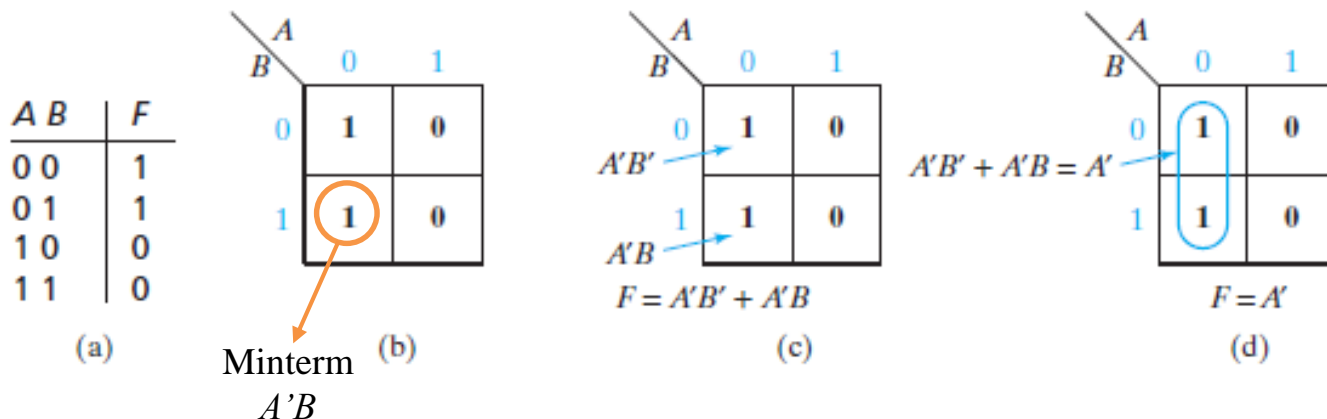
- A **Karnaugh map** is a systematic way of simplifying switching functions and lead directly to minimum cost two-level circuits composed of AND and OR gates.
- It specifies the value of the function for every combination of values of the independent variables.
- Two variable K-map



Two or 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.
- Each 1 on the map corresponds to a minterm of F . For example, a 1 in square 01 indicates that $A'B$ is a minterm.
- Minterms in adjacent squares of the map can be combined since they differ in only one variable.



Two or 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		BC	
		0	1
BC	00	0	1
	01	0	0
	11	1	0
	10	1	1
		F	

(b)

Two or 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

© Cengage Learning 2014

		<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	

(a) Binary notation

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

(b) Decimal notation

Two or 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:

FIGURE 5-4
Karnaugh Map of
 $F(a, b, c) =$
 $\Sigma m(1, 3, 5) =$
 $\Pi M(0, 2, 4, 6, 7)$
© Cengage Learning 2014

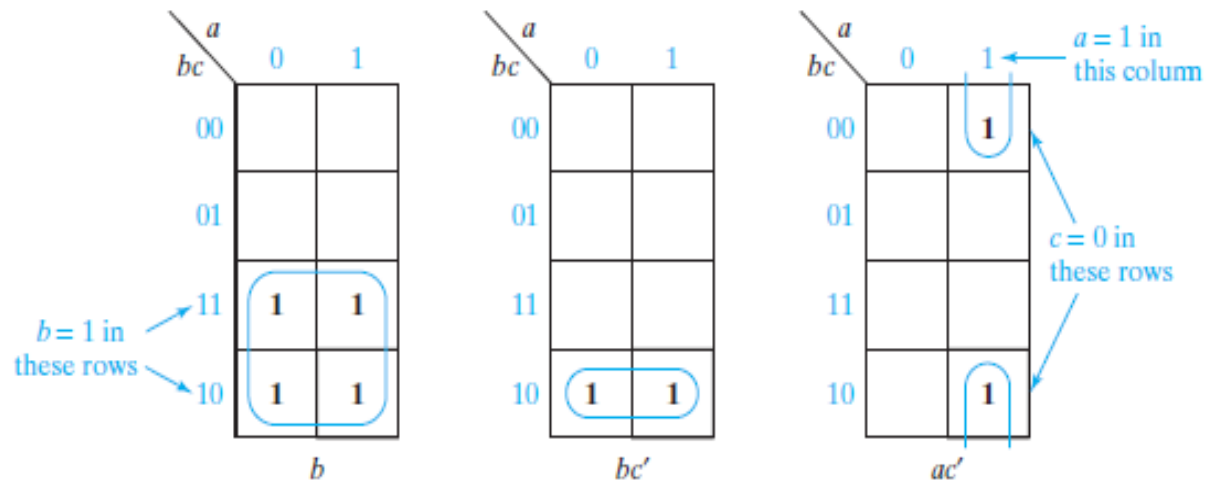
		<i>a</i>	
		0	1
<i>bc</i>	00	0 0	0 4
	01	1 1	1 5
	11	1 3	0 7
	10	0 2	0 6

Two or 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
© Cengage Learning 2014

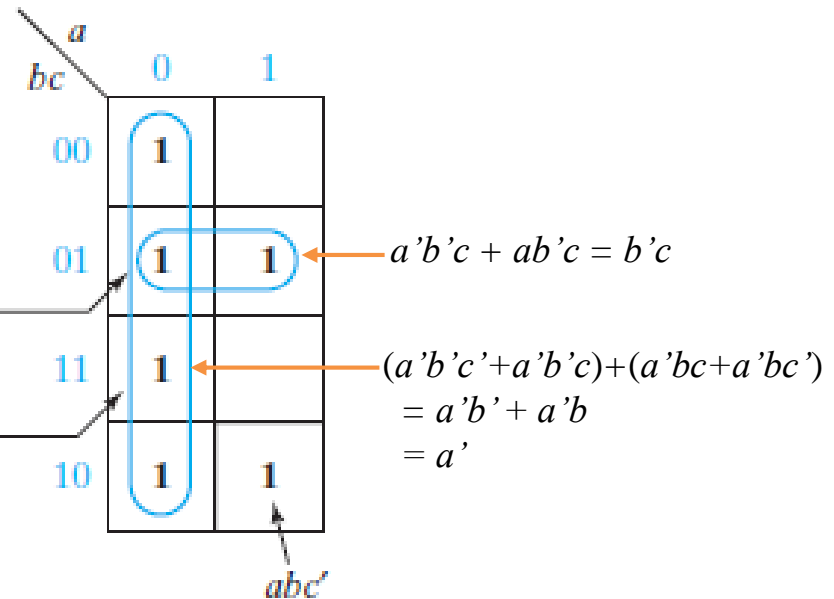


Two or Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

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 or Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

Simplifying Expressions:

FIGURE 5-6
Simplification of
a Three-Variable
Function

© Cengage Learning 2014

<i>a</i> <i>bc</i>	0	1
00		
01	1	1
11	1	
10		

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

(a) Plot of minterms

<i>a</i> <i>bc</i>	0	1
00		
01	1	1
11	1	
10		

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

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

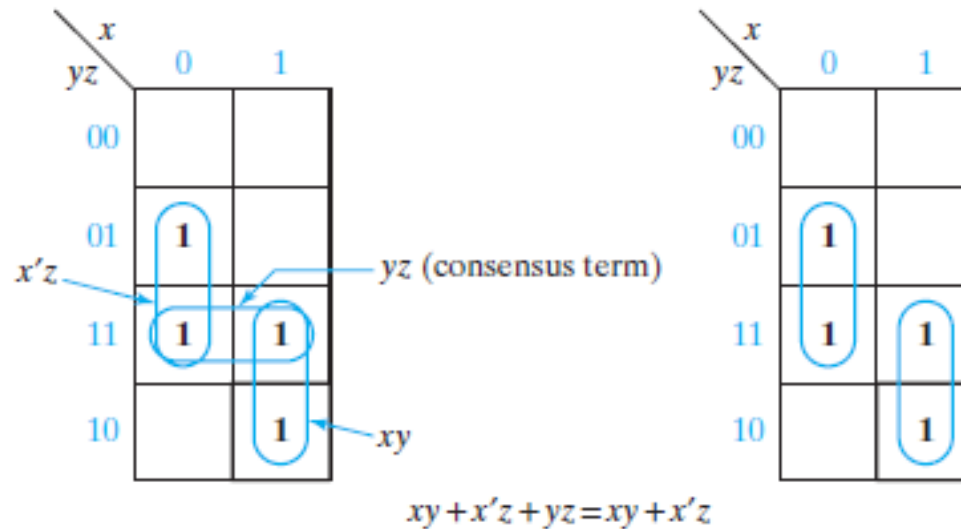
$$F = a'c + b'c$$

(b) Simplified form of F

Two or Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

Consensus Theorem in Karnaugh Maps:

FIGURE 5-8
Karnaugh Maps
that Illustrate the
Consensus Theorem
© Cengage Learning 2014

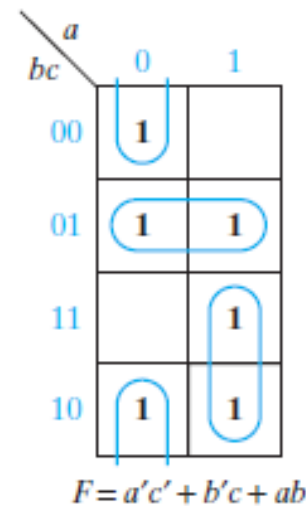
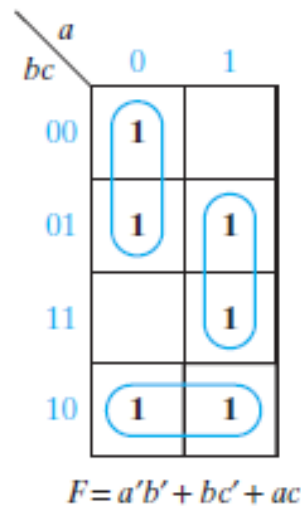


Two or Three-Variable Karnaugh Maps

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
© Cengage Learning 2014



Four-Variable Karnaugh Maps

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

- m_5 (0101) could combine with m_1 (0001), m_4 (0100), m_{13} (0111), m_7 (1101) because it differs in only one variable from each of the other minterms.
- The definition of adjacent squares must be extended so that not only are top and bottom rows as in the three-variable map, but the first and last columns are also adjacent.
- Four corner terms (m_0, m_8, m_2, m_{10}) combine to give $b'd'$

FIGURE 5-10
Location
of Minterms on
Four-Variable
Karnaugh Map
© Cengage Learning 2014

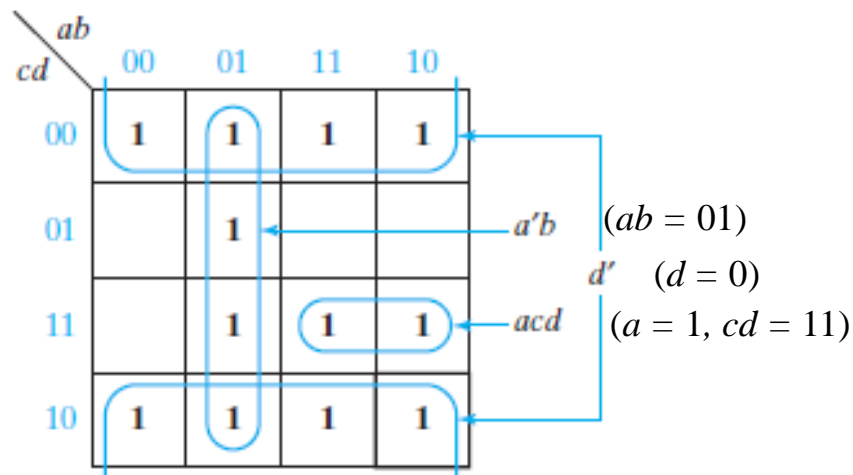
AB		00	01	11	10
CD					
00		0	4	12	8
01		1	5	13	9
11		3	7	15	11
10		2	6	14	10

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”.
- $F(a, b, c, d) = acd + a'b + d'$
 - ✓ The first term is 1 when $a = c = d = 1$, so we place 1's in the two squares which are in the $a = 1$ column and $cd = 11$ row.
 - ✓ The term $a'b$ is 1 when $ab = 01$, so we place four 1's in the $ab = 01$ column.
 - ✓ d' is 1 when $d = 0$, so we place eight 1's in the two rows for which $d = 0$.

FIGURE 5-11
Plot of
 $acd + a'b + d'$
© Cengage Learning 2014

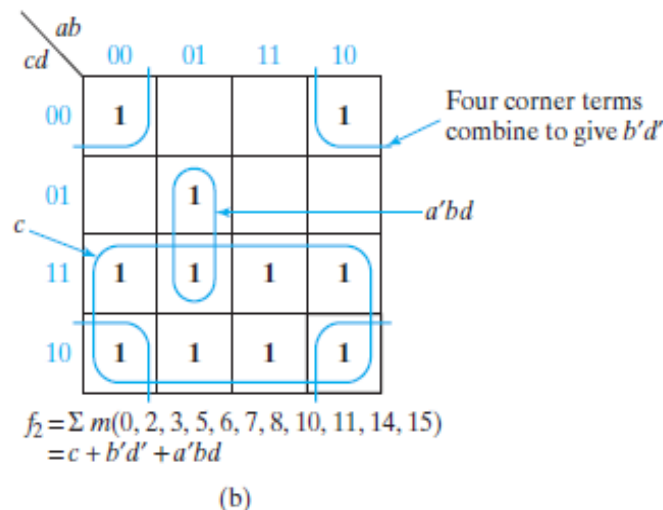
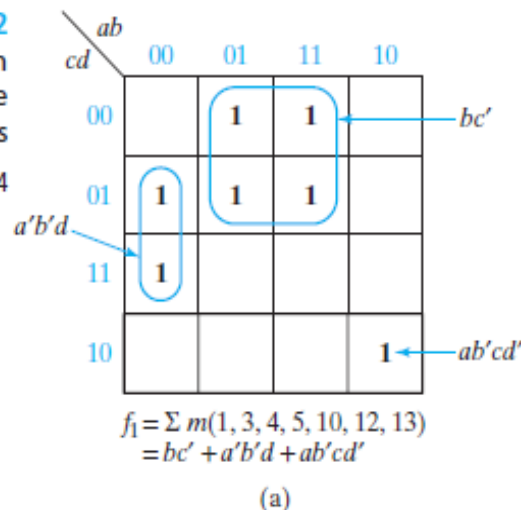


Four-Variable Karnaugh Maps

Simplifying Expressions in Four-Variable Karnaugh Maps:

- Minterms can be combined in groups of two, four, or eight to eliminate one, two, or three variables, respectively.
- $f_1 = \sum m(1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13)$
 - ✓ The pair of 1's in the $ab = 00$ column and also in the $d = 1$ rows represents $a'b'd$.
 - ✓ The group of four 1's in the $b = 1$ columns and $c = 0$ rows represents bc' .
- $f_2 = \sum m(0, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15)$
 - ✓ Note that the four corner 1's span the $b = 0$ columns and $d = 0$ rows and, therefore, can be combined to form the term $b'd'$.
 - ✓ The group of eight 1's covers both rows where $c = 1$ and, therefore, represents the term c .
 - ✓ The pair of 1's which is looped on the map represents the term $a'bd$ because it is in the $ab = 01$ column and spans the $d = 1$ rows.

FIGURE 5-12
Simplification
of Four-Variable
Functions
© Cengage Learning 2014

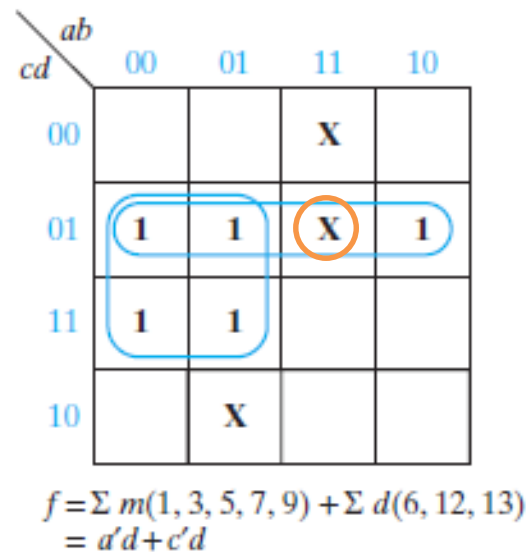


Four-Variable Karnaugh Maps

Expressions with “don’t cares”:

- “Don’t cares” are noted as X ’s in Karnaugh maps.
- When choosing terms to form the minimum sum of products, all the 1’s must be covered, but the X ’s are only used if they will simplify the resulting expression.
- The only don’t care term used in forming the simplified expression is m_{13}

FIGURE 5-13
Simplification of
an Incompletely
Specified Function
© Cengage Learning 2014



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

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

yz \ wx	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

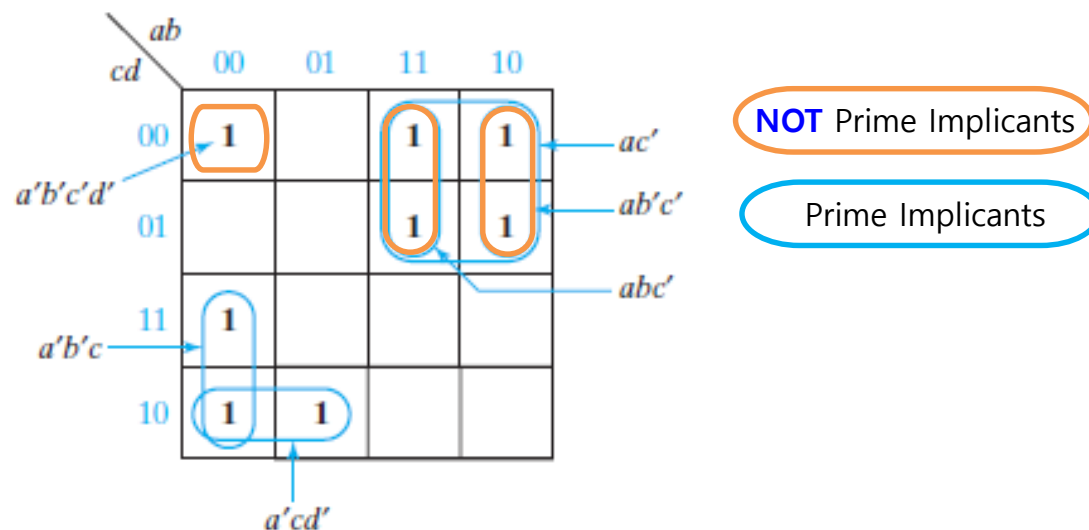
Prime Implicants:

- 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

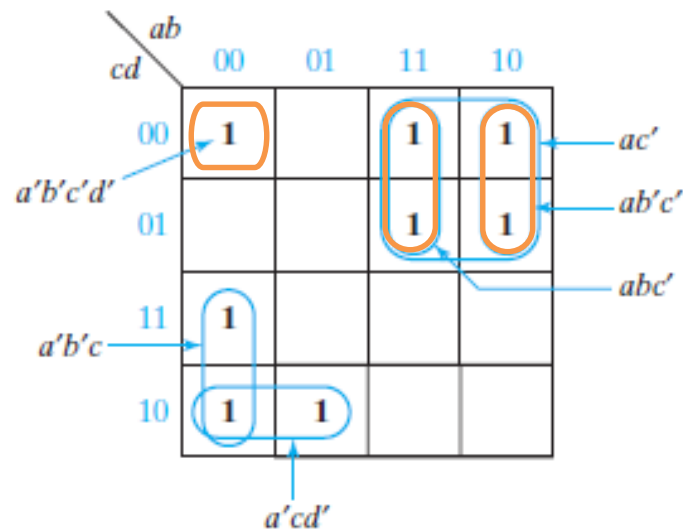
A sum-of-products expression containing a term which is not a prime implicant cannot be minimum.



Determination of Minimum Expressions Using Essential Prime Implicants

Prime Implicants:

- A single 1 on a map represents a prime implicant if it is not adjacent to any other 1's.
- Two adjacent 1's on a map form a prime implicant if they are not contained in a group of four 1's
- Four adjacent 1's on a map form a prime implicant if they are not contained in a group of eight 1's



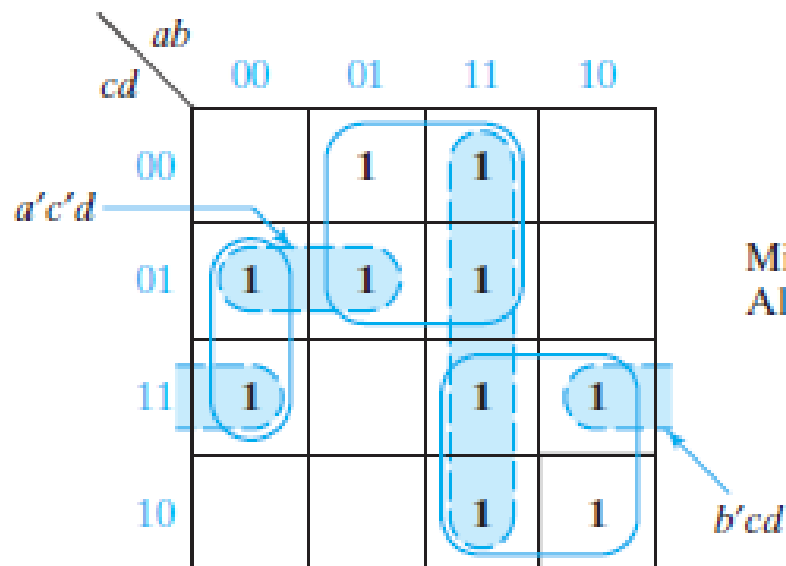
NOT Prime Implicants

Prime Implicants

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: $a'b'd, bc', ac, a'b'd, ab, b'cd$

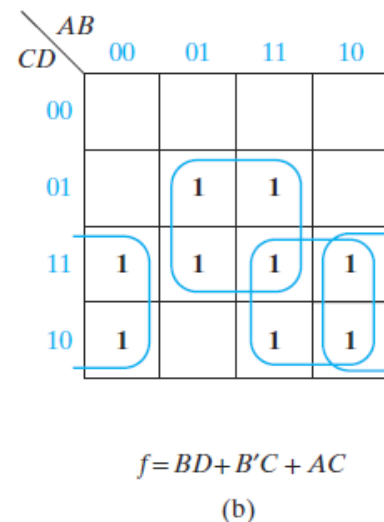
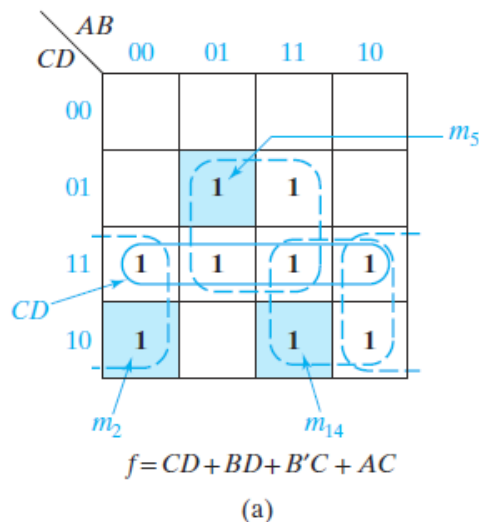
Determination of Minimum Expressions Using Essential Prime Implicants

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.
 - ✓ m_2 is covered only by prime implicant $B'C$
 - ✓ m_5 is covered only by prime implicant BD
 - ✓ m_{14} is covered only by prime implicant AC
 - ✓ m_3 is covered by both $B'C$ and $CD \rightarrow CD$ is not an essential prime implicants
- In order to find a minimum sum of products from a map, we should first loop all of the essential prime implicants.

FIGURE 5-17

© Cengage Learning 2014



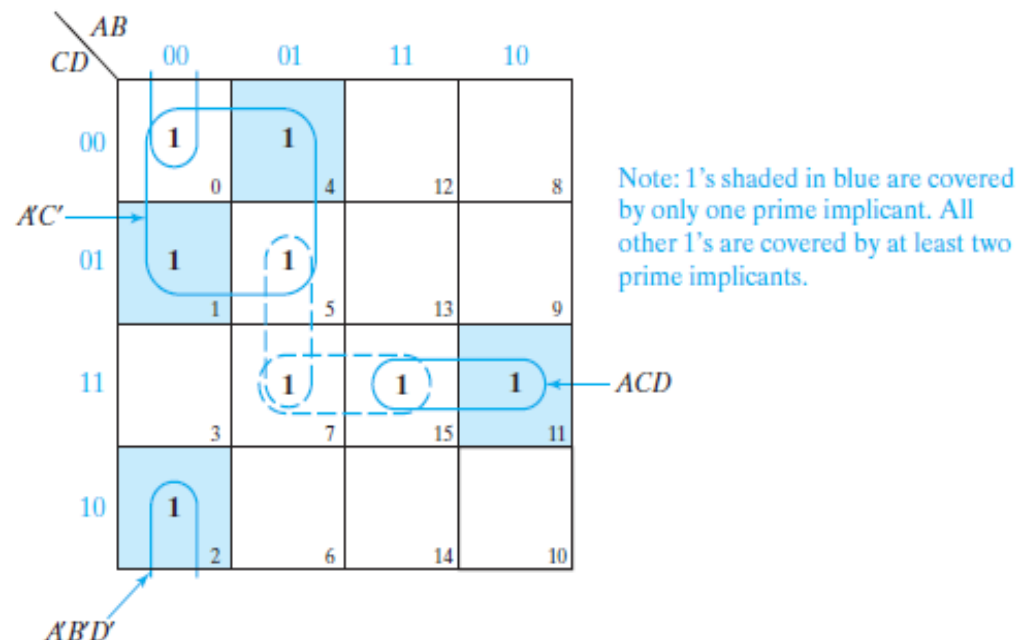
Determination of Minimum Expressions Using Essential Prime Implicants

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.

FIGURE 5-18

© Cengage Learning 2014



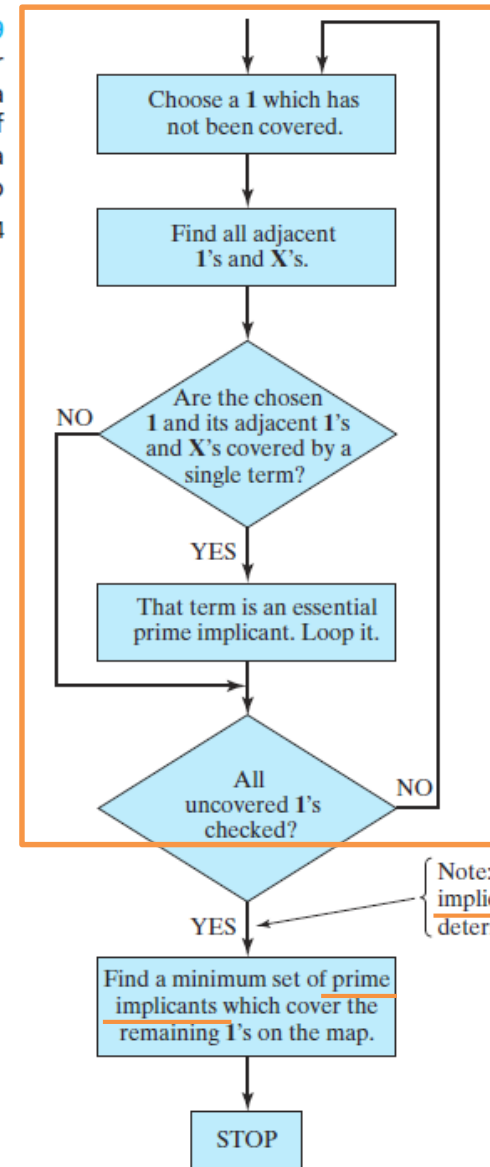
Determination of Minimum Expressions Using Essential Prime Implicants

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.)
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.

FIGURE 5-19
Flowchart for
Determining a
Minimum Sum of
Products Using a
Karnaugh Map
© Cengage Learning 2014

Essential Prime Implicant



Alternative method to obtain minimum product-of-sum expressions for a function f :

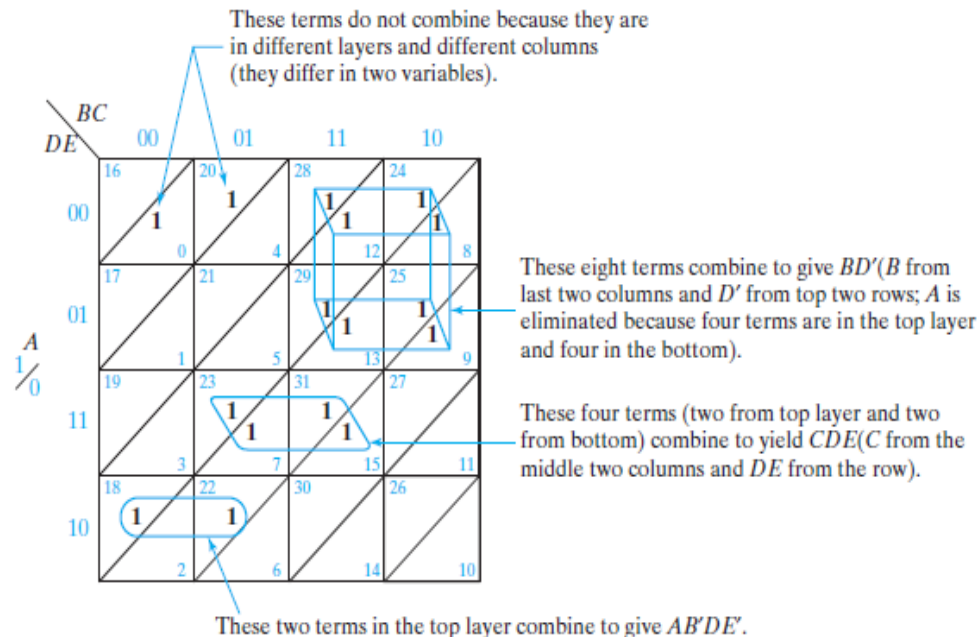
- Find minimum a sum-of-products expression for f' , and then complement f' to obtain a minimum product-of-sums expression for f .
- Alternatively, we can perform the dual of the procedure for finding minimum sum of products.
- Let S be a sum term. If every input combination for which $S = 0$, f is also 0, then S can be a term in a product-of-sums expression for F .
- We will call such a sum term an *implicate* of f .
- Implicate S is a *prime implicate* if it cannot be combined with any other implicate to eliminate a literal from S .
- The prime implicates of f can be found by looping the largest groups of adjacent zeros on the Karnaugh map for f .
- If a prime implicate is the only prime implicate covering a maxterm (zero) of f , then it is an *essential prime implicate* and must be included in any minimum product-of-sums expression for f .

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
A Five-Variable
Karnaugh Map
© Cengage Learning 2014

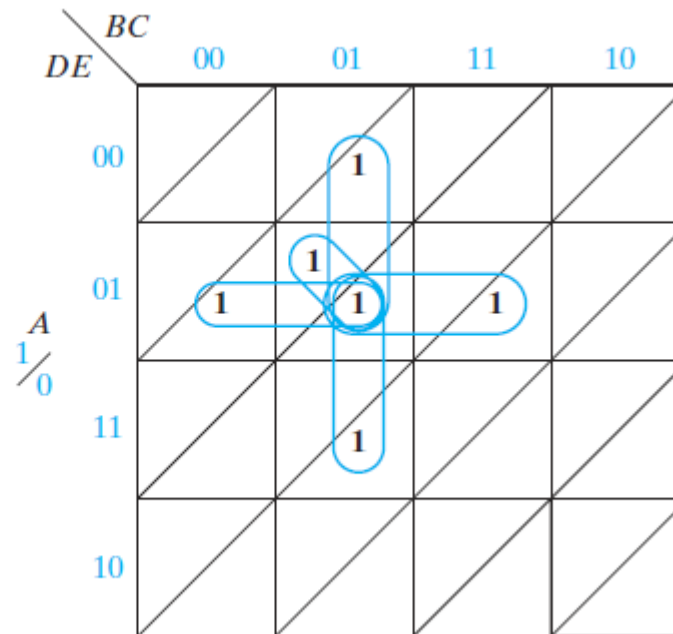


Five-Variable Karnaugh Maps

Checking for adjacency:

- Each term can be adjacent to exactly five other terms, four in the same layer and one in the other layer.
- Each term should be checked against the five possible adjacent squares.
- In general, the number of adjacent squares is equal to the number of variables

FIGURE 5-22
© Cengage Learning 2014



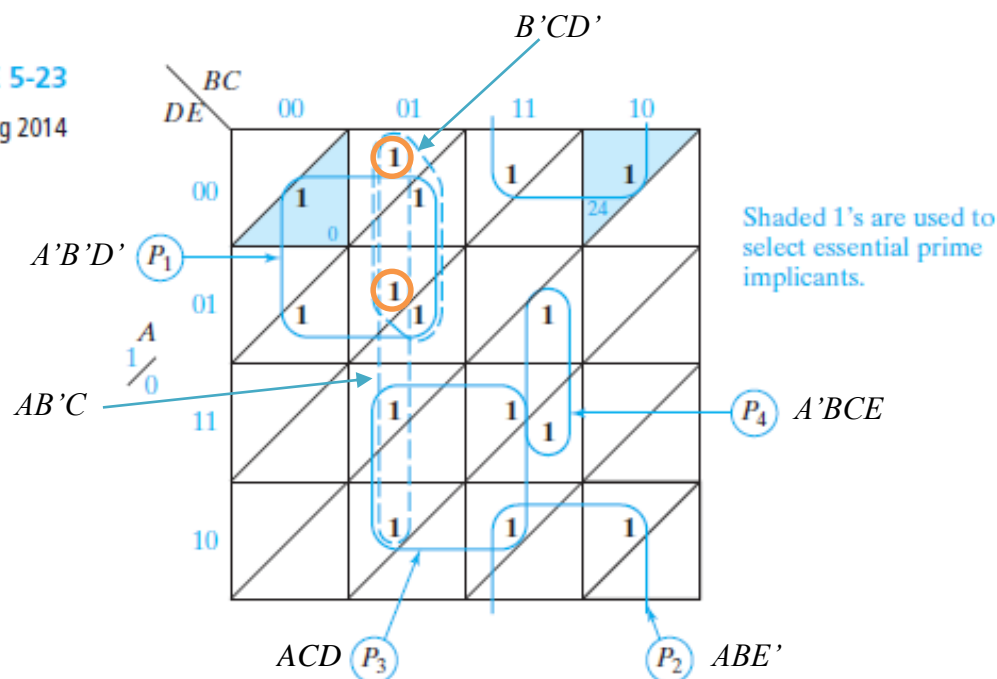
Five-Variable Karnaugh Maps

Example of Five-Variable Karnaugh Map:

- $F(A, B, C, D, E) = \sum m(0, 1, 4, 5, 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31)$
- Prime implicant P_1 is chosen first because all of the 1's adjacent to minterm 0 are covered by P_1 . (Essential Prime Implicant)
- Prime implicant P_2 is chosen next because all of the 1's adjacent to minterm 24 are covered by P_2 . (Essential Prime Implicant)
- If we choose prime implicants P_3 and P_4 next, the remaining two 1's can be covered by two different groups of four, $A'D'C$ and $B'CD'$.
- Thus, $F = P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + P_4 + A'B'C$, or $F = P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + P_4 + B'CD'$

FIGURE 5-23

© Cengage Learning 2014



Five-Variable Karnaugh Maps

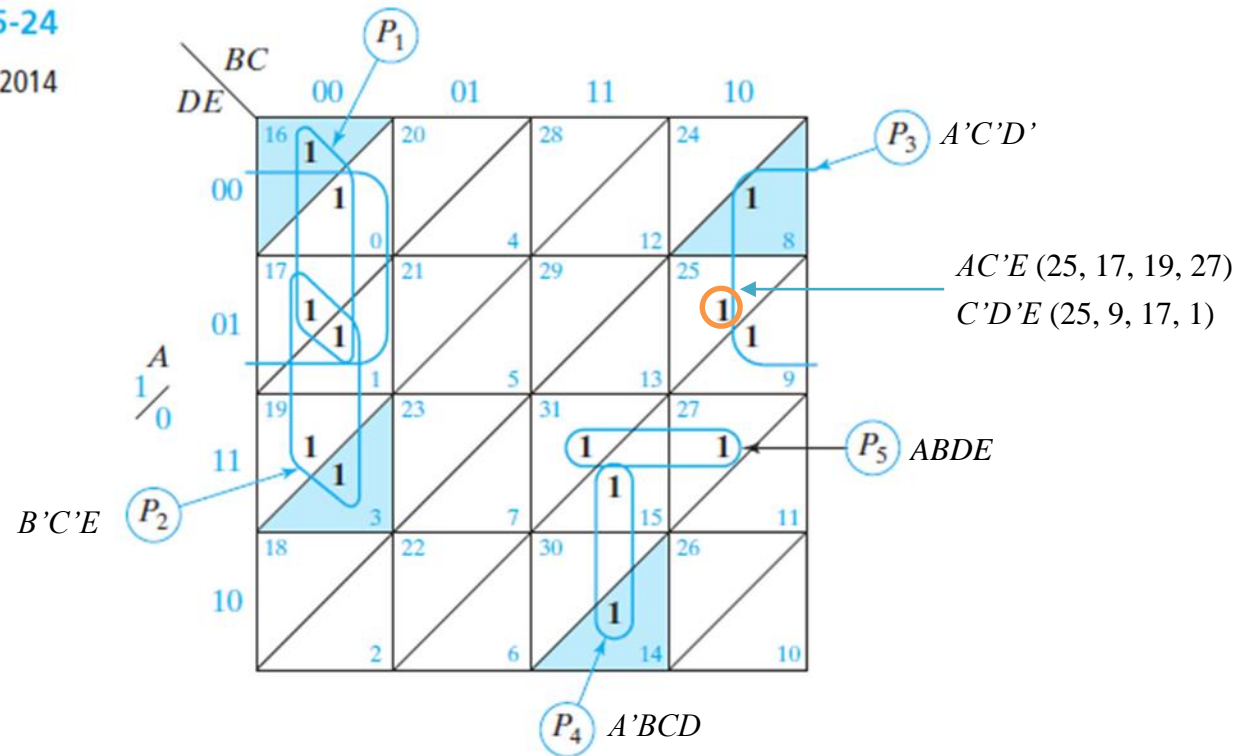
Example of Five-Variable Karnaugh Map:

- $F(A, B, C, D, E) = \sum m(0, 1, 3, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 25, 27, 31)$
- All 1's adjacent to m_{16} is covered by P_1 . All 1's adjacent to m_3 is covered by P_2 .
- All 1's adjacent to m_8 is covered by P_3 . All 1's adjacent to m_{14} is covered by P_4 .
- P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4 are essential prime implicants.
- The final solutions is

$$F = P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + P_4 + P_5 + AC'E, \text{ or } F = P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + P_4 + P_5 + C'D'E$$

FIGURE 5-24

© Cengage Learning 2014

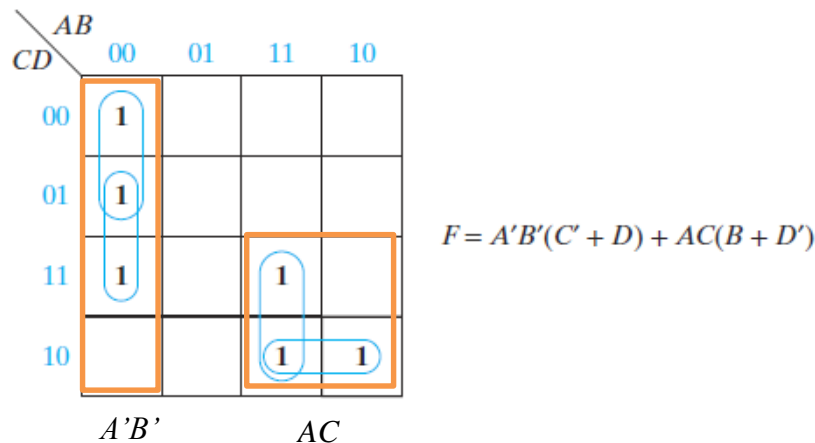


Other Uses of Karnaugh Maps

Other Uses of Karnaugh Maps:

- We can prove that two functions are equal by plotting them on maps and showing that they have the same Karnaugh map, i.e., minterm expansions for F ($F = 1$) and maxterm expansions for F' ($F = 0$)
- 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. Inspection of the map reveals terms which have one or more variables in common.

FIGURE 5-25
© Cengage Learning 2014



Other Uses of Karnaugh Maps

Other Uses of Karnaugh Maps:

- When simplifying a function algebraically, the Karnaugh map can be used as a guide in determining what steps to take.
- Consider the function

$$F = ABCD + B'CDE + A'B' + BCE'$$

Add $ACDE$ term using consensus theorem:

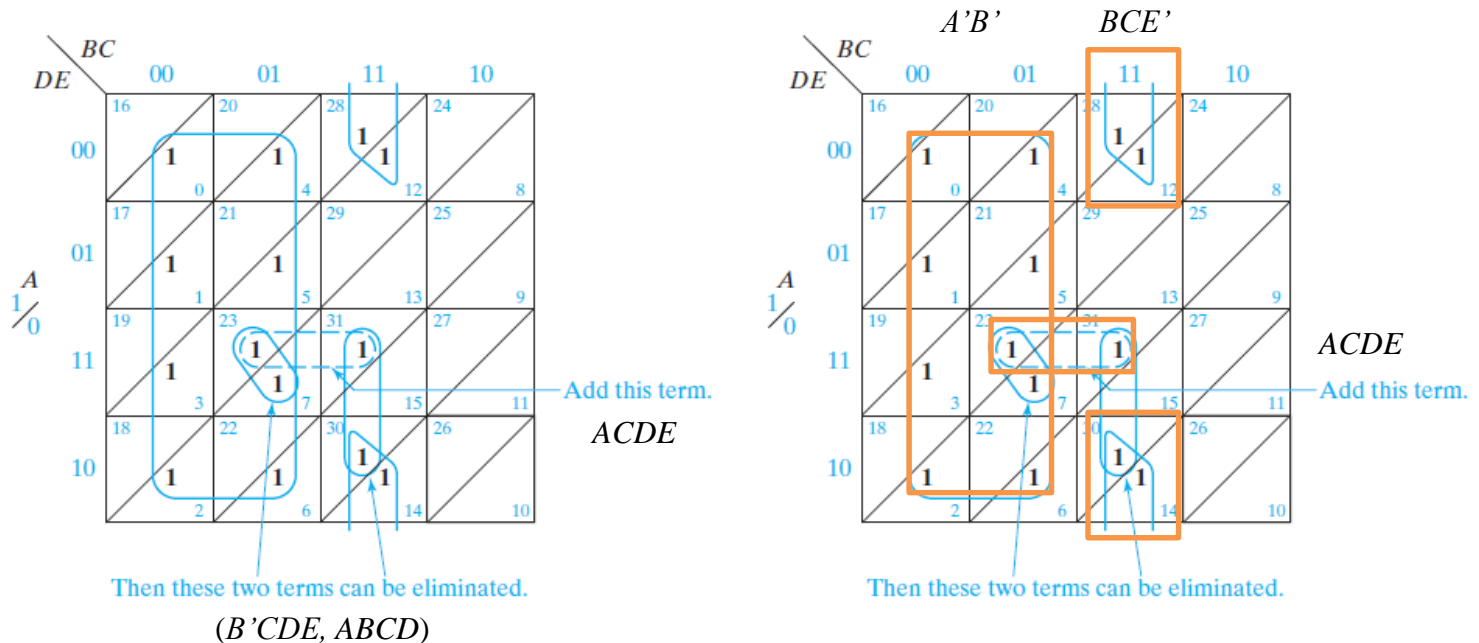
$$F = \underline{ABCD} + \underline{B'CDE} + A'B' + BCE' + \underline{ACDE}$$

The minimum solution is

$$F = A'B' + BCE' + ACDE$$

FIGURE 5-26

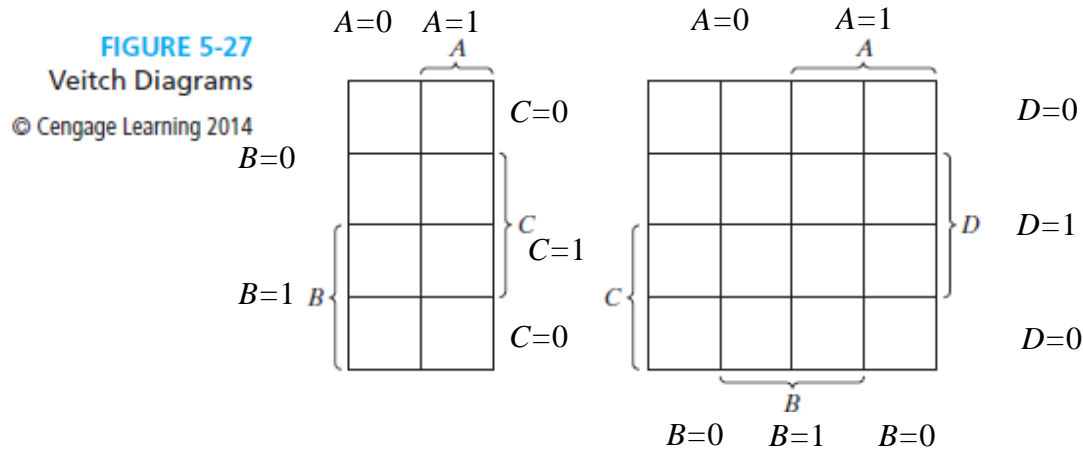
© Cengage Learning 2014



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 below.
- For the half of the map labeled A , $A=1$; and for the other half, $A=0$.
- However, Karnaugh maps are more convenient to solve sequential circuit problems.

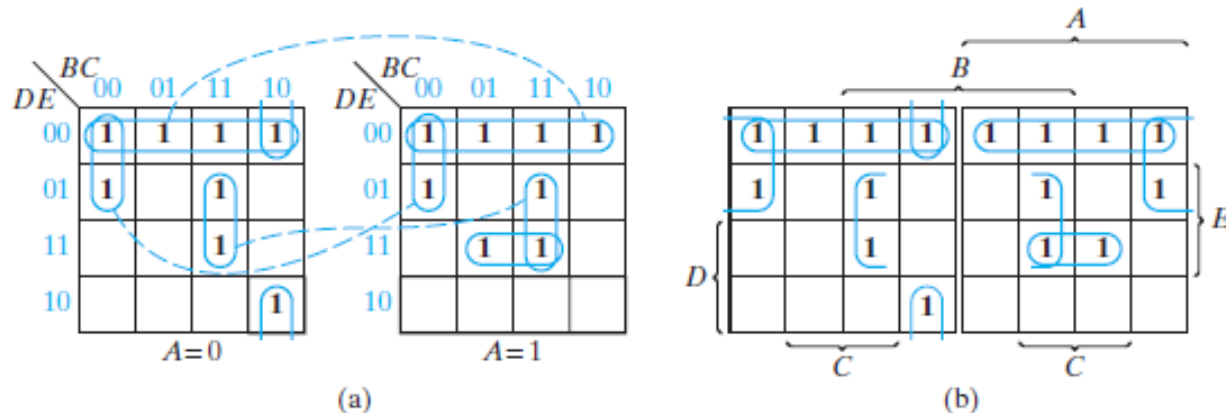


Other Forms of Karnaugh Maps

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
© Cengage Learning 2014



$$F = D'E' + B'C'D' + BCE + A'BC'E' + ACDE$$