

P2 Digital Electronics

Lecture 2: Low level logic design

Mark Cannon

mark.cannon@eng.ox.ac.uk

Trinity Term 2026

Overview of lectures

1. Logical functions and logic gates
- 2. Low level logic design**
3. Binary number representation
4. Binary arithmetic
5. Integration of digital logic components
6. Memory and sequential circuits
7. Design of sequential logic
8. Data converters: analogue to digital / digital to analogue

Please send feedback, comments and corrections to mark.cannon@eng.ox.ac.uk

Boolean algebra

Axioms:

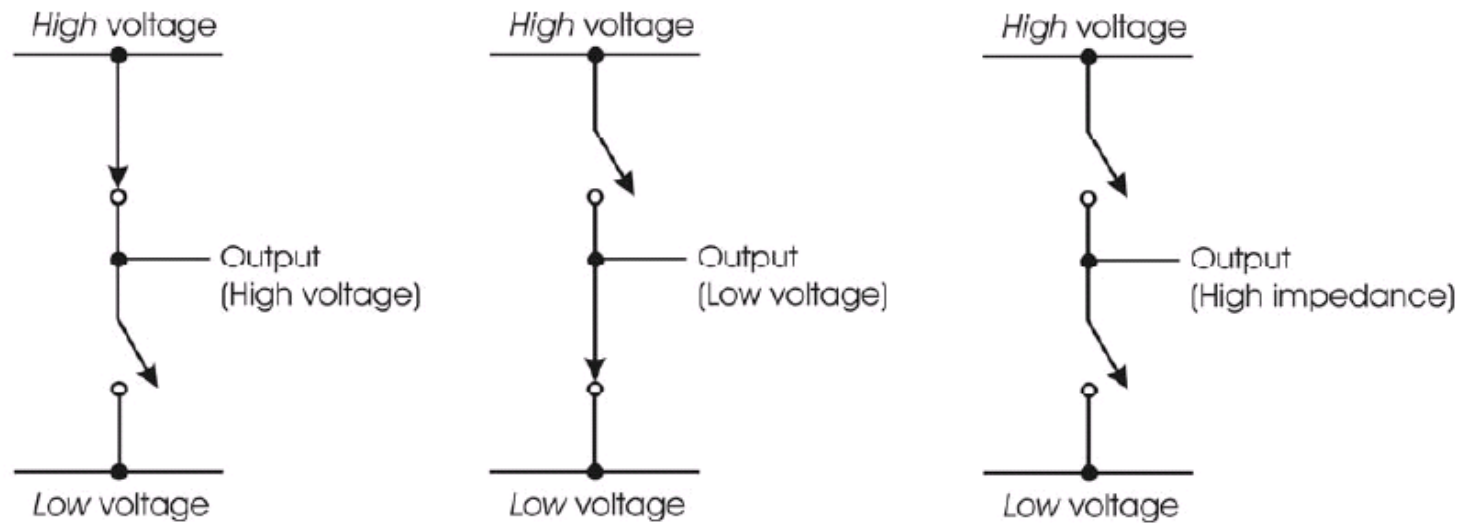
$X + Y = Y + X$	$X.Y = Y.X$	Commutativity (order of args)		
$(X + Y) + Z = X + (Y + Z)$	$(X.Y).Z = X.(Y.Z)$	Associativity		
$X + 0 = X$	$X + 1 = 1$	$X.0 = 0$	$X.1 = X$	Dominance or identity
$X.(Y + Z) = X.Y + X.Z$				Distributive law 1
$X + Y.Z = (X + Y)(X + Z)$				Distributive law 2

$$X.Y = X \text{ AND } Y \quad X + Y = X \text{ OR } Y \quad \bar{X} = \text{NOT } X$$

This lecture – how to simplify logical expressions and design simple logic circuits using

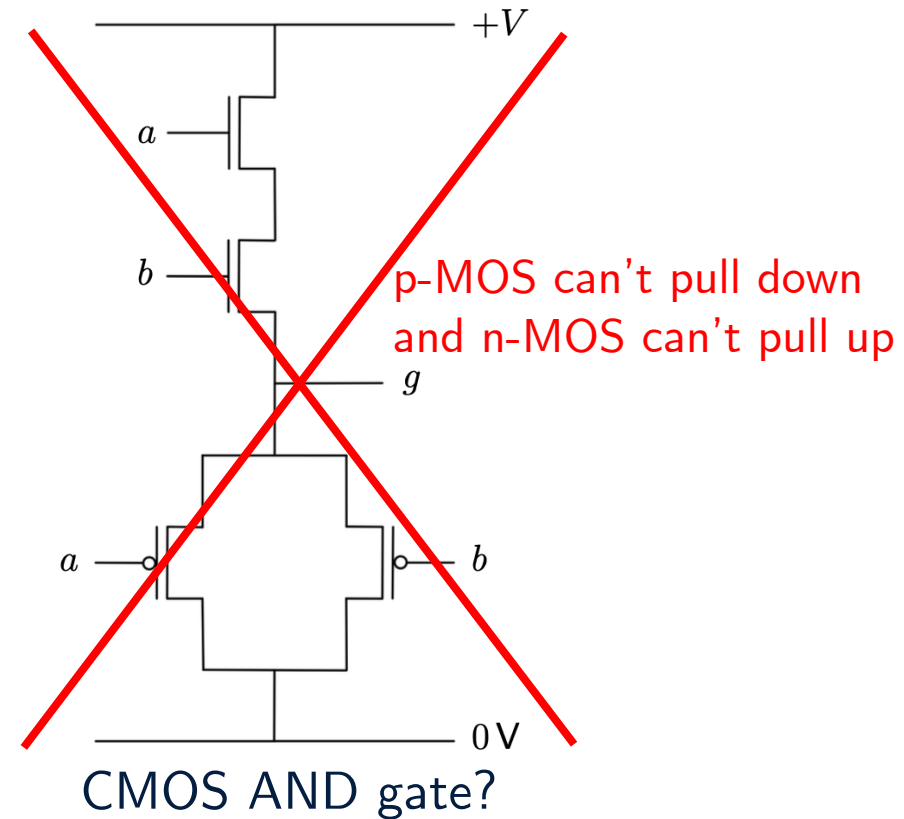
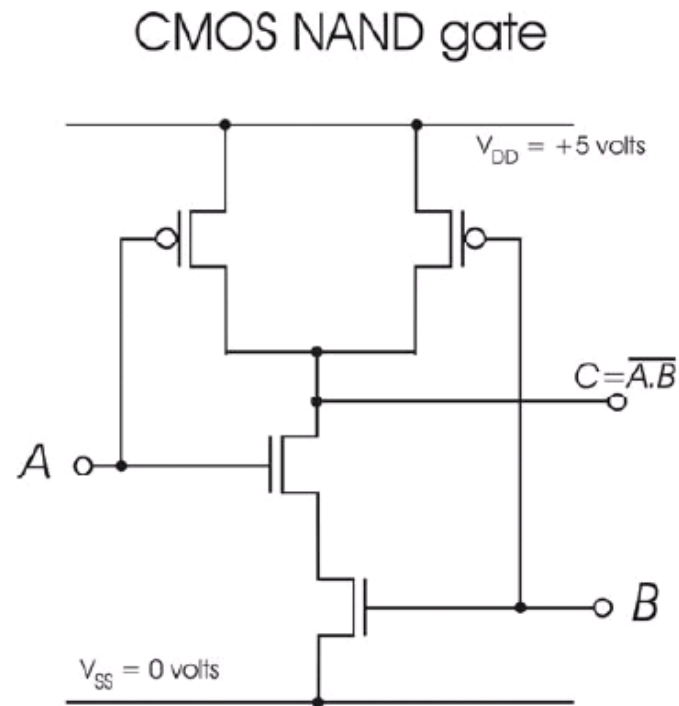
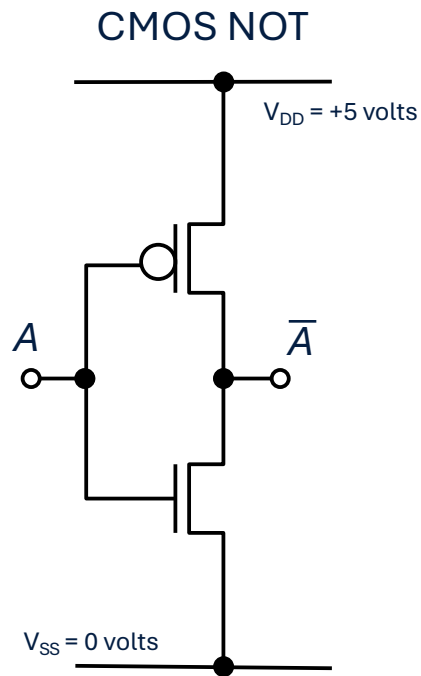
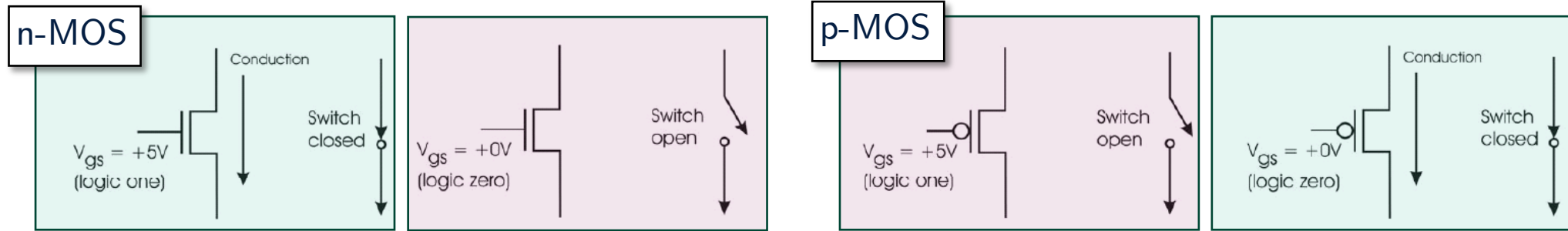
Boolean algebra, truth tables and Karnaugh maps

Review: Logic as switches



- To implement logic circuits, we use CMOS FET (Complementary Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor, Field Effect Transistors) which are thermally stable and power efficient
- A logic level is represented by two transistors used as switches. The output is controlled by deciding which switch is open or closed

Review: CMOS digital logic implementation



Boolean algebra

Truth tables and Karnaugh maps are limited to small numbers of variables (e.g. < 6). Boolean algebra can handle more variables. We only need 3 theorems:

1. The **Redundancy** theorem: $A + A.B = A$

$$\left[\text{Proof: } A + A.B = A(1 + B) = A.1 = A \right]$$

\Rightarrow in sum-of-products form, a product that contains all the factors of another product is redundant

Example: $A.B + A.B.C + A.B.C.D.E.F.G.H.I.J.K = A.B$

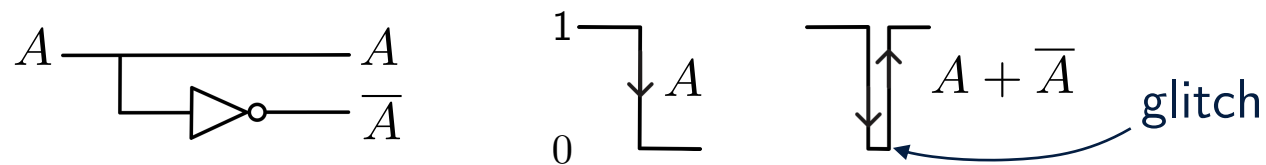


Boolean algebra

2. The **Race-Hazard** theorem: $A.B + \bar{A}.C = A.\underline{B} + \bar{A}.\underline{C} + B.C$

$$\left[\begin{aligned} \text{Proof: } A.B + \bar{A}.C + (A + \bar{A})B.C &= A.B + A.B.C + \bar{A}.C + \bar{A}.C.B \\ &= A.B(1 + C) + \bar{A}.C(1 + B) = A.B + \bar{A}.C \end{aligned} \right]$$

Gets its name because an inverter introduces a delay in practice:



Examples:

(i) $A + \bar{A}.B = A + \bar{A}.B + B = A + (\bar{A} + 1)B = A + B$

(ii) $A.B + \bar{A}.C + \bar{B}.D.E + \bar{C}.D.E = A.B + \bar{A}.C + D.E$

Boolean algebra

3. **De Morgan's theorem:** $\overline{A + B} = \overline{A}.\overline{B}$ NOR \equiv INVERT-AND
 $\overline{A.B} = \overline{A} + \overline{B}$ NAND \equiv INVERT-OR

[Proof: compare truth tables for $\overline{A + B}$ and $\overline{A}.\overline{B}$
 $\overline{A.B}$ and $\overline{A} + \overline{B}$]

Examples:

(i) $\overline{\overline{A.B.C}} = A.B + \overline{C}$

(ii) $A.B + B.C + A.C = \overline{(\overline{A} + \overline{B}).(\overline{B} + \overline{C}).(\overline{A} + \overline{C})}$

Useful for switching between sum-of-products and product-of-sums forms

Boolean algebra

$X + Y = Y + X$		$X.Y = Y.X$		Commutativity (order of args)
$(X + Y) + Z = X + (Y + Z)$		$(X.Y).Z = X.(Y.Z)$		Associativity
$X + 0 = X$	$X + 1 = 1$	$X.0 = 0$	$X.1 = X$	Dominance or identity
$X.(Y + Z) = X.Y + X.Z$				Distributive law 1
$X + Y.Z = (X + Y)(X + Z)$				Distributive law 2
$\overline{X + Y} = \overline{X}. \overline{Y}$				De Morgan's law 1
$\overline{X.Y} = \overline{X} + \overline{Y}$				De Morgan's law 2
$X + X.Y = X$				Redundancy
$X.Y + \overline{X}.Y = X.Y + \overline{X}.Y + Y.Z$				Race-Hazard

Some Boolean algebra examples

1. Simplify $f = C + \overline{B.C}$

$$f = C + (\overline{B} + \overline{C})$$

$$= (C + \overline{C}) + \overline{B}$$

$$= 1 + \overline{B} = 1$$

De Morgan

Associativity

Dominance

2. Simplify $f = \overline{A.B}(\overline{A} + B)(\overline{B} + B)$

$$f = \overline{A.B}(\overline{A} + B)$$

$$= (\overline{A.B}).(\overline{A.B})$$

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

$$= \overline{A.(B + \overline{B})} = \overline{A}$$

Redundancy

De Morgan 1

De Morgan 2

Redundancy

Some Boolean algebra examples

3. Simplify $f = (A + C)(A.D + A.\bar{D}) + A.C + C$

$$f = (A + C)(A.D + A.\bar{D}) + C$$

$$= A(A.D + A.\bar{D}) + C(A.D + A.\bar{D}) + C$$

$$= A(A.D + A.\bar{D}) + C$$

$$= A + C$$

Redundancy

Distributivity

Redundancy

Redundancy

Race-Hazard

Race-Hazard theorem (or Consensus theorem)

$$f = X.Y + \bar{X}.Z = X.Y + \bar{X}.Z + Y.Z$$

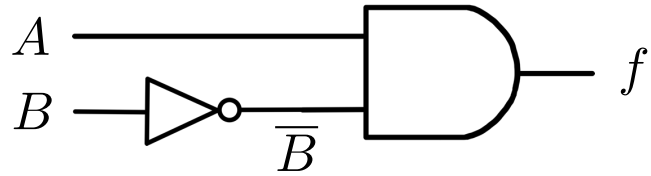
Prove it using a truth table:

X	Y	Z	$X.Y$	$\bar{X}.Z$	$Y.Z$	f
0	0	0				
0	0	1		1		1
0	1	0				
0	1	1		1	1	1
1	0	0				
1	0	1				
1	1	0	1			1
1	1	1	1		1	1

or alternatively using algebra:

$$\begin{aligned} f &= X.Y + \bar{X}.Z + (X + \bar{X})Y.Z \\ &= X.Y + X.Y.Z + \bar{X}.Z + \bar{X}.Y.Z \\ &= X.Y(1 + Z) + \bar{X}.Z(1 + Y) = X.Y + \bar{X}.Z \end{aligned}$$

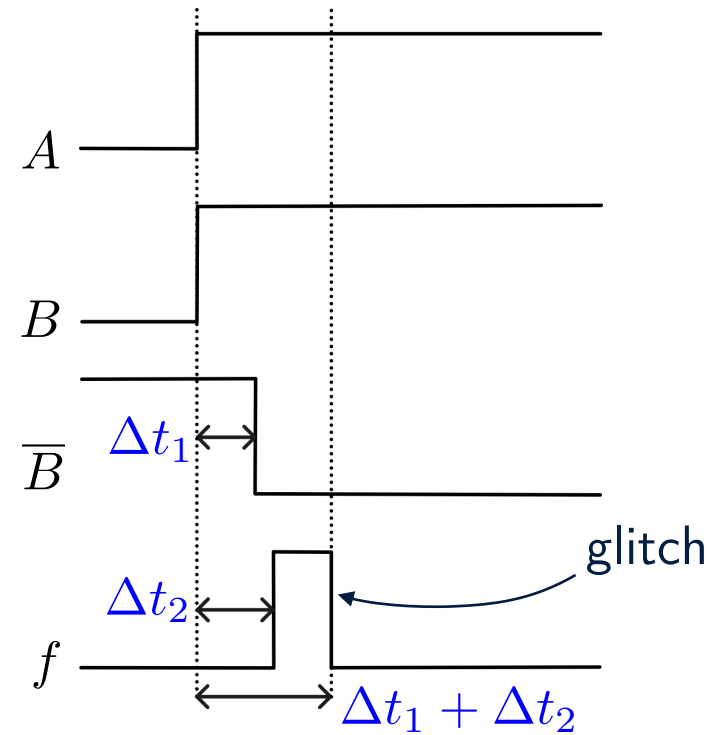
Race-Hazard illustration



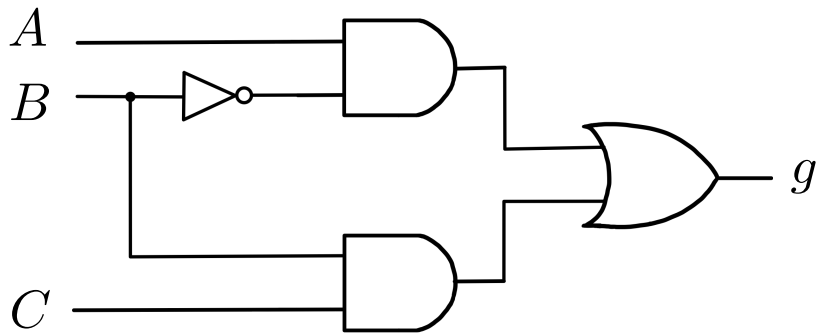
Gate time delay:

Δt_1 Δt_2

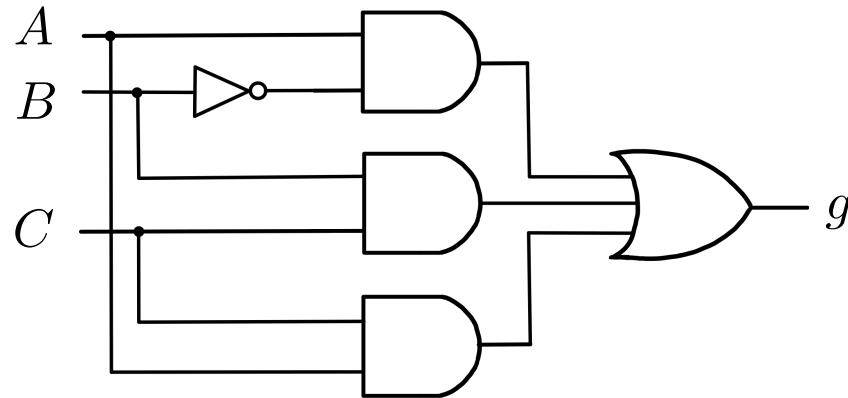
Timing diagram:



Eliminate glitches using the Race-Hazard theorem:



$$g = A.\bar{B} + C.B$$



$$g = A.\bar{B} + C.B + A.C$$

Equivalence of logic functions

If the truth tables of two functions are identical then they are said to be equivalent

e.g. $f = \bar{a} + b$ and $g = \bar{a}.b + a.b + \bar{a}.\bar{b}$

a	b	f
0	0	1
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	1	1

$\bar{a}.b$	$a.b$	$\bar{a}.\bar{b}$	g
0	0	1	1
1	0	0	1
0	0	0	0
0	1	0	1

$f \Leftrightarrow g$

Standard forms 1: Sum-of-Products (SOP)

OR of ANDs

“product” terms

$$g(A, B, C) = \bar{A}.\bar{C} + A.\bar{B}.C + \bar{A}.B$$

$$g(A, B, C) = \bar{A}.\bar{B}.\bar{C} + \bar{A}.B.\bar{C} + A.\bar{B}.C + \bar{A}.B.C$$

Canonical form:
all variables in all
terms

MINTERMS

A	B	C	g	
0	0	0	1	← $\bar{A}.\bar{B}.\bar{C}$
0	0	1	0	
0	1	0	1	← $\bar{A}.B.\bar{C}$
0	1	1	1	← $\bar{A}.B.C$
1	0	0	0	
1	0	1	1	← $A.\bar{B}.C$
1	1	0	0	
1	1	1	0	

One term for each true (1)
output generated by the
function

Sum-of-Products example

The lift door closes ($D = 1$) if the timer has timed-out ($T = 0$) and the safety light is not obstructed ($S = 1$) and a call-button on another floor has been pressed ($C = 1$) or a floor-button inside the lift has been pressed ($F = 1$).

Truth table for $D(T, S, F, C)$:

decimal value	T	S	F	C	D
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	1	0
⋮					⋮
5	0	1	0	1	1
6	0	1	1	0	1
7	0	1	1	1	1
⋮					⋮
15	1	1	1	1	0

$$\Rightarrow D = \sum m(5, 6, 7) \quad \leftarrow \text{MINTERM list}$$

$$\Rightarrow D = \overline{T}S\overline{F}C + \overline{T}SFC\overline{C} + \overline{T}SFC$$

Standard forms 2: Product-of-Sums (POS)

AND of ORs

A	B	C	g	
0	0	0	1	
0	0	1	0	← (A + B + C̄)
0	1	0	1	
0	1	1	1	
1	0	0	0	← (Ā + B + C)
1	0	1	1	
1	1	0	0	← (Ā + B̄ + C)
1	1	1	0	← (Ā + B̄ + C̄)

“Sums”

$$g(A, B, C) = (A + B + \bar{C}) \cdot (\bar{A} + C) \cdot (\bar{A} + \bar{B})$$

one product term for each
0 in truth table
(by De Morgan)

$$g(A, B, C) = (A + B + \bar{C}) \cdot (\bar{A} + B + C) \cdot (\bar{A} + \bar{B} + C) \cdot (\bar{A} + \bar{B} + \bar{C})$$

Canonical POS form

MAXTERMS

Standard forms 2: Product-of-Sums (POS)

$$g(A, B, C) =$$

$$(A + B + \bar{C}).(\bar{A} + C).(\bar{A} + \bar{B})$$

Truth table:

A	B	C	$A + B + \bar{C}$	$\bar{A} + C$	$\bar{A} + \bar{B}$	g	\bar{g}	
0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	$\bar{A}.\bar{B}.\bar{C}$
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	$\bar{A}.\bar{B}.C$
0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	$\bar{A}.B.\bar{C}$
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	$\bar{A}.B.C$
1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	$A.\bar{B}.\bar{C}$
1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	$A.\bar{B}.C$
1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	$A.B.\bar{C}$
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	$A.B.C$

$$\bar{g} = \bar{A}.\bar{B}.C + A.\bar{B}.C + A.B.\bar{C} + A.B.C$$

SOP for \bar{g}

$$g = \overline{(\bar{A}.\bar{B}.C)}. \overline{(A.\bar{B}.C)}. \overline{(A.B.\bar{C})}. \overline{(A.B.C)}$$

(De Morgan)

$$= (A + B + \bar{C}).(\bar{A} + B + \bar{C}).(\bar{A} + \bar{B} + C).(\bar{A} + \bar{B} + \bar{C})$$

POS for g

Importance of logic design

- ▶ Reducing complexity and minimizing gate count (important for design of complex integrated circuits)
- ▶ Reducing cost (manufacturing cost and power consumption)
- ▶ Increasing operating speed
- ▶ Avoiding safety problems due to poor design (hardware glitches or software bugs)



Poor logic design can be catastrophic

- ▶ Therac 25 radiation therapy machine (1985-7)
Software race hazards played role in accidents
- ▶ Northeast blackout: US/Canada (2003). 55 million people without power
Race hazard crashed a control system for power grid



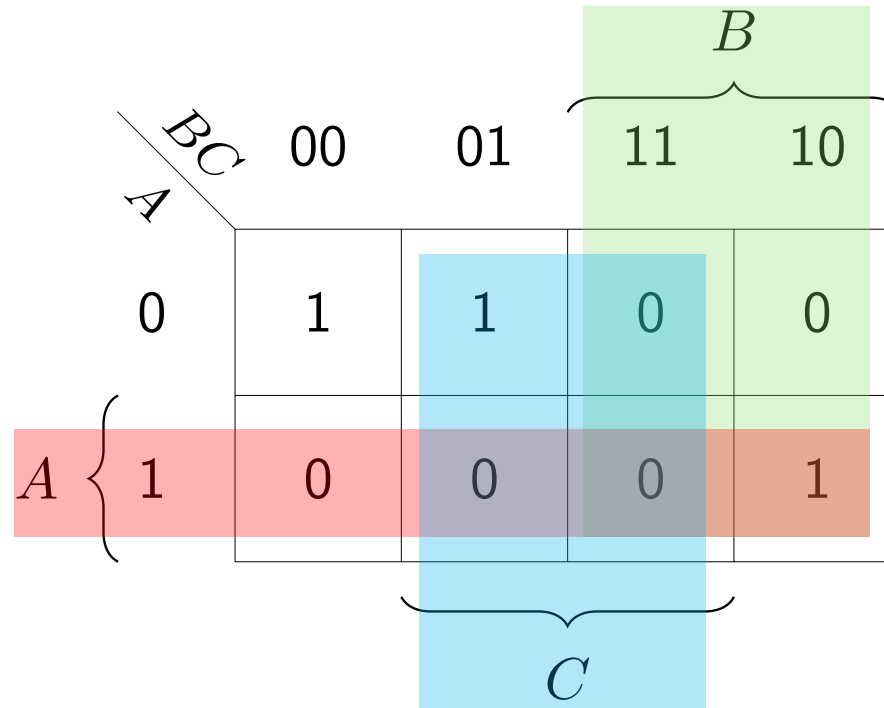
Karnaugh maps

- An alternative truth table layout allowing simplification of Boolean expressions for up to 4 variables in practice
- Terms are grouped in a particular way (using Gray code)



Maurice Karnaugh

A	B	C	f
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1



Karnaugh maps: simplifying logic expressions

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

$A \backslash BC$	00	01	11	10
0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	0	1

OR

$A \backslash BC$	00	01	11	10
0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	0	1

B (grouping the top row)

C (grouping the bottom row)

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

Karnaugh maps: grouping rules

	<i>BC</i>	00	01	11	10
<i>A</i>	0	1	1	0	0
	1	1	1	0	0

$$f = \overline{B}$$

	<i>BC</i>	00	01	11	10
<i>A</i>	0	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1

$$f = 1$$

	<i>BC</i>	00	01	11	10
<i>A</i>	0	1	0	0	1
	1	1	0	0	1

$$f = \overline{C}$$

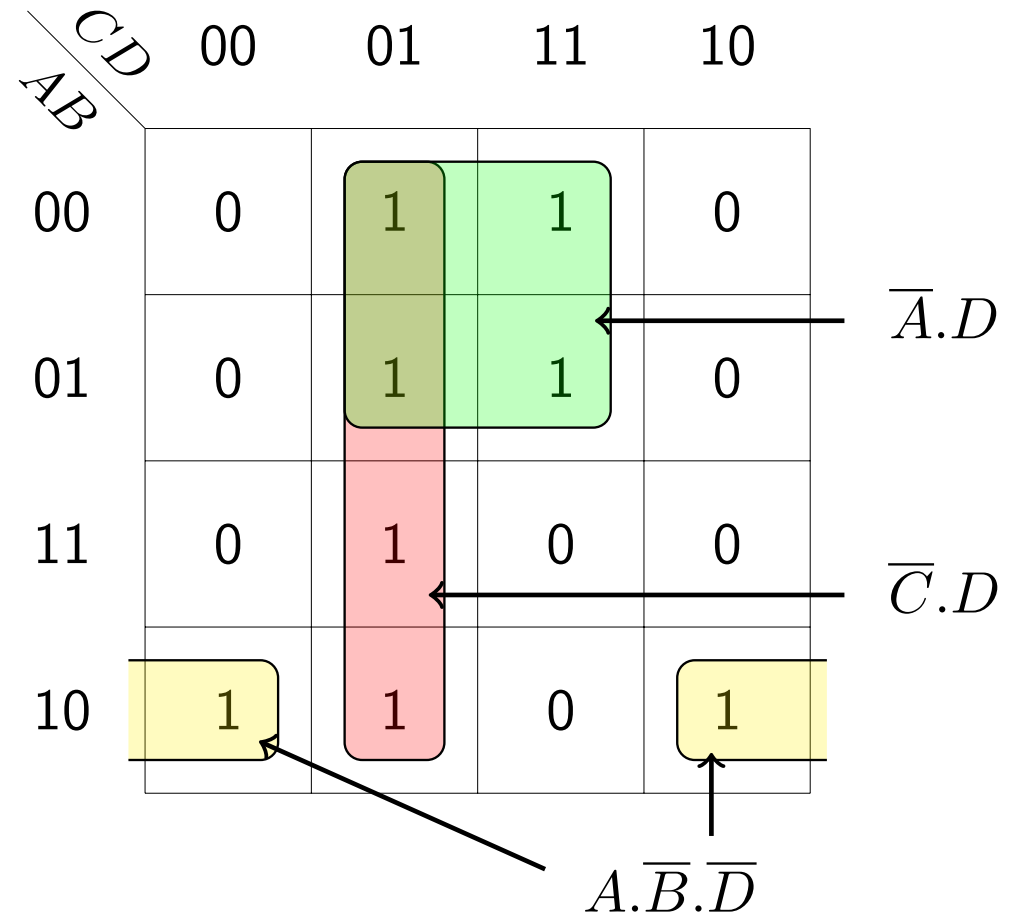
	<i>BC</i>	00	01	11	10
<i>A</i>	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	0	0	1

$$f = A.\overline{C}$$

Karnaugh maps with four variables

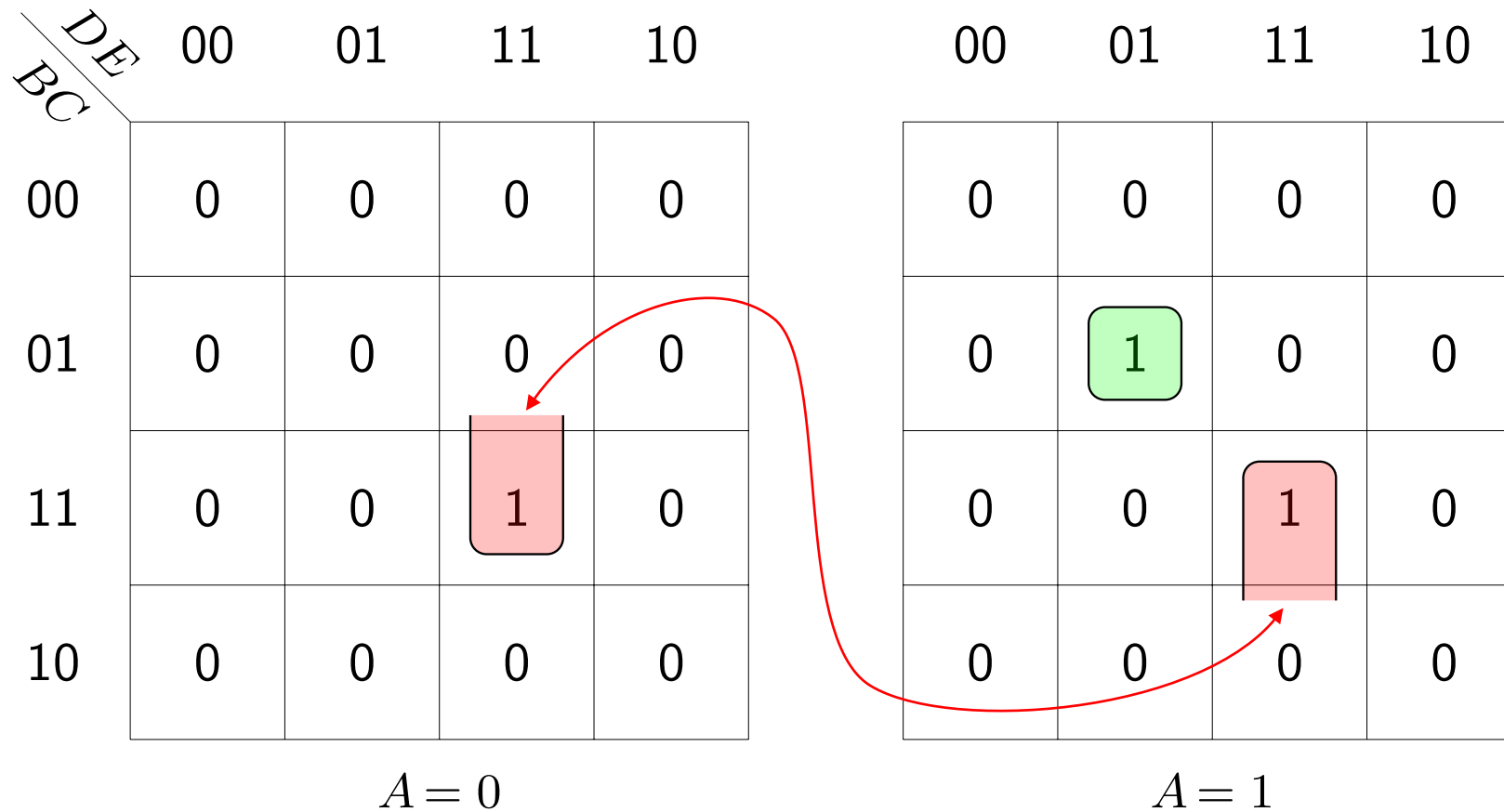
Example:

$$\begin{aligned} f(A, B, C, D) = & \bar{A}.\bar{B}.\bar{C}.D + \bar{A}.\bar{B}.C.D \\ & + \bar{A}.B.\bar{C}.D + \bar{A}.B.C.D \\ & + A.B.\bar{C}.D + A.\bar{B}.\bar{C}.\bar{D} \\ & + A.\bar{B}.\bar{C}.D + A.\bar{B}.C.\bar{D} \end{aligned}$$



$$\Rightarrow f = \bar{A}.D + \bar{C}.D + A.\bar{B}.\bar{D}$$

Karnaugh maps with five variables



$$\begin{aligned}
 f &= A.\bar{B}.C.\bar{D}.E + A.B.C.D.E + \bar{A}.B.C.D.E \\
 &= A.\bar{B}.C.\bar{D}.E + B.C.D.E
 \end{aligned}$$

Prime implicants

Prime implicants are the simplest terms that describe the function uniquely

CD \ AB	00	01	11	10
00	1	1	1	0
01	0	1	1	0
11	0	0	0	0
10	1	0	0	1

CD \ AB	00	01	11	10
00	1	1	1	0
01	0	1	1	0
11	0	0	0	0
10	1	0	0	1

Essential
prime
implicants

$$f = \bar{A}.D + A.\bar{B}.\bar{D} + \bar{B}.\bar{C}.\bar{D}$$

or

$$f = \bar{A}.D + A.\bar{B}.\bar{D} + \bar{A}.\bar{B}.\bar{C}$$

Don't care states

Don't care states: states that the system can never achieve

e.g. in a control system with START and END sensors that can't both be TRUE at the same time

A	B	C	$f(A, B, C)$
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	X
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	X

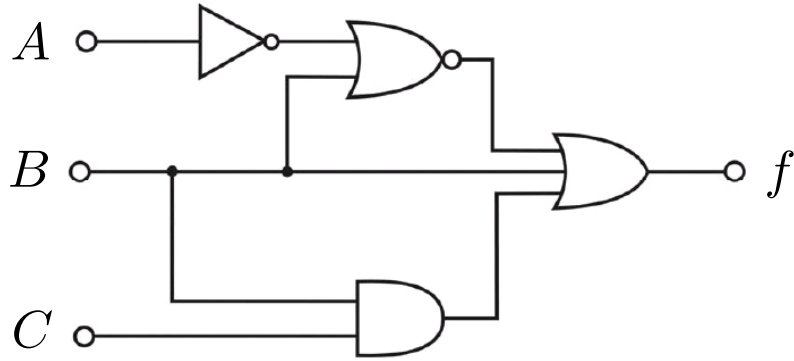
States involving $A = C = 1$
are don't care states

\Rightarrow

$A \backslash BC$	00	01	11	10
0	0	1	1	0
1	0	X	X	1

$$f = C + A.B$$

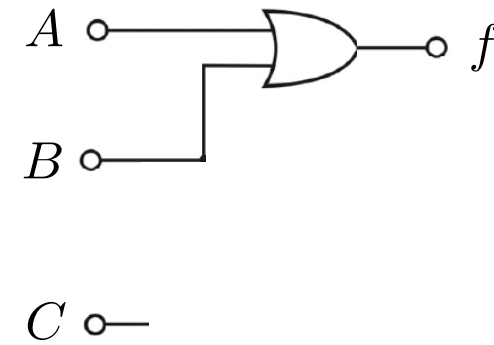
Example: circuit design



$A \backslash BC$	00	01	11	10
0	0	0	1	1
1	1	1	1	1

$$f = A + B$$

A	B	C	$f(A, B, C)$
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1



Example: exclusive-OR (XOR)

A	B	$A \oplus B$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

The XOR k-map has no group greater than 1 element

XOR therefore has the largest possible number of prime implicants

$f = A \oplus B$

$A \backslash B$	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	0

$f = A \oplus B \oplus C$

$A \backslash BC$	00	01	11	10
0	0	1	0	1
1	1	0	1	0

Overview of lectures

1. Logical functions and logic gates
- 2. Low level logic design**
3. Binary number representation
4. Binary arithmetic
5. Integration of digital logic components
6. Memory and sequential circuits
7. Design of sequential logic
8. Data converters: analogue to digital / digital to analogue

Please send feedback, comments and corrections to mark.cannon@eng.ox.ac.uk