



Combinational Logic Circuits

Part III - Theoretical Foundations



Overview

- Simplifying Boolean Functions
 - Algebraic Manipulation
 - Karnaugh Map Manipulation (simplifying functions of 2, 3, 4 variables)
- Systematic Approach for Simplifying Functions using K-maps
 - Implicants, Prime Implicants (PIs), and Essential Prime Implicants
 - Simplifying Functions using Essential and Nonessential PIs
- Don't-care Conditions and Simplification using Don't Cares

Boolean Functions as Equations

- Truth table and K-map of a Boolean function are **unique representations**
- However, representing a Boolean function as an equation **can be done in many different ways**
 - Canonical and Standard forms
- Example:
 - $F1(X,Y,Z) = X' \cdot Y' \cdot Z' + X' \cdot Y \cdot Z' + X \cdot Y \cdot Z'$
 - $F2(X,Y,Z) = X' \cdot Y' \cdot Z' + Y \cdot Z'$
 - $F3(X,Y,Z) = X' \cdot Z' + X \cdot Y \cdot Z'$
 - $F4(X,Y,Z) = X' \cdot Z' + Y \cdot Z'$
- **The corresponding truth tables for F1 to F4 are identical!**
- Thus, $F1 = F2 = F3 = F4$
- However, F2 and F3 are **simpler** than F1 and F4 is **simpler** than the others.

X	Y	Z		F1	F2	F3	F4
0	0	0		1	1	1	1
0	0	1		0	0	0	0
0	1	0		1	1	1	1
0	1	1		0	0	0	0
1	0	0		0	0	0	0
1	0	1		0	0	0	0
1	1	0		1	1	1	1
1	1	1		0	0	0	0

How do we simplify Boolean functions?



Simplifying a Boolean Function

- Why simplifying Boolean functions?
 - Boolean functions are used to **design** digital logic circuits
 - **Simpler** Boolean function can mean **cheaper, smaller, faster** circuit
- Three main approaches to simplify Boolean functions:
 - Algebraic Manipulations
 - using the Boolean Algebra as a tool for simplifications
 - Karnaugh Map Manipulations
 - very easy graphical method to simplify Boolean functions
 - it works for functions of up to 4 variables!
 - Algorithmic Techniques
 - used to program a computer to do the simplifications

Algebraic Manipulation

- We use basic identities, properties, and theorems of the Boolean Algebra to manipulate and simplify Boolean functions

- Example1: Simplify $F = X'YZ + X'YZ' + XZ$

$$\begin{aligned} F &= X'YZ + X'YZ' + XZ && \text{-- apply identity 14} \\ &= X'Y(Z+Z') + XZ && \text{-- apply identity 7} \\ &= X'Y \cdot 1 + XZ && \text{-- apply identity 2} \\ &= X'Y + XZ \end{aligned}$$

- Example2: Simplify $G = X'Y'Z' + X'YZ' + XYZ'$

$$\begin{aligned} F &= X'Y'Z' + X'YZ' + XYZ' && \text{-- apply identity 5} \\ &= X'Y'Z' + X'YZ' + X'YZ' + XYZ' && \text{-- apply identity 14} \\ &= X'Z'(Y'+Y) + YZ'(X'+X) && \text{-- apply identity 7} \\ &= X'Z' \cdot 1 + YZ' \cdot 1 && \text{-- apply identity 2} \\ &= X'Z' + YZ' \end{aligned}$$



Karnaugh Map Manipulations

- We can use a K-map to simplify a Boolean function of 2, 3, or 4 variables as Sum-Of-Products
- Procedure:
 - Enter 1s in the K-map for each minterm (product term) in the function
 - Group *adjacent* K-map cells containing 1s to obtain a product term with fewer variables
 - The number of cells in a group must be a power of 2 (2, 4, 8, ...)!
 - Try to group **as many as possible cells** containing 1s in a group
 - Such group corresponds to a simpler product term!
 - Try to make **as less as possible groups** to cover all cells containing 1s
 - This corresponds to fewer product terms in the simplified function!
 - Do not forget to handle **boundary cells** for K-maps of 3 or 4 variables when you do the grouping
 - **Important:** The result after the simplification may not be unique!

Simplifying a Boolean Function using 2-variable K-map (examples)

Given functions:

$$F1(X,Y) = \Sigma m(0,1) = X'Y' + X'Y$$

	Y	0	1
X	0	1	1
1			

Simplified functions:

$$F1(X,Y) = X'$$

$$F2(X,Y) = \Sigma m(0,3) = X'Y' + XY$$

	Y	0	1
X	0	1	
1			1

$$F2(X,Y) = X'Y' + XY$$

$$F3(X,Y) = \Sigma m(0,2,3) = X'Y' + XY' + XY$$

	Y	0	1
X	0	1	
1	1		1

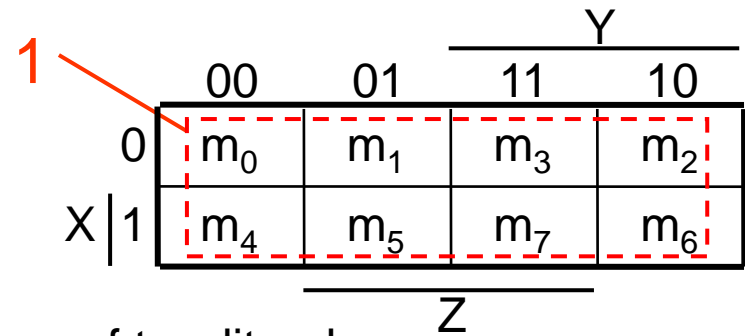
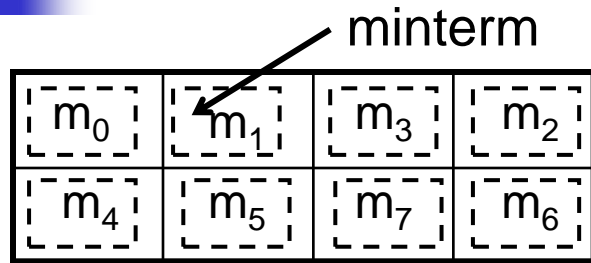
$$F3(X,Y) = X + Y'$$

$$F4(X,Y) = \Sigma m(0,1,2,3) = X'Y' + X'Y + XY' + XY$$

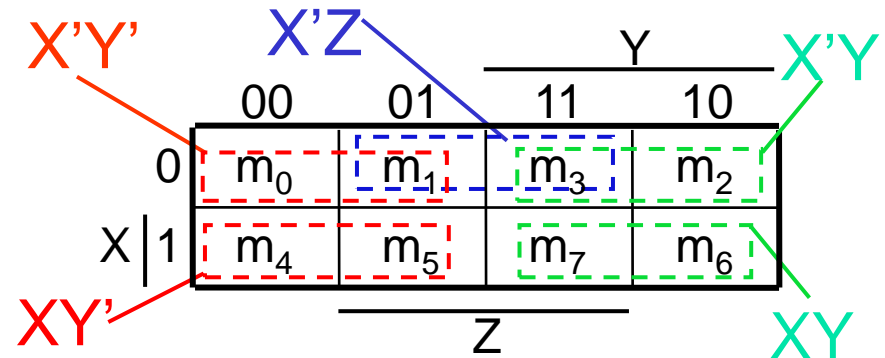
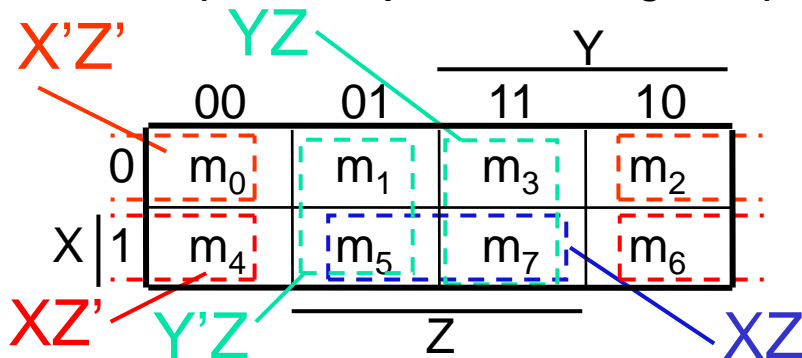
	Y	0	1
X	0	1	1
1	1		1

$$F4(X,Y) = 1$$

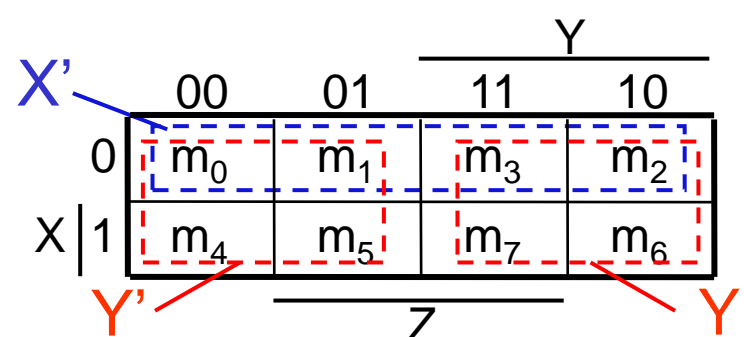
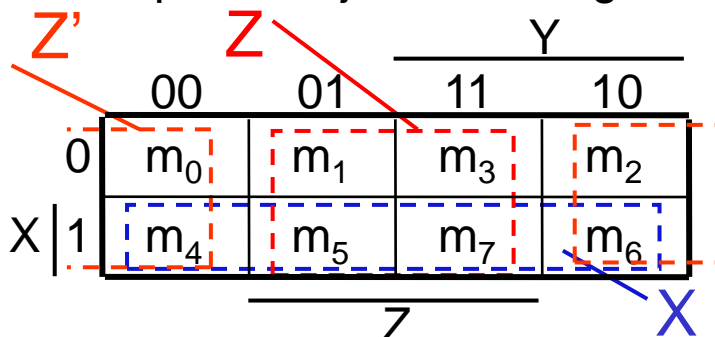
Simplifying a Boolean Function using 3-variable K-map (groupings)



- Group of 2 adjacent cells gives product term of two literals.



- Group of 4 adjacent cells gives product term of one literal.



Simplifying a Boolean Function using 3-variable K-map (examples)

Given functions:

$$F1(X,Y,Z) = \Sigma m(1,2,4,7)$$

		YZ		Y	
		00	01	11	10
X	0		1		1
X	1	1		1	
		Z			

Simplified functions:

Simplification is not possible

$$F2(X,Y,Z) = \Sigma m(2,3,4,5)$$

		YZ		Y	
		00	01	11	10
X	0			1	1
X	1	1	1		
		Z			

$$F2(X,Y,Z) = XY' + X'Y$$

$$F3(X,Y,Z) = \Sigma m(0,2,4,6)$$

		YZ		Y	
		00	01	11	10
X	0	1			1
X	1	1			1
		Z			

$$F3(X,Y,Z) = Z'$$

$$F4(X,Y,Z) = \Sigma m(0,1,2,3,6,7)$$

		YZ		Y	
		00	01	11	10
X	0	1	1	1	1
X	1			1	1
		Z			

$$F4(X,Y,Z) = X' + Y$$

Simplifying a Boolean Function using 3-variable K-map (more examples)

Given functions:

$$F5(X,Y,Z) = \Sigma m(3,4,6,7)$$

		Y			
	YZ	00	01	11	10
X	0			1	
1	1	1	1	1	
		Z			

Simplified functions:

$$F5(X,Y,Z) = XZ' + YZ$$

$$F6(X,Y,Z) = \Sigma m(0,2,4,5,6)$$

		Y			
	YZ	00	01	11	10
X	0	1			1
1	1	1			1
		Z			

$$F6(X,Y,Z) = Z' + XY'$$

$$F7(X,Y,Z) = \Sigma m(1,2,3,5,7)$$

		Y			
	YZ	00	01	11	10
X	0		1	1	1
1		1	1		
		Z			

$$F7(X,Y,Z) = Z + X'Y$$

$$F8(X,Y,Z) = \Sigma m(1,3,4,5,6)$$

		Y			
	YZ	00	01	11	10
X	0		1	1	
1	1	1			1
		Z			

$$F8(X,Y,Z) = XZ' + X'Z + Y'Z$$

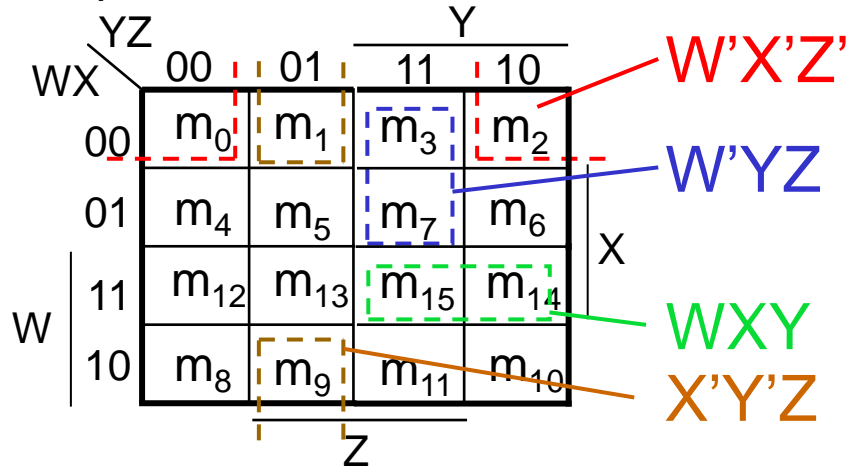
or

$$F8(X,Y,Z) = XZ' + X'Z + XY'$$

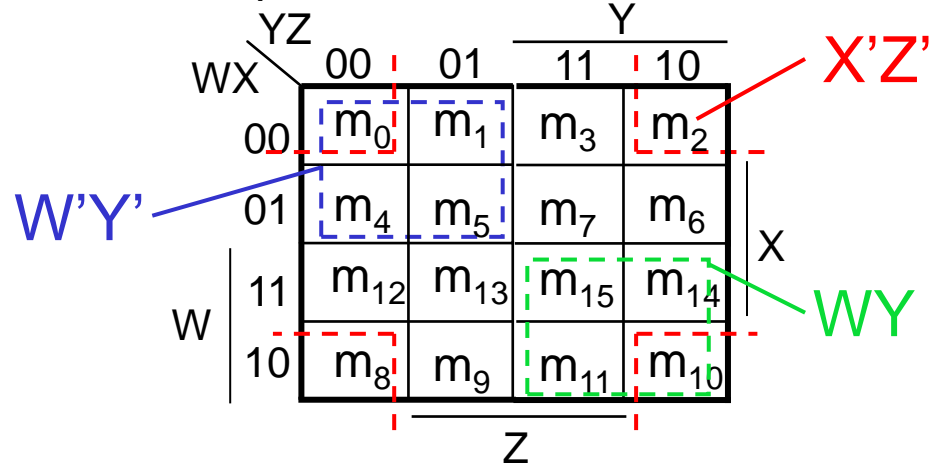
Not unique solution

Simplifying a Boolean Function using 4-variable K-map (grouping examples)

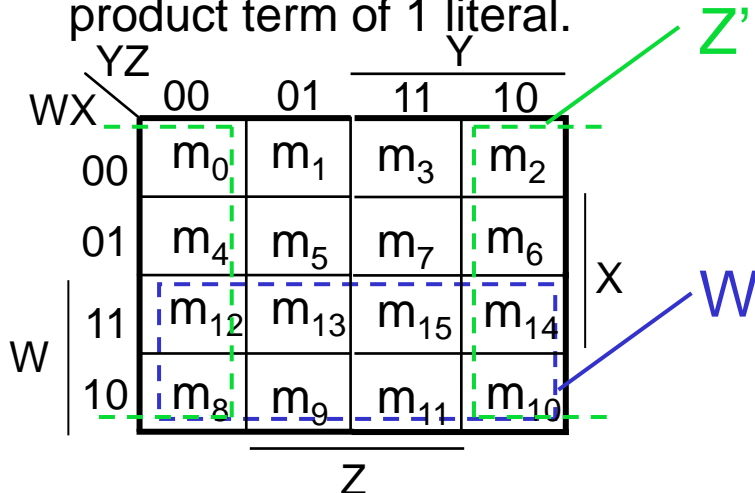
- Group of 2 adjacent cells gives product term of 3 literals.



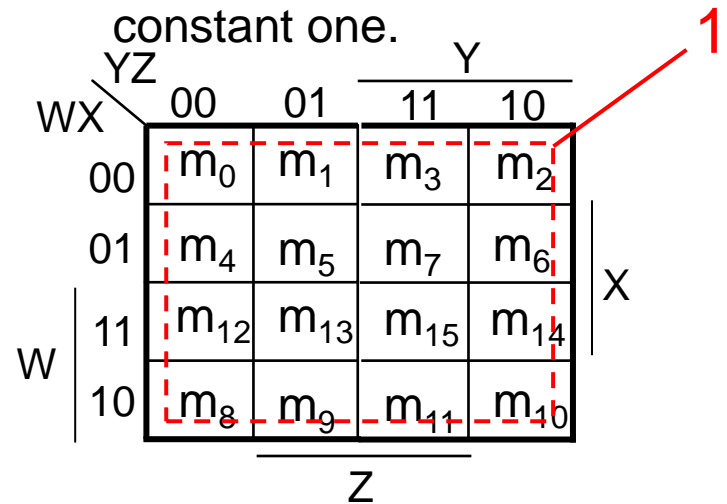
- Group of 4 adjacent cells gives product term of 2 literals.



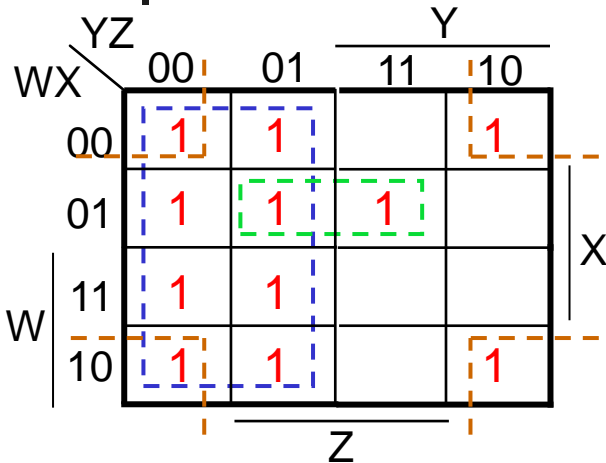
- Group of 8 adjacent cells gives product term of 1 literal.



- Group of all cells gives constant one.



Simplifying a Boolean Function using 4-variable K-map (examples)



Given function:

$F1(W,X,Y,Z) = \Sigma m(0,1,2,4,5,7,8,9,10,12,13)$

Simplified function:

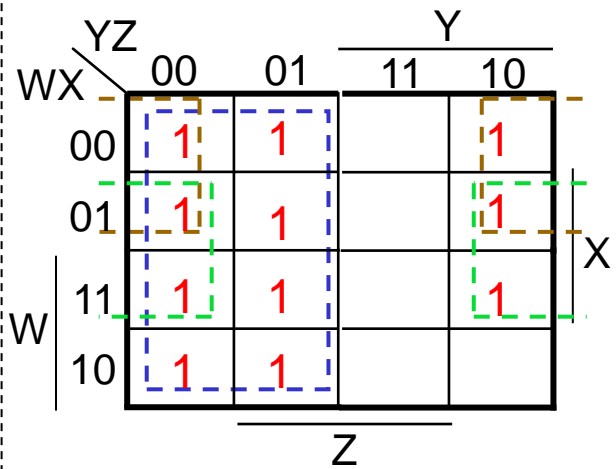
$F1(W,X,Y,Z) = Y' + X'Z' + W'XZ$

Given function:

$F2(W,X,Y,Z) = \Sigma m(0,1,2,4,5,6,8,9,12,13,14)$

Simplified function:

$F2(W,X,Y,Z) = Y' + W'Z' + XZ'$



Given function:

$F3(W,X,Y,Z) = W'X'Y' + X'YZ' + WX'Y' + W'XYZ'$

Simplified function:

$F3(W,X,Y,Z) = X'Y' + X'Z' + W'YZ'$



Simplifying with K-maps Systematically

- You have seen **intuitive procedure** on how to group cells and simplify Boolean functions!
- Can we have more systematic procedure?
- YES, if we introduce the terms:
 - **implicant**
 - **prime** implicant
 - **essential prime** implicant
- An **Implicant** I of a function $F()$ is a product term which implies $F()$, i.e., $F() = 1$ whenever $I = 1$
 - All minterms of a function F are implicants of F
 - All rectangles in a K-map made up of cells containing 1s correspond to implicants

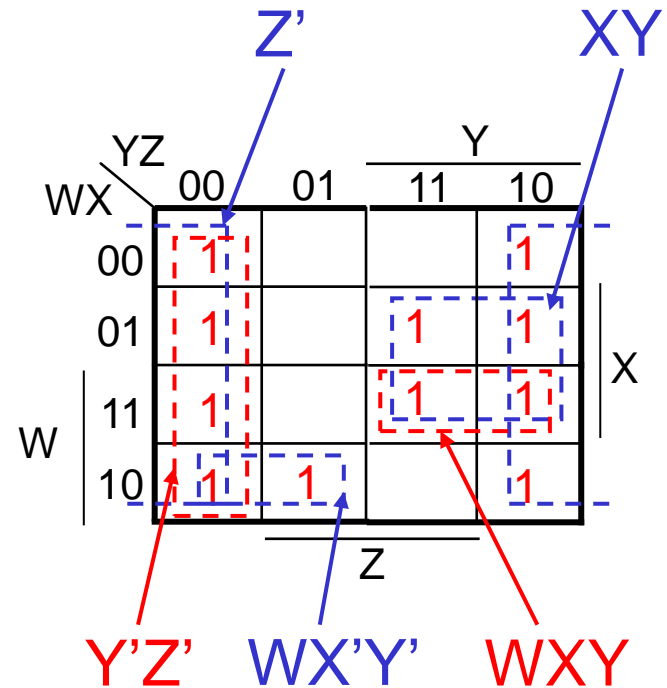


Prime Implicant (PI)

- An implicant I of F is called a **Prime Implicant** (PI) if the removal of any literal from I results in a product term that is **NOT** an implicant of F
 - The above should hold for all literals in I
- Thus, a prime implicant is not contained in **any simpler** implicant
- The set of prime implicants corresponds to
 - all rectangles, in a K-map, made up of cells containing 1s that satisfy the following condition:
 - each rectangle is not contained in a larger rectangle

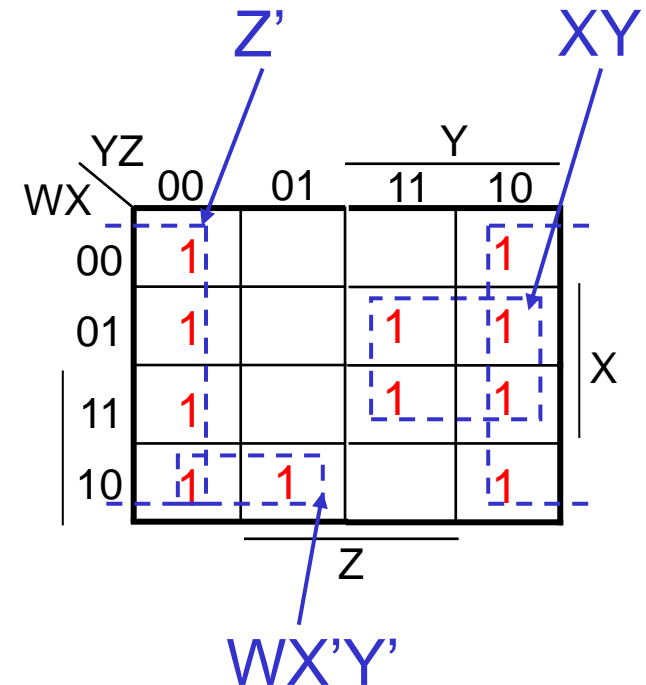
Example of Prime Implicants (PIs)

- Consider function $F(W,X,Y,Z)$ whose K-map is shown at right
- $Y'Z'$ is **not** a prime implicant because it is contained in Z'
- WXY is **not** a prime implicant because it is contained in XY
- Product terms Z' , XY , $WX'Y'$ are prime implicants. Why?
 - Consider the term XY and obtain terms by deleting any literal:
 - We get two terms: term X and term Y
 - Both terms are **NOT** implicants of F
 - Thus, the term XY is prime implicant



Essential Prime Implicants (EPIs)

- If a minterm of function F is included in **ONLY** one prime implicant pi , then pi is an **Essential Prime Implicant** of F
- An essential prime implicant **MUST** appear in all possible SOP expressions of function F
- To find essential prime implicants:
 - Generate all prime implicants of a function
 - Select those prime implicants that contain at least one 1 that is not covered by any other prime implicant
- For the previous example, the PIs are Z' , XY , and $WX'Y'$; all of these are essential.

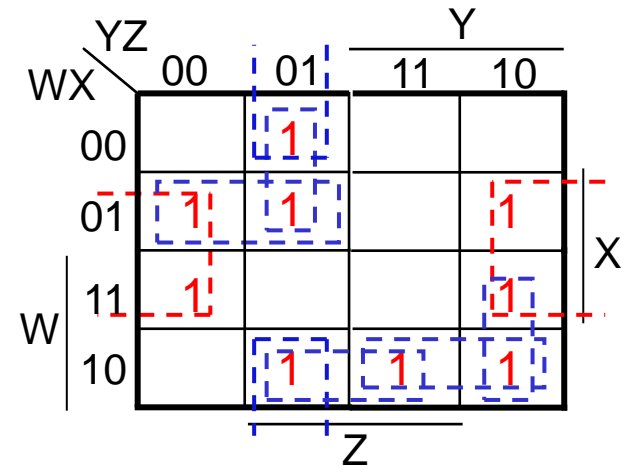


Essential Prime Implicants (examples)

- Consider function $F1(W,X,Y,Z)$ whose K-map is shown below:

- All Prime Implicants are:
 XZ' , $W'XY'$, $W'Y'Z$, $X'Y'Z$,
 $WX'Z$, $WX'Y$, WYZ'

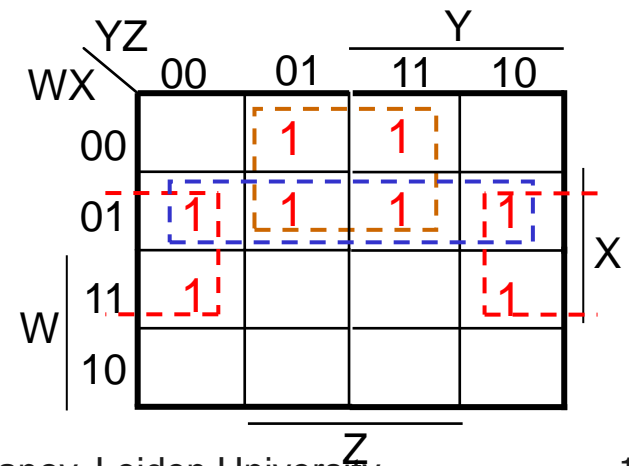
- Essential Prime Implicants are:
 XZ'



- Consider function $F2(W,X,Y,Z)$ whose K-map is shown below:

- All Prime Implicants are:
 XZ' , $W'Z$, $W'X$

- Essential Prime Implicants are:
 XZ' and $W'Z$





Systematic Procedure for Simplifying Boolean Functions

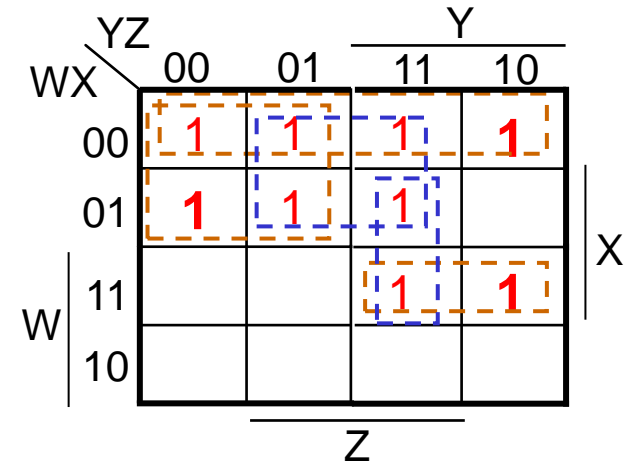
Given : The K-map of a Boolean function

Obtain: The simplest SOP expression for the function

1. Find **all** *prime implicants* (PIs) of the function
2. Select **all essential** PIs
3. For remaining minterms not included in the essential PIs, **select** a set of other PIs to **cover** them, with **minimal overlap** in the set
4. The resulting simplified function is the logical **OR** of the product terms **selected above**

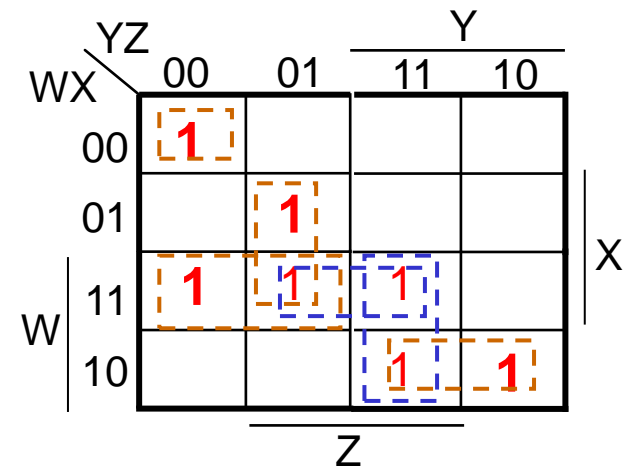
Example

- $F(W,X,Y,Z) = \sum m(0,1,2,3,4,5,7,14,15)$.
- All prime implicants (PI) are:
 $W'X'$, $W'Y'$, $W'Z$, XYZ , WXY
- Select all essential PIs:
 $W'X'$, $W'Y'$, WXY
- Select other PIs to cover all 1s with minimal overlap:
 - Possibilities: $W'Z$ or XYZ
 - We select $W'Z$ because it is simpler.
- $F(W,X,Y,Z) = W'X' + W'Y' + WXY + W'Z$



Other Examples

- Consider function $F(W,X,Y,Z)$ whose K-map is shown at right.
- All prime implicants are:
 - $W'X'Y'Z'$, WXY' , $WX'Y$, WXZ , WYZ , $XY'Z$
- Essential prime implicants are:
 - $W'X'Y'Z'$, WXY' , $WX'Y$, $XY'Z$
- Nonessential prime implicants are:
 - WXZ , WYZ
- Simplified function (solution not unique):
 - $F = W'X'Y'Z' + WXY' + WX'Y + XY'Z + WXZ$
 - $F = W'X'Y'Z' + WXY' + WX'Y + XY'Z + WYZ$



Other Examples (cont.)

- Consider function $F(W,X,Y,Z) = \sum m(0,1,2,4,5,10,11,13,15)$ whose K-map is shown at right.

- All prime implicants are:

- $W'Y'$, $XY'Z$, WXZ , WYZ , $WX'Y$, $W'X'Z'$, $X'YZ'$

- Essential prime implicants are:

- $W'Y'$

- Nonessential prime implicants are:

- $XY'Z$, WXZ , WYZ , $WX'Y$, $W'X'Z'$, $X'YZ'$

- Simplified function (**solution not unique**):

- $F = W'Y' + WXZ + WX'Y + W'X'Z'$

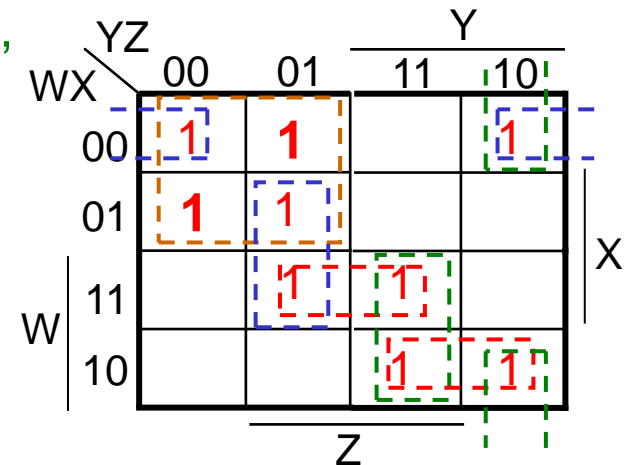
- $F = W'Y' + WXZ + WX'Y + X'YZ'$

- $F = W'Y' + WYZ + X'YZ' + XY'Z$

- $F = W'Y' + WYZ + X'YZ' + WXZ$

WXZ and $WX'Y$ are **NON-overlapping** PIs.

WYZ and $X'YZ'$ are **NON-overlapping** PIs.





Product-Of-Sums (POS) Simplification

- So far, we have considered simplification of a Boolean function expressed in Sum-Of-Products (SOP) form using a K-map .
- Sometimes the **Product-Of-Sums** form of a function is simpler than the SOP form.
- Can we use K-maps to simplify a Boolean function in **Product-Of-Sums** form?
- Procedure:
 - Use sum-of-products simplification on the **zeros** of function F in the K-map. In this way you will get the **simplified complement** of F (F').
 - Find the complement of F' which is F , i.e., $(F')' = F$
 - Recall that the complement of a Boolean function can be obtained by (1) taking the dual and (2) complementing each literal.
 - OR, using DeMorgan's Theorem.

POS Simplification Example

$$F = \sum m(0,1,2,3,4,5,7,14,15)$$

		YZ		Y	
		00	01	11	10
WX	00	1	1	1	1
	01	1	1	1	0
W	11	0	0	1	1
	10	0	0	0	0

Z

The complement of F (F')

		YZ		Y	
		00	01	11	10
WX	00				
	01				1
W	11	1	1		
	10	1	1	1	1

Z

- Simplify using zeros: $F' = WX' + WY' + W'XYZ'$
- Complement F' to find F, i.e., $F = (F)'$
 - First get the dual of F':
 $\text{dual}(F') = (W+X') \cdot (W+Y') \cdot (W'+X+Y+Z')$
 - Complement each literal in $\text{dual}(F')$ to get F as POS
 $F = (W'+X) \cdot (W'+Y) \cdot (W+X'+Y'+Z)$



Don't-Care Conditions

- Sometimes a Boolean function is **not specified** for some combinations of input values. Why?
 - There may be a combination of input values which will **never occur**
 - If they do occur, the value of the function is of no concern
- Such combinations is called ***don't-care condition***
- The function value for such combinations is called a ***don't-care***
- The don't-care function values are usually denoted with **x**
 - **x** may be arbitrarily set to 0 or 1 in an implementation
- Don't-cares can be used to **further** simplify a function



Simplification using Don't-Cares

- Treat don't-cares as if they are 1s to generate prime implicants in order to produce simple expressions
- Delete prime implicants that cover only don't-care minterms
- Treat the covering of remaining don't care minterms as optional in the selection process
 - they may be covered
 - but it is not necessary

Example with Don't-Care Conditions

- Consider the following incompletely specified function **F** that has three don't-care minterms **d**:
 - $F(A,B,C,D) = \sum m(1,3,7,11,15)$
 - $d(A,B,C,D) = \sum m(0,2,5)$

		CD		C	
		00	01	11	10
A	00	x	1	1	x
	01	0	x	1	0
	11	0	0	1	0
	10	0	0	1	0

$$F1 = CD + A'B'$$

		CD		C	
		00	01	11	10
A	00	x	1	1	x
	01	0	x	1	0
	11	0	0	1	0
	10	0	0	1	0

$$F2 = CD + A'D$$

Notice: **F1** and **F2** are algebraically *not equal*. Both include the specified minterms of **F**, but each includes different *don't-care* minterms.

Other Examples with Don't-Cares (1)

- Simplify the function $G(A,B,C,D)$ whose K-map is shown at right.

		CD		C		
		00	01	11	10	
A	B	00	x	1	0	0
		01	1	x	0	x
	11	1	x	x	1	
	10	0	x	x	0	
				D		

$$G = A'C' + AB \quad \text{or} \quad G = A'C' + BD' \quad \text{or} \quad G = BD' + C'D$$

		CD		C		
		00	01	11	10	
A	B	00	x	1	0	0
		01	1	x	0	x
	11	1	x	x	1	
	10	0	x	x	0	
				D		

		CD		C		
		00	01	11	10	
A	B	00	x	1	0	0
		01	1	x	0	x
	11	1	x	x	1	
	10	0	x	x	0	
				D		

		CD		C		
		00	01	11	10	
A	B	00	x	1	0	0
		01	1	x	0	x
	11	1	x	x	1	
	10	0	x	x	0	
				D		

Other Examples with Don't-Cares (2)

- Simplify the function $F(A,B,C,D)$ whose K-map is shown at the top-right.

- $F = A'BC' + AB' + CD' + A'C'D$

or

- $F = A'BD' + AB' + CD' + A'C'D$

- The middle two terms are EPIs, while the first and last terms are selected to cover the minterms $m_1, m_4,$ and m_5 .
- There's a third solution! Can you find it?

		CD		C		
		00	01	11	10	
A	B	00	01	0	1	1
		01	1	1	0	
	11	0	0	x	x	1
	10	1	1	x	x	
		D		C		

		CD		C		
		00	01	11	10	
A	B	00	01	0	1	1
		01	1	1	0	
	11	0	0	x	x	1
	10	1	1	x	x	
		D		C		

		CD		C		
		00	01	11	10	
A	B	00	01	0	1	1
		01	1	1	0	
	11	0	0	x	x	1
	10	1	1	x	x	
		D		C		



Algorithmic Techniques for Simplification

- Simplification of Boolean functions using K-maps works for functions of up to 4 variables
- What do we do for functions with more than 4 variables?
- You can “code up” a minimizer program
 - Use the Quine-McCluskey algorithm
 - Base on (essential) prime implicants
- We won't discuss these techniques here
- Search on Internet to find more information about the Quine-McCluskey algorithm