

# **Basic Elements**

# Chapter 4: Boolean Algebra

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## Introduction

- Digital machines consist of a set of electronic circuits.
- Each circuit performs a specific logic function (addition, comparison, ....).



The function F(A,B) can be: the sum of A and B, or the result of comparing A and B, or another function.

# Introduction (continued)

- To design and build this circuit, we need a mathematical model of the function performed by the circuit.
- This model must take into account the binary system.
- The mathematical model used is that of Boole (or Boole's).

## **Overview**

- **George Boole** was an English mathematician (1815-1864).
- He produced works in which functions (expressions) are made up of variables that can take the values 'YES' or 'NO'.
- This work has been used to study systems with two mutually exclusive states:
  - The system can only be in two states E1 and E2 such that E1 is the opposite of E2.
  - The system cannot be in state E1 and E2 at the same time.
  - This work is well suited to the Binary System (0 and 1).
- Nowadays, **Boolean algebra** is used in digital electronics for:
- Analysis: a formal tool for describing the operation of digital circuits.
- **Design:** Starting from the function of a circuit, Boolean algebra enables us to arrive at a simplified realization (implementation) of this circuit.

## Example of two-state systems

- A switch is open or not open (closed )
- A lamp is on or off ( off )
- A door is open or not open (closed)

#### Remarque :

The following conventions can be used :

- YES → TRUE
- NO  $\rightarrow$  False
- YES  $\rightarrow$  1 (High Level)
- NO  $\rightarrow$  0 (Low Level)

# **Definitions and conventions**

• Logic level: When studying a logic system, it's important to specify the level of the work.

Level	Positive Logic	Negative Logic
H ( Hight )	1	0
L ( Low )	0	1

- Example:
- Positive logic: Lamp on=1

Lamp off=0

 Negative logic: Lamp on=0 Lamp off=1

# Logical variable (Boolean)

- A logical variable (Boolean) is a variable that can take either the value 0 or 1.
- Generally, it is expressed by a single alphabetic character in uppercase (A, B, S, ...).
- Exemple :
  - A lamp is : On L = 1

Off L = 0

- First switch is Open : I1 =1
  - Closed : 11 =0
- 2<sup>nd</sup> switch is Open : I2=1

# Logic function

- It's a function that links N logical variables with a set of basic logical operators.
- In Boolean algebra, there are three basic operators: NOT, AND, and OR.
- The value of a logic function is equal to 1 or 0, depending on the values of the logic variables.
- If a logic function has N logic variables the function has 2<sup>n</sup> values.
- The 2<sup>n</sup> combinations are represented in a table called the **truth table**.
- **Example** : A, B, C are three logic variables

 $F(A, B) = A B \qquad F(A, B) = A + B$ 

F(A, B, C) = A.B.C + A.B.C + A.B.C

# **Example of a logic function**

- $F(A, B, C) = \overline{A}.\overline{B}.C + A.B.C + A.\overline{B}.C + A.B.C$
- The function has 3 variables with 2<sup>3</sup> combinations
- The truth table associated with function F is as follows:

Α	В	С	F
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1

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# Basic logical operators NOT (Negation )

**NOT:** is a unary operator (a single variable) whose role is to invert the value of a variable.

F(A)= Not A = A = complement of A

- It inverts/complements the value of the variable A
- •True becomes false and false becomes true

А	Ā
0	1
1	0

# **AND** operator

- •The AND is a binary operator (two variables), whose role is to produce a logical product between two Boolean variables.
- •AND is the conjunction between two variables.
- •AND is defined by : F(A,B)= A . B
- It returns 1 if A and B are 1, otherwise it returns 0
- Both variables must be true together, otherwise the AND is false.

A	В	A.B
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

# **OR** opearator

- The **OR** is a binary operator (two variables) whose role is to perform the logical sum between two logical variables.
- The OR makes the disjunction between two variables.
- The OR is defined by F(A,B)= A + B (not to be confused with the arithmetic sum).
- It returns 1 if A or B is 1, otherwise returns 0.
- At least one of the two variables is true, otherwise the OR is false.

A	В	A + B
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1

# Precedence of operators (operator priority)

To evaluate a logical expression (logical function) :

- first, evaluate the sub-expressions between the parentheses or brackets.
- then the complement (NOT),
- then the logical product (AND)
- then the logical sum (OR)
- Example:
  - $F(A, B, C) = (\overline{A \cdot B}) \cdot (\overline{C} + B) + A \cdot B \cdot C$
  - First, we calculate the negation, then the logical product (and) and finally the logical sum (or).

### Fundamental laws of Boolean algebra

- Involution :
- Idempotency
- Complementarity
- Neutral elements
- Absorbents

- : ==a
- : a+a=a a.a=a
- :  $a \cdot \overline{a} = 0$   $a + \overline{a} = 1$ 
  - a=a.1=1.a=a a+0=0+a=a
- : a+1=1 a.0=0

## **Basic properties**

Associativite

Distributivite

- : (a.b).c=a.(b.c) (a+b)+c=a+(b+c)
- : a.(b+c)=a.b+a.c a+(b.c)=(a+b).(a+c)

a+bc=(a+b)(a+c)

De Morgan's rules : a+b=a.b
a.b=a+b
Optimisations : a+ab=a+b

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## Summary of the basic properties of Boolean Algebra

Theorem	Logic sum format	Logic product format
Absorbent element	A + 1 = 1	A . 0 = 0
Neutral element	A + 0 = A	A . 1 = A
Complementation	A+ A= 1	$A \cdot \overline{A} = 0$
Idempotence	A + A = A	A . A = A
Associativite	(A+B)+C = A+(B+C) = A+B+C	(A.B).C = A.(B.C) = A.B.C
Commutativite	A+B = B+A	A.B = B.A
Distributivite	A.(B+C) = A.B + A.C	A+(B.C) = (A+B).(A+C)
Absorption	A+A.B = A	A.(A+B) = A
Simplification	A + A B = A + B	A.(A + B) = A.B
Involution	$\stackrel{=}{A} = A$	
De Morgan's rules	$\overline{A+B} = \overline{A} \cdot \overline{B}$	$\overline{A.B} = \overline{A} + \overline{B}$

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## Generalization of the DE-MORGANE's Theorem to N variables

- Reminder of De Morgane's theorem:
  - The logical complemented sum of two variables is equal to the product of the complements of the two variables.

 $A + B = A \cdot B$ 

- The logical product of two variables is equal to the logical sum of the complements of the two variables.

A.B = A + B

Generalization for N variables:

A.B.C.... = A + B + C + .... $\overline{A + B + C} + ... = \overline{A.B.C...}$ 

#### Other logical operators Exclusive OR (XOR), Not AND (NAND), and Not OR (NOR)

**XOR**  $F(A, B) = A \oplus B = \overline{A} \cdot B + A \cdot \overline{B}$ 

#### NoT AND (NAND)

 $F(A, B) = \overline{A \cdot B}$  $F(A, B) = A \uparrow B$ 

Not OR (NOR)  $F(A, B) = \overline{A + B}$  $F(A, B) = A \downarrow B$ 

А	В	$\mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{B}$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

А	В	A•B
0	0	1
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

Α	В	$\overline{A + B}$
0	0	1
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	0

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## NAND and NOR: universal operators

- •Using NANDs and NORs, you can express any logical expression (function).
- Simply express the basic operators (NOT, AND, OR) with NAND and NOR.
- Creating basic operators with NORs

• 
$$A = A + A = A \downarrow A$$

- $A + B = \underline{A} + \underline{B} = \underline{A} \downarrow \underline{B} = (\underline{A} \downarrow B) \downarrow (A \downarrow B)$
- $A.B = A.B = A + B = A \downarrow B = (A \downarrow A) \downarrow (B \downarrow B)$

### Properties of the NAND and NOR operators

- $A \uparrow 0 = 1$   $A \uparrow 1 = \overline{A}$   $A \uparrow B = B \uparrow A$  $(A \uparrow B) \uparrow C \neq A \uparrow (B \uparrow C)$
- $A \downarrow 0 = \overline{A}$  $A \downarrow 1 = 0$  $A \downarrow B = B \downarrow A$  $(A \downarrow B) \downarrow C \neq A \downarrow (B \downarrow C)$



• A logic gate is an elementary electronic circuit that implements the function of a **basic logic operator.** 



## **AND and OR gates**



## **XOR** gate



## Logic circuit diagram (Logigram)

- This is the translation of the logic function into an electronic schematic. The principle is to replace each logic operator by its corresponding logic gate.
- Example 1:





## **Application exercises**

#### Exercise 1:

Give a flow chart of the following functions :

- F(A, B) = A.B + A.B
- F(A, B, C) = (A + B).(A + C).(B + C)
- $F(A, B, C) = (A \cdot B) \cdot (C + B) + A \cdot B \cdot C$

## **Application exercises (continued)**

#### **Exercise 2:**

Give the equation or expression for F?



# Steps in designing and building a digital circuit

- To design and build a circuit, follow these steps:
- 1. Understand how the system works.
- 2. Define the input variables.
- 3. Define the output variables.
- 4. Establish the truth table.
- 5. Write the algebraic output equations (from the truth table).
- 6. Perform simplifications (algebraic or using the Karnaugh map).
- 7. Draw the schematic with a minimum number of logic gates.

## Text definition of a logic function

- Generally, the definition of a system's operation is given in text format.
- To design and build such a system, you need to have its mathematical model (logical function).
- The logical function must therefore be derived from the textual description.
- Example: textual definition of a system operation
  - A security lock opens with three keys. Lock operation is defined as follows:
    - The lock is opened if at least two keys are used.
  - The lock remains closed in all other cases.

Question: What is the circuit diagram that controls the opening of the lock?

### **Application exercise (continued)**

Let's take the example of the lock:

- The system has three inputs:
- Each input represents a key.
- Each key is assigned to a logical variable: key 1 to A, key 2 to B, key 3 to C.
  - ✓ If key 1 is used then variable A=1 otherwise A =0
  - ✓ If key 2 is used then variable B=1 otherwise B =0
  - ✓ If key 3 is used then variable C=1 otherwise C =0

The system has a single output corresponding to the lock status (open or closed).

We will assign a variable S to designate the output:

- S=1 if the lock is open,
- S=0 if closed
- S=F(A,B,C)
  - F(A,B,C)= 1 if at least two keys are entered
  - F(A,B,C)=0 if not.



#### **Application exercise: Truth table**

**NB:** It's also important to specify the logic level you're working with (positive or negative logic).



# Extracting the logic function from the truth table

• F = Addition or Sum of the minterms

 $F(A, B, C) = \overline{A \cdot B \cdot C} + A \cdot B \cdot \overline{C} + A \cdot B \cdot C + \overline{A} \cdot B \cdot C$ 

• F = Multiplication of the maxterms

F(A, B, C) = (A + B + C) (A + B + C) (A + B + C) (A + B + C)

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### **Canonical forms of a function**

- For a logic function with x variables:
  - A minterm: a group of x variables (which can be complemented) linked by ANDs.
  - A maxterm: a group of x variables (that can be complemented) linked by ORs.
- Canonical form of a logic function:
  - First form: union (OR) of minterms.
  - Second form: intersection (AND) of maxterms.
- There is only one expression of a canonical form of each type for a given function.

## **First canonical form**

For a 3-variables function a, b and c, we have :

- Minterms: abc, abc, abc, abc, abc, ...
- Maxterms :
- a+b+c, a+b+c, a+b+c, a+b+c, ...

#### First canonical form (disjunctive form):

- This is the sum of the minterms.
- A disjunction of conjunctions.

#### Example :

F(A, B,C) = A. B. C + A. B. C + A. B. C + A. B. C
This is the most commonly used form.

#### Second canonical form

- Second canonical form (conjunctive): product of sums.
- The product of maxterms.
- Conjunction of disjunctions.

#### Example :

- F(A,B,C) = (A+B+C)(A+B+C)(A+B+C)(A+B+C)
- The first and second canonical forms are equivalent.

#### Important note

- Any logical function can always be reduced to one of the canonical forms.
- This means adding the missing variables to the terms that don't contain all the variables (the non-canonical terms).
- This can be done using the rules of Boolean algebra:
  - $\checkmark$  Multiply a term with an expression equals to 1.
  - $\checkmark$  Add to a term with an expression equals to 0.
  - $\checkmark$  Then, perform the distribution.
#### Transition to canonical forms

- Start with the function and transform it to create complete minterms/maxterms.
- For the transformation:
  - We rely on the properties of Boolean algebra, in particular the invariant :
    - $\bullet \mathbf{x} + \overline{\mathbf{x}} = 1$
    - It can be used to add missing variables to terms.

Example of transition to the first canonical form

- Let  $f(a, b, c) = ab + \overline{b}c + a\overline{c}$
- First minterm ab
  - The variable c is missing
    - Transform ab into ab(c+c) because c+c=1
- Same thing for the other 2 minterms
- Hence:

 $f(a, b, c) = ab(c + \overline{c}) + \overline{b}c(a + \overline{a}) + a \overline{c}(b + \overline{b})$  $= abc + ab\overline{c} + a\overline{b}c + \overline{a}\overline{b}c + a\overline{b}\overline{c}$ 

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## Example of transition to the second canonical

- form
- Let f(a,b,c)=ab+bc+ac
- We use the involution  $\bar{x} = x$
- After development:
   f(a,b,c) = āb+ābc+āc+ābc
- All that remains is to transform the 2-variable minterms: ab+ac=ab(c+c)+ac(b+b)
- At final  $\overline{f(a,b,c)} = \overline{a}bc + \overline{a}\overline{b}\overline{c} + \overline{a}b\overline{c}$
- ◆ Hence: f(a,b,c)=(a+b+c)(a+b+c)(a+b+c)

#### Switching from the logic function to the truth table

- For each combination of possible values for the variables,
   we determine the Boolean value of f(X)(X = set of variables)
- Example: f(a,b,c)=ab+bc+ac



#### Transition from the truth table to the logic function

- From the truth table: function in the first canonical form
- For each value of f(X) equals to 1

We define a minterm of all variables such that If a variable  $X_i = 1$  we note  $X_i$ , otherwise we note  $X_i$ 

 The first canonical form of f(X) is the OR of these minterms.

#### Transition from the truth table to the logic function

- From the truth table: the function is in the second canonical form
- For every value of f(X) equals to 0
   We define the mintermes of all the variables: If a variable X<sub>i</sub> = 1 we note X<sub>i</sub>, otherwise we note X<sub>i</sub>
  - The OR of these minterms =  $f(X_i)$

• After calculating  $f(X_{\overline{i}})$ , we obtain the second canonical form.

#### Example of logic function calculation in first canonical form

- From the truth table of the previous example
- f(a,b,c) = 1 when :

a = 0, b = 0 and c = 1 hence the minterm a b c
a = 1, b = 0 and c = 0 hence the minterm a b c
a = 1, b = 0 and c = 1 hence the minterm a b c
a = 1, b = 1 and c = 0 hence the minterm a b c
a = 1, b = 1 and c = 1 hence the minterm a b c

#### We make the OR of these minterms

•  $f(a, b, c) = abc + ab\overline{c} + a\overline{b}c + \overline{a}\overline{b}c + a\overline{b}\overline{c}$ 

## Example of calculation of the logic function in the second form

- From the truth table of the previous example
  - f(a,b,c) = 0 when :

•a = 0, b = 0 and c = 0 hence the minterm  $\overline{\overline{a}} \ \overline{b} \ \overline{\overline{c}}$ 

- •a = 0, b = 1 and c = 0 hence the minterm  $\overline{a} b \overline{c}$
- •a = 0, b = 1 and c = 1 hence the minterm  $\overline{a} b c$
- We make the OR of these minterms
   f(a,b,c) = abc+abc+abc

Finally: f(a,b,c)=(a+b+c)(a+b+c)(a+b+c)

#### **Simplification of logic functions**

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#### The aim of simplifying logic functions

The aim of simplifying logic functions is to :

- reduce the number of terms in a function, and
- reduce the number of variables in a term.

The main aim of all these actions is to reduce the number of logic gates used to reduce the cost of the circuit.

Several methods exist for simplification:

- The algebraic method
- Graphical methods (e.g. Karnaugh map)

#### Algebraic method

- The principle is to apply the rules of Boolean algebra to eliminate variables or terms.
- But there's no specific approach.
- Here are some of the most commonly used rules:
- $\blacktriangleright$  A . B + A . B = B
- $\succ A + A \cdot B = A$
- $\succ A + A \cdot B = A + B$
- $\succ$  (A + B) (A + B) = A
- $\blacktriangleright$  A.  $(\underline{A} + B) = A$
- $\blacktriangleright$  A. (A + B) = AB

#### **Simplification rules**

• Rule 1:

Group terms using the previous rules. **Example:** ABC + AB  $\overline{C}$  = AB( $\overline{C+C}$ )=AB

• Rule 2 : Add an existing term to an expression.

Example: A B C + ABC + ABC + ABC =  $ABC + \overline{ABC} + ABC + ABC + ABC + ABC =$ BC + AC + AB

• **Rule 3** : it is possible to delete a superfluous term (an extra term), i.e. one already included in the combination of other terms.

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#### **Application exercises**

1. Demonstrate the following proposition :  $A.B + B.C + A.C + \overline{A}.\overline{B}.C + \overline{A}.B.\overline{C} + A.\overline{B}.\overline{C} = A + B + C$ 

2. Give the simplified form of the following function :  $F(A, B, C, D) = \overline{A} B C D + A \overline{B} C D + A B \overline{C} D + A B C \overline{D} + A B C \overline{D}$ 

## Simplification using the Karnaugh map

#### **Adjacent terms**

- Let's consider the following expression :
   A.B+A.B
- Both terms have the same variables. The only difference is the state of variable B, which changes.
- If we apply the simplification rules, we get : AB + AB = A(B+B) = A
- These terms are **adjacents**.

## **Example of adjacents termes**

- These terms are adjacent
  1. A.B + A. B = B
  2. A.B.C + A. B. C = A.C
  3. A.B.C.D + A.B.C. D = A.B.D
- These terms are not adjacent 1. A.B +  $\overline{A}$ .  $\overline{B}$ 2. A.B.C + A.  $\overline{B}$ .  $\overline{C}$ 3. A.B.C.D + A. B.  $\overline{C}$ .  $\overline{D}$

## **Description of the Karnaugh map**

- Karnaugh's method is based on the previous rule.
- The method consists in graphically highlighting all adjacent terms (which differ only in the state of a single variable).
- The method can be applied to logic functions of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 variables.
- A Karnaugh map has 2<sup>n</sup> cells (n is the number of variables).

#### Karnaugh maps with 2, 3 and 4 variables





Tableau à 2 variables

Tableaux à 3 variables



Tableau à 4 variables

### Description of the Karnaugh map (with 5 variables)



#### **Examples of adjacent cells**





The three blue cells are adjacent to the red cell.

## Transition from the truth table to the Karnaugh map

- For each combination that represents a minterm, a cell in the map must be set to 1.
- For each combination that represents a maxterm, a cell in the map must be set to 0.
- When filling in the table, you must: either take the minterms or the maxterms.

#### Example



# Change from the canonical form to the Karnaugh map

- If the logic function is given in the first canonical form (disjunctive), then its representation is direct: for each term, it has a single square/cell that must be set to 1.
- If the logic function is given in the second canonical form (conjunctive), then its representation is direct: for each term, it has a single square/cell that must be set to 0.

#### Examples



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



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

### Simplification method: Example with 3 variables

- The basic idea is to try to group (make groupings/clusters) adjacent cells that contain 1 (group of adjacent terms).
- Try to group as many cells as possible (16, 8, 4 or 2).
- In the following example, you can only group 2 cells together..



## Simplification method: Example with 3 variables (continued)

- Since there are still cells outside a grouping, we repeat the same procedure: forming groupings.
- A cell can belong to more than one grouping.



## Simplification method: Example with 3 variables (continued)

- We stop when there are no more 1's outside the groupings.
- •The final function is equal to the sum of the simplified terms.



#### F(A, B, C) = AB + AC + BC

#### **Simplification steps with the**

### Karnaugh map

- So, to simplify a function using the Karnaugh map, follow these steps:
- 1. Fill in the map using the truth table or the canonical form.
- 2. Make groupings: groupings of 16,8,4,2,1 cells (the same terms can take part in several groupings).
- 3. In a grouping :
- Containing a single term: no variables can be eliminated.
- Contains two terms: one variable (the one that changes state) can be eliminated.
- Containing 4 terms: 2 variables can be eliminated. Containing 8 terms: 3 variables can be eliminated.
- Containing 16 terms: 4 variables can be eliminated.
- 4. The final logical expression is the union (sum) of the groupings after simplification and elimination of variables that change state.

## **Examples: 3 variables**





F(A, B, C) = C + AB

#### **Examples of simplification**







F(A, B, C) = AB + AC + BC



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#### Example: Map with 5 variables



F(A, B, C, D, U) = A B + A.B.D.U + A.C.D.U + A.B.D.U

#### **Other examples**







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## The case of a function not totally defined

**Consider the following example:** 

- A security lock is opened by four keys A, B, C and D.
- The operation of the lock is defined as follows: S(A,B,C,D)= 1 if at least two keys are used; S(A,B,C,D)= 0 otherwise
- Keys A and D cannot be used at the same time.
- Note that if keys A and D are used at the same time, the state of the system is not determined.
- These cases are called impossible or forbidden cases. So, the question is how to represent these cases in the truth table?

#### Answer:

- For impossible or forbidden cases, put an X in the Truth Table.
- Impossible cases are also represented by Xs in the Karnaugh map.

#### Truth table+ Karnaugh map

• Let's give the associated truth table and Karnaugh map:

Α	В	С	D	S
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	1	1
0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	1	1
0	1	1	0	1
0	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	X
1	0	1	0	1
1	0	1	1	X
1	1	0	0	1
1	1	0	1	X
1	1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1	X



# Simplification using the Karnaugh map (indeterminate cells)

- Xs can be used in groupings:
  - Either take them as 1s
  - Or as 0s
- You must not form groupings containing only Xs.



F = AB + CD + BD + AC + BC

### **Application exercise**

Find the simplified logic function from the following Karnaugh map :

