Combinational Logic Design Principles
Switching algebra

Doru Todinca

Department of Computers
Politehnica University of Timisoara
Outline

Introduction

Switching algebra
- Axioms of switching algebra
- Theorems of switching algebra
- Duality
- Standard Representation of Logic Functions
Outline

Introduction

Switching algebra
Axioms of switching algebra
Theorems of switching algebra
Duality
Standard Representation of Logic Functions
Logic circuits are classified as *combinational* or *sequential*

“A combinational circuit is one whose outputs depend only on its current inputs”

“The outputs of a sequential circuit depend not only on its current inputs, but also on past sequence of inputs, possible arbitrarily far back in time” [Wakerly]

A combinational circuit should not contain *feedback loops*

“A feedback loop is a signal path of a circuit that allows the output of a gate to propagate back to the input of the same gate”

In general a feedback loop creates sequential behaviour

“Combinational circuit analysis: we start with a logic diagram and proceed to a formal description of the function performed by the circuit such as a truth table or a logic expression”
Definitions

- *Synthesis* is the opposite process, where we start with a formal description and obtain a logic diagram.

- *Logic design* starts with an informal description of the circuit (in words), from which we obtain first a formal description and at the end the logic diagram.

- Hence, logic design includes synthesis.

- Usually the most difficult and creative part is to obtain a formal description from the informal description.

- Once we have the formal description we can use tools for synthesis, in order to obtain the logic diagram for a target technology (e.g. FPGA, ASIC, etc).

- Combinational circuits can have more than one output, but in this chapter we discuss only techniques that apply to combinational circuits with one output.
Outline

Introduction

Switching algebra
  Axioms of switching algebra
  Theorems of switching algebra
  Duality
  Standard Representation of Logic Functions
Boolean algebra

- Boolean, or switching algebra, deals with two truth values: FALSE and TRUE, or 0 and 1, or LOW and HIGH (signal voltages)

- Created by George Boole in 1854

- Claude Shannon (1938): adapted the Boolean algebra to switching circuits (relays at that time):
  - A variable expresses the condition of a switching device: closed (1) or open (0)

- Positive logic convention: we associate logic 0 to LOW signal values and logic 1 to HIGH signal values

- Negative logic convention: we associate logic 0 to HIGH values and logic 1 to LOW values (seldom used)

- The choice of positive or negative convention does not affect the results of boolean algebra

- We will use this when we will talk about duality
Switching algebra

- A variable denotes the value of a signal: X, Y1, Input1, etc
- A *literal* is a logic variable or its complement: X, X’, Y1’, etc
- An *expression* combines
  - literals
  - logic operators: AND (\(\cdot\)), OR (+), complementation (’)
  - and parenthesis
- Examples of logic expressions:
  - \((X’ + Y1) \cdot W\)
  - \(((Y + Z1’) \cdot CS_L) \cdot RESET’\)
- An equation has the form: *variable* = *expression*
- Examples:
  - \(P = (A \cdot B + (C \cdot D))’ + Z1\)
  - \(((Y + Z1’) \cdot CS_L) \cdot RESET’ = Q0\)
Outline

Introduction

Switching algebra
  Axioms of switching algebra
  Theorems of switching algebra
  Duality
  Standard Representation of Logic Functions
Axioms of switching algebra

Axioms, or postulates, are a minimal set of definitions and relations that we assume to be true, and from which we can derive all other relations and informations of a mathematical system.

(A1) \( X = 0 \) if \( X \neq 1 \)  
(A1’) \( X = 1 \) if \( X \neq 0 \)  
(A2) If \( X = 0 \), then \( X' = 1 \)  
(A2’) If \( X = 1 \), then \( X' = 0 \)  
(A3) \( 0 \cdot 0 = 0 \)  
(A3’) \( 1 + 1 = 1 \)  
(A4) \( 1 \cdot 1 = 1 \)  
(A4’) \( 0 + 0 = 0 \)  
(A5) \( 0 \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot 0 = 0 \)  
(A5’) \( 1 + 0 = 0 + 1 = 1 \)

Table 1: Axioms of switching algebra
Axioms of switching algebra

- Axioms (A1) and (A1’) formalize the fact that a boolean variable can take only two values: 0 and 1
- Axioms (A2) and (A2’) describe the inverting operator (NOT, denoted also ’)
  - The symbol for an inverter with input X and output Y and its algebraic notation $Y = X'$ are given in figure 1
  - $X'$ is an expression, and $Y = X'$ is an equation
- Axioms (A3)-(A5) describe formally the AND operator, or logical multiplication, with the symbol multiplication dot (·)
- Axioms (A3’)-(A5’) describe formally the OR operator, or logical addition, symbolized by a plus sign (+)
- In a logical expression, multiplication has precedence over addition
- The symbols for AND and OR gates and their algebraic equations are given in figure 2 (a) and (b)
- The five pairs of axioms (A1-A5) and (A1’-A5’) completely characterize switching algebra
Gates: symbols and algebraic notations

Figure 1: Inverter

Figure 2: (a) AND gate and (b) OR gate
Digital gates and truth tables

Figure 3: Fundamental gates and truth tables: (a) for AND gate, (b) for OR gate, (c) for NOT gate

A gate’s behaviour can be expressed using the truth table (see figure 3)

The truth tables for NOT, AND and OR gates are equivalent to the axioms (A2)-(A5) and (A2’)-(A5’)

Copyright © 2000 by Prentice Hall, Inc.
Digital Design Principles and Practices, 3/e
Outline

Introduction

Switching algebra
   Axioms of switching algebra
   Theorems of switching algebra
   Duality
   Standard Representation of Logic Functions
Theorems of switching algebra

- Switching algebra theorems are statements that are always true and that can be obtained from axioms.
- The theorems are very useful for simplifying algebraic expressions used for analysis and synthesis of combinational devices.
- Most theorems can be proved by induction: either *perfect induction* or *finite induction*.
  - Perfect induction means to prove that the theorem is true for all possible cases.
  - Finite induction means to prove that the theorem is true for $n = 2$ (the *basis step*) and that, if the theorem is true for $n = i$, then it is true for $n = i + 1$ (*induction step*).
Table 4-1
Switching-algebra theorems with one variable.

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(T1)</td>
<td>(X + 0 = X)</td>
<td>(T1′)</td>
<td>(X \cdot 1 = X)</td>
<td>(Identities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T2)</td>
<td>(X + 1 = 1)</td>
<td>(T2′)</td>
<td>(X \cdot 0 = 0)</td>
<td>(Null elements)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T3)</td>
<td>(X + X = X)</td>
<td>(T3′)</td>
<td>(X \cdot X = X)</td>
<td>(Idempotency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T4)</td>
<td>((X)^{'} = X)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Involution)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T5)</td>
<td>(X + X^{'} = 1)</td>
<td>(T5′)</td>
<td>(X \cdot X^{'} = 0)</td>
<td>(Complements)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4: Switching algebra theorems with one variable.
Single-Variable Theorems

- Single variable theorems allow us to simplify algebraic expressions:
  - For example, to replace $X + 0$ with $X$, $X + 1$ with 1, $X + X$ with $X$
  - Or, to replace $X \cdot 1$ with $X$, $X \cdot 0$ with 0, $X \cdot X$ with $X$
- All can be proved by perfect induction
- Proof of (T1). We can have two situations, because $X$ can have only two values (according to A1 and A1’):
  1. If $X = 0$ (T1) becomes $0 + 0 = 0$, which is true, according to (A4’)
  2. If $X = 1$ (T1) becomes $1 + 0 = 0$, true, according to (A5’)
- All single variable theorems can be proved in a similar way (at the lab !)
Two- and Three-Variable Theorems

Table 4-2  Switching-algebra theorems with two or three variables.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theorem</th>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(T6)</td>
<td>$X + Y = Y + X$</td>
<td>(Commutativity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T7)</td>
<td>$(X + Y) + Z = X + (Y + Z)$</td>
<td>(Associativity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T8)</td>
<td>$X \cdot Y + X \cdot Z = X \cdot (Y + Z)$</td>
<td>(Distributivity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T9)</td>
<td>$X + X \cdot Y = X$</td>
<td>(Covering)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T10)</td>
<td>$X \cdot Y + X \cdot Y' = X$</td>
<td>(Combining)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T11)</td>
<td>$X \cdot Y + X' \cdot Z + Y \cdot Z = X \cdot Y + X' \cdot Z$</td>
<td>(Consensus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T11')</td>
<td>$(X + Y) \cdot (X' + Z) \cdot (Y + Z) = (X + Y) \cdot (X' + Z)$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5:  Switching algebra theorems with two and three variable

In all theorems it is possible to replace any variable with an arbitrary logic expression.
Commutativity and Associativity

- **Commutativity:**
  - T6 and T6' indicate that we can change the order of terms in a logical sum or a logical product.

- **Associativity:**
  - Without associativity, an expression like \( W + X + Y + Z \) or \( W \cdot X \cdot Y \cdot Z \) is ambiguous.
  - Theorems T7 and T7' indicate that parenthesization is not relevant,
  - so that we can write \( W + X + Y + Z \) instead of \( (((W + X) + Y) + Z) \),
  - or \( W \cdot X \cdot Y \cdot Z \) instead of, e.g., \( (W \cdot X) \cdot (Y \cdot Z) \).

- **Associativity and commutativity tell us that:**
  - We can extend the \( \cdot \) and \( + \) operators, that have been defined as *binary* operators, to any number of variables.
  - That means that we can have AND and OR gates with 2, 3, 4, 8, ... inputs.
  - We may connect the gates’ inputs in any order.
Two- and Three-Variable Theorems: Distributivity

- **Distributivity:**
  - Theorem T8 looks like distributivity of real and integer number multiplication over addition
  - It allows us to “multiply out” expressions in order to obtain a sum-of-product form:
    \[
    W \cdot (X + Y + Z) = W \cdot ((X + Y) + Z) =
    W \cdot (X + Y) + W \cdot Z = W \cdot X + W \cdot Y + W \cdot Z
    \]
  - Theorem T8’ does not hold for real (or integer) number addition and multiplication, but in Boolean algebra, logic addition is distributive over logic multiplication
  - It means that we can “add out” expressions to obtain the product-of-sum form:
    \[
    W + (X \cdot Y \cdot Z) = W + (X \cdot (Y \cdot Z)) =
    (W + X) \cdot (W + (Y \cdot Z)) = (W + X) \cdot (W + Y) \cdot (W + Z)
    \]
2- and 3-Variable Theorems: Covering and Combining

- Both covering and combining theorems are used for minimization of logic expressions
- They can be proved by perfect induction, but also using other theorems, as follows:

\[ X + X \cdot Y = X \cdot 1 + X \cdot Y \quad \text{(according to T1')} \]
\[ = X \cdot (1 + Y) \quad \text{(according to T8)} \]
\[ = X \cdot 1 \quad \text{(according to T2)} \]
\[ = X \quad \text{(according to T1')} \]

**Table 2 :** Proof of covering theorem

\[ X \cdot Y + X \cdot Y' = X \cdot (Y + Y') \quad \text{(according to T8)} \]
\[ = X \cdot 1 \quad \text{(according to T5)} \]
\[ = X \quad \text{(according to T1')} \]

**Table 3 :** Proof of combining theorem
The consensus theorem

- T11 is called the consensus theorem
- The term $Y \cdot Z$ is called the consensus of $X \cdot Y$ and $X' \cdot Z$
- The theorem can be proved by perfect induction, or by the following steps:
  1. If $Y \cdot Z = 1$ then both $X$ and $Y$ must be 1.
  2. It results that either $X \cdot Y = 1$ or $X' \cdot Z = 1$ (since either $X$ or $X'$ must be 1).
  3. That means that from the expression $X \cdot Y + X' \cdot Z + Y \cdot Z$
     the term $Y \cdot Z$ can be eliminated
  4. Hence, $X \cdot Y + X' \cdot Z + Y \cdot Z = X \cdot Y + X' \cdot Z$
  5. If $Y \cdot Z = 0$, then the theorem is obviously true.

- Another proof:
  $$X \cdot Y + X' \cdot Z + Y \cdot Z = X \cdot Y + X' \cdot Z + Y \cdot Z \cdot 1 =$$
  $$X \cdot Y + X' \cdot Z + Y \cdot Z \cdot (X + X') = (X \cdot Y + X \cdot Y \cdot Z) + (X' \cdot Z +$$
  $$X' \cdot Z \cdot Y) = X \cdot Y \cdot (1 + Z) + X' \cdot Z \cdot (1 + Y) = X \cdot Y + X' \cdot Z$$
Table 4-3  Switching-algebra theorems with $n$ variables.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theorem</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(T12)</td>
<td>$X + X + \ldots + X = X$ (Generalized idempotency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T12')</td>
<td>$X \cdot X \cdot \ldots \cdot X = X$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T13)</td>
<td>$(X_1 \cdot X_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot X_n)' = X_1' + X_2' + \ldots + X_n'$ (DeMorgan's theorems)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T13')</td>
<td>$(X_1 + X_2 + \ldots + X_n)' = X_1' \cdot X_2' \cdot \ldots \cdot X_n'$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T14)</td>
<td>$[F(X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n, +, \cdot)]' = F(X_1', X_2', \ldots, X_n', \cdot, +)$ (Generalized DeMorgan's theorem)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T15)</td>
<td>$F(X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n) = X_1 \cdot F(1, X_2, \ldots, X_n) + X_1' \cdot F(0, X_2, \ldots, X_n)$ (Shannon's expansion theorems)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T15')</td>
<td>$F(X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n) = [X_1 + F(0, X_2, \ldots, X_n)] \cdot [X_1' + F(1, X_2, \ldots, X_n)]$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 6: Switching algebra theorems with $n$ variable

- The theorems are true for an arbitrary number of variables, $n$.
- Most of them can be proved by finite induction.
- DeMorgan’s theorems T13 and T13’ are probably the most used theorems from switching algebra.
n-Variable Theorems: proof of T12

- Proof is by finite induction:
- Basis step: for \( n = 2 \) the theorem is true, according to T3.
- Induction step: suppose that for \( n = i \) T12 is true, i.e.
  \[
  X + X + \ldots + X = X
  \]
  \( i \)
- We will prove T12 for \( n = i + 1 \):

  \[
  X + X + \ldots + X = X + (X + \ldots + X) \\
  \]
  \( i+1 \)

  \[
  = X + X \\
  = X \\
  (n = i) \\
  \]

  \[
  \text{(according to T3)}
  \]

Table 4: Proof of generalized idempotency by finite induction
DeMorgan: T13

- Theorem T13 says that an n-input AND gate with negated output is equivalent with an n-input OR gate with negated inputs
- Figure 7 (a) and (b) illustrate this, for $n = 2$
- Figure 7 (c) and (d) show the gates symbols
- In 7 (d) the bubbles on the inputs signify that the gate’s inputs are inverted
- Theorem T13’ says that an n-input OR gate with inverted output is equivalent with an n-input AND gate with inverted inputs
- It is illustrated in figure 8 (a) and (b), while (c) and (d) contain the gates symbols
DeMorgan: T13

Figure 7: Equivalent circuits for NAND gate, according to DeMorgan’s theorem T13
DeMorgan: T13’

Figure 8: Equivalent circuits for NOR gate, according to DeMorgan’s theorem T13’
DeMorgan

- Theorems T13 and T13’ can be proved by finite induction
- The basis step, for $n = 2$, can be proved by perfect induction
- Theorems T13 and T13’ can be used to prove T14, if we decompose the arbitrary function $F$ in sum of products, and respectively product of sums and apply recursively T13 and T13’
- We will use another approach: first demonstrate T14 using duality, then T13 and T13’ will result as particular cases of T14
- In T14, the complement $(F)'$ of a function $F$ is defined as being the logic expression whose value is the opposite value of $F$, for every possible input combination.
Generalized DeMorgan

- Theorem T14 explains how to complement an n-variable logic expression:
  - by swapping + and · and complementing all variables
- As a result, the uncomplemented variables will be complemented
- And the complemented variables will be uncomplemented (because of theorem T4, involution: \((X')' = X\))
- Example. Let's consider the following expression:
  \[ F(W, X, Y, Z) = (W' + X) \cdot (X + Y) \cdot (W + (X' \cdot Z')) \]
  - Applying theorem T14, we will obtain:
    \[ [F(W, X, Y, Z)]' = ((W')' \cdot X') + (X' \cdot Y') + (W' \cdot ((X')' + (Z')')) \]
  - Using theorem T4 we will have:
    \[ [F(W, X, Y, Z)]' = (W \cdot X') + (X' \cdot Y') + (W' \cdot (X + Z)) \]
Outline

Introduction

Switching algebra
  Axioms of switching algebra
  Theorems of switching algebra
  Duality
  Standard Representation of Logic Functions
Duality

- All axioms of switching algebra are given in pairs.
- The primed version of an axiom is obtained from the unprimed version by swapping 0 and 1 and, if present, $\cdot$ and $+$. 
- If a theorem can be proved using certain axioms, then the primed theorem can be also proved (using the primed axioms).
- We can give the following metatheorem.
- **Principle of duality**: Any theorem or identity in switching algebra remains true if 0 and 1 are swapped and $\cdot$ and $+$ are swapped too.
- A metatheorem is a theorem about theorems.
- We will formally define the *dual of a logic expression*. 
Duality

Definition
If $F(X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n, \cdot, +, ')$ is a fully parenthesized logic expression involving the variables $X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n$ and the operators $\cdot, +,$ and $'$, then the dual of $F$, written $F^D$, is the same expression with $+$ and $\cdot$ swapped:

$$F^D(X_1, X_2, \ldots X_n, \cdot, +, ') = F(X_1, X_2, \ldots X_n, +, \cdot, ')$$

Using duality, theorem T14 can be expressed in the following way:

$$[F(X_1, X_2, \ldots X_n)]' = F^D(X'_1, X'_2, \ldots X'_n)$$
Duality: proof of theorem T14

- Figure 9 (a) shows the electrical function table of a gate that we call “type 1” gate
- In positive logic, i.e., if we associate 0 to LOW and 1 to HIGH, it is an AND gate (fig 9 (b))
- But in negative logic (LOW=1 and HIGH=0), “type 1” gate is an OR gate (fig 9 (c))
- In the same way we can consider the “type 2” gate from figure 10, which is an OR gate in positive logic and an AND gate in negative logic
- Obviously, similar tables can be given for gates with any number of inputs
Duality: proof of theorem T14

Figure 9: A “type 1” logic gate: (a) electrical functioning table; logic function table and symbol in positive logic (b) and negative logic (c)

Figure 10: A “type 2” logic gate: (a) electrical functioning table; logic function table and symbol in positive logic (b) and negative logic (c)
Suppose we have an arbitrary logic expression $F(X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n)$

We can build a circuit for this logic expression under the positive logic convention, using inverters (NOT gates) for NOT operations, type 1 gates for AND operations and type 2 gates for OR operations.

We will obtain the circuit from figure 11.

Without changing the circuit, we change the logic convention and use negative logic.

The voltage levels do not change when we change the logic convention, which means that:

- the “type 1” gates will be OR gates and “type 2” gates will be AND gates
- each input will be replaced by its complement
- inverters will remain unchanged

We will obtain the circuit from figure 12.
Duality: proof of theorem T14

- The function realized by the circuit from figure 12 is the dual of function $F$, realized by the circuit in positive logic (from figure 11).
- For each combination of input voltages, the circuit from figures 11 and 12 will produce the same voltage.
- But, because we use different logic conventions, it means that the logic values of the circuit from the two figures will be always complemented.
- Which means that

\[ F(X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n) = [F^D(X'_1, X'_2, \ldots, X'_n)]' \]

- By complementing both sides, we obtain theorem T14.
Duality: proof of theorem T14

Figure 11: Circuit for a logic function using “type 1” and “type-2” logic gates in positive logic convention
Duality: proof of theorem T14

Figure 12: The circuit from figure 11 under negative logic convention
Outline

Introduction

Switching algebra
  Axioms of switching algebra
  Theorems of switching algebra
  Duality

Standard Representation of Logic Functions
Truth table

- The *truth table* is the most basic representation of a logic function of a combinational circuit.
- A truth table lists the output of a circuit for all its input combinations.
- The order in which we list the input combinations is traditionally the ascending binary counting order.
- A truth table for a combinational circuit with $n$ inputs has $2^n$ rows.
- Figure 13 presents the general structure of a truth table for a circuit with 3 inputs (a three-variable truth table).
- With 3 variable a truth table has $2^3 = 8$ rows.
- Figure 14 presents a truth table for a particular logic 3-input logic function F.
Table 4-4
General truth table structure for a 3-variable logic function, $F(X, Y, Z)$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Z</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>F(0,0,0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>F(0,0,1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>F(0,1,0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>F(0,1,1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>F(1,0,0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>F(1,0,1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>F(1,1,0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>F(1,1,1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 13: General truth table for a 3-variable logic function
### Truth table for a particular logic function

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Z</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 4-5**
Truth table for a particular 3-variable logic function, $F(X, Y, Z)$.

**Figure 14**: The truth table for a particular 3-variable logic function
Standard representations of logic functions: Definitions

- A *literal* is a variable or the complement of a variable.
  - Examples: $X$, $X'$, $Y$, $Y'$, RESET.

- A *product term* is a single literal or a logic product of two or more literals.
  - Examples: $Z'$, $W \cdot X \cdot Y$, $W \cdot X' \cdot Y' \cdot Z$

- A *sum-of-products* expression is a logical sum of product terms.
  - Examples: $W \cdot X \cdot Y + W \cdot X' \cdot Y' + W' \cdot X \cdot Y$

- A *sum term* is a single literal or a logical sum of two or more literals.
  - Examples: $W + X + Y$, $W' + X' + Y'$, $W + X + Y' + Z'$

- A *product-of-sum* expression is a logical product of sum terms.
  - Examples: $(W + X + Y) \cdot (W' + X' + Y') \cdot (W' + X + Y)$, $Z' \cdot (W + X + Y' + Z')$
Standard representations of logic functions: Definitions

- A **normal term** is a product or sum term in which no variable appears more than once.
  - A non-normal term can always be simplified to a constant or a normal term using one of the theorems T3, T3’ (idempotency), T5 or T5’ (complements).
  - Examples of non-normal terms: $W \cdot X \cdot X \cdot Z$, $W \cdot X' \cdot Y' \cdot W'$, $W + W + X + Y$, $W + W' + Y + Z$
  - Examples of normal terms: $W \cdot X' \cdot Y' \cdot Z$, $W \cdot X \cdot Y' \cdot Z$, $W + X + Y + Z'$, $W' + X' + Y + Z$

- An **$n$-variable minterm** is a normal product term of $n$ literals.
  - There are $2^n$ such product terms.
  - Examples of 3-variable minterms: $W \cdot X \cdot Y$, $W' \cdot X \cdot Y'$, $W' \cdot X' \cdot Y'$
  - Examples of 4-variable minterms: $W \cdot X \cdot Y \cdot Z$, $W' \cdot X' \cdot Y' \cdot Z$, $W' \cdot X' \cdot Y' \cdot Z'$

- An **$n$-variable maxterm** is a normal sum term of $n$ literals.
  - Examples of 4-variable maxterms: $W + X + Y + Z$, $W' + X' + Y' + Z$, $W' + X' + Y' + Z'$
Minterms, maxterms and truth tables

- In an \( n \)-variable minterm (or maxterm), each variable appears exactly once, in either uncomplemented or complemented form.
- There is a close correspondence between the truth table and minterms and maxterms.
- A minterm can be defined as a product term that is 1 in exactly one row of the truth table.
- A maxterm can be defined as a sum term that is 0 in exactly one row of the truth table.
- In figure 15 we can see this correspondence for a 3-variable truth table.
# Minterms and maxterms

## Table 4-6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Z</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Minterm</th>
<th>Maxterm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>F(0,0,0)</td>
<td>X′ · Y′ · Z′</td>
<td>X + Y + Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>F(0,0,1)</td>
<td>X′ · Y′ · Z</td>
<td>X + Y + Z′</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>F(0,1,0)</td>
<td>X′ · Y · Z′</td>
<td>X + Y′ + Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>F(0,1,1)</td>
<td>X′ · Y · Z</td>
<td>X + Y′ + Z′</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>F(1,0,0)</td>
<td>X · Y′ · Z′</td>
<td>X′ + Y + Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>F(1,0,1)</td>
<td>X · Y′ · Z</td>
<td>X′ + Y + Z′</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>F(1,1,0)</td>
<td>X · Y · Z′</td>
<td>X′ + Y′ + Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>F(1,1,1)</td>
<td>X · Y · Z</td>
<td>X′ + Y′ + Z′</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 15:** Minterms and maxterms for a 3-variable logic function $F(X,Y,Z)$
Minterm and maxterm number

- An $n$-variable minterm can be represented by an $n$-bit integer, named the minterm number.
- The name $\text{minterm } i$ will denote the minterm corresponding to row $i$ of the truth table.
- In minterm $i$, a particular variable appears complemented if the corresponding bit in the binary representation of $i$ is 0, and uncomplemented, if the corresponding bit in the binary representation of number $i$ is 1.
- Example:
  - the minterm 5 corresponds to row 5 in table 4-5 from figure 15
  - the binary representation of number 5 on 3 bits is 101
  - The corresponding minterm will be $X \cdot Y' \cdot Z$
- In $\text{maxterm } i$ a variable is complemented if the corresponding bit in the binary representation of number $i$ is 1 and uncomplemented if that corresponding bit is 0.
  - Example: maxterm 5 is $X' + Y + Z'$
The **canonical sum** of a logic function is the sum of the minterms corresponding to truth-table rows (input combinations) for which the function is 1.

**Example:** for the table 4-5 (from figure 14) the canonical sum is:

\[
F = \sum_{X,Y,Z}(0, 3, 4, 6, 7) = X' \cdot Y' \cdot Z' + X' \cdot Y \cdot Z + X \cdot Y' \cdot Z' + X \cdot Y \cdot Z' + X \cdot Y \cdot Z
\]

The notation \( \sum_{X,Y,Z}(0, 3, 4, 6, 7) \) is a **minterm list**, meaning “the sum of minterms 0, 3, 4, 6 and 7 with variables X, Y, and Z.”

The minterm list is called also the **on-set** of the logic function because each minterm “turns on” the output for exactly one input combination.

Any logic function can be written as a canonical sum.
The canonical product of a logic function is a product of the maxterms corresponding to input combinations for which the function produces a 0 output.

Example: the canonical product for the logic function in Table 4-5 from figure 15 is:

\[ F = \prod_{X,Y,Z}(1,2,5) = (X+Y+Z')(X+Y'+Z)(X'+Y+Z') \]

The notation \( \prod_{X,Y,Z}(1,2,5) \) is a maxterm list and means “the product of maxterms 1, 2, and 5 with variables X, Y, and Z”

The maxterm list is known also as the off-set for the logic function because each maxterm “turns off” the function for exactly one input combination.

Any logical function can be written as a canonical product.
Minterm list and maxterm list

- For a function of $n$ variables, the possible minterm and maxterm numbers are in the set $\{0, 1, \ldots, 2^n - 1\}$
- A minterm list or a maxterm list contain a subset of these numbers
- The minterm list and the maxterm list are complemented
- Hence, in order to switch from minterm list to maxterm list (or vice-versa), take the set complemented.
- Examples:
  - $\sum_{A, B, C}(0, 1, 2, 3) = \prod_{A, B, C}(4, 5, 6, 7)$
  - $\sum_{X, Y}(1) = \prod_{X, Y}(0, 2, 3)$
  - $\sum_{W, X, Y, Z}(0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13) = \prod_{W, X, Y, Z}(4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15)$
Possible representations for a combinational logic function

1. A truth table
2. An algebraic sum of minterms, the canonical sum
3. A minterm list using the $\sum$ notation
4. An algebraic product of maxterms, the canonical product
5. A maxterm list using the $\prod$ notation.

All representations are equivalent. Given one of them, we can obtain all others.